

“He utter’d not one word of truth,
but with delusions led me on,
And cropt the rose-bud of my youth,
so that my splendid glory’s gone:
My wounded heart no one can heal,
Too soon I left my spinning-wheel.”



“I am a damsel now defil’d,
and am exposed to open shame,
For here I find myself with child,
and have no father for the same.
My very tears do’s grief reveal,
Too soon I left my spinning-wheel.”

Programme calendar 2000

Bracknell Branch

Priestwood Community Centre, Priestwood Court Road, Bracknell,

7.15pm for 7.45pm

- 19 Jan *Home Grown Roots*. Members' evening
- 16 Feb *Our ancestors' superstitions*. Hugh Grainger
- 16 Mar *Royal Berkshire Regiment in the Great War*. John Chapman
- 20 Apr *Sooty Seaward (a local chimney sweep)*. Barbara Young

Newbury Branch

From January meetings will be held at St. Mary's Church Hall, Church Road, Shaw, Newbury, at 7.30. Contact Anne Atkins on 01635 821072

- 10 Jan *Computer programmes for beginners*. Jeanne Bunting
- 14 Feb *The English Civil War*. Michael Gandy
- 14 Mar *Members' interests evening*

Reading Branch

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

- 31 Jan *The Digitised 1901 Census*. Margaret Brennan
- 28 Feb *Finding out about ships and their crews*. Michael Naxton
- 28 Mar *Genealogical sources in the Guildhall Library*. R. Harvey
- 25 Apr *How to date old photographs*. Jean Debney

Vale of White Horse Branch

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

- 8 Jan *Visit to the new Oxfordshire Record Office*. Carl Boardman
- 12 Feb *Dating your photographs*. Jean Debney
- 12 Mar *Bringing it to Book - various ways of presenting your family history*. Jeanne Bunting
- 9 Apr *Illegitimacy*. Eve McLaughlin

Windsor Branch

Christ Church, United Reformed Church, William Street, Windsor, 7.30pm for 7.45pm

- 30 Jan *Background to nonconformity*. Michael Gandy
- 27 Feb *Debt of Honour - the work of the Commonwealth War Graves Commission*.
- 27 Mar *How to use parish registers*. Marion Brackpool

Berkshire Family Historian

For family historians in the Royal County of Berkshire

Volume 24 Number 2 • December 2000

Contents

Features

- 62** Genealogical sources
in the Royal Archives
at Windsor Castle
A guide to the records of
servants who worked for
the Sovereign
- 73** Archdeaconry records
and the family
historian
The 'Bawdy Courts' a
relatively unknown
source of church court
records
- 88** The Way We Were
The day-to-day life of
nineteenth century
workers
- 93** The Austen Connection
Jane Austen's family
connections with
Berkshire

© 2000. All articles in this magazine are copyright to the Society and to their contributors, unless otherwise stated, and may not be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system, or transmitted by any means without the prior permission in writing of the Berkshire Family History Society.

The opinions expressed in this magazine are those of their authors and do not necessarily reflect the opinions of the Editor or the Society.

The inclusion of advertisements in this magazine does not imply any recommendation or otherwise by the Editor or the Society.

ISSN: 1468-1080

John Gurnett
editor

News

- 83** Research Centre News
Free admission for members and
new opening times
- 110** National Burial Index
More parishes added to the
Index

Regular items

- 71** Letters to the Editor
- 89** The Bulletin
- 102** Help wanted
Answers urgently needed
- 106** New books
for your Christmas bookshelf
- 112** Members' interests
Have you got connections with
families being researched?
- 120** Postal research services
Services available to members
unable to get to the Research
Centre

The copy deadline for the March issue
is January 2, 2001

Genealogical sources in the Royal Archives at Windsor Castle

Sheila de Bellaigue

Researching Berkshire families often throws up ancestors who may have worked for the Sovereign at Windsor Castle. In many cases the information is given on marriage or burial certificates, but most often the first indication comes from a census return, either of the Castle itself – for those servants who lived in – or those in the surrounding area. For example in the 1881 Census, taken on April 3, Queen Victoria was in residence. Her four Edinburgh grandchildren (children of Prince Alfred, Duke of Edinburgh) were staying with her while their parents were in Russia attending the funeral of their maternal grandfather, Tsar Alexander II. The Queen’s youngest children, Princess Beatrice and Prince Leopold, were there as was Eugénie, the ex-Empress of the French. All the resident servants are listed from maids and cooks to footmen and a nightwatchman, including a governess, Amalie Heim, and a ‘lectrice to the Queen’. But how difficult is it to find personal information about Household staff?

The Royal Archives, held at Windsor Castle, comprise personal and official papers of the Sovereign and some other members of the Royal Family from 1760 to 1952 – from the reign of George III to that of George VI. Papers of earlier monarchs are, for the most part, held at the Public Record Office at Kew. Papers of the present reign are transferred gradually to the Royal Archives when no longer required at Buckingham Palace.

The Royal Household formerly consisted of three Departments, each headed by one of the Great Officers of the Household: the Lord Chamberlain, the Lord Steward and the Master of the Horse. Broadly speaking, the Lord Chamberlain’s Department dealt with the ceremonial and social life of the Court; the Lord Steward’s Department with domestic and culinary matters; and the Master of the Horse’s Department was responsible for the royal stables and for arranging transport for the Sovereign and the Royal Household. Until 1924 the Great Officers were political appointees, changing with changes of government; and until the end of the nineteenth century their departmental records were

deposited at the Public Record Office. Thereafter their records have come to the Royal Archives, the repository for all twentieth-century Royal Household departmental records. There are now five Household departments.

The Royal Archives holds an index of Household employees from 1660 to 1901, known as the Household Index. This index is mainly compiled from the records of the Lord Chamberlain's and the Lord Steward's Departments from 1660 to 1837 in the PRO and from various printed sources such as *The Court & City Register* and *The Royal Kalendar*. Information from Household records in the Royal Archives is gradually being added. The information in the index is generally limited to the name, post held, the dates of employment (in some cases with details of salaries and pensions) and the relevant PRO, printed or Royal Archives references. The



Mrs. Elizabeth Henderson, 1880. Housekeeper at Windsor Castle 1867-1888 (RPC Royal Household Portraits Vol 53/27c)

index rarely gives dates of births or deaths, or details of marriages or of other family members.

For employees before Queen Victoria's reign, the Archives hold a limited number of establishment books and other records of service, although these tend to give little detail other than name and post held. References may occasionally be found in the correspondence of George III and George IV. Unfortunately the papers of King William IV do not survive.

From Queen Victoria's reign there is more detail, particularly on the more senior members of the Household. For Ladies in Waiting (ie Ladies and Women of the Bedchamber and Maids of Honour) there are printed lists. But these posts were almost invariably held by wives or daughters of peers, details of whose families can be found in the standard works on the peerage.¹

There are a number of establishment and pension lists and pay



Mary Ann Hull, nee Cripps c. early 1860s. Nurse to Queen Victoria's children 1841-1858 (RPC Royal Household Portraits Vol 54/9d)

records for other staff. These are not complete for Victorian times, but they are more extensive in the early twentieth century. The information they contain is generally restricted to the employee and rarely includes family details.

Although most pre-1900 departmental records are in the PRO, a certain number of nineteenth-century records from the Lord Chamberlain's and Lord Steward's Departments, including some establishment, salary and pension books, have come into the Royal Archives from other sources. These records contain extensive, but not complete, lists of employees throughout the Royal Household, sometimes supplemented by references in letters and other papers.

There are also records from the Master of the Horse's



Charles Hull c. early 1860s. Messenger to Queen Victoria 1866-69, previously Groom Porter 1861-66 and Footman 1842-61 (RPC Royal Household Portraits Vol. 54/49b)

Department from the late eighteenth century onwards. Although not complete they probably represent the best existing source of information on employees of this department. An index of employees up to the end of the nineteenth century has been compiled from these papers.

In addition there are Privy Purse papers, covering the private expenditure of the Sovereign. These include information about privately-employed staff, such as nursery staff, tutors and governesses, and about the staff of the Privy Purse and

Treasurer's Department. For most of the twentieth century, this Department's records include the personnel records of the whole Household.

Records of individuals who worked in Windsor Great Park, such as gamekeepers, gate-keepers, farm workers and gardeners, are rarely found in the Archives, as they were generally employed by the Office of Woods, the Office of Works or the Crown Estate Commissioners. The relevant records, including those relating to Windsor Great Park, are preserved at the PRO, principally in the CRES series.² The private estates of the Sovereign (for example Balmoral, Sandringham and formerly Osborne) are administered under the supervision of the Keeper of the Privy Purse. Records concerning employees on the estates can be found both in the Privy Purse papers and in the estate papers produced by the Estate Offices, also deposited in the Royal Archives.

The Royal Photograph Collection, which is part of the Royal Archives, contains photographs and albums belonging to members of the Royal Family from Queen Victoria and Prince Albert to the present day. It includes many photographs of Household employees, some of which were collected by Queen Victoria as a record of her Household. There are also occasional group photographs, although the sitters are not always identified.

Royal Warrant Holders

Unfortunately little information can be found in the Archives about local tradesmen who supplied goods and services to the Sovereign or the Royal Family at Windsor Castle. From the eighteenth century Royal Warrants were issued by each department of the Household to the tradesmen who supplied its particular needs. Until the end of the nineteenth century records of the award of Royal Warrants are mainly found in the PRO. Warrant holders are included in the Household Index, which gives the relevant PRO references. The exceptions are warrant holders in the departments whose records are held in the Royal Archives and not at the PRO: the Master of the Horse's Department and the Privy Purse. There is information about warrant holders in both departments in the Royal Archives, although very little pre-1900 material on Privy Purse warrant holders, apart from bills for private purchases and occasional references in correspondence. From the reigns of King Edward VII and King George V there are

lists of Privy Purse warrant holders and correspondence relating to the warrants; there are also lists and correspondence relating to warrants issued by the Lord Chamberlain and the Master of the Horse. The system of departmental Royal Warrants was reformed in the 1930s and the administration of warrants is now the responsibility of the Lord Chamberlain's Department. There is also a limited amount of information in the Archives about warrants issued by other senior members of the Royal Family.

Bodyguards, guards and police on duty at Royal Palaces

The only two bodies correctly described as 'bodyguards' to the monarch are the Yeoman of the Guard (not to be confused with the Yeomen Warders of the Tower of London) and the Gentlemen at Arms (formerly known as Gentlemen Pensioners). There are a few establishment lists in the Royal Archives which include the names of those serving in these bodies, and there may be occasional references to them in other papers. Their names may also appear in the Household Index, but otherwise records of these bodies are held by the Exon, the Queen's Bodyguard of the Yeomen of the Guard and the Clerk of the Cheque and Adjutant, Honourable Corps of Gentlemen at Arms, at St. James's Palace, London SW1A 1JR.

The Royal Archives do not hold records for servicemen, whether or not they did guard duty at Royal Palaces. Military records can be found at the PRO or sometimes at regimental record offices. Similarly records of police officers on duty will be in the Metropolitan Police records at the PRO or at New Scotland Yard. Occasionally, however, names of police officers do occur in Household records.

Records of the Yeomen Warders at the Tower of London are at the PRO, but it may be possible to obtain information direct from the Tower where one of the Yeoman Warders acts as honorary archivist.

Grace & Favour residences

The Archives hold registers of occupants of Grace & Favour apartments at Hampton Court from about 1840, although they are not complete. The allocation of apartments at Hampton Court and in other royal residences is recorded in the Lord Chamberlain's Annual Reports from 1852. Further information on the

apartments and their occupants can be found in the records of the Privy Purse and in the twentieth century in the Lord Chamberlain's Department records. Residents often employed their own staff, but as they did not form part of the Royal Household there are no employment records for them in the Royal Archives.

Presentation at Court and Garden Parties

Records of Drawing Rooms, Courts and Levees, at which ladies and gentlemen were presented to the Sovereign, may be found in the Lord Chamberlain's records at the PRO for the nineteenth century and possibly earlier. Nineteenth- and early twentieth-century newspapers published lists of all those presented, often including details of the dress worn by ladies.³ From 1902 the Royal Archives hold the Lord Chamberlain's Office registers of presentations at Court functions, including Garden Parties which came to replace the presentation parties. Formal presentation of ladies at Court ceased in 1958. For Garden Parties since the War (both at Buckingham Palace and at the Palace of Holyroodhouse), lists of invitations have been preserved merely on a sampling basis.

Honours and Awards

The Royal Archives do not hold complete records of honours, although there are extensive records relating to Orders created by monarchs to reward personal service (the Victoria Faithful Service Medal and the Royal Victorian Order). Citations for other honours are rarely found. Lists of recipients of honours at investitures can be found in the London Gazette and also in the Court Circular and other press reports. Photographs of recipients can also sometimes be found in press reports of investitures, both in national and local newspapers.⁴ Records of awards of Orders of Chivalry are held by the Central Chancery of the Orders of Knighthood at St. James's Palace.

Other sources for names in the Royal Archives

The Royal Archives maintain detailed manual and computerised indexes which include many names of those coming into contact with the Sovereign or members of the Royal Family and referred to in letters, journals or other papers. There are also writer

addressee indexes to certain sections in the Archives, so that letters to or from named individuals can be traced.

The Royal Archives receives large numbers of enquiries from family historians from all over the world. Most of these are answered by post, but if there is much relevant material researchers may well be invited to examine the records themselves. Enquiries about records in the Archives should be addressed to the Registrar of the Royal Archives, Windsor Castle, Berkshire SL4 1NJ, and enquiries about photographs to the Curator of the Royal Photograph Collection at the same address. There is a basic research fee of £10 plus VAT. Charges for photocopies and photographs can be supplied on request.

1 George Edward Cockayne, "The Complete Peerage" (St. Catherine's Press 1940) and Burke's Peerage and Baronetage (Burke's Peerage Ltd., 1999, and earlier editions).

2 Jane Roberts, "Royal Landscape: the Gardens and Parks of Windsor" (Yale, 1997). Includes many references to Great Park and Home Park employees.

3 British Library Newspaper Library, Colindale Avenue, Colindale, London NW9 5HE. Tel. 020 7412 7353

4 British Library *ibid*

Biographical note

Sheila de Bellaigue is the Registrar of the Royal Archives. She was born in 1945 and read Modern Languages at Oxford. She joined the Royal Archives as Assistant Registrar in 1967; she worked for a short period from 1971 at the Royal Commission on Historical Manuscripts in London before returning to the Royal Archives in 1977. She became Registrar in 1988.

Monthly Computer Workshops for Family Historians at Research Centre - Yeomanry House

Computing for the Terrified

Saturday 27th January 2001 10:30am - 4pm

Discover what makes your machine tick and what all that jargon means.
Master the mouse. Learn how to save your files and find them again!
Use Wordpad (Windows 95/98 word processing program).

For those with little or no previous computer experience.

Research using the Internet

Saturday 24th February 2001 10:30am - 4pm

What you can find on the Internet and how to access it. Using search engines.
For the less experienced.

Create your own Web Site

Saturday 31st March 2001 10:30am - 4pm

What is a web-site and how to create it. Learn what HTML is and how it can be written using simple web-authoring software

For those with little or no experience of creating web-sites.

Each workshop will cost £8 for members and £10 for non-members.
Morning coffee, snack lunch, afternoon tea and access to the centre is included.

Workshops during Summer 2001

These will probably concentrate on topics covered during the winter. Suggestions for other courses are welcome and should be sent to Gillian Stevens as above.

Newspapers for the family historian a practical computer guide

Wednesday January 17, 2001

To book your place contact Gillian Stevens. (Places are limited.)

2, Illingworth Avenue, Caversham, Reading RG4 6RB

Tel: 0118 947 8743 e-mail: gstevens@onet.co.uk

Letters to the Editor

Joan Wheeler, 3a Kenton Road, Earley, Reading, Berkshire RG6 7LE

The article called 'Reflections' by JFB in the June issue of the *Historian* was very poignant. My father and mother divorced when I was 18 months old and as I grew up I was told my mother was dead and my father wouldn't speak about his family. It was as if he was ashamed of being divorced. He never married again. When I was 45 we found that my mother was still alive and living in Australia. She has only just this year started to tell us, that is my sister and me, about her family. I am now tracing her family in the Newcastle, Durham area. My father, William Joseph Monk, died without telling us anything of his side of the family. He left us some photographs which I think are of my grandparents, his mother, father, sisters and brothers. I'm finding it difficult to find any connections in the London area.

I understand how Sarah, mentioned in the article, feels. I have only a sister and a brother alive that we know of, no aunts, uncles, or cousins, but I do have a lovely husband, four children and seven grandchildren. Many thanks for your great magazine; it is so helpful especially for a beginner like me.

*Mrs. Pat Bayliss, 6760, L - and A - Road, Vernon, British Columbia, Canada
V1B 3T1*

Archibald Stewart Dodd

While indexing our local newspaper, the *Vernon News*, for births, marriages and deaths I came across an obituary for Archibald Stewart Dodd. He was the youngest son of John T. Dodd, late solicitor of Reading, Berkshire and was in his 48th year when he died on April 30, 1924. He came to Vernon in 1911 and was engaged in real estate and insurance business. He was in the 102nd Battalion and was wounded at Ypres. He left a widow and a daughter. If this is of interest to any of your members I could photocopy his death certificate and the gravestone in Pleasant Valley Cemetery at Vernon. Please send two air mail stamps to cover the cost. Incidentally I originally came from Caversham and we were in England in April.

Coral Mist, 2 Horewood Road, Bracknell, Berkshire RG12 7LY

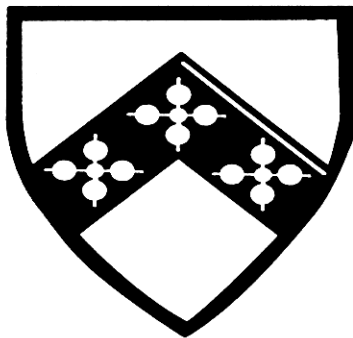
Lt. A.H. Perkins

I have an interesting original document on the military career of Lt. A.H. Perkins who was living at Milton Road, Wokingham, around 1922-24. If he is a relative of yours then contact me at the above address.

Family Coats of Arms

*by established Artist
Gordon McWilliam. Colour Prints,
mounted, ready for framing
in two overall sizes:
16 inches x 12 inches £20
18½ inches x 14½ inches £30
Price includes postage and packing
contact:*

*Fine Detail Art
3 The Avenue, Churchdown, Glos. GL3 2HB*



Telephone: 01452 713057 Fax: 01452 715031

MARATHON MICROFILMING LTD

New and refurbished fiche readers and printers for sale
at reasonable prices

Lamps and spares for most machines

Master fiche/films and diazo copies produced

CD-ROM service

MARATHON MICROFILMING LTD.

27-29 ST. MARY'S PLACE

SOUTHAMPTON SO 14 3HY

TEL: 02380 220481 FAX: 02380 230452

Website www.marathon-microfilm-cdrom.co.uk

Archdeaconry records and the family historian

Joan Dils

On 31st January 1569, the Archdeacon of Berkshire, Thomas White, was holding his court at St. Helen's Church, Abingdon. The case before him concerned a middle-aged lady with a problem. Her new married name was Anne Barber but she was previously Widow Bradshaw, her husband, Thomas having died well over a year before. She had married Thomas as the supposed widow of John Fitzherbert, gent., whose wife she had been for almost twenty years and who had fathered her five children 'of which 4 be not alive'.¹ He had gone overseas about 1553 and fourteen years later she had word from another traveller that he had died in Antwerp, hence her two subsequent marriages. However she had recently heard rumours that he was alive, and moreover some witnesses came to the court saying they had seen him. To whom was she now validly married?

The Archdeacon, or his Official, usually had less problematic work. He was the 'eye' of the bishop and often had legal qualifications since much of his work involved matters of church law. Every diocese had its archdeacons, supervising sub-divisions of the diocese, archdeaconries, so helping the bishop to administer and control his flock. The Salisbury Diocese had two, Wiltshire and Berkshire, each roughly co-terminous with the county, though excluding areas of peculiar jurisdiction. At courts held in large centres round his territory every few weeks, and at his annual visitations, the Archdeacon dealt with such non-contentious matters as the probate of wills and the granting of licences for schoolmasters, midwives and for marriage without banns.² He also judged those accused of offences against church law: non-attendance at church, deviation from the prescribed order of church services, non-payment of tithes, libel and a range of sexual misdemeanours including pre-marital sex, irregular marriages and adultery. It is these latter cases which have earned the archdeacon's court the name of 'bawdy court', an inappropriate title, as sexual immorality comprised a small proportion of his work. He could order convicted offenders to do

penance or, as the ultimate penalty, excommunicate them. Many offenders were reported to the court by churchwardens, sometimes as the result of a set of questions sent to them in advance of a visitation. The questions would include the state of the church, the service books, bible and sacred vessels but also the spiritual and moral behaviour of the incumbent and parishioners. Any matters dealt with because of this process were called *office cases*. Others, called *instance cases*, were brought by individuals complaining of libel by neighbours, unfair treatment in a will, breach of promise by one partner in an irregular marriage or adultery by a spouse. Very brief summaries of the cases and the archdeacon's judgements were recorded, in abbreviated Latin in volumes called Act Books. They are very difficult to use without a good knowledge of Latin, secretary hand and court procedure.³



In some instance cases the evidence of witnesses for both parties was recorded in the form of written answers (depositions) to written questions. There are also a few examples of personal statements made by defendants summoned to answer charges made against them. The evidence is in documents called Deposition Books, of which six survive for Berkshire between 1558 and 1620.⁴ The depositions themselves are in English (though the rest of the court's business was in Latin) and are perhaps the most interesting of the archdeacony records for the family historian.

Though they are not easy to read - the clerks wrote quickly in an inelegant secretary hand - the search can be rewarding. They are unlikely to yield details of individual family history since very few people ever went to court and the records (unindexed) cover whole counties, but they are a mine of information about the way of life of our Tudor and Stuart ancestors.⁵

Before giving their version of the events in dispute, witnesses had

“ He utter’d not one word of truth,
 but with delusions led me on,
 And cropt the rose-bud of my youth,
 so that my splendid glory’s gone :
 My wounded heart no one can heal,
Too soon I left my spinning-wheel.



“ I am a damsel now defil’d,
 and am exposed to open shame,
 For here I find myself with child,
 and have no father for the same.
 My very tears do’s grief reveal,
Too soon I left my spinning-wheel.

to provide, as proof of their fitness to appear, a truncated autobiography (duly translated into Latin by the clerk before he wrote it down); this was customary in church courts and in civil courts too. A typical example in Berkshire is that of Thomas Macall, thirty years old, born in Cholsey, who then worked in Dorchester and Wallingford and in 1598 was living in Sutton Courtenay, about nine miles from his birthplace; or Thomas Fry of Abingdon, born there twenty years before but who had spent three years in London.

What is striking about many of these very incomplete life histories is that two-thirds of village witnesses and three-quarters of town dwellers had left their birthplaces either temporarily or permanently. Berkshire people were not unusual in this; studies of church and quarter sessions courts from many other counties show very similar results.⁶

Most people only moved a short distance, usually within a ten-mile radius, to take up an apprenticeship, to marry or to find work. At the age of 76, Roger Taylor was a husbandman in Greenham where he had spent sixteen years. Born at Bishopstone in Wiltshire he had worked in Speen for nineteen years, Sandleford for ten and Donnington for three. Women were just as mobile, often leaving home as teenagers to work as farm servants. Evidence from hamlets in the large parish of Shrivenham illustrates this very well. In 1571 Margaret Wise, aged nineteen, had been working in Longcot for two years, before which she was at Goosey, before that at Garsington, Oxfordshire, though she was born at Highworth, a small Wiltshire market town about four miles away from Shrivenham. Joan Smith had been in Bourton for about eight years, possibly working for Edmund and Edith Dawbram, though the two previous years were spent in the town of Wantage to which she travelled from her home at Charney Bassett at the age of sixteen. Somewhat older was Juliana Buckland, aged thirty, who had come to Shrivenham from her birthplace at Wroughton, Wiltshire about 1582; she stayed for the next twenty years.

Others travelled long distances. Thomas Purcell from Winkfield was a Salopian who had spent eight years in London, continued to practise there as a lawyer in the Court of King's Bench, and had friends in Reading; Walter Bateman, a wealthy clothier of Reading, was born in Kendall in the Lake District; Simon Painton, a teenager working in Warfield, had come from Worcester.

The evidence witnesses gave can be interesting but more so are the details of daily life which were the context in which they described events relevant to the case. Many incidents happened at home. The rooms of the Tudor and Stuart house are familiar from wills and probate inventories; depositions describe how they were used. The fireside in the hall was the place to sit and chat with family, friends and neighbours like those who on a September Sunday in 1567 went to visit Catherine Bradstock of Abingdon who was expecting a baby soon. Friends invited to dinner or supper would eat in the hall with the family and sometimes watch the meal being prepared if there was no kitchen.

There was little privacy for anyone. Few people had a bedroom, or



even a bed of their own. Servants (including dairy maids and farm workers) shared beds as a matter of course, frequently referring to each other as 'bedfellows'. Occasionally a maidservant might share a room with her mistress if the master was away, as did Elizabeth Coles employed by Margaret Champion of Reading. Even when young folk might assume they were alone for some discreet courtship, they were often overlooked; Thomas Roberts sent the family servant, Margaret, out of the hall to give him time with his sweetheart, Joan Bennet, in her father's house in Newbury in 1565, but Margaret 'conveyed herself privily to a little house thereby and did hear their talk'.

Houses in town and country had their long gardens, quaintly called 'backsides'. Here poultry and pigs were kept and vegetables

grown, but occasionally important events such as formal betrothals took place in this semi-public setting; John Enery and Alice Keate were betrothed in the backside of Richard Keate's house in Harwell in February 1560.

Houses of craftsmen in towns and of yeomen and husbandmen in villages were workplaces and lodgings for employees as well as homes for the master and his family. Work was, in sociological terms, 'gender-related' and for both men and women was physically demanding. Women milked the cows in the fields, having a good gossip on the way, scrubbed dirty clothes and tended the garden; men worked in the fields or the workshop, coming home for meals which were sometimes rather meagre. William Lowe of Hampstead Marshall found only 'a cupple of eggs and a messe of milke' for his supper in 1617. Hours were long yet there was always 'time to stand and stare' since machines and the clock did not yet control the pace of work: Richard Bowen left his tailor's loft in Reading in 1557 to listen to a quarrel in the street outside.

Leisure activities were often simple and traditional: bowls or football on the common, a visit to an alehouse, a meal with friends. More elaborate events involving all or some of the community persisted despite the Reformation: beating the bounds as at Newbury in Rogation Week; summer festivals like the one at Wasing or Milton in 1590 when the young people chose a 'whitson lord' or a 'summer lady' to preside over their supper and celebrations in the church house, and of course weddings when the whole village joined in the festivities. Not all weddings were formal affairs in church, solemnised by a clergyman, much as the church tried to insist on it; the old tradition of handfasting still survived but how frequently is impossible to say since only where things went wrong did the case come before the courts. The essential elements of the ceremony were the exchange of vows and the giving of tokens. In 1570 on the Sunday before St. Mark's Day (23 April) in the kitchen of his house, John Ridge claimed that he and Margaret Bourne had exchanged vows saying, 'I, John Ridge, do take you, Margaret, to wife' and she said the same, 'then gave either of them faith and troth and drew hands and kissed and in token of the same he gave her a ring which she put on her finger in the right hand.' If this were true and the union consummated, then they were validly, if irregularly, married. However the wording had to be in the present tense and unconditional or there

was no marriage. In this case Margaret refuted John's version of events and both brought witnesses to support their respective cases. It is easy to see how handfasting could make for endless arguments if one party decided to end the relationship, and why the authorities frowned on the practice.

Of family life after the wedding the church court records give a very jaundiced view, similar to that in lurid press reports of marriage breakup today. Occasionally we glimpse what were probably normal family relations: a husband and wife working together in his carrier's business at Abingdon, or Mistress Gastrell and her husband running their farm at East Garston and only quarrelling with the vicar about the tithe pig. Most family problems were probably sorted out between themselves. When they weren't, the community, and as a last resort the courts were called on. Some married people, men and women, were unfaithful such as Joan Godwin of Tilehurst who was caught by her husband in bed with one of their lodgers, Francis Headache, a carpenter, working on a new house for Sir Peter Vanlore. Some wives were assaulted by their husbands, so badly that they needed medical attention: Robert Blake beat his wife, Joan, throughout the three years of their marriage, on one occasion so severely that the wound needed dressing with sugar 'to stay the blood'. Others were deserted. A few were over-dominating, refusing the accepted role of the obedient, submissive wife. Witnesses said that Eleanor Pincke of Milton slept upstairs and her husband, Edmund, downstairs. He was, they said, 'all together overruled by his wiffe', who, to add to her sins, was having an affair with William Coome. If matters reached crisis point, one spouse might ask for a separation 'a thoro et mensa' (from bed and table) as did John Keate who claimed his wife, Dorothy, had committed adultery in his own house and whom he suspected of plotting to kill him. In all such cases the court would attempt to restore traditional marital relations, though we can beg leave to question how long any reconciliation might last.

Other family arguments might occur over the content of wills, the probate of which was granted by the archdeacon. Sometimes the witnesses' evidence throws light on will-making. On a Sunday morning in September 1572 John Tesdale 'lay upon his bed in a chamber called the Crosse Chamber in the New Inne at Abingdon' surrounded by family and friends. He was obviously dying and was persuaded to make his will. It was written by a friend,

Richard Bostock, on a 'table sitting on a forme by his bedde side first he wrote one half and read that to hym [John Tesdale] then wrote the rest and so read the whole to hym and then he conformed hit'. Having several witnesses to a will might be important if it were challenged; in this case those present confirmed Richard Bostock's account, adding a few details of particular concern to themselves.

Such confirmation was even more important in the case of a nuncupative will, often written down from memory after the testator's death, or when he was so sick as to be incapable of even putting his mark to it. John Robbin's relations challenged his will in which he gave all his goods to Richard West of Abingdon with whose family he was living. The will was written by a scrivener the day after he died, Ralph Wise, who had also read some prayers by the bedside. In such a situation, it was vital for the beneficiary to be able to call on well-regarded citizens to vouch that Robbins 'spoke sensibly' and did not want to give anything to his kindred.

The everyday speech of ordinary folk is one of the most interesting aspects of depositions. Time was not always reckoned by the clock but by activities: 'a little before milking tyme at nyght'; 'at candle-tendinge' time; 'before the last change of the moon before Michaelmas in the afternoon between dinner and evensong'. Two young folk were said to have spent the whole night 'until the grey morninge alone together in the milkinge house'. Distances were expressed by using familiar objects: the night was so dark that 'one might discerne and know a man from a nother a quays [quoit's] cast from him; 'he was so nere them that he could have cut of a peace of his coate'. A word which frequently occurs is 'cuckoo', used when a man was being cuckolded by an unfaithful wife. As Alice Bennet of Reading put it to Joan Forster's husband in 1592, 'You are come out of the wood. I think it is more and tyme for it is cuckowe tyme, and the cuckoo is very loud'. Instead of words some neighbours used actions, such as putting up a pair of horns over the door of a house where they suspected someone of adultery.

Much of the landscape and way of life which gave rise to these expressions and actions has long since disappeared. Such records as deposition books allow us to recapture a small fraction of this lost world.

1 All the examples quoted in this article come from the Archdeaconry of Berkshire Deposition Books (Berkshire Record Office (D/ A2/ c 40,46,61,153-5). Detailed references will not be given.

2 For more details about the courts, though in another diocese, see R. Houlbrooke, *Church courts and the people during the English Reformation 1520-1570*, (1979), and for details of cases see M. Ingram, *Church courts, sex and marriage in England 1570-1640* (1987)

3 A useful introduction to the Act Books is E.R. Brinkworth, 'The study and use of the archdeacons' court records: illustrated from the Oxford Records' in *Trans. of Royal Hist. Soc.* 4th series 25 (1943)

4 In the Berkshire Archdeaconry the answers alone have survived for a few years in the 16th and early 17th centuries.

5 Some of the deposition books for the diocese of Oxfordshire have been calendared by J. Howard-Drake and published by Oxfordshire County Council.

6 See, for example, P. Clark, 'Migration in England in the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries' in *Past and Present* 83 (1979)

For friendly, efficient and affordable genealogical research in
BERKSHIRE, BUCKINGHAMSHIRE & OXFORDSHIRE

contact

The Eureka Partnership

19A Station Road, Stoke Mandeville, Bucks, HP22 5UL, England
SAE or 2 IRCs please

E-mail: eureka1@talk21.com

FAMILY HISTORY FAIR

at

**BRACKNELL SPORTS CENTRE
BAGSHOT ROAD (A322)**

Sunday January 28th

10am-5pm

Admission only £2

(Accompanied children free)

FREE PARKING

LARGER THAN THE

CAFETERIA

2000 FAIR

**MAMMOTH FAIR WITH
UP TO 150 STALLS**

THE SOUTH'S SECOND LARGEST FAIR
FEATURING NATIONWIDE SOCIETIES
& TRADE STALLS

tel: 01344 451479 e-mail: Fhfairs@aol.com

website: www.familyhistoryfairs.com

Research Centre News

Free admission for members

Charges for admission were introduced earlier this year as an experiment, but it has now been decided to make admission free for members, although non-members will continue to make a small contribution when they visit the Centre. We hope that this is going to be a popular move with all members and encourage many more to visit the splendid facilities at Yeomanry House.

New Opening Hours

With effect from 1st December, or the date of publication of this Journal whichever is the later, the Research Centre opening hours will change. The new opening hours will be:

Tuesday 10 am to 4 pm and 7 pm to 9:30 pm

Wednesday 10 am to 4 pm

Thursday 10 am to 4 pm and 7 pm to 9:30 pm

One of the changes to the opening hours is intended to complement the late night opening of the Berkshire Record Office and we hope that this will tempt more visitors to use the Research Centre after visiting the BRO.

Christmas/New Year closing

The Research Centre **will not be open** on the following dates:

Tuesday 26th December, 2000

Wednesday 27th December, 2000

Thursday 28th December, 2000

The Research Centre will reopen as usual on **Tuesday 2nd January, 2001.**

Library Assistants

The extended opening hours mean that we would like more Library Assistants to give us greater flexibility. Why not help the Society by assisting with the management of the Research Centre? The work is not difficult and can be very rewarding. We only ask that you spare us three hours for most months of the year (you are

allowed holidays). If you would like to help, please contact June, the Library Assistants Co-ordinator, on (0118) 978-6785. Better still, why not come along to a library tour? The next few tours are: (There is no tour in December.)

15th January 7:30 to 9:30 pm

17th February 2:30 to 4:30 pm

19th March 7:30 to 9:30 pm

21st April 2:30 to 4:30 pm

Car parking

In the run up to the opening of the Research Centre, we were concerned about possible problems with car parking. I am pleased to say that our fears about the availability of parking spaces have so far proved unfounded. Members need have no fear about not being able to park in the grounds of Yeomanry House.

Exchange library wants

As members will know, we are rightly proud of our exchange magazine collection. However, despite the efforts of our present Magazine Librarian, Sue Bouchard, and her predecessors, our collection still has a number of gaps. Can we ask you to search your own collections of society magazines and see if you have any of the following which you would be able to donate to the library:

Bedfordshire FHS

Anything before Spring 1981 – Volume 3 No 1

Autumn 1981 – Volume 3 No 1

Autumn 1983 – Volume 4 No 3

East of London FHS (*Cockney Ancestor*)

Anything before Winter 1979/80 – Volumes 1 to 4

West Middlesex FHS

April 1986 – Volume 6 No 1

December 1986 – Volume 6 No 3

August 1988 – Volume 7 No 2

East Surrey FHS

March 1983 – Volume 6 No 1

April 1986 – Volume 9 No 1

September 1993 – Volume 16 No 3

October 1995 – Volume 5 No 8

Index 94/96 – Volume 5

If you are able to help please send your donations to The Exchange Librarian, BFHS Research Centre, 131 Castle Hill, Reading, Berkshire RG1 7TJ.

If you have copies of these publications but do not wish to part with them, perhaps you would lend them to us and we will make a copy for the Exchange Library.

Ivan Dickason

Library accessions

Over 500 items have been added to the library shelves in the Research Centre since it opened in May. Some have been bought by the Society, mainly at the Federation Conference in April, May's Family History Fair in London and a visit we made to the York Family History Fair in June. However, many kind members have made donations, some anonymously. We are particularly grateful to Mr and Mrs Millichamp, and the widow of Arthur Meen. We maintain a record of all donations and bookplates usually indicate the generosity of members, so new books continue to be very welcome.

Our trip to the York Fair also serves to emphasize that the library attempts to cover the whole of Britain, as well as containing many items from overseas. We were able to fill in many of the gaps in our collection of indexes of the Yorkshire 1851 Census, particularly in the Huddersfield and Wakefield areas. The coverage of Lancashire (especially Liverpool), County Durham, Northumberland, Derbyshire, Gloucestershire, Suffolk and Jersey has also been improved.

The Millichamp donation made important additions to our collection of directories. We can now boast a comprehensive collection of both Who was Who, and Who's Who as well as other biographical dictionaries. Another growth area has been school registers, including those for Clifton, Aldenham, Bradfield, Fettes, Denstone, Repton, Sedburgh, Rugby, Leys, Keble, Highgate, Harrow, Haileybury, Malvern, Shrewsbury, Radley, Newcastle Royal Grammar School and Marlborough. If you don't find your ancestors there you may have better luck with the Wiltshire

Quarter Sessions and Assizes for 1736 - another purchase at the Family History Fair.

There have been only 26 additions to the library that are specific to Berkshire, a lower proportion than usual. Notable additions include: The Story of Wesleyan Methodism in Sandhurst, Berkshire Machine Breakers, The Second book of Wargrave and the 1891 Census Returns for parts of St Lawrence and St Giles parishes in Reading, together with Arborfield Cross (part), Broad Hinton, Earley, Hare Hatch, Hurst, Kiln Green, King Street, Knowle Hill (part), Ruscombe, Twyford, Merry Hill Green, Newland, Sandford, Sindlesham, Sonning, Wargrave, Whistley, Whistley Green, Winnersh and Woodley.

Unfortunately, duplications do occur. Often a new edition supersedes an earlier edition, while some areas are more comprehensively covered in another book. We have now built up a stock of these, and after offering them to the various branch libraries, they will be made available for sale to our members.

I'm very pleased with the progress our group of computers has made. With the help of Roger Finbow, we have been able to link the computers to allow them to share the laser printer, and more importantly, a central disk drive containing the information from the 1881 census index, as well as both the British and North American Vital Listings - nearly 40 CD-ROMs in all. The 1881 index is now much easier to use as there is no need to swap CDs. An excellent reason for visiting the Research Centre.

Chad Hanna chad@vellum.demon.co.uk

**LONDON & MIDDLESEX
A GENEALOGICAL BIBLIOGRAPHY**

Stuart A. Raymond

The essential guide to effective research in thousands of books, journal articles, & fiche. Packed with information on where to identify your ancestors in published sources available in libraries world-wide. 2 vols. v.1. Sources £8.60; v.2. Family Histories & Pedigrees £5.50 (inc UK p&p.)

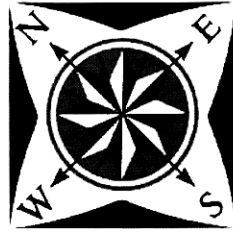
S.A. & M.J. Raymond

P.O.Box 35,

Exeter,

EX1 3YZ, UK

**Berkshire Record Office
has moved...**



BERKSHIRE

R E C O R D

O F F I C E

9 Coley Avenue Reading
Berkshire RG1 6AF
Tel: 0118 901 5132
Fax: 0118 901 5131
Email: ARCH@Reading.gov.uk

We are pleased to announce that our move has been completed, and that we are now open to the public again.

Our opening hours remain unchanged:

**Tuesday 9.00am - 5.00pm
Wednesday 9.00am - 5.00pm
Thursday 9.00am - 9.00pm
Friday 9.00am - 4.30pm**

Thank you to everyone for being patient with us while the building was completed. We look forward to welcoming you to our new home.

Berkshire Record Office, a countywide archive service for all local authorities in the Royal County of Berkshire

The Way We Were

John Gurnett

Most of us have agricultural workers in our blood - if not then ordinary working people from miners, and biscuit makers to railway men. If we are fortunate we may discover something about their life at school, or when they served in the forces, but apart from letters or diaries we rarely uncover the minutiae of their daily lives. However, just this week a small book came into my hands, which sheds some light on the earnings and weekly budgets of ordinary people.¹

The report compares the incomes of the working classes between 1857 and 1884 and some interesting figures emerge from the study. The author found that there was an average of 2.17 earners for every family and that family size in 1881 was 4.67. Agricultural wages for men ranged from 7s to 10s a week, compared to 30s to 40s and even 60s in other industries. Most agricultural labourers earned £37.10s a year while builders earned £75 to £95. The wages of domestic servants for men ranged from £20 to £40 a year plus board and lodging. While the disparity between the incomes of rural and town labourers was large, it did not take into account the low-rent cottage enjoyed by a farm worker, nor a piece of land where he could grow vegetables and keep a pig.

It was thought that the physical condition of the labouring classes was better than it ever was. 'If the food of the people is more artificial than it used to be, they certainly have more of it'. A workman's budget in 1857 was 24s a week. Food for the family consisted of a loaf of bread, 4lbs of meat, a 1lb of butter, 1lb of cheese, 3lbs of sugar, 1lb of tea, vegetables and potatoes, milk, eggs, drink, coal and gas, rent at 4s a week, and tobacco at 1s. There was also some over for clothing, furniture, travelling and amusements and the church and doctor. Expenditure just about balanced income. By 1884 more meat was eaten, rent had gone up to 6s, and education had been added to the list, but by now there was an annual surplus of almost £6. This report gives a lively and interesting indication of the rise in living standards towards the end of the nineteenth century, and is well worth reading.

¹ Levi, Leone, 'Wages and Earnings of the Working Classes,' London 1885

The Austen Connection

Joy Pibworth

It is a truth universally acknowledged that Jane Austen was born and bred in Hampshire. Anyone travelling the main roads into that county will have that confirmed by the brown tourism signs erected by the county council. However, the Austens had many important links with Berkshire and some of those villages immediately north of the River Thames.



Jane Austen - not authenticated but a likely silhouette

Jane Austen's life (1775-1817) spanned turbulent times: the loss of the American colonies, the French Revolution, the Napoleonic Wars and the spread of the British influence in India. Members of her family and friends were involved directly in these events. Her roots were unquestionably English, her father George originating from Kent, gaining a scholarship to Oxford and thence becoming Rector of Steventon and Deane, near Basingstoke, Hampshire. Her mother, Cassandra Leigh, was born in the tiny village of Harpsden, to the north of the Reading to Henley road. Her father was Thomas Leigh, Rector of the village and their home, now the

Old Rectory can be seen in the village. The parish registers reveal the history of the family:

Baptisms

Aug. 14 1734	Ann	(d. 1738)
July 15 1735	James	(d. Mar. 28 1837)
October 9 1736	Jane	(d. October 1783)
October 14 1737	Mary	(d. October 31 1737)
Sept. 16 1739	Cassandra	(d. Jan. 17 1827)
April 27 1747	Thomas	(d. 1821) (Mentally or physically handicapped, he spent his long life in the care of a lowly family in Hampshire).

The Leigh family had aristocratic and academic ancestors: a 16th century Lord Mayor of London, the Lord Leighs of Stoneleigh, distinguished scholars at Oxford, as well as marriage connections with the Earl of Berkeley and the Duke of Chandos.

Reverend Thomas Leigh retired to Bath in the early 1760's and it was here that Cassandra married George Austen on 26th April 1764. The vicar who performed the ceremony was Thomas Powys, a childhood friend whose family lived in Hardwick Hall, Whitchurch, near Pangbourne. Cassandra's sister, Jane, married the Reverend Edward Cooper, whose family owned Phyllis Court, near Henley. The couple settled in Royal Crescent, Bath, and he also served as Vicar of Southcote, now a modern suburb on the western fringes of Reading. Even in those days of uncertain travel, family visits were important and we discover from one of Mrs Austen's letters, dated 9th December 1770:

'We went to Southcote, where we found my sister, Dr Cooper and the little boy quite well'

The little boy was Edward Cooper, her nephew, who in later life married Caroline Lybbe, daughter of Philip and Caroline Lybbe Powys of Fawley, near Henley. (Philip was brother to Reverend Thomas Powys and took the extra surname when he married the heiress Caroline Lybbe). This Edward Cooper was later Rector of Harpsden, where four of his children were born, before moving to Hamstall Ridaware in Staffordshire. The Reverend Edward Cooper (senior) and his wife had a second child, Jane, who was of a similar age to Jane Austen's elder sister Cassandra.

Between 1765 and 1779 the Austens had 8 children, 6 boys and 2 girls. Jane was the 7th child and the 2nd daughter. It was decided that the two Austen girls and their cousin should go away to

school together. Firstly they went to an establishment in Oxford run by a Mrs Cawley (widowed sister-in-law of Reverend Cooper). Soon after they went there in 1783 the school moved to Southampton and it was there that a ‘putrid sore throat’ spread from the port through the town to the school, leaving Jane Austen in danger of her life. Jane Cooper wrote to her mother, who immediately came with Mrs Austen to nurse them all. Jane’s life was saved but Mrs Cooper returned home to Bath to die of the fever in October 1783. Dr Cooper, devastated, decided to return to his roots, and took up the living of Sonning from 1784 until his death in 1792.

After this unpropitious attempt at school the three parents decided to send the three girls to school again and this time they chose the Reading Ladies Boarding School, otherwise known as the Abbey School, or Mrs La Tournelle’s School. The school was based in the 13th century Abbey Gateway and an adjoining house. The building, now used as the venue for a music club, can still be seen today in its refurbished state, after a partial collapse in 1861.¹ The building overlooks the Abbey Ruins and the Forbury Gardens (as well as the Remand Centre and Railway Station) The head of the school Madame La Tournelle (aka Sarah Hackitt) was renowned for her cork leg. Banking records show that George Austen paid £35 per pupil for the usual accomplishments of sewing, spelling, dancing, music and French. In 1786 the girls left school and returned home.

Jane’s experiences in Reading are thought to have influenced her description of Mrs Goddard’s school in “Emma”:

‘A real old-fashioned Boarding School where a reasonable quantity of accomplishments were sold at a reasonable price and girls might be out of the way and scramble themselves into a little education without any danger of coming back prodigies’

Jane’s only reference to her schooling is in one of her letters to her sister:

‘I could have died of laughing at [your letter] as they used to say at school, (Letters 1st September 1796)

But after nearly two years in Reading, living in its most historic area amongst the ruins of the Abbey with its association with the monarchy (Henry I was buried here in 1135, Henry VIII dissolved the monastery and had Abbot Hugh Faringdon executed for high treason and Charles I’s Cavaliers fought the Roundheads on

fortifications visible today) it is hardly surprising that Jane Austen was to produce 'The History of England by a partial, prejudiced and ignorant historian' in 1791 and illustrated by her sister Cassandra. Jane, incidentally, was a staunch supporter of Mary Queen of Scots and the Stuarts.

Jane Cooper spent much time with her cousins. On holiday on the Isle of Wight with her father, brother and the Lybbe Powys family in 1792 she met and subsequently married Captain, later Sir, Thomas Williams RN. She died in a carriage accident six years later.

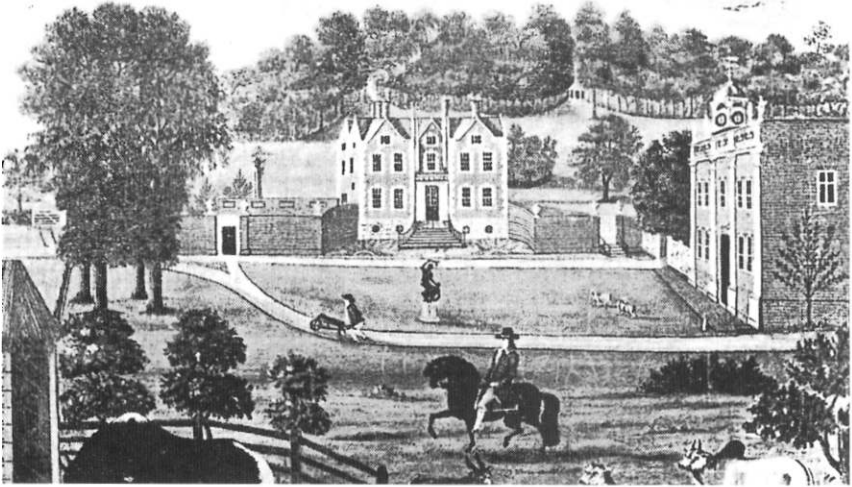
George Austen, orphaned and dependant on family charity as a young boy, had two sisters: Leonora, of whom little is known except that she was cared for by a succession of families with printing associations in London until her death in 1784; and Philadelphia, his other sister, took drastic, but not unheard of, action to achieve financial security. At the age of 21 she was granted permission by the East India Company to travel out to India with the presumed intention of marrying one of the many Britons working there. She did get married soon after her arrival, to Tysoe Saul Hancock, a doctor who became a friend and trading partner of Warren Hastings, a rising star in the company. Hastings, whose wife and daughter had recently died in India, sent his son George home to England in 1761, in the care of Francis Sykes, owner of Basildon Park, near Reading (now a National Trust property). The child was put in the care of George Austen, then a bachelor, doubtlessly due to the influence of Philadelphia.

The little boy did not survive long, dying in 1764 soon after the Austens' marriage. The links between the families survived, Warren Hastings making a particularly generous settlement of £10,000 on Philadelphia and her daughter Eliza Hancock. George Austen, one of the trustees, did not allow the money to be released to her when she married a French nobleman in 1781. Wisely, since the Comte de Feuillede was guillotined in 1794 and all of his property confiscated. Letters still exist between the Austen family and Warren Hastings and in later years Jane was to write:

'And Mr Hastings (who was pleased with 'Pride and Prejudice') - I am quite delighted with what such a man writes about it'

In 1771 Hastings was made 1st Governor of India, but was later accused of corruption and was put on trial. This was a cause of

great distress to the Austens who considered him an honourable man, but attendance at the trial, which lasted seven years before finding him innocent, was considered one of the events of the season. Whilst this trial was in progress Hastings rented Purley Hall, a few miles outside of Reading (a fact announced in the *Reading Mercury* on 4th May 1789).



Purley Hall

Whilst Cassandra and Jane were ‘out of the way’ at school, Mr Austen supplemented his income by taking in pupils and tutoring them for Oxford. The Fowle family of Kintbury provided four pupils. One of them, Tom Fowle, later returned after obtaining his MA at Oxford and being ordained to the rather impoverished parish of Allingham in Wiltshire. He became engaged to Cassandra Austen and in order to make enough money to marry on, went as chaplain with his distant relation Lord Craven of Hampstead Marshall and Ashdown Park in Berkshire, to the West Indies with the fleet. He died of yellow fever in San Domingo in 1797. Cassandra inherited £1000 from his will, giving her a little financial independence, but never entertained the idea of marriage after that. But the families remained close and were already related by marriages (James Austen married Mary Lloyd whose sister Elizabeth married Reverend Fulwar-Craven Fowle). The final and most lasting link with Berkshire was that caused by Mrs Austen’s brother James Leigh. He led a charmed existence.

Whilst in his teens his elderly great uncle, Thomas Perrot, bequeathed all of his Northleigh (Oxfordshire) estates to James at the age of 21, on condition that he took the additional name of Perrot. This duly done, Mr Leigh-Perrot sold the land to the Duke of Marlborough and had the mansion 'Scarlets' built on farmland at Hare Hatch, Wargrave. In 1764 he married Jane Cholmely, daughter of an English lawyer in the West Indies. She had been sent back to England at the age of six and had never seen her immediate family again. Mr and Mrs Leigh-Perrot were a devoted, yet childless, couple.

In 1806 after a legal settlement with two co-heirs, he inherited a further £24,000 and an annual allowance of £2,000 for life. The Leigh-Perrots lived a wealthy and luxurious lifestyle, either at 'Scarlets' or at their house at The Paragon in Bath. They were generous towards the Austens, offering them gifts and receiving them as guests. The Austens in return seem to have been genuinely attached to them, although Jane makes critical references to 'my Aunt' in her letters.



James Leigh-Perrot

Whilst in Bath in 1799, Mrs Leigh-Perrot was accused of the theft of a piece of lace valued at £1, a felony punishable by death or transportation. She was imprisoned in the house of the gaoler of Ilchester gaol throughout the winter, but was finally acquitted at

Taunton in 1800. It was revealed as a blackmail plot, but the threat of the punishment was very real. Family tradition says that Mr Leigh-Perrot was prepared to sell up everything to accompany her to Australia if she was found guilty.

Despite these frightening experiences, Mr and Mrs Austen made the sudden decision, at the end of 1800, to leave Steventon Parsonage to retire to Bath with their two daughters, then aged 25 and 28. The Reading Mercury, with its large circulation in southern England, was chosen to advertise the sale of the contents of the house. The advert appeared on Monday 4th May 1801 but, according to Jane's letters, did not net as much money as they had expected. The family moved to Bath in 1801 where they lived until 1806, after Reverend Austen's death. The ladies then moved to Southampton with their brother Frank (Captain, later Admiral) Austen and thence to Chawton, near Alton, in 1809. It was there that Jane wrote and revised her six novels. From 1816 she became increasingly unwell and was also preoccupied by a series of severe financial difficulties that beset three of her brothers.

The final blow to her spirits and health came after the death of her uncle Mr Leigh-Perrot on 28th March 1817. When his will was read it was discovered that he had left all of his money to his wife, with some bequests to any Austen nephews and nieces who might survive her. The Austens had been led to believe that they would benefit from his vast fortune and there must have been disappointment that it would be deferred. Jane wrote to her brother Charles:

'I am ashamed to say that the shock of my uncle's will brought on a relapse.... I am the only one of the legatees to be so silly'

Her health declined and she died on 18th July 1817 in Winchester and was buried in the cathedral.

A classically elegant tomb to Mr Leigh-Perrot is to be found in Wargrave churchyard with an elaborate and effusive eulogy to him on one side. On the other is a more concise inscription to his wife, who lived a further 19 years. She continued to live at 'Scarlets' and spent her time favouring first one then another potential heir. Jane's nephew Edward Austen and her brother Frank became the front-runners. The capricious old lady chose Edward hoping that he and his family would love 'Scarlets' as much as she and her husband had, but she kept him waiting to find out until after her death in 1836.

In the years after Jane Austen's death the family of her eldest brother James, who survived her by only two years, kept the Berkshire connection alive. His widow Mary had originally come from Enborne, near Newbury and returned to that area accompanied by her daughter Caroline and son Edward.



James Leigh-Perrot's grave at Wargrave

After her mother's death in 1843, Caroline Austen made her "headquarters at Scarlets", with her brother and his family, before renting a house at Knowl Hill and then buying Wargrave Lodge, where she lived until 1860 when she moved to Sussex to act as housekeeper for two unmarried nephews. She returned on occasions to Berkshire visiting her half-sister Anna Lefroy at Southern Hill, Reading and her brother, who had sold 'Scarlets' in 1863 before moving to Bray to act as Vicar. Caroline and Anna, contributed her memories of 'Aunt Jane' when Edward wrote his Memoir of Jane Austen, the first biography, published in 1869, thus the three 'Berkshire Austens' told the story of their Hampshire aunt.

In 'Northanger Abbey', published posthumously in 1818, the heroine Catherine Morland rejects the study of history:

'It tells me nothing that does not either vex or weary me. The quarrels of Popes and Kings, with wars and pestilence on every page: the men all so good for nothing and hardly any women at all - it is very tiresome'

The history of the Austen family and their connections with Berkshire fortunately bears little resemblance to that description.

Sources:

Jane Austen's Letters - Deirdre Le Faye

Reading Mercury 1801 (Reading Local Studies Library)

1851 Census

Book of Wargrave - edited by Rosemary Gray and Sue Griffiths

Jane Austen's Family - Maggie Lane

The Jane Austen Society - Collected reports

Reminiscences of Caroline Austen.

Family History Research

New Brunswick, Canada

Census Records, Vital Records, Municipal Records, Land and Probate Records, Marriage Bonds, Loyalists of NB, Parish Records, Cemetery Transcriptions, Newspapers and Directories, Militia and Military Records(pre-1900), Published and Unpublished Family Histories

Enquiries, including an SAE and first class postage to:
**Carolyn Harris, BA, MEd. PO Box 20226 Fredericton, NB
Canada E3B 7A2
Tel: 506-454-4965, e-mail: hilderly@nbnet.ca**

Grave Concern

**Care & maintenance of gravesites
Anywhere in the United Kingdom
Grave search service**

For brochure & further details contact:

**Grave Concern
45 Caledon Road
Nottingham
NG5 2NF**

**Tel: 0115 985 6827 Fax: 0115 847 5681 Email: mgp@grave-concern
Website: www.grave-concern.com**

Help Wanted

Halfacre family

Mrs. Janet Holley, 17 Lower Road, Teynham, Nr. Sittingbourne, Kent ME9 9DR

I am seeking further information on the Halfacre family. My five-times grandfather Francis Halfacre married Elizabeth Collins in Hurst, Berkshire on October 20, 1763 and moved to Wokingham. Until now I have not been able to find his date of birth or his parents. Many of his descendants were farmers. His grandson William, born in 1803, married Ann Boyce, and lived at Foxley Green Farm, Bray. His sons were: Robert, born in 1846, married Sarah Brangwin and lived at Little Foxley Farm; Thomas, born in 1848, married Mary Ann and lived at Common Farm, Bray; William, born in 1842, married Sarah Ann Compton and lived at Creswell's Farm. I would like to know what kind of farms they were and more about this interesting farming family.

(See the article by Joan Dils on archdeaconry records and the family historian on page 73. Ed.)

Watts family

Janet Crabbe, 12 Westfield Road, Regents Park, Southampton SO15 4HR

My grandfather Henry Watts was born in 1866 and my father Frank was born in 1920, so I always knew that tracing any of my family was not likely to be easy. If I had realized quite how complicated it was going to become five years ago, then perhaps I might never have started (where have you heard that before?). The fact that my father, who was orphaned when he was six years old, was eager to get any snippet of information I could find, made me carry on. Also as there didn't seem to be that many people living in Reading in 1850 to 1870, I decided to start on the trail. I have traced all Henry's siblings, except his sister Hannah (Annie) Watts and it seems that it was only Henry that had children. So this part seemed easy.

It was when I started looking for his Henry's father that the plot thickened. His father, Mark, and his siblings seemed to use the surnames Watts Hughes, Hughes Watts or any combination of these names you can think of. Why, we are not sure, but it may have had something to do with a William Watts being transported to Tasmania in 1830 for stealing £5 and breaking a threshing machine. I cannot think why the family would use the name Hughes because Mark's parents and grandparents had the surname Garlick, White, Fidler and of course Watts. They all seemed to come from humble agricultural labouring stock, except for the Fidler line, so why bother continuing to use the names Hughes or Hughes Watts until 1931?

After wading through the Watts family, I thought my grandmother's family would be easier. No such luck. My great-grandmother Elizabeth Archer has caused me many problems. Elizabeth Archer, the daughter of Richard Archer and Caroline (nee Shackleford) was born in 1855. Elizabeth gave birth to my grandmother Caroline in 1871 (clearly named after her grandmother). My grandmother Caroline's birth certificate states that her father is Edward Shackleford, whom I have not been able to identify as yet. I have photographs of many of their descendents: Joseph Read, George William Dennis and Lilian Parsons. Henry Watts and his brother John (Jack) seem to have lived at Caversham and were in the Reading Veterans Band. If anyone could help me in my quest I would be glad of some assistance.

Mrs. A.L. Wolno, 53 Walsingham Road, Hove, East Sussex BN3 4FE

I have recently returned to England from Zimbabwe where I have lived for many years. Now I am attempting to trace a number of family connections, so far without success. They include C. Huntley Wilkinson of Ceylon and Rhodesia, the Rev. H. H. Skrine, Miss Barrington, Ester Page and L. Hogarth. They all lived in Maidenhead around 1890 to 1950. I have also a number of photographs of Horwood Garden and Glenmead Poultry Farm, Matfield, Kent, but I have not been able to track these places down either. Any help would be much appreciated.

Prince Consort's Windsor Association - update

Julie Goddard, 11 Chandos Road, Newbury, Berkshire, RG14 7EP

Thank you for including my request for information in the June Historian and thank you also to those who wrote to me: Mrs. Mary Martin for revealing that she had sent the certificate to me in the first place and that James and Sarah Goddard were her ancestors; Mrs. Patricia Gilbert, who tells me that one of her ancestors received a certificate; Mr. Ronald Boyle of Windsor for kindly searching the local newspapers of the 1850s and 1860s; and Mrs. Margaret Goddard who wrote to the Royal Archives at Windsor Castle and the Prince of Wales in a quest for information. The Royal Archives say that this is one of their most frequently asked enquiries. The following is a summary of what we discovered:

The Association was founded by Prince Albert in 1850 'for the encouragement of the labouring classes on or about the Royal demesne'. It was originally called 'Windsor Royal Association', but was changed after Prince Albert's death in 1861 to 'Prince Consort's Windsor Association'. The association was run by a Committee under the Chairmanship of the Deputy Ranger of Windsor Park and supported by subscriptions of local residents.

To begin with there was an annual award, but after 1883 it became every two years and a member of the Royal Family always attended award ceremonies. The award ceremony took place at a big flower and vegetable show in Windsor Home Park where there were competitions for the best of each class, and also, it appears, competitions in 'the people's industrial exhibition'— a hobbies section perhaps.

From newspapers of the time it can be seen that prizes originally were given to 'encourage the labourers and their families and domestic and other servants, habits of morality and good order, providence and industry'. Prizes would be given 'to the labourer who has brought up his family in honest, sober and industrious habits and without parish relief except in case of sickness; to the widow of a labourer who has done the same; to families distinguished for cleanliness in house and person; to well conducted servants; to servants, male or female, who have lived

for the longest period of service in the same situation; to young persons, male or female, who have done as above; to the best cultivators of gardens or allotments, being also persons of honest, sober, and good moral character; to the winner of the best vegetable collection produced from his or her own garden; best ploughman, in various classes.' Not all the prizes, or medals, were awarded every year; sometimes no one was felt good enough.

By 1852 the Prince Consort appears to have enlarged the scope or his association and wished to encourage 'Better Domestic Accommodation for the Industrial Classes.' He designed, or had designed model cottages for families, model lodging houses for the single working man, and communal baths and washing houses. The model cottages for families appear to have been a great success and in advance of their time. No doubt some BFHS members live in them still. However, the lodging houses for single men met with mixed fortunes, were not entirely successful and were eventually made into family houses.

In 1875 the then Chairman suggested that the association should be wound up but Queen Victoria wished it to continue and it did so, until 1904 when Edward VII decided that it had served its purpose. The balance of money was handed to Windsor Royal Infirmary.

WILTSHIRE'S NIMROD INDEX

Marriages 1538-1837, Varied 1242-1930 Wills, 1242-1887
£2 search fee per surname, per index, plus 20p each entry
provided

1851 Census £2 Search fee plus 20p per household

Location of Documents for Wiltshire Parishes

50p plus postage per parish

Cheques to be made payable to Mrs J.Carter.

**Barbara and Jenny Carter, 1 Lansdown Rd, Swindon,
Wiltshire SN1 3NE**

10% off invoice, excluding postage, for WFHS members,
quote membership no.

email: nimrod.index@btinternet.com

See website for full information: [www.nimrod-
index.fsnet.co.uk/](http://www.nimrod-index.fsnet.co.uk/)

New Books for your Bookshelf

The Secretary Hand ABC by Alf Ison. Third edition (2000) published by BFHS £4.45 (incl. p&p UK) £4.75 (overseas)

This guide to reading older documents, including wills and probate inventories, has been a best seller since its first edition in 1982. It guides the reader using the same technique as the alphabet books we used as children with a picture next to each letter of the alphabet. If you are trying to read an old document for the first time this book will help you to understand how the most difficult words were formed. This book ought to be on every family historian's bookshelf. (JG)

Militia Lists and Musters 1757-1876 by Jeremy Gibson and Mervyn Medlycott. Fourth edition published by FFHS £4.55 (incl. p&p UK) £4.95 (overseas)

Subtitled 'A Directory of holdings in the British Isles' this is the fourth edition of a guide, arranged county-by-county, to finding militia lists and musters. There is also a useful introduction describing how these records were created. Thus under the 1757 Militia Act, 'parish constables were ordered to record the names of all men aged 18 to 50,' so in theory these lists should be virtually complete annual censuses for men. However, the survival rate for the lists is patchy. The authors note that the records and where they were held were re-surveyed for the third edition, but not for this one, although it does contain some new information as well as up-to-date address details for Record Offices etc. (CMBH)

Marriage and Census Indexes for Family Historians by Jeremy Gibson and Elizabeth Hampson. Eighth (2000) edition published by FFHS, price £4.00 (incl. p&p UK) £4.50 (overseas)

An updated edition pointing family historians to marriage and census indexes, arranged by English county, with Wales, Scotland, the Channel Islands and Ireland at the end. A useful source if you are looking to see if a marriage or census index exists for an area that you are interested in. It is particularly useful for locating privately held indexes such as the Berkshire Name Index. Details

of printed indexes are also included, as well as those held at Records Offices and Local Studies Libraries. (CMBH)

Specialist Indexes for Family Historians by Jeremy Gibson and Elizabeth Hampson. Second (2000) edition published by FFHS, price £4.55 (incl. p&p UK) £4.95 (overseas)

The information contained in this book was freshly surveyed in Spring 2000 and is again arranged by county. The authors point out that a “compilation such as this must always be something of a lucky dip”, but nevertheless is well worth dipping into in case someone has indexed a series of records which may include your ancestor. (CMBH)

An Introduction to British Civil Registration by Tom Wood. Second edition published by FFHS, price £5.20 (incl. p&p UK) £5.70 (overseas)

If you are new to Family History, then a guide to Civil Registration is probably something you need to read first to follow the procedures for finding and obtaining certificates for Births, Marriages and Deaths. As the title indicates, this book is not exclusive to England and Wales, but covers Scotland, Northern Ireland, the Republic of Ireland, the Channel Islands and the Isle of Man. (CMBH)

An Introduction to Poor Law Documents before 1834 by Anne Cole. Second edition published by FFHS, price £4.55 (incl. p&p UK) £4.95 (overseas)

This guide provides a brief introduction to the pre-1834 poor law and concentrates on describing the documents produced by the necessary processes: removal orders, settlement certificates, overseer’s accounts, churchwarden’s accounts etc. There is also a reminder that not only the poor feature in these records, those who administered the system are also recorded, thus a set of churchwarden’s accounts will include the names of successive churchwardens. Poor Law records are usually held in the relevant county record office, however if making a special trip it is wise to establish beforehand what a particular repository holds. (CMBH)

An Introduction to Friendly Society Records by Roger Logan. Published by FFHS, price £4.55 (incl. p&p UK) £4.95 (overseas)

Describes the background to friendly societies which mainly flourished during the nineteenth century and declined dramatically following the introduction of the welfare state in 1948. This is an under-used source currently and there is no comprehensive systematic listing of Friendly Society archives. However, the author suggests that one listing to try is the computerised National Register of Archives, held by the Royal Commission on Historical Manuscripts, although much material is believed to be held in local record offices, often unclassified. (CMBH)

Basic Approach to Illuminating Your Family History with Picture Postcards by Philip J Chapman. Published by FFHS, £1.90 (incl. p&p UK) £2.20 (overseas)

This is a useful book, reminding family historians that there are other things we can do when we cannot find a picture of our ancestor, perhaps there is a postcard of the church which our ancestors attended, or the High Street where they ran a business. Contains information about the background of picture postcards and how to go about collecting what you want, whilst warning you not to get sidetracked into picture-postcard collecting. (CMBH)

Administrative Records for Yorkshire Genealogists by Stuart A Raymond £7.20 (incl. p&p UK) £7.50 (overseas)

Yorkshire Lists of Names by Stuart A Raymond £6.50 (incl. p&p UK) £7.00 (overseas)

Information Sources for Yorkshire Genealogists by Stuart A Raymond £6.50 (incl. p&p UK) £7.00 (overseas). All three published by FFHS

These are part of a series which aims to list various sources for Yorkshire researchers. Having Yorkshire ancestors, I looked up Bolton Abbey and discovered references in all three; the reference in "Information Sources for Yorkshire Genealogists" was to an article entitled 'Personal Mobility in Three West Riding parishes, 1777-1812' contained in 'Local Population Studies' which is based

on the registers of Bolton Abbey, Skipton and Addingham. This is a source I would not have found were it not for a book such as this. Well worth consulting if you have Yorkshire interests.
(CMBH)

**Ghosts of Berkshire by Ian McLoughlin Published by
Countryside Books, price £4.50 (incl. p&p UK) £5.00
(overseas)**

This book covers the post-1974 county and recounts tales of some Berkshire ghosts, including Lady Hoby of Bisham Abbey, Herne the Hunter of Windsor Forest, the Kintbury Witch, the Ghosts of Purley Hall and several others. (CMBH)

1851 Berkshire Census - Full Transcript and Index

Vol 1:2 Newbury £5.50 (incl. p&p UK) £6.00 (overseas)

Vol 12 Windsor £7.50 (incl. p&p UK) £8.00 (overseas)

Monumental Inscriptions

Greenham, St Mary the Virgin (1797 - 1984) £2.50 (incl. p&p UK)
£3.00 (overseas)

Woodley, St John's (1873 - 1989) £2.50 (incl. p&p UK) £3.00
(overseas)

Woolhampton, St Peter's (1684 - 1986) £2.50 (incl. pp UK) £3.00
(overseas)

All these books are available from the Society Bookstall. To place an order send a sterling cheque to:

Mail Order, BFHS Bookstall

Yeomanry House

131 Castle Hill

Reading RG1 7TJ

National Burial Index

The Federation of Family History Societies expects to make available the first edition of the National Burial Index, on CD-ROM, early in 2001. More than five million records are included in the first edition, including the Berkshire contribution in excess of 50,600 records covering the following 52 registers, mainly from the west of the county:

Ashampstead St Clement 1757 - 1837

Avington 1727 - 1812

Barkham St James 1741 - 1812

Basildon St Bartholomew 1727 - 1856

Beenham St Mary 1813 - 1863

Boxford St Andrew 1758 - 1876

Bradfield St Andrew 1695 - 1754

Brightwalton All Saints 1805 - 1922

Brimpton St Peter 1769 - 1901

Bucklebury St Mary the Virgin 1692 - 1910

Burghfield St Mary 1559 - 1870

Catmore St Margaret 1814 - 1985

Chaddleworth St Andrew 1798 - 1851

Chieveley St Mary the Virgin 1874 - 1895

Compton SS Mary & Nicholas 1813 - 1901

East Ilsley St Mary 1772 - 1868

East Shefford 1604 - 1734 and 1774 - 1917

Enborne St Michael & All Angels 1754 - 1837

Fawley St Mary 1550 - 1812

Greenham St Mary 1799 - 1812 and 1862 - 1914

Hungerford Independent 1819 - 1830

Inkpen St Michael & All Angels 1878 - 1986

Kintbury St Mary 1813 - 1857 and 1884 - 1925

Lambourn St Michael & All Angels 1767 - 1837

Maidenhead High Street Wesleyan Methodist 1858 - 1903

Maidenhead New Chapel (Countess of Huntingdon) 1843 - 1858

Midgham St Matthew 1813 - 1980
Newbury Baptist Church 1773 - 1823
Newbury Lower Meeting House Independent 1784 - 1837
Newbury St John the Evangelist 1878 - 1900
Newbury St Nicolas 1746 to 1757 and 1798 - 1890
Newbury Upper Meeting House Presbyterian 1783 - 1836
Padworth St John the Baptist 1724 - 1837
Pangbourne Independent Chapel 1836 only
Peasemore St Barnabas 1813 - 1879
Purley St Mary the Virgin 1813 - 1900
Reading King's Road Baptist Church 1785 - 1835
Reading London Road Cemetery 1843 - 1852
Reading St Laurence 1813 - 1828
Ruscombe St James the Great 1705 - 1812
Shaw cum Donnington St Mary the Virgin 1813 - 1932
Shottesbrooke St John the Baptist 1690 - 1811
Speen St Mary the Virgin 1790 - 1862
Speenhamland St Mary 1831 - 1881
Sulham St Nicholas 1724 - 1850
Sunninghill St Michael & All Angels 1796 - 1812
Tilehurst St George 1886 - 1908
Ufton Nervet St Peter 1737 - 1834
Wasing St Nicholas 1763 - 1853
West Shefford St Mary 1779 - 1812
Winterbourne St James the Less 1750 - 1850
Wokingham Baptist Church 1841 - 1906

We are now offering a postal service for researching burials in the Berkshire parishes listed above; details are given on page 120.

Work continues on preparing further batches for inclusion in the Index. More volunteers are always welcome for transcribing, inputting and checking - much of which can be carried out at home. Anyone who is interested in helping should contact David Wright at the following address: 45 Picton Way, Caversham, Reading, Berkshire RG4 8NJ. Email David.Wright@nationwideisp.net

Members' Interests

Compiled by Bob Plumridge, Bob.Plumridge@virgin.net

MEMBERS SUBMITTING THEIR INTERESTS:

* Guild of One Name Studies

- 2878 Mr B **Blackman** Coombe Barn Cottage Witheridge Tiverton Devon EX16 8PT
3010 Mr LA **Cook** 58 Lloyd Street Oatley NSW 2223 AUSTRALIA
3221 Mr & Mrs MI **Leake** 78 City Road Tilehurst Reading Berkshire RG31 5SB
3414 Mr B **Baggott** 1120 Lake Twintree Drive SE Calgary Alberta T2J 2Y1 CANADA
3467 Mr A **Neville** Springwell Cottage Talkin Brampton Cumbria CA8 1LB
3832 Mrs JM **Crabbe** 12 Westfield Road Regents Park Southampton Hampshire SO15 4HR
3865 Mr KJ & Mrs R **Noyes** 176 Cannock Road Stafford Staffs ST17 0QJ
4112 Mr M **Duncan** 269 St Leonard's Road Windsor Berks SL4 3DR
4194 Mr C **Dixon** 40 Norset Road Fareham Hampshire PO15 6SS
4218 Mr TJ & Mrs SA **Barlow** 6 Belvoir Avenue Emmerson Valley Milton Keynes Bucks MK4 2AB
4233 Miss RJ **Pryor** 40 Icknield Close Didcot Oxon OX11 7AU
4289 Mrs JM **Nash** Hunt Cottage Cox Green Lane Great Whelnetham Bury St Edmonds Suffolk IP30 0UG
4290 Mr P & Mrs L **Ellis** Willow Tree Cottage Lower Wokingham Road Crowthorne Berks RG45 6BT
4315 Mr CG **Raney** 87 Finborough Road Stowmarket Suffolk IP14 1PT
4318* Mr JW **Andrew** 101 Whitecross Abingdon Oxon OX13 6BS
4323 Mr KW & Mrs HJ **White** 23 Mingay Road Thetford Norfolk IP24 3JH
4337 Mr P **Turner** 7 Nairn Close Acomb Park York YO24 2RB
4345 Mr RE **Wilson** 54 Tippings Lane Woodley Reading Berks RG5 4RY
4348 Miss VMA **Holman** Rosemary Cottage Town Barton Norton St. Philip Bath BA3 6LN
4352 Mrs A **Atkins** 7 Conifer Crest Newbury Berks RG14 6RS
4358 Mr GJ & Mrs PM **Carter** 8 Reddington Drive Langley Slough Berks SL3 7QX
4362 Mr PJ & Mrs JA **Emmons** 26 Denham Close Maidenhead Berks SL6 4RN
4364 Mrs M **Fraser** 7 Godwyn Close Abingdon Oxon OX14 1BU
4366 Mrs JR **Hance** Flat 1 26 West Hill Road London SW18 1LN
4370 Mr J **Bedwell** 47 High Gill Road Nunthorpe Middlesbrough N Yorks TS7 0EA
4372 Mr CR & Mrs P **Beechey** Close Harmony 27 Sandymere Road Northam Bideford Devon EX39 1EY
4377 Mrs CR **Winter** 10 Porter Close Lower Earley Reading Berks RG6 4JB
4378 Mrs B **Green** 23 Pollards Way Warnbro Western Australia 6169 AUSTRALIA

4387	Miss MJ Meadows	96 Fairfield Drive	Dorking Surrey	RH14 1JJ
4389	Mr E Saxton	School House	Church Hill East Ilsley	Newbury Berks RG20 7LP
4395	Mrs VC Sell	10 Clyst Valley Road	Clyst St. Mary	Exeter Devon EX5 1DD
4397	Mrs C Lowry	71 Albury Drive	Pinner	HA5 3RL
4399	Mr D Monk-Steel	15 Chelwood Walk	Holgate York	YO26 4UM
4401	Mrs MA Turner	29 Darvell Drive	Chesham Bucks	HP5 2QL
4410	Mrs EM Brown	144 Moore Avenue	Sprowston	Norwich NR6 7LQ
4412	Mr PW Brown	114 Southfield Avenue	Paignton	Devon TQ3 1LD
4416	Mr P Collins	14 Maidecroft Road	Cowley Oxford	OX4 3EN
4418	Mr DE Hemmens	14 Jellicoe Avenue	Gosport	Hampshire PO12 2PE
4419	Mrs SL Ramirez	28 Offington Drive	Worthing	West Sussex BN14 9PN
4420	Mr R Hawkins	12 Bideford Street	New Plymouth	Taranaki NEW ZEALAND 4601
4425*	Mr J Swallow	The Holly Bush	Hollybush Lane	Stoke Bishop Bristol BS9 1JB
4451	Mrs S Morris	2 Rue du Puits D'Amour	62200 Boulogne	Sur Mer FRANCE

No	Name	Place	Code	Dates
4112	ABSALOM	Any	OXF	1700-1900
4112	ABSALOM	Any	BRK	1700-1900
4416	ABSOLOM	Any	OXF	1600-1900
4416	ABSOLOM	Any	BRK	1600-1900
3010	ADNAMS	East Ilsley	BRK	1750-1900
3010	ADNAMS	Hampstead Norris	BRK	1750-1800
4418	ALFLATT	Crimplisham	NOR	1800-1950
3010	ALLEN	Barton	CAM	1740-2000
4366	ALLWOOD	Reading	BRK	1750-1990
4352	ALLWORK	Newhaven	SSX	1500-1900
4352	ANKERS	Liverpool	LAN	1700-1900
4289	ARLOTT	Aldermaston	BRK	1800-1900
4397	ARMSTRONG R.	Aston Tirrold	BRK	1785-1819
4289	AYRES	Farnham Royal	BKM	1840-1900
4389	BALL	Wendover	BKM	1700-1800
4389	BALL	Handborough	OXF	1500-1700
4389	BALLARD	Portsea, St. Mary's	HAM	1600-1800
4218	BARLOW	East Ilsley	BRK	1700-2000
4218	BARLOW	West Ilsley	BRK	1700-1890
4377	BARRETT	Southwark	GTL	1840-1860
4366	BARTLETT	Reading	BRK	1750-1990
4366	BARTLETT	Any	HAM	1750-1990
4416	BASS	Merton	SRY	1800-1900
4370	BEDWELL	Reading	BRK	1850-2000

No	Name	Place	Code	Date	No	Name	Place	Code	Date
4370	BEDWELL	Steventon	BRK	1700-1950	4377	CARROLL	Easington	DUR	1890-1940
4370	BEDWELL	Abingdon	BRK	1200-2000	4289	CHALLIS/ICE	Aldermaston	BRK	1800-1900
4372	BEECHEY	Bampton	OXF	1600-1885	4233	CHAMBERS	Guildford	SRY	1800-1900
4372	BEECHY	Newport	MON	1817-2000	4389	CHAMBERS	Yarmouth	IOW	1600-1900
4348	BELCHER	Any	BRK	Any	4194	CHAPMAN	Hurst	BRK	Any
4419	BILLING	Reading	BRK	1600-1900	3414	CHING	Vernham Dean	HAM	pre 1800
4419	BILLING	Hailsham	ESX	1850-2000	4397	CLARK(E)	St. Geo. Hanover Sq.	MDX	1858-1905
4377	BIRD	Chesterton	CAM	1750-1820	4337	CLEMENTS	Shiplake	OXF	1700-1900
3865	BLANDERS	Any	OXF	1600-1710	3010	COLEMAN	Woodnewton	NTH	1830-1850
3865	BLANDERS	Any	BRK	1600-1710	4416	COLLINS	Reading	BRK	1800-1870
4218	BOLTON	Peasmore	BRK	1700-2000	4416	COLLINS	Ewelme/Warbor'	OXF	1800-2000
4289	BOND	Aldermaston	BRK	1800-1900	4112	COLLINS	Any	Any	1800-1900
4416	BOND	Warborough	OXF	1840-1980	4372	COMLEY	Malmesbury	WIL	1700-1840
4194	BOULTON LOWES	Any	BRK	Any	4364	CONNELL	Whitkirk	YKS	1700-1900
4194	BOULTON LOWES	Any	MDX	Any	3010	COOK	East Ilsley	BRK	1855-1862
4410	BRACKSTONE	East'stead/Binfield	BRK	1600-1950	3010	COOK	Hampstead Norris	BRK	1796-2000
4410	BRACKSTONE	Egham	SRY	1600-1950	3010	COOK	Great Shefford	BRK	1750-1800
4318	BRECKON	Any	Any	Any	4112	COOMBS	Reading	BRK	Any
4416	BRIDGES	Drayton St Leonard	OXF	1800-1920	4337	COUSE	Cornforth	DUR	1800s
4412	BROWN	Manchester	LAN	1700-1850	4337	COUSE	Bilston	STS	1700-1900
4377	BROWN	Finsbury	LCC	1850-1900	4412	COX	Wallingford	BRK	1600-1750
4352	BURROWS	Ipswich	SFK	1800-1900	3010	CRANGLE	Belfast	NIL	1830
4218	BUTLER	Beeton	BRK	1700-2000	3414	CRIPPS	Newbury	BRK	pre 1850
4410	CAM	Egham	SRY	1600-1950	4289	CRIPPS	Thatcham	BRK	1770-1900
4323	CAMDEN	Gt. Marlow	BKM	1830-2000	4378	CROWDER	Any	Any	1730-1760
4323	CAMDEN	Bourn End	BKM	1850-2000	3010	CROWTER	Any	MDX	1870-1900
4323	CAMDEN	Maidenhead	BRK	1870-2000	4352	CUDMORE	Tattingstone	SFK	1750-1850
4337	CAMPBELL	Workington	CUL	1800s	4397	CURTIS	Southwark	LND	1832-1886

No	Name	Place	Code	Date	No	Name	Place	Code	Date
4397	CURTIS	St. Geo. Hanover Sq.	LND	1886-1934	3010	DUNFORD	Ketton	RUT	1750-1850
4397	CURTIS A.J.	Aston Tirrold	BRK	1823-1861	4337	ELLIOTT	Wantage	OXF	1700-1900
4397	CURTIS L.	Aston Tirrold	BRK	1835-1885	4418	EMMANS	Cold Ash	BRK	1800-1850
4397	CURTIS T.	Hagbourne	BRK	1750-1777	4418	EMMINS	Ashmore Green	BRK	1800-1850
4397	CURTIS T.	Aston Tirrold	BRK	1788-1841	4418	EMMONS	Chieveley	BRK	1700-1800
4389	DABNER	Wilmington	KEN	1600-1800	4362	EMMONS	Burghfield	BRK	1810-1880
4364	DALBY	Leeds	YKS	1800-1900	4362	EMMONS	Burford	BRK	1810-1890
4337	DALKING	Hutton Rudby	NYK	1800s	4362	EMMONS	Thame	OXF	1850-1900
4412	DARBY	Henley	OXF	1550-1700	4362	EMMONS	Abingdon	BRK	1820-1910
4387	DARLING	Reading	BRK	1700-1900	4372	EVELY	Appledore	DEV	1850-1950
4218	DARTER	East Ilsley	BRK	1700-2000	4366	FAWCETT	Reading	BRK	1750-1990
4364	DAVIDSON	St Lukes	MDX	1800-1900	4377	FERGUSON	Any	NBL	1850-1900
4389	DAY	Hatfield	ESS	1600-1850	4378	FLETCHER	Colnbrook	BKM	1780-1820
4233	DAY	Gt Staughton	BDF	1820-1920	4377	FLETCHER	Bottisham	CAM	1750-1820
4358	DAY	Swallowfield	BRK	1700-1860	4364	FOSTER	Leeds	YKS	1800-1900
4358	DAY	Eton	BKM	1850-1950	4364	FRASER	Forgandenny	PER	1700-1900
4399	DEARLOVE	Reading	BRK	1600-1900	4337	FRASER	South Shields	DUR	1800s
4389	DICKENS	Newton Longville	BKM	1600-1800	4397	FROST C.A.	Epsom/Richmond	SRY	1828-1864
4289	DONEGUE	Bristol	GLS	1900-1950	4289	FULLER	Aldermaston	BRK	1896-2000
4290	DOPSON	Kintbury	BRK	1500-1820	3832	GARLICK	Any	BRK	1700-1812
4290	DOPSON	Abingdon	BRK	1820-2000	4389	GARNETT	Chawton	HAM	1600-1850
4412	DORAN	Westminster	MDX	1650-1800	4412	GARRAWAY	Any	BRK	1550-1900
4372	DOWNING	Kettering	NTH	1800-1900	4451	GILES	London	LND	19c
4378	DRAKE	Henley	OXF	1730-1800	4399	GLASCOE	South London	GTL	1800-1930
4378	DRAKE	London	MDX	1800-1900	4412	GOREWAY	Any	BRK	1550-1700
3221	DUKE	Dalton	LAN	1800-1900	3010	GOULDEN	Hulme	LAN	1840-1870
4112	DUNCAN	Reading	BRK	1800-2000	4364	GRAYSON	Leeds	YKS	1700-2000

No	Name	Place	Code	Date	No	Name	Place	Code	Date
4352	GREEN	Shrivenham	BRK	1700-1800	4337	HERBERT	Rock	WOR	1700-1900
3832	GRIFFIN	South Hinksey	BRK	1800-1850	4401	HERRIDGE	London	MDX	1800-2000
3832	GRIFFIN	Long Wittenham	BRK	1700-1800	4401	HERRIDGE	Bucklebury	BRK	1700-2000
3010	GRIFFITHS	London	MDX	1830-1850	4378	HIBBOT	Upton	BRK	1680-1720
3414	GROBETY	London	LDN	1800s	4378	HICKS	Clewer	BRK	1720-1840
3414	GROBETY	Marlborough	WIL	pre 1800	4378	HICKS	Compton B'uchamp	BRK	1780-1810
4289	GUNTER	Aldermaston	BRK	1840-1900	4395	HILLIER	Lambourn	BRK	pre 1900
4364	HALLEWELL	Leeds	YKS	1700-2000	4337	HOBDEN	Brighton	SSX	1800s
4289	HAMBLIN	Midgham	BRK	1770-1900	4364	HOBSON	West Riding	YKS	1700-2000
4364	HARDWICK	Whitkirk	YKS	1700-1900	4372	HOCKING	Appledore	DEV	1820-2000
4399	HARFIELD	Reading	BRK	1600-1900	4337	HODGSON	Workington	CUL	1800s
4399	HARFIELD	Any	HAM	1600-1900	4233	HOLDEN	Slinfold	SRY	1820-1900
4389	HARRIS	Oxford	OXF	1600-1800	4233	HOLDEN	Guildford	SRY	1880-1910
4377	HARVEY	Feering	ESS	1750-1850	4364	HOLLINGSWORTH	Leeds	YKS	1700-2000
4218	HATTER	Biddlestone	WLT	1700-2000	3221	HOLMES	Swinton	SYK	1800-1900
4218	HATTER	Hullavington	WLT	1700-2000	3221	HOLMES	Rawmarsh	SYK	1800-1900
4451	HATTON	Hannay	BEW	19c	3221	HOLMES	Workington	CUL	1880-1950
4420	HAWKINS	Oxford	OXF	1800-1850	4233	HOOKER	Guildford	SRY	1840-1900
4420	HAWKINS	Vale of White Horse	BRK	1066-1939	3832	HORSELEY	Long Wittenham	BRK	1700-1800
4420	HAWKINS	Kensington	MDX	1850-1939	4364	HUBY	Leeds	YKS	1200-2000
4345	HAY	London	MDX	1830-1857	3832	HUGHES-WATTS	Oxford	OXF	1885
3414	HAZELL	Chaddlworth	BRK	pre 1830	4412	HURST	London	MDX	1700-1850
4419	HEASMAN	Rotherfield	ESX	1600-2000	4323	HURST	Ramsbury	WIL	1860-2000
4418	HEMMENS	Gosport	HAM	1850-2000	4323	HUTSON	Rotherhithe	SRY	1890-2000
4112	HENWOOD	Any	OXF	Any	3414	HYDE	Newbury	BRK	pre 1820
4112	HENWOOD	Any	BRK	Any	4337	ILES	Gosport	HAM	1700-1900
4337	HERBERT	Hull	ERY	1800s	4289	ILOTT	Highworth	WIL	1800-1900

No	Name	Place	Code	Date	No	Name	Place	Code	Date
4194	ILTON	Any	BRK	Any	3221	MARTINDALE	Witherslack	WES	1750-1900
4345	JACKLIN	Louth	LIN	1830-1859	3221	MARTINDALE	Crosthwaite	WES	1800-1900
4345	JACKLIN	Hull	ERY	1859-1888	4218	MASKELL	Sonning	OXF	1700-2000
4412	JARVIS	Nettlebed	OXF	1550-1800	4112	MEDCRAF(T)	Any	LDN	1800-1900
4412	JEWELL	South Moulton	DEV	1750-1880	4112	MEDCRAF(T)	Any	OXF	1800-1900
4419	JOLLIFFE	Cowes	IOW	1600-1900	4112	MILLS	Godstone	SRY	1800-1900
4233	JONES	Guildford	SRY	1800-1875	4412	MILTON	Warfield	BRK	1550-1800
4419	JONES	Cowes	IOW	1800-1900	3414	MITCHELL	Brightwalton	BRK	pre 1800
4372	JOSEY	Aldworth	BRK	1800-1900	4399	MONK	Newbury	BRK	1800-1900
2878	KEMPSTER	Appleton	OXF	1500-1550	4399	MONK	Any	HAM	1600-1860
4218	KERNUTT	Kingsclere	HMP	1700-2000	3414	MOORE	Durrington	WIL	1800s
4416	KINGHAM	Aston Clinton	BKM	1750-1900	4362	MOORING	Shippon	BRK	1810-1880
4289	LAMBDIN	Stratfield/Mortimer	BRK	1830-2000	4362	MOORING	Abingdon	BRK	1810-1910
4418	LAND	Downham Market	NOR	1800-1950	4352	MORGAN	Horsham	SSX	1700-1800
4399	LARGEN	South London	GTL	1800-1930	4451	MORRIS	London	LDN	1800-1900
4318	LAW	Whitby	NRV	1800-1890	4451	MORRIS	L'antambad	CGN	19c
4318	LAW	Egton	NRV	1600-1800	4451	MORRIS	Bangor	CAE	1860-1900
4318	LAW	Cloughton	NRV	1800-1890	4401	MORTON	Bucklebury	BRK	1700-2000
3221	LEAKE	Windermere	WES	1800-1850	4389	MUSCHAMP	Harewood	YKS	1600-1800
3221	LEAKE	High Newton	LAN	1850-1920	4289	NASH	Aldermaston	BRK	1700-2000
4364	LINLEY	Leeds	YKS	1700-2000	3467	NEVILLE	Brentford	MDX	1800-1900
4289	LOVEGROVE	Aldermaston	BRK	1800-2000	3467	NEVILLE	Any	BRK	1700-1800
4378	LUCKETT	Cookham	BRK	1690-1720	3467	NEVILLE	Hambledon	BKM	1750-1800
4378	LUDGATE	Dinton	BKM	1600-1700	3467	NEVILLE	Any	OXF	1700-1800
4420	LUSH	Faringdon	BRK	1840-1850	4352	NOAKES	Chelmsford	ESS	1750-1850
4425	MALLINDER	World Wide	Any	Any	4289	NORRIS	Aldermaston	BRK	1800-1900
4395	MARTIN	Lambourn	BRK	pre 1900	3414	NOYES	Any	WIL	pre 1700

No	Name	Place	Code	Date	No	Name	Place	Code	Date
4370	OTWAY	Woodstock	OXF	1700-1950	4352	ROBINSON	Newhaven	SSX	1700-1850
4358	PAICE	Swallowfield	BRK	1600-1850	4418	RODDA	Islington	GTL	1800-1900
4358	PAICE	Eton	BKM	1840-1950	3010	ROW(E) ROE	Beeton	BRK	1800-1850
3414	PALMER	Lambourne	BRK	pre 1800	4372	ROWE	Aldworth/Reading	BRK	1775-2000
4218	PALMER	Whistley	BRK	1700-2000	3414	SAINSBURY	Newbury	BRK	pre 1800
4364	PARKER	Gomersal	YKS	1700-1900	4372	SAYER	St Lawrence	KEN	1800-1900
4352	PARKER	Ipswich	SFK	1800-1900	4389	SEXTON	Kingstone Bagpuize	OXF	1600-1750
4412	PATEMAN	Royston	CIE	1550-1880	4387	SEYMOUR	Reading	BRK	1700-1900
4397	PATRICK E.	Aston Tirrold	BRK	1760-1803	4389	SHEPPARD	Bishops Stortford	ESS	1600-1850
3414	PAYNE	Lambourne	BRK	pre 1800	4218	SHUR(R)(E)Y	Denchworth	BRK	1700-2000
4112	PEARMAN	Basingstoke	HAM	1800-1900	3865	SILVESTER	Any	OXF	1600-1710
4451	PEARSON	London	LND	1860-1900	3865	SILVESTER	Any	BRK	1600-1710
4451	POOLE	Wantage	BEW	19c	4218	SLATFORD	Ardington	BRK	1700-2000
3010	POWELL	Chaddleworth	BRK	1800-1850	4289	SMALLCOMBE	Bristol	GLS	1800-1900
4389	PRAIT	Henley on Thames	OXF	1600-1800	4337	SMITH	Middlesbrough	NYK	1800s
4233	PRYOR	Biggleswade	BDF	1750-1850	4289	SMITH	Kingsclere	HAM	1770-1900
4233	PRYOR	Harwell	BRK	1833-1937	4337	SNAPE	Wolverhampton	STS	1700-1900
4412	RAMSBOTTOM	Oswaldtwisle	LAN	1600-1900	3010	SNOW	Ludgershall	WIL	1780
3414	RANDALL	Vernham Dean	HAM	pre 1750	3010	SNOW	East Ilsley	BRK	1800-1900
4315	RANEY	Windsor	BRK	1839-1930	4416	SOLLIS	Brize Norton	OXF	1800-1950
4389	REEVE	Water Eaton	OXF	1500-1700	4364	SOUTHWARD	Cookridge	YKS	1700-2000
4399	RICHARDSON	Norwood	SRY	1800-1930	3832	SPEAK	Long Wittenham	BRK	1700-1800
4419	RICHARDSON	Southampton	HAM	1600-1900	4112	SQUIRES	Any	BRK	1700-2000
4378	ROBERTS	Chearsley	BKM	1700-1750	4112	SQUIRES	Any	OXF	1700-2000
4337	ROBINSON	Workington	CUL	1800s	4410	STILLWELL	Stoughton	SSX	1600-1800
3221	ROBINSON	Penny Bridge	LAN	1800-1900	4345	STOREY	Hull	ERY	1830-1888
4397	ROBINSON	Camberwell	SRY	1885-2000	3221	STRAW	Dronfield	DBY	1750-1900

No	Name	Place	Code	Date	No	Name	Place	Code	Date
4194	STUBBLES	Any	BRK	Any	3832	WATTS	Oxford	OXF	1885
4194	STUBBLES	Any	OXF	Any	4362	WEBB	Burford	BRK	1810-1880
4194	STUBBLES	Any	MDX	Any	4218	WELCH	West Ilsley	BRK	1700-2000
4194	STUBBLES	Any	LDN	Any	4397	WEST M.	Aston Tirrold	BRK	1796-1879
4425	SWALLOW	World Wide	Any	Any	4364	WHIGHTMAN	Rothwell	YKS	1700-1900
3865	SYLVESTER	Staines	MDX	1890-2000	4323	WHITE	Andover	HAM	1890-2000
4378	TALBOT	Colnbrook	BKM	1780-1820	4323	WHITE	Reading	BRK	1895-2000
4389	TAYLOR	Drayton	BRK	1500-1750	4112	WHITTLE	Any	HAM	1800-2000
4112	THATCHER	Cookham	BRK	1800-2000	4112	WHITTLE	Twickenham	MDX	1800-1900
4352	THEOBALD	Ipswich	SFK	1800-1900	4416	WILKINS	Arrington/Wimpole	CAM	1800-1900
4352	TOMBS	Liddington	WIL	1700-1850	4451	WILLIAMS	Anglesey	AGY	1800-1900
3832	TONG	Romsey	HAM	Any	4352	WILLS	North Hill	CON	1700-1850
3832	TONGE	Romsey	HAM	Any	4345	WILSON	London	MDX	1831-1904
3832	TONGS	Romsey	HAM	Any	3414	WISE	Donnington	BRK	pre 1850
4378	TOOMBS	Langley Marish	BKM	1600-1800	4233	WOOD	Wallingford	BRK	1700-1900
4419	TROWBRIDGE	Southampton	HAM	1850-1950	4416	WORBOYS	Ashwell	HRT	1750-1850
4410	TURNER	Binfield/Eaststead	BRK	1600-1950	4416	WORBOYS	Abington Pigotts	CAM	1800-1900
4337	TURNER	Tilehurst	BRK	1700s	4416	WORLAND	Any	CAM	1700-1880
4451	UPTON	Hackney	LND	19c	2878	WRIGGLESWORTH R	Wallingford	OXF	1500-1550
4389	UTLEY	Leeds	YKS	1500-1800					
4416	WADE	Abington Pigotts	CAM	1700-1900					
4416	WADE	Wimbledon	SRY	1900-1950					
4364	WALKER	Holbeck, Leeds	YKS	1700-2000					
4372	WATTS	Dublin	IRL	1800-1920					
4372	WATTS	Milton Heights	BRK	1925-2000					
3414	WATTS	Vernham Dean	HAM	pre 1800					
3832	WATTS	Any	BRK	1750-1812					

Postal Research Services

The following services are available:

Berkshire Name Index

This contains more than 100,000 names from documents, members' birth briefs and our stray index. 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. Send two SAEs, or two IRCs, to BFHS Research Centre, Yeomanry House, Castle Hill, Reading RG1 7TJ

1851 Berkshire Census

Printouts 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 printout charges are then as above. Send your request and fee, together with a stamped self-addressed envelope, or two IRCs, to: Mr Geoff Mather, 18 Ravenswood Avenue, Crowthorne, Berkshire RG45 6AY

1881 Census for England, Wales and Scotland

We have a complete set of fiche for each county, and the CDROM which includes Scotland. The charge for an estimate of the number of prints is £2 per county searched per surname, including two

sample printouts (£3 if not a member). Thereafter A4 printouts are charged at 50pence for each additional page. Write to BFHS, c/o Mr Ivan Dickason, 1 Mower Close, Wokingham RG40 1RZ

Other County Census Indexes

We hold copies of Census Indexes, mainly 1851, for many other counties. The charge for a search and an estimate of the cost of any printouts 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. Write to Mr Ivan Dickason, as above.

Berkshire Burial Index

We are contributing to the National Burial Index and so far have 50,600 references in our own database, so we can offer a limited research service from our index. For the parishes and time periods covered to date see page 110 in this journal. The cost per surname is £1.00 for members and £2.00 for non-members for each A4 sheet. Send a sterling cheque, made out to BFHS and an SAE to David Wright, 45 Picton Way, Caversham, Reading, Berkshire RG4 8NJ.

Monumental inscriptions enquiries

David Watkins (tel. 0118 9661401) has offered to consult his database for the following churchyard monumental inscriptions free of charge for BFHS Members. David will answer telephone enquiries only. The churchyards concerned are: Aldermaston, Avington, Compton Beauchamp, Hurst, Mortimer and Twyford.

Useful addresses

Chairman

Ivan Dickason
1 Mower Close, Wokingham
Berkshire RG40 1RZ
0118 978 6785

Secretary/Editor

John Gurnett
5 Wren Close
Burghfield Common
Reading RG7 3PF

Treasurer

Barbara Swiatek
48 Farm Crescent
Slough
Berkshire SL2 5TH

Membership secretary A-K

Margaret Pyle,
136 Nightingale Road, Woodley,
Reading,
Berkshire RG5 3LZ
0118 969 5236

Membership secretary L-Z

Liz Longhurst
20 Stanhope Road, Reading
Berkshire RG2 7HL
0118 987 3888

E-mail discussion group

Eddie Spackman
40 Western Elms Avenue
Reading, Berkshire RG30 2AN
Email: easpackman@lineone.net

Burial index co-ordinator

David Wright
45 Picton Way
Caversham, Reading
Berkshire RG4 8NJ

Marriage index co-ordinator

Sue Matthews
83 Curtis Avenue, Abingdon
Oxon OX14 3UW

Branch chairs

Bracknell

Pauline Wales
5 Foxglove Close
Simons Park, Wokingham, RG41 3NF
Newbury
Wendy Maskall
5 River Walk
Shaw, Newbury, Berkshire
01635 35926

Reading

Liz Longhurst
20 Stanhope Road, Reading
Berkshire RG2 7HL

Slough

David Harris
88 Cornwall Avenue
Slough
Berkshire SL2 1AZ

Vale of White Horse

Ken Marsden
3 Wharfe Close
Wilsham Road, Abingdon
Oxon, OX14 5HS

Website

www.berksfhs.org.uk/

Other addresses

Family Records Centre

1 Myddelton Street, London EC1R 1UW
020 8392 5300

Public Record Office

Ruskin Avenue, Kew, Surrey TW9 4DU
020 8876 3444

Berkshire Record Office

Shinfield Park, Reading RG2 9XD
0118 901 5132

Berkshire Family History Society

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

Publishers: The Berkshire Family History Society Registered Charity No. 283010

Printers: Richfield Graphics Ltd., Richfield House, Unit 48 Paddock Road, Caversham, Reading RG4 5BY

In the event of non-delivery please return to

John Gurnett, 5 Wren Close, Burghfield Common, Berkshire RG7 3PF

The Museum of Reading



*has 12 exciting
hands-on galleries*

- John Madejski Art Gallery
- Green Space environment gallery
- Huntley & Palmers biscuit gallery
- Window sculpture gallery
- Atrium gallery
- Silchester annexe
- Reading: people & place
- Study space
- Box Room interactive gallery
- Silchester Gallery of Roman life
- Bayeux Tapestry replica

New opening hours:

Tuesday–Saturday 10am–4pm

Thursday late night opening 10am–7pm

Sunday 11am–4pm

Bank Holiday Monday 11am–4pm

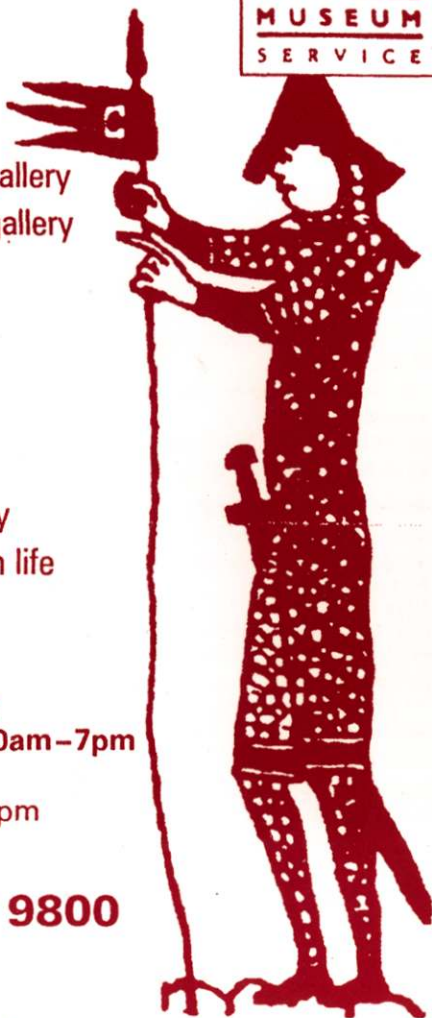
(Closed on other Mondays)

Call us on **0118 939 9800**

for further details

Visit our website at

www.readingmuseum.org.uk



FREE ADMISSION - Museum shop - Good access



The Museum of Reading
Town Hall, Blagrove Street,
Reading RG1 1QH

The Bulletin

Fleet Air Arm Pilot

The appeal for surviving relatives of the pilot killed in France during the last war has been successful. You may remember that an appeal was put out in the June issue of the *Berkshire Family Historian* for anybody who could help to trace the relatives of Lt. Rodgers who was killed in the village of Villeneuve-les-Beziers in August 1944. The village named a street after him and the mayor was anxious to have relatives at the naming ceremony. Soon after the story appeared in the journal I was contacted by an actress, now living in New Zealand, who was his daughter. She told me that her mother had married again and at one time owned 'The High', the health food shop in Reading Market Place, and also a cafeteria in Friar Street. She was so pleased to hear about the ceremony and is planning to visit England and France next year.

Unknown Berkshire records

While reading a copy of the *Genealogists' Magazine* for September 1946 I came across the following advertisement: 'Berkshire Genealogy and Local History. A composite index of Berkshire marriages, including parish registers transcribed by Mrs. E.E. Cope and other copies available in print or manuscripts. Berkshire local collections at the Reading Public Library or in private custody.

Miss Maplesden, M.A., 15 Northcourt Avenue, Reading, will undertake searches in the above and other Berkshire material, or in London and elsewhere, and will transcribe or catalogue old documents and deeds.' Miss Muriel Maplesden was still living at Northcourt Avenue in 1956, but what happened to her afterwards and where did she leave her collection of indexes and documents? The index of marriages alone would be interesting as would her own collection of local documents. If anybody can shed any light on this interesting family historian then let me know.

Popular surnames

If your name is Smith, Jones or Williams, Taylor, Brown or Davies, it won't surprise you to know that they are the most popular names in England and Wales. In a survey carried out on the National Health Service Central Register 39.33% of the Register contains the top 500 names. What is certainly surprising are the names emerging further down the list. Migrations change naming patterns: the Irish brought with them Murphy, Connor, O'Reilly, Kelly, Donovan while the great Jewish migration in the nineteenth century greatly increased the number of Goldsteins, Blooms and Jacobs. Now the database contains Patel at number 24, Khan 64, Singh 70, easily overtaking Cook, Turner, Hill and Ward.

Midlands counties family history fair

On Sunday March 18 at the Parklands Leisure Centre, Oadby, Leicester the Leicestershire and Rutland Family History Society will be holding a family history event. Many midlands societies are expected to be represented, so if you have ancestors in that area, and live close by why not pop in?

Oxfordshire Family History Society Research Centre

A new facility has just been opened to help family historians with connections in the ancient county of Oxfordshire. A new Research Centre with parish registers and monumental inscriptions transcripts, the IGI, and many reference books, some of which can be borrowed, is now open at the Holford Centre, School Lane, Stanton St. John, Oxford OX33 1ET. It is currently open for only three days a month and to get details of opening times write to the Centre enclosing a stamped, self addressed envelope.

Reading Market Place

A legal document concerning a notice to quit some tenancies in Market Place has just come into my possession. It involves Peregrine Lediard of Reading Linen Draper and it's dated 25th March, 1864. It involves Thomas Selby Little and Thomas Evans, who were agents and solicitors for Peregrine Lediard. The copy of the notice takes the form of a letter sent to Thomas Evans of Chepstow. The area of the tenancy is

described in some detail and clearly refers to properties on the eastern side of Market Place. Tenants mentioned in the notice include Sarah Knight and George Heathrington. Macaulay's Reading Directory refers to P. Lediard as having premises at numbers 3 and 4 Market Place where he carried on a business as linen draper, silk mercer, and undertaker. It would seem to be a bizarre combination, but further along Market Place is William Jessett, linen draper and undertaker. According to the 1851 census Peregrine was 38, while his wife, Anne, was 37.

Railway records

The Great Western Railway was at one time a major transport route through the old county of Berkshire, with its main line and branch lines. So much so that many of us have steam in our blood with ancestors who worked on the railway. You may be interested to know that some 60,000 British Railway archives from 1848 onwards are to be transferred to the Public Record Office at Kew. Most of the staff records were transferred some time ago, but now the administrative records held by British Railways Historical Records at Porchester Road, near Paddington are going to the PRO. However, no date has been set for the transfer.

Wyvern Midland Railway index

Although the old Midland Railway was not the largest of the great steam companies it did serve a larger part of the British Isles than any other. A team

of dedicated enthusiasts is in the process of compiling a surname index from staff records from 1844 to 1923. So far they have gathered 11,000 names. They are also including all references to accidents on the Midland which involved staff, workmen or passengers, using transport records at Kew and local newspapers. If you would like to search the index send a stamped self addressed envelope, or three IRCs, plus £1 sterling for each surname searched to Chris and Judy Rouse, 18 Sarsen Close, Swindon, Wiltshire SN1 4LA. Unsuccessful matches will be held on file for future contact.

From the cup of love

If you have already read the article by Joan Dils on the archdeaconry records you will have discovered that our ancestors' sexual and social proclivities were not much different from today. Often the laws of the church or the civil authorities were ignored, and sometimes it was expedient to pretend that it never happened. During the weekend of April 20-22 next year the Federation of Family History Societies will be holding a conference entitled 'From the cup of love'. Issues being discussed include: prostitution, contraception, bastardy, incest, sin and sex in the bawdy courts, bigamy and the morals of army wives and camp followers. If you would like to attend write to Mrs. Jeanne Bunting, Firgrove, Horseshoe Lane, Ash Vale, Surrey GU12 5LL.

1901 Census

The Public Record Office has recently confirmed that record offices and libraries will be able to buy microfiche or film copies of the Census. This concession will help all those who do not have access to the Internet. The PRO say that they will review the sale of microfiche beyond record offices and libraries at a later stage.

The 1891 Census returns for Norfolk will be used for a pilot study. The returns will be scanned, transcribed and made available over the Internet. It is hoped that this will be made available in the spring of 2001. The pilot service will be charged so that all aspects of the system can be tested before the launch of the 1901 service. The exact rate of charging has yet to be fixed.

Credit cards can be used to pay for the 1901 service. If you have a credit card you simply log on and enter your details and then view your selected images or transcriptions (about 80p per image and 50p per transcription). There will a minimum charge, probably about £5 but once you have used up the first £5 it will be simply pay-as-you-go at the cost of each individual transaction.

Users will be able to conduct a number of searches for individuals using a free index. First a basic search using name (forenames and surnames), place and age. If this first basic search returns too many results then an advanced search is available using a variety of other fields to refine your search such as 'occupation' and 'where born'. Users can

also search on an address or place, an institution or vessel. Place names will be transcribed as they are written on the original returns. Welsh place names will not be bi-lingual but as written on the returns.

Overseers Project

Now the BRO is open for business it is hoped to resume the Overseers Project with the Saturday Work-ins to transcribe the outstanding six volumes. Twenty of the twenty-six volumes are complete and can be seen in the BFHS Reference Library in Yeomanry House. If you wish to help with this project or to have more information please telephone Brian Hunt on 01344 483426

Gypsy archives

A major collection of gypsy archives has been handed to the University of Reading Rural History Centre at Whiteknights. The collection contains a large collection of books, notebooks and manuscripts recording research undertaken by Robert Dawson. For anyone with a gypsy ancestor the collection is a major source as it contains photographs and recordings of life on the open road. The collection has now been catalogued and is available to researchers.

Criminal records

A microfiche of British Trials 1660-1900 has just been acquired by the Public Record Office. It consists of pamphlets

written at the time of the trial giving a record of what was actually said in court from murder to commercial disputes. The official documents of cases held at the PRO and in county record offices frequently provide no more than an outline of the case and the defendants. Details of the trials of highwaymen, forgers and burglars were avidly sought after by the public for their Sunday reading, just like the *News of the World* of today. During the suppression of the Chartists, and those involved in the Swing riots, printed pamphlets were often produced with a record of the face-to-face confrontation under cross-examination. The microfiche has a detailed index by name of defendant, victim and the type of crime.

Members' interests

Just a reminder that all the members' interests listed in volumes of the *Berkshire Family Historian* are cumulatively published on our website. The website lists the names being researched by individual members identified by membership numbers. Addresses are not given. If you would prefer not to have the names you are researching on the website then let the editor know.

March issue

In the next edition of the journal I hope to include an article on nineteenth century workhouses, the role of midwives, how to trace inn-keepers' records, and the first part of how to publish your family history.