

'The morals of the Parish
are in general
corrupt...several women
being suffered to bring
Bastard after Bastard with-
out ever being
punished.....



Programme calendar 2000

Bracknell Branch

Priestwood Community Centre, Priestwood Court Road, Bracknell,

7.15pm for 7.45pm

- 17 March Fire insurance records, David Hawkins
- 14 April The workhouse and its records, Major Brian Oldham
- 19 May Shock, Scandal and Sabotage, problems with living relatives, Pat Egerton
- 16 June AGM followed by Grandmother's box, Bob Adams

Newbury Branch

United Reform Church Hall, Cromwell Place, Northbrook Street, Newbury,

7.30pm

- 12 April Mills on the River Kennet and tributaries, Brian Eighteen
- 10 May The Story of Bartholomew Street, Audrey Franklin
- 14 June *tbc*

Reading Branch

Prospect Technology College, Honey End Lane, Reading, 7.15pm for 7.45pm

- 29 March Using company records for family history, Tony Corley
- 26 April Manorial records, Jean Debney
- 31 May Why go to Salt Lake City, Ian H. Waller
- 28 June Nineteenth-century emigrants, Jim Golland

Vale of White Horse Branch

Tomkins Room, Baptist Church, Ock Street, Abingdon, 7.30pm

- 10 April *Grave Matters*, Recording MIs at Shippon
- 8 May 'The Ascott Martyrs', Beverley McCombs of New Zealand
- 12 June More *Grave Matters*

Windsor Branch

The Branch meetings are now held at Windsor. The venue is Christ Church, United Reformed Church, William Street, Windsor, 7.30pm for 7.45pm

- 28 March The Story of Apprenticeship, Jim Golland
- 25 April The Care of the poor, the homeless and the illegitimate, Dr. Ron Cox
- 30 May AGM and what's in the new Research Centre
- 27 June Women in family history, Ms Audrey Collins

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John Gurnett
editor

Lesley Hanna

The Society's Librarian, Lesley Hanna, died suddenly on 1st February, 2000. Lesley had been the Society Librarian since 1993. Previously she had served the Society as one of the Membership Secretaries from 1987 to 1992.

Lesley was very much involved in setting up the Library in the Research Centre at Prospect College. I know that she put in a great deal of time subsequently managing the Library. She was about to embark on the daunting task of setting the Library up all over again in our new Research Centre at Yeomanry House.

Lesley had an intimate knowledge of the Library. She would assist anyone who wanted help with considerable enthusiasm and courtesy. We shall all miss her.

Lesley was also Editor of the Journal of the Berkshire Local History Association.

The Society and all its members extend their sympathy to her husband, Chad.

June and I and many other members of the Society attended the funeral.

Ivan Dickason

The illustration on the cover is Gin Lane: Hogarth's picture of depravity and poverty (see page 126)

Bastardy in Berkshire

Lisa Spurrier

Rates of illegitimacy were apparently rising throughout the early modern period. It has been calculated that only one birth in 144 was outside marriage in the first half of the seventeenth century, rising to one in 33 in the first half of the eighteenth¹ and increasing rapidly from the mid 18th century,² with as many as one birth in ten in the years 1810-1812.³ These calculations are based on entries in parish registers, and may underestimate levels of illegitimacy, as it seems that some clergy were reluctant to baptise such children.

An example of missing bastards from parish registers can be seen in eighteenth century Aldermaston, where the complaints of curate Zacharias Whiting to the archdeacon illustrate the point. He said that the local almshouses had been “made little better than Houses of common Prostitution”. The “Morals of the Parish” were sternly criticised as “In General excessively corrupt and depraved; Prostitution connived at and encouraged – Several Women being suffered to bring Bastard after Bastard, without ever being punished, and in some Instances without being called upon to swear to the Father”. The obsession with “lewd Women and Prostitutes unpunished” continued with a list of what Whiting saw as the worst offenders : Elisabeth Pike, Anne and Martha Hitchcock, Mary Gunler, Elisabeth Read and Margaret Webb,

“The Morals of the Parish are in general excessively corrupt and depraved; Prostitution connived at and encouraged - Several women being suffered to bring Bastard after Bastard without ever being punished.....”

with the number of illegitimate children born to each woman. Mary Gunler had “3 or 4” such children, Margaret Webb just one, and the rest two each. Whiting attested also to the existence of “Others married and unmarried who are well known to live in a state of publick Lewdness”. The curate complained also at the practice of Aldermaston parents of “calling upon the Minister to baptise new-born Infants, on Pretence of their being dangerously

ill – and afterwards in many Cases the Parents refuse to bring them to Church, tho' called upon repeatedly to do it". Whiting concluded his long list of complaints with the statement that church repairs (perhaps because of the cost to ratepayers) and the establishment of Sunday Schools were "Two of the principal Causes of the Spite, Malevolence and Persecution which Mr Whiting experiences from his Parish of Aldermaston". The document is undated but is likely to be between 1768 and 1774.⁴ It is interesting to see that the majority of these women and their bastards do not appear in the Aldermaston parish register.⁵ One woman does appear in the parish overseer's records, with the survival of a bastardy examination of Elizabeth Pike dated May 1769.⁶ Allegedly married to a seaman, "she has not seen her husband for three years and says that John Lampard of Aldermaston, sawyer, is the father" of her child.

Common law in England assumed that the child of a married woman was that of her husband unless there was compelling evidence to the contrary - as with the long separation of Elizabeth and William Pike. Technical illegitimacy, where a couple lived together without being married, or whose marriage was invalid, may not be discovered by today's researcher at all. For instance, in Burghfield we find the parish register records the baptism of Elizabeth Prince on 29 April 1750, and her brother John on 17 December 1751, apparently the legitimate children of Henry and Martha Prince.⁷ Only the discovery in the Archdeaconry records that Henry and Martha were later prosecuted for living together as husband and wife, although Martha was the sister of Henry's late wife Joan or Joanna (incest according to the law at that time) reveals the true story.⁸

Parish register entries of the baptism of an illegitimate child sometimes name the alleged father, but may simply say that the child was a bastard, base born (or abbreviation BB), spurious or other term indicating illegitimacy, naming only the mother. This is often disappointing for the family historian. Some do indeed have to abandon hope of tracing the father, especially as only a minority of cases are reflected in parish records relating to bastardy.⁹ However, many cases are represented in these records, and they are always worth trying because of the potential value of the information they may contain. For parishes with records deposited in Berkshire Record Office, records relating specifically to bastardy will generally be found in section 15 of the parish cata-

Probatione } The voluntary Examination of Elizabeth Pike
 The Justice of the Peace in the said County, and
 wife to Wm. Pike a maintenance on oath before me
 Ralph Congreve Esq: one of his Majesty's Jus-
 tices of the Peace in &c for the said County the
 25th day of May 1769.
 Who saith, That she is now with child &
 that the said child is likely to be born a bastard
 & to be chargeable to the Parish of Aldermaston
 in the County of Berks. ^{the said child}
 She not having seen the said Wm. Pike of
 three years, & that John Sampson of Alderm-
 aston, a Justice, is the father of the said
 child, & that the first time he carnally knew
 her was a week before her wedding time,
 which was sometime in the month of Febry-
 last.
 Taken & signed this day
 year above written, before me
 R. Congreve
 The Justice of
 the Peace

Examination of Elizabeth Pike - one of the reputed "lewd women and Prostitutes of Aldermaston - 1769 (BRO D/P 3/15/1/5

logues, but other poor law records may also be helpful. The parish was concerned about bastardy, mainly because illegitimate children were more likely to require financial upkeep by the community. A bastard was initially chargeable to the parish of birth, whereas a legitimate child took its father's place of settlement. One early instance of the problems this could cause occurred in 1694, when an unnamed, and apparently abandoned, two year old girl was brought to Hungerford from Portsmouth "on the pretense or information that the father was John Rayley, a soldier in Colonel Hastings' Regiment, then quartered and legally settled". Hungerford disputed the case, and returned the child to Froxfield in Hampshire.¹⁰ From 1744 a bastard was settled in its mother's parish, leading to cases like that of seven year old Sarah Keen, born in Northmoor, Oxfordshire, and returned there alone in 1774 from her mother Martha's new home in Sutton Courtenay (a settlement acquired by her marriage to James Napper).¹¹

An Act of Parliament of 1576 allowed the Justices of the Peace to imprison the parents of an illegitimate child, and a later Act of 1610 allowed a mother to be sent to prison unless she could provide securities for her future good behaviour.¹²

"Henry More....made yt cursed use of hav[in]g ye keys of ye Church in his keeping to turn it into a bawdy house."

Cases of sexual immorality continued to be brought before the church courts. The churchwardens of each parish were required to make annual presentments of such cases to the authorities at the visitations of the deaneries by the Bishop, Archdeacon or officials of the peculiar jurisdiction, and these sometimes give details otherwise unrecorded relating to bastardy cases. One example of 1673 found a parish sexton, Henry More, having "made yt cursed use of hav[in]g ye keys of ye Church in his keeping to turn it into a bawdy-house. One yt charged him with a Bastard & none doubts ye Truth of it s[ai]d upon her Oath yt he got it in ye Chancell".¹³ Sadly the identity of the mother and child, and location of the parish is unknown. Researchers hoping to use church court records should be aware that they are often difficult to use, and as with other sources, not all cases came to court. Parish officials encouraged pregnant women to marry, as a child born more

than a month after the marriage was regarded as legitimate. Where a case involved a dispute between two parishes as to which was liable, for instance if the alleged father was himself a pauper in another parish, records may also survive in the Quarter Sessions records, though this is rare before the mid eighteenth century.¹⁴

An Act of Parliament of 1733 first required mothers needing support from the parish to declare the father's name.¹⁵ The overseers would then attempt to obtain maintenance from him by way of a bond of indemnity, and on pain of arrest. For instance in 1761 Jane Dean of Bray, who had been working in Middlesex, blamed George Saunders, "late Post Boy to Mr Parker at the Swan Inn at Egham" for her pregnancy. A warrant was duly issued for his arrest, even though this meant bringing him from his new place of employment in Piccadilly, London.¹⁶ We see the stages which might ensue in the case of labourer John Lucas of Stanmore, Beeton, who had fathered the six week old child of Mary Aldridge of Chieveley in 1764. The Chieveley parish records include both the warrant to apprehend John, issued on 28 June, and the bond to indemnify the parish, which he made two days later (he could only afford a shilling a week).¹⁷ Even after the parish overseers were superseded by Poor Law Unions and Boards of Guardians, this practice continued. For instance, in November 1843 the Abingdon Board of Guardians applied for a bastardy order on William Pead of Abingdon, father of the child of Ann Moore of Culham.¹⁸ From 1844, the mother herself was entitled to apply to the court of Petty Sessions for maintenance from the father whether she was in receipt of poor relief or not.

If they were in the workhouse they might ask the Board of Guardians for assistance, as did Eliza Cam, Lucy Morgan and Caroline Garland in 1885. They appeared before Windsor Board of Guardians "and asked the Guardians to take proceedings against the putative fathers to obtain Orders of affiliation", action which was duly taken.¹⁹ An example of levels of maintenance can be seen in the order made to labourer John Wiltshire of Chilton Foliat in 1735.²⁰ He was to pay 1 shilling and 3 pence a week to the churchwardens and overseers of Hungerford until his child by Elizabeth Baggs of Charnham Street, Hungerford, reached the age of eight, plus 40 shillings back maintenance. If the child survived to the age of eight, Wiltshire would then contribute £5 towards the cost of having the child apprenticed. Another man, George

Lyon of Hungerford, a goldsmith, rather than making cash payments, arranged in 1735 for certain silver watches, rings, ivory knives and forks to be held in trust for sale, and the proceeds used for the birth expenses of Esther White, about seven months pregnant with his child, and for the upkeep of the infant.²¹ In another Hungerford case in 1739, Richard North paid £18 to the parish authorities for his child by Elizabeth Bird; the lump sum was handed over to Elizabeth's father Jonathan, and he and her brother Joseph indemnified the parish against further charge.²² Some women refused to name the father, for instance widow Ann Jennings of Burghfield who had a child born in Shinfield in 1753; one Anthony Palmer (a relative?) entered into a bond to indemnify the parish in this case.²³ In Wantage in 1776, miller John Taylor and grazier William Stroud agreed to pay the costs of the illegitimate child of Sarah Partridge, "to prevent Sarah from being apprehended to be examined concerning the child, and to stop all enquiry and examination as to the father".²⁴ One can only speculate as to their connection with the unidentified father.

Other details, such as period of maintenance or amounts payable, might vary. For instance, John Davis of Hungerford, woolcomber, and John Edmonds of Marlborough, Wiltshire, gentleman, agreed privately in 1714 to jointly maintain Elizabeth, a child born to Davis's wife Naomi by Edmonds before her marriage, until the girl was 16. This story is revealed in the bond they made to parish officials.²⁵ Another person might indemnify the parish, as when in 1716 John Clerke of Kintbury, cordwainer, indemnified Hungerford against the costs of bringing up a boy fathered by his son Jonathan.²⁶ In Drayton in 1756, widow Elizabeth Cowley was prepared to indemnify against the costs of the lying-in (the birth) in the case of her pregnant daughter Martha, provided that she was allowed to stay at home.²⁷ (Martha had a legal settlement in another parish, and the churchwardens had issued a removal order for her to go there). John Couldrey of Besselsleigh, labourer, meanwhile, entered into a bond to pay for his child by Ann Kimber of Drayton in 1791, but specified that it was to be void if Ann married before the baby's birth.²⁸ In 1675 John Brakes of Warfield, yeoman, indemnified the parish on behalf of his servant Elizabeth Blunt, pregnant by

her “pretended husband” William Blunt, who had deserted her.²⁹ Former overseer of Warfield William Marlow found himself liable after he kindly (but wrongly) allowed pregnant Elizabeth Skull to live in Warfield in 1802 although she was legally settled in Heckfield in Hampshire. Facing prosecution by his successors, he agreed to indemnify the parish against the costs of the child.³⁰ A mother might also contribute if she did not keep the child herself; for instance in 1775 Elizabeth Orchard was to pay 6d a week if she did not nurse her child, whereas the father, John Bourton, contributed 1s 6d a week.³¹ This was common practice.

“Elizabeth Grendall explained that her unborn child had been ‘begotten’ sometime last April on a couch in the hall of the dwelling house of Mr. Sylvester (her employer).....by his son”

Bastardy examinations may include details relating to the circumstances leading to the pregnancy. For instance, widow Hannah Basdell of Wallingford dated the beginning of her relationship with soldier James Haddock very precisely to “3 February last [1759] in her dwelling house”.³² Maidservant Elizabeth Grendall explained that her unborn child had been “begotten sometime last April on a couch in the hall of the dwelling house of Mr Sylvester [her employer] in Waltham St Lawrence, by his son Mr George Sylvester ... No other person than George Sylvester ever had carnal knowledge of her”.³³ A shocking case in Wantage in 1770 saw Gilbert Cooper junior sleeping with his father’s servant [the nursemaid?] Mary Wedge or Paris, in the bed she shared with Gilbert’s 12 year old sister Mary and 4 year old brother Edward. Mary added that “after Gilbert Cooper left her she heard the Clock Strike One”.³⁴ Robert Shorter of Wokingham allegedly seduced Hannah Soaper of Easthampstead in June 1748 by promising marriage, six months later eventually had the banns published, but then changed his mind. Just before the banns were called for the third time, he appears to have absconded, sending word by a friend that “he would never marry her”.³⁵

One factor which should perhaps be borne in mind is that the information contained in parish bastardy records may not necessarily be accurate. Some allegations were disputed by the alleged fathers. One example I have come across was that of John Bayly of Streatley, who in 1715/6 enlisted the support of the vicar and churchwardens of the parish against such an allegation.³⁶ In 1808 John Hoffman attempted to deny his obligation to maintain a ten

year old child living in Shinfield on the grounds that he was not the father, although from associated accounts it looks as if his appeal was unsuccessful.³⁷ Another incident where it is not clear

“We present the Revd John Schults Vicar of Hagbourn for keeping at his House Rachael Harris a woman of very bad character who has since she lived with him two bastards”.

what really happened is the allegation made by Job Lousley and Richard Child, the churchwardens of Hagbourne, in May 1822 as follows :

“First we present the Revd John Schults Vicar of Hagbourn for keeping at his House Rachael Harris a woman of very bad character who has had since she lived with him two bastards, the Father of which bastards (or one of them at least) we have great reason to believe is the said John Schults; and we beg leave to represent that the said John Schults do even unto this day persist in keeping the said vile woman notwithstanding he is well aware of the scandalous stories in circulation respecting the same.”³⁸

Schultes (as he himself wrote his name) did not long survive the complaint, as he was buried in Hagbourne on 26 January 1823, aged 63.³⁹ The parish registers reveal the names of Rachel Harris’s two children. The younger, Henry, was born on 27 March 1820 and allegedly baptised privately by Schultes on 17 April. He did not however enter the details in the register. The older child was significantly baptised by the Christian names of Penelope Schultes on 18 April 1819 (though the evidence of her age at death suggests that she was actually born in about 1815). She was also the only child in Hagbourne at that time not to be baptised by Schultes, but by the Revd John Jones.

On 29 April 1823, barely three months after Schultes’ death, Rachel Harris married Joseph May, a schoolmaster also living in Hagbourne. Shortly afterwards, the Revd H L Majendie, curate of Didcot, who had married them, evidently made enquiries about young Henry and made a retrospective entry in the baptism register based on Rachel’s testimony. Sadly the child died in April 1825, a month after his fifth birthday. In 1827 Rachel’s son by her new husband was baptised Henry Howgate, perhaps partly in memory of his late half-brother.⁴⁰ The couple seem then to have moved away, perhaps to London, as Penelope Schultes Harris, the elder of the two disputed children, was buried in Hagbourne in

January 1830, aged 14, and then resident in London.⁴¹

Schultes had been vicar of Hagbourne since 1791, and patron of the living probably since 1805, succeeding his father, known as John Scoolt, in both capacities. He may have been married when Penelope was born – a Mrs Joann Schultes, aged 58, was buried in Hagbourne on 5 January 1820, but there is no definite evidence that she was his wife. Rachel Harris was probably born in Milton in 1792, the youngest of a sizeable family mostly given Biblical names. The evidence that Schultes was the father of Rachel's children is not absolutely conclusive; one might suggest that he was merely a benefactor, and that the churchwardens had some grudge against him.

This article owes much to the ongoing project of the Berkshire Record Society and the Berkshire Family History Society to produce a calendar of surviving overseers' records for the county, the first volume of which has been published, covering thirteen parishes in the Kennet Valley.⁴² Records for the majority of the county – in fact for every parish with surviving records with the exception of the Reading parishes – are available in the Record Office searchroom in the form of the "Overseers' Project" typescripts. Helpful overviews of the types of record thus created may be found both in Peter Durrant's introduction to the completed Record Society edition, and in the paper on bastardy and apprenticeship records forming part of the Historical Association's series of "Short Guides"⁴³. One word of warning : although many individual cases have been recorded, bastardy records, which tend to consist of loose slips of paper, have in many cases failed to survive. Even in parishes with large numbers of surviving documents, the particular details of the person you are researching may remain a mystery.

1 J Charles Cox, *The Parish Registers of England* (London 1910) p72

2 K M Thompson, *Apprenticeship and Bastardy Records* (Historical Association Short Guides to records no. 29)

3 Cox, *op cit*

4 BRO D/A2 b5A f27

5 BRO D/P 3/1/2

6 BRO D/P 3/15/1/5; calendared in Peter Durrant (ed), *Berkshire Overseers Papers 1654-1834* (Berkshire Record Society) volume 3 (1997) (hereafter referred to as Durrant (1997)) p16

7 BRO D/P29/1/3

- 8 BRO D/A2 d2 ff35-36
- 9 W E Tate, *The Parish Chest* (3rd ed. Cambridge 1969) p219
- 10 BRO D/P 71/13/4/1; calendared in T/B 58
- 11 BRO D/P 128/13/2/28; calendared in T/B 69
- 12 Tate, p216
- 13 BRO D/A2 c174 ff180-181
- 14 Tate, p217
- 15 Tate, p217
- 16 BRO D/P 23/15/1/16-17; calendared in T/B44
- 17 BRO D/P 34/15/2/1 and D/P34/15/5/5; calendared in Durrant (1997) p123
- 18 BRO G/A1/3
- 19 BRO G/WI 1/7
- 20 BRO D/P 71/13/7/8; calendared in T/B 68
- 21 BRO D/P 71/15/1/21; calendared in T/B 68
- 22 BRO D/P 71/15/1/24; calendared in T/B 68
- 23 BRO D/P 110/15/1/9; calendared in T/B 50
- 24 BRO D/P 143/15/3/41; calendared in T/B 51
- 25 BRO D/P 71/15/1/3; calendared in T/B 68
- 26 BRO D/P 71/15/1/6; calendared in T/B 68
- 27 BRO D/P 48/15/2/2; calendared in T/B 69
- 28 BRO D/P 48/15/2/3; calendared in T/B 69
- 29 BRO D/P 144/15/3/7; calendared in T/B 52
- 30 BRO D/P 144/15/3/32; calendared in T/B 52
- 31 BRO D/P 71/15/3/7; calendared in T/B 68
- 32 BRO D/P 138/15/1; calendared in T/B 54
- 33 BRO D/P 73/15/2/3; calendared in T/B 64
- 34 BRO D/P 143/15/1/33; calendared in T/B 51
- 35 BRO D/P 49/15/2/4; calendared in T/B52
- 36 BRO D/P A2 b5A f358
- 37 BRO D/P 110/15/5/1-2; calendared in T/B 50
- 38 BRO D/A2 c118
- 39 BRO D/P 60/1/5
- 40 BRO D/P 60/1/6
- 41 BRO D/P 60/1/5
- 42 Durrant (1997), op cit
- 43 Thompson, op cit

Your Society Needs You.....

Treasurer

We need to recruit a new Treasurer since our present one must retire at the AGM in June 2000. Ron Dobrée has been Treasurer and a member of the Executive Committee for five years and this is all that is allowed by the Constitution.

The Treasurer has responsibility as an Officer and Trustee for all the financial transactions of the Society and ensuring that the Society's funds are properly used and accounted for. The job requires someone who is able to prepare budgets, give advice to the Executive Committee, produce monthly and annual accounts as well as managing the day to day income and expenditure of a busy Society. The Treasurer will also need to liaise with our Covenant Secretary, our bankers, and the Inland Revenue.

We estimate that this job will take eight to ten hours each month.

Bookstall Team Leader

Due to continued expansion of the Society's bookstall business we require an enterprising and business-like person to lead our bookstall team. We are confident we can expand this important element of our Society's activities.

The Bookstall Team makes decisions about stock and procures the stock for

the main Bookstall in the Research Centre and for the Branch Bookstalls. It also manages the display in the Research Centre, provides the postal service, prepares the Bookstall for fairs, etc.

With help from the Bookstall Team we estimate that the job of the Bookstall Team Leader will take four to six hours each week.

Fairs Co-ordinator

The Society's Bookstall is taken to a number of family history fairs during the year. We receive an increasing number of invitations to attend these fairs.

We therefore need to recruit someone who can identify and recruit volunteers who are able to staff the Bookstall during these 'awaydays' and who will ensure that there are sufficient sales people present to maximise sales. The job will also require some liaison with the Executive Committee and with the organisers of the fairs. We estimate that this job will take four to six hours each month.

Job descriptions are available for each of these jobs. If you are interested in any of these exciting voluntary posts, please contact the Chairman, Ivan Dickason, on (0118) 978-6785 for further information.

**Berkshire Family History Society - the voice of
family history in Berkshire**

Berkshire Electoral Registers 1889-1892/3

Talbot K. Green

As you may know there is an unfortunate gap in the Berkshire Record Office's holdings of the county's Electoral Registers for the years 1889-1892/3. Either the Clerks of the Peace did not send their registers to the correct department of the newly formed County Council, or the staff did not receive the proper instructions. Whatever the reason the Registers have been lost.

Last December I was at the Berkshire Record Office looking for the Wokingham 1890 Register when the archivist remembered having seen a reference to them in a British Library catalogue. This seemed an opportunity too good to be missed so I visited the new British Library in Euston Road and obtained a five-year ticket. The new Library positively welcomes readers so obtaining a ticket is relatively easy, as long as you are not trying to borrow the latest Mills and Boon romance for three weeks (which has happened).

The Registers in question only cover the Eastern/Wokingham and the Northern/Abingdon Divisions. The Registers themselves are held off-site and take 24 hours to be delivered to the Reading Room. On the request form quote the Pressmark 'BL.B35' for Eastern/Wokingham Division, or 'BL.B32' for the Northern/Abingdon Division, and in the description give the Division and year. The staff will tell you which reading room the books will be delivered to; the catalogue is held in a room misleadingly known as Science North.

The Library could be more user-friendly, but once you have got your Reader's Ticket you have access to a great range of documents and books. So references you thought you would never be able to follow up suddenly become possible. I am about to see if a distant ancestor's relative held a captain's commission in the Parliamentary General's bodyguard during the Civil War: Sloan mss. Vol. 5247, 'Flag and arms of.....the Earl of Essex's armies' refers. I can now order it either by going in and waiting half an hour, or by telephone and it will be waiting when I arrive a day or two later.

BERKSHIRE RECORD OFFICE THE LATEST ON THE MOVE

Building work on the new Record Office building off Castle Hill, Reading, is nearing completion. However, there has been some slippage in the work and in the fitting out, and our plans have therefore had to be adjusted.

Original documents are now unavailable until we are in the new building. However, we are still open at Shinfield Park for consultation of film, fiche, transcripts, library material and OS maps **until 24 March**. This will be daytime only (we regret that we are unable to continue Thursday evening openings during this period). We will be closed for the rest of March and during April.

We do not yet have a definite date for re-opening but it is likely to be early May.

Our new address will be:

**Berkshire Record Office
9 Coley Avenue
Reading
Berks RG1 6AF**

Our telephone and fax numbers and e-mail address will remain the same. Give us a call for an update on the latest news.

tel. 0118 901 5132, fax 0118 901 5131, e-mail ARCH@Reading.gov.uk

Help wanted

Anita Flint, Upwey House, 30 Sherbourne Drive, Maidenhead, Berks SL6 3EP

Home Guard photographs - are they from Berkshire?

“While sorting through my late father-in-law’s papers I found eight photographs of the Home Guard, presumably taken during the second World War. Because he was born in Reading and, after his marriage in 1933, lived in Wokingham I believe these pictures probably have a Berkshire connection, given that on one of the uniforms is an insignia with BRX 11. The pictures feature about 80 men and some women. They are all taken out of doors and some show the men under training.

The blackboard in front of this picture lists the following:

Challis	Pte. Boshier
Langley	Sgt. Brown
Cpl. Reed	Cpl. Ford
Pte. Culver	Lt. Newland
Sgt. Smith	Lt. Corley
L/Cpl. Dawson	Lt. Boccock
Pte. White	L/Cpl. Crigg (or Grigg)
Pte. Levin	Ottley



There were further names hidden from the camera. If anyone can identify any of these men I would love to hear from them.

*Mrs. Carol Angus, 3 Southfield Drive, Sutton Courtenay, Abingdon, Oxon
OX14 4AY*

I am searching for the birth, or baptism, of my maternal ancestor, Charles Benwell c.1748/9. He died, aged 83, in St Mary, Reading and was buried in January 1832 in Beenham, Berkshire, 'his place of abode'. Despite extensive searches into all references to this surname in Berkshire and elsewhere no suitable record has been found. (Editor's note: Have you tried the Bishop's Transcripts or searched the churchyard for a memorial?)

Mrs. Monica Baker, 7 Talisman Walk, Billericay, Essex CM11 1EE

I have a problem in my family that needs to be solved. When I obtained the birth certificate of my great grandfather George Hopkins it said his mother was Charlotte Ann Lovegrove. With this I tried to find a marriage but could not match up the two surnames. Eventually I obtained the birth certificate of one of George's siblings only to find that the mother was Charlotte Ann Wait. This combination of names led me to find the marriage in 1842 at Boxford of John Hopkins and Charlotte Ann Wait. As two of John and Charlotte's sons have the middle name of Lovegrove, I think that somehow Charlotte gave her mother's maiden name by mistake. Her mother, according to the 1881 census is Ann Maria Wait, aged 82, born in Thatcham. So far I have not been able to locate any records that confirm this Wait/Lovegrove family.

Berkshire machine breakers - Captain Swing and the 1830 riots

Jill Chambers

In the autumn of 1830 agricultural labourers, predominantly in the south of England, rose up against their masters in an attempt to better their standard of living. By the beginning of 1831, instead of improving working and living conditions, many families found they were worse off with the breadwinner confined to prison, or on board the prison hulks waiting to be transported.

The riots were caused in the main by the poor harvests of 1829 and 1830 that raised the price of bread and increased unemployment. Hardship amongst the families of country labourers and their families was especially bad during the winter months when many were laid off by farmers, themselves going through economic difficulties. Some authorities had tried to reduce the level of poor relief, which made up about 15 per cent of the income of rural labourers.

The riots seemed to have been a spontaneous outbreak for 'Captain Swing', who was said to be the leader, but in fact was an entirely mythical figure. The biggest disturbances occurred where casual labour was widely employed, and in some small towns where craftsmen could provide leadership. The objectives of the rioters were higher wages and regular employment. Their main activity was breaking farm machinery, especially threshing machines, which deprived men of work in the winter months. The rioters expected the justice of their cause would receive wide public support. Indeed some magistrates urged farmers to destroy their machines and increase wages. Many farmers either gave tacit support to their workmen, or urged the parish vestry to improve the levels of poor relief.

Berkshire magistrates wrote to the government concerning distress among the labourers of the county in early 1830. Thomas Goodlake wrote to Robert Peel, then Home Secretary, that 'there appeared to be an increase in the number of petty crimes brought for trial'. He attributed this to the 'Distress under which Agriculture and Trade at this time Labour – and the consequent want of employment of the labouring classes'. He was also con-

COUNTY of BERKS.

John Walter, Esquire, Sheriff
of the County aforesaid.

WHEREAS

NOTICE has been given to me, by ten of His Majesty's Justices of the Peace, acting in and for the said County, that Information upon Oath has been laid before them, that divers serious Riots and Disturbances have lately taken place within this County, and that there is just cause to believe that further riots are intended; and the said Justices having called upon me to take such measures as the Law requires for the preservation of the peace of the said County,---Now I do hereby, by virtue of my Office, call upon all Knights, Gentlemen, Yeomen, Husbandmen, Labourers, Tradesmen, Servants, and Apprentices, and all other male persons above the age of fifteen years, and able to travel, to be in readiness to aid and assist me in the preservation of the King's peace within the said County, upon pain of imprisonment.

Hereof fail not at your Peril.

cerned about the Parochial Allowances to Paupers, 'particularly to the unemployed Labourers during the winter season; which is the most irksome duty of a County Justice of the Peace – and I am sorry to say they are now become very numerous in almost every parish in the County – the present mode of treating them leads to distress and consequent despair to a total want of Industry in some that are married and have Families – and to petty thefts and other crimes as well as to Hasty and improvident marriages in others'.¹

Thatcham labourers began to gather early in the morning of Monday 15th November. After a number had gathered a horn was sounded and they set off to visit the farms in the area and persuade all the labourers to join them. The select vestry was meeting that day and by midday the labourers, now numbering between two and three hundred, marched into the churchyard. They 'presented the gentlemen assembled a verbal request that they might be provided with work, and have their wages advanced. 'The men were quite peaceable, excepting forcing some who felt no inclination to join them.'²

On the evening of the 17th the labourers of Bradfield, Bucklebury and Stanford Dingley assembled and marched from farm to farm, destroying machines, demanding higher wages and forcing others to join them. They met up with the Thatcham labourers and machinery was destroyed at the paper mill at Colthrop. They arrived at Crookham House with the intention of breaking machines belonging to Richard Tull. Here they were met by a number who had been sworn in as special constables and by Mr. Tull and his labourers. The Riot Act was read by the Reverend Mr. Cove. The mob refused to disperse and Mr. Tull and his party seized the principal ringleaders, who with eight or ten others were taken to Reading Gaol.³

On the 20th labourers from Speen, about a mile from Newbury, went round the farms in the area to gather more supporters. They went to the Vestry Room, where the select vestry was meeting. Before their arrival the vestry had already 'resolved that the wages should be advanced from 9 shillings to 10 shillings per week to all able-bodied men whether married or single and that there should be paid to all married men having more than two children, the price of a gallon loaf weekly, for each child above that number, that this was the highest rate that could be granted consistent with the present prices of agricultural produce'.⁴

The magistrates at Newbury together with a number of neighbouring gentry and farmers formed a 'strong body of horsemen'. They met the labourers near the Vestry Room and 'commanded a parley with them'. The Reverend Henry Majendic, Vicar of Speen, came out and spoke to the labourers and told them of the Vestry's decision to increase their wages. The terms were accepted by the men. It was reported that 'the conduct of the labourers was almost without exception marked by forbearance and civility, they only expressed a sense of the sufferings and privations they had endured and disavowed every intention of provoking riot or disorder, they were assured on the part of the Vestry that every attention should be paid to their wants during the ensuing winter.'⁵

"the Mob proceeded to acts of Violence destroying Machinery and at each respectable House demanding money of the farmers who had Machines, 2 sovereigns for every Machine."

Unfortunately not every demand for an increase in wages ended so peacefully. This was certainly not the case in the Kintbury and Hungerford area. Writing from Speen on the 25th the Deputy Lieutenant tells us how the disturbances began. 'The immediate origin of the disturbances at Kintbury appears to have been this: A vagrant went to the house of Mr. Smith of Kintbury Holt asking relief which was refused. For some cause not exactly known he was committed to the Blind House in Kintbury, but was twice liberated by the Mob and the man ultimately escaped. Thus congregated and excited the Mob proceeded to acts of Violence destroying Machinery and at each respectable House demanding money of the farmers who had Machines, 2 sovereigns for every Machine. Amongst others, of whom money was demanded, was the Reverend Mr. Fowle who gave them £2 and some beer.'⁶

During that evening and the following morning the Kintbury mob went to farms in Inkpen, Hampstead Marshall and West Woodhay. Hungerford labourers gathered on the 22nd and made the rounds of their farms destroying machinery. When they returned to Hungerford they found the Kintbury mob already there. Together they numbered around 500 people, many armed with hammers and bludgeons. John Willes, a County magistrate, had been holding a meeting in Hungerford Town Hall with the local MP and several others. He met the Kintbury mob near Denford Farm, the premises of Mr. Cherry. Mr. Willes begged

them not to go up to the house as Mrs. Cherry was 'near her confinement, and he apprehended serious consequences'. He invited them to go to Hungerford where he would hear their grievances.

When they arrived in the town they broke the windows of Mr. Anning's house and machinery and stock was destroyed at Richard Gibbons' Iron Foundry. On arriving at the Town Hall Mr. Willes invited them to select five men from each party to go inside. William Oakley, William Smith (alias Winterbourne), Daniel Bates and Edmund Steel were four of those chosen to represent the Kintbury mob.⁷

Joseph Atherton, who was present at the Town Hall tells us that the Hungerford men left 'perfectly satisfied with the arrangements as to their advance of wages'. The same could not be said of the Kintbury men. When Mr. Atherton asked them what they wanted Oakley, who acted as their spokesman, told him that they 'wanted 2 shillings a day till Lady Day, 2/6 afterwards and Tradesmen 3/6 and as they were there they would have £5 or they would be damned if they would not smash the place down with the town altogether. Bates said, that was what they wanted and have it they would, Oakley told Mr. Pearse that he and the Gentlemen had been living upon all the good things for the last ten years, that they had suffered enough and that now was their time, and that they would have it.'⁸

The men also demanded £5 and said that they would not leave the room without it. Mr. Willes eventually handed over five sovereigns and the men left. In his evidence, given before the Special Commission, Mr. Willes is reported to have said, 'I voluntarily gave £5 after these transactions to the Hungerford men and said as the ruffians had extorted so much it was hard that the Hungerford men who behaved so well in the Hall should not have something'.⁹

Mr. Page reported that the Kintbury mob spent their £5 in Hungerford and the result was extreme rioting and drunkenness, and the Bath and London coaches were stopped, the panels and glasses broken and money extorted from the passengers.' They then returned to their villages. Mr. Page put the 'quieting' of the Kintbury labourers down to the 'meritorious exertions of Job Hanson a respectable Stonemason of their place and what is called a district preacher among the Wesleyan Methodists.' According to Mr. Page Hanson even managed to arrange a meeting between the Kintbury men and Mr. Fowle and 'a compromise

was entered into, that whatever was settled by the Magistrates for the Hungerford labourers should be allowed to them also.¹⁰

After hearing this the men agreed to return to work the following day. Mr. Page's belief that peace had been restored to the area by the evening of the 22nd proved to be premature. When the labourers in some of the parishes adjoining Kintbury heard of their success they sent a deputation to Kintbury late on the evening of the 22nd. Mr. Page tells us that 'the Kintbury men were induced to reassemble on the following day and to proceed into those parishes and accomplish there a similar work of destruction to that which on the previous day they had accomplished in their own.'¹¹

As a result there was rioting at Kintbury, West Woodhay, Enborne, Welford, Boxford, West Shefford and Hampstead Marshall on the 23rd. At Hampstead Marshall Mr. Webb's threshing machine was broken and during the night two more at Welford. Most of the incidents reported in the area related to robbery. At Enborne Anthony Heath was persuaded to hand over one sovereign and Joseph Stanbrook and James Franklin both handed over two sovereigns as did John Hawkins of Welford, Thomas Langford of West Shefford and widow Hannah Austin of Boxford. At Hampstead Marshall Stephen Collier was relieved of one sovereign, William Webb of two shillings, while Lord Craven was made to pay £10.¹²

We know very little about the part women played in the disturbances. Very few of them appear in the indictments or on the Gaol Calendars and of those that do the charge was generally one of arson or sending threatening letters. In a letter from Frederick Page we learn how the women of Kintbury behaved on the 22nd. They 'assembled and by threats induced some of the shopkeepers to give them provisions and a Travelling Tea Dealer to give them a small quantity of Tea.'¹³

By the 25th around 300 special constables were sworn in at Hungerford and the adjoining parishes and many of the rioters were captured. William Westall and three others were captured by Col. Dundas at The Red Lion at Kintbury and a number of others were caught at The Blue Ball, also at Kintbury. Mr. Westall, writing from Hungerford reported on the capture of Francis Norris: 'The Gentlemen on Horseback have just brought in the Chief Ringleader of the Parish of Kintbury of the name of Frank Norris a Bricklayer, who they followed for 5 hours and met with him at a

new Beer Shop at Aldbourne. I am in hopes our town will be quiet in a day or two.¹⁴ This does indeed seem to have brought an end to the rioting in the area.

There were two incidents in the eastern part of the county. They occurred at Waltham St. Lawrence and Binfield on the 20th and 21st and were carried out by the same mob. At Waltham St. Lawrence they told Martha Davies that 'they were forty sworn men come up out of Kent; they were come up to drive the county before them.' However, Mrs. Davies recognised their leader as her neighbour Solomon Allen. They broke the machine and left when they 'had had as much beer as they wanted.' At Binfield they broke a machine belonging to Richard Glasspool.¹⁵

The labourers of Yattendon held a wages meeting early on the 21st. They went round the farms in the area, pressing others to join them, and trying to persuade the farmers to increase their wages. They were given money and beer by a number of farmers and 'one was even impudent enough to order 40 quarts at each of the two public houses in the parish.' One of these public houses was The Compasses at Burnt Hill Common. Some of the Yattendon men agreed to meet up with the men from Ashampstead on the following day. They left The Compasses at midnight and 'proceeded from thence immediately to call up every poor man and boy in the Parish and at the Houses of others demanding money of every one whom they supposed able to give them anything from 1/- to 5/- (their maximum) until towards sunrise they went to the adjoining Parish of Aldworth.' From there they went to Streatley and in all three parishes machinery was broken and money demanded. They ended back at The Compasses at Yattendon where they stayed until night. From there they went to Basildon where more machinery was destroyed and money demanded. The soldiers succeeded in capturing 11 of the ringleaders and the rest quickly dispersed.¹⁶

By the 25th the Government decided to appoint a Special Commission to deal with the rioters in what they considered to be the most troubled counties: Hampshire, Wiltshire, Berkshire, Dorset and Buckinghamshire. The Berkshire Commissioners, Sir James Allan Park, Sir William Bolland and Sir John Patteson, were met by the High Sheriff on the 27th December. The Gaol Calendar contained the names of 138 prisoners. The majority, mainly those charged with the more serious crimes, were tried at Reading, the remainder at Abingdon. The Court opened at nine

o'clock on the 28th and almost the whole day was taken up with the offences committed by the 'Kintbury Mob'. Of the 18 men charged with various offences all but two: William Haynes and Charles Smith were found guilty.

The three Judges spent their last day in Reading passing sentence. The first two men sentenced were Thomas Dance and Jacob Gater. They had been found guilty of riot: Dance was imprisoned for 12 months and Gater for nine months. Fairly light sentences, but if the remaining prisoners were expecting something similar they were soon disabused. The Judges seem to have made a distinction between agricultural labourers and craftsmen. John Aldridge and George Whiting both had two indictments against them. Aldridge was a blacksmith and was sentenced to transportation for seven years, while Whiting, a labourer, was imprisoned for 18 months. When Mr. Justice Park sentenced Stephen Williams to 14 years transportation Williams is reported to have 'looked towards the bench in a reckless and impudent manner and thanked his lordship'. Twenty three prisoners had a sentence of death recorded against them. The last men to be sentenced were William Oakley, William Winterbourne and Alfred Darling. Mr. Tomes read the convictions, the crier called for silence and Mr. Justice Park proceeded to pass a sentence of death on all three men. 'You three prisoners have been convicted of the offences named, and of more than a single offence, which have forfeited your lives to the laws of the country, and it is now our duty to pronounce the awful sentence of death upon you.' The Times reported that Winterbourne and Darling wept while the sentence was being passed, but 'Oakley appeared little if at all affected; he shook his head, and on quitting the dock spoke to a person standing at the table near which he passed.'¹⁷

The three Judges then went to Abingdon. The Calendar contained the names of 47 prisoners and most were charged with riot, robbery, assault and machine breaking. Of those found guilty Thomas Mackrell was sentenced to death, the rest were sentenced to various terms of imprisonment.

The arrival of the New Year 1831 brought little in the way of rejoicing to hundreds of homes throughout southern England. Families grieved for their menfolk, sons, husbands and fathers had already been sentenced to transportation, a sentence that would take them to the other side of the world with little chance of returning to England again. In the condemned cells in Kent,

Sussex and Hampshire men awaited execution, while others were still waiting in prison to be tried, knowing that they too might suffer a similar fate.

Petitions were sent to the King and the Home Office on behalf of the prisoners. Isaac Burton, of Hampstead Marshall was described by his petitioner as, 'a sober, steady, civil, peaceable and industrious young man.' Three of Joseph Edney's previous employers gave him a character reference. All three described him as an 'honest, trusty and faithful servant.' William Green gathered a number of testimonials on behalf of his brother Charles. All his former employers described him as 'an honest, sober inoffensive man.' Elizabeth Greenaway petitioned the Home Secretary on behalf of her son Jason. She wrote that he had always 'borne an excellent character for sobriety, diligence and peaceable behaviour, that he has never (since he has been able to work) been out of employ, and always appropriated a considerable part of his wages towards the payment of his mother's house rent.' She went on to say that if he was transported she would be deprived of 'his succour and assistance.' The vicar of Beenham wrote to Lord Melbourne, the Home Secretary, on behalf of Edward Harris. He wrote that Harris had shown 'constant attention to the Duties of the Sabbath.' He also wrote of 'his quiet, peaceable, and steady conduct at other times, and his kind and exemplary attentions to his mother, who from her age will probably never see her son again after his removal from this Country.' Those who knew William Hawkins described him as 'honest, sober' and 'worthy of credit.' Thomas Mackrell's petitioner, Mr. J.R. Seymour, wrote that Mackrell had worked 'as a common labourer, for the same person for twenty years, he has ever been a most kind husband, and a most indulgent Father to seven children living, the youngest only a few weeks old, his Father was in confinement, as a lunatic, for several years, and a very small portion of liquor has produced a very similar effect on the mind of the son.'

Although the majority of the letters written to the Home Office in early 1831 were in favour of the rioters by no means all were. Mr. T.E. Williams, the Chaplain at Reading Gaol, wrote to the Reverend Fowle, of Kintbury, expressing his doubts 'respecting the soundness of Oakley's religious professions'. Oakley was planning his escape, 'even at the expense of my life or the life of his keepers, who might have been opposed to him.'

Three men, William Oakley, Alfred Darling and William

Winterbourne, had been left for execution after the Berkshire Special Commission. Oakley and Darling both had their sentences commuted to transportation for life. Winterbourne was executed at Reading on January 11 and buried at Kintbury.

Most male convicts spent some time in the prison hulks before they were transported and the Berkshire rioters were no exception. Two separate groups of Berkshire men arrived on the hulk York at Gosport in January. Their stay was to be short as four of them, Daniel Bates, David Hawkins, Francis Norris and Edmund Steel, sailed to Tasmania on board the convict ship Eliza on February 6th. Of the remaining 41 Berkshire men on the York 40 sailed for New South Wales on board the convict ship Eleanor on February 19th. They were: John Aldridge, Solomon Allen, George Arlett, Cornelius Bennett, Luke Brown, James Burgess, Isaac Burton, William Carter, Joseph Edney, Charles Green, Jason Greenaway, Thomas Goodfellow, Daniel Hancock, Thomas Hanson, Edward Harris, William Hawkins, Thomas Hicks, John Horton, Charles Horton, Thomas Mackrell, Timothy May, Charles Milsom, John Nash, Joseph Nicholas, Robert Page, William Page, Thomas Radbourn, William Sims, James Simmonds, William Simmonds, Joseph Tuck, Edmund Viccus, William Waving, James West, William Westall, John Wheeler, George Williams and Stephen Williams, One man was left on board the York to serve out his sentence, Joseph Smith, he died in January 1837.

- 1 PRO HO52/6 f2
- 2 Reading Mercury 22nd November 1830
- 3 PRO HO52/6 f11
- 4 PRO HO52/6 ff12
- 5 PRO HO52/6 ff12-13
- 6 PRO HO52/6 f61
- 7 Berkshire Chronicle 1st January 1831
- 8 PRO TS11/849
- 9 Berkshire Chronicle 1st January 1831
- 10 PRO HO52/6 ff27-28
- 11 PRO HO52/ f62
- 12 PRO TS11/849
- 13 PRO HO52/6 f62
- 14 PRO HO52/6 f64
- 15 Berkshire Chronicle 1st January 1831

- 16 PRO TS11/849
- 17 Berkshire Chronicle 8th January 1831
- 18 The Times 5th January 1831
- 19 .Berkshire Chronicle 15th January 1831

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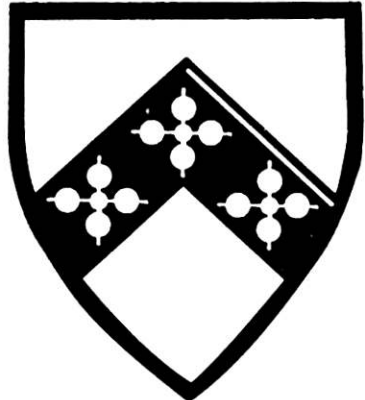
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Letters to the Editor

The X-files

(The author, a member of the Society, wishes to have their name withheld.)

It was with great interest that I read the article from Ralph Bradbury in the December issue of the Berkshire Family Historian entitled 'The X-files'. As both a family historian and a practising pagan I found his idea of a 'Pagan Index' intriguing and, given that he has treated the subject of alternative religions seriously and sensitively (for which I am grateful), would like to reply through the pages of the magazine.

The idea has considerable merit in that it could add a great deal to our knowledge of the way our ancestors lived in their communities: their interactions with neighbours, the distances they were able to travel comfortably, their relationships within the social hierarchy and their influence over local events could doubtless be deduced from information contained in the kind of index suggested. However, what must be considered – as with every other aspect of family history – is the reliability of the source evidence. Much of the evidence would necessarily come from Church or State records in order to be considered sufficiently authoritative; we have all been misled by family legends, however attractive, and it cannot be over-emphasised that one should always verify one's references. It is here that the major problem, from a family historian's point of view, arises. The very documents to which we would normally turn for evidence cannot be taken as factual. What Church and State records exist for evidence of paganism (mainly witchcraft) is in the form of witchcraft trials, events hardly renowned for their fairness and unbiased judgements. People were accused of witchcraft on the flimsiest of pretexts, so those who practised the Old Religion tended to conceal the fact. Thus, one could be a pillar of the religious (ie Christian) community whilst slipping off to the Sabbat once a month with no one the wiser.

From a pagan's point of view Mr. Bradbury's index would be unworkable for the following reasons taking the points in the order of his letter:

- i) A list of those who organised covens. The coven is headed by one person, sometimes referred to as 'The Black Man' (whether male or female); whose identity is unknown to the other members.
- ii) Each coven is autonomous and has little or no contact with other covens in the vicinity: hence if one member of one coven is discovered and tortured, as few members of the pagan community as possible are revealed.
- iii) Where covens took place. This would be at a location known only to the coven members.
- iv) Full details of what went on. These are revealed only to initiated witches, according to degree.
- v) How they dressed. In ordinary, dark clothing for the most part, to blend in with the dark countryside (No pointy hats, please note).
- vi) Details of burnings (only in Scotland); hangings (most frequent); hanging, drawing and quartering was reserved for traitors.
- vii) Witches (or suspected witches) were merely subjected to the most abhorrent torture the human mind can devise before being hanged.
- viii) Prophecies – search for the sayings of Mother Shipton in any good book on English Folklore. Curses – known only to the perpetrator and used only once.

Finally, readers might not be aware that the Witchcraft Act was only repealed in 1951 (to be replaced by the Fraudulent Mediums Act), but that repression of paganism was still rife until the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (1945) was ratified in 1998.

Movers and stayers in nineteenth-century Abingdon

Fred Waite, 4 Copperfields, Lichfield, Staffordshire WS14 9YQ

In response to the article 'Movers and Stayers' by Mike Robins in the September issue of the Berkshire Family Historian, I would like to put forward my ancestor, William Watkins Waite, as Abingdon's most travelled son.

William was born at Abingdon on September 8, 1811, the son of William Watkins Waite and Martha Edgington. In 1841 William Jnr. was trading as a bookseller in Norwich where he married Emily Wilson. Their first child Ellen Mary was born in Norwich on June 20, 1841. Shortly afterwards William and his family sailed to Canada where Ellen Mary died in North Pelham, Ontario, on June 7, 1843. Four children were born in Canada between 1844 and 1851 and then the family moved to England.

On August 14 1857 William and his family sailed from Gravesend on board the 'Bosworth' bound for New Zealand. After a voyage of 102 days, during which two of the crew tried to set fire to the ship, they landed at Port Chalmers, Dunedin. William had been commissioned to set up a school in the Otago peninsula in order to educate the children of Scottish settlers. The children were initially taught in William's house until a new school-house was built. Following the formation of a State Education Board, William and his family again packed their bags and headed for Australia, leaving on September 11 1863 on the 'Glencoe'.

On October 4 they landed at Hobson's Bay, Victoria. Their journey continued within the state of Victoria, where the four children became teachers and taught in a number of outback schools. Emily Waite, William's wife, died on August 7 1896 at Casterton, aged 84 and her husband on March 31 1899 at Camberwell aged 87. Two of the children died in Australia, one returned to New Zealand and one returned to England.

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Using Software to Analyse Surname Distribution

Andrew Young

Why analyse the distribution of surnames? In fact, why analyse the distribution of anything? Well, as the author of the BIRDIE software says, when you're researching the Smith family you need a way to sort through that haystack and find the needle hidden somewhere in the middle.

Analysing surname distribution allows the family historian and in particular those conducting one-name studies to plot the occurrences of events and thereby get a clearer picture of a family's location at different periods in the past. This can show migration patterns for example, which might never have been noticed in a set of written data. Further, with the latest onslaught of genealogical CD-ROMs and web-based search engines, it is becoming even more important to avoid the perils of that over-used phrase - 'information over-load'.

So how can we use a computer to bring our information alive? One such program, which I will examine here, is BIRDIE 2.0 (British Isles Regional Display of IGI Extracts), which will plot data onto maps of the British Isles and then allow the family historian to examine counties on a parish-by-parish level. Although originally written to handle data from the IGI, it now accepts data in several different formats. The product is satisfyingly compact, being distributed on three floppy disks and installing quickly and easily. Computer system requirements are Windows 95 or later, 16 Mbytes of memory, 5 Mbytes of hard disk space and an 800x600 display capable of 256 colours.

On first using the program, it is not instantly obvious how to pass data into it and how to produce some maps from it. However, a quick tour through the help system soon reveals the correct instructions. Information can be entered from either a GEDCOM (Genealogical Data Communications) file or a CSV (Comma Separated Value) file. Unfortunately, I wanted to import some records from the LDS 1881 census disks, but found no way of generating these types of file from the census viewing utility. An awkward way around this problem is to copy the census records into a spreadsheet program (such as Microsoft Excel), strip out all the unnecessary data and then save the file in the CSV format, ready

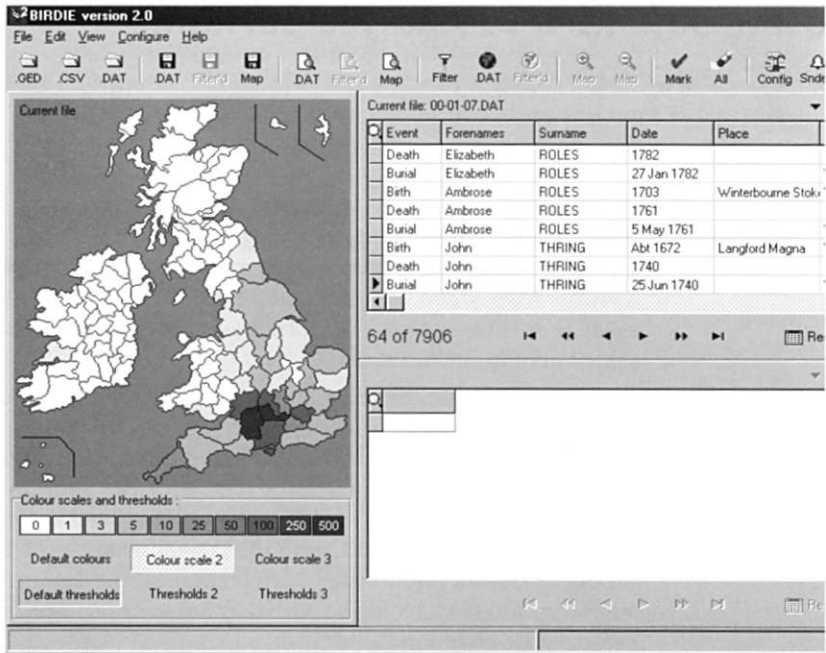


Figure 1

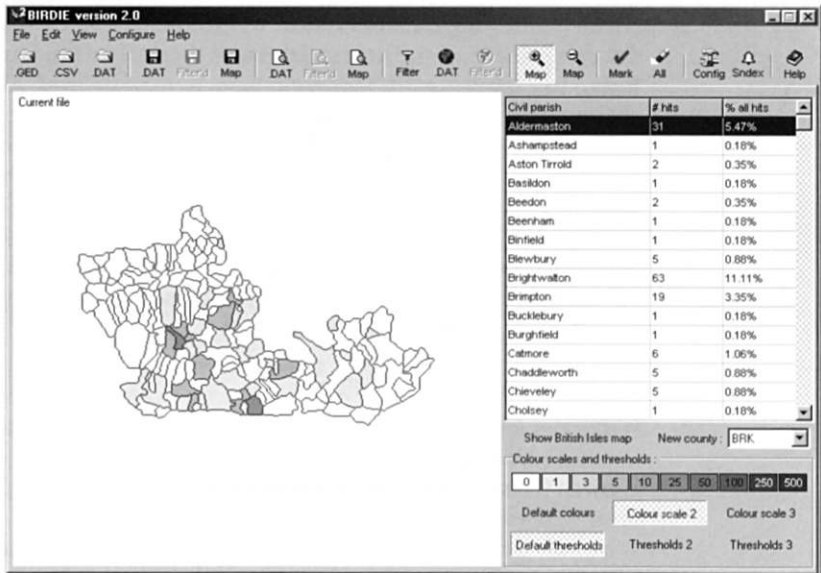


Figure 2

for importing into BIRDIE. The import involves telling the program which fields are the Name, Parish, County etc.

BIRDIE can now generate a British Isles map with each county shaded a different colour depending on the number of occurrences in that particular county. For example, in Figure 1, the map shows the distribution of the 7,906 records imported. The counties shaded the darkest (Berkshire and Wiltshire) are mentioned most in the data and the counties shaded lightest are mentioned the least. To be able to zoom in to county level and examine each individual parish in a similar way requires the desired counties to be obtained from the BIRDIE producer. This then allows maps such as Figure 2 to be produced.

We've now seen why we might need to analyse the distribution of our ancestors and a brief explanation of how to use one software tool to help us with this. We can now put this to use in analysing some surnames in the 1880s Berkshire. As mentioned before, we will use data from the LDS 1881 census CD-ROMs and adapt the data format in Excel before importing it into BIRDIE.

We shall start with a relatively common name - Goddard.



Figure 3

Extracting this 1881 census data and plotting it with BIRDIE produced Figure 3. The parishes with the largest number of occurrences are Reading St. Mary and Reading St. Giles. Additionally, the south-east of the county has a greater number of Goddards than the west and north, so this could be a useful indicator on where to focus research efforts.

However, the true benefit of programs such as BIRDIE become apparent when dealing with the Smith surname. Here we see approximately 2,200 records in Berkshire and a distribution map as in Figure 4. From a map such as this, it will be very difficult to draw any conclusions, other than that Smith is a very popular surname. Using the facilities of BIRDIE to reduce the thresholds for



Figure 4

each shading we are able to generate Figure 5, in which many more records are required for a parish to be shaded in each particular colour. Consequently, we can now see that the Smith surname predominates in just a handful of parishes.



Figure 5

Our next example maps the Lawrence surname and variants. Figure 6 shows evidence of Lawrence's heading towards the urban areas of Abingdon, Wantage, Newbury, Reading and Windsor, with other occurrences filling in the intervening parishes. This is also the third map we have seen with most of the entries in the south of the county and few entries in the north and more rural area. This might seem obvious, but we sometimes need a visual aid to explain the obvious. Would you have been able to conclude this from a set of written records?

Lastly, I was interested to discover whether people with a name such as Reading, Newbury or Wantage really do tend to originate from those particular towns. Plotting data for the surname Windsor revealed that, as shown in Figure 7, the largest concentration in Berkshire is indeed in the Windsor area. This is perhaps a superficial example, but helps to illustrate the uses and conclu-

sions which can be drawn from such a simple exercise as drawing a map of historical events.



Figure 6

Products such as BIRDIE can be an aid to many genealogists, helping them to focus their research or to discover the migration of their ancestors families over the centuries. However, as I found with the examples I used in this article, it can take some time to try and understand the resulting maps in order to draw some conclusions from them. Analysing surname distribution is by no means the ultimate solution in finding elusive records but should go some way towards helping, along with providing some useful

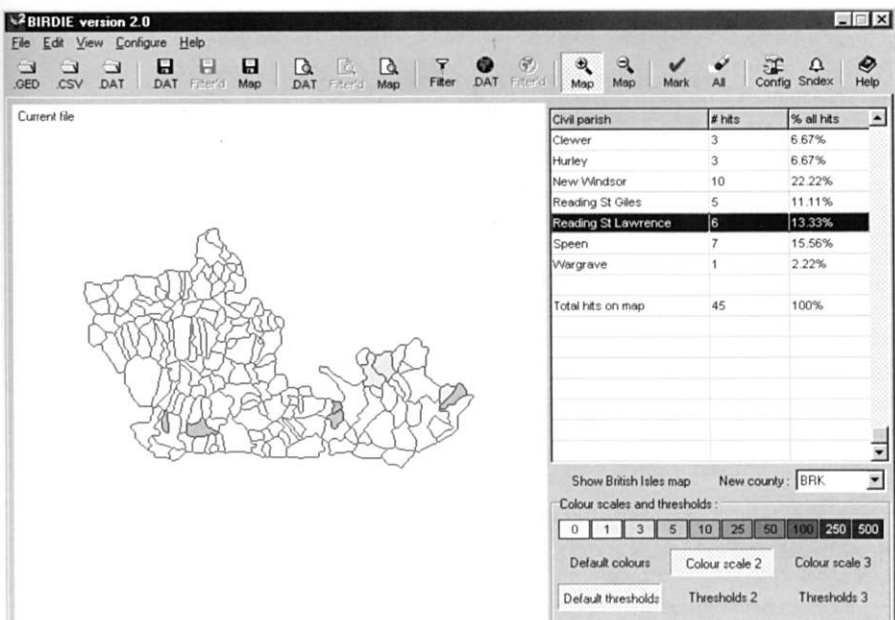


Figure 7

and interesting maps along the way.

BIRDIE is produced by Drake Software Associates, 1 Wychwood Rise, Great Missenden, Buckinghamshire. HP16 0HB.

E-mail: barney@tdrake.demon.co.uk WWW:

<http://www.tdrake.demon.co.uk/>

Andrew Young is currently studying for a degree in Computer Science at the University of Southampton. Along with maintaining web sites for three organisations and running a growing mailing list, Andrew also writes for the Computer Section of Family Tree Magazine. He has been involved in the research of his family history for over ten years and more recently in his mother's One-Name Study. E-mail: awy@tylehurst.demon.co.uk

Berkshire Marriage Index 1538-1837

Contains more than 175,000 marriages (including over 5,000 strays) of grooms only. Most entries contain all register or Bishops' transcripts. This is the original and only complete version of the Index compiled by the late John Brooks up to 1993, and contains subsequent additional entries. Stray marriage contributions are appreciated and acknowledged with postage returned.

BFHS members are eligible for the reduced rate of £2 per search for each specific marriage (plus SAE or at least three IRCs). Please do not apply for more than three specific searches at a time. Details required include groom's full name and bride's if known, with approximate date and any other relevant information. Regrettably, non-specific or blanket searches cannot be undertaken.

Send enquiries to Mrs. Pam Knight, Old Oak Cottage, The Pound, Cookham, Maidenhead, Berkshire SL6 9QE (please make all cheques payable to P. Knight).

Q & A WITH JEAN

Alma Crump(895), 10 Riverside Drive, Wilmington, Delaware 19809, USA:

These two copy photographs come from my grandmother's family album. I am uncertain about the identity of the lady with the sad expression who could be either my great-grandmother or my grandmother. The photograph was taken in England, but we have no idea who took the picture.

Elizabeth Rogers (née Smith, 1822-1884), my great-grandmother, had a particularly sad life. Her 6-year old son, William George, died of hydrocephaly in 1856 and her husband, Giles Richman Rogers, junior, of Addison's disease in 1860 aged 35. During a visit to Reading, I found a report in the Reading Mercury, Saturday March 16, 1861, about the death of her eldest child, Emily Thereza aged 14. She was a servant at Mrs Coleman's in Queens Road, Reading, and was fatally burnt when her dress caught fire.

My grandmother, Sarah Rogers Longhurst (1852-1941) also had her share of adversities. She was only 39 when she had to suddenly up sticks and cross the Atlantic with seven of her children to join her husband, Ebenezer (1849-1929), who had emigrated a few months earlier. The second photograph was taken of them by "C. F. Havercamp" in Chester, Pennsylvania, USA. A small circular brooch appears in both pictures.

Unlabelled photographs are the bane of every family historian. However, with most of them it is usually possible, by examining the fashions and studio setting, estimating the sitters' ages and noting the size and type of photograph, to date them within a few years. This information can then be applied to identify a possible candidate on the family tree.

The photograph of the "sad lady" was taken outside the front door of a house - note the boot scraper - and, because there are only a few leaves on the plant behind her, possibly sometime in the autumn or winter. Her two-piece woollen tartan frock is trimmed



on the bodice with dark velvet and dates from about 1890. The rounded corners, plain back and size of the copy photograph suggest that it is a cabinet picture from the same period.

Your great-grandmother would have been 62 when she died in 1884 and this woman appears to be in her late thirties or early forties. So the subject of this picture is most likely to be your grandmother who would have been 39 in 1891. It was probably taken just before her departure to America. It is interesting to speculate that



copies may exist with other relatives in England.

Your grandmother obviously treasured her small circular brooch and wore it for their photograph in the 1920s. Do you know what its significance might be? The occasion for this picture may be their golden wedding anniversary but you didn't say when they were married. In any case it cannot be later than 1928, the year your grandfather died.

I will write about your other two photographs in the next Berkshire Family Historian.

Pat Cobb (3876), Woodstock, Mays Lane, Harpsden, Henley on Thames, Oxon RG9 4AL

“My aunt suffered from St Vitus Dance and I would like to know what this disease is?”

‘St Vitus Dance’ is a disease named after a child martyr who died in 300 AD and is the popular name for chorea. The main features are uncontrolled and involuntary muscle movements with facial contortions and jerking body and limbs. The following description comes from a 1935 edition of a medical book first published in the 1890s and reflects the limited professional knowledge at that time about the cause, effect and treatment of this unfortunate condition.

In the late nineteenth-century it was thought to mainly affect white females, especially young, excitable girls aged 10 to 15 and was rarely found among “the Negro and native races of America”. ‘School-made chorea’ was said to affect bright, intelligent and active-minded girls who, stimulated by parents and teachers, were anxious to do well at school. Other possible causes mentioned were infectious diseases such as scarlet fever, rheumatic fever, gonorrhoea, congenital syphilis, puerperal fever and tonsillitis. Also considered was a history of rheumatism in the family as well as imitation, worry, fright and grief, injury or minor surgery.

Attacks usually lasted eight to ten weeks and were often first noticed by increasing clumsiness. Mild cases didn’t affect the muscles or speech very much but patients tended to cry a lot, suffered from nightmares and were “fidgety”. Severe cases couldn’t talk, dress or feed themselves. The third and worst form was maniacal chorea, chorea insaniens. This usually developed during pregnancy and could lead to fatal inflammation of the heart, murmurs from a faulty mitral valve, inflammation of the brain, blindness or a stroke.

Survivors could be left with muscle pain, a weak arm or leg causing a limp, bad temper, poor concentration, hallucinations, acute melancholia (depression) and a change of character. The worst cases were sent to an asylum.

The disease is now known to occur if infection from a streptococcal throat reaches the brain. Fortunately, since antibiotics were introduced in the 1940s, cases are rare today.

Mrs Helen Booth (4144), 2/44 Howe Street, Howick 1705, New Zealand

“I am researching the Robinson and Lee families in the Maidenhead / Bray area of Berkshire. My 3 x great-grandfather, Henry Robinson, married Sarah Lee at Bray in 1800. According to the IGI they had six children: Abraham William (1802), Charles (1804), Catherine (1807), Charles B (1807), Henry B (my ancestor, 1809) and Elizabeth (1815). Henry B Robinson married Ann Bouter about 1834/5, probably in Hackney, Middlesex, but I haven't found a record for this or the births or baptisms of their first three children”. According to family correspondence dating from 1863, Abraham may have had a butcher's shop, and there is also thought to be some connection with Maidenhead and Wokingham. I would appreciate suggestions of sources to trace Henry's siblings.

The first source to check should be the original parish registers for any IGI entries you have found. As with all indexes, it is very important to check every entry in the original source for its accuracy and any additional information. Remember also to check the burial registers which are not in the IGI. The batch and source number included in IGI entries leads to the microfilm reference of the copy documents which can be ordered for viewing at Mormon Family History Libraries worldwide.

According to the National Index of Parish Registers (volume 8 part 1) for Berkshire,¹ Maidenhead parish was created in 1720 from Cookham. The original registers of baptism, marriage and burial dating from 1866 are in the Berkshire Record Office (BRO). However, I see that christenings, 1796 to 1823, are on the IGI. Although Maidenhead was a Corporate Borough and market town it was, until the 18th century, in the parishes of both Bray and Cookham whose records must also be checked. Bray registers dating from 1652 are in the BRO, with christening and marriage entries on the IGI. Cookham registers, from 1563, are also in the BRO but not on the IGI.

A local contact is Brian Boulter, a member of the Maidenhead Archaeological and History Society, who may be able to help you.

Write to him (with s.a.e. of course) at 43 Bannard Road, Maidenhead, Berks SL6 4NP.

Other useful sources are the Berkshire 1851 Census Index,² the 1881 census index on fiche and CDROM, local directories and probate records. Records of the latter up to 1858 for Berkshire are in the Berkshire Record Office (Archdeacon of Berkshire), Wiltshire Record Office (Bishop of Salisbury) and the Prerogative Court of Canterbury at the Family Records Centre, London. Probate indexes from 1858 to date are now held at First Avenue House, London, but microfilm copies are available at many other locations.

Unable to resist looking things up I looked in the following: The Berkshire 1851 census index includes Abraham William Robinson (48y) with Eliza Ann (30) and Henry (16) in Maidenhead. Thirty years later, the now widowed Eliza Ann is listed as a butcher in the 1881 census with two daughters and a son at 36 High Street, Cookham. Printouts of both these entries can be obtained from the Society (see Postal Research Services inside back cover). Finally, according to Kelly's Directory of Berkshire for 1887, Eliza was still living at number 36 and a Harry Robinson, presumably her son, was a butcher at Sunninghill near Ascot. Do these tie up with the information in your correspondence? I was unable to find anything about the other children you mentioned.

Walter Townsend, 29 Wykham, Great Hollands, Bracknell, Berks RG12 8XS

“My 3 x great-grandfather, Limborough Townsend, was baptised at Shipton under Wychwood, Oxfordshire in 1790. His uncle, was also given the same unusual forename when he was baptised in 1753. I have found a few scattered baptisms in apparently unconnected families using this forename between 1716 and 1856 in the same area of Oxfordshire and one in Soho, Middlesex. Variations include Limb, Limbra, Libro, and Limburgh. What is the explanation of this name and has it been used in Berkshire? It is so distinctive and has been in use for over a century and a half and it must link to something more than its masculine sound and rolling-off-the-tongue quality”.

Firstly, this ‘unusual’ forename is almost certainly a surname. The possibility is that a Miss Limburgh married into the family and

her surname was used for the male descendants.

As a surname, this spelling is not listed in my source books. However, P H Reany and R M Wilson in *A Dictionary of English Surnames* (1995) and C W Bardsley in *A Dictionary of English and Welsh Surnames* (1988 reprint of 1901 edn) have entries for Limbury and its variants, Limbrey and Limbery. Both suggest that the surname derives from the hamlet of Limbury in the parish of Luton, Bedfordshire, meaning 'a fortified place or stronghold on the river Lea' - a Celtic river name plus the Old English 'burgh'. A burgh could be an Iron-Age hill-fort, Roman or Anglo-Saxon fortification or a fortified house. As this place name element is also spelt 'borough', 'burgh', 'brough' or 'bury' it follows that Limborough could be an unlisted variation of Limbury. One might therefore expect to find early references to this surname in Bedfordshire and beyond.

Secondly, the 1881 National Census Index on CDROM produced 131 Limbury entries, including Limbury & Limbrey, etc. only eight were in Bedfordshire with 13 in Buckinghamshire, 39 in Nottingham and others in London, Warwickshire and elsewhere. A forename search of Oxfordshire only produced Limbrough Turner in Finstock, nr Charlbury. This is near Shipton under Wychwood and both are near the county boundary with Gloucestershire on the west. Gloucester produced nothing.

Thirdly, until the Berkshire parish registers are available on a computer database, finding references to Limborough as a forename is not at all easy.

¹ Copies obtainable from Society Bookstall at £5.70 plus P&P (see the Booklist)

² See the Society Booklist for details of volumes and prices

NATIONAL BURIALS INDEX

David Wright

Publication Plans

The Federation of Family History Societies plans to publish, on CDROM, the first edition of the National Burials Index towards the end of 2000, by which time the project will be some five years old. Further cumulative editions will then be published every three or four years. Records, which comprise surname, forenames, any alias, date of burial, age, parish name, county code and name of contributing family history society, extracted from parish, cemetery and non-conformist burial registers, numbered some 2.3 million fully checked and corrected entries as at November 1999. Participating family history societies will be working hard to maximise the number of records available for inclusion in the first edition of the index later this year.

Design Competition

The Federation of Family History Societies is promoting a design competition for the front cover of the CDROM for the first edition of the index, with a book token as a prize. The designs/sketched ideas should be suitable for reducing to 12cm x 12cm with the title "The National Burials Index" given prominence. Queries (with sae) and design entries should be addressed to Mrs C McLee, FFHS Project Co-ordinator, 3 The Green, Kirklevington, Yarm, N Yorks TS15 9NW, or by email to canda.mclee@virgin.net. The closing date for entries is 30 July 2000.

Berkshire progress

Although the Berkshire participation commenced only in May last year, as at the end of January 2000 some 19,000 fully checked and corrected Berkshire records had been submitted to the NBI, covering:

Barkham St James 1741 - 1812
Boxford St Andrew 1758 - 1876
Brimpton St Peter 1769 - 1901
Bucklebury St Mary the Virgin 1813 - 1833 and 1851 - 1910
Catmore 1814 - 1985
East Ilsley 1772 - 1868
Fawley St Mary 1550 - 1812
Maidenhead High Street Wesleyan Methodist 1858 - 1903
Maidenhead New Chapel (Countess of Huntingdon) 1843 - 1858
Newbury Baptist Church 1773 - 1823
Newbury St Nicolas 1813 - 1832 and 1835 - 1890
Newbury Upper Meeting House Presbyterian 1783 - 1836
Pangbourne Independent Chapel 1836 only
Reading King's Road Baptist Church 1785 - 1835
Reading London Road Cemetery 1843 - 1852
Shaw cum Donnington 1813 - 1867
Speen St Mary the Virgin 1790 - 1862

The twenty or so volunteers are making very good progress but further help would be welcomed on transcribing and inputting. Transcribers with access to a fiche reader would be particularly welcomed. For inputting, a dedicated programme called Shroud is used. Anyone interested in helping should contact David Wright at the following address.

45 Picton Way, Caversham, Reading RG4 8NJ
Tel/fax: 0118 947 8025
email: David.Wright@nationwideisp.net

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Compiled by Bob Plumridge

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3235 Mrs O Sherrard 14 Seaton Avenue Hythe Kent CT21 5HQ
3773 Mr JF Partridge 97 Faulkner Street Hoole Chester Cheshire CH2 3BG
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No	Name	Place	Code	Period	No	Name	Place	Code	Period
4229	ABRAHAM	Longworth	BRK	1780-1850	4171	BROWN	Th' Ditton	SRY	1870 +
4229	ABRAHAM	H' Waldrisr	BRK	1780-1850	4197	BRUNTON	Cumnor	BRK	1837-2000
4143	ADCOCK T	Windsor	BRK	1830-1840	4150	BURNETT	Shoreditch	MDX	1890-1999
4198	ALDWORTH	Any	COR	Pre 1680	4141	BYE	Fairford	GLS	1600-1800
4150	AMEY	W..Shefford	BRK	1800-1999	1785	BYRNE	Co Carlow	IRL	1800-1900
4232	ANGELL	Letchworth	HRT	1800-1920	1785	BYRNE	Dungannon	IRL	1750-1900
4082	ARMSTRONG	Reading	BRK	Pre 1800	4141	CANFIELD	Any	BRK	1600-1900
4198	ARMSTRONG	Ireland	IRL	1600-2000	4141	CANFIELD	Any	GLS	1750-1900
4183	ARNOT	Minthorht	KRS	1840-1880	4141	CANFIELD	Any	HAM	1750-1900
4183	ARNOTT	Edinburgh	EDB	1850-1915	4242	CAREY	Watford	HRT	1882-1999
4213	ASHTON	Shoreditch	MDX	1800-1850	4242	CAREY	Canterbur	KEN	1700-1999
3235	ATTEWELL	Wargrave	BRK	1700-1800	4242	CAREY	Tottenham	MDX	1835-1950
1462	AVERY	Sparsholt	HAM	Pre 1930	4211	CARR	Burnsall	YKS	1700-1850
4211	BACON	Ditcheat	SOM	1700-1920	4224	CATTERALL	Wigan	LAN	1800-2000
4241	BACON	Hendon	MDX	1800-1900	4211	CHAMBERS	Boardmill	DOW	1750-1850
4211	BAKER	Braughin	HRT	1800-1999	4175	CHANCE	Windsor	BRK	1750-1920
4147	BALDWIN	Cookham	BRK	1800-1900	4147	CLARK	M'head	BRK	1800-1880
4238	BEER	Newbury	BRK	1700-2000	4213	COLEMAN	Whitechap'	MDX	1700-1800
4141	BELCHER	Any	BRK	1500-1800	4147	CONNARE	Galway	IRE	1800-1950
4185	BLACKALL	Bray	BRK	1700-2000	4147	CONNARE	Any	BRK	1900-2000
4232	BOOTH	Surfleet	LIN	1700-1891	4143	COOK JJ	Portsmouth	HAM	1830-1870
4206	BOVINGTON	Maidenhead	BRK	1800-1900	4141	COOPER	Thatcham	BRK	1650-1800
4206	BOVINGTON	Clewer	BRK	1800-1900	2135	COOPER	Chieveley	BRK	1810-1820
4183	BRACE	W'minster	MDX	1880-1910	4196	COPAS	Thatcham	BRK	1750-1850
4183	BRACE	Sawbridgew'	ESS	1700-1850	4232	CORN	Toseland	HUN	1700-1855
4238	BRADSHAW	Any	BRK	1700-2000	4232	CORN	Elsworth	CAM	1600-1777
4238	BRADSHAW	Any	LIN	1700-2000	4198	COSGROVE	Henryville	DOW	Pre 1870
4213	BRANT	Wokingham	BRK	1700-1780	4168	CRIGHTON	Armask	FIF	Pre 1820
4197	BRETON	Cumnor	BRK	1837-2000	4168	CRIGHTON	Armask	FIF	Pre 1820
4197	BREWERTON	Brackley	NTH	1750-1850	1785	CUSDEN	Shinfield	BRK	1500-1700
4197	BREWERTON	Marcham	BRK	1830-1840	1785	CUSDEN	Any	HAM	1500-1700
4197	BREWERTON	Cumnor	BRK	1837-2000	4141	CUSSELL	Any	BRK	1650-1800
4197	BREWERTON	Wimbledon	SRY	1870-1930	4183	DANIELS	Chiswick	MDX	1760-1800
4197	BREWERTON	Merton	SRY	1870-1930	4171	DAVIS	Banbury	OXF	Pre 1880
2135	BRINSMEAD	Wf' Gifford	DEV	Any	1785	DENIORD	T' Hamlets	MDX	1650-1900
2135	BRINSMEAD	London	MDX	1830-1990	1785	DENIORD	Ratcliff	MDX	1700-1900
4171	BROWN	E' Hannev	BRK	Pre 1870	1462	DIDCOCK	A' Upthorpe	BRK	Pre 1900

No	Name	Place	Code	Period	No	Name	Place	Code	Period
4211	DILLON	Lancaster	LAN	1800-1900	4238	GILES	Any	SRV	1700-2000
4183	DOCKERILL	Brompton	MDX	1850-1900	3773	GOTHMAN	Newbury	BRK	1550-1700
4143	DOUGLAS	Stratfield S'	HAM	1840-1881	4196	GOUGH	Newbury	BRK	1790-1900
4143	DOUGLAS J	Wokingham	BRK	1840-1881	4196	GOUGH	W'sworth	SRV	1850-1940
4141	DOWESWELL	Any	BRK	1700-1850	4165	GREGORY	Reading	BRK	1800-1900
4141	DOWESWELL	Any	WIL	1700-1850	4238	GREY	Any	BRK	1700-2000
4238	DUNELL	Any	Any	1700-2000	4238	GREY	London	MDX	1700-2000
4147	EAST	Cookham	BRK	1800-1850	4242	GRIFFITHS	Sheppey	KEN	1825-1999
1462	ELDERFIELD	Harwell	BRK	Pre 1850	4183	GUNN	Billericay	ESS	1850-1880
2147	ELLUM	Worksop	NTT	1750-1850	4183	GUNN	Stock	ESS	1820-1840
2135	ENTWISLE	Bolton	LAN	1750-1990	2135	HALL, Thomas	London	MDX	1860-1917
2135	ENTWISLE	Swinton	LAN	1800-1990	4196	HALSALL	Haydock	LAN	1850-1890
4213	ESDAILE	Kings Lynn	NFK	1700-1750	4213	HAMNET	Bermondsey	SRV	1750-1825
4197	FARNELL	Cumnor	BRK	1830-2000	4196	HANDLEY	Paddington	MDX	1820-1890
4224	FARNWORTH	Wigan	LAN	1800-2000	4232	HANDSCOMBE	Potton	BDF	1600-1850
4165	FAWLER	Deptford	KEN	1730-1817	4213	HANNINGTON	Wokingham	BRK	1700-1780
4196	FEAR	Paddington	MDX	1800-1860	4213	HARLOW	Southwark	SRV	1750-1800
4196	FEAR	Thatcham	BRK	1800-1860	3235	HATTEWELL	Wargrave	BRK	1700-1800
4143	FERRIGANT	Portsmouth	HAM	1900-1920	4098	HAYES Annie	Newbury	BRK	1861-1943
1462	FINCH	A' Uphorpe	BRK	Pre 1900	4098	HAYES Caroline	Newbury	BRK	1828-1900
1462	FINCH	Sparsholt	HAM	1850-2000	4150	HENSON	Holborn	MDX	1800-1900
1462	FINCH	Swindon	WIL	Pre 1950	4168	HEPBURN	Kinghorn	FIF	Pre 1866
1462	FINCH	Rod' Cheney	WIL	1890-2000	4141	HERBERT	Any	BRK	1700-1800
1462	FINCH	Amesbury	WIL	1890-2000	4141	HERBERT	Any	WIL	1700-1900
1462	FINCH	Leeds	YKS	1890-2000	4213	HILL	St Martins	MDX	1750-1810
1462	FINCH	Cholsey	BRK	Pre 1900	3773	HILL	Any	MDX	1700-1800
1462	FINCH	Blisbury	BRK	Pre 1900	1974	HILLIER	Newbury	BRK	1801-1831
4238	FOXTON	Leicester	LEI	1700-2000	4197	HOLLOWAY	Wargrave	BRK	1850-1930
2135	FRANKLIN	Chieveley	BRK	1810-1820	4197	HOLLOWAY	Merton	SRV	1850-1930
2135	FRAY	Southwark	SRV	1800-1990	4147	HOLMES	Any	KEN	1850-1900
4141	FULBROOK	Thatcham	BRK	1700-1850	4159	HOLMES	Amersham	BKM	1860-1939
4198	GEELAN	Clonagehra	LET	Pre 1850	4159	HOLMES	Theale	BRK	1870-1919
3773	GERMAN	West Derby	LAN	1800-1925	4242	HOPKINS	H-on-Thames OXF	BRK	1680-1900
4101	GETTINGS	Newcastle	DUR	Any	4242	HOPKINS	Inkpen	BRK	1800-1900
4147	GIBBINS	Cookham	BRK	1800-1880	4242	HOPKINS	Kimbury	BRK	1850-1950
1974	GIBSON	Swallowfield	BRK	1851-1931	4242	HOPKINS	Chilton Fol'	BRK	1875-1950
4238	GILES	Any	BRK	1700-2000	4229	HUME	Croydon	SRV	1820-1900
							Reading	BRK	

No	Name	Place	Code	Period	No	Name	Place	Code	Period
1785	HUTCHINS	Preston Can'	HAM	1650-1800	4183	MAYERSBACH	London	LND	1750-1850
4168	HUTTON	Edinburgh	MLN	Pre 1795	1462	McLANACHAN	Ormskirk	LAN	1910-2000
2135	JACKSON	Ambleside	WES	1750-1990	4183	McMURTRY	Camus	DRY	1780-1890
4143	JACKSON	Woolstone	OXF	1800-1900	4197	MEATYARD	Lambeth	SRY	1850-1930
4242	JAFKINS	Portsmouth	HAM	1870-1930	4211	MERCER	Magheralin	DOW	1750-1870
4242	JAFKINS	N'ampton	NTH	1890-1950	4238	MILLER	Any	BRK	1700-2000
3773	JONES	Holywell	FLN	1066-1999	4101	MONK	London	MDX	Any
4238	KEMP	Any	WOR	1700-2000	4101	MONK	Aylesbury	BRK	Any
4147	KENCHINGTON	Ford'bridge	HAM	1700-1800	4165	MORES	G' Coxwell	BRK	1600-1750
3773	KENEALY	Wed'bury	STS	1800-1900	4238	MORRIS	Grantham	LIN	1700-2000
4143	KENNY HJ	Belfast	IRL	1850-1890	4165	MORRIS	G' Coxwell	BRK	1600-1750
4147	KENYON	Worksop	NTT	1700-1850	3235	NEVELL	Wargrave	BRK	1700-1800
4211	KIRKPATRICK	Boardmills	DOW	1700-1850	3235	NEVILLE	Wargrave	BRK	1700-1800
4211	KIRKPATRICK	Saintfield	DOW	1700-1850	3235	NEVILLE	Remenharn	BRK	1800-1850
4238	KNIGHT	Newbury	BRK	1700-2000	3235	NEVILLE	Slough	BRK	1800-1850
4150	LANGFORD	W' Shefford	BRK	1800-1999	4101	NEWMAN	London	MDX	Any
4150	LANGFORD	Shoreditch	MDX	1860-1999	4171	NEWSON	Paddington	LDN	1885 +
1785	LAWRENCE	Swallowfield	BRK	1650-1850	4171	NEWSON	Ipswich	SFK	Pre 1870
1785	LAWRENCE	Shinfield	BRK	1800-1930	3773	NICHOLSON	Wirral	CHS	1800-1999
4238	Le CEOG	Any	JER	1700-2000	4232	NORTHFIELD	Gt Staughton	HUN	1600-1893
4196	LEACH	Paddington	MDX	1820-1890	3773	OLIVER	Newbury	BRK	1066-1900
4196	LEACH	Abingdon	BRK	1850-1900	4238	ORAM	Leicester	LEI	1700-2000
1974	LEAVER	Wargrave	BRK	1841-1881	4143	PAGE	P'mouth	HAM	1830-1870
1785	LEWINGTON	Swallowfield	BRK	1700-1850	4175	PAICE	Any	BRK	1750-1920
4171	LEWIS	E'Hannay	BRK	Pre 1870	4213	PAINE	Southwark	SRY	1750-1800
4213	LINNELL	St Pancras	MDX	1800-1850	4198	PALMER	Kenmare	KER	Pre 1701
3773	LOOSE	Newbury	BRK	1500-1600	3773	PARTRIDGE	Newbury	BRK	1066-1900
4238	LOVEDAY	Any	BRK	1700-2000	3773	PARTRIDGE	Aston	WAR	1850- 1920
4238	LOVEDAY	Any	SRY	1700-2000	3773	PARTRIDGE	Pelway	BRK	1066-1900
4242	LOVEGROVE	Thatcham	BRK	1750-1850	3773	PARTRIDGE	Birmingham	WAR	1800-1920
3773	MACK	Wed'bury	STS	1800-1925	4232	PASSION	Hungerford	BRK	1500-1782
4198	MADDEN	Balbigarrn	DUB	Pre 1800	4232	PATIENCE	Chelsea	LND	1813-1910
4197	MANSER	Wimbleton	SRY	1850-1930	4232	PATIENCE	Gt Yarmouth	NFK	1813-1910
4242	MARTIN	Phillack	CON	1830-1890	4232	PATIENT	Speen	BRK	1710-1815
4196	MASSEY	Erlestown	LAN	1850-1890	4232	PATIENT	Donnington	BRK	1710-1815
4098	MATHEWS Butt	Chieveley	BRK	1863-1922	4143	PEEVER CH	Camden	GTL	1840-1885
4098	MATHEWS C	Chieveley	BRK	1860-1933	4141	PENSTONE	Any	BRK	1600-1850

No	Name	Place	Code	Period	No	Name	Place	Code	Period
4213	PERRY	St Martins	MDX	1750-1820	2135	SPENCER	Southport		1750-1990
4098	PLUMB Th os.	Newbury	BRK	1856-1936	4141	SPICER	Any	BRK	1600-1850
4224	POUNDS	Reading	BRK	1800-2000	1785	STACEY	A'maston	BRK	1700-1800
1785	PRENDERGAST	Co Carlow	IRL	1800-1900	1785	STACEY	Swallowfield	BRK	1700-1800
1785	PRENDERGAST	Dungannon	IRL	1750-1900	1785	STACEY	Tadley	HAM	1700-1800
4147	QUIBELL	Any	NTT	1500-2000	4198	STACEY	Emmscorthy	WEX	Pre 1798
4147	QUIBELL	Any	LIN	1500-2000	4171	STAMP	Tooting Gr	SRY	1850 on
4232	QUIN	Waresley	CAM	1820-1850	4224	STANTON	Reading	BRK	1800-2000
4198	RADCLIFF	Belfast	ANT	Any	4168	STARKE	Kirkaldy	FIF	Pre 1869
4197	ROLLS	Any	BRK	1830-1900	4229	STAYTE	Burford	OXF	1800-1900
4168	RUSSELL	Auchterderran	FIF	pre 1881	4153	STELGES	Finsbury	MDX	1750-1900
4213	SANDFORD	Stepney	MDX	1700-1800	4153	STELGES	Cripplegate	MDX	1750-1900
4213	SANDFORD	Aldgate	MDX	1700-1800	4153	STELGES	Shoreditch	MDX	1750-1900
4238	SCULL	Any	BRK	1700-2000	4153	STELGES	Clerkenwell	MDX	1750-1900
4133	SEANEY	Any	BRK	1500-1850	4153	STELGES	Baldock	HRT	1750-1900
4133	SEANEY	Any	OXF	1500-1850	4153	STELJES	Finsbury	MDX	1750-1900
4133	SEANEY	Any	NTH	1500-1850	4153	STELJES	Cripplegate	MDX	1750-1900
4133	SEANEY	Any	BRK	1500-1850	4153	STELJES	Shoreditch	MDX	1750-1900
4133	SEENEY	Any	OXF	1500-1850	4153	STELJES	Clerkenwell	MDX	1750-1900
4133	SEENEY	Any	NTH	1500-1850	4153	STELJES	Baldock	HRT	1750-1900
4133	SEENEY	Any	BRK	1500-1850	4238	STEVENS	Any	BRK	1700-2000
4133	SEENEY	Any	OXF	1500-1850	4224	STONEMAN	Harlesdon	LCC	1800-2000
4133	SEENEY	Any	NTH	1500-1850	4213	STRANGE	Bossington	HAM	1700-1760
4133	SENEY	Any	BRK	1500-1850	4224	TAYLOR	Reading	BRK	1800-2000
4133	SENEY	Any	OXF	1500-1850	4232	TEAR	Potton	BDF	1700-1919
4133	SENEY	Any	NTH	1500-1850	4147	TEWKESBURY	London	LND	1750-1875
4171	SEWELL	Ipswich	SFK	Pre 1870	4224	THOMPSON	Reading	BRK	1800-2000
4224	SHACKLEFORD	Reading	BRK	1800-2000	4196	THOMPSON	Haydock	LAN	1825-1860
4159	SHAW	Shaw	BRK	1860-1900	4101	THORMAN	Holborn	MDX	Any
4159	SHAW	Stockcross	BRK	1850-1900	4213	THORNETT	Covent G'	MDX	1750-1800
4159	SHAW	Speen	BRK	1850-1910	4232	TITMUS	St Neots	HUN	1700-1849
4147	SHERRING	Workshop	NTT	1800-1850	3773	TRAFFLES	Newbury	BRK	1650-1750
4196	SHOPCOTT	Newbury	BRK	1800-1850	4198	TRAVERS	Kanturk	COR	Pre 1647
4171	SKINNER	Chelsea	MDX	Pre 1870	4203	TRUSS	Reading	BRK	1800-1999
4181	SLOCOCK	Newbury	BRK	1000-1700	4224	TURNER	Reading	BRK	1800-2000
4232	SMART	Bristol	GLS	1700- 1880	4198	WADE	Any	IRL	Pre 1790
4101	SOUTH	Shoreditch	MDX	Any	4242	WAIT(E)	Boxford	BRK	1750-1900

DP Guides for Family & Local History Researchers

SAE/IRC for Catalogue

Dartmoor Press (Dept 14), PO Box 132, Plymouth PL4 7YL

Or Visit the Dartmoor Press Website
www.dartmoorpress.clara.net

No	Name	Place	Code	Period
4242	WAIT(E)	Benham	BRK	1800-1900
4203	WALDEN	Reading	BRK	1800-1999
4147	WALKER	Cookham	BRK	1800-1860
4159	WEBB	Sulstead	BRK	1901-1970
4206	WELLS	Menhead	BRK	1800-1900
4196	WESTBURY	Paddington	MDX	1830-1870
4229	WESTON	H Waldrist	BRK	1800-1910
3235	WETHERELL	Drayton	BRK	1700-1800
4183	WHICHELOW	Bermondsey	SRV	1810-1940
4183	WHICHELOW	Any	BRK	1700-1920
4242	WILDING	Any	OXF	1700-1920
4213	WILLIAMS	Canterbury	KEN	1837-1900
4197	WILLIAMSON	Newington	SRV	1750-1850
2135	WILLIS	Lambeth	SRV	1850-1930
2135	WILLIS	Yattendon	BRK	1750-1990
4196	WILLS	Southwark	SRV	1830-1990
4141	WISE	Thatcham	BRK	1750-1860
4147	WITT	Thatcham	BRK	1700-1850
		Fingbridge	HAM	1700-1875

Berkshire Family History Society AGM

The 25th Annual General Meeting of the Berkshire Family Society will be held at 7.30pm on July 10 at the Tomkins Room, 35 Ock Street, Baptist Church, Abingdon.

Agenda

- 1 Apologies for Absence
 - 2 Minutes of the 1999 Annual General Meeting
 - 3 Matters Arising
 - 4 Chairman's Report for 1999/2000
 - 5 Treasurer's Report for 1999/2000
 - 6 Election of President and Vice-President
 - 7 Election of Officers for 2000/2001
 - 8 Accept the Branch Committee Appointed Ex-officio Members
 - 9 Election of Executive Committee Members for 2000/2001
 - 10 Nomination of Auditors for 2000/2001
 - 11 Any other Business
- Nominations for election of officers should reach the Secretary by June 2 2000

BFHS Executive Committee 1999-2000

Nomination Form

Members of the Executive Committee are re-elected each year and may not serve for more than five consecutive years.

By signing, Nominees indicate their acceptance of the Nomination and confirm that they are able to serve as a Trustee of the Charity. A Member of the Society may not be nominated if he/she is under 18 years of age, or has been disqualified under Section 45 of the Charities Act 1992 because of bankruptcy or conviction for an offence of dishonesty or deception.

Nominee's Name (please PRINT).....

Nominee's Membership Number.....

Nominee's Signature.....

Date.....1999

I, the above Member of the BFHS, wish to be nominated for the post of:
(please circle preferred post)

Chairman Secretary Treasurer Committee Member

Proposer's Name: (please print).....Membership Number.....

Proposer's Signature.....Date.....1999

Please detach this form carefully from the Journal, or photocopy it, and send it to:
The Secretary, John Gurnett, Purley Lodge Cottage, Purley Village, Reading RG8 8AT to reach him no later than the last post on Friday 2 June, 2000

Postal research services

We are happy to search the following indexes. Please send your request and search fee, together with a stamped self-addressed envelope, or two IRCs, to the person whose name and address is given against the particular index.

Berkshire name index

This contains more than 100,000 names found in documents and a large number of members' birth briefs have also been indexed. This Index is continually growing as new material is added. Searches may be made with a maximum of six references photocopied onto an A4 sheet. The charge is £5 for up to five surnames with a maximum of 30 entries (five A4 sheets) per enquiry. If you are not a member there is a search fee of £1 per surname. Please send two stamped self-addressed envelopes or two IRCs if you wish an acknowledgement.

BFHS, c/o Mrs Pat Deane, 183 Long Lane, Tilehurst, Reading, Berks, RG31 6YW

1851 Berkshire census

The Census is fully transcribed and held on computer. Print-outs can be supplied of any folio (the required references can be obtained from our published indexes) and the charge is 50pence per folio with a minimum of £1 (£1 and £2 respectively if not a member) giving two folios. The charges are £1 per search per surname (£2 if not a member) and print out charges are then as above. Send your request and search fee, together with a stamped self-

addressed envelope, or two IRCs to: BFHS, c/o Mr Geoff Mather, 18 Ravenswood Avenue, Crowthorne, Berkshire, RG45 6AY.

1881 Census for England and Wales

This Census has been transcribed and indexed after a nationwide effort. We have a complete set of fiche for each county. The charge for an estimate of the number of prints is £2 per county searched per surname, including two sample print-outs (£3 if not a member). Thereafter A4 print-outs are charged at 50pence for each additional page. We can search and produce print-outs by county in "Surname order", "Surname by Birth Place", "Surname by Census Place", "As Enumerated", or from the "Miscellaneous - Notes, Institutions or Vessels" fiche sets.

BFHS, c/o Mr Ivan Dickason, 1 Mower Close, Wokingham, Berkshire, RG40 1RZ

Other county census indexes

We hold copies of Census Indexes, mainly 1851, for many other counties of England, Scotland and Wales in booklet form or on fiche. The charge for a search and an estimate of the cost of any print -outs is £2 per county searched per surname including two sample prints (£3 if not a member). Charges thereafter will depend upon the type of A4 size copies to be made and the number of prints involved. Please write to Mr Ivan Dickason, as above.

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Other addresses

Family Records Centre

1 Myddelton Street, London EC1R 1UW
0181 392 5300

Public Record Office

Ruskin Avenue, Kew, Surrey TW9 4DU
0181 876 3444

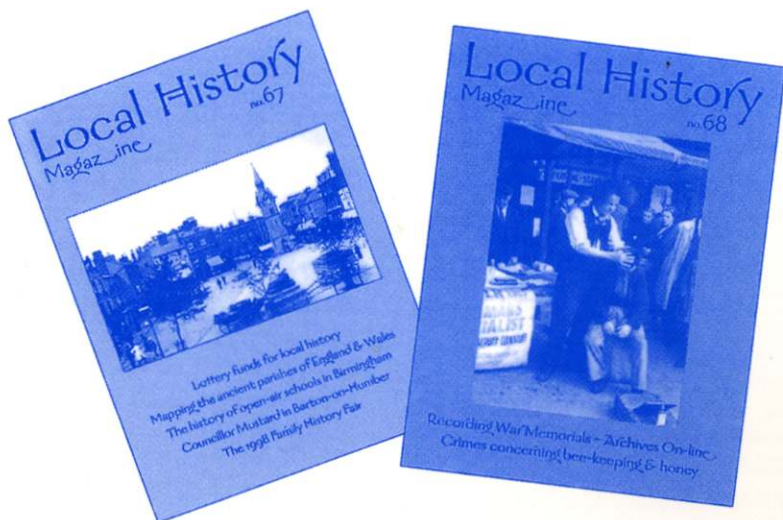
Berkshire Record Office

Shinfield Park, Reading RG2 9XD
0118 901 5132

First Avenue House

42-49 High Holborn, London WC1V 6NP
0171 936 7000

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The Bulletin

Editorial

I've just returned from a long holiday in Australia and New Zealand. Naturally we were planning to spend some time in the sun, but as usual family history did intrude from time to time. During our visit to Adelaide the weather was far too hot, so we visited the State Library to cool off. Their family history research centre is situated in a huge vaulted hall with galleries. The staff were very helpful and we were immediately shown a vacant computer linked to the database for Australian births, marriages and death from 1788 to 1945.

Some of the data forms part of the Pioneers Index. The Index contains full names, sex, registration year and place, and with marriages the spouse's name and sex. Printouts of references by name were available. So we left with complete printouts of individual family names from which a virtually complete family tree is being built up.

When will the English and Welsh Registers receive the same treatment? The answer is probably never despite the Lord Chancellor's view that "it is my belief that archive services are poised to take full advantage of technological developments to preserve and give access to our unique collections". Even if it does come about no doubt we will be asked to pay for the service unlike our cousins in the Antipodies.

Chairman's notes

Things are at last happening at the new Research Centre in Yeomanry House. The Library shelving has been reinstalled thanks to the sterling efforts of Ed Pearce and his small band of helpers. The entire Library and all the fixtures and fittings have been removed from store into Yeomanry House. Many thanks to the team of twenty or so helpers who gave up a Saturday morning to accomplish this. Well done again to Ed Pearce who masterminded the operation.

The hard work now starts, of course—putting it all back on the shelves in some semblance of order.

We are not yet able to announce an opening date since we are still in the hands of the contractors for the new Record Office. We shall not be able to obtain full access to the centre until they have left the site.

The Society has appointed Mr Bob Winter as Research Centre manager. Some of you will already have met him at Branch meetings. We have revived the Research Centre Committee and I hope that these two actions will speed things along.

We look forward to meeting you all at the new Research Centre when we are able to open it. In the meantime you can telephone 0118 950 9553 for the latest news on the opening date.

Huguenot Families (no. 1 - September 1999)

This new publication, edited by Michael Gandy, is produced by the Huguenot Society of Great Britain and Ireland in addition to their regular journal *The Huguenot Society Proceedings*. It features family trees and histories submitted by Society members. It also includes items relating to Huguenots found in unusual sources. There are lots of dates and names plus a list of the subscribers to this 32-page A5 booklet. It is only available to Society members for a £5 supplement in addition to the annual subscription of £15 (£25 the first year of membership). For further details about the society and an application form contact: The Hon. Secretary, c/o The Huguenot Library, University College, Gower Street, London, WC1A 6BT

Jill Brown-Lee

Jill Brown-Lee, the director of the Mormon Family History Library at Tilehurst in the early 1990s died in February. She was well known to many Society members and she will be sadly missed by family historians throughout Berkshire.

Members' interests

The Society is considering putting all the members' interest pages in the *Berkshire Family Historian* onto our website. If you would prefer not to have your name and address on the website then please

let the Secretary know of your objections. No firm decision has been taken, but members' views will be taken into consideration.

Guild of One-Name Studies

The Guild will be holding its 21st annual general meeting and conference at Easthampstead Park, Wokingham, Berkshire from March 31 to April 2, 2000. The day delegate rate is £30 with speakers on a wide range of subjects including records before the Tudors, Protestation Returns, and the Public Records Office. Jean Debney will be speaking on dating Victorian photographs and Joan Dils on town records for family historians. The full cost of a weekend stay at Easthampstead Park is £130. For further information contact Ron Dobree, 102 Shinfield Road, Reading RG2 7DA

Local history seminar

The University of Oxford Department for Continuing Education is holding a local history seminar on Saturday March 25. Subjects being discussed include education in village schools, local government reform in Oxfordshire in the nineteenth century, an oral history study on growing old in Oxford and the management of buildings owned by the National Trust and English Heritage. The cost of the seminar will be £13 with lunch or £5.50 without. I have attended one of these seminars and the

lunches are quite superb. The Seminar will be held at Rewley House, 1 Wellington Square, Oxford.

Registration District maps

The Institute of Heraldic and Genealogical Studies has produced a new map as part of its series of maps covering Registration Districts. It now produces three different maps: one for the period 1837-1851, another for 1852-1946 and one for 1946-1965. They provide a useful aid to the location of districts especially when undertaking distribution surveys from the GRO indexes. Using the maps it is apparent, for example, that Lutterworth in 7a is an adjacent district to Brixworth in 3b. Without an extensive knowledge of the geography of all of England and Wales, this could easily be missed by the casual researcher. The maps are available from our Bookstall at four pounds 50pence plus one one pound 20pence p. and p inland, and one pound 60pence overseas.

Scottish records

The Keeper of the Records of Scotland has announced that during the continuing refurbishment of General Register House, there will be a period from 1-12 May when the building will be closed to the public. There will also be a further period from 15 May to 9 June when service to readers will be limited. Details of the announcement can be found on the GRO Scotland website at <http://wood.cta.gov.uk/grosweb/grosweb.nsf/pages/refnas>

Royal Berkshire Regiment

Driving through Reading the other day I noticed a plaque on a group of terraced houses in Waverley Road. The plaque is high up on the gable and it reads: "Royal Berkshire Regiment China". Does anybody have any idea why this plaque should be on a rather ordinary group of houses and why China?

Record office news

London Metropolitan Archives

During its closure in November 1999, London Metropolitan Archives made significant changes to the layout of the Main Reading Room. Five of the main genealogical sources are now arranged by London Borough and County. These are Parish Registers, Bishops' Transcripts, Electoral Registers, School Admissions' Registers and some of the records of the Boards of Guardians. A helpful leaflet dated November 1999 News Release Extra shows the new floor plan of the Reading Room (available free on receipt of a sae).

Bristol Record Office

The new look Bristol Record Office, at Bond B Warehouse, Smeaton Road, Bristol BS1 6XN, opened its doors to researchers on December 13th, 1999. The new facilities include a bigger search room and microform area, a family history reference library, lockers and

a very comfortable rest area. The big bonus for researchers is that both Archives and Modern Records are in the same building for the first time for eight years. Other changes include the availability of Bristol Wills (1546-1858) on microfiche and facilities for researchers to do their own print outs of parish registers, censuses, etc., from microfiche. For further information tel: 0117 922 5692.

Carmarthenshire Record Office

The Carmarthenshire County Record Office is moving documents from County Hall to a new base in Bro Myrddin School, Richmond Terrace, Carmarthen, where there will be a much bigger search room with improved microfiche facilities. The move will take several months to complete so please phone 01267 224184 before your visit to ensure that the records you wish to consult are available.

Essex Record Office

The new Essex County Record Office opened its doors to researchers on March 6th, with greatly enhanced facilities. These include a search room with 120 seats, 50 computer terminals for consulting the database of catalogues and indexes and for ordering records, improved facilities for consulting the Essex Sound Archive, a lecture theatre with seating for 140, education rooms, exhibition space, a bookshop and a refreshment area. It also has a new telephone number - 01245 244644 and fax number - 01245 244655. No advance

booking will be necessary but researchers will still need to obtain a CARN ticket to access the search room.

New Members

The growth in the Society's membership seems to be unstoppable. We now have more members than ever before - with a five per cent growth this year alone. New members are recruited in many different ways - from evening classes and advertising - but perhaps the most unusual recruit occurred in New Zealand while I was on holiday. My wife and I were bathing in the hot pools at Hanmer Springs and we met Judy Keen. She had already explored the Society's web pages and was about to join. Not one to let a new member go without getting a subscription I signed her up immediately!

Disclaimer

This magazine is distributed free to members of the Berkshire Family History Society. We raise funds for the Society by selling additional copies at various outlets. If, having read the magazine, you would like to join the Society, please note that we regret that no discount on membership can be granted for having purchased this magazine.

And finally.....

The BBC is launching a new monthly History Magazine in April which promises to have some interesting material on local and family history.

Oxfordshire Record Office

the move is only months away.....



The record office searchroom will close for the last time in its present premises on 28 June 2000.

It will reopen at St Luke's Church, Cowley, in September.

The outstore will be moving to St Luke's in April 2000. This will not affect the opening of the searchroom, *but* no documents will be brought back from the outstore after the end of March 2000, and all documents must be back there by 7 April.

