

Berkshire Family Historian

*The quarterly journal of the
Berkshire Family History Society*



December 2024

Volume 48



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John and Martha Street of Chulmleigh

Highlight on ... East Ilsley

My Visit to Windsor to Research my Ancestors

West Berkshire Council's Archaeological Team

Berkshire Family History Society

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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

Cookham Church and Angel by Sean Davis, CC BY-SA 2.0, via Wikimedia Commons

Berkshire Family Historian

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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).

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Bascombe	15+	Oade	34
Brett	33	Pendar	15+
Burden	29	Perkins	16
Byrne	31+	Proctor	17
Cawsey	13+	Reed	13+
Davenport	16	Scoltock	31+
de Weyer	33	Snelling	13
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Earle	16	Stewart	16
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Hall	33	White	Inside back cover
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Editor's Notes

Welcome to your December 2024 Berkshire Family Historian. I can't quite believe that we are already at the final edition for 2024. Yet again we have a packed issue.

Our Events programme continues into 2025 with a variety of talks, both at The Centre for Heritage and Family History and online; advice sessions, again, both online and at The Centre for Heritage and Family History; DNA interest group; and visits. We also have a special interest day and a book fair coming up. Don't forget to book early for events via our website to avoid disappointment as some events sell out quickly.

As usual the branches continue to provide a selection of meetings covering a wide range of topics on local and family history, that are free of charge to our members, both online and in person.

We have news of big events for the Society, coming next year. More information will be circulated in the new year, so keep your eye on future issues of this journal, your regular Society and branch newsletters and the website for more information as it becomes available.

If you feel the budding author inside you jumping at the chance to get published, please do get in touch. Personal stories can help give encouragement to other researchers, but we would be especially welcoming of articles about hints and tips, interesting datasets you have discovered or general 'How to do research'.

Vicki Chesterman

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Chairman's Corner

By the time you read this, Christmas will be just around the corner and for the majority of us winter will have set in. Apologies to our members in Australia and New Zealand who will be hopefully currently enjoying much warmer weather.

For many of us, the colder months are when we are able to set aside more time to focus upon our own family history. If you're seeking inspiration on your next steps, or just a reminder of what's possible, do check out the many videos of past talks now available in the members' area of the website. The Society's website also contains considerable material to help you get your tree ready to share on YourTrees, if you haven't yet done so. Plus, copies of past In Touch newsletters and past Historians - so plenty enough reading material to last until the spring.

Whatever your plans are for the season ahead, I wish you a very Happy Christmas and New Year.

Catherine Sampson

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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



If you haven't yet visited the Centre to further your research and would like to better understand the facilities we offer there - why not join one of our quarterly Research Zone tours. You can find out more and book a place on the Society's website under the "What's On" section. 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. You can pre-book a one-to-one help session on one Monday each month. In addition, our Research Assistants are happy to provide advice to help you with your research whenever you visit, 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.



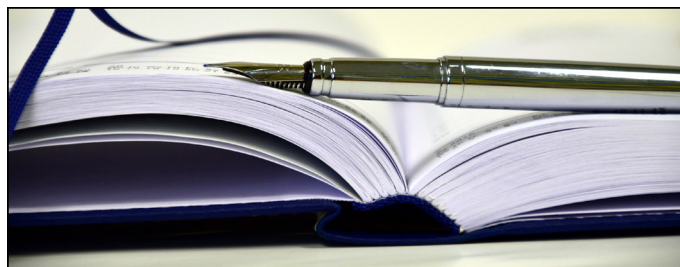
Dates for Your Diaries

East Surrey FHS Virtual Family History Fair

Saturday 25th January 2026, 10am-12noon and 2-4pm. FREE

Join from the comfort of your armchair, wherever you are. Berkshire Family History Society will be amongst the organisations attending this fair - so do drop in to see us.

For more details and to register your place see: eastsurreyfh.org.uk/index.php/events



Common website questions

Tips from our web team

We get a lot of emails about how to manage your account and find your way around. Most things related to your membership can be updated directly online faster than you can send us an email, and with instant results. Here are some common issues.

1. What's my username?

Username are assigned by the user during signup. Some were carried over from the old website (pre 2019). It doesn't matter if you can't remember your username, you can use your email address instead.

2. I forgot my password

Go to the login page and click the **Forgot Password** link. Enter your email address. If the site finds a matching email it will send you a password reset email. If the email doesn't arrive, check your spam folder. Have you changed your email recently? If you have and haven't updated it in your user profile, the password reset email will be sent to your old address. Do you still have access?

If the email hasn't arrived after 10 minutes, go to the **Help > Contact** menu option to send us a message.

3. My preferred password isn't accepted

Strong passwords are essential these days and our system will not accept weak ones. The site will tell

you how strong your proposed password is when you join or when you do a password reset. Use a password manager such as Bitwarden or allow your browser to store your details. Alternatively, we have a website guide on **How to create an easy to remember but complex password** at:

berksfhs.org/complex-password or menu item **Help > Easy Complex Passwords**

4. My email address has changed

Login to the website. Select **Profile** in the top menu and update your email there. If you use a password manager or your browser to store your details, don't forget to update those.

5. What's my membership number?

Login to the website. Select **Profile** in the top menu. Your membership number will be shown at the top of the page. Your membership number will rarely be needed in practice.

6. I'm not sure if I've renewed/I think I've renewed twice

Login to the website. Select **Profile** in the top menu and click the **Subscriptions** tab to see your subscription record.

If you subscribe twice your membership will be extended by a further year. You can either leave it (you won't get any renewal notices next year)

or you can ask for a refund - go to the **Help > Contact** menu option to send us a message.

7. My bank wants to send me an authorisation text so I can renew or complete a purchase - where do I update my mobile number?

We do store your phone number in your profile and you can update it. Login to the website. Select **Profile** in the top menu and scroll down to the phone number field. **BUT your bank will only send a text to the mobile number stored in your bank profile.** You need to login to your online bank account or call them.

8. How do I search for products and general content?

There's a search bar at the top of every page. Click on it and start typing to get filtered results. On the results page there is an option to toggle between products and content.

9. I still haven't found what I'm looking for

Be more specific in what you search for. Search terms like 'Berkshire' or 'Baptisms' will return hundreds of results. 'Abingdon St Nicholas' will produce very few. Don't use wildcard characters - modern search functions don't need them and you may actually hide some results. Search will also handle simple misspelt words.

10. I haven't received the InTouch email newsletter lately

Has your membership expired? See item 6. If you're still a member it's possible you unsubscribed from the newsletter by mistake, or didn't allow us to send you newsletters when you renewed. To fix this, login to the website. Select **Profile** in the top menu and click the **Newsletter resubscribe** tab to rejoin the mailing list.

If that doesn't fix it go to the **Help > Contact** menu option to send us a message.

11. I'm receiving two copies of the InTouch and Events newsletters

The most likely reason is you've changed your email recently, or renewed with a different email. We try to keep on top of these changes but occasionally miss one. Go to the **Help > Contact** menu option to send us a message

12. I want to change the branches that I follow

You can do this on your **Profile** page.

13. I made a booking/bought a product and haven't received a confirmation email

If it hasn't arrived within ten minutes there are three common causes:

1. The email has gone to your spam folder. If so, please make sure you mark it as 'not spam' or move it to your inbox so that your email provider knows the email was genuine, otherwise future email could be marked as spam too.
2. Your email address was incorrectly entered (for example @gmail.con instead of .com). If this happens our web team will be notified and will usually redirect the email, but it may take a few hours for us to take action.
3. Your email provider has blocked our confirmation email. This can happen when you book multiple events. Each event confirmation is a separate email and some email providers will randomly choose to not like that.

14. What is LINK?

When you check out on any site that uses Stripe as the payment provider you may see a green box with LINK. LINK is Stripe's proprietary quick payment system that will allow you to store your credentials on **their** highly secure servers. A significant number of our members already use it. Whether or not you do is your choice.

Your **profile page** is the place to start for all things related to membership and your account. It provides 24/7 self service and features prominently on the homepage.

If you can't find what you want there, use **Help > Contact** to send us a message or click the big blue button at the bottom right of every page of the website

Events organised from The Centre for Heritage and Family History

December 2024 - March 2025

Our events programme includes face-to-face events in the Centre for Heritage and Family History and online events using Zoom.

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: 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 16th Jan Mon 20th Feb Mon 17th Mar Mon 17th 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.
Dec Mon 2nd Jan Mon 6th Feb Mon 3rd Mar Mon 3rd 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.

Book Fair	
Nov Sat 30th 11am - 2pm FREE The Centre for Heritage & Family History	Love books and reading? Looking for something different for a Christmas present? Over recent years, Berkshire Family History Society has been given many pre-loved books to sell. These are predominantly local history, family history and social history books - although we also have a fair number of military and transport history books, plus others. If “history” is your thing - then come along and grab a bargain. We also have a selection of vintage maps. We need to clear the decks a little so everything will be out on display. Plus we will also have some of our extensive bookshop of new books, maps and publications available to purchase, including our data CDs. You'll also be able to buy refreshments whilst you ponder your purchases.

Workshops	
See website for full details. Places are limited, pre-booking is required.	
<p>Jan Thu 16th 7 - 9.30pm</p> <p>FREE Members Only</p> <p>ONLINE</p>	<p>Creating an enduring family tree in YourTrees Tutor: Paul Barrett</p> <p>Do you wish that your grandparents had kept a family history? You can ensure your grandchildren have easy access to their backstory. 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? Create an enduring family tree in YourTrees and avoid these common problems. In this workshop, you will learn how to create an enduring family tree, ensuring your hard work is never lost. Don't just build a family tree – share it for the future.</p>
<p>Feb Thu 6th 7 - 9pm</p> <p>TICKETS £10 (members £9)</p> <p>ONLINE</p>	<p>Huntley and Palmers Biscuit Factory Tutor: Dr Richard Marks</p> <p>Huntley and Palmer played a pivotal role in Reading's history for almost a century and a half. Starting modestly, the company grew to become a global behemoth and a staple of Reading. This workshop will explore the company's evolution and its significance to Reading's residents throughout its history. Participants will also learn that Reading wasn't the sole location of the company's factories. Additionally, we will uncover some of the more unusual aspects of the company's past. Join Industrial Historian Dr. Richard Marks as he guides us through a significant chapter in the history of Reading and its community.</p>
<p>Feb Mon 24th 7 - 9pm</p> <p>FREE Members Only</p> <p>ONLINE</p>	<p>Getting the Most out of your Membership Tutors: Vanessa Chappell & Catherine Sampson</p> <p>Are you a relatively new member of the Society? Want to get the most out of your membership? This informal workshop will introduce you to the range of benefits that you have available to you. It will include accessing the Society's transcriptions, the mechanisms to enable you to collaborate and share your research with others, ways to obtain help in breaking down brick walls, and the various discounts and savings available for members. Q & A welcomed.</p>

House Histories Open Day	
<p>Feb Sat 1st 10.30am - 2.30pm</p> <p>FREE</p> <p>The Centre for Heritage & Family History</p>	<p>Are you interested in tracing the history of your house and its occupants? Come and sit down with one of our expert advisors who will offer practical guidance and show you how to get started and progress your research.</p> <p>The Research Zone will be open with access to Ancestry Worldwide, Findmypast Worldwide, the British Newspaper Archive and The Genealogist. Plus we will have our extensive collection of local trade directories available to consult.</p> <p>No need to book - just drop in.</p> <p>Refreshments will also be available for a small charge.</p>

Guided Walks and Tours	
Please see the website for full details. Places are limited, pre-booking is required.	
Jan Fri 10th 2 - 4pm TICKETS £5 (members £4)	Tour of Museum of Eton Life, College Library and College Archive The Museum of Eton Life brings to life the experience of learning, playing and living at Eton College across six centuries. The museum sets the history and traditions of Eton alongside stories of daily life of students, staff and visitors. The College Library holds articles dating from the 9th to 21st centuries and include, in addition to rare books and manuscripts, prints and printed ephemera, personal and literary archives, drawings and artefacts. The College Archives has a rich and varied collection of records and photographs relating to its own history as well as areas of special interest including travel writing, theatrical history and World War One. Please note there are stairs up to the library.
Feb Sat 22nd 10.30am - 12pm TICKETS £5 (members £4)	Tour of St Michael the Archangel, Warfield Guide: Rob Entwistle Join Rob for a tour of the inside and outside of this amazingly interesting church that charts its origins back to 1016 AD when Queen Emma granted permission for an old Saxon chapel to be built. The present North Aisle is the oldest part of the present church, probably built in the 12th century. It still retains the old 'Devil's Door', kept open during christenings to let out the banished evil spirits. The tower is 13th century and the nave, including the roof, is 14th century. The small angelus tower at the south-east corner is highly unusual.
Mar Tue 18th 2 - 3.30pm TICKETS £5 (members £4)	Historic Newbury Walk Guide: Phil Wood This circular walk around Newbury will provide an insight into the fascinating history of the town, from its Norman foundations to present day. Phil has a deep knowledge of Newbury, and those taking part will find this walk to be an excellent introduction to Newbury's rich history.
Research Zone Tour	
Places are limited, pre-booking is required.	
Feb Mon 10th 11.15am - 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.
Natter Group - Online - Free	
Dec 3rd Feb 4th Mar 4th	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.

Reading Heritage Talks Series with tea and cake afterwards Face-to-Face TICKETS £5 (members £4) 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 Reading Heritage series for £12.50 (members £10).	
Dec Thu 5th 2 - 3.30pm Final talk in the Transport Talks Series	Berkshire's Canals: with Richard Marks Before the advent of railways, Berkshire was known for its extensive canal network. These waterways played a crucial role in Britain's transportation infrastructure, establishing Berkshire as a significant junction and contributing to the county's economic growth. This talk will explore the reasons behind the extent of the county's canals and their impact on the local population. Additionally, it will reveal how the railways eventually overtook the canals, possibly at a slower pace than commonly perceived.
Jan Thu 9th 2 - 3.30pm First talk in the Reading Heritage Talks Series	Jane Austen's School Days in Reading: with Joy Pibworth In 2025, we celebrate the 250th anniversary of the birthday of Jane Austen. So how better to start the year than with a talk by local historian and dedicated Janeite Joy Pibworth, exploring Austen's connections with Reading. Reading's Abbey Gateway was then home to the Ladies Boarding School which Jane Austen attended from 1785-6. With the help of contemporary sources, we shall look at the buildings, daily routines, the teachers and the local environment Jane would have become familiar with (and possibly even muse on the echoes in her writing).
Feb Thu 13th 2 - 3.30pm Second talk in the Reading Heritage Talks Series	Reading's Grey Friars 1233-1538: with Malcolm Summers From 1233 to 1538 Reading had two religious foundations, Reading Abbey and the Reading Franciscan Friary. This talk tells the story of the medieval friary, its friars, and their relationship with the town. It ends with the dissolution under Henry VIII, leaving us just the Greyfriars Church building as a remnant of the past.
Mar Thu 13th 2 - 3.30pm Final talk in the Reading Heritage Talks Series	Reading's Trams: with Dr Richard Marks Prior to the advent of buses, there was a different mode of transport. A group of innovative local businessmen launched a horse bus service, which, though rudimentary, marked the town's first foray into public transportation. Then in 1878 the Reading Tramways Company was established, which provided what we would now call an urban mass transit system, better known as the tramway. This talk will explore the origins of the company and the tram routes it established. You will learn about the routes' locations and their
DNA & Family History – Online TICKETS £5 (members £4) Places are limited, pre-booking is required	
Jan Sat 11th 2.30 - 4.30pm ONLINE	DNA Special Interest Group Facilitator: Debbie Kennett This special interest discussion group is aimed at those wanting to get the most out of their own personal 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.

Potpourri Social History Talks	
Online	TICKETS £5 (members £4)
<p>Our winter Potpourri talks series comprises three online social history talks. All series tickets can be purchased for the discounted price of £12.50 (members £10). Alternatively you can book individual talks for the price of £5 (members £4). Pre-booking is required.</p>	
<p>Dec Thu 12th 2 - 3.15pm</p> <p>Final talk in the autumn Potpourri Talks Series</p>	<p>An Historical Tour of the Streets of Old Coley: with Joe Doak & Graham Turner</p> <p>This virtual tour of Old Coley will take participants through the streets of Coley before slum clearance and the Inner Distribution Road destroyed large sections of working class housing in this inner city area of Reading. Using a mixture of historic maps, old photographs, personal knowledge and desk-top research, Joe and Graham will present a history of the area and tales of life in this tough but vibrant community. They will stop off along the way to explore the Coley Steps, Coley Primary School, Simonds Brewery, St Saviour's Church and the local brick making industry. It should be of interest to Old Coleyites, local historians, current residents and anyone intrigued about what existed before the IDR.</p>
<p>Jan Thu 23rd 2 - 3.15pm</p> <p>First talk in the winter Potpourri Talks Series</p>	<p>The Victorian Legacy - what our Ancestors did next: with Helen Baggott</p> <p>We are delighted to welcome the acclaimed and popular author and speaker Helen Baggott to start our online talk programme for 2025. This talk explores the lives of our ancestors through the messages that they wrote and the postcards they sent: millworkers in Yorkshire, families affected by the first national rail strike, visitors to London and the execution of murderers are just some of the stories included in this talk. Our ancestors left a remarkable record of their lives; will you discover your own ancestors through postcards from the past?</p>
<p>Feb Thu 27th 2 - 3.15pm</p> <p>Second talk in the winter Potpourri Talks Series</p>	<p>Putting Berkshire on the Map: with John Leighfield</p> <p>Maps allow us to better identify where our ancestors lived and worked and the local environment in which they spent the vast majority of their time. If you like maps – this is one not to miss. John will talk about the history of mapping with particular emphasis on Berkshire, beginning with Matthew Paris' map of Britain c. 1250 and finishing with Google and modern mapping. He will explore the various reasons why maps were commissioned and how best to interpret them.</p>
<p>Mar Thu 27th 2 - 3.15pm</p> <p>Final talk in the winter Potpourri Talks Series</p>	<p>Walk on the Thames Path Oxford - Pangbourne: with Bill King</p> <p>This is a stunning section of the Thames as it meanders its way through the countryside and past villages and towns with particularly interesting histories including Oxford, Abingdon, Wallingford and Pangbourne. Many of us will have ancestors who came from this area and were very familiar with the river, perhaps even dependent on it for their income. Bill is a popular speaker to the Society and his journey along the Thames is richly illustrated with images.</p>

Recycled Certificates

You may recall from previous issues of *Berkshire Family Historian*, that we are in possession of a number of birth, marriage and death certificates that are no longer needed by their owners. Below you will find the surnames contained on the certificate, and a few other details. You may find one that belongs to your family. Several of the surnames listed below crop up in YourTrees.

We have recently launched this certificate recycling facility on the website (Members Area), so that you can see new additions in a more timely manner.

To obtain certificates from the list below, please contact the editor at editor@berksfhs.org.uk.

Don't forget there's a dedicated Forum section

There's a section on the Community (Forum) page of our website for posting 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.

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
Talbot (Goodall)	Wantage, Berks	1864
Taylor (Tinsley)	Beverley, Yorks	1880
Wallace (Cobb)	Bothwell, Lanarkshire	1862
Wallace (Kin)	Arbroath, Forfar, Scotland	1862
Wells (Watkins)	Wallingford, Berks	1858
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
Holloway/Hazley	Benson, Oxon	1866
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)	Heanor, 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
Talbot/Styles (Warwick. Chito)	Wallingford, Berks	1840
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

Solving the Mystery - John and Martha Street of Chulmleigh

Jenny Grant shares how she broke through a brick wall

At the time of their marriage in Crediton in 1780, John had been living in Chulmleigh for at least 6 years, and for the previous 2 years, Lincolnshire-born Martha had been living in Crediton with her guardian Sir Jacob Wolff & family.

From the information we have we know that in 1804 John Street, gent, was employed as a gamekeeper for Sir Jacob Wolf, Bart, at the Manor of Chulmleigh. Over his lifetime it would appear that he managed to become quite well-to-do as can be seen by a sale of property following his death.

But where were John's roots? There were plenty of Street families in Exeter and another set in Berkshire, the county suggested by my 2x great grandfather Charles Drew Street (known as CD), taken from letters written to his son Charles Petvin Street in 1883 about a supposedly ongoing case in the English Court of Chancery.

John & Martha had three children, Thomas (1782-1828) who married Catherine Snelling, Martha (1780-1858) who married William Cawsey, and Sarah (1785 - ?) who married Richard Reed All three children were born in Chulmleigh.

My 3x great grandparents, Thomas, a surgeon in Exeter, & his wife Catherine née Snelling had four children, Francis Gale Snelling Street (1805-1870), Elizabeth Procter Street (1806-1834), Charles Drew

Street (1807-1887), and Emma Catherine Street (1810-1881). Elizabeth is buried with her mother Catherine in the churchyard of St Bartholomew in Bow, Devon. Her three siblings all emigrated to Australia, Charles in 1832, and Francis & Emma in 1838, a few days after Francis's marriage to his first cousin, Martha Procter Street Reed.

In 1836, Charles Drew Street, Surgeon, married Susanna Foster in Sydney, New South Wales and by 1854 eight children had been born to them, Charles Petvin Street being the 4th in line and the eldest surviving son.

Charles
Drew Street
c.1830



All the children were born in areas in and around Muswellbrook & Raymond Terrace in NSW but from c.1850, Charles Drew Street was both doctoring and prospecting (albeit unsuccessfully in the latter case) in Hargraves in the central western goldfields of NSW and commuting the 125 miles in between.

He was often declared insolvent and spent much of his time in a quest to reclaim properties which had been lost decades earlier in England and Ireland.



Susanna Street nee Foster c. 1875

In 1883, fifty-one years after arriving in Australia, Charles Drew Street wrote a letter to his son Charles Petvin Street about a supposedly ongoing case in the English Court of Chancery. Charles Drew Street believed that he was the only eligible claimant and that the property involved should be his. He was referring to the Estate of the late William Wimpey, who died 17 August 1814 which included the Manor of Bratton Clovelly.

The letter (shown on the following pages) contained a number of clues as to the identity of John's parents, some of which have now been shown to be correct. *Here's a précis of that letter:*

In the early 1800s John Street of Chulmleigh had been approached by a cousin to take over his (the cousin's) Estate. However, as this cousin and his mistress had illegitimate children, John declined

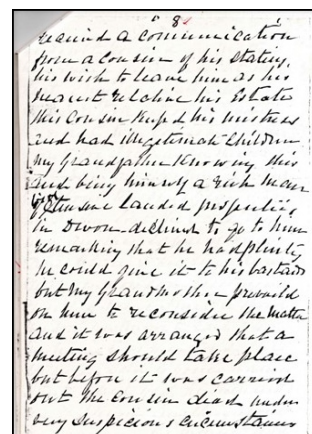
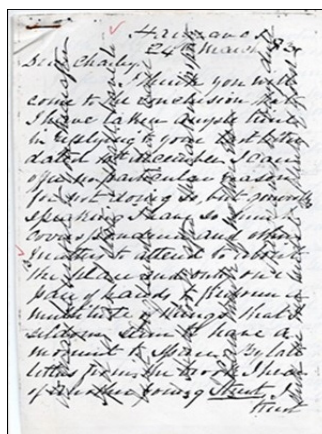
the request both on moral grounds and because he considered himself to be well enough off as the owner of a number of properties in Chulmleigh.

A meeting was arranged but never took place because *"the cousin died under very suspicious circumstances – no doubt poisoned"*.

As a boy of about 12 years of age, Charles Drew Street remembered the Court Case which took place in 1819 where his father Thomas & his aunts Martha & Sarah were claiming to be the next-of-kin of William Wimpey (more on this to follow). He also made mention of meeting someone in London (c.1827) who was supposedly a Trustee of the Estate, and who implied that the person who eventually inherited William Wimpey's Estate was *"not a member of the family"*.

Five years later when Charles Drew Street was working as the surgeon on a whaling ship on its way to the South Seas, he reported that the Chief Officer mentioned that he had information on the Devonshire property, this being that *"the party who got the Estate was illegitimate and by forging false Certificates of Birth and Perjury got the property but that he did not long enjoy his ill-gotten wealth for remorse drove him to commit suicide."* (Nothing's been found to date to substantiate these last two comments.)

At the conclusion of the letter Charles Drew Street stated that *"the name of the estate is Bratton or Gratton and is situated in Devonshire or Berkshire, I am inclined to think in the latter county where my ancestors formerly lived, the Devon-line Streets are a branch - keep this letter for a while – life is uncertain - it may be useful to you hereafter"*.



About two and a half years ago my good friend and fellow researcher Peter Selley and I joined forces to try to track down the origins of John Street, c1743-1811. Around the time of my original article, Peter had come across Dr Francis Gale Snelling Street who was one of his predecessors

in Bow. We decided to investigate all the people whose names appeared on various archived property documents relating to the dispersal/sale of Chulmleigh manor around 1775, and one surname that eventually bore fruit was Wimpey.

Joseph Wimpey became Lord of the Manor of Chulmleigh in 1767. His name appeared in an interesting legal case which turned up in the courts in 1819, that of *Street v Bascombe*, which involved a number of parties vying for the position of next-of-kin of the Intestate William Wimpey of Bratton Clovelly, the bachelor son of the aforementioned Joseph and his wife Jane Pendar. The plaintiffs in this case were my 3x great grandfather Thomas Street, and his sisters Martha Cawsey and Sarah Reed.

They claimed that as the children of John Street (deceased), their relationship was one degree closer to William Wimpey than the defendants Mary & Francis Bascombe & William Wiltshire because the father of those Streets, John Street, was the son of John & Sarah Street and that the said Sarah Street was the sister of Jane Wimpey the mother of William Wimpey the said Intestate'.

Bascombe & Wiltshire in their defence stated that they *'do not know believe or admit it to be true that the said John Street was the son of John & Sarah Street or that the said Sarah Street was the sister of Jane Wimpey the mother of William Wimpey the said Intestate'*.

Further research revealed that Jane Pendar married Joseph Wimpey in Woolhampton, Berkshire on 21 October 1734. Without taking too great a leap of faith, this suggests that John's mother's name was Sarah Pendar and makes John Street of Chulmleigh & William Wimpey (the Intestate) first cousins. So that information cautiously knocks at least a couple of rows of bricks off the wall which has stood steadfastly behind John Street of Chulmleigh for decades and introduces the Berkshire connection.

It was also discovered that the said William Wimpey in his seventies had fathered 4 children out of wedlock (with Joan Hexworthy) in Bratton Clovelly and this fact, while no names were mentioned, was more or less confirmed in the extract of the letter my 2x great grandfather wrote in 1883.

There are a number of inconsistencies in Charles Drew Street's account of events. John Street of Chulmleigh died in 1811 so it may have been his death that caused the meeting to not take place.

At the time of William Wimpey's death in 1814, Charles Drew Street was just 7 years old so he would not have had any real memory of the events, but the legal wrangling went on for several



John and Martha Street headstone

However, his grandmother Martha, John Street's wife, lived on until 1846 and because Thomas, Martha & Sarah lost the *Street v Bascombe* case, the recounting of the event and its disappointing result was no doubt perpetuated by his grandmother, his older brother Francis Gale Snelling Street, and his mother Catherine Street.

The reference to the cousin being *'no doubt poisoned'* is rather fanciful but with no record of William Wimpey's cause of death, who knows!! If anyone has any information to cast a shadow on this next scenario, we would love to hear it.

The first confirmed record of John Street's appearance anywhere was on Lease & Release documents in 1774 in Chulmleigh when he was aged 31. It's likely that John (b. 1743 in Berkshire) was recruited by his uncle Joseph (Wimpey) to be the caretaker of the manor of Chulmleigh after he (Joseph) acquired it in 1767.

We believe John had come from a farming family in Lambourn Woodlands in Berkshire, but, like his descendants, in their inheritance disputes, we've not been able to absolutely confirm his parentage.

Sarah Streat in 1762

Berkshire Burial Index

Lambourn Woodlands, Lambourn, Berkshire, England

Add to tree

Print

Transcript of Sarah's record

Copy to clipboard

First name(s)	Sarah	Relationship	Supposed wife
Last name	Streat	Relation	Jno Streat
Residence	Lambourn Woodlands	County	Berkshire
Death year	1762	Country	England
Burial year	1762	Record set	Berkshire Burial Index
Burial date	10 Aug 1762	Category	Birth, Marriage, Death & Parish Records
Church	St Michael & All Angels	Subcategory	Parish Burials
Place	Lambourn	Collections from	England, Great Britain

Berkshire Family History Society
Transcriptions © Berkshire Family History Society

years.

However, a baptismal record in the parish registers of Lambourne states a John Streat was baptised on 14 August 1741, father John and mother Sarah Streat of Woodlands, which we believe is relevant.

But the critical thing is the reference to “*supposed wife*” in Sarah’s burial entry:

If this was the case, then John of Chulmleigh was probably illegitimate and therefore barred from inheritance unless a Will said otherwise.

As for how John came by his position at Chulmleigh Manor, perhaps Joseph Wimpey didn’t trust Devonian agricultural labourers and wanted an outsider to run the estate, and no doubt he (Joseph) would have been keen to put into practice all the farming methods he’d written about in books over the years.

Joseph was born in Newbury c.1710 and at the age of 24 he was recorded as being a basket-maker there, his apprentice at the time being a John King. Joseph became established as a haberdasher in London before becoming the banker to William Earle and William Davenport who were both involved in the slave trade based in Liverpool. Joseph Wimpey sourced the glass beads that were exchanged for slaves in West Africa before going bankrupt in 1772.

Next, in a mysterious twist, an Elizabeth Street Martin appears in Chulmleigh.

Born out of wedlock in Wantage, Berkshire on 27 January 1772, she was the daughter of Sarah

Martin. The Poor Law Settlement records held by the Southwest Heritage Trust state:

Now living in Chulmleigh, she was born in Wantage, Berkshire and lived there until she was 15 when she went to Oxford, All Saints where she lived with John Fry for 2 years as a covenant servant, then went to St Alls and served Charles Stewart for less than a year, returned to Wantage with John Stephens as a covenant servant for 3 months, since she has been a sojourner in Chulmleigh, at Christmas she returned to Wantage with Mr Perkins, victualer and had a female bastard which is now with her in Chulmleigh.

The most likely explanation is that our John Street, then in Chulmleigh, was the father of this child. Lambourn Woodlands, Berkshire is just a mere 11 miles away from Wantage where Sarah Martin was born. Were John & Sarah taken together to Chulmleigh Manor to work for John’s uncle, Joseph Wimpey? Or did they go there separately and form a relationship once they were there?

Another unlikely but imagined scenario by the author of this article (which is not backed up by my co-researcher!) is: Could it have been that Elizabeth Street Martin was either William or Joseph Wimpey’s daughter and not wanting to have their names besmirched they paid for her upkeep through John who took her under his wing?

And just maybe they paid John as well? In return for his kindness, Sarah named her daughter Elizabeth Street Martin after John?

Whoever the father was, the fact remains that Sarah Martin lived in Chulmleigh until she died there unmarried in 1812, just 3 months after John Street passed away. Her daughter, Elizabeth Street Martin married twice, firstly to John Fewings and after his death to Thomas Lewis. She also remained in Chulmleigh until her death in 1839.

This is what we now believe:

1. Joseph Wimpey of Newbury, Berkshire was John Street's uncle by marriage.
2. John's mother was Sarah Pendar, Joseph Wimpey's sister-in-law.
3. It is probable that John Street's parents were not married. This may have destroyed the claim to the Wimpey inheritance.
4. Joseph Wimpey owned Chulmleigh Manor from 1767 until 1772 when he was declared bankrupt.
5. The Administrators of Joseph's Estate most likely sold the Manor to Sir Jacob Wolff c.1780.
6. John Street was employed as the gamekeeper of Chulmleigh Manor by Sir Jacob.
7. Sir Jacob Wolff was Martha Procter's guardian at the time of her marriage to John Street in Crediton.
8. William Wimpey's Estate, which included the Manor at Bratton Clovelly, eventually became the property of the heirs of the late Joseph King of Newbury in Berkshire who was William's second cousin. Joseph died just three months after adding a codicil modifying his Will to take into account the Bratton Clovelly inheritance which he was not expecting. The inference in Charles Street's letter was that Joseph King inherited the Estate of William Wimpey under false pretences & that he subsequently committed suicide. This has yet to be or may never be proved.
9. Thomas, Martha & Sarah Street were William Wimpey's 1st cousins, once removed. Joseph King was his 2nd cousin.
10. William Wimpey was the next of kin and administrator of the Estate of his uncle William Pendar, the brother of Jane & Sarah Pendar.

William died intestate and a bachelor at Woolhampton, Berkshire in 1799.

11. Joseph Wimpey, William Wimpey, Sir Jacob Wolff and others were all at various times bankers for John Street when he was Leasing & Releasing and/or buying properties in Chulmleigh.

12. Mary Bascombe née King was one of the Defendants in the Street v Bascombe court case of 1819. William Wiltshire, the other Defendant was allegedly the son of another sister of Joseph Wimpey the Elder.

Much of the research groundwork on John Street was done 50-odd years ago by one of his 2x great grandsons, Carrington Reuel Street & his wife Gwen who over a number of visits to England from Australia, sat in as many record offices as possible and laboriously copied word for word every available document containing the surname of Street. They were obsessed with solving the mystery of John Street's parentage, and the walls of the basement of their home were covered with various charts & scrolls and just about everything in the room was related to finding out about John Street's life prior to 1774. Reuel died in 2002 & Gwen 18 years later, not knowing anything of the above update.

Perhaps they've now connected with John and know everything there is to know.

It's been a lot of fun and hard work creating this update but it just goes to highlight the online advantages we now have which have enabled Peter & myself to do this with 10,000 miles between us!

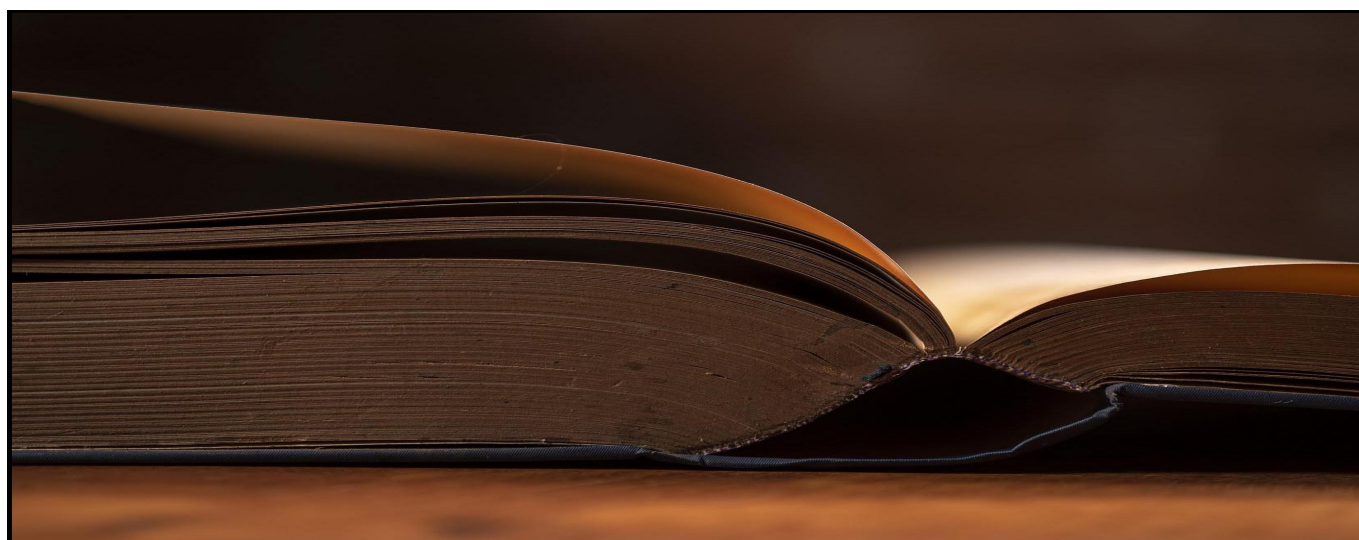
If any readers of the *Berkshire Family Historian* can throw light on the ancestry of John Street, I'd love to hear from you.

Second-hand and New Book Fair

The Centre for Heritage & Family History
2nd Floor, Reading Central Library, Abbey Square, Reading, Berkshire, RG1 3BQ

Saturday 30th November 2024

11am – 2pm



Love books and reading?

Over recent years, Berkshire Family History Society has been given many pre-loved books to sell. These are predominantly local history, family history and social history books – although we also have a fair number of military and transport history books, plus others.

If “history” is your thing – then come along and grab a bargain. We need to clear the decks a little so everything will be out on display. Plus, we will also have some of our extensive bookshop of new books, maps and publications available to purchase, including our data CDs.

The book fair lasts for three hours, and you’ll be able to buy refreshments whilst you ponder your purchases. The Research Zone is also open today – so why not combine it with a little historical research.

Just turn up – free entry and no pre-booking required.

What West Berkshire Council's Archaeology Team can do for you!

Beth Asbury, Assistant Archaeologist (HER and Outreach), tells us about a resource that may help understand our ancestors environments

Are you carrying out local history research in West Berkshire? Did you know that West Berkshire Council maintains a database of known buildings, monuments, sites, places, areas and landscapes of archaeological, architectural, artistic and/or historic interest, along with associated documentary sources such as books, maps and unpublished reports? This is the West Berkshire Historic Environment Record or HER, the primary index for the physical remains of past human activity in West Berkshire: www.westberks.gov.uk/her. It is my role as part of the curatorial archaeology team to manage the HER, which the Principal Archaeologist, Sarah Orr, uses to advise on development and land-use changes: www.westberks.gov.uk/archaeology.

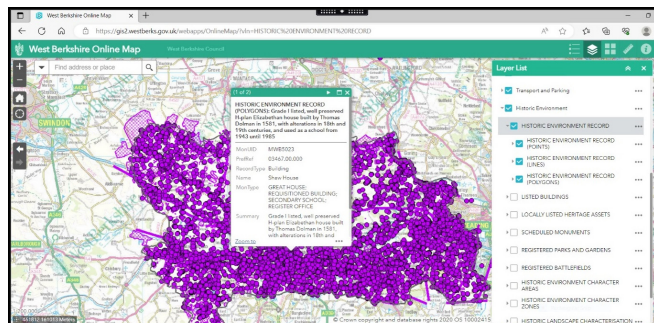
The HER is also a public record that contributes to research and education, and we want to promote public participation in the exploration, appreciation and enjoyment of local heritage. We make many of our HER records freely available on the Heritage Gateway online portal: www.heritagegateway.org.uk and on the Council's online map: <https://tinyurl.com/yubeabj3>. We give talks to local groups, contribute to exhibitions at West Berkshire Museum, run activities for the annual Festival of Archaeology and were at the online Berkshire Heritage Fair in 2022, for example. I regularly post about West Berkshire's history and historic environment on social media too. Please follow us!

www.facebook.com/WestBerkshireHeritage

<https://x.com/WbHeritage>

www.instagram.com/west_berks_heritage

West Berkshire Council's online map showing our historic environment layers



The free exhibition, *Treasure Through Time*, at West Berkshire Museum in Newbury until 1 June 2025

The HER is a dynamic information system, which means it is constantly being updated with the results of new fieldwork and research. However, our records are only as good as our sources and this is where you can help us! If you are researching aspects of West Berkshire's historic environment, please let me know, so I can add the information to the HER, ensuring that your knowledge is not lost, and is taken into consideration in future development proposals and research projects. Please also get in touch if you spot any missing or incorrect information in our records.

Land ownership or genealogical information is not recorded in the HER unless the person is famous or locally important, or if the information has a bearing on the significance or physical aspect of a site.

Sarah and I are joined by Dr Philip Smither, the Portable Antiquities Scheme's (PAS) Finds Liaison Officer (FLO) for all of Berkshire. The Scheme is run by the British Museum and Museum Wales to encourage the recording of archaeological objects found by members of the public in England and Wales. All the finds recorded by the PAS are made publicly available on its online database: <https://tinyurl.com/2t3xz2uh> and some West Berkshire artefacts are currently on display in West Berkshire Museum's 'Treasure Through Time' exhibition: <https://tinyurl.com/4pus2cpd>.

If your research interests are in eastern Berkshire, the HERs of the other five councils (Bracknell Forest, Reading, Slough, Windsor and Maidenhead, and Wokingham) are maintained by Berkshire Archaeology, based at the Royal Berkshire Archives.



News from the Royal Berkshire Archives

Ivone Turnbull, Senior Archivist at the Royal Berkshire Archives

Our usual full update will appear in next quarter's *Historian*. In the meantime, we wish you a very Happy Christmas and New Year.

The Royal Berkshire Archives will be closed from 24th December 2024 to 1st January 2025 inclusive. We will reopen at 9am on Thursday 2nd January 2025 (we do not open on Mondays or weekends). If you plan to visit on 2nd or 3rd January 2025, please book by Friday 20th December 2024 at the latest. Thank you.



**ACCREDITED
ARCHIVE SERVICE**

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Reading
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Book Reviews

The Eureka Partnership has two new publications out. As is usual with their publications, these booklets are full of names and fully indexed.

The People of Cookham

The Eureka Partnership, 2024, 56pp stapled booklet, 210mm x 148mm

Shop: £5.50 / UK: £7.60 / Airmail: £12.70

This volume contains a miscellany of records relating to the parish of Cookham which is about 16 miles east of Reading and nine from Henley. Amongst the records included are Churchwardens Disbursements 1730 to 1739, List of Settlement Certificates brought by those wishing to reside in Cookham up to 1755, List of Certificates given to the parish of Cookham of those wishing to reside elsewhere up to 1759, Poll Books 1727, 1796, 1812 and 1818, Whitfield's Charity Recipients 1838 to 1876, Trade Directories 1854 and 1887, Dairies, Cowsheds and Milkshops Order 1879, List of jurors 1897, Register of Confirmations 1911 and 1919, and a selection of newspaper reports of various dates.

If you have interests in this parish, this publication is likely to have something to help your research. Names are drawn from all levels of society within the parish.

Reading Primitive Methodist Circuit Volume 1 Baptisms 1831-1872

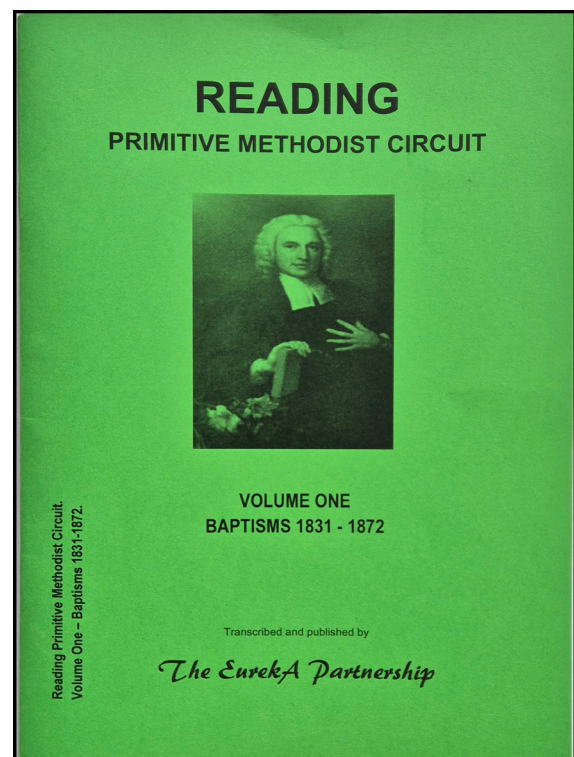
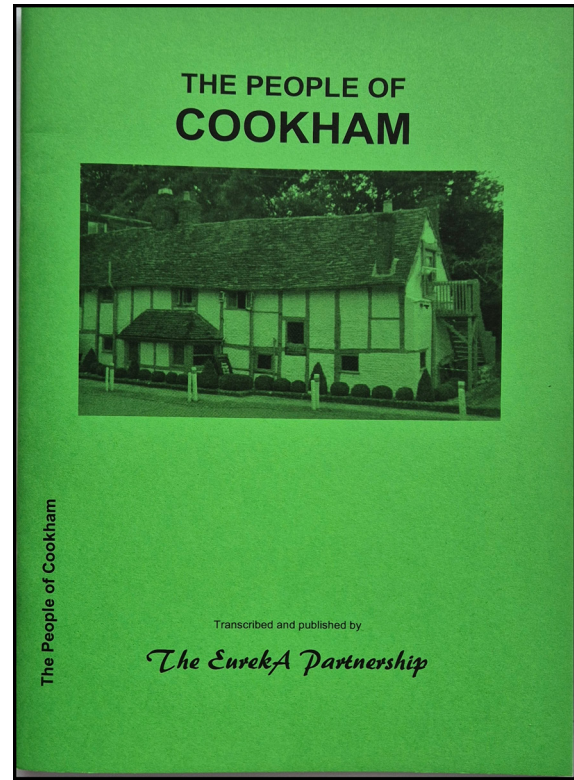
The Eureka Partnership, 2024, 44pp stapled booklet, 210mm x 148mm

Shop: £4.50 / UK: £6.60 / Airmail: £11.70

The Reading Primitive Methodist Circuit was formed from the much larger Shefford Circuit in 1835. The Circuit Preaching Plan of 1846 shows places of worship in Basildon, Baughurst, Beenham, Bradfield, Englefield, Mortimer, Quick's Green, Reading, Silchester, Swallowfield, Tadley, Theale, Tilehurst, Waltham St Lawrence and Whitley Wood.

This booklet contains a transcription of the Circuit baptismal registers deposited at the Royal Berkshire Archives covering the period 1831 to 1872, which gives nearly 900 entries. For some, it includes the mother's former name and/or other additional notes like where the parent(s) resided, or where the child was born. There are also some entries for births and baptisms outside the Reading Circuit.

December 2024



Abingdon Branch

abingdon@berksfhs.org.uk

In July, the Abingdon Branch members combined their meeting with an outing to Buscot Park near Faringdon, the family home of Lord Faringdon. In some glorious July weather, members enjoyed an al fresco lunch in the picnic area, a tour of the late 18th century house and extensive gardens and, finally, a visit to the Tea Room for some well-earned refreshments.

September's meeting comprised an exceedingly well researched and presented talk on "Anne Marsh-Caldwell - A Victorian Novelist" given by her three times great grandson J J Heath-Caldwell. Members were intrigued to learn about this-little known Victorian writer who published some 25 novels between 1834 and 1863 and of her association with the Staffordshire Wedgwood and Spode families.

Meetings ahead:

Branch meetings are generally held monthly, on the third Monday, at Long Furlong Community Centre, Boulter Drive, Abingdon. Doors open at 7.15pm for the meeting to start at 7.30pm.

4th December (Zoom)

Combined Branches' Meeting Christmas Social

20th January

Sarah Churchill, Duchess of Marlborough: taking the waters in Bath, Scarborough & Windsor Great Park by Melanie King

17th February

Discussion Group

17th March

Drovers' Roads in Oxfordshire and Beyond by Tim Healey

Brian Denton



Sarah Churchill, Duchess of Marlborough, copyright The National Portrait Gallery

Bracknell & Wokingham Branch

bracknell@berksfhs.org.uk

Our July talk, by the popular speaker Mike Cooper, was entitled "Finding (Great) Grandad: Army Records for the Great War".

Mike's approach to the subject contrasted with that of our past speakers on World War One, by stressing the importance of formulating one's objectives, forethought, preparation for the task, knowing your subject person and consulting family members and friends. Initial sources, many of which are online, would be the Commonwealth War Graves Commission, The National Archives, the Imperial War Museum archive, before one broadened out into army sources. His slides illustrated that learning a little about the structure of the British Army at that time was invaluable and could enable the researcher to better interpret the data discovered and some of the jargon. There are a number of books available titled on this theme.



The Imperial War Museum's archive, image copyright CC 4.0

At our September Meeting we enjoyed a profusely illustrated talk by the Wokingham Society Chairman Peter Must, entitled "Take him to the Tower", describing the life of Lt. Gen. Adam Williamson of Wokingham and the Tower of London.

Williamson's seat in Wokingham was the house in Broad Street commissioned by him bearing the Williamson crest, but now known as Montague House. All of his life as an army man, he fought in the battle of Ramillies and of Malplaquette. In 1709 served as an emissary to Brussels and Antwerp. Detailed knowledge of his career is due

Around the Branches

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

to the publication of his diary which he started when in his 40s.

Later assigned to the role of Deputy Lieutenant of the Tower of London and wholly responsible for the Garrison, warders and prisoners during the period of Jacobite activism, he oversaw the death sentences by firing squad of the court-martialled Black Watch soldiers who had deserted their regiment, then later the executions by beheading of the Jacobite Earl of Kilmarnock, Lord Balmerino and later Lord Lovett, he being the last person so dispatched in England.

Meetings Ahead:

Branch meetings are usually held face-to-face at The New Priestwood Community Centre, Bracknell on the third Friday of the month. Doors open at 2.15pm and the meeting starts at 2.45pm. Pre-booking is required for Zoom meetings.

4th December (Zoom)

Combined Branches' Meeting Christmas Social

17th January (Zoom)

Explore the Parish Chest: Beyond the Registers by Clare O'Grady

21st February (f2f)

Where there's a Will there's usually an argument by Sue Ellis

Wednesday 19th March (Zoom) - Combined Branches' Meeting

An Introduction to Irish Family History Research by Natalie Bodle

Drop-In Advice Sessions

Bracknell Library on the second Thursday of the month from 2pm - 5pm

Wokingham Library on the last Tuesday of the month from 2pm - 4.30pm

Computer Branch

computerbranch@berksfhs.org.uk

Meetings Ahead:

Unless otherwise stated meetings are held online. Zoom opens at 7.15pm for a 7.30pm start.

Please see website for more details.

December 2024

Newbury Branch

newbury@berksfhs.org.uk

Following our summer break, Newbury branch members gathered on 11th September to hear Robert Chicken talk of his grandfather's career in the merchant navy spanning two world wars. Our last talk of 2024 on 13th November will feature Carol Brindley on the Cope Hall Colony, a little-known organisation formed during the First World War and based in one of Newbury's more mysterious mansions.



Cope Hall, Newbury - the subject of November's talk

The programme for the first half of 2025 is mostly in place, promising topics such as a wartime evacuation, researching house history, the story of the Baptist church, the Foundling Hospital and the early days of penicillin. Our special event in connection with the Society's 75th anniversary looks likely to be a visit to the police museum at Sulhamstead.

Meeting reports on the Newbury Branch page of the Berkshire Family Historian lapsed some time ago, but have now resumed in a more abbreviated form.

Our digital branch newsletter edited by Reg Ward is reaching a wider and wider readership, thanks to the extension of branch membership to those with family interests in West Berkshire. The first letter reached 48 members, the seventh stands at 329. If you have ancestors from this part of Berkshire and have not yet signed up to receive this newsletter, you're encouraged to do so through the website (Log in, click **Edit Profile** top right, and select "Follow Newbury".)

It is hoped that sufficient support may have been mustered for a branch Christmas party [?] this year. If you have not booked but would like to join us, it may not be too late if you act fast. Contact Penny Stokes via newbury@berksfhs.org.uk.

Meetings ahead:

The branch continues have a mix of face-to-face at West Berkshire Museum on 2nd Wednesday afternoons and zoom meetings mostly in colder months on 2nd Wednesday Evenings.

4th December (Zoom)

Combined Branches' Meeting Christmas Social

8th January (Zoom)

Escaping Hitler – A Jewish Boy's Quest for Freedom by Phyllida Scrivens

Penny Stokes

Reading Branch

reading@berksfhs.org.uk

Reading Branch had a quiet time over the summer break on the face of it, but behind the scenes we were busy finalising our 2025 programme of talks, so that a Branch leaflet could be produced. This leaflet is now available to pick up in any of the Reading area branch libraries and selected other outlets in Reading town centre. If you're local to Reading, you will also see our Branch posters popping up in the Reading and Wokingham branch libraries.



We kicked off our autumn talks in September with Simon Fowler (left) who gave us a presentation on Zoom entitled "Help, My Ancestor Has Vanished!". This proved a popular talk that was well attended, and Simon kindly agreed for us to record it, so it is available in the members area of our website, should you have missed it or want a recap. Simon covered the main reasons for the disappearance of ancestors - the genealogist might have made a mistake in their research; there is a problem with the records (either the clerk made a mistake recording names or the records no longer exist); or, the ancestor may have genuinely gone missing, perhaps emigrating overseas or becoming a tramp. Simon gave ideas and noted records that can help to work around that 'disappearance' to, hopefully, locate them.

Meetings ahead:

We offer a mix of in person meetings at The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints, 280 Meadway, Tilehurst, Reading RG30 4PE and online via Zoom. Doors and Zoom open at 7.15pm for a 7.45pm start.

4th December (Zoom)

Combined Branches' Meeting Christmas Social

12th December (f2f)

Quiz and short talks by members

30th January (Zoom)

Progressing Your Family History by Debbie Bradley

27th February (Zoom)

Buried Deep but not Lost Forever: Discovering your Ancestor's Final Resting Place by Linda Hammond

19th March (Zoom) - Combined Branches' Meeting

An Introduction to Irish Family History by Natalie Bodle

Vicki Chesterman

Around the Branches

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

Windsor, Slough & Maidenhead Branch

windsor@berksfhs.org.uk

The WSM Branch took a well-earned summer break in August, but the month before, Dr Nicholas Dixon in "Ancestors on the Map; Finding Locations of family Photographs" showed how it is often possible not only to find information about studio photographers but also to pinpoint the locations of family photographs using a variety of online resources. The speaker showed how he has been able to do this when researching photos of his ancestors and offered advice about how to make similar discoveries. With persistence, it can be possible to put our ancestors on the map, enriching our understanding of their lives.



Europe in 1923, Bacon, George Washington (1830-1921), Public domain, via Wikimedia Commons

The month after the summer recess, our speaker was Phil Isherwood on "Using a Research Methodology for Family History". A very well attended talk, this had everyone staying to the end, and offered a remarkably clear description of how a research methodology can help you to break through your brick walls. Currently, there is little guidance on this for beginning and intermediate family historians, especially in the UK. This talk discussed methodologies, what they are and why they are useful. It introduced an effective, easy-to-follow research methodology and shows how it can be used to solve complex cases successfully.

Coming soon is our next Combined Branches' meeting in October with "The Earl and the Pharaoh" by Lady Carnarvon, and our final speaker meeting of 2024 in November will be "Victorian Hiring Fairs" by Clare O'Grady. After a Christmas themed quiz and our usual Christmas meal at the Toby Carvery in December, 2025 is already shaping up with the following:

Meetings ahead:

Windsor branch holds its meetings on Zoom, starting at 7.30pm.

4th December (Zoom)

Combined Branches' Meeting Christmas Social

28th January (Zoom)

What Do I Do before 1837 - Researching Your Ancestors Before Civil Registration
by Linda Hammond

25th February (Zoom)

Researching and writing the Mourning Brooch Trilogy by Jean Renwick

19th March (Zoom) - Combined Branches' Meeting

An Introduction to Irish Family History by Natalie Bodle

29th April (Zoom)

Using Facebook for Genealogy and Historical Research by Clare Wilson

27th May (Zoom)

Apprenticeship Records; History and Sources with Case Study by Richard Holt

Leigh Dworkin

Are you Feeling out of Touch....?

Recent changes to the membership/renewal form enabled members to choose which branches they want to follow, allowing them to nominate areas of Berkshire relevant to their ancestry regardless of where they actually live today.

This has proved popular, and it has greatly expanded all branches' membership, but it would seem that a few members didn't notice the corresponding detail: that a member resident in Berkshire will no longer be automatically allocated to follow the branch area in which they reside: they will be associated only with the branches that they've indicated on the form.

So if you're no longer getting communications from your local branch, where you live, and you're wondering why, this could be the reason.

Please go to <https://berksfhs.org>, log in, and click on your name in the top right hand corner.

Choose **Edit Profile**, and on this page scroll down to see which branches you are marked to follow.

If your local branch isn't marked, and you'd like to keep in touch with what's going on in your area, you can fix this by clicking on it. Then scroll down to click the **Update Profile** button.

Job done, and you should be back on the mailing list for news of your local branch.

If you can't change it online please email our Membership Secretary at memsec@berksfhs.org.uk or write to -

Membership Secretary
Bob Plumridge
2 Spring Close
West Hanney
Wantage
Oxfordshire

Heritage Open Days

This year's Heritage Open Days ran from Friday 6th through to Sunday 15th September, across the country. Berkshire Family History Society was part of the many events held in the Royal County and beyond, with The Centre for Heritage and Family History being open for 5 days. During the event we were open on the first Friday and Saturday, then on Monday, Tuesday, and Saturday of the following week. We were pleased to welcome nearly 150 visitors who were keen to find out the history of their homes, as that was our theme this year.

A vast majority of the visitors had no experience of, but a keen interest in, researching their house history. Initially, they were shown the range of street directories which we, and Reading Local Studies Library, hold for the area. From there people could identify the residents of the house in question and use that information to move onto census returns, the 1939 Register, and more, using the subscription sites we have available in the Centre. For more recent information the Library's holding of Electoral Registers was utilised.

We also had a special display of a panoramic drawing of Broad Street, Reading in 1881 (right).

To further illustrate this there were images of the current building, so that people could orientate themselves on the street. We hope to make this display available on our website in the future, with kind permission of the Reading Local Studies Collection.

We are pleased with the success of this year's events and hope that it will be possible to run more Heritage Open Days events in the future.

As the theme of house histories seemed popular, we will be running a special house history day on Saturday 1st February 2025 in The Centre for Heritage and Family History.

One small section of the display



Birthday Celebrations

In 2025 Berkshire Family History Society will be celebrating its 50th anniversary. To mark this special occasion, we are planning to run a conference on **Saturday 7th June 2025**, and a range of special visits throughout the year.

Our conference will be held at the Executive Centre within the Wokefield Park Estate in Grazeley near Reading. Situated next door to the Mansion House with a fascinating history and situated in a 250 acre parkland, our venue will provide glorious views across the mid Berkshire countryside.

We will be running a series of talks with speakers known far and wide throughout the field of historical research, covering various topics along the theme of the Victorian Era.

Our keynote speaker at the event will be Professor Kate Williams, renowned historian, author, novelist, television presenter and Professor of Public Engagement at the University of Reading.

Alongside the conference we are arranging a series of special visits to places across the Royal County that will be spread throughout the year. Places include archives, a stately home, and occupational and transport museums.

Details of these visits will be published in the new year along with more information about the conference and how to book your place.



Wokefield Park Executive Centre

Our main conference room



Highlight on

*Ilsley remote amid the Berkshire Downs,
Claims three distinctions o'er her sister towns,
Far famed for sheep and wool, tho' not for spinners,
For sportsmen, doctors, publicans and sinners.*

This traditional rhyme summarises the downland parish of **East Ilsley**, famous since medieval times for its sheep fairs, and in the last three centuries for racehorses. Known also as Market Ilsley or Chipping Ilsley in the past, it lies nine miles due north of Newbury.

The Ridgeway crosses the parish (at the crest of Gore Hill and east and west therefrom), as do many old wagon tracks, testifying to the village's importance as a commercial hub. Today the parish is bisected by the A34.

Local place names include Windmill Down, the highest point of the parish; Woolners, the smallest of its manors; Northbury and Ashridge – two other ancient manors; Poor's Furze, where the poor of the parish had the right of gathering furze; Banager Scrubs, the old horse common; Littleworth, Woolvers and Ashridge, all mentioned in the 1851 census.

East Ilsley lies in the hundred of Compton, and was in the Poor Law union, and subsequently Registration District, of Wantage. It is currently under the West Berkshire local authority. In 1851 it had a population of just 750 which had dropped to 538 by 2011.

Adjoining parishes in 1851 were Beedon, Blewbury, Catmore, Chilton, Compton, Hampstead Norreys, and West Ilsley. West Ilsley was originally a hamlet within the parish of East Ilsley.

A place called Hildeslei (the original name for Ilsley) is mentioned six times in the Domesday Book. Five of the entries probably correspond to East Ilsley, whilst one corresponds to West Ilsley.

Hildeslei could mean 'battle field', since one of the Saxon words for battle was hilde. This is unlikely, because the corresponding Saxon word for battlefield would be Hildanlei. Also, at the time when Ilsley was established, the word lei (or leag or leah) meant woodland or clearing in this locality. Only later did it become more widely used to mean field. There is a clear link between the woodland recorded in the Domesday Book



Ordnance Survey Drawing (OSD 158), British the parish of East Ilsley. Library, OGL v1.0OGL v1.0, via Wikimedia Commons



and places called lei or leah etc. Hild was a Saxon man's name, so Ilsley more probably stems from 'Hild's clearing'.

Over the centuries, Hildeslei became corrupted to Ilsley. When the second village of Ilsley grew, the terms East and West were added to Ilsley, although up to the 18th Century, East Ilsley was better known as Chipping Ilsley or Market Ilsley (Chipping is from the Old English word for market).

The location of churches provides evidence for the spread of the Saxon population, supporting the idea that East Ilsley was established around 1000 AD (there were no churches in the Downs until 11th Century and very few are recorded in the Domesday Book; East Ilsley's church dates mainly from the early 13th Century).

Anglican church and parochial organisation

The living of East Ilsley is a rectory in the diocese of Oxford. The parish church of St Mary dates from the twelfth or thirteenth century.



St Mary's Church in East Ilsley by Steve Daniels, CC BY-SA 2.0, via Wikimedia Commons

Baptism registers survive from 1649, marriages from 1653 and burials from 1648 and are deposited at the Royal Berkshire Archive. Bishops Transcripts (BTs) pre-date these registers and survive from 1607 onwards. These can be found at the Wiltshire and Swindon History centre.

Other churches

A small Baptist chapel was built in 1864, and served the village until Easter 2012, when it closed. There is also a Catholic church - St Patricks. Marriage registers informally began in 1875 and burial registers in 1866. These are deposited at the Royal Berkshire Archive.



East Ilsley Baptist Church by Steve Daniels, CC BY-SA 2.0, via Wikimedia Commons

Schools

Various private schools have existed in East Ilsley, such as the boarding school run by Mr and Mrs Burden in the first quarter of the nineteenth century. Other establishments of the same era were run by Mr and Mrs Keys, and by Mr Legge.

A National school opened in 1832. Following the Education Act of 1870 it became a board school (ie, shedding its religious governance), and was the predecessor of today's primary school, which in 1966 incorporated West Ilsley school.

Pubs

The local history society's website has traced 12 inns and beer houses of the nineteenth century, although the 1851 census names only two: the Swan and the White Hart. Most existed to serve the sheep breeders and traders who crowded into the village for its famous fortnightly sheep fairs. In 1850 the landlord of the Swan, George Drewe, combined inn-keeping with racehorse training. Today East Ilsley has only the Swan.

Local history

East Ilsley's sheep fairs, granted by charter during the reign of Henry III, were second only to Smithfield in size. The record was 80,000 sheep penned in a single day.



Sheep outside the White Hart

Nearly three centuries ago racehorse training came to the local downland. The Duke of Cumberland, brother to George II, had a stable at Kates Gore (long gone, but close to where the filling station is now on the A34), where the unbeatable Eclipse was bred and trained. Race meetings were held here from 1727 – 1858. Training continues to be a major local industry.

Genealogical resources

Newbury Library holds:

- a typed transcript of St Mary's parish registers 1608 – 1884
- St Mary's MIs on CD
- transcripts of some East Ilsley wills (Eric Saxton)

East Ilsley Local History Society has undertaken a considerable amount of research and transcription of local records. More information can be found at <https://eastilsleyhistory.com/>.

Published local history

- Bob Moulton *East Ilsley parish council: the first 100 years* (Sigma Books, 1995)
- Jim Wilson *East Ilsley photographic memories* (1998)
- Nigel Wardell *Far famed for sheep and wool: a history of East Ilsley's markets and fairs* (EILHS, 2006)*
- Nigel Wardell *Origins of East Ilsley and its name* (Sigma Books, 2004)
- William Hewett *History and antiquities of the hundred of Compton...(inc East Ilsley)* (John Snare, 1844)
- Sue Burnay *Time gentlemen please: 300 years of pubs and brewing in East and West Ilsley* (Sigma Books, 2003)*

Our shop stocks the following items relating to East Ilsley

- Berkshire Baptisms 4 CD (contains over 5,200 entries for East Ilsley St Mary and over 15,500 names from 1608-2003)
- Berkshire Marriages 5 CD (contains over 1,200 entries for East Ilsley St Mary and Baptist Chapel)
- Berkshire Burials 13 CD (contains East Ilsley St Mary 1607-1638 (BT's) and 1649-2005)
- East Ilsley St Mary the Virgin Parish Registers (CD)
- East Ilsley St Mary baptisms 1608-1920 data download
- East Ilsley St Mary banns 1823-1866 data download
- East Ilsley St Mary marriages 1609-1935 data download
- East Ilsley Chapel marriages 1875-1894 data download

- East Ilsley St Mary burials 1607-2005 data download
- Monumental Inscriptions of East Ilsley (CD) Compiled by Eric Saxton B.A.
- Names Familiar to All (The Stories of the East Ilsley War Memorial) by Kay Sanderson
- The Origins of East Ilsley and its name by Nigel Wardell (East Ilsley Local History Society)
- Time Gentlemen Please (300+ Years of Pubs and Brewing in East and West Ilsley) by Suzanna G. Burnay (East Ilsley Local History Society)
- Monumental Inscriptions of East Ilsley, A Name Index by Eric Saxton (East Ilsley Local History Society)
- "A Drunken Worthless Creature" Notes on Parishioners 1831 by Kay Sanderson (East Ilsley Local History Society)
- "In the Name of God; Amen" Transcripts of 190 Wills 1804-1877 by Eric Saxton
- Educating the Ilsleys A History of Local Schools 1805-2008 by Eric Saxton B.A. (East Ilsley Local History Society)
- "Far Famed for Sheep and Wool" - a history of East Ilsley's markets and fairs by Nigel Wardell (East Ilsley Local History Society)

As you may have realised from this series of articles and our previous series 'Around Berkshire', which are both primarily based on our website page, Berklopedia, there is plenty of information about west Berkshire settlements. Unfortunately, there is an obvious lack for east Berkshire. If you would like to help rectify this situation, please contact the society at editor@berksfhs.org.uk.

For this particular article, supplementary information was supplied by East Ilsley Local History Society, for which I am indebted.

My Visit to Windsor to Research my Ancestors

Joan Byrne, an Australian visitor recounts her trip to Windsor

The main aim of my stay in Windsor was to take a picture of St Edward's Presbytery, Alma Road, a building designed by my great grandfather Patrick James Byrne. However my query to the Berkshire Family History Society before I travelled to the UK from my home in Australia meant that I achieved far more than that. Member, Mike Bailey, not only researched the life of and achievements of Patrick James in Windsor using local resources, but also followed up information on Patrick's father in law, my great great grandfather, the Honourable Captain Samuel Scoltock, a Military Knight of Windsor.



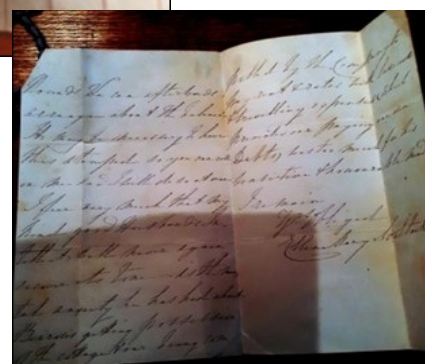
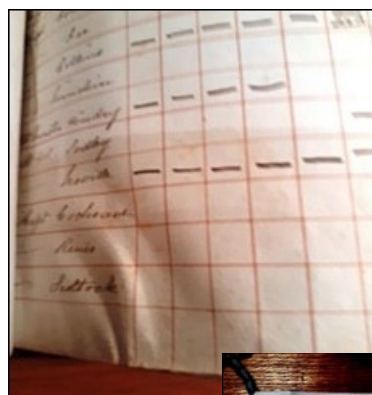
Mike was ready with information and prepared to show me around. First stop was Windsor Castle, where I had time to visit the royal apartments (absolutely stunning artworks, furnishings and dinner sets). Then off to the Archives of St George's Chapel (below).



This is the chapel where the Royal members of the Royal family are often photographed attending services and where the late Queen, Elizabeth II, is interred. The Military Knights of Windsor are the guardians of St George's Chapel, and lead any ceremonies there.

My ancestor, the Hon. Captain Samuel Scoltock, was one such dignitary. So I was taken down into the archives to view material prepared for me by the archivist, Kate McQuillian. The Military Knights were paid according to their attendance at chapel and this was recorded in attendance registers. From the 12th Century attendance 3 times a day was compulsory, but Queen Victoria relaxed that attendance requirement.

Relevant volumes for my purposes were VA 12, 13 1857-1866 showing the arrival of the Hon. Captain Scoltock as a Military Knight, his attendance and the date of his death.



Sorry this is not the best picture (above) but you can see his name at the bottom which means he was a new member. The black lines you see show the attendance at chapel. In his earlier days there Samuel attended chapel 3 or 4 times a week, but in his last few years he recorded nil attendances, probably because of illness. In the archives was also one letter from Samuel's wife Ellen (nee McKenna) explaining their difficult financial position.

From the archives it was time for a guided tour of the chapel and surrounds with a present day Military Knight, Lt Colonel John Moody, a very charming fellow. He explained that you applied to become a Military Knight after distinguished service in the Army, and were then interviewed. If successful you then had to wait for a vacancy before being



admitted as numbers were strictly limited. The Knights are accommodated in quarters near the chapel. It was here that Samuel lived with his wife Ellen and daughter Barbara Catherine Mary from the early 1860's

to 1870. Lt Colonel John Moody explained that Samuel had been a mess manager and must have given outstanding service and was consequently made Honorary Captain. He was a member of the Devonshire Regiment and had served in India.

Our guide felt that it was unlikely that Samuel would have joined the army at ten years of age as suggested by Ancestry.com, who also list him as enlisted with the 46th (South Devonshire) Regiment of Foot with service in North America. (Perhaps we need a bit more research here!)

He described a colourful ceremony led by the Military Knights when the Knights of the Garter held their traditional ceremony and procession there. We walked through the chapel, the burial place of royalty including Henry VIII. Then out onto the park-like grounds to see the military quarters where my ancestors lived. These photos are of the Military Knights Quarters, Windsor. Our guide apologised as he was unable to take me inside the quarters where Samuel and his family lived as the present occupants were away that week.

I encountered little new material on Ellen and Barbara on my visit to Windsor, but it did persuade me to look again at the material I had already.

In one letter to a Scoltock relative after the death of her father, Barbara, aged 12, tells of

her mother's fears of leaving their residence in Windsor Castle. This would have further complicated their difficult financial position, and I believe may have affected her physical health.

My dear Cousin,

Now that I am home for my holiday my dear Mamma has given me the pleasure of acknowledging the receipt of your very kind letter of the 22nd of last month. She still continues her tho' daily expecting an order to leave.

Our little garden looks very pretty and I have been busy in it all morning putting down some seeds. It is rather late in the season but my dear Mamma says she likes to see the flowers of my planting.. She wishes to congratulate you on your worthy uncle's deserved promotion and hope that he will long live to enjoy the dignity.

The weather was very unpleasant on the day of the Queen's Garden Party. Mamma said it was such a pity to see the rain pouring down on such beautiful violets and she thinks the doctor got employment from it.

You enquired of my favourite studies which are Painting, Music, Singing, Arithmetic, Writing and French Dialogue and Needlework; In fact I think I am fond of all my lessons.

With our united love to you, your Mamma (difficult to read next bit but it is something like) V cousin Sammel.

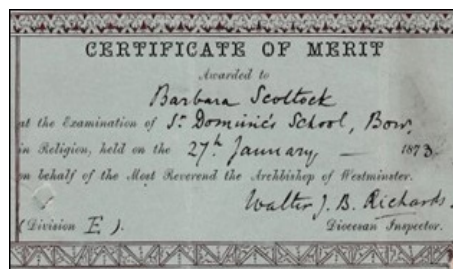
Believe me to be

Your loving little cousin.

Barbara Scoltock.

I have copied this letter to make it a little clearer. But I think it does in a simple way express something of their lives there, the uncertainty of the future, and the contact with the medical profession.

What happened to Ellen and Barbara after that? I gather that Ellen was ill, and that Barbara continued at school in London. .



A certificate from a school in 1873 (so aged 15)

The next piece of evidence, located in the possession of an Aunt in Tasmania, is a letter from a convent in London informing the recipient that Barbara Scoltock has been in their care during her mother's illness. She has now been transferred to an Aunt in America, her mother's sister, to a convent there with the assistance of her guardian, Canon Applegarth, parish priest of Windsor.

St Catherine's Convent

(Possibly) May 17

God is Love; Sm & Dc (I think)

Dear Madam

In reply to your kind enquiries about Barbara Scoltock, we can only say that she was placed under our care during part of her poor mother's illness and remained in our care twelve months, when, at the desire of her aunt and with the consent of her guardian the Rev W(?) Applegarth she left us to be consigned to the care of her Aunt, Miss McKenna religious Sister of Mercy in a Convent at Augusta in the United States. The Rev W Applegarth took her himself to Liverpool on the 29th April and saw her on board the Steamer (?), .Capt Hall placing her under the care of a Mrs Hall who was educated by the Sisters of Mercy at his Aunt's convent. The vessel is not a steamer, but a first class merchant (indecipherable 4 letter word) being a sailing vessel. We have not yet had time to receive news of her arrival at New York where she was to be met by her friends. Barbara was a remarkably pleasing and interesting child and we were all much attached to her-all the more from her position so lonely and friendless.

Very truly yours in ?

Sister Mary Dorothea..

How long Barbara Catherine Mary stayed in America is uncertain. The next piece of evidence I have of Barbara Catherine Mary's life is a marriage certificate signed by Canon Applegarth registering the marriage of Barbara Catherine Mary (age 17) to Patrick James Byrne thereby keeping the promise she had made as a small child "that she would marry him when she grew up".

As if that wasn't enough for one day, it was off to follow the footsteps of my great grandfather, Patrick James Byrne. Mike had provided me with a list of entries re Patrick Byrne from the Windsor and Eton Express (next page).

The list confirms the family legend of Patrick's work on development of improved public sanitation, evidence of which I had seen previously in booklet form, sadly missing now. It also confirms a major contribution to housing for the poor, evidenced by his award of a bronze medal for work in this area. The mention of the name Wilmot of the Strand, London, as his partner, also confirms the family legend of a financial disagreement between the partners.

In all, this list of public involvement presents a picture of a talented man using his skills for his community.

Our first stop was Orchard Lea, near Winkfield, (below) designed by Byrne for Reginald Baliol Brett, Member of the House of Lords, a design for which Byrne received Royal acclaim.

The building is now described as commercial premises. However there was no sign of other buildings or activity and the whole area was stunning parkland.

Mike showed me the following description of Orchard Lea in "The Winkfield Chronicles" by researched and written by Rev. Simon Baynes and Ruth J C Timbrell and published by Winkfield History Project Group:

"ORCHARD LEA

Orchard Lea, the estate at the junction of the Drift Road and Winkfield Lane, opposite Winkfield Place, was built by Reginald Baliol Brett (1852-1930) on land bought from his brother-in-law Victor Van de Weyer of New Lodge, in 1883-84, to the design of a young Irish architect, Patrick James Byrne. It is described by Brett's biographer as "non-descript Tudoresque",, but it was much admired by the future George V, and the Kaiser, who had the design copied in Germany."

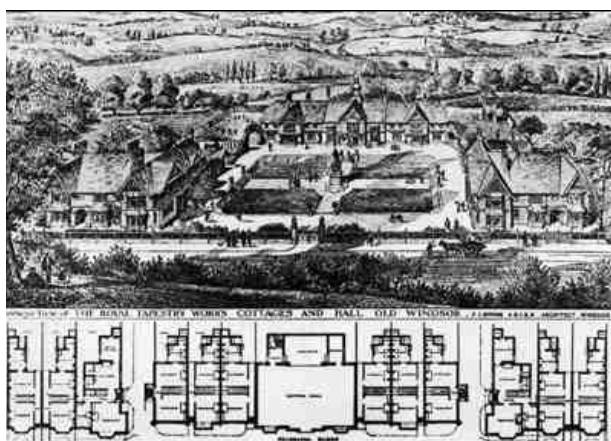


Key points from a search of the Windsor & Eton Express archives for Patrick James Byrne Architect		
Date	Place of residence/business	Event
28 December 1872	4, Frances Road, Windsor 55, High-street, Windsor	Moved his Offices from 4, Frances Road to 55, High Street (Alexandra Chambers)
10 May 1873	Alexandra Chambers, High Street	Tenders for the erection of schools in accordance with the plans and specifications of Mr. P. J. Byrne, Architect
12 July 1873		met Mr. Byrne on the spot. They removed some earth, and saw the sewage working round the cesspool.
09 May 1874	55, High Street, Windsor 32, Park Street, Windsor (Alexandra Chambers)	Moved his Offices from 55, High-street, Windsor to 32, Park Street, Windsor. The Office of the Rural Sanitary Inspector is also removed to the same address
08 January 1876		Great praise bestowed on the architect Mr P. J. Byrne, Windsor, and Messrs. Oades, of Egham, the contractors, for the manner in which the works have been executed,
14 April 1877	7, Sheet Street, Windso	First mention of the Sheet Street address as a place of business (Did he need a new office away from his residence with the family growing?)
15 May 1880	32, Park Street, Windsor	Tender for new front to Mrs. Allen's shop, Peascod Street, Windsor
08 July 1882		Mr. Patrick James Byrne, architect of Windsor, examined by Mr. Bothwell, gave evidence to the effect that the construction of this railway would cause the
12 January 1884		The guests assembled in the room attached to the Star Inn, Peascod Street, the architect (Mr. Byrne) and 2 members of the firm of Oade. and Son, of Egham, being present.
21 June 1884	The Old Literary Institute, Sheet Street, Windsor	Messrs. Byrne & Wilmot, Architects, Surveyors, and Sanitary Engineers, Lyons Inn Chambers, 303, Strand, London, & Windsor notify their clients that they have removed their Windsor Offices from the Old Literary Institute, Sheet Street.
01 November 1884		awarded Mr. P. J. Byrne A.R.I.B.A., architect, of Windsor, a bronze medal in the class of design for artisan's dwellings and model lodgings for the poor.
25 July 1885		summoned by Mr. Byrne, Inspector of Nuisances for the Windsor Union Rural Sanitary Authority, permitting a nuisance to arise from his slaughter-house, near Jutland Place, Clewer
29 May 1886	Clewer	Patrick James Byrne, of Clewer, architect and surveyor, bankrupt, applied for his discharge
14 May 1887	Park-Street	Patrick James Byrne, architect, Windsor, said he lived in Park-Street until the end of 1884

The Royal Tapestry works was another major undertaking for Patrick Byrne. The idea was to train craftsmen skilled in tapestry to the highest international standard. A number of members of the Royal Family supported the project and Queen Victoria was the patron, giving permission to use the word Royal. Byrne designed the premises of workers' cottages surrounding a central hall at Old Windsor.

Although I did not see what remains of this site, I felt it important to add this information as a further illustration of Byrne's international standard as an architect and a supporter of the arts.

Note Byrne's name as architect appears after the words OLD WINDSOR.



The Royal Tapestry Works view and plan, courtesy of G G Cullingham, Royal Windsor Website.

Next stop was Clewer where Byrne and his family moved from Park St. The houses of the main street have been remodelled but the photo shows some that would be similar to that occupied by Byrne and family. The atmosphere is one of peace and tranquillity. I wonder where the children went to school. My grandfather, William Joseph Byrne, spoke of attending a day school and spending his lunch money on "Penny Dreadfuls".

The Clewer house



Moving on to Park St, situated just below Windsor Castle, is the area where Byrne lived and worked in his earlier days. No 32 has been redeveloped, but the Two Brewers Pub is still there.

*Park Street
1903 courtesy
of the Royal
Windsor
Forum*



A further site where Byrne's offices were located for a time was Sheet Street.



*Sheet Street
and The
Royal Albert
Institute in
the early
1900s,
courtesy of
the Royal
Windsor
Website.*

What a day it was for me, so much exciting information and I really felt I was walking in the footsteps of my great grandfather. I cannot thank Mike Bailey enough for his research and personal help on this amazing day.

Windsor Day 2 was a much quieter day. A short walk took me to St Edward's Presbytery (below), to get the photo which had been the main purpose of my Windsor visit. I was unable to enter the building as the occupant was away, but I did get photos from outside and through a window.



House Histories Open Day

This year's Heritage Open Days, during which the Society invited people to find out how to discover the history of their house and its occupants, proved so popular that we have decided to hold a repeat event on Saturday 1st February.

The Centre for Heritage and Family History will be open to anyone wishing to trace the history of their house (or family) from 10.30am to 2.30pm.

Have you been inspired by the latest series of A House Through Time on BBC2? Come and sit down with one of our expert advisors who will offer practical guidance and show you how to get started and progress your research.

The Research Zone will be open with its usual access to Ancestry Worldwide, Findmypast Worldwide, the British Newspaper Archive and The Genealogist. Plus we will have our extensive collection of local trade



Andrew Smith Wolseley Street, Reading CC BY-SA 2.0

directories available to consult and those in the Local Studies Library.

No need to book - just drop in.

Refreshments will also be available for a small charge

Trade and Occupation Websites

Do you want to find out more about your ancestors working life? The following websites may help you achieve this. You may also wish to join the Reading Branch meeting in April 2025, when Dr Sophie Kay will be giving a presentation entitled 'Just A Job: Revitalizing Your Family History With Occupational Research'.

<http://breweryhistory.com> – contains Brewerypedia which has information on UK (and a handful of overseas) pubs and breweries large and small.

www.brewershall.co.uk – home to the Brewers Company. Lists what can be found in the archive and library

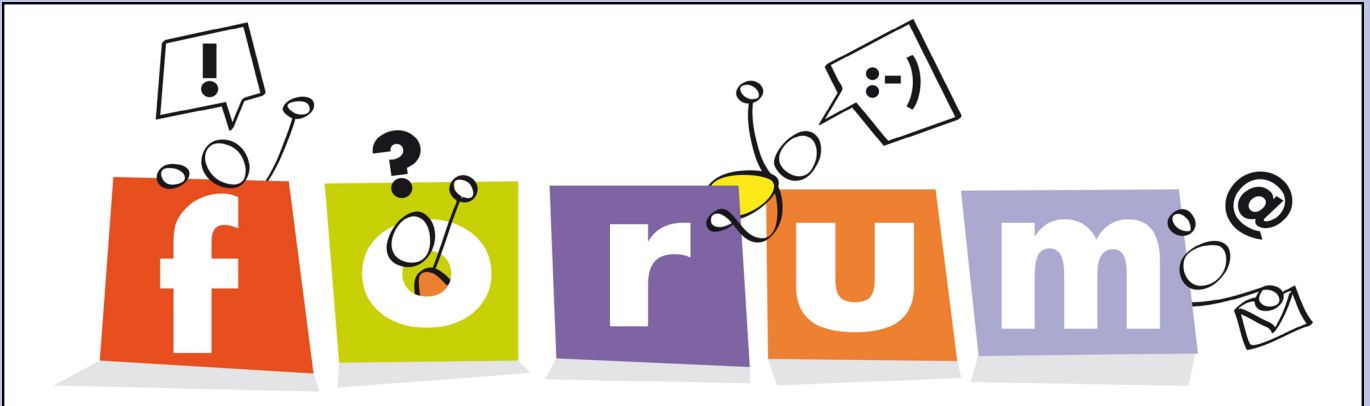
<https://www.vam.ac.uk/articles/the-story-of-theatre> – uses the V&A Museum collections to illustrate the history of theatre and performance

<https://www.fairground-heritage.org.uk/education/> - learn about the history of fairground and a few of those involved.

<https://www.railwaymuseum.org.uk/research-and-archive/further-resources/catalogues> - the main repository for railway records.

<http://www.unionancestors.co.uk/> - discover your family history in the trade union movement.

Postings from The Forum



The Forum provides an area where members can reach out to all other members to receive or offer help and advice. It is a member-exclusive service which you find on the Society's website. All you need to do to gain access is log in and follow the menu option "Community". Remember to register to follow the various categories of postings such as "Local History and Heritage" to receive new postings, as they are made, direct to your email address.

Here's a few of the recent postings.

Anthony and Gillian wrote: "Arthur HOLT married my aunt, Marie Elizabeth LOOKER on 2 Aug 1937 at St Christopher's Church, All Saints, Pokesdown, Bournemouth, Hampshire, England. Arthur was an Engineer's Turner living in Reading, Berkshire. He was a talented amateur artist. Arthur was the son of George HOLT, a Gardener and Amelia VARNEY. He had two brothers John Patrick (Jack), 1908, & George Alfred, 1910, HOLT. I have a hand tinted photograph of him which I would be happy to pass on to a member of his family." Do you have an Arthur Holt in your family tree?

Ron Yates shared his Yates DNA project: We chose Thomas Yates and Frances White as our start parents as two of their descendants become very important to the Yates lines which immigrated and populated to the United States as the study unfolds. Our analysis reveals that this group of Yates lines trace back to Berkshire, England. Historical documentation of the Yates lineage is rich, with a family home still standing in Charney Bassett and notable ancestors, including one who died in the Tower of London in 1588 because of his religious faith, the year of the Spanish Armada. This is a DNA study conducted as part of the Yates One Name Study. The study is ongoing and your DNA may unlock the next big discovery. It is easy to participate by simply sharing your AncestryDNA matches. https://yates.one-name.net/gengen/dna_cousin_surname_study.htm

Rachel shared an image and the inscription on a small spoon she has inherited. She would like to connect it with the correct member of her Taylor family. Her research so far led her to surmise that the spoon may have been awarded as a prize by the Oxfordshire Agricultural Society. Hilary replied that she had been able to locate an article in the Oxford Journal on 5 June 1824 which confirmed Rachel's theory and announced that the spoon had been awarded to Mr C TAYLOR of Baldon, as the prize in 'Class 7 - Cattle' at their meeting at Dorchester.



Stephen wanted confirmation of where Horn Street in Reading used to be. He hadn't been able to locate it on any old maps but had a hunch from The National Archives catalogue that it might be an earlier name for Southampton Street. Vicki was able to confirm this and the section it referred to. Whilst Paul directed him to the Berkshire Industrial Archaeological Society's website and its article on the Katesgrove Ironworks.

A Combined Branches' Special Online Meetings

Wednesday 4th December 2024

7-9pm

Christmas Social



Come and join us for a Combined Branches' Christmas Social. It will be a chance to get together, catch up on Society developments and chat to other members of the Society.

So feel free to join us for festive beverages and nibbles of your choice, depending on your whims and time zones. Sorry, it's BYO refreshments.

FREE to members

Wednesday 19th March 2025

7.45pm start (session opens 7.15pm)

An Introduction to Irish Family History

By Natalie Bodle

Irish genealogical research has the reputation of being difficult due to the number of records lost, but this talk will cover how you can get started, which records are available and best of all which are free.

This will give you a good grounding to making a start on finding your Irish ancestors.

Natalie Bodle

Natalie is a professional genealogist from County Antrim who undertakes research throughout Ireland and also provides genealogy evening courses for those who would like to learn how to complete their own family history research. With more than 20 years' research experience, a Post Graduate Certificate in Genealogical Studies, membership of the Association of Professional Genealogists and the Genealogical Speakers Guild, Natalie is well placed to help family historians find their way with Irish ancestral research.

BOOK NOW TO SECURE YOUR PLACE.

