



Carter's Royal Berkshire Steam Fair

'Not dead but gone to Slough'
'Funny blood' a - family with an
inherited blood disease
Gleanings from exchange
magazines

Programme calendar 2004

Bracknell and Wokingham Branch

Priestwood Community Centre, Priestwood Court Road, Bracknell,

7.15pm for 7.45pm

- 18 Jun Society AGM followed by *Civil registration: an update on future changes*. Barbara Dixon
- 16 Jul *Making the most of a will*. John Titterton
- 17 Sep *Records of service and medical records of the armed forces*. William Spencer

Newbury Branch

St Mary's Church Hall, Church Road, Shaw, Newbury, 7.30pm

- 9 Jun *Quarter Sessions*. Eve McLaughlin
July and August. No meetings
- 8 Sep *One-name studies*. Julie Goddard

Reading Branch

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, Church End Lane, Tilehurst,

7.15pm for 7.45pm

- 24 Jun *Willpower*. Meryl Catty and Audrey Gillett
- 29 Jul *Guided walk around Reading with a Blue Badge Guide*.
Meet outside the old Town Hall in Blagrove Street at 7pm
- 30 Sep *Using special and local libraries in the UK*. Else Churchill

Vale of White Horse Branch

Long Furlong Community Centre, Boulter Drive, Abingdon. Doors open at 7.15pm

for 7.30pm

- 14 Jun *Records before the Tudors, what chance?* John Titterton
- 12 Jul *MIs at Drayton Church* (continuation of work)
- 13 Sep *Our newspaper heritage*. Meryl Catty

Windsor, Slough and Maidenhead Branch

Christ Church, United Reformed Church, William Street, Windsor, 7.30pm for

7.45pm

- 29 Jun *Cricket bats to haystacks. Researching a real family from the seventeenth century to modern times - with audience participation*. Paul Blake
- 27 Jul *Up with the Lark. Life and times of the nineteenth century agricultural labourer*. Ian Waller
- 28 Sep *Memorials, monuments and gravestones. Gleaning information from MIs*. Derek Palgrave

Berkshire family historian

For family historians in the Royal County of Berkshire

Volume 27 • June 2004

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John Gurnett
Editor

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The illustration on the front cover was taken at Carter's Royal Berkshire Steam Fair. See page 187

**Copy deadline for September issue is
1 July 2004**

Another brick wall tumbles down, or finding father's first wife

Gordon Wall

I had known for many years that my mother was my father's second wife – he was 23 years older than she was when they married – but it was not until my middle forties that I learned that they had married six months after I was born, and eight years after my brother was born.

But to be honest I really did not give much thought to his first marriage until I really got the 'genealogy bug'; we had gathered a lot of information about my paternal and maternal ancestors, and also my wife's families – her father was also much older than her mother, and had been married before – and I started to wonder if I had any half brothers or sisters, as my wife had.

My early attempts at finding my father's first marriage were not very successful. After all, I had no idea who she was, where they got married or even when they got married; but after talking to a member of the Society recently at Wokingham Library I was inspired to start again taking a fresh look at what I knew.

Firstly I looked again at the 1901 census record that shows my father living at home with his father, stepmother and siblings in Church Place, Paddington. His age is given as 22, and as his birthday is in August that means he was nearly 23, so it must have been about the time he was thinking of getting married.

I then went to FreeBMD and searched for the marriage of a Thomas Wall, spouse unknown, from late 1901 until 1905. I found three marriages, all in 1902, one in Wandsworth, one in Lambeth (where we eventually lived many years later) and one in Marylebone, so was my father a serial bigamist? I did not think so. But the Marylebone marriage seemed to be significant due to the close proximity of Paddington. The young lady's name was Edith Rondeau Sitton.

The more I looked at this page the more I felt that it had to be the one I was looking for; so I went back to the 1901 census to look for Edith Sitton, and there she was with her parents and siblings

living in Maida Vale, her occupation given as 'dressmaker'. Thomas's sister Rosina was a dressmaker's apprentice. Was this too much of a coincidence?



Thomas Wall

So why did my father take so long to marry my mother? I looked again at their marriage certificate and noted that they married on 1 June 1935 in Paddington Register Office. My father described himself as a widower, so he had obviously waited until his wife had passed away.

This time I went to '1837 On Line' to look for the death of an Edith Wall in 1934/35 and found that in the June quarter of 1935 there was an entry for the death of Edith R Wall registered in Edmonton, North London.

On the strength of this information I sent for a copy of the marriage certificate in Marylebone, and with the information it contained regarding the name and occupation of the groom's father, it confirmed that I had found my father's first marriage and his wife, Edith Sitton.

I was delighted with the successful conclusion but there were at least two unsolved problems. The first one regards Edith: when I found her and her family in the 1901 census there was one other person in the household, a grandson aged 11 months named Frederick Sitton. Edith was 21 and her next sister was 16, so it is very likely that Frederick was Edith's son; but was his father Thomas Wall. If it was he, then I have at least one half brother who would be 104 years old now, if he were still alive.

The second came to light when I went into the GenesConnected website and typed in the name Sitton. There were several people who had listed either Edith's parents or her brothers or sisters and had built their family trees on the site; I have contacted three of them so far but they appear to be new at genealogy and are putting what they know into a 'family tree' in the hope of finding out more.

There is still a long way to go for answers to all the others questions that have now been raised. I will be sending for Frederick Sitton's birth certificate to see if his father is named, and also the death certificate of Edith R Wall, née Sitton, to see who registered the death, but the hunt is up.

Letters to the Editor

Janet Roberts, 15 Goodwin Grove, Ely, Cambridgeshire CB6 1TD

Woodbridge and Wright families

My great great grandfather came from a line of carpenters living in Amersham, Buckinghamshire, but his mother, Sarah Wright, was born at Maidenhead in the late eighteenth century. She married George Woodbridge at Amersham parish church on 9 October 1817. They moved to Maidenhead before William was born in 1818. He was baptised in the Independent Church in Maidenhead as was his brother Henry in 1822. George was listed as a carpenter/builder in High Street, Maidenhead, around 1835/1840 and William also became a builder, taking over from his father. He owned the brickworks at Stud/Sturt Green as well as a sawmill. He was elected mayor of Maidenhead in 1876 and 1885. I have researched the family and have a good deal of information but would like to fill in gaps which still exist. Also I would like to know more about the Wright family as I believe they may be connected with the founding of the Independent Church at Maidenhead as members of the Woodbridge family were at various times lay preachers and Sunday school teachers.

My branch of the Woodbridges moved to Acton, Middlesex, and later to Brentford in 1908 but I think that some remained in and around the Maidenhead area. Also, my grandmother (Rose May Woodbridge, née Webb) died in 1915 when my mother was six and I think that she may have lost contact with her family who lived at Cheapside, Sunninghill, from at least 1786 when Richard Webb was born. The family seem to have originated from Cheapside, Sunninghill, and Bucket Hill/Buckhurst Hill, Winkfield, an area covering a mere quarter of a mile. Any help with these families would be gratefully received.

Name and address withheld for personal reasons

RAF Headquarters at Shinfield

My husband Flight Lt. F.J.T. Brooks DFC DFM was based at the RAF Headquarters at Shinfield between 1945-1946. He was billeted out in one of the houses in a road behind the Headquarters and I would dearly like to visit the area and see the road and the house if at all possible. I have been in touch with Reading Council and they informed me that the Headquarters was demolished to build the old County Hall, now occupied by Foster Wheeler. My husband said at the time that the people he lived with were deeply religious and somebody else living in the same road put on plays for the village people. I do hope that you may be able to help me.

Barry Boulton writes:

My aunt, Miss Joan Wood, worked at RAF Flying Training Command, Shinfield, for the entire period of its existence from 1939 until its closure in the late 1960s. The camp was opened when hastily erected wooden huts were placed on land between Goodrest (now Crosfields School) where the Commanders-in-Chief were billeted and The Grove. Some officers were billeted at The Grove but the house was demolished in the 1960s when it became unsafe. The main site was centred around Shinfield Lodge. The Lodge was used for billeting until 1951 when officers' quarters were built at the bottom of the hill bordering Whitley Wood Lane. After these quarters were built the Lodge became the Officers' Mess. A few houses in Whitley Wood Lane were used for billeting but this is some way from where your husband was located.

I asked my aunt if she knew of any houses in particular that were used as billets, but she could not recall which ones were; however, a family by the name of Winter lived on the Shinfield Road and they took bible classes for boys and girls (kept separate) so this may have been the family your husband remembered. Another local resident, a lady in her 90s, confirms this and she believes the house is one of those opposite the new entrance to the European Long Range Weather Centre.

Housing for other ranks in Whitley Wood Road and the officers' houses in Whitley Wood Lane have since been sold off as private houses. The old wooden huts, and possibly bits of others have

been used by the Shinfield Players Theatre. Plays during your husband's time were performed at the Church Hall or in the village hall next to the garage in the village.

*Jim Dalley, 127 The Ridgeway, Marshalswick, St. Albans, Hertfordshire
AL4 9XA*

IGI errors

I recently came across a problem with the IGI which may have some repercussions to other users. It concerns some Englefield baptisms. I found a number of references in the IGI, but following the golden rule of always checking the original source, I paid a visit to the BRO. However, I wasn't able to find them in the original parish registers. I didn't make any notes during my visit and it was only when I got home that I thought it might be a worthwhile test of the IGI to find out how many other references were missing. I wrote to the Record Office and they sent me details of four randomly chosen baptisms from a single year. When I tried these genuine Englefield baptisms in the IGI all of them were missing.

So I had real Englefield baptisms that were not in the IGI and IGI baptisms purporting to be from Englefield not in the real parish register. It seemed at the time that baptisms from some mystery parish had been mistakenly assigned to Englefield. My original thought was that the baptisms for Englefield and another parish had just been swapped. My first tactic was based on the expectation that a significant number of girls would grow up and marry in the parish where they were baptised. If I could find marriages in the IGI corresponding to names in the so-called 'Englefield' baptisms then a particular parish might crop up more frequently than others and so reveal the 'swapped' parish. But given the common names I was working on this tactic failed.

Then it occurred to me that not only baptisms but marriages may have been misplaced. The baptisms I was interested in were in 1826. Therefore, the corresponding marriages would have been in the period of civil registration. Using the IGI batch number <freepages.genealogy.rootsweb.com/~hughwallis/IGIBatchNumbers.htm> I downloaded a complete list of 'Englefield' marriages. I then turned to FreeBMD <<http://freebmd.rootsweb.com/>>. Using the charts that show the

degree of completion for each year, I selected years in a specified period that were between 80% and 100% complete. I went back to my list of marriages and highlighted any that appeared in the more complete years for FreeBMD. Looking up these marriages I found that the majority occurred in the registration district of Alresford. This narrowed the search down to nineteen parishes. I followed this by looking up the grooms, who naturally still retained their original surnames, in the 1881 census. Most of them, or their wives, were born at Alresford. I went on to check the parish register of Old Alresford without success but when I went on to New Alresford I found all the 'Englefield' baptisms.

The question that needs to be asked is how many other parishes have misplaced entries. Certainly if anybody has 'Englefield' connections on unchecked IGI data they might try looking at New Alresford.

Marilyn Wooldridge, 26 Chestnut Avenue, Wokingham, Berkshire RG41 3HX

Yeomanry House

I read the article on Yeomanry House in the March edition of the *Berkshire Family Historian* by Ed Pearce with some interest as I believe that John Cooper, aged 70, mentioned in the 1851 census, could be the same John Cooper in my family tree. John Cooper was baptised at St Mary's, Reading in April 1781, the son of John Cooper and Sarah (née Bartlett). They were married at St Mary's by licence in February 1780. Sarah was the sister of my 4 x great grandfather, William Bartlett. My Bartletts were also associated with the Jesse family. Joseph Bartlett built many houses with Edwin Jesse, indeed Edwin was one of the executors of Joseph's will in July 1901. The Bartletts had buildings named after them in Castle Street, Bartlett Buildings/Bartlett Cottages, and Bartlett Place in Somers Town, Tilehurst Road. Joseph left a large amount of property to his family. He had ten children who were all left several houses, mostly in the Oxford Road and Russell Street area. John Cooper's mother, Sarah, was left money in my 5 x great grandmother's will and my 4 x great grandmother left property, workshops and gardens in Minster Street, Reading, where the Oracle shopping centre now stands. The Bartletts were floorcloth manufacturers and sailcloth and rope makers at the Oracle, Minster Street and Friar Street.

Peter Sharpton, 191 Maidenhead Road, Windsor SL4 5EZ

'Victory Garden Show' 1944

While I was clearing out junk in my loft I discovered my father's old Home Guard jacket and in one pocket were a couple of raffle tickets dating from just after the D-Day landings in 1944. The items offered as prizes represent a fascinating collection that were clearly of value in the days of wartime shortages, as well as providing a list of shopkeepers and small businesses that existed prior to the development of Bracknell. I lived in Bracknell during the war and remember many of the people mentioned.

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- 5—1-Cwt. "Growmore" Fertiliser—Messrs. Drake & Mount, Limited.
- 6—One pair of Shoes Repaired (Lady's or Gent's)—Mr. R. Rimcs, High Street.
- 7—Baby Carriage (New Marmet "Glyda")—Anon.
- 8—50 Cigarettes—Mr. H. Hollingsworth, High Street.
- 9—Goods to the value of £2 2s.—Mr. R. Stevens,
- 10—New Cycle (Lady's or Gent's)—Anonymous.
- 11—Garments Dyed or Cleaned to the value of 10/6—Messrs. Achille Serre, Limited, High Street.
- 12—Bottle Whisky—International Stores, High Street.
- 13—7-lb. Paint—Mr. J. C. Sargeant, Wokingham Road.
- 14—Lady's Permanent Wave—Lilian Flegg, High Street.
- 15—Goods to the value of 20/—Messrs. E. Jackson & Son, High Street.
- 16—Bath Salts—Messrs. H. B. Herbert, High Street.
- 17—Two pairs Lady's Stockings—Messrs. J. Frisby, Limited, High Street.
- 18—50 Cigarettes—Mrs. E. Maynard, High Street.
- 19—Large Wooden Toy Engine—Jimmy Matthews, High Street.
- 20—5/- Savings Stamp—Mr. P. J. Colclutt,
- 21—Goods to the value of 7/6—Messrs. Minchin Bros..
- 22—Bottled Fruit—Miss E. Moore, Regal Cinema..
- 23—Toy Dog—Mrs. E. Adams, Station Road.
- 24—Twelve Preserved Eggs on 20th December—Mrs. F. Reffell, London Road.
- 25—Eau-de-Cologne—Anonymous.
- 26—Goods to the value of £2 2s.—Mr. A. J. Youens,
- 27—Standard Table Lamp—Mr. P. A. Ridgers,
- 28—Fruit Cake—Messrs. J. Turner & Sons, High Street.
- 29—Electric Fire Lighter—Anonymous.
- 30—28-lb. Onions—Mr. George Barney, Glencoc, Wokingham Road.
- 31—Bottle Sherry—International Stores, High Street.
- 32—15/- National Savings Gift Token—Mr. J. Jordan.
- 33—500 Sheets Printed Note Paper and 250 Envelopes—The Bracknell Press, High Street.
- 34—100 Player's Cigarettes—Mr. J. E. Smith, Confectioner, High Street.
- 35—Goods to the value of 7/6—Mr. S. A. Surplice.
- 36—A Cake per week for Four Weeks—Mr. J. Willmoth, High Street.
- 37—Goods to the value of 20/—Mr. G. E. Snell,
- 38—Sack Main Crop Potatoes—Mr. E. Gambriel,
- 39—One Live Cockerel on 20th December—Mrs. F. Reffell, London Road.
- 40—Three Jars Honey—Mr. H. E. Skeeles, Rounds Hill.
- 41—7/6 Savings Stamp—Mr. J. F. Dearden, Wick Hill.
- 42—Goods to the value of 7/6—Co-Operative Society, High Street.

David B. Muspratt, Spring House, Mill Hill, Alresford, Hampshire SO24 9DD

Duke of Orleans

Following Christine Matthews' letter on Charles Jacques Girard in the March edition of the *Berkshire Family Historian* I came across a reference to the Duke of Orleans in a book by Drs A and N Clow, *The Chemical Revolution*, Batchworth Press (London) 1952. My thoughts are that the Girard family were of quite high status and could be 'attached' to the Duke who used his royal connections to promote and fund early scientific effort. The Duke was quite often in England (and possibly Scotland and Ireland) meeting those involved in the latest scientific research.

The botanist Sir Joseph Banks, who accompanied Cook's world voyage, was President of the Royal Society for 41 years until his death in 1820 and during his lifetime of knowledge as a botanist may have crossed paths with Girard either as a gardener, plant breeder or scientist. My guess is that the Duke brought his 'gardener' over for shelter from the Revolution and would have found him a home or place to continue research. I would suggest that as a result of further research Christine may be able to find out if Girard had contacts in London and possibly links to other French émigrés in Winchester and Southampton.

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The perfect register of Burghulberry

Daphne Spurling

The following comment was found on the fly sheet in the front of the Parish Register started in 1538 of St Mary's Church, Bucklebury (Berkshire Record Office ref D/P28/1/1). The writer was probably the Revd Harbert because the list of vicars which ends with the installation of the Revd Harbert in 1970 is in the same hand. As the sides and bottom of the sheet are torn, a few words are illegible and the last line is missing.

This register is the most perfect of Any One that I have ever seen. It begins from the first year in which Registers were appointed, that is from the Year 1538, when they were ordered to be thus kept by Thomas Ld Cromwell, who acted as Vice-Gerent to K Henry VIII in Ecclesiastic Matters: The First & Last that filled that Office. It appears to have been transcribed for the first 70 years, till the Time of Mr Smallwood who took faithful Care of it for about 40 years more. It is much regretted, that it is written on Paper for the next 100 years, equally against Reason & Authority. At the Time of my Institution it consisted of three different Books of different sorts and Sizes, which I methodized & caused to be bound together (to prevent the loss of former Books, which too frequently happens) with additional leaves which may last many years. I have likewise collected from the Bishops Register Account of all the Vicars of this Parish, as far as those Records reach back; and the Account is tolerably perfect from the time of Simon of Gaunt Bishop of Sarum. It may be some Amusement to my Successors, as it has been to me, to review the list of the predecessors. It is to be remembered that the Manor and Estate and Gt Tythe Bucklebury (or Burghulberry, as it was then called or written) & the Patron. the Vicarage belonged to the Abbey of Reading in this County. At the Dissolution of the said Abbey, it was granted by King Henry VIII to the family of the Winchcombes in which Family it continued till the death of Sir Henry WINCHCOMBE bart AD 1703 then descended by his eldest daughter to the Ld Viscount Bolingbroke, who had [married?] her and at length by his youngest daughter to the Family of the Packers, Knights of the Accession for this County. Henry PACKER Esq, the last male heir of that family, left it ... Hartley

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 they were ordered to be thus kept by Thomas Cromwell
 sent to King Henry VIII in Ecclesiastical Matters: the First
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 may last many years. I have likewise collected from
 out of all the Vicars of this Parish, as far as those Reco

Part of the original register

Vicars of Bucklebury

1303	Feb 8	Hugh of Drayton was instituted vicar
1361	Sep 17	John Spencer
1381	Jun 26	Richard Markwyk
1385	Jan 28	John Newman
1390	Feb 15	John Blakefordby
1393	Dec 10	John Baynton
1394	Mar 14	Thomas Batte
1396	Oct 19	Thomas Forde
1413	Mar 5	John Unfray
1441	Aug 4	Richard Same
1468	Jan 7	John Tempest
1470	Sep 5	John Holwey
William Brew [time of his institution does not appear]		
1505	May 22	Philip White
1531	May 8	John Rothe
1548	May 27	John Whytther
1554	Sep 4	Philip Powell
James Marke [time of his institution does not appear]		
1578	Apr 15	John Lovegrove
1606	Dec 15	John Loveday
1609	Mar 25	William Smallwood, alias Small. Calamy mentions Him as deprived for Nonconformist 1662, but it is a palpable mistake. He died at the latter end of 1647.
Guy Carleton was presented, but being a Royalist, could not gain admission from the Friars, whom they put in his place till the Restoration does not appear, but then recovered his Right & was Instituted.		
1660	Jul 11	Guy Charleton. He died Bishop of Chichester but voided this church by cession to
1662	Nov 30	Thomas Coward
1686	Sep 17	Richard Simeon
1701	Mar 23	Richard Simeon, son of his predecessor.

1726	Jul 13	Martin Annesley
1749	?	William Dodwell (Dr Dodwell was Archdeacon of Berks)
1786	Mar 1	George Clarke
1788	Jan 3	Richard Coke
1819	Oct 9	Henry Holland Hartley Winchcombe on his own presentation
1832	Dec 27	Thomas Edmund Williams
1849	Nov 27	Gabriel Valpy
1872	Aug 16	Thomas William Watts
1889	Sep	Robert Rigley Rawlings
1897	Nov 26	Cecil Hope Gill
1907	Apr 12	Edward Monkhouse Thopp
1941	Jul 11	William Dalrymple Hardy
1958	Aug 11	David Barrington Ashburner
1970	Apr 21	Clair Geoffrey Thomas Harbert

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Turning a Disaster into a Memory

Carter's Royal Berkshire Steam Fair

Anna Carter

For those of us with long memories the week when the fair came to town was the most exciting in our annual calendar of events – better than kite flying, marbles, playing with cigarette cards or conkers. As soon as the fair opened we made as many visits as we could with our limited pocket money to spend on the latest rides, or rolling pennies, hoopla, or putting coins in machines attempting to win a prize. If we were lucky we might go home with a goldfish, or if not just the joy of riding on the dodgems. Few of these fairs exist today; we are left with the giant rides at places like Alton Towers and Thorpe Park rather than the charming town and country fairs. There are a few steam fairs still touring the country. In Berkshire we are fortunate to have Carter's Royal Berkshire Steam Fair, which has its winter headquarters at White Waltham, near Maidenhead. Here Anna Carter describes how the fair began and the struggle to keep it on the road.

Carter's Steam Fair was born from one man's all-consuming passion for collecting anything that was old and interesting. My late husband, John, was an avid collector – everything from old American cars, tin toys, postcards, horn gramophones to 78 rpm records; the list is too long to record. His favourite pastime was wandering around junk shops and antique emporiums finding bargains. At the time we were living in the oldest rated timber framed house in Berkshire, so unrestored that the only modern convenience was one cold tap. The house soon filled with his collection so that it was almost impossible to vacuum the floors. In retrospect, it was inevitable that we would acquire the one outrageous item that would change our lives forever.

One day John sauntered home and asked how I would feel about owning a distressed Victorian Gallopers' roundabout. Towards the end of the nineteenth century attempts were made to make the 'still' Dobby Horses gallop; the first Platform Gallopers appeared and they proved popular for decades to come. By the mid-1970s they were out of fashion, modern rides having left them behind. Only a handful were travelling the country, a few

remained on permanent amusement parks, some were stored away. After much discussion we decided it might be fun to own the ride. At the time we earned our money from show promotions, all with preservation interest: steam rallies, car shows and collectors' fairs. We felt it would be an added attraction to present the ride, all beautifully restored at the shows. We were very naïve.

The ride was operated at Burnham Beeches amusement park. For many years the park had catered for parties of Londoners coming out to the country on day trips, but by 1976 it had become an unfashionable choice of destination and the ride although still running, was in dire need of restoration. After a few weeks we brought the Gallopers home, as our old house with its comparative isolation and a generous garden, just large enough to rebuild the ride, seemed ideal.

That autumn we set about the monumental task of restoring the ride. With amazing luck we discovered a Tidman steam centre engine, originally made in Norwich, a few miles away. We believe it could have been the original engine discarded when the ride was converted to electric power. Certainly it was made to fit and later we discovered how rare these engines were. Still wildly enthusiastic, we began the restoration, stripping down parts, burning off wood, replacing rotten timber, gradually enticing friends and family to help.

Although we worked night and day for a few months, we realised that our dream of presenting a fully restored and decorated ride was totally unrealistic and so we opted for structural safety; the decoration would have to come later. Burning off the old paint had revealed some of the original artwork, which we would faithfully endeavour to reproduce at a later date. John and I had the advantage of an art school education which we always felt would be useful one day. We decided to name the Gallopers after the Queen's Silver Jubilee in 1977.

When the Gallopers were launched at Carrington Park Steam Rally in Lincolnshire, they were proudly named 'John Carter's Jubilee Steam Gallopers'. That first season we travelled long distances, from steam rallies to shows, often missing weekends when we had no bookings. It was a steep learning curve for us: the restoration of the ride and putting it back into transport had financially crippled us. We had five small children and two large dogs to feed. It was a new and exciting lifestyle, living in an old

showman's van moving from town to town, meeting new people and seeing new places. However, we knew that we were never going to make our fortune. Our main source of income had dried up when promoting shows became more difficult with taxation increases. We also ran into difficulties with Sunday trading regulations, forcing us to abandon organising collectors' bazaars. We decided that promoting shows was too risky. How ironic that now all retail outlets can open on Sundays. But at the time we



chose to become travelling showmen, a much more stable option. Over the next three decades we acquired and restored a complete funfair. Our second machine was a 1920s Chair-o-plane; we felt we should have another ride to boost our income. John had always wanted to own a set of 'Steam Yachts', a very rare ride dating from the turn of the twentieth century. The first 'Steam Yachts' were often given the names of the latest liners: Lusitania and Mauretania, although Olympic and Titanic understandably proved short lived. He set out to find one and discovered a machine buried in a Glasgow scrapyard. It was then I did question whether or not my husband had gone completely crazy. But with friends he set off for Glasgow and with some help came back with the Yachts. For years they languished in a corner of our

yard, until finally he borrowed the money to restore them. This made the Gallopers child's play. But we were seasoned restorers by this time and confident we had sufficient skills. Two years later in 1984 with our overdraft at the limit, and down to borrowing from our children's piggy bank, we presented the Yachts to the public at Battersea Park, who showed no enthusiasm to ride them. We experienced that devastating sinking feeling, when we realised we might have made the worst mistake of our lives. However, eventually our luck changed, as the Yachts slowly developed a following: they were probably the first 'white knuckle ride' and not for the faint-hearted.

Over the years the whole family has been involved, the winter work is a hard discipline, working long hours in draughty sheds with no income. In spring we all set out for another season. During the last three decades we have brought seven big machines back to life: Steam-driven Gallopers, Steam Yachts, Rock-and-Roll Dodgems, a Giant Octopus, Chair-o-Planes, Dive Bombers and Jets, several juvenile rides including a train ride, Austin cars, a tin toy ride, Dobbies and Swing boats, a selection of pre-war stalls and hooplas. All the attractions are moved by a fleet of historic trucks, mostly Scammells. We all live in vintage showmen's living vans dating from 1927 to the 1940s. They have cut glass and painted ceilings, and wooden panelled interiors, which need constant polishing; electricity is generated for a few hours each day and space is very limited. My sons' wives and girlfriends have been very adaptable in accepting a life with few modern conveniences. It's a very different lifestyle from what is accepted today, but the compensation is an interesting existence and companionship.

In 2000 my husband and inspiration, John, lost his battle against cancer, he was 58 years old, never reconciled to dying — he felt he had so much to do. We decided to carry on. It grows more difficult each year: more demands and more regulations. We now tour London and the home counties opening in parks and open spaces, mostly owned by local authorities, the National Trust and English Heritage. Rents are sometimes restrictively high while our costs are constantly increasing. I find little time to indulge in any scenic painting now, as I spend the winter months dealing with paperwork and organising our summer route. My three sons and their families are all in the business, and my young daughter helps as much as possible while studying for her 'A' levels.

It is very satisfying to take a deteriorating item and present it fully restored a few months later. We have all learnt many skills, from applying gold leaf to driving steam engines. We've met interesting people, been visited by countless celebrities including the Princess of Wales and the two young Princes, William and Harry. We do lots of television and film work which is usually good fun for a few days, but our main aim is to open to the public each weekend and provide some good old fashioned entertainment for a few hours. With luck we will keep the show on the road for many years yet.

Background

For more information on fairground families see the National Fairground Archive held at the University of Sheffield. Its aim is to preserve and collect the history of the travelling fairground. As well as documents and posters the collection includes over 2000 photographs and illustrations. The Archive can be found at <www.shef.ac.uk/nfa/history/index.php>.

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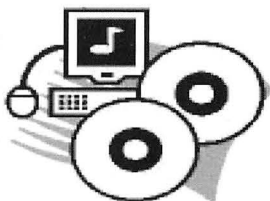
Other limited personal research work undertaken.

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Computer Branch

Wednesday 19 May 2004

Publishing on the Internet
by
Peter Christian

Wednesday 16 June 2004

**Publishing on the
Internet**
by Peter Christian

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Venue:
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Earley, Reading**

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7.45pm**

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join us!**

Autumn 2004 Programme Meetings

**After the summer break Meetings will recommence on Wednesday
15 September 2004 with:**

Acrobats and CD's

Gleanings from exchange magazines

Daphne Spurling

Lost in London 1780-1837. This and many other indexes including wills, deaths abroad, unclaimed estates, titles or coats of arms are available at low cost from the library of the Institute of Heraldic and Genealogical Studies. See <www.ihgs.ac.uk> or <www.achievements.co.uk> or send SAE for details to Library of IHGS, Northgate, Canterbury, CT1 1BA. (*Family History*, Journal of the Institute of Heraldic and Genealogical Studies)

Scottish Emigration 1890-1960: Development of a Database by the Scottish Diaspora Programme of the University of Aberdeen Centre of the Research, Institute of Irish and Scottish Studies. (Aberdeen and North-East Scotland Family History Society, Journal No 90, Feb 2004)

National Archives of Scotland in Edinburgh. Talk on the documents held (the earliest is dated 1127) and advice on visiting. (Aberdeen and North-East Scotland Family History Society, Journal No 90, Feb 2004)

Scottish family history publications for sale. For the most comprehensive of any family history society list see the flyer in Aberdeen and North-East Scotland Family History Society, Journal No 90, Feb 2004.

Late eighteenth century surveys of Scotland and England. A comprehensive account of several statistical surveys including county surveys or reports. Some described every parish, most concentrate on farming practices. (*New Zealand Genealogist*, Vol 35, No 285, Jan/Feb 2004)

Lighthouse keeper database now online at <<http://www.genuki.org.uk/big/MerchantMarine.html>> and then scrolling down to Lighthouse Personnel in England and Wales and the Channel Island 1841-1910. (*Hampshire Family Historian*, Vol XXX, No 4, Feb 2004)

DNA Testing Project - by a Marsh family in New Zealand. A brief summary of the project can be seen at <<http://www.marshfamilies-dnaproject.freesevers.com>> or <www.marshdna.arrrg.org>. (*Hampshire Family Historian*, Vol XXX, No 4, Feb 2004)

The Weather that Weekend. A family historian wanted to know what the weather was for a particular event in her family. From mid 1990s this can be researched online at <<http://metoffice.com>>. For earlier dates the Met Office has to be consulted by post. (*Kentish Connection*, Folkestone and District FHS, Vol 17, No 3, March 2004)

North Wales Directories 1818-1936. A CD jointly published by Clwyd Family History Society and the Friends of Wrexham Museum includes 25 directories (seven on Chester) with 5,500 pages of information and over 600,000 names. Price £19.95 plus £1 p&p (cheques made payable to Clwyd FHS) from Miss Joy Thomas, 2 Ffordd Cynan, Wrexham LL12 7SS or <www.genfair.com> (*Journal of the Clwyd Family History Society*, No 79, Jan 2004)

Post Office Archives. An account of tracing the records of a great grandfather. Archives at Heritage, Royal Mail, Freeling House, Phoenix Place, London WC1X 0DL (tel 020 7239 2570) <www.royalmail.com/heritage>. You have to attend in person (no appointment necessary, proof of identity required) or retain a researcher. (*Journal of the Clwyd Family History Society*, No 79, Jan 2004)

Heritage East Midlands. Heritage East Midlands: a Sense of Place (HEMSoP) is a website offering historical, cultural and social information at <www.hemsop.org.uk>. (*Lincolnshire Family History Society*, Vol 15, No 1, Feb 2004)

The Stonemasons Index. Contains nearly 3500 stonemason records and nearly 1000 submitters' details. Enquiries and searches. (*Birmingham and Midland Society for Genealogy and Heraldry*, Vol 13, No 11, March 2004)

London's Record Offices for Day Trippers. Report on a meeting which lists many archive sources (*Kent FHS*, Vol 10, No 10, March 2004)

Preserving those archives. Covers photographs, slides and tape recordings as well as computer files. (Bedfordshire FHS, Vol 14, No 5, March 2004)

Using a digital camera at the National Archives, Kew. Advice on 'how to' is applicable to other Record Offices that allow digital photography. (Bedfordshire FHS, Vol 14, No 5, March 2004)

The Welsh Community in Swindon, Wiltshire. Many Welsh people moved to Swindon with the arrival of the Great Western Railway Works in 1843. Article includes lists of names from Rate Book of 1865, and of families with Welsh birthplaces in the 1871 census. (Gwent FHS, Vol 73, March 2004)

Postman's Park. A churchyard near the Museum of London where postmen had their lunch. Plaques commemorate people who have lost their lives saving others. (West Middlesex FHS, Vol 22, No 1, March 2004 or "Postman's Park" in a search engine)

The 1986 Domesday Project. Initiated by the BBC in 1985 to mark the 900th anniversary of the Domesday Book. Nearly 1 million people, including children, recorded land cover, took photographs and wrote about their area. Now available to view at Kew. (Shropshire FHS, Vol 25, Part 1, March 2004)

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Help wanted

Mrs. Muriel M. Turner, 21 Keydell Avenue, Horndean, Waterlooville, Hampshire PO8 9TO

Cook family

I have traced my Cook family in Woodbridge, Suffolk back to my fourth great grandfather Giles Cook. He married Mary Gibbs on 22 October 1772 as a widower and carpenter and they had five children. I was unable to find his first marriage anywhere in Suffolk, Kent, Essex or Norfolk. However, I have now found it with the help of the Berkshire Record Office. Giles married Mary Heilas at Bray on 17 September 1756. They had four children: George, Charles, Charlotte and Mary. They were all baptised at Bray, although Charles was buried at Cookham. Giles's wife, Mary, died in 1768 and was also buried at Cookham. Four years later Giles married at Woodbridge. I have copies of both marriages and the signatures on both are identical. Can anybody suggest what happened to his first family and why did he leave them to live in Woodbridge after the death of his wife.

Mrs. Joan Wakeham, 27 Croham Manor Road, South Croydon, Surrey CR2 7BJ

Brant family

Some years ago I discovered that my 3 x grandfather, John Brant, was born at Wokingham in 1778 as one of five children — two others died. With his elder brother, Robert, born in 1776, he went to Holborn and set up a successful coach-making business. They both married and raised families. I believe John and Robert's parents were William Brant, born in 1748 at Hurst, and Mary Shorter. They were married in 1765 at Wokingham. William's parents could be Robert Brant, born in 1705 at Arborfield and Mary (although I have not found their marriage). Robert's parents could be Thomas Brant born in 1672 and Rebecca Hanford, born at Arborfield. They married at Old Windsor in 1697. I am very uncertain of this lineage. Has anybody else come across this family?

Reference Library additions

Census

- Cheshire 1851 Index — Runcorn, Frodsham and Gt. Budworth (CD Rom)
- Liverpool 1851 Index (CD Rom)
- Somerset 1891 Surname Index
- Wiltshire Malmesbury St. Paul, 1811, 1821 & 1831

Books on Berkshire

- Binfield names in Cookham Manorial Court Rolls 1358-1756
- Borough of Maidenhead 1451-1974
- Changing faces of Faringdon Vols 2 & 3
- Cholsey MIs transcript (CD Rom)
- Five villages of Hurley
- Grovelands Board School register 1880-1890
- Maidenhead Congregational Church Registers
- Shinfield — a walk around our village
- Swallowfield School admissions register 1873-1895
- Twyford St.Mary the Virgin parish register extracts 1863-1888

Books about other counties:

Wales

- 'and they work for us' Vols 1 & 2 Mine casualties. Who they were, how and where they died.

Scotland

- North East roots — a guide to resources

Bedfordshire

- Bedfordshire at war
- Portrait of Bedfordshire

Buckinghamshire

- Honour of Ampthill — coroner's Buckinghamshire notebook 1854-1878

London

- Atlas and guide of London circa 1908 (CD Rom)

Wiltshire

- Stratton in camera — photographs of yesteryear

Horatia Johnson

John Gurnett

Walking around the 500 acres of Brookwood Cemetery, where many of the graves honour the lives of the great and the good of the Victorian years, I noticed in one small corner the resting place of William Johnson and his wife Horatia. Horatia, born in 1832, was one of the many grandchildren of Admiral Horatio Nelson. She was named after her mother, the daughter of Nelson and Lady Emma Hamilton.

A few hours before his death at the Battle of Trafalgar, Admiral Nelson wrote a final codicil to his will asking his King and country to provide a legacy for Emma, and his 'adopted' daughter Horatia. His trust in the King and the government was, sadly, misplaced: they were abandoned. Emma died destitute at Calais in 1815, having dissipated what income she had. After her mother's death Nelson's sister and her husband George Matcham became Horatia's guardian and she was brought up as a member of their family.

Like her mother Horatia became fluent in a number of European languages and was an educated, well read, and sought after young woman. In 1819 she met a graduate from Trinity College, Oxford, Philip Ward. He became a chaplain and they married in 1822. With the small income of a provincial clergyman they were not rich. All her life Horatia, and her family, refused to believe that she was the natural daughter of Admiral Nelson.

The Wards had nine children in all; Horatia their second daughter was born in 1832. She was a sickly child, suffering frequent illnesses. But she blossomed into a beautiful young girl turning the eyes of many young men. Eventually she married a solicitor friend of her brother, William Johnson. When her mother died in 1881, William, Horatia and their son — another William, who was an articled clerk — were living at 6 Gower Street, London, and stayed there until her own death in October 1890. She was buried at Brookwood with her husband.

The Bulletin

Research Centre notes by Cliff Debney

Reorganisation continues both in the Reference Library on the first floor, and in the ground floor administration and computer room, with the Library having the major changes. In the Library we are not planning any further reduction in the date range of the Society's exchange magazines held on the open shelves – the removed magazines are now in store and can be accessed by arrangement with the Librarian, Jean Herbert. The removed book stack has been replaced by a glass fronted unit against the wall. Some serial publications have been moved from bookstack 'F', 'Family History and General Information' and placed on some of the emptied shelves, which has left room for additional research aids.

By the time this is printed, we will be well into moving all the county census indexes, both booklet and fiche, and other county fiche from the 'Census' book stack to their relative county section. This means that most material, except the exchange magazines, will be in its county section, as indicated by the county start markers using the three letter county code, commonly called the Chapman County Code but in reality British Standard reference BS6879. Fiche sets such as the 1988 IGI will be retained in a general information group.

Just a reminder that in each county section all CD ROMs available for study are indicated by a 'DVD' box giving the title of the CD on the front and spine, with a statement on the back saying the CD may be found downstairs. These CDs will either be loose in wall mounted holders ready to be put into the CD tray of a computer or already installed. The start window on all the computers is split into three columns, with the middle one indicating some of the CDs which need to be individually loaded and the 'No CD REQ[ire]D' column on the right. This column has many CD icons showing, including one which reads 'More', or a similar name. Clicking on this icon brings up a list of country and county names, each having a hidden list which finally leads to the information contained on the CD listed in the Library.

In the computer suite we are regularly adding more information. Whenever the Research Centre is visited we recommend you look at the set of available CDs which are to be found in the open access storage units on the wall above the computers. If any particular CD is not found, but has a DVD box in the Reference Library, it will have been pre-loaded on to the computers. The Reference Library catalogue is on the Society's website and is regularly updated. It can be accessed from anywhere by a computer, including in the Research Centre.

Google for family history

Google.com has always been the most popular search engine for family historians, but its major drawback is that when searching for a particular surname you may end up with thousands upon thousands of hits, some of which may be names and others like, Feather or Bishop, have other meanings. To overcome this problem Google has launched a free genealogy search engine. The site consists of a tabular list (similar to the Mormon familysearch website) with fields for first name, last name, spouse, father, mother, place of birth and place of death. For best results you are advised to begin with someone further back in your ancestry. I tried it with my own name Gurnett, although my early ancestors used Gurnett and Gunnett. It came up with a blank, but that is possibly because a family tree of the family does not appear on any website. One drawback is that too many of the sites searched for names seem to be in the United States. If you would like to try this new site it can be found under <www.genealogy-search-help.com/>.

London Fire Brigade

If you have family connections with firefighters in the London fire service, the London Fire Brigade holds information on ex-employees and some staff from the earlier Metropolitan (later the London) Fire Brigade. If you are a relative or an ex-employee then records from 1860 until 1920 are available. When making a request you will need to

give full name, date of birth and service dates, if known. Contact <Museum@London-fire.gov.uk>. If you would like to visit their museum opening hours are from 10.30am until 2pm and the address is Winchester House, 94a Souhwark Bridge Road, London SE1 0EG.

Dates for your diary

Buckinghamshire Family History Society will be holding its open day on Saturday 24 July from 10am to 4pm at Aylesbury Grammar School, Walton Road, Aylesbury. The Society will have its own library and databases, computer group demonstrations and the Centre for Buckinghamshire Studies will also have a stand. There's free admission and car parking at the school.

Suffolk Family History Fair will be held at the Old School, Long Melford (the heart of antique shopping in Suffolk) on Saturday 7 August from 10am until 4.30pm. Last year over 400 visitors from twenty four different counties attended so it's likely to be a busy day.

Hastings and Rother Family History Society will hold its annual fair on Sunday 10 October at Hillcrest Sports Centre, Hillcrest School, Rye Road, Hastings.

Kent Family History Society open day will be held on 3 July from 10am to 5pm at the Pembroke Building, Medway Campus, Central Avenue, Chatham. Admission is free, for more information see their website <www.kfhs.org.uk>.

First World War campaign medal index cards (WO 372)

The National Archives (previously the PRO) is making available the First World War campaign medal index cards (WO 372) on the internet. The medal index lists the medal entitlement of soldiers and airmen at

www.documentsonline.pro.gov.uk.

The Index comprises almost 5.5 million officers and soldiers, men and women, who served in the Army and the Royal Flying Corps during the Great War: it is essentially the most complete list of those who served in the Great War. The cards will be loaded alphabetically, and will be made available throughout 2004 as follows:

Letter	Available from
A - B	January 2004
C - E	March 2004
F - J	May 2004
K - O	July 2004
P - S	September 2004
T - Z	November 2004

Women's cards and Mentioned in Despatches will also be made available in November 2004. For further information on the project and updates on alphabetical loading visit www.documentsonline.pro.gov.uk/whats-new.asp.

Other documents online

The complete collection of more than one million digitised PCC wills is also available. This includes colour images of the original wills of selected famous people, among them William

Shakespeare, Jane Austen, Sir Francis Drake, Lord Byron, Samuel Pepys and Sir Christopher Wren.

Gleanings from Brightwell Parish Registers (D/P25/1/2)

'His majesty King George the third rode on horseback thro ye village of Brightwell on his return from a stag chase on 17 Nov. 1781.'

The weather was extremely important to this farming community. The following comments, including the sentence in brackets, was inserted between the 1785 and 1786 entries in the register.

'Dec 25th 1783: The Frost set in on this day and continued with great severity and with very little intermission for eight weeks, then it abated for short time and returned afterwards & continued till April. (A very long Frost in ye year 1795. A great scarcity of corne in July of that year.)

The winter of the next year was also of long continuance. Ye severe weather began before Xmas 1784 and continued with little intermission till Ap 1785 after which time there was a great drought which lasted for several months, burnt up ye meadows and occasioned ye crop of Hay to be very small indeed. The like drought seemed to have reached ye neighbouring kingdoms as an Act was passed during ye sessions of Parliament about Jul 1785 to stop ye exportation of Hay.'

A2A database

This steadily growing database is worth a visit. At the last count it contains more than 6.3 million entries from 345 record offices and other repositories. It is especially useful for family historians looking for references to ancestors in deeds and estate papers. Supported by the British Library and the National Archives (formerly the PRO) the database may now be found at <www.a2a.org.uk>.

GenesConnected.co.uk

This is a relatively new website linked to Friends Reunited. Its aim is to link relations all over the world. Many of the people who use the site are trying to find relatives with whom they have lost contact: children they gave up for adoption, lost parents and aunts and uncles. Registration is free and if you have gaps in your family tree it might be worth taking the chance of meeting up with long lost relatives. The site can be found at <GenesConnected.co.uk>.

Berkshire Family Historian

This is the last issue of the Historian in its present format. From September it will become much bigger in every sense: more features and news and for the first time we shall be in colour. But the biggest change will be the size. From the first issue it has been printed as A5, but the next issue will be in A4 (the same size as most family history magazines).

This will enable us to use larger — and easier to read — illustrations and maps. The next issue will include features on Freemasonry records, the Women's Land Army, the Royal Berkshire Regimental Museum and photographs of Castle Street, Reading, unearthed in New Zealand, as well as the usual items which you find so useful. We hope you like it just as much as we have in putting together the new design.



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Our 'funny blood' – a family with an inherited blood disease

Ann Simmonds

It was having 'funny blood' that got me interested in family history and it all began in late 1975. First our daughter Bernadette (aged ten) became suddenly very pale, listless and lost her appetite, then I became ill followed by our second daughter, Clare who was eight, and finally Dominic (four), one of our twins. Blood tests showed that our haemoglobin levels had fallen dangerously low, we were diagnosed as being in 'splenic crisis' and given blood transfusions which made us fit and well; I also had a bone marrow test.

Alarm bells began to ring for the doctors: one case is usual, two suggests something odd and three that an organism may be causing the problem. My husband, Michael, and our other children, Francis (six) and Maria (Dominic's twin) had blood tests. Francis was fine, but Maria's haemoglobin was low and she was given extra iron and folic acid. They also found a rare germ in Michael and Francis but were uncertain if it had caused the crises.

Bernadette's problem was classified as spherocytosis: a spherical deformity of the red blood cells. Normal blood cells become spherical when they are worn out and are broken down by the spleen. In our case, all our blood cells were being broken down, making our blood count fall rapidly. She was given two pints of packed cells (cells from two pints of blood in one pint of serum) and came home fit and well.

Later that year we all had 'flu, my haemoglobin fell again and I had a second transfusion. I also had my spleen removed and was found to have not one, but two spleens. At my request I asked if Bernadette could also have hers removed and at her operation two years later she was found to have four spleens: one normal, one grossly enlarged, one tiny piece and another attached to the pancreas.

I remembered that my younger brother, John, and my father had also had similar attacks in 1952 when the doctors suggested the condition might be hereditary. So I started to investigate my family history and our 'funny blood'.

My parents and siblings

I was born in 1939, the eldest of five children of Hugh Gordon Taylor and Aideen Hood. In 1952, both my parents had been in hospital and Mum, expecting her fifth baby, was ordered to rest. In the midst of all this my brother, John, became pale and listless. The doctor diagnosed acute leukaemia and gave him a blood transfusion. He also noticed that Dad looked jaundiced and was found to have a low blood count. He too had a transfusion and, while in hospital, had his troublesome gallbladder and spleen removed. Meanwhile the rest of us were tested (except the baby who had to wait until she was six months old): our 'funny blood' was thought to be 'acholuric jaundice' (jaundice not caused by the liver) or 'splenic anaemia' (anaemic caused by the spleen) and probably inherited from Dad's father who was also sallow-skinned.

John had his spleen removed when he was eight and became fit and healthy. I was often out of breath, had bad headaches and was smaller than my younger sister, Mary: she and my brother Kevin were both fit.

In February 1957 Dad started a new job in Sweden and while there was fit apart from stiff shoulders. I stayed in England and trained as a State Registered Nurse and midwife. Often out of breath, I sometimes had nosebleeds and bad headaches, especially on night duty, but did not connect it to 'funny blood'. In 1963 my hands and knees became very painful and the consultant rheumatologist asked about my family history. When I mentioned Dad's 'funny blood' and stiff shoulders he confirmed that I had it too and the pain was caused by the excessive breakdown of blood cells.

My grandparents' family

So where did our family's 'funny blood' originate? Dad's father, John Taylor, was born in 1875 in County Durham and married Lizzie Pugmire in 1903. Three children, Edward Leathard (1904), Marian Isobel (1907) and my father, Hugh (1912) were born in London. They moved to Luton, Bedfordshire, where, in 1940, John was admitted to the local hospital with an enlarged prostate gland and had a suprapubic cystotomy: a minor operation to insert a catheter to drain the urine from his bladder. Two days later he collapsed and, according to his death certificate, died of anaemia, simple prostate enlargement, suppurative pyelitis and cystitis. He was 64.

But did he have 'funny blood'? He often felt tired and suffered from bad headaches — but so do most people. He also had sallow skin and the surgery worried him. His wife was healthy and died aged 95.

All the cases so far seem to have come at a time of strain and stress: our daughter, Bernadette, was at a new school and working for a ballet examination, my brother, John, was having problems at school and Mum was away, Dad was worried about Mum, John and work problems and Grandad was worried about having to have a permanent catheter.

Confirmation that the problem was inherited through my paternal grandfather, John Taylor, came when a distant cousin became ill. Gwynneth, the daughter of Grandad's sister, Ada, had previously been ill and my father wrote to tell her about our 'funny blood'. She had ignored the letter but now her son was very ill and the doctors were puzzled. Remembering the letter she contacted me. I described our symptoms and also drew up a family tree from our great-grandparents showing who had had a crisis or problem. Gwynneth showed this to her son's doctors who diagnosed the problem, removed his spleen and restored him to health.

Certain that the disease was inherited through the Taylor family I looked for Grandad's parents, Thomas Taylor and Isabella (née Leathard). John was the tenth of eleven children all of whom, except one, lived to old age.

Thomas and Isabella's eldest son, Thomas, died aged 61 in 1916 of nephritis (kidney disease) and asthenia — lack of vitality or debility, which could be 'funny blood'. His descendants were all apparently healthy. Their third son, Robert, was 57 when he also died in 1916 of sarcoma of the tonsil and asthenia. His known descendants were healthy.

A daughter, Catherine Jane, 'always moped about and had little energy' so may have been a sufferer. She had a large family of whom the two eldest daughters died aged four and one in the 1890s of measles, one of the twins died as a baby and a third daughter died of leukaemia ('funny blood?') in the 1930s.

Another daughter, Ada, died in her eighties in her 'second childhood'. Her son, Cedric, became ill in London in 1929, 'looked like a ghost' by Christmas and died, aged 23, of acute infective endocarditis (inflammation of the heart), acute sepsis of the mouth and throat, meningococcal inflammation and meningitis.

Anaemia would have made his heart would beat faster and faster and, with no resistance, sepsis followed. I am sure that his medical history indicated he had spherocytosis. Her daughter Gwynneth's son, John, was also a sufferer (as described above). Her youngest sister, Lily (b 1879), died of Parkinson's disease and another daughter, a 'blue baby', died aged two. A son, Surtees, died aged '30 minutes' in 1864.

Two unmarried daughters, Isabella and Margaret, died aged 46 and 89 of a perforated ulcer and influenza respectively and a third sister, Mary, was in her sixties when she died of an unknown cause. Nothing is known about William's family.

So out of this large family I am sure that Ada and John inherited the 'funny blood' and I suspect Robert, Surtees, Catherine and Lily may also have suffered. So which parent did it come from: Thomas Taylor or his wife, Isabella Leathard?

My paternal great-grandparents — the Taylor family

My research found that Thomas Taylor, born in 1830, was the eldest of the seven children of Robert Taylor and Margaret Sharp. His siblings were Jane (1833-bef.1871) who probably married a Mr Nelson and had two children, Catherine (b 1836) who married Mr Thompson and had three children, Robert (b 1838), John (1840-1891) who died of tuberculosis, Margaret (Dickinson) who died in 1889 aged 46 and William who died of 'phthisis & pulmonitis' aged 43 in 1889.

Robert senior died aged 61 in 1867 of 'malignant disease of bowels, paracent abdomen' and his wife, Margaret, was 78 when she died of 'senile decay'. So, there is nothing very definite to show whether or not the 'funny blood' came from the Taylor family.

— and the Leathard family

So did it come from the Leathard side of the family? Isabella Leathard (b 1834) was the daughter of Surtees and Mary (née Cowing) who married in 1826, the granddaughter of William Leathard and Margaret Surtees who married in 1784, both in Northumberland. She had a married brother, George (1832-1892) and a sister Margaret (b 1836); nothing is known of the latter. I have not found the deaths of Surtees and Mary Leathard but I

have been in contact with some descendants and there is no mention of 'funny blood'.

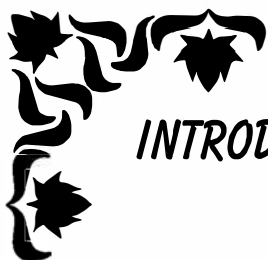
Conclusion

So now I know that our 'funny blood' goes back to Thomas and Isabella Taylor but not where it originated: it may have been a spontaneous mutation. It is strange that kidney and prostate problems are frequently mentioned on death certificates — but, the excessive breakdown of blood cells puts an extra strain on the kidneys.

In my family today, five of our six children and three of our nine grandchildren have 'funny blood' as do all three of my brother's children (one of whom has had a transfusion and his spleen removed). Nothing is yet known about his four grandchildren. My next sister's family are all healthy but my youngest sister has the condition and has had her spleen removed as has her son; some of her grandchildren are still to be tested.

Recent research into Parvovirus, a germ that causes diarrhoea in dogs, has shown it stops the production of red blood cells in human bone marrow for up to 14 days. This is not a problem for most people but, for those of us who have spherocytosis with only 'half-life' blood cells, it reduces our blood count rapidly. So it seems that it is not the spleen working overtime destroying our blood cells but the bone marrow that is causing our problem.

This absorbing family story has been edited by Jean Debney.



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'Not dead but gone to Slough' (or Scranton or Ballarat ...): Leaving Wales 1800 – 1939

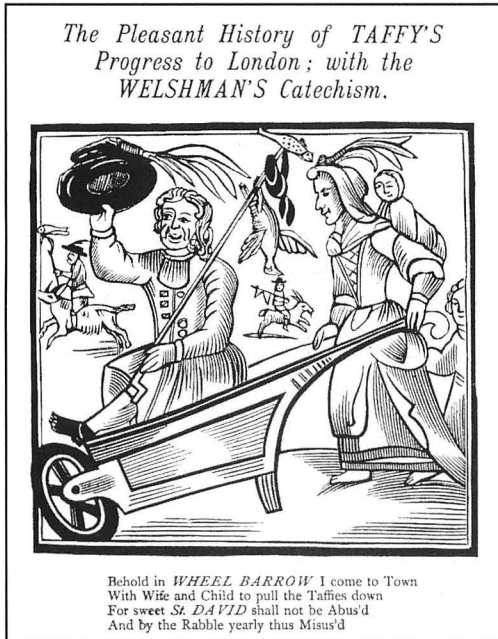
Dr. Bill Jones

This article attempts to provide an introduction to migration from Wales during the nineteenth century and the first half of the twentieth century. Doing so obviously runs the risk of over-generalising what was undoubtedly a very diverse movement in terms of the migrants' geographical, social and occupational origins, their motives and the destinations they chose. Nevertheless the whole canvas of the out-migration displays many common features. My title certainly needs some explanation. Such was the scale of the migration from Wales to England during the inter-war years, when nearly a half a million people left the country, that the Rhondda-born writer Gwyn Thomas suggested that local gravestones from that period might well bear the inscription 'Not dead but gone to Slough'. Throughout the period 1800-1939 many more Welsh moved to settle in England than they did overseas. Nevertheless, sizeable numbers of Welsh also emigrated and there developed in some centres a significant and distinctive Welsh presence. Slough, Scranton in north east Pennsylvania, and Ballarat in the Victorian goldfields of Australia are three such places. Patagonia, in Argentina, where migrants established a Welsh colony in 1865, is another area which occupies a prominent and celebrated position in the story of the Welsh outside Wales.

Migrants

Welsh people have moved from their homeland for centuries, and a sizeable number continue to do so each year, though on a smaller scale compared to the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. Few parts of Wales have been unaffected by out-migration, though some, like Cardiganshire, Montgomeryshire and the industrial south, have exported more people than others. There is a popular tradition that few families in Wales are without an overseas connection. However, it is impossible to calculate accurately the actual number of migrants because of the absence of official statistical records and the imperfections of those that do

exist. In the nineteenth century, for example, no separate records of emigration from Wales were kept by the British government and in the receiving countries many Welsh were classed as English. According to censuses, at the beginning of the twentieth century about 100,000 people who had been born in Wales (excluding Monmouthshire) were living in the USA, 13,500 in Canada and 13,000 in Australia. In 1901, 265,000 of England's inhabitants had been born in Wales, including 60,000 in the Midlands and 87,000 in Lancashire and Cheshire. Liverpool attracted c 20,000 Welsh people every decade between 1851 and 1911 whilst the Wales-born contingent living in London grew from 17,572 in 1851 to 35,421 in 1901 and 59,751 in 1931.



A seventeenth century's satirist's view of a Welsh visitor to London

Economic circumstances

It is likely that economic considerations played a key role in influencing many, if not most, Welsh migrants to leave home. Other crucial factors such as age, gender, and family and personal circumstances unique to each individual migrant were also important. Some Welsh people have also migrated for political,

cultural and what might be termed nationalistic reasons. The quest for a better life elsewhere often resulted from a combination of difficult conditions at home and the attractions of land or higher wages in the chosen destination. It would appear that the majority of migrants were not from the poorest sections of Welsh society. The fear that conditions at home might worsen and the perception that there were better opportunities overseas may have been more powerful deciding factors than the actual experiencing of absolute poverty.

Over the centuries, the most popular overseas destination for the Welsh has been North America and especially what became the USA. A significant number moved there during the latter part of the seventeenth century whilst between about 1790 and 1930 an almost constant stream of people made that country their home before the world-wide depression of the 1930s brought the era of mass emigration from Wales to a close. In broad terms, until the middle years of the nineteenth century the immigrants to the USA were predominantly agriculturalists. They settled in the farming areas of, initially, New York, Pennsylvania and Ohio, and, later, the mid-Western states, especially Wisconsin. The dominant element in the influx during the second half of the century was male industrial workers and their families. Coal miners and iron, steel and tinplate workers from south Wales, together with slate quarrymen from north Wales, were attracted by the higher wages their skills could earn them. From the 1820s they settled in increasing numbers in the large cities and industrial regions, notably those in Pennsylvania and Ohio. Representatives of a wide variety of other trades, professions and occupations have also gone in search of a better life in the USA, as in other countries. Welsh emigrant women have been less numerous than their male counterparts but they too have had a significant presence as, in the nineteenth century, domestic servants, dressmakers, agricultural workers, housewives and mothers.

By 1900 more Welsh were emigrating to the various 'white dominions' of the British Empire – Australia, Canada, New Zealand and South Africa – than to the USA. The first Welsh settlements in Canada were established in 1818 and 1819 in the Maritime Provinces. Nearly 10,000 emigrated to Canada between 1900 and 1914. In the case of Australia, appreciable numbers were first attracted to the copper-smelting districts of South Australia in the mid-1840s and, more importantly, to New South Wales and

especially Victoria after the discovery of gold there in 1851. Later Welsh migrants to Australia settled in the coal mining districts around Newcastle, New South Wales and the large cities such as Melbourne and Sydney.

Nonconformist religion, eisteddfodau, choral societies and ethnic newspapers and periodicals have played a key role in most Welsh migrant communities in England and overseas. This flowering of Welsh-language culture beyond Wales itself during the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries was largely, though by no means exclusively, due to the efforts of first generation settlers. Generally speaking, the Welsh did not resist assimilation and achieved it relatively painlessly, though the rapidity with which the process occurred varied considerably depending on local conditions. In time, usage of Welsh declined, churches closed and eisteddfodau became rarities. Nevertheless many members of subsequent generations have chosen to identify themselves with a Welsh heritage. In present day USA, for example, the annual North American Gymanfa Ganu attracts thousands to its wide-ranging cultural events and here, as in similar events elsewhere in the world, fourth or fifth generation Welsh participate alongside more recent immigrants. There is also a special ceremony for the expatriate Welsh every year at the National Eisteddfod of Wales.

Dr Bill Jones is Senior Lecturer in Modern Welsh History, School of History and Archaeology, Cardiff University.

Tracing Your 20th Century Family History

The sources for twentieth century family history are extensive, but so often everything beyond civil registration records and the 1901 census are ignored. This book introduces you to the wide range of sources that are available, and that will enable you to track your family's history back to 1900. Published FFHS, 2003. Price £6.60

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Book Ends

Jean Debney

Two more useful booklets containing indexed transcripts and published by The Eureka Partnership of Aylesbury, Bucks:

1. Cookham Union Workhouse births and deaths, 1836-1868 (2003). A5, grey flexiback, index, 28pp. Price £2.30 BFHS Bookshop, £2.80 inc p&p UK, £3.10 o/s surface.

Cookham Union, formed on 20 July 1835, comprised the parishes of Bisham, Bray, Cookham, Hurley, Shottesbrook, Waltham St Lawrence and White Waltham, all in Berkshire. The Borough of Maidenhead was partly in the parish of Cookham and partly in Bray and, as it grew, the Union was renamed Maidenhead in 1896. Details such as these and a plan showing the location of the Workhouse are in the Introduction.

This is followed by the transcript of births which name the mother or parents plus the date of baptism; the deaths include the age and the deceased's parish. Deleted entries in the original manuscript are also included. The original records are in the Berkshire Record Office.

2. Maidenhead Congregational Church, baptisms, marriages and burials. A5, green flexiback, index, 44pp. Price £3.40 BFHS Bookshop, £3.90 inc p&p UK, £4.20 o/s surface.

The Independent or Congregational Church was founded in the late seventeenth century in Back Street (now West Street), Maidenhead and there is a useful history of its growth into modern times in the Introduction. The indexed transcript was made from the original records – baptisms 1745-1749, 1769-1846, 1884-1900, marriages 1879-1895 and burials 1791-1811 and 1826-1908 – in The National Archives at Kew and the Berkshire Record Office and the reference is given at the start of each section.

The baptisms include the birth date, parish and parents' names, plus the initials of the officiating Minister in some early entries and the fathers' occupations in the nineteenth century. The few marriages contain most, but not all, the information found on a certificate and the burials record, in many entries, age, parish and place of burial, plus other details in the 1800s.

Berkshire Burial Index

The parishes and periods which have been added to the Berkshire Burial Index since the position shown in the March 2004 issue of the *Berkshire Family Historian* are set out below. The index now contains more than 315,000 entries.

The periods in bold type were submitted at the end of January 2004 for the first update, to be issued later this year, of the National Burial Index while those not in bold type have been added to the NBI subsequently and will be submitted for inclusion in further NBI updates. Details of the postal service for burials in the Berkshire Burial Index are given on page 229.

Appleford SS Peter & Paul 1761-1812
Ashbury St Mary 1813-1869
Aston Tirrold St Michael **1813-1960**
Besselsleigh St Lawrence **1813-1994**
Boxford St Andrew **1648-1757**
Caversham St Peter 1743-1752
Cholsey County Lunatic Asylum **1907-1917**
Cholsey St Mary **1900-1919**
Clewer St Andrew **1845-1851**
Compton Beauchamp St Swithin **1813-1994**
Crowthorne St John the Baptist **1900-1918**, 1945- 968
East Lockinge All Saints **1546-1663, 1862-1866**
Faringdon All Saints 1781-1798
Fernham St John **1860-1994**
Hagbourne St Andrew **1661-1905**
Harwell St Matthew **1760-1812, 1866-1943**
Hurst St Nicholas 1869-2004
New Windsor St John the Baptist 1624-1644, **1663-1687,**
1732-1744
Sparsholt Holy Cross 1558-1733
Stanford Dingley St Denys **1538-1699**
Thatcham St Mary 1806-1812

Members' Interests

Compiled by Bob.Plumridge@ntlworld.com

Members submitting their interests:

- 1701 Mr BAH Maybanks Springfield Penrhiw Lane Machen Caerphilly CF83 8RQ
- 2242 Mr S Eagles 90 Water Road Reading Berks RG30 2NN
- 2329 Mrs LJ Warren 8 Mars Close Woosehill Wokingham Berkshire RG41 3GQ
- 2928 Mr D Grace 18 Edgeway Wilmslow Cheshire SK9 1NH
- 3475 Ms C Lawler 404 4th Avenue South Mount Vernon IA 52314-1732 U S A
- 3563 Mr EA & Mrs GM Spackman 40 Western Elms Avenue Reading Berkshire RG30 2AN
- 3697 Miss L Wyeth Villa Nova High Street Godshell Isle of Wight PO38 3HZ
- 4977 Mr P & Mrs J Tranter 85 Wyuna Drive Glastonbury Nr Gympie Queensland 4570 AUSTRALIA
- 5052 Mr JT Baldwin 38 Kempton Park Road Aintree Village Liverpool Merseyside L10 6NH
- 5177 Mr TJ & Mrs F Lambert 41 Avalon Road Earley Reading Berks RG6 7NR
- 5336 Mrs MJ Horner 31 Buttonwood Trail Aurora Ontario CANADA L4G 6N3
- 5381 Mrs B Lee 6 Wulwyn Court Edgcumber Park Crowthorne Berks RG45 6ET
- 5413 Mrs EP Williams PO Box 2055 Claremont North Western Australia AUSTRALIA 6010
- 5423 Mr HG White 3 Skelmerdale Way Lower Earley Reading Berks RG6 7YB
- 5432 Mrs V Higginbottom 8 Wyndham St St James Western Australia 6102 AUSTRALIA
- 5456 Mr MA & Mrs LJ Finch 32 Fulmead Road Reading Berks RG30 1JX
- 5457 Mrs JA Roberts 15 Goodwin Grove Ely Cambridgeshire CB6 1TD
- 5469 Mr CA Mylam 87 Wansunt Road Bexley Kent DA5 2DJ
- 5471 Mrs D Turner Owtrees 96 Chartwell Avenue Wingerworth Chesterfield Derbyshire S42 6SP
- 5480 Mrs JS Bowen 8 Waen Wen Glasinfryn Bangor Gwynedd LL57 4UF
- 5481 Rev L Mayes Severn View Blaize Bailey Littledean Glos GL14 3PA
- 5483 Mrs D Lunn 654 Whitehall Road Leeds West Yorks LS12 5EL
- 5484 Mrs KV Herdic 66 Hawthorn Grove London SE20 8LF
- 5489 Mr WEP Simmons 72 Winton Road Reading Berks RG2 8HJ
- 5490 Mr D Jennings Tip Top Spurlands End Road Great Kingshill High Wycombe Bucks HP15 6HX
- 5494 Mr S Cook 130 Elm Park Road Reading Berks RG30 2TJ
- 5501 Mr G & Mrs K Payne 79 Qualitas Bracknell Berks RG12 7QG
- 5504 Mrs P Buckland 6 Longport Road Felpham Bognor Regis West Sussex PO22 7JU
- 5506 Miss P Fuller Coppins Upper High Street Castle Cary Somerset BA7 7AT
- 5511 Ms M Winterbotham 41 Highgrove Way Ruislip Middx HA4 8EA
- 5514 Mrs JS Clark 44D The Plateau Warfield Park Bracknell Berks RG42 3RJ
- 5530 Mrs D Kay 1 Wallins Copse Chineham Basingstoke Hants RG24 8RQ

No	Name	Place	Code	Dates
2242	ABSOLOM	Stoke Row	OXF	1700-1850
2242	ABSOLOM	Brightwell	BRK	1650-1800
5494	ALDRIDGE	Pewsey	WIL	pre 1900
1701	ALLIN(S)	Shinfield	BRK	1750-1900
5480	ANNS	Wantage	BRK	pre 1813
5471	ARIS/ARYS	Hempton	OXF	1557-1769
5480	AUSTIN	Mountain Ash	GLA	pre 1903
5052	BALDWIN	Liverpool	LAN	1820-1930
5480	BALLARD	Ardington	BRK	pre 1837
5177	BARTON	All	KEN	pre 1800
5471	BATTY/BATTEE	Hedon	ERY	pre 1722
5511	BISHOP(P)	Bray	BRK	1500-1650
5177	BLACKALL	All	OXF	pre 1820
5530	BONE	Medstead	HAM	1750-1850
5177	BOOTH	London	LND	pre 1850
5480	BOWEN	All	WLS	pre 1900
5530	BOXALL	Guildford	SRY	1750-1850
5494	BRIDEN	W London	MDX	pre 1890
5413	BRIDGEMAN	Cold Ash/Chieveley	BRK	pre 1797
5506	BROMHAM	Porlock	SOM	pre 1840
2329	BROWN	All	SSX	pre 1900
5177	BROWN	Perth	PER	pre 1830
5504	BUCKLAND	Purley	BRK	1790-1823
5504	BUCKLAND	Swallowfield	BRK	1769-1790
5504	BUCKLAND	Frilsham	BRK	1700-1780
5052	BURKE	All	IRL	1800-1860

No	Name	Place	Code	Dates
2329	BURKE	All	SHR	1700-1820
5177	BURREN	All	KEN	pre 1760
5511	BURTON	Bisham/Hurley	BRK	1600-1700
2242	BUSH	Sparsholt	BRK	1700-1900
5177	CADE	Bedford	BDF	pre 1600
5177	CAMPBELL	Glasgow	LKS	pre 1800
5471	CARPENTER	Bodicote	OXF	pre 1608
1701	CHAMBERS	Exeter	DEV	1750-1900
5494	CHANDLER	Pewsey	WIL	pre 1900
1701	CHANDLER	Shinfield	BRK	1750-1900
5471	CHAPPELL	Chieveley	BRK	pre 1583
5514	CHRISTIE	Kensington	MDX	1800-1900
5481	CLACK	Newbury	BRK	pre 1820
5481	CLACK	Thatcham	BRK	pre 1820
5514	CLARK	East Hampstead	BRK	1800-1900
5413	CLARK	Birchington	KEN	pre 1758
5413	COLLINS	Cold Ash/Thatcham	BRK	pre 1804
5177	COMRIE	Pertn	PER	pre 1800
5494	COOK	W London	MDX	pre 1940
2242	COOPER	Milton Lilbourne	WIL	1700-1800
5489	COTTER	Cork	IRL	pre 1850
5511	COTTERELL	Wokingham	BRK	1600-1730
2329	COTTON	Finchampstead	BRK	pre 1734
5489	COTTRELL	Swyncombe	OXF	pre 1850
5514	COX	Bruton	SOM	1840-1910
5456	CROWN	All	MDX	pre 1875

No	Name	Place	Code	Dates
5456	CROWN	All	BRK	pre 1875
5413	DANIELS	Chislet	KEN	pre 1830
5413	DAVIES	Halifax	WYK	pre 1865
5480	DAY	Ashbury	BRK	pre 1720
5511	DEANE	Caversham	BRK	1650-1850
5480	DENTON	Milton	BRK	pre 1834
5471	DEW(E)	Didcot	OXF	pre 1580
5471	DEW(E)/DUE	Peasmore	BRK	pre 1609
5177	DODKINS	All	MDX	pre 1840
5506	DONNELLY	London	MDX	1830-1900
5514	DORRELL	Burnham	BKM	1750-1850
2242	DREWEATT	Reading	BRK	1900-
2242	DREWETT	Kingsclere	HAM	1800-1900
2242	DREWETT	Hannington	HAM	1600-1900
2329	DURBRIDGE	Kingsclere	HAM	pre 1812
2242	EADES	Leckhampstead	BRK	1700-1900
2242	EAGLES	East Hendred	BRK	1860-1950
2242	EAGLES	Winchester	HAM	1870-1930
2242	EAGLES	Brightwalton	BRK	1786-1860
2242	EAGLES	West Ilsley	BRK	1870-1990
5366	EDGINGTON	Woodley	BRK	All
2242	EGGLETON	Brightwell	BRK	1650-1850
5490	EVANS	Aberayron	CGN	1820-1900
5469	EWAN	All	BRK	1720-1735
5456	FINCH	All	BKM	pre 1900

No	Name	Place	Code	Dates
5456	FINCH	All	BRK	pre 1900
5456	FINCH	All	OXF	pre 1900
5177	FISHER	Abingdon	BRK	pre 1800
5413	FLITTER	Cold Ash	BRK	pre 1789
5480	FORSTER	Sunderland	DUR	pre 1869
5457	Founding	Maidenhead	BRK	1800?
5511	FOWLER	Hedgerley	BRK	1700-1800
2242	FOX	Reading	BRK	1750-1850
5494	FOZARD	Dewsbury	YKS	pre 1920
5177	FRANCIS	All	NFK	pre 1850
5506	FRANKLIN	Hackney	MDX	pre 1870
5506	FULLER	Wantage	BRK	pre 1860
5506	FULLER	Leyton	ESS	1900-1940
5471	GARDNER	Adderbury	OXF	pre 1608
5484	GARLICK	Little Farringdon	BRK	1755+
5514	GARROD	Cressingham	NFK	1750-1850
5052	GASKELL	Liverpool	LAN	1820-1930
5471	GAUNT	Pudsey	WRY	pre 1840
5366	GETSOM	Shiplake	OXF	1938-1985
5514	GLANFIELD	All	BRK	1850-1920
2928	GRACE	Tilehurst	BRK	1870-1900
2928	GRACE	Lambourn	BRK	1870-1900
5177	GULVIN	All	KEN	pre 1700
5177	GURR	All	SSX	pre 1720
5471	HALL	Wroxton	OXF	pre 1766
5484	HANKINGS	Reading	BRK	1770-1790

No	Name	Place	Code	Dates	No	Name	Place	Code	Dates
5177	HAYHOW	All	ESS	pre 1840	5490	JENNINGS	Beenham	BRK	pre 1672
5177	HAYLER	All	SSX	pre 1750	5490	JONES	Nantcwnlle	CGN	1850-1890
4977	HAZEL	Woodcote	BRK	pre 1850	5480	JONES	Llanidloes	MGY	pre 1837
4977	HAZEL	Reading	BRK	pre 1850	5457	JONES	Cookham	BRK	1820-1888
5506	HELEY	Slapton	BKM	1700-1820	5489	KAY	Edinburgh	SCT	pre 1850
5471	HEMMING(S)	Wroxton	OXF	pre 1753	5471	KEATE	Didcot	OXF	pre 1542
5514	HENON	Dublin	IRL	1800-1900	5480	KEMP	Aylsham	NFK	pre 1828
5511	HILL	Sonning	BRK	1750-1840	5381	KETTLE	All	GLS	pre 1901
2242	HILL	Echinswell	HAM	1700-1850	5381	KETTLE	All	HEF	pre 1901
3563	HODGE	Reading	BRK	1885-	5381	KETTLE	All	WAR	pre 1901
2242	HOLDER	Greenahm	BRK	1750-1880	2242	KINGHAM	Farnborough	BRK	1786-1870
5494	HOLGATE	Manchester	LAN	pre 1920	2242	KINGHAM	Whitchurch	HAM	1830-1870
5494	HOLGATE	Burnley	LAN	pre 1880	2242	KINGHAM	Basingstoke	HAM	1870-
5511	HOLLYER	Henley	OXF	1700-1800	2242	KINGHAM	Radley	BRK	-1786
5177	HOOK	All	KEN	1760-1820	2242	KINGHAM	Sparsholt	BRK	1790-1870
5381	HOUGHTON	Rutland	RUT	pre 1897	2242	KINGHAM	Marchwood	HAM	1850-1950
5494	HOWARTH	Manchester	LAN	pre 1880	5177	LACKETT	All	KEN	pre 1660
1701	HOWELL	Starcross	DEV	1750-1900	5177	LAMBERT	All	SSX	pre 1700
5480	HUNT	Aylsham	NFK	pre 1855	5483	LAMPORT	Amersham	BKM	1810-1850
3475	HURSTON	Egham	SRY	1700-1800	5483	LAMPORT	Leeds	YKS	1865-2004
5506	HUTCHINSON	Whitechapel	MDX	pre 1850	5483	LAMPORT	Reading	BRK	1711-1800
5471	HYDE	Peasmore	BRK	pre 1561	5483	LAMPORT	Reading	BRK	1730-1850
5481	JACKSON	Newbury	BRK	pre 1850	5483	LAMPORT	Pibstone	BKM	1733-1760
2242	JARVIS	Winchester	HAM	1800-1900	5483	LAMPORT	Chesham	BKM	1780-1810
3697	JEFFERIS	All	HAM	pre 1845	5483	LAMPORT	All	BRK	All
5490	JENNINGS	All	LND	1850-1870	5483	LAMPORT	Notts	NTT	1835-1860

No	Name	Place	Code	Dates
5483	LAMPORT	South Yorks	YKS	1825-1841
5483	LAMPORT	Durham	DUR	1790-1825
5483	LAMPORT	L Gaddoeth	HRT	1760+
5483	LAMPORT	Ashridge	BKM	1760-1810
5483	LAMPORT	Sheffield	YKS	1855-1880
5494	LANDON	W London	MDX	pre 1900
5177	LANE	All	LND	pre 1850
5494	LANGTRY	Manchester	LAN	pre 1880
3697	LAWES	All	HAM	pre 1829
5511	LEE	Bisham/Hurley	BRK	1500-1600
5177	LEGATE	Lanark	LKS	pre 1800
5480	LEWIS	Bristol	SOM	pre 1843
5177	LINDSAY	Perth	PER	pre 1765
5177	LINDSAY	Jura	ARL	pre 1800
5432	LINSEY	Charleton	BRK	pre 1825
5481	LIPSCOMB	Newbury	BRK	All
5481	LIPSCOMB	All	BKM	pre 1820
2329	LOCK	All	HAM	1720-1850
5456	LOVATT	Draycot	STS	pre 1840
5530	LUFF	Aldershot	HAM	1840+
5511	LYDALL	Reading	BRK	1500-1600
2242	LYFORD	West Ilsley	BRK	1700-1800
2242	LYFORD	Farnborough	BRK	1750-1850
2242	LYFORD	Bucklebury	BRK	1850-1900
2329	MARCMENT	Malborough	WIL	1700-1789
4977	MARSHALL	Woodcote	BRK	pre 1850

No	Name	Place	Code	Dates
4977	MARSHALL	Reading	BRK	pre 1850
2329	MARTIN	Chertsey	SRY	pre 1765
5413	MASON	Frome	SOM	1860 on
5413	MASON	Windsor	BRK	pre 1820
3697	MATTHEWS	All	HAM	pre 1851
1701	MAYBANKS	W Challow	BRK	1800-1900
1701	MAYBANKS	Shinfield	BRK	1750-1900
1701	MAYBANKS	Reading	BRK	1750-1900
5511	MAYOTT	Abingdon	BRK	1500-1600
5052	McKEEVER	All	IRL	1800-1860
5511	MICKLEM	Bisham/Hurley	BRK	All
5506	MONK	All	BKM	1700-1840
2242	MORLEY	West Ilsley	BRK	1700-1850
5413	MOULES	Cold Ash/Thatcham	BRK	pre 1804
5469	MYLAM	All	BRK	1720-1735
5530	NASH	Wanborough	SRY	1750-1850
5052	NEALE	Liverpool	LAN	1820-1930
5456	NELSON	Nottingham	NTT	All
5413	OVERMAN	Wighton	NFK	pre 1841
2329	PADDON	Wolverhampton	STS	1780-1900
5336	PARKER	Abingdon	BRK	1800-1900
5381	PARSONS	All	BRK	pre 1897
5501	PAYNE	Uxbridge	MDX	1700-1840
5501	PAYNE	Lea	KEN	1840-1880
5511	PEARMAN	Wokingham	BRK	1600-1700
5423	PEARMAN	Great Dunmow	ESS	1800-1860

No	Name	Place	Code	Dates
5177	PEERLESS	All	SSX	pre 1810
5530	PHAR(A)O(H)	Aldershot	HAM	1830+
5530	PHAR(A)O(H)	Farnham	SRY	1830+
5511	PHILLIPS	Bisham/Hurley	BRK	1550-1650
5480	PROUDLOCK	Sunderland	DUR	pre 1841
5484	PURBRICK	Reading	BRK	1780-1790
5484	PURBRICK	Little Farringdon	BRK	1762-1790
5052	RANCE	All	IRL	1800-1860
5052	RANCE	All	BRK	1700-1900
5480	REES	Llanidloes	MGY	pre 1850
2242	REEVES	Farnborough	BRK	1780-1850
2242	REEVES	West Hendred	BRK	1825-1900
2242	REEVES	Huish	WIL	1750-1850
2242	REEVES	Woodcot	HAM	1840-1870
2242	REEVES	Catmore	BRK	1840-1900
2242	REEVES	Milton Lilbourne	WIL	1700-1800
1701	RENDELL	Starcross	DEV	1700-1900
5177	RICHARDS	Abingdon	BRK	pre 1800
5456	ROSS	Sunderland	DUR	1800+
5480	ROWLANDS	Llanidloes	MGY	pre 1837
5381	RUSSEL	Drybrook	GLS	pre 1901
5413	RUSSELL	St Pancras	LND	pre 1842
5413	SAFFREY	Sturry	KEN	pre 1802
5177	SANDS	All	SSX	pre 1810
4977	SANGWELL	Kingsclere	BRK	pre 1850
4977	SANGWELL	Woolhampton	BRK	pre 1850

No	Name	Place	Code	Dates
4977	SANGWELL	Reading	BRK	pre 1850
4977	SANGWELL	Brimpton	BRK	pre 1850
5471	SAUNDERS	Wroxton	OXF	pre 1729
2242	SAVORY	Brightwalton	BRK	1725-1870
2242	SAVOURY	South Moreton	BRK	1600-1800
5413	SCHLOSSER	Holborn	LND	1866 on
5177	SCOTT	Hamilton	LKS	pre 1810
5413	SELLWOOD	Cold Ash/Chieveley	BRK	pre 1841
5366	SHARP	Reading	BRK	All
5432	SHEWRY	Buckland	BRK	1700-1800
5489	SIKES	Cork	IRL	pre 1850
1701	SIMMONDS	Shinfield	BRK	1750-1900
5489	SIMMONS	Peppard	OXF	pre 1850
5506	SIMMS	Hailey	OXF	pre 1820
5506	SIMMS	Grove	BRK	1820+
2329	SLAUGHTER	Eversley	HAM	pre 1768
2329	SMALLBONE	Sherbourne St John	HAM	pre 1815
5432	SMART	Faringdon	BRK	1700-1900
2329	SMART	All	SSX	1800-1910
5506	SMITH	Paddington	MDX	pre 1870
1701	SOUTHWAY	Evercreech	SOM	1750-1900
5481	SPAIRO	Newbury	BRK	pre 1850
2928	SQUIRES	Lambourn	BRK	1870-1900
5506	SQUIRES	Barnstaple	DEV	pre 1840
5506	SQUIRES	Deptford	KEN	1860+
2928	SQUIRES	Tilehurst	BRK	1870-1900

No	Name	Place	Code	Dates
5432	STALLARD	Great Coxwell	BRK	1870+
5432	STALLARD	Shellingford	BRK	1812-1870
5432	STALLARD	Winterbourne	BRK	pre 1812
5471	SUDBURY	Didcot	OXF	pre 1580
5413	SWEETING	West Hatch	SOM	pre 1810
5506	TAVEN(N)OR	All	BKM	1700-1860
5381	TAYLOR	All	HEF	pre 1901
2242	TAYLOR	Leckhampstead	BRK	1700-1900
5381	TAYLOR	Drybrook	GLS	pre 1901
5506	TESTER	All	MDX	All
5530	TOLFREE	Medstead	HAM	1700-1800
5366	TOWNSEND	Shiplake	OXF	All
5480	TROTTER	Sunderland	DUR	pre 1841
5506	TURNERY	Slapton	BKM	1700-1860
2329	VASS	All	All	pre 1800
5052	VAUGHAN	Liverpool	LAN	1820-1930
5483	VIZE	Bocks	BKM	1740-1850
5177	WADY	All	SSX	pre 1750
5480	WAITE	Bristol	SOM	pre 1843
5413	WALTERS	Cold Ash	BRK	pre 1867
2329	WARD	All	DBY	1700-1800
5490	WARTSKI	Bethnal Green	MDX	1800-1900
5177	WATERS	Abingdon	BRK	pre 1800
5177	WATERSTONE	Hamilton	LKS	pre 1810
5530	W(H)ATMORE	Aldershot	HAM	1800-1900
5530	W(H)ATMORE	Reading	BRK	All

No	Name	Place	Code	Dates
5457	WEBB	Sunninghill	BRK	1750-1950
5457	WEBB	Cheapside	BRK	1600-1750
5457	WEBB	Buckhurst Hill	BRK	1600-1750
1701	WELCH	Shinfield	BRK	1750-1900
5481	WELLING	H Wycombe	BKM	pre 1800
5511	WELLS	Wallingford	BRK	1700-1800
5177	WELLS	All	OXF	pre 1820
5511	WESTBROOK	Bisham/Hurley	BRK	1700-1800
1701	WHITE	Micheldever	HAM	1750-1900
5423	WHITE	Reading	BRK	1750-1820
1701	WHITE	Shinfield	BRK	1750-1900
2329	WHITE	Eversley	HAM	pre 1738
2329	WHITE	All	DBY	pre 1810
1701	WHITE	Evercreech	SOM	1750-1900
5494	WILLIAMS	W London	MDX	pre 1890
5177	WILSON	Lanark	LKS	pre 1800
5511	WINCH	Bray	BRK	1500-1700
5457	WOODBIDGE	Stud/Sturt Green	BRK	1820-1920
5457	WOODBIDGE	Maidenhead	BRK	1820-1920
2329	WOOLGAR	Heighton	SSX	1700-1800
5489	WOOTTON	Sellinge	KEN	pre 1850
5177	WRATTEN	All	KEN	pre 1850
5471	WRAY/REA	Malton/York	NRY	pre 1728
5457	WRIGHT	Maidenhead	BRK	1770-1850
5471	WRIGHT	Balscote	OXF	pre 1728
5530	WYETH	Medstead	SRY	1750-1850
3697	WYETH	Reading	BRK	All

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BFHS Research Centre

Not only Berkshire, but also



The Research Centre contains most of the published 1851 census indexes together with a fully fitted computer suite with the 1881 census for the United Kingdom, Vital records, access to the 1901 census on the internet and many CD ROMs; thousands of books, fiche, leaflets, transcripts and indexes. Your Research Centre supplements the Berkshire Record Office and local studies libraries with a wide range of material from throughout the United Kingdom.

Membership fees

New Members



Annual membership fee is £13. For family members (two named members) the fee is £14 and for overseas members the fee is £15. The above costs are inclusive of £2 for an Information Booklet sent to all new members. For an application form see the BFHS website or write to Membership Secretary enclosing a stamped self-addressed envelope.

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Some comments from visitors



'I didn't realise just what an immense and valuable resource the Centre had. On my first visit I was able to use census transcripts not only from Berkshire, but also for a number of other counties where my ancestors lived in the nineteenth century.'

'What a friendly atmosphere. I felt at home as soon as I walked through the door.'

'What a marvellous library and a great place to carry out research.'

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BFHS Research Centre

How to find us

Next door to the new Berkshire Record Office, off Coley Avenue, close to the centre of Reading. Good parking, 10 minutes' walk from the main railway station, with buses passing close by. Follow the signs to the Berkshire Record Office.

- New times of opening
- Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday 10am to 4pm
- Late opening and computer night on Tuesday 7pm to 9.30pm
- Second and fourth Sunday each month 11am to 4pm, with computer advice 2pm to 4pm

Full details are available on the website:

<www.berksfhs.org.uk/>

Address

BFHS Research Centre, Yeomanry House,
131 Castle Hill, Reading, Berkshire RG1 7TJ.
Telephone 0118 950 9553

Research Centre & Reference Library tours

The tours for the next four months are:

Monday	21 June	7.30 - 9.30
Saturday	17 July	2.30 - 4.30
No tour in August		
Monday	20 September	7.30 - 9.30

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Berkshire Name Search

consists of the following censuses and indexes:

1851 Census

Complete checked transcription of the 173,748 persons within Berkshire on 30 March 1851. Printouts are available for a surname search (listing all and giving district) or either the page or the household of a selected person. Also available on CD ROM.

1861 Census

Transcription has just started with 60,297 individuals to date; more districts will be added as available.

1871 Census

Transcription and index of 195,559 people now completed; checking ongoing and will be included as available. Printouts as 1851.

1881 Census

Complete transcription and index of 223,936 people.

Berkshire Marriage Index

Work is in progress transcribing and checking pre-1837 registers. Includes 127,336 entries to date, see the BFHS website for the parishes and dates covered. Printouts of early entries only give date and names of bride and groom; later entries include if from another parish or by licence. Witnesses not included.

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Berkshire Burial Index

Work in progress transcribing from parish registers. Includes over 315,000 entries to date, see the *Berkshire Family Historian* or the BFHS website for the parishes and dates covered. Printouts show name, age, parish and date with an indication if more information is in the register. 280,000 burials are now available on a new CD ROM.

Berkshire Strays Index

This dataset includes 25,913 people recorded in events taking place outside Berkshire if the person has given some reference to Berkshire. Strays records come from a variety of sources including 1851 census of several neighbouring counties.

Berkshire Miscellaneous Index

This dataset is based on the former Berkshire Name Index and includes 100,279 records that were extracted and submitted by individuals. When possible running sets (such as baptisms from a parish register) will be placed in specialist datasets leaving the disparate individual records and small datasets in this Miscellaneous Index. The amount of information available depends on the record.

Records wanted

If you have records of any names that would fit into our Miscellaneous Index (event occurs within Berkshire) or Strays Index (event occurs outside Berkshire but person has Berkshire connections) please send them by email to <MiscIndex@berksfhs.org.uk>, <Strays@berksfhs.org.uk> or by post to BFHS, Yeomanry House, 131 Castle Hill, Reading RG1 1TJ labelling the envelope either BFHS (MiscIndex) or BFHS (Strays).

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Berkshire Name Index

This is the master index for all of the above indexes.

Searching the Berkshire Name Index

You may:

- do your own search at the Research Centre
- visit a BFHS stand at a family history fair
- request a postal search.

Postal Search

Send your request to BFHS (BNS), Yeomanry House, 131 Castle Hill, Reading RG1 1TJ enclosing a cheque for the charge together with your email address or an A4 sized stamped self-addressed envelope or two IRCs.

Charges

- To search the Berkshire Name Index send £2 per SURNAME requested to obtain the number of entries in each census or index. This search will not provide any information from the records.
- To obtain the full details from the records printed on an A4 sheet (up to 25 entries or lines):
 - £2 per surname per requested database
 - £5 per surname to search all databases currently available (price will increase as more databases are included)

We will advise the additional cost if more entries are found.

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Birth Briefs Index

Birth Briefs are five-generation ancestral charts submitted by members of the Society. Fully completed charts contain the names and vital records – birth or christening, marriage and death or burial – of the member and up to 30 ancestors.

- You can search the index, currently 15,000 names, on the website or for £2 per SURNAME by post.
- You can order a copy of a particular Birth Brief (Identification Number from website or postal search) either as hard copy in PAF Pedigree format or as a file in GEDCOM format. Cost £2 per Birth Brief.
- If you wish to contact the person (if they are still a member, as indicated on website) who submitted the Birth Brief, we will pass on a letter or an email.

All requests to BFHS (BB), Yeomanry House, 131 Castle Hill, Reading RG1 1TJ marking your envelope BB and include the BB ID No (if known). Enclose the cheque, your email address and an A4 sized stamped self-addressed envelope or two IRCs. To contact a member, either email your message to BBxxxx@berksfhs.org.uk (where xxxx is the BB ID number) or send two envelopes (one self addressed and one blank) with two stamps or four IRCs. Don't stamp either envelope as some members live overseas.

In addition we do have a list, available on request, of members who carry out research. Apply to the Research Centre at Yeomanry House for the list.

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Useful addresses

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