

**Seven years' transportation
POWs of the First World War
Rough music, or morality in the
community
Where were you on D-Day 1944?**

Programme calendar 2003

Bracknell Branch

Priestwood Community Centre, Priestwood Court Road, Bracknell,

7.15pm for 7.45pm

20 Jun *A walk around Ascot.* Ruth Timbrell

18 Jul *Marriage, divorce law and custom.* Beryl Hurley

Newbury Branch

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

11 Jun *Society AGM. Presenting your family history.* Barry Jerome

10 Sep *Discover Newbury: the history of Newbury Wharf.* Paul Cannon

8 Oct *Commonwealth War Graves Commission*

Reading Branch

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, Church End Lane, Tilehurst,

7.15pm for 7.45pm

26 Jun *Genealogy question time*

24 Jul Visit to the National Monuments Record at Swindon. 7pm. Contact Mairwan Fantham on 0118 947 7269 to book a place

25 Sep *Charles Booth – a survey into life and labour in London.* John Gurnett

Vale of White Horse Branch

Tomkins Room, 35 Ock Street, Baptist Church, Abingdon, 7.30pm

9 Jun *Help for computing in family history.* Berkshire FHS computer group

14 Jul *Introducing William.* Dorothy Wise

8 Sep *Presenting and publishing the results of your research.* Derek Palgrave

13 Oct *Photographic Archive.* Malcolm Graham

Windsor, Slough and Maidenhead Branch

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

7.45pm

24 June *An Enumerator's Tale. (A dramatic presentation). Eavesdropping on a household being interviewed for the 1851 Census.* Meryl Catty and Audrey Gillett

29 July *Civil Registration changes: what they mean and how they will affect us.* Barbara Dixon

30 Sep *Charles Booth – a survey into life and labour in London. A late 19th century look at all aspects of life, street by street, the poverty, health, crime and housing.* John Gurnett

Berkshire Family Historian

For family historians in the Royal County of Berkshire

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Contents

John Gurnett
Editor

Features

- 190 Seven years
transportation
- 195 POWs of the First
World War
- 210 Rough music, or
morality in the
community
- 214 The early days of the
Reading Watch
- 221 Where were you on
D-Day 1944?
- 232 Incest and nepotism
in Wallingford
- 236 'A horse! a horse!
my Kingdom for a
horse!'

News

- 194 Berkshire Burial
Index
- 202 Birth Brief Q & A
- 226 Berkshire Name Search

Regulars

- 205 Letters to the Editor
- 217 The Bulletin
- 230 Book Ends
- 240 Members' Interests
- 244 Research Centre
- 246 Research services

*The illustration on the front cover is of
prisoners returning to the hulks after a
day at work on shore.*

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**Copy deadline for the September
issue is July 10 2003**

Errors and Omissions in the June Issue

A number of lines were omitted in the printing process for which I do apologise.

Page 202

Birth Brief Q & A. The final sentence in the introduction should read: "The following Questions and Answers are intended to cover the concerns expressed."

Page 208

Letters to the Editor. The last sentence in the final letter should read: "The 1901 census shows his youngest brother similarly 'farmed out'. Thank you for such an interesting magazine."

Page 220

Elizabeth Simpson Award. The final sentence should read: "We hope to institute our own award scheme for the best article in the journal."

Page 226

The Berkshire Name Search. The final sentence in the introduction should read: "The Berkshire Name Search is a new initiative that will enable you to search in and obtain information from various Society records, including those for which the transcription and checking is not yet complete."

Page 236

'A horse! A horse! My Kingdom for a horse!'. The final sentence in the introduction should read: "Percy often talked about the incident, so perhaps one of his children or grandchildren suggested he wrote it down. This is the story as told by Percy."

Page 239

References. The last reference should read: "4. The Times 6 September 1935. As there was no follow-up story presumably the idea of the body being that of Richard III was soon dismissed."

Page 247

Berkshire Strays Index. The final sentence should read: "Mark the envelope 'Strays' and include an A4 SAE together with your email address."

The Editor

Seven years' transportation

Peter Ford

The sentence of transportation was introduced towards the end of the sixteenth century. Its purpose was to provide a cheap form of labour for the fledgling colonies in North America, drawn from the growing pool of convicted prisoners who would otherwise have been executed for one of the hundreds of capital offences then on the Statute Book. As well as convicts, vagrants and other socially 'undesirables' were also included in this human cargo.

The American War of Independence in 1775 brought the practice to an abrupt halt, yet the courts continued to hand down sentences of transportation. Parliament empowered the courts to impose an alternative sentence of hard labour on redundant ships mostly moored on the Thames. Those moored at Woolwich were the *Warrior* and the dilapidated old *Justitia*, unofficial flagship of the hulk fleet. Transportation to New South Wales commenced in 1787. Before reaching Australia, convicts spent about eight months on the hulks doing hard labour for about ten hours a day. Many convicts attempted to escape the rigours of transportation and the opening chapters of Dickens' *Great Expectations* paint a vivid picture when guns were fired, warning people about escapes from the hulks. Indeed Magwitch would either have escaped from the *Warrior* or the *Justitia*.

This article focuses on one individual, Peter Ford's great great uncle, Francis Ford, who was sentenced to seven years' transportation in 1849 for stealing half a bushel of oats and other unspecified articles. Like many prisoners he was not transported but served his sentence on the *Justitia*.

Francis was an agricultural labourer, the son of the village blacksmith at Silchester, a village with a population of around 400 on the Hampshire/Berkshire border. At the time of his crime he was married with three children and a fourth on the way. It was only the rector's note on the infant's baptism 'n.b father serving 7 years transportation' that gave me the first clue about this episode of criminal history in our family.

The theft was committed on 1 December 1848. Francis appeared

at Winchester Quarter Sessions on 2 January 1849. The judicial process was distinctly 'fast-track'. The land-owning Justices dealt with 95 cases. The age range of the prisoners was between ten and 51. All were either illiterate or, at best, could only read imperfectly. There was no legal representation for the prisoners and no distinction was made between children and adults – a 12 year-old was given six months' hard labour for petty theft. All those found guilty were given periods of imprisonment with hard labour varying from one week to six months, other than eight who were sentenced to transportation.

Apart from the barest details of age, standard of literacy, crime and sentence, no other records of Quarter Sessions remain, unlike Assize Court records which can be found at the Public Record Office. We must, therefore, best guess the Justices' sentencing policy with regard to the eight. Five were found guilty of sheep or horse stealing for which transportation was very much the traditional punishment and one had a previous conviction. But Francis and his partner-in-crime stole goods of much less value than those who had only received up to six months' imprisonment. Why were they sent for transportation? The reason for the draconian punishment is probably to be found in their Plea for Mercy.

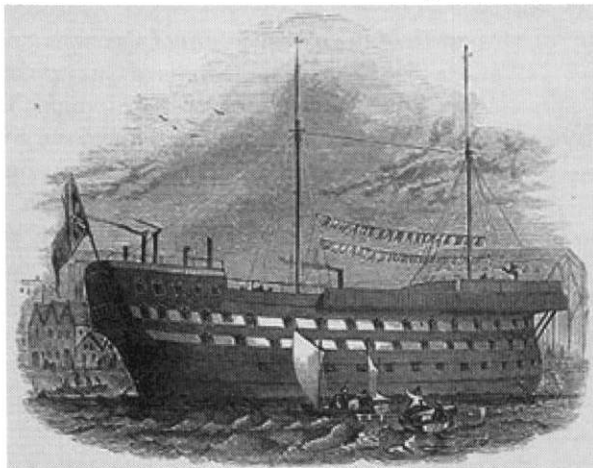
The Plea

The legal right of appeal against sentence or conviction was not established until 1907, so until then a convict's only hope for relief was to submit a plea for mercy either himself or through a third party on his behalf to the Sovereign. In practice this meant to the Home Secretary. Francis Ford's plea took the form of a lengthy obsequious letter signed by 35 leading villagers – the rector, churchwardens, farmers, Poor Law Guardians, postmaster, private landowners and tradesmen. The bundle which contained the plea together with associated correspondence was located in the Public Record Office and as well as providing useful information about local history gave the important clue about his sentence. He had stolen from his employer while he was in a position of trust. We would think today that the language in which the plea was couched was excessively grovelling and humiliating – full acceptance of guilt, the deepest regret and contrition, led astray by his colleague, an honest sober and industrious father and so on. But like nearly all the pleas the fateful annotation 'Q7 nil' meant it was rejected.¹

‘In Durance Vile’

The penal object was that conditions on the hulks should mirror those in the convict settlements as closely as possible. The prisoners were roused at 5am to a long day of unremitting back-breaking manual labour in the dockyard; the only respite afforded was compulsory chapel services when the prisoners could at least sit down.

Eventually, if the prisoner escaped death through typhus, cholera, tuberculosis or one of the other numerous potentially fatal



The Warrior moored on the River Thames at Woolwich

infections which plagued them even more than the public at large, the day for release would eventually dawn. Francis returned to Silchester seemingly healthy in spite of the rejection of the Plea for Mercy which had been submitted shortly after the sentence. He must have earned some remission for good behaviour as there was only a four year gap in the parish baptism register for his offspring. He fathered five more children and died in 1889, aged 71.

The fate of anyone convicted of a crime in the Victorian era was in all probability one of unmitigated brutality, although we should bear in mind the conditions in which the poor lived at this time. I doubt if the honest poor were any better off. Punishment pure and simple was the ethic of the penal code. Meaningful rehabilitation had no place. Of course there were reformers and good men (and women) who spoke out but they were not the establishment and it

would be some time before their more humane and constructive attitudes had much real impact on penal reform.

References and further reading

1 PRO Plea for Mercy and attached correspondence HO18 277/24

Illustrated London News 21 February 1846. An extensive, illustrated description of the hulks and the daily round.

Branch-Johnson, W. *The English Prison Hulks*, 1957, Christopher Johnson

Carter, Paul. *The Local Historian*, vol. 31 no. 3. 'Early nineteenth century criminal petitions'

Priestly, Philip, *Victorian Prison Lives* (1999), London

PRO/HO8, quarterly returns of prisoners in the hulks

PRO/HO19, register of criminal petitions

PRO/HO18, the criminal petitions

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Turning a Disaster into a Memory

Berkshire Burial Index

The parishes and periods which have been added to the Berkshire Burial Index since the position shown in the March 2003 issue of the *Berkshire Family Historian* are shown below. The index now contains more than 250,000 entries.

A CD ROM of the Berkshire Burial Index as at November 2002 is available from the Society Bookshop at a price of £10.

Bisham All Saints 1813-1849

Bradfield St Andrew 1755-1838

Caversham St Peter 1813-1830

Cookham Holy Trinity 1727-1731

Kintbury St Mary 1761-1812

Lambourn St Michael & All Angels 1560-1635

Maidenhead Boyne Hill All Saints 1920-1948

Maidenhead St Luke 1866-1874

New Windsor St John the Baptist 1702-1708, 1761-1770 and
1837-1848

Reading St Mary 1785-1812

Sandhurst St Michael 1869-1902

Shottesbrooke St John the Baptist 1567-1689

Swallowfield All Saints 1539-1552, 1587-1597 and 1638-1694

Tilehurst St Michael 1915-1941

Winkfield St Mary 1907-1961

Wokingham St Paul 1944-1961

Details of the postal service for researching burials in the Berkshire Burial Index are given on page 246.

POWs of the First World War

John Chapman

At the end of the First World War it was estimated that 674,000 servicemen had died in the conflict. Some 160,000 British soldiers were captured and held prisoner in Germany. But an estimated 20,000 British troops who succumbed during the Great War died not from bullets or shrapnel, but from starvation and disease in prisoner of war camps. Their living conditions were hard. They were subject to attacks of vermin and exposed to diseases, especially in the camps where prisoners from different armies were grouped together. They were also required to work in order to recover part of the expense of their detention and to replace men sent to the front. Few records exist revealing the conditions and numbers who were confined in camps. John Chapman has been seeking information on POWs from the Royal Berkshire Regiment. His list of about 1000 POWs from the Regiment can be found at www.purley.demon.co.uk/1-RBR/G1500Apows.htm.

Both sides took prisoners during the First World War. Many died in captivity and many suffered appalling brutality. The principal sources of information are contemporary newspapers and surviving letters. To date no detailed official records have been found. The Red Cross in Geneva are the only known source and they are unco-operative to say the least in releasing information. It was not until January 1916 that the first lists of POWs began to appear in British newspapers. Many of the men had been reported missing and a good number as killed so the news of their captivity came as a great relief to their relatives.¹ The worst cases of brutality which involved men from Berkshire arose from the fall of Kut and the capture of men from the Ox and Bucks Light Infantry by the Turks on 29 April 1916. An example was Pte Robert James Nash of Purley who died in captivity on 25 September after forced marches and appalling treatment.²

A street collection organised to provide comforts for British POWs, held in Reading on New Year's Day 1915, was organised by Mrs L D Fullerton of Purley Park. The enormous sum of £550 was

raised.³ A Committee was founded called the 'Royal Berks Regiment Prisoners of War Care Committee'. It was chaired by William Mount MP. The Committee organised the collection of money and built a network of contributors who assembled the parcels to be sent to the men. These parcels were then brought to a depot where an army of volunteers addressed them and looked after the administration and records.

Over the years it cared for over 1400 POWs but extended its scope beyond the Royal Berkshire Regiment to any man who was (or had been) a resident of Berkshire. Naturally they could send parcels only to those men with a known address in Germany. Usually this would be the name of the camp in which they were interned; however, the Germans maintained a set of 'Registration Camps' such as Gustrow, Stendal, Limburg, Friedrichsfeld and Parchim. They were used as the designated addresses of men who had been sent to work in mines and factories and on farms. To assist communication and exchange information a number of ladies looked after the different Royal Berkshire Battalions. Mrs Mount of Wasing took on the 1st, 2nd, 5th and 8th, Mrs Hedges of Wallingford took on the 4th and 7th and Mrs Dowell of Colchester looked after the 6th. People whose relatives were missing or POWs were asked to make contact with the appropriate lady.⁴

Every 28 days six parcels were sent to each man, each worth initially 10s and later 15s plus three kilos of bread which usually came from a nearby neutral country such as Switzerland. Each prisoner was sent a special pack containing a complete change of clothing as soon as his address was received and this was renewed every six months. Each parcel contained a card which the recipient was asked to sign and return, but many often enclosed letters of thanks.

The number of prisoners from Berkshire increased dramatically as a result of the Spring Offensive of 1918. At the end of 1917 there were only some 200 on the books but by Armistice Day this had swelled to 1400 with 42 reported as having died. As a result the frequency of despatch and the amount of bread had to be drastically reduced. At the end of the war there was £3401.11s.1d left in the fund which was distributed to ex-POWs and disabled men from Berkshire or from the Royal Berkshire Regiment.



BUCKINGHAM PALACE

1918.

The Queen joins me in welcoming you on your release from the miseries & hardships, which you have endured with so much patience & courage.

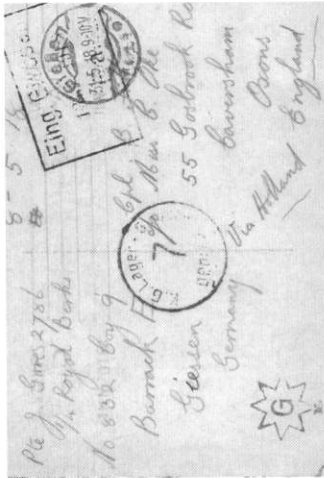
During these many months of trial, the early rescue of our gallant Officers & Men from the cruelties of their captivity has been uppermost in our thoughts.

We are thankful that this longed for day has arrived, & that back in the old Country you will be able once more to enjoy the happiness of a home & to see good days among those who anxiously look for your return.

George R. I.

King George V's personal message to all those who returned to Blighty after being released as prisoners of war

An agreement negotiated through the Red Cross enabled seriously wounded prisoners to be exchanged. The first batch came home via Holland in December 1915 but it was not until July 1916 that the second batch returned via Switzerland. They brought back tales of appalling treatment: brutality, starvation and unsanitary conditions. As a result of strong representations made through the Red Cross things did improve although tales continued to leak back of terrible treatment, especially in the first few weeks of captivity when they were in the hands of the German forces in the battle zones.



Postcard sent back to Pte J. Gore's home informing his family that he was a POW at Giessen in Germany

The *Reading Mercury* of the 12 December 1918 recorded the return home of officers who had been taken prisoner. Lt Norman Langston, 8th Royal Berkshire, and other officers of the same battalion, including Capt Gentry-Birch, MC, reached home from Germany where they had been prisoners of war since the first day of the great German offensive on 21 March 1918.

Lt Langston and his brother officers and the medical officer, Capt Byrne, of the Royal Army Medical Corps, who did excellent work afterwards in Germany, making it much better for his fellow prisoners, were taken just behind the lines where for thirty six hours they had no food. Their eventual destination was Rastatt in Baden. Here, said Mr Langston:

‘we had three months starvation. Our daily fare was two plates of thin soup and one fifth of a loaf of bread a day. It was rather a pathetic sight at the baths to see your brother officers getting so appreciably thinner. At Rastatt they treated us like dogs. Capt Gentry-Birch was for a time in hospital with his wounds.’

‘When the soldiers’ councils took control we used to be allowed into the town and to visit the cafes and we had a good time. The people invited us to their houses. On being released we left Cologne and came down the Rhine on a 9,000 ton vessel which carried 160 officers and 1690 men. They did us very well on the boat and at Rotterdam everything that a man could want — change of uniform, razors, parcels etc.— was provided by the British Government. We could not have been treated better. As we sailed up the Humber to Hull the sirens were sounded and a very cordial welcome was accorded us and there was much enthusiasm at Scarborough.’

Another unidentified POW, believed to be a major, had managed to write home and his experiences were recounted in the *Reading Mercury* of 1 Jan 1916. He had been overrun by the Germans and thrown from his horse onto a pile of dead. He was saved from being bayoneted by a German officer who intervened. As they were marched away they got a very bad reception from the civilians. They were punched, kicked, robbed and had all their buttons and badges cut from their uniforms. They were marched for three days to a train with 800 others and then moved to a barracks for two weeks. He wrote:

‘It would make you cry to see the state of the civilians, even though they are our enemy. Conditions are very bad. The women will do anything for a piece of bread. Meat is 3s a pound and can be sold only on certain days. We are receiving parcels from home and the German soldiers are begging to buy food from the prisoners, they are offering 20 pfennigs, about 2d, for a single slice of bread.’

Initially he only had straw to sleep on although it was very cold. Eventually he was given a blanket. Food improved when a new commandant took over. However, it was still

only fit for pigs to eat. They were moved around from camp to camp and at one place the traitor Roger Casement appeared and tried to tempt men with money to join the Casement Brigade. He got a very bad reception and did not return.

Frank Bates of Reading was luckier. He was put to work on a farm in Germany and was treated well. Most prisoners however were held in prisoner of war camps in Germany or Austria. The Germans went to extraordinary lengths to use them to counter the tales of mistreatment that were abounding. Men were made to smarten themselves and then had their photograph taken looking well and contented either singly or in groups. These photos were then made into postcards which were mailed back to families in England. Many of these were published in the Reading newspapers and collected together after the war in *Berkshire and the War*.

German POWs in England

The possibility of the need to accommodate German prisoners in this country was realised from the beginning of the war. By 29 August 1914 preparations were well underway to transform Newbury Racecourse into a POW camp. By the 19 September no fewer than 1500 prisoners were guarded there by the Newbury Battalion of the Berkshire National Guard. Initially the prisoners interned were aliens. These were all removed at the end of 1914 to prison ships — liners anchored offshore. A number of allegations were made about ill-treatment and these were used as the justification for the brutal treatment meted out to British POWs in Germany. However, the allegations of British ill-treatment proved to be false.⁵

One of the camps for German officers was at Philberds, a large house near Maidenhead. This housed over 100 officers and 40 other ranks who acted as their servants. The camp was guarded by Territorials from the Devon Regiment. Early in 1915 the prisoners took to gardening and eventually the adjutant, Captain Armstrong, became suspicious and called in workmen to lay some unneeded drainpipes. While they were digging their picks struck a tunnel eight to twelve yards long and two feet square. It

was cased with wood and had pads for elbows to rest on. The Germans had cut through the concrete foundations of a high wall and would probably have escaped had it not been for the adjutant.⁶

References

1 *Reading Mercury* 29/8/14, 19/9/14 and 26/9/14

2 Neville, *History of the 43rd/52nd Light Infantry in the Great War*. 1935

3 *Reading Mercury* 8/1/16

4 *Reading Mercury* 8/7/16

5 Berkshire and the War (*Reading Standard*) page 44

6 *Reading Mercury* 10/4/15

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Birth Brief Q & A

We have received a number of letters in response to the note in the December issue of the Berkshire Family Historian on our intention to make available via our website a surname index of peoples included in Birth Briefs. The following Questions and

What's the difference between Birth Briefs and Members' Interests?

Both list ancestors or family surnames that you are researching and aim to put you in touch with others who have similar or identical interests. Members' Interests list a surname with a place or county and a period of time. Other people with an identical listing may or may not be connected to you. Birth Briefs are more precise: they list individuals with sufficient markers (eg year and place of vital events) to enable you to judge if you are connected or if they indicate someone in whom you are interested.

Why are you placing a Birth Brief Index on the website?

To make it available to a wider public and so increase the chance of members being contacted by a cousin, for example, with whom they can share information and research.

What are the disadvantages of putting the Birth Brief Index on the website?

We state that the information is only supplied on condition that it shall not be used, or supplied to another, for commercial purposes. However, there have been instances of information on similar websites subsequently appearing without permission elsewhere. We cannot guarantee that this will not happen, but we will monitor to whom we supply information and will refuse to supply if we think that the information is being misused.

Can we object and have our Birth Briefs removed from the Internet?

Yes, of course.

Why only five generations? Why isn't my Birth Brief

included in full? Do I have to start with myself?

This standard ascent format used by most family history organisations allows 16 surnames to be listed if the five generations are completed. We may go another generation or two in the future. To include the 15 generations on one Birth Brief or the 360 persons on another would verge on publishing what is your intellectual property. That is your responsibility, not ours. Anyone who suspects common ancestors at an earlier period can contact you. Equally you can use the Member's Interests format to draw attention to earlier ancestors.

You are not obliged to start with yourself, although most people do. Some members start with a grandparent. Other members start with their children in order to include the family of their spouse. But this results in name-only entries for the three generations born less than 100 years ago.

Why are you not giving full details of persons born less than 100 years ago? My surname is fairly common and unless you include these vital records it will be difficult for people to know whether or not they are related to me.

We are very conscious of the recent Data Protection Act and the possibility of unintentionally breaking the restrictions. Have you checked that all living persons in your Birth Brief agree to their private details being made available to the public? Even if you have, and many submitters have not, for obvious reasons we must treat all Birth Briefs the same. Therefore we will be cautious in what we include.

Why are the Birth Briefs that I submitted not in the index?

There could be two reasons:

We have not finished entering all the Birth Briefs that we have on file and may not have reached yours.

Perhaps the Birth Brief you submitted is in a non-standard format, in which case we are leaving it until all the straightforward Birth Briefs are entered. Some Birth Briefs are descent charts and another is a couple of pages copied from a book.

Can I include questions on my ancestors?

Some Birth Briefs arrive with questions such as 'I don't know what happened to my great grandfather, can you help?' The BFHS volunteers and office holders cannot undertake research on your behalf. The magazine and the website list the searches that you can request, and how you can contact researchers.

Computing Activities by Eddie Spackman

Workshops and Seminars. We are having a break in the programme for the summer but will be re-starting in September. Details will be advertised in the September issue of this journal or can be read on our website at <www.berksfhs.org.uk/compgroup/>. Please let Gillian Stevens know of specific topics you would like covered; she can be contacted on 0118 947 8743 or at <workshops@berksfhs.org.uk>.

Questions on any aspect of computing for family historians can be raised on Tuesday evenings 19.00-21.30 or on the 2nd Sunday of each month 14.00-16.00 at the Research Centre when 'experts' will be on duty to answer them.

1901 Census Search and Report. This is a reminder that we can produce reports from the 1901 on-line index for specific surnames in which individuals are grouped into households. For rare surnames the cost is £5 for one surname which can cover all of England and Wales. For more common surnames returns may only be supplied for two small counties or one large county. Full details were published at page 169 of the March journal. If you have any enquiries about this service please contact <1901census@berksfhs.org.uk> or write to me at the Research Centre.

Letters to the Editor

Marian Lanham, 89 Trefoil Crescent, Crawley, Sussex

Broadmoor Hospital

I was very interested to read the article on Broadmoor Hospital written by John Heritage in the June 2002 issue of *Berkshire Family Historian*. My husband's great great grandfather, George Lanham, was sent to Broadmoor in 1875 from Cambridge, after he attempted to poison himself and four children in 1874. One boy, also named George died but the other boys survived. I found the details of the case after 18 months of research. I had the parents' names — George Lanham and Lucy Oliver — who were married at Cambridge in 1869. I also had the births of the boys but very little else. A census search of the 1881 index enabled me to locate three of the boys in the workhouse at Cambridge and I searched for their parents' death, assuming that would give me the answer. It was the receipt of the death certificate for George Lanham aged three which stated that he was 'killed by his father' that enabled me to track down his father. He was sent to Broadmoor, having been found criminally insane in 1875. I contacted Broadmoor in August 1998 to ask for further information but all they would do was to confirm that George Lanham was a prisoner and died in 1881 at the hospital. I wrote to them again, to ask whether they had a photograph of George, having seen that Cambridge Gaol photographed their prisoners. I wrote again asking about a photograph but once again I had the same refusal to help.

Feeling disappointed I decided to press the issue and wrote to the Home Secretary at the time asking to see the records but received no response. I then wrote to my MP quoting 'freedom of information' which was banded around at the time, and to my delight received a letter back from the Health Department, via my MP, which gave me permission to view the records. I wasted no time in contacting Broadmoor but they said they would provide copies of the information only — and guess what, on a proper search of the file, they found a photograph. I have since been to Broadmoor to see where George was buried. Trevor the chaplain showed both my husband and me the burial ground and with the aid of a plot plan, we were able to roughly ascertain the spot. I would be more than pleased to see a museum for Broadmoor in the area, such as the one for Dartmoor prison. I understand that

the archived documents may be in the Public Record Office soon. I am not sure how I feel about 'sharing' George's documents, but I guess that is the price of freedom and I can live with that.

Just for the record, George was a deeply religious man and said he was taking his children out of a world of sin and to a better place.

Michael Robbins, 21 Shaftesbury House, Craigwell Avenue, Aylesbury, Buckinghamshire HP21 7AR

Black Britons

I was surprised to read the complaint from Mrs. Harvey in the last issue of the *Berkshire Family Historian* regarding the so-called 'political article' about 'Black Britons' published in the December issue. I would like to make two observations. Firstly, the journal is not limited to pure genealogy — hence its title — family history does not exist in isolation. Secondly, as the article pointed out, the history of working men and women, as well as Black Britons, is also often hidden. If nobody writes about them they will remain so. I hope the journal editor will continue to be unblinkered in the choice of articles to be included in future.

Valerie Batt-Rawden, BA Hons, 64 Red Rose, Binfield, Berkshire RG42 5LD

I for one took exception to the tone of the letter concerning black Britons from Mrs. Harvey in the last edition of the journal. As a result of the slave trade there were many black servants in England during the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries. While in Britain they were free, if they returned to America they would have immediately lost their 'free' status. Many high ranking families employed a black servant as a status symbol, Queen Victoria herself did although hers were mainly from India.

There are many portraits showing black servants and even include women known to be beloved mistresses of the man who could not marry her for reasons of social status. It would have been surprising if they, finding themselves free and possibly alone in a white household, did not cohabit and even marry with their counterparts. This must have been the case when quite recently an apparently white couple produced twins, one white and one

black. This subject seems very relevant to genealogy. Until research is carried out we can none of us be sure that our ancestry does not include any of the black Britons.

It is only recently that black genealogy as well as illegitimacy has not been considered shameful. I think Mrs. Harvey should think again.

Joy Conroy, 10 Murray Street, Ettalong NSW 2257, Australia

A distant shore

What a pleasure it was to read the article on Australian migration in the June 2002 issue of the *Berkshire Family Historian* as I found a reference to my great great grandfather Thomas Boulton.

The author, Martyn Killion, mentioned that Thomas Boulton had sponsored a William Boulton who may have been a brother or other relative. Thomas Boulton was born at Binfield in 1811, one of eight children of Abraham Boulton who was born in 1773 at Binfield and his wife Charolette Stocker who was born at Willesden, London in 1775. Thomas married Eliza Finbow in Warfield in 1839 and had twelve children, ten born in Binfield, and a further two born when they settled in the Dapto area of New South Wales. They lost their year old daughter Eliza on the passage to their new home. Thomas and Eliza and children Rosehannah, Abraham, William, Mary Ann, Joseph, James, Thomas, Sarah, Henry and Eliza departed England on the 19 October 1856. The voyage took 95 days and they landed at Sydney Cove on the 22 January 1857. They were bounty immigrants, the total cost of the bounty being £13.4s.9d per person. Thomas's occupation was given as stonemason and labourer, his daughters Rosehannah and Mary Ann were house servants, and sons Abraham and William were labourers.

Capt. Geoff Davis, 9 Admiral House, Manor Road, Teddington, Middlesex TW11 8BF

Farm service

Once again the magazine arrived at a most appropriate time to lift my spirits. In particular I found the article on 'Farm service' to be

very interesting as the Davis family that I have been researching originally lived in the villages of Ashampstead and Boxford. Clearly they were all farm workers and must have been involved in the type of employment described in the article. The families were in nearly all cases large, around eight or more children, and almost certainly needed for the older children to have become employed as soon as possible to reduce the number of mouths to feed at home.

Similar arrangements certainly operated in the cities in the second half of the nineteenth century when the children of my great grandfather went into service of one form or another as soon as they could. My great great grandfather was the first of the family to move from Boxford in the 1830s or 1840s to Birmingham, followed by his next brother, the remainder of that generation, eight children, apparently continuing in Berkshire.

My grandfather, who was the eldest child, was employed as a junior gardener and that was where he met his wife who was employed in a similar domestic role. The 1901 census shows his

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Rough music, or morality in the community

Neila Warner

In 1626 an English farmer, Robert Moxam, wrote that 'William Merrydeth, servant unto William Hollowaie of Marden, and John Broadbanke, servant unto one William Lavington...with many others in a disorderly manner came through town of Marden with guns, drums, coalrakes, ovenlugs and staves, setting upon a horseback two young fellows, one of them arrayed and clothed in woman's apparel; and . . . when they came over against this informer's door they there made stand ... beating up the drums and shooting off their guns there in a scoffing and disorderly manner.'¹ This was an early example of 'rough riding' or 'rough music' that Moxam describes as a type of shaming ritual. These rituals were often related to wife battering and cuckoldry. Those who took part saw themselves as preserving what they believed to be essential in maintaining communal morality.

Rough music was at times elaborate. E P Thompson writes in his seminal study that the ritual 'might include the riding of the victim (or proxy) upon a pole or a donkey; masking and dancing ... mime or street drama upon a car or platform; the miming of a ritual hunt; or (frequently) the parading and burning of effigies; or, indeed, various combinations of all these.'² Neila Warner at the Berkshire Record Office found some case-papers describing the practice as applied in Berkshire and how local residents reacted to a case of suspected wife beating.

'...a custom almost universally prevails in villages and rural districts whenever a quarrel takes place between a man and his wife and the husband resorts to violence against his wife for the labourers and other idle inhabitants of the parish & neighbourhood to assemble together equipped with flags, horns, bells, pieces of iron & all kinds of sonorous instruments with which they resort towards the evening to the house where the unfortunate couple reside and create all the noise and disturbance in their power much to the chagrin of the unhappy husband and

greatly to the annoyance of the quiet & orderly inhabitants of the village & neighbourhood where these scenes took place.’³

William Goble of Bearwood was subjected to this treatment in 1839. On Saturday 17 August William had a quarrel with his wife at the end of which he is said to have struck her two or three times with a thin stick. He was apparently angry because for several nights she had persisted in going to the house of a neighbour where she stayed until two in the morning. On Monday 19 August he went to Sonning for the day and returned at seven in the evening to find his wife very unwell, with a Doctor Wheeler in attendance. Soon afterwards a group of 18 men and boys gathered outside the house to make ‘rough music’ for half-an-hour.

On five further evenings in August the gatherings increased, until a mob of 40 took part. The result was an acrimonious exchange between Mr. Goble and the ‘musicians’. One, Richard Chap, reminded him, ‘this is always the rule where a man beats his wife’. William Goble denied the charge. The doctor who attended his wife testified that in his opinion ‘the indisposition of the wife did not arise in any way from the ill-treatment of her husband.’

The mob were not satisfied and carried on with the ‘music’. Eventually Robert Howard, a gardener working for a local landowner, John Walter, who lived close to the Goble residence, arrived with two companions to complain about the disturbance and to ask the mob to desist. When his plea failed, he and his associates seized some of the ‘musicians’ by their collars in an effort to disperse them by force, although apparently no actual blows were struck on either side. The struggle continued for half an hour, after which the mob left.

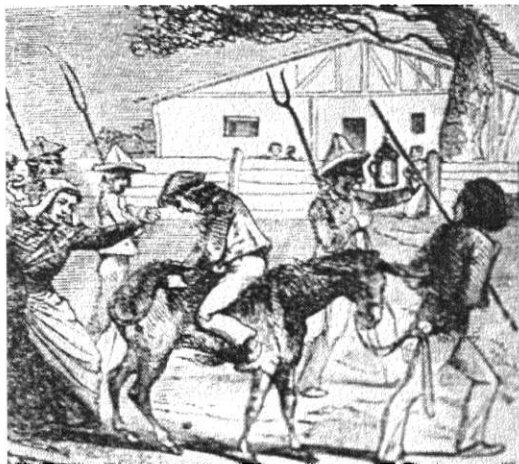
On Monday 2 September, there were again 40 people outside Goble’s house and Robert Howard sent for the Constable, George Blake, to disperse them. A half-hearted attempt to carry on the persecution was made by a few people the next day, but there was little disturbance and they soon moved away.

The strength of feeling in the community is further demonstrated in an anonymous letter to one of John Walter’s men which stated, ‘if I was your wife you should not have a bit of sugar in your tea. I would put a turd in to see if that would sweeten it’.

The gentry are generally thought to have turned a blind eye to ‘rough music’, and in this particular case there is a suggestion that another landowner, Mr. Simonds, may actually have been behind it, since he apparently found William Goble obnoxious and wished

to drive him from the neighbourhood. There were certainly several of his labourers among the ringleaders.

The authorities in Wokingham deliberated over a prosecution of the ringleaders for nuisance and riot, but eventually decided that there was not enough evidence to present a case with any fair expectation of obtaining a conviction as no act of violence was intended or committed. They also feared that the case might come to be regarded as one between John Walter, the owner of the Bearfield estate (and also owner of *The Times*) and Mr. Simonds.



A typical example of 'rough riding' with the husband riding with his back to the donkey's head and being railed by men and women

Another case took place at Billericay, Essex, a year before the one in Berkshire; this time it reached the petty sessions and apparently 'afforded considerable amusement' to the community. Francis Hole, 'a sporting gentleman of small fortune' is said to have made himself 'obnoxious to most of the inhabitants in the parish and neighbourhood'. A group of local men and women seemed to have hatched a 'rough music' session in the local public house, the Shepherd and Dog. They paraded outside Hole's residence in the morning and according to one witness 'mingled soft sounds of clarinets with the rough tones of saucepan lids and tins with stones in them'. The 'rough music' was played with the clear intention 'of forcing the complainant out of the village'. A local farmer gave evidence for the defendants so it was apparent that there was considerable support for their campaign to oust this unpopular resident.

According to witnesses they were determined to evict him with a 'little bit of music and indulge in village jollity'. It was clearly a day of general rejoicing in the village, but the defendants were found guilty and fined a shilling each and costs. However, a considerable fund was raised locally and their fines were paid immediately.⁴

As we have seen 'rough music' was not a specifically Berkshire pursuit. Thompson writes that it is a generic term for a wide variety of popular rituals in which an embarrassing punishment is meted out in public to individuals who have offended the community. He states that the term was coined in the late seventeenth century and is the equivalent of the French 'charivari', Italian 'scampanate' and German 'haberfeld-treiben, thierjagen, or 'katzenmusik'. In parts of Britain it was also called skimmitry-ride.

In his novel *The Mayor of Casterbridge*, Thomas Hardy describes a skimmitry-ride where effigies of the two victims of an unfortunate liaison were mounted on a donkey and accompanied by the 'musicians'. The lady became so distraught that she died.

References and further reading

1 Ingram, Martin. 'Ridings, Rough Music and Mocking Rhymes in Early Modern England' in Barry Reay, ed. *Popular Culture in Seventeenth-Century England*, 1985

2 Thompson, E P. 'Le Charivari anglais', *Annales (économies, sociétés, civilisations)*, 27^e année (1972). *Customs in Common*. Chapter 8 'Rough Music', pp 497-531. (1983)

3 BRO D/EWL/L3

4 *The Times* quoting the *Chelmsford Chronicle*, 29 October 1838, 6e

The early days of the Reading Watch

John Bowley

Having met with some success indexing the records of the Reading Borough Police 1865-1900, as described in the March 2002 edition of the *Berkshire Family Historian*, I set out to investigate the early days of the Watch Keeping system in the town described in the minutes of the Watch Committee between the years 1828 and 1831, and Police attendance records for 1836, again kept at the Police Training College at Sulhamstead.

In 1828 the Watch Committee consisted of 12 good men and true who met at the Upper Ship Inn and later in 1831 at the George Inn. They initially met frequently, sometimes twice a week, to set up a system of Watchmen (which probably commenced in 1826) to maintain law and order in what was at times an unruly town. The Watchmen were initially paid nine shillings a week in the summer and 11 shillings in the winter, but when the committee attempted to save money by laying off Watchmen during the summer months, several men resigned and the committee was forced to increase pay to 14 shillings in the winter and to give the men year round employment.

There were two grades of Watchmen – supernumerary and regular – with promotion from one to the other. In 1829 there were 12 regular and 19 supernumeraries. They were employed to patrol 12 beats around the town with a shift system of an early watch from 8pm to 1am and a late watch.

They were given a uniform consisting of a greatcoat and ruffle – the coat had the letters RW (possibly meaning Reading Watch) painted on it together with a number to identify each man. A list of tailors in the town who were authorised to supply the coats is included in the minutes, and there is some discussion as to the quality of the garments that they provided. The Watchmen were also equipped with a lantern and staff and the Superintendent was required to provide himself with two pairs of handcuffs and a rattle strap. The Watchmen were also instructed to call the hour and the state of the weather every ten paces whilst patrolling their beat.



It was a requirement for employment that each man could identify Reading as his place of settlement. For the month of November 1829 there is a complete listing of all the men employed, identified by first name, surname and parish of settlement (St Mary, St Giles or St Lawrence). The Watch Committee also dealt with any disciplinary matters that were required and interestingly enough they were also instrumental in pressing for improvements to the street lighting system – this was, of course, gas lighting. As today there never seemed to be enough money available to make improvements.

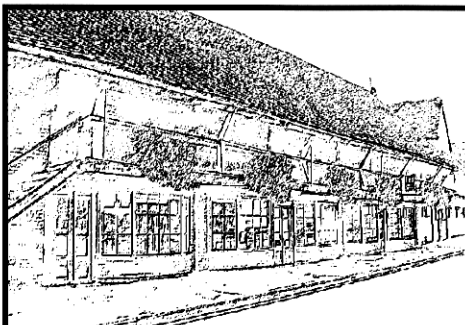
Moving on to the Watch Committee record for 1836/7, this consists of a one-year record (May 1836 to April 1837) of the daily attendance of policemen (this term is used specifically), their identification number (up to 22), the beat they were assigned to and any remarks. The records, therefore, identify the transition from a system of Watchmen to one based on a proper system of

policing. Thirty-one regular policemen were employed and once again they were backed up by a system of supernumeraries. The men employed are identified by first name and surname; they were supervised by an Inspector and a Sergeant. A list of men who were discharged or who resigned is also included.

Putting these two records together we can identify at least 70 men who served in the Reading Watch System and Police at a time when the service was in its infancy. The names of the Watch Committee are also listed. This makes the records of interest to family historians.

All the information gathered will be added to the Berkshire Name Index held at Yeomanry House for the benefit of members.

Members interested in the early records of the Berkshire Police Force (as opposed to the Reading Borough Police) may like to know that they can be found in the Berkshire Record Office; they commence in 1856 and were indexed by Margaret Foreman in 1997.



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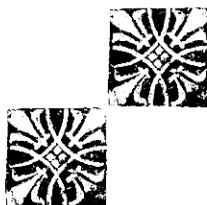
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Where were you on D-Day 1944?

Barbara Dove

Some events have such an impact on our personal lives that we remember them not only for themselves, but also where we were at the time and what we were doing. Who can forget the day and time we heard about the tragic death of Diana, Princess of Wales in Paris, or the assassination of President John F. Kennedy outside the Bookstore in Dallas. More recently we felt the enormity of the crash of the twin towers in New York, the result of international terrorism, as we watched it unfold on television. These pivotal points in history leave us with vivid memories. As family historians we can, with the help of original records and photographs, build a picture of events in the past, but rarely can we be so precise as to say what happened at 21.27 hours on 6 June 1944, or 23.00 hours on 30 July 1944. Barbara Dove, with the help of RAF records and the memories of her father, can say with certainty what happened and where he was at that time.

My father, Ernest Albert Sumner, was in the RAF on 6 June 1944, as a wireless operator/airgunner. Other than the memories that he has about that particular date, what records are there today, and how much do his memories coincide with the records? He served at Tarrant Rushton in Dorset, between March and November 1944. He was one of the first air crew to become part of the newly formed 644 squadron based at Tarrant Rushton, a small village between Blandford Forum and Wimborne in Dorset.

The celebrations for the 50th anniversary of D-Day on 6 June 1994 prompted my father to seek out his flying log book to show where he was on that day, and share his memories with us, his family, something he had rarely done in the past. There were also some other dates that he remembered during that year, particularly Arnhem, of which he had vivid memories. I was to discover that the 298 and 644 squadrons were the first to take gliders into France, my father was not one of the first but as his log book reveals he did fly twice out to France; on D-Day.

Having seen the log book I was tempted to find out what was in the RAF documents at the Public Record Office. There are several different classes that cover these records, but the first I examined were the squadrons' records (AIR27). I was very excited when I saw my father's name on the page in front of me, with the names and service numbers of all the men transferred from 298 to the newly formed 644 squadron in March 1944.¹

REMARKS (including results of bombing, gunnery, exercises, etc.)		Flying Times	
		Day	Night
644 SQDN		Time carried forward - 346:10 134:05	
AIR TO AIR FIRING (P.C.O.) OPENING OF SECOND NIGHT OPERATION "TONGA" 1. HORSAS + 9. CONTAINERS	1:25		3:35
OPERATION "MALLARD" 1. HAMILCAR ⁽¹⁰⁰⁵⁾ AIR TEST	3:30		:35
HORSAS AIR TESTING (2 LIFTS)	:50		
FORMATION FLYING (4 VOLS. OF THREE)	1:10		
"GEE" FIXES + HOMINGS.	1:00		
HORSAS AIR-TESTING (3. LIFTS)	1:00		
S.B.A. TESTS	1:00		
TOTALS FOR MONTH		10:30	3:35
AIRCRAFT TYPES	1. HALIFAXE	9:30	3:35
	2. OXFORD	1:00	
	3. ✓		
	4. ✓		
<i>Barclay Robert</i> <i>W. M. Humphrey</i>			
			<i>W. M. Humphrey</i> Air S/LDR Flight Commander

Log Book of Ernest Albert Sumner on D-Day

The records reveal that with the rest of the crew on 5/6 June 1944 'take off 01.25 and landing 05.00', this was his first lift (Operation 'Tonga').² The Glider Raid Reports for that day give the following information: towing glider 104 (Horsa), names of the two pilots in

the glider, five troops, equipment: a Jeep and six pound gun. Later in the records was another Glider Raid Report, the second lift for my father (Operation 'Mallard'): 'lift off 19.42 and landing back at base 3.5 hours later, towing glider (Hamilcar), one pilot with eight troops, and one light tank'. My father remembers seeing a gun shooting at the aircraft on their return from France. On the Glider Raid Report are various ways the landing zone was recognised.

30 July 1944, 'take off 23.03 Special mission, not completed as 'GEE' (a radio navigation system) was not working, returned to base. This was taken from a Parachute Raid Report'.³

19 September 1944, Operation 'Market' 3rd lift, (Arnhem) Glider Raid Report (Horsa) Glider 128

10. Observations by crew of tug:

1. Horsa appeared to be making for ? and 'Z'.
2. Horsa seen hit in port wing 20 miles from R.V. on track. Glider crashed 14.45 hours 2500ft.
3. Horsa (broken rope) last seen circling near R.V. 1500 hours 2500ft.
4. A number of Horsas seen burning on L.Z. 'X' (perhaps 20).⁴

These reports give much detail, but for a more detailed picture other records need to be examined for these dates. One mentions distemper being used for the aircraft, especially for D-Day, this was so that they would be recognised by the allies and not shot down. As you might expect the records mention the weather in detail. In other records I found out when the summer scale for blankets was introduced (three for each individual) and when the station was sealed before and during the D-Day Operations.⁵

Prior to D-Day a number of exercises were carried out.

11 October 1943, Fledgling Exercise, eight Aircraft of 298 Squadron ordered to drop 80 paratroops (3rd Paratroop Brigade 8th Battn.) at pinpoint, two miles south of Handley at 15.00 hrs.....

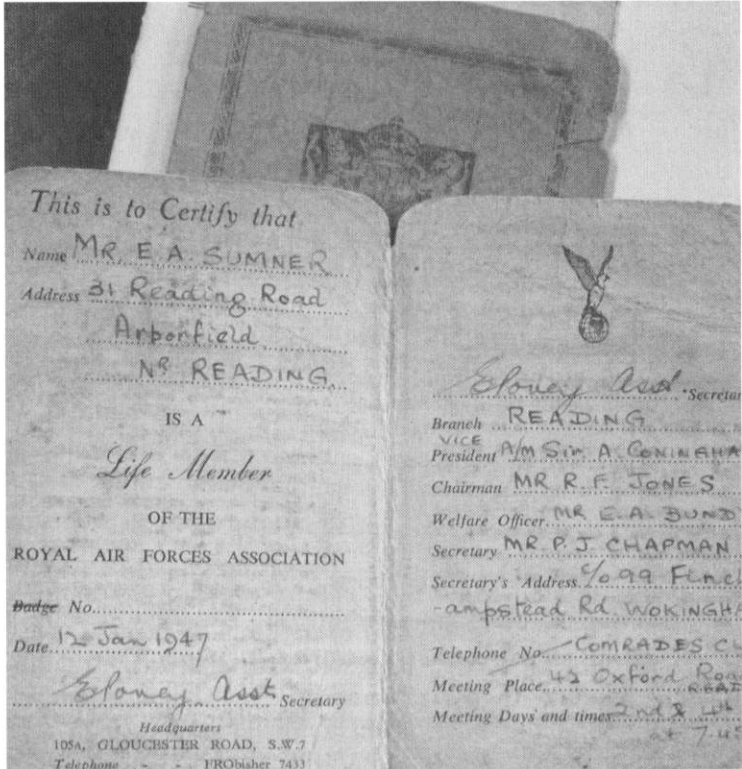
20 November 1943, notification received that this establishment of Airborne Forces Tactical Development Unit forming at this station is amended from WAR/SR/33

to LWE/SR/1033.....Part 1, Service contractors virtually finished contract for aerodrome.

27 March 1944. Crew for 644 Squadron completed. Fine but Hazy.

Without my father's log book most of this information would have been found, but it makes it much quicker and easier if you have some guide lines to follow.

On 21.27 hrs on the 6 June 1944 my father was flying in a Halifax Mkv., 600ft in the air just off the coast of France, making an SOS call, as he could see a Halifax ditching, with three men in a dinghy which was still attached to the aircraft. He was in the aircraft with Stan Woodward (pilot) K. Cleaver (navigator), L Hayes (flight engineer), E.A. Smith (bomb aimer), and A.J. Alexander (gunner).⁶



Some of Ernest Arthur Sumner's wartime papers

My aim now is to search through all the records at Kew for anything connected with the squadrons he served with and the stations he was at during his time in the RAF, from 1942 to 1946. This may be recent history to many but to me it is true family history, and if anyone has ancestors in the RAF and they were air crew, then find the squadron and visit the PRO at Kew. You may find more about your family and who they were with during the Second World War.

My parents have photocopies of the only remaining records of their service. These were compiled at the time of service and contain basic details of movements, ranks etc. as they occurred. My father served in the RAF from February 1941 until July 1946. My mother served in the WAAF from October 1941 until August 1945. This information was obtained from the RAF at Gloucester, by sending their service number and a stamped addressed envelope for a reply. I was unable to get this information as both my parents are alive. I am not sure if descendants would qualify if their parents had died. I found that the information for my father complemented some of the information in his log book, as well as adding to what we knew. It gives a physical description of the person on joining the forces, next of kin, date of marriage and to whom. It also gives promotions etc. My mother was discharged when her services were no longer required (she was pregnant carrying me). My father's records give my name and date of birth. I was born in December 1945 after the war had ended.

References:

- 1 PRO AIR/27/2159
- 2 PRO AIR/27/2159 fol 32 (form 541)
- 3 PRO AIR/27/2162 fol 168/9 Parachute raid report
- 4 PRO AIR/27/2162 fol 138/9
- 5 PRO AIR/28/818 Tarrant Rushton (Operations Record Book form 540)
- 6 PRO AIR/27/2161 fols 28 & 29 Glider Raid Report

Berkshire Name Search (formerly called Berkshire Search Suite)

The Berkshire Family History Society has published and sold transcripts and indexes as fiche and, recently, as CD ROMs. However, we are all reluctant to buy publications unless we are sure that it contains information for those individuals we are researching. Moreover such publications are not available until the transcription and checking is completed. The Berkshire Name Search is a new initiative that will enable you to search in and obtain information from various Society records, including

The Berkshire Name Search will comprise most BFHS records that we have in electronic form and will thus contain a wide range of information, from hatches, matches and dispatches to the books in the Research Centre library. Standard search criteria are surname alone or with forename, place, and year/range. Censuses can also be searched by birthplace and age. A search of the master index, the Berkshire Name Index, will show the number of entries of that name in the individual datasets. The amount of information available depends on the date and type of record (see below) and are full transcriptions of the census entries and lesser transcriptions for burial and marriage indexes. Burials and marriages derived from early parish registers have minimum information. At present all records are in transcription form and none are a 'picture' of the register or page from the census.

The reliability of the records is indicated. Records obtained from third parties have the lowest, Grade 1, those transcribed by BFHS volunteers but not checked is Grade 2 and those checked against original records, Grade 3. Unchecked records are included because most individual entries within them will be correct. We feel that, providing the limitations are known, people would rather have access to something than nothing.

The following datasets are now in the Berkshire Name Index with an indication of the information available.

- Berkshire 1851 Census (Grade 3). Complete checked transcription of the 170,000 persons within Berkshire on 30 March 1851. Printouts of either the schedule (whole household) or the page. Also available on CD ROM.
 - Berkshire 1871 Census (Grades 2 and 3). All districts transcribed and will be upgraded as they are checked. Printouts are complete transcriptions of schedule or page.
 - Berkshire 1861 Census (Grade 2). Transcription just started.
 - Berkshire Burial Index (Grade 3). Work in progress transcribing from parish registers. Includes 250,000 burials to date, see the *Berkshire Family Historian* or BFHS website for the parishes and periods covered. Print outs of name, age, parish and date with an indication if more information is in the register. This extra information is being incorporated into the entries. 210,000 burials available on CD ROM.
 - Berkshire Marriage Index (Grade 3). Work in progress transcribing from pre-1837 parish registers. See the *Berkshire Family Historian* or BFHS website for the parishes and periods covered. Early entries have only names of bride and groom, but later include if from other parishes and by licence. Witnesses not included.
 - Berkshire Miscellaneous Index (Grades 1, 2 and 3). This dataset is based on the old Berkshire Name Index and includes records that were extracted and submitted by individuals. When possible running sets (such as baptisms from parish registers) will be placed in specialist datasets leaving the disparate individual records and small datasets in this Miscellaneous Index. Information available depends on the record.
 - Berkshire Name Index Master index of above indexes to include name, date, event and place. Printouts will show number of entries in above individual datasets but not the detailed information.
 - BFHS Library Catalogue can be searched by key words.
- Records to be added in the future include parish registers, monumental inscriptions, overseers' papers, birth briefs,

Berkshire police records, Berkshire strays and political records (such as electoral rolls and poll books). Extra entries will be added to incomplete datasets. If you note the date of your searches, only later additions will be included and charged for in future searches.

For details of how to search and the charges see the Back pages of this magazine.

Search difficulties. Indexes depend on transcriptions; these cannot be 100% accurate. The writing styles and condition of older records can make transcribing difficult. At times it is a best guess and more than one possibility may be included. Variations in spelling occur. BFHS volunteers transcribe the records as they appear, we have not attempted to modernise or standardise the spellings of names or places. So Wokingham may appear as Oakingham. Searchers will have to use their initiative when specifying the names/variants to be searched. While we endeavour to be as accurate as possible, you are encouraged to refer to the original document whenever possible.

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Berkshire Marriage Index

At March 2003 there were more than 95,000 entries in the Berkshire Marriage Index produced by the Society. Since the last issue of the *Berkshire Family Historian* the following have been added. The dates in bold type show the records which have been checked against the original parish registers. The others show the entries which are in the process of being checked.

Basildon St Bartholomew	1600-1837
Beenham St Mary	1600-1837
Binfield All Saints	1699-1837 1600-1698
Brimpton St Peter	1679-1837 1607-1678
Bucklebury St Mary the Virgin	1538-1837
Cookham Holy Trinity	1662-1837 1530-1662
East Garston All Saints	1669-1837 1554-1564 1607-1668
Hungerford St Lawrence	1650-1837 1555-1649
Hurley	1563-1837
Inkpen St Michael and All Angels	1635-1753 1800-1837 1614-1635 1754-1799
Yattendon SS Peter & Paul	1559-1837

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Book Ends

Jean Debney

Berkshire Local History

Brightwalton, A Downland Village, by June Osment, Sue Sayers and Jean Stephens (JSB Publishers, 2002). A5 bound card, white on tan illustrated card cover, photographs, maps, indexed, 117 pp. Price £7.95 + p&p UK 70p, O/S £1.30, airmail £2.40.

Dating from Saxon times, this is a fascinating history of a parish that lies between Wantage and Newbury. Illustrated with many old photographs there are chapters about the parish, churches, farms, education and families, followed by a list of Rectors and a postscript by the authors.

Those were the days! recollections of Shinfield, by six local residents (Shinfield and District Local History Society, 1995, reprint 2002). A5 bright green card cover, line drawings, map, 58pp. Price £2.50 + p&p UK 50p, O/S 90p, airmail £1.70.

Dedicated to the memory and enthusiasm of Jack Spink who founded Shinfield and District Local History Society, this popular booklet contains articles compiled from the memories of six senior inhabitants tape-recorded in 1982. A sketch map shows the locations of the buildings mentioned, some of which no longer exist.

Research Aids

Reading Registration District — Marriage Notices 1837-1848 (The Eureka Partnership, 2003). A5, grey card cover, map, index, 44pp. Price £2.50 + p&p UK 50p, O/S airmail £1.30. Henley, Wallingford and Wokingham Registration Districts – Marriage Notices 1837-1856 (2003). A5, pale green card cover, maps, illustrated, 28pp; Price £2.00 + p&p 50p UK, O/S airmail £1.30. Available from The Eureka Partnership, 19a Station Rd, Stoke Mandeville, Aylesbury, Bucks HP22 5UL .

From the start of Civil Registration on 1 July 1837, any intended marriage not conducted in a parish church by banns or licence had to be notified at the local Register Office. It was then read out

at three consecutive meetings of the Poor Law Union Guardians. These are indexed transcriptions of the names, dates and any other details of the parties recorded in the Union Minutes in the Berkshire Record Office. A useful source of information.

Vale of White Horse, 1893 — Old Ordnance Survey Maps sheet 253, Alan Godfrey Maps (2002). Double-sided folded sheet of maps and essay; price £2.10 + p&p UK 30p, O/S 60p, airmail £1.20.

This is a reduced size reprint of the Ordnance Survey one-inch map of the area round Abingdon, Didcot and Wantage. On the reverse is a large scale plan of Faringdon (about 15"/mile) and an excellent historical essay of the area by Tony Higgot, formerly of Newbury Museum. Other one-inch maps in the same series available from the Berkshire Family History Society are South West Berkshire, Mid-Berkshire and South Chilterns.

Criminal Register Indexes (HO 27) 1807-1816: Vol. CDP2 - South-Central by Stuart Tamblin (Family History Indexes, 2000), CD ROM. Price £9.99 + p&p UK 50p, O/S 90p, airmail £1.70.

This volume covers the counties of Berkshire, Wiltshire and Hampshire and the searchable index contains all the identifying details found in the originals: name with age, date, court, crime, sentence/acquittal and the PRO reference. Ten other volumes cover the remaining counties of England. This is a very useful source to use in finding stray ancestors from the early nineteenth century.

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.

Incest and nepotism in Wallingford

Major Alexander Greenwood

How many times have we been in a record office or library and felt like shouting with joy when finding that missing link? Whatever the social background of our ancestors, whether they were lords of the manor or landless farm labourers, family history is often an exciting adventure. But too often having broken through that brick wall in our research we cannot wait to get to another generation instead of exploring fully the lives of our immediate ancestors. We retreat further into the past as if it was a race to get back into the eighteenth or seventeenth centuries. Yet stories of our ancestral families are crucial in our understanding of the past. Major Alexander Greenwood has researched his Greenwood family in minute detail for many years and this is his story.

My Greenwood family, originally of Haddenham in Buckinghamshire, first entered Berkshire from Easington in Oxfordshire in 1743 when my five x great grandfather, Thomas Greenwood of Easington Manor, put his second son Charles in charge of Rush Court farm at Clapcot just outside Wallingford, leased from Pembroke College, Oxford. Charles was ambitious and in 1737 he married Sarah, eldest daughter of Paul Wells of Great Milton in Oxon whose family had brewing and banking interests as well as valuable property in Wallingford. Sarah's rich dowry included land at Warpsgrove, near Easington.

When Charles' father died in June 1745, his will provided his favoured son with a handsome house in Wallingford named Stone Hall. Within the next ten years Charles leased further properties in Clapcot (including the Parsonage) and in Wallingford from Pembroke College. He also purchased estates in North and South Moreton including the Manors of Sanderville and Bray, and finally he acquired estates near Reading and at Rofford in Oxon. Without question Sarah's uncle, Alderman Edward Wells, who was mayor of Wallingford in 1745, was instrumental in assisting Charles to acquire these properties. The lands were mostly rich barley areas and produced an abundant supply of grain suitable for the malshouses owned by the Wells family.

After Charles' wife died in 1762 he purchased The Croft in Castle Street, Wallingford and there he went to live with his second wife, Martha, the eldest daughter of Alderman Thomas Bishop of Aston Tirrold, who had been mayor of Wallingford in 1760. Part of her dowry included another house in Market Place at Wallingford.

Charles died a very rich man in 1781. He bequeathed to Martha the house in Market Place and the estate at Aston Tirrold, both left to her by her father, but he forgot to bequeath her own personal belongings, and so he added a codicil to his will leaving her: 'a five guinea piece, some old silver medals and silver pieces which was her property all along and she may now keep all things in her possession'. As a sweetener he left her 110 guineas in cash and his 'new black horse and chaise recently purchased'. He left his estates to his elder son Charles II, as his younger son by his second wife, Thomas, was only 15 years old at the time; but as soon as Thomas was 21 he received the Manors of Sanderville and Bray and also The Croft. Charles' only daughter, Phillis Morrell, predeceased him so he left £1500 divided among her eight children. The eldest was Charles Morrell of Bridge House, Wallingford, who became the joint founder of Morrell's Brewery and founded Morrell's Charity to benefit the poor of Wallingford.

The eldest son Charles II married in 1765 his first cousin Ann, daughter of Alderman Edward Wells who was mayor of Wallingford in 1764. Charles became mayor himself in 1783 following the mayoralty of his brother-in-law Edward Wells, junior. Charles and Ann produced three sons and six daughters. The second daughter Mary continued the incestuous relationship with the Wells family when she married her first cousin whose son became the Conservative MP for Wallingford from 1872, as well as partner in the firm of Hedges, Wells and Co. bankers.

When Charles II died, he left two sons Charles III and Edward. Charles III became heir to all the estates, but Edward, then just 16 years old, inherited £3000 as soon as he became 21. Each daughter received £1000.

Charles III married Mary Ann, eldest daughter of Greenaway Jaques, a rich ironmonger of Wallingford whose youngest daughter married Robert Morrell of the brewery family. Charles III lived and farmed from Rush Court at Clapcot, and in 1813 purchased the leased estates from Pembroke College. He also acquired the Oakley estates at Chinnor, Oxon in 1831. He was churchwarden at St. Mary's, Wallingford, for many years until he

died aged 66 in 1835. His will was proved a month later valued at under £50,000 (over £2 million in today's money). The main beneficiary was his elder son Charles IV, a bachelor who lived at The Croft and managed estates at North Moreton which he had purchased from Henry Huck Gibbs, the first Lord Aldenham, in 1830. He also purchased Priory House between High Street and Castle Street in Wallingford with its small farm. His cousin Mary Franklin of Chippinghurst, Oxon, had inherited this property but her son let it fall into disuse. Charles IV made extensive alterations, restoring the house, while digging below the surface of one room the workmen found several skeletons, all in orthodox fashion facing east, but without coffins, probably part of the churchyard of the Priory of Holy Trinity – an early medieval monastery.

Charles IV died, quite blind, at the age of 85 in 1878. His unmarried elder sister, Mary Ann, and younger sister, Phillis, had both predeceased him. Phillis had married William Stephens, a wealthy banker in Reading, who not only became mayor of Reading in 1820, but High Sheriff of Berkshire in 1846. They both died in the same month without issue in April 1856, leaving most of their fortune to build Reading Art Gallery and house their valuable art collection for the benefit of Berkshire.

Charles IV left all his manors and estates to his grand-nephew William Reginald Lybbe Powys-Lybbe, the second son of his niece Ann Phillis, eldest daughter of his late brother Thomas. She had married 'above her station' in 1844 Philip Lybbe Powys-Lybbe, MP for Newport in the Isle of Wight, and a wealthy barrister of Hardwick House, Oxon, who claimed descent from Edward III. The grand-nephew soon moved into Rush Court, and his son Reginald moved into The Croft.

All the eight children of his brother Thomas received £6000 apiece and further legacies to his four house servants and others completed the largest fortune in the Greenwood family to date. His lands and properties exceeded £140,000 in value and his investments in the public funds totalled just under £70,000. All would be valued today at over £10 million.

Thomas (my great grandfather) was a bit of a rake. He loved the girls and loved his beer. In 1824 he was fined £300 plus costs for breach of promise brought by Elizabeth Irving of Wallingford. Later he married his first cousin Ann Elizabeth Sheen of Little Wittenham. Ann's mother was the eldest daughter of Charles

Greenwood of Rush Court. The marriage was happy and produced six sons and three daughters. The sons, with the exception of my grandfather, who was studying to be a doctor, emigrated with their small fortunes to Wisconsin in the United States where they purchased farm lands and built a house named Rush Court Farm. The eldest son Charles Sheen Greenwood (my great uncle) founded the Greenwood State Bank in 1883 which still exists in America today.

My uncle, the Rev. Dr. F.W.T. Greenwood, donated a stained glass window at St. Mary's Church, Wallingford, in 1935, dedicated to the Greenwood and Sheen families and he is now buried in the family vault at All Hallows, Wallingford.

I emigrated to British Columbia in Canada to join my three sisters in 1980. I am now 82, but my granddaughter, Leonie Greenwood is currently a student at the University of Reading, so my family continues its association with the Royal county in England.

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Parish records of St. Mary's Church, Wallingford.

Wallingford Sessions Book for 1793-1836.

The Return of Landowners, 1783.

The Wallingford Advertiser, 13 Sep. 1878.

Major Alexander Greenwood would like to hear from anybody with connections to his family. His address is 1419 Madrona Drive, Nanoose Bay, BC V9P 9C9 Canada

'A horse! a horse! my Kingdom for a horse!'

Daphne Spurling

Dr. Neville Spriggs, grandfather of Daphne Spurling, the Society's Project Co-ordinator, was a Leicester police surgeon for 25 years. He was visited in 1924 by a young Australian cousin, Percy Spriggs. Recently Percy's son, Christopher, sent Daphne an account written by his father. Although it reads as if written at the time, it was part of a diary written in the mid-1970s. Percy often talked about the incident, so perhaps one of

'A horse! a horse! my Kingdom for a horse!. The words that Shakespeare put into the mouth of a mortally wounded King Richard came rushing to my mind as I stood at the top of an old Roman wall in the City of Leicester in England. The year was 1924 and I was just a young man from Australia touring the world, stopping over for a few days with a relative.

Dr Neville Spriggs, a keen historian and President of the Archaeological Society, was telling me something of the fascinating history of the city. He had shown me the 'supposed' burial place of Richard III and on my enquiry, I was told that on the death of the King, the story was, that his body was thrown into the river from the old stone bridge. I could see below me that bridge spanning the river and way beyond lay Bosworth Field. History was unfolding before my eyes and I dropped off to sleep that night with a picture in my mind, of the Lancastrian about to overwhelm the king's forces through the sudden treachery of the two Stanleys and their followers deserting to the forces of Richmond (later Henry VII) and of Richard's crown being picked up on the battlefield and at once placed on the head of Richmond who was saluted king by the whole army.

I thought of the dreadful dilemma of those loyal soldiers retreating with the now dead king – of the urgency of preventing the royal body being captured by the enemy. I thought too, of the two young princes murdered in the Tower by Richard.

It is now breakfast time the following morning. My cousin was called to the 'phone and in his capacity as doctor and police surgeon, was informed that a human skeleton had been recovered from the thick black mud at the site of excavations for the foundations of a steel bridge under construction just a little down stream from the old stone one and it was suggested that the bones could be those of Richard III. All thoughts of bacon and eggs were dropped when Neville asked if I would care to go with him to inspect the bones. Would I go? Indeed I was already ahead of him, visualising the newspaper headlines and maybe hearing the news on a crystal set. In fact, the occasion was so momentous that I was thinking of the fantastic tales that I would have to tell my, as yet unborn, children – perhaps even my children's children. Yes, I MUST have grandchildren to be worthy of such a story as this.

A short run in the old Morris and we were walking towards a group of people looking down at something on the pebbly edge of the river. A constable cleared a passage for the doctor and me and then – moment of moments – we too were looking at an almost complete skeleton neatly arranged on the ground.

I remember thinking that this occasion was more exciting than the Pyramids; the Coliseum; an audience with Pope Pius XI (for which I had become an American Catholic for a couple of hours); the terrible fire at sea on the 'Hobsons Bay'; and crash of an old Imperial Airways plane which somehow carried me from Le Bourget to Croydon – all these episodes, if rolled into one would not equal this fantastic moment.

My cousin now examined the bones – particularly the almost complete vertebrae and with what seemed to me a cursory inspection lasting perhaps one minute, rose up and pronounced in no uncertain manner, that the bones could be those of a man of that period, but were larger than one of King Richard's stature. He then added that this skeleton was not that of the king.

The doctor instructed the constable to take charge of the remains and then strode off to the car with the remark 'Come Perce, and we'll see if they've kept our bacon and eggs warm.'

This was terrible! I was indignant that my cousin had seemingly dismissed the matter with such little concern. 'How the devil could you say so positively and without a very thorough examination, that these bones were definitely not those of King Richard?' Fortunately for me, I was only thinking that remark, as

the doctor was rapidly striding his way towards the car, so I saved the question until we were seated and about to move off. Neville now fixed me with a wicked twinkle in his eyes . . . ‘Don't they teach you anything of English History in your Australian schools?’ Then came the moment of truth . Richard was a hunchback, which explained my cousin's close examination of each vertebra.

So now I tell this story to my grandchildren and they invariably say ‘Oh Grandpa, how very disappointed you must have been’ – this perhaps is the understatement of the year.’

As you can tell, Percy enjoyed telling the story and Chris adds details from hearing the account several times. Percy travelled to England in a cargo boat with a handful of passengers. The cargo was apples, wool and an animal fat in barrels. The smell of the burning apples was not so bad but it really stank when the wool and fat burnt. Percy showed Chris a photo of the deck buckled from the heat. Then Percy met an American priest on the train to Rome who convinced Percy that it was OK to pretend to be a catholic on that occasion in order not to miss the chance of a Papal Blessing. Luckily Percy kept the rosary beads that he had presented to be blessed as he needed them for the next close shave. The index to *The Times* of 1924 lists a surprising number of aeroplane accidents. Two could fit the story, given a little poetic licence. A cargo plane belonging to Air Union caught fire on landing at Croydon on 22 January. The two passengers escaped and helped save their personal belongings. The fire was described as more spectacular than serious. Another possibility is on 27 July when the Chief Engineer was inspecting an Imperial Airways plane as it was about to leave for Paris. He noticed a tire (sic) was deflated, stepped forward for a better view and walked into one of the propellers. The propeller split and he died in hospital.

But what about the bones? There is no reference to this story at the Leicester Library, the Record Office or on the Richard III websites I visited. The *Leicester Mercury* is not indexed and without knowing the date or month it would be a long job to read all through 1924 to seek the story of the bones beneath Bow Bridge. It was possibly not reported as my grandfather had immediately dismissed the possibility of the bones being Richard's. A 1986 summary of the evidence suggests the following scenario. Henry proved Richard's death by having his body exposed to the populace and the body was then buried by the Grey Friars in their abbey. The popular legend, that Richard's body was

rudely removed from its coffin, carried jeeringly through the streets of the city, and finally cast into the river or roughly buried under the end of Bow Bridge, is not contemporary but first recorded 70 years after his death. So it is probably not true. There is evidence that Henry had a tomb constructed and erected over Richard's grave about 1495, but it was lost in the dissolution. Christopher Wren's father reported having been shown in the priory grounds, then a private house, a handsome three-foot high stone pillar on which was inscribed 'Here lies the Body of Richard III, some Time King of England'. After that there are no references to the body or grave. It is widely believed that the coffin survived as a drinking trough for cattle and horses at various inns and in an increasing state of disrepair. Those stories finished around 1750. But this still begs the question of what happened to the body. The original site of Greyfriars has been lost under redevelopment. Various skeletons have been found in the right area, including one in 1935 during the excavation of a carpark, but nothing as yet been proved.

It seems that my grandfather was right in dismissing the bones as Richard's, but possibly for the wrong reason. Recent research seems to discount the hunchback theory, so I wonder what became of those bones. Wouldn't it be just too terrible if they were those of the unfortunate king? Poor Richard: he was only 33 years of age when killed at Bosworth Field in 1485. He is one of the very few English monarchs without a known grave and the last to die on a battlefield.

Neville and Percy in 1924 may not have known about one final twist to the story. A family tree possibly researched in the 1930s takes us back to an ancestor Samuel Sprydge or Sprigge who was made 'an esquire of the Body' on Bosworth Field on 21 August 1485. As this was the day before the battle, which side he was on? Percy's grand daughter recently tried to verify this story but was advised that as the references to Household Awards were not 'calendared', a search would be long and painstaking with no guarantee of success.

References:

- 1 *The Times* 23 January, page 9 col. 5
- 2 *The Times* 28 July page 9 col. 1
- 3 'King Richard's Grave in Leicester' by David Baldwin in *Transactions of the Leicestershire Archaeological and Historical Society*, Vol LX, 1986
4. *The Times* 6 September 1935. As there was no follow-up story presumably

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4976	ADAMS	Great Shefford	BRK	1500-1615	5167	COPAS	Thatcham	BRK	Any
5240	ADAMS	Lambeth	SRY	1850-1900	4527	CORDERY	Isleworth	MDX	1750-1829
4527	ADAMS	East Lockinge	BRK	1600-1759	5187	COULDREY	Dry Sandford	BRK	Any
5243	ALDRIDGE	Shurlock Row	BRK	All	5163	COX	Westbury	WIL	1770-1900
4527	ALDWORTH	Wantage	BRK	1600-1702	5128	CUSDEN	All	BRK	1700-2000
4976	ARNOLD	Great Shefford	BRK	1500-1642	1785	CUSDEN	Shinfield	BRK	1550-1700
4976	ARUNDEL(L)	Great Shefford	BRK	1500-1642	1785	CUSDEN	Any	HAM	1500-1700
5167	BAILEY	Bishops Cannings	WIL	pre 1807	5015	DARLING	Reading	BRK	1830-1860
5191	BALDWIN	Cookham Dean	BRK	Any	5015	DARLING	London	LND	1780-1960
5052	BALDWIN	Liverpool	STS	1820-1930	5015	DARLING	Bristol	GLS	1860-1960
5191	BALDWIN	Cookham	BRK	Any	5110	DAVIS	Ashampstead	BRK	1740-1850
3078	BANISTER	Finchampstead	BRK	1700-1850	5110	DAVIS	Boxford	BRK	1810-1900
4527	BARTHOLOMEW	Spitalfields	MDX	1800-1819	5110	DAVIS	Harborne	STS	1840-1920
5191	BENFIELD	Cookham Dean	BRK	Any	5252	DAWSON	Didcot	BRK	All
5254	BISHOP	Reading	BRK	1890-1920	5252	DAWSON	Wantage	BRK	All
4328	BLAKE	Any	BRK	1800-	1785	DENIORD	Bristol	AVN	1750-1900
4976	BO(W)SHER(E)	Lambourn	BRK	1500-1834	1785	DENORE	Exeter	DEV	1850-1930
5167	BRADLEY	Cookham	BRK	pre 1671	5256	DIXON	Wantage	BRK	1700-1900
5252	BRIDGES	Wantage	BRK	All	4527	DOE	Upton	BRK	1600-1727
4527	BRYANT	Cuddesdon	OXF	1600-1822	5167	DORAN	Muckalee	KIK	1800-1900
5128	BULL	All	GLS	1700-1900	5167	DOWLING	Muckalee	KIK	1800-1900
5052	BURKE	All	IRL	1800-1860	4527	DOWLING	Hammersmith	MDX	1800-1844
5214	BURTON	Any	BRK	1800-1900	5167	DRUCE	Thatcham	BRK	pre 1803
4950	BUTCHER	All	LND	1800-1900	4976	ELLIOT	Sparsholt	BRK	1500-1789
1785	BYRNE	Halfax N S	CAN	1800-1900	4674	ELLIOTT	Lambourne	BRK	1700-2000
4527	CALLAWAY	Richmond	SRY	1750-1804	4674	ELLIOTT	Swindon	WIL	1850-2003
5163	CAPEL	London	MDX	1850-1920	4976	FARMER	Lambourn	BRK	1500-1662
4976	CARTER	Childrey	BRK	1500-1781	3085	FINCH	Gloucester	GLS	1910-
4674	CARTER	Lambourne	BRK	1790-1900	3085	FINCH	Creech St Michael	SOM	1845-1920
5128	COOKE	Hereford	HWR	1700-2000	3085	FINCH	Hittisleigh	DEV	1800-1870
5167	COPAS	North West	LON	1849-2000	3085	FINCH	South Tawton	DEV	1700-1810
5167	COPAS	Camberwell	SRY	1867-2000	5256	FLETCHER	Oxford	OXF	1700-1900
5167	COPAS	Cookham	BRK	pre 1668	4674	FOX	Swindon	WIL	19c

No	Name	Place	Code	Dates	No	Name	Place	Code	Dates
4950	FRANKLIN	All	LND	1840-	5157	HUGGINS	Earley	BRK	1800-1935
4950	FRANKLIN	All	ESS	1740-1840	5157	HUGGINS	Earley	BRK	1800-1875
4976	FROGLEY	Hanney/Denchworth	BRK	1500-1626	5252	HUNT	Wantage	BRK	All
4976	FROGLIE	Hanney/Denchworth	BRK	1500-1626	5163	JAUQUES	Speen	BRK	1750-1900
5163	FULLICKS	Remenham	BRK	1750-1850	4420	KEY	New Zealand	NZ	1875-1896
5052	GASKELL	Liverpool	STS	1820-1930	4420	KEY	Leyton	ESS	1881-1921
3078	GEALE	Yateley	HAM	1750-1850	4420	KEY	Kings Cross	MDX	1800-1910
5163	GIBSON	Cookham	BRK	1700-1875	4328	KING	Any	BRK	1800-
5128	GILES	All	HAM	1700-2000	4674	KINGDON	South Molton	DEV	19c
447	GINGELL	Bremhill	WIL	1800-1910	1785	LAWRENCE	Swallowfield	BRK	1650-1800
5157	GODDARD	Shinfield	BRK	1836-1910	4950	LAWRENCE	All	BRK	1750-1850
5157	GODDARD Charles	Shinfield	BRK	1870-1945	3691	LEDBURY	Wokingham Area	BRK	1880-1935
4674	GODSELL	Chippenhams	WIL	1700-1900	1785	LEWINGTON	Preston Candover	HAM	1700-1830
4674	GODSELL	Swindon	WIL	1850-2003	5214	LISSAMORE	Any	BRK	1800-1900
4674	GOUGH	Bushiton	WIL	1700-1950	4976	LOVELOCK	Sparsholt	BRK	1500-1744
5167	GRIMES	Carrick Fergus	ANT	pre 1850	5167	MAGEE	Carrick Fergus	ANT	1800-1900
5181	GRISTWOOD	Windsor	BRK	1750-1850	3085	MANFIELD	Hemyock	DEV	1700-1880
5240	HADLEY	Any	WOR	pre 1874	4674	MANNERS	Warminster	WIL	19c
5128	HALLING	All	GLS	1600-2000	4527	MARTIN	Acton	MDX	1840-1920
5181	HARDING	Chalfont St Giles	BKM	1750-1850	4527	MARTIN	Wantage	BRK	1600-1756
5240	HARMAN	Lambeth	SRY	1850-1950	4527	MARTIN	East Lockinge	BRK	1600-1672
5240	HARMAN	St Lawrence Reading	BRK	1700-1800	5128	MASON	Hereford	HWR	1700-2000
5240	HARRIS	Sutton	SRY	1850-1910	5256	MASON	Barnack	NTH	1750-1850
5187	HARRIS	Abingdon	BRK	Any	5015	MCDONALD	Reading	BRK	1830-1860
4420	HAWKINS	Stockport	CHS	1881-1914	5052	McKEEVER	All	IRL	1800-1860
4420	HAWKINS	Bournemouth	HAM	1881-1914	5167	MITCHELL	Cookham	BRK	pre 1736
4420	HAWKINS	Plymouth	DEV	1881-1914	5052	NEALE	Liverpool	STS	1820-1930
4674	HAYDEN	Reading	BRK	1850-1950	5214	NEW	Any	BRK	1800-1900
3085	HAYES	Mount Vernon NY	USA	1895-1920	3085	NEWMAN	Cavendish	SFK	1750-1900
3085	HAYES	Gloucester City	GLS	1800-1987	3085	NEWMAN	Bermondsey	SRY	1881
3085	HAYES	Cheltenham	GLS	1820-1910	3085	NEWMAN	Limehouse	LND	1890-1905
3085	HAYES	New York City	USA	1865-1915	3085	OSBORN	Mile End Old Town	LND	1881
3085	HAYES	Cardiff	GLA	1855-1920					

No	Name	Place	Code	Dates
3085	OSBORN	Limehouse	LND	1901
3085	OSBORN	Poplar	LND	1910-1930
3085	OSBORN	Canning Town	ESS	1850s
3085	PERRY	Hinton Waldrist	BRK	1807-1870
3085	PERRY	Lambeth	SRY	1880-1895
4328	PHILLIPS	Cornwood	DEV	1800-
5214	PHIPPS	Any	BRK	Any
5214	PHIPPS	Any	OXF	Any
5167	PICKFORD	Blackfriars	SRY	pre 1841
4328	POCOCK	Any	BRK	1800-
4976	POTTENGER	Lambourn	BRK	1500-1776
4976	POTTENGER	Lambourn	BRK	1500-1776
1785	PRENDERGAST	Any	IRE	1750-1900
5191	PYM	Cookham Dean	BRK	Any
5052	RANCE	All	IRL	1800-1860
5052	RANCE	All	BRK	1700-1900
5256	RICHINGS	Wantage	BRK	1750-1900
5163	RIGGS	All	BRK	1770-1850
5254	ROBERTS	Lands End	CON	1890-1922
5128	ROLFE	Oxford	OXF	1700-1900
5214	RUSHER	Any	BRK	1800-1900
4527	SADLER	Acton	MDX	1800-1826
4976	SADLER	Lambourn	BRK	1500-1706
5254	SANDY	Sidmouth	DEV	1890-1920
5240	SAUNDERS	Wareham	DOR	pre 1837
5163	SAVAGE	Llanidloes	WLS	1750-1880
5128	SKINNER	All	GLS	1600-1900
5167	SMITH	Cookham	BRK	pre 1698
4674	SMITH	Wroughton	WIL	1700-1900
3078	SOAN	Finchampstead	BRK	1700-1850
1785	STACEY	Stratfield Saye	HAM	1750-1900
5252	STEVENS	Wantage	BRK	All
5187	STIMPSON	Marcham	BRK	Any
5163	STOKES	London	MDX	1800-1850
4527	STONE	Cuddesdon	OXF	1600-1822
4527	TALBOT	Wantage	BRK	1600-1671
1170	THATCHER	Shrivenham	BRK	1684-1841
5187	THOAMS	Neueham Coueten'	OXF	1890+
5187	THOMAS	Aston	WAR	1890+
5187	THOMAS	Besslelegh	BRK	pre 1780
5187	THOMAS	Dry Sandford	BRK	Any
5163	THORP(E)	London	MDX	1800-1850
5128	THORPE	All	HAM	1700-1900
5163	TOWNS(H)ENS	London	MDX	1800-1850
3078	TREHEARN	Finchampstead	BRK	1750-1850
5128	TUGGY	All	BRK	1700-1900
5052	VAUGHAN	Liverpool	STS	1820-1930
5167	WAGHORN	Goudhurst	KEN	1750-1850
5128	WAKELIN	All	LEI	1700-1900
5128	WAKELINE	All	NTH	1700-1900
4950	WALKER	All	BRK	1800-
4950	WALKER	All	BKM	1700-
5167	WATERS	Goudhurst	KEN	1800-1850
4976	WELLMAN	Denchworth	BRK	1500-1625
5214	WHICHILOW	Any	BRK	1800-1900
5256	WHITE	Faringdon	BRK	1700-
5256	WHITE	Oxford	OXF	1850-
4527	WHITTICK	Chiswick	MDX	1750-1783
4527	WHITWICK	Chiswick	MDX	1750-1783
5252	WICKHAM	Wantage	BRK	All
4527	WILSON	Kensington	MDX	1820-1860
3085	WOODLAND	Woodchurch	KEN	1841-186

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 three months are:

Saturday	21 June	2.30 - 4.30pm
Monday	21 July	7.30 - 9.30pm
Saturday	20 September	2.30 - 4.30pm

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

Back pages

Research services

Berkshire Name Search

Datasets covered by the Berkshire Name Search:

- Berkshire 1851 census: transcription and index complete
- Berkshire 1861 census: transcription just started
- Berkshire 1871 census: complete transcription, checking ongoing
- Berkshire Burial Index: work in progress with 250,000 burials transcribed
- Berkshire Marriage Index: work in progress
- Berkshire Miscellaneous Index: disparate individual records and small datasets
- Berkshire Name Index: master name index of above indexes
- Society Library Catalogue

To make a search you may:

do your own research at the Research Centre in Reading, visit a Society stand at a family history fair or request a postal search, marking your envelope Search Index, and send it to BFHS, Yeomanry House, 131 Castle Hill, Reading, Berkshire RG1 7TJ.

Charges to obtain printouts

Please note the date of your search so that future searches will only cover and charge for additions to the Search Index since your previous search.

Self-search of the indexes at the Research Centre will be free, but information on your selected entries will only be accessible in printed form at a payment of 30p per A4 sheet.

Postal search charges:

£2.00 per surname to search the master Berkshire Name Index and be advised on the number of entries in each dataset. This search will not provide information from the records.

Back pages

Research services

£2.00 per surname per database or £5.00 for all the databases currently available. Both will give full details for up to a maximum of 25 entries. We will advise the additional cost if more entries are found. The £5.00 charge for multiple datasets may be increased when more datasets become available.

Please enclose an A4 sized stamped self-addressed envelope or two IRCs or give us your email address for the results. Marking your enquiry 'BNS'.

Birth Briefs Index

Birth Briefs are five-generation ancestral charts that members of the Society have submitted. Fully completed charts contain the names and vital records — birth or christening, marriage and death or burial — of the submitting member and up to 30 ancestors. The index currently holds 8300 names which can be searched for £2 per surname. You can order a copy of the Birth Brief in PAF Pedigree report format for £2 per Birth Brief and, optionally, as a file in GEDCOM format and/or you can contact the person (if they are currently a member of the Society) who submitted the Birth Brief.

Mark envelope 'BB', give the BB Identification number and include an A4 SSAE together with your email address.

Berkshire Strays Index

The strays index includes people recorded in events taking place outside Berkshire where the person has been given some reference to Berkshire. Strays come from a variety of records. The index currently holds 11,000 names which can be searched for £2 per surname.

Mark the envelope 'Strays' and include an A4 SSAE together with

Back pages

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In the event of non-delivery please return to:

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

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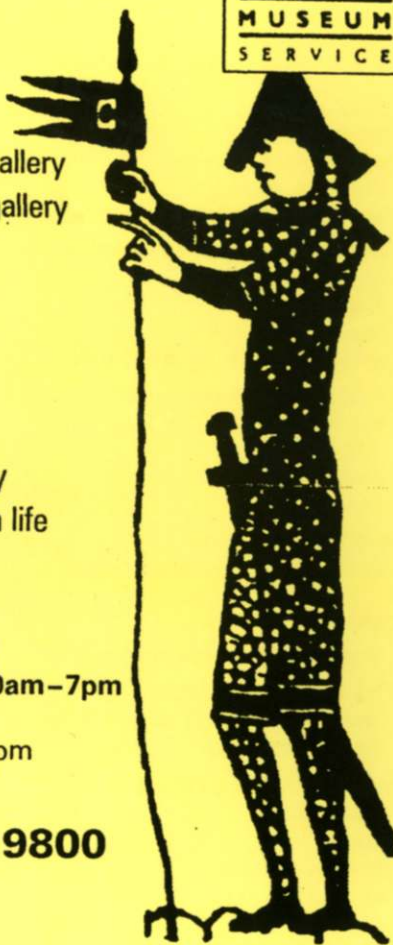
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The Bulletin

A word from our Chairman

This June issue completes another Society year. Please remember to check your address on your renewal form and update the list of your current interests before sending it back with your payment. Thank you for being one of our two thousand members – and please remember to tell others that we can help family historians who live in Berkshire, not just those with Berkshire relatives.

How many of you have developed an interest in local history as well as family history? If you are like me, you will have already 'tramped the ground' your ancestors walked on. But how much do we understand of the way they lived? We can get some ideas from the many books that have been produced by local history groups and others. By looking at books for the different localities we may be able to see how one area compared to another. We may be able to understand why our ancestors moved from one place to another, and see whether it was an individual act or part of a general pattern.

As a service to you, our members, our bookshop stocks almost all of the current Berkshire local history books it can find. (We do omit a few books that we feel would be of little interest to you.) These books can go out of print quickly as some publishers think they are only of interest to people in the neighbourhood, so please forgive us

when we can't complete your order – but remember we do hold back one copy for the Research Centre library. As we believe local history is important to family historians, our Society is a corporate member of both the Berkshire Local History Association <www.blha.org.uk> and the Berkshire Record Society. The Association website does list all the member societies and you may find the contact details helpful.

I hope many of you will have found the recently published CD ROM of the 1851 Berkshire Census helpful in your research. We have recently started work on another CD ROM project, in conjunction with the Berkshire Record Office, to publish the early 1900s 25 inch (1:2500) maps on CD ROM. The CD will also include a gazetteer to help you find the correct map. We think both family and local historians will find these maps a very useful resource when they are published.

By the time you read this we will have refurbished the downstairs area in the Research Centre. We are swapping the bookshop and reception areas. This will allow a better display of books in the bookshop with some additional storage. There will also be more flexible furniture for the computer suite to accommodate up to ten computers for our popular hands-on workshops. This will make it much easier to rearrange the furniture for meetings and bookshop activities. Believe it or not, the Research

Centre is now busy most days of the week and I am sorry we can't open to visitors on more days.

As a final note, please remember that our (brief) Society AGM is hosted by the Newbury Branch this year in the Church Hall immediately adjacent to St Mary's Church in Shaw. I look forward to telling you more about the progress of your Society there.

Free GRO index searches

The best known resource for GRO indexes online is freebmd.rootsweb.com, a volunteer project which aims to put all the GRO indexes over 100 years old on the Internet. But there are a number of other indexes covering local areas. The first covers Cheshire BMD from 1837 to 1950 and has two million entries. This one can be found at www.cheshirebmd.org.uk. Another is for Yorkshire at www.yorkshirebmd.org.uk, and another for Middlesbrough covering Cleveland, Stockton-on-Tees, Redcar and Hartlepool www.middlesbrough-indexes.co.uk.

Old Bailey proceedings

Records of every trial to have taken place at the Old Bailey from 1674 to 1834 will soon be placed online after a grant from the New Opportunities Fund. The website initially includes trials from December 1714 to December 1799. In the autumn those for 1674 to October 1714 will be added, while 1800 to 1834 will be available in the spring of 2004. When it's complete over 100,000 criminal trials will be available with a

facility to search by keyword, name, street, date or by crime, verdict and punishment. During the seventeenth century the Proceedings were published as a periodical and were the main source for those seeking information on crimes in the Capital so the site is likely to be popular for anyone with London ancestors. You can read all about, among others, Thomas Nash, of Harrow on the Hill, indicted for the murder of Mary his wife 'by giving her several wounds and bruises with stones on the left side of the head'; and William Turner, jailed in 1732 for stealing two cheeses. The website can be found at www.oldbaileyonline.org.

Street directories online

The University of Leicester is creating a digital library of eighteenth, nineteenth and early twentieth century local and trade directories from many parts of England and Wales. So far about 30 are online, with the prospect of 500 by the early part of next year. The website includes two from Berkshire, others from Devon, Durham, Wiltshire, Suffolk and many more. They contain local historical and topographical information, maps, lists of householders and their occupations and a wide range of other information. The site contains a powerful search engine so that all the information can be found on the digitised texts. The website address is www.historicaldirectories.org.

Posh Spice

Recently Sir Elton John said he wasn't a snob as he'd be quite happy to sing with Victoria Beckham. Whether this was

before he heard that Victoria, like many of us, had a dark secret in her family is open to question. According to Paul Blake who's been researching her family, one of her ancestor's committed suicide in 1841 by drowning. She also drowned her four-month-old daughter and the coroner recorded an open verdict. I wonder what turmoil must have been going through her mind.

Dr. Watson

At one time I read the Sherlock Holmes' canon avidly, but it wasn't until recently that I discovered that Dr. Watson had a connection with Berkshire. He served as a house surgeon at St Bartholomew's Hospital, London. It was here that Holmes and Watson first met. Watson trained as an army surgeon at Netley, Hampshire, and in 1879 was posted to India to join his regiment, the Fifth Northumberland Fusiliers. He was transferred to the 66th Berkshire Regiment of Foot, later renamed the Royal Berkshire Regiment, and was sent to Afghanistan where he took part in the battle of Maiwand on 27 July 1880. He was wounded in the shoulder by a Jezail bullet and saved from capture by his orderly, Murray. If the bullet had been fatal, Watson would have had his name carved on the Maiwand Lion memorial in the Forbury Gardens, Reading, and he would never have become Holmes' assistant.

Aviation in Maidenhead

Maidenhead Heritage Centre is hosting an exhibition from 30 July on aviation in Maidenhead. The Air Transport Auxiliary Service had its headquarters at

White Waltham and information about the service can be found at <www.airtransportaux.org>. White Waltham is the only airfield in Berkshire still operating and a history of the airfield can be found on the Museum of Berkshire Aviation's website at <www.bigwig.net/museumofberkshireaviation/mba/htm>. Included on the site is a personalities page and a map showing other airfields in the county.

Crimean War Medal Roll

The roll for the British army in the Crimean War taken from WO100/22-34 has just been released on CD ROM. It covers all those men – both officers and other ranks – who fought in the War. It's available from <YesterYearsGen@aol.com> priced £29.99.

Rural History Centre

The Centre at the University of Reading has just received a Heritage Lottery grant to preserve their glass negatives collection. The project will package 130,000 glass plate negatives of the *Farmers Weekly* and *Farmer and Stockbreeder* in archival enclosures to be stored in acid free boxes. They are seeking volunteers to take part in the project so if you would like to help contact Caroline Gould on <c.l.gould@reading.ac.uk>.

Historical farm records

Catalogues of these records are now available on the Public Record Office's Access to Archives website at <www.a2a.pro.gov.uk>.

What's on

The Yorkshire Family History Fair will be held at the Knavesmire Exhibition Centre at York Racecourse on Saturday 28 June.

Buckinghamshire Family History Society will be holding their Open Day on July 26 at the usual venue, Aylesbury Grammar School, Walton Road, Aylesbury.

The Essex FHS will be hosting the Federation of Family History Societies' conference which will be held from 29 to 31 August. Entitled 'A little of what you fancy' it will be held at the University of Essex, Colchester. The conference will explore the extremes of poverty and distress with speakers as diverse as Colin Chapman, Lady Lucinda Lampton, and Dr. Julian Litten. Full details can be found on <www.esfh.org.uk>.

Oxford University Day School on 'Riches and Poverty in Tudor and Stuart Newbury' will be held on 7 June at West Berkshire Museum, The Wharf, Newbury.

The Channel 4 Time Team programme will be taking part in National Archaeology Days at Ufton Court on 19/20 July.

Hampshire Genealogical Society Open Day will be at Horndean School on Sunday 21 September. Exit off the A3(M) for Lovedean. It is usually sign-posted from there.

Twenty five years ago

The BFHS journal for Summer 1978

proudly reported that the Society now had 89 members. Projects underway included indexing the settlement certificates and removal orders. Perhaps the most important section concerned a survey of Binfield including the final part of the schedules for the 1801 census with the names and households of individuals living in the parish.

Glenister family gathering

The first ever worldwide gathering of the Glenister family will take place on 28 June 2003 at Adams Park, High Wycombe, Buckinghamshire. Around 100 people have committed to attend, including 18 from the US and ten from Australia. They would welcome more people — anyone with an interest in the Glenister family history — or more like Gl*n*ster which includes variant spellings too. The family has spread throughout England, and has many links to the Berkshire area. The family has been extensively researched, and the details are published on the website <www.glenister.org>, which also has full details of the gathering.

Elizabeth Simpson Award

The *Berkshire Family Historian* has been highly commended in the annual award for excellence in family history magazines. This reflects the many authors who have contributed to the journal over the past year and the Executive Committee would like to thank all contributors. We hope to institute our own award scheme for the