

Berkshire Family Historian

*The quarterly journal of the
Berkshire Family History Society*



December 2020
Volume 44



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William Watkins Waite in Australia
A 1930's Christmas in Sulham
Two Houses Called Adelaide
Berkshire Quiz

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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.

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

Weaver's Cottages at West Mills, Newbury by E W Waite.

Berkshire Family Historian

The quarterly journal of the Berkshire Family History Society

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Editor's Notes

Welcome to your December *Berkshire Family Historian*. As we continue to keep readjusting to the perpetually changing national and local circumstances resulting from Covid-19, we hope that your quarterly journal provides a piece of normality for you. This edition is packed with society news, branch round-up's, snippets and stories, as you have all come to expect.

You will see, below, we have new society leadership, following the compulsory retirement of Catherine Sampson and myself. I welcome Nick Prince as a new regular contributor, in the form of author of the Chairman's Corner.

As Christmas looms large on the horizon, don't forget to take a look at the bookshop for gift ideas. Maybe a gift membership, CD or book is the ideal gift you are looking for. There are plenty of items for those interested in family, local or social history. Maybe a course or workshop will provide an unusual gift for that 'hard to buy for' person in your life. Take a look, you may be surprised what you find!

Vicki Chesterman

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Chairman's Corner

I am writing this at the end of September having been elected as chairman at the AGM which was conducted via zoom less than a month ago. Following Catherine Sampson's excellent leadership won't be easy but I am determined to help lead the society through these difficult times.

By the time you read this who knows what will have changed in our lives. I would encourage everyone to check out the regular "in touch" newsletters to find out what we are doing each month to support members. We will have asked you for feedback about what you like or don't about the society and what we do. Hopefully early in 2021 we will be able to share some outcomes from that feedback.

The members of the society are our lifeblood and we thank the many who have renewed their memberships and we welcome those who have joined this year. We will continue to try and provide services to help as many people in their research and interests as possible. The use of Zoom has enabled us to deliver workshops and talks and for many out of county and out of country members this has helped them engage with the society. Face to face meetings for members of local branches may be possible but the online presence will continue and we will look to develop it. We will also be expanding our 'Digital Download' offering for those who may not need or be able to access CD's



If you have ideas about how we can develop the society please do send me an email.

The society relies on volunteers to deliver its services and I want to thank everyone who does anything for the society from the trustees wrestling with governance to ensure the society is financially sound to members who attend meetings and help out with projects and share their interest with others.

Nick Prince

chairman@berksfhs.org.uk

Abridged Chairman's Report to 2020 AGM

Catherine Sampson

Overview

This last year has been one of digital transformation. We have new society and shop websites, an electronic newsletter, new online member join and renew processes and from April onwards, online meetings and events. Covid-19 has dominated 2020, and led to the temporary cessation of face to face activities and closure of the Centre for Heritage and Family History. However, we have sought and adopted new opportunities and technologies to support our members and the public during these difficult times. As a return to face to face activities becomes more possible, and our digital journey continues, we will need to consider how we embrace the opportunities available to best meet the needs of our members and the public moving forward.

The Centre for Heritage and Family History

We upgraded our Findmypast contract to Worldwide in January. Since April, we have operated virtually and will reopen when we can provide a safe environment for everyone. In the meantime, our temporary online arrangements with The Genealogist and Findmypast Worldwide continue.

Membership

Welcome to everyone who has joined in the past year. Members have continued to receive discounts on society products, and also to be able to attend many events for free, or for a discounted ticket price. In April 2020, we launched a new online membership system which has automated many of the previously manual membership processes, easing the workload of Bob Plumridge, our membership secretary. Thank you to everyone who responded to our newsletter requests and renewed on time and online, where possible. Thanks go to everyone involved in this initiative, in particular, Bob, Paul Barrett, Dave Osborne and Andrew Rice.

Branch meetings and outreach activities

There were approximately 1,200 attendances, by members and non-members, to meetings held by our six Branches. Four Branches held online meetings, from late April onwards. This enabled

members from further afield to be able to attend Branch Meetings for the first time, a welcome upside of the current circumstances. Meeting topics have ranged from the popular member evenings, to talks on interpreting sources, research stories and local history topics.

Communicating with our Members

The *Historian* editorial panel, led by Vicki Chesterman, were joined by designer Catherine Taylor last September. A change in printer and distributor has enabled annual savings in excess of £2,000 to be realised, releasing this money to other activities. To complement the *Historian*, in January the society launched its first ever electronic newsletter, *In Touch*. Since late March, the newsletter has been weekly, providing regular updates, we hope useful websites and society news.

Website, and social media

New websites for the society and bookshop were launched in September 2019. New articles and content are added regularly and a new Forum, earlier this year, which replaced the previous email-based discussion list. Other post-launch additions include a Research Wizard, back copies of the *Historian* and *In Touch*, and exchange magazines from other societies. The new society website was largely built by Paul Barrett with input from others, the shop website by Chad Hanna, Christopher Morris and Paul. Chad retired as webmaster in September, and Paul took on the role for the new sites at launch, joined in January by Dave Osborne. Our thanks go to them all.

Projects and publications

Six new CD products were published during the year, including a third edition of Berkshire Baptisms, making another 84 new datasets more readily accessible. We are also delighted to announce the launch of data downloads as a new means by which the society's transcriptions can be purchased. These will be in PDF format with automatic fulfilment at the point of purchase.

Events, education and promotion

The society's events and education programme has continued to grow in popularity, with over 1,000 individuals attending events during the year. From early April events have been online. The

programme continues to evolve and contributes a valuable stream of income, partly paying our Centre rental costs. We also supported the London History Fair at Sandown in 2019, Open Days of three family history societies and Heritage Open Days.

Bookshop

Berkshire Family History Enterprises, the society's wholly owned subsidiary, had a successful year and made another welcome donation from its profits back to the society. Approximately 800 lines of stock are available with new products being added during the year.

Society governance and public benefit

The society is a registered charity, managed by an Executive Committee (the trustees), elected annually by members. They met six times this year. Implementation of the society's activities is managed by eight sub-committees and working groups, and the six local Branches. Since late-March all meetings have been held online. Many of the benefits that the society offers as a charity are laid out in this report.

What of the future?

The uncertain situation ahead with Covid-19 will continue to challenge the society and yet also

present new opportunities to engage with our members and the public. As a return to face to face activities becomes possible, we will need to consider how we best embrace a mixture of face to face and online as we go forward. New online and product launches are planned for the year ahead, continuing our drive to improve access and deliver to our charitable objects.

Thank you

This is my last AGM as Chairman, so I would like to finish by thanking the very many volunteers who keep us going as a society. The society would not have been able to operate over the past twelve months or to achieve the strident steps forward it has made, without the many volunteers who regularly and generously give their time and expertise to the benefit of others.

I would particularly like to thank Vicki Chesterman who also steps down as a trustee and society secretary at this AGM. Vicki has made a significant contribution across many areas of the society's business. Particular thanks also go to Paul Barrett and Dave Osborne who have led so many aspects of the society's digital transformation over the past year.

Goodbye Standing Orders

One of the most time-consuming tasks has traditionally been administering membership. One reason it's so time consuming is that standing orders take a disproportionate amount of time.

Standing orders were designed to handle frequent payments of an identical amount but our membership fees are neither of those and there's the nub of the problem. Despite our best efforts to let you know about membership fee pricing levels, many standing order payments we receive are for the incorrect amount, which results in a lot of work and cost to try to contact the member to collect the difference.

The society has therefore decided that standing orders will no longer be accepted as a method of payment. In future we will only accept payment online or by cheque. Online payment is our preferred method because then the renewal process is completely automated and your continued access to society services is guaranteed.

If you currently have a standing order in place, please may we ask you to cancel it?

Only **you** can do this - we have no way of blocking or rejecting a standing order payment. You simply need to contact your bank and request them to cancel the standing order for Berkshire Family History Society.

What happens if you don't cancel? In accordance with the Constitution, membership is only available to those who pay the full amount. Therefore, incorrect payments will be treated as donations to the society and membership privileges will not be granted. This means, for example, that you will no longer receive a copy of the Historian.

At the end of your membership year you will be reminded of the need to renew by email (or by letter if you don't have an email address registered with us). It's then up to you to pay online or by cheque. If you need help with that, *call the office on 0118 950 9553* and leave a message.

Introducing for 2020 - 2021

Your Trustees

Your NEW Society Chairman and continuing Newbury branch representative - Nick Prince

Nick is still a full-time civil servant now based in Reading. He began researching his family history in early 2007. He is a member of the Newbury Branch and former branch chair. A change in his status at work allows him to be a trustee and Society Chairman. He is married to Maureen and has 3 stepchildren. His 12-year-old granddaughter is the only one of his family to share his interest. She attended 2 fairs in 2018 to support the society. Nick is also a member of Thatcham Baptist Church and volunteers at the Watermill theatre.



Your NEW Society Secretary and continuing Abingdon (Vale) branch representative - Vanessa Chappell

A society member since 2006, Vanessa has been Chair of the Vale of the White Horse branch for many years. Vanessa has lived in Abingdon and been married to Duncan for over 25 years and has two children Robert, working in London and Nicole, who is currently living in Whistler, British Columbia, Canada. When not researching her own ancestry in Wales, Birmingham and the Black Country, or her husband's in Scotland, London and Cobourg in Canada, she enjoys creative paper-crafting and working in her garden. Vanessa also helps run her husband's music business 'Big Ginger Tom Music', which promotes live acoustic music and she can be found behind the bar in Harwell Village Hall on gig nights!



Society Treasurer - Andrew Rice

After qualifying as an accountant, Andrew moved to the charity that runs the British Forces Broadcasting Service. After 14 years he then moved to become Finance Director and Company Secretary of a central London charity where he stayed for 17 years. In 2013, Andrew joined a local children's hospice charity working part time where he has remained ever since and has now clocked up over 7 years' service. In June 2016, Andrew became a trustee of the society and the society's treasurer a few months later. This does not give him much time for his own family history, but he does enjoy meeting up with his grown-up sons for a family meal!



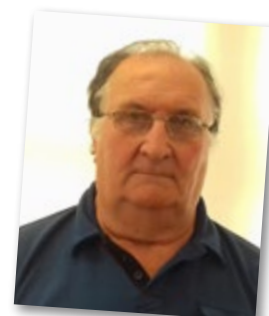
Bracknell and Wokingham branch - Sandra Barkwith

Sandra joined the Executive Committee in 2012 as the Representative for Bracknell & Wokingham branch. She became chairman of the branch in 2015. She has been a member of the society since 1998. Currently, Sandra is Convenor of the Research Zone Committee and the Branches Consultation Group and a member of the Education and Events Group.



Reading branch - Graham Vockins

Graham joined the society in 2010 and was elected chairman of the Reading branch in 2013 serving as a trustee for one year. In 2017, he returned as a trustee and branch representative. He has been married to Carol for over 40 years and has two children and five grandchildren. He is proud of his Berkshire roots, which is made up of ag labs and shopkeepers. Graham is also a trustee of Shinfield Players Theatre.





Windsor, Slough and Maidenhead branch - Helen Conchar

Helen was brought up in Warwickshire, but her parents came from the north west. Helen and her sister moved to London in the early 1980s. She first started researching her family history in the early 1990s. Helen discovered that a branch of her Scottish ancestors came from Bracknell, and she started going to WSM meetings in 2000 while working in Windsor. She joined the committee a couple of years later. Although Helen now lives and works near Watford, she still drives back to Windsor as she enjoys meeting her friends at the branch.

Woodley (Computer) branch - Gillian Stevens

Gillian joined the society in 1998 and has worked closely with the Federation of Family History Societies, Findmypast and The National Archives. She has served on the Executive since 2007, bar two one-year compulsory gaps, and represents the Computer branch of which she is chairman. She also sits on the ITDT and the Education and Events group. Gillian forms part of the 'Tuesday evening team' who provide technical as well as family history advice to visitors to the Centre for Heritage and Family History. Gillian has recently found her first and probably only Berkshire ancestor whilst researching her own family history and by making a worldwide study of the Blofeld surname.



Margaret Crook

Margaret was Chairman of the Reading branch for five years, serving as branch representative on the Executive and a trustee throughout this time. She became a trustee again in 2016. Margaret is a member of the Education and Events committee and organises our presence at events and fairs through the year. She and her husband are keen boaters and during the summer months they enjoy navigating Britain's waterways in their canal boat.

John Dunne

John joined the BFHS about 20 years ago and has been a committee member of the Computer branch for over 15 years. Since taking early retirement from the NHS in 2008 he has had more time to catch up with Irish, American and British relatives as his father was one of 15 children and his mother one of 4 children, he has many aunts and uncles and of course very many cousins to keep track of. John moved to the Reading area in the early 1980s from his home in Bracknell. He had been in Bracknell since 1958 when his family left West London to start a new life in the wonderful New Town, which was a big change of pace for all.



Angela Gunn

Angela was co-opted to the Executive Committee in 2017-2018. She was a medical librarian for over 30 years working in London and Oxford universities followed by 12 years as an Information Specialist with the Cochrane Collaboration based at the Institute of Neurology at University College London. She is now retired and as well as cataloguing the BFHS book collection she is the secretary to the Lavell's Wetland Trust, a nature conservation group based north of Dinton Pastures.



Tony Henty

Tony joined the society in 2010 and became a trustee in 2016. He has been married for over 50 years and has a son, daughter and 4 grandchildren. Since qualifying as a chartered accountant in 1962, he has worked in manufacturing, wholesaling, building, transport, pharmaceuticals and commercial property. His research has highlighted that through his paternal grandmother he is the 3rd cousin 4 times removed of Sir Frederick Henry Royce of Rolls Royce fame. For approximately 40 years, Tony has been a volunteer to various organisations and charities and is currently treasurer and trustee of a charity called Earleybus based in Earley and is also a trustee of Earley Crescent Centre. He now assists the Bookshop with their book-keeping.

Tony Roberts

Tony first joined the Executive Committee in 2012, having been a research assistant. He has been a member since 2010 and was the society's secretary for 4 years. He is one of the Directors of Berkshire Family History Enterprises Ltd, looks after the bookshop, as well as a member of the society's journal editorial panel, ITDT, Research Zone and Centre groups. Tony is a retired Chartered Engineer and Environmental Manager, and has a daughter living locally, and a son & grandson living in Western Australia. Currently he is a member of both St Paul's, Wokingham & St Nicholas, Emmbrook PCCs and is treasurer of the latter church among other interests.



Paul Barrett

Paul is a retired software product manager and spent the final 25 years of his career in the tech industry. He and his wife moved to Northumberland in 2005 to be close to their son and his family but the Barretts have strong connections to Berkshire albeit in the annexed section around Abingdon! Paul joined the society in 2017 and, in 2019, took on the post of Webmaster having redesigned the society's websites. He is passionate about digital transformation and its role in engaging with the digital generations and with members who are remote from Berkshire. He edits the online newsletter "in touch" and is a member of several committees including Marketing & Communications and ITDT.



Your Vice-Presidents

Mark Stevens

Mark is Berkshire's current county archivist. He grew up in Maidenhead and has a lifelong love of history in the Royal County. He is particularly interested in historic mental health care and the people who received it and is the author of two related books: *Broadmoor Revealed* and *Life in the Victorian Asylum*. He was elected as vice-president of the society for the first time in 2016.



Derek Trinder

Re-elected as a vice-president, Derek attends Executive Committee meetings by invitation. His perspectives reflect some two decades of society involvement. He is a past chairman, branch chairman and trustee. Derek is a member of both the Marketing and Communication group and of the ITDT. He provides a voice for the society in local media and represents it on some external bodies. He is a director of Berkshire Family History Enterprises Limited too.

His family and local history research interests embrace Berkshire, Buckinghamshire, Lincolnshire, Oxfordshire — and Ireland. Derek's other pastimes include theatre, gardening and music (all genres). He is also a long-standing (and long-suffering) Queens Park Rangers season ticket holder.





YOUR SOCIETY PRESIDENT **Mr James Puxley DL, Lord-Lieutenant** **of the Royal County of Berkshire**

We are pleased to announce that Mr James Puxley is again, returning for a third year as President of Berkshire Family History Society. He became our society President last year after expressing an interest in genealogy at the official opening of the Centre for Heritage and Family History in 2018. He has looked into his own family history and is in the fortunate position of having a wealth of archives to refer to enhance the stories of his predecessors.

Born in 1948, Mr Puxley was educated in Berkshire before attending the University of Bristol where he obtained a BA degree in history. He attended the Royal Agricultural College, Cirencester where he obtained a diploma in rural estate management and worked as a rural chartered surveyor for several years following qualification as a chartered surveyor. In the 1980s he started to manage the Welford Estate, near Newbury on behalf of his mother and then on his own behalf when she transferred ownership to him. He continues in this role today living at Welford Park with his wife, Deborah, who assists her husband in the management of the Welford Estate and organises the annual opening of the grounds for 5 weeks every February for the public to come and view one of the country's finest snowdrop displays.

Welford Park is a historic house in extensive grounds of 3000 agricultural acres. The property has been owned by James' family on his mother's side for 400 years, originally being purchased in 1618 by Sir Francis Jones Kt, Lord Mayor of London in 1620. It was subsequently inherited via the female line several times by the Eyre and Archer Houblon families.

Mr Puxley was High Sheriff of the Royal County of Berkshire from 2000 to 2001. He was appointed a Deputy Lieutenant in 2005 and became Vice Lord Lieutenant in 2010. In 2015 he was appointed Lord-Lieutenant of the Royal County, thereby becoming the Queen's representative within Berkshire. This role involves taking considerable interest in and supporting very many aspects of county life, civic, voluntary, military, religious, business and others.



Gift Membership

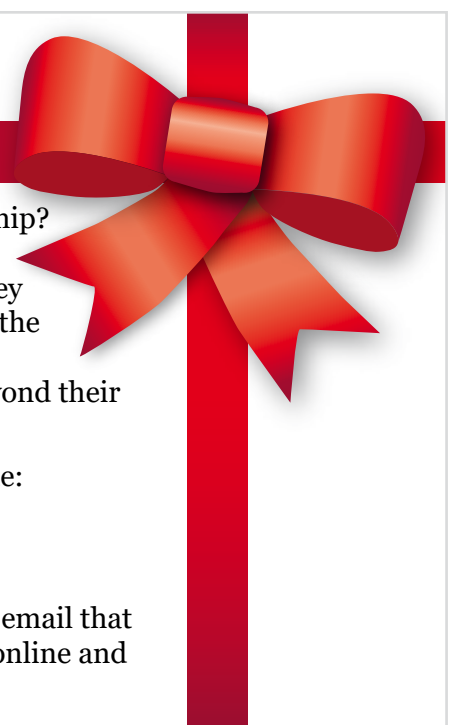
With Christmas approaching why not buy someone a Gift Membership? If you've already bought your presents then there are always birthdays and other events to celebrate with a Gift Membership - they are available all year round. You don't have to worry about whether the recipient is already a member because they can use the certificate to immediately extend their existing membership by a further year beyond their current membership.

Buying a Gift Membership is easy. Just go to this page on the website:

<https://berksfhs.org/buy-a-gift-membership/>

(Menu item **Join Us** > **Buy a Gift Membership**)

As soon as you have paid, you'll receive a membership certificate by email that you can print or send on to the recipient. All they have to do is join online and use the option to **Redeem a Gift Certificate**.



45th Annual General Meeting Report

This year's AGM for the society was, due to Covid-19 restrictions, held via Zoom on Friday 4th September 2020. Sixty-three members attended.

All the officers, the President, Vice-Presidents and Trustees shown on the agenda were voted in. The resolutions regarding the amendment to the society Constitution, to allow on-line meetings/voting and the introduction of a rolling membership programme, and of the appointment of an independent examiner of accounts, were endorsed by the meeting.

Catherine Sampson (Chairman) and Vicki Chesterman (Secretary) stood down at the AGM as Trustees. Also standing down as Vice-President was Angela Buckley. All were thanked for their valued contributions to the society.

James Puxley was re-elected as society President and Mark Stevens and Derek Trinder as society Vice-Presidents. Nick Prince was elected as Chairman and Vanessa Chappell as Secretary. Paul Barrett was elected as a new Trustee. All other Officers and Trustees were re-elected for a further term.

A presentation of Honorary Membership Certificates were made to Mike Booth and Joan Vinall in recognition of their long and valued contributions and service to the society.

The meeting was formally closed by Derek Trinder, Vice-President.

This meeting was recorded and is available on the society Youtube channel.

How Berkshire are you?

Berkshire has a rich history of unusual words that cause confusion to those not from the county. Can you match the Berkshire word with its meaning?

- | | |
|---------------|---------------------------------|
| 1. footer | a. shortly, very quickly |
| 2. caddle | b. squirrels |
| 3. picked | c. to cry |
| 4. cheeselog | d. woodpecker |
| 5. berry | e. proud |
| 6. stomachy | f. woodlouse |
| 7. astoor | g. an ant |
| 8. hockerd | h. a rabbit warren |
| 9. lakes | i. a fuss or disturbance |
| 10. emmet | j. muddle |
| 11. yaffingal | k. seesaw |
| 12. deedy | l. pointed |
| 13. bobbery | m. opposite |
| 14. physog | n. careful |
| 15. squoggies | o. awkward, clumsy or obstinate |
| 16. skin | p. to drink |
| 17. zwizzle | q. very cross |
| 18. vorights | r. a wasp |
| 19. jasper | s. face |
| 20. titter | t. to laugh |

Answers are on page 36

William Watkins Waite and his travelling family - the Australia years

Fred Waite continues the story of his much-travelled ancestor

Nothing is known of where the Waite family settled upon their arrival in Victoria in 1863 but in 1868, they were living in Prahran, now a district of Melbourne. An enquiry to the Stonnington History Centre in Prahran generated this reply: *“The 1868 Sands & McDougall Directory noted “Watkin Waite” in both the Alphabetical and Street lists as living in a house in High Street situated between Thomas Street and Chapel Street. At this point no house numbers were recorded. However, from 1875 to 1880 Waite is listed as residing at number 8 High Street, Prahran. The street numbers changed as more buildings were erected along High Street, therefore by 1900 the house listed earlier as number 8 appears to be number 142. The blocks between Thomas and Chapel Streets, where Waite’s house originally stood, are now the location of the Victorian and Prahran TAFE [Technical and Further Education] colleges. There are no listings in Alphabetical for Edward, Henry or William Claxton Waite, as the Directory only lists the head of households in residence. The Prahran Rate Book for 1868 records William Watkin Waite, gentleman, as the owner/occupier of a 6-room house in High Street – he is still listed as owner/occupier at this property, noted as a 6 room weatherboard house at 8 High Street in 1878”.*

It is obvious that the family wanted to continue in the business of teaching. William and his wife Emily were now in their fifties and probably too old, and with no formal qualifications to obtain a post, but the children had no such problems. The first record of a teaching post is for Edward Benham who started as an assistant at the Church of England Grammar School, Geelong on the February 12th 1865. He then transferred to Prahran, where in 1867, he was joined by his brother Henry Watkin in 1869. William Claxton started at South Yarra in 1867 and Ellen Wilson at Yackandandah in 1869. The following list shows the schools at which the family taught:

William Claxton Waite

South Yarra	1867-1870
Narre Warren	1871
Tarrawingee	1872-1873
Carisbrook	1873-1882
Timor	1882-1889

Walhalla	1889-1903
Fenton’s Creek	1904-1906
Roseberry	1906-1907

Ellen Wilson Waite

Yackandandah	1869-1870
Beechworth 36	1871-1875
Beechworth 1560	1875-1885
Bright	1875-1891
Casterton	1891-1897
Camberwell	1898-1904

Edward Benham Waite

Geelong	1865-1866
Prahran	1866-1869
Sandridge, Bay St.	1870-1874
Sandridge, Nott St.	1874-1876
Emerald Hill	1876-1878

Henry Watkin Waite

Prahran	1867-1869
Ballarat, Erard St.	1869-1871

It is assumed that the children received some formal teacher training as their career records state that they started as assistants and their first appointments were in schools spread around the state. At this time state education was still in its early days. Prior to 1872 religious/denominational schools were maintained separately from government schools. The Denominational School Board provided for denominational schools and the National School Board, later the Board of Education, provided government sponsored secular education.

In 1872, following growing dissatisfaction with state aid to religious schools and the burgeoning cost of funding and administering a dual school system, the government introduced free, compulsory and secular education and established the first Education Department. The Department became the employer of government teachers and Victoria had a Minister for Education. State aid to denominational schools ended in 1874. It appears that this pending takeover by the state did not appeal to Henry Watkin as his teaching career ended abruptly in August 1871 without any indication of his future employment.

Edward Benham’s career ended in 1878 when he became seriously ill with a fever and died on March 18th in his parent’s house at Prahran. The

cause of death is given as “Enteric fever relapse, Exhaustion”. He was buried on March 20th 1878 at St. Kilda Cemetery. When requesting a replacement teacher, the headmaster asked for an experienced teacher capable of teaching a class averaging 75!

Ellen Wilson’s career record shows that she always taught the infants but must have also taught singing as a report of 1885 states:

“Miss Waite is a good singing teacher. The results of her labours, considering the fact of one lesson per week, are eminently satisfactory.”

She always received good reports and praise but by 1889 the class sizes appear to have increased and the effort of teaching 40 plus pupils was revealed by Ellen, in 1890, requiring one month’s sick leave for “Nervous Debility” caused by prolonged standing in class. Teaching methods changed and her apparent refusal to accept these is shown in her inspector’s comments:

“Has done very satisfactory work with a large class in an over-crowded room.” “...is, I believe, teaching to the best of her ability but has been so long accustomed to the old routine that it is difficult for her to adapt newer and brighter methods.”

Ellen never fully recovered good health and on June 30th 1904 she was forced to retire due to the strain of working in an overcrowded classroom. She had taught for 34 years and 182 days at an average income of £175 3s [£13,750] and was awarded a pension of £99 5s [£7,800] per annum. Ellen travelled to England and in November 1914, when she made her will, she was living in London at 45 Tavistock Square. She died at Bognor, Sussex, on November 23rd 1918. Her age at death is shown as 61 years but in fact she was 74. Perhaps she only looked 61.

William Claxton had the longest and most chequered career of the four children. On February 6th 1871 he was appointed Head Teacher of Narre Warren School when he was only 19 years old. He resigned in October of that year for an unknown reason. In April 1872 he was asked to furnish a correct summary of accounts for Narre Warren before his re-employment could be allowed. In June 1872 he was appointed as head teacher of Tarrawingee School from where he resigned on May 10th 1873 “in consequence of charges made against him of cruelty to the children but such charges not to be a bar to his employment as an Assistant.” Perhaps they were short of teachers. In September 1873 William became a second assistant at Carisbrook School. Carisbrook, originally opened in 1855 as a

Church of England school, was being moved to a new building to be built on Victoria Street, opposite the Simson Street Junction. The cost of the new building was £1,397 10s [£87,500]. The completed building measured 80’ x 40’ and consisted of one large room and three smaller ones, all expected to accommodate 350 children. It was considered to be a very pleasing piece of architecture, the large, plentiful windows being a contrast to the majority of the vested schools built by the old Schools Board. Ventilation was considered to be very adequate and of the latest design. A 14,000-gallon tank ensured a constant water supply. A four-roomed brick teacher’s residence was erected at the same time. The old school was closed on June 30th 1874 and the new school was opened. The opening ceremony was performed by Mr Duncan Gillies M.L.A., the then Minister for Railways. In its opening year the school had an average attendance of 156 pupils, although it is possible that as many as 279 children actually enrolled.

It was during William’s time at Carisbrook that the blind authoress Matilda (Tilly) Aston enrolled at the school and it is most certain that William would have taught her. Tilly was born in the town of Carisbrook, Victoria in 1873, the youngest of eight children born to Edward Aston, bootmaker, and his wife, Ann. Vision impaired from birth, she was totally blind by the age of 7. Her father died in 1881. Six months later, through a chance meeting, she met Thomas James, a miner who had lost his sight in an industrial accident and who had become an itinerant blind missionary. He taught her to read braille and soon after, the Rev. W. Moss, who visited Carisbrook with choir of the Victorian Asylum and School for the Blind, persuaded her to attend the school in St. Kilda, Melbourne, to further her education. She enrolled as a boarder on June 29th 1882. After successfully matriculating at the age of 16, Tilly became the first blind Australian to go to a university, enrolling for an Arts Degree from University of Melbourne.



Tilly Aston [public domain]

In 1878, following the death of his brother, William requested that he be transferred to Prahran to take over the vacancy so that he could be closer to his parents. He stated:

“That, as my parents are very old and have no means of support, it is necessary that I should be there in Melbourne to take care of them. If I were in Melbourne, the money that I am now paying for my board in Carisbrook would go to help them.”

The authority replied that the vacancy had been filled but they noted his request to be transferred to Melbourne. Little notice was paid to this for in 1882 he was sent even further away to Timor. In 1889 William transferred to Walhalla and in April 1890 he wrote to the Education Department again requesting a transfer to Melbourne. In his letter he says:

“I cannot stop here now without being troubled with a rash that breaks out over my hands and face and swells the eyes to such an extent that I can hardly see. It is called the Mountain Itch and I believe is caused by a shrub which grows everywhere about here.”

William was asked to provide a doctor's letter confirming his complaint which was sent together with a note saying that the doctor had recommended “Hot Sea bathing” which could only be had in Melbourne. Further correspondence was exchanged and in July a transfer was offered but not to Melbourne. It would appear that William refused the offer as he stayed at Walhalla until 1903.

Although William was described as a very fair and satisfactory teacher, this appears to have meant that he was below average. Later reports are more critical: “...might show more ‘vive’.” *“A plodding teacher”* *“A mechanical teacher of slender attainments. Takes little interest in his work.”* In 1896 William received a caution that *“if there is not evidence at my next visit that he has not been making strenuous efforts to rectify the defects in his teaching and management it may be found necessary to resort to more measures.”*

In 1897 a warning was given that *“if at my next inspection, when I will be instructed to furnish a special report on his teaching and management, a marked improvement is not apparent, the Department may be forced to deal seriously with him.”* William obviously took this warning seriously for his next report stated: *“Working with increased diligence and care. Discipline is improved.”*

In 1899 the head teacher had taken William under his wing and there was a marked improvement

in his career reports. However, by 1903 William had gone downhill again. His report stated: *“Apparently welded to older methods, works hard in school and has teaching ability. Has not displayed any wish to qualify himself to teach new subjects.”* It seems that William may have become depressed by this constant wave of criticism for in 1904 his report says, *“He is not having good health”*. William changed schools twice in 1904 and was appointed head teacher of Fenton's Creek school in January 1905. However, his fortunes did not change for in May his report stated:

“I was disappointed with his management and teaching. He has stood stock still for the past 20 years or more. He has not read, least of all studied and mastered the new programme, and has paid no heed whatever to circulars of information and the like. His manner is unimpressive. His methods of teaching History, Geography, Science, Nature Study, Dy, Manual training and Composition are weak. Some of these subjects have gone untaught. Arithmetic, Grammar and writing are still good. Management is fair but on down grade”.

His report of October 1905 saw a distinct improvement. William again moved in 1906, to Roseberry School but his career had foundered and did not recover. He retired on September 30th 1907 due to ill health. He had taught for 37 years and 252 days. His average salary for the last three years was £204 [£16,000] and he was awarded a pension of £125 16s [£9,900] per annum. William Claxton died on May 17th 1918 in St. Vincent's Hospital, Fitzroy. He had been living at that time at the Hills Hotel, Clarendon Street, South Melbourne. William was buried on May 20th 1918 at Burwood Cemetery.

Henry Watkin, who disappeared from Victoria in 1871, travelled back to New Zealand and took up a position as the second headteacher of Palmerston Public School, the first public school in Palmerston North. Henry must have acquired the adventurer trait from his father as it is said that because Palmerston North is an inland city the journey from the coast was hazardous. At the time Henry came to the town most settlers walked up the coast from Wellington (100 miles) then followed the Manawatu River inland (20 miles) till they came to a clearing in the bush (Palmerston North). The Maori were often “hostile” as were some of the rivers that had to be crossed.

The school, which stood on the corner Main and Princess Streets, later became Campbell Street School and is now known as Central Normal

School. Henry took up his duties at the beginning of 1876 but sadly died suddenly on November 25th 1877. His cause of death was an intestinal obstruction that he had had for 6 days. He was buried in the Terrace End Cemetery, Palmerston North.



Clock tower and office at Boroondara General Cemetery (Melburnian [CC BY-SA 3.0])

His tombstone reads: *“Henry Watkin Waite, second son of William and Emily Waite of Victoria, born June 21, 1849, at Fonthill, Niagara District, Canada West.”* Strangely, his date of death is not given. The cemetery is located within the city boundary in Napier Road in the suburb of Terrace End. In his will, made on his deathbed, Henry states that he owns property in New Zealand and Victoria. His testator, E. J. Collins, was the other teacher at the school.

An obituary in the *Manawatu Times* newspaper of November 28th 1877 recorded that:

“During the eighteen months that he had been located in Palmerston North, he gained the confidence and respect of all whom he came into contact, and this was not merely on account of his professional ability, which is universally acknowledged. His personal qualities, his amiable and gentlemanly deportment in his social relationships and the integrity of character that distinguished him formed the chief basis upon which friendships were made and confidence established. Yet withal he was of a retiring disposition and perhaps this trait prevented him realising fully the position he occupied. On Monday, at four o’clock his remains were carried to their rest. The chief residents of the place followed to the cemetery and as the mournful cortege passed the schoolhouse the children fell in to see the last of their much loved teacher. Thus has passed away from our midst one of good promise. The green age of 28 was marked upon the coffin lid but was scarcely to be seen amid the flowers that kind hands had plentifully supplied.”

On July 8th 1878, William Watkins Waite obtained probate on the estate of his son. At this

time William and Emily were living in Prahran, Victoria. Emily Waite died on August 7th 1896 at Henty Street, Casterton. She was 84 years old and the cause of death was acute catarrh of the lungs. She was buried on August 8th at Casterton New Cemetery. William Watkins Waite died on March 31st 1899 at Station Street, Camberwell. He was 87 years old and the cause of death was senile debility and heart failure. He was buried at Boroondara Cemetery. The certificate shows William’s mother’s maiden name as Williams. This is incorrect, it was Edgington, his stepmother’s name was Wilkins.

Both Emily and William died in towns where Ellen was teaching so it can be assumed that they were living with Ellen. None of the children married and therefore there was no issue and the line died.

Warepa School is still in existence and my wife and I made a visit there in 2004. There were still only 30 pupils and two teachers and the whole school and many parents assembled to welcome us. The children sang two songs and I gave a short talk on William’s life story. Before we left, I presented the school with a copy of the portrait of William painted by his father. We re-visited the school in October 2008 to join former pupils and staff to celebrate the 150th anniversary. This celebration took place over 3 days and many former pupils were able to attend. On the second day we were entertained by the pupils and a time capsule was sealed into a sun dial. A Reunion Dinner took place at the Town and Country Club in Balclutha and, following a talk on William’s life story, I presented the school with a cup inscribed ‘William Waite Memorial Cup’.

The nature of the community in Warepa is changing with many of the farms being divided up and sold as homesteads, what would be described in England as a smallholding. This has brought about an increase in the number of families with children. The school currently has a roll of 60 pupils with two classrooms and promised funding for an additional classroom. It has never been better funded or its future more secure.

Whilst in New Zealand we also visited the grave of Henry in Palmerston North and found that it had been vandalised at some time in the past. The headstone was broken and lying flat and the inscription was no longer visible due to the growth of algae. I arranged for a local firm of masons to repair and re-erect the headstone and to add Henry’s date of death to the inscription, this has now been done.

Events organised from The Centre for Heritage and Family History

December 2020 - March 2021

Our events continue by Zoom until at least the end of March, although we look forward to offering a selection of face-to-face events as well, when the situation allows. The great news is that this means that currently all of our events are available to everyone, if the time zone allows, wherever you live. So please do take advantage of this and the member discounts available.

The society is using Zoom to deliver its webinars. The event link is sent to attendees in advance, so pre-booking is required. To access Zoom, you need a computer device, such as a laptop or tablet, with speakers/headphones and preferably a microphone and webcam. Help is always available for anyone hoping to use Zoom for the first time.

Please do check the website often, as changes may occur and new events are regularly added.

Book and pay online at <https://berksfhs.org>. To claim your member discount - simply select the member ticket option.

Workshops - Online and Face to Face	
TICKETS £10 (members £9)	
Places limited, pre-booking required.	
<p>January - Saturday 23rd 11.00am - 1.00pm</p> <p>Online</p>	<p>The Old Poor Law <i>Tutor: Joan Dils</i></p> <p>Many family historians have ancestors whose lives were touched at some point by poverty. The old Poor Law (1597-1834) was a system of poor relief devised by Tudor politicians. It was still in use until the eve of Queen Victoria's reign. It generated innumerable records of individual lives and misfortunes and left an invaluable legacy for social and family historians to explore. This workshop will explain how the system worked and evolved over the centuries. It will discuss the records which it created and their usefulness for researchers.</p>
<p>February - Saturday 6th 11.00am - 1.00pm</p> <p>Online</p>	<p>Unravelling the Mysteries of the Railways: A Workshop for Family Historians <i>Tutor: Richard Marks</i></p> <p>Did your Ancestors work on the railways? Britain's railway history is complex and can be difficult to decipher. In this workshop, we will unravel the history of the railway companies, from British Railways in the 1980s back to the first railway companies in the Victorian period. We will work through some sample railway documents to decipher what the railway language used within them means, and how they can be used by family historians to build their family histories. We will conclude by looking at where railway archives can be found and how they can be accessed.</p>
<p>March - Saturday 13th 2.30 - 4.30pm</p> <p>Face to Face (at The Centre for Heritage and Family History, circumstances permitting)</p>	<p>Making the most of your DNA Results <i>Tutor: Debbie Kennett</i></p> <p>DNA testing is now all the rage but what can you really learn from a DNA test? Do you have lots of matches and don't know where to start? In this workshop, discover how to interpret and work with your matches. Also, how to get the most out of your results. To participate, you should already have autosomal DNA results available, preferably from AncestryDNA, which will be the main focus of this workshop. However, we will also be able to look at results from other companies. Participants are encouraged to bring along their laptops and iPads, share their results and ask questions.</p>

Social History Talks - Online

TICKETS £5 (members £4)

Pre-booking is required. Book all five talks in the 'Potpourri' series for the price of four.

<p>January - Thursday 14th 2.00 – 3.15pm 'Potpourri' 1st talk in series</p>	<p>Healthcare in a Georgian Town: <i>with Penny Stokes</i> Join us for a fascinating insight into Georgian Berkshire, when Penny Stokes will consider the chances of surviving a healthcare crisis. Penny will look at medical practitioners, mortality and causes of death, and the remedies which the Georgians trusted for cures. Specific examples will be from Newbury. Fortunately for us, later nineteenth and twentieth century medical advancements mean we no longer dread many of the killers our forefathers feared such as: smallpox, measles and TB.</p>
<p>January – Thursday 28th 2.00 – 3.15pm 'Potpourri' 2nd talk in series</p>	<p>King of Balloons: James Sadler - Oxford pastry cook & first English aeronaut: <i>with Mark Davies</i> James Sadler (1753–1828) was the unlikely first Englishman ever to build and fly a hot-air balloon, which he did in Oxford in 1784. His wife came from Abingdon, and the first English woman to fly, as a result of Sadler's expertise, came plausibly from Bucklebury. He and his son set numerous records. Yet despite a lifetime of achievement, bringing him into contact with some of the most significant names in Georgian Britain, Sadler ended his days back in Oxford in impoverished obscurity.</p>
<p>February – Thursday 11th 2.00 – 3.15pm 'Potpourri' 3rd talk in series</p>	<p>The Upper Thames Patrol: <i>with Bill King</i> The Upper Thames Patrol was formed from watermen of the Thames Conservancy to defend the Thames, as World War Two seemed inevitable. It became part of the Home Guard when it was formed in 1940. It was the responsibility of the Upper Thames Patrol to blow up the Thames' bridges and locks if the enemy was seen approaching. With 135 miles to cover from Teddington Lock to Lechlade, including 35 road bridges, 7 rail bridges and 42 locks, they would have had their work cut out. Discover their story in this fascinating talk.</p>
<p>February – Thursday 18th 2.00 – 3.15pm 'Potpourri' 4th talk in series</p>	<p>Reading c.1740 - c.1800: commerce, culture and chapel: <i>with Joan Dils</i> Reading's age of cloth production was over and its reputation for flourishing industries was still to be made. In contrast, during these five decades Reading was intent on cementing its role as an inland port and distribution centre, a magnet for the aficionados of balls and race meetings and a welcome home for serious-minded Christian worshippers. Discover mid-Georgian Reading in this fascinating talk by eminent local historian Joan Dils. One not to be missed!</p>
<p>March – Saturday 6th 2.00 – 3.15pm 'Potpourri' 5th talk in series</p>	<p>The Arrival of the Railways in Reading: <i>with Richard Marks</i> Brunel's Great Western Railway arrived in Reading on the 30th March 1840. The history of railway building states that railways destroyed property when the railways were built, and always resulted in huge economic growth for those towns it reached, but was this true in Reading? In this talk, historian Richard Marks, will look at the impact the railway had on the town when it arrived, and how this compared to other places. We will also look at how the first train service compared to the service Reading enjoys today.</p>

Natter Group - Online and FREE

December - Tuesday 1st
February - Tuesday 2nd
March - Tuesday 2nd
7.00pm - end time varies

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.

Courses - Online

See website for full details. Places limited, pre-booking required.

Tuesdays, 2.00 - 3.30pm
March - 16th, 23rd & 30th
April - 6th, 13th, 20th
Tickets £35
(members £28)

Beginners' Family History Course: *with Chad Hanna & Gillian Stevens*

This course comprises a series of six workshops for those new to researching family history including where to start, how to progress and good research practice. Learn how to work with core records of civil registration, censuses, parish registers and modern wills. Discover the different genealogy websites, the content they offer and their strengths and limitations.

DNA Interest Group - Online

TICKETS £5 (members £4)

All welcome. Pre-booking required.

January - Saturday 16th
2.30 - 4.30pm

This special interest discussion group is aimed at those wanting to get the most out of their DNA results. It is facilitated by international DNA expert, Debbie Kennett. Sessions are held quarterly, but there is no obligation to attend on a regular basis and first time attendees are always welcomed.

The Centre for Heritage and Family History

2nd Floor, Reading Central Library, Abbey Square, Reading RG1 3BQ

<https://berksfhs.org> 0118 950 9553 [researchcentre@berksfhs.org.uk](mailto:researchcentre@berksfhs.org)

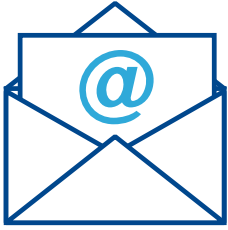
As we went to print for this edition of the *Historian*, the Research Centre remains shut due to the Covid-19 pandemic. We plan to reopen when it is safe to do so. Please check the website for up to date details of the situation.

Whilst the Centre remains closed, the society has successfully negotiated new access arrangements to two of its subscription websites, *Findmypast Worldwide* and *The Genealogist*, which allows access to them by all of our members, wherever you are in the world. This is a great opportunity to access new records and extend your family research whilst staying safe and secure in your own home. And it's another great benefit of being a member of Berkshire Family History Society. For full details and to access these sites see the society's website: ***Info/Temporary access to subscription sites.***

Assisting family historians at a distance

In addition, the society offers an established postal/online search service of Berkshire names based on: Berkshire baptisms, Berkshire marriages, Berkshire burials and Berkshire probate index.

Simply nominate a surname (or several surnames) to access information. The detail supplied for each entry will vary depending on the particular database, and the content of any individual record within it. You can request searches online or by post. Charges start at £3 for up to 25 entries for a single surname in one database. For full details see: ***https://berksfhs.org/info/research-guides/research-services/*** or refer to previous *Historians*.



Can we be *in touch* - do we have your email address?

In these Covid-19 times it's more important than ever that we have your email address. With face-to-face meetings limited, your opportunity to interact with us is also limited but our regular email newsletters are a contact point that you can benefit from, from the comfort of your own home. In addition, we also email out event booking confirmations, order acknowledgements, membership renewal reminders, password resets, forum post notifications - the list is endless. In a typical month we dispatch up to 10,000 emails to our members and customers.

Adding an email address to your account also means that you will be notified by email when your membership is due for renewal.

All you need to do is email memsec@berksfhs.org.uk quoting your membership number and we'll update your account. If you would prefer to NOT receive any emails from the society, including the Newsletter, that's fine - just let us know when you give us your email address and we'll just use it to tell you when your membership is due to expire.

Changed your email address?

If you change your email address please don't forget to update your online account. You can do this directly yourself by logging on to the website and updating your **My Profile** page or you can email memsec@berksfhs.org.uk and we'll do it for you.

If you have supplied an email address but are not receiving emails from us

It's really important that the mail gets through but at the same time it's inevitable that some doesn't make it - just like traditional mail sometimes gets lost or delayed.

Unfortunately, there is so much junk email, some of it malicious, that email providers have to erect perimeter fences around their customers' email. They employ sophisticated filters to detect bad mail but no filter can ever be 100% accurate. Sometimes junk email still gets through and sometimes genuine messages are blocked for reasons that often seem whimsical.

What can you do to make sure our mail arrives?

Spam Folder

Some email is rejected outright - your email provider simply discards it - but often they will give it the benefit of the doubt and deliver it to your Spam folder. So if you're looking for a piece of missing email, look there first.

Approved Senders List

Different email providers handle this concept in different ways. In some cases adding our email address to your list of contacts will do the trick and allow future email to arrive. In other cases there is an approved senders list that you have to add "good" addresses to.

We have a guide that explains how approved senders are handled by some of the most popular email providers. You'll find it on our website under menu item *Help > Make Sure Our Emails Arrive*.

If you think some of our emails aren't reaching you, check out the guide, especially if you're a BT customer!

**Dates for
your Diary**

25 - 27
February
2021

RootsTech Connect

A free online conference including speakers, classes, a virtual market place, cultural activities and the chance to connect up with relatives.

Registrations now being taken.

See: <https://www.rootstech.org/?lang=eng>

Projects and Publications update

Catherine Sampson

My original draft of this update started by saying that I was delighted to say that we were back transcribing and checking in the Berkshire Record Office. Sadly, that was curtailed once again as England headed into a second lockdown, but I hope things will soon be back up and running once again.

You will hopefully have seen that we have finished preparing the first tranche of data downloads and have been publishing these in batches since September. Tranche 1 includes over 300 burial and monumental inscription datasets. Our next tranche will include marriages and possibly the final burial datasets. Data downloads are all about giving you choice in how you access the society's transcripts and we will continue to offer CDs, at least for the time being, and also to publish our transcripts on Findmypast.

Talking of Findmypast, now that the immediate effort has reduced on preparing downloads for publication, we have been able to turn our efforts back to preparing more datasets for publication online. The society has now submitted the index



*St Nicolas Church, Newbury
(Copyright: TudorTulok / CC BY-SA)*

of the 39,000 probate records of the Archdeaconry of Berkshire, 1480 – 1857, to Findmypast. Hopefully it will be available online, by the time this Historian goes to press. We are now working on submitting more baptism and burial data, having now received permission to publish online entries for the Union Workhouses and Reading's London Road and Henley Road Cemeteries, amongst others.

Newbury Parish Registers have also been the focus of much effort in recent years. Lockdown and the closure of the Berkshire Record Office pushed publication of a parish CD back by some five months, but we have

made excellent progress since then and hope to be ready for publication soon. Keep an eye on an announcement in a newsletter.

As ever, we would be grateful for more help in transcribing and checking at the Berkshire Record Office, and in transcribing and checking monumental inscriptions and in imaging and plotting the monuments. Please contact us at projects@berksfhs.org.uk if you think you might be able to help.

Sue Johnson found this in the newspaper archives

Salisbury & Winchester Journal

2 June 1776

page 2, column 2

One day last week Mrs. Bradford, a gentlewoman of Wallingford in Berkshire, was found, to all appearance dead, in a field near that town, and put into a coffin, where she remained three days, when, to the surprize of her acquaintance, she revived just as the coffin was going to be screwed up, and is now in perfect health.

New Products - Launch of Data Downloads

The society is delighted to announce the launch of data downloads.

Not all computers take CDs nowadays and many researchers have interests in specific parishes only. Data downloads have been developed to provide choice, flexibility and instant access in how you access data for Berkshire. The downloads are in PDF format and your purchase is automatically fulfilled as soon as you have paid. Terms and conditions apply and these downloads are for your personal use only. Prices vary but start from just £2.00. The usual member discounts apply.

The first phase of downloads to be launched includes burials and monumental inscriptions. Their release has been staggered between September and late December. A list of all of phase 1 downloads are given below. Some burial grounds have not been included in phase 1 as transcribing and checking of the remaining registers is currently nearing completion. They will be published when all registers are complete.

Burial entries are presented in alphabetical and date order, monumental inscriptions are fully indexed and include a plan to help you locate graves. Berkshire's burials and monumental inscriptions are also available in CD format. If you're interested in a number of parishes, please be aware that Berkshire Burials 12th Edition CD may be better value.

Burials	From	To	Total Price
Abingdon, Cemetery	1858	1924	£4.75
Abingdon, Lower Meeting House Ock St (Baptist)	1764	1837	£2.50
Abingdon, St Helen	1614	1799	£4.50
	1800	1867	£4.50
Abingdon, St Nicholas	1558	1880	£4.00
Aldermaston, St Mary the Virgin	1558	1992	£4.50
Aldworth, St Mary	1556	1978	£3.75
Appleford, SS Peter & Paul	1564	1988	£3.75
Appleton, St Laurence	1570	1891	£4.25
Arborfield, St Bartholomew	1580	1925	£3.75
Ardington, Holy Trinity	1607	1929	£3.75
Ascot Heath, All Saints	1865	1991	£4.25
Ashampstead, Bethel Baptist Chapel	1838	1928	£2.25
Ashampstead, St Clement	1607	1956	£3.75
Ashbury, St Mary	1612	1993	£4.50
Aston Tirrold, Independent	1763	1837	£2.00
Aston Tirrold, St Michael	1607	1960	£3.75
Aston Upthorpe, All Saints	1863	1988	£2.00
Avington, SS Mark & Luke	1700	1994	£2.75
Barkham, St James	1539	1985	£3.75
Baulking, St Nicholas	1850	1859	£2.00
Bearwood, St Catherine	1846	1929	£3.00
Beech Hill, St Mary the Virgin	1868	1996	£3.00
Beedon, St Nicholas	1607	1969	£3.75

Burials	From	To	Total Price
Beenham, St Mary	1561	1983	£4.00
Besselsleigh, St Lawrence	1668	1994	£3.50
Binfield, All Saints	1538	1957	£4.50
Bisham, All Saints	1560	1900	£4.00
Blewbury, St Michael	1588	1928	£4.75
Bourton, St James	1898	1986	£2.25
Boxford, St Andrew	1558	2009	£4.50
Bracknell, Holy Trinity	1851	1960	£3.75
Bracknell, Independent / Congregational	1822	1859	£2.00
Bracknell, Larges Lane Cemetery	1882	1979	£4.50
Bradfield, St Andrew	1540	1952	£4.50
Bradfield, Workhouse	1835	1932	£2.75
Bray, St Michael	1607	1799	£4.25
	1800	1955	£4.25
Brightwalton, All Saints	1561	1959	£3.75
Brimpton, St Peter	1607	1992	£4.25
Buckland, St Mary the Virgin	1605	1974	£4.50
Bucklebury, St Mary the Virgin	1539	1910	£4.50
Bucklebury/Thatcham, Congregational (Mortons Chapel)	1819	1871	£2.00
Burghfield, St Mary	1559	2005	£4.50
Buscot, St Mary	1607	2000	£3.75
Catmore, St Margaret	1728	1985	£2.75

Burials	From	To	Total Price
Caversham, Victoria Road (off Hemdean Road) Cemetery	1885	1924	£4.25
	1925	1993	£4.25
Caversham, St Peter	1597	1955	£4.75
Chaddleworth, St Andrew	1538	2007	£4.00
Charney Bassett, St Peter	1620	1979	£3.00
Chieveley, St Mary the Virgin	1560	1799	£4.00
	1800	2003	£4.00
Childrey, St Mary the Virgin	1558	1883	£4.00
Chilton, All Saints	1608	1995	£3.75
Cholsey, County Lunatic Asylum	1894	1917	£3.25
Cholsey, St Mary	1540	1879	£4.00
	1880	1980	£4.00
Clewer, St Andrew	1607	1834	£4.00
	1835	1889	£4.00
	1890	1960	£4.00
Cold Ash, St Mark	1865	1962	£3.75
Coleshill, All Saints	1560	1986	£3.75
Combe, St Swithin	1560	1871	£3.50
Compton Beauchamp, St Swithin	1551	1994	£2.75
Compton, SS Mary & Nicholas	1553	2005	£4.00
Cookham Dean, Primitive Methodist	1908	1969	£2.00
Cookham Dean, St John the Baptist	1845	1973	£4.00
Cookham, Holy Trinity	1607	1799	£4.50
	1800	1935	£4.50
Cranbourne, St Peter	1850	1997	£3.75
Crowthorne, St John the Baptist	1873	1968	£4.25
Cumnor, St Michael	1559	1970	£4.75
Denchworth, St James	1538	2007	£3.75
Didcot, All Saints	1569	1942	£3.50
Drayton, St Peter	1607	1967	£4.25
Earley, St Peter	1854	1916	£3.75
East Challow, St Nicholas	1607	2006	£3.75
East Garston, All Saints	1554	2005	£4.25
East Hendred, St Augustine	1558	1973	£4.50
East Ilsley, St Mary	1607	2005	£4.00
East Lockinge, All Saints	1546	1866	£3.50
East Shefford, St Thomas	1604	1917	£2.25
Eastbury, St James the Great	1867	2005	£2.75
Eaton Hastings, St Michael & All Angels	1575	1998	£3.00

Burials	From	To	Total Price
Enborne, St Michael & All Angels	1607	1929	£3.75
Englefield, St Mark	1559	1935	£4.00
Faringdon, All Saints	1589	1799	£4.25
	1800	1962	£4.25
Faringdon, Union Workhouse	1875	1933	£3.25
Farnborough, All Saints	1607	2007	£3.25
Fawley, St Mary	1550	1987	£3.75
Fernham, St John	1860	1994	£3.00
Finchampstead, St James	1607	1893	£4.00
Frilsham, St Frideswide	1607	1835	£2.75
Fyfield, St Nicholas	1605	1906	£3.75
Grazeley, Holy Trinity	1851	1964	£3.00
Great Coxwell, St Giles	1557	2002	£4.00
Greenham, St Mary	1763	1914	£3.75
Grove, St John the Baptist (formerly St James the Great)	1832	1993	£3.75
Hagbourne, St Andrew	1612	1993	£4.50
Hampstead Norreys, St Mary	1543	1919	£4.25
Hamstead Marshall, St Mary	1605	1867	£3.25
Harwell, St Matthew	1559	1943	£4.25
Hatford, St George/Holy Trinity	1539	1969	£3.00
Hermitage, Holy Trinity	1840	1978	£3.50
	1559	1799	£4.25
Hungerford, St Lawrence	1800	1969	£4.25
	1563	1917	£4.25
Hurley, St Mary the Virgin	1563	1917	£4.25
Hurst, St Nicholas	1579	1769	£4.25
	1770	2004	£4.25
Inkpen, St Michael & All Angels	1607	1986	£4.25
Kingston Bagpuize, St John the Baptist	1541	1835	£3.75
Kingston Lisle, St John the Baptist	1559	1807	£2.25
Kintbury, St Mary	1558	1799	£4.25
	1800	1972	£4.25
Knowl Hill, St Peter	1842	2002	£3.75
Lambourn Woodlands, St Mary	1842	2005	£3.00
Lambourn, St Michael & All Angels	1560	1779	£4.50
	1780	1976	£4.50
Leckhampstead, St James	1845	2007	£3.50
Letcombe Bassett, St Michael & All Angels	1565	1989	£3.75
Little Wittenham, St Peter	1543	1992	£3.00

Burials	From	To	Total Price
Littleworth, Holy Ascension	1839	1909	£3.00
Long Wittenham, St Mary the Virgin	1607	1979	£4.00
Longcot, St Mary the Virgin	1612	1993	£4.00
Longworth, St Mary	1563	1940	£4.25
Lyford, St Mary the Virgin	1843	1978	£3.00
Maidenhead, Boyne Hill All Saints	1857	1948	£4.25
Maidenhead, Congregational	1791	1942	£2.50
Maidenhead, High St Wesleyan Methodist	1858	1903	£2.00
Maidenhead, New Chapel (Countess of Huntingdon)	1843	1903	£2.25
Maidenhead, St Mary Chapel	1795	1801	£2.25
Maidenhead, Workhouse	1836	1848	£2.25
Marcham, All Saints	1607	1953	£4.50
Marlston, St Mary	1925	1998	£2.00
Midgham, St Matthew	1607	1980	£3.75
Milton, St Blaise	1606	1938	£3.50
Mortimer West End, St Saviour	1869	1982	£3.25
Moulsford, St John the Baptist	1617	1992	£2.75
New Windsor, St George's Chapel	1625	1954	£3.50
New Windsor, St John the Baptist	1559	1679	£4.25
	1680	1759	£4.25
	1760	1825	£4.25
New Windsor, St John the Baptist	1826	1988	£4.25
Newbury, Baptist	1773	1823	£2.00
Newbury, Congregational Church	1784	1837	£2.25
Newbury, Lower Meeting House (Independent)	1725	1977	£3.00
Newbury, Newtown Rd Cemetery	1868	1907	£4.25
	1908	2006	£4.75
Newbury, Northcroft Lane Baptist	1818	1837	£2.00
Newbury, Shaw Cemetery	1913	1949	£4.25
	1950	1972	£4.25
Newbury, St John the Evangelist	1860	1900	£3.75
Newbury, Upper Meeting House (Presbyterian)	1783	1836	£2.00
Newnham Murren, St Mary	1678	1992	£3.00
North Hinksey, St Lawrence	1607	1984	£3.50

Burials	From	To	Total Price
Oare, St Bartholomew	1854	1975	£2.25
Old Windsor, SS Peter & Andrew	1612	1940	£4.50
Old Windsor, Windsor Cemetery (Eastern End)	1886	1941	£2.75
Old Windsor, Windsor Cemetery (New Burial Ground)	1922	1949	£2.75
Padworth, St John the Baptist	1607	1981	£3.25
Pangbourne, St James the Less	1559	1926	£4.50
Peasmore, St Barnabas	1538	2007	£3.50
Purley, St Mary the Virgin	1607	1985	£3.25
Pusey, All Saints	1607	1835	£3.00
Radley, St James the Great	1599	1981	£4.00
Reading, Broad Street Independent	1706	1881	£2.25
Reading, Castle St Congregational	1857	1862	£2.00
Reading, Henley Rd Cemetery (Caversham)	1927	1942	£4.25
	1942	1952	£4.25
	1953	1961	£4.25
	1962	1969	£4.25
	1970	1980	£4.25
	1981	1993	£4.25
Reading, Henley Rd Crematorium (Caversham)	1932	1952	£4.25
	1953	1958	£4.25
	1959	1962	£4.25
	1963	1966	£4.25
	1967	1969	£4.25
Reading, Holy Trinity	1834	1855	£2.00
Reading, Kings Road Baptist	1785	1835	£2.50
Reading, London Rd Cemetery (consecrated)	1843	1867	£4.25
	1868	1881	£4.25
	1882	1893	£4.25
	1894	1903	£4.25
	1904	1915	£4.25
	1916	1925	£4.25
	1926	1939	£4.25
	1940	1959	£4.25
Reading, London Rd Cemetery (unconsecrated)	1843	1874	£4.25
	1875	1893	£4.25
	1894	1909	£4.25
	1910	1924	£4.25
	1925	1959	£4.25
Reading, Prison	1862	1913	£2.00

Burials	From	To	Total Price
Reading, St Giles	1564	1679	£4.00
	1680	1759	£4.00
	1760	1819	£4.00
	1820	1990	£4.00
Reading, St Laurence	1603	1699	£4.00
	1700	1779	£4.00
	1780	1901	£4.00
Reading, St Mary	1538	1699	£4.00
	1700	1749	£4.00
	1750	1809	£4.00
	1810	1995	£4.00
Reading, St Stephen	1929	1956	£3.00
Remenham, St Nicholas	1605	1909	£3.75
Ruscombe, St James the Great	1569	1940	£4.25
Sandhurst, St Michael	1580	1959	£4.25
Shalbourne, St Michael	1587	1862	£4.00
Shaw cum Donnington, St Mary the Virgin	1563	2007	£4.75
Shellingford, St Faith	1581	1907	£3.75
Shinfield, Cemetery	1928	1991	£3.25
Shinfield, St Mary	1602	1907	£4.50
Shippon, St Mary Magdalene	1856	1974	£2.50
Shottesbrooke, St John the Baptist	1567	1872	£3.00
Shrivenham, St Andrew	1575	1972	£4.50
Sonning, St Andrew	1592	1749	£4.50
	1750	1906	£4.50
South Hinksey, St Lawrence	1607	1894	£3.50
South Moreton, St John the Baptist	1600	1994	£4.00
Sparsholt, Holy Cross	1558	1873	£4.00
Speen, St Mary	1614	1799	£4.50
	1800	1959	£4.50
Speenhamland, St Mary	1831	1971	£3.50
Spencers Wood, Congregational	1907	1976	£2.00
Stanford Dingley, St Denys	1538	1979	£3.25
Stanford in the Vale, St Denys	1558	1946	£4.50
Steventon, St Michael & All Angels	1559	1922	£4.25
Stockcross, St John	1839	1863	£2.75
Stratfield Mortimer, St Mary	1615	1977	£4.75
Stubblings, St James the Less	1852	1993	£3.75
Sulham, St Nicholas	1612	1983	£2.75
Sulhamstead Abbots, St Mary	1602	2007	£4.00

Burials	From	To	Total Price
Sulhamstead Bannister, St Michael	1608	1994	£3.25
Sunningdale, Baptist	1843	1978	£2.00
Sunningdale, Congregational	1864	1980	£2.00
Sunningdale, Holy Trinity	1840	1938	£3.75
Sunninghill, St Michael & All Angels	1561	1947	£4.50
Sunningwell, St Leonard	1546	1960	£4.00
Sutton Courtenay, All Saints	1540	2002	£4.50
Swallowfield, All Saints	1539	1931	£4.50
Thatcham, Cemetery	1887	1940	£3.50
Thatcham, St Mary	1561	1769	£4.25
	1770	1970	£4.25
Theale, Congregational	1922	1995	£2.00
Theale, Holy Trinity	1832	1932	£3.25
Tidmarsh, St Lawrence	1608	1999	£3.00
Tilehurst, St George	1886	1969	£4.25
Tilehurst, St Michael	1614	1899	£4.25
	1900	1978	£4.25
Tubney, St Lawrence	1847	1874	£2.00
Twyford, Congregational Church	1902	1949	£2.00
Twyford, St Mary	1847	1967	£4.00
Uffington, St Mary	1607	1946	£4.25
Ufton Nervet, St Peter	1607	1990	£3.75
Upton, St Mary	1588	1990	£2.75
Wallingford, Independent	1814	1836	£2.00
Wallingford, St Leonard	1605	1975	£4.50
Wallingford, St Mary the More	1612	1976	£4.75
Wallingford, St Peter	1612	1969	£4.25
	1543	1699	£4.00
	1700	1799	£4.00
	1800	1879	£4.00
Wantage, SS Peter & Paul	1880	1964	£4.00
	1539	1799	£4.25
Wargrave, St Mary	1800	2007	£4.25
	1608	1990	£2.50
Wasing, St Nicholas	1559	2013	£4.50
Welford, St Gregory	1608	1820	£2.25
West Challow, St Laurence	1559	1972	£4.00
West Hendred, Holy Trinity	1558	1967	£3.50
West Ilsley, All Saints	1599	2014	£4.25
West Shefford, St Mary	1612	1985	£3.00
West Woodhay, St Laurence	1563	1937	£4.50
White Waltham, St Mary			

Burials	From	To	Total Price
Windsor, Union Workhouse	1835	1888	£3.25
Winkfield, St Mary	1564	1799	£4.00
	1800	1984	£4.00
Winterbourne, St James the Less	1567	1979	£3.50
Wokingham, All Saints	1580	1799	£4.25
	1800	1947	£4.25
Wokingham, Baptist	1841	1906	£3.25
Wokingham, Free Church Burial Ground	1921	2004	£3.00
Wokingham, St Paul	1864	1961	£4.50

Burials	From	To	Total Price
Wokingham, St Sebastian	1866	2002	£3.75
Wokingham, St Sebastian's Cemetery	1958	1991	£2.50
Wokingham, Union Workhouse	1866	1925	£3.75
Woodley, Woodley Chapel (Congregational)	1858	1905	£2.00
Woolhampton, St Peter	1607	1926	£4.00
Woolstone, All Saints	1849	1987	£3.00
Wootton, St Peter	1608	1947	£3.75
Wytham, All Saints	1589	1981	£3.75
Yattendon, SS Peter & Paul	1558	1982	£3.75

Monumental Inscriptions	From	To	Total Price
Aldermaston, St Mary	1666	2002	£6.00
Aldworth St Mary	1669	1984	£3.00
Ashampstead St Clement	1715	1984	£2.00
Avington, St Luke	1835	1999	£2.00
Beech Hill, Baptist	1822	1992	£2.00
Caversham, St Peter	1715	2003	£6.00
Caversham, Victoria Road	1885	1997	£4.00
Eddington, St Saviour	1835	1953	£2.00
Enborne, St Michael	1734	2018	£3.00
Goosey, All Saints	1718	2013	£2.50
Grazeley, Holy Trinity	1854	2017	£3.00
Grove, St John	1816	2015	£3.50
Hamstead Marshall, St Mary	1666	2018	£3.50
Hungerford, St Lawrence	1693	1965	£3.00
Knowl Hill, St Peter	1842	2004	£6.00
Lower Basildon, St Bartholomew	1497	1983	£2.00
Lyford, St Mary	1851	2013	£2.50
Midgham Park	1712	1895	£2.50

Monumental Inscriptions	From	To	Total Price
Midgham, St Matthew	1844	2015	£2.00
Mortimer, Methodist	1871	2004	£2.00
Newbury, St Nicolas	1519	2002	£3.00
Newbury, URC	1754	1889	£2.00
Oare, St Bartholomew	1826	1984	£2.00
Reading, St Laurence	1672	1948	£2.50
Reading, Baptist	1726	1861	£2.00
Reading, London Road	1843	1994	£10.00
Remenham, St Nicholas	1654	2001	£3.50
Shaw -cum-Donnington, St Mary	1686	2011	£6.00
Shippon, St Mary	1852	2012	£3.50
Shurlock Row, All Saints	1876	1980	£2.50
Theale, Holy Trinity MI	1826	2001	£3.00
Winterbourne, St James	1657	1985	£2.00
Wokingham, All Saints	1533	2006	£10.00
Woolhampton, St Peter	1684	1986	£3.00



News from the Berkshire Record Office

Since writing this update the BRO has had to temporarily close during the second lockdown but hopes to reopen on 3rd December. Please check their website for updates.

Ivone Turnbull, Senior Archivist at the Berkshire Record Office

We are pleased to say that we reopened to visitors on 18th August 2020 and are now able to offer a limited research service to visitors on site.

There are two sessions available per day: 10:00 to 12:30 and 13:30 to 16:00 though you can only book two sessions per week and a booking is for one person for use of original records only.

Please also bear in mind that everything takes a lot longer to do from arrival through to leaving. Visitors must leave their desk before the end of the session in order to leave the building promptly as we have to clean everything and prepare for the next session.

Visitors can order up to 6 items in advance, but we cannot guarantee that items can be ordered on the day. All items then need to be quarantined for 72 hours following a visit, so please bear this in mind in case the items you require are not available.

You will need to ensure that you have everything you need from pencils to paper as we cannot provide these for you and you will also need to wear a face mask and adhere to social distancing measures at all times.



Follow the yellow tape road

Unfortunately, you won't be able to eat and drink on site due to the restrictions, though you can do so outside the building. Perhaps this doesn't sound very enticing, but we know from those who have made it on site, that it's all worth going though in order to access the collections once again.

Please do take a look at our website for full details of how to book and what to expect when you arrive: www.berkshirerecordoffice.org.uk/visit-us/planning-a-visit. We look forward to seeing you again soon!

Don't forget that we can also undertake research and copy orders via email: www.berkshirerecordoffice.org.uk/contact-us. Though please do bear in mind that with fewer staff on site dealing with visitors, keeping everything clean and dealing with enquiries, response times will take longer.

As ever, keep an eye on our website and social media feeds on Twitter ([@berksarchives](https://twitter.com/BerksArchives) - <https://twitter.com/BerksArchives>) and Facebook (*The Berkshire Record Office* - www.facebook.com/berkshirerecordoffice/) for the latest information.

What's new to the archives?

We have recently catalogued the records of the Morland Brewery and family of Abingdon, 1911-n.d. [c.2010s] (D/EX2468); the Faringdon Labour Party, 1936-1949, (D/EX2740); the records of West Windsor Residents' Association, 1962-1983

(D/EX2076); records of Katesgrove Community Association, Reading, 1979-2000s (D/EX2681); and Roman Hill Residents' Association, Bracknell, 1970s-1992 (D/EX2677); records of the Reading Romilly Association, 1973-2002 (D/EX2548); records from Abingdon Rural Deanery, 1887-2015 (D/RDA); NADFAS reports on the art and architecture of churches in East Challow (D/EX2501), West Hanney (D/EX2500), and Old Windsor (D/EX2395); records of the Warfield Parochial Charities, 1875-1973 (D/QX46).

We also have a promotional jigsaw puzzle produced by Foster Brothers Clothing Company of Wokingham in the 1950s (D/EX2694) and the diary of Bernard Thackeray of Maidenhead of his voyages on the ship Port Albany 1923-1924 (D/EX2720).

To keep up to date on what collections we have, please see our online catalogue: www.berkshirerecordoffice.org.uk/search-catalogue.



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John Gurnett

It is with sadness that we have to report the sudden death of John Gurnett in July. A longtime member of the society, John was a society secretary and from 1990, editor of the *Berkshire Family Historian* for 15 years. Writing for the society's 40th anniversary commemorative booklet, John wrote:

"Alf [Ison, the previous editor] had achieved so much that a new editor would face a daunting challenge. Using colour and pictures were two major issues, so too were changing the typeface to a more modern font as the older one had become restricted and difficult to read. It had been clear that naturally much more could be done but as the magazine was familiar to its readership too many changes over a short period could be disastrous in terms of readership. With this in mind Sally Pellow and I decided to approach the University of Reading Typography and Graphic Communication course and put our design problems to final year students. Between us we were able to produce the first of our modern proposals, the second would be introduced in later years, after the Millennium."

It was under John's tenure as editor that the magazine won the prestigious 1999 Elizabeth Simpson Award for the journal making the best contribution to family history, in 2000, awarded by the Federation of Family History Societies (now the Family History Federation). The winner has to, in the opinion of the judges, be the 'best in terms of content and layout'.

Those who remember John will know just what an avid genealogist he was, in fact, he was researching before he met his wife, Margaret, 64 years ago!

Margaret wrote:

"We both spent many interesting 'jaunts' together. The one that always stayed in our memory was transcribing gravestones near Henley one Saturday. John spied a stone inside a very large bush/tree. In he went, of course, with his pen and paper, a torch and a piece of equipment that reminded me somewhat of a submarine conning tower!! I stayed outside the tree seated on my little stool, pen in hand. The churchyard was a busy thoroughfare for the public so... for some passing it was a very spooky occurrence. A voice seemingly from nowhere saying "it's right here write this down now!! Margi can you hear me, listen". Reciting the name, the date and message on the stone and I replying to him asking him to slow down a bit!!! I had many very strange looks and two youngsters actually took to their heels and disappeared!"

Our thoughts go out to Margaret and the family.

As John didn't throw anything away, the family have many old copies here of the *Berkshire Family Historian*! If anyone would like any back copies please let the editor know and your message will be passed on.

Memories of Christmas at Sulham in the 1930s

Jean Harland *gives an insight into pre-war festive life*

I have many memories of Christmases in Sulham as a small child in the 1930s, leading up to the Second World War. Christmas preparations in the mid-thirties seemed to only begin a week or two before the big day, unlike today when the shops have their window displays on show almost as soon as the last of the summer holidays are over. I have no doubt my mother would have been saving dried fruit and other preserves many months before in preparation for all the cooking that was needed for the big day, but as children we were not aware of it.

The first big event was the making and boiling of the Christmas puddings and I suppose this was some time in mid-November. When I was old enough I remember one of my jobs was to stone the big fat juicy raisins (where have they disappeared to today!). It was a sticky job but I didn't mind as when my mother wasn't looking somehow a few found their way into my mouth, just as well she hadn't weighed them beforehand. I also had to take the skin off the almonds after they were soaked in hot water but I wasn't so keen on this task.

Today of course all these come in little packets from the supermarket already prepared, but in those times they would have been bought from the local grocer, a few each week when he delivered the week's shopping. Next, after all had been mixed in the large wash basin from the washstand upstairs, it was time to stir it and make a wish. Then came the boiling of the puddings, which seemed to go on for hours, well to be exact eight hours in all with another two or three on Christmas Day. They had to be in several saucepans (my mother always made about six as there would be one for Easter, Whitsun and my birthday) on the old black kitchen range. These were constantly topped up with more water from the huge kettle permanently on the boil and as well as stoking the range it was a long job and the room was filled with steam.

Next it was the turn of the Christmas cake and so once again it was back to stoning the fruit etc. and that too was baked for several hours. Like the puddings it had to be dosed with brandy or some other alcoholic beverage. The smells though were wonderful when you came in on a cold frosty day.

We always had one of our own hens for Christmas Day (never turkey), and of course all the vegetables came from our garden. My father (being a gardener) always grew celery, which he lovingly nurtured in time for Christmas. He would earth it up and then wrap each plant in corrugated paper so that it was lovely and white when it was harvested. However we were not allowed to have any before Christmas and always had to wait until the first frost had taken place so it was lovely and crisp, but teatime on that day was eagerly looked forward to, even after a huge Christmas lunch.

Another treat was a visit to one of the large department stores in Reading to see Father Christmas in his grotto. I was always a little in awe of the old gentleman with his long white beard but I didn't mind his fairy helper. Probably, I was more interested in the present I was given. Of course, even though I had told him what I wanted for Christmas I still had to write him a letter and give it to my mother to post. Maybe he didn't hear me the first time?

Another job I had to do was to make paper chains to decorate the living room. My mother would buy these coloured strips of paper and then make up a paste of flour and water to stick them with, none of the expensive baubles we see in the shops today. We didn't always have a Christmas tree and when we did it was just the top part of a small fir tree. My mother was always afraid of fire as there were no such things as fairy lights back then, so the only decorations were small candles on a clip, they would be lit on Christmas Day for a few minutes and then blown out.

As I grew older another event prior to Christmas was carol singing around the village. We would set off with a few candles in a jam jar (fine if it wasn't a windy or wet night) but if we were lucky we might have the aid of a torch. I cannot remember how much we collected on the night but I guess we shared it in the end. I do remember once we were asked if it was for charity but as none of us knew what it meant we came away empty handed.

Christmas Day was spent quietly with just my parents and my grandmother who lived with us, grandfather having passed away a few years previously. Christmas Day and Boxing Day were

the only days we had a fire in our front room/ parlour. That room was only otherwise used when we had any visitors or the Rector came to call, but as it was such a rare occasion it took ages to get warm, in fact it was only just about comfortable when it was time to go to bed. I, however, had plenty to occupy me after a visit from Father Christmas. I tried many times to stay awake to see him come down the bedroom chimney but I never managed to keep my eyes open that long. But, oh, the excitement in the morning when I discovered he had been and left a pillowcase filled with parcels of all shapes and sizes. All the family would gather round to see me open my presents.

On Boxing Day we always had a great time as my mother's younger sister and her husband came for the day. They would walk down from their home in Tilehurst, for the day, arriving just before dinnertime (it was never called lunch in those days) and stayed all day, walking home around midnight. There was never the slightest fear of any danger in those far-off days. It was always a great day as my aunt and uncle were a jolly pair and it was a lovely family day. My mother was a great cook and our table groaned with all the food she had made. Beef, ham and pork together with

various salads, trifles and yet another Christmas Pudding, plus the cake, were all there to be consumed and she liked to see empty plates. In the evening we would play games, my favourite being consequences which always caused great hilarity. The men folk would then have a glass of beer and the ladies would partake of a small glass of sherry or port wine (the only time alcohol was consumed), but I remember my aunt, mother and grandmother getting rather merry after just one glass.

The weather then seemed to be much more seasonal and, although we didn't often have snow over the Christmas time (that seemed to occur generally in January), we did have severe frosts where the trees were covered in hoarfrost. The roads became quite treacherous and it would last for days, but it looked like a scene from a Christmas card.

It was, I'm sure, quite a struggle for my parents when money was short in the 1930s, but they always managed somehow to make Christmas very special and I can look back at that time with fond memories. Happy Days.



Sulham Lodge in the snow

Around the Branches

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

Abingdon Branch

abingdon@berksfhs.org.uk

Sadly, our programme before the summer was cancelled because of the pandemic. We had high hopes of being able to resume our talks in September and had worked out how we could use the hall, meet the new special conditions of hire, and be Covid-safe. Our speaker was all set and then along came the additional restrictions associated with the significant rise in positive cases. We reluctantly took the decision to abort our plan for face to face meetings and to come into the 21st Century by embracing Zoom.

The last few Christmas meetings have consisted of a meal and drinks at a local hostelry. This year, for obvious reasons, it will be a virtual gathering but we hope that members can enjoy mince pies and a drink without having to worry about driving (one of the only benefits of the pandemic). Oh, and we're having a Christmas Quiz too.

Meetings ahead:

14th December 2020: Christmas Family History Quiz

18th January 2021: 'Sir Edward Leader Williams - the engineer of the greatest work of the 19th century'. This talk by *Simon Burbidge* details the life of a man who oversaw, as Chief Engineer, the construction of what became known as 'The Big Ditch', the Manchester Ship Canal. His commanding presence, abounding energy, resourcefulness and genial manner enabled him to succeed in "the engineering of men as well as of matter".

15th February 2021: 'Members' evening - unusual and interesting occupations'

15th March 2021: 'Blanket weaving and umbrella making – my Whiting ancestors'

Another talk by *Simon Burbidge* covering the Whitings, a Quaker family who originated in West Oxfordshire and ended up in Reading. Simon illustrates his talk with examples from his research showing how much information is contained in Quaker records.

All meetings start at 7.30pm.

Simon Burbidge

Bracknell & Wokingham Branch

bracknell@berksfhs.org.uk

Our Branch Annual Meeting took place on Friday 21st August via Zoom. Unfortunately, due to the present situation, all our branch meetings for the remainder of this year will be via Zoom.

Our September meeting was entitled 'Family History Discoveries During Lockdown'. The first talk was 'Tracing, A Book, No Vacancies and a Dot' by Bryan Pledger. Bryan's talk ranged from a project given to his granddaughter by her local college in which she did family history tracing and made a 3D family tree, to breaking down a brick wall. 'Finding My DNA Cousins' was the title of Peter Beaven's talk in which he gave four examples of how DNA testing had helped him expand his family tree. Finally, Stuart Ingram talked about 'Irregular Relations'. Two cousins of Stuart's great-grandfather married two brothers, but that was not immediately obvious as one was called Arthur Britton John Ketcher and the other was Napier Dent. The brothers used both surnames and also selected from their numerous forenames too. Stuart told us of the evidence he had found to solve the mystery.

Our Drop-In Sessions at Bracknell and Wokingham Libraries will resume when it is safe to do so.

Meetings ahead by Zoom:

Friday 11th December 2020: 'Christmas Crackers' - Social evening with quizzes

Friday 15th January 2021: 'Monumental Inscriptions' by Brian Wilcock

Friday 19th February 2021: 'Searching for Dora' by Les Mitchinson

Friday 19th March 2021: 'Making the most of a Will' by John Titterton

All meetings start at 7.30pm.

Sandra Barkwith

Around the Branches

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

Newbury Branch

newbury@berksfhs.org.uk

Our September Zoom meeting featured a presentation by David Willetts on Alice Chaucer, grand-daughter of the poet Geoffrey, whose life (c1404-1475) spanned an eventful time in English and French history.



Detail from the tomb of Alice Chaucer

The meeting was well attended, and David led us knowledgeably through thickets of medieval royal genealogy to the precarious place occupied by this remarkable woman. A summary of his talk can be found on <https://berksfhs.org/branches/>

Whilst we regret what is missed in being unable to have face-to face meetings, Zoom has brought us opportunities for reaching a wider audience. Already our meetings have attracted members from way beyond West Berkshire, and we are keen to make the most of this by reaching out to any member, anywhere, with family connections to this area. If you feel you could benefit from closer association with Newbury Branch, be it from Australia, Canada or wherever, do please get in touch with newbury@berksfhs.org.uk.

We are still seeking a new programme secretary, and would welcome preliminary enquiries from anyone who would like to discuss what is involved, without commitment. Once again, contact newbury@berksfhs.org.uk.

For meetings December to March - see the society's website.

Penny Stokes

Reading Branch

reading@berksfhs.org.uk

In July, Reading Branch held their Branch Annual Meeting via Zoom. During the meeting, the 2020-2021 committee was elected. We said a virtual goodbye to Rosemary Whitehead who stood down as Branch secretary (Vicki Chesterman taking over this role) with thanks for all her work and hospitality in hosting the committee meetings. And we welcomed Margaret Dray, who will, we're sure prove to be an asset to the committee.

In September, Margaret Crook spoke about "Some Crooks of Wallingford". This presentation took us through her research into her husband's family tree which was started before the advent of the internet and computers which have become the tool of choice today. A family Bible handed down by her father in law, dated 1896, gave her a start into the Crook dynasty.

Margaret adopted the method of collecting all names and references to relationships in the records to build seven Crook families and, from there, made the connections between them using probate and wills. Flesh was put on the bones by using newspapers, particularly the Abingdon Herald. An Australian historian made contact with Margaret and this led to Margaret being able to make a connection with her tree. It led to Margaret and her husband visiting this distant cousin in Australia some 169 years after the transportation of the Australian Crook.

Meetings ahead:

10th December 2020: Short Talks and Quiz

28th January 2021: 'Humour in Genealogy'
by Chris Broom

All meetings start at 7.45pm.

Please refer to the society's website for meetings in February and March.

Graham Vockins & 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

After our Summer recess in July, the WSM branch decided to hold its branch annual meeting (BAM) in August followed by an excellent speaker – Sharon Hintze – on the future of Family History.



Sharon Hintze, speaker at the Branch Annual Meeting

Having a speaker was unique amongst the branches and consequently we had record attendance for a WSM Zoom of some 43 people from all branches. Personally, I don't find BAMs too exciting, so I raced through the necessary business in 19 minutes flat. This included the minutes of the 2019 BAM, a chairman's report on the 18 months since the last BAM, a treasurer's report on the same period and matters arising. We then voted on the WSM branch committee and the WSM branch representative and trustee for the BerksFHS Executive, using the Zoom poll option – which worked splendidly.

Sharon Hintze is a fifth generation family historian whose predecessors' research was so thorough it has left her unable to extend her tree backwards on most lines. But she's a tiger on documentation and is also working on descendency. Her ancestors are from the British Isles and Denmark. She was for twenty years the director of the London FamilySearch Centre. Sharon is a Fellow of the Society of Genealogists and a Vice-President of the Jewish Genealogical Society of Great Britain.

Family history has changed enormously in the last 30 years. The way we work has changed almost faster than we can keep up. Sharon's talk explored what might happen in the future as far as records and their preservation, access to records, and recording and documenting family trees.

Throughout the talk, many who offered their opinions, including Debbie Kennett who runs the

DNA workshops for BerksFHS and is a leading speaker and educator in the DNA world. What was amazing was at the end of the talk, there was a vibrant further discussion involving most people and we kept going until after 10pm – which was 11pm in Switzerland from where Sharon was speaking.

September, October and November's meetings will all be by Zoom, reports on those will appear in the next *Historian*. It does appear that Covid-19 will steal our Christmas in 2020 – as it has stolen most of the year – so check the website for news of our traditional Christmas dinner in December. Is "bring your own sprouts" via Zoom festive enough, I wonder?!

Check out the website for news of meetings for December through to March.

Leigh Dworkin

Woodley (Computer) Branch

woodley@berksfhs.org.uk

Open to all members, wherever you live, do join us for meetings ahead.

20th January 2021: 'Are they Really not There?' Revealing the gaps in parish registers and other online data.

17th February 2021: 'Family History at home' What can I find out without having to travel.

17th March 2021: 'Criminal Ancestors?' Some case studies of criminals in the family.

All talks begin at 7.30pm.

Gillian Stevens

More free data in the Members' area of the website

The society is committed to publishing more free data onto its website in the members only area. Two new datasets have been added since the last Historian. Do check them out if you haven't yet seen them.

Railway Plans for two new railways proposed in 1845: Reading, Guildford and Reigate Railway & Reading & Reigate Railway

In the nineteenth century, Britain's railway network grew rapidly. Between 1845 and 1900, £3 billion was invested in building railways. Six thousand miles of track was laid by 1870 alone, and by the end of the century, passenger journey numbers were in the millions.

New railway companies sprang up. Some were purely speculative and never went ahead. Others such as the Reading, Guildford & Reigate Railway, did, being incorporated by Act of Parliament on 16 July 1846. The first sections of the line were opened between Reading and Farnborough and Redhill and Dorking on 4 July 1849, with the final section being completed in October 1849. The Company was however short-lived. It was purchased by the South Eastern Railway Company in 1852 and absorbed into their network.

As each potential new line was investigated, railway officials had to establish ownership of the land it needed to purchase in order to lay

its track. The transcripts now on the society's website, contain the information gathered for these two potential lines: the many plots, their nature, owners, lessees and occupiers. It gives us a snapshot in time of land ownership and occupation in a strip across Berkshire in 1845.

When signed in, both datasets can be found under **Info > Berkshire Data**.

Amalgamated Society of Engineers, Reading Lodge

Two listings are now in the members' area of the website. The first is apparently a list of members 1855–1891, with notes of their involvement up to 1919. The other is entries for those wishing to join the Branch 1855–1863 which gives details of their current and previous employment and the names of those supporting their application.

Many previous employers mentioned are from all over the UK, highlighting the increasing mobility of the population after the advent of the railways. Local employers mentioned include William Parsons, Great Western Railway, Huntley and Palmers and, most frequently of all, Barrett, Exall & Andrewes (later to become Reading Iron Works Ltd).

When signed in, both datasets can be found under **Info > Berkshire Data**.



A South Eastern Railway passenger train preparing to leave Reading circa 1885.

On the left is the South Eastern Railway station, built originally for the Reading, Guildford and Reigate Railway, on the right The Great Western Railway.

Photo Credit: Wikimedia

A tale of two houses called Adelaide

Cathy Oldham takes a look at the reason for the name of her relative's house

I was always intrigued by the address of my grandmother's childhood home which was a modest end of terrace home in Caversham, Reading. The name of her house was 'Adelaide Villas' and she and my great grandfather would have moved into the house sometime between 1884 and 1887 (from information in birth certificates). As far as I knew we had no Australian family connection. The house was probably newly built when my great grandfather bought it for his new coal merchant's business when Reading and Caversham were rapidly expanding so they would have named it – but why choose that name?

The side wall of the house still bears his name (Fisher) and the property continued as a coal merchant's property well into the 1960s. He used a horse and cart to deliver his coal although the property appears to have had little land attached, but it was not far from the river and grazing land.

I can remember visiting Reading once or twice as a child when we were on cross country journeys. Later in the 1970s my husband and I lived in St Patricks Hall on Northcourt Avenue and then in Earley for a total of 8 years. During that period, my father was investigating his Berkshire family history and we discovered that my great grandmother, Hannah Slugg, had been in domestic service in 1871 for an Ephraim Teakle, then aged 54 and his wife, Eliza in their home (Adelaide Villa) in Shortwood, Nailsworth, Gloucestershire. Ephraim was already retired by the age of 43 and although he was originally a native of Gloucestershire, he had been among the first free settlers in Adelaide in 1837.

Ephraim Teakle is such a wonderful name, I had to explore further and over the years I periodically extended my searches to increase my information about him. In 1837 as a young married man, Ephraim and his wife joined a large group from the local Baptist church congregation who sailed on the barque *Katharine Stewart Forbes* to Australia.

Their local area in Gloucestershire had been hit hard in the decline of the woollen industry. Adelaide was built as a free settlement rather than a convict colony, although the ship had previously been used for the transport of convicts. Ephraim was among several of his family who emigrated, and he joined an elder brother already there.

It seems that Ephraim quickly established himself as a local grocer and trader and he bought a trading vessel in 1850 called *The Lapwing*, from Mevagissey in Cornwall to trade round the coast to the Swan river settlement and to Melbourne. He sold her in 1852 to Adelaide merchants. Port Adelaide was his base and a section of land was named after him. He invested in property in Adelaide and was the owner of the entire Exeter subdivision of Port Adelaide, which was then known as Staplehurst. Ephraim clearly did very well in his new life at a time of rapid expansion in Adelaide and when the community was heavily dependent on imported goods.

Ephraim returned to England and eventually retired back to his native community of Shortwood, in much improved circumstances. He appears there in the census for 1861 and subsequent censuses until his death in 1894.

He corresponded with his agent in Australia about his various continuing interests in property, copper mining and farming as is evident from surviving letters from 1865. The postal service took 7 weeks and the letters were counter-stamped by the local Post Office at Shortwood. These letters are essentially folded sheets of paper and have done well to survive as they were quite fragile. As the fastest post would take about 3 months including return, any business was done slowly or by proxy.

There is a copy of his will from 1894. He left most of his property in England to his wife, Eliza



Hannah Fisher (nee Slugg), date unknown but probably in the 1870's

for her lifetime and the property and interests in Australia were left to his brother David on her death. Ephraim and Eliza did not have children as far as I am aware, but Ephraim left bequests to his wife's various nieces in Gloucestershire. His gold rings and chain and his portrait were bequeathed to David. He had several cottages in the Shortwood area and Adelaide Villa itself covered nine acres at that time. The property details from the sale after the Teakle deaths is shown here.

In February this year we were in the West Country and were able to find the site of the old chapel in Shortwood, where my great grandparents were married, and Adelaide House, no longer called 'Villa'. It is now split into 3 properties, but it was fascinating to actually see the house where great Granny had worked. I have an old photograph of what I believe to be her employers and they look a jolly pair, so I hope her time with them was happy. She must have had at least some fond memories to have named her own, new, home 'Adelaide Villas'. Whether being a servant in a large house was less onerous than being the wife of a coal merchant, with six children, we will never know.

Particulars.

The town of Nailsworth occupies a sheltered position on one of the Southern slopes of the Cotswold Hills; it is close to the breezy heights of Minchinhampton Common, with its far-famed Golf Links. The most delightful walks and drives are to be had in every direction, Nailsworth being situated in the centre of that part of Gloucestershire noted for its wealth of hill and vale scenery, the varied beauty of which has become a household word.

The Properties to be submitted to Auction are within easy access of the Railway Station, Church, and Post Office.

Lot 1.

The pleasantly-situated Stone-built Residence,
known as
"Adelaide Villa,"
SHORTWOOD, NAILSWORTH.
COLOURED PINK ON PLAN.

The Residence, which occupies an elevated position, commanding extensive views, stands in its own grounds, and is approached by a short winding path. The accommodation comprises: Entrance Hall, Drawing Room 17ft x 18ft, Dining Room 17ft x 16ft 6in., Conservatory, three Bedrooms, Dressing-room, three large Attics, Kitchen, Scullery, China Pantry, Larder, good Cellar in Basement, and Loft over Scullery. The Lawns and Pleasure Garden are tastefully laid out, and planted with ornamental trees and shrubs. The Kitchen Garden is well stocked and productive. The Glass Houses, though not extensive, are ample for the full enjoyment of the Property, and comprise Greenhouses 18ft. x 11ft., Peach-houses 22ft. x 10ft., and Vinery 22ft. x 15ft.

A stone-built 2-stall STABLE and COACH-HOUSE,
With Loft over, Fowl House, Cow shed, and Pigstye.

also
**TWO ORCHARDS with choice Fruit Trees, and
THREE PIECES OF PASTURE LAND,**

the total area comprising about **9A. 2R. 0P.** of which the following is a particular:—

No. on Ordnance Map	Description.	State.	Quantity, A. R. P.
724	"Adelaide Villa" Stabling, Out-houses, and Garden	...	1 0 1
725	Home Ground	Pasture	1 0 15
727	Orchard	"	1 0 20
726	Clark's Lees	"	0 1 30
727	Winery	"	1 2 14
729	Lower Ridings	"	1 2 30
728	Upper Ridings	"	2 2 10
			AD 2 0

There is a plentiful supply of Water.
The Premises are at present in hand, and possession may be had immediately upon the completion of the purchase.
Orders to View may be had of the Auctioneers.

Sale particulars for Adelaide Villas, Shortwood from c. 1897

Heritage Open Days

Gillian Stevens

Heritage Open Days is England's largest festival of history and culture, bringing together over 2,000 organisations, and thousands of volunteers. Every year since 1994, places across the country open their doors to celebrate their heritage, community and history in September.

Berks FHS has taken part for the last decade. In the past visitors have visited us in person, but this year, because of Covid19 restrictions, we went virtual. Chad Hanna and I had great fun prior to the event collecting photos of statutes, plaques, foundation stones, road names and unusual graves – anything that had a name, with a bit of history and was of interest, during our daily social-distancing walks around Reading and nearby places. We turned forty-two of these photos into a Zoom presentation which we showed four times over the ten days of Heritage Open Days to an audience of fifty-eight attendees.



George Blackall Simond's iconic Maiwand Lion in Forbury Gardens, which commemorates the fallen from the 66th Berkshire Regiment during the Battle of Maiwand on 27 July 1880.

Members' Surname Interests

Compiled by Bob Plumridge *memsec@berksfhs.org.uk*

Members submitting their interests:

5320	AITKEN C.	15 Farmers Close, Reading, RG2 8UQ	gmab2014ft@yahoo.co.uk
5626	COLLINS B.	34 Eddington Road, Bracknell, RG12 8GF	bruce_m_collins@yahoo.co.uk
6665	REID J.	4 Horseshoe Crescent, Bordon, GU35 0DP	julesreid@btinternet.com
6866	HEGARTY M.	159 Clewer Hill Road, Windsor, SL4 4DU	mickpat.hegarty@gmail.com
6927	BROWN J.	40 Primrose Close, Purley on Thames, Reading, RG8 8DG	sweetmelissa9@gmail.com
6994	EMPTAGE R.	5 Northbourne Close, Earley, Reading, RG6 5YJ	roger.emptage@outlook.com
7732	LIDIARD A.	17 Marsh Walk, Witney, OX28 1YF	kateanelson@me.com
7844	FRIESEN M.	1200-1350 Broughton St., Vancouver, BC V6G 2X3, CANADA	mfriesen1@telus.net
7958	VIZE S.	50/6D Ekkamai Soi 22, Klongtan Nua, Bangkok 10110, THAILAND	svize@ozemail.com.au
8135	SENIOR M.	Box 58, Tai Tapu, Canterbury 7645, NEW ZEALAND	maggiesenior@xtra.co.nz
8271	LINDE S.	10420 South 200th East Ave., Broken Arrow, Oklahoma 74014, USA	lindesu1@aol.com
8337	DOPSON K.	88 Gelsthorpe Road, Collier Row, Romford, RM5 2LX	Dopsonk@icloud.com
8338	HUMPHREY J.	42 The Crescent, Mt. Evelyn, Victoria 3796, AUSTRALIA	jimhumphrey@bigpond.com
8339	GREEN T.	37 Menin Road, Corinda, Australian Capital Territory 4075, AUSTRALIA	timna70@gmail.com
8340	ARTUS S.	4 Northcott, Hanworth, Bracknell, RG12 7WR	sabrina7@virginmedia.com
8341	RUTLAND J.	39 Hazel Crescent, Reading, RG2 7ND	jackierutland80@googlemail.com
8346	HAWKINS G.	2040 Don Mills Road #813, Don Mills, Ontario M3A 3R7, CANADA	hawkinge@bell.net
8347	VANDERMAAT T.	4 Arthur Terrace, Boonah, Queensland 4310, AUSTRALIA	trilby1@live.com.au
8354	STOTER S.	14 Carlton Close, Woodley, Reading, RG5 4JS	stuart_stoter@hotmail.com
8366	GROBLER P.	Piazza Elvio Pertinace 2, Internal 12, Alba, Cuneo 12051, ITALY pgrobler05@yahoo.co.uk	
8368	SHEPHERD N.	5251 MacHardy Road, PO Box 502, Stn. Main, Arnprior, Ontario K7S 3L9, CANADA	nick@eduvision.ca

6927	ABREY/ABRA/ABERY	Norfolk/Suffolk & London	1400-1800
8340	ARTUS, Ernest Richard	Cheltenham	1915
8339	BENNETT	Chieveley	1790-1835
8347	BENSON, Robert	Lambourn	1890s
8347	BIRT, Ann	Wantage	1819-1877
5626	BODEN	Staffordshire	1780-1860
6927	BRICE	West Wiltshire	1400-1900
6927	BRILL	Berkshire	1400-1900
8338	BROADWAY	Winchester, Hants	pre 1600
8346	BROWN	Berkshire	1750-1900
8338	BURRY	Wiltshire	pre 1450
6927	COE	Suffolk	1400-1800
6927	COOK	Corsley, Wiltshire	1400-1800

8341	COOK, George Alfred	Reading	1933-2012
8341	COOK, George Henry	Reading	1896-1975
7958	COX	Lambourn	1500-1750
6927	COX/COCKS	Basildon, Berkshire	1400-1800
6927	CRACKNELL	Norfolk/Suffolk	1400-1800
5626	CROSS	Staffordshire, Northamptonshire	1750-1980
7958	DAY	Lambourn	1500-1750
6665	DEARLOVE	Berkshire/Oxfordshire	1771-1896
8337	DOPSON/DOBSON	Speen/Worospeen	1850-1870
6665	EATON	Hurley, Berkshire	1731-1847
6927	EDWARDS	Wiltshire/Somerset	1400-1800
6927	ELDERFIELD	Berkshire	1400-1900
7958	ELDRIDGE	Cholsey	1500-1750
5626	FISHER	Staffordshire, Northamptonshire	1800-1940
8354	FREWEN/FRENEN Mary	East Hendred	1760
6927	GARRETT/GARATT/GERRIT	West Wiltshire	1400-1800
7958	GOFFE	Wantage	1500-1750
7958	HARWOOD	Wantage	1500-1750
8346	HAWKINS	Berkshire	1700-1950
6927	HILL	Abingdon, Berkshire	1400-1800
8338	HOBBS	Wilts	pre 1700
8338	HUMPHREY (HUMFREY)	Sussex	pre 1500
6927	HUNT	Compton and Aldworth, Berkshire	1400-1800
7958	HYDE/HIDE	Wantage	1500-1750
8339	JENKINS	Thatcham	1790-1890
8368	JOHNSTONE Janet	Wallingford	1947-1968
6927	KERRY	Suffolk	1400-1800
6927	LEGGETT/LEGGATT/LEGET	Suffolk	1700-1800
6927	MARSHALL/MARSHAL/MARSHEL	Berkshire	1400-1800
8347	MARTIN, Jane	UpLambourn	1766-1845
6927	MATTHEWS	Warwickshire	1300-1800
6927	MAY	Berkshire	1400-1800
6927	MAYES	Suffolk	1500-1900
8346	MITCHELL	Winkfield	1750-1950
5626	MOFFATT	Lincolnshire	1760-
8338	MOODY	Hants	pre 1700
6927	MORRIS/MORREY	Warwickshire	1400-1800
8135	MULCOCK Jane	Farringdon	1771-1836
6665	NORRIS	Hurley, Berkshire	1750-1863
6927	OSBORNE/OSBOURNE/OSBORN/ LOOSBOURN/OSBURN	Norfolk	1400-1800
8368	PARKER Fanny	Didcot	1855-1930
6927	PEARCE/PIERCE	Wiltshire/Somerset	1400-1800
8135	PEART/PERT/PEAT Elizabeth	Farringdon	1735-1831
8338	PEPPER	Berkshire	pre 1820
8366	PEREN	Newbury	All
7958	PERREY	Wantage	1500-1750
8347	PERRY, John	Berkshire	1765-1860
7958	PINNELL	Bourton	1500-1750
8339	PIPER	Chieveley	1790-1900
8338	PRESTON	Lancs	pre 1500
7844	PULLEN		
6927	PURSER	North Cotswolds & London	1400-1900
8340	REEVE, John	London	All

8340	REEVE, William	London	1700-1899
5320	SAYER	Berkshire	All
5320	SEWARD	Berkshire	All
8338	SHEARS	Isington, Devon	pre 1550
8368	SHEPHERD Arthur Leonard	Wallingford	1919-1966
8368	SHEPHERD Edna Alice	Wallingford	1945-2020
8368	SHEPHERD Janet	Wallingford	1968-1973
8368	SHEPHERD Leonard	Wallingford	1885-1953
8368	SHEPHERD Nicholas Arthur	Wallingford	1946-1973
8366	SOMERSET	Newbury	All
6994	SOUTHAM	Sunningdale (Coworth Park Lodge)	1890s-1910s
6866	STEEL	Basildon	1800 on
6866	STEEL	Mortimer, Berkshire	1850 on
6927	STEWART/STUART/STEWART/STUARD	Suffolk	1400-1800
8354	STOTER James	East Hendred	1819-1886
8354	STOTER James	East Hendred	1819-1886
8354	STOTER John	East Hendred	1790
8354	STOTER Mary	East Hendred	1787
8354	STOTER nee HARRIS Rose	East Hendred	1874
8354	STOTTER/STOTER William	East Hendred	1760
8354	STOTTER/STOTER William	East Hendred	1790-1845
6927	STREAM	Berkshire	1400-1800
8340	STUCKLEY, William	Grantham	1687-1765
5626	SWEET	Somerset	1790-1920
8338	THWAITES	Yorks	pre 1640
6927	TREACHER	Berkshire	1400-1800
6927	TROLLOP/TROLLIP/TROLLOPE/TROLIP	Wiltshire/Somerset	1400-1800
8271	TYRRELL	Reading	1500-1670
7958	VIZE	Lambourn	1500-1800
8135	WARMAN John	Farringdon	Born abt 1735- ?
8135	WARMAN Sarah	Shrivenham or Farringdon	1843-1929
8135	WARMAN Thomas	Farringdon	1769-1836
8135	WARMAN William	Farringdon or Highworth	1802-1873
6927	WATSON	Berkshire	1400-1900
8347	WELLS, Ann	East Garson	1791-1863
6927	WHITE	Wiltshire/Somerset	1400-1800
7732	WIGMORE	Any	Any
6665	WILTSHIRE	Hungerford, Berkshire	1751-1847
7958	WINTER	Lambourn	1500-1750
8368	WITTS Joseph	Didcot	1854-1938

How Berkshire are you?

Answers to the quiz on page 9

1-c	5-h	9-q	13-i	17-p
2-j	6-e	10-g	14-s	18-m
3-l	7-a	11-d	15-b	19-r
4-f	8-o	12-n	16-t	20-k

From the Newsletters

More snippets from recent newsletters. Remember to look out for it each week – it is usually published on a Sunday.

Members' Interests are back on the website!

The Member Interests section has returned to the website, enabling members to discover other members who are researching the same ancestral lines.

Using the new section of the website you can: search for other members, request contact, discuss on the Forum, view & check your own entries and submit your changes online. We've given the whole topic a thorough makeover and presented it in a new way. You'll find it on menu item **Info > Member Interests**. Enjoy!

Gift Memberships now available

Introduce someone to the world of family history by buying them a Berkshire Family History Society Gift Membership. Know someone who's already a member? Why not treat them to a year's free membership? Not sure if they've already paid for the year? Don't worry, they can use your gift now to extend their membership for a further year!

Complete the online form and you'll receive a gift certificate via email that you can print or forward on to them. To redeem it, they simply go through the normal "join" process and, at checkout, select the option to redeem a gift membership. It couldn't be easier.

Tracing Royal Household Staff

Located at Windsor Castle, the Royal Archives preserves documents relating to the monarchy stretching back centuries. The Georgian Papers Online project is a fascinating insight into the Royal Household in the eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries and provides access to descriptions and digital images of letters, diaries, account books and household records and receipts. Find out more at: <https://gpp.rct.uk/>

And via Findmypast you can search more than 386,000 employment records, which include staff at royal residences across the UK between 1526 and 1924.



Windsor Castle, location of Royal Archives

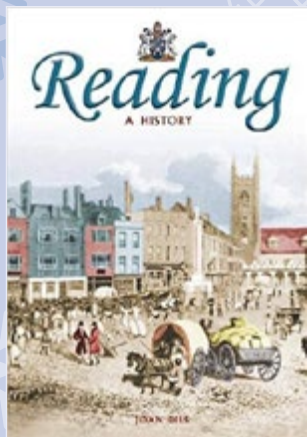
New Catholic records on FamilySearch

FamilySearch has added over one million new Catholic Church records from England, France, Germany, Luxembourg, Spain, Mexico, Brazil, Peru, Puerto Rico, Canada, Micronesia and South Africa.

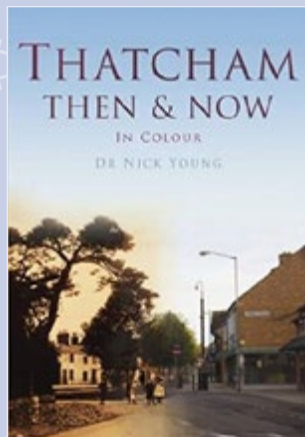
If you aren't receiving newsletters and would like to, do we have your up to date email address and permission to contact you? If yes, see the article in this Historian on missing emails. Back copies of newsletters are available on the society's website under INFO.

Christmas present ideas from the Society's Bookshop

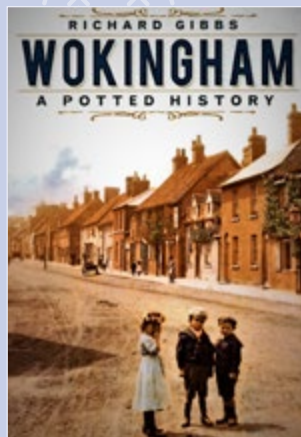
Stuck for present ideas – why not browse the society's bookshop at <https://shop.berksfhs.org/>. Remember to order in good time for posting. Last orders for Christmas (UK) – 14th December, (Europe) 8th December. Prices shown do not include postage – see website for full details.



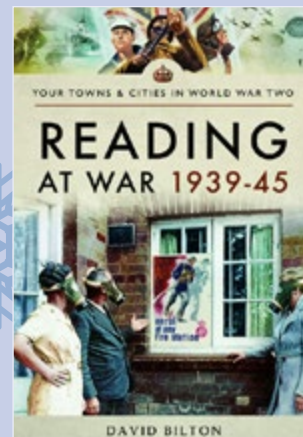
£25.00



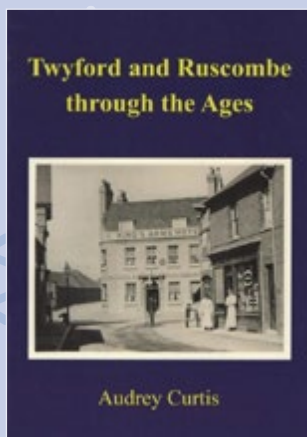
£12.99



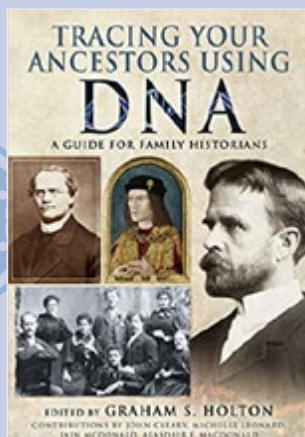
£12.99



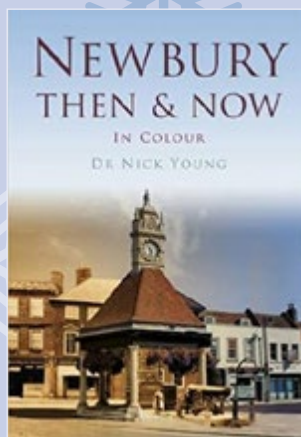
£11.99



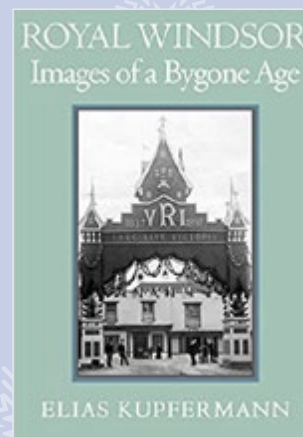
£9.95



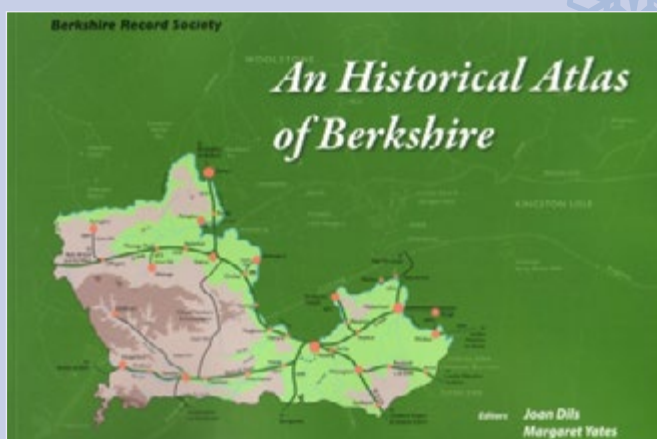
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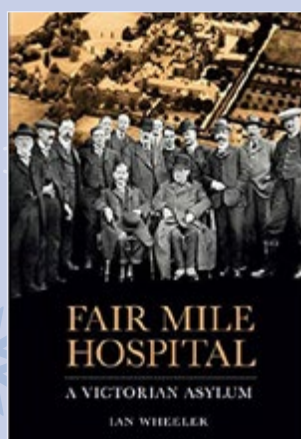
£8.50



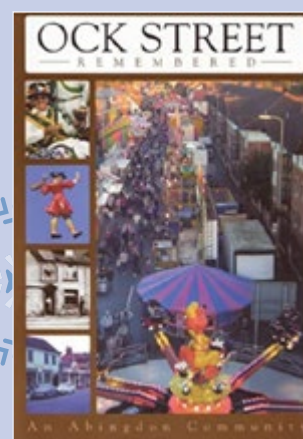
£7.50



£20.00



£12.99



£5.00