

# Berkshire Family Historian

*the quarterly journal of the Berkshire Family History Society*

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## September 2010

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## *Family names appearing in this issue:*

Arnold 27	Foggit 18	Reeves 11
Bacon 15	Ford 27	Roberts 11
Bailey 23	Gibbs 13	Robinson 23
Bayne 11	Hargeaves 21	Smith 11
Boston 21	Heaton 11	Spencer 17
Butler 11	Hibberd 24	Starr 27
Clark 27	Howe 27	Tanner 13
Cook 25	Loyd-Lindsay 14	Whitehorn 11
Denman 19	Ormond 13	

# Chairman's corner



## Computers, online data and family history

Had the rate of advance in powered flight matched that later achieved in computer technology, then an early astronaut would have been circling the earth within nine years of 1903 and the Wright brothers' brief "hop". Personal computers have revolutionised all our lives, and our approach to family history. Today, every researcher needs a basic understanding of how to use a PC, if only to search a growing collection of databases and to organise, present and share research findings. Through its meetings and the collective expertise of members — at the Research Centre, at events, on the Discussion List — your society does much to educate, guide and encourage less confident computer users. Another area where we want to do much more is to redress the conspicuous absence (compared with other counties) of online data from Berkshire's parishes. For many out-of-county and overseas members a trip to Berkshire Record Office is an impossibility. Your society has worked hard and long to persuade those who must first give approval to online publication of Berkshire's parish records to act swiftly, but the decision making processes move with a speed akin to that of the earliest aviators.

## The AGM at Newbury

Thank you, everyone, who came to Newbury in June to support the society at the AGM hosted by the local branch. We welcome two new trustees — Ian Ward (Newbury Branch representative) and David Wooldridge (Bracknell and Wokingham Branch chairman) — to an Executive Committee that is two down on last year's numbers. There appears to be reluctance among members to "take their turn", whether on the Executive or branch committees, and this is a cause for concern. Without hard work and support behind the scenes your society cannot deliver products and services to meet members' expectations. Do consider ways in which *you* might help the society in the year ahead.

## A new-look website and online shop

One of last year's key targets was to create a twentyfirst-century website for the society. Hard work by the web team has seen this target met and, if you haven't visited <[www.berksfhs.org.uk](http://www.berksfhs.org.uk)> recently, put down this magazine and take a look. One outstanding task is to develop the members' area, so watch out for more members-only content in coming months. We are all indebted to Chad Hanna who leads website development, resolving the many technical issues behind the web pages, and to those authors who have supplied vital content.

## Last call for overdue renewals

By the end of June well over half of current members had renewed their memberships from 1 July for another year. This prompt response helps greatly to minimise the society's costs of handling renewals, and new membership cards are enclosed with this issue. If however a renewal form accompanied your copy of the magazine it indicates that, just before the mailing date, your renewal was still awaited. Those who have still to renew should act quickly: your membership of the society will end if your renewal fee is not paid within three months of the due date (which was 1 July). Please renew today — use the website, or post back your form and payment to secure membership benefits for a further year.

### Give the gift of membership

Finally, have you ever thought that family history society membership would make an ideal and novel gift for a friend or relative keen to research their family history? From 1 November you will be able to buy a gift membership from the society – to be “made live” by the recipient any time after 1 December. This provides up to 19 months’ membership to 30 June 2012. It comes with a presentation card, full details and application instructions, and costs just £20 for a single membership, £24 for families and overseas. (For data protection reasons, prospective members must supply their own details; purchasers of this gift cannot give information for them.) Look out for more details on the website very soon.

*Derek Trinder  
Chairman*

## AGM report

*The society’s 35th annual general meeting drew 62 members to St Mary’s Church hall in Shaw, Newbury, on 23 June 2010*

After the formalities of apologies for absence, and acceptance of the minutes of last year’s AGM, the chairman Derek Trinder gave an account of the preceding year, emphasising the challenges faced by the society in the current economic conditions. He stressed the need for all members to pull their weight in spreading the society’s message and encouraging new members to join.

He praised the work of the branch committees, noting that during the past year there were more than 2,500 attendances at more than 60 meetings across the old county. The Research Centre has suffered a slight downturn in usage and revenue, but this is being tackled by the centre’s team of supporters.

The new website was singled out for particular praise, representing the fruit of some very hard labour by the dedicated team. The work is ongoing.

Two new publications were issued during the year: a revised Members’ Handbook, and a promotional leaflet, which is being distributed widely in libraries and other information centres. The society has been the focus of two live broadcasts on Radio Berkshire, both of which were written up in the *Historian*. The quarterly magazine continues successfully to address a broad spectrum of members’ interests.

The society was represented at eight major events during the year, most notably the Bracknell Family History Fair in January, where sales were up 11 per cent, and *WhoDoYouThinkYouAre? Live* at Olympia in February, where the society’s sales were 24 per cent higher than last year.

The online discussion list posted over 1,200 messages. The Berkshire Burial Index has now more than 670,000 records, with the corresponding indexes of marriage and baptism currently under construction. Several other projects were detailed in the report, including the 1851 Berkshire census now available from Find My Past, generating useful income for the society. The plan to put Berkshire parish records online is still held up by diocesan issues.

The chairman thanked warmly all who made these achievements possible, and appealed to all members who had not yet volunteered to consider what talents or skills they might have to offer the society.

Following the chairman’s report the society’s treasurer Gordon Spencer delivered the financial report for the year (see overleaf), and the meeting then progressed to the election of officers (also detailed overleaf).

## The society's finances for the year ending 30 April 2010

The society's treasurer, Gordon Spencer, presented the accounts, which have been signed off by the independent examiner.

<i>income and expenditure for year ending 30 April 2010</i>		
	2010	2009
total income	£40,765	£51,566
total expenditure	£42,980	£44,761
surplus/ (deficit)	(£2,215)	£6,805
surplus brought forward	£51,769	£44,964
surplus carried forward	£49,554	£51,769

In the year 2009/10 the society's chief sources of income were from subscriptions, Gift Aid and donations, which together accounted for 86 per cent of income. Berkshire Family History Enterprises Ltd (which runs the bookshop) contributed significantly to the donations.

The chief items of expenditure were for the lease of Yeomanry House Research Centre, depreciation, production and distribution of the magazine, and hire of halls and speakers, which together accounted for 64 per cent of expenditure.

Honorary memberships have been granted to:

David and Carol Wright, for their long-term support of the society, and in particular for their contribution to the National and Berkshire Burial Indexes;

## Your 2010-11 Executive Committee

Chairman: Derek Trinder  
Vice chairman: Mike Dabbs  
Treasurer: Gordon Spencer  
Secretary: Valerie Storie

Branch representatives:

Bracknell and Wokingham:

David Wooldridge

Computer: Gillian Stevens

Newbury: Ian Ward\*

Reading: Margaret Crook

Vale of White Horse:

Sue Matthews

Windsor, Slough and Maidenhead:

Mike Booth

Other members:

Jocie McBride

Margaret Young

Brian Wilcock

The Executive Committee has lost two members during the past year: Margaret Brenchley, former chair of the Bracknell and Wokingham Branch, who has moved away, and Jane Burrell, chair of the Newbury Branch, who has resigned.

The past year has also seen the departure of Arthur Beech from the position of Research Centre manager. Jean Herbert has agreed to continue as acting manager.

*\*Nick Prince is the new chairman, but Ian Ward will represent the branch on the Exec*

Sir William Benyon DL of Englefield House continues to serve as the society's president, with the county archivist Dr Peter Durrant and Chad Hanna as vice-presidents.

and

Bob Plumridge for his contribution as membership secretary since 2004 and, before that, for his handling of the membership database and members' interests.

## National Burial Index

The third edition of the National Burial Index is now available from BerksFHS Books.

Entries have increased by more than 5 million, to total over 18.4 million records taken from 9,100 locations in 50 counties: Anglican parish, non-conformist, Quaker, Roman Catholic and cemetery burial registers throughout England and Wales.

Information (if in the original record) includes:

- o forename(s) and surnames
- o date of burial (from 1538 to present day)
- o age
- o details of place where the event was recorded (pre-1832 county definitions used)
- o the recording society, group or individual

The third edition incorporates previously published records, many of which have since been checked and corrected.

The CD now includes an updated version of the NBI Viewer program, which has the facility to search on sensible, genealogically-relevant name variants.

### SYSTEM REQUIREMENTS

You'll need a PC running Windows 98/XP/Vista/7, with at least 2.8Gb of free disk space and a CD or DVD drive. Full instructions on how to install the program, start the Viewer and search the data entries are given in the booklet enclosed with each CD pack.

NB *No monumental inscriptions or details of death registrations are included.*  
*The NBI is not suitable for Apple Mac users.*

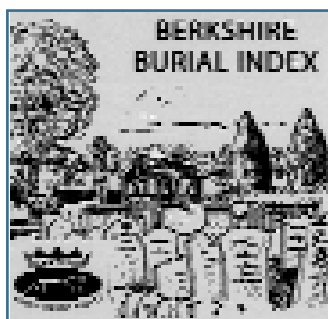
### FIRST-TIME BUYERS

By post from BerksFHSBooks, Yeomanry House, 131 Castle Hill, Reading RG1 7TJ or visit <[www.berksfhs.org.uk/bookshop](http://www.berksfhs.org.uk/bookshop)>. £30.80 posted within the UK, £32.45 by airmail overseas. Please allow 28 days for delivery. Cheques should be made payable to BerksFHS Books.

### PREVIOUS PURCHASERS (those wishing to update their second edition)

£15 (UK only) This price is available only to those who return disk 1 of the original second edition set to FFHS Services Ltd (see <[www.ffhs.org.uk/projects/nbi](http://www.ffhs.org.uk/projects/nbi)>). This restriction is necessary to ensure that only genuine copies are upgraded.

## update



Details of the services for researching burials in the Berkshire Burial Index are available on <[www.berksfhs.org.uk](http://www.berksfhs.org.uk)> and in the Members' Handbook.

Parishes and periods which have been added to the Berkshire Burial Index since the position shown in the March 2010 issue of the *Berkshire Family Historian* are set out below. These will be included in the next update of the CD (due for publication end of 2010), bringing it to more than 710,000 entries.

Abingdon St Helen 1729-30 (BTs), 1737-41 (BTs) and 1753-57 (BTs)

Charney Bassett St Peter 1747 - 1812

Harwell St Matthew 1559 - 1688

Newbury Shaw Cemetery 1921-27 and 1954-56

Reading London Road Cemetery (burials in unconsecrated ground)  
1883-85, 1898 - 1900, 1901-10, 1913-17, 1924-26, 1941-45  
and 1953-59

Shalbourne St Michael 1587 - 1622 (BTs)

Sutton Courtenay All Saints 1606-37

Thatcham Cemetery 1903-40

Tilehurst St Michael 1971-78

Wantage SS Peter & Paul 1793-98 and 1944-64

Wokingham All Saints 1675 - 1685

*David Wright*

# Around the branches

*Computer Branch members tackle the fundamentals of MI transcription at Woodley*



## Computer Branch

*<computerbranch@berksfhs.org.uk>*

The MIs of Woodley St John were transcribed in 1988-89 and published on fiche late in 1989. It was decided to revive the old idea of branches having a summer meeting outdoors doing an MI project, and to start updating these MIs by taking photos, adding in any new inscriptions and then producing it as a CD.

Fortunately there was an electronic copy of the 1989 transcription. Tony Wright transferred its old format to MS Word and, prior to the meeting, copies were printed out together with plans of the churchyard.

The vicar had been contacted for permission for members to tramp around the churchyard – also in the hope that he would get the grass mown. He gave his blessing but, sadly, the mowing didn't happen.

The evening of the branch meeting had good dry weather, though a little chilly. Armed with cameras, clipboards and gardening tools, 26 members completed about a third of the churchyard, although much time was spent gardening – the grass was extremely long in places. Further sessions are planned to tackle the rest of the churchyard.

Gillian recommends this idea to other branches as a very friendly and relaxed evening that costs nothing in speakers' fees. It also benefits the society by eventually producing an up-dated publication for the bookshop. The only problem is the British weather. A stand-by indoor meeting is needed, and in this event Margaret Young had agreed to talk to the group about projects.

Branch members continue to provide FH drop-in sessions at Woodley Library each month, for which Gillian is sewing a large banner to place on railings outside. From past surveys it seems that most visitors are drop-ins who stumble across the event, rather than seeing advance publicity.



## *Newbury Branch*

*<newbury@berksfhs.org.uk>*

The branch has a new chairman, Nick Prince, and a separate Exec representative Ian Ward. Both work full time and neither could undertake the joint burden of chairing the branch and representing it on the Exec.

Nick Prince is looking forward to engaging branch members in some wider activities, in particular the Heritage Day that is being organised for 16 October by the recently formed West Berks Heritage Forum.

## *Bracknell and Wokingham Branch*

*<bracknell@berksfhs.org.uk>*

The new committee members are now integrating with the existing committee, helping with the library drop-ins which are run at Bracknell, Wokingham and Sandhurst, ensuring the society's information in libraries is up to date, and generally trying to raise our profile and attract new members. To this end John Feast is co-ordinating a publicity effort to increase effectiveness.

By the time you read this the branch will have run a stand in conjunction with the Windsor Branch at the Ascot Golden Age Event at the end of August, and is planning to be involved with the Heritage Open Days in Bracknell town centre from 9 to 11 September.

## *Windsor, Slough and Maidenhead Branch*

*<windsor@berksfhs.org.uk>*

The branch committee was re-elected with the addition of a new member – Judith Mitchell. Mike Booth remains chairman and Valerie Storie programme secretary. In conjunction with the Bracknell and Wokingham the branch will be representing the society at the Golden Age event at Ascot Racecourse during August, and in the afternoon will co-operate with the Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead at a drop-in session at Ascot Library to capitalise on this event.

Now that Slough Library has once again set up its FH-dedicated computers Pauline Hodges and Valerie Storie have resumed the monthly open-house to help those starting or continuing their family history research. Ancestry and Find My Past (for a trial period) are available for use at the drop-in sessions, which are for people who want to use these and other family history resources on the internet.

## *Reading Branch*

*<reading@berksfhs.org.uk>*

At the branch annual meeting Margaret Crook was re-elected to the chair, Richard Croker was elected as treasurer, Dee Benn as programme secretary and Marion Dabbs as secretary. Also on the committee are Rosemary Whitehead and Mary McMillan.

John Price is continuing his talks to different groups, and he is also holding drop-in sessions in Sonning Library, but he took a break during the summer months, as most people are busy outside, or he's been away himself.

Caroline and Barry Boulton are running the helpdesk with Jocie. They have introduced a sheet that members can fill in with their questions or problem, and they will try to solve it or point people in the right direction.

## *Vale of White Horse Branch*

*<vale@berksfhs.org.uk>*

The branch committee for the year 2010-11 is Sue Matthews (chairman), Vanessa Chappell (secretary), Margaret McAlpin (treasurer), Jo Lent, Gordon Radburn, Simon Burbidge and Sarah Matthews.

The project transcribing the monumental inscriptions at Drayton is still ongoing – light has been detected at the end of the tunnel!

The branch intends to put on a display of some sort for Heritage Day on 11 September. A suitable venue is being sought.



## What does it take to be an assistant at the Research Centre?

*Jean Herbert, who has been the society's librarian for many years, is also holding the fort as acting manager of the Research Centre. Here she appeals for more members to volunteer as assistants at the centre, and discover the satisfaction of helping others to further their family history research*

I'd like to take this opportunity to thank all the volunteers who help to keep open our family history Research Centre in Reading. The time that they give to keep it running is very much appreciated by the society and those who use it.

### What's involved in being an RC assistant?

You need to be able to give a few hours a week, a fortnight or a month – whatever you choose. You need some knowledge of family history; of using computers, a library catalogue and finding titles, of making simple cash entries and record keeping. You'll also need to be able to climb stairs, answer the phone, and not be afraid of saying "I don't know but I'll forward your query."

New or prospective assistants are given training, usually over two sessions of two hours, after which they work alongside someone more experienced for as long as necessary. The Research Centre opening hours for which volunteers are required, are 10am - 1pm or 1pm - 4pm on Tuesday, Wednesday and

Thursday. There's a session on Tuesday evening from 7.30pm-9.30pm and also the 2nd and 4th Sundays from 11am-4pm. It's important that to begin with you come regularly to familiarise yourself with all that needs to be done during your duty.

You will even have the opportunity, when you are not busy, to pursue your own research.

Knowing that you've helped another researcher, or even started someone on the family history trail, is immensely satisfying, and assistants often find that they've learnt something new in the process!

If you feel you'd like to know more about what's involved before making a decision to volunteer, it can be arranged that you shadow one of the current assistants for a session.

Alternatively you can call 0118 974 4464 and talk to me, or e-mail <researchcentre@berksfhs.co.uk > for more details.

Without its volunteer assistants the Research Centre could not function – could you join the team and help others?

## Have you renewed your membership?

Most of you did, which was enormously helpful. But if the reminder with the June issue of the magazine passed you by, please act now, by either: *completing the form that is enclosed with your copy of this issue* or *going to <[www.berksfhs.org.uk/membership](http://www.berksfhs.org.uk/membership)> and renewing online.*



events

events

events

events

## Dates for your diary

date	event	venue	more details
9 - 12 Sept	Heritage Days 4,000 properties of every style, period and function thrown open free, to the public	nation-wide	Find out what's on in your area from < <a href="http://www.heritageopendays.org.uk">www.heritageopendays.org.uk</a> >
Sat 2 Oct	Oxfordshire FHS open day	Marlborough School nr Woodstock OX20 1LP	< <a href="http://www.ofhs.org.uk">www.ofhs.org.uk</a> >
14.00 - 15.00 Sun 11 Oct	BRO introductory visit see what's available and get advice in the use of sources in the searchroom	Berkshire Record Office 1 Coley Avenue Reading RG1 6AF	Book your place 0118 901 5132 or <a href="mailto:arch@reading.gov.uk">arch@reading.gov.uk</a>
18.00 - 20.00 Mon 12 Oct	Family history evening at BRO – special opening for Berks FHS members		No need to book – just turn up
10.00 - 17.00 Sat 6 Nov	West Surrey FHS family history fair and open day	Woking Leisure Centre GU22 9PA	< <a href="http://www.wsfhs.org">www.wsfhs.org</a> >
19.30 - 21.30 Mon 15 Nov	Guided tour of the Berks FHS Research Centre with the chance to try out some of the sources	Berks FHS Yeomanry House 131 Castle Hill Reading RG1 7TJ	Booking essential on < <a href="mailto:researchcentre@berksfhs.org.uk">researchcentre@berksfhs.org.uk</a> >

and you might also be interested to know

Every Saturday at 11.00 and 14.00 there is a Behind the scenes tour at The National Archives. Learn how documents are selected, parchment conserved and see originals. Booking essential 020 8876 3444 <[www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/events](http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/events)>.

From 13.00-14.00 Fridays 1 Oct and 3 Dec Hampshire Record Office, Winchester, offers free, informal sessions Reading old handwriting. Bring old documents of your own which need deciphering. No booking required. Also at HRO, 19.00-21.00 on 13 Oct, 10 Nov, 8 Dec Introduction to using FH sources. £7. Booking for this required on 01962 846154.

society news

society news

society news

# www.berksfhs.org.uk



*A new  
online look  
for the  
society*

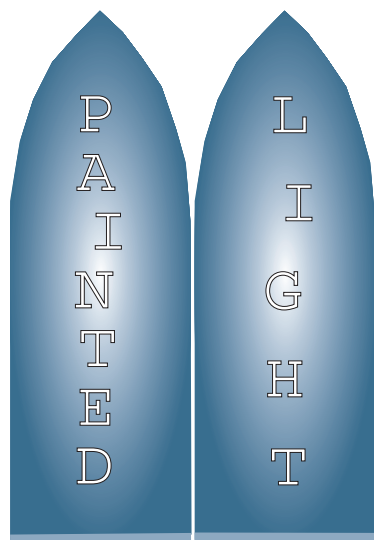
The society's new website went live on 4 July so, at the time of going to press, it had been up and running for just a few weeks; by the time you read this in early September it will have new features added, others tweaked, and any early glitches will have been resolved.

The address stays the same, <www.berksfhs.org.uk>, but pages have a fresh, clean look – sleeker, snappier and more stylish in a new livery of Dodger blue and Maize, echoing the society's traditional colours. Verdana and Georgia fonts mirror the typography of the *Historian*.

Take some time to familiarise yourself with the new layout, with its easy-to-use menus, and you will discover many useful improvements. Try using the library catalogue, for instance.

- Shop: Products, many of them illustrated, are grouped by type. When you order several items together, the checkout works out combined postage – usually cheaper than the former approach, which worked out post and packing item by item.
- Events and branch meetings are easy to find using menu or calendar. Choose your views of meetings and other events where the society is involved by trying out different calendar options. Branches themselves now keep meeting details up to date, avoiding any queue for the webmaster's time.
- A new section on Berkshire details places, churches, cemeteries, register offices, libraries, museums and suchlike. Eventually the section will offer a web page for every parish in old Berkshire, with particular emphasis on surviving family history resources. This gazetteer will evolve to provide a unique one-stop resource for researchers anywhere in the world.
- Recognising that many members also have interests outside the county, a complementary section of non-Berkshire resources will aim to offer core information for other counties and countries that researchers should find useful.

There will be developments too with the Discussion List archive, back issues of the *Historian*, and in the members' area. With additional authors, new features will come even quicker. You could help speed developments by offering to draft a web page or two, maybe starting with a profile of a parish you know well. Why not contact <webteam@berksfhs.org.uk> and find out how you can do this?



*Stuart Eagles (2242)  
recounts the story behind  
two stained-glass windows in  
Holy Trinity Church,  
West Hendred*

Traipsing through churchyards in search of family graves occupies many family historians, and it's sometimes possible to look inside the church itself where, with unexpected luck, you might find your ancestor commemorated by a stained-glass window – that “painted light” which adds colour to our places of worship. Over several years I discovered not one, but two such windows, and researched them. As much of the source material remains in private hands, it's a story I'm keen to share.<sup>1</sup>

Susannah Reeves (1829 - 1913), née Smith, arranged for one single, and one double window, to be erected. The latter commemorates her yeoman farmer husband, John Kingham Reeves (1800-79), and the couple's daughter, Elizabeth (1861-74). The single window, pictured right, memorialises Elizabeth Roberts (1825-58), née Reeves, the wife of Richard Roberts (1818-?), banker of Romford, Essex, and the only issue of John Kingham Reeves's first marriage, to Mary Anne Whitehorn (1802-49), of Ardington. Both windows were installed by mid-1883.

*inscription reads:*

ELIZABETH:DAUGHTER:OF J.K.REEVES:WIFE:OF  
R. ROBERTS:DIED:18TH JANUARY:1858:AET:32  
YEARS:A:TOKEN:OF:LOVE:FROM:SUSANNAH:REEVES

The windows were executed by Heaton, Butler and Bayne, of Covent Garden.<sup>2</sup> The total cost was £75 2s: the double window accounted for £46 5s, the single window £23 10s, and the remainder all additional costs.

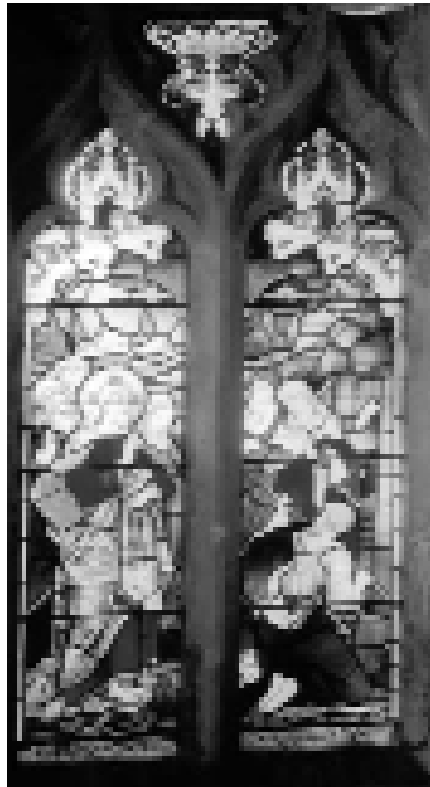


The Biblical subject of the double window is Lazarus (John 11), and the single window depicts Mary kneeling in front of Jesus, with Martha looking on. Martha and Mary, sisters from Bethany near Jerusalem, were friends and admirers of Jesus, who raised their brother, Lazarus, from the dead. Martha is generally seen as representing good deeds, Mary as representing contemplation and prayer.

John Kingham Reeves was a prominent member of the



*John Kingham Reeves,  
Susannah and family at  
West Hendred Manor  
Farm, probably around  
1880*



*left panel inscription reads:*

ELIZABETH:DAUGHTER:OF J.K.REEVES  
DIED:13TH AUGUST:1874:AET:13 YEARS  
INSERTED:BY:HER:LOVING:MOTHER

*right panel:*

JOHN:KINGHAM:REEVES  
DIED:24:JUNE:1879:AET:78:YEARS  
INSERTED:BY:HIS:AFFECTIONATE:WIDOW

community. Born at Upper Farm, Farnborough, he was the eldest son in a family of yeomen farmers originally from Wiltshire. He eventually accumulated an impressive property portfolio though some handsome legacies and business acumen.

After marriage to Mary Whitehorn at Ardington in 1824, JKR and his young family settled at Red Barn Farm, between Ginge and East Lockinge. In 1825 JKR's father, John Reeves (1756 - 1845) leased from Corpus Christi College, Oxford, land which was later identified as West Hendred Farm.<sup>3</sup>

Subsequent agreements in 1839 and 1845 suggest that JKR gradually pieced together parcels of land, farmhouses and barns to make Manor and Parsonage Farms to the east of West Hendred, and Red Barn Farm to the west, into one vast farm. In 1854 he added West Ginge Farm, so that his lands spanned the parishes of East Lockinge, West Hendred, Ginge and Ardington.

Nearly 10 years after he was widowed John married Susannah at St Saviour's Church, Upper Chelsea (1859). The couple had nine children together, the last born three months before JKR's 73rd birthday. By 1861, according to the census, JKR's farm spanned 1,110 acres, some owned, much leased, and on which he employed 30 men and 10 boys. A cook and a nurse helped in the farmhouse. Giving evidence to Parliamentary Commissioners in 1869, JKR stated that the farm was six miles in length, and costed labour as increasing from 24s 6d



*John Kingham Reeves*

per acre in 1855 to 31s in 1868.<sup>4</sup> By 1871 43 agricultural labourers and 16 boys were being employed, and from 1875 JKR also rented the 67 acres of Blackbird's Farm.

It's not clear when he acquired a stake in the Hare pub on the Reading Road just outside West Hendred, but in 1867 he agreed with the tenant Thomas Tanner to sell his interest in the property for £500. He also paid £200 and £320 respectively for newly-built nos. 8 and 10 Phillimore Place, in London, in 1861.<sup>5</sup>

John Kingham Reeves was the largest local employer; churchwarden (1855-56, 1858-64, 1866, 1869-70, and 1876); overseer of the poor (1843, 1855-56, 1858-1864 and 1869); surveyor of highways in 1850 and 1874-79; and in this

latter period also Guardian of the Poor. He often chaired vestry meetings. The rateable value of his estate grew from £311 4s 3d in 1843 to £502 14s in 1870 – roughly equivalent to £25,000 today.

In such circumstances, it's not surprising that his extended family called on him for loans, of which he kept note. JKR was a businessman, and the loans he made, ranging from £50 to £150, were typically charged at four per cent, even to family.

JKR died on 24 June 1879. In his will he bequeathed to his wife all the "plate, linen, china, glass, books, pictures, prints, wine, liquors and furniture . . . jewels, ornaments and wearing apparel ... which shall be in my Dwelling-house at the time of my decease" plus a legacy of £30 and an annuity of £250 for as long as she continued to be his widow. His trustees and executors were his nephews William James Reeves Gibbs (c1822 - 1910), farmer of East Hendred, James Gibbs (c1828 - ?), farmer of East Lockinge, and Edward Ormond,

his solicitor from Wantage, each of whom was paid £100 for his trouble.

To his grandson, Malcolm Roberts (1856 - ?), he bequeathed £2,000, and a further £2,000 for his maintenance and education. JKR also mentions that, as the heir of his late mother, Malcolm should be entitled to some Whitehorn land in Ardington.

Each of John's sons received £2,000 at the age of 21, and his daughters £1,000, with an additional annuity drawn from an investment of £3,000 per daughter; this was to remain free from the control of any future husband. The will was proved at Oxford, and the estate was valued at £60,000 (equivalent to some £3 million today).

Harriet Sarah Loyd-Lindsay (1837 - 1920), the future Baroness Wantage, sent Susannah a black-bordered letter of condolence:

*Col. Lindsay & I are anxious to express to you our sincere sympathy in the great loss you have sustained. We both feel much the death of Mr Reeves whom we have known & esteemed for so many years & for whom Col. Lindsay entertained a very sincere regard. I trust his last illness was not attended by much suffering and hope you are as well as can be expected. With our united very sincere sympathy believe me & I remain*

*Yours very truly*

*H S Loyd Lindsay*

A testimonial from such quarters is moving and impressive. Harriet Loyd-Lindsay was a considerable benefactor of Reading University College and the Royal Berkshire Hospital, as well as a keen supporter of the National Art Collections Fund.

But perhaps the greatest measure of JKR's business success was the opportunity which it afforded to his children. Two sons were privileged to attend university: John Kingham Reeves Jnr (1859 - 1945) at Oriel College, Oxford, and Albert Reeves (1864 - 1931) at Caius College, Cambridge. The brothers became surgeons, initially practising together in Streatham. John later practised at 66 Upper Tulse Hill, and it was there that his mother Susannah, still a widow, died in 1913. She was buried in a grave next to her husband.

1. I am grateful to Sheila Povey and Robert Kingham Reeves for giving me access to these private papers. Unless otherwise indicated, it should be assumed that information quoted in this article derived from this source.

2 For more on Heaton, Butler and Bayne, see S B M Bayne *Heaton, Butler and Bayne: a hundred years of the art of stained glass* (1986) and F Skeat "Heaton, Butler and Bayne: a famous Victorian firm" *Family History*, 10 (1979), pp 69-70.

3 Agreements with Corpus Christi College, Oxford are preserved in the college archives, in large ledgers detailing college leaseholds. See 32.179-180, 34.351-352, 35.7-10, 36.96-102, 37.124-129, 38.313-317, 40.134-142, 41.166-168 (this last in connection with land tax charged on JKR's estate, owing to the college, May 1891).

4 Reports of the Parliamentary Commissioners, Agriculture (Employment of Women and Children), 1868-9, 22 vols: see vol 13, pp 391-392. Also see pp 371, 377. You can read or download the whole report by searching on <books.google.com>.

5 See <[www.british-history.ac.uk/report.aspx?compid=49867](http://www.british-history.ac.uk/report.aspx?compid=49867)>.

*The editor welcomes contributions from readers of the magazine, but respectfully suggests that anyone considering writing for the Historian should take a moment to read this advice.*

*Articles may be of any length up to 1,200 words, but definitely no more. Shorter articles are equally welcome; amusing extracts from the registers and brief anecdotes are important to the overall balance of the magazine.*

*Pictures enhance the text, but they must be cleared for publication, either by being out of copyright, or by obtaining the permission of the copyright holder. Most internet pictures are not of sufficiently good quality for print, and they too are subject to copyright protection.*

*Articles are best emailed to the editor as Word or RTF attachments. Please send pictures as separate files (JPEG or TIFF); images pasted into Word files cannot be extracted without degradation.*

*No fees are paid to any contributors, alas, but all articles published are greatly appreciated by thousands of readers. Readers should be aware that any submissions to the editor will be considered to be offered for publication in the magazine and also on the society's website, unless the opposite is made clear.*



# Ahead in the clouds

*In the first of a new series  
on Berkshire eccentrics  
Penny Stokes (2961)  
describes the life of  
Gertrude Bacon,  
a Cold Ash woman  
who pursued a career of  
record-setting adventure*

Gertrude Bacon was born in Cambridge in 1874 to the Rev John Bacon. He himself had been born in Lambourn Woodlands, where his father had established its first vicarage. In Gertrude's biography of her father, *Record of an aeronaut*, she describes this parish in 1837 (where her grandfather carved out an Anglican parish) in less than flattering terms: "As was but natural in so isolated a spot, the people of the soil were utterly uncouth and uncivilised... totally without education, without knowledge, without manners, without law and order."



*Cold Ash mapped in the 1880s. Sunnyside is marked in the centre of this extract, which is taken from the Berks FHS/BRO CD of OS Berkshire maps*

When Gertrude was two, failing health obliged her father to retire from his clerical appointment at Cambridge University, and the family moved back to Berkshire to settle in Cold Ash. This parish she found "uneventful and unimaginative... a semi-civilised neighbourhood at best, where poaching and theft were rife and where the policeman was as yet undreamed of."

Four miles' distance from Newbury was indeed enough to make Cold Ash in the 1880s a remote and self-sufficient community. The vicarage, called Sunnyside (marked in the centre of the map left), was the only house of any substance. (It was demolished in 1963.)

One of Gertrude Bacon's earliest memories was of the death of a neighbour, a carter, from exposure in the great snowstorm of 1881, just yards from the front door that he was



*Sunnyside, the vicarage at Cold Ash*

unable to reach. They found his body the next morning, his faithful horse standing patiently beside him. A little later she could remember a crinoline-clad postwoman bringing the mail from Thatcham on foot. Entertainments were simple; boys still played kick-shins, and lardy cakes featured high on the list of childhood treats.

Cold Ash had a school, but it was not for the young Bacons, who were a class above the shin-kicking village children. Gertrude was educated at home in an eccentric fashion by her father. (Mrs Bacon was a background figure in poor health, who seems to have played little part in her children's upbringing.) John Bacon abhorred the children's literature of the day, but taught the young Gertrude to spell by setting type on his printing press. She also learned to use a lathe and a soldering iron, to ring handbells, to keep bees and to bud roses. Languages and advanced mathematics were prominent on the Bacon curriculum. Sunnyside boasted not only a vast and eclectic library, but also an astronomical observatory.

Even the long winter evenings were put to productive use, with the entire household dragooned into making fireworks. Their labours would culminate in a breathtaking village display. The lung ailment that had parted John Bacon from the university pulpit did nothing to diminish his extraordinary energy for scientific investigation; he researched, studied and travelled tirelessly with Gertrude at his elbow to assist in a wide variety of pioneering experiments. She accompanied him on trips to India, Norway and the USA to witness eclipses of the sun.

When safety bikes appeared on the streets Gertrude lost no time in hitching up her skirts to become mobile. Her machine, called the "Sea Breeze", was designed for women by virtue of its flat seat in place of a saddle, supposed to obviate those terrible maladies which doctors of the day foretold as the inevitable result of cycling for women. She was the only woman in the neighbourhood on wheels, and endured social ostracism for her unconventionality.



*Filling up the balloon at Newbury gasworks, 1899. The bearded figure in profile is John Bacon. Gertrude was perhaps the photographer.*

It was, however a gas balloon that lifted Gertrude Bacon into a career of national prominence. John Bacon's first ascent in the craft that was to become the obsession of his later years took place in 1888. Soon, Gertrude frequently accompanied him. Their most famous and perilous trip took place from Newbury gasworks in 1899, the two Bacons accompanied by one Stanley Spencer. The purpose of the ascent was to monitor a meteor shower, but they failed in this.

Instead, the balloon gained great height and drifted uncontrollably westwards, to the horror of its occupants, who believed that they were over the Channel. After 10 terrifying hours aloft, much of it above water, a violent but safe landing was made near Neath, Glamorgan, to the astonishment of the locals.

Whilst contemplating a worse fate as they drifted at several thousand feet, the trio had composed and dropped a distress message which read:

*Large balloon from Newbury overhead, above clouds. Cannot descend. Telegraph to coast-guards to be ready to rescue. Bacon and Spencer. 11 am Nov 16.*

The oddity of this mayday signal is its apparent oversight of the presence of Gertrude. Perhaps as a mere woman she was considered supernumerary to the expedition, but had the note been found, the rescuers would have been looking only for two men.

This subordinate status typified her subsequent aeronautical career, in which she notched up many firsts, but always as a passenger: the first woman to make a "right-away" (untethered) voyage in an airship (1904); the first Englishwoman to fly in a plane (1909); and the jointly first woman passenger on a commercial flight (1919). She was passionately avid for flight, battering against prejudice, convention and bureaucracy to be taken on, even by unknown pilots, in what was a terrifyingly hazardous activity. Yet she



*Terra firma. This picture (the only known one of Gertrude) shows the Bacons shortly after landing in Neath.*

apparently never aspired to take the controls. Thirty years as her father's assistant had perhaps robbed her of any desire to be a principal in her own enterprise.

Not all her adventures were aerial. In 1901 she went down the Bakerloo line to witness its construction. She bullied the British Association into allowing her to descend into a diving tank to compare opposite experiences.

Books by Gertrude Bacon

- Balloons, airships and flying machines* (T C and E C Jack, 1905)
- Record of an aeronaut, being the life of John M Bacon* (John Long, 1907)
- How men fly* (Cassell, 1911)
- All about flying* (Methuen, 1919)
- Memories of land and sky* (Methuen, 1928)

This adventurous lifestyle was funded by assiduous writing and lecturing. Her audiences, of which she claimed to be a connoisseur, included Borstal boys, Liverpool dockers, prisoners at Aylesbury jail and the inmates of a lunatic asylum.

During the First World War Gertrude Bacon worked for the Red Cross, securing responsibilities that kept her constantly on the road. She wrote with patriotic indignation of her experiences in Belgium, exchanging well-treated German prisoners for their British counterparts half-starved by the enemy. Her work enabled her to continue lecturing in camps, canteens and convalescent homes.

Several autobiographical books reveal nothing of Gertrude Bacon's love-life. Although mixing freely with men in a fashion that surely bordered on indecency by the standards of the time (she was the toast of the French pilots at the 1909 Rheims airshow, which more timid souls might have deemed a dubious honour) yet she seems to have avoided any scandal. Marriage would almost certainly have placed insufferable restraints on such an intrepid lifestyle, as several later female aviators found out to their cost. However in 1929, in her early fifties (safely beyond child-bearing age), Gertrude Bacon married a Yorkshire alderman in London. He lived for only five more years, but as Mrs T J Foggit of Thirsk, Gertrude served as a JP before moving south to Sway in Hampshire, where she gave up thrill-seeking and took instead to collecting wild flowers, a subject in which she had been no doubt thoroughly schooled by her father on their nine acres at Cold Ash.

Here, at the age of 75 in 1949, she died. She had been many years absent from Newbury, but she was nonetheless remembered in a fulsome obituary in the *Newbury Weekly News*.

# The farming front

*John Gurnett  
reminds us of the role  
played by young women  
in boosting food production  
during the Second World War*

During the 1930s Britain imported 70 per cent of its food, in contrast to Germany, which produced 80 per cent of the amount needed to feed its people. Not until the eve of the Second World War was it realised that Britain needed more home-grown food, and between May and September 1939 farmers were paid to plough up grassland in what became the Battle for Wheat.

Alongside this policy government ministers woke up to the fact that there was also a major shortage of agricultural workers. To fill this gap the Women's Land Army was reborn. Despite praise during the First World War for the first Women's Land Army, its re-establishment was met with suspicion, derision and indecision. Nevertheless, Lady Denman, who led the WLA from 1916 to 1918, was appointed honorary director, and she offered her home at Balcombe House, Sussex, as the headquarters of the new WLA.

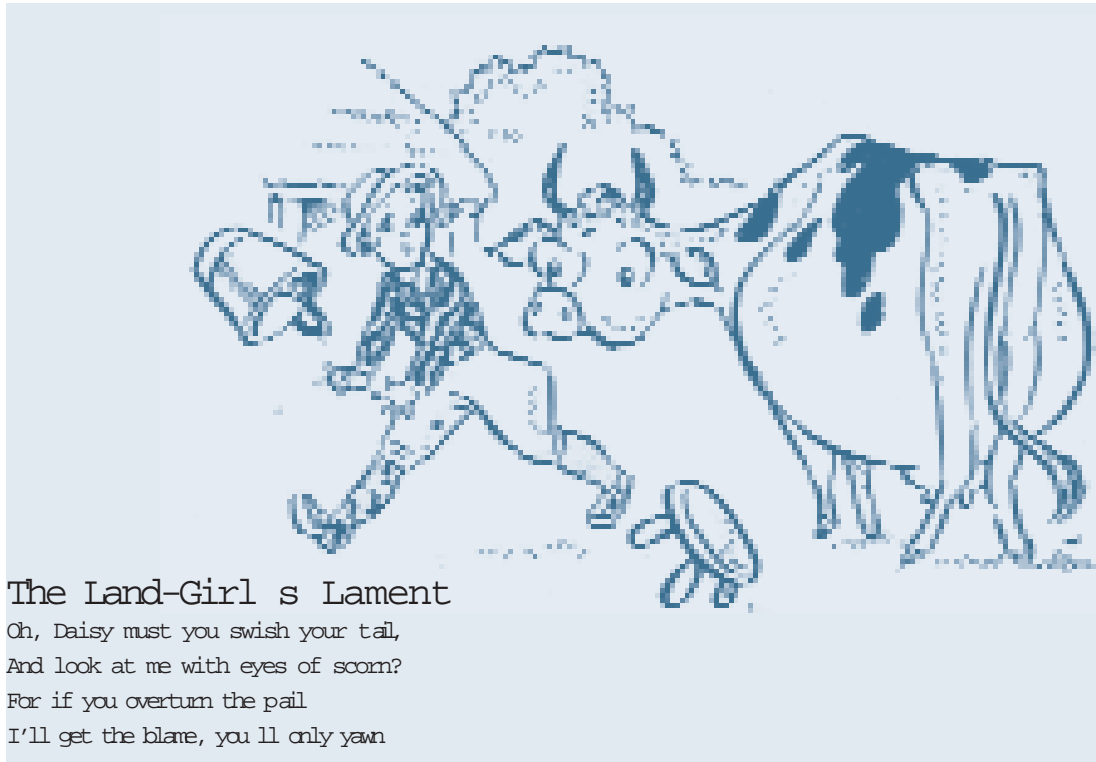
At the outbreak of war women who had previously been clerks, sales assistants, manicurists and mannequins streamed into the WLA. By November 1939 25,000 women had enrolled, and 2,000 were already at work on farms. It had been a disappointment that there was not a greater demand from farmers. Although many of the young women were driving tractors, it was the opinion of many that it was unsuitable work for them.



Gradually demand increased, and by October 1941 almost 20,000 Land Girls worked on farms. For many of them the journey from a perfumery department to working with pigs, milking cows or driving tractors came as a profound shock.

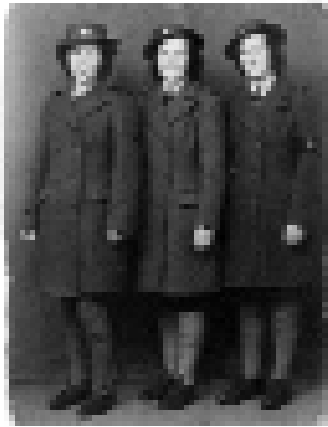
The women were interviewed to see if they were suitable, and then given a cursory medical. The official minimum age was 17, but some lied and were enrolled at 16 or even younger. It wasn't very hard to get into the WLA. One, struggling to read the eyesight test chart, was passed by the doctor, who said, "Never mind, I suspect you would see a charging bull."

The women were issued with a uniform. For walking out they wore baggy brown corduroy breeches, knee-length socks and laced brown brogue shoes. A green, V-necked, long-sleeved jumper was worn over an Aertex shirt, topped with a brown felt hat. Their working uniform of brown dungarees, matching jacket and wellington boots finished the ensemble.



### The Land-Girl's Lament

Oh, Daisy must you swish your tail,  
And look at me with eyes of scorn?  
For if you overturn the pail  
I'll get the blame, you'll only yawn.



A third of the women came either from London or the industrial cities of the north. The ranks of the Land Army would have been considerably thinner without the cotton mills of Lancashire.

For most the new life on the land was a rude awakening. Most had volunteered because they liked the posters featuring smiling, glamorous Land Girls carrying sheaves of corn or cuddling baby lambs, bathing in sunshine in

open fields. What they didn't see was gruelling hard work and monotony. Work carried out by the women included planting and harvesting wheat and potatoes, milking cows, delivering milk by pony and trap to local houses, and looking after pigs, poultry and sheep.

They were expected to work 48 hours a week in winter months and 50 hours a week in the summer, but most of them worked longer, especially during harvest. The minimum cash wage for those over 18 was 22s 6d a week. There was no set holiday entitlement, paid or unpaid; it was left to individual farmers to decide when a Land Girl could take time off. Once she had worked for six months more than 20 miles from home, she was entitled to a free journey home, paid for by the WLA.

Some worked at Little Park Farm (Brimpton) alongside 900 Italians who had been captured in North Africa. An experienced Land Girl would work on one farm, but as the war progressed mobile gangs were established to work on different farms. Working so closely with younger men on the farms many Land





Girls went on to marry. In Hampshire six couples were married on the same day, but they continued to work on the land.

Some were badly treated, either by the farmers themselves or their wives, unused to having teenage lodgers. Food was often sparse, and farmers' wives could be petty or mean if they thought that their husbands were paying too much attention to pretty girls.

At the start of the war almost all the women lived in lodgings or billets close to or actually on the farms where they worked. These could be cottages with the families of other workers, or with the farmer and his wife. Few houses had baths, or hot water. To overcome the loneliness and isolation felt by many girls it was decided to set up hostels in vacant country houses or schools, where they were housed in bunk beds, as so many were used to sleeping in crowded double beds with their siblings. By 1944 there were 20,000 Land Girls across the country housed in 696 hostels, such as one at West End Road, Mortimer. Another was at Stratfield House in West End Road.

With so many Land Girls working in many farms throughout Berkshire a Miss Hargreaves and Miss Boston of Starlight Farm, Lambourn, offered those far from home a weekend day of rest and recuperation at their home.

By early February 1943 food production had been increased more than anyone had thought possible before the war. Arable acreage was between 40 and 50 per cent higher than 1939. More than double the 1939 acreage was under corn; the potato crop had almost doubled and sugar beet had increased by a fifth.



Mechanisation accounted for much of this growth, with the number of tractors increasing from 52,000 in 1939 to 120,000 in 1943, but there was still a demand for milkers.

Throughout the war there were constant recruiting campaigns to encourage more volunteers for the WLA. During the second week of August 1941 Reading Council organised a recruiting drive for women carrying out war service. Seventy Land Girls took part, accompanied by two tractors, with the mayor taking the salute at the town hall. As a window display Marks and Spencer had a diminutive Land Girl in regulation dungarees driving three spotted wooden cows through a farmyard, with a rooster looking on from his perch on the top of a hay rick. With Berkshire providing a major share of milk production for London, more women were needed by dairy farmers. Members of the local committee visited Reading University, where many students volunteered to work on local farms. Even just before D-Day the WLA was seeking 5,000 women for milking, tractor driving, general farming and rat destruction.

As well as working on farms many Land Girls worked for the Forestry Commission in the Timber Corps (where they were dubbed Lumber Jills), and volunteers worked on narrow boats on the canals carrying freight and raw materials from one industrial centre to another.

The number working in the WLA gradually decreased, until in October 1950 it was officially disbanded. Although the original service records do not survive, index cards on

microfilm, giving name, changes of name on marriage, address, date of birth and dates of service are available. Some even have photographs. The index, covering the period 1939 to

1948, may be consulted at The National Archives in MAF 421. There is also a Women's Land Army list of hostels and billets at TNA on MAF 47.

## *Land Girls lately in the media*

### Medals for the Land Girls of the Second World War

While a grateful nation later saluted its fighting forces, the 80,000 members of the Women's Land Army (WLA) received scant official recognition. The government only begrudgingly paid them a £150 resettlement allowance after the Queen made clear her support for their cause.

Now, some 68 years after the first of the women volunteered for service on the land, the surviving members of the WLA are to be officially recognised for their contribution to the war effort with a commemorative badge to celebrate their efforts.

*The Times 28 January 2008*

### Land Girls feel insulted by nameless medals

They worked tirelessly to till the fields and keep the country running under the shadow of World War II. But now Land Girls honoured by the Government for their backbreaking efforts more than 65 years ago have hit out at the poor standard of the commemorative badges and certificates sent out to mark their contribution.

Three former members living in the village of Marshfield, near Bath, say the un-named document and blank medal is nothing more than an insult and shows a complete disregard for their toil and heroic efforts all those years ago.

*Evening Post 28 July 2008*

### WWII Land Girls reunite 60 years on after farmer tracks them down from graffiti they scrawled on a barn wall...

A group of Land Girls who have not seen each other for 60 years are to be reunited after they were tracked down by graffiti they scrawled on a barn wall.

Greta Merle Williams, Margaret Gillard, Audrey Owen, Hilda Coles and Jacqueline Ferris met while working on a farm in 1948.

After their jobs came to an end they went their separate ways and have not met since.

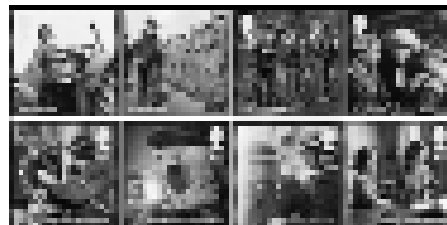
But farmer Roger Webber, 61, traced four of the "girls" after spotting their names, ages and the date daubed on the wall of a hay barn he renovated last year.

Now the former friends – who live within a few miles of each other – are to meet again at Hindon Organic Farm in Selworthy, near Minehead, Somerset.

*Daily Mail 31 December 2008*

### Land Girls' efforts honoured in WWII stamps

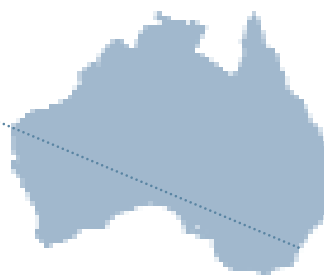
*BBC 13 May 2010 08:31*





*Mike Bailey (5648)  
finds a whole new  
branch of his family  
– thanks to a tip  
from Arthur Beech  
at the  
Research Centre*

# Discovering Australian family connections



My letter in the June *Historian* mentioned that I had recently returned from visiting a second cousin in Australia. Family history research brought us together – just over five years ago I didn't know I had a second cousin Sandra in Australia, and she had no idea that she had a family of cousins in England.

At a meeting of the Bracknell and Wokingham Branch of the society in January 2005 Ruth Timbrell approached me and said "I think that I may be in correspondence with a relative of yours in Australia." (Ruth's name may be familiar to some readers as she was the key contributor to *The Winkfield Chronicles*, a copy of which is at the society's Research Centre in Reading.)

When Sandra and Ian McAndrew visited the UK in late 2004 they were unaware that Sandra had any surviving relatives in the UK, let alone any in this area. However, Sandra knew that both her grandparents always



referred to Winkfield as home, so she carried with her a postcard that had been among her grandmother's papers. The card (left) shows St Mary's Church, Winkfield, and the times of the Christmas services 1909.

Sandra's grandfather John Robinson emigrated in 1911, and her grandmother Elizabeth May

Bailey joined him in 1913. (Both John Robinson and Elizabeth May Bailey were born in Winkfield within a week of each other.) Soon after Elizabeth May's arrival in Australia they were married in the Holy Trinity Garrison Church, Sydney. Elizabeth May's younger brother Albert (Bertie) had travelled with her as chaperone, and witnessed the marriage before returning home to Winkfield.

Sandra and Ian visited St Mary's Church, Winkfield, on the last Sunday of their time in UK. At the church they met Nyla Heighs, who had contributed to the chapter in *The Winkfield Chronicles* that covers the area, Maidens Green, where our ancestors lived. Nyla arranged for Ruth Timbrell to send a copy to Australia, and it was waiting when Sandra returned home. Sandra wrote to Ruth Timbrell thanking her, and including her email address and details of her family connection to Winkfield. It was Sandra's letter that prompted Ruth Timbrell to speak to me at the branch meeting.

I knew immediately from the family detail in Sandra's letter that she and I were related. I made contact with her by email, and we have been in contact ever since. Sandra and Ian

have told me how excited to receive that very first email. Apparently Ian remarked, "You're not an orphan any more – you have family!"

Sandra's grandfather, John Robinson, died in 1941, seven years before she was born, and Elizabeth May died in 1966, when Sandra was 18, so Sandra knew little about their lives before they came to Australia. We were able to share much family information: I to send detail of the family since her grandmother's emigration (and earlier), and she to send me copies of family photos not seen in the UK in living memory!



One of the first (shown left), a family group obviously taken at a wedding, arrived a few weeks before my father died. He was able to confirm that he had never seen the photo before, but he was able to identify all those in it.

Sandra and Ian returned to UK in spring of 2008. We had great fun visiting family places together. These included the place where Sandra's grandmother was born in Winkfield (then the Prince of Wales beer house, now a private house called Wall House); our great-grandparents' grave

in the churchyard of St Mary's, Winkfield; and our great-great-grandparents' grave in St James Church, Alderholt, Dorset. There I introduced them to very distant cousins, Donald Hibberd (fourth cousin once removed) and Dennis Bailey (fifth cousin once removed) and their wives, whom I had met previously through my family history research. We were all fascinated when

Donald demonstrated how he could use a dowsing rod to locate our 3x great-grandparents, James and Elizabeth Hibberd's unmarked grave.

We enjoyed an interesting evening with Dennis watching films of the old Congregational chapel, built by members of the Cripplestyle community, including our 4x great-grandfather, William (Cutty) Bailey, who had given the land on which it was built in 1807. Dennis was the last person to preach there in the mid-1970s.



On another occasion we all travelled to Suffolk to visit places where our great-grandmother, Lucy Cook, had lived as a child. Through contact with Sandra I had been able to find these Suffolk connections, as Sandra knew from her grandmother the maiden name of our great-grandmother Lucy. Back in Australia Sandra has a bible that bears the signature of Lucy's father, Henry Cook.

In her letter to Ruth Timbrell Sandra mentioned that they "have various items from your area, one being a small oak clock" presented to John Robinson by Windsor Forest Rifle Club in 1910.

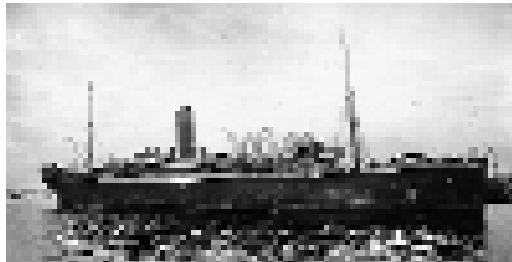


Attempts to find out anything about the Windsor Forest Rifle Club had been unsuccessful until Arthur Beech at the Research Centre suggested writing to the National Rifle Association (NRA) Museum at Bisley. This I did, and Sandra and Ian returned to Australia. After several weeks the curator replied, saying that while the NRA had no records of the club, their sister organisation, the National Small-Bore Rifle Association, did. He sent copies of extracts from the association's magazine announcing the opening of the club range in 1906 and giving details of the scores in inter-club competitions, where John Robinson's

name was mentioned. These included the 1910 Queen's Cup competition in which he represented Berkshire.

A bit of internet research led me to believe that for competing in the Queen's Cup John Robinson would have received a medal. An email to Sandra had her digging out two medals that she had forgotten existed, not knowing their relevance. All this as a result of Arthur Beech's suggestion!

Throughout their time with us Sandra and Ian talked of "when you come to visit us", so it was up to us to get organised. Our visit was memorable in various ways, but from a family history point of view it gave the chance to see Sandra's family artefacts: the clock that I have already mentioned; Elizabeth May's ticket for her £16 passage to Australia on SS *Themistocles* (pictured below);



the postcard Elizabeth May sent to her brother in Winkfield from Plymouth as they sailed from England; various photos of places in England including Bailey's garage at Winkfield; several photos taken in Kent confirming some of my UK research; John Robinson's handwritten diary of his passage from England to Australia; and the wooden trunk which carried his belongings on board the *SS Geelong* (the ship's name is still stencilled on the end of the trunk).



*Left to right: Ian and Sandra McAndrew, Anne and Mike Bailey*

It is quite amazing just how much material has survived in Australia, while much that must have existed in UK has been discarded. I conclude that those who have travelled miles away are more likely to keep artefacts, as links to the people and places left behind. Sandra and I did not know of each other's existence five years ago, but neither of us imagined just how much we could learn from each other about our common family history.

Perhaps it is time I put more effort into tracing great-uncle Edward, who went to Canada!

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

- Any member may join the online Discussion List, where information and problems are shared daily
- Topics range widely, and they are not confined to Berkshire

- Virtually every question posted receives several responses

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

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



## Housemaid to royalty Alice Sarah Starr (1872 – 1958)

My great-grandfather, John Starr, born in Linton, Cambridgeshire, in 1845, followed his brother William (born Linton 1839) to London in the 1860s, where they both became brewers' servants. William married Eliza Ford in Hackney in 1863. By the time of the birth of their third child, Alice Sarah in December 1872 they lived at 20 Castle Buildings, Castle Lane, Westminster, John and family being at No. 21. Castle Buildings were flats let to employees by Stag Breweries (later Watney Combe Reid). The buildings are still there in Castle Lane, off Buckingham Gate. Eliza died at No. 20 in 1875, aged only 39. William married again – Mary Clark, a widow (née Arnold), on 10 June 1877 at St Peter's, Stepney.

Imagine my interest when I saw on Mary's death certificate that the 36-year-old spinster, Alice Sarah Starr, the informant at her stepmother's death in 1908, gave her address as Buckingham Palace. Enquiries through the royal archives revealed that on 25 May 1898 Alice was appointed as a housemaid in the Prince of Wales' household at Marlborough House. Her salary in 1900 was £20 per year.

*John Starr (6358)*

*is surprised to find a great-aunt living  
at Buckingham Palace*

Following the death of Queen Victoria in 1901, the prince succeeded as Edward VII, and evidently Alice joined the king's household and lived at Buckingham Palace. After the death of Edward VII in 1910 Alice was retained in the household of the Dowager Queen Alexandra at Marlborough House, where she remained as a housemaid until shortly after Alexandra died in 1925.

The unmarried Alice was then 53. I have no further records of her until her death at the age of 85, following a coma, on 23 January 1958 at 11 Eccleston Road, Ealing, W13. She is recorded as a linen room maid, daughter of the late William Starr, brewers' drayman, the informant being her niece, Eleanor Ada Howe, of the same address, and who was probably the daughter of Alice's sister Ada Eleanor.

Although Hanwell Cemetery is almost opposite Eccleston Road, Alice was buried in South Ealing Cemetery in W5 4RH in a grave in the New Section, 23d/FF, the Hanwell site being reserved for Westminster residents.

What a story she could tell!

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

**W** Friends of Newtown Road Cemetery. This well organised website offers free access to a database of 7,500 burial records, and includes much helpful supporting information, such as a list of euphemistic place addresses: 99 Newtown Road was, for example the workhouse.

<[www.hungerfordvirtualmuseum.co.uk](http://www.hungerfordvirtualmuseum.co.uk)>

**E** Hungerford Historical Society has remedied the town's lack of a museum by placing online a timeline of local events, some themed exhibitions, stories of people, places and events, and an archive of maps and documents, all searchable.

<[www.census.nationalarchives.ie](http://www.census.nationalarchives.ie)>

**B** Household returns and ancillary records for the censuses of Ireland of 1901 and 1911, searchable by all information categories. Household transcriptions and images of originals are free.

**W  
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# Members' interests

Compiled by  
Bob Plumridge

Members submitting their interests in the last quarter:

- 2739 Mr D C Lambourne <dlambourne@smartchat.net.au>  
1/63 Muir Street, Mount Waverley, Victoria 3149, Australia
- 4337 Mr P Turner <pgn.turner@btinternet.com>  
7 Nairn Close, Acomb Park, York YO24 2RB
- 6492 Mr N Prince <nickprince44@btinternet.com>  
14 Tennyson Road, Thatcham, Berks RG18 3FR
- 6768 Mr K Wheeler <keith.wheel@btopenworld.com>  
Cherry Tree Cottage, Main Street, Melbourne, York YO42 4QJ
- 6859 Mr F Muirhead <jumbomuirhead@btinternet.com>  
43 Howards Hill, West Cromer, Norfolk NR27 9BH
- 7010 Mrs L March <smuggler456@yahoo.co.uk>  
6 Crest Close, Fareham, Hants PO16 8RZ
- 7042 Mrs G Connick  
28 Thornham Road, Gillingham, Kent ME8 6SG
- 7043 Mrs P Holdway <pauline@jandp.fslife.co.uk>  
Kestrel House, Bury Road, Alpheton, Sudbury, Suffolk CO10 9BP
- 7044 K Tiley <karen.tiley@talk21.com>  
149 Coleridge Road, Cambridge CB1 3PN
- 7046 Mrs C West <laystoncottage@btinternet.com>  
Layston Cottage, 3 River Green, Buntingford SG9 9ES

## Are your members' interests up to date?

You can easily register new names and dates by emailing  
<membersinterests@berksfhs.org.uk>  
with new entries or corrections, using the following comma-separated format:

membership number, NAME interest, place, Chapman Code, period  
for example,

8765, BUGGS, Lower Bugglesworth, LAN, 1750-1900

Regrettably, submissions in other formats cannot be included. Please note all  
submissions will be held on a computer.

## members' interests

7046 ALLEN Wolvercote OXF 1800+  
 7046 ALLEN Reading BRK pre 1800  
 7046 BARNES Heckfield HAM pre 1850  
 7010 BOAG Elgin SCT 1790-1950  
 7046 BROOKS Ashford MDX pre 1836  
 7046 BROOKS Farnham Royal BKM pre 1836  
 7046 BROWN Mattingley HAM 1700-1800  
 2739 BROWN Letcombe Regis BRK 1600-1650  
 4337 CAMPION  
     Shiplake BRK 1790-1870  
 6859 CARTER All BRK All  
 6859 CARTER All OXF All  
 6492 CHAMBERLAIN  
     All BRK 1750-1950  
 4337 CLEMENTS  
     Shiplake BRK 1815-1901  
 7010 CRAYTHORN(E)  
     Eye NTH 1800-1910  
 7042 CRIPPS Ramsbury WIL All  
 7042 CRIPPS Hungerford BRK All  
 7044 CULLIP All CAM 1850+  
 7044 CULLIP Sandy BFD pre 1860  
 4337 ELLETT All BRK 1780-1870  
 4337 ELLETT Remenham BRK 1844-1865  
 4337 ELLETT Challow BRK 1812-1887  
 4337 ELLIOTT All BRK 1780-1870  
 4337 ELLIOTT Remenham BRK 1844-1865  
 4337 ELLIOTT Challow BRK 1812-1887  
 6492 EMMANS All HAM 1750-1950  
 7046 FER London LND 1900+  
 7046 FER SWITZERLAND pre 1900  
 6768 FLETCHER  
     Binfield BRK All  
 7010 GRANTHAM  
     White Waltham BRK 1860-1930  
 7010 GRANTHAM  
     North Waltham HAM 1700-1860  
 6768 HO(U)LTON  
     Wokingham BRK All  
 7043 HOLDWAY  
     Newbury BRK 1820-1880  
 6492 KNOX All LND 1850-1950  
 6492 KNOX All LND 1650-1850  
 2739 LAMBO(U)RN(E)  
     Ashbury BRK 1650-1700  
 2739 LAMBO(U)RN(E)  
     Steventon BRK 1750-1800  
 2739 LAMBO(U)RN(E)

## members' interests

East Ilsley BRK 1800-1900  
 7046 MAY Winkfield BRK 1860-1914  
 7046 MAY RUSSIA 1899+  
 7046 MAY Heckfield HAM pre 1850  
 7046 MAY Easthampsted BRK 1850-1920  
 7043 MORRIS Newbury BRK 1820-1880  
 6492 NIGHTINGALE  
     All BRK 1750-1950  
 7044 OAKLEY Chieveley BRK 1850-1870  
 7042 PIKE Hungerford BRK All  
 7042 PIKE Ramsbury WIL All  
 7044 POCOCK Birmingham WAR 1850+  
 7044 POCOCK Manea CAM 1875+  
 7044 POCOCK Lambeth LND 1865-1880  
 7044 POCOCK West Isley BRK 1700-1800  
 7044 POCOCK East Isley BRK 1700-1800  
 7044 POCOCK Ashampstead BRK 1700-1800  
 7044 POCOCK Basildon BRK pre 1820  
 7044 POCOCK Kings Norton WAR 1850+  
 7044 POCOCK Bradfield BRK 1820+  
 7046 POTTER Hazleye HAM 1700-1800  
 7046 POULTER  
     Hartley Witney HAM 1800-1880  
 6492 PRINCE All BRK 1660-1950  
 7010 ROSE Inverness SCT 1780-1980  
 2739 SAUNDERS  
     Ashbury BRK 1650-1700  
 2739 SNELL Sparsholt BRK 1700-1800  
 7010 SPRINGETT  
     Chatham KEN 1790-1950  
 6492 STEEL All LND 1750-1950  
 7010 STUART Elgin SCT 1780-1945  
 4337 THATCHER  
     All BRK 1750-1850  
 4337 TIDBURY Basildon BRK 1750-1850  
 4337 TIDBURY Purley BRK 1782-1835  
 7044 TILEY Shoreditch LND 1860+  
 7044 TILEY Bristol SOM pre 1850  
 4337 TURNER Didcot BRK 1750-1850  
 7046 TWYMAN All ESS 1900+  
 4337 WILKIN Tilehurst BRK 1818-1905  
 6768 WILLAT(T)S  
     Wokingham BRK All  
 6768 WILLAT(T)S  
     Reading BRK All  
 7046 WINTERBOURNE  
     All BRK pre 1833

# 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.

Please note that you can also buy from our online bookshop at <[www.berksfhs.org.uk/bookshop](http://www.berksfhs.org.uk/bookshop)>, where you can:

- a) pay by credit card
- b) make possible savings on p&p if you are buying more than one item.

## Family history in Berkshire

*Three more Eureka Partnership A5 booklets of indexed transcripts of little-used Berkshire records by Eileen and John Bartlett and Angela Hillier, each with a brief history and explanation of the records used – a fantastic source of information for those fortunate enough to have ancestors in those places.*

### *Berkshire coroners' notebook 1775 – 1813*

(Eureka Partnership, 2010)  
A5, purple flexiback, 44pp  
£3.50 bookshop, £3.97 UK, £5.32 airmail

Three successive coroners kept a notebook recording various details of each inquest they attended, mostly in east Berkshire. Detail varies, but might include the date, place, distance travelled, who the vehicle was hired from, the subject of the inquest and verdict. This booklet is a useful supplement to the *Index to the Berkshire coroners' inquests* (Berks FHS CD)

### *Maidenhead and Windsor Wesleyans: baptisms 1823 - 1837 and 1846 - 1925 and burials 1843 – 1903*

(Eureka Partnership, 2010)  
A5, grey flexiback, 44pp  
£3.50 bookshop, £3.97 UK, £5.32 airmail

The Windsor Wesleyan Methodist Circuit was formed in 1826 and included many places of

worship in east Berkshire, south Buckinghamshire, west Middlesex and north-west Surrey. This indexed transcript of the record in the Berkshire Record Office therefore contains details of important family events relating to a very widespread geographical area. From 1858 the circuit was known as the Maidenhead and Windsor Wesleyan Circuit.

### *Newbury Wesleyan Methodist Circuit: historic roll 1899 – 1904*

(Eureka Partnership, 2010)  
A5, grey flexiback, 24pp  
£2.50 bookshop, £2.97 UK, £4.32 airmail

This includes the names and addresses of all those who contributed a guinea (including those who had moved away, and “in memory” of deceased loved ones) to the Wesleyan Methodist Million Guinea Fund. The circuit includes Boxford, Brightwalton, Chaddleworth, Chieveley, Hampstead Norris, Inkpen, Kintbury, Newbury, Stockcross and the Woodhays (Berks and Hants).

See also *Historic rolls for Reading and Swindon Wesleyan Circuits*.

### *East Ilsley: “A drunken worthless creature”: notes on parishioners, 1831*

edited and researched by Kay Sanderson (East Ilsley Local History Society, 2010)  
A5, yellow flexiback, 32pp  
ISBN 978-1-905291-27-4  
£2.00 bookshop, £2.47 UK, £3.82 airmail

The interesting foreword explains how and why the Rev Thomas, rector of East Ilsley until 1829, created notes about his parishioners. The information is dated from internal evidence as between 1831 and 1832. The comments are sometimes libellous, but always interesting, and they have been supplemented by the editor with data from the parish registers. Included in this booklet is also an undated terrier of East Ilsley Town. The centrefold has a copy of the map accompanying the terrier which is, unfortunately, too small to read without a strong magnifying glass.

#### Berkshire local history

##### *White Horse trail*

Secrets in the landscape 06 (Oxfordshire Geology Trust, nd)  
240mm x 115mm (9.5in x 4.5in), laminated six-fold document  
£2.00 bookshop, £2.47 UK, £3.82 airmail

This illustrated map is in a format that you can easily carry as you walk along the route pictured. It is lavishly illustrated with coloured photos, and contains geological and historical notes about the landscape and features to be seen en route. This is a fascinating document which will encourage folk to explore the famous beauty spot in old north Berkshire.

##### *Reading: hands of friendship: the story of Reading's twinning towns*

(Corridor Press, 2003)  
220mm x 155mm (8.6in x 6.1in), flexiback, 160pp  
ISBN 1-897715-11-0  
£8.95 bookshop, £10.80 UK, £14.14 airmail

This book has been compiled from a large number of stories told by many people and their mayors from Reading about their links with Germany, Holland, Ireland, Nicaragua and Barbados. Illustrated with photographs from Reading and overseas.

*Spencers Wood: celebrating the centenary of Ryeish Green School, 1910 – 2010*  
(Spencers Wood Local History Group, 2010)  
A4 flexiback, 60pp  
£5.00 bookshop £6.41 UK, £8.20 airmail

This is a fascinating story of the growth of a local elementary council school through decades of change, from a country secondary modern school into a successful comprehensive. After only a century of existence it was closed this year as the result of a decision by Wokingham unitary authority.

Old school log books, managers' minutes and memories by former pupils and staff are combined with facts and photos to create a must-have book for all those who were associated with the school, the local area and the history of the whole of Berkshire.

##### *Wantage: gallon loaves and fustian frocks: the Wantage Union and Workhouse 1835 - 1900*

Hazel Brown (Garden Shed Publications, 2008)  
250mm x 200mm (9.8in x 8in), flexiback, 2 plans (separate), index, 172pp  
ISBN 978-0-9554979-1-9  
£10.00 bookshop, £12.24 UK, £16.95 airmail

This is the first in-depth study of the Wantage Union Workhouse and the working practices of the union. It includes chapters on how the house operated and was organised, how the inmates lived and worked, and medical matters and financing. The work and attitudes of the Guardians are examined, as well as the effect that the new Poor Law Acts had on everyone.

There are a few photographs, diagrams and information text boxes. The appendices list the alterations (the cost and by whom) as well as staff and officers over the period. All the way through the readable text contains stories of named people and events. There is a general index and one of people at Workhouse Place, 1906, inside the back cover.

*Wantage: the largest tanyard in the kingdom: three centuries of the tanning industry in Wantage*

John Parrot (Garden Shed Publications, 2009)  
250mm x 200mm (9.8in x 8in), flexiback,  
index, 121pp  
ISBN 978-0-9554979-2-6  
£12.00 bookshop, £13.85 UK, £16.95 airmail

This is a fascinating book which will be of great interest not only to family and local historians but also to those interested in the occupational details of the leather industry. It traces the growth of the tanning industry in the town from Saxon times to its peak in the late seventeenth century, and ends with its total demise after the death of the last tanner in 1825. Since then almost all trace of the industry above ground has disappeared, and even road names have been changed.

The details of how the tanning process was carried out and the different occupations it generated are excellent. The initial processes involved the use of such delicacies as dog dung, urine and rotting vegetable material – the local smells must have been appalling. Also of interest to family historians are the biographical details of the family dynasties created between 1523 and 1825. Eight appendices with additional material, photos and plans, and all fully indexed make this a very good book.

#### Family history research aids

*How to get the best from the 1911 census*

John Hanson FGS (Society of Genealogists Enterprises Ltd, 2009)  
A5, flexiback, 111pp  
ISBN 978-1-907199-00-4  
£7.50 bookshop, £8.91 UK, £10.70 airmail

Although this useful and informative book was written when the only source of the 1911 census returns was via The National Archives

site, there is much to help you understand the information obtained in 1911 that doesn't appear in earlier returns.

The book is copiously illustrated with computer screen shots and records (that a picture is worth a thousand words is so true in this book) and problems that you may encounter in searching and understanding a particular image. Everything is explained clearly and easily by the author, who is a very experienced researcher, writer and lecturer. Recommended.

*Pitfalls and possibilities in family history research*

Pauline M Litton (Swansong Publications, 2010)  
170mm x 245mm (6.6in x 9.7in, flexiback,  
276pp  
ISBN 978-0-9553450-1-2  
£11.99 bookshop, £14.25 UK, £20.40 airmail

This excellent book starts with *Always read the introduction to any book, CD or website* and continues with a list of pitfalls such as *All these parishes are in Oxfordshire, the (modern) road atlas says so* (Berkshire residents make note). The main part is divided into topics (see the contents) with numerous sub-headings, so there is no index. The text is updated from a series of articles in *Family Tree Magazine* between 1998 and 2001, and includes cross-references to other topics, non-commercial websites only (apart from Scotland's People) and further reading. It ends with the statement: *Family history is like a game of snakes and ladders. Pitfalls are the snakes, possibilities are ladders, but most squares represent steady progress.* Recommended reading for anyone with elusive ancestors and records that are not where expected or which don't have the answers you want.



research centre research centre research centre

*Are you  
getting the  
best out  
of your*



## Berks FHS Research Centre?

The Research Centre in Reading is the jewel in the society's crown. It offers unrivalled resources and facilities to all researchers, no matter where their ancestors are to be found.



Upstairs, the Library is packed with books, magazines, reference works, directories, pedigrees, fiche... and more CDs.



Ancestry - Find My Past - censuses - burial indexes - Berkshire Name Index - LDS Vital Records Index - digitised trade directories... The computer suite is a gateway to a wealth of databases to help you to track down that troublesome ancestor, in Berkshire or way beyond.



As a one-stop FH research shop the Research Centre is hard to beat.

There's a good choice of opening hours.

It's easy to access by car or public transport.

There's no need to book.

It's staffed by helpful volunteers.

It's friendly.

*And if by chance you have time on your hands...*

... the Berkshire Record Office and the Reading Register Office are handily located next door.

If you live within reach of Reading and you still haven't paid a visit to the Research Centre, it's time to find out what you've been missing!

*more details about the Research Centre on the next page*

## Berks FHS Research Centre



### where

Yeomanry House, 131 Castle Hill,  
Reading, Berks RG1 7TJ  
0118 950 9553  
<researchcentre@berksfhs.org.uk>

- 15 minutes' walk from the centre of Reading
- next door to the Berkshire Record Office (BRO)
- in the same building as the Reading Register Office

### when

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)

### who

Open to society members for free, and to non-members for a small fee  
Staffed by helpful volunteers (but they cannot carry out research for you)

### what

Ground floor: reception, administration and computer suite  
First floor: library *See resources listed on opposite page*

Tours of the centre: about two hours' guided introduction,  
Next tour: 19.30 Monday 15 November. Book through  
<researchcentre@berksfhs.org.uk>

Ample parking, toilets, refreshment machines in BRO next door

### how

Search options:

- Do your own search at the Research Centre and print out results (small charge for print)
- Visit a Berks FHS stand at a family history fair
- Request a postal search of the Berkshire Name Index and/or the 1851 census. Get the details from <www.berksfhs.org.uk> or your Members' Handbook.

## Computer suite

Find My Past: 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

Ancestry Library Edition: datasets from North America and Europe, as well as UK material, including an increasing number of Greater London parish records (not Westminster)

Find My Past and Ancestry Library Edition can be accessed for a charge of £1 per hour each.

Note that neither of these society subscriptions gives access to 1911 census data.

Berkshire Name Index: index of censuses 1851-81, pre-1837 marriages, burials, strays and other Berkshire records

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 3rd edition

Local trade directories from 1830 onwards on CD

## Library

Around 8,000 items: about 20 per cent are Berkshire related; the rest cover UK, Irish and international material. See <[www.berksfhs.org.uk/librarycatalogue](http://www.berksfhs.org.uk/librarycatalogue)>.

International Genealogical Index  
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 and 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

# Gleanings *from exchange magazines*

Doreen and Tony Farmer

*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.*

## *Note on a highwayman's bold ride*

Dick Turpin's ride from London to York  
(50) *Yorkshire Family Historian* vol 36/1,  
March 2010

## *Penyrenghlyn boy*

Memories of Penyrenghlyn schools  
(61) *Glamorgan FHS* no 98, June 2010

## *A little known tale*

The humble beginnings of the song *The last post*  
(44) *Felixstowe FHS* vol 25/2, June 2010

## *The Welsh in Bristol*

Migration of the Welsh in Bristol  
(61) *Glamorgan FHS* no 98, June 2010

## *Archive services at the City of London*

Amalgamation of three archive resources  
(31) *Woolwich & District FHS* no 115,  
March 2010

## *Manorial records*

An underestimated source of information  
(4) *Buckingham FHS* vol34/2, June 2010

## *Researching British persons overseas*

Outline of places to look  
(33) *Hillingdon FHS* no 89, March 2010

## *Fromelles soldiers for whom no contacts have been made*

18 names  
(4) *Buckingham FHS* vol 34/2, June 2010

## *Leighton Park School, founded on Quaker principles*

(74) *Quaker Connections* no 46

## *The Thames hospital ships*

Reminders of another source of information  
(18) *Hertfordshire FHS* no 113, June 2010

## *Cuckfield remembered*

A review of a book written detailing the lives of Cuckfield soldiers from the Great War  
(21) *North West Kent* vol 12/2, June 2010

## *Book reviews*

Hertfordshire secrets and spies: diary of B Woodcock (Barnet Workhouse)  
(18) *Hertfordshire FHS* no 113, June 2010

## *Ballina in the 1940s*

Memories of life in Ballina  
(67) *Richmond Tweed FHS* no 103,  
March 2010

## *Development of civil registration in England and Wales*

Amendments and improvements over the years, and dates they came into effect  
(67) *Richmond Tweed FHS* no 103,  
March 2010