

# Berkshire Family Historian

*the quarterly journal of the Berkshire Family History Society*

June 2015

vol 38

## Family names

### appearing in this issue

*excluding living people, authors of sources, royalty, corporate names, glancing reference to famous people and members' interests*

Ackerill 16 Pryer 26  
Angell 27 Pye 14  
Archer 20 Quick 25  
Arnold 13, 28+ Redwood 13  
Aubrey 25 Rhodes 7  
Barlow 24 Saxton 13  
Barrett 13 Sellwood 13, 14  
Barrington 13 Shurmer 15  
Beale 19+ Stonhouse 13  
Bell 19+ Terry 20  
Belfield 13 Tompkins 13  
de Bellvue/  
Bellevue 24 Treloar 28  
Benet 13 Turner 22  
Blandy 13 Waring 13  
Bodman 27 Warner 13  
Boteler 26 Watts 23  
Bouchier 13 Wells 13  
Buckler 13 White 28  
Butler 26 Williams 13  
Clark 15 Winchester 13  
Cleobury 13 Wyatt 24+  
Coggs 22+  
Cottrell 19  
Craven 13, 14  
Crawley 13  
Eggleton 7  
Eldridge 13  
Elwes 13  
Eyston 13  
Fisher 15  
Fosbery 22  
Fowle 13  
Fryer 19  
Hatt 13  
Hill 23  
Holman 13  
Hopkins 13  
Jackson 13  
Jordan 15+  
Justice 13  
Liddle 7  
Long 14  
de Mauley 15  
Mayor 13  
Moore 13  
Moore de  
Bellvue/  
Bellevue 24  
Morgan 13  
North 25  
Pembroke 15+  
Powell 13

## Contents

<b>Annual General Meeting</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Events</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>Projects and publications</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>Have you got what it takes to be a trustee of the society?</b>	<b>6</b>
<b><i>For King and Country</i></b>	<b>7</b>
<b>Dates for your diary</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>Catholic registers transcribed</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>Free for all</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>Around the branches</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>The view from next door</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>by Ivone Turnbull</b>	
<b>Ordeal by fire</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>by Penny Stokes</b>	
<b>Why Jordan's Lane?</b>	
<b>by Andy Shepherd</b>	<b>15</b>
<b>A soldier and husband of serial habit</b>	<b>19</b>
<b>by Dennis Corbett</b>	
<b>Get your dates right</b>	<b>20</b>
<b>by Penny Stokes</b>	
<b>Readers write:</b>	
<b>Wendy Niven</b>	<b>22</b>
<b>Ray West</b>	<b>23</b>
<b>Connie Dixon</b>	<b>24</b>
<b>Peter Young</b>	<b>25</b>
<b>Jean Blackman</b>	<b>26</b>
<b>Graham Jansen</b>	<b>28</b>
<b>Bookends</b>	<b>30</b>
<b>Berkshire FHS Research Centre</b>	<b>34</b>
<b>Members' surname interests</b>	<b>36</b>

# Notice of Annual General Meeting and election of officers and trustees

In accordance with the society's constitution, notice is given that the 40th Annual General Meeting of the Berkshire Family History Society will be held on **Wednesday 17 June 2015 at 7.30pm**, before the Computer Branch meeting at the Oakwood Centre, Headley Road, Woodley, Reading RG5 4JZ. See <http://tinyurl.com/Oakwood-Centre>, where you can see the centre, the car park opposite and Headley Road.

There is parking (free after 6pm) available in the public car park opposite the centre.

The meeting chairman is to be nominated by those trustees present.

The main business of the meeting will be to receive a brief report from the secretary on the past year's activities, to receive from the treasurer the independently examined accounts for the year ending 30 April 2015 for acceptance and approval, and to elect for the year 2015/2016 the society's president\*, vice-presidents, officers and trustees. It is not currently anticipated that there will be any other major business to transact.

Officers and trustees form the society's Executive Committee. The committee will be seeking to fill a number of vacancies to restore trustee numbers to their permitted maximum.\*\* Without its full complement of trustees, the society may be unable to continue to provide all existing services.

If you would like to nominate a member to the Executive, please let the secretary know, in writing, by **Wednesday 3 June 2015**. Nomination forms may be obtained from the Research Centre, the secretary, at branch meetings or downloaded from the website at [www.berksfhs.org.uk](http://www.berksfhs.org.uk). Please ensure that the person you nominate is prepared to sit on the Executive Committee and be a trustee of the charity. All nominations should be seconded. Information about being a trustee of a charity and what it entails can be found on the Charity Commission website at [www.charity-commission.gov.uk](http://www.charity-commission.gov.uk) (publication CC3). Certain people are not able to be a trustee:

Persons under the age of 18;

Anyone convicted of an offence involving deception or dishonesty unless the conviction is spent;

Anyone who is an undischarged bankrupt;

Anyone who has been removed from the trusteeship of a charity;

Anyone who is disqualified from being a company director;

Any other person described in sections 178 to 180 of the Charities Act 2011.

*\*Members attending the 2014 AGM gave unanimous support to a resolution that the incoming Executive Committee be granted authority to appoint a society president, such power to expire at the conclusion of the next annual general meeting of the society after the passing of this resolution (unless previously renewed, amended or revoked in a general meeting) and on the understanding that any president so appointed should be nominated for re-election by society members at the annual general meeting in 2015 in the normal way. At the date of the publication of this notice the committee has not made such an appointment.*

*\*\* Tony Wright has indicated a wish to step down.*

**After the AGM the branch is hosting a talk by Ian Waller on "Wicked" Wikis.**

## **How to get there**

### **Directions to Oakwood Centre from A329(M)**

(distances are approximate)

#### **Travelling southbound (towards Bracknell)**

At interchange of A3290 with A329(M) take the slip road signed *non-motorway traffic* (A329) and P+bus. Follow Woodley/Sonning signs and lane markings to traffic-light-controlled roundabout. 200 yds.

Take the second exit onto the Bader Way (signposted Sonning, Woodley). Follow the Bader Way to the roundabout. 0.9 miles.

At roundabout take 2nd exit into Miles Way and straight on until next roundabout. 0.25 miles.

At roundabout take 2nd exit into Spitfire Way and straight on until next roundabout. 0.2 miles.

At roundabout take 1st exit into Headley Road East and straight on until next roundabout. 0.25 miles.

At roundabout (Just Tiles) take 2nd exit into Headley Road, and follow to the 1st mini-roundabout. 0.25 miles.

Take 1st exit into shopping precinct car park. 50yds.

The Oakwood Centre is on the other side of Headley Road, opposite the car park.

#### **Travelling northbound (towards Reading)**

Leave the A329(M) at interchange marked P+bus, Winnersh, Woodley, Earley, A329.

Keeping to the right, follow the signs and lane markings to Woodley and Sonning through two traffic-light-controlled roundabouts. 0.5 miles.

After second roundabout and passing under the A329(M) keep left, and take 1st exit at the traffic-light-controlled roundabout onto the Bader Way. 300 yds.

Follow the route given in the previous section from here on.

### **Directions to Oakwood Centre from A4**

(Distances are approximate)

#### **Travelling from Reading on the A4**

Take 3rd exit at the Shepherds Hill roundabout, signposted to Woodley (Reading Road). Follow Reading Road until reaching the mini-roundabout in the centre of Woodley.

0.8 miles.

Take 1st exit at the mini-roundabout into Headley Road and follow to the next mini-roundabout. 100 yds.

At the mini-roundabout take the 2nd exit into shopping precinct car park. 50yds.

#### **Travelling from Maidenhead on the A4**

At the roundabout with 1st exit marked Woodley (10 T mgw limit), 2nd to Reading A4 and 3rd Sonning (7.5T limit) – take the 1st exit (for Woodley) into Pound Lane.

Follow Pound Lane and subsequently Butts Hill Road until the roundabout is reached. 1 mile.

At the roundabout take 3rd exit into Headley Road.

Follow Headley Road to the mini-roundabout. 0.25 miles.

Take 1st exit into shopping precinct car park. 50yds

### **If you've never considered attending an AGM before...**

...why not give it a try this year? The formalities are brief (but informative), and a good speaker has been booked to follow them. You'll have the chance to meet some of your fellow members, and perhaps to put faces to the names you read about in your *Historian*.

# EVENTS

*Margaret Crook and Gillian Stevens*



We had a successful event at the Bracknell Family History Fair, where we introduced the *Berkshire and the war* CD and the *Berkshire war memorials 1st edition* CD. According to Alec Quartermaine, the event organiser, more people attended this year. However there were many empty stands, fewer of them and it didn't feel well attended. This year the total income taken was £675, an increase of £130 on last year, but due to three of us trying to reconcile the figures, it took longer to sort everything out.

Alec does not know if he will be organising a Bracknell fair in 2016 because of problems with his sight. He's already dropped several events, including the one in Maidstone, and I feel that the Bracknell fair is unlikely to be held in 2016. The question of whether or not there is enough support within the society for us to take over the event is under discussion.

At the beginning of February a request was received from Whitley Wood, where an open day was being organised to encourage people to come together to talk about their life in Whitley Wood. Graham Vockins and Tony Wright took society materials along and had an interesting day, and took £44.32 in sales. We may have a request to go along in the future to run some sessions on researching family history. It would be better if we can persuade them to come into the centre instead.

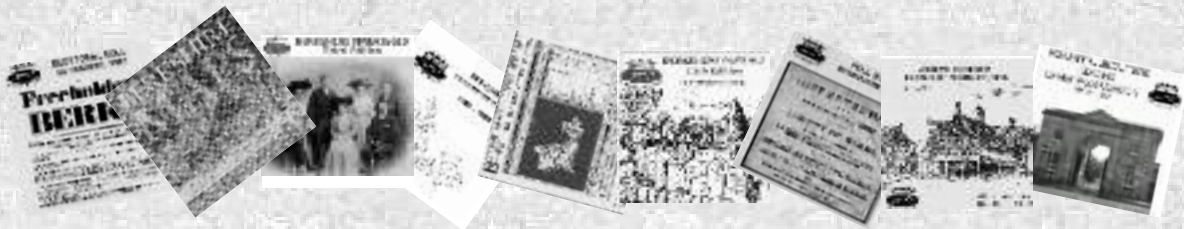
We expect to be attending the Buckinghamshire FHS Open Day in Aylesbury on Saturday 25 July, and we've also agreed to attend the Oxfordshire FHS Open Day as usual in Woodstock on Saturday 3 October. Our attendance at Hampshire Genealogical Society's Open Day at Basingstoke on Sunday 11 October is under discussion.

Margaret is continuing to run a drop-in session at Cholsey community library on the first Monday afternoon each month, but she will take a break during the summer, restarting in October when the boating season is over.

**Help is always needed to keep the society's shows on the road. Even if you cannot attend on the stall for the day, you can make a valuable contribution by being at Yeomanry House at the beginning and end of the day to help load and unload the car.**

**Please contact [events@berksfhs.org.uk](mailto:events@berksfhs.org.uk) if you could do this.**

# UPDATE



## Projects and publications

Checking has now finished for the second edition of *Berkshire baptisms*, and the data is now being prepared for publication. The aim is to take the number of parishes with published baptism records to over 100 on this next CD whilst also expanding the coverage on a number of parishes included in the first edition. There will be more on coverage once we get close to publication.

The final checking of transcripts is being completed for the parish of Binfield All Saints. This has been keeping us occupied in the Berkshire Record Office for a substantial portion of the last six months, and John Pearce has already begun to prepare the databases for the registers already transcribed and checked. Meanwhile, our home transcribers have been busy transcribing new registers for the next edition of *Berkshire marriages*, which will include significantly more registers from the north Berkshire parishes and also more coverage from towns such as Windsor, Wokingham and Wallingford. There's still much to do here though, and a fourth edition is some way off.

Since my last update we have published a revised edition of *Berkshire and the war* and we have made substantial progress in completing and compiling transcriptions for a second compilation CD of monumental inscriptions, which hopefully will be available later this year.

Finally, our sincere thanks go to David Wright, who is handing over the mantle for project-managing *Berkshire burials* after some 15 years. David has managed the project from the very beginning, and with a team of volunteers has transcribed and checked burial transcriptions from almost all of Berkshire's parishes. A final twelfth edition of *Berkshire burials* will be produced once the entries from the final few remaining registers have been transcribed and checked.

**Catherine Sampson**  
**Projects co-ordinator**

**2015 is the  
society's  
40th  
anniversary  
year...**



**...and commemorations are in hand. The September issue of your Berkshire Family Historian will be accompanied by a booklet reflecting the society's four decades of expanding service in an era of dizzying technological change.**

# Have YOU got what it takes to be a trustee of the society?

**In the coming year there will be several vacant trustee positions on the society's Executive Committee.\* Trustees are responsible for the good governance of the society and its assets on behalf of the membership, and for ensuring that the society's activities are aligned with the aims of the society.\*\***

The Executive Committee meets six times a year, and sometimes on a seventh occasion to specifically approve the society's annual accounts. Trustees may serve several years continuously, but do need to be re-nominated and re-elected at each Annual General Meeting.

The primary duties of a trustee are to act in the best interests of the society, ensure that the decisions and actions of the society are compliant with its constitution, and to ensure that the society provides public benefit. A trustee must also ensure that the society's budgets are reasonable and sustainable, and in accordance with the society's aims, and that the accounts maintained by the treasurer reflect these properly. A trustee should also be involved in planning for the future of these, and reviewing the relevant actions needed to achieve those goals.

A trustee must be committed to the charity, have a duty of care to the society as a whole, and an ambition to keep the Berkshire Family History Society as a forward-looking and class-leading family history organisation. A trustee must be able to exercise independent judgement, and be willing to question and challenge any proposals presented to the Executive Committee.

If this is YOU, and you consider that you can help direct the society, then details of nominations and eligibility are given in the notice of Annual General Meeting on page 2 of the *Berkshire Family Historian*, or contact the secretary, Tony Roberts, at [secretary@berksfhs.org.uk](mailto:secretary@berksfhs.org.uk) or apply through your local branch committee. Each nominee must be a current member of the society and have a proposer and seconder who are also current members. The closing date for nominations is Wednesday 3 June 2015.

\* Comprising officers and elected members

\*\* Those aims are (1) to advance education of the public in research into family history and genealogy, primarily but not exclusively within the boundaries of the pre-1974 Royal County of Berkshire; and (2) to work to promote the preservation, transcription, indexing and ready public accessibility of related records and information.

## Membership renewal

This issue of your magazine contains a form for renewing your subscription to Berkshire Family History Society for the year beginning 1 July 2015. Please use it without delay, or go to

**<http://www.berksfhs.org.uk/renew>**

and renew online to secure another fruitful and enjoyable year in the company of people who share your interest in family history.



**Thousands left the Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead during the Great War, never to return. One of the enduring legacies which remains of their sacrifice is the names on 200 war memorials in Windsor, Maidenhead and the surrounding villages.**

Over the last year or so volunteers from Berkshire Family History Society have been working with a team from the Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead in a Heritage Lottery Funded project entitled *For King and Country*, which aims to uncover the stories of the people who gave their lives. Other partners with the borough in this extensive project include the Maidenhead Heritage Centre, the Windsor Local History Society and the Berkshire Rifles Museum, part of The Wardrobe, which is home of the infantry regiments of Berkshire and Wiltshire.

RBWM already has a temporary website in place linked to their main borough site at [www.rbwm.gov.uk/web/fkac.htm](http://www.rbwm.gov.uk/web/fkac.htm) This contains such useful tools as an interactive location map which details the names listed on each war memorial, and which in time will allow you to open an information page for each of these individuals. Research on these names is now well underway, with volunteer training provided by the society, and aided by a series of roadshows which will take place across the borough during 2015 to collect stories and images of memorabilia and photographs brought in by the public. The society aims to be present at all or most of these events, so that we can provide assistance to those wanting to know more about their ancestors.

The first roadshow, hosted by the Maidenhead Heritage Centre in March, was well attended, and received extensive publicity

in the local press. Catherine Sampson, Ken Houghton and Judith Mitchell were in attendance from the society and were kept busy all day giving advice. Other activities include commemoration events such as the re-enactment of the Christmas truce football match which took place in December 1914, and an extensive schools outreach programme.

The *For King and Country* website also plans to regularly feature stories of local individuals who served in the war and their families. Two individuals have been recognised to date, the first being Squadron Sergeant Major John Liddle, who served with A Squadron 1/1st Berkshire Yeomanry; the second is George Charles Rhodes, whose story was researched by society member Merle Manson. George Charles Rhodes was born in Easthampstead in 1886, the only son of George Rhodes, a gardener from Binfield, and his wife Rhoda Elizabeth née Eggleton. His story takes him to Woking, Maidenhead, Newbury and eventually to the Rocquigny-Equancourt Road British Cemetery in Manancourt. You can read more about him on the website. If you have any stories about individuals listed on the borough war memorials you would be willing to share or would like to assist with this project please contact [projects@berksfhs.co.uk](mailto:projects@berksfhs.co.uk).

The society offers a range of tools to help with researching those who fought in the First World War, including ***Berkshire war memorials***, edition 1 (CD), ***Berkshire and the war***, edition 2 (CD), ***Volunteer listings*** for Abingdon, Newbury and Maidenhead (individual CDs) and a selection of specialist research books and listings, some available to consult in the Research Centre library and others to buy in the bookshop.

**Catherine Sampson**

**Do you like working with language?**

***Are you interested in local and family history?***

**Would you like to use and expand your IT skills?**

**Are you looking to engage your mind in a demanding and highly rewarding task?**

***Are you motivated by achievement and appreciation of your work by others?***

*(about 2,000 of them, in this case)*

**Would you enjoy working independently, but within a network of people who have wide-ranging interests and talents?**

***Are you a bit of a control freak, who likes to get things right?***

**If you answer yes to just some of these questions you might be the right person to take over editing the *Berkshire Family Historian*.**

**The present editor will be stepping down in March 2016, so the search for a replacement is hotting up.**

**If you think it could be you, take a look at [www.berksfhs.org.uk/editor](http://www.berksfhs.org.uk/editor) for more detail about the responsibilities.**

**Or contact the present editor, Penny Stokes [editor@berksfhs.org.uk](mailto:editor@berksfhs.org.uk) or the society's secretary, Tony Roberts [secretary@berksfhs.org.uk](mailto:secretary@berksfhs.org.uk) to ask more questions with, of course, no obligation.**



# Dates for your diary

Sat 13 Jun	WWI family history workshop	Walton Library KT12 1GH	01483 543599
10.00- 15.00 Sat 20 Jun	Wiltshire FHS Open Day	Civic Centre Trowbridge BA14 8AH	<a href="http://www.wiltshirefhs.co.uk/index.php/component/content/article?id=4124">www.wiltshirefhs.co.uk/index.php/component/content/article?id=4124</a>
10.00- 16.00 Sat 25 July	Buckinghamshire FHS Open Day	Grange School, Wendover Way, Aylesbury HP21 7NH	<a href="http://www.bucksfhs.org.uk">www.bucksfhs.org.uk</a>
Sat 15 Aug	Guild of One-Name Studies Seminar	Littleton Millennium Memorial Hall, The Hall Way, Winchester SO22 6QL	(Alan Moorhouse) <a href="http://one-name.org">one-name.org</a>

## Vale Catholic registers transcribed

The Vale of the White Horse, formerly in Berkshire and now in Oxfordshire, has two Roman Catholic parishes that derive from the recusancy of local gentry families. Buckland (now transferred to nearby Faringdon) was the residence of the Yates and Throckmortons; East Hendred remains the home of the Eyston family and also serves Milton, home of the Mockler-Barretts.

Dr Alan Simpson and Tony Hadland have now photographed all the pre-21st century registers currently held by the two parishes. DVD-ROMs containing the images have been deposited with the Berkshire Record Office in Reading and with the Oxfordshire History Centre (which absorbed the Oxfordshire Record Office). Both parishes also hold a copy of their respective DVD-ROM.

Most of the records date from the mid-nineteenth century. The earliest are the baptisms at Buckland, which start in 1753.

## Free for all

**Use of Findmypast, Ancestry, the British Newspaper Archive and The Genealogist is now free at the Research Centre, the Executive Committee having abolished the £1 per hour charge formerly levied.**

The £2 temporary membership fee applied to non-member visitors has also been abolished.



# Around the branches

## **Reading Branch** **[reading@berksfhs.org.uk](mailto:reading@berksfhs.org.uk)**

**Vicki Chesterman and Graham Vockins**

In February Reading Branch represented the society at the launch of the new Whitley Mini Museum held at the Whitley Community Café. This proved to be more of a “get to know the society” event rather than a money-making occasion, but it was worthwhile attending, even at short notice.

In March the speaker was Elizabeth Owens of Merlin Genealogy Services, who gave a presentation on gravestones, memorials and monuments. She outlined what can be found, how and where to look, how to record, and styles of writing and spelling. Time of day and weather conditions both affect readability, and you may need to use fine chalk powder or shine a bright light at an oblique angle to reveal more information.

Recording of information can be on paper, electronic disk or USB stick, for which back-up is recommended. Possible headings for recording include: reference; gravestone; relation; place; surname; forename; middle names; inscriptions; shape; size and type of stone; date; time; dates of birth and death; symbols; age; type of text; plot number; and photo references.

Latin on stones tends to be simple, and Elizabeth has made an aide-memoire of stock phrases. Google also has basic translation functions.

Elizabeth concluded with hints for looking after stones and had been advised by a stonemason on the upkeep of various types of stone, and tools to use.

## **Computer Branch** **[computerbranch@berksfhs.org.uk](mailto:computerbranch@berksfhs.org.uk)**

**Gillian Stevens**

The Computer Branch is hoping for dry weather this summer in order to complete the monumental inscription project for Woodley St John churchyard. Gardening will be done so that we can find and see the gravestones; grass in previous years was more than waist-high in a large number of areas, and some stones had

sunk to below the level of the surrounding soil. Photos will be taken and transcripts of inscriptions not already available will be completed. A fine day and plenty of refreshments including a picnic will make this event an enjoyable day out. Watch the website for further details.

## **Newbury Branch** **[newbury@berksfhs.org.uk](mailto:newbury@berksfhs.org.uk)**

**Penny Stokes and Ian Ward**

In February Tony Hadland returned to give a talk with the intriguing title *A tiger in the bathroom and bullets up the chimney*, based on his mother's family history. The story moved from the British in India in the mid-1800s to Ireland and the often difficult life of the family of a Catholic Irish soldier in the British army.

Newbury's March meeting featured Ian Waller talking on the subject of domestic servants, who tend to crop up in almost every-

one's ancestry.

In April Dr Colin Chapman spoke to branch members and visitors on the manorial system and its records. The talk was a little long, but very well received.

Nick Prince is leaving the committee after serving five years in the branch chair, due to pressure of work. Eileen Schofield, who has also represented the branch on the Exec, will replace him, and Judith Thomas will be joining the committee.

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

In February Tony Hadland came to speak about local manufacturers of steam engines: their growth; their decline; and their advertising. Tony finished his talk by showing an old newsreel of the steam train service which ran from Wantage to the GWR main line in Grove,

which enabled these companies to transport their goods all over the world.

The Vale Branch has been seeking a replacement for its current chair, Vanessa Chappell, who has for some time wanted to stand down from the committee.

### **Bracknell and Wokingham Branch** **bracknell@berksfhs.org.uk**

The history of Reading's hospitals was the subject of Lionel F Williams' talk to the branch in February. The story began with Reading Abbey in the twelfth century, and continued to 1836, when Richard Benyon and Viscount Sidmouth donated money and land respectively for a new hospital, which opened in 1839 on the London Road. Extensions were added in 1861 and 1882. At the start of WWI six war

hospitals were designated, with Battle Hospital as no 1 and the Royal Berkshire no 6. In 1931 Douglas Bader was taken to the hospital after a crash at Woodley Aerodrome. The hospital featured in *Reach for the sky*, and a clip from the film was shown.

The branch will have a new chairman next year, because Fiona Ranger is moving away from the area.

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

February's meeting tackled the theme of *Thames Valley millionaires* in a talk delivered by Keith Parry from the Maidenhead Heritage Centre. He told how fortunes were made and spent from the late eighteenth to mid-

nineteenth centuries with additional tales of political connections and intrigue.

Windsor Branch has been closely involved with the royal borough's *For King and Country* project, described on page 7.

## **Are you getting as much for your membership as you could and should?**

**There is even more to membership of Berkshire Family History Society than this quarterly magazine:**

**The online discussion list** hosts lively questions and answers between members on many subjects almost every day. Joining is easy: just email your name, postcode and membership number to [listowner@berksfhs.org.uk](mailto:listowner@berksfhs.org.uk)

**The Members' Area of the website** is constantly expanding with helpful and interesting Berkshire resources. If you haven't seen them go to [www.berksfhs.org.uk](http://www.berksfhs.org.uk) and register.

Have you posted and kept up to date your **birth brief and surname interests**, which could lead to new family contacts? Check the website to find out how.

**Find all this and more on [www.berksfhs.org.uk](http://www.berksfhs.org.uk)**



## The view from next door

***Ivone Turnbull,  
senior archivist at the BRO,  
reflects on past provision  
for the sick and the poor***

The recent general election discussed the state of the National Health Service (NHS) to the nth degree, but the service has come a long way from its humble beginnings, and I don't mean since 1948.

Effectively, there has been some form of provision of assisting the infirm and the poor since the time when monks looked after those in need. In the seventeenth century various Acts were passed to provide poor relief and help find work for the able-bodied. Changes in the eighteenth century formulated the process even further.

In 1782 the Gilbert Act divided counties into districts providing unions of parishes to be controlled by Boards of Guardians in order to benefit the old, the sick, the infirm and orphans. This was superseded by the Poor Law Act of 1834 resulting in Poor Law Unions. In the nineteenth century the aim was to assist the very needy rather than those solely requiring medical assistance.

During the First World War many workhouses were used as war hospitals. The Local Government Act of 1928 transferred responsibility for poor relief to local authorities. Many workhouses were renamed Public Assistance Institutions, and they continued to house unmarried mothers, the old, the mentally ill and vagrants.



*Gateway to the Oracle, Reading's workhouse from 1628,  
photographed by Henry Fox Talbot in 1845  
before its demolition in 1850*

A major overhaul of the system in 1948 saw the birth of the NHS. It no longer provided poor relief or care of the elderly, who were to be covered by separate initiatives such as pensions, benefits and care homes. Many workhouses were converted into hospitals or specialist homes. The NHS focused on providing medical assistance, though some hospitals still had wards specifically for vagrants as late as the 1960s. The principal idea behind it was that everyone paid into the NHS according to their means, and therefore everyone could receive medical treatment.

Breakthroughs in medical science have enabled humans to repair themselves more easily and to live longer. The population has also increased significantly over the years. Such things inevitably make ever more demands on NHS services. I don't think the answer of how to deal with the costs involved in providing the NHS is truly known. I doubt there will ever be one solution that would suit everybody, but I don't doubt that it will continue to feature in future election debates.

# Ordeal by fire

Our ancestors lived under the constant threat of fire. Closely packed streets of houses built from highly flammable materials coexisted with open hearths, candles and ovens. Small wonder that village conflagrations were frequent and, whilst they did not often result in great loss of life (even the Great Fire of London is thought to have killed only six people directly), they destroyed homes, possessions and livelihoods.

In the absence of organised services fire-fighting involved the entire community, summoned by a peal of church bells. East Hagbourne's fire of 10 March 1659 ripped along the east-west main street of the village, consuming thatched and wooden houses and helped by a strong wind. Villagers fought the blaze with ladders, leather buckets and firehooks, with which they pulled down burning thatch.<sup>1</sup>

News spread slowly in those days, and it was two years later that Charles II issued a proclamation to all parish churches requesting aid for "the great impoverishment of the poor inhabitants of our town of Hagbourne." Donations included a sum from the City of London, and this charity was remembered and reciprocated by East Hagbourne five years later, when London in turn suffered the Great Fire of 1666.<sup>2</sup>

(There is a myth that the fire split East and West Hagbourne into separate villages, but this is unfounded; the *Victoria County History* confirms that they were separate settlements in the Domesday Book.)

Aldbourne, just over the Berkshire border, suffered two conflagrations in close succession: the first, in 1760, destroyed 72 houses and wrought £20,000 worth of damage. Villagers sheltered overnight in the church. This was followed by another fire, 10 years later; a rick ignited, and 80 houses and 20 barns were lost. This was attended by an engine from Ramsbury, which itself caught fire. The irony was not lost on Aldbourne, with whom Ramsbury enjoyed the fractious relations which are often typical of close neighbours. In the late eighteenth century Aldbourne bought two hand-pumped fire engines, dubbed Adam and Eve. These came into play in

**Penny Stokes**  
*observes from a safe distance*

ABINGDON, May 5, 1780.

**SUFFERERS by DRAYTON FIRE.**

**A** Charitable Contribution for the Relief of the unhappy SUFFERERS by FIRE at DRAYTON, &c. is humbly solicited. The Estimate of the buildings, Stock in Trade, Implements of Husbandry, Ricks of Wheat, Beans, Hay, Corn in the Barns, Weaving Apparel, and Furniture that were destroyed, amounts to 6,500*l.* and upwards, exclusive of Inhabitants.

The following GENTLEMEN and CLERGY of the Neighbourhood, viz.

The Rev. the Vice-Chancellor of the University of Oxford,	John Mayne, Esq. Abingdon,
The Rev. Sir J. Stonhouse, Bart. Radley,	Chas. Saxton, Esq. Abingdon,
The Rev. Dr. Winchester, Appleton,	John Eyles, Esq. Drayton,
The Rev. John Bandy, Sunningwell,	Bry. Barrett, Esq. Milton,
The Rev. George Warner, Milton,	The Justice, Esq. Sutton,
The Rev. William Casbury, Abingdon,	Edw. Eyles, Esq. Drayton,
John Elwes, Marcham,	Mr. Wm. Jackson, Oxford,
	The Mayor and Justices for the Borough of Abingdon,
	Mr. Joseph Tomkins,
	Mr. Benjamin Tomkins,
	Mr. William Tomkins, And Charles Hatt, Esq.

have been appointed a Committee for the Purpose of regulating the Distribution of the Publick Money. And it is proposed to divide the Sufferers into Classes, in order that a proper Distribution may be made between those who are more Objects of Charity, and those who are partly or wholly enabled to support their Loss.

Books are opened to receive the Bounty of the Compagnate at Messrs Child, and Co. Temple-Bar, Mess. Fuller, Sons, and Vaughn, Cornhill, London; Messrs Tomkins's, and Co. Bankers, in Abingdon; and by W. Jackson, Printer, in Oxford.

Notice having been given to the Committee, that divers idle and disorderly Persons wander about and solicit Charity under a false Pretence of being Sufferers by Drayton Fire; they think it necessary to caution the Publick against all such Vagrants; And make it their Request to all Justices of the Peace and Mayors of Corporations to put the Law in Force against them. Signed, by Order of the Committee,

SAMUEL SELLWOOD, Secretary.

The following Subscriptions for the Benefit of the above Sufferers have been already received.

Lord Craven,	£	50	0	0
Lord Harrington,	—	20	0	0
Sir James Stonhouse, Bart.	—	10	0	0
Mr. Peter Wells,	—	20	0	0
Mr. Hopkins, Cholsey Farm,	—	10	0	0
Wadhams College, Oxford,	—	22	14	0
Magdalen College,	—	30	0	0
All Souls College,	—	27	0	0
Dr. Buckler, All-Souls College,	—	5	5	0
John Bandy, Esq.	—	5	5	0
At Abingdon,	—	87	7	0
At Wallingford,	—	40	10	6
Mr. Moore, Abingdon,	—	1	1	0
Mr. W. Eldridge, ditto,	—	1	1	0
Mr. James Powell, ditto,	—	1	1	0
Mrs. Wilkins, ditto,	—	0	10	6
Mrs. Morgan, ditto,	—	0	5	0
A Gentleman unknown,	—	1	1	0
Dr. Bouche, Holwell, Oxford,	—	2	2	0
Mr. Elijah Waring, Witney,	—	1	1	0
Mr. Holman, Oxford,	—	1	1	0
A Lady, M. G. I.,	—	0	10	6
Jeremiah Redwood, Esq. Oxford,	—	2	2	0
Mr. Arnold, Braze-Nose College,	—	0	10	6
Mr. Belfield, Oriel College,	—	0	5	0
Mr. Crawley,	—	0	10	6
A Person unknown,	—	0	10	6
Mr. Fowler, Oxford,	—	0	5	0

*Jackson's Oxford Journal 13 May 1780*

1817, when fire destroyed 15 cottages, three barns and two malshouses.<sup>3</sup> Adam and Eve retired in 1921 and now reside, in restored splendour, in the church.<sup>4</sup>

Drayton's fire of 30 April 1780 was said to have been caused by the careless throwing out of hot ashes. Half the village was destroyed (ie, 30 or more houses), together with the parish registers. (Fortunately for family historians Bishops' Transcripts were available.) A national appeal was mounted under Samuel Sellwood, Abingdon's town clerk, who was also the agent of the local MP. Such influential patronage was no doubt vital in bringing in contributions. Lists of contributors were published in *Jackson's Oxford Journal*, weekly through to almost the end of the year. The great and the good were swift to respond with bounty ranging from £20 to £50, but many donations of a few shillings came in from ordinary people. Collections were also sent in from (sometimes quite distant) parishes, where the pulpit was still the means of fund-raising. There was, no doubt, a strong sense that what goes around comes around. Who knew which village might be next? Two sizeable donations to Drayton came from far-away Reading: St Mary's sent £21, St Lawrence £50.<sup>5</sup>

When the Drayton appeal closed £3,069 - 9s - 8.75d had been collected, against losses calculated at over £6,300 (although some of these were covered by insurance). £2,614 was distributed directly, and the balance used to build five cottages for the poor, still occupied by "aged poor at nominal rents of 6s. a year each" in the early twentieth century.<sup>6</sup>

The rest of the 1780s saw villages ablaze with depressing frequency. Lambourn went up in flames on 7 December 1784, losing 17 houses, 15 corn-filled barns, two malshouses and two breweries, estimated in all to be worth £8,747 - 7s - 11d. Lord Craven headed the list of subscribers to the relief fund with a benefaction of £30. This compares with his £50 for Drayton four years earlier, but perhaps it reflects the likelihood that much of the

Lambourn property would have been his own. At Faringdon, in July 1784 15 homes, two barns, three stables, a malshouse and equipment were lost, and a relief appeal was opened under Henry Pye, one of Berkshire's two MPs. Cumnor burned in late 1786.<sup>7</sup>

Many of these conflagrations have scarcely registered in the history books (nor can Google find them); they are traceable only in the columns of local newspapers, such as *Jackson's Oxford Journal*, which not only reported the fires themselves, but faithfully followed the progress of each relief appeal to its closure and distribution, sometimes almost a year later.

Yet by 1800 such reports had all but disappeared from its pages, probably because of a combination of factors. Building standards improved, with brick and tile replacing wood and thatch. Fire-fighting equipment had also improved, and engines were acquired by village communities. Fires still raged from time to time, but less often consuming entire villages.

Jesse Long, a Whitchurch-on-Thames grocer, suffered fires in his high street shop in 1891 and again in 1895. This second fire was a spectacular blaze, owing to the (unexplained) presence of gunpowder stored upstairs, but this appears not to have prejudiced his insurance entitlement. Jesse Long arose from the ashes to found not only a new shop, but also the Whitchurch jam factory.<sup>8</sup>

#### Sources

- 1 *Victoria County History Berkshire* vol 3
- 2 [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/East\\_Hagbourne](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/East_Hagbourne)
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- 4 Ida Gandy. *Heart of a village* (Sutton, 1975)
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- 6 *Victoria County History Berkshire* vol 4
- 7 *Jackson's Oxford Journal* various, 1780s
- 8 *Newbury Weekly News*

# Why Jordan's Lane?

## *a piece of Burghfield Common history*

The origin of road names is often obvious and sometimes obscure (if only because the connection is unknown). So how did Jordan's Lane in Burghfield Common get its name?

When I first knew it (c1952) this now built-up, rather busy road was just a cart-track which had, at some time, received a nominal surfacing. It ran from School Lane westwards onto the heathland beyond. There was one property – Boldrewood Cottage – occupied by Charles and Elizabeth Jordan and Elizabeth's daughter, Florence Emily Pembroke.

Charlie Jordan was my step-great-grandfather. Baptised Jasper Charles, he was born in the last quarter of 1882 in Little Faringdon (now Oxfordshire) but never used his first name. His father Robert was gamekeeper for Lord de Mauley at Little Faringdon House (now Langford House) and his grandfather, William Jordan, was lock-keeper at Longcot on the Wilts and Berks Canal. Charles' mother, Sarah Ann Shurmer, was from Latton in Wiltshire.

By 1891 the family had moved to Childrey, where Robert became bailiff for Uphill Farm, but the 1901 census identifies Charles as working as a carriage-furnisher's labourer for Frederick Clark of Merton Street, Swindon.<sup>1</sup>

This occupation does not appear to have enthused him; on 10 November 1902 he enlisted for short service (three years, plus nine in the Reserves) in the Army Service Corps at

## ***Andy Shepherd's ancestors gave their name to a lane in Burghfield Common***

Woolwich. The documents<sup>2</sup> show his "apparent age" as 23 – he declared himself to be 20, which he was – and his trade as carpenter. He reported for duty on 17 November 1902, served his three years (all of them in the UK) and was transferred to the 1st Class Army reserve on 9 November 1905.



*Elizabeth Jordan outside Boldrewood Cottage*



*Elizabeth Jordan with Puss Pembroke, granddaughter Betty and two great-grandchildren, 1953*

On 9 July 1908 Charles married Annie Ackerill<sup>3</sup> at St Mary's Church, Childrey, but less than a year later she died.

The 1911 census<sup>4</sup> locates Charles as a carter on the farm at Wood House, Great Coxwell, where his father Robert was now a farm labourer. It seems that by then the Jordan family and their relatives by marriage were scattered amongst the small villages along the northern slopes of the Ridgeway.

How Charles came to meet and marry my great-grandmother has never been explained. Elizabeth Frances Pembroke (née Fisher) was born in Reading, her parents originating in Kintbury. She was widowed when her first husband Henry Pembroke died in 1907, leaving her with four young children. Since Henry had been a farrier and carter this may be the link

leading to Charles and their marriage on 6 September 1912. There is no evidence that Elizabeth had continued the carting business – she took in lodgers and ran a small shop from the cottage – but Charlie Jordan resurrected the enterprise. In 1913 a son, Robert William, was born, prompting Elizabeth's eldest son, Charles Luke Pembroke, to emigrate to the USA.

With the outbreak of war in 1914 Charles was mobilised at Aldershot on 7 August – with only 10 weeks of his Reserve liability left – sailing from Southampton to Le Havre on 12 August aboard *SS Comrie Castle*. (Sir Douglas Haig followed on the same vessel two days later).<sup>5</sup> He was immediately made acting sergeant (unpaid) and a year later promoted to acting staff sergeant major.<sup>6</sup> Until February 1917 he was based in Le Havre; he was then promoted to temporary staff sergeant major and transferred to Abbeville.

Charles' duties did not entail any significant periods "up the line"; he was part of the logistical "tail" of the Army, and on several occasions was detached to London "for special duties". However, his health seems to have deteriorated from his transfer to Abbeville. Following Christmas leave in the UK, he



*Puss Pembroke, Peggy Shepherd (the author's mother) and Elizabeth Jordan, Burghfield, 1950*



reported sick at Brock Barracks, Reading, at the beginning of 1918 and was admitted to hospital, reclassified B2 and sent back to France. His efforts behind the scenes were recognised by the award of the Meritorious Service Medal in June 1918. On 15 October he was granted leave in the UK, extended to 5 November on compassionate grounds – his youngest stepson, Harry Jack Pembroke, had been killed in action at Hill 41, Dadizeele, Belgium on 1 October, whilst serving with 1st Battalion Royal Irish Fusiliers.

Four days after the Armistice, arrangements were made for Charles to be sent back from France to hospital in the UK, suffering from neurasthenia. He arrived on 3 December and spent the next three months in hospital before demobilisation with the award of the 1914 Star, Victory Medal and British War Medal, collectively and pejoratively known as Pip, Squeak and Wilfred.

Awarded a provisional pension of 5s 6d weekly, with a farthing extra for one child (Robert), he applied for an increase for his “invalid daughter” (Florence Emily Pembroke, then 17, my great-aunt) which was granted. The Medical Board, however, did not agree, cancelling all payments from 8 December 1919, claiming that Charles’ condition was pre-existing at the time of his enlistment in 1902. Charles appealed to the Ministry of Pensions, and the appeal was heard at the Vastern Hotel, Reading, on 27 February 1920. It was concluded that there were “no grounds for award on appeal”.

With all chances of a pension gone, Charles returned to civilian life, running a car and driver for hire business, at the same time keeping pigs and chickens. Elizabeth now assumed the role of family invalid, claiming that she had suffered a heart attack; family tradition has it that this was no more than a bad attack of indigestion. She remained, until her eighties, quite capable of striding over Burghfield Common, at the same time demanding constant attendance from her daughter Florence (known as Puss to family and

friends). Family income continued to be supplemented by the shop in the back room, selling tobacco, eggs and other small provisions, and run by Puss, the putative invalid daughter.

The village doctor was a regular visitor, usually for tea and biscuits rather than medical reasons. These visits continued after the introduction of the NHS, not least because the family insisted upon paying for his services (the NHS was viewed as charity). The story goes that when Charles received notification about his rights to NHS treatment, he wrote back saying, “Thank you, but I don’t wish to join a socialist organisation.”

I cannot say that I have any fond memories of Charlie Jordan (known to me as Grandy). He seemed to be a gruff individual, though I suspect that this exterior concealed a genuine kindness. Being very young, I found him rather frightening on the few occasions I met him. He sat by the fire, pipe in hand, drinking tea and rationing the coal, in a dark, damp and gloomy room, with my great-grandmother opposite, and being waited on by my great-aunt. Occasionally he would stir himself and take me down to see the pigs, my liking for which species continues to this day.

Charles Jordan died in the autumn of 1957, aged 75. Elizabeth and Florence remained at Boldrewood Cottage, Burghfield Common, for the rest of their lives, the former dying in 1967 aged 96, the latter in 1988. Only in the latter’s final years did the postal address officially become Jordan’s Lane.

#### Sources

- 1 1901 England census, Class RG13 Folio12 p16
- 2 British Army WWI Pension Records 1914-20
- 3 England & Wales, Free BMD Marriage Index, 1837 - 1915
- 4 1911 England census, Class RG14 Piece 6430 Schedule No 66
- 5 G Mead *The good soldier: the biography of Douglas Haig* (Atlantic Books, 2014)
- 6 A rank unique to the ASC, equivalent to CSM (WO Class II)

## The Good Old Days

THE privileges of being a white-collar worker 100 years ago are apparent from the following rules which were displayed on its notice board by a Midlands firm in 1852, when new labour laws had been introduced:

- 1—Cuddiness, cleanliness and punctuality are the necessities of a good business.
- 2—This firm has reduced the hours of work and the clerical staff will now only have to be present between the hours of 7 a.m. and 6 p.m.
- 3—Daily prayers will be held each morning in the main office. The clerical staff will be present.
- 4—Clothing must be of a sober nature. The clerical staff will not disport themselves in raiment of bright colours.
- 5—Overshoes and topcoats may not be worn in the office but neck scarves and headwear may be worn in inclement weather.
- 6—A stove is provided for the benefit of the clerical staff. Coal and wood must be kept in the locker. It is recommended that each member of the clerical staff bring five punnets of coal each day during cold weather.
- 7—No member of the clerical staff may leave the room without permission from Mr. Rogers. The culis of nature are permitted and clerical staff may use the garden below the second gate. This area must be kept in good order.
- 8—No talking is allowed during business hours.
- 9—The craving of tobacco, wines or spirits is a human weakness and as such is forbidden to all members of the clerical staff.
- 10—Now that the hours of business have been drastically reduced the partaking of food is allowed between 11.30 a.m. and noon, but work will not on any account cease.
- 11—Members of the clerical staff will provide their own pens.
- 12—Mr. Rogers will nominate a senice clerk to be responsible for the cleanliness of the main office and the private office. All boys and juniors will report to him 40 minutes before prayers and will remain after closing hours for similar work. Brushes, brooms, scrubbers and soap are provided by the owners.

The owners recognise the generosity of the new Labour Laws, but will expect a great rise in the output of work to compensate for these near Utopian conditions.

*A reminder that, whatever the politicians may say, the past isn't always worthy of nostalgia.*

*Sent in by Brian Wilcock*

# A soldier and husband of serial habit

***This story first came to light in a series of exchanges on Rootsweb Berkshire.***

***It was too intriguing to ignore, so the source, Dennis Corbett, grandson of the subject, was persuaded to rewrite it for publication in the Historian***

My grandfather, Albert Bell, was born Andrew Beale in Gloucester in 1881. At the age of 18 he joined the Devon Militia Artillery and was posted to Plymouth. In 1901 he bought himself out, possibly as a result of an accident in which he lost part of the little finger on his right hand.

He must have had a love-hate relationship with the artillery, or needed to make a quick exit, because in February 1904 he rejoined what was now the Royal Garrison Artillery, the successor to his first unit, and was posted back to his original barracks. However, four months after he rejoined, he deserted, and at this stage he changed his name to Albert Bell.

We are now sure this was because he met my grandmother, Elizabeth Emily Cottrell, always known as Bessie. I've searched high and low for an earlier marriage for him under both names, but found nothing. She, however, still had a husband, Albert Fryer. He was said to have been badly injured in a works accident and was in an asylum, according to family legend. Bessie brought to her new relationship a daughter by this marriage; as a child, I knew her as my Aunty Doris.

Andrew's entry for the 1901 census shows that he had been a journeyman tailor. This means that he subcontracted his work to anyone who wanted his services and was paid by the day.

I have now found a press cutting from 1903 where Bessie asked for court protection from her jealous husband. He suspected, amongst other things, a butcher's shopman over the road as being responsible for a letter he had found in Bessie's bedroom. However, her witness against her husband was their lodger, Andrew Beale. When he deserted, it is clear that he hurried back to be with Bessie.

So whilst my grandmother was already married to somebody else, she had my mother, Edith, by Albert/Andrew in 1906. The family moved to Worcestershire, presumably to avoid the authorities in Gloucestershire, who would still have been on the lookout for him. They had two further children: one in 1908 and in 1910, a son who died of TB in 1921.

On the death of the king in 1910 my grandfather applied for and was granted a royal pardon. Nonetheless, he spent the rest of his life as Albert, not Andrew.

With the start of war in 1914 he and Bessie married in Worcester Register Office on 23 November 1914, both under false names. The same day, he volunteered for the local Territorial Artillery, the third time he had joined the gunners. The marriage was clearly a way of

making her financially secure should he not have returned from the war. However, he did survive and, severely wounded in August 1917, was demobbed as unfit in 1918. He went back to being a journeyman tailor, cycling to work wherever he could find it, from Kidderminster and Birmingham in the north to Bristol in the south, gradually spending more and more time away from home.

Albert walked out on his family in Worcester some time in the mid-1920s and went back to the town of his birth, Gloucester, where he died of cancer in 1932. The first my family knew of it was when a woman turned up on the doorstep and told them.

His death certificate said that his widow Emily had notified the death, and this set the bells ringing. It transpired that he had met Emily Archer, who was a 26-year-old Denchworth girl. They were married in Swindon in 1930 when he was 48. He had not been legally married before (Bessie having been already married) so technically, although he married Emily Archer under a false name, it could be argued that this marriage was the only legal one he underwent.

A Rootsweb member told me that in the National Probate Calendar there was an entry for Albert Bell who died 1932 at Gloucester, granting to his widow Emily Bell. This grant

was revoked on 14 November 1932, then on 10 December the grant was made to his widow Elizabeth Bell. This seems to recognise the marriage between my grandparents, and not Albert's subsequent marriage to Emily.

I have since found the marriage of an Emily Archer to a Cecil Terry in Faringdon in 1937, but I have yet to confirm that she was the same Emily Archer. If it is she, then she married under her maiden name, suggesting that she believed her marriage to Albert to have been invalid. The Faringdon marriage resulted in a son, Shaun, registered in the second quarter of 1939 in Wantage, but he died at the age of 14.

Needless to say, there were a lot of tight lips in our family when I was growing up, and all have passed on since I started unravelling the mystery. Oh, Granddad, I wish I had met you! Incidentally, I did know my grandmother, and can understand why he left!

The story emphasises the need for persistence. My brother, who died in Newbury in 1988, started our family history research, and at that time we did not even know Albert's birth name. Little snippets were added to the pile of facts year by year, the most recent being in April 2015. The moral of the story is to keep re-visiting sources. As a resident of Tenerife, I found that much of the research would not have been possible without the internet.

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## Get your dates right

*A simpleton's guide, written by a simpleton who did a bit of net-digging*

### WHAT WERE THE "OLD" AND "NEW" CALENDARS?

The Julian calendar (named after Julius Caesar) was used throughout Europe from 45BC until the Middle Ages, but it diverged from solar time by one day every 128 years, which gradually led to holy days slipping outside their seasons, and affected the process of calculating the date of Easter. The Gregorian calendar (named after Pope Gregory XIII) was devised to correct this drift. It runs more closely in sync with solar time by dropping some of the Julian calendar's leap days.

## **SO NOW WE HAVE A LEAP DAY (29 FEBRUARY) EVERY FOUR YEARS?**

Not exactly, because that was the problem with the Julian calendar. The Gregorian calendar prescribes a leap day every fourth year *provided that the year number is not exactly divisible by 100, unless it is also divisible by 400*, in which case it is a leap year. So 2000 was a leap year, but 1900 wasn't.

## **WHEN DID COUNTRIES SWITCH?**

Catholic countries mostly switched in the 1580s, on instruction from the Pope, and they thereby had to "lose" 10 days in order to align with solar time. However, the Protestant UK and its dependencies (then including Ireland, Canada and the US) suspected that this might be a Popish Plot, and didn't switch until 1752, by which time they had to "lose" 11 days. In that year 2 September was immediately followed by 14 September.

(Some countries, for example Russia, Greece and Turkey, didn't switch until the twentieth century, by which time they had to shed 12 or 13 days.)

## **AND IS IT TRUE THAT IN ENGLAND PEOPLE DEMONSTRATED DEMANDING "GIVE US BACK OUR 11 DAYS!"?**

No, this is a myth based on a detail in a Hogarth engraving. There were, however, financial issues, because people would not have been willing to pay rent, tax or interest for 365 days in a year which had lasted only 354 days.

## **WHAT ABOUT NEW YEAR'S DAY?**

Catholic Europe of the Middle Ages observed New Year's Day on various days according to location; in England it had long been 25 March (Lady Day) but in 1752, together with the calendar change, New Year's Day moved to 1 January. (Scotland had made this change in

1600, just before union with England.) 1 January wasn't a random choice; it had been New Year's Day in the pre-Julian Roman calendar.

## **HOW DID THE CHANGE AFFECT PARISH REGISTERS AND OTHER HISTORICAL RECORDS?**

Double or dual dating was common practice for several decades. Events occurring between 1 January and 25 March would appear as, say, 23 February 1760/61 to indicate the old-style (OS) and new-style (NS) systems. Historians must bear in mind the date on which their sources were written: Charles I's execution, which took place on 30 January, is listed in the contemporary Parliamentary record as happening in 1648, although modern histories record it as occurring in 1649.

## **SO THE OLD-STYLE CALENDAR IS NOW COMPLETELY OBSOLETE?**

Not quite. The financial year was historically linked to the farming year and the church year. Rents and other debts were settled on quarter days, the first of which was on Lady Day, 25 March. These did not change, except that the first day of the year for tax and accounting purposes moved from 25 March to 6 April (to compensate for the "lost" days. [www.taxadvisorypartnership.com/tax-compliance/why-does-the-uk-tax-year-start-on-6-april-each-year](http://www.taxadvisorypartnership.com/tax-compliance/why-does-the-uk-tax-year-start-on-6-april-each-year) explains it rather better than I can.

Eastern Christianity still celebrates Christmas and Easter 13 days later, as those churches still operate on the Julian calendar.

## **IS THAT ALL ANYONE NEEDS TO KNOW?**

There's a wealth of complexity on the subject for those who want to take things further, but your author is neither an astronomer nor a mathematician, so from here on, you're on your own with Wikipedia, which has enough detail to keep you busy until 29 February 2016.

*Penny Stokes*

# Readers write

***your pictures,  
your stories,  
your queries***

Send them in to [editor@berksfhs.org.uk](mailto:editor@berksfhs.org.uk)



**Wendy Niven née Turner writes from Canada to ask if anyone can add to her researches on the Girls' Friendly Society, and help her in deciding which of her two great-aunts is pictured below.**



My father, Leonard Turner, showed me this photo of his father James George Turner's sister many years ago when I first began working on my family history. I assumed it was Alice Louisa, whom I had met when we visited England in 1960. Alice and her husband James Coggs were still living in the same house on Mundesley Street in Reading that had been the family home since at least 1901, according to the census. When I began my research I

discovered that Grandfather James had two sisters, Elizabeth Ada born in 1884 and who died in 1897 aged 13 of tonsillitis and hyper-pyrexia (high fever), and Alice Louisa, who was born in 1892 and died in 1971 at Tilehurst. Now I was not sure that it was Alice in the photo.

Recently while sorting through the photos I wondered what kind of uniform the young girl in this photo was wearing. I had always assumed it was some kind of nurse's uniform. With a magnifying glass I was able to read the words on the box under her hand. To my surprise it said: Girls' Friendly Society.

I went online to research the GFS and was pleased to find lots of information about this society. It was definitely in the Reading area by 1883, and very young girls were accepted, so the girl in this photo could be either of my two great-aunts.

The Girls' Friendly Society was founded in England in 1875 by an Irishwoman named Mary Elizabeth Townsend, daughter of a clergyman together with Rev Thomas Vincent Fosbery. The GFS was set up to be non-sectarian, but it was based on the infrastructure of the Church of England. It was a national organisation based in London. Originally, it was open to girls of 14 and older, but by 1879 it began to admit girls as young as eight. They attempted to provide every working girl of unblemished character with a friend in a class above her own.

There were two classes of membership: the working girls, known as members, and the ladies, called associates. Both classes paid annual fees tailored to their class. Associates

provided “recreation rooms”, often in parish facilities, although sometimes used their own homes. The working girls could meet with associates and each other, read, sew, sing and enjoy simple refreshments. Later “houses of rest” were established for these purposes. Local groups were called branches.

The years from the 1880s to 1920 are considered to have been the golden years of the society, but there are still some groups meeting today. Queen Victoria became the society’s patron, beginning in 1890. She herself acted as an associate and admitted servant girls at Balmoral to membership. The GFS spread quickly around the Commonwealth and the USA. The largest group was domestic service, others were teachers, nurses and clerks.

There were three societies in the Reading area: GFS Lodge and Servants’ Training Home, Church Street, Reading; GFS Lodge and Training School, Kennet Road, Newbury; and GFS Alma Lodge, Speen Lane, Newbury.

*Kelly’s Directory* for 1883 has this entry on page 97: *Servants’ Training Home and Girls Friendly Society Lodge (Mrs Martha Hill, Matron) Kennet Road, Newbury.*

The Berkshire Record Office has some

membership records from 1933 to 1935, and notes and press cuttings from 1886 to 1997. The London School of Economics’ Women’s Library has records of the GFS from 1800 to 2001, but you must visit to see them. I live in Canada, so I am unable to visit these places.

From this information about the GFS it is possible that a girl as young as Elizabeth could have been a member. After further consideration, it seems more likely that this photo may be of the second daughter, Alice. In later photos that I have of her she looks somewhat like the girl in the photo. My father told me that when he was a boy, his Aunt Alice cleaned houses. It is possible she was in service when she was younger, and perhaps she joined the GFS for training. In the 1911 census she was still living with her parents, age 19, and working as a biscuit packer. She married Alfred Coggs in 1921 and had one child, Alfred James Coggs.

Hopefully there is someone reading this who will be able to identify the uniform and estimate a date. Any other information will be very welcome.

**[bwniven@gmail.com](mailto:bwniven@gmail.com)**

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## **Ray West has something to add to the article on *The Ration* in the *March Historian***

Having read the Reading war hospitals’ WWI newspaper article in the March 2015 issue, and seeing the sketches which had been included in *The Ration*, it reminded me that my mother, Doris Watts, at the age of 15 had delivered greengrocery items on her bike from her father’s shop to Katesgrove Hospital. She had taken her autograph book with her, and a soldier had drawn several sketches in the book. This soldier signed himself “AB” and dated them as 1918 and Katesgrove Hospital. He was

obviously a very accomplished artist, and I was wondering whether his sketches had been included in *The Ration* at any time, and whether anybody could enlighten me as to who he was. Perhaps there was a record taken of the patients in the Katesgrove military hospital at the time. Where in fact was the Katesgrove Hospital? All very intriguing!

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## The belief that Victorians led strait-laced private lives is often exploded by family history research. Connie Dixon's great-grandfather appears to have indulged in a remarkable degree of marital irregularity.

My maternal grandmother, Hilda Emily Wyatt, liked to talk about our Wyatt ancestors. She did not have a great deal of definite information about them, but she knew that her great-great-grandfather was James Wyatt, the famous architect and friend of George III, her great-grandfather being Matthew Cotes Wyatt, a renowned sculptor (one of his works was the statue of Wellington now at Aldershot) and her grandfather was Henry Wyatt, an architect.

We started investigating our family trees some years ago and came across Hilda's father, Francis Frederick Henry Wyatt, born 17 March 1833, son of Henry Wyatt, architect, and Joanne Barlow. Initially we could not trace a marriage around this date for Henry and Joanne.

However we came across *The Wyatts an architectural dynasty* by John Martin Robinson, in which Henry Wyatt's career as an architect is briefly outlined, but more intriguingly there is the comment: "His marriage was particularly unsuccessful – he left his wife on the same day he married her."

We were able to trace Henry and Joanne's marriage on 16 March 1866, he having had four other children by then. Henry Wyatt at that time described his condition as widower. There was nothing to indicate that Henry had left Joanne at any time.

The British Newspaper Archive had a report in the *Morning Chronicle* of 24 May 1847 for Marlborough Street stating that *Octavia Sarah Moore de Bellevue Wyatt was brought on remand, charged with intermarrying with Joseph Koller, her former husband being still alive*. From further reading of the article it transpired that the "former husband" referred to was "Henry Wyatt, the son of Matthew Cotes Wyatt." The report continued: *Shortly after the marriage her conduct was such as to excite his strongest suspicions, which ultimately led him to take her to France,*

*where she said that her friends resided. On their arrival in Boulogne, Mr Wyatt gave her a sum of money, when she made a promise that she never would trouble him again.* We traced a marriage on 8 November 1838 between Henry and Octavia Sarah Moore de Belleven.

This appeared to be the "wife of one day", for during the trial a maid of Madame de Belleven gave evidence to the effect that she became acquainted with the accused (Madame de Belleven) in 1838. She went with her to Kensington Church, where the marriage took place, the maid being one of the witnesses. She then stated that she had gone to France the same day with her and Mr Wyatt, that he lived with her for one day and then he returned to England.

We can find no trace of a divorce or of the death of Octavia de Belleven.

Tracking down further details of Henry Wyatt, we came across another problem in the 1861 census, five years before the marriage of Henry Wyatt to Joanne Barlow. The return for 7 Grove Terrace, Marylebone, gives Henry Wyatt, surveyor, born in Windsor aged 49, together with his wife Johana born (Aldworth) Berkshire, aged 30, and daughter Clara born (Aldworth) Berkshire, aged six.

However an entry for 4 Denbigh Villas, St Mary Abbots, Kensington, shows Henry Wyatt, architect, born at Windsor Castle, aged 49, together with a wife Sarah, born Reading, aged 33, and son Edwin born Notting Hill aged 15.

We could find no trace of Henry Wyatt marrying a Sarah, although there were trees on Ancestry which seemed to show a Henry and Sarah together with no mention of Joanne. In fact they were showing them with four children born between 1841 and 1846. We obtained the birth certificate of the eldest of these children, Henry Horatio, born 1841, showing the father



Henry Wyatt, architect, and mother Sarah Wyatt née Aubrey. This must be one and the same person, but how to find information?

Fortunately the British Newspaper Archive again helped solve the problem. Copies of the *Reading Mercury* for 24 September and 26 November 1870 shed more light on the entries in 1861 census.

In the first there is a report that Sarah Aubrey had threatened to kill Henry Wyatt at Crookham, and had been bound over to keep the peace. In the second there is a report of Sarah Aubrey suing Henry Wyatt for the sum of £50. As the case proceeded it became clear that Henry Wyatt had seduced Sarah when she was 16, and she had subsequently had five children by him. He had stated that *it did not matter what occurred as she would have money enough to support her and he would give her a weekly allowance*. They had split up in 1863, but she had continued to receive the allowance until six months or so before the trial.

Henry Wyatt denied that there was any agreement on his part to make Sarah a fixed allowance, but he should have continued allowing her money “had she behaved properly”. He accused her of cohabiting with a man named North. He discontinued his payment because “she annoyed him”. Judgment and costs were given to Aubrey.

It is doubtful that Henry was with Sarah at the time of the 1861 census. However, Sarah continued to live as Sarah Wyatt and recorded herself as such on all following census returns. She died in 1913.

Henry and Joanne continued to live together following their marriage in 1866, and had nine children between 1853 and 1871. Joanne died in 1899, with Henry dying the following year.

I am certain my grandmother and my mother would not have approved of Henry Wyatt.

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***Research into adoptive relationships can lead to harrowing discoveries, but there can also be happy, if long belated, reunions with previously unknown relatives. Peter Young tells such a story.***

My mother, Brenda, had a stifling Victorian upbringing by her parents, Donald and Winifred, both musicians: he with the Royal Marines, she a concert pianist and teacher. Popular music was banned in the house: only the classics were allowed to be heard. Brenda was paraded before her father every evening for five minutes before bed. The only toy she ever saw was a ball, which she was allowed to hold for 10 minutes for a photograph. She excelled at school and passed Gregg’s exam with top grades at Walkers New College in Southsea for shorthand and typing, and was given a position with her father in an estate agent’s office, the only time she was allowed to leave the house.

At the age of 16 she heard a busker singing through the street-level grating in her

basement “cell”. The tune was *Tiptoe through the tulips*, and she vowed to escape her parents’ shackles and enjoy the new music of the 1920s and 30s. To this end she found two part-time jobs waiting at tables in the seafront cafés, eventually meeting an Indian gentleman for a liaison resulting in pregnancy.

Her parents threw her out and disowned her when they found out about her condition. The only person who cared enough to take her in was her maternal grandmother, Mary Quick, who was a shorthand teacher. Mary babysat for Brenda after the little girl, Jean, was born.

When Jean was 18 months old Brenda had met an engineer called Eric, and marriage was in the offing. Brenda took the baby out for a stroll on South Parade Pier one evening in 1938, and a couple, complete strangers on

holiday from Luton, complimented her on her pretty little girl. Brenda at once stated that if they thought she was that pretty, they could have her, and within weeks the adoption papers were signed, allowing Brenda to start her marriage with a clean slate. She went on to have three boys in eight years.

I found the adoption papers after Brenda's death in 2002, three years after starting to research the family tree. I remembered a grown-ups' conversation overheard 50 years before. I was hiding under a table whilst they played whist on a Sunday afternoon in 1950 in Portsmouth. My aunt had said: "How could she give her baby away, she could be in China now, in the family way?" I believed I had a sister in China, the starting point for my research in 1999.

A combination of adoption papers hidden in a Singer sewing machine drawer, part of a house clearance in Newbury following the demise of an aged relative suffering with dementia, and an FMP subscription with access to electoral rolls led to exhaustive research.

The tortuous journey took seven years, looking for evidence of the adoptive parents through Rootsweb mailing lists and newsgroups, culminating in the discovery of a one-name-devotee from Luton, who collaborated with me in finding my half-sister. He was her paperboy, his father telling him it was a coincidence that she had the same surname.

Thus I found and met a previously unknown half-sister after 60 years.

***[peteryoung@talktalk.net](mailto:peteryoung@talktalk.net)***

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## **Jean Blackman would like to know more about her Butlers and Bodmans**



*Martha Butler in the early 1880s*

I have managed to trace my ancestors back to the marriage of Thomas Butler (of Chaddleworth) to Catherine Pryer on 14 December 1724 at Chilton. They would be my four times great-grandparents. Their seven children were all born in Chaddleworth. Thomas and Catherine were both buried in Chaddleworth churchyard. I have seen their gravestone, where Thomas's age is given as 66, which would make him born around 1697/8, but I have not been able to find his birth date anywhere.

IGI has a Thomas Boteler baptised on 22 August 1697 at East Hendred and another Thomas Butler baptised on 7 February 1703 at Aldworth. East Hendred is nearer to Chilton and the birth date is better. Both Aldworth and Chaddleworth are some distance from Chilton, but I know that we must not assume that people at that time stayed close to home all their lives. I rather favour the Aldworth Thomas as there are Jacobs in that family, and Jacob reappears in my line later on, but that is just a fancy.

My link to the Butlers is through my paternal grandmother, Martha Butler, who was born at Chaddleworth on 18 March 1852 to William and Mary, the fifth of their children. Her father William died when she was two years old, but another



*The Bodman family*

daughter was born posthumously six months later. When Martha was nearly six her mother Mary married again.

Like many young country women of that time Martha went into service. In 1861, aged 19, she was in Camberwell, London, listed as nurse to the one-year-old son of the Angell family. John Angell's occupation was notary business. Ten years later Martha was still with the Angell family, but now Mr Angell had a new young wife, and they had moved to Rumsey House, Studley, in Wiltshire. His business had obviously prospered: he was listed simply as gentleman, and he employed six servants. Martha was now parlourmaid, and amongst the other servants was a housemaid, Emily Bodman, a local woman.

My idea is that on one Sunday afternoon off Emily invited her friend Martha to visit her family just down the road. There, Martha met Emily's brother Thomas, and a year or so later they were married, on 27 September 1884 at Christchurch, Derry Hill. Emily was a witness.

Their first home was near Malmesbury, Wiltshire and the first of their four children, Frederick (my father), was born on 27 October 1885. Augustus came next, born in March 1887, then their daughter, of course named Emily, born in April 1889. Their last child was a son, Thomas, born in 1891. In 1915 he joined

the Rifle Brigade and fought near Ypres. He was killed on 31 August 1915 at Sanctuary Wood between Ypres and Menin. He has no known grave and his name is on the Menin Gate: Thomas Butler Bodman. I have his last letter to my father written 10 days before his death – a simple one, thanking my Dad for the fags he had sent Tom. My brother Tom is going to Sanctuary Wood on 31 August this year, 100 years after Uncle Tom's death, and will lay a wreath on the Altar of Sacrifice there.

Martha's husband Thomas died in August 1933 and Martha came to live with her eldest son Frederick and his family at Theobalds, near Cheshunt, Hertfordshire. I have very vague memories of her: a tall, thin woman who spent most of her days in bed. She died there on 23 February 1937.

The photo of Martha was taken some time before her marriage in 1884, and the family photo above was taken on the day of their twenty-fifth wedding anniversary in 1909. The front row shows Frederick, Thomas, Martha and Tom. In the back row Elizabeth, wife of Augustus (in the middle) and Emily.

I am hoping someone can help me with some more information about my Butler family tree.

***[dj@davidblackman.plus.com](mailto:dj@davidblackman.plus.com)***

## Graham Jansen's quest for his adopted mother's family brought him into contact with a horrific First World War tragedy

I only found out about the Arnolds after locating my mother's adoption records at the London Metropolitan Archives back in 2004 (the Arnolds being her birth family). We knew nothing about them at all prior to that, and it was only as a result of details being released to her in my presence that sent me on my journey to find out about them.

My great-grandfather, William Arnold, lived in Reading until his death in 1950. My great-grandfather was employed as a coachman when he married my great-grandmother, Emma Charlotte White, in 1902. She was from Stutton in Suffolk, which is where they were married. How they met or the reason why my great-grandfather visited Stutton is not known, unfortunately.

He was employed as a general carter when my grandmother was born in 1907, but later was a coachman at the Princess Louise Hospital (Lord Mayor Treloar Hospital – see inset opposite). A report to trustees dated 8 February 1915 states that *Arnold, the coachman, has informed me today that he has decided to enlist in the Army Veterinary Corps. Some time ago he signed a householder's form as being willing to join the Army and he has now been called upon to do so. He goes to Winchester tomorrow. I have made arrangements for one of our own men, who has been used to handling cattle, to take his place.*

What prompted him to enlist with the Army was most likely the loss of his younger brother, Harry Clement Arnold, on 26 November 1914. Harry died aged 29 on the battleship *HMS Bulwark* when it exploded in Sheerness, Kent. He was in the Royal Marine Light Infantry and lived in Alton, Hampshire. The huge blast ripped through *HMS Bulwark* in the Medway Estuary shortly after dawn. Cordite charges are believed to have caused the blast. Most of the 750 sailors on board were killed. The explosion was so cataclysmic that parts of *Bulwark* were hurled up to six miles, and the pier at Southend shook. Personal effects were reported raining down on the town of



William Arnold and family

When Sir William Purdie Treloar became Lord Mayor of London in 1906 he launched the "Lord Mayor's Little Cripple Fund". This was to raise funds for a hospital for the treatment of children suffering from tuberculosis of the bones and joints and a college "to train crippled boys in skilled handicrafts to enable them to earn their own living." Sir William heard about the empty site at Chawton, Hampshire, and came to inspect it in March 1907. The property was transferred to the newly formed Lord Mayor Treloar's Cripples' Home and College Trust and the premises made ready, receiving the first children in September 1908.

Sheerness. Bodies were still being washed up on the Kent coast two months after the disaster.

On Saturday 29 November 2014 I attended a service of remembrance and wreath-laying above the remains of *HMS Bulwark* at Chatham Marina, with members of the HMS Bulwark, Albion and Centaur Association. We then gathered at Woodlands Cemetery, Gillingham, Kent (as shown below) and marched to the Royal Naval Section, and assembled beside the mass and individual graves of those few members of *HMS Bulwark's* crew whose bodies were recovered following the disaster. The band of the Royal Marines led the parade and a service of remembrance followed. Harry Arnold's body was one of those unidentified.

Although the hospital trustees' report suggests my great-grandfather enlisted with the Army Veterinary Corps I have so far been unable to confirm this. The uniform and cap badge would suggest he was with the Hampshire Carabiniers, a yeoman cavalry regiment. It's not known if he returned to the hospital after the First World War, and we have no idea what became of his war medals. He is buried in Mays Lane Burial Ground, Earley. My great-grandmother died in 1954 in Reading, and is buried with him.

I've taken the Arnold line back as far as the 1700s. It seems they were from the Bentley area of Hampshire, and were mostly employed as agricultural labourers.



*Harry Clement Arnold*

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# Bookends

## Reviews by Grace Gillions and Tony Roberts

Prices quoted are for:

a) direct sales from the bookshop at the Research Centre

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### ***Life in the Victorian asylum***

Mark Stevens (Pen & Sword History, 2014)  
hardback, 240 x 160mm, 176pp  
Shop £19.99, UK £22.00, airmail £30.74

When we look back at our ancestors' lives it is not always easy to share in the immediacy of their pleasures and sufferings because we are too far removed from the historical context. In his new book, Mark Stevens has devised a method of embedding his readers into that context by asking us to imagine that we have fallen victim to one of the various forms of lunacy recognised by the Victorian medical profession, and are about to enter an institution devoted to our care and well-being.

This might not be the popular view of Victorian lunatic asylums but the author, who was recently appointed county archivist for Berkshire and has previously published a history of Broadmoor, presents a sympathetic and comprehensive picture of everyday life for mental patients in the second half of the 1800s, from their diagnosis and treatment to their leisure pursuits. He draws on his Broadmoor research to a degree, but by far the bulk of his material comes from the archives of Moulsoford Asylum (later known as Fair Mile Hospital, Cholsey) which were rescued when the hospital closed, and they provide an extraordinary amount of detail.

Here are individual case histories of patients who were admitted to the asylum with symptoms of mania, dementia, melancholia and imbecility; the Victorian "alienists" (psychiatrists) had not yet learned to distinguish between all the forms of psychological

disturbance that we would recognise today, or between mental illness and learning disabilities, so some of these cases would involve young children whose families could no longer cope. A few patients would be successfully cured and returned to their families, while others would spend the rest of their lives following the compassionate but strict routines laid down by Parliament.

Also included are the stories of some of the people responsible for carrying out those routines, from the superintendent who developed his own form of mania to the chaplain who bet on one horse too many and was last seen boarding a boat for Montevideo.

Mark Stevens has condensed a mountain of information into a fluent, absorbing and enlightening account which highlights the state-run asylum as a safe, hygienic place of refuge and recovery, in contrast to the forbidding atmosphere of the dreaded workhouse or the shortcomings of many private profit-making hospitals. Sadly, the good work did not continue into the twentieth century: in his closing chapters he touches on the way asylums came to be seen as human dustbins for hopeless incurables, with mutterings in Parliament and elsewhere about eugenics, labour camps and sterilisation.

Among the illustrations are haunting sketches and photographs of actual "lunatics", whose facial expressions were studied by physicians as an aid to diagnosis. If you are one of the many family researchers with an asylum patient in your tree, you may find your ancestor coming to life in these pages.

**Grace Gillions**

***Nursing at the Fair Mile Mental Hospital, Cholsey 1935 - 1939***

Mary Fairbairn Macintyre and Diana Macintyre DeLuca (Berkshire Medical Heritage Centre, 2013) A4 stapled, 38pp  
Shop £5.00, UK £6.70, airmail £10.05

This publication constitutes a chapter of a yet to be published book of memoirs, and is here published as a stand-alone work telling the story of the four years that Mary Macintyre was undergoing training as a student mental nurse at the Fair Mile Hospital.

An introduction to the book by Richard Havelock of the Berkshire Medical Heritage Centre sets the scene with a resumé of mental nursing practice in the 1930s, the establishment of the hospital and the origins of modern mental health care. The main body of text then continues with the memoirs of the late Mary Macintyre recorded collaboratively with her daughter Diana DeLuca.

Mary Macintyre takes the reader through the years of her training at Fair Mile Hospital, through a series of vignettes and memories recounting hospital routine, everyday life there and her training progress, in a straightforward, easy and humorous style. While drawing some interesting pictures of the patients encountered during her time at the hospital, she also is appreciative that the patients themselves contributed to her training as much as her nurse tutors. While many of her anecdotes are entertaining, the thoughtful reader will also reflect with sadness at the frailty of the mentally ill.

At the time of her training mental health care was in a period of transition, moving towards what we would regard as modern, but still retaining many old practices and treatments. Not the least of these was the very limited range of drugs available, and the classification of patients by behaviour (withdrawn, meek, violent or suicidal) rather than by condition. Also, the period in which her training took place was one of female nurses tending female patients only.

The staff she describes are equally various; some were very demanding and unsympathetic of the trainee nurses, and the fearsome assistant matron, "the Wasp" often features in her anecdotes. But taken overall, all are caring of their charges, and are generally remembered with fondness.

As a record by an insider at the hospital, at a particular point in time, this book presents a lively and informative picture of a nurse's life there. It is a book well worth reading, even for those with only a passing interest in mental health, and for those with greater interest, it provides an account of operational life in a mental hospital from the heart, rather than from an institutional point of view.

***Tony Roberts***

***Berkshire in the First World War***

Commemorative edition, Reading Borough Libraries Local Studies (Goosecroft Publications, 2015) 250 x 200mm, perfect bound, 324pp  
Shop £14.00, UK £17.80, airmail £30.45

This well-researched and informative book has been created and written by a dedicated team of volunteers from the Berkshire community under the direction of the project coordinator, John Arcus. It is a memorial to all those Berkshire men and women who served, fought and contributed to the war effort by sacrifices great and small. The research material comes from a number of sources, notably Reading Borough Libraries Local Studies, Berkshire Record Office, several museums and local newspaper archives.

The book comprises 29 chapters and an introduction, all individually written by team members. The chapters are arranged in seven groups: military, the Royal Berkshire Regiment, daily life, women, the wounded, prisoners and remembrance. The book concentrates on the ordinary, everyday experience of individuals and the community during the war, and not solely on those who were in direct

contact with enemy. This underlying theme is demonstrated with no fewer than 13 chapters in the section on the effects of the conflict on daily life of the community, ranging from schools and university, policing, food rationing, football, Huntley and Palmer's factory, reportage, Belgian refugees and conscientious objectors. In all sections throughout the book, the reader is presented with war experience as seen through the eyes and heard through the words of the individuals of the time. This develops a far clearer understanding of what the war meant to the people living through it than that gained from the more usual general histories of the war.

The shorter sections are equally concerned with the experience of ordinary folk as soldiers, prisoners of war, women in changing roles, wounded and disabled, and in remembrance.

The book contains many images with contemporary photographs and illustrations from newspapers, and from public and private collections. Many of the portrait photographs of soldiers are taken from the *Reading Standard's* Berkshire and the War collection (which is now available on a society CD).

With photographs and the testimonies of the people living at the time we are made aware not just of the suffering and privations that they experienced, but also of how much our world and society have changed in the intervening century. It is difficult for most of us living in the eastern and central parts of the county to appreciate that these same areas were agrarian communities 100 years ago. Similarly, that motor cars and aircraft were still quite unusual and novel modes of transport, and that horse power was still dominant, and all this changed as a result of that appalling and dreadful war.

For those with Berkshire ancestors this will prove a fascinating and informative book, well worth reading, and a great many individuals are named in the 14-page index. The book's quality is such that it would prove equally interesting and useful to the students and researchers of that period, and there is a large

and detailed bibliography at the end of the book related to the reference numbers in the main text. It is thoroughly recommended.

*Tony Roberts*

## Bookshop help needed

**Another volunteer to help in our society bookshop on Tuesdays would be welcome. Activities can include:**

- **working with the stock system database – adding stock, recording sales, printing barcode labels and running stock reports**
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**If you are interested contact Ivan Dickason and Tony Roberts at [bookshop@berksfhs.org.uk](mailto:bookshop@berksfhs.org.uk)**



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## The editor welcomes contributions to the *Berkshire Family Historian*

Articles may be of any length up to 1,200 words, but – please – no more. In the interests of fairness this limit is strictly applied to one and all. Shorter articles are equally welcome; pictures with questions or stories, amusing extracts from the registers and brief anecdotes are important to the overall balance of the magazine. Articles will, of course, be subject to the editing process, which may involve changes (usually minor) at the editor's discretion.

Subjects will usually have direct relevance to Berkshire, or concern genealogical methodology. If you're considering researching a new subject with a view to publication in the magazine it's wise to let the editor know, just in case someone else has had the same idea.

Pictures enhance the text, but please be aware that:

- a) They must be cleared for publication, either by being out of copyright (which applies equally to internet pictures) or by obtaining the permission of the copyright holder;
- b) In order to print well, digital picture files should ideally be 300 ppi (pixels per inch); therefore, an image to be printed 3in x 4in in the magazine would need to be 900 x 1200 pixels.

Please send your pictures as separate JPEG files, not as images pasted into Word files, because these cannot be extracted without degradation. Alternatively you can send the editor (address inside front cover) photos and paper illustrations, which will be returned to you after they have been scanned.

The deadlines for copy and images are:

7 October for the December issue

7 April for June

7 January for March

7 July for September.

No fees are paid to any contributors, alas, but all articles published are greatly appreciated by thousands of readers. The *Historian* is read by at least 2,000 – not only the society's members, but also the users of several public libraries and institutions. Issues of the journal are posted on the society's website (in the Members' Area) at the same time that the printed edition is mailed.

# Berkshire FHS Research Centre

## *what's in it for you?*



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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.

### **Opening hours are:**

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

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***Berkshire marriages***

***Berkshire baptisms***

***Berkshire miscellaneous index***

***Berkshire probate***

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

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## Library

The library contains 4,500 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

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**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:** 40 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](mailto: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:

7667 Mr B Patey, 38 Silverdale Road, Earley, Reading RG6 7LS  
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7749	ALLDAY	Pinner	MDX	pre 1841
7749	ALLEN	Greenham	BRK	pre 1840
7782	CANNON	All	CON	pre 1880
7782	COULSON	All	NBL	All
7749	FISHER	Thattham	BRK	pre 1840
7667	PARSONS	All	OXF	pre 1900
7667	PATEY	All	MDX	pre 1900
7667	PATEY	London	LDN	pre 1900
7667	PATEY	Chalk House Green	BRK	pre 1900
7782	PEARSON	All	WAR	pre 1890
7782	ROUTLEDGE	All	NBL	All
7749	SLADE	Thattham	BRK	pre 1841
7667	TROWELL	All	MDX	1800+

To see the full register of members' surname interests go to

[www.berksfhs.org.uk/cms/Search-Services/Members-Surname-Interests](http://www.berksfhs.org.uk/cms/Search-Services/Members-Surname-Interests).

(And while you're there, check that yours are up to date. Additions and corrections can be made at any time, and instructions on how to submit them are given on the web page.)

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