

# Berkshire Family Historian

*the quarterly journal of the Berkshire Family History Society*

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## September 2009

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**Please note that for reasons of privacy personal contact details have been redacted from this online version. If you wish to contact someone mentioned please ring the society on 0118 950 9553 or email your enquiry via <[www.berksfhs.org.uk](http://www.berksfhs.org.uk)>.**



**17 June 2009,  
Woodley  
hosted by the  
Computer Branch**

After acceptance of minutes of the 33rd AGM and apologies for absence, the retiring chairman Jocie McBride reported on some of the features of the year, including:

- continuing work towards obtaining permission from the diocese of Oxford to put transcripts of their records online
- a slight decrease (4 per cent) in membership, accompanied by an increase in the society's costs
- the urgent need for volunteers to come forward for the vacant posts of events co-ordinator and bookshop manager
- a successful garden party in May, attended by more than 50 of the society's volunteers.

The chairman thanked the many volunteers who have taken on responsibilities for running many of the society's activities, such as the training courses (Carolyn and Barry Boulton), Arthur Beech and all of the Research Centre assistants, Shirley Manson who runs the postal

research service, Alan Brooker for his work on Birth Briefs, Joan Vinall for the online discussion group, Bob Plumridge for his work as membership secretary, Mike Booth for dealing with Gift Aid tasks, David Wright (Berkshire Burial Index), Chad Hanna and Paul Brooks for website maintenance. She also commended David Watkins and his team for their work of indexing Reading and Bradfield civil registration records, and appealed for more people to come forward and help with this work. The Berkshire Probate Index Project needs more checkers too.

In thanking Jocie for her work as chairman, a responsibility undertaken at a difficult time in the society's history, her successor Derek Trinder wished her a well deserved, more relaxing time in future. He was pleased that she would continue to be a trustee and Executive Committee member, as well as taking a leading role in turning completed projects into new publications for the society.

**ACCOUNTS**

*The AGM takes place soon after the society's financial year-end. This year a summary financial report was presented to the meeting because it was not possible for independent examination of the full accounts to be completed before 17 June 2009. See the official notice posted on page 8.*

<b>income and expenditure for year ending 30 April 2009</b>		
	<b>2009</b>	<b>2008</b>
total income	£40,807	£35,074
total expenditure	(£44,760)	(£41,615)
<b>surplus/(deficit) for the period</b>	<b>(£3,953)</b>	<b>(£6,541)</b>
surplus brought forward	£44,964	£51,505
<b>surplus carried forward</b>	<b>£41,011</b>	<b>£44,964</b>

# Meet the society's new chairman

The society's new chairman is Derek Trinder, who succeeded Jocie McBride at the AGM in June.

Now retired after a commercial career in pharmaceuticals and, later, environmental consultancy, Derek lives in Binfield with his wife Frances. They have been joint members of the society for 10 years.

Between 2003 and 2008 Derek chaired the Bracknell and Wokingham Branch of the society, representing them on the Executive Committee. In 2007 he led the group that revised the society's constitution. He has transcribed MIs, run public events in Bracknell and Wokingham, talked to local groups on family history and worked on the society's stand at shows like *WDYT YA? Live* and at family history fairs.

When asked about his intended priorities as chairman, Derek was quick to acknowledge that Jocie's would be a hard act to follow. He believes that a key task will be to ensure a sound financial basis for the society in a climate which is forecast to be difficult for charities.

As well as encouraging current society activities he is looking to raise its visibility amongst today's family historians by making full use of the modern media. An improved



website is a priority, and he sees potential in blogs, *Facebook* and maybe even in *Twitter* to spread the society's message.

"In three years' time I hope we can look back on real progress made in engaging with a new group of potential members. Internet-based research has encouraged a new breed of 'armchair' family historians. We have to find ways to engage with them as prospective supporters, and to do so whether or not they have Berkshire ancestors," he says.

As a past branch chairman Derek recognises the importance of supporting and encouraging branch activities. He intends to visit all branches as soon as he can to meet local members, and he plans to be accessible to all members in the constant drive to deliver a Berkshire Family History Society that satisfies its members' needs and expectations.

## ONLINE DISCUSSION LIST: did you know that...

- any member may join the online discussion list, where information and problems are shared daily
- topics range widely, and they are not confined to Berkshire
- virtually every question posted receives several responses.

To join just send an email with your name, membership number, postcode and a brief request to be subscribed, to:

<listowner@berksfhs.org.uk>

## Who's doing what on the new Exec

*This year the society has 15 members on the Executive Committee, known as the Exec. They are trustees of the society, and include the four officers of chairman, vice-chairman, secretary and treasurer, together with the 11 other committee members. Each of the six branches appoints a representative who is duly elected to the Exec, and the remaining members are elected, often for specific skills.*

*Members usually sit on the Exec for a term of five years, after which the constitution obliges them to stand down for a period of at least one year. They may then stand again for election. At the June AGM Sue Clifford (former treasurer), Carolyn Boulton and Jean Herbert retired from the Exec.*

**Arthur Beech** (5468) is now in his third year as Research Centre manager.

**Mike Booth** (5662) chairs the Windsor, Slough and Maidenhead Branch, taking over in 2009 from Valerie Storie.

**Margaret Brenchley** (4272) took over the chair of Bracknell and Wokingham Branch from Derek Trinder in 2008.

**Jane Burrell** (4495) chairs the Newbury Branch.

**Margaret Crook** (2334) took over the chair of Reading Branch from John Price in 2008.

**Mike Dabbs** (5356), now vice-chairman of the society, joined the Exec in 2008.

**Sally-Ann Jay** (5907) joined the Exec for the first time in 2009.

**Jocie McBride** (3201), the society's chairman from 2006-09, continues to sit on the Exec, and is the society's publications manager.

**Sue Matthews** (3967) chairs the Vale of White Horse Branch and has been on the Exec since 2006.

**Gordon Spencer** (5948) joins the Exec for the first time this year as the society's new treasurer, taking over from Sue Clifford.

**Gillian Stevens** (3959), who chairs the Computer Branch, is in her third year on the Exec.

**Valerie Storie** (1953) is the society's secretary. In 2009 she stood down from chairing the Windsor, Slough and Maidenhead Branch.

**Derek Trinder** (4369), the society's chairman, is profiled on page 2.

**Brian Wilcock** (4205) joins the Exec for the first time this year.

**Margaret Young** (3529), who is responsible for the society's Strays Index, joins the Exec this year.

### **STOP PRESS.....NEWS FROM THE RESEARCH CENTRE**

**Members and guests can now search FindMyPast as well as Ancestry Library Edition at the centre.**

***At present, FindMyPast is installed on one machine, and can be used in one-hour sessions (like Ancestry) for a fee of £1 per session or part-session, on a first-come first-served basis. Please note that while many useful additional databases across the UK are now available via FindMyPast, the 1911 census for England and Wales is not among them.***

***The availability of the two most significant UK pay-to-view sites, plus general broadband internet access and other extensive library resources, means that the Research Centre currently offers an unrivalled research facility for all family historians in and around Berkshire, irrespective of where their ancestors came from.***

***See <[www.berksfhs.org.uk](http://www.berksfhs.org.uk)> for more details.***

# Chairman's corner

How do you find words in July that readers will find of interest in September? Just another point to ponder for your incoming chairman.

But before that, I start by thanking Jocie McBride, my predecessor, on your behalf for all that she has achieved as your society's chairman, and for her help during this time of transition.

By the time this issue of the *Historian* drops through your letterbox the seventh series of *Who Do You Think You Are?* will have given a welcome stimulus to family history research. Earlier programmes attracted average audiences of around six million viewers. This summer's series is likely to have proved just as popular. So, as the Berkshire Family History Society moves into autumn, and many of you resume serious research after the holiday season, hundreds of potential new members will be embarking on their own journeys of discovery, seeking family stories that echo those they have followed in *WDYT YA?*

***Are you ready to welcome all these newcomers? Are you planning to bring them to local branch meetings? To the Research Centre? To drop-in advice sessions? Will you offer your advice as fellow family historians to friends, neighbours and new acquaintances? Can you add value to their first facts and findings such that, as you have done, they will decide to join this society, to learn and benefit from all that it offers, no matter where their ancestors may have come from?***

First-time researchers sometimes need your reminder that family history involves more than a handful of internet searches and visits to websites like *FindMyPast*, *GenesReunited* or *Ancestry*. Take a personal example: had records not been transcribed and published by another family history society to which I belong, ancestors previously unknown to me would have stayed undiscovered. It proves that when knowledgeable researchers step up and play their part they can make telling contributions to this great pastime.

And a final call to action: you will have read of the cutbacks in opening hours at many archives and record offices, including The National Archives and the National Library of Wales. Access to some record series and availability of expert advice have also been reduced, often under the guise of cost saving. Adult education courses are suffering too. Programmes have either ended, like those once offered by Reading University, or fees have soared. Have you made your views known about these things to those who influence decisions? Use it or lose it – the message is clear. So, in the coming weeks, support your local events, support your museums and archives and support your society – whenever, wherever and however you can. You will certainly miss these resources if they disappear.

**Derek Trinder  
Chairman**

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

...if you neglected to renew your subscription as requested in the June issue. If so, please go to <[www.berksfhs.org.uk/membership](http://www.berksfhs.org.uk/membership)> now, where you can renew online or download a form to complete and send with a cheque to the membership secretary. If you do not use a computer please write to the membership secretary at the address on the inside front cover.

# Around the branches

## *Bracknell and Wokingham Branch*

[<bracknell@berksfhs.org.uk>](mailto:bracknell@berksfhs.org.uk)

Branch members have been running monthly helpdesk sessions for family historians at Wokingham and Bracknell libraries for some months now. The number who use the service varies from five to 15. Most are not members, but get to know about the society in this way and become members, which is one of the aims of the project.

Some come for help with *Ancestry*, or because they haven't got access to a computer. Others have reached brickwalls. The best success comes when enquirers bring with them documentation such as certificates and letters.

Wokingham Library has asked the branch to consider doing a taster drop-in session at Twyford library. Discussions about this are in progress.

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## *Computer Branch*

[<computerbranch@berksfhs.org.uk>](mailto:computerbranch@berksfhs.org.uk)

In May, in response to requests for some family history program comparison, five members were given 10 minutes each to champion their favourite program: Paul on Family Tree Maker; Gillian on Legacy; Daphne on Family Historian; Ivan on Brothers Keeper; and Mike on Gramps.

Each speaker prepared a PowerPoint presentation with screen shots and charts, and a range of printouts, which were displayed around the room. This enabled members to compare how different programs presented the same data.

The handovers went smoothly and, amazingly, it all kept to time, and was probably one of the best-received events of the branch's season. A similar event for other programs, such as Roots Magic, is to be arranged.

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## *Newbury Branch*

[<newbury@berksfhs.org.uk>](mailto:newbury@berksfhs.org.uk)

By the time this issue is published two Newbury Branch representatives will have attended a meeting to discuss setting up a heritage forum for West Berkshire. Branch members are already involved in heritage activities in the district. There will also be input on the proposed redevelopment of the West Berkshire Museum.

Jane Burrell is seeking ideas for a way in which to help Newbury, Massachusetts, celebrate the 375th anniversary of its foundation in 2010. Newbury in Massachusetts was first settled in May 1635 by the Rev Thomas Parker and others from Newbury in Berkshire. Members of the Historical Society of Old Newbury (based in Newburyport MA) have researched some of the early settlers, but there is scope for more research this side of the Atlantic.

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## *Reading Branch*

[<reading@berksfhs.org.uk>](mailto:reading@berksfhs.org.uk)

A popular talk by Tom Hine on mills earlier in the year, has prompted discussions about transcribing his paper archive for online publication. Several branch members expressed interest in helping with this.

The branch will commemorate the 70th anniversary of the outbreak of the Second World War with personal contributions from members at the December meeting.

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## *Vale of White Horse Branch*

[<vale@berksfhs.org.uk>](mailto:vale@berksfhs.org.uk)

An impromptu branch meeting was held in St Peter's Churchyard in June in preparation for the completion of the MI transcription project. Nine members attended, and they took on

areas to transcribe or check in their own time. It is hoped that the last few problems will have been sorted at the July meeting, and the work will be typed up by Sue Matthews in August.

Branch members are taking a table at Abingdon Market Square on Saturday 12 September as part of the national Heritage Weekend. BerksFHS publications and a laptop will be available for enquirers.

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## Windsor, Slough and Maidenhead Branch

<[windsor@berksfhs.org.uk](mailto:windsor@berksfhs.org.uk)>

Slough Public Library has a very keen Local Studies Librarian in Tony Pilmer, and it has been freely offering *Ancestry Library Edition* to family historians for some time now. A monthly family history open-house drop-in session is held whereby help can be given to anyone who is trying to get started on their family tree. Several Windsor branch members go along to give advice or practical help where needed. Pauline Hodges, Alan Gardener and Valerie Storie are usually involved with this. An afternoon learning course was held at the different branches of Slough Library to initiate absolute beginners in the basics of family history using a computer and *Ancestry* when it was first available, and these courses continue to be held as the need arises, with Pauline and Valerie attending, by request.

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## How to make your subscriptions and donations go 28 per cent further

As members of the Berkshire Family History Society you will know how hard your society works to see that every penny raised goes as far as it can to advance public education in research into family history and to promote the preservation, transcription, indexing and ready public accessibility of related records and information. What you may not appreciate is the rate at which our costs are rising in the current UK economic climate.

Many members have signed Gift Aid declarations previously, and so through a mix of Gift Aid and Transitional Relief their subscriptions and donations go 28 per cent further – without costing them an extra penny! Gift Aid rules have recently altered a bit, reflected in our current forms, so please check that your Gift Aid arrangements are up to date too.

**At the last count, over 100 older declarations now need updating. Is yours perhaps among them?**

### HOW DOES IT WORK?

So long as you remain a UK taxpayer (income tax or capital gains tax), you can boost the value of your subscriptions and donations with Gift Aid by 28p for every £1 (that is, 25p in Gift Aid and a further 3p in Transitional Relief). It may not sound much, but it makes a big difference to the society's

finances. In today's economic climate, every penny really does count.

Should you be a higher rate taxpayer, you can claim tax relief on all Gift Aid payments, which means reclaiming anything up to 25p from every £1 you give to charity. You can even Gift Aid part of any tax rebate to charity if you are feeling especially generous.

### WHAT DO YOU NEED TO DO NOW?

If you have not completed a Gift Aid declaration, please consider making one.

If you have made a Gift Aid declaration before, please check that it is up to date in this financial year and, for joint memberships, in the right name.

### TO MAKE OR RENEW A DECLARATION

Go to <[www.berksfhs.org.uk/membership](http://www.berksfhs.org.uk/membership)> or complete the Gift Aid form that accompanies membership and renewal forms. Tick the right boxes, sign and date the declaration, and return it to the society. One declaration covers all payments made to the society over the past six years (if not previously Gift Aided), any made in this financial year and those for future years, until you notify otherwise. It is that simple.

Contact <[memsec@berksfhs.org.uk](mailto:memsec@berksfhs.org.uk)> should you have any additional questions about Gift Aid and your subscription.

*giftaid it*

# Berkshire Burial Index update

**David Wright**

The parishes and periods which have been added to the Berkshire Burial Index since the position shown in the June 2009 issue of the *Berkshire Family Historian* are set out below. These, together with all other additions made since the publication of the most recent CD of the Berkshire Burial Index in late 2008, will be included in the next update of the CD, which we aim to issue towards the end of this year. The index now contains more than 657,000 entries.

Abingdon St Helen 1760 - 1761 (BTs)	Shalbourne St Michael 1678 - 1862
Aldworth St Mary 1556 - 1812	Shrivenham St Andrew 1799 - 1812
Ashbury St Mary 1869 - 1966	Sonning St Andrew 1803 - 1812
Clewer St Andrew 1897 - 1908	Steventon St Michael & All Angels 1796 - 1812
Compton Beauchamp St Swithin 1776 - 1786 (BTs)	Sunningwell St Leonard 1741 - 1812
Denchworth St James 1836 - 2007	Thatcham Cemetery 1887 - 1903
East Challow St Nicholas 1867 - 2006	Wallingford St Mary the More 1747 - 1796
East Garston All Saints 1750 - 1751 (BTs)	Wantage SS Peter & Paul 1806 - 1812
Lambourn St Michael & All Angels 1933 - 1947	Welford St Gregory 1649 - 1700
Leckhampstead St James 1861 - 2007	West Woodhay St Laurence 1612 - 1638 (BTs) and 1689 - 1692 (BTs)
Radley St James the Great 1741 - 1812	Winkfield St Mary 1797 - 1812
Reading London Road Cemetery (burials in consecrated ground) 1943 - 1952	Wokingham All Saints 1740 - 1760 and 1778 - 1797
Reading London Road Cemetery (burials in unconsecrated ground) 1875 - 1883	Yattendon SS Peter & Paul 1558 - 1641

Details of the services for researching burials in the Berkshire Burial Index are given on page 34-35.

## Notice of reconvened annual general meeting

The trustees wish to advise all members of the society that they have determined to reconvene the 34th Berkshire Family History Society Annual General Meeting for the sole purpose of allowing members to approve the independently inspected full accounts of the society. That meeting will be take place on Wednesday 21 October 2009 at the Oakwood Community Centre, Woodley, Reading RG5 4JZ at 7.30pm, before the branch meeting. Subject to approval by the membership, a copy of the full accounts will then be sent to the Charity Commission.

### **Explanatory Note**

*The Computer Branch hosted the Annual General Meeting of the Society on Wednesday 17 June 2009 at Woodley. It was not possible to complete independent inspection of the society's full accounts ahead of that meeting, the reason being the short time period between the end of the society's financial year (30 April) and the scheduled date of the Annual General Meeting (17 June).*

*The situation was explained to the meeting, a summary financial report was presented and that report was accepted by the membership. In accordance with the society's constitution, independently inspected full accounts should be approved by the membership at the AGM; hence the meeting is to be reconvened for this purpose alone. A similar situation arose in 2004 at the equivalent meeting held at Bracknell, and was dealt with in the manner outlined above.*



# New additions to the BRO

## Property records

- Slough building control plans 1880 - 1948: 7,000 drawings of buildings, original applications, correspondence and decisions. Find them in the appendices to Slough borough records (S/)
- Nearly 500 rate books for Reading Borough 1850 - 1962 (R/FR1-5)

## Clubs' and societies' records

- Windsor Ladies' Swimming Club, 1920 - 1955 (D/EX1958)
- Reading Wheelers cycling club 1934 - 1968 (D/EX2068)
- Wallingford branch of the Junior Imperial and Constitutional League (D/EX2055)
- *Social Studies Journal* of Reading West Townswomen's Guild 1959 - 1969 (D/EX2051)

## School records

- Admission registers of Sir Charles Russell's School, Swallowfield 1873 - 1908 (SCH17)
- Reading Teachers' Centre 1970 - c1983 (D/EX2081)

## Local authority and health records

- Berkshire County Council contracts now listed up to 1961 (C/CL/L2)
- Booklet given to all new electors by Reading Borough in 1965 (D/EX2028)

## Parish council records

- Aldermaston 1940-1995 (CPC3)
- Sunningdale (includes records of the charities managed by the council from 1896 onwards) (CPC150B)
- Tilehurst 1901 - 2000 (CPC132)
- Yattendon (CPC159)
- West Berkshire Community Health Council 1974 - 2003 (P/HA3)

*Are you interested in family or local history?*

*Would you like to make a difference?*

**The Berkshire Record Office is looking for volunteers to help with checking the index of wills and other probate documents for Berkshire 1711 - 1857.**

The work involves reading manuscript documents and checking their contents against the published electronic index, making corrections to the index as necessary. Helpers will be meeting at the BRO on Monday afternoons, beginning in September, but you can join at any time. The project will probably take a year.

You would need to be

- confident at reading eighteenth and nineteenth century documents
- able to work independently and consistently to agreed editorial standards
- able to use a laptop.

This will be sociable experience, working with real documents from an important collection. You'll also be helping to create an index of lasting value for the future. If it sounds like something that you would enjoy, please give your details in at the BRO reception, or email them to <arch@reading.gov.uk>.

# Buried in Berkshire

*In the course of his work on the Berkshire Burials Index David Wright (2213) has compiled a list of some famous – and curious – names*

**Robert Bridges**, Poet Laureate, at Yattendon on 2 May 1930, aged 85. Abode: Chilswell, Oxford.

**Jack de Manio**, the BBC broadcaster, at Moulsoford on 16 January 1989, aged 74; ashes; died at St Stephen's Hospital, Chelsea.

**Jethro Tull**, the agriculturalist and inventor of the seed drill, at Shalbourne on 9 March 1740/1; gentleman.



*Alfred Waterhouse*

**Alfred Waterhouse**, architect of many famous public buildings, from the Natural History Museum to Reading Town Hall, at Yattendon on 28 August 1905, aged 75. Abode: Yattendon Court (which he also designed).

**King Charles I** recorded at New Windsor St John (although he was interred in St George's Chapel), a week after his execution in Whitehall on 30 January 1648 (1649 by the modern calendar).

**Alfred Dillwyn Knox**, known as **Dilly Knox**, (cryptographer and leading member of the wartime Enigma team of codebreakers at Bletchley Park) cremated at Reading Henley Road Crematorium 3 March 1943 aged 59. Abode: Courns Wood House, Hughenden, Bucks.

**Eric Arthur Blair**, the writer **George Orwell**, at Sutton Courtenay, aged 46, on 26 January 1950. Abode: Barnhill, Isle of Jura, Argyllshire.

**Herbert Henry Asquith**, Earl of Oxford and Asquith, prime minister 1908 - 1916, at Sutton Courtenay, aged 75, on 20 February 1928. Abode: The Wharf, Sutton Courtenay.

**William George (Billy) Smart**, circus proprietor, at Cranbourne, aged 72, on 2 October 1966. Abode: Winkfield Zoo.

**Polly Elwes**, BBC broadcaster, who married Peter Dimmock; her burial as Mary Freya (Polly) Dimmock is recorded at Compton, aged 59, on 17 July 1987. Abode: Church House. A Roman Catholic priest officiated.

**Robert Lawrence Binyon**, poet and author of the tribute to the dead of the Great War:

*They shall grow not old, as we that are left grow old.....*

cremated at Reading Henley Road Crematorium 12 March 1943, aged 73. His ashes were buried in Aldworth churchyard Abode: Westridge Farm House, Streatley.

**Agatha Mary Clarissa Mallowan (Agatha Christie)**, novelist and playwright) at Cholsey, aged 85 on 16 January 1976. Abode: Winterbrook House.

**Waldorf Astor**, 2nd Viscount Astor, cremated at Reading, Henley Road Crematorium (Caversham) on 2 October 1952, aged 73. Abode: Cliveden, Taplow, Bucks.

*Less famous, but nonetheless remarkable...*

**Napoleon Louis Buonaparte Farmer** of Langborough Road, Wokingham, aged 47, buried on 6 September 1889 (Wokingham All Saints register D/P 154/1/31)

**Francis Henry Tel-el-Kebir Gregory** of 3 Blagrave Cottages, Friar Street, Reading, aged 36, was buried on 1 December 1920 (Reading London Road Cemetery consecrated ground register R2355)

**William Cordin Napoleon Harold Hastings Hamilton Rupert Percy Douglas Laver** of Queen Street, Wokingham, aged 6, buried on 16 October 1888 (Wokingham All Saints register D/P 154/1/30)  
*Were the parents militaria enthusiasts?*

**Louis Napoleon Baldwin** of Twyford, aged 76, buried on 4 March 1929 (Twyford St Mary register D/P 73B/1/3)

**William Ewart Gladstone Pinfold** of 147 Orts Road, Reading, aged 35, buried on 13 July 1922 (Reading London Road Cemetery consecrated ground register R2355)

**Mercy Angel** of Marcham aged 27, buried 31 August 1840 (Marcham register D/P 84/1/11)

**Horatio Nelson Martin** from the Royal Berkshire Hospital, Reading, aged 7, buried 1 January 1904 (Reading London Road Cemetery consecrated ground register R2353)

**Major Edward Phillips** of 2 Melrose Avenue, Reading, aged 84, buried 22 April 1915, the last surviving officer but one of the Charge of the Light Brigade, Balaclava (Earley St Peter register D/P 191/1/4)

**Lucy Locett** of Maidenhead, wife of John, buried 28 Mar 1809 (Bray St Michael register D/P 23/1/3)

**Dardanella Eva Newitt** of 2 Upper Vine Buildings, Reading, aged 3 months, buried 29 December 1915 (Reading London Road Cemetery consecrated ground register R2354)

**Rosie Dardanella Harris** of 79 Mount Street, Reading, aged 2, buried 16 March 1918 (Reading London Road Cemetery consecrated ground register R2354)

**Sidney Minotaur Watts** of 1 Newall Court, Duke Street, Reading, aged 19 months, buried 31 October 1918 (Reading London Road Cemetery consecrated ground register R2354)

**Daisy Clover** of 344 Oxford Road, Reading, aged 45, buried 16 March 1931 (Reading London Road Cemetery consecrated ground register R2343)

**Malvamevanda Grant** of Hosier Street, Reading, aged 3, buried 4 July 1873 (Reading London Road Cemetery unconsecrated ground register R2346)

**Paris Treaty Parkinson** of 101 Beecham Road, Reading, aged 85, buried 18 March 1942 (Reading London Road Cemetery consecrated ground register R2344)

**Henry Evans**, buried 3 January 1797, one of the Yeomen of the Guard (Winkfield St Mary register D/P 151/1/6)

**James Holder**, aged 39, buried 13 April 1810, a marine at the battle of Trafalgar (Aldworth St Mary register 4/1/1)

**Plainbill Duck** of Woodspeen aged 4, buried 28 February 1835 (Speen St Mary the Virgin register)

## *Back to basics*

# Wills

***Judith Mitchell begins  
this new series with a  
quick guide to wills  
administration***

In England and Wales before 1858 wills were under the jurisdiction of the church.

If the deceased's estate was situated within one archdeaconry, such as the archdeaconry of Berkshire, it would be to the archdeacon's court that the executor (the person specified in the will to distribute the deceased's estate) went to get probate (permission to carry out the instructions made in the will).

If the dead person's estate was situated in one or more archdeaconries, but all within the


same diocese, the executor would go to the bishop's court. In pre-1836 Berkshire this would have been the Bishop of Salisbury; after 1836 (but before 1858) it would be the Bishop of Oxford. Lists of these courts are given in the Grannum and Taylor book and the Gibson's Guide detailed at the end of this article.

If the deceased had owned property in more than one diocese, the will would come under the jurisdiction of the archbishop's court; for some northern counties this would be York, for

### **The Vale and Downland Museum**

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

- 3,500 sq ft of displays
- films narrated by David Attenborough
- 3D interactive orientation map
- exhibitions of downland art and history
- Visitor Information Point for locality research library and photo archive (access by appointment)
- cafe with home-made refreshments
- patio, lawn and wendy house



**Free entry to Visitor Information Point, temporary exhibitions and cafe**  
**Main galleries: annual season tickets £2.50 adults, £2 OAPs  
and registered disabled, £1 schoolchildren (preschoolers free)**  
**Open 10.00 - 16.00 Mons to Sats every day except bank holidays**  
Private bookings on Sundays, bank holidays and evenings (catering optional)

**Vale and Downland Museum**  
**Church St, Wantage, OX12 8BL**  
Find us just a few minutes' walk from Wantage Civic Hall car park and Market Place bus stops. Drop-off point for disabled, and wheelchair access most areas. Induction loops in auditorium and reception.

more details from  
01235 771447  
[www.wantage.com/museum](http://www.wantage.com/museum)  
[museum@wantage.com](mailto:museum@wantage.com)

midland and southern counties, Canterbury. The latter is called the Prerogative Court of Canterbury (PCC). For example: the executors of an estate of a farmer who had lived and worked in Wokingham (Berkshire, in the diocese of Salisbury) and who also owned a couple of cottages down the road in Eversley (Hampshire, in the diocese of Winchester), would have to go to the PCC to prove his will.

If the deceased had property both in the north and south of England, or overseas, the executors would have to go the PCC (in London) to obtain probate. Many executors or administrators went to the PCC anyway even with quite modest estates.

If there had been no will (the deceased died intestate), and property needed to be disposed of, the people entrusted with sorting out the estate would have to get a grant of administration by going to the appropriate court in the same way as an executor. This process is often abbreviated to admons.

The government took an interest in wills of larger estates on which death duties were payable, and the records of these are at The National Archives (TNA).

The good news is that PCC wills are available on line at <[www.documentsonline.nationalarchives.gov.uk](http://www.documentsonline.nationalarchives.gov.uk)>. The index can be searched free of charge, and a facsimile of an original document ordered for a small fee, which varies according to the length of the will. Unfortunately deciphering old handwriting is not always easy, and wading through the legal jargon is sometimes hard, but it is often well worth the effort.

After 1858 wills became the business of the government probate office. There are local probate offices around the country. However, the Probate Search Room, Principal Registry of the Family Division, First Avenue House, 42-49 High Holborn, London WC1V 6NP is where you can look at the original index binders for the whole of England and Wales, and request a copy of the wills you are interested in.

The Probate Registry offers a postal service.

Applications for searches and copies of wills can be made to Postal Searches and Copies Department, York Probate Sub-Registry, Castle Chambers, Clifford Street, York YO1 9RG. For more detailed information about the postal search service (including a downloadable application form) see <[www.courtservice.gov.uk](http://www.courtservice.gov.uk)>.

For ancestors who lived in Lincolnshire the Lincolnshire Archives has probate indexes of the Lincolnshire Consistory Court Wills and Admons (Administrations) 1800-58, and Lincolnshire wills 1858 - 1910 available on microfiche or CD. Go to <[www.genuk.org.uk/big/eng/LIN/lfhs/Documents/PublicationsList.pdf](http://www.genuk.org.uk/big/eng/LIN/lfhs/Documents/PublicationsList.pdf)>. To see the original will however you would need to visit or write to Lincolnshire Archives, St Rumbold Street, Lincoln LN2 5AB. <[www.lincolnshire.gov.uk](http://www.lincolnshire.gov.uk)> <[Archive@lincolnshire.gov.uk](mailto:Archive@lincolnshire.gov.uk)> 01522 526204

Members of the Lincolnshire FHS have also submitted surnames found in Lincolnshire wills which are different from the person making the will. These are available on microfiche from the society. Other family history societies may have similar publications.

I attended a lecture some years back on wills, and the speaker explained that wills became less common as industrialisation became widespread and towns became larger. Earlier generations may have had small holdings of land, livestock, materials and tools to dispose of in addition to their household goods, for which they needed to leave a will, especially if there was no obvious heir, or if there was likely to be a dispute in the family. After 1800 many ordinary people lived in towns in a rented house, worked as employees and had little in the way of possessions or savings. Wills became more important again for ordinary people after the Second World War, when people began to buy their own houses.

However, do not assume that your ancestors were too poor to have made a will. Many ordinary people did make wills, some of which give genealogical details. Eighteenth-century

(and earlier) wills may have attached inventories of the person's estate. My 3xgreat-grandfather made a will in 1858, which went to probate in 1859. He was a carpenter living in Pinchbeck, Lincolnshire. His second son worked with him in the business, and his married daughter may have helped out as well. His eldest son had left the village some time before, and had established a business as a builder in London. This eldest son was left £1, and the other son and daughter were left an equal share of the rest of the estate, perhaps because the eldest son had been given money earlier to establish himself in London.

### MORE ABOUT WILLS

Nigel Taylor and Karen Grannum. *Wills and other probate records* (TNA, 2009)

Eve McLaughlin. *Somerset House wills from 1858* (Guides for Family Historians, 1994)

Jeremy Gibson and Else Churchill. *Probate jurisdictions: where to look for wills* (FFHS, 2002)

Rosemary Milward. *Wills: household, farming and trade terms from probate inventories* (1977) Available from BerksFHS Books.

<[www.tna.gov.uk](http://www.tna.gov.uk)> supplies an excellent page of details on wills, including exceptions to the general rules, a glossary, online currency converter, and names of researchers who will search or translate for you on a commercial basis.

Wiltshire Wills Project

<<http://history.wiltshire.gov.uk/heritage/>> Online catalogue of wills and other probate records of the diocese of Salisbury, covering Wiltshire, also Berkshire before 1836, and parts of Dorset and Devon 1540 - 1858. Searching the catalogue is free. There are digital images for just over 25 per cent of the documents; these can be viewed online for payment or free of charge by visiting the Wiltshire and Swindon History Centre in Chippenham.

<b>Dates for your diary</b>			
<b>date</b>	<b>event</b>	<b>venue</b>	<b>more details</b>
10.00-16.30 Sat 12 Sept	National Family History Fair	Gateshead International Stadium	< <a href="http://www.nationalfamilyhistoryfair.com">www.nationalfamilyhistoryfair.com</a> >
10.00-16.15 Sat 19 Sept	<i>It's all on the internet now - isn't it?</i> Wilts FHS seminar with John Hanson and Jeanne Bunting	Social Centre Bromham SN15 2JB	< <a href="http://www.wiltshirefhs.co.uk/seminar">www.wiltshirefhs.co.uk/seminar</a> >
Sun 20 Sept	Hampshire Genealogical Society Open Day	Horndean Technology College	< <a href="http://www.hgs-online.org.uk">www.hgs-online.org.uk</a> >
10.00-16.00 Sat 26 Sept	Oxfordshire FHS Open Day	Marlborough Enterprise Centre, Woodstock	< <a href="http://www.ofhs.org.uk/OpenDay">www.ofhs.org.uk/OpenDay</a> >
14.00 Mon 5 Oct	BRO introductory visit (1 hr)	BRO, Coley Ave, Reading RG1 6AF	book on 0118 901 5352
10.00-16.30 Sat 31 Oct	West Surrey FHS Family History Fair and Open Day	Leisure Centre, Kingfield Rd, Woking GU22 9BA	< <a href="http://www.wsfhs.org/OpenDay.htm">www.wsfhs.org/OpenDay.htm</a> >
Sat 21 Nov	Guild of One-Name Studies seminar	TNA, Kew	0800 011 2182 < <a href="http://www.one-name.org">www.one-name.org</a> >



absence or senility, and those who wilfully refused. The refusers or recusants included some dissenters such as Anabaptists, as well as Catholics, but reasons for non-compliance were not always given.

In some cases the returns provide supplementary information: illiteracy was often indicated, and some parish officers were named.

Surviving returns, which exist for about one-third of all English parishes, are held in the House of Lords Record Office. Most have been transcribed by county record societies, and these are listed in the Whiteman reference given below.

## BERKSHIRE

Berkshire's oath-taking was organised under the divisions of Abingdon, Newbury and Reading. Returns survive for about 100 of the old county's (then) 160 parishes. Most of these are in central Berkshire. There are large gaps in the east of the county and the north-west corner. The parishes covered are mapped in an article which was published in the *Berkshire Family Historian* vol 13 no 3 (March 1990), or you can see them listed by going to [www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/a2a](http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/a2a) and searching on *Protestation Returns Berks* (not Berkshire), having first selected Parliamentary Archives as the repository.

These surviving returns have been transcribed, and they can be accessed either by visiting the Berkshire Record Office, which holds a copy (reference T/A 40), or by contacting John Townsend, who has transcribed 10,000 names from the House of Lords returns, and who offers a search facility for £5. Details of this service can be found on [www.johntownsend.demon.co.uk/index\\_files/Page321.htm](http://www.johntownsend.demon.co.uk/index_files/Page321.htm).

Less well known is the fact that in 1881 Walter Money transcribed 22 of these Berkshire returns and published them as an appendix to his book *The First and Second*

*Battles of Newbury*, published by Simkin Marshall and Co. This text can be seen in full on <http://openlibrary.org/b/OL7023195M/first-and-second-battles-of-Newbury-and-the-siege-of-Donnington-Castle-during-the-Civil-War%2C-A.D.-1643-6>.

(Alternatively, Google *First and Second Battles of Newbury* – a link is in the first few results.)

There are disadvantages to this free, arm-chair solution: you will need to scroll through to page 90 (nearly halfway through the book) to find appendix VI, which contains the extracts. OCR scanning of the original text has produced numerous errors: E for R in a number of cases, O for G in Midgham. It is hard to believe in the name of "Jas Wifffins". For this reason automated name-searching is not advisable; you must scroll through. Unlike more modern transcriptions, Money's work may not have been double-checked.

Money's parishes are: Brimpton, Chaddleworth, Chieveley, Compton, Enborne, Greenham, Hamstead Marshall, Hampstead Norreys, West Ilsley, East Ilsley, Inkpen, Kintbury, Leckhamstead, Midgham, Newbury, Peasemore, Shaw-cum-Donnington, Little (or East) Shefford, Great (or West) Shefford, Speen, Wasing, Welford and Winterborne Danvers. As might be expected, these parishes are all included in the A2A listing of Berkshire parishes for which returns are extant in the House of Lords.

In Money's transcription by no means all are full lists of names: Speen, for example, names three and adds *and others*. West Ilsley simply says *John Head, minister, etc*. Chaddleworth supplies three names *and several members of the Bartholomew and Pocock families*.

Enborne non-signatories are named as:

*Wm. Holmes, Sen. above 4 score years old and deaf and feeble; and John Holmes, jun., a simple young man and lame; and Wm. Plantin, 3 score and 12 or above, and infirm and decayed both inwardly and outwardly in mind and all other means, and Saml. Lyford,*



*and John Warner, poore disabled men, and Francis Belcher, a yonge swageringe stranger who hath lately at Newtown married Margaret Nalder, and is now living with his wife at Enborne.*

At Little (or East) Shefford none of the parishioners, with the exception of the rector, John Prime, could sign their names, but all put their mark. By contrast neighbouring Great (West) Shefford seems to have had some truculent inhabitants:

*Geo. Browne, Esq., Elleanor Browne, his wife, Elleanor Browne his daughter – These desired a long time to consider, which was refused. George Browne son of Geo. Browne, aforesaid, and Morrice Jonathan, servant – would sign in all except the part against Popery. Anne Cooper, Anne Northover – professing themselves simple maidens requested time to consider on the part of religion. Elizbh. Wylder, Ursula Wylder, widow, daughter of said Elizabeth – absolutely refuse to sign the Protestation.*

## MORE ABOUT THE PROTESTATION RETURNS

Jeremy Gibson. *Oxfordshire and North Berkshire protestation returns and tax assessments 1641-42*. 2nd ed (Oxfordshire Record Society, 1994)  
Oxfordshire returns as originally transcribed by Christopher Dobson; tax assessments and Berkshire returns transcribed by the editor. Index.

Jeremy Gibson and Alan Dell. *The Protestation Returns 1641-1642 and other contemporary listings* (Genealogical Pub Co, 1995)  
In alphabetical order by county, and therein by parishes and hundreds, this book lists surviving returns, and also a list of published Protestation Returns. In addition, other contemporary records are itemised here, including the following: The Collection in Aid of Distressed Protestants in Ireland; The Covenants and Petitions to Parliament; and Taxation Records (Subsidy, Poll Tax, and Assessment or Grant).  
Available from BerksFHS Books.

Anne Whiteman. *The Protestation Returns of 1641-42 Pt I general organisation*.  
Available online at <[www.localpopulationstudies.org.uk/PDF/LPS55/LPS55\\_1995\\_14-26.pdf](http://www.localpopulationstudies.org.uk/PDF/LPS55/LPS55_1995_14-26.pdf)>  
Detail on the origination and administration of the returns, and a list of transcriptions by county, by the leading authority on the Compton Census of 1676.

## 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](mailto:miscindex@berksfhs.org.uk)>.*

## Correction

*The photo accompanying the Cassell article on page 13 of the June issue of the Berkshire Family Historian should have been captioned Grandfather Henry Sellwood, not Grandfather Henry Cassell.*

## Birth briefs

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

A form for compiling your birth brief can be downloaded from <[www.berksfhs.org.uk/birthbriefs](http://www.berksfhs.org.uk/birthbriefs)>, where you can also search the Birth Briefs Index,

currently standing at 31,441 names, or you can order a search by post for £2.

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

Search requests and orders for copies of briefs should be emailed to <[birthbriefs@berksfhs.org.uk](mailto:birthbriefs@berksfhs.org.uk)> or posted to  
Alan Brooker  
6 Meadow Way, Old Windsor  
Berks SL4 2NX

# Getting the best out of Ordnance Survey (*for free*)

**Old maps can add considerable value to family history research. The web abounds with map sites, but none beats the Ordnance Survey (OS) 6-inch and 25-inch series from the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries for topographical detail, and these can only be seen at on <[www.old-maps.co.uk](http://www.old-maps.co.uk)>.**

This is the OS online shop where, with patience, you can obtain much free topographical information without actually buying.

To start, click the bottom left hand box on the home page. Enter the place name of your choice, and you will be offered various maps in two scales: 1 to 10,560 (6 inches to the mile) or 1 to 2,500 (25 inches to the mile), of various dates from the 1870s to the 1930s.

Although carrying more detail, the 25-inch series as shown in sample format on the site isn't much use for free information; the size and clarity of the display allow only a fuzzy overall view, and there is no zoom or pan facility. (Zooming your entire screen won't help either; it just magnifies the fuzziness.)

Maps in the 6-inch series however can be navigated and zoomed, allowing you to roam around an area in close-up, and to identify road names, plot and parish boundaries, industrial premises such as malhouses, breweries, factories and timber yards, major

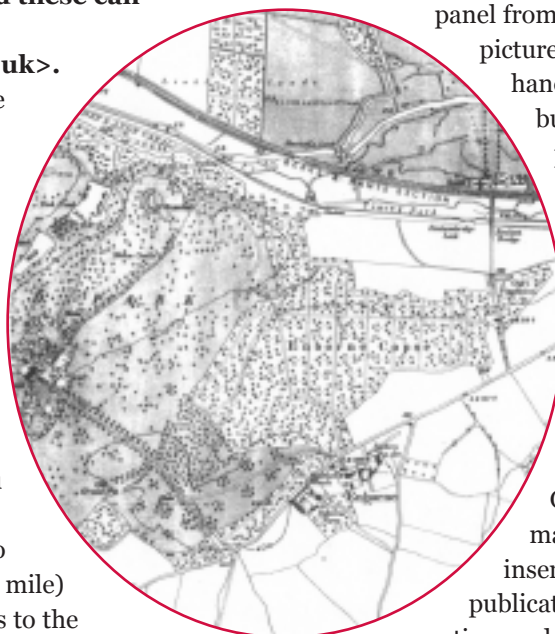
buildings such as churches, schools and work-houses, farms and different types of land use. Even the wells, fountains and glasshouses of grander houses are shown. (A key to symbols is available via the FAQ page, the link to which is tucked away in small print at the bottom of the page.) This kind of information can be enormously useful in putting an ancestral address into its social and environmental context.

The maps are watermarked and protected against copying (you'll find this function disabled) although you can of course hit the screen dump button and extract the map panel from the rest of the page in a picture editor. This can be handy for offline reference, but the result will not print out well, because these display samples are deliberately low-resolution.

The dates given are publication dates, which may be a decade or two after the survey was made. Somewhat confusingly, OS warns you that some maps show additional data inserted after the recorded publication date, but the FAQ section explains that for the 6-inch series this applies only to some boundaries and railways, and only within a certain date range.

The site is slow and clunky, and infuriatingly prone to crash if you zap around too quickly. However, if you are after just one or two topographical details it can save you a trip to the library. Remember too that for little more than £10 you can order the 6-inch series for the entire county of old Berkshire on CD from BerksFHS Books (see centre pages) – rather less than OS would charge you for one small extract.

*Ordnance Survey maps are Crown copyright, but according to the OS website this expires 50 years after the date the map was made.*



# The London Gazette

## treasure trove of family history

**You don't have to be a major-general or a judge to appear in The London Gazette. Richard Goodwin, the managing editor, traces a publishing history from 1665 to the present day as the government's official paper of record, naming public servants, insolvents, patent applicants, royal warrant-holders, officers in the armed forces, recipients of state honours and awards and many others of interest to genealogists**

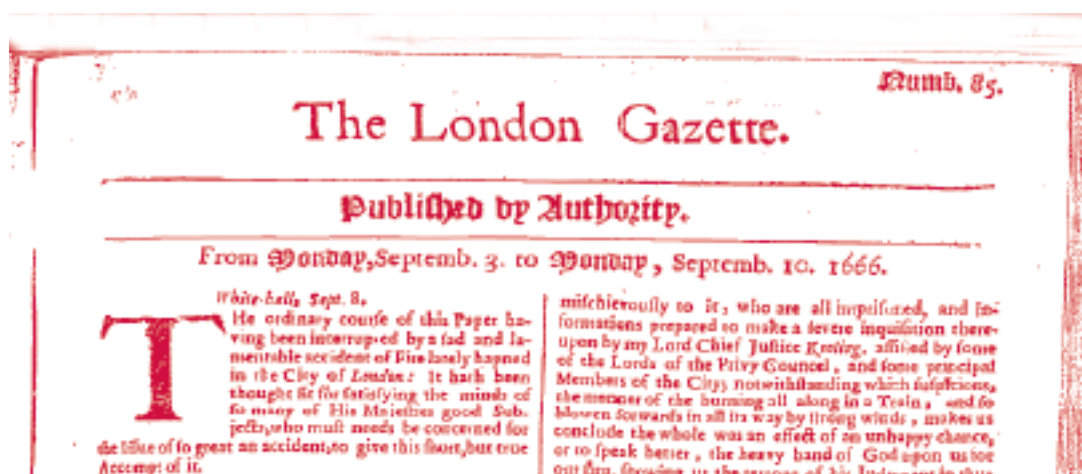
*This day, the first of the Oxford Gazettes came out, which is very pretty, full of news and no folly in it...*

Thus Samuel Pepys recorded the first issue of Britain's oldest continuously-published newspaper, *The London Gazette*. Its birth arose from the Plague in 1665, when the court of Charles II moved from London to Oxford. Such was the fear of contamination that people would not have contact with anything from London, including letters and newspapers. Royal authority was sought to publish a news sheet for the court, and *The Oxford Gazette* appeared in November 1665. When the court returned to London the title changed to *The London Gazette*, which it bore from issue 24.

Early issues recorded news from abroad,

shipping movements in and out of half a dozen British ports, and advertisements for lost dogs, stolen horses and runaway servants of the gentry. The readership was not the general public but the mercantile classes, the legal profession and officers of state. By the early eighteenth century regular contributors included the Treasury and Privy Council, whilst the Admiralty and War Office submitted details of appointments and promotions of their officers, a process continuing even today, and known as "being gazetted".

In 1712 the *Gazette* assumed one role it still fulfils today, when an Act to Relieve Insolvent Debtors required publication of insolvency announcements in the *Gazette*, with a resultant doubling of size to four pages. In the same year the newly-introduced newspaper stamp



duty caused publication to revert to twice-weekly, and taxed advertisements, spelling the end of appeals for lost dogs, horses and servants.

With the arrival of London's *Daily Courant* in 1702 the *Gazette* lost its news monopoly, and throughout the eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries circulation declined, but the *Gazette* maintained a lead in military matters. During the Napoleonic wars despatches of particular importance began to be published as *Extraordinary Gazettes*, two examples recording Nelson's death at the Battle of Trafalgar and the first news of Wellington's victory at Waterloo, a report which *The Times* simply republished verbatim.

The growth of legislation and the rise of a civil service to administer it made the *Gazette* an essential part of the government's communication machine. The railway building boom of 1845 saw a bumper 548-page issue, and the number of announcements rose to 26,000 a year by 1857. Legislation on patents and company law in the 1850s and 1860s required the publication of information to interested parties, and from 1870 the newly-created Civil Service Commission published details of all civil service appointments in the gazette. This continued through the first half of the twentieth century, and included bodies such as the Post Office. Perhaps the last remnant of this past role today is the Imperial Service Medal, an occasional supplement to the *Gazette* announcing awards to officials on retirement.

In 1899 a Naturalization Act introduced lists of those granted British citizenship, and in 1925 the Trustee Act picked up former practice of giving notice of deceased's estates in the *Gazette*. Notices of this type are placed even today, providing family historians with a rich trail of information.

Perhaps the greatest growth change in the *Gazette* during the nineteenth century was the increase in honours and awards to the armed services. From the eighteenth century published despatches from commanders in the

field had noted the distinguished service of officers, but it was not until 1843 that a British commander mentioned rank and file soldiers (what the army calls Other Ranks) by name. With the introduction during the Crimean War of three medals to be awarded to Other Ranks for brave conduct, details of the actions for which they were awarded – known as citations – were published in the *Gazette*.

At the turn of the twentieth century Boer War despatches were frequently accompanied by lists of those awarded medals, or whose conduct was noteworthy. Whilst the latter are sometimes recorded within the text of a despatch, it became common practice to provide a separate list of them after the main despatch, giving rise to the phrase "a mention in despatches". To fit in with the publishing schedule lists of awards were published as supplements to the regular gazettes, often a day or two later.

In 1910 HM Stationery Office won a long battle to become the *Gazette*'s publisher (although not yet the printer) and four years later began expansion to meet the demands of the First World War. The scale of the conflict resulted in almost daily publication and print runs of over 5,000 copies. The war brought changes to the honours and awards system. Existing medals for bravery were extended by the creation of the Military Cross (MC) in December 1914 and the Military Medal (MM) in March 1916; by 1920 over 120,000 MMs and 40,000 MCs had been gazetted. Although most of these listings were not detailed, for a short period the name of the home town of the award winner was published.

Changes to the honours system resulted from the introduction of the Order of the British Empire in June 1917. Ranging from Knights and Dames Grand Cross (GBE) to the simple British Empire Medal (BEM), these awards rewarded British and empire civilians who were helping the war effort, and for the first time recognised the contribution of women. Divided from 1918 into military and civilian divisions, the order recognised

outstanding military service of a non-combatant nature or a distinguished contribution to the arts and sciences, public services outside the Civil Service and charitable work. With these came the institution of the Birthday and New Year Honours Lists, published as *Gazette* supplements.

Between the wars the *Gazette*, printed from 1923 by HM Stationery Office, settled back to its twice-weekly schedule, recording the dates of bank holidays, the appointments of lords-lieutenant, high court and circuit judges, probate notices, designs for coins and banknotes, the dissolution of partnerships, pending registrations of freeholds with the Land Registry, and the appointment of royal warrant holders.

The Second World War saw a similar expansion to that of 1914: daily publication, extensive lists of promotions and regular supplements of honours and awards. In January 1942 an alteration to the indexes introduced a separate heading for honours and awards, which had formerly been listed within the state intelligence section under the name of the award.

Today's *London Gazette*, now published each working day by TSO on behalf of HMSO, continues to carry a wide range of official notices covering details of state, parliamentary, ecclesiastical, transport and planning matters as well as the long-established corporate and personal insolvency notices and supplements covering honours and awards, armed forces' commissions, promotions and retirements, and details of unclaimed Premium Bonds.

Although it has been available in public libraries for many years, *The London Gazette's* official nature has limited its circulation, making access difficult for many users. The gazette recognised this, and recently began a programme of digitising back copies.

**More than 99 per cent of *The London Gazette* issues are now available online, most being keyword searchable. The few remaining early issues are retrievable by searching on a date or issue number. The search and results service is free.**

#### References

P M Handover. *History of the London Gazette: 1665-1965* (HMSO, 1965)

P E Abbott, J M A Tamplin. *British gallantry awards* (1971)

[<www.london-gazette.co.uk>](http://www.london-gazette.co.uk)

To get the most from the web archive note that:

- results are presented in order of relevance
- a search without a search term will give you all issues within a specified date range, which you can browse through
- the publication date of a supplement will differ by a few days from the date of the gazette with which it was published, so always look at the dates on the front pages of gazettes, and not just the results bars, to locate the issue you require
- the FAQ section under *Advanced search* can be used to fine-tune to your search and narrow results
- it is advisable try under all known versions or personal, company and place names
- the search engine uses OCR, which may be slightly erratic on the typeface of early issues.

Search results will link directly to scanned original pages in PDF, which can be saved and/or printed.

For non-computer-users, many libraries hold *The London Gazette* archives on microfilm together with the printed indexes.

# History in bricks and mortar

*Ellie Thorne, archivist at the Berkshire Record Office, explains how to enrich your family history with research into where your ancestors lived*

**Tracing house history can be very rewarding and interesting to research; it can sometimes end in a complete and unsatisfactory blank, but do not let this put you off. House history can be an interesting way of discovering more about where your ancestors lived and who lived in their houses before them.**

There are two main strands to house history; the first looks at the physical building, and the second at who lived there and what happened in the house. (You can also look into wider local history issues to discover what was happening in the area at the time.) This second strand uses many of the same records needed for family history, with which most readers are probably very familiar.

To illustrate how you can find out about a building I have chosen to look at a particular house, 13 Eldon Square in Reading, which was chosen at random but does have a good range of records relating to it.

## MAPS

Once you have ascertained all the information you can by looking at a house (if this is possible) probably the best place to start your research is with maps of the area. This can help you to get nearer the answer to that all-important question *How old is my house?* It is important to remember that if there was a building on the site of the present house it does not necessarily mean it is the same one – therefore, maps which show the shape of the building can be particularly useful. The number of maps available can vary depending on the area and the date of the building.

The early edition 25-inch Ordnance Survey maps are one of the best



documents with which to start. These date from between the 1870s and 1930s, when a lot of new buildings were erected, and they can help to identify the decade or couple of decades in which the building was built, and if it has been extended or altered during the time. Another useful tool is the Working Valuation Map. These were prepared as part of a land valuation survey in 1910. Based on the OS maps, they are particularly interesting because the numbered properties and land are described in the accompanying “Domesday Books”. These records can be particularly useful for rural properties.

An earlier, very useful series for Reading is the local Board of Health maps. These date from the early 1850s, and they proved to be particularly helpful for investigating Eldon Square. During my investigations I had realised that at some point the houses in Eldon Square had been renumbered, but I could not find out how the later numbers related to the earlier numbers. The local Board of Health map solved this problem. It not only proved that the property I was interested in was built before the 1850s, and that at this period the

original numbering sequence was still being used, but later pencil annotations (unfortunately not dated) gave the new numbers. This told me that 13 Eldon Square had originally been 8 Eldon Square. This information proved invaluable when looking at other sources such as the census and rate books.

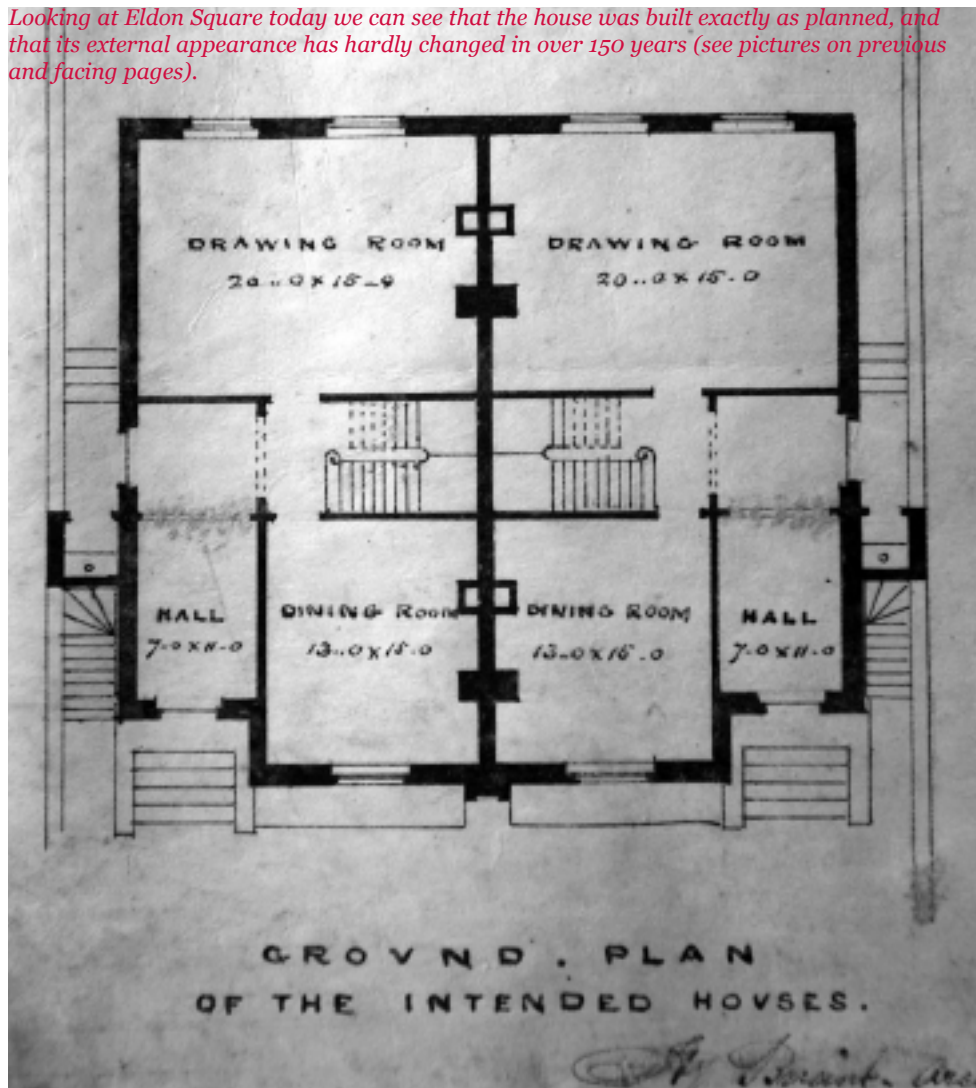
If your house was built before the mid-eighteenth century there are two other types of map which might be useful. These are the 1840s tithe maps and the earlier enclosure maps (which generally date between the 1790s and 1820s.) These have an accompanying award which tells you who owned the particular plot number and who occupied it, how big it was and what type of land it was. Unfortunately, although I found Eldon Square on the tithe map (which at least proved the house was there in 1841), many areas of Reading were not titheable so were not numbered; thus I could not tell who owned it. Even if your house does not date back to these dates it can be interesting to look at these maps to find out what the land was being used for. Most of the enclosure maps can be found online at <[www.berkshireenclosure.org.uk](http://www.berkshireenclosure.org.uk)>.



*Enclosure maps are more concerned with plots than structures, but often mark existing buildings, as this extract from the 1855 enclosure map for Wash Common in Newbury shows.*

***Ellie Thorne has been involved with cataloguing several large collections of architectural plans, including the Slough Building Control Plans. Her interest in house history stems from studying architecture for a year at university and being particularly fascinated by the architectural history part of the course. She is also interested in social history, and finds that house history relates to both of these interests.***

Looking at Eldon Square today we can see that the house was built exactly as planned, and that its external appearance has hardly changed in over 150 years (see pictures on previous and facing pages).



## PLANS

Most plans date from the second half of the nineteenth century or the twentieth century, and to be honest you will be lucky to find one for an individual house. However, if the house you are looking for is in Windsor or Slough, and was built before 1950, the BRO holds the building control plans for these two boroughs, so it is quite possible there will be something for your house (even if it is just a plan of how the drainage was carried out). Unfortunately these plans do not survive for most of Berkshire, and few houses in Reading have any plans relating to them.

## SALE CATALOGUES

Sale catalogues are another key source for house history. These are very good at giving you a glimpse of your house at a particular point. The amount of information included varies, but it can include a photograph of the house, a description of the rooms, and in some cases plans of the house or the area. Sales catalogues for larger estates can be particularly interesting, as they may include many of the older houses in the area. I have managed to find one for Nos. 13 and 15 Eldon Square, dating from 1925 (D/ENS B51/77). This describes the layout of the house, and indicates that it had stabling which has been converted





to a double garage with loft at the rear of the garden with entrance on to Eldon Terrace.

### TITLE DEEDS

The final major source of information for house history is title deeds. Some house owners are lucky enough to have their own title deeds, and some have been deposited at record offices. I managed to find one for nos 13 and 15 Eldon Square which not only gives information about the date the land was purchased and by whom and how much for (1835, James Plumly from Thomas Lawrence, £400) but also includes in the margin an elevation and plan of the houses drawn by the architect H Briant. This is very unusual and

although title deeds do sometimes include area plans this is the only one that we have found with an elevation.

### OCCUPATIONAL SOURCES

As for occupants, the first place to look for houses older than 100 years is the census (although earlier censuses, especially in rural areas, do not tend to give all street numbers, so you may need to consult other sources to try and work out which house is being referred to). In addition to the census there are trade directories, electoral registers and rate books, which all provide various information about the inhabitants of houses and can be particularly useful for houses built in the twentieth century.

Once you know who lived in the house you can try to flesh out their lives by looking at other typical family history sources such as wills and parish registers. For example, I have found that the inhabitants of 13 Eldon Square constantly changed, with a different family living there in every census. The heads of the

*No 13 Eldon Square today*



house over this time included an auctioneer and valuer, a farmer's widow and a boot manufacturer, and the number of people living in the house varied from two to eight, with all the occupiers having at least one servant.

I cannot promise that all house history searches will be as rewarding as this one, but there are a huge number of records waiting to be explored and they may reveal some unexpected surprises about your chosen house.

Records for house history in Berkshire can be found at

**Berkshire Record Office,  
9 Coley Avenue, Reading, RG1 6AF  
0118 9015132  
<arch@reading.gov.uk>  
<www.berkshirerecordoffice.org.uk>**

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## Write now

from **Cecil H N Wright**

I am a member of the Society of Genealogists in New Zealand, through which I receive the *Berkshire Family Historian* in circulation, and it occurs to me that you might be able to shed some light for me on some problems I am having tracing the parents of my great-great-grandfather, one William Wright, believed to have been born in New Windsor in 1810, son of another William Wright, according to information provided in 1990 by a research service which quoted the records of Trinity College, Cambridge. The information was that William:

Attended Egham School, Surrey

Matriculated (Trinity College, Cambridge)

Michaelmas 1829, Scholas 1832, BA 1833, MA 1842,  
LLD 1850

Admitted *ad eundem* at Oxford, 1853

Principal of Huddersfield College, Yorkshire 1837-44

Principal of Leamington College, Warwickshire 1844-51

Headmaster of the Royal Colchester Grammar School and  
chaplain of the borough gaol 1851-70

Curate of All Saints, Colchester 1851 - 1855.

My search for information on William's parents has always drawn a blank, partly as there seem to be dozens of William Wrights, and my enquiry at Egham School revealed that their records prior to 1830 were destroyed by fire; enquiry of Cambridge University and Colchester Grammar were also a lost cause.

Could anyone point me in a direction towards a resource which might lead to the identification of William's parents and any other siblings?

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## *Your letters, your queries, your news*

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

from **T M Lock** (5119)

I am trying to find a booklet that was printed about the village of Hampstead Norris, where I lived from about 1937 until 1947. I think the booklet was published some time after the war, maybe 1950 onwards. It had photographs in it of the Home Guard and of evacuees arriving. I have searched in vain so far to find any evidence of this booklet, which had a plastic spiral binder, so I am hoping that this letter will find someone who has read this book and can help me solve the problem.

# Website roundup

Please note that not all these sites have been checked for accuracy or utility, and no specific recommendation is implied, unless otherwise stated

## <http://newspapers.bl.uk/blcs/>

offers access to 49 nineteenth-century newspapers from London, national and regional titles in the British Library collection. Nearest to Berkshire are the *Hampshire Telegraph*, *Jackson's Oxford Journal*, *Sussex Chronicle*, *Bristol Mercury*. Free to search, subscription to access facsimile page images for download or printing. A 24-hour pass for £6.99 provides access to 100 articles over that period; a seven-day pass for £9.99 covers 200 articles. Ticket-holders with Oxfordshire libraries can use this service free at participating branches; this is also believed to be true of Buckinghamshire and Gloucestershire. The editor would be pleased to hear of any other free-access sources.

## [www.1911census.co.uk](http://www.1911census.co.uk)

has now added the records of the 2.4 million people who lived in Wales in 1911.

## [www.achurchnearyou.com](http://www.achurchnearyou.com)

is recommended by Judith Mitchell (2031) as handy for obtaining details of ancestors' C of E churches. The site is designed to find a church for newcomers to an area, but it often gives a link to the particular church's own website, which in turn gives details of its history.

## [www.UKGD.org.uk](http://www.UKGD.org.uk)

describes itself as a companion site to UKBMD, aiming to help family researchers by linking to 822 websites with online data to help you discover what your families did and how they lived.

## [www.kentarchaeology.org.uk](http://www.kentarchaeology.org.uk)

has added another 1,000 Kent churchyard memorial inscriptions. Most have been

transcribed from original notes made more than 100 years ago, and therefore provide information from gravestones which since then have become illegible or have been removed.

## [www.history.ac.uk/gh/capintro.htm](http://www.history.ac.uk/gh/capintro.htm)

is an ongoing Guildhall Library project to publish online the indexes to Lloyd's Captains Registers. Surnames beginning with F have been added and G is nearing completion. The full Captains Registers (in hard copy at the library) detail the careers of those who held British or British colonial master's certificates.

## [www.slq.qld.gov.au/info/fh/convicts](http://www.slq.qld.gov.au/info/fh/convicts)

The State Library of Queensland has released the British Convict Transportation Registers Database of more than 123,000 convicts sent to Australia between 1787 and 1867. Dates of conviction are continuing to be added to each record.

## [www.deceasedonline.com](http://www.deceasedonline.com)

claims to be building a substantial database of tens of millions of burial and cremation records for the UK and Ireland from 1837 onwards. Participating burial authorities to June 2009 are the London boroughs of Havering, Brent, Islington and Camden, Angus Council in Scotland, and Tunbridge Wells, so there is some way to go yet.

Gillian Stevens has set up a group for the Berks FHS Computer Branch on Genealogy Wise. To join go to

[www.genealogywise.com](http://www.genealogywise.com), click on the *Groups* tab and search for Berkshire FHS.

# Bookends

Jean Debney

Prices quoted are for:

a) mail order purchase within UK, including p&p by second class post unless stated otherwise

b) mail order purchase from overseas, including p&p airmail

## BERKSHIRE FHS PUBLICATION

### **Wokingham Free Church, monumental inscriptions 1921 – 2009**

(Berks FHS CD, BRK02480, 2009)

Bookshop £5.00, mail order UK £5.80, airmail £6.70

This digitised transcript has some new and easy navigation features which greatly improve access. Each section of the churchyard plan is coloured, and a click brings up a plan of the burial plots with the surname (on the stone) or number (if an unmarked grave). The alphabetical name index has a link to the relevant plot and an index of names (by plot number), in both of which there is a link to the data.

Each entry consists of a transcript of the existing stone line by line, the entries in the burial register and a clear coloured photograph. Each unmarked grave has the entry from the burial register in italics and in square brackets, but no photograph. Click on the picture to enlarge it. The whole page and enlarged image can each be printed.

As always, it is vital to read the preface and *Using this transcript* for important information about using this CD. Originally published by Berkshire FHS in 1994 on microfiche (with data to 1993), this transcript is now updated to January 2009.

## BERKSHIRE LOCAL HISTORY

### **East Ilsley: transcripts of 190 wills (1504 - 1877): in the name of God amen**

transcribed by Eric Saxton (CD, Sigma Books, 2009)

Bookshop £10.00, mail order UK £10.80, airmail £12.45

This CD is the result of five or six years of very hard work transcribing documents written in a variety of difficult handwriting from the probate records of the archdeaconry of Berkshire, which are on microfiche in the Berkshire Record Office and downloaded register copy wills from The National Archives website. Unfortunately, details of the source and reference of each will has not been included.

The information is in pdf format, which can be read in Adobe Reader. Each transcript begins with a list of all the names mentioned under various categories: testator, beneficiaries, witnesses, etc. This is followed with the transcript using all the original spellings, where legible, and uses square brackets for additional information, such as to extend an abbreviated word.

At the end of the text there is a chronological contents list with the testators' names and page numbers of their wills. This is followed by an alphabetical name index, of all names mentioned, again with their page numbers of mention.

### **Berkshire windmills**

Guy Blythman (the author, 2007)

A5, white flexiback with colour photograph, 29pp. ISBN 978 0 9557303

Bookshop £5.00, mail order UK £5.80, airmail £6.40

Little has apparently been written about the 49 windmills known to have existed in Berkshire. The earliest was first recorded in 1273 in Lambourn. Nothing remains of any of them today. The last to exist was the base of the Amen Corner Mill, Binfield, which survived until 1963.

The main portion of this booklet consists of an alphabetical gazetteer, including the OS map reference for each mill, and a brief paragraph of information, some with illustrations. Numbers in brackets refer to sources of information, and a centrefold sketch map locates them.

For anyone with the good luck to have a Berkshire miller in their family or an interest in windmills in general, this is one for the bookshelf.

Further information about mills is held by the Mills Archive Trust, Watlington House, Watlington Street, Reading, RG1 4RJ.  
<info@millsarchive.com>  
<www.millsarchives.com>

## FAMILY HISTORY RESEARCH AIDS

### ***New cousins: how to trace living descendants of your ancestors***

Karen Bali (The Family History Partnership, 2009)  
A5, flexiback, 31pp. ISBN 978 1 906280 19 2  
Bookshop £3.95, mail order UK £4.75, airmail £6.40

There is so much information packed into this booklet that it's difficult to know where to start. The author talks about using the General Register Office (GRO), census returns, probate records, electoral registers, directories, local newspapers and, last but not least, the internet, family history societies and professional help. Scattered throughout the text are websites. Further sections suggest how to find contacts and exchange information when you meet, as well as DNA testing to establish family connections. A relationship chart is included showing how many times a grandmother or cousin is directly related or times "removed".

This useful publication contains much that is relevant to the basic sources useful for beginners and others researching their family history both backwards and forwards.

### ***Parish registers: a history and guide***

Stuart A Raymond (The Family History Partnership, 2009)  
A5, yellow flexiback, 64pp.  
ISBN 978 1 906280 17 8  
Bookshop £5.95, mail order UK £6.75 , airmail £ 8.40

Parish registers are the bread, butter and cake for researching family history, and without them it would be almost impossible. This small but informative publication goes a long way to help you understand what you are looking at, what information you can find in the registers, and what changes (and why) have been made during their 470-year history. Associated documents and each of the all-important finding aids, such as indexes, have separate chapters.

In addition to further reading there are numerous references to other publications in the text, and there are three indexes to the places, personal names and subjects.

This is an important publication for both beginners and most experienced historians.

## INTERNET

### ***Family history on the net***

Colin Waters (Countryside Books, updated 2nd ed, 2009)  
A5, red flexiback, index, 126pp.  
ISBN 978 1 84674 156 2  
Bookshop £7.99, mail order UK £8.45 , airmail £12.35

Family history research from a computer in the comfort of your own home has become so popular that publications like this are now vital to help you find the information you want and need. There is a long alphabetical list of subjects, a comprehensive list of genealogical websites and search engines, plus an index to keep you busy and successful for a long time. Each entry consists of the website plus a brief explanation of the information available.

A random example is one under the category *Fishermen and whalers* (well, someone had to do it): <<http://explorenorth.com/whalers/ships-whitby.htm>> is a list of ships sailing from Whitby. There are several other sites also listed at <<http://explorenorth.com>>.

## OCCUPATIONS

### ***Researching brewery and publican ancestors***

Simon Fowler (Family History Partnership, 2nd ed, 2009)  
A5, green/yellow flexiback, 48pp.  
ISBN 978 1 9066280 12 3  
Bookshop £5.95, mail order UK £6.75, airmail £8.40

The importance to the community of inns and alehouses in past centuries and, amongst other things, the Beer Act of 1830 which allowed anyone to purchase a beer licence for two guineas (£2. 2s /£2.10), ensured that most of us will probably encounter a victualler or licensee at some point in our family history researches.

This informative publication includes sections on the many records that exist and may provide clues, plus specialist archives, societies and museums, further reading and websites. It also explains the public house and brewery terminology with a separate glossary of special terms. I am sure this will prove to be a very useful “how-to-do-it” book that should be on every serious historian’s bookshelf.

## Members’ interests

**Compiled by Bob Plumridge**  
<[bob@theplumridges.com](mailto:bob@theplumridges.com)>

Members submitting their interests in the last quarter

6831	ALDRIDGE	Mortimer	BRK	1730-1750
5584	BARNES	West Grafton	WIL	1885-1900
5584	BARNES	Penton Grafton	HAM	1850-1895
6777	BARNES	Lydiard	WIL	1750-1880
6777	BARNES	Knighton	BRK	1800-1900
6809	BELL	Chalfont St Peter	BKM	1770-1820
6838	BLACKBURN	Mortlake	LDN	1400-
6809	BREWER	Camberwell	SRY	1820-1870
6809	BREWER	Chesham	BKM	1805-1820
6817	BROOKER	Reading	BRK	pre 1750
6817	BURDEN	Nettlebed	BRK	pre 1760
6835	BURKE	Fulham	MDX	1820-1920
6817	BURTON	Enborne	BRK	pre 1770
6838	BUTCHER	Any	SRK	1400-
6838	BUTCHER	Any	BRK	1400-
6838	BUTLER	Any	BRK	1400-
6837	CANDY	Cox Green	BRK	1824-1901
6837	CANDY	All	All	All
6832	CARR	London	LDN	1800-1900
6832	CHAPLIN	London	LDN	1860-1900

6838	CHEESEMAN	Any	BRK	1400-
6771	CLEMENT	Notting Hill	LDN	1875-1900
703	COLLYER A	Bradfield	BRK	1930-1940
703	COLLYER K	Bradfield	BRK	1930-1940
6777	DABNEY	Ashbury	BRK	1750-1890
6777	DAUBENY	Ashbury	BRK	1750-1890
6831	DAVIS E	Mortimer	BRK	1720-1750
6777	DEBNEY	Ashbury	BRK	1750-1890
5584	DEW(E)	Letcombe Bassett	BRK	1790-1860
6779	EDGINGTON	Any	OXF	All
6779	EDGINGTON	Woodley	BRK	All
6800	FINCH	Winkfield	BRK	pre 1770
5584	FISHER	Wexcombe	WIL	1800-1890
6832	FOSTER	Soulbury	BKM	1780-1890
6835	FOSTER	Gt Grimsby	LIN	1820-1920
6817	FULLER	Shabbington	BKM	pre 1800
4653	GARRAWAY	Henley on Thames	OXF	1800-1820
4653	GARRAWAY	Walthamstow	ESS	1880-1960
4653	GARRAWAY	London	MDX	1830-1900
4653	GARRAWAY	Ruscombe	BRK	1820-1870
4653	GARRAWAY	Hurst	BRK	1600-1700
4653	GARRAWAY	Wokingham	BRK	1770-1820
4653	GARWAY	City London	LDN	1500-1800
4653	GARWAY	Weobley	HEF	1350-1500
5584	GOODENOUGH	Letcombe Regis	BRK	1770+
5584	GOODENOUGH	South Stoke	OXF	1855+
6807	GOUGH	Newbury	BRK	1780-1808
6771	HALL	Oldham	OLD	1850-1920
6837	HAYNES (HAINES)			
		Cookham	BRK	1700-1887
6817	HEATH	Nettlebed	BRK	c 1794
6817	HEATH	Bix	OXF	pre 1794
6800	HEI FORD	Winkfield	BRK	pre 1810
6838	HICKS	Any	BRK	1400-
6756	ING	Old Windsor	BRK	1700-1900
6800	JACKSON	Datchet	BKM	pre 1770
6771	JACKSON	Oldham	OLD	1850-1920
4653	KINGSTON	Castle Carey	SOM	1600-1750
4653	KINGSTON	Bath	SOM	1750-1900
6835	KITCHING	Peterborough	NTH	1800-1880
6835	KITCHING	Gt Grimsby	LIN	1800-1920
6848	KNIGHT	All	LAN	PRE 1900
6817	LEACH	Brimpton	BRK	pre 1780
6835	LESSEY	Gt Grimsby	LIN	1820-1920

6832	LOVE	Mortimer	BRK	1780-1900
5584	LOVEGROVE	East Challow	BRK	1700+
6848	LOWNE	All	NRK	PRE 1800
6831	MILES J	Stratfield Saye	BRK	1700-1750
6831	MILES W	Stratfield Mortimer	BRK	1700-1750
6777	MINETT	All	CAM	All
6777	MINETT	All	SRY	All
6835	MOODY	Hull	YKS	1790-1910
6835	MOSELEY	Cambridge	CAM	1750-1900
6848	MOY	All	NRK	PRE 1800
6832	NEARY	Bethnal Green	LDN	1800-1950
6831	NETHERCLIFT M	Stratfield Turgis	HAM	1770-1800
6809	NORTHCROFT	Chieveley	BRK	1700-1800
6809	NORTHCROFT	Chalfont St Peter	BKM	1770-1870
6809	NORTHCROFT	Slough	BRK	1750-1850
6809	NORTHCROFT	Boxford	BRK	pre 1750
6809	NORTHCROFT	Newbury	BRK	1700-1850
6807	PARKER	Stoke Poges	BKM	1812-1851
6800	PARSONS	Winkfield	BRK	pre 1830
6800	PARSONS	Swallowfield	BRK	pre 1780
6807	PEIRCE	Windsor	BRK	1780+
6835	PENNELL	Danbury	ESS	1780-1900
6777	PEYTON	All	SRY	All
6777	PEYTON	All	CAM	All
6817	PIKE	Bristol	GLS	pre 1813
6817	PILE	Any	All	pre 1770
6832	POUCHEE	Any	LDN	1800-1900
5942	QUELCH	Any	Any	All
6800	READ	Datchet	BKM	pre 1770
6771	RIGG	Oldham	OLD	1850-1920
6835	RILEY	North Fleet	KEN	1860-1910
6835	RILEY	Sandon	ESS	1780-1890
6835	RILEY	Springfield	ESS	1840-1890
6771	RINALDI	Lambeth	LDN	1892-1920
6809	ROPER	Any	BRK	1730-1790
6835	SAGE	Deptford	KEN	1700-1820
6779	SMALLBONE	Beenham	BRK	All
6779	SMALLBONE	Reading	BRK	1800+
6848	SNELL	All	SFK	PRE 1800
6832	STONE	Bethnal Green	LDN	1780-1900
6779	TAYLOR	Wokingham	BRK	pre 1850
4653	THOMPSON	Winterton	LEI	1650-1890
4653	THOMPSON	London	MDX	1840-1880
4653	THOMPSON	Walthamstow	ESS	1880-1960



6832	TILLEY	Southwark	SRY	1800-1900
5584	TURNER	Letcombe Bassett	BRK	1790-1840
6848	TYLER	All	BRK	1500-2009
6837	VENN	Maidenhead	BRK	1832-1914
6837	VENN	All	All	All
5584	WAIT(E)	Weyhill	HAM	1800-1860
6848	WALKER	All	MDX	PRE 1829
6800	WEBB	Swallowfield	BRK	pre 1740
6822	WHEATLAND	Greenham	BRK	1550-1830
6822	WHEATLAND	Thatcham	BRK	1550-1830
6835	WHITE	Deptford	KEN	1790-1860
6800	WHITE	Clewer/Windsor	BRK	pre 1860
6800	WHITE	Datchet	BKM	pre 1815
6848	WINDER	All	LAN	PRE 1900
6838	WISE	Any	BRK	1400-
6832	WISE	Ufton/Upton	BRK	1780-1900
6832	WOOD	Chelsea	LDN	1800-1900
6835	WOOLDRIDGE	Lewisham	KEN	1750-1880
6835	WOOLDRIDGE	Gt Grimsby	LIN	1870-1920
6835	WOOLDRIDGE	Hull	YKS	1900-1950



## Research Centre *services*

### **Berks FHS Research Centre Yeomanry House, 131 Castle Hill, Reading, Berks RG1 7TJ 0118 950 9553**

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

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

#### **Tuesdays**

**10.00 - 16.00, 19.00 - 21.30**

#### **Wednesdays and Thursdays**

**10.00 - 16.00**

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

**11.00 - 16.00**

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

#### **Berkshire Name Suite (BNS)**

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

- **Berkshire censuses and indexes for 1851, 1861 and 1871** (both complete but mainly unchecked) and **1881**
- **Berkshire Marriage Index**  
Over 95,000 entries from pre-1837 Berkshire parish registers. Note that the early entries only give dates and names of groom and bride. Later entries include parish if applicable, and whether married by licence.
- **Berkshire Burial Index (BBI)**  
Over 657,000 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 7,500 items. About 20 per cent of these specifically concern Berkshire, the majority of material being on other English counties, 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 12 September 14.30

Monday 16 November 19.30

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 at <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 34) the cost is £2. These fees include the search and a printout of up to 25 lines of results.

A search of **indexes to the 1851 census for other counties**, with 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 34 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.

# 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.*

## **Doreen and Tony Farmer**

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### *National Memorial Card Index A – Z*

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### *UK incoming passenger lists 1878 - 1960*

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### *History of Sculcoates*

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### *The workhouse website*

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### *Long Buckby*

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### *Porthkerry*

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### *Swinton*

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### *Royal visit and Cadeby mining disaster 1912*

Account of both the visit and disaster, and further source for list of casualties.  
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