



Special Australian issue  
and  
Royal Berkshire Hospital archive  
The sport of Kings (and Queens)  
National Monuments Record  
Mass-Observation archive

# **Programme calendar 2002**

## **Bracknell Branch**

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

*7.15pm for 7.45pm*

- 21 Jun *Bawdy courts for the family historian.* Joan Dils
- 19 Jul *Members' evening*
- 20 Sep *'In the Begynninge' – records before parish registers.* Ian Waller

## **Newbury Branch**

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

- 12 Jun *AGM followed by a talk by Elaine Rawlings*
- 11 Sep *Speaker to be confirmed*

## **Reading Branch**

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

- 27 Jun *Education records.* Richard Ratcliffe
- 25 Jul *Visit to Bearwood College*
- 26 Sep *Maps for social and family history.* Lilian Gibbens

## **Vale of White Horse Branch**

*Church Room, Baptist Church, Ock Street, Abingdon, 7.45pm*

- 10 Jun *Visit to Vale and Downland Museum, Wantage.*  
*Groups by car. To arrive at Wantage at 6.55pm*
- 8 Jul *'Grave Matters'. MI-ing at Drayton Church*
- 9 Sep *'From scribble to script'. Meryl Catty and Audrey Gillett*

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

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

- 25 Jun *Dudfins, Langles and Scummers. Inventories and the family historian.* Meryl Catty
- 30 Jul *Birth, marriage and death certificates – avoiding the pitfalls.* Barbara Dixon
- 24 Sep *Bringing it all to Book. Writing up your family history.* Jeanne Bunting

# Berkshire Family Historian

For family historians in the Royal County of Berkshire

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John Gurnett  
Editor

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The illustration on the front cover is from a painting of immigrants leaving their families behind.

**Copy deadline for the September issue is June 25 2002**

## Royal Berkshire Hospital archives

*Dr. Marshall Barr*

For many years the archives were scattered both inside and outside the hospital. Thanks to a few staff associated with the hospital's Library, they were gradually brought together and in 1983 they were catalogued by Brenda Parry-Jones of Oxford. This catalogue is on hand-written cards, with a hand-written index system. Since then many items have been added to the collection without the catalogue being updated. Because of developments at the hospital, the archives room has changed location five times in the last thirty years. The present archives room is in the basement of the 1839 hospital building. Conditions are not ideal, but the room is secure, with good shelving protected by plastic sheeting, and tables and chairs for researchers. The Archives Room is accepted as adequate by the County Archivist.

In the year 2000, the Royal Berkshire and Battle Hospitals NHS Trust granted custody of the archives to the Berkshire Medical Heritage Centre. The Heritage Centre is independent of, but closely associated with the NHS Trust. It has a Museum at the hospital, close to the Archives Room. I am Chairman and Dr Tim Smith is Honorary Secretary of the Heritage Centre, and we are currently restoring order to the arrangement of the archives, which were disrupted in the last move, and cataloguing the most important of the newer items. We are seeking funds to get the archives computer-catalogued, to have fungus-affected volumes decontaminated and for conservation work.



## **Contents**

The archives relate mainly to the RBH, from its foundation: they include bound volumes of the annual reports and the minutes of the most important committees. There are many bound volumes recording staff and patients – inpatients, outpatients, operating theatre registers etc. Miscellaneous deeds, documents and photographs are stored in cardboard boxes.

In addition there are scattered, very incomplete records from Berkshire and Buckinghamshire Joint Sanatorium 1915-48; Henley and District War Memorial Hospital 1942-48; Oxford Eye Infirmary (a 'stray' Annual Report 1910); Reading Union Workhouse (later Battle Hospital) 1890; Reading Corporation Isolation Hospital, Bridge Street, 1905; Redlands War Hospital, 1915-18; Smith Isolation Hospital 1891-1950; South Chiltern's Hospital Board 1928-46; Wallingford and Crowmarsh Joint Hospital Board 1899+; Wallingford and Bullingdon Joint Hospital Board 1933-48; Wallingford Cottage Hospital 1880-88; Wallingford and District Hospital 1937-48; Wallingford Isolation Hospital 1906-48.

## **Tracing staff and patients**

From a family historian's viewpoint, probably the most significant archives relate to staff and patients. It is most important to understand the constraints in accessing this information. Firstly, many of the records are of a highly sensitive nature. Casual browsing cannot be permitted. The Archives Room is locked and access is only possible for bona-fide researchers under supervision. Records over 100 years old may be fully studied. For those genuinely researching a family history, supervised, limited access may be offered to the more recent records. Photocopying of these is not possible. Access cannot be permitted to the fungally infected records until the problem is solved. Access to damaged items may be withheld until conservation treatment has been carried out

## **Main sources of information on patients**

RBH patients (sadly, we have no record of patients from Battle or any of the other hospitals, except Wallingford Isolation Hospital):  
1839-1844. RB 11. In Patients & Out Patients  
1839-1846. RB 26. Out Patients

- 1839-1854, 1863-1943, (1950). RB24. Vols *c, d, e, f, q, dd, ee, 1950 isolated (Fungus)*
- 1849-1953. RB25. In Patients & Out Patients. Alphabetical. Names only. Gaps. Vols *for 1945, 46, 49, 51, 52, 53 isolated*
- 1925-1984. RB 31. Anaesthetics journal general theatre
- 1925-1932. RB 5. X-Ray journal
- 1929-1969. RB 32. Anaesthetics journal ENT theatre. Vols *a, b, c, d, e, f isolated*
- 1927-1930. RB 30. Clinical notes. Mr Powell
- 1930-1939. RB 27. Out Patients. *Vol b isolated*
- 1932-1938. RB 16. Casualty patients. Some admitted
- 1936-1944. RB 44. Patient services ledger
- 1937-1954. RB 14. Victoria Ward register
- 1938-1943. RB 29. Weekly discharge of inpatients. *Vol a isolated*
- 1942-1969. RB 15. Anaesthetics journal Gynae theatre
- 1950-1970. RB 23. ENT outpatients. Oct 1953-Apr 1970 – OP operations
- 1958-1960. RB 46. Benyon Ward register

### **Operating Theatre Records of Cases**

Orthopaedic Theatre Recovery Room Casebooks:

Theatres 3 & 4. June 1980-Nov 1981. 2 bound volumes

Theatre 3. Oct 1981-June 1990. 4 bound volumes

Theatre 4. Oct 1981-June 1990. 15 bound volumes

Minor Theatre Dec 1984-June 1990. 7 bound volumes

Theatre not specified. March 1983-June 1992. 36 bound volumes

Obstetric (Maternity) Theatre. March 1967-March 1997. 8 bound volumes

Gynaecology (Nuffield Theatre and Maternity Theatre). Sep 1969-Nov 1996. 31 bound volumes. ? completeness.

### **Eye Theatre Register**

Jan 1955-July 1973. 5 volumes

July 1975-May 1981. 3 volumes

**General Theatre Anaesthetics Journal (includes patient name, surgeon and operation.**

These are catalogued under RB 31a- zzzz+. Last vols not catalogued. 1925-June 1984 consecutive

**General Theatre Recovery Room Day Cases**

April 1970-Dec 1980. One volume, shelved after the anaesthetics journals. These do not correlate with the operations in the anaesthetics journal. (The day cases were recorded separately.)

**Main Sources of Information on Staff**

Records of Nurses:

Register of Nurses 1899-1943. Six volumes.

Mixture of trained and untrained nurses

Register of Student Nurses 1938-1962. 4 volumes

Register of Trained Nurses 1948-1967. 2 volumes

Register of Private Nurses 1886-1917. 1 volume.

1920-1939. 1 volume

Register of Nurses Blagrove Branch 1930-1966. 2 volumes.

Mixture of trained and untrained nurses

Register of Nurses 1923-1930. 1 volume. Needs repair

Register of Nurses 1928-1933. 1 volume. Mostly student nurses

Register of part-time nursing staff, SENS and auxiliaries 1952-1968. 2 volumes

List of Nursing Finalists. 1955-1959. 1 volume

Uniform book. 1913-1941. 1 volume. Issue of uniforms to named nurses

House Committee Weekly Reports 1944-1972. 16 vols. Lacks 1964

Reports on nursing staff:

Nursing sub-committee minutes 1946-1948. 1 volume

Candidates for nurse training 1955-1968. 1 volumes

Nursing report book Nuffield 1 Ward (female surgical) Jan-Feb 1959. Catalogued as RB/45

Individual Nurses. A few files and named photographs of individual nurses and midwives. Numerous unidentified group photographs are stored in boxes

**Records of Non-nursing Staff**

Personal Files of Medical, Administrative, Technical and Domestic Staff 1913-1950s. 5 metal boxes

Records of a variety of staff 1940s-1950s. 4 small bound volumes

Records of Catering, Domestic and Laundry Staff 1940s-1950s. One large bound volume (These 5 vols are catalogued as RB Add? a-e)

Salary and Wages file 1944-1946. Brown paper wrap. Catalogued as RB/113 (Chronological No 166)

**Wallingford Isolation Hospital (These are on main shelves):**

Admission registers 1906-1948. (HO 287 a&b).

Officers' salaries ledgers 1927-1948. (HO 289 a&b).

Bona-fide enquiries should be directed to the Trust Librarian, Post Graduate Centre, Royal Berkshire Hospital, RG1 5AN (tel 0118 987 7849). Supervised access can be provided by appointment, normally on Monday mornings.

A database maintained by the Wellcome Trust and the Public Record Office provides information on the existence and location of the records of hospitals in the U.K. Currently over 2,800 entries can be found in the database at <http://hospitalrecords.pro.gov.uk/>.

*Dr Barr was a consultant anaesthetist to the Reading Group of Hospitals from 1973 to 1996. He is the founding Chairman of the Berkshire Medical Heritage Centre. He is co-author of 'The Royal Berkshire Hospital 1839-1989' and co-compiler of 'Care & Compassion: Old Prints and Photographs of Hospitals and Nurses in Berkshire and South Oxfordshire'.*



## Letters to the Editor

Mrs. A. Merritt, 65 Styvechale Avenue, Coventry CV5 6DW

### **Jewish ancestry**

I was interested in the article in the December issue of the *Berkshire Family Historian* on 'Jewish genealogy'. My son-in-law has a Jewish immigrant in his family and I have carried out detailed research on them.

It was difficult as there had been an estrangement in the family and nothing was known as to when and where the immigrant came to England. There are no baptismal records for Jews although there may be details of circumcision ceremonies; there is nothing for girls until they get married. I found a will which was very helpful and I was allowed to consult a marriage register at a Midlands synagogue.

My research took me to Liverpool just at the time when Lloyd-Webber's Open Door policy became effective and Liverpool synagogue was one of only two in the country open under the scheme. It is worth a visit. I have been twice to Liverpool for family history and stayed at the University as part of a Saga holiday there. I transcribe parish registers and found baptized at Holy Trinity, Coventry, on March 9, 1762 'Jacob Wolfe late a Jew of the Tribe of Levi'. Just for interest I searched for possible connections but there were no other references.

Pauline Houldey, 27 St. James Close, Pangbourne, Reading

### **An appeal for a mangle**

In the September issue of the *Berkshire Family Historian* I wrote about my great great grandparents, John and Hannah Povey, the death of John and the subsequent appeal for a mangle on behalf of his widow. I hardly dared hope that this would produce any response about Hannah Povey and the mangle but Geoff Povey, a third cousin from Chesham, wrote to me with further information. Geoff and I share John and Hannah Povey as great great grandparents. Geoff's great grandfather was William Povey, the elder brother of my great grandmother Letitia Povey.

On both William and Letitia's birth certificates their mother's name is given as Ellen Havell, although this was amended by the registrar on Letitia's certificate to Hannah. William's baptismal certificate shows his mother as Hannah. She married as Hannah and is a widow in the 1861 census.

Geoff Povey supplied the missing link. He found Hannah on the 1871 census with some of her children at 12 Chatham Street, where she is shown as the common wife of John Langham. She was named as Hannah Langham and there were two children of this union, Ellen and Mary Ann, together with some of the children from her marriage to John Povey.

In 1881 some of the Povey children were living at 27 Chatham Street. The head was John Langham, horse breaker. His wife is now shown as Ellen Langham, 19 years older than her husband. If this is our Hannah, she had fudged her age by about six years, and reverted to the name of Ellen, the name originally shown on William and Letitia's birth certificate. The constants are that some of the Povey children were still present and that Hannah/Ellen's birthplace was always shown as Woodcote, Oxon. Coincidentally, William Povey married an Ellen and another son, Charles married a Hannah. What became of the mangle is still a mystery.

*John Bowley, Gayton House, High Road, Cookham, Maidenhead, Berkshire  
SL6 9JF*

### **Reading Borough Police registers at Sulhamstead**

Whilst checking the Public Record Office website, and in particular the demonstration pages for the 1901 census, my attention was caught by data taken from the 1891 census for Norfolk which the PRO was using to promote its service; in this they appear to have been only too successful!

The name George Blanch jogged my memory; I had seen this name whilst indexing the police records at Sulhamstead (see the March edition of the *Berkshire Family Historian*). George's family had been used as an example to illustrate the use of the census records; they lived at Hockering, a small village west of Norwich. George had joined the Reading Police in January 1899 aged 23, giving his place of residence as Morton – which is near Hockering. In the 1891 census his age is given as 15, which ties up well.

In fact quite a few recruits to the Reading Police came from Norfolk, and for some reason several came from County Limerick in Ireland, perhaps word of mouth comes into play here with recruits extolling the quality of life in the force when writing home? I have now enlarged the index of the Police records to 350 names by extending it up to the year 1902; a task for the future is to try to take it back to the foundation of the Force in 1836.

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## Broadmoor Hospital archives

### *John Heritage*

'Some of the staff at Broadmoor are trying to form a museum. Would you like to help?' It was a proposal out of the blue but I jumped at it. I had lived in Crowthorne since 1965 but knew nothing of our grim neighbour up the hill. The opportunity to look inside the hospital was too good to miss, quite apart from my curiosity about the history of Broadmoor.

At the first meeting, and scarcely daring to hope for permission, I asked if I might see the documents. I was taken to a large panelled room in which assorted crates of paper and books were piled to a height of about seven feet along a wall about thirty feet long and to a width of several feet. It was an untidy heap and it was immediately obvious that the books near the bottom and standing on their edges were being seriously damaged under the weight of several feet of paper above them. It was also quickly apparent that many of the documents were of national significance. The hospital had first received patients in 1863 and since that time there had been no record management system and nothing had been thrown away deliberately but neither had anything been saved deliberately. When a cupboard was filled with paper, its door was locked and another cupboard found. After more than a hundred years, there were document hoards in roof spaces, under stairs, in long forgotten cupboards and unused rooms.



*Broadmoor Old Gate*

Somehow during the following meeting of the Broadmoor History Society, I was given the task of listing what was in the accumulation. Our initial aim was a discussion with the Public Record Office about what should be done. That was in 1992 and by 1995 the nine tons of paper had been listed, sorted and archivally boxed on shelves. More importantly perhaps, representatives of the Public Record Office had given their blessing to our progress and plans. During their first visit, they described the documents as being 'a national treasure' and our own views were vindicated. I think that we were all surprised by the variety and richness of what we found; leather bound volumes, oil and water colour paintings by a nationally famous artist, early maps of the area, photographs, files and loose sheets of paper.

Broadmoor was the first custom-built criminal lunatic asylum in the world. It was originally conceived as a national establishment but it also served the empire during the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. I found that there were no precedents for an establishment having both medical and penal motives for its existence. It took many trials to find a set of headings under which to catalogue the almost random assortment of items which were found. There was a copy of a Privy Council notice authorising the building of Broadmoor and signed by Queen Victoria. There were letters from high ranking Government officers (sometimes in Australia, India or Nigeria for example), records of patients and staff giving extraordinary details of their lives, journals of Superintendents and correspondence dealing with civil defence problems for an asylum in time of war. At the other end of the scale, there was a tea-chest of stores chits; scraps of often undated papers showing perhaps a gas-mantle, a toilet roll or six dusters and authorised by incomprehensibly scribbled initials. Another crate contained failed applications for employment files. The applications included photographs, security checks with previous employers and neighbours and supporting letters of character. A gold-mine for descendants if they were indexed – but why would the hospital retain them when the application failed?

Two major tasks are presently underway: the creation of finding aids and decisions about closure periods for different classes of record. Until such processes are complete there can be no possibility of general access although this must be a long term objective for the bulk of the collection. An index of employees was

an early ambition and is now essentially complete from 1862 to the mid 1920s with patchy coverage thereafter to about 1950 when responsibility for Broadmoor was transferred from the Home Office to the Ministry of Health. This index already covers salary and wage ledgers and other classes of record are gradually being added to it. If anyone knows that they have an ancestor who was employed at Broadmoor, their pay, title(s), roles, promotions,



*The Terrace, Broadmoor*

misdemeanours and so forth can be easily provided. Similarly, building alterations, management structures, policies, the holders of key posts and the interactions of the Commissioners in Lunacy, Councils of Supervision, Boards of Control within Broadmoor are now easily accessible. A review of legislation impacting on Broadmoor and forensic psychiatry has been completed. The responses of the Home Office to unexpected or unusual demands during two world wars (including the presence of enemy prisoners of war and the dropping of a stick of H.E. bombs across the site) provide interesting sidelines.

The problem of access to patient information is much more complex and unresolved. Medical records seem likely to remain closed for ever except to bona fide medical researchers. Exceptionally, and subject to medical counselling, such information may be interpreted to genuine next-of-kin. As a policy, the hospital will not engage in any discussion of named patients with anybody on a routine basis. The hospital has an indefinitely long duty of care to its patients and their families,

which it takes very seriously. There is a body of opinion which considers that criminal lunatic non-medical records are so sensitive that whereas lunatic or criminal records are opened after three generations this is not sufficiently long to protect the descendants of Broadmoor patients. Four generations (125 years) has been proposed informally as a minimum closure period but no formal consideration has yet taken place.

There have been one or two extraordinary exceptions where the ethical committee of the hospital has judged that it is in the interest of the patient and his or her family to release non-medical information. One of these led to the publication of the book *The Surgeon of Crowthorne*, where a patient made a contribution to world literature in spite of his mental illness and his isolation from the world. Another concerned an internationally famous painter whose fanciful pictures have given pleasure to thousands. Their families are able to feel proud of such relations as a result of their lives and mental illness being put into perspective. Another taboo area concerns security. Access to recent maps, plans and photographs is restricted to the extent of being inaccessible to all but a very few members of staff.

Some of the foregoing, coupled with the rather secretive image of Broadmoor held by some, ought not to discourage genuine students having a reasonable and serious interest in its historic affairs. A recent enquirer telephoned me recently. He knew his grandparents' names but nothing more and their surnames were so common that searching for them was likely to be unsuccessful. Their family papers had been destroyed during the war and he was at a loss to find a starting point. He had a number of family folk-memories which might or might not be true but which were of no immediate help. He believed that his grandfather had begun life in Scotland; that he might have fought in the war (but which one?); that he might have worked at Broadmoor but had no idea of when. As we spoke, I looked in our staff index and because his grandfather's given names were somewhat unusual, I found him immediately. By the end of ten minutes I had given him a date of birth, the fact that he had fought in the Crimean war, his date of entry to Broadmoor, his pay and increments, title, promotions (and one demotion), date of retirement after an assault. Better still, I was able to tell him that his grandparents must have met at Broadmoor because I found her too. She was a laundry maid and we found her date of birth and employment details. She had been

obliged to leave Broadmoor when she married so he could guess at a likely date for that too. The caller was understandably almost speechless by the time that we ended the conversation and he hurried away with the intention of discovering from the 1881 census where his two grandparents had been born.

There are at least two other aspects to making enquiries to a place like Broadmoor, in addition to the enquirer's own motives. Firstly, records become more complete if they are linked to external events and secondly our efforts to improve the safety of precious records are worthless if the records are unused. It gave me enormous satisfaction both for the hospital and for myself to unlock a door to the past for the caller. If anyone knows of an ancestor who worked at Broadmoor and would like to know more of his employment there, a letter addressed to me at the hospital will be answered to the best of our ability.



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# National Burial Index

The parishes and periods which have been added to Berkshire Family History Society's Burial Index since the position shown in the March 2002 issue of the *Berkshire Family Historian* are shown below. The index now contains more than 170,000 entries.

Caversham Hemdean Road Cemetery 1931-1993  
Cookham Holy Trinity 1780-1793  
Hurst St Nicholas 1813-1838  
Maidenhead Boyne Hill All Saints 1857-1898  
Milton St Blaise 1662-1938  
Newbury Baptist (Northcroft Lane) 1818-1837  
Newbury St John the Evangelist 1860-1878  
Peasmore St Barnabas 1574-1752  
Reading St Giles 1728-1747 and 1779-1796  
Sandhurst St Michael 1902-1935  
Shinfield St Mary 1785-1812  
Sulhamstead Abbots St Mary 1813-1995  
Sunninghill St Michael & All Angels 1603-1641  
Thatcham St Mary 1846-1851 and 1858-1863  
Tilehurst St Michael 1614-1629 (BTs), 1716-1775 and 1813-1868  
White Waltham St Mary 1860-1937  
Winkfield St Mary 1813-1841 and 1861-1907

Details of the postal service for researching burials in the Berkshire Burial Index are given on page 239.

## A distant shore

*Martyn Killion*

While the British Isles and Australia have a great deal in common, particularly in respect of their histories, there are significant differences when it comes to the methodology and sources used in genealogical research in each country. It is hardly surprising given that Australia was and still is to some extent today, a nation largely made up of immigrants, that Australian research focuses on immigration and the immigration records available. The various forms of immigration, the records available and the information they contain can provide priceless information for any family historian. For Australian researchers the value is obvious – immigration is the link back overseas to continue research. For an English family historian the records can be just as valuable in providing details of a long lost branch of the family. As will be seen the records may also assist the research process on those ancestors who stayed behind.

In order successfully to trace immigration from England to Australia, there are a number of factors to consider before delving into the records. The first of these is that there were several types of 'immigrants' to Australian shores – unassisted arrivals, assisted immigrants, convicts, captains and crews of vessels and personnel serving with the British military regiments stationed in the colonies throughout the nineteenth century. For some of these categories of arrival, the records can be extremely useful, and for others very disappointing. Not all of the colonies received all of these categories of immigrants. South Australia, for example, did not receive convicts transported directly from the British Isles.

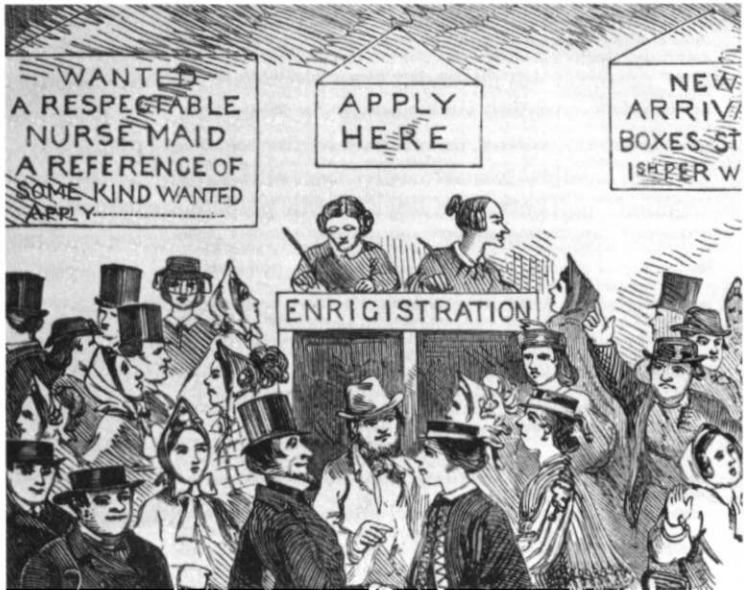
The second factor to consider is that until the 1920s, immigration was the responsibility of each colony (later state) of Australia. From that time on, immigration became the responsibility of the Commonwealth Government. Effectively, this means that prior to the 1920s, each colony or state maintained its own records of immigrants arriving within its borders. Today the government archives in each State maintain these records. In order to trace an immigrant successfully, it is therefore necessary to know the immigrant's intended port of destination when they departed from England. The alternative is, through a process of

elimination, to conduct research into the records of each state. The records will vary from state to state in terms of the information they contain, the indexing work that may have been done on them and finally what has survived.

The focus of this article rests on the two main methods of free immigration – unassisted and assisted arrivals, and the records for each that can be found in New South Wales are used as examples of the type of information which may be obtained.

### **Unassisted Arrivals**

This category of arrival refers to those people who paid the cost of their own voyage. Because there was no need for the government of the day to have any involvement to any great extent in this method of immigration, the information which was recorded about such people is limited. Furthermore, in New South Wales, for the period from the 1790s to 1826, few passenger lists of ships carrying unassisted arrivals survive. From 1826 to the 1920s and beyond, the lists do survive. The problems in their use is that the lists are arranged chronologically by date of arrival and beyond 1855 there are currently no name indexes to the lists.



*A Punch cartoon*

The difficulties in the use of passenger lists for unassisted passengers is further complicated by the fact that the only identifying information recorded about unassisted passengers is generally their name. This can make the research process tedious and inadequate especially when researching a common name which may appear several times on one list let alone in several lists over a period of time which may need to be searched. During some periods of time not all passengers are individually identified. This is especially the case in the early 1850s, during the goldrush period when hordes of passengers arrived in Victoria and New South Wales in search of their fortunes.

### **Assisted Arrivals**

The research process is much easier and more rewarding for assisted immigrants. A number of assisted immigration schemes were operated from 1828 in New South Wales. The majority of these were founded and monitored by the New South Wales government. These were designed at various times to, for example, redress the imbalance of the sexes within the colony or the lack of skilled labour.

As a result, the government recorded a large amount of detail about the individuals who were 'helped' out to the colonies in this way. Take, for example, the Jones family who arrived in New South Wales on the *Sirocco* in October 1864. From the Board's Immigrant List we learn that James Jones was 46, a bricklayer whose native place is stated as Benford (presumably Binfield), Berkshire, England. His parents are named as John and Mary Jones who were both deceased, religion is stated as Church of England and James could both read and write. It is also stated that his brother-in-law, Thomas Bolton was in the colony living at Dapto near Wollongong, south of Sydney. James' wife, Mary, aged 48 was also a native of 'Benford' and her parents were both deceased. The couple also immigrated with a daughter, Emily, a 16-year-old milliner.<sup>1</sup>

A further example would be that of Ruth Skinner, a 27-year-old cook who arrived on the *Morning Star* in the same year. She is described as being a native of Shrivenham, Berkshire and a daughter of William and Elizabeth Skinner both living at Asbury, Shrivenham.<sup>2</sup>

Clearly, from the research point of view, such assisted immigrant records provide sufficient information to be able to continue

research overseas. Based on the Ruth Skinner example above, research could then continue with parish registers to find her baptism and a search of the 1861 Census for Shrivenham may well pinpoint at least Ruth's parents. From an English research point of view, the same can be said: this record may help to eliminate details such as the deaths of Ruth's parents by at least providing the information that they were alive at the time of her departure in May of 1864.

The research process for assisted immigrants is also quite straightforward as all the records have been name indexed and, in the case of New South Wales at least, the majority of these indexes are now available on-line via State Records' website located at [www.records.nsw.gov.au](http://www.records.nsw.gov.au).

In New South Wales, assisted immigrant records may also be supplemented by a series of records known as the Immigration Deposit Journals. These are a record of the monies paid towards the cost of an immigrant's fare and can, once again, provide some very interesting clues.

These records show, for example, that Thomas Boulton (note the spelling) paid monies towards the cost of the voyage of the Jones family above. The Journals show a distinct discrepancy in the ages of James and Mary Jones which are stated as 38 and 48 respectively. The family is also described, on this occasion, as being of Vinfield, Berkshire while a Mr J. Lawrence of the same place is listed as 'some person of note to whom reference can be made respecting the emigrants'. This record also helps to add further family members to the picture by stating that Thomas Boulton had also sponsored a William Bolton who also travelled on the *Sirocco*.<sup>3</sup>

For Ruth Skinner, her sponsor was John Strath (possibly a prospective employer). In the Immigration Deposit Journals, Ruth is described as living in London.<sup>4</sup> This provides another interesting clue in the event of not being able to find her in her home parish using census records.

As with all other records, it is important to exercise some caution in using records of assisted immigrants. At various times there were strict limitations imposed on, for example, the age, trade or education of immigrants who were assisted to the colony. It therefore may well have been in our ancestors' interests to over-or understate their ages, occupation or education level when

providing information which we now rely so heavily upon to accurately document their lives.

Immigration records from both sides of the research globe can assist family historians. Their value from the Australian perspective is obvious in terms of tracing a family 'overseas' – more often than not the goal of many an Australian family historian. Their value for tracing family events and movements in the British Isles is also becoming more apparent as a greater number of researchers internationally become aware of their existence.

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#### Further Reading and Information

For links to the websites of National, State and Territory archives see <http://www.archivenet.gov.au/archives.html>

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*Martyn Killion, BA, Grad. Dip Applied Science (Information), Dip FHS, has been involved in family history for the last 25 years. He has been employed by State Records (NSW) since 1987 and currently holds the position of Executive Officer. Martyn was President of the Australasian Federation of Family History Organisations from 1991 to 1995. He is the President and Honorary Archivist of the Society of Australian Genealogists based in Sydney.*

## Help wanted

Mrs. C. Wood, 11 Ropley Street, Amberley, 8251, New Zealand

### Wood family of Reading

My husband's family lived in Cambridge Street, Reading, in the 1930s and visited another Wood family who lived in Derby Street. He remembers there was a son, possibly Robert, who worked for the General Post Office also in Reading. He thinks that Robert would have been born about 1912. Can anybody help with further information on this family, perhaps from street directories, or personal knowledge? We are hoping that there may be a connection to our family.

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## 'An Australian boy'

Ralph Sanderson

On Wednesday March 10, 1852 an 11-year-old boy died in Reading from the effects of tuberculosis and peritonitis. Several days later his body was buried in the London Road Cemetery and a headstone placed upon his grave as a memorial by those who knew him. In part it read 'Sacred to the memory of William Wimmera an Australian boy...'

A century and a half has now elapsed since William 'Willie' Wimmera's death yet the headstone that was erected still exists and is today both a rare and poignant reminder of his short existence.

Rare, because the grave it marks shares a common history with only a handful of other known graves in cemeteries across Britain – it contains the remains of an indigenous Australian.

The oldest burial site of an indigenous Australian in Britain is the grave of Yemmerrawanie (Yemmerrawanyea), a 19-year-old native of the Eora tribe who died on May 18, 1794. With Bennelong he was one of the first two indigenous Australians to visit England. They arrived in London from the fledgling Colony of New South Wales aboard the *Atlantic* in 1793 and were presented to King George III. Within a year Yemmerrawanie was dead and his body interred in the churchyard of St. John the Baptist at Eltham, Kent.

The Warstone Lane (Church of England) cemetery in Birmingham is the final resting place of Edward Warrulan (Warru-loong). He was about nine years old when he arrived in London aboard the *Symmetry* in 1845. Warrulan was the son of a tribal chief in the Colony of South Australia and had been brought to England by Edward John Eyre, the noted explorer. He and a companion were presented to Queen Victoria in January 1846. Following Eyre's appointment and departure to New Zealand as Lieutenant-Governor, Warrulan remained in England where his benefactors placed him in an agricultural school at Sibford, in Oxfordshire. He later moved to Banbury where he learnt saddlery and harness work before joining the harness manufacturing firm of J. Middlemore in Birmingham. He also was aged about 19 years when he died from the effects of exposure on October 23, 1855.



At a park in Tower Hamlets in London's East End lies Bripumyarrinin (also known as 'King Cole', Brippokei, and Charles Rose). He was a native of the Colony of Victoria and had the distinction of being one of the members of the first all-aboriginal cricket team to visit and play in England. The team surreptitiously arrived in London aboard the *Parramatta* in May 1868 and had already played several matches when 'King Cole' tragically succumbed to tuberculosis within a month of their arrival and died on June 24, 1868 in Guy's Hospital, London.

William Wimmera was not a cricketer or the son of a tribal chief. Nor was he ever presented to royalty or had a well-known patron or benefactor. He was the youngest known 'Australian boy' to die and be buried so far from his land of origin. 'Willie', as he was referred to by his benefactors and acquaintances in England, was a native of the Wotjobaluk tribe who occupied lands in the Wimmera district in the Colony of New South Wales. He was born about 1840, only four years after Major Thomas Mitchell and his expedition had first traversed the region and in whose wake came the eventual demise of its native inhabitants.

By the time the boy was six years of age, the Wotjobaluk country had been encroached upon by white squatters who brought with them thousands of head of sheep to graze the lands. Clashes between the Wotjobaluk and the European invaders became inevitable as both culture and commercial interests collided.



*Illustrated London News*, February 14, 1846

In a punitive measure for some unknown aggression or act, in February 1846, a party of white settlers set upon a camp of these aboriginal people by the banks of the Wimmera River. Amongst this native group was our six-year-old boy who, by the end of the attack, was left clinging to his dead mother – a bullet through her heart. The woman was buried on the spot and the 'orphaned' boy removed to the home of a Belgian settler, Horatio Ellerman, who had both participated in the raid and was reputed to have fired the shot that had killed the boy's mother.

At the home of Ellerman he was brought up and worked in the household as a servant. In December 1850, Willie's life took another dramatic turn. He was invited to join some

men on a trip carting wood to Melbourne. But while in the city he became lost and wandered the streets.

He was soon discovered by a group of young white children and, either at the invitation of his young peers or through curiosity followed them home where he was both fed and allowed to sleep. Willie also accompanied the white children to their school and it was there he came to the attention of the 33-year-old Reverend Septimus Lloyd Chase, an Anglican clergyman and former curate of St. Johns Church, Reading.

After discovering the boy in the school it wasn't long before the Reverend Chase eventually took him into his own home. Chase was soon to return to England and so, with the thought of educating and evangelising the boy into the Christian Church, he asked Willie if he wished to accompany him. But Chase didn't realise that the boy was not an orphan, as his father and brothers were still alive in the Wimmera district, a fact that was realised many years later when his story was told to a local aboriginal congregation.

The barque *Sacramento* departed Melbourne on the March 29, 1851. A local newspaper recorded that among her passengers were the Reverend Chase and his 'servant'. It was a very long passage to England but it provided Chase with ample time to give the young aboriginal boy instruction in reading and writing and prayer.

Following their arrival in London in September 1851 Chase and his young charge travelled to Reading, to the residence of Chase's father, Samuel. Over the next six months, the boy was cared for and educated by Chase's family and his acquaintances at Reading and at Iver nearer London. He was given lessons in writing and drawing and taught practical skills in plaiting straw and making shoes. His education into the Bible and Christianity also continued.

Whilst at Iver, the boy became ill with congestion of the lungs and so it was decided that he should return to Australia as it was considered that the English climate could prove fatal. He returned to Reading before Christmas but his condition continued to deteriorate. On January 8, 1852 Chase was married at St. Giles in Reading and because of this and other commitments was not able to provide the boy with his full attention.

Nevertheless, with Willie's understanding and acceptance of his new faith, Chase had the young Wotjobaluk boy baptized into the

Church where he received the name 'William Wimmera' – a reflection of his origins because his traditional or given aboriginal name was probably never known or had been long forgotten.

Sadly, over the next few months the boy's condition scarcely improved. He lost a great deal of weight and he suffered great pain. Although his passage back to Australia in the company of Chase had been arranged Willie did not live long enough to make the journey home. Despite the efforts of his benefactor and carers he finally succumbed before dawn on that spring morning of Wednesday, March 10, 1852.

Plot 10, Row A, Section 44 of the London Road Cemetery, Reading holds more than the body of that eleven-year-old boy. It holds a glimpse into our history and although there may be none now who will mourn or mark the sesqui-centenary of his passing we can at least remember and reflect.



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## The Mass-Observation Archive

*Joy Eldridge*

Few family historians have heard of the Mass-Observation Archive as it is primarily used by broadcasters and social historians, yet it contains a superb collection of material. The Archive, originally resulting from the work of the social research organisation Mass-Observation, was founded in 1937 with the primary idea of creating 'an anthropology of ourselves'. Both a team of observers and a panel of volunteer writers studied the everyday life of ordinary people in Britain throughout the Second World War and into the early 1950s.

The observational team of paid investigators went to meetings, religious occasions, sporting and leisure activities, in the street and at work, and recorded people's behaviour and conversation in as much detail as possible. The material they produced is a varied documentary account of life in Britain at that time.

The original panel of writers, from all over Britain, kept diaries or replied to regular open-ended questionnaires, called directives, sent out by Mass-Observation's central team. For historians of Berkshire and Berkshire family life, the best source of local colour will be among these contributions, both during the war and in post-war times.

The Archive holds war diaries from nine men and women with Berkshire addresses at some time in their wartime existence. These range from one or two entries to more substantial responses and all are available to researchers on microfilm in the reading rooms. Directive respondents from Berkshire are more numerous. There are twenty-eight with a local address, responding to topics such as the food situation in 1942, the traditional English Sunday, feelings about the end of the war and the inconveniences of life in wartime.

The contemporary Mass-Observation Project has also attracted Berkshire residents, responding to present day directives, on a wide range of topics. These have included holidays, growing up, general elections and more unusual themes such as mothers and literacy. A full list of topics covered since 1981 is available on the Archive website.

The identity of all volunteer contributors, throughout the collections, is protected by our access conditions. This means that we are not a fruitful source for people tracing their family tree or investigating wider family history. What we hold is a singular and rich archive of social and life history material, consulted by scholars and visitors worldwide. In the spirit of early Mass-Observation, we offer researchers the chance to read how ordinary people feel and think and make sense of their changing lives. So for those writing their family history the archive is a rich resource for filling in those gaps in our understanding of wartime and post-war years.

The Archive came to the University of Sussex, where it has stayed and flourished into the twenty-first century, as a charitable trust in the care of the University Library. It is a repository of the original Mass-Observation papers and has been collecting life writings since 1981, through volunteer contributors. Our website at [www.sussex.ac.uk/library/massobs/](http://www.sussex.ac.uk/library/massobs/) offers comprehensive details on the archive, and how to visit us. Alternatively, you may contact us by letter or email at the address given below. The Archive, as part of the Special Collections in the Library, is open to the public, subject to our access conditions and visitors must make an appointment. The Library is usually open from Monday to Thursday from 9.15am to 5.00pm.

*For further information contact us at The Mass-Observation Archive, Special Collections, University of Sussex Library, Brighton, BN2 9QL. Email [library.specialcoll@sussex.ac.uk](mailto:library.specialcoll@sussex.ac.uk)*

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## Computing Workshops & Seminars for Family Historians – Autumn 2002 at the Research Centre, Yeomanry House, Reading

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## Book Ends

**Dorset & Beyond, the Wilsher family history, AD 1550-2000. John Wilsher (Scotforth Books, 2002); 8fi x 6fi”, hardback, coloured dust wrapper, illustrated, index; 308pp. Price £15.00 (post-free UK) from the author, 166 Chiltern Rd, Dunstable, Beds. LU6 1EU, or all good booksellers.**

This is a well-presented and lavish family history. The author has made a brave attempt to interest both family and non-family members by including local and social history, together with some explanation about some of the sources which enabled him to make the link to his ancestors in a sixteenth century Dorset village. However such an impressively produced publication could have benefited from some professional editing.

**Our Village of Spencers Wood: Spencers Wood Local History Group, 2001. A5, black & white card cover with photograph, illustrations, bibliography, 96pp. Price £5, o/s £6.50**

Written and produced by four enthusiastic members of this local history group it contains much local information and photographs relating to the history and people in this part of Swallowfield, south of Reading. A must for anyone with an interest in or ancestors from this area.

**The People of Didcot – Images of England (part of the Archive Photographs series). Comp. Kenneth Caulkett (Tempus Publishing Ltd, Gloucs, 2000); B5, illustrated card cover, photographs, 128pp. Price £11.25, o/s £11.80**

This is one of an expanding series which contain a collection of local photographs (many dated) with a short, explanatory text to each. This publication is divided into chapters relating to The Barn, People & Places, Sports and Pastimes, Schools and Outings, The Railways and The Military.

**The Town of Reading & its Abbey. Dr Cecil Slade (Local Heritage Books, Berkshire, 2001). B5, laminated pictorial card cover, illustrated, index, 162pp. Price £11.10 o/s £11.85**

A professor at Reading University, Dr Slade was a local boy who had made a lifetime study of this subject. He traces, with

academic skill, the development of Reading's relationship with the Abbey from its foundation in 1121 to its downfall in 1539 continuing through to 1997 with an Epilogue. Unfortunately he died before the book went to print and the text was read and the foreword written by his colleague, Professor Brian Kemp.

**Wokingham & Bracknell (Francis Frith's Photographic Memories) Trevor Ottlewski (Frith Book Co Ltd. 2001). 7fi x 8fi", illustrated card cover, photographs, index, 92pp. Price £10.85 o/s £11.85**

The publication follows the format of others in this growing series and includes details of Francis Frith, the Victorian photographer, and the archive collection on which this series is based. The author has written the introductory historical text for the local area which is followed by many pages of dated photographs, each with a short text. The areas covered include Wokingham and Nine Mile Ride, Bracknell and the neighbouring parishes, around Ascot, Crowthorne village, Finchampstead and Eversley.

**Thatcham Road Names. Roy Brian Tubb (the author, 1991). A5, yellow pictorial card cover, illustrated (maps & photographs), 258pp. Price £8. 90 o/s £9.50**

Thatcham may have consisted originally of East, South and West Streets which need little explanation. In this book, the author has traced the history and meaning of 265 old and new road and building names, which only became 'official' from 1928. The alphabetical list includes such intriguing names as Spackman Close, Roman Way, Pipers Lane and Bowling Green Road. In addition to various historical maps there are five modern road maps so you can search for an individual road with ease.

**Tithe War: 1918-1939, The Countryside in Revolt. Carol Twinch (Media Associates) 6.8" x 9.6". B/W illus., 303pp UK. Available from the author at [carol@hillfarm12/freeserve/co/uk](mailto:carol@hillfarm12/freeserve/co/uk).**

As an historical narrative the *Tithe War* firmly sides with the farming community, but despite that it provides an illuminating insight into a largely forgotten and bitter campaign fought against the 'iniquitous' tithe rents imposed to finance the established church. The campaign began at a particularly difficult time for farmers during the agricultural depression in the final quarter of the nineteenth century. In the early 1920s more than £3 million was still paid in tithe rents in England and Wales. Many farmers



were unable to pay tithe rents and had their stock sold by auctioneers. In one case furniture and even baby beds and clothes were sold. On Midsummer's Day in 1936 5,000 farmers marched through London, for a mass meeting attended by political leaders. The campaign effectively ended tithe rents but not before many farmers had paid the price of trying to live off the land while paying substantial amounts to the church.

The Editor

**The Jarvis Chronicles: a family history. Carol Jarvis (published by the author, 2002). 5.6" x 8.1" illus. P/B. £7.00 per copy, with postage and packing UK post 95p. Overseas EC £1.95p, USA £2.90p, Australia £3.10p**

Some family historians are like jackdaws collecting dates and documents which they hope will lead them to a promised land of a family tree stretching back generations. As a result we are left with hundreds of certificates and papers, but little history. However, more and more family histories are being written, setting out the story of individual families. *The Jarvis Chronicles* by Carol Jarvis is a family saga from the seventeenth century to the Millennium. The Jarvises had their origins in the village of Shinfield and each chapter tells the story of a single generation. Eminently readable with many illustrations and family charts, this paperback should become a guide for those wishing to write a similar opus.

The Editor

**All these books, and many more, are available from our Bookshop at the Research Centre, Yeomanry House, 131 Castle Hill, Reading RG1 7TJ, or at our website on [www.berksfhs.org.uk](http://www.berksfhs.org.uk).**

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# Waving the flag

*Carolyn Boulton*

In 1998 an unmarked grave of the co-designer of the Australian National Flag, Annie Whistler Dorrington, was discovered in Karrakatta Cemetery in Western Australia. Within a year a monument to her contribution to Australia's heritage was erected. Annie was a gifted artist, one of the five winners of the 1901 competition to design a flag to celebrate the new Federal government of Australia. Almost 33,000 designs were submitted to the competition sponsored by the government and the Havelock Tobacco Co. Annie received a substantial prize of £40, about a year's salary.

The memorial stone erected in 1999 gives her birthplace as Winkfield, Windsor, in 1866. After carrying out some research into her family background I discovered that she was not born in Berkshire. Indeed Annie was born on March 19, 1866 at Litchfield Grange, near Ashe, in Hampshire to Richard and Sarah Mills Whistler (nee Vines). The mistake over her birthplace has been perpetuated not only on her memorial plaque but also in print in a book on Winkfield.<sup>1</sup>

After Annie's birth the family moved around Hampshire and eventually when she was four her father, Richard Whistler, took up the tenancy of Lower Farm, Winkfield Park. Her formative



years were spent at the farm, then about 430 acres, which belonged to Foliejon Park. The Park's history goes back to the King's manor of Foliejon in 1385 and adjoins Windsor Great Park. At the time of Henry VIII, Sir William Norreys held it until the

sixteenth century. William Blane, a Scotsman who had made his fortune from the East India Company, owned the estate in the early nineteenth century. His older brother, Sir Gilbert Blane, a naval doctor, advocated the use of limejuice for sailors to eliminate scurvy.

When Annie was living at the farm, the occupant of Foliejon Park was Thomas Blane, a retired Civil Servant who had served in India. In his household was his nephew, a Lieutenant in the Royal Artillery, his niece, wife of a Captain, her six children and a governess from Sierra Leone. The huge workforce of butler, servants and grooms numbered 19. At the farm Richard Whistler employed nine men and four boys, including an old farmhand who was said to have fought at the battle of Waterloo. The Whistler family consisted of Annie's six sisters, Mary, Rosa, Ellen (also born in Hampshire), Flora, Jessie and Carrie and her two brothers Frank and Charles (all born at Winkfield, Berkshire), who all enjoyed living in the beautiful setting on the banks of the River Thames. Annie and her sisters are said to have spent their childhood painting, riding a donkey and in winter skating on the lake. She did spend some time, in her teens, with the family of her mother's cousin, John Charles Vines, who was an auctioneer and valuer at Odiham, Hampshire.



*Annie Whistler Dorrington*

Her idyllic world was to change dramatically when in 1887 her father Richard Whistler died. His family from Old Basing, Hampshire and he was believed, but not proven, to be related to James McNeill Whistler, the American artist. Certainly Annie was a capable artist and taught others in later life. Her widowed mother Sarah Whistler found the farm, which had grown by then to 457 acres, too much to cope with and a bailiff was employed – Charles Dorrington. ‘The sisters were all agog, and wanting to know his name, to which their mother tersely replied, ‘It could be Ahasuerus (King of Ancient Persia) for all I know’. From then on Charles Dorrington was known as Asu and Annie used this *nom de plume* for her entry in the Flag competition.’<sup>2</sup>

For whatever reason the Whistler family bravely decided to emigrate and in about 1890, they travelled on the steamship Britannia to Melbourne closely followed by Charles and Harry Dorrington. Charles and his older brother Harry were believed to be from Sawbridgeworth, Hertfordshire, and sons of a farmer. Annie and Charles were married at St Albans Church, Armadale, Melbourne, Victoria, in 1892. They moved to Perth in 1895 when Charles was made manager of the Swan River Shipping Company. About 50 of Annie’s paintings were exhibited in London in 1908. Annie’s brother Frank went across to the Western Australian goldfields to the pioneered land in Merriden where Harry Dorrington joined him later. Charles and Annie had no children of their own and none of her sisters married, as their mother did not approve of the ‘wild colonial boys’. Miles from her family and separated from Charles, who was now a Shire Clerk in Mundijong, she found solace in her paintings of Western Australian wildflowers. The Art Gallery of Western Australia holds 124 of the watercolour paintings she produced. Suffering from bouts of depression Annie, died of cancer aged 60 in 1926 and was laid to rest in an unmarked grave.

In April 1999, 100 people, including many relatives, attended a dedication ceremony to mark her grave with a monument and a bronze plaque. The Australian Prime Minister John Howard sent a letter of commendation.<sup>3</sup>

1 *The Winkfield Chronicles* by the Winkfield History Project Group

2 *The Flag and Annie Dorrington* by Dorothy Cooper

3 *The Annie Dorrington Story* by Rr. Adm. PGN Kennedy

## The sport of Kings (and Queens)

*David Boyd*

Horse racing is old; but training stables as we know them are not. In the eighteenth century owners had their horses prepared in their parks by their grooms. Gradually owners noticed that certain areas produced better training gallops and sent their horses there. The grooms became known as 'training grooms', a title still used until the 1870s. Training centres began where the turf was best; not necessarily near the racecourses. Malton and Middleham in Yorkshire, Hednesford in Staffordshire, Holywell near Flint, Bourton-on-the-Hill in Gloucestershire, Newmarket, Epsom and other places became the homes of several stables where the trainers prepared horses sometimes for single owners as 'private' trainers but increasingly for several owners as 'public' trainers. Training was a trade and remained as such until the 1890s when an increasing number of younger sons decided it was a fit occupation for gentry. Respectability had been achieved long before with John Scott (d 1871), popularly known as 'The Wizard of the North'; he entertained Prime Ministers at his Malton stables and gave the definitive opinion on most subjects within his field.

Sleepy Berkshire's part in this story was late in starting. The Duke of Cumberland kept his racehorses at East Ilsley but others were slower in appreciating the chalk downs. John Stevens came here from Bourton-on-the-Hill in the 1830s. He retired in the 1840s and was succeeded by his son Thomas who was to train in Berkshire for forty years, moving the stable to Chilton in 1852. He had for several years the largest stable in Berkshire. Four of his sons were to train locally. His son Tom jnr. followed him in the 1880s and his brother George succeeded Tom in 1899. Of Tom Stevens snr. it was said that he took the Racing Calendar to church. His oldest son, William, set up on his own at Yew Tree Cottage, Compton, in 1871. Like his father he knew the way to make a living was to train many mostly moderate horses and to know when they were going to win. Both he and his father survived with difficulty an incident when an apprentice told the Jockey Club he had regularly 'pulled' horses for both trainers. During the 1890s William Stevens was able to buy much of Compton including Roden House.

Quality as opposed to quantity at East llsley came from James Dover who moved here from Hednesford in 1862. He saddled a string of classic winners including Lord Lyon, winner of the Triple Crown in 1866. Unlike the Stevens family he died poor and his son, James jnr, did little of note at Churchill Cottage. George Drewe kept the Swan Inn and trained there up to the end of the 1850s. His stable jockey, Joseph Lowe, who succeeded him, later moved to Kennet House and chaired the parish council. Three of the Dawson brothers, Scots and members of the most important of all training families, were briefly based here though all were to move on to Newmarket; Joseph left llsley in 1859, John moved there from Roden House in 1860, and Mat, greatest of all trainers, had stables at llsley and Yew Tree Cottage in the early 1850s. After John Dawson's departure from Roden House the American owner Richard Ten-Broeck leased the house until 1866 for himself and his Virginian trainer. Without reliable owners life could be interesting; James Waugh's long and distinguished training career included two years at East llsley in the 1860s for Wybrow Robinson, an Antipodean, who gambled away all of his immense fortune. Ascot Heath was used by several local stables. The Master of Buckhounds improved the gallops in the 1830s and Berkshire's first classic winner was trained here in 1834 by William Day who occupied Englemere Cottage but died two years later.



*Mat Dawson*

Henry Scott and his son Sam moved here in 1837 while Samuel Death trained nearby for nearly thirty years up until his retirement in 1859. Ben Land who had formerly trained jumpers at East llsley had two spells at Englemere Cottage from 1854 to 1863 but Ascot's significance as a racecourse grew as its reputation as a training centre faded.

Race meetings took place at Lambourn from the eighteenth century but the first trainers only arrived in the later 1840s. John Shaw Drinkald, eccentric and disliked, installed his private trainer in the High Street in 1847; the venture never thrived and Mr Drinkald, a bad loser, ended his days in an asylum. Edwin Parr, an owner-trainer, who also trained for others, bought property here and trained with moderate success until 1860. Lord Craven himself showed what the amateur could do. He bought a share in Wild Dayrell, the property of the owner of Littlecote, and the colt prepared by a Littlecote gardener/groom in the grounds of Ashdown Park survived several 'nobbling' attempts to land the 1855 Derby. Joseph Saxon, a self-made Lancashire man, bought a hundred acres on the road to Upper Lambourn and for nearly twenty years up to his death in 1870, having run through all his money, supervised a large and successful string. Luke Snowden, the best of his several outstanding apprentices, is one of the few racing men to be buried in the old churchyard. The lychgate at the church was erected in memory of Charles Jousiffe who was at Seven Barrows from 1877 to 1891.

John Prince took Stork House in 1859 as a public trainer – he had previously trained privately at llsley and in Upper Lambourn. A Derby winner did come from his stable, Kettledrum in 1861, but it was prepared by a 'visiting' trainer who afterwards moved



*Picnic at Ascot races*



unsuccessfully to Seven Barrows. Fred Bates, a Dawson son-in-law and Prince's successor, had most of his success elsewhere. James Humphreys who trained there from 1874 to 1896, specialised in winning the great handicaps. Billy Higgs, born in the Mile End Road and a lad in his stable before the railway reached Lambourn, reminisced later: 'Six o'clock in the morning until seven at night....every horse which ran had to walk ten miles to the station.' Higgs was twice champion on the Flat (the stableman's dream came true), but for most lads, often recruited for weight reasons from urban slums, the dream did not, although there were worse alternatives than a racing stable.

Fred Lynham ran a successful but secretive stable at Saxon House – he was another of Saxon's apprentices – and continued to own the yard after moving to France. Edward Hobbs, there from 1885, saddled good handicappers in the 1890s. But Lambourn remained best known for a stable which used its gallops but was in fact in Wiltshire. The Rothschild horses were the first trained at Russley Park in 1853 but the stable was for nearly twenty years the base for most of James Merry's horses. Merry, a Scots ironmaster who attracted little affection, gambled heavily but his horses ran on their merits with great success up to 1875. His last trainer, Robert Peck, continued Russley's success under his own direction. Archie Merry, James's son, leased Seven Barrows from the Craven estate after Charles Jousiffe's death, putting the stable under the direction of the Irish amateur rider, Garry Moore. James Peace, the subject of an unkind witticism from an ex-owner ('Ah Mr Peace – the peace that passeth all understanding') trained on a large and successful scale at various stables in the area from 1883 until his retirement nineteen years later; for him quantity counted while James Chandler, at Lambourn House from 1889, handled a higher class of horse. For much of this period there were usually about four important stables at any one time using the Lambourn Downs.

At Letcombe Regis, Edwin Parr's older brother Tom bought Benhams in 1851. His abilities as a trainer of (mostly) his own horses were matched only by his financial ineptitude. High in the table of leading owners for much of the next thirty years – he headed the list in 1856 – he hid at intervals in his loft to avoid his creditors. His most noted lad, Charles Morton, trained in the village up to 1888 and returned there later; his achievements in the next century far eclipsed those of a master whom he held in great regard. At Letcombe Regis too was Jack Hornsby who

moved there in the late 1880s and trained the legendary handicapper Victor Wild, perhaps the most popular racehorse of the time. Stables started elsewhere notably at East Hendred, Letcombe Bassett, Sparsholt and finally, in 1897, Whatcombe, but for most of these, as indeed the principal centres in Berkshire, the great racing days lay in the twentieth century.

*Recommended reading: for a general history of racing in Berkshire see James Douglas-Home 'Horse racing in Berkshire' (1992); for brief information on specific trainers see David Boyd, 'A Biographical dictionary of racehorse trainers in Berkshire 1850-1939'.*



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# The National Monuments Record

*Alyson Rogers*

The National Monuments Record (NMR) is English Heritage's public archive and provides information on the architecture and archaeology of England. Anyone is welcome to consult the NMR, either by visiting one of our search rooms in Swindon or London, or by using our remote enquiry service. The main archive is in Swindon, apart from architectural records for Greater London held in our London Search Room.

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*Harvest time in Lower Cadsden, Princes Risborough, Buckinghamshire c 1903.*

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*Ludgate Circus, London c1880*

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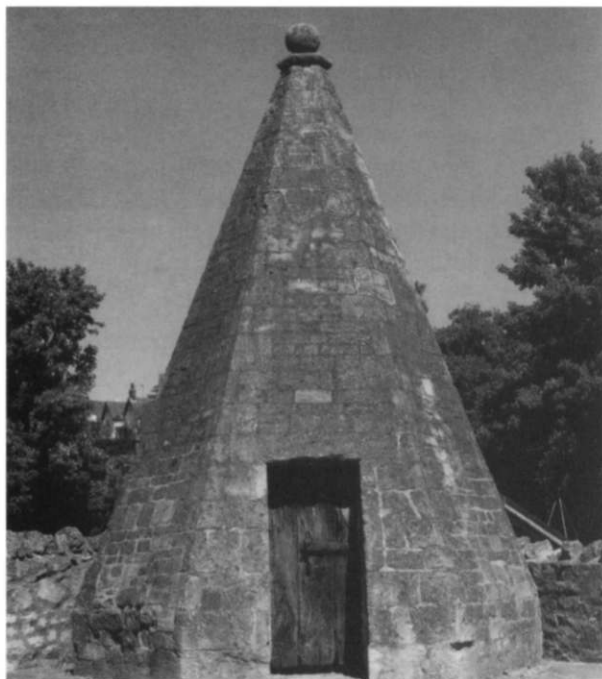
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Or complete a free enquiry form on our website at: [www.english-heritage.org.uk](http://www.english-heritage.org.uk)



*Lock-up at Wheatley, Oxon*

# Members' interests

Compiled by Bob Plumridge. [Bob.Plumridge@virgin.net](mailto:Bob.Plumridge@virgin.net)

## Members submitting their interests

- 1170 Mr JN Thatcher Box 256 Thornbury Ontario N0H 2P0 CANADA
- 2812 Mrs E Adams 22 Floriston Gardens Ashley New Milton Hampshire BH25 2DL
- 3412 Mr JT Fowle 5900 Nancy Greene Way North Vanvouver British Columbia V7R 4N4  
Canada
- 3629 Mr A Punshon 173 Derwent Road Thatcham Newbury Berkshire RG19 3UP
- 4152 Mrs J Burrows PO Box 1294 Woden ACT Canberra AUSTRALIA 2606
- 4662 Mr AJ Gray 14 Little Fancy Close Roborough Plymouth Devon PL6 7DR
- 4686 Mr LJH Sale 109 Kilmorie Road Forest Hill London SE23 2SP
- 4733 Mrs SA Sherman Kynnton 34 Longdon Wood Keston Park Keston Kent BR2 6EW
- 4745 Mr J & Mrs B Lockley 13 Berners Way Faringdon Oxon SN7 7BG
- 4773 Mrs JE Morton Halcyon 64 Selbourne Avenue New Haw Addlestone Surrey KT15 3RD
- 4836 Mrs LE Goodman 11 Rushes Mead Harlow Essex CM18 6QA
- 4840 Mrs J Forno 92 Crockford Park Rd Addlestone Surrey KT15 2LR
- 4841 Mr W Stones 26 Starmead Drive Wokingham Berks RG40 2HX
- 4845 Mr B Shirley 4412 Abingdon Road Columbia South Carolina 29203 USA
- 4848 Mrs M Cox 72 Green Leas Sunbury on Thames Middlesex TW16 7PG
- 4855 Mrs L Quayle 13 Rectory Meadow Fornham All Saints Bury St Edmunds Suffolk IP28 6JR
- 4870 Mrs V Chesterman 7 Norman Road Caversham Reading Berks RG4 5JN
- 4876 Mr M Fowler 47 North Bank Close Strood Rochester Kent ME2 2NL
- 4884 Mr OF Deans 9 Becket Road Bovey Tracey Newton Abbot Devon TQ13 9JB
- 4886 Mr M & Mrs M D'eath 46 Lime Avenue Sholing Southampton Hants SO19 8NZ
- 4897 Mrs JM Smith 9 Oaklands Court Warwick Road Kenilworth Warwickshire CV8 1FD
- 4905 Mr DR & Mrs SA Pounds 15 Barley Way Marlow Bucks SL7 2UG
- 4906 Mr LR Hearne 18 Esterton Close Holbrooks Coventry CV6 4EZ
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- 4909 Mrs I Popkins Ty Carian Adpar Hill Adpar Newcastle Emlyn Ceredigion SA38 9EL
- 4910 Mr J & Mrs M Brown 102 Kingston Crescent Ashford Middx TW15 3NE
- 4914 Mr P & Mrs J Allen 25 Burland Road Waterhays Village Newcastle under Lyme Staffs ST5  
7ST
- 4917 Mrs SA Rickard 16 Wendover Close Mickledever Derby DE3 0TD
- 4918 Mr GN Brind 3 Pingles Road North Wotton Kings Lynn Norfolk PE30 3RW

- 4926 Mrs S Knock The Knap Chapel Lane Yeovil Somerset BA22 7LP  
4927 Mrs HJ Richardson 12 Brunswick Hanworth Bracknell Berks RG12 7YY  
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No	Name	Place	Code Dates	No	Name	Place	Code Dates
4733	(H)OUGH	Any	BRK 1500-1850	4938	BROOKER	Basildon	BRK 1600-1800
4954	ADLEM	Any	WIL 1800-2002	4938	BROOKER	Checkendon	BRK 1800-2000
4914	ALLEN	Kingsclere	HAM 1750-1900	4910	BROWN	Paisley	RWF 1805-1930
4914	ALLEN	Thatcham	BRK 1800-2000	4152	BROWN	Hampton Norriss	BRK 1800-1900
4855	ATKINSON	Ulverston	LAN 1700-1890	4897	BUDDLE	Little Stukeley	HNP 1500-1600
4870	AUSTIN	Reading	BRK 1700-2002	4836	BURT	Cirencester	WIL 1800-1900
4884	AVERY	Chieveley	BRK 1600-1670	4897	BURTON	Buckden	HNP 1650-1800
4855	BALLARD	Wallingford	BRK 1700-1885	4870	BUSHELL	Reading	BRK 1750-1950
4914	BARKER	Longton	STS 1700-1900	4841	BUTCHER	Any	WRY 1850-2000
4954	BARNES	Any	MDX 1800-2002	4950	BUTCHER	London	LDN 1878-1902
4733	BARNES	Any	DOW 1700-1850	4914	BUTT	Thatcham	BRK 1750-1900
4733	BARNES	Govan	LKS 1850-2002	4949	BYGOTT	Hull	ERY 1840-2002
4954	BARNES	Any	AYR 1800-1950	4855	CAIN	Any	IOM 1700-1855
4937	BATEMAN	Poole	HRT 1800-2002	4937	CANN	Bradford	WRY 1850-1950
4937	BATEMAN	Bournemouth	DOR 1850-1950	4908	CARLING	Any	ENG 1700-2001
4937	BEAL	Bournemouth	HAM 1850-1950	4886	CARTER	Southampton	HAM 1850-2000
4964	BEASLEY	Kings Somborne	HAM 1750-1900	4886	CARTER	Bournemouth	HAM 1850-2000
4949	BEAUMONT	Theale	BRK Any	4897	CASTLE	Caversham	OXF 1600-1800
4908	BEEBE	Hull	ERY 1860-2002	4686	CHAMP(S)	All	All
4908	BELTON	Leicestershire	CEN 1700-2001	4930	CHAMPION	Reading	BRK 1700-1796
4908	BELTON	Camberley	ENG 1700-2001	4884	CHANEY	Shinfield	BRK 1700-1770
4897	BESTER	Sandhurst	ENG 1700-2001	4954	CHAPLIN	Any	BRK 1750-1900
4897	BESTER	Wistow	HNP 1700-1750	4855	CHAPMAN	Wallingford	BRK 1700-1885
4870	BIGGS	Little Eversden	CAM 1650-1750	4954	CHAPMAN	Any	BRK 1750-1850
4745	BLAKE	Reading	BRK 1800-2002	4876	CHASTELL	Wokingham	BRK 1700-1900
4932	BONE	Reading	BRK 1800 +	4870	CHASTELL	Reading	BRK 1700-1900
4932	BONE	Beetley	NFK 1597-1720	4974	CHESTERMAN	Reading	BRK 1750-2002
3629	BONNICK	N. Elmham	NFK 1597-1720	4914	CLEMENT	Deptford	KEN 1800-1850
4884	BOSWELL	Any	MDX 1800-2000	4932	COLLINS	Aldermaston	BRK 1770-1900
4949	BRACKNELL	S. Stoke	OXF 1650-1700	4930	COLLINS	Kensington	MDX pre 1837
4930	BRADBURY	Bettion	SFK 1850-2002	4914	CONDLIFF	Wycombe	BKM 1700-1860
4840	BRANSON	Stamford	LIN 1700-1894	4914	CONDLIFF	Tideswell	DBY 1754-2000
4926	BREADMAN	Clapham	SRY 1790-2002	4914	CONDLIFF	Liverpool	LAN 1800-2000
4918	BRIND	Chieveley	BRK 1700-1850	4914	CONDLIFFE	Melcombe Regis	DOR 1873-2000
4918	BRIND	Shimfield	BRK 1800-1900	4914	CONDLIFFE	Sandbach	CHS 1660-2000
4908	BROOK(S)	Reading	BRK 1914-1968	4840	COOKE	Leek	STS 1543-2000
		Bradfield	BRK 1849-1925			Theale	BRK 1750-1837
		Sussex	ENG 1700-2001			St George in the East	MDX 1800-1950

No	Name	Place	Code Dates	No	Name	Place	Code Dates
4918	COX	Goring	OXF 1831-1920	4952	FOURNESS	Any	WYK 1700-1850
4886	COZENS	Southampton	HAM 1700-2001	3412	FWOLE	Reading	BRK 1830-1850
4909	CRAKER	Reading	BRK 1750-1850	4836	FOX	Liskeard	CON 1800-1900
4909	CRAKER	Abingdon	BRK 1750-1850	4855	FRANCIS	Wallingford	BRK 1700-1885
4909	CRAKER	Sutton Courtenay	BRK 1650-1850	4950	FRANKLIN	Wallingham Abbey	ESS 1813-1830
3629	CRANE	Any	MDX 1850-2000	4950	FRANKLIN	Sheering	ESS 1780-1812
4937	CRIPPS	Waddesdon	BKM 1800-1900	4917	FRENCH	Stanwell	MDX 1700-
4949	CROCOMBE	Exeter	DEV 1880-2002	4917	FRENCH	Windsor Area	BRK 1700-
4906	CROSS	Frilford	BRK 1700-1900	4840	FREWIN	Standford in the Vale	BRK 1700-1820
4950	CROSS	London	LDN 1888-1902	4662	FRY	Capel	KEN 1066-2000
4906	CROSS	Hanney	BRK 1700-1900	4918	FULLER	Bradfield	BRK 1800-1935
4954	DANIELS	Any	DOR 1066-2002	4897	FURNELL	Motesworth	HNP 1700-1800
4954	DANIELS	Any	HAM 1066-2002	4952	FURNESS	Any	WYK 1800-1900
4910	DEADMAN	Wootton Rivers	WIL 1816-1897	4840	GAPPER	Any	Any 1600-2002
4910	DEADMAN	Milton	WIL 1816-1897	4836	GEALER	Cirencester	WIL 1800-1900
4886	D'EATH	Brightlinsea	ESS 1800-2000	4840	GOODE	Dublin	IRL 1800-1880
4886	D'EATH	Great Bromley	ESS 1700-2000	4914	GOODWIN	Macclesfield	CHS 1600-1800
4949	DEEKS	Brighton	SSX 1840-2002	4914	GOODWIN	Horton	STS 1800-2000
4855	DIXON	Ulverston	LAN 1700-1900	4884	GOSWELL	S. Stoke	OXF 1600-1660
4910	DORMAN	Glasgow	RFW 1860-1905	4662	GRAY	Winkfield	BRK 1066-2000
4954	DOSWELL	Any	MDX 1800-1900	4733	GUNNING	Bath	SOM 1700-2002
4906	DRIVER	Blakney	NFK 1600-1800	4733	GUNNING	Any	BRK 1700-1900
4949	DRY	Hull	ERY 1740-2002	4733	GUNNING	Any	BRK 1700-1900
4897	DURHAM	Buckden	HNP 1700-1800	4950	GUYVER	Broxton	ESS 1750-1770
4914	DWYER	Scarborough	YKS 1800-2000	4910	GWYNNE	Shalbro	WIL 1800-1833
4937	EASTMAN	Salisbury	WIL 1800-1900	4905	HADEN	Romsley	STS 1800-1904
4949	EDWARDS	Tavistock	DEV 1853-2002	4949	HALL	Hull	ERY 1830-2002
4907	EDWARDS	Henley	OXF 1890-1930	4910	HALL	Ascot	BRK 1900-1978
4870	EDWARDS	Reading	BRK 1750-2000	4910	HALL	Sunninghill	BRK 1900-1978
4897	ELISHA	Reading	BRK 1700-1800	4917	HALLAM	Hurst	BRK 1700-
4855	ELLIS	Leicester	LEI 1700-1915	4930	HAMBLIN	Marylebone	LCC 1700-1920
4905	FASSNIDGE	Loudwater	BKM 1800-1900	4937	HAMMOND	Kingston Lisle	BRK 1800-1900
4910	FISHER	Collingb' Kingston	WIL 1778-2002	4914	HARRISON	Endon	STS 1750-1900
4910	FISHER	South Tidworth	WIL 1778-2002	4855	HARTLEY	Any	IOM 1700-1870
4914	FISHER	Thatcham	BRK 1700-1800	4930	HAWK(ES)	Wycombe	BKM 1700-1860
4840	FORNO	Turin	ITA 1800-1900	4845	HAWKES	Reading	BRK 1800-2000
4840	FORNO	Any	Any 1800-2002	4884	HAWKINS	Thatcham	BRK 1750-1790
4952	FOSTER	Croydon	SRY 1800-1900	4954	HEADINGTON	Any	HAM 1870-2002

No	Name	Place	Code Dates	No	Name	Place	Code Dates
4954	HEADINGTON	Any	BRK 1066-2002	2812	KIMBREY	Any	OXF 1800-1900
4897	HEATH	Ewelme	OXF 1700-1800	2812	KIMBREY	Any	HAM 1800-1900
4897	HEATH	Reading	BRK 1700-1800	4938	KINCH	Exeter	DEV 1900-2000
4855	HEATHCOCK	Uiverston	LAN 1700-1890	4949	KINGHAM	Wincleslade	HAM 1838-2002
4974	HEDGES	Wallingford	BKS 1780-1830	4932	KNIGHT	Macclesfield	LAN pre 1878
4974	HEDGES	Crowmarsh Gifford	OXF 1780-1830	4954	KNIGHT	Farnham	SRV 1800-2002
4906	HERN(S)	Childrey	BRK 1700-1900	4950	LAFFERTY	Chatham	KEN 1840-1860
4927	HEWER	Cirencester	GLS 1884-1901	4950	LAWRENCE	Reading	BRK 1830-1870
4927	HEWER	Poulton	WIL 1859-1901	4950	LAWRENCE	Any	WIL 1830-1870
4927	HEWER	South Cerney	GLS 1884-1901	4733	LITTLEFIELD	Any	Any 1500-2002
4927	HEWER	Yarnton	OXF 1881-1901	4907	LLOYD	Maidenhead	BRK 1820-1870
4918	HINE	Bradfield	BRK 1825-1970	4952	LOCK	Any	GTL 1750-1900
4932	HOLDBROOK	Canterbury	KEN pre 1780	4840	LOTCHO	Shoreditch	MDX 1700-1834
4914	HOLDCROFT	Norton in Moors	STS 1600-1900	2812	LOVEGROVE	Newtown	BRK 1800-1900
4884	HOLTEN	Binfield	BRK 1630-1710	4884	LOVEJOY	Goring	OXF 1700-1740
4914	HOOD	Burslem	STS 1600-2000	4938	LOVELOCK	Reading	BRK 1700-2000
4884	HOPKINS	Sonning	BRK 1700-1760	4914	MacBETH	Farr	SUT 1800-1900
4937	HUDSON	Bradford	WRV 1800-1950	4918	MACDONALD	Knockbain	ROC 1800-1900
4949	HUGHES	Brighton	SSX 1764-2002	4884	MAC	S. Stoke	OXF 1600-1660
4905	HUGHES-COPPINS	Any	Any 1800-1940	4662	MACKERNES	Whaddon	1066-2000
4907	HUTCHING	Manningford	WIL 1820-1860	4918	MACKINTOSH	Cawdor	NAI 1800-1900
4907	HUTCHING	Cookham	BRK 1860-1900	4910	McGUNNIGLE	Partick	RFW 1880-1905
4841	HUTCHINSON	Any	WRV 1850-2000	4908	MELLORS	Leicestershire	CEN 1700-2001
4956	HYDE	London	MDX 1800-1900	4840	MILLER	Stoke Poges	BKM 1700-1860
4848	ILLSLEY	Compton	BRK 1500-2002	4932	MILLS	Worcester	WOR pre 1860
4848	ILLSLEY	Tilehurst	BRK 1600-2002	4914	MILLS	Thattham	BRK 1750-1900
4848	ILLSLEY	Bray	BRK 1700-2002	4870	MORPHEY	Reading	BRK 1800-2002
4917	JACKSON	Wrayisbury	BKM 1740-1860	4870	MORRIS	Reading	BRK 1750-2000
4974	JACKSON	Oakham	LEI 1800-1900	4910	MOTTISHHEAD	Liverpool	LAN 1837-2002
4870	JEANS	Poole	DOR 1800-2002	4914	MOUNTFORD	Endon	STS 1700-1950
4914	JENKINS	Thattham	BRK 1750-1900	4937	MULCOCK	Coteshill	BRK 1800-1900
4926	JONES	Shinfield	BRK 1800-1900	4918	MUNRO	Inverness	INV 1800-1900
4926	JONES	3 Mile Cross	BRK 1800-1900	4927	MURRAY	Preston	GLS 1881-1901
3629	JORDAN	Any	MDX 1850-2000	4927	MURRAY	Shropshire	SAL 1881-1901
4773	JOYCE	East Garston	BRK 1765-1900	4927	MURRAY	Any	Any 1849-1901
4914	KENNERLEY	Congleton	STS 1700-1900	4927	MURRAY	Cirencester	GLS 1881-1901
4956	KEITTLE	St Pancras	MDX 1800-1900	4908	NEAL(E)	Warwickshire	CEN 1700-2001
2812	KIMBREY	Any	BRK 1800-1900	4954	NEIGHBOUR	Bushey	HRT 1800-2002

No	Name	Place	Code Dates	No	Name	Place	Code Dates
4956	NEW	St Giles Reading	BRK 1700-1825	4905	POUNDS	Kintbury	BRK 1800-1930
4956	NEW	St Pancras	MDX 1800-1900	4886	PREACE	London	MDX 1800-1950
4956	NEW	Bethnal Green	MDX 1800-1900	4886	PREECE	Abingdon	BRK 1800-2001
4956	NEW	Littleworth	BRK 1700-1825	4886	PREECE	Reading	BRK 1800-2001
4930	NEWBON	Stamford	LIN 1700-1880	4914	PRIEST	Malton	YKS 1800-2000
4938	NEWMAN	Reading	BRK 1700-2000	4949	PRIOR	Winslade	HAM 1770-2002
4917	NORKMAN	Stanwell	MDX 1700-	3629	PUNCHEON	Any	Any
4949	NORTHMORE	Plymouth	DEV 1600-2002	3629	PUNCHON	Any	Any
4914	NORTHWAY	Thatcham	BRK 1600-2000	3629	PUNSHON	Any	Any
4845	NOYES	Silchester	HAM 1600-2000	4908	PURVEY	Any	ENG 1700-2001
4937	NOYSE	Monxton	HAM 1800-1900	4855	QUAYLE	Any	IOM 1700-1845
4937	OSBORNE	Bradford	WRY 1800-1950	4855	RADCLIFFE	Any	IOM 1700-1845
4917	OVER	Any	BKM Any	4840	RAINBOW	Hanslope	BKM 1700-2002
4917	OVER	Any	MDX Any	4910	RITCHIE	Paisley	RFW 1882-1903
4917	OVER	Windsor	BRK 1700-1900	4836	ROBINS	Liskeard	CON 1800-1900
4906	OYSTON	Esh	DUR 1600-1875	4836	ROBINS	Swindon	WIL 1850-1940
4938	PACKER	Reading	BRK 1900-2000	4836	ROBINS	Reading	BRK 1910-2001
4918	PADLEY	Reading	BRK 1842-1954	4897	ROGERS	Birmingham	WAR 1700-1800
4910	PALMER	Collingb' Kingston	WIL 1828-1890	4897	ROGERS	Mancetter	WAR 1700-1800
4910	PALMER	Burghfield	BRK 1922-1947	4910	ROSTOCK	Liverpool	LAN 1860-2002
4910	PALMER	Purley	BRK 1922-1947	4949	ROUT	Slindon	SSX 1850-2002
4886	PARKER	Southampton	HAM 1700-1890	4949	ROWELL	Herrland	HAM 1820-2002
4954	PARKER	Any	DOR 1800-1900	4855	ROWLAND	Lancaster	LAN 1700-1870
4840	PARKINS GRANT	Any	Any 1700-1847	4897	SANDALL	Bourne	LIN 1700-1850
4733	PAWLING	Any	BRK 1700-1900	4938	SAUNDERS	Abingdon	BRK 1700-2000
4937	PEARCE	Kingston Lisle	BRK 1800-1950	4974	SAVIL	Wallingford	BKS 1780-1830
4937	PEARCE	Faringdon	BRK 1800-1950	4974	SAVIL	Crowmarsh Gifford	OXF 1780-1830
4937	PEARCE	Andover	HAM 1850-1950	4932	SCHEIDER	Madgeberg	Prussia-1860
4884	PENDRY	Sandford Thames	OXF 1700-1750	4733	SEAL(E)Y	Any	OXF 1500-2002
4662	PHILLIPS	Higham	KEN 1066-2000	4733	SEAL(E)Y	Any	WIL 1500-2002
4886	PICKET	New Forest Area	HAM pre1700-200	4733	SEAL(E)Y	Any	BRK 1500-2002
4967	PITTS	Reading	BRK 1600-1860	4733	SEAL(E)Y	Any	SRY 1500-2002
4836	POLLARD	Reading	BRK 1900-1940	4733	SEAL(E)Y	Any	MDX 1500-2002
4926	POOLE	Birmingham	STS 1891-1910	4974	SEVELL	Wallingford	BKS 1780-1830
4926	POOLE	Andover	HAM 1868-1873	4855	SHARP	Crowmarsh Gifford	OXF 1780-1830
4926	POOLE	Newbury	BRK 1860-1870	4909	SHEWARD	Leicester	LEI 1700-1915
4930	PORTER	Tilhurst	BRK 1700-1840	4918	SIMMONDS	Abingdon	BRK 1750-1850
4733	POTTER	Any	BRK 1500-1850			Bradfield	BRK 1853-1936

No	Name	Place	Code Dates	No	Name	Place	Code Dates
4932	SIMPSON	Boxford	SFK pre 1720	4908	WALKER	Any	CEN 1700-2001
4845	SLADE	Reading	BRK 1700-2000	4950	WALKER	Gt Marlow	BKM 1830-1873
4937	SMART	Salisbury	WIL 1750-1900	4950	WALKER	Reading	BRK 1873-1900
4886	SMITH	Portsmouth	HAM 1800-2001	4932	WALTER	Bohemia	pre 1850
4918	SMITH	Reading	BRK 1836-1904	4914	WARD	Ashe + Dean	HAM 1725-1800
4886	SMITH	Abingdon	BRK 1800-2001	4908	WARD	Leicestershire	CEN 1700-2001
4886	SMITH	Reading	BRK 1800-2001	4964	WARMAN	Beenham	BRK Any
4886	SMITH	Southampton	HAM 1800-2001	4884	WELLS	Binfield	BRK 1700-1800
4918	SMITH	Bradfield	BRK 1828-1940	4907	WELLS	Maidenhead	BRK 1800-1870
4918	SMITH	Wotton under Edge	GLS 1800-1865	4886	WEST	Beaulieu	HAM 1700-1851
4952	SNELLING	Croydon	SRY 1800-1900	4886	WEST	Southampton	HAM 1841-2000
4914	SPOKES	Thatcham	BRK 1700-1800	4884	WHEELER	Goring	OXF 1660-1700
4974	STEWART John	Rothelithe	MDX 1830-1850	4841	WHITE	Any	WRY 1850-2000
4974	STEWART John	Newcastle	NBL 1750-1830	4884	WILLIS	Shiplake	OXF 1650-1710
4974	STEWART John	Blackwall	MDX 1850-1890	4952	WILSON	Bradford	WYK 1800-1900
4841	STONES	Any	WRY 1850-2000	4917	WINCHCOMB(E)	Clewer	BRK 1750-
4937	STROUD	Salisbury	WIL 1850-1950	4917	WISE	Winkfield	BRK 1700-
4914	SUTTON	Biddulph	STS 1700-1900	4840	WISE	Highmoor	OXF 1875-2002
4884	SWAINE	Goring	OXF 1600-1700	4840	WISE	Bix	OXF 1600-1900
4897	SWALLOW	Reading	BRK 1700-1800	4914	WITHERS	Hungerford	BRK 1700-1800
4840	TAPP	Wendlebury	OXF 1700-1773	4974	WOODWARD	London	MDX 1800-1900
4855	TAYLOR	Ulverston	LAN 1700-1900	4845	WYATT	Woodstock	OXF 1600-1900
4910	TAYLOR	Any	WIL 1801-1850	4845	WYATT	Reading	BRK 1800-2000
4855	TEAR	Any	IOM 1700-1855	4836	YOUNG	Lambourn	BRK 1850-1920
4932	THAME	Abingdon	BKR pre 1850				
1170	THATCHER	Shrivenham	BRK 1684-1841				
4884	THOMAS	Woking	SRY 1600-1670				
4932	THOMAS	Abingdon	BRK pre 1848				
4949	TICEHURST	Brighton	SSX 1800-2002				
4964	TIGWELL	Ufton Nervet	BRK Any				
4914	TOMKINSON	Endon	STS 1700-2000				
4954	TOMS	Any	DOR 1750-2002				
4840	TREADAWAY	Shoreditch	MDX 1700-1829				
4884	TUBB	Oxford	OXF 1690-1740				
4897	TURTON	Smalley	DBY 1700-1820				
4897	TURTON	Ripley	DBY 1700-1820				
4914	TWITCHEN	Kingsclere	HAM 1750-1900				
4886	VEAR	Southampton	HAM 1850-2000				

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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.'

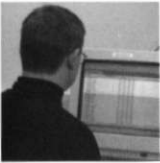
'What a marvellous library and a great place to carry out research.'

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

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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)**

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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.



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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 170,000 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'.

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## Useful addresses

### ☐ Chairman

Chad Hanna  
161 St. Peters Road, Reading  
Berkshire RG6 1PG  
0118 966 3585 email: [chairman@berksfhs.org.uk](mailto:chairman@berksfhs.org.uk)

### ☐ Secretary/Editor

John Gurnett  
5 Wren Close  
Burghfield Common  
Berkshire RG7 3PF  
email: [editor@berksfhs.org.uk](mailto:editor@berksfhs.org.uk)  
[secretary@berksfhs.org.uk](mailto:secretary@berksfhs.org.uk)

### ☐ Treasurer

Ann Rutt  
39 Oak Tree Road  
Thatcham  
Berkshire RG19 4QP email: [treasurer@berksfhs.org.uk](mailto:treasurer@berksfhs.org.uk)

### ☐ Membership secretary

Liz Longhurst  
20 Stanhope Road, Reading  
Berkshire RG2 7HL email: [memsec@berksfhs.org.uk](mailto:memsec@berksfhs.org.uk)

### ☐ Email Discussion Group and webmaster

email: [joindiscussion@berksfhs.org.uk](mailto:joindiscussion@berksfhs.org.uk)  
[webmaster@berksfhs.org.uk](mailto:webmaster@berksfhs.org.uk)

### ☐ Projects Co-ordinator

Daphne Spurling  
The Fifteenth, 7 Broadlands Close  
Calcot Park, Reading  
Berkshire RG31 7RP email: [projects@berksfhs.org.uk](mailto:projects@berksfhs.org.uk)

### ☐ Members' Interests

email: [members-interests@berksfhs.org.uk](mailto:members-interests@berksfhs.org.uk)

### ☐ Website

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

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## ▣ Branch Chairmen

### ***Bracknell***

Pauline Wales  
5 Foxglove Close  
Simons Park, Wokingham, Berkshire RG41 3NF

### ***Newbury***

Wendy Maskall  
5 River Walk  
Shaw, Newbury, Berkshire RG13 2LN 01635 35926

### ***Reading***

Peter Lavarack  
1 West Lodge  
Bearwood College, Wokingham RG41 5DW 0118 976 0391

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

Valerie Storie  
15 Anthony Way  
Cippenham, Slough  
Berkshire SL1 5PG Tele: 01628 605411

### ***Vale of White Horse***

Ken Marsden  
3 Wharf Close  
Abingdon  
Oxon OX14 5HS

## ▣ Branch information

email: [branchinfo@berksfhs.org.uk](mailto:branchinfo@berksfhs.org.uk)

## ▣ Members' Interests

email: [members-interests@berksfhs.org.uk](mailto:members-interests@berksfhs.org.uk)

## ▣ Website

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

## ▣ Bookstall

email: [bookstall@berksfhs.org.uk](mailto:bookstall@berksfhs.org.uk)

## ▣ BFHS Research Centre

Yeomanry House, 131 Castle Hill, Reading, Berkshire RG1 7TJ  
Tele: 0118 950 9553

## ▣ Berkshire Record Office

9 Coley Avenue  
Reading  
Berkshire RG1 6AF  
Tele: 0118 901 5132

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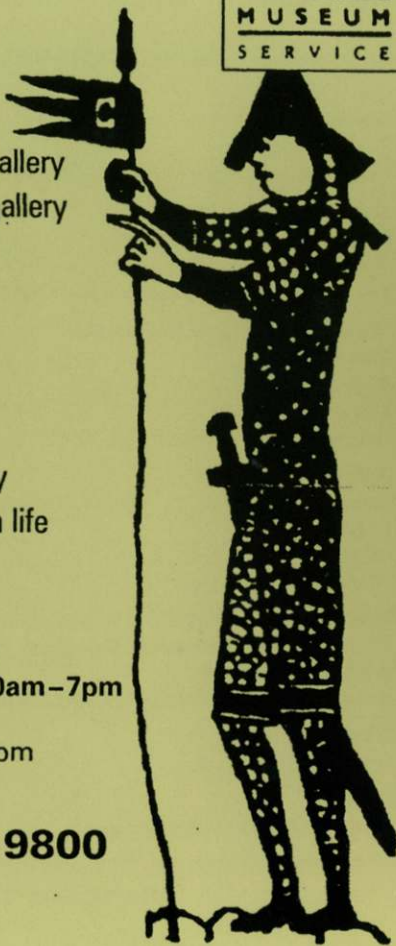
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# The Bulletin

## A word from our Chairman

The few weeks leading up to the weekend conference at Coventry in mid-April have been very busy for me, as I had been asked to prepare a demonstration version of a new pay-per-view website for the Federation of Family History Societies. This was just one of three major topics that were discussed by the delegates from the Family History Societies attending the general meeting of the Federation.

Of course, the 1901 census debacle was discussed. Everyone expects that the census will eventually be available over the Internet, but one major worry is that answers to questions in the House of Commons indicate that 78% of the transcription was carried out in the Indian sub-continent. A figure that wasn't revealed in any of the meetings between the 1901 Advisory Panel and the Public Record Office.

### **The White Paper Civil Registration: Vital Change**

([www.statistics.gov.uk/registration/whitepaper/default.asp](http://www.statistics.gov.uk/registration/whitepaper/default.asp)) will have a much more serious effect than any problems with the 1901 census. I can't really summarise a sixty page document in a sentence or two, but the main message for family history researchers is that while there will be easier access to records of people born over a hundred years ago, information about address,

occupation and cause of death will be restricted for anyone born less than one hundred years ago. The Federation of Family History Societies has published a 'Points for Discussion' document, and the text of the Federation's initial response, within the Archives Liaison pages within the Societies Section News and Announcements on their web-site at [www.ffhs.org.uk](http://www.ffhs.org.uk). This highlights numerous practical problems with the current proposals and that 100 years is too long, particularly for death and marriage records. The website [www.montypython.cwc.net](http://www.montypython.cwc.net) links to all these pages.

As I was presenting my pay-per-view website proposals at the general meeting, Cliff Debney kindly represented our Society in the Federation general meeting. Our society, like the majority, gave the go-ahead for a pay-per-view web site to provide another way of making our indexes and records available to the public. This will keep me occupied for the next few months while I work on the software and other related matters.

I very much enjoyed the opportunity at the conference to talk informally with officers and other people from other family history societies. One problem we all seem to share is the difficulty of attracting members without local interests to our societies. Without local members, we don't have local people to help with our Society and this affects all

our members. Similarly, I would urge our many out-of-county members to investigate their local family history society, to join and go along to their meetings and help them help us in our research.

This is the final issue of the journal for the current membership year. We have made strenuous efforts to make renewing for the next year as easy as possible by providing a personalised renewal form. Unless your details have changed, you only need to sign the forms and return them with your payment – unless you're one of the kind souls who pay by standing order from your bank account. We've also been working on updating our database of members' interests and you should find any research interests you've sent in over the past few years on a form. Please update this form and send it back so we can update our records and publicise your interests more widely.

## Wiltshire 1851 Census Index

A neighbouring county, Wiltshire, has been one of the more obvious gaps in the collection of 1851 census indexes in the Research Centre. This has now been cured as we now have a complete transcript on both fiche and CD-ROM, in addition to a CD-ROM with an 1871 index. We donated a copy of our transcript for the Hungerford area to Wiltshire 1851 Census Productions to help them check their transcript in the area where Berkshire and Wiltshire overlap. The CD-ROM is very detailed and includes a search program and Access database for those who use

Windows and an Adobe Acrobat version for those who use other types of computers. The search program is effective rather than pretty. More details of these publications can be found on their website at [www.wiltshireancestors.co.uk/wil51cen.htm](http://www.wiltshireancestors.co.uk/wil51cen.htm) and they are also available via [www.genfair.com](http://www.genfair.com)

## Dates for your diary

**The Buckinghamshire Family History Society** open day will be held on Saturday July 27 from 10am until 4pm at Aylesbury Grammar School, Walton Road, Aylesbury (south east of the town centre between the A41 and the A413 roads). There are many attractions for Buckinghamshire researchers including computer databases, library facilities and computer group demonstrations. There's free car parking and light refreshments will be available throughout the day.

**The Marlow Society** will be running their local and family history fair on Saturday August 17. It will take place at the Shelley Theatre, Court Gardens, Marlow from 10am until 4pm. Admission is 50 pence.

**Warwickshire Family History Roadshow** will be held on Saturday 14 September from 10am until 4pm. The venue is the Bulkington Village Centre, Bulkington, Warwickshire. Admission will be £1.50.

### **PRO family history summer**

**school.** This annual event returns with a beginner's guide to the PRO, local and social history and using the Internet for family history. The school begins on Monday July 22 and ends on Friday July 26. The course is usually full so it is worth booking early to obtain a place. For further information and to book a place contact the Interpretation Team at the PRO on 020 8392 5202.

**PRO Open Day.** This popular event will be on Saturday September 21. It is likely to have a 1950s theme.

### **The Association of Genealogists and Researchers in Archives**

(AGRA) is presenting a day conference on Saturday, June 15, 2002, at the Abbey Room, Reading Central Library, King's Road, Reading, entitled 'The professional approach to Genealogy and record searching'. It's likely to be an informative day for anybody intending to establish a genealogical or record researching practice. The cost is £40 including a buffet lunch with wine. Further details can be obtained from AGRA, 29 Badgers Close, Horsham, West Sussex RH12 5RU.

### **P is for pauper**

Julie Grisman at the Berkshire Record Office has found a document from Kintbury parish records which shows the lengths to which officials would go in their attempts to shame the poor into providing for themselves. The document records an agreement made by the overseers and churchwardens of

Kintbury requiring that, whilst in receipt of poor relief, all members of that family 'shall wear the letter P fairly cutt out of Red Cloth, and fast fixed on the Right shoulder of their upper garment'. They were to wear this 'badge' wherever they went. If they refused, the churchwardens and overseers would 'not for the future pay or give to him her them or any of them so refuseing, any Collection or Relief'.

### **Berkshire Marriage Index**

The film copy of the John Brooks' marriage index for Berkshire is now available at the Berkshire Record Office. Although it's a bit fiddly to operate as it is on 16mm microfilm it represents the best there is before the BFHS marriage database becomes available.

### **Error in March issue**

My apologies for the mistake in the March issue when I inadvertently gave the date of the Windsor meeting as June 15. It should, of course, have been June 25. Fortunately there was enough time for the correction to be made before the meeting was held.

### **Local history websites in Berkshire**

Some towns and villages in Berkshire have been creating their own websites. Many of them have been established by local historians and contain valuable material for family historians. Two have come to notice recently. One is, the portal for the villages of Ascot, Cheapside, Sunningdale, Sunninghill

and Windlesham, and another contains a brief history of the village and interesting information on the variations in spelling of Wraysbury. We would like to maintain a list of all the Berkshire sites, so if you have come across any pass them to the Editor at editor@bfhs.org.uk.

## Magazine subscriptions

If you purchase the *Family Tree Magazine* or its sister publication *Practical Family History* then why not take out an annual subscription through the Berkshire Family History Society. We can obtain a substantial discount which helps our funds and you benefit by having them sent by post to you directly. If you would like to take out a subscription write to: John Davies, 126 Connaught Road, Reading RG30 2UF or telephone him on 0118 954 2291.

## Obituaries

Sue Healey, until recently the curator of the Thames Valley Police Museum at Sulhampstead, died on Saturday February 2. She was a member of the Berkshire Family History Society for many years and also a member of GOONS researching Winckles. Chad Hanna writes: 'I met Sue on a few occasions, including a Society Day at the Holt School in Wokingham, and on a Society trip to the Police Museum. She was a very memorable character, and very willing to help members of the Society'.

Another long standing member Dr. Michael Dumbleton died suddenly earlier this year. For many years he was a member of the Society and was also a member of the Bracknell Local History Society. I first met him when we did a MA course in Landscape History at the University of Reading. His research on Bracknell won him a distinction and his quiet scholarly presence at meetings will be sorely missed.

## Postcards

Jacqueline Harbor has a number of postcards which she would like to give away to anybody researching the following areas:

Caswell Bay, Swansea  
Llandudno  
Rhyl Gardens  
Rhyl Promenade  
Dyserth Falls, Prestatyn  
Prestatyn Holiday Camp (3)  
Weymouth Promenade  
Steyning High Street  
Vale Royal Arches near Northwich,  
Cheshire  
Ramsgate, Westcliff Chine  
Coronation stone, Kingston-upon-  
Thames  
Wemyss Bay Station  
Weston-super-Mare bathing pool  
Selworthy war memorial  
War Memorial, St. Michael's Mount  
Market Jew Street, Penzance  
Tourist main deck on 'Queen Mary'  
Send a stamped addressed envelope to  
7 Hemdean Rise, Caversham, Reading  
RG4 7SA.