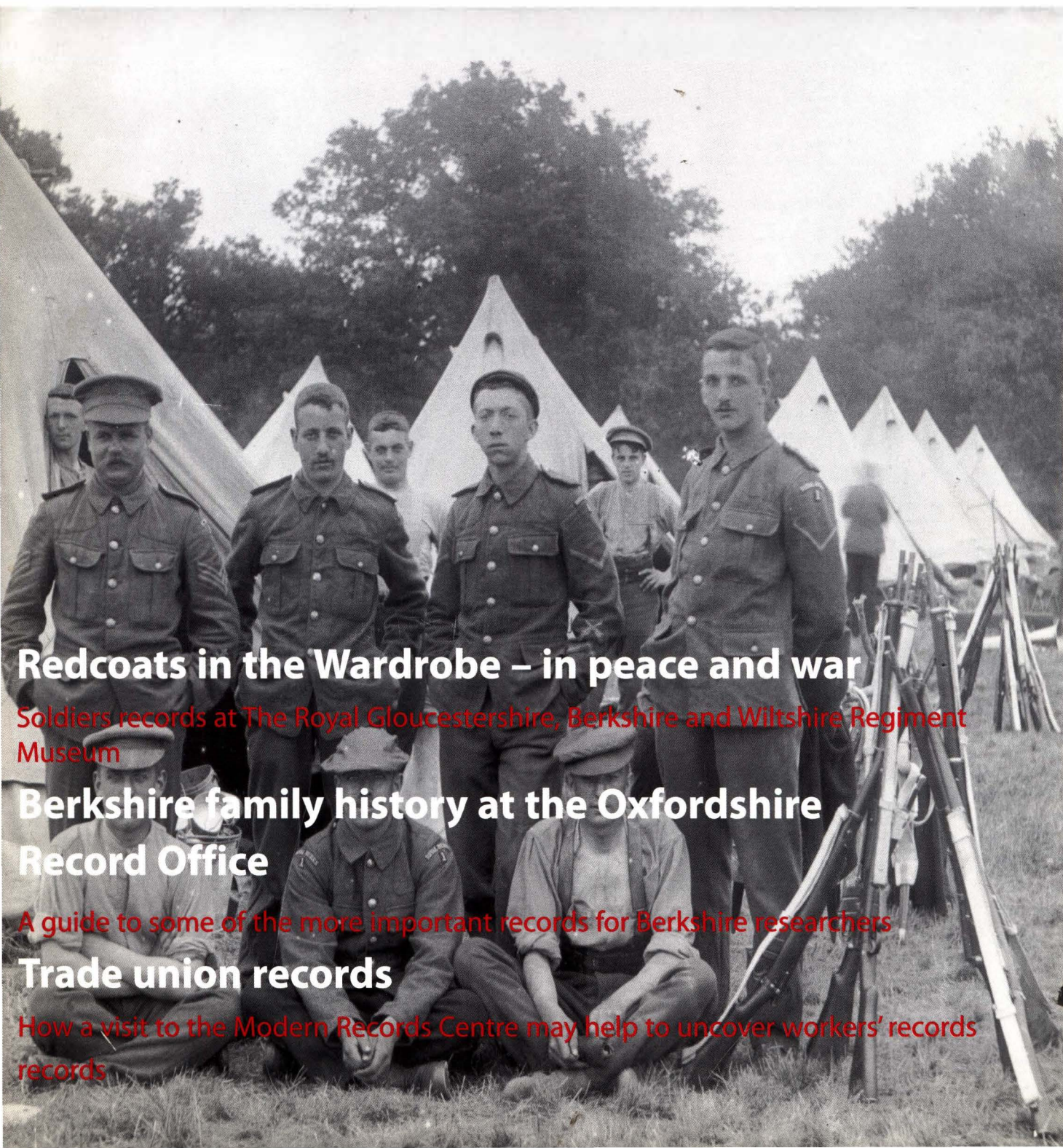




Berkshire Family Historian

December 2004 • volume 28

For Family Historians in the Royal County of Berkshire



Redcoats in the Wardrobe – in peace and war

Soldiers records at The Royal Gloucestershire, Berkshire and Wiltshire Regiment Museum

Berkshire family history at the Oxfordshire Record Office

A guide to some of the more important records for Berkshire researchers

Trade union records

How a visit to the Modern Records Centre may help to uncover workers' records

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The photograph on the front cover shows 11 soldiers from the 1st Battalion, Royal Berkshire Regiment, 'at ease' on Irish manoeuvres at Kilbride, 1905.

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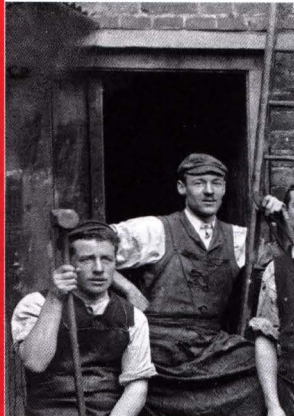
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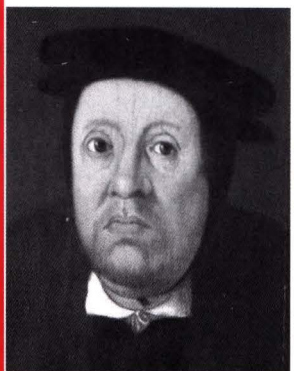
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Online photographic record

Foundrymen of James Hews standing in the yard of their work premises. CC97/02752



Two new collections of archive photographs have recently been made available online via ViewFinder, the picture resource from National Monuments Record, the public archive of English Heritage. The first, and possibly the most important, consists of 2,800 photographs taken by Eric de Maré. In 1948 he made a 600 mile tour of the English canals, photographing landscapes, buildings and people he encountered. The resulting collection is a unique perspective of industrial history at a period of change for England's canal system.

A second collection of photographs by W & Co has also been added to ViewFinder. Although the identity of the company is uncertain they may have been taken by Walker & Co based in Margate. The collection consists of around 260 original black and white prints dating from 1890-1910. They are mostly seaside views of the Lancashire and Kent coasts, though they include town and village scenes from elsewhere. The website can be viewed from <www.english-heritage.org.uk/viewfinder>.

Museum of army chaplaincy

If a member of your family was an army chaplain you may like to visit the Museum of Army Chaplaincy which houses the archives and historical relics of army chaplains. The Museum displays cover six themes: Faith in Captivity; Celebrating the Faith; Faith in service of Peace; Faith under Fire; Faith in Uniform and Teaching the Faith. Displays include poignant Far East POW items, Church silver and furnishings, uniforms and the stories of the four chaplains who have been awarded the Victoria Cross. The Museum archive includes books, documents, letters, photographs and some war diaries. Relatively little relates to specific individuals unless the individual achieved fame or high rank.

The Museum is at Amport House, Amport, near Andover, Hampshire SP11 8BG. Tel: 01264 773144.

In Brief

Overseas birth, marriage and death records

<1837online.com> now includes overseas birth, marriage and death records. If your ancestor was born overseas, or perhaps died whilst serving as an officer in the RAF during the Second World War, or was even married abroad whilst resident within the British Isles during the Great War, then these records are especially useful. Some of the records date back as far as 1761 and include regimental birth indexes, whilst others, such as the GRO Deaths Abroad indexes date up to 1994. In total there are over 38,000 new pages for you to view. For a full list of these overseas records view the page entitled 'Overseas Records'. 1837 online can be found at <www.1837online>.

Rare medical terms

If you're trying to find the cause of death given on old medical certificates you may like to use <www.antiquusmorbus.com>. This website has medical terms in English, Latin, German, French and Spanish. Each entry includes a bibliographical reference and there are links to other sources.

Did your family live at Green Road, Wokingham Road?



If you would like to add this postcard to your collection write to the Editor. The first letter to arrive wins this fine postcard.

Merchant seamen medals

The National Archives has added another set of records to DocumentsOnline, this time BT395. The collection contains a record of Second World War Medals issued to merchant seamen from 1946 to 2002. Each entry gives details of the seaman's name and the medals, ribbons and clasps issued to him, together with a reference to the medal papers file held by the Registrar General of Shipping and Seamen in Cardiff. Usually, his discharge book number and date and place of birth are listed too. You can search the database of over 100,000 merchant seamen at <www.documentsonline.nationalarchives.gov.uk>. DocumentsOnline images can be viewed free of charge at The National Archives and at the FRC as part of a continuing pilot project.

BRO acquisitions

Buckland baptisms 1884-1973 and marriages 1837-2000
 Henley-on-Thames Wesleyan Methodist Church marriages
 1876-2001 (Henley is in the Reading Circuit)
 Sunninghill Wesleyan Methodist Church baptisms 1908-1998
 Cumnor banns 1851-1919
 West Hendred banns 1864-1990
 Beech Hill banns 1868-1995
 Lists of beneficiaries for Mrs Walsham's Charity, Reading St
 Laurence 1841-1869

In Brief

Military friends

Tracing military friends and colleagues is much easier now using the internet. Perhaps the most used site is <www.ServicePals.com> endorsed by the British Legion. Basic membership is free, but full membership costs £5.80 a year. It works rather like Friends Reunited and once you register other members who may have served with you in the same unit can contact you. The site consists of forums, events and remembrance memorials. For those of us who served as National Servicemen in the post-war years it is particularly useful to be able to contact friends we may have made.

The Royal British Legion Magazine also has a Lost Trails section which enables servicemen to find their colleagues. Send a photograph and brief details of the person(s) you wish to contact to Lost Trails, Legion Magazine, Redactive Publishing Ltd, 17 Britton Street, London EC1M 5TP.

BFHS in profit once again

Chad Hanna

One of the gremlins that crept into the September magazine was my aside that my Annual Report would be included. Rather than weigh the magazine down with a complete set of accounts for both the Berkshire Family History Society (the Society) and Berkshire Family History Enterprises Ltd (the Company) with their attendant annual reports the executive committee agreed to post a complete set to anyone who writes to one of the officers requesting a copy, and to publish a summary in the magazine. The Society accounts and report will be lodged with the Charity Commission and the Company accounts with Companies House.

The Society made a small profit for the year ended 30 April 2004 of £2,640. This was in part due to a recharge to the trading Company of £2,023 in respect of their use of the research centre and a royalty received from the trading company based on 25% of the sale of CDs and fiche from publications (£3,411).

At 30 April 2004, the balance owed to the Society was £4,311, which reflects the above two recharges plus a small amount left over to be paid for the stock bought from the Society last year.

The profits of the trading Company were £12,051, and based on the amount of available cash within the company books, a gift aid donation of £2,000 will be paid over very shortly to the society. At this level of profits, the trading Company will not pay any corporation tax this year.

In summary, the Society remains in a healthy financial position following the first year's operation of the trading Company. The executive committee have accordingly agreed to invest in the future by buying a fiche and film reader/scanner, and a digital book camera. We know that these two items will greatly facilitate our work to make more records and publications available to you and other family historians.

Thirtieth anniversary conference

The Society will be holding a one-day conference on 8 October 2005 to celebrate the thirtieth anniversary of the founding of the Berkshire Family History Society. The conference will be held at Theale Green Community School, Theale, just off Junction 12 on the M4, where we held the computer conference a couple of years ago. There will be special guest speakers on a wide variety of topics which will interest beginners as well as those with more experience. Keep the date in mind and entry forms and further details will appear in the March edition of the magazine.

In Brief

Interests outside Berkshire

Over the coming months it's planned to devote research days to areas other than Berkshire. These are intended for all Berkshire members with family history interests outside the county. They will be held on the second Tuesday of each month between 10am and 9.30pm.

- January: South East England – Hampshire, Kent, Surrey and Sussex
- February: Midlands – Gloucestershire, Herefordshire, Shropshire and Worcestershire
- March: West Country – Cornwall, Devon, Dorset and Somerset

Visit the Research Centre at Yeomanry House and see just what we have to offer in expertise and material in the reference library, the computer suite and online.

Membership cards

With the September issue of the magazine you will have received a plastic membership card which includes the names of officers of the Society and your name and membership number. This card will last as long as you are a member and will not be renewed every year.

However, the card will not operate the door lock into the Research Centre – the Assistants use separate cards with magnetic strips. Please remember to enter your membership number into the visitors' book when you visit the Centre.

Heritage Open Day

To tie in with this year's Archives Awareness Campaign Routes to Roots, the theme of this year's Berkshire Record Office open day was Family History, and the BRO hosted the day together with the BFHS. Visitors to BRO on Saturday 11 September could look at documents relating to the Access to Archives (a2a) website, see how documents are stored in the strongrooms and take a look at some of the work that the conservation staff do.

The BFHS provided short talks on Starting Your Family History (by Carolyn Boulton), Using the Internet for Family History (by Chad Hanna) and Family History and Local History (by Barry Boulton). The BFHS also had its bookstall and advice desk where visitors could discuss research or family history issues.

As usual the day attracted a lot of visitors who had not been before, and of all ages. Everyone seemed to enjoy themselves. The Heritage Open Days had been heavily trailed in the local press and hopefully awareness of BRO and the BFHS has increased as a result.



Jocie McBride and Gillian Stevens on the Society stand at the BRO Heritage Day

New fiche and film reader available at the Research Centre

Cliff Debney, the Research Centre Manager, reports that a combined fiche and film reader and printer, scanner and photocopier have just been installed which means that the existing film reader and fiche printer have been scrapped, making more room for our ever expanding holdings of books, fiche and CDs. It will also enable the Society to make more material available for research.

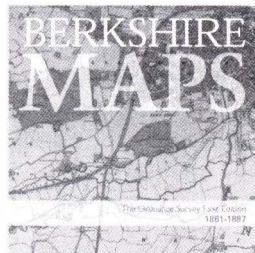
A very successful Reference Library stock check has highlighted some of the problems with the catalogue as well as the stock, which is currently enabling the Librarian, Jean Herbert, to update the catalogue and add items which were not previously included or had been accidentally deleted. This stock check included individual fiche as well as printed publications and CD ROMs, totalling nearly 7,500 items. I would like to thank all the helpers; I know from comments made to me that at least some of you feel you now have a much better idea of the depth and range of the contents, which will help you more in your own researches.

County anniversaries

Reading began a year's celebration of the 750 years of local self-government which concluded this June when the Earl of Wessex arrived for the end of the celebrations. Berkshire Record Office set up its Charter 750 exhibition in the Town Hall, and the County Archivist Dr Peter Durrant explained some of the history of the town to Prince Edward. Next year it is the turn of Wallingford to celebrate 850 years of local self-government. Although the first Wallingford charter is variously dated at 1155, 1156 or 1157, there seems little reason not to celebrate at the earliest opportunity.

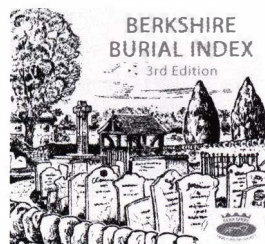
New Society publications on CD

As part of the Society's regular series of publications of parish registers and other material on CD ROM we are very pleased to announce that the following CDs are now available from the Publications Department.



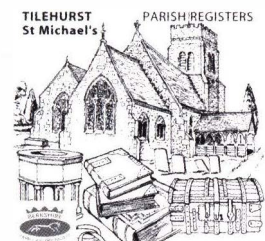
OS Maps

The Ordnance Survey First Edition 1881-1887 – Scale: six inches to the mile. In 1862 the decision was taken that the Ordnance Survey should survey the whole of England and produce both 25 inch and 6 inch scale maps. The surveyors arrived in Berkshire in 1867 and began publishing their work in 1881. This CD includes all those 6 inch scale first edition OS maps of Berkshire, scanned from the set held at Berkshire Record Office in Reading. A total of 51 maps is included, compressed to sit on to a single CD in PDF format. The CD also includes an index of towns, villages and hamlets in the county as well as bookmarks for each map. This product is the first fruit of a joint publishing venture by the Berkshire Record Office and the Berkshire Family History Society; we expect that many more will follow. Berkshire OS Maps – £10.50 UK, £11.35 overseas.



Berkshire Burial Index – third edition

In what is becoming an annual event the results of another year's labour by the Burial Indexing team have been added to the 280,000 burials from the second edition and are made available in PDF format. Many of these entries are also to be found on the 2nd Edition of the National Burial Index (available from the Bookshop) but there are many that have been added since the February deadline for that publication. At the time of writing the BBI consists of 345,361 entries, even more are likely to be added before the final deadline. For details of coverage see the Society website <www.berksfhs.org.uk>. BBI 3rd Edition – £14.50 UK, £15.35 overseas. If you have already bought the second edition and would like to update it with the additions in the third edition, simply return your second edition CD together with £4.00 and 50p p&p (UK) or £1.35 (overseas).



Tilehurst Parish Registers

The latest publication in the Parish Register series is that of the large and populous parish of Tilehurst, covering all extant registers from 1559 to 1946 (baptisms), 1986 (marriages), 1991 (banns) and 1941 (burials) in PDF format. You will also find many Theale residents in these registers, as until 1832 Theale was a tithing of Tilehurst. The Registers of Theale from 1832 are also available on CD from the Society. Tilehurst – £10.00 UK, £10.85 overseas.

Redcoats in the Wardrobe – in peace and war

Sue Johnson

Royal Berkshire Regiment: a group of soldiers posing with a Lee Enfield rifle c. 1920. Item ref 14440



Regimental museums have been around for many years and thousands will have visited one and seen the traditional type of display relating to wars, battles, uniforms, weapons and medals. I am a volunteer at the Royal Gloucestershire, Berkshire and Wiltshire Regiment (Salisbury) Museum – popularly known as Redcoats in the Wardrobe – which has been at its present location on the west side of Salisbury's Cathedral Close since 1982. The Museum is concerned with the Berkshire and Wiltshire elements of the current regiment's history. There is a separate museum for the Gloucestershire Regiment, Soldiers of Gloucestershire, at Gloucester <www.glostesters.org.uk> .

The Museum is housed in four ground floor rooms that were completely refurbished during our winter closure of 2001/2.

There are still plenty of uniforms and weapons together with equipment and personal items but the aim is to tell the story of an infantryman's life from the eighteenth century to the present day. In place of a purely chronological 'list of battles', and 'rows of anonymous medals' approach, displays relating to topics such as food, health and travel have been introduced. Groups of medals belonging to an individual are presented together with personal details and, where possible, a picture of the man concerned.

Many of the personal items come with their own special stories, like the tobacco tin credited with saving the life of its owner, Pte W Castle, Wiltshire Regiment. Then there's Bobbie – a very special dog, honoured by Queen Victoria.

Of course the items on display are only a fraction of our total collection. As well as artefacts we have many thousands of photographs and archive documents. These documents consist of the outcome of normal army bureaucracy, plus personal papers donated by individuals or their families. However, we do not have service records. Pre-1920 discharge certificates are kept at The National Archives, Kew, post-1920 certificates are still with the Ministry of Defence. For advice on obtaining records from the MOD see the Army Museums Ogilvie Trust website:

<www.armymuseums.org.uk>.

But there is another Museum, this time of the virtual variety, on our website: <www.thewardrobe.org.uk>.



Albert pattern shako as worn by the 49th Regiment, circa 1845. Item ref 5104

As well as the usual visitor information about opening hours, our online shop etc, there are useful links to other military history sites and several sections of use to family historians.

A Regimental History and searchable Timeline summarising the whereabouts and activities of the four founding regiments¹ from their formation to 1914 provide background. They can also help to clarify family stories such as 'Great grandfather was with the 1st Royal Berkshires in India in 1884'. (Actually they were in Egypt and Gibraltar at that time.)

An example from the Timeline for the 49th Regiment/1st Royal Berkshire:

On 2 Dec 1895, Canada. Battalion (20 Officers, two Warrant Officers, 876 Rank and File, 26 women and 32 children) embarked in Hired Transport SS 'Paronia' for Halifax, Nova Scotia. [They arrived safely on the 5th.]

Battalion War Diaries

The ultimate aim is to transcribe and publish these for all Berkshire and Wiltshire Battalions in both World Wars. So far all the First World War Diaries are on the site, while those for the Second World War have been transcribed and are currently being checked. You can search by keyword through all of them or specify a particular unit and date. If your ancestor was in the Wiltshire or Royal Berkshire Regiments the entries provide an easily accessible insight to conditions and activities of the time and you may even find a reference to his unit. There are frequent mentions of regiments as they take over or are relieved from duties in the trenches.

2/4th Royal Berkshire, 21 October 1916, France, Moated Grange

Relieved by 2/4 OXFORD and BUCKS LI and went into old billets at RIEZ BAILLEUL.

Officers are often named as they join a unit or are casualties, lower ranks only occasionally – probably because there were simply too many of them, with a rapid turnover of personnel. However, you might just be lucky and find a reference to the individual you are researching.

6th Royal Berkshire, 29 October 1915, France, La Boisselle

Lt Col AJW Dowell took over tempy commd of the Bde – Major R Winstanley assuming command of the Bn. Enemy not unusually active during the day though some shelling on both sides took place. Pte Cox – D coy wounded on the 26th died at MEAULTE this morning. One Coy – 8th Bn – DCLI are attached to this Bn in the trenches for instruction. [Bde = Brigade, Bn = Battalion, Coy = Company]

2/4th Royal Berkshire, Wednesday 4th July 1917, France, Le Ponchel

...The Brigadier General noted with the greatest satisfaction that His Majesty had been pleased to award the Victoria Cross to Company Sergeant Major Brooks, Oxford and Bucks LI. By his gallant conduct on the 28.4.17, Coy Sergt Major Brooks had brought the greatest credit not only on himself but on the 184th Infantry Brigade. The Battalion was reinforced by a draft of 124 OR. [other ranks].

The day was treated as a Holiday, and the 184th Brigade Horse Show took place near VAULX. This provided a very interesting afternoon and all the events were evenly contested. The Battalion secured the first prize for the best shewn [Cookec] and several seconds and thirds in the other events.' thus showing that there were some lighter moments during the hostilities. Another occurred on 23 January 1918 in Italy when the 1/4th Royal Berkshires '*played the OXFORDS in the afternoon in the second round of the Group of the "FANSHAWE CUP". We won 2 love. - a good game. Weather:- a fine warm day...*'

However, many entries reflect what must have been typical days for those serving in the trenches. One chosen at random as an example is that of the 6th Berkshires:

at Carnoy, France, 5 July 1916. 'In dugouts resting and reorganising. Clearing battlefield & burying dead.'

If there is no entry for the unit/day you have specified the results screen shows the next available entry for the unit. Other Battalions having entries for the same day are also listed. All kinds of subjects are mentioned from operational movements to food, though



Tobacco tin, a gift to soldiers from Princess Mary in 1914. This particular tin was credited with saving the life of its owner, Pte W Castle. Item ref 5363

you do have to beware of unexpected results. Entering sausages revealed several entries but they were obviously some sort of ammunition, not food.

Three of the War Diaries have so far been published in hard copy. The 5th Wilts has already sold out but limited numbers of the 7th Royal Berkshires and the 2nd Wilts are still available and are among the items which can be purchased from the online shop.

Wiltshire Militia Attestations for 1881-1908 at The National Archives

Basic information has been extracted by volunteers to provide a searchable summary of the documents. Data includes birthplace (where given) with a table in the introduction showing how many entries there are for each county (Oxfordshire 20, Berkshire 161). Work on the Royal Berkshire Attestations is due to start in 2005.

These are some of the examples of the results from searches using the words Berks or Berkshire:

Gosling, James, Born at: Stanford, Berkshire. Enlisted on: 7 Nov 1893, aged: 19 years

Halder, George, Born at: Wantage, Berkshire. Enlisted on: 29 Sept 1896, aged: 18 years 1 month

Hazell, Thomas, Born at: Farrington [sic], Berks. Enlisted on: 13 June 1894, aged: 17 years 9 months

The Collection

Several thousand items have been photographed and the images are on the website in a searchable form. From uniform hats to weapons via painted Boer War biscuits and a silk coat once belonging to a Chinese emperor, these offer an opportunity to examine things in close-up in a way not possible with the originals. There are also a growing number of photographs, which include the names of those portrayed if this is given. Again these can provide general background even if your ancestor or his unit is not among those listed.

'Berkshire and the War'

This is a pictorial record of the First World War, originally published in 39 instalments by the *Reading Standard*. It contains photographs and articles relating to both military service and civilian contributions to the war effort. In conjunction with Archive Britain it has been produced on a set of five CDs. As well as images of the (approximately) 1000 pages it includes an index to the people and places featured, both in the UK and abroad.

On-going Projects

1) A transcript of First World War Medal Rolls for the Royal Berkshires and Wiltshires. This will include the Silver War Badge awarded to men unable to continue in active service due to injury to prevent them being given white feathers as cowards. When completed this may well be added to the FFHS pay-per-view website.



Silver War Badge belonging to 35557, Pte TC Spiers. Item ref 14002

Extreme right. Sergeant R D Bennet of the 1st Bn Royal Berkshire Regiment with his wife. Item ref 8238



2) Re-publication of items from our Library such as regimental histories and personal accounts. Hardback copies of titles like FL Petre's 'The Royal Berkshire Regiment' are now costly and can be hard to find. We hope to produce softback versions with an extended index to include the names of all the people mentioned. Already available are *Soldiering Fifty Years Ago. Australia in the Forties* by Major De Winton, late 99th Regiment (1898) and *From Calcutta to Peking* J H Dunne, 99th Regt (1860). Both of these were not originally intended for publication and so are written in a much more informal style than that normally associated with Victorian writers.

3) Digests of Service. The peacetime equivalent of Battalion War Diaries, these contain a record of such day-to-day events as the Commanding Officer thought significant. (Information from them has already been used to construct the Timeline.) The ultimate intention is to produce A5 format books similar to the War Diary series.

Work also continues to prepare more items from our archives, including photographs, for inclusion on the website when finances allow.

Research

The Museum has many documents relating to the founding regiments, and to individuals who served in them, but these were created as part of the army bureaucracy and finding information in them is not always easy. Archive enquiries are accepted but as they are dealt with by a volunteer who works one half-day a week it can take some time to reply, with no interim acknowledgement of the query being sent. One of our Trustees, John Chapman, has a wealth of information on soldiers who served in the Royal Berkshire Regiment in WWI and enquiries relating to such people are generally passed directly to him.

Enquiries should be by letter only with adequate reply postage – and please tell us what you already know about the subject of your query. This prevents waste of time researching what is already known and adds to our store of knowledge, which may benefit future researchers. The website gives clear guidance about what can be achieved and

what information is needed. Please read it carefully if you are thinking of asking something: it will save everyone time and frustration.

There is no formal charge but as a charity receiving no public funding we really enjoy getting donations. Seeing the kind of clothing and equipment worn and used by military ancestors does add another dimension to family history, so if you do come to Salisbury we'd be delighted to see you. The Wardrobe is open between February and November. Full details of times and admission charges are on our website. It's a listed building with a garden (full of interesting plants) which stretches down to the river Avon, so there's more than just the collection to enjoy. Additional donations to the collection/archive are always welcome. If you have items relating to the founding regiments or to the Duke of Edinburgh's Royal Regiment which are looking for a good home then please write to the Assistant Curator, The Wardrobe, 58 The Close, Salisbury, Wilts, SP1 2EX, tel: 01722 419419.

- 1 The founding regiments:
 - 49th Hertfordshire
 - 62nd Wiltshire
 - 66th (Royal) Berkshire
 - 99th Lanarkshire

Sue Johnson is a part-time volunteer at the Museum.

Jack of Newbury – the Clothier of England

Julie Goddard



Who was John Smallwood, alias Winchcombe, alias Jack of Newbury? Dr David Peacock's thesis entitled 'Jack of Newbury, or The Winchcombe Family and the Woollen Industry in Sixteenth Century Newbury' reveals that there were four men in succeeding generations with the name of John Winchcombe (to simplify his title), but it was John the second (1489-1557) who was the most important one, as he was England's chief exporter of woollen materials in his day and on nodding terms with royalty and aristocrats.

It was this John Winchcombe who organised the cloth merchants' petition to King Henry VIII when the industry was being strangled by excessive legislation. The actual petition, dated 1535, has recently been found and recognised for what it is.

John Winchcombe had his portrait painted in an age when only kings, the aristocracy and great landowners commissioned portraits. He is shown wearing a silk lined gown with fur trim, attire usually worn by someone of

a higher social class than a merchant. His coat of arms, his age and his wool mark are also shown on the portrait, of which several copies were made. One of these is in Newbury Museum and another in the Town Hall.

He was also known at court and attended the welcoming banquet Henry VIII gave for Anne of Cleves before the King realised that her looks did not match the portrait he had been shown. John was an MP, a JP and a friend of Thomas Cromwell, Henry VIII's chief adviser, and Sir Thomas Gresham.

He became a wealthy landowner: the deed transferring ownership to him of the manors of Bucklebury and Thatcham was signed on 12 February 1540/1. John then acquired Lockinge and Ginge in 1546. In Newbury he owned extensive properties in Northbrook Street and Bartholomew Street. His house in Northbrook Street, behind which he had some of his woollen manufacturing rooms, is thought to have stretched from Marsh Lane to Jack Street, and eastwards to Parkway, formerly The Marsh, where he probably had his cloth stretched on tenterhooks in the open.

Fables about Jack of Newbury, whose fame was as widespread as that of Dick Whittington and Dick Turpin in his time, was first put into print by Thomas Deloney around 1597 and can be found on the web at <www.berkshirehistory.com/legends/jofno1/html>, or on the shelves of Newbury and Reading Libraries. While most of the tales can be dismissed as a bit of ribald fun, there is a grain of truth behind many of them. And a study of the Winchcombe wills could reveal an ancestor in the named people who benefitted. I have counted 97 names in John Winchcombe

An 1820 water colour painting of Jack of Newbury's house

It's will dated 1597; and from his gift of £4 to 'John Goddard's children unmarried at Eaton' (John Goddard of Water Eaton calls John Winchcombe 'brother') I have been able to estimate just how much dowry Margaret and Helen Goddard had to attract a husband.

Very interesting you may think, but what interest is this to a family historian? If you have Newbury ancestry it is possible that your forbears might have worked in the extensive manufactories on Northbrook Street, or in the fulling mills on the Kennet. If you are descended from an Awinder you might like to know that Johanne Awinder's son was lame and that he was left 'v yards of friseadow [a cloth with a raised nap] to make him a gown and a yard and a half of russet to make him a pair of hose'.

Dr Peacock has donated bound copies of his thesis to Newbury Library, the Berkshire Record Office and the Bodleian Library. I recommend you to have a look at one of them.



Jack Hotel in Northbrook Street, Newbury



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Tuning a Disaster into a Memory

Berkshire family history at the Oxfordshire Record Office

Giles E. Morris

For anyone with ancestors from old North Berkshire, the Oxfordshire Record Office holds a wide selection of research resources. For example, we hold all the censuses from 1841 to 1901 on microfilm for this area and there are name indexes, or in some cases complete transcripts, of these censuses available on computer in our searchroom. We also hold the Berkshire Marriage Index, 1538-1837 on microfilm and the element of this relating to North Berkshire can also be searched on computer, thanks, as in so many cases of this nature, to the work of the Oxfordshire and Berkshire Family History Societies. In regard to secondary sources, it is also worth mentioning that we now hold the General Register Office index on microfiche for the whole country from 1837 to 1997.

The Berkshire Record Office retains the original parish records for the ancient county of Berkshire, but we do hold indexed transcripts of parish registers for a number of the parishes in the north Berkshire area and these are listed in the back section of Colin Harris' booklet *Oxfordshire Parish Registers and Bishops' Transcripts*, (OFHS, 2001). Additionally, we hold 276 microfilms of records from parishes throughout the pre-1974 county of Berkshire. These are mainly microfilms of parish registers, but they also include Poor Law records, borough records, manorial records and even some eighteenth century quarter sessions records. The microfilms themselves are now quite old and delicate and their origin is unclear, although it seems likely that they were passed on to this Office by the Bodleian Library.

As a consequence of the fact that the Oxfordshire Record Office is also the Oxford Diocesan Record Office, and the Archdeaconry of Berkshire joined this Diocese in 1836, we hold many records in the Oxford Diocesan collection which relate to Berkshire.

Pre-eminent among these with regard to family history research are the Bishop's Transcripts, which are the Bishop's copies of parish register entries. Although these records can often be less comprehensive than original parish registers, they are particularly important where registers have failed to survive in a parish. Bishop's Transcripts for Berkshire in the Oxford Diocesan collection

An Account of Quit Rents due to Sir Henry W. Martin Bart. Lord of the Manor of Wantage at Lady Day 1840

Whom due	Name	Amount due 1834	Amount Rents
3/19/40	Almarche Abbot's Ten of	3 10	1 11
3/13/40	Almarche Ten	"	"
3/18/40	Andon & Cross of	1 -	1 -
3/13/40	Barrow Ten	" 2 -	" 2 -
3/19/40	Thomas Muddy Ten	"	" 1 9
3/18/40	Northen Lane & Cg. Ten	"	" 16 9
3/13/40	Northen Lane	"	" 3 10
3/13/40	Northen Lane Ten	"	" 3 -
3/13/40	Northen Lane Ten	"	" 18 6
3/13/40	Northen Lane	"	" 1 -
3/13/40	Northen Lane	" 3 3	" 1 6
3/13/40	Northen Lane	" 2 1	" 2 1
3/13/40	Northen Lane	" 1 -	" 3 -
3/13/40	Northen Lane	" 7 8	" 7 8
3/13/40	Northen Lane	" 10 -	" 10 -
3/13/40	Northen Lane	" 1 -	" 1 -
3/13/40	Northen Lane	" 10 -	" 10 -
3/13/40	Northen Lane	"	" 9 -
3/13/40	Northen Lane	"	" 7 1
3/13/40	Northen Lane	" 2 -	" 2 -
3/13/40	Northen Lane	" 2 -	" 2 -
3/13/40	Northen Lane	"	" 6 3
3/13/40	Northen Lane	"	" 3 6
3/13/40	Northen Lane	" 2 -	" 1 -
3/13/40	Northen Lane	" 1 1	" 1 1
3/13/40	Northen Lane	" 12 8	" 3 2
3/13/40	Northen Lane	"	" 3 -

Extreme right. Quit rent accounts for the Lord of the Manor at Wantage 1840

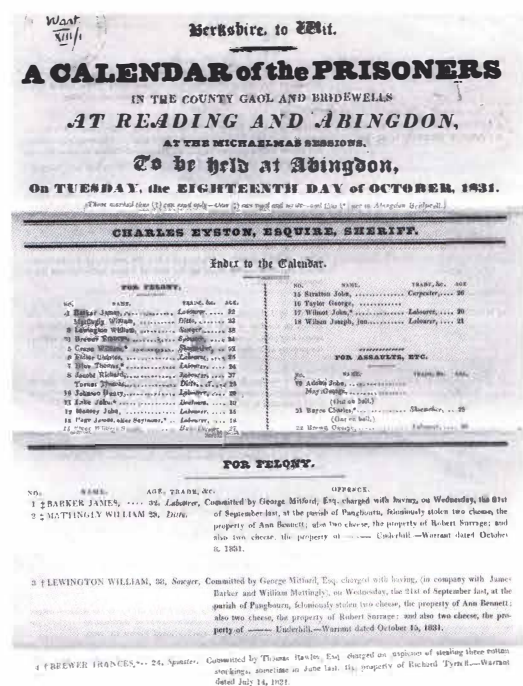
Extreme right.
Calendar of
prisoners at
Reading and
Abingdon, 18
October 1831

begin in 1836 and all other covering dates can be found listed against each individual parish in Colin Harris' book, as well as on the Access to Archives (a2a) website <www.a2a.gov.uk>

The Diocesan collection contains records which can be of great interest to the Berkshire local historian, including questionnaires completed prior to the Bishop's or Archdeacon's regular visits to each parish (visitation records) and records relating to church land and buildings. For the family historian, such records can provide a wealth of background information, but the Diocesan collection can also be of particular interest where an ancestor was a member of the clergy within the Oxford Diocese. There is a vast amount of information in the Diocesan collection concerning the careers of clergy, including records of ordinations, institutions, licensing and resignations and the bare information, as recorded in the Bishop's Registers, has been summarised in an alphabetical list of clergy called 'Clerus', which can be found in four red ring-binders on the open shelves in our searchroom.

Beyond this, whilst researching this article, I came upon an interesting document in the 'Miscellaneous' section of the diocesan catalogue, which might be of interest to researchers across the Thames. This is a volume of papers relating to Oxfordshire Militia men with dependants in Berkshire, reference MS. Oxf. Dioc. Pps C.172, covering the period from 1794 to 1807. It contains mainly orders and correspondence relating to the payment of maintenance by overseers of Berkshire parishes to dependants of men serving in the Oxfordshire Militia and their subsequent re-imburement by the overseers of Oxfordshire parishes, but also includes lists of Berkshire men serving in the militia in the place of other named individuals, together with their parishes of residence.

We also hold a large number of records deposited by private individuals, businesses and organisations which relate to old North Berkshire. A description of all of these privately deposited records is obviously well beyond the scope of this article, but it is worthwhile mentioning one private collection



as an example. This is referenced in the old style 'Want', due to the fact that it relates to Wantage and its environs and it is a rather eclectic collection. The depositor was a local historian and the records include her notes on such subjects as historical land ownership in the area, but surprisingly perhaps, there are also records of Wantage Manor, including quit rent rolls and accounts from 1774 to 1912 and a rack rent roll dating to 1757. There are also court books relating to the Manor of West Challow and Petwick, dated from 1577 to 1600 and early deeds of property in Wantage and Letcombe Bassett. Details of this collection can be accessed in our searchroom using the relevant card catalogue or via our name, subject and place card indexes.

This article is only intended to give a flavour of the types of record that can be found at the Oxfordshire Record Office with regard to this particular type of research and geographical area. If you want further information on the records we hold you might like to visit our website at <www.oxfordshire.gov.uk>, or visit our offices. We are open from 9am to 5pm on Tuesday to Saturday, but it is always advisable to phone us to book a seat before you visit.

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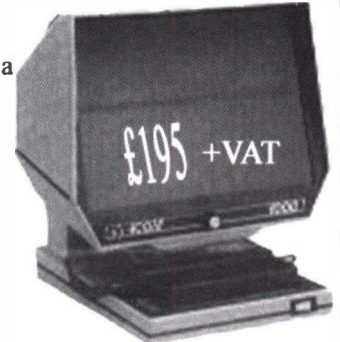
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Wantage (including Union Workhouse), Chilton, Grove, Letcombe Bassett. Letcombe Regis	£17.50	£17.50
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Placing orders

Orders should be sent by mail to The Bookshop, Yeomanry House, 131 Castle Hill, Reading RG1 7TJ. Cheques should be made payable to BerksFHSBooks in sterling or for an equivalent amount in Australian, Canadian, New Zealand or US dollars or in Euros. Currency conversion rates may be found in daily newspapers or on the internet.

Books are priced to be sent by surface mail. For air mail prices, please contact us by email at bookshop@berksfhs.org.uk or by post at the above address. Fiche, CDs and computer diskettes are priced to be sent by air mail to all destinations outside the UK unless the order also includes books in which case they will also be sent surface mail. Allow four weeks for UK and overseas air mail to twelve weeks for overseas surface mail for delivery.

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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 online 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

(The parishes and periods which have been added to the Berkshire Burial Index since the position shown in the September 2004 issue of the Berkshire Family Historian are set out below. The index now contains more than 340,000 entries. A new and updated CD is now available. See page 6.)

- Arborfield St Bartholomew 1580-1700 (BTs)
- Binfield All Saints 1920-1957
- Cumnor St Michael 1899-1970
- East Lockinge All Saints 1739-1788
- Faringdon All Saints 1918-1948
- Hagbourne St Andrew 1612-1638 (BTs), 1745-1756 (BTs)
- Harwell St Matthew 1688-1759
- Hungerford St Lawrence 1797-1813
- Knowl Hill St Peter 1842-2002
- Letcombe Bassett St Michael & All Angels 1813-1969
- New Windsor St John the Baptist 1609-1624
- Radley St James the Great 1826-1878
- Reading London Road Cemetery (burials in consecrated ground) 1853-1857
- Reading St Mary 1768-1776
- Sandhurst St Michael 1580-1593 (BTs)
- Twyford St Mary 1847-1889
- West Hendred Holy Trinity 1813-1972
- Wokingham Free Church Burial Ground 1921-1954

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

Trade union records for the family historian

Richard Temple

The Modern Records Centre at the University of Warwick was founded in 1973 with a mandate to collect archives relating to industrial relations and more generally in the fields of social, political and economic history. As a result the Centre has amassed the archives of hundreds of national trade unions in the past thirty years. The quickest way to discover the variety of trade union holdings in the Centre is to look at the Summary Guide, which forms part of the Centre's website, <<http://modernrecords.warwick.ac.uk/>>. Some idea of the sheer number of unions' archives held at the Centre is given by the fact that there are over 150 entries in the Guide for trade unions beginning with the letter A.

Given the range of the Centre's trade union archive holdings, it is inevitable that they are a fertile source for genealogical researchers. Indeed a high proportion of the enquiries received at the Centre are from family historians, keen to discover more about their ancestors. Many people write to find details about railwaymen, for instance. As a result of the huge expansion in the railways in Victorian Britain, the railway companies employed hundreds of thousands of workers in the early years of the twentieth century. By 1919, the National Union of Railwaymen, one of the three main railway unions, boasted nearly half a million members. My great-uncle Harry Butler was, like his father Willie, a railway man in Tring, Hertfordshire at this time. Alas, Harry died in the great flu epidemic after the First World War. Meanwhile Willie allegedly worked his way down from being the station master at Tring to the station porter. I am not sure that I

believe a word of it, though, as family legend also had it that Willie Butler was an Irishman. Not so – he was born in Middlesex and his father was, like me, a native of Essex.

The Centre holds membership records of the National Union of Railwaymen and its predecessor, the Amalgamated Society of Railway Servants. These begin in 1872 and continue until 1927, although records are missing between 1920 and 19044. It is necessary however to know the branch and date that a member joined before attempting to trace them in the volumes. A date of death up to and including 1926 (allied to branch details) might suffice too. Sadly the indexes to the membership volumes have not survived – hence the need for fairly detailed information

Extreme right.
Annie Besant
leading the match
girls' strike in
London, 1888



Extreme right.
Report on the
masons' strike at
the new Houses
of Parliament
and Nelson's
monument, March
1842

on members to begin with. Otherwise a search risks being lengthy and fruitless. The Centre also holds archives of the other main railway unions: the Associated Society of Locomotive Engineers and Firemen (ASLEF) and the Transport Salaried Staffs' Association (TSSA). Broadly speaking, workers fell into the following categories:

- porters, signalmen, guards, railway engineers, drivers – National Union of Railwaymen;
- drivers, drivers' assistants, traction trainees, footplate workers, firemen – Associated Society of Locomotive Engineers and Firemen
- white collar, administrative, professional, and supervisory staff – Railway Clerks' Association / Transport Salaried Staffs' Association.;

ASLEF members may be traced for the period 1887-1959 from the union's annual reports: references to TSSA members are more elusive, but the union's journal does contain some obituaries of members. The Manchester Unity of Operative Bricklayers' Society archives contain the bluntly but appropriately titled Death Books, which list deceased members, but the most useful types of trade union archives for family historians are invariably annual and quarterly reports, and journals. There are often relatively few details about members within these: date and cause of death, with perhaps a membership number and the date that the member joined the union. Sometimes names of members' wives are given when benefits, particularly death grants, are awarded.

One of the finest collections of reports at the Centre is the series of fortnightly reports which forms part of the archive of the Friendly Society of Operative Stonemasons of England, Ireland and Wales. The earliest volume in this series dates from 1834, the year that the Tolpudde martyrs were prosecuted for trade union activity and transported to Australia. The rhetoric of the Fortnightly Return betrays the origin of the union as a friendly society: branches were known as lodges, groups of workers as 'brethren' or 'worthy brothers'. Employers who paid below the going rate were

STRIKES.

There are fifty of our Irish brethren on strike at Banagher, resisting the introduction of piece work.

There is *one* member on strike at Sheffield against a reduction of wages.

[The hrs. of Sheffield will perhaps state how many, if any, are employed at the job from whence this brother struck, or if none, whether his place is filled.—C. C.]

There is *one* brother on strike at Brighton, who, with another who has drawn his card, has been discharged, the employer supposing them to have been "ringleaders," in resisting the introduction of a bricklayer to fix the masonry.

STRIKE AT THE NEW HOUSES OF PARLIAMENT, WOOLWICH DOCK-YARD. AND NELSON'S MONUMENT.

The hand of every man is, more or less, raised against every other man—the interest of every class is opposed to the interest of every other class—and all other interests are in opposition and open hostility to the interest of the working man.

BRETHREN,

There has no material change taken place in our position since our last report.

We have used every possible exertion to make our turn-out successful; and if firm and determined enthusiasm—if unanimity and perseverance will make a strike successful, the cohesive spirit and growing determination manifest amongst us omens a triumphant termination. Of the three hundred and seventy who turned out, *three only* have turned traitors, viz. *two* at Woolwich and *one* at the Houses of Parliament—a circumstance, we believe, unprecedented in the history of protracted strikes. The number of blacks do not increase; a few have arrived, but an equal number have been induced to come out. The number on the funds are about the same as in last returns.

Although nothing clearly of importance has transpired since our last report, yet we are inclined to think that circumstances are daily occurring favourable to us. The fact of *work* being daily condemned at all the jobs, sufficiently convinces us that Grissell and Peto must, ere long, relinquish the services of the tyrant Allen, or become insolvent, a circumstance which is becoming a topic of general conversation in London.

Shortly after the Great Public Meeting at the Crown and Anchor, a report of which has been laid before you, Allen sent copies of a letter to several of the metropolitan papers, and which they published, attempting (for the first time) to deny the charges we had laid against him. We felt gratified at this, thinking it would lead to a public investigation, and met it by giving a public challenge to him to submit the whole case to public or any other proper arbitration, and by the decision of which we would be content. Did he meet us? No! but as a guilty culprit needing no accuser, after trumpeting his inamalgamate innocence to the world through the columns of a hired press, coward-like slunk behind the vulture wing of Grissell and Peto; these parties, stating in the succeeding day's papers, that they had prohibited any agent of their's holding any further communications with the union.

routinely dismissed as 'tyrants' and special contempt was reserved for 'blacks', those masons who carried on working for employers who were in dispute with the union. Some of these strikes were monumentally long in duration: by March 1842 masons working on the new Houses of Parliament, Nelson's Column and the Woolwich dockyard had been on strike for twenty-seven weeks. For family historians, one of the main points of interest from the Fortnightly Return is that lists of deceased masons were published with the place and sometimes the manner of their deaths. Most were entitled to a full funeral allowance. These references and the constant allusions to members qualifying for sick

pay are reminders that unions anticipated many of the functions of the modern welfare state. In the 1840s the rules of the Operative Stonemasons' Sick Fund were spelled out unambiguously: no member who was infirm or over the age of forty-five could be admitted or re-admitted to the sick fund. Lodges were urged to be 'very particular in attending to this'.



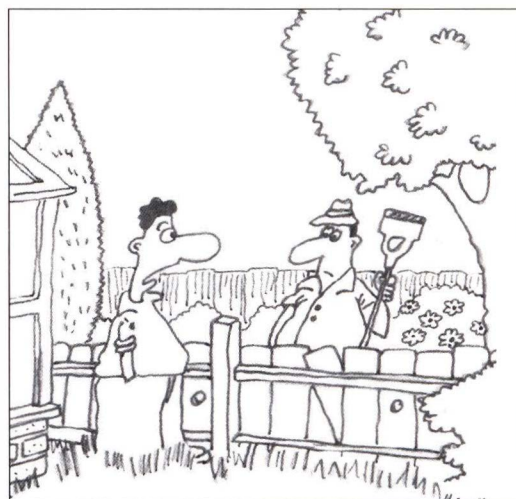
Right.
Working
surface coal in
1920

The more specific information that is known about a trade union member (date joined, periods of sickness, branch details, date of death), the greater the chance of finding him or her quickly. Genealogical information in the Centre relates mainly to skilled workers, the vast majority of whom were men. Unfortunately restrictions on staff time mean that we cannot undertake lengthy searches here but we can pass on details of local professional researchers to remote enquirers. Researchers intending to visit the Centre in person should contact us in advance. Although the Centre has collected some membership information (the NUR volumes are examples of this) space constraints have meant that the Centre hasn't been able to provide room for membership records for many of its deposits. A section of the Centre's website is devoted specifically to genealogical sources for various categories of workers <www.warwick.ac.uk/services/library/mrc/holdings/genealogy/>. It is important to remember that the Centre holds the archives of national trade unions: where possible, branch records have been deposited at the appropriate local repository. The Centre's

remit also stipulates that industrial relations archives, which are linked to a particular area, should be deposited at record offices in that area.

One of the rewarding aspects of family research is to discover more about the working lives of our forebears. The Centre contains a wealth of archival material which sheds light on the lives of generations of trade union members. Although researchers are often unable to trace particular individuals, they can discover more about the conditions in which their ancestors worked. It is humbling to realise how hard life often was in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. We hope that the increasing interest of family historians in trade union records will also prompt a further upsurge in interest in the wider aspects of labour history.

Richard Temple
Modern Records Centre
University of Warwick Library
CV4 7AL
024 7652 4219



'My wife says she's taken up family history after watching that television programme, but I think she's found a new man'.

A first look at the second edition of the National Burial Index

Chad Hanna

Much work has gone into this set of four CDs which now largely lives up to the 'National' part of its name, at least for England. At first glance, the price is a little steep at £45, especially compared to the 1881 census on CD from the Latter Day Saints (LDS), but the 1881 census index is produced at close to cost price, while we hope the National Burial Index will make a profit for the Federation of Family History Societies to plough back into national projects, and a small profit for the societies and others that sell it.

The coverage is much improved – counties most notable by their almost complete absence are Devon, Hampshire with the Isle of Wight, and Westmorland. And there are more entries for Rutland than for Middlesex. To fill in two of the gaps, for Hampshire, you would need to spend £20 for their comprehensive CD ROM with its 703,000 entries, and there is a fairly complete Devon Burial Index for 1813-1837 that can be searched for a fee of £3.

The four CDs include 13.2 million burials ranging from 1538 to 2003. Most work has been done on nineteenth century records, and the most intense work on the period between 1812 and the start of civil registration in 1837. By comparison, the FamilyHistoryOnline website has about 12.4 million burials online, including Hampshire but excluding some from the NBI. Searching on the CD is very much quicker and more flexible than using the FamilyHistoryOnline website and the program will show you where the burial ground is on a map showing the counties of England and Wales. Anyone familiar with the

first edition will not have to learn anything new as the search program does not seem to have changed, although I understand the lists of name variants have been updated. The program is now copy-protected and will only start with the original disc 1 in the CD drive which I find particularly annoying. The program requires a Windows PC with Windows 95 or later – there have been some problems reported with Windows XP service pack 2 but these can be fixed. There is a facility to copy the data from the four CDs onto your hard disk - this requires 2.1 GBytes of disk space on the same drive that you installed the viewer on. You can then search the period 1538 to 2003 in one search, if you wish.

Should you buy it? If you know you have ancestors in only one or two counties then you may be financially better off buying publications or services from the family history societies in those areas, using FamilyHistoryOnline to look for other gaps. If your research covers a broad area, the new National Burial Index is flexible and easy to use and maybe there's time to request a special present for Christmas.

The Bookstall sells a complete version of the second edition, but if you have a copy of the first edition you will need to order your upgrade from FFHS Publications at Bury. Information about upgrades is available on their website at <www.genfair.com>.



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Gleanings from exchange magazines

Daphne Spurling

Old Occupations. Some occupations with amusing titles and list of websites: <www.cpcug.org/user/jlacombe/terms> for list of occupations
<<http://rmhh.co.uk/occup/index>> for old occupation names
<www.amlwchdata.co.uk/occupations> older census occupations
<www.btinternet.com/~akhenaten/cotton-milloccupations> cotton and mill occupations
<<http://privatewww.essex.ac.uk/~matthew/work/occlass>> 1881 census
(North Cheshire FHS, Vol 33, 3, Aug 2004)

An Eventful Voyage. Extracts from diary of 20 year old travelling from England to New Zealand in 1878, followed by review of book on Shipping Sources. (New Zealand FHS, Vol 36, 2, July 2004)

French calendars are very complicated. During the Middle Ages the year started on Easter Sunday which meant that 1347, for example, was over 12 months long running from 1 April to 19 April. Further complications occur with the Julian, Gregorian and Republican calendars. (*Australian Family Tree Connection*, July 2004)

Creatively Celebrate the Centuries: Scrapbook your Family Tree. (*Australian Family Tree Connection*, July 2004)

Caio Village and Environs: 1930s Reminiscences. Although describing a village in Wales, many points will be common to other rural communities. (*Dyfed Family History Journal*, Vol 8, No 6, August 2004)

British Ancestors in France? Sources cover both Catholics and Protestants. (*Catholic Ancestor*, Vol 10, No 2, June 2004)

York Minster Archives (Sheffield and District FHS, Vol 25, No 3, Autumn 2004)

Our Non-Conformist Ancestors, (Buckinghamshire records. Buckinghamshire FHS, Sept 2004)

Recusant History. List of articles in this journal.
Recusants in Kirkham, Lancashire 1702, 1704 and 1706, list of names
Burial Registers of Margate, Kent 1823-1856 and 1870 at the Catholic Mission Pupils at St Francis Xavier College, Liverpool 1845-1900, list of names (All in *Catholic Ancestor*, Vol 10, 1, Feb 2004)

Nonconformity – Part 2 General article covering 'How to Identify a Nonconformist Family' and 'Records' (North West Kent FHS, Vol 10, No 3, Sept 2004)

Tree preservation. Covers preservation of privacy (includes example of credit card fraud from family tree on website) and data of family trees (and other files). (Bedfordshire FHS, Vol 14, No 7, Sept 2004)

Anglo-Italian Family History Society (Glamorgan FHS, No 75, Sept 2004)

The 'Golden Age' of Welsh Genealogy Fifteenth century onwards (Glamorgan FHS, No 75, Sept 2004)

Send your letters or articles: by email to Editor@berksfhs.co.uk or The Editor, 5 Wren Close, Burghfield Common, Berkshire RG7 3PF

Magazine format

Janet Taulbut, 40 Crawte Avenue, Holbury, Southampton SO45 2GQ

I am disappointed in the format and style of the new magazine. For those of us with limited space, the small, firm cover magazine was easily visible, more suitable for long-term storage. The new format is slippery, visually similar to women's magazines and needs more space when read.

While I love history on television, radio, in books, and talks, the main feature of a magazine for those of us who live too far to attend meetings and find visits to the excellent Research Centre and also the Berkshire Record Office difficult, is reading their comments, however trivial. Entire articles about specific relatives may be of interest to a limited group, but most of us, need shorter articles covering a wide range of subjects and introducing us to a wider range of contacts.

It is mainly through contact with individual Berkshire members that one is able to move forward with research and find reasons for so many unexplained missing links.

Barry Jerome, Rareridge Lane, Bishops Waltham, Southampton SO32 1BX

I received my new format *Berkshire Family Historian* today and just wanted to congratulate all those concerned with the new design. It is excellent and fully achieves the objectives described in the editorial.

Valerie Storie, 15 Anthony Way, Cippenham, Slough, Berkshire SL1 5PG

Well done! I have had several emails from Windsor Branch members praising the new magazine and enjoying the new look. One comment probably encapsulates them all: 'we both think it to be lovely – puts it on par with the national family history magazines'.

Paul Collins, 14 Maidcrost Road, Cowley, Oxford OX4 3EN

Absolutely brilliant new format. Look forward to many more of them.

Ann Beaumont, South Australia

Sorry to be negative, but I needed to say that I much prefer the superior quality of our previous magazines. They were also much easier to read and to store. On the positive side I do look forward to receiving my magazine.

National Burial Index

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

I recently bought the first edition of the National Burial Index, having read of its existence on your website. It was only when I received it that I discovered that Devon and Cornwall are not covered at all, and several other counties are very poorly provided for. Of course I wanted to check my own family from Devon. I have been trying to check the CD's original description which led me to purchase it. However, there is no description of what the CD contains on your website which is why I wished to check what I had ordered. My acquisition has been a total disappointment.

The Webmaster writes: Patricia ordered the first edition of the NBI in May but due to administrative problems it was not dispatched until July. I am totally guilty of including the first edition on our website after we were aware that the new edition would be available in the autumn. Originally we did list the number of entries for each county but it was omitted in May. I must apologise for this oversight. The full list of parishes and periods covered in the second edition can be found at www.ffhs.org.uk/General/Projects/NBI.htm.



Claire Ward, 31 Alder Close, Abingdon OX14 1YG

This photograph is one that I had copied from the original some years ago (using the expense of a proer photographer in the days before scanners and PCs). It is a school photo from Steventon which once belonged to my grandfather. I would love to know the date as it is not given on the original. I do not know if my grandfather is on the photograph, as I don't recognise his face but then I only knew him as an old man. He was born in November 1887. If anyone could supply me with information I would be eternally grateful.

William Fredrick Watts King

RD Simms, 28 Fernbank Road, Ascot, Berkshire SL5 8HD

I am researching William Fredrick Watts King who was born at Reading on 23 May 1894. He was educated at Reading Blue Coat School and St Mark's College, Chelsea, prior to the First World War. During the Great War he saw service in the Middlesex Regiment and the Tank Corps. After demobilisation he became a company secretary in the leather trade in London before returning to Reading to become headmaster at his old school. He was head from 1929 to 1945 when the school was located at 42 Bath Road. From 1945 to 1948 he was bursar at Leighton Park School before joining Smith's Coaches as company secretary until the 1950s. He was a member of Reading Rotary Club and possibly a number of other organisations in the Reading area. He died suddenly in June 1967, aged 73, leaving a wife, daughter and son. I would very much appreciate any information other members may have on his academic or business activities.

Charles William Deeley

Mrs P. M. Deeley, 36 Falfield Road, Tuffley, Gloucester GL4 0NE

Can anybody help me discover the history of my late father-in-law, Charles William Deeley?

He was born in Reading on 24 January 1891 and he had an elder brother, John, and two step-sisters, Edith and Kate. They lived at 58 Weldale Street. By July 1894 Charles and his siblings were orphaned: his mother died in 1892 and his father two years later. According to his family he was raised by a Methodist minister. Has anyone knowledge of where, or by whom, these children were raised?

Charles became a member of the army in India and then of the 5th Mountain Battery of the Royal Garrison Artillery with the British Expeditionary Force in France and was mentioned in dispatches. Charles wrote to HG Willink of Hillfields, Burghfield, asking for a reference. H.G. Willink was a JP for Berkshire, and a county alderman, and in his response he says that Charles was well known to his wife, 'who took great interest in you, even after you left this parish'. It appears from the 1901 census that he was living, aged 10, as a boarder with the family of Fredrick West, a painter and glazier, at the Common, Burghfield. Charles, who became a licensed victualler in South Wales, died aged only 48. Could anybody help with his life?

Bookends

Jean Debney

Berkshire local history

Theale Community Quilt 2000, Theale Local History Group (2004), ISBN: 0-9547815-0-3; 6" x 6", flexiback, 35pp; Price: £4.00, UK p&p £4.35, Overseas surface, £5.35

Theale was an important staging post on the Great Bath Road (now the A4) and the design of this colourful quilt is based on the junction of the road, the Great Western Railway and the Kennet and Avon canal which all pass through the parish and the focus of the quilt showing the main places of worship. There are historical notes by local historian, Roy Townsend, and illustrations of the items depicted. This is a good example of a successful community project to celebrate the millennium.

Tudor and Stuart Shrivenham, Joan Dils and Deidre Schwartz, (Reading, 2004), A5, flexiback, illustrated, index of names, 122pp; Price: £6.50, UK p&p £7.50, Overseas surface £8.00, Airmail £9.50

The authors were originally researching local epidemics in sixteenth and seventeenth century Berkshire which grew far beyond the original aim and, after several years' work, they decided to write up this account of Shrivenham for the benefit of the present community. The result is the high standard of writing we have come to expect from these skilled historians. Their original sources are mainly from the Berkshire Record Office and they, with the many other sources consulted, are all listed. Marginal notes are used instead of footnotes which makes for easier reading. This is an informative and very readable

account of people's lives and deaths in the parish of Shrivenham, which includes the villages of Bourton, Watchfield, Longcot and Fernham, and includes many biographical examples. Highly recommended.

Windsor (Poor Law) Union – Workhouse Deaths 1835-48 & 1867-88 and Pauper's Service Book 1877-1914, transcribed and published by the Eureka Partnership (2004), A5, flexiback, 48pp; Price: £3.00, UK p&p £3.40, Overseas surface, £3.65, Airmail £4.35

This booklet contains many missing ancestors. It is an indexed transcript of many under-used items in the Berkshire Record Office. The death register includes the date of death, name and age of the deceased, the parish to which they belonged, when and where they were buried, by whom and at whose expense. The Pauper's Service Book lists children aged eight to nineteen years who were placed in work or training either locally or farther afield – about twenty of them were sent to Canada between 1890 and 1906. The Union covered the parishes of Clewer, New Windsor with Dedworth, Old Windsor and Sunninghill (all Berkshire) and Egham and Thorpe (in Surrey).

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Book early as places are limited

NEXT COURSE 2005
STARTS FEBRUARY 14TH
CONTINUING 21ST, 28TH
THEN MARCH 7TH AND 14TH

Advertising your research interests in the magazine is probably the best way of contacting others researching the same families. So many times we hear of members who find links with long lost and distant relatives after reading these pages. But recently the number of members' interests submitted to the magazine and the website has declined which is a shame when in family history terms it is so important. Many members list their interests when they first join, but as we all know new names suddenly occur as our knowledge of families gathers pace. So it is even more important to maintain an up-to-date list of our research needs.

If you have already submitted your names check the website on <www.berksfhs.org.uk> to ensure that they are correct. If not re-submit them to Bob Plumridge and we will include them in subsequent issues of the magazine.

Compiled by Bob Plumridge
 <Bob.Plumridge@ntlworld.com>

- 4824 **Mr CW Baldwin**
Ashley 20 Darland Avenue Gillingham
Kent ME7 3AL
- 4876 **Mr M Fowler**
47 North Bank Close Strood Rochester
Kent ME2 2NL
- 5076 **Mrs J & Mr G Garrett**
3 Rother Vale Lordswood Chatham
Kent ME5 8PN
- 5353 **Mrs R Lilwall**
94 Main Street Pembroke Pembs
SA71 4HN
- 5409 **Mrs J Stevens**
Mole Park Cottage Sindlesham Road

- 5467 **Mrs G Lumley**
Arborfield Berks RG2 9JQ
Ty Gwyn Bennetts Lane Hawarden
Flintshire CH5 3HG
- 5572 **Mrs JK Barnes**
53 Gussage Road Poole Dorset BH12
4BZ
- 5597 **Miss TG May**
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- 5605 **Miss JL Manley**
51 Basin Road Heybridge Basin
Maldon Essex CM9 4RJ
- 5646 **Mr T King**
15 Millview Woodchurch Ashford
Kent TN26 3QN
- 5662 **Dr M Booth**
70 Springfield Park Holyport
Maidenhead Berks SL6 2YN

No	Name	Place	Code	Date
5076	AILSBURY	All	BRK	1871-1900
4824	BALDWIN	Cholsey	BRK	All
5572	BARLOW	Hampstead Norris	BRK	1700-1850
5467	BELL	Kensall	MDX	1830--1900
5597	BLACK(WE)ALL	Henley	OXF	1700+
5646	BLOWER	Wolverhampton	STS	pre-1900
5662	BOOTH	Ightham	KEN	1700-1850
5662	BREWSTER	All	LEI	1800-1900
5662	BREWSTER	All	RUT	1800-1900

No	Name	Place	Code	Date
5662	BROOM(E)	All	RUT	1750-1900
5597	BURFOOT	Wargrave	BRK	1800+
5662	BURGESS	Sevenoaks	KEN	1750-1950
5646	BURKE	Kensington	LDN	pre-1900
5646	BUTLER	Bedfont	MDX	pre-1880
5646	CALEY	Stanwell	MDX	pre-1860
5646	CHURCH	Reading	BRK	pre-1860
5605	COE	Cheveley	CAM	All
5662	COWLARD	Chevening	KEN	1700-1850
5467	CROCKER	Hampstead Norreys	BRK	1780-1890

No	Name	Place	Code	Date	No	Name	Place	Code	Date
5353	DEAN	Wokingham	BRK	19c	5662	INGHAM	Ossett	YKS	1775-1875
5597	EDWARDS	Cookham	BRK	1800+	5662	JACKSON	Shoreditch	MDX	1850-1900
5597	EDWARDS	Wargrave	BRK	1800+	5572	JENNINGS	Finsbury	MDX	1800+
5597	EDWARDS	Henley	OXF	1800+	5572	JENNINGS	Shoreditch	MDX	1800+
5597	EDWARDS	Hurley	BRK	1800+	5572	JENNINGS	Kidderminster	WOR	1750-1820
5605	ELDRIDGE	Bath	SOM	pre-1851	5467	JEVONS	Kidderminster	WOR	1750-1820
5646	EVANS	Paddington	LDN	pre-1860	5662	KELLAND	Otterton	DEV	1750-1850
5605	EVERETT	Barrow	SFK	All	5646	KING	All	BRK	pre-1870
5597	FAULK(E)S	Henley	OXF	1890+	5572	KING	Rotherhithe	SRY	1750-1850
5662	FIELD(S)	Doncaster	YKS	1800-1850	5572	KING	Bayswater	MDX	1750-1800
5662	FOX	Tunstall	STS	1800-1850	5572	KING	Moorgate	MDX	1800+
5353	FRYER	Windsor	BRK	19c	5646	KING	Henley	OXF	1800-1870
5353	FURMINGER				5572	KING	Finsbury	MDX	1800+
		Maidstone	KEN	19c	5605	KING	Southill	BDF	pre-1861
5076	GARAT	Cumnor	BRK	1690-1743	5646	KING	Reading	BRK	1800-1870
5076	GARRAT	Bucklebury	BRK	1822-1851	5076	LAWRENCE	Cumnor	BRK	1670-1743
5076	GARRATT	Beenham	BRK	1773-1900	5646	LEYLAND	Bilston	STS	pre-1860
5076	GARRATT	Woolhampton	BRK	1861-1900	5409	LI(Y)NE	All	WIL	1700+
5076	GARRETT	Woolwich	KEN	1850-1950	5409	LI(Y)NE	All	BRK	1700+
5597	GOODWIN	All	OXF	1850+	5572	MAJOR	Brightwell	BRK	1800+
5977	GOODWIN	All	BRK	1850+	5572	MAJOR	Wantage	BRK	1600+
5076	GRAY	Deskford	BAN	1773-1900	5605	MANLEY	Islington	MDX	All
5597	HAMBLEDON				5467	MANNING	Islington	MDX	1800-1920
		All	OXF	1700+	5353	MINCHIN	Binfield	BRK	1800+
5597	HAMBLEDON				5597	NETHERCLIFF(T)			
		All	BRK	1700+			All	OXF	1800+
5572	HARRIS	Marylebone	MDX	pre-1850	5597	NETHERCO(U)TT			
5076	HAWKINS	Thatcham	BRK	1846-1880			All	OXF	1800+
5076	HAWKINS	Wraysbury	BKM	1870-1920	5662	OTTON	Branscombe	DEV	1700-1875
5605	HAYES	Campton	BDF	pre-1861	5662	PAYTON	Branscombe	DEV	1700-1875
5646	HINES	Kensington	LDN	pre-1900	5662	PEARSON	Edlington	YKS	1700-1800
5605	HOBBS	Newbury	BRK	pre-1851	5467	POVEY	Kintbury	BRK	1700-1780
5605	HOBBS	All	BRK	pre-1851	5467	POVEY	Winterbourne	BRK	1780-1850
5467	HUGILL	Greenwich	LDN	1850-1900	5467	POVEY	Hampstead Norreys		
								BRK	1700-1900

No	Name	Place	Code	Date
5662	PRACY	Shoreditch	MDX	1775-1850
5467	RADFORD	Kilsby	NTH	1750-1850
5646	RAWLINGS	Kings Cross	LDN	pre-1860
5353	ROFF	Maidstone	KEN	1800+
5353	ROSE	East Hampstead	BRK	1800+
5467	ROWIEY	Stourport	WOR	1750-1820
5662	SANDS	Frant	ESX	1700-1800
5353	SILVER	Wokingham	BRK	1800+
5467	SMITH	Rugby	WAR	1800-80
5572	SMITH	Marylebone	MDX	pre-1870
5467	SMITH	East Meon	HAM	1700-1800
5662	STADDON	Otterton	DEV	1750-1850

No	Name	Place	Code	Date
5646	TAGGART	Willenhall	STS	pre-1880
4876	THORP(E)	Sonning	BRK	1830-1890
5572	TREADWELL			
		Marylebone	MDX	1700-1850
5646	VASS	Whitley	BRK	pre-1860
5646	VASS	All	BRK	pre 1860
4876	WAIGHT	Sonning	BRK	1830-1870
5646	WATERS	Leicester	LEI	pre-1860
5467	WHITTICK	Winterbourne	BRK	1760-1850
5572	WILLIAMS	Wantage	BRK	1800-1900

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BFHS Research Centre

The Research Centre contains almost all the published 1851 census indexes of England and Wales; a fully fitted computer suite including the 1881 census of the United Kingdom, Vital Records Indexes, CD ROMs as well as many other county indexes. We also have continuous access to the internet, the 1901 census and thousands of books, fiche and transcripts. Your Research Centre supplements the Berkshire Record Office and the Berkshire local studies libraries, you will also find much information about other counties in England and Wales, Scotland, the Channel Islands, the Isle of Man and many overseas countries.

How to find us

Next door to the Berkshire Record Office, off Coley Avenue, close to the centre of Reading. Good parking, 15 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



Some of the thousand of books, CDs and fiche at the Research Centre



Research Centre and Berkshire Record Office

Research Centre and Reference Library tours

The Research Centre will close for the Christmas and New Year period at 4pm on Thursday 16 December, reopening on Tuesday 4 January 2005 (not Thursday 6 January) at 11am. We will also be closed on Easter Sunday, 27 March.

The tours for the next four months are:

- Monday 17 Jan 7.30pm–9.30pm
- Saturday 19 Feb 2.30pm–4.30pm
- Monday 21 Mar 7.30pm–9.30pm
- Saturday 16 Apr 2.30pm–4.30pm

These tours give members and visitors the chance of finding out what research and finding aids are available to enable you to make the most of the rich resources at the Research Centre.

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>

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 28,595 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.

Please post search requests 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 containing two IRCs.

- 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).

To contact the person submitting the Birth Brief: 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) on either the page or the household of a selected person. Also available on CD ROM.

1861 Census. Transcription has just started with 130,105 individuals to date; more districts will be added as available.

1871 Census. Transcription and index of 226,053 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 Society 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 continues transcribing from burial registers, with over 345,000 entries to date. See the Society website or the *Berkshire Family Historian* for up-to-date contents. Some 50% of entries show all available data; the rest show – where available – name, age, abode, relationship, occupation and title together with a note indicating whether there is further information such as date, place or cause of death etc. in the original record. An updated version of the index is available on CD. See page 6

Berkshire Strays Index. This dataset includes 12,000 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 Index 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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Programme Calendar 2005

Bracknell and Wokingham Branch

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

- 21 January By the Members for the Members
We begin 2005 with a Members' Evening, including short talks on topics of general interest. There will be a question and answer session and displays of family history, ephemera and curiosities.
- 18 February Our newspaper heritage, Meryl Catty
Newspapers and journals hold substantial amounts of information about the lives of our ancestors – from every walk of life.
- 18 March London, the Metropolitan Nightmare, Paul Blake
Many of us have London ancestors, or forebears who spent part of their life in the capital. From Chiswick to Charlton, Camberwell to Camden Town, find out how to get the best from London's many archive holdings.

Computer Branch

The Oakwood Centre, Headley Road, Woodley, 7.15pm for 7.45pm

- 19 January Getting your book into print, Kevin Tomes from Parchment Printers
Preserving your family history for future generations.
- 16 February A2A, Access to Archives of England for family historians, Sarah Stark from The National Archives
- 16 March Organising your PC files, Terry Wickenden
Files here, programs there, lost bits and bytes from everywhere.

Newbury Branch

St Mary's Church Hall, Church Road, Shaw, Newbury, 7.30pm for 7.45

- 12 January British wills, Phil Wood
Wills from England, Wales and Scotland; how to find them, what they might hold for the family historian and other material related to probate records
- 9 February Immigration and emigration, Colin Chapman
The creator of the familiar Chapman Codes talking about the way our ancestors moved around within the United Kingdom and techniques available to track their movements.
- 9 March Jack of Newbury, Dr David Peacock.
Prominent local historian and author of a major work on John Winchcombe, will discuss research about the Winchcombe family.

See overleaf for the remainder of the programme for the first three months of 2005.

Programme Calendar 2005

continued from overpage

Reading Branch

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

- 27 January Writing up family history, Barry Jerome
We all gather facts and stories about our ancestors but how can we best present them to others who may not be family historians?
- 24 February Occupational records, Chris Watts
Many employers kept records of their workers and these can be a great source of information to the family historian.
- 31 March A Nest of Hornecks, Moria Bonnington.
Elopements, divorces, duels and other dastardly deeds.

Vale of White Horse Branch

Long Furlong Community Centre, Boulter Drive, Abingdon, 7.15pm for 7.30pm

- 10 January Computers for family historians, Berkshire FHS Computer Group
How to get the best from your PC and the internet. An expert guide to some of the problems we encounter.
- 14 February 'Who do you think you are?' Members discuss their family histories and family trees
A members' evening in which we encourage you to bring along your problems.
- 14 March An Oxford Canal family 1792-1945, Judith Kinnison Bourke
So many families made their home on the inland waterways, but few can trace a continuous way of life for 150 years.

Windsor, Slough and Maidenhead Branch

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

- 25 January Murder at Burnham Abbey in 1853 – an update, Pauline Hodges and Valerie Storie
A re-run from last May including fresh evidence and clues. A salutary lesson for researchers in getting back to basics.
- 22 February Birth and baptism in the nineteenth century, Tom Doig
A birth that was steeped in mystery and tradition – how folklore affects our way of life even in the twenty first century.
- 29 March Miscellany – Q and A session for those who have hit a brick wall.
Update on previous queries, also a mixture of hands-on and light-hearted puzzles to test your family history skills and ingenuity.