

Berkshire Family Historian

the quarterly journal of the Berkshire Family History Society

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Family names appearing in this issue:

<i>excluding living people and authors of sources</i>	Buxcey 15	Edwell 25	Josselin 15	Nicholson 29	Shaw 25
Absalom 23	Campbell 17	Eve 25	Joyce 23	Niven 18	Stanhope 19
Adey 23	Cave 25	Field 31	Keens 24	Pasquin 20	Staples 25
Aher 25	Chukovsky 26	Freeman 23	Knight 25	Pearce 13	Steeres 25
Alder 25	Church 25	Gadd 29	Legg 23	Penford 25	Stradling 25
Arakcheev 26	Clark 25	Godfrey 25	Loader 13+	Plummer 23	Stratton 23
Austin 27+	Cole 24	Gould 24	Loveday 29	Porrell 25	Swan 25
Barford 29	Constable 15	Goulding 21	Lowe 14	Pratt 13	Thompson 25
Barrow 14	Cooper (1) 25	Greenwood 27+	Lybbe-Powys	Pratt 25	Toomer 23+
Barry 19+	Cooper (2) 25	Hammersley	13, 20	Quarrington 24	Tovey 16+
Basing 23	Coriat 18	20+	Mackerill 15	Raczynski 18	Turk 25
Biggs 25	Curzon 18	Harley 22	Maple 16	Roake 25	Usher 25
Boyer 24	Dore 13	Heath 25	Martin 29	Roberts 14	Walker 23
Burney 25	Duck 24	Heelas 29	Matthews 25	Ryott 23+	Webb 23
	Dyson 25	Higgs 24	Merryweather	Satchell 25	Weigall 16+
	Eckhardstein 17	Hubner 13	16	Seymour 25	Wilson 31
	Edmonds 23	Hughes 25	Naylor 14	Sharp 28	
	Edmonds 25	James 13	Newport 22+	Shaw 23	

Chairman's corner

Derek Trinder
Chairman



PLENTY IN PROSPECT FOR YOUR NEW MEMBERSHIP YEAR

Thank you for your support during the past 12 months. I hope that your society membership benefits have enhanced your research in that time. You may be interested to learn that, unlike that of many family history societies, membership of Berks FHS is growing, and you and your fellow members can look forward to interesting developments and initiatives in coming months.

Your renewal advice comes with your *Historian*, and your prompt renewal – online, by post or in person – will be welcomed and will ensure that costs are kept to a minimum. If you are one of those members who pays by standing order, please remember to amend your payment instruction to reflect a change in your renewal fee.

QUALITY PRODUCTS FROM WELL-RUN PROJECTS

Members welcome new publications – take the Berkshire Marriages CD. A key aim for your society is publication of its project outputs, but quality is paramount. Before any CD or online transcription can carry our White Horse logo, the society's quality procedures must be satisfied, with full, independent checks on indexes and transcriptions. Since joining the trustees as projects co-ordinator, Margaret Young has brought renewed direction and fresh impetus to the projects programme – as you will discover over the coming months. Tony Wright also plays a pivotal role. His transcribing template helps to ensure that data is collected and presented consistently, and he built both the Berkshire Marriages and the latest burials CDs too.

Could more be done? Of course. For that to happen, Margaret and Tony need extra pairs of hands. So, to those of you living in or close to Berkshire: how about joining in to help them? Help with checking, for example – something that can be done only at Berkshire Record Office. Maybe with your computing skills you could join others in building society publications. For this, residing in Berkshire, while helpful, is less essential. Get in touch with Margaret to find out more.

WITHDRAWAL FROM THE FEDERATION

After careful consideration, the trustees decided unanimously against renewing the society's membership of the Federation of Family History Societies (FFHS) for this current year. On a number of important issues FFHS responses have been deeply disappointing. Presented with a renewal demand of nearly £700 (calculated per capita on the society's membership numbers), trustees felt that this

was neither especially good value for money, nor best use of your society's resources. The Federation is aware of the trustees' decision and, more important, the reasons behind it. Now we must monitor FFHS progress and attainments during 2011, before making any decision about rejoining at the year end.

IVAN AND THE BOOKSHOP

After seven successful years in his current role, Ivan Dickason wishes to hand on the baton of running the society shop. Berkshire Family History Enterprises is the society's wholly-owned trading arm, selling around 800 lines including society publications, and local and family history items. Ivan and his team process and despatch online and postal orders to customers worldwide, and they also receive online membership applications and renewals. Contact Ivan or myself if you think that your skills and experience could be used to good effect in this area.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The trustees look forward to meeting you on 30 June in Tilehurst at the AGM hosted by Reading Branch. Under the constitution, two of your most experienced trustees must stand down this time – Jocie McBride and Sue Matthews – and, while both will still be much involved with society tasks, their wise counsel and contributions will be missed. Jocie preceded me as your chairman, and I want to record my special thanks to her for the advice, help and support that she has given me in the past two years. This is also the moment to thank the remaining trustees who make up a dedicated management team for your society. Last, but not least, those many volunteers who play their full parts to ensure that your society continues to meet members' needs and expectations, and those of the wider public: thank you to you all.

Berkshire Burial Index

David Wright

The parishes and periods which have been added to the Berkshire Burial Index since the position shown in the March 2011 issue of the *Berkshire Family Historian* are set out below.

Boxford St Andrew 1876 - 2009
 Brimpton St Peter 1901 - 1992
 Buscot St Mary 1950 - 2000
 Chaddleworth St Andrew 1919 - 2007
 Childrey St Mary the Virgin 1789 - 1812
 Clewer St Andrew 1926-34
 Crowmarsh Gifford St Mary Magdalene 1813-30
 East Garston All Saints 1554-63 and 1670-93
 Great Coxwell St Giles 1557 - 1645, 1727-50 and 1773-88
 Grove St James/St John the Baptist 1926-93
 Little Coxwell St Mary 1583 - 1703
 Marcham All Saints 1689 - 1804
 Reading Henley Road (Caversham) Cemetery 1952-54, 1956-60,
 1964-65 and 1967-68
 Reading St Mary 1538 - 1608 and 1680-90
 Sonning St Andrew 1592 - 1621

These will be included in the next update of the CD, which we expect to issue towards the end of 2011. Including these most recent additions, the index now contains more than 746,000 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

Jean Herbert

The Research Centre is now open on the fourth Saturday of each month from 11am to 4pm.

The publication of the new Berkshire Marriages CD has prompted a look at what the library holds on marriages for other counties. We hold a number of marriage and marriage licence indexes in paper, fiche and, in the computer suite, CD formats covering quite a number of years.

Bristol 1800-37

Cambridge 1540 - 1872

Cornwall

Durham 1813-37

Gloucester 1800-37

Hampshire 1754 - 1837

Huntingdon 1607 - 1837

Leicester 1538 - 1812

Medway (Kent) 1559 - 1812

Middlesex

Norfolk 1801-37

Northumberland 1813-37

Nottingham 1542 - 1845

Oxfordshire 1538 - 1837

Rutland 1754 - 1837

Suffolk 1813-37

West Surrey to 1837

Sussex to 1837

York City 1751 - 1837.

Marriage licences and allegations:

Bishop of London's licences 1521 - 1869

Gloucester 1681 - 1700

Hampshire 1639 - 1837

Vicar General's licences 1751 - 1825

Wiltshire, Berkshire and Dorset licence bonds 1700 - 1837

We also have a number of complete parish registers from across the country. You can find full details on <www.berksfhs.org.uk/librarycatalogue> or you can visit the centre and search the catalogue. Come and visit us – you will be very welcome.

The next library tour takes place on Saturday 23 July at 2pm. Please contact <researchcentre@berksfhs.org.uk> to book your place.

Annual General Meeting 2011

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.

You can now access archived copies of the *Berkshire Family Historian* from June 2006 to March 2009 on <www.berksfhs.org.uk>:

- go to the site and click on the second tab in the main menu, labelled *Society*
- choose the third option in the drop-down menu – *Berkshire Family Historian*
- go to the second page of this section, on which are listed titles of the feature articles in each issue, and links to the pdf files.

The pdfs show the magazine as it was published in print, but with personal contact details removed for reasons of privacy. If you wish to contact a contributor whose name is followed by a membership number, please send a request to <membercontact@berksfhs.org.uk>. If you wish to contact a non-member contributor please send a request to <editor@berksfhs.org.uk>.

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Earlier copies of the *Berkshire Family Historian* are currently being prepared for posting online.

Renewing your subscription

On 1 July a new membership year starts, and your renewal is due on or before that date.

While membership fees show an increase – the first since 2008 – they offer excellent value for money, and will bring you new benefits as the year unfolds. Your trustees have acted to safeguard and, where necessary, improve current research facilities, arrange additional meetings, promote projects and publications, support more outreach activities and, for out-of-county members, to build online services. A much smaller part of the extra revenue will help to offset rising costs faced by your society. These include rent for the Research Centre, hire of venues, speaker fees and expenses, magazine postage, VAT changes and the need to update or replace equipment.

For the year starting on 1 July 2011, your new fees are:

single membership	£14
family membership	£17
overseas membership	£16

Your renewal advice accompanies this copy of the *Historian*, unless you renewed during May, or you pay by standing order. You can renew online at <www.berksfhs.org.uk> using a debit or credit card. Or you can renew by post: complete the renewal advice, and enclose your cheque. The advice includes a Gift Aid form too – for UK taxpayers who have not yet made a declaration. This declaration costs you nothing, but it allows your society to raise vital added income by reclaiming 25 per cent of the value of your payment from HMRC.

Reading Branch at LDS Open Day in June

The Reading Branch of Berks FHS will be representing the society at an open day to be held by the Reading Family History Centre (LDS) at 280, The Meadway, Tilehurst on Saturday 4 June.

Branch members will be offering look-ups on a laptop, and Jean Debney will be on hand to cast her expert eye over old photographs.

In addition to the Berks FHS stand there will be other experts, demonstrations of Ancestry, Findmypast and The Genealogist websites, talks by Sharon Hintze of the London Family History Centre, lectures and workshops. An indexing marathon is being staged by church members, and a creche will be available.

The day runs from 9.30am to 4.30pm, and entry is free. See *Dates for your diary* on page 12.

Membership statistics

	1 April 2011	1 April 2010
UK individual	1,281	1,233
UK family	387	392
overseas individual & family	99	92
honorary individual & family	16	14
UK institutions	11	8
overseas institutions	5	6
total	1,799	1,745

Around the branches

Reading Branch

<reading@berksfhs.org.uk> Margaret Crook
Meetings have been well attended, in spite of the winter weather, and we are all looking forward to warmer weather and the chance to get out and about to take photographs and explore churchyards.

Some members of the Reading Branch committee have started monthly drop-in sessions at Mortimer library on a Tuesday afternoon where, after a slow start, we usually have five or more people coming for help and advice in researching their families. We have been stressing the need to start with what you know, and tracing back in logical, verified steps, and not making assumptions that the family you found is yours because they have the same name and they are in roughly the correct area.

John Price has given several talks to different groups and is in regular demand to share his knowledge with others.



Richard Croker helps some enquirers at Mortimer library

Windsor, Slough and Maidenhead Branch

<windsor@berksfhs.org.uk> Mike Booth

In February we held our annual members' evening, although we decided to call it an open evening, as we did not want to discourage attendance by and contributions from non-members. Nine members made short, informal presentations covering:

- newspapers and the amount of detail to be found in wedding and funeral reports
- a Boer hat and its history
- a photo of a smock-wearing farmer found in a family bible; publication in a FHS magazine and subsequent contact that led back to the seventeenth century
- notices in the *London Gazette* on bankruptcies and estate distribution disputes, all within one family
- a postcard of a seaside kiosk
- a chance meeting with a stranger at a WI meeting that led to contacts at a stately home estate
- a wishbone brooch and casualties in WW1
- from rural England to the Metropolitan Police: a stabbing in North London – true or false?
- the value of drop-in sessions at a library to start you on your road to the ancestors.

This wide diversity of material stimulated the audience and was much appreciated.

The branch assisted at the Bracknell FH Fair and at *WDYTYA?Live* in London.

Newbury Branch

<newbury@berksfhs.org.uk> Nick Prince

On Monday 4 April Newbury branch members held an advice day at Newbury Library. We had two computers reserved exclusively for us, and the object was to educate people on the use of Ancestry Library Edition, which is available in West Berks libraries, and the wider resources available to family historians in the library itself. Advertising had been fairly low-key, but posters in the library and on the West Berks website drew in 18 people, who were helped with specific issues by the team – Eileen, Sylvia, Ian, Penny, Jenny and Nick, each of whom did three hours during the day. Details of the society and our branch programme were provided, and we hope this may lead to new members or at least more visitors to our meetings. The library service manager, Mike Brooks, commented: “There’s no doubt that this is the sort of activity that makes the library a more natural place to go for people wanting to know more about their family and community. Thanks very much for initiating this, and I look forward to further successes.” We’ve been asked to do similar sessions in Hungerford and Lambourn, and a second later in the year in Newbury, possibly on a Saturday.

Bracknell and Wokingham Branch

bracknell@berksfhs.org.uk> David Wooldridge

In January we had a talk on the society’s website from Brian Wilcock, followed by a lively presentation about projects by Margaret Young. There’s been good support from the branch for the Berkshire war memorials project. Other projects are progressing; the St Paul’s Wokingham MI project is nearing publication.

In February Richard Heaton gave a presentation entitled *Your ancestors in the newspapers*. He brought some of his large collection of original newspapers, dating back to the 1700s. In March Jeremy Taylor, an archivist at the Berkshire Record Office, described some research he’d carried out into a local family, illustrating how the variety of records in record offices can be used to enhance personal research.

The Bracknell Family History Fair and *WDYTVA?Live* at Olympia were both well supported by branch members. Monthly drop-in sessions are held at Wokingham, Bracknell and Sandhurst libraries.

Vale of White Horse Branch

<vale@berksfhs.org.uk> Sue Matthews



Members of the Vale Branch have been hosting family history surgeries three times a year in both the Abingdon and Wantage libraries, with the aim of not only helping visitors with their enquiries, but also boosting the profile of the branch.

We had a very successful meeting in January, when Liz Woolley gave us a talk on child labour in the nineteenth century, entitled *It will do him more good than school*. We had an excellent turnout, considering that she had given the same talk to Radley History Group the Monday before, and to Marcham History Society the following Thursday (both less than three miles from Abingdon). We enjoyed it so much we decided not to take a trip to the *Back to Backs* in Birmingham in May, but instead to take one of her guided walks around the industrial buildings of Oxford. We also immediately booked her again for next year.

Sue Matthews is standing down as the Vale Branch chairman.

Berkshire Marriages, *first edition*

The new Berkshire Marriages CD, published by the Berkshire Family History Society, provides you with a full transcription of original marriage records from both Anglican and nonconformist parishes throughout pre-1974 Berkshire.

All project outputs have been carefully checked – by committed volunteers, not contract labour – against original records before publication. Nevertheless, a few errors are likely to be present, not least because handwriting in old, sometimes damaged, registers can be open to differing interpretations. Where gaps exist in surviving parish registers, bishops' transcripts (BTs) have been transcribed. Remember that BTs can contain important differences of detail from original register entries.

Content

One CD containing over 346,000 names, over 117,000 marriages, over 100 parishes/locations

Most transcriptions in this first edition are of marriages that took place after 1538 and before 1837 when, in July, civil registration was introduced into England and Wales. For about 25 per cent of parishes there are also transcriptions of some more recent marriages.

The CD holds seven datasets, offering seven search options:

grooms by name	surname and forename + date, bride and register – in surname order
brides by name	surname and forename + date, groom and register – in surname order
names by name	surname and forename + role, date and register – in name order
names by date	surname and forename + role, register – in date order from 1538
marriages by date	groom name, bride name, register – in date order from 1538
place by date	bride and groom, details, fathers (subject to date) – in date order from 1538
full details	a full transcription of the register entry, in date order, with ages, status, occupations, residences, fathers' names and occupations, and witnesses according to entry date.

Use Berkshire Marriages as your finding aid. Then follow good research principles, and confirm what you find by looking at the original registers. You will find almost all of these, including those parish registers from the Vale of the White Horse and nearly all of those from the Abingdon area, with other historic records of pre-1974 Berkshire at the Berkshire Record Office, 9 Coley Avenue, Reading RG1 6AF, 0118 937 5132, <arch@reading.gov.uk>, <www.berkshirerecordoffice.org.uk>.

From the late sixteenth century until 1835/36, transcripts of Berkshire's registers were sent to the Salisbury diocese. These BTs are held at the Wiltshire and Swindon History Centre, Cocklebury Road, Chippenham, Wiltshire SN15 3QN, 01249 705500, <heritageadmin@wiltshire.gov.uk>, <www.wshc.eu>. From 1835/36 (when the Berkshire archdeaconry transferred to the Oxford diocese) BTs were sent to the Oxford diocese. These few later documents are in the Oxfordshire Record Office (currently closed until May 2011).

Berkshire Family History Society will update Berkshire Marriages annually (as it does with the Berkshire Burials CD, now in its ninth edition). When you purchase later update editions of Berkshire Marriages, as with Berkshire Burials, you will enjoy a substantial discount on the full price (conditions will apply).

To buy the CD see the Publications list in the centre pages or visit <www.berksfhs.org.uk/bookshop>.

BERKSHIRE MARRIAGES

2nd Edition

**Berkshire Marriages***Parish registers transcribed in the first edition*

Aldermaston St Mary	1559 - 1837
Aldworth St Mary	1556 - 1837
Arborfield St Bartholomew	1580 - 1837
Ashampstead St Clement	1614 - 1837
Avington Ss Mark & Luke	1699 - 1834
Barkham St James	1542 - 1998
Basildon St Bartholomew	1540 - 1837
Beedon St Nicholas	1607 - 1836
Beenham St Mary	1563 - 1836
Binfield All Saints	1538 - 1837
Bisham All Saints	1560 - 1836
Boxford St Andrew	1559 - 1839
Bradfield St Andrew	1559 - 1989
Bradfield Tutts Clump (Methodists)	1921 - 2006
Bray St Michael	1607 - 1837
Brightwalton All Saints	1559 - 1837
Brimpton St Peter	1607 - 1836
Bucklebury St Mary	1538 - 1876
Burghfield St Mary	1559 - 1987
Catmore St Margaret	1724 - 1837
Caversham St Peter	1597 - 1837
Chaddleworth St Andrew	1538 - 1836
Chieveley St Mary	1560 - 1837
Clewer St Andrew	1607 - 1837
Combe St Swithun	1560 - 1985
Compton Ss Mary & Nicholas	1553 - 1963
Cookham Holy Trinity	1563 - 1837
Easthampstead Ss Michael & Mary Magdalene	1558 - 1835
Enborne St Michael	1614 - 1837
Englefield St Mark	1561 - 1837
Farnborough All Saints	1614 - 2004
Fawley St Mary	1800 - 1837
Finchampstead St James	1607 - 1838
Frilsham St Frideswide	1607 - 1837
Garston, East All Saints	1554 - 1837
Grazeley Holy Trinity	1850 - 1987
Greenham St Mary	1706 - 1837
Hampstead Norreys St Mary	1541 - 1839

Hamstead Marshall St Mary	1605 - 1837
Hungerford St Lawrence	1600 - 1837
Hurley St Mary	1600 - 1836
Hurst St Nicholas	1579 - 2005
Ilsey, East St Mary	1608 - 1978
Ilsey, West All Saints	1559 - 1839
Inkpen St Michael	1607 - 1837
Kintbury St Mary	1557 - 1837
Lambourn St Michael	1571 - 1837
Leckhampstead St James	1754 - 1837
Lockinge, East All Saints	1547 - 1866
Midgham St Matthew	1607 - 1837
Milton St Blaise	1662 - 1753
Newbury St Nicolas	1799 - 1838
Oare Chapel (Chieveley) St Bartholomew	1802 - 1853
Padworth St John the Baptist	1617 - 1838
Pangbourne St James the Less	1800 - 1841
Peasemore St Barnabas	1800 - 1836
Purley St Mary	1800 - 1840
Reading Meeting Quakers	1801 - 1835
Reading St Giles	1564 - 1991
Reading St Laurence	1605 - 1963
Reading St Mary (The Minster)	1619 - 1838
Remenham St Nicholas	1607 - 1838
Ruscombe St James	1559 - 1798
Sandhurst St Michael	1580 - 1837
Shaw cum Donnington St Mary	1563 - 1837
Shefford, East St Thomas	1603 - 1833
Shefford, Great/West St Mary	1599 - 1799
Shinfield St Mary	1605 - 1837
Shottesbrooke St John the Baptist	1566 - 1837
Sonning St Andrew	1592 - 1837
Speen St Mary	1617 - 1837
Stanford Dingley St Denys	1539 - 1834
Stratfield Mortimer St Mary	1607 - 1837
Streatley St Mary	1607 - 1836
Sulham St Nicholas	1800 - 1836
Sulhamstead Abbots St Mary	1602 - 1837
Sulhamstead Bannister St Michael	1607 - 1837
Sunninghill St Michael	1561 - 1837
Swallowfield All Saints	1782 - 1837
Thatcham St Mary	1561 - 1838
Theale Holy Trinity	1833 - 1964
Tilehurst St Michael	1614 - 1986
Tubney St Lawrence	1848 - 1978
Ufton Nervet St Peter	1607 - 1836
Waltham St Lawrence St Lawrence	1558 - 1837
Warfield St Michael	1569 - 1837
Wargrave St Mary	1538 - 1837
Wasing St Nicholas	1612 - 1832
Welford St Gregory	1603 - 1753
Welford & Wickham St Gregory	1754 - 1835
White Waltham St Mary	1556 - 1836
Wickham & Hoe Benham St Swithun	1620 - 1699
Windsor Castle Royal Free Chapel of St George	1627 - 1856
Windsor, New St John The Baptist	1559 - 1837
Windsor, Old Ss Peter & Andrew	1611 - 1837
Winkfield St Mary	1564 - 1837
Winnersh St Mary	1967 - 1999
Winterbourne St James the Less	1564 - 1837
Wokingham All Saints	1589 - 1837
Woodhay, West St Lawrence	1614 - 1836
Woolhampton St Peter	1636 - 1837
Yattendon Ss Peter & Paul	1559 - 1837

Tea and buns in the library*photo: Gillian Stevens*

Margaret Crook noted several things you probably never knew about Broadmoor:

- The first “criminal lunatics” were incarcerated in a special wing of the old Bethlem hospital, where overcrowding eventually necessitated the building of a purpose-designed institution.
- The first admissions to Broadmoor were women, although nowadays the patients are all male, women being sent to Rampton in Nottinghamshire.
- Most women inmates of child-bearing age had killed or injured children.
- In the early years only about 30 per cent of patients were murderers; many were in for quite trivial offences.
- The youngest patient was a boy arsonist, incarcerated at the age of 10 in 1885; he spent 77 years there.
- The oldest admission was a man aged 78, who had killed the mother of his 12 children.
- Attacks on staff were frequent in the early years, most commonly with concealed stones.
- There have been several escapes over the years, three of whom were never caught or accounted for, but one escapee reached Canada, only to return to England some years later and ask for readmission to Broadmoor.

See page 27 for a real-life Broadmoor story.

Broadmoor talk concludes in April sunshine

More than 30 members and others attended the society’s first daytime talk, organised by Gillian Stevens and Margaret Crook on behalf of the Reading and Computer branches, at the BRO on Thursday 7 April.

Mark Stevens, the BRO’s senior archivist, gave a lively account of Broadmoor’s history, from the first verdict of “criminally insane” (passed on the would-be assassin of George II in 1800), through to the first admissions in 1863, and thereafter to (almost) the present day. The BRO is currently restoring and cataloguing the institution’s archives. Access to patient information is possible to files of more than a century ago; staff information is more readily obtainable.

Owing to a member of the audience being taken ill in the meeting room, the closing minutes of the talk and discussion were spent in the sunny courtyard between the BRO and Yeomanry House. Reluctant though the audience was to leave this pleasant environment, many were then persuaded into the Research Centre for tea and hot-cross buns.

Audience members filled a suggestions sheet with subject ideas for the future, and a second talk is planned for 6 October, when Simon Townley will talk about the Victoria County History.

Hants RO new opening hours

New opening hours of Hampshire Record Office have been in force since April. They are:

Monday to Wednesday
09.00-17.00

Thursday 09.00-20.00

Friday 09.00-17.00

Saturday 09.00-16.00

Hampshire Record Office,
Sussex Street, Winchester,
Hants SO23 8TH

BRO Poor Law archive additions

Berkshire Record Office reports several additions to the records of Poor Law Unions, of which Faringdon 1870 - 1929 includes material which refers to individual inmates, some referring to medical treatment.

Contrary to a report in the March *Historian*, the West Berkshire Museum did not re-open on 1 April, as was at one time planned. Funding has now been obtained to embark upon major alterations, including the rebuilding of the 1930s section which links the seventeenth-century Cloth Hall and the



Newbury Cloth Hall

eighteenth-century Corn Stores. No public admission is likely before 2014.

Oxfordshire's new history centre

Oxford's Central Library re-opened on 7 March, minus the former Oxfordshire Studies collection, but including a re-modelled local and family history section on the second floor. This will offer Ancestry Library Edition, Findmypast, Oxfordshire parish register and census transcripts and indexes.

Meanwhile, the Oxfordshire Record Office at St Luke's Church, Cowley, is undergoing building work to convert it into a history centre, incorporating both Oxfordshire Studies and the Oxfordshire Health Archives. It is due to be relaunched as the Oxfordshire History Centre in May.

West Berks Museum closure to 2014

Berkshire Probate Index launch

Berks FHS members were among many guests who attended the launch of the Berkshire Record Society's newly completed index to Berkshire archdeaconry probate records 1482 - 1652. The launch was held at the BRO in January, and the launch speech was given by the Lord-Lieutenant of Berkshire.

Edited by Pat Naylor, the three-volume work took two years to compile. It comprises three indexes in separate volumes, sold only as a complete set: personal names, place names and occupations. The set is priced at £75 from the BRS.

The Berkshire archdeaconry collection of probate accounts is the third largest to survive after those of the dioceses of Canterbury and London, and comprises almost 10,000 original wills, together with associated documents and 9,000 pages of register entry wills and administrations. The archive runs to 1712, although most of the documents date from before 1652.

The index was produced with the support of the Marc Fitch Fund, Berkshire Record Office, Berks FHS, Oxfordshire Family History Society and the Berkshire Local History Association.

Dates for your diary

09.30 - 16.30 Sat 4 Jun	Reading Family History Centre open day	280 The Meadway, Tilehurst Reading RG30 4PE	0118 941 0211
Sat 18 Jun	Wiltshire FHS open day	Wiltshire College Trowbridge BA14 0ES	< www.wiltshirefhs.co.uk/eventscalender.html >
10.00-16.00 Sat 9 July	SW Area Group of FHSs fair	Winter Gardens Weston super Mare	< www.swagfhs.org.uk >
18.00-20.00 Tues 12 July	Open evening for Berks FHS members	Berkshire Record Office	< arch@reading.gov.uk >
14.00 Sat 23 July	Guided tour of the Research Centre library	Berks FHS	Book on < researchcentre@berksfhs.org.uk >
10.00-16.00 Sat 30 July	Buckinghamshire FHS open day	Grange School, Wendover Way Aylesbury HP21 7NH	< www.bucksfhs.org >

wisdom on wills

*In an exchange on the Discussion List last year
Judith Mitchell (2031)
contributed this useful summary of reasons why
your ancestor may not have made a will*

As was pointed out at a lecture on wills which I attended some years back, in the eighteenth century tradesmen and other poor people had made wills, but they became rare in the nineteenth and the first half of the twentieth century. Men worked for others, so had no stock or tools to pass on, and it was the custom to rent your home (even the well-off did this) and lease land rather than to own it.

Until the Married Women's Property Act in 1882 married women did not legally own anything, and could only make a will with the consent of their husband.

Before the old age pension was introduced in the early years of the twentieth century most people relied on their savings to keep themselves in old age, so if they lived a few years beyond retirement nothing was left to leave. Better-off people purchased annuities, which ceased to pay out when the person died.

Some people were superstitious and thought making a will would hasten death. Also there was no doubt inertia on the part of others: "I'll make a will but not today..." That is why

so many people fail to make wills today, even though with houses to sell, investments and insurance policies to cash, their neglect may give beneficiaries problems.

Will-making usually required the services of a solicitor (although clergymen did draw up wills, usually at the testator's death-bed) so there was a cost. Home-made wills were not always suitable for probate.

Sometimes a will was made but was not taken to probate, as the estate was small and the beneficiaries were able to distribute the estate amicably without probate. This means that there is no official record of the will.

Wills were usually made when there was no obvious heir (spouse, children) or if the testator wished to remember a friend or distant relative, or wished to exclude somebody who would normally have benefited. Husbands sometimes tried to tie up their estate, so that if their widow remarried, her new husband could not spend the money left to her by her first.

Lovers meetings in Berkshire

Joan Dils

*describes the social landscape
in which our ancestors found
their future spouses*

Most married people remember when they first met their partner or spouse, but few have asked parents and grandparents about their experiences. The question cannot even be asked of more distant kin, though it often springs to mind when a parish register records the baptism of one partner but not the other or the census shows couples born in widely separated parishes. Researching the more distant past is more challenging but enough sources survive to show what opportunities existed in pre-industrial England.

The eighteenth century saw the development of provincial newspapers, a major feature of which was advertisements. Many were about entertainments, mostly for the middle and upper classes. Even small market towns organised assemblies; several in Berkshire held them once a month in the winter. At assemblies people danced, played cards, gossiped and inevitably looked for a future mate. Read Jane Austen! These events took place in Reading, Basingstoke and elsewhere, often in the evenings of race weeks, which were usually held in summer. The diary of Mrs Caroline Lybbe-Powys of Hardwick, Oxfordshire, shows the potential such occasions provided for match-making. She wrote in 1788 that a young friend, Jane Pratt and her husband, Mr James, now happily married had “their first interview... at Reading Races some years since”.¹ The view that marriage for the middle and upper classes should be based on companionship and even romance was becoming more acceptable. Arranged marriages were still the norm for many, especially the wealthy and titled elites, but for many others there was choice.

Dancing masters also used newspapers to advertise their classes for young men and women. Several issues of the *Reading Mercury* in 1770 carried notices from Mr Dore. He offered lessons at his house in Broad Street on two evenings a week to groups of eight. They would learn the steps to perform the minuet, rigadon and cotillion among other popular dances. In 1785 Mr Hubner, a music master offered lessons in violin, viol and harpsichord as well as “singing to the harpsichord” to ladies and gentlemen.² Viewers of TV adaptations of Jane Austen’s novels may recall how a young man could be attracted by a pretty young woman possessed of such skills.

There were increasing numbers of both men and women anxious to improve their social graces so as to be able to enjoy these social occasions, but there were more who could never aspire to this lifestyle. Throughout the whole early modern period (from around 1550 to 1800), but especially in the eighteenth century, young people frequently left the village in their early teens to work in a nearby town on a large farm or in a country house. Substantial farmers, country gentry and successful tradesmen maintained large households which included unmarried apprentices and employees and domestic servants who lived with the family. Robert Loader, a yeoman farmer of Harwell in Berkshire in the early seventeenth century, always employed two men as farm workers, and two maidservants to help his wife with the dairying and marketing. Even at work love could flourish. In 1617 Loader thought a shortfall in his income from malting barley was because “Robert Pearce & Alce were my servants & then in great love”.³

Such employees often came from different parishes; at least one in three witnesses in the Berkshire church courts were not living in their birthplace. Since so many young people were living away from home and had lost at least one parent by the time they reached marriageable age, finding a husband or wife for oneself was not so unusual; the goodwill or consent of a parent or relative could follow.

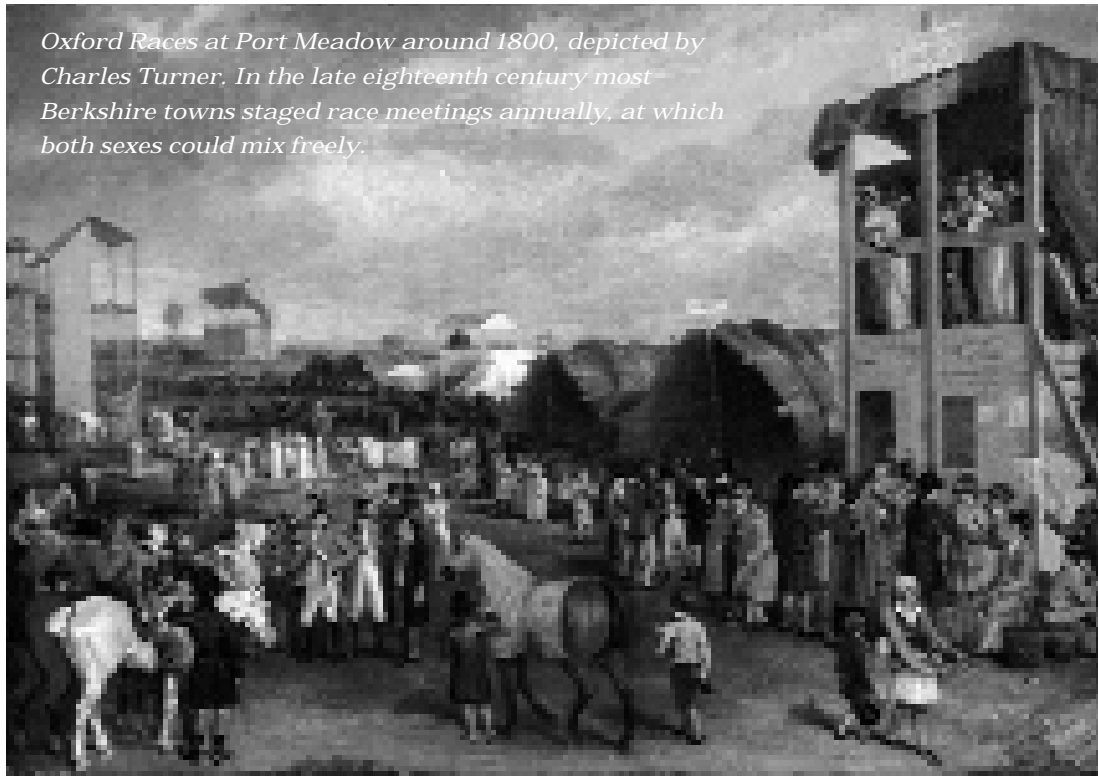
Joan Roberts of Newbury was at “her father’s standing” in the market in 1564 when she was given a love token from a Reading apprentice, deeply in love with her. He had persuaded a friend to deliver it...

Public gatherings such as markets also provided fertile grounds for making new acquaintances. Maidservants like those

employed by Robert Loader took their masters’ goods to sell, in this case large quantities of cherries, probably to Abingdon. Joan Roberts of Newbury was at “her father’s standing” in the market in 1564 when she was given a love token from a Reading apprentice, deeply in love with her. He had persuaded a friend to deliver it.⁴

It was not unusual for friends to act as go-betweens and even as chaperones in affairs of the heart. There are several more examples in the diary of Roger Lowe. He was a young apprentice shopkeeper in Ashton in Makerfield, Lancashire, in the reign of Charles II. Roger delivered messages to Ann Barrow for his friend James Naylor, and accompanied him when he went wooing her. Roger even asked Ann if he could be “next in succession” if she broke off with James. “Courtship attendants” were essential in these rituals to protect the girl’s reputation. The diary also shows the social networks of young folk living and working in a small town. Roger had many men and women friends who spent their

Oxford Races at Port Meadow around 1800, depicted by Charles Turner. In the late eighteenth century most Berkshire towns staged race meetings annually, at which both sexes could mix freely.



leisure time walking in the fields, visiting local fairs, going to local beauty spots, usually in groups of three or four. They enjoyed drinking in the alehouse, one of the few public spaces available to them. Some friends he met in the shop which he managed for his master, some at a local nonconformist service. He eventually married one of the three young women he had courted, daughters of local farmers and a servant in a large household.⁵

About 25 years previously another diarist recorded his first meeting with his future wife. Ralph Josselin, a minister in the parish of Earl's Colne, Essex, wrote how in October 1639 his eye "fixed in love" on Jane Constable in church.⁶ Since church attendance every Sunday was compulsory, and sermons tended to be long, other young men may have been similarly distracted.

Few of us are fortunate enough to have such diaries to consult, which in any event were usually written by the more affluent members of society. However there are some sources which relate to the wider community. For Berkshire and a number of other counties there are deposition books. They contain evidence (depositions) given by witnesses in church courts in cases of contested wills, marital and sexual relations among other matters. What is useful for the family historian is not so much the detail of the cases, but the incidental information about work or leisure activities when incidents occurred. Sunday was a time for relaxation, after church, of course. In Newbury on a Sunday afternoon in late October 1595 a large group of teenagers gathered on the roof of St Nicolas' church to watch the young men fire their handguns; on mid-Lent Sunday 1617 in Leckhampstead,

Joanna Mackerill and several young women and children were watching the men playing football. Another popular pastime on Sunday was playing bowls, as were some townfolk on a common near Newbury in October 1602.⁷

Some activities were for young people only, such as Revel Day, held in some Berkshire villages until about 1600. At Milton in summer 1598 "the youths of the parishe weare gathered together to be merrie" in the church house. One of them was chosen to be the Whitsun Lord and another the Whitsun Lady to preside at the traditional supper. A similar feast was held at Wasing in 1602, when a summer lord and lady were chosen.⁸

This is some of the evidence, limited but of some value in showing that occasions did exist when love could begin and perhaps flourish.

1. E Climenson, ed *Passages from the diaries of Mrs Philip Lybbe Powys 1738 - 1817* (1899) p 236
2. *Reading Mercury and Oxford Gazette* 26 March 1770 and 3 January 1785
3. G E Fussell, ed *Robert Loader's farm accounts 1610-1620* (Camden Society 3rd Series vol LIII, 1936) p127
4. Archdeaonry of Berkshire Records, Deposition Books, BRO D/A2 c153, p83
5. W L Sachse, ed *Diary of Roger Lowe 1663-74* (1938)
6. Keith Wrightson, *English Society 1580 - 1680* (1984) p75
7. Archdeaonry of Berkshire Records, Deposition Books, BRO D/A2 c155, p82 and c61 p34, c46 p62. Mid-Lent Sunday is now called Mothering Sunday.
8. Deposition Books, BRO D/A2 c154 p.15?, c46, p125

Since moving to Reading in 1976 Joan Dils has been at the forefront of writing, teaching and speaking about Berkshire's history. A second edition of her ground-breaking Historical Atlas of Berkshire, published by the Berkshire Record Society, is currently in preparation.

Mother missing

The Weigalls of Englemere were an Edwardian grand family with a secret.

Carol Henderson

writes of the dynasty from which – unknowingly until 1972 – she is descended.

My name is Carol Henderson, born in New Zealand to Heather and Gordon Tovey. Although I am a grand-daughter of Grace Weigall, my relationship with the Weigall family was discovered only in 1972, when my mother, living in New Zealand, received a letter from England making clear that her mother was Grace, Lady Weigall. My mother, already in her 60s, determined to find the truth behind her secret birth, and I became involved in researching and recording complicated and sometimes shocking answers.

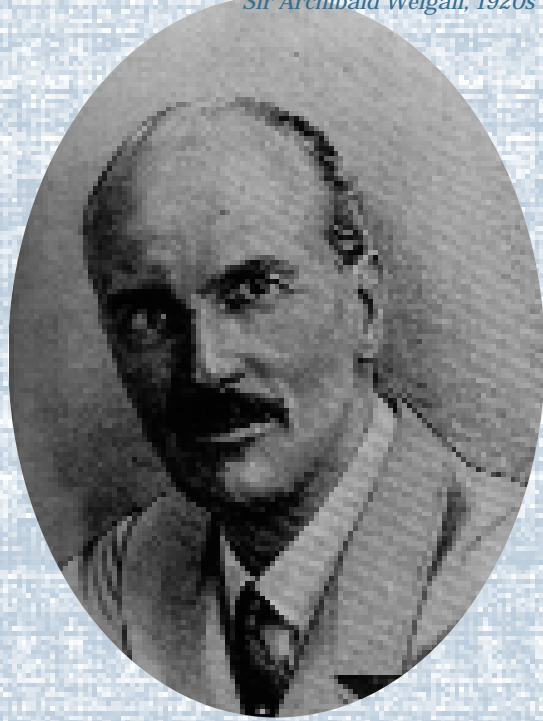
Grace Emily Blundell Maple was born in 1876, daughter of John Blundell Maple and Emily Harriet Merryweather. Grace had two sisters who died young from scarlet fever. Her father, Sir John Blundell Maple Bt (1845 - 1903), was a business magnate who developed his father's small shop into one of the world's largest and most profitable Victorian business ventures; Maples became a byword for fine furniture sought by the growing middle class, the aristocracy and grand hotels, as well as gracing the interiors of British embassies around the world.

In 1881 Sir John purchased Childwickbury, a country mansion in St Albans. It was here that he developed his large stud of racehorses. He was a generous benefactor, establishing the Sisters Hospital and Clarence Park, both in St

Grace, Lady Weigall, 1920s



Sir Archibald Weigall, 1920s



Albans, and rebuilding University College Hospital, London.

During Grace's youth she became accustomed to meeting members of the aristocracy and, through her father's close friendship with the Prince of Wales, she made lifelong friendships with the royal family. She grew into a beautiful young woman, and in 1896 married a German diplomat, Baron Hermann von Eckardstein. Three years later she gave birth to a daughter, Kathleen. However the marriage was unstable. Von Eckardstein was now secretary to the Kaiser, and divorce proceedings were dragged through English and German courts.

During this period Grace purchased 40 acres of woodland in her favourite resort of Woodhall Spa, Lincolnshire. The building of Petwood, the country mansion of her dreams, was made possible by her father, who had died in 1903 leaving Grace sole heiress to his considerable fortune. In 1909, after being divorced from the baron, Grace extended Petwood, and over the next few years she developed many acres of magical gardens.

In 1910 Grace married her second husband, Captain Archibald Weigall, grandson of the

eleventh Earl of Westmorland. One source describes him as "a tall, balding, cigar-smoking gentleman, with a moustache and a stammer." The following year proved memorable: in February Archie was elected to Parliament; in March Grace gave birth in secret to my mother Heather Campbell; and by midsummer the Weigalls opened the gardens of Petwood to the public, holding a series of lavish house parties and a pageant attended by many titled guests. Grace and Archie's daughter Priscilla was born in 1913, but in 1917 the Weigalls' idyllic lifestyle suffered the loss of Kathleen, who died under an anaesthetic.

Meanwhile Captain Weigall's career went from strength to strength. He served as MP for Horncastle from 1911 to 1920, and was appointed a KCMG prior taking up the governorship of South Australia. Although they began well, hosting the popular Prince of Wales in 1922, Archie resigned from this post, citing private and financial reasons.

On their return to England the Weigalls re-established themselves back in Petwood and their town residence in Berkeley Square, their reputation as generous hosts becoming legendary. The list of Grace's admirers grew, as



Englemere, Ascot in the 1940s. It was home to the Weigalls from the 1930s to the 1950s. Today it is a wedding and conference venue, also much in demand during Royal Ascot.

did the number of her often live-in lovers. She also managed to establish a close friendship with Heather, then in her mid-teens, never revealing she was the mother Heather longed to know.

Under pressure from her mother she had rejected another "unsuitable" suitor, David Niven

In the mid-1930s the Weigalls shifted to a Georgian residence, Englemere, in Ascot. Archie continued to hold many prestigious positions and titles, including chairman of the Royal Empire Society and the Royal Veterinary College, High Sheriff of Lincolnshire and Berkshire, and King of Arms Order of St Michael and St George. In 1935 their daughter Priscilla married Viscount Curzon, sixth Earl Howe, in a society wedding in St Paul's cathedral. (Under pressure from her mother she had rejected another "unsuitable" suitor, David Niven.)

During the Second World War the Weigalls transformed Englemere. The princesses Marie Louise and Helena Victoria, grand-daughters of Queen Victoria, were close friends of Grace, and, being aware of the dangers of staying in London, moved into two flats there, and Count Raczynski and his family into another. The ballroom became a hospital; the billiard room became a reception room to entertain officers from the combined armies and air forces. As further protection for the princesses George VI declared Englemere a royal residence. Priscilla remembered George VI and his daughters sometimes visiting Englemere, and that her family were often invited to the Royal Lodge at Windsor. When the Weigall family visited Buckingham Palace they used a side door and were taken up in a lift. Since 1929 Grace had

used a wheelchair, refusing to have a simple operation, as she remembered that Kathleen had died under anaesthetic.

During the war years Sir Archibald commanded his 500-strong Home Guard. A detachment of Lorne Scots lent their help, earning the praise of the princesses, who with Grace watched from the balcony as the men went through their training exercises and patrols amid the beautiful gardens and lawns that Grace had created.

Priscilla had two daughters: Lady Priscilla Mary Rose Curzon and Lady Jennifer Jane Curzon, but she divorced in 1942. The following year she married Harold Arthur Coriat, with whom she had a daughter, Susan Ann, and in 1954 a son Christopher Archibald.

Grace died in 1950, followed two years later by Archie. They were both buried in a private plot in Ascot, every detail made to meet Grace's wishes. Finding this proved to be a difficult task, and it was only through the efforts of the Berkshire FHS in 1999 that it was located in a private corner of a disused cemetery, overgrown and vandalised almost beyond recognition.

This is a sad and ironic ending for a couple whose lives and aspirations centred on maintaining their position in high society. Although their personal life style and relationships were controversial, both were colourful characters, often described as generous and warm-hearted.

In 1975 Heather and Priscilla had an emotional and memorable meeting where they shared intimate details of their lives, both sisters influenced in vastly different ways by their beautiful and outrageous mother.

This story can be read in full in Searching For Grace, which Carol Henderson co-wrote with her mother Heather Tovey (1911 - 2004). It was published by Steele Roberts in New Zealand 2010, and is currently listed on Amazon. See also <www.carolhenderson.co.nz>.

berkshire eccentrics

In the fourth article in this series Penny Stokes (2961) describes the reckless prodigality of a Georgian rake who left his mark on Wargrave

A great rogue

The short but expensive life of the seventh Lord Barrymore

Richard Barry, seventh earl of Barrymore, was born on the 14 August 1769 to the sixth earl, an Irish peer, and Lady Emily Stanhope. Orphaned by the age of 11, he was sent to Wargrave to be educated by a clergyman, until in 1783 he was sent to Eton for two years – with £1,000 of pocket money from his grandmother. Some say this largesse was the beginning of his undoing.

He must have kept a fondness for Wargrave, because after school he returned to live there in a rented house, from which he embarked upon a spending spree which was to dwarf the considerable profligacy which was the norm for well-born young Georgians. His coming of age in 1790 was celebrated with a week-long extravaganza attended by the Prince of Wales and all the aristocratic rakes of the day.

Barrymore had already borrowed £60,000 against his forthcoming inheritance, with which he built a theatre opposite his house. Later a ballroom and supper room were added. The earl and his brothers performed on stage alongside professionals, and other lavish revels were laid on for the glitterati of the day, after which perhaps 20 guests would sleep in two rooms; Barrymore's appetite for entertainment may have been expansive, but his accommodation was relatively sparse.

He was dubbed Hellgate by the Prince of Wales (into whose set he was welcomed), his brother Henry was known as Cripplegate on account of his club foot, and a third brother

Augustus was called Newgate after the debtors' prison. Their sister Caroline was known as Billingsgate on account of her bad language. Despite some outrageously antisocial behaviour, such as switching local inn signs around, smashing windows and parading half naked through the village, the siblings were reputedly well liked in Wargrave.

Barrymore founded many clubs, each dedicated to a some outlandish stunt or prank. Members of his Four in Hand Club specialised in hijacking a stagecoach, complete with terrified passengers, and driving it at break-neck speed until either it overturned or they tired of the fun. He took on crazy wagers, the most famous of which was to find a man who would eat a live cat (there is no record that he succeeded in this). Cricket, running, sword-fighting, horseracing and bare-knuckle prize-fighting were among his sporting pursuits, and he was no mere spectator, being an able



The Jockey Club, pictured in 1790 by Thomas Rowlandson. Barrymore is undoubtedly present, but all known captions list those portrayed in order of rank, so it is not possible to pick him out. The Prince of Wales is centre.

batsman, athlete, jockey and pugilist in his own right. He was undoubtedly charismatic and alluring; Caroline Lybbe-Powys, a diarist of gentle family owning substantial estates in Oxfordshire and Berkshire, and an avid race-goer, was enchanted to find herself in his company at the Reading Races ball. "Though a great rogue," wrote the Duke of York, "yet to be sure it must be confessed that when he pleased he could be exceedingly good company."

Less attractively, Barrymore sometimes delighted in posing as an ordinary man in ordinary company, later to retell in gentle company how hilarious it was to have been mistaken for and spoken to as a common person. Some of his pranks and deceptions sound a little tedious and condescending today.

The teenage Lady Barrymore became notorious as an amateur boxer

His biographer and friend Anthony Pasquin credited him with a surprising penchant for domesticity; Barrymore would don the garb of a French cook, in which he would "dress a fowl, sausages, soups and salad in various ways" for his friends. (It sounds modestly healthy fare by Georgian standards.) Nor did he lack a cerebral side: he hosted political debates in Reading and at the Rose Inn in Wokingham, wrote poetry and plays, and planned (although never produced) a magazine to rival *The Spectator*.

All his interests and pursuits were expensive and, in 1791 (a year after coming into his inheritance), Barrymore sought a seat in Parliament in order to evade his creditors – MPs were exempt from arrest. Having failed to woo the voters of Reading with a banquet featuring a turtle weighing 150lb, he eventually

won Heytesbury, a rotten borough near Warminster, but Parliament saw little of him.

In the same year Barrymore fell out of favour with the Prince of Wales. Seeking reinstatement, he laid on two banquets on successive days at Ascot Races, but his invitations were spurned by all of "Prinny's set", and 1,700 guineas went to waste. More and more he kept rough company, among whom his personal prize-fighter would have to double as bodyguard.

Although as an MP Barrymore was safe from arrest, his property was not. In the summer of 1792 the Wargrave theatre was stripped and pulled down, and his stud farm confiscated. Soon after this his financial affairs were taken over by a banker, Mr Hammersley, who allotted him £2,500 a year from his total income of £10,000.

Barrymore's name was linked with several women of the day, but his attempts to find a bride were frustrated by protective fathers,



Charlotte, Lady Barrymore, depicted as the Boxing Baroness by Charles Williams

who whisked their daughters beyond his impecunious and scandalous reach. In 1792, aged 23, he eloped with 16-year-old Charlotte Goulding. Most accounts claim that although the couple did not reach Gretna Green, they did marry. The teenage Lady Barrymore became notorious as an amateur boxer.

Barrymore served in the Berkshire Militia, initially in 1789 as ensign, and eventually rising to captain. This service was to cost him his life; in March of 1793 whilst escorting some French prisoners of war to Deal he accidentally discharged his musket, and died almost immediately. His body was buried at Wargrave two months later. Thanks to Mr Hammersley, Barrymore was by then solvent, but there was nothing left for his widow. Modern peerage directories say that she married a captain in the Foot Guards a year after Barrymore's death, and perhaps she did, but the *Gentleman's Magazine* of the time recorded the "Boxing Baroness" as descending into

drunkenness, brawling and prostitution. She appeared at Bow Street regularly before finally being incarcerated in the Bridewell, where she apparently reformed and became a model prisoner, dying in 1832.

The Wargrave house which the earl rented (never owned) was for many years called Barrymore, and still stands in the High Street, now divided into two, and Grade II-listed. It is pictured on the front cover in a postcard of 1907. The Barrymore earldom passed to Henry, after which it lapsed.

Sources

Anthony Pasquin *Life of the late earl of Barrymore* (1793)
 J R Robinson *The last earls of Barrymore* (1894)
 E J Climençon ed *Passages from the diaries of Mrs Philip Lybbe-Powys 1756 - 1808* (Longmans 1899)

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The first 20 foundation scholars at St Bartholomew's School, Newbury

Following the discovery of a list of 1849 scholars at St Bartholomew's School in Newbury, Judith Thomas (1291), the school's librarian, has followed up the names to assess the outcome of a free grammar school education in 1849

The background

In 1849 St Bartholomew's School was relaunched as the town's grammar school. Although founded in 1466 (thus making it the second oldest school in Berkshire after Eton), St Bartholomew's had fallen into disuse by the end of the eighteenth century. Newbury itself was in decline at that time, as the cloth trade was decaying. The building of the Kennet and Avon canal and the resulting increase in trade, however, had led to increased prosperity and subsequent complaints about the neglect of the grammar school by the corporation. The history of Newbury charities is complicated (see Vera Garlick's book), but as far as the school is concerned, a Charity Commissioners' critical report in 1819, plus a release of funds in 1841 by a decision of the Court of Chancery, led to a revival by the trustees of the municipal charities.

The trustees planned first, to erect new buildings and a master's house to replace the extremely dilapidated buildings at the old Litten site; second, to maintain the school and pay a schoolmaster and undermaster from the revenues of St Bartholomew's Hospital; and third, to provide free places for 20 or more sons of Newbury householders, and fee-paying places for 40 others. The boys were to be taught "Classics, English Grammar, Mathematics, reading, writing, arithmetic and useful learning". Handbills were issued around the town alerting parents to this opportunity.

On 9 July 1849 the trustees met and elected 20 boys on "the Free Foundation of St. Bartholomew's School". Then, on 23 July, the 40 fee-paying boys were nominated.

The records

Many records relating to St Bartholomew's have already been deposited at the Berkshire Record Office (BRO), and several Old Newburians (as former pupils are known), particularly Richard Moore in recent years, have been active in indexing the alumni and arranging displays of school history at reunions. The school, which amalgamated with Newbury County Girls' School in 1975 to form St Bartholomew's Comprehensive School, has recently moved to brand new buildings on a nearby site. Before the move several boxes full of long-forgotten records, mainly account books and minutes of various committees of the foundation, were found in various cupboards on the three old sites. They will shortly be taken to the BRO.

The first 20 foundation scholars are listed in a volume entitled "St Bartholomew's Hospital Newbury, Free Grammar School Foundation 1849". I've combined the details from two admission registers contained in this volume. One was affixed at the front of the book in 1933 by Rutherford Harley, then headmaster; it appears to have been returned to him by the son of the Rev Newport, the newly appointed headmaster in 1849. So, between the two registers we learn the names of the boys admitted as free scholars on 9 July 1849, the date of their birth or baptism (this is the column heading, and the date filled in for each boy is not differentiated as to which it is), the class to which they were admitted, names of both their parents, father's occupation (in one case the mother, a widow), address, date of leaving the school, the school class at the time of

leaving and, finally, their intended destination after leaving school (not always filled in). In some cases the date of birth/baptism pre-dates civil registration in July 1837, so may provide additional information for those with Newbury ancestors.

The boys

I've endeavoured to follow their careers by tracking them in a selection of later censuses, omitting here

John Edmonds, born/bap 4 Dec 1836, son of Thomas and Anne, cabinet maker, Northbrook St, left 22 May 1851, to go to a situation in London
1861 Assistant watchmaker, Islington
1881 Watch and clockmaker, Islington
1901 Living on own means, Shirley, Southampton

John Edward Basing, born/bap 26 Dec 1834, son of George and Martha, sadler, Market Pl, left 13 Dec 1850 to join his father in business
1861 Saddler journeyman, Market Pl, Newbury
1881 Jun Q died Newbury RD

James Plummer, born/bap 12 Jul 1838, son of William and Elizabeth, linen draper, Bartholomew St, left 13 Dec 1850 to go to finishing commercial school
1861 Ironmonger's assistant foreman, Lewes, Sussex
No further trace found

Charles Adey, born/bap 21 Jul 1837, son of George and Martha, builder, West Mills, left 13 Dec 1850
1861 Clerk, Wroughton, Wilts
1881 Miller employing 4 men and 1 boy, Mildenhall, Wilts
1901 Corn miller, employer, Durnsford Mill, Mildenhall

William Thomas Shaw, born/bap 16 Jan 1837, son of John and Mary Allen, seedsman, Market Pl, left 22 Dec 1852
1861 Clerk in stationery, Islington
1881 Publisher, Kingston-on-Thames
1901 Wholesale stationer, visiting Godalming, Surrey

William Edwards Freeman, born/bap 16 Jan 1837, son of Andrew and Mary, railway clerk, Bartholomew St, left midsummer 1852, to go to a situation
1854 Jun Q died Newbury RD

Melbourne Toomer, born/bap 29 Apr 1837, son of Samuel Nevill and Elizabeth, ironmonger, Northbrook S, left midsummer 1852
1871 Commercial servant, Birmingham (living in a hotel)
1891 Ironmonger's assistant, inmate, Newbury Workhouse
1901 Pauper, formerly a [sic] ironmonger traveller, Newbury Workhouse

Samuel Webb, born/bap 28 Nov 1834, son of Thomas and Hannah (deceased), grocer, Northbrook St, left 5 Aug 1850 of full age, to join his father's

their classes on joining and leaving the school. All addresses are in Newbury, unless stated, and all lived in the town centre when admitted; clearly they must have known each other before they arrived. Indeed, on the 1841 and 1851 censuses some of the families are enumerated consecutively.

business, "his father having called on me and thanked me"
No further trace of Samuel in any censuses, but from a family tree on Ancestry it is possible he emigrated to Australia

John Absalom, born/bap 27 May 1837, son of Charles and Eliza (deceased), grocer, Bartholomew St, left Aug 1852 to join his father's business
1861 Grocer master, employing two boys, Cheltenham
No further trace found

Frederick Elliott Ryott, born/bap 24 Sep 1834, son of Robert Atkinson and Sarah, chemist, Northbrook St, left 26 Sep 1850, left "to attend his father's business, his father having written me a very kind letter of thanks"
1861 (no occupation), Northbrook St, Newbury
1881 MD (St Andrews), FRCS (England), JP for Borough of Newbury, Northbrook Street, Newbury

John Walker, born/bap 2 Jan 1839, son of George Emsdorf and Susannah (deceased), gunmaker, Northbrook St, left 17 Dec 1851 to go "to a Boarding School to be finished, his father not having convenience at home"
1861 Assistant draper, Henley-on-Thames
1881 Possibly a Commission Agent, Aston, Birmingham, but with such a common name it is difficult to be sure

Thomas Joyce, born/bap 26 Aug 1838, son of John and Mary Anne, silversmith, Northbrook St, left 25 Jul 1853 "to go to a Boarding School to be finished"
1861 Medical student, Northbrook St, Newbury
1881 GP, Cranbrook, Kent
1901 Doctor of Medicine, Cranbrook, Kent

William Stratton, born/bap 25 Feb 1840, son of Henry and Elizabeth, builder, Bartholomew St, left 4 Mar 1853 to go to a situation
1861 Linen warehouse, Islington
1881 Warehouseman, Marylebone
1891 Button maker, lodger, St Pancras

Charles Sydney Legg, born/bap 17 Sep 1837, son of Joseph and Ann, butcher, Northbrook St, left 22 Dec 1852
1861 Assistant general drapery, Paternoster Row, London

1881 Draper, Kings Rd, Chelsea
1901 Draper, employer, Kings Rd, Chelsea

William Henry Keens, born/bap 8 Jun 1836, son of William and Mary, tailor, Northbrook St, left 21 Jun 1851 to join his father's business
1861 Assistant tailor, Northbrook St, Newbury
1881 Woollen salesman, Moss Side, Manchester
1901 Retired grocer, Stockport, Lancs

William Benjamin Quarrington, born/bap 11 Nov 1838, son of George (deceased) and Sarah, milliner, Northbrook St, left 3 Sep 1850 by letter from his mother to say he was going to Clifton for ill-health
1861 Chemist and druggist, Clifton, Glos
1879 Mar Q died Barton Regis RD

George Boyer, born/bap 15 Dec 1837, son of William and Mary Anne, plumber, Bartholomew St, left 25 Mar 1850 to go to a finishing boarding school. "See Attendance and Absence Register under 12 March for an account of his removal. I heard from Mr Gray his father had removed him." [This attendance and absence register has not survived. Mr Gray was the Proctor of St Bartholomew's Foundation.]

Conclusions

Was it worth subsidising these foundation scholars?

For the boys personally: yes, certainly. Apart from Melbourne Toomer, all seemed to prosper. Two became doctors, and many were employers of men (Boyer the builder was employing 20 men in 1881), most had a live-in servant, none married at a very young age (in fact none of those traceable was married by 1861), and none had large numbers of children, illustrating the old adage that the more highly educated you are, the fewer children you have. It was also noticeable that a few of the mothers of the first 20 foundation scholars followed their own occupations separately from their husbands, even whilst they had children living at home and the presence of a servant in the household meant there was no apparent dire economic necessity. William Keens' mother in the 1861 census was described as "tailor and draper, mistress employing 6 men and 1 boy". It is tempting to attribute to some enterprising mothers at least part of the demand for education in the town.

For the town of Newbury: the benefits of the charities' outlay is less clear. Only four of these 20 boys spent the remainder of their lives in

1861 Plumber and glazier, Greenham
1881 Plumber and decorator employing 20 men, Northbrook St, Newbury
1901 Plumber and decorator, Northbrook St, Newbury

Elliott Higgs, born/bap 3 Nov 1836, son of William and Hannah, pig butcher, Bartholomew St, left 27 Feb 1852 to join his brother in clock business
1861 Watchmaker, Bartholomew St
1871 Watchmaker, Bartholomew St
1874 Dec Q died Wallingford RD

Edward Gould, born/bap 17 Jan 1840, son of Stephen and Sarah, harness maker, Cheap St, left midsummer 1854
1861 Draper's assistant, Warminster
1881 Grocer and provision merchant, employing three men, 53 Cheap St
1901 Provision merchant, employer, Cheap St

Alfred Duck, born/bap 19 Oct 1839, son of William and Mary Anne, butcher, left midsummer 1854
1861 Possibly a journeyman baker, Islington
1877 Sep Q died Newbury RD

Newbury. Dr Ryott, however, was very civic-minded, and as well as his duties as JP became a governor of his old school. There are also plenty of later school records relating to payments to Boyer, the builder, for repairs to his old school.

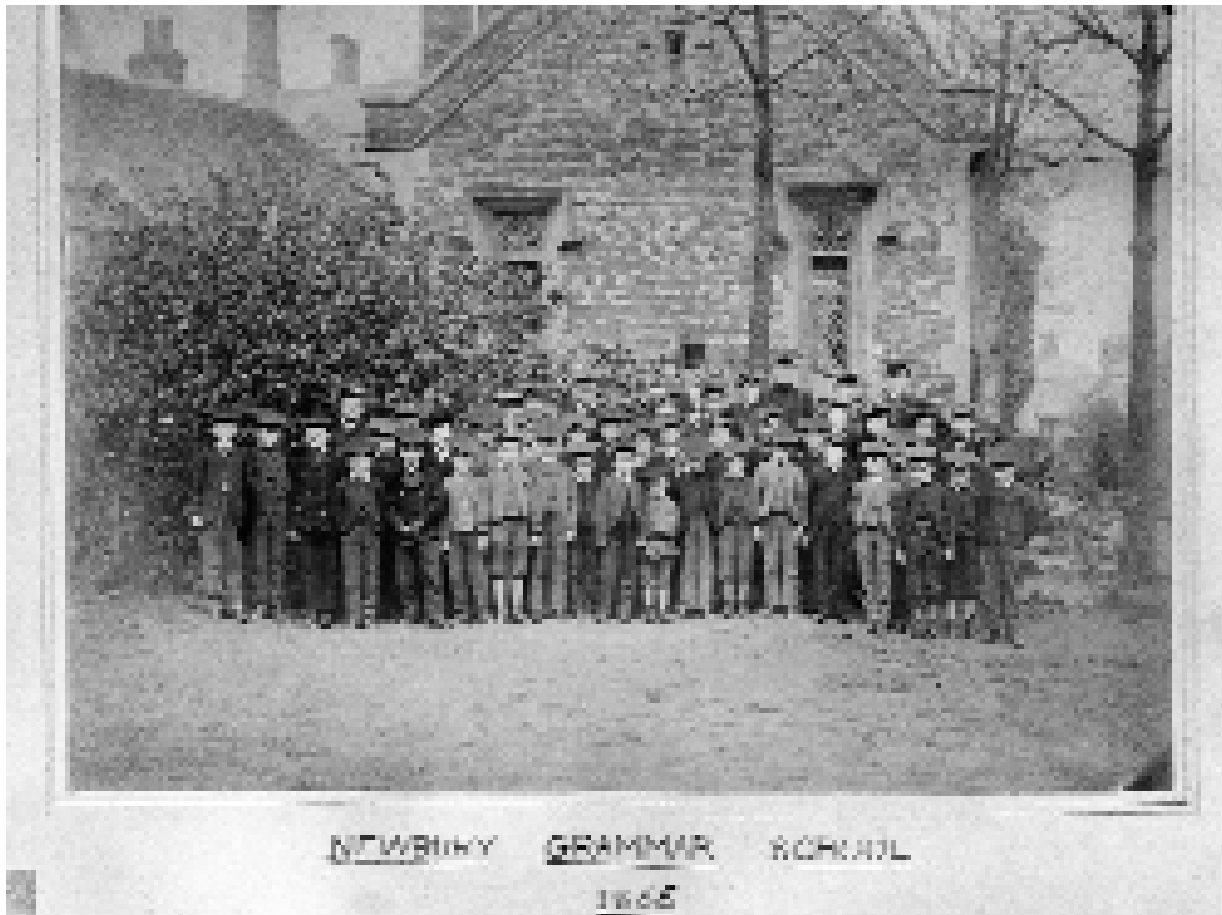
The school itself, relaunched with such laudable intentions in 1849, soon foundered yet again. The Rev Newport left after only three years, to be replaced by the Rev Cole, described in the school history as "a man of no vision". By 1866 the school was again unpopular with the worthy burghers of Newbury, who did not appreciate the emphasis placed on teaching the classics, and would have preferred that the "useful learning" of the 1849 handbill should comprise the main part of the school syllabus. It took another change of headmaster before Newbury Grammar School achieved success as a well-regarded Newbury institution that served the needs of the town.

Sources

Vera Garlick *Newbury charities and gifts* (author, 1972)
Stewart Allen ed *Whereof that town hath great need: a brief history of St Bartholomew's Grammar School, Newbury*, (1971):

R B Wernham Chapter 2 *The early years*

T V B Morrison Chapter 3 *A period of decline*



This "1865" photograph, also recently discovered during the move, does not of course show the first foundation scholars, but it is the first photograph of the pupils known to exist, and it also shows the Litten schoolhouse. Most of the boys are named on the back of the photograph, although this was obviously done at a later date. Checking their admission dates, it seems that the photograph must actually have been taken no earlier than 1867, and not as per the inscription.

Rutherford Harley, a much later headmaster, had a refreshingly uncavalier attitude to preserving the school records. (The Rev Newport actually took the admission register with him when he left, and it was only returned years later by his son.) As well as carefully affixing the Rev Newport's register to another surviving one from that time, he also produced in 1933 a very useful pamphlet indexing all the former pupils whose names had been recorded in every admission register.

The names inscribed on the back (some are very difficult to read, and some it seems no-one could remember):

Bottom row from right:

Henry Turk - Porrell (only one ...) Cooper (gloves on) Satchell Roake Swan A Stradling Satchell Minor W Thompson P Seymour - Heath Knight Hughes - - Eve

Next row:

Godfrey - - Buxcey [Burney?] Shaw Cooper - Cave Seymour - Edmonds - Edwell Chas[?] or Burney Church Pratt Staples Penford

Top:

H Thompson - Webb Alder Steeres BK Aher[?]
Matthews Dyson Clark Biggs Usher

Enough to give you toothache

a Russian view of Reading

Stuart Eagles (2242),

who has written academic papers on the subject of the Russian engagement with British culture, recounts the view of Reading expressed by one of Russia's most famous children's writers

Reading John Garnett's engaging article, *Sailing under the Russian flag* (BFHn, March 2011) I was reminded of a little-known opinion of Reading expressed by the eminent Russian man of letters, Kornei Chukovsky (1882 - 1969). He is still remembered today, even by young Russians, as one of the greatest children's authors of all time. My friend, Evgeniy Korchagin, in St Petersburg, responded to my reference to Chukovsky with, "Ah! I know him from my happy childhood – his works were read to me by my mother and grandmother – bedtime stories!" More than that, Chukovsky was a critic, essayist, translator, and a committed diarist.

It is in his diaries that we can read his opinion of Reading. In his twenties, Chukovsky served his native town as London correspondent to the *Odessa Times*. As a de facto cultural ambassador between east and west, he was an important interpreter of British cultural life for Russians, and a significant communicator of Russian culture to the English-speaking world. His career and reputation in key respects paralleled that of Arthur Ransome (1884 - 1967), the fondly-remembered author of *Swallows and Amazons* who spent his early life reporting on Russian matters in English newspapers.

Although Chukovsky held a dim view of Edwardian England's burgeoning mass media, he was always an enthusiastic reader of writers such as Walter Pater, John Ruskin and Oscar Wilde. That Chukovsky took note of Reading is largely owing to his keen interest in the Irish wit and playwright. Observing the town from the relative safety of his train window, he

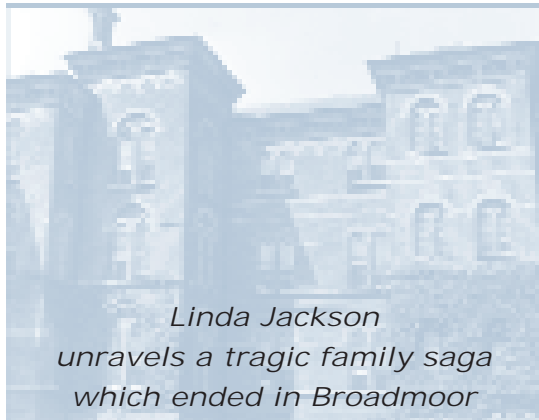
recorded his damning verdict on Berkshire's county town:

English towns are very monotonous. Reading, for instance, is a row of uniform red houses, built by some narrow-minded and fanatically talentless Arakcheev. And almost all the streets are like that. I'd like to know the annual number of suicides in the town of Reading, it must be tremendously high. I wanted to catch sight from the window of the gaol where Oscar Wilde was incarcerated, but didn't find it. The train set off. And I was glad. Because if I had to look for another second at that hopeless sequence of perpendicular houses my teeth would have started aching.*

[Kornei Chukovsky, *Sobranie Sochinenii* [SS] (Collected Works), 15 vols. (Moskva: Terra – Knizhnii Klub, 2001-9) vol. XI, p. 94.]

*Alexey Andreevich Arakcheev (1769-1834) was a Russian general and statesman during the reign of Alexander I, whose name became a byword for reactionary and repressive military-style states.

Plainly, it is not a flattering portrait, but when he was a journalist in London he was poor and struggling in a foreign country. His attitude softened as he grew older back in Russia, separated from England by the distance of time and geography, and vastly improved personal circumstances. "In the most romantic way I still love the English," he wrote, nevertheless adding, "even their cant, even their snobbery." (SS, XIV, 621)



*Linda Jackson
unravels a tragic family saga
which ended in Broadmoor*

Detained during Her Majesty's pleasure

The mystery began with a wife missing from the 1871 census. The husband, William Greenwood, was at home in Plumstead, Kent with three of the four children I had identified up to then, and he was listed as married. His wife was Emma, née Austin, born in Beckenham, Kent, somewhere between 1825 and 1827.

The only fit for Emma on the 1871 census was an inmate of Broadmoor Hospital, which was then known as Broadmoor Criminal Lunatic Asylum. At the time the records for Broadmoor were withheld from the public (although they are now available at the Berkshire Records Office) and, without knowing what this Emma Greenwood might have done, and when and where, I filed her under "mysteries to be investigated at a future date".

I did note, however, that an Emma Greenwood of around the right age died in Sandhurst district in 1879 and obtained the death certificate. This didn't help, because it described her as the wife of "unknown Greenwood". However, she was almost certainly the same person as the Emma Greenwood on the 1871 Broadmoor census and, as William Greenwood had on the 1881 census described himself as a widower, it seemed very plausible that his wife had died during that decade.

At that point I couldn't see where to go next, so went on to other things.

Recently I looked at the criminal registers

which have been posted on Ancestry UK. For those of you unfamiliar with these registers, they are handwritten records of the outcome of criminal trials, listing only the date and place of the trial, name of the accused, the charge and the outcome. There she was, or so I hoped: *Chester Assizes, 11 December 1867, Emma Greenwood, murder, acquitted by reason of insanity and ordered to be detained during Her Majesty's pleasure.*

It seemed reasonable to assume that she was the person who died in Broadmoor, but I was still doubtful that it was my Emma, since I had no reason to believe she would have been in the Chester area.

I asked Chester Library to look up the trial reports, and they sent me two newspaper articles. The researcher there had also looked at census records, and he felt that it was my Emma. So did I, but I still couldn't prove it. The articles talked about four children, the age of the eldest being more or less correct, and named another child as Emily, which also fitted with my family. Once again though, the first name of the husband was not given. I have fallen in traps before by making premature assumptions, and I wasn't about to fall in another.

The Emma in the newspaper had lived in Runcorn with her husband and four children. Mr unknown-first-name Greenwood was a ganger, and I think that he was working on the Runcorn Railway Bridge, which was under

construction from 1863 to 1868, providing a link across the Mersey from Runcorn to Widnes. On the evening of Saturday 9 November 1867, with Mr Greenwood still at work, Emma left the house with her five-month-old baby, William, leaving the other three children at home. Later that night she was found crouched in a corner at the Runcorn police office, soaking wet, and told the inspector that she had killed William, whom she had with her. It transpired that she had walked to a place called Moor and had then drowned him in a pond. She said that she had tried to kill him previously, variously by suffocation, drowning and with a razor, and added that she wished she had also killed her youngest daughter, Emily, then aged four.

All she ever said to shed any light on the tragedy was that she had been having bad thoughts recently, had been afraid that she might do someone an injury and had asked her husband to have her placed under restraint. By all accounts she had been happy with her husband and was kind to the children, so it is difficult to resist the conclusion that she was suffering from post-natal depression.

The only remaining avenue to link this Emma and mine was to obtain the birth and death certificates of the murdered child. These proved conclusively that the two Emmas were one and the same person.

William Greenwood, son of William Greenwood and Emma (nee Austin), born Runcorn 15 June 1867; William Greenwood, died Runcorn 9 November 1867 from wilful murder.

I still don't know why they were in Runcorn but I assume they went anywhere where there was work for William senior, which happened a lot in those days.

I am also never likely to know what William senior and the other children thought about all this. However, in 1881 his daughter, Alice, married a man named Matthew Sharp (and, indeed, in 1883 William married Matthew's mother). Matthew and Alice had a son whom they named Matthew Austin Sharp, which suggests that at least one of the Greenwoods still remembered Emma fondly.

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. Please also advise if the article is being or has been submitted elsewhere.

Bookends

Jean Debney

Prices quoted are for:

a) direct sales from the bookshop at the Research Centre

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

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

Please note that from our online bookshop at <www.berksfhs.org.uk/shop>, you can pay by credit card, and you can make possible savings on p&p if you are buying more than one item.

BERKSHIRE LOCAL HISTORY

Emmbrook, an unfinished history, and long may it remain so

Peter R Shilham (author, 6 Beckford Close, Wokingham, 2010)

A5, flexiback, 54pp

Shop £3.50, UK £4.45, airmail £6.00

Emmbrook lies in the north-west of Wokingham parish, and north of the A329 from Reading. First mentioned in a lease in 1786 as Emmbrook Ground (otherwise Turnbrook Ground), it adjoins "Toutley Heath" in Hurst parish. The author has collected a great deal of material, which is intended to be published in a book, and this, the first of 12 parts, is the story of the village hall. It is illustrated with maps and full-page photos, including one of the toilets built in 1893 and a Marley (asbestos?) garage used as a kitchen for the old Iron Room (1887). There are lots of local names and other details.

East Ilsley: "a drunken worthless creature", notes on parishioners, 1831

Kay Sanderson (Sigma Books, 2010)

ISBN 978-1-905291-27-4

A5, flexiback, 32pp

Shop £2.50, UK £3.45, airmail £5.50

An alphabetical biographical list of parishioners as recorded by the rector, Rev Thomas Loveday, who also included their church-going habits.

Wokingham: a short history of five Wokingham families

Jim Bell (author, 2010)

A5, flexiback, 52pp

Shop £3.75, UK £4.70, airmail £6.25

This booklet contains biographical details with the names, dates and places relating to the Barford, Gadd, Heelas, Martin and Nicholson families, all of whom were associated with Wokingham and influenced the religious, business and social life of the area in the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. It is illustrated with photographs, contemporary advertisements and some family trees.

FAMILY HISTORY RESEARCH AIDS

How to get the most from family pictures

Jayne Shrimpton (Society of Genealogists Enterprises, 2011)

A5, flexiback, 367pp, index

ISBN 9-781907-199042

Shop £12.99, UK £15.80, airmail £21.70

This is a very comprehensive and detailed book, about pictures dating from the late eighteenth century to 1950. It is illustrated with about 220 dated and fully captioned pictures, with details of media, format and subject matter, all cross-referenced from the general text and to other pictures. The pictures are printed on pastel-coloured paper, with white for the general text. The author is a professional dress historian and picture

specialist and, from her extensive knowledge and experience, she writes in a detailed and user-friendly way. The chapters cover family artworks and family photographs, formats, mounts, photographers and the visual image, picturing the family and special occasions, family weddings and home, work and play, and the book ends with a section about preserving, copying, sharing and publishing. There is an extensive bibliography and a very useful and comprehensive list of websites. This detailed book is a vital aid in assisting all historians to identify and date portraits in their possession or care. Recommended.

Also available (by the same author): *Family photographs and how to date them*

Poor Law records for family historians

Simon Fowler (Family History Partnership, 2011)

A5, flexiback, 63pp

ISBN 978-1906280-29-1

Shop £5.95, UK £6.90, airmail £8.45

This new and comprehensive introduction to the voluminous Poor Law records will help you find much about your ancestors which is not available elsewhere. It includes chapters covering how to tell if your ancestor was a pauper, as well as explaining the old and new Poor Law records and alternatives. Five appendices cover Scotland and Ireland, finding Poor Law records, bibliography, chronology and a glossary. Illustrated with photographs and sample documents, this slim volume is recommended for anyone struggling to find their ancestors.

Dating old army photographs

Robert Pols (Family History Partnership, 2011)

A5, flexiback, 61pp

ISBN 978-1-906280-27-7

Shop £5.95, UK £6.90, airmail £8.45

Military photographs are difficult to date for many reasons, and any publication which can assist in the process is helpful. The text covers the military context, the question of colour (red or khaki) and other uniform details, some special cases and which war, First or Second. As usual with this author, all the illustrations are grouped at the end, away from any relevant text and prior to the bibliography.

Trades and professions: the family historian's guide

Stuart A Raymond (Family History Partnership, 2011)

A5, flexiback, 64pp

ISBN 978-1-906280-25-3

Shop £5.95, UK £6.90, airmail £ 8.45

This slim but comprehensive booklet aims to help you discover what your ancestors did for a living, what training they had and who employed them. After considering education, apprentices and the army, the following chapters discuss personnel and business records, government regulations, trade guilds and unions, business associations, books, trade and professional journals, bibliographical dictionaries, trade directories and parliamentary papers. It ends with an alphabetical lists of sources for specific occupations and an all-important index.

ONLINE DISCUSSION LIST: did you know that...

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My ancestors were gypsies

Sharon Sillers Floate (3rd ed, Society of Genealogists Enterprises, 2011)

A5, flexiback, 118pp

ISBN 9-781859-514016

Shop £8.99, UK £11.29, airmail £ 13.25

Legislation; names; books; addresses (including websites); glossary; index.

This new edition has been written to introduce researchers to the vastly increased amount of material which has been discovered by researchers over the past 11 years, the availability of data and information exchange on the internet, plus indexing projects which place information at our fingertips. Gypsies are thought to have originated from north-west India about 1,000 years ago, and migrated across Europe. They had reached the British Isles by 1530, when the first legislation was passed to ban them from entering England.

The author, who has gypsy ancestors, has specialised in gypsy research for nearly 20 years and is a founder member of the Romany and Traveller FHS. Her book covers a great deal of ground, and will be important for anyone who thinks their ancestors may be travellers.

Write now

from *Paula Arthur*

<paula.m.arthur@dsl.pipex.com>

1 Little Bathurst Cottages

Cowbeech Road

Rushlake Green

Heathfield

East Sussex TN 21 9QA

I have inherited a quantity of photos of the sons and daughters of Charles Field born in Essex 1851, but resident in Reading during the 1880s to early 1900s. He was a publican in the town and also a labourer at the biscuit factory when living at 84 Cumberland Road. He was married to Emily, born 1861 in Oxford. They had several children: Annie, Arthur, Charles, Lizzie, Emily, George, John and my grandfather Frank, born in 1887. Some were resident at 12 Leopold Court, Reading, in 1891, I know that the last address for Lizzie (Mrs Charlie Wilson) was Maida Vale, London, about 1970; for George, Eastbourne, also 1960/70 and John, aka Jack (who was born in 1901), Harrow, Middlesex. Another son, Frank (my grandfather) died in Portsmouth about 1942.

I would like to give the photos to any interested descendants of Charles.

BIRTHS

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.

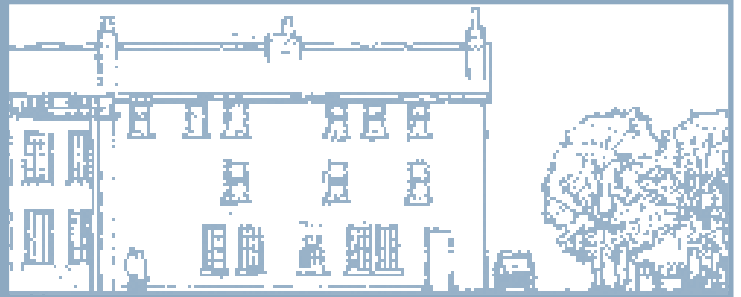
If you have an interest in a name on a Birth Brief you can order a copy by post (on paper, or as a digital file in either PAF Pedigree or GEDCOM) for £2. See full details on the website or in your Members' Handbook.

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



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0118 950 9553

<researchcentre@berksfhs.org.uk>

- 15 minutes' walk from the centre of Reading
- next door to the Berkshire Record Office (BRO)
- in the same building as the Reading Register Office
- 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 Tuesday 12 July in conjunction with the Open Evenings (from 18.00 to 20.00) hosted and run by society volunteers at the 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.

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

Society volunteers will explain anything you need to know about the centre's resources, but you do your own research at the centre. If you wish, you can print pages or photocopy them for a nominal additional charge.

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 Findmypast and/or 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

Four PCs contain pre-loaded CD data on Berkshire and many other English counties including:
Berkshire Burial Index 9th ed
Berkshire Marriages
Berkshire trade directories
National Burial Index 3rd ed
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: 36 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
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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 *Bob Plumridge*

Members submitting their interests in the last quarter

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 7160 Mr J West: 4 Founders Way, Gosport, Hants PO13 0LR
 <west_family_archives@hotmail.co.uk>
 7163 Mrs J Priest: 2 Little Challows, Biddestone, Chippenham, Wilts SN14 7DU
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*members' interests**members' interests*

7188	ALEXANDER	Reading	BRK	before 1880
7188	ALEXANDER	East Berks	BRK	before 1880
7188	ALEXANDER	North Hants	HAM	before 1880
7217	AMBROSE	Reading	BRK	All
7160	BRIDGEMAN	Amport	HAM	17-1900
7217	BROOKS	Hungerford	BRK	1859-1920
7188	BROWN	East Berks	BRK	before 1880
7175	BUCKLAND	Purley	BRK	1700-1772
7175	BUNCE	Reading	BRK	1858-1892
7164	CLOUGH	All	BRK	1660-1750
7217	COLEING	Northmoor	OXO	1800-1910
7217	COLEING	East & West Hanney	BRK	1800-1910
7163	CRITCHFIELD	Bermondsey	LDN	1800-1850
7163	CRITCHFIELD	All	BRK	Any
7160	DAY	Burghfield	BRK	17-1800
7217	DEAL	Aldham	ESS	1828-1874
7165	DRAKE	All	BRK	1600-1800
6376	FIELD	West Hanney	BRK	1700-1900
6376	FIELD	Garford	BRK	1700-1900
6376	FIELD	Marcham	BRK	1700-1900
7163	FRITH	Wokingham	BRK	1700-1850
7163	FRITH	Bermondsey	LDN	1800-1850
7163	FRITH	Shoreditch	LDN	1850-1900
7217	HEATH	Reading	BRK	All
7160	HISCOCK	Kingsclere	HAM	1700-1800
2621	JONES	Chaddleworth	BRK	1750-1850
2621	JONES	Brightwalton	BRK	1800-1950
2621	JONES	Basingstoke	HAM	1890-1990
7182	LAILEY	Bucklebury	BRK	1800-1871
7182	LAILEY	Bucklebury	BRK	1871-1912
7175	LAMBOURN	Purley	BRK	1700-1773
7217	LIDDIARD	Reading	BRK	All
7160	LOWDOWN	Lamesley	DUR	17-1800
7182	MATHEWS	Bucklebury	BRK	1900-1950
7160	MULHOLLAND	Antrim	ANT	17-1800
7160	MURRAY	Whitehaven	CUL	17-1800
7193	NAISH	Newbury	BRK	1885-1921
7193	NAISH	Cold Ash	BRK	1885-1921
2621	PERRY	East Garston	BRK	1850-2000
7217	POCOCK	Newbury	OXO	1857-1974
7165	PRIOR	All	BRK	1600-1800
7165	PRYOR	All	BRK	1600-1800
2621	SHIPTON	St Mary Bourne	HAM	1890-1990
2621	SHIPTON	Hurstbourne Tarrant	HAM	1890-1990
7175	SMITH	Hampstead Norris	BRK	1700-1779
7217	SQUIRES	Aylesbury	BRK	1800-1892
7160	SUTTON	Willesbrough		1600-1800
7160	TYDEMAN	All	YKS	17-1800
7217	UPSHER	London	LDN	1800-1898
7160	WEST	Baughurst	HAM	1700-1900
7160	WEST	Burghfield	BRK	1700-1800
7193	WIGGINS	Faringdon	BRK	1815-1923
7193	WIGGINS	Wantage	BRK	1854-1915
7193	WIGGINS	Stanford in the Vale	BRK	1815-1923
7217	WILTSHIRE	East Challow	BRK	1805-1882

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Doreen and Tony Farmer

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