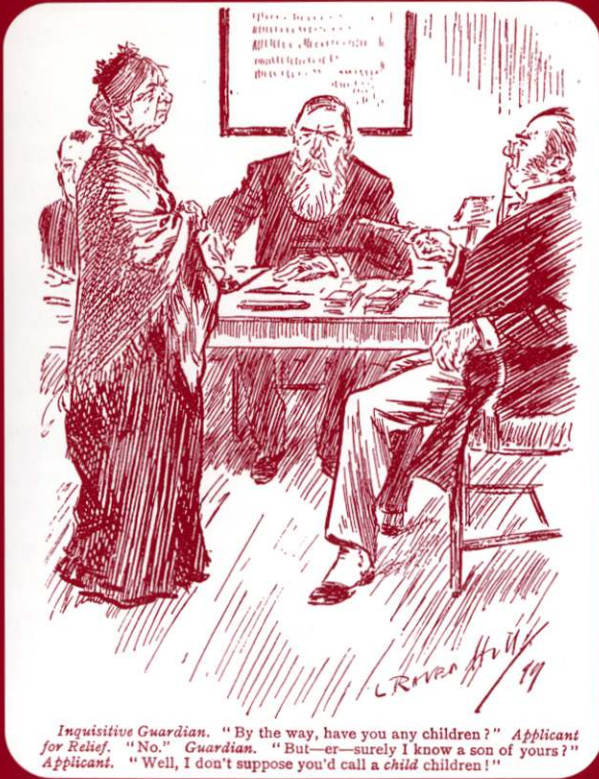


'paupers were sent around the local rate-payers who tried to give them work, even if this meant digging holes and immediately filling them in again'



Programme calendar 2001

Bracknell Branch

Priestwood Community Centre, Priestwood Court Road, Bracknell,

7.15pm for 7.45pm

- 20 Apr Births and baptisms in the 18th century. Tom Doig
- 18 May Red Herrings. Ray Wiggins
- 15 June AGM followed by *Our Grandmother's War*. Christine Kendall
- 20 July Maps for local and family historians. Dr. Judith Hunter
- 21 Sep Coroner's inquests. Kathy Chater

Newbury Branch

St. Mary's Church Hall, Church Road, Shaw, Newbury, 7.30pm

- 11 Apr 'An Enumerator's Tale'. Meryl Catty and Audrey Gillett
- 9 May Women in the 1800s. Tom Doig
- 13 June AGM
- July and August No meetings

Reading Branch

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

- 28 Mar Genealogical sources in the Guildhall Library.
Richard Harvey
- 25 Apr Old photographs and how to date them. Jean Debney
- 30 May Methodist records. Richard Ratcliffe
- 27 June A light-hearted look at old handwriting. John Hurley
- 25 July Visit to the Berkshire Record Office. Peter Durrant

White Horse Branch

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

- 9 April Illegitimacy. Eve McLaughlin
- 14 May Members' research evening. Research facilities and help desk
- 19 May Open Day, Larkmead School, 10-4pm
- 11 June Visit to the NMR, Swindon. Groups by car, meet at hall 6.15pm - arrive NMR by 7pm
- 9 July Looking at tithe records. Jean Debney

Windsor Branch

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

- 27 Mar Records of the Dear Departed. Marion Brackpool
- 24 Apr Building a family tree. Barbara Swiatek
- 29 May Annual General Meeting followed by building a village archive. Derek George
- 26 June BFHS Annual General Meeting followed by a Quiz
- 31 July From Robert Peel to PC Neal. John Neal

Berkshire Family Historian

For family historians in the Royal County of Berkshire

Volume 24 Number 3 • March 2001

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John Gurnett
Editor

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ISSN: 1468-1080

The illustration on the front cover is a cartoon depicting an application for relief (see page 122)

The copy deadline for the June issue is April 6, 2001

The workhouse in Berkshire

Peter Higginbotham

Although the workhouse is often associated with the national system of Poor Law Unions set up under the 1834 Poor Law Amendment Act, its history goes back long before that. Berkshire often featured in that history, and the county's workhouses provide good examples of how the institution developed.

In 1624, John Kendrick, a woollen draper, bequeathed the sum of £7,500 for providing work for the unemployed textile workers in Reading. Part of the money was to be spent on a house 'fit and commodious for setting of the poor to work therein, with a fair garden adjoining'. In 1625, the town corporation bought a house on a two-acre site in Minster Street for £2,000 and by 1628 had turned it into a house for poor clothiers. This impressive building (for which a local brick-maker supplied 200,000 bricks and 20,000 tiles) became known as 'The Oracle' — the name possibly deriving from 'orchal', a violet dye obtained from lichen. It consisted of rows of workshops around a central courtyard, with an ornate Dutch-gabled stone gateway, whose carved wooden gates ended up in Reading Museum. Kendrick made a similar bequest of £4,000 to Newbury.

Another early workhouse in the county was erected in Abingdon and dates back to 1631 when the town's Mayor reported that 'wee haue erected wthn our borough a workehouse to sett poore people to worke' (Leonard, 1900).

A significant impetus to the setting up of workhouses came in 1723 with Sir Edward Knatchbull's Act 'For Amending the Laws relating to the Settlement, Employment and Relief of the Poor' which enabled workhouses to be set up by parishes either singly, or in combination with neighbouring parishes. The Act was also the origin of the 'workhouse test' — that the prospect of the workhouse should act as a deterrent and that relief would only be available to those who were desperate enough to accept its regime. In June 1724, Abingdon took advantage of the new Act when St Helen's Parish Vestry was authorised to spend up to £150 on a house 'for the lodging, keeping, maintaining and employing such poor as do or shall desire relief' (Cox, 1999). The first governor appointed in 1725 at a salary of £30 per annum was the then

parish clerk, Edward Hacker. He and his wife also received remuneration in the form of 'meat, drink and washing'. Their duties included the religious instruction of children.

In 1797, in his national survey 'The State of the Poor', Eden reported on the state of several Berkshire workhouses. By this time, the 'farming' of the poor was often handed over to a contractor for a fixed annual payment. In the St Mary's parish of Reading, workhouse conditions seemed reasonably tolerable:

The Poor are chiefly maintained in a workhouse, erected about 20 years ago, for £1,400, of which £650 has been paid off. It seems a comfortable and convenient lodging for the Poor, but not always sufficiently aired. The lodging rooms contain 2, 3, 4 beds apiece, made of flocks and feathers. In winter generally about 80 or 90 persons in the house. They are chiefly employed in spinning hemp, but 2 looms for weaving sail cloth were lately erected. Some of the Poor are sent out to work for the farmers. About £350 a year are paid to out-pensioners, 1s. or 1s. 6d. the usual allowance to each. If they require more they are usually taken into the house. Diet in Workhouse: Breakfast—Sunday—Bread, cheese and beer; Monday and Friday—Bread and broth; Tuesday, Wednesday and Saturday—Milk pottage; Thursday—bread and cheese. Dinner—Sunday, Thursday—Meat, pudding, vegetables and bread; Monday, Saturday Bread and cheese; Tuesday—Bread and broth; Wednesday, Friday—Cold meat. Supper—every day Bread, cheese and beer. Old people are allowed tea, bread and butter for breakfast.

Likewise in New Windsor:

The Poor are either relieved at home, or in a Poor-house, which is a very convenient building, and seems to be kept tolerably clean. Feather beds are used. There are 6 or 7 in each room; 2 sleep in a bed. 96 paupers, chiefly old people and children, are at present in the house. The latter are instructed in reading till they are 7 years old, and are then put to a free school, where they are clothed and educated till they are 14, when the boys are bound apprentices till they are 21, with an apprentice fee of £10, arising from the interest of donations bequeathed

for that purpose. In the Poor-house linen and stockings are manufactured for the use of the house. For all other work, which consists in picking hair, wool, etc., for other manufactures, the Poor are allowed 2d. in every shilling they earn for the house.

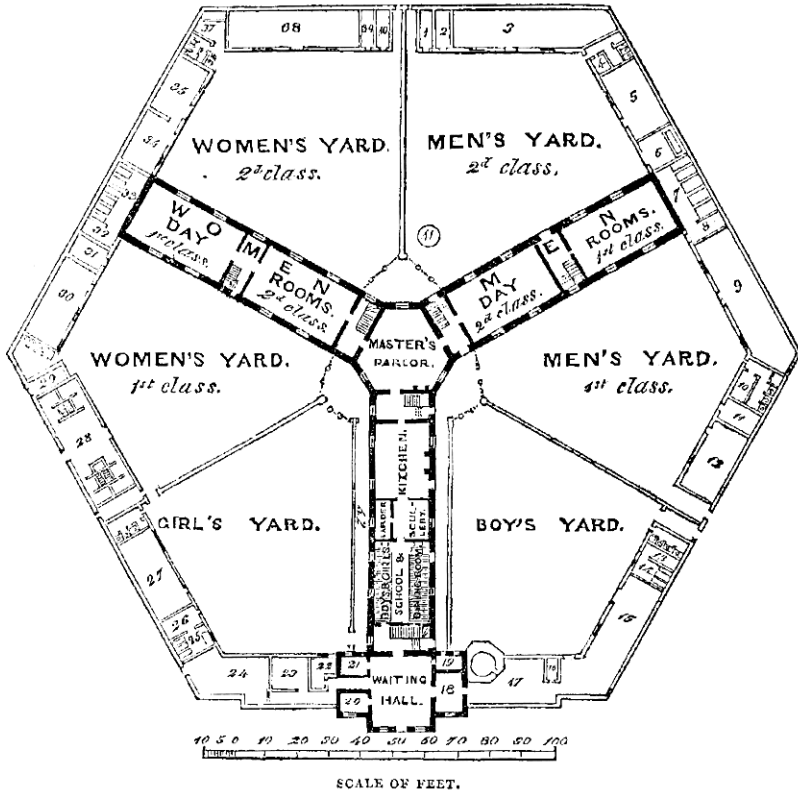
...Table of diet in the Poor-house: Breakfast, every day—bread and broth; Dinner—Sunday—Mutton and vegetables; Monday, Wednesday, Friday—cold meat; Tuesday, Thursday—Beef and vegetables; Saturday—Bread and cheese. Supper, every day—Bread and cheese for adults; bread and butter for children. At dinner and supper a pint of small beer is allowed to a grown person, and a less quantity to children. Women who can procure themselves tea and sugar have bread and butter at breakfast, instead of broth.

In St Mary's parish, Wallingford, an even more relaxed regime existed:

The contractor who farms the Poor receives £300 a year, for which he undertakes to supply all the Poor belonging to the parish with victuals, and clothes. The parish pays doctors, and attorney's bills, etc. The Poor are not employed in any manufacture; but such as can do a little work, are allowed to go out of the Poor-house, wherein they are maintained by the contractor. The introduction of a woollen or linen manufacture would perhaps be serviceable to this part of the country.

After 1782, with the passing of Thomas Gilbert's Act 'For the Better Relief and Employment of the Poor', groups of parishes could unite to share the financial burden of operating a workhouse although this was to be for the benefit only of the old, the sick and the infirm. Able-bodied paupers were to be found employment near their own homes, with land-owners, farmers and other employers receiving allowances to bring wages up to subsistence levels. A Gilbert's Union was formed in Faringdon in 1801, with the Wallingford parishes of St Mary, St Leonard, and St Peter following suit in 1807.

The Wallingford Gilbert's Union built a workhouse for 282 inmates half a mile west of the town centre. On 23rd May, 1808, the workhouse Guardians appointed Mr James Dehay of South Moreton as surgeon, apothecary and man-midwife for the poor of



- | | | |
|----------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|
| 1 Dead House. | 15 Work Room. | 29 Slaughter House. |
| 2 Refractory Ward. | 16 Coals. | 30 Work Room. |
| 3 Work Room. | 17 Bakehouse. | 31 Washing Room. |
| 4 Dust. | 18 Bread Room. | 32 Bath. |
| 5 Work Room. | 19 Delivery Room. | 33 Receiving Ward, 6 beds. |
| 6 Washing Room. | 20 Porter's Room. | 34 Wash-house. |
| 7 Receiving Ward, 6 beds. | 21 Searching Room. | 35 Laundry. |
| 8 Bath. | 22 Store. | 36 Dust. |
| 9 Work Room. | 23 Potatoes. | 37 Washing Room. |
| 10 Dust. | 24 Coals. | 38 Work Room. |
| 11 Washing Room. | 25 Receiving Ward, 4 beds. | 39 Refractory Ward. |
| 12 Flour and Mill Room. | 26 Washing Room. | 40 Dead House. |
| 13 Washing Room. | 27 Work Room. | 41 Well. |
| 14 Receiving Ward, 3 beds. | 28 Piggery. | 42 Passage. |

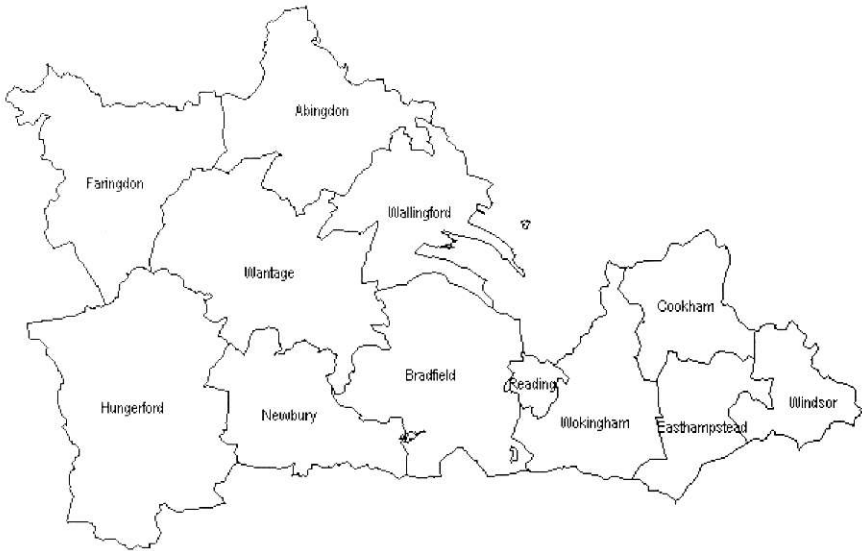
Model plan of Abingdon and Bradfield workhouses

the union (outside the workhouse as well as inside) at a salary of 30 guineas, which also covered drugs, medical applications and attendances, except for those involving venereal disease (Hardman, 1994).

In 1828, Wallingford extended its poor relief and agreed to employ all able-bodied men applying for work in digging for stone. An area called the 'Pit' in the workhouse garden was opened for this purpose, with labourers paid a daily rate of 9d for married men, 6d for single men over fourteen, and 3d for boys; a foreman received 1s.3d. Parishes often went to great length in keeping the unemployed occupied, using the 'roundsman' system: able-bodied paupers were sent around the local rate-payers who tried to give them work to do, even if this meant digging holes and immediately filling them in again, or delivering 'letters' which contained only blank sheets of paper.

At the end of the eighteenth century, the cost of 'out-relief' in the form of job creation, and handouts of food or money, was rising steadily. A contributory factor in this was the infamous 'Berkshire Bread Act' which arose from a meeting on 6th May 1795, when the Justices of the County 'and other discreet persons' met 'at the Pelican Inn, Speenhamland' (at Speen, near Newbury). They fixed the level of agricultural wages on a scale relating to the price of bread and on the size of a labourer's family. Over the next decades, though never formally implemented in law, the basic principles of the Speenhamland system became widely adopted. However, in 1830, rising unemployment, low wages, and the threat of agricultural mechanisation led to the 'Captain Swing' riots. On 17th November, a large group of labourers from Thatcham destroyed threshing machines at a number of farms in pursuit of their demands for higher wages. In the following days, numerous attacks and riots followed in the west of the county. (The labourers of Speen joined the protest briefly, but their demands were satisfied by a rapidly offered increase in wages.)

In 1832, in the face of such unrest, and growing discontent with the Speenhamland system, which many viewed as having removed the distinction between worker and pauper, the government appointed a Royal Commission to formulate a new national policy for the administration of poor relief. In 1834, the resulting Act 'for the Amendment and better Administration of the Laws relating to the Poor in England and Wales', proposed the total abolition of out-relief. Henceforth, poor relief would be organized and funded on the basis of new administrative areas called Poor Law Unions (PLUs). Each PLU would operate a workhouse whose guiding principle would be the 'workhouse test' — that relief would be only be available to those willing to submit to its grim regime.



Berkshire Poor Law Unions post 1834

Officers of the new Poor Law Commission (PLC) began touring the country to implement the new Act. Their reports on what they found showed considerable variations in how parishes were operating poor relief. Assistant Commissioner Richard Hall was clearly not impressed by the state of affairs in Wallingford:

I found that the guardians were annually appointed, and did nothing; in fact, they were ignorant that they had any official duty to perform beyond keeping the workhouse in repair; the overseers paid the poor, and all the abuses consequent upon that method of giving relief, flourished in the union just as out of it. The workhouse was divided into apartments, each furnished and tenanted by a family, by whom it was evidently regarded as their freehold; one woman had resided there for eleven years, and brought up a family of nine children; a shoemaker who had been an inmate seven years, told me that he earned his own living, and indignantly asserted, that he was entirely independent of the

parish; in some rooms were young people just beginning life, having been lately married; in others three or four unmarried mothers, or those who were on the point of becoming so; in some were the sick, or those whose age and infirmities showed that they were on the verge of dissolution; 47 children were variously deposited throughout the building; one room only was vacant; on my asking the cause of this, I was informed that it was reserved for some preachers of the Methodist persuasion, who attended twice a week to hold a preaching, and a prayer meeting; those of the inmates who desired it were made members of the congregation, upon the weekly payment of one penny.

Faringdon, on the other hand, received a glowing report from Assistant Commissioner Edward Gulson:

I found there a large workhouse, already erected, capable of holding three hundred persons; it belonged exclusively to Faringdon, and was used by that parish alone. At the time of my visiting the place, it contained sixty-three inmates. Order and regularity were kept up to a high degree in this workhouse; the classification of the inmates, and the separation of the sexes, have been rigidly enforced; and the able-bodied paupers were employed in digging stone out of a pit, which was situated on a piece of land attached to the workhouse.

All out-door relief to able-bodied labourers is discontinued. The workhouse now contains seventy-four inmates from the whole union, being only eleven more than from the parish of Faringdon alone, under the old system. Of the first eighty-seven labourers with families, to whom out-door relief was refused in the months of February and March, and most of whom had been constant hangers on the parish fund, and to all of whom an order for the workhouse was given for themselves and their families, not one-half availed themselves of the offer, but immediately found means of providing for themselves.

Although the boundaries of the new Unions did not neatly coincide with the county borders, twelve Poor Law Unions are usually placed within the county as shown in the accompanying map.

The first Union formally to be declared, both within the county and in the country as a whole, was Abingdon on New Year's Day 1835. St Helen's parish in Abingdon had been planning to build a new workhouse for several years, and was in an advanced state of readiness for the push it received from the new Act. Abingdon also became the home of the first purpose-built workhouse to be erected under the new regime. Erected over the summer of 1835, the new building had a total cost of £9,000 and was intended to accommodate up to 500 inmates, the first of whom took up residence in October.

The Abingdon Union workhouse was designed by the PLC-commissioned architect Sampson Kempthorne. Its novel layout consisted of three wings emanating from a central observation hub, said by some to be based on American prison designs. The high plain walls and rows of small windows reinforced the severe visual effect. The wings, and their enclosing hexagon of walls, created segregated yards for the various classes of inmate: old/infirm males, able-bodied males over 15 years, boys 7-15 years, old/infirm females, able-bodied females over 15 years, boys 7-15 years, and children under 7.

The new building was of sufficient interest to form the subject of an article in an 1836 issue of the *Mirror of Literature, Amusement and Instruction*.

In the following months, the remaining Berkshire Unions were formed, the last being Windsor on 7th September 1835. When it came to workhouses, Bradfield, Newbury and Wantage all drew on the services of Sampson Kempthorne, with Bradfield adopting a slightly smaller version of the hexagonal design, the others preferring his cruciform or 'square' layout. Cookham Union (later renamed Maidenhead) employed a different architect but also used a variation on the cruciform theme.

The other unions initially made use of existing workhouse buildings, with new buildings being erected in later years.

The 1834 Act, perhaps not surprisingly, aroused considerable and sometimes violent opposition. This was the case in Abingdon where, on 21st November, within a few weeks of its opening, the workhouse was the scene of a murder attempt on the Master of the workhouse. The incident received considerable newspaper coverage in the following week's *Jackson's Oxford Journal*.

The first workhouses were deliberately plain and somewhat severe

in design and construction. This was a deliberate policy, both in adding to the deterrent image of the establishments, and also to keep costs down. Windsor managed to buck the trend when building its new workhouse in 1839. It turned to the architectural partnership of George Gilbert Scott and William Bonython Moffatt. The double-cruciform design they produced, with its splendid battlements, was perhaps more reminiscent of a stately home than a workhouse.

ABINGDON, Nov. 26

Between the hours of seven and eight, on Saturday evening last, a most daring attempt was made to murder Mr. Ellis, the Governor of the Union Workhouse of this district, or some of his family, by firing through the window of his sitting-room, a small apartment, which contained at the time no fewer than five persons. Miss Ellis, the sister of the Governor, was standing at the window immediately previous to the report, and she had just taken a seat in a position in which the bullet passed within a few inches of her head. In the former position, it could not have missed her person. The ball then passed through a wainscot partition, just over the head of an aged pauper, who was standing within the door of the apartment; and it afterwards entered, for the space of an inch, into a wall at the end of the passage leading from the room, whence it rebounded and fell on the floor. It appears from the direction of the two former perforations of the ball that the shot was fired from the workhouse garden, and that the distance fired was about 48 yards from the window. The Mayor, W.D. Belcher, Esq. and other Magistrates, were soon on the spot, and whilst examining a second gun was fired. Four or five constables perambulated the premises during that and the following two nights. Two hundred pounds reward have been offered to any person who may give such information as shall lead to the conviction of the offender or offenders; and his Majesty's pardon has also been offered to an accomplice who may impeach the offender who actually fired the gun; and Mr. Ellis, from Bow-Street is also here with the view of discovering the authors of this villainy. If this outrage has been committed for the purpose of intimidating the authorities whose duty it is to carry the Provisions of the Poor Laws Amendment Act into operation, we must say, that the folly is as fatuous as the daring is dangerous; and if a discovery should take place, the culprit, if convicted, will unquestionably suffer for his temerity, the highest penalty of law. Three men were apprehended yesterday, on suspicion of being implicated in this offence.

Report of Abingdon murder attempt

Windsor workhouse, later part of the King Edward VII Hospital, and now converted to residential accommodation, is one of the county's best-preserved workhouse sites. As well as the main workhouse building, other surviving structures include the infirmary added in 1898, and the tramp-ward with its cells for accommodating short-term 'casuals'. Casuals were required to perform a certain amount of work, usually stone-breaking. Lumps of stone had to be broken into pieces small enough to pass through a metal grid in the wall of the cell, with the pieces being collected on the outside.



Stone-breaking cells at Windsor

This is a brief rundown of the fate of the other Berkshire workhouses.

Abingdon – demolished in 1932, with the site being used for a housing estate.

Bradfield – later became Wayland Hospital. It was mostly demolished in the mid-1990s and replaced by housing, although the entrance block survives.

Cookham – Most of the former workhouse buildings still survive in the shape of St Mark's Hospital.

Easthampstead – this mixture of former almshouses and purpose-built additions later became Church Hill House Hospital. Some of the surviving parts were recently converted for residential use.

Faringdon – the buildings are now completely demolished.

Hungerford – initially used the former Lambourn parish workhouse plus premises on Charnham Street in Hungerford. The new building from 1847 survived until the mid-1990s and in 1992-3 was used to house Bosnian refugees. Since demolished to make way for a housing development, although the chapel survives.

Newbury – much altered over the years, a few parts of the workhouse buildings survive on the Sandford Hospital site.

Reading – initially continued using St Mary's and St Laurence's parish workhouses supplemented from 1847 by a vagrants' workhouse on the Forbury. A new workhouse was built in 1866-7 and extended in 1892 and 1911. The workhouse was used as a military hospital during the First World War, with inmates being transferred to other workhouses for the duration. Some original buildings survive at what became Battle Hospital.



The entrance to Reading War Hospital, circa. 1915

Wallingford – based on extensions to the existing Gilbert's union workhouse, the workhouse was extended with the additions of a fever block and infirmary. It later became St Mary's Hospital, eventually closing in 1982. All the buildings are now demolished

and replaced by a housing estate.

Wantage – later became the Downs Hospital. The buildings were largely demolished and the site is now used as a stud-farm.

Wokingham – initially making use of the old parish workhouse at Wargrave, a new workhouse was built at Wokingham in 1849-1850. The main block and Guardians' board-room survive in the guise of Wokingham Hospital.

Workhouses were not the only institutions to be set up by Poor Law Unions. From the outset, workhouses had to allocate space for schooling children and provide three hours a day teaching. In some cases, school blocks or even separate schools were erected. In 1838, the Poor Law Commissioners briefly flirted with a scheme whereby Wantage Union would actually be disbanded and its workhouse be used instead as a central school for the surrounding Unions, but the idea came to nothing. Instead, in 1844, an Act of Parliament proposed the setting up of separate 'industrial' schools outside the workhouse – these would prepare older children for work in local agricultural or textile industries, or in the case of girls, for work in domestic service. Unions within a fifteen-mile radius could also combine to form a School District to set up larger establishments. This scheme never really took off, and Reading and Wokingham was one of the relatively few School Districts to actually be formed, building a large school at Wargrave, now demolished. Wantage later sent some of its youths to the large industrial school at Cowley in Oxford.

Towards the end of the nineteenth century, many Unions including Wallingford and Wokingham set up another form of accommodation known as 'Cottage Homes', which were intended to provide a more amenable environment for pauper children away from the workhouse.

The workhouse era came to an end, officially at least, on April 1, 1930 when the Local Government Act came into force and abolished the then 643 Boards of Guardians in England and Wales.

One legacy of the Poor Law Unions is their extensive collection of records. Every aspect of a workhouse's administration was recorded, and the files that survive provide a treasure trove for local and family historians. Some central records such as correspondence between Unions and the Poor Law Commissioners, together with staff lists, plans, and other papers

are held at the PRO in Kew. The Berkshire Record Office holds most of the local records, of which there is a fascinating variety. For many of the Unions, there is a virtually complete run of minutes for the Guardians' weekly or fortnightly meetings. Other records include: admission and discharge lists; registers of birth, baptism, vaccination, and death; medical records; minutes of numerous subcommittees; masters' journals, chaplains' report books and inmates service books; diet sheets and punishment books; visitors' books; contracts for workhouse supplies and other financial matters including garden, firewood, oakum, and pig accounts!

For further information on the workhouses of Berkshire, and all across the British Isles, visit my website at:
www.workhouses.org.uk

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Newspapers for the family historian

Wednesday 11 April 19.30 - 21.30 at the Research
Centre, Reading. £2.00

A practical guide to computer research indexes including Palmer's and the
Official Index to The Times

What you may find in a local newspaper and where they may be searched.

For further information or to book your place contact:

Gillian Stevens, 2 Illingworth Avenue, Caversham, Reading, Berks. RG4 6RB

Phone: 0118 9478743. Email: gstevens@onet.co.uk

Computer Surgeries and Workshops for Family Historians held at The Research Centre - Yeomanry House

Computing Surgeries

Do you have a computing problem? Do you need help using the 1881 Census or other CD data? Have you run out of Hard Disk space? Do you have a problem installing or using a Family History Program? Confused about GEDCOM? Can we help you install more memory or a faster CD? Do you have a problem with e-Mail or the Internet? etc.

**Bring your problems to a 'Q&A and Discussion' Surgery
from 7:30pm on Wed. April 18th, May 16th or June 20th 2001**

Chad Hanna (Hardware and System software), Eddie Spackman (Family History software, user programs and eMail), Gillian Stevens (CD databases), Terry Wickenden ('Office' software and the Internet) and other experts will endeavour to answer your problems.

No need to book - **just turn up.**

You will be asked to donate £2 to the Society for the evening and something extra for each problem solved. Bring your computer if necessary.

Workshops during Winter 2001/2

Introductory workshops held last winter

*Computing for the Beginner - Using Family History Programs - Scanning and Graphics
Research using the Internet - Creating your own Web Site*

have proved popular and were well received. Most were over-subscribed and repeats are being organised to meet demand. **We invite suggestions for 2001/2**

**For further information on the Surgeries or to provide suggestions for
workshops contact:**

Gillian Stevens

Mail: 2 Illingworth Avenue, Caversham, Reading, Berks. RG4 6RB

Phone: 0118 9478743 eMail: gstevens@onet.co.uk

First World War soldiers' records - the 'Burnt Documents'

Until a few years ago anybody applying to the Ministry of Defence for papers relating to soldiers who fought in the First World War received a standard reply: "unfortunately because of enemy action during the blitz the non-commissioned soldiers' records which survived were so damaged by fire and water that they cannot be produced as originals". For most of us that meant that records of our fathers and grandfathers were lost for ever.

But a pilot project to film 1,000 of the 33,000 boxes of documents that did survive was carried out in 1997. It was so successful that the Public Record Office applied for a lottery grant to film the whole collection. It has been estimated that the surviving documents contain the records of two million men. They represent about 40% of the servicemen who joined the army, but the information they contain opens up an unparalleled history of the ordinary soldier. Not all the records have been filmed yet, the target date for completion is June 2002. Surnames beginning with I, J, K, L and M will be available in 2001, and G and H next year.

This is the story of two researchers who have gone through the records attempting to discover the part their ancestors played in the Great War.

Joyce Stamp

About four years ago I tried to obtain the army records of my father, William Sydney Burchell, who was born in December 1896. Unfortunately I knew very little about his time as a soldier in the First World War. He had joined the Rifle Brigade at the age of about 17, giving his age as 18. I have his cap badge, but not his regimental number. He was sent to France and was gassed twice, the second time he was brought back to England unconscious. It is possible he spent some time at the Sutherland War Hospital, Christchurch Road, Reading. By 1919 he appeared to have recovered sufficiently to be fit enough to continue his army career in India. While there it soon became apparent that his health had suffered as a result of the gas. He was then brought back to the

United Kingdom and spent some time in hospital, before he was medically discharged with a pension. When he died in 1946 my mother was unable to claim a war widow's pension as his discharge was arranged whilst he was still in hospital, so it would have been impossible for them to get married while he was still in uniform.

When I arrived at the Public Record Office I went to the help desk and was shown the film and fiche room. I found this quite intimidating, probably because of the different records held there. I had been told to look for a large guide to the 'burnt records' WO363, which was full of names in alphabetical order. I knew already that B's were available; I searched for the name Burchell with a number of spelling variants. I noted the numbers of the films I needed to search. The quality was poor, but not impossible. At one point I thought I had found the right one, but it was for a William Samuel, not Sydney. As he spent some time in India he may not have been included in these records so I was shown WO364 which covered those discharged after the war and given pensions. I looked through these records, but drew another blank.

It occurred to me that there might be medical records which would throw light on his military career. I was told to look in a file PIN 26, MH106. I certainly had no idea what to expect. I flicked through the pages and happened to see 'Gas Poisoning'. I was given the reference number and after ordering the records at the computer terminal and using my swipe card I had to wait 20 to 30 minutes for the pager to bleep indicating that my records were ready to view. I had thought the film room was big, but the area I was now entering was much larger. I was asked if I wanted the boxed records first or the folders. Inside the box I found A4 flimsy single sheet records. Each piece of paper represents a British soldier who had been gassed. This mass of papers compacted would measure about three inches in thickness and they accounted for just a few. The sheets were not in alphabetical order and it was difficult to look at the names without looking at the records themselves. It was a deeply upsetting experience but I now know what to expect if and when I find my father's record.

My brothers are helpful in filling in part of the history of my father, but I was greatly surprised when one of them found a photograph of him taken with his comrades: No. 1 Platoon Army Corps, 4th Battalion, Rifle Brigade. It was taken at Ramillies Barracks, Aldershot, in August 1919. This was probably before he

went to India as he looked so well.



No. 1 Platoon 4th Bn The Rifle Brigade taken at Ramillies Barracks, August, 1919

Julia Varey

I went to the PRO looking for Percy Athol Barrett, my grandfather. To my amazement I found his Short Service (For the Duration of the War) Attestation Papers. He had joined at Oxford and gave his age as 36 years 4 months. He lied – his birth certificate gives his date of birth as 24 November, 1876. There was a separate page for his medical history that revealed he had a very slight hammertoe in his right foot. He gave his wife's name, Emily Barrett, and the names and ages of his ten children.

He was in the 132nd Oxfordshire (Heavy) Battery of the Royal Garrison Artillery and was posted to Woolwich in 1916. As he was about to attend the 9am parade on March 8 he suddenly fell forward on the verandah overlooking the parade ground and 'immediately expired'. The Medical Officer of Troops was called and after examination of the body pronounced life extinct. The Coroner of the Borough of Woolwich held an inquest and it was discovered that Percy died after suffering from a heart attack and

that he also had chronic pneumonia. The officer in charge of records asked to see a newspaper account of the death but nothing further is known if there was a report of the inquest.

His widow and ten children received a pension of 37 shillings a week. My next project is to find the newspaper account of his death, either in the local newspapers in Woolwich or in Oxford where his widow lived at that time. I would also like to find the war diaries of his battalion to find out where he was stationed and what action he saw in the 'war to end all wars'.

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Over the past year we have become desperately short of volunteers to fill some of the more important – although not onerous – posts with the Society. We need a Treasurer (somebody to look after the books), some experience of book-keeping (somebody would be ideal). We also need a volunteer to lead our Project Team, to ensure that the projects undertaken by the Society to help us all trace our roots within Berkshire are not duplicated. Two new Membership Secretaries are urgently needed. And finally bookstall volunteers are necessary to sell our publications and buy new ones produced by other societies for resale to members.

None of these jobs would necessarily take more than a few hours a week.

So come on: if you know somebody who would make a perfect candidate, or you would like to put yourself forward, contact the Chairman, Ivan Dickason, on 0118 978 6785 or the Secretary, John Gurnett, on 0118 983 6523.

Make 2001 the year when the Society gets the quality of recruits it needs if we are to survive in an increasingly competitive field.

A Baptist conundrum

Daphne Spurling

It all began with a phone call. 'Hi, Mum'. It was my son calling from his home in Pakistan, 'We've decided to give your new grandson the middle name of Shorney.' 'That's wonderful,' I replied. Shorney was my mother's maiden name. 'I don't know other close relatives with the surname so it would be great to keep it alive.' I later found that my closest male relatives with the Shorney surname in England would have to be descended from my 4 x great grandparents who married in 1760.

'There's just one point', he continued, 'can you tell us something about the family?' My mother had died when I was a teenager and we had spent our working life overseas, so my son knew only one cousin whom we had visited regularly when living in Lesotho for a year.

'That's easy,' I said, with great conviction remembering that an American cousin had published a book on the families of the four grandparents of her children.¹

And so it proved to be - initially. Although the book wasn't produced until 1960, the Shorney part had been based on a visit in 1932. Great Aunt Emmie, who had taken them round, had several advantages: she and her sister had married my grandfather's brothers and she had grown up in the next village and in the same Baptist community in Somerset as my grandfather; in fact from her surname she was possibly related to my grandfather's grandmother. Most important of all, my very sprightly great grandmother, Mary Duddridge, had only died in 1927 aged 92 and the family remembered the stories of her childhood of, what is now, 150 years ago. The book provided a wealth of information on family and farm life and from it we were able to identify and visit the family farm.

My great grandfather, Henry Shorney, was not strong physically and prone to depression. In 1883, when my grandfather was only eight, the great agricultural depression forced them from the family farm. The following 12 years were spent renting farms - one in Somerset and then three in Berkshire - until by 1895 they were at Langley Hill Farm where my great uncle remained until the 1920s. My grandfather, Arthur, became a civil servant, married

Lilian Chapman in 1903 and their third child, my mother, was born at Theale in 1911. They moved to Lincoln when my mother was a teenager and retired to Somerset where we often visited my grandfather's relatives. But when I was 10 they returned to Lincoln when my grandmother's broken hip didn't heal. So I knew quite a lot about my grandfather Arthur and his family.

At this point in writing the story for our new grandson I realised that I knew nothing about my grandmother except her name, Lilian Chapman, and that she used to teach music. Where was she from, how had she met my grandfather? Then began a series of coincidences that led me onwards each time I reached an impasse. First my son gave me a Christmas present cheque with instructions to get on the Internet so that we could communicate more easily. I surfed madly during the 'month's free trial' - and it paid off. A website pointed me to another Shorney family member who has collected all references she found to the family. We don't know if we were related but she helped me to get back further



Arthur and Lilian Shorney

than the family memory. But that still left Lilian. Several possibilities came to mind. Perhaps Lilian was from this area; after all Arthur was 20 when the family moved to Calcot. I vaguely remembered Aunt Emmie saying that a leading congregational

family in Theale 'were sort of cousins' and finally the IGI showed two generations of Chapmans in Tilehurst called Frances Mary, the same combination of forenames given to my aunt. But first to follow the advice in all the books: 'ask relatives'. Arthur and Lilian's daughter-in-law said Lilian never spoke of her family and gave the impression that she was ashamed of them. She added that my grandmother had a brother whom she thought was a miner. And my cousin thought our great grandfather was a Baptist minister. Certainly the Baptist religion was a likely common factor. Arthur's mother, my doughty old great grandmother, described being sent as a boarder at the age of five to a school run by a Reverend Chapman and his wife at the Baptist Church in Stogumber, Somerset. Surely the families could not have stayed in touch for 60 years?

Alternatively perhaps Lilian's father had been based at Tilehurst. The next coincidence was a phone call from someone whom my husband had known briefly 10 years ago. Over lunch we discovered he was connected with the Baptist church in Tilehurst, but he told us that it had not started until decades later. Perhaps great grandpa had been at a Reading church. But first a search of the marriage index working backwards from the birth dates of my mother, aunt and uncle. And with it came surprises. My grandparents were married at Coventry. How on earth did my grandfather, who so far as I knew had never lived north of Ewelme just over the Thames in Oxfordshire, come to marry someone from Coventry? Grandpa was living in Worcester at the time of the wedding and was still there seven months after the wedding when my uncle was born. That again was a shock as my grandparents were so puritan that they objected to me marrying before my 25th birthday and we were not allowed to play cards or have similar leisure activities on Sundays. My cousins who lived near them became as deft at hiding cards as youngsters are nowadays at exiting web sites they don't want parents to see. It was rather a let down when my cousin said she'd heard that Uncle Vernon was so premature that he fitted into a pint jug. And lastly, Grandma's names were Mary Lilian. At least the marriage certificate confirmed that her father was William Chapman, Baptist Minister. Then came the next coincidence.

As I was now on the Internet I joined the BFHS email discussion group. That week one message ended with the comment that the writer was happy to help anyone with Baptist ancestors. She

suggested I contact the Angus Library of Regent Park College in Oxford. Back from them came an obituary including a photograph of my great grandfather, strict looking and wearing a fez. But the obituary didn't help my central question of how my grandparents had met. I still knew of no personal or geographical connection between them. I even toyed with the idea of a Baptist lonely-hearts column. Great grandfather William Chapman had been born in Wendover, worked in Highbury, and had gone to the Midland College at Leicester. He had been a minister near Coventry for 20 years, then in Derbyshire, in Lincolnshire, in the Calder Valley on the borders of Yorkshire and Lancashire and finally outside Nottingham where I found him in the 1881 census with a much younger wife, Mary Hannah, daughter Mary Lilian and son William Ernest. After 45 years as a minister he retired to Coventry where he had died in 1905 at the age of 86. We visited the Angus Library and read the Minute Book of the Stogumber Chapel which contained many references to my Shorney family and their friends and relatives in Somerset. Then the Angus Library sent another batch of photocopies that included references to him at training college and part of a table listing Baptist ministers. The table headings were missing but in one column was the word Maidenhead opposite William Chapman's name. That rang a bell.

Before settling at Langley Hill, my Shorney great grandparents had rented Whiteplace Farm between Maidenhead and Cookham. They were very happy there but the farm was soon sold to the Astors who wanted it as the home farm to Cliveden. At last a possible connection. Shortly afterwards I was at the LDS Research Centre in Tilehurst looking up my husband's family. Having a half-hour spare before closing I asked if they had the 1891 census for Maidenhead. They were not in Maidenhead, but I found them in Cookham. There was William Chapman, his wife and son. I don't know what they were doing there, as I know of no connection between him or his wife and Cookham, and it would have been mentioned in the obituary if it had been on official Baptist business. I have not yet found my grandmother in 1891, but it didn't matter. I had placed the two families in the same area and as strong Baptists they must have known each other. That wasn't quite the end of the story.

Wanting to trace my great grandmother's family I bought the indexed 1851 census for Warwickshire. She was there aged eight

working as a ribbon weaver as indeed were her parents and older siblings. I also found 32-year-old William with Elizabeth his wife, and children William, Mary and Harriet. His wedding certificate to Mary Hannah in 1872 confirmed he was a widower and a Harriet Chapman was a witness. He had given his second son and daughter the first names of the children of his first family. I have now found that in a three and a half year period he lost his son and daughter both when aged 20 and both from tuberculosis and his wife from an abdominal tumour. No one in the family knew my grandmother was part of a second family. I still don't know what happened to Grandma's half-sister Harriet or to her brother William.

1. Shorney, Mary Wallace, 'This is your Heritage – Being a Series of Biographical Sketches Written for my Children'. Privately printed 1960

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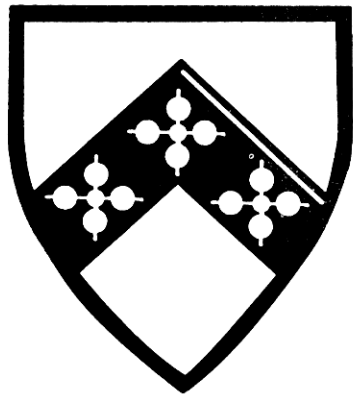
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Help wanted

Twinch family

Carol Twinch, Hill Farm, Rendham, Saxmundham, Suffolk IP17 2AL

For about 90 years, from the 1780s to the 1870s, the Twinch family ran what became The Royal Brewery (in Peascod Street, New Windsor), and for some of that time acted as victuallers at The Ship public house in Church Lane, New Windsor. Frederick Twinch, joint owner of Twinch's Brewery, was elected Mayor of Windsor in 1848 and was on the Finance Committee that supported the building of the first Windsor railway. The Brewery is listed in 1869 as 'Brewers & maltsters to Her Majesty & The Royal Family'. Sheila de Bellaigue highlighted the difficulties of getting information from the Royal Archives in the December issue of the *Berkshire Family Historian*, and there is nothing at all about the Brewery in Windsor Library.

But can anybody help with The Ship? Did it cease to function as a public house, or was it renamed, and does it still exist? Ownership of the Brewery and The Ship was split between the children of the founder, John Twinch, in 1814, and was run for a time by a widowed daughter, Priscilla Ambler, and then by John Burnham, the brother-in-law of Frederick (the Mayor) who had married Ann Burnham in 1832. I am also hoping to find out something of the relationship of the Windsor Mayor to the Castle and wonder if anyone could point to any published source. How important was Frederick Twinch's mayorship to the Brewery, or was there a strict divide between the Castle and the Town? Twinch's Brewery was taken over in the 1870s by John Canning when Frederick's two sons, Frederick and John, sold out and emigrated to America. There is a mention in the family papers that Frederick was involved in an 'unfortunate incident', but so far I have not been able to discover what it could have been. Various members of the Twinch family were involved in Windsor's commercial and public life during the nineteenth century, but so far little evidence has come my way. Can anybody help?

Bucklebury

Mrs. Margaret Turner, 29 Darvell Drive, Chesham, Bucks HP5 2QL

I am looking for the owners and history of two houses and a farm in the Bucklebury area. According to family legend there is a prep school just outside Bucklebury which may have been a minor stately home. The building may have been owned by a Lady Pyke or Pryke and have been used by the army in the war (it may have been a barracks or hospital). I am also trying to identify Holly Farm House. There was possibly a dispute between the occupier, John Morton, and another named Herridge over an inheritance. Who owns the land and farmhouse now?

Silvester family

Ruth Noyes, 176 Cannock Road, Stafford ST17 0QJ

I have traced my Silvester ancestors back to a marriage in 1704, but for two years have made no more progress. Henry Silvester of Hinton Waldrist married Alice Blanders of Sunningwell by licence at St. Mary Magdalene, Oxford on December 26, 1704. The couple had two children in Sunningwell where Henry was buried in 1731 after Alice had predeceased him. There is no trace of Henry in Hinton Waldrist or a wide swathe of surrounding parishes, nor can I find a single Blanders family in the region. A contemporary Henry Silvester in Oxford appears to be unrelated but there were Silvesters marrying in Abingdon in the late seventeenth century. Any help in tracing the origin of Henry and Alice would be appreciated.

Open Day 2001

**The Vale of White Horse Branch of the
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Letters to the Editor

Bridget Duckenfield, 94 Station Avenue, West Ewell, Epsom, Surrey KT19 9UG

In the December issue of the *Berkshire Family Historian* (my first since joining) I found, to my delight, an article on Jane Austen and also a mention of a Walter Bateman. Joan Dils' article on archdeaconry records mentioned a wealthy Reading clothier who I believe was mayor at the time. I have an indenture, dated 1601, which I have not completely deciphered yet, between Robert Harrys, William Sherwood, and Walter Bateman all of Reading:

'The Indenture made the 14th daye of June in the fortyeth yeare of the reigne of our Sovereign ladye Elizabeth by the grace of God of England, France and Scotland, Queen defender of the faythe between Robert Harrys of Reding in the Countye of Barke gent and William Sherwood sonne and heir of Ruben Sherwood of the one side and Walter Bateman of Reddinge aforesaid in the sayd county of Barke clother and Ursula his wife of the other side wittneseth that the sayd Robert Harrys and William Sherwood for the consideration of some money to them repayd and for diverse other considerations there has granted bargained and sold and by these so granted bargained and sold unto the sayd Walter Bateman and Ursula his wife the Mansion House

The document came with some family papers but none of the names have shewn up in the family history – although Jane Austen has – via the Bridges family.

Mrs. Valerie Kearey, 32 Grovelands Road, Reading RG30 2NY

I was interested to read in the December issue of the *Berkshire Family Historian* the item on the index of marriages produced by Mrs. John Hautenville Cope. She lived at Sulhampstead Park, and before she married was Emma Elizabeth Thoyts. During her life she collected much information on Berkshire, but her interest does not seem to have stopped there. Her collection (or at least some of it) is held at the Reading Local Studies Library. Included in the 25 items listed are:

Annals of a Country Churchyard during 150 years 1602-1750, written in 1893

Book of parishioners of Sulhampstead (1891-1893)

Complete transcript of the Sulhampstead Bannister parish registers

History of the Royal Berkshire militia

Index to parish registers (including Phillimore's) 1900. This includes handwritten notes with clippings of the indexes in other parts of England.

I have copies of marriages for Bradfield 1559-1812, East Ilsley 1654-1811, Hurst 1585-1607 and 1633-1812, Purley 1662-1753, Ruscombe 1559-1812, and Yattendon 1559-1812. I will look up these indexes for anybody interested in these parishes. Please send a stamped self-addressed envelope.

Another useful source is the journals of the Berkshire, Buckinghamshire and Oxfordshire Archaeological Society. They contain some old wills and Feet of Fines. They can also be found at Reading Library.

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A Bluffer's guide to converting your family tree into a family history

Barry Jerome

Most people who trace their family have an ambition one day to write it up as a story. But where to start? This article shows the approach I am taking to write up my own family history and hopefully it will help a few others to realise their own ambition.

Part I – Structuring the Book

When I first thought about writing my family history as a story I could not decide where to start. I knew I still had much research to do but I wanted to start writing. Conversely though, I did not want to rewrite the story each time I discovered more information. To resolve this dilemma I decided to use a structure for the book based on chapters, sections and volumes.

Chapters, sections and volumes

My family history book is made up of several chapters where each chapter contains the history of a different surname. These chapters are composed of sections and each section contains the details of an individual with that surname. The sections are grouped together sequentially by date.

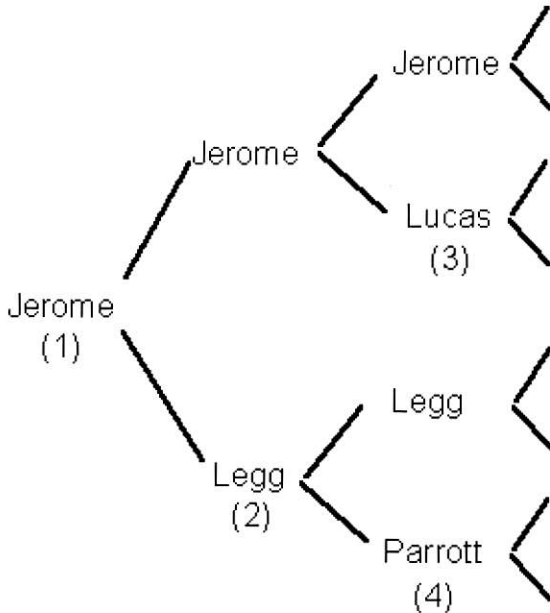
A volume is part of the family history, bound separately, to make it more manageable for reading and distributing. If I only have limited information on a surname then a whole chapter may be bound as a separate volume. Where I have much more information a few sections of a particular surname may be bound together into a volume.

The purpose of this approach is so that I can work on any section simultaneously without affecting the other sections.

This may sound complicated but it is actually quite simple. I will use the structure of my family history book as an example to illustrate the approach. My family tree appears as in figure 1.

Using this approach gives the following structure to my own family history book:

Chapter 0 Introduction containing family tree diagrams, a key to the chapters and general references used



Jerome family tree

Chapter 1 Jerome

Chapter 2 Legg

Chapter 3 Lucas

Chapter 4 Parrott, etc.

To make the family history book easy to handle and distribute I have bound the chapters and sections as follows:

Chapter 0 is a separately bound volume

Chapter 1 is bound as 4 volumes. The first volume contains several sections which describe ancestors born before 1800. The other three volumes each contain the story of just one person

Chapters 2 and 4 are each bound as separate volumes.

Chapter 3 was bound as a single volume but one section has recently expanded to a size where I need to split the chapter and bind it as two volumes now.

The number of volumes you will need depends on how much information you have. The best starting point is to assume that

each chapter will be a separate volume and this can be expanded as more is written in each chapter.

Part II – Writing the Story

In this and the following sections I will use my own experiences to describe a suggested approach for producing your own family history book. So how to start?

The important first step that I found was to decide whether to write up all of the names in my tree or just my main family name. I decided to write up all the names. If you decide to write up your main name or one selected name then you can skip the next paragraph on multi-chapter books and go to the heading about 'Writing a Chapter'.

Writing a multi-chapter book

I started by writing out my pedigree chart using the structure in figure 1. The numbers in brackets give the surnames which become the title of each chapter and the sequence in the book will be as indicated by the numbers (1),(2),(3), etc. I recommend not numbering the chapters. This way you can write, for example, chapters (1), (3) and (7) and assemble them as a book without it seeming to the reader that there are large gaps. Each chapter can then be written completely independently of each other.

Writing a Chapter

First decide which chapter to write. This may seem obvious but unless you are writing a single chapter book you need to choose a chapter that gives you the best chance of getting to a point where you can print it. You need some sort of incentive to get you through the difficult times. An ideal incentive is a relative or fellow researcher who is interested in this surname and whom you can think of as your audience.

The difficult stages I have found are:

- the first blank page – what do I put on it?
- the 'treacle thinking' stage – I seem to spend a lot of time trying to put my thoughts down but only end up with an additional paragraph
- the 'more research' stage – I delay writing because there is more information I could easily add if I just did a bit more research
- the 'worried' stage – my English is not very good, nobody will want to read it.

I will try to show the approach I have taken to overcome these problems.

Structuring the Chapter

My first step is to take a pad of lined paper and on the top of each page write the forename (Christian name) of each person in the pedigree chart together with some distinguishing note (for example: date range, job or wife's name). E.g. 'Jonathan (1792 - 1864)', 'Jonathan the Baker' or 'Jonathan and Ann'

Then on each page I make a list of the information that I have about them (*note this is a list not the actual information*). Typical items included in the list are dates (baptism, marriage, death), places (baptism, marriage, death, census), census details (1841, 1851, 1861, ...), job details, photographs, children, military service, other documents (specified).

I then put each page into a plastic pocket and put each pocket in baptism date sequence into a spring binder for safe keeping. This is now my skeleton chapter and each page represents a section.

Writing a Section

The first step is to choose one person to write about first – again I find that thinking of an incentive helps. Is it someone I knew and would like to write about, or is it someone that I have enough information about to be able to write two or three pages without too much difficulty? This person will become a section of the book. For whichever reason you have chosen a person, take the relevant page out of your spring binder and get out all of the information that you have about that person.

Use the list that you wrote and tick each line as you locate the information. Add extra lines to your list if you find any additional information that you had forgotten to include. You now have your information assembled to start writing.

You can write it using a computer, a typewriter or by hand. The advantage of a computer is that it is much easier to correct mistakes and to print extra copies. People worry about needing to touch type but this is a fallacy. You only need to be able to type as fast as you can think. One finger on each hand is quite fast enough for me.

A blank page – what to write on it?

My suggestion is not to worry too much about what you write –

just put something on paper to get you started. I frequently start a new person by writing a standard set of sentences. I rework these later so that they flow more as a story and to stop each person sounding the same. Let me illustrate this with one of my ancestors:

‘George the Waterman and Fisherman

George was baptised in Kingston-upon-Thames, Surrey in 1831, the son of Jonathan and Ann Jerome. He was their fourth child, having an elder sister Matilda and elder brothers Edward and Thomas. Later additions to the family were two younger sisters Rachel and Ann and a brother Jonathan. George’s father Jonathan was a baker. During his early years the family moved several times, firstly to Richmond then briefly back to Kingston before moving on to Shiplake in Berkshire, and finally settling in Henley-on-Thames on the Oxfordshire-Berkshire border.’

The information to write this first paragraph came from a baptism record and the 1841, 1851 and 1861 censuses. The last sentence could equally have been written as ‘George was born and grew up in the village of ‘ if the census records show that the family had not moved.

The next major event to write about is likely to be a marriage. Again I take the standard sentence approach to start. Illustrating again with George:

‘George married Ruth Woodley at Henley-on-Thames in 1853. Ruth was the daughter of William and xxxx Woodley and was the fourth child in a large family with eight brothers and sisters. When they married George was a waterman and fisherman on the river Thames and this may well have been how they met as Ruth’s father was also a waterman on the Thames. When first married they lived at North Street in Henley.’

The information to write this paragraph came from the marriage certificate, the 1861 and 1871 censuses and the baptism of their first child, plus speculation on how they met.

This will be followed by a standard sentence about the family, job and where they lived.

‘George and Ruth had fourteen children:

Charles bap xx nnn 1854 Henley-on-Thames

*Frederick bapt xx Jun 1861 Henley-on-Thames

They continued to live in Henley throughout their life where George continued in his chosen occupation of waterman and fisherman. They moved several times within Henley, shown by the census records, living at Gravel Hill and North End.'

This information came from the baptism records and the census records. The '*' indicates a direct line of descent.

If you have any information about the children it can be added next. For example I like to write a sentence or two about each child that I have some information on.

'When Frederick grew up he owned boats on the Thames and it appeared as if he would be a confirmed bachelor. However, he met Rosina White and they married in 1900 when Frederick was 39 years old. They settled down in Dorking in Surrey where they had five children.'

The final standard paragraph is about their deaths. 'George died in Henley and was buried on ??????????. He was survived by Ruth who died xx years later on ??????????.'

I do not yet have this information about George and Ruth and have therefore not included it in the current version of my story. Once I have found the relevant information I will add the new paragraph to the story. The information will come from burial records and/or death certificate.

I now have the framework for my story for George Jerome. It does not read very well yet but that can be corrected once it is closer to finishing.

Try it yourself. Once you have your information laid out, write the same sentences substituting the names and events for the person you have chosen to write about. The exact words are not important at this stage, the important thing is to get a framework down on the paper that you can work with. You should now have the first stage of your family history.

In the June issue I will discuss the use of illustrations and publishing and printing.

Berkshire Family History Society AGM

The 26th Annual General Meeting of the Berkshire Family History Society will be held at 7.30pm on Tuesday June 26, 2001, at Christ Church United Reformed Church, William Street, Windsor.

Agenda

- 1 Apologies for Absence
- 2 Minutes of the year 2000 Annual General Meeting
- 3 Matters Arising
- 4 Chairman's Report for 2000/2001
- 5 Treasurer's Report for 2000/2001
- 6 Election of President and Vice-President
- 7 Election of Officers for 2001/2002
- 8 Acceptance of the Branch Committee Appointed Ex-officio Members
- 9 Election of Executive Committee Members for 2001/2002
- 10 Nomination of Auditors for 2001/2002
- 11 Any other Business

Nomination for election of officers should reach the Secretary by May 20, 2001

BFHS Executive Committee 2001/2002

Nomination Form

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

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

Nominee's Name (please PRINT)Nominee's Membership No:.....

Nominee's Signature Date.....2001

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

Chairman	Secretary	Treasurer	Committee Member
----------	-----------	-----------	------------------

Proposer's Name (please PRINT).....Membership No.....

Proposer's Signature.....Date.....2001

Please detach this form from the journal, or photocopy it, and send it to The Secretary, 5 Wren Close, Burghfield Common, Berkshire RG7 3PF to reach him no later than the last post on May 20, 2001

National Burial Index

David Wright

Since submitting the Berkshire FHS's contribution of more than 50,600 records to the National Burials Index at the end of last August, some 20,000 further records have been added to the Berkshire burials file. The new periods/parishes added are indicated by asterisks in the following list which now covers 68 registers:

Ashampstead St Clement 1757 - 1837

Avington 1727 - 1994 (1814 - 1994*)

Barkham St James 1741 - 1812

Basildon St Bartholomew 1667 - 1856 (1667 - 1727*)

Beedon St Nicholas 1733 - 1969*

Beenham St Mary 1813 - 1907 (1863 - 1907*)

Boxford St Andrew 1758 - 1876

Bradfield St Andrew 1695 - 1754

Bray St Michael 1826 - 1837*

Brightwalton All Saints 1805 - 1922

Brimpton St Peter 1756 - 1901 (1756 - 1768*)

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

Cold Ash St Mark 1856 - 1947*

Combe St Swithin 1729 - 1812*

Compton SS Mary & Nicholas 1813 - 1901

East Garston All Saints 1813 - 1876*

Easthampstead SS Michael & Mary Magdalene 1768 - 1812* and
1873 - 1915*

East Ilsley St Mary 1649 - 1868 (1649 - 1772*)

East Shefford 1604 - 1734 and 1774 - 1917
Enborne St Michael & All Angels 1726 - 1837 (1726 - 1753*)
Fawley St Mary 1550 - 1987 (1813 - 1987*)
Frilsham St Frideswide 1711 - 1768*
Greenham St Mary 1799 - 1914 (1813 - 1862*)
Hungerford Independent 1819 - 1830
Hungerford St Lawrence 1749 - 1796*
Inkpen St Michael & All Angels 1878 - 1986
Kintbury St Mary 1718 - 1761* and 1813 - 1925 (1857 - 1884*)
Lambourn St Michael & All Angels 1767 - 1837
Maidenhead Congregational 1791 - 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 - 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 1753 - 1879 (1753 - 1812*)
Purley St Mary the Virgin 1813 - 1900
Reading Castle Street Congregational 1857 - 1862*
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 1750 - 1904 (1750 - 1789* and 1862 - 1904*)
Speenhamland St Mary 1831 - 1881
Sulham St Nicholas 1724 - 1850

Sunninghill St Michael & All Angels 1796 - 1812
 Thatcham/Bucklebury Congregational/Independent Chapel 1819
 - 1871*
 Thatcham St Mary 1813 - 1819*
 Tilehurst St George 1886 - 1954 (1908 - 1954*)
 Ufton Nervet St Peter 1737 - 1834
 Wasing St Nicholas 1763 - 1853
 Welford St Gregory 1813 - 1852*
 West Shefford St Mary 1779 - 1897 (1813 - 1897*)
 West Woodhay St Laurence 1656 - 1724* and 1813 - 1985*
 Winterbourne St James the Less 1750 - 1850
 Wokingham Baptist Church 1841 - 1906
 Woodley Congregational (Woodley Chapel) 1858 - 1905*
 Woolhampton St Peter 1761 - 1926*
 Details of the postal service for researching burials in the
 Berkshire parishes listed above are given on page 180.

Burial entries in thousands per County (rounded to the nearest
 1000):

Bedfordshire	52	Middlesex	11
Berkshire	51	Monmouthshire	<1
Buckinghamshire	81	Norfolk	73
Cambridge	97	Northamptonshire	79
Cardiganshire	6	Northumberland	106
Cheshire	25	Oxfordshire	256
Derbyshire	29	Radnorshire	4
Dorset	1	Shropshire	85
Durham	170	Staffordshire	14
Essex	22	Suffolk	436
Glamorganshire	249	Surrey	120
Gloucestershire	151	Warwickshire	470
Herefordshire	42	Wiltshire	146
Hertfordshire	79	Worcestershire	490

Huntingdonshire	58	Yorkshire	19
Kent	16	Yorkshire E. Riding	29
Lancashire	29	Yorkshire N. Riding	308
Leicestershire	<1	Yorkshire W. Riding	674
Lincolnshire	609		

The first edition of the CD-ROM of burials from England and Wales will be published by the Federation of Family History Societies in April.

Order now at a special pre-publication price from BFHS and save £3.00

Orders received by April 4 at Mail Order, BFHS Bookstall, Yeomanry House, 131 Castle Hill, Reading, Berkshire RG1 7TJ will cost £27.00 (including p&p) after that date the two discs will cost £30.00

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A letter from Canada

Joan Vinall

This letter was sent to me by my cousin Mrs. Eileen Herman. It was found among old documents and memorabilia in the home of May Williams Clift.

The letter was discovered (in Canada) by one of her nephews, Richard Sheridan. Cousin May is 91, living in Canada. Fortunately contact was made before my mother died in 1994 and my cousin Eileen and I still exchange letters and cards with May.

My grandfather, Samuel Williams, was born with his twin brother Emmanuel, at Checkendon in Oxfordshire but the family moved to Abingdon while they were still very young. Samuel must have arrived in Reading in the early 1890s and hemarried my grandmother, Emily Flay, in 1895.

My mother, Gwenneth, was the youngest of eight children, and her father, Samuel, after many occupations including Colliers the brick works, innkeeper at The Queen in Waterloo Road, and at The Gardeners Arms in Surley Row, ended up with a market garden in Waterloo Road, a shop in Spring Gardens, Reading, plus a horse and cart and a greengrocery round.

The letter from great uncle David is remarkable for the mention of many places in and around Reading where he worked, and his good memory and detailed recollection. The use of the early X-ray is also fascinating. My mother spoke of uncle David, but I'm afraid I don't know when he died, and I certainly never knew him.

The original letter is written in beautiful penmanship on both sides of bookkeeping journal paper. Individual pages are well worn at the edges and there are holes and abrasions at fold lines, but the letter is quite legible.

89 Gosbrook Road,
Caversham,
Reading,
England

13.1 – 1910

My Dearest Brother & Sister, Nieces & Nephews, no doubt, You will be surprised to receive this letter from me after so long. I have often thought of you so far away from friends and relations with such a remote chance of ever seeing any of us again, that I some-times wish I could afford to pay you a visit and see your home and surroundings so far away.

You have an advantage in that respect as you have lived here and know what things are, but ours is only imagination in regards to your side of the sea. I wonder if you could refresh your memories and go back to the day you left. (Abingdon for Reading) when I was working at Wallingford and accompanied you in the train on your way to Reading as far as Wallingford – rather Moulsham, that was in May 1890. I believe I well remember your remarks to me when I left you – we shall send for you some day. Well, my chance has come and gone. I shall never come now and perhaps you some times wonder how I have fared in this world of trouble.

Well, I am glad to say, fairly well until about two years ago. Perhaps it would interest you to read my history a bit from the time I saw you before mentioned.

I remained at Wallingford until the following October then I went to Reading and was employed by *** Smith going from place to place with furniture, for about six months. Then I got a start at Wilders Foundry in Minster Street at 14/- per week as labourer. When I had been there about one year, I was put on with a Mechanic as his Mate and got on so well that in 12 months I was put on jobs alone. Then began my trouble. I was not satisfied with my wage because I was doing the same work as men getting 30/- per week. I asked for more money week after week. I was promised more but it never came, so I gave my notice in; then I got 2/- per week more.

But I was not being paid what I earned as rated in piece work prices, so I made up my mind to get another job. At the second

place I tried for, at a place called Compton about 14 miles from Reading, I got on at 22/- per week. I done well there getting three rises in 15 months, in all 5/-, making a wage of 27/- per week of 60 hours. That's what I didn't like – a 60 hour week, so I looked for a job elsewhere again.

But next time, I was not successful. It was at Mackies in the Caversham Rd, Reading, at 26/- per week of 54 hours – less money but more per hour worked but very hard work. They almost expected you to take your shirt off, they expected so much work done and after about 5 months I quarrelled with the foreman and left. That, for a time, proved very unfortunate for me as I could not seem to get work again, try how I would for four months.

Then Sam was laid up with something the matter with his foot and I done his work for about 13 weeks but this was a fall in wages to 16/- per week. Sam, at that time was getting 21/-. That was in 1897 when Sam came back to his work. I had to go and was idle again for about 5 weeks. All this time, I was lodging with Lizzie and as they was taking hands on at the biscuit factory, I tried there and got a job in about a week. That was the beginning of October and then I went to lodge at a Mrs. Pococks, 578 Oxford Road. My work at the factory was only promised to Xmas so I was on the look out for another when that was finished and about a month before I expected notice I was successful this time at Mackies in Katesgrove back at my trade.

Oh yes, I had a trade then – at least I thought I knew one which after events proved to me I did not know one quarter there was to learn. This was in November 1897 when I got this job to start on the first of Jan 1898 came the event of my life as you will see. We arranged everything and finished in 27 days. That was from the 27 of November 1897 till the 24 of December 1897 the day I got married, of course after a courtship of about 4 years.

Well, I took up my duties as a Benedict on the first of Jan as arranged but this proved to be a short job as the firm went into liquidation the following June. But in May before we had notice to leave, I obtained a job in London at 36/- per week in the East India Dock Rd. My wife did not want me to go but my will prevailed and I went about the middle of May, coming home once a fortnight. This proved an expensive job and my high wages was made small keeping two homes. At last after about 3 months Aug Bank Holiday came round and I came home the first time for

three weeks. Well, the wife made such trouble when I was going back after the Holidays that finally I promised not to go back and wrote for my tools, etc. and threw myself out of work.

This was rather foolish as my wife was just in a quandary as to her condition and more so as I remained out about two months then started again at Mackies Caversham Road Reading. This was Oct 1898. I remained there till the following Sept, about 11 months at 26/- per week. During that time, the 9th of April 1899, my first daughter was born – Gladys.

When I left Mackies, as stated, I had a great desire come over me to gain experience and wanted to go further afield so I answered advert in Mechanical World and obtained appointment with a firm at Chatteres in Cambridgeshire about 25 miles from Peterborough taking up my duties on or about the 2nd of Oct 1899 at 32/- and remained until Nov 1900, coming home only 4 times while I was there. I left on my own accord on the advice of my wife as she was expecting with Cassie who was born on the 3rd of December 1900, about a fortnight after I came home.

I remained at home till after Xmas then went to the Eagle Foundry, Oxford to work at 30/- per week. Remained there about a year and 10 months, riding my machine home every week end. I think it was about Jan 1902 that I went to Wallis & Stevens Engineers, Basingstoke at 32/- per week, staying there till June 1903 when I left to go to a job as Bookmakers clerk at Ascot Races. This was not successful, so I obtained a job at a new firm as was building at Caversham Bridge Reading – Mssrs. R. Allen & Son, the Reading iron Works, at 32/- per week. Remained there till May 1905 when I returned to Wallis & Stevens at Basingstoke. This time taking my wife and family with me and resided in Basingstoke till the following March 1906. Returning, I lived on my savings in Reading for a while living in Oxford Road in a house built on the Elm Park in your time here. From here I went to Coventry at 38/- per week– was there about six months. From there to Shrewsbury Shropshire – was there about 7 months. From there to John Thornecrofts, shipbuilders, Southampton – was there about 4 months as leading hand. Then I obtained a position at Vantage Engineering Works as Foreman at £2 per week holding that position till March 1908 when I had to hand in my resignation owing to ill health and my suffering from a diseased knee bone, which unfortunately, has caused me trouble ever since that time. But I will tell you all about that when I have finished my narrative.

Well, I came with my wife and family now – 4 daughters – to Reading and am glad to say after five weeks was able to look for and get another position – the first I tried for was successful and the one I am in now. My late employer gave me excellent references, adding he was very sorry to lose me and wishing me success.

Now you will have followed me up till the 28th of March 1908 the day I started here at a reduced rate as I was in failing health – 35/- and extra which makes this as good as 1/- for every hour worked, as I only work 40 hours per week and very often less now. After I had been here about 2 weeks, I was offered a position as foreman for a five year engagement to Hong Kong China. But before accepting, I thought it my duty to inform them of my medical unfitness, which you will understand was the only reason for me not going.

This was unfortunate for me as it was five years work at £375 per year and residence. Sam saw the negotiations in reference to this job and could inform anyone of its genuiness.

Now I have brought you up to the present time. I am afraid I shall tire you all of this but forgive me – I thought it would be the best way to explain.

Now dear Brother & Sister, I will tell you about my knee. Two years ago on the 14 of Nov 1908 when I woke up I had a terrible aching at my left knee and much swollen. I thought it was a strain but it proved after that it was not. It got from bad to worse – several doctors treated me but none did me any good. Finally, I went to the hospital but unfortunately they treated me wrongly at first for a complaint I had not got – gout; gave me bottle after bottle of medicine which did no good till one day I suggested the Rongion Rays (*probably means Roentgen Rays discovered by Wilhelm Roentgen in 1895 and commonly referred to as x-rays*) and the next time I went the doctor told me all the medicine in the world would not do me any good – I must go under operation.

I consented and after waiting about a fortnight for a bed I was admitted on the 4 of September last year, went under operation on the 6th of September – had a piece of the knee cap taken away. This relieved me for some time but I am sorry to say it got quite bad again, in fact much worse than it has ever been and am expecting to go under operation again shortly. It is known as Tubercular Knee Joint.

Now dear Brother & Sister and all the family, I have told you my history as far as I can remember and considering I had no apprenticeship and no one to use any influence on my behalf, it has been gratifying to me to see myself pass by those that was apprenticed paying £50 premium. And had I been in good health, I was told by a Mining Engineer I could have got to the top of the tree and that was a man holding a position in the Engineering trade which brought him in £1400 a year.

So you will quite understand how my prospects were blighted by this knee joint of mine. You will also notice that I have left every place I have worked at; not once being discharged – except when doing Sam's job.

Now I am glad to tell you Sam and his family are all fairly well but I think Sam has written you lately. Lizzie and her family are all quite well. I saw her last Saturday night but I think they have been in very straightened circumstances owing to Redge being out of employment so much this last 2 or 3 years. But the family are all at work except one and Lizzie goes out to work.

Now I must tell you my wife and daughters all wish to send their kind regards and would very much like to see you all, but I am afraid that cannot be.

Dear Brother & Sister, I shall be pleased indeed to receive a line from you, then I will write again. Meantime, I will be thinking of you and hoping you may not blame me for taking up so much of your time with this letter. You may remark, 'He has sent a book', but never mind, keep on till the end now.

I will close trusting this note will find you are happy and well.

Believe me, your ever loving Brother, the Plough Boy.

Good bye & God Bless you all. I am glad to tell you Mother dear is fairly well. God Bless her.

From Dave xxx

Bookshelf

We have started putting the **Berkshire Overseers Papers** onto fiche for sale. Brian Hunt and Peter Durrant together with their dedicated team of transcribers have been working on the transcripts and many of them are now being released on fiche. They have been arranged by post-1834 Poor Law Unions and we plan to publish more of the papers shortly.

The survival rate of these records varies markedly across the county. Several parishes have no original records of this type, whilst others have several hundreds and two have over a thousand.

The first to be published are: (all prices include p&p)

Vol.1 Newbury Union: Chieveley. UK £2.50 Overseas £3.00

Vol.2 Newbury Union: Brimpton, Enborne, Wasing & Woolhampton. UK £2.50 Overseas £3.00

Vol.3 Newbury Union: Thatcham. UK £3.50 Overseas £4.00

Vol.4 Bradfield Union: Aldermaston, Englefield & Pangbourne. UK £2.50 Overseas £3.00

Vol.26 Newbury Union: Newbury (Settlement Examinations). UK £3.50 Overseas £4.00

Monumental Inscriptions

Bear Wood, St. Catherine's Church 1847 - 2000. UK £2.50 Overseas £3.00

(We have Mike and Hilary Roberts to thank for this transcript)

Shippon, St. Mary Magdalene Church, Nr. Abingdon 1852 - 1998. UK £2.50 Overseas £3.00

(The Vale of the White Horse Branch together with help from OFHS transcribed and indexed this record and it has been published jointly by BFHS & OFHS.)

Computer Steering Group

Eddie Spackman

Many readers will be aware that this Group was reconvened last May and considers the operation of any computer-related activity of the Society. Some are obvious: the computer suite at the Research Centre, the website, the email discussion group, projects using computers and workshops or meetings for members. Less obvious is the database for the bookstall and its stock control, our intention of 'being a stall holder' at GenFair and the proposed database for the Berkshire Name Index.

We have now reviewed all the computing activities of the Society and organised the Workshops and Surgeries that you see advertised elsewhere in this journal. Our meetings are in two parts with 'business' in the first part followed by a demonstration or discussion.

In order to continue our activities, to start new ones and to avoid all the work falling to the same small group of people we need more supporters. We are especially in need of people who are willing to lead all or part of a Workshop and to answer technical questions at the Surgeries. These are the main ways in which the Society can now support and help those who rarely if ever use the Internet. If you have a computing skill and are prepared to give some of your time to the Society (even as Secretary to the Group) please come to a meeting (held every six to eight weeks and advertised on the website) or to a Surgery or email us at:

ComputerGroup@berksfhs.org.uk.

Open Days and Conferences. The Group will have a computer area at the Society Open Day at Abingdon on Saturday, 19th May 2001. We are also involved with the joint SoG/Berkshire FHS Computer Conference being planned for Saturday, 20th April 2002 at Theale Green Community School.

Email Discussion Group. This group is for the benefit of all members of the Society with access to the Internet. Some still do not realise that it's not just for those with 'Berkshire Interests' but for all those who wish to exchange views on any family history interest or relevant computing topic. Quite a number of

us (including me) have no known ancestor from this part of the world. There are over 240 members in the Group and you can subscribe by email to: Discussion@berksfhs.org.uk giving your name and membership number. We exchange about 30 messages a week in winter and 10 in summer. All 'surname interests' posted to the Group are also put on the website.

Website. Our website at www.berksfhs.org.uk has undergone a substantial 'make-over' and improvement in the last six months. The site includes our publications and sections on the Research Centre and each of the branches. Recently we have introduced the index of the volumes in which each name in the 1851 Census of Berkshire appears and a list of 'members' interests'. If you would like to submit information or have ideas for the website then email: webmaster@berksfhs.org.uk.

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E-mail: eureka1@talk21.com

Members' interests

Compiled by Bob Plumridge Bob.Plumridge@virgin.net

MEMBERS SUBMITTING THEIR INTERESTS:

- 728 Mr & Mrs W **Letchford** Amberley Vicarage Close Cookham Berkshire SL6 9SE
 932 Mrs M **Roberts** 1 Kings Keep Sandhurst Berks GU47 8PT
 3374 Mrs P **Atherton** 25 Pierson Road Windsor Berkshire SL4 5RT
 3486 Mr K **Godfrey** 94 Wishing Well Drive Scarborough Ontario M1T 1J4 CANADA
 3972 Mrs SA **Ford** Spring Field 62 Bleadon Hill Weston-Super-Mare N Somerset BS24 9JP
 3985 Miss M **Shettle** 2 Bury Mews Millmead Guildford Surrey GU2 5AS
 4082 Dr KB **Armstrong** 20 Homewaters Avenue Sunbury on Thames Middx TW16 6NS
 4162 Mr NF **Holland** Holly House Tilston Cheshire SY14 7DS
 4331 Mr D **Partrick** 11 Oakdene Woodcote Reading Berks RG8 0RQ
 4347 Mrs GE **Maud** 9 Greenheys Avenue Carleton Poulton-Le-Fylde Lancs FY6 7QG
 4353 Mrs S **Poole** 25 Clarendon Drive Thame Oxon OX9 3XP
 4373 Mrs A **Parsons** 1 Northwood Chippenham Wilts SN15 1BB
 4392 Mr AJ **Darling** 18663 Loyalist Parkway PO Box 12 Hillier Ontario CANADA K0K 2J0
 4413 Mr SM **Palmer** Kingsmead Station Road Brading Isle of Wight PO36 0DY
 4424 Mrs JE **Hughes** 27 Windermere Avenue Merton Park London SW19 3EP
 4426 Mr M & Mrs S **Cooke** Meadowside 10 Brawn Way Elton Peterborough PE8 6RL
 4432 Mrs P **Baldwin** 8 Stock Place Winston Hills Sydney NSW 2153 AUSTRALIA
 4437 Mr AG **Lee** 20 Painters Pightle Hook Hants RG27 9SS
 4441 Mr R **Webb** Hope Cottage Lower Ferry Slip Dartmouth Devon TQ6 9AW
 4442 Mrs J **Beaumont** The Grange Wartle Inverurie Aberdeenshire AB51 5BP
 4444 Mrs MJ **Fidler** 401 Finchhamstead Road Wokingham Berks RG40 3RL
 4446 Mr I & Mrs C **Humphrey** 26 Rosehill Park Emmer Green Reading Berks RG4 8XE
 4448 Mr S **Brunsdon** 43 Porthcawl Drive Usworth Washington Tyne & Wear NE37 2LT
 4450 Mrs M **Edmond** 18 Clevedon Drive Earley Reading Berks RG6 5XE
 4451 Ms S **Morris** 2 Rue du Puits D'Amour 62200 Boulogne Sur Mer FRANCE
 4459 Mr RA **Shurvell** 22a St. Matthews Hill Wadebridge Cornwall PL27 6DX
 4462 Mr L **Hawkins** 8 Culvercroft Binfield Bracknell Berks RG42 4DF
 4472 Mrs J **Forrester** 55 Tippett Rise Dale Road Reading Berks RG2 0DJ
 4482 Mr JR **Davies** 126 Connaught Road Reading Berks RG30 2UF
 4484 Mr T **Brogden** 25 Willows Road Oakengates Telford Shropshire TF2 9AE
 4486 Mr SW **Ballard** 14a Kenilworth Road Petts Wood Kent BR5 1DY
 4487 Mrs JE **Molloy** 4 Batty's Barn Close Wokingham Berks RG40 2HJ
 4490 Mr SH **Jones** 4 Taicanol Cwmafan Port Talbot South Wales SA12 9PN
 4493 Ms L **Williams** Ravenscroft Hotel Road St. Margaret's Bay Dover Kent CT15 6DX
 4494 **B Duckenfield** 94 Station Avenue West Ewell Epsom Surrey KT19 9UG
 4496 J **Jenkin** Flat 2, Block 13 Regent Gardens Grimsby NE Lincs DN34 5AT
 4497 Mr D **Sawyer** 4 Belgrave Manor Brooklyn Road Woking GU22 7TW
 4498 Mrs V **Bradley** 37 Constance Road Whitton Twickenham Middx TW2 7HT
 4520 Mr P & Mrs C **Kingston** 27 Derby Road Caversham Reading Berks RG4 5HE
 4535 Mrs BC **Wright** 5 Bridge Close Horam Heathfield East Sussex TN21 0HJ

No.	Name	Place	Code	Date	No.	Name	Place	Code	Date
4448	ADDEY	Pangbourne	BRK	1600-1800	4535	BARRACK	Great Dumnow	ESS	1600-1900
4498	ALAWAY	Shinfield	BRK	1500-2000	4437	BARRETT	Any	CON	pre 1835
4498	ALAWAY	Hurst	BRK	1500-2000	4494	BATEMAN	Reading	BRK	1500-1700
4498	ALAWAY	Finchampstead	BRK	1500-2000	4535	BAUGH	Fulham	MDX	1880-1950
4472	ALEXANDER	Hungerford	BRK	1800-1890	4535	BAUGH	Winterslow	WIL	1600-1900
4498	ALLAWAY	Shinfield	BRK	1500-2000	4442	BEAUMONT	Any	SFK	1500-2000
4472	ALLAWAY	Reading	BRK	1700-1800	4487	BENTLEY George	Pancras	LND	1872-1920
4498	ALLAWAY	Finchampstead	BRK	1500-2000	4424	BIRD	Sandhurst	BRK	1770-1840
4498	ALLAWAY	Hurst	BRK	1500-2000	4437	BLACKMAN	Burnham	BKM	pre 1850
4472	ALLAWAY	Shinfield	BRK	1790-1850	4432	BOURNE	Wallingford	BRK	1830-1930
4498	ALLOWAY	Shinfield	BRK	1500-2000	4432	BOURNE	Wallingford	BRK	1800-
4498	ALLOWAY	Finchampstead	BRK	1500-2000	4347	BOWLEY + var	Bradfield	BRK	1700-1800
4498	ALLOWAY	Hurst	BRK	1500-2000	4442	BRAY	Okehampton	DEV	pre 1845
4448	ALLUM	Appleford	BRK	1500-1780	3486	BREAKSPEAR	Any	BRK	1700-1850
4448	ALLUM	Reading	BRK	1800-1850	4484	BROGDEN	Cumnor	BRK	1600-1800
4448	ALLUM	Bucklebury	BRK	1750-1820	4484	BROGG	Cumnor	BRK	1600-1800
4498	AMBROSE	Welney	CAM	1500-1900	4347	BROOKS	Bredbury	CHS	1700-1820
3486	ANDERSON	Neilston	RFW	1700-1850	4448	BRUNSDEN	Pangbourne	BRK	1700-1890
4082	ARMSTRONG	Reading	BRK	pre 1800	4448	BRUNSDEN	Reading	BRK	1850-1950
4082	ARMSTRONG	Basingstoke	HAM	pre 1800	728	BRUNSDEN	Any	BRK	1600-1850
4082	ARMSTRONG	Any	BRK	pre 1800	4448	BRUNSDEN	Lambourn	BRK	1400-1800
3374	ATHERTON	London	LDN	1860-1959	4448	BRUNSDON	Lambourn	BRK	1400-1800
4432	BACON	Shalbourne	WIL	1760-1800	4448	BRUNSDONE	Lambourn	BRK	1400-1800
4432	BAKER	Shalbourne	WIL	1800-	4450	BUJK	Scotland	ANS	1800-2000
4486	BALLARD	Milton	KEN	1500-1863	4426	BULL	Claybrook	LEI	1800-1850
728	BAREFOOT	Any	BRK	pre 1800	3486	BUNCE	E&W Hanney	BRK	1500-1900
4535	BARRACK	High Easter	ESS	1700-1900	4424	BURCHELL	Oxford	OXF	1890-2000

No.	Name	Place	Code	Date	No.	Name	Place	Code	Date
4424	BURCHELL	Wallingford	BRK	1850-1920	3486	COX	E&W Hanney	BRK	1500-1700
4347	BURFORD	London	GTL	1700-1800	4496	CRICHTON	Windsor	BRK	1854-1899
728	BUTLER	Any	BRK	1700-1900	4490	CROSS	Abingdon	BRK	1800-1900
4535	CABLE	Winterslow	WIL	1700-1820	4347	CROWTHER	Leeds	YKS	1700-1850
4347	CARTER	Soyland	YKS	1700-1825	4347	CROWTHER	Huddersfield	YKS	1700-1820
4498	CARTER	Welney	CAM	1500-1900	4441	CURTIS	Tilehurst	BRK	Any
4462	CARTER	Hinton Waldrist	BRK	1500-1870	4496	CURTIS	London	MDX	1835-1896
4426	CASTLE	Winkfield	BRK	1800-1900	4496	CURTIS	Windsor	BRK	1871-1925
4442	CATTRAN	Newlyn	CON	1500-2000	4441	CURTIS	Reading	BRK	Any
4432	CHALKER	Winchester	HAM	pre 1800	4441	CURTIS	Burghfield	BRK	Any
4432	CHALKER	Winchester	HAM	1700-	4392	DARLING	E Hendred	BRK	1600-1800
4331	CHAPMAN	Bradenham	NFK	1700-1850	4392	DARLING	E&WHanney	BRK	1700-1800
4347	CHILDS	Tidmarsh	BRK	1700-1800	4392	DARLING	Wantage	BRK	1600-1800
4442	CLEATOR	Malew	IOW	1500-1850	4490	DAVEY	Torrington	DEV	1800-1900
4424	CLEIGHTON HILLS		BRK	1900-1920	4426	DAVI(E)S	Wantage	BRK	1800-1850
4424	CLEIGHTON HILLS		SRY	1860-1960	4482	DAVIES	Swindon	WIL	1890-2000
4424	CLEIGHTON HILLS		HAM	1860-1960	4482	DAVIES	Liverpool	LAN	1700-1870
4424	CLEIGHTON HILLS		BRK	1860-1960	4482	DAWES	London	LND	1700-1930
4437	COHEN	Oxford	OXF	pre 1850	4448	DAY	Tidmarsh	BRK	1700-1800
4444	COLLIER	Bermondsey	SRY	1800-1900	4472	DENTON	Reading	BRK	1750-1850
3486	COLLINS	E&W Hanney	BRK	1500-1900	3486	DOE/DOO	E&WHanney	BRK	1500-1700
4426	COOK(E)	Witney	OXF	1750-1900	728	DORMOR	Any	MDX	1700-1900
4497	COOKE	Ufton	BRK	1750-1800	4496	DREW	Datchett	BKM	1835-1912
3972	COPPOCK	Any	OXF	1600-1880	4413	DUGGAN	Tredegar	MON	1850-1880
3972	COPPOCK	Any	BRK	1810-1900	3972	EACOTT	Any	BRK	1750-1900
4437	CORNISH	Kilkhampton	CON	pre 1835	4496	EATON	Mardenhead	BRK	1860-1930
3486	COULTAS	Baildon	WYR	1700-1900	4162	EDEY	Sudbury	SFK	1900-2000

No.	Name	Place	Code	Date	No.	Name	Place	Code	Date
4162	EDEY	Reading	BRK	pre 1920	4486	GREENNOUGH	Ardington	BRK	1500-1900
4424	EDGERTON	Shinfield	BRK	1700-1800	4426	GREGORY	Reading	BRK	1880-2000
4424	EDGERTON	Arborfield	BRK	1700-1800	4426	GREGORY	Wantage	BRK	1600-1900
4347	ELLIS	Mayo	MAY	1700-1800	4444	GROVER	Burghfield	BRK	1800-1900
3972	EMMANS	Any	BRK	1800-1900	4444	HALL	Walthamstow	ESS	1890-1930
4424	EVANS	Brightwell	BRK	1700-1900	4347	HALL	London	GTL	1700-1800
4494	FARRER	Cold Brayfield	BKM	1600-1800	4448	HAMBLEN	Newbury	BRK	1700-1800
4432	FIDLER	Tidcombe-Shalb'rne	WIL	1740-1770	3374	HANCOCK	Newbury	BRK	1700-2000
4442	FLACK	Mile End	LND	pre 1900	3374	HANCOCK	Bix	OXF	1700-1950
4442	FLACK	Bromley	LND	pre 1920	4347	HANCOCK	Stonetrough	STS	1700-1810
4392	FLINT	Adderbury	OXF	1700-1850	4426	HANNAFORD	Newton Abbott	DEV	1700-1810
4413	FLYMEN	Liverpool	LAN	1900-1910	4437	HARDING	Lambeth	GTL	pre 1850
728	FORD	Any	BRK	1700-1800	728	HARMSWORTH	Any	BRK	1500-1700
4446	FREEMAN	Chatham	KEN	1700-1880	3486	HARRISON	Pangbourne	BRK	1600-1800
3972	FRENCH	Any	BRK	1750-1900	4347	HART	London	GTL	1700-1820
3486	GARDENER	E&W Hanney	BRK	1500-1600	4496	HAZELL	Burham	BKM	1813-1900
4535	GARDENOR	Mareham	BRK	1700-1840	4424	HEATH	Sandhurst	BRK	1850-1880
3486	GEMMILL	Cumnock	AYR	1600-1850	4482	HEPWORTH	Birmingham	WAR	1700-1870
4535	GIBBONS	Whitechapel	MDX	1700-1800	3486	HERMAN	E&W Hanney	BRK	1500-1900
3486	GIBSON	Pettinain	LKS	1700-1800	932	HERN	Egham	SRY	19c-20c
3486	GILMOUR	Neilston Parish	RFW	1600-1850	4353	HICKS	Clewer	BRK	1800-1920
728	GODDARD	Any	MDX	1700-1850	4353	HICKS	Kingsdown	WIL	1800-1900
3486	GODFREY	E&W Hanney	BRK	1400-1900	4448	HIGGS	Bucklebury	BRK	1650-1750
3972	GOSLING	Any	OXF	1600-1850	4490	HILL	St. Giles in the Wood	DEV	1750-1850
3486	GRAIG	Lanark	LKS	1700-1850	4426	HINKS	Warwick	WAR	1700-1830
4426	GREEN	Edington	WIL	1750-1830	4162	HOLLAND	Liverpool	MSY	pre 1920
4535	GREEN	Winterslow	WIL	1700-1840	4162	HOLLAND	Marlow	BKM	pre 1890

No.	Name	Place	Code	Date	No.	Name	Place	Code	Date
4437	HOLLIS	Woolburn	BKM	pre 1850	4437	KNIGHT	Camberwell	GTL	pre 1850
4347	HOLT	Birmingham	WAR	1800-1850	3972	KNOTT	Any	BRK	1750-1860
4426	HOPKINS	Newton Abbott	DEV	1700-1840	4437	LANE	Newington	GTL	pre 1850
4162	HORSLEY	Marlow	BKM	pre 1890	4497	LAURENCE	Ufton	BRK	1750-1850
4442	HOWLETT	Norwich	NFK	pre 1920	932	LAVINGTON	Hursley	HAM	19c
4426	HUDSON	Harbury	WAR	1700-1850	932	LAWRENCE	Reading	BRK	19c-20c
4490	HUGGINS	Steventon	BRK	1850-1920	932	LAWRENCE	Salisbury	WIL	19c
4432	HUGHES	Stanford Dingley	BRK	1820-1890	932	LAWRENCE	Alderbury	WIL	18c-19c
4446	HUMPHREY	Amberley	SSX	1700-1890	932	LAWRENCE	Eton	BKM	19c
4482	HURLBUTT	Liverpool	LAN	1700-2000	4459	LEAN	Any	LND	pre 1850
4446	HYLAND	Hawkhurst	KEN	1750-1850	4437	LEE	Burghfield	BRK	pre 1780
4493	JACKSON	Maidenhead	BRK	1850-1918	4493	LEPPER	Paulerspury	NTH	Any
4493	JACKSON	Paulerspury	NTH	Any	4493	LEPPER	Maidenhead	BRK	1850-1950
4487	JACKSON	Panaras	LND	1820-1895	728	LETCHFORD	Any	KEN	1700-2000
4487	JACKSON	Panaras	LND	1872-1920	4448	LEWIS	Bucklebury	BRK	1700-1800
728	JOHNSON	Sunbury	MDX	1700-1900	4448	LEWIS	Hungerford	BRK	1650-1750
4497	JOHNSON	Ufton	BRK	1750-1800	4448	LEWIS	Thatcham	BRK	1720-1800
4535	JOYCE	High Easter	ESS	1860+	3486	LINDSAY	Kilmarnock	AYR	1700-1850
4535	JOYCE	Dunmow	ESS	1500-1860	4441	LOADER	Tilehurst	BRK	Any
4490	JUDD	St. Giles in the Wood	DEV	1700-1850	4441	LOADER	Reading	BRK	Any
4442	KELLY	Malew	IOW	1500+	4441	LOADER	Burghfield	BRK	Any
4450	KENT	Leeds	YKS	1750-1950	728	LUMBER	Batcombe	SOM	pre 1870
4472	KENT	Reading	BRK	1800-1890	3486	McLACHLAN	Oban	ARL	1700-1850
4520	KINGSTON	Drimoleague	COR	1650-1900	3486	MALLOCH	Any	PER	1600-1850
4482	KNAPP	Abingdon	BRK	1650-1750	4432	MALONE	Halifax	OXF	pre 1840
4482	KNAPP	Shrivenham	BRK	1700-2000	4426	MANSELL	Witney	OXF	1750-1840
4432	KNIGHT	Shalbourne	WIL	pre 1800	4490	MARTIN	Tawstock	DEV	1750-1850

No.	Name	Place	Code	Date	No.	Name	Place	Code	Date
4462	MATTHEWS	Swindon	WIL	1500-1950	3486	MURDOCH	Any	AYR	1700-1800
4496	MAYNARD	Maidenhead	BRK	1881-1945	4162	NAXTON	Reading	BRK	pre 1920
4413	MCCARTHY	Stockton Tees	DUR	1860-1900	4162	NAXTON	Sudbury	SFK	1900-2000
3486	McDIARMID	Glenlyon	PER	1600-1850	3374	NETHERCLIFT	Any	BKM	1700-2000
4450	McDONALD	Glasgow	LKS	1800-1950	3374	NETHERCLIFT	Any	SRY	1700-2000
4347	McGRATH	Donegal	DON	1700-1830	4442	NEWMAN	Alton	HAM	1800-1905
3486	McNAUGHTON	Glenlyon	PER	1600-1850	4413	NEWMAN	Stone	KEN	1850-1880
4446	MEDCALF	Kedington	SFK	1700-1880	4442	NEWMAN	Southampton	HAM	pre 1905
4498	MELLUISH	London	LCC	1800-1850	4437	NICOLL	Ware	HRT	pre 1825
4498	MELLUISH	Middlesex	MDX	1800-1850	4487	NIGHTINGALE	Wokingham	BRK	1840-1874
4498	MELLUISH	London	LND	1800-1850	4487	NIGHTINGALE	Crowthorne	BRK	1840-1874
4498	MELLUISH	Sheffield	YKS	1800-2000	4482	NORTHAM	S. Molton	DEV	1700-1950
4490	MIDDLETON	Abingdon	BRK	1800-1900	4444	NUGENT	Walthamstow	ESS	1900-1970
4442	MILES	Kingsclere	HAM	1500-1860	4444	NUGENT	Westminster	MDX	1800-1900
4446	MITCHELL	Middlesex	LND	1750-1850	4444	NUGENT	Kennington	SRY	1800-1900
4442	MONKTON	Poplar	LND	pre 1920	4494	ORLEBAR	Bray	BRK	1700-1900
4442	MONKTON	Mile End	LND	pre 1920	4482	OSBORN(E)	Liverpool	LAN	1700-1800
4432	MOONEY	Halifax		pre 1858	4472	OSTRIDGE	Burfield	BRK	1800-1860
4432	MOONEY	Halifax		1850	932	OWEN	Hackney	MDX	19c
3486	MOREING	Any	BRK	1700-1850	4497	PAGE	Burghfield	BRK	1750-1850
4444	MORETON	Lower Froyle	HAM	1800-1900	4497	PAGE	Ufton	BRK	1750-1850
4451	MORRIS	Llanbadarn	CGN	19c	4462	PAINTON	Hinton Waldrist	BRK	1500-1900
4426	MORTIMER	West Challow	BRK	1800-1850	4413	PALMER	Swanscombe	KEN	1875-1920
4442	MOSELEY	Southampton	HAM	1800-1900	4413	PALMER	Inkpen	BRK	pre 1875
4482	MOSS	London	LND	1700-1930	728	PARR	Any	BRK	1600-1800
4535	MOUNTFORD	Dunmow	ESS	1700-1900	4437	PARRISH	Dagenham	ESS	pre 1850
4426	MUMFORD	Witney	OXF	1750-1850	4472	PARSONS	Reading	BRK	1800-1890
					4446	PARSONS	Allington	DOR	1750-1880

No.	Name	Place	Code	Date	No.	Name	Place	Code	Date
4331	PARTRICK	Any	NFK	1600-1900	4413	RENWICK	Sunderland	DUR	1860-1900
4331	PARTRICK	Thursford	NFK	1600-1900	4535	REVELL	Royston	CAM	1750-1860
4331	PARTRICK	Rushden	NTH	1700-2000	932	RICE	Mirisbury	HAM	19c
4450	PATRICK	Scotland	ANS	1800-2000	932	RICE	Southampton	HAM	19c
4442	PEARCE	Hungerford	BRK	1820-1865	4535	RICHES	Bethnal Green	MDX	1860-1900
4442	PEARCE	Marlborough	WIL	1500-1840	4535	RICHES	Whitechapel	MDX	1800-1870
4494	PENNINGTON	Northampton	NTH	1600-1900	4535	RICHES	Norwich	NFK	1700-1850
3486	PENNY	Yeadon	WYR	1700-1900	4490	RIDGE	Abingdon	BRK	1800-1900
4426	PERT	Sparsholt	BRK	1750-1870	4424	RIDGERS	Sandhurst	BRK	1600-1890
932	PHILLIPS	Reading	BRK	19c-20c	4162	RIORDAN	Liverpool	MSY	pre 1920
4426	PHILPOTT	Market Lavington	WIL	1700-1860	3486	ROBERTSON	Killin	PER	1700-1850
3486	PIKE	Kingston Lisle	BRK	1600-1800	4493	ROSE	Maidenhead	BRK	1850-1900
728	PLUMB	E Garston	BRK	pre 1642	4493	ROSE	Paulerspury	NTH	Any
4437	PRANCE	Any	DEV	pre 1830	4442	ROSE	Liverpool	LAN	1600-1880
4496	PRATT	Uxbridge	MDX	1836-1930	4442	ROSE	Newlyn	CON	post-1880
4493	PREECE	Maidenhead	BRK	1870-1937	932	ROSE	Reading	BRK	19c
3374	PUDGE	Reading	BRK	Any	4494	ROUND	Bisham	BRK	1700-1900
3374	PUDGE	Ross	HEF	1750-1959	4494	ROUND	Bray	BRK	1700-1900
3486	PYNNELL	Lambourn	BRK	1600-1800	4437	ROUTLEY	Bradworthy	DEV	pre 1830
4424	RACKSTRAW	Sandhurst	BRK	1700-1900	3486	RUSSELL	Cambusnethan	LKS	1700-1800
4442	RAGGETT	Godalming	SRY	1500-1870	4347	RYDER	Bucklebury	BRK	1700-1800
4426	RANDLE	Claybrook	LEI	1700-1850	4446	RVLATT	Dunsby	LIN	1750-1850
3972	RANKIN	Any	OXF	1600-1850	3486	RYME	Denchworth	BRK	1500-1700
3374	RECORD	London	LDN	1790-1950	4331	SALT	Newton Solney	DBY	1700-1900
4442	REDMAN	Alton	HAM	1700-1900	4347	SANDERSON	Wheilton	LAN	1750-1810
4462	REEVES	Hinton Waldrist	BRK	1500-1920	4472	SCOFIELD	Finchampstead	BRK	1800-1890
728	REEVES	Any	MDX	pre 1760	4446	SEARLE	Amberley	SSX	1750-1880

No.	Name	Place	Code	Date	No.	Name	Place	Code	Date
4432	SHACKLE	Dorset	DOR	pre 1800	4442	STEVENS	Sunninghill	BRK	1500-1900
4432	SHACKLE	Any	DOR	1750-	728	TANNER	Wootton Bassett	WIL	pre 1810
4331	SHEPHERD	Boston	LIN	1700-1850	3486	TEMPLETON	Kilmarnock	AYR	1700-1850
932	SHEPHERD	Collingbourne Kings'	WIL	18c-19c	4490	THOMAS	Abingdon	BRK	1800-1900
4494	SHERWOOD	Reading	BRK	1500-1700	4498	THORN	Cholsey	BRK	1500-1900
3985	SHETTLE	Any	Any	Any	4498	THORN	Wallingford	BRK	1500-1900
4459	SHURVELL	Windsor	BRK	post-1820	4426	TOZER	Moreton Hampstead	DEV	1600-1820
4459	SHURVELL	Henley	OXF	post-1820	4494	TRUMBULL	East Hampstead	BRK	1500-1700
3985	SHUTTLE	Any	Any	Any	4482	TUCKER	Shrivenham	BRK	1700-1900
4432	SIMS	Westbury	WIL	1750-	4462	TUCKER	Hinton Waldrist	BRK	1500-1850
4432	SIMS	Westbury	WIL	1800 on	4424	TURNER	Brightwell	BRK	1700-1900
4448	SLYFIELD	Wokingham	BRK	1700-1900	4331	VAUS	Cotgrave	NTT	1500-1700
4448	SLYFIELD	Tilehurst	BRK	1800-1890	4331	VOCE	Annesley	NTT	1700-1950
4437	SMITH	Biggleswade	BDF	pre 1820	4331	VOCE	Bunny	NTT	1600-1900
3486	SMITH	Westerleigh	LAN	1700-1850	3486	WALKER	Any	LAN	1700-1850
4426	SMITH	Warwick	WAR	1750-1830	4494	WALKER	Cambridge	CIE	1800-1900
4424	SMITH	Arborfield	BRK	1800-1920	4496	WALLACE	Eton	BKM	1838-1912
4347	SNELL	Bucklebury	BRK	1700-1820	4442	WAITERS	Wallingford	OXF	1837-1970
3486	SODFORD	E&W Hanney	BRK	1500-1600	4442	WAITERS	Drayton	BRK	1500-1850
4426	SPACKMAN	S. Marston	WIL	1700-1830	4446	WEATHERHEAD	Leckhampstead	BKM	1700-1880
4442	SPENCER	Norwich	NFK	pre 1920	4424	WEBB	Cavendish	OXF	1840-1880
4353	SPILLER	Gloucester	GLS	1800-1920	4441	WEBB	Reading	BRK	Any
4392	SPINAGE	Stanford in the Vale	BRK	1700-1800	4441	WEBB	Burghfield	BRK	Any
4392	SPINAGE	Wantage	BRK	1600-1800	4441	WEBB	Tilehurst	BRK	Any
3486	STAFORD	E&W Hanney	BRK	1500-1600	3486	WEIR	Old Cumnock	AYR	1700-1850
3374	STANDING	Neath	GLA	1900-1970	4373	WELLER	Greenham	BRK	1600-2000
4442	STEVENS	Mortlake	SRY	after 1900	4373	WELLER	Reading	BRK	1600-2000

No.	Name	Place	Code	Date	No.	Name	Place	Code	Date
4373	WELLER	Newbury	BRK	1600-2000	4462	WOOLLOFF	Hinton Waldrist	BRK	1500-1960
4535	WESTMACOTTE	Abingdon	BRK	1800-1900	4459	WRIGHT	Gunnislake	CON	after 1815
4535	WESTMUCKET	Abingdon	BRK	1800-1900	4459	WRIGHT	Central	LAND	pre 1850
4446	WETHERHEAD	Leckampstead	BKM	1700-1880	4442	WYATT	Godalming	SRY	1500-1900
4437	WHEATLEY	Shinfield	BRK	pre 1800					
932	WHEELER	Reading	BRK	19c					
728	WHEELER	Tooting Graveney	SRY	pre 1810					
4494	WHINFIELD	Sunninghill	BRK	1700-1900					
4494	WHINFIELD	Bray	BRK	1700-1900					
4437	WHITE	Padworth	BRK	pre 1830					
3972	WHITEHOUSE	Any	OXF	1750-1890					
3972	WHITEHOUSE	Any	BRK	1810-1920					
4494	WHITFIELD	Bray	BRK	1700-1900					
3486	WIBLIN	E&W Hamney	BRK	1500-1600					
4448	WICKS	Midgham	BRK	1600-1800					
4472	WILDEY	London	LCC	1800-1890					
4486	WILKINS	East Ginge	BRK	1500-1800					
4486	WILKINS	Ardington	BRK	1800-1900					
4494	WILLIAMS	Cambridge	CIE	1700-1900					
4494	WILLIAMS	Hinwick	NTH	1700-1900					
4494	WILLIAMS	Wellingborough	NTH	1600-1900					
4494	WILLIAMS	Poddington	BDF	1600-1900					
4482	WILLOUGHBY	Shrivenham	BRK	1700-1800					
4486	WINDLEY	Lambeth	SRY	1500-1934					
932	WOODS	Tenterden	KEN	19c					
932	WOODS	Brighton	SSX	19c-20c					
932	WOODS	Northchurch	HRT	19c					

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 strays 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 the BFHS Research Centre, 131 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 search 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 and 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, Berkshire RG40 1RZ

Other County Census Indexes

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Berkshire Burial Index

We are contributing to the National Burial Index and so far there are over 50,600 references in our own database, so we are now able to offer a limited research service from our index. For the parishes and time periods covered to date see page 162. The cost per surname is £1.00 for members and £2.00 for non-members for each A4 sheet. Send a sterling cheque, payable to BFHS and an SAE to David Wright, 45 Picton Way, Caversham, Berkshire RG4 8NJ.

Monumental inscriptions enquiries

David Watkins (tel. 0118 966 1401) has offered to consult his database for the following churchyard inscriptions free of charge for BFHS Members. These have not yet been put onto fiche as they have no maps. David will answer telephone enquiries only. The churchyards concerned are: Aldermaston, Avington, Compton Beauchamp, Hurst, Mortimer and Twyford.

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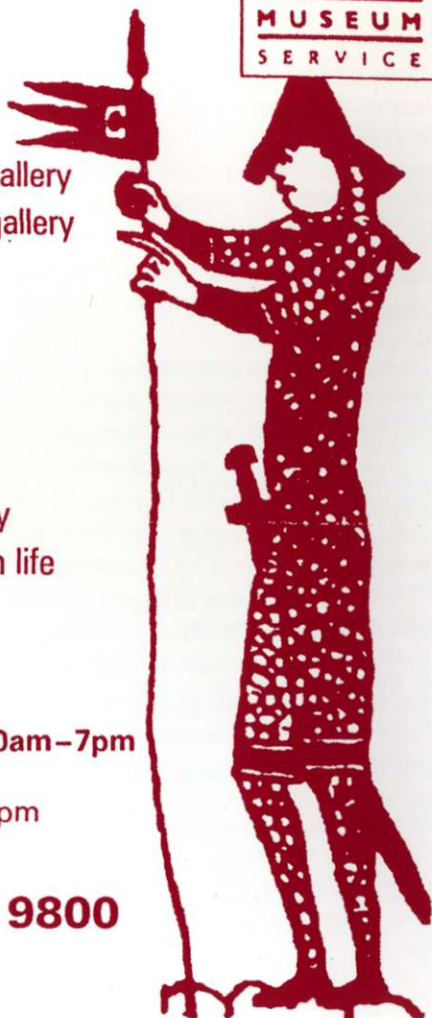
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The Bulletin

CHAIRMAN'S NOTES

I am sorry that there were no Chairman's Notes in the December edition of the journal. Among other things, I would have wished each of you the Season's Greetings. I take this opportunity to wish you all a prosperous New Year. May you each find that elusive long lost ancestor this year.

We have been advised by the Federation of Family History Societies that our subscription for 2001—it is based upon the number of members in the Society—will be increased by 50%. This is just one of the additional costs of running the Society that we shall incur this year. Others include increased costs of printing and posting the *Berkshire Family Historian*; increased costs of running the Research Centre; and reduced income from bookstall sales. Taken together, I think that these factors will almost inevitably mean that membership subscriptions will be increased from the beginning of the next membership year in July. At the time of writing these notes in early January the Executive Committee has not finally reviewed the budgets for the next financial year and has not decided what action is required. If a decision to increase subscriptions is made before this journal goes to print then an announcement will be included as a late news item. I am sure that some of you will be unhappy that the Society may

need to make this difficult decision. I would point out that subscriptions were last raised five years ago.

There are a number of Society posts that need to be filled at or by the AGM in June. I will have been a member of the Executive Committee for five years by the time of the AGM and under the constitution I am required to retire from the Executive Committee and therefore as your Chairman. Similarly, we shall also need to appoint a new Treasurer. Barbara Swiatek, who has been our Treasurer since the last AGM, will also have served for five years on the Executive Committee. The Society is therefore seeking volunteers to fill these formal Society posts, that is to say, the constitution requires that we have a Chairman and a Treasurer. In addition, Margaret Pyle has decided after some years to retire as one of the Membership Secretaries. We therefore need a volunteer to fill this very important post. Furthermore, Sally Pellow is no longer able to continue as Bookstall Manager. If you are interested in finding out about any of these posts then please ring the Secretary or myself. Job descriptions are available for each of the posts.

I am pleased to say that the Saturday Computer courses are proving to be very popular. In my other role as Research Centre Manager, it pleases me greatly to see that the centre is being used in this way. We can use the centre seven days a week and we should try to think of other

innovative ways of using the premises. Would members be interested in other types of courses? Perhaps you would let me know if you have any ideas or suggestions.

Our own family history is making slow progress at the moment. We are researching June's family. (My brother is researching the Dickason name.) June's maiden name is Marden and it seems that her family originated in Kent. One good source of information about our Mardens is June's great aunt Elsie. She is now aged 99 and a bit frail and deaf but when we see her she always recounts amusing stories about her early life with her ten brothers and sisters. In September, 2000 she celebrated her 60th wedding anniversary. Did you know that a 60th wedding anniversary qualifies for a message of congratulations from the Queen?

The maiden name of June's mother is Webb. Her grandfather came from Compton in Berkshire. We were therefore very pleased when the Society published transcripts of the parish registers for Compton. This has been a great help to us. A big thank you to those members who carried out the transcriptions and to Jocie McBride who produced the publication. June and I wish each of you a very happy Easter.

Battle of the Atlantic

The BBC is making a major documentary series on the Battle of the Atlantic to be broadcast on BBC1. They are keen to hear from widows or sisters of men who lost their lives on the following merchant ships, torpedoed in October 1940: Trevisa, Languedoc, Scoresby, Harpenden, Aenos, Carsbreck, Shekatika, Beatus, Convallaria, Creekirk, Empire Miniver, Gunborg, Blairspey, Fiscus, Assyrian, Soesterberg, Empire Brigade, Sedgpool, Clintonia, Niritos, Boekolo, Thalia, and Snefeld. These ships were part of convoy SC7. Contact Victoria Brignell on 020 8752 5475, alternatively write to the History Unit, Room 5433, BBC White City, 201 Wood Lane, London W12 7TS, or email her at victoria.brignell@bbc.co.uk.

Shinfield War Memorial

The War Memorial has been moved onto the village green as a joint millennium project by the parish council and the local branch of the British Legion. As part of this project Peter Redfern has been trying to provide the background to the servicemen commemorated. There are 28 Great War names recorded, the majority belonged to the Royal Berkshire Regiment, but there are some Marines and others from the Royal Navy. But one name, Herbert Bailey, remains a mystery. So far he does not seem to have a Reading or local village connection. There are 1,400 Herbert Baileys on the Commonwealth War

Graves Commission Roll of Honour, so only family information would help to identify this particular casualty of the War. If you have any information then contact Peter Redfern on 0118 9885419.

American quilts

During the Second World War many thousands of quilts were made in America and Canada and sent to Britain as Red Cross Aid. The quilts were given to refugees, those who were bombed out, hospitals, land girls, and many others in different parts of the country. Sally Ward is preparing a research paper for possible presentation to the American Quilt Study Group on the stories behind these quilts. She is anxious to contact as many people who might have been children in families receiving them before the oral history they represent disappears. If you know of somebody who still has one then email Sally on Sally.D.Ward@btinternet.com.

The 1940s House

Those who saw a re-creation of a 1940s house on Channel 4 in January will be pleased to hear that the house itself forms a major part of an exhibition at the Imperial War Museum in London. The Museum has faithfully re-created a typical wartime home furnished and equipped as it would have been in the 1940s. The pre-war suburban 'semi' at 17 Braemar Gardens, West Wickham, Kent, will be on display until June 3. Visitors will be able to tour both floors

and part of the garden with its Dig for Victory vegetable patch and Anderson Shelter. The reconstruction includes part of a wartime grocer's shop and displays about life on the home front ranging from the Blitz to the blackout.

Missionaries

For more than 200 years missionaries from Britain have attempted to convert the heathen souls who they believed ought to see the light. At its height, between 1880 and 1920 some 60 societies were actively engaged in many parts of the world, from China and Borneo to Africa and the Pacific islands. By 1889 it has been estimated that 10,000 missionaries were working in the field. As a consequence archives, personal papers, books, photographs and even films were produced. A new project to facilitate and improve access to this archive is underway and it is hoped that eventually a web-based guide will be produced. If you know of any materials which you think may be of interest to the group planning the project then contact: Rosemary Seton, School of Oriental and African Studies, Thornhaugh Street, Russell Square, London WC1H 0XG.

Fairs and Open Days

The South West Area Group of family history societies will be holding their third family history fair at the Winter Gardens, Royal Parade, Weston-Super-Mare on Saturday 7th July from 10am until 4pm. Eleven local societies will be

taking part with help desks staffed by member societies. Parking is easy and there's a separate restaurant and bar where visitors will be able to enjoy a meal and relax.

Northamptonshire Family History Society will be holding their 25th anniversary conference on June 2 at the Cornmarket Hall, Kettering from 9.30 until 4.30pm. Speakers include Dr. Ruth Paley on rogues and vagabonds and Muriel Catty giving her lecture on the enumerator's tale. The day will cost £12.00, which includes lunch and refreshments.

The Berkshire Family History Society 'Open Day 2001' is advertised on page 148.

Family history magazines

If you already buy copies of *Family Tree Magazine*, *Practical Family History*, or *Family History News and Digest* then why not take out a subscription through the Society? We take care of the administration and the magazines are sent to your home address regularly. The publishers give the Society a small discount on subscriptions, so by ordering through us you will help to pay for new research projects. If you would like to take out a subscription then contact Jacky Holcombe, 36 Orchard Avenue, Sonning Common, Berkshire RG4 9LT.

Royal Archives

A number of members have contacted Sheila de Bellaigue, the Registrar of Royal Archives, since her article appeared in the December issue of the journal. Please do not send money with your requests for information as £10 plus VAT is the basic fee and does not include photocopies. So don't include any money with your enquiry.

Spoof 1881 Census entry

According to an entry in the 1881 Census at 16 Acacia Gardens, Paddington, Middlesex, lived the Goodman family. Robert the head of the household, aged 52, was described as an 'international playboy', his son, Robert, aged 40 was described as a ponce. There were 13 servants, born in places as far apart as, Nepal, Afghanistan, Syria, the penal colony in Australia and a curious spelling of 'Timbucktoo'. On the face of it this looks like some enumerator having a joke with the census until you come to one of the servants, John Gordon, a footman, who was born in Pakistan in 1850. As Pakistan was not created until after Indian independence in 1948, this is clearly a joke perpetrated by one of the indexers who transcribed the census for the Federation of Family History Societies. We have already come across a number of what seem to be humorous entries, I just wonder how many more there are, and how many were inserted by bored transcribers.