



Berkshire Family Historian

September 2004 • volume 28

For Family Historians in the Royal County of Berkshire

Come and help with the **VICTORY HARVEST**

Womens Land Armies in two world wars

women on the home front

Broadmoor Hospital

inmates on the 1901 census

Freemasons and family history

records of Odd Fellows and Freemasons

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From the Editor

This issue marks a new departure for the *Berkshire Family Historian*. The Society's journal has, since its first issue more than thirty years ago, been produced as a small format magazine. Since then Society membership has increased and with it the demand for more articles, illustrations and news. Like many other societies we have found that the size has become too restrictive, particularly for illustrations, maps and webpages. Too often pictures appear cramped or unreadable, but with the change to an A4 format we will be able to satisfy the demand for a readable product.

As part of this redesign we have been able to increase the number of pages in each issue by a fifth and provide a regular booklist. We shall also use an additional colour which will enable us to enhance the format. All this without increasing our production costs. We believe that the new magazine will give members better value for money and at the same time provide more space to explore new avenues of research, both in Berkshire and beyond. None of this would have been possible without the dedicated work of Adele Dickety, Rachel Hooper and Jo Batstone, final year typography students from

the University of Reading. We hope that the brighter magazine will encourage you to submit more articles about your research.

Computer Branch

Following the successful launch of the new Computer Branch, the committee has decided that the numbers attending warrant a change to a larger and more user-friendly venue. Accordingly, from the October meeting onwards the meetings will be held at the newly opened Oakwood Centre in Woodley. This venue offers ground floor accommodation, better car-parking facilities, less exposure to noise from other site users, and catered refreshment facilities.

The address is The Oakwood Centre, Headley Road, Woodley, RG5 4JZ.

The branch has arranged a diverse and interesting programme through the next six months so please come and support us, whether you are a computer 'buff' or a 'learner driver'.

Digital Times

Until recently the only way of finding news items in *The Times* was to use either Palmer's Index or the Official Index. Palmer's Index covers the period from 1790 to 1905, but its major drawback is the idiosyncratic subject headings. The Official Index, which started in 1906 and still continues today, is more precise. Both indexes are issued quarterly (or more recently annually in the case of the Official Index) but this can be a tiresome trawl unless

you begin with an approximate date. Both indexes have been issued on CD ROM, but having found references it's still necessary to use microfilm copies of the newspaper to identify individual news stories. This has always been a cumbersome exercise.

Now, thanks to digital technology, the whole newspaper, from the beginning of the industrial revolution in 1785 to the age of the superpowers in 1985, is now available on the internet. All the articles, news, editorials, births and deaths notices, pictures and advertisements (both classified and displayed) are easily retrievable.

After a search item is entered, statistics on the number of occurrences by type, whether it's about news, features, people or photographs are shown. This is followed by thumbnail images of each page with a red border around the page where the search item occurs. Larger readable pages are then available. For those used to reading microfilms the quality of the images is quite remarkable.

Online subscriptions start at £2100 but copies of the Digital Times can be found at a number of public libraries.

Perhaps the cost of viewing this unique archive will be reduced over the coming years once the initial investment has been recovered.

Insurance policies

Policies from 30 registers of the Sun Life Insurance office from 1816 to 1824 have been indexed and are now online at www.a2a.org.uk. The index, which will eventually cover the period up to 1830, includes names of policy holders, the location of properties (sometimes with drawings) and the names and occupations of others mentioned in the documents. Instructions on using the site can be found at www.history.ac.uk/gh/sun.htm.

London photographs

www.photolondon.org.uk > is a new website which brings together collections of London photographs held by the National Monuments Record, Guildhall Library, London Metropolitan Archives, the Museum of London and Westminster City Archives. Between them they hold one million photographs from the mid-nineteenth century to the present day. The site also includes links to over 60 public collections which hold images of specific areas. A website worth exploring if you have London families.

Research Centre report

As many of you are aware, the Research Centre is open each week on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday between 10am and 4pm, Tuesday evenings between 7.30 and 9.30, and the second and fourth Sunday each month between 11am and 4pm. To keep the Centre open we need more Research Centre Assistants. They work three-hour shifts on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday, two hours on Tuesday evening and, usually, five hours on the two Sundays, although on the second of the monthly

Sundays the duty is often shared between two teams. In total we need about 70 Assistants to carry out a duty each month, as ideally there are always two on duty at any time. This means we actually need a pool of at least 80 Society members who have volunteered and been trained to be Research Centre Assistants to cover any emergencies.

In practice this number has to be drawn from the membership who live within 20 miles of Reading and as the number of Assistants is slowly changing, due to a variety of reasons, I am looking for more members to volunteer. All Assistants receive training which covers the routines to run the Research Centre efficiently, an idea of where all the books, fiche and CD ROMs are located and how to work the computers. I do not expect Assistants to be specialists in anything, just cheerful and helpful to researchers.

I am aware that not everyone has a computer at home or uses one at work and some Assistants feel very unsure of themselves when they have to switch the computers on, even more so if they are asked for advice by a user. Training is always given before they can become an Assistant and at any time can ask for and receive additional computer training or a revision tour of the Reference Library on a one-to-one basis.

If you would like to volunteer please telephone, write or email me, as the Society needs you. My home number is 0118 941 3223, email cliffdebney@onename.demon.co.uk or you can write to me via the Centre (the address is inside the front cover of the journal). I look forward to hearing from you. For those of you who

are already Assistants, please use one of these three ways to contact me. As you know Judith Morgan-Russell works very hard to fill the roster every week but as she also works Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday each week into the evenings, you can always phone me during her working hours if you have any duty problems.

Tottering gravestones - fines for unsafe memorials

Headstones in May's Lane Cemetery at Earley are being tested by Council workers after a warning from Reading Council's insurance company. They fear that the Council may be liable if a stone falls on an individual resulting in an injury claim. Relatives of those buried in a grave with an unsafe headstone are asked to remove the stone at a cost of £140. May's Lane has an estimated 2,500 graves divided into 13 sections and in one section already tested 80 headstones failed the test. So yet another cemetery may be swept aside as a result of our growing compensation culture. The reality is that after a study, commissioned five years ago, of 150 councils who are responsible for cemeteries, just over one in ten reported injuries with three deaths. Surely Reading Council can shoulder the responsibility for caring for our heritage. What would happen if Queen Victoria's statue failed the test?



Mark Stevens, Senior Archivist, Berkshire Record Office

Where the mastic never sets

Life at BRO has gradually returned to normal during the spring. The workmen have departed, and the scaffolding and compounds have gone. I am tempted to say that in fact not having workmen about the place will be decidedly abnormal, but the volume of subcontractors on site over the last seven months was greater than even we have been used to.

Nevertheless we are very pleased that the place now resembles less a building site and more a Record Office, as this is after all what was intended when we moved in. We are also very grateful that all of you who use us were so patient and understanding while all the major works were going on. It did make a difference to us.

Archives online

Away from the building, our year to date has been dominated by our New Opportunities Fund project to put enclosure maps and awards online. These documents span 1738 to 1883 and tell us much about each place at the date its common

fields were allotted and enclosed. The image gallery is now available online at www.berkshirenclosure.org.uk.

We have also commissioned various works to give a bit of background to enclosure, all of which are, or will be, available on the website. Family historians might like to note that this includes a database of award entries.

The various strands of the project have all begun to come together since Christmas, which has been both a fascinating and a frustrating experience. The website is still enjoying a few technical problems (what else are websites for?), and I would estimate that at present around 80% of the images are available. We'll be working over the summer to diagnose the remaining problems and set them right. Please do go online and have a look at it. It is free, and the gallery can be searched in a variety of ways.

On the theme of online access, I am also continuing to plug www.a2a.org.uk. This is the UK gateway for catalogues of archives, and we estimate we now have around 75,000 items on the site for you to search. Among our catalogues that have recently been added are a name index to all the Faringdon Peculiar wills and admans and the rest of our name indexes for coroner's inquisitions.

The things we get

We have just taken in the national collection of Yellow Pages phone directories. These used to be at the BT Archives,

but since Yell was demerged from BT the YP needed a new home, and as Yell is a local firm we were the obvious place. Access is subject to all the usual rules. The collection is comparatively recent – the first separate YPs were published in 1969, and national coverage was only available from the mid 1970s – and it is by no means complete, but if you needed to find a list of wool and hair brokers in the York area in 1985, well now you can.

Various parish registers have come in recently too. Twyford deposited registers from 1832, and we have also received post-GRO registers for Beenham, Cookham Dean and East Ilsley. Finally, through the keen eye of a BFHS member we have also acquired the Reading Gaol Visiting Justices' reports for 1860-1878, which was apparently found in a skip in Reading. It is amazing what some people find, let alone what they then throw out.

Civil registration update

Some of you might be following the proposed changes to Civil Registration. The Government is proposing that the 'historic' GRO records are digitally captured between next summer and the end of 2007. It is still not clear if they are intending to do the national set or digitise all the local registrars' original registers. If you wish to influence the final decision either write to your MP and/or the ONS. It's in all our interests that the job is done right. You can check out proposals on the www.gro.gov.uk site.



Some words from the Chairman

Hi ,

Welcome to another year in the Berkshire Family History Society. My chairman's report to the Society's Annual General Meeting has mentioned many of the achievements of the past year, and I would only like to reiterate my thanks to Brian Hunt and his team for their work on the records of the pre-1834 Poor Law for Berkshire – it makes me wish I had poor ancestors in Berkshire! His work should serve as an inspiration to all of us who want to make Berkshire records more accessible.

The coming year promises to be equally exciting: we have a new look magazine with a new logo that highlights our claim to represent the whole of Berkshire. Our branch committees have produced a programme to inform and entertain those of us fortunate enough to live in the Royal County. We will continue to monitor the progress of the changes to Civil Registration. We are also in the early stages of planning another Computer Conference which will take place in 2005.

Please feel free to email (or write) to me with any ideas that you think will benefit family historians in Berkshire or elsewhere.

Membership Secretary retiring

Liz Longhurst will shortly be stepping down as our membership secretary. Liz took over the duties for surnames L-Z in 2000, and then became our only membership secretary in 2002. Liz has previously been Secretary, including membership secretary, of the Society in its early formative years - and more recently chairman of the Society's Reading branch. I am sure you will want to join with me in wishing her well in both her life and her family history research.

With Liz's resignation we will naturally need another volunteer to take over. The membership secretaries have help from both Bob Plumridge with the membership database, Barbara Swiatek with Gift Aid, and other help at renewal times. If you think you could help us in this essential role please contact the chairman, Chad Hanna, or Liz Longhurst to find out more (contact details inside front cover).

Web address change for the 1901 census for England and Wales

The existing web address of <www.census.pro.gov.uk> is being replaced by a new address, in line with the rebranding of other Public Record Office websites to reflect The National Archives' new name. The new address is <www.1901census.nationalarchives.gov.uk>.

BRO Heritage Day

As part of Reading Heritage Week the Berkshire Record Office will be giving the public the opportunity to have a look behind the scenes with tours of their Strong Room and Conservation Lab, where documents are preserved and repaired.

This year short talks will be given by BFHS members in the Conference Room. At 1.15pm Carolyn Boulton will explore starting your family history, at 2.00pm Chad Hanna will discuss using the internet and at 2.45 Barry Boulton will talk about local history

Throughout the afternoon there will be both BRO Staff and BFHS members will be on hand to answer any questions. On the first floor the Society will have a Bookstall and Computer Research Facility.

So come along on Saturday 11 September between 1pm and 4pm. We look forward to seeing you.

Open Day

The West Surrey Family History Society will be holding their Open Day on Saturday 6 November between 10am until 4.30pm. It will be held at the Woking Leisure Centre, Kingfield Road, Woking.

The Women's Land Armies in two World Wars

Carol Twinch



Right: Anne Farewell-Jones, who trained as a Land Girl on the estate of Lady Fitzgerald of Buckend House near Faringdon, Berkshire

Almost 80,000 women served in the Women's Land Army of the first World War, and well over 200,000 served between 1938 and 1950. These women were sent onto the nation's farms during the course of the two wars to replace men called up for the services, many staying on and marrying into local farming families. Conversely, the workforce was, of necessity, a highly mobile one and women who enlisted in their home county could be posted to any corner of Britain. Recruitment took place chiefly in London, the industrial towns of Lancashire and Yorkshire and in other large cities, and the Women's Land Army

(WLA) necessary policy of scattering members far and wide, to wherever they were most needed, often accounts for a female ancestor 'arriving' on the family tree from another part of the country.

The Land Army of the first World War was not instituted until 1917. Before then the placement of women farm workers was done by a myriad of independent organisations, including the Women's Farm and Garden Association and Women's National Land Service Corps. There was no co-ordinating body, resulting in overlap and chaos, and by the autumn of 1917 it became clear to government that there had to be an official WLA. The existing food supplies were depleted while prospects were not good for the 1918 harvest. German U-boat attacks on shipping, and lack of political support for home agriculture meant that only three weeks' food supply remained in Britain.

Berkshire women responded to the call in their hundreds, encouraged by a long tradition of farming and the development of agricultural science at what is now Reading University's world-renowned Department of Agriculture, founded in 1893. In 1898 Frances Evelyn, Countess of Warwick, started a women's agricultural college at Reading, with Miss Edith Bradley as Warden. The Lady Warwick Hostel was set up on the Bath Road, catering for the pioneering women who had chosen farming, gardening and rural occupations. Some of these became WLA staff members and immediately set about enrolling volunteers and persuading farmers, sceptical that women could perform the heavier farm tasks such as horse work, to employ them. (For their part the Land Girls had to cope with the unfamiliar physicality of the work and the sheer loneliness of being out all day in the fields, coming back to cold, friendless 'digs'.)

Right: Group of First World War Land Army Girls



Rallies and meetings were organised in villages, towns and cities across the land, with recruiting demonstrations at the county agricultural shows. In 1918 a parade was held at Basildon (Berkshire) where members were presented with service stripes, and in February 1919 ninety-three Berkshire members were listed in *The Landswoman* (the WLA magazine) as having Good Service Ribbon Awards.

The WLA was disbanded in November 1919 and serving members formed the National Association of Landswomen, with the object of maintaining and developing the status of women on the land, but it folded after only three months.

In 1938 rumours of war began to be taken seriously and the British government discovered what everyone in the countryside already knew: that the rural economy was in a poor state with food imports running at over 60% of total supplies. The challenge of keeping a wartime population fed was taken up by Lady Gertrude Denman. "Trudie" Denman had worked in the first WLA and now led a one-woman campaign to resurrect the principles and organisation of the earlier administration. Better known for her leadership of the National Federation of Women's Institutes (WI President from 1917 to 1946), she knew the impossibility of maintaining domestic agriculture, let alone increasing it to compensate for the loss of food imports, without women taking the place of farm men. In 1938 she approached government with a plan for a new WLA. A seasoned campaigner on behalf of country women, and firmly entrenched in public life, she offered her own home, Balcombe Place in Sussex, as WLA headquarters. A desperate government accepted the offer and gave her complete autonomy.

It is logical to assume that WLA recruits would again come from the agricultural institutions, or from the countryside, but the first rule of the

Extreme right: Berkshire WLA member B. Cox,

1938 regime was that volunteers were to come from neither. Those who had experience or training were expected to act as forewomen while untrained recruits were offered six weeks initial instruction although as war progressed it became commonplace to find that the day a new recruit walked on to a farm was her first. (Many were in for a rude awakening and stories of 'old hands' sending 'townees' to milk the resident bull are legion!)

The new WLA included shop assistants, factory workers, hairdressers, milliners, shorthand typists and even ballet dancers and actresses. Almost one third came from London and Middlesex and another sizeable proportion from Lancashire and Yorkshire. Farmers' wives and daughters remained at home as part of the (unpaid) war effort, a disappointment to girls who saw it as a chance to exchange their confines for the wider world, although many soon realised that they could volunteer for the other women's services. For others, the unglamorous work and invariably harsh conditions, long hours and unfamiliar rural surroundings lost out to better paid war jobs and the WLA suffered high 'wastage'.

By the outbreak of war the WLA was operational and recruits took to country living with varying degrees of enthusiasm and success (many city girls discovering outside lavatories for the first time!). Those who had signed on with romantic



TO THE WOMEN OF THE NATION

Your Country needs you and asks your help.
In the past you have asked for opportunities.
In the present you have shown what you can
do when you are trusted with national work.
In the future it must be proved that you can
respond to even greater calls.

1. Our Soldiers must have Food.

In order to provide food for our soldiers and for the nation, women must till the land.

AGRICULTURAL SECTION—

Milking, ploughing, hoeing, harvesting, care of stock and horses, general farm work and planting trees.

Instruction will be necessary for those who have not done the work before, and who sign on for one year. This is given free. For the first four weeks of instruction the recruit will receive maintenance, for the last two weeks maintenance and 4/- pocket money.



Country. Will YOU do this?

2. Our Soldiers' Horses must have Hay.

In order to provide forage for the Army, women must help in this work.

FORAGE SECTION

Making hay in the field, work at hay-stacks, stacking and loading hay, carting for the Army under the Forage Department of the War Office. No training required.



Will YOU do this?

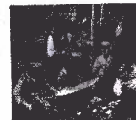
3. Our Sailors need Wood for their Ships.

Our Soldiers need Wood for their Railways, their Shelters and their Aeroplanes.

In order to provide timber for the Navy and the Army, women must help in the work.

TIMBER CUTTING SECTION—

Felling trees, sawing into lengths, stacking and carting. Training will only be given when necessary to those selected by the post of supervisor and will then be given free, and if a week will be paid, out of which maintenance must be provided.



Will YOU do this?

Will you respond to the call of the Land and join the Women's Land Army?

You can choose which Section you wish to join, but in times of pressure you may be temporarily transferred to any other section.

Apply to the nearest Employment Exchange for an application form or to the Village Registrar, whose name can be ascertained at the Post Office.

Right: Recruiting poster from the First World War (1917)

or cosy notions about life down on the farm were rapidly disillusioned. Jobs ranged from every type of agricultural and horticultural land work (including reclamation), dairying, forestry (a Women's Timber Corp operated between 1942 and 1946), stock and poultry keeping, fruit growing, and (increasingly) tractor driving. Land Girls became skilled tractor operators, causing post-war resentment among men returning to previously un-mechanised farms.

As in 1918, when hostilities ceased there was still a harvest to reap and extra food required for the repatriated forces. Not until the end of 1950 was the final parade held, at Buckingham Palace, when their Patron, Her Majesty the Queen (later Queen Mother) inspected the lines.

The precise number of women who served on Berkshire farms is impossible to calculate although the employment returns in the WLA magazines *The Landswoman* and *The Land Girl* show that it was many thousands. In December 1939 there were 103 Berkshire placements (against a national county average of 74), which rose to 1,209 by 1943. In July 1940 *The Land Girl* reported that the Berkshire WLA County Committee had visited Reading University and

many students had enrolled in their Auxiliary Force. Later it noted that Berkshire members were enjoying 'high tea' parties and a WLA club was planned for the Bradfield area.

At Mortimer both WLA and prisoners of war worked on most farms and the village had a WLA hostel in West End Road from where girls were sent in an area extending from Mortimer to Wokingham. When I researched the WLA history there was no Internet facility and war-time government files were still closed. Now, most search engines will find WLA references to Reunions, plus archive material that shows the outstanding contribution Land Girls made to keep Britain fed in two world wars.

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Broadmoor Hospital inmates in the 1901 census

Eddie Spackman

Since the feature on Broadmoor Hospital which appeared in the June 2002 issue of this journal we have had many enquiries about tracing individuals who were held there. One question related to finding them in the 1901 census. This is difficult because inmates are listed solely by the initials of their forename and surname. However, if you are certain about age and place of birth you have a good chance of identifying them. The recorded occupation may be used to help confirm you have the correct person. The procedure is to complete the search form in a similar way to that when a surname is unknown:

- Last name – leave blank

- First name – enter a space followed by the first letter of the forename and (optionally) an asterisk (to denote a wildcard search for any number of unknown characters)
- Gender – enter appropriate gender (blank is not permitted without last name)
- Age – enter the known age (with an appropriate small age range as necessary)
- Where born – enter the place but keep it as simple as possible.
- Place keywords - enter berks*

Right. A typical completed 1901 Census Search Form for a person in Broadmoor or other institution recording only initials for Forename and Surname. In this example we search for a person with forename initial H, aged about 50 born in Kent.

1901 Census of England and Wales Online - Microsoft Internet Explorer

Address: <http://www.1901census.nationalarchives.gov.uk/index.html>

Person Search

Locate your English or Welsh ancestors, or someone famous, and obtain the digitised census images and transcription online. There is a wealth of information available, including a person's address, age, occupation, relationships and more. This search is probably the fastest way to trace an individual in the 1901 Census.

Last Name Search: Enter "Last Name" (other fields optional).
First Name Search: Enter "First Name", "Gender", "Age" and "Where Born" (other fields optional).

Once you have filled in the search form scroll down the page and click on the "Search" button.

Clear form for new search

Follow Your Search Criteria		Help
Last Name	<input type="text" value=""/>	e.g. Young
First Name	<input type="text" value="H"/>	e.g. John
Gender	Male <input type="checkbox"/>	
Age on 31st March 1901	50 years +/- 2 years e.g. 48 years +/- 5 years	
Where Born	<input type="text" value="Kent"/>	e.g. Lynn
Place Keywords	<input type="text" value=""/>	e.g. Colington
Limit results to	30 entries per page	

As a surname cannot be entered for this search, 'Where Born' is mandatory and you may have to try alternative variations, considering what might be recorded and the various ways in which the place might be spelt or transcribed.

As with all database searches it is wise to start by entering the minimal amount of information needed to complete the search and then refine it if you get too many results or have not found the person you want. It may be helpful to go to the advanced search and include the occupation if it is known, but do consider the many ways in which it may be given or spelt. You could use the version given in an earlier census. Criminal and mental institutions seem to give the occupation of the inmates as that before being committed though sometimes preceded by 'formerly'.

This search procedure should be used for any institution (e.g. asylum, prison etc) where an individual is likely to be identified only by initials of their name.

When you have found an individual it is usually recommended you view and print an image of the enumeration page at a cost of 75pence. This can be done but will only provide limited additional information (eg complete set of name initials, marriage status and condition of 'lunatic' etc); there will not be those 'other members of the family in the same or neighbouring households'. You can also view the fully transcribed details of the individual for 50pence and then for another 50pence view the entries of all 721 individuals in the institution



Right: The Old Gateway at
Broadmoor Hospital

on census night. A real bargain. Those who are not inmates generally have their names listed in full and occupation given as 'attendant on the insane'.

The only place information recorded for Broadmoor, as with all institutions, is the Administrative County and it is therefore not possible to search by town or village (i.e. Crowthorne). Jeff Knaggs at <<http://homepage.ntlworld.com/jeffery.knaggs/Instuts.html>> has provided a list of institutions in the 1901 census. Broadmoor is named 'Broadmoor Asylum' and is a 'Criminal Lunatic Asylum' in Crowthorne. This page is useful for identifying all the many other institutions in Berkshire such as workhouses, schools, prisons including the Berkshire County Lunatic Asylum at Cholsey. The page is rather large so it may take a little time to download for those using a 'dial-up' internet connection.

It is very helpful that in the 1881 and 1891 census Broadmoor inmates are listed with their full names but that does not apply to all criminal and mental institutions in those years. Note that in 1881 Broadmoor is recorded as being at Sandhurst.



'This is the most inbred village in England'

Freemasons and family history

Rebecca Coombes



Right: George William Speth (1847-1901) wearing the apron of a Master Mason and collar of a Past Master

Freemasonry is believed to have originated in England, from groups of medieval stonemasons. It is thought that lodges of operative masons began to accept non-practising members who gradually took over, adopting the stonemasons' tools and customs. The Grand Lodge of England was formed in London in 1717 by four lodges. There are no records for the very early years, but from 1723 official minutes were kept incorporating the first lists of membership. However, it was not until 1768 that lodges were regularly required to return lists of members. In 1751 a group mainly made up of Irish Masons who were unable to gain access to English lodges set up

a rival Grand Lodge, known as the Antients Grand Lodge. The original Grand Lodge was referred to as the premier Grand Lodge, or the 'Moderns' and the two Grand Lodges co-existed until 1813 when they joined to become the United Grand Lodge of England.

In the wake of the French Revolution, Parliament enacted laws in an attempt to curb trade unions, political clubs and other 'subversive' organisations. The 1799 Unlawful Societies Act banned any meetings of groups which required their members to take an oath or obligation. The Earl of Moira (Acting Grand Master of the premier Grand Lodge) and the Duke of Atholl (Grand Master of the Antients Grand Lodge) urged the Prime Minister to exempt Freemasonry and as a result it was specifically exempted from the terms of the Act provided that each lodge secretary once a year submitted to the local Clerk of the Peace a list of the members of his lodge together with their ages, professions and addresses. These lists can often be found at county record offices.

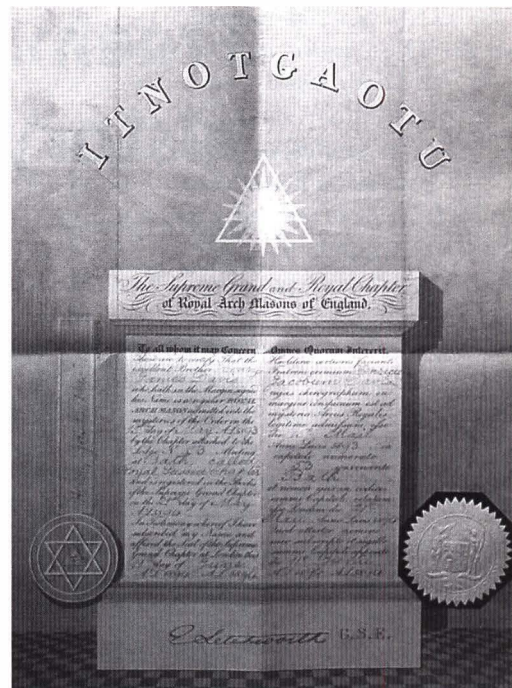
Odd Fellows

The Odd Fellows are a distinct and separate body from Freemasons but like masons their lodges met in taverns and had food and drink at their meetings. Initiation rituals suggest that candidates were blindfolded before they entered the lodge room. They were made to walk on 'loose planks [that formed] an imaginary road with rough knots left at intervals, some faggots of wood and bundles of cork, so arranged as to form rocks and forests' – giving much the same effect as early eighteenth century Freemasons being led blindfolded over a floor covered with sand. The initiate then made his obligation, his blindfold

was removed and the presiding officer then confronted him in a 'long white beard and wig' and an apron 'with the emblems of mortality painted'. This officer stood in front of a pedestal on which was a skull and a scythe.

In Sheffield, the Freemasons had two lodges, the first formed in 1765. By the 1790s they were joined by two Odd Fellows' lodges. The masonic lodges in Sheffield reflected the social composition of the town. They were mostly composed of artisans and shopkeepers with a small number of others: an attorney, a surgeon and some gentlemen. The occupations of all four lodges mirrored Sheffield: there were cutlers, file-makers, grinders, hammer makers, silver-platers and a mix of other trades, even working masons.

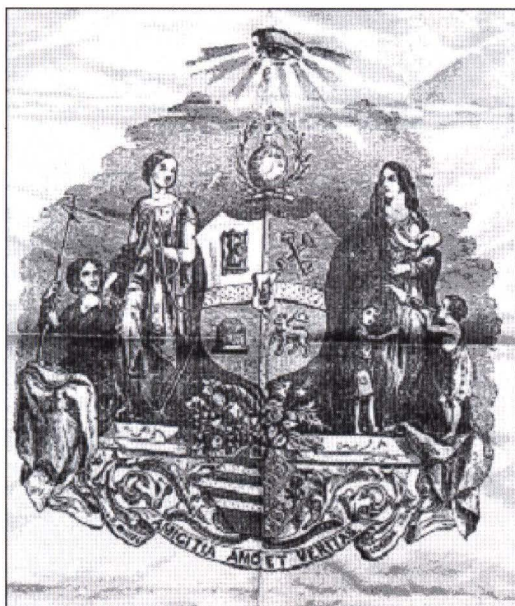
In practice both the Freemasons and the other Orders were filling necessary gaps in civil society. They would bury their dead, look after widows and orphans and relieve members in distress, not least when members moved around the country from lodge to lodge seeking work. In public, they would wear their regalia at a brother's funeral and take part in the funeral rites. Both Freemasons and the Orders alike played an important part in civic life. In Sheffield, at the opening



Extreme Right: Certificate of the United Grand Lodge of England, presented to a Freemason on passing the three degrees.

of the General Infirmary in the 1790s, the thirty-five trade clubs took part, each carrying different coloured silk flags. The Freemasons were preceded by two trumpeters dressed in white on white horses, a band, two Tylers with swords and, in the first of many banners, one of crimson silk depicting Faith, Hope and Charity. In another street were the Odd Fellows: 'The Most Noble Grand Master' with a scarlet sash, trimmed with silver lace, and his jewels suspended by a narrow ribbon of the same colour, carrying in his hand a gilt staff. The supporters wore green sashes, medals and gilt wands. An elegant flag, of white silk, was carried. It delineated many symbolic figures of the Order.

Although women are not permitted to become Freemasons under the United Grand Lodge of England, there are organisations that do admit women. Friendly Societies often organised themselves in a very similar way to Freemasonry. If an enquirer's genealogical research begins with some regalia or a certificate that has been inherited and proves not to be masonic, Library staff can advise enquirers regarding the best way to conduct their research and can provide contact details of relevant organisations.



Right: Part of an Odd Fellows apron.

The records and archives of Freemasonry in the Library

The lodges themselves provide many of the early records of Freemasonry that are held in the Library: these mainly comprise returns, membership registers, documents and correspondence.

Returns

Grand Lodge acts as the central repository for membership records of all the lodges under the English constitution. Each lodge is obliged to return to Grand Lodge, on an annual basis, a list of current members. From 1768 lodges were required to return lists of members regularly. The Library is currently involved in a project to catalogue the pre-1813 returns and these will be available on the Access to Archives website at www.a2a.org.uk later in the year.

Membership registers

The membership registers comprise lists of members of the individual lodges. They record when a man has been initiated, passed and raised, when he joined a lodge and when his membership ceased. The majority of the entries in the registers also record the age, profession and brief address of a man when he became a Freemason. This is the only personal information the Library has about an individual and details of relatives are not maintained.

Documents

In addition to written records produced by lodges there are a number of documents, issued to a lodge or to a Freemason. When a man is made a Freemason he is issued with a certificate, when he is appointed to a certain rank he receives a patent of appointment, and when a new lodge is constituted it is issued with a warrant. The Library maintains a collection of such documents.

Correspondence

The last form of documentation, which is produced by the lodges and by Grand Lodge itself, is correspondence. The Library has a large collection of correspondence dating from the second half of the eighteenth century. Records form part of this collection can also be found on the Access to Archives website.

Access to sources of genealogical information in the Library

The Library and Museum is open to the public Monday to Friday from 10am to 5pm. It is located on the first floor of Freemasons' Hall, 60 Great Queen Street, London WC2B 5AZ. Visitors are required to register as readers on arrival. There is a staffed Enquiry Desk and initial enquiries should begin here. The telephone number of the Desk is 020 7395 9257. Staff are able to advise visitors on how to conduct their research and to what extent they can pursue their own genealogical enquiry.

Genealogical services

The Library also undertakes genealogical research on behalf of enquirers. If the name or number of a lodge that a man belonged to is known there is no charge, but if this information is unknown the research is undertaken on payment of a search fee. The charge for research is £30 per name and this charge is not refundable in the event of a negative result. Genealogical search forms are available from the Enquiry Desk and can be posted to enquirers on request, or downloaded from United Grand Lodge of England's website at www.grandlodge-england.org. Research takes eight to ten weeks. The Library also holds information about foreign Grand Lodges and staff can provide contact details to enquirers.

Freemasonry in Berkshire

Freemasonry was introduced into the county in 1759 when the Moderns Grand Lodge warranted a lodge to meet at Windsor. It was followed in the same year by two lodges warranted by the Antients Grand Lodge at Reading. Freemasonry in England is divided into provinces and the Province of Berkshire came into being in 1773 with the appointment of a Provincial Grand Master. The Province has had a somewhat chequered history, being at times part of the joint Province of Berkshire and Buckinghamshire and in abeyance at other times.

There is a Library and Museum of Freemasonry, based at the Berkshire Masonic Centre, which is open to the public Monday to Saturday from 1.30pm. to 8pm.

Rebecca Coombes is Librarian at the Library and Museum of Freemasonry

Some useful addresses

The Library and Museum of Freemasonry
Freemasons' Hall
60 Great Queen Street
London WC2B 5AZ Tel: 020 7395 9257
Website: <www.grandlodge-england.org>

The Berkshire Library and Museum of
Freemasonry
Berkshire Masonic Centre
Mole Road
Sindlesham
Berks. RG41 5DB Tel: 0118 979 5104

Centre for Research into Freemasonry
Humanities Research Institute
Floor 14 Arts Tower
University of Sheffield
S10 2TN Tel: 0114 222 9890
Email: <crf@sheffield.ac.uk>
Website: <www.shef.ac.uk/~crf/>



'I thought you were looking for your family tree not digging it up'

Berkshire Overseers Project

Brian Hunt

The last of 26 volumes of the Berkshire Overseers' records has recently been completed and copies have been placed in relevant libraries as well as in the Research Centre. This marks the conclusion of a project that has taken about 12 years to complete. At the outset the Berkshire Record Office catalogues showed that the holdings of settlement examinations, removal orders, bastardy documents (examinations, orders and bonds), together with parish apprenticeship indentures, amounted to about 10,000 items. However, during the course of the transcribing and indexing work it was found that many more items contained multiple documents, raising the final tally of entries in the 26 volumes to 12,179.

Two large bound volumes of settlement examinations contributed to this enlarged figure. One contained over 430 Newbury examinations (incidentally the only surviving Old Poor Law Overseers' records for this large parish) whilst the other volume contained over 230 settlement examinations from Reading Borough between May 1768 and May 1777. This volume was only discovered recently and is one of the reasons why the final volume has taken many months to complete. Because they are in book form, and not loose documents, I transcribed all of these Newbury and Reading items and Dr. Peter Durrant then checked them.

The Reading Borough settlement examinations were very interesting and potentially useful for those whose Reading ancestry searches have reached a dead-end around the 1770s. This is because the period 1774-5 includes the examinations of some thirty-five Scottish men (mainly from Glasgow,

Paisley and Edinburgh) who had either come to Reading with wives and children or who had married Reading girls. Perhaps these examinations contain the only evidence to show that these men originated from Scotland, rather than the Reading area.

Connected with this influx, on 3 August 1774 another document requested a legal opinion from the Inner Temple regarding the wife and family of George Sinclere, who was born in Glasgow. It was mentioned that '...in Reading St Laurence a considerable Silk Manufactory has been lately established in which about 100 Scotchmen (sic) are constantly employed who frequently intermarry with women of that parish and unless their wives and children follow their Settlement [ie are sent to Scotland if they get into financial difficulties] it will bring very heavy burthens [burdens] on St Laurence parish...'. George Sinclere's wife and child had been removed to Scotland by the order of Reading JPs but at Berwick-on-Tweed the Mayor had sent them all the way back to Reading.

So, was it worth all the effort over the past 12 years? I think so, although personally I have no Berkshire family ancestors. Removal orders have revealed parishes of origin of long-lost ancestors; settlement examinations have provided potted life histories unavailable elsewhere; bastardy orders, bonds and examinations have often given true fathers' names; apprenticeship indentures and other documents have recorded interesting occupations. In one known case, just a single document has proved that following a wrong family line had wasted years of work. The successful completion of the Berkshire Overseers Project would not have been possible

without the help of Peter Durrant and Sabina Sutherland, who gave up their spare time to open up the Record Office for us for many Saturday 'work-ins'. Also of course, there were those BFHS members who helped with all the transcription and checking – some just for the odd Saturday, others who attended regularly. I hope to acknowledge them in a foreword to the 'Combined Index to all 26 Volumes' which I am currently compiling and which is nearing completion.

Right: Mary Wickens of Englefield, Bastardy Bond, 1754 D/P 130/1/13/1/20

Know all Men by these Presents that We John Draper of the Parish of Saint Leger Southwark in the County of Surrey Appraiser and George Dougherick of the said Parish Carman are held and firmly bound unto the Wardens and Overseers of the Poor of the Parish of Englefield in the County of Berks in the penal Sum of Forty Pounds of Lawfull Money of Great Britain to be paid to the said Wardens and Overseers or any of them their Attorney Successors or Assigns to which Payment well and truly to be made We bind ourselves jointly and severally and our joint and several Heirs Executors and Administrators firmly by these Presents Sealed with our Seals Dated this Twenty Seventh Day of May in the Twenty Seventh Year of the Reign of King George the Second and in the Year of our Lord One Thousand Seven Hundred and Eighty Four.

Right: Examination of John Husband, papermaker of Thatcham, 7 September 1784 (D/P 29/1/13/4/15)

County of Berks, } THE Examination of John Husband Papermaker --
to wit, } resident within the Parish of Thatcham one in the
said County of Berks taken on Oath before ~~me~~ ^{one} of his
Majesty's Justices of the Peace in and for the said County
this Seventh Day of September in the Year of our
Lord One thousand seven hundred and Eighty four

WHO saith That he is about 29 Years of Age
and that he was born in the Parish of West Wickham
in the County of Middlesex where his Parents were
Parishioners legally settled (as he hath heard and verily
believes) that about his age of fourteen he was bound
Apprentice by Indenture by the Parish Officers of West Wickham
aforesaid to William Venables of the Parish of Southdown in the
County of Berks Papermaker to serve him the said
Venables till his Age of Twenty One Year that he served
the said William Venables about Two Years and then was
returned and served him the

Publications

Mail Order Booklist

The Society Bookshop is a service provided by Berkshire Family History Enterprises Ltd, a wholly owned subsidiary of the Berkshire Family History Society. This list represents only a fraction of the many books available from our Bookshop. A complete and up-to-date list can be found on our website at www.berksfhs.org.uk/berksfhsbooks or by contacting our Bookshop by post at Yeomanry House, Reading, RG1 7TJ or by telephone on +44 (0) 118 950 9553.

Books about places in Berkshire

	UK	Abroad
Around Abingdon (Archive Photograph Series)	£11.15	£11.90
Around Ascot, Reg Morris	£13.15	£13.90
Barkham - A History, D. French & J. Firth	£8.85	£9.65
A short history of Bear Wood and Sindlesham, Jim Bell	£3.90	£4.15
Benson - A village through its history, Kate Tiller	£13.80	£14.55
Brightwalton, A downland village, J Osment etc	£8.70	£9.25
A walk around Charvil, Bill Crane	£3.00	£3.40
Chilton, Up in the downs, Frank Dumbleton	£11.35	£12.15
Change at Cholsey - Again!, Judy and Stuart Dewey	£14.55	£15.45
Cookham (Archive Photograph Series)	£10.70	£11.30
Around Didcot & the Hagbournes, Brian Lingham	£9.15	£9.90
People of Didcot, Kenneth Caulkett	£10.95	£11.70
Earley St Peters, Chad Hanna	£5.50	£5.85
Earley St Peters C of E School, Watts, Platts, Cobbold	£3.90	£4.15
'Time gentleman please', 300 years of Public Houses in East and West Ilsley, Suzanna G. Burnay	£8.75	£9.30
A history of the parish of East Woodhay	£9.35	£10.15
Past and Present Emmer Green (2nd edition)	£11.50	£12.35
Enborne - Narrowing the field	£1.90	£2.15
Enstone: Lifting the latch - A life on the land	£10.30	£11.10
Eton Wick - A Photographic History	£11.70	£12.50
Eton Wick 1217-1977, the Story of a Village	£6.10	£6.60
The changing faces of Faringdon and surrounding villages. Volume 1	£11.10	£11.85
Volume 2 & 3	£9.80	£10.45
Finchampstead in old pictures	£5.75	£6.30
Ginge to Lockinge, John Brooks	£2.90	£3.30
Hagbourne: Diary of a Village School, Monica Lawson	£10.50	£11.35
Windsor Hakebourne - A story of West Hagbourne	£11.95	£12.75
Henley Rural, Brian Reed	£10.85	£11.50
Around Henley-on-Thames, Sian Ellis	£9.10	£9.85
The parish of Hinton Waldrist, Peter Keene	£3.45	£3.80
Reminiscences of 20th century Hungerford	£4.50	£4.85
Hurst, 19th Century St Nicholas Church, Jim Bell	£3.90	£4.15
Jarvis Chronicles - A family history Carol Jarvis	£8.85	£9.50
Kennet & Avon Canal, Clive and Helen Hackford	£11.95	£12.70

Kingston Bagpuize with Southmoor, Keen & Kelly	£3.45	£3.80
Kintbury - A Century Remembered 1900-1999	£7.45	£8.20
Longworth - A sense of place, Peter Keene	£3.45	£3.80
Are you married or do you live in Maidenhead?	£15.00	£15.95
Maidenhead: a Pictorial History, Luke Over	£13.50	£14.35
Around Maidenhead in old photographs	£8.95	£9.70
Mortimer in Old Photographs	£10.15	£10.90
The Story of Newbury, Tony Higgott	£11.10	£11.85
Newbury, A Photographic Record, Sue Hopson	£11.45	£12.25
Purley on Thames at the Millennium, John Chapman	£3.50	£3.90
Reading - Britain in Old Photographs	£7.95	£8.70
The History of Christ Church CE Primary School 1868-2000 (Time is a Circle), Derek Crisp	£5.60	£6.10
The Town of Reading and its Abbey, Cecil Slade	£11.30	£12.10
Sandhurst - a look back in time	£5.00	£5.35
Sandhurst & Crowthorne: Public houses 1740-1950	£4.00	£4.35
Shinfield: a walk around our village	£5.50	£5.85
Shinfield, Those were the days, George & Eileen Taylor	£3.00	£3.40
Slough - A Century of Change	£10.95	£11.70
Sonning, Eye and Dunsden Two Centuries of Change	£11.50	£12.35
The Book of Sonning, Angela Perkins	£18.50	£19.50
A Hundred years of South Moreton School	£4.45	£4.80
Spencers Wood - Our Village	£5.60	£6.10
The Bobby's Notebook - On the beat in early Victorian Sunninghill, C. Weightman	£5.50	£5.85
A Popular History of Thatcham, Peter Allen	£5.95	£6.70
Thatcham over 2000 years including Cold Ash Greenham & Midgham	£6.95	£7.70
Around Thatcham, Peter Allen	£11.15	£11.90
More of the Tilehurst we remember	£6.75	£7.30
Twyford - A Village Post Office, John and Sheila Rudd	£3.00	£3.40
Twyford - old inns & alehouses, John and Sheila Rudd	£1.75	£2.15
Twyford - St Mary the Virgin parish register extracts 1863-1882, Jim Bell	£4.00	£4.35
Twyford's Railway Heritage, Marion & John Pearse	£3.25	£3.65
Vale of the White Horse (Images of England)	£10.95	£11.70
Rural life in the Vale of the White Horse 1780-1914	£9.10	£9.85
Village Collection - Woolhampton, Midgham, Brimpton & Wasing	£11.50	£12.35
Window on Wallingford 1837-1914, J & S Dewey	£19.10	£19.75
Wallingford and the Civil War, J & S Dewey	£3.15	£3.40
Around Wallingford, David Beasley	£10.95	£11.70
Wantage, Faringdon and the Vale villages	£9.15	£9.90
Wantage - Images of England, Irene Hancock	£10.95	£11.70
The Book of Wargrave, Rosemary Gray & Sue Griffiths	£12.05	£13.20
The Second Book of Wargrave	£19.45	£20.25
The History of West Woodhay with Enstone Hamstead Marshall, Inkpen & Combe	£3.50	£3.90
White Waltham - A Village at War	£7.00	£7.35
A Thousand Years of Windsor	£7.50	£8.35

Indexes

	UK	Abroad
Berkshire Overseers' Papers (by Poor Law Unions)		
Vol 1 Newbury: Chieveley	£3.40	£4.35
Vol 2 Newbury: Brimpton, Enborne, Wasing, Woolhampton	£3.40	£4.35
Vol 3 Newbury: Thatcham	£4.35	£5.35
Vol 4 Bradfield: Aldermaston, Englefield, Pangbourne	£3.40	£4.35
Vol 5 Bradfield: Abbots & Bannister, Bucklebury, Burghfield, Stanford Dingley, Sulham, Sulhamstead, Theale	£3.40	£4.35
Vol 6 Bradfield: Tilehurst, Padworth	£4.35	£5.35
Vol 7 Maidenhead: Bray, Cookham, Waltham St Lawrence	£3.40	£4.35
Vol 8 Faringdon: Ashbury, Coleshill, Great Coxwell, Kingston Lisle, Longworth, Shellingford, Stanford in the Vale, Uffington	£3.40	£4.35
Vol 9 Wallingford: Brightwell, Crowmarsh Gifford, Newnham Murren, Wallingford St Mary & St Peter Long Wittenham	£3.40	£4.35
Vol 10 Easthampstead: Easthampstead, Warfield, Winkfield	£4.35	£5.35
Vol 11 Wokingham (part of): Shinfield, Sonning, Swallowfield, Wokingham-	£3.40	£4.35
Vol 12 Wokingham & Windsor: Finchampstead, Hurst, Sunninghill, Old Windsor	£3.40	£4.35
Vol 13 Wantage: Blewbury, Brightwell, Hampstead Norris, West Hanney, Harwell, West Hendred, Peasmore, Sparsholt, and part of Wantage	£4.35	£5.35
Vol 14 Wantage: remainder	£4.35	£5.35
Vol 15 Abingdon: Abingdon, Cumnor, Drayton, Kingston Bagpuize, Sutton Courtenay	£3.40	£4.35
Vol 16 Reading Union (part of): St Giles	£4.35	£5.35
Vol 17 Reading Union (part of): St Giles	£4.35	£5.35
Vol 18 Reading Union (part of): St Giles	£4.35	£5.35
Vol 19 Reading Union (part of): St Giles	£4.35	£5.35
Vol 20 Reading (part of): St Mary	£4.35	£5.35
Vol 21 Reading (remainder of): St Mary	£4.35	£5.35
Vol 22 Reading: Caversham	£4.35	£5.35
Vol 23 Hungerford: Kintbury & part of Hungerford	£4.35	£5.35
Vol 24 Hungerford (part of): Hungerford	£3.40	£4.35
Vol 25 Hungerford (remainder of): Hungerford	£3.40	£4.35
Vol 26 Newbury: Newbury Settlement Examinations	£4.35	£5.35

(This series is now complete and it is hoped to have a name index for all entries published by the end of this year.)

Berkshire Census

Full 1851 transcript with name index on CD*	£23.10	£24.10
*Microfiche transcripts with a name index are available for some Enumeration Districts. Printed booklets of the surname are still available for a few districts.		
Toomer's 1815 Census of Newbury	£7.50	£8.85

CD Roms

National Burial Index on two CDs (upgrade price for first edition buyers £25)	£45.00	£46.00
Berkshire Burial Index on CD ROM: * (from the Bookshop, including p&p)	£13.10	£14.10

*This edition of the Berkshire Burial Index supersedes the first edition published in November 2002. It contains over 280,000 burials. If you have already purchased the first edition and would like to receive the updated version, simply return your CD with a cheque for the correct amount

alternatively purchase the new version at the Bookshop.	£13.00	£14.35
Snare's Post Office Directory of Reading 1842-3	£8.10	£9.75

North Berkshire Census (microfiche)

1841 Transcript and indexes are available for:

Moreton and Wantage Hundreds	£9.00	£9.00
Faringdon	£9.00	£9.00
Shrivenham & Ganfield Hundreds	£9.00	£9.00
Oxford City (including Grandpont & Oxford Aldgate)	£9.00	£9.00
Abingdon	£9.00	£9.00
Ock & Hormer Hundreds	£9.00	£9.00

1861 Census Index only:

Abingdon	£3.00	£3.00
Faringdon	£3.00	£3.00
Henley (including Remenham)	£3.00	£3.00
Oxford City (including Grandpont and Aldgate)	£3.00	£3.00
Wallingford	£3.00	£3.00
Wantage	£3.00	£3.00

1871 Census Index only:

Abingdon	£3.00	£3.00
Faringdon	£3.00	£3.00
Henley (including Remenham)	£3.00	£3.00
Oxford City (including Grandpont & Oxford Aldgate)	£3.00	£3.00
Wallingford	£3.00	£3.00
Wantage	£3.00	£3.00

1891 Census Index only:

Abingdon	£3.00	£3.00
Faringdon	£3.00	£3.00
Henley (including Remenham)	£3.00	£3.00
Oxford City (including Grandpont & Oxford Aldgate)	£3.00	£3.00
Wallingford	£3.00	£3.00
Wantage	£3.00	£3.00

Oxfordshire including North Berkshire Census name indexes on CD ROM:

1861 (except Woodstock sub-district)	£17.50	£17.50
1871	£17.50	£17.50
1891	£17.50	£17.50

Parish registers

Barkham St James 1538–1998 (CD)	£5.50	£6.85
Barkham St James 1538–1998 (fiche)	£5.35	£6.35
Burghfield St Mary 1559–1987 (CD)	£7.50	£8.85
Burghfield St Mary 1559–1987 (fiche)	£7.35	£8.35
Clewer St Andrew 1607–1860 (CD)	£8.50	£9.85
Clewer St Andrew 1607–1860 (fiche)	£8.10	£9.10
Combe St Swithin 1560–1985 (CD)	£3.50	£4.85
Combe St Swithin 1560–1985 (fiche)	£3.40	£4.35
Compton Parva 1553–1955 (CD)	£5.35	£6.35
Compton Parva 1553–1955 (fiche)	£5.50	£6.85
East Ilsley, St Mary's 1608–2003 (CD)	£5.35	£6.35
Peasemore, St Barnabas 1538–1991 (fiche)	£4.35	£5.35
Reading St Laurence – Baptisms 1813–1888 (fiche)	£4.35	£5.35
Swallowfield, All Saints 1539–1962 (CD)	£7.50	£8.85
Theale, Holy Trinity 1832–1968 (CD)	£4.50	£5.85
Theale, Holy Trinity 1832–1968 (fiche)	£4.35	£5.35
West Ilsley, All Saints 1558–1967 (CD)	£4.50	£5.85
West Ilsley, All Saints 1558–1967 (fiche)	£4.35	£5.35

Berkshire war memorials transcriptions and indexes

Berkshire War Memorials (Part 1): Villages, towns and parish churches 1838–1982	£9.80	£10.70
Berkshire War Memorials (Part 2): Military Units 1854–1991	£4.30	£5.20

Berkshire monumental inscriptions

Berkshire monumental inscriptions are available on microfiche for many churchyards and cemeteries. A complete list together with prices can be obtained from the Society website on <www.berksfhs.org.uk/berksfhsbooks> or by contacting our Bookshop at Yeomanry House, Reading, RG1 7TJ or by telephone on +44 (0)118 950 9553.

Parish registers on CD ROM

Abingdon Reg. District Volume 1:

Abingdon St Helens, Abingdon St Michael (Bap & Mar only), Abingdon Workhouse (Bap only), Abingdon St Nicholas, Culham, Milton, Sandford on Thames, Shippon	£17.50	£17.50
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Faringdon Reg. District Volume 1:

Ashbury, Baulking, Bourton, Charney Bassett, Compton Beauchamp, Fernham, Hatford, Kingstone Lisle, Little Faringdon, Pusey, Shellingford Stanford in the Vale, Watchfield, Woolstone	£17.50	£17.50
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Wallingford Reg. District Volume 1:

Brightwell, Cholsey, Long Wittenham, North Moreton, Sotwell, Wallingford: St Leonard, St Mary, St Peter, Baptist Chapel, Independent & Primitive Methodist Churches	£17.50	£17.50
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Wallingford Reg. District Volume 2:

Aston Tirrold, Aston Tirrold URC (Bap & Bur only), Aston Upthorpe, Benson, Crowmarsh Gifford, Didcot, Dorchester, Hagbourne, Mongewell, Moulsoford, South Moreton	£17.50	£17.50
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South Oxfordshire Area Volume 1:

Caversham: St Peter, St Andrew, St Bartholomew, St John, Goring, Goring Heath, Sonning, Whitchurch	£17.50	£17.50
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Wantage Reg. District Volume 1:

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Vouchers for use on the internet

Vouchers for the 1901 PRO census at <www.1901census.nationalarchives.gov.uk> and for Family History on Line at <www.familyhistoryonline.net> may also be ordered from the Bookshop in £5.00 and £10.00 denominations. Please add 50p (UK) or £1.30 (overseas air mail) p&p when ordering alone.

New additions to the Library

Books on Berkshire

Changing Faces of Faringdon
Cumnor Parish 2000
Kelly's Directories: Maidenhead, Reading & Windsor
(various dates)
Thatcham 1852-2002
Waltham Place and Its Surrounding Parish

Books on other counties:

Machine Breakers:
• Buckinghamshire
• Dorset
• Gloucestershire

Bygone Kent

Durham in Pictures
Newcastle-on-Tyne
Northumberland

CD ROMS

Oxfordshire parish registers:

• Banbury, Bicester, Chipping Norton,
• Headington, Oxford, Thame & Woodstock

Berkshire parish registers:

• Wantage & Wallingford districts

Gloucestershire marriage index 1800-1837

Wiltshire, Berkshire & Dorset marriage licence bonds

Microfiche

Abingdon St Helen baptisms & burials 1686-1812
Abingdon St Michael baptisms and marriages 1868-1892
Criminal petitions register 1819-1839 (four parts)
Oxfordshire electoral registers 1865
Banbury & Belthrop
Oxfordshire electoral registers 1885:
Middle, North & South Divisions
Oxfordshire parish registers:
Adderbury, Epwell, Hampton Gay, Littlemore
Hospital, Middleton Stoney, Wolvercote

Family history source books

Finding Italian Roots
First Name Variants
German Research Companion
History's Midwives
Jewish Documentary Sources in Russia, Ukraine & Belarus

Berkshire Burial Index update

(All the parishes listed below have been added to the Index since the second issue of the CD Rom published last November).

Arborfield St Bartholomew 1813-1925
Ashbury St Mary 1785-1812
Boxford St Andrew 1558-1648
Bradfield St Andrew 1839-1882
Buckland St Mary the Virgin 1813-1838
Cholsey County Lunatic Asylum 1896 -1907
Cholsey St Mary 1919-1929
Cumnor St Michael 1813-1851
East Hendred St Augustine 1813-1863
Faringdon All Saints 1798-1812
Hampstead Norreys St Mary 1543-1594
Hinton Waldrist St Margaret 1961-1977
Hungerford St Lawrence 1935-1969
Letcombe Regis St Andrew 1813-1863
Newbury St Nicolas 1767-1773
New Windsor St John the Baptist 1696-1702
Reading London Road Cemetery (burials in consecrated ground)
1852-1853
Reading London Road Cemetery (burials in unconsecrated ground)
1852-1856
Sparsholt Holy Cross 1813-1865
Swallowfield All Saints 1694-1753
Warfield St Michael 1859-1922

Berkshire Marriage Index update

(if you have any questions regarding this index contact Sue Matthews, 83 Curtis Avenue, Abingdon, Oxon OX14 3UW)

Binfield All Saints 1538-1837
Bisham 1561-1837
Bradfield St Andrew 1545-1837
Chaddleworth St Andrew 1539-1837
Cookham Holy Trinity 1563-1837
Hampstead Marshall 1676-1837
Kintbury St Mary 1557-1837
St George's Chapel Windsor 1629-1753
Shottesbrooke St John the Baptist 1556-1837
Warfield 1569-1837
Wargrave St Mary 1600-1837
Winterbourne St James the Less 1564-1837

My grandmother was a midwife

Jill Carr, with an introduction by Jean Debney



Right: Edith Emma Sargeant c.1904

Midwives sometimes had to baptise a dying baby so, from medieval times until the eighteenth century, they were licensed by the church. These licences, sometimes with testimonials, were recorded in act books which are now with other diocesan papers in county record offices. Other early references to midwives may be found in the old poor law overseers' accounts maintained until the poor law unions were established in 1834 and held in the county record offices. Sometimes references may also be found among military papers in The National Archives (TNA).

Until the beginning of the twentieth century midwives were entirely untrained and some were dirty, dishonest and intemperate. Doctors would only attend if there were severe complications, and even then many doctors

were untrained in the art of midwifery. It was for this reason that infant mortality remained high until the end of the nineteenth century at around 150 per thousand births.

When the 'Trained Registration Society' for midwives was set up in 1881, no qualifications were required to practice although some may have received a diploma after attending the College of the London Obstetrical Society, founded in 1805. The Registration Society is now the Royal College of Midwives Trust but the records, dating from 1920, only give names, addresses and length of membership.

The social climate changed after 1900 when it was realised that many Boer War recruits were very unhealthy and, since the poor were the 'physical capital' of the nation, it was felt that the health of the poorer classes should be improved. In that year over 900 women applied for the Obstetrical Society's certificate in anticipation of registration.

After twelve years of controversy the Midwives Act was finally passed in 1902, some fifty to a hundred years after most European countries. Similar acts were passed in Scotland in 1915 and Ireland in 1918. Following this the Central Midwives Board for England and Wales was set up to ensure better training.

By 1905 the Midwives Roll contained over 22,000 names, of whom nearly 7,500 held the Obstetrical Society's certificate, over 2,000 had hospital certificates and over 12,500 were uncertificated 'bona fide' midwives. Some of the latter were illiterate, others couldn't read a clinical thermometer or simply registered their qualification but did not practise. The practising midwives attended about half the

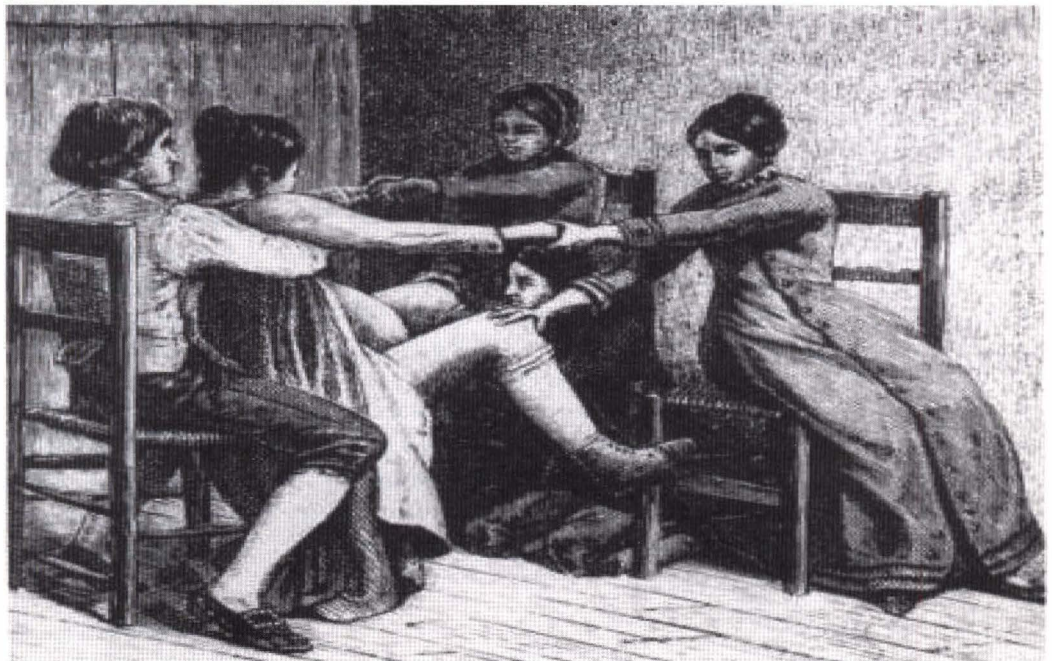
country's births and, although most worked on their own account delivering babies at home, a few worked in hospitals, maternity charities or rural nursing associations.

In 1983 the Board was replaced by the United Kingdom and Central Council for Nursing, Midwifery and Health Visiting (UKCC) and the earlier records, including those of the Central Midwives Board, were transferred to the TNA (ref: DV 7). Records of those midwives who were also state registered nurses will be found in the Register of Nurses. What follows is the story of Jill Carr's search for the records of her grandmother who was an early registered midwife.

My grandmother – Edith Emma Sargeant, known as 'Edie' – was born in Barkham Road, Wokingham, Berkshire, on 28 July 1880. She was the fourth of nine children of James, a journeyman plasterer, and Mary Sargeant. When I began researching her history in 1998 my sister passed me the information she had discovered some twenty years earlier although, having a young family, she had not made any significant progress. From family stories we knew that our grandmother was a midwife before her marriage which was confirmed by the photo of her in uniform.

I found her in the 1881 census when she was eight months old and when the 1901 census became available I found that she was a kitchen maid and, to my surprise, was still living at home with her parents. I discovered that following the Midwives Act in 1902, the records of the Central Board of Midwives were in the TNA, Kew (formerly the PRO) in class DV 7. In the Midwives Roll, 1907 (Ref. DV 7/5) I found her entry: 'Name: Edith Emma Sargeant, No.11238; Address: c/o Miss B Blair, Heatherley, Wellington College Station; Date of enrolment: 22 Dec 1904; Qualification: LOS 27 May 1904.'

The following year I visited Crowthorne and Bracknell Libraries and looked at 'What happened in Crowthorne before 1900' which said: 'In Waterloo Road stood the Wellington Hotel and Heatherley (now Talbot House)'. A list of residents for 1899 included the Misses Blair (Heatherley, Wellington College). The 1901 census records the Misses Florence and Frances B Blair (46 and 39, 'living on own means' and born in Lancashire) at Heatherley in Crowthorne with five resident servants: a butler, groom, lady's maid, cook and housemaid. They also had a coachman with his family living in 'The Stables'. I wonder if my grandmother came to work each day as their kitchen maid and, when they discovered her ambition, they sponsored her training as a nurse?



A nineteenth century illustration of a lap birth



Right. Edith Emma Slade nee
Sargeant c. 1919-21

I contacted Nicholas Ritchie, the Wellington College archivist, who told me that the Misses Florence and Frances Blair were lessees of Heatherley from 30 May 1891 and, at an unknown date, the tenancy then passed to a Miss Sarah Ley. Miss Frances Beatrice Blair then took the lease from a Mrs Harrison between 7 May 1915 and 10 Feb 1920.

After reading 'Lost: An East London Hospital' by Helen Dasley in the March 2000 edition of *Practical Family History* I wrote to The Royal London Hospital Archives. The Archivist replied that the 'Maternity Charity & District Nurses Home, Plaistow (whose records [they] hold and who trained many midwives working in East London) had a lower age limit of 25 [years] on applicants for the 100 annual places available on its midwifery training course. Midwives who trained at Plaistow were prepared for the London Obstetrical Society [LOS] Examinations'. And, among many other records, they had the Plaistow training course registers. I found a Nurse Sargeant [wrong spelling, but I guess this is my grandmother] had passed her St John's Ambulance courses in First Aid and Nursing on 20 Sep 1900. And the results of the LOS examinations in May 1904 showed that out of 52 entrants, 41 passed (including my grandmother) and 11 failed. I also found her Nursing Report

of 7 May 1904 to 7 September 1904: she was number 1542 and, among many favourable comments, had attended 52 maternity cases during the six months. From the documentary evidence it is likely that she was 'sponsored' by Miss Blair.

Her midwifery career was cut short when, on 23 May 1908, she married at St Michael & All Angels, Hackney. The witnesses were her brother-in-law and her new husband's stepsister. To this day I have no idea how my grandparents met and why they married in Hackney. Their address was 18 Well Street, which may have been her sister Lillian's home. They began their married life in Totton, Southampton, and, finally, according to family information, she delivered Hughie, her younger sister Maisie's son, about 1926.

Select Bibliography:

- Bourne, S & Chicken, A H, 'Records of Midwives, in 'Records of the Medical Professions', 1994 p24-25.
- Donnison, Jean, *Midwives and Medical Men*, Historical Publications, 1988
- Grundy, Joan E , *History's Midwives*, Federation of Family History Societies (Publications) Ltd, 2004
- Herber Mark, *Ancestral Trails*, Sutton Publishing & Society of Genealogists, 1997 pp 394-5, 454
- Webb, Cliff , *An Index of London Hospitals and their Records*, Society of Genealogists Enterprises Ltd, 2002
- The National Archives, 'Civilian Nurses and Nursing Services', Domestic Records Information Leaflet No. 79, 1999. Domestic Records Information Leaflet No. 59 gives a brief history of civilian nursing; Military records information No. 55 has a brief history of British army nurses and nursing services

Useful websites

- The Royal College of Nursing <www.qmuc.ac.uk/hn/history> holds records of nursing organisations such as the National Council of Nurses and the Society of Registered Male Nurses.
- The National Archives <www.thenationalarchives.pro.go.uk>.

A Reading photographer and his studio

Marion Crawford

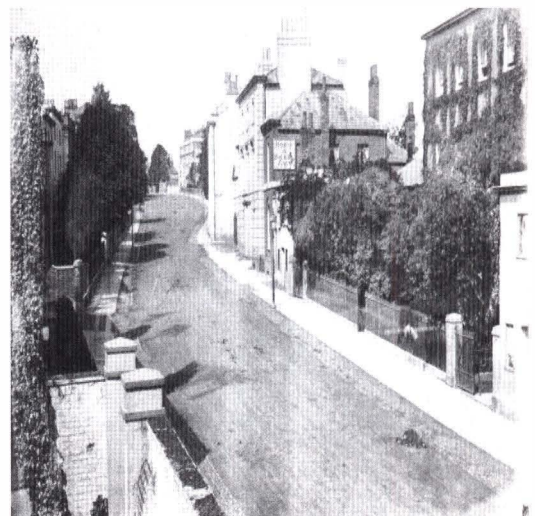
Someone once said that pictures are worth a thousand words and this would certainly apply to two pictures from my own family collection. The first photograph has a clear caption, 'The back of Talbot Lodge, Castle Street, before our new Studio was built, showing Richmond House over the Street in left hand corner'. The second caption shows 'Castle Hill showing Richmond House in right hand corner. The wall on the left belongs to the garden in (here the wording is not clear) is our new studio'. The property was the last place that my maternal third great-grandfather and grandmother, Henry Wellington Burt and Ann Burt (nee Brewerton), stayed before leaving for New Zealand in 1840. Henry Wellington Burt's sister Emma Hamilton Burt married John White in 1836. He was an upholsterer at London Street, Reading. At the time of the 1881 census he was living at 97 Castle Street, Reading, and was described as a landscape artist. John and Emma were parents to Sydney Victor White, a prominent photographer in

Reading towards the end of the nineteenth century. According to the 1881 census Sydney Victor was living at 83 Castle Street, Reading. In Mary F. Southerton's book, *A Century of Photography in Reading* (1986), Sydney Victor White set up as a photographer in 1869 at 52 Castle Street but as his business grew he moved in 1874 to Talbot Lodge, 85 Castle Street. He had clearly been going up in the world as he also opened in 1888 the 'Royal Victoria Studio' at 23/25 Blagrove Street. These premises were advertised as being equipped with electric light. Later advertising reveals that he had opened an 'Amateur Department' selling equipment and materials to those prepared to become skilled in the new hobby of photography. He also set up a studio at Basingstoke on Wednesdays and Saturdays.

Both photographs were sent to New Zealand as keepsakes from the Reading family as reminders of happy times.

Right: The back of Talbot Lodge, Castle Street

Extreme right: Castle Hill showing Richmond House in right hand corner



Gleanings from exchange magazines

Daphne Spurling

Please note that the London and North Middlesex FHS has changed its name to London, Westminster and Middlesex FHS.

Surnames in Carmarthenshire. Survey of use of the ap patronym in records at the Carmarthenshire Record Office. ('Dyfed Family History Journal', Vol 8, No 5, April 2004)

The Chairman's September Letter – A Report to Members. Comparison of two PPV websites: 'origins.net' and 'familyhistoryonline.net' including a test trawl for four names. ('Root and Branch' West Surrey FHS, Vol 30, No 3, Dec 2003)

Now if you'd said Palantine – Records at the National Archives under the Duchy of Lancaster and the County Palantine of Lancaster. ('The Manchester Genealogist', Vol 40, No 1, 2004)

Monumental Inscriptions – Name indices for St Luke's Chapel, Chorlton on Medlock and King Street Chapel, Salford. ('The Manchester Genealogist', Vol 40, No 1, 2004)

Where Can I Get That Book. Two suggested websites are <www.abebooks.co.uk> and <www.2ndhand.org.uk/cgi/books.cgi> ('The Manchester Genealogist', Vol 40, No 1, 2004)

Symbolism in Gravestone Art Symbols on gravestones can provide an insight into the local culture or may relate to the life or death of the deceased. ('Herefordshire FHS', Vol IX, No 1, April 2004)

Lost Babies Article about babies who do not appear in records (Birth or Death registration or parish registers) but about whom there is oral family history. ('Cockney Ancestor', East of London FHS, No 102, Spring 2004)

Websites for photographs (gleaned from various magazines).

- <www.picturethepast.org.uk> for Derbyshire and Nottinghamshire. Thousands of photographs including, for example – 400 photos of Hucknall near Nottingham – including named people and streets.

- <www.ideal-homes.org.uk> Photos held by local authorities in south London from Greenwich to Southwark.

- <www.Lambethlandmark.com/> 6,000 images from the 30,000 photos, drawings, prints and watercolours held by Lambeth Archives.

Wiltshire Record Society Lists publications with details of those of most general interest to Family Historians (Wiltshire Family History Society, Jan 2004)

Banbury This issue is dedicated to articles and information about Banbury. ('Oxfordshire Family Historian', Vol 18, No 1, April 2004)

Sheffield Churches and their Whereabouts. A list of the parish churches in Sheffield with their modern district and postal code. (Sheffield and District FHS, Vol 25, No 2, Spring 2004)

Old Bailey Proceedings. Another 7,700 trials from April 1674 to October 1714, the first time they have been collected together, are now available on <www.oldbaileyonline.org>. So if you have a black-sheep in your family keep an eye on this site as it expands into the eighteenth century.

Bookends

Jean Debney

World War One army ancestry, Norman Holding, revised and updated by Iain Swinnerton (Federation FHS, 4th edition 2003). ISBN 1-86006-179-6. A5, flexiback, illustrations, 104pp. Bookshop price £6.95, inc P&P UK £7.70, Overseas surface £ 8.30 Airmail £ 9.80

This is the first volume of the trilogy by Norman Holding, a vital series for anyone researching army ancestors who served between 1914-1918. Updated, improved and amended, it is now bigger and better than ever. Also available: *The Location of British Army Records 1914-1918*. *More Sources of World War I Army Ancestry Words from wills and other probate records*, Stuart A Raymond (Federation FHS, 2004). ISBN 1-86006-1818. A5, flexiback, 114pp. Bookshop price £8.50, inc P&P UK £9.50, Overseas surface £10.20 Airmail £11.50

This book began life as the glossary for the author's MA thesis at Adelaide University. Now, greatly expanded with additions from glossaries in many printed sources, dialect and English dictionaries this is a fascinating source of information. From abb (short-staple wool) to yrne (iron) it includes such gems as dragon, galligaskins, pie crook, pinions, rave and specie. This is a vital publication for anyone researching and using probate records from the sixteenth to the eighteenth centuries.

Family history on the web, an Internet Directory for England and Wales, Stuart A Raymond (Federation FHS, 2004-5 edition). ISBN 1-86006-180-X. A5 landscape flexiback, 120pp. Bookshop price £5.95, inc P&P UK £6.70, Overseas surface £7.20 Airmail £8.70

In the two years since this guide was last published there have been many new and important genealogical sites all of which are included. Following a short, but vital introduction, they are divided into 12 sections and each website has a brief description. Three

indexes by place, institution (FHSs, counties, types, etc) and place (counties and countries) enable you to find what you want. Regular updates are planned for this publication as well as others in the series.

Tracing births, deaths and marriages at sea, Christopher T & Michael J Watts. (Society of Genealogists, 2004). A5, 180pp, flexiback. ISBN 1-903462-82-7. Bookshop price £11.99 inc P&P UK £13.15, Overseas surface £ 13.90 Airmail £16.20

This well-written book covers a totally new and important research topic for family historians for which, up to now, there has been no dedicated guide. There are five detailed appendices, 28 facsimile documents and an index to help you find everything you need to know. If your ancestor was at sea this is a vital publication.

A School within a School. A Record of Tesdale Ushers and Bennett Scholars 1603-1870. A5 booklet, illustrated, 51pp. Price £5.95 + 50p postage from Dr N Hammond, Rectory Orchard, Winter Lane, West Hanney, Wantage OX12 0LF.

Two Old Boys of Abingdon (Royse's) School, from successful intermarried families, bequeathed, in the early sixteenth century, money and property to provide scholarships for six poor boys from the town and a Tesdale Usher (teacher). These were administered by the ancient Abingdon charity, Christ's Hospital. The author, Nigel Hammond, is Honorary Archivist to Christ's Hospital and this provides the real value for family historians particularly Abingdonians. All the Bennett Scholars from 1609 to 1870 are listed. The Scholarships ceased in 1870 on the opening of the new Abingdon School. Nigel Hammond is to be congratulated for an interesting read and valuable reference document.

Some 5 years ago I sent a request from Melbourne, Australia, to the Society seeking information on an ancestor and it was copied onto the email list. All that I knew about my early Berkshire ancestor on my maternal side was family anecdote that he had been a coachbuilder living in Reading. In London I had found his 1848 will and from that learnt that he had fathered an illegitimate child resulting in the break up of his marriage. His father-in-law was an inn keeper in Stratfield Mortimer and his wife had returned to that village taking my great grandfather and his sister with her where she opened a school. These bare facts were repeated on your email list.

I received up to half a dozen helpful responses. One didn't contain much useful information, however it did include an open offer of research assistance. Today I count that person as one of my closest and most admired friends and her generous research has provided me with a detailed picture of my Mortimer/Padworth ancestors back to 1620. Several contacts mentioned that my family name was the name of an old firm of solicitors which had operated in Reading. One contact had been employed as a young woman by that firm and provided me with the name of another firm with which she believed the original firm had merged. The internet provided more details and an email resulted in a reply from a partner who was a granddaughter of one of the original firm's founders. She was a fourth cousin and informed me that another cousin had been created a Baron in 1962 and that the family history was listed in Burke's Baronetage and Peerage. I was able to locate a copy and found family details going back to my 10 x G Grandfather in 1540. Another member of the family – my great grandfather's first cousin – had been an active and important member of the Broad Street Meeting Room and their records have provided further detail of the family and their lives. On subsequent visits to England I have visited the places where many of those ancestors lived, were married and are buried, and met with 'lost' cousins – with some of whom I now enjoy a warm relationship. If only all family history research could be that successful and easy!

Neville Lee OAM, 20 Baird Street, Ashburton, Victoria 3147, Australia

Chastell's Coaches

I read Olive J. Samuel's letter from Christchurch, Dorset, with interest as I found more than a little coincidence in what he mentions. In my family's case it wasn't a May Saddington marrying a Chastell as Olive mentions, but rather a May Chastell marrying a Saddington.

There was a marriage between a William Saddington and a May Chastell (from Cheshunt) around 1911 (don't know exactly when). They had five children, May Nora (June 19, 1913), Louise, Doris, William and Jack. May Chastell's mother's maiden name was Louise Perrin. The eldest daughter (May Nora Saddington) married Dudley James Venables (born in East Ham) and they are my grandparents (thankfully still alive).

Tim Venables, La Paz, Bolivia (born in Margate, Kent)

Women's Land Army

Does anybody remember a Land Army girl named Muriel Jackson (my mother), who worked on farms in Mortimer, near Reading? Muriel joined the Women's Land Army in April 1945, aged 18, and was initially billeted at Stratfield House in Mortimer, before moving to Little Park Farm. There she, and couple named Evelyn (nee Bates) and Kenneth Whitehead, worked for William Froom. The farm also doubled as a prisoner of war camp for 900 prisoners of Italian and German origin. (I have the camp records for 1946 as well as a list of other WLA girls who lived in Mortimer). If anyone can help with information about those times I would be glad to hear from them.

Michael Acton, 71 Beatty Avenue, Brighton, East Sussex, BN1 9EP. Email: <michaelacton587@msn.com>

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Compiled by Bob Plumridge, Bob.Plumridge@nthworld.com

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No	Name	Place	Code	Date
4182	APLIN	Maidenhead	BRK	1881+
4277	ARMSTRONG	All	HAM	pre 1740
5241	ATKINS	Abingdon	BRK	pre 1850
5241	BANNING	Hungerford	BRK	pre 1850
4103	BARNET	Cookham	BRK	pre 1900
5570	BARRETT	Wimborne	DOR	1750-1900
5552	BENSON	Lambourn	BRK	1853+
5188	BERRY	Reading	BRK	1900-1975
5188	BERRY	Oxford	OXF	1870-2004
4182	BRADFORD	Maidenhead	BRK	1876+
4182	BRADFORD	Lewisham	LDN	1901+
5570	BREWER	Wallingford	BRK	1720-1900
5241	BRITTEN	Abingdon	BRK	pre 1850
5570	BROADHURST			
		Silchester	HAM	1800-1890
5570	BROADHURST			
		Tilehurst	BRK	1860-1910
5241	BUCKLE	Abingdon	BRK	pre 1890
4103	BULL	Warborough	BRK	1800-1900
4103	BULL	Abingdon	BRK	1800-1900
4277	BUSHNELL	Berwick on Tweed	SCT	pre 1855
4277	CARTER	Maidenhead	BRK	pre 1870

No	Name	Place	Code	Date
5241	CHALLIS	Newbury	BRK	pre 1900
4277	CHAMBERLAIN			
		Mortimer	BRK	pre 1800
4277	CHEESEMAN			
		Pangbourne	BRK	pre 1850
5552	CUR(R)(I)YER			
		Chinnor	OXF	1852+
5552	CUR(R)(I)YER			
		Clapham	SRY	1878+
5552	DEAN	Lambourn	BRK	1815+
5552	DEAN	Lambourn	BRK	1770-1800
5552	DEAN	Eastbury	BRK	All
5570	DEAR(E)	All	HAM	1800+
5570	DICKER	Buckingham	BKM	1800-1860
5595	DIXON	Kintbury	BRK	1726-1792
5640	DOP(B)SON	Kintbury	BRK	1500-1900
5595	DUNN	Kintbury	BRK	1859-1912
5241	ELDERFIELD	Harwell/		
		Abingdon	BRK	pre 1950
4103	ELLAWAY	East Hendred	BRK	pre 1815
4277	FLITTER	All	BRK	pre 1800
4277	FOULKE(S)	All	STS	pre 1790

No	Name	Place	Code	Date	No	Name	Place	Code	Date
5570	GILL	Wallingford	BRK	1750+	5570	RONEY	Burford	OXF	1800-1870
5595	GLADSTONE	Kintbury	BRK	1912-1945	5570	ROWE	Poplar	MDX	1800-1950
4277	GREEN	Totnes	DEV	pre 1810	4277	STEELE	All	HAM	pre 1840
4277	HARDING	Eton	BRK	All	3363	STOKER	Cork	IRL	1700-1800
5595	HAYNE	Kintbury	BRK	1650-1726	3363	STOKER	All	All	pre 1837
5640	HOLDER	Inkpen	BRK	1700-1850	5570	STROUD	Oxford	OXF	1700-1950
5640	HOLDER	Hungerford	BRK	1800-1900	4103	TAYLOR	Reading	BRK	pre 1820
5640	HONEYBONE	All	WIL	1500-1900	5640	TUBB	Hungerford	BRK	1700-1850
4277	HUGHES	London	LND	All	5241	TURNER	Abingdon	BRK	pre 1850
4277	HUGHES	All	BRK	All	5570	WAINE	All	OXF	1820+
4277	HUGHES	All	HAM	All	4103	WATKINS	Maidenhead	BRK	pre 1850
4182	ILLSLEY	Maidenhead	BRK	1800-1890	4103	WEBB	East Hendred/ Beenham	BRK	pre 1850
5595	JOHNSON	Kintbury	BRK	1792-1859	5570	WHITE	Oxford	OXF	1700-1900
5570	KEEN	Oxford	OXF	1700-1900	4103	WILKINSON	Wallingford	BRK	1800+
5640	KEMPSTER	East Garston	BRK	1700-1850	4103	WILKINSON	Drayton	OXF	1800+
5241	KIMBER	Drayton	BRK	pre 1870	4103	WOLFF	Reading/ Maidenhead	BRK	pre 1850
4103	KINGHAM	Abingdon	BRK	1800-1930					
4103	KINGHAM	Warborough	BRK	1800-1930					
5527	LEGG	W. Berkshire	BRK	-1780					
5527	LEGG	Brighton	SSX	+1780					
4182	LIPSCOMBE	Maidenhead	BRK	1871+					
4277	McCABE	Marylebone	LND	pre 1860					
5640	MILLER	Hungerford	BRK	1700-1850					
3363	McQUEEN	Aberdeen	SCT	All					
4277	MUSTOE	All	WOR	pre 1840					
5570	NAISH	Wallingford	BRK	1750-1900					
5527	NEVILLE	All	WIL	+1800					
5188	OSMAN	Reading	BRK	1860-1960					
5570	PARKINS	Buckingham	BKM	1800-1860					
5595	PEVERELL	Kintbury	BRK	1792-1859					
5552	PHILLIPS	Lambourn	BRK	pre 1836					
4103	PITHER	Bradfield	BRK	pre 1800					
5527	PITMAN	Maidenhead	BRK	+1880					
5570	ROBERTS	Poplar	MDX	1800-1950					

BFHS Research Centre

The Research Centre contains most of the published 1851 census indexes of England and Wales; a fully fitted computer suite having continuous access to the internet including the 1901 census; 1881 census of the UK; Vital Records Indexes; CD ROMs including many county indexes; thousands of books, fiche, and transcripts. Your Research Centre supplements the Berkshire Record Office and local studies libraries with a wide range of United Kingdom material some overseas coverage.

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.

Address

BFHS Research Centre, Yeomanry House,
131 Castle Hill, Reading, Berkshire RG1 7TJ.
Telephone 0118 950 9553

Research Centre and Reference Library tours

The Research Centre will close for the Christmas period from 19 December and reopen on 6 January 2005 at 10am.

The tours for the next three months are:

- Monday 20 Sep 7.30pm–9.30pm
- Saturday 16 Oct 2.30–4.30pm
- Monday 15 Nov 7.30–9.30pm
- Saturday 11 Dec 2.30pm–4.30pm

For those who have not yet used the Research Centre these tours give you the opportunity to look around the Reference Library, and find out what family history resources are available.

Opening hours:

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

Full details are available on our website: <www.berksfhs.org.uk>



Computer suite at Research Centre



Research Library

Birth Briefs Index

Birth Briefs are five-generation ancestral charts submitted by members of the Society. Fully completed charts contain the names and vital records (birth or christening, marriage and death or burial) of the member and up to 30 ancestors.

- You can search the index, currently 22,000 names, on the website or for £2 per surname by post.
- You can order a copy of a particular Birth Brief for £2. Quote the ID No obtained from the website or from the postal search. The Birth Brief can be sent as a hard copy in PAF Pedigree format or as a file in GEDCOM format.

Post search request and orders for copies to BFHS (BB), Yeomanry House, 131 Castle Hill, Reading RG1 7TJ. Mark your envelope BB and include the BB ID No (if known). Enclose a sterling cheque, drawn on a UK bank, your email address and an A4 self-addressed envelope either stamped or two IRCs.

To contact the person submitting the Birth Brief:

- You can contact the person submitting the Birth Brief, if they are still a member (see website). We will pass on a letter or email (if they have an email address - see website).

Either send your letter with two unstamped envelopes, one self-addressed and one blank, with three IRCs (not stamps) to BFHS (BBxxxx) at Yeomanry House.

Or email your message to BBxxxx@berksfhs.org.uk (where xxxx is the BB ID No).

Berkshire Name Search

Berkshire Name Search consists of the following censuses and indexes:

1851 Census. Complete checked transcription of the 173,748 persons within Berkshire on 30 March 1851. Printouts are available for a surname search (listing all and giving district) or either the page or the household of a selected person. Also available on CD ROM.

1861 Census. Transcription has just started with 60,297 individuals to date; more districts will be added as available.

1871 Census. Transcription and index of 195,559 people now completed; checking ongoing and will be included as available. Printouts as 1851.

1881 Census. Complete transcription and index of 223,936 people.

Berkshire Marriage Index. Work in progress transcribing and checking pre-1837 registers. Includes 127,336 entries to date, see the *Berkshire Family Historian* or the BFHS website for the parishes and dates covered. Printouts of early entries only give dates and names of bride and groom; later entries included if from another parish or by licence.

Berkshire Burial Index. Work in progress transcribing from parish registers. Includes over 280,847 entries to date, see the *Berkshire Family Historian* or the BFHS website for the parishes and dates covered. Printouts show name, age, parish and date with an indication if more information is in the register. We now have 280,000 burials available on a new CD ROM.

Berkshire Strays Index. This dataset includes 25,913 people recorded in events taking place outside Berkshire if the person has given some reference to Berkshire. Strays records come from a variety of sources including the 1851 census of several neighbouring counties.

Berkshire Miscellaneous Index. This dataset is based on the former Berkshire Name Index and includes 100,279 records that were extracted and submitted by individuals. When possible running sets (such as baptisms from a parish

register) will be placed in specialist datasets leaving the disparate individual records and small datasets in this Miscellaneous Index. The amount of information available depends on the record.

Berkshire Name Index. This is the master index for all of the above indexes.

To search the Berkshire Name Search you may:

- do your own search at the Research Centre
- visit a BFHS stand at a family history fair
- request a postal search.

Postal Search

Send your request to Berkshire Name Search, BFHS (BNS), Yeomanry House, 131 Castle Hill, Reading RG1 7TJ enclosing a cheque for the charge together with your email address or an A4 sized stamped self-addressed envelope and two IRCs.

Charges

- To search the Berkshire Name Index send £2 per surname requested to obtain the number of entries in each census or index. This search will not provide any information from the records.
- To obtain the full details from the records printed on an A4 sheet (up to 25 entries or lines). We will advise the additional cost if more entries are found.
 - £2 per surname per requested database
 - £5 per surname to search all databases currently available (price will increase as more databases are included).

Records wanted

If you have records of any names that would fit into our Miscellaneous Index (event occurs within Berkshire) or Strays Index (event occurs outside Berkshire but person has Berkshire connections) please send them by email or post to:

- MiscIndex@berksfhs.org.uk, or Strays@berksfhs.org.uk
- BFHS, Yeomanry House, 131 Castle Hill, Reading RG1 7TJ labelling the envelope either BFHS (MiscIndex) or BFHS (Strays).

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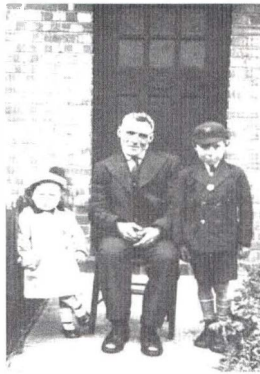
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Programme Calendar 2004

Bracknell and Wokingham Branch

Priestwood Community Centre, Priestwood Court Road, Bracknell, 7.15pm for 7.45pm

- 17 September Records of service and medical records of the armed forces, William Spencer
- 15 October More on finding London ancestors. Michael Gandy
- 19 November How to get the most from parish records, Carl Boardman
- 10 December Christmas meeting, social evening

Computer Branch

(the first meeting will be held at St Peters Hall, Earley, subsequent meetings will be held at The Oakwood Centre, Headley Road, Woodley), 7.15pm for 7.45pm

- 15 September CDs and Acrobat, Chad Hanna
- 20 October FreeBMD, Graham Hart
- 17 November Scots Ancestry on line, Phil Wood
- 8 December No meeting

Newbury Branch

United Reformed Church Hall, Cromwell Place, Northbrook Street, Newbury, 7.30pm.

- 8 September One-name studies, Julie Goddard
- 13 October Medals for the ordinary soldier, George Yalden
- 10 November National Monuments Record Centre, Jane Golding
- 8 December 'To coin a phrase', Meryl Catty

Reading Branch

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

- 30 September Using special and local libraries in the UK, Else Churchill
- 28 October Maps for family historians, Peter Park
- 25 November Country Poor and Town Poor, Michael Gandy
- 9 December Quiz night and Christmas festivities

Vale of White Horse Branch

Long Furlong Community Centre, Boulter Drive, Abingdon, 7.30pm

- 13 September Our newspaper heritage, Meryl Catty
- 11 October Records of pupils in 19th century elementary schools, Dr. Pamela Horn
- 8 November Burning poison - a Georgian murder mystery, Glenn Chandler
- 13 December Christmas evening

Windsor, Slough and Maidenhead Branch

Christ Church, United Reformed Church, William Street, Windsor, SL4 1BA, 7.30pm for 7.45pm

- 28 September Memorials, monuments and gravestones, Derek Palgrave
- 26 October Tithes and taxes, Michael Gandy
- 30 November Using a digital camera in family history, Stuart Mann
- 7 December Annual Dinner, venue to be confirmed