Family Historian Berkshire





Great Western Railway
staff records
Family history resources at
the Wellcome Library
Updates on marriage, burial and
census indexes

Programme calendar 2003

Bracknell and Wo	
Priestwood Commun	ity Centre, Priestwood Court Road, Bracknell,
40.6	7.15pm for 7.45pm
19 Sep	Non-combatants during the Great War. Christine Kendell
17 Oct	The Indian Mutiny. Ken Duval
21 Nov	The English Civil War. Dennis Wraight in costume
	Christmas meeting.
Newbury Branch	
	ll, Church Road, Shaw, Newbury, 7.30pm
10 Sep	Discover Newbury: the history of Newbury Wharf. Paul Cannon
8 Oct	
12 Nov	
	Kendell
10 Dec	PART TO SERVICE SERVIC
Reading Branch	
The Church of Jesus	Christ of Latter-day Saints, Church End Lane, Tilehurst, 7.15pm for 7.45pm
25 Sep	Charles Booth — a survey into life and labour in London. John Gurnett
30 Oct	Computer Forum: family history programs and data on the Internet. Chad Hanna and Eddie Spackman
27 Nov	
27 1101	country with difficulty. Eve McLaughlin
11 Dec	Christmas meeting
Vale of White Ho	rse Branch
Long Furlong Comm	unity Centre, Boulter Drive, Abingdon. Doors open at
7.15pm for 7.30pm	
8 Sep	Presenting and publishing the results of your research.
43.0.4	Derek Palgrave
	Photographic Archive. Malcolm Graham
	The making of the GRO Indexing. Audrey Collins
	'Can we Help'?. Research problems answered
	and Maidenhead Branch
	d Reformed Church, William Street, Windsor, 7.30pm for 7.45pm
30 Sep	Charles Booth — a survey into life and labour in London. John Gurnett
28 Oct	Food cookery and table manners through the ages. Lilian Gibbens
25 Nov	Old photographs — identification, dating and their care. Bring along photographs that have puzzled you. Tom Doig

9 Dec Annual dinner – held off site. Venue to be announced

Berkshire Family Historian

For family historians in the Royal County of Berkshire Volume 27 • September 2003

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John Gurnett Editor

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The inclusion of advertisements in this magazine does not imply any recommendation or otherwise by the Editor or the Society. The illustration on the front cover is the Caerphilly Castle locomotive at the Swindon rail museum. See page 2

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Staff records of the GWR —'God's Wonderful Railway'

Tom Richards

The Victorian period has often been described as 'The Railway Age'. Between 1836 and 1837, 1,500 miles of new railways were authorised by Parliament. By 1843 there were 2,000 miles in operation. This set the scene for the railway mania between 1845 and 1848 when Parliamentary Acts were passed for the building of 9,000 miles of track. At the height of the mania in 1847 in excess of a quarter of a million men were employed in railway construction. By 1847 permanent staff employed by the railway companies numbered 47,000, rising to 112,000 by 1860 and reaching 275,000 by 1873. These would have included drivers, guards, labourers, officers, clerks and stationmasters.

The main repository for records of railway staff in England and Wales is the Public Record Office at Kew in London. Those for Scotland are at the National Archives for Scotland in Edinburgh. Others are held in county record offices, city libraries and universities. The Darlington Railway Centre (Ken Hoole Archive), for example, holds registers of North Eastern Railway drivers at depots from Berwick to Hull c.1880-1930 and some NER Pension Society record cards. Material ranges from the extensive records of the Great Western Railway and the London and North Western Railway at Kew to a single item held by the Isle of Wight Record Office listing staff affected when the Freshwater, Yarmouth and Newport Railway was absorbed into what became the Southern Railway in 1923.

Many records are now accessible through transcription by volunteers. For example, the 36,000 names of Cambrian, Great Western, London & North Western and joint London & North Western and Great Western staff, in registers at the Cheshire Record Office, have not only been transcribed by volunteers but made available on the Record Office website. Among others processed by groups and individuals are the Peterborough Rail

Workers Register, lists of railway workers in Cumbria and a growing archive of London & North Western Railway staff. What follows is a guide to some of the staff records available for the Great Western Railway and where they may be examined.



The Great Western Railway General Appendix to the Rule Book, dated 1 August 1936 included instructions on a wide range of subjects from the contents of passengers' breakfast, luncheon and tea baskets to arrangements connected with engineering works at weekends. It also contained instructions regarding the length of time old books and papers should be kept and among those to be retained permanently were staff records and associated correspondence.

Staff records were maintained in the Staff Sections of the various departments of the Company and in due course the vast majority were deposited with the Company's Registrar of Deeds and Records at 66 Porchester Road, Paddington. Most staff records were kept in large ledgers, but some, particularly those for workshop staff, were kept on cards. They include details of an individual's date of birth, when he or she began work and position with subsequent increases in salary or wages, promotions, offences and punishments and date of retirement, dismissal or death.

Following nationalisation the GWR and other companies' records were merged, with the formation in 1953 of British Transport Historical Records and in 1972 those for railways in England and Wales were transferred from Paddington to the custody of the Public Record Office at Kew. Little of the 'associated correspondence' has survived, but the GWR staff records form a large part of the Public Record Office railway holdings and are contained in Series RAIL 250, 252, 253, 256, 257, 258, 264, 1014 and 1057. These range from single items in RAIL 252 and RAIL 256 to a huge amount of material in RAIL 264.

Staff engaged as junior clerks, aspiring to higher things and new entrants, were required to attend at Paddington to sit an entrance examination set by the Officers' Examining Committee. This included composition of a formal letter to the Directors, dictation, shorthand and some complicated mathematics. If they passed the examination they were then interviewed by a group of Directors for formal appointment. Listings of records of these appointments from 1835 are contained in RAIL 264.

RAIL 264 also contains 110 registers, dating from 1838, for drivers and firemen, also Locomotive, Carriage and Wagon Department staff at stations and depots throughout the system and a variety of other Departments' records. These include paybills for Reading station staff 1876-77 (piece 429), a 1902 register of staff at the Reading Signal Works (piece 428), and Traffic Department uniformed staff including porters, signalmen, guards and shunters.

Of particular value in RAIL 264 are listings of groups of Traffic Department staff in Wales between 1861 and 1923 and those in the Locomotive, Carriage and Wagon Department employed by companies in South Wales who were absorbed into the GWR in the amalgamations in 1923. Accidents to staff are listed in RAIL 264 for 1911, 1913 and 1914, pieces 445, 446, and 447 respectively, and enquiries and reports into staff accidents 1916-1918 are included in piece 448.

The various RAIL groups are not specific for Departments or locations of staff. For instance RAIL 1014 includes staff employed in the Secretary's Office between 1863 and 1866 (piece 6/39), a letter in 1906 from an Irish youth asking for an appointment (piece 8/16/2) and papers relating to James Hurst, the first GWR driver 1842-1890 (piece 8/3).

The GWR attached importance to apprenticeship, educational and social activities. RAIL 264 includes registers of Locomotive, Carriage and Wagon Department apprentices from 1861 to 1947, including registers of the Swindon and North Wilts Technical School. RAIL 258 contains a variety of items relating to pension and other funds, including housing loans to individuals and public utility societies between 1923 and 1947, piece 498.

GWR magazine

A valuable resource at the PRO is the collection of GWR magazines. Listed under ZPER they include the earliest from 1862 to 1864 (ZPER 85) and from 1888 through to nationalisation (ZPER 19). From modest beginnings information on staff promotions, retirements and death increased steadily, in later years occupying almost half of the print area, accompanied in many case by photographs. Mr David Colcomb of 38, Roundway Park, Devizes SN10 2ED, is working his way through the GWR magazines, extracting names in reports of presentations, retirements etc. From the records of the GWR Enginemen and Firemen's Mutual Assurance Society and Superannuation Society he has extracted details of 41,000 members. Mr Colcomb will deal with postal enquiries on receipt of a stamped addressed envelope and a donation to the Dorothy House Hospice.

The Public Record Office is not the only repository of GWR staff records. The Cheshire Record Office, for example, holds records of Traffic Department staff in the Chester Division between the 1880s and 1950s (NPR2/23) also Goods and Traffic Department staff in the Central Wales District, c.1900s-1950s (NPR2/22). The records are now available on the Cheshire Record Office website.

The Wiltshire and Swindon Record Office at Trowbridge holds registers of clerical and supervisory staff of the Locomotive, Carriage and Wagon Department and the Chief Mechanical Engineer's Department at works and stations at various locations (2515/300), also a register of Stores Department staff at various locations (2515/300).

The term 'railwayman' is a generalisation and we must not overlook the thousands of women who also were railway employees and whose work in two world wars was vital. A frequently asked question is why individuals became railway workers. For many it was a case of following father and grandfather, particularly in railway factories and workshops – I

have recently heard from a former GWR signalman whose grandfather, father, three uncles and a brother all worked for the GWR, a total of over 373 years. For some it achieved a childhood ambition, while for others it was pure chance. I had no railway background but in June 1939 in my last term of school at Penzance the Civil Service Entrance examination for which several of us were entered, was suddenly cancelled due to the international situation, followed closely by a vacancy in the GWR booking office at my home town of St Ives.

Railwaymen of my era are probably the last generation to have staff histories entered in large ledgers, and by encouraging others to record details of their railway service we can leave for our descendants our links with a service of which we were proud. Researching Great Western Railway records at the Public Record Office can be time-consuming, but turning up that elusive piece of information can be an occasion for celebration.

Tom Richards joined the Great Western Railway as a lad clerk in 1940 and after working in the Operating and Planning departments retired in 1982 as a Senior Officer at the Paddington headquarters of BR Western Region. The fourth edition of his recently-published directory of railway staff archive sources Was Your Grandfather a Railwayman? is available from the Society Bookshop at £6.95.

Berkshire Marriage Index

At July 2003 there were more than 95,000 entries in the Berkshire Marriage Index produced by the Berkshire Family History Society. The parishes and periods included in the Index are shown below.

The second column shows just over 63,000 records, which have been checked against the original parish registers. The final column contains the entries in the process of being checked. This will be added to the main database as soon as possible. Parishes that where formally in Berkshire and now in Oxfordshire are on the North Berkshire Marriage Index compiled by the Oxfordshire Family History Society.

We offer a postal research service for searching marriages.

Parishes	Checked	Unchecked
Aldermaston St Mary	1602-1837	
Aldworth	1601-1837	
Arborfield	1581-1837	
Ashampstead St Clement	1614-1837	Some early BTs to check
Avington	1699-1837	
Barkham St James	1600-1837	
Basildon St Bartholomew	1600-1837	
Beedon St Nicholas	1607-1837	
Beenham St Mary	1600-1837	
Binfield All Saints	1699-1837	1600-1698
Bisham	1561-1709	1709-1837
Boxford St Andrew	1559-1837	
Bradfield St Andrew	1600-1837	1545-1599
Bray St Michael	1607-1837	
Brightwalton All Saints	1559-1837	
Brimpton St Peter	1679-1837	1607-1678

Parishes	Checked	Unchecked
Bucklebury St Mary	1538-1837	
Burghfield St Mary	1559-1837	
Catmore St Margaret	1764-1837	1730-1759
Caversham St Peter	1643-1837	1581-1633
Chaddleworth St Andrew	1800-1837	1539-1799
Chieveley St Mary	1600-1837	1560-1599
Clewer St Andrew	1607-1837	
Combe St Swithin	1560-1837	
Compton SS Mary &	1553-1837	
Nicholas		
Cookham Holy Trinity	1662-1837	1530-1662
East Garston All Saints	1669-1837	1554-1564
		1607-1668
Easthampstead	1800-1837	1559-1799
East Ilsley St Mary	1608-1836	
East Shefford	1800-1837	1603-1799
Enborne	1666-1837	1607-1654
Englefield St Mark	1800-1837	1559-1799
Farnborough	1803-1837	1614-1799
Fawley St Mary	1800-1837	1554-1799
Finchampstead St James	1607-1837	
Frilsham St Frideswide	1800-1837	1607-1799
Greenham St Mary	1800-1837	1612-1799
Hampstead Marshall	1800-1837	1605-1799
Hampstead Norris	1541-1837	
Hungerford St Lawrence	1650-1837	1555-1649
Hurley	1563-1837	
Hurst St Nicholas	1800-1837	1574-1799
Inkpen	1635-1753	1800-1837
		1614-1635
W' il Or M	1000 100-	1754-1799
Kintbury St Mary	1800-1837	1557-1799

Parishes	Checked	Unchecked
Lambourn	1571-1837	1557-1570
Midgham St Matthew	1638-1837	1612-1637
Newbury St Nicolas	1800-1837	1538-1799
New Windsor	1548-1837	
Old Windsor	1754-1837	1612-1753
Padworth	1800-1837	1617-1799
Pangbourne	1800-1837	1554-1799
Peasemore	1800-1837	1542-1799
Purley St Mary the Virgin	1800-1837	1607-1799
Reading & Warboro MM	1800-1837	1644-1799
Reading St Giles	1800-1837	1547-1799
Reading St Laurence	1800-1837	1605-1799
Reading St Mary	1800-1837	1559-1799
Ruscombe	1559-1837	
Sandhurst St Michael	1696-1837	1604-1695
Shaw cum Donnington	1800-1837	1612-1799
Shinfield St Mary	1605-1837	
Shottesbrooke	1800-1837	1556-1799
Speen St Mary the Virgin	1730-1837	1609-1729
Stanford Dingley	1539-1837	
Stratfield Mortimer	1607-1837	1607-1699 BTs
Streatley St Mary	1800-1837	1607-1799
Sulham St Nicholas	1800-1837	1607-1799
Sulhamstead Abbots	1647-1837	1603-1646
Sulhamstead Bannister	1607-1837	
Sunninghill	1561-1837	
Swallowfield All Saints	1782-1837	1608-1782
Thatcham St Mary	1561-1837	
Theale Holy Trinity	1833-1837	
Tidmarsh St Lawrence	1613-1837	
Tilehurst	1605-1837	
Ufton Nervet St Peter	1636-1837	1607-1635

Parishes	Checked	Unchecked
Waltham St Lawrence	1751-1837	1558-1750
Warfield	1686-1837	1569-1685
Wargrave St Mary	1600-1837	1538-1660 ?
Wasing St Nicholas	1612-1837	
Welford St Gregory	1605-1837	
West Ilsley All Saints	1559-1837	
West Shefford St Mary	??1614-1799	
West Woodhay St Laurence	??1614-1799	
White Waltham St Mary	1600-1837	1556-1600
Wickham	1620-1837	
Winkfield St Mary	1558-1837	
Winterbourne	1603-1837	1564-1602
Wokingham All Saints	1589-1590	
Woolhampton St Peter	1609-1837	
Yattendon SS Peter & Paul	1559-1837	

Work continues on preparing further batches for inclusion in the Index. If you have any questions about this Index please contact: Sue Matthews, 83 Curtis Avenue, Abingdon Oxon OX14 3UW.

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Family history resources in the Wellcome Library

Christopher Hilton, Senior Archivist, Department of Archives & Manuscripts

The Wellcome Library for the History & Understanding of Medicine might not, at first glance, seem an obvious source for the family historian. Its name seems to suggest a concern with surgical techniques and pharmaceutical formulae rather than individuals. Medicine, however, is not a science practised in a vacuum, but one that touches everyone. Almost without exception we will be born, live our lives and die with some degree of medical attention that will leave a trace in medical records. In addition, of course, many of us will have medical practitioners of one sort or another in our family tree. For these reasons the Wellcome Library has much to offer the family historian, whether the search relates to a practitioner, a patient, or local historical background.

The Wellcome Library is one of the activities of the Wellcome Trust, the world's largest medical research charity, and is located on the Euston Road in London. (Full contact details are at the end of the article.) The Trust was endowed by Sir Henry Wellcome out of the profits of the Wellcome pharmaceuticals firm (now part of GlaxoSmithKline) and the Library, which grew out of Sir Henry's personal collection, is the country's leading centre for the study of medical history. Its holdings are extremely diverse in subject: Wellcome saw the history of medicine essentially as the history of humankind's place in the physical universe and so the holdings go beyond medicine into the general history of science, into demography, public health and nutrition; into religion and anthropology to explore the 'scientific' beliefs of nontechnological societies; into unorthodox medicine and quackery; the list is endless. The types of material held are varied too: published books and journals, archives, pictures, photographs and moving images. This short description can do no more than provide a taste: a leaflet giving a more exhaustive listing of family history sources can be downloaded from the Library's website and is available in hard copy on application to the Library.

Usefully for the family historian, many of the relevant published sources are concentrated in a special Biography Room which brings together materials relating to the lives of individuals. There are hundreds of biographies of medical practitioners and in some cases of famous patients, plus a wide variety of biographical dictionaries and directories. The Medical Directory, published annually and giving the address and a career summary for almost every doctor in the United Kingdom, is held in a continuous run from 1855 to the present and may be the most valuable source: the Register of Nurses (from 1930 onwards) and its predecessor publications perform a similar role for the nursing profession. For the eighteenth century an invaluable source is Eighteenth century medics by P.J. and R.V. Wallis which records all known mentions of eighteenth century personnel in subscriptions, licences, and apprenticeship papers. Other useful directories include various specialised listings that bring together, for example, army medical officers, members of the Indian Medical Service and so forth: biographies of the Fellows of the Royal Colleges of Physicians and Surgeons (by Munk and Plarr respectively, and known as 'Munk's Roll' and 'Plarr's Lives'); directories of alumni of various universities and public schools; some trade directories for various towns; and of course standard biographical reference works such as Who's Who and Who Was Who, Burke's Peerage and Landed Gentry, the Dictionary of National Biography and its analogues covering countries such as Australia, the United States and various European nations.



Etching by George Cruikshank of a short dentist extracting a tooth from an extremely tall lady, 1821

Archive and manuscript sources in the Library are every bit as varied as the published holdings, stretching from the Dark Ages to the present and taking in illuminated manuscripts, administrative records, personal correspondence, research notes and a wide variety of other types of document. Most material relevant to the family historian dates from before 1900 and forms part of the collection of Western Manuscripts, the vast majority of which is now catalogued onto a database that can be searched for names of places, institutions or individuals. To make this vast array of material more manageable, various sources leaflets have been produced that summarise holdings relating to various themes: one on British local history enables the reader to bring together all material anchored in a particular area.



MS.7019: 'Summons issued against the Rev. A.H. Drummond of Maidenhead for contravening rabies precautions, 1878. Wellcome Library MS.7019/6.'

Key sources for the family historian would include the case-books of local medical practitioners, which generally list patients seen, their illness and what was prescribed, and the doctor's fee. Often the treatment recorded is attendance at a birth. Books of this nature are held for various localities. Doctors' correspondence can

also be useful, since details of a consultation or even autopsy may be recorded cheek by jowl with personal letters to the doctor's family.

a Most Excellent medicine against the Plague Boil Jage, & Rue, of Each one Handful in 3. Sinte of muskadine Wine, till it Comes to a Print. Then put my of Long Pepper, ginger, & Nutnegs Each the third part of an ounce, & boil is a line more: Then Dissolve 2 ounces of Treacle, & one curre of mittiridate, in a Quarter of a Fint angelica water, & put to the other. Zow much Thrain of the Sage & Rove, before you put in the spices. Jule of this Blood Warm, Morning & Evening, a spoonfull or 2, if any way infected; gow must take it in Bed, & lay to sweat after but if not infected, a spoonfull a Day is sufficient one half in the Morning, & the other halfat going to Bed Vinegar of Rue Infuse the Lacues of Rue, & Scordine Statis Water Sermander) Pike from the thick Stalks, o Each 3 Handsfull. Sumper-Bernes, & angelie hoots, of Carte & ounces. Zedoary & South orange Reel of Cach an Ounce; in astallow of the Best white Were Vinegar: les is Figues a mouth; then Iver the Vinegar from the ingredients; & Bothe it for use.

MS.2363: 'Late 18th century household recipe book compiled in Berkshire. Wellcome Library MS.2363.'

Hospital records are not common at the Wellcome Library since, as a private charity, it is not a place of deposit for public records – ruling out patient records from within the NHS system. However, some private institutions are represented, particularly mental hospitals; ranging from the extensive records of Ticehurst House hospital in Sussex (late eighteenth century to early twentieth century patient records are available; the records even include, for

a few years, lists of employees from the nurses down to the gardeners and stable-boys) to occasional stray volumes from other institutions. It should be noted that the Library's visual holdings contain illustrations of a great many hospitals which might be of interest for background information.

Three other major archive collections are worth highlighting for family history purposes. The Royal Army Medical Corps (RAMC) is a state body and its administrative archives accordingly are at the National Archives: however, the RAMC also accumulated a collection of personal papers — diaries, memoirs, photograph albums and so forth - from members of the RAMC and its predecessor bodies, going back to the Peninsular War. That collection is now deposited at the Wellcome Library and is a resource worth exploring for anyone investigating a military medical figure. Still on the military theme, the Library has a large collection of material relating to Florence Nightingale, including hundreds of her letters: one of these, to Colonel Lefroy (one of her allies in the fight for reform of the army medical services), lists the nurses who served with her in Crimea. Finally, and still on the subject of nursing, the Queen's Nursing Institute was founded to commemorate Queen Victoria's Golden Jubilee in 1887 (it still exists) to train and provide district nurses. It kept records of the nurses on its books, inspecting them regularly, and a long series of volumes record, for example, the nurse's training and posts held, her religious affiliation and marital status (some volumes adding more information such as the nurse's previous occupation and her father's job).

In addition to its own holdings the Wellcome Library can offer access to information about sources at other repositories. With the National Archives it hosts the Hospital Records database, summarising known hospital archive holdings across the country; it is also in the process of compiling a more general Medical Archives and Manuscripts Survey to cover all medical sources (so far 110+ repositories, mainly in London, have been covered). These are available on-line via the Library website. Other electronic sources can be consulted within the Library; these include the Business Archives Council's databases recording the location of records of the pharmaceutical industry and of veterinary science, compiled recently with Wellcome Trust funding.

Doctors, nurses, patients ... for family historians searching for information on any of these, or background on the medical milieu in which they worked, the Wellcome Library is well worth a visit. This piece has done no more than scratch the surface: readers are invited to come and find out more for themselves.

The Wellcome Library for the History & Understanding of Medicine is located in the Wellcome Building, 183 Euston Road, London NW1 2BE. Library hours are 9:45-5:15 Monday, Wednesday & Friday, 9:45-7:15 Tuesday & Thursday and 9:45-1:00 Saturday. Some identification will be needed on your first visit. For general enquiries ring 020 7611 8582 or email library@wellcome.ac.uk>; alternatively visit the Library website at http://library.wellcome.ac.uk>. From the website there are links to the Library's databases of published and archive holdings.

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Mills and millers

Tom Hine

I have a collection of some 50 mill books built up over the last nine years. My most recent acquisition, Blockley — Village of Water Mills, raises a question in the editor's foreword which I find particularly interesting, it reads 'We need, furthermore, to know much more about our millers. Were all silk throwsters, as they called themselves, Baptists, as we are told, and if so why?' My own feelings about his question of Baptists/Silk Throwsters is perhaps that this was a local peculiarity, although some Society members may be able to throw more light on this. Continuing with the subject of silk manufacture but closer to home in Berkshire, I have re-read an account of the silk industry in Wokingham, started around 1585 by refugee weavers from Flanders, right through to the decline in 1831. There doesn't appear to be any reference to Baptists. Wokingham silk throwsters employed as many apprentices and paupers as possible, but despite the employment of almost 100, the town didn't reflect any prosperity from its labour, indeed in the censuses of 1801 and 1811 they showed that the ratio of empty houses in the town was over twice that of the rest of Berkshire. Thomas Mann in his A Stranger In Reading, published in 1806. described Wokingham as 'the most dreary dismal place you ever saw, where Poverty seems to have taken up her abode, and from whence the energies of the British character seem to have fled'.

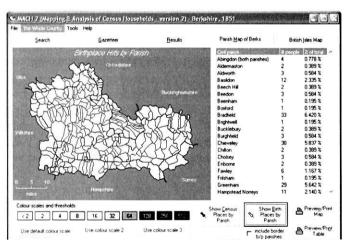
The 1841 census for Berkshire shows there were just two silk throwsters (millers) employing 101 males and 100 females. Berkshire silk mills were at Reading, Newbury, Wokingham and Twyford. This last silk mill closed in 1829, and like all the others the decline was brought about by the treaty with France allowing French silk to enter this country duty free.

The National Archive for Wind and Water Mills should be opening its doors to researchers at its new home in Watlington House, Reading, in the early autumn. A total of nearly 40 collections has been already given or promised to the Archive. And by September there will be 5000 entries in the catalogue, making a start on locating the half a million records being sorted for reference. It is anticipated that several thousand high resolution images will be available free of charge on the internet. (Telephone Tom Hine on 0118-950-3063 for latest details.)

Berkshire 1851 Census on CD

The long awaited CD version of the Berkshire 1851 Census is now available from our Bookshop. This CD combines the MACH (Mapping and Analysis of Census Households) format from Drake Software with the data transcribed from the 1851 Census.

The data collection was done by a team of volunteers from BFHS lead by Geoff Mather, with contributions from the Oxfordshire FHS. This data was first published as printed indexes in 17 volumes. After some data cleansing to standardise place name spellings the transcribed data from the enumeration books together with the indexes was published on fiche — these are still available.

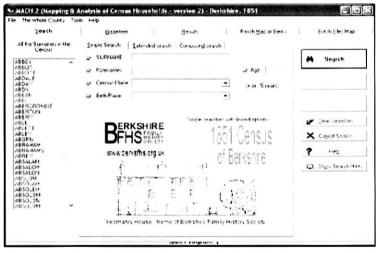


A Berkshire census place map

Phil Wood from BFHS, and Hugh Ainsley of Drake Software, have spent many hours putting the data into the MACH software. As a result every data entry has been allocated a mappable census place and where possible birth places have been allocated to map locations. However, this has not always been possible as the information given in the census is sometimes incomplete. The majority of these cases are where people gave their birth place as only part of the place name such as Kingston. There are two Kingston parishes in Berkshire — Kingston Bagpuize and Kingston Lisle as well as the hamlet of Kingstone Winslow. Thus the actual birth place cannot be determined.

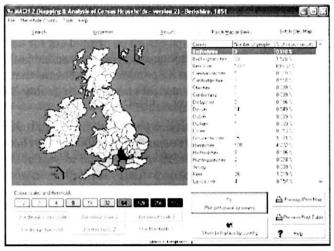
The data has not been altered in any way to accommodate the mapping process and the enumeration book pages, householders schedules and maps can all be printed out for use in your family trees. The ability to use wild cards, extended and compound searches as well as a Soundex facility means that you should be able to find that long lost ancestor if he or she was in Berkshire on the night of 30th March 1851.

It is inevitable that in a project of this magnitude a few errors will have crept in and researchers should always check queries against the microfilms. BFHS would be glad to hear of any errors, so that changes can be made to future editions. It should be noted that the aim is to provide an accurate representation of the information available in the census enumerator's notebooks — errors in these will not be corrected.



Simple search — opening page

Search facilities within the program are comprehensive — as are the ways you can choose to view this data: the maps are a fascinating viewpoint not available within other census search engines, but the traditional views are also available. The complete search can be printed or an individual selected and the enumeration of their household shown; it is also possible to view a census page and to then step through the pages of the book to see who the neighbours were and perhaps find further pointers to the location of the house (often very difficult to determine in a rural location).



A countrywide birth place map

The CD is available from: Mail Order, BFHS Bookshop, Yeomanry House, 131 Castle Hill, Reading, Berkshire RG1 7TJ — £22.50 plus 60p p&p UK or £1.60 p&p (airmail) elsewhere.

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Letters to the Editor

John Davies, 126 Connaught Road, Reading RG30 2UF

Where were you on D-Day?

I was fascinated to read Barbara Dove's article in the June journal about her father's activities around D-Day. It is a sobering thought that we all eventually become family history but I can still clearly recall what I was doing on that day, 59 years ago.



501 Squadron, Hawkinge. John Davies is third in the back row.

I was a member of 501 Squadron flying Spitfire Vc's. This was the version with clipped wings and cropped superchargers (in RAF parlance, 'clipped, cropped and clapped'). On the morning of 6 June we were patrolling the beaches from before dawn. No enemy aircraft appeared but we came in for heavy flak from both the Germans and the Royal Navy. On this occasion I was flying SD-J for Johnny, serial number X4272. I mention this because the aircraft was actually a veteran of the Battle of Britain. We did several two-hour beachhead patrols, using extra fuel tanks, in the

first week but only had one brush with Me 109s. On the 12 June the squadron landed in France at San Quand de Mer. The landing strip was constructed of Pierce Steel Planking, which made an awful noise on touching down, but turned a boggy field into a safe runway. We stayed overnight and were fed by the army. I remember the simple pleasure of dining on freshly baked bread and bully beef. We did not sleep much as the pounding of the Royal Navy's big guns, bombing and incoming shells created a terrible din.

We continued to operate around the front for several weeks. We lost two pilots on 12 July and they were buried at Douvres, Calvados. We then converted to Tempest Vs and became 274 Squadron. On 17 September I took the Squadron to patrol Schouen Island in support of the airborn invasion. It was so good to see all the Dutch people out, waving flags. On 29 September the Squadron joined 83 Group, Tactical Air Force and we were based first at Antwerp and then in Holland. I have all the details in my own log book.

Keith B. Armstrong, 20 Homewaters Avenue, Sunbury on Thames, Middlesex TW16 6NS

I was probably in school on that momentous day, but I was also in the 4th Ashford (Middx) scouts at the time. We went to camp at Weedon in Northamptonshire from 12 to the 19 August 1944. I think on the Wednesday of that week my friend Tom Bailey and I were left in charge of the camp while the troop went off on an exercise. During that time and for several hours, we saw Airspeed Horsa gliders and American Waco Hadrian gliders towed across the sky. They were flying in two lines like parallel lanes on a motorway. The towing aircraft were mostly Douglas DC3 Dakotas and Armstrong Whitworth Albemarles. I think some of the aircraft were towing two gliders.

I have attempted to find out where the aircraft were going, and the Airborne Forces Museum the Head of Airborne Forces told me that it could have been an exercise. Could Barbara Dove tell me how I might discover further information about the aircraft I saw? Miss M. Simons, 30 Farrowdene Road, Reading RG2 8SD

Simons family

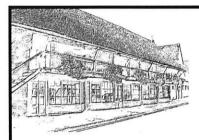
I am trying to find the birth of Catherine Simons, daughter of William (Carter) Simons and Catherine Reynolds in the early 1870s at Falmouth, Cornwall, so far without success. I have two unwanted certificates one for Catherine Simons daughter of Henry, a coastguard, who was born at St Germans, Cornwall, and William Edward Simons, a mariner, born at Lexden, Essex. If other members with an interest in the Simons family would like these certificates I will pass them on.

Help Wanted

Ursula Davis, nee Nicholson-Lailey, Birchtree Cottage, Silver Street, Stoford, Yeovil, Somerset BA22 9UF

The origin of the name Nicholson-Lailey

Family recollections believe that the name Nicholson was introduced into my father's branch of the Lailey family in response to a probate bequest. The name first appears in 1815 when the eldest son of Jethro Lailey was baptised George Nicholson Lailey on 9 September 1815 at Stanford Dingley, Jethro subsequently gave the name Nicholson as a second forename to some of his daughters but not to his other sons. George Nicholson Lailey however had all his children baptised with the second name of Nicholson. This name has now disappeared form most branches of the family but my grandfather assured its survival in our branch by introducing the hyphenated form Nicholson-Lailey about the time of his marriage in 1899. The only clue that I have comes from the entry in the Bradfield parish register of the marriage of Jethro Lailey 'of Stanford Dingley' to Mary Wilks on 14 September 1814 'cons Rich Nicholas gaurd'. Mary was born in Westminster, exact date and parentage unknown, but in the 1851 census she is recorded as being 'a proprietor of houses'. Can anyone give me a clue which could lead me to identify this Richard Nicholas and trace his Will or any links between the Nicholas and Wilks families?





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More information about the Museum is available at

www.westberks.gov.uk

(Under Tourism).



Book Ends

Jean Debney

EurekA Indexes

Two new publications by the EurekA Partnership of indexed transcripts have excellent introductions, including references to the documents in the Oxford and Berkshire Record Offices, plus outline maps and indexes. EurekA are doing a good job making these records available for family and local history research. The EurekA Partnership address is: 19a Station Road, Stoke Mandeville, Aylesbury, Bucks HP22 5UL.

Chipping Norton, Faringdon, Witney & Woodstock Registration Districts: Marriage Notices 1837-1851 (The EurekA Partnership, 2003). A5, green card, 20pp; indexed; £1.50 + p&p 40p UK, £1.30 airmail.

From 1 July 1837, under the Civil Registration Acts, any couple not marrying by banns or licence in the Church of England had to give notice of their intended marriage to the local Superintendant Registrar. Since, in many cases, he was also Clerk of the local Poor Law Union, the notice was read out at three meetings of the Guardians at the local Workhouse. The information varies but includes names of the parties and their residence; some also contain condition and/or occupation, plus the church or chapel where the marriage was to take place. The marriage certificate will include the words 'marriage by certificate'.

Bradfield Union — Workhouse Births 1836-1862, Baptisms 1845-1900, Deaths 1835-1842, Burials 1835-1900 & Affiliations 1853-1864 (The EurekA Partnership, 2003) A5, grey card, 40pp; indexed; £2.50 + p&p 50p UK, £1.30 airmail.

Bradfield Poor Law Union is west of Reading PLU and contains 26 parishes north to south across central Berkshire plus three parishes in south Oxfordshire. For privacy, although the baptism register continues to 1944, the transcript ends at 1900. The Affiliation Register identifies the putative father of some illegitimate children born in the workhouse or who became chargeable to the Union. The introduction includes a plan of the workhouse.

Federation of Family History Societies (Publications) Stuart Raymond Web Guides

Births, Marriage & Deaths On The Web (purple flexiback). Price £5.95 each + p&p £6.45 UK, £6.75 overseas surface. Part 1 - General, Southern England, The Marches & Wales. 74pp, ISBN 1-86006-168-0. Part 2 - The Midlands, Northern England & East Anglia. 68pp, ISBN 1-86006-166-4.

Monumental Inscriptions On The Web (pale grey flexiback). All England and Wales including the Isle of Man; pale grey flexiback, 88pp, ISBN 1-86006-169-9. Price £5.95 + p&p £6.55 UK, £6.95 overseas surface.

War Memorials On The Web (red flexiback). Part 1 - Southern England, The Marches & Wales Including the Channel Islands 46pp, ISBN 1-86006-173-7. Price £4.95 + p&p £ 5.35 UK, £5.55 airmail. Part 2 - The Midlands, Northern England East Anglia 90pp, ISBN 1-86006-171-0. Price £5.95 + p&p £6.55 UK, £ 6.95 overseas surface.

Having (almost) completed his county series of Library Guides (Genealogical Bibliographies) Stuart Raymond has now turned his attention to compiling these directories of the increasing number of web-sites and pages useful for researching your family history. The time taken to compile these excellent research aids must be enormous and, not surprisingly, in his brief introduction includes thanks to his wife 'for insisting that I should turn the computer off occasionally!' Each volume is arranged alphabetically by English and Welsh counties.

The Family Historian's Pocket Dictionary, compiled by Stuart A Raymond (2003); ISBN 1-86006-172-9; 100mm x 150mm, 263pp. Price £6.95 + p&p £7.75 UK, £8.35 airmail

The alphabetical entries range from 'A2A' through to 'Yeomanry' via 'Computers', 'Franchise', the 'Internet' and 'Sheriffs', to name but a few and have been compiled from many sources. The text includes book lists, web pages to 'signpost' information sources and asterisked terms to other entries. This book should always be handy on your desk, dining room table, floor, or wherever you keep your family history papers and is small enough to keep in your pocket when on a research visit.

Miscellaneous

Suggestions for the Guidance of the Clergy with Reference to the Marriage & Registration Acts, Audrey Collins Publications, PO Box 483, Chesham, HP5 2ZN (2003: facsimile edition, first published 1901). A5, yellow card cover, 33pp. Price £1.95 + p&p (not given)

This intriguing publication answers many questions asked by family historians about certificates. The Church of England clergy had a number of duties relating to the registration of marriages and some births and deaths under the various Civil Registration Acts. However, because they were not appointed by or answerable to the Registrar General, only 'suggestions' and 'guidance' could be given. Included is 'guidance' on how to fill in marriage certificates and complete their quarterly returns. Example certificates are in the appendix.

CD ROMs

Berkshire/Oxfordshire

Pre-1974 Berkshire Parish Register Transcripts, Oxfordshire Family History Society (1994-2002) -Wallingford Registration District:

Vol. 1 - Brightwell, Cholsey, Long Wittenham, North Moreton, Sotwell & Wallingford St Leonard, St Mary, St Peter, Baptist Chapel, Independent & Primitive Methodist Churches.

Vol. 2 - Aston Tirrold, Aston Tirrold URC, Aston Upthorpe, Benson*, Crowmarsh Gifford*, Didcot, Dorchester*, Hagbourne, Mongewell*, Moulsford & South Moreton.

Both priced £17.50 including p&p.

Until 1974, all the parishes named above were in the historical county of Berkshire (except those marked with a *) and the original records are in the Berkshire Record Office. The information on these discs has been scanned from the best available copy of the transcript and should only be used as a finding aid for the entries in the original parish registers.

The data on these CDs should be used like a book or microfiche. First click on a parish, then on the contents page click on an index, scroll through the alphabet to your entry and note the year. Using the tags 'Bookmarks' and 'Thumbnails', navigate to the

register and scroll up or down to find the date of the entry you require and note the details. The data is in the form of a PDF file (which has limited search facilities) and is read by Adobe Acrobat Reader, version 4 or later. An up-to-date version can be downloaded from either CD.

West Surrey Family History Society.

The amount of indexed data on these three CDs of Surrey records is enormous. There is a good introduction to each which must be read first in order to use the indexes effectively. The data may be used for private research and printed but not copied and, as with all indexes, you should check the original record.

Poor Law Index & Calendar, compiled & prepared for publication by John Holland (2001). CD ROM [CD-1] - Price £10.00 + p&p £ 10.60 UK, £11.60 airmail.

Over 84,000 entries from pre-1835 poor law records for rural Surrey have been indexed in various ways. The data has been extracted from bastardy bonds, removal orders, settlement certificates, settlement examinations, etc.

Marriage Index to 1837 in mainly rural Surrey, compiled by Tim Wilcox (2002). CD ROM (CD-2) - Price £10 + p&p £10.60 UK, £11.60 airmail.

This index contains 162,000 marriages and includes some strays from outside Surrey and Marriage Licence Allegations. The information is arranged in four indexes, by groom, bride, parish and forename and contains dates and names of both parties, plus where given occupation, abode and if by banns or licence.

Burial Index to 1865 & Dorking Cemetery 1855-1900, compiled by Tim Wilcox (2003). CD ROM (CD-4) - Price £10.00 + p&p £10.60 UK, £11.60 airmail.

This huge index of burials in the parishes of rural Surrey covers 7,366 pages of data. It is sorted three ways: by surname and date, parish and date, and parish and surname. The index for Dorking Municipal Cemetery is in a separate file.

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Obituary

Alan Perrin 1921-2003

Alan considered himself a 'man of Kent' as he was born and brought up in Sidcup on the outskirts of London. He joined the Civil Service in 1938 where he met Jean Fairgieve who was later to become his wife. When Alan was called up he was delighted to join the RAF where he trained in Canada to become a pilot and served with distinction in the Middle East, India, Burma and Malaya on operation duties. He finally became a Squadron Leader of 27 Squadron. On returning to civilian life after the war Alan and Jean were married and lived in Hertfordshire. They moved to Berkshire in 1956 when Alan worked at AWRE at Aldermaston. It was after his mother Irene Smeed, died in 1971 that Alan realised the necessity of getting the family records into some sort of order. So he and his wife joined the family history class at the Adult Education Centre at Caversham and the Berkshire Family History Society. For seven years Alan undertook the mammoth task of distributing the Society journal by hand and post and he also transcribed extensive parts of the 1851 census.

Researching his family history took him to many parts of the country, especially the PRO where he was able to see his own RAF records and to the Guildhall Library where he found apprenticeship records of an ancestor who served as a waterman and lighterman on the Thames. Alan died of cancer on 22 April and many of his family history friends attended a service to celebrate his life which was led by the family at Caversham Crematorium. He leaves a wife, Jean, four daughters and nine grandchildren. He will be greatly missed by all who knew him.

Rita Hine 1938-2003

Rita Hine, well known to members of the Reading Branch of the Society, died peacefully at home on 29 June. Immediately after her birth she lived over her parents' newspaper shop in Duke Street, Reading, and spent most her life in the Reading area. After leaving the George Palmer Central School she became a GPO telephone operator at Minster Street, but spent time filling in for operators in other parts of Berkshire. She married Tom Hine in 1960 and they eventually took over running the shop in

1972 until a compulsory purchase order was passed to demolish the premises. Happily the building was never knocked down but was turned into one of the many Oracle restaurants. She and Tom lived at Purley on Thames where they became involved in the local history group. That soon turned into a passion for family history and she spent happy hours gathering information and corresponding by email with contacts all over the world. For many years she and Tom kept the Berkshire Name Index in their annex bathroom answering questions from members. More than 150 relatives and friends attended her funeral service at Caversham Crematorium on 7 July. She leaves a husband, Tom, two sons and four grandsons. Her gentle disposition will be missed by all who knew her.



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Berkshire Burial Index

The parishes and periods included in the Berkshire Burial Index are shown below, totalling more than 260,000 entries; the periods in bold type were included in the April 2001 issue of the National Burial Index while those not in bold type have been added to the Berkshire Burial Index subsequently and are being submitted for inclusion in future NBI updates. An asterisk denotes those parishes/periods which have been added since the position was last reported in the June 2003 issue of the *Berkshire Family Historian*.

A CD ROM of the Berkshire Burial Index as at November 2002 was published in December 2002. It covers the parishes and periods listed below except for the periods in italics which have been added to the index subsequently.

Aldermaston St Mary the Virgin 1882-1992

Aldworth St Mary 1813-1978*

Ascot Heath All Saints 1865-1909 and 1941-1958*

Ashbury St Mary 1612-1638 (BTs)

Ashampstead St Clement 1607-1686 (BTs), 1686-1756

and 1757-1837

Avington 1700-1725 (BTs) and **1727-1994**

Barkham St James 1733-1740 (BTs), 1741-1812 and 1814-1985

Basildon St Bartholomew 1667-1856, 1857-1871 and

1871-1982

Bearwood St Catherine 1846-1929

Beech Hill St Mary the Virgin 1868-1996*

Beedon St Nicholas 1681-1732 and 1733-1969

Beenham St Mary 1778-1812* and 1813-1907

Besselsleigh St Lawrence 1689-1812*

Binfield All Saints 1884-1920

Bisham All Saints 1560-1707*, 1707-1708 (BTs), 1709-1812*

and 1813-1849

Boxford St Andrew 1758-1876

Bracknell Holy Trinity 1851-1945

Bradfield St Andrew 1540-1685, 1691-1693 (BTs), 1695-1754,

1755-1838 and 1882-1952

Bradfield Workhouse 1845-1932*

Bray St Michael 1813-1826, **1826-1837**, 1838-1888 and 1888-1929*

Brightwalton All Saints 1562-1805 and 1805-1922

Brimpton St Peter 1678-1734 and 1756-1901

Bucklebury St Mary the Virgin 1539-1692 and 1692-1910

Burghfield St Mary 1559-1870

Buscot St Mary 1813-1869*

Catmore St Margaret 1728-1810* and 1814-1985

Caversham Hemdean Road Cemetery 1924-1993

Caversham St Peter 1597-1652*, 1682-1706*, 1707-1743, 1753-1795*, 1795-1812, 1813-1830 and 1830-1955

Chaddleworth St Andrew 1538-1676, 1677 (BTs only), 1678-1735 and 1798-1851

Chieveley St Mary the Virgin 1647-1718, 1718-1745, 1764-1812* and 1874-1895

Clewer St Andrew 1607-1837

Cold Ash St Mark **1865-1947**

Combe St Swithin **1729-1812**

Compton SS Mary & Nicholas 1553-1812 and 1813-1901

Cookham Holy Trinity *1656-1680**, *1694-1721**, *1727-1731*, 1731-1830, **1830-1844** and 1844-1935

Crowthorne St John the Baptist 1918-1945*

Earley St Peter 1854-1900* and 1900-1916

East Garston All Saints 1813-1876

Easthampstead SS Michael & Mary Magdalene 1558-1768, 1768-1812, 1813 -1873 and **1873-1915**

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

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

Eaton Hastings St Michael & All Angels 1813-1998*

Enborne St Michael & All Angels 1607-1638 (BTs)

and 1726-1837

Englefield St Mark 1813-1935

Farnborough All Saints 1607-1738 (BTs) and 1813-1835 (BTs)*

Fawley St Mary 1550-1987

Finchampstead St James 1724-1812

Frilsham St Frideswide 1607-1710 (BTs), 1711-1768,

1769-1804 (BTs) and 1813-1835 (BTs)

Grazeley Holy Trinity 1905-1964

Greenham St Mary 1799-1914

Hampstead Norreys St Mary 1628-1638 (BTs)*

Hungerford Independent 1819-1830

Hungerford St Lawrence 1700-1724 and 1724-1796

Hurley St Mary the Virgin 1563-1864

Hurst St Nicholas 1579-1582 (BTs), 1585-1605, 1605-1621 (BTs), 1621-1623, 1623-1633 (BTs), 1633-1763, 1764-1767* and 1813-1869

Inkpen St Michael & All Angels 1878-1986

Kintbury St Mary 1558-1718, 1718-1761, 1761-1812

and 1813-1925

Lambourn St Michael & All Angels 1560-1693, 1693-1766, 1767-1837 and 1895-1933*

Maidenhead Boyne Hill All Saints 1857-1920 and 1920-1948

Maidenhead Congregational 1791-1837 and 1845-1908

Maidenhead High Street Wesleyan Methodist 1858-1903

Maidenhead New Chapel (Countess of Huntingdon) 1843-1858

Maidenhead St Luke 1866-1874, 1874-1880*, 1880-1885 and 1885-1890*

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

Milton St Blaise 1662-1938

Mortimer West End St Saviour 1869-1982*

Newbury Baptist **1773-1823**

Newbury Baptist (Northcroft Lane) 1818-1837

Newbury Lower Meeting House Independent 1784-1837

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

Newbury St Nicolas 1746-1757, 1757-1767 and 1798 -1890

Newbury Upper Meeting House Presbyterian 1783 -1836

New Windsor All Saints 1974 to 1988 (recorded in the register of New Windsor St John the Baptist)

New Windsor St John the Baptist 1702-1708, 1750-1761*, 1761-1770, 1771-1781*, 1792-1807*, 1807-1828, 1828-1832, 1832-1837*, 1837-1848 and 1848-1988

Old Windsor SS Peter & Andrew 1700-1728 (BTs) and 1759-1771 (BTs)*

Padworth St John the Baptist 1607-1723 (BTs), 1724-1837 and 1838-1981

Pangbourne Independent Chapel 1836 only

Peasemore St Barnabas 1538-1752 and 1753-1879

Purley St Mary the Virgin 1663-1811 and 1813-1900

Reading Broad Street Independent 1787-1869 and 1875-1881

Reading Castle Street Congregational 1857-1862

Reading Holy Trinity 1834-1855

Reading King's Road Baptist Church 1785-1835

Reading London Road Cemetery 1843-1852

Reading St Giles 1648-1812

Reading St Laurence 1603-1630, 1630-1779, 1779-1788,

1788-1812, **1813-1828** and 1828-1901

Reading St Mary 1785-1812

Reading St Stephen 1929-1956*

Remenham St Nicholas 1777-1812*

Ruscombe St James the Great 1705-1812

Sandhurst St Michael 1869-1902 and 1902-1959

Shaw cum Donnington St Mary the Virgin 1647-1812 and

1813-1932

Shinfield St Mary 1653-1844

Shottesbrooke St John the Baptist 1567-1689 and 1690-1811

Speen St Mary the Virgin 1614-1628 (BTs), 1629-1750 and

1750-1904

Speenhamland St Mary 1831-1881

Stratfield Mortimer St Mary 1813-1897, 1897-1925* and

1949-1977

Streatley St Mary 1679-1812

Sulham St Nicholas 1612-1724 (BTs) and 1724-1850

Sulhamstead Abbots St Mary 1813-1995

Sulhamstead Bannister St Michael 1813-1994

Sunningdale Holy Trinity 1842-1898 and 1898-1938*

Sunninghill St Michael & All Angels 1561-1641, 1653-1775,

1776-1812 and 1837-1870*

Swallowfield All Saints *1539-1552*, *1587-1597*, *1638-1694* and 1813-1931

Thatcham/Bucklebury Congregational/Independent Chapel

1819-1871

Thatcham St Mary **1813-1819**, 1820-1863 and 1864-1879*

Theale Holy Trinity 1832-1932

Tidmarsh St Lawrence 1813-1999

Tilehurst St George 1886-1954

Tilehurst St Michael 1614-1629 (BTs), 1716-1868 and 1868-1941

Ufton Nervet St Peter 1607-1635 (BTs) and 1636-1834

Waltham St Lawrence 1931-1995

Wargrave St Mary 1872-1940

Wasing St Nicholas 1608-1729 (BTs), 1763-1853 and 1855-1990

Welford St Gregory 1813-1852 and 1852 - 190

West Ilsley All Saints 1558-1967

West Shefford St Mary 1599-1778 and 1779-1897

West Woodhay St Laurence **1656-1724**, 1744-1768 (BTs) and **1813-1985**

White Waltham St Mary 1860-1937

Winkfield St Mary 1813-1907 and 1907-1961

Winterbourne St James the Less 1567-1748 and 1750-1850

Wokingham All Saints 1813-1841

Wokingham Baptist Church 1841-1906

Wokingham St Paul 1864-1895, 1924-1944* and 1944-1961

Woodley Congregational (Woodley Chapel) 1858-1905

Woolhampton St Peter 1607-1636 (BTs), 1636-1746, 1749-1759 (BTs) and 1761-1926

Yattendon SS Peter & Paul 1813-1982

Details of the postal service for researching burials in the Berkshire Burial Index are given on page 50.

WILTSHIRE'S NIMROD INDEXES

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Compiled by Bob Plumridge Bob.Plumridge@virgin.net

Members submitting their interests:

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2641	Ms AE Preston 7 The Dormers Highworth Swindon Wiltshire SN6 7NY
3363	Dr DJ & Mrs SM Stoker 3 Pearces Orchard Fair Mile Henley on Thames Oxon RG9 2LF
4155	Miss PE Powell 55 Amberley Road Portsmouth Hants PO2 oTQ
4693	Mrs VM Singleton 17 Snowden Drive Glen Waverley Victoria 3150 AUSTRALIA
4991	Mrs JP Nobbs Holly Slade The Ridge Cold Ash Thatcham Berks RG18 9HX
4994	Mrs J Ball 5 Caradon Heights Darite Liskeard Cornwall PL14 5JH
5088	Mr R Carter 108 Holmes St Brighton Queensland 4017 AUSTRALIA
5112	Mr P Hawkins 35 Greenway Letchworth Garden City Herts SG6 3UG
5115	Mrs JA Williamson 22 Highland Drive Lightwood Stoke on Trent Staffs ST3 4TB
5136	Mrs SM Corrall Coll de Rates 35 03792 Parcent Alicante SPAIN
5235	Mr P & Mrs CL Merchant 25 Mill Road Abingdon Oxon OX14 5NS
5243	Mr D Tomlinson 66 Greenborough Road Sprowston Norwich Norfolk NR7 9HJ
5252	Mr RE $\operatorname{\bf Dawson}$ Heathland Cottage 10 Norton Bavant Warminster Wiltshire BA12 7BB
5271	Mrs A Ofield 1 Step Bridge Cottages Dunsford Exeter Devon EX6 7EG
5276	${\rm Mr\ J\ Floodgate\ 63\ Reepham\ Orton\ Brimbles\ Peterborough\ Cambridgeshire\ \ PE2\ 5TT}$
5278	Mrs D Kennett 3 Chetwode Close Wokingham Berkshire RG20 2LL
5289	Mr M North 91 West Hill Dunstable Beds LU6 3PN
5334	Mr H Cracknell 8 Fernwood Crescent St Albert Alberta CANADA T8N 1Y4
5346	Mrs J Hellstrom Private Bag 391 Picton NEW ZEALAND 7372

No	Name	Place	Code	Code Dates	No	Name	Place	Code	Code Dates
4976	ADAMS	Great Shefford	BRK	1500-1615	4674	CARTER	Lambourne	BRK	1790-1900
5240	ADAMS	Lambeth	SRY	1850-1900	5128	COOKE	Hereford	HWR	1700-2000
4527	ADAMS	East Lockinge	BRK	1600-1759	2167	COPAS	North West	LON	1849-2000
5243	ALDRIDGE	Shurlock Row	BRK	All	5167	COPAS	Camberwell	SRY	1867-2000
4527	ALDWORTH	Wantage	BRK	1600-1702	5167	COPAS	Cookham	BRK	pre 1668
4976	ARNOLD	Great Shefford	BRK	1500-1642	2167	COPAS	Thatcham	BRK	Any
4976	ARUNDEL(L)	Great Shefford	BRK	1500-1642	4527	CORDERY	Isleworth	MDX	1750-1829
2167	BAILEY	Bishops Cannings	WIL	pre 1807	5187	COULDREY	Dry Sandford	BRK	Any
5191	BALDWIN	Cookham Dean	BRK	Any	5163	cox	Westbury	WIL	1770-1900
5052	BALDWIN	Liverpool	STS	1820-1930	5128	CUSDEN	All	BRK	1700-2000
5191	BALDWIN	Cookham	BRK	Any	1785	CUSDEN	Shinfield	BRK	1550-1700
3078	BANISTER	Finchampstead	BRK	1700-1850	1785	CUSDEN	Any	HAM	1500-1700
4527	BARTHOLOMEW	Spitalfields	MDX	1800-1819	5015	DARLING	Reading	BRK	1830-1860
5191	BENFIELD	Cookham Dean	BRK	Any	5015	DARLING	London	LND	1780-1960
5254	BISHOP	Reading	BRK	1890-1920	5015	DARLING	Bristol	GLS	1860-1960
4328	BLAKE	Any	BRK	1800-	5110	DAVIS	Ashampstead	BRK	1740-1850
4976	BO(W)SHER(E)	Lambourn	BRK	1500-1834	5110	DAVIS	Boxford	BRK	1810-1900
2167	BRADLEY	Cookham	BRK	pre 1671	5110	DAVIS	Harborne	STS	1840-1920
5252	BRIDGES	Wantage	BRK	All	5252	DAWSON	Didcot	BRK	All
4527	BRYANT	Cuddesdon	OXF	1600-1822	5252	DAWSON	Wantage	BRK	All
5128	BULL	All	GLS	1700-1900	1785	DENIORD	Bristol	AVN	1750-1900
5052	BURKE	All	IRL	1800-1860	1785	DENORE	Exeter	DEV	1850-1930
5214	BURTON	Any	BRK	1800-1900	5256	DIXON	Wantage	BRK	1700-1900
4950	BUTCHER	All	LND	1800-1900	4527	DOE	Upton	BRK	1600-1727
1785	BYRNE	Halifax	CAN	1800-1900	5167	DORAN	Muckalee	KIK	1800-1900
4527	CALLAWAY	Richmond	SRY	1750-1804	5167	DOWLING	Muckalee	KIK	1800-1900
5163	CAPEL	London	MDX	1850-1920	4527	DOWLING	Hammersmith	MDX	1800-1844
4976	CARTER	Childrey	BRK	1500-1781	2167	DRUCE	Thatcham	BRK	pre 1803

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No	Name	Place	Code	Code Dates	Q V	Name	Flace	Code Dates	Dates
4976	ELLIOT	Sparsholt	BRK	1500-1789	5128	HALLING	All	GLS	1600-2000
4674	ELLIOTT	Lambourne	BRK	1700-2000	5181	HARDING	Chalfont St Giles	BKM	1750-1850
4674	ELLIOTT	Swindon	WIL	1850-2003	5240	HARMAN	Lambeth	SRY	1850-1950
4976	FARMER	Lambourn	BRK	1500-1662	5240	HARMAN	St Lawrence Reading BRK	BRK BRK	1700-1800
3085	FINCH	Gloucester	GLS	-0161	5240	HARRIS	Sutton	SRY	1850-1910
3085	FINCH	Creech St Michael	SOM	1845-1920	5187	HARRIS	Abingdon	BRK	Any
3085	FINCH	Hittisleigh	DEV	1800-1870	4450	HAWKINS	Stockport	CHS	1881-1914
3085	FINCH	South Tawton	DEV	1700-1810	4450	HAWKINS	Bournemouth	HAM	1881-1914
5256	FLETCHER	Oxford	OXF	1700-1900	4450	HAWKINS	Plymouth	DEV	1881-1914
4674	FOX	Swindon	WIL	19c	4674	HAYDEN	Reading	BRK	1850-1950
4950	FRANKLIN	All	LND	1840-	3085	HAYES	Mount Vernon	NSA	1895-1920
4950	FRANKLIN	All	ESS	1740-1840	3085	HAYES	Gloucester City	GLS	1800-1987
4976	FROGLEY	Hanney/Denchw'	BRK	1500-1626	3085	HAYES	Cheltenham	GLS	1820-1910
4976	FROGLIE	Hanney/Denchw'	BRK	1500-1626	3085	HAYES	New York City	NSA	1865-1915
5163	FULLICKS	Remenham	BRK	1750-1850	3085	HAYES	Cardiff	GLA	1855-1920
5052	GASKELL	Liverpool	STS	1820-1930	5157	HUGGINS	Earley	BRK	1800-1935
3078	GEALE	Yateley	HAM	1750-1850	2127	HUGGINS	Earley	BRK	1800-1875
5163	GIBSON	Cookham	BRK	1700-1875	5252	HUNT	Wantage	BRK	All
5128	GILES	All	HAM	1700-2000	5163	JAQUES	Speen	BRK	1750-1900
447	GINGELL	Bremhill	WIL	1800-1910	4450	KEY	New Zealand		1875-1896
5157	GODDARD	Shinfield	BRK	1836-1910	4450	KEY	Leyton	ESS	1881-1921
5157	GODDARD	Shinfield	BRK	1870-1945	4420	KEY	Kings Cross	MDX	1800-1910
4674	GODSELL	Chippenham	WIL	1700-1900	4328	KING	Any	BRK	1800-
4674	GODSELL	Swindon	WIL	1850-2003	4674	KINGDON	South Molton	DEV	19c
4674	GOUGH	Bushton	WIL	1700-1950	1785	LAWRENCE	Swallowfield	BRK	1650-1800
2167	GRIMES	Carrick Fergus	ANT	pre 1850	4950	LAWRENCE	All	BRK	1750-1850
5181	GRISTWOOD	Windsor	BRK	1750-1850	3691	LEDBURY	Wokingham Area	BRK	1880-1935
5240	HADLEY	Any	WOR	pre 1874	1785	LEWINGTON Preston Candover	n Candover	HAM	1700-1830

No	Name	Place	Code	Code Dates	No	Name	Place	Code	Code Dates
5214	LISSAMORE	Any	BRK	1800-1900	4328	POCOCK	Any	BRK	1800-
4976	LOVELOCK	Sparsholt	BRK	1500-1744	4976	POTTENGER	Lampourn	BRK	1500-1776
2167	MAGEE	Carrick Fergus	ANT	1800-1900	4976	POTTINGER	Lambourn	BRK	1500-1776
3085	MANFIELD	Hemyock	DEV	1700-1880	1785	PRENDERGAST	Any	IRE	1750-1900
4674	MANNERS	Warminster	WIL	19c	5191	PYM	Cookham Dean	BRK	Any
4527	MARTIN	Acton	MDX	1840-1920	5052	RANCE	All	IRL	1800-1860
4527	MARTIN	Wantage	BRK	1600-1756	5052	RANCE	All	BRK	1700-1900
4527	MARTIN	East Lockinge	BRK	1600-1672	5256	RICHINGS	Wantage	BRK	1750-1900
5128	MASON	Hereford	HWR	1700-2000	5163	RIGGS	All	BRK	1770-1850
5256	MASON	Barnack	NTH	1750-1850	5254	ROBERTS	Lands End	CON	1890-1922
5015	MCDONALD	Reading	BRK	1830-1860	5128	ROLFE	Oxford	OXF	1700-1900
5052	McKEEVER	All	IRL	1800-1860	5214	RUSHER	Any	BRK	1800-1900
2167	MITCHELL	Cookham	BRK	pre 1736	4527	SADLER	Acton	MDX	1800-1826
5052	NEALE	Liverpool	STS	1820-1930	4976	SADLER	Lambourn	BRK	1500-1706
5214	NEW	Any	BRK	1800-1900	5254	SANDY	Sidmouth	DEV	1890-1920
3085	NEWMAN	Cavendish	SFK	1750-1900	5240	SAUNDERS	Wareham	DOR	pre 1837
3085	NEWMAN	Bermondsey	SRY	1881	5163	SAVAGE	Llanidloes	WLS	1750-1880
3085	NEWMAN	Limehouse	LND	1890-1905	5128	SKINNER	All	GLS	1600-1900
3085	OSBORN	Mile End Old Town	LND	1881	2167	SMITH	Cookham	BRK	pre 1698
3085	OSBORN	Limehouse	LND	1901	4674	SMITH	Wroughton	WIL	1700-1900
3085	OSBORN	Poplar	LND	1910-1930	3078	SOAN	Finchampstead	BRK	1700-1850
3085	OSBORN	Canning Town	ESS	1850s	1785	STACEY	Stratfield Saye	HAM	1750-1900
3085	PERRY	Hinton Waldrist	BRK	1807-1870	5252	STEVENS	Wantage	BRK	All
3085	PERRY	Lambeth	SRY	1880-1895	5187	STIMPSON	Marcham	BRK	Any
4328	PHILLIPS	Cornwood	DEV	1800-	5163	STOKES	London	MDX	1800-1850
5214	PHIPPS	Any	BRK	Any	4527	STONE	Cuddesdon	OXF	1600-1822
5214	PHIPPS	Any	OXF	Any	4527	TALBOT	Wantage	BRK	1600-1671
5167	PICKFORD	Blackfriars	SRY	pre 1841	1170	THATCHER	Shrivenham	BRK	1684-1841

100																					_				
Code Dates	1890+	1890+	pre 1780	Any	1800-1850	1700-1900	1800-1850	1750-1850	1700-1900	1820-1930	1750-1850	1700-1900	1700-1900	1800-	1700-	1800-1850	1500-1625	1800-1900	1700-	1850-	MDX 1750-1783	MDX 1750-1783	All	MDX 1820-1860	1841-1865
Code	OXF	WAR	BRK	BRK	MDX	HAM	MDX	BRK	BRK	STS	KEN	LEI	NTH	BRK	BKM	KEN	BRK	BRK	BRK	OXF	MDX	MDX	BRK	MDX	KEN
Place	Neuneham Couet'	Aston	Besseliegh	Dry Sandford	London	All	London	Finchampstead	All	Liverpool	Goudhurst	All	All	All	All	Goudhurst	Denchworth	Any	Faringdon	Oxford	Chiswick	Chiswick	Wantage	Kensington	Woodchurch
Name	THOAMS	THOMAS	THOMAS	THOMAS	THORP(E)	THORPE	TOWNS(H)ENS	TREHEARN	TUGGY	VAUGHAN	WAGHORN	WAKELIN	WAKELINE	WALKER	WALKER	WATERS	WELLMAN	WHICHILOW	WHITE	WHITE	WHITTICK	WHITWICK	WICKHAM	WILSON	WOODLAND
No	5187	5187	2187	5187	5163	5128	5163	3078	5128	5052	2167	5128	5128	4950	4950	2167	4976	5214	5256	5256	4527	4527	5252	4527	3085
	Sec	ten	nbe	r•	200	13																			

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.'

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	20 Sept	2.30 - 4.30pm
Monday	20 Oct	7.30 - 9.30pm
Saturday	15 Nov	2.30 - 4.30pm
Monday	15 Dec	7.30 - 9.30pm

For those who have not yet used the Research Centre these tours give you the opportunity to look 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.

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 260,000 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.

£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

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

Mark the envelope 'Strays' and include an A4 SSAE, together with your email address.

Useful addresses

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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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The Bulletin

Migration of poor families

Poor Law Guardians were sometimes asked to defray the expenses of poor families and a number of requests have been found by Angela Hillier for families to emigrate to the United States. In 1838 Abingdon Union granted a request by the parish of Appleton and Eaton for permission to spend £10 to 'defray the expenses of Richard Parrett and his family to America'. Meanwhile Wokingham Guardians refused a £7 grant to Widow Brent to accompany one of her daughters to America in 1837. Two months later her daughter who had paid for her mother's passage applied for compensation and this too was refused.

Adoption appeal

The Berkshire Adoption Advisory
Service, York House, Windsor, assists
people who've been adopted look at
their records and trace parts of their
family history. There used to be a
mother and baby home called Burnell
House at 27 Bolton Avenue, Windsor,
which became a family centre but was
later sold and demolished. The name
Burnell House was transferred to
another family centre also in Bolton
Avenue. This too was sold off. The
Berkshire Adoption Advisory Service is
anxious to locate any photographs of the
first Burnell House which would help

place it in context for people whose birth mother stayed there. If you can help contact Alison Vincent, York House, Sheet Street, Windsor. Tel: 01628 683765.

Black and Asians in Britain

As part of a nationwide project to map the historical presence of Blacks and Asians in Britain the Berkshire Record Office is gathering references to them in parish registers in the county. If you come across any references while searching registers pass them on to the BRO. They have already found an entry for Thomas Goree, an African adult who was baptised at Cookham in 1771 and readers of this magazine will remember a number of others mentioned in the December 2002 issue of the magazine.

What's on

Windsor camera obscura

Photographs form an important element in family history and if you've got connections with Windsor you might like to visit an exhibition at the Local History Room at the Town and Crown tourist information centre at Windsor until the end of September. It's called 'The Camera Obscura: A Different View of Windsor'. All photographs in the exhibition are for sale.

Oxfordshire family history open day

The Oxfordshire FHS annual open day will be held at Exeter Hall, Oxford Road, Kidlington, Oxford, on Saturday 4 October from 10am until 4pm.

Reading charter anniversary

The Berkshire Record Office summer exhibition, which ends on 13 September has as its theme the 750th anniversary of the grant of the first charter to Reading. The end of the exhibition coincides with the record office's annual open day. As usual visitors will be able to see behind the scenes of the building usually closed to public access.

London local history fair

The Guildhall Library and Guildhall Art Gallery are hosting an event devoted to London and its history called London Maze. With over 30 stalls from London's museums, archives, local history libraries and historical societies, expert talks, guided walks, and tours of Roman London's amphitheatre it should be a wonderful day out for family historians with an interest in London. It takes place on Saturday 11 October from 10am to 4pm and entry is free.

West Middlesex FHS one-day conference

'We seek em here, we seek em there' will be held on Saturday 13 September at the Public Record Office from 10am until 3.30pm. Among the speakers will be Michael Gandy, Beryl and John Hurley and Chris Watts on sources at the PRO.

Museum of English Rural Life

Construction work has begun on the new Museum at the former St Andrew's Hall, Redlands Road, Reading. Building work is due for completion in the summer of 2004. There will then follow the task of transferring the collections and setting up the new exhibitions, and the new Museum will open officially in the spring of 2005.

Regimental museum

The Museum website of the Roval Gloucestershire, Berkshire and Wiltshire Regiment at Salisbury Wardrobe is called the Wardrobe because it was once owned and used by the bishop of Salisbury in the nearby Cathedral. The museum holds all the records for the Royal Berkshire Regiment and the Duke of Edinburgh's Royal Regiment (Berkshire and Wiltshire). It is the only regimental museum in the country to have its war diaries on site and available to researchers. The curator is David Chilton who is extremely proactive and very helpful. Because it is located at Salisbury it very often gets missed out of the Berkshire circuit. In addition to the war diaries they have a mass of photographs that relate to the Berkshire Regiment. The website can be found at <www.thewardrobe.org.uk>.

British in India and southern Asia

If you have family connections with India you may be interested in a new website at <www.indiaman.com>. Visitors to the website are free to join the discussion group which covers the modern-day countries of Pakistan, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Afghanistan, Burma, Singapore, and Malaysia.

A free download of *The Indiaman Magazine* is also available. The latest issue has articles on the Gloucestershire Regiment, Regiments of the East India Company and even a recipe.

Research Centre news

Changes in the Research Centre are continuing, which is the sign that it is alive and not moribund. The Bookshop and Administration area on the ground floor have now been resited and partially equipped with new furniture. Combined with other things taking place at the same time meant that the Bookshop reorganisation took much longer than expected to complete and I apologise for that. Hopefully any further changes in the Bookshop will be minor tuning, not major ones.

Still to come as a major change is relaying the computer section, for which plans, as I write, are now complete. They are the last of the planned reorganisations and we hope they will make your enjoyment and ease of researching your family history better and more comfortable.

I was hoping to be able to report by now that the Reference Library Catalogue was accessible on our website but due to the enormity of the task of simplifying the detail and layout, this has not yet been possible. It is still our aim that all members will be able to look at the catalogue and find out what we hold of interest for them and their research without having to be in the Centre first. On one of the recent monthly Research Centre Tours, a member remarked that even though she had been in the Centre many times, both as a researcher and as an assistant, she was very surprised at the range and compass of our holdings. In particular she had never before appreciated the wealth of research material available on all the other counties of England and Wales, as well as Scotland and overseas countries such as Australia. For new researchers, the biggest surprise is the almost complete coverage of all English and Welsh county 1851 census returns. When researchers combine their findings in 1851 with those made from the 1881 national census transcriptions on CD ROM and the 1901 English and Welsh census accessed through Broadband in

Why don't you come along and try things for yourself?

Computer Group

A new Branch, our sixth, the Computer Group, has just been established (see page 42). It will meet on the first floor of

the Centre, they suddenly find they have

gained information on three generations

of one line of their family in one day.

St Peter's Church Hall, Church Road, Earley at 7.15pm on the third Wednesday of each month. Meetings are open to all who want to know more about using computers for family history and begin on 15 October with Phil Wood talking about census information now available on your computer. Kevin Tomes from Parchment Printers will join us on 19 November to demonstrate scanning and repairing photographs. After a break for Christmas, Chad Hanna will describe how to get the most out of the FamilyHistoryOnline website on 21 January. Each meeting will also include a half-hour surgery dealing with your software and hardware problems, a computer related bookstall and a raffle. Car parking is available and the No 17 bus stops nearby at the Three Tuns.

Jane Longhurst Award

As many of you will know the daughter of one of our founder members, Liz Longhurst, was murdered earlier this year. To mark her tragic death we decided to institute an award for the best article in the magazine over the past year. We asked the Editor of the Reading *Evening Post*, Andy Murrill, to judge the award. This is his report.

"What a magazine. It's packed full of interesting, thought-provoking and detailed articles. Making features interesting when they contain so many facts is extremely difficult but, almost without exception, your writers managed to pull it off. There was no

verbosity and the writing, as in newspapers, was usually sharp and accessible which makes the information easier to digest.

I found John Siblon's piece on black people's place in British history very challenging and I also enjoyed Peter Ford's article on nineteenth century justice. Other stories that stuck in my mind were tales of farm workers and the piece concerning school log books. But I found two features particularly engrossing.

In second place is Janet Keet-Black with what I found to be a charming account of the history of the Reading Wagon — a gypsy living wagon. I have seen one at the Museum of English Rural Life at the University of Reading so I have to confess I had a particular interest in the subject matter. But Janet's writing is crisp and clear and she presents her information in an easy style.

But the winner is Neila Warner with her account of 'rough music' in the nineteenth century. Being a newspaper editor I usually think the best story of the day is the one most people talk about — sometimes it may just be a small downpage piece. I have been telling everyone about rough music as Neila's article was a great yarn about how wife beaters were treated in rural communities. It made me chuckle in places and I was hooked from start to finish. Her writing has a good pace and really brings the tale to life.

Congratulations to Neila, and to all the contributors to this fine magazine."