



Hop picking holidays
Farm servants
**Hidden treasures in school log
books**
**Finding your way around the
1901 Census**

Programme calendar 2003

Bracknell Branch

Priestwood Community Centre, Priestwood Court Road, Bracknell,

7.15pm for 7.45pm

- 21 Mar *Charles Booth's survey of the London poor.* John Gurnett
- 11 Apr *Under the carpet: the story of our ancestors revealed from brass rubbings.* K. Surman. **Please note date**
- 16 May *AGM. You know what sailors are.* Jeanne Bunting
- 20 Jun *Tbc*

Newbury Branch

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

- 12 Mar *Charles Booth's survey of the London poor.* John Gurnett
- 9 Apr *Why can't I find them?* Jeanne Bunting
- 14 May *Branch AGM followed by our newspaper heritage.* Meryl Catty
- 11 Jun *Society AGM followed by a talk to be arranged*

Reading Branch

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

- 27 Mar *Victorian crime.* Barbara Aldridge
- 24 Apr *Branch AGM. Making more sense of the census.* Jean Debney
- 29 May *Oral history.* Margaret Houlbrook
- 26 Jun *Genealogy question time*

Vale of White Horse Branch

Church Room, Baptist Church, Ock Street, Abingdon, 7.45pm for 8pm. Venue for April, May and June to be announced

- 10 Mar *Have you done your homework?* Marjorie Moore
- 14 Apr *Journal keeping for family historians.* Roz Cawley
- 12 May *Using ratebooks, electoral registers and directories.* Lilian Gibbens
- 9 Jun *Berkshire FHS computer group.*

Windsor, Slough and Maidenhead Branch

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

- 25 Mar *How to read old handwriting.* John Hurley
- 29 Apr *Education records for family historians.* Richard Ratcliffe
- 27 May *Branch AGM with an exhibition of interesting family items and short talks about some of them*
- 24 June *An Enumerator's Tale. (A dramatic presentation). Eavesdropping on a household being interviewed for the 1851 Census.* Meryl Catty and Audrey Gillett

Berkshire Family Historian

For family historians in the Royal County of Berkshire

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John Gurnett
Editor

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The illustration on the front cover shows hop pickers at Matfield, Kent c. 1930. See page 130

**Copy deadline for the June issue is
March 20 2003**

Hop picking holidays

The escape of the urban poor from London to the hop fields of Kent gave many families a way of spending time in the clean air of the countryside away from the smoke and overcrowding city life in London. Southern Railways laid on special trains to take thousands to the hop farms, but many more families went by open lorries. The pickers worked either in family units with parents, grandparents and children, or with neighbours. They provided a source of cheap labour for the farmers. Picking would begin in August and continue through September until early October, depending on the weather. The number of migrant hop pickers reached 100,000 at its peak with half the workforce made up of women and children. These are the post-war memories of Eileen Burcher, a child from south London, and are typical of a time now past.

Like all children we eagerly awaited the long summer holiday from school, but unlike many children of my generation we had something special to look forward to: the hop picking season. Every year the same five families from our street in south east London gathered outside the local pub waiting expectantly for the lorry to take us to the hop fields on the Kent-Sussex borders. There would be around 16 children ranging from two to 14 years of age together with mothers, aunts and grandparents. Our fathers had regular jobs so they stayed at home, visiting us at weekends.

The journey (usually in an uncovered lorry) was uncomfortable but we never complained, we were all so excited. It would be our only trip away from home as our families were unable to afford a real holiday. We usually travelled during the early part of the day so that on arrival we had time enough to settle in. We brought with us all the essential items for cooking and eating, as well as blankets, sheets and pillows. The farmer only supplied the basics: the huts we lived in and straw for our bedding.

Our 'home' was made from corrugated iron huts, which looked like extended garden sheds. There were about ten or twelve huts joined back to back, each measuring about nine feet square. There was a bench of wooden struts stretching along the back wall for our beds.

After unpacking, we collected wood, stones and bricks to make cooking fires. Usually each family had its own fire, although some families would share a fire, taking turns to light it. The first evening's dinner was always special with baked potatoes thrown into the flames and perhaps sausages washed down with hot tea.

There was no opportunity for privacy, as there was a gap between the walls and the roof of the huts (which in later life I assumed to be a form of 'air conditioning'). Conversations were carried out in whispers. We often heard raised voices unsuitable for children's ears. We all giggled under the blankets trying hard not to reveal that we could hear.



Hop picking at Sedlescombe, Sussex, c. 1900

Before settling down to sleep we would pay a visit to the 'earth closet'. This was set in the woods away from the huts and made from a corrugated iron enclosure surrounding a large hole dug in the ground with a wooden seat over the top. It was not the most pleasant experience. I remember that most of us would wait for the morning light before we would dare to venture into this unpleasant and often noxious territory.

At 6.30 in the morning we clambered out of bed and after breakfast, everybody went into the fields to begin picking. Across the hop field row upon row of young chestnut withies, some twenty feet tall, had been erected with strings criss-crossed to the ground below. The strings made a diamond-paned lattice which held the growing hops. To a small child it seemed like a maze of heavy green drapery stretching out to the sun. In the warm summer days it would be cool between the rows, but when it rained, as it often did, the plants would drip water and gathering hops would be uncomfortable and miserable. One of the farmer's men would be asked to use his hook to cut from the overhead wires the hop bines which were placed over the bin to be picked. Moving from field to field was very difficult for small children as each row of bines had been planted in a raised mound, and there was a trench between each row. Walking up and down these trenches with our short legs was tiring so at the end of the day we would all be exhausted.

Each family would be allocated a 'bin' with a number which they would have to fill. The bins were made up from a wooden cross frame with a hessian liner in the shape of a cradle. I helped my mother by picking ten large bowls before I could play. We made sure that no leaves found their way into the bin as the tallyman was very strict when he came to measure each bin by the bushel. I have no idea how much my mother earned, all I know is that she was tired at the end of the day. Sometimes the pickers were able to sit on the side of the bin or on fold-up chairs. During lunch and afternoon breaks we would look forward to refreshments brought to us by The Salvation Army or local people selling tea.

In the distance a distinctive line of oast house roundels stood above the trees and we would look forward to hearing the bell followed by the call 'pull no more bines' which would mean that the oast house was full. We would then have our pickings measured and rush back to the huts, collecting wood on the way to make a fire ready for cooking dinner. I was always expected to make tea for the formidable Aunt Lou and Mum, and then prepare the vegetables, which the farmer would sometimes leave for us. It was the responsibility of the kids to pick the best vegetables, or we would receive a thick ear.

Sometimes, when it rained, we would gather round the fire in a makeshift shed, and the adults would tell stories or jokes. On Saturday evenings we would dress up and walk to the nearby

village and sit outside the pub while the adults would have a drink and a sing-song.

At weekends our fathers would come to join us. All week they would be working and I suspect that while they enjoyed the weekend break, they would be relieved when they had to return home on Sunday evening. We really had a great time during those weekends and somehow I felt a little safer when my father was with us. The dark nights in those huts were, to me, quite frightening but the days more than made up for it.

Once a week the children had to appear before the nurse who combed through our hair for 'nits'. I would dread it as my mother used to say it was degrading if any were found. As a young child I never knew what 'degrading' meant, but it sounded bad. It was such a relief when my brother, sister and myself were told we were clear of this dreadful thing.

There was another occupational hazard while we were staying on the farm. We were informed on arrival that we could have any of the fallen apples from the trees in the orchards, but we were not allowed to go scrumping. The farmer would take severe action if any child was found shaking the apples from the trees. Needless to say, this particular rule was regarded as a challenge and we often came back with armfuls of shiny new apples.

I have always been grateful for those hop picking times. I met so many people and characters, and I still remember them today. It was an experience I would not have missed for anything, but I cannot imagine my own children or grandchildren would enjoy the same experience.

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Berkshire Burial Index

The parishes and periods which have been added to the Berkshire Burial Index since the position shown in the December 2002 issue of the *Berkshire Family Historian* are listed below. The index now contains more than 220,000 entries. A CD ROM of all the burials abstracted so far is available from the Society Bookshop, priced £10.

Avington 1700-1725 (BTs)
Basildon St Bartholomew 1857-1871
Bisham All Saints 1707-1708 (BTs)
Caversham St Peter 1707-1743 and 1795-1812
Chaddleworth St Andrew 1677 only (BTs)
Chieveley St Mary the Virgin 1647-1718
Compton SS Mary & Nicholas 1553-1812
Cookham Holy Trinity 1742-1764
Farnborough All Saints 1607-1738 (BTs)
Lambourn St Michael & All Angels 1636-1693
New Windsor St John the Baptist 1822-1832
Reading St Laurence 1603-1660
Sulham St Nicholas 1612-1724 (BTs)
Tilehurst St Michael 1868-1915
Waltham St Lawrence 1931-1995
Wasing St Nicholas 1608-1729 (BTs)
West Woodhay St Laurence 1744-1768 (BTs)
Woolhampton St Peter 1607-1636 (BTs) and 1749-1759 (BTs)

Details of the postal service for researching burials in the Berkshire Burial Index are given on page 187.

Help wanted

Mrs. Diane Johansen, 21 Coulsdon Court Road, Coulsdon, Surrey CR5 2LL

George Henry Price

My great grandmother's brother, George Henry Price was born in Lyonshall, Herefordshire, in 1857. He married Emma Sims at Reading in 1879. They ran a poulterers and gamedealers shop at 50-52 Peach Street, Wokingham, for more than 30 years. The last reference I found to them is in the 1901 census. I believe they had six daughters and two sons. Does anyone know of an old photograph of Peach Street showing George's shop? Any information on George, his shop, or his descendants would be warmly received and acknowledged.

David Mildenhall, 38 New Forest Drive, Brockenhurst, Hampshire SO42 7QW

John Mildenhall

My research into my great grandfather, John Mildenhall, has thrown up a number of problems that I'm hoping someone will be able to give me advice about. He had a short but colourful life, although he ultimately proved to be an unreliable husband and father. He was born in 1866 in Inkpen and became a professional jockey in 1887. About three years later he went to India to ride and married in Bombay Cathedral in 1898. He and his wife Elizabeth (nee Aylward) returned to England a year later, where they had three children. He became a publican, running public houses in Croydon, Kent, and East Ilsley. It proved a bad career move as he also became an alcoholic and abandoned the family. He died in Reigate in 1913. His two sons (including my grandfather) went into a Barnardo Home in London, as their mother was unable to support them.

I've discovered a little about his racing career in this country, but nothing in India. I also don't know how to find out about his time as a publican, for example where he got his licence and whether or not breweries kept

records. I've heard that Barnardo Homes don't release records. Is this true? Any help will be gratefully received.

Heather McGuinness, 23 Huntercombe Lane North, Taplow, Maidenhead, Bucks SL6 0LF

Grandad Barrett – the grandad I never knew

For 13 years I have been endeavouring to trace information about the burial place of my grandfather whom I never knew and who died when I was 12. Edward Barrett was born in 1879 and brought up in Eversley, Hampshire. After his marriage he lived in Mortimer and surrounding areas and from 1938 lived in Greensward Lane, Arborfield, Berkshire, at the same address as Mary Richardson. Edward Barrett died on 30 October 1956 in Battle Hospital, Reading, but where was he buried? I would be so grateful to receive any information.

Mrs. J. Cooke, 15 Brockridge Lane, Frampton Cotterell, Bristol BS36 2HU

George Ellborough

I am directly descended from George Ellborough who was baptised in 1804 at Longworth, Berkshire. George was the illegitimate son of Mary Ellborough. I am trying to discover the origins of his mother Mary, but so far without success. I know George spent all his adult life in Longworth working as an agricultural labourer. He married Mary Thatcher from Fyfield in 1827, raised 12 children and remained there until his death in 1882. I have had many local parish records and overseers' records checked for information but unfortunately have drawn a blank. I need to find out if George actually remained in Longworth during his childhood. Is there anyone out there who can help me? I am particularly interested in any data relating to farms in the area and details of any farm workers. I have a great deal of background information relating to this surname, which I will gladly share with any interested parties.

Roy Smith, 25 Pound Lane, Bugbrooke, Northampton NN7 3RH

Hawthorn/Horthan

I am trying to find the birth or baptism of Stephen Hawthorn sometime around 1769. He married Hannah Scriven of Bighton, Hampshire, on September 7, 1799 at Warfield and lived locally until he died at Winkfield in 1834. Also, is there any connection between Stephen and John Hawthorn who married Elizabeth Scriven, sister of Hannah, in 1778? John is the son of John Hawthorn and Eastor/Esther and was born in 1755.

David A. Barrett, 9 Bethune Road, Horsham RH13 5JN

Barrett family

I am trying to trace the marriage of Thomas and Em Barrett, which took place between 1619 and 1640. All their children were christened between these times at Hungerford St Lawrence but I cannot trace their marriage. If any of your readers could help I would be grateful.

< peter.silvester@ntlworld.com >

Henry Silvester and Alice Blanders

I note the request for assistance from Ruth Noyes of Stafford concerning Henry Silvester and Alice Blanders in the March, 2001 issue of the *Berkshire Family Historian*. I have a tree which goes back from the 1880s to this couple.

I believe that Henry was born at Sunningwell c.1679. I have no information about a Hinton Waldrist connection. I have nothing about the antecedents of this couple but can offer further research about their son John (born 1765 at Sunningwell) who married Mary Rogers (born 1707 Wytham). That Rogers branch goes back through father William (born 1671 Wytham) and his wife Mary(?) born c.1707 at Wytham and his father Robert Rogers (born 1639 also at Wytham) and his wife Martha (?) born 1649 at Wytham. This Rogers branch might be interesting to Ruth Noyes. I, too, would be interested in the parents of either Henry Silvester (1679-1731) or Alice Blanders (1683-1721).

Farm service or servants in husbandry

Most of us will have discovered farm workers somewhere in our family history as the majority of those who lived in rural areas were employed in some way in the agricultural economy. Some of us will have come across ancestors described as 'farm servants' (or simply 'servants') by census enumerators. Farm servants were usually young, single and hired on a yearly contract. Here Walter Townsend describes, from family memories learned at his mother's knee, the life of farm workers at the beginning of the twentieth century.

Both my parents, in their youth, were farm servants, my father working outdoors and my mother employed indoors helping the lady of the house with all her chores: the dairy, the poultry and looking after other servants.

Until the middle of the nineteenth century, farm service was a common, perhaps the most common, way of dealing with rural youngsters when they reached working age and became too big and too hungry to fit into the crowded cottage of the agricultural worker. Children of farmers often went into service, so it was not only an institution catering for the labouring poor. The youngsters benefited from being housed and fed by the farmer whilst learning the skills needed to carry them through their working lives. They gained freedom from parental control and were able to broaden their horizons and mix with other workers within the system; they also received an annual wage from which the thrifty would save towards the future and marriage and which the not-so-thrifty would spend on beer and tobacco. They might, in their time as servants, work on several farms, usually within a radius of 10 or 15 miles of home.

In times when labour was scarce and wages consequently high, farmers were all in favour of a system that enabled them to hold a captive workforce throughout the year at relatively low cost. As farming became adversely affected by the importation of large quantities of Canadian grain and other foodstuffs towards the end of the nineteenth century, labour became plentiful and cheap and the system gradually died out in most parts of England. Then it was more profitable for the farmer to employ full-time only those workers essential for the day-to-day running of the farm, such as

carters, shepherds or cowmen, and to engage casual labour when the seasonal workload made it necessary.



Farm service ensured that few village children were without a job when they reached working age, and remained an established institution in a few areas of England until well into the twentieth century. My father, Charles Townsend, was a farm servant until 1929 and my mother, now 96, started her working life at the age of twelve as an indoor servant. This was in the East Riding of Yorkshire where, on the large scattered farms, farmers thought it prudent to keep their workforce near at hand. Because there was a shortage of men to work the land after the depredations of the First World War, boys of my father's age were allowed to leave school early and could start work at the age of twelve. My father went into service, earning £8 for the first year as 'third lad' or 'Tommy Nowt', the very lowest in the hierarchy of farm workers. The notoriously hard regime has been well documented: working from dawn to dark, often seven days a week (except when the master insisted that his workers attended church on Sunday), 51

weeks a year for eight pounds. The horses had it easier, finishing work at 2.30 in the afternoon, while the lads laboured on. The youngsters did not go into service ignorant of what awaited them. They were fully versed in the ways of labouring life, having been engaged in it from a very young age, helping out on the farms whenever they could. By the age of twelve or thirteen they could manage a team of heavy horses. Going into service marked the start of their adulthood, an event they had been looking forward to as their escape route from the confinement of the schoolroom. The hirelings lived with the farmer or farm foreman, whose wife looked after them and on whose cooking skills, care and consideration their wellbeing depended. Living conditions were basic and on the rough and ready side; sleeping in crowded attic rooms, sweltering in summer and waking to frozen-stiff clothes in winter, they had no bath or washing facilities except a cold tap in the yard outside the kitchen door. My father spent his first £8, paid in gold sovereigns in 1919, on a second-hand bike, a pair of strong boots, working clothes and a best suit – all made by village craftsmen – and gave the balance to his mother for her to use on his behalf as necessary. The large farms on the Wolds may have employed a dozen or more servants, so there was always plenty of company and friendships were forged for life.

Although they were engaged for a year, the servants were dismissed one week before the working year ended, a hang-over from the times of poor law settlement when a full year of residence in one place put the responsibility for their support in times of need on that parish. In the East Riding this dismissal took place at Martinmas, officially in the second week of November, but for agricultural purposes celebrated on or near the 23rd with the hiring fairs (something to do with the loss of twelve days when the calendar changed from Julian to Gregorian in 1752, I believe). As they were handed their lump-sum wage for the year, those favoured by the farmer would be asked if they would stay for another year. Whether they stayed or not depended on how they viewed their treatment during the year, for some farmers were bad masters. Those that left took themselves off to the nearest market town where the annual hiring fair was held. Dressed in their best they paraded to show themselves off to the farmers, who walked up and down assessing and questioning those offering their services. A servant was engaged for the coming year, after a bout of bargaining had settled the wage, by a handshake

and the acceptance of a fastener or 'fest' of a florin (10 pence) or half-a-crown (12fi pence). If the coin was accepted a legal contract had been drawn, which could not be broken.

Hiring fairs allowed the farm worker some scope for bargaining with his masters and it has been observed that agricultural wages in areas where they survived were far better than in those where they had died out. My grandfather, Henry Townsend, migrated to the East Riding in the 1890s because there were too many agricultural workers chasing too few jobs in his native Oxfordshire and wages were too low to sustain a family – 8 to 10 shillings a week. At the same time, on the Yorkshire Wolds farm wages were as high as £1 (20 shillings) a week and attracted many workers from the south of England. However, the introduction of a national minimum wage for farm workers sounded the death knell for the hirings and they gradually petered out in the East Riding, one of their last strongholds in England, to be replaced by annual funfairs, which continue to this day at the same time of year.

So the system of Servants in Husbandry persisted in Yorkshire until the 1930s generally and even into the 1940s on a few isolated farms. In the main it involved the young of rural areas and provided almost certain employment in their early adult years, with bed, board, training and a small income. When marriage came along a house and a weekly wage became a necessity and the erstwhile servant's life-style changed dramatically. Many men who did not marry stayed in service for much of their working lives.

Berkshire Marriage Index

The new marriage index is making rapid progress, although more volunteers are always needed to transcribe and check the registers. Since the complete list of parishes in the last issue of the *Berkshire Family Historian* the following have been added:

	Checked	unchecked
Boxford St Andrew	1559-1837	
Chieveley St Mary the Virgin	1600-1837	1560-1599
Hampstead Norris	1541-1837	
Midgham St Matthew	1638-1837	1612-1637
Old Windsor	1754-1837	1612-1753
Stanford Dingley	1539-1837	
Sulhamstead Abbots St Mary	1647-1837	1603-1646
Ufton Nervet St Peter	1636-1837	1607-1635
Wargrave St Mary	1600-1837	1538-1660 ?
White Waltham St Mary	1600-1837	1556-1600
Yattendon SS Peter & Paul	1600-1837	1559-1600

A postal search service of the Index is available. See page 187 or look on the website at <www.berksfhs.org.uk>.

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Hidden treasures in school log books

When attempting to discover the social background of children, particularly in the nineteenth century, but also in more recent times, family historians often neglect school records. Yet for those who have never been tempted to explore these records they can provide valuable insights into how schools were integrated into the community, especially in rural areas. The main sources, and certainly the most illuminating, are log books. The earliest log books date from 1862 when legislation was introduced requiring headteachers to record the daily life in Government-financed schools. Barbara Dove has been looking through some local school records.

A log book, started in 1863 at Kidmore End Primary School, sets out what is expected from teachers:

‘The Principal Teacher must daily make in the Log Book the briefest entry which will suffice to specify either ordinary progress, or whatever other fact concerning the School or its Teachers, such as the dates of withdrawals, commencements of duty, cautions, illness, &c., may require to be referred to at a future time, or may otherwise deserve to be recorded. No reflections or opinions of a general character are to be entered in the Log Book. No entry once made in the Log Book may be removed nor altered otherwise than by a subsequent entry. The Inspector will call for the Log Book at his annual visit, and will report whether it appears to have been properly kept throughout the year. The summary of the Inspector’s Report, when communicated by the Committee of Council to the Managers, must be copied into the Log Book by the Secretary of the latter, who must also enter the names and description of all teachers to be added to, or withdrawn from, those entered by the Inspector, according to the decision of the Committee of council upon the Inspector’s Report’.

The content varies greatly from school to school and, naturally, accordingly to when and by whom it was written. So here are just a few of the jottings I found in log books at Kidmore End, from the years between 1863 and 1904.

19 May 1863 Attendance very small. (Weather) N.B. In this village, where the homes of most of the children are so distant from the school, wet or very cold weather, lessens greatly the attendance.

8 October 1868 1st class not well attended. Boys wanted for work in the field and for tending cattle.

14 June 1869 (Entry covers over three pages the name, age, when admitted and standard of 68 children present at the school. I have extracted this information and if anyone is interested please contact me on <sonningdove@waitrose.com>).

3 April 1871 Harry Castell and George Prior punished for playing truant yesterday afternoon. No drill in the afternoon, the weather being damp and showery.

17 May 1872 George Cleater not to come to school while his younger brother is sick from Measles. Jesse Yates sent away for being ragged and dirty.

10 June 1872 The School pence received this morning found deficient of 1/2d, when counted over, suspicion aroused that one of the older children had been guilty of theft.

11 June 1872 The suspicion aroused yesterday found to be correct, the girl (E.H.) confessing her guilt to the Vicar, after perfect evidence had been obtained of it.

1 January 1878 School reopened; fair attendance, with unfavourable weather. Mary E. Jennings 3rd year Pupil Teacher, arrived from Sopley, on Saturday last, and M. Maria Suffolk, from Baxterley, Warwickshire, 1st. year Candidate, on Monday, 31 December. Divine Service at 11.30.

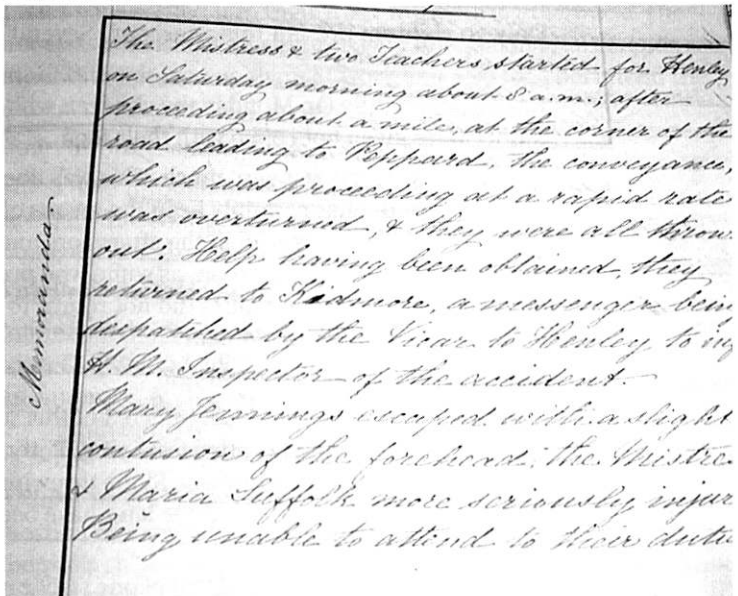
2 April 1878 The School could not be commenced until 9.45, owing to the School room chimney having caught fire. The Scripture Lesson therefore omitted.

25 May 1878 (this entry is edged with a black border and *Memorandum* written at the side) The Mistress and two teachers started for Henley on Saturday morning about 8 a.m.; after proceeding about a mile, at the corner of the road leading to Peppard, the conveyance, which was proceeding at a rapid rate was overturned, and they were all thrown out. Help having been obtained, they returned to Kidmore, a messenger being despatched by the Vicar to Henley to inform H.M. Inspector of the accident. Mary Jennings escaped with slight contusion of the

forehead, the Mistress and Maria Suffolk more seriously injured. Being unable to attend to their duties, School was kept on the following Monday and Tuesday by the Vicar and M. Jennings, assisted by Mifs Sturges and Mrs Henman; and then temporarily closed.

Medical aid was called in on Monday May 27th; Maria Suffolk grew rapidly worse from Friday, 31st. and expired on Sunday eve., June 2nd. her Mother, having been telegraphed for, arrived the eve. previous. Mr Suffolk arrived too late to see his daughter alive. On Tuesday, June 4th, her remains were conveyed to her own home, Baxterley Warwickshire.

School remained closed during this week the Mistress being unable to attend.



Extract from the log book describing the accident

18 June 1878 Two temporary Scholars admitted. Highest attendance ever made (132) both morning and afternoon.

12 December 1881 Two tons of coal brought in. School routine as usual during week.

8 January 1883 Commenced taking Dictation on paper. Spelling very bad.

The Toms family left and gone to Hook End School because their father was summoned and fined for not sending them regularly.

29 October 1883 I, William Colwill, Certificated Master of the Second Class, late Head master of the Westonzoyland Board School, Somerset commenced my duties in this School today.

5 November 1883 This afternoon the village policeman came to the School and complained that a boy had thrown a stone at a duck in the pond opposite the school and had broken its leg. On inquiry I found that several had been throwing but the boy who struck the duck was called Hicks.

I cautioned him and announced to the whole school that any boy who throws stones during the dinner hour or at play time will be caned.

Only 70 children present this afternoon. Several gone gathering acorns.

14 December 1883 On Monday the children who stay to school to dinner were given hot coffee with their food.

They seemed to enjoy it very much. This was done on Wednesday and today, and it has certainly been the means of making the children look more cheerful in the afternoon, and has improved the attendance in the afternoon, as some who previously went home to dinner and sometimes did not return to afternoon school now stay in the school for dinner.

28 June 1886 School Year 1885-86

Corporal Punishment has been inflicted in this school during the past year for the following offences: Lying: Petty Thefts: Frequent inattention to lessons: Obstinacy: Stone throwing: Idleness: Copying and Prompting. The three later have been the most frequent.

The punishment mostly consisted of one stroke on the hand sometimes one on each hand.

30 November 1887 Mr Sutton, Dyson's Wood, came to the School at dismissal this afternoon and handed the master 10 shillings towards the 'Coffee Fund'. He said he was unable to be present at the Church when the collection was made and therefore wished to give something privately

20 January 1888 Dinners this week provided by Miss Tyrrell. They consisted of Soup on Tuesday and Irish Stew today, about 50 children partook on each occasion.

21 March 1888 Rose Randall buried this afternoon.

12 October 1891 Wet this morning. several children have left today, Fathers gone to other villages for work. The usual Michaelmas changes.

Admitted 2 boys called Godding.

28 July 1892 Boys Cricket Match this afternoon, Peppard and Kidmore.

15 October 1894 The urinal attached to the boys closet was choked up owing to the rain but was soon cleared again. On account of the mornings being very cold fires were commenced on the Tuesday of last week.

19 April 1901 Average for week 127. On books 143 89%. The new classes have settled into their fresh work during the week. The first class consists of 44 children very unequal in attainments, it is rather difficult to keep them at work and also to superintend the other classes.

report of Diocesan Inspector (Copy)

‘The school throughout is making very satisfactory progress, especially the children of the highest division, who answered very intelligently.’

B’p’s Prize Bertrum Lovejoy

Commended Group 3 Beatrice Wise, Arthur Russell, Lily Cook, Edith Callis, Jno Ledbury,* Wm Long,* Frank Beasley. Group 2 Sid Ambrose, Archie Old, Wm Cook, Ethel Beesley, Elbena Cox, Lily Middleton. *Won Bp’s Prize in former years. J.W. Nutt Inspector

29 June 1904 Visited the school. The rooms are crowded, and the question of the Enlargement of the school needs serious attention. The walls sh’be coloured, and the doors made to open outwards. The infant room is scarcely adequately lighted. E.F. Davidson H.M.I.

In comparison here are some extracts taken from the Arborfield and Barkham C of E School log book held at the Berkshire Record Office, Catalogue reference 84 SCH 1/2 (Log book December 1915 to December 1958). I have taken a selection from the log book relating to the time that I attended the school, which was from 9 January 1951 to 23 July 1957.

9 January 1951 School re-opens N.O.R. 114

3 May 1951 the children of Primary Department visited the

Church this morning. School closed at noon.

4 February 1952 Mrs. Clarissa Margaret Chambers 3 August 1898 commenced duties as supply teacher in the Infants Department today.

6 February 1952 the staff and children were informed of the death of His Majesty King George VI which occurred in the early hours of this morning.

24 April 1952 In consequence of the installation of flush type lavatories the Offices man was given one month's notice to terminate his engagement.

9 May 1952 Mr. Brewerton HMI visited the school today re accommodation. The head teacher accompanied him to inspect the Village Hall.

25 July 1952 School closed Annual Outing by coach to Littlehampton.

29 July 1952 School Prizes presented. Closed for Summer Holidays.

30 September 1952 The Village Hall is now being used as a temporary classroom, accommodating the Lower Juniors with Miss Headerly in charge. Installation of the telephone was completed today.

5 November 1952 Miss Betty Frances Wright permanent staff w.e.f. 1.XI.52

28 May 1953 School celebrations in honour of the Coronation of H.M. Queen Elizabeth II. Before an assembly of parents and friends each class gave a performance of dances singing and physical education.

Commemoration trees presented by Mrs. Simmonds, chairman of the managers, were planted by her. Mrs. Howard-Jones, who subsequently presented each child with an engraved beaker provided by the County Council. This was followed by a tea.

12 June 1953 Accompanied by the Chairman of the Managers and staff, all children were taken to the Odeon Theatre in Reading this morning to see the Coronation colour film 'A Queen is Crowned'.

1 September 1953 Miss M.A. Smeed has joined the staff. Miss Wright has been married during the holidays and is now Mrs. B.J. Cole. Work has commenced on the erection of new classrooms.

7 January 1954 School re-opened after Christmas Holidays. Mrs.

Chambers was absent as she has undergone an operation in the R.B.H. 2 Temporary teachers appointed in her absence.

There is now a six class organisation, with the head teacher no longer responsible for the full time teaching of a class.

Three new classrooms have been completed and were occupied for the first time today.

16 July 1954 Junior class 2 journeyed to London on Education visits to Science Museum and Natural History Museums in South Kensington.

26 July 1954 Prize giving was held this afternoon. To mark his seven years work here, the headmaster was presented with a television receiver, subscribed for by children, parents, staff, Managers and friends.

28 July 1954 On appointment as Headmaster of Dedworth County School. I terminate my engagement here. (Signed J Andrews 28.7.54)

31 August 1954 I, Cyril A. Piggott, formerly Headmaster of West Winch V.P. School, Norfolk today take up my appointment as Headmaster, Arborfield and Barkham C.E. School.

6 September 1954 A representative of the S.E.B. visited the school and informed the Headmaster that the supply of electricity should be available within the next fortnight.

15 September 1954 Anthony Rourke re-admitted this morning.

21 September 1954 The electricity supply was finally connected.

November 1954 Sandra Leach presented flowers to Mrs. Howard-Jones

27 April 1955 The Headmaster and all the Kitchen Staff this afternoon attended the funeral of Mr. Sellwood.

22 June 1955 Individual and family photographs were taken this morning.

6 July 1956 School was closed today. The children of the top two age groups went on a tour of Berkshire today, visiting Combe Gibbet, the Vale of the White Horse, the White Horse and the Blowing Stone. Wantage and Abingdon. The return journey was via Henley-on-Thames.

February 1957 Geoffrey Higgs (Junior 1) was knocked down by a van outside the Swan Public House at 4.15.p.m he was later taken to Battle Hospital.

22 May 1957 Individual photographs were taken of all children.

27 June 1957 Mrs. Sumner resigned from her position as a kitchen helper today.

23 July 1957 School closed at 3.45pm for School Holiday.

Of all these events at Arborfield I particularly remember having school photographs taken; it is so useful to have an exact date. I remember too those school trips, and when my mother, Mrs Sumner, left the school because she was expecting my youngest sister. Looking through these log books often provides some unexpected surprises – the state of the children coming to school, discipline and accidents that happened to them. Treasured memories – happy times, sad times, celebrations locally and sometimes nationally.

If log books survive they may be in the local County Record Office, or still held at the school. I suggest that you ask the county record office first and if they don't have them then approach the school. If the school has changed its name the CRO should be able to help. One of the important things to remember is that there is a closure date on all school records as they may contain sensitive information.

I hope you enjoy your visit back into your own and your ancestors' childhood, as much as I have. Happy hunting!

Acknowledgements to Berkshire Record Office and the Headteacher at Kidmore End Primary School.

Letters to the Editor

Eileen Barnes, 8 Stuart Road, Wash Common, Newbury, Berkshire RG14 6QX

Members' interests

I joined the Society early last year and my names were included in the Members' Interests list that appeared in the September magazine. Within two weeks of publication, I received a letter from another member who was researching one of my names (Westall of East Ilsley). We have corresponded by letter and email and have spoken on the telephone. There is a possible link in the late 1700s and we are still working on this. On the 16 October I received an email from another member who is researching another of my names (Clark of Welford). Within six days we had established that his great great grandfather was my great grandmother's brother. Is this a record? We have since been passing information to one another on an almost daily basis and between us have built up a substantial tree. We hope to meet in Reading soon to visit the Research Centre and the BRO.

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

Oldest reader

I wonder if my mother, at 98, is your oldest reader? I am a member of the Society and my mother has always been interested in history so I pass on every copy of your magazine and she thoroughly enjoys reading it. She lives on her own in London.

Ed. Perhaps there's another older reader. Do let me know.

Mrs M. Harvey, 1 Drove Cottages, Rodmell, Lewes, East Sussex BN7 3HD

Political article

I was disappointed to read the article 'Black Britons - where are their monuments' in the December issue of *Berkshire Family Historian*. The overt political thrust lies uneasily in an excellent magazine such as yours. Although the subject may be of sociological interest, it has scant relevance to genealogy. I hope

this article is not an indicator of future trends in our gentle study of family history, which so far we have had freedom to follow, wherever our roots are, without the need to 'pursue an agenda.'

Geoffrey Frogley, Port Augusta, South Australia

Frogley Cox

Just a quick note in response to the letter on Frogley Cox in the last edition of the *Berkshire Family Historian*. Very few of the Frogley's were Catholic or remained Catholic, and most have emigrated since. It would seem that earlier they were associated with the Hyde and Fettiplace families, who also had Catholic connections in some quarters. During the English Civil War I suspect the families were Royalists, presumably fighting with the Hydes. Fragmentation of the family occurred after this time when it seems they settled in the area where they had ended their time with the military. Some family members moved directly from Berkshire to London, but most came from the fragmented lines in counties around the metropolis.

Frogley Cox I would suspect worked for the (Catholic) Throckmortons at Buckland Park Estate. My ancestor, James Frogley of Alley farm, Denchworth, married Helen Chare of Buckland. It is said by the family that Helen's mother was a Throckmorton – but this has not been proven. The late Dr. Ralph Frogley of Salt Lake City has submitted his Frogley research to the LDS church, but it is badly flawed. It was compiled by Brian Leese, who I understand from Ralph was one of LDS members in London. Research ceased in the 1970s after Ralph's brother had an argument on the phone with Brian over length of time to send reports and the cost. From the copies of the reports, Brian did not consult any Catholic registers or undertake any extensive research in and around Oxford. Richard Frogley of Oxford married Elizabeth Phillipson de Connor at the London Portuguese Embassy. It would seem from a history that he compiled on the family, donated to the University, that she was one of the sub-members of the Portuguese Royal family another connection, I would think, with Catholicism.

Editor's note: the correct address for Eric Saxton, who wrote the original letter on the Frogley family, is: Eric Saxton, School House, Church Hill, East Ilsley, Nr. Newbury, Berkshire RG20 7 LP

Joan Simpson Trussell, c/o Kelvin Rivers Simpson 19c, Southbrook Road, London SE12

Bastardy in Berkshire

I read the article on 'Bastardy in Berkshire' which appeared in the March 2000 issue of the *Berkshire Family Historian*. Mention was made of John Scoolt (Schultes). He was married twice, firstly to Ann Middleton, whose father was Vicar of Melton Mowbray and secondly to Joann Nell, apparently from St Olaves, London. His father (from whom we are descended) was Rector of Wallingford for 44 years and was married three times. I have found two marriages. Sarah, John Scoolt junior's, sister, our grandmother x times removed was illegitimate. She was born in London in 1754 the daughter of Frances Clarke. John Scoolt, senior, married her in 1758. His second wife, Ann Blackall, died the previous year.

Incidentally, the half-sister of John junior, Mary married John Yarrow. Their son John Scoolt Yarrow married Sarah Yarrow, and they had a son Edgar William Yarrow, who had a son Alfred Fernandez Yarrow who became the first Baron Yarrow.

John junior was also involved in a court case in Hagbourne, regarding the disposal of some funds. He did not answer that summons either. It seems the Churchwardens did not care for him, or he was the black sheep of the family.

Family history at the National Army Museum

Regimental museums can be of great assistance to family historians as they can provide vital information on the regiments themselves and the campaigns they fought in along with photographs and medals won by the soldiers themselves. If you know that your ancestor served with one of the regiments then a visit to their museum is always worthwhile. Few, however, visit the National Army Museum in London and Peter B. Boyden, Assistant Director (Collections) at the Museum, describes why a visit can reveal some surprises.

The National Army Museum opened its new home in Royal Hospital Road, Chelsea, in November 1971, when the widespread interest in family history, which is such a feature of contemporary life, was first beginning to make its presence felt in Britain. Having begun life at the Royal Military Academy Sandhurst, the Museum received its Royal Charter in 1960 and thanks to the generosity of many private donors was able to open in its purpose-built London home eleven years later. On the face of it the Museum is not an obvious hunting ground for family historians, given that it holds no records relating to the Army careers of individual soldiers, which are to be found in the Public Record Office. There is a chance the pay book of great-great-uncle Fred may have been given to the Museum Archives, but in general the Museum cannot help directly with enquiries about individual other ranks. The success rate for information about commissioned officers is higher, chiefly because details about them is available in printed sources such as Army Lists, regimental histories and other publications. In addition, for those researching officers of the East India Company armies, and the successor Indian Army, the Museum owns the card index of biographical data on them compiled by Major Vernon Hodson. For most people researching ancestors who served in the British Army the National Army Museum is able to be of little direct help, but this does not stop many family historians finding visits to the Museum of enormous benefit, chiefly because its collections and facilities enable researchers to put into context the information which they have obtained from documents in the Public Record Office.

Collections

An important source of this background data is the Museum's collections. Following the obligations set out in its Royal Charter, the Museum collects and preserves items relating to the land forces of the British Crown. They include items which range in size from buttons to railway locomotives, manufactured in all possible materials from paper to steel. Uniforms, badges, medals, firearms, swords and other weapons, items of kit and all the paraphernalia used by soldiers through the ages figure largely in the Museum's collections, but so too do handicrafts made by prisoners of war, examples of soldiers' embroidery, letters, diaries, sketches, mess silver, and a host of other things which were either made or used by soldiers. A wealth of illustrative material – oil paintings, watercolours, prints and photographs – depict not only individuals, but also record the experience of soldiers on campaign, in barracks and when relaxing off-duty wherever in the world British troops have served. These items, particularly the three-dimensional ones, feature in the Museum's galleries, which are arranged in a chronological sequence from Agincourt to the present day and illustrate the circumstances in which soldiers lived, and the nature of their uniform and weapons.

In addition the National Army Museum has extensive study collections of books, archives, photographs and works of art on paper, which may be consulted in the Reading Room. Access is only by Reader's Ticket, which must be applied for in advance of a visit; application forms may be obtained from the Department of Printed Books. Although there is always the chance that family historians find direct references to the individuals they are researching, in common with the museum displays, these sources are usually of the greatest help in providing background information about soldiers' lives. For example, having ascertained from the Public Record Office details of the regiment, where and when an ancestor served, the resources of the National Army Museum Reading Room will provide further information about these events and places, including, in all probability, pictorial representations of at least some of them.

Events

To bring the collections, and indeed the history of the Army, further to life the National Army Museum holds a series of

monthly Special Events Weekends which explore specific aspects of Army life. Using a mixture of speakers, costumed interpreters, live performers, children's workshops and other activities, the 1879 Zulu War, the Horse in War, Desert Warfare, and the Victorian Soldier's Christmas (to name but a few) are showcased and interpreted for visitors of all ages. A feature of some of these weekends is the opportunity to try on original and replica items of clothing and to handle and feel the weight of pieces of equipment, something which gives fresh insights into the military lives of past generations which no amount of documentation can provide. A weekly programme of lunchtime talks explores themes linked to the subject of Special Events weekends, and in addition the Museum periodically holds conferences and study days on aspects of British military history. Some of these are specifically aimed at family historians, and include practical guidance on searching archival sources, while also including costumed interpreters to discuss the uniform and equipment of soldiers of the Victorian period, and the First World War. Information on forthcoming events are contained in a 'What's on' leaflet, updated very month. This brief article has obtained the ways in which the National Army Museum caters for the needs of family historians, and will hopefully encourage some readers to pay it a visit. Details of opening hours (admission is free) and other information for visitors can be obtained from the website <www.national-army-museum.ac.uk> and is also available in hard copy by post from the National Army Museum, Royal Hospital Road, London SW3 4HT.

A rare insight into Reading University's Library

University libraries are a valuable resource for family historians, none more so than the University of Reading Library. But most of us have serious doubts about entering such seats of learning: it is difficult to obtain lending tickets, they are only meant for students and we baulk at finding our way around the hundreds of thousands of books and manuscripts. Christine Milne, History Liaison Librarian, at the University of Reading Library, shows us just how wrong we are.

The Library is open to anyone for reference purposes – all you need to do is turn up and sign the visitor's book to use one of the best academic collections in the area. So if an ancestor of yours was a factory worker in the Industrial Revolution and you want to find out what life was like then, why not drop in? Or if you're puzzled by the name of a battle, or you want to know who a local notable was, you might want to try our reference collection. If you've access to the Internet, you can even check our holdings before you come – you can find the Library website at www.rdg.ac.uk/library. To borrow books, either you need to be one of the staff or students at the University or bona fide scholars can join the Library as an external member for a fee of £60 (£30 for Reading University graduates).

It's amazing what you can find on the open shelves. Whilst browsing for material I came across a diary written by a Reading man between 1814 and 1819 and published in the late nineteenth century under the title 'Reading Seventy Years Ago'. There are some real gems, including a mention of American prisoners-of-war who were removed from Reading to Devonshire, because of their 'unsuitable behaviour'. I particularly like this entry from September 1814 about John Clarke – an example to us all:

'September 17th 1814 – Died John Clark, gardener, aged 93 years, all but three weeks - a man who never refused a half pint of beer, and had drank as much of that beverage as most men: he retained his faculties to the last, and worked at his trade till within two months of his death.'

On a less frivolous note, the Library also has a fine collection of over five thousand Record Society publications. These are transcriptions of local records from all over the British Isles, including wills, apprentice records and monastic cartularies.

However, the real treasures of the Library's collection lie not on the open shelves but in the Archives on the first floor, and here I must give my thanks to the Archives staff for helping me discover them. The Archives holds not only the official archives of the University, but also the archives of certain individuals, company records and some unpublished manuscripts. We used to have some estate records, such as those for Stratfield Saye, but these have now been added to the collections at the Rural History Centre, which is about five minutes walk from the Library. If you would like to see anything from the Archives, please arrange an appointment in advance, so that staff can arrange to have relevant material available. (Telephone: 0118 931 8776, email: <specialcollections@rdg.ac.uk>. If, for example, you were interested in the early days of the University, whose first classes were held in 1860, we'll need a couple of days to fetch them from off-site.

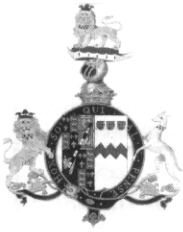
My favourite parts are the personal archives, and you may be surprised whose we have. The most famous is that of Samuel Beckett, the playwright, for which several catalogues have been published, but we also have the archives of David Lean, the film director, Aubrey Beardsley and Lady Astor.

During both the First and Second World Wars, part of Cliveden, the Astors' house, was turned into a Canadian military hospital. After the First World War, in 1936, Lady Astor paid a visit to Canada and held a big reception in Toronto for all the staff and patients of the hospital. In Lady Astor's archive, there are many letters and telegrams from former patients. This example is from James G. Harvie, a Canadian who had a more local connection, as his letter shows.

'I was an officer in the Royal Air Force, and while on leave in the month of June or July, 1918, in Maidenhead, near Taplow, was stricken with influenza and sent to Lady Astor's hospital. . . . She might be amused at my memory of her very first visit to me at the hospital. She had breezed in, in her characteristic manner and said to me, 'Hello there, curly head, what are you doing



here', to which I replied 'swinging the lead a little I suppose' to which she answered, 'Splendid, swing the lead as much as you like and if there is anything your little heart desires, please do not hesitate to let me know.' It might be interesting to Lady Astor to know that my wife happens to be a resident of Maidenhead, where I married her at the end of the war, and she enjoys the distinction of having been presented by Lady Astor as a budding artist with her first paint box, which she still has in her possession. My wife, who was then Bettina M. Rose, visited me occasionally while I was in hospital in Taplow'.



Hand painted
and hand drawn
coats of arms
from Curtis
Cherry's Book

I've saved the best for last, as far as family historians are concerned. Around the middle of the nineteenth century the Reverend Henry Curtis Cherry wrote a three-volume work tracing the genealogies of important Berkshire families. Each volume is the size of an old-fashioned family bible, and every page is covered with detailed family trees. The first volume also has gorgeous hand-painted family crests – the later volumes only have illustrations cut from other books (not something that any librarian would approve of!). It is an astounding piece of work, but unfortunately Henry was to be disappointed. Like many books of this time the expense of publication was to be covered by subscription. Not enough people were persuaded to subscribe, so his monumental work was never published. As far as I'm aware, Reading University Library has the only copy. To add insult to injury, the printer supplied a mock frontispiece – and spelt Henry's name wrong. It is hoped that this important work will soon be published on CD ROM.



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Turning a Disaster into a Memory

Finding your way around the 1901 Census

Most readers will be aware that the 1901 census for England and Wales is now available as a full Internet service at <www.census.pro.gov.uk/>. It first appeared on 2nd January 2002 but within a few days had to be 'taken down' because it could not cope with the demand. It re-appeared (quietly this time) in August as a 'part-time' test site and finally in late November as a 24-hour service. Eddie Spackman looks at some of the ways of finding those elusive ancestors and techniques for grouping them into households.

If you do not have Internet access at home and cannot use a computer at work you can try your local library, record office or cybercafé. The online service is also available at the Family Records Centre (FRC) in Islington and in the Public Record Office (PRO) at Kew. Fiche copies of the enumeration pages can be viewed at the FRC and the PRO and most county record offices hold copies for their local area. CD ROM copies are also becoming available.

Despite criticisms of the quality of the transcription and the associated index this is a very valuable resource. Some transcriptions are obviously faulty but the enumerators also introduced errors. The problem is not unique to the 1901 census. In the 1881 transcription there are place names that are wrong and surnames that cannot possibly exist. I now have several people from the 1901 census not yet found in 1881.

Many of the 'blunders' in the early version (e.g. 'ditto' as a surname and babies under one only found by searching for ages over a hundred) have been corrected. Genuine transcription errors will continue to be corrected if they are submitted to the PRO with appropriate piece/folio/page number. Enumerator errors will not be corrected.

Several reviews of the site, articles on how to use it and its problems have been published. See, for instance, 'The 1901 Census Online' by John Hanson and 'Some 1901 Census Curiosities' by Jeanne Bunting in the September 2002 issue of *Computers in Genealogy*¹.

Search techniques

The Index can be searched with several parameters (e.g. forename and/or surname, age, place of birth, occupation, census location etc.). It is wise to start by entering only a little information – perhaps just surname and place of birth. If the number of results returned would exceed 300 or the time taken to do the search is excessive, no results are returned and the search must be refined. How you do this will depend on the rarity of the surname, the possibilities for misspelling and the geographical extent of the search.

Enumeration and transcription errors result in unexpected (as well as expected) spellings of both names and places. A lot of lateral thinking will be needed to find some people and wildcards should be used to help. The wild card '*' is used to represent any number of characters whilst '_' (underscore) is used for a single character. Wildcards may not be used in the first two characters of any search parameter. However, the search on a forename can include a space as the first character; thus a search on ' j*' (that is, space j asterisk) returns all forenames starting with 'j' - viz James, John etc and variants or errors such as Jn, Jams etc. '?' cannot be used as a wildcard but is sometimes used in the transcription for unreadable characters.

Many enumerators had clear handwriting but some varies from difficult to read to illegible. Also pages may be torn or contain ink blots. I rate a page which includes two of my great grandparents as 'very difficult to read'. The place of birth of one is misleadingly transcribed as 'Lincoln' although it can just be recognised as 'London Bermondsey'. Attempting to transcribe this and some other data on this page can only be described as guesswork.

'...' (three full stops) is used for unreadable fields. You can search, for example, on '..*man*' to find anything starting with two dots and containing 'man'. '...ealesloman' and '...arman' were among the surnames returned.

The full transcription for an individual (not normally recommended) costs 50p. Transcription of all the other members of the household (only recommended for those in institutions such as hospitals, schools etc) costs a further 50p. It is usually better to pay 75p for an image of the enumeration page. This can be enlarged and printed but is best downloaded onto your computer before printing with image viewing or processing

software. 'Irfanview' is excellent for this purpose and can be used to crop those annoying edges, which use so much valuable ink or toner. Go to <www.irfanview.com> for more information and to download a copy. The images are high quality and, although generally adequate at A4 size, can be enlarged when the writing is difficult to read. When downloading census images use the suggested filename containing piece, folio and page number but add details of the individual so that you can easily identify the file later.

Payment can be made by voucher, credit or debit card. Vouchers are preferable as they have a shelf life of six months from the date first used and when they have insufficient credit to pay for the requested service the balance is automatically transferred to your new voucher. Vouchers can be purchased from our society: see details at <www.berksfhs.org.uk/vouchers/>.

What can one get from the Index?

It is possible to get most 'traditional' details used by family historians from the index without paying a penny. People in the same household can be identified from the 'pageId' (for the enumeration page) and 'personId' (for the person) hidden in the HTML code of the 'Person Result list'. Individuals with the same pageId appear on the same enumeration page and will often be in the same household. The 'personId' is consecutive for each person in the census so that a gap in the numbering indicates one or more individuals not yet found. There is a gap of one in the personId numbering at the end an enumeration page.

The method for viewing the page and person Ids depends on the Internet Browser in use. Hover the mouse over the 'image icon' for an individual and a 'link' containing the pageId may appear at the bottom of the page. If not, right click on the image and then click on 'properties' to display the information. Similarly the personId can be viewed by hovering the mouse over the person link.

Great care should be used when searching on 'Marital condition' or 'Relation to Head of family' in the Advanced search. Misleading results will be returned if the field was not filled in. For instance, a person may be returned by both 'single' and 'widowed' searches.

Census software

Software is available to simplify the extraction process and automate the sorting of individuals into households. The most widely known is from 'Leeds Indexers' – see details at <www.leedsindexers.co.uk/>. This also generates the Piece number and an estimate of the Folio number so you can locate images on fiche or CD. The software is described at '1901 Census extractor & GuessTimator – A guide & Review by Margaret Shaw' in the December 2002 issue of *Computers in Genealogy*¹.

Id	Name	Rel	St	Age	Year	Where Born	Census Place	Occupation
	—RG 13/1157/75 (pageid: 544540)							
1	Andrew HARRISON	Hd	M	62	1838	HAM Silchester	BRK Remenham	Carpenter Of Builder
2	Jane Harrison	Wif	M	59	1841	ditto	ditto	
3	Joel Harrison	Son	S	37	1863	ditto	ditto	Carpenter Labourer
4	Charles Harrison	Son	M	32	1868	BRK Remenham	ditto	General Viewman Manage~
5	Birtha Harrison	Dau	..	28	1872	*** ... British Subject	ditto	
6	... Harrison	O	S	4	1896	LND ...	ditto	
7	... Harrison	O	S	2	1898	*** ...	ditto	
8	Violet Harrison	O	S	8m	1900	BRK ...	ditto	
	—RG 13/1168/78 (pageid: 1093432)							
1	John HARRISON	Hd	M	49	1851	LND Kensington	BRK New Winds~	Gardener Not Domestic
2	Annie Harrison	Wif	M	43	1857	BRK Morton	ditto	
3	William Harrison	Son	S	22	1878	BRK Windsor	ditto	Plumber
4	Edward Harrison	Son	S	17	1883	ditto	ditto	Gardener Not Domestic
	—RG 13/1168/138 (pageid: 1093553)							
	Elizabeth HARRISON	Hd	W	61	1839	Bray BRK	BRK New Winds~	Letting Apartments

A sample of some Harrisons sorted into households based on information extracted solely from the Index to the 1901 census using the author's software

The figure shows a sample report for three households which I produced using my own software. It includes Piece/Folio numbers and Chapman County Codes are inserted where possible or to replace county names.

Surname frequency

It can be difficult to know which variant surname spellings to search for. The Office of National Statistics (ONS) database of surnames in use in England, Wales and the Isle of Mann at September 2002 can be queried at <www.taliesin-arlein.net/names/search.php> to help. Smith with a count of 652,563 is the most common surname. Results from a wildcard search using 'Sm*h' includes names such as Smeath, Smeeth and Smyth as well as their frequency of occurrence.

Help with the census

We hold evening seminars on 'Using the 1901 census' at the Research Centre whenever there are enough applicants. For further information contact <workshops@berksfhs.org.uk>. Internet access is available on Tuesday evenings from 7pm to 9:30pm when 'experts' are present to help you use the census.

A 'Search and report' service

I offer a 'search and report' service. The report looks like the illustrated example above. This will be particularly useful for those who have no Internet access or are not confident in using the census site. It will also help those doing one-name studies or grouping people into households.

Please send requests, including surname with suggested variants to search and places of birth and/or residence, to: BerksFHS (ref: 1901 Census Search), Yeomanry House, 131 Castle Hill, Reading RG1 7TJ. A donation of £5 to BerksFHS is requested to cover one surname for two counties. Please limit each request to a maximum of two surname searches and count counties such as London and Lancashire as two. Only restricted areas can be searched for common surnames.

¹ *Computers in Genealogy* is a quarterly publication available from the Society of Genealogists.



Computing Programme for Family Historians - Summer 2003

at the Research Centre, Yeomanry House, READING

Wed, 21st May
7:30 pm to 10 pm

Protecting your Computer - a demonstration
"Installing ANTI-VIRUS & FIREWALL software"

Every Tuesday
7 pm to 9:30 pm

Use the computers on-line to the Internet

Experts available to help

2nd Sunday

2 pm to 4 pm

... and answer all your computing questions

Booking for any of the above is not required - just turn up!

For further information or to suggest a topic for the future contact:

The Workshop Manager (Gillian Stevens)

Tel: 0118-947-8743 eMail: workshops@BerksFHS.org.uk

Book Ends

Compiled by Jean Debney

Berkshire FHS publications

The Society is proud to announce the production of its first CD ROMs which use Adobe Acrobat Reader (version 5 or later) for Windows; this is included on the disc and should open automatically. If not the program is available free from <www.adobe.com>. For both CDs it is worthwhile to print out the explanatory notes first.

Reading: Snare's Post Office Directory 1842-3 (CD ROM, BRK0201; Berkshire FHS, 2002). Price £7.50 plus p&p £0.44 UK, £0.80 o/s surface, £1.60 airmail.

Facsimile copy of the original directory containing over 2,000 street addresses, listed alphabetically by occupier; address, comprehensive trade directory, an essay about the town and its surrounds, train, coach, carrier and barge directories and general information with names of councillors, 18-man police force, etc.

Berkshire Burial Index, 2002 (CD ROM, BRK0202; Berkshire FHS, 2002). Price £10.00 plus p&p £0.44 UK, £0.80 o/s surface, £1.60 airmail

This index contains over 210,000 burials from 114 parish, nonconformist and cemetery registers in the pre-1974 county of Berkshire. Over two-thirds of the entries are new and will later appear in the second edition of the Federation of Family History Societies' National Burial Index. Indexed in three ways: by name, place and date, and place and name. The information can be easily identified and copied. Owners of this CD ROM can apply for a large discount on annual updates.

Parish registers on microfiche

All fiche come in a cream card cover with printed pages of contents, notes about the parish history, registers and indexes and a county map highlighting its location.

Barkham St James, 1538-1998 (3mfc, PR/07; BFHS, 2002). Price £10.00 + p&p £0.33 UK, £0.60 o/s surface, £1.20 airmail

This parish lies three miles south west of Wokingham, its registers include the Civil War and Commonwealth periods.

Combe St Swithin, 1560-1985 (1mfc, PR/08; BFHS, 2002). Price £7.00 + p&p £0.33 UK, £0.66 o/s surface, £1.20 airmail.

A small village on the south west county boundary, it has had a chequered history. In 1895 it was transferred from Hampshire to Berkshire, in 1912 combined with Buttermere, Wiltshire, transferred to Salisbury Diocese (Wiltshire), returned to Winchester Diocese (Hampshire) in 1933, combined with Facombe and, finally in 1967, moved to Oxford Diocese (Oxford) and united with Inkpen.

Berkshire local history

19th century St Nicholas Hurst – glimpses of parish life, Jim Bell (author, 2002). A5 illustrated green cover, 52pp. Price £3.50 + p&p £0.44 UK, £0.80 o/s surface, £1.70 airmail.

This booklet consists of chronological sections of interesting extracts from the *Hurst Magazine* between 1862, when it was first published, and 1899. It is illustrated with facsimile pages, advertisements, pictures and photographs. Presumably published by the author, no contact address has been given.

The Bobby's Notebook – on the beat in early Victorian Sunninghill, Christine Weightman (Cheapside Publications, 2002). A5, white cover, two maps inside the back cover, 53pp. Price £4.50 + p&p £0.40 UK, £0.80 o/s surface, £1.70 airmail.

Found in a local attic and still in private hands, this book contains the transcript of a notebook kept by an unnamed constable in Sunninghill in 1841. Using the 1841 census, local rate books and other sources, the author has researched the history and background of this small east Berkshire parish containing details of Ascot Racecourse, policing in Berkshire and how she identified the constable. The final pages detail the people and places mentioned in the transcript.

More of the Tilehurst we remember (History of Tilehurst Group, reprint 2001, 1st pub. 1999). A5 illustrated cover, illustrated with line drawings and photographs, 103pp. Price £5.99 + p&p £0.66 UK, £1.20 o/s surface, £2.60 airmail.

Memories from the first half of the twentieth century arranged under a named road, farm or school.

Rural life in the Vale of the White Horse 1780-1915, Nigel Hammond (Rectory Orchard Books, reprint 1993: 1st pub. 1974). A5, blue pictorial cover, 166pp. Price £7.95 + p&p £1.05 UK, £1.80 o/s surface, £4.00 airmail.

Dealing with a variety of activities in the Vale, principally in the towns of Abingdon, Faringdon, Wallingford and Wantage, plus the many rural settlements, all part of the pre-1974 county of Berkshire (since then in Oxfordshire). The author writes about the Berkshire Pig, village fêtes and the Great Western Railway among many other interesting subjects. The numbered illustrations are in two sections with the captions listed at the front of the book. The book includes a bibliography, tables and an index.

Vale of the White Horse 1893, Old Ordnance Survey Map (Alan Godfrey Maps, 2002). Price £2.10 + p&p £0.19 UK, £0.60 o/s surface, £1.20 airmail.

Another old Berkshire OS map joins the growing number currently available. This reprint is of the one-inch map 253 (revised 1893). On the reverse is a street map of Faringdon in 1910 (from the 25-inch map VIII.9, reduced to about 15") and a fascinating historical essay by Tony Higgott.

South Oxfordshire local history

Eye & Dunsden – two centuries of change, Brian R Law (author, 2001). B5, illustrated cover, 142pp. Price £10.00, plus p&p £1.35 UK, £2.20 o/s surface, £4.50 airmail.

Copiously illustrated with old and new, black and white and colour photographs, including some aerial pictures, maps and documents this is a skilfully researched and compiled history of this rural parish. Although the main text deals with the nineteenth and twentieth centuries, the first chapter describes the history of the early years of this liberty in the parish of Sonning, Berkshire.

Family history on the Internet

Monumental Inscriptions on the Web - a Directory, Stuart A Raymond (Federation FHS, 2002). A5 portrait, pale green cover, 88pp. Price £5.95 + p&p £0.44 UK, £0.80 o/s surface, £1.70 airmail.

With his usual thoroughness, the author has found many

informative sites. The results are alphabetically arranged by place within each English then Welsh county. Each entry includes the site address and a very brief note of its contents. A must-have for computer buffs.

Family history

The Saga of the Beckinghams and Kaiser Bill (1914-1919) by Alex J McGahey (The author, Agiparo, 2 Vane Road, Thame OX9 3WE, <alex@mogahey.org.uk>, 2002). A5 red, white & blue card cover, illustrated, 115pp. Price £5.50 inc UK p&p, + £2.00 o/s airmail, from the author.

The author, a member of the Guild of One-Name Studies for Becken(g)ham and Beckin(g)ham, started with his grandfather and went on to trace all with this name in the First World War records. The book includes biographical details for 46 men, some with photographs.

Name indexes

Eton Union and Registration District: Workhouse births, 1837-1838 and Burnham Sub-District births 1893-1897, 44pp. Price £2.50 + p&p £0.50 UK, £1.20 o/s airmail.

Workhouse deaths 1848-1900 & Eton and Burnham Sub-District infant deaths 1879-1885, 64pp. Price £3.50 + p&p £0.50 UK, £1.40 o/s airmail.

Amersham, Aylesbury and Eton Registration Districts: Marriage notices 1837-1843, 20pp. Price £1.50 + p&p £0.40 UK & £1.30 o/s airmail. From The Eureka Partnership (2002), 19a Station Road, Stoke Mandeville, Aylesbury, Bucks, HP22 5UL.

All have A5 bright pink illustrated card covers, a parish map and surname index. These booklets include records of Eton which, since 1974, has been part of Berkshire. They are just three of an increasing number of Buckinghamshire finding aids published so far by this knowledgeable and enthusiastic pair.

Most of these publications are available from the Society Bookstall at the Research Centre and Branch meetings, or by post from the Research Centre, Yeomanry House, 131 Castle Hill, Reading, Berkshire RG1 7TJ. If the author or publisher's address is included, orders should be addressed to them. All the titles will be placed in the Society Reference Library at the Research Centre in due course.

It has just been pointed out to me that I made an error in Book Ends in the September 2002 issue of the Berkshire Family Historian. In reviewing 'Berkshire Old & New' I should have written issue No. 19 not 16.

READING & DISTRICT CIGARETTE CARD & POSTCARD CLUB
GIANT POSTCARD & CIGARETTE CARD FAIR

Sunday, June 29th

at RIVERMEAD LEISURE CENTRE
RICHFIELD AVENUE, READING

(1 Mile walk or taxi from Reading Railway Station. Or if using M4, exit at Junction 11, follow signs to Town Centre, but then continue towards Caversham and the Rivermead Leisure Centre.

88 Dealers, 145 Tables

The dealers will have for sale tens of thousands of topographical postcards from 1900 onwards, showing churches, buildings, street scenes in towns and villages throughout the UK., and Social History cards, and many other themes

There will also be masses of cigarette cards as well, if you are a collector.

A wonderful way to enhance interest in your own Family History !

**IF YOU HAVE NEVER BEEN TO A BIG POSTCARD FAIR BEFORE,
PLEASE COME ALONG, YOU WILL BE AMAZED !!**

A word from the Editor

Since I began researching my family more than forty years ago technology has had a truly awesome impact on searching for our ancestors and placing them in an historical perspective. We have seen the growth from the Computer File Index, produced by the Mormon Church, to the IGI, the Vital Records index and Census material on the Internet. Much of this has been encouraged by the increase in the number of personal computers. The latest figures suggest that 40% of homes now have access to a PC. Although that growth is slowing down, within another ten years more than half of households will have one.

For most of us this has been a great benefit. We can now order our shopping online – no more queues at the supermarket. And buying clothes, plants for the garden and toys for the children at Christmas has never been easier. But there are drawbacks, particularly with emails.

When I look at my emails I'm never quite sure what's likely to arrive. I was told recently that 'our prize notification department has informed us that you have been awarded a valuable Jelly Belly® gift, but as of (Give Date) it remains unclaimed'. As I haven't a sweet tooth I think I can resist that one. But I seem to get an email at least once a day from Mrs. Roseline Coleman, wife to the late Chife (sic) Coleman from Sierra Leon (sic). She wishes to give me thirty million dollars in the custody of a private security trust firm in Europe held in trunk boxes and declared as precious stones. Does anyone fall for this? If I want to earn more money I can play live poker action for real money, or make my PC earn me thousands of pounds.

I don't always get messages promising me money. I could 'date someone's wife' or eat pizza and lose weight. Dieting seems to be one of the most popular scams. I could buy diet pills, lose 20 stone by March, never take exercise again, or take part in a miracle discovery. My wife might like me to take part in a guaranteed quit snoring campaign, but I'm not so sure what that would involve.

All I want is information about family history, but all I get are advertisements from ancestry.com. And those, like the other emails, I can do without.

Members' Interests

Compiled by Bob Plumridge Bob.Plumridge@virgin.net

Members submitting their interests:

- 1028 Mrs J Vinall Kynance Cottage St John's Road Mortimer Reading Berks RG7 3TR
1224 Mr MCN Jones White Cottage 44 Sandhurst Road Wokingham Berkshire RG40 3JD
2296 Miss V Bushell PO Box 159 Helensville 1250 NEW ZEALAND
4328 Mrs AC Bailey 16 Chyverton Close Newquay Cornwall TR7 2AR
4429 Mr GF & Mrs CJ Payne Beech Lodge Jacobstowe Okehampton Devon EX20 3RG
4641 Mr RG Viner 1336 Highview Cres #1 Fraserville Ont KOL 1Vo CANADA
4656 Mrs M Day 15 Loyd Road Didcot Oxon OX11 8JX
4725 Ms C Ward 31 Alder Close Abingdon Oxon OX14 1YG
4735 Miss P Read 50 Cedar Drive Kingsclere Newbury Berks RG20 5TE
4815 Mrs L Pavey 117 Corton Long Lane Corton Lowestoft Suffolk NR32 5HD
4912 Revd F & Mrs B Dawson The Rectory Routh Lane Tilehurst Reading Berks RG30 4JY
4940 Miss D Baker 152 Kents Hill Road Benfleet Essex SS7 5PH
5047 Mr AS & Mrs GR Watkins Conkers 14 Camley Park Drive Maidenhead Berks SL6 6QF
5103 Miss EN Tuck 45 Dick o' th' Banks Road Crossways Dorchester Dorset DT2 8BH
5114 Mrs AJ & Mr KA Buck 2 The Laurels Great Coxwell Oxon SN7 7NF
5121 Mr DF Lawrence 103 Bean Oak Road Wokingham Berks RG40 1RJ
5133 Mrs EA Sheridan 67 Lynton Grove Copnor Portsmouth Hants PO3 6NE
5139 Mr D & Mrs K Smith 60 Fronks Road Dovercourt Harwich Essex CO12 3RW
5147 Mr R Sawyer 103 Dart Drive Didcot Oxon OX11 7XS
5149 Mr EG Smith 8 Fernhurst Close Hayling Island Hants PO11 0DT
5155 Mr TF Lake 36 South Road Hampton Middlesex TW12 3PE
5159 Mr P Masterman 70 Ashampstead Road Southcote Reading Berks RG30 3LB
5161 Mr DJ & Mr J Mildenhall 38 New Forest Drive Brockenhurst Hampshire SO42 7QW
5164 Mrs J & Mr B Caufield 10 Ermin Street Stockcross Newbury Berks RG20 8LG
5173 Mr R Smith 25 Pound Lane Bugbrooke Northampton Northamptonshire NN7 3RH
5176 Mrs AMC Crowther 10 Hill Drive Whaley Ridge High Peak Derbyshire SK23 7BH
5184 Mrs J Kimber 7 Pontings Close Broad Blunsdon Swindon Wilts SN26 7AH
5190 Mrs J Cooke 15 Brockridge Lane Frampton Cotterell Bristol BS36 2HU
5200 Mrs M Burns 57 Fillingfir Drive West Park Leeds Yorkshire LS16 5EG

No	Name	Place	Code	Dates	No	Name	Place	Code	Dates
4641	ALLEN	Antrim/Canada	ANT	1750-2002	5147	BRIDGEMAN	Newbury	BRK	1750-1850
4912	ASTRIDGE	Portsmouth	HAM	Any	4725	BURSON	Steventon	BRK	1840-2000
1224	BAGGS	Reading St Giles	BRK	19c	4725	BURSON	Grove	BRK	pre 1900
5155	BAILEY	Warborough	OXF	1558-1900	2296	CARTER	Speen	BRK	1743+
4641	BAKER	Didcot/ Harwell	BRK	1700-2002	5155	CASTLETON	Bunwell	NFK	1558-1820
4912	BARBER	Barnsley	YKS	pre-1830	1224	CLANVIL	Dorchester	OXF	18c
4912	BARBER	Sheffield	YKS	1850-1900	5139	COLE	Walton	ESS	1900-2000
5147	BARBER	Higchlere	HAM	1730-1850	5139	COLE	Raydon + Wenham	SFK	1750-1900
5184	BARKER	Tidmarsh	BRK	1700-2000	5047	COLLINS	Denchworth	BRK	1600-1900
5155	BARNES	Great Coxwell	BRK	1558-1900	5047	COLLINS	Stanford in the Vale	BRK	1600-1900
5176	BARTHOLOMEW	Chieveley	BRK	pre-1850	5147	COOPER	Ashmansworth	HAM	1750-1850
5176	BARTHOLOMEW	Aldworth	BRK	pre-1800	4735	CROWTHER	Birmingham	WAR	1800-1930
5139	BECKINGHAM	Sutton Courteney'	BRK	1800-1900	4735	CROWTHER	Northowram	YOR	1600-1850
5155	BEISLY	Warborough	OXF	1558-1900	4735	CROWTHER-WILKINSON		WAR	1890-1990
5047	BELCHER	Denchworth	BRK	1600-1900	2296	CULLEY	Hampstead Marshall	BRK	1770-1900
5047	BELCHER	West Hendred	BRK	1600-1900	5176	CUNNINGHAM	Clifton Hill	ROX	1800+
5159	BERRY	Any	WAR	1800-1925	5155	DARLING	Wantage	BRK	1558-1640
4725	BETTERIDGE	Drayton St L	OXF	pre-1800	5155	DAVIS	Abingdon	BRK	1558-1900
4725	BETTERIDGE	Milton	BRK	1800+	4912	DAWSON	Hameringham	LIN	pre 1900
4725	BETTERIDGE	Steventon	BRK	1820+	4656	DAY	Arborfield	BRK	1800-1920
1224	BETTS	Henley on T'	OXF	17c	4940	DEANE	Chertsey	SRY	18c
5133	BIGGS	Slough	BKM	1891-1999	4912	DERUSETT	Any	Any	1830-
5047	BOOKER	Denchworth	BRK	1600-1900	1224	DREWETT	Henley on Thames	OXF	18c
5047	BOOKER	Uffington	BRK	1600-1900	1224	DREWETT	Stanton St John	OXF	17c
5155	BREAKSPEAR	East Hanney	BRK	1558-1800	1224	DREWETT	Headington	OXF	17c
5114	BRIDEWELL	Potterne	WIL	1700-2002	4641	EDWARDS	Reading	BRK	1700-2002

No	Name	Place	Code	Dates	No	Name	Place	Code	Dates
5190	ELBOROUGH	Any	BKM	1720-1820	5139	GILBERT	Tendring	ESS	1800-1900
5190	ELBOROUGH	Any	WIL	1720-1820	5176	GIVENS	Sunderland	DUR	1730+
5190	ELBRO	Any	BRK	1720-1840	4641	GOODENOUGH	Broughton Poggs	OXF	1700-2002
5190	ELBROUGH	Any	BRK	1720-1840	5155	GOODENOUGH	Warborough	OXF	1558-1780
5190	ELBROW	Longworth	BRK	1700-1850	1224	GOSNEY	Sutton Mandeville	WIL	19c
5190	ELBROW	Any	BRK	1720-1840	2296	GREENE	Great Coxwell	BRK	pre 1650
5190	ELBROW	Any	OXF	1720-1820	1224	GREENWAY	Dorchester	OXF	17c
5190	ELBROW	Any	SRY	1700-1800	1224	GREENWAY	Cholsey	BRK	18c
5190	ELBROW	London Central	LND	1700-1800	5139	GRIGGS	Walton	ESS	1900-2000
5190	ELBOROUGH	Any	BRK	1720-1840	5139	GRIGGS	Assington	SFK	1800-1900
4656	EMBLN	Shinfield	BRK	1800-1920	5147	GRUBB	Newbury	BRK	1750-1900
1224	EMMETT	Harpsden	OXF	18c	5139	GRUNDY	Childrey	BRK	1700-1900
5159	EVETTS	Southam	WAR	1700-1950	4912	GUDGEON	Shillington	BDF	1700-1850
5159	EVETTS	Aldershot	HAM	1850-1950	5047	HAINES	East Ilsley	BRK	1600-1800
5159	EVETTS	Any	Any	1700-1950	4429	HALE	Woolhampton	BRK	1800-1900
4429	FAULKNER	Appleford	BRK	1800-2000	4940	HARBERT	Wargrave	BRK	18c
5159	FAULKNER	Any	OXF	1750-1920	5176	HARCUS	Sunderland	DUR	1730+
5159	FAULKNER	Any	BRK	1750-1920	5176	HARCUS	Hawick	ROX	Any
5159	FAULKNER	Coventry	WAR	1800-1930	5155	HARDING	Marshfield	GLS	1558-1840
1224	FIPPE	Stanton St John	OXF	17c	1224	HARMAN	Cogges	OXF	18c
1224	FORD	Dorchester	OXF	18c	5139	HARPER	Ogbourne	WIL	1750-1950
5155	FRANKLING	Childrey	BRK	1558-1750	4815	HARRIS Lewis	Olney	BKM	1895-1942
5133	FREAKER	New Windsor	BRK	1798-2000	4328	HATHAWAY	Rotherwick	HAM	1800-2003
5047	FULLER	Standford Childrey	BRK	1600-1900	2296	HATT	Speen	BRK	pre 1750
5155	GATER	Wantage	BRK	1558-1750	4725	HAWKINS	Little Coxwell	BRK	pre 1900
5147	GIBBS	Newbury	BRK	1700-1850	5173	HAWTHORN	Winkfield/Warfield	BRK	18c - 19c

No	Name	Place	Code	Dates	No	Name	Place	Code	Dates
4725	HAZEL	Faringdon	BRK	pre 1900	5121	LAWRENCE	Remenham	BRK	1700-1900
5190	HELBROW	Any	GLS	1700-1820	5114	LEACHER	Lelant	CON	1700-2002
4940	HERBERT	Wargrave	BRK	18c	5147	LEG	Newbury	BRK	1700-1850
5147	HOLLOWAY	Burghfield	BRK	1770-1870	5149	LIDDARD	Reading	BRK	pre 1881
4725	HOPKINS	Milton	BRK	pre 1800	5200	LIFFORD	Yateley	HAM	1835-1900
2296	HORNBLow	Thatcham	BRK	pre 1750	5200	LIFFORD	Elvetham	HAM	1835-1900
4912	HOWELL	Barnwell	NTH	1750-1850	5200	LIFFORD	Swallowfield	BRK	1750-1835
5176	HOWSE	Oxford	OXF	Any	4940	LIPSCOMBE	Chertsey	SRY	18c
4735	HUNT	Heytesbury	WIL	1700-1900	4940	LIPSCOMBE	Knowl Hill	BRK	1850-1920
5200	JUDD	Elvetham	HAM	1750-1950	5103	LITTEN Thomas	Highclere	BRK	1700-1950
5200	JUDD	Fleet	HAM	1850-1950	5139	LLOYD	Layham	SFK	1800-1900
5200	JUDD	Hartley Wintney	HAM	1650-1950	5155	LLOYD	Abingdon	BRK	1558-1900
5114	KEEN	Islington	MDX	1700-2002	2296	LONG	Speen	BRK	pre 1800
5114	KEEN	Penzance	CON	1700-1950	5200	LONG	Sunninghill	BRK	1784-1860
4725	KENT	Little Coxwell	BRK	pre 1900	5200	LONG	Fleet	HAM	1850-1950
5114	KIMBER	Kintbury	BRK	1700-1900	5200	LONG	Elvetham	HAM	1800-1865
5159	KING	Any	BRK	1800-1950	5200	LONG	Hartley Wintney	HAM	1700-1860
5159	KING	Any	OXF	1800-1950	5047	LOOKER-LUKER	Crowmarsh Gifford	BRK	1600-2000
5176	KIRKALDY	London	MDX	1800+	5047	LOOKER-LUKER	Milton/Wantage	BRK	1600-2000
5176	KIRKALDY	Sunderland	DUR	1730-1870	1224	LOWE	Henley on Thames	OXF	18c
5155	LAKE	Tottington	NFK	1538-1840	1224	LOWE	Burcot with Dor'	OXF	18c
5114	LANGFORD	Oxford	OXF	1700-1900	1224	LUSH	Donhead St Mary	WIL	17c
5114	LANGFORD	Reading	BRK	1800-2002	5200	LYFFORD	Elvetham	HAM	1835-1900
5149	LANGFORD	Woolhampton	BRK	pre 1881	5200	LYFORD	Swallowfield	BRK	1750-1835
5149	LANGFORD	Ashamstead	BRK	pre 1881	5200	LYFORD	Yateley	HAM	1835-1900
5149	LANGFORD	Ashamstead	OXF	pre 1881	4940	LYPSCOMBE	Knowl Hill	BRK	1850-1920

No	Name	Place	Code	Dates	No	Name	Place	Code	Dates
4940	LYPSCOMBE	Chertsey	SRY	18c	2296	PAULIN	Bucklebury	BRK	1700-1750
5176	MADGIN	London	MDX	Any	2296	PAULIN	Leckhamstead	BRK	1740-1800
5176	MALINS	Islip	OXF	Any	2296	PAWLING	Great Coxwell	BRK	pre 1700
1224	MARLOW	Old Windsor	BRK	18c	4735	PEARCE	Portland	DOR	1680-1900
1224	MARLOW	Henley on Thames	OXF	19c	5133	PEARSON	New Windsor	BRK	1820-1999
1224	MARLOW	Reading	BRK	19c	5133	PEARSON	Slough	BKM	1890-2002
5159	MASTERMAN	Shirley	HAM	1750-1950	1224	PEBWORTH	Dorchester	OXF	18c
1224	MESENGER	Henley on Thames	OXF	18c	1224	PERRIE	Harpsden	OXF	18c
4815	MESENGER	Wandsworth	SRY	1855-1926	1224	PERRIE	Caversham	OXF	18c
5161	MILDENHALL	Any	BRK	1700-1900	4940	PERRY	Sutton Courtenay	BRK	18c
5114	MILLS	Camborne	CON	1700-2002	1224	PERRYMAN	Old Windsor	BRK	18c
1224	NASH	Henley on Thames	OXF	17c	4328	PHILLIPS	Burghfield	BRK	1850-2003
1224	NASH	Wokingham	BRK	17c	4328	PHILLIPS	Heckfield, Mattingley	HAM	Any
5147	NASH	Aldermaston	BRK	1750-1870	5103	PHILLIPS	Any	BRK	1900-1960
5147	NEWMAN	Hampstead Norreys	BRK	1700-1850	5147	PIKE	Ashmansworth	HAM	1750-1850
4912	OGDEN	Eccles	LAN	1700-1800	4735	PULLEN	Ramsbury	WIL	1700-1870
5176	OWEN	Leatherhead	SRY	Any	4735	PULLEN	Hungerford	BRK	1800-1930
5176	OWEN	Kimbury	BRK	Any	5176	PURSER	London	LND	Any
4429	PACKER	Woodland St Mary	BRK	1800-1900	1224	PUTMAN	Reading	BRK	19c
5164	PALMER	Newbury	BRK	1750-2003	4735	QUELCH	Marlborough	WIL	1700-1850
1224	PARHAM	Donhead St Mary	WIL	17c	4912	QUIGLEY	London		1700-1800
1224	PARKER	Henley on Thames	OXF	17c	1224	RABBETS	Donhead St Mary	WIL	17c
1224	PARSONS	Old Windsor	BRK	18c	5139	RATCLIFFE	Raydon + Wenham	SFK	1750-1900
5159	PARTRIDGE	Any	OXF	1700-1950	1224	RATHALL	Harpsden	OXF	17c
5159	PARTRIDGE	Any	BRK	1700-1950	4735	READ	Portland	DOR	1680-1900
2296	PAULIN	Great Coxwell	BRK	pre 1700	4641	RHYS	Pembroke	PEM	1400-2002

No	Name	Place	Code	Dates	No	Name	Place	Code	Dates
4641	RICE	Little Hampnett	GLS	1600-2002	4940	SMITH	Sutton Courtenay	BRK	18c
4641	RICE	Barrington	GLS	1600-2002	5133	SMITH	Maidenhead	BRK	1843-1960
4641	RICE	Harwell	OXF	1600-2002	5133	SMITH	Tilehurst	BRK	1840-1999
1224	RICHINGS	Reading	BRK	19c	5149	SMITH	Basildon	BRK	pre 1881
1224	RICHINGS	Henley on Thames	OXF	20c	5103	SMITHERS	Any	BRK	1900-1940
5147	ROLFE	Burghfield	BRK	1750-1900	4725	SOLLIS	Faringdon	BRK	pre 1850
5114	ROSE	Hinton	SOM	1700-1850	5176	STACEY	Windsor	BRK	Any
5114	ROSE	Reading	BRK	1700-2002	5176	STACEY	Tilehurst	BRK	Any
4641	ROSS	Cromarty, Rosskeen	ROC	1600-2002	4641	STEVENS	East Ilsley	BRK	1700-2002
4429	SAMPSON	West Shefford	BRK	1800-1900	1224	STUBBLE	Wokingham	BRK	17c
2296	SAWYER	Great Coxwell	BRK	pre 1620	1224	TAYLOR	Rotherfield Greys	OXF	19c
5147	SAWYER	Peasmore	BRK	1700-1850	2296	TAYLOR	Reading	BRK	pre 1730
5147	SAYER	Peasmore	BRK	1700-1850	4641	TAYLOR	Reading	BRK	1700-2002
2296	SCOLFIELD	Bucklebury	BRK	1680-1722	5149	TOPLIN	Reading	BRK	pre 1881
5139	SELLWOOD	Highworth	WIL	1700-1900	2296	TUBB	Hampstead Marshall	BRK	pre 1750
4940	SEWARD	Wargrave	BRK	18c	5114	TUNNICLIFFE	Canterbury	KEN	1850-1950
5147	SHEFFORD	Marlborough	WIL	1750-1860	1028	VINALL	London	MDX	1800-2000
2296	SHERMAN	Eastbury	BRK	1822+	1028	VINALL	Any	SSX	1600-1900
4429	SHERMAN	West Shefford	BRK	1800-1900	4641	VINER	Reading	BRK	1600-2002
5139	SHEWRY	Buckland	BRK	1690-2000	1224	WALTER(S)	Henley on Thames	OXF	18c
5139	SHEWRY	Ogbourne	WIL	1850-1950	1224	WALTER(S)	Rotherfield Greys	OXF	18c
5155	SIMES	Wantage	BRK	1558-1700	2296	WALTERS	Hampstead Marshall	BRK	pre 1770
5139	SIMS	Preshute	WIL	1800-1900	4912	WARD	Ashbourne	DBY	1800-1900
4641	SLEEMAN	Auldearn, Nairn	SCT	1700-2002	5139	WARWICK	S. Moreton	BRK	1700-1900
5155	SMART	Abingdon	BRK	1558-1900	5114	WATMORE	Reading	BRK	1700-1850
1224	SMITH	Reading	BRK	19c	5200	WATSON	Stratfield Mortimer	BRK	1720-1900

No	Name	Place	Code	Dates	No	Name	Place	Code	Dates
5200	WATSON	Mortimer	BRK	1720-1900	4815	WILKS William	Tardebigge	WOR	1849-1927
5200	WATSON	Stratfield Saye	HAM	1747-1900	5114	WILLEY	Mullion	CON	1700-1950
5184	WEAIT	Reading/Devizes	WIL	1700-2000	1028	WILLIAMS	Abingdon	OXF	1800-1890
4641	WEBB	Reading	BRK	1700-2002	1028	WILLIAMS	Reading	BRK	1800-2000
5155	WEEKS	Colerne	WIL	1558-1840	5047	WINTERBORNE	West Hamney	BRK	1600-1800
4641	WELLS	Hampnett	GLS	1600-2002	4912	WOODS	South Derbyshire	DBY	1700-1900
5047	WELLS	Wallingford	BRK	1600-1900					
5184	WELLS	Basildon	BRK	1700-2000					
1224	WERNHAM	Denham	BKM	19c					
1224	WERNHAM	Beenham	BRK	19c					
1224	WERNHAM	Reading	BRK	19c					
5139	WEST	Hagbourne	BRK	1700-1950					
5164	WESTALL	Stockross	BRK	1750-2003					
5159	WEYMAN	Shirley	HAM	1750-1960					
2296	WHITAKER	Lambourne	BRK	1730+					
2296	WHITAKER	Farnborough	BRK	1730+					
2296	WHITAKER	Frlsham	BRK	1730+					
4940	WHITE	Egham	SRY	18c					
5147	WHITE	Higcliere	HAM	1730-1850					
4641	WICKS	Reading	BRK	1600-2002					
2296	WIGHTWICK	Farnborough	BRK	1730+					
2296	WIGHTWICK	Frlsham	BRK	1730+					
2296	WIGHTWICK	Lambourne	BRK	1730+					
4815	WILKS Harry	Olney	BKM	1919-1942					
4815	WILKS Harry	Old Dalby	LEI	1901-1919					
4815	WILKS Henry	Welford	BRK	1817-1897					

Berkshire Family History Society AGM

**The 27th Annual General Meeting of the Berkshire Family History Society will be held at 7.30pm at the Branch meeting at Newbury on June 11, 2003
Agenda**

- 1 Apologies for Absence
- 2 Minutes of the year 2001/2002 Annual General Meeting
- 3 Matters Arising
- 4 Chairman's Report for 2002/2003
- 5 Treasurer's Report for 2002/2003
- 6 Election of President and Vice-President
- 7 Election of Officers for 2003/2004
- 8 Acceptance of the Branch Committee Appointed Ex-officio Members
- 9 Election of Executive Committee Members for 2003/2004
- 10 Nomination of Auditor for 2003/2004
- 11 Any other Business

**Nomination for election of officers should reach the Secretary by May 20, 2003
BFHS Executive Committee 2003/2004**

Nomination Form

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

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

Nominee's Name (please PRINT)

Nominee's Membership Number

Nominee's Signature Date.....2003

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

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

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

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

Back pages

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.



Membership fees

New Members

Annual membership fee is £13. For family members (two named members) the fee is £14 and for overseas members the fee is £15. The above costs are inclusive of £2 for an Information Booklet sent to all new members. For an application form see the BFHS website or write to Membership Secretary enclosing a stamped self-addressed envelope.

Renewing Members: as above but less £2.



Some comments from visitors

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

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

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

Back pages

BFHS Research Centre



How to find us

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

Open:

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

Full details are available on our website:

www.berksfhs.org.uk

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 four months are:

Saturday	26 April	2.30 - 4.30
Monday	19 May	7.30 - 9.30
Saturday	21 June	2.30 - 4.30
Monday	21 July	7.30 - 9.30

For those who have not yet used the Centre these guided tours give you the opportunity to see what the Reference Library holds, with its 7,000 plus books, fiche and CD ROMs available for research. They also enable you to find out what family history resources are available and how to access them using computers and fiche readers.

Back pages

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

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

So far we have more than 220,000 references in our own database and we are able to offer a research service. The charge is £2 for each A4 sheet. Send a cheque, made out to BFHS and a stamped self-addressed envelope to David Wright, 45 Picton Way, Caversham, Reading, Berkshire RG4 8NJ.

Monumental inscriptions

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

Berkshire Marriage Index

We can do limited searches for the parishes and periods given in the Index website or updates in the journal (see page 67). The cost per surname is £2.00 for each side of an A4 sheet (about 25 entries fit onto one side). A request for a specific individual will usually only require one side. Send a cheque, made out to BFHS, and a large SSAE or two IRCs to the Research Centre marking the envelope 'Marriage Index'.

Back pages

Useful addresses

- ▣ **Chairman**
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- ▣ **Members' Interests**
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- ▣ **Website**
www.berksfhs.org.uk/

Back pages

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Windsor, Slough and Maidenhead

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Vale of White Horse

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☐ Branch information

Email: branchinfo@berksfhs.org.uk

☐ Bookshop

Email: bookshop@berksfhs.org.uk

☐ BFHS Research Centre

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

☐ Berkshire Record Office

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

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In the event of non-delivery please return to:

John Garnett, 5 Wren Close, Burghfield Common, Berkshire RG7 3PF.

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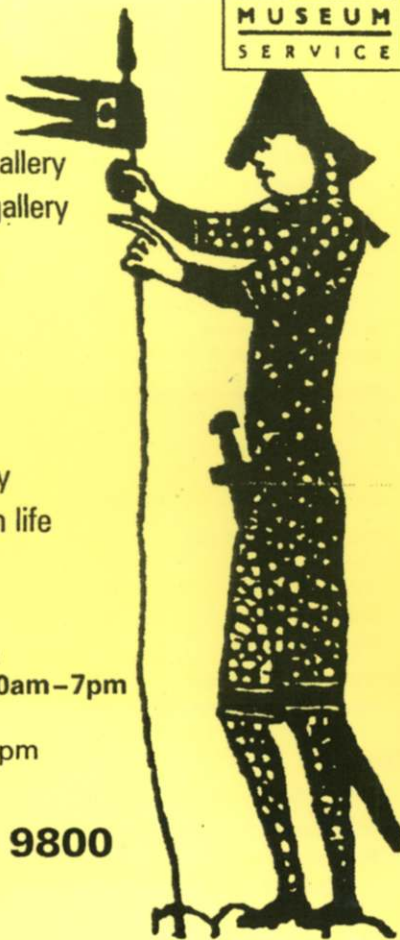
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The Bulletin

A word from our Chairman

In this issue, I am going to note some of the things we are doing in our Society that may not be widely reported elsewhere.

I am pleased to say that the Berkshire Burial Index and Snare's 1842 Reading Directory are now available on CD ROM from our Society Bookshop and the 1851 Berkshire Census can now be ordered. Congratulations to all those who worked so hard recently, and over the years, to make this happen. The CDs are already very popular and this will encourage us to produce more in this format.

Our Society is now preparing to become VAT registered like many other family history societies. This is not from choice, but because our annual turnover is now reaching the threshold when this becomes necessary. Inevitably this will mean some changes in how we do things so that we can minimise the amount of tax we pay.

Each year our Society attends the family fairs organised by the neighbouring family history societies, the Bracknell Fair and the Society of Genealogists' Fair on the weekend of May 3 and 4 in London are two of the largest. We're very pleased to meet our members at these fairs – and any local help to let us have lunch or wander is always appreciated.

Now that we are assured that we can remain in Yeomanry House for several years, the Research Centre is being reorganised to improve our services. The Bookshop area will be moved and improved and the computer suite will be upgraded to improve and support our popular workshops. Recent visitors will have noticed the new photocopier.

I regularly meet with the Berkshire Record Office to discuss items of shared interest. As an example, they sometimes have disabled visitors, as we do, who need basic help and assistance and we're trying to work out how to organise some help for them. I'm very impressed by the digital camera they are using to image the enclosure maps and awards as part of the enclosure project. The New Opportunities Fund supports this valuable project and more can be found in *The Berkshire Echo*, the BRO newsletter available in paper form or under 'News' on the useful Berkshire Record Office website at <www.berkshirerecordoffice.org.uk>.

The Family History Online website www.familyhistoryonline.net that I've been developing for the Federation of Family History Societies went live on Christmas Day and at the end of January has over six million records from a dozen family history societies. We needed extra time to add a second disk drive to make the server more robust and obtain the necessary digital certificate for secure logins. Thank you

to all our members who helped during the trial period. You should now discard the free trial voucher you received with the September *Berkshire Family Historian*, if you haven't already done so. Current vouchers are on sale from our Bookshop, or alternatively, you can now buy 'virtual' vouchers online using your credit card.

Aah! Bisto

Voluntary transcribers of parish registers have found a number of unusual names whilst working on the registers. Surnames include Bathbun, Thickbroom, Sprouts, Blackberry, Mackarel, Rawbones, Egg, Halfhead and Mouldy, topped by Bisto. Among first names they found Voice, Organ, Freelove, Carnation and Lemontania. Enough to make a pudding. Some parents found it hard to resist giving their children unusual combinations of names: Christmas Day, Princess Britania, Angel Heaven, Head Wise, Will Winner and even Areana Kerenhappuch Petty. So naming your child after the Liverpool football team is not a modern phenomenon.

Berkshire Search Suite up-date

A short note in the last issue explained that we were planning to gather our electronic records into a single database which would then be available for searching by surname. This is still under development. Watch this space

for further news. In the meantime, you will be able to search <www.familyhistoryonline.net> for the Berkshire Burial and Marriage Indexes and the 1871 census for Newbury registration district.

Berkshire Record Office acquisitions

Amongst recent acquisitions are the Wokingham Rose Street Wesleyan Methodist Church records from 1881-2002; St Saviour's Church in Coley, Reading, registers 1922-1985; Drayton parish registers and Greyfriars Church, Reading, registers. A number of other more modern registers and records have also been acquired.

What's on

The Gloucestershire Family History Society will be holding their annual open day on Saturday April 26 from 10am to 4pm. Many local societies will be setting up their stalls and there's free help and advice from Society experts. It's being held at the Crypt Grammar School, Podsmead Road, Gloucester, just two miles south of the city centre.

The annual Society of Genealogists Family History Fair will be held at the Royal Horticultural Society New Hall at Greycoat Street, Westminster, London, SW1 on May 3 and 4. All the usual stalls, plus help and advice from experts from the Society.

Wiltshire Family History Society's open day and AGM will be held on June 21 at

the Haydon Centre, Haydon Wick, Swindon.

Research Centre News

Since the last report, writes Cliff Debney, the Research Centre has been settling down after its changes and has begun planning the next stage, which will affect the Administration, Bookshop and Computer network layout. At the time of writing, it is too early to announce any particular details.

Jean Herbert, the Librarian, has continued her good work, tidying up fiche and putting them into a standard recognisable four-ring binder. This is making for a more presentable and uniform display on the fiche shelving. New labelling has also continued apace.

The stock of census indexes and transcriptions, comprising fiche, booklets and CD ROMs have again been increased. We now include some material from all the available census years from 1841 to 1891 inclusive. The holdings include census material for every English county, as well as many Welsh counties and some from elsewhere in the UK. Our holdings of CD ROMs is the fastest growing section of our Reference Library.

The family history classes run by Barry and Carolyn Boulton have continued during the first two months of the year and plans for further courses are being finalised.

Finally, may I remind all readers, members and others, that the Research Centre is not just a place where people

can carry out research on fiche, film or computer but it is also a very good reading library. The Library holds over 7,000 books including many you will, or should, find on any good family historian's bookshelf, together with books on all English counties, some for Wales, Scotland and overseas, many on specific subjects such as armed forces records, much of local history interest and of a general historical nature. Come and give it a try. Why not come on one of the Library Tours? Details are to be found in the 'Back Pages'.

Mills and millers

Our own expert on mill owners, Tom Hine, tells me that the Mills Section of the Society for the Protection of Ancient Buildings is set to open its Mills Archive at Watlington House, Reading. There will be a library and research facilities with an online catalogue of 5,000 items. It's hoped that the Archive will expand taking over the index of mill owners maintained by Tom. The official launch of the Archive will be announced in the next issue of *Mill News*.

Pay-per-View

The Federation of Family History Societies PPV service was announced in the September issue of the magazine. Since then nine family history societies have joined the scheme: Cornwall, Berkshire, Glamorgan, Leicester & Rutland, Lincolnshire, Wiltshire, Cleveland, North Yorkshire & South Durham, Birmingham & Midland and

Suffolk. A further five have indicated that they will include their burial indexes online. Amongst the indexed material you can expect to find are baptisms, marriage and census transcriptions, MIs, strays, and of course local burial indexes. In total there are over six million records which you can search. Payments to use the site are by pre-paid vouchers (similar to the 1901 census). They are valid for six months from the date of first use and cost £5 and £10. Other societies are expected to join as the year progresses so take a look at the site on <www.familyhistoryonline.net>

Rare baptism entry

While searching through the baptisms for Eversley, Barbara Dove found that Elizabeth Angela Veronica Rose, daughter of Lord and Lady Brocket of Bramshill Park, was baptised on June 26, 1938. Her Godparent was H.M The Queen (proxy Lady Helen Graham, Lady Burghley, Hon. Rupert Mitford, J.C.D. Harrington). On either side in the register is the daughter of a labourer and the son of an RAF LAC. Lady Elizabeth now lives at Woodstock.

Unwanted certificate

I have acquired a marriage certificate for Walter White and Annie Warner who were married on December 6, 1891. They both lived in Hosier Street and Walter's occupation is given as town postman. His father was Charles White, also a postman, and Annie's father was Joseph Warner, a farm labourer. If this

certificate belongs to you then write to the Editor.

Traditional Heritage Museum

The Museum, based at the University of Sheffield, has a fascinating collection of artefacts housed in workshop displays illustrating typical Sheffield trades like filemaking, grinding, silversmithing and engraving. In addition, there's a basketmaker's shop, a clogmaker and shoemaker's shop, a pawnbroker's shop and a typical corner shop. Open days are held on a regular basis so if you're in the area do call in.

Spotlight on a community

In future issues of the magazine I would like to include short articles on places of interest where your family lived. Whether it's a village, town or even a small rural community, it might guide other researchers working along similar lines. It is very likely that you know more about that community, its history and the wealth of records that available than the people living there now. I have already asked a few members to write about their areas, but I would like your input too. If you're involved in a local history project then let us all know about research underway. I look forward to hearing from you.