

Berkshire Family Historian

the quarterly journal of the Berkshire Family History Society

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March 2011

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Family names appearing in this issue:

Agget 22+	Evans 23	Midwinter 25	Topham 19
Aikin 28	Green 28	Morren 20+	Torpey 26
Banyard 14	Greig 27+	Morton 26	Trevenen 28
Baverstock 26	Halliday 28	Rider 28	Trigg 21
Bleichrodt 15	Hamblin 26	Rushbrooke 21	Waterhouse 10
Bunny 25+	Hamilton 28	Ryott 25	Webb 23
Candler 28	Hann 25	Stephens 25	Whalley 24
Crowe 28	Hannington 25	Stillman 25	Wilberforce 24
Drysdale 27	Hayward 10	Tate 28	Wilson 24, 25
Duffield 21	Hickman 25	Tempest 20	
Elphinston 28	Lindsay 11	Thesiger 28	
Elwes 19+	Meggot 19+	Timms 21	

Chairman's corner



Reputation and visibility

A recent meeting with a radio producer at Yeomanry House got me thinking: what must a family history society do to succeed? Succeed, that is, in delivering benefits to members and the public (a duty that, as a registered charity, your society must fulfil under current charity

law). My visitor had been surprised to discover the wealth of resources at Yeomanry House, for UK and overseas research, and for Berkshire itself. He asked whether people appreciated just how much is readily accessible at the Research Centre for family history research. He also quickly grasped that resources themselves are of little value without the addition, when needed, of informed help and advice. Together, users can get the most from them by searching different resources intelligently, and frequently conjointly, to solve supposedly intractable research problems.

Consider the Research Centre, the quality of society publications, branch meetings, the bookshop, outreach activities across Berkshire (and beyond) and all the communications, services and facilities delivered to members and non-members alike. Has your society first earned a reputation among users and supporters for being very good at what it does? And if it has, is it maintaining those standards or, even better, improving on them?

But reputation alone is not enough. The society must also be visible – sufficiently visible that members, non-members and other figures understand all that it can and does deliver for family historians – in Berkshire and

*Derek Trinder
Chairman*

beyond. As a society member you have an important part to play in raising this awareness. By keeping up to date with society activities you can share your awareness with others, so that they too can benefit.

New publications in prospect

A new CD, Berkshire Marriages, should be on sale when this magazine reaches you. Like the Berkshire Burial Index on CD, it will offer quality data, updated regularly as more records are added. See <www.berksfhs.org.uk> for details and coverage. This is just the first of some exciting developments with Berkshire's records to look forward to this year.

Society costs and membership fees

The trustees have reluctantly concluded that membership fees must increase for the 2011/2012 membership year. To those among you who pay your subscriptions (and donations) by standing order: please make a note now – and help to keep the society's administration costs to a minimum.

Fees last rose in 2008 and many costs have risen since, although until now the society has managed to absorb those increases. Rent paid to Reading Borough Council for your Research Centre at Yeomanry House is an example. Lease terms allow rent payable to rise in line with the Retail Prices Index – and you all know what has happened there. Next year's rental payments will be more than eight per cent higher than in 2008 when the lease was negotiated. The six branches are one of the society's strengths, but they come with costs attached – hire of premises, providing equipment and reimbursing the succession of stimulating speakers who cover a wide range of

subjects of general interest. Active support of your local branch can help you to get more from your research, and it helps your society too. It is a perennial conundrum: why do so many of those members who live in branch catchment areas not turn out to support them?

A word of thanks

I should like to thank all who helped on the society's stand at Bracknell's Family History Fair and those who are helping at *Who Do You Think You Are? Live* at Olympia, which will be running as this magazine is being distributed.

Why shouldn't you be a trustee?

The notice for the 2010 AGM at Reading appears in this issue of the magazine. As required by the constitution, some of your most experienced trustees stand down this year, and your society is losing some of its most experienced members from its management team. To everyone who lives in or near to Berkshire: do think hard (no, think very hard) whether your skills and expertise could benefit the wider society membership – if only for a year or two. Do contact me, or any of the other trustees, if you would like to know what is involved.

Berkshire Burial Index

David Wright

The parishes and periods which have been added to the Berkshire Burial Index since the position shown in the December 2010 issue of the *Berkshire Family Historian* are set out below.

Buckland St Mary the Virgin 1678 - 1751
 Buscot St Mary 1745 - 1798
 Didcot All Saints 1568 - 1812
 Lambourn St Michael & All Angels 1947 - 1976
 Reading Henley Road Cemetery 1942 - 1945, 1948 - 1951 and 1960 - 1962
 Reading London Road Cemetery (burials in consecrated ground) 1863 - 1865
 Reading London Road Cemetery (burials in unconsecrated ground)
 1926 - 1933 and 1945 - 1953
 Sutton Courtenay All Saints 1540 - 1580
 Wargrave St Mary 1978 - 1990

These will be included in the next update of the CD-ROM which we expect to issue towards the end of 2011. Including these most recent additions, the index now contains more than 731,000 entries (compared with the 721,000 on the 9th edition CD). Details of the services for researching burials in the Berkshire Burial Index are given on pages 32-34.

Research Centre news

1911 census on Findmypast

You can now access the 36.3 million records of the 1911 census for England and Wales at the Research Centre, as well as many new military and parish records that have been recently added.

Website progress

Chad Hanna
IT manager

The web team welcomes the new GenUKI maintainer for Berkshire, Robert Monk, who has taken over from Paul Brazell. The society now hosts the Berkshire GenUKI pages on the website at <www.berksfhs.org.uk/genuki/BRK>, where Robert has put in much work in expanding the available information and integrating it with the information held in the rest of the website. You can email Robert at <genuki@berksfhs.org.uk>

What's happening in the members' area of the website? Until recently there's been very little visible progress, because transferring the discussion list archive has proved to be a bit of a headache. Since the list started in its present form in December 2003 hundreds of members have contributed much useful information, and others simply contribute to the sense of community to be found there. Transferring these nearly 9,000 emails one at a time wasn't a practical proposition, so I developed an automatic method of adding these emails and other articles to the website, and creating the monthly indexes with links to the articles. By the time you read this I should have solved the final problem of linking between the indexes and the emails.

The email archive can be searched using the *Search* box in the top right of each web page (except for that of the bookshop website) but

you do need to have registered and signed in. Those visitors to the site who are not logged in can see the many public pages, but only logged-in members can see the extra results from the email archive within the members-only area.

After the email archive, the next major addition to the members' area will be the journal archive back to volume 1 part 1. Initially this will be the *Berkshire Family Historian* and the earlier journal, and then *Heritage*, the magazine of the Windsor, Slough and Eton Family History Society before it merged with rest of the society in the late 1980s. We have Colin Liebenrood, a long-standing member, to thank for the enormous task of scanning all the magazines (filed in the Research Centre) to create files that can be read with Adobe Reader.

The other task is to get a searchable catalogue of the Research Centre library onto the web. For security reasons this means separating the rest of the information on the Research Centre server onto a new computer. This will then allow us to make the library collection available to non-members.

I'm very grateful to the rest of the web team and all of you who contribute articles to the website – although more will always be welcome.

Research Centre news

Change of opening times

From March 2011 you will be able to use the centre on the 4th Saturday every month from 11.00 to 16.00 (excluding bank holiday weekends). Note these Saturday dates: 26 March, 28 May, 25 June, 23 July, 27 August, 24 September, 22 October and 26 November

This means there will be no 4th Sunday opening after 27 February 2011.

Notice of Annual General Meeting

The 36th Berkshire Family History Society Annual General Meeting, with annual reports from the chairman and treasurer, will be held before the Reading Branch meeting to start at 7.30pm on Thursday 30 June 2011 at the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints at 280 The Meadway, Tilehurst, Reading RG30 4PE.

If you would like to nominate a member to the Executive please let the secretary know, in writing, by Friday 3 June. Nomination forms may be obtained from the secretary, at branch meetings or downloaded from <www.berksfhs.org.uk>. Please ensure that the person you nominate is prepared to sit on the Executive Committee and be a trustee of the charity. All nominations should be seconded.

Information about being a trustee of a charity and what it entails can be found on the Charity Commission website at <www.charity-commission.gov.uk> (publication CC3).

Certain people are not able to be a trustee:

- Persons under the age of 18
- Anyone convicted of an offence involving deception or dishonesty unless the conviction is spent
- Anyone who is an undischarged bankrupt
- Anyone who has been removed from the trusteeship of a charity
- Anyone who is disqualified from being a company director.

Of the current Executive Committee, Sue Matthews and Jocie McBride have signified they are unwilling to seek re-nomination.

COMING SOON

Berkshire Marriages

Database of Anglican and non-conformist marriages from Berkshire (pre-1974) parishes, published by Berkshire FHS as PDF on CD

With regular updates, as is currently the practice with the Berkshire Burial Index

Each record will contain:

Surname of groom

Forename(s) of groom

Surname of bride

Forename(s) of bride

Date of marriage

Parish

Parish of origin (if given)

Later entries contain valuable additional information– for example, details of fathers and witnesses – which will be added to the content where available.

Price and date of availability to be announced – keep watching <www.berksfhs.org.uk> for an announcement

Around the branches

Newbury Branch

<newbury@berksfhs.org.uk>

Newbury branch took part in the Family and Local History Day at Padworth in November, which provided an opportunity to use the new display stand to good effect in showing the programme for the first half of 2011. Attendances could have been better, but we did speak to everyone who was there. Several enquiries received on the day have been followed up.

Work has been continuing slowly on both the Thatcham BMD project and in contributing to the war memorial project. One lesson learned this autumn was the need to ensure that all materials on computer are fully backed up on a separate hard disk. Two of the committee have had training as web authors, so we can update our information on the society website.

The Christmas party was well attended, and featured a family history quiz, which included questions about the society. This evening closed the year with smiles and good companionship, not to mention an impromptu talk from a member about her ancestor who was the first governor of Dartmoor prison.

We'll be exploring the possibility of running drop-in sessions in local venues in 2011. The impact of budget cuts on local government may make access to libraries more difficult – or it might create a new opportunity. As ever, the challenge will be finding volunteers to do events, as everyone seems to be very busy even (or especially) those who are retired.

Bracknell and Wokingham Branch

<bracknell@berksfhs.org.uk>

Most of us have domestic servants in our ancestry, and Ian Waller's *Upstairs downstairs* presentation in November ranged over class, religion, health, mop fairs, training and unionisation, with helpful information on sources. December's subject was also topical; with the recent commemoration of the Battle of Britain fresh in our minds, the Christmas meeting had a Second World War theme, with games, quizzes, contemporary newsreel and more modern comedy harking back to that time. Some members also brought food using recipes from wartime Britain.

Are you making the most of your branch?

Every month hundreds of members attend branch meetings all over the county. They'll hear an interesting talk, perhaps borrow a book from the branch library and share one or two of their research problems, all with a cup of tea in the congenial company of like-minded folk. Why don't you join them? Branch programmes for the coming quarter are listed on the back cover.

Reading Branch

<reading@berksfhs.org.uk>

Reading Branch has started holding drop-in sessions at Mortimer Library. The first was in December, with others to follow in the new year. It's hoped to make this a regular event, probably once a month, depending on the library requests. We're concentrating on showing people how to get the most out of Ancestry, which is available in the library, as well as encouraging them to bring along their research problems. We also give them information about the Research Centre and the help available there.

Members are busy taking photographs of memorials for the society project which Margaret Young is co-ordinating.

Reading Branch has been working with the Computer Branch to hold the first day-time meeting for members at the Berkshire Record Office at the beginning of April.

Vale of White Horse Branch

<vale@berksfhs.org.uk>

On 13 November 2010 the Vale Branch held a drop-in session at Wantage Library, and it was a very successful event. We plan to do another on 19 February in Abingdon, and on 19 March in Wantage. These sessions have been re-branded as Family History Surgeries, because, after the huge numbers at Abingdon in October, the library managers would rather we had a booking system. It's hoped that these will become regular events.

Windsor, Slough and Maidenhead Branch

<windsor@berksfhs.org.uk>

In conjunction with the Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead we held a family history advice session in Maidenhead Library one afternoon in late November. The library itself seemed unusually quiet, and we only had a handful of visitors despite local publicity. Everyone seemed to be concentrating on Christmas shopping, as the town itself was busy.

Snow was very much the topic of conversation when the branch held its last formal meeting of the year on the last day of November. Our speaker was unable to travel from Kent because of the snow and, with no last minute replacement possible, we held an impromptu members' evening for the brave souls who were able to attend. This proved very successful; we heard about ancestors who had had streets or houses named after them, about silk weavers and Welsh coincidences. We then held a short quiz based on old occupations, and drew the Christmas raffle. It just goes to demonstrate the wealth of information that our members hold, and the benefits that can be gained by those who are able to attend one of the local branch meetings of the society.

In December, a party of us had an enjoyable Christmas dinner together at a local restaurant. This was an opportunity for more informal discussions on family history and all other topics under the sun (with no snow for a change).

And is your branch making the most of you?

Perhaps it's time to think about putting something back. Branches always need volunteers, whether to serve on the committee, or to serve tea, not to mention many other small tasks that make branch membership enjoyable and helpful for others. Even if your time is very limited your branch can probably make use of you. Have a word with your chairman – names and contact details are given on the inside front cover.

Don't like dark evenings?

Come and join us at our first day-time meeting at
the Berkshire Record Office
Thursday 7 April 2011, starting at 1pm

The BRO's senior archivist, Mark Stevens, will talk about Broadmoor Hospital and its archive of the criminally insane. The talk will last for an hour with time for questions afterwards.

You could take the opportunity to combine this with some research of your own, either in the BRO or in the society's Research Centre. The BRO is open from 9.00am to 9.00pm, and the Berks FHS Research Centre is open from 10.00am to 6.00pm (extended opening times for this special day).

Please book your place on <computerbranch@berksfhs.org.uk>

We're hoping to organise further day-time meetings, perhaps two or three a year, and we'd like to know what would interest you; please tell us about any topics or themes that you'd like to hear about.

Gillian Stevens and Margaret Crook

Bracknell FH Fair

The society played a prominent role in the Bracknell Family History Fair on Sunday 30 January. It is the largest popular genealogy Sunday fair in the country, attracting stands from numerous family history societies, record offices, speciality groups such as the Romany and Traveller FHS and the Anglo Italian FHS, dealers in postcards, computer software, charts, maps and many other FH commodities.

In addition to volunteers on the Berks FHS stand answering general enquiries from Findmypast and the Berkshire Name Search, Jean Debney dating old family photographs, David Chilton and John Chapman helping those with military ancestors, the society hosted three specialist talks in the Forest Suite. At 10.45 Chad Hanna and Gillian Stevens spoke on *Family history in the Thames Valley*, at midday David Chilton explained *Researching Victorian soldiers* and at 13.15 Dr Peter Durrant talked about *Tracing the poor in*

the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries. All three talks were well attended.

The society's net takings from the show were £940, 36 per cent up on last year with a broadly comparable attendance. CD sales were up 41 per cent, of which the top sellers were Berkshire Maps and Berkshire Burial Index, and BBI updates. Donations totalled just over £62, about double those of last year. Nine new members signed up, and further returns will show over the coming weeks in the form of new faces at branch meetings, additional new memberships, visitors to the Research Centre and extra purchases from the shop.

The chairman Derek Trinder expressed his thanks to all the members who gave of their free time to help man the stand.

Have you ever felt slightly superior to those who know little or nothing of their family history?

It seems you can now do so with good reason. According to a report in the Daily Mail in January, those who familiarise themselves with their family history appear to gain a stronger sense of identity and self-esteem, which somehow boosts intellectual performance.

In a study carried out by researchers at the University of Graz and published in the European Journal of Social Psychology, 80 students were split into groups, and asked to spend five minutes thinking about their fifteenth-century ancestors, their great-grandparents or a recent trip to the shops. Immediately afterwards the students were asked how confident they felt about upcoming exams. Those in the two groups that remembered past generations were more confident about their chances of success. The students then underwent a range of intelligence tests. The ancestor effect cohort scored to 14 out of a maximum 16, whereas those who simply had to recall a more mundane memory, such as a recent shopping trip, scored just 10 out of 16.

Psychologists think that the hardships of our predecessors may serve to remind the brain that seemingly impossible hurdles can be overcome.

The axe has long been poised over [Oxfordshire Local Studies](#)' home at Westgate, in central Oxford, and finally it is now to fall. The central library closes on 14 February for a refurbishment, and it will reopen on 7 March – but without the Local Studies collection, which is moving to the Oxfordshire Record Office in Cowley. The transition, during which duplicate materials are to be weeded out, will take several weeks, and the slimmed-down Local Studies collection is scheduled to reopen at Cowley in May.

The future of the [Thames Valley Police Museum](#) at Sulhampstead, rumoured as due for closure, seems still to be shrouded in uncertainty. It is to be hoped that its collections and excellent work will be maintained in some form, but at the time of going to press a firm announcement was still to be made.

The Museum of English Rural Life at Reading University is holding an exhibition entitled [Land ladies: women and farming in England, 1900–1945](#), telling the stories of women who successfully ran their own farms, college-trained ladies who pursued agricultural careers, farmers' wives who assisted with the family business, and casual field hands. The exhibition runs until 19 April and details can be found on www.reading.ac.uk/merl.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Did your granny fly a Spitfire? the [Air Transport Auxiliary](#) is the subject of a new study centre and exhibition due to open at Maidenhead Heritage Centre in the summer of 2011. The ATA was a civilian organisation which employed both male and female pilots to ferry warplanes between factories, maintenance units and front-line squadrons. Some of the pilots were too old for active service, and others too disabled, giving rise to the joke that the initials stood for "Ancient and Tattered Airmen".

A DVD entitled *Spitfire sisters* is being sold alongside the exhibition. Details can be seen on www.atamuseum.org.

[West Berkshire Museum](#) is due to re-open on 1 April following a long period of closure for refurbishment.

general news

general news

general news



The telephone number of the Berkshire Record Office has changed to 0118 937 5132

- Watchfield parish registers: burials 1861 - 1990
banns 1858 - 2004
- Newbury Borough: completion of catalogues of rate books and valuation lists for 1907-62 (N/FR)
- collection of papers of the Hayward family of Frilford and elsewhere, 1657 - 1875, including a number of deeds for north Berkshire parishes (D/EZ22)
- deeds of Purley manor and the Purley Park estate 1677 - 1913 (D/EZ25)
property in Ashbury and Little Coxwell (including Idstone capital message), 1610 - 1768 (D/EX138)
property in Maidenhead 1819-26 (D/EX136)
- a copy made in 1867 of the enclosure map for Marsh Benham in Speen, originally drawn up in 1780 (D/EX2177) – of particular interest as it includes areas to the north and east which are missing from other versions of this map.
- plans of Bowers Farm, Letcombe Regis, 1915 (D/EX2178)
Alfred Waterhouse's estate in Yattendon, Hampstead Norreys and Frilsham in 1883 (D/P159)
- tithe maps for the parishes of Brimpton (D/P26) and Yattendon (D/P159)
- enclosure map and award for East Hagbourne (D/EZ78)
- a set of lantern slides of Berkshire views from the 1920s or 1930s (D/EX2070)
- Reading Borough's quarter sessions court, 1603 - 1777 (R/JQ) including a register of recognisances paid by licensed victuallers and innholders, 1607-35 and a volume of poor law settlement examinations 1768-77

2011 census: the last of its kind?

The 2011 census to be taken on 27 March is likely to be the last in the traditional style of a paper return for every household in the country. Rapid changes in society have altered the requirements of data users – not only those in central and local government, but also commercial bodies needing accurate population data to help them make key decisions.

Beyond 2011 is a government project tasked with developing new approaches to the collection of population statistics after 2011.

Meanwhile, in *Family Tree Magazine* it has been suggested that householders with an eye to the future should scan and/or photocopy their own 2011 census returns, and file this safely away. Who knows when the 2011 census will be made available to the public, and at what price? You could be helping the genealogists of the future.

Dates for your diary

Sat 19 Mar	Romany & Traveller FHS open day	Freshbrook Community Centre Worsley Rd Swindon SN5 8LY	< http://website.lineone.net/~rtfhs/index2.html >
13.00 Thur 7 April	Mark Stevens talk: Broadmoor Hospital and its archive	Berkshire Record Office	< computerbranch@berksfhs.org.uk >
18.00-20.00 Tue 12 April	open evening for Berks FHS members	Berkshire Record Office	< arch@reading.gov.uk >
10.00-17.00 Sun 17 April	Oxfordshire and Bucks family history fair	Exeter Hall Oxford Rd Kidlington OX5 1AB	< www.familyhistoryfairs.org >
Mon 9 May	free introductory visit	Berkshire Record Office	book 0118 9375132 or arch@reading.gov.uk
10.00-16.00 Sun 15 May	2nd Berkshire family & local history day	Holiday Inn Bath Road Padworth RG7 5HT admission £2	Andrew Punshon < ampfhs@live.co.uk >
Sat 18 Jun	Wiltshire FHS open day	Wiltshire College College Road Trowbridge BA14 0ES	< www.wiltshirefhs.co.uk/eventscalender.html >
18.00-20.00 Tues 12 July	open evening for Berks FHS members	Berkshire Record Office	< arch@reading.gov.uk >
10.00-16.00 Sat 30 July	Buckinghamshire FHS open day	Grange School Wendover Way Aylesbury HP21 7NH	< www.bucksfhs.org >

From *Jackson's Oxford Journal* Saturday 24 August 1816, issue 3305 researched by Michael Coomber and posted on Rootsweb Berkshire

OXFORD, Saturday, August 24.

On Wednesday the 21st instant the grandson of Mr. John Lindsay, of West Hagbourne, came of age, which event was celebrated by a numerous and respectable party of friends assembled on the occasion. The day was conducted with great hilarity, and completely in the style of Old English hospitality, and perfectly consistent with the species of character peculiar to this much envied land of rational liberty and independence, namely that of a Berkshire Yeoman; and which we hope to see revived again by the rejection of outlandish manners, and the adoption of dress, the indigenous produce of our native soil, and of our own manufacturers. The evening was concluded by the merry harp and fiddle, in a room tastefully decorated by a green foliage, fancifully intermingled with festoons of flowers, and which continued till Phoebus opened his gates, and his rays proclaimed the approach of day, when the party consigned themselves to the arms of Morpheus, after expressing to their hospitable host their heart felt satisfaction on this happy occasion.

A simple guide to *The London Gazette* online

John Gurnett

follows up the September 2009 introduction to The London Gazette with some advice on how to get the best from the online archive

The London Gazette is the official newspaper of the British government, and it is also the oldest surviving newspaper in the UK. Regular contents include:

- official dispatches of military operations during wartime, some giving names of officers and other ranks, award of medals of gallantry with a brief description of the acts being rewarded
- from 1840s military awards to other ranks
- deaths of officers and, from the Crimean War onwards, those of other ranks
- loss or capture of Royal Navy and merchant ships
- certificates of competency for masters and mates of merchant vessels
- patents, company law and civil service notices (including Post Office examinations)
- business information such as company mergers, company directors, and probate notices, bankruptcies, dissolution of partnerships and sales of property
- lists of unclaimed money held at the Court Funds Office, now including from the National Lottery
- changes of name and deceased estates
- grants of British citizenship
- government, church, legal and military appointments
- promotions in military, naval, postal and civil services.

The London Gazette has unfortunately only been indexed since 1787, with the publication of six-monthly alphabetical surname indexes, but with the introduction of the online service it is now relatively simple to find a name or event. The vast majority of the *Gazette* has been scanned and is freely searchable online, with less than one per cent unavailable. However, not all years can be searched.

From the home page at <www.london-gazette.co.uk> ignore *Browse recent notices*, *Browse publications* and *Placing a notice*; go instead to *Historians* and *Search the archive*. This will take you to *Advanced search*. You will then face a choice of historic events from both world wars, the Boer War, and a number of others such as Rorke's Drift or the death of Napoleon. You may ignore these, but continue by entering your own search dates, either a single date or a date range. An *Alternative search* will be by page number, but most often we do not know the page number. Next enter the search word or phrase, and then search.

The next screen will display search results. Click on PDF, and you will be presented with a page from the *Gazette*. On the left hand side is an icon looking like a pair of binoculars. Click on this and enter in a box *What word or phrase would you like to search for*. The word will appear in highlight, making a search through the page much more simple. (If you are using an Apple computer the binocular icon will not appear.)

All issues of *The London Gazette* containing references to the Royal Air Force from 1936 to 1952 for an individual year are available in PDF format, with a master index detailing issue numbers, issue date, supplement issue and date, number of pages and annual page number. Unfortunately each year is priced at £25 plus postage and packing.

At least two partial indexes of the *Gazette* have been compiled. The first is the index to the orders in council, proclamations, royal commissions of inquiry, orders and notices of government departments and all other matter published in *The London Gazette* from 1 January 1830 to 31 December 1883. It is held at the Mormon Library at Salt Lake City in Utah. The second, compiled by Ralph Hall, who extracted all people who lived in London from 1665 to 1700, is held at the Society of Genealogists.

Finding evacuees part II

Dr Martin Parsons

of Reading University continues his article on the child evacuees of Second World War, focusing on those who were sent overseas

In my previous article I mentioned that a number of children were evacuated overseas during the Second World War. Some people – those with the money to do so – sent their children abroad privately. According to *The Times* of 1 September 1939 at least 5,000 had left Southampton for the USA during the previous 48 hours.

The original cost of moving children in this way was £15, which made it an elitist scheme, as this sum was beyond the reach of many. To combat this the government asked Geoffrey Shakespeare, parliamentary under-secretary at the Dominions Office, to chair an inter-departmental committee to consider offers made from overseas to house and care for children, whether accompanied or unaccompanied, from the European war zone, residing in Great Britain, including those orphaned by the war, and make recommendation thereon.

As a result, the Children's Overseas Reception Board (CORB) was established. So how does one search for a CORB or private evacuee?

Private evacuees

This area is probably the most difficult to research, unless you know the ship on which your subject, the relatives with whom they may have stayed, or the sponsorship scheme under which they may have gone. For example: Ford America sponsored children of the managers of Ford UK; Rhodes scholars were asked to house "one or more children of Oxford and Cambridge dons, or those children of dons from other universities"; Kodak-Eastman had a scheme; and in July 1940 Eleanor Roosevelt established the National Child Refugee Committee in New York.

Very recent research done by the University of Reading in collaboration with the English Speaking Union has resulted in a number of

recorded interviews and a limited (c200 entries) database being housed at the Museum of English Rural Life (MERL) in Reading and at the ESU in London. This material is available to any researcher, and contains much useful personal information including the name(s) and address(es) of the hosts in the USA, their UK address, the ship on which they sailed, and the date of their return. If you know that your relative sailed to the USA privately, even if they are not in the database, the list of ships will give you a starting point.

Passenger lists are available at the The National Archives at Kew and they can also be found online at <www.findmypast.co.uk/migration.jsp>. An initial trawl will give you the basic details, but further transcripts and copies of documents will cost pre-bought

credits: five for a transcript and 30 for an image. (The same also applies to the CORB evacuees, see below.)

The nature of this private evacuation makes it very difficult to put an accurate figure on the numbers leaving the country, but it has been estimated at around 17,000.

CORB evacuees

This area is slightly easier to investigate, as it was a controlled, government scheme. Children had to meet certain criteria (see *I'll take that one*, p160) one of which was that 90 per cent had to come from grant-aided schools, for which log books may be available. Letters were sent to parents and schools, and copies of these may still be available in private collections and in CORB files. Most of my work has been done via oral testimony, the transcripts of which can be found in the archive at MERL.

The scheme was announced in mid-June 1940, and by the 4 July there were 211,548 applicants – far too many for the system to cope. As a consequence, the Cabinet halted the scheme “without killing it and to ensure that it was kept to quite small proportions”.

However, one advantage to the present-day researcher is that we know some of the 19 ships that the CORB evacuees sailed on, and the date of their departure and arrival. These were not big ships; in fact only eight of them could carry more than 100 passengers.

Although there is no complete list of the ships involved in the scheme, the following chart may provide you with an opening to your research and give you extra information when accessing the Findmypast database where you can also search by ship's name. So, if you know that your subject left for South Africa, but are not sure when or on which ship, you can look at the full passenger lists of the *Llanstephan Castle* and the *City of Paris* until you come across the name(s). Again, anything beyond the basic information will require credits. This is an example of what came up for one CORB evacuee....now Margaret Wood.

Search criteria used:

Last name: Banyard

First name: Margaret

Sex: female

Date of birth: 1929, plus or minus 2 years

Year of departure: 1940

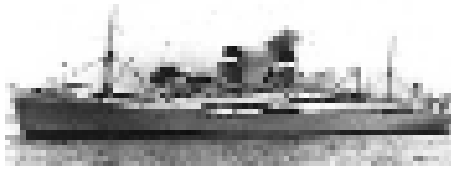
Departure port: Liverpool

Ship name: Llanstephan Castle

Destination country: South Africa

ship	sailed	convoy no	arrived	destination
Anselm	21/7/40	OB 189	3/8/40	Canada
Hilary	6/8/40	OB 194		Canada
Batory	5/8/40	WS2	16/10/40	Australia
Oronsay	10/8/40	ZA	21/8/40	Canada
Antonia	10/8/40	ZA	21/8/40	Canada
Duchess of York	10/8/40	ZA	21/8/40	Canada
Bayano	16/8/40	OB199	28/8/40	Canada
Ruahine	16/8/40	OB199	27/9/40	New Zealand
Llanstephan Castle	24/8/40	OB203	20/9/40	South Africa
Nestor	24/8/40	OB203	20/10/40	Australia
Volendam	28/8/40	OB205		Canada
			<i>torpedoed in the Atlantic 1/9/40 and towed back to Liverpool</i>	
Rangitata	28/8/40	OB205	3/10/40	New Zealand
Nerissa	8/9/40	OB210		Canada
Newfoundland	8/9/40	OB210		Canada
Name unknown	8/9/40	OB210	6/10/40	Canada
City of Paris	10/9/40		13/10/40	South Africa
City of Benares	13/9/40	OB213		Canada
			<i>torpedoed and sank 17/9/40</i>	
Diomed	17/9/40	OB215		Australia
Nova Scotia	21/9/40	OB217	3/10/40	Canada

In addition to the above, some ships did not sail because of the sinking of the *Benares*. These included the *Largs Bay* to Australia and the *Llandaff Castle* to South Africa. The *Rangitane* was already at sea on its way to New Zealand, but returned to offload its



The SS City of Benares was carrying 90 child evacuees, in convoy, when she was torpedoed 253 miles west-south-west of Rockall on the night of 17-18 September 1940. The Benares sank within 30 minutes. Due to a counting mistake during the rescue, one lifeboat was left alone at sea. Its passengers included six evacuee boys from the CORB programme. They spent eight days afloat before being sighted from the air and rescued.

passengers. In addition, the *City of Simla* was sunk on the 21 September, but all the children were rescued.

The sinking of the *SS City of Benares* had a dramatic effect on the government's overseas evacuation scheme. She had been sailing to Canada when she was hit by a torpedo fired from U48, commanded by Heinrich Bleichrodt. In all, 77 evacuees were killed, together with 179 adults and crew, including six evacuee escorts. The media used the attack as anti-Nazi propaganda and called it a war crime, a stance which still lingers today in some quarters, despite evidence to the contrary.

Although children could still be sent privately, the event prompted Churchill to comment to the Defence Committee on 28 September 1940:

In view of this recent disaster to the ship carrying women and children to Canada, the future of evacuation overseas of children must cease.

It was officially abandoned on 3 October 1940, and those waiting to embark were sent home. In total 2,664 children were included in the CORB scheme, of which 1,532 went to Canada, 577 to Australia, 353 to South Africa, and 202 to New Zealand.

CORB remained in existence, with a redefined remit of maintaining contact with the children overseas, sometimes via radio links between the BBC and the host broadcasters. Recordings of some of these short, but often poignant conversations can be found in the Imperial War Museum sound archive. CORB was also later involved with ensuring their safe return home.

There are many books dealing with the overseas evacuation but this is a selection I would recommend.

M Fethney *The absurd and the brave* Book Guild (general)

(In Appendix XIV the author lists all the CORB children who arrived in the Dominions, their ages and their home town. I would recommend this as initial reading for anyone researching CORB evacuees.)

M Henderson *See you after the duration: the story of British evacuees to North America in WW II* Britannica (USA)

A Horne *A bundle from Britain* Macmillan (USA)

M Parsons *I'll take that one: dispelling the myths of civilian evacuation 1939-45* Becket Karlson (general/academic)

E Stokes *Innocents abroad* Allen & Unwin (Australia)

Dr Martin Parsons has been researching evacuation for over 20 years. As well as British evacuees he also works with German and Finnish war children and the children of Dutch collaborators. He is the author of a number of books on the subject, editor of the journal Children in War, and has been involved in numerous radio and TV programmes, both in the UK and in Germany. He can be contacted on <m.l.parsons@reading.ac.uk>.

Dots and pixels

what's the difference?

*Roger Wallington (3461)
probes the mysteries of
digital imagery
and tells you how to get your
pictures under control*

DPI v PPI

Equipment manufacturers and software suppliers seem sometimes to use these terms interchangeably to describe resolution of an image. However they are quite distinct specifications (although they come together in scanner technology, as described in part II of this article which will appear in June).

ppi signifies the number of pixels per (linear) inch in your digital image. This affects the quality of the printed photo and its size, insofar as a low pixel count cannot successfully be spread over a large print format. If there are too few pixels per inch each pixel will be very large, such that individual pixels may become visible. This is not generally the desired effect, although it is occasionally used deliberately, when faces are pixelated to disguise identity. For most purposes 200 to 250 ppi will give near photographic quality in print.

dpi has relevance only in printing (although some scanner manufacturers also use it). Printers generally use between four and six different colours of ink, mixing them to make up all the colours of the image in a series of tiny dots. With a high dpi setting on your printer you'll get better tonal quality in print-out; colours should look better, and blends between colours should be smoother. However you'll also use more ink, and printing will be slower. You might want to try setting your printer to a lower dpi to save ink and speed up printing.

Cameras

Four main factors determine the quality of the photos that a camera takes:

- 1 Quality of the recording device (camera's optics and sensor)
- 2 Size (in pixels) of the digital image
- 3 Digital format in which it is stored (lossless v lossy compression)
4. Technical proficiency and the "eye" of the photographer

Size does count; the bigger the image in pixel dimensions, the better it will reproduce, both on screen and on paper. Digital cameras use the terminology megapixels (MP) to describe how many pixels can be captured on the camera's electronic sensor. These megapixels are the digital resolution of the camera. This translates into a theoretical image size as follows:

approx paper size	pixel dimensions	digital resolution
6 x 4 in	1200 x 960	1.1 MP
7 x 5 in	1600 x 1200	2.2 MP
10 x 8 in	2048 x 1536	3.3 MP
14 x 10 in	2816 x 2112	6 MP
17 x 12 in	3504 x 2336	8 MP

What resolution should your camera have? A general rule of thumb is that printed output should be 200 to 250 ppi to achieve near-photographic quality. The easiest way to figure this out is to work back from the camera's stated capture resolution. A 3.3 MP camera will normally have its highest photo resolution

as 2048 pixels wide by 1536 pixels high. If we divide these numbers by, say, 200 ppi, we get 10.24 x 7.68 inches, so a 3.3 MP camera can take a photographic resolution 8 x 10 inch picture. From a copying perspective, it also means that it can capture an 8 x 10-inch photo at photographic resolution. This is the largest photo size likely to be found in family albums.

Quite apart from taking family portraits or holiday snaps, digital cameras are useful for recording information that is not otherwise available electronically. In copying documents the ppi should be increased, because of the increased detail, and a 6 MP camera would be best. Note that if you've set your camera at a lower resolution, you should substitute these figure in the equation; a nominal 6 MP camera set at 1200 x 960 is only capable of copying or producing a 6 x 4 inch document at photographic quality.

Cameras are usually advertised by the number of pixels they have in their image sensor. However not all pixels are equal, and again, size matters! A standard 35mm film frame is 36 x 24mm. Compact digital camera sensors have an area some 25 times smaller, and digital SLR sensors are about 10 times smaller. The impact of sensor size on quality is a complex issue. The bottom line is that for a given pixel count, the larger the sensor (and hence the larger the area of the individual pixels) the better the image quality, and the lower the noise or fuzziness, which manifests itself as small digital artifacts similar to interference on a digital TV. Another factor affecting quality is that small sensors tend to differ in type from large sensors; they use part of each pixel to store charge, whereas the large sensor in a digital SLR uses the whole pixel area to capture light. Since smaller pixel areas

generate more noise, and compact sensors are not only smaller to start with but also use some of their pixel area for charge storage, their noise level is significantly higher. Compact digital cameras with small sensors can only operate sensibly in fairly bright light conditions, up to the equivalent of ISM 400, before the noise becomes excessive, whereas digital SLRs can operate at the equivalent of ISM 3200.

So bigger is better when it comes to image quality and digital sensors. Of course bigger is also more expensive, and it means larger, heavier and more expensive lenses, which is why many digital cameras stick with small sensors. It's cost, not quality that keeps sensors small, and it's worth repeating that more pixels are not always better; they also equal more noise for a given sensor size.

Image formats

There are several well-known formats, although they may not all be available for your camera. The table below compares the most used (file sizes are based on a 2048 x 1536 pixel photo):

	JPEG	TIFF	RAW
pros	Small image size, very good photographic reproduction, best format for emailing or posting to the web, compatible with virtually every image editor and viewer	"lossless" format, ie, all image information is retained	Contains "pre-processed" information from the camera, ie, exactly what the camera sees
cons	"lossy" format, which compresses by removing information which can never be recovered. Photo degradation on a save after editing, even at highest quality setting	Huge file size even when compressed. Has multiple "standards", so not all programs can read all TIFF files	Usually large file size. Requires conversion to a standard format (eg, TIFF, JPEG) before it can be used by most image editing or viewing programs.
uncompressed	1.5 Mb	9.2 Mb	2.4 Mb variable
compressed	Variable: small to unviewable	4.5 Mb	

Few compact digital camera offer RAW format, and it cannot be used by image processing software, unlike both JPEG and TIFF. Once taken, copy the files to your computer but, as can be seen above, TIFFs take up considerably more space. JPEG may appear to be the answer, as it's good photographically, can be compressed almost to extinction, is used by every compact digital camera and can be manipulated by all image processing software, such as Adobe Photoshop and the free Irfanview. It's the most widely used format for practical purposes. However, each time you save or re-save a JPEG file it will degrade slightly, and compression is achieved by removing information. None of this can be recovered. So if your photos are in JPEG format an important rule is: always work on a copy, never edit the original. If you're planning to do multiple edits, first save the photo in a lossless format such as TIFF, (image processing software can convert between formats) and add an extender to the filename to indicate an edited file (eg, 2007-10-23-5653-a.tif).

If you compress your 2048 x 1036 pixel JPEG picture (approximately 10 x 8 inches) to 640 x 480 pixels, the picture size will be reduced to 3.2 x 2.4 inches, and the file size will be commensurately smaller. However, if a recipient wishes to blow up the received picture to its original size, it will still only be 640 x 480 pixels in size. At 10 x 8 inches the

pixels will be nearly seven times larger in area, and can become quite blocky. Higher compression ratios will make the situation even worse.

If the camera has a telephoto lens use this in preference to digital magnification, as the same reasoning applies.

The same applies when emailing photographs (eg, to magazines such as the *Historian*). High compression conveniently reduces the file size, thus reducing the upload time to the recipient, but the picture then becomes very much smaller and not suitable for printing. Blowing it up to a reasonable size doesn't help, as the individual pixel size must increase, maybe to an extent that makes it unprintable. Help the editor by sending photographs, especially those of written documents, at high quality and not compressed. Also, when submitting documents with embedded JPEG files, eg, photographs, always send a copy of the JPEG file at full resolution separately, as they cannot be extracted from the document for printing purposes.

At this point a word of warning: it's fine to keep copies of your photos in your genealogy and/or photo album software, or in any other document, but make sure you also have copies in the original JPEG or TIFF format, because in the long term proprietary software standards may not be maintained.

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)

berkshire eccentrics

*In the third article in this series
Penny Stokes (2961)
introduces a Georgian gentleman
who combined extreme parsimony
with a degree of integrity not
commonly found in his peers*

In 1714 John Meggot was born in Southwark to an eminent brewer, who bought Marcham Park in Berkshire in 1717, the year before he died. The fatherless boy, aged four, was sent to Westminster School for 10 or 12 years, where he excelled as a scholar, although this prestigious education endowed him with no love of learning or culture. In later life he was never seen with a book.

In his teens he went to Geneva where he developed great skill in horsemanship. Two or three years later, perhaps on reaching his majority, he returned to meet his maternal uncle, Sir Harvey Elwes of Stoke in Suffolk, whose heir he was to become, and to which end he changed his name to Elwes.

Sir Harvey was "the most perfect picture of human penury" according to John Elwes' biographer, Edward Topham. Worth £100,000 a year, he spent just £110 living at his Suffolk mansion of Stoke. His heir seems to have adopted a similar economic lifestyle, at least when visiting his uncle, wearing darned stockings and a tattered waistcoat. The two of them huddled over a miserable fire, sharing a single glass of wine, eating spartan fare and going to bed when darkness fell, to save the price of a candle. It was suggested that John Elwes would change into rags and eat a hearty meal at someone else's house before arriving on his uncle's doorstep, but there was a family predisposition to deranged miserliness: Sir Harvey's sister Amy, John Elwes' mother, inherited £100,000, but was said to have starved herself to death.

During Sir Harvey's lifetime John Elwes lived at Marcham, where he fathered two

John Elwes the Berkshire miser



illegitimate sons on his housekeeper Elizabeth Morren. Her name appears in his will only as the mother of the sons; otherwise she seems to have been erased from Elwes' life, and nothing can be traced of her origins or fate.

Miser-in-the-making he may have been, but John Elwes was also something of a playboy. He was clubbable, sociable and moved in fashionable circles. In London he danced, drank and ate well (preferably at the expense of others) and, like all Georgian men-about-town, he gambled. After one ruinously expensive night at the card table he walked to Smithfield to meet his own cattle being brought to market, and haggled with butchers over the price of a shilling carcass.

Stories of his parsimony were legion, and relished by his peers: when travelling he would carry boiled eggs in his pocket to save spending at inns, and he shunned the expense of a post-chaise, preferring always to ride on horseback. Travelling companions would be horrified as he led them along perilous cross-country rides to avoid the turnpike toll. His horses were kept on a regimen almost as frugal as his own, but nonetheless he was regarded as a good judge and breeder of horses.

He was generous to a fault towards needy friends. Four-figure sums were freely offered to, for example, Lord Abingdon, whose aristocratic honour was once at stake over a racing bet, and a Captain Tempest who could not fund the purchase of a desired Parliamentary seat. These loans were repaid, but many less scrupulous borrowers found Elwes a soft touch, because he considered it unbecoming to ask a gentleman for money. He squandered thousands on crazy and dishonest investment schemes, over which he seems to have exercised no critical judgment. His biographer claims that he lost £150,000 in unrepaid loans and phantom bonds.

However his financial naïveté did not extend to property matters, and Elwes owned substantial acres in central London. His development of Marylebone, Portland Place and Portman Square generated wealth even faster than his friends could take it off him. His fortune accumulated to an estimated £700,000, whilst he

himself reportedly lived on £50 a year, a sum that made Sir Harvey look prodigal.

As a Berkshire JP Elwes' reputation for integrity marked him as exceptional. In this capacity he was once approached by two distressed old ladies facing a harsh and humiliating judgment from the church courts. Without hesitation Elwes rode through the night to London to obtain relief for their case. As a racecourse steward at Abingdon he was probably an example of probity to his peers.

On the basis of his magisterial record Elwes was asked to stand as Abingdon's MP in 1774. He was a compromise candidate, chosen to avoid the unseemly fray of electoral contest, and because each political faction believed him to be theirs. Each was to be disappointed, however, as Elwes voted according to his conscience. He prided himself on having obtained his seat for an outlay of just eighteen pence, and gave it up after three parliaments, in the 1784 general election, because the looming prospect of a contest for his seat might have obliged him to woo voters – with consequent expense. He was equally horrified at the prospect of being elevated to the peerage (as was considered by Lord North); such eminence would have required the keeping of a carriage and liveried servants, not to mention a sartorial upgrade.

At Marcham he kept just one servant, Thomas, whose job included milking the cows, and tending to the horses and foxhounds, as well as preparing and serving his master's food. (Elizabeth Morren's departure from the Marcham household went unrecorded.) Elwes believed that "If you keep one servant your work is done; if you keep two it is half done; if you keep three you may do it yourself." Although supposedly a connoisseur of French food and wine, Elwes economised on home fare to an absurd degree. He would eat his way through a whole sheep, notwithstanding its gradual putrefaction, rather than waste any meat. One story recounts him offering a hungry companion a "crushed pancake" from his pocket – two months old, but "none the worse for that". Legend credits him with once eating a moorhen that had been caught

by a rat, although it is tempting to wonder whether sometimes he acted up to his public image.

Seventy when he gave up his Parliamentary seat, Elwes revisited his mansion at Stoke in Suffolk to find it in crumbling disrepair (no surprise, since he had authorised no maintenance) and held in contempt by locals who referred to it as the local poorhouse. Marcham was in no better state. The millionaire landlord adopted a peripatetic lifestyle, camping in whichever of his London properties happened to be empty. In his final months at Marcham his eccentricities intensified with the onset of insomnia, anxiety and paranoia. He dispensed with bedsheets, and took to sleeping shod and fully clothed. On 26 November 1798 he died at Marcham, in the presence of his sons John and George, to whom all agreed he was devoted,

although he had never sent them to school.

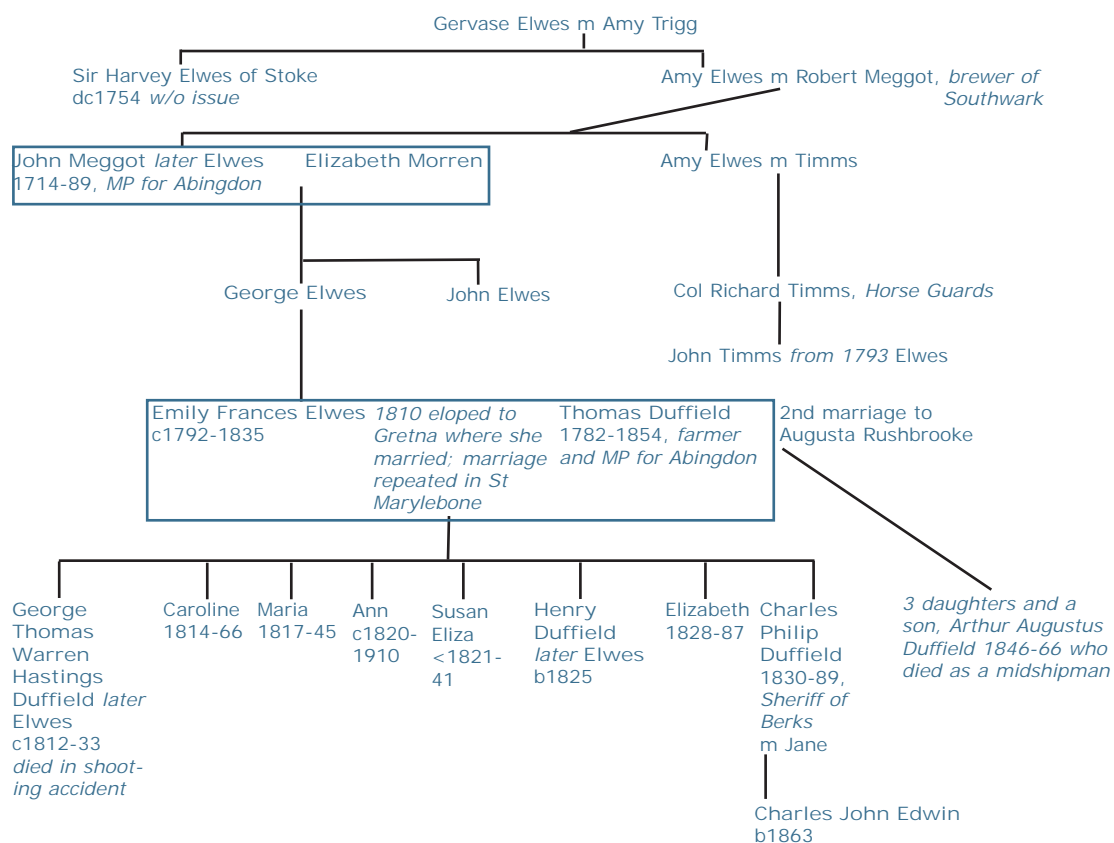
John Elwes' will, made in 1785, divided his personal estate between John and George, although the entailed element passed to his grand-nephew John Timms who, in keeping with the tradition, changed his name to Elwes. There was a legal tussle with the Timms family over the sons' portions, but George inherited Marcham Park. In time it passed to his only child Emily, who with her husband Thomas Duffield remodelled the house. It remained with the Duffields into the twentieth century. Today it is Denman College, owned by the Women's Institute.

Sources

Edward Topham *The life of the late John Elwes, Esquire* (1791)

J Smith *Topographical and historical account of the parish of St Mary le Bone* (1833)

<www.familysearch.com>



The descendants and heirs of John Elwes (occupants of Marcham Park in bold)

Low-cost family history

Peter Beaven (5526)

reminds us that free online family history is continually expanding and improving

Starting or extending your family history is becoming easier as more records are transcribed for computer access. Many of these are on pay-to-view sites, but full subscriptions for using these at home could cost several hundreds of pounds annually. This article describes some ways of minimising costs, chiefly by getting the best out of free sites.

BMD

Fiche copies of GRO indexes can be studied free of charge at the Berkshire Records Office and some other places, but searching online is much easier, as a computer does not get tired and overlook an entry.

The main source of GRO records is FreeBMD at <www.freebmd.org.uk>. This is a volunteer project which has transcribed most of the BMD indexes from the start in 1837 in to the 1940s, with coverage being steadily extended. To minimise transcriber error the records are copied by two different people, and this is shown in a search result where these records are shown in bold type. In addition, where there are queries about a transcription the record is shown in italic font.

The Soundex option allows you to look for a surname with a slightly variant spelling, and also to use wild cards, ie, to replace letters with an unspecified alternative. For example: a search for **Beav?n** will find both **Beavan** and **Beaven**. A search for **Bev*** will find the original **Bevan** and **Bevin** but also any other name starting with **Bev**.

Another useful feature when searching for a marriage is the ability to limit results to those containing the names of both spouses. A similar facility exists for the post-1911 births, in which the records contain the mother's surname.

Most images of the GRO records up to 1983 can be downloaded to your PC. (If you have any

problems viewing a particular file format then download the free IrfanView from <www.irfan-view.com>.

A link on the FreeBMD site (*Click here to learn what to do now*) takes you to the GRO website where you can order a certificate. Avoid commercial sites which offer to help you in ordering a certificate; they may charge a hefty premium for doing so.

One of the FreeBMD sponsors is Ancestry, which provides an alternative free search facility of this data from 1837 - 1915. Although it does not have the facility of matching partners of a marriage it can be useful if FreeBMD is busy. Ancestry can be used to search for records between 1916 and 2005, but to see the data you need an account. However you can narrow the date down to the year, and then use the information to see the images on FreeBMD (searching in all four quarters).

Censuses

A census record can often identify parents, thus providing an alternative to buying a birth certificate. A free transcription of the 1881 census of England and Wales is on <www.familysearch.org> and also on the pay-to-view sites (where it is hoped you will pay to download the original image). The other major source of free census transcripts is FreeCen at <www.freecen.org.uk>, a project in association with FreeBMD but at an earlier stage of development. (<www.freecen.org.uk/statistics> will show you exact coverage to date.)

Having obtained an individual name from one of these sources, it is possible to deduce a family from an earlier census using the search procedures. On the 1881 census a search for Thirza Aggett finds her as a 23-year-old cook in Devon. Of interest is that the 15-year-old housemaid is a sister of her future husband.

Searching the 1861 census on Findmypast for Thirza Aggett, 1856+/-2 finds:

AGGETT, Thirza ? F Okehampton Devonshire
 AGGOTT, Thirza 1857 4 F Newton Abbot Devonshire

With a less unusual name it would have been better to restrict the search to Devon. However the record from Newton Abbot fits the known information.

The next stage is to use the *Advanced search* with the spelling from the transcription and search with only *Last name* AGGOTT, and at the bottom of the menu restrict by using *Other persons living in the same household First name:* Thirza. On this site the spelling of names in this row does not allow for variants, so make sure to use the spelling from the initial search, including middle names if present. This will produce:

AGGOTT, William	1813	48	M	Newton Abbot
AGGOTT, Ann	1814	47	F	Newton Abbot
AGGOTT, Susan	1843	18	F	Newton Abbot
AGGOTT, Ann	1851	10	F	Newton Abbot
AGGOTT, Elizabeth	1855	6	F	Newton Abbot
AGGOTT, Mark	1861	0	M	Newton Abbot

To check that the list does not include two families it is safer to run another search using the most distinctive name, and check that the person you are looking for is included.

The ability to restrict a search to an exact name can be very useful, particularly in the 1911 census, where the return was filled in by the householder, which can result in useful spelling mistakes. Looking for people in the same house in London as [Henry George Evans](#) I saw [Emily Mathra](#) (sic) [Evans](#). Knowing that his wife had been [Emily Martha Webb](#) made it easy to identify the household.

Parish registers

Parish registers are the major source of family records before 1837. They can also provide vital information after the start of the GRO indexes, and some of them are now also available online.

The first resource for parish registers online is the site of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints (LDS) at <www.familysearch.org>, which has recently undergone a major revamp. A more limited source is FreeREG at <www.freereg.org.uk>, which has nearly

13 million records from many counties. You can check the current state of coverage by county and parish on <www.freereg.org.uk/parishes>.

Many individuals have prepared transcriptions and placed them on web pages. GenUKI lists many of these under the county pages, and an internet search may find useful links. A listing of some of these can be found at <www.appleshaw.plus.com/Sources.htm>.

Another useful source of information is the Online Parish Clerks project, which can be found at <www.onlineparishclerks.org.uk>. The online parish clerk, not to be confused with the local official, is a volunteer who collects genealogical information about a specific parish and will answer email enquiries without charge. Geographical coverage is still quite limited, but useful information can be obtained, as long as you do not expect the volunteer to do your research.

Conclusions

You can develop your family history at no cost if you are prepared to make use of the wide range of free sources, and you do not even need to own a computer to use them: Berkshire libraries have good IT facilities, and in many cases offer free access to Ancestry. Even better is the Berkshire FHS Research Centre, where the computer suite has access to both Ancestry and Findmypast, as well as a large collection of records on CD.

Most of the information available has been transcribed, and so the usual warnings apply: typing errors will occur, and data could be missed. The original records will often contain supplementary information which will amplify and confirm the family tree. Online searching should be regarded in the main as preliminary to seeing the primary records.

If you make use of these facilities you might like to put something back for others. Most of these sites run on volunteer effort, which anyone can join, and the Berks FHS also has transcription projects which will bring revenue to the society.

But is he buried in the cemetery?

Newtown Road Cemetery, close to Newbury town centre, was closed in 2000 on safety grounds, but the Friends of Newtown Road Cemetery (FNRC) are working with Newbury Town Council, which is committed to re-opening the cemetery, to breathe new life into its 4.5 acres, to make it safe and to understand what lies therein. The restoration work is diverse, so FNRC has three groups: the Nature Advisory Group; the Monuments Working Group and the History Research Group.

Ros Clow, who leads the History Research Group, describes here the work of investigating who was who, and where they lie.

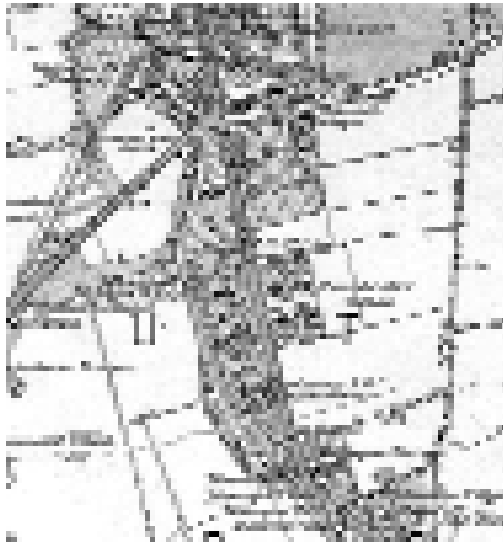
In Newbury Town Hall on 25 January, 1847, G Hammond Whalley opened a preliminary enquiry "relating to the Bill for establishing a Cemetery at Newbury". The graveyard of the parish church of St Nicolas was already overflowing, with only four or five spaces left, even when old graves were emptied to put new bodies in. Local mortality stood at 220 people a year.

The Newbury Cemetery Act created the Newbury Cemetery Company to build the cemetery that still stands on Newtown Road. The Act also prevented further burials in the parish church graveyard, around which people were dying of fever, possibly from drinking beer made in the nearby breweries which drew water polluted by the run-off from the cemetery.

First the walls and the lodge (now 69 Newtown Road) were built, then the Anglican chapel (still standing) in 1850, and later (possibly 1852) the Dissenters' Chapel. In 1850 the northern section (nearest the town) was consecrated by the Bishop of Oxford, Samuel Wilberforce, although the first burial took place in unconsecrated ground by the west wall, of the Presbyterian minister Reverend William Wilson, who had given evidence at the public enquiry.

Following a public meeting in January 2009, when Newbury Town Council asked for ideas on re-opening the cemetery, Dr Elizabeth Capewell set about forming a Friends group, which was formally inaugurated in October. Twenty people interested in researching the history of the cemetery became the History Research Group, and it was immediately evident that there were two kinds of researchers: *family* historians and *fascinated* historians.

The family historians had already researched their relatives, and were immediately able to present biographies, often including photographs and documents, but we were unable to establish whether these relatives were actually buried in our cemetery, as the original record of plot numbers and allocations no longer exists. The Berkshire Burial Index (BBI) provided much evidence, but it is incomplete, with no burials recorded before 7 October 1868, and a gap between 1 October 1884 and 3 January 1898. We were directed to the memorial inscription record (in Newbury Library) created over many years by Mrs Margaret Pattison (now an honorary Friend), and Newbury Workhouse records in the Berkshire Record Office enabled us to add 292 burials not recorded in the BBI.



Newtown Road Cemetery on the OS 6-inch map of Newbury, 1880s.

From the index we estimated that approximately 11,000 people are buried in the cemetery, and early on we decided that we would like to remember as many of them as possible by writing about them and their life on our website <www.fnrnewbury.org.uk>. This is where the fascinated historians started to make their mark, and several starting points were possible.



Unusual gravestones catch your eye. One such was a stone wheel, marking the grave of Jim Hann (pictured left), who was already an accomplished motorcycling competitor at 19 when he died in 1922 in a motorcycle accident at Theale.

Eye-catching inscriptions include Walter Berkeley Wilson's grave, adorned with masonic symbols. We know now that Brother Wilson, then grand master of the local lodge, died in his sleep in 1882 aged just 32. The local masonry lodge has provided for his truncated column (the symbol of a life cut short) to be re-instated. Inscriptions also tell us that some graves are for ex-mayors, for whom we are certain to find photographs in the town hall records. Examples are H S Hannington, J F



Newbury masons raise a glass to the memory of Brother Wilson after restoring his monument.

Hickman, H J Midwinter and R A Ryott.

The cleanest graves in the cemetery are those maintained every two years by the Commonwealth War Graves Commission. Doug Larsen led research into all of the 19 servicemen buried in our cemetery, in preparation for a guided tour on Remembrance Day. In the process he discovered about 40 memorials on family graves where the servicemen died abroad – just a bit more research to do.

The *Newbury Weekly News* (*NWN*) (see microfiches in Newbury Library or the originals at Colindale) provides a wealth of information, particularly through obituaries. Frank Stillman (died 1929) was an editor of the *NWN* who used to spend Christmas Day at the workhouse, distributing tea and tobacco, and talking with everyone there. And Joe Stephens, who died in 1953, kept ponies and was well known at the cattle market.

Newspapers or journals provide clues. Joseph Bunny MD, one of the original directors of the cemetery, is reported in several

regional newspapers in 1867 as the coroner in the case of baby-farming by Mrs Hamblin of Newbury. At least three babies died in her care (all buried in our cemetery), and this was cited as evidence that the practice happened in rural as well as urban areas. Dr Bunny's tomb (he died in 1885) is near the lodge. Dr Bunny's daughter's death, aged 15 in 1860, is reported in *The Morning Post*, but is Anna Louisa buried in the cemetery?

Local publications such as Joan Booker's *A Newbury childhood* led us to discover that her young brother, Paul Torpey, is buried in our cemetery. He died of TB in 1927 at the local hospital. The book contains a moving description of how his family coped with the death and the funeral while living in the Homes for Heroes built on St George's Avenue. Richard Godfrey's book *Newbury Borough Police 1836-1875* introduces us to a past town crier and policeman, Henry Froom Beck, buried in our cemetery.

House deeds often give information about the builder: James Baverstock, variously

described as scrap metal merchant, marine dealer and District Chief Ruler of the Berks, Bucks and Oxon branch of the Independent Order of Rechabites, built 93 Newtown Road. Albert Percy Morton, butcher and Deacon Emeritus of the Baptist Church, built both 25 and 30 Priory Road.

Sometimes our enthusiasm runs away with us. At one time I felt I should have a T-shirt printed with *But is he buried in the cemetery?* as I so often needed to deflate someone's contributions at the History Group meetings. So far we have researched about 200 burials; with only 10,800 to go we are always looking for new researchers.

So much for the past. The town council is supporting the renovation of the beautiful stained glass in the chapel, is planning to introduce an Adopt-a-Grave scheme and, as the cemetery re-opens fully, is encouraging all kinds of flora and fauna to enhance this green space in the south of Newbury. Maybe we'll see you here – especially if you know of someone buried here?

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); 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.

In the late eighteenth century Catherine the Great of Russia asked Britain for help in building up the imperial navy

John Gurnett tells the story of some who answered the call



Sailing under the Russian flag

British sailors have fought under many flags, but those who served in the Russian navy in the eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries have not received their due fame. Of the 23 Russian ships engaged in the Battle of Hogland in 1788, during the Russo-Swedish War, no fewer than 11 were commanded by British officers.

A notable example was Samuel Greig (1736-88), born at Inverkeithing in Fife. He devoted himself to the improvement of Catherine the Great's navy, and he encouraged a number of British officers to join him in her service. In 1770, as commodore he was sent to attack, using fire ships, an overwhelming force of Turkish ships, which had retired close to the island of Scio, protected by shore batteries. Commodore Greig, assisted by another British officer, Lieutenant Drysdale, set the match to the fire ships with his own hands. He and Drysdale then leaped overboard and swam to their own boats under fire from the shore. By the following morning virtually nothing was left of the town or fleet. The empress

immediately promoted Greig to admiral.

In 1788 Greig was involved in the Battle of Hogland against Sweden, after which he sent 17 Russian officers to prison at St Petersburg because they had not supported him during the engagement. His services were fully appreciated by the empress, who promoted him to the rank of admiral of all the Russias and governor of Cronstadt. She also bestowed on him many honours of the empire: St Andrew, St Alexander Newskie, St George, St Vlodimir and St Anne.

Soon afterwards Greig was blockading the Swedish fleet in the Baltic when he was attacked by a violent fever. When the empress heard of his illness she ordered her most senior British doctor to take care of him, but he nonetheless died soon afterwards. He was given a state funeral and a memorial was erected to him at Reval (now Tallin).

Greig's son, Alexis Samuilovich Greig, was enrolled at birth as a midshipman in the Russian navy as a reward for the services of his

father. After serving the Russian tsars conspicuously for a number of years he was promoted to the rank of admiral and Admiral in Attendance to the Tsar, as well as being made a Knight of the Order of St George. In 1816 this Greig was appointed commander of the Black Sea fleet, a post he kept for 17 years. At the same time, he served as military governor of Sevastopol and Nikolayev, introducing so many reforms and improvements that the citizens of Nikolayev erected a statue to his memory in 1873. The Russians gave him the credit of establishing their Black Sea fleet.

All four of Greig's sons followed in his footsteps, and his grandson ended up as minister of finance.

After the death of Sir Samuel Greig, Admiral George Tate became the senior British officer in the fleet. He was born in London in 1745. His father, another George Tate, had also served in Russia, and later became an agent for the Russian navy in London. He eventually emigrated to North America, where his family continues to live. His third son also entered the Russian navy in 1770, and took part in several battles against the Turkish and Swedish fleets. He was promoted to the rank of rear-admiral, and presented with a miniature of the empress Catherine II set in diamonds. He was made an admiral and senator by Alexander I, but died suddenly in St Petersburg in 1821, having received the orders of St Waldemar, Alexander Newsky and St John as a reward for the services he had rendered the Russian navy. His papers are held by his descendants in Portland, Maine.

Another example was John Elphinston, a Royal Navy captain who had been present at the capture of Quebec. He accepted a commission in the Russian Navy in 1769 and became a rear-admiral. Yet another at this time was Captain James Trevenen who, although he did not achieve the fame of the Greigs, was a no less eminent commander. After taking part in the last expedition of Captain Cook he joined the Russian navy as a captain, serving under Samuel Greig at the Battle of Hogland, and taking a leading part in the action at Vyborg Bay, where he was killed. Trevenen went out to Russia at the particular request of the empress to take command of a voyage of discovery in the Far East, but the war, and his death, postponed the Russian expansion overseas.

Fourteen out of a total strength of 36 British officers were killed or wounded in the Russo-Swedish War in

less than two years. Most of the British officers who entered the Russian service came from the Royal Navy, but one, Captain Robert Crowe, was recruited directly from the East India Company. He fought under Greig and Elphinston in many engagements during Catherine's wars, received many awards from Paul I, and was admired by Alexander, from whom he also received numerous honours. After he was promoted to the rank of admiral he was in the very delicate position of holding a commission under a power at war with England. Fortunately he was not called upon to fight any British ships.

Crowe was perhaps the only admiral whose wife accompanied him during these engagements. She once acted in an emergency as surgeon on his vessel, and received from Catherine a pension of one thousand roubles for her part in the Russo-Swedish War.

In 1817 Crowe was in command of a fleet which sailed into Calais en route for St Petersburg. He sent orders to England for provisions, and many merchants from Dover sent over small boats laden with supplies. The passage was rough, and the boats were obliged to take shelter in the harbour. After unloading their goods they made preparations to depart, but were informed by the customs authorities that they could not leave until they had paid the required duty. Upon hearing this Admiral Crowe sent an officer demanding their release; the governor was informed that in the event of a refusal the admiral would bombard the town. The governor ordered the boats to be released.

In all, almost 30 Scots achieved flag rank in the imperial Russian navy before its destruction in 1917. During the nineteenth century a substantial Scottish element lived in Moscow, where the local British church is dedicated to St Andrew. Kronstadt, Archangel and Riga, as well as the Caucasus, Crimea and Selenginsk near Lake Baikal, all became centres for Scots. It is said that there exists a distinct affinity between the Scots and Russians, and the bravery shown by the crews of the convoys to Russia during the Second World War reveals that in many ways this continued until the last century.

The list of British officers who served in the Russian Navy is long: captains Candler, Green, Hamilton, Aikin, Halliday, Rider and Thesiger among others. These, together with British shipwrights and engineers, played a large part in building up the Russian fleet.

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.

NB Postage prices increase from 4 April 2011, and should be checked online after that date.

Please note that you can also buy from our online bookshop at <www.berksfhs.org.uk/shop>, where you can:

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

BERKSHIRE FHS PUBLICATIONS

Berkshire Burial Index

9th ed, CD BRK 0257 (Berks FHS, 2010)

Shop £16.00, UK £16.85, airmail £18.70

Updates (with returned original CD) from:

8th ed - shop £5.00, UK £5.85, airmail £7.70

7th ed - shop £10.00, UK £10.85, airmail £12.70

This latest update contains over 721,000 entries, many from recently deposited burial registers not previously available. This is an average annual increase of about 63,000 a year since the first edition in 2002 – a remarkable long-term achievement from the team of volunteers led by David Wright. The coverage lists places with new data in red and the years added in blue.

Although a percentage of the Berkshire data is in the 3rd edition of the National Burial Index, this 9th edition of the Berkshire Burial Index has many additional entries. Coverage is mainly from Anglican burial registers with Bishops' Transcripts covering any gaps, plus nonconformist material and public cemeteries. Roman Catholic and non-Christian faiths are still to be included. All available information has been transcribed, except where there is lengthy, non-standard material, in which case the researcher is given a full reference. From the name index you must check the *Data by place and date* or *Data by place and name* to obtain all the details.

Reading St Mary, parish registers from 1813 onwards

CD BRK 0254 (Berks FHS, 2010)

Baptisms 1813 - 1954 (including baptisms in the sister churches of St Mary the Virgin, St Mary Castle Street, St Mark and All Saints, plus Battle Hospital); marriages and banns 1813 – 1954; burials 1813 – 1942; funerals 1947-95

Shop £8.00, UK £8.85, airmail £10.70

This latest transcript completes the publication of the three ancient parishes in Reading. Included is an illustrated history of St Mary's and name indexes by register numbers with a full transcript of available data in the registers.

Also available for Reading and published on CD by Berks FHS are parish register transcripts for Grey Friars, St Giles, St Lawrence, and a facsimile of the earliest registers of St Mary's printed in the late nineteenth century. See <www.berksfhs.org.uk/shop> for full details.

BERKSHIRE LOCAL HISTORY

History, stories and customs of the parish of Arborfield and the Liberty of Newland

(Arborfield Local History Society, 2010)

A4, flexiback, 43pp

Shop £5.00, UK £6.51, airmail £7.93

The revised text in this illustrated booklet is based on the Arborfield and Newland Women's Institute book of 1922, which is now out of print. The original was written by a local resident, Beatrice Simonds, one of five daughters of John Simonds, chairman of the family bank, J & C Simonds & Co of King Street, Reading. Most of the pages cover the history of Arborfield (with additional notes to 1946), including a list of rectors. This is followed by *Old customs and old remedies*, and miscellaneous transcripts.

Enborne & Wash Common: an illustrated history

Penelope Stokes (author, 2010)
8in x 10in (220mm x 255mm), flexiback,
136pp
ISBN 978-0-9529339-2-5
Shop £15, UK £17.36, airmail £22.31

This is a well researched and well written history of a small Berkshire parish on the Hampshire border, and the south-west part of Newbury. It is lavishly illustrated with old photographs, prints and maps. To complete it there is a good list of sources and a detailed index of personal names.

Enborne's place in history is ensured because the first battle of Newbury was fought on Wash Common in 1643, and in the late 1990s it hosted the largest anti-road protest ever seen, when folk occupied trees and tunnels to oppose the Newbury bypass, which was eventually completed in 1998.

This is a must-have for anyone with an interest in the area, the Civil War or, as an example of an excellent local history for anyone intending to write their own book.

Vanished Windsor

Elias Kupfermann (Windsor Local History Group, 2010)
B5, flexiback, index, 100pp
ISBN 978-0-9505-5677-2
Shop £10.00, UK £11.95, airmail £14.22

For anyone who is interested in Windsor this is a "must-have" book of monochrome and coloured photographs, prints and drawings. These include, of course, pictures of Windsor Castle and Bridge, old buildings in the town, some of which have long since gone, and the river Thames and Combermere Barracks. Each image is numbered, titled, dated and has some brief text; all are listed in the *Introduction*. Finally, the index enables you to find any particular picture.

FAMILY HISTORY FINDING AIDS

Marriage licence bonds in Wiltshire, Berkshire and Dorset

CD01 (Wilts FHS, 2002)
Shop £15, UK £15.85, airmail £17.70

Marriage licences date from the early sixteenth century, and were used to avoid the inconvenience of banns. They were usually obtained from the bishop in whose diocese one of the parties resided and in which the marriage was to take place.* This transcript includes details of the marriage licence bonds granted by the Bishop (MLB) and the Dean of Salisbury (DLB). The former had jurisdiction over the Berkshire Archdeaconry until 1836, when it was transferred to Oxford. No covering dates have been given on the CD, which also lacks an explanatory introduction.

Originally published in five-year blocks on 47 microfiches, this CD reproduces the original typescript with several search options:

- the alphabetical index listing bride, groom or bondsman names, year and ID number
- the individual search by forename and surname, which brings up a list of one or more entries. When highlighted, these show the full details available for each entry, eg, forename(s), surname, age, occupation, residence and condition of the bride and groom, name(s) of one or more bondsmen, occupation and intended parish(es) of marriage and date. It is not clear what use the ID number is for each entry. There is also a

Misc button on the individual search screen which can be used to search by up to four options including place and occupation.

* J Richardson *Local Historians' Encyclopaedia* (Historical Publications Ltd, reprint 1993)

HOW-TO-DO-IT BOOKS

Vital records for family historians

This is a new series for beginners by Stuart A Raymond and published by The Family History Partnership, explaining what, why and how records can be used to research your family history successfully. They are divided into numbered sections or mini-chapters, which are listed for easy reference. Relevant websites and further reading are included in the text.

Experienced family historians may also benefit from these booklets by discovering further sources they had forgotten or overlooked.

1. Birth and baptism records for family historians

A5, flexiback, 32pp
ISBN 978-1-906280-24-6
Shop £4.50, UK £5.35, airmail £7.20

The 18 sections, starting with the *Introduction*, include civil and parish registers, bishops' transcripts and baptismal certificates, non-parochial, nonconformist, Huguenot, Roman Catholic, overseas and adopted children registers. The concluding sections cover the Channel Islands, Ireland, the Isle of Man and Scotland, and end with other sources, research techniques and useful addresses.

2. Marriage records for family historians

A5, flexiback, 32pp
ISBN 978-1-906280-23-9
Shop £4.50, UK £5.35, airmail £7.20

This booklet has 21 sections covering civil and parish registers and their associated documents, irregular and clandestine marriages, non-parochial, nonconformist, Quaker, Huguenot, Roman Catholic, Jewish and overseas marriage registers. The final sections are the same as above, plus newspapers and divorce.

BIRTH

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

A form for compiling your birth brief can be downloaded from <www.berksfhs.org.uk/birthbriefs>, where you can also search the Birth Briefs Index, currently standing at

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

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

Orders for searches or copies of briefs should be posted to

Alan Brooker
6 Meadow Way
Old Windsor
Berks SL4 2NX

BRIEFS

Berkshire FHS Research Centre



where

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- 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
- free car parking right outside

when

Tuesdays: 10.00 to 16.00 and 19.00 to 21.30

Wednesdays and Thursdays: 10.00 to 16.00

4th Saturday each month from March: 11.00 to 16.00

2nd Sunday each month: 11.00 to 16.00

(excluding bank holiday weekends)

The Research Centre opens early, ie from 18.00 to 21.30 on the Tuesdays of 12 April and 12 July in conjunction with the Open Evenings (from 18.00 to 20.00) hosted and run by society volunteers at Berkshire Record Office.

who

Admission to the centre is free for society members.

Non-members pay a £2 temporary membership fee per visit (offset against the membership fee should the visitor join the society at that visit).

Volunteer helpers are on hand to give advice and guidance should you need it.

what

Ground floor: reception area, seven PCs with internet access (see opposite page), bookshop, refreshment facilities and cloakrooms

First floor: library (see opposite page), fiche readers, magazine archive

Introductory tours of the centre are available – see <www.berksfhs.org.uk> for details

how

You do your own research at the centre. If you wish, you can print pages or photocopy them for a nominal additional charge.

Society volunteers will explain anything you need to know about the centre's resources.

research centre research centre research centre

Computer suite

Findmypast

census records for England and Wales 1841 to 1911
the most complete online index of BMDs (1837 to 2006)
millions of parish baptism, marriage and burial records
military, migration and other specialist datasets.

Ancestry Library Edition

datasets from Europe, North America and Australia as well as UK material, including a growing number of parish and other records for the Greater London area (not Westminster)

Provided that a PC is available, you can access one or both of Findmypast and Ancestry for a nominal charge of £1 per hour or part hour.

All PCs are internet linked so that other family history websites can be searched or consulted at any time.

CDs

Three PCs contain pre-loaded CD data on Berkshire and many other English counties including:

- Berkshire Burial Index 9th ed
- Berkshire trade directories
- National Burial Index 3rd ed
- and many other items

Berkshire Name Search is a master index of Berkshire names drawn from a range of databases including censuses, marriage and burial indexes, strays and miscellaneous datasets.

Library

The library contains over 7,000 items, about 20 per cent of which are Berkshire-related; the rest cover UK, Irish and international material. The library catalogue can be searched at the centre and online at <www.berksfhs.org.uk/librarycatalogue>.

CDs of Berkshire data including MIs, overseers' papers, militia lists, trade directories

Local history and genealogy books for Berkshire and for other English counties, Wales, Scotland, Ireland and some other countries

National index of parish registers: volumes covering most English counties

Directories: biographical, trade, professional, military, clerical and school

General reference books on all aspects of family history

Published family histories/pedigrees and a large number of donated handwritten documents

Microfiche records including IGI (International Genealogical Index) 1988 for Great Britain, parish registers, census index and MI data for Berkshire, Buckinghamshire, Oxfordshire, Surrey and other counties

Berkshire Family Historian: 34 volumes from 1975 to the present day

Exchange magazine archive: back copies of journals of around 80 other family history societies

Can't get to the Research Centre?

The society offers a postal/online search service of Berkshire names, based on
Berkshire censuses and indexes for 1851, 1861, 1871, 1881
Berkshire Burial Index
Berkshire Marriage Index
Berkshire Miscellaneous Index
Berkshire Strays Index

All you need is a surname (or a number of surnames) to access information, the extent of which will vary with the individual database. Your search of the master index will show you the total of entries of that surname in each individual database. You can then request the full details available.

You can ask for a search either online or by post. The charges are:

£2 per surname to search the master index. You will be advised of how many entries there are for that surname in each database. Please note that this search will not give you information from the indexed records.

£2 per surname per database. With this search you will receive full details for up to a maximum of 25 entries. Should there be more than 25 entries, we will let you know the extra cost.

£5 per surname to search all databases currently available. You will receive full details for up to a maximum of 25 entries per database. Again, we will let you know the extra cost if there are more than 25 entries.

Note that for online applications a 50p transaction fee will be added to the total as a contribution to the fees that the bank charges the society for the online payment service.

You can contact <berksnamesearch@berksfhs.org.uk> if you have any queries or if you would like an estimate of likely cost for the searches that you need.

You can also apply by post. Postal search charges are the same as those for online searches excluding the 50p transaction fee. For a postal search you must enclose an A4 self-addressed envelope (large) with stamps (or IRC) to cover return postal costs. An alternative is to supply an email address so that results can be sent to you by email.

If you don't have an email address please supply a UK phone number.
Please send your request for a postal search to:

Berkshire Name Search
Berkshire FHS Research Centre
Yeomanry House, 131 Castle Hill, Reading RG1 7TJ, United Kingdom

Members' interests

Compiled by
Bob Plumridge

Members submitting their interests in the last quarter:

5530 Mrs D Kay: 1 Wallins Copse, Chineham, Basingstoke RG24 8RQ
ralphk@onetel.com

6963 Ms S Howlett: 90 Eastern Avenue, Chippenham, Wilts SN15 3LW
suehowlett@uwclub.net

7162 Mr J Stevens: Ashley House, Howell Hall, Cheam, Surrey SM2 7LQ
john@jstevens42.fsnet.co.uk

5530	BONSEY	Worplesdon	SRY	1800+
6963	BRINKLER	Flitwick	BDF	1824+
6963	CREEK	All	BDF	1790+
6963	HEFFORD	Cransley	NTH	1828+
5530	HEWETT	Crondall	HAM	1750+
7162	HOLDIPP	All	All	All
7162	HOLDIPP	Barbados	All	All
7162	HOLDRUP	All	All	All
7162	HOLDUP	All	HAM	All
7162	HOLDUP	All	BRK	All
7162	HOLDUPPE	All	All	All
6963	HOPKINS	Westonings	BDF	1828+
5530	KAY	Barnsley	YKS	1700+
5530	KAY	Windsor	BRK	1800+
6963	LANGLEY	Winkfield	BRK	1911+
6963	LANGLEY	Ridgmont	BDF	pre 1843
6963	LANGLEY	Wokingham	BRK	1916+
6963	LANGLEY	Pangbourne	BRK	1918+
6963	LANGLEY	Newbury	BRK	1920+
6963	LANGLEY	Paddington	LND	1875+
6963	LANGLEY	Pensnett	WOR	1901+
6963	LANGLEY	Birmingham	STS	1911+
5530	NASH	Wanborough	SRY	1700-1900s
5530	PHARO	Farnham	SRY	1800+
5530	PHARO	Aldershot	HAM	1800+
5530	PHAROA	Farnham	SRY	1800+
5530	PHAROA	Aldershot	HAM	1800+
5530	RIDGERS	Crondall	HAM	1750+
6963	SHARP	Maulden	BDF	1853+
5530	SLINGO	Farnham	SRY	1750+
5530	WATMORE	Aldershot	HAM	1800-1950s
5530	WATMORE	Reading	BRK	1700-1900s
5530	WHATMORE	Reading	BRK	1700-1900s
5530	WHATMORE	Aldershot	HAM	1800-1950s
5530	WYETH	Odiham	HAM	All
5530	WYETH	Medstead	HAM	1700-1900s
5530	WYETH	Saxtead	SFK	pre 1800
5530	WYETH	Guildford	SRY	1800-1930

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.

How to care for the family collection

Tips on how to store items such as disks, papers, photos etc

(1) *Bedfordshire FHS* Dec 2010

Findmypast to digitise Manchester records

A two-year project to scan 8,000,000 records

(13) *Dorset FHS* Dec 2010

The Victorian funeral

The Victorian way of dealing with death

(4) *Bucks FHS* Dec 2010

A Gypsy in the family

Some results of research, including Acts of Parliament, professions, life expectancy, records and recommended books

(4) *Bucks FHS* Dec 2010

Life in the workhouse, and workhouses in and around Hatfield

Workhouses in general and research on Hatfield workhouses

(50a) *Doncaster Ancestor* Winter 2010

The Tottenham Outrage

A distant link to the killing of a policeman in 1909

(50a) *Doncaster Ancestor* Winter 2010

Biographical database of Australia

A new online database coming in 2011, and how you can help

(64) *Society of Australian Genealogists* Sep 2010

Porthtowan, St Agnes and Mithian

Spotlight on a seaside village, with photos

(9) *Cornwall FHS* Dec 2010

Shipyard boy who became a footballer

Brief account of Jackie Sibbald's life

(27) *Northumberland & Durham FHS* Winter 2010

Bwlchgwyn war memorial

List of names which appear on the memorial, with date of death

(59) *Hel Achau* [Clwyd FHS] Dec 2010

Nineteenth and twentieth-century history of the working classes

Reflected in a typical family from Bagillt

(59) *Hel Achau* [Clwyd FHS] Dec 2010

Weetangera Methodist Cemetery

Index of surnames transcribed from tombstone records

(66) *Canberra H & S Society* Dec 2010

Seamen at the battle of Trafalgar

Name, ship, age on joining, date joined and rank of seamen all born in Guernsey

(57) *Guernsey FHS* Winter 2010

Broadwater: memoirs

Early history of Broadwater and its buildings

(37) *Richmond-Tweed* [Australia] Sep & Dec 2010