

'The danger was that the labouring woman would contract puerperal fever, a uterine infection that was fatal in an age without antibiotics'



Programme calendar 2001

Bracknell Branch

Priestwood Community Centre, Priestwood Court Road, Bracknell,

7.15pm for 7.45pm

- 21 Sep *Coroner's inquests.* Kathy Chater
- 19 Oct *Ghosts and traditions of the Thames Valley.* Michael Bayley
- 16 Nov *Lloyd George's tax survey of 1911.* John Gurnett
- 21 Dec *Christmas meeting with Christmas fare*

Newbury Branch

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

- 12 Sep *Canal people.* Newbury Canal Trust
- 10 Oct *Military records.* Marjorie Moore
- 11 Nov *Identifying photographs.* Tom Doig
- 12 Dec *Christmas party and Elaine Rawlings on my arcadian ancestors*

Reading Branch

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

- 19 Sep *Alien immigration to England.* Paul Blake (**third Wednesday in the month**)
- 31 Oct *Militia yeomanry and volunteers.* Dr. Peter B. Boyle
- 28 Nov *The Wiltshire wills project.* Lucy Jefferis
- 12 Dec *Seasonal ceremonies.* Jim Golland (**this meeting will be held at Highdown School, surley Row, Emmer Green**)

White Horse Branch

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

- 10 Sep *'Will power'.* Meryl Catty and Audrey Gillett
- 15 Oct *Making further use of the census.* Susan Lumas
- 12 Nov *An introduction to Secretary Hand.* Mark Priddy (a workshop)
- 10 Dec *Christmas social evening with quiz/games and Christmas fare*

Windsor Branch

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

- 25 Sep *London the metropolitan nightmare.* Paul Blake
- 30 Oct *Lloyd George's Domesday: the 1911 Census.* Peter Park
- 27 Nov *The Commonwealth War Graves Commission.*
- 11 Dec *Annual dinner at a venue to be confirmed.*

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For family historians in the Royal County of Berkshire

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John Gurnett
Editor

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The picture on the front cover is from 'Awaiting Admission to the Casual Ward', by Sir Luke Fildes

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A word from our chairman

Chad Hanna

As the incoming chairman of our Society my first pleasant task is to thank the outgoing chairman, Ivan Dickason, for his leadership and dedication over the past few years, particularly with the move of the Research Centre into its new home next to the Berkshire Record Office. This is not my first stint as chairman, but the rapid changes in the way that research is carried out (with a much greater use of the Internet) means my experience in computer technology will be even more important in the years to come.

As I write this, in July, I'm looking forward to my first Executive Meeting for several years and helping to form and carry out plans for the future of our Society.

At the tabletop book sale at the Research Centre in early July I was reminded once again of a problem we face within the County. Someone came along to the book sale and said something to the effect of, 'I haven't joined your Society because I've no Berkshire interests.' Several of us immediately replied, 'Join the club! We've no Berkshire interests either!' (To be truthful, I do have a distant cousin, Watson Failes, who managed to die while he was vicar of Ashbury in the west of the County). Needless to say, after showing our visitor around the vast array of out-of-county material in the Research Centre we recruited another member.

We do have a challenge to reach out to those family historians living in and around Berkshire and without any direct interest in Berkshire, to let them know we can help them, and what they, in turn, can gain by helping others. You can help, by letting interested friends and acquaintances know what our Society can offer them.

Open Day 2001

Sue Matthews and the Vale of White Horse Branch Committee

Society Open Days are a wonderful way of advertising family history as a whole and meeting people with interests in Berkshire families, so we were looking forward to Open Day 2001 with some excitement. As organisers of the Abingdon Open Day this was our bird's-eye-view.

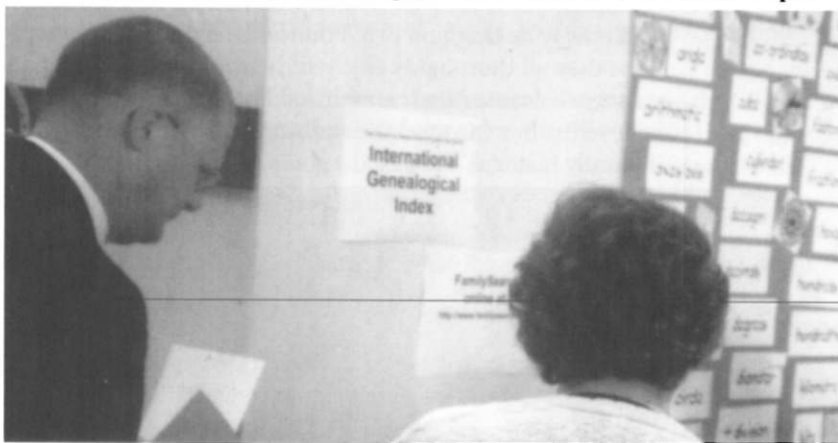
It all happened at Larkmead School on Saturday May 19. More than 400 people signed in, but we know that many couples turned up so the final figure must have exceeded 500. Three came from Australia, one from New Zealand, as well as British visitors from as far away as Leigh on Sea, Poulton Le Fylde and Exeter. We hope they all thoroughly enjoyed themselves. One Abingdon visitor who came into the main exhibition hall could hardly believe the buzz around the stalls. 'Are all these people interested in family history?', he asked.



Visitors around the BFHS stall

The morning started with an early rise for our stallholders and a slightly later rise for the organisers. We arrived at the hall at 8am – detailed planning in the months before and on the previous evening guaranteed us an effortless start to the day. Soon the

stallholders started arriving, setting up with a reasonable lack of fuss. However, we were rather put out by the lack of good manners by two exhibitors who decided not to come and failed to let us know. There were bookstalls from neighbouring and distant county family history societies, several commercial organisations, a Help Desk and about ten computers, two of them on-line all day, manned by volunteers. We were fortunate in having representatives from the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints who were able to demonstrate the IGI. The Society Webmaster ensured that we had excellent publicity with a map of the School that was greatly appreciated by many visitors who came from long distances. We also widely published details on many Rootsweb Mailing Lists, together with the Society's web page, newspapers and magazines, radio stations and leaflets put



The Latter Day Saints' display of the IGI

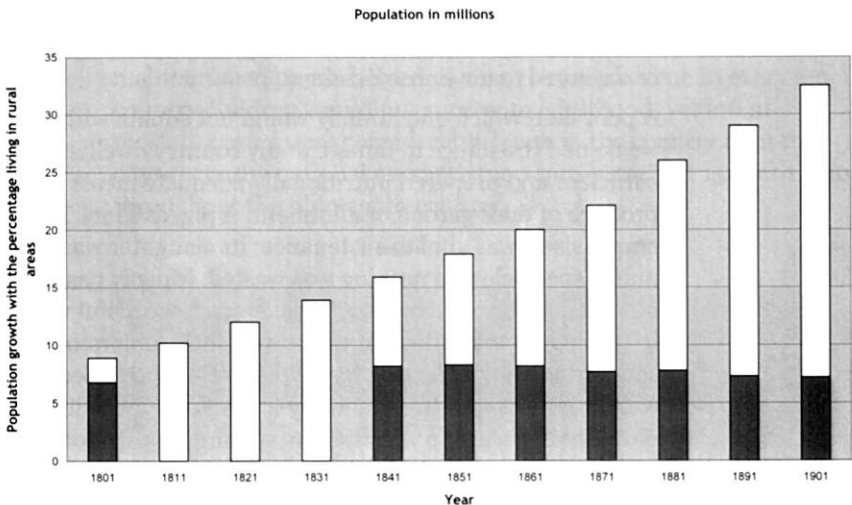
up around the town.

At the end of the day, our Branch had increased its membership and many others joined the Society. We now look forward to the next Open Day in our area.

Rural Robustness – health and medicine in the nineteenth-century countryside

Lori Williamson

The countryside has long been perceived as a healthier place in which to live and work than the city. Edwin Chadwick, sanitarian and public health campaigner, noted in his 1842 Report on the Sanitary Condition of the Labouring Population of Great Britain that agricultural labourers were much healthier and could enjoy greater longevity than their urban counterparts. In London, which by mid-century had eclipsed Manchester as the classic industrial ‘shock’ city, full of destitution, disease and despair, the average life-expectancy for an industrial worker was a meagre 35 years (by the end of the century this had increased to 50 years). Historians of rural England have constantly remarked, using data available to them, such as Reports of the Registrar General for Births, Deaths and Marriages, on the favourable effects on longevity of



Rural population figures are not available for the years 1811 - 1831

country life and living. Some, however, such as G.E. Mingay, have emphasised that quantity of rural years did not necessarily equate with or result from a high quality of life. Variations existed in the

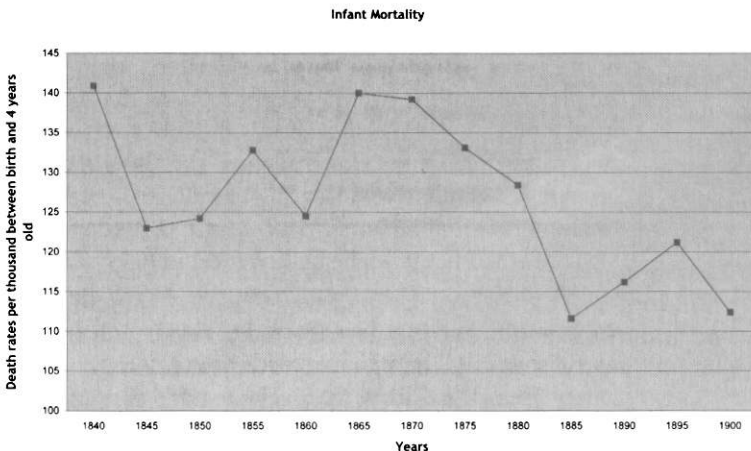
standard of living of country dwellers, yet one must not be misled into believing that all of rural England resembled an idealised Constable painting. The country was not necessarily a land of plenty; very often, especially during times of agricultural crisis, it was a land of want. Rural areas, like urban areas, suffered from poor sanitation, pollution, destitution and disease, albeit on a somewhat reduced, although to Victorian social observers no less shocking, level.

Many country men, women and children were adversely affected by poor nutrition and cramped, damp, poorly ventilated cottages, which had neither drains nor privies but which were often in close proximity to open cesspits and filthy ditches which overflowed with sewage and refuse. Even in areas which boasted privies, often no more than earth closets, there was still the problem of cleaning them out. In her semi-autobiographical 'Lark Rise to Candleford', Flora Thompson recollects the overwhelming stench that would envelop the Oxfordshire hamlet in which she lived during the twice-yearly emptying of the deep pits that served as privies. Victorians, in both country and city, could not just 'flush' waste away. Piles of human and animal excrement were breeding grounds for disease-carrying flies and water-borne germs, while the over-crowded conditions of many country cottages contributed to air-borne illnesses.

A poor diet, which one initially would not equate with country life, weakened resistance to illness. Many country dwellers were self-sufficient and prepared nutritionally adequate meals from the produce of their garden or allotment. A pig, as Flora Thompson emphasises, was vital to sustenance; its slaughter was a ritualised public spectacle and nothing was wasted. Mingay has discovered, however, that not all country wives were resourceful when it came to feeding their families; nutrition was little understood, and country women in general found themselves criticised by their contemporaries for their inability to produce nourishing soups.¹ Florence Nightingale censured these same women for refusing to believe in sanitation and for helping to spread disease by their lack of domestic skills and ignorance about hygiene.² Bread, lard and tea, sometimes mixed with dust by unscrupulous village shop-owners to make it go further, formed the basis of the rural diet for women and children; as the principle wage-earners it was the men in a family who received what meat was available.

The low wages given to agricultural labourers, which ranged

regionally from 6s. – 15s. a week³, obviously played a part in poor diets, as did inferior quality of food available, inadequate cooking facilities or fuel shortages. Food purchased in village shops was often adulterated (the same held true for urban areas), which adversely affected the health of those consuming it; alum, a combination of aluminium and potassium, for example, was added to flour to whiten bread. And contrary to what one might think, there was a shortage of fresh milk. Many country children, therefore, drank inferior tinned milk, which lacked vitamins and minerals necessary for proper development. ‘Atrophy’, or malnutrition, killed many an infant and young child, as did ‘overlying’, convulsions and stomach disorders caused by poor hygiene and cramped living conditions. It was possible also for children to be over-dosed with the opiate Godfrey’s Cordial, used to quell fractious infants. Country children, like those in cities, succumbed to cholera, smallpox, typhoid, diphtheria, whooping cough, scarlet fever and measles, with the under-fives being the most vulnerable. In Oxfordshire, for example, deaths of children under five years of age made up 28 per cent of the total 2,937 deaths reported for 1897.⁴ The logbooks kept by rural schoolmistresses chart epidemics amongst school children, and as Pamela Horn has noted, crowded classrooms filled with malnourished pupils helped disease to spread.⁵ One in every ten country children would not survive to adulthood, yet infant mortality rates were considerably lower in the country than the city where the national average stood consistently at 151 per 1,000 throughout the nineteenth century.



Both adults and children were susceptible to tuberculosis, although country consumptives were more likely than their urban counterparts to survive. Rheumatism plagued the aged, who relieved their aches and pains with opium (aspirin was not available until 1899). In general, self-help and self-sufficiency formed the basis of rural medical care. Neighbours would rely upon each other for assistance, and doctors would be called only once all home remedies had failed or when the patient was close to death. For a modest fee of a couple of shillings, the village midwife, who possessed neither anaesthetics nor obstetrical instruments and who received her training on the job rather than in a classroom (midwives were not regulated until 1902), would assist a woman in labour; a doctor would attend a birth only if there were severe complications. The ever-present danger was that the labouring woman would contract puerperal fever, a uterine infection that was fatal in an age without antibiotics. Charity also played its part in post-natal care. The new village mother would receive from the clergyman's daughter 'the box', which contained baby clothes on loan and gifts of tea, sugar and groats for gruel. 'The box' would be returned to the rectory after one month, with the contents cleaned and ready for the next new arrival.

As well as cultivating a vegetable garden, most country women grew herbs for both culinary and medicinal use: thyme, parsley, sage, peppermint, lavender, pennyroyal, horehound, camomile and rue. Camomile tea was imbibed as a nerve-soother and tonic while horehound was mixed with honey into a cold remedy. Shallots not only flavoured cooking, but also were heated and inserted aurally as a cure for earache. One of the more off-putting home remedies for whooping cough, which was popular in East Anglia well into the twentieth century, was the consumption of a fried mouse; in Oxfordshire it was thought that whooping would cease after the patient was driven 'round the sheep-folds before breakfast.'⁶ Similarly nauseating to modern sensibility is the teething ring that a Herefordshire woman made for her children; a bag of wood lice, which she tied around her children's necks and on which they cut their teeth 'beautiful'.⁷

Superstition and folk-lore figured in rural medicine. Charms were used for animals and people, with professional charmers claiming to cure everything from toothache to ague and burns. An early nineteenth-century Weobley charmer offered the following for

mad dog bites:

'Fuary, gary, nary,

Gary, nary, fuary,

Nary, fuary, gary.

Write this on a piece of cheese, and give it to the Dog.'⁸

In Herefordshire it was believed that chilblains could be prevented in adulthood by taking a baby outdoors during its first winter and rubbing its feet in the first snow. A sheep's lung was applied to the soles of the feet of a patient suffering from pneumonia in order to draw out the disease from the human's lungs. Styes in eyes could be cured by touching them with wedding rings or crossing them with the tip of a cat's tail nine times. The application of a dead man's hand to a wen on the neck was believed to effect a cure. In Weobley a mole would be used in such cases in one of either two ways. First, its nose would be made to bleed and the blood crossed over the wen nine times. The mole would be released and it would take the wen with it. In the second approach the mole was cut in half and applied to the wen overnight. The following day the two halves of the mole would be removed and buried, and as the mole's body decayed it was thought that so too would the wen.⁹

If self-help, charity and folk-lore failed then professional medical help would be resorted to. Few could afford to pay a country doctor's fees, although many physicians treated their patients free of charge. Near the end of the century some country doctors set up subscription schemes for patients, which would cover basic medical treatment and drugs. District nurses were introduced into many rural areas in the closing decades of the century, with funding for their services coming from charitable donation and the cottagers themselves. Benevolent individuals who financially supported rural hospitals recommended needy cases, but we must question the effectiveness of hospital care in an age of limited medical knowledge. In his diary for 1870, the Reverend Francis Kilvert, curate of Clyro in Radnorshire, remarked upon the condition of young Meredith, 'who has had his jaw locked for six months, a legacy of mumps. He has been to Hereford Infirmary where they kept him two months, gave him chloroform and wrenched his jaws open gradually by a screw lever. But they could not do him any good...'¹⁰

Cottage hospitals, charitable initiatives located in converted cottages, began to appear in rural areas in the 1860s. They were modest in scope and endeavour: treatment was offered by a nurse and visiting doctor to a handful of patients who were expected to contribute towards their care in a modest financial way. What these hospitals offered rural inhabitants was rest and good nutrition rather than medical treatment. They also offered a welcome alternative to rural workhouse infirmaries, which were degrading, degraded places, staffed by pauper nurses and blighted by the pauper taint, shunned by all but the very sick and destitute. Flora Thompson sadly recollects the tale of one aged man in her Oxfordshire hamlet who had the misfortune of falling ill and of having no one to look after him. The doctor called in the relieving officer, and both prepared the old man for the journey to the workhouse infirmary.

*'Laura saw the carrier touch up his horse with the whip and the cart turn, and she always wished afterwards she had not, for, as soon as he realized where he was being taken, the old soldier, the independent old bachelor, the kind family friend, collapsed and cried like a child. He was beaten. But not for long. Before six weeks were over he was back in the parish and all his troubles were over, for he came in his coffin.'*¹¹

The nineteenth century witnessed many epidemics in country and city; malnutrition and sub-standard housing were common; mortality rates for adults and children were high; life expectancy, when compared to today, was relatively low. A child born in 1800 had a better chance of survival in the country than the city, but this did not mean that it would survive into adulthood. In the very large families of Victorian England, parents were well prepared for the deaths of some of their children. Medical knowledge was limited as too was the treatment offered by practitioners, both lay and professional. What is striking about rural health care in the nineteenth century is its diversity: folklore and age-old herbal remedies co-existed with district nurses and cottage hospitals and the gradual infiltration throughout the medical community of more sophisticated medical knowledge which led to many life-saving discoveries. Some of the more superstitious remedies offered to nineteenth-century patients might seem ludicrous today, but what we must remember is that people had faith in them, and faith plays an important part in the healing process.

References

- 1 G.E. Mingay, *Land and Society in England, 1750-1980*, London: Longman, 1994, p. 99.
 - 2 See, for example, *Letters from Miss Florence Nightingale on Health Visiting in Rural Districts*. Reproduction of a Printed Report originally submitted to the Bucks County Council in the year 1892. London: P.S. King & Son, 1911. Reprinted in Lori Williamson, ed., *Florence Nightingale and the Birth of Professional Nursing*, Bristol: Thoemmes Press, 1999.
 - 3 See Pamela Horn, *Labouring Life in the Victorian Countryside*, Stroud: Allan Sutton Publishing Limited, 1995, pp. 118-19. It must be noted that money was often supplemented by wages in kind.
 - 4 See Pamela Horn, *The Victorian Country Child*, Stroud: Allan Sutton Publishing Limited, 1990, p. 215.
 - 5 See *ibid.*, pp. 202-203.
 - 6 Quoted in *ibid.*, p. 200.
 - 7 Ella Mary Leather, *The Folk-Lore of Herefordshire*, Hereford: Jakeman & Carver; London: Sidgwick & Jackson, 1912, p. 70.
 - 8 *Ibid.*, p. 74.
 - 9 For medical superstition in Herefordshire see *ibid.*, pp. 77-85.
 - 10 Quoted in A.L. Le Quesne, *After Kilvert*, Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1978, p. 204.
 - 11 Flora Thompson, *Lark Rise to Candleford*, London: Penguin, 1988, p. 90. Statistical material is taken from B.R. Mitchell, *British Historical Statistics*, Cambridge University Press, 1988.
- Lori Williamson, Ph.D., has published books and articles on modern British social history and the history of medicine. Her latest book, *Power and Protest. Frances Power Cobbe and Victorian Society*, will be published this year by Rivers Oram Press. In the autumn she will be teaching 'Patients and Practitioners. An Illustrated History of Medicine, 1750-present' on Thursday afternoons from 2:30-4:30 for Oxford University Department for Continuing Education.

Shady and pig killing in Lambourn

Jill Wohlgemuth

Some three years ago my uncle Vic, now in his 92nd year, started jotting down memories of his early years in response to questions from various relatives regarding family history. I found them so interesting that I offered to type them up and encouraged him to keep going. Eventually I submitted the manuscript to Plowright Press for inclusion in their Ordinary Lives series.

My uncle was born in Lambeth, but has had a lifelong connection with Lambourn, his mother's home village. He spent childhood summer holidays there and his family sought refuge in the village from the London Blitz, whilst he himself served in the RASC in Iceland and North Africa. After the war, Vic decided not to return to his previous occupation as a waiter at London's Waldorf Hotel and has lived in Lambourn ever since.

Vic's Grandma was Mary Alice Taylor nee King (born in Pewsey) widow of Tom Taylor, a Lambourn butcher. Her unmarried son Fred, the pig slaughterer, was always known as Shady. Two other sons, Harry and Jack were the fathers of Vic's Lambourn cousins. Harry was also a butcher and Jack a carpenter. Vic's mother was Harriet Annie Cox nee Taylor, who went to London in service and married Ted Cox, the manager of an off-licence in Southwark. Ted also had Berkshire connections as his father George was born in Hungerford and his grandfather Barnard in West Hannay. George and Barnard were both blacksmiths. This is one of Vic's clear memories of rural life just after the end of the First World War.

I was born and brought up in Lambeth, but as children my sister Gert and I often used to spend holidays in Lambourn. I always stayed at Grandma's and Gert at our Auntie Emily's, where there were plenty of cousins to mix with. Our mother's only unmarried brother, Uncle Fred, lived with Grandma. His nickname was Shady and he was a well-known, popular character in the village. Many country folk kept pigs and Shady was always called in to kill the pigs when they were ready to eat. They would rely on Shady, not just people living in or around the village, but on isolated farms on the downs, perhaps a three or four mile walk away.



The picture was taken on the occasion of an Alexandra Day fancy dress procession in the village around 1919. Vic is on the extreme right dressed as a baker. Next to him is his younger sister, Gert.

I must have been about ten or eleven years old when I went to my first pig killing. I remember that morning when I got up Shady said to me, 'Get theeself ready, we be going pig killing'. He told Grandma that he was taking me and she said she'd have a hot dinner ready for us when we got back. I can still remember starting off that day. It was a beautiful morning, Shady slung his bags containing his butchering knives over his shoulder and we set off. We went up Sheepdrove and after walking some distance we left the roadway and walked over the fields until a small farmstead came into sight down in the valley. Shady said that was where we were going. I was glad as it was a warm day and I was beginning to get tired and thirsty.

When we eventually reached the farm a couple of dogs came out to greet us and we met the farmer and his wife and family. The first thing the farmer did was to go into his shed and draw a mug of ale from a barrel, which he brought to Shady. I can even now

hear the farmer's wife saying, 'You've brought an assistant today', and Shady answering, 'Aarh! That's my boy'. She then fetched me a large bottle of what I think was cherry cider. I was feeling parched by this stage and just gulped the first lot down — my first enjoyment of the day.

Now it was time for work. The farmer had two younger men there, maybe his sons, and they got everything ready: a large heavy wooden stool and plenty of straw. Pig killing is not for the squeamish and for my first introduction I never stood and watched everything, but I couldn't escape the sound of the pig squealing. The men had to get the pig on the stool (I'm not sure if they tied it down or not) and then Shady cut its throat and drained the blood into a bucket. An alternative method was to hang the pig up by its back legs before cutting its throat and bleeding it that way. I witnessed several more pig killings later and began to get used to it.

Shady told me that nothing is wasted with a pig. The blood is used, also the trotters and chitterlings (*intestines*) and the head made into brawn, with the rest of the meat cut into different joints. After he'd cut it all up, Shady was always given a share, especially the chitterlings which he would take home to Grandma. Then you'd find her sitting in the woodshed which adjoined the cottage and she'd be cleaning and washing the chitterlings ready for cooking. With a variety of ingredients she would make faggots and get them ready for Saturday, when so many people would come to buy them that she could never make enough. Grandma's faggots were legendary.

At the end of the summer, usually the beginning of September, Dad always took his holiday and he and Mum joined us at Lambourn. One of the reasons they liked to go then was because the Lambourn flower show was held about that time. The flower show was always held in the cricket field along the Upper Lambourn Road. It was a large field bordered on one side by Lambourn Woods with trees all round the other sides. There was a beer tent run by Mr Bellinger, landlord of the Sawyer's Arms in the High Street, and two or three other marquees housing different showpieces. Besides the flower, fruit and vegetable, and craft exhibits there was also pony racing with betting, athletics in the afternoon and a dog show. Then there would be a fair with roundabouts and swings and all the other wotnots. During the evening the village band would arrive for dancing on the green to

round off what was always, weather permitting, a truly enjoyable day.

It's perhaps not surprising that when I was young I always had a tear in my eye when it was time for us to return to London. Each year it would be the same — Mum would be carrying a big bunch of flowers, Dad would be carrying the luggage, and Gert and I would be carrying the bags of fruit and veg from Grandma's garden.

['Vic: Lambeth to Lambourn' is £11.95 plus p&p £1.50 and can be ordered from bookshops, on-line from Amazon or direct from the publisher: Plowright Press, PO Box 66, Warwick CV34 4XE. The ISBN is 0951696084.]

WILTSHIRE'S NIMROD INDEX

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Recollections of a 1920s goalkeeper

Helen Turner

Goring Football Club celebrates its centenary in 2001. As part of the celebrations a Centenary Booklet has been compiled giving a flavour of footballing life in the village over the past 100 years. Below is an extract from an article in the booklet based on an interview with Lou Plummer, who played football for Goring in the 1920s.

Lou Plummer was born in 1905, and moved with his family to Goring from Reading in 1911, to the house where he lives to this day. His father was Edwin Septimus Plummer, who worked as a hairdresser, and who was the regular linesman at Goring Football Club matches.

Lou remembers with great clarity his days of playing football for Goring in the 1920s, the days when football was revived with tremendous enthusiasm after the First World War, as recorded in the *Football Chronicle*, the weekly supplement to the *Berkshire Chronicle*, eagerly awaited at local newsagents on Saturday evenings. Football was a wonderful source of local entertainment. Every village had a team – even small places like North Stoke, Mapledurham, and Ipsden. Goring had three, two playing on Saturday and one on Wednesday, and spectators flocked to watch.

The team's home ground has always been the Gardiner recreation ground in the heart of the village. With its row of horse-chestnut trees along the bottom and tall Victorian houses at the far end, the setting has hardly changed in the 100 years since the club was founded.

Lou recalls how, as a schoolboy, he used to dash out of his classroom at the old school in Station Road, and run across to the rec. on Wednesday afternoons to watch the end of the match. Once he'd left school at age 14, he was able to join the team (annual subscription half a crown, or 12fip) and soon became the regular goalkeeper. The Goring Wednesday team, enrolled in the Reading & District Wednesday League, was made up mainly of shop workers, unable to play on Saturdays when the shops stayed open, but free on Wednesdays when it was half-day closing.



The Wednesday team of 1924-25. Back row: George Crook, G. Unwin. Lou Plummer, Bill Parrott, Stanley Walters; Middle row: Frank Gurnett, Fred Pomroy, Fred Whitehorn, Reg Martin, Roy Constantine; Front row: Frank Godfrey, Wilf Woodley, Jack Clark

The players

Lou worked for Penny's, the grocery shop in Red Cross Road (where Goring Hardware is now), and his team mates were as follows:

George Crook and Stan Walters worked at Colebrook's, the butchers in the High Street (now Davis Tate, the estate agents)

Bill Parrott worked at Goring Brewery, in the centre of the village (it closed in the 1940s)

Frank Gurnett worked at Wilde's, the butchers at the top of Ferry Lane (later Bits for Boats, then Pennywise)

Fred Pomroy worked at the bakers (the Old Bakery, just off the High Street)

Fred Whitehorn worked on the railway (as one of over 30 staff working in and around the station – porters, goods yard staff, booking office clerks and so on)

Jack Clark and Roy Constantine, the lock-keeper's son, worked at King's, the chemists

Reg Martin was a chauffeur for a Streatley family

Frank Godfrey worked at the International Stores (now Forbuoys)

George Hobbs worked at Goring Dairy (where Mary S, the furnishing fabric shop is now).

Lou also remembers a couple of Streatley players, one a butler and the other a footman in one of the big houses, who were welcomed along to the Goring Wednesday team as they had to work at weekends and there was no Wednesday side in Streatley.

Getting ready for the match

It was very much a do it yourself team – each player was responsible for buying his own kit and getting it washed. There was no team manager, although often a senior player like Jim Rumble (who had played for Goring before the First World War) would assume the role of unofficial coach/manager/mentor when his playing days were over. As for the changing room, before the wooden pavilion on the recreation ground was built, they got changed in the gardener's shed at Lyndhurst, one of the tall Victorian villas that look across the rec. The visiting team often used the Sloane Hotel, which had other attractions: a newspaper report once mentioned that one of the visitors had indulged in 'liberal doses of Sloane's liniment...'

The rules in those days seem harsh: there were no substitutes once the game had started – if a player was injured, you were down to 10 men and that was that. If a player was sent off, he was banned for a long time. Lou remembers one Saturday team member 'who started framing up to the ref' in a cup match and was banned for life.

Home and away

A home match would often be followed by a dance in the Parish Hall the same evening, attracting 200 people or more, to raise funds for the club. Another good source of revenue was the collecting box passed round among the spectators at home matches – always a good crowd, often no spaces round the touchline, and barriers required behind the goals.

An away match against one of the Reading teams – such as Reading Tramways or the Royal Berks Regiment – became a real day out. After the match, sometimes with the bonus of a post-match dip in the Kings Meadow swimming pool (showers being unheard of) they would have a trip to the Palace Theatre, then fish and chips at the Fish Bar in Union Street. Finally it was back to the station in time for the last (steam) train home, the 11.05 to Wallingford.

The Goring teams enjoyed a range of transport to away matches, the opposition being as far afield as Ascot, Bracknell, and Newbury, as well as Reading and the villages closer to home. Often they caught the train, or cycled, but otherwise they all piled into the back of Mr Vickery's coal lorry. But when it was somewhere like Moulsoford – well, that was easy – you just walked; and you could take always the ferry across from South Stoke (2 miles along the river from Goring) and drop into the Beetle and Wedge for a pint on the way back. (It is unlikely that a bunch of muddy footballers on their way home from a match would be quite so welcome at the Beetle in 2001.)

A century of games

Lou played 100 consecutive games and was never sent off or booked. Nor was he seriously injured whilst playing for Goring – there was 'not so much ankle-tapping as there is today.' When the Wednesday team folded in the late twenties, Lou joined the Saturday Reserves team and played until he was nearly 40. 'We had some marvellous times....' he recalls.

And his best match? Beating the up-till-then unbeaten league leaders, Christchurch Old Boys, on a February day in 1925. With the final score a decisive 3-0, it was a clean sheet for the Goring goalie.

A winning side

Far from being a bunch of village yokels, Goring became a force to be reckoned with in the 1920s, usually ending the season with all three teams (Saturday 1st team, Saturday Reserves and Wednesday team) well placed in their divisions, and often reaching the late stages of the cup competitions.

In April 1922 Goring made it to the final of the prestigious Oxfordshire Junior Shield competition before losing 1-0 to Witney Swifts before a 2000-strong crowd. In a comment familiar today, the Goring reporter reckoned: 'Both teams played excellent football, but cup-tie excitement was very prevalent, especially when it came to open goals. Both sides missed several sitters.' The Goring Parish Magazine records sadly: 'It is very bad luck that they didn't win at Oxford, as they had quite two-thirds of the game. They are such good sportsmen, and play such clean football...'

Typical – both of the result and the sentiments that went with it – is this report from the *Football Chronicle* in March 1922: 'Spencers Wood Reserves put up a plucky fight against Goring, but were simply swamped in the second half, Goring adding eight more goals and winning with the utmost ease by 11-0, only three of the team failing to score. Spencers Wood's own report acknowledges: [We] came away defeated but not downhearted. We were hopelessly outclassed, but Goring played the game all through the match, and it was a pleasure to meet them.'

A date with the girlfriend...

And finally....one episode that brings a smile to Lou's face as he recounts it:

'One Wednesday evening, I had a date in Reading, after the match at King's Meadow. Now when we had matches in Reading, we always used to go on the train. In those days, if you were responsible for causing a late kick-off, you were fined... So bearing in mind my date, I persuaded the others to get changed in the train on the way, to save time. So that's what we did.

Well, after the match, when we went to get changed, I found that I'd left my shoes on the train. So there I was, making my way up into town for my date – and those streets were all cobblestones – in my bowler hat, blue nap coat, kid gloves... and my football boots.....'

[The Goring Football Club Centenary booklet is now available price £3.00 + 45p p&p. For further details please contact Helen Turner, tel 01491 875895 or email: heturner@tinyworld.co.uk]

National Burial Index

The parishes and periods included in Berkshire FHS's burial file are shown below, totalling some 104,800 entries; the periods in bold type are included in the April 2001 issue of the National Burials Index while those not in bold type have been added to Berkshire FHS's file subsequently and will be submitted for inclusion in future NBI updates. An asterisk denotes those parishes/periods which have been added since the position was last reported in the June 2001 issue of the *Berkshire Family Historian*.

Aldermaston St Mary the Virgin 1882 - 1992*

Ascot Heath All Saints 1865 - 1909*

Ashampstead St Clement 1686 - 1756 and **1757 - 1837**

Avington **1727 - 1994**

Barkham St James **1741 - 1812** and 1814 - 1985*

Basildon St Bartholomew **1667 - 1856**

Beedon St Nicholas 1681 - 1732* and **1733 - 1969**

Beenham St Mary **1813 - 1907**

Boxford St Andrew **1758 - 1876**

Bradfield St Andrew **1695 - 1754** and 1882 - 1952*

Bray St Michael 1813 - 1826* and **1826 - 1837**

Brightwalton All Saints **1805 - 1922**

Brimpton St Peter **1756 - 1901**

Bucklebury St Mary the Virgin **1692 - 1910**

Burghfield St Mary **1559 - 1870**

Catmore St Margaret **1814 - 1985**

Chaddleworth St Andrew **1798 - 1851**

Chieveley St Mary the Virgin **1874 - 1895**

Cold Ash St Mark **1865 - 1947**

Combe St Swithin **1729 - 1812**

Compton SS Mary & Nicholas **1813 - 1901**

Cookham Holy Trinity **1830 - 1844** and 1853 - 1864*

East Garston All Saints **1813 - 1876**

Easthampstead SS Michael & Mary Magdalene **1768 - 1812**, 1813
- 1873* and **1873 - 1915**
East Ilsley St Mary **1649 - 1868** and 1868 - 2000
East Shefford **1604 - 1734** and **1774 - 1917**
Enborne St Michael & All Angels **1726 - 1837**
Englefield St Mark 1862 - 1935*
Fawley St Mary **1550 - 1987**
Finchampstead St James 1724 - 1812*
Frilsham St Frideswide **1711 - 1768**
Greenham St Mary **1799 - 1914**
Hungerford Independent **1819 - 1830**
Hungerford St Lawrence 1700 - 1724* and **1724 - 1796**
Inkpen St Michael & All Angels **1878 - 1986**
Kintbury St Mary 1558 - 1718*, **1718 - 1761** and **1813 - 1925**
Lambourn St Michael & All Angels 1732 - 1766* and **1767 - 1837**
Maidenhead Congregational **1791 - 1837** and **1845 - 1908**
Maidenhead High Street Wesleyan Methodist **1858 - 1903**
Maidenhead New Chapel (Countess of Huntingdon) **1843 - 1858**
Midgham St Matthew **1638 - 1733** and **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**
New Windsor St John the Baptist 1855 - 1988*
Padworth St John the Baptist **1724 - 1837** and 1838 - 1981
Pangbourne Independent Chapel **1836 only**
Peasemore St Barnabas **1753 - 1879**
Purley St Mary the Virgin **1813 - 1900**
Reading Broad Street Independent 1787 - 1869* and 1875 - 1881*
Reading Castle Street Congregational **1857 - 1862**
Reading King's Road Baptist Church **1785 - 1835**
Reading London Road Cemetery **1843 - 1852**

- Reading St Laurence 1757 - 1779*, **1779 - 1788**, 1788 - 1796, 1796
- 1812*, **1813 - 1828** and 1828 - 1840*
- Ruscombe St James the Great **1705 - 1812**
- Shaw cum Donnington St Mary the Virgin 1647 - 1812* and **1813 -
1932**
- Shottesbrooke St John the Baptist **1690 - 1811**
- Speen St Mary the Virgin **1750 - 1904**
- Speenhamland St Mary **1831 - 1881**
- Stratfield Mortimer St Mary 1813 - 1850*
- Sulham St Nicholas **1724 - 1850**
- Sunninghill St Michael & All Angels **1776 - 1812**
- Swallowfield All Saints 1813 - 1918*
- Thatcham/Bucklebury Congregational/Independent Chapel **1819
- 1871**
- Thatcham St Mary **1813 - 1819** and 1827 - 1839*
- Theale Holy Trinity 1832 - 1932*
- Tidmarsh St Lawrence 1813 - 1999*
- Tilehurst St George **1886 - 1954**
- Ufton Nervet St Peter **1636 - 1834**
- Wargrave St Mary 1901 - 1940*
- Wasing St Nicholas **1763 - 1853** and 1855 - 1990*
- Welford St Gregory **1813 - 1852** and 1852 - 1900
- West Ilsley All Saints 1558 - 1812*
- West Shefford St Mary 1694 - 1778* and **1779 - 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**
- Yattendon SS Peter & Paul 1813 - 1982*

Details of the postal service for researching burials in the
Berkshire parishes listed above are given on page 60.

An unexpected surprise from the NBI

Gillian Stevens

My great great great grandfather, Eusebius Coles married in London, baptised his children in London, is on the 1841 census in London, and also appeared in several street directories as the owner of a soap-making factory in Lambeth, London. As he clearly died after the start of civil registration in 1837 he should appear in the General Registrar's Office indexes to death certificates. Hours and hours of searching for all known variations (Coal(e)(s), Col(e)(s), Kol(e)(s), Koal(e)(s)), and many lesser known combinations failed to turn up an entry so it seemed his death was missing, although it might appear on a local registrar's office index - but which one?

I found his marriage on the International Genealogical Index but burials have been omitted, as they are not necessary for members of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints to complete their temple ordinances. The IGI has now been supplemented by the first edition of the National Burial Index (NBI) published in May by the Federation of Family History Societies. Fortunately, I was able to help with the beta testing of an earlier version of the software (yes, it does work with A3 size printers) and, of course, Eusebius Coles was one of the various names I tried. I didn't expect to find him, as London is not well covered in the first edition of the NBI. Imagine my glee when I found the death of a Eusebius Coles in 1852 at Woodford by Thrapston in Northamptonshire.

After finding the burial I checked the parish register at the Northamptonshire Record Office. I also found the monumental inscriptions for the church with a map of the churchyard. At Easter I was able to visit the churchyard, take a photograph of Eusebius's gravestone and that of his daughter, Mary, together with one of the Church. I had a tingly feeling having finally found the grave of my great great great grandfather.

In the Northamptonshire 1851 census, I found the retired Eusebius was living at Rose Cottage, Woodford, with a different wife, and this prompted me to find his first wife's death in London. This had previously been an impossible task as her



*St Mary's Church, Woodford, nr Thrapston,
Northamptonshire.*

name was Jane and I had no idea of the likely date. From his 1848 marriage certificate I was able to find the name of Eusebius's father, Joseph Coles, a vital piece of information not recorded for the first marriage in 1808. I was hot on the trail again.

You may not be as lucky as I was. The first edition of the NBI contains five million or so records on two CDROMs, mainly from the period 1800 to 1850. That represents a substantial number of burials and work continues, by members of this Society amongst others, to make the second edition more comprehensive. Stephen Archer's search program is very easy to use, although it is limited to Windows PCs. Not all family history societies have contributed extracts from their burial indexes, so you would be wise to check the coverage before buying your own copy. But, then again, are you sure you know where your ancestor was buried? I thought I had a good idea where Mr. Coles might be found.

The first edition of the NBI is available, price £30, from the Society Bookstall. If you'd like to contribute to the next edition (currently planned for 2004) please contact David Wright, the Berkshire Family History Society co-ordinator, or the co-ordinator for your local family history society.

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Letters to the Editor

Irene Littleby, 5 Lambourne Gardens, Reading RG6 7EG

Honorary membership

I feel very humbled to receive the honorary membership of the Berkshire Family History Society, although I am accepting not only for myself but also on behalf of John Brooks, Arthur Ruffle, Gwen Prince, Val Ayres, Brian Edwards and most recently Margaret Foreman.

Visiting the Berkshire Record Office to transcribe parish registers on Thursdays has become a way of life. It all started through getting interested in my family history way back in the late 1970s. Although I had no Berkshire roots when I retired in 1983 I asked Adam Green, the then County Archivist, if there was anything I could do for the BRO to recompense for the help I was getting from their records. He told me that I could transcribe a parish register - Ashampstead. The early register had me putting Greens down as Groons. I learnt quickly. Before long I joined John Brooks and Arthur Ruffle who were also transcribing parish registers. Next to join the team were Gwen Prince and Val Ayres. John typed all our transcripts and it was a great loss to us when he died suddenly, so I approached the Berkshire Family History Society to provide help. Brian Edwards came to our assistance putting the transcripts on disc - wonderful things computers (I must get one). All initial printings are checked against the parish registers and for this we are grateful to Margaret Foreman. Val and I, sadly, are fast approaching the end of our transcribing days. To date there are still 733 registers to be transcribed, so we urgently need more help from members of the Society. Volunteers are always needed to transcribe the registers, type up the transcripts at home on computer, or check the draft copies.

Ken Skinner, 82 Sheridan Avenue, Caversham, Reading RG4 7QD

GRO certificates

I was very interested to read the item in the last issue of the journal about the possibility of ordering GRO certificates by email and I have today received three that I ordered by this

means on June 5. I was somewhat taken aback, however, to find that I was charged £24 instead of the £19.50 which I would have paid at the Family Records Centre, despite the fact that I supplied the correct index reference in each case. On taking this up with the GRO I was told that the charge of £8.00 for a certificate was correct for QR applications (when you are supplying the index reference) and £11.00 for STD cases (applications when you are not supplying the GRO index reference). I find this additional charge inexplicable as I would have thought that email applications were more efficient and worth encouraging. Admittedly there is a saving in the cost of travel to London, but then it is possible to combine a visit to the FRC with visits to other research centres.

May I also point out that the telephone number of the GRO is 0870 243 7788. When I tried the number given in the journal I discovered that you had omitted the digit 4.

May I apologise for this error. I received this information from the Federation of Family History Societies and should have checked the number before putting it into the journal.(Ed.)

Pat Slatcher, 9 Walford Place, Rugby, Warwickshire CV22 5HA

Have you lost Sarah Haines?

I found this document at the Northamptonshire Record Office recently and I thought Sarah might belong to somebody in the Reading area:

'1738. Joseph Walker shoemaker of ys parish & Sarah Haines of Redding in Berkshire WID. Having liv'd & travelld together as man & wife three and twenty years or more were brot: here by a pass from Creaton very Sick, on wch enquiry being made concerning their marriage as pretended it appear'd they never had been married, and ye man confess'd ye Same under his hand before several Wittnesses who have attested ye Same, but both he & she desiring they might be lawfully marry'd confessing both of them the Crime of their former life & pretending Sorrow for it they were, after the womn: had sojourn'd here Six weeks, askt three times at Church during divine Service & then lawfully marry'd the Five and Twentieth Day of July this year.'

Computing Workshops for Family Historians at the Research Centre, Yeomanry House, Reading

Using Family History Programs on Sat. Sep. 29, 2001

An introduction to family history database programs such as Family Tree Maker (FTM), Generations & Personal Ancestral File (PAF). Includes hands-on sessions.

Scanning and Graphics on Sat. Oct. 27, 2001

Learn about using scanners and how best to scan-in images. Edit scanned-in images and use them in documents and for the Internet. Use OCR software to scan in text.

Research using the Internet on Sat. Nov. 24, 2001

– for the less experienced –

What family historians can find on the Internet and how to access it. Using search engines. Includes on-line sessions on the Internet.

Going Further with Family Tree Maker on Wed. Sep. 26, 2001

Transferring your Family Tree (using GEDCOM) on Wed. Oct. 17, 2001

Using the National Burial Index Wed. on Nov. 14, 2001

Saturday workshops will last from 10am to 4pm

Cost: £15 for members and £18 for non-members

(Morning coffee/tea, snack lunch, afternoon tea/coffee and access to the Centre is included)

Wednesday workshops are in the evening and last from 7:30pm to 10pm

Cost: £5 for members and £7 for non-members

(Coffee/tea and access to the Centre is included)

**To book a workshop: contact Gillian Stevens Tel: 0118 947
8743 or email: workshops@berksfhs.org.uk**

Workshops planned for Spring 2002 include:

'Using the 1901 Census', 'Going further with Generations' and 'Using the data CDs available at the Research Centre'

Society projects

Daphne Spurling

The objective of Society projects is to make past records concerning people in Berkshire more accessible. The end products are sold as fiche or a search service is provided. Details are given in the booklist, on the Society website or under postal search services in the *Berkshire Family Historian* (see page 60). Many of you will have noticed new publications on the bookstall and the subsequent increase in parishes or periods available for searching. In addition, the Research Centre has in the upstairs library reference items such as not-yet-published Monumental Inscriptions and fiche of parish registers, and downstairs there are several commercially available computer based indexes covering Berkshire or Berkshire people.

Berkshire parish registers

The largest on-going project is transcribing, computerising and checking entries (some going back nearly 500 years), of Berkshire parish registers deposited at the Berkshire Record Office. Transcribing was started by the late John Brooks and now continues under Irene Littleby and her volunteers with Brian Edwards compiling the computer database. The task is enormous due to the number of records and the detail available for each baptism, marriage and burial. Moreover, skill is required in interpreting the written entries. Because of the magnitude of the work only a few parishes have been completed and published to date. We are regularly issuing fiche of new parishes, so keep an eye open for the ones you want.

The Marriage Index

This index now lists over 17,000 marriages. All the pre-1837 Anglican parishes in 'new' Berkshire have been transcribed for the period 1700-1837 and about half have been checked for the 1800 to 1837 period. This project is under the leadership of Sue Matthews and the Vale Branch. Sue and her team are making great strides but more volunteers are needed to check parish registers on a regular basis at the Berkshire Record Office. When more complete, the index will be available as a search service and on fiche. A job that can be done at home by someone on the

Internet (and with a good ISP deal) is to download certain parish register entries from the IGI. These are then used for checking purposes. Full instructions will be sent to any volunteers. Oxfordshire Family History Society has completed the old Berkshire parishes that are now part of Oxfordshire.

Burial Index

David Wright and his team included over 75,000 burials from 68 parishes, non-conformist churchyards and cemeteries in the initial issue of the National Burial Index CD-Rom. David reports elsewhere that the database now contains 104,800 entries. The work continues rapidly for inclusion in future NBI editions. Regular updates of the burials covered are given in this journal (see page 21) and details of the search service can be found on page 60.

Berkshire Overseers Project

Abbreviated transcripts are being made of the 10,000 plus papers of the Old Poor Law period (mid-seventeenth century to 1830s) by the Berkshire Overseers Project under Brian Hunt. The papers variously cover Settlement Certificates and Examinations, Removal Orders, apprenticeship, bastardy orders and militia service. Twenty-one of the 26 Unions are now available on fiche. The survival rate of records is variable with virtually nothing from some places. However, the movement of people between parishes means that many associated parishes, including some far from Berkshire, are included in place name indexes. Only the papers from St Mary's and St Giles in Reading remain to be entered, and then the final summary and combined index will be produced.

Monumental Inscriptions

MIs tend to be recorded by those with a special interest in the village or church. As the years pass, the inscriptions on tombstones become more illegible and few churches have detailed plans to locate graves and even fewer have the inscriptions written down. A very active group from the Society recorded the inscriptions of about 50 churchyards in the 1990s. Many need mapping, indexing and updating to make them ready for publishing. If you are interested in helping with a particular church or cemetery, or one that has been recorded by another interest group (such as a local history society), please let us know. Mike Roberts is the MI co-ordinator for East Berkshire.

1851 Census

Geoff Mather is beavering away at the 1851 Berkshire Census that he hopes to finish this year. Full transcriptions and indexes are being put onto fiche. Most of the main population centres have been covered and the Booklist gives details of what is currently available on fiche or in booklet form. Geoff also provides printouts of individual folios.

Berkshire Strays

A new project under Margaret Young is the Berkshire Strays Index of people who appear in the records of other counties or countries. A typical example is my mother who was born in Theale, married in Lincoln and died in Bedford. This index can be very useful in tracing your ancestors' movements. Please send Margaret details of any strays that you find. This project is being developed alongside the Berkshire Name Index and will directly feed into the BNI. A separate search of the Strays Index will be introduced in the future.

Police records

A re-activated project concerns the records of the Police Museum at Sulhampstead. John Bowley is now computerising records of Police Constables joining the Reading force transcribed in the 1990s. Further details, such as the appearance (height, eye colour) of the constables, are available at Sulhamstead. Errol Page is starting to transcribe other registers.

Berkshire Name Index

The major new project is the computerisation of the Berkshire Name Index. Searches at present are of the 100,000 or so cards or paper slips in the Research Centre. To these we will add names that emerge from other projects, such as those mentioned above. In the long term we aim to include as many as possible of those people who have appeared in records in the county. As an index, it will inform the researcher in what records the name can be found. The minimum data will be, for example, 'Smith, John, 1879, Aldermaston, Marriage'; in this example the Parish Register or the Marriage Index can be consulted for more details. Greater detail will be provided for records that are not published elsewhere. Many volunteers will be required soon to help Sandra Grist to input the current names index which is maintained on record cards.

New projects

We have other possible projects. Perhaps someone would like to photograph all the churches and chapels, or village high streets in the county and write a short piece on the village. The Berkshire Record Office and Society members hold other records that can be transcribed. Do you have any interests or ideas for projects?

Volunteers

These projects and the publication of the results depend on our many volunteers. The process of transcribing and checking is well established, but necessarily time-consuming for the sake of accuracy. The shortage of volunteers to work at the Record Office in Reading is seriously delaying both the parish register and Marriage Index projects. Some of our volunteers live far away (one even in Australia) and so are unable to get to Reading. You will all have benefited from indexes and similar information made available by this and other societies. Please remember that and offer to help when you are able, and wherever you are able. Contact me at the Research Centre or by email to www.berksfhs.org.uk/projects/index.htm. If you have a laptop that would be a wonderful bonus as it cuts down some stages thus reducing time and potential errors.

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Book reviews

Basic Facts about...using Colindale and other Newspaper Repositories, Audrey Collins. Federation of Family History Societies 2001, UK £2.00, overseas £2.50

This is the fifteenth of the 'Basic Facts' series and books of this kind can be very helpful to those starting out on the trail to find their ancestors. However, a booklet of only 16 pages can only give a glimpse of the scale of material in local and national newspapers. The London Gazette (first published in 1666) which contains information on government appointments, bankruptcies, changes of name, and honours (and incidentally is indexed) is not mentioned, but apart from one or two minor errors, it remains a good introduction to the subject.

Basic Facts about ... Research in London, Part 1: Researching London Ancestors, Lilian Gibbens. Federation of Family History Societies 2001, UK £2.00, overseas £2.50

A very welcome new title to the useful 'Basic' series which, in just a few pages, gives you a quick overview of this vital topic. Anyone struggling with ancestors in London — and most folk struggle in that 'soft sand' at some time or other — would be advised to obtain a copy.

Change at Cholsey Again! Judy & Stuart Dewey. Pie Powder Press 2001, UK £14.30, overseas £15.25

Originally published in 1986, this is a completely revised and largely re-written edition with nine special feature articles, over 400 photographs — many never published before — footnotes, references and an index. Additional information about sources and the names of the people in the many photographs are in the authors' database. It is carefully researched, well written, and a must-have for anyone with an interest in the area — which includes Moulsoford and the County Asylum.

Identifying your World War I soldier from badges and photographs, Iain Swinnerton, illustrated by Roland Symons. Federation of Family History Societies 2001, UK £7.65 overseas £7.85

Anyone who has tried to identify a military badge will find this new publication extremely useful. It contains page after page of clear black and white drawings of cap and collar badges, badges of rank, trade and proficiency, regimental arm badges, shoulder titles, medals and, of course, 'Miscellaneous'. Three appendices cover the infantry battalions 1914-18, Army Orders and Ranks 1915 and the Jervis WWI Photographic Index. The only defect in this otherwise excellent publication is the lack of an index; a page by page search is necessary to find an individual badge. There is ample space for this in the four blank pages at the end.

Londoners' Occupations — a Genealogical guide (2nd ed) compiled by Stuart Raymond, Federation of Family History Societies 2001, UK £6.55 overseas £6.75

A veritable cornucopia of printed sources to enable you to discover more about your ancestor's occupation. Arranged in sections from actors to zoo-keepers and, on the way, including gardeners, piano makers and smugglers (surely not in London?). In between there are the more familiar clergymen, policemen and many, many more.

Gibson Guide: Bishop's Transcripts & Marriage Licences, Bonds and Allegations (a guide to their location and indexes; 5th edn), compiled by Jeremy Gibson. Federation of Family History Societies 2001 UK £4.95 overseas £5.10

This always useful guide to sources contains updated information on addresses, relevant publications and items in the Society of Genealogists' library. The area covered includes England, Wales, Ireland and the Isle of Man. Each county section includes an outline map of ecclesiastical jurisdiction and peculiars, to assist in identifying where, and what, duplicate parish registers (bishops' transcripts) and marriage licences may be located.

**Irish Ancestry — a beginner's guide (3rd ed), Bill Davis.
Federation of Family History Societies 2001, UK £8.30
overseas £8.50**

Originally published as an introduction to Irish research this greatly expanded edition has been rewritten from the author's 20-year experience of researching his own Irish ancestors. He has also studied and given lectures on Irish history and migration. The five appendices include sections on Irish heritage and research centres, family history societies, useful addresses and websites, records and their sources and a universal bibliography.

All prices include postage and package.

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The Wiltshire Wills Project

Lucy Jefferis

Perhaps I should begin by explaining why an article about Wiltshire Wills is appearing in the *Berkshire Family Historian*. Wiltshire Wills is our shorthand for the outstanding Salisbury Diocesan Probate collection. It contains 90,000 wills and inventories dating from Tudor to Victorian times and covers not only Wiltshire, but also Berkshire, parts of Dorset and Uffculme in Devon. There are half a million individual papers in total, all housed at the Wiltshire and Swindon Record Office in Trowbridge.

Although the records of the Archdeacon of Berkshire are held at the Berkshire Record Office, our office holds several thousand Berkshire probate documents. The records of the Dean of Salisbury are here, whose court had jurisdiction over twelve Berkshire parishes: Arborfield, Blewbury, Little Coxwell, Great Faringdon, Hungerford, Hurst, Ruscombe, Sandhurst, Sonning, Wantage, Wokingham, and Woodley and Sandford. We also hold the probate records of the peculiar of the Dean and Canons of Windsor. In addition, the Consistory Court of Salisbury inhibited the jurisdiction of the Archdeacon of Berkshire once in every three years: during the Bishop's visitation, Berkshire wills that were normally proved at the Archdeacon's Court had to be proved in the Bishop's Court. Those wills are kept at Trowbridge, with the other Consistory Court records. So the Salisbury Diocesan collection covers almost the whole geographical area of Berkshire at certain times. Out of the 35,000 bundles of documents we have catalogued so far, 6,000 are from Berkshire.

Making a will

The preamble to an Act of Parliament of 1529 (21 Hen. VIII, c.4) detailed the purpose of will-making, explaining that testators should pay their debts, provide for their wives, arrange for the care of their children and make charitable bequests for the good of their souls.

A mother who clearly had serious misgivings about what would become of her family after her death was Margery Williams of Baydon. She used her will to provide for her sons as best she could, adding this codicil to her will in 1797:

*'Whereas it is the Misfortune of my sons Benjamin and Joseph to be very indiscreet and imprudent and as they have expended their Fortunes and I am extremely apprehensive any Other Property would be in like Manner Wasted and Yet unwilling that they should be left intirely Destitute I hereby declare that it is my Will and Mind that my son Francis Williams to whom I have given all my Estate Property and Effects shall ... Execute One Bond or obligation ... Conditioned for the Payment of two shillings each per Week to them my said sons Benjamin and Joseph for and during the Term of their respective natural lives.'*¹

Both the quality and quantity of the information contained in the wills is outstanding. They can be used to research a wide variety of topics, including family history. Not only are large numbers of relatives often named, but their relationship to the testator may be described. And when friends are mentioned and overseers are appointed a picture of the testator's social world begins to emerge.

Deathbed wills

In the early modern period, wills were often made when the testator was 'nigh unto death'. Luckily, 'The liberty of making a testament doth continue even until the last gasp,' according to Henry Swinburne in his 'A Briefe Treatise of Testaments and Last Wills, 1596'. If it was too late to make a written will, testators could recite their wishes on their deathbed in the form of a spoken will, technically called nuncupative. Out of the 35,000 wills catalogued nearly 1,000 are nuncupative. They can paint a vivid picture:

*'James Lucas late of Reading, ... victualler, died ... of the Dropsie (his death being more sudden than was expected by his Physicians ...) and about half an hour before his Death ... We [the witnesses] saw him ... take hold of his ... brother by the hand and with great Earnestness Express these words following ... "For Christ his sake take care of my Child and be a father to it and take it as your own for I shall die. Pay every one their own ... and make a small Burying.'*²

Women and wills

Until the Married Women's Property Act of 1882 wives could not make a will without their husband's consent. Out of the 35,000 wills catalogued only 260 women are identified as wives.

However, there were no restrictions on widows and spinsters making wills and so far 1,200 have been identified as spinsters, and 5,500 as widows. The earlier wills come from a time when descriptions of women's lives are rare and are therefore particularly valuable.

Although husbands theoretically held authority over their wives in the wills a picture of teamwork and companionship often emerges. Women were commonly made guardians of the children and executors of their husband's will, at least until the eighteenth century. John Culverwell of Chardstock used his will to offer very practical support to his wife in her parental duties:

To my four Children ... I give and bequeath the sum of one hundred and fifty pounds to each ...; but if one or more of these my Children shall displease their ... mother by Marriage or otherwise and not demean him or her or themselves as becomes a dutiful Child or Children, then my will and desire is that such child or children so offending shall receive ... only fifty pounds each, the remainder of such Legacy or Legacies given as above, to be to the Use and benefit of such other Child or Children as shall demean and behave agreeable and dutiful to their said Mother, if one, to have the whole, if more, share and share alike.³

Inventories, accounts and administration bonds

The collection contains many other documents besides wills, including inventories, accounts, administration bonds, commissions, letters and renunciations — all contributing unique information. It is particularly strong in inventories: the deceased's goods were listed as soon as possible after the death, and were costed according to their second hand value. Inventories changed over the centuries — sixteenth century ones are often just lists of possessions, while seventeenth century ones tend to be organised room by room. Their value to research is evident in many ways: crops listed help build up a picture of agricultural practice, items related to trades and crafts may be recorded, and house sizes, the use of rooms and the level of comfort enjoyed by the deceased can be determined.

Cataloguing

A principal aim of the Wiltshire Wills Project is to catalogue all 90,000 groups of probate documents onto a database. It will be fully searchable and should be a wonderful resource for researchers - a much-needed replacement for the present 29 Victorian manuscript volumes. We are on target to complete the collection by April 2003. A printout of all the Berkshire wills is to be sent to the Berkshire Family History Society. We hope to make the database available on the internet in due course. In addition to the database, indexes to the wills are to be published in volume form by the Wiltshire Record Society.

One particularly pleasing aspect of the cataloguing has been the finding of misplaced documents. A marriage licence bond was discovered with the Dean's wills and has been placed in the main licence series. An administration bond for the goods of Elizabeth Pratt of Faringdon, issued by the peculiar court of Faringdon, was sent to the Berkshire Record Office where it was reunited with Elizabeth Pratt's nuncupative will — the documents had probably been apart for centuries. Over 2000 wills from a miscellaneous series have been returned to their appropriate court and in many cases have been matched up with other documents relating to a particular testator.

Preservation and conservation

For many years the collection has been poorly stored. Instead of lying flat in boxes of a suitable size, the wills have been folded into small parcels and forced into inadequate containers. A significant quantity of the material is in poor condition. Repairs to badly damaged documents are underway and every single document is being carefully flattened and repackaged in custom-made archival quality folders and boxes. This work is led by the conservation team with the able assistance of our volunteers.

Digitisation

Once the database is published we foresee an increased demand for the collection from researchers. Increased usage would make the wills more vulnerable to damage, and this was one of the crucial factors behind the decision to produce surrogate images of the collection by digitisation.

The images will initially be made available on DVDs at the Wiltshire and Swindon Record Office and at the Central

Reference Library in Swindon. In order to ensure that the images produced by the Project are those most suitable for researchers, we conducted a user evaluation of images of wills, digitised at different levels of colour and resolution. Over 200 readers were consulted and the results of the survey have defined the specification for the images.

Funding

Thanks to the support of local organisations, we received a grant of £200,000 from the Heritage Lottery Fund: all local contributions were vital and we are most grateful for the many generous donations we have received, including the £2000 from your own Society. We continue to raise funds for the Project. I hope you will agree that it is money well spent — the Project will make sure these wonderful documents are cared for better than ever in the future and we are looking forward to the day when the database and the full colour digital images of the wills are available to researchers.

References:

1. WSRO/P5/1799/27
2. WSRO/P1/2Register/316B
3. WSRO/P5/1797/7

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Lucy Jefferis is the Project Archivist at the Wiltshire and Swindon Record Office, responsible for the Wiltshire Wills Project.

Research Centre news

Ivan Dickason

Members of the Berkshire Record Office staff have toured the Research Centre and we hope that they now have a better appreciation of what we are able to offer family historians. The initial response was positive and we expect that they will have much greater confidence in referring researchers with interests outside Berkshire to us. Research Centre Library Assistants have also toured the new BRO.

The Book Sale on 8th July was successful. About 20 people came along and we raised about £25 for Library funds. Chad Hanna and Gillian Stevens worked hard in setting up the stall and we expect to repeat the event next year.

Earlier, June and I went with the Abingdon Branch to the National Monuments Record Centre at the old Great Western Railway Workshops at Swindon. It is a fascinating archive with extensive photographic and documentary collections about many, perhaps most, of the listed buildings in England and Wales. We have been able to help a member in Kent with his family history by obtaining a photograph dating from 1942 of the Blue Coat School when it was in the Bath Road in Reading.

The programme of Library Tours of the Research Centre continues. Do try to come along:

Saturday 15 Sept. 2001 2.30 - 4.30

Monday 15 Oct. 2001 7.30 - 9.30

Saturday 17 Nov. 2001 2.30 - 4.30

There will be no library tour in December, 2001

Saturday 19 Jan. 2002 2.30 - 4.30

Monday 18 Feb. 2002 7.30 - 9.30

The opening hours of the Research Centre are determined solely by the availability of volunteers — Library Assistants — to staff the centre. For example, there is some demand for Saturday opening and for more Sunday openings. How about it? Can you spare three hours once or twice a month? You will find the experience very rewarding. If you are interested please call the Library Assistants Co-ordinator, June Dickason on (0118) 978 6785.

An appeal for a mangle

Pauline Houldey

My father's family seemed to be firmly rooted in London so it was surprising to find that his grandmother, Letitia Povey, was a Reading woman born at Ball Court, 144 Friar Street on May 2, 1855. She married my great-grandfather Alfred Charles France of Kensington on Sunday November 25, 1877 at St. Mary's Church, Reading. Her parents were John Povey, of Chieveley, baptised in 1819 and Hannah Havell and they married at St. Lawrence Church, Reading in 1847. I found John plus two children in the 1851 census at 13 Abbey Wall, but no Hannah.

By 1861 Hannah was at 59 Friar Street, a laundress, widowed, with several small children and two lodgers. My curiosity was immediately aroused so I looked for John's death certificate. I was saddened to find he had suffered an untimely, early death in unusual circumstances at the South Eastern Railway Station, Reading.

It is always worth looking through a local newspaper when an accident like this occurred so it was with more than a little hope that I looked at *The Berkshire Chronicle*. The issue for March 10 revealed the full sad story. A South Western train arrived at the station at 8.35 in the evening; once the passengers had left the carriages were run back to the facing points. William Pyke, a porter at the station gave evidence to the inquest:

'The engine was uncoupled from the carriages. A rope is then attached to the engine, which steams on about 12 yards, and the towrope being then unhitched, the points are opened, and the carriages towed into a siding. This was done by deceased and myself, the former having command of the rope, and generally ran by the side of the train to unhook the rope. I was holding the facing points for the train to run into the siding. Newton, the driver and Slater, the fireman, had charge of the engine. After the train had run into the siding. I went into the parcel office and about three minutes afterwards Slater came in and said, 'Bring the lamps!' Here's Jack Povey or somebody else got under the train.' The ticket collector and myself went out with a lamp, and we found the deceased lying across the rails on his back

between the carriages, of which there were four, and it appeared that two of them had passed over his body.'

In the same issue of the Chronicle is an appeal for his widow. Hannah had six children, the youngest an infant of seven months. *'A few charitable individuals have commenced a subscription, to supply the immediate wants of the poor widow, and they trust, by the generous aid of a sympathising public, to obtain sufficient to provide her with the means of supporting at least in part, her helpless children, only one of whom, a boy of twelve years, is at present off her hands. She has been accustomed to mangling, and it is desired to purchase for her a good and efficient mangle, and to aid her in such other ways as may appear desirable.'*

Letitia, my great-grandmother, was almost five at the time. How did Hannah manage to support her young family? Was she the recipient of a splendid new mangle? In fact, what happened to her? I cannot find her in 1871 or 1881, although two of her now adult sons lived at 27 Chatham Street, the address Letitia gave on her marriage. One can only hope that a mangle was forthcoming.

There was one final link between the generations. John Povey was called Jack by his workmates. My father, John France, his great-grandson, was also always known as Jack.

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The Boy Apprentice or White Tie and Tails

Daphne Spurling

In 1771 a 13-year-old boy was apprenticed to Benj. Strutt, a barber, in Ipswich. As a consequence on Thursday 28th June I was at a Banquet at the Guildhall in London to celebrate the 500th Anniversary of the Worshipful Company of Plaisterers, of which my husband and son are both liverymen. Today's white tie and tails occasion sounds grand but came from humble beginnings – a barber and, in another branch of the family, a carpenter.

But first a little about the Freedom of London and the Livery Companies. Pre-nineteenth century it was necessary for those who plied a trade or made a living in the City of London to be freemen of the City. Indeed that rule still applied to senior ranks of the Corporation of London until 1987. Being a freeman gave one certain legal privileges: exemption from market tolls, naval press gangs and tolls on bringing animals into the City; and the right to vote in parliamentary and civic elections.

There are four ways of becoming a freeman of the City: honorary, apprenticeship for seven years to a master who was a freeman, patrimony (being the son of a freeman) or redemption (purchasing the freedom). Until 1835 to be a freeman of the City one first had to be a freeman of a Livery Company, and that is still the main route today.

The Livery Companies (also known as Worshipful Companies) are the direct descendants of the old medieval guilds that controlled trade and crafts and protected their members' interests. They often had a religious role before the reformation in the sixteenth century. They acted as friendly societies, looking after livery men on hard times and their widows and orphans, and running almshouses and schools such as the Merchant Taylors' and Haberdashers' Aske's Schools, which continue today. I sleep happier at night knowing that I can claim £4 a year if widowed.

By the early nineteenth century few companies retained their strong trade or occupational links, although the past 100 years have seen an increase in these associations. Today there are 100 Livery Companies. New companies, for example Air Pilots and

Air Navigators, reflect modern life. The charitable and trade or craft functions still remain. The Plaisterers Company, for example, sponsors plastering competitions and prizes among students, a musical prize at the Guildhall School of Music (run by the Corporation of London), and 'adopted' the Marines during the Falklands War. Probably the main reasons for joining a Livery Company today are networking in the City or a profession (an architect friend joined the Plumbers Company), social and tradition (our son is the 6th generation spanning nearly 200 years).

The intermingled stages are first to become a freeman of a Livery Company, then to become a freeman of the City of London, and finally to be robed as a member of the Livery of the Company. Most liverymen progress through the hierarchy to become members of the court and in due course the Master of the Company for a year. This has happened to all members of my husband's family except himself and his father who both lived and worked overseas.

But to return to Stephen Spurling, the barber's apprentice. We don't know when he moved to London but he was living in Great Prescott Street, Whitechapel, when he married in April 1783 and when he was buried in May 1804¹. We also knew from the list of Masters at the Plaisterers Hall that seven of his descendants have been Masters in the Plaisterers Company starting with his son John Henry in 1829. The Guildhall Library holds many records and books of this Company and so we learnt that John Henry became a freeman on 17th March 1817. As John Henry was charged £3 he joined by Redemption (patrimony was £1), as his father was not a member of the Plaisterers.

We had not thought of Stephen being a freeman of London until we noticed on an envelope among my father-in-law's papers the words 'R. Spurling of London, Barber, Freeman of City of London, 6 May 1783'. We first tried the Corporation of London Record Office in the Guildhall complex which keeps a record of the Freemen of the City. The search can be very time consuming, as they are only name indexed within each year. The records start in 1309 and are complete from 1681 to 1940 except, unfortunately, for a 20-year gap around 1783. Back at the Guildhall Library, we found him in the records of the Worshipful Company of Barbers². Like the majority of new members he was a barber. We then searched the Apprenticeship records in the Society of

Genealogists and at the PRO, Kew and found his servitude to Benj. Strutt of Ipswich for a consideration of five guineas³. Stephen was born near Ipswich and moved with his parents to Dedham in Essex in 1762⁴.

As a general rule, an ancestor was probably a freeman if he lived in the City or if he is described as 'a citizen and [something] of London'. But why did Stephen who lived in Whitechapel from 1783 to 1803⁵ become a freeman of London? We have not found him in the Boyd's Citizens of London or Directories of London for the period but suspect that he may have practised his craft in the City. Certainly he must have been fairly successful as he left the equivalent of £126,000 in today's money. In addition we know from family letters that several of his great grandchildren remembered a story that his son John Henry was advised to go into the Stock Exchange by Mr. Salomon whose hair he was cutting. In fact the advice was so important that a photo or engraving of Mr. Salomon in robes hung at their grandfather's home. The SE Registers at the Guildhall Library are a fantastic resource as they include the annual application forms with home and business addresses, banker, partners and clerks. What more can one ask for? In 1804, the year after of his father's death, John Henry was the clerk to Nathan Salomon of the Stock Exchange. In 1809 Nathan did not reapply and in 1810 John Henry joined the Stock Exchange. His son and several grandsons followed him into the Stock Exchange and into the Worshipful Company of Plaisterers.

The Livery Company records provide a wealth of information about the liveryman and his progress up to Master. For example, in 1858 Henry Mott, clerk to the Plaisterers Company, wrote to John Henry's son Percival: '... I was requested at the last court to ascertain whether it would be agreeable to you to serve the office of Renter Warden. The duties appertaining to it are very trifling and the court meets for one hour for the dispatch of business but six times a year.....'⁶ Haven't we all been told on being asked to do a job that the duties are very trifling and the meetings short? In 1966 the current clerk who was Henry Mott's grandson welcomed to the Company Percival's great grandson, Andrew. In another twist of fate the Chamberlain who swore in Andrew as a freeman of London was Charles Richard Whittington. We didn't ask if he had a cat.

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- 2 Guildhall Library, Monthly Court Meeting of the Barbers' Company 6 May 1783 Ms 5257, Vol. 11 (1778-1803).
- 3 Society of Genealogists, The Apprentices of Great Britain 1763-1774 Vol. 6 Book Folio 58/21.
- 4 Essex Record Office, Dedham Poor Law Settlement records D/P 26/13/1, and Essex Family History Society m/f Index to Poor Law Settlement Papers.
- 5 London Metropolitan Archives, Tithe books P93/MRY1/202
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Further reading:

Vivienne E Aldous, *My Ancestors were Freemen of the City of London*, Society of Genealogists, 1999

Research Guide 1: City Freedom. Corporation of London Records Office Archives, 1996

Handbook for Information and Use of Liverymen of the Worshipful Company of Plaisterers of the City of London, 1985

The Livery Companies of the City of London, Corporation of London

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Minutes of the 26th Annual General Meeting

Held on June 26, 2001, at Christ Church United Reform Church, William Street, Windsor

The Chairman welcomed everybody to the 26th Annual General Meeting of the Society and informed the Meeting that the AGM will follow the Agenda set out in the March 2000 edition of the *Berkshire Family Historian*.

1 Apologies for Absence. The following apologies were received: Lady Palmer, Ken Marsden, Pauline Wales, Wendy Maskall, Sue Johnson, and John Gurnett.

2 Minutes of the 2000 Annual General Meeting. The Chairman reminded the Meeting that the Minutes of the last AGM had been published in the September 2000 issue of the *Berkshire Family Historian*. The Chairman asked the Meeting that the Minutes be accepted as read. This was proposed by David Harris and seconded by Gillian Stevens.

3 Matters arising. There were no matters arising.

4 Chairman's Report for 1999-2000. Ivan said that since he wrote his Report which had been published in the June issue of the *Berkshire Family Historian* the total membership for the year had risen to 1839, an increase of 9%. The total number of visitors to the Research Centre during the year was 1528.

5 Treasurer's Report for 2000-2001. Barbara explained that due to the problems of finding an auditor the final accounts for the year could not be presented to the meeting. Cliff Debney proposed that the Executive approve the accounts on behalf of the Society and this was seconded by John Pollock. Barbara did say that this year we had made a small surplus and it was unnecessary to call on our reserves. The full accounts will be published in the December issue of this journal.

6 Election of President and Vice-President. The Chairman informed the Meeting that the Executive Committee had invited Lady Palmer, our current President, and Dr. Peter Durrant, our current Vice-President, to continue in these posts for the 2001-2002 year, and they were duly elected.

7 Election of Officers for 2001-2002. The Chairman informed the Meeting that the following nominations were received by the Secretary by the closing date in the last issue of the *Berkshire Family Historian*:

Society Chairman – Chad Hanna

Society Secretary – John Gurnett

Treasurer – Ann Rutt

As no other nominations were received they were duly elected to serve as Officers of the Society for 2001-2002.

8 Branch Committee Appointed Ex-officio Members. The Chairman informed the Meeting that the Branch Committees have nominated the following Members to serve as their Representatives on the Executive Committee for 2001-2002.

Bracknell Pauline Wales

Newbury Wendy Maskall

Reading Peter Lavarack

Vale of White Horse Ken Marsden

Windsor Valerie Storie

9 Election of Executive Committee Members for 2001-2002.

Librarian Jean Herbert

Publications and temporary Bookstall Manager Jocie McBride

Webmaster Eddie Spackman

Projects Manager Daphne Spurling

10 Appointment of Auditor. The auditor will be appointed when the accounts are ready for examination.

11 Any Other Business. Ivan said that the Executive had decided to make Irene Littleby an Honorary Member for her many years work transcribing parish registers at the Berkshire Record Office and many trips to Trowbridge to consult Bishop's Transcripts. As she was unable to attend the meeting the presentation would be made as soon as practical.

12 The Chairman then thanked Ivan, Barbara and Liz for their service to the Society. All have had to stand down from the Executive as they have served for five years. He had asked Ivan to continue as Research Centre Manager.

12 The Chairman closed the meeting with an announcement that the next Annual General Meeting will be held at Newbury.

Members' Interests

Compiled by Bob Plumridge Bob.Plumridge@virgin.net

Members submitting their interests:

- 4467 Mr P & Mrs S **Orr** Ladywell Speen Lane Newbury Berks RG14 1RJ
 4488 Mr C & Mrs S **Kirby** 50 Poles Hill Chesham Bucks HP5 2QR
 4516 Mr **B Holden** Wentworth Heath Road Woodend, Wickham Fareham Hants PO17 6LA
 4538 Mrs **L Bassett** 5 Kennedy Gardens Maiden Erleigh Reading Berks RG6 5RN
 4542 Mrs **L Best** 24 West View Road Bere Alston Yelverton Devon PL20 7DD
 4551 Mr **C Young** 33 Medbourne Close Blanford Dorset DT11 7UA
 4578 Mr **T Butler** 55 Shearwater New Barn Longfield Kent DA3 7NL
 4592 Mrs **P Cole** 10 Wilbrough Road Birchington Kent CT7 9DY
 4600 Mr **R Cook** Unit 56 Bay Village Philip Avenue Victor Harbor South Australia 5211
 4602 Mrs **B Edgell** 6 Exeter Road Ash Aldershot Hants GU12 6SS
 4606 Ms **C Barlow** 1 Rose Cottage Broadway Ashford Road Laleham Middx TW18 1SB
 4617 Mr **I Langrish** 4 Falkland Road Wash Common Newbury Berks RG14 6NY
 4628 Mr R & Mrs **L Britnell** 28 Orchard Close Canterbury Kent CT2 7AL
 4634 Mrs **L Freeman** Hill House Cods Hill Woolhampton Berks RG7 5QG
 4636 Mr **S Butler** The Gables 29 Dartford Road March Cambs PE15 8AN
 4640 Mrs **V Bell** 4c St Anne's Grove Fareham Hants PO14 1JH
 4642 Mrs **S Durant** Glenmore Baxford Hill Wincanton Somerset BA9 9LW
 4644 Mr **JA Gilman** 19 Brancepesh Close Newton Hall Durham City DH1 5XL
 4646 Mr **B Hammond** 4 Woodberry Down Epping Essex CM16 6RJ
 4647 Mr **PA Moth** 48 Southgate Lane Snettisham Kings Lynn Norfolk PE31 7QN
 4658 Mrs **CL Jackaman** 5 Diana Close Walsall Wood Walsall W. Midlands WS9 9ES
 4660 Mr **AH Foan** Seacroft 33 Lower Drive Dawlish Devon EX7 0AT
 4661 Mr **JR Maskell** 68 Mote Road Maidstone Kent ME15 6ET
 4670 Mrs **SE Burnett** 1 Edinburgh Square Waddington Lincoln Lines LN5 9NE
 4676 Mr **MD & Mrs SH Hargreaves** 2 Cemetery Road Abingdon Oxon OX14 1AS
 4681 Mr **JA Pocock** 36 Corton Long Lane Lowestoft Suffolk NR32 5HA
 4682 Mrs **L Fenner** 22 Causmans Way Tilehurst Reading Berks RG31 6PG
 4688 Miss **S Copas** Dove Cottage 9 Prospect Place Newbury Berks RG14 7PZ
 4689 Mrs **JP & Mr PF Wohlgemuth** 36 Grove Road Bexleyheath Kent DA7 6AX
 4690 Mr **JA & Mrs IJ Dance** 50 Meadow Way Old Windsor Berks SL4 2NY
 4691 Mr **CC Seymour** Stowaway Main Road Somersham Suffolk IP8 4PH

No	Name	Place	Code	Dates	No	Name	Place	Code	Dates
4682	ALDERMAN	Theale	BRK	1880-1906	4628	BRACEY	Luton	BDF	1750-1900
4642	ALLWRIGHT T.	Chimney Corner	BRK?	1600-1800s	4660	BRANT	Aborfield	BRK	1700-2000
4642	ALLWRIGHTS	Barkham	BRK	1600-1800	4681	BREACH	Great Faringdon	BRK	1700-1726
4642	ALLWRIGHTS	Twyford	BRK	1600-1800	4628	BRITNELL	Crowell	OXF	1538-1900
4642	ALLWRIGHTS	Shinfield	BRK	1600-1800	4628	BRITNELL	Chinnor	OXF	1538-1900
4642	ALLWRIGHTS	Swallowfield	BRK	1600-1800	4628	BRITNELL	Bledlow Ridge	BKM	1538-1900
4642	ALLWRIGHTS	Arborfield	BRK	1600-1800	4660	BROOKER	Bledlow	BKM	1538-1900
4642	ALLWRIGHTS	Hurst	BRK	1600-1800	4634	BROOKS	Buckebury	BRK	1700-2000
4690	ANDREWS	Houham	KEN	1800-1900	4634	BROOKS	Bedminster	SOM	1700-1900
4578	ANTHISTLE	Towcester	NTH	1700-1850	4658	BROWN John	Walsall	STS	1800-2000
4670	ARROWSMITH	Newbury	BRK	1740-1850	4658	BROWN John	Hungerford	BRK	1700-2000
4578	ASPREY	St Albans	HRT	1700-1850	4658	BROWN John	Tewksbury	GLS	1800-2000
4592	AUSTEN	S Stoke	OXF	1802-1820	4690	BUNCE	Dorney	BKM	1800-1900
4634	BAILEY	Hartpury	GLS	1700-1900	4646	BUTLER	Southwark	SRY	1780-1870
4606	BARLOW	Baughurst	HAM	1750-1950	4636	BUTLER	Hagbourne	BRK	1750-1950
4516	BARTLETT	Egham	SRY	1800-1900	4636	BUTLER	Upton End	BRK	1750-1950
4578	BASKET	Charlbury	OXF	1700-1850	4578	BUTLER	Kingston Bagpuize	BRK	1600-1850
4538	BASSETT	Any	WIL	1600-2000	4578	BUTLER	Faringdon	BRK	1600-1850
4538	BASSETT	Any	NTH	1600-2000	4578	BUTLER	Minster Lovell	OXF	1800-1900
4676	BATYEE	Barwick in Elmet	YKS	1066-1950	4516	CANNING	Chesham	BKM	1850-1980
4682	BEASLEY	Beenham	BRK	1800-1900	4640	CHALLIS	Stockcross	BRK	1850-1970
4660	BERRY	Sherborne	DEV	1700-2000	4542	CHEGWYN	Compton	BRK	1800-1900
4542	BEST	St Brgwad	CON	1800-1900	4542	CHEGWYN	Launceston	CON	1700-1800
4542	BEST	Blisland	CON	1800-1900	4516	CHEGWYN	Stowford	DEV	1800-1900
4670	BEVIS	Any	HAM	1600-2001	4628	CLEMENTS	Hounslow	LCC	1800-1900
4542	BIGGS	Tilthurst	BRK	1800-1900	4660	COCKRAM	Great Missenden	BKM	1700-1850
4538	BIRD	Any	STS	1600-2000	4660	COLE	Silverton	DEV	1700-2000
4538	BIRD	Newbury	BRK	1600-2000	4690	COLE	Slapton	DEV	1740-1935
4628	BITMEAD	Any	BRK	1600-1900	4670	COLES	Any	WOR	1600-1880
4688	BLAKE	Holborn	LDN	1900-1990	4681	COLLETT	Great Faringdon	BRK	1700-1837
4538	BOSTWICK	Bath	SOM	1600-1850	4640	COLLETT	Wolvercote	OXF	1700-1820
4634	BOULTON	Stoke	STS	1700-2000	4634	COLLYER	Richmond	SRY	1700-2000
4670	BOWEN	Birmingham	WAR	1600-1850	4600	COOK	Maidenhead	BRK	1750-1850
4681	BOWLER	Great Faringdon	BRK	1700-1758	4516	COOPER	Newbury	BRK	1800-1980
4688	BRACE	Holborn	LDN	1900-1980	4690	COURT	Chipstable	SOM	1790-1850
					4617	COWELL	Any	DUR	-1950

No	Name	Place	Code Dates	No	Name	Place	Code Dates
4578	COWLES	Faringdon	BRK 1600-1700	4634	GOULTER	Rode -Frome	SOM 1700-2000
4689	COX	Lambourn	BRK 1800-1900	4516	GRANT	Reading	BRK 1600-2001
4689	COX	West Hanney	BRK 1700-1850	4602	GREEN	Odiham	HAM 1800-2000
4689	COX	Hungerford	BRK 1800-1930	4602	GREEN	Wokingham	BRK 1800-2000
4690	DANCE	Welford	BRK 1750-2001	4690	GREENOUGH	Upton	BRK 1870-1970
4689	DANCE	Vernham Dene	HAM 1750-1850	4488	GUILLE	Liverpool	LAN 1660-1950
4646	DAY	E London	LDN 1800-1900	4646	HALL	Inglesham	WIL 1790-1880
4689	DEADMAN	Pewsey	WIL 1750-1850	4646	HAMMOND	Harington	MDX 1780-1850
4676	DEBENHAM	Woodbridge	SFK 1066-1880s	4676	HAMS	Harley	HAM 1600-1850
4628	DOBSON	Brightwalton	BRK 1700-1850	4676	HANCOCK	Romsey	HAM 1066-1868
4617	DODSWORTH	Any	DUR -1950	4634	HANDLEY	Ashton-U-Lyne	LAN 1700-1925
4646	DREAPER	Buckland	BRK 1750-1900	4676	HARFIELD	Andover	HAM 1700-1800
4690	EAST	Sunningwell	BRK 1890-1955	4676	HARGREAVES	Sheffield Padiham	LAN 1066-1950s
4578	EATON	Faringdon	BRK 1600-1750	4681	HARRIS	Great Faringdon	BRK 1755-1780
4682	EDMOND	Bridlington	ERY 1850-1950	4617	HART	Any	SOM -1990
4676	ELLIS	London	LND 1850-1960s	4617	HART	Any	GLS -1990
4628	ENGLEFIELD	Hurst	BRK 1750-1900	4617	HARTE	Any	GLS -1990
4681	EVANS	Great Faringdon	BRK 1725-1751	4617	HARTE	Any	SOM -1990
4676	FARTHING	Any	SFK 1066-1900s	4688	HARTRIDGE	Any	BRK 1800-1950
4682	FENNER	Islington	MDX 1800-1880	4592	HASKIN	S Stoke	OXF 1820-1824
4682	FENNER	Reading	BRK 1890-1900	4592	HASKINS	Whitchurch	OXF 1798-1807
4660	FOAN	Yeovil	SOM 1700-2000	4592	HASTIN	Chelsea	MDX 1865-1900
4516	FORDER	Downton	WIL 1600-1910	4592	HASTIN/G	Knightsbridge	MDX 1831-1865
4542	FOX	Aston	OXF 1700-1900	4592	HASTIN/G	Oxf Borders	BRK 1700-1775
4634	FREEMAN	Rode -SOM	WIL 1700-2000	4602	HAWKINS	Wokingham	BRK 1800-2000
4640	GARDNER	Bampton	OXF 1800-1900	4602	HAWKINS	Burghfield	BRK 1800-2000
4660	GARLAND	Sherborne	DOR 1800-1900	4578	HEARN	Chesham	BKM 1700-1900
4640	GEARY	Childrey	BRK 1700-1900	4670	HENDLEY	Any	HAM 1600-1900
4640	GEARY	Wantage	BRK 1800-1900	4681	HEWITT	Great Faringdon	BRK 1730-1804
4542	GILDING	Any	BEW 1800-1900	4682	HITCHMAN	Henley on Thames	OXF 1880-1950
4542	GILDING	Any	OXF 1800-1900	4682	HITCHMAN	Brockley	GLS 1840-1880
4646	GILES	Buckland	BRK 1750-1850	4617	HODGSON	Any	DUR -1950
4644	GILMAN	Reading	BRK 1800-1900	4516	HOLDEN	Reading	BRK 1860-2001
4644	GILMAN	Lambourn	BRK 1066-1900	4516	HOLDEN	Ipswich	SFK 1600-1870
4676	GOATES	Bishops Stortford	HRT 1066-1900s	4676	HOLDING	Manchester	LAN 1066-1890s
4538	GODDARD	Any	SRY 1600-	4681	HUNT	Great Faringdon	BRK 1697-1731

No	Name	Place	Code	Dates	No	Name	Place	Code	Dates
4658	HUTCHINSON	Walsall/Willenhall	STS	1700-2000	4682	NEWBERY	Reading	BRK	1875-1950
4551	ILLSLSY	Reading	BRK	1700-1990	4658	NEWBROOK	Little Sutton	WAR	1800-2000
4670	IRELAND	Any	HAM	1600-1850	4690	NEWELL	Burham	BKM	1750-1900
4647	ISAACSON	Stow-cum-Quy	CAM	1750-1790	4647	NORCUTT	Wokingham	BRK	1880-1920
4647	ISON	Fulbourn	CAM	1780-1869	4658	NORRIS	West Ilsley	BRK	1700-1900
4578	IVORY	Coteshill	BKM	1750-1850	4658	O'KEEFE	Barton St. Mary	GLS	1700-2000
4646	JAGGERS	London		1800-1900	4660	OLIVER	Silverton	DEV	1600-2000
4606	JAMES	Baughurst	HAM	1800-1900	4467	ORR	Bristol	GLS	1800-1950
4640	JONES	Woodstock	OXF	1800-1900	4634	PACKER	Rode	WIL	1700-1900
4681	KEMBLE	Great Faringdon	BRK	1735-1757	4636	PAGE	Basildon	BRK	1750-1950
4691	KEMPSTER	Speen	BRK	1850-1940	4636	PAGE	Bradfield	BRK	1750-1950
4690	KENNETT	Wingham	KEN	1800-1970	4670	POWERS	Any	DOR	1600-1780
4538	KENT	Any	WIL	1600-	4670	POWERS	Newbury	BRK	1750-2001
4578	KIMBER	Kingston Bagpuize	BRK	1700-1850	4660	PRIDHAM	Sherborne	DEV	1700-2000
4647	KINCH	Barkham	BRK	1850-1930	4628	PUMMELL	Midgham	BRK	1538-1800
4689	KING	Pewsey	WIL	1750-1900	4628	PUMMELL	Chieveley	BRK	1538-1900
4516	KNIGHT	Stockcross	BRK	1800-1950	4628	PUMMELL	Hamstead Norris	BRK	1750-1900
4670	LANHAM	Any	HAM	1600-1850	4628	PUMMELL	Basingstoke	HAM	1750-1900
4676	LEACH	Grundisburgh Otlely	SFK	1066-1880	4628	PUMMELL	West Ilsley	BRK	1538-1800
4670	LEWINGTON	Any	BRK	1700-1850	4628	PUMMELL	Reading	BRK	1800-1900
4516	LONG	Reading	BRK	1860-2001	4690	PURCHASE	Chipstable	SOM	1790-1850
4516	LONG	Swindon	WIL	1600-1870	4690	QUELCH	Wickham	BRK	1750-1900
4676	LOVEGROVE	Challow/Wantage	DEV	1066-1900	4682	RANDALL	Broad Chalke	WIL	1750-1850
4690	MABIN	Slapton	DEV	1790-1850	4682	RANDALL	Winchester	HAM	1850-1875
4660	MARCH	Bridport	DOR	1800-1900	4682	REED	Hull	ERY	1800-1900
4661	MASKELL	Hartley Wespell	HAM	1800-1860	4682	REED	Islington	MDX	1880-1890
4661	MASKELL	Mortimer	BRK	1750-1850	4682	REED	Tilehurst	BRK	1900-2001
4676	MATHEWS	Highworth	WIL	1066-1880	4634	REW	Bristol	SOM	1700-1900
4551	MAYNARD	Reading	BRK	1700-1990	4634	RICE	Pill	SOM	1700-1900
4690	MIDDLETON	Liambadarm Fawr	RAD	1690-2001	4634	RICHARDSON	Any	SSX	1700-2000
4658	MILLS	Walsall/Lichfield	STS	1700-2000	4681	RIMES	Great Faringdon	BRK	1705-1727
4578	MONK	Faringdon	BRK	1600-1750	4602	RIXON	Hurst	BRK	1800-2000
4516	MOODY	Hale	HAM	1600-1860	4602	RIXON	Hurst	BRK	1800-2000
4578	MOORE	Chesham	BKM	1700-1850	4602	RIXON	Turville	BRK	1800-2000
4647	MOTH	Easthampstead	BRK	1800-1930	4660	ROBBINS	Sherborne	DOR	1800-1900
4647	MOTH	Sandhurst	BRK	1800-1930	4676	ROBINSON	Huddersfield	YKS	1066-1950s

No	Name	Place	Code Dates	No	Name	Place	Code Dates
4670	ROGERS	Any	MON 1650-1890	4606	TAYLOR	Brimpton	BRK 1800-1900
4538	ROICE	Ireland	NIR 1600-	4606	TAYLOR	Wasing	BRK 1800-1900
4690	ROSSITER	Wiveliscombe	SOM 1800-1900	4578	TAYLOR	Northmoor	OXF 1700-1850
4681	RUDDLE	Great Farringdon	BRK 1750-1815	4628	TEBBY	Leighton Buzzard	BDF 1750-1850
4670	RUSSELL	Any	WOR 1750-1880	4602	THORN	Reading	BRK 1800-2000
4676	RUTLAND	Great Kimble	BKM 1066-1890s	4602	THORN	Tilthurst	BRK 1800-2000
4646	SADLER	Buckland	BRK 1820-1860	4634	TINSLEY	Stoke + Wolstanton	STS 1700-2000
4690	SAUNDERS	Chalfonts	BKM 1750-1900	4647	TINWORTH	Fulbourn	CAM 1790-1869
4690	SAWNEY	Burham	BKM 1775-1940	4658	TOON	Walsall	STS 1800-2000
4681	SCOTT	Great Farringdon	BRK 1780-1812	4646	TOPLIS	E London	LDN 1750-1850
4542	SEAFORD	Any	BEW 1800-1900	4658	TOPPS	Tetbury	MDX 1800-1900
4542	SEAFORD	Any	HAM 1800-1900	4578	TRINDER	Stanton Warcourt	OXF 1700-1850
4691	SEYMOUR	Speen	BRK 1880-2000	4658	TUCKER	Sidmouth	DEV 1700-2000
4691	SEYMOUR	Wickham/Welford	BRK All	4682	TUCKER	Winchester	HAM 1874-1890
4676	SHEWRY	Jersey	CHI 1841-1851	4682	TUCKER	Reading	BRK 1890-1900
4676	SHEWRY	London	LND 1861-2000	4634	UPSTONE	Reigate	SRY 1700-2000
4628	SIBLEY	Finchley	MDX 1800-1850	4676	WADDINGTON	Huddersfield	YKS 1066-1950s
4578	SILMAN	Brize Norton	OXF 1700-1850	4538	WARREN	Any	WIL 1600-
4578	SILMAN	Langford	OXF 1700-1850	4658	WEBB	Newbury	BRK 1700-2000
4647	SMEWING	Wokingham	BRK 1880-1920	4658	WESTLEY	Walsall	STS 1800-2000
4628	SMITH	Oare (Chieveley)	BRK 1750-1850	4670	WESTON	Any	HAM 1600-1850
4690	SMITH	Cookham	BRK 1800-1900	4634	WHITWORTH	Any	LAN 1700-2000
4689	SOMERSETT	Pewsey	WIL 1750-1850	4640	WICKS	Westbury	WIL 1700-1900
4689	SPANSWICK	Hungerford	BRK 1750-1850	4682	WILKINSON	Reading	BRK 1900-2001
4660	SPICER	Arborfield	BRK 1700-2000	4676	WILKINSON	Barwick in Elmet	YKS 1066-1950s
4689	SPINDLER	West Hanney	BRK 1700-1800	4602	WILLMOIT	Reading	BRK 1800-2000
4542	STEAD	Leeds	YKS 1800-1900	4660	WINDEBANK	Basildon	BRK 1500-2000
4681	STEP	Great Farringdon	BRK 1760-1789	4640	WOODAGE	Compton	BRK 1700-1850
4592	STOCKER	Odiham	HAM 1800	4606	WOOLLANDS	Epping	ESS 1700-1850
4592	STOCKER	Ham. Borders	BRK 1766-1780	4606	WOOLLANDS	Sipson	MDX 1880-1910
4602	STREET	Wokingham	BRK 1800-2000	4606	WOOLLANDS	Southweald	ESS 1700-1900
4602	STREET	Shalford	SRY 1800-2000	4606	WOOLLANDS	Chipping Ongar	ESS 1700-1800
4689	SWOTTON	Uffington	BRK 1800-1900	4606	WOOLLENS	Chipping Ongar	ESS 1700-1800
4578	TAYLOR	Stanton Warcourt	OXF 1700-1850	4606	WOOLLINS	Chipping Ongar	ESS 1700-1800
4689	TAYLOR	Lambourn	BRK 1750-1900	4551	YOUNG	Reading	BRK 1700-1910
4606	TAYLOR	Baughurst	HAM 1800-1920				

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. Please send two SAEs or two IRCs if you wish an acknowledgement to the BFHS Research Centre, Yeomanry House, 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 50 pence 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 SAE, or two IRCs to: Mr Geoff Mather, 18 Ravenswood Avenue, Crowthorne, Berkshire RG45 6AY.

1881 Census for England, Wales and Scotland

We have a complete set of fiche for each county, and the CD-ROM 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 50 pence for each additional page. Write to BFHS, c/o Mr Ivan Dickason, 1 Mower Close, Wokingham, Berkshire RG40 1RZ.

Other County Census Indexes

We hold copies of census indexes, mainly 1851, for many other counties. The charge for a search and an estimate of the cost of any printouts is £2 per county searched per surname including two sample prints (£3 if not a member). Charges thereafter will depend upon the type of A4 size copies to be made and the number of prints involved. Please write to Mr Ivan Dickason, as above.

Berkshire Burial Index

We are contributing to the National Burial Index and so far have 104,800 references in our own database and can now offer a limited research service to our index. For the parishes and time periods covered to date see page 21 in this magazine. The cost per surname is £1.00 for members and £2.00 for non-members for each A4 sheet. Send a cheque, made out to BFHS and an SAE to David Wright, 45 Picton Way, Caversham, Reading, Berkshire RG4 8NJ.

Monumental inscriptions

David Watkins (tel. 0118 966 1401) has offered to consult his database for the following churchyard monumental 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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Family Records Centre

1 Myddelton Street, London EC1R 1UW
020 8392 5300

Public Record Office

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

Berkshire Record Office

9 Coley Avenue, Reading, Berkshire RG1 6AF
0118 901 5132

Berkshire Family History Society

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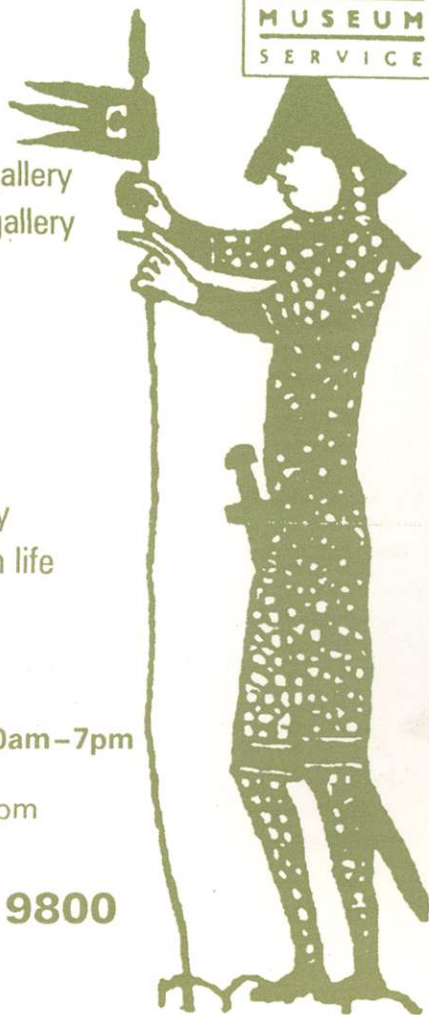
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The Bulletin

Wiltshire Record Office on the move

Three years ago the Royal Commission on Historical Manuscripts de-registered the Wiltshire and Swindon Record Office as the building did not match the national standard for archives. As a result local councillors considered three options: closure, doing nothing, or improving the existing structure. Last year Wiltshire County Council and Swindon Council agreed to move the Record Office from Trowbridge to Devizes. Wiltshire County Council also proposed to take the opportunity to improve its other heritage services. The site chosen at Devizes became known as the Wharfside Initiative. It would include the new Record Office, the County Local Studies Library, the County Museum Service and the Kennet and Avon Canal Trust Archive. The reasons given for the move to Devizes was that it was closer to Swindon, and central to the County. In terms of access, this does not make sense. Trowbridge is accessible by bus and rail while Devizes has no railway station, nor the level of bus services that the existing Record Office has. So Devizes is not closer to Swindon in any sense apart from simply marking it on a map. Trowbridge will also be losing one of its attractions for tourists and archive users. The County Council is likely to receive support from the Heritage Lottery Fund

which it is said, 'recognizes the central role of access'. On the face of it moving to Devizes is unlikely to improve services to users, but perhaps you have other views.

A petition protesting to the move is available at Trowbridge Town Council Office at 10/12 Fore Street and at the Tourist Information Centre.

GRO birth, marriage and death indexes

FreeBMD is a volunteer project to transcribe the GRO birth, marriage and death indexes. The objective is to provide free Internet access to the Civil Registration index for England and Wales. The main focus of the project is currently the sixty-three year period from 1837 to 1900. So far the database includes more than 12,000,000 of the 100 million index entries. That represents about eight per cent of the information held at the Family Records Centre. Given the size of the database it is always worth checking FreeBMD to find if the certificate you are searching for has been placed on the Internet. A researcher may visit the FreeBMD website and enter their ancestor's surname, first name(s), whether a birth, marriage or death is of interest and so on. Additional search criteria such as year of the event, registration district, etc. may also be entered to help narrow the search. Wildcards and

multiple selections can be used (e.g. select several registration districts to be searched simultaneously).

The search facility will return all results that match the search criteria, with information on: event, quarter, year, surname, first name(s), Registration District, volume number, page number, and submitter.

The project has over 1,500 volunteers adding around 60,000 entries a day, but more volunteers are needed if the project is to be completed before 2010. Volunteers need a computer with Internet access and some spare time. The Internet address is <http://freebmd.rootsweb.com/>

Cleaning gravestones

In view of the number of enquiries about cleaning gravestones, Paul Wohlgenuth sent in a report in the *Sunday Telegraph* on 24 June. The Association of Burial Authorities say that in cemeteries across the country there are 15 million unstable gravestones, many of which weigh more than 200lb. A falling gravestone in Harrogate killed a six-year-old boy last summer and there has been a death a year over the past four or five years. Accidents happen when someone kneels down to tend a grave and takes hold of the top of the headstone to pull themselves up. All headstones are now being submitted to a 'topple test' to establish whether they can withstand pressure equivalent to the weight of an eight-stone person. If not, they are

being knocked flat by council workers. Families are responsible in law to maintain a plot and they will have to pay up to £1000 if they want a stone restored to its proper position. Meanwhile, gravestone transcribers beware.

Genealogy and medical research

In recent years there's been increasing scientific research into hereditary life threatening conditions like cancer and heart disease. Although poor diet and smoking does raise the risk of succumbing to these and other medical conditions, family genetic history is also one of the major causes. The Institute of Heraldic and Genealogical Studies has been one of the pioneers in the application of links between genetic research to assist medical teams throughout the world.

Now in a major step forward the Institute and the University of Utrecht in the Netherlands have launched a new research programme. They are seeking family historians who can provide a proven family tree of four or more generations on each line and/or longevity for four or five generations. They hope to build a database for scientific research that will also provide a means of assisting those whose genealogical research may be blocked by adoption, lack of documentation or a failure to discover the place of origin of a family.

The Institute is also working on a project involving the longevity of individuals. A substantial prize has been

set aside for anyone who is able to produce a pedigree for three generations in which the living great grandparents are aged 95 or more with children, grandchildren and great grandchildren all in good health.

If you would like to join either project send your full name, address, telephone number and email address to the Institute at Northgate, Canterbury, Kent CT1 1BA. They will then send you forms and further details.

Procat on-line catalogue

I tried out the new Public Record Office online catalogue recently and I was pleasantly surprised, indeed shocked, to find a dozen or so references to my name ranging from seventeenth century wills, to First World War records and even an abortion case in the 1930s. The Procat database provides searches through eight million document references giving a summary description. The catalogue does not contain images of the documents themselves (although this cannot be far away). It is not necessary to have any previous knowledge of the administrative history of government records as the catalogue searches all the departmental codes. There is only a small chance that a family name of a relative will be found in the catalogue, but in my case a dozen hits seems to be a rather good strike rate. The catalogue is especially helpful to local historians as entering placenames provides a wealth of documents. The catalogue can be found at www.pro.gov.uk/

A hot tip from Oxfordshire

For those with North Berkshire interests, I've just stumbled upon the fact that the Bishop's Transcripts for Appleford are now available on-line and completely free of charge. They cover the years 1563 - 1835. Go to either: http://freepages.genealogy.rootsweb.com/~pbtyc/Den/Aplford/Aplford_Ind ex.html or: http://perso.libertysurf.co.uk/pbenyon/Den/Aplford/Aplford_Index.html

Paul Gaskell, Publicity Officer
Oxfordshire Family History Society

Warfield Millennium video

After Warfield's successful Millennium Exhibition in July last year the exhibitors made a video presenting some of their material. Included are photographs illustrating the history of St. Michael's Church and of local brickmaking; finds from excavations of the sites of old houses; and local scenes, characters and agriculture. The video runs for 33 minutes and may be obtained for £1.50 plus £1.00 p&p (payable to Warfield Millennium Exhibition) from Michael Dumbleton, 25 Warfield Road, Bracknell, Berkshire RG42 2JY.

Public Record Office events

The Open Day this year will have a Victorian theme to commemorate Queen Victoria's death. Visitors will be able to sample food prepared from authentic

Victorian recipes and explore an exhibition based around an original Victorian street scene. Original material from the PRO's collections will be on display, including a letter from 'Jack the Ripper', plans of the Great Exhibition, and an informal photograph of the Queen with her children. The Open Day will also feature a series of behind-the-scenes tours and talks about our premier record collection. The Open Day will be held on Saturday September 22.

An exhibition and series of talks exploring a thousand years of immigration to Britain — from the Norman settlers to the passengers on SS Empire Windrush — will take place throughout October.

Have you caught the disease

The condition is extremely contagious to adults. It reveals itself in a need for names, dates and places. The patient has a blank expression, sometimes deaf to spouse and children. They have no taste for work of any kind, except feverishly looking through records in libraries and archives. There is a tendency to frequent strange places, like cemeteries, ruins and remote areas, making secret night calls hiding telephone bills from their spouse. Although the disease is not fatal it does get progressively worse. Patients should attend family history workshops, subscribe to genealogical magazines and be given a quiet corner in the house where they can be left alone. The usual nature of the disease is: the worse a

patient gets, the more he or she enjoys it.

Family history classes

It's September and the autumn season of adult family history courses is with us. There are three classes in the Reading area, all of them at the Adult Education Centre at Caversham. For beginners there's a class on Monday afternoons from 2pm until 4pm and for those with some experience there are two family history forums on Thursday. All the classes involve trips to record repositories and as far as possible studying real documents. The beginners class' takes students through a range of document sources and at the end of the course most will be able to trace their families for at least 150 years. If you're interested get a copy of Focus 2001 from your local library or telephone 0118 901 5272.

Oxford University Department for Continuing Education has courses throughout Oxfordshire and Berkshire. At Henley there's one on English social history and at Hungerford one on the town and village (Hungerford, Inkpen and Kintbury). At Windsor, there is Behaving Badly? Crime, Law and Order in England and Wales from the mid-eighteenth century until 1914. And at Oxford itself various subjects from archive sources at the Oxfordshire Record Office, Villages in the Landscape and an illustrated history of medicine from 1750 to the present. For information and a prospectus on all these courses call 01865 270391 or 270360.