

Berkshire Family Historian

the quarterly journal of the Berkshire Family History Society

December 2014

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Family names appearing in this issue

*excluding living people,
authors of sources and
members' interests*

Appleford 20
Beaver 30
Carter 29
Cox 23, 25
Fitzgerald 25
Holliday 20
McCudden 15
Meredith 20
Pither 20
Potts 9
Taylor 23+
Wesley 33

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Projects and publications

The last quarter has seen the publication of three new CDs, work for which has been ongoing for many years. Given the longevity of these projects, which makes it more difficult for individuals to note their own contribution to it, I've included here the names of those who have helped towards the two large county-wide compilations.

First, I'm delighted to announce that **Berkshire Marriages Edition Three** is now complete and available for purchase in the bookshop. My thanks go to John Pearce for his tireless energy and effort in compiling this for us. This new edition adds more coverage, especially of some key parishes in north Berkshire.

The list of volunteers who have contributed to Berkshire Marriages over the years is long, and I fear not necessarily fully complete, but our thanks go to the following individuals and groups: Hugh Ainsley, Linda Allen, Val Ayres, Don Barlow, Martin Blackman, Carolyn Boulton, Gloria Boyle, Jenny Bryan, Denise Bryant, Barbara Campbell, Melanie Cossburn, Margaret Crook, Ewart Davies, Brian Dray, David Edney, Brian Edwards, Ian Elliott, Elaine Feast, Rosemary Fishburn, Margaret Foreman, Alan Gater, Sally Goddard, Margaret Green, Pippa Green, Lesley Hanna, Doug Hatto, Peter Heard, Jean Herbert, Michelle Lancaster, Karen Lee, Neville Lee, Irene Littleby, Liz Longhurst, Penny Mann, Sue Matthews, Jocie McBride, Richard McDonald, Heather McGuinness, Steve Miller, Linda Pelling, Jean Pocock, John Price, Mary Price, Gwen Prince, Hatty Rickards, Catherine Sampson, Eric Saxton, Sheila Smith, Susanne Spencer, Daphne Spurling, Clive Tomlin, Philip Turner, John Varey, Julia Varey, Glennis Wade, Roger Wallington, David Watkins, Yvonne Watkins, Sheila Wheatley, Margaret Woodall, Michael Woodall, David Wright, Tony Wright, Margaret Young, the Remenham Archaeological and History Group, and members of the society's Vale of the White Horse Branch in Abingdon.

Berkshire War Memorials Edition One has now also been published in CD. Much of the early transcribing of monuments was painstakingly carried out by Alan Hutchins, who kindly made his transcripts available to the society. This new CD contains his original work, previously published on fiche, transcriptions of other monuments not previously included, and over 500 images. Brian Wilcock led this project and Tony Wright prepared the data for publication. Thanks also go to Eileen Barnes, Peter Beaven, Mike Booth, Liz Butcher, Bruce Collins, Elaine Feast, John Feast, Lynne Hegarty, Sue Matthews, Trevor Matthews, Andy May, Robert Monk, Dave Morris, Robert Newman, Liz Pearson, Tony Roberts, Catherine Sampson, Liz Saunders, Penny Stokes, Mary Woodley, David Wooldridge and Reading Museum. There are still a number of monuments still to be photographed, so please do offer your services to Brian via the projects email address if you think you can help to plug the remaining gaps.

Finally, transcribing and checking continues for what will be the final edition of Berkshire Burials. The list of outstanding registers is now very small, but we aim to complete these if possible before we prepare **Berkshire Burial Edition Twelve** for publication. After more than 15 years at the helm of this project David Wright has now decided it is a suitable time to retire, and we owe him a huge debt of gratitude for the immense dedication and focus he has brought to taking this project through, from initialisation to the final stages of this last edition. Thanks also go to David's wife Carol for her longstanding commitment to making these records available to family historians across the world.

Catherine Sampson
Projects co-ordinator

New in the bookshop

now on sale from Berks FHS Books



BERKSHIRE MARRIAGES THIRD EDITION (CD)

This third edition contains transcriptions of 165,000 marriages and 4,500 banns entries from more than 172 parish and non-parochial registers of the pre-1974 Royal County of Berkshire.

50 OF THEM ARE NEW TO THIS EDITION.

The earliest records date to 1538 and the latest 2010. For further details of the parishes and periods covered please see pages 4 and 5 in this magazine.

Price

from new: shop £20.00, UK £22.17, airmail £26.05

Updates

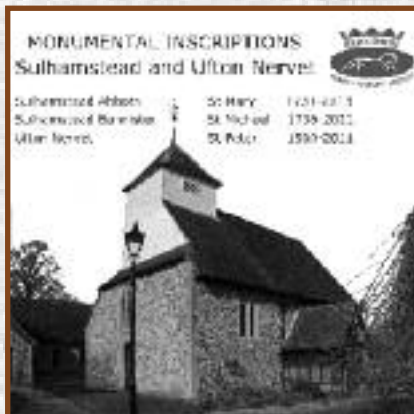
from 2nd ed: shop £5.00, UK £6.73, airmail £9.48

from 1st ed: shop £10.00, UK £11.73, airmail £14.48

BERKSHIRE WAR MEMORIALS (CD)

Transcriptions of almost 750 war memorials in Berkshire, covering all conflicts recorded on the memorials, including the Boer War, both World War I and World War II, Falklands, Northern Ireland, Korea and Afghanistan wars, across the whole of pre-1974 Berkshire, and listing the names of over 30,000 people; many (approx 28 per cent) of the memorials have colour photographs. The datasets are extensively bookmarked and easily searchable.

Price: shop £12.50, UK £14.67, airmail £18.55



SULHAMSTEAD ABBOTS ST MARY, SULHAMSTEAD BANNISTER ST MICHAEL AND UFTON NERVET ST PETER MONUMENTAL INSCRIPTIONS (CD)

Names of over 1,000 people, and transcriptions and photographs of all of the extant monuments and memorials within the churches at Sulhamstead Abbots St Mary and Ufton Nervet St Peter and in all three churchyards, including that of the now-demolished Sulhamstead Bannister St Michael.

Price: shop £7.50, UK £9.23, airmail £11.98

Berkshire Marriages edition three

Now available as described on page 3.

New parishes or those with added material are highlighted in bold italics. Asterisk indicates extended coverage.

For full product details please see www.berksfhs.org.uk/cms/Bookshop/berkshire-marriages.html

List of parishes and dates covered

Place	From	To	Number	Place	From	To	Number
Abingdon, St Nicolas	1538	1835	1,079	Coxwell, Little, St Mary	1840	1949	138
Aldermaston, St Mary	1559	1837	738	Cumnor, St Michael	1559	1948	1,979
Aldworth, St Mary	1556	1837	380	Drayton, St Peter	1814	1846	99
Appleford, St Peter & St Paul	1755	1837	47	East Garston, All Saints	1554	1837	569
Appleton, St Laurence	1710	1845	248	Easthampstead, St Michael & St Mary Magdalene	1558	1835	618
Arborfield, St Bartholomew	1580	1837	360	Eaton Hastings, St Michael	1754	1811	50
Ardington, Holy Trinity	1607	1673	30	Enborne, St Michael	1614	1837	425
Ascot, Baptist Church	1958	1958	1	Englefield, St Mark	1561	1837	433
Ashampstead, St Clement	1614	1976	537	Farnborough, All Saints	1614	2004	385
Ashbury, St Mary	1612	1704	305	Fawley, St Mary	1545	1850	303
Aston Tirrold, St Michael	1607	1705	65	Finchampstead, St James	1607	1838	556
Aston Upthorpe, All Saints	1862	1971	40	Frilsham, St Frideswide	1607	1837	170
Avington, St Mark and St Luke	1699	1834	108	Fyfield, St Nicholas	1813	1835	76
Barkham, St James	1542	1998	1,206	Grazeley, Holy Trinity	1850	1987	462
Basildon, St Bartholomew	1540	1837	986	Greenham, St Mary	1706	1837	595
Bearwood, St Catherine	1846	1979	845	Hampstead Norreys, St Mary	1541	1839	878
Beech Hill, St Mary	1868	2003	229	Hamstead Marshall, St Mary	1605	1837	277
Beedon, St Nicholas	1607	1836	348	Hanney, West, St James	1762	1837	491
Beenham, St Mary	1563	1836	441	Harwell, St Matthew	1559	1837	712
Besselsleigh, St Laurence	1715	1754	463	Hatford, St George	1803	1836	26
Binfield, All Saints	1538	1837	944	Hendred, East, St Augustine	1813	1837	128
Bisham, All Saints	1560	1836	834	Hendred, West, Holy Trinity	1558	1833	435
Boxford, St Andrew*	1559	1982	1,005	Hinksey, North, St Lawrence	1608	1730	151
Bradfield, St Andrew	1559	1989	1,697	Hinksey, South, St Laurence	1607	1668	140
Bradfield, Tutts Clump (Methodists)	1921	2006	80	Hungerford, St Lawrence	1600	1837	2,565
Bray, St Michael	1607	1837	2,375	Hungerford Wesleyan Chapel	1886	1897	58
Braywood, All Saints	1867	1956	342	Hurley, St Mary	1600	1836	806
Brightwalton, All Saints	1559	1837	447	Hurst, St Nicholas	1579	2005	4,465
Brightwell, St Agatha	1691	1754	84	Ilsley, East, St Mary	1609	1978	1,082
Brimpton, St Peter	1607	1982	782	Ilsley, West, All Saints	1560	1839	202
Buckland, St Mary*	1605	1837	620	Inkpen, St Michael*	1607	1900	695
Bucklebury, St Mary	1538	1876	1,325	Kingston Bagpuize, St John Baptist	1754	1836	136
Burghfield, St Mary	1559	1987	2,218	Kingston Lisle, St John Baptist	1560	1837	330
Buscot, St Mary*	1607	1978	608	Kintbury, St Mary	1557	1837	1,584
Catmore, St Margaret	1724	1837	57	Lambourn, St Michael & All Angels	1571	1837	2,286
Caversham, St Peter*	1597	1936	4,146	Leckhampstead, St James*	1754	1985	412
Chaddleworth, St Andrew	1538	1836	399	Letcombe Bassett, St Michael	1612	1685	35
Challow, East, St Nicholas	1754	1840	185	Lockinge, East, All Saints	1547	1866	396
Challow, West, St Laurence	1612	1635	8	Longcot, St Mary	1754	1810	147
Charney Bassett, St Peter	1607	1726	23	Longworth, St Mary	1754	1812	206
Chieveley, St Mary	1560	1837	1,403	Lyford, St Mary	1846	1979	90
Chilton, All Saints	1607	1696	24	Maidenhead Congregational Church	1879	1895	26
Clewer, St Andrew	1607	1837	2,399	Marcham, All Saints	1658	1754	189
Clewer, St Stephen	1874	1913	250	Marlston, St Mary	1907	1996	78
Coleshill, All Saints	1797	1812	37				
Combe, St Swithun	1560	1985	376				
Compton, St Mary & St Nicholas	1553	1963	1,104				
Cookham, Holy Trinity	1563	1837	2,207				

Place	From	To	Number
Midgham, St Matthew	1608	1837	129
Milton, St Blaise*	606	1753	254
Moreton, North, All Saints	1754	1811	91
Mortimer West End, St Saviour	1615	1680	85
Moulsford, St John Baptist	1616	1808	82
Newbury, St Nicolas*	1660	1838	2,506
Newbury Congregational Church	1839	1938	73
Oare Chapel (Chieveley), St Bartholomew	1802	1853	40
Padworth, St John the Baptist	1618	1838	181
Pangbourne, St James the Less*	1562	1841	636
Peasemore, St Barnabas	1800	1836	77
Purley, St Mary	1607	1840	230
Pusey, All Saints	1615	1631	6
Reading, Christchurch	1862	1877	218
Reading, Greyfriars	1866	2002	2,492
Reading, Monthly Meeting (Quakers)	1801	1835	27
Reading, St Giles	1564	1991	13,141
Reading, St Laurence	1605	1963	9,149
Reading, St Luke	1909	1965	1,055
Reading, St Mark	1920	2010	892
Reading, St Mary (The Minster)*	1619	1954	12,295
Reading, St Saviour	1922	1985	458
Reading (Castle Street), St Mary	1914	1997	169
Reading (Downshire Square), All Saints	1909	1980	1,694
Remenham, St Nicholas*	1607	1963	480
Ruscombe, St James	1559	1798	463
Sandhurst, St Michael	1580	1837	396
Shaw cum Donnington, St Mary	1563	1837	785
Shefford, East, St Thomas	1604	1833	92
Shefford, Great or West, St Mary	1599	1799	438
Shellingford, St Faith	1583	1960	511
Shinfield, St Mary	1605	1837	1,020
Shottesbrooke, St John the Baptist	1566	1837	284
Sonning, St Andrew	1592	1837	2,899
Sotwell, St James	1606	1698	25
Sparsholt, Holy Cross	1559	1812	405
Speen, St Mary*	1617	1918	4,244
Speenhamland, St Mary	1847	1972	1,264
Stanford Dingley, St Denys	1540	1834	246
Stratfield Mortimer, St Mary	1607	1837	855
Streatley, St Mary	1607	1836	447
Sulham, St Nicholas*	1607	1836	151
Sulhamstead Abbots, St Mary	1602	1837	419
Sulhamstead Bannister, St Michael	1607	1837	185
Sunninghill, St Michael	1562	1837	795
Sutton Courtenay, All Saints	1728	1754	89
Swallowfield, All Saints	1607	1926	1,598

Place	From	To	Number
Thatcham, St Mary*	1561	1838	3,722
Theale, Holy Trinity	1833	1964	689
Tidmarsh, St Laurence	1732	1979	255
Tilehurst, St Michael	1614	1986	6,600
Tubney, St Lawrence	1848	1978	108
Uffington, St Mary	1612	1988	1,296
Uffington Baptist Church	1983	1983	1
Ufton Nervet, St Peter	1607	1836	502
Upton, St Mary	1663	1735	28
Wallingford, St Leonard	1605	1699	65
Waltham St Lawrence, St Lawrence	1558	1837	748
Wantage, St Peter & St Paul	1691	1838	2,820
Warfield, St Michael The Archangel	1569	1837	813
Wargrave, St Mary	1539	2006	3,558
Wasing, St Nicholas	1612	1832	155
Welford, St Gregory	1603	1753	146
Welford & Wickham, St Gregory	1754	1835	568
White Waltham, St Mary	1556	1836	982
Wickham & Hoe Benham, St Swithun	1620	1699	38
Windsor Castle, Royal Free Chapel of St George	1627	1856	975
Windsor, New, St John The Baptist	1559	1837	801
Windsor, Old, St Peter & St Andrew	1612	1837	1,501
Winkfield, St Mary	1564	1837	1,366
Winnersh, St Mary the Virgin	1967	1999	6
Winterbourne, St James the Less	1565	1837	268
Wittenham, Little, St Peter	1539	1986	351
Wittenham, Long, St Mary	1607	1834	160
Wokingham, All Saints	1589	1837	2,691
Woodhay, West, St Lawrence	1614	1836	231
Woolhampton, St Peter	1636	1837	343
Wootton, St Peter	1725	1977	651
Yattendon, St Peter & St Paul	1559	1932	504

BANNS

Place	From	To	Number
Burghfield, St Mary	1754	1825	71
Buscot, St Mary	1754	1812	150
Combe, St Swithun	1755	1966	152
Compton, St Mary & St Nicholas	1755	1966	281
East Ilsley, St Mary	1823	1866	200
East Lockinge, All Saints	1754	1802	73
Farnborough, All Saints	1822	2002	218
Fawley, St Mary	1754	1923	250
Speenhamland, St Mary	1847	1963	1,666
Wargrave, St Mary	1755	1995	1,477

It takes a lot of volunteers to deliver the products and services of Berkshire Family History Society



Gillian Angell Ann Armstrong Richard Ashberry Caroline Ashby Margaret Bampton Sandra Barkwith Don Barlow Eileen Barnes Peter Beaven Arthur Beech Jackie Blow Mike Booth John Bouchard Sue Bouchard Gloria Boyle Yvonne Brick Alan Brooker Dave Brown Jacqui Brown Jenny Bryan Simon Burbidge Liz Butcher Barbara Campbell Gill Cameron-Waller Pauline Cannon John Chapman Vanessa Chappell Vicki Chesterman David Chilton Bruce Collins Helen Conchar Melanie Cossburn Christine Cox Margaret Crook Marion Dabbs Mike Dabbs Ewart Davies Rebecca Day Jean Debney Ivan Dickason Wendy Dodds John Dunne Sheila Dwyer David Edney Brian Edwards Louise Fenner Margaret Foreman Peter Francis Marjory French Irene Gilder Sally Goddard Meg Goswell Jayne Grainger Pippa Green Sylvia Green Jenny Gudgeon Denis Gudgeon Lee Hall Trevor Hancock Chad Hanna Doug Hatto Carol Head Lynne Hegarty Michael Hegarty Jean Herbert Joan Heuvel Keith Holloway Ken Houghton Jill Hutchinson Stuart Ingram Judith Lawrence Karen Lee Jo Lent Colin Liebenrood Irene Littleby Liz Longhurst Shirley Manson Geraldine Marsden Sarah Matthews Sue Matthews Trevor Matthews Andy May Francis McAlpin Margaret McAlpin Jocie McBride Anne McDonald Richard McDonald Steve Miller Judith Mitchell Robert Monk Dave Morris Anthony Mundy Olwen Mundy Robert Newman David Osmond Brenda Parsons Neil Patchin Ivan Peacock John Pearce Liz Pearson Mave Pearson Jenny Peet Linda Pelling Bryan Pledger Bob Plumridge Jean Pocock John Price Mary Price Nick Prince Margaret Pyle Gordon Radburn Fiona Ranger Mike Rea Susan Rea Valerie Richardson Hatty Rickards Linda Ricketts Tony Roberts Margaret Robins Pat Robins Lindsay Rogers David Romaine Jenny Ross-Hamilton Janet Rowe Ann Rutt Catherine Sampson Angela Sandall Liz Saunders Eileen Schofield Pam Scoble Rosemarie Shambrook Elizabeth Simmonds Adrian Small Sheila Smith Jim Snelling Brian Snook Miriam Spiers Gordon Spencer Susanne Spencer Dorothy Spratt Gillian Stevens Sue Stevenson Penny Stokes Brian Tidbury Adrian Todkill Derek Trinder Frances Trinder Helen Turner John Varey Julia Varey Joan Vinall Graham Vockins Glennis Wade Nick Walker Roger Wallington Ian Ward David Watkins Harry White John Whitehead Rosemary Whitehead Brian Wilcock Jean Willes Ann Willis Linda Wood Mary Woodley David Wooldridge Carol Wright David Wright and Tony Wright (and of course, there's always room for more.)

and on behalf of members worldwide, the trustees would like to thank you all for your work in 2014

Around the branches

Newbury Branch **newbury@berksfhs.org.uk**

We met on 10 September after a break of two months, when Derek Trinder updated members on the society's *Conflict and Change* conference.

Meryl Catty made a return visit to speak on *Master of the seas*, a nineteenth-century master mariner. Using stories from her elderly Uncle Jack, she explored such sources as TNA, the National Maritime Museum and newspaper archives to produce a vivid and detailed account of her ancestor William Hewitt's life, from his birth in 1819 to his death from pneumonia in 1858, with an interesting account of his voyages around the world. These could last up to two years. During one his crew deserted ship in Australia in the gold rush, and in another the ship was wrecked off Peru. Descriptions of his home life came from his wife Mary Jane's beautiful common-place book, which Meryl brought to the meeting. She also brought portraits of William and Mary Jane, but still has other family pictures to track down.

Her talk covered a range of sources, many familiar to her audience, but she succeeded in bringing facts together into a detailed story that we could easily relate to. This was an excellent example of how to pull together all the snippets of information that we gather about our ancestors into a coherent and fascinating story to share with other people.

On 8 October Phil Wood gave a moving talk on Newbury war memorials: *Lest we forget*. He covered the history of Newbury town war memorial and explored the lives of a number of those men and one woman whose deaths it commemorates. Of the 510 names, 339 died in World War I, including 26 pairs of brothers and four sets of three brothers. The 15 families who lived in Adey's Buildings lost seven men who lived there and many more relatives who lived elsewhere.

Phil also talked about the project, *In from the cold*, which works to identify and correct the names of people who have been omitted from the Commonwealth War Graves Commission list. More information on all of West Berkshire war memorials can be found at Phil's website www.westberkshirerwarmemorials.org.uk.

Library outreach returns to Lambourn and Hungerford this autumn, and Brian Snook's weekly stint continues at Thatcham. We also helped on the society's stand at fairs at Harwell Village History Day and the Oxfordshire FHS Open Day at Woodstock.

Eileen Schofield

Reading Branch **reading@berksfhs.org.uk**

In July, a group from Reading Branch visited the Royal Berkshire Medical Museum at the Royal Berkshire Hospital in Reading. The collection is housed in the former laundry, in the lower part of the building which has the impressive frontage onto London Road. Despite being a relatively small museum, there was much to see, including artefacts depicting the development of treatments that we take for granted today. Of particular interest were the iron lung and early endoscopes. A couple of guides answered our questions. This was a very worthwhile outing.

Unfortunately, our proposed outing to the Milestones Museum in Basingstoke had to be cancelled due to insufficient uptake.

Since the summer break we have had only one indoor meeting, at which local historian David Cliffe told us about Reading's cinemas. David is known to many as the former local studies library manager in Reading, and he is now chairman and vice-president of the Berkshire Local History Association, and chairman of the History of Reading Society. He told us about the technical side of cinematography, and the various inventions necessary for its evolution, and took us through all the cinemas that were in Reading, with dates, descriptions and photographs. It was delivered in an amusing and engaging way which stimulated many memories.

Vicki Chesterman

Vale of the White Horse Branch
vale@berksfhs.org.uk

The talk at our July meeting was entitled *Village life*, given by George Yealdon. He based the presentation on Rowlands Castle, in south-east Hampshire, near Havant. Our expectation from the title was that George would describe tales of the day-to-day goings on in the village, but unfortunately this was not the case; the talk was merely George outlining his basic family tree.

We returned in September to hear a talk by Ian Waller: *Suffragettes, the census and the Sidney Street Siege*. Ian is well known in the world of genealogy with good reason; his talk was lively and informative. The link between the elements of the title was the year 1911, when many records of genealogical interest were created. He explained that the population had swelled to 36 million since the 1901 census, partly through immigration resulting from religious persecution abroad. He went on to describe the suffragettes, and that some 100,000 women did not appear on the 1911 census, but weren't prosecuted because of the government's sensitivity to the situation. Many were in prison, and their records are now available, as are

newspaper records in addition to the records of the movement at TNA, the Parliamentary Archives and local archives.

Ian went on to cover the census itself, illustrating some of the amusing additional comments found on some returns and explaining how

enumerators' books can be used to find wrongly indexed people. Other records that he highlighted included the 1910 Valuation Office records (maps and fieldbooks) plus emigration and immigration records, including those of the Jewish Temporary Shelter held at LMA.

Our outreach activities continued with branch members manning a stall in the Vale and Downland Museum in Wantage on the Sunday of Heritage Open Days weekend. They were kept busy all afternoon and, as ever, enquiries ranged from the simple to the unusual and the occasional challenging: a lady trying to find an uncle whose name she didn't know!

Members also helped man the society's stand at the Oxfordshire Family History Society's Fair at Woodstock on 4 October. Despite the wet day there was a steady flow of people to the stand and it was felt that the day had been a successful one.

Simon Burbidge



Oxfordshire FHS Open Day



Windsor, Slough and Maidenhead Branch
windsor@berksfhs.org.uk

Our July meeting was the first for many years to be held at an alternative venue. We didn't have to travel far, as the Berkshire Yeomanry Museum is housed in the TA Centre in Windsor. Here we learned how the first troop of Berkshire Yeomanry was formed in 1794 (following an Act of Parliament), then known as the Abingdon Independent Cavalry. To join you had to provide your own horse. Each county was expected to raise units for home defence against the increasing threat from France.

Over the years the Berkshire Yeomanry has been disbanded, reformed, disbanded and reformed again. They have addressed riots at home, and travelled to South Africa during the Boer War, and Egypt, Gallipoli and the Western Front during the Great War. Their role has changed from cavalry and riflemen to gunners and reconnaissance regiments. All this time they have been made up of volunteers, and they now form part of the Territorial Army.

One man's actions were highlighted during the talk: Trooper Fred Potts who, under fire and wounded himself, and over the course of 48 hours, managed to drag a fellow trooper from the battlefield to safety. Fred Potts VC is Reading's only Victoria Cross hero. In memory of him and all of the volunteers spanning over 200 years it is proposed, through donations, to erect a memorial in Reading in recognition of their service to the county and country. For more information see www.pottsvctrust.org.

A comprehensive collection of uniforms, news items, photographs, medals and other military memorabilia were on show in the display room, many donated or on loan and others bought online.

Cippenham Library asked for help on researching family history as part of an IT course held on Wednesday afternoons. This was attended by five people, with Pauline Hodges and Ken Houghton advising. One participant had already started their family history, and had an impressive catalogue of work, whilst another, who came from Peru, was married to a man who had been adopted, and only his adopted surname was known. She later discovered his birth name.

The homes of our ancestors was presented by Trevor Ottlewski at our September meeting, and described the development of our living conditions from pre-Roman times to the present day. Trevor spoke clearly, and without notes, using images as a cue to describing events of the time. We learned how early dwellings were round, single-roomed structures with a fireplace in the middle and a hole in the roof to let the smoke out. With the Romans came roof tiles, underfloor heating, and buildings of a more solid construction. The Dark Ages, following the exit of the Romans, saw a brief return to earlier building methods.

The talk continued by tracing the change in building materials, methods of use and construction, and the trades that evolved in the process. We were reminded how some surnames are associated with a trade, such as Carpenter, Thatcher and Miller, though he was unable to answer his own question, "Why was the name Plasterer not used?" (A later search of the internet revealed the existence of the surname Plasterer.)

Architectural features and changing interior designs, with furniture and wall coverings, were illustrated during a talk lasting 1¼ hours.

Ken Houghton

Bracknell and Wokingham Branch
bracknell@berksfhs.org.uk

In September the talk was *Reminiscences of Old Wokingham and Bracknell*, by Jim Bell and Andrew Radgick. Using many photographs Jim told some interesting stories of Wokingham, including the church bell-tower fire of 2004, Dr Burford's campaign for purer water, several memorable mayors, the volunteer fire brigade and the inventor of linoleum. Andrew, history secretary of the Bracknell Forest Society, began with the Devil's Highway of 2000 BC to prove Bracknell's seniority

to Wokingham, and went on to cover the Domesday Book, Tudor marriage politics at Easthampstead, the Wokingham Blacks (local ruffians with their faces blackened to stop recognition, resisting enclosure), toll roads and the visit of Queen Victoria in 1845. He covered the twentieth century with the formation of Bracknell Development Corporation in 1949, the first factory in Broad Lane (Fluidrive) in 1950, the first housing estate (Birch Hill) in 1974 and Waitrose in 1972. In 1972 Princess Diana was due to open Princess Square shopping centre, but due to her pregnancy could not, and Princess Anne came instead. In 2012 the Olympic torch came to Bracknell.

Andrew has researched every war memorial in the Bracknell Forest Council area, and the stories of the fallen are in his book *Bracknell's Great War fallen*.

Our October speaker cancelled, and Trevor Otlewski kindly came and spoke to us on the history of candle-lighting. Before 1800 you needed some tinder, a flint and a striker to get a spark and a flame. Wood was normally the tinder although the inside of horse-shoe fungus could also be used; amongst his backpack Otzi, the 5,300-year-old man found in the Alps, had this material. Matches first appeared in 1820.

Candles were made with beeswax or tallow (animal fat). By the late 1800s spermaceti from the sperm whale became available, but was used only by the wealthy.

By 1700 candlesticks were made from a base and two parts for the stick, soldered together, but by 1800 this was replaced by a casting method. The candle was held by a pricket (like a spike) or a socket.

Trevor revealed many more interesting details about candle tax, rush candles, candlestick design and materials, candles as theatrical footlights, candlesticks with horn or glass windows for use outside, wicks and trimming (very important) and some solutions to lighting problems: the bull's-eye lantern had the idea of concentrating the candlelight in one direction for police use, but it did not really work. Collapsible travel lanterns were available, and a reading lantern with a candle inside the stick with a polished funnel reflector showed the ingenuity of the manufacturers.

This very interesting talk ended on a hilarious note when due to a slip of the tongue, he stated that the house owner threw the cat off the fire (not the chair) so that the visitor could sit down before lighting more candles.

Bryan Pledger

Events

*Margaret Crook
Events co-ordinator*

Since the last *Historian* we've been very busy attending fairs in the local area, supporting other family history societies as well as organising our own conference. Now we can draw breath and start thinking about what's happening in the New Year. *Who Do You Think You Are? Live* will be at a new venue and a new time: it's to be at the NEC on 16 to 18 April, and we're all looking forward to meeting new people and sharing our enthusiasm and knowledge with those who might not have made it to Olympia in the past.

In order for this to be a success for your society and for visitors to the show we're looking for new people to come along and help to man the society's stand. There will be a core of volunteers who are well versed in running the Berkshire FHS stand, and they will be there at all times, but we do need some new people to help alongside.

What can we offer in return? Well, as a helper you'll have free access to the fair, as well as time to explore for your own research, and we will pay reasonable travelling expenses. If you think that you would like to help, or you wish to know more about what is involved, please contact events@berksfhs.org.uk and we'll be in touch.

We've recently learned that Bracknell Family History Fair will be held on Sunday 25 January at the usual venue, and we shall of course be there. Again, volunteers who would like to help man the stand will be most welcome; events@berksfhs.org.uk is the address to contact.

Behind the scenes at the Berkshire Record Office, 20 October 2014



Over the course of 2014 the society has organised a programme of nine visits to places of archival and historical interest connected to the conference theme of *The early twentieth century*. The programme ended as it had begun, with a special behind-the-scenes tour of the Berkshire Record Office on Monday 20 October, one of the two official supporters of the conference. It was to be a busy day for the BRO team, as that same evening they hosted the launch of a new Oscar Wilde and Reading Gaol exhibition.

The visit was over-subscribed, and so it was a capacity group which assembled in the Wroughton Room to hear senior conservator Sue Hourigan give a short talk on preserving old documents, richly illustrated by examples of many of the documents she has rescued from such perils as insect infestation, mould, ferrous metal, plastic and foxing. Sue focused in some detail on the problems of preserving old photographs and ensuring that their backing and framing is not causing the photograph to deteriorate.

Next followed an introduction by archivist Lisa Spurrier to the public search room, where attendees enjoyed a sneak preview of what was to be revealed that evening. Lisa introduced the various sections within the search room and the types of material which could be accessed there, before leading the group into one of the strongrooms, where original archival material is stored. Here an array of documents including insurance maps of Reading had been arranged on display. As the group looked at the various documents Lisa in spoke in more depth about the records the BRO contains which are of particular interest to family and local historians, and the type of information they may contain.

Our tour of the BRO finished up in the conservation room, where Sue showed the group some of the documents she was currently working on, and demonstrated some of the processes she was using to restore them. It was particularly fascinating to see her demonstrate how to restore and re-pulp damaged paper in a water bath, albeit with a definite “don’t try this at home until you have some expertise” warning.

The final destination was the society’s Research Centre, where Julia and John Varey welcomed the group and gave a brief tour of the computer suite and the services offered there. Then it was up to the library, where tea, coffee and Julia’s delicious home-made cakes were waiting.

All in all it was a highly enjoyable afternoon and a great way to find out more about the resources which the BRO and Research Centre hold to aid family or local history research. Our thanks go to Sue and Lisa in particular at the Berkshire Record Office, and to Julia and John, for making the afternoon so interesting, informative and enjoyable.

Catherine Sampson

The early twentieth century: Conflict and change

Conference report

by Catherine Sampson

About 185 people gathered at Theale Green Community School on Saturday 18 October to enjoy the first society-organised conference in almost a decade. Many were from Berkshire and surrounding counties, but others came from the wider south and south-west.

The conference organising team had laid on little extras to make the day more enjoyable. Each attendee was given a copy of the glossy conference programme and a folder of goodies, which included discount vouchers provided by our conference supporter Findmypast.

Refreshments were themed on the concept of an early wartime Red Cross feeding station, with volunteers led by Jackie Blow dressed as VADs and a stretcher bearer. Tea and coffee were accompanied by biscuits of the period: custard creams (invented 1908), bourbons (1910), Nice biscuits (1904) and iced gems (1910). The highlight was undoubtedly the Anzac biscuits, handmade by Eileen Schofield and her husband to recipes used by the wives and girlfriends of the Australian and New Zealand soldiers who fought at Gallipoli. These were very well received, prompting one response: "My compliments especially to the baker who made the Anzac biscuits. Move over, Mary Berry!"



The society's three vice-presidents – Chad Hanna, Dr Peter Durrant and Derek Trinder – with the Hon Mrs Mary Bayliss

The conference began promptly at 10am, to the musical accompaniment of *Alexander's Ragtime Band*, after which society vice-president Derek Trinder welcomed special guest the Hon Mrs Mary Bayliss, Her Majesty's Lord Lieutenant of the Royal County of Berkshire, and the audience. He described some background to the conference and the structure

of the day. The keynote speaker, broadcaster, historian and author Dr Nick Barratt, gave an inspiring introduction to the early twentieth century, covering housing, poverty, migration, the workplace and the social hierarchy – think *Downton Abbey* meets *The Mill* – to transport listeners back to the dawn of the First World War, before society was turned upside down. (A PDF copy of the conference programme which contains a synopsis of Nick's talk as well as those by our other experts, together with suggested further reading lists, has been posted in the Members' Area of the society's website.)

Attendees then broke into smaller groups. Four talks ran simultaneously, offering a choice of topic and speaker, and the opportunity to hear specialised subjects which might not otherwise have made the final

"A richness of sessions. I had to make some hard choices."

"All of the sessions I attended were of very high quality."

cut in a single-track talk programme. Attendees' feedback suggests that the variety of topics was interesting, and speaker quality very high.

From noon until 2pm delegates had lunch and visited the display area. Fish and chips, gateaux and fruit were served in the dining room, which had been bedecked with bunting, flags, First World War recruitment posters, small flower arrangements and an array of wartime knitting patterns, recipes and newspaper cuttings. Wartime and concert hall songs of the era played in the background. Each place setting had a First World War St John's Gospel, a replica of that given to newly enlisted soldiers.

The buzz from the dining room extended into the advice and display areas, where attendees found more than 25 displays and advice desks themed to the early twentieth century, and general family history advice, brought together by society volunteer Fiona Ranger. The Berkshire Medical Heritage Centre presented a display on Reading war hospitals which reminded everyone of how grateful they were of the medical advances made during the last 100 years. Conference supporter Berkshire Record Office mounted a display on Reading Gaol and its Irish internees during the First World War, and provided one-to-one advice on their holdings. The National Needlework Archive, based at Greenham Business Park near Newbury, showed samples of early needlework and gave advice on how to conserve and store family heirlooms.



Much to talk about over lunch

Lucy Lethbridge signed copies of her book *Servants*, which quickly sold out. Elsewhere, displays covered the history of sport at Huntley and Palmers, the influence of Gertrude Jekyll on garden design, early twentieth-century plotland developments, automobile ephemera and much more. Outside in the car park was parked a 1935 double-decker bus owned by the British Trolley-bus Society, on which John Whitehead provided information about former employees of the Reading Corporation Tramways/Transport companies.

Not only was Dr Nick Barratt available for one-to-one advice on family history and house history, but so too was Paul Blake, who spoke later in the afternoon on emigration. Jayne Shrimpton was fully booked with photograph-dating, whilst military advice was provided by Lieutenant-Colonel Bob Wyatt, Captain Graham Bandy, John Chapman and David Chilton, as well as members of the Western Front Association.

At 2pm attendees chose from topics such as education, Findmypast, employment records and adoption. Refreshments were served at 3.45pm, and then it was time to wrap up the day with society vice-president Chad Hanna and Dr Nick Barratt. Thanks were given to the volunteers who had made the day so

successful and to the speakers and experts who had given their time and expertise. All in all the day went very smoothly, and attendees contributed enthusiastically and fully to the proceedings, Judging by subsequent feedback, they seemed to enjoy it immensely.

The conference and its associated programme of visits were officially supported by the Berkshire Record Office and Findmypast, and the society thanks both organisations. Findmypast kindly donated three annual memberships to the society; these were drawn after the conference, and winners were in the process of being notified as the *Historian* went to press. Their names will be included in a future *Historian*.

The conference was more than two years in the making and the organising committee, pictured below, was supported on the day by Margaret Bampton, Sandra Barkwith, Jackie Blow, Marion Dabbs, Mike Dabbs, Ivan Dickason, Lee Hall, Chad Hanna, Jocie McBride, Anne McDonald, Richard McDonald, Rosemarie Shambrook, Frances Trinder, Julia Varey, Graham Vockins, John Whitehead, Rosemary Whitehead and Tony Wright. Thanks also go to Dr Nick Barratt and all of the speakers, whose expert talks formed the foundation of the day, to the organisations and individuals who provided stands and

advice, many of whom were volunteers who gave their time and expertise for free, and finally to the staff at Theale Green Community School.



They made it happen. Left to right: Richard Ashberry, Catherine Sampson, Eileen Schofield, Derek Trinder, Vicki Chesterman, Fiona Ranger, Gillian Stevens and Margaret Crook.



“A really excellent day and I came away with lots to think about with regard to my own family research.”

“A period of history often seen only in terms of WWI, so that the lives of our most recent ancestors can get overlooked.”

“We both enjoyed the conference very much and came away with lots of ideas for records to consult and places to visit.”



Clockwise from bottom left: a rapt audience for Nick Barratt; the bus; Margaret Crook and Ivan Dickason advise on the society’s stand; Vicki Chesterman enjoys a moment with Jayne Shrimpton; Mike Dabbs and his nurses were on duty all day; a rare opportunity for one-to-one advice from the ultimate FH guru, Nick Barratt; end of a long day for Anne McDonald.



Halton House and the Trenchard Museum

3 August 2014

The sixth visit arranged in connection with our October conference brought a group of 26 members and one guest to Halton House for an exclusive visit arranged by member Adrian Small, who is a volunteer at the Trenchard Museum.

Halton House was built between 1880 and 1883 for Alfred de Rothschild, who hosted lavish weekend parties for the rich and famous of the day including Edward, Prince of Wales, (later Edward VII). During the First World War the house and its grounds were leased to the RAF, which took over in 1918 after Alfred's death. Our guide, Trixie, showed us around the extensive ground floor, which retains much of its original decoration, although only the billiard table remains of the original furniture. Much of the ground floor has been used for scenes in period dramas and films such as *Downton Abbey*, *Lucian* and *The King's Speech*. The upper floors are used for officers' accommodation, and were therefore not visited.

After a welcome cup of coffee, it was a short drive across the base to the Trenchard Museum, where we found an extensive collection of items and documents related to RAF Halton from its earliest days until almost the present day. RAF Halton has been used for training for much of its history, and there was a large collection of note- and textbooks used by the trainees, photographs of men and aircraft, military hardware and memorabilia, plus the tools of their trade, from slide rules to saws. <http://www.raf.mod.uk/rafhalton/aboutus/trenchardmuseum.cfm>

At 1pm we gathered in the Henderson Mess for an excellent roast lunch. After this we had been due to visit the First World War trenches, which were dug as part of the soldiers' basic training before they were sent to the Front, but unfortunately these were temporarily closed due to the recent discovery of asbestos. Instead we visited the newly opened James McCudden Flight Heritage Centre, which contains a display of WWI artefacts and replica aircraft, and a number of projects being undertaken by enthusiasts.

<http://www.raf.mod.uk/news/archive/ww1-flying-ace-tribute-27062014>

The Chipmunk flight simulator, enabling individuals to experience a flight around the local area, proved particularly popular with our party, although I wouldn't recommend being a passenger in any flight they piloted again! Overall this was an extremely enjoyable and stimulating day.

Sue Matthews



Unlikely recruits from our group



Preserving your family history data in digital form

**Words of wisdom from
Lionel Carter
on how to avoid digital
annihilation of your research**

INTRODUCTION

Family historians collect many certificates and other records during their research. There are several ways of filing these for posterity, using special albums and non-corrosive plastic sleeves. However, one should not rely solely on paper. Although it's good to preserve paper records and originals where possible, they are at risk of fire, flooding and burglary, so digital media needs to be considered in addition to the traditional methods of preservation.

Sometimes it's argued that digital media is not risk-free, because the technology changes. However, it takes time for a digital technology to go out of fashion, and this allows digital data to be transferred to the latest technology relatively easily. So although you may prefer to keep paper records because of their physicality, having the research in digital form as well provides the safest long-term solution.

This article discusses some of the issues in making back-ups of your research. It doesn't offer a specific procedure, but rather covers the issues you need to consider in developing your own procedures. Roger Wallington gave a good resumé of his approach in the December 2010 issue of the *Berkshire Family Historian*, and his article is worth a second read.

STANDARD BACK-UP PROGRAMS

Backing up your computer can mean many things. You may make an exact copy of your hard drive including Windows; this is known as cloning the drive. Alternatively, some people just back up their data, rather than the whole drive, on the basis that programs can always be installed again from the original CDs.

A standard back-up program may create a clone of your hard drive, or it may back up chosen specific files and folders, but this may not be the most suitable approach. Many back-up programs

create proprietary compressed files that can only be used by the original back-up program to recreate the originals. For family history data it's far better to create a copy of the files in their original format (.doc, .jpg etc) onto a separate USB-connected external hard drive. This allows you to plug this drive into other computers to access the information without fuss.

PROGRAMS V DATA

It's important to distinguish between programs and data. When you run a program it uses your data. Thus Legacy, say, as a program remains unchanged on your drive, but it works on the data you have put in, adding and changing it, finally saving it somewhere ready for use next time. Backing up the data of your family history tree therefore requires knowing where the data is on the computer.

Many people install a program accepting all the default settings, and find it works fine. The program knows where it is storing the data you enter, but do you? Windows tries to help by having programs installed in a *Programs* folder on the C drive and also having a set of folders called *My Documents*, *My Downloads*, *My Pictures* etc for your data so, if you create folders in *My Documents* for family history, you need to back up only the family history folder in order to save all your family history data. The *My* series of folders are only, in effect, suggestions by Microsoft; you can create folders and sub-folders and give them names to suit yourself.

To keep all your family history information in one family history data folder you might create sub-folders such as *Legacy Data* (for the data files created by your family history program), and folders for *Censuses*, *Birth certificates*, *Marriage certificates*, etc. How you structure the family history folder is a personal choice, but you should have one folder where you and your family history program store its data.

KNOW YOUR DRIVES

Most people know that the main hard drive on their computer is called drive C. As drives and hardware are added they are given progressive letters. (Computers start at C because early computers had twin floppy drives, and these were labelled A and B.) When a CD drive is added it may be labelled D, and a plugged-in memory stick is temporarily designated E. The reason to back up data is in case your hard drive (C) goes wrong. This is more easily done if all your data is in a separate data folder to your programs. Unfortunately, as it's computers we're talking about, there can be other complications that can mislead you when backing up.

As hard drives grew in capacity, some computer sellers decided it would be more manageable if the drive was split into two smaller drives: drive C and drive D. If drive C contained the operating system and your programs, then drive D might be used as a recovery drive. Other sellers don't set the drive D up as a recovery drive, but expect it to be used as the data drive, but it can be important to realise that the several drives, such as drive C and drive D, may comprise just the one hard disk. Technically, the disk has been partitioned into two independent drives, but this doesn't help with security if you are backing up to D, because if the disk becomes faulty you're likely to lose the information on the whole disk, ie, drives C and D. Therefore, copying or backing-up C information to D may not create a secure back-up if it is on the same physical device. You need to make sure your back-up data is being written to a completely separate hard drive.

USE AN EXTERNAL HARD DRIVE

The cost of storage and drives has fallen considerably in recent years and with the advent of USB ports it's very easy to plug in an external hard drive as and when necessary. The advantage of an external hard drive for your back-ups is that it is detachable, allowing you to keep it in a safer and separate location from your PC. It also allows you to plug in your back-up to a second PC to access the information with little hassle, and you don't have to be concerned with how your PC's hard drive has been partitioned.

The low cost of modern storage has another advantage for backing up. By avoiding proprietary software you can read your back-up files in the normal way. In practice a 1 Terabyte external drive that simply plugs into your USB connection and does not require a separate power supply is ideal. Currently such a drive, the size of a smartphone, costs about £50.

CONCLUSION

- 1. Organise all your family history information, data etc into one folder, using sub-folders as appropriate.**
- 2. Make sure you can recognise the filenames that your family history program creates.**
- 3. Write your back-up to an external device. Make more than one copy and keep one copy physically separate from your PC room.**
- 4. Don't use proprietary back-up software: better to save everything as direct copies of the original file.**



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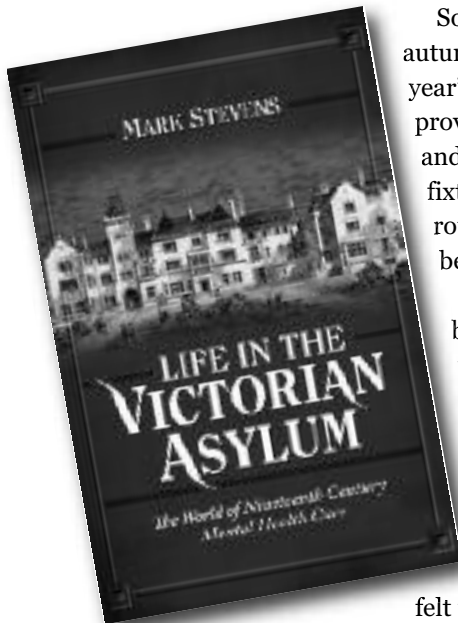


The view from next door

Mark Stevens
of the Berkshire Record Office

If you watched any family history television over the summer, then you may have seen ITV's *Secrets from the asylum*. The programme involved celebrities finding ancestors who had spent time in an asylum, and then using their stories to explore the Victorian approach to mental health.

Now I am someone who maintains a keen interest in the Victorian approach to mental health. I think the reality of it was more nuanced than is usually portrayed, and that the whole topic is bound up with the politics of welfare, a concept that the Victorians found just as controversial as we do today.



So I'm presenting my take on secrets from the asylum this autumn. *Life in the Victorian asylum* is the follow-up to last year's *Broadmoor revealed*. This second book is intended to provide more detail about the daily lives of those men, women and children who spent time in asylum care. It describes the fixtures and fittings of these public institutions, the daily routines, the treatments offered, and the sort of people who became patients (and staff) within.

The book mimics the style of a modern patients' advice booklet: the sort of thing that hospitals give out to people today. I thought such an approach would be fun for the reader, but that it would also help me draw out what was important for Victorian doctors, and what they believed their hospitals were meant to achieve.

I discovered many things, one of which was how hopeful these places were meant to be. There was a real idealism behind the creation of public asylums. The Victorians felt that for the first time they were giving people with mental illness an environment which would encourage them to get well. This was not entirely altruistic: a well person was a productive person, and unlikely to fall on the poor rates, but it was, nevertheless, a positive starting point.

My model asylum for the handbook was Berkshire's very own: Moulsoford, the hospital later known as Fair Mile. Moulsoford provides the anecdotes that I use to explain the asylum process, and also the characters for the staff and patients who crop up throughout the book. There are also a few new Broadmoor stories, for those who are interested in Berkshire's other asylum.

Hopefully the book will be a big help for anyone who has ever found an ancestor in an asylum. Plenty of such people contact the BRO after doing so. And family historians have always been very inclusive about their forebears, tending not to stigmatise patients the way that society once did. That is an enlightened reaction that is good to find, and one that suggests secrets from the asylum need no longer be kept.

Farewell to a long-standing friend



On 31 December Peter Durrant retires from the post of county archivist at the Berkshire Record Office, in which role he has been an invaluable supporter of Berkshire Family History Society for many years, particularly in the area of projects and publications.

Dr Peter Durrant joined the Berkshire Record Office in the 1970s, after gaining his doctorate from Manchester University, and he has remained in Reading for his entire career. He has been involved in two

office moves: the first in the early 1980s, from cramped quarters in the county council offices of the Forbury to the new Shire Hall at Shinfield Park. Then, with the abolition of Berkshire County Council, the BRO (with continuing responsibility for all the county archives) was obliged to move again: to its present-day premises in Coley Avenue, where the archives enjoy state-of-the-art storage and access conditions.

In 2009 Dr Peter Durrant was appointed an MBE in the New Year's honours list.

Peter has held (and will continue to hold) numerous other voluntary offices, such as general editor of the Berkshire Record Society, chair of the Friends of Reading Abbey, and chair of the Berkshire Churches Trust executive committee. He is currently leading a research project on Berkshire schools before 1833, which he intends to continue, along with his many other local interests, after his retirement. He will also continue to be a vice-president of Berkshire Family History Society.

Chad Hanna remembers working with Peter over three decades:

In the summer of 1978 Peter Durrant began a series of articles for the Berkshire FHS magazine about officials and their records, beginning a long and fruitful relationship between our two organisations. Although the society and the record office have sometimes had different ideas, we've always been able to come to a workable conclusion. Peter has held our projects team to increasingly high standards as time has gone on, and he has occasionally opened the record office to society volunteers on Saturdays, for example to help us with the Old Poor Law records.

During Peter's reign as county archivist there have been several lasting and valuable initiatives. There was a major rearrangement requiring the moving of the search room in late 1994, which coincided with the arrival of the then very useful GRO birth, death and marriage indexes on fiche, not forgetting the probate indexes. The Echo newsletter started in 1997.

Over the years, Peter has given many talks to the society, and once very ably compèred a Christmas quiz between the Newbury, Reading and Slough branches.

We wish Peter all the best for the future and hope he will be able to continue to contribute to family and local history in Berkshire for many years to come.

Ringling the changes



Bell-ringers have sometimes gained a reputation for being stropky, perhaps because they maintain a continuous local tradition through the comings and goings of successive parsons.

This poem, sent in by **Nicky Stepney**, tells of a stand-off between the Rev Richard Meredith, parson of East Hagbourne, together with his churchwardens, farmer Thomas Holliday (1802-62) and Cyrus Pither, against the bell-ringers. Thomas Holliday was Nicky's four-times-great-uncle. The poem was probably written by **Robert (Bob) Armstrong Appleford**, publican in East Hagbourne, in 1848.

*In a snug little village not known much to fame,
Lived a six feet long parson, good only in name,
He'd got in his head, a most comical thing,
That the bells in the steeple were not made to ring.*

Chorus

*As the parson said No, why the bells must not go,
Or the ringers he'd send to the regions below.*

*He said by his bible he plainly could show,
That a publican never to heaven could go,
And as he hereafter would have a warm berth,
He'd prepare him by making a hell upon earth.*

*Then Cyrus, Red Tom and the parson agreed,
That for marriage on Sundays, no person had need,
But might get their work forward, dance, fiddle and sing,
Or do anything else so the bells did not ring.*

*These wiseacres then (each as queer as a leek)
Would not have any ringing at all in the week,
So one night they kept watch on the steeple so old,
Till their teeth chattered loud and they shivered with cold.*

*They scarce had reached home, when astonished to hear,
The merry chimes pealing so loudly and clear,
The parson cried "heavens" and Cyrus cried "hi — l",
While Tom in his wrath loudly dam'd every bell.*



*So back to the church in great haste the
three went,
In a moment the ringing to stop they were
bent,
But Bob and his party, were safe in the
tower,
And they kept the bells going for more than
an hour.*

*Long legs and his pals made a terrible shout,
As they could not get in; said they'd let no one out,
In the belfry forever the ringers they'd lock,
Who should not know how time went, for they'd stop the clock,*

*But the ringing concluded they could not withstand,
The force of blue Robin and his little band,
So Cyrus remembering, "love one another"
Like a Christian, cries "you're an old rogue" to his brother.*

*Then down with such hypocrites, wolves in the fold,
Let the chimes be as merry and free as of old,
And the next time this trio should come out as swells,
They shall each have a fools cap and eight little bells.*

*And tho' parsons say no, the bells still shall go,
As free as the breezes from heaven shall blow.*



How well do you know your Berkshire?

Here's a Christmas crossword composed of Berkshire placenames, either whole or in part. The solution can be found on www.berksfhs.org.uk (by site-registered members).

1		2							
3				4					
5									
6				7		8		9	
10						11			

ACROSS

1. Scene of massacre in 1987.
3. Winkfield and Shurlock each have one, and so does Bucklebury's Chapel.
4. Where Britain's "third worst eyesore" (*Country Life*, 2003) was demolished earlier this year, followed by a fire in October.
5. Broadmoor's parish.
6. First syllable of "the most fairy-like little nook on the whole river", according to Jerome K Jerome.
7. You may well struggle to find this little farm between Hungerford and the M4.
10. Home to a posh school, and also known as something of a mess.
11. First syllable of Lord Iliffe's estate.

DOWN

1. Sounds like a musical fortification, but it's actually a western suburb of Reading.
2. Hungerford, Newbury, Reading and Basildon have each got one of these on their borders.
4. One of Berkshire's acquisitions from Buckinghamshire in 1974, this Thames-side village has a name of Celtic origin.
8. When suffixed with "cott" it's a hamlet in Longworth, but with "ton" it becomes a parish two miles SW of Abingdon.
9. Many of these can be found along the length of the Thames, albeit some with a variant spelling of three letters.

BERKSHIRE and LONDON

(all of England & Wales for 19th and 20th centuries)

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Yeoman service

Nova Jones
**shares a great-uncle with her
fellow society member Jill
Wohlgemuth. Here she
recounts his life story:
pig-killing and poaching in
Lambourn, and his First World
War service with
the Berkshire Yeomanry**

Frederick Taylor (known both as Fred and Shady) was born in Lambourn on 10 July 1884, the sixth son of Thomas and Mary (Alice) (King) Taylor. His father was a pork butcher. Fred didn't marry, and lived with his parents in Newbury Street (1891) and in Hungerford Road (1901), Lambourn, next door to his brother Thomas Taylor, in Newbury Street, opposite the fire station and behind The Lamb public house.

The 1901 census records Fred's occupation at the age of 16 as "odd boy". According to his niece, Alice (Taylor) Ford, he worked as a pig-killer. When his nephew, Vic Cox, stayed in Lambourn, Fred would take him walking over the Downs to various farms where Shady was required to kill pigs. He used to tell people that Vic was his boy.

Fred was in the Berkshire Yeomanry during the 1914-18 war, as was his nephew, Cecil Taylor (son of Fred's older brother Jim and his wife Alice), from whom it appears that Fred was something of a rogue. He gained the gratitude of his fellow soldiers in Egypt and Palestine, because food was often in short supply, and Fred would go off alone and bring back a dead sheep (and anything else that was edible).

From his army number of 1202 it's known that around 1905 Fred joined the Berkshire Imperial Yeomanry. In 1908 the unit became part of the newly formed Territorial Force, until the outbreak of war in August 1914 when they were mobilised. Until then Fred would have carried on with his civilian occupation while still in the Territorial unit and taking part in annual camps. On joining Fred was posted to Lambourn Troop of C (Newbury)



*Fred/Shady Taylor,
from Vic Cox's book Lambeth to Lambourn*

Squadron. In April 1908 they became Berkshire (Hungerford) Yeomanry (Dragoons) Territorial Force.

On 5 August 1914 the unit was mobilised, and within days were at Churn. (The regimental depot was at Yeomanry House, now the home of Berkshire FHS.) Orders required all yeomanry regiments to disband one squadron and redistribute men around the other three; in the Berkshires this fell to Fred's C Squadron, and he was posted to 4th Troop (Faringdon) of D (Wantage) Squadron.

At first, like many other yeomanry regiments, the Berkshires remained in the UK on home defence duties. However, on 8 April 1915, they sailed with their horses from Avonmouth on the *SS Menominee*, landing in Alexandria on 21 April. In August they were ordered to Gallipoli in the Dardanelles, leaving their horses and 135 yeomen in Egypt. They sailed from Alexandria on 14 August aboard *SS Lake Michigan*, and landed on A Beach East at Suvla. On 21 and 22 August 1915, together with the Dorset and Bucks regiments, they fought a bloody battle on Scimitar Hill (Hill 70). Only four of nine Berkshire Yeomanry officers returned, and 150 of their 314 other ranks.

For the remaining three months of the Gallipoli campaign the regiment remained in defence on and around Chocolate Hill, under fire from the Turks and plagued by heat, disease and lack of shade. On 6 October Fred Taylor was invalided to Egypt, suffering from dysentery, and on 1 November 1915 the rest of the unit finally embarked for Egypt.

The Berkshire Yeomanry joined with others to form composite yeomanry regiments, some going to Salonika, where battles lasted until 1918, while others remained in Egypt, becoming part of the Western Frontier Force. In February 1916 they finally defeated Senussi forces.

During the summer and autumn of 1916 the Berkshires had patrolling and outpost duties in Upper Egypt, the Suez Canal and Sinai. In January 1917 they began to advance through Gaza towards Jerusalem, with little success. Eventually General Sir Edmund Allenby took command and reorganised the British forces, resuming the advance on Jerusalem. The Desert Mounted Corps was reformed and included the Yeomanry Mounted Division. Some months later the Camel Corps was raised as part of the Western Frontier Force, and many yeomen swapped horse for camel.

The Mounted Division's task was to patrol the waterless expanse between the two opposing armies. Through many battles and

advances, by the end of November 1917 one particular isolated outpost of the Berkshires was reduced to three officers and 60 men, and by the time reinforcements arrived only 20 soldiers were still able to fight, under one officer. After finally beating off the Turkish attack the Sixth Mounted Brigade withdrew from the front line for the last time on 30 November 1917.

By January 1918 the Berkshire Yeomanry was brought up to a strength of 20 officers and 450 other ranks, and resumed training and refitting. In April they amalgamated with the Royal Bucks Hussars to form the 101st Battalion Machine Gun Corps, and in May they were ordered to France. Within hours of leaving on 26 May, their ship, *SS Leasowe Castle*, was torpedoed with the loss of the adjutant and one soldier. Following a three-week delay the regiment re-embarked on *HMT Caledonia*, landing in Taranto, Italy, on 21 June, where they entrained for France, arriving in time to join the final Allied offensive which began on 8 August 1918.

The battalion saw action at the battle of Scarpe on 29 August, in complete contrast to that in Palestine: a dash across the desert on horseback was now replaced by deliberate assault across muddy fields and shell-holes. The battalion moved to Belgium on 16 September, where an attack began on Wytschaete Ride, south of Ypres. They supported the 35th and 14th Divisions in the assault on the Comines Canal, the machine gunners going forward with the leading waves of infantry.

The battalion remained with the 35th Division for their last action of the war, at Tieghem on 31 October 1918, and they easily captured the western bank of the Schelde. Plans to cross the river on 11 November were brought forward after the Germans withdrew on 8 November. The 101st Battalion was no longer required for the assault, and was back in Courtrai when the Armistice was announced, and where they remained until demobilisation a few months later.



Berkshire Yeomanry cap badge and Fred Taylor's Mons Star

Fred almost certainly went through all these events, and was demobbed early in 1919 on the Belgian-German border. The above information was supplied by Andrew French, assistant honorary curator of the Berkshire Yeomanry Museum, who commented that, from the amount of service he had seen, Fred would have been the most experienced soldier in his troop. At some time, probably between 1915 and 1917, Fred was promoted to lance-corporal in the Machine Gun Corps, his service number then, according to his medal roll record, being 165462.

The British Army WWI Medal Rolls index cards show Fred received three medals: the Victory medal, the British medal and the 1914-1915 Star. The 1914 Star, also known as the Mons Star, was issued to those involved in the retreat from Mons in 1914. Anyone else who served in a theatre of war prior to 31 December 1915 also received the 1914-15 Star, as did Fred and his nephew, Cecil James Taylor. This medal is now in the keeping of his family.

Back in civilian Lambourn, rabbit-poaching was one of Fred's pastimes, from which he supplied the family and no doubt supplement-

ed his income. In his later years he lived in Hardrett's Almshouses. In the pub Fred's former Berkshire Yeomanry pals would ask Vic about his uncle's well-being, but Fred could never be persuaded to join them. They confirmed to Vic that during the war they never went hungry whilst Fred was about. His nephew, Harry Taylor, understood that there was an officer during the 1914-1918 war who wouldn't have a bad word said about Fred, and held him in very high regard.

When Fred lived in the almshouses his niece, Gert (Cox) Fitzgerald, cooked him dinner every day, delivered by her daughter, Jill. They also cleaned his accommodation every week, a necessary service which Fred didn't much welcome.

Shady/Frederick Taylor died, aged 70 years, on 22 November 1954, at 4 Almshouses, Lambourn, of coronary thrombosis and arteriosclerosis. His occupation was recorded as retired labourer (army ordnance stores depot), and the registrar was informed of the death by his brother, James King Taylor, of 7 the (Isbury or Estbury) Almshouses, Lambourn.

Cousins reunited

autosomal DNA testing demystified

Autosomal DNA tests can be used to find matches with genetic cousins.

Debbie Kennett explains how they work.

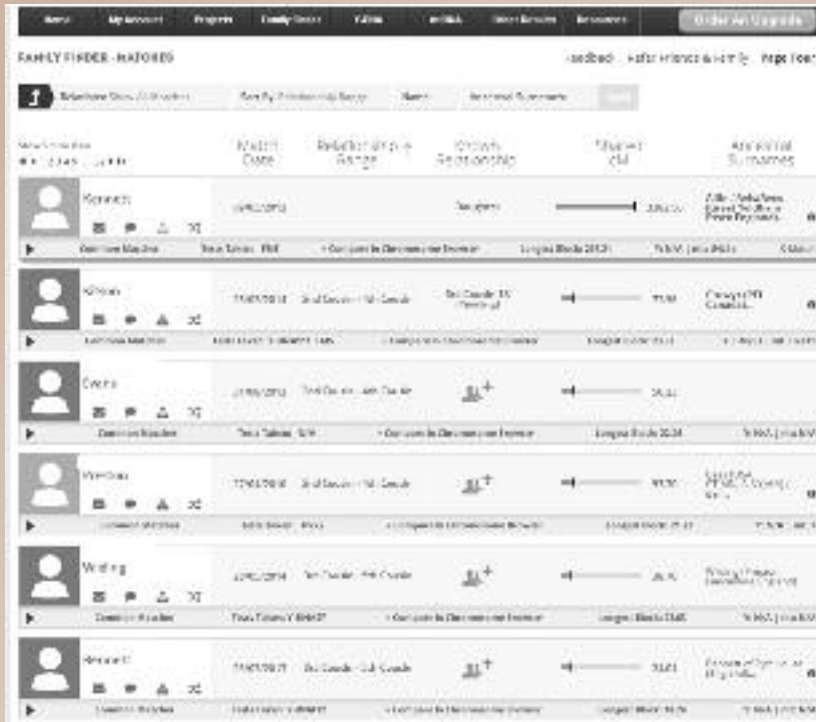
Traditionally family historians have used Y-chromosome (Y-DNA) tests to look for surname matches on the direct paternal line, and mitochondrial DNA (mtDNA) tests to find genealogical matches on the direct maternal line. However, these two tests focus on only two specific lineages in your family tree, and Y-DNA tests are further limited because the test can only be taken by males. Autosomal DNA tests can be taken by both males and females and provide information about all your ancestors, but are best used to find matches with genetic cousins within the last five generations or so.

We have 22 pairs of autosomes and one pair of sex chromosomes. Males inherit a Y-chromosome from their father and an X-chromosome from their mother. Females receive two X-chromosomes, one from each parent. Y-DNA is passed on from father to son virtually unchanged, which is why the Y-DNA test is so useful for surname studies. In contrast, autosomal DNA is shuffled up in a process of recombination. We share 50 per cent of our DNA in common with our parents, roughly 25 per cent of our DNA with our grandparents, but only around 12.5 per cent with our great-grandparents. DNA is passed on in segments, and the larger the shared segments, the closer the relationship. The number and length of these shared segments can be used to predict the relationship. Your results go into the company database and you're given a list of all your cousins and the suggested relationship range. It's then up to

you to contact your newly discovered genetic cousins and try to work out how you are connected.

The tests are extremely accurate for predicting close relationships up to the second cousin level, but because of the random way in which DNA is inherited the predictions become much more difficult for more distant relationships. We inherit DNA from only a small subset of our ancestors, so while we have 64 great-great-great grandparents in our genealogical trees, some of these ancestors will not have contributed anything to our DNA. About 90 per cent of third cousins will share enough DNA in common to appear as a match, but there is only a 50 per cent chance that we will share enough DNA with a fourth cousin for the relationship to be identified. However, because we have so many fifth to distant cousins, you will find that you have a large number of matches with these distant cousins, though in most cases it is difficult if not impossible to verify the actual relationship in your family tree.

There are currently two companies offering autosomal DNA tests: Family Tree DNA and 23andMe, both of which are based in America. FTDNA's Family Finder test is a dedicated genealogical test. The 23andMe test was originally sold as a health test, and the cousin-matching service, known as DNA Relatives, was an additional feature. The health reports have been temporarily suspended, and 23andMe are now seeking regulatory approval from the FDA, but are still selling the test for ancestry purposes. Both tests cost \$99 (£58). FTDNA charge \$7 for international shipping, whereas 23andMe send the kit by courier, which costs \$79.95 for the UK. FTDNA are therefore the most affordable option. AncestryDNA, a subsidiary of Ancestry.com, currently sell an autosomal DNA test in the US



A Family Finder matches page showing the tester's genetic cousins, the predicted relationship, the length of the longest shared segment, and the shared ancestral surnames highlighted in bold.

The full names of the matches have been obscured for privacy reasons.

A comparison of shared DNA segments in the Family Finder chromosome browser. The two people being compared are third cousins once removed.



only, though they have suggested that they will be launching their autosomal product in the UK some time in 2015.

23andMe now have over 700,000 people in their database, though a significant percentage of their customers originally tested for the health reports and are not necessarily interested in genealogy. FTDNA have about 100,000 people in their database, but are focused solely on genealogy. You will get disproportionate numbers of matches with Americans at both companies, but FTDNA are generally the better option for people in the UK as they have made more effort to market their tests in the British Isles. You can expect to have between 300 and 600 matches at FTDNA, and over 1,000 matches at 23andMe, though only a small proportion of matches will be fourth cousins or closer. Ashkenazi Jews and other people from inter-marrying populations can have thousands of matches.

Autosomal DNA tests are best used to test a particular hypothesis by verifying whether two people share the expected amount of DNA for the presumed relationship. However, it can also be fun to take a speculative test to see who you match, especially now that the databases are very large and continue to grow steadily. Sometimes family historians have discovered that they are genetically related to their friends even though they can't find the link. It is also worth testing elderly relatives while you still have the chance.

Autosomal DNA tests are particularly useful for people such as adoptees who have no information about their ancestry. Many adoptees are now finding matches with close relatives in the databases and some have even been reunited with their parents and siblings or half-siblings. There was a heart-warming story of a family reunion reported in the newspapers in June. Michelle Rooney was abandoned at birth. Her mother dumped her in a carrier bag outside a block of flats, and she was rescued just before the dustbin men arrived with their crushers. Forty-five years later, after taking a Family Finder test with FTDNA, Michelle had

a match with a first cousin, which eventually led to her being reunited with her 83-year-old father.

You will also receive ethnicity percentages from an autosomal DNA test. These are based on comparisons with selected reference populations. The results are reasonably accurate at the continental level so if, for example, you find out that you have a small percentage of Asian DNA, this is likely to be a real signal that you have an Asian ancestor, and you might perhaps discover from your genealogical research that one of your ancestors served in British India. It is much more difficult to assign percentages to individual countries, and country-specific percentages should be viewed as entirely speculative.

An autosomal DNA test is an exciting new tool for the genealogist and, as the databases grow in size, the tests will become increasingly more useful for connecting us with our genetic cousins from all over the world.

Resources

www.familytreedna.co.uk Family Tree DNA

www.23andme.com 23andMe

www.isogg.org/wiki The ISOGG wiki. See in particular the autosomal DNA testing comparison chart (www.isogg.org/wiki/Autosomal_DNA_testing_comparison_chart) and the pages on autosomal DNA (www.isogg.org/wiki/Autosomal_DNA) and autosomal DNA statistics (www.isogg.org/wiki/Autosomal_DNA_statistics)

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/DNA-NEWBIE> ISOGG DNA newbie mailing list

<http://cruwys.blogspot.co.uk/> Cruwys News: Debbie Kennett's blog

www.gedmatch.com Gedmatch: a tool for comparing autosomal DNA results from different testing companies to find surnames and ancestors in common

Readers write

your pictures, your stories, your queries

Send them in to editor@berksfhs.org.uk



from **Mrs Christina Higgs** (6790) dannos3@sky.com

I wonder if anyone recognises this school photo or any of the pupils. My grandfather is holding the ball. His name was Bruce Carter, born 1890 in Thatcham, the youngest son of Albert and Charlotta Carter. He went on to Newbury Grammar School in 1905 and was a keen member of their football team until he left in 1908 to join the Midland Bank in Reading.

The WS may stand for the school or perhaps a house in the school, but it seems fairly certain that this photo isn't of Wormstall or Newbury Grammar.

Dates for your diary

Sun 25 Jan	Bracknell Family History Fair	Bracknell Leisure Centre RG12 9SE	www.familyhistoryfairs.org
16-18 Apr	Who Do You Think You Are? Live	NEC, Birmingham B40 1NT	www.whodoyouthinkyouarelive.com

Bookends

Reviews by Jean Debney, Ivan Dickason, Grace Gillions and Tony Roberts

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

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

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Evidence of a monumental investigation: the Beaver Monument in Wokingham, Berkshire

Barbara Young Keddie (author, 2014), A5 perfect bound, 188pp

Shop £9.99, UK £ 12.47, airmail £18.89

The Beaver Monument is a large pedestal chest tomb in the churchyard of All Saints, Wokingham, dating from the late eighteenth century, and is now a Grade II listed monument. It was erected by Benjamin Beaver in remembrance of his wife Elizabeth, and the inscriptions allegedly giving the Beaver pedigree amount to some 4,000 letters on the tomb but, unusually, there is only one date given, and Benjamin Beaver himself is barely mentioned.

The inscriptions have been re-cut, possibly several times over the years, and this also has to be borne in mind when interpreting the story given on the monument.

Barbara Young Keddie spent some 20 years researching this monument, the inter-relationships of the 50 people or so mentioned on it, and their place in the story leading to Benjamin and Elizabeth.

With such a challenging inscription, the author has tackled the unravelling of the truth behind it in discrete sections. She looked first at the history of the one individual that has a date, and then moved onto looking in turn at other family names appearing on the tomb. Each chapter involving people is presented as a series of forensic genealogical notes, with detailed source references and evidence and, importantly, also including null returns. What linking narrative there is between research notes describes the whys and wherefores that led to searching for the next piece of evidence through a

particular research resource. Each chapter ends with a narrative conclusion that supports or debunks the claims made in the tomb inscriptions.

This is not an easy read. The book is in the form of tidied-up, rearranged and concise research notes, making it more of a thesis than a narrative book. It requires the full attention of the reader to absorb and take in the evidence as it is presented, and how the conclusions are reached. However, it is worth it as, like the best detective novels, the reader is slowly drawn to what is the almost inevitable conclusion.

For family history researchers, this book demonstrates the rigorous evidence gathering that we should all be aiming to emulate, and as such is a valuable textbook. For those with Beaver and east Berkshire connections there may be also some names of particular interest.

Tony Roberts

Emmbrook: an unfinished history and long may it remain so

P R Shilham (Emmbrook Residents Association, 2010), A5 booklet, 54pp

Shop £3.50, UK £ 5.67, airmail £9.55

Emmbrook: more unfinished history

P R Shilham (Emmbrook Residents Association, 2011), A5 booklet, 58pp

Shop £3.50, UK £ 5.67, airmail £9.55

Emmbrook: even more unfinished history

P R Shilham (Emmbrook Residents Association, 2014), A5 booklet, 74pp

Shop £4.50, UK £6.67, airmail £10.55

*** Special offer:**

All three Emmbrook histories:

Shop £9.50, UK £11.98, airmail £18.40

These three books are the first of a series planned to cover the history of Emmbrook, and are written by local historian and resident Peter Shilham.

This series is not in chronological order, but looks in turn at the histories of different parts and aspects of this village, which lies on the western edge of Wokingham, and of its inhabitants.

An unfinished history, the first book, in part considers the history of the village hall site, the buildings that have stood upon it, the events that have taken place there, and of course the people associated with it. The latter half of this volume has historic maps of the village at various stages of its development, and photographs of the various structures that have stood on the hall site.

The second book, *More unfinished history*, is in three sections. The first of these looks at defining the village area through some of its principal buildings, estates and boundaries. The second gives a brief view of some of the ordinary people of the village, and the last section gives an overview history of six wealthy families who over the years have been major benefactors to the Emmbrook community.

Even more unfinished history is primarily focused on village people, and especially the larger families, some of which had moved into Emmbrook in the nineteenth century (Knapp from Bradfield, Challis from Newbury and Eamer from Hurst). This book also contains sections on court cases involving villagers, on the Emmbrook men who served in the two world wars, and in more peaceful times those who were active members of the village cricket and football teams. This volume finishes with an index of over 700 village individuals mentioned in the book.

There are some short passages that appear in more than one of the books, but in the introduction to the first the author himself acknowledges that there will be some overlap in material between the books. For those with Emmbrook connections these books give a valuable background to the village and its history, and the names in all three volumes (especially the large

name index in the third book) will be of particular interest to family historians. For readers with Emmbrook interests these books provide an excellent resource for researchers.

Tony Roberts

War memorials: a guide for family historians

Susan Tall (Family History Partnership, 2014) A5 paperback, 64pp

Shop £6.50, UK £8.67, airmail £12.55

This small book arose from the author's experiences of participation in a millennium project to research the names on her local war memorial, a project which led to the publication of *Kenilworth and the Great War*.

The book is divided into two parts: first, how to locate a war memorial on which the family member or subject is named; and second, how to research that name and find out about the subject's military history. There are about 100,000 war memorials in the UK, in all shapes and sizes, ranging from buildings such as memorial halls to, perhaps, a bus shelter or a horse trough. The author explains that there seem to be no standard criteria for having a name put on a war memorial; it all depends on the whim of the local community. To further complicate research there are inconsistencies in the way names are recorded on war memorials, including nicknames and middle names.

To find a war memorial the researcher can consult the Imperial War Museum Archive (www.ukniwm.org.uk), which details the whereabouts of war memorials in the UK. Not all war memorials are listed in that archive, since many were erected by specific trades and professions, and the subject may appear on a war memorial provided by, for instance, the railways, Royal Mail, the civil service, schools or universities.

The author reminds readers that not all those named on a war memorial died in conflict: for example, some memorials commemorate a soldier's safe return.

Having located the war memorial on which the subject's name is recorded, many of the normal family history research techniques will lead to the person's background. Much of the second part of the book is therefore taken up with identifying and describing possible sources of information about the subject's personal and military background, for example censuses, parish registers, the Commonwealth War Graves Commission and local newspapers. (The researcher is reminded that some 60 per cent of the First World War soldiers' service records were destroyed in the Second World War.)

The book concludes with advice about what to do with your research when it is complete. The family of the subject would obviously want a copy; the local community would be interested and, if the researcher is part of a larger project, this could perhaps lead to publication of a booklet or, perhaps, submission to the Imperial War Museum's project Lives of the First World War (www.livesofthefirstworldwar.org).

Ivan Dickason

About the author: Susan Tall has a Master's degree in Victorian studies, and has extensive experience in family and local history. She is in demand to give talks and write about war memorials and related topics.

Making sense of Latin documents for family and local historians

Brooke Westcott (Family History Partnership, 2014), A5 perfect bound, 84pp
Shop £ 7.50, UK £ 9.67, airmail £13.55

As local and family history research reaches back in time, so the probability of encountering documents written in Latin increases. Recent ecclesiastical documents were written in Latin as a matter of course (as are papal bulls today), but many legal documents also continued to be written in Latin until the eighteenth century. Once back to the early sixteenth century, it is a rare document in the British Isles that does not use Latin, wholly or in part.

This book sets out to assist the researcher in understanding the layout, and to help translate, the most common and useful basic forms of documents in Latin. What the book is not is an

instruction manual in either Latin grammar or in reading old handwriting. Researchers weak in these areas may find it useful to refresh their knowledge of Latin or palaeography before embarking on translating a document. However, if the words and phrases are clear enough, this book will take the researcher through standard phrases, formats and word orders found in Latin documents well enough to understand what is being said and meant.

On nearly every page of the book there are a dozen or more phrases with translations, so the reader may be assured that the majority of texts likely to appear in any Latin document will have a guide translation.

Each chapter is devoted to a particular type of document, and early chapters are concerned with disposal of real estate and personalty through wills, probates, inventories, intestacy, citations, interrogatories and final decree. In the centre of the book there are chapters on the exercise of power through excommunications, writs and inquisition post mortems. The last part of the book deals with property documents: land deeds, final concord, recovery of seisin and copyholds. The author explains the purpose and usage of each document and, where appropriate, alternatives and variations in the standard clauses.

There is no index to this book, but paradoxically this is an advantage. It ensures that the reader concentrates on the text and appropriateness of words, and avoids dipping into the text without understanding the context or setting in which the Latin phrases are set.

For readers working with Latin documents this book should prove a valuable and comprehensive guide to ensuring that the right sense and understanding is made of those documents.

Tony Roberts

Newbury Primitive Methodist Circuit

Vol 1: baptisms 1831 - 1874

Vol 2: baptisms 1875 - 1913

A5, 60pp (1), 64pp (2) (Eureka Partnership, 2014)

Shop £4.50, UK £6.67, airmail £10.55, each

The Wesleyan Methodist Church was co-founded in 1739 by John Wesley (1703-91) and his brother Charles (1707-88). The Newbury Primitive Methodist Circuit, originally the Shefford Circuit, was founded in 1831, and includes places in west Berkshire, north Hampshire and Wiltshire.

Volume 1 (BRO ref D/M/C 8/7A/1) includes baptisms in Beedon, Boxford, Chaddleworth, Chieveley, Cold Ash, Compton, Eastbury, Hampstead Norreys, Hungerford, Lambourn, Leckhampstead, Newbury, Peasemore, Shefford, Thatcham and Winterbourne (Berkshire), Ashford Hill, Burghclere, East Woodhay, Ecchinswell, Kingsclere and Plastow Green (Hampshire) and Aldbourne, Little Bedwyn and Ramsbury (Wiltshire).

Volume 2 (BRO ref D/M/C 8/7A/2) includes baptisms in Boxford, Chaddleworth, Chieveley, Cold Ash, Compton, Hampstead Norreys, Leckhampstead, Newbury, Peasemore, Thatcham and Winterbourne (Berkshire), and Ashford Hill, Burghclere, East Woodhay, Kingsclere and Plastow Green (Hampshire).

Most entries in both volumes include the child's name, date of birth* and baptism, residence, father's name and occupation, and mother's maiden name.* (Note that the items marked * are omitted in later entries.) Both volumes are easy to use, and they include information from a source you may never have thought of looking at.

Jean Debney

Grandad did a dastardly deed: 50 more family history traps

Kate Broad and Toni Neobard (Family History Partnership, 2014), paperback, A5, 132pp
Shop £9.99, UK £12.47, airmail £18.89

As if they hadn't already given rise to enough research paranoia with their first book, *Granny was a brothel keeper: 50 family history traps*, here are Kate Broad and Toni Neobard with another half-ton of pitfalls for the amateur genealogist to worry about. But fear not, because as before, the brick walls are set up only to be knocked straight down again with kindly and

straightforward tips based on several decades of combined family history experience.

Granny contained basic hints relevant to both the hardened researcher and the novice alike; in *Grandad* the authors assume a certain level of competence and look at more advanced problem-solving methods, such as maximising the effectiveness of your planning and harnessing less familiar sources of information. Every piece of advice is offered with wry humour and the unspoken encouragement: "Trust us, you are not alone!"

One of the delights of Broad and Neobard's approach is that not only have they made all these mistakes themselves but they also know how all-consuming family history research can become, and how it can turn even the most rational of beings into a crazy recluse who covers the house in wall charts and forgets to feed the cat. With this in mind, Trap 48 includes a quiz for readers to establish exactly how far they have travelled down the path towards fanaticism, with some helpful strategies for roping in family members to assist in the research without them realising.

In places the editing of this sequel has a slightly hurried feel, as if it has been rushed out to meet demand, but the odd typographical or grammatical lapse does not lessen its appeal. It has the same light touch as *Granny* (relish the description of an archivist in Trap 25: "a bit like a librarian but with added dust") and is illustrated throughout with cartoons by Jim Wilkins, who consistently hits rusty old nails on the head.

The original working title of this follow-up was *Grandad was a dwarf strangler*, and the reader must venture a fair way into the book before arriving at a detailed account of this dastardly deed; the journey is worth it, however, because along the way you will meet a host of other characters from real family trees, including the authors' own, who illustrate many of the difficulties encountered and solved by family history obsessives every day.

Grace Gillions

Berkshire FHS Research Centre

what's in it for you?



**Yeomanry House,
131 Castle Hill
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researchcentre@berksfhs.org.uk

- 15 minutes' walk from the centre of Reading
- free car parking right outside
- next door to the Berkshire Record Office
- in the same building as the Reading Register Office

Opening hours are:

Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays: 10.00 to 16.00

Tuesday evenings 19.00 to 21.30: the first Tuesday evening of each month is a Family History Discussion Group session, open to all.

2nd Sunday each month: 11.00 to 16.00

(excluding bank holiday weekends)

Admission 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).

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

Can't get to the Research Centre?

The society offers a postal/online search service of Berkshire names, based on:

Berkshire censuses and indexes for 1851, 1861, 1871, 1881

Berkshire burials

Berkshire marriages

Berkshire baptisms

Berkshire miscellaneous index

Berkshire probate

Berkshire strays index.

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

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

Ground floor: reception area, computer suite with **seven PCs** with internet access, **bookshop**, refreshment facilities and cloakrooms

First floor: **library** (see below), fiche readers, magazine archive

Computer suite

Findmypast
Ancestry worldwide, with family trees
Origins (now part of Findmypast)
British Newspaper Archive
and coming soon
The Genealogist

Provided that a PC is available, these subscriptions can be used 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 baptisms
- Berkshire burials
- Berkshire marriages
- Berkshire probate
- Berkshire trade directories
- National burial index 3rd ed

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

Library

The library contains nearly 800 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 hand-written 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: 39 volumes from 1975 to the present day

- **£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 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** at the address top left.

Members' surname interests

directory maintained by Bob Plumridge

memsec@berksfhs.org.uk

Members submitting this quarter:

- 7703 Mr G COWEN, 31 Furze Platt Rd, Maidenhead SL6 7NE
geoffcowen@windsorbooks.co.uk
- 7709 Ms Y POWER, 4 Oxley St, Macksville, NS 2447, Australia
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- 7711 Ms J KEMP, Unit 2, 108 Neil St, South Toowoomba, Toowoomba,
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- 7712 Mrs S FOSTER, 28 Langtoft, Stroud GL5 1LS
sarnfoster@btinternet.com
- 7713 Mrs A RUDDICK, 65 Halfpenny Lane, Sunningdale, Ascot SL5 0EG
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7711	AMBROSE	Hungerford	BRK	1700-1800
7703	BEWLEY	Chelmsford	ESS	pre 1820
7703	COWEN	Carlisle	CMA	1750+
7703	DAVENPORT	Liverpool	LAN	1800+
7713	DELLINO	All	All	1800+
7711	GARRARD	Froxfield	WIL	1600-1800
7703	GEDDES	Carlisle	CMA	1750+
7713	HALFPENNY	All	All	All
7709	HUGGINS	Abingdon	BRK	1875-1930
7711	KEMP	Leverton	BRK	1600-1850
7711	KEMP	Chilton Foliat	BRK	1600-1850
7703	MAHONEY	Liverpool	LAN	pre 1880
7703	MURRAY	Liverpool	Lan	pre 1880
7703	SALTMARSH	Chelmsford	ESS	pre 1820
7703	SMELT	Chelmsford	ESS	pre 1820
7703	WILLIAMS	Newtown	MGY	1800+
7703	YALE	Shropshire	SAL	pre 1886

Research Centre assistants required

If you live reasonably close to our Research Centre in Reading and you are interested in helping others with their family history, would you consider becoming a research assistant at our centre?

Duties would comprise three-hour sessions (10.00 - 13.00 or 13.00 - 16.00) for as many or as few as you are able to contribute, but our greatest need at present is for people on Tuesdays and Wednesdays. You'll need to be competent in the use of the internet and subscription websites. Any other knowledge, particularly of Berkshire records, would be an added, though not essential, bonus. You'd be working with another person, so that between you a comprehensive knowledge base would be available to our customers (both members and non-members). Some minimal cash handling is also involved, as we sell memberships and bookshop items during the sessions. Full training in the procedures involved will be given.

If you'd like to see what it's like, please come along at any of our open times (details on page 34) to have a look and speak to the assistants on duty and, if you're interested in pursuing it further, get in touch with me to arrange a meeting.

Richard Ashberry
treasurer@berksfhs.org.uk