

Berkshire Family Historian

*The quarterly journal of the
Berkshire Family History Society*



December 2023

Volume 47



Inside this issue:

Around Berkshire V-Z

**Meet My Grandad: Old King Cole
Bullock, Malthouse and Montague
3 Guineas and a Wooden Bowl**

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Submissions to the editorial panel

All submissions to the editorial panel will be considered to be offered for publication in the magazine and on the society's website, unless accompanied by a clear statement to the contrary. If the written piece asks for a response from readers, permission to publish contact details will be assumed. All articles submitted are done so with the understanding that they may be edited to fit the editorail style and space available.

Copy deadlines are 24 December for the March issue, 24 March for the June issue, 24 June for the September issue and 24 September for the December issue.

Front cover image

St Paul's Church from Reading Road by Roger Templeman [CC BY-SA 2.0] via Wikimedia Commons

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Family names appearing in this issue

(excluding living people, authors of sources, royalty, corporate names, and glancing reference to famous people).

Name	Page	Name	Page
Abell	14+	Montague	21+
Arthur	14	Mott	34
Berties	34	Norreys	34
Bock	16	Norreys/ Norris	21
Bridges	34	Phillips	12
Bullock	21+	Pitfale	36
Cole	34+	Pointer	19
Cotton	27	Powers	12
Fairechild	36	Powney	12
Giffard	21+	Roe	14
Gilman	35	Ronay	34
Guilmore/ Gilmore	35	Sewell	11+
Heddington/ Eddington	11+	Thatcher	36
Iliffe	34	Thompson	12
Kingsmill	21+	Tims	14+
Labele	14	Walter	32
Larance	36	Waterhouse	34
Malthouse/ Malthus	21+	Watlington	22
		Windsor	14

Contents

Editor's Notes	2
Chairman's Corner	2
The Centre for Heritage and Family History	3
Dates for your Diary	4
Some of our citations are missing	4
Events organised from The Centre for Heritage and Family History	5
Visit to Emmer Green chalk mines	10
3 Guineas and a wooden bowl	11
John Abell of Marcham, Berkshire - my 3x great grandfather	14
Book review	17
News from the Royal Berkshire Archives	18
Projects and Publications Update	20
Berkshire Family History Society is granted CIO status	20
Bullock, Malthouse and Montague	21
Around the Branches	28
Around Berkshire	31
Meet my grandad: Old King Cole	34
Unclaimed certificates	37
New electronic exchange journals	40

Editor's Notes

Welcome to your December 2023 Berkshire Family Historian. We hope you enjoy reading the personal articles that have been sent in for this edition during the lengthening evenings. Maybe they will inspire you in your research or help you find that, as yet, undiscovered source of information about your ancestors.

As ever our Events programme is as packed as ever with talks, walks, workshops, and courses, both online and in person, planned for 2024. Don't forget to book early for events via our website to avoid disappointment as some events sell out quickly.

We continue our series Around Berkshire, with the final instalment about places in Berkshire. Next we will look at some of the parishes around the county.

If you have a potential article please send it in as without your articles there is no journal. We would be especially interested to receive articles about hints and tips, ways to get the most from a research trip to an archive or general 'How to do research'.

Vicki Chesterman

editor@berksfhs.org.uk



Chairman's Corner

By the time you read this, many of you will be in the throes of preparing for Christmas, which may well include meeting up with relatives you haven't seen for some time. What does "Christmas" look like for your family in 2023 and how does that differ from Christmases when you were a child?

I am fortunate in being the current custodian of some mementos of past Christmases from my own family. A Christmas card depicting camels in the desert, sent by my Uncle serving in Palestine to his parents in the later years of the Second World War. Bakelite candle holders (just the one pre-lit candle survives) which decorated my parents Christmas tree from the 1950s. And pastry and biscuit cutters, again probably from the 1950s, which have been in almost continual use ever since. Plus the Be-Ro cookery book from which the recipes were derived. I have a few photos taken over the years - but not many - and none are quite so evocative as the objects for reminding me of the sights and sounds and smells of Christmas.



As Christmas and New Year approaches, I hope that whatever your plans you enjoy them.

Catherine Sampson

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A reminder that the society's reference library is now partially catalogued and you can consult the catalogue on our website at www.librarycat.org/lib/BFHS or on any of our terminals in the Centre. A new glass display cabinet in the Research Zone displays our collection of trade directories as a reminder of how useful these resources are. The society has a particularly strong collection of early 20th century directories for Reading and this is further complemented by the adjoining collection in Reading Local Studies Library. The reference library is available to consult at any time during opening hours.

Opening Hours from 1st January 2024

Monday 10.30am - 3pm

Tuesday 10.30am - 4pm

Wednesday closed

Last Thursday of month 10.30am - 4pm

Friday closed

First Saturday of month 10.30am - 2.30pm



Please note that there will be a slight change to Thursday openings from January 2024. If you haven't yet visited the Centre to further your research, why not make one of your new year resolutions to do so. With new material being added online continuously, the Society's extensive reference library and the resources of the adjoining Local Studies Library - there is plenty to get stuck into. In addition, our Research Assistants are happy to provide advice to help you with your research, if you so wish.

Assisting family historians at a distance

If you can't make it into the centre, the society offers free online advice sessions with our Research Assistants each month. See the events page in this *Historian* or check the society's website for more details and to book a slot.



Dates for your Diary

East Surrey Virtual Family History Fair

Saturday 27th January 2024

East Surrey Family History Fair takes place online with two sessions 10am - 12 noon and 2 - 4pm. Free to attend, but pre-registration required. Berkshire Family History Society will be one of many societies present to whom you can ask questions and seek advice.

Find out more and book here: www.eastsurreyfh.org.uk/index.php

Berkshire Heritage Fair

Saturday 24th February 2024

Berkshire Heritage Fair gives you the opportunity to connect online not just with the Family History Societies which cover Berkshire and its neighbouring counties but also to a large number of other heritage organisations and archives covering the county. Come and pose your questions to the local experts and help break down your brick walls. Two sessions: 10am - 2pm and 2- 4pm. Free to attend, but pre-registration required. Organised by Berkshire Family History Society and Berkshire Local History Association.

Find out more and book here: <https://berksfhs.org/>

RootsTech Remember 2024

29th February – 2nd March 2024

RootsTech Remember is a free face-to-face and online conference including speakers, classes, a market place, cultural activities and the chance to connect up with relatives.

Register here: www.familysearch.org/rootstech/



Some of our citations are missing

YourTrees Treefix report gets an update - by Paul Barrett

“Believe no-one, trust nothing you can’t prove” is a pretty good mantra for family historians. The flip side of that is to not be vague when recording your family history. So we could add another mantra “A ‘fact’ without a source is only an opinion”.

In September 2023’s edition of the Berkshire Family Historian (p36) we told you about the improvements we’ve made to TreeFix - the report we generate to tell you about the changes we make to your records when we import them, to clean up malformed dates, for example.

Well, now we’ve improved it even further because when we have loaded your tree into the system we run a report that looks for BMD events that have no source cited and we include the results in the Treefix spreadsheet.

Of course, the decision to fix any of the data in your local tree is entirely yours but now the long dark nights of the northern hemisphere are here, it’s the perfect opportunity to indulge your obsession with family history by improving the quality of your family tree. Then maybe your family’s mantra might be “Believe no-one - except Auntie Joan of course - her records are infallible”

If you’re in Australia or New Zealand, you get a hall pass. Go have a barbie and wait till June - we’re not at all jealous.

Events organised from The Centre for Heritage and Family History

December 2023- March 2024

Our events programme includes face-to-face events in The Centre for Heritage and Family History and online events using Zoom. As part of our multi-channelled approach, we continue to run two series of social history talks each quarter, one face-to-face and one online, each consisting of one talk per month.

All events are advertised on the society's website, please do check it regularly as occasionally changes occur, and new events are regularly added. For more information see: <https://berksfhs.org>

Family History Advice Sessions – FREE	
Our popular online family history advice sessions continue. These sessions are 1-1, free of cost and are available to members and non-members alike. Pre-booking required.	
Dec Mon 4th Jan Mon 15th Feb Mon 19th Mar Mon 18th 2 - 4pm ONLINE	1-1 Family History Advice Session: with our Research Assistants Are you just getting started in family history and wanting guidance as to how to proceed? Or are you stuck at a particular “brick wall” and need some help? We will provide whatever help and suggestions we can within your booked slot and will book a follow-on session with you, if needed. Four 25 minute 1-1 slots are available in each session.
Feb Mon 5th Mar Mon 4th 11am - 12 noon The Centre for Heritage & Family History	Family History Advice Clinic: with Vanessa Chappell Just beginning your family history research and need some advice? Baffled by so many competing research websites? Banging your head against a brick wall? Or struggling with some other issues? In these pre-booked one-to-one sessions, each lasting an hour, one of our seasoned advisors will try to help you make some progress.

DNA & Family History – Online TICKETS £5 (members £4)	
Places are limited, pre-booking is required	
Jan Sat 13th 2.30 - 4.30pm	DNA Special Interest Group Facilitator: Debbie Kennett This special interest discussion group is aimed at those wanting to get the most out of their DNA results. It is facilitated by international DNA expert, Debbie Kennett. Sessions are held quarterly, but there is no obligation to attend on a regular basis and first-time attendees are always welcomed.

Workshops	
See website for full details. Places are limited, pre-booking is required.	
<p>Jan Sat 20th 11am - 1pm</p> <p>TICKETS £10 (members £9)</p> <p>ONLINE</p>	<p>The Old Poor Law Tutor: Joan Dils</p> <p>Many family historians have ancestors whose lives were touched at some point by poverty. The old Poor Law (1597-1834) was a system of poor relief devised by Tudor politicians. It was still in use until the eve of Queen Victoria's reign. Administered by unpaid parish officials and financed by parish ratepayers, it was tough but not without some compassion. Dealing with tens of thousands of young, aged, poor and sick people, as well as incorrigible rogues, it generated innumerable records of individual lives and misfortunes, leaving an invaluable legacy for social and family historians to explore. This workshop will explain how the system worked and evolved over the centuries, discuss the records it created and their usefulness for researchers.</p>
<p>Feb Wed 28th 7 - 9.30pm</p> <p>Free</p> <p>ONLINE</p>	<p>Creating an enduring family tree in YourTrees Tutor: Paul Barrett</p> <p>Ever wished that your great grandparents had kept a family history? How many of our great grandchildren might feel the same about us in the future. How durable and easily interpreted is your current family archive? Will it stand the test of time, or ultimately end up in a cardboard box in the attic? This workshop has been developed to help you create a comprehensive enduring family tree, which is relevant to the digital generations, so that you can store a copy on YourTrees. It is aimed that those who have already saved versions of their tree(s) on YourTrees and those that are thinking of doing so, or wondering whether they should.</p>
<p>Mar Sat 9th 11am - 1pm</p> <p>TICKETS £10 (members £9)</p> <p>ONLINE</p>	<p>Education c.1860 - c.1914 Tutor: Joan Dils</p> <p>Discover how the provision for education for our English ancestors was transformed between 1860 and the start of the First World War. After 1870, schools run by local elected boards (Board Schools) supplemented those founded by religious bodies; in turn in 1902, schools became council schools administered by local education authorities (LEAs). Throughout the period, teacher training was improved, the school syllabus developed and pupil numbers increased until, in the 1890s, compulsory free schooling was provided for most children.</p>

Berkshire Heritage Online Fair	
Please see the website for full details. Places are limited, pre-booking is required.	
<p>Feb Sat 24th 10am - 12 noon 2 - 4pm</p> <p>FREE</p> <p>ONLINE</p>	<p>Berkshire Heritage Fair Organisers: Berkshire Family History Society & Berkshire Local History Association</p> <p>Come along and meet Berkshire's heritage organisations - from museums and archives to libraries and local history societies, covering the length and breadth of the pre-1974 historic county of Berkshire. It is a fantastic and unique opportunity to connect to local experts who may be able to help you plug the gaps in your family tree, deepen your understanding of the places your family lived, the organisations they were connected to and the businesses and individuals for whom they worked. And it's free to attend.</p>

Guided Walks and Tours	
Please see the website for full details. Places are limited, pre-booking is required.	
Jan Tue 23rd 2 - 3.30pm TICKETS £5 (members £4)	St Mary's Church, Shinfield Guide: Chris Young Come and visit St Mary's Shinfield where its churchwarden, Chris Young, will tell us about the history of this parish church and some of the notable people linked to it. Originating in 1069, there is a long and fascinating history associated with this church since its founding by Guillaume de Breteuille, one of William the Conqueror's great Marshalls.
Feb Tue 6th 2 - 3.30pm TICKETS £5 (members £4)	St Laurence's Church, Reading Guide: David Cliffe Take this rare opportunity to enjoy a guided tour of St Laurence's Church in central Reading, with well known local historian David Cliffe. During this visit we will look at the memorials within the church, find out about the church's history which dates back to the time of the formation of Reading Abbey in 1121, and learn about the families associated with it.
Mar Tue 19th 2.30 - 3.30pm TICKETS £5 (members £4)	Douai Abbey, Woolhampton Guide: Abbot Geoffrey Scott Join Abbot Geoffrey Scott, Librarian and Archivist at Douai Abbey, for a look around their library and archive building. Housed here are records from the monastic communities' earlier libraries in Paris (from 1615) and Douai (from 1818) in France, and Woolhampton (from 1903). Abbot Geoffrey will be pointing out material relating to Berkshire families during this special visit.

Courses – Places are limited, pre-booking is required.	
Mar starts Mon 11th (2 parts) Mar: 11th & 18th 7 - 9pm TICKETS £20 (members £18) ONLINE	Coal Mining Ancestors Tutor: Richard Marks Coal was an important part of Britain's history and many families have some involvement in the industry but what did they do? What was it like to work in the Victorian collieries and how did it change in the 20th century? Who were the miners and how did they live and where? What role did the Miner's Unions play in the life of the collieries and what was the 'Miner's Welfare'? Where do you look for more information about the miners in your family? Find out more in this short two-week course.

Natter Group - Online - Free	
Dec 5th Feb 6th Mar 5th	Informal discussion group facilitated by Chad Hanna and Gillian Stevens. Topics are chosen by the group on a monthly basis. Free to attend, members only. Pre-booking is required. Tuesdays 6.45 for 7pm – end time varies.

Around Reading Talks Series with tea and cake afterwards	
<p>Face-to-Face TICKETS £5 (members £4)</p> <p>Pre-booking is recommended as numbers are limited. However, tickets can be bought at the door, space permitting. These talks are in The Centre for Heritage and Family History on the 2nd floor of Reading Central Library. Book all three talks in the Lesser-Known Reading series for £12.50 (members £10).</p>	
<p>Dec Thu 7th 2 - 3.30pm</p> <p>Final talk in the Lesser-known Reading Series</p>	<p>The 1688 Fight - Reading & the Glorious Revolution: with Mike Cooper</p> <p>On Sunday 9th December 1688, troops loyal to King James II were driven out of Reading by the invading army of William of Orange. For over 100 years after the event, Reading's churches rang their bells in celebration. This talk looks at the events of the fight and its background during the Glorious Revolution and, particularly at the primary sources available for the events of that day.</p>
<p>Jan Thu 11th 2 - 3.30pm</p> <p>First talk in the Around Reading Series</p>	<p>Tilehurst - a History: with Mike Cooper</p> <p>Now a residential suburb, was Tilehurst ever a village as such? Mike Cooper - who's written Reading Libraries' booklet on Tilehurst - looks at the history of the place and its community and how change has affected the area from the break-up of Reading Abbey lands, through the industries which took advantage of it's natural assets down to trolleybuses and council housing.</p>
<p>Feb Thu 8th 2 - 3.30pm</p> <p>Second talk in the Around Reading Series</p>	<p>A History of Woodley: with Ann Smith</p> <p>Woodley grew from a village to a suburb of Reading in the 20th century. But it is not just another village absorbed by Reading. It's famous for Miles Aircraft and The Aerodrome, and there is more history than you can see. This talk will show the hidden history of Woodley. Ann Smith researched Woodley history with the local U3A groups, and edited and published a book on the subject.</p>
<p>Mar Thu 7th 2 - 3.30pm</p> <p>Final talk in the Around Reading Series</p>	<p>A History of Wargrave: with Peter Delaney</p> <p>The village of Wargrave is on the Berkshire bank of the river Thames between Reading and Henley, with the parish including the hamlets of Crazies Hill and Hare Hatch. Recorded in the Domesday Survey, the talk will look at people, places and events from over 900 years of its history. The story includes kings, queens and bishops, village benefactors, farmers and many others - some well-known, others less so. The impact of forward-thinking villagers, national events, and its growth in the 19th and 20th centuries will be illustrated with photographs from the last 150 years.</p>

Potpourri Social History Talks – Online		TICKETS £5 (members £4)
Pre-booking required. Book all three talks in the Autumn Potpourri series for £12.50 (members £10).		
Dec Thu 14th 2 - 3.15pm Final talk in Autumn Potpourri series	Jane Austen’s First Christmas: with Joy Pibworth Unusually harsh winter weather, festive imports from far-away countries, a costly foreign war, issues of law and order and the birth of a Christmas baby. What was happening in England at the time of Jane Austen’s birth in 1775? Find out more in this fascinating seasonal talk.	
Jan Thu 25th 2 - 3.15pm First talk in Winter Potpourri series	Women in World War Two: with Bill King Often overlooked, discover how the talents of women were integrated into the British war effort on the Home Front, in industry and in the Armed Forces at every level during World War Two. Bill is a popular speaker and his talks are meticulously researched.	
Feb Thu 22nd 2 - 3.15pm Second talk in Winter Potpourri series	Maiwand and The Great Game: with Mike Cooper The impressive cast iron statue of a lion in Forbury Gardens, Reading has become one of the most iconic images of Reading. The Lion is posed snarling defiance to the north – towards Russia. Built by George Blackall Simonds and unveiled in 1886, it commemorates those who died in the Battle of Maiwand. Yet few of us probably know much about the battle and its tragic association with Berkshire. In this talk, Mike Cooper looks at the Battle of Maiwand against the background of Anglo-Russian rivalry in Asia – The Great Game - something he’s been following for 40 years - and the history of the lion itself.	
Mar Thu 21st 2 - 3.15pm Final talk in Winter Potpourri series	The Battle of Britain: with Richard Marks In 1940, Britain stood alone following the fall of France. With the German army poised across the channel, only the RAF could prevent the Luftwaffe from gaining the air supremacy needed to successfully mount the expected invasion. Historian Richard Marks will look at how the RAF’s systems and equipment allowed them to prevent the invasion.	

Research Zone Tour	
Places are limited, pre-booking is required.	
Feb Mon 26th 11am - 1pm FREE The Centre for Heritage & Family History	Yet to visit The Centre for Heritage and Family History and would like to know what’s available there and how it can help your family history research? This tour will introduce you to the facilities of the Centre and also those within the adjoining Local Studies Library. The Research Zone is open to 3pm, so why not stay on and do some research as well, if you have time

A visit to the Emmer Green Chalk Mines

Jo Alexander-Jones *tell us about one of the Society's more unusual visits this year*

In May, the Berkshire Family History Society and the scouts gave me a long-awaited pleasure. Having heard stories of the chalk mines in Emmer Green, I had given up hope of ever visiting; but the wait was worth it.

The mines lay between Peppard and Kiln Roads in Emmer Green, with the entrance sitting within the bounds of the local scout troop, who acquired it when the land was sold off in the 1950s. The area around Reading is underlain by chalk and this natural resource has been exploited for centuries in opencast pits and deeper mines. Reading is renowned for its brickmaking industry, and there were many associated chalk mines, as chalk was added to the brick clay before firing to counteract shrinkage and to affect a paler colour. Chalk was also needed for the lime mortar used in bricklaying.

A brick kiln was recorded here in 1654 and at its peak, in the late 1800s, the site was producing 12,000 bricks per day and employing over 200 men. It closed in 1947 having lost out to its larger competitors in Reading. But enough of geology and history, what did we see and do?

Once togged-up in helmets and harnesses, and having undergone a safety briefing, we were led to the entrance. The original entrance is yet to be found so we climbed down a ventilation shaft on a fixed ladder. On the descent you see the brick-lined top of the shaft where it passes through the clay cap, and you continue down the seven-foot diameter shaft to the bottom around seventy feet below.



The mine passages, hewn out by the miners, radiate out following the chalk until reaching flint layers that indicate unstable sands and gravel above. As we walked the passages, which are lofty and glowed in the reflection of our head torches, we could see evidence of mining going into the distance much of which has yet to be explored. In most places the floor was flattish, but there are a number of 'lifts' showing different levels of excavation made at different times. The miners would have had little more than wheelbarrows to transport the chalk, so having a flat floor was important.

As the caves have been explored, a number of the artefacts found have been grouped in a mini-museum. They include iron tools, a scallop shell used as a carrier for a candle, glass bottles and a pair of old shoes. Further along there are patches of graffiti dating back to the 1890s.

At one point we turned off our torches to experience the absolute darkness that miners would often have worked in. It brought home what a frightening industry mining must have been.

In one of the chambers we found the remains of timber packing cases; this was where Reading Council stored documents and valuable items during WW2.

Having enjoyed the mine, we now had to escape. You climb the vertical ladder with a winch attached for safety. Surprisingly, the climb wasn't as daunting as I expected, maybe knowing that I was just doing this for fun while the miners had had to get out after a long hard day of digging helped.



Three guineas and a wooden dish

CJ Eddington tells us of her convict ancestor

In March 1785 when Thomas Heddington (surname is also recorded as Headington, Eddington, Addington and Haddington) broke into Isaac Sewell's house, I am sure he had no idea that he would be part of the first British settlement of Australia.

By July 1785 he was convicted at Abingdon Assizes of

'...the simple feloniously stealing ...Two Silver TableSpoons of the value of Twelve Shillings one wooden Dish of the value of one penny four Copper Farthings of the value of one penny Twenty Copper Halfpence of the value of Ten pence and Six pounds in monies numbered of the Goods & Chattles [sic] and Monies of Isaac Sewell'

and sentenced 'to be transported beyond the seas for the term of seven years'.

The Abingdon Berkshire Assizes record for 6 July 1785 (held at The National Archives - ASSI 5/105/3) states that Thomas was found 'not guilty' of 'forcefully stealing' Isaac Sewell's property.

But it wasn't until nearly 2 years later, in early 1787, that he boarded the barque *Alexander* for Australia to serve his seven years' transportation, as part of what became known as 'The First Fleet'. Generally, a sentence of seven years' transportation was given to a particularly narrow group of criminals. Rapists and murderers at this time in Britain were hanged and petty criminals were gaoled. So, seven (or 14) years of transportation was used to punish habitual criminals (usually third offence) or serious theft.¹ Thomas was one of 1400 people on the First Fleet – convicts, marines, sailors and civil officers. And one of over 160,000 convicts to be sent to Australia.

Thomas was probably in his mid to late twenties when he was convicted. If his age at death is used his year of birth is 1757 making him 28 years old in 1785. But in the hulk *Ceres*, record of 1787 he is 18 years old. No baptismal record has been found for Thomas. Thomas had a brother Richard. Richard may or may not have been present in Sewell's house.² But it appears that Richard was not charged as my research has failed to find any conviction/court records for him.³

Thomas is a labourer with lodgings in Stirt Green⁴

(now Sturt Green); an isolated road southwest of the town of Bray. No mention is made of either his parents or a wife. At 28 years old one imagines he is making his own way in life.

Bray is both a town and a parish in Berkshire and is located between Reading and London. It is part of the Eastern District to the south of Maidenhead. The Thames forms Bray's border to the north and west. Although the underlying rock is chalk, Bray, in the late 1700s was known for growing vegetables, and while not rich it wasn't an area of abject poverty either.

Farming formed the basis of the economy in Bray in the 1780s; most land was privately owned but there was also a proportion that was common land. Enclosures⁵ began very early in Bray and may have contributed to economic difficulties for landless labourers – such as Thomas.⁶

Thomas is said, by Isaac Sewell, to have at '*... about five O'Clock in the morning after the Doors of his House had been opened, a Bureau, standing in his Hall at Philberts Farm in the said Parish of Bray, which had been double locked, was broke open in a forcible manner...*'⁷

and stolen '*...six or seven pounds in cash, part of which being about eighteen shillings in Silver, ... a wooden Dish, with asseat [sic] many half pence & farthings, amongst which was a remarkable crooked farthing, and also two large Silver Spoons, one marked S.P. and the other S:FS.*'⁸

Thomas admits to stealing five pounds not six or seven. A search of his lodgings by Revd M Wells found '*...many half pence and five farthings...*'⁹ It appears that Richard (Thomas' brother) was living with him, as Thomas directed his brother to

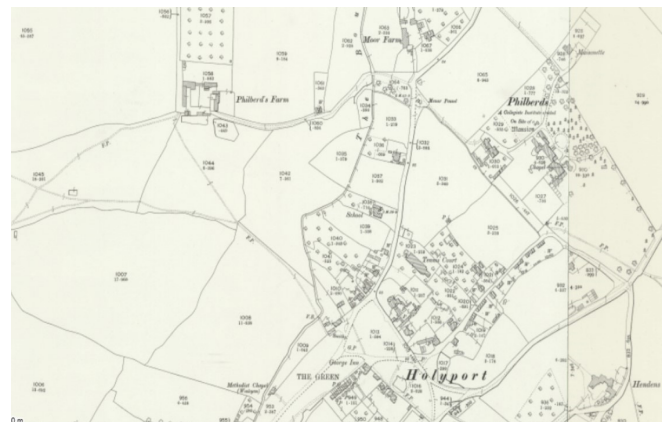


Figure 1 Holyport, Bray¹²

go home and fetch ‘... *three Guineas¹⁰ in Gold, & three half Crown pieces in Silver...*’. The wooden dish was hidden under a hedge and the two silver spoons were buried in Foxleys field.¹¹ Splitting up the spoils into four hiding places shows a level of planning consistent with someone who has done this more than once. In 1800 a labourer was paid £12 a year. So, three guineas was 3 months wages.

Figure 1, on the previous page, shows Philberd’s farm and Philberds Lodge (north of Holyport) in 1892 – one of which is the probable site of Philbert’s farm – the home of Isaac Sewell.



Figure 2 Holyport - Stud, Foxleights¹³

Figure 2 shows Stud Green, where Thomas had lodgings in Sturt Green (the road to the south of Stud Green and Foxleights (Foxleys) in the left foreground), where part of the loot was hidden.

An Historical Atlas of Berkshire (Ed. J Dils and M Yates) states for the years 1780 – 1789 most of the thefts for the Eastern District are stealing from houses and grand larceny. Thomas Heddington was convicted of stealing from a dwelling house. As an aside the Justice of the Peace in Thomas’ case was Pennyston Powney (signed Pen. Powney) who appears to reside in Bray, although Thomas was tried in Abingdon in the west of Berkshire.

There is an odd thing with the witness John Phillips who is also described as both a Petty Constable and a Victualler. He is a witness in that Thomas confessed to him to stealing Sewell’s goods. But it is also acknowledged that Phillips owed the Sovereign Lord the King twenty pounds; and that this amount be void if he gives evidence. Maybe, as a victualler (hotelier?) he was in a position to be Thomas’ fence and was induced to do a deal in return, not just for the 20 pounds, but also his freedom.¹⁴

Between Thomas’ conviction in July 1785, and boarding the *Alexander* in January 1787, it is difficult to ascertain exactly where he was incarcerated. The original Reading Gaol was built in 1786 and demolished in 1842 to make way for

the new building. In addition to the county gaol in Reading, there were two houses of correction or bridewells present in the 1760s. One of these was in Abingdon and the other in Reading. Thomas may have been held in the Abingdon bridewell.¹⁵ He was among the first convicts who embarked at Woolwich (on the Thames) from the *Ceres*,¹⁶ a prison hulk,¹⁷ to the *Alexander* on 6 January 1787. The *Alexander* also had late arrivals put on board at Portsmouth. The 11 ships of the First Fleet waited at Motherbank (an anchorage in the Solent) for two months for the weather to clear before sailing to Australia on 16 March 1788.¹⁸

According to Surgeon Bowes the convicts of the First Fleet were very healthy – except for the *Alexander* ‘...*few marines going out of England upon service were ever so amply provided for as these convicts are...*’¹⁹

Nevertheless, the *Alexander*, while at sea for 9 months, had a miserable time of it. Sixteen men died before sailing, and a further five had died before its arrival in Tenerife, with 21 prisoners in sick bay. The ships were infested with rats, cockroaches and bugs.²⁰ While in Tenerife there was unsuccessful escape by a prisoner - John Powers; he tried again, and hatched a plot to cause mutiny and escape at the Cape of Good Hope. It was foiled and he was put in irons on the flag ship. In addition, between Tenerife and Rio De Janeiro the *Alexander* lost a man overboard.

Thomas arrived on the *Alexander* at Port Jackson on 26 January 1788. The next we hear of him he has embarked on the HMAT (His Majesty’s Australian Transport) *Supply* to Norfolk Island March 1790.²¹

By July 1791 Thomas had a grant of land on Norfolk Island²² and in November 1791 it is believed he married Elizabeth Thompson (Tamsin) a convict from *Lady Juliana*. They had two children on Norfolk Island, Margaret and John – and 11 grandchildren born in Tasmania. In the Victualling Book for 17 Mar 1792 he (Thos Eddington) is employed as a stone cutter and on ‘All species’ stores for 365 days in 1792. By 1793 42 days ‘All species’ and 7 days ‘meat only. And in 1794 84 days ‘All species’.²³

On 13 July 1792 Thomas Addington, ex-convict, was granted 12 acres of land being Lot 59.²⁴

Thomas died 13 January 1798 Norfolk Island, aged 40 years. His headstone today stands in the Norfolk Island Cemetery Kingston.

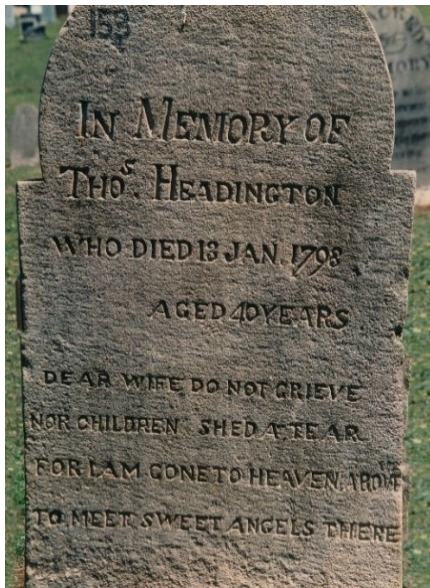


Figure 3 Thomas Headington headstone.

Source: LS Eddington 1988. Original held by CJ Eddington²⁵

Endnotes

1. Maxwell-Stewart, H. Conviction data. The Digital Panopticon: Tracing London Convicts in Britain and Australia, 1780-1925 https://www.digitalpanopticon.org/VDL_Founders_and_Survivors_Convicts_1802-1853
2. National Archives Kew; Abingdon Berkshire Assizes 6 July 1785 – Assi 5/105/5 Isaac Sewell's statement '...he then sent or directed his Brother Richard Heddington to go home, and fetched three Guineas in Gold, & three half Crown pieces in Silver, which he had given to his said Brother to keep for him...' My photo 7
3. As best as I can tell Richard remained in Berkshire working as a bricklayer and plasterer. He married Olivia Howlett and had four children. Aka Headington.
4. National Archives Kew; Abingdon Berkshire Assizes 6 July 1785 – Assi 5/105/5. My Photo 7
5. Enclosure was a system of land management. Common land was available to use by all villagers but by the late 1700s was seen as inefficient. Land owners could agree to enclose the land – limiting its use to the title holder – or later Parliament passed laws to mandate enclosures.
6. Dils, j & Yates, M (eds) An historical atlas of Berkshire-2nd ed. Berkshire Record Society: England 2012
7. National Archives Kew; Abingdon Berkshire Assizes 6 July 1785 – Assi 5/105/5. Isaac Sewell's statement. My Photo 7
8. National Archives Kew; Abingdon Berkshire Assizes 6 July 1785 – Assi 5/105/5. Isaac Sewell's statement. My Photo 7
9. National Archives Kew; Abingdon Berkshire Assizes 6 July 1785 – Assi 5/105/5. Isaac Sewell's statement. My Photo 7
10. A gold Guinea was originally worth £1 (20 shillings). But due to the fluctuations in the gold price it could be worth more. It was minted in Britain between 1663-1814 with a quarter ounce of gold. From 1717 to 1816, its value was officially fixed at twenty-one shillings.
11. National Archives Kew; Abingdon Berkshire Assizes 6 July 1785 – Assi 5/105/5. My photo 7
12. National Library of Scotland. Map of Holyport: OS inch 1892-1914. [accessed 27 Mar 2022] <https://maps.nls.uk/geo/explore/#zoom=15&lat=51.48937&lon=-0.72697&layers=168&b=1>
13. National Library of Scotland. Map of Holyport: OS inch 1892-1914. [accessed 27 Mar 2022] <https://maps.nls.uk/geo/explore/#zoom=15&lat=51.48937&lon=-0.72697&layers=168&b=1>
14. National Archives Kew; Abingdon Berkshire Assizes 6 July 1785 – Assi 5/105/4. John Phillip's statement. My Photo 7
15. Personal communication from James Mould Berkshire Archives Office (BRO) Archives Assistant. Email 23 March 2022
16. Treasury Board Papers - Nos 2–215, 1787 (File 641. AJCP Reel No: 3550) Lord Sydney: Mr Duncan Campbell's account for maintaining convicts under sentence of transportation to the 12th instant £1660.1, 19 January 1787 (Item 175) [accessed 20 Mar 2022 via Trove]
17. Hulks were decommissioned (and often unseaworthy) ships that were moored in rivers and estuaries and refitted to become floating prisons. The outbreak of war in America in 1775 meant that it was no longer possible to transport British convicts there. Source: The Digital Panopticon: Tracing London Convicts in Britain and Australia, 1780-1925 https://www.digitalpanopticon.org/Convict_Hulks [accessed 20 Mar 2022]
18. Bateson, C., The convict ships 1787-1868 – Australian Edition. Reed: Sydney 1974
19. Bateson p.116
20. Bateson p.102
21. Cathy Dunn, "Thomas Eddington – Heddington – Headington, Convict Alexander 1788," in HMS Sirius, <http://hmssirius.com.au/thomas-eddington-heddington-headington-convict-alexander-1788/>, [accessed 20 March 2022]
22. An account of grounds on Norfolk Island, July 1791, TNA, PRO CO/201/9.
23. Norfolk Island Victualling Book State Library of NSW. [Norfolk Island victualling book, 1792-1796 | SAFE/A 1958](https://www.norfolkisland.vic.gov.au/norfolk-island-vic) (Safe 1/266) [accessed 20 Mar 2022]
24. Mutch, T. D. & Genealogical Society of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints. [19--], Mutch card indexes, 1787-1957 [microform]
25. Photograph taken by LS Eddington 1988 held by CJ Eddington

John Abell of Marcham, Berkshire - my 3x great grandfather

Alisa Patterson tells the story of her ancestor

“It is a shame I should suffer more than the rest, as others are as guilty as I am.”

John Abell, 13 July 1837

John Abell was born in 1811 at Marcham, Berkshire. He was the son of Edward Abell (a horse dealer) and Esther Tims¹.

A Mare at the Fair – Crime and Conviction

On 29 April 1837, John bought a mare at the Alton Fair from a servant of a gentleman who resided at Steep near Petersfield, paying with a 10/- note of the Old Newbury Bank. Not liking the look of the note, the servant’s brother-in-law went to the Alton Bank where the note was discovered to have been forged. John was pursued and overtaken near the Good-Intent Beer Shop. John’s pocketbook was located by the constable and upon being searched, was found to contain several banknotes of the Old Newbury Bank. The constable, asking if John knew the pocket-book, received the following resigned reply - “That queers me altogether - I am in a rum place...”



A bank-note of the Newbury Old Bank (1814) © The Trustees of The British Museum (CC BY-SA 4.0)

On 13 July 1837, John was tried at the Western Circuit in Winchester and sentenced to transportation for life.

John was held on board the *Leviathan*, a prison hulk. The prison hulk register noted his occupation as ‘tramper’ and the Gaoler’s Report noted his character and connections as ‘bad’. His prisoner number was 3396. Under a column coldly titled ‘How disposed of’ is recorded ‘VDL 6 April 1838.’

Farewell to Old England Forever

On 6 April 1838, John departed England on board

the *Lord William Bentinck II* in the company of 319 fellow convicts, and arrived in Van Diemen’s Land, now known as Tasmania, on 26 August 1838.

His details were recorded as follows:

Occupation: Gentleman’s servant, groom and coachman

Age: 25 years

Head: Round

Whiskers: Nil

Forehead: Low

Eyes: Grey

Mouth: Small

Complexion: Fresh

Hair: Dark

Visage: Long

Eyebrows: Dark

Nose: Medium

Also written on this record is a note that John had two brothers and two sisters living, and a reference to ‘Marcham, Berkshire.’

Arrival in Australia: Van Diemen’s Land

On arrival in Van Diemen’s Land, John was assigned to Dr. Arthur (Deputy Inspector General of Hospitals), where he was employed for nearly two years. Following this, he was assigned to Mr. William Windsor Esq. (Deputy Ordnance Storekeeper), whom he remained in the employ of at Sandy Bay in Hobart town, through to 1842. In 1843, he was appointed to the role of Javelin Man at the new gaol in Longford. Recommendation for appointment to this position was made in 1842, with John’s conduct being described as “good”, and accompanied by a written recommendation from Mr. Windsor.

Permission was granted for John to marry Blanche Labele on 13 January 1844. They do not appear to have had any children together, and it is likely that Blanche passed away this same year, as John Abell then married Charlotte Roe in August 1844. John and Charlotte had twelve children together (Charlotte, John, William, Mary Ann, Edward, Esther, Robert, David, Alfred, Richard,

Frederick and James) - born in Tasmania and Victoria.

In 1845, John was part of a group of Javelin-men at H.M. Gaol, Launceston, who submitted a petition to the Lieutenant Governor against a proposed reduction in their pay. Their petition argued that they were subjected to particular expenses (not incurred by Javelin-men at other gaols within Van Diemen's Land) and further that their duties were increased by "...attendance at the Supreme and Quarter-Session Courts." The petition was ultimately successful.

John resided at Windmill Hill in Launceston, from 1846 through to 1851. In 1846, he was employed as a Javelin Man. From 1847-1851, he was employed as a gardener.



Launceston (1860) by Frederick Strange. Mitchell Library, State Library of New South Wales. Retrieved from <https://www.sl.nsw.gov.au/collection-items/launceston>

On 26 August 1848, notification was published in the 'Launceston Examiner' newspaper that pardon had been granted to John Abell, among others, "...upon condition that they shall not return or be found within the countries in which they were severally convicted during the remaining term of their transportation." The possibility of any return to England was closed off to John Abell forever.

Victoria

From 1856 through to 1880, John resided at Daisy Hill (later to be known as Amherst) in Victoria. In 1852, a discovery of gold had led to a gold-rush in the area and a subsequent influx of "tens of thousands" of hopefuls (Wikipedia, 2022). In 1856, John tried his hand at mining, with his occupation being listed as 'gold-digger' on his son Robert's birth certificate.

Descendants

John Abell died on 9 April 1880, at the age of 69,

at Talbot, Victoria and was buried according to the rites of the Church of England at the Amherst Public Cemetery. At the time of John's death, his surviving children were named as Mary Ann, Robert, Richard and James.

John's son Richard is my great-great grandfather. He was a shearer, a miner and a soldier. He enlisted to serve in World War 1, at the age of 52 years old (he stated that he was 43 years old). His three sons, Richard James, Sydney Clem and Terence Alfred also enlisted – Terry was 15 years old but stated he was 18.



Photograph of Richard Abel (centre) and his two sons, Sydney Clem and Richard James - published in 'The Queenslander' newspaper, 30 Sept. 1916



Colourised and enhanced image of Richard Abel



Florence Elizabeth Abel (granddaughter of John Abell and daughter of Richard Abel) with Terence Bock - on their wedding day. Photo courtesy of Dave Bock.



My great-grandmother Gladys Evelyn Abel (granddaughter of John Abell, daughter of Richard Abel), aged 9 years old in 1908. Studio portrait by H. P. Brimms' Britannia Studio in Mareeba, Queensland

Endnote

1. John Abell's death certificate lists his father's name as John Abell (occupation: horse dealer) and lists his mother as 'unknown'. However, I believe it's more likely that his parents were Edward Abell and Esther Tims.

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Convict Records (2022). Lord William Bentinck. Retrieved from <https://convictrecords.com.au/ships/lord-william-bentinck/1838>

Hampshire Advertiser (1837, Jul. 15). Retrieved from British Newspaper Archives, www.britishnewspaperarchive.co.uk/

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Book Review

Tony Roberts

Introducing Nonconformist Records - explaining nonconformist records for family historians

Ian H Waller (Family History Books, 2023) 291pp perfect bound, 210mm x 148mm

Shop: £14.95 / UK: £18.44 / Airmail: £35.05

The author is a well-known professional genealogist of over thirty years standing, and regularly lectures and runs workshops on family history as well as on related local and social history topics. He is a Fellow of the Association of Genealogists and Researchers in Archives and is also a Fellow of the Society of Genealogists. In this book, he brings his experience to bear on a subject that is quite daunting to many family historians, but following his guidance the fears and anxieties of those family historians will be allayed.

The opening chapters of the book discuss nonconformity with the established church in general. Firstly, there is guidance on indicators to nonconformity in your ancestors, followed by discussions on understanding what nonconformity is and why it came about. The author then looks at the historical legislation affecting nonconformists, and how they clashed with the Anglican church, often at the risk of prosecution by the authorities.

Following the opening chapters, there are several articles on general records that are available. These deal with the nonconformist registers that are deposited nationally, an overview of nonconformist registers and other records available, and information that is contained within civil records including naturalisation and denization papers (as many protestant refugees were nonconformists). This general section finishes with an article that deals specifically with Welsh ancestry.

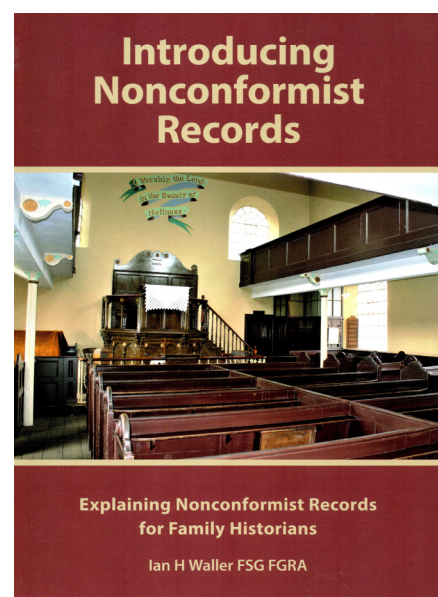
The main part of the book, in 15 chapters, looks at the various groups that fall under the widespread banner of nonconformity. Here the text is increasingly focussed on the history, theology and structure of each group, and what records are available for them, and where they can be found. Further information on some of these sects is also given later on in the appendices. Starting with

the Huguenot, Walloon and Flemish immigrants, the reader is taken on a journey through the many aspects of nonconformism; Methodists; Baptists; Congregationalists, Presbyterians and the United Reformed Churches; Quakers; Moravians; Salvation Army; Mormons; and so on through a number of other smaller sects. Each of these chapters in itself gives many useful leads and hints on sources of appropriate records. At the end of this section of the book there is a short conclusion summarising some of the key points in the preceding texts.

The final quarter of the book has 26 appendices, some of general interest such as nonconformist timeline of denomination origins, and major cemeteries and burial grounds to much more specific items, for example a list of Methodist magazines; or record forms of the LDS church.

The book concludes with a bibliography, illustrations list, further reading and useful websites, and a six page index to the book.

The subject of nonconformism and the records from its various forms is a vast and complex topic. This book however deals with the subject in sufficient detail and clarity to give the reader a good understanding of it, and most importantly gives the average family historian the confidence and knowledge to investigate their nonconformist ancestors. As such the book is thoroughly recommended to all family historians.





News from the Royal Berkshire Archives

Ivone Turnbull, Senior Archivist at the Royal Berkshire Archives

We held our Heritage Open Day tour in early September, and it was so popular, we ended up laying on two tours rather than one! Might be something to do with our name change and all the publicity we got around that. It all went well though, and attendees seemed to enjoy their visit.

We are pleased to announce that our 75th anniversary exhibition will launch this November. Entitled “Our favourites: 75 years of collecting Berkshire”, the exhibition will reveal items from the collections that staff and stakeholders have chosen as their favourites. The exhibition will run from 20th November 2023 to 2nd February 2024 and will be available during our opening hours. Please see our website for details.

On 29th January 2024, we will be holding our next palaeography workshop where attendees can learn how to read old handwriting using copies from the collections held here. It costs £20 for the day and here are 10 spaces available. Booking is essential and payment is required to secure a place. Please see our events page for details.

Just to let you know that we will be taking part in the 2023 Distance Survey from 6th November to 1st December 2023. This is a remote survey so if you email us during this period, you will receive

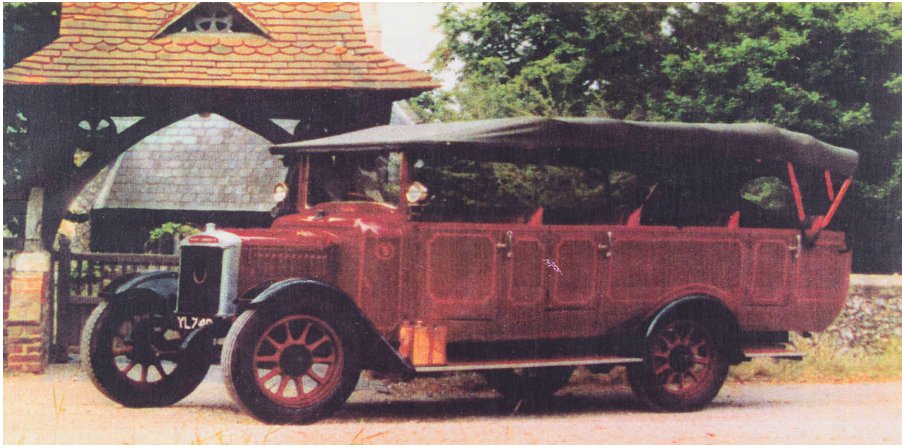
a link to an online survey asking you about your views on the service received. It should only take about 5 to 10 minutes to complete. We hope that you will take part in the survey as it will help us to identify areas of high satisfaction as well as areas of improvement.

Remember that you can receive a regular e-bulletin containing all our latest blogs by simply subscribing to our mailing list. You can also view our website and social media feeds on X (formerly Twitter), Facebook and Instagram for all the latest information and watch videos on our YouTube channel.

What’s New to View at the RBA?

Readers may be interested to know that we have catalogued the records of the Reading Central Youth Club, 1914-1974 (D/EX568); the Watlington House Trust 19C-2012 (D/QX27); the Reading Trades Union Council, 1976-2018 (D/EX2767) and the Rafiki/Taurus Venture Scout Unit expedition from Crowthorne to Kenya, 1981-1985 (D/EX2047).

All things vehicular can be found amongst the records of the Berkshire Automobile Club, 1903-2019 (D/EX2784); surviving vehicle licencing records for Berkshire, 1903-1972 (P/VL1)



A 1925 Morris Charabanc, reproduced with the kind permission of The Royal Berkshire Archives

which uncovered additional material such as registers of driving licences, 1907-1914; and applications for licences, 1921-1972; and records of Autodata Ltd, Maidenhead, 1962-1979 (D/EX2845).

Material for Reading and Silchester Methodist Circuit, 1930-2014 (D/MC6); as well as Basingstoke and Reading Circuit, 2014-2016 (D/MC21) and the Thames Valley Circuit, 1971-2020 (D/MC19) are now available. The following individual Methodist churches have also added records: Caversham Gosbrook Road, 1971-2017 (D/MS29); Caversham Heights, 2001-2016 (D/MS30); Cookham Rise, 1904-1910 (D/MS36); Burberry Hall Mission and St Mark's, Maidenhead, 1920-2014 (D/MS48); Windsor, 1977-2013 (D/MS9); and Old Windsor, 1990-2021 (D/MS80).

The final part of Community of St John Baptist, Clewer records have now been catalogued (D/EX1675); as well as the papers of Maureen Pointer, nurse and midwife, 1941-1980 (D/EX2871); additional material from the Aldermaston Pottery, 1969-2001 (D/EX2422); and records of the West Berks Co-operative Development Association, 1985-1996 (D/EX1386).

The following parish registers are now available: West Challow: baptisms, 1814-2018; marriages, 1967-2016; banns, 1824-2016; burials, 1858-2020 (D/P81C).

Shaw cum Donnington: baptisms, 2010-2019; marriages, 2009-2018; register of marriage blessings and renewals of vows, 2002-2014; there is also a plan of graves and transcript of monumental inscriptions in the churchyard (D/P106).

Kingsclere Methodist Church, Hampshire: marriages, 1941-2011 (D/MS94)

Tadley Common Methodist Church, Hampshire: marriages, 1963-2014 (D/MS98).

To keep up to date on what collections we have, please see our online catalogue.



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An Update from Projects & Publications

Catherine Sampson

We continue to be busy transcribing and checking baptism registers from across the county and hope to get these published shortly. We often come across some very unusual forenames - Cartwright Buckle, Amor and Emmala in Little Coxwell alone, recently noted in the early 1800s.

I am repeating my appeal for some more volunteers with experience of MySQL to help prepare datasets for publication. Is this something you could do?

The Society transcribes parish registers into Excel spreadsheets which are then loaded into MySQL databases from which we produce reports that form the basis of our CDs.

Periodically, we then upload some of this data to Findmypast (FMP). We already have one volunteer who is working on uploading data to FMP, however we are seeking more volunteers with MySQL skills to help share the task load as we have a lot of entries we wish to share with them.

The tasks include: reformat the data to match FMP requirements and our previous submissions;



filter out events less than 100 years old (baptisms), 85 years old (marriages & banns), 50 years old (burials); filter out events for parishes which have not given permission for online publication; remove addresses from any event less than 100 years old; filter out any records we have previously sent to FMP; add security features so we can prove copyright should our data appear elsewhere; provide reports such as number of records per parish, and upload batch to FMP as MySQL data export.

Help and guidance is available. If you can help, please contact Tony Wright at projects@berksfhs.org.uk

Berkshire Family History Society is granted CIO Status

Martin Pilkington

At the last AGM in June, members voted to change the Society's charitable status to that of a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO).

Following a great deal of work undertaken by the CIO Project Group, and Blandy & Blandy, solicitors based in Reading, we have been granted CIO status by the Charity Commission. We are now officially Berkshire Family History Society CIO, but will continue to be known simply as Berkshire Family History Society in our everyday usage.

So what difference does this make to a member? For most interactions between members and the

Society, it makes no difference at all.

We do have a new charity number, 1204390, and at the time of writing this we are in the process of setting up new bank accounts with CAF Bank. The old accounts will remain open for some time but for those of you who pay by direct debit or standing order, we will write to you before your next renewal to request that you amend your payment authority.

You will also gradually see some changes to the website, the Historian and our marketing leaflets as we move over to using the new charity number.

Bullock, Malthouse and Montague

Robert Nichols *shows how records can straighten out muddled lineages*

Much has been written about the Bullock, Malthouse and Montague families over the last two centuries, providing some excellent resources, but the potential relationship between these families during the early to mid sixteenth century remains very muddled. The confusion that exists about these relationships is the result of conclusions that were drawn more than a century ago without all the data that is available today. The interpretation of some of these older facts has led to improper dates being estimated and incorrect relationships being implied. These dates and facts should have been re-evaluated with the availability of additional resources, but instead the newer information was placed upon an old foundation. The clutter that remains has made it almost impossible to build a meaningful lineage, but by starting anew and using the good data that is available, a clearer image can be created and a realistic lineage can be constructed.

Using the marriage of Thomas Bullock (d. 1558) and Alice Kingsmill as a starting point, it is important to first go back and study the Bullock and Kingsmill family relationships that preceded them, and by doing so, investigate and verify that those family ties are free from conflicts involving inadequate time lines.

Thomas Bullock and Alice Kingsmill produced a number of children, and one daughter, Margaret, is said to have married a John Malthouse (Malthus). The existence of this marriage can be found in more than one document. These records include both primary and secondary sources.

Documents from this era also mention a Margaret Malthouse, and in one of those records, she is said to be the daughter of a John Malthouse (Malthus). In a different reference concerning a Margaret Malthouse, she is said to have married William Montague. The references to Margaret Malthouse are well documented by events from that time period, as well as in the literature and studies that have been written since then.

The controversy that has existed over the years is whether the John Malthouse who married Margaret Bullock is the same John Malthouse who was the father of Margaret Malthouse, wife of William Montague.

The Bullocks

Thomas Bullock, who died in 1558¹ was married to Alice Kingsmill, and together they had 12 children². Thomas and Alice were married in approximately 1510 based upon their estimated ages at that time, which will be discussed below, and based upon the fact that their twelve children were born before 1532³.

By using Thomas and Alice as a reference point to begin this investigation, it is important to analyse the generations that preceded them, in order to establish a proper and realistic chronology. The lineage for the Bullock family is well established and accepted. The Bullocks had a long history in Arborfield, Berkshire. For generations family members followed one another as the Lord of the Manor of Arborfield (Erburghfelde), dating back to the thirteenth century⁴. Gilbert Bullock, Thomas' father, was the eldest son of Robert Bullock⁵. Gilbert married Margaret Norreys⁶, daughter of William Norris, of Bray, ancestor of the Barons Norris, of Rycote⁷. Gilbert and Margaret had two sons and four daughters⁸, with their eldest being Thomas⁹. Thomas married Alice, daughter of John Kingsmill, one of the justices of the King's Bench.¹⁰

John Kingsmill (Kyngesmyll), who died in 1509¹¹, married Joan Giffard (Gyffard)¹² in approximately 1490 (5 [year in the reign of] Henry VII), when a settlement was made in prospect of their marriage¹³. John Kingsmill was born in approximately 1452 based upon the fact that he was admitted as a scholar to Winchester College in 1470¹⁴. John had a broad academic background, as he was later admitted as a scholar to New College on 25 March 1474¹⁵, then admitted to New College as a Fellow in 1476¹⁶ and finally by 1489 he was admitted to Middle Temple¹⁷.

Joan Giffard was the daughter of John Giffard of Ichyll¹⁸. The Manor at Ichyll was held by Robert Giffard, John's brother. Robert remained lord of the manor until his death in 1446¹⁹. Robert lacked a male heir and the rights to the manor eventually went to John in 1461²⁰. In 1509 the manor was passed on to William Giffard, son of John²¹ and brother of Joan. William died in 1549²². Using this chronology, John was born in approximately 1435. William and Joan are estimated to have been born between 1460 and 1465.

With the settlement in prospect of a marriage between John Kingsmill and Joan Giffard²³ having taken place in 1490, and with the marriage estimated to have taken place shortly afterwards, John was approximately thirty eight years old at the time of the marriage, and Joan was approximately twenty five years old. John's pursuit of a career and the required academic studies explains his marriage at an older age.

Knowing that Alice's parents were married in approximately 1490, and that she was married to Thomas Bullock in approximately 1510, Alice must have been born in about 1491. Thomas Bullock and Alice had twelve children by 1532 according to the Visitation of Berkshire that was done by Thomas Benolt. The Visitation lists six boys and six girls, and Benolt carefully listed the six male children in order from oldest to youngest²⁴. Accepting that Benolt used the same system with his list of the female children, that would mean that Margaret Bullock was the oldest female child. Being the oldest female child, or possibly the oldest of all the children, she is estimated to have been born in approximately 1512.

The Five Johns of Binfield

The connection of the Bullock family to the Malthouse family starts with the Visitation of Berkshire in 1566. In that study there is a section that pertains to the Bullock family, and within the description of that family is a reference saying that Margaret Bullock, daughter of Thomas Bullock and Alice Kingsmill, married "John Malthouse (Malthouse) of Bynfelde (Binfield) in com' Berks"²⁵. Looking further into the records from Berkshire, there are several references that also mention a John Malthouse. These include an inquisition, wills, and parish baptismal records.

The earliest reference from this time period to John Malthouse of Binfield, actually refers to two individuals named John Malthouse. There is an inquisition dated the Wednesday next after the feast of St. Luke the Evangelist (25 Oct.), 24 [year in the reign of] Henry VII (1508), that concerns a John Malthouse (John #1) who died on 25 March, 19 [year in the reign of] Henry VII (1504)^{26/27}. This inquisition goes on to mention a second John Malthouse (John #2), son of the aforementioned John Malthouse. The document avers that John #2 was eighteen years old at the time of the inquisition²⁸, which would mean that John #2 was born before 25 Oct. 1490. Using this as John #2's birth year, it can be estimated that the elder John

Malthouse (John #1) was born about 1465.

In the search for other documents that are related to a John Malthouse from this area, there is a will that is dated 15 Nov 1558 for John Malthus (Malthouse) of Benfeld (Binfield)²⁹ (John #3). In this will he refers to his wife Anne, a son John Malthus (John #4), an unmarried son Richard, an unmarried daughter Julian and a daughter married to Thomas Watlington³⁰. The will goes on to say that Thomas Watlington, the son-in-law of John #3, had four children³¹. The will clearly states that Richard and Julian were both unmarried at this time, and goes on to say that both would receive their inheritance once they were married or in three years after the death of John #3.³²

According to the Royal Berkshire Archives, records for the Binfield All Saints parish³³ became available starting in 1538. Among those records is a baptismal document for a John, baptised in 1554 whose father is Watlington³⁴. When looking further at those records, there are two children who were baptised, with a father listed as John Malthouse (John #4). The first of these two children was another John Malthouse (John #5), who was baptised on 1 May 1551³⁵, and the second child, Richard, was baptised on 4 April 1552³⁶. It is estimated that the four children who were mentioned in the 1558 will of John #3 would have been in their early to mid twenties, since John and the daughter married to Watlington were starting their families, Richard was single, studying for a career, as he was admitted to Middle Temple on 15 November 1552³⁷, and Julian was single. This would mean that they were born in the early to mid 1530s. Using the information from the 1558 will and baptismal information concerning his grandchildren, John #3 appears to have been born in approximately 1510.

For further discussion, the five John Malthouses mentioned above will be referred to in the following manner:

John (b.c. 1470 - d. 1504)	- John #1
John (b. 1491)	- John #2
John (b.c. 1510 - d. 1558)	- John #3
John (b.c. 1530)	- John #4
John (bap. 1551)	- John #5

Marriage of John Malthouse and Margaret Bullock

The Visitation of Berkshire in 1566 states that a John Malthouse married Margaret Bullock, daughter of Thomas Bullock and Alice Kingsmill³⁸. A second reference to this union can be found in a will written on 8 August 1557 by Thomas Bullock (proved 23 February 1558)³⁹, as it refers to his son-in-law John Malthouse and his daughter Margaret⁴⁰. In this 1557 will very little is mentioned concerning the grandchildren of Thomas Bullock, since there were probably too many from his twelve children to include them all, but he does mention one Malthouse grandchild, Thomas, who was referred to as his godson⁴¹. This document confirms that at the time when Thomas Bullock was making his will in 1557, both John Malthouse and his wife, Margaret, were alive, together and had a son Thomas.

When considering the marriage of a John Malthouse to Margaret Bullock, both the 1557 will of Thomas Bullock and the 1558 will of a John Malthouse play an important role in helping to determine which of the 5 Johns listed above could have been her husband. Having died in 1504, John #1 can easily be eliminated as a candidate, and being born in about 1551, John #5 can also be eliminated. That leaves John #4, John #3 and John #2 as the possible husband of Margaret Bullock.

Referring again to the will of 1558 by John Malthouse, John #4 was the brother of Richard, Julian, and a daughter married to Thomas Watlington. Both Julian and Richard were unmarried at the time of the will, with Richard pursuing his career. Based upon the baptismal records from the 1550s and 1560s, there are records showing that John Malthouse (John #4) and Thomas Watlington both fathered children who were baptised in the early to mid 1550s. As mentioned above, this would indicate that the four children mentioned in the 1558 will were born in the early to mid 1530s. If Margaret Bullock was the oldest daughter of Thomas Bullock, as indicated by the order the girls were listed by Benolt and Harvey in the 1532 and the 1566 Visitations of Berkshire, then the age difference between Margaret Bullock and John #4, would make their union highly unlikely, with Margaret being considerably older than John #4.

To continue with the possibility that John #4 was the husband of Margaret Bullock, it needs to be noted that the baptismal records from Binfield show that John #4 potentially had seven children. In addition to the two mentioned above, John

#5 (bap. 1551) and Richard (bap. 1552), there are five other children who were baptised between 1554 and 1563, continuing the sequence of births starting with John #5 and Richard. The other Malthouse children who were baptised at this time are William (bap. 17 Dec. 1554), Gilbert (bap. 10 May 1556), Margaret (bap. 10 Feb. 1558/9), Robert (bap. 26 Dec. 1561) and Francis (bap. 20 May 1563)⁴². It is assumed that these additional children were the children of John #4, but the records lack a first name for the father, using only Malthouse in the documents. John was the Malthouse having children at that time, since Richard was single. Thus John #4 had 4 children by the time Thomas Bullock wrote his will in 1557. Thomas Bullock clearly named a godson, Thomas Malthouse, in his will, and none of the four children baptised by John #4 had the given name of Thomas, so the possibility that John #4 was the husband of Margaret Bullock is even more remote.

The will of Thomas Bullock also names John Malthouse, his son-in-law, as an overseer of his estate⁴³. It is possible that John #4 could have been named to this position, but this would appear highly unlikely since John #4 would have been very young and would have been married into the Bullock family for only a short period of time.

There are two wills that were written at about the same time and both need to be considered when looking at John #2 and John #3. There is the will of John Malthouse, written in 1558 (proved in 1559) and there is a will of Thomas Bullock⁴⁴ written in 1557 (proved in 1558). When looking at both wills, there are two very distinct John Malthouses who appear at that time. In the will for Thomas Bullock, there is a John Malthouse who was married to Margaret Bullock and had a son Thomas. In the will for John Malthouse, there is a second John Malthouse who was married to Anne and had four children, John, Richard, Julian, and a daughter married to Watlington.

With John #1, John #4 and John #5 eliminated as possibly being the John Malthouse who married Margaret Bullock or the John Malthouse who married Anne, that would leave John #2 and John #3 to fill the two positions created by the two wills. The ages for John #3 and John #2 would both fit well to be the husband of Margaret Bullock when using her estimated birth year from the two Visitations of Berkshire. If the will of 1558 is applied to John #3 and the will of 1557 is applied to John #2 or vice versa, either combination would establish a link from the

Bullock family to the Montague family by way of the Malthouse family, but when considering all the data, John #2 as the husband of Margaret Bullock provides a better explanation for everything that is known, and he is thus a more realistic candidate as her husband.

In a scenario where John #2 married Margaret Bullock, the 1558 will of John Malthouse of Bynfield would have been written by John #3, who was born in about 1510. In all likelihood, John #3 was the son of John #2 by a first marriage, and John #3 married Anne in about 1530. Shortly after this marriage, they started their family with the birth of John #4. In this case, John #2's first wife apparently died, and he remarried in about 1532 with Margaret Bullock, and they had a son Thomas. If the roles are reversed for the two Johns, the picture becomes more convoluted and less likely.

Margaret Malthouse, daughter of John Malthouse

A key figure from this time period who must be considered when discussing these families and the roles played by the five Johns, is Margaret Malthouse. The first record where Margaret Malthouse is mentioned, states that she married Thomas Grove (Groffe) on 2 July 1552⁴⁵, and based upon this marriage, it is estimated that Margaret Malthouse was born in about 1533. Margaret and Thomas had only one child, Anne, who was baptised on 13 November 1554⁴⁶. Margaret's husband, Thomas Grove, died in Dorney in 1558, leaving a will dated 28 October 1558 (probated on 28 January 1559)⁴⁷. In that will he mentions both Margaret, his wife, and Anne, his daughter⁴⁸. Anne died in 1665 and was buried on 16 August⁴⁹.

After Thomas Grove's death, Margaret remarried, on 27 May 1560, when she married William Montague. At this time she was using her name from her first marriage, and she is listed on the marriage records as Margaret Groffe. William is shown as William Mowntegewe, and both are listed as being of Boveney⁵⁰. Their son, William (bap. 1562) stated during the 1634 Visitation of Buckinghamshire that his mother was from Boveney⁵¹, and with the help of this statement from William⁵², the record of the marriage was found. This marriage produced seven children; Robert (bap. 24 March 1560/1), William (bap. 18 April 1562), Sarah (bap. 3 January 1563), Elizabeth (bap. 24 June 1565), George (bap. 14 September 1567), Anne (b.c. 1570) and Peter (b.c.

1573)⁵³.

During the Visitation of Buckinghamshire in 1634, William (bap. 1562) provided a second very important item of information stating that his maternal grandfather was John Malthouse of Binfield⁵⁴. Margaret was born in about 1533, so John #2 or John #3 would be the only possibilities as her father and as the grandfather of William, but in the 1558 will of John #3, he clearly discusses his children, without any mention of a daughter named Margaret or of a second married daughter with child (Anne Grove), as he did by naming a daughter married to Thomas Watlington with four children. Thus John #3 should be eliminated from any consideration as the grandfather mentioned by William. This leaves John #2 as the John Malthouse mentioned in the 1634 Visitation, and with Margaret Bullock, they properly fit as the parents of Margaret Malthouse. In this case their daughter is also the namesake of the mother.

Conclusion

Much of the early work concerning the Malthouse and Montague families comes from the book, *Collections for a History of the Family of Malthus*, written by John Orlebar Payne in 1890. This book provides a great deal of useful information concerning these two families, but also provides some inaccurate conclusions. One such conclusion made by Payne was that the Margaret Malthouse, who was baptised in 1558 and was the daughter of John Malthouse (John #4), was the Margaret Malthouse who married William Montague⁵⁵. Later in an article titled 'The English Origin of Peter and Richard Montague' by Myrtle Stevens Hyde, the author addresses the assumption made by Payne concerning Margaret Malthouse (1558), and proves that it was chronologically impossible⁵⁶. Once Payne's theory had been accurately disproven by Myrtle Stevens Hyde, she continued her study concerning the Montague family, with little more said concerning the Malthouse family.

Today there is a good pool of data that is available to construct a scenario of how the Bullock, Malthouse and Montague families formed a lineage. With the baptismal records, the Inquisition of 1509 and the two wills that were written at almost the same time, one from Thomas Bullock (1557) and one from John Malthouse (1558), a realistic picture of this familial connection can be created.

It is accepted that Margaret Grove (Malthouse)

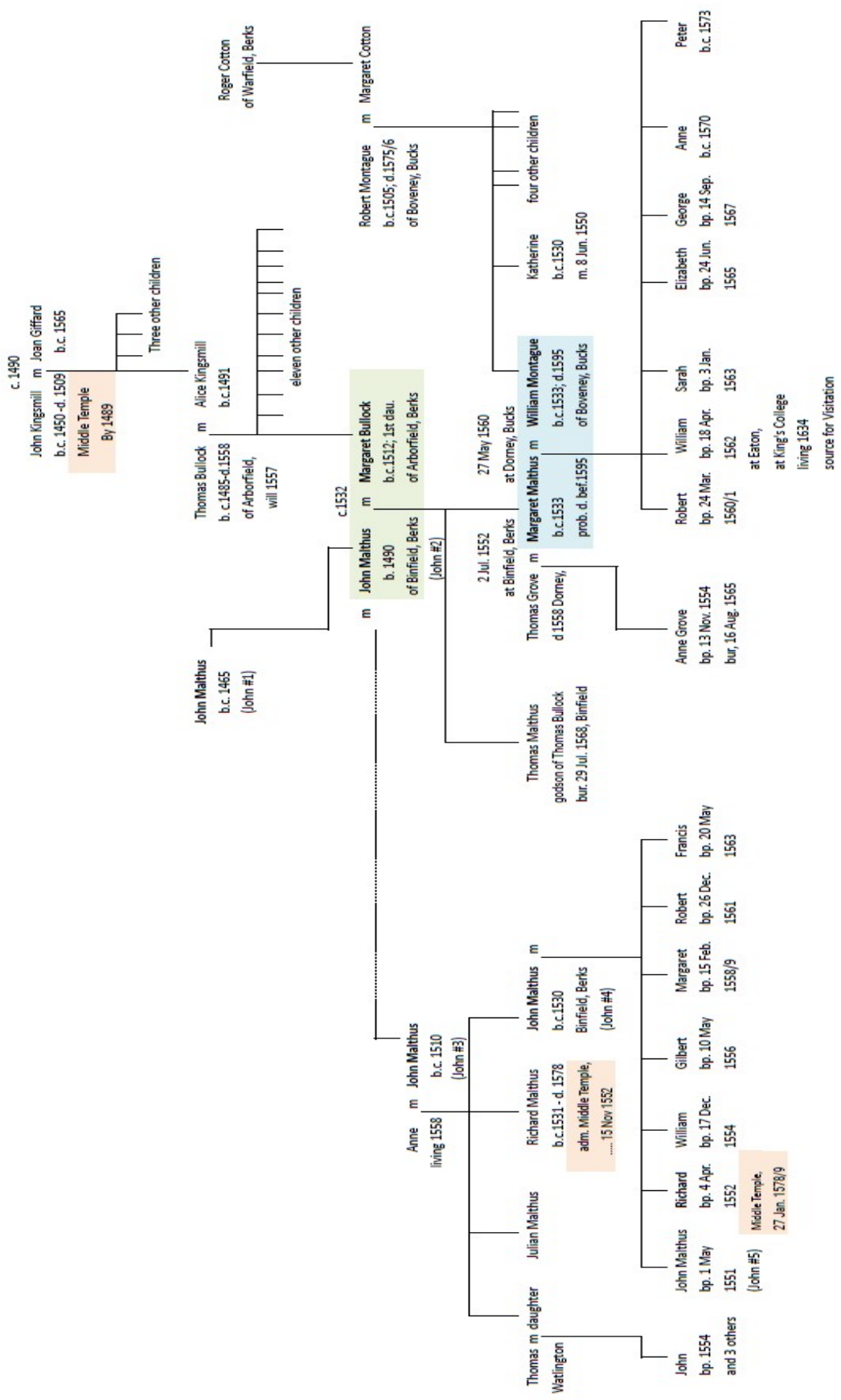
was the wife of William Montague and that she had a son whose grandfather was John Malthouse of Binfield, She should also be seen as the daughter of John Montague of Binfield and Margaret Bullock.

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Table showing the Bullock, Malthouse and Montague relationship



Abingdon Branch

abingdon@berksfhs.org.uk

Meetings ahead:

Unless otherwise stated, meetings are held at Long Furlong Community Centre, Boulter Drive, Abingdon. Doors open at 7.15pm for the meeting to start at 7.30pm.

11th December

Quiz night and social

See website for details of future meetings

James Thornber

Bracknell & Wokingham Branch

bracknell@berksfhs.org.uk

Our July talk was entitled 'Singleton of Singleton, The Role of DNA in Research' by Christopher Singleton. The aim of the talk was to use the Singleton research from the present day back to the 11th Century to show how the use of DNA validated this research and hopefully to show how to apply these principles to the audience's research. Christopher had hit a brick wall at his 7th great great grandfather who died in 1724 and turned to DNA. Searching the web he found the Singleton Project along with a Project Administrator.

BigY DNA showed the closest match was to a Barry Cotton living in the USA and that he was a descendant of Richard de Cottam. With Family Tree's Y-DNA test, searching by haplogroup revealed a common ancestor born in 1140, with lineage confirmed in medieval sources. Comprehensive references were given.

In September we enjoyed a lively and thought-provoking talk by Katie Amos entitled 'Family History – The Dark Side'. The theme drew our attention to how some unexpected facets of our family history could be found by giving freedom to our curiosity. By probing into several branches of her own family, Katie illustrated with a widely sourced range of documentation, how hard life could be and hopes overturned by brushes with

the law in the 1800s. Several touching examples showed how what we would now regard as minor or even barely report worthy infringements of the law led to poverty, imprisonment, transportation and even execution!



September's speaker - Katie Amos

We hold drop-in sessions at Bracknell Library on the second Thursday of the month from 2pm - 5pm and at Wokingham Library on the last Tuesday of the month from 2pm - 4.30pm.

Meetings ahead:

Unless otherwise stated, meetings are held at The New Priestwood Community Centre, Bracknell. Doors open at 2.15pm for the meeting to start at 2.45pm.

December 2023 - no meeting

19th January

Help with Brick Walls, Stories and Quizzes

16th February

Lost, Stolen Away or Strayed: missing ancestors and how to find them by Sue Ellis

20th March (Zoom, 7.15 for 7.45 start)

Combined Branches Meeting **Scottish Sources at the Society of Genealogists** by Sue Gibbons (see inside back cover)

Sandra Barkwith, Bryan Pledger & Michael Rea

Around the Branches

Please check the Society's website for up to date details of meetings

Newbury Branch

newbury@berksfhs.org.uk

At our annual branch meeting in May, the committee was re-elected as follows: Nick Prince (chair), Judith Thomas, Reg Ward, Jenny Peet and Penny Stokes. Ian Ward, who has been our treasurer for some 17 years, stood down from the committee, and Jenny Peet has taken on the role. Following the official business, the meeting heard Simon Burbidge talk about researching Quaker ancestry.

In June, we met again at West Berkshire Museum to hear Mike Cooper deliver a comprehensively detailed guide to First World War records.

In August, a group of us visited a local care home (at the manager's request) to offer residents the opportunity of informal conversation about family history. It was a mixed experience, due to varying levels of interest, but would probably not be repeated without some advance planning in conjunction with the management.



After the summer break, we met on 13th September to welcome Jonathan Hopson to talk about his former family business, the Newbury department store Camp Hopson (pictured above). The store still exists under the same name, but no longer belongs to the Hopson family. The talk had good advance publicity, and attendance included several former members of staff.

In November, Tim Green will have taken us on a road trip around the history of motoring in West Berks.

The 2024 programme is almost complete for January to June, using Zoom in the colder months.

Meetings ahead:

10th January (Zoom)

Welsh Family History Research by Eilir Ann Daniels

14th February (Zoom)

Pinpointing the Origin of a Surname by John Titterton

Please see the website for more details.

Penny Stokes

Reading Branch

reading@berksfhs.org.uk

Reading Branch had a quiet time over the summer, but did continue their drop-in sessions at The Centre for Heritage and Family History on the last Thursday of the month. These are informal opportunities to seek help with solving that research puzzle that has been vexing you. Do pop in if you're passing.

In September, we resumed our branch meetings with a Zoom talk by Jenny Mallin, entitled 'A Grandmother's Legacy: serendipity follows me on my journey'. This was a tale of the numerous coincidences that happened during Jenny's quest to publish and promote a book based on the lives and recipes of 5 of her grandmothers. The book details what life was like in the British Raj from the mid-1850s. From repeat phone calls with someone in India, to a random phrase repeated to Jenny by two people unknown to each other and Jenny, the odds of all the coincidences mentioned occurring are staggering.

We look forward to our next couple of meetings which will be held at the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints, The Meadway, Tilehurst, before returning to Zoom in the new year.

Meetings ahead:

14th December (F2F)

Short quiz and members talks with seasonal refreshments

25th January (Zoom)

Henry Smith: A most notorious, naughty, false, lying fellow: A global black sheep or maligned character by Sue Paul

29th February (Zoom)

Getting to know your military ancestors through photographs and memorabilia by Captain Graham Bandy

20th March (Zoom)

Combined Branches Meeting - **Scottish Sources at the Society of Genealogists** by Sue Gibbons

Vicki Chesterman

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

Unfortunately, we had to cancel our visit to the Maidenhead Heritage Centre in July but hope to have Richard Poad from the Maidenhead Heritage Centre back as a speaker in 2024. This meant our Summer recess was longer than expected in July and August, but our Zoom talks started up again in September with the tantalising “Cross Your Fingers Until You...” about a mixture of superstitions, traditions and customs, by former police inspector and town crier Graham Sutherland.



September's speaker - Graham Sutherland

Graham gave a captivating talk that explored the intriguing world of hidden beliefs and rituals that guided our ancestors through life's twists and turns, from warding off spirits to quirky customs surrounding birth, marriage, and death. His dynamic storytelling and historical insights made this an educational and entertaining experience.

We eagerly anticipate the Combined Branches Meeting in October with Lady Teviot on “Underused Sources for Genealogical Research” and in November, we have Helen Baggott speaking on “The Empress of Ireland—Canada's Titanic” which doesn't end well, but I'm sure will be fascinating. We plan to have our traditional in-person Xmas Dinner at the Toby Carvery, Old Windsor in December.

Meetings ahead:

30th January (Zoom)

The mystery brooch - how family history research helped solve the puzzle by Mike Bailey

27th February (Zoom)

The Poor and the Parish by Gill Blanchard

20th March (Zoom)

Combined Branches Meeting
Scottish Sources at the Society of Genealogists by Sue Gibbons



Leigh Dworkin

Computer Branch

computer@berksfhs.org.uk

Meetings ahead:

See website for details of future meetings

Around Berkshire

This is the final instalment in the series of articles about places in Berkshire and starts with the letter V. Unsurprisingly, there are no settlements in Berkshire starting with V, X or Z, so we have a few of the W entries and our solitary Y settlement. Next time we'll start looking at Berkshire parishes.

If you could add something to Berklopedia to help cover missing places or expand the information on those listed, please email the Webmaster at webmaster@berksfhs.org.uk.

The information used can be found on our website under Info -> Berklopedia, along with links to related articles. Why not take a look at Berklopedia to see what you might find.

Winkfield is a large and ancient ecclesiastical and civil parish in East Berkshire, in part bordering West Surrey. Lying in the hundred of Ripplismere, it was in the poor law union of Easthampstead. From 1837 it was in the registration district of Windsor, being then moved to the district of Easthampstead in 1968. Currently it comes under the local authority of Bracknell Forest. Adjoining parishes are Ash (Surrey), Bray, Clewer, Easthampstead, New Windsor, Old Windsor, Sandhurst, Sunninghill, Warfield and Windlesham (Surrey).

In 1851 it had a population of 2,185, rising dramatically to 15,271 by 2001.

History

Originally eight miles across, Winkfield remains one of Berkshire's (and the UK's) largest parishes. It still contains some widely scattered hamlets, including Brock Hill, Chavey Down, Maiden's Green, North Street, The Plain, Winkfield Row and Winkfield Street to the north-west of the church. It formerly embraced large sections of the present-day parishes of Ascot Heath, Bracknell, and Cranbourne.

From the 11th century until the Dissolution the manor of Winkfield belonged to the abbey of Abingdon and there are recorded instances of the Winkfield tenants refusing to render their customary dues to the abbey. Over the next 300 years there was a succession of landholders, including George III who retained it as his private estate.

While the northern part of the parish retains its rural character, the southern part is very heavily developed as new house building has intensified

in East Berkshire.

Church

The church, dedicated to St. Mary, dates from the 13th century with numerous subsequent additions.

Surviving parish records are held by Berkshire Record Office:

- Baptisms: 1564 to 1988
- Marriages: 1564 to 2001
- Burials: 1564 to 1961
- Banns: 1754 to 1789 and 1823 to 1979

The society's Berkshire Baptisms covers 1720-1778, Berkshire Marriages covers the period 1564 to 1937, and the Berkshire Burials covers the periods 1564-1961 and 1984.

Buildings of interest

A messuage known as the Old Court House or King's tenement, is now the 'White Hart' public house.

There are many 16th century and earlier houses in Winkfield including Kilbees Farm, Foliejohn Cottage, Abbey Farm House, the Old Forge and the Pump Room on Winkfield Plain, built over a mineral spring and a former place for 'taking the waters'.



Links and other useful sources

Winkfield War Memorial, with the Church of St Mary in the background, commemorates those who died in both World Wars (photo by Chad Hanna).

Details of Winkfield men who fell in the First and Second World Wars can be found on <http://www.roll-of-honour.com/Berkshire/Winkfield.html>

Winkfield Chronicles: A New History of Winkfield, Winkfield History Group Project, 2000

The town of **Wokingham** is situated in the Thames valley some 6 miles east of Reading with access to east Reading and Bracknell via the A329, to south Reading and London via the M4, and to central Reading and London Waterloo via railway from Wokingham station.

The name of Wokingham probably derives from the Woccingas, a Saxon tribe based around Woking, and there is a recorded history from the 12th century, as the chief forest town of Windsor Forest. It still retains houses from the 15th century onwards in the central part of the town, and many of the present buildings were erected in the mid 19th century, several being donated by the Walter family of nearby Bearwood estate (original owners of The Times newspaper), and many others, including hall-houses, were re-fronted in the same period. The town centre has a Victorian character, typified by the town hall which opened in 1860.

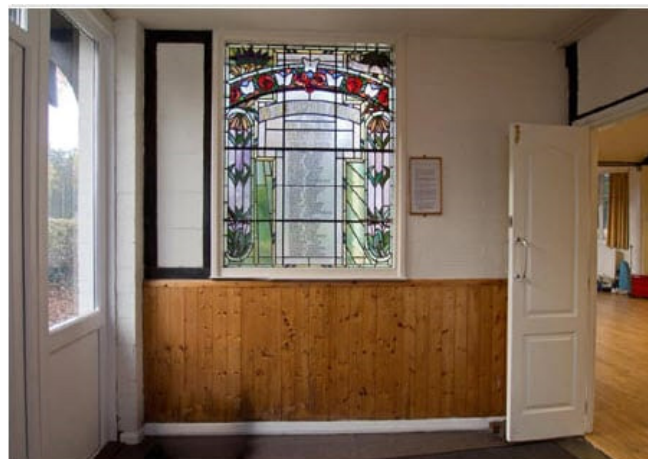


Wokingham Borough Council, created from Wokingham District Council in 2007 and based in the old vicarage at Shute End at the western end of Broad Street, is the administrative headquarters of Wokingham Unitary Authority, itself formed in 1998 following the abolition of Berkshire County Council.

Wokingham Register Office was located in the Old School (one of the Walter buildings), across the road from Shute End, but this was sold in late 2011 and the office transferred into the Shute End building.

The original parish church of All Saints, documented in the 12th century as part of Salisbury deanery (the parish was eventually transferred to the Diocese of Oxford in 1836, and the patronage of the church was transferred in 1846), still stands with an extensive churchyard at the east of the town centre; a new parish was

created in 1863 with a church dedicated to St Paul on the Reading Road, west of the town centre, with its own burial ground. A further parish was formed in 1871 based around the church of St Sebastian, which was consecrated in 1864, on Nine Mile Ride to the south of the town, again, with a burial ground. Additional places of worship include the Baptist Church in Milton Road (previously Nonesuch Lane) and the Methodist Church in Rose Street, which together provided the Free Church Burial Ground, close to St Pauls on the Reading Road.



Wokingham – Saint Sebastian War Memorial by Brian Wilcock

Saint Sebastian's Memorial Hall on the Nine Mile Ride between Bracknell and Finchampstead, contains two stained-glass memorial windows, one (above) commemorating deaths in World War I and another (below), commemorating deaths in World War II, together with other plaques covering the building of the hall and installation of the windows.



Wokingham Forest Road War Memorial by Brian Wilcock

Pictured below, the small timber memorial on Forest Road, Wokingham, is built into the side of a private garage at grid reference SU 82870.



In white hand-painted letters, it commemorates the men of Forest Road who died in World War 1.

Yattendon is a village and parish seven miles north-east of Newbury. The river Pang flows through the west of the parish. In 1851 it had a population of 265 which had reached 369 by 2011.

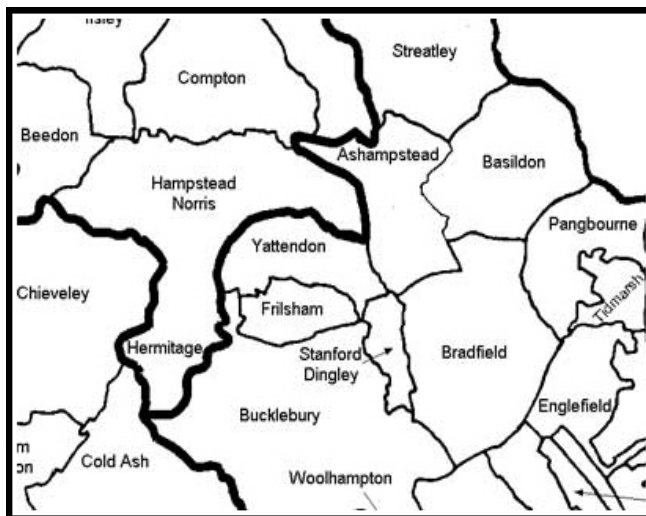
Local place names include Everington and Burnt Hill (an eighteenth-century brick-making settlement).

The village is in the hundred of Faircross and the current registration district of Bradfield and is under the West Berkshire local authority, having formerly been in the Poor Law District of Bradfield.



Cottages, Yattendon © Copyright Andrew Smith (CC BY-SA 2.0) via Wikimedia Commons

Adjoining parishes in nineteenth century



Published local history

- G Timmins Yattendon: a village history (Lola Print, 2012)
- J E Smith-Masters Yattendon and its church (Cornwall Press, 1929)

Anglican church and parochial organisation

Yattendon is a rectory in the archdeaconry of Berkshire, and in the diocese of Oxford. The church of SS Peter and Paul is Gothic, substantially remodelled in 1858-60.



© Copyright Graham Horn (CC BY-SA 2.0) via Wikimedia Commons

Other churches

Primitive Methodist chapels existed in Yattendon and Burnt Hill.

Schools

A National school existed in Yattendon in 1833, the forerunner of the present-day Yattendon Church of England Primary School.

Pubs

In 1911 Cosburn's Directory recorded a pub called the Axe and Compass, as well as the Royal Oak, which survives today, and dates from at least the late eighteenth century.

Other local history

In medieval times Yattendon had a Tuesday market and, more recently, an October fair.

Lords of the manor included the fifteenth-century Norreys family, until they were succeeded by the Berties (earls of Abingdon). In 1876 the manor was bought by Alfred Waterhouse, the architect who built the Natural History Museum. He also built Yattendon Court, and a reading room for the village. The Iliffe family succeeded Waterhouse in 1925; they amassed the 9,000-acre Yattendon estate, famous for Christmas trees, and for its characteristic dark green paintwork. (It is

said that the GPO could not keep the post and telephone boxes red because loyal locals would repaint them Yattendon-green in the night.) The Yattendon Group's other interests of property and newspapers are centred in the village.

The Yattendon Revels, celebrated on old St Peter's day (10 July), were said to commemorate a battle fought in Yattendon Fields between King Alfred and the Danes. The revels included cudgels (single-stick fighting), wrestling and bowling, and flourished until Victorian times.

Famous Yattendon residents included the Poet Laureate Robert Bridges, the restaurant critic Egon Ronay, and the TV kitchen presenter Ruth Mott.

Yattendon has a microbrewery, the West Berkshire Brewery, founded in 1955.

Meet My Grandad: Old King Cole

James Gilman *lays claim to a nursery rhyme notable*

Old King Cole was a merry old soul - we all know that. What you didn't know, perhaps, was that he was my grandad. Well, my many, very many times multiple g-grandad, from around 1600 years ago. And thereby hangs a tale; or to be more correct, two tales: one of King Cole himself, and one of a Welsh tribal chieftain called Cilmyrn Troed Dhu - Cilmyrn of the Black Leg.

Old King Cole was a historical figure, written of in Welsh annals as Coel Wen, meaning 'Old Coel' ('Coel' was pronounced 'coil'). He reigned from about 350 AD to 420 AD, during or after the period of the Roman withdrawal and just prior to the times of the legendary King Arthur. Coel Hen is thought to have ruled South West Scotland, Cumbria and Yorkshire down to York, territory that Roman records assigned to the Dux, a Roman military leader, and for this reason it is thought that Coel was the last Roman commander, who turned his command into a kingdom. More importantly, he was the founder of the Cole Dynasty which produced a number of kings who, together, ruled present day Southern Scotland, Lancashire, Yorkshire, Northumberland and Cumbria.

By the 6th century AD the Anglo Saxons were pressing the Cole empire seriously, and by 547 AD the Saxon King Ida had taken Northumbria. This was the beginning of the end for the Coles, who were wiped out by about 616 AD. Meurig Hen ('Old Matthew'), a relative of Coel Hen, is thought to have written of the King in an account from which the children's nursery rhyme, first recorded by William King in his Useful Transactions in Philosophy in 1708-9, is believed to have derived. As smoking had not then been invented, it's assumed that the pipe and bowl were musical instruments equivalent to the modern flute or drum, which seems to suggest that King Cole and his fiddlers played music together as a group - history's first rockers, perhaps? The term "pipe" was commonly used as an informal term for a flute.

One of Coel Hen's descendants was a certain Cilmyrn, who was a leader of one of the 10 'Noble Tribes' of North Wales, based in Caernarvonshire in the 10th century. Legend has it that one day Cilmyrn was busy in his favourite hobby of pursuing a fair young maiden across the plains of Caernarvon, when they came to a broad river. The maiden plunged into the foaming waters

and, girding up his loins, Cilmyrn was about to do likewise when an old woman, sitting on a boulder beside the river, called on him to halt. "I am a witch", she told him, "and yonder fair maiden is under my protection. If you dare to plunge into these here foaming waters in pursuit of her, your leg will turn black and fall off." All this was spoken, of course, in Welsh.

After telling the witch just what she could do with herself and her broomstick, Cilmyrn plunged into the raging torrent. Lo and behold, the leg with which he took his first step into the waters did, indeed, turn black and fell off. When, in due course, he created for himself a coat of arms, he had painted on it a black leg cut off at the knee, giving rise to his nickname: Cilmyrn Troed Dhu', which translates as 'Cilmyrn of the black leg'.



Gilman Coat of Arms

What has this to do with my family? Well, in 1905 a book was published in London and New York entitled 'A History of the Gilman Family' by an American member of that family - Alexander William Gilman. Alexander points out that every member of the Gilman family can be traced back to Cilmyrn Troed Dhu (in Welsh, 'C' is often interchangeable with 'G') and that prior to 1500 this was how the Gilmans spelled their family name. As evidence of this relationship with Cilmyrn T D, he points out that every subsequent Gilman who has been granted an award of a Coat of Arms by the College of Arms in London has had incorporated into it a leg cut off at the knee. This shows that the College, which is meticulous in its scrutiny of the background of families to whom it awards this honour, must have been satisfied that

a blood link existed between these Gilmans (and there have been several thus honoured over the years and centuries, including at least one baronet and a Belgian-based Baron) back to Cilmyrn Troed Dhu in Wales. Alexander Gilman also provides a pedigree which links Cilmyrn T D with Coel Hen, from whom he was indisputably descended.

My own father, James Gilman, was born in London where the family had a military tailor's business. His father, also James Gilman, was also born in London, whereas his grandfather, yet another James Gilman, was born in Reading, Berkshire, where his father, yes, James Gilman once again, worked as a whitesmith (a worker in white metals such as aluminium). He, however, was an immigrant from the rural Berkshire village of Lambourn, and it was in Lambourn that my branch of the family had its origins, with records of their name and occupations locked within the pages of the parish registers going back to the early 1500s when those records began. And in those pages, a mystery exists linking us with Old King Cole of yore.

For over 200 years, beginning in 1576 and terminating in 1796, generations of Gilmans adopted the name COLE or COLES as an alternative surname or as an alias. In fact it could have been for an even longer period, as the Lambourn parish registers don't go back any further than the mid-1500s.

Now, a man may adopt a different name as an alias for a number of reasons ranging from marriage and inheritance to criminality. But for some 6-8 generations of the same family in the same village to have adopted the same alias over 2 centuries is not only unusual: it is unique. Here are the Gilmans (with normal variations in the spelling of the name) who did so:

- 1576 December 15th Alexander COLES (alias GILLMORE) baptised
- 1596 December 17th Sibbil, daughter of Thomas COLES alias GILLMORE baptised
- 1597 August 20th Marie, daughter of Thomas COLES alias GILLMORE baptised
- 1601 August 15th Thomas, son of (Thomas) GILLMORE alias COLES, of Lambourn, baptised
- 1602 December 17th Alice, daughter of Thomas GILMER alias COLES baptised
- 1603 January 21st Christian daughter of Thomas COLES (alias GUILMER) baptised
- 1604 October 8th Alice, daughter of Thomas GUILMORE (alias COLES) buried

1606 March 8th Jane daughter of Thomas GUILMER (alias COLES) baptised

1608 September 30th Thomas GUILMER (alias COLES) buried

1608 October 13th William son of Thomas COLES (alias GUILMER) baptised

1625 January 9th William son of John GILMER (alias COLES) baptised

1644 May 1st William son of John GILMAN (alias COLES) buried

1655 February 11th Thomas COALES (alias GILLMAN) married Jewda FAIRECHILD

1655 July 9th Jane GILLMAN (alias COLES or COULES) married William Pitfale

1680 July 11th Ann GILLMAN (alias COLES or COULES) married Giles Larance

1694 February 3rd John COWLES (alias GYLMAN) married Mary Thatcher

1796 December 18th William COULES (alias GILLMAN) buried

Why would these Gilmans adopt the alias COLE for such a long period of time, if it were not for some tradition in the family that recorded their link with the Cole dynasty? Remember, this began centuries before the nursery rhyme of Old King Cole was first written. Which in turn yields yet another mystery. While landed gentry families in those days might well have inherited manorial rolls and other documents that outlined their family tree from ancient times, it seems most unlikely that a family from the tradesman class (the Gilmans of Lambourn were the village bakers) would have held such records. So how did they know of their ancient lineage?

My father, though born in London, was brought up in Hastings. It was his proud boast that it was a Gilman who plucked the arrow out of King Harold's eye at the Battle of Hastings, a boast which I've always attributed to the accident of my dad's geographical home rather than to historical fact. (And yet... the Saxon King Alfred who famously burnt the cakes and was a predecessor to the Saxon King Harold was, by tradition, born in Lambourn. So you never know!) But it doesn't end there.

According to the Welsh annals quoted by Alexander Gilman in his book, the Cole dynasty was also descended from the English-born Roman Emperor Constantine the Great, who in turn was descended from the legendary Brutus, who fled the burning ruins of Troy to come to these shores, bringing with him the name he gave to our country - Britain. He also brought with him the fabled London Stone which, buried up to its neck in a pavement near London's Liverpool Street Station, was the stone which the Romans used as the starting point for measuring all distances along the roads of their province of Britannia.

There is even more. The same annals tell of Coel Hen being himself a descendant of the English-born St. Anne, mother of Mary of Nazareth and grandmother of Jesus Christ. So who knows, it may be that jostling for pride of place in my bloodstream is a gene from the bloodline of the Messiah Himself. But that's another story...



Old King Cole ©Maxfield Parrish (1893) [public domain] via Wikimedia Commons

Unclaimed Certificates

Following the article in your June 2023 Berkshire Family Historian, the Society is still in possession of a number of birth, marriage and death certificates that are no longer needed by their owners. A few were rehomed, but the majority were not, and some have been added. You may find one that belongs to your family. Several of the surnames listed below crop up in YourTrees.

To help you know whether a particular certificate relates to your family we have added some detail regarding the place of event, as they can be anywhere in Great Britain, as you will see.

Don't forget, there is a section on the Community (Forum) page of our website for details of unwanted certificates called 'recycling'. Here you will find unwanted certificates and other family history related items that are looking for new homes. Maybe you will find an item relating to your family, or maybe you wish to rehome some of those certificates you purchased in the hope they belonged to 'your' person, but then found they don't.

Any member can post an item for 'recycling', and any member can reply to an item offered, and arrangements can be made for passing on the document. Alternatively, contact the editor at editor@berksfhs.org.uk.

Some of the family names mentioned on documents that have not yet found a new home are:

Birth (mothers maiden name in brackets)

Ackroyd (Anderson)	Pontefract, Yorks	1873
Adams (Watts)	Gayton, Norfolk	1860
Ashton (Bounds)	Stockport, Cheshire	1839
Baker (Skinner)	Colnbrook, Bucks	1847, 1848,
Baker (Skinner)	Langley Marish, Bucks	1850 (x2), 1854+1857
Burchill (Roberts)	Clifton, Gloucs	1855
Butcher (Phillips)	Mildenhall, Suffolk	1873
Charlesworth (Cooke)	Huddersfield, Yorks	1858
Davey (Farrington)	Battersea, Surrey	1870
Francis (Stokes)	Frome, Somerset	1840
Griffiths (Newcombe)	Islington, Middx	1857
Griffiths (Griffiths)	Mile End Old Town, Middx	1857
Griffiths (Collins)	Bromley, Middx	1883
Griffiths (Parker)	St James, Southwark, London	1891
Horton (Horton)	Aylesbury, Bucks	1844
Horton (Horton)	Chelsea Middx	1860
Horton (Scott)	Belgrave, Middx	1860 (x2)
Hutchen/on (Watkins)	Haggerstone, Middx	1846
Hutchens (Cooper)	Southsea, Hants	1850
MacDonald (Whitson)	Glasgow, Lanarkshire	1868
McDonald (Corney)	Glasgow, Lanarkshire	1868
Mills (Donoghue)	Brentford, Middx	1884
Nice (Morris)	Reading, Berks	1941
Pike (Day)	Frome, Somerset	1913
Pike (Davis)	Chelsea, Middx	1880

Pike (Brown)	Westminster, Middx	1859
Pike (Fox)	Lee, Kent	1853
Pike ((Watts)	Clapham, Surrey	1882
Price (Lawson)	Wilford, Notts	1893
Price (Fellows)	Cannock, Staffs	1885
Price (Lewis)	Abertillery, Monmouthshire	1921
Strong (Edmunds)	Gillingham, Kent	1867
Strong (Rennie)	St Giles, Middx	1867
Strong (Strong)	Waterloo, Surrey	1870
Strong (Strong)	Tottenham Court, Middx	1885
Strong (Jezard)	Kentish Town, London	1889
Strong (Hemmings)	Edmonton, Middx	1934
Swadling (Lander)	St Mary Marylebone, Middx	1840
Taylor (Tinsley)	Beverley, Yorks	1880
Wallace (Cobb)	Bothwell, Lanarkshire	1862
Wallace (Kin)	Arbroath, Forfar, Scotland	1862
West (Lawman)	Royston, Herts	1863
Wheeler (Golder)	Bicester, Oxon	1842
White (Cooper)	Croydon, Surrey	1848
White (Cox)	Wargrave, Berks	1870
Woodland (Sherman)	Reading, Berks	1864

Marriage (witness names in brackets)

Avis/Adams (George)	East Winch, Norfolk	1858
Ayling/Tolladay (Barnes)	Clewer, Berks	1888
Baker/Skinner (Mattingley)	Langley, Berks	1845
Benfield/Godbolt	Great Yarmouth, Norfolk	1856
Clarke/Smith (Betts)	Hertford, Herts	1874
Hewett/Jones	Notting Hill, Middx	1876 (licence)
Hollis/Griffiths (Field)	Hackney London	1910
House/Wiltshire	Tilehurst, Berks	1856
Morgan/Harris (Allen)	Shoreditch, Middx	1945
Pike/Middleton (Armitage)	Clapham, Surrey	1875
Pike/Ball	Clerkenwell, Middx	1857
Pike/Burdon	Stour Provost, Dorset	1857
Sharp/Granger (Hardy)	Heannor, Derbyshire	1845
Strong/Hemmings	Edmonton, Middx	1934
Strong/Day	Acton, Middx	1914
Strong/Farr	Pancras, London	1907
Strong/Gray (Ransom, Mills)	Islington, London	1900
Strong/Hinson (Green)	St Pancras, Middx	1865
Thorogood/ Shepherd (Grey)	Weston, Herts	1849

Wiffen/Swallow (Martin, Hardy)	Stambourne, Essex	1882
Wigg/Lewis	Sonning, Berks	1882
Wigg/Soden	Reading, Berks	1915
Wilkin/Wigg (Webb)	Sunninghill, Berks	1851

Death

Arison	Saddleworth, Yorks	1860
Baker	Iver, Bucks	1896
Bennett	Bulwell, Notts	1926
Bennett	Nottingham, Notts	1951
Clarke	Hertford, Herts	1892
Goodwin	Hawkhurst, Herts	1911
Griffiths	Pancras, London	1893
Griffiths	Edgbaston, Birmingham	1941
Horton	Waddesdon, Bucks	1869
Mann	Wymondham, Norfolk	1889
MacDonald (Chilsolm)	Edinburgh, Scotland	1876
Pike	Bramley, Hants	1917
Pike	Fulham, London	1902
Pike	Lewisham, London	1900
Pike	Belgrave, London	1897
Pike	Sydenham, Kent	1882
Pike	Kennington, Surrey	1863
Strong	Cavendish Sq, Middx	1861
Strong	Paddington, Middx	1862
Strong	Somers Town, Middx	1863
Strong	Paddington, Middx	1863
Strong	City of London	1863
Strong	Birmingham, Warwicks	1885
Strong	Kentish Town, Middx	1864
Strong	Holloway, London	1911
Swallow	Sedgefield, Durham	1902
Wigg	Egham, Surrey	1855
Willmot	Rochester, Kent	1961
Willmott	Oxford, Oxon	1960
Wilson	Swaby, Lincs	1863

Wills

Wigg	Reading, Berks	1715
Wigg	New Windsor, Berks	1750

New Electronic Journal Exchanges

We would like to let you know about some of our newer journal exchanges that are available on our website.

Bradford FHS

Bundaberg Genealogical Association Inc. (Queensland)

Calderdale FHS

Family History WA (Western Australia)

Glasgow & West of Scotland FHS

Lanarkshire FHS

Liverpool and South West Lancashire FHS

Lothians FHS

New Zealand FHS

Queensland FHS Inc.

Queensland Genealogical Society

St Louis Genealogical Society

Tasmanian FHS Inc.

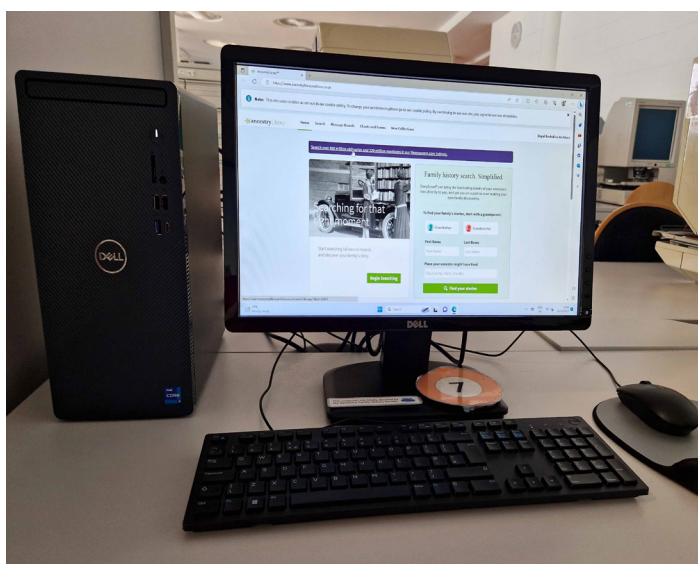
Journals for these societies can be found on our website members area at <https://berksfhs.org/info>. New societies are regularly being added, so please keep an eye on the website.

If you wish us to add any other societies to our list, please email editor@berksfhs.org.uk.

Donation of new PCs to the Royal Berkshire Archives

Over the years, as part of the Society's charitable objectives, the trustees have approved expenditure to enable the Berkshire Record Office (now Royal Berkshire Archives) to be able to better preserve and make available records and information for researchers.

The last purchase the Society funded was in 2015 - a paper restorer for the conservation department. The trustees were therefore delighted to recently fund a new project to enable visitors to the RBA's research room to be able to continue to access Family History websites. Three new personal computers were purchased, all on the latest version of Windows, which brings their computer suite up to date and secure. A sign on each PC acknowledges the Society for its generous donation.



A Combined Branches' Special Online Meeting

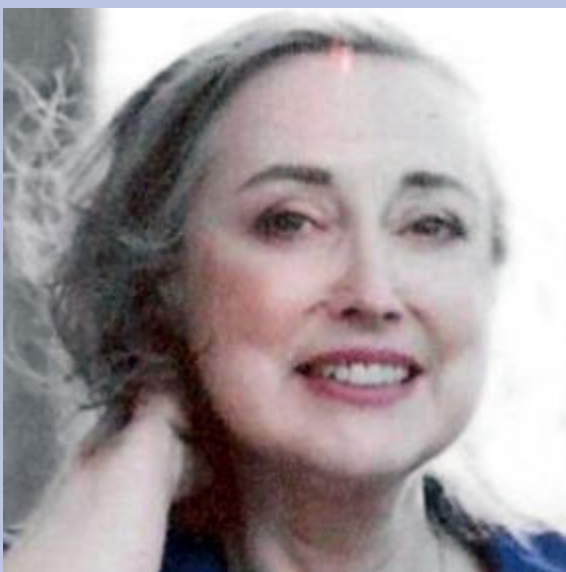
Wednesday 20th March 2024

7.45pm start (session opens 7.15pm)

Scottish Sources at the Society of Genealogists

By Sue Gibbons

We are delighted to announce that Sue Gibbons will be the speaker at the March Combined Branches' Special Online Meeting. Sue will be talking about Scottish sources at the Society of Genealogists. Her talk will include general sources covering Scotland as a whole such as: armed forces records, Scots working and emigrating abroad, apprenticeship, education and occupations, State papers and Historical Manuscripts Commission reports, land and tax records, and wills including inventories and services of heirs. She will also focus on local sources about particular places: registers of churches, both the established church and nonconformist, civil registration records, monumental inscriptions, census indexes and returns, directories and poll books or lists of voters, the publications of Scottish record societies, family histories and one-name studies both published and unpublished. She will also include internet sources in this comprehensive coverage.



The Society of Genealogists' new premises at Unit 2, 40 Wharf Road, London N1 7GS is due to open in 2024. See the Society's website for further updates: www.sog.org.uk

About the speaker

Sue Gibbons was the librarian of the Society of Genealogists for almost 20 years. During this time she was responsible for managing a major Lottery funded project to convert the old card catalogue into computer form and make it available on the Internet. She has been a member of the Anglo-German FHS since 1987 and is a life member and Fellow of the Society of Genealogists. She hopes to complete My ancestor was a shopkeeper for the Society of Genealogists and a second edition of her book German Pork Butchers in Britain for the Anglo-German FHS is nearing completion.

Berkshire Heritage Fair

Saturday 24th February 2024

Two sessions: 10 - 12 noon and 2 - 4pm

Online and Free

Pre-booking required - see website for more details and to book your place

Organised by Berkshire Family History Society & Berkshire Local History Association



Berkshire scenes courtesy of Jim Bradshaw

Following on from the success of the first ever online heritage fair, we are delighted to announce a new fair in February 2024. The fair brings together many of Berkshire's heritage organisations - from museums and archives to libraries and local history societies, covering the length and breadth of the pre-1974 historic county of Berkshire. It is a fantastic and unique opportunity to connect to local experts who may be able to help you deepen your understanding of the places your family lived, the organisations they were connected to and the businesses and individuals for whom they worked. And it's free to attend.

We will be using Zoom video-conferencing and each organisation or groups of organisations will have their own breakout room. Attendees will be able to move from room to room to pose questions, ask for advice and share information with the experts present. These are private conversations and can only be heard by those present at the time in the "room".

You may have specific questions you would like to ask, information or images you are seeking or you may have information you would like to share. Last time, the experts were able to break down long-standing brick walls, track down images of past ancestral homes and businesses, decipher documents and explain their context and provide lots of potential leads. There will be no formal talks or presentations - this is about informal discussions, sharing information and building connections.

And of course, experts from Berkshire Family History Society, and many of our neighbouring family history societies, will also be present and able to help you with much of the above and also help with specific research queries. A full list of participating organisations and a summary of how they may be able to help you will be available online.

Bookings are now open and you may book to attend one or both sessions. If more than one member of a household would like to attend, please book places for each and separately if you intend to use separate computer devices (preferably in separate rooms). Places are limited so please book early.