

# Berkshire Family Historian

*the quarterly journal of the Berkshire Family History Society*

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December 2008

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*Please note that the September 2008 issue was wrongly described as Vol 33 on the cover. It should have been 32.*

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

## Chairman's note

I'm sure you will all want to join me in congratulating Penny Stokes, our editor, on receiving a commendation for our magazine in the FFHS Elizabeth Simpson Award. Well done, Penny – we all appreciate your hard work. Penny is always looking for more articles for the magazine, so do keep them coming.

Gillian Stevens has stepped down as our events co-ordinator, and I would like to thank her for all the work she has put into organising the fairs in neighbouring counties, in London and Bracknell that we have attended over the years. We'll be honouring all the commitments Gillian has made for us to attend future fairs. If you would like to help by giving us a couple of hours at the Bracknell Fair on Sunday 25 January or at the WDYTFA Fair at Olympia from 27 February to 1 March, please do contact me by email or phone (details inside front

cover). Your help would be much appreciated.

Doreen and Tony Farmer have agreed to take over the Exchange Magazines from Andrew and Daphne Spurling, who have done it for many years. This also involves writing the Gleanings in the *Historian*. Thank you, Andrew and Daphne, for all your work. We have all enjoyed the snippets in the magazine.

The Berkshire Record Office will be opening its doors exclusively for our members again from 18.00 to 20.00 on Tuesdays 20 January, 21 April and 21 July 2009. You are welcome to bring a friend. Do take advantage of this opportunity to research your Berkshire ancestors; come along and make it an enjoyable evening. Our Research Centre will also be open from 18.00 to 21.30 on those evenings.

**Jocie McBride**  
**Chairman**

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## Berkshire FHS at Bracknell Family History Fair

The fair takes place on Sunday 25 January 2009 from 10.00 to 17.00. Last year we organised talks from speakers on various subjects in the Forest Suite throughout the day. This year in the Forest Suite we have a theme on **using the internet**.

We have three sessions:

**11.00 Starting or progressing your family history using the internet**  
*with Gillian Stevens and Chad Hanna*

**12.15 Findmypast.com**  
*with Debra Chatfield*

**13.30 Researching Scottish ancestors using the internet**  
*with Phil Wood*

Each session will have an hour to include questions, but we expect the speakers will return to the Berks FHS stall should more time be needed for questions.

There will be a nominal charge of £2 for each session or £5 for all three talks. Tickets for these talks can be purchased in advance from

- <[www.berksfhs.org.uk/berksfhsbooks/Bracknellfairtalks](http://www.berksfhs.org.uk/berksfhsbooks/Bracknellfairtalks)>
- Berks FHS Research Centre
- branch meetings.

On the Berks FHS stall we will have David Chilton, who has volunteered to help with Army research, and Jean Debney who will date your old photographs.

**Berks FHS Strays Index reinstated**

The Berkshire Strays Index is to be re-opened for additions to the existing database of 20,000 Berkshire people recorded in events outside the county. However, in future, additions will exclude

- 1841 - 1901 census details
- block entries
- entries which can be easily accessed from other sources (such as soldiers who died in the First World War) unless they contain details which cannot be found elsewhere.

Information on Berkshire people in out-of-county records other than those above may be sent to <strays@berksfhs.org.uk>.

**Index to wills at Salisbury**

The British Record Society (BRS) is about to publish a two-volume *Index to wills at Salisbury 1464 - 1858*, containing nearly 100,000 wills indexed by place, subject, trade and occupation. Some Berkshire testators are included. The index is being produced in a limited edition of 300 copies for BRS subscribers, but extra copies will be printed at £45 including postage for others who order before 15 January 2009.

**Times archive no longer free**

The online archive of *The Times* from 1785 to 1985 at <<http://archive.timesonline.co.uk/tol/archive/>> is now available only on a daily (£4.95), monthly or annual fee basis.

**Oxfordshire surnames**

The Oxfordshire Surname Interest List (OXSIL) is an online resource open to anybody researching surnames that occur in the county. Surnames are linked to each researcher's personal profile, which generally includes an email address. Access the list on <[www.oxsil.org.uk](http://www.oxsil.org.uk)>. It is now being maintained by Paul Brazell in co-operation with the Oxfordshire Family History Society.

**Your help sought on local sources**

The Berkshire FHS events team has applied to participate in the SoG Regional Theatre Workshop to be held at WDYTYA Live at Olympia next year. The workshop will take the form of a series of lectures, answering the question *My ancestor came from..... where's the best place to get help?* Gillian Stevens is asking members researching their own family history in Berkshire and the Thames Valley, for details of any (locally specific) websites, places, societies etc, which they have found useful in their own research. Contact her on <[computerbranch@berksfhs.org.uk](mailto:computerbranch@berksfhs.org.uk)>.

**London database planned**

A new partnership between LMA, Guildhall Library and Ancestry plans to digitise 77 million London records for launch online in 2009. The project will include: *parish baptisms, marriages and burials; bishops transcripts; parish poor law records; school registers; boards of guardians' records; diocesan marriage bonds and allegations; non-conformist BMD; electoral registers, overseers' returns and poll books; land tax records; wills; City of London freedoms; Middlesex Sessions transportation contracts; Consistory Court of London matrimonial and testamentary papers.*

Free access through Ancestry.co.uk will be offered to Guildhall Library visitors. Progress of the project may be followed on <[www.history.ac.uk/gh/digitisation](http://www.history.ac.uk/gh/digitisation)>.

**Canadian immigrants database**

Ancestry's new Canadian Passenger Lists 1865 - 1935 contain details of 5.6 million immigrants, the vast majority of them British. The lists are indexed by name, year and port of arrival and departure and ship name. Details of passengers' health, religion and even cash resources, plus information on the vessel and crew are included, as well as details of more than 150,000 British children (supposedly, but not always, orphans) sent to Canada as part of the now discredited but then government-backed Child Emigration Scheme.

# Projects

are the lifeblood  
of the society

***Beverley Charlton is the society's projects co-ordinator. Here she describes the volunteer set-up, and appeals for more help from members.***

I've been working as the society's projects co-ordinator for about 16 months now, and I'm finally beginning to see the way! Being fairly new to family history in the first place I've had many questions for my predecessor Sue Cummings, Jocie McBride and Chad Hanna.

I began by contacting all the members with email addresses who had expressed interest in helping the society in some way. Ascertaining their capabilities, limitations and preferred areas of interest took time, and I also needed to know who could get to the Research Centre or Berkshire Record Office, and who preferred to work from home. So the main list divides into two – home workers and outworkers.

Those who have space at home for a microfiche reader – either their own or on loan from the society – are sent fiche for transcription. The majority, of course, don't have this facility, and some prefer to work from hard copy. Providing the latter necessitates printing off fiche in pages and mailing photocopies. It can

take a couple of hours to print off 100 - 200 pages of a register, depending on the temperament of the printer. As I can only do this on an occasional Tuesday evening, it can take a while to get all necessary documents printed, and sometimes I have volunteers waiting weeks for the photocopies. If you can spare a couple of hours now and again to sit at the microfiche reader attached to the printer in the Research Centre, and print off pages from the fiche that would be really helpful.

We're also short of volunteers to check completed transcriptions. This is done at the Berkshire Record Office, checking against the original registers. The work calls for knowledge of writing styles from the early 1500s, and competence at transcription.

There are many projects underway, by no means all of which call for specialist skills. Please give some thought to volunteering; we could make good use of whatever time you are prepared to offer.

## What the volunteers themselves say

I'm really enjoying doing the parish register transcribing. I did a weekend course on how to read old hand-writing many years ago, after I'd discovered in the BRO many old family wills which I wanted to read. After the training I was able to decipher most of the words. I've tried to keep up this newly acquired skill, and it makes it all worth while if I can read registers others have had trouble with. Also, being unable to work any more because of ill health, it makes me feel useful to contribute to a worthwhile project.

*When I'm transcribing I get caught up in the families which keep appearing year after year, especially when there's obviously an epidemic, with several members of the same family dying at the same time. The high rate of child mortality is heart-breaking. I enjoy transcribing parish records. I like the snippets the vicar often inserted, especially in the burial register – he might describe a death in mysterious circumstances. I'd recommend anyone wanting to be involved to get broadband, Excel or similar and Acrobat Reader – then you're ready for anything in the family history business. I'd also say that the transcribing gets easier the more you do it.*

I really enjoy helping out with transcribing records. I've only done one so far, for marriages 1929 to 1949, but I found it really interesting finding out what people did for a living years ago.

*I believe that if you belong to a society you should give some of your time to help. I actually enjoy typing – it's what I do for a living anyway. I do a few marriages whenever I have a few minutes to spare.*

# The 1851 census project

## **Berkshire borders and Shropshire**

Last February Gillian, Chad, Jocie and I attended a projects seminar run by the Federation of Family History Societies. Apart from local branch meetings this was the first family history meeting I'd attended, and the main topic of interest to me was the transcription of Berkshire border pieces of the 1851 census, a project which I had taken on as co-ordinator.

The Berkshire 1851 census index on CD is already complete and accurate. However, some border areas are not covered. To provide a full 1851 census online Findmypast has instigated transcription of various pieces that spread across county boundaries. Those relevant to Berkshire include parts of Surrey, Hampshire, and Middlesex.

I emailed known volunteers to ask if they'd be interested in working on this. These first

volunteers are now set up and working on the Surrey pieces and progressing well; two pieces have been completed and they're more than half-way through a third.

Berks FHS has now also taken on transcription for the whole of Shropshire, so we also need volunteers with local knowledge of that county.

One thing on which all the volunteers agree is that this is an enjoyable and worthwhile project, and a way of giving something back to the society. If you think you could transcribe either the Berkshire borders or Shropshire please contact me.

The society will receive a small fee each time a researcher on Findmypast views the results of a search that's been indexed by a Berks FHS volunteer. This will be an important source of revenue, as sales of other versions of the census have seriously declined.

**Beverley Charlton**

## **Six good reasons for volunteering**

- you choose when and for how long you want to work
- there's a huge range of projects and tasks – pick something that interests you, and that you're good at
- work in a group or on your own
- work at home or away – it can be an opportunity to get out of the house and into a new environment
- meet more of your fellow-members
- take pride in seeing your work come to fruition and publication for the benefit of the society and other family historians

## **Other areas**

Gillian Stevens is overseeing the 1851 census project for the Federation of Family History Societies. There are many more areas that also need help: Bedfordshire, Cardiganshire, Derbyshire, Dorset, Glamorgan, Gloucestershire, Gwent, Hertfordshire, London, Kent, Lincolnshire, Nottinghamshire, Somerset, Sussex, Yorkshire (Bradford, Halifax, Huddersfield and

Pontefract). The transcribing is done on your own PC using the internet, so it can be done anywhere in the world, at any time of the day or night, and as little or as much as you wish. Find more details at <[www.familyhistoryonline.net/fmp/1851.html](http://www.familyhistoryonline.net/fmp/1851.html)>.

If you are interested in helping with any of these other areas please email Gillian at <[1851census@ffhs.org.uk](mailto:1851census@ffhs.org.uk)> with your contact details and the names of any counties where you have a particular knowledge or interest.

# Berkshire Burial Index

The parishes and periods to be included in the seventh edition (sixth update) of the Berkshire Burial Index on CD, planned for publication at the end of 2008, are shown below, totalling more than 612,000 entries. New entries added since the publication in early 2008 of the sixth edition of the original 2002 CD are shown in bold italics.

For information on accessing details of the Berkshire Burial Index see pages 33-34. **David Wright**

- Abingdon Baptist (Lower Meeting House, Ock St) 1764 - 1789 and 1786 - 1837  
 Abingdon Congregational (Upper Meeting House) 1730 - 1740 and 1787 - 1836  
 Abingdon St Helen **1702 - 1711 (BTs), 1728 - 1729 (BTs), 1741 - 1742 (BTs), 1758 - 1759 (BTs)**, 1762 (BTs), 1772 (BTs), **1805 - 1808 (BTs)** 1809 - 1813 (BTs), and **1813 - 1819 (BTs)**  
 Abingdon St Nicholas 1704 - 1880  
 Aldermaston St Mary the Virgin **1558 - 1672, 1672 - 1677 (BTs), 1678 - 1812** and 1813 - 1992  
 Aldworth St Mary 1813 - 1978  
 Appleford SS Peter & Paul 1564 - 1988  
 Appleton St Laurence **1710 - 1730, 1802 - 1812** and 1813 - 1891  
 Arborfield St Bartholomew 1580 - 1707 (BTs), 1707 - 1736, 1736 - 1739 (BTs) and 1739 - 1925  
 Ardington Holy Trinity **1789 - 1812** and 1813 - 1929  
 Ascot Heath All Saints 1865 - 1958  
 Ashampstead St Clement 1607 - 1686 (BTs), 1686 - 1956  
 Ashbury St Mary 1612 - 1638 (BTs), 1653 - 1683, **1683 - 1687 (BTs)**, 1687 - 1869 and 1967 - 1993  
 Aston Tirrold Independent 1763 - 1837  
 Aston Tirrold St Michael 1813 - 1960  
 Avington 1700 - 1725 (BTs) and 1727 - 1994  
 Barkham St James 1539 - 1733, 1733 - 1740 (BTs) and 1741 - 1985  
 Basildon St Bartholomew 1667 - 1982  
 Bearwood St Catherine 1846 - 1929  
 Beech Hill St Mary the Virgin 1868 - 1996  
 Beedon St Nicholas 1681 - 1969  
 Beenham St Mary 1561 - 1907  
 Besselsleigh St Lawrence 1689 - 1994  
 Binfield All Saints **1731 - 1812** and 1813 - 1957  
 Bisham All Saints 1560 - 1707, 1707 - 1708 (BTs) and 1709 - 1849  
 Blewbury St Michael 1588 - 1674, 1675 - 1720 (BTs) and 1720 - 1855  
 Boxford St Andrew 1558 - 1876  
 Bracknell Holy Trinity 1851 - 1945  
 Bracknell Independent (Congregational) 1822 - 1859  
 Bradfield St Andrew 1540 - 1685, 1691 - 1693 (BTs) and 1695 - 1952  
 Bradfield Workhouse 1845 - 1932  
 Bray St Michael **1607 - 1636 (BTs)**, 1654 - 1669, **1669 - 1722, 1763 - 1812** and 1813 - 1929  
 Brightwalton All Saints 1562 - 1922  
 Brightwell St Agatha **1691 - 1812** and 1813 - 1902  
 Brimpton St Peter 1607 - 1674 (BTs), 1678 - 1734, 1735 - 1755 (BTs) and 1756 - 1901  
 Buckland St Mary the Virgin **1751 - 1812** and 1813 - 1930  
 Bucklebury St Mary the Virgin 1539 - 1910  
 Burghfield St Mary 1559 - 2005  
 Buscot St Mary 1799 - 1950  
 Catmore St Margaret 1728 - 1810 and 1814 - 1985  
 Caversham Hemdean Road Cemetery 1924 - 1993  
 Caversham St Peter 1597 - 1955  
 Chaddleworth St Andrew 1538 - 1676, 1677 (BTs) and 1678 - 1919  
 Charney Bassett St Peter 1813 - 1979  
 Chieveley St Mary the Virgin **1560 - 1643** and 1647 - 2003  
 Childrey St Mary the Virgin 1813 - 1883  
 Chilton All Saints **1608 - 1635 (BTs)**, 1677 - 1812, 1813 - 1835 (BTs) and **1960 - 1992**  
 Cholsey County Lunatic Asylum 1894 - 1917  
 Cholsey St Mary **1540 - 1611, 1612 - 1617 (BTs), 1617 - 1621, 1621 - 1629 (BTs), 1631 - 1690, 1746 - 1812** and 1813 - 1980  
 Clewer St Andrew 1607 - 1869 and **1869 - 1897**  
 Cold Ash St Mark 1865 - 1947  
 Coleshill All Saints **1753 - 1812** and 1813 - 1986  
 Combe St Swithin 1729 - 1812  
 Compton SS Mary & Nicholas 1553 - 2005  
 Compton Beauchamp St Swithin 1790 - 1994  
 Cookham Holy Trinity 1656 - 1935  
 Cookham Dean St John the Baptist 1845 - 1973  
 Cranbourne St Peter 1850 - 1997  
 Crowthorne St John the Baptist 1900 - 1968  
 Cumnor St Michael 1813 - 1970  
 Denchworth St James 1538 - 1812 and 1814 - 1835 (BTs)  
 Didcot All Saints 1813 - 1942  
 Drayton St Peter 1919 - 1967  
 Earley St Peter 1854 - 1916  
 East Challow St Nicholas **1778 - 1812** and 1813 - 1829  
 East Garston All Saints 1607 - 1668 (BTs), **1758 - 1812** and 1813 - 1876  
 East Hendred St Augustine 1813 - 1863  
 East Ilsley St Mary **1607 - 1638 (BTs)** and 1649 - 2005  
 East Lockinge All Saints 1546 - 1812, **1813 - 1835 (BTs)** and 1862 - 1866  
 East Shefford 1604 - 1734, 1737 - 1770 (BTs) and 1774 to 1917  
 Eastbury St James the Great **1867 - 2005**  
 Easthampstead SS Michael & Mary Magdalene 1558 - 1915  
 Eaton Hastings St Michael & All Angels 1813 - 1998  
 Enborne St Michael & All Angels 1607 - 1638 (BTs) and 1726 - 1929  
 Englefield St Mark 1813 - 1935  
 Faringdon All Saints 1644 - 1948  
 Farnborough All Saints 1607 - 1738 (BTs) and 1813 - 1835 (BTs)  
 Fawley St Mary 1550 - 1987  
 Fernham St John 1860 - 1994  
 Finchampstead St James **1607 - 1636 (BTs)** and 1724 - 1812  
 Frilsham St Frideswide 1607 - 1710 (BTs), 1711 - 1768, 1769 - 1804 (BTs) and 1813 - 1835 (BTs)  
 Fyfield St Nicholas 1605 - 1812 (BTs) and 1813 - 1906  
 Grazeley Holy Trinity 1851 - 1964  
 Great Coxwell St Giles 1813 - 2002  
 Greenham St Mary 1799 - 1914  
 Grove St James 1832 - 1926  
 Hagbourne St Andrew 1612 - 1638 (BTs), 1661 - 1751, 1745 - 1756 (BTs), 1757 - 1905 and **1905 - 1973**  
 Hampstead Norreys St Mary 1543 - 1593, 1598 - 1626, 1628 - 1638 (BTs) and 1666 - 1919  
 Hamstead Marshall St Mary 1605 - 1675 (BTs), 1675 - 1812 and 1813 - 1836 (BTs)  
 Harwell St Matthew 1688 - 1943  
 Hatford St George/ Holy Trinity 1539 - 1969  
 Hermitage Holy Trinity 1840 - 1978  
 Hinton Waldrist St Margaret 1813 - 1977  
 Hungerford Independent 1819 - 1830  
 Hungerford St Lawrence 1559 - 1969  
 Hurley St Mary the Virgin 1563 - 1864  
 Hurst St Nicholas 1579 - 1582 (BTs), 1585 - 1605, 1605 - 1621 (BTs), 1621 - 1623, 1623 - 1633 (BTs) and 1633 - 2004  
 Inkpen St Michael & All Angels 1607 - 1623 (BTs) and 1813 - 1986  
 Kingston Bagpuize St John the Baptist **1541 - 1662** and 1663 - 1812  
 Kingston Lisle St John the Baptist 1559 - 1713  
 Kintbury St Mary 1558 - 1925  
 Knowl Hill St Peter 1842 - 2002  
 Lambourn St Michael & All Angels 1560 - 1933

- Lambourn Woodlands St Mary **1842 - 2005**  
 Letcombe Bassett St Michael & All Angels 1776 - 1989  
 Letcombe Regis St Andrew **1798 - 1812** and 1813 - 1863  
 Littleworth Holy Ascension 1839 - 1909  
 Little Wittenham St Peter 1543 - 1811 and 1813 - 1992  
 Longcot St Mary the Virgin **1813 - 1884** and 1884 - 1993  
 Longworth St Mary 1563 - 1648, 1654 - 1701 and **1701 - 1940**  
 Long Wittenham St Mary the Virgin 1737 - 1779, **1780 - 1812** and 1813 - 1979  
 Lyford St Mary the Virgin **1843 - 1978**  
 Maidenhead Boyne Hill All Saints 1857 - 1948  
 Maidenhead Congregational 1791 - 1837 and 1845 - 1908  
 Maidenhead High Street Wesleyan Methodist 1858 - 1903  
 Maidenhead New Chapel (Countess of Huntingdon) 1843 - 1858  
 Maidenhead St Luke 1866 - 1890  
 Marcham All Saints 1805 - 1812, **1813 - 1943 and Feb to Jul 1953**  
 Marlston St Mary 1925 - 1998  
 Midgham St Matthew 1638 - 1733 and 1753 - 1980  
 Milton St Blaise 1662 - 1938  
 Mortimer West End St Saviour 1869 - 1982  
 Moulsoford St John the Baptist **1617 - 1773 (BTs)**, 1773 - 1784, **1787 (BTs)** and 1788 - 1992  
 Newbury Baptist 1773 - 1823  
 Newbury Baptist (Northcroft Lane) 1818 - 1837  
 Newbury Lower Meeting House Independent 1784 - 1837  
 Newbury Newtown Rd Cemetery 1868 - 1884, 1898 - 1905, **1905 - 1917**, 1917 - 1928 and **1928 - 2006**  
 Newbury St John the Evangelist 1860 - 1900  
 Newbury St Nicolas 1746 - 1890  
 Newbury Shaw Cemetery **1948 - 1951**  
 Newbury Upper Meeting House Presbyterian 1783 - 1836  
 New Windsor All Saints (recorded in register of New Windsor St John the Baptist) 1974 - 1988  
 New Windsor St George's Chapel 1625 - 1737  
 New Windsor St John the Baptist 1559 - 1988  
 North Hinksey St Lawrence **1607 - 1702 (BTs)** and **1703 - 1900**  
 North Moreton All Saints **1735 - 1812** and 1813 - 1996  
 Oare St Bartholomew 1854 - 1975  
 Old Windsor SS Peter & Andrew **1612 - 1632 (BTs)**, 1634 - 1771 (BTs) and 1772 - 1940  
 Padworth St John the Baptist 1607 - 1723 (BTs) and 1724 - 1981  
 Pangbourne Independent Chapel 1836 only  
 Pangbourne St James the Less 1559 - 1926  
 Peasemore St Barnabas 1538 - 1879 and **1880 - 2007**  
 Purley St Mary the Virgin 1663 - 1985  
 Pusey All Saints 1607 - 1835 (BTs)  
 Radley St James the Great 1813 - 1981  
 Reading Broad Street Independent 1787 - 1869 and 1875 - 188  
 Reading Castle Street Congregational 1857 - 1862  
 Reading Henley Road (Caversham) Crematorium 1932 - 1951 and **1951 - 1955**  
 Reading Holy Trinity 1834 - 1855  
 Reading King's Road Baptist Church 1785 - 1835  
 Reading London Road Cemetery (consecrated) 1843 - 1863, 1865 - 1894, **1894 - 1895**, 1895 - 1896, **1896 - 1909** and **1910 - 1929**  
 Reading London Road Cemetery (unconsecrated) 1843 - 1863 and **1863 - 1867**  
 Reading Prison 1862 - 1913  
 Reading St Giles 1564 - 1644, 1648 - 1895 and 1955 - 1990  
 Reading St Laurence 1603 - 1901  
 Reading St Mary **1698 - 1710**, 1710 - 1812 and **1813 - 1942**  
 Reading St Stephen 1929 - 1956  
 Remenham St Nicholas 1605 - 1696 (BTs), 1697 - 1762, 1762 - 1764 (BTs) and 1764 - 1909  
 Ruscombe St James the Great 1569 - 1812 and **1813 - 1835 (BTs)**  
 Sandhurst St Michael 1580 - 1593 (BTs), 1603 - 1696, 1610 - 1812 (BTs), **1813 - 1869** and 1869 - 1959  
 Shaw cum Donnington St Mary the Virgin 1563 - 1637 (BTs), 1647 - 1932 and **1982 - 2007**  
 Shellingford St Faith 1581 - 1812 and 1813 - 1836 (BTs)  
 Shinfield Cemetery 1928 - 1991  
 Shinfield St Mary **1602 - 1638**, 1653 - 1844 and **1845 - 1907**  
 Shippon St Mary Magdalene 1856 - 1974  
 Shottesbrooke St John the Baptist 1567 - 1811 and 1813 - 1836 (BTs)  
 Shrivenham St Andrew 1813 - 1867  
 Sonning St Andrew 1728 - 1788, **1789 - 1802** and 1813 - 1906  
 Sotwell St James 1693 - 1812 and **1813 - 1836 (BTs)**  
 South Hinksey St Lawrence **1607 - 1693 (BTs)** and **1693 - 1894**  
 South Moreton St John the Baptist 1813 - 1994  
 Sparsholt Holy Cross 1558 - 1865  
 Speen St Mary the Virgin 1614 - 1628 (BTs) and 1629 - 1904  
 Speenhamland St Mary 1831 - 1881 and 1953 - 1971  
 Stanford Dingley St Denys 1538 - 1979  
 Stanford in the Vale St Denys 1813 - 1894  
 Steventon St Michael & All Angels 1813 - 1922  
 Stratfield Mortimer St Mary 1681 - 1977  
 Streatley St Mary 1679 - 1812 and 1813 - 1907  
 Stubbings St James the Less 1852 - 1949  
 Sulham St Nicholas 1612 - 1724 (BTs), 1724 - 1850 and **1851 - 1983**  
 Sulhamstead Abbots St Mary 1602 - 1995 and **1996 - 2007**  
 Sulhamstead Bannister St Michael 1608 - 1637 (BTs), 1654 - 1811 and 1813 - 1994  
 Sunningdale Holy Trinity 1842 - 1938  
 Sunninghill St Michael & All Angels 1561 - 1641, 1653 - 1947  
 Sunningwell St Leonard 1812 - 1960  
 Sutton Courtenay All Saints **1728 - 1775**, 1813 - 1956 and **1956 - 2002**  
 Swallowfield All Saints 1539 - 1552, 1587 - 1597 and 1638 - 1931  
 Thatcham/Bucklebury Congregational/Independent Chapel 1819 - 1871  
 Thatcham St Mary **1561 - 1587, 1640 - 1709**, 1710 - 1766, 1767 only (BTs) and 1768 - 1914  
 Theale Holy Trinity 1832 - 1932  
 Tidmarsh St Lawrence 1608 - 1729 (BTs) and 1730 - 1999  
 Tilehurst St George 1886 - 1954  
 Tilehurst St Michael 1614 - 1629 (BTs) and 1630 - 1941  
 Twyford St Mary 1847 - 1967  
 Uffington St Mary **1607 - 1638 (BTs)**, 1654 - 1744, 1748 - 1749 and 1760 - 1946  
 Ufton Nervet St Peter 1607 - 1635 (BTs) and 1636 - 1990  
 Upton St Mary 1862 - 1990  
 Wallingford Baptist 1796 - 1837  
 Wallingford Independent 1814 - 1836  
 Wallingford St Leonard 1671 - 1678 (in register of Wallingford St Mary the More), 1813 - 1869 and 1873 - 1975  
 Wallingford St Mary the More 1671 - 1678, 1711 - 1712, 1796 - 1939 and 1961 - 1976  
 Wallingford St Peter 1671 - 1678 (in register of Wallingford St Mary the More), 1711 - 1862 and 1865 - 1969  
 Waltham St Lawrence 1813 - 1995  
 Wantage SS Peter & Paul 1813 - 1935  
 Warfield St Michael 1779 - 1922  
 Wargrave St Mary **1539 - 1812** and 1813 - 1978  
 Wasing St Nicholas 1608 - 1736 (BTs) and 1763 - 1990  
 Welford St Gregory 1749 - 1900  
 West Hanney St James the Great 1783 - 1964  
 West Hendred Holy Trinity 1727 - 1972  
 West Ilsley All Saints 1558 - 1967  
 West Shefford St Mary 1599 - 1897  
 West Woodhay St Laurence 1656 - 1724, 1744 - 1768 (BTs) and 1813 - 1985  
 White Waltham St Mary 1813 - 1937  
 Winkfield St Mary **1720 - 1778** and 1813 - 1961  
 Winterbourne St James the Less 1567 - 1979  
 Wokingham All Saints 1813 - 1920 and **1920 - 1947**  
 Wokingham Baptist Church 1841 - 1906  
 Wokingham Free Church Burial Ground 1921 - 2004  
 Wokingham St Paul 1864 - 1961  
 Woodley Congregational (Woodley Chapel) 1858 - 1905  
 Woolhampton St Peter 1607 - 1636 (BTs), 1636 - 1746, 1749 - 1759 (BTs) and 1761 - 1926  
 Wootton St Peter 1813 - 1947  
 Wytham All Saints **1589 - 1812**  
 Yattendon SS Peter & Paul 1813 - 1982

# Broadmoor archive opens to the public at BRO

Nearly five years ago the records of Broadmoor Hospital moved to the Berkshire Record Office where, with a grant of more than £200,000 from the Wellcome Trust, the collection has been catalogued and repaired. Conservation work will continue for some time yet, but this historic archive has now been declared open for research.

Broadmoor Hospital opened in 1863, and soon gained a hold on the public imagination as fascinating and frightening – a reputation which endures to this day. The institution also underwent many changes in management structure, reflected in record-keeping changes which complicated the cataloguing process. Problems were intensified by the lack of secondary material written about special hospitals.

Concurrently with the BRO launch of this archive Reading Museum is running an exhibition entitled *The Secret World of Victorian Broadmoor* from 8 November to 8 February 2009. This displays documents and artefacts never before seen by the public, revealing the hidden daily lives of patients, doctors and other staff of the principal Victorian criminal lunatic asylum.

## Broadmoor is famed for a number of high-profile inmates

**Richard Dadd** (1817 - 1886) was a well-known artist of the Victorian era. He fell ill on a grand tour of Europe and, on his return, stabbed and killed his father during a country walk at Cobham. He believed he had killed the devil, and maintained this delusion all his life. Dadd was tried and found insane, and sent to Bethlem, where he remained for 20 years, during which he created many celebrated paintings, some of which have been lent to the exhibition at Reading Museum. In 1864 he was moved to Broadmoor, where he continued painting until he died in 1886.

**William Chester Minor** (1834 - 1920) was the subject of Simon Winchester's book *The Surgeon of Crowthorne*. An American army surgeon in the Civil War, he suffered a mental breakdown, and moved to London. In 1872 he shot and killed George Merrett, a stranger, and was sent to Broadmoor. As a wealthy man he kept a huge personal library in Broadmoor, which he used to contribute to the first *Oxford English Dictionary*. He sent thousands of quotations to the editor James Murray, who visited him, and the two men became friends. Minor's health gradually worsened, and in 1910 he was deported to America. He died in 1920.

**The Rev Henry James Dodwell** was sacked from his teaching post at the Brighton Industrial School, against whom he took legal action. He also fired a pistol, loaded with blanks, at a court official. He was sent to Broadmoor in 1878, amid public controversy debated in newspapers and in the House of Commons, because doctors were unable to agree whether he was insane. In 1882 Broadmoor's doctors were proved right: he attacked the medical superintendent by hitting him over the head with a stone in a handkerchief. Dodwell remained in Broadmoor, and died in 1900.



# Seventeenth-century religious dissenters in Berkshire

***Manfred Brod introduces some of the county's religious activists of Stuart times***

Seventeenth-century religious controversy is not a subject for this journal, but what may interest readers far more is the people who took part in it. This was not the first time that ordinary people developed ideas about more than their everyday lives, but in earlier periods we know of such ideas only through what the ruling establishment said about them in official propaganda or in court proceedings. In the seventeenth century, for the first time, ordinary people were able to get their opinions into print in their own words. Religion underlay this empowerment; everyone was understood to be responsible for his or her own salvation, and it proved impossible for the authorities to restrict the terms of debate.

We know that Berkshire, situated between London and the university at Oxford, on both east-west and north-south trade routes, and on drove roads from south and mid-Wales towards London, was ideally located to receive and transmit new ideas, and that some places became intellectual hot-spots, where numerous individuals took on roles of local or regional social leadership. Most of these individuals are now in danger of being lost to history, and this article will attempt to rescue a few of them from obscurity.

Some villages of the Corallian Ridge in north Berkshire, north and west of Abingdon, had enthusiastic and long-serving clergy even in the sixteenth century, and they left a legacy

of education and intellectual enthusiasm. In Longworth even girls learnt to write, and some village boys were taught Latin, though they seem not to have made much progress in it. In the 1630s there was a conventicle, an unofficial and technically illegal religious meeting whether for prayer or discussion, to which people came from as far afield as Marcham. Its leader was a charismatic figure named John Jones. His forebears very probably had come into the district driving Welsh cattle along the drove roads, but he was usually described as a mercer, a trade which would have involved much travel, so that he could become known throughout the district.

It was during the Civil War, when the Corallian Ridge region was an armed camp and parish clergy either fled or were ejected on ideological grounds, that Jones began personally to fill the voids, though he had none of the educational qualifications that were normally required. He was probably the "Mr Jones the Minister" who appeared in embattled Abingdon in 1646 to negotiate a prisoner exchange. More important, he seems to have impressed the members of the oddly-named Committee for Plundered Ministers which was attempting to fill up vacant cures. In 1647 they named him to be vicar of Stanton Harcourt, on the Oxfordshire side of the Thames. There was some confusion; his officially ejected predecessor could not be got to leave, and Jones

***Dr Manfred Brod is a post-doctoral research fellow at Harris Manchester College, Oxford, and a tutor with the university's Department of Continuing Education. A convenor for local history with the Abingdon Area Archaeological and Historical Society, and a regular speaker at local history societies, Dr Brod has published a number of papers on dissent in early modern Berkshire.***

*“A Catalogue of the Severall Sects and Opinions in England and other Nations. With a brief Rehearsall of their false and dangerous Tenents” depicting Jesuits, Welsh blasphemers, Arminians, Arians, Adamites (shown naked), Libertins (ie, antinomians – picture of man preparing to take a pick-axe to the Ten Commandments), Antescripturians, Soul sleepers, Anabaptists, Familists, Seekers, Divorcers (picture of man beating his wife).*



*From a broadsheet of 1647 in the British Museum*

had to sue for his stipend. He was more successful nearer home. The village of Charney Basset also had a community of particularly godly people; it was within the parish of Longworth, but had its own chapel, and to this Jones was named as Minister of the Assembly. In time he took on a similar position at the neighbouring chapelry of Lyford, and there were proposals for a reorganisation which would put these two together as a new parish, with Jones as vicar.

But in spite of these appointments Jones was deeply involved when the Abingdon minister John Pendarves took his pious followers into the Baptist communion in 1650. It was probably Jones who arranged for like-minded people throughout the Vale of White Horse to join the Abingdon group, which will have been important in making up Pendarves' income to a suitable level. He represented the Abingdon Baptists at a conference in 1656, but after Pendarves' death in that year he led almost 100 individuals in an amicable division which would result in separate Baptist communities centred on Longworth and Faringdon. He continued as recognised leader of the Longworth Baptists until he died in 1668.

Further south in Berkshire, Dr Pordage arrived at the rectory of Bradfield in 1646 and made it a centre of a mystical form of Christianity, much concerned with alchemy and magic. The attraction was mostly to women, who wore white and performed sacred dances on the rectory lawns, took sacred names for use only among themselves, and went into sacred trances in which they had visions of heaven. They described themselves in their writings as "members of the body". The most important was the prophetess Elizabeth Poole from Abingdon. At the end of 1648, when the officers' junta in London was debating the fate of King Charles I, they called on her at least twice to advise them on what God wanted them to do. She said the king should not be killed, which was not what they wanted to hear, so they decided she was not a real prophetess after all and sent her away. She expressed her frustration in a couple of eloquent tracts, and was backed by a third which (almost certainly) was the work of Mary Pocock, wife of a yeoman of Ashampstead.

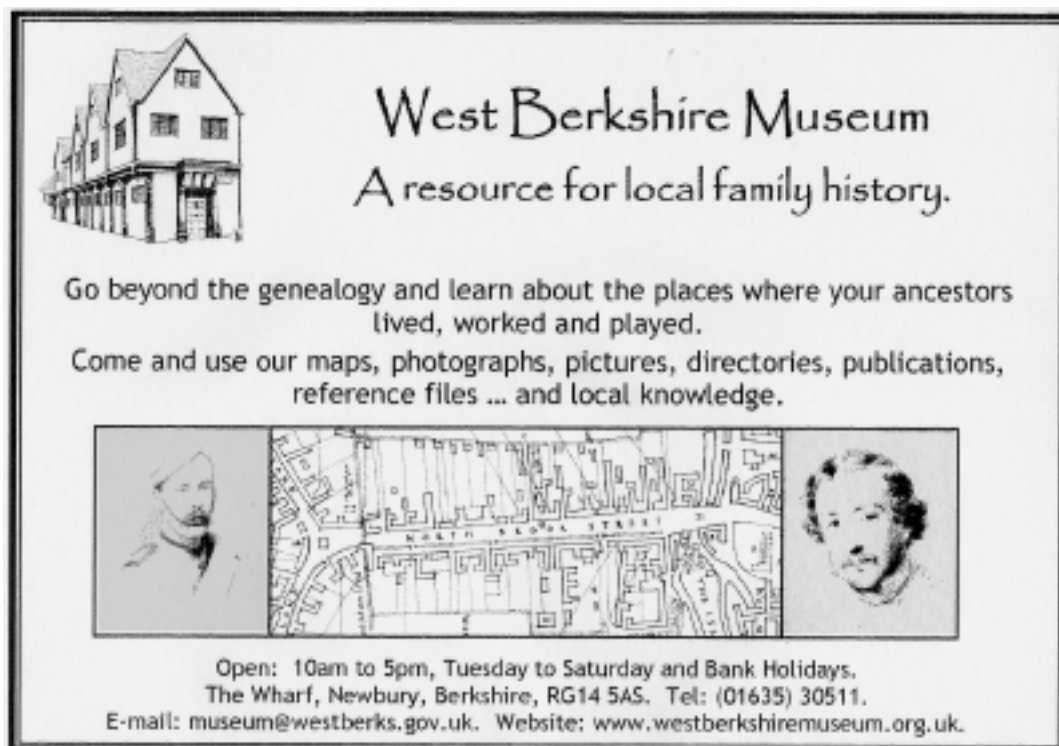
Also, Thomasine Pendarves, the independent-minded wife of the Abingdon minister, joined in with a statement supporting Poole's

claim to prophetic status – she herself had had a prophetic vision confirming it. It is an interesting fact that the neither the arguments of Poole nor of Pocock are original; they are recapitulations – almost point by point, though in their own words – of then recently published books by more established authors. The significance is that in a time when women were not supposed to be active in intellectual matters these two, at least, were fully up to date on current religious and political controversies.

John Pendarves never had an easy life in Abingdon; his congregation, like his wife, were an independent lot. John Atherton, no doubt of the local family of butchers and graziers of that surname, objected on biblical grounds to the discipline he imposed, and was ex-communicated and “delivered to Satan”. His riposte was a withering personal attack in print on the minister and the lay preachers who supported him. The discipline relaxed after

Pendarves’ death, and there was a new ferment in 1658 when some Abingdon Baptists led by Edward Stennett, a brazier, became dissatisfied with the principle of Sunday as the sabbath, and began to close their shops on Saturday instead. Sabbath observance was strongly enforced, and the corporation was worried by a potential new source of conflict. As conscientious Christians themselves they were especially concerned at the strength of the arguments put up by the Baptists, which were very difficult to refute. There was an exchange of tracts between the relatively humble Stennett and John Hanson, a prominent citizen and several-times mayor. Each collected an impressive mass of biblical citations to support his case, and there was no clear winner. Stennett eventually left Abingdon and he and his descendants through several generations would be among the leaders of the new sect of Seventh-Day Baptists.

***In the next issue of the magazine Dr Brod will describe some Berkshire Quakers of the seventeenth century.***



The advertisement for the West Berkshire Museum features a black and white illustration of a large, multi-story building with a gabled roof and several windows. To the right of the building, the text reads "West Berkshire Museum" in a large, serif font, followed by "A resource for local family history." in a smaller, similar font. Below this, there are two lines of text: "Go beyond the genealogy and learn about the places where your ancestors lived, worked and played." and "Come and use our maps, photographs, pictures, directories, publications, reference files ... and local knowledge." At the bottom of the advertisement, there are three small images: a portrait of a man with a beard, a detailed street map of a town, and another portrait of a man. Below these images, the text provides the museum's opening hours: "Open: 10am to 5pm, Tuesday to Saturday and Bank Holidays." and the address: "The Wharf, Newbury, Berkshire, RG14 5AS. Tel: (01635) 30511." It also includes the email address "E-mail: museum@westberks.gov.uk" and the website "Website: www.westberkshitemuseum.org.uk."

# John Rocque's 1761 map of Berkshire *an evaluation*

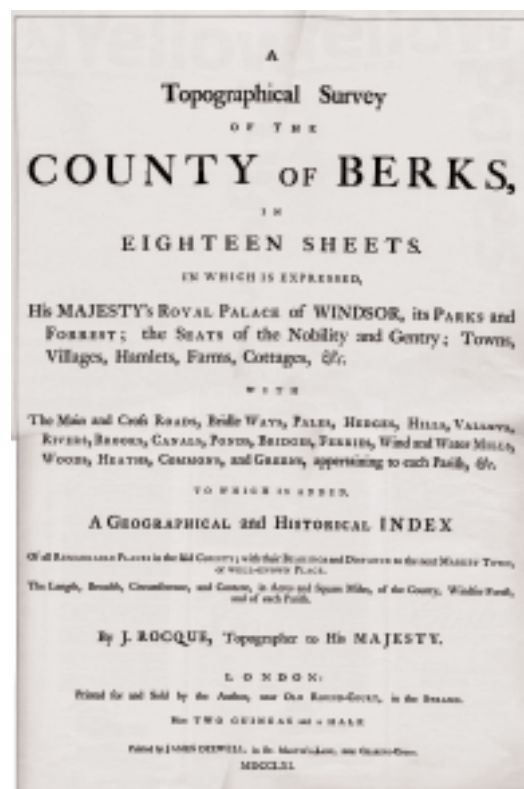
***Charles Masters takes a critical look at an important source of eighteenth-century Berkshire topography***

Love them or hate them, maps are a valuable resource for the family historian. Although from the second half of the nineteenth century the large-scale Ordnance Survey maps set a new benchmark for scientific and detailed cartography, maps from an earlier period can be useful in understanding the communities and landscape in which our ancestors worked and lived.

However, even though survey methods had greatly improved by the eighteenth century, maps varied greatly in quality and authenticity. Many maps of this period, as before and after, were copies of earlier productions, even when it was claimed that they were entirely new. Standards of workmanship also varied greatly, with commercial productions often being rushed to market with undue haste.

Therefore, as with any source, maps need to be treated with caution, and key questions need to be asked. These include: who produced the map and why was it produced? Wherever possible, a map must be checked against other evidence, including other maps. Consideration in this article is given to the relatively familiar 1761 map of Berkshire by the prolific mapmaker, John Rocque (c1705 - 1762).

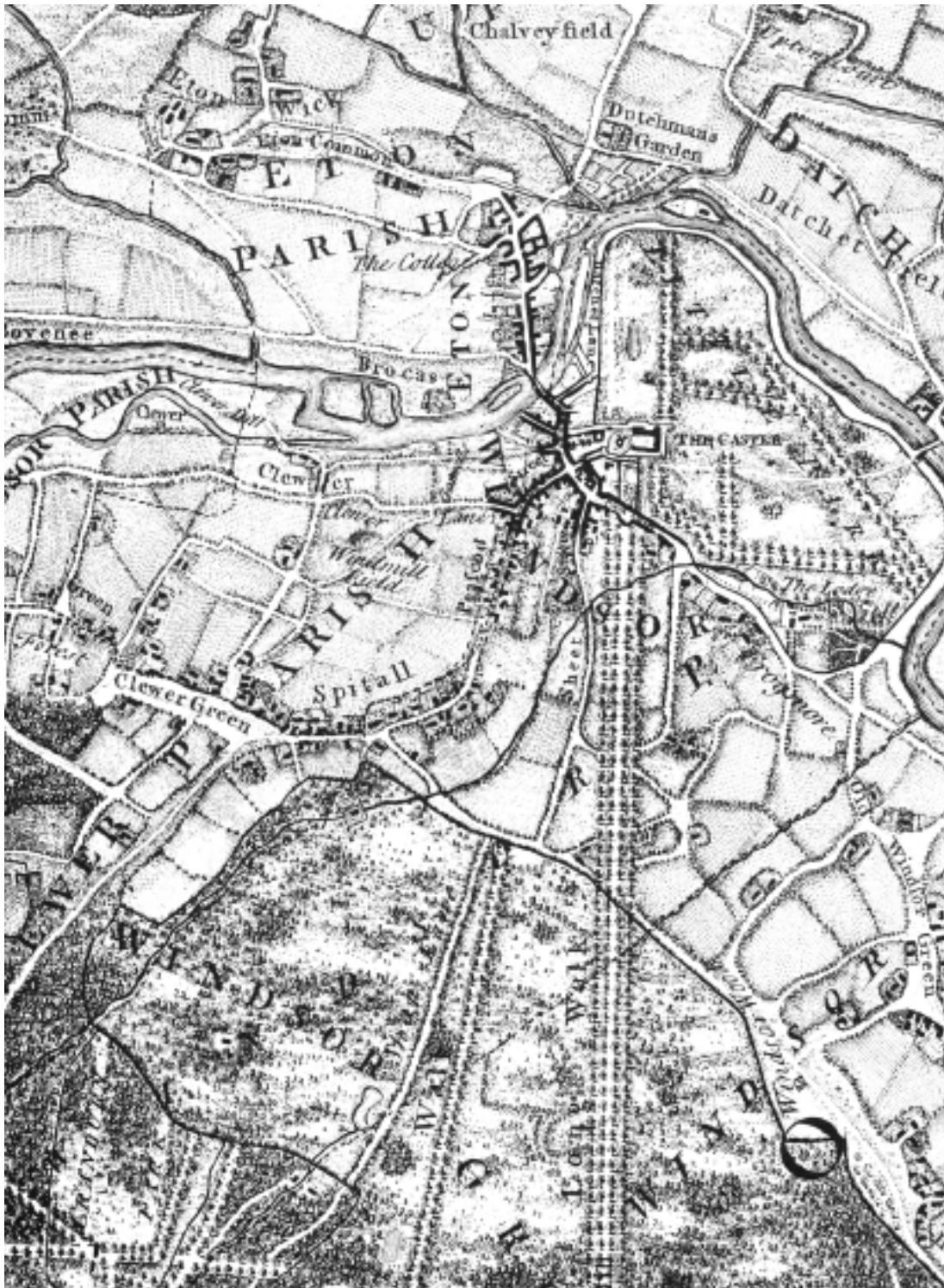
In assessing this map it's useful to know both something about the mapmaker as well as to study the map itself. The aim is to come to some conclusions about its reliability as a



source, for whilst Rocque's work is often well-regarded, it has also been the subject of repeated criticism.

John Rocque was an Huguenot émigré who came to work in Britain in the 1730s as a garden and park designer to the gentry. His interest in this line of work stayed with him during his later career. Although, like other mapmakers, he needed subscribers to get a new project going, his readiness to include in his London map (for example) the seats and parks of gentlemen reflected more than purely commercial concerns, even if he was keen to charge the gentlemen concerned for the privilege.

By the time the Berkshire county survey was begun in the early 1750s Rocque's reputation as a mapmaker was well established. His portfolio already included a county map of Shropshire (1746) and town maps of Bristol, Exeter, central London (with a separate map of its environs), Paris, Rome, Shrewsbury, and York.



*From sheet 1 of John Rocque's map of Berkshire, showing part of Windsor*

Rocque is an important figure in cartography because he was representative of a new breed of county mapmaker, producing larger scale maps based on new surveys rather than on earlier, often unacknowledged, maps. As his Berkshire map shows, he generally specialised in maps produced on individual sheets rather than in atlases (although a small atlas published in the 1750s did quite well). His *Topographical Survey of the County of Berkshire*, finally published in 1761, comprises 18 sheets and, remarkably, there is a helpful, separately published, key sheet. The comparatively large scale of two inches to the mile allowed him to show not only the seats of the gentry and nobility and well-known landmarks, but also the landscape and human settlement in great detail. This included the depiction of settlements of all sizes (down to hamlets and individual farms and cottages); natural features like rivers, hills, valleys and woods; various communication routes

(man-made or otherwise); and a limited selection of “industrial” sites (notably mills). His interest in land use was unusual, and led him to show arable and grassland, commons and downland. He also made an attempt to show both the extent of fields (open and enclosed) and parish boundaries. His attention to detail was such that he recorded individual houses (marked as small rectangles) and hedges. A family historian, therefore, might be able to locate not only the settlement in which an ancestor lived, but perhaps even (with the help of other documentary evidence) the location of his or her house.

Yet whatever the Rocque map purports to show, how trustworthy is it? Some allowances have of course to be made: it is unreasonable to demand the level of accuracy of a modern Ordnance Survey map, and one must also accept that mistakes arising from the survey or printing process would and did occur.



*Hamstead Marshall as mapped by John Rocque. Note at the bottom the River Enborne has been misnamed the “Kennel River”, perhaps a confusion with the Kennet. Field boundaries cannot be easily checked, but woodland, roadways and buildings seem to be accurate*

Nevertheless, the question remains to be answered. On the positive side, some reassurance is offered by the fact that Rocque employed a local surveyor named Josiah Ballard, who went on to make several, well-regarded estate maps of the Reading area, including the 1756 map of the manor of Earley. As with other maps and mapmakers, Rocque would also have invited local gentry and other interested parties to point out errors at the proof stage. On the negative side, the map was a commercial production with all the pressures that this brought. Modern research has also questioned the map's accuracy in certain respects; it has been convincingly shown, for example, that fields were often shown far bigger than reality, at least in some areas.

Leaving aside field sizes, Thomas Pride's 1790 map of the Reading area shows significant correspondence with Rocque's work, yet it is quite possible that Pride's work derives from Rocque's, and is subject to the same errors. Often the best way forward is to draw on the findings of local historians (family and otherwise) who have immersed themselves in the sources for an area, and who have used Rocque's map as part of their research.

Frequently, the assessment of the Rocque map has led to comparison with later OS maps as well, despite the obvious caveats that this brings to mind. Micro-studies of the Hamstead Marshall and Winnersh areas suggest that even minor roads and individual houses are located with an encouraging degree of accuracy, although there is, equally, the strong possibility that some houses were schematic drawings rather than true depictions. (Research in the area of Egham and Thorpe, using Rocque's Surrey map, has similarly concluded that many of the routes and positions of cottages are fairly accurately drawn.) This is not to deny that buildings, roads, trackways, and mills could be omitted altogether. Place names are usually correctly shown, if sometimes mis-spelt, with, no doubt, the spellings reflecting local opinion.

In the present state of knowledge it would seem that the main conclusion must be that Rocque managed to produce a map of good quality for Berkshire. It can be readily accessed either at the Berkshire Record Office or as a widely available Margary reprint. This conclusion is necessarily tentative and the author of this article welcomes comments from other informed users of this map.

#### Acknowledgements

The author wishes to thank Penny Stokes, Colin Wells, and Jill Williams for the help that they have given. Lisa Spurrier at the Berkshire Record Office kindly located various original copies of the Rocque map for me.

***Charles Masters is the author of Essential Maps for Family Historians, to be published in 2009 by Countryside Publications of Newbury. The publication covers English maps in the period from the late seventeenth century to the 1940s.***

#### ***Berkshire Record Office holdings of Rocque maps according to A2A***

Printed proposals for publication of a survey of Oxfordshire, Berkshire and Buckinghamshire by John Rocque, with inset map and receipt signed by Rocque D/EN/F36 date: 1751 (Aldworth-Neville papers)

Map of Windsor area, showing Sunninghill CPC126/18/1 date: 1761 [from Scope and Content] (Sheet 1 of a complete survey of Berkshire by John Rocque). Windsor Great Park hand coloured. (Sunninghill Civil Parish Records)

Reproduction of John Rocque's Map of Berkshire (1761) by H. Margary CPC20B/18/6/1-19 date: 1972 (Aston Upton Civil Parish Records)

Map of the County of Berks by John Rocque D/EBy/P73 date: 1764 (Benyon papers)

# When did the middle ages end in western Berkshire?

**Margaret Yates**  
*looks for some answers in land-holding, tax and trade*

I have spent the last decade intrigued by the question of whether it was possible to discern the end of the middle ages. Was there a moment in time when the ordinary person living in the towns or countryside of western Berkshire realised that their lives had changed irrevocably, and could view the past as significantly different? Were they aware that they were no longer living in a medieval world? There has been a dominant view of history that considers the activities of kings and governments as the chief players in bringing about change. Thus we find the year 1485 given prominence as marking a decisive break with the past. The turbulence of the medieval period was brought to a dramatic close on the battlefield at Bosworth. Richard III was dead, and the new Tudor dynasty had begun with the ascension of Henry VII. But did this matter to the inhabitants of western Berkshire? My suspicion was that it didn't, and this left me with the task of attempting to identify those aspects that did change, and to try to discover why.

I had to employ a diverse range of documentary sources to investigate my question. Records of taxation which give the names of individuals and the sums of money they paid as tax proved invaluable, particularly those of 1327, 1381, 1522, 1524 and 1546, which were capable of reflecting changes in the distribution of population and wealth within

the area. Through them I was able to chart a marked shift with a rise in prosperity of the Kennet valley. This, I would argue, was due to Newbury's expansion as a successful producer of kersey cloths in the second half of the fifteenth century. Furthermore, agriculture in the Vale of the White Horse was consistently prosperous, but there were periods of economic disruption in the fourteenth century in the area of the Downs.

I employed manorial records – accounts, rentals and court rolls – to look at change at the level of the individual community. I selected Ashbury, Buckland, Hanney, Kintbury and Shaw as rural case studies from different topographical areas. Here I met fascinating individuals such as Alice Slatter, who successfully ran the large farm at Buckland after the death of her husband William in 1495. Indeed, grain from the Vale was being sold in London. Sheep and their fleeces from the downland area were in high demand, both for export and for making into cloth. Men such as Thomas Snodenham of Stanford in the Vale were merchants who made their fortunes trading in wool at Calais.

Landlords were able to profit from the success of agriculture. Moreover, some were willing to provide conditions that would enable enterprising individuals to grasp economic opportunities when they arose. The county's rivers supported a number of different types of

***Dr Yates is on the teaching staff of the University of Reading, where her research interests focus on the transition from medieval to early modern society. She has published papers in Agricultural History Review and Economic History Review, and she has contributed to several economic history textbooks.***





*Newbury's Cloth Hall was built in 1627, by which time the local cloth industry had passed its medieval peak of prosperity. It was once part of an extensive range of buildings (none of which have survived) erected under the will of John Kendrick to provide employment for the poor. Now home to the West Berkshire Museum, the Cloth Hall is currently closed to the public because it fails to meet fire safety regulations.*

mills. John Bullford built a fulling mill at Shaw after 1436, possibly to exploit the growing cloth industry in Newbury. Tanning was another activity at Shaw and Kintbury, and John Croke of Newbury was exporting hides from Southampton in 1448. At the same time there were many who continued to work their lands, sometimes augmenting their income with by-employment or wage labour when the need arose: men such as William Knight, who cultivated about 60 acres of land in Hanney. He was influential in the village as a member of the jury of the manor court, and in the other offices of head tithing man and ale taster. It was the cumulative actions of these people who brought about change at the local level.

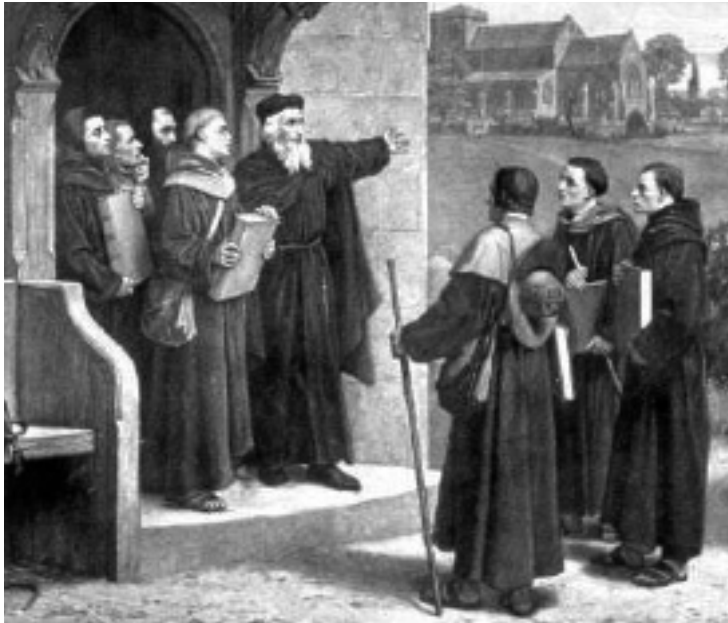
Towns such as Newbury, which rose to prominence through the manufacture of cloth, have always interested historians. Piecing together the history of the town from a disparate range of documentary sources and archaeological finds revealed that successful clothmaking had begun much earlier than the famous heyday of the Winchcombes and Dolmans. Merchants such as John Doget and John Underwood of Newbury were exporting kerseys from Southampton in the 1430s and 1440s. At this time Newbury was producing between 15 and 22 per cent of the county's cloths that were assessed for export. Many of the town's cloths were dyed, and Richard Dyer

was importing large quantities of woad via Southampton. Fullers and weavers, such as members of the Bennet family, were wealthy individuals in the fifteenth century.

In addition to the production of cloth, Newbury also acted as an important commercial centre. Its weekly market was held on a Thursday, as today, and people travelled from the surrounding area and further to trade there. Whilst the individual wealth of the Winchcombes and Dolmans was exceptional – John Winchcombe II was assessed on £632 6s 8d of goods in 1522, and his inventory when he died was appraised at £1,223 4s 9d – they came from a long tradition of successful cloth manufacturers.

Newbury's success drew migrant workers to the town, and its population grew dramatically from the last quarter of the fifteenth century. The picture, however, is not straightforward. There were uprisings in the town between 1458 and 1460, in addition to some involvement in the national disturbances of the summer of 1450 associated with Jack Cade's rebellion. Whilst many of these were political in nature there were also followers of the heretical religious sect known as Lollards in this corner of Berkshire. Indeed, this was an exciting place to live at the end of the middle ages!

Nevertheless, Newbury's success was not mirrored in all the towns of the region;



*A nineteenth-century representation of John Wycliff and his followers*

*From about 1370 John Wycliff, theologian and fellow of Balliol College, Oxford, agitated for religious reform and translation of the bible into English. His movement attracted thousands of followers called Lollards, who suffered severe persecution from the ecclesiastical authorities. Wycliff's teachings were declared heretical, and several Lollards were burned at the stake, although Wycliff himself survived more than one unsuccessful trial and died in 1384.*

Wantage's fortunes were the opposite, as the records reveal a bustling commercial centre in 1381, with even a goldsmith, but a much smaller population in 1522.

So when did the middle ages end in western Berkshire? It depended on where you lived. Signs were apparent earlier in the Kennet valley than in the Downs or Vale. Change came slowly and unevenly. By the third quarter of the sixteenth century it is possible to identify the cumulative impact of piecemeal events that together produced a local society and economy significantly different from that which had gone before. The population had expanded. There was a polarisation of wealth and land-holdings, with land concentrated in the hands of fewer individuals. More agricultural land was enclosed for private use. There was a rise in those dependent on earnings from wages, and an associated increase in a diverse range of non-agrarian occupations, especially allied

to the production of cloth in the Kennet valley. There had been opportunities for some individuals to make great fortunes. I would like to argue that it was the local inhabitants who had played a pivotal role in bringing about change in the region. When we remember the religious upheavals of the Reformation and the dissolution of the monasteries, then the world of the west Berkshire villager or towns person was no longer recognisable as medieval, but had become early modern.

#### Further reading

Margaret Yates. *Town and countryside in western Berkshire c1327-c1600. Social and economic change* (Boydell, 2007). ISBN 978 1 84383 328 4.

## 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>.*



## The Clarence Clump murder

*Alan Gardener (5202) recounts a grisly tale stumbled upon whilst researching family names in the BBI*

### **MURDERED BY HER FATHER...**

It was while looking through family names in the Berkshire Burial Index that I noticed these four ominous words beside the entry for the burial of Hannah Gould on 4 January 1862. She was only six years old. With Gould being one of my family names I felt compelled to research the story behind this case, fairly certain there was no connection.

The 1861 census showed that John and Caroline Gould lived with their daughter Hannah at 5 Clarence Clump in Clewer. Hannah's birth and death certificates show that she was born in March 1855 and died 30 December 1861. Cause of death was "by having her throat cut by John Gould, her Father." The marriage certificate of John and Caroline shows that they were married in 1859, some four years after Hannah's birth.

Although I live in Windsor, Clarence Clump was an unfamiliar address. Google revealed it to have been a run-down area between Charles Street and South Place – little more than a narrow alleyway. An article in an almanac for 1862 laid out the details of the case in the form of a newspaper report. The murder, the witnesses' statements and Gould's execution in March were all there. Copies of the census for the surrounding streets showed where the witnesses lived. It also came to light that prior to her marriage Caroline Allen had spent a great deal of time in the Eton Union Workhouse, and that her first child, Elizabeth, had been born there in 1847.

At Slough Library I found the *Windsor Express* for 11 January 1862 covering the murder, the examination before the

magistrates and the coroner's inquest; the 15 March issue covered the execution on the previous day (Friday) at Reading Gaol.

The events leading up to the murder were related in the testimony of the witnesses. On the afternoon of 30 December, Hannah Gould had been playing with her friends Harriet and Daniel Clarke and Tommy Webb. At about 3 o'clock her father had returned home drunk (nothing unusual, apparently) and ranted at her for not tidying the place up. She said she had not done it because she was lighting the fire to make his tea. The other three children decided to leave, and asked Hannah to go with them. Gould said no, he wanted to do something with her. Harriet, aged nine, later testified that as she went out of the door, she looked back and saw Gould take a razor from the shelf. Half-an-hour later Gould fetched Harriet's mother to his house, where Sarah Clarke saw Hannah lying at the bottom of the stairs with her head on the bottom step. There was a great deal of blood on the floor. Being very afraid, she ran from the house screaming "Murder! Murder!"

Thirteen-year-old Samuel Wilkins, who lived next door, heard the cries and ran out just in time to see Gould throw his daughter against the wall opposite shouting, "I always promised I would do it and now I am pleased." Charles Coker, who lived three doors away from Gould in South Place, also heard the cries and rushed round to find young Wilkins cradling Hannah's limp body in his arms. Coker gathered up Hannah and ran as fast as he could down Charles Street and on to the infirmary, some three-quarters of a mile away. This must have presented quite a spectacle; a

grown man, running for all he was worth, carrying a blood-soaked child in his arms to the very place where the child's mother worked.

Sadly, Hannah was pronounced dead on arrival. Mr Ellison, a surgeon summoned a few minutes before four, later testified that he had examined the body of a young girl who had died from the dividing of her jugular vein by a sharp instrument, such as a razor.

Meanwhile Peter Radbourne, a super-numerary policeman acting on information from Coker, had taken Gould to the police station, assisted by James Clark, a plasterer, who said to Gould, "This is the last time you will walk up this street." To which Gould replied, "I did the deed, I am tired of my life."

At the Guildhall the next day, Gould was

*...when the gaol came into view Gould remarked that it would be his last home in this world...*

examined before the magistrates in the justices' room, while the inquest was held in the council chamber before the coroner, T W Marlin, and a jury comprising J W Caley and 11 others. Gould was charged with the wilful murder of his daughter. Just before he was taken away, his stepdaughter Elizabeth presented him with a bible and entreated him to read it. Gould was escorted to Reading by Sergeant Noble, and when the gaol came into view Gould remarked that it would be his last home in this world.

The newspaper of 15 March reported on the trial which had taken place at the Lent Assizes in Reading two weeks previously, so I went to Reading Central Library to see the issue dated 1 March. The trial on 28 February appeared to be a brief affair, with witness testimony building a formidable case against Gould. As his wife could not be called to give evidence in

his favour, his counsel, Mr George Russell, made his plea to the jury on the basis that Gould had suffered several cuts to his head in the past, and that the effect of prolonged alcohol abuse had affected his nature. All to no avail. The jury swiftly brought in a guilty verdict and the judge, Mr Baron Channell, donned the black cap to pass the sentence of death upon Gould.

There was a light sprinkling of rain at about 11 on the morning of Friday 14 March 1862. The scaffold had been erected above the entrance to the gaol, and a screen had been placed beside the drop to hide the spectacle from passengers arriving at Reading Station. Some 4,000 people had made their way to the Forbury to witness the execution.

An appeal for remission of the death sentence had been made during the week to the Home Secretary, Sir George Grey, but on Friday morning a denial had arrived from London.

At 12 noon the chaplain led a small procession across the prison yard. He was followed by the governor, Mr Ferry, the undersheriff Mr Blandy and then Gould carrying his bible, supported by Mr Calcraft the executioner. The deputy governor and other officers followed. They all ascended the scaffold.

After the noose had been placed around his neck, Gould turned and gave the bible to the chaplain, and asked that it be returned to Elizabeth. Quickly the bolt was withdrawn and Gould was launched into eternity.

John Gould was the last person to be hanged in public at Reading Gaol.

As far as I am aware, I am not related to these unfortunate souls.

#### Sources

Berkshire Burial Index (Berks FHS)

1841, 1851, 1861 censuses

Edmund Burke. *The Annual Register or A View of the History & Politics of 1862* (1863)

1897 Ordnance Survey map. Godfrey edition

*The Windsor Express, Berks, Bucks and Middlesex Journal and West Surrey Gazette*. 1862.

*Berkshire Chronicle*. 1862.

# Adding value to research findings

*In the June Historian Barry Jerome (2706) wrote about turning your research into a printed book. Here he describes some useful add-ons, such as surname distribution maps, next-generation pages, sibling birth briefs and grandchildren charts.*

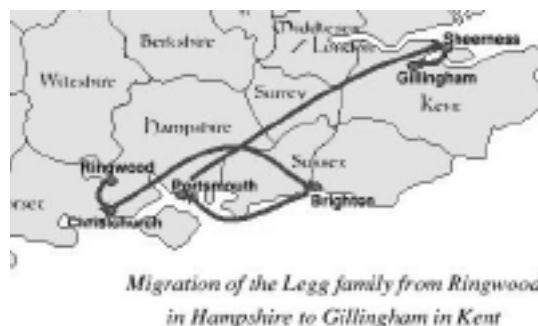
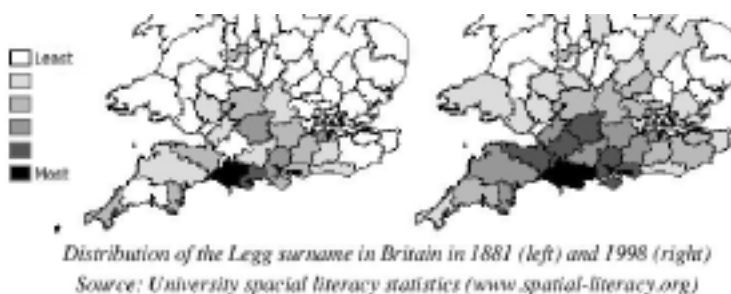
## Surname distribution can provide an insight into family migration

Three universities collaborated on the spatial literacy project to create distribution profiles of the 25,000 most common surnames in the UK, based on the 1881 census and data for 1998. The search facility is free, and the output is displayed as a map by major postcodes, eg, RG=Reading area. I found that this adds a fascinating aspect to my story, showing how the family name has migrated over the preceding 100 or so years.

The illustration shows what I included in the chapter about my Legg ancestors. In 1881 the name was concentrated in Dorset, Hampshire and north Wiltshire. By 1998 it had spread, but was still concentrated in southern England. This provides useful background to my own studies that show similar origins and migrations.

To find name profiles go to [www.nationaltrustnames.org.uk](http://www.nationaltrustnames.org.uk) and click on *Search for a surname*. Then select a country (only GB is currently available), either 1881 or 1998, a type of search (choose full/partial name) and click *Find*. This gives a list of names that match. Select one, and a map is displayed of the surname distribution for your chosen year.

The profile information helps to tell the family background story. I also include a map showing the migration of my own family. The picture shows how my Legg ancestors migrated from the Dorset-Hampshire border to Sussex, Hampshire and finally Kent. It was easily constructed from a clipart map with a few lines drawn on it.



## Information about the next generation provides a link with lost cousins

Recently I've started to include summary information for relatively recent generations (where readily available) about all of the children in a family, rather than just my direct ancestor. This helps the story to link in with others – maybe distant lost cousins – researching the same name and family. To give an example, in the Jerome chapter of my book I have a section on a Jonathon Jerome baptised in Yattendon, Berkshire in 1793. I'm descended from one of his sons, George, and I've made contact with descendants of his other children (lost cousins). I'm sharing the writing of the Jonathon section with one of these (Peter Baigent) and, as well as a summary of each sibling, we're writing a section for each of those children for whom we have more detailed information. (See illustration top left over the page.)

**JEROME**

**The Next Generation**

Jonathon and Ann had seven children (see far as we know) (from current records)

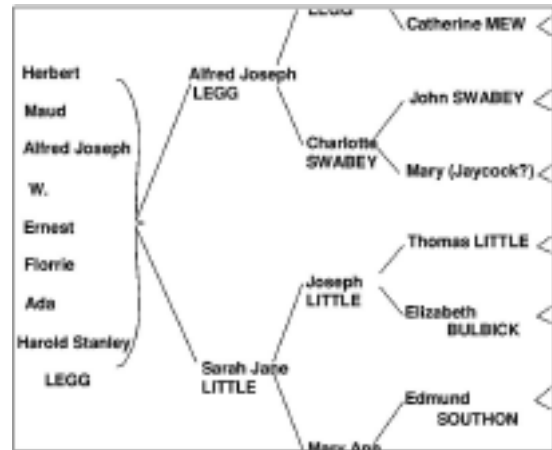
Matilda	born	1821	Kingston, Surrey
John Edward	born	1824	Kingston, Surrey
Thomas	born	1826	Richmond, Surrey
George	born	1831	Kingston, Surrey
Rachel	born	1834	Shiplake, Oxfordshire
Ann	born	1837	Shiplake, Oxfordshire
Jonathon	born	1840	Horsley, Oxfordshire

Matilda sadly died when she was only thirteen years old and was buried in Shiplake in Oxfordshire.

John Edward moved to Reading and worked there as a librarian. He lodged with the Milham family and later married their daughter Mary Ann Milham. They had seven children: Mary Ann, Emily, Alfred, Edward, Jonathon, Caroline and Henry.

Thomas stayed behind in Shiplake working as an agricultural labourer when the farm moved on to Horsley. In the 1851 census he was still employed in Shiplake as an agricultural labourer at Lambrook farm aged 24 years. There is no record of when he married, or when he died. There is also a possible death recorded in 1859.

George worked as an agricultural labourer and married Ruth Woodley and had seven children: Charles, Emily, Alfred, Edward, Jonathon, Caroline and Henry.

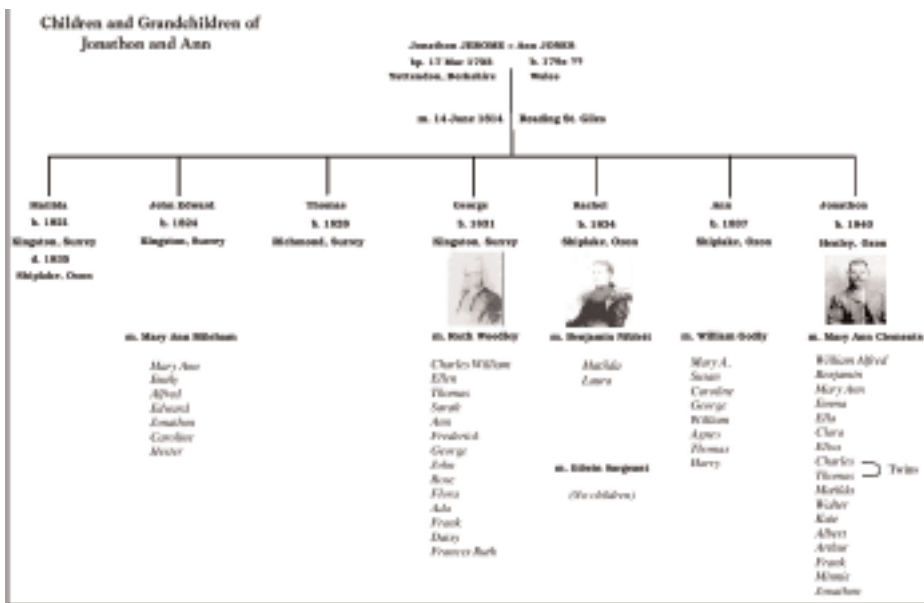


Sibling birth briefs also provide links to lost cousins

I've discovered quite a few lost cousins who are researching the Legg family name and who have requested a copy of the Legg chapter. To make the story more relevant to a wider audience I now include birth briefs listing all of the children in the family. For example: my great-grandfather was Alfred Joseph Legg (junior) and one of my distant cousins is descended from his younger brother Harold Stanley. By including the siblings, it becomes just as relevant for their descendants. The illustration above right shows a section of the sibling birth brief for the children of Alfred Joseph Legg and Sarah Jane Little.

**A grandchildren chart gives a view of the extended family**

In constructing my family history stories I have always wanted to try to include a feeling of the extended family, not just my direct line of descent. This, I believe, is even more relevant for earlier centuries when families were much larger, and there was usually much more contact between generations. For the extended family I include a grandchildren chart, with grandparents at the top and all of their children underneath, all with birth and marriage information. Listed below each child are their children. If available, I also include photos. The best I've managed so far is a full set for grandparents born 1880 - 1900, made possible by the kind donation of copies of photos inherited by



cousins. The illustration shows the grandchildren chart for Jonathon and Ann Jerome. Included are photos of three of their children George, Rachel and Jonathon and lists of all of the grandchildren discovered to date. I do not currently have information about Thomas and whether he married or had children, but this can always be added later. Showing all of the children and grandchildren on one page helps me to understand how big the extended family was, and to imagine what interactions there may have been between the generations.

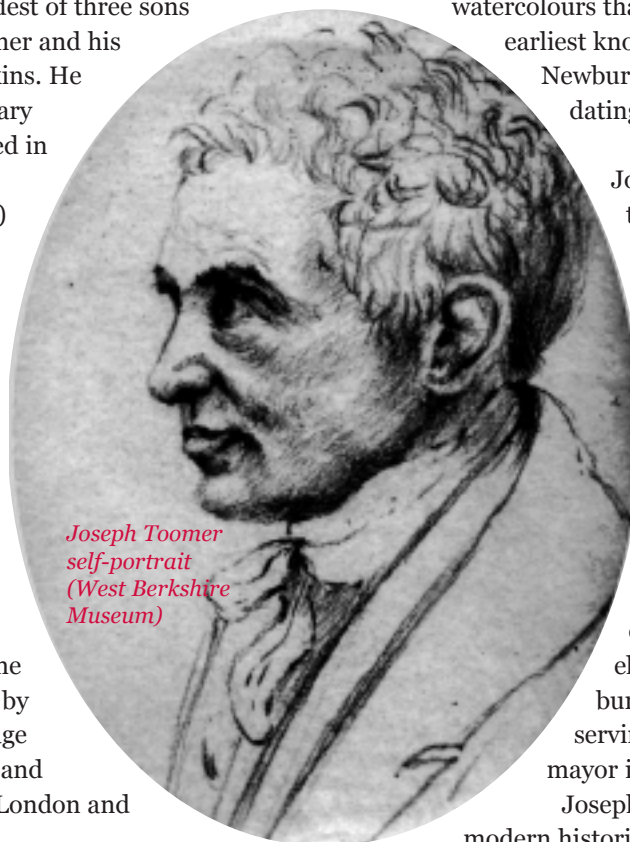
# Ironmonger, campaigner, artist, diarist and mayor...

## ...the many talents of Joseph Toomer

**Earlier in this series Phil Wood (4495) traced the Toomer family's arrival in Newbury in 1730, and their rise into the upper ranks of local society in the 1760s. Here he focuses on Joseph Toomer, grandson of the first Joseph who brought his family to Newbury.**

Joseph was the eldest of three sons born to Samuel Toomer and his wife Sarah née Hawkins. He was born on 3 February 1760 and was baptised in the Lower Meeting House (Independent) on 27 February. His father's acute business sense and his mother's family connections meant that Joseph was raised in a privileged way, educated and mixing with local society. During his youth there was a significant social scene in the town, brought by the flourishing carriage trade taking the rich and famous to and from London and Bath.

His education is reported to have included art lessons from no less than Sir Joshua Reynolds; however, this could simply refer to his attendance at a few lectures by the great man at the Royal Academy. Joseph's talent as an artist may not have matched Sir Joshua's, but he was competent, and many of his drawings of local people have survived in a sketchbook still in the possession of a descendant. West Berkshire Museum has three



*Joseph Toomer  
self-portrait  
(West Berkshire  
Museum)*

watercolours that are among the earliest known depictions of Newbury scenes, probably dating from the 1780s.

As the eldest son, Joseph was destined to follow his father into the family business. Indeed, after his father set up as a banker in 1791 it's very likely that Joseph was left in charge of the iron-mongery. He also followed his father on to the Newbury corporation, being elected a capital burgess in 1786, and serving his first term as mayor in 1791.

Joseph's greatest worth to modern historians (local or family) arises from his fascination with his own history; the first surviving manifestation of this comes from his first term as mayor. He decided to keep a journal of his term in office, which he did – with the best intentions, and the outcome of many diarists: the start of the year is covered in great detail, but later events are largely ignored unless they are of major import.

and your Petitioners will ever pray

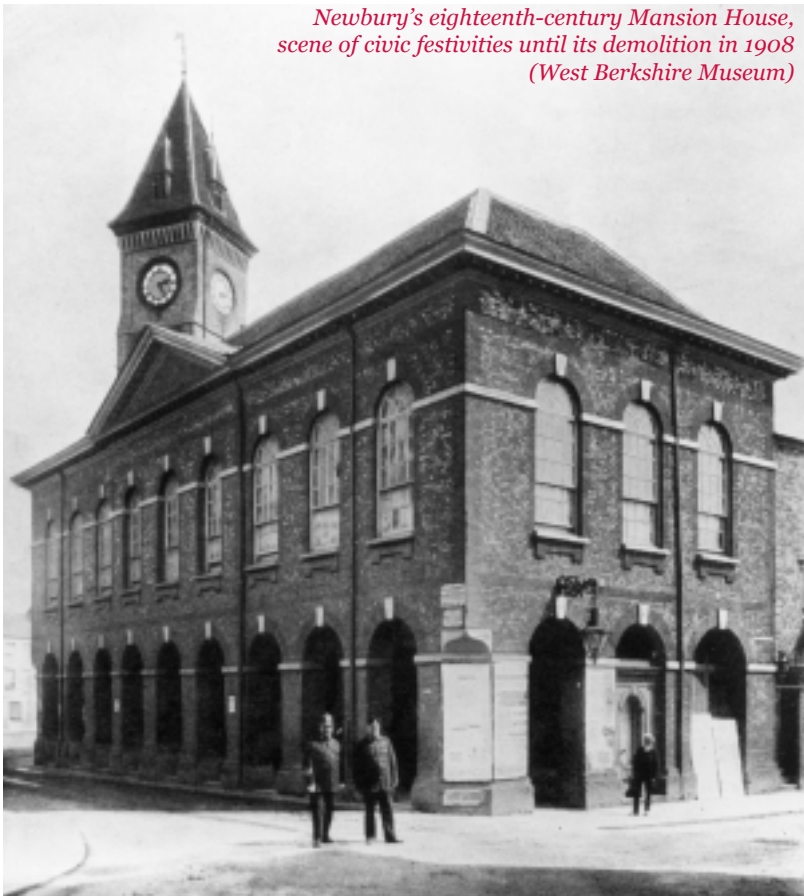
Joseph Toomer, Mayor Iron  
 Tho<sup>s</sup>. Lovidge Justice  
 x Jn<sup>o</sup>. Kimber  
 Sam<sup>l</sup>. Toomer  
 Osman Vincent  
 Jos<sup>h</sup>. Gray.

John Langham Clerk  
 David James, Dissenting M<sup>r</sup>.  
 John Winter, Dissenting Minister  
 James Bickens Dissenting Min<sup>ster</sup>

Silv<sup>er</sup>  
 M<sup>alt</sup>  
 Iron  
 D<sup>ryer</sup>  
 Ch<sup>est</sup>

Extract from Joseph Toomer's petition for the abolition of slavery (West Berkshire Museum)

The first event detailed is his own elevation to the mayoralty. His fellow burgesses and the aldermen collected him from his house to march in procession to St Nicolas' church for a service, before retiring to the Mansion House for a grand feast and ball. He lists the dozens of people invited to the feast, noting those who declined. He even transcribes several responses from the more notable local residents. He then lists the provisions required for the feast, and even the layout of the table for the first course. It's a fascinating insight into the past of a ceremony that has changed greatly



Newbury's eighteenth-century Mansion House, scene of civic festivities until its demolition in 1908 (West Berkshire Museum)



over the years, but which still takes place although, sadly, today's finger buffet, excellent though it is, does not match the feasts of yore.

The chief interest for family historians in this journal stems from a petition from the citizens of Newbury to the House of Commons protesting against the slave trade. Joseph copied the text of the petition into his journal, and then went further and persuaded the signatories to sign in his journal as well as the petition, so the book contains over 300 signatures of Newbury residents of the time. Even better, at a later date, pencilled additions record the trades of many of the signatories.

The final episode of the story is also recorded; Joseph's brother Edward writes to tell him that he was in the House of Commons when Winchcombe Henry Hartley, the local MP, presented the petition; naturally Joseph copies the letter into his journal.

The journal goes on to record occasional events in all three of Joseph's terms as mayor (1791, 1801 and 1814). Amongst these are lists of people, boys at the charity school, residents in St Bartholomew's almshouses and others. These lists continue beyond the mayoral terms, and include a list of pubs and publicans from 1828.

However, wonderful though the journal is, it is not Joseph's most important legacy to family historians. During his final term as mayor in 1815 he decided, for reasons unknown, to compile a borough census. He did this in great detail, listing all residents and grouping them into households from which family relationships can be deduced, although sadly no birth-places. Once again, pencilled additions record events from the later lives of some of the people. It's important to note that the census is of the borough of Newbury only, which didn't include Speenhamland until 1878.

Joseph married Jane Maskelyne in 1787, in so doing elevating the family into an even higher social circle. Jane was related to the Houlton family of Welford Park, one of the major estates in the Newbury area. Her first cousin, Nevil Maskelyne, was Astronomer

Royal, a very important role in a country reliant on its navy and forever seeking improved methods of navigation, most of which were reliant on an improved knowledge of astronomy. Those who have read the book *Longitude* by Dava Sobel, or have seen the resulting television series may recognise Nevil as one of the villains of the story, based on John Harrison's lifelong struggle to get the Admiralty to pay the prize offered for the design of an accurate clock. Nevil was also the man who sent Captain Cook on his voyage of discovery in the Pacific, his main purpose being to observe a transit of Venus.

Nevil's sister Margaret was also well known, partly for her renowned beauty, but mainly for her marriage to Robert Clive, Lord Clive of India. Nevil left Joseph Toomer a significant sum in his will and Lady Clive invested in the Toomer business in Newbury, noteworthy connections for a market-town ironmonger.

Joseph and Jane had nine children before Jane died in 1805. Their second son was named Nevil after his mother's famous cousin. Nevil Toomer carried on the family business and made the move to Northbrook Street – but that is another story.

Joseph retired around 1830, at the age of 70, but this caused problems for the business, as he appears to have taken considerable capital out of the business to fund his comfortable retirement at Preston Court, Preston-near-Wingham, Kent. He lived with his daughter, Sophia, who had married her first cousin, Samuel Elgar Toomer, minister of Preston's independent church. Joseph's brother Samuel (father of Samuel Elgar) also retired there.

Joseph corresponded with his children remaining in Newbury, and some of these letters survive. One, from 1841, is in response to his son Nevil's family history enquiries. Joseph eventually died at Preston Court, aged 93, on 23 December 1853, an event recorded by a glowing obituary in *The Reading Mercury*.

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[museum@wantage.com](mailto:museum@wantage.com)

## Dates for your 2009 diary

date	event	venue	more details
18.00 - 20.00 Tue 20 Jan	BRO open evening for Berks FHS members	BRO Coley Ave, Reading	chairman's note p2
27 Feb - 1 Mar	WDYTYA Live	Olympia London W14 8DU	< <a href="http://www.bbcwhodoyouthinkyouare.com">www.bbcwhodoyouthinkyouare.com</a> >
10.00 - 17.00 Sun 1 Mar	Oxfordshire & Bucks family history fair	Exeter Hall Kidlington OX5 1AB	< <a href="http://www.familyhistoryfairs.com">www.familyhistoryfairs.com</a> >
Sat 28 Mar	FFHS AGM & GM	TNA Kew TW9 4DU	< <a href="http://www.ffhs.org.uk/events">www.ffhs.org.uk/events</a> >
18.00 - 20.00 Tue 21 Apr	BRO open evening for Berks FHS members	BRO Coley Ave, Reading	chairman's note p2
10.00 - 17.00 Sun 3 May	family history event	Exhib hall 2 Barbican London EXC2Y 8DL	< <a href="http://www.thefhevent.com">www.thefhevent.com</a> >

# Timely tip

Historians have long been frustrated by Excel's inability to sort dates earlier than 1900. This problem has now been solved by an add-on which can be downloaded free from <http://j-walk.com/ss/excel/files/xdate.htm>. It may look a bit long-winded, but if you have many dated entries to sort it can be a great time-saver. Use it like this:

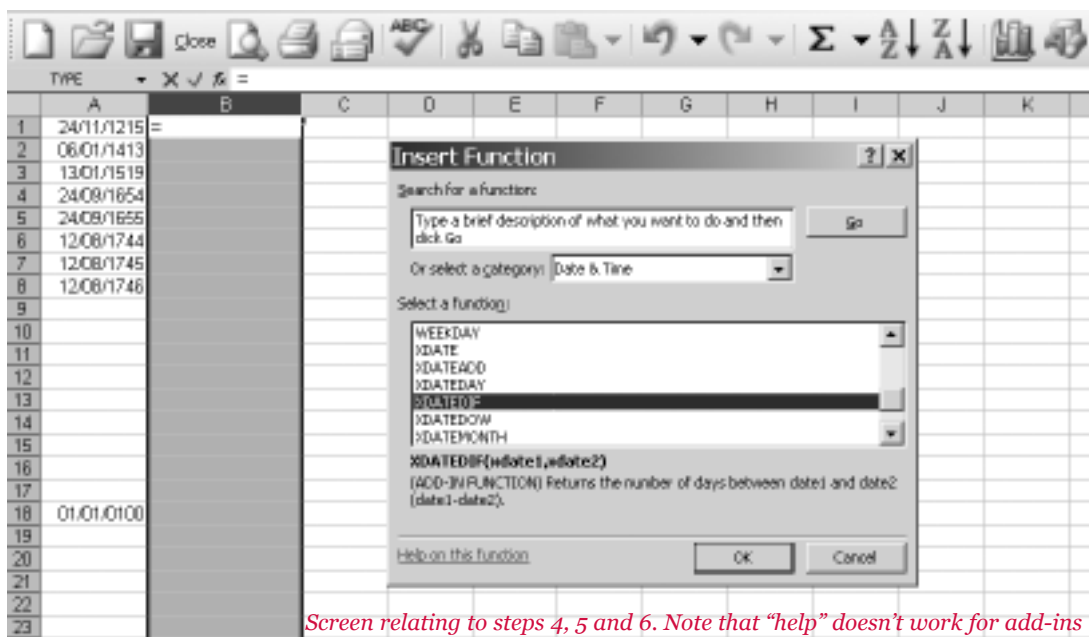
- 1) Enter your data using the date format dd/mm/yyyy in column A
- 2) Enter the date 01/01/0100 in a cell well away from the data block
- 3) Click the Col B cell next to your first date
- 4) Click *fx* above col B: *Insert function* dialogue box appears
- 5) In *Select a category* scroll to *Date and time*
- 6) Scroll through *Select a function* and choose *XDATEDIF*
- 7) *Function arguments* box appears: insert cell ref for first date in *xdate1*, cell ref for the 01/01/0100 date in *xdate2*, adding \$ between the column letter and cell number, eg, A\$18

- 8) Click OK to see the number of days' difference in col B
- 9) Select this days' difference cell and drag down col B to apply the formula to each date listed
- 10) Sort the table on col B ascending to get the entries in date order, then dump the column if you wish.

The add-in has another useful tool: it will work out for you the day of the week on which a particular date fell.

Follow instructions 1), 2), 4) and 5), ignoring 3). Select *XDATEDOW*, and enter the cell ref in the box. The weekday will be supplied as an integer 1 - 7; note that 1 is Sunday.

Remember to take into account that the Gregorian calendar was introduced in 1752, when New Year's Day changed from 25 March to 1 January. "First quarter" dates prior to 1752 may have to be adjusted to Excel's thinking, which is solely Gregorian.



# Gleanings *from exchange magazines*

*Copies of these articles (paper or electronic) can be supplied on request. For paper 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. **Copyright law requires that photocopies of articles in journals may only be made for the purpose of private study or non-commercial research. Only one article from any one issue can be supplied. All digital copies must be printed off and deleted.***

## **Spotlight on Wellingborough**

Northamptonshire FHS vol 31 no 1 Aug 2008

## **Spotlight on Carnaby**

Lists records available

East Yorks FHS, The Banyan Tree no 115 July 2008

## **National Memorial Card Index**

Northamptonshire section covering 1842 – 1994; 114 names giving dob, name of spouse/ parents, address of deceased, cemetery  
Northamptonshire FHS vol 31 no 1 Aug 2008

## **Transportation from the East Riding to Australia**

First convicts transported from Yorkshire to America, Australia and Tasmania; info from Beverley and Hull archives  
East Yorks FHS, The Banyan Tree no 115 July 2008

## **People of Sheriff Hutton 1238 - 1623**

Surnames beginning with C: date, surname, forename, finding, source  
City of York & District Journal vol 9 no 3 Sep 2008

## **Family history in early Scarborough**

Twelfth- to fifteenth-century history, street names, unusual names  
East Yorks FHS, The Banyan Tree no 115 July 2008

## **A highly profitable business**

Smugglers  
Kent FHS vol 12, 4 Sep 2008

## **Doreen and Tony Farmer**

### **Spiritual education**

History of the Sunday school movement in Britain  
Kent FHS vol 12 no 3 June 2008

### **Untimely deaths 1611 to 1938**

80 names, year, event  
Cumbria FHS no 127 May 2008

### **Family trees on the internet**

Warnings about legal action  
Cockney Ancestor no 119 Summer 2008

### **Militia Oath 1817 for the Eskdale ward of Cumberland sworn at Blackford**

(outskirts of Carlisle) 74 names, trade, residing town  
Cumbria FHS no 127 May 2008

### **WWI strays – Australian National Archives**

Morgan, Griffiths 14 names, place of birth, next of kin  
Glamorgan FHS no 91 Sep 2008

### **Extracts from Hitchin Congregational magazine and pulpit 1912-13**

Baptisms, marriages, deaths, dates, names  
Journal of Hertfordshire FHS no 16 Sep 2008

### **Parish register project update**

New data added Apr - Jun 08; baptisms, burials, marriages, banns  
Buckinghamshire FHS vol 32 no 3 Sep 2008

# Write now *your queries, comments, 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 Linda Killey**

I have a Canadian serviceman, Robert James Cummings Lennox, B75646, born c1909 – not sure if it was Canada – son of John Scott Lennox, who died before 1941. He enlisted into the Canadian Provost Corps during WW2 and was stationed in the UK, where he met a woman, and they married in Sunninghill, Berkshire in 1941. Later that year a son was born. I believe that Mr Lennox transferred to the Toronto Scottish at some point. His son tells me that Mr Lennox lived with his wife Doris née Daye for approximately three years, at 8 The Terrace, Sunninghill. He was arrested by the “red caps” for desertion and was jailed in London. Mr Lennox was returned to Canada, his wife moved on with her life and his son was put into a foster home.

We have been down many avenues in our search including applying for his army records. The most they will give us is confirmation of that which we already know. We have also applied for a death certificate but, as we have no idea when he died (we assume it to be Canada) we don't fit the criteria of proving he has been dead for 20 years.

Newspaper advertising has been tried, we have contacted Veterans Affairs, the Foreign Legion in Canada, National Archives, searched the ancestry.com records, posted on numerous websites, and used researchers. One in Holland gave the information regarding the Toronto Scottish transfer, but was unable to give any more information. We have written to the fostering and adoption agency in Reading, who tell us that they have no more than a file card; the rest has been destroyed.

Any assistance or suggestions on where we could look next would be sincerely appreciated.

---

## Gleanings *continued*

### **Coltishall – gateway to the broads**

With photos

Norfolk FHS vol 5 no 7 Sep 2008

### **Waiting for the 1911 census?**

Some ideas to try while you wait

North Cheshire Family Historian vol 35, no 3  
Aug 2008

### **Tracing your ancestors when there is no gravestone (at Devizes Cemetery)**

With two photos

Wiltshire FHS no 110 July 2008

### **Know your parish**

Auckland St Helen's, near Bishop Auckland

Cleveland FHS vol 110, no 7 July 2008

### **Behind the scenes of *Who Do You Think You Are?***

By a senior genealogist for BBC series

Journal of the Society of Australian  
Genealogists vol 38 no 2 June 2008

### **The enumerator wrote down what he thought he heard**

Essex Family Historian no 129 Sep 2008

# Bookends

Jean Debney

*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.*

## BERKSHIRE FHS PUBLICATIONS

Both the CDs below include a short illustrated history by Jocie McBride, maps (a parish map, outline map of Berkshire with their location, outline map of adjacent parishes (Remenham only) and a portion of the 6in Ordnance Survey map, 1881. Indexes to baptisms, banns, marriages and burials include separate lists for brides and grooms. However, both are fully searchable in Adobe Acrobat Reader 5.0 or greater.

### **Grazeley, Holy Trinity parish registers**

Baps 1850 - 1963, marr 1850 - 1987, banns 1580 - 1954, burials 1851 - 1964  
CD BRK0246 (Berks FHS, 2008)  
Bookshop £5.00, mail order £5.45 UK, £6.65 airmail

The hamlet of Grazeley, formerly known as Lambwood Hill, is four miles south of Reading, and was formed into an ecclesiastical parish in 1854 from parts of Sulhampstead Abbots, Sulhampstead Bannister and Shinfield, plus the whole of the Liberty of Hartley Dummer in Shinfield. The church closed in 2006. There are seven registers dating from 1850 in the Berkshire Record Office (D/P 124B).

### **Remenham, St Nicholas parish registers**

Baps 1605 - 2006, marr 1605 - 2004, banns 1754 - 1807, 1823 - 1827, burials 1605 -1909  
CD BRK0245 (Berks FHS, 2008)  
Bookshop £7.50, mail order £7.95 UK, £9.15 airmail

Transcribed, checked and indexed by members of the Remenham Archaeological and History

Group, and Berkshire Family History Society. There are 14 parish registers dating from 1697 in the Berkshire Record Office (D/P 99), and an incomplete collection of bishop's transcripts from 1605 in the Wiltshire Record Office.

## BERKSHIRE RECORDS

**Bradfield College register** (CD). Andrew Punshon. Digitised copy of 1888 publication. Bookshop £6.00, mail order £6.70 UK, £8.35 airmail

This is a facsimile copy (including blank pages) of the college register in West Berkshire Library. It starts with six "photographic views ... taken by new process" (which apparently cost them £20 each) but which have unfortunately been printed across the width of the page rather than utilising its height. Bradfield College for boys was a public school founded in 1850 by the Rev Thomas Stevens, with impressive lists of trustees and council members. The introductory pages include names of the staff, cricket and football teams, match results, clubs, examination results and many other college details. The alphabetical index of boys runs from pages 37 to 48 in the register, and is followed by the register itself, where each entry runs across two pages (viewed one below the other). Many of the boys came from outside Berkshire, so this should have a wide appeal to all family historians with gentry ancestors.

**From *The Newbury Weekly News***  
**birth announcements: 1898 – 1899. 37pp**  
**marriage announcements: 1900 – 1901. 41pp**  
**marriage announcements: 1902 – 1903. 41pp**  
**death announcements: 1899. 39pp**  
**death announcements: 1900. 42pp**  
**death announcements: 1901. 42pp**

All A5, flexiback

Bookshop £3.50 each, mail order £ 3.95 UK,  
 £5.15 airmail

This is a series of small booklets, each containing chronological abstracts of BMD notices in this weekly newspaper. Each is illustrated on the inside front and back covers with photographs of churches that bear no relationship to the entries or locations of each one. Unfortunately there is no information about the name of the author or publisher, date of publication, name and location of the source used, and no explanatory introduction or index. However, any or all of these booklets could save you travelling to search the microfilm of the original newspaper, which is filed in West Berkshire Library in Newbury.

## BERKSHIRE LOCAL HISTORY

**Berkshire byways.** Peter Davies (History Press, 2008)

B5, flexiback, 128pp

ISBN 978 0 7509 4960 6

Bookshop £12.99, mail order £13.90 UK,  
 £17.75 airmail

The author has travelled the length and breadth of the pre-1974 county on foot and on his bicycle to look at, photograph and comment on a great variety of interesting finds and historical facts. Among the many pieces of information he includes in his chatty text is the fact that Newbury had the first Belisha beacons, and that the William pear was created by a Berkshire man. If you enjoy exploring the county then this book is essential reading.

**Holy Trinity, Bracknell: the early years.**

Rosalind Schaschke. ed Michael Jackson  
 (2008)

A5, flexiback, 64pp

Bookshop £6.00, mail order £6.70 UK, £8.35  
 airmail

This story of Holy Trinity Church in Bracknell consists of a series of articles by Rosalind Schaschke published in the parish magazine between July 1968 and August 1976. The editor has updated some of the facts and added additional material, including numerous photographs which, because of restraints on space, are often too small, but the final result makes an interesting read about this now very large parish in east Berkshire.

**Bats, balls and biscuits: a brief history of cricket at the Reading biscuit factory.**

Martin Bishop (author, 2008)

A5, flexiback, 160pp

Bookshop £7.50, mail order £8.45 UK, £12.05  
 airmail

This interesting and lavishly illustrated book outlines the growth of Huntley & Palmers biscuit factory in Reading from 1822 to the 1970s, when it ceased production. By 1900 it was the largest employer in Reading, employing 10 per cent of the local population. It attracted visits from both Princes of Wales (Edward VII and his grandson, Edward VIII) in 1882 and 1926 respectively, by which time it had become the largest biscuit factory in the world. From the 1850s excursions were organised, and in 1855 included the first cricket match. Cricket matches remained the highlight of these outings. The major part of the book traces the growth of the Reading Factory Cricket Club, which first played in Kings Meadow, and then in the Kensington Road ground in west Reading. In 1983 it lost the use of Kensington Road but, because two of its members were also belonged to Purley Cricket Club, they used their cricket ground,

and soon a merger was agreed between the two clubs, the result of which continues to play at Purley-on-Thames.

### RESEARCH AIDS

**How to start your Family History.** Jane Starkie (Family History Partnership, 2008)  
6.75in x 9.75in (170mm x 247mm), flexiback, 160pp  
ISBN 978 1 906280 04 8  
Bookshop £12.95, mail order £14.30 UK, £19.25 airmail

For those not into texting, this title translates to “How to start your family history”. It is aimed at young people aged nine to 16, or even seven to 70! Jane has a fun approach to things and the text kept making me laugh. The “how-to-do-it” bits are sensible; they cover note-taking and record-keeping, civil registration, census returns and parish registers, life in the Second World War, the internet (with “fun and interesting websites”), names and social history. Illustrated with plenty of pictures and some entertaining puzzles (with answers elsewhere) this could make an ideal Christmas or birthday present for children, grandchildren, nephews and nieces, not to mention the children of friends and neighbours.

**Dictionary of medical & related terms for the family historian.** Joan E Grundy (Swansong Publications, 2006)  
A5, flexiback, 90pp  
ISBN 0 9553450 0 6  
Bookshop £5.75, mail order £6.45 UK, £ 8.80 airmail

The author was a midwife and practice nurse, which gives her a great knowledge and understanding of her subject. Each word is given its dictionary definition, followed by explanatory notes; some include a photograph or other illustration. Designed to assist you to

understand medical terms in parish registers, death certificates and eighteenth and nineteenth century books, it runs from “abdominal apoplexy” to “worn out”, and includes such gems as “divine sickness”. A very useful and fascinating publication.

### GENERAL SOURCES

**Obituaries of dissenting ministers in the Gentleman's Magazine 1801 - 1837.** Alan Rushton (author and Dr Williams's Trust and Library, 2008)  
A5, flexiback, 98pp  
ISBN 978 0 85217 070 0  
Bookshop £5.00, mail order £6.00 UK

This is a chronological sequence of extracts relating to dissenting ministers (where identified) or, sometimes, a member of his family. Unusually the index, by date and page in the *Gentleman's Magazine*, is at the front, together with a list of abbreviations and a key to dissenting academies, both of which you will need to interpret the entries. Additional material has been obtained from other sources (see the Abbreviations).

**Surnames and genealogy: a new approach.** George Redmonds  
6.3in x 8.7in (160mm x 230mm), flexiback  
Mail order £13.30 UK, £20.05 airmail

The author is a leading authority on English surname origins, local history and place names. This book is an analysis of the various methods by which surnames developed, and it is a fascinating read.



# 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**  
**0118 950 9553**

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 612,000 entries to date. More than 80 per cent 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 seventh edition of the BBI is available on CD from the bookshop. (See mail order booklist.)

### • **Berkshire Strays Index**

20,500 Berkshire people recorded in events outside the county. No further census (1841 - 1901) or WWI details are being added 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 2009

- Saturday 14 February 14.30
- Monday 11 May 19.30
- Saturday 12 September 14.30
- Monday 16 November 19.30pm

Tours must be pre-booked, and they are limited to 10 people. They 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 (which are not restricted to only those with Berkshire connections). For further details please 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.***

# Members' interests

Bob Plumridge

*Members submitting interests in the last quarter:*

- 1297 Boyton Ms W
- 1906 Hodge Mrs P
- 3365 Nicholls Mrs JM
- 4422 Keep Mr J & Mrs B
- 6252 Burns Mr RJ
- 6332 Dancaster Mr P & Mrs P
- 6426 Hobson Mrs N
- 6541 Marshall Mr J & Mrs A
- 6545 Sleeman Mrs B
- 6652 Smith Mrs P
- 6671 Small Mrs J
- 6673 Addison Ms C
- 6692 McPherson Ms F
- 6695 Dedden Mrs L
- 6696 Cheslett Y 8

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

6426	ABSOLOM	Brightwell	BRK	1700-1800
6252	ALDER	N Berks	BRK	All
6252	ALDER	S Oxon	OXF	All
6252	ALDWORTH	S Oxon	OXF	All
6252	ALDWORTH	N Berks	BRK	All
6696	ALLIN	Shaw	BRK	pre 1830
6695	BALL	Any	BRK	pre1780
6541	BEARICE	Shiplake	OXF	pre1600
6541	BLICK	High Wycombe		
			BKM	pre1840
6652	BOURNE	Yatley	HAM	pre1900
4422	BOXALL	Dorking	SRV	1900-
4422	BOXALL	Reading	BRK	All
3365	BRANNER	Reading	BRK	1899
3365	BRANNER	Wokingham	BRK	1881-1892
6652	BRAY	Barford	OXF	All
6652	BRAY	Reading	BRK	All
6695	BROOKER	Any	SSX	pre1800
6695	BURGESS	Any	KEN	pre1850
6332	BURR	Westminster	LDN	1826-1860
6652	BUSSEIL	Weymouth	DOR	pre1900
6695	CHAPMAN	Any	MDX	pre1850
6652	CHILDS	Shinfield	BRK	pre1900
6671	CHURCH	Ardington	BRK	1840+
6671	CLARK	Grove	BRK	1873+
6695	CLARK	Any	MDX	pre1860
6671	COLLINS	Ardington	BRK	1830+
6695	COOK	Any	BRK	pre1720

6541	COOK	Burghfield	BRK	pre1700
3365	COTTRELL	Lowestoft	SFK	1891-1892
3365	COTTRELL	Wokingham	BRK	1893
3365	COTTRELL	Goring on Thames		
			OXF	1890
3365	COTTRELL	Reading	BRK	1863-1871
3365	COTTRELL	Guildford	SRV	1881
3365	COTTRELL	Reading	BRK	1893-1921
3365	COX	Kingwood Common		
			OXF	1862
6652	CRYER	Marshfield	GLS	pre1900
6652	DAW(E)	Bath	SOM	All
6652	DAW(E)	Bristol	GLS	All
6252	DORMER	N Berks	BRK	All
6252	DORMER	S Oxon	OXF	All
6252	DORMOR	S Oxon	OXF	All
6252	DORMOR	N Berks	BRK	All
6696	EAGLETON	Lambourne	BRK	pre 1800
6426	EGGLETON	Brightwell	BRK	1700-1800
3365	EGGLETON	Basingstoke	HAM	1915-1919
6696	EGGLETON	Lambourne	BRK	pre 1800
6252	EUSTACE	S Oxon	OXF	All
6252	EUSTACE	N Berks	BRK	All
6332	EVANS	Little Berkhamstead		
			HRT	1800-1860
6696	FAITHFULL	Shaw cum Donnington		
			BRK	pre 1830

6695 GOODENOUGH				1906 NORRIS	Shinfield	BRK	1800-1830
	Any	BRK	pre1730	6426 NORRIS	Brightwell	BRK	post1800
6695 GOULD	Any	SAL	pre1810	6695 PARTRIDGE	Any	BRK	pre1760
6671 GRAY	Purton	WIL	1837+	6695 RANDALL	Any	MDX	pre1860
1906 GROVES	Reading	BRK	1800-1830	1906 ROLFE	Tidcombe	WIL	1776on
6545 HALL	Bix	OXF	1850-1900	6671 ROLLS	Stanford in the Vale		
6545 HALL	Tilehurst	BRK	1880-1990			BRK	1820+
6541 HAMMOND	Framlingham	SFK	pre1600	6692 SALLIS	Any	BRK	All
6671 HARRIS	East Hendred	BRK	1880+	6692 SALLIS	Boars Hill Wootton		
6652 HARRIS	Barford	OXF	pre1900			BRK	All
6695 HARRIS	Any	BRK	pre1810	6692 SALLIS	Any	Any	1700-1800
6652 HAWKINS	Weymouth	DOR	All	1297 SHERWOOD	Twyford	BRK	1900
6652 HAYSOM(E)	Burghclere	HAM	pre1900	6695 SNOW	Any	DOR	pre1800
6671 HERRING	Lambourn	BRK	1800+	6671 SPICER	Grove	BRK	1850+
6695 HIGGS	Any	BRK	pre1830	6652 STANIFORD	Wargrave	BRK	All
6426 HOBSON	East Isley	BRK	pre1775	1906 STARNES	Bradfield	BRK	1786on
6426 HOBSON	Thatcham	BRK	1775on	6695 STEVENS	Any	SRY	pre1850
1906 HUESE (HEUSE)				6652 TEE	Portsmouth	HAM	pre1850
	Reading	BRK	1794on	6545 THANE	Reading	BRK	1800-1900
6695 HUNT	Any	MDX	pre1850	6545 THANE	Fulham	LDN	1890-1960
3365 HUTCHINS	Devizes	WIL	1831-1892	6545 THANE	Reading	BRK	1800-1900
3365 HUTCHINS	Reading	BRK	1861-1862	6545 THANE	Maidenhead	BRK	1900-1980
6671 ILES	Purton	WIL	1878+	6545 THANE	Fulham	LDN	1890-1960
6671 JENNINGS	Lambourn	BRK	1876+	6696 TIDBURY	Shaw	BRK	+1770
6692 KEEP	Garford	BRK	All	6652 TOGHILL	Marshfield	GLS	All
6692 KEEP	Any	BRK	All	6673 TOOMER	Any	BRK	pre1900
1906 KIRKE	Reading	BRK	1845on	6673 TOOMER	Any	HEF	pre1900
1906 KNOTT (NOTT)				6673 TOOMER	Any	DOR	pre1900
	Reading	BRK	1820on	6673 TOOMER	Any	WIL	pre1900
1906 KNOTT (NOTT)				6673 TOOMER	Any	HAM	pre1900
	Bradfield	BRK	1750-1820	6652 TREGURTHA	Penzance	CON	pre1900
6695 LINSTEAM	Any	NFK	pre1800	6332 WALFORD	Knightsbridge	LDN	1830-1850
6671 LOVEGROVE	Ginge	BRK	1860+	6252 WATTS	N Berks	BRK	All
6332 MALLETT	Plymouth	DEV	1778-1850	6252 WATTS	S Oxon	OXF	All
3365 MELLON	Reading	BRK	1938	6696 WEILD	Shaw	BRK	+1770
3365 MELLON	Leeds	YKS	1964	1906 WELLMAN	Bucklebury	BRK	1750-1800
6252 MIDDLETON	S Oxon	OXF	All	6332 WILKES/WILKS			
6252 MIDDLETON	N Berks	BRK	All		Westminster	LDN	1840-1881
6696 MILDENHALL	Lambourne	BRK	All	6652 WILLIAMS	St. Buyan	CON	pre1900
6696 MILDENHALL	Great Bedwin	BRK	All	1297 WREN	Twyford	BRK	1900
6671 MURBY	West Challow	BRK	1840+				
6671 NELSON	Lambourn	BRK					
6426 NORRIS	Wallingford	BRK	1800-1900				

The whole members' interests name index can be accessed online at <[www.berksfhs.org.uk/members-interests/index.htm](http://www.berksfhs.org.uk/members-interests/index.htm)>. Currently it records over 10,500 names. You may update your interest profile at any time by writing to <[membersinterests@berksfhs.org.uk](mailto:membersinterests@berksfhs.org.uk)> or to the society's postal address on the inside front cover of this issue.

**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.**