



Berkshire Family Historian

Volume 14 - No 3 - March 1991



MORRIS DANCERS AS DEPICTED IN AN OLD STAINED GLASS WINDOW
IN A HOUSE AT BKTLEY, STAFFORDSHIRE.

PROGRAMME SUMMARY TO JULY 1991

Newbury Branch

Meetings are held at 7.15 pm usually on the the second Wednesday of each month at St Nicolas Parish Hall in the centre of Newbury.

10th Apr.	Military Records	Dr. Ian Beckett
8th May	Welsh genealogy	Dr. Keith Meredith
12th June	Bristol Riots	John Hurley

Reading Branch

Meetings, normally held on the last Friday of the month 7.00 for 7.45 at the Park United Reform Church Hall, Wokingham Road, Reading

26th Apr.	Some under-used records	Peter Bennett
31st May	Short talks by members preceded by the Reading Branch Annual Meeting	
28th June	The happiest days ...? School as seen through the log book	Dr. Ron Cox
26th July	Monumental Inscription recording session at Reading Cemetery, London Road	

Slough Branch

Monthly Meetings, normally held on the last Tuesday of each month at 7.45 at St Andrew's Church Hall, The Grove, Slough.

26th Mar.	Illegitimacy and adoption	Jean A. Cole
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Bracknell branch

Monthly meetings will be held on the third Friday of the month at 7.45 at the Priestwood Community Centre, Priestwood Court Road, Bracknell

19th Apr.	Victorian Life	Tom and Kath Watson
17th May	Origin of Surnames	Judith Hunter
21st June	Family History Game - In search of Elephants	
19th July	Monumental Inscription recording session in a local churchyard	

BERKSHIRE FAMILY HISTORIAN

Volume 14, 1990-91

Part 3, March 1991

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The chairman's bit...

by Chad Hanna

In January it was my great pleasure to inaugurate the first meeting of the Bracknell branch of our Society. The meeting was a great success with 98 people attending, some familiar faces but many new ones. An attendance of 60 at the second meeting has ensured that Bracknell will become a permanent and exciting feature of our Society, along with Reading, Newbury and Slough.

The Berkshire Name Index

To find out more about this Name Index I visited Tom and Rita Hine, who have now taken custody of it. The Berkshire Name Index (BNI) is a card index which almost fills 33 filing drawers. In all it probably contains around 100,000 references.

It includes strays - references to people from Berkshire who have turned up outside the country. Additional strays are always welcome and many result from census indexing, gravestone recording and other projects carried out by our members and members of other Societies elsewhere in the country. The BNI also includes some references from parish registers, often made when manually indexing parish registers. There are also references to unusual records which are difficult to search, these include recusants, the beneficiaries of wills, monumental inscriptions and the records of the Overseers of the Poor.

In many ways the BNI should be regarded as a lucky dip - not all Berkshire people are in it - a slip index of that size would be very unwieldy and John Brooks' marriage index is a close approach - but you may just find a missing connection.

With the advent of computers, more information is becoming available in a computerised form and it will make less and less sense to continue indexing on cards or slips of paper. The information takes up far less space on a computer disk; several copies can be made so the information is more secure and searching the database is faster than searching the slips and a neatly typed report can be produced. This Computer Name Index for Berkshire does not exist yet, but the raw information is now becoming available, and I'm sure it will surface within the next year or two.

Data Protection Act

The Society is now registered under the Data Protection Act. The advantage to the Society is that we will be able to keep a better record of your interests and perhaps one day produce yearly reports of new information we've found which matches your interests.

The Symposium and AGM

I look forward to meeting you all at our Family History Symposium on the 22nd of June, which has been arranged with the help of over a dozen other family history societies (see the pullout application form in the centre pages). This will be followed by our Society's AGM where the next executive committee will be elected. I can honestly say you do not have to be a family history expert to be on any of our committees (I'm the proof of that, my wife, Lesley, is the one with the experience) - a little time and a bit of organising ability is all that's needed.

We shall be looking for some 'new blood' and, in particular, the membership secretaries have indicated that they would like to train a couple of members to take over from them. The membership secretary is an essential post in the Society and I am sure the current membership secretaries will be only too pleased to talk to you if you want to find out what it involves.

Dates for your '91 diary

- 6 Apr. Federation of Family History Societies council meeting and day conference at Selly Oak, Birmingham.
 - 27 Apr. Day School at Bulmershe College, Reading - the Parish Community. This day school has been organised by Joan Dils and the University of Oxford Department of External Studies.
 - 11 May Two-way traffic - emigration and family history. One-day conference hosted by Bedfordshire FHS at Houghton Conquest Village Hall, Beds.
 - 21 Sep. Newbury open day at St. Nicholas parish hall, Newbury.
 - 28 Sep. West Middlesex Family History Society open day at St Peter's Hall, Staines
 - 5 Oct Hampshire Family History Society conference at Southampton
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Petworth emigration scheme

Under the patronage of Lord Egremont, the Petworth emigration committee sent some 1,600 emigrants from Sussex and neighbouring counties in England to Upper Canada (Ontario) between 1832 and 1837. Ships chartered by the committee sailed from Portsmouth.

Wendy Cameron (305 Heath St. E. Toronto, Ontario M4T 1T3) and Mary McDougall Maude (44 Beverley St. Toronto, Ontario M5T 1X9) are compiling a list of the people who sailed on the ships and are trying to contact descendants or relatives of the Petworth emigrants. Their working list of emigrants will be deposited and available for consultation in various archives and libraries in Canada and England.

Eighteenth century British biography

by F. J. G. Robinson

Until the eighteenth century the majority of Britons left no written records of their existence beyond that of their birth, marriage (if any) and death; these in parish registers and wills. A few, because of wealth, talent or good and bad luck, were more fully recorded; these, and similar men and women of the later centuries, form the basis of the many collective biographies published in the last three centuries and now readily available in collections such as Chadwyck-Healey's *Anglo-American names database* or Saur's *British biographical archive*. However, the rest before 1700 largely lived and died unremarked.

In the eighteenth century for a number of reasons, but especially because of the enormous increase in the use of the printed word, the ordinary man and woman became far more visible. Certain sources in particular bore witness to the lives and interests of many more people than the heroes and villains of earlier centuries.

- a) Local and national directories
- b) Subscription lists to book purchases
- c) Lists of Society membership
- d) Subscription lists to charities
- e) Obituaries in recurring journals e.g. the Annual Register and the Gentleman's Magazine
- f) Poll Books
- g) Advertisements of a personal nature and local reports in newspapers

These remain largely untapped sources for biography; untapped until now because the sheer size of the data involved prohibits both their investigation and their publication, in a united form. However, the applications of a database of this size would be enormous.

Now work has begun on a project to form an eighteenth century British biography archive. It is the aim of this project to bring together these and similar materials for the period 1701-1800; to move from the Who's Who's level of biographical information towards a far wider view of the English speaking people of the eighteenth century. It's hoped to include the fruits of personal research and later other major sources such as parish registers, clergy lists, army lists, matriculation books, guild membership, and apprenticeship returns.

Whilst all these sources contain considerable masses of data, some are more accessible and more limited in number than others; it's the intention of the project to begin with the more easily controlled sources, and especially those where preliminary work has already been done as is the case with local directories, book subscription lists and society lists. The larger and less manageable sources such as the poll books and newspapers, will be left until completion of the basic sources, although it will probably be useful to make a start with the obituaries in the regular journals. The data file is not expected to be a finite publication but rather one that grows over the years.

The initial collection of lists will be largely carried out at the Bodleian as the regulations of the British Library prohibit xerox copying of pre-1800 materials - however, it will be necessary to photograph a considerable number of lists at the British Library.

One advantage from this project will be the assembly of the most comprehensive collection of directories, subscription lists and other biographical materials of the period in the world. The quantity of data in this project prohibits traditional forms of publication even a microfiche would not allow for a complete analysis. That Mr. X bought a book, that Mr. Y lived in Newcastle in 1778 is of limited interest; it is the cumulation of all the records of Mr. X or Mr. Y that would put the flesh on the bones. This kind of search facility would only be possible on-line or on CD-ROM. It is the intent of the project initially to publish on CD-ROM and to continue for as long as the data can be maintained on a small number of CDs. By choosing this form of publication it will be possible to offer cost price updates at regular intervals, and thereby provide a commercially viable growing file, capable of indefinite expansion.

Notes: A CD-ROM is a method of storing and distributing large amounts of information using an optical method of storage on a CD disc.

Memorial card index

Philip Jones, 40 Regina Crescent, Ravenshead, Nottingham, NG15 9AE is compiling a national memorial card index. He would appreciate photocopies, transcripts or unwanted originals and will refund all costs including those for cards bought at antique and collectors fairs.

Stocktaking no holiday!

by Peter Durrant, County Archivist

Every year since 1986 the Berkshire Record Office has closed for a fortnight each autumn for 'stocktaking'. Inevitably this causes a certain amount of comment. A Record Office is hardly like a business where a regular check of goods in and goods out is required: surely once the 'goods' are in the strong rooms they ought to stay there. Well, of course, but there are, all the same, many behind-the-scenes jobs in a Record Office, dealing with the physical storage and well-being of the documents, and during the course of the year the pressure to provide a public search room and inquiry service sometimes leads to these being put on one side. The annual fortnight of stocktaking allows staff a chance to concentrate uninterrupted on these tasks. Far from being the holiday which some readers (jokingly?) claim, it is actually very hard work for the staff.

Although by the time this magazine is published the 1990 stocking will be a distant memory for most, this is the first issue since we added up our achievements, and a few facts and figures might be of interest.

A number of 'housekeeping' tasks were undertaken during the fortnight's closure. These included:

1. A survey of maps. 635 maps were examined. This involved checking that the location of each was correctly recorded (even in the best run Record Office items are occasionally put back in the wrong place), inspecting it to assess whether it needed conservation treatment and making a record of any treatment required. Then ensuring that it was wrapped and packaged to modern standards. (All maps should now have their own linen 'sleeping bags' to protect them during the storage and handling). Nearly 60% of the maps examined needed some degree of conservation treatment.
2. A photographic survey. 3090 photographs, 886 slides and 162 negatives were inspected. Many photographs are fragile and unstable and require specialist packaging both for their own protection and for that of the other records with which they may be stored. This survey enabled us to identify those photographs which most urgently needed attention.

3. A microfilm survey. 21 microfilms were scrutinised, frame by frame (approximately 12,000 of them) for quality and completeness. Although most of our microfilms have been made to a high standard and are as legible as the condition of the original documents will allow, we knew that a few were of more doubtful quality. All users will be pleased to know that through this scrutiny we have been able to identify and eliminate the majority of these.

Besides these we did some work on County Council minutes, repositioned nearly 1500 feet of shelving to meet the British Standard for the storage of documents, and even managed to do some cataloguing.

Such an achievement would simply not have been possible without closure. While much of the work will not be immediately apparent in the Search Room, such attention to the long term preservation of the documents in our custody is nevertheless vital. If you were one of those who were unable to visit us during the closed weeks, I hope this short account demonstrates that we put the time to good use.

Searching the census in Reading Reference Library by Meg Goswell

Reading Reference Library holds the census returns, on microfilm, for Berkshire from 1841 to 1881. They have produced street indexes for 1851, 1871 and 1881 for Reading based on the three town parishes. All the street and place names are arranged alphabetically, giving the relevant folio number (these are the large numbers which appear on the top right-hand edge of every other page). If you know the street where your ancestor lived, a quick look in the index will save a lot of time, enabling you to whizz through to the correct folio number. The library also has the BFHS indexes for Windsor, Cookham, Easthampstead and Wokingham areas, which effectively covers the whole of the eastern end of the county. By the time this edition comes out they will also have the index for Wantage. Using the folio lists which are on page one of each index, the time taken to find a particular parish or hamlet can be greatly reduced.

Do you have any Talbot ancestors?

The one-name Talbot Research Organisation, flush with its successful Marsh Court gathering in 1989, is holding a second gathering on May 11, 12, 1991 at Stratford-on-Avon. The two day gathering will include talks about the Talbot family and meeting your namesakes. If you'd like more information write to Mrs. Elaine Hill, Lime Tree Cottage, Lime Tree Road, Goring on Thames, Reading RG8 9EY.

War memorial index

by Marilyn Wooldridge

Every town and village has one, in many cases, more than one. Sometimes they stand proudly on the village green, or tucked away in the parish church. In some town centres they have become defaced with paint by vandals or daubed with graffiti and neglected. War memorials have become part of the national scenery, but the appalling conditions of some has led the Imperial War Museum to launch a five year project to draw up an inventory of every memorial in the country. The aim is to record every memorial on computer with all the details to which war it commemorates, which unit is featured and who is mentioned.

It was with the enthusiasm of the Project group and Mike Wilshin, a former chairman of the Society, that the Berkshire Family History Society started the mammoth task of recording Berkshire war memorials in 1985. Volume one of the Berkshire inventory was published in 1987 and copies were sent to the Berkshire Record Office and the Society of Genealogists. Volume two is now being prepared and should be published later this year.

In the early stages of this vast project it became obvious that a name index would be of great value to family historians. The indexing was being carried out by Mike Wilshin, but after his sudden death, no one has continued with this valuable work.

The Imperial War Museum's National inventory of war memorials will include information on the type of memorial, the designer, whether it's made of brick, stone or marble and its precise location. Some of this information is not included in our inventory, so we have decided to re-examine every memorial so that we can include this additional information. If you would like to help do get in touch with me through the editor. Your help is needed if we are to preserve these memorials to the hundreds of thousands of servicemen who died in the two World Wars.

Search for War memorials goes on!

One of the difficulties in the War memorial project is finding some of them! Lesley Hanna is searching the *Reading Mercury*, *Oxford Gazette*, *Newbury Herald & Berks County Paper* from 1919 onwards to try and identify all First World War Memorials. She would like to hear of any memorials in offices, schools, police stations, hospitals, etc. Lesley's address is on the back cover.

What's in a name - Perrin or Sperrin

by Jean Debney

The surname Perrin recorded in the parish registers of an Oxfordshire parish for some years, suddenly changed to Sperrin in the early 19th century. This had apparently taken place about 1818 with a Thomas Perrin who was later known as Thomas Sperrin. This is a good example of the 'S' at the end of the first name being transferred to the surname - try saying the name quickly to yourself and it is easy to see how in a largely illiterate society this can happen (*Berkshire Family Historian* vol. 13 no. 2, March 1990, p5).

Looking through the surname dictionaries for the names Perrin and Sperrin I discovered that although they may have been from the same root, the major dictionaries deal with them as if they have separate origins.

Sperrin, with its alternative spellings of Sperring, Sperryn, Spearon, Spurren and Spurring, is said to be derived from an old French word 'esporon' or 'esperun' meaning a spur and this, in turn is a metonymic or substitute word for the occupation of spurrier or maker of spurs. The fact that there is also an old English word 'spura' meaning a spur, seems to further confirm this origin.

However, when one turns to the surname Perrin, one is confronted with a quite different origin: it is thought to be derived from Perr, a double-diminutive of Piers or Pierse, the medieval French form of Peter, with the additional suffix '-in'.

The Church encouraged the use of Biblical and saints names and both Peter and the more popular old French form Piers were used at least until the reformation. The name Peter has seen a revival of popularity since the production of *Peter Pan* in 1904. It comes from a Greek word meaning stone or rock and is derived from an Aramaic name Cephas and was the name Jesus Christ bestowed on his disciple Simon, the brother of Andrew.

Intrigued by the number of surnames that were derived especially from the more popular French form of the name I drew up the following table listing only those names which have probably survived into modern times and ignoring those spellings which were the result of past illiteracy. Some of the names may have come from different sources and there may be other spellings omitted. If anyone has another variation to add to the list - or perhaps positively to remove one of the spellings - then I would be glad to know.

Notes on the tables

Only possible modern survivals have been listed here, the various spellings arising from past illiteracy have been ignored.

- 1 Found in SW England and Midlands
 - 2 Found in N England and Midlands
 - 3 Found in N England
 - 4 Found in Cornwall
 - 5 Found in Warwickshire and Worcestershire
 - 6 Found in S and SW England, especially Cornwall
 - 7 Found in Somerset
- italics* Forms not used alone as surnames
- * These and some other forms may have different origins or roots

Surname variations from the English form PETER

Root	Diminutive	Pet form	-EL	-KIN	-EN/-IN	-UN	-AT/OT/ET
Root							
PETER	PETE	PETRIE					PELLAT
PETRE	PEAT	PETRY					PELLATT
PETA		PETRI					
		PEATRY					
		PATRY					PELLET
		PELL					PELLETT
		PELLY?					
Servant/Possessive							
PETERS	PELLS						
Son of							
PETERSEN							
PETERSON							

Regional Variants

Root	Diminutive
Root	
PETHER	PETHARD
PITHER	
Servant/possessive	
PETHERS ⁶	
PITHERS	

Double diminutive Huguenot name

PEROWNE (compare with the table opposite)

Surname variations from the French form PIERRE or PERRE

Root	Diminutive	Pet form	-EL	-KIN	-EN/-IN	-UN	-AT/OT/ET
Root PIERRE	<i>PAR</i>		PARRELL	PARKIN ³	PARREN	PIERUN	PARROT
	<i>PARR</i>		PERRELL	PARKYN ⁴	PERREN	PIERRUN	PARROTT
				PERKIN ³	PERRIN	PIRUN	PARRAT
PEER	<i>PER</i>				PERRING		PARRATT
PEIR	<i>PIR</i>						PARRETT
PIER					PERRON		PARRITT
							PERRATT
							PIRRET
							PERRET ⁷
							PIRRETT
							PERRETT ⁷
							PEROT
							PIRARD
							PEROTT
							PERROT ⁷
							PERROTT ⁷
							PORRETT
							PORRITT
Servant/Possessive							
PEARCE ¹		PERKS ⁵		PARKINS	PERRINS		
PEARS				PARKYNS	PERRINGS		
PEARSE				PERKINS			
PEERS							
PEIRCE							
PEIRS							
PEIRSE							
PERES							
PIERCE							
PIERS							
PIERSE							
PERSE							
PERSSE							
Son of							
	PARSON			PARKINSON			
PEARSON ²				PERKINSON			
PAERSON	PERSON						
PIERSON	PERSSON						
PEIRSON							
	PIRSON						
Son of + possessive							
PEARSONS	PARSONS*						
	PERSONS*						
	PIRSONS*						

Compiled by Jean DEBNEY - April 1990

The Hemmings family and Morris dancing in Abingdon

by Jonathan Leach

Whilst having a drink at the White Horse in Ock Street, Abingdon, in early 1979, I was approached by a couple of men who asked if I was Abingdon born. When I said I was an Abingdon man they asked me to join a newly formed group of Morris dancers. I had been aware of this local tradition for many years but knew little about its history except that it was closely linked with the Hemmings family.

Within the town of Abingdon the establishment of another Morris team was a controversial affair. I learnt that the existing team of dancers no longer included any members of the Hemmings family and not many were born and bred Abingdonians either. Some of the direct descendants of the Hemmings felt very strongly about and decided to take action.

I was already interested in local history and during my eight years as musician with the Hemmings team of Abingdon Morris dancers, spent a lot of time researching the history of dancing in Abingdon. The results of my research confirmed the strong links between this Berkshire family and the survival of dancing and its associated customs. For many years Morris dancing in Abingdon was linked to Ock Street's St. Edmund's Fair, held in mid-June. This fair was started by the Abbot of Abingdon Abbey in 1289 and continued until the early twentieth century. It became the focal point of the year in Ock Street and combined horse and cattle dealing with numerous stalls and entertainments. The Fair was also a special feast for the Ock Street residents who appointed their own mock-Mayor to act as master of ceremonies. He also became leader of the Morris dancers.

In 1700 an ox roast was held in Abingdon Market Place. Towards the end of the feast an argument broke out between the men from Ock Street and those from the Vineyard over who should have the ox's horns. Lines were drawn at their respective boundaries and a fierce fight broke out. Eventually a man called Hemmings, using a wooden club, secured the horns for Ock Street. The horns were later mounted on a wooden mask of a bull's head and the club was carved into a drinking cup. These became part of the regalia of the Morris men. It's said locally that a Hemmings was leader of the Morris dancers and Mayor of Ock Street from that day forward.



Apart from a recorded sighting of the Abingdon dancers at Richmond in Surrey in 1783 there is a lack of actual written accounts until the latter half of the nineteenth century. Thomas Hemmings, born in 1815, held the position of Mayor of Ock Street for many years until his death in 1885. He was born in Ock Street and worked as an agricultural labourer. His wife, Louisa, was a hemp-spinner. They lived in Smith's Yard, Ock Street (now demolished), and had eight children, at least four of whom were Morris men. Thomas' father, also named Thomas, born in 1787, worked at Abingdon Gaol.

From 1868 there are a number of references in the local press to the election of the Mayor of Ock Street. Most of these reports are quite derogatory, claiming that the occasion usually ended in drunkenness and fighting.

The custom survived the death of Thomas Hemmings in 1885 and his eldest son, William, took over the post of Mayor. The Fair was declining in importance towards the end of the century and references to the Morris men at this time suggest that it too was on the wane. As far as public performances go, Morris dancing in Abingdon seems to have died out at the turn of the century. However, the tradition was kept going by members of the Hemmings family, especially by William, who played concertina and melodeon, and James and his son Tom, who both took an important role in teaching the old dances when interest picked up again.

It was largely due to the attention paid to the tradition by notable folk-dance researchers that a wider interest was aroused in Abingdon. In 1909 Miss Mary Neal of the Esperance Morris Guild came to Abingdon and spent an afternoon with William Hemmings. She invited William and his brother James up to London to teach some dances to the girls of the Esperance Club. Despite some problems in understanding the men's strong Berkshire accents they got on well and Miss Neal published three Abingdon dances and four tunes in the Esperance Morris Book. She learnt that William, then aged 60, had been Mayor of the Morris nine times; James, aged 57, was the squire. In April 1910 the famous folk dance and song collector Cecil Sharp came to interview James and William. They told him that dancing had ceased in regular style seven to ten years before and that the Hemmings had always been associated with the tradition.

On May 5th, 1910, James and William Hemmings went to London to give a display at Kensington Town Hall. The invitation to London aroused considerable local interest in the tradition and there was a reappearance of an Abingdon team in June of that year. The team continued until the First World War and was given much support by James Hemmings and his wife Caroline. The Morris team was still very closely connected with Ock Street. All the dancers lived in the street and that was where they performed. The 1914-1918 War saw an end to their performances, but the dancing was kept going by the Hemmings in the long back gardens of Ock Street. In 1922 Cecil Sharp paid another visit to William and James and collected further tunes and dances from them.

William died at the Abingdon Poor Law Infirmary in January 1930 but the Morris dancing lived on. Later that year, James Hemmings, two of his sons, Tom and Jim, together with Ernie Constance as horn-bearer and Harry Thomas as musician, posed with their regalia for photographs taken at the back of the Cross Keys in Ock Street. The intention was to encourage others to join with the Hemmings family and get a team out again, but the response was poor.

In January, 1935, James died at the age of 80. He had worked for most of his life in the leather trade, and with his wife, Caroline, had been the driving force behind the Abingdon tradition. James' sons Tom and Jim were determined to keep the dancing going and in May of that year they took part in a procession through the town to mark the Silver Jubilee of George V. They were joined by their uncle Henry Hemmings with his son Percy, their nephew Raymond Hemmings, and by Harry Thomas as musician. They did not dance on this occasion but a year later a full team was got up as other Ock Street men, regulars at the "Happy Dick", kept by Tom's brother George, were invited to join. They danced at the Coronation celebrations of

George VI in 1937; they did not have the full costume of white trousers and shirts, but wore their decorated top hats and brought out the other regalia of horns, cup, collecting tin and sword.

It was around this time that Frances Fryer, a retired army major living at Wargrave Hall, near Reading, began to take an interest in the team. With his encouragement they formed themselves into a properly constituted club and joined the newly formed Morris Ring, an association of Morris clubs. Fryer became their president and part-time musician. He provided transport in his black Bedford van, nicknamed "the hearse", enabling them to perform outside Abingdon.

Henry Hemmings, the last of old Thomas' sons, was appointed Mayor of the Morris; Tom Hemmings was lead dancer, Percival Hemmings became organising secretary; Charles and Ray Hemmings were dancers; Ray's son John was team mascot. Other members included Tom's brothers-in-law Frederick "Derby" Wiblin and George Wake, as well as Charles Brett, Ernest Constance, John Grimsdale, Harold Mathews and John Mooring as dancers; James "Ducky" Allen was fool; Harry Thomas was musician and Tom's son-in-law, William Clark, acted as horn-bearer on occasions.

Now that they had a full team, the Hemmings worked hard to restore all the old dances and they held regular practices. Percy Hemmings sought out old dancers going back to the turn of the century. They made a number of performances and had a joint tour with the newly revived Eynsham side. In June 1938 they revived the Mayor of Ock Street election ceremony and Henry successfully contested the position against his nephew Tom. This was repeated in 1939, the year that Jack Hyde (who later replaced Percy Hemmings as team secretary joined the side). Jack had known the Hemmings for a long time. They had first invited him to join in 1910 but his family did not approve. He turned out to be an invaluable member and spent many hours in the shed at the bottom of Tom Hemmings' garden helping to piece together old dances.

With the coming of World War II, Major Fryer went back into the army and the election ceremony was suspended. As many of the members of the Morris were past the age for national service the team did go out occasionally and dance to raise funds for War Bonds and "Wings for Victory Week". At the end of the war the dancers performed at the West-End Victory Party in Exbourne Road, Abingdon.

Henry Hemmings died in October 1945 and the title of Mayor of Ock Street passed on to Tom the deputy Mayor. Harry Thomas fell ill and died in 1947 leaving the

team without a musician until Major Fryer was demobbed. The first election ceremony after the war was not held until June, 1950, when Tom Hemmings gained 119 votes to Charlie Brett's 20, however the dancers did perform through the town in 1949. Tom retained the title of Mayor of Ock Street against various contenders until his death in 1960.

The Hemmings family's long involvement with Morris dancing continued into the modern post-war era. Tom's grandson Brian Clark joined in 1948. Ray Hemmings' sons became mascots in the 1950s. Stuart Jackson, another of Tom's grandsons became team mascot in 1955.

Tom Hemmings died in December 1960, aged 73, with over half a century's involvement in Morris dancing behind him. Ray Hemmings followed Tom as Mayor of Ock Street and held the position until forced by ill-health to retire in 1963.

The long Hemmings tradition of Morris dancing continued in the new team which contained grandsons and great-grandsons of Tom Hemmings as well as other relatives of the family when it was set up in 1979. At the time of writing there are still two teams in Abingdon, with members of the family still dancing in the Hemmings team. This emphasis on the Hemmings family is not intended to play down the significance of other individuals who have been part of the Abingdon Morris tradition, however, this one family had a uniquely strong involvement for at least six generations and possibly much longer.

I am grateful to Keith Chandler who has kept me well supplied with the many references to Abingdon that he has found in his research into old newspaper and other accounts. Also to Roy Dommatt who has managed to preserve copies of important correspondence relating to the Abingdon tradition. Research into census information and parish registers helped to fill some gaps. Thanks are also due to the many residents of the town who have given their time, especially Phyllis and Brian Clark, and Deena Jackson who supplied me with very useful information on the Hemmings family's part in the tradition.

A 40 page illustrated booklet by Jonathan Leach, *Morris dancing at Abingdon to 1914*, which expands on the themes briefly examined in this article, is available from the Librarian, Cecil Sharp House, 2 Regents Park Road, London NW1 7AY, price £2.00 including postage. A further examination of the evidence, *The Abingdon Morris and the election of the mayor of Ock Street*, by Keith Chandler, will appear in *Calendar Customs*, due to be published in the Folk Lore Society's *Mistletoe* series by Sheffield Academic Press later this year.

John Herbert Hutchinson

by David Watkins

While recording the monumental inscriptions in Cemetery Junction we are looking out for deaths which might have been reported in the local newspapers. Plot D8 in Section 68 has a head-stone to John Herbert Hutchinson, born June 23rd 1874, died November 6th, 1904. The inscription ends with: "erected by his relatives and friends and the members of the Reading Borough Police".

The death was reported in the *Berkshire Chronicle* of November 8 under the heading "Police Officer's Mysterious Death, Detective Hutchinson Found Drowned". At around 3.20am on Saturday the 6th the officer fell into the Holy Brook near Thorn Lane at the back of King Street. The splash brought PC Kiely, who had just parted from him, to the spot. PC Kiely could not reach him because of the steep sides and the victim disappeared under some buildings. PC Kiely summoned assistance and the body was recovered at 4.50am where the brook came out from under the buildings.

The inquest was held the same afternoon and a verdict of accidental death was recorded. Coroner, Mr. Weedon, foreman, Mr. Gray. The deceased was single and he was identified by his brother-in-law, George Veale, coal merchant's foreman of Mount Pleasant, Wokingham. The jury expressed their deep sympathy to the deceased's widowed mother. The newspaper also reported that a tribute was paid by the magistrate's court the following Monday, Ald. A Hill, Mr. W. Ferguson, Mr. G. Philbrick. Others mentioned in the report were Chief Constable Captain J.S. Henderson, DC Anderson and PC Taylor.

Holy Brook runs through the town centre just north of the Kennet and is now carried underground, surfacing just beyond the Library. A new arcade has just been built in King Street and a feature is a glassed over view of Holy Brook running below. This must be very near to where PC Hutchinson fell to his death.



Bookstall

Jan Barnes has accepted the post of Reading branch bookstall manager and Caroline Saunders is taking on the same post for the Bracknell branch.

Letter to the editor

December 20, 1990

Dear editor,

I have read with great interest the article by Miss M.A. Pratt on page 51 of the current edition of the *Berkshire Family Historian* about the Wigmore family and their connection with the Pither family. In particular my attention was drawn to the paragraph on page 56 where the writer refers to "James was born in 1717 to an Elishia Pither in Shinfield. The Pither family had land around Shinfield, Swallowfield etc."

For some years now I have been researching my family history and it would appear the James Pither born at Shinfield in 1717 could be the same James baptised 30th October 1718 at Shinfield and who is my 4 x great-grandfather Thomas's brother. Thomas married Hannah Tanner at St. Mary's, Shinfield, they had a son William who married Ann Beck of Hurley. They had a son Abraham who wife was Sarah Lewington they both died, she in 1857 and he in 1868. They are buried in the graveyard behind the old 1798 Congregational Chapel at Mortimer West End, only a short distance over the county boundary into Hampshire.

Abraham and Sarah's first born was named Jonathan Lewington Pither - a copy of his photograph hangs on my wall - and when he grew up he went to Henley-on-Thames where my grandfather Thomas Pither was born. My father, Thomas Clifford Lewington Pither later arrived on the scene at Harlesden followed by myself in 1923 at Hatch End, Middlesex.

For some time I have corresponded with and met another member of the Society whose husband is a descendant of this James Pither of Bradfield. When one sees stories like this unfolding, the purpose of searching for ancestors can be rewarding and have more meaning. There is a great deal more to my story than the preceding few lines and I hope the writer of the article will be in touch with me.

The four Pither sisters, Jenny, Lydia, Sarah Charlotte and Hannah Maria who farmed at Shinfield make an interesting story. I have written the first part of my family story from 1677 to 1900 and put it into book form and am now about to start the second volume.

John S. Pither, "The Cottage", 41 Kivernell Road, Milford-on-Sea, Lyminster, Hants. SO41 0PP

THE WOOLDRIDGE - TRANTER MYSTERY

By Jean A. Larson

I have been fortunate in my Smith ancestors. They have blazed a fairly clear trail - that has led, as well, to Wooldridge and to Berkshire. Along the way, I encountered a story, passed down from their American descendants, that, though the Smiths considered the baker's daughter 'not good enough' to marry their son (the market gardener), the couple were married nonetheless.

Now so far, I don't have a baker's daughter (that I know of), but I do have a baker's sister, Sarah Wooldridge. She was married in 1807 at Bexley, Kent, to market gardener Samuel Smith (1785-1860) of Bexley. Her brother Thomas was a witness, and her brother William (1798-1881) was a baker of Bexley Heath, across the London road from his nephew, James Smith (1813-1885), greengrocer and emigrant. Father of these was James Wooldridge (1758?-1830), whose occupation is known only from his long-lived wife's death certificate of 1858, which says she was widow of "(JW) a Carpenter (Journeyman)". Could he have been a baker in his latter years in Bexley Heath? At any rate, it is only the Wooldridge line that has produced a whiff of scandal.

According to the 1851 census Sarah Wooldridge was born in Mitcham, Surrey, and there I found her baptism on Jan. 20, 1788 to James and Lucy. They had been married at Lambeth (then Surrey) in 1782. Fortunately, there was even a settlement examination (provided by Cliff Webb of the West Surrey Family History Society):

"Settlement 44, 26 July 1784 James Wooldridge. About 22 years of age.

*Born in Mitcham where his father Benjamin Wooldridge a labourer was a legal inhabitant. About three years ago he was married at Lambeth to Mary (Lucy in the original), by whom he hath one child namely Thomas aged 18 months. Settlement by birth in Mitcham".
James signed with his mark.*

I was overjoyed. What more could I ask for? I had found confirmation of his marriage and evidence of his parentage. Not long after getting this transcript I found a cousin in London, David Bush, who was also on the Smith/Wooldridge trail. He sent me a positive shipment of data, and the story began to take a new twist.

There were three additional settlement examinations at Mitcham:

"The examination of Benj Tranter of Mitcham, Surrey, Calico Printer, taken on oath the 7th Jan. 1769. This examinant on his oath saith that he is about the age of four and forty years born in the parish of Newbury in the County of Berks. where his father, Joseph Trander, a weaver was then living a legal inhabitant and saith that since his birth he hath not to his knowledge and belief done any act whereby to obtain a subsequent settlement and saith that about six and twenty years ago he was married at Newbury aforesaid unto Ann his wife by whom he hath issue eight children four of whom have obtained settlement of their own, the other four namely James aged ten years, Joseph eight, John five, and Jane four, are now at home with him. Signed Benj. Tranter. NB: he hath been a soldier. Sworn before me, John Heathfield."

"Settlement 18 Feb. 1769 Benjamin Tranter Wooldridge. About three and twenty born Newbury, Berks., where his father Benjamin Tranter Wooldridge, then resided and saith that his father often informed him the examinand that he (the father's) legal settlement was in the parish of Newbury. Two years ago he was married at Lambeth in Surrey (to) Ann his wife but hath no issue by her." Signed Benjamin Tranter Wooldridge.

"Settlement 13 July 1784 John Tranter Labourer. He is about 21 years of age, born in Mitcham where his father Ben Tranter, deceased, then resided. He never heard to what parish his father belonged, he having been a soldier".

"Curiouser and curiouser, said Alice".

We found a number of references to Wooldridge and Tranter in the Newbury parish registers including some to Benjamin Wooldridge. So what does this all mean? It seems clear to David Bush and I that the Benjamin Wooldridge of Newbury is the Benjamin Tranter of Mitcham (and Lambeth?) to not later than 1784 (in which year he was dead), and that following the classic pattern, when he needed a pseudonym, he may have taken his mother's maiden name. Any additional evidence bearing on the matter of Benjamin's identity is, of course, most welcome, but the central question is, why? Is there any evidence? Was he a calico printer, or a soldier/militiaman,

or possibly both, at Newbury? Since he apparently didn't run out on his wife, was it debts he was running from? Or did he desert from the army?

I find it interesting that at the time of his apparent bunk to Surrey, c 1759-62, Britain was engaged in the Seven Years War (1756-1763), the North America arm of it is known over here as the French and Indian War (1754-1763). For example, there were heavy British losses to the French at Fort Ticonderoga, New York, 8 July 1758, and French Canada surrendered to the British in 1760, Also in 1760, the Kennet and Avon Canal was being built. And, it was in 1756 that the entire militia system was re-organised, and brought under Army discipline. Do these facts have any bearing on why a family man of about 34 years of age would not just move, but move a substantial distance, into a different county, and represent himself there under a different surname? And why his grand-daughter about 50 years later might be considered 'tainted' in some way?

The Newbury parish records, as well as the IGI and other sources, indicate a Wooldridge ancestry for the 'disgraceful' Benjamin going back from Newbury, through Thatcham, to Lambourne and possibly Hungerford in the mid-sixteenth century.

Public Record Office

As those of you who have used the Public Record Office recently have found, new security measures have been established. The new procedure has become necessary to prevent the theft of a large number of documents from the Reading Rooms.

Searches of bags and possessions are already made on entry to PRO buildings, but now those searches have been extended to cover everything taken into and out of the Reading Rooms. No bags or containers larger than 10" x 7" x 3" may be taken into the Reading Rooms. Small lockers have been installed operated by £1 coins which can be retrieved when you replace the key in the lock. For additional security the keys are not numbered, so remember the locker number before removing the key. Searches of items taken into and out of the Census Rooms will not be carried out in the same way, but there may be occasional random searches.

In order to reduce the possibility of confusion with original records, readers are encouraged to use yellow paper for their own notes. This will be on sale in the PRO shops in pads of 20 sheets for 10pence and 100 sheets for 50 pence.

Census projects

1851 census

The Society is involved in two census transcribing operations. Firstly the major and costly project to transcribe and index the 1851 census. Under various hands, but most effectively under Geoff Mather's inspiration, the indexing of the first Victorian census of most value to family historians, has been progressing for the past six years. With the release in January of the latest volume (Vol. 5:2 - Ilsley/Hendred) in the census series Geoff has sent in a progress report of the work so far.

Since the last report (December 1988) steady progress has been made by the team of regular helpers and now over 90% of the entries has been transcribed, only Reading St. Mary and Thatcham are outstanding. This, of course is only the start of the process and the next stage, entering the data into a computer, is 70% complete.

From there printouts are checked twice against the original film before the data is considered to be as accurate as we can make it, bearing in mind the vagaries of 1851 spelling and handwriting. So far 50% of the data has been through the first check. After this the computer does the hard work of sorting the entries and producing the final copy. Eventually print outs of the complete data will be available in our reference library, but production of these are taking second place to the work on the indexes.

We have a number of microfilm readers which allows the volunteers to do the transcribing and checking in their home, although some people prefer to work on the films in the Reading Reference Library.

We would still like to hear from people who could help the project by entering data into a computer (either a BBC micro or PC compatible) or checking the printouts against the films. So far, six index books out of a total of 17 have been issued, covering 40% of the 170,000 entries and at least two more are expected this year. If you would to help contact Geoff Mather on 0344 775651.

1881 census

The second project involves transcribing the 1881 census. This is part of the nationwide transcription project instigated by the Mormons. The Berkshire co-ordinator is Vincent Millett, and he's submitted this report of the work done so far.

Excellent progress has been made to date (November 1990). After a late start in 1989 a total of 444 batches (59 pieces) were received for transcription. We established a number of co-ordination centres:

- Newbury(Polly Lawrence) 6 pieces (40 batches)
- Pangbourne(Jean Debney) 15 pieces (103 batches)
- Slough(Barbara Swiatek) 5 pieces (32 batches)
- Faringdon(Rosemary Church) 3 pieces (28 batches)
- Oxford - Marston (Elaine Newbold) (4 pieces 35 batches)
- Reserve for Bracknell or Slough 3 pieces (32 batches)

Newbury have issued all 40 batches for first transcription and over half of these have now completed the second transcription with 18 having been checked and returned.

Pangbourne. Nearly all 103 batches have gone out for first transcription and about three quarters are now on their second transcription with 44 ready for checking.

Slough. About three quarters of the 43 batches have completed the first transcription.

Reading. All 163 batches were issued for the first transcription. About one in five have been completed. Many of the other batches have gone to Elaine Newbold, whose help has proved so opportune and invaluable.

Faringdon. Nearly all batches have gone through their first transcription and some are now on the second stage.

Oxford. Four complete pieces (35 batches) were taken recently and first transcripts have been started on most of these. In addition Mrs. Newbold's group have been busy carrying out second transcripts on a large number of previous batches (not complete pieces) sent from Reading.

The main problem will be checking, so if you would like to help do get in touch with me.

Vincent Millett - Reading (0734) 666485

Note: It is not policy to pay postage on these heavy forms, so it does help if you can collect.

New books

Tracing your ancestors in the Public Record Office, 4th edition by Amanda Bevan and Andrea Duncan (HMSO 1990) £6.95

Long awaited by family historians this revised, updated and expanded book has a comprehensive list of contents but no index and very little about records before the start of parish registers (1538); but still an invaluable introduction to this vast storehouse of information for those with British connections and essential reading before a visit to the PRO.

Narrowing the field: a study of local government in Enborne 1660-1710 ed. by Alan Rogers (Reading University, 1990) £1.50

Based on work done by a Reading University Extra-mural Local History Group this booklet analyses the records and includes a name index.

The story of Newbury by R. Neville Hadcock and Cecilia Millson (Countryside Books revised ed. 1990) £4.95

Revised and enlarged edition of a very readable account of the history of this important old town first published in 1979.

A catalogue of strolling players - the on-going theatre in Newbury by Paul Ranger (Newbury District Museum, 1990) £3.95

Fascinating study of the theatre in Newbury from the 18th to 20th centuries; illustrated, indexed and many valuable references.

Wokingham - a pictorial history by John and Rosemary Lea (Phillimore 1990) £10.95

Historical introduction and over 160 pictures of old Wokingham with captions by members of the Wokingham Society Local History Group.

The Wokingham Historian No. 3 illustrated (Wokingham Society Local History Group 1990) £1.00

More fascinating articles this time on local hunts, Wokingham 150 years ago, a Chronicle of Wokingham, a farm inventory of 1860, and the early history of Batty's Farm Estate.

Tracing your Scottish ancestors - Scottish Record Office by Cecil Sinclair (HMSO)
£5.95

For the complete beginner starting to investigate Scottish ancestry one cannot do better than start with Alwyn James's *Scottish Roots* which takes a step by step approach through the basic research in a very readable way. But, once past the initial stage, something more comprehensive is required and this is where this recent Stationery Office publication will be of great assistance.

The author has worked in the SRO for many years and the book is designed, as it says in the preface, "to enable family historians to assess likely sources of information before they go to the SRO and make the best use of their time once they are there"; it positively encourages self-help.

The SRO houses a wide range of records which can be of great interest to family historians and these are described and indexed in a very simple and clear fashion. Before reading the book it should be realised that the Scottish Record Office equates with the PRO in London, except that the Scottish censuses are located in the General Register Office for Scotland along with the Statutory Registers for Births, Deaths and Marriages and the old parish registers.

All these books can be purchased from the Bookstall Manager (address on back cover), or at BFHS branch meetings. If you're ordering by post the following postage rates apply:

	UK rates	Overseas	
		Surface	Air mail
Under £1	35pence	50pence	£1.25
£1.05-£1.99	70pence	65pence	£1.75
£2.00-£4.99	80pence	£1.00	£2.35
£5.00-£9.99	£1.95	£2.60	£8.30

Cheques should be made payable to the BFHS and overseas payments can only be accepted if they are in Sterling and drawn on a London clearing bank.

Q and A with Jean

compiled by Jean Debney

Where is St. James Middlesex?

Q Pat DEANE (1200) of Tilehurst, Berkshire, writes to say: "I have the certificate for my great-grandparents who were married in the parish church of Clerkenwell in 1847 and the birth certificates of two of their children, the first in St. James, Clerkenwell in 1847 and the second in 1852 in St. Lukes, Chelsea. All were described as in "Middlesex". However, I have not been able to find the birth registration c1864/5 for my grandfather, THOMAS B. WARD, who was 24 years old when he married in 1889. From the 1891 census I have discovered he was then aged 26 and born in "St. James, Middlesex". Which parish does this refer to?"

A There are 13 parishes of St. James in 12 different London registration districts listed in appendix II of *Genealogical research in Victorian London* (West Surrey FHS Research aid 6). Further details of the dates covered in each parish and where the registers can be found are in the main section of this very useful booklet. Out of this 13, one is in Kent, one in Surrey and for two the registers begin (probably) too late, but this leaves a possible nine parishes in the registration districts of Holborn (previously Clerkenwell), Islington, Kensington, Paddington, Shoreditch, St. Pancras(2), Stepney or Westminster whose parish registers would be worth checking.

Where is his birth certificate?

Q ERNEST P JONES (1798) of Windsor, Berkshire, writes to say that he is having difficulty in finding the birth certificate of his grandfather, HARRY JONES. He sends the following information in the hope that someone may be able to help:

According to his army records, HARRY JONES was probably born on October 31, 1857 at Burford, near Ludlow, Shropshire. He enlisted with the Royal Engineers on Sept. 28, 1882 after serving four years apprenticeship as a smith in Worcester and named his mother, HANNAH JONES of Great Malvern, Worcestershire, as next of kin. When he married on Nov. 2, 1890 he gave his father's name as "GEORGE JONES (deceased)". After 21 years service, he was discharged from the army at Aldershot on Sep. 27, 1903 with the rank of Staff Sergeant Farrier. He continued work as a blacksmith or farrier. Family information is that HARRY JONES grew up with relatives at Rendcombe, Gloucestershire. Mr. JONES does not have a copy of the parents' marriage certificate but it is thought that the mother, HANNAH JONES

(maiden name also probably JONES) remarried and became HANNAH WATKINS and has a son Alan Watkins, who later owned a laundry in Chester.

With assistance from the local register office Mr. Jones has obtained a birth certificate for a boy born Oct. 23, 1857, son of Maria JONES of Linney, Ludlow and also a baptismal certificate dated Dec. 30, 1855 of a HENRY STANLEY JONES, son of GEORGE and MARIA JONES of the Linnage, Burford. However, he does not think that either of them relate to his ancestor.

A One of the problems with a surname like Jones is the frequency with which it appears in the records especially as, in this case, the family is living very close to the Welsh border. The Gloucester FHS directory of members interests published in 1988 lists 88 members researching Jones with 38 in Gloucestershire - perhaps one of these is looking for the same family? I notice that young Harry was thought to have spent his childhood in Rendcombe and the 1861 census returns for that parish should be checked as well as those of his birthplace, Burford, and the 1881 returns for Great Malvern for his mother.

Another way to discover more about this family will involve coming forward in time to trace HARRY JONES' half-brother, ALAN WATKINS. Trade directories of Chester may give a list of laundries and their owners. A check through them to see when the name disappeared should be followed up with a search in the death indexes at St. Catherine's and the probate indexes at Somerset House would be another useful line to follow.

Finding ancestors in Reading

Q Mrs. SHARON BAKER (2304) of British Columbia, Canada, writes as follows: "My mother, AUDREY ELLA FOSTER, was born on Apr. 4, 1910, the daughter of SYDNEY WILLIAM FOSTER, seedsman's assistant and ROSA (formerly GARDINER) at 63 Henry Street, at St. Giles, Reading. Sydney was an only child - his other brothers died young - and he and his father WILLIAM both worked for Sutton's Seeds of Reading before they emigrated to Canada.

My grandmother, ROSA GARDINER, was a daughter of WILLIAM GARDINER from his second marriage to ELIZABETH CLINCH. WILLIAM was a Salvation Army missionary at the Fireside Mission and was highly regarded - I have a large newspaper cutting about him - and his wife had been a cook for Mr. Sutton.

It is thought that WILLIAM GARDINER was born in Oxford and either his father, C. GARDINER, or ELIZABETH's father, GEORGE CLINCH, was a hangman at Oxford Jail. The hangman story is thought to be fact as my Mom recalls her mother

telling her that every time grandpa had to hang somebody, he was sick with a migraine for a week afterwards. Also, according to Mom's cousin somebody in the family was a bell ringer." SHARON asks how she can find out about the birth dates for her great-grandfathers, WILLIAM FOSTER and WILLIAM GARDINER and also the census records for 1910.

✶ First of all, thank you SHARON for enclosing a copy of your mother's birth certificate and your family history chart as it helped to see what information you had. To deal with the second part of your question first, unlike America where the 1910 census is already available to the public, the returns for England and Wales can only be seen up to 1881; under the 100 year rule 1891 will be available next year, 1992, while 1901 and 1911 will remain closed until 2002 and 2012 respectively.

You do not say which certificates of birth, marriage or death you have for your ancestors but your pedigree gives the dates of birth and marriage of your grandparents in Reading and an estimated year of birth for their fathers, calculated from their ages at death. Since WILLIAM GARDINER was born before civil registration commenced in 1837 information for his birth will have to be looked for elsewhere, possibly in the IGI.

If you do not already have them, the best way to proceed may be to obtain copies of your grandparents' birth certificates for the names of their fathers and mothers (including maiden names) and then the marriage certificates for the two sets of grandparents, WILLIAM FOSTER to MARY-ANN pre-1882 and WILLIAM GARDINER to ELIZABETH CLINCH pre-1884.

The birth, marriage and death indexes for England and Wales from July 1, 1837 are held at St. Catherine's House, 10 Kingsway, London, WC2B 6JP where personal application can be made for certificates at £5.50 each (or £5 from a local registrar when the correct district has been located from the index) or much more by post. If microfilms of the indexes are available to you locally in Canada you could search these yourself and send the references to England to obtain the relevant certificates.

Further details on how to proceed with research can be found in any basic family history book, but a good one for beginners is George Pelling's *Beginning your family history*, or *Basic sources for family history back to early 1800* by Andrew Todd.

A problem with marriage indexes - update

BARBARA YOUNG (1555) of Wokingham has written with a progress report on her Norfolk problem (see *Berkshire Family Historian*, Vol. 14, Sept. 1990)

She followed up my suggestion to write to the Norfolk County Record Office for the entry in the Bishops transcripts for a marriage in 1835 which had been listed in both Boyd's marriage index and Phillimore's marriage register but was not, apparently, in the parish register. She received details of the marriage for which the record office charged £5. The information came from the original registers which had been deposited since the 1983 list was published. One of the witnesses had been transcribed by the record office as RICHARD BARKER which was a possible error since the groom, HENRY BAXTER was known to have an uncle and a brother called RICHARD. Another letter and a closer check and the record office admitted that it could be BAXTER.

So now Barbara has the correct marriage entry and says it is worth being persistent when one feels something isn't right. But she adds that this does confirm that even incumbents and record office staff can make errors and that incorrect transcription may give a false lead.

Thank you for writing, Barbara, it is good to know that at least one of my suggestions worked. I would also like to add that even if the parish register you want is listed as still with the incumbent, it is worth checking with the record office to see if it has been deposited since the list was published.

A Royal charity - update

Since writing to me about a certificate in her possession (see *Berkshire Family Historian* Vol 14 Dec. 1990) PAT GILBERT (2138) has visited Windsor Library and looked at copies of *Windlesora* for articles on Clewer where her families lived. She found an article entitled 'A history of Prince Consort cottages'. As some of her ancestors were in service she is inclined to believe that her great-great-grandmother may have lived in one of these cottages. She is now planning to contact the archivist at Windsor Castle and look in the local newspapers at Colindale.

Finding old army pals

JOHN GREENHILL of Sulham is a subscriber to the *Journal of the Royal British Legion* in which one of the regular features is lost trails. These are requests by former members of the armed services - sometimes with a photograph - for contact with old comrades and are full of names which might be of use to family historians. For example in the January 1991 edition on page 27 is a photograph of six soldiers from the band and anti-tank platoon of 6th Batt., Royal Berkshire Regiment sent by Mr. GREVATT of Stourbridge, West Midlands who is trying to contact EDDIE QUELCH, STAN BREAKSPEAR, EDDIE BREWER and LEN FERRIS. If you

think you can help let me know and I will forward your stamped self addressed envelope to Mr. GREVATT.

Books about Cumnor

Mr. T.J. MITCHELL (1759) of Birmingham says that he has traced his MITCHELL ancestors back to 1700 in Wytham and to about 1637 in Appleton and Cumnor. He is very interested in any background material for this area and has a copy of *Studies in the history of Cumnor* by Dr. OXLEY, but so far has been unable to trace a copy of A.D. BARTLETT's *Cumnor Place* except in the Bodleian Library which, to him, is inaccessible. He asks if the Society has a copy

Cumnor, is an attractive Cotswold-stone village on the northern boundary of Berkshire with Oxford City not far away. It is tragically linked with the unsolved mystery of the death of AMY ROBSART, first wife of ROBERT DUDLEY, Earl of Warwick and favourite of Queen Elizabeth I, who was found with a broken neck at the foot of the stairs at Cumnor Place. Although part of Oxfordshire since 1974, the historical records of Cumnor and other parishes in the area can be found in the Berkshire Record Office.

The BFHS library does not have a copy of A.D. BARTLETT's book (published in 1850) but there are copies in both Reading Reference Library and the Berkshire Record Office - and, presumably, in the British Library. Both Reading library and the Record Office have other printed histories relating to Cumnor and Reading library has the collection of manuscript notes compiled in the late nineteenth century by EMILY ELIZABETH THOYTS, afterwards Mrs. JOHN COPE, which cover many Berkshire parishes, including Cumnor in the Hundred of Abingdon. Can anyone help Mr. MITCHELL with further suggestions?

Glassmakers and allied trade index

Brian Hardyman is compiling an index to glassmakers and allied trades. The index covers the whole of the British Isles for the period 1600 -1900. He would be pleased to answer any query in return for a second class stamp with each query. He would also be pleased to receive further glassmaking data. For information and submissions to the index write to 26 St. Anne's Drive, Coalpit Heath, Bristol BS17 2TH

MEMBERS' PAGES

compiled by Meg Goswell

1683 Mrs. Helene T. Jessup, 57 Ferndale Crescent, Uxbridge, Mdx, UB8 2AY

MDX	JESSUP	Any	All
KEN	JESSUP	Any	1750-1830
MDX	ROBINSON	Bow	1870
MDX	DALRYMPLE	Bow	1800-1870
MDX	DENNIS	Hammersmith	1870
MDX	COX	Paddington	pre-1860
HAM	HUMBY	Winchester	pre-1840
BKM	BRIGGENSHAW	Aylesbury	pre-1860
WAR	HOBBS	Sutton Coldfield	pre-1830

1928 Mr. P Harris, "Redroofs" 45, Swallow Drive, Milford-on-Sea, Lymington, Hampshire SO41 OXG. We apologise to Mr. Harris for two errors on his entry. We gave his surname as Harries and his interest of PLAYLE at Payle. Mr. Harris has further interests as follows

MDX	GOATLEY	Bethnal Green	pre-1800
MDX	DIXON	St. Geo. Hanover Sq	pre-1830
HAM	NEWPORT	Andover area	pre-1800
HAM	CLARKE, THOKE	Christchurch	pre-1830
MDX	FIDLER	Brentford	pre-1845
WIL	MACKLYN	Little Bedwyn	pre-1830
WIL	DEACON	Mildenhall	pre-1820
WIL	MILLS	Winterbourne Bass'	pre-1820

OXF	OATES	Any	pre-19c
MON	COWLES	Any	pre-19c

2038 Susan Heighes, 27 Timber Bank, Frimley Green, Camberley, Surrey, GU16 6PL

BRK	BEDWELL, HUGGINS		
	TARRY	Steventon	
ESS	WILKINS	Stratford	
LAN	GLEESON, MCGARRY		
	SCHOFIELD	Manchester	
HAM	HEIGHES	Selbourne	

2099 Miss S.E. Peyman, 15 The Grovelands, Lancing, West Sussex, BN15 8HY

	PEYMAN	Any	All
BRK	RIVERS, STROUD		
		Newbury	19c
SXE	EASTON	Hastings, Battle	19c
SXE	SHOESMITH	Hastings, Catsfield	19c
WOR	GOODWIN	Kempsey, Callow End	19c
STS	MANTLE	Walsall	19c

2221 Joy M. Lane, 323 981 Main St. W., Hamilton, Ontario L8S 1A8 is researching the antecedents of James Manning and his wife, Jane nee Percy, living at 36 North Street, Winkfield, according to the 1861 census. She would like to contact any of the descendants of their thirteen children.

2222 Douglas Barnes, 4 Harrowby Road,
Leeds, LS16 5HN

MDX BARNES Isleworth, Feltham
Sunbury post 1780

HRT WING Ridge, Shenley 1796-1925

OXF QUARTERMAINE
Chalgrove pre-1730

OXF HURST Newington, Warborough
1782-1825

OXF STROUDLEY Newington,
Warborough pre-1782

OXF WALKIN Newington,
Warborough pre-1737

OXF TOBIE Goring, S. Stoke pre-1690

OXF BARLOW Goring, S. Stoke,
Checkendon 1689-1763

2223 Mr. R.J. Smith, 14 Farm Road,
Staines, Middx, TW18 2RB

BRK CHAPMAN, PRATT
Abingdon 1760-1860

BRK CHAPMAN Arborfield 1760-1860

BRK HUGGINS Abingdon 1730-1860

BDF SMITH Biggleswade 1800-1860

AVN LONG Bristol 1800-1860

GLS LONG, DAVIS Marshfield 1780-1860

MDX BRIGHT Finsbury 1750-1850

MDX GREEN Newgate 1800-1850

MDX STRUDWICK Any 1830-1845

SSX STRUDWICK Horsham 1830-1860

SSX PETERS Beeding,
Horsham 1750-1830

SSX EASON Horsham 1750-1830

2243 Mrs. J.G. Laing, "Badgers End",
Winter Hill, Cookham Dean, Berk-
shire SL6 9TU

WIL BINT Pewsey pre-19c

LND BIGGAR City and South pre-19c

LND HAWSBEE pre-19c

LND LOCKWOOD pre-19c

LND MAYNE St. Olaphs pre-19c

SFK LOCKWOOD Bury St. Edmunds pre-19c

CUL HUDSON Bampton pre-19c

CUL ROGERS, STORY
Penrith pre-19c

CUL WALLACE Whitehaven 19c

LAN SUMNER Preston, Leyland 18-19c

LAN SUMNER Prescot 18c

2249 Mrs. Rose Marsh, "Jam Valley"
RMB540, Kojonup, Western Aus-
tralia 6395

BRK JOHNSON, PARTRIDGE
Ashbury 18-19c

ESS MARSH, MILLER, GRAVES
Ashdon 18-19c

2265 Mr. A.H. Sanderson, 37 Greenwood
Gardens, Hainault, Ilford, Essex,
IG6 2NE

BRK AVELING Faringdon early 19c

BRK BLACKWELL Faringdon, Abingdon 19c

BRK EAST Wantage,
Abingdon pre-1860

BRK EVANS Abingdon pre-1880

MDX FIN(N)ETT, NEWLEY
SANDERSON Bethnal Green 19c

MDX EVANS Bethnal Green post 1880

MDX	ELWOOD, RICE	St. Giles	pre-1880
WRY	ELWOOD, RICHARDSON	Ripon	19c
ESS	ELWOOD	Forest Gate, Ilford	late 19c
DUR	STAFFORD, TYRIE	Sunderland	18-19c
DUR	THOMAS	Sunderland	mid-19c
DEV	GREENSLADE	Appledore	c1770
DEV	THOMAS	Appledore	c1860
DEV	HALLS, WILLIAMS	Appledore	18-19c
GLA	THOMAS	Cardiff	pre-1914

2266 Dr. T.D. Hughes, 2 Chandlers Close, Wantage, Oxon OX12 8EW. Dr. Hughes is looking for the 1881 census entry which he believes to be in Berkshire, for Jane (or Amy Jane) Wooldridge from East Garston, Berkshire. She was a servant but where is unknown. If anyone comes across this entry he would be most grateful to hear from them.

BRK	WOOLDRIDGE	E.Garston, Shefford	pre-1900
BRK	HARRIS	Shefford	pre-1880
BRK	BROWN, THATCHER	WITHERS	Shefford pre-1800
OXF	HARRIS	Kingston Lisle	pre-1880
BKM	BOYD	Buckingham, Leighton Buzzard	pre-1900
BKM	FRENCH	Buckingham	pre-1880
DEV	SLOMAN	Uplowman, Halberton	pre-1880
DEV	OTTERY/OTHERY	Uplowman, Halberton	pre-1880

SOM	OTHERY	Huntspill	pre-1850
MON	GIMLETT/GIMBLETT	Monmouth	pre-1880
MDX	FIDGETT	Westminster	pre-1800
CAE	HUGHES	Brynsiencyn, Anglesey	pre-1880

2276 Gordon Baggs, Pixford, Bishops Lydeard, Taunton, Somset TA4 3HS

BRK	BAGGS	Hinton Waldrist	1500-1850
HAM	BAGGS	Hannington	19c

2278 Miss J.S. Jackson, 15 Fairacre Rise, Fareham, Hants, PO14 3AW

BRK	DANCE	Lambourne	pre-1840
BRK	DANCE	Hungerford, Peasmore	18c
WIL	DANCE	Ramsbury	18c
SRY	DANCE	Lambeth, Southwark	1840+
ESS	SURRY	Stanford le Hope	1800+
ESS	SURRY	Wimbush	pre-1800
ESS	SURRY	Great Oakley	pre-1841

2285 Mrs. L. Sullivan, 5a Zangwill Road, Blackheath, London SE3 8EM

BRK	BROOKER	Bisham, Cookham	19c
SRY	BOTLEY	Coulsdon	18c
SRY	DEAMER	Bermondsey	19c
SRY	SMITH	Bermondsey	18-19c
KEN	BOTLEY	Deptford	19c
KEN	PACK	Tunbridge Wells, Bromley	19c
KEN	PODGER	Bromley	18-19c
HRT	DEAMER		18-19c
MDX	BOTLEY	Bethnal Green, Mile End	late-19c
MDX	BROOKER	Mile End	19c

MDX	BOWMAN, DEAMER, NEWMAN	Islington	19c
MDX	ETHERINGTON	Shoreditch, Bethnal Green	19c
MDX	KEMP	Bow, Mile End, Bethnal Green	post-18c
MDX	SEDGWICK	City, Stepney, Bethnal Green	19c
BDF	JEFFRIES	Caldecot, Northill, Sandy	late-18c
ESS	LIVERMORE	Hadstock, Wethersfield	post-18c
CAM	LIVERMORE	Abington, Babraham, Cambridge	19c
CAM	NEWMAN	Cambridge	19c
CAM	SMITH	Stow Cum Quy, Fen Ditton, Cambridge	18-19c

2288 Miss B. Jackson, 40 Welland Close, Langley, Slough, Berkshire SL3 8UP

WIL	FRIBBENCE, HOOPER	Great Bedwyn	19c
WIL	BUSHELL	Marten	19c
WIL	CROOK	Stanton St. Bernard	19c
MDX	BROWNING, DOWNES, LAWS, SMITH	Poplar	19c
SOM	PORCH	Bath	19c

2292f Mr. J. and Mrs. S. Cordrey, Hedge-lands, Bolney Road, Shiplake, Henley on Thames, Oxon. RG9 3NT

BRK	CORDREY/CORDERY/ CORDEROY/CORDERAY	Sulhampstead	1750-1850
BKM	" "	Woburn	1750-1850
SRY	" "	Bermondsey	19c

KEN	" "	North Kent	19c
LND	DAVEY	Docklands area	19c
MDX	NEWCOMBE	East End	1830-1930
ESS	STEWART	Leytonstone	19c
OXF	WISE	Highmoor/Bix/ Nettlebed/Henley	18-19c
DNB	PLANCE	Dunbar	1750-1850
PER	LYON	Broughty Ferry	1750-1930
SCT	MAYO	All	1750-1930
IND	DAVEY	East India Coy.	1870

2298 Mrs. T. Fitzgerald, 39 Oakgrove Road, Bishopstoke, Eastleigh, Hants, SO5 6LN

VASS	Any	All
BRK	VASS	Finchampstead 1700-1850
MDX	KEELEY	Any All

2300 Mark Franks, 2 Mount Pleasant, Cockfosters, Herts, EN4 9EP

BRK	LEAVER, CAMAMILE	Maidenhead/Any	pre-1840
BRK	WILLIS	North Moreton	pre-1820
BRK	DEWE	Ardington	pre-1740
SRY	BUTCHER, RATTENBURY	Bermondsey	pre-1850
MDX	REID, BRADLEY	Hackney	pre-1890
SRY	MCCARTNEY, WILLAN	Southwark	pre-1860
SSX	BAKER, PRICE	Worthing	pre-1895
ESS	COPSEY, KIBBLE	Wivenhoe	pre-1890
CON	LEY	Phillack	pre-1850
YKS	CAMAMILE	Sheffield	pre-1840
SOM	EMERY	Bridgewater	pre-1860

2301 Mrs. M.F.Stalker, Greenhaven, 25
Hilder Gardens, Farnborough,
Hants, GU14 7BQ

BRK CURTIS, MILES Brimpton, Woolhampton
Newbury All

BRK LUKE Newbury, Ramsbury All

HAM CURTIS, MILES Ashford Hill All

2303 Mrs. B.A. Willis, 77 Donald Hall
Road, Brighton, BN2 5DL, has
traced her Willis family at Bradfield
and Thatcham from the early 16th
century but has been stuck for a long
time on Benjamin Archer who
married Sue Willis on 3rd October
1783 at Thatcham. She estimates
that he was probably born about 1760
but where and to whom? Any in-
formation on Benjamin would be
most gratefully received.

2305 Mr. W.H.B. White, 41 Capel Gar-
dens, Pinner, Midx HA5 5RF

BRK DUFFIELD Sonning 19c

BRK NASH Sulhampstead 1750-1870

WIL WHITE Warminster 1800-1827

WIL WHITE Stratford sub Castle
1820-1835

WIL WHITE Winterbourne Gunner 19c

DOR WHITE Wimborne,
Poole 1790-1820

DOR EYERS Wimborne,
Poole 1750-1850

NFK DUFFIELD Tofts, Thetford 1750-1850

SOM DAY Axbridge 19c

2306 Mr. W.A. Barnard, 2a St. James Ave-
nue, Marden Ash, Chipping Ongar,
Essex, CM5 9EL

BRK BURFIELD, FOWLER,
HATT Hungerford 1750-1800

BRK COXHEAD, WARD Hungerford 1700-1750

BRK MASKELL Newbury 1775-1835

BRK MAYO Newbury 1750-1800

BRK SNOW Newbury 1800-1850

BRK BUTSON Thatcham 1800-1825

HRT BARNARD Sawbridgeworth 1700-1750

MDX LAING St. Andrews 1800-1850

MDX BASSINGHAM Clerkenwell 1750-1900

HAM BARTHOLOMEW, COLLINS
Titchfield 1800-1850

2307 Mr. B.L. Rance, The Lodge, The
King Alfred School, North End
Road, London NW11 7HY

BRK BOYER Easthampstead 17-18c

BRK HALL, HARRIS, RANCE
Wokingham 18c

BRK MUNDY Wokingham 18c

BRK SELWOOD, GOOD Chieveley 18c

BRK TIDBURY Bucklebury 18c

BRK PENNINGTON Woolhampton 18c

BRK BULL Aston Tyrrold 18c

BRK SIMSON/STIMSON Aston Tyrrold 18-19c

2310 Mr. J.C. Chaney, 8 Delta Road, Chob-
ham, Surrey, GU24 8PY

BRK CHA(Y)NE(Y), CHE(Y)NE(Y), CHINA
All 1500-1900

OXN CHA(Y)NE(Y), CHE(Y)NE(Y), CHINA
All 1500-1900

2312f Misses E. and M. Coutts, 15 Crowborough Drive, Goring-by-Sea, Worthing, W. Sussex

BRK STEVERSON/
STEVENSON Shrivvenham,
Winterbourne 18-19c

BRK HARMAN/HERMON Shrivvenham 18-19c

BRK BARNES Little Coxwell,
Chilton Foliatt 18-19c

MDX WHITWELL St. Marylebone 18-19c

MDX JACKSON, LIPSCOME St. Pancras 18-19c

DBY COUTTS Derby 19c

NTT COUTTS Nottingham 19-20c

MLN COUTTS Edinburgh 18-19c

YKS HENLOCK Knaresborough 18-19c

2315 Mr. H.J.A. Stockbridge, 170 Coulsdon Road, Old Coulsdon, Surrey, CR5 2LF

BRK BRIDGEMAN Lambourne 1700+

BRK BAKES Lambourne 1657

BRK STOCKBRIDGE Hungerford 17c

BRK STOCKBRIDGE East Garston 1700-1750

BRK TOMBS Embourne 1709

BRK WATTS Inkpen 1760

BRK STOCKBRIDGE Wickham 17c

BRK STOCKBRIDGE Ramsden 1600-1650

HAM STOCKBRIDGE Manton Pershute
1600-1650

2327 Mr. T.M. Paynter, 5 Welby Close, Winnersh, Wokingham, RG11 5SW

LND PAYNTER Any 1856-1930

2323 Mrs. B.E.Pembroke, 30 Ruskin Drive, Worcester Park, Surrey, KT4 8LM

BRK GOODMAN Newbury, Reading 1759+

HRT GOODMAN Hertford pre-1674

SRY GOODMAN Wimbledon pre-1860

2331 Mrs. E.J.Nancollis, 37 Dunn Crescent, Kintbury, Berks, RG15 0UH

LKS TWADDLE/TWEDDEL/TWADDEL
All Any

EDB HASTIE, KITCHEN, KETCHEN
All 1700-1858

LND HEWITT All 1854-1877

KEN HEWITT All 1854-1877

SUT LAING All 1823-1896

2334 Mrs. M.J.Crook, 13 Brookside, Cholsey, Wallingford, Oxon

BRK CROOK Wallingford 19c

BRK FREEMAN Wallingford 19c

OXF FREEMAN Mongewell 19c

MDX HAYES, WARD Islington 19c

GLS AVERIS Any All

GLS HATHAWAY Bulley, Churcham 19c

GLS SMITH Minsterworth 1800-1890

GLS TYRELL Barnwood 19c

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The Society, which started its life as the Reading Amateur Genealogical Society in 1973, emerged under its present name in 1975 to encourage the study of family history in Berkshire. It aims to promote contacts between members through regular meetings and by the quarterly magazine.

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Tom and Rita Hine, Oakley Cottage,
Westbury Lane, Purley-on-Thames,
Reading, RG8 8DL.

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Publishers:

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Richfield Printing Company,
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