



**Catholic recusancy in Berkshire  
The Berkshire Yeomanry 1794-  
2000**

**Pay-to-View on the Internet  
The Reading Wagon**

# Programme calendar 2002

## Bracknell Branch

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

*7.15pm for 7.45pm*

- 20 Sep *'In the Begynning'* – records before parish registers. Ian Waller
- 18 Oct *Wills and inventories.* Tom Doig
- 15 Nov *The Incredible Hulks. Convict hulks and their records.* Major Brian Oldham
- 13 Dec Christmas meeting. **This is the second Friday in the month.**

## Newbury Branch

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

- 11 Sep *The Promiscuous Letters.* Meryl Catty
- 9 Oct *Bomb in my back garden.* Peter Park
- 13 Nov To be confirmed
- 11 Dec *Data on CDROMs and Christmas party.* Chad Hanna

## Reading Branch

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

- 26 Sep *Maps for social and family history.* Lilian Gibbens
- 31 Oct *Reading University Library sources.* Christine Milne
- 28 Nov *"'e done 'er wrong" - A Victorian Melodrama.* Philip Nash
- 12 Dec *A nineteenth century Christmas*

## Vale of White Horse Branch

*Church Room, Baptist Church, Ock Street, Abingdon, 7.45pm for 8pm*

- 9 Sep *'From scribble to script'.* Meryl Catty and Audrey Gillett
- 21 Oct *I'm stuck up my family tree.* Geoff Swinfield (**not the second Monday in the month**)
- 11 Nov *First World War records.* Paul Blake
- 9 Dec *Vale of White Horse in photographs.* Nigel Hammond

## Windsor, Slough and Maidenhead Branch

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

- 24 Sep *Bringing it all to Book. Writing up your family history.* Jeanne Bunting
- 29 Oct *Sayings from the medieval village - medieval memory aides are today's proverbs.* Hugh Granger
- 26 Nov *Victorian childhood in Windsor and elsewhere - large families in small houses.* Dr. Judith Hunter
- 10 Dec *Annual dinner at a venue to be announced*

# Berkshire Family Historian

For family historians in the Royal County of Berkshire

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## Contents

John Gurnett  
Editor

### Features

- 2 Pay-to-View
- 5 The Reading Wagon
- 15 Catholic recusancy in Berkshire
- 22 The Berkshire Yeomanry 1794-2000

### News

- 10 Berkshire Burial Index
- 47 Minutes of the 27th AGM
- 49 Chairman's report
- 53 Report and Accounts

### Regulars

- 27 Letters to the Editor
- 29 The Bulletin
- 33 Help wanted
- 37 Book Ends
- 40 Members' Interests
- 56 Research Centre
- 58 Postal research services

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*This beautifully decorated ledge-type Gypsy caravan, made in Reading in about 1910, is currently on temporary display at the Museum of English Rural Life (MERL).*

**Copy deadline for the December issue is September 10. Copy can be sent to the editor@berksfhs.org.uk**

## Pay-to-View – Please use your voucher now!

*Chad Hanna*

Your Society is at the forefront of one of the most exciting developments in online family history and we would like you to take part in it.

Many of you already use the Internet to help you with your research. Web pages, electronic mail and news groups provide information, both for your research and to let you know what's happening in the world of family history. Family history societies publish much information as booklets, fiche and CDs, however they may not contain the information you're looking for, and postal search services can take time to respond. Wouldn't it be nice if you could search for information without worrying about which county your ancestors were living in at the time? Wouldn't it be nice if this information was available on the World Wide Web? Wouldn't it be nice if you only had to pay for the information that was likely to help you?

The Federation of Family History Societies is now setting up its own website, 'Family History Online' to help you. Our Society, along with the Cornwall Family History Society, has been asked to help during the testing phase planned to start this September. You should have received a cellophane-wrapped credit-card sized voucher along with this journal so that you can take part. This free voucher is only valid during the testing period of the new 'Family History Online' service.

To help limit demand in the early stages, payment will be by voucher, with credit card payment following afterwards. The websites of both Ancestry.com and Origins.net already accept credit cards and the 1901 Census website will accept both credit cards and vouchers.

To encourage you to use your voucher we plan to offer you some information that is not readily available in other forms. This will also let you see how we have been progressing with three current projects. These projects are the Marriage and Burial Indexes, along with the 1871 Census Index. I must warn you that some of the information has not been checked, but the Family History Online service will inform you if any checking remains to be done.



In any case, the main aim of the exercise is to test the new service. To use your voucher:

1. Start your web browser and enter the address <http://www.familyhistoryonline.net>. This will tell you if the system is up and ready for you to test.
2. Register your name and choose a password that you can use when logging in later. You might want to read some of the help pages at this stage.
3. Search the free name index for individuals that might be of interest. You can search using surname, forename, year and county. You can enter just a surname, just a forename or both. You can use wild cards (\*) for characters you're not sure about or you can let the service look for similar surnames and forenames. You can specify any year or a range of years. I suggest you use as little information as possible, perhaps just the surname, for a search. The name index includes information from all the societies taking part. You will need to check again as more information is added.
4. View the detailed records for individuals that are of interest to you. This will be charged against your voucher after you enter the voucher number and the code (hidden by the scratch-off strip).
5. Use the feedback page to tell the system administrators about your experience. Everything from compliments to petty annoyances will be of interest. These comments will be used to help improve the system for everyone.

Your free voucher has a nominal value of five pounds. This is enough to look at the details from one hundred records at five pence for each record. However, the test period will soon end, so don't leave it until the last minute to use your free voucher as your voucher is only valid during the test period.

Not all of you will be able to take part and not all of you will want to take part – that's perfectly OK, but to prevent confusion can I ask you to destroy the voucher as it will not work after testing has been completed.

Some minor changes are expected both during and after testing. The 'Family History Online' service should become available to all before Christmas. Our Society will be adding further information including the Berkshire 1851 census index. It will take time to get all the millions of records that have been promised by family history societies onto the website. The service hopes to add the

records from three more societies each month. To use anything other than the free name index you will need to buy a voucher, either from our bookstall or online (when credit card payments become available).

Of course, that's the plan, and plans may change. To find out the current situation go to <http://www.familyhistoryonline.net> or see the Society website at <http://www.berksfhs.org.uk>

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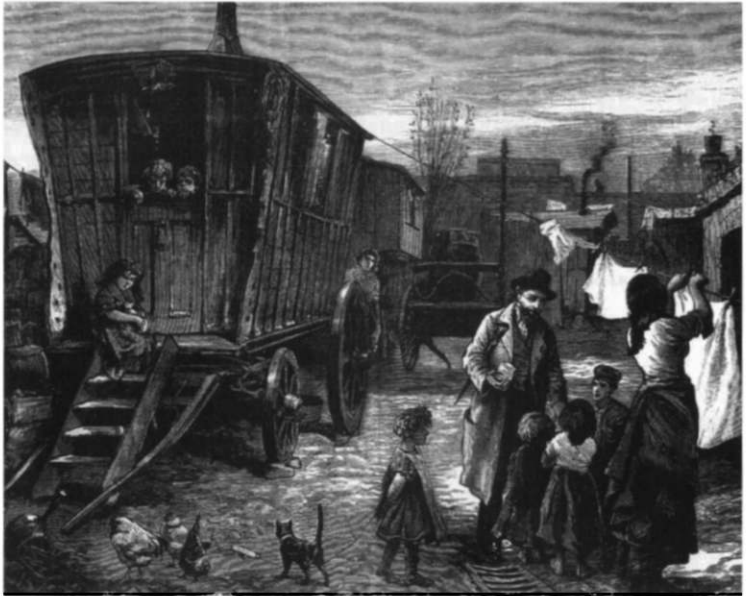
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# The Reading Wagon

*Janet Keet-Black*

Do you remember those halcyon days when the sun always shone, the corn was always golden and the itinerant harvesters always mysteriously arrived at precisely the time the hops needed pulling, or the strawberries picking? When the Gypsies' caravan of horse-drawn wagons rolled over the hill in the gathering dusk, just as it had for centuries past?

Well, actually, not for centuries past. When Gypsies first appeared in these islands they moved about on foot, sleeping out in the open or in barns, or maybe in benders, those improvised tents now favoured by many non-traditional travellers. The wealthier may have been fortunate enough to own a donkey on which to transport the family's belongings, or even a horse or two to pull a cart, but my own Cooper great-great-grandparents, even as late as the early 1900s, had nothing more than a pushcart on which to pile their temporary home, and my late father, born in 1915, spent his entire childhood in a bender tent.



*A Reading Wagon from an illustration in the London Illustrated News, 1879*

In this country, the 'Gypsy caravan' (van, wagon or vardo to a Gypsy – never a caravan) with stove and bed, did not make an appearance until at least the mid 1800s, the forerunner being little more than a bender tent erected on a flat cart, and bore small resemblance to the brightly coloured, richly carved wagon that some Gorjers (non-Gypsies) romantically equate with the 'real' Romany. Walter Simpson, in *A History of the Gipsies*, wrote:

'In no part of the world is the gypsy life more in accordance with the general idea that the gypsy is like Cain – a wanderer on the face of the earth – than in England; for there the covered cart and the little tent are the houses of the gypsy ...'

However, it is obvious from Charles Dickens' *The Old Curiosity Shop*, that by 1840 living wagons, complete with stove and bed, were in use by non-Gypsy travellers. He placed his Mrs Jarley, wax-works proprietor, in:

'... a smart little house upon wheels ... with window shutters of green picked out with panels of staring red ... partitioned off at the further end as to accommodate a sleeping-place, constructed after the fashion of a berth on board ship. ... The other half served for a kitchen, and was fitted up with a stove whose small chimney passed through the roof.'

It is probable that some Gypsies adopted living wagons as a mode of travel and accommodation round about 1850, although the earliest I have found any of my ancestors – my Keet great-great-grandparents – recorded in one is in the 1871 census, by which time country wheelwrights were being commissioned to build them, the various designs limited to the amount of ready cash available.

By the late nineteenth century, living wagons had evolved into those we have come to identify as the Gypsy caravan – the Reading, the Ledge, the Burton, the Bowtop – but although the Reading is synonymous with Dunton and Sons of Reading, it was also built elsewhere; the 'kite' wagon dating back to 1870, lovingly restored by the late Peter Shallcross and now on show at the Gordon Boswell Romany Museum at Spalding, Lincolnshire, was built by Wicks of Wisbech, and other builders of the Reading included F. J. Thomas of Chertsey, Surrey, Williams of Leighton Buzzard, Bedfordshire, and D. Macintosh of London.

The town of Reading during the mid-nineteenth century, perfectly situated as it was on the highway from London to the West

Country, boasted many wheelwrights and harness-makers and seven coachbuilders were established there by the 1870s. Although it is unclear when Dunton and Sons built their first living wagon, in 1874 they were to be found at 30 King's Road and Highbridge Wharf, trading as 'coach and cart wheelwright and general smith' and by 1884 were recorded as 'van builders'.

Samuel Dunton appears to have founded the firm and, after him, his son Alfred was the mainstay of the business. The late Ferdinand Huth remembered that from the 1914 period, another son, Samuel Eber, attended to the business side and made the contracts, while a third son, William, or 'Bill', worked on the bodies. The firm employed other members of the family, including Alfred's son Albert and a nephew, George, who did the painting and gilding.

Of all the wagons, it was the Reading that the Gypsies favoured most. They required a vehicle which was best suited to pulling off onto rough ground or crossing fords, and the tall wheels of the Reading, between which the straight-sided, high arched body was slung, suited their needs better than those with wheels situated beneath the body.



A Colchester stove

The early models were not ornate, although the internal design is similar to that found in most types of wagons, with a double bed taking up the entire width of the van at the end opposite to the door. Beneath this is a shorter bed designed to accommodate children, the length dictated by the outward lean, from bottom to top, of the sides. Entrance is gained through a door at the shaft-end which opens outwards, as do the two hinged windows above the door, and the stove, (a Colchester in the earlier models, known as 'the policeman in the corner') is situated to the left as one enters, so that, when travelling along the road, the chimney is on the offside thereby missing any overhang of trees.

The Reading is approximately 10ft in length but a front porch adds another 18 inches and a back porch 14 inches. At 5ft in diameter, the back wheels are larger than those in front by 18 inches, with the body clearing the ground by 4ft 3ins. After 1900, mollicroft roofs (raised skylights) started to appear. The body itself would have originally been made from beaded tongue-and-groove matchboard, painted deep red picked out in red, yellow and green. If it boasted lion heads or gargoyles,

these would have been painted gold or were gold-leafed. Side and back windows were shuttered.

Internally, the decoration and fittings reflected the wealth of the Gypsy for whom the wagon was originally built, as did the amount of carving and gold leaf used externally. By necessity, cupboards and locker-seats were built in to prevent movement whilst travelling. On either side of the bed space, quarter-inch thick bevelled mirrors may be found, perhaps lavishly decorated with red, cream and pink roses, with blue birds in each corner. Peter Shallcross, when restoring his old Reading, discovered what he thought was the original linoleum but which turned out to be a very rare example of hand-painted oilcloth. The Victoria and Albert Museum identified it as the type used for the sails of the old sailing ships, and would have been made in one of the ports. With the Thames close to hand, it is possible that Dunton's used similar material.

Gypsies ordering wagons from Dunton & Sons would stop on Ascot Heath and drop by to discuss their specific requirements with the builders. Measurements were written down on any convenient piece of paper and it was from these the craftsmen worked; no detailed drawings or plans were made. In their last six years, before being taken over by Froud, Rivers and Kernutt in 1922, Dunton's built six or seven wagons, taking six months to a year to complete. As the work progressed, they were paid in gold sovereigns, five at a time. In 1904, a simply built and decorated Dunton Reading cost approximately £70. In 2001, a more lavishly decorated one exchanged hands for £30,000.

During those years, which today's Travellers still refer to as 'wagon-time', the Gypsies took great pride in their homes on wheels, yet they seldom slept in them, preferring instead to sleep in tents or beneath the wagon itself. They also lacked sentiment in times of need, having no hesitation in selling them or 'chopping' (exchanging) them for something else.

Today, most surviving Reading wagons are to be found in museums or private collections, but of all the many and varied four-wheeled vehicles which trundle their way to the few surviving annual horse fairs of England, it is perhaps the Reading which epitomises the golden age of horse travel. One of the best publicly owned examples is in the Bristol City Museum; another is in the possession of the Rural History Centre at the University of Reading. The Rural History Centre is also home to the Robert

Dawson Romany Collection, an extensive archive of books, journals, papers, videos, music and artefacts donated to the Romany and Traveller Family History Society by the collector.

Anyone with an interest in the history and culture of Gypsies can access the collection by appointment. Contact the Rural History Centre, Whiteknights, PO Box 229, Reading RG6 6AG, or ring 0118 931 8664.

The Romany and Traveller Family History Society was founded in 1994 for the descendants of Gypsies, travelling showmen and other travellers, and now has over 500 members. For details contact the Membership Secretary, PO Box 432, Walton on Thames, Surrey KT12 4WJ.

Further reading:

Dickens, Charles, *The Old Curiosity Shop*, 1840

Pearce, John, 'Horse drawn gypsy caravans' in *Model Engineer* (25 September 1998)

Shallcross, P. *Our Vardo*, 1996

Simson, W. *A History of the Gypsies*, 1865

Ward-Jackson, C.H. and Denis E Harvey, *The English Gypsy Caravan, Its origins, builders, technology and conservation*, David & Charles 1972

Wilson, Nerissa, *Gypsies and Gentlemen*, 1986

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## Berkshire Burial Index

The parishes and periods included in the Berkshire Burial Index are shown below, totalling more than 193,000 entries; the periods in bold type were included in the April 2001 issue of the National Burials Index while those not in bold type have been added to the Berkshire index subsequently and are being submitted for inclusion in future NBI updates. An asterisk denotes those parishes/periods which have been added since the position was last reported in the June 2002 issue of the *Berkshire Family Historian*.

Aldermaston St Mary the Virgin 1882 - 1992  
Ascot Heath All Saints 1865 - 1909  
Ashampstead St Clement 1607 - 1686 (BTs), 1686 - 1756 and  
1757 - 1837  
Avington **1727 - 1994**  
Barkham St James 1733 - 1740 (BTs), **1741 - 1812** and  
1814 - 1985  
Basildon St Bartholomew **1667 - 1856** and 1871 - 1982  
Bearwood St Catherine 1846 - 1929  
Beedon St Nicholas 1681 - 1732 and **1733 - 1969**  
Beenham St Mary **1813 - 1907**  
Binfield All Saints 1884 - 1920  
Boxford St Andrew **1758 - 1876**  
Bracknell Holy Trinity 1851 - 1945  
Bradfield St Andrew 1540 - 1685\*, 1691 - 1693 (BTs), **1695 - 1754**  
and 1882 - 1952  
Bray St Michael 1813 - 1826, **1826 - 1837** and 1838 - 1888  
Brightwalton All Saints 1562 - 1805 and **1805 - 1922**  
Brimpton St Peter 1678 - 1734 and **1756 - 1901**  
Bucklebury St Mary the Virgin 1539 - 1692\* and **1692 - 1910**  
Burghfield St Mary **1559 - 1870**  
Catmore St Margaret **1814 - 1985**  
Caversham Hemdean Road Cemetery 1924 - 1993



Caversham St Peter 1830 - 1843, 1843 - 1856\*, 1856 - 1869 and  
1869 - 1955\*

Chaddleworth St Andrew **1798 - 1851**

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

Clewer St Andrew 1607 - 1804\* and 1805 - 1837

Cold Ash St Mark **1865 - 1947**

Combe St Swithin **1729 - 1812**

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

Cookham Holy Trinity 1731 - 1742, 1764 - 1780\*, 1780 - 1830,  
**1830 - 1844** and 1844 - 1935

Earley St Peter 1900 - 1916

East Garston All Saints **1813 - 1876**

Easthampstead SS Michael & Mary Magdalene 1687 - 1734\*,  
1734 - 1768, **1768 - 1812**, 1813 - 1873 and **1873 - 1915**

East Ilsley St Mary **1649 - 1868** and 1868 - 2000

East Shefford **1604 - 1734**, 1734 - 1773 (BTs) and **1774 - 1917**

Enborne St Michael & All Angels 1607 - 1638 (BTs) and  
**1726 - 1837**

Englefield St Mark 1813 - 1935

Fawley St Mary **1550 - 1987**

Finchampstead St James 1724 - 1812

Frilsham St Frideswide 1607 - 1710 (BTs), **1711 - 1768**, 1769 -  
1804 (BTs) and 1813 - 1835 (BTs)

Grazeley Holy Trinity 1905 - 1964

Greenham St Mary **1799 - 1914**

Hungerford Independent **1819 - 1830**

Hungerford St Lawrence 1700 - 1724 and **1724 - 1796**

Hurley St Mary the Virgin 1563 - 1746\*

Hurst St Nicholas 1579 - 1582 (BTs), 1585 - 1605, 1605 - 1621  
(BTs), 1621 - 1623, 1633 - 1763 and 1813 - 1869

Inkpen St Michael & All Angels **1878 - 1986**

Kintbury St Mary 1558 - 1718, **1718 - 1761** and **1813 - 1925**

Lambourn St Michael & All Angels 1693 - 1766 and **1767 - 1837**

Maidenhead Boyne Hill All Saints 1857 - 1898, 1898 - 1905\* and  
1912 - 1920\*

Maidenhead Congregational **1791 - 1837** and **1845 - 1908**

Maidenhead High Street Wesleyan Methodist **1858 - 1903**

Maidenhead New Chapel (Countess of Huntingdon) **1843 - 1858**

Maidenhead St Luke 1880 - 1885\*

Midgham St Matthew **1638 - 1733**, 1753 - 1812 and **1813 - 1980**

Milton St Blaise 1662 - 1938

Newbury Baptist **1773 - 1823**

Newbury Baptist (Northcroft Lane) 1818 - 1837

Newbury Lower Meeting House Independent **1784 - 1837**

Newbury St John the Evangelist 1860 - 1878 and **1878 - 1900**

Newbury St Nicolas **1746 - 1757**, 1762 - 1767\* and **1798 - 1890**

Newbury Upper Meeting House Presbyterian **1783 - 1836**

New Windsor All Saints 1974 - 1988\*

New Windsor St John the Baptist 1807 - 1812\*, 1848 - 1855\* and  
1855 - 1988

Padworth St John the Baptist **1724 - 1837** and 1838 - 1981

Pangbourne Independent Chapel **1836 only**

Peasemore St Barnabas 1538 - 1574\*, 1574 - 1752 and  
**1753 - 1879**

Purley St Mary the Virgin 1773 - 1811\* and **1813 - 1900**

Reading Broad Street Independent 1787 - 1869 and 1875 - 1881

Reading Castle Street Congregational **1857 - 1862**

Reading Holy Trinity 1834 - 1855

Reading King's Road Baptist Church **1785 - 1835**

Reading London Road Cemetery **1843 - 1852**

Reading St Giles 1648 - 1680\*, 1680 - 1796 and 1796 - 1812\*

Reading St Laurence 1705 - 1730\*, 1730 - 1779, **1779 - 1788**, 1788  
- 1812, **1813 - 1828** and 1828 - 1901

Ruscombe St James the Great **1705 - 1812**

Sandhurst St Michael 1902 - 1935

Shaw cum Donnington St Mary the Virgin 1647 - 1812 and  
**1813 - 1932**

Shinfield St Mary 1785 - 1812 and 1813 - 1844\*  
Shottesbrooke St John the Baptist **1690 - 1811**  
Speen St Mary the Virgin 1629 - 1706\*, 1706 - 1750 and  
**1750 - 1904**  
Speenhamland St Mary **1831 - 1881**  
Stratfield Mortimer St Mary 1813 - 1897 and 1949 - 1977\*  
Streatley St Mary 1679 - 1812  
Sulham St Nicholas **1724 - 1850**  
Sulhamstead Abbots St Mary 1813 - 1995  
Sulhamstead Bannister St Michael 1813 - 1994  
Sunningdale Holy Trinity 1842 - 1898\*  
Sunninghill St Michael & All Angels 1561 - 1641, 1653 - 1775 and  
**1776 - 1812**  
Swallowfield All Saints 1813 - 1931  
Thatcham/Bucklebury Congregational/Independent Chapel  
**1819 - 1871**  
Thatcham St Mary **1813 - 1819**, 1820 - 1851, 1852 - 1857\* and  
1858 - 1863  
Theale Holy Trinity 1832 - 1932  
Tidmarsh St Lawrence 1813 - 1999  
Tilehurst St George **1886 - 1954**  
Tilehurst St Michael 1614 - 1629 (BTs) and 1716 - 1868  
Ufton Nervet St Peter **1636 - 1834**  
Wargrave St Mary 1872 - 1940  
Wasing St Nicholas **1763 - 1853** and 1855 - 1990  
Welford St Gregory **1813 - 1852** and 1852 - 1900  
West Ilsley All Saints 1558 - 1967  
West Shefford St Mary 1599 - 1778 and **1779 - 1897**  
West Woodhay St Laurence **1656 - 1724** and **1813 - 1985**  
White Waltham St Mary 1860 - 1937  
Winkfield St Mary 1813 - 1907  
Winterbourne St James the Less **1750 - 1850**  
Wokingham All Saints 1813 - 1841  
Wokingham Baptist Church **1841 - 1906**

Wokingham St Paul 1864 - 1895\*

Woodley Congregational (Woodley Chapel) **1858 - 1905**

Woolhampton St Peter **1761 - 1926**

Yattendon SS Peter & Paul 1813 - 1982

Details of the postal service for researching burials in the Berkshire parishes listed above are given on page 59.

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# Catholic recusancy in Berkshire

*Tony Hadland*

During the sixteenth, seventeenth and eighteenth centuries, those who refused to attend Anglican church services were known as recusants. Most were Roman Catholics. Despite draconian legislation, Roman Catholicism survived in England because of a deliberate strategy. In July 1586, a secret conference at Harleyford Manor, across the river from Hurley, determined that priests would be based in the homes of the recusant gentry. Harboursing a priest could incur the death penalty and merely being a priest constituted high treason. Nonetheless, the Harleyford strategy worked well in many parts of Berkshire. Various factors contributed to this:

- Recusancy among the gentry was relatively strong in neighbouring Hampshire and south Oxfordshire.
- Most conforming gentry did not invoke anti-Catholic legislation against their recusant neighbours.
- The Thames provided an efficient link with London, with recusant manor houses every few miles along the Oxfordshire bank of the river.
- Catholic priests returning via the Hampshire coast from the Continent often passed through Berkshire.
- Berkshire was far away enough from London to make casual raids unlikely.
- Until the reign of Charles I, there was a steady supply of local martyrs to provide spiritual inspiration.

Hence, after two centuries of repression, there were still nearly 600 Roman Catholics in Berkshire. The Catholic Relief Act of 1778 put a formal end to the prosecution of priests by informers and allowed Roman Catholics legally to purchase and inherit land. Thirteen years later, a second act re-opened the professions to Roman Catholics and permitted the legalisation of Catholic chapels.

During the recusancy period, Roman Catholics could not officially be buried in Anglican churchyards. In practice, recusant gentry were still interred in family vaults and commemorated by

# Catholics in Berkshire - 1767

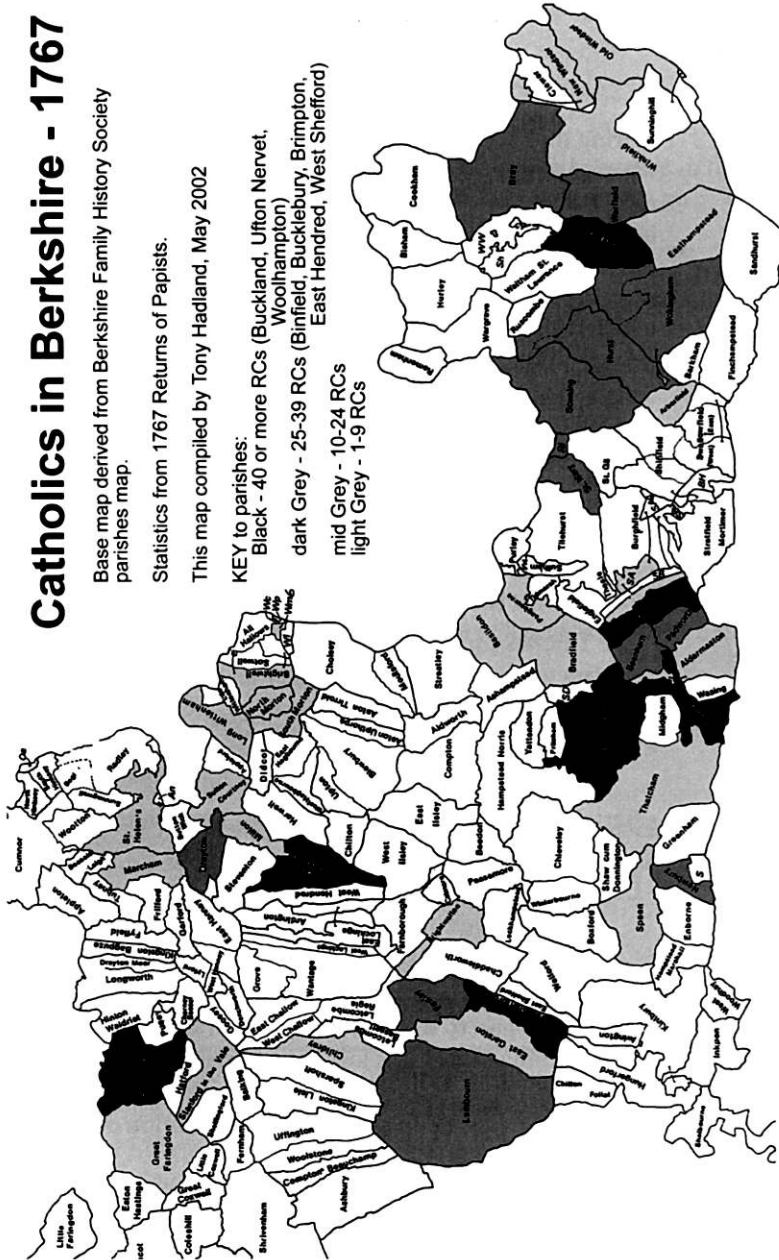
Base map derived from Berkshire Family History Society parishes map.

Statistics from 1767 Returns of Papists.

This map compiled by Tony Hadland, May 2002

KEY to parishes:

- Black - 40 or more RCs (Buckland, Ufton Nervet, Woolhampton)
- dark Grey - 25-39 RCs (Binfield, Bucklebury, Brimpton, East Hendred, West Shefford)
- mid Grey - 10-24 RCs
- light Grey - 1-9 RCs



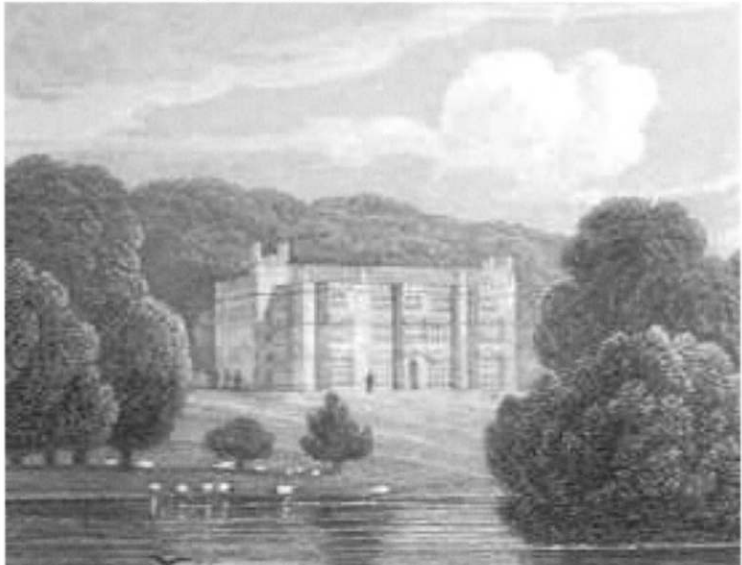
memorials in parish churches. Lesser mortals would be buried in the churchyard at night, with a blind eye turned by the authorities. In the absence of civil registration, Roman Catholics often had their children baptised by the vicar as well as by the Catholic priest. Similarly, even when the law did not require an Anglican wedding, Roman Catholics might undergo one to guarantee legitimacy.

Let us now look more closely at some of Berkshire's recusant enclaves:

### **Englefield & Sonning**

Sir Francis Englefield, one of Mary Tudor's strongest supporters, went into exile on the accession of Elizabeth I. His refusal to return led to forfeiture of the family seat, Englefield House. His nephew, another Francis Englefield, became a baronet and bought the Whiteknights estate in Sonning parish. This became a recusant centre for the Reading area, served by Franciscans until the seventh baronet sold up in 1783. There were 21 Roman Catholics in and around Whiteknights when, in 1767, the Anglican authorities attempted a national census of 'papists'.

After the Civil War, the recusant arch-royalist John Paulet, formerly of Basing House, retired to Englefield House, which he



*Englefield House*

inherited through marriage. Paulet died in 1675, first marquis of England, and lies in Englefield parish church.

### **Ufton Nervet, Padworth & Beenham**

Adjoining Englefield parish is Ufton Nervet. The recusant Perkins family had their main seat at Ufton Court. Francis Perkins was the son of Cardinal Pole's usher and a nephew of the martyred Swithun Wells. Ufton was served by Franciscans and has priest-holes where the recusant Thomas Vachell of Ipsden, Oxon. (formerly of Coley Park) hid his treasure. Arabella Fermor, the subject of Alexander Pope's poem *The Rape of the Lock* married a Perkins and became mistress of Ufton. In 1767 there were 43 Roman Catholics in Ufton parish and a further 32 in the adjoining parishes of Padworth and Beenham. In 1741 George Brownlow Doughty had his own chapel in Beenham.

### **Woolhampton, Bucklebury & Thatcham**

Abutting Padworth and Beenham is Woolhampton parish. William Wollascott was half-brother of Edmund Plowden, Sir Francis Englefield's lawyer. Plowden's eventual main seat was Shiplake Court, Oxon. Wollascott held the Shalford estate, centred on Woolhampton. He was a 'church papist' – a secret Roman Catholic who outwardly conformed to Anglicanism – and founded an enduring recusant dynasty. In 1757, the Woolhampton estate passed by marriage to Arthur James Plunkett, Earl of Fingall, who was related to the martyred archbishop of Armagh. In 1767 there were 84 Roman Catholics in Woolhampton parish and another 30 in adjoining Bucklebury. In Elizabethan times, there was recusancy in the Winchcombe families of Bucklebury and Henwick (Thatcham). In the seventeenth century, several Winchcombe daughters married into local recusant families.

### **Hampstead Norreys, Shaw, Binfield & Warfield**

Adjoining Bucklebury is Hampstead Norreys. In the seventeenth century, the Dancastles held property at various places including Hampstead Norreys and nearby Shaw. The Dancastles also held property in east Berkshire at Binfield in Windsor Forest until they died out in the mid-eighteenth century. Their recusant neighbours included the parents of the poet Alexander Pope.



There were 25 Roman Catholics in Binfield parish in 1767 and another 12 in the adjoining parish of Warfield where another recusant family (possibly Coxe or Milton) had a private chapel. The recusant John Vachell died at Warfield in 1641.

### **Buckland & Lyford**

Recusant branches of the Yate family lived in the Vale of White Horse at Buckland Manor and Lyford Grange. It was at Lyford that Edmund Campion, the first Jesuit to be executed in England, was arrested in 1581. There was a secret convent there, more than 40 years after the suppression of the monasteries. Buckland remained a recusant base and passed through marriage to the Throckmorton family. In 1767 there were 42 Roman Catholics in Buckland parish.



*Hyde Hall, Purley*

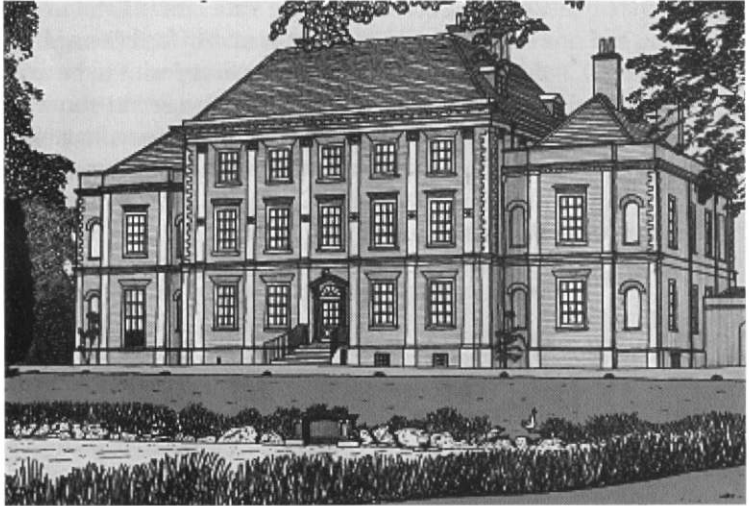
### **Denchworth, Purley & Brimpton**

Close to Lyford is Denchworth, which at the time of Campion's arrest was the main seat of the Hyde family. There were recusant Hydes at Hyde Hall, Purley in the seventeenth and early

eighteenth century and subsequently at Hyde End, Brimpton. In 1767 there were 29 Roman Catholics in Brimpton.

### **Milton, Drayton, Sutton Courtenay & Marcham**

In 1764, Bryant Barrett, lacemaker to George III, bought Milton Manor near Abingdon. Barrett was a convert to Catholicism and a



*Milton Manor*

secret Jacobite. The house was attacked by a mob during the Gordon Riots. Barrett's friend Richard Challoner, a clandestine Roman Catholic bishop, died following the riots and Barrett had him buried in the parish church at Milton. In 1767 there were 23 Roman Catholics in Milton and the nearby parishes of Drayton, Sutton Courtenay and Marcham.

### **East Hendred**

Adjoining Milton is East Hendred, where the Eystons quietly but steadfastly maintained the Old Faith. In 1688, their newly restored chapel, then served by a Franciscan chaplain, was desecrated by William of Orange's invading army but subsequently restored. Through marriage the Eystons added the bloodline of the martyr Sir Thomas More to their pedigree. In 1767 there were 32 Roman Catholics in the parish of East Hendred.

## **Fawley**

Sir Francis Moore was a highly successful Elizabethan lawyer who gave no hint of recusancy. Yet at Fawley he established a Catholic mission that lasted until the family sold up in 1765. It was the only Berkshire mission served for any length of time by Benedictines. It transferred to nearby Whatcombe where the Franciscans took over. Whatcombe was at various times home to the recusant Young, Hyde and Dearlove families. In 1767, despite the Moores' departure, there were 19 Roman Catholics in Fawley and nearby Brightwalton.

## **West Shefford, East Garston & Lambourn**

Abutting Fawley are West Shefford and East Garston. In Elizabethan times, George Browne, son of the staunchly Catholic first Lord Montague, acquired property here. The neighbourhood retained a recusant population well into the eighteenth century. Between them, the adjoining parishes of West Shefford, East Garston and Lambourn had 41 Roman Catholics in 1767.

## **East Ilsley & Littlestoke**

The recusant Hildesley/Hilsley/Ilsley family had its roots in East Ilsley. Throughout most of the recusancy period, their main seat was at Littlestoke, Oxon., across the Thames from Papist Way, Cholsey. The main male line died out by the early eighteenth century but one of the junior lines apparently remained Catholic. Joseph Ilsley of Mapledurham, born in 1805, became a priest and president of the English College, Lisbon. The second Roman Catholic bishop of Birmingham was also an Ilsley.

Although we know most about the gentry families on whom recusancy depended, there is increasing interest in recusants of lower rank whose names are harder to trace. Apart from servants and estate workers, these included the relatively independent self-employed, such as innkeepers, shoemakers, paper makers, wig makers, tailors and blacksmiths.

Principal sources:

Hadland, T. *Thames Valley Papists* (revised online edition at [www.users.](http://www.users.globalnet.co.uk/~hadland/)

[globalnet.co.uk/~hadland/](http://www.globalnet.co.uk/~hadland/) Hadland Books, 2001

Gandy, M. *Catholic Missions and Registers, Volume 1*, Gandy, 1993

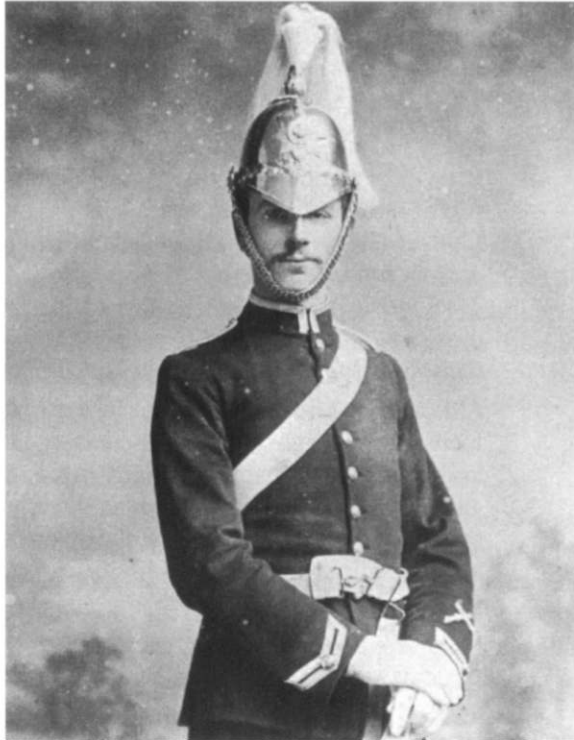
Worrall, E.S. (ed.), *Catholic Record Society*, 1989

## The Berkshire Yeomanry 1794-2000

*Simon Frost*

During the French wars of 1793-1815 auxiliary troops were raised for home defence, known as yeomanry, volunteers, or fencible infantry and cavalry. Of these only fencibles were regular troops. Most of the forces were volunteers, but some were paid. By 1800 there were about 100,000 men in these units and by 1805 330,000.

In the spring of 1794 the first troop of Berkshire Yeomanry, styled the Abingdon Independent Cavalry, was formed, and by 1804 eleven independent troops had been raised in Berkshire. In 1804 four of these troops were united to form 'The First Regiment of Berkshire Gentlemen and Yeomanry Cavalry'.



*A Berkshire Yeomanry soldier*

As a result of Government cutbacks in 1827 all yeomanry cavalry troops in Berkshire were disbanded. But following riots by agricultural workers in 1830, four troops were re-established and actively deployed in dealing with civil unrest. Further Government economies in 1838 forced the disbandment of three troops leaving the Hungerford Yeomanry Cavalry as the sole troop in Berkshire. In 1852, following yet further fears of a French invasion, troops were again raised at Reading and Newbury, and some years later at Wantage, Wokingham and Windsor. By this time the Regiment had become styled 'The Royal Berkshire Yeomanry Cavalry'.

### **The Boer War 1899 - 1901 and after**

Volunteers from the Regiment saw service in the Boer War in the two volunteer Berkshire Yeomanry companies in the Imperial Yeomanry. The lessons of the Boer War led to a more recognised role for the Yeomanry as a whole which encompassed in the reforms of 1908 when the Regiment changed its title to the Berkshire Yeomanry.

### **The Great War**

Mobilised in August 1914 the Berkshire Yeomanry trained at Churn on the Berkshire Downs for three months and then proceeded to the East Coast to guard against a possible German invasion. In April 1915 the Regiment sailed for Egypt and from there a few months later they were shipped, this time without their horses, to the Gallipoli peninsular where, against the Turks, they first saw action. In a bloody battle on August 21, 1915, Private Fred Potts earned the first yeomanry VC for 'most conspicuous bravery in rescuing a comrade under heavy fire'. After three months in the trenches, the Regiment was withdrawn, their strength reduced by casualties and sickness to a mere 50 men.

Returning to Egypt and brought up to strength, the Regiment campaigned during the spring of 1916 in the Western Desert. In 1917 the Berkshire Yeomanry joined the British advance on Jerusalem. After two unsuccessful battles in March and April to evict the Turkish Army from Gaza, the British forces were reorganised under their new commander General Allenby and the third Battle of Gaza was a notable success culminating in the



*Pte. Fred Potts, VC*

capture of Jerusalem in December 1917. During this campaign the Berkshire Yeomanry were involved in two successful cavalry charges against the Turks.

In April 1918 the Regiment was amalgamated into 101 (Bucks & Berks Yeomanry) Battalion, Machine Gun Corps. They reached France in July and saw action in support of 51st Highland Division and in the final battles in Belgium in the Second Army.

### **The Second World War 1939-1945**

In 1922 the Berkshire Yeomanry were re-established as part of the 99th (Bucks and Berks) Field Brigade RFA. With the doubling of the Territorial Army in 1939, the unit was split into two county regiments and 145 (Berkshire Yeomanry) Field Regiment RA (TA) was born. Embodied at Newbury in September 1939 the Berkshire Yeomanry remained there until moving to Kingston Bagpuize in February 1940. The Regiment was deployed on airfield defence until July 1940 when it was moved to Northern Ireland until returning to England in July 1943. The Regiment was earmarked as one of the units to join the spearhead of the second front. Shortly before D Day, however, they were held back in order to serve as part of the breakthrough that was to follow the initial landings on the Normandy beaches.

Following better than anticipated progress with the invasion, and fewer casualties, it became War Office policy to make up units in France with individual reinforcements and within a few weeks the Berkshire Yeomanry provided more than fifty fully trained reinforcements. Late in 1944 many of those posted to France were returned to the Regiment and in January 1945 the Regiment sailed to India.

In July 1945 the Berkshire Yeomanry sailed with the invasionary force on Operation Zipper aimed at the recapture of Malaya. Landing on Morib beaches the Regiment was very soon occupied with wholesale rounding up and disarming of the Japanese, who had by then surrendered. After some time in Malaya the Regiment took ship once more for Java to help deal with the native Indonesian uprising against the Colonial Dutch. For a period of several months the Regiment was in the centre of bitter fighting almost daily in close support of Indian and Gurkha infantry brigades. Fighting continued into 1946 and it was not until May 1946 that most of the Regiment were en route back to England.

By May 1947 the Berkshire Yeomanry was reconstituted as two artillery regiments, later combined into 345th (Berkshire Yeomanry) Medium Regiment RA (TA) and in 1957 they became part of 299th Field Regiment RA (TA). In 1967 the Territorial Army was reorganised and the unit at Windsor was re-roled to infantry and became 'A' (Berkshire Yeomanry) Company, Royal Berkshire Territorials.

In January 1969 with the further reorganisation of all TAVR units, the Berkshire Yeomanry were again re-roled and renamed 94 (Berkshire Yeomanry) Signal Squadron with troops at Reading, Windsor, and Southampton. In 1977 a detachment was formed at Chertsey and in 1991, further Government cuts led to the loss of the Troop location at Southampton.

The Regiment has its own dedicated museum in Windsor. Founded in 1974 the museum contains a modest collect of regimental artefacts covering the roles, arms and uniforms adopted since its foundation in 1794. The collection also covers the Regiment's activities during the Boer War and the First and Second World Wars. The museum is gradually building up a database of information on those who have served in the past 200 years. Because it is staffed entirely by volunteers such research can be very time-consuming, but museum staff are always ready

to help those seeking information on their ancestors.

The museum is currently researching the names of all those who died in service with the Berkshire Yeomanry in order to create a memorial in their honour in the form of a Book of Remembrance. This should be completed by the end of this year.

*Copies of William Spencer, Records of the Militia and Volunteer Forces 1757-1945, published by the PRO, is available from the Society Bookshop.*

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## Letters to the Editor

Debra Orgill, 32 Upland Avenue, Chesham, Buckinghamshire HP5 2EB

I read with interest the article by Clive Hackford in March's edition of the *Berkshire Family Historian*.

Some of my ancestors supposedly owned a barge or barges in the late 1800s and it is said that although my great-great grandmother lived in a house in Reading, she always spent as much time as she could on her barge. Her sons also had barges and travelled the Kennet and Windrush River.

Reading the article made me wonder whether there might be a register of barges and if there is where I might find it. I don't know the name of the barge only that the surname of the owners was Thorpe.

I wonder if anybody might be able to help.

*It might be worthwhile trying the surname index of canal and river boatmen which contains about 10,000 surnames. It's free, but if you have names to add to the list they are very welcome. Send a stamped self-addressed envelope to John Roberts, 52 St. Andrews Road, Sutton Coldfield, West Midlands B75 6UH.*

*The Editor.*

David Critchley, churchwarden for Addington

### **Cheslin family**

Frank Whitchall's search for Dorothea Whitchall of Addington (March, 2002 edition of the *Berkshire Family Historian*) is surely Dorothy Whitehall of Addington, Buckingham, who was christened on Dec. 20, 1640, daughter of Robert Whitehall, rector of Addington. There is a village of this name near Buckingham. I don't have the county history to hand but *The History and Antiquities of the County of Buckingham* by George Lipscomb, London 1847, gives a parish by parish survey with lists of rectors, so that should enable you to sort it out. Bucks County Record Office would I am sure be happy to sell you a photocopy of the appropriate page.



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## Help wanted

*Barbara Green, 19 Torcross Road, Ruislip, Middlesex HA4 0TA*

### **Sargeant**

According to the 1851 census my 4x great grandfather William Sargeant was born in Reading c. 1771. He and Margaret (born c. 1764) had six known children: William (born in Berkshire or Middlesex?), James, baptised Heston, 1797, Elizabeth, baptised Heston, 1798 Mary Ann baptised Heston, 1801, Henry baptised Heston, 1803 (married Caroline Pindar), and Sophia born 1810, Hounslow (married Mr. Hopkinson). I feel I have come to a brick wall trying to find William and Margaret's marriage (a search of St. Leonard, Heston proved unsuccessful), and I have had little luck with William's baptism. Is anybody else researching this family?

*Jaynie Ballard, 5 Caradon Heights, Darite, Nr. Liskeard, Cornwall PL14 5JH*

### **John Blundy**

My great great grandfather John Blundy was born in Middlesex and christened on Mar. 20, 1836 in Lambeth, Surrey. He was sent to live with the family of C. B. Adams at Leckhampstead as a boy about 1840. I have his details from the 1881 census, when he was a widower with three sons at home: Edward born 1861, William born 1863 and Thomas born 1866. I believe they had at least five sons, the other two George and Adam were possibly older and may have left home by 1881.

So I reckon John Blundy married Mary about 1857, but I don't know where. She may have come from Leckhampstead, Wantage, Newbury, or Chieveley. I can find no trace of their marriage on the IGI or on the GRO. I would like to know Mary Blundy's maiden name. Can anyone help please?

*Allan Gough, 48 May Street, Bundaberg, Queensland, Australia*

**Richard Gough**

My great grandfather was Richard Gough who was born in Maidenhead in 1866 and came to Australia when he was 17 in 1883. We believe his parents were James Gough and Lucy Shields also from Berkshire. I am interested in finding information about James and Lucy and if they have living relatives still in England. We believe that Richard Gough had a nephew who was a Sergeant Major in the 5th Inniskilling Dragoon Guards, and was also a tent pegging champion. We have no idea of his first name and have never heard whether or not he had any siblings. Any information would be greatly appreciated.

*Graham Sleath, 28 Kingsmead Close, South Knighton, Leicester LE2 3YR*

**William Sleath**

I am trying to discover how my great great grandfather, William Sleath, who was born at Leicester in 1823 came to marry his wife, Harriett Collins, at Greenham in 1846. It is possible that his mother Elizabeth Parsons married William Goldswain in December 1823 at Bisham. Does anybody know if the parish records of Bisham reveal that she was born in Leicester? I would be grateful if another member of the Society could check the Settlement Examinations for William in the 1830s or 1840s. I have already tried the 1841 census without success. I would be very willing to carry out reciprocal research in Leicester in return.

*Patricia Ford, 1 Clifton Lane, Thorpe Constantine, Tamworth, Staffordshire B79 0LJ*

**George Houstoun Reid**

The article in the June issue by Martyn Killion couldn't have been more opportune, as my Australian friend has just asked me to help with her research on her Scottish ancestors. However, much

as the website link to Australian archives gave me a starting point, I have drawn a blank with all the various sites I have tried. Can any reader suggest where I can go after: Rootsweb, PRO, Paisley RHS, Skyline.net, eastrenfrewshire.gov, family records.gov.uk, NAS, IGI and Cyndislist.

My friend would dearly love to prove her connection, through her great grandmother, to George Houstoun Reid, who was the fourth Prime Minister of Australia. Mary Ann Reid is relatively unknown, with only her father's name, William, being on her death certificate of Feb. 3, 1917. George Houstoun Reid's father was John, a minister of the kirk, and John had a brother named William so perhaps he was Mary Ann's father, but we cannot get more information on Mary Ann, who was born on December 23, 1846 at Johnstone, Renfrewshire, to William Reid and Marion (Wilson). We cannot find her name on any ship's log to Australia, yet she married in Bega, New South Wales, on Jan. 28, 1869. George Houston Reid was born on Feb. 25, 1845 near Paisley, the youngest of seven children, and the family emigrated from Liverpool to Melbourne in 1852. Where do I turn to now?

### **Family History Research**

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## Book Ends

*Jean Debney*

**A Walk round our Village — compiled by Shinfield & District Local History Society (2002). A5, pictorial maroon/white card cover, photographs, maps, 56pp. Price £5.50 o/s £6.00.**

The text, lavishly illustrated with old photographs leads you round this parish, which was so drastically changed by the M4 in 1971. There is a map of the area to help those unfamiliar with the area.

**Berkshire Old and New, No.16 (Berkshire Local History Association, 2002). A5, white/green illustrated card cover, illustrated, 56pp. Price £3.25 o/s £4.00.**

Another interesting collection of locally based articles including: 'The village & the road' (Woolhampton), 'For innocent enjoyment & improving the mind: a Victorian benefaction' (Durning Library, Ascot), 'Berkshire overseers accounts in the eighteenth century', 'Waters that went' (lost streams, etc. around Slough) and 'Berkshire Bibliography 2002' (recently published books).

**The Story of Newbury, Tony Higgott (Countryside Books, 2001). A5, blue/coloured pictorial card cover, illustrations, index. Price £10.95 o/s £12.00.**

The author, who recently retired as Curator of Newbury Museum, writes with authority about Newbury — and the surrounding area — from early times to the twentieth century. A must for anyone with interests in the area.

**Cheapside in the Forest of Windsor, Christine Weightman (Cheapside Publications, 2000). B5, pictorial green card cover, illustrations, index, 214pp. Price £14.95 o/s £15.95.**

The author traces the history of the small hamlet of Cheapside within the Royal Borough of Windsor and the oldest part of Sunninghill. The detailed chapter headings and appendices provide much information for both local and family historians.

**Diary of a village school, 1873-2000, Monica Lawson (2001). A5, colour/beige pictorial card cover, illustrations, 164pp. Price £10.50 o/s £11.50.**

This is the history of 'Hagbourne Primary School, 1873-2000'. Written by the headmistress, it is an affectionate account of a school founded as a result of the 1870 Education Act, using old documents, photographs and memories of former pupils to trace its history up to the present day. There is much interesting information here especially for past and present pupils.

**A photographic history of Eton Wick and Eton, Eton Wick Local History Group (Robert Boyd Publications, 2000). A5, blue/yellow pictorial card cover, illustrated, 192pp. Price £11.45 o/s £12.45.**

This local history group, which has been meeting since 1992, produced this history of Eton for the Millennium. Formerly in Buckinghamshire, the parish was transferred to Berkshire in 1974. There are lots of photographs in the text, a chronology of events from 1797 to 1999, and a clear sketch map of the parish at the back of the book.

**Pangbourne and Whitchurch, 1910 — Old Ordnance Survey Map, Berkshire Sheet 28.12 (OXF sheet 55.12) (Godfrey Edition, 2002). £2.30 o/s £3.00.**

This map, originally surveyed in 1875 and revised in 1910, has been reduced from 25 inches to the mile; as usual there is an essay about the area on the reverse, together with extracts from local directories (1911 and 1891). In this series and still available from Berks FHS Bookshop are maps for Maidenhead (two maps), Marlow, Newbury, Oxford (two maps), Reading, Slough and Windsor (two maps), plus a small-scale 1" map of Mid-Berkshire 1885 which covers the Pangbourne area.

**Gibson Guides**

**Local Newspapers 1750-1920, England and Wales, Channel Islands, Isle of Man, compiled by Jeremy Gibson, Brett Langston & Brenda W. Smith (Federation of FHS, 2nd edn. 2002). A5, red card cover, 72pp. Price £5.60 o/s £6.30.**



This is a welcome return of a very useful publication that has been, for far too long, out of print. It lists, county by county, local newspapers with a run of at least four years which can be seen either at the British Library Newspaper Library at Colindale, London or (for many papers) in the relevant county library. Local newspapers are excellent sources for obituaries or just to check the weather and local events when your grandparents were married.

**Probate Jurisdictions – Where to look for wills, compiled by Jeremy Gibson & Else Churchill (Federation of FHS, 5th edn. 2002). A5, blue card cover, 71pp. Price £5.00 o/s £5.50.**

Arranged alphabetically by county for England, Wales, Isle of Man, the Channel Islands and Scotland, this updated edition contains additional information about probate indexes, etc. held at the Society of Genealogists Library in London. There is a useful introduction, information about the documents (including probate accounts) and the probate procedure, and an invaluable glossary. The county maps illustrate the various church courts which proved wills prior to 1858. Wills, both of direct ancestors and their relations, are an extremely important source of family history; they not only confirm family relationships not clear from parish registers but may also indicate occupations and social and economic status.

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More information on our website: [www.nimrodindex.co.uk](http://www.nimrodindex.co.uk)

Coming soon the 1851 Census on line (see website for details)

## Members' Interests

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

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4975 Mrs GC Vocadlo 1A The Uplands Gerrards Cross Bucks SL9 7JQ  
4978 Ms EC Bridge 13B Glenmore Crescent Macksville NSW 2447 AUSTRALIA  
4984 Mrs EEM Barnes 8 Stuart Road Wash Common Newbury Berks RG14 6QX  
4990 Mrs J Johnston 7 Sycamore Road Kings Winford West Midlands DY6 8EQ  
4994 Mrs J Ball 5 Caradon Heights Darite Liskeard Cornwall PL14 5JH  
4996 Mrs L Begg 41 Victoria Street East Maitland NSW 2323 AUSTRALIA  
4999 Mr NK Saltmarsh Les Salines Reading Road Burghfield Common Reading Berks RG7 3BT  
5000 Mr GE Alder 42 Stanwick Road Raunds Northants NN9 6DG  
5002 Mrs J Johnson-Rissi 11 Neason Court Neason Way Folkstone Kent CT19 6DZ  
5006 Miss AL Dyer 167 Feeches Road Southend on Sea Essex SS2 6TF  
5012 Major LR Eaton MBE 19 Globe Mews Beverley East Riding of Yorkshire HU17 8BQ  
5021 Mrs SE Whelan 27 Northall Road Barnehurst Kent DA7 6JF  
5025 Mr DR McCann 12 Oaklands Drive Hazel Grove Stockport Cheshire SK7 6LL  
5032 Mr SJ Keep 109 Philbeach Gardens London SW5 9ET  
5057 Mrs LA Styles 15 Chalkwell Esplanade Westcliff on Sea Essex SSO 8JQ

No	Name	Place	Code Dates	No	Name	Place	Code Dates
5000	ALDER	White Waltham	BRK 1800-1900	5021	BOWMAN	Clerkenwell	MDX 1700-1900
4984	ALLIN	Ramsbury	WIL 1700-1870	4978	BRIDGE	Bethnal Gr & Stratford	LND 1850-
4978	ANSLOW	Cleechills	SAL 1800-1900	4978	BRIDGE	Bradwell & Tillingham	ESS 1700-
5021	ARNOLD	Wantage	BKS 1600-1900	5057	BRIGHT	Peckham/Wandsw'th	SRY -1916
4916	AVELIN(G)	Any	BRK 1500-1870	5021	BRITCHFORD	Holborn	MDX 1700-1900
5006	BADNALL	Any	MDX 1800-1890	4769	BROAD	Any	BRK 1700-1900
4996	BAKER	Bray	BRK 1800-2002	4874	BROWN Walter	Any	MDX 1850-1950
4984	BARNES	Weymouth	DOR 1850-1950	4874	BROWN Walter	Any	KEN 1850-1950
5057	BARRETT	Tamworth	STS 1770s-	3197	BRUNT	Blagdon	SOM pre 1992
3558	BARRETT	Hungerford	BRK 1400-1650	4999	BUCKNER	Blewbury	BRK 1800-1910
3558	BARRETT	Chilton Foliat	BRK 1700-1750	4769	BULL	Any	BKM Any
3558	BARRETT	Lambourn	BRK 1700-1800	4769	BUNCE	Any	BRK 1700-1900
4996	BAZELEY	Brackley	NTH 1800-1900	4994	CALLOW	Dartford	KEN 1760-1900
4978	BEARD	St Pancras	LND 1800-1881	3197	CAMM	Hereford	HEF pre 1800
3197	BESS	Ottery St Mary	DEV 1836-1881	3197	CAMM	Ledbury	HEF pre 1800
3197	BEST	Exeter	DEV 1883-1896	3197	CAMM	Great Malvern	WOR 1800-1852
5021	BIDDIS	Newington	SRY 1700-1900	3197	CANN	Hereford	HEF pre 1800
4975	BIGGS	Sherborne St John	HAM 1800-1900	3197	CANN	Ledbury	HEF pre 1800
4975	BIGGS	Tilehurst	BRK 1750-1880	3197	CANN	Great Malvern	WOR 1800-1852
4975	BIGGS	Wandsworth	SRY 1860-1920	4984	CARTER	Marlborough	WIL 1700-1900
5021	BLAKE	Holborn	MDX 1800-1900	4978	CHADBAND	Peterborough	NTH 1800-1850
4978	BLINCOE	Warwick	WAR 1700-1900	4996	CHERRY	Water Stratford	BKM 1700-1850
4994	BLUNDY	Lambeth	SRY 1770-1860	4769	CHIVERS	Any	BRK Any
4994	BLUNDY	Leckhampstead	BRK 1860-1900	3197	CHOWN	Rockbeare	DEV 1785-1807
5032	BOULTE	Any	HAM 18th C	4984	CLARK	Welford	BRK 1700-1900
5032	BOULTE	London	LND 16 & 17th C	4769	COLLINGRIDGE	Any	OXF Any

No	Name	Place	Code Dates	No	Name	Place	Code Dates
4978	CORP	St Pancras	LND 1800-1900	5002	EADON	London	MDX 1800-1900
4874	COUGHLIN	Any	MDX 1800-1950	5002	EADON	London	SRY 1800-1900
4874	COUGHLIN	Any	IOM 1800-1950	5032	ENGLEFIELD	Any	BRK 1740-1880
4994	COXHEAD	Thatcham	BRK 1720-1820	5032	ENGLEFIELD	Any	HAM 1740-1880
1860	CRABB	Any	ESS 1700-1800	3197	EVANS	Tisbury	SOM 1792-1920
4996	DANCE	Maidenhead	BRK 1800-2002	4984	FARMER	Whitchurch	HAM 1700-1900
5025	DANIEL	Lambourn	BRK 1650-1750	4984	FARMER	North Waltham	HAM 1700-1900
3197	DAVIS	Bristol	GLS 19thC	4984	FARMER	Brown Andover	HAM 1700-1900
3197	DAVIS	St John's Wood	MDX 19thC	4996	FINLAYSON	Any	SCT 1800-1850
4874	DAVISON	Any	MDX 1700-1850	3197	FLOWER	Chewton Mendip	SOM 1833-1854
4994	DEACON	Tilehurst	BRK 1750-1900	5057	FORSTER	Darlington	DUR Any
4990	DEDMEN	Thatcham	BRK 1066-2002	5057	FORSTER	York	YKS 1960+
4990	DEDMEN	Any	BRK 1066-2002	3197	FOWLS	Kempsey	WOR 1780-1803
4996	DENBY	Edinburgh	SCT 1800-2002	5002	FRANKLIN	London	MDX 1800-1900
4999	DENTON	Reading	BRK 1800-1920	5002	FRANKLIN	London	SRY 1800-1900
3197	DERRICK	Blagdon	SOM pre-1855	5002	FRANKLIN	Sheffield	YKS 1800-1900
5021	DICKINSON	Holborn	MDX 1700-1900	3197	FRY	Blagdon	SOM 1747-1871
4975	DIMELOW	Bronington	FLN 1820-1860	4978	FRY	Farnham	SRY 1750-1850
4975	DIMELOW	Derby	DBY 1860-1890	3197	GALLOP	Blagdon	SOM 1776-1848
4975	DIMELOW	Whitchurch	SAL 1800-1860	3197	GAULTON	Bristol	GLS 1880-1914
4769	DOBSON	Any	BRK 1700-1900	5002	GENT	Any	KEN 1800-1990
4975	DODGE	E. Coker	SOM 1820-1860	5021	GILES	W. Hanney	BKS 1600-1900
4978	DOWNES	Aymestry	HEF 1650-1750	5006	GIRARD	Any	MDX 1820-1880
4994	DUFFIN	Tilehurst	BRK 1660-1900	5006	GIRARD	Channel Islands	CHI 1700-1850
5006	DYER	Any	KEN 1800-1880	4999	GOODWIN	Shelsley Beauchamp	WOR 1780+
4994	EADES	Leckhamstead	BRK 1700-1900	5006	GRIFFIN	Marcham	BRK 1700-1841

No	Name	Place	Code Dates	No	Name	Place	Code Dates
4975	GRIFFITHS	Wandsworth	SRY 1850-1920	5002	JOHNSON	Reading	BRK 1750-1900
5057	GROVE(S)	Waltham St Lawrence	BRK Any	5021	JONES	Holborn	MDX 1700-1900
4999	GUILBERT	Guernsey	GSY 1615-1900	4978	JONES John	Ely	CAM 1800-1850
5025	HARMES	Lambourn	BRK 1600-1700	4996	KAY	Any	ALL 1800-1847
3197	HARRIS	Worcester	WOR 1810-1834	5002	KAYE	Sheffield	YKS 1750-1900
4999	HARRISON	Reading	BRK 1820-1920	5002	KEAY	Leighton Buzzard	BDF 1750-1900
4996	HARROP	Great Horwood	BKM 1750-1850	4978	KEECH	Peterborough	NTH 1800+
5021	HATTON	Childrey	BKS 1600-1800	4978	KEECH	St Pancras	LND 1840+
4874	HATTON	Hammersmith	MDX 1750-1950	4978	KEECH	Fletton	HUN 1750-1820
4916	HAVELING	Any	BRK 1500-1870	5057	KEEN	Peckham/Camberwell	SRY 1868+
5021	HEWITT	Clerkenwell	MDX 1700-1900	5057	KEEN	Penzance	CON 1848-1868
4978	HICKMAN	Birmingham	WAR 1800-1850	5032	KEEP	Any	BRK 1540-1640
3197	HODGE	Plymouth	DEV 1820-?	5032	KEEP	Any	HAM 1640-2002
3197	HODGE	Bristol	GLS 1853-1855	4996	KIMMINS	London	LND 1800-1900
5032	HOLLAND	Any	HAM 18 - 20th C	4975	KING	Kensington	MDX 1800-1840
3197	HOLLYMAN	Bristol	GLS 1822-1845	4994	KIRTON	Tilehurst	BRK 1550-1900
5002	HOPPER	Any	KEN 1750-1900	4994	KIRTON	Burghfield	BRK 1550-1900
4874	HORN(E)	Chieveley	BRK 1700-1800	5021	KNOWLES	Lambeth	SRY 1800-1900
4874	HORN(E)	Hanworth	BRK 1800-1900	5032	LARDNER	Any	OXF 17 - 19th C
4874	HORN(E)	Hurst	BRK 1780-1850	4978	LAWLEY	Clebury Mortimer	SAL 1800-1850
4874	HORN(E)	Thatcham	BRK 1700-1790	4984	LAWRENCE	Newbury	BRK 1700-1900
3197	HOWELL	Bristol	GLS 1822-1846	4999	LE BER	Alderney	CHI 1800+
4978	HOWELL	Aston & Birmingham	WAR 1700-	4999	LE COCQ	Alderney	CHI Any
5002	HUMBLES	Leighton Buzzard	BDF 1800-1900	4999	LE GOUBEY	Guernsey	GSY 1800+
4994	HUNT	Tilehurst	BRK 1640-1900	4874	LEE	Botley	MDX 1840-1890
4994	JAMES	Newbury	BRK 1750-1900	4874	LEE	Uxbridge	MDX 1840-1890
5006	JENNINGS	Any	MDX 1800-1850				

No	Name	Place	Code Dates	No	Name	Place	Code Dates
5025	LEGG	Lambourn	BRK 1700-1890	4874	NORTON	Any	MDX 1850-1950
3197	LEM	Worcester	WOR 1810-1824	4874	NORTON	Any	KEN 1850-1950
3197	LIDINGTON	Bristol	GLS 1866-1963	3197	NOTT	Bristol	GLS 1834-1940
3197	LIDINGTON	Any	MON 1843-1885	5032	OLIVER	Any	HAM 18 - 20th C
4978	LINETT	Bradwell & Tillingham	ESS 1700-1900	4978	OLIVER	Peterborough	NTH 1750-1820
3996	MARLOW	Stratfield Turgis	HAM 1780-1900	4994	OSGOOD	Bucklebury	BRK 1700-1900
5057	MARTIN	Walthamstow	LND -1930s	5025	PAINE	Lambourn	BRK 1600-1700
4874	MASKELYNE	Any	WIL 1750-1900	3558	PALMER	Warren Row	BRK 1890-1910
4978	MATHEWS	Clungerford	SAL 1700-1800	3558	PALMER	Maidenhead	BRK 1890-1920
4874	MAUL(E)	Any	WIL 1750-1950	4996	PARGITAR	London	LND 1800-1881
4999	MAURICE	Alderney	CHI 1820-1920	4975	PARKES	Birmingham	WAR 1840-1870
4769	MAXWELL	Any	MDX 1700-1900	4996	PARTIGAR	London	LND 1800-1881
4978	MAYHEW	Billericay	ESS 1750-1820	4769	PARTRIDGE	Any	OXF 1700-1900
4978	MAYHEW	Soho	MDX 1800-1900	4769	PARTRIDGE	Any	BRK Any
3197	McCANN	Great Malvern	WOR 1800-1900s	4769	PARTRIDGE	Ashbury	BRK Any
3197	McCANN	Ledbury	HEF 1740-1814	4978	PEARCE	Bramley	HAM 1700-1900
4994	MEACHER	S E London	SRY 1800-1900	4994	POCOCK	Bucklebury	BRK 1700-1900
4996	MERSOM	Any	BRK 1830-1881	5025	POTTINGER	Lambourn	BRK 1650-1800
4975	MILBOURN	Marylebone	MDX 1800-1850	4978	PREW/PRUE	Any	WAR 1700-1900
4975	MILBOURN	Wandsworth	SRY 1850-1920	4978	QUERRY	Bradwell	ESS 1700-1900
4978	MILLS Emma	Any	LND 1800-1851	4990	RADBOURNE	Any	BRK 1066-2002
4719	MOORE	Bradfield	BRK Any	4978	REE	Leintwardine	HEF 1700-
4975	MOORE	Dorking	SRY 1800-1850	4994	RIGGS	Reading	BRK 1700-1850
4975	MOORE	Trowbridge	WIL 1860-1900	5021	RIMES	W. Hamney	BKS 1600-1900
4975	MOORE	Wickham	HAM 1800-1870	4994	ROBBINS	Thatcham	BRK 1730-1850
3197	NEALE	Any	MON 1822-1861	4984	ROBERTS	Whitchurch	HAM 1700-1950

No	Name	Place	Code Dates	No	Name	Place	Code Dates
4984	ROBERTS	North Waltham	HAM 1700-1950	5021	STUART	Holborn	MDX 1700-1900
4984	ROBERTS	East Wellow	HAM 1700-1900	3197	SWEET	Bristol	GLS 1825-1848
5006	ROCK	Any	MDX 1800-1850	5032	THACKHAM	Any	HAM 1700-1900
4994	ROLLES	Lambeth	SRV 1800-1900	4769	THOMPSON	Westmorland	WES 1600-1900
4996	ROSS	Any	All 1800-1855	4978	THUSTIN	Farnham Royal	BKM 1700-1800
4996	RUMBLE	East Ilsley	BRK 1800-1900	4769	TILLING	Any	BRK 1700-1900
3197	RUSSELL	Great Malvern	WOR c1898-1901	4999	TUCKERMAN	Alderney	CHI 1820-1920
3197	RUSSELL	Great/Little Hampton	WOR 1800+	4978	TULL	Aldermaston	BRK 1700-
3197	RUSSELL	Evesham	WOR 1875-c1898	4978	TULL	Tadley	HAM 1700-
5025	SADBURY	Lambourn	BRK 1600-1750	5021	VEDGEN	Newington	SRV 1700-1900
5025	SADLER	Lambourn	BRK 1650-1750	3197	WADLEY	Great Malvern	WOR 1785-1808
4999	SALTMARSH	Any	ESS 1700-1900	5021	WARD	Newington	SRV 1800-1900
4996	SAMS	Long Sutton	SOM 1741-2002	4719	WARNER	Bradfield	BRK Any
4769	SEALEY	Any	BRK 1700-1900	4978	WATKINS	Brampton Bryan	RAD 1700-1800
4978	SHEL(S)TON	Castor	NTH 1750-1820	5012	WEAIT	Reading	BRK 1700-2002
4769	SHEPHARD	Westmorland	WES Any	5012	WEAIT	Leatherhead	SRV 1700-2002
4978	SKINGSLEY	Dengie	ESS 1800-1900	5012	WEAIT	Any	KEN 1700-2002
3197	SMITH	Withycombe Raleigh	DEV 1862-1880	5012	WEAIT	Greater London	LON 1700-2002
3197	SMITH	Stanford	WOR 1848-1873	5025	WELLMAN	Lambourn	BRK 1600-1700
4874	SMITH	Any	WIL 1750-1850	5025	WELLMAN	Denchworth	BRK 1550-1700
5002	SMITH	Ramsgate	KEN 1800-2000	4975	WELLS	Birmingham	WAR 1800-1850
5002	SMITH	Brighton	SSX 1800-2000	4984	WESTALL	East Ilsley	BRK 1700-1900
5006	SPILLETT	Any	KEN 1800-1880	4984	WESTALL	Boxford	BRK 1700-1950
4769	STONE	Any	BRK 1700-1900	4984	WESTALL	Leckhampstead	BRK 1700-1880
4769	STRATFORD	Any	BRK 1700-1900	4984	WESTALL	Bishopstone	WIL 1700-1900
5002	STRONG	Reading	BRK 1750-1900	4978	WHITAKER	St Giles	LND 1775-1843

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4978	WILD	Weston Patrick	HAM	1700-1900
4984	WILLIAMS	Gillingham	KEN	1850-1950
3197	WILLS	Rockbeare	DEV	1836-1857
4978	WINSTON	Aldermaston	BRK	1800-1900
4996	WINTER	Chieveley	BRK	1700-2002
5021	WOODWARD	Newington	SRV	1800-1900
4994	WOODWARD	Bermondsey	SRV	1800-1900
5002	WRAIGHT	Any	KEN	1750-1900
4996	YEATMAN	Martock	SOM	1700-1850
3197	YOUNG	Hinton on the Green	GLS	1831-1854



# Minutes of the 27th Annual General Meeting held June 27, 2002 at the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints, Tilehurst, Reading

The Chairman welcomed everybody to the 27th Annual General Meeting of the Society. Copies of the agenda, chairman's and treasurer's report and annual accounts had been distributed. The agenda follows that in the March 2001 edition of the Berkshire Family Historian.

1. Apologies for Absence. The following apologies were received: John Gurnett, Ken Marsden, Pauline Wales, Eddie Spackman, Jean Herbert, Pat Deane and Rita Denman.
2. Minutes of the 2001 Annual General Meeting. The chairman reminded the Meeting that the Minutes of the last AGM had been published in the September 2001 issue of the *Berkshire Family Historian*. The Chairman asked the Meeting that the Minutes be accepted as read. This was proposed by John Pollock and seconded by Ted Barton.
3. Matters Arising. There were no matters arising.
4. Chairman's Report for 2001-2002.
5. Treasurer's Report for 2001-2002. The Chairman noted that although the accounts had been audited and approved by the Executive Committee, the auditor was not able to sign off the accounts without the previous signatures of Chairman and Treasurer. John Pollock proposed and Peter Lavarack seconded a motion to accept the Treasurer's report and this was approved by the Meeting.
6. Election of President and Vice-President. The Chairman informed the meeting that as Lady Palmer had expressed a wish not continue as President the Executive Committee had invited Sir William Benyon (of Englefield House) to be our President during the coming year, and he had accepted the invitation; Dr Peter Durrant has kindly agreed to continue as Vice-president during the 2002-2003 year, and they were both duly elected.
7. Election of Officers for 2002-2003. The Chairman informed the Meeting that the following nominations had been received by the Secretary:
  - Society Chairman Chad Hanna

- Society Treasurer Ann Rutt

The Chairman thanked John Gurnett for his service as secretary during the past five years. As the Society Constitution limits service on the Executive Committee to a maximum of five years without a break, the post was now vacant and despite asking a number of people, nobody had yet come forward. After inviting nominations from the floor, the Chairman expressed the hope that someone could be co-opted to fill this important post. Cliff Debney proposed and John Price seconded that Chad Hanna and Ann Rutt be elected to serve as Officers of the Society for 2002-2003.

8. Branch Committee Appointed Ex-officio Members. The Chairman informed the Meeting that the Branch Committees had nominated the following Members to service as their Representatives on the Executive Committee for 2002-2003:

- Bracknell: Pauline Wales
- Newbury: Phil Wood
- Reading: Peter Lavarack
- Vale of White Horse: Ken Marsden
- Windsor: Valerie Storie

9. Election of Executive Committee Members for 2002-2003.

- Librarian Jean Herbert
- Webmaster Eddie Spackman
- Publications manager Jocie McBride
- Projects co-ordinator Daphne Spurling

Liz Ballard proposed and June Barton seconded that the above named be elected to serve on the Executive Committee during the coming year.

10. Appointment of Auditor for 2002-2003. It was agreed that the Executive Committee should appoint an auditor.

11. Any Other Business. The Chairman said that the Executive Committee has decided to make Mr Geoff Mather an Honorary Member of the Society in recognition of the outstanding work he had performed in preparing a complete transcript of the 1851 Census of Berkshire. After noting his other work for both this Society and the Derbyshire FHS, the Chairman congratulated Geoff on his election.

# Chairman's report for the year ending 30th April 2002

After one year as Society Chairman it is my duty and privilege to tell you, the members, about the progress we have made in the Society and the obstacles we face.

## **Organisation**

Your Executive Committee, which forms the charity trustees, has met six times during the past year, and the Research Centre subcommittee has also met six times. The Computer Steering Group has met seven times to discuss projects, workshops and generally how computers can help our Society. A subcommittee was set up to deal with the arrangements for the joint computer conference with the Society of Genealogists.

## **Membership**

The total membership was 1,955 at the time of writing this report. The total at the end of last year was exactly 1,800, which is an increase of 8.6% on the previous year.

Following last year's increase in subscription there will be no further increase in the coming year. A set of personalised forms was issued with the June magazine having the aim of simplifying the processing of renewals, and collecting information and research interests so that the Society can publicise your interests more effectively.

We continue to be grateful to the large number of UK taxpaying members who sign the Gift Aid declaration and return it with their membership subscription. Receiving a cheque for over £2,000 from the Inland Revenue does make a big difference to our finances and I encourage you all to maintain the painless habit of signing the Gift Aid declaration each year.

We have recently reviewed the benefits in kind we offer you as members, to make sure we continue to keep within the strict guidelines for charities laid down by the Inland Revenue, and so we have removed the distinction between non-members and members for some of our chargeable services. This allows us to continue making a small charge to non-members for use of the Research Centre, while keeping it free to members.

## **Publications**

There have been several new publications during the past year. Full transcripts on microfiche are now available for all 17 parts of the 1851 Census of Berkshire, and we must thank Geoff Mather for the diligent and meticulous effort he has put in over many years to make this such a high quality work. As more and more family historians have computers, and fewer and fewer microfiche readers are available in libraries, we are looking to publish on both CD-ROM and the Internet (via the new Federation of Family History Societies' pay-per-view service) (see page 2).

We continue to publish Parish Registers and Monumental Inscriptions as they become available. Reading St. Giles Poor Law Records are being worked on to complete the Berkshire Overseers Papers, which will then be put onto CD-ROM.

## **Bookstall**

The bookstall has been taken to Family History Fairs in Buckinghamshire, Wiltshire, Hampshire, Oxfordshire and West Surrey as well as Bracknell in Berkshire. These fairs are marvellous opportunities for family historians with Berkshire interests to find out how much the Society has to offer them, join the Society, buy both local and family history publications and, more recently, investigate the partially computerised Berkshire Name Index. These fairs followed our own very successful open day in Abingdon, last May, where we welcomed several other family history societies.

## **Projects**

Excellent progress is being made on a number of fronts. New this year is a project to transcribe the 1871 Census for Berkshire. By sending scanned images of the returns to transcribers, anyone with access to the computer can help in this project and indeed one transcriber is working on the West Coast of the USA. As time goes on, we plan to repeat this success with a project to transcribe the indexes for Reading's civil registrations of Birth, Marriages and Deaths.

The indexing of the burial and marriage registers continues, now helped by two second-hand laptop computers primarily for use by the project teams in the Berkshire Record Office. These projects are in addition to the calendaring of the Old Poor Law documents,

and the indexing of the Police Records.

### **Meetings**

I have visited meetings at all five branches during the past year and found a thriving interest in family history topics ranging from palaeography to the Internet. The small number attending some branches is a concern as this makes it more difficult to form a branch committee. It is important that all branches have a well-balanced and locally well-publicised programme of lectures and other events to entertain and inform family historians.

One major event took place on 20 April, when we held a joint computer conference with the Society of Genealogists. This conference attracted 120 visitors to hear a tightly packed programme of talks and tutorials on how computers can be used for genealogy.

### **Research Centre**

The Research Centre is now well established and a recent review has identified a number of improvements to be made over the coming year. With news that the lease will be renewed for a further three years, we can confidently invest both time and money in making improvements. The number of recorded visitors to the Research Centre increased by nearly 30% from 1,528 last year to 1,968 this year, although more would be welcome.

Education is becoming a major part of the activities of the Research Centre. This is being achieved by: library tours, helping visitors to get the most from the Research Centre; evening classes introducing newcomers to the many historical sources needed to create a family history; and day and evening computer workshops to give researchers the skills needed to use computers effectively in their research. Our thanks go to Ivan and June Dickason who have now stepped down from running the Research Centre.

### **Berkshire Family Historian**

Our editor has continued to maintain the award-winning standard of the Berkshire Family Historian with a mixture of articles, news and information, not forgetting the all-important research interests.

### **Internet activities**

With the journal, the website and email discussion list are two more ways we help both Berkshire family historians and family historians in Berkshire. The web site provides large amounts of information to all on the Internet and now attracts many new members. The interests of our members are available on the website and we provide a service of forwarding letters to our members, while protecting their addresses.

### **Other activities**

The Society has been working with other organisations to bring familyhistory to the attention of those living in the County. One venture was a collaboration with Southcote IT Experience in Reading, to introduce people to family history and the Internet via the BBC's Journey into History pilot project. This was followed by a comprehensive display and advice centre at a 'Surprise yourself' day organised by BBC Radio Berkshire.

Other activities require liaison with the Berkshire Record Office, weekly by our project workers, quarterly meetings between the County Archivist and myself, and via the Standing Conference on Archives where the activities of the Record Office are presented.

Special thanks are due to John Gurnett, who must step down as Secretary after serving for five years on the Executive Committee. I am pleased that he will be continuing as editor of the Berkshire Family Historian.

Finally I must thank all the members, over 150, who help as Research Centre assistants, project workers, committee members, and others who, quite simply, are willing to lend a hand to make our all-volunteer organisation work. I hope they will agree with me that it is a great pleasure to be able to work with so many friendly and supportive people for the good of Berkshire family history.

Chad Hanna, Chairman

## Berkshire Family History Society Report and Accounts for the Year ending 30th April 2002

Trustees: Chad Hanna, 161 St. Peters Road, Earley, Reading, Berkshire RG6 1PG  
John Gurnett, 5 Wren Close, Burghfield Common, Berkshire RG7 3PF  
Ann Rutt, 39 Oak Tree Road, Thatcham, Berkshire RG19 4QP  
Pauline Wales, 5 Foxglove Close, Simons Park, Wokingham RG41 3NF  
Peter Lavarack, 1 West Lodge, Bearwood College, Wokingham RG41 5DW  
Wendy Maskall, 5 River Walk, Shaw, Newbury, Berkshire RG13 2LN  
Ken Marsden, 3 Wharf Close, Abingdon, Oxon OX14 5HS  
Valerie Storie, 15 Anthony Way, Cippenham, Slough, Berkshire SL1 5PG  
Jocie McBride, Tradewinds, 6 Wootton Road, Henley-on-Thames, Oxon RG9 1QD  
Eddie Spackman, 40 Western Elms Avenue, Reading, Berkshire RG30 2AN  
Jean Herbert, The Stumps, Rotten Row, Bradfield, Reading, Berkshire RG7 6LG  
Gillian Stevens, 2 Illingworth Avenue, Caversham, Reading RG4 6RB  
Daphne Spurling, The Fifteenth, 7 Broadlands Close, Calcot Park, Reading RG31  
7RP

### Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of the Berkshire Family History Society

I report on the Accounts of the Society for the year ended 30th April 2002.

#### Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

As the charity's trustees you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts; you consider that the audit requirement of section 43(2) of the Charities Act 1993 (the Act) does not apply. It is my responsibility to state, on the basis of the procedures specified in the General Directions given by the Charity Commissioners under section 43(7)(b) of the Act, whether particular matters have come to my attention.

#### Basis of independent examiner's report

My examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charity Commissioners. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the Charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from you as trustees concerning such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently I do not express an audit opinion on the view given by the accounts.

#### Independent examiner's statement

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

- 1) which gives me cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements
  - to keep accounting records in accordance with section 41 of the Act; and
  - to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records;  
and to comply with the accounting requirements of the Act  
have not been met; or
- 2) to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

E.J. Pleave FCA  
Thames Cottage  
Old Mill Lane  
Bray Berkshire SL6 2BD

**Berkshire Family History Society  
Expenditure for Year to Date 30 April 2002**

Magazine and Members' Handbooks	5882	7500
Magazine Postage	4149	4219
Meeting Halls	1436	1307
Speakers	1923	1435
Symposia, Open Days and Other Events	715	0
Reference Library	2293	189
Premises Lease	5059	7162
Other Research Costs	2229	1219
Projects	1100	816
Computer Costs	462	0
Computer Depreciation	0	461
Conference Fees	0	0
Insurance & FFHS	1346	1345
Other Affiliations	0	21
Postage	789	440
Stationery	665	29
Photocopy	151	230
Telephone	42	260
Travel	312	592
Non-magazine printing	1267	0
Miscellaneous	220	178
	<u>30039</u>	<u>27403</u>

**Berkshire Family History Society  
Bookstall Income & Expenditure Account  
Year to Date 30 April 2002**

Sales Income	19549	16392
Opening Stock	7880	7880
Purchases	13664	5810
Fiche & Census Printing	2812	2215
	<u>24356</u>	<u>15905</u>
Closing Stock	7880	7880
Cost of Goods	<u>16476</u>	<u>8025</u>
Margin	3074	8367
Stationery	207	42
Postage	464	186
Telephone	19	129
Travel	25	0
Sales Commission	0	93
Photocopying	135	31
Miscellaneous	-29	164
	821	644
Surplus	<u>2253</u>	<u>7723</u>
Contribution to General A/c	<u>2253</u>	<u>7723</u>
Profit/(loss) to Accumulated Fund	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>



Berkshire Family History Society  
Notes to the Accounts  
Year to date 30th April 2002

1. The Accounts are prepared in accordance with the historic cost convention.
2. Fixed Assets comprise computers and copiers.

At Cost	£
1st May 2001 & 2002	<u>4723</u>
Depreciation	
1st May 2001 & 2002	<u>4722</u>
Written down value	
30th April 2001 & 2002	<u>1</u>

3. Development Fund  
The Executive Committee have allocated £8,000 of the Accumulated Funds as a Development Fund.

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# Back pages

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## BFHS Research Centre



### Not only Berkshire, but also

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



### Come and see what you're missing

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

### Overheard in the Research Centre



'I was planning to visit the Family Records Centre to look through the census returns for Norfolk and then I found a transcript in the library. It saved me a long journey and I found just what I was looking for.'

'Have you seen the journals from other family history societies? Some of them go back twenty years.'

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

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

# Back pages

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## BFHS Research Centre



### How to find us

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

Open:

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

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

### Research Centre & Reference Library tours

The tours for the next three months are:

Saturday	21 September	2.30 - 4.30 pm
Monday	21 October	7.30 - 9.30 pm
Saturday	16 November	2.30 - 4.30 pm

For those who have not yet used the Research Centre these dates give you the opportunity to have a guided tour around the Reference Library, with its 7,000 plus books and fiche available for research, and see what family history resources are available and how to access them using computers.

# Back pages

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## Postal research services

### **Berkshire Name Index**

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

### **1851 Berkshire census**

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

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

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

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

# Back pages

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## Postal research services

### Other county census indexes

We hold copies of census indexes, mainly 1851, for many other counties. The charge for a search and an estimate of the cost of any printouts is £3 per county searched per surname including two sample prints. Charges thereafter will depend upon the type of A4 size copies to be made and the number of printouts involved. Write to the Research Centre for an estimate marking the envelope 'OCI'.

### Berkshire Burial Index

We are contributing to the National Burial Index; so far we have more than 170,000 references in our own database and can now offer a limited research service. The charge per surname is £4 for each A4 sheet. Send a cheque, made out to BFHS and a stamped self-addressed envelope to David Wright, 45 Picton Way, Caversham, Reading, Berkshire RG4 8NJ

### Monumental inscriptions

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

### *The Times* Index

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

# Back pages

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## Useful addresses

### ☐ Chairman

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

### ☐ Secretary

Vacant  
secretary@berksfhs.org.uk

### ☐ Treasurer

Ann Rutt  
39 Oak Tree Road  
Thatcham  
Berkshire RG19 4QP email: treasurer@berksfhs.org.uk

### ☐ Membership secretary

Liz Longhurst  
20 Stanhope Road, Reading  
Berkshire RG2 7HL email: memsec@berksfhs.org.uk

### ☐ Email Discussion Group and webmaster

email: joindiscussion@berksfhs.org.uk  
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

### ☐ Members' Interests

email: members-interests@berksfhs.org.uk

### ☐ Website

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

### ☐ Editor

John Gurnett  
5 Wren Close  
Burghfield Common RG7 3PF  
email: editor@berksfhs.org.uk

# Back pages

## ☐ Branch Chairmen

### ***Bracknell***

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

### ***Newbury***

Phil Wood

### ***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

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

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

*In the event of non-delivery please return to*

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

# The Museum of Reading



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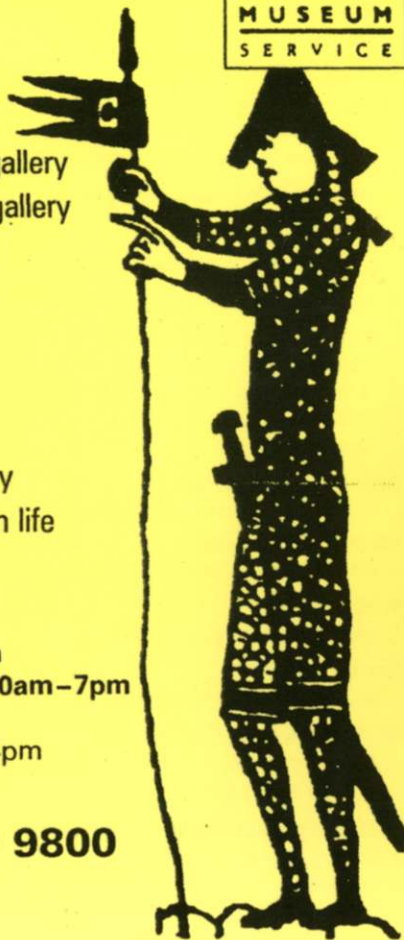
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Bank Holiday Monday 11am–4pm

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# The Bulletin

## 'New Society President

Sir William Benyon, DL, of Englefield House, was elected President of the Society at the annual general meeting held in June. Sir William has had an extensive career dedicated to public service, and recently retired after thirty-five years as a member of the University of Reading Council. He was a member of Berkshire County Council from 1964 to 74, an MP from 1970 to 1992 and High Sheriff of Berkshire in 1995. As well as being our President Sir William is also president of the Berkshire Record Society. Queen Elizabeth I granted Englefield to her favourite, Sir Francis Walsingham, from whom the present owner, Sir William is indirectly descended. There have been only two families in ownership since before the Norman conquest and the same family has held the property for well over three hundred years.

## The Edwardian Country House

Those of you who have been watching The Edwardian Country House on Channel 4 will be interested to know that the house used for filming is Manderston house, near the border town of Duns, about 47 miles from Edinburgh. It's owned by Lord and Lady Palmer (of Huntley and Palmers Biscuits) who also host 'Britain's first privately owned Biscuit Tin Museum'.

## Hearth Tax

The British Record Society and the Roehampton Hearth Tax Centre are jointly producing a series of texts of the Hearth Tax records of the 1660s and 1670s. They are being published county by county. The first volumes to be published are: Cambridgeshire — Michaelmas 1664, Kent — Lady Day 1664, Norwich, Thetford, Yarmouth and Lynn — Exemption Certificates 1670-74. These should be followed by County Durham — Lady Day 1666, Northumberland — 1666, Huntingdonshire — 1664 and 1674, and Essex — 1666. Other volumes planned include Lancashire, Warwickshire, Wiltshire and a composite volume for Cumberland, Westmorland and Furness. The volumes are indexed by surnames and places. Although expensive they should be available at your local library and those who have used these documents will know that the Hearth Tax is a virtual census at a crucial time during the period of change after the English Civil War.

## Statistical database

There's a new British historical database online for those interested in population studies. It contains information from a barrage of information culled from government reports during the nineteenth and early

twentieth centuries. Although not useful for names of individuals it does reveal the changing social climate during the nineteenth century. The data ranges from marriage and mortality, to poor law and small debts.

## Honorary membership

Geoff Mather, who has done so much to transcribe and index the 1851 Census for Berkshire, has been elected an honorary member of the Society. His work over the past 20 years has provided a unique tool for all those with Berkshire interests and I am sure will be welcomed by everybody who uses the transcripts.

## London Metropolitan Archives

Anyone with London or Middlesex family interests might like to try a new online searchable catalogue of London Metropolitan Archive holdings. You can find it on:

<http://www.cityoflondon.gov.uk/family-research/registerSearchForm.asp>

It can be searched in three different ways: the name of an institution, such as a church, school or workhouse; a geographical location in London; or a relevant description. The database only holds details of registers of churches, schools and genealogical sources. It does not contain individual names of Londoners. So a search for Richard Thomas will not produce results.

## Events

Following the success of last year's Heritage Open Day, the Berkshire Record Office will be participating again. There will be a chance for you to see behind the scenes on Saturday 14 September from 11 am to 3 pm.

The Society of Genealogists Family History Experience will be held at Stoneleigh Park, Coventry, on Saturday and Sunday September 28 and 29. Family history societies from around the country will be represented as well as second-hand book dealers and computer software specialists. Advance tickets cost £4 (before September 19), tickets on the day cost £6, with free parking and a shuttle bus from Coventry railway station.

## Berkshire Family History 'Introduction to Family History' Classes

The Summer, Autumn, Winter and Spring Classes in 2001/2 have been a great success. They were held at our Research Centre in Reading where we gave explanations, advice and demonstrations to small groups. Designed to help the beginner and those who have reached a plateau, they are held at the Research Centre. Perhaps we can offer new avenues of research and discuss your problems.

The next class, starting in the Autumn of 2002 comprise five Monday evenings from 7.00 pm to 9.30 pm and will be

held on September 16, 23 and 30, continuing on October 7 and 14. For more information or to book a place telephone Barry or Carolyn Boulton on 0118 957 3651

## **REME Museum at Aborfield**

Whether or not you were a member of the Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers their Museum of Technology at Arborfield is a joy to visit, especially for children. The new exhibition hall displays 20 specialist vehicles. The museum also houses the Corps archives, technical, documentary and pictorial, and is a designated place of deposit for the Public Record Office.

The museum is open on Monday – Thursday 9 am to 4.30 pm, Friday 9 am to 4 pm, Sunday 11 am - 4 pm.  
Admission: Adults £3, Children £2.

## **Wiltshire wills project**

Lucy Jefferis, archivist at the Wiltshire and Swindon Record Office, who was responsible for the digitising wills project at the record office has been appointed Assistant Archivist at the Bath City Record Office. All those who knew her will wish her well.

## **Victoria Cross**

A number of servicemen who won the VC are buried in Berkshire (see page 23) but one of the first was Captain Robert Lindsey who received the award from Queen Victoria herself. He was gazetted

for rallying a party of NCOs and men and holding their ground against an overwhelming Russian force at the Battle of the Alma during the Crimean War. Capt. Lindsey, who later became Lord Wantage, is buried at Holy Trinity churchyard at Ardington.

## **Museum of English Rural Life**

The Museum, at the University of Reading has recently acquired a further collection of exquisite wrought iron work by the Bradfield blacksmith Authur Holloway. This has come from a distant relative living in Devon and adds to a similar collection of his work given to the Museum by his grand-daughter in 1997. Arthur Holloway was born in 1844 and was the resident blacksmith at Bradfield from the early 1870s to the mid 1920s. As well as routine iron work Holloway also produced candle holders in the form of a tulip, snails, lizards, snakes and spiders all influenced by William Morris.

## **1901 Census**

Eight months after it was due to be released the online 1901 census is still not available. The Public Record Office has completed its independent test programme and they are planning to move to a new phase of public testing which should be completed by late August. This new phase will probably mean that the online system will be available in certain centres across the country. But they cannot give a firm

date for general Internet access until those tests are evaluated. More waiting I'm afraid. In the meantime the microfiche continues to be available at the Public Record Office at Kew and at local studies libraries and County Record Offices.

## **BRO digitisation project**

The Berkshire Record Office together with the Rural History Centre has embarked on a two year digitisation project to digitise the county's enclosure records and the agricultural engineering records at the Rural History Centre. The aim of the project is to gather digital copies of all 182 large-scale Parliamentary enclosure maps and 160 awards for the historic county of Berkshire which can be found in collections at the Berkshire Record Office, the Buckinghamshire Record Office and the Public Record Office. By the end of this year a website will go 'live' with some material ready to be viewed.

## **New parish registers at the BRO**

Recent acquisitions at the Berkshire Record Office include the deposit of the Eaton Hastings registers of baptisms, 1813-2001, and burials, 1813-1998. Other, more modern parish registers include Reading St. Barnabas, Reading St. John and Stephen, California and Stubbings.

## **Army deserters**

Desertion from the army was a major problem during the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries. When a soldier enlisted a full description was recorded, giving colour of eyes and hair, height, and distinguishing features. Few of these descriptions survive in the public records, but they were passed onto the police and published in the *Police Gazette*. *Catholic Ancestor* (June 2002) reports that the Manchester and Lancashire FHS have compiled an index to more than 36,000 names published in the *Gazette* and the index is available on microfiche.

## **Queen Victoria**

In this jubilee year I was reminded that on the anniversary of Queen Victoria's death, her children used to visit the mausoleum at Frogmore. One year, as they knelt in prayer, a dove came into the mausoleum, and flew round and round. 'It is dear Mamma's spirit,' they whispered. 'No, I am sure it is not,' contradicted Princess Louise. 'It must be dear Mamma's spirit,' they persisted. 'No it isn't,' said Princess Louise. 'Dear Mamma's spirit would never have ruined Beatrice's hat.' Apparently the source for this story was Prince Henry, who later became the Duke of Gloucester.