

# Berkshire Family Historian

the quarterly journal of the Berkshire Family History Society

volume 33

Please note that for reasons of privacy personal contact details have been redacted from this online version. If you wish to contact someone named in this issue, please get in touch with the society.

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### *Family names appearing in this issue:*

Adams 25	Clegg 9, 10	Holmes 12	Platt 25
Ambrose 12, 13	Cox 25	Joplen 25	Reynard 25
Ashworth 11	Coxhead 9	Keep 25	Riddell 12
Atzema 28	Dollery 13	King 25	Sims 18
Belcher 25	Dudek 11	Kirby 13	Stephens 25
Bellas 25	Elliott 25	Knight 13	Stillman 18
Blunt 9	Fidel 9	Leaver 25	Strange 25
Booth 22	Foster 19	Long 9	Tuck 9
Bruce 13	Goswell 25	Matthews 25	Watkins 9
Burns 22	Gregory 22	Mills 28	Weston 13
Busby 12	Harenc 9	Mount 25	Whistler 25
Byard 13	Hervey 19	Paice 25	Wilkie 9
Clark 25	Hickman 25	Palmer 9	
Clarke 13	Holifield 13	Pearce 25	

*This index was suggested by Gillian Stevens, and is being tried as an experiment. It covers family names in articles, but no living people, nor names from Members' interests section on pages 32-33. Is it useful? The editor would welcome comments to <editor@berksfhs.org.uk>.*

# A new society website is coming

## *Chad Hanna offers a preview*

Satisfying the needs of website users presents a big challenge to our society, and since August 2009 a small team of society volunteers has been hard at work to meet it. The new website that they are creating will start to replace the existing one in the New Year.

The web address <[www.berksfhs.org.uk](http://www.berksfhs.org.uk)> will not change, but many of the present pages will look different, and important new features will appear. Above all, the new website will be simple to use, with clear navigational aids.

Here are a few of the elements of the new site:

- an improved news section
- resources for Berkshire (naturally) and out-of-county information
- Research Centre pages that showcase this key resource and offer an up-to-date virtual tour
- a flexible, easy-to-use calendar of branch meetings and other events
- in the longer term, a members' area where you can log in and update your surname interests and Birth Brief details.

### *Looking at some of these new features in more detail*

A Berkshire gazetteer will help you to find information on parishes of interest, and there will also be detail for other parts of the UK (especially adjacent counties) and Ireland.

You will be able to view branch activities and events in calendar format or as a list. The software can be tweaked to show only coming events, or to add past and future ones too. All will be colour-coded to help you to identify branch or project meetings quickly.

In time you will be able to sign in to access the members' area. Registration will be simple, giving you full access to update your surname interests, to add to your Birth Brief and to search any of the available datasets.

BerksFHS Books is a vital part of the society, and the bookshop pages will be revamped in a later phase using a system called Virtuemart. This allows

insertion of pictures and reviews of CDs, books and other items, and can even add post and packing to your orders automatically, based on item weights. Order and payment handling will be much simpler.

Search engines like Google may not keep up with all of these changes during transition, but there will be a search facility on the new site. The advice is to visit <[www.berksfhs.org.uk](http://www.berksfhs.org.uk)> regularly and check out news of the changes yourself.

The new website uses a content management system (CMS), which allows different contributors to prepare material for the site, and to revise or update it, without everything going through a webmaster. If you can use a word processor or write an email you can create an article with the help of a CMS.

The website team includes Brian Wilcock, Mike Dabbs, Ken Wheeler, Gillian Stevens, Derek Trinder and me, Chad Hanna. If you would like to help us, either by writing a piece on your local parish, by writing an extension to Joomla! in PHP, or something in between, please contact me at <[itmanager@berksfhs.org.uk](mailto:itmanager@berksfhs.org.uk)>.

### *And for those wanting technical details*

The new website is based on Joomla!

<[www.Joomla.org](http://www.Joomla.org)>, a popular CMS written in a language called PHP, and which stores articles from the pages in a MySQL database. This allows the look of pages to be managed independently of article content. To illustrate this, we are working with two basic colours for the site, "Dodger Blue" and "Maize", and two typefaces, Verdana and Georgia, as used in the *Berkshire Family Historian*. With colours, font sizes and faces kept together in one place, alterations should be straightforward. For the existing site, these are often set separately for each page, making it hard to achieve a consistent look.

Some other societies' websites use Joomla! including Buckinghamshire, Rugby FHG, London Westminster & Middlesex and the two Cheshire FHSSs.



## Chairman's corner

Have you ever thought of how many facets there are to a family history society? Just jotting down items that could be included on this page underlines the point, before starting to squeeze a few of them into the allotted column inches.

A new website is coming. When did you last visit your society's website? It's the first place to look for news, special offers and event details. Since August a small group led by Chad Hanna has been hard at work to create a brand new website (see opposite). Everyone involved is very excited at how the content and structure are now starting to come together. The new site will soon be working and accessible to all, so keep checking <[www.berksfhs.org.uk](http://www.berksfhs.org.uk)>, and watch out for the switchover when it comes.

### New Berkshire Burial Index

The soon-to-be-published eighth edition of the Berkshire Burial Index CD is a timely reminder of the sterling work of David Wright and his team, some of whom work far from the royal county. This latest edition will contain more than 670,000 entries; if you have Berkshire ancestors it's an essential resource for your research.

### Changes with projects

Beverley Charlton has recently stepped down as projects co-ordinator, and we must thank her for putting projects on a more organised footing over the past two years. We're delighted that Margaret Young has succeeded Bev in leading this key aspect of the society's activities, even though it leaves the Executive Committee looking for a new minutes secretary.

### Special evenings at the BRO

Quarterly members and friends evenings continue in 2010 at the Berkshire Record Office. Get out the new diary and mark 2 February, 13 April and 13 July, from 18.00 to 20.00, and make a note to bring a friend along too. The Research Centre will also be open from 18.00 till 21.30 on those evenings.

### More at the Research Centre

Talking of the Research Centre, have you used it lately in your research? Find My Past and Ancestry Library Edition are now there for you to use (a small fee is payable in each case) plus more electronic databases, a searchable catalogue of the library holdings (nearly 8,000 items). Research Centre manager Arthur Beech and his team of research assistants are on hand with help and advice. If you live within reach of Reading this is an unparalleled one-stop-shop for your research, wherever your ancestors came from.

### Dates for your diary in 2010

Events large and small kept helpers busy through the autumn, and our thanks go to all who supported the society. Early in 2010 volunteers will be at work at two more events helping to raise general awareness of your society. Keep Sunday 31 January free for the Bracknell family history fair, where the society provides three visiting speakers. And remember the UK's premier event for family historians: *Who Do You Think You Are? Live* returns to Kensington Olympia from 26 to 28 February. A few extra helpers would be welcome on the teams for these two events. An outgoing disposition is the key quality needed. You don't have to be expert in all aspects of Berkshire family history research.

Regular contributions and reliable volunteer support are vital to all of your society's activities. If you could offer some time or specialist skills, please let me know – contact details are inside the front cover. And if you have ideas and suggestions that could help to take your society forward, why not share those too?

Derek Trinder  
Chairman

# Berkshire Burial Index 8th edition

Parishes and periods included in the latest (8th) edition of the Berkshire Burial Index (BBI) are listed below. Available early in 2010, the latest CD contains over 670,000 entries, with nearly 60,000 entries added since the last edition was published. All parishes where new details appear are named in red,

Abingdon Baptist (Lower Meeting House, Ock St) 1764 - 1837  
Abingdon Congregational (Upper Meeting House) 1730 - 1740 and 1787 - 1836  
**Abingdon St Helen** 1702 - 1711 (BTs), 1728 - 1729 (BTs), 1741 - 1742 (BTs), 1758 - 1759 (BTs), *1760 - 1761 (BTs)*, 1762 (BTs), 1772 (BTs), 1805 - 1808 (BTs) and 1809 - 1819 (BTs)  
**Abingdon St Nicholas** *1558 - 1608, 1625 - 1692* and 1704 - 1880  
Aldermaston St Mary the Virgin 1558 - 1672, 1672 - 1677 (BTs) and 1678 - 1992  
**Aldworth St Mary** 1556 - 1812 and 1813 - 1978  
Appleford SS Peter & Paul 1564 - 1988  
**Appleton St Laurence** 1710 - 1730, *1730 - 1801* and 1802 - 1891  
Arborfield St Bartholomew 1580 - 1707 (BTs), 1707 - 1736, 1736 - 1739 (BTs) and 1739 - 1925  
Ardington Holy Trinity 1789 - 1929  
Ascot Heath All Saints 1865 - 1958  
Ashampstead St Clement 1607 - 1686 (BTs), 1686 - 1956  
**Ashbury St Mary** 1612 - 1638 (BTs), 1653 - 1683, 1683 - 1687 (BTs), 1687 - 1869, *1869 - 1966* and 1967 - 1993  
Aston Tirrold Independent 1763 - 1837  
Aston Tirrold St Michael 1813 - 1960  
Avington 1700 - 1725 (BTs) and 1727 - 1994  
Barkham St James 1539 - 1733, 1733 - 1740 (BTs) and 1741 - 1985  
Basildon St Bartholomew 1667 - 1982  
Bearwood St Catherine 1846 - 1929  
Beech Hill St Mary the Virgin 1868 - 1996  
Beedon St Nicholas 1681 - 1969  
**Beenham St Mary** 1561 - 1907 and *1907 - 1983*  
Besselsleigh St Lawrence 1689 - 1994  
Binfield All Saints 1731 - 1957  
Bisham All Saints 1560 - 1707, 1707 - 1708 (BTs) and 1709 - 1849  
Blewbury St Michael 1588 - 1674, 1675 - 1720 (BTs) and 1720 - 1855  
Boxford St Andrew 1558 - 1876  
Bracknell Holy Trinity 1851 - 1945  
Bracknell Independent (Congregational) 1822 - 1859  
Bradfield St Andrew 1540 - 1685, 1691 - 1693 (BTs) and 1695 - 1952  
Bradfield Workhouse 1845 - 1932  
**Bray St Michael** 1607 - 1636 (BTs), 1654 - 1722, *1722 - 1763* and 1763 - 1929  
Brightwalton All Saints 1562 - 1922  
**Brightwell St Agatha** *1615 - 1690* and 1691 - 1902  
Brimpton St Peter 1607 - 1674 (BTs), 1678 - 1734, 1735 - 1755 (BTs) and 1756 - 1901  
Buckland St Mary the Virgin 1751 - 1930  
Bucklebury St Mary the Virgin 1539 - 1910  
Burghfield St Mary 1559 - 2005  
Buscot St Mary 1799 - 1950  
Catmore St Margaret 1728 - 1810 and 1814 - 1985  
Caversham Hemdean Road Cemetery 1924 - 1993  
Caversham St Peter 1597 - 1955  
Chaddleworth St Andrew 1538 - 1676, 1677 (BTs) and 1678 - 1919  
Charney Bassett St Peter 1813 - 1979  
Chieveley St Mary the Virgin 1560 - 1643 and 1647 - 2003  
Childrey St Mary the Virgin 1813 - 1883  
Chilton All Saints 1608 - 1635 (BTs), 1677 - 1812, 1813 - 1835 (BTs) and 1960 - 1992  
Cholsey County Lunatic Asylum 1894 - 1917  
**Cholsey St Mary** 1540 - 1611, 1612 - 1617 (BTs), 1617 - 1621, 1621 - 1629 (BTs), 1631 - 1690, *1691 - 1746* and 1746 - 1980  
**Clewer St Andrew** 1607 - 1897 and *1897 - 1908*

and new periods included are in bold italics. The first edition of 2002 offered some 212,000 entries, since when an average of 65,000 burial details have been added to this key research resource every year. The new edition will be available from the bookshop – watch <[www.berksfhs.org.uk/berksfhsbooks](http://www.berksfhs.org.uk/berksfhsbooks)>.

Cold Ash St Mark 1865 - 1947  
Coleshill All Saints 1753 - 1986  
Combe St Swithin 1729 - 1812  
Compton SS Mary & Nicholas 1553 - 2005  
**Compton Beauchamp St Swithin** *1551 - 1775, 1776 - 1786 (BTs)* and 1790 - 1994  
Cookham Holy Trinity 1656 - 1935  
Cookham Dean St John the Baptist 1845 - 1973  
Cranbourne St Peter 1850 - 1997  
Crowthorne St John the Baptist 1900 - 1968  
**Cumnor St Michael** *1755 - 1812* and 1813 - 1970  
**Denchworth St James** 1538 - 1812, 1814 - 1835 (BTs) and *1836 - 2007*  
Didcot All Saints 1813 - 1942  
**Drayton St Peter** *1813 - 1862* and 1919 - 1967  
Earley St Peter 1854 - 1916  
**East Challow St Nicholas** 1778 - 1829 and *1867 - 2006*  
**East Garston All Saints** 1607 - 1668 (BTs), *1693 - 1750, 1750 - 1751 (BTs), 1751 - 1757* and 1758 - 1876  
East Hendred St Augustine 1813 - 1863  
East Ilsley St Mary 1607 - 1638 (BTs) and 1649 - 2005  
East Lockinge All Saints 1546 - 1812, 1813 - 1835 (BTs) and 1862 - 1866  
East Shefford 1604 - 1734, 1737 - 1770 (BTs) and 1774 to 1917  
Eastbury St James the Great 1867 - 2005  
Easthampstead SS Michael & Mary Magdalene 1558 - 1915  
Eaton Hastings St Michael & All Angels 1813 - 1998  
Enborne St Michael & All Angels 1607 - 1638 (BTs) and 1726 - 1929  
**Englefield St Mark** *1559 - 1812* and 1813 - 1935  
Faringdon All Saints 1644 - 1948  
**Farnborough All Saints** 1607 - 1738 (BTs), *1740 - 1812*, 1813 - 1835 (BTs) and *1836 - 2007*  
Fawley St Mary 1550 - 1987  
Fernham St John 1860 - 1994  
Finchampstead St James 1607 - 1636 (BTs) and 1724 - 1812  
Frlsham St Frideswide 1607 - 1710 (BTs), 1711 - 1768, 1769 - 1804 (BTs) and 1813 - 1835 (BTs)  
Fyfield St Nicholas 1605 - 1812 (BTs) and 1813 - 1906  
Grazeley Holy Trinity 1851 - 1964  
**Great Coxwell St Giles** *1792 - 1812* and 1813 - 2002  
Greenham St Mary 1799 - 1914  
Grove St James 1832 - 1926  
Hagbourne St Andrew 1612 - 1638 (BTs), 1661 - 1751, 1745 - 1756 (BTs) and 1757 - 1973  
Hampstead Norreys St Mary 1543 - 1593, 1598 - 1626, 1628 - 1638 (BTs) and 1666 - 1919  
Hamstead Marshall St Mary 1605 - 1675 (BTs), 1675 - 1812 and 1813 - 1836 (BTs)  
Harwell St Matthew 1688 - 1943  
Hatford St George/ Holy Trinity 1539 - 1969  
Hermitage Holy Trinity 1840 - 1978  
Hinton Waldrist St Margaret 1813 - 1977  
Hungerford Independent 1819 - 1830  
Hungerford St Lawrence 1559 - 1969  
Hurley St Mary the Virgin 1563 - 1864  
Hurst St Nicholas 1579 - 1582 (BTs), 1585 - 1605, 1605 - 1621 (BTs), 1621 - 1623, 1623 - 1633 (BTs) and 1633 - 2004  
**Inkpen St Michael & All Angels** 1607 - 1623 (BTs), *1725 - 1812* and 1813 - 1986  
Kingston Bagpuize St John the Baptist 1541 - 1812  
Kingston Lisle St John the Baptist 1559 - 1713

David Wright

Kintbury St Mary 1558 - 1925  
 Knowl Hill St Peter 1842 - 2002  
 Lambourn St Michael & All Angels 1560 - 1933 and 1933 - 1947  
 Lambourn Woodlands St Mary 1842 - 2005  
 Leckhampstead St James 1861 - 2007  
 Letcombe Bassett St Michael & All Angels 1776 - 1989  
 Letcombe Regis St Andrew 1798 - 1863  
 Littleworth Holy Ascension 1839 - 1909  
 Little Wittenham St Peter 1543 - 1811 and 1813 - 1992  
 Longcot St Mary the Virgin 1813 - 1993  
 Longworth St Mary 1563 - 1648 and 1654 - 1940  
 Long Wittenham St Mary the Virgin 1737 - 1979  
 Lyford St Mary the Virgin 1843 - 1978  
 Maidenhead Boyne Hill All Saints 1857 - 1948  
 Maidenhead Congregational 1791 - 1837 and 1845 - 1908  
 Maidenhead High Street Wesleyan Methodist 1858 - 1903  
 Maidenhead New Chapel (Countess of Huntingdon) 1843 - 1858  
 Maidenhead St Luke 1866 - 1890  
 Marcham All Saints 1805 - 1943 and Feb to Jul 1953  
 Marlston St Mary 1925 - 1998  
 Midgham St Matthew 1638 - 1733 and 1753 - 1980  
 Milton St Blaise 1662 - 1938  
 Mortimer West End St Saviour 1869 - 1982  
 Moulsoford St John the Baptist 1617 - 1773 (BTs), 1773 - 1784, 1787 (BTs) and 1788 - 1992  
 Newbury Baptist 1773 - 1823  
 Newbury Baptist (Northcroft Lane) 1818 - 1837  
 Newbury Lower Meeting House Independent 1784 - 1837  
 Newbury Newtown Rd Cemetery 1868 - 1884 and 1898 - 2006  
 Newbury St John the Evangelist 1860 - 1900  
 Newbury St Nicolas 1746 - 1890  
 Newbury Shaw Cemetery 1948 - 1951  
 Newbury Upper Meeting House Presbyterian 1783 - 1836  
 New Windsor All Saints (recorded in register of New Windsor St John the Baptist) 1974 - 1988  
 New Windsor St George's Chapel 1625 - 1737  
 New Windsor St John the Baptist 1559 - 1988  
 North Hinksey St Lawrence 1607 - 1702 (BTs) and 1703 - 1900  
 North Moreton All Saints 1735 - 1996  
 Oare St Bartholomew 1854 - 1975  
 Old Windsor SS Peter & Andrew 1612 - 1632 (BTs), 1634 - 1771 (BTs) and 1772 - 1940  
 Padworth St John the Baptist 1607 - 1723 (BTs) and 1724 - 1981  
 Pangbourne Independent Chapel 1836 only  
 Pangbourne St James the Less 1559 - 1926  
 Peasemore St Barnabas 1538 - 2007  
 Purley St Mary the Virgin 1663 - 1985  
 Pusey All Saints 1607 - 1835 (BTs)  
 Radley St James the Great 1599 - 1812 and 1813 - 1981  
 Reading Broad Street Independent 1787 - 1869 and 1875 - 1881  
 Reading Castle Street Congregational 1857 - 1862  
 Reading Henley Road (Caversham) Crematorium 1932 - 1955 and 1955 - 1958  
 Reading Holy Trinity 1834 - 1855  
 Reading King's Road Baptist Church 1785 - 1835  
 Reading London Road Cemetery (consecrated) 1843 - 1863, 1865 - 1909, 1909 - 1910, 1910 - 1929, and 1929 - 1959  
 Reading London Road Cemetery (unconsecrated) 1843 - 1867, 1867 - 1883 and 1885 - 1895  
 Reading Prison 1862 - 1913  
 Reading St Giles 1564 - 1644, 1648 - 1895 and 1955 - 1990  
 Reading St Laurence 1603 - 1901  
 Reading St Mary 1698 - 1942 and 1947 - 1960  
 Reading St Stephen 1929 - 1956  
 Remenham St Nicholas 1605 - 1696 (BTs), 1697 - 1762, 1762 - 1764 (BTs) and 1764 - 1909  
 Ruscombe St James the Great 1569 - 1812 and 1813 - 1835 (BTs)  
 Sandhurst St Michael 1580 - 1593 (BTs), 1603 - 1696, 1610 - 1812 (BTs) and 1813 - 1959  
 Shalbourne St Michael 1678 - 1862  
 Shaw cum Donnington St Mary the Virgin 1563 - 1637 (BTs), 1647 - 1932, 1933 - 1982 and 1982 - 2007  
 Shellingford St Faith 1581 - 1812 and 1813 - 1836 (BTs)  
 Shinfield Cemetery 1928 - 1991  
 Shinfield St Mary 1602 - 1638 (BTs) and 1653 - 1907  
 Shippon St Mary Magdalene 1856 - 1974  
 Shottesbrooke St John the Baptist 1567 - 1811 and 1813 - 1836 (BTs)  
 Shrivenham St Andrew 1782 - 1812 and 1813 - 1867  
 Sonning St Andrew 1728 - 1802, 1803 - 1812 and 1813 - 1906  
 Sotwell St James 1693 - 1812 and 1813 - 1836 (BTs)  
 South Hinksey St Lawrence 1607 - 1693 (BTs) and 1693 - 1894  
 South Moreton St John the Baptist 1757 - 1812 and 1813 - 1994  
 Sparsholt Holy Cross 1558 - 1865  
 Speen St Mary the Virgin 1614 - 1628 (BTs) and 1629 - 1904  
 Speenhamland St Mary 1831 - 1881 and 1953 - 1971  
 Stanford Dingley St Denys 1538 - 1979  
 Stanford in the Vale St Denys 1774 - 1812 and 1813 - 1894  
 Steventon St Michael & All Angels 1796 - 1812 and 1813 - 1922  
 Stratfield Mortimer St Mary 1681 - 1977  
 Streatley St Mary 1679 - 1907  
 Stubbings St James the Less 1852 - 1949  
 Sulham St Nicholas 1612 - 1724 (BTs) and 1724 - 1983  
 Sulhamstead Abbots St Mary 1602 - 2007  
 Sulhamstead Bannister St Michael 1608 - 1637 (BTs), 1654 - 1811 and 1813 - 1994  
 Sunningdale Holy Trinity 1842 - 1938  
 Sunninghill St Michael & All Angels 1561 - 1641, 1653 - 1947  
 Sunningwell St Leonard 1741 - 1812 and 1812 - 1960  
 Sutton Courtenay All Saints 1696 - 1728, 1728 - 1775, 1797 - 1812 and 1813 - 2002  
 Swallowfield All Saints 1539 - 1552, 1587 - 1597 and 1638 - 1931  
 Thatcham/Bucklebury Congregational/Independent Chapel 1819 - 1871  
 Thatcham Cemetery 1887 - 1903  
 Thatcham St Mary 1561-1587, 1588 - 1639, 1640 - 1766, 1767 only (BTs) and 1768 - 1914  
 Theale Holy Trinity 1832 - 1932  
 Tidmarsh St Lawrence 1608 - 1729 (BTs) and 1730 - 1999  
 Tilehurst St George 1886 - 1954  
 Tilehurst St Michael 1614 - 1629 (BTs) and 1630 - 1941  
 Twyford St Mary 1847 - 1967  
 Uffington St Mary 1607 - 1638 (BTs), 1654 - 1744, 1748 - 1749 and 1760 - 1946  
 Ufton Nervet St Peter 1607 - 1635 (BTs) and 1636 - 1990  
 Upton St Mary 1862 - 1990  
 Wallingford Baptist 1796 - 1837  
 Wallingford Independent 1814 - 1836  
 Wallingford St Leonard 1671 - 1678 (in register of Wallingford St Mary the More), 1813 - 1869 and 1873 - 1975  
 Wallingford St Mary the More 1671 - 1678, 1711 - 1712, 1747 - 1796, 1796 - 1939 and 1961 - 1976  
 Wallingford St Peter 1671 - 1678 (in register of Wallingford St Mary the More), 1711 - 1862 and 1865 - 1969  
 Waltham St Lawrence 1813 - 1995  
 Wantage SS Peter & Paul 1798 - 1812 and 1813 - 1935  
 Warfield St Michael 1779 - 1922  
 Wargrave St Mary 1539 - 1978  
 Wasing St Nicholas 1608 - 1736 (BTs) and 1763 - 1990  
 Welford St Gregory 1649 - 1749 and 1749 - 1900  
 West Hanney St James the Great 1783 - 1964  
 West Hendred Holy Trinity 1727 - 1972  
 West Ilsley All Saints 1558 - 1967  
 West Shefford St Mary 1599 - 1897  
 West Woodhay St Laurence 1612 - 1638 (BTs), 1656 - 1688, 1689 - 1692 (BTs), 1692 - 1724, 1725 - 1744, 1744 - 1768 (BTs), 1771 - 1812 and 1813 - 1985  
 White Waltham St Mary 1813 - 1937  
 Winkfield St Mary 1720 - 1778, 1797 - 1812 and 1813 - 1961  
 Winterbourne St James the Less 1567 - 1979  
 Wokingham All Saints 1685 - 1812 and 1813 - 1947  
 Wokingham Baptist Church 1841 - 1906  
 Wokingham Free Church Burial Ground 1921 - 2004  
 Wokingham St Paul 1864 - 1961  
 Wokingham St Sebastian 1866 - 2002  
 Woodley Congregational (Woodley Chapel) 1858 - 1905  
 Woolhampton St Peter 1607 - 1636 (BTs), 1636 - 1746, 1749 - 1759 (BTs) and 1761 - 1926  
 Wootton St Peter 1813 - 1947  
 Wytham All Saints 1589 - 1812  
 Yattendon SS Peter & Paul 1558 - 1812 and 1813 - 1982

# Around the branches

## *Bracknell and Wokingham Branch*

*<bracknell@berksfhs.org.uk>*

Following successful completion of the Wokingham Free Church MIs project, work by branch volunteers is well under way to do the same for Wokingham's St. Paul's Church.

An experimental drop-in session is planned for November in Sandhurst library. The library is small, so the session will consist of pre-booked 30-minute sessions with one helper.

A "super family history favourites list" is now on the computers at the Bracknell library, which should be an enormous help both to researchers during drop-in sessions and to the public at large. It also links in to the Berks FHS website.

## *Computer Branch*

*<computerbranch@berksfhs.org.uk>*

A one-off talk has been scheduled at Twyford Library on Tuesday 3 November, and a drop-in session at Woodley Library on Tuesday 17 November. Hopefully the drop-in sessions will continue on a monthly basis (other than December). Woodley Library is keen to forge links with the Sunrise Senior Living Centre in Woodley, and

Gillian is in discussion with them about a talk similar to that planned for Twyford.

As FFHS representatives, Chad and Gillian participated in the Festival of Innovation at Wroughton, Wiltshire on 12 and 13 September, taking some Berks FHS handouts and CDs.

## *Newbury Branch*

*<newbury@berksfhs.org.uk>*

Action is awaited from West Berks Council with regard to the proposed West Berkshire Heritage Forum. As branch representatives, Jane Burrell and Jenny Peet attended a meeting held last July. Derek Trinder and Penny Stokes were also present. It was apparent that the majority of those present were in favour of further action. The next step will be to set up a steering group to determine what kind of forum would meet the needs of West Berkshire's heritage organisations.

Jane Burrell continues to lobby vigorously for restoration of facilities at West Berks Museum which, having been partly closed for over a year by a fire enforcement notice, shut its doors completely to the public on 28 September. Re-opening is scheduled for 1 April 2010. The footprint of the museum is not to be increased, as had been hoped, and there is concern about any possible contraction of facilities.

Several members of the branch attended the inaugural lecture of the Friends of Newtown Road Cemetery on 7 October. There is scope for members to help the history group research people buried in the cemetery.

## *Reading Branch*

*<reading@berksfhs.org.uk>*

As this year is the 70th anniversary of the beginning of the Second World War members are invited to bring information and photographs of wartime ancestors to the meeting in December.

Margaret Crook, the branch chairman, will talk about her father's experience as a parachute instructor in the Middle East, and all are welcome to participate with their stories.

## *Vale of White Horse Branch*

*<vale@berksfhs.org.uk>*

Work is proceeding apace on the transcription of MIs at Drayton, where nine branch members attended the last session. Sue Matthews hopes to have everything complete for February 2010, when there is to be a centenary celebration by bell-ringers.

Five members of the Vale Branch braved competition from Morris dancers to put on a display and book stall in Abingdon Market Square for National Heritage Day on 12 September on Abingdon Market Square.

## Windsor, Slough and Maidenhead Branch

<windsor@berksfhs.org.uk>

In early September Pauline Hodges and Valerie Storie gave a presentation to the Burnham Afternoon Townswomen's Guild. It was loosely based on the Hatto murder at the farmhouse within the grounds of Burnham Abbey in 1853, but whereas their previous presentations (to Berks FHS branches) were based on FH issues, this account was a more general romp from 1266, when the abbey was founded, to the present day. Called *Tales of Burnham Abbey through the ages* it still related the murder story, but also recounted some less than religious behaviour from the pre-Reformation community.

## Berkshire FHS at Bracknell Family History Fair

on Sunday 31 January 2010 from 10.00 to 17.00  
at the Sport and Leisure Centre, Bagshot Road (A322), RG12 9SE

As in previous years we have organised talks from speakers on various subjects in the Forest Suite throughout the day. We have three sessions, each of an hour, with time for questions:

10.45 *How to bring your family history to life using heritage sources*

Charlotte Wiberg of the National Monuments Record

12.00 *How can you get the most out of the 1911 census?*

Debra Chatfield of Find My Past

1.15 *How DNA testing helps you confirm your family links*

Chris Pomeroy

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

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

or from the Berks FHS stand on the day.

Chris Pomeroy will be on the society's stall for an hour after his talk, and David Chilton will also be available.

stumbled upon in A2A: a document at Dorset History Centre, viz

*D/HAB/B3 1722-1725 Papers in case of John Field, solicitor of Hampstead Marshall (Berks) and Elizabeth Crocker, a debtor including accounts for journeys to find sweethearts and disprove scandal.*

It's almost worth the journey to Dorset to learn more...

Dates for your 2010 diary			
date	event	venue	more details
10.00-17.00 Sun 31 Jan	Bracknell Family History Fair	Sport and Leisure Centre, Bagshot Road (A322) RG12 9SE	see page 7 or < <a href="http://www.berksfhs.org.uk/bracknellfair/talks">www.berksfhs.org.uk/ bracknellfair/talks</a> >
18.00-20.00 Tue 2 Feb	BRO special opening for Berks FHS members	BRO Coley Ave, Reading RG1 6AF	see Chairman's corner p3
10.00-17.00 Sun 21 Feb	Oxfordshire & Bucks Family History Fair	Exeter Hall Oxford Rd, Kidlington OX5 1AB	< <a href="http://www.familyhistoryfairs.org">www.familyhistoryfairs.org</a> >
26-28 Feb	<i>Who Do You Think You Are?</i> <i>LIVE</i>	Olympia London W14 8DU	< <a href="http://www.bbcwhodoyouthinkyouare.com">www.bbcwhodoyouthink youare.com</a> >
Fri 9 - Sun 11 April	Guild of One-Name Studies Conference and AGM	Oxford Belfry Hotel Thame OX9 2JW	< <a href="http://www.one-name.org">www.one-name.org</a> >
18.00-20.00 Tue 13 April	BRO special opening for Berks FHS members	BRO Coley Ave Reading RG1 6AF	see Chairman's corner p3

Among the many benefits of belonging to the Berkshire Family Society is the opportunity to meet others researching the same names and family interests, no matter what part of the world they live in. Two of the society's services facilitate this: the Births Briefs Index and the Members' Interests Index, both on <[www.berksfhs.org.uk](http://www.berksfhs.org.uk)>.

Chad Hanna recently totted up some statistics:

The Birth Briefs Index currently holds 11,984 entries, of which  
995 are from outside the UK  
10,989 are from inside the UK

The index retains briefs from lapsed members, but 1,526 current members were found – more than 75 per cent of the total membership. 9,575 Birth Brief submitters have supplied an email address.

The number of current Members' Interests has fallen since the last update in January 2009, probably because this is earlier in the society's membership year.

8,885 members' interests are currently listed  
805 interests are from outside the UK  
8,080 interests are from inside the UK  
7,350 interests have email addresses for contact  
1,535 interests don't have email addresses

Are you getting as much as you could from these services? Are your entries up to date? Do we have your current email address? Please see <[www.berksfhs.org.uk](http://www.berksfhs.org.uk)> or your Members' Handbook for details.

## Bucks county open day

Margaret Crook, Jocie McBride, Brian Wilcock and Mike Booth represented the society at a free family history open day organised by Buckinghamshire County Council at the new library in High Wycombe on Saturday 17 October. The event attracted a fair amount of attention, as there were two talks on topics of interest to family historians, as well as stands from the local family history societies. The society's representatives made several new contacts and advised on Research Centre facilities. A useful contribution to society funds came from the sale of CDs, books and maps.



# New additions to the BRO

## Deeds and estate records

- 1773 conveyance of a mansion in Clewer, then known as Gloucester Lodge, and subsequently called St Leonard's Hill (D/EZ164)
- deeds for The Beeches, Wokingham, 1851-79 (D/EX2054)
- deeds for property in
  - Binfield, Eaton Hastings, Faringdon, Lambourn, Thatcham, Windsor and Wokingham, 1711-94 (D/EZ163)
  - Reading, 1871 - 1966 (D/EX2101)
  - Waltham St Lawrence, 1832 (D/EX2100)
- a set of bills from James Fidel of Faringdon to Lord Barrington of Shrivenham, who employed him to carry out various jobs on the estate, 1815-18 (D/EZ155)
- a small, miscellaneous nineteenth-century collection relating to the Harenc family, Robert Blunt and the Clegg family of Windsor (D/EX1922)

## Photographs and drawings

- indexed photograph album of children treated at the Finchampstead and Barkham Infant Welfare Clinic c1925-58, originally presented to Nurse Watkins when she retired, part of the collection of the Finchampstead Society (D/EX665)
- Berkshire scenes taken by commercial photographer Thomas Wilkie between roughly the 1950s and 1980s (D/EX1934)
- 1970s scenes in Cookham, East Hagbourne, Sonning, Wantage, Windsor and Wokingham (D/EX2063)
- small collection of photographs of Marlston House and estate in Bucklebury, home of the biscuit-making Palmer family, c1896 - 1910s (D/EX2057)
- view of London Road, Reading, c1910 (D/EX2080)

- Christmas party at St Peter's Church, Earley, 1923 (D/EX2090)
- early twentieth-century photographs and illustrated Sunday School material added to the records of Wesley Methodist Church, Reading (D/MS60)
- late twentieth-century drawings of Berkshire pubs made by a specialist stationery company (D/EX2103)
- album relating to the *Windsor through the ages* pageant held in Windsor and Slough to celebrate the coronation of George VI in 1937 (D/EX2072)

## Schools and women's groups

- administrative and pupil records, school publications and photographs of Lambrook School, a boys' school in Winkfield, 1870 - 1997 (D/EX1832)
- large collection of records from closed branches of the Women's Institute, 1916 - 2006 (D/EX1925)
- records of Wokingham Afternoon Townswomen's Guild, 1962 - 2008 (D/EX2098)

## Wills and family papers

- probate of Lucy Coxhead, widow of the minister of Newbury Baptist Church, 1865 (D/EX2025)
- papers relating to the will of Sir George Henry Long of Windsor, 1900-54 (D/EX2071)
- papers relating to the Tuck family of Maidenhead and White Waltham, 1867 - 1933, and to property in Warfield, 1824 - 1952 (D/EX2077)

# Broadcasting your family history

*Karen Kimberley (6901),  
one of the society's newest members,  
gives a personal perspective on how a  
phone call from BBC Radio Berkshire  
started a whistle-stop journey into stories  
surrounding some of her more colourful  
twentieth-century ancestors*

Can you imagine *Who Do You Think You Are?* as a radio serial? That's my best summary of what started on 1 September as I arrived at Caversham Park, home of BBC Radio Berkshire, clutching my battered brown suitcase of family memorabilia. There was just time for a brief introduction to Derek Trinder before we were ushered into the studio to meet Anne Diamond, the show's presenter. Sixty minutes sped by in a whirlwind of talk, news, music, sport – and family history. And before we knew it, our first live broadcast was over.

A few days earlier I finalised the key questions that I was trying to answer with Duncan from the BBC. There were six in all, and three are covered here:

*Was great-grandmother Florence Clegg truly a suffragette as family stories suggested?  
What could we uncover about Franciszek Dudek who came to England after the Second World War and married my grandmother?  
And then there was the small matter of Harry the supposed bigamist.*

What might we find? As a brand new family historian I was hoping that Berkshire Family History Society could help and advise me on finding some answers.

That first broadcast set the scene. I had spoken with family members to ensure that they were happy for me to disclose a few ancestral secrets. They also armed me with family papers, photographs, certificates, air-mail letters and even a wonderful autograph book that had belonged to my great-grandmother. I outlined my questions, and painted sound portraits of my main characters, using a few details from surviving papers. Derek offered his suggestions on how I might set about finding some answers.

A few days later, clutching my part-completed pedigree chart, I met Derek and Jocie McBride at the Berks FHS Research Centre in Reading. I had no appreciation of how many of the centre's resources would help in my research. Most of my ancestors are from Lancashire, never mind any Polish links. It goes to show that joining your local family history society makes sense no matter where your ancestors came from.

We spent a morning teasing facts and dates from my many documents to build timelines for the main characters. Already my perspectives and understanding were changing and new thoughts arising – and we had been nowhere near resources like Find My Past and Free BMD in the computer suite yet.

The next live broadcast was two weeks away, and it needed targeted research to deliver results. Information gaps had to be filled quickly, which meant certificates to order, a copy of a will to be obtained, service records to inquire into and more questions for my family. Thank goodness for email and the internet – and for friendly responses from archives and record centres that I contacted, going the extra mile when they heard about our time-scales.

The broadcast on 21 September featured Florence Clegg, my great-grandmother. By now I knew she was the fourth of six children of Sam Clegg, a machine fitter, and Jane Wolfenden. In 1903 she left Rochdale for London to train for two years at Whitelands College, at the top of the Kings Road. The first training college for women teachers, Whitelands was very progressive for its time. Archivist Gilly King sent copies of Florence's record and loaned original volumes of journals

in which Florence is featured. I discovered that Florence taught in Rochdale after leaving college. Six years later she married carpet designer Harry Ashworth, from the same street. Those journals unravelled over 100 names in her autograph book too, sorting students, friends and family, and giving me an insight into the life of my Edwardian Sloane Ranger.

Was she a suffragette? In London, probably not, but I could imagine some heated discussions about women's suffrage. If Florence was involved, it would have been in the Rochdale/Manchester area, where mill girls featured in many demonstrations. Despite searches in local newspapers of the time, Florence has yet to appear in reports. But remember, the Pankhursts came from Manchester, campaigned there initially and returned to speak in Rochdale and Manchester after moving to London.

We also introduced Harry the supposed bigamist. What a loveable rogue he was, with his eye for the girls and a string of illicit liaisons through the war years, despite being married to Olive and with a young family. This was all revealed from letters that Harry (foolishly or otherwise) chose to keep. He could be economical with the truth too, on his qualifications, memberships and money (he claimed never to have any). And he used different names – Henry, Harry and David being three we know about.

Before our final live broadcast on 12 October I had two breakthroughs. Harry had died in the 1960s, and I went to First Avenue House in Holborn to see if he left a will. He had. With that and a copy certificate, I held proof positive of his second family. And he left money that could have bought three houses outright too!

We talked next about Franciszek Dudek who

married my grandmother after the Second World War. Sadly, he died in America before his daughter (my aunt) was born, and we knew little of his early history. Here the Polish Records Section at RAF Northolt came up trumps for me. He rejoined the Polish Army in Paris in April 1945 and a file existed for him. Only one small problem: most of it was in Polish. Barbara Stryjak – one of Derek's contacts – provided the help needed. Suddenly, I knew his birthplace, parents, sister, schooling, religion, occupation, physical features... and I have a springboard for research further back in Poland. In 1939 as a rifleman in the 2nd Podhale Rifle Regiment he faced the Germans as they invaded Poland. Franciszek's campaign ended abruptly on 10 September 1939 when his area was overrun, and there is no record of him for five and a half years. Was he incarcerated? Yes he was – the word *niewoli* appearing once in his records confirms that he got to Paris from a prisoner-of-war camp. Awaited replies to my international enquiries may tell more.

This short radio-inspired journey has been remarkable. I find myself thinking about people I did not know before, but with whom I am connected and who now seem very real. I must thank the society and BBC Radio Berkshire for helping me to make a flying start with my research. I am excited about all those ancestors patiently waiting for me to find them from intelligent investigation – though the next stages will probably be at a less frenetic pace!



*Karen Kimberley (right) with Anne Diamond in the BBC Radio Berks studio*

# What did Grandma's generation do with their education?

*Dorothy Jones (2592)  
finds school log books to be a vital source  
of information on women teachers, whose  
profession was often ignored by the GRO  
and census enumerators*

Alice Charlotte Holmes, my paternal grandmother, was born at Hardicot, the Duke of Bedford's estate at Milton Abbot in Devon, in February 1867. Alice was the third of four surviving daughters of a gamekeeper who met an untimely death in Shenstone Wood End, Staffordshire, in 1877.



*Ada Holmes*

The dressmaking skills of the girls' mother, Hannah, were probably utilised by the ladies in the 1881 Shenstone Lodge household of the affluent Manchester merchant, William Winter Riddell. It is likely he was the subscriber to the Birmingham Blue Coat School, and whose name was drawn by lot, enabling nomination of Alice for a charitable residential placement under the Fentham Trust Scheme. Shenstone Lodge was the address recorded for Alice when she was admitted on 5

February 1878, and William Riddell's roots were embedded in the Yoxall/ Needwood Forest area of Staffordshire, the origins of my Holmes gamekeepers. In 1871 he was recorded at Aston, Birmingham.

Alice would have worn the Green Coat uniform that distinguished her from the Blue Coats in the St Philip's Church Sunday parade as a Fentham pupil. Her school routine would have developed domestic skills as well as the 3Rs and, at her discharge on 9 February 1882, it was recorded that she left with intentions of becoming a teacher.

The family is missing in its entirety from the 1871 census, although the youngest child, Hannah Elizabeth, was born at Wass, Yorkshire in 1869. All bar Alice are accounted for in 1881, but the Blue Coat School in Colmore Row was closed for the Easter holiday, and there is no trace of Alice in Birmingham or elsewhere that year. By 1891 she was back in Shenstone with her mother, but without a recorded occupation; the relevant slot on her 1893 marriage certificate was also blank.

In 1881 Ada, the eldest daughter, surfaced as pupil teacher, aged 18, lodging in Drayton village, Berkshire, in close proximity to the High Street school house occupied by Emma Busby, the schoolmistress, and her lodger, Eliza J Ambrose, assistant teacher. The National School log book<sup>1</sup> records: *23 March 1881 Ada Holmes pupil teacher 3rd year from Shenstone near Lichfield commenced work in this school and 12 February 1883 Ada Holmes, having completed her apprenticeship, left here on Monday the 12th 1883.*

From hearsay it was believed that Ada later taught in Leamington Spa, Warwickshire, so it was pleasing to access the entry of 6 March 1885 in the log book of All Saints Church of England School<sup>2</sup> recording that *Miss Holmes heard this week that she had passed the Certificate Examination.* An earlier entry, on 2 April 1883, recorded Ada's commencement as assistant teacher but, surprisingly, there was no mention of her resignation or departure after certification: her last mention on 29 May 1885 recorded Miss Holmes' absences on Wednesday and Friday afternoon.

Further hearsay suggested that Ada's teaching career took her to Inkberrow,

Worcestershire, but there is no mention of her in the exceptionally well-kept National School log books during the period late 1885 to 1891<sup>3</sup>. Neither her 1890 marriage certificate nor her 1891 census return records an occupation for Ada.

It had been suggested to me by an ex-teacher that Ada would have been required to resign her post on marriage, but I have evidence to the contrary for her contemporaries in Berkshire and Hampshire. Both 1881 Drayton teachers were recorded with occupations in subsequent censuses in their married names: Mrs Emma Clarke (née Busby) certificated teacher at Drayton 1891, and Mrs Eliza J Holifield (née Ambrose) schoolmistress at Abingdon 1901. In Hampshire Mrs Elizabeth A Weston (née Dollery) returned to her post at Kingsclere Boys' School following marriage in 1900, and Mrs Emily Jane Byard, schoolmistress for Kingsclere Headley School<sup>4</sup>, was appointed in 1873 as a married woman who brought a husband, children, sister-in-law and father-in-law to the village. The correspondent meticulously recorded Mrs Byard's absences, with teaching cover provided, but mostly without further explanation. After reference to the GRO births index and census returns, it is apparent that most coincided with confinements of five more children. Such explanation was probably considered too indelicate to mention in Victorian log books. Mrs Byard retired aged 65 in 1910, and was replaced by Mrs May F Bruce. In 1917 Miss Kirby married on 24 January, and resumed duties as Mrs Knight on the 29th. Cross-references in the GRO index indicate that Margaret A Kirby married Sidney J Knight in Newbury Registration District.

I am unaware if any school boards (predecessors to the 1902 local education authorities) had imposed a marriage bar on women teachers prior to 1906, when the London County Council (LCC) made a standing order that all women appointed thereafter, except teachers, doctors and certain others in exceptional circumstances, should be required

to resign their posts on marriage. It is apparent from a Hansard report of a House of Commons debate in 1921<sup>5</sup> that some LEAs were unwilling to employ married women teachers, and the president of the Board of Education was powerless to compel them to do so, although such restriction debarred married women from the 20 years' pensionable service entitlement under the provisions of the School Teachers' Superannuation Act, 1918.

In March 1923 the LCC decided to include women teachers in its standing order, which resulted in widespread similar practice by LEAs throughout the country and a continuous, vociferous campaign by the National Union of Women Teachers until removal of the marriage bar in 1935.

The pupil teacher system appears to have flourished during the last two decades of the nineteenth century, and it was still in evidence in the first decade of the twentieth: its aim to supply a continuous stream of suitably qualified elementary school teachers.

Access to school log books is imperative for an understanding of the challenges to over-burdened rural women teachers of the late-nineteenth century. Although education became compulsory in 1880, some were still receiving children in the late 1880s to early 1890s, aged six to eight years and upwards, with no prior schooling or knowledge of letters of the alphabet, into combined classes numbering 65 or more,



*Alice Holmes*

whilst under constant threat of reduced grant if standards did not improve. The first “monitoress” at Kingsclere Headley, appointed from 5 November 1877 when 69 children were in attendance, unsurprisingly reported sick a fortnight later. She left on 12 April 1878, but was not replaced until 13 October 1879, by a “stipendiary monitor”. Several years were to elapse before the schoolmistress was permitted her first pupil teacher, although HMI had advised as early as 1875 that a responsible teacher should be put in charge of the infants.

I have no proof of any occupation for grandmother Alice, and although great-aunt Ada was certificated, I have yet to discover what class she achieved and the extent of her teaching

career. In the absence of a recorded occupation at marriage or in subsequent census returns, I am dependent on school log books.

Acknowledgements:

Kate Crennell for Drayton contacts  
Teresa Taylor for Drayton extracts

- 1 Drayton School (near Abingdon – formerly Berks now Oxon)
- 2 All Saints C of E School, Leamington, Warks 1863 – 1886 WRO ref CR1483/11
- 3 Inkberrow School, Worcs 1863 – 1949 ref BA 931, ref. 250.6, parcel 11-13
- 4 Kingsclere Headley School, Hants HRO ref: 90M72/PJ14
- 5 HC Deb 22 June 1921 vol 143 cc1395-6W

## Report of reconvened annual general meeting

As explained in September’s *Berkshire Family Historian* independent examination of the accounts for the year ending 30 April 2009 could not be completed ahead of the society’s annual general meeting on 17 June at Woodley. The trustees consequently determined that members should have the opportunity to discuss and approve full, inspected accounts at a reconvened AGM at Woodley. This took place on Wednesday 21 October with 58 current members present.

In a brief meeting, the few items that had changed from those shown in the summary figures previously presented in June, and reasons for those changes, were fully explained to members present. Most adjustments were minor, and reflected small corrections that might reasonably be anticipated after independent scrutiny. However, there was one important change. The decision of the board of Berks FHS Enterprises to donate £13,000 to the society lifted income significantly. The net effect was to turn a deficit (as shown in June summary accounts) into a welcome surplus for the society of £6,805. The key numbers are shown below.

The resolution “that the revised and independently examined society accounts for 2008/2009 be accepted by those present at this meeting” was proposed by Valerie Storie and seconded by Ivan Dickason and carried unanimously by the meeting. There being no further business, the chairman closed the general meeting and the monthly Computer Branch meeting followed.

Summary statement : Income and expenditure (to year ending 30 April)		
Year	2009	2008
total income	£51,566	£35,074
total expenditure	£44,761	£41,615
surplus/(deficit)	£6,805	(£6,541)
surplus brought forward	£44,964	£51,505
surplus carried forward	£51,769	£44,964

(Any current member may request a copy of the full set of financial statements for the year ending 30 April 2009 from the secretary.)

*Alf Ison,  
founder and member number 1  
of the Berkshire Family History  
Society, looks back fondly on a  
slower, pre-digital era of  
family history research*

Unfortunately, due to my early onset of dementia, my family history days are well and truly over, but I can still look back on them with many fond memories.

I'm not sure which came first for me – my own family history, for the sake of our children, or an item in the local paper proposing the setting up of a Berkshire Family History Society. I wrote to the address in the paper, met up with Sue Willmott and Jackie Blow, and the three of us set the ball rolling. The upshot was an inaugural meeting with a very healthy gathering of interested people. The two girls insisted that I become member number 1, as they said that I had done all the planning and organisation, which I was used to doing at work anyway.

I cobbled together the first issue of the society's magazine, dated 1 October 1975 – we didn't have the money to get it published properly – and I continued to produce it for several years. I think it was in the society's tenth year that I was made an honorary life member for my work in producing the magazine.

I also ran family history evening classes at E P Collier Primary School in Ross Road, Reading, for several years. Autumn term was for beginners. I always ran an optional day trip to Somerset House in London so that they could actually search through the birth, marriage and death registers for themselves,

## Alfadammerung

*with sincere apologies  
to Richard Wagner*

with me to help if necessary. (It was never included in the course timetable, or they would have been charged for it!) The spring term went into church and local records, which pre-date and overlap the Somerset House volumes.

The summer term was at the instigation of the course members themselves, as they also wanted to make family folders for themselves. It was handicraft time; I made up kits of buckram and card in appropriate patterns, at cost. That way, if they made a mess of it they knew they would have to buy a replacement.

My one regret is that family history these days seems to be just another computer game. My pleasure in it had been actually visiting remote record offices. My roaming around the country as part of my job meant that I had many opportunities to visit quite a lot of them which opened one evening mid-week. That way I gleaned quite a lot of information on my own and my wife's families. However the best part was swapping information and simply meeting like-minded people.

The rest, the say, is history... (sorry!) This article is evidence that the society is still running in the twenty-first century, now in offices at the rear of the Reading Register Office, a few yards from the Berkshire Record Office's new building. I get the impression (which I hope is wrong) that it all seems to be based on computers these days.

### Records wanted

*If you have records of any names that would fit into the Berkshire Miscellaneous Index (relating to an event occurring within pre- and post-1974 Berkshire), please send them by post to the address on page 34 or by email to <miscindex@berksfhs.org.uk>.*

*Please be sure to advise any change of contact details to the membership secretary at the address on the inside front cover. We receive many enquiries via the website, and it is much faster and more economical if we can forward them to the relevant member by email.*

# D N A

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## *the next generation*

*Debbie Kennett's article in the September 2008 edition of the Berkshire Family Historian ably laid out the basic principles of how DNA testing works and listed many useful websites and books. In this follow-up article, Chris Pomery considers the future of DNA testing and how it looks like becoming an even more useful genealogical tool in the years ahead.*

In the beginning was oral history. Much later, first heralds and then antiquaries created the earliest of our document-based histories, a form which has lasted for several centuries. And now, over the last ten years, we have genetic history.

More than half a million people worldwide have already bought a DNA test to help advance their ancestral research in one form or another, and family history experts are devising fresh ways of using them to unlock previously hidden ancestral secrets. Foremost among these are new ideas about the way surnames have evolved, generated purely by DNA analysis, an area of study that could well be transformed in the next few years.

To fully appreciate the changes ahead, let's review how the current generation of DNA tests designed for genealogists are being used today.

Our genealogical DNA tests grew out of scientists' attempts to understand where on the globe mankind originated and what routes we took to populate our way across the entire planet. They identified two specific sections of our DNA which allow them to track just two lines: our female line (DNA inherited from our mother's mother's mother, and so on) and our male line (DNA inherited from our father's father's father, and so on). They sought out very small changes in our collective DNA, changes so rare that they have occurred only once in a specific human along that great

migration journey, knowing that every one of that person's descendants alive today still carries the mark of that unique change. By comparing tens of thousands of samples, the scientists are able to map where the descendants have moved to and infer roughly where and when that original person lived.

DNA testing was pioneered by looking along the maternal line and popularised by creating fanciful names for their heads – the seven daughters of Eve. It was first marketed to genealogists using paternal line Y-chromosome tests; test two men who share the same surname and their DNA results will reveal whether they share a common ancestor within the time-frame that surnames have existed. In other words, if they had perfect knowledge of their family trees the two men would find that they belong in the same one. New genetic knowledge creates an immediate goal for them: to document the common link between them. This rationale has remained unchanged over the past decade. A Y-chromosome test is given to men, as women don't carry a copy of this chromosome in their DNA, and in men it is passed on from father to son down the male line in exactly the same way as a surname is passed on from generation to generation. A different test, a mitochondrial DNA test, is given to women as this segment of DNA is passed down from mother to daughter.

Currently almost all genealogical DNA testing takes place within Y-chromosome



surname projects. These aggregate the results of everyone with the same surname, or group of variants, in order to identify who in the group is genetically related to whom. The mitochondrial DNA test works in exactly the same way, as a kind of mirror image of the Y-chromosome test, but in practice it's much more difficult for family historians to use. Documenting a common maternal ancestor back five or six generations along the female line, with a surname change at every intervening generation, is a complex research task, and the test is most frequently used to verify a maternal line link across a few generations only.

On the Y-chromosome side, around 6,000 surname projects are today actively collating results for an estimated 25,000 surnames. Some are high-frequency surnames such as Brown, Johnson, Walker and Williams, whose researchers face particular difficulties to recreate their family trees. They use the DNA test to create smaller 'genetic families' within the surname, which they can then research confident that connections can be documented. Some of these large-scale projects now have more than five hundred DNA results apiece.

At the other end of the scale are many projects for low-frequency surnames, some of which are so well advanced that they are close to completion. A good example is the surname Creer, first documented in the Isle of Man more than four centuries ago and now shown to be the surname's ancestral home.

Coming over the horizon is a new generation of DNA tests, much more comprehensive and detailed than the present set. These use two innovations. Firstly, scientists are identifying so many of the once-in-humanity DNA changes that they looked for in the early migration studies that some rare ones clearly have occurred within the last millennium. As more and more are identified, the way lies open to label some of these changes as specific to particular surnames.

Secondly, as the cost of performing a DNA test in the lab continues to fall, it's becoming possible to test a larger percentage of our DNA

more cheaply, thus increasing the chances of making accurate connections between individuals. Future tests will look at the DNA across all our chromosomes, not just a few, and they will be able to generate comparisons not just along the direct male line or the direct female line as the current tests do, but to identify individuals related to us in varying degrees of cousinage based upon the percentage of DNA that one shares with each of them. This will especially valuable information for people who have an adoption or illegitimacy in their tree, as it potentially could create a short list of possible candidates for their missing ancestor.

This is some way off, and anyone buying a standard DNA test today can still see it as an investment that should pay back an increasing dividend long before the new tests become available. When choosing which company to test with, I'd recommend that you look at two things. First: at the size of their database of results. Your own means very little until you compare it with other people's results, so the more you compare with the better. And second: check that they keep your DNA sample after the test. This will allow you to upgrade your test years in the future without having to submit another DNA sample.

For many years in my own project I've been using Family Tree DNA. They host the vast majority of Y-chromosome surname projects worldwide within a database containing more than 150,000 results and covering several tens of thousands of surnames. If a surname project is already underway there for your surname, make sure you join it in order to maximise your chances of finding a match and to qualify for lower prices. Some Y-chromosome projects are keen to find men in Britain to test and may subsidise, or even pay for, your test.

*Chris Pomery runs the research side of the Pomeroy Family Association and has written and lectured on DNA testing since 2002. He is the UK representative of Family Tree DNA, the leading supplier of genetic tests to genealogists worldwide*

# Christmas Day in the workhouse

In mid-Victorian times it was common for local worthies to visit their Union workhouse and supervise the festivities on Christmas Day. The poem which commemorates this, *Christmas Day in the workhouse*, was written in 1879 by a journalist, George Sims, and begins with some traditional heart-warming scene-setting:

**It is Christmas Day in the workhouse,  
And the cold, bare walls are bright  
With garlands of green and holly,  
And the place is a pleasant sight...**

before an element of acid commentary creeps in:

**...And the guardians and their ladies,  
Although the wind is east,  
Have come in their furs and wrappers,  
To watch their charges feast;  
To smile and be condescending,  
Put pudding on pauper plates.  
To be hosts at the workhouse banquet  
They've paid for — with the rates...**

until one of the paupers, unable to stomach the hypocritical bounty of such privileged folk, regales them at length with an anguished account of how his wife had died of starvation whilst he had tried to beg bread for her at the workhouse on the previous Christmas Day:

**...Yes, there in a land of plenty  
Lay a loving woman dead,  
Cruelly starved and murdered  
For a loaf of parish bread.  
At yonder gate, last Christmas  
I craved for a human life.  
You, who would feast us paupers,  
What of my murdered wife!**

The ballad caught the public imagination at the time, and has been handed down, subject to creative scatological parody. Most versions conclude with unambiguous suggestions as to what the providers of Christmas pudding should do with it – something which even George Sims would not have dared to publish at the time.

But perhaps we shouldn't be entirely cynical. One such "worthy" in Newbury was Frank Stillman, who attended every Christmas Day at the Union workhouse in Newtown Road (later, Sandleford Hospital, now flats), from 11am until midnight, for 40 years. Even allowing for the hagiography and deference that permeated public life in those days, Frank Stillman actually sounds quite likeable. Scion of an old-established Newbury dynasty, he joined the *Newbury Weekly News* in 1876 as a printer's apprentice, finally securing the editor's chair on the death of his predecessor in 1920. Described as "one whose mind was free from guile", Stillman's maxim was that if you cannot say something nice about someone you should say nothing, so his editorship probably did not shake the pillars of Newbury's establishment. However, when in 1897 the Newbury Board of Guardians abolished the Christmas Day men's beer ration, Frank Stillman opposed the decision vociferously, and in defiance, instituted the Two Ts Fund for the buying of Christmas tea and tobacco for the workhouse inmates; the official workhouse brew measured one measly ounce of tea to a gallon of water, but with Stillman's funding this was raised to three or four times the strength.

The workhouse, which he always referred to as "no.99", was the centre of Stillman's public work, although he also raised £20,000 for Newbury Hospital and was a founder member of the National Deposit Friendly Society, among many other philanthropic works. When he died in 1929 the workhouse inmates had a whip-round and sent a wreath. The Two Ts fund still exists today as the *Newbury Weekly News* Parcels Fund, distributing Christmas hampers to the over-80s of Newbury.

For more on workhouses see Peter Higginbotham's excellent site <[www.workhouses.org.uk](http://www.workhouses.org.uk)>.

# Taxing the dead

*From 1796 legacy, succession and estate duty (death duties) were payable on many estates in England and Wales over a certain value. This value changed over time. As the scope of estate duty was extended throughout the nineteenth century, so more people were included. Before 1805 the registers cover about a quarter of all estates; by 1857, there should be an entry for all estates except those worth less than £20. However, unless the assets were valued at £1,500 or more, the taxes were often not collected, and so the register entry was not filled in with all the details. Death duties were not required of people who died in the service of their country.*

*from TNA information sheet*

*Judith Mitchell (2031) and Jill Dales  
guide you through the search process  
for death duty registers*

*Jill Dales is a former Berks FHS member and  
is now leader of the Lincolnshire Family  
History London Branch Project Team. Judith  
Mitchell has also worked on this team.*

An entry in the death duty registers could provide any of the following information which may not necessarily be found in the will:

- the address, occupation, and date of death of the testator
- the date of the will
- details of property
- names, addresses and occupations of executors
- the date of the death of executors and the names of *their* executors
- names and addresses of trustees if they differ from executors
- names of beneficiaries; wives' remarriages, dates of death
- names of children who may not have been named in the original will, noting if they will inherit when they are 21
- married names of female beneficiaries and their husbands' names, notes re insolvency, bankruptcy, moving abroad
- details of the estates of people who died intestate but whose estate was such that relatives, friends or agents were required to get a grant of administration (admon)
- prior to 1857, when the state took over administering wills, an entry in IR27 will tell you in which church court probate was granted. Remember executors did not always choose the court that they were supposed to.

The notes can be very interesting and it is easy to get distracted. While searching a ledger I found pages devoted to the estate of a member of the Hervey family in which a beneficiary was left *the contents of the cupboard in the parlour at my London house*. A note written beside said: *found empty!*

Remember that a will may not go to probate for some months after the testator's death, and in the case of complicated wills many years afterwards. My ancestor Priscilla Foster made her will in 1818 and died in 1823, but as her property was held in trust to support her husband it was only when he died in 1846 that the executor obtained probate. This is an exceptional delay, but one or two years can be quite usual.

### Death duty registers 1796 – 1811

If the executors of the person you are interested in obtained probate between 1796 and 1811 you can order the documents from <[www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/documentsonline](http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/documentsonline)>. Alternatively, they are available on microfilm at TNA or the London Family History Centre (see below).

### Searching the index

The index (IR27) to the registers between 1796 and 1903 is available on <[www.findmypast.com](http://www.findmypast.com)>. You should be able to access this free or at low cost at the Research Centre in Reading (see page 34), the London and other family history research centres, and the Society of Genealogists. Select *Death duty registers*, enter the surname of the deceased, give a year range for the death and press *Search*. You will then be able to work through several facsimiles of the original index. Please note, however, that the index is not strictly in alphabetical order. For instance: when looking for Morley it appears on several pages mixed up with Morris, Morse etc. If there is *NE* (not entered) after the folio number there is no entry in the registers in IR26. If you find an entry, print it off.

### Death duty registers 1812 – 1857

Unfortunately the death duty registers from 1812 to 1857 (IR26) can only be researched by looking through the microfilms of the original registers at TNA or at the London Family History Centre. An entry from the index (IR27) on Find My Past will give you the reference number (in the extreme right-hand column), which is a short-cut to the entry in IR26.

Alternatively, you can search through the index IR27 on microfilm at Kew or at the London Family History Centre. When at Kew pick up *How to find a death duty register 1812 - 1857* and follow it carefully. Having located an entry in IR27, make a note of the folio

number. You then look in the IR26 reference book on the top of the cabinets: select the year, surname letters of the testator and then the folio number which you obtained from IR27. The IR26 reference number on the left is the film number you require. Note, however, that the cabinet drawers are labelled up and down and across as well. Once you get your film it may have two or three folio numbers (quoted at the bottom of each frame) so make sure you are searching in the correct one. Now you will have to wind through until you find your ancestor's name in the left-hand column. Entries are only vaguely alphabetical, so it can take some time to find your entry. Estate details are in the same column below the testator's name. Unfortunately the particulars were entered into large ledgers over two facing pages, so it can take up to four photocopies to cover all the details, and a complicated estate may run into many pages. Sometimes a small entry will take only part of page, in which case carefully match the correct continuation of the entry on a subsequent frame. Once you find the entry, make a note of the stamped number on the top of the page (or the previous one) so that you can locate your frame for photocopying. This is strongly recommended, as there are many abbreviations and notes; a guide to deciphering them is available at Kew.

### Death duty registers 1858 – 1903 (only available at Kew)

Proceed as for 1812 – 1857, looking in IR27 either on Find My Past or on microfilm at Kew. Get the *How to...1858 - 1903* leaflet. You will be working in the original register this time, so either order it in advance on the TNA website, telephone or order it on the day.

As explained in the introduction a surprising number of executors found that the estate of their deceased family member, friend or business contact might be subject to tax. My ancestor, who was a village carpenter, and who also kept a pub in a Lincolnshire village, is found in the registers. His estate was under £200 in value, but still there was duty to be

paid. If you have Lincolnshire ancestors the Lincolnshire Family History Society has indexed beneficiaries found in the early registers.

The bookshop on <[www.lincolnshirefhs.org.uk](http://www.lincolnshirefhs.org.uk)> has the index *Death Duties – Lincolnshire Testators and Lincolnshire Beneficiaries 1796-1821* on CD (1800-16 is available on microfiche). There is also a CD of *Lincolnshire Probate Indexes: Lincolnshire Consistory Court Wills and Admons, Stow Wills and Admons 1700 - 1834, Lincolnshire Wills 1858 - 1910*.

The London Family History Centre has many wills on film including those proved at the Prerogative Court of York (originals in the Borthwick Institute, York) as well as for many other places. Many Welsh wills may be viewed there. See <[www.londonfhc.org](http://www.londonfhc.org) for details>.

Sources for further information  
*The National Archives Information Sheet* available from TNA or at <[www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/familyhistory](http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/familyhistory)>  
Karen Grannum and Nigel Taylor *Wills and other probate records* (TNA)  
The information sheet and introductory notes on the Lincs FHS Death Duty CD

## Birth Briefs Name Index

[www.berksfhs.org.uk/birthbriefs/index.htm](http://www.berksfhs.org.uk/birthbriefs/index.htm)

Have you tried a name search yet on the Birth Briefs Index for the surnames you have an interest in? It's surprising what information is sometimes discovered in these records. Names that at first sight do not seem to have any immediate connection may eventually uncover a missing link for you.

**So, take a look, and even if the connection seems to be weak, still ask for a printout.**

See if you find any possible connections. You might be in for a nice surprise. A printout costs only £2.00 plus postage per brief (not per name), which could include numerous names and details. Details for contacting a Birth Brief submitter, or for ordering a copy of the Birth Brief, are given on <[www.berksfhs.org.uk/birthbriefs](http://www.berksfhs.org.uk/birthbriefs)> and in the Members' Handbook.

*Two important new CDs now available from the society*

*Index to Berkshire coroners' inquisitions  
1688 - 1926*

*Reading St Laurence Parish Registers*

see Jean Debney's review on page 29 and booklist in centre pages

*John Gurnett,  
former editor of the Historian,  
lifts the lid on Victorian London  
as depicted by Charles Booth*

One of the primary rules of family history is to gather as much information as possible on each generation before moving onto the next. But how often do we rush into the past without constructing a rounded picture of the lives of our ancestors? We may have a birth, marriage and death certificate and perhaps a reference in a census return, but is that enough to provide the social background of families who moved to London in the late nineteenth century, when agriculture was in decline in rural areas? The more records we can find on each generation the better we may be able to understand the past. One of the principal surveys, and a unique insight into life in London towards the end of the nineteenth century, is Charles Booth's survey, undertaken between 1886 and 1903.

Booth was a rich shipping magnate, who moved from his birthplace in Liverpool to London, where poverty was a divisive political issue. At the time it was considered that one quarter of Londoners were living in great poverty, but Booth refused to accept these statistics, and declared he would establish his own investigation into the condition of the working class in London. The project lasted 17 years and was funded by Booth's private fortune. The complete edition, recording the state of London from Hammersmith to Greenwich, and from Hampstead to Clapham, was published in 1903, running to 17 volumes and 12 maps marked with colour-coded streets:

*Black: Lowest class. Vicious, semi-criminal.*

*Dark Blue: Very poor, casual. Chronic want.*

*Light Blue: Poor. 18s. to 21s. a week for a moderate family.*

*Purple: Mixed. Some comfortable others poor.*

*Pink: Fairly comfortable. Good ordinary earnings.*

*Red: Middle class. Well-to-do.*

*Yellow: Upper-middle and Upper classes.*

## Booth's life and labour: London poverty



*Charles Booth*

*Wealthy.*

Supporting these maps are the original 449 survey notebooks containing reports of interviews, questionnaires completed by employers, employees and trade unionists, and walks through individual streets, sometimes accompanied by police officers. Booth was anxious to discover how Londoners lived and worked. Some of the information came from transcripts from the Surrey Poor Law Union, which included the date of birth of individuals and how they reached their place in the workhouse.

Many of them give lengthy accounts of families. For example: Elizabeth Burns, born in 1875 is named as an orphan and pauper; she had an aunt Mary Gregory; her father was William Burns who was born in 1836; her brothers were William, born 1867, who was in

an Industrial School at Woking, and Sylvester, born 1870, who spent some time in the Shaftesbury Ragged School. This kind of information is not uncommon in the Booth report, and would be difficult if not impossible to find elsewhere.

Three series of maps were produced, the final published just before the 1901 census, so it's possible to use the maps, the reports and the census to unravel the living conditions at the time for many Londoners.

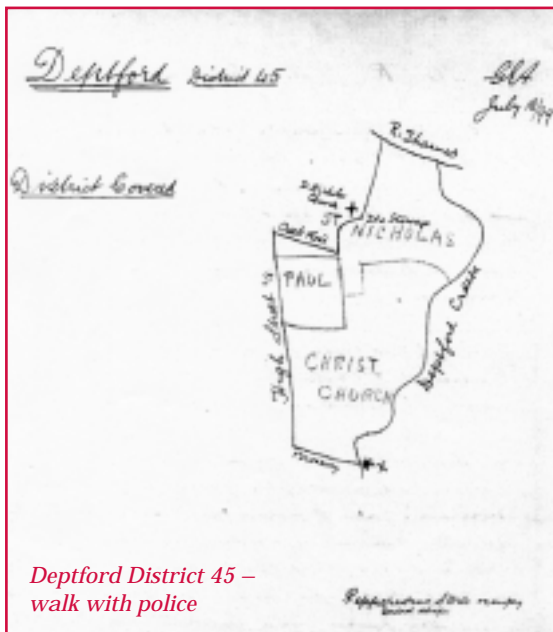
The documentary evidence was brought to life with a series of what were described as police notebooks. They provide a list of the streets, and detail homes of the poor as well as the rich. The topics covered include the appearance, trades, attitudes towards the ethnic communities (mostly Jewish and Irish migrants) and drunkenness and gambling amongst men, women and children. The Irish streets appear little different to 10 years ago, it is said; possibly more congested, except Giffin Street, where so many houses are closed.

My father was born at 14 Pender Street, Deptford (now demolished) but the survey describes the houses as six rooms with a bay window; the rent was marked on a board outside as 10/6d. The house was shared by two families, with four adults (plus another lodger)

and four small children. In this area most houses were shared between two families, sometimes in a single room. The report indicates that *the houses have a neglected look with many children playing in the street*. The coded map is light blue, which indicates families generally poor, earning 18s to 21s a week. This compares with The Stowage, a stinking unpaved lane with wharves on one side. Other areas mentioned are Deptford Broadway, a triangular open space paved with cobblestones, used as a stand for barrows and for political meetings. In Hall Street *a poor barefoot girl came out of one house where a group of women were talking in the door; men sitting on pavement outside a public house with feet stretched across the footway*. In Giffin Street *many of the houses are dilapidated and boarded up, slatternly women standing about; some shoeless children, low class, some prostitutes, lawless etc*. Drink is fearful, said the police officer, *the theatre and music hall have greatly increased the amount of drinking in the neighbourhood*. A police inspector described Hosier Street as a place where prostitutes and criminals gather, *the worst part of Deptford*. At the corner of High Street the houses were formerly occupied by sea captains with fine panelled doors and carved lintels; *now most are the homes of poorer families*. In his general remarks the investigator says that there seems to be little or no improvement in the poor streets, and *I have grave doubts as to the knowledge of the police of the social condition of the people*. The Italian colony is also growing, with ice-cream vendors and asphalt workers.

Reading these documents you can come across some quirky stories, such as one involving a drove of animals on their way to the Metropolitan Cattle Market. *A flock of sheep got loose into Rackstraws Drapery shop, one went in the rest followed. Loose pigs are about the worst to tackle, they will squeal so, attract a crowd in no time, making the police ridiculous*.

Naturally not all of London was populated



Deptford District 45 – walk with police

by the destitute. Many parts, like Brompton Road, Mayfair and parts of St George's Hanover Square reveal where the rich, middle and upper classes lived, as they do now. *Mayfair is, of course, very wealthy, street after street is built of large mansions and clubs. The mews are of a fair size over the stables, and are principally occupied by gentlemen's servants and cab drivers.* From Kensington High Street to Palace Gate are large residences, four storeys with basement and attic; a few modern red-brick houses with bay windows; and on the east side large mansions (including Sir John Millais' old house) marked yellow on the map.

Other parts of the capital give a clear impression of working life. Typical is the report on Crane Grove, Holloway: *bookmakers [who] are a feature of the northern end of Liverpool Road now work from their lodgings; the men who used to stand at the street corners and take bets have disappeared owing to police vigilance.*

Another interesting sidelight on local life in Paddington was the observation of one man of considerable bonhomie. *Paddington folk, he says, are not given to reading or to keen interest in political or social questions, any more than to those of religion. Perhaps they are more public-house centred* – a comment perhaps still true today.

Violence, especially using knives, was as prevalent as it is today. In east London (today's Tower Hamlets) the blocks surrounding Gale Street and Furze Street were the most violent in London: *three policemen were wounded there last week. This block sends more policemen to hospital than any other part of London.*

The records and maps are held at the library of the London School of Economics, but the collection can be searched on the internet. If you can identify particular notebooks you can visit the London School of Economics, or you can order archive photocopies of pages by post. The website address for the archive is <[www.lse.ac.uk/booth](http://www.lse.ac.uk/booth)>.

## Web wonders

<[www.twgpp.org](http://www.twgpp.org)>

The War Graves Photographic Project aims to photograph more than 1.75 million graves or memorials from WWI to the present day, around the world, and to make these available within a searchable database.

<[www.vam.ac.uk/things-to-do/wedding-fashion](http://www.vam.ac.uk/things-to-do/wedding-fashion)>

The Victoria and Albert Museum is creating a database of photographs of clothes worn for weddings and civil partnerships from all cultures between 1840 and the present. This database will provide a historical record and it will help people date their own photographs. All entries will provide the year of the event and the names of the bride and groom or partners. The place and the religion of the wedding will be included if possible. Browse for your own interest, and contribute: you are invited to upload up to three photographs showing the fashions at any one wedding.

<[www.pontefractfhs.org.uk/Dade\\_registers](http://www.pontefractfhs.org.uk/Dade_registers)>

These superbly detailed registers are named after Rev William Dade, an eighteenth-century Yorkshire clergyman, who recorded detail way beyond the usual requirements, much to the benefit of family historians. His practice spread throughout and beyond Yorkshire, to 180 parishes.

(from Windsor, Slough and Maidenhead Branch newsletter)

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

A gallery of railway images, more engines and places than people, but of interest to anyone with railway ancestry.

(from Windsor, Slough and Maidenhead Branch newsletter)



# Benefactors of Aldermaston

The notes and list below were spotted and transcribed by Diana Whistler (5587) from the microfilm of Aldermaston parish register (film number 88167, Family History Library, Salt Lake City, Utah). It was inserted at the end of the marriage register, with a record of marriages to 1811.

July 1837.

The Pews in the Chancel of this Church were made out of some Oak Panel part of the wainscot in one of the Rooms of the ancient Manor House of Ufton Court.

The Tower was restored to its original form, the projecting eaves having been taken down and a battlement substituted by a Church Rate in the year 1811.

These were both done at the sole charge of William Congreve Esq. Lord of the Manor.

The work was executed by William Goswell Parish Clerk & his brother Robert Goswell both of this Parish.

The new shingles on the Tower were Kyanized.

The Pews in the Nave of the Church were repaired by a Church Rate.

The Pews and Gallery were painted an oak color by James Joplen of this Parish; the charge of which was defrayed by voluntary contributions and by part of the Rent of the Church Acre as under –

William Mount Esq. Wasing	5	-	-
Septimus Bellas, Minister	5	-	-
William Keep, Ferrisses	5	-	-
Thomas Matthews, The Mill	5	-	-
Thomas Strange, The Brewery	5	-	-
Francis Cox, Surgeon	3	-	-
Kenrick Hickman, Forster's Farm	1	-	-
William Belcher	1	-	-
John Stephens, Caversham	1	-	-
John King	1	-	-
Thomas Leaver		10	-
John Clark		10	-
Peter Adams		10	-
John Belcher		10	-
Miss Hickman		10	-
Mrs Whistler		5	-
William Goswell		5	-
William Joplen		5	-
John Paice		5	-
Charles Paice		5	-
Thomas Pearce		5	-
Richard Leaver		5	-
Stephen Elliott		5	-
Thomas Paice		2	6
William Platt		2	6
Francis Reynard		2	6
Rent of Church Acre	8	11	6
		-----	
	£45	9	0

Churchwardens Francis Cox K Hickman



The registers of Aldermaston church of St Mary have not yet been transcribed in full by the society, but the burials are included in the Berkshire Burial Index (see page 4) and a CD of the monumental inscriptions is available from the bookshop (see centre pages).

# Things to find out from your relatives

*What you'll regret not having asked them when they're no longer here!*

1. Where were they born? What are their earliest memories and where did they live?
2. *What was their house like? How many rooms did it have, and what was the kitchen like? Did they have a front room which was only used for "best" What about central heating? What was it like in the winter?*
3. Did they have any siblings, and what can they tell you about them, such as when did they marry, what are the names of their children and when were they born?  
Anything else about their siblings, or about places that they lived in.
4. *What job did Father do? Did Mother go out to work for paid employment or did she stay at home raising the family?*
5. Did they ever move house, and if so do they know why?
6. *What was their favourite food? Did they have certain foods on certain days?*
7. Where did Mother shop? And how did she get it home? Did she have a delivery once a week from the local shop? Did they grow their own food (veg, fruit and/or meat)?
8. *Can they remember rationing?*
9. If they were alive during the war, what can they remember about it? (Food, rationing, danger, evacuation, blitz, refugees, etc)
10. *Where did they go to school and what was their favourite lesson? What else can they remember about their school days, either*



*Margaret Crook (2334), who chairs the Reading Branch, devised this list as part of a school family history project. Those who no longer have relatives to ask about such vital details might well consider noting down their own answers for future generations.*

*primary or secondary?*

11. What did they do after school for entertainment? Did they play outside in the road, listen to the radio, read books, watch TV or help around the home? When did they first have a TV and was it black and white? When did they first have a colour TV?

12. *Where did they go on holiday, and how long for, and how did they travel? When was the first time they went abroad (if they have been) and how did they go?*

*Where is their favourite place in this country? In the world?*

13. Where did they meet their partner, and how long did they know each other before they got married?

14. *What can they remember about their aunts/uncles/cousins, where they lived, what their houses were like?*

15. Can they remember anything about their own grandparents: Christian names, birthdays, where they lived?

16. *Did anyone have a nickname, what was it and was it used instead of their real Christian name? Were they called by their second name and not their first name?*

17. If you have old family photos, who is in them? Where and when were they taken? Write the information on the back in pencil so that it's not forgotten for future generations.

*This article first appeared in the Reading Branch newsletter of September 2009*

## 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.

### ONLINE DISCUSSION LIST

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

# Write now

## Wedding family sought

from Simon Aldworth (5779)

An album of unknown wedding photos has recently surfaced after a clear-up in a family property. For some time I've been trying to find out who the bride and groom are, and the only clue I have to their identity is from the hand-written note on the album that reads, "Russie and Jack, 29th April 1933". I thought that was a very generous clue indeed, but it hasn't helped at all so far! I've mainly concentrated on trying to identify the church, which can be seen in the background of one or two of the shots.

Another relevant point, I think, is that the choristers are holding mortarboards, which may suggest a connection between the bride and/or groom and a choir school. I've placed all the photos at <<http://myweb.tiscali.co.uk/simonaldworth/wedding.html>> so I would be very grateful if any of you would take a look and offer any suggestions as to where I might turn next. I've contacted the members of the Choir Schools Association and am awaiting responses. I've also had a number of other suggestions from the society's online discussion list but nothing concrete has turned up yet.



one of the 15 photos which Simon Aldworth has posted online

## Write Now continued...

### family of Newbury couple sought

from Mavis E Douglas (née Hambling)

I am a member of the Mid-Norfolk FHS and also Suffolk Roots (FHS). I have in my possession a marriage certificate for the year 1940 in the names of Victor Charles Willoughby and Frances Mary Hamblin. The marriage took place at Newbury Register Office.

Victor, the certificate states, was a driver's mate (haulage), aged 26, living at 1 Abbot Road, Newbury. Frances, a spinster aged 28, was living at 4 Derby Road, Newbury. Victor's father was Ernest, a general labourer, and Frances' father was William Hamblin, a signalman RN (rtd), recorded as deceased at the time of the marriage.

I myself have no connections with Berkshire generally or Newbury in particular. I'm sorry to say that I can't help with any further information, but I would be happy to pass this certificate on to any interested member of your society researching either of these surnames.

### Chieveley information sought

from Margaret Calman

I am seeking information about my ancestors from Chieveley, where my great-great-grandfather William Mills lived and worked for a number of years. According to the 1851 census he was a servant at Priors' Court House, along with his wife Ann. They had a son Harry, who was 10 years old at the time, but there is no mention of him in this census. In 1861 William was a farmer of 90 acres employing his son, aged 20, and a boy, at Old Kiln Farm in Old Kiln Road.

By 1871 Ann was a widow, and was a cook at Priors' Court House. I am interested to know the background at the time of Priors' Court House and possibly the Old Kiln Farm. Any information would be greatly appreciated. Thank you.

### frustrated by Ancestry

from Mrs Patricia Ford (1860)

I wonder if other members find the Ancestry site as inconvenient as I did yesterday. I go to my local library to use their free access, because I wanted to discover if a family member who went to Montreal from Liverpool in 1895 ever returned to this country.

I know the name of the ship, and the passenger has a very unusual surname: Atzema. This is often mis-spelled, but I know he took passage under that name, because I have seen it in "in the flesh" at TNA and also online. So I was very surprised to start my search, and to notice that his name had been altered to Atzena. All the usual computer search terminology was strung out, so I assumed that I could click upon that and get straight through to Atzena. That seemed impossible, and even the library assistant couldn't find a method, so I began trawling. One is only allowed an hour for research, and after that time I had got through 16,000 names, and was only up to Atkinson! As the incoming records (a new addition) range from 1878 to 1960, it stands to reason that there are many thousands of names.

What is my solution? Why hasn't Ancestry introduced a method whereby one can skip hundreds of pages? Or separate the years into convenient chunks? Any comments or help would be gratefully received.

# Bookends

Jean Debney

Prices quoted are for:

a) direct sales from the bookshop at the Research Centre

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

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

Where prices are not available entries are marked POA for price on application to the BerksFHS Bookshop

## BERKSHIRE FHS PUBLICATIONS

### *Index to Berkshire coroners' inquisitions 1688 - 1926*

(Berks FHS, 2009) CD BRK0249,  
Bookshop £5.00, mail order UK £5.80, airmail  
£6.70

The office of coroner developed from a royal office in the twelfth century into a county official, who since 1888 has come under the county council. His duties have consisted of holding inquests into sudden, accidental and prison deaths and treasure trove, but today he is mainly concerned with deaths. Until 1926 inquests were held with a jury of 12 to 24 men, and in certain cases they still are today.

Coroners claimed their expenses by submitting reports at the borough and county Quarter Sessions, and in Berkshire there are some account books. Many inquests are reported in local newspapers, which may give additional details. Surviving records less than 75 years old are closed for public inspection.

All the surviving records for Berkshire have been transcribed from 1688 to 1914 (apart from some in Wallingford from 1291 to 1319 which are damaged and illegible). This CD contains the index to all the surviving coroners' records in the Berkshire Record Office, using the references in the index. They contain the date and place of the inquest, the coroner's name, his jurymen, the deceased and the verdict.

A typical entry is  
*Albert Pocock, 17 Jul 1850, ref. R/JQ 6/32/58*, which will enable you to find the entry in the transcript using the reference number. No further information is available apart from that transcribed, but those reported in local papers may include other details.

### *Reading St Laurence Parish Registers CD*

baptisms 1605 - 2005, marriages  
1605 - 1963, banns 1654 - 2000 and burials  
1605 - 1901  
(Berks FHS, 2009) CD BRK 0259  
Bookshop £9.50, mail order £10.30 UK,  
airmail £11.95

Hurrah! – this completes the published trilogy of the registers of the three ancient parishes in Reading: St Mary, St Giles and now, St Laurence.

The old church of St Laurence was demolished in 1121 to make way for Henry I's new abbey, and the present church was built adjacent to the Compter gateway into the abbey precinct. Here it was in a good position to serve the crowds who flocked to the abbey via the busy market place, originally known as Butter Market.

The well-written history of the parish and other features in this part of Reading is illustrated with plenty of images and maps mainly from the Local Studies Collection in Reading Library. Included are full details of all the available registers in the Berkshire Record Office followed by fully searchable transcripts using the Adobe Acrobat function *ctrl F*. It is, as usual, a good idea to read the introduction to find out how to use the contents and the methods used.

## BERKSHIRE RESEARCH AIDS

Eureka Publications (2009): four more very useful indexed transcripts containing names of Berkshire folk. As always, they are A5 flexiback with coloured covers and good introductions.

*Royal Berkshire Register: 1st Volunteer Battalion, Nominal Roll 1892*

68pp

Bookshop £4.50, mail order UK £5.30, airmail £6.95

The roll taken on 1 November 1892 includes the name, rank, regimental number, company and enrolment date of all serving men, plus the reason for discharge of those who had left that year. See also Berkshire Militia, men enrolled 1807 and 1808, and Royal Berkshire Militia Return of Volunteers, 1854.

*Datchet Strict Baptist Church members' book 1844 - 1910*

20pp

Bookshop £3.00, mail order POA

Information from the Members' Book re admission and/or dismissal or removal of members, baptisms, deaths and other entries of interest. Datchet adjoins Windsor on the west, and although in Buckinghamshire until 1974 when it was transferred to Berkshire, the church drew members from the surrounding places, including Berkshire.

*Swindon Wesleyan Methodist Circuits Historic Rolls 1899 - 1904*

32pp

Bookshop £3.00, mail order POA

The Historic Rolls contain the names and addresses of those who donated a guinea each to the Wesleyan Methodist Million Guinea Fund between 1899 and 1904, plus donations on behalf of loved ones who had died or moved away. The Swindon Circuit included Faringdon, Longcot and Shrivenham in Berkshire, as well as places of worship in Wiltshire, Oxfordshire and Gloucestershire.

*Wokingham Union workhouse deaths 1866 - 1925*

48pp; map of parishes in the Union

Bookshop £3.50, mail order UK £4.30, airmail £5.95

Formed on 1 August 1835, the Union consists of the Berkshire parishes of Arborfield,

Barkham, Finchampstead, Hurst (including Twyford and the Liberties of Newland, Winnersh and Whistley), Ruscombe, Shinfield, Sonning (including Earley Liberty, Woodley and Sandford), Swallowfield, Wargrave and Wokingham. The early entries include date of death, name, age, from what parish admitted and where buried and, from 1914, the actual place whence admitted, usual abode, cause of death if an inquest, when and where buried.

## BERKSHIRE LOCAL HISTORY

*Brightwalton: a Downland village*

June Osment, Sue Sayers and Jean Stephens (JSJ Publishers, reprint, 2002)

A5 flexiback, 117pp, index; illustrated with b/w photos and maps

ISBN 0-9544249-0-5

Bookshop £7.95, mail order £8.45, airmail £9.65

This is an interesting story of a busy village six miles south of Wantage in west Berkshire. It is well illustrated and it is full of details about the parish and churches (including a named plan of the old churchyard), farms, schools and families.

*Goring Bowling Club: a history 1934 - 2004*

Tony Merrill (2009)

A5 flexiback, 100 pages

POA

The club was constituted in 1935, but some fixture cards exist from the previous year, as well as some minutes from 1940. Annual notes compiled from fixture cards and minutes are continuous from 1937 to 2004, and include the annual accounts, matches played as well as notes about some members' health and, in 1983, ... *the usual annual wrangle with the parish council over the fee charged for the use of the green and pavilion.*

Three appendices list the names of the presidents and officers of the club, club opponents and members. Unfortunately there is no index, and the many black-and-white

illustrations have lost a great deal in the reduction from A4 to A5 pages, but all in all this is a valuable record of a local club which would otherwise have been lost from the history of the parish.

*Hungerford: a history*

MM (Hungerford Local Historical Association, 2000)

A5 flexiback, 133pp

ISBN 1-898013-01-2

Bookshop £6.95, mail order POA

This update of the *Illustrated history of Hungerford* traces its story from the Stone Age to the twentieth century. Good features are its bibliography and index.

*Down by the river, the Thames & Kennet in Reading*

Gillian Clark (Two Rivers Press, 2009)

6.7in x 9.8in(170mm x 248mm), flexiback, 204pp

Bookshop £16.00, mail order UK £17.55, airmail £24.40

Inspired by the author's own childhood in a boat-building family in Caversham, this is a well-written and source-referenced account of the millers, barge-masters and others who rowed, swam, fished or boated on the Thames and Kennet. The chapters are arranged chronologically, and there is a useful appendix listing the workers and their boats or property on the Reading waterways from 1423 to 1930. This is a welcome addition to the local history of Reading and its rivers.

## FAMILY HISTORY RESEARCH AIDS

*First name variants*

Alan Bardsley (Federation of Family History Societies, 3rd ed, 2003)

A5, flexiback, 108pp

ISBN 1-86006-177X

Bookshop £5.95, mail order POA

A very useful book to help you relate various spellings and nicknames to those that have a relationship. For example: Barabel or Baubie are related to Barbara, and Ledah or Liddayay to Lydia.

*Protestation Returns 1641-42 and other contemporary listings*

Jeremy Gibson and Alan Dell (Federation of Family History Societies, 2004 update)

A5, flexiback, 83pp

ISBN 1-86006-606-4

Bookshop £5.50, mail order £6.30, airmail £7.95

As with other Gibson Guides this is a county-by-county listing of the surviving Protestation Returns, covering nearly a third of English parishes. When taken together with the information found from the *Collection in aid of distressed Protestants in Ireland, Subsidies, Poll tax, Assessment of grant, vow and covenant* and the *Solemn league and covenant* it is possible to reach conclusions about people and places in the 1640s, before the Hearth Tax. All these returns are arranged by hundreds in a county, and there are outline maps to assist you.

*Words from wills and other probate records*

S A Raymond (Federation of Family History Societies, 2004)

A5, flexiback, 114pp

ISBN 1-86006-1818

Bookshop £8.50, mail order £9.30, airmail £12.15

This is a very useful glossary to explain the old words found in wills and inventories. Puzzling words are clearly explained such as:

*andirons*: a short horizontal bar, or a pair of moveable iron plates to contract the fire grate  
*jointure*: property granted to a wife for life, taking effect on the death of her husband  
*set pot*: an iron pot set in stone or brick above a grate and used for boiling clothes.

# Members' interests

Compiled by Bob Plumridge  
<bob@theplumridges.com>

Members submitting their interests in the last quarter:

4141	ALDWORTH	Childrey	BRK	1500-1600
6847	BARTLETT	All	BRK	pre1900
6847	BARTLETT	All	OXF	pre1900
4141	BEEZLY	Buckland	BRK	1600-1700
4141	BENNETT	Stanford in the Vale	BRK	1550-1700
6847	BOOKER	All	BRK	pre1900
6847	BOOKER	All	OXF	pre1900
4141	BOOTLAND	Angram	YKS	1700-1800
4141	BRIANTS	Thatcham	BRK	1700-1850
6884	BROOKER	Easthampstead	BRK	1782-1900
6847	BROWN(E)	All	BRK	pre1900
6847	BROWN(E)	All	OXF	pre1900
6840	BURGESS	Inkpen	BRK	1700-1850
4141	CHAMPE	East Hendred	BRK	1550-1700
6850	CHURCH	Windsor	BRK	1800+
6847	CLARRIDGE	All	OXF	pre1900
6847	CLARRIDGE	All	BRK	pre1900
6847	CLARRIFE	All	BRK	pre1900
6847	CLARRIFE	All	OXF	pre1900
6855	COAKER	Stokenham	DEV	1780+
6855	CONNELL	Ballyluddy	LIM	1830+
6855	CROWE	Cross	LIM	1834-1874
6855	CROWE	Cappawhite	TIP	1800-1834
4141	DAY	Hardingham	BFK	1650-1750
4141	DEWAR	All	PER	1700-1900
4141	EDEN	Flitton with Silsoe	BDF	1550-1600
4141	ELLIS	Croydon	SRY	1880-1920



4141	ELLIS	Newton on Ouse	YKS	1750-1875
4141	ELLIS	Bishopthorpe	YKS	1750-1875
4141	ELLIS	Lambeth	SRY	1875-1900
4141	EMMETT		EIR	1750-1860
6847	GIBBONS	All	OXF	pre1900
6847	GIBBONS	All	BRK	pre1900
6855	GLEESON	Newhall	CLA	1780+
4141	GREEN	Thatcham	BRK	1600-1700
4141	HARDEE	All	PER	1700-1900
6850	HARDING	Windsor	BRK	All
4141	HARDING	Stanford in the Vale	BRK	1550-1630
4141	HARRISON	Bishopthorpe	YKS	1700-1850
4141	HAYTHORPE	Hardingham	NFK	1700-1800
6855	HICKS	Lambourn	BRK	1750+
6876	HILDERLEY	Basingstoke	BRK	1841-1849
6876	HILDERLEY	Shinfield	BRK	1746-1840
6876	HILDERLEY	Ontario	CAN	1850+
6855	LITTLE	Lambourn	BRK	1780+
6855	LITTLE	Mt Gambier	AUS	1848+
6884	LOADER	Finchampstead	BRK	1806-1940
4141	MANN	Silesia	DEU	1700-1850
4141	MANN	Tooting	SRY	1850-1930
6884	MAYNARD	Finchampstead	BRK	1713-1990
4141	McINROY	All	PER	1700-1900
6855	McNAMARA	Manus	CLA	1830-1876
6855	MINETY	Lambourn	BRK	1750+
6850	MOYSEY	All	BRK	All
6850	MOYSEY	All	HAM	All
6855	PENNY	Dartmouth	DEV	1820+
6855	PEPPERELL	Torcross	DEV	1820-1850
6855	PRIDHAM	Stokenham	DEV	1775+
4141	ROBERTSON	All	PER	1700-1900
6850	RYDING	All	All	All
6855	SAVIN	Launton	OXF	1770+
6847	SILVESTER	All	BRK	pre1900
6847	SILVESTER	All	OXF	pre1900
6850	STACPOOLE	All	All	All
6850	STACPOOLE-REYDING		All	All
6847	TOLLEY	All	BRK	pre1900
6847	TOLLEY	All	OXF	pre1900
6855	VOCKINS	Lambourn	BRK	1770+
4141	WARD	Childrey	BRK	1580-1700
4141	WEST	Camerton	SOM	1700-1900
4141	WEST	High Littleton	SOM	1700-1900
4141	WHITTOME	East Woodhay	HAM	1875-1895
6855	WISE	Launton	OXF	1800+
6850	WRIGHT	Windsor	BRK	All



# 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

(excluding bank holiday weekends)

Christmas closure from Friday 18

December 2009 to Tuesday 5 January 2010.

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

Find My Past and Ancestry Library Edition can be accessed in the computer suite for a charge of £1 per hour each. Find My Past offers census records for England and Wales (1841 to 1901), GRO indexes, millions of English and Welsh parish records (from indexes or transcriptions), outward passenger lists (1890 - 1960), and military records. The centre's version of Ancestry provides datasets from North America and Europe, as well as much UK material, including

an increasing number of Greater London parish records (not Westminster). Note that neither of these society subscriptions gives access to 1911 census data, which is accessed via <www.1911census.co.uk>. Searches on this website are free, but transcripts and images are only available on a pay-per-view basis.

## 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 eighth edition of the BBI on CD will be available from the bookshop early in 2010.
- 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

There are nearly 8,000 items in the library. About 20 per cent of these are Berkshire related; the rest comprise UK, Irish and international material. See <[www.berksfhs.org.uk/librarycatalogue](http://www.berksfhs.org.uk/librarycatalogue)>.

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 books on FH methodology, poor law, surnames, photographs, local history, education, poll books, military
- National Index of Parish Registers
- 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

Saturday 13 February 14.30

Monday 10 May 19.30

Tours must be pre-booked, and they are limited to 10 people. They last for about two hours, and allow a short time to browse in the library, to buy publications and to use the computers for family history research. They show 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](mailto: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.*

## Churches of Derbyshire

Ault Hucknall St John the Baptist  
(11) *Derbyshire FHS* no 129, June 2009

## Useful websites

Includes Romany travellers, Wiltshire churches, Swing Riots convicts  
(49) *Wiltshire FHS* no 114, July 2009

I've got back to 1837, now where do I look?

Some ideas for further reference  
(52) *East Yorks FHS* no 119, July 2009

## Which website?

Price and content comparisons for those purchasing a subscription  
(1) *Bedfordshire FHS* vol 17/2, June 2009

Workhouses and the new poor law 1723 onwards; includes a family case study  
(41) *Shropshire FHS* vol 30/2, June 2009

House of correction at Knutsford 1828 Return of Prisoners, names, dates, offences and sentences  
(7) *North Cheshire FH* vol 36/3, August 09

What the papers said 100 years ago  
An account of Sacriston  
(37) *Northumberland & Durham FHS* vol 34/2, summer 2009

## Reminiscences of Stratford East

As it was in 1839, with several names included  
(29) *East London FHS* no123, summer 2009

## More useful websites

Includes newspaper collection, army museums, Oddfellows, family deeds  
(14) *Essex Family H* no 133, September 2009

## Country life in Dorset

Memoirs 1866 - 1904  
(13) *Dorset FHS* vol 22/3, June 2009

## Elmsted

A parish highlight  
(22) *Folkestone & District FHS* vol 22/4, June 2009

## Great Wakering brickfields

About brickmaking, with photos  
(14) *Essex FH* no 132, June 2009

## Was your ancestor a postal worker?

Information on records kept and where to find them  
(39) *Oxfordshire FH* vol 23/2, August 2009