

A logo from a late nineteenth century biscuit wrapper shows a couple crewing a narrow boat

# **Programme calendar 2002**

## **Bracknell Branch**

*Priestwood Community Centre, Priestwood Court Road, Bracknell,*

*7.15pm for 7.45pm*

- 15 Mar *Bishops' transcripts and other records.* Marjorie Moore
- 19 Apr *Ephemera can be fun.* John Chapman
- 17 May tbc
- 15 June *Bawdy courts and the family historian.* Joan Dils. Preceded by the annual branch meeting

## **Newbury Branch**

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

- 13 Mar *Tracing your Huguenot ancestors.* Michael Gandy
- 10 Apr *The name game.* Meryl Catty and Audrey Gillett
- 8 May *Visit to the Research Centre*
- 12 June AGM followed by a talk by Elaine Rawlings

## **Reading Branch**

*The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, Church End Lane, Tilehurst, Thursdays 7.15 for 7.45*

- 21 Mar *Berkshire women in the 16th and 17th centuries.* Joan Dils
- 25 Apr *Branch AGM followed by The parish chest, its content and officials.* Jean Debney
- 30 May *Newspapers - reading between the lines.* Jeanne Bunting.
- 27 June *Education records.* Richard Ratcliffe

## **White Horse Branch**

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

- 8 Apr *Members' research evening - research facilities and help desk*
- 13 May *Using the Society of Genealogists' library.* Else Churchill
- 10 June Visit to Wantage Museum. Groups by car. Meet at hall at 6.30pm, arrive Wantage 7pm

## **Windsor, Slough and Maidenhead Branch**

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

- 30 Apr *The Manor, its records and people.* Peter Park
- 28 May *Annual branch meeting followed by history in postcards.* Jean Tyler
- 15 June *Dudfins, Langles and Scummers. Inventories and the family historian.* Barbara Dixon

# Berkshire Family Historian

For family historians in the Royal County of Berkshire

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## Contents

John Gurnett  
Editor

### Features

- 122 People of the Kennet  
and Avon Canal
- 130 Reading Borough  
Police registers at  
Sulhamstead
- 140 The way we were
- 144 What a Headache
- 151 The Royal Borough  
Museum Collection
- 157 Have you lost anyone?  
The Strays Database
- 163 Email discussion  
group
- 165 '.....stepped out of a  
window while talking  
to St Paul'

### News

- 129 National Burial Index
- 135 Research Centre  
Manager
- 161 AGM notice

### Regulars

- 133 Book Ends  
New books reviewed
- 136 Letters to the Editor
- 149 The Bulletin  
news and notes
- 155 Help wanted
- 167 Members' interests
- 176 Research Centre
- 178 Postal research  
services

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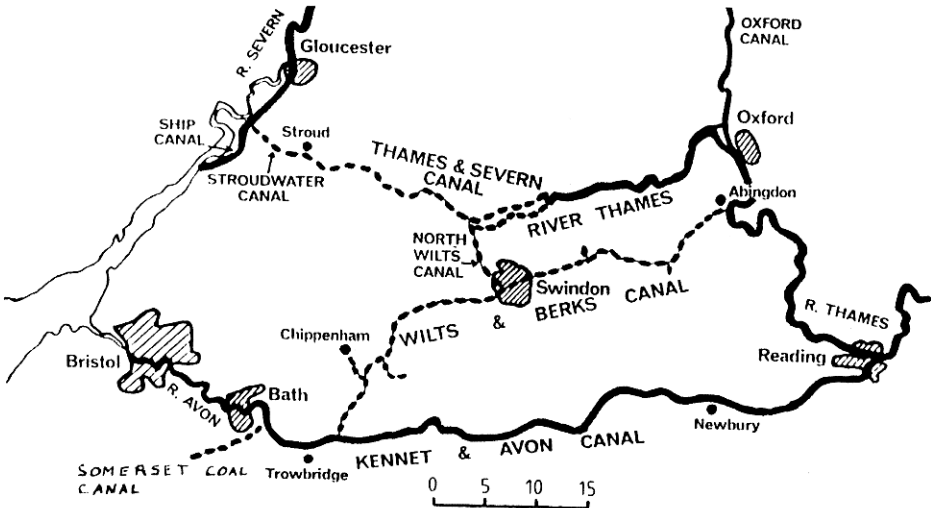
The illustration on the front cover is of a logo from a late nineteenth century biscuit wrapper showing a couple crewing a narrow boat.

**Copy deadline for the June issue is  
March 15 2002**

# People of the Kennet and Avon Canal

*Clive Hackford*

The Kennet and Avon Canal (Navigation) was a part of a revolutionary new era and we know from contemporary reports that it cut a visible scar across southern England as it provided the inland waterway link between the two major ports of Bristol and London. It ran from High Bridge in Reading to Hanham Mills at Bristol, via Newbury and Bath. From Hanham Lock to High Bridge, Reading is 87fi miles which, with the River Thames, provides a corridor for family migration.



The Company Minute Book shows that by 1823 toll receipts had reached a trading plateau. By that time the Kennet and Avon Canal Company (K&ACC) owned two wharves at Reading and Bradford-on-Avon, six at Bath and others at Aldermaston, Newbury, Hungerford, Froxfield, Great Bedwyn, Pewsey, Semington, and Hilperton. In 1823 amongst the Company's direct employees was an engineer who was paid £300, with a house, and 31 lock keepers who received 10s 6d a week plus a cottage. There were also a number of other workers including 26 labourers, 12 carpenters, a blacksmith, two pump men and a mason.

The tonnage and toll receipts reached a peak around 1840 as a result of carrying railway construction materials but serious



competition from the railway companies soon eroded the financial returns of the Company. At this time salaries were also reduced and dividends fell. The Great Western Railway took over the canal in 1852. But the 1823 figures show the extent of employment by the Canal Company at that time although it does not indicate the extent of canal business.

Throughout the country there had always been a preference by some families to travel with and to live on board the boats. There were many factors influencing such a decision but it was a practice which became more commonplace as competition with the railways developed and incomes dropped. Families, including very young children could be used as unpaid crew. Documentary evidence of this happening to any extent on the K&A remains elusive.

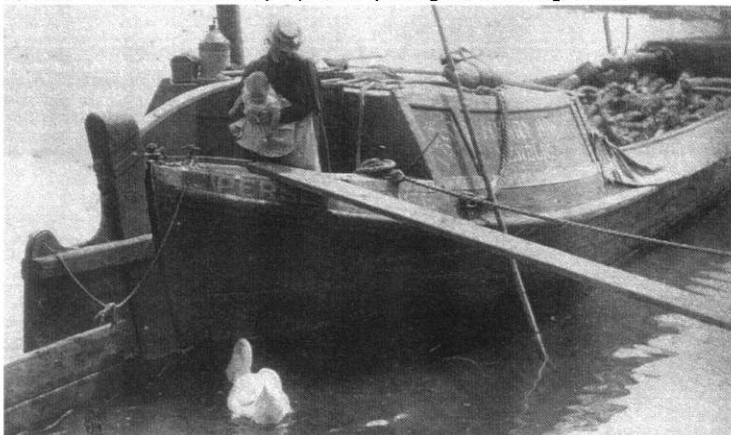
The canal is a 'broad' canal, where the locks could accommodate both barges and narrow boats. The K&A Minute Book also defines a 'wide boat' that the Company called a 'mule' at 10ft (3m) wide. Most of the supporting evidence uncovered to date for families living on board is photographic from later years. The photographs show families present on both wide boats and narrow boats. The huge 'Newbury' barges 109ft (33m) long and 17ft (5.2m) in the beam and carrying 120 tons worked the Thames and the Kennet up to Newbury but needed eight to 12 horses to haul against the river current, worked by at least six men; definitely at that time a male preserve. So an ethos of male prominence was handed down, reinforced later by K&ACC rules defining the number of men to crew the 'fly boats' providing the five day through service with from Bristol to London. In 1844 the Company ruled that each barge or pair of boats working 'fly' (fast service with navigational priority) must be crewed by a captain



*Narrow boat 'Caroline' at lock 29 at the bottom of Caen Hill*

and four men; also that each single boat must be crewed by a captain and three men.

Some families did travel with the boats, mostly the narrow boats and wide boats in the 'slow' trade. This is evidenced by the photographs of the narrow boat *Caroline* owned by William Escott of Seend captured at the bottom of Caen Hill, Devizes c.1897 and the photograph of the wide boat *Perserverance* owned by Bill Chivers (formerly by Henry Bright) and captured



*Wide boat 'Perserverance' photographed in 1913*

unloading round timber beside a log cutting operation at Thames Side at Reading in 1913. Henry Bright and Bill Chivers operated from Newbury, both on the Kennet and on the Thames.

Typically the boats were crewed by men but this did include father and son teams. The late Tom Hams and his father, George, both worked as barge men for Robbins, Lane and Pinniger (RL&P), established in 1812 as boat builders, traders and sawmill owners at Honeystreet. Tom claimed that his father earned 12s a week as captain of the barge *Unity*. Towards the end of the nineteenth century this was below the national average for this work but if a captain did not have to pay for his crew or stabling for the horse and had housing provided, then it could have been a reasonable income. During his later years shortly before his death, George worked the *Unity* to bring sand, ballast and cement from London to aid in the construction of the National Defence line of gun emplacements and tank obstacles which followed the Canal across southern England during the Second World War. During this time

he worked a 15-hour day, sleeping on board at night. George also spent a large part of his life carrying tin plate boxes from RL&P to Bristol for South Wales and returning from Avonmouth with deal boards and scantlings. Alec Huntley who lived beside the canal remembered timber stamped with exotic sounding names such as Archangel, Murmansk, Bergen and Oslo. RL&P also ran a fertiliser factory at Honeystreet and Tom used to take the *Unity* to Avonmouth to pick up carboys of acid using two horses to haul the laden barge back up the Avon and on to Honeystreet because the GWR considered the cargo too hazardous to carry by rail. But only one horse was needed to return the empty carboys, so two days



*'Unity' entering the eastern portal of Bruce Tunnel at Savernake as both horses are led over the top*

after the barge departed the second horse would be walked to Woodborough station to catch the train for Bristol and meet up with the barge.

Honeystreet was an important trading point on the K&A with virtually the whole village owned by RL&P who also provided housing for their workers. With such rural stability it is not surprising that families did not migrate but enjoyed stability for more than a century.

Boats trading beyond the K&A Canal and the Thames were almost certainly narrow boats as both the Wilts and Berks Canal (W&B) and the Oxford Canal were narrow, the locks being only 7 feet (2.1m) wide. It is likely that family migration was more likely to follow the narrow boat trade.

Jack James is pictured sitting on the roof of his narrow boat, *Jack*, a horse drawn butty, with his wife standing in the doorway to the cabin, a photograph taken at Kennet Side in Reading in 1923. Family living on board is indicated by the care of the cabin paintwork and the polished brass rings of the chimney of the range. As on all narrow boats the cabin space would have been 8ft 6ins (2.6m) long and 6ft 6ins (2m) wide. Accommodation would have comprised the cooking range on the left as one entered down the steps, a side bench on the right, a floor to roof cupboard with a drop down table on the left beyond the range and then a bed folding down from the left to cross the boat at the bulkhead. Coal was kept under the steps and fresh water in a can or barrel on the roof. The GWR did not permit steam or motor driven boats



*Jack James' boat 'Jack' at Kennet Side, Reading 1923*

without special permission as they were said to travel too fast and cause bank wash but these craft did have one extra luxury; a bucket in the engine room provided toilet facilities.

Jack James was in partnership with Bill Chivers and Jack Garner in a company called Thames Transport. During the 1930s the business went bankrupt and Jack moved to the Oxford Canal where he traded coal to Oxford for a number of years. He then converted the boat for more spacious residential use and lived on it with his wife on the Trill Mill Stream at Oxford. He later joined the newly formed Grand Union Carrying Company as a skipper, where he earned enough capital to buy a house at Stoke Bruerne and become the lock keeper there. This is just one example of events leading to a family's migration following the waterways.

Huntley and Palmers' biscuit factory at Reading transported their products by water, thus reducing breakages. The logo from a late nineteenth century biscuit wrapper shows a couple crewing a

narrow boat (*see front cover illustration* ). Coal for the factory was brought down from the Midlands by Barlow's boats via the Oxford Canal and the Thames to the factory on the K&A at Reading. These would probably have been family boats, on journeys of such distance.

But families did work wide boats and barges on the K&A and the Thames. The photograph of wide boats above Newbury Lock c.1920 shows the outer wide boat nearest the lock has a fore cabin as well as the main cabin at the stern. This would provide sleeping accommodation for up to two extra people, usually children, and is such a rarity on a wide boat on the K&A that it could be the *Perseverance* already referred to and attributed to Bill Chivers. It is known that Chivers traded on the Kennet and on the Thames to London, part of his general trading being to carry the products of Simonds' brewery from Reading to London for export.

Accommodation in a wide boat was simply more spacious than the narrow boat with a cabin up to 9ft (2.9m) wide. The Kennet barges at 13ft 10ins (4.2m) in the beam had markedly different accommodation. The cabin was below the stern deck



*Above Newbury lock c. 1920*

with access via a deck level companionway from the bulkhead. This had a lift off hatch and as one descended the steps the stove or range was on the right. Seats and bunks were diagonally on either side with cupboards and a drop table at the stern. The helmsman stood on a platform in front of the cabin with quite a long tiller.

In the same Newbury photograph the part sunken wide boat is the then redundant *Defiance* owned by another well-known

Berkshire trader J T Ferris who was the last of a family of canal traders. The *Defiance* had a payload of 60 tons and until 1919 carried grain from the Hungerford area to mills at Burghfield, Aldermaston and Newbury.

Yet another Newbury trading family was H Dolton & Son Ltd., corn merchants. With their wide boat *Betty* carrying 60 tons and with a narrow boat (c. 30 tons) they carried grain from all points as far west as Wootton Rivers, delivering to mills on the Kennet with some trade on the Thames until 1915.

Full consideration of the people of the K&A Canal would go beyond the few examples which space has allowed and to do full justice to the subject would include disciplines other than boat people. But as a closing note it is important to mention the lockkeepers/lengthsmen and to select just one example. The census of 1891 shows that David Mizen, son of Robert Mizen, occupied the lock cottage at the top of the Bath flight of locks. His eldest brother, Emanuel, was listed as a canal labourer at this time and Robert lived there in the later stages of his life. Subsequently Great Western records show that the family had started to spread along the canal and the name reappears further east at Seend. The lock keepers did not necessarily work the locks for the boatmen but had responsibilities for maintenance and possibly inspection of a section of canal. They kept logs and reports for the company or the engineering workshops. The lock keepers were the eyes and ears of the canal and knew probably better than anyone all the latest news.

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# National Burial Index

These are the parishes and periods which have been added to Berkshire Family History Society's Burial Index since the position shown in the December 2001 issue of the *Berkshire Family Historian*. So far we have 151,000 entries in our index.

Barkham St James 1733 - 1740 (BTs)  
Bearwood St Catherine 1846 - 1890  
Bray St Michael 1838 - 1860 and 1874 - 1888  
Brightwalton All Saints 1713 - 1805  
Brimpton St Peter 1678 - 1734  
Caversham St Peter 1830 - 1843 and 1856 - 1869  
Clewer St Andrew 1805 - 1837  
Cookham Holy Trinity 1731 - 1742, 1793 - 1812 and 1882 - 1935  
Earley St Peter 1900 - 1916  
Easthampstead SS Michael & Mary Magdalene 1734 - 1768  
Enborne St Michael & All Angels 1607 - 1638 (BTs)  
Frilsham St Frideswide 1607 - 1710 (BTs) and 1769 - 1804 (BTs)  
Grazeley Holy Trinity 1905 - 1964  
Hurst St Nicholas 1579 - 1582 (BTs), 1605 - 1621 (BTs) and 1633 - 1763  
Lambourn St Michael & All Angels 1693 - 1732  
Midgham St Matthew 1753 - 1812  
Reading Holy Trinity 1834 - 1855  
Reading St Giles 1714 - 1728 and 1747 - 1778  
Reading St Laurence 1730 - 1735  
Speen St Mary the Virgin 1706 - 1750  
Sunninghill St Michael & All Angels 1653 - 1740  
West Shefford St Mary 1599 - 1693  
Winkfield St Mary 1841 - 1861

Details of the postal service for researching burials in the Berkshire Burial Index are given on page 179.



## Reading Borough Police registers at Sulhamstead

*John Bowley*



*PC49 John Weller*

The museum at the Thames Valley Police Training College at Sulhamstead contains an exceptional collection, including uniforms and equipment, and accounts of notorious crimes committed in Berkshire in Victorian times.

The Metropolitan Police Force was created by Home Secretary Sir Robert Peel in 1829, but it took another 27 years before counties and boroughs established their own police forces. Reading was more progressive than most towns, establishing its own force in 1836.

Among the many documents in the Sulhamstead collection I concentrated on just one volume that simply stated on the leather bound cover 'Police Register'. This turned out to be a record of recruits joining the Reading Borough Police force between the years 1865 and 1890 (Reference No. RB7). It was only possible to discover that this related to Reading from the street names which are mentioned in the individual reports and which would be familiar to us today. It begins with a helpful index and includes the records of 260 young men, mostly between the ages of 20 and 30 who joined the Reading force during these years. The entries contain details of age, height, complexion, hair and eye colour and trade. The 'parish and county' is also given although it is not clear if this indicates place of birth or residence.

Previous service in the police and armed forces is often given and may contain details of the number of years and days of service and sometimes regimental name or number. Many recruits did have previous service, although others have trades like labourers, grooms, gamekeepers and gardeners.

Whether these backgrounds fitted men for service in the police is doubtful. Some did not pass the medical examination, others were never 'sworn in', indicating that they did not pass the induction process and by the time they resigned or were dismissed, sometimes after as little as three months, they had collected an unfavourable disciplinary record.

These are contained in a volume under the heading of 'reports' and they give a significant insight into the way in which the police service was run in Victorian times. The constable was essentially a beat officer in that he was expected to patrol a given beat around the streets of Reading, mostly during the hours of darkness. He was expected to report to his sergeant or other superior officers at certain times and in certain places during the evening and night. If he was late in reporting he was put 'on report' and these details are included in this volume. This procedure would not seem to leave much room for initiative, although late reporting could mean that the constable concerned was asleep somewhere, as the entry 'found asleep in Abbey Square' indicates.

Many of the problems concerned with the policing of Reading would have been associated with the supervision of the many public houses in the town. Social historians of the time would gain a valuable insight into the running of alehouses and public houses in Reading from this volume.

Constables were required to regulate the running of public houses without succumbing to the obvious temptations. Many constables manifestly failed to do so. How one officer managed to leave his staff in the lavatory of a public house is difficult to imagine. Another lost his cape, belt, staff and lantern in a fight; his punishment was to be dismissed from the force whilst being asked to pay 5s. for the missing lantern.

Not every recruit fell foul of the system. Many had exemplary records and gained promotion through the second class, first class and merit class of police constable. Once they attained the rank of sergeant they disappear from this record, although their names may reappear in the report section previously mentioned when reporting their underlings for misdemeanors.

Many of the officers who went on to make a career in the police seem to have had their records transferred to a second volume (Reference No. RB27), which covers the period 1866 to 1913 and which in some cases gives details of pensions and even date of death. There is a hundred year rule and not all the details are freely available.

In all I found cataloging these records a most rewarding experience and would commend them to anyone who suspects that an ancestor may have served in the Reading Police. Many of the recruits came from all over the country. I found one from Dornock in Scotland. What was he doing in Berkshire?

The early records are being indexed and will eventually be incorporated into the Berkshire Name Index held at the BFHS Research Centre, Yeomanry House, Reading, for the benefit of all members.

The Police Museum at Sulhamstead is run on a voluntary basis by Ken Wells who is not in attendance every day. Because of this, and for security reasons, researchers are asked to make an appointment by telephoning the Training College at Sulhamstead on 0118 953 6000. Alternatively you may leave a message on Ken Wells' answer phone on 0118 932 5748. The museum is self-financing and a small fee for searching the records is requested.

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# Book Ends

*Jean Debney*

**Sonning Common in the Nineteenth century – ‘A Little World Apart’. Jill Kendal (2000); A4, gold card cover, illustrated, 58pp. UK £6.15, Overseas £7.15**

Although the text doesn't make it very clear, it seems that Sonning Common, which lies on the north side of the river Thames, was formed at an unrecorded date from part of the Liberty of Eye & Sonning in the parish of Sonning (Berkshire), part of Shiplake (Oxfordshire) and a little bit of Kidmore End. The text, arranged in two columns, is easy to read although there are occasional uncorrected 'typos' when the text was scanned. Different nineteenth century sources are dealt with in turn, analysed and illustrated with maps, facsimile documents and photographs. The sources are detailed inside the back cover. Of special interest is a three-page list of residents with a map of who lived where and when between 1842 and 1891. For family historians there are lots of names (unindexed) which makes it a 'must-have' if your ancestors came from here – or even if you just have a more general interest in the district.

**Public Record Office – Pocket Guides to Family History. Wh/lam covers, 4.5” x 6.8”/250 x 300mm, 64pp. UK £4.35 Overseas, £4.55**

Getting started in family history - David Annal (2000, revised edn. 2001)

Using Birth, Marriage & Death Records (2000)

Using Census Returns (2000)

Using Wills - Karen Grannum (2000, revised edn. 2001)

Using Poor Law Records - Simon Fowler (2001)

Tracing Nonconformist Ancestors - Michael Gandy (2001)

Tracing Catholic Ancestors - Michael Gandy (2001)

Using Army Records (2000)

Using Navy Records (2000)

Using Medal Records - William Spencer (2001)

Tracing Irish Ancestors - Simon Fowler (2001)

Tracing Scottish Ancestors - Simon Fowler (2001)

Using Criminal Records - Ruth Paley (2001)

Using Education & Apprenticeship Records - Simon Fowler (due 2002)

This has now become a very useful series of fourteen small guides that can be slipped into the pocket for easy reference during a research trip. Some of the topics may be found in other basic publications but others are a first in such a format and all contain something of interest. Identical in size and format, their white laminated covers have a fresh, distinctive style. The detailed contents list includes each sub-section for easy location. There is definitely something to be found here for everyone - from beginners to experienced family historians.

**One-Place Genealogy. David Hawgood (2001) A5, black on blue card over, 64pp £4.25, Overseas £4.55**

This small booklet is a very useful first attempt to list those local history researchers who have knowledge both of a particular place and also the records that contain lists of names. This means that such studies, where known, will be invaluable to those family historians who, finding their ancestor originates from a particular place, can access further information.

In chapters two to four, the author discusses access to information by post, email, websites and printed sources, different types of study, where to look for information and, finally, how some one-place studies started. This is followed by a list of studies by county (only two for Berkshire so far) and an index of topics and researchers' names.

**All these books, and many more, are available from our Bookshop. If you would like to obtain a copy of one of the books reviewed here or obtain an up to date list of the books we have in stock write to the BFHS Bookshop, Research Centre, Yeomanry House, 131 Castle Hill, Reading RG1 7TJ**

## Situations vacant

*Chad Hanna chad@chadhanna.co.uk*

Ivan and June Dickason have decided to step down from their posts of Research Centre Manager and Library Assistant Co-ordinator in March or April. Anyone who has had anything to do with our Research Centre will know the major part they have played in organising, promoting and ensuring the smooth running of our Research Centre. They will be a hard act to follow, although there will be continuing help and support of the many library assistants and remaining six members of the Research Centre committee.

The Centre couldn't function without a rota of reliable Library Assistants. The co-ordinator is needed to telephone, talk and persuade assistants to fill in the gaps in the roster. This would clearly suit someone who likes to use the telephone to talk with other family historians!

New library assistants are always needed, both to replace those who drop by the wayside, and to make sure that no library assistant has to spend more time than they want in helping at the Centre. Our Centre needs to be promoted to get more visitors and to involve new library assistants who then need to be trained in the methods and procedures.

The Centre Manager chairs the committee and deals with matters that may arise with the Berkshire Record Office and the Registry Office with whom we share the site and building. In addition, the Society's lease on the Centre expires in May 2003, and the Research Centre Manager would be involved in negotiating a new lease and co-ordinating improvements to the centre.

For more details, contact the Society Chairman, Chad Hanna in the first instance on 0118 966 3585 or email him at [chairman@berksfhs.org.uk](mailto:chairman@berksfhs.org.uk)

## Letters to the Editor

*Colin Brown, Lynwood, 4 All Hallows Road, Caversham, Reading RG4 5LP*

### **Research Centre**

As a library assistant at the Centre I am often surprised at the way members and visitors restrict themselves to what is on computers and to the published 1851 census material available for the rest of the country. Seldom do people look into the library proper.

There are four books of maps for London, showing almost all the houses in all the streets at four different periods in the nineteenth century. There is a set of fiche of almost all the parish registers of Surrey from the earliest date to 1850. There is a book for Lancashire giving details of what parish registers exist, where they are and the dates they cover, including those of Liverpool and Manchester.

Few people with Wiltshire interests can fail to find something relating to their families in the large books on the bottom shelf under Wiltshire. The Berkshire Poor Law books make fascinating reading in their own right, but if you have interests in Berkshire or in the adjoining counties it is unlikely there will be nothing of interest. And lots more.

However, how often do visitors even glance at all this material? The answer must be seldom. A lecturer told me: 'If it's not on computer most people don't want to know'. It's a great pity, isn't it?

*Bob Brock, 55 Richards Way, Slough SL1 5TR*

I was interested in the letter from Sue Hedges in the last *Berkshire Family Historian*, and in the Chairman's column. I think there's a link here. I have to admit that, despite thinking about it a few times, I've never yet visited the Research Centre. As a full-time worker, mostly commuting to London during the week, the only time I have for research is in the late evenings or the very occasional weekend. Unfortunately this rules out most times the Research Centre is open, so that's one resource I've yet



to use. The one time I did think I might be able to pop in was when the rest of the family was shopping in Reading one Saturday, but of course Saturdays are closed days, so that was a non-starter. As a consequence of the limited research time I have available, I tend to do most of my research from the comfort of home – using PC and Internet – the main attraction being that I can do so when I have the odd half hour to spare. This brings me to Chad's point – PCs are not that good at reading microfiche, so publications in that form are largely useless to me. I've been carrying round a members' interests fiche with me for two years now without having been near a fiche reader. However, publication on CD-Rom or even on a paid-for website would be a boon. I realise that my situation is different to that of a lot of researchers, who may have more time available, or not be as comfortable with computing resources as I am, but I hope these notes may help explain why at least one member has not yet used the many valuable facilities at the Research Centre.

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

#### **'Lord' George Sanger**

My thanks to Mr. Edward H. Cohen for pointing out that the Sherlock Holmes story 'The Veiled Lodger' contains a supposed description of 'Lord' George Sanger; I must read it. I wonder if other readers know that the first Sherlock Holmes story 'A Study in Scarlet', published in 1887, reflects the widespread fear and condemnation of many for the Mormon Church at that time.

*Valerie Alasia, 32 Makins Road, Henley-on-Thames, Oxon RG9 1PP*

My thanks go to Edward H. Cohen of Florida for his letter in the December issue of the *Historian* concerning 'Lord' George Sanger. When the original article appeared in the September 2000 issue I took little interest, as I thought it had little to do with me. But to my astonishment, I have since learnt through contact through the members' interests lists, that my maternal great-great-grandmother was involved with the older brother, John Sanger, to the extent that he is said to be the father of the three children which she brought into her eventual marriage with my great-grandfather.

So it was with the greatest interest that I returned to the original article by Julie Goddard and was also delighted to find the photograph of the Sanger family grave at Margate – a post-war holiday place for me. If only I had then known who was buried there and his connection (what my family would have called a ‘socket-hole relation’ – is that Bedfordshire-speak?).

*Syd Quartermain, Garden Cottage, Tarvin Sands, Tarvin, Chester CH3 8JD*

### **Colliers of Yattendon**

I am trying to find if there are any relatives of Richard (Dick) Collier and Elizabeth (Bessy) Quarterman. They lived at Yattendon at the time of Bessy’s death. I believe they had twins, Richard and Diane. Bessy was born around 1903 at Peasmore, and died sometime between the wars. None of the family seem to know what happened to the children after the death of their mother. I was told by a cousin some years ago that Dick Collier had either one or both legs amputated. The reason for me trying to find any descendants is that during the summer the last of my cousins from Oxford died and her son has sent me some old photographs that belonged to his grandmother (my aunt). Since I contacted the BFHS discussion group I have been given more old photographs of my grandmother with the girls (all three together). I have also found out which is which aunt in the photograph.

I would also like to know if there is anybody interested in a George Brooks or a Harriet Prince. Harriet was born around 1842 possibly at Leckhamstead. I am also trying to track down an ancestor with the Christian name of Aubrey, born around 1914.

*Mr. G.M.Povey, 6 Pullfields, Chesham, Buckinghamshire HP5 2RB*

### **William John Povey**

I was very interested to read the article by Pauline Houldey in the September issue on ‘An appeal for a mangle’. My great-grandfather was William John Povey, the elder brother of Letitia, Pauline’s great-grandmother. I have only been researching my family history for a few months, but I also found Hannah Povey (née Havell) of interest. The birth certificate of William John

Povey shows his mother as Ellen Povey, née Havell, who lived at 3 Gas Court, Friar Street, although his baptism record shows his mother as Hannah, also resident at Gas Court. I may be able to provide an answer to Pauline's question regarding Hannah's future. In the 1871 census I found William at 12 Chatham Street, Reading, along with two younger brothers, shown as sons of John and Hannah Langham. She is shown as a common wife, although whether or not she married John is unknown at this stage. The same family appears at 27 Chatham Street in the 1881 census, but without William who was by then married. Intriguingly John's wife is shown as Ellen Langham, birthplace Woodcote, Oxon., the same place as Hannah. I haven't yet checked her birth certificate to see whether she had two Christian names.

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## The way we were

*The following extracts are taken from an anthology of Elizabethan writing originally collected by Professor John Dover Wilson and published in 1911.<sup>1</sup> The passages are taken from documentary witnesses of the time and reveal the differences between social classes in the time of the first Queen Elizabeth.*

### **England and the English**

The air of England is temperate, but thick, cloudy and misty. For the sun draweth up the vapours of the sea which compasseth the island and distils them upon the earth in frequent showers of rain, so that frosts are somewhat rare; and howsoever snow may often fall in the winter time, yet in the southern parts (especially) it seldom lies long on the ground. Also the cool blasts of sea winds mitigate the heat of summer.

By reason of this temper, laurel and rosemary flourish all winter, especially in the southern parts, and in summer time England yields apricots plentifully, musk melons in good quantity, and figs in some places, all which ripen well, and happily imitate the taste and goodness of the same fruits of Italy. And by the same reason all beasts bring forth their young in the open fields, even in the time of winter. It hath multitudes of hurtful birds, as crows, ravens and kites, and they labour not to destroy the crows consuming great quantity of corn, because they feed on worms and other things hurtful to the corn. And in great cities it is forbidden to kill kites and ravens, because they devour the filth of the streets.

### **Of gentlemen**

Ordinarily the king doth only make knights and create barons or higher degrees: for as for gentlemen, they be made good cheap in England. For whosoever studieth the laws of the realm, who studieth in the universities, who professeth liberal sciences, and to be short, who can live idly and without manual labour, and will bear the port, charge and countenance of a gentleman, he shall be called master. And (if need be) a king of heralds shall also give him for money arms, newly made and invented, the title whereof shall pretend to have been found by the said herald in perusing

and viewing of old registers, where his ancestors in times past had been recorded to bear the same.



An Elizabethan huntsman

### Of citizens and burgesses

Next to gentlemen, be appointed citizens and burgesses, such as not only be free and received as officers within the cities, but also be of some substance to serve the commonwealth in their cities and boroughs.

### Of yeomen

Those whom we call yeomen next unto the nobility, knights and squires, have the greatest charge and doings in the commonwealth, or rather are more travailed to serve in it than all the rest. I call him a yeoman whom our laws do call *legalem hominem*, a word familiar in writs and inquests, which is a freeman born English, and may dispend of his own free land in yearly revenue to the sum of 40s. sterling: this maketh (if the just

value were taken now to the proportion of monies) £6 of our current money at this present. This sort of people confess themselves to be no gentleman, and yet they have certain pre-eminence and more estimation than labourers and artificers, and commonly live wealthily, keep good hours, and do their business and travail to acquire riches.

#### **Of the fourth sort of men which do not rule**

The fourth sort or class amongst us is of those which the old Romans called *capite censi proletarii* or *operae*, day labourers,



*A woodcut of a sixteenth-century yeoman*

poor husbandmen, yea merchants and retailers which have no free land, copyholders, and all artificers, as tailors, shoemakers, carpenters, brickmakers, masons, etc. These have no voice nor authority in our commonwealth, and no account is made of them but only to be ruled, not to rule other, and yet they be not altogether neglected. For in cities and corporate towns for default of yeomen, inquests and juries are impanelled of such

manner of people. And in villages they be commonly made churchwardens, aleconners, and many times constables, which office toucheth more the commonwealth and at the first was not employed upon such low and base persons.<sup>2</sup>

### **The English – a foreign view**

The English are grave like the Germans, lovers of shew; followed wherever they go by whole troops of servants, who wear their masters' arms in silver fastened to their left arms. They excel in dancing and music, for they are active and lively. They are good sailors, and better pirates, cunning, treacherous, and thievish; above 300 are said to be hanged annually at London. Hawking is the common sport of the gentry. They are more polite in eating than the French, consuming less bread, but more meat, which they roast in perfection. Their beds are covered with tapestry, even those of farmers. Their houses are commonly of two stories, except in London, where they are of three and four; they are built of wood, those of the richer sort with bricks. If they see a foreigner, very well made or particularly handsome, they will say, 'It is a pity he is not an Englishman'.<sup>3</sup>

### **English snobbery**

In London, the rich disdain the poor. The courtier the citizen. The citizen the country man. One occupation disdaineth another. The merchant the retailer. The retailer the craftsman. The better sort of craftsman the baser. The shoemaker the cobbler. The cobbler the carman. One nice dame disdains her next door neighbour should have that furniture to her house, or dainty dish or device, which she wants. She will not go to church, because she disdains to mix herself with base company, and cannot have her close pew by herself.<sup>4</sup>

1 John Dover Wilson, *Life in Shakespeare's England*, 1911

2 Sir Thomas Smith, *De Republica Anglorum*, 1583 (written c. 1551)

3 Paul Hentzner, *Travels in England*, 1598

4 Thomas Nashe, *Christ's Teares over Jerusalem*, 1593



## What a Headache

*Kevin Herridge*

My father, Albert Herridge, was born in Canning Town, East London in 1920. After watching Gordon Honeycombe's television programme, 'Discovering Your Family History', in the early 1980s, I became hooked and asked about my Dad's family. He thought his father, John Herridge, was also born in Canning Town, in 1880, but apart from that knew very little about his family. Neither did his brothers or sister. A search for his birth at St. Catherine's House, as it then was, revealed nothing and it was not until a couple of years later that I found his baptism at St. Lukes Church, Canning Town, in 1885. The baptism stated he was born in 1881. As I came to a standstill on this line I devoted time to tracing other lines on my mother's side and listing all the Herridges in the IGI, making them all into little family trees. Through much research I finally got back to the marriage of Thomas Herridge and Eliza Josey in 1850, in Paddington.



*A gargoyle with a real headache*

From census returns I discovered they were both born in Purley, Berkshire. All those little family trees I had assembled from the IGI proved extremely helpful as the Purley family connection took me back to the marriage of Richard Herridge and Sarah Wells at Hampstead Norris in 1772. At this point, in the early to mid-seventeenth century all my little family trees came to an abrupt halt. There were no more Herridges, even in other counties. They all came to a dead end. By this time I had joined the Berkshire Family History Society and met, amongst others, fellow members Jean Debney and Michael Young. They both had checked more parish records than I had had hot dinners and Jean soon discovered that the family had changed its name between 1700 and 1750 to Herridge from Headache. If this was true, I thought, what a perfect surname for someone with the genealogy bug. Family history research had certainly given me plenty of headaches.

A little sceptical at first, I went back to the IGI and went through every county again, making family trees of Headaches and assorted misspellings and combinations of the two. Suddenly it was like lots of little jigsaw puzzles all falling into place at the same time. I had been told that the IGI was notoriously incorrect but after several visits to the Berkshire Record Office, and getting others to help me, double checking church records and purchasing all the Herridge and Headache wills, everything made sense. My surname was originally Headache although probably pronounced Hed-atch or Hed-ash. From here on I proved a definite line to the children of Richard Headache and Agnes in Bucklebury (first child baptized 1587). Richard was probably descended from another Richard Headache (died 1556) and Jane (died 1558). Richard's claim to fame was found in the Lay Subsidy Roll of 1524/25: 'Assessments of the Hundreds of Redyng and Theles, Co. Berks., to the second payment of the subsidy granted 16 Henry VIII Bukelbury: Richard Heddyche, wages – valour 20s subsidy 4d'. If anyone can explain what that means I would dearly like to know.

The 'History of Bucklebury' by A. L. Humphreys and the Bucklebury Manorial Court Rolls show Headaches and variations of the name dating back to 1337. The History of Bucklebury states: 'Headache – This is the name of one of the most ancient Bucklebury families. In 1337, John Headache (ate Hache) (a brewer) is mentioned in the Court Rolls by the ale-tasters'.

He or another John (Hidhacche), was mentioned in the Views of Frankpledge in 1356. His beer was apparently not up to scratch as he was 'presented for breaches of the assize of ale by Richard Trussehare, the ale-conner'. I found that an ale-conner was responsible for testing the brews by pouring it on a bench and sitting in it in moleskin breeches. As a very early member of the Campaign For Real Ale I seem to have been descended from a long line of ale-testers. It is depressing when I go back to London to find young kids drinking Budweiser beer (I use the word beer tentatively – it says it on the bottle). But I digress. I am in the process now of starting a Herridge Society, putting all my information on the web, and when I mentioned the ale-conner story to Vernon Herridge he said his mother-in-law's mother used to work in a pub in Somerset. In her youth she remembered that men used to 'test' beer by pouring some onto a bench and sitting in it in leather breeches. If the bench stuck to the breeches it was good beer but if not, they reckoned it had been watered down. So where did the name originate? Apparently from Old French. Hatch is an early form of gate, and they took their name from the position of their home, the family that lived near the gate. I have also written a longer version of my Herridge/Headache family history (about 20 pages) and will be willing to send it to anyone with family connections. Although this is a much shortened and fairly simplified story, my family history research really has been a headache from start to finish. For more information on the family contact me on [cockney@bellsouth.net](mailto:cockney@bellsouth.net).

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# The Royal Borough Museum Collection

*Olivia Gooden*

There is little doubt that the Internet is beginning to dominate family history research. Over the past 20 years genealogy has undergone a dramatic change with resources like the IGI and online facilities from the Public Record Office, the Society of Genealogists and many county record offices. Just this year perhaps one of the most extensive and exciting trends has been the opening of the 1901 census on the Internet.

But we continue to rely on books, parish registers and census returns. For those starting out there is plenty of good advice on what records to look for, and how to navigate one's way around places such as the Public Record Office and the Family Records Centre. Many people will begin their family history research by visiting a local library and sometimes a local record office. Others will begin a search on the Internet and many will join a local family history society. But how many people will think of making use of a potentially very rich source of information which is right under their noses – their local museum?

Family and local history are inextricably linked. For those whose ancestors were born and bred in the same area, a local museum can provide a mine of historical information, which sets family history in context and can sometimes help answer those elusive questions family historians frequently encounter. Local history museums (most, though by no means all, towns or boroughs in England are served by one) can assist in ways you may not have thought possible. In researching your family history it becomes necessary to get a feel for the kind of life your ancestors led, and the types of objects and documents collected by the local museum often cover a whole range of human activity: from education, industry, trade and religious life to military, civic and social life. Museum objects help to piece together the jigsaw and build up a picture of what life was like for people in the past, the curiosity for which underpins much family history. You may have discovered that your ancestor was a serviceman, for example, and the local museum may have examples of the regimental badges worn by him, or a uniform or even a photograph of the ship he served on. Or perhaps you will find photographs of the street your ancestors

lived in, or the schools and churches they attended, or examples of the tools and equipment they used in their work.

The Royal Borough Museum Collection (RBMC) is the local history museum collection for the Royal Borough of Windsor & Maidenhead. It comprises some 6,000 items which give a picture of life in the area from prehistoric times to today. These items range from archaeological finds, maps, paintings, prints and drawings to models, photographs, books, costume and miscellaneous objects. The whole of the borough is covered, from Bisham to Horton and Eton Wick to Sunningdale, including the three main towns of Windsor, Maidenhead and Ascot, although the bulk of the collection relates to Windsor.

Newspapers are a valuable source of information for family history, and the RBMC has a limited, but representative, collection of original and copy newspapers; some copies of the *Windsor & Eton Express* (generally one edition only) for individual years from 1871 to some copies of the *Illustrated London News*, 1862 and 1868, as well as the *Windsor & Eton Gazette* and the *Slough Eton & Windsor Observer*.

We also hold a paper copy of the 1881 census for the area, which many visitors find easier to read than the microfilm in the library.

Street directories are another important resource, and currently the RBMC has several copies of Kelly's Directories of Windsor (various dates) and Directories of Berkshire (1920 and 1935) and one of Reading (1958). There are also a large number of books in the collection relating to local history, which will provide useful background material for family historians.

A major source of information for those whose ancestors were known to have served in the Great War is the RBMC's Ken Shepherd Archive. Ken Shepherd was a local man who spent much of his life tracing names on war memorials in the Windsor area. He researched around 600 men remembered on memorials in Clewer, Dedworth, Windsor and Eton Wick. An index of the archive was created after Ken's untimely death in 1994, a copy of which is held by the RBMC. The Ken Shepherd Archive does not cover men who served in the Berkshire Regiment who are covered on other memorials, but it is an excellent resource for family historians tracing ancestors lost in the First World War.<sup>1</sup> The RBMC also holds some records of research carried out by a local historian on war memorials in Maidenhead.

There are other documents relating to servicemen in the museum collection, such as death certificates, pension books and letters, as well as a collection of military service medals and costume.

Museum collections can evoke the past in a unique way. A soldier called William Woolhouse who served in the First World War, for example, is well represented in the RBMC by a paybook, pension book, discharge certificate and motor licence, amongst other items. It is moving to read the postcard sent by William Woolhouse to his mother at Eton Wick when he was a prisoner of war in Germany, and then to learn that he was granted a place in 1925 in one of the 'homes for heroes' of the First World War in South View, the first council houses in Eton Wick.<sup>2</sup>



A sample of the material in the Museum

There are items relating to the Berkshire Provincial Yeomanry Company, the Royal Berkshire Regiment and a number of photographs, newspaper cuttings, a helmet, torch and medals belonging to members of the Dyson family in connection with Windsor Volunteer Fire Brigade. Local groups and societies, from

scout groups, swimming associations, football teams and rowing clubs are all represented in the RBMC by photographs, programmes, tickets, cups and trophies. A recent acquisition of minute books, correspondence and costume regulation books from the Windsor Ladies Swimming Club, provides a fascinating resource for local family historians who may have known a relative involved with the swimming club.

School records can be of real value to the family historian. The RBMC has some school certificates of attendance and excellence, registers, photographs of pupils, school play programmes and some report cards – for example, a set of reports for a Jocelyn Stubbs at Maidenhead County Girls School in 1956, on which her mathematics teacher has written: ‘She must now learn to set out her figures more tidily!’

If your ancestor was involved in civic life, the RBMC has some material relating to mayors and councillors. There are several portraits of mayors of Maidenhead, including Lord Desborough, Alderman Richard Silver, Joseph Clark, Richard Withal and Alderman Hewitt. Key historical figures, such as Doris Mellor, Charles Knight Jnr. and Snr., Sydney and Frederick Camm and Samuel Logan are all represented by archives, photographs and books in the collection.

Photographs will provide the family historian with a great deal of assistance, but only if they are clearly identified on the back. There are over 1000 photographs in the RBMC, many of them providing useful background information on specific places, buildings, events or fashions. You may even be lucky enough to spot someone you know whilst browsing through them. Maps are another key resource for family history research, and there are a large number of maps of various dates (copies and originals) in the collection, from ordnance survey maps of the local area to plans of the towns and villages of the Royal Borough.

The Royal Borough Museum Collection is open to the public on Wednesdays, and other days by appointment. RBMC, Tinkers Lane, Windsor, SL4 4LR. Tel: 01628 796829. Email: [museum.collections@rbwm.gov.uk](mailto:museum.collections@rbwm.gov.uk)

1 *Berkshire Family Historian*, Vol 19, No.3, March 1996 and Vol 20, No.4, June 1997 for short articles on the Ken Shepherd Archive

2 Judith Hunter, *The Story of a Village: Eton Wick* (2000, Eton Wick Local History Group)



## Help wanted

*Sandie Page, 60 Clare Crescent, Towcester, Northants NN12 6QQ*

### **Elliott**

I first started researching my family history as part of a school project some years ago; it started me on the endless road to finding out more about my ancestors. I spent some time looking for my great-grandparents marriage without any success; I had found the relevant census returns, purchased copies of their children's birth certificates, all except the eldest child, George. All the certificates gave the mother as Joyce Elliott, formerly Slade, unusual name - it should be easy. My father was insistent they would have had to be married, but of course as I soon realised, not necessarily to each other.

I found that Joyce was actually married to Thomas Mason at Bracknell on November 2, 1857. They then had four children between 1859 and 1866, and the youngest was George. This came as a bit of a surprise, so I double checked all my information, having earlier found Joyce living at home with her parents and siblings in the 1841 census for Holmer Green. I had her father's name and eldest brother who was a witness at the marriage to Thomas; it most certainly was my great-grandmother, living with Thomas and their family in the 1861 census for Winkfield. The 1871 census showed Thomas and three children, but no Joyce or George. The census for Eton in 1871 gives Edward and Joyce Elliott with their son George and daughter Elizabeth.

Assuming that in the 1800s divorce was not an option for the labouring class, a change of county seemed the only way out. I find it amazing that this secret had been kept for so many years; I would love to find out more about Mary, Alice and Thomas who stayed with their father in Warfield. Have any other members come across a similar experience? Can anyone offer advice as to how I can confirm my great-grandfather's birth details without the name of his father? I have found an Edward Elliott born around the correct time, not in Lambeth Hill/Beech Hill, Berkshire as he stated on the census, but in Tadley, Hampshire.

*Bernard Hammond, 4 Woodberry Down, Epping, Essex CM16 6RJ*

### **Dreaper**

I have been researching a family by the name of Dreaper who were prominent in the village of Buckland around the turn of the eighteenth century. George Dreaper was the village blacksmith and he was born in 1751 and buried at Buckland in 1826. George married Elizabeth Giles, also from Buckland, in 1775 and they had 12 children. One of the sons, George, married Mary Hall and it is from them that I am descended. George junior, like his father, was also a blacksmith. It is after 1850 to 1860 that the original family is difficult to trace. It seems as if they disappeared from Buckland except my grandmother, Clara Dreaper, and her brother who arrived in Essex in the late nineteenth century, but the rest of the family have completely disappeared. One problem is that the name Dreaper is often interpreted as Draper on official documents, a much more common name. Mary Ann Sadler and Mary Ann Gough also married into the Dreaper family. Any help or information would be appreciated.

*Frank Whitchall, 12 Southlawn Court, Easter Park Drive, Edinburgh EH4 6SJ*

### **Cheslin**

My problem concerns a father and son with the surname of Cheslin, both called Thomas. The father matriculated on November 27 1652 at St. John's College, Oxford and was Rector of Foxcote or Foscott, Berkshire. His son graduated from New Inn Hall, Oxford in 1687 and was vicar at Thornborough, and Padbury, Buckinghamshire in 1691 and 1715 respectively. I believe that Thomas Cheslin, senior, married Dorothea Whitchall, daughter of Robert Whitchall of Addington, Buckinghamshire. My problem is that I have been unable to find Foxcote or Foscott, the reference given in *Alumnii Oxoniensis*. Can anybody shed any light on either place or the Cheslins? A friend of mine believes that the village may have been absorbed into a larger town like Wokingham.

*There is a Foxcott in Buckinghamshire and given the family's association with that county I would suspect that they did come from Buckinghamshire, rather than Berkshire. Ed.*

# Have you lost anyone?

Margaret Young

*James West, aged 23, of Brightwell, a groom in Thame, Oxfordshire in 1851.*

*Frederick Wilson, aged 15, a page at Brighton, Sussex in 1871, he came from Berkshire.*

*Henry Breadmore of Hungerford married at Hoxton, London, in 1881.*

*In 1891 Herbert Batten, aged 25, a teacher from Twyford, was living in Paddington, London.*

Do you recognise any of these people? Have you lost someone from Berkshire and can't find them anywhere? These are just four examples taken from the new Berkshire Strays database.

**What is a Stray?** 'A stray is a recorded event in which a person is described in the record as being from, or connected with, a place outside an area in which they normally lived'. The Federation of Family History Societies maintains a site devoted to strays at [www.ffhs.org.uk/General/Help/Strays.htm](http://www.ffhs.org.uk/General/Help/Strays.htm).

James West, Frederick Wilson, Henry Breadmore and Herbert Batten were all originally from Berkshire but at some point in their lives were absent from the county when an event was recorded, three of them were shown in a census and the fourth from his marriage certificate. They are therefore 'Berkshire Strays'.

People from Abingdon have strayed to Bury St Edmonds; from Aldermaston to Bristol; Hungerford to Hastings; Maidenhead to New Zealand; Newbury to Yorkshire and so on. There are thousands more, some may be connected to your family.

**Why a database?** All information received about a stray is entered into a computer database which can be searched by name, date, age, occupation, event, place and county and place of origin. This will form an index which will be user-friendly and easily accessible.

**How will it help me?** Eventually it is expected that the database will be available for researchers to use at the Research Centre, and for the Society to provide a service for those not able to visit the Centre themselves. But that is all some way off. With only 1400 entries at present the likelihood of finding your ancestor is remote. However, when there are many more entries the database will give researchers an indication of where their ancestors might have been, or in some cases exactly where they were, at a certain period. In other words instead of looking for a needle in a haystack it will act like a magnet and find it for you.

**How can I help the index?** Send me your strays or any that you find in the course of your research. Look through your notes and your family tree to find anyone that left Berkshire. Look at other entries on the copies of the census, not just your family, as neighbours may also be strays from Berkshire.

The only strays that are not required are those on the 1881 Census as the information it contains is readily available to most people.

**What information do I need to send?** Details required are surname (preferably in capitals), event, year, place of sighting of the person, place of origin (i.e. their Berkshire home town/village) and the source of the information (e.g. census, parish records, marriage certificate etc.).

Other useful, but not essential, details would be forename, age, marital status, occupation, relationship, full date and any other details you may have.

Examples:

St. Andrews Church Enfield Middlesex 3 March 1835 Jas SHERMAN of St. Mary's Reading married Martha TUCKER
--

Source: Parish register

Stephen PERRY, 21 Boarder, Ag. Lab., Overton, Wiltshire Born: Eastgarston, Berkshire
---

Source 1891 census

**If you find strays send them to:**

Margaret Young, 376 The Meadway, Tilehurst, Reading RG30  
4NX

Email to: [mjy@tilehurst.demon.co.uk](mailto:mjy@tilehurst.demon.co.uk)

Or leave them in the BFHS Research Centre in the drawer marked  
'Strays'.

I look forward to being inundated with Berkshire Strays.



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### **~ ~ ~ ~ Summer Evening Surgeries ~ ~ ~ ~**

Please bring your *problems, questions, queries etc*  
for discussion and/or solution

on the following Wednesday evenings  
from 7:30pm to 10:00pm

Each evening will have its own theme but other topics will be discussed

### **Wednesday, 15<sup>th</sup> May 2002**

Theme: 'Using Outlook Express'

Folders, Rules, avoiding Viruses, Accounts etc

### **Wednesday, 19<sup>th</sup> June 2002**

Theme: 'Windows'

Management, shortcuts, annoyances etc

### **Wednesday, 17<sup>th</sup> July 2002**

Theme: 'Are your peripherals driving you bonkers?'

Problems with modems, scanners, printers, CD-writers, associated software and drivers etc

~ ~ ~ ~ ~

A modest donation to the society will be suggested for each problem solved

Coffee/tea will be available

'Doctors', 'Specialists' and 'Surgeons' in attendance are expected to include:  
Chad Hanna, Eddie Spackman, Gillian Stevens, Terry Wickenden & Phil Wood

**No need to book – just turn up**

**To obtain further information: contact Gillian Stevens**

Tel: 0118 9478743 email: [workshops@berksfhs.org.uk](mailto:workshops@berksfhs.org.uk)

**Berkshire Family History Society AGM**

**The 27th Annual General Meeting of the Berkshire Family History Society will be held at  
7.30pm on June 27 at the Reading Branch meeting**

**Agenda**

- 1 Apologies for Absence
- 2 Minutes of the year 2000/2001 Annual General Meeting
- 3 Matters Arising
- 4 Chairman's Report for 2001/2002
- 5 Treasurer's Report for 2001/2002
- 6 Election of President and Vice-President
- 7 Election of Officers for 2002/2003
- 8 Accept the Branch Committee Appointed Ex-officio Members
- 9 Election of Executive Committee Members for 2002/2003
- 10 Nomination of Auditor for 2002/2003
- 11 Any other Business

Nomination for election of officers should reach the Secretary by May 20, 2002

**BFHS Executive Committee 2002/2003  
Nomination Form**

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

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

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

Nominee's Membership Number .....

Nominee's Signature ..... Date.....2002

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

Chairman Secretary Treasurer Committee Member

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

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

Please detach this form from the journal (or photocopy it) and send it to The Secretary, 5 Wren Close, Burghfield Common, Berkshire RG5 3PF to reach him no later than the last post on May 20, 2002

## Family History Research

New Brunswick, Canada

Census Records - Vital Records - Municipal Records  
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# Email Discussion Group

Eddie Spackman at [webmaster@berksfhs.org.uk](mailto:webmaster@berksfhs.org.uk)

Following the comment by our Chairman in The Bulletin of the December issue of the *Berkshire Family Historian* that: 'I believe the majority of active family historians now use computers', it will come as a shock that very few of our members (about 15%) subscribe to the Email Discussion Group and that fewer than 1 in 10 new members join. Why?

I suspect that there are several reasons. The main one is probably that many are unaware of its existence or unsure of its purpose. As with the Research Centre and some other activities of the Society, the Group may have been mentioned in articles but there is no regular 'advert' in the *Family Historian* to say what it is all about or how to subscribe. Some may think the Discussion Group is solely for those with Berkshire interests. Others that it is only for experts. Another group may say it is only for the computer experts. I have also heard it said that many emails are naive. The truth is that it is a medium for discussion of any topic of interest to members of the Society. It can be invaluable to those who are just starting their family history research and those just beginning to look in the computer world both for 'data' and contacts with cousins or others researching the same line. Those new to using computers will find friendly and helpful ears as they gain confidence in using email and surfing the Internet. It is also invaluable for passing on important and time-critical information (e.g. about dates of meetings which have to be changed or have been incorrectly advertised).

As the average number of messages per week rarely exceeds 30 it meets both the needs of those who cannot manage the 30 or more per day of some county Rootsweb sites or need a site where they can fire off an enquiry or comment on a topic of interest to family historians which would be unsuitable on their favoured lists. At the time of writing it is useful for canvassing the experiences of others using the new 1901 PRO census site at [www.census.pro.gov.uk](http://www.census.pro.gov.uk).

To subscribe to the Email Discussion Group send an email to [Join:discussion@berksfhs.org.uk](mailto:Join:discussion@berksfhs.org.uk) giving your name, postcode and membership number.

I also wonder how many have looked at our website at [www.berksfhs.org.uk](http://www.berksfhs.org.uk)? How often do you revisit the site to see if there is anything new? (There is a 'What's New' link on the home page for this purpose.) Do you recommend the site to friends? Did you know that the publications pages frequently provide information on books and our new publications before they appear in a formal booklist? An order form appears on the site and payment can be sent in Australian, Canadian, New Zealand and US dollars as well as Euros and Sterling but we do not provide any electronic means of purchase.

Most of us who maintain a website also value any constructive comments on it – especially those which identify methods of improving presentation or navigation. It is only very occasionally that I get any comment so it was not only gratifying but also exceedingly helpful to be told recently: 'I am researching my family and frequently visit the site for information on the area. I have found it very useful and helpful. I viewed the joining/membership page. I found the contact names for membership queries but no email addresses. Please don't take this as a criticism of the site as it is one of the most useful and easy to use that I have come across.' Would others agree?

Our website is intended as a source of information on Berkshire, but not 'data' – yet. It is certain that many members will have noted important information that does not appear on our site. What would you like us to provide? One particularly valuable aspect of websites is their expandability. We currently use about 25% of the capacity provided by our host so there is plenty of space to fill; if you have a contribution to offer please send it to [webmaster@berksfhs.org.uk](mailto:webmaster@berksfhs.org.uk).

## '.....stepped out of a window while talking to St Paul'

Daphne Spurling

For some years we have been intrigued by a comment in a letter from a first cousin once removed of my husband's grandfather:

*'what wonderful ages all our ancestors and ancestresses attained. All of them over or near 80 except my grandfather, Stephen, who in a fit of religious mania stepped out of a window when talking to St Paul and broke his neck in 1864 aged 59'.*

But how did anyone know he was talking to St Paul and, indeed, why was he talking to St Paul? At last curiosity got the better of us. It was easy to get a copy of his death certificate which gave the cause of death as a fall from a window whilst in a state of insanity. The informant was the Coroner of Torquay. This raised other questions. What was Stephen Spurling, a London stockbroker who lived in Camberwell, doing in Torquay? The inquest should give the answer but unfortunately the Torquay inquests have not survived. This left newspapers as the only possible source of further information and the Devon Studies Centre was very conveniently across the corridor from the Exeter Record Office.

The Studies Centre had no copies of the Torquay paper for that period but was very helpful in suggesting where else to search. Luckily for us, news was sparse around Christmas and we found the following short report in a West Country weekly<sup>1</sup>:

*Stephen Spurling, Esq., a member of the Stock Exchange, London has committed suicide. He was advised to leave London a fortnight since for the benefit of his health. Accompanied by his wife and two children and his brother, Mr. Spurling went first to Sidmouth for a few days – thence to Exeter, where he became very excited, and Dr Budd advised that he should be strictly watched. Leaving Exeter they went to Torquay and lodged at No. 2 Sulyarde-terrace, and the next morning the unfortunate gentleman, who was apparently asleep when the person in attendance upon him left the room, jumped out of the window – some thirty feet in height. He was killed on the spot. Verdict – 'Temporary insanity'. The cause is said to arise from the recent death of a favourite child.*

It was relatively easy to track down the recent death of his favourite child: four year old Hubert had died in early September after 55 days suffering from typhoid fever. We don't know if the brother accompanying Stephen was Percival, my husband's great grandfather.

1. *Trewman's Exeter Flying Post*, Devon, Cornwall, Somerset, Dorset, Wiltshire and Gloucestershire Advertiser. Vol C11, No. 5, 142, Exeter, Wednesday December 28, 1864. Seen on microfilm at the Devon Studies Centre, Exeter.

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Compiled by Bob.Plumridge@virgin.net

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 1785 Mr RB Lawrence 41 Cheltenham Road Parkstone Poole Dorset BH12 2ND  
 2609 Mr S Miller 6 Ravenleigh Court 89 Bromley Common Bromley Kent BR2 9RN  
 3396 Mr RD Boyle 50 Parsonage Lane Windsor Berkshire SL4 5EN  
 3443 Mrs S Webb 13 Mill Field Bagshot Surrey GU19 5DR  
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 4616 Mr J & Mrs S Higginson 9 Lye field Court Kidmore End Road Emmer Green Reading Berks RG4 8AP  
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 4724 Mr MJ & Mrs GA Emsley 15 New Garden Drive West Drayton Middx UB7 7JA  
 4726 Ms J Fox 16 Third Avenue Garston Park Tilehurst Reading Berks RG31 4TE  
 4731 Mrs GM Stark 612 Chinook Avenue Parksville British Columbia V9P 1A5 CANADA  
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4889 Mr GM Povey 6 Pullfields Chesham Bucks HP5 2RB  
4899 Mrs R Shippard 503 Southleigh Road Emsworth Hants PO10 7TF

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4776	ADAMS	Any	BRK 1800-2000	4889	BOWELL	Oxford	OXF 1600-2000
4764	ADKIN	Peterborough	1940+	3443	BOWERS	St Geo in the East	MDX 1820-1840
4826	ALLEN	Wallingford	BRK 1800-1850	3396	BOYLE Annabella	Liverpool	LAN 1870-1950
4861	ALLEN/ALLAN	Peckham	SRV 1800-1880	3396	BOYLE Annabella	Belfast	NIL 1870-1950
4642	ALLWRIGHTS	Any	BRK 1600-1800	3396	BOYLE David	Belfast	NIL 1800-1882
4642	ALLWRIGHTS	Chimney Corner	BRK 1600-1800	3396	BOYLE Francis	Belfast	NIL 1846-1872
4764	ANSTEY	Bassingthorpe	LIN 1700-1900	3396	BOYLE John	Belfast	NIL 1800-1880
4764	BAILEY	Southwark	LCC 1800-1900	3396	BOYLE Miriam	Belfast	NIL 1870-1950
4814	BALDWIN	Maidenhead	BRK 1800-1950s	3396	BOYLE Robert	Belfast	NIL 1830-1940
4814	BALDWIN	Long Crendon	BKM 1700-2001	3396	BOYLE Robert	Belfast	NIL 1870-1950
2609	BARLOW	Aldworth	BRK 1760-2002	3396	BOYLE Sarah Hope	Belfast	NIL 1870-1950
2609	BARLOW	Checkendon	OXF 1689-1760	1785	BRADFIELD	Preston Candover	HAM 1700-1850
2609	BARLOW	Goring	OXF 1689-1760	4776	BRAIN	Any	OXF 1800-2000
2609	BARLOW	Newbury Area	BRK 1860-2002	977	BRIGNALL	Etchingham	SSX pre-1800
2609	BARLOW	Streatley	BRK 1760-2002	977	BRIGNALL	Hawkhurst	KEN + 1870
4788	BARNES	Bristol	AVN 1500-1942	4837	BROCKS CRATHERN	Shoreditch	MDX 1801-1901
4772	BARRON	Monley	YKS 1780-1860	4837	BROCKS CRATHERN	Lambeth	SRV 1801-1901
4772	BARROWDALE	Rochester, N.Y.	USA 1820-1860	4764	BROOKER	Westminster	LCC 1800-1900
4808	BECK	Any	WAR 1066-2001	4764	BROOKER	Coventry	WAR 1940-
4837	BECKETT	St Saviour	SRV 1801-1901	3443	BROUGHTON	Walthamstow	ESS 1800-1880
4792	BEECHEY	Cholsey	BRK 1750-1900	3443	BROUGHTON	Hackney	MDX 1812-2001
977	BESFORD	Colkirk	NFK pre-1775	3443	BROUGHTON	Any	NFK 1750-1812
4616	BIDEN	Petersfield	HAM 1066-1847	3443	BROUGHTON	New York	USA 1891-2001
4616	BILLINGHURST	Womersh	SRV 1066-1800	4828	BROWN	Newbury	BRK 1730-1880
3742	BISHOP	Wantage	BRK 1800-1850	4616	BROWN	Kendal	WES 1750-1950
4861	BLYTHE	Norwich	NFK 1780-1860	3443	BROWN	Barking All Hallows	LCC 1800-1840
3396	BOLE Mary	Belfast	NIL 1830-1940	4827	BURNHAM	Ellesborough	BKM 1750-1877
4869	BOOKER	Bognor	SSX 1700-1950	4808	BURNS	Any	WAR 1066-2001

No	Name	Place	Code Dates	No	Name	Place	Code Dates
4840	BUTCHER	Any	WRY 1850-2000	4792	COOK	Swallowfield	BRK 1800-1870
3443	BUTLER	Henley	OXF 1820-1825	3443	COPE	Reading	BRK 1600-2001
4772	BUTTERWORTH	Morley	YKS 1800-1860	2609	CORDEROY	Newbury	BRK 1800-1940
1785	BYRNE	Wexford	IRL 1750-1900	3443	COWLIN	Woolwich	KEN 1700-1840
4782	CARR	Newcastle	NBL 1850-1910	4792	COX	Ruscombe	BRK 1800-1860
3396	CARSON Elizabeth	Belfast	NIL 1800-1900	4792	COX	Stratfield Saye	HAM 1750-1840
4899	CASTLE	Holmfirth	YKS 1750-1850	4772	COXHEAD	Rochester, N.Y.	USA 1820-1860
4899	CHAFFEY	Shapwick	DOR 1650-1800	4772	COXHEAD	London	MDX 1800-1860
4826	CHAMBERLAIN	Wallingford	BRK 1800-1850	4772	COXHEAD	Hungerford	BRK 1750-1830
4686	CHAMP(S)	Any	Any All	4837	CRATHERN	Lambeth	SRY 1801-1901
4768	CHEGWIDDEN	Boconnoc	CON 1066-2001	4806	CROOK	Bucklebury	BRK 1700-2000
4782	CHILTON	Durham	DUR 1800-1920	4837	CROSBY	Prittlewell	ESS 1800-1939
4814	CLARK	Maidenhead	BRK 1800-2001	3443	CROUCH	Gt Amwell	HRT 1700-1800
4768	CLARK	Chisworth	DBY 1066-1950	4838	CROW	Shepperton	MDX 1820-1880
4861	CLARK R.	Old Street	MDX 1800-1840	4861	CROWLEY	Camberwell	SRY 1800-1870
4834	CLIFTEN	Sandhurst	BRK 1760-1800	4861	CROWLEY	Camberwell	SRY 1750-1830
4838	CLIFTON	Wokingham	BRK 1750-1850	4899	CUFF	Shapwick	DOR 1700-1850
4838	CLIFTON	Shepperton	MDX 1790-1870	4806	CULLUM	Reading	BRK 1800-1900
4838	CLIFTON	Long Ditton	SRY 1800-1900	1785	CUSDE(J)N	Shinfield	BRK 1550-1700
4838	CLIFTON	Sandhurst	BRK 1600-1900	4861	DAVISON	Retford	NTT 1800-1850
4826	CLIFTON	Bicester	OXF 1800-1900	4837	DAY	Shoreditch	MDX 1800-1860
4838	CLIFTON	Farnham	SRY 1881-1900	3742	DEACON	Wantage	BRK 1750-1850
977	COKER	Colkirk	NFK bef 1800	4782	DEAN	Cheltenham	GLS 1800-1890
4814	COLE	Marshfield/Cardiff	WLS 1850-2001	4782	DEAN	Manchester	LAN 1825-1865
4861	COLLETT	Mitcham	SRY 1750-1830	4782	DEAN	Bristol	SOM 1700-1900
4814	CONNAIRE	Galway	GAL 1800-2001	4808	DENNIS	Any	WAR 1066-2001
4814	CONNARE	Galway	GAL 1800-2001	1785	DENORE	Ratcliff	LDN 1750-1900
4792	COOK	Bisham	BRK 1750-1850	4616	DENYER	Thursley	SRY 1700-1818



No	Name	Place	Code	Dates	No	Name	Place	Code	Dates
4743	DINNAGE	Swindon	OXF	1900-1960	4806	FORD	Bucklebury	BRK	1700-2000
4616	DONOVAN	Cork	IRL	1700-1900	4899	FOULDS	Peterborough	CIE	1800-1900
4861	DOUGHTY	Happisburgh	NFK	1780-1860	4616	FOULGER	Lowestoft	SFK	1700-1850
4837	DOWNES	Munslow	SHR	1601-1913	4638	FRANCIS	Wantage	OXF	1770-1850
4837	DOWNES	Condover	SHR	1601-1913	4638	FRANCIS	Letcombe Regis	OXF	1770-1850
4837	DOWNES	Ludlow	SHR	1601-1913	4865	FRANKLIN	Thatcham	BRK	1820-1900
4837	DOWNES	Bridgnorth	SHR	1601-1913	3443	FREEBORN	Any	NFK	1700-1900
4899	DREW	Lambourne	BRK	1750-1860	4899	FREER	Leicester	LEI	1700-1840
4899	DREW	Hungerford	BRK	1750-1860	2609	FRYZER	Goring	OXF	1635-1760
4792	DUGGETT	Any	Any	1850-1900	2609	FRYZER	Aldworth	BRK	1760-1900
4808	DURHAM	Any	WAR	1066-2001	4808	GARDNER	Any	WAR	1066-2001
4838	EAGLE	Feltham	MDX	1830-1890	4616	GARROD	Lowestoft	SFK	1700-1950
4838	EAGLE	Sandhurst	BRK	1830-1890	3443	GODFREY	Broxbourne	HRT	1650-1800
4808	EBORALL	Any	WAR	1066-2001	4838	GORING	Petersham	SRV	1830-1900
4792	EELE	High Wycombe	BKM	1810-1890	4827	GRAY	Upton-cum-Chalvey	BKM	1750-1844
4792	EELE	Reading	BRK	1870-2000	4808	GREEN	Any	WAR	1066-2001
4792	EELE	Thame	OXF	1700-1810	4820	GREEN(A)WAY	Any	BKS	1650-1860
4838	ELLIS	Sandhurst	BRK	1800-1840	4820	GREENWAY	Darlington	DUR	1919-1961
4838	ELLIS	Shepperton	MDX	1830-1900	4820	GREENWAY	Thornaby	NRV	1917-1980
4792	EMMETT	Hurley	BRK	1750-1850	2609	GRIGG	Newbury	BRK	1875-2002
3618	EYLES	Lambourn	BRK	1870-1920	4820	GRIGGS	Brightlingsea	ESS	1750-1825
4806	FIDLER	Hampstead Norreys	BRK	1700-1900	4782	GROVE	Woking	SRV	1800-1900
4806	FIELDER	Farringdon	BRK	1800-1900	4782	GROVE	Pyrford	SRV	1750-1820
4776	FISHER	Bradfield/Theale	BRK	1800-1970	4764	HALLAM	Bourne	LIN	1800-1900
4791	FISHER	Harworth	NTT	1800-	4786	HALLAS	Chisworth	DBY	1066-1950
4791	FISHER	Sheffield	YRK	1900-	4820	HAMMOND	Stockton	DUR	1905-1937
4772	FLETCHER	Wick	CAI	1780-1840	4764	HANNAM	Burton Coggles	LIN	1700-1900
4772	FLETCHER	Aberdeen	ABD	1830-1874	4764	HANNAM	Bourne	LIN	1700-1900

No	Name	Place	Code	Dates	No	Name	Place	Code	Dates
4764	HANNAM	Corby Glen	LIN	1700-1900	4861	KING S	Old Street	MDX	1800-1840
4861	HANNANT	Norwich	NFK	1780-1860	2609	KNIGHT	Reigate	SRY	1820-1900
4772	HARDCASTLE	Morley	YKS	1780-1860	4616	KNOWLES	Walton-on-Thames	SRY	1066-1820
4788	HART	London	MDX	1500-2001	1785	LAWRENCE	Swallowfield	BRK	1700-1850
4808	HAWKINS	Any	WAR	1066-2001	4806	LEE	Cove	BRK	1700-1900
4873	HAWTHORN(E)	Sunninghill	BRK	1881-1905	1785	LEWINGTON	Cronall	HAM	1700-1850
4616	HAYES	Cork	IRL	1800-1900	4869	LOHMANN	Brackwede	GERM	1700-1800
4788	HEDGE	London	MDX	1500-2001	4867	LOVEGROVE	Bray	BRK	1750-1900
4616	HIGGINSON	Preston	LAN	1700-1824	4867	LOVEGROVE	Warfield	BRK	1750-1900
4837	HILL	St Saviour	SRY	1801-1901	4867	LOVEGROVE	Reading	BRK	1700-1900
4768	HONEYCOMBE	Bradlock	CON	1066-1936	4806	LYFORD	Reading	BRK	1700-1900
4834	HOOKER	Odiham	HAM	1760-1820	4837	MACKLIN	Little Bedwyn	BRK	1801-1901
4788	HOPKINS	Bristol	AVN	1500-2001	4837	MACKLIN	Brentford	MDX	1801-1901
4814	HOPKINS	Maidenhead	BRK	1800-2001	4837	MALLAM	Brentford	MDX	1801-1901
4814	HOPKINS	Wandsworth	SRY	1800-1900	4772	MANSFIELD	Sutton, Epsom	SRY	1830-1848
4764	HOUGHTON	Bourne	LIN	1800-1900	4820	MARSH	Weeley	ESS	1600-1720
4840	HUTCHINSON	Any	WRY	1850-2000	3742	MARTIN	Wantage	BRK	1850-1900
4867	HUTT	Warfield	BRK	1750-1900	4861	MARTIN	Happisburgh	NFK	1780-1860
4899	IBBERSON	Kirkburton	YKS	1750-1830	4861	MARTIN W.	Lambeth	SRY	1860-1880
4899	JAMES	Shroton	DOR	1700-1825	3618	MARYSON	Any	NFK	1800-1930
4820	JENKINS	Thornaby	NRV	1917-1935	4827	MAWELSON	Pinkney Green	BRK	1750-1835
4828	KEEL	Reading	BRK	1800-1900	3396	MEWS Miriam	Belfast	NIL	1870-1950
4788	KELT	Any	ENG	1500-2001	2609	MILLER	Stoke Poges	BKM	1790-1900
4788	KELT	Any	SCT	1500-2001	2609	MILLER	Newbury	BRK	1885-2002
4808	KERSHAW	Any	LAN	1066-2001	4806	MILLSON	Bucklebury	BRK	1700-2000
4764	KEVELL	Westminster	LCC	1800-1900	2609	MITCHELL	Stoke Poges	BKM	1760-1885
4899	KIDGELL	Shapwick	DOR	1650-1800	4788	MOLTON	South Wales	GLA	1500-1900
4834	KIMBER	Sandhurst	BRK	1760-1850	4834	MOODY	Odiham	HAM	1760-1820

No	Name	Place	Code Dates	No	Name	Place	Code Dates
4820	MORLEY	Sudbury	SFK 1700-1896	4788	POTTS	Bristol	AVN 1500-2001
4827	MOULSON	Pinkney Green	BRK 1750-1835	4889	POVEY	Chieveley	BRK 1750-1850
3443	MUNDAY	Any	BRK 1600-2001	4889	POVEY	Newbury area	BRK 1600-1800
4616	NASH	Thursley/Witley	SRY 1066-1835	4806	POWELL	Hampstead Norreys	BRK 1800-1900
3443	NEALE	Reading	BRK 1700-1820	3396	POWELL SARAH	Belfast	NIL 1870-1950
4791	NEWBERY	Newport	IOW 1805-	1785	PRENDERGAST	Wexford	IRL 1750-1900
2609	NOKE	Aldworth	BRK 1740-1900	4827	PUZEY	Colnebrook	BKM 1750-1846
2609	NOKE	Ashampstead	BRK 1740-1900	4808	RANDALL	Any	WAR 1066-2001
4616	NORTH	Marylebone	MDX 1800-1900	4791	RAYNER	Grimsbury	LIN 1850-
4806	NORTHWAY	Thatcham	BRK 1700-2000	4814	RICHARDSON	Maidenhead	BRK 1900-2001
4861	O'BRIEN M.	Peckham	BRK 1800-1880	2609	RICHMOND	Newbury	BRK 1820-1960
4790	OSGOOD	Tiverton	DEV 1700-1900	4838	ROGERSON	Sunbury	MDX 1820-1880
4790	OSGOOD-SCEARCE	Reading	BRK 1700-1900	4822	ROWLAND	Abingdon	BRK 1750-1850
4899	PALMER	Lambourne	BRK 1800-1890	4899	SANDERS	Holbrook	DBY 1750-1848
4899	PALMER	Marsh Baldon	BRK 1790-1800	4823	SANSUM	Woolstone	BRK pre 1840
4808	PARROTT	Any	WAR 1066-2001	4782	SARGEANT	Binfield	BRK 1650-1880
4788	PARRY	Bristol	AVN 1500-2001	4790	SCEARCE	Reading	BRK 1800-1950
4788	PARRY	South Wales	GLA 1500-1900	4768	SCHOFIELD	Denton	LAN 1066-1936
4792	PARSONS	Cholsey	BRK 1750-1900	4838	SCOTT	Twickenham	MDX 1820-1880
4764	PASSINGHAM	Southwark	LCC 1800-1900	3396	SEDDON Annabella	Liverpool	LAN 1870-1950
4764	PASSINGHAM	Staines	MDX 1800-1900	3396	SEDDON Annabella	Belfast	NIL 1870-1950
4782	PAYNE	Whittington	SHR 1865-1960	4806	SELLWOOD	Bucklebury	BRK 1700-2000
4782	PAYNE	North Repps	NFK 1800-1850	4764	SEWARDS	Burton Coggles	LIN 1700-1900
3443	PEACOCK	Thames St	LCC 1700-1820	4764	SEWARDS	Corby Glen	LIN 1700-1900
4820	PEARCE	Thornaby	NRV 1917-1937	4764	SEWARDS	Bassingthorpe	LIN 1700-1900
4788	PHILIP	Kirkcaldy	SCT 1500-2001	4808	SHORT	Any	WAR 1066-2001
4808	PLATT	Any	WAR 1066-2001	4791	SIBBICK	Newport	IOW 1805-
4808	PLATT	Any	STS 1066-2001	4827	SILVER	Cookham Dean	BRK 1700-1829

No	Name	Place	Code	Dates	No	Name	Place	Code	Dates
4782	SLADE	Portesham	DOR	1750-1909	4792	TURNER	Wantage	BRK	1750-1860
977	SLATTER	Newington	OXF	1750-1900	4791	TURNER	Ascot/Sunninghill	BRK	1742-
4826	SMITH	Wallingford	BRK	1750-1850	4301	TYRWHITT BE	Oxford	OXF	1800-1890
4776	SOUCH	Any	OXF	1800-2000	4594	VERE	Stepney	LND	1825-1855
977	SOUTHAM	Barton Hartshorne	BKM	1700s	4594	VERE	Newington	SRY	1800-1840
977	SOUTHAM	Winslow	BKM	1700s	4594	VERE	Stratford	ESS	1800-1850
977	SOUTHAM	Croughton	NTH	1600-1700	4808	VERNON	Any	LAN	1066-2001
1785	STACEY	Farnham	SRY	1700-1900	4641	VINER	Reading	BRK	1800-1930
1785	STACEY	Swallowfield	BRK	1700-1900	4744	VINTER-COLE	Durham	DUR	1800-1950
4782	STEEL	Durham	DUR	1800-1850	4803	WAKEFORD	Fulham	MDX	1865-1900
4840	STONES	Any	WRY	1850-2000	4803	WAKEFORD	Cobham	SRY	1750-1850
4822	STRANGE	Abingdon	BRK	1750-1870	4767	WALLINGTON	Childrey	BRK	1830-1930
4806	STREAK	Hampstead Norreys	BRK	1800-1900	4744	WARD	Tottenham	MDX	1800-2000
977	TALBOT	Any	OXF	post-1750	4899	WATERMAN	Colchester	ESS	1700-1810
977	TALBOT	Any	BRK	post-1530	4861	WATERMAN	Camberwell	SRY	1800-1870
4838	TAYLOR	Weybridge	SRY	1840-1900	4887	WAYMAN	Marcham	BRK	pre 1740
4838	TAYLOR	Sandhurst	BRK	1760-1850	3443	WEBB	Reading	BRK	1500-1900
4834	TAYLOR	Sandhurst	BRK	1760-1800	4792	WEBB	Twyford	BRK	1800-2000
4822	TAYLOR	Oxford City	OXF	1750-1890	4827	WEEDON	Stoke Mandeville	BKM	1750-1880
4808	TAYLOR	Any	LAN	1066-2001	4820	WEELEY	Weeley	ESS	1742-2000
4838	THOMSON	Twickenham	MDX	1780-1820	4743	WELLS	Wantage	BRK	1500-1860
4806	TIDBURY	Bucklebury	BRK	1700-2000	977	WELLS	Caversham	OXF	aft 1700
4899	TITE	Colwich	STS	1700-1850	4620	WELSTEAD	Egham	SRY	19-20c
2609	TOBY	Goring	OXF	1600-1720	4837	WENTWORTH	Little Bedwyn	BRK	1801-1901
4594	TRINDER	East Challow	BRK	1800-1900	4828	WEST	Newbury	BRK	1560-1650
4594	TRINDER	Uffington	BRK	1700-1800	4782	WEST	Woking	SRY	1750-1880
4594	TUCKER	Longworth	BRK	1700-1800	4887	WEYMAN	Marcham	BRK	pre 1740
4899	TUDBALL	Everton	LAN	1840-1860	4594	WHESTLER	Any	LND	1830-1870

No	Name	Place	Code Dates	No	Name	Place	Code Dates
977	WHICHELLO	Any	OXF aft 1700	4731	WYATT	Burford	BRK 1700-2001
977	WHICHELLO	Cripplegate	MDX 1600-1700	4869	WYLD	Chieveley	BRK 1800-1870
4724	WHITE	Compton Dundon	SOM 1600-1806	4368	YEATMAN	Any	BRK 1600-1900
3742	WHITELOCK	Wantage	BRK 1840-1900	4744	YOUNG	Yorkshire	CLV 1800-2000
4899	WHITEMAN	Newbury	BRK 1850-1892	4776	YOUNG	Hampstead Norreys	BRK 1800-1900
4840	WHITE	Any	WRY 1850-2000				
4752	WICKEN	Westerham	KEN 1700-1820				
4726	WILKINSON	Millom	CUL 1882-1910				
4726	WILKINSON	Spennymoor	DUR 1892-1898				
4301	WILKINSON M	Oxford	OXF 1927 on				
4620	WILLIS	Bedfont	MDX 1800+				
4828	WILLIS	Newbury	BRK 1640-1820				
4861	WILLOUGHBY	Battersea	SRY 1875-1920				
4861	WILLOUGHBY	Hungerford	BRK 1750-1830				
4861	WILLOUGHBY	Windsor	BRK 1750-1830				
4837	WILSON	Prittlewell	ESS 1800-1939				
4814	WISE	Maidenhead	BRK 1870-2001				
4814	WISE	Henley	OXF 1750-2001				
4776	WOODERS	Any	BRK 1800-1900				
4768	WOODFORD	Woodhouse Eaves	LEI 1066-1936				
4889	WOODLEY	London	GTL 1600-1860				
4889	WOODLEY	Tring	HRT 1850-2000				
4620	WOODMAN	Bedfont	MDX 1800+				
4752	WOODROOF	Little Bookham	SRY 1740-1800				
4773	WORMLEIGHTON	Chelsea	LND 1880-1930				
4731	WYATT	Watchfield	BRK 1700-2001				
4731	WYATT	Shrivenham	BRK 1700-2001				
4731	WYATT	Faringdon	BRK 1700-2001				

# Back pages

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## BFHS Research Centre



### Not only Berkshire, but also

The Research Centre contains most of the published 1851 census indexes together with a fully fitted computer suite with the 1881 census for the United Kingdom, Vital records, access to the 1901 census on the Internet and many CD-Roms; thousands of books, fiche, leaflets, transcripts and indexes. Your Research Centre supplements the Berkshire Record Office and local studies libraries with a wide range of material from throughout the United Kingdom.



### Come and see what you're missing

Join the monthly Research Centre tours to find out. They provide an introduction to all the resources at the Centre, and include time for your own research. Tours are available on Saturdays and evenings throughout the week. Telephone the Centre during opening hours for dates and times or look on our website: [www.berksfhs.org.uk](http://www.berksfhs.org.uk).



### Some comments from visitors

'I didn't realise just what an immense and valuable resource the Centre had. On my first visit I was able to use census transcripts not only from Berkshire, but also for a number of other counties where my ancestors lived in the nineteenth century.'

'What a friendly atmosphere. I felt at home as soon as I walked through the door.'

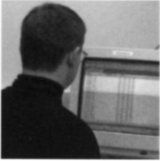
'What a marvellous library and a great place to carry out research.'

'I was really surprised how easy it was to park immediately outside the entrance.'

# Back pages

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## BFHS Research Centre



### How to find us

Next door to the new Berkshire Record Office, off Coley Avenue, close to the centre of Reading. Good parking, 10 minutes' walk from the main railway station, with buses passing close by. Follow the signs to the Berkshire Record Office.

Open:

- Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday 10am to 4pm.
- Late opening from 7pm to 9.30pm on Tuesday and Thursday.
- Second Sunday of each month from 11am to 4pm.

Full details are available on our website: [www.berksfhs.org.uk](http://www.berksfhs.org.uk).

### Address

BFHS Research Centre, Yeomanry House,  
131 Castle Hill, Reading, Berkshire RG1 7TJ.

Telephone 0118 950 9553

For further information see our website:

**[www.berksfhs.org.uk](http://www.berksfhs.org.uk)**

# Back pages

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## Postal research services

### **Berkshire Name Index**

This contains more than 100,000 index 'slips' of Berkshire names found in a variety of documents. The Society's 'strays index' and some family histories have also been incorporated. The charge is £5 for up to five surnames, with a maximum of 30 'slips' photocopied for each enquiry. Mark the envelope 'BNI' and enclose a large SSAE.

### **1851 Berkshire census**

Computer printouts can be supplied of any folio. The required reference can be obtained from our published indexes. The minimum charge is £3 for two pages. Thereafter A4 printouts are charged at 50 pence for each additional page. Alternatively, we can search for any given surname and estimate the total number of printouts involved. The charge for this service is £2 for each surname and printout charges are then as above. Send your enquiry to: BFHS c/o Mr. Geoff Mather, 18 Ravenswood Avenue, Crowthorne, Berkshire RG45 6AY

### **1881 census for the United Kingdom**

The charge for an estimate of the number of prints is £3 per county searched for each surname, including two sample prints. Thereafter, A4 printouts are charged at 50 pence for each additional page. Mark the envelope enclosing your enquiry '1881'.

Except where otherwise stated, applications for all Postal Research Services should be made to: BFHS Research Centre, Yeomanry House, 131 Castle Hill, Reading, Berkshire RG1 7TJ, accompanied by an SSAE or two IRCs and the appropriate fee. Cheques should be made payable to BFHS. Payment may also be made with dollar cheques drawn on your own bank account from Australia, New Zealand, the United States and Canada.



# Back pages

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## Postal research services

### 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 £3 per county searched per surname including two sample prints. Charges thereafter will depend upon the type of A4 size copies to be made and the number of printouts involved. Write to the Research Centre for an estimate marking the envelope 'OCI'.

### Berkshire Burial Index

We are contributing to the National Burial Index; so far we have more than 151,000 references in our own database and can now offer a limited research service. The charge per surname is £2 for each A4 sheet. Send a cheque, made out to BFHS and a stamped self-addressed envelope to David Wright, 45 Picton Way, Caversham, Reading, Berkshire RG4 8NJ

### Monumental inscriptions

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

### *The Times* Index

Searches can be made in Palmer's and the Official Index to *The Times*. Palmer's Index, from 1790 to 1905, is useful for researching bankruptcies, criminal trials, changes of name, and inquests. The Official Index can be searched from 1906 to 1980. Printouts per A4 sheet of references is £2. Applications to the Research Centre, marking the envelope 'TI'.

# Back pages

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# Back pages

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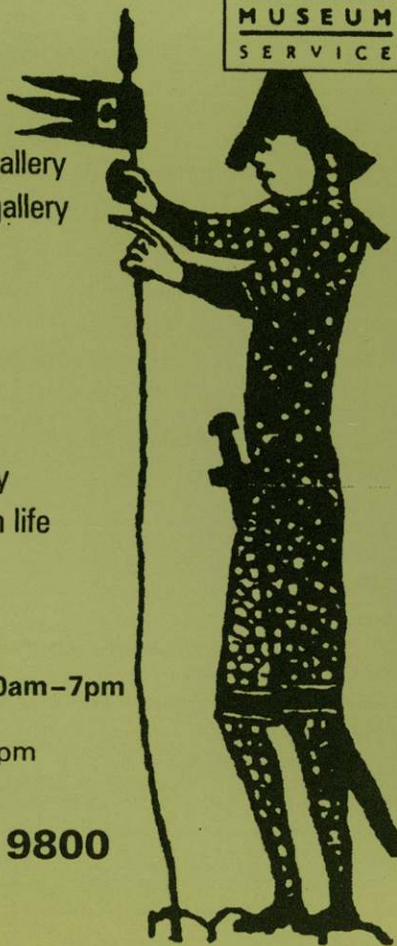
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# The Bulletin

## A word from our chairman

Writing this in early January, the census is very much on my mind, not just the 1901 census but all the other census returns and indexes that have been published over the last two decades or so.

My own involvement with family history started in the late 1970s, when my wife, Lesley, offered to help the Society of Genealogists while we were working in the Middlesbrough area. We were asked to re-type the transcript and index for the parish registers of St Martin at Palace, Norwich. We did a spot check of the index and finding many errors felt we had to re-index the transcript. As this was in the days before personal computers the work was done on 3" x 5" slips and a second-hand IBM Selectric typewriter. It was a fascinating and demanding project and it was very satisfying to handle 'our' bound quarto transcript and index when we visited the Society of Genealogists.

While we were relative beginners working on our own, albeit with good instructions and examples, I think we produced a good result. We went on to help with the Berkshire 1851 census index and other projects.

Later, we were very pleased when the 1881 census became available in January 1982 and I'm sure there must have been enormous queues, longer than usual, at the Census rooms in

Portugal Street, London, in those early days. To begin with, the only aids were the standard place indexes, with street indexes if you were lucky.

So it took me by surprise recently to hear that someone was complaining when there was no name index to part of the 1891 census. My immediate feelings were, 'Why should there be?' and 'You'd better get started!'

There are so many indexes and aids available these days, with national indexes to the 1881 and now the 1901 census returns, we forget that normal family historians like you and me created many. A common mistake is for someone to say that the LDS (Latter Day Saints) 'did' the 1881 census index. I'm sorry they didn't. Yes, they set up and organised the project but ordinary family historians up and down the country carried out most of the actual transcription.

Anyone who has helped in a transcription project will understand the limitations of a transcript. They will know that they must check the original, or at least a facsimile of it, as a transcript is only one interpretation of the original. They will also know the difficulties of interpreting handwriting and look for possible alternative spellings in the index. They should also appreciate that many records were recorded from the spoken word and that variations in spelling are to be expected. They will, in short, be able to

make the best possible use of a transcript or index.

I'm sure there will be much discussion in the next few months about the quality of the index and transcripts for the 1901 census. I'm also sure that those who helped in transcribing the 1881 and 1851 census returns or have been involved in any society transcription project will be able to make the best use of this new tool, appreciating both its value and limitations.

## Newspaper digitisation

The British Library Newspaper Library carried out a pilot project last year to test the possibility of putting newspaper texts onto the Internet. For the pilot project duplicate negative microfilms of newspapers were scanned and indexed. A selection of material from older newspapers was made to test the search facilities and the capability of the system. The newspapers, of which a limited number of facsimile pages are currently available are: *Daily News*, *Manchester Guardian*, *News of the World* and *Daily Dispatch*. The results of this project are available at: [www.uk.olivesoftware.com](http://www.uk.olivesoftware.com). How long we will have to wait to see more newspapers on the Internet only time will tell. As well as the British Library project The Times is also planning a digitization system.

## Access to Archives (A2A)

There's a new Access to Archives (A2A) web site on [www.a2a.pro.gov.uk](http://www.a2a.pro.gov.uk). It's

designed as an online database for record office catalogues from all over England. The project is still in its relatively early stages, but it already includes 1,081,595 records from 76 archives across England. So far, the emphasis has mainly been on quarter sessions and petty sessions records – with catalogues from many parts of the country now being online. It should be stressed that the site is not intended to be a gigantic personal name index intended solely for genealogists. However, it is clearly a major archival initiative – and a site worth remembering for future reference.

## London family history societies merger

The London & North Middlesex FHS has merged with the Westminster & Central Middlesex FHS. The two branches of the W&CMFHS, at Rayners Lane and Wembley will continue, with their existing officers, as branches of the L&NMFHS. It's anticipated that this amalgamation will enable them to give an improved service to members over a wider area. For general enquiries contact Mrs. S Lumas, 7 Mount Pleasant Road, New Malden, Surrey KT3 3JZ [www.lnmfhs.dircon.co.uk](http://www.lnmfhs.dircon.co.uk)

## Unwanted indentures

The following apprenticeship indentures were purchased at a flea market some years ago. All relate to New Windsor and to Archbishop Laud's charity:

• William Robert Arthurs, age 16, son of James Arthurs, tailor, of Park Street NW, apprenticed to Charles Arthur Cobden, tailor. November 1887.

• Ernest Alexander Windsor, aged 13, son of George Windsor of Keppel Row, tailor, apprenticed to Jesse Cooper, coach builder, November 1884. This indenture has been overwritten onto a previous form relating to William Maynard, aged 14, son of Elizabeth Maynard, widow, of Love Lane, apprenticed to George Pirer Cartland, photographer of High Street.

• Rowland Fuller Gray, aged 13, son of Charles James Gray, gardener, of Kepple Street, apprenticed to Edward and William Dickenson of Victoria Street, plumbers, November 1885.

The owner would be willing to reunite these documents to the apprentices' families in return to a small donation to charity.

## **An odd gravestone inscription**

Just over the Berkshire border at Dorchester Abbey, in Oxfordshire, there's an unusual inscription on one of the graves:

Here lies one who for medicine  
would not give

A little gold; and so his life he lost:

I fancy that he'd wish to live

Did he but know how much his  
funeral cost.

Apparently funerals cost as much  
in the past as they do now.

## **Derbyshire video**

The Derbyshire Family History Society has produced a video explaining how to trace your family tree in Derbyshire. Filmed at their Research Centre and Derby Library it takes the beginner through the first tentative steps using real documents when necessary. A copy can be purchased from the Research Centre, Bridge Chapel House, St. Mary's Bridge, Sowter Road, Derby DE1 3AT.

## **Society of Genealogists' history fair**

The annual Society fair at the Royal Horticultural Society Hall in London will be held on Saturday and Sunday May the 4th and 5th. Last year 5,000 visitors came from all over the country to meet representatives of the county family history societies browse through the books, computer supplies and programs. This year your Society will be present on both days, so if you'd like to meet us come along on either day. We look forward to seeing you.

## **Wiltshire Open Day**

The Wiltshire Family History Society's annual open day will be held on

Saturday June 15 at the Bouverie Hall, Pewsey from 10am until 3.45pm. Local societies will have stalls and it's likely to be as successful as last year.

## 100 years ago

Mr. Maker, living at Yattendon Court, wrote about 1902: 'The season early in the year was one of great promise but a cold spring, a dull sunless summer and a wet August put paid to it. At Sunninghill, Ascot four inches of rain was recorded in June and more than four inches during the month of August'. Plus ça change, plus c'est la même chose.

## Family Tree Day

Saturday 8 June 2002 marks the first 'Family Tree Day' at the Oxfordshire Record Office. This is likely to be an extravaganza not to be missed. Hosted by the staff of the record office in conjunction with the Oxfordshire Family History Society, the day will have numerous attractions including: computer demonstrations, the chance to browse and make purchases from the an extensive bookstall, and an opportunity to make purchases of microfiche from the Society without incurring those irritating postal charges.

The Society's computerised search services and newly computerised birth brief index will also be available for consultation. The record office searchroom will be open as usual, and this will enable the researcher to review a particular record, and to discuss their

problems and findings with members of the Society and other experienced family historians. 'Family Tree Day' will be held on Saturday 8 June 2002 at the Oxfordshire Record Office, St Luke's, Temple Road, Cowley, Oxford OX4 2EX.

## 'For a healthy, happy job'

That was the banner on the poster of the famous wartime poster urging women to join the Women's Land Army. Thousands of women took up the challenge of providing Britain with home grown food at a particular crucial time in our history, with imports cut off by the submarine war in the Atlantic.

Although the original service records do not survive, the index cards have recently been put on microfiche. The cards often give background information on the volunteers including name, changes of name on marriage, address, date of birth and dates of service. Some of them even have photographs. If you would like to look at the index they are in record class MAF 421 at the PRO.

## 1901 census online

By the time you read this I hope that the PRO will have sorted out the problems with the 1901 census and that you will have found those missing relatives at the turn of the twentieth century. Much is riding on this site. If it's successful then many of the other nineteenth century censuses will be available over the coming years.