



Berkshire Family Historian

Volume 15 - No 1 - September 1991



*St James Parish Church
Finchampstead*

PROGRAMME SUMMARY TO DECEMBER 1991

Newbury Branch

Meetings are held at 7.15 pm usually on the the second Wednesday of each month at United Reform Church Hall, Cromwell Place(opposite Marks and Spencers), Newbury. (This is a new venue)

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|------------|--------------------------------------|---------------------|
| 11th Sept. | The registration service | Noreen Hillard Read |
| 9th Oct. | 1st Battle of Newbury | Dave Stubbs |
| 13th Nov. | Back to basics | Michael Sheppard |
| 11th Dec. | Members meeting and Christmas social | |

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

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|------------|--------------------------------|-------------------|
| 27th Sept. | Digging up your roots..... | Marion Brackpool |
| 25th Oct. | Audience participation evening | |
| 22nd Nov. | The Guildhall Library..... | Mrs. I.F. Pollock |
| 13th Dec. | Christmas evening | |

A series of six tuesday evenings to do project work together, including checking the 1881 census and MI data entry, have been arranged for the 1st Oct., 5th Nov., 7th Jan., 4th Feb., 10th March and 7th April at the Church Hall (1st Floor), Earley St. Peters, Church Road, Earley, Reading.

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.

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|------------|--|-------------|
| 24th Sept. | Members evening | |
| 29th Oct. | Parsons, politicians, pedagogues, and paupers | Glyn Morgan |
| 26th Nov. | Hatches, Matches and Dispatches
Victorian Costumes for Birth, Marriage and Death | Pat Ashby |
| 10th Dec. | Christmas party | |

Bracknell branch

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

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|------------|-------------------------------------|---------------|
| 20th Sept. | Problems with London ancestry | Michael Gandy |
| 18th Oct. | The Public Record Office | Jane Cox |
| 15th Nov. | Family history is fun..... | Jim Golland |
| 20th Dec. | Informal chat and browse evening | |

BERKSHIRE FAMILY HISTORIAN

Volume 15, 1991-92

Part 1, September 1991

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Chairman's bits ...

by *Chad Hanna*

As you will see from the report of the Annual General Meeting, the Hon. Lady Palmer has been elected President of the Society in succession to her late husband. We very much appreciate her acceptance of this role.

This magazine signals the start of a new year for the Society but, sadly, the end of John Gurnett's reign as editor of the *Berkshire Family Historian*. This bumper issue contains a great deal about Berkshire and with a two columns per page throughout is the equivalent of a 48 page magazine in the old format. We rely on your help to fill these extra pages, so please keep the articles rolling in (please send them c/o the secretary, Meg Goswell, until a new editor has been appointed).

The new Bracknell branch, though still finding its feet, is no longer new and is now firmly part of the Society. My own goal for the coming year is to review what we are doing in the way of projects and to try and smooth their path towards publication.

As a side issue I am also trying to collect together the information on monumental inscriptions in Berkshire, exactly where they are (or in some cases, were), and where any transcriptions are held with the aim of publishing a list. So far I have a list of 400 sites from the *National Index of Parish Registers*, and elsewhere.

What do we do for 'Out-of-County' members?

Approximately half the Societies members live outside the county, that's about

600, and of those about 100 live overseas – you may well be one of them. We hope many of these members can come along and meet us at the annual one day conference and open days, but for many this magazine is the Society. The hope is that it helps put you in touch with members with similar interests through the members' pages and the help wanted pages. Access to the bookstall and indexes, such as the Berkshire Name Index, the Berkshire Marriage Index and related indexes must be a help here. Sometimes access to indexes is not enough and it becomes important to 'tap' into someone with local, or other specialist knowledge, that is someone who knows where to look as well as what to look for.

Do you have specialist knowledge?

The secretary often gets enquiries from overseas or out of county members asking for help, in particular areas. As the Society does not carry out research itself, this enquiries are forwarded to willing members at a fee negotiated directly with the enquirer, but typically at a rate £6 per hour plus any expenses. I must add that the Society cannot act as the agent of either the enquirer, or the researcher.

So if you have a particular area of specialist knowledge, or are able to help at the record office or library, please drop the secretary a line. With your help we will be able to resolve more of your fellow members problems and enrich your own research.

Finchampstead Church

by Olive Butchart

Like most parish churches, St. James at Finchampstead has been repaired, renovated and rebuilt over the years, but recent building work has uncovered a new and exciting part of the Church's history. While builders were renovating the floorboards in the North Chapel they uncovered a vault beneath the floor.

The village of Finchampstead is on the Hampshire/Berkshire border 10 miles south west of Reading in the Blackwater Valley between Arborfield and Sandhurst. Its ancient Church, dedicated to St. James, stands on a hill, reputed to be the site of Roman earthworks. It overlooks the River Blackwater and is near the line of the Roman Road from London to Silchester. It's thought a religious sanctuary was here before Roman and Saxon times, but the first recorded date

of a Church on this site is 1123, although the font has been dated at 1030. The Church building consists of an apsidal chancel, north chapel, nave, north porch and west tower. The exterior, except the tower, is plastered and the roof is tiled. Major alterations were carried out in the fourteenth, fifteenth and sixteenth centuries. Recent research by the Wessex Archaeology Society gives reason to believe that as much work was carried out in the fourteenth century as in the other centuries. The magnificent brick tower as we know it today was built in 1720 and the north porch was added in Victorian times.

On the evening of February 11, 1991 two members of the North Hants Historical and Archaeological Society, accompanied my husband and me to the



Church to examine and photograph a vault which had recently been exposed when builders were renovating the floorboards in the North Chapel. We had to organise a visit in a great hurry as the builders had delayed work to allow us to carry out an investigation.

The vault itself is beneath the middle of the Choirstalls. The entrance revealed three damaged coffins, all at one time lead lined and originally encased with wood. They had disintegrated to an advanced degree. It is possible however to make out the ornate brass and iron chrysanthemum studs on the lids of the coffins. Standing in front of the tomb looking due west the left hand coffin has an inscription Mary St. John.....1810. The centre coffin, and the largest, probably contains the remains of a male.

It bears a lead shield plaque which has been subjected to oxidisation and deterioration. The third, similar in size to the left hand coffin might suggest another female internment. Again the lead plaque on the coffin was illegible. From the position of the coffins within the tomb and the structure itself there is every reason to believe that there may be a further tier of coffins below. The eastern end appears to be blocked off, possibly to prevent further entry.

I think this proves without doubt that the vault belongs to the St. John family, recorded in William Lyons book *The Chronicles of Finchampstead* as being in the north aisle of the Church. The St. John family were very prominent in Finchampstead from the early eighteenth century until the end of the late nineteenth century. Their family home was at West Court and for four generations

they were Lords of the Manor and Rectors of the parish, which spanned over a period of 148 years. Mary St. John was the fourth daughter of the Rev. Ellis St. John, who died in 1810. My belief is that the middle coffin in the vault is indeed the Rev. Ellis St. John, who died in 1786, and the right hand coffin his wife Elizabeth, who died in 1797. If there are three other coffins below these I would suggest they belong to the three daughters of Ellis and Elizabeth. There are six stone plaques around the north aisle bearing the inscriptions to members of the St. John family, which probably led William Lyons to believe that the tomb was also there.

The succeeding generations of St. John's are buried in the Churchyard. There is just one exception and that's the only son of Ellis and Elizabeth, Ellis St. John Junior, who married Ann Bannister and inherited the living from his father in 1786. He died in 1809 and his son Henry succeeded him. The only information I have is that Ellis St. John Junior died at Kings Arm Inn at Oxford. I have found no burial records for him at Finchampstead.

The damaged vault entrance has now been repaired, the floorboards replaced and the choirstalls are back in position, leaving the St. John family to rest once more in peace.

Olive Butchart, born and brought up in the village of Finchampstead, Berkshire, is married with two grown up sons. She has always taken a keen interest in local and family history and has been the Finchampstead Church archivist for the past ten years.

“To pay, or not to pay, that is the question”

a contribution by John Hicks, Berkshire County Librarian

The editor's invitation to contribute this article was somewhat of a surprise. Did he know I was a covert family historian who hadn't yet joined the Berkshire Family History Society - but did belong to three others in areas where my ancestors lived? Was the editor concerned at the services offered by my Department? Or was it due to an interest by Berkshire Family History Society members on the changes - and charges - the library service may undergo in the light of Government policy or County Council economies? It turns out largely to be the latter, with some interest in the second question, and none in the first, except the potential for another member (subscriptions were due in June, ed.).

First, if I may, a word of explanation. Although my post is termed (largely by tradition) County Librarian, the Department for which I am head offers a variety of services. They range from the more obvious public library service, through to the Record Office, arts and tourism. Obviously libraries and archives are of greater interest to the Berkshire Family History Society, but we also provide school library and museum services, coordinate leisure and recreation policy for the County Council, develop and promote the arts, provide various specialist information services, and run the Beautiful Berkshire Campaign. It may be an idea to run a competition to find a more appropriate job title.

In thinking about what I would want to say about the future direction of the public library service, in particular the Local

Studies Collection, and the Record Office, it occurred to me that my experience both as a provider of these services and as a user of those in other areas, would be useful. My experience as a customer has been varied, usually good but with some awful exceptions both in individual libraries elsewhere in the country, and even in the occasional Record Office. In Berkshire it is probably different because I am a known face: the staff will either ensure I get what I want because I am the “boss”, or they will ignore me to prove they don't give any preferential treatment. I hope it tends to be the latter; it certainly ought to be. I would be interested to hear of your experience in Berkshire.

The financial picture for 1991-2 is glum

I was appointed County Librarian on 5 November, 1988 (an auspicious day and month). Since that time there has been considerable changes to which we have had to adjust. Primarily, financial reductions brought about by the need for the County Council to avoid being charge-capped. This is due to the low Standing Spending Assessment (SSA) which the Department of the Environment has admitted is based on incorrect data, but the County Council (neither members or officers) has yet been successful in obtaining improvements. The financial picture for 1991-2 is glum; my Department has lost twenty-two posts, reduced library

opening hours by 13.3%, cut energy, fuel and communication budgets by £100,000 and raised a number of income targets. Although the process of constructing the 1992/3 budget is only just beginning, there is little hope of the restoration of these reductions next year.

Our plans for a Family History Centre were not more than fragmentary, but they were cancelled

The effect of the SSA and the threat of charge capping by the Government have not only brought about current service reductions, they have forced us to postpone indefinitely some developments and to curtail others. For example, our plans for a Family History Centre were not more than fragmentary, but they were cancelled. Only one copy of the 1891 census for Berkshire will be purchased. We shall not be buying the St. Catherine's House Indexes on microform. The replacement programme for microform reader-printers is on hold. The microfilming of newspapers can best be described as limping along. Thus the reductions we experience today - and probably tomorrow as well - will affect local and family historians of the future.

For the Record Office the picture is no healthier. The large cataloguing backlog continues to resist attempts to reduce it. Recruitment problems have, at the time of writing, forced the closure of the Record Office Searchroom at lunch-times, and charges have been introduced for all written enquiries regardless of whether the answer is a five minute

check on parish records or a more extensive research enquiry. Despite all of this, however, I do not see us introducing charges to use materials either in libraries or in the Record Office. The practice of paying to use microform readers is, I think, not to be encouraged. Why should the provider punish (financially) the customer because the record is available in some form other than print or script?

In the context of financial restrictions inevitably there will be much debate on what services libraries and the Record Office should, and indeed can, provide for family historians. I think that debate is healthy and indeed essential if we are to plan the development of services to meet as closely as possible the expectations of our customers. We charge for copies of records and are moving towards charging for research services carried out on behalf of customers, but how far should we go towards a more commercial approach? Personally, I am unhappy at the idea of only permitting access to information (in whatever form) for the payment of a fee. Is it heroic in a materialist age to defend free access, or just plain foolish?

Whatever the outcome - and there may be no conclusive result - from this debate, there is no doubt that libraries, and the Record Office, will look different by the end of the century. Perhaps not very different, but undoubtedly there will be changes from the introduction of technology, from pushing services to reflect more accurately what the customer wants, and from the increasing demands of customers. This ignores a few other little matters such as the impending reorganisation of local government, the in-

roduction of the Council Tax, and even the result of the next general election.

To take a couple of examples: increased demand to consult materials means more material is at risk of damage. So it will be necessary to expand significantly the microfilming of those records "at risk". Technology will also push us in the direction of producing various items in the form of compact disks. Most current bibliographies are now available in this form and the range of printed material in

CD format increases every month. Libraries will need CD readers for public use. At present ours are for staff use only because of the complexity of training people to interrogate the database, but this will surely change during the 1990s just as video tape recorders changed home viewing in the previous decade. I can imagine whole sequences of parish records or historical profiles becoming available in CD format. (An example of this kind of research tool was examined in the last issue of the *Berkshire Family Historian* when the eighteenth century biography project was discussed.) These would not only be used in libraries but could be sold to cover production costs to schools, other libraries, and even to organisations such as the Berkshire Family History Society.

As a second example, let's look at increasing demand and the rise in the number of customers. As a recent convert to family history (and late-in-life converts are often the most fanatical) I have "enjoyed" the scrum in St. Catherine's House, the queue in the Public Record Office, and the trek from one location to another amidst crowded trains and log-jammed roads. Our statistics in

Berkshire indicate that whilst the number of books borrowed from libraries has been declining for several years, the number of enquiries has risen dramatically. The number of people using the County Reference Library in Reading is ever increasing, leading to inconvenience and frustration. On some days even finding a seat is a major achievement and a booking system may be soon become necessary. The increased interest in family and local history is one of the major causes of this extra business - GCSE and resource based learning is another, but that's another story.

Wouldn't customers prefer a quieter environment, with relevant records - in all forms - in one place, skilled staff and easier access? This was the idea behind our proposed Berkshire Family History Centre. It would have brought together national and local source material, have had a genealogist on hand, and be linked to voluntary groups and societies. Major questions such as what services would be charged, or where it would be located, were not decided. There were no funds for the start-up costs and those could not be avoided. But the pressure created by a steadily increasing number of customers will inevitably force this kind of development - as it has in other libraries elsewhere in Britain. The "quart" of interest won't fit in to the "pint pot" of Reading Library.

All of this points in one direction: the Library and Information Service must cooperate with, and offer support to, organisations like the Berkshire Family History Society. You represent an important group of customers and we not only want to know your views, but to work together to be able to offer family

historians a better service. Arguably last year we should have consulted the Society on the idea of a Family History Centre. That we did not should be down to a flush of over-enthusiasm; if the idea is resurrected we shall seek your views, just as in planning the Business Information Service we talked to the Chambers of Commerce, or for school libraries we consult with teachers.

The next decade promises to be a challenging one for libraries and for the Record Office. The need to meet increased demands for services with limited financial support will preoccupy us. This will inevitably lead to pressures to generate more income in order to offset the cost of services. If this intensifies we shall not be able to rest on charges for postal enquiries, photocopies and similar fees already in place. The reduced opening hours of the major libraries such as Reading and Maidenhead are already causing problems for our customers, but given the size of the reductions for 1991-2 it was impossible to avoid such action. We shall try to avoid any further moves in this direction in succeeding years and even now we are examining all budget headings again to identify scope for alternative decisions.

I hope we shall be able to at least maintain our current services, even if we cannot improve them. But this will require partnership with external bodies. For local government that will not always be a smooth path; the "we know best" attitude is usually more implicit than explicit (I did say usually), but it will need to be replaced by a culture that says we are here to help to support, and to encourage. I have always believed customers should not accept what they are given;

they have a right to be consulted and if their ideas cannot be adopted they have a right to know why not. So where does this leave the customer? I believe that in the 1990s the most marked change will not be in terms of finance or service provision; it will be listening to the customer and in working with them to shape services in the future.

If I convene an open forum one evening on local and family history services, will you be there?

John Hicks is the County Librarian of Berkshire. He has previously worked in Dorset (where his paternal family have lived since the mid 17th century), Buckinghamshire and Hampshire. He sees the principal challenge of his job as making the Library and Information Service more customer orientated.

This is a debate on which many members may have views, any contributions will be gladly accepted by the editor.

Courses

The Field Studies Council at the Juniper Hall Field Centre at Dorking in Surrey, will be running a course on historic landscapes over the weekend Oct. 18 - 20. The aim of the course is to show how an area can be investigated, using historic records, botanical surveys and aerial photography. There will be a series of talks and a field survey in the vicinity. The cost of the residential weekend will be £80 (including meals), non-residents £53. Further information from the Warden and Director of Studies, Juniper Hall Field Centre, Dorking, Surrey, RH5 6DA.

A “rough guide” to the Buckinghamshire Record Office

discovered by Rosemary Sarney

The Buckinghamshire Record Office is situated in the centre of the market town of Aylesbury in the County Hall. Opening times are: Tuesday to Thursday 9am-5.15pm and Friday 9am-4.45pm, with a late night on the first Thursday of each month. The record Office is closed on Mondays and the Tuesday following the Spring and Summer bank holidays.

Car parking is not available at the County Hall, but parking is easy in the multi-storey car park and a well sign-posted three minute walk through the subway brings you to the County Hall and Library. Parking fees are £2.00 for a period of six hours.

The Record Office is reached after descending into the bowels of the establishment. Readers tickets are obtained with the minimum of fuss and friendly staff explain the procedure of extracting relevant documents from the archives.

The research room is very small with only 12 seats. A telephone call to reserve a seat is essential to avoid disappointment after a long journey. If maps are needed advise the staff when booking space as it may not be possible to produce them if the search room is full. The telephone number is 0296 395000.

There are four micro-film readers and one fiche reader which was adequate on the day I visited, but I would guess they are in demand when all the research seats are full. The production of documents is efficient and there is little delay between ordering documents and delivery. Reference books on the open shelves are somewhat limited but there is a wills index and a name index taken from estate papers. Family histories and

local directories are available on the shelves as are transcripts of some parish registers and Quarter Sessions.

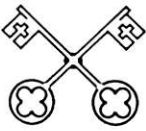
The limited space in the search room is not reflected in the service offered by the Archivist and his staff. They are approachable and helpful, taking time and trouble to answer every question with a willingness to make the day both interesting and rewarding.

As the County offices are adjacent to the town centre a break for lunch is recommended. Refreshments can be obtained from any of the lovely old local pubs around the Market square, which is only two minutes walk away.

One small complaint. The ‘loos’ were a bit elusive - to be found upstairs in the Registrar’s Office, behind a series of unmarked doors. A pity too that the clock on the wall ticked away far too fast and my day was over before I knew it. I look forward to the next visit and renewing my acquaintance with Aylesbury.

Address: The Record Office, Buckinghamshire County Council, County Hall, Aylesbury, Bucks HP20 1UA

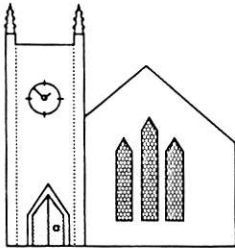
Rosemary Sarney has served on the executive committee and been responsible for the magazine library for a number of years. After visiting the Record Office she hopes that the archives “can be persuaded to give up some secrets and help me connect my seventeenth century Dormer ancestors, all Ag. Labs. in the ‘tiny’ village of Milton Keynes, with the illustrious lords and titled Dormer families who lived at Wing, Ascott House and other Buckinghamshire and Oxfordshire mansions for centuries.



The Registers of a Victorian parish

transcribed by Lesley J Hanna (with Chad Hanna)

The church of St Peter in the parish of Earley is just outside the south-east boundary of the Reading Borough. St Peter's, like many Victorian churches which were built as the population of urban centres increased, is a daughter church of St Andrew's at Sonning, and was dedicated on 14th May 1844 as a chapel of ease. Like the other daughter churches of St Andrew, including St John the Evangelist in Woodley in 1871, and All Saints at Dunsden and Eye (in Oxfordshire) in 1842, it was built in one of the four liberties of Sonning (Sonning itself being one) each of which had "contributed" a churchwarden to the Parish of St Andrews. Each chapel of ease eventually became a parish in its own right, with daughter churches in the case of Woodley (St James) and Earley (St Bartholomew).



Sometime ago I started transcribing the registers of this church. Why you may ask transcribe registers of a comparatively modern church? There are several reasons. Firstly, the records were held by the incumbent, and while this was convenient for the church, it did not help

make the records easily accessible. The registers only have to be given up to the County Record Office after they have been out of use for a century, and in this case, this would mean, at the earliest, 2006. Secondly, I was looking for a project I could tackle independently. The final reason is that the church is only a few yards away from home which made it very easy to visit the church to work on the records.

The first step was to decide how to transcribe the registers. To limit copying errors it was decided to transcribe straight from the parish registers onto a portable (read luggable) personal computer, an Amstrad PPC512. Another choice was to decide which program to use, a word processor, a database, or a family history package, such as Pedigree. While word processors can provide flexibility, the difficulty is extracting the names when the time comes to produce a comprehensive index. The final choice, *Pedigree*, has the advantage over our database program in that it accepts up to 255 characters in any field (so that the more verbose entries could be accommodated), it allows repeated groups of fields (which helped with marriage witnesses) and it was possible to produce a report which looked very similar to the registers themselves (which simplified checking).

Custom databases were set up using Pedigree for each of the register books, (2,400 baptisms between 1854 and 1909, 500 marriages in the years 1854 to 1906, followed by another 250 up to

1916, along with 1,600 burials between 1854 and 1916). This was mainly due to the limited storage space with diskettes, but partly because Pedigree limits the number of entries in one database to 10,000.

After data entry was completed and a first check done, lists of names were taken from each of the Pedigree databases and then fed into the database program to produce a sorted index of 13,000 names, dates, event types and relationships. This includes parents (and god-parents) of baptised children, together with fathers and witnesses for marriages. The sorted index highlighted suspicious looking names which were then re-checked in the registers. Manipulating the large index was difficult with diskettes, as the A-K and L-Z parts had to be assembled on separate diskettes. Investing £3 in the latest version of Pedigree, and transferring the database to a computer, with a larger capacity "hard" disk, made the second edition of the index a lot easier.

Where difficulties have occurred I used street maps for street names, Crockfords Clerical Directory, for the names of officiating ministers, along with the BFHS 1851 Census Index for Wokingham Enumeration District and the returns for both the 1851 and 1881 censuses.

How does transcribing with a computer compare with doing it by hand (the "hard" way)? First, there is a lot more scope and more temptation to leave a difficult bit to later. The computer does not enforce transcribing in order, and with a "ditto" facility, entering recurring entries, means that once an entry has been made, it can then be repeated. The

second advantage is that the layout of the printed version can be left until the data has been entered; this means that the columns could be made wide enough for each entry. Indeed, summaries can be produced as well as complete listings. The temptation to print out another copy must be resisted, as it is only too easy (paper doesn't grow on trees). Different indexes can also be produced.

The registers start in 1854 (with previous events in the Sonning registers), so the baptism and burial registers are those introduced by Rose's act in 1812, while the marriage register has the form of those introduced for civil registration in 1837. The marriage register was the first to be transcribed which although only 496 entries in length has an enormous amount of information per entry. Only 496 entries appear because at one point the minister turned over two pages in the civil register by mistake, and after discussion with the civil registrar turned over two pages in the church's copy to bring the numbered entries back into step.

Here's the baby who lived to be a minute, and the lady who lived to be a hundred. Here are those whose bodies were fished out the Thames, the Loddon and the Kennet and the person found dead on the railway.

The burial register was the next to be tackled and with less information for each entry this was straightforward but also more poignant to read. Here's the baby who lived to be a minute, and the lady who lived to be a hundred. Here are those whose bodies were fished out the

Thames, the Loddon and the Kennet and the person found dead on the railway. As might be expected the register includes a wide cross section of the population. At the entry of EDWARD PHILLIPS in 1915, there is a note in the margin that he was the last but one surviving officer from the Charge of the Light Brigade at Balaklava.

The baptism register was next. Each of the 2,400 entries in the first book, list the parents, but only two list the godparents. One of the more interesting entries was that for ALFRED WATERHOUSE, principal architect of the Natural History Museum in South Kensington and arguably the most important architect of the late 19th Century. He was born into a Quaker family in Liverpool, but both he and his wife, Elizabeth were baptised as adults along with their 15 year old son. Alfred Waterhouse eventually moved to Yattendon, where he became churchwarden and was eventually buried.

Like many family historians my previous study of parish registers had been mainly limited to my eyes running down the list of surnames. Transcription forces a more intense study. For example, during the incumbency of Canon William Weekes Fowler (vicar 1904-1923) the impression was formed that the baptismal register was written up several pages at a time from notes. This impression came from noticing changes in the colour of the ink, and the deterioration of the Canon's already difficult handwriting as he got towards the end of a batch. It is also clear that errors crept in. Loose pieces of paper testify to missing entries and in one case show that the officiating minister was the curate, and not the vicar, who actually signed the register.

Some entries were out of order, sometimes because baptisms were carried out "in great emergency" and in others due to forgetfulness.

Many decisions have to be made during transcription. Some errors of interpretation creep in, but there is also the opportunity to use sorted indexes to throw up errors and to "get your eye in" by getting to grips with the "idiotsyncrasies" of the vicar's handwriting. One example of was William Weekes Fowler who sometimes wrote the two letters "St" in the form of a "W", despite having so many Ws in his own name.

Spending several hours a day in the church hall's meeting room brought comment from several people, and led to an invitation to help teachers and children (aged nine and ten) from the neighbouring school, on their Victorian project for the new National Curriculum. This involved showing the children the registers and explaining their purpose, and then letting them loose on the transcript to copy some specific items and then to copy some which took their own fancy. This proved very popular, with the burial registers provoking the greatest enthusiasm.

Once double-checking of the early registers is completed (C 1854-1909, M 1854-1916, B 1854-1916) and a name index produced, a copy will be deposited with the Berkshire Record Office.

After the start of transcription, some of the later registers were deposited with the record office, but is hoped to retrieve these for transcription later.

I would not recommend anyone to undertake the transcribing of Victorian parish registers lightly, especially where

the village became part of the town with a large increase in population. Bad handwriting, of whatever age, is always difficult to read but it is satisfying to make these records more accessible.

Lesley Hanna (née Nicklinson) was born and brought up in south Bedfordshire, before moving to Berkshire. She has been interested in family history for almost 26 years, mainly as one-name studies for Chessum / Chesham and Nicklinson. Other interests, include collecting postcards (especially of Bedfordshire). Lesley is now uncovering more of the local history of Earley. She also finds time to work as one of the membership secretaries of the Society.

Situations Vacant

As ever the Society could do with a little more help. Our aims are to spread the load thinly and to fit the job to the person, but some jobs are important and not easily divided.

The first is **Magazine Editor**. This 36 page magazine is produced four times a year, and each issue needs about 14,000 words. The editor has responsibility for the content of the magazine (but shouldn't need to provide much of it) and liaison with the printer. The ability to commission, assemble and, of course, edit the articles is most important. A computer is available to word process the articles but this part of the job could be split off if necessary. Desktop publishing of the magazine, is another job.

The second is an **Executive Minutes Secretary**. The Executive meets about 5 or 6 times a year and the minutes must be recorded, typed up and circulated, so the

task is not onerous but is important and interesting, particularly as the Executive deals with a varied workload. For someone with more time, the job could also include the compilation and circulation of the reports before meetings.

The third is a **Membership Secretary**. Lesley Hanna would now like to hand on the L-Z members to someone else after 4 years. It would not be fair to say that dealing with 500 or so members is not time-consuming, during the peak time of July and August it does mean quite a few hours every week. But, it is one of the most important jobs in the Society. While it's not necessary, any familiarity with computers would be helpful. Please contact Lesley (see back cover) for more information.

The last job is perhaps the most challenging. While the 1881 census and the 1851 census still require considerable amounts of effort, especially to check the 1881 census, the end is in sight. The Society would very much like to reactivate a project to index the records of the overseers of the poor. An index to these records would help immeasurably in tracing Berkshire ancestors in the 17th and 18th centuries. However to manage a project of this size, we need a **project leader** with time to spare, most likely someone who has taken early retirement or who has recently retired. That person whoever it is, will need to get to grips with the scope of the problem, get advice on how best to tackle it and organise teams of helpers to carry out the job. Organisational skill is more important than skill at paleography, but an appreciation of the value of the records would be useful. Please contact Chad Hanna, if you are interested.

The smallest graveyard ...?

found by Carol Wright

I wonder if any of the family historians at present working on recording inscriptions at the vast Reading cemetery, would care to exchange their task for work on what is, perhaps, the smallest cemetery in Berkshire at Caversham Park, where there are just three graves.

Before BBC Monitoring took over the mansion in 1943, it had been home to the Roman Catholic boy's school – The Oratory – which had moved to Caversham from its original home at Edgbaston, in 1923. During its occupation, the school added a small chapel to commemorate those former pupils and masters killed during World War I. It's just outside the chapel that the three graves can be found.

The first memorial is a granite cross standing on three tiers, with an inscription: IN MEMORY OF / REGINALD / THE DARLING & ONLY / SON OF / COLONEL & MRS DONEGAN / DIED JUNE 5TH 1927 / AGED 17 YEARS.

The boy apparently fell from a parapet on the roof and died a few days later as a result of his injuries.

The second grave is also in granite in the form of a Celtic cross above a mound of granite and the inscription is set into the smooth front on the mound: IN LOVING MEMORY OF / WILFRED PATRICK / DEARLY LOVED SON OF / BERNARD THUNDER / OF DULARGY, RAVENSCALE, CO. LOUTH / AGED 15 YEARS / "MAY HE REST IN PEACE".

He was known affectionately as Paddy and died of natural causes. I understand

a great nephew of Wilfred Thunder is a pupil at the Oratory School at the present time.

The third grave is a stone slab with a raised coffin above it, and a cross carved into the coffin shape. The Latin inscription is set on either side of the cross:

ORATE	PRO ANIMA
JOHANNIS	MICHAELIS
BUTCHERS	HUJUS AEDIS
ALUMNUS	QUI PRO
PATRIA	MORTUUS
EST DIE	20 JULII
1940	

This boy John Michael Butchers, is said to have died as a result of an accident with a rifle whilst undertaking Home Guard duties for the school.

The present Headmaster of the Oratory School believes that it is entirely in keeping with the spirit of the School that the relatives of the boys should have chosen to have their sons buried within the school precincts. The graves are well tended – flowers are always placed on the graves by BBC gardening staff - and despite, at present, being surrounded by scaffolding, as the mansion is undergoing alterations – it is a very peaceful corner of the Caversham Park ground.

Strays co-ordinator

I have recently taken over the job as strays co-ordinator of the Slough and district branch, from Jacqui Ward. If you have any strays send them to me: Jan Cleeton, 3 Bader Gardens, Chippenham, Slough, Berks, SL1 9DJ.

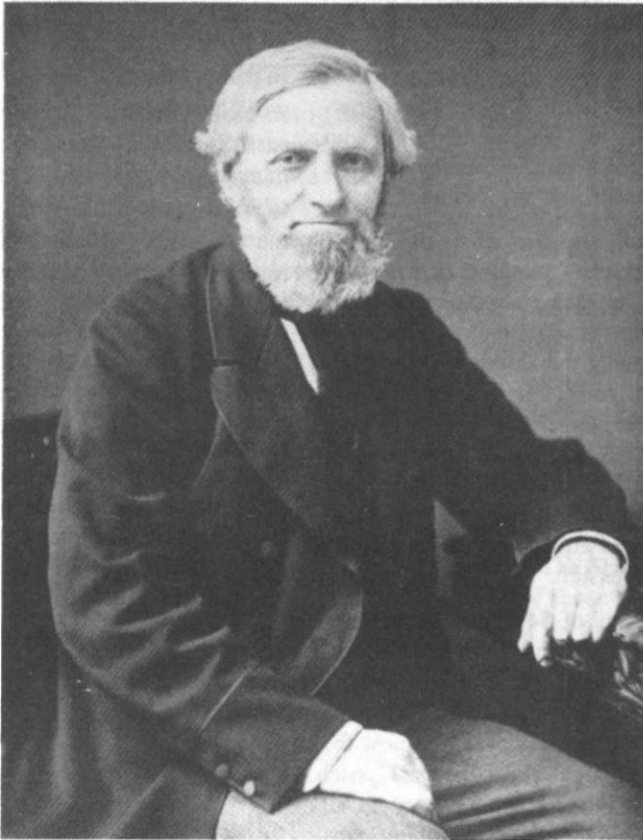
The funeral of George Palmer in 1897

by Liz Longhurst

In the burial ground behind the Friends Meeting House in Reading, where BFHS members used to hold their meetings, are the graves of many nineteenth century Quaker businessmen and entrepreneurs. The headstones are very simple, all the same size, and all with the same form of wording, for rich and poor

alike. One of these stones is for George Palmer (of Huntley and Palmers) an outstanding businessman who did much for Reading, and was almost a millionaire at his death - no mean feat in the late nineteenth century.

When he died, at the age of nearly 80, in 1897, Reading went into mourning.



Flags were flown at half mast throughout the town and church bells were tolled at St. Lawrence's and elsewhere. The *Reading Standard* carried an obituary of one and a half broadsheet columns and the *Reading Observer*, published the next day, had an even longer tribute which almost filled a page. Each column had a black mourning stripe on each side. The obituary gave details of his ancestry, his early life, when he came to Reading and the development of the biscuit factory. There are also details of his public life as an MP, an Alderman and also of accounts of his numerous gifts to the town.

There were very detailed descriptions of the funeral which took place the following Monday and also resumé's of who said what about him in Sunday services and chapels throughout Reading.

At 11.00 am, an hour before the burial, there was a brief meeting of the town council. The Mayor paid tribute to George Palmer and then moved a resolution expressing the Council's "great indebtedness" for the generous gifts made by him. The Mayor (W. Ferguson) and Town Clerk (H. Day) then left the Town Hall and as the roads were closed, would have taken a horse drawn cab to the Acacias - George Palmer's home - to join the funeral procession.

The occupants of 54 of the 65 coaches which drove to the Friends Meeting House on Church Street from the Acacias on London Road (which became part of the old University, and is now the Reading campus of the Japanese Gyosei College) are listed in the newspaper. All relatives who attended had their surnames and relationships to George

Palmer included. For example: "Owing to his enfeebled health, Mr. Samuel Palmer, who resides at Hampstead, was unable to attend his brother's obsequies" and "Professor and Mrs. Poulton (son-in-law and daughter) are in Canada, the former attending the British Association annual meeting".

The factory was closed for the day and several roads in the vicinity, including London Road, Craven Road, Redlands Road, Mill Lane and Letcombe Street were also closed to traffic for several hours.

In front of the "car" with the coffin - the word hearse was not used - and the procession of the carriages, walked 500 men who had worked at the factory for over 20 years. Most of the remainder of the employees (about 5,000) lined the route. The paper lists the men who marshalled the procession of workers. They were:

From the offices		From the factory
I.R. Broad	H. Moon	H. Holmes
G. Jennings	C. Parham	H. Webb
Le Huray	Josiah Smith	

The marshals appointed to "superintend the lining of the route" were:

F. Allen,	G. Collins,
T. Annetts,	H. Cousell,
T. Bowley,	G. Durman,
E.A. Bradford,	W. Eyles,
D. Burroughs,	W. Gale,
P. Breach,	G. Gardner,
T. Canning,	W. George,
J. Clinch,	T. Goodall,

G. Hibbard,	H. Portlock,
J. Hine,	F. Reeves,
H. Holloway,	T. Rowe,
J. Holloway,	C. Seymour,
E. Knowland,	H. Sturgess,
E. Lacy,	J. Tanner,
F. Lawes,	T. Titcombe,
E. Lee,	J. Vardell,
F. Levey.	R. Ward,
J. Luker,	J. Wicks,
C. Martin,	G. Wiggins,
C. Neighbour,	C. Wood,
T. Pigeon.	W. Young

coffin was made of oak with brass mountings, with the inscription.

GEORGE PALMER,
BORN 1ST MONTH, 18th, 1818,
DIED 8th MONTH, 19th, 1897.

At the head of the procession were two mounted constables.

Although people had been asked not to send flowers, several wreaths did arrive. One from the factory employees was some four feet in diameter and the inscription read, "A factory tribute. In affectionate remembrance of a beloved and honoured master". The flowers used were listed with a note that most of them had been provided by a well-known local florist, Mrs. Phippen.

The cortège left the Acacias at 11.40 and by noon had arrived at the Friends Meeting House. All the mourners had been invited by ticket, with some 250 people present, many listed in the newspaper. One was the reporter from the *Reading Observer*, C. Slaughter, and so it must be to him that I am indebted for much of this information. The coffin was taken immediately to the grave, the pall bearers were household servants from the Acacias. They were: J. Gardner (valet), John Smith (coachman), B. Butcher (head gardener), L. Bosier, W. Smart and G. Chapman (under gardeners). The

When everybody had managed to get into the burial ground and had gathered round as best they could, Mr. J.M. Albright, from Charlbury, spoke briefly and Ald. White from Birmingham spoke a simple prayer and the coffin was lowered into the grave. The *Observer* says that the mourners having taken a last look at the grave then walked in procession to the Meeting House where a simple service without hymns took place.

After the service was over the public were allowed into the burial ground to look at the grave. Mr. T. Cooke, jun. gave permission to have a portion of the wall removed to allow the "immense concourse" to pass into London Street. Many people were said to be moved to tears as they passed the open grave.

Because there wasn't enough room at the meeting house for more than a small fraction of the people who wished to be present, there were overflow services at St. Lawrence's and at the Primitive Methodist chapel on London Street, all held at midday. The *Standard* gave long lists of names of those who attended all these services.

Employees from the biscuit factory sent a letter of sympathy to the Palmer family. The signatories probably represent a cross section of the factory workers:

J.H. Allen,	F.R.Blackmore,
Tho ^s Allen,	G.R. Bloomfield,
F.W.Blackmore,	John Broad,

Charles Brown,	David Leaver,
W. Brown,	A.C. Le Huray,
W.G. Brown,	Ed. Maze,
Richard Brown,	R.R. Moore,
Robert Brown,	Morgan Morely,
Rob ^l J. Burroughs,	H. Moon,
Cyril M. Byham,	George Palmer (he
T. Casburn,	was a watchman,
E.L.Coates,	the newspaper re-
Bessie Cooper,	ports elsewhere),
Charles Cullum,	Arthur H. Peach,
F.B. East,	William Pring,
Frank East, jun.,	Josiah Smith,
T.L. Fox,	A.W. Smallbone,
F.S. Goddard,	John Viner,
S. Gyngell,	George Viner,
Samuel Hampton,	John Waugh,
John Luther	Henry Webb,
Hawkins,	George Wicks,
Rebecca Hawkins,	Charles Williams,
T.E. Henwood,	W. Bullivant Wil-
G.W. Hicks,	liams,
Sydney Howard,	G. Willmott,
Thos. Huntley,	M.J. Withers,
W ^m Lea,	W ^m Yorke.

George Palmer is now remembered, not so much for the biscuit factory, which has now largely disappeared, but for his gift to the town of Palmer Park, opened to the public just one hundred years ago. It's still used as he intended; the valuable modern addition of the sports centre in line with his wishes that this park should be enjoyed by the people of Reading.

References:

Reading Observer, Saturday 21 and 28 August, 1897

Reading Standard, Friday 20 and 27 August, 1897

George Palmer's will. Probate £969,372 18s. 6d, 2 November 1897

T.A.B. Corley: *Quaker enterprise in biscuits: Huntley and Palmers of Reading 1822-1972* Hutchinson, 1972. This contains Huntley and Palmer pedigrees with references to those who became active in the firm.

Liz Longhurst started family history in 1974 by researching the Longhursts and joined the BFHS later that year. Liz was secretary from 1979-84. She is the BFHS/Berkshire Record Office liaison officer.

Bells Banned

On 10th August 1991 the *Daily Telegraph* reported that Wedding bells had been banned at St. Johns, Royston, Herts after a crack appeared in the 16th century tower.

Berkshire Name Index

The "keepers of the index", Tom and Rita Hine would like to thank Diana Jones of Earley, Jacqui Ward of Holyport, Linda Wiseman of Twyford and Marion Sackett of Caversham, for their help in making copies of slips for the index. If anyone can help in writing slips at home please contact Tom and Rita at "Oakley Cottage", Westbury Lane, Purley Rise, Reading, Berkshire, RG8 8DL.

They have also received information from a member in New Zealand referring to the Bamford and Leaver families who lived in Cookham during the nineteenth century, before emigrating to New Zealand. They will gladly make the information available to anybody interested in these families.

Disease in Berkshire by *John Gurnett*

David Davies, the rector of Barkham, wrote of one family living in Berkshire in 1794,

“they are an unhealthy family, one or other of them being often laid up with the ague or rheumatism, disorders of which poor people, from low living and working in the wet, are very suspect”.

Our understanding of the impact disease had on communities is to a great extent confined to specific crises - the seventeenth century plagues and during the nineteenth century outbreaks of typhoid and cholera. Our knowledge of the major causes of death in the eighteenth century is uncertain. While epidemic disease played an important role it may not have been the major killer. Chronic and endemic disease, like consumption, associated with poverty, played an equally crucial role. There was little diagnostic precision at this period. What may have been tuberculosis, for example was often diagnosed as another disease. Amongst children convulsions was the main given cause of death, but this definition hides a number of other causes; typhus was simply called fever and the description of ague and intermittent fevers is usually taken to refer to malaria. There are many problems in attempting to extrapolate modern scientific knowledge about disease back to previous centuries, since the nature of some diseases may have changed. Fortunately we have sufficient information in some of the parish registers in Berkshire and Oxfordshire, and a series of burials at St. Giles, Cripplegate, to analyse the chang-

ing incidence and spread of disease and in particular to compare disease and mortality in rural areas with London.

These are some of the major “causes” of death in these registers:

Beenham	Shrivenham
Decline, 45%	Old age, 27%
Accidental death, 9%	Consumption, 19%
Fever, 9%	Fever, 9%
Smallpox, 9%	
Dropsy, 6%	Dropsy, 9%
Newbury	St. Giles, Cripplegate
Decline, 40%	Convulsions, 32%
Fever, 16%	Fever, 24%
Smallpox, 9%	Decline, 13%
Dropsy, 6%	Consumption, 8%
Fits, 6%	Old age, 7%
Sudden death, 6%	Smallpox, 5%
Whitchurch	Sutton Courtenay
Consumption, 23%	Decline, 28%
Dropsy, 14%	Fever, 11%
Fever, 16%	Old age, 9%
Palsy, 9%	Smallpox, 9%
	Dropsy, 7%

Many of these causes are difficult to interpret. Decline could be any of a number of infectious diseases, although it sounds like the result of a long illness, particularly where consumption is not differentiated. Fever is another problem; a symptom of disease, rather than the cause. Sudden death could be heart failure, but it is as likely to be a symptom of another illness. With smallpox we are on firmer ground, although as we shall see this may not give a complete picture of the disease. It is noticeable that convulsions seems to be confined to the London parish of St. Giles, Cripplegate.

There are some cases elsewhere in the rural registers, but they represent only a small sample of the listed causes. Although the predominant cause of death of children in the London parish of St. Giles was convulsions, there are a number of other identifiable diseases which recur in all the registers.

Measles

Thomas Sydenham writing in 1670 says, "These measles began very early, as they were wont to do, viz at the beginning of January ... and increasing daily came to their height in March; afterwards they gradually decreased and were quite extinguished in the following July". Then, as now, measles is a disease of early childhood. It rarely affects adults as most become immune after infection when children. Epidemics arise at regular two-yearly intervals and spread amongst children not protected by a recent attack. This is a similar trend which can be identified in the parish registers here. In London most cases occur in March, May and November, while in Sutton Courtenay there are two outbreaks in February and March, 1793 and January, 1804. In Newbury there are three serious outbreaks leading to the death of 19 children. The first outbreak occurred in March, 1807 ending in June. Two years later there were four more deaths in April and June and in 1810 yet another three cases in March and April. As we would expect most deaths occurred in children aged one to four, although a few cases did arise in children between five and 14.

Fever

Fever was a perpetual menace. The term fever could include typhus - that "unerring index of destitution" - dysentery and scarlet fever. Typhus was an infection which arose from a "want of cleanliness and ventilation". In St. Giles 78% of fever deaths occurred in adults aged 20 to 60, with a few amongst older age groups. Most, 65%, of the deaths occurred in the months November to May. In Newbury the term fever seems to be used exclusively for children. Here the vast majority occur in the first years of life. While fever crops up through the year, most deaths occur in the months April, May, July, August and November. In Sutton Courtenay fever is used for every age group, but most cases occur in October and November. In Whitchurch there is a similar age pattern, but the most common months are June, July and August.

From this diverse pattern of fever deaths it seems likely that the term "fever" was used in various ways in different places. Fever was a symptom of death rather than the cause. The real cause of death may have been typhus, influenza, malaria, or any of the range of illnesses where fever was a symptom.

Whooping cough

Like measles most deaths from whooping cough occurred amongst children aged one to four. In London half the cases occurred in March and April, but the remaining deaths were spread fairly evenly throughout the year suggesting that the disease was endemic, rather than epidemic. In Newbury deaths came in the period September to December. Like

smallpox, scarlet fever, measles and diphtheria, whooping cough is spread by droplet infection and was particularly serious amongst undernourished children living in overcrowded conditions, but there is no evidence that the incidence of the disease was greater in London than the rural parishes. Like the other childhood diseases there is little doubt that cases of whooping cough were put down as convulsions.

Consumption

During the nineteenth century consumption, or pulmonary tuberculosis, killed more people than any other disease. Every family must have been touched by the disease. It claimed victims from every social class, but it affected a disproportionate number of the poor, the undernourished, the sickly and the ill-housed.

Tuberculosis took on many names: tuberculosis of the lungs, consumption, phthisis, decline, wasting disease, delicacy of the lungs, graveyard cough, lung weakness and even the White Plague. In its pulmonary form it disabled and killed men and women of all ages, and especially at the peak of early maturity between the ages of 15 and 35. When consumption was finally diagnosed, usually after the bacillus had begun to destroy tissues, it might kill within a few months, or arrest to reappear after months or even years, independent of the therapeutic measures taken to contain or destroy it. Manifestation in other parts of the body of what we now know to be tuberculosis might have caused fever, inflammation and generally wasting. At the time of this study treatment of the disease was in its infancy. Two of

the most common defences against tuberculosis were blood letting and "cooling purgatives". The Edinburgh Medical Dictionary, published in 1807 gives a clear picture of the state of medical understanding of the disease and its treatment: "Peruvian bark is, perhaps, the most commonly employed of any, and often confided in as an ultimate resource ... besides this, the acid of vitriol, the balsams, and frequent bleedings, have had their partisans. The use of blisters and issues, opiates, a milk and vegetable diet, exercise and a change of air, are pretty generally recommended by all. Exercise on horseback seems to be chiefly beneficial in those cases where consumption is a secondary disease".

During the late nineteenth century nearly four million people died from tuberculosis, nearly 13% of total mortality. Given the lack of diagnostic precision what may have been tuberculosis may frequently have been diagnosed as another disease. But tuberculosis was still regarded by contemporaries as the most lethal disease. In 1795 Robert Willan, a London doctor, found that 31.4% of his patients succumbed from pulmonary consumption. The London Bills of Mortality for the same period reveal that 29.8% of deaths were attributable to tuberculosis. Until the end of the nineteenth century, according to some experts, tuberculosis was exclusively an urban disease.

The figures here show no similar overall pattern. In St. Giles just over 8% of deaths were attributed to consumption. In the rural areas of Shrivensham and Whitchurch the figures were close to 20%. Why there should have been such a wide disparity between London and

the rural parishes is not clear. There may have been special circumstances in the rural communities; it is interesting that all the rural parishes here had water running through them which might have had some impact on mortality. Another possible explanation is that some cases of consumption were hidden in the registers of St. Giles under "other causes". But on the face of it the statistical data here does not bear out the contemporary belief that rural areas escaped more lightly from tuberculosis than urban communities. Chadwick's survey on the sanitary condition of the poor found that 30.8% of deaths in Berkshire were from consumption.

Convulsions

In London most deaths from convulsions were in the winter months December to April. In Shrivenham September seems to have been the high month in the year. Creighton identifies convulsions of a "particular season" – August, September – as infantile diarrhoea. That same rise in convulsions in St. Giles can be seen and seems to confirm that these warm weather cases were indeed diarrhoea, or "griping of the guts", probably caused by contaminated food or water. Apart from the sudden increase in August and September the incidence of convulsions is spread evenly throughout the year. Convulsions account for just over a third of deaths in St. Giles. Of those 28% were under one month, 12% between 1 and 3 months, 23% between three months and a year and 29% between the age of one and four years. The absence of any clear seasonal pattern in deaths from convulsions points to one symptom hiding many different diseases.

Apart from Creighton's attempt to identify convulsions of a particular season, the term convulsions almost certainly includes whooping cough, measles, scarlatina, and even smallpox. As a cause convulsions is confined to the London parish of St. Giles. Does that mean that it did not occur in rural parts? Causes were rarely given for infants in the rural parishes; an assumption, perhaps, that a child's death was somehow inevitable. An assumption which if true makes it all the harder to identify the diseases behind the term "convulsions". What we can be sure about is the lack of hygiene surrounding child care, which probably caused more child deaths than any infectious disease. Medical practitioners failed to suspect that the many insects, rodents and other organisms surrounding man might play an important, and crucial, role in disease transmission.

Smallpox

In Whitchurch most smallpox deaths occurred in the 20-29 and 40-49 age groups. Sixty six per cent of deaths occurred in the winter months November to February. The disease seems to have been endemic, although the year 1791 was particularly bad with six cases.

In St. Giles there seems to have been a gradual reduction in the incidence and severity of the disease. Whether this was as a result of inoculation is not clear. Approximately five per cent of deaths were attributed to smallpox with an average of 15 deaths a year. Those most at risk were under nine years old – 87% of total deaths. By far the largest number of deaths, 69%, occurred in August, November and January.

In the market town of Newbury 64% of deaths were in the winter months of October to January. Like St. Giles most deaths, 88%, were amongst children under nine years old. There were three smallpox crisis years with the number of deaths almost twice the average, in 1799, 1806 and 1811. In Sutton Courtenay the year 1796 was particularly bad for smallpox deaths, but with no overall indications on age. The largest number of deaths occurred in June, July and August.

Smallpox was perhaps the one positive disease which may have been reduced by preventative medicine. In the later years of the eighteenth century the rapid rise in mass inoculation did more than anything to reduce the morbidity of the disease. One of the most significant mass-inoculation programmes was undertaken in Hungerford. The Vestry minutes tell the story.

“In the latter end of July of 1794 the small pox was brought into the town by a Regiment from Ireland. One soldier died of a very violent sort in the Pest House. The disease, spreading among the inhabitants, few of which had it, a vestry was held to determine on the necessity of immediately inoculating the Poor of the parish, when it was determined to employ Mr. Cundell for that purpose at 2/6 per head. Of this description above one thousand, of all ages, received the infection, not 20 perished with the natural sort”.

Despite some opposition, mass inoculation by Vestries became increasingly common. Among the Berkshire parishes: Tilehurst in 1779, Bray 1794, Ard-

ington, 1795, Sparsholt, 1801, East Hendred, 1806, Shinfield, 1806, Drayton, 1810 and White Waltham, 1811. Opposition in some areas was vociferous. The Times called on the Church to intervene:

“The small pox has been remarkably fatal: In the ravages among the country villages of the last two months. As the common people are influenced by what they consider religious motives to reject the aid of inoculation, the gentlemen of the church should ease their confidence on this head, and persuade them to submit to so salutary an operation”.

The campaign to introduce mass inoculation was still being waged three years later. The Times again:

“In the autumn of 1787, above 600 children were inoculated for the small pox at Geneva, who all, except two happily recovered from the disease. As the natural small-pox is fatal to one in five, this general inoculation may fairly be computed to have saved 118 lives. And it is to be hoped, that the practice of inoculating the poor, as well as the rich, will soon become general through Great Britain”.

Inoculation had a dramatic impact on the incidence of the disease, and it was not solely confined to the better off.

“In the month of October (1798), 800 poor persons were inoculated for the smallpox (at Hungerford, Berkshire) without a single case of death. No exclusion was made on account of age, health, or any other circumstance, but pregnancy; one patient was 88 years

of age; and many were at the breast, and in a state of toothing”.

But when smallpox appeared in provincial towns and villages “inoculation takes place amongst all ranks of people, the rich and poor, from either choice or necessity, most instantly have recourse to it”.

It was generally recognised by contemporary physicians that smallpox killed many young children before the eruption of the tell-tale lesions. These deaths were often accompanied by convulsive fits. One physician wrote in 1768:

“A considerable number of those who die of the natural disease, before the expulsion of the variolous eruption, are infants or very young children ... Hence the convulsive paroxysms which often precede the appearance of these pestules ... are always alarming, and when they happen to very young infants are frequently fatal”.

This makes it abundantly clear that many cases of smallpox would have remained hidden, and that many of the convulsive causes we have already seen could, in reality, have been smallpox sufferers. If this is so then smallpox may have had a far greater impact on child mortality. If a large percentage of infant deaths in which convulsions was given as the cause of death can be shown to have been attributable to smallpox, then the mass inoculation programmes may have had far greater impact on infant mortality than is supposed. This evidence suggests that the disease was endemic amongst children. A Swedish study carried out on smallpox deaths between

1774-1798 found that 78.2% of deaths were children under five years old.

What evidence we have here of epidemics in Newbury suggests they recurred every five years. In Whitchurch and Sutton Courtenay the evidence tends to suggest that smallpox was not a disease of early childhood. This might be due to a number of factors: the disease may not have been endemic in the locality, or some cases may be hidden. Where the disease was not endemic amongst children, adults would have been much more susceptible to the disease when it did strike and migration out of the comparatively “safe” areas would have put migrants at greater risk from the disease. What evidence we have then suggests that in London and Newbury the disease was endemic amongst children, but in the rural areas it was epidemic with the age incidence much higher. It has been suggested that inoculation was carried out more extensively in the country areas than in the towns. If this was so it would tend to distort the comparison between London and the rural parishes. However Chadwick’s survey on the sanitary condition of the poor found that even in 1838 in Berkshire 12% of deaths were attributed to smallpox.

Further reading:

Pamela Horn: *A Georgian Parson and his village: the story of David Davies (1742-1819)* (1981)

M.W. Flinn: ed. *The sanitary condition of the labouring population of Great Britain* (Chadwick) (1965)

Charles Creighton: *A history of epidemics in Britain* (1965)

Letters to the editor

Wokefield, 5 Pound Lane Clanfield
Oxon OX18 2QZ

Dear editor,

I would just like to say how much I enjoyed the *Berkshire Family Historian* this month (June). There was so much in it that interested me. Not least the front cover about the Metropolitan Police Whistles, because I have one, it says "made by J. Hudson and Co. 244 Barr Street, Birmingham. It belonged to my father-in-law, Henry George Wise, who farmed at Wokefield Farm, near Mortimer at the turn of the century. I understand that he sometimes used it to let family and staff know what the time was, more precisely, when they could stop work for their mid-day meal.

I see that there is a book called haunted Berkshire. I wonder if it contains the ghost story attached to the Old Bell Inn at Grazeley? Usually I do not take too much notice of ghost stories, but this one interests me. One day back in the 1940s not long before he died, I asked my father-in-law something about his Aunt Caroline. He told me that she and her husband had at one time kept the Old Bell Inn, and he added that it had once had the reputation of being haunted.

"Was that while you and Aunt lived there?" I asked.

"Yes", he replied, "it was my Aunt who told me about it though everyone around knew about the story." He went on to relate how it was that soon after they went to live there, the ghost of an old man appeared by the fireplace. It began to appear so often that their children were frightened and Caroline had to ask a

neighbour to take them in at night time. Clearly it could not go on, so she and her husband asked the Vicar for help. Apparently the exorcising ritual (with bell, book and candle?) only made matters worse; the ghost appeared more frequently. Then Caroline's husband thought, that as the 'old man' appeared always by the fireplace, maybe there was something up the chimney. So he got one of his small boys to climb up, and there on a ledge the child found a leather bag sticky with the soot of many fires. It contained several gold sovereigns. To everyone's relief life returned to normal and the old ghost did not return.

About a year or so ago I was looking through some old copies of the *Reading Mercury*, and in one dated 1957 I found a letter relating this same story. It varied a little. So last year I visited the Old Bell, alas the old place has been 'knocked about a bit', only half of the old open hearth remains.

I told the manager my story, and how I had heard it first from my father-in-law, in the 1940s and had then discovered the 1957 version. He disappeared for a moment and returned with a mock parchment on which was written the third version of the story.

As I said, I don't usually give much credence to ghost stories, but this one has me wondering. I should add that my father-in-law was a very practical man, and a very truthful and honest man, and certainly not given to flights of imagination. He simply told me the story as he had heard it from his aunt.

Dorothy Wise (928)

“The Corner House” 20 Boundary Close, Tilehurst, Reading

Dear editor,

The local Church of St. Michael, Tilehurst, is applying to the Diocesan headquarters for permission to remove headstones and footstones from the northern and north west parts of the churchyard. They have obtained permission to build an extension to the north side of the church wall to house various amenities. This will affect some of the burials close to the Church, not those in the churchyard opposite.

Sometime ago Alf and I organised the transcribing of all these stones. If anyone would like further information about the plan to move the gravestones, then they should contact the Rector, Clive Jones.

Windsor, Slough and Eton gravestones

Mrs Monica Martin holds a collection of hard won monumental inscriptions from around the Windsor, Slough and Eton area (but not Clewer cemetery), and would be pleased to answer queries from members who enclose an S.A.E. (£1 for non-members). Her address is 22 Eton Close, Datchet, Slough, SL3 9BE.

Windsor records - some surprises

Browsing through the Windsor census for 1881, I was interested to find that Queen Victoria was at Windsor on census night. Like all her subjects she was recorded: The Queen Head Widow 61 Queen of Great Britain and Ireland H.R.H. The Prince Leopold u/m 37 Prince H.R.H. The Princess Beatrice u/

m 23 Princess Eugenie, ex-Empress of the French visitor 43 Ex-Empress Prince Alfred of Edinburgh grandson 6 Prince Princess Marie of Edinburgh granddaughter 5 Princess Princess Victoria of Edinburgh granddaughter 4 Princess Princess Alexandra of Edinburgh granddaughter 2 Princess

Why the enumerator omitted the place of birth on all the entries is a mystery as they must have been well known. I can imagine the unfortunate person plodding up to the Castle and handing in the form, then when it was returned not liking to send it back for the birthplaces to be added.

I have discovered in the Reading Reference Library an index to the Windsor 1881 census. All names are listed alphabetically and the index can be found in the Oversize Books section. This index has been transcribed by Gladys and Fred Charlton. The following day I was preparing the new members pages and was delighted to find among our newcomers, Gladys Charlton. So a special welcome to Gladys. I am sure your index will be a great help to members with ancestors in Windsor.

Over the years there have been many royal weddings, christenings and burials at Windsor. The earliest was in 1263. These early entries in the records simply say Windsor Castle, but later on they are recorded at St. George's Chapel. They have been indexed by the Mormons on the IGI, but they had a problem. What surname do you put royalty under? P for Plantagenet, T for Tudor, S for Stuart or just plain R for Royal. Answers on a postcard.

Meg Goswell

Help!

This new feature in the magazine appears to be a popular feature according to your letters. Don't forget if you've lost a relative, or come to a temporary standstill in your research then let us know, maybe another member will have the answer.

Josephine Bott(2302), 907 Florence Street, Hastings, Hawkes Bay, New Zealand, is seeking help with her Nalder ancestors from Newbury. She would like somebody to do some research for her and would gladly carry out some research in New Zealand in return.

Calling all Blenheims down under. Miss Diana Beasley(2252), 4 Blenheim Road, Alphington, Exeter, Devon, EX2 8SD, would very much like to hear from any of her third cousins in the Melbourne area of Australia, descendants of Frederick Henry Blenheim, brother of Eliza, her great-grandmother, who emigrated in 1866, married Eliza Yates and had a large family.

Marilyn Haggart, 379 Hurteau, Dollard des Ormeaux, Quebec, Canada, H9O 2L7, is seeking any information on John Sherwood, born c1840 (son of Edmund, occupation bailiff) of Bradfield. Married Elizabeth Kate Swain on Nov. 26, 1865 at Aldermaston. Elizabeth was the daughter of John Swain. Marilyn would appreciate hearing

from any one else working on either of these families.

Gerald H. Lovejoy, 3112-50 Street SW, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3E 6P6. "For some years now I have been well and truly stuck in my Lovejoy family tree. Two researchers have been unable to find the record of birth or baptism of James Lovejoy who married Elizabeth Walker at Winkfield in 1769. One researcher thought that he was the son of Elisha Lovejoy, who married Mary Pool of New Windsor at Sunninghill in 1738. Another researcher discovered another James born in Caversham in 1731. But this James is still a mystery. I would be eternally grateful if other members would keep an eye open for his birth, or baptism around 1730- 1755.

Inappropriate occupation

I can't quite beat Chad Hanna's example of an inappropriate occupation (a blind butcher). However, it reminds me of the list of 16 Binfield people selected in 1815 to be liable to serve on juries. Marginal notes indicates that one was blind, another deaf and the other insolvent. Not quite what you would call the three wise monkeys.

Robin Mosses (2179)

16th Annual General Meeting of the Berkshire Family History Society, held on Saturday 22nd June, 1991, at St. Crispin's Centre, Wokingham.

1. The meeting was opened by the chairman, Chad Hanna. Apologies were received from Peter Francis, Jackie Ward, Beryl Hurley, Alf Ison, and Tom and Rita Hine.

2. The minutes of the 15th AGM held on 29th June, 1990, and published in Volume 14, Part 1 of the Society's magazine, were accepted unanimously with no dissent. Proposer, Bill Grose, seconded Lesley Hanna.

3. There were no matters arising.

4. Chairman's report. Printed overleaf.

5. Treasurer's report. Printed overleaf, together with the audited balance sheet for 1990/91. The report and balance sheet were accepted.

6. Election of President. The chairman reported that Lady Palmer, widow of our late president, had agreed to become our President. Her election was proposed by Jean Debney and seconded by Colin Skipper and unanimously agreed.

7. Election of vice-presidents. Dr. Peter Durrant and Mr. Alf Ison had been invited to continue as vice-presidents and they had both accepted. They were re-elected unanimously.

8. Election of officers. The chairman then handed over to Cliff Debney, who reported that there had been only one nomination for the post of chairman, namely Chad Hanna. He was duly declared elected. Roy Croton as treasurer and Meg Goswell as secretary were also elected.

9. Acceptance of ex-officio executive committee members nominated by the four branches. The following four members were accepted from the floor with no dissent:

Mrs. Connie Marshall	Slough
Mr. Bill Grose	Reading
Mr. Mike Sheppard	Newbury
Dr. Peter Francis	Bracknell

10 Election of committee members. Four nominations for the five vacant places on the executive committee were received. No further nominations were received so the following were elected: Olive Butchart, Lesley Hanna, Geoff Mather and Cliff Debney.

11. Nomination of auditor. The treasurer, Roy Croton, nominated Jack Hobbs as the Society's auditor. This was accepted without dissent.

12. Any other business. John Gauld questioned the wording of the Society's current deed of covenant form as the Wiltshire Family History Society had recently changed the wording they used. What was the Inland Revenue's current position regarding a member who had covenanted his subscription and then left before four years were completed? Was he still liable to pay his subscription? As no one present knew the answer, the secretary was instructed to write to Pat Hawes, the covenant secretary, to obtain an official ruling on this matter. (After the meeting it was discovered that although a covenant lasts for four years it lapses immediately a member leaves the

Society. If you examine a deed of covenant you will find that it states: "I hereby covenant with the BFHS that for four years from the present date or during my lifetime or until I resign my membership {whichever shall be the shortest} I will pay...

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Every year, every chairman, must decide what to say and what not to say in an annual report. This chairman is no different. I could regale you with a variety of information, preach a sermon, look to the future or attempt to be controversial. All these options are tempting. Instead I've decided to look back on the past year and compare your Society's achievements with the objectives it has set itself in its constitution which will help us decide where to renew our efforts in the future. To refresh our memories, briefly the Society's objectives are:

To advance public education in family history ... in Berkshire by:

- Helping coordinate research into, and transcription of, relevant county records and make them freely accessible to the public.
- Co-operating with members of the Federation of Family History Societies and other societies with similar interests.
- and anything else necessary.

Public education. This currently means a full programme of meetings which are open to the public, including open days and the like. The clearest step in this direction is the start of the new Bracknell Branch in January of this year. Preparations are in hand for an open day at Newbury on September 21st which is our

main effort at informing the public about family history.

Both the bookstall and libraries are also resources to be tapped by visitors or members, providing a wider range of family history material than local bookshops and most libraries. The Society's magazine still has to cope with an unsteady flow of articles, despite presenting a prettier face to the world.

Coordinating research and transcribing records is one of the most challenging tasks any Society sets itself. The Society has now published eight parts of its 17 part series of 1851 census indexes. The first stage of transcription from film is very nearly complete.

Building the experience and confidence of doers so they graduate to become organisers is something our society still has to achieve.

The 1881 census project has its own groups with separate branch coordinators. The second transcription is well underway and the work which is ready for checking is building up. The Reading branch has held several special (and very social) meetings to help with this, but without more volunteers, checking will be painfully slow. However, progress is being made.

Monumental inscription recording is in progress at Chieveley, Cemetery Junction and soon Priory Road, near Ascot. The painstaking work preparing these for publication takes time but Woodley St Johns, Abbey Road Baptist, Wokingham All Saints, have all reached fruition this year.

In the coming year, there is a need for a new project to take the attention of tran-

Berkshire Family History Society
Accounts for the year ended 30th April, 1991

GENERAL ACCOUNT

Income	1990-1			1989-90
Deposit interest	403.48			163
Miscellaneous	780.00			18
Subscriptions	7113.40			6439
Donations	238.45			277
Book stall	23.05			
Members interests	611.00			
	<u>£9169.38</u>			<u>£6897.00</u>
Expenditure				
Speakers		380.40		
Magazine		3778.17	3890	
Postage		612.91	694	
Miscellaneous		909.97	420	
Meetings		950.30	1442	
Travel		250.64		
Annual conference		468.12		
	<u>£7350.51</u>	<u>£7350.51</u>	<u>£6426</u>	<u>£6426</u>
Excess income over expenditure	<u>£1818.87</u>		<u>£471</u>	

BOOKSTALL ACCOUNT

Sales	9382.55	5824		
Opening stock		3500.00	2347	
Addition		6310.78	4065	
		<u>9810.78</u>	<u>6412</u>	
Less closing stock		5147.73	3500	
Cost of goods		<u>4663.05</u>	<u>2912</u>	
Reference library		256.12	475	
Expenses		1042.61	453	
Display boards		512.17		
Profit		<u>2908.40</u>		
	<u>£9382.55</u>	<u>£9382.55</u>	<u>£5824</u>	<u>£5824</u>

BALANCE SHEET

Liabilities	1990-91	1989-90	Assets	1990-91	1989-90
Accumulated Fund	5616.00	3161	Deposit accts	2912.31	2092
Bookstall profit	2908.40	1984		.20	
General profit	1818.87	471	Current acct	1287.97	287
Bank overdraft	573.59		Bookstall accts	1828.34	1333
Creditors	259.69	1596	Closing stock	5147.73	3500
	<u>£11176.55</u>	<u>£7212</u>		<u>£11176.55</u>	<u>£7212</u>

I have examined the above account and confirm that it gives a true and fair view of the position of Society as at 30.4.1991 and of the trading result for the period from 1.5.89 to 30.4.1991.

Signed J.H. Hobbs, auditor

scribers when the rigours of the census will be denied to them. After discussions with the County Archivist, it was agreed that the indexing of the Poor Law records would provide the most valuable service to both family and local historians and was a project within the grasp of the Society. In fact, considerable work had been done on these records before the census became the priority.

So looking back, we are continuing to move towards the objectives in the constitution. Although there is always more we could do (with more organisers in particular) the Society has achieved a great deal, and with your help those targets will be achieved.

Now for the difficult part. I need to thank the many people who have given their spare time to make your Society work. I cannot name them all in person, simply because with the executive committee, four branch committees and those who do the dogged work which largely goes unrewarded, there are probably 50 or so people involved in the running of the Society. I would particularly like to thank the secretaries, the treasurers, the people who help with refreshments and those who distribute the magazines.

It is both right and proper that I should publicly thank those standing down from the Executive Committee. Colin Skipper has been Chairman of the Newbury branch since it began five or so years ago and Margaret Lyall who has ably helped on the library at Reading and now Bracknell. Last but by no means least, Rosemary Sarney, who will be continuing as our exchange magazine secretary. Thank you.

Treasurer's report for 1990-1

This has been another healthy year for the Society. You will notice that despite inflation we have been able to keep our single largest expenditure, the magazine, at the same level as last year. This was achieved not by limiting space but by using modern technology - desk top publishing. We achieved savings in a number of other areas giving us a surplus of just over £1,800. The bookstall continues to be an area of great profit for the Society allowing us to have an ambitious publishing programme for the 1851 Census indexes. There can be few societies where sales of books at meetings almost approaches £10,000.

Wokingham All Saints monumental inscriptions

Gwen Hardwidge has just completed transcribing and typing all the MIs from All Saints, Wokingham. Well done Gwen and 10 copies have been deposited in the usual libraries, which include the Reading Reference, Guildhall, Kensington & Chelsea, Oxford, Bristol & Avon libraries, along with the Society of Genealogists, and the Berkshire Record Office.

Feeling groggy?

Advertising for the museum at the historic dockyard at Chatham, Kent, discloses that in 1763 a sailor's weekly diet included 56 pints of ale.

Reading Branch

The annual meeting of the Reading Branch of the Berkshire Family History was held on 31st May 1991. Bill Grose was elected chairman, Lesley Hanna secretary and Margaret Lyall, Clive Tomlin, David Watkins and David Wright, elected to the committee.

Slough Branch

At the annual meeting of the Slough Branch of the Berkshire Family History Society, held on May 28th, Connie Marshall was elected to the chair, Helene Jessup, secretary, Audrey Campbell, bookstall manager, Jan Cleeton, strays co-ordinator, Jenny Harman, librarian and Barbara Swiatek, 1881 census co-ordinator.

Newbury Branch

At the annual meeting of the Newbury Branch of the Berkshire Family History Society, held on May 8th, Michael Shepard was elected chairman, Michael Isaacs, secretary and Helen Relf, Joyce Keaney, Polly Lawrence and Colin Skipper elected to the committee.

Bracknell Branch

At the first annual meeting of the Bracknell Branch of Berkshire Family History Society, held on 17th May 1991, Peter Francis was elected chairman, Janet Cox, secretary and Coral Mist, Stephen Cox, Susan Lenton, Caroline Saunders and Arthur Grove to the committee.

Dates for your diary

The *West Middlesex Family History Society* will be holding an open day at St. Peter's Church Hall, Laleham Road, Staines, Middlesex on Saturday September 28, 1991. It's open from 9.30 until 5.30pm and admission will be free.

The *Society of Genealogists* will be holding its ninth biennial day conference on Saturday November 2, 1991 at the New Horticultural Hall, Westminster. The theme is "All dressed up" – the lives and records of some of those who wore special clothes or distinctive dress for the work they did. There will be four sessions: two of the three streams in each session will concentrate on subjects as varied as fireman, freemasons and gardeners, to the theatre. The third stream will concentrate on the use of computers in genealogy and historical research, with topics for both beginner and expert. The conference fee, which includes tea and coffee, will be £15.50 for Society members, and £18.50 for non-members. Send a stamped self addressed envelope to the Society of Genealogists, 14 Charterhouse Buildings, Goswell Road, London EC1M 7BA, for an application form.

The *Cumbria Family History Society* will be holding its third day conference at the Society of Genealogists on November 23. Three of the talks are of general interest to family historians, while John Todd will be giving a fascinating account of a perfectly preserved mediaeval knight's body, known as St. Bees Man, and the efforts to identify him. For further information contact Peter Park, the conference organiser, 25 Harvey Road, Walton on Thames, Surrey.

MEMBERS' PAGES

compiled by Meg Goswell

2262 Miss Fay Kimble, 52 Bridge Street,
Leominster, Herefordshire, HR6
8DZ.

BRK	KIMBLE	Any	pre-1900
BRK	BRADY	Any	All
BRK	CRIPTS	Any	pre-1820
SRY	BRADY	Lambeth	1830-1880
SRY	KIMBLE	Lambeth	1840-1890
HAM	DAVIS	Silchester	All
BKM	DAVIS	Any	All
BKM	WREN	Any	All
DUR	LARMER	Any	All
DUR	HALL	Finchale Abbey	all
DUR	LUKE	Any	All
SOM	PA(D)GET(T)	Nailsea	pre-1900
MON	PA(D)GET(T)	Any	pre-1900
MON	ROWORTH	Any	All
MON	TYRRELL	Any	All

2282 John W. Devonshire, 2800, Neilson
Way, Apt 402, Santa Monica, CA
90405-4029, USA

BRK	DEVONSHIRE	Thames Valley	1650-1850
LND	WALTER	Ludgate	1550-1730
HRT	HACK		1790-1850
SSX	HACK		1840-1880

2286 Mrs. V. Bradshaw, 247 Kings Bridge
Road, Morden, Surrey, SM4 4PX

CAM	DAWSON	Ely	1833
CAM	CORNWELL	Ely	1830
MDX	DAWSON	Stepney	
MDX	PRETLOVE	Stepney	pre-1837
LND	HARDY		1800

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

BRK	CORDERY	Swallowfield	pre-1789
MDX	KEELEY	Isleworth	pre-1888
SRY	VASS	Lambeth	1846-1884
KEN	COLLINS	Southwark	1846-1884

2322 Jacky Holcombe, 36 Orchard Avenue,
Sonning Common, Reading, Berkshire
RG4 9LT

MDX	GALLETY	London	1860+
MDX	FRIEND		1850+
MDX	NEWTON		1805-1930
MDX	WASTELL		1800-1854
BDF	NICHOLSON		1850+

2324 Mrs. B. Green, 94 Dawson Avenue,
Forrest Field, 6058, Western Australia

BRK	DRAKE	Clewer	1800+
BRK	TOOMBS	1750-1800	
BKM	TOOMBS, LUCKET(T)	Langley Marsh	1750-1800
BKM	TALBOT	Langley Marsh	1750-1800
SSX	CROWHURST, HUGGETT	Arlington	1800+
ESS	LEEPER	Colchester	18c
CAM	LEEPER	Any	1700-1750
LCC	C(H)AMPION	Ralcliffe	1800+
SFK	BANTOCK, WALES	Ixworth	1810-1850
SFK	GREEN	Old Newton	1850+
SFK	PATTLE	Any	pre-1760
	RUSHBROOK	Any	pre-1850

2326 Mrs. A.E.Cribb, 15 Marlborough
Court, Wiltshire Drive, Wokingham,
Berkshire RG11 1TQ

BRK	HOULTON	Wokingham	pre-1740
BRK	HODDER	Wokingham	pre-1865
BRK	MAY	Wokingham	pre-1851
BRK	LANE	Wokingham	pre-1733
			1800-1920
OXF	PARSON	Henley	pre-1730
SOM	BOX	Timsbury	pre-1835
HAM	NORTH	Heckfield	pre-1835
HAM	NORTH	Odiham	pre-1858
HAM	BARRETT	Odiham	pre-1826
MDX	RADBURN, STRUGNELL	Hornsey, Islington	1800-1906
KEN	FOY	Deal, Walmer	pre-1870

SRY	KENNEDY	Streatham, Norwood	1870-1927	2389	Mr. Jameson Wooders, 210 Nine Mile Ride, Wokingham, Berkshire RG11 3QD
WIL	KENNEDY	Salisbury, Amesbury Landford, Wilton	1761-1920	BRK	BUTLER, MAY, WOODERS Wokingham
DFS	KENNEDY	Stranraer, Girvan	pre-1756	BRK	WOODERS Ulton Nernet and Hampstead Norreys
TAS	KENNEDY	Hobart, Heon	1850-1930	BRK	LANGFORD Great Shefford
TAS	FISH	Hobart, Laurnceston	1850-1930	BRK	CRIPPS Kennet Valley
TAS	REDDING/ READING	Hobart, Heon	1850-1930	BRK	WEDGE Great Shefford
				BRK	BROOKER, PURSEY & PHILLIPS
				MDX	BONFIELD, GREENWOOD Tottenham
2374	Mrs. K. Hancock, 4, Almond Close, Boston, Lincs. PE21 8HL			HRT	BONFIELD Any
LIN	GIBBONS	Cumberworth	1750-1899	2390f	Mrs. Carol Harrow, 28 Phoenix Drive, Wateringbury, Maidstone, Kent ME18 5DR
LIN	GIBBONS	Horncastle	pre-1750	BRK	GADD, KNIGHT, MACE Reading
LIN	HANCOCK	Old Bolingbroke	1845-1899	OXF	KNIGHT Whitchurch
LIN	HANCOCK	Tetford	pre-1845	WIL	SPANSWICK Pewsey
LIN	CLARK	Stanford	1821-1850	MDX	MACE Fulham
LIN	CLARK	Gunby	pre-1821	MDX	WILLIS Any
LIN	CLARK	Spalding	1850-1870		
LIN	WEST	Old Bolingbroke	1800-1875	2390f	Mr. David Harrow, (address as above)
LIN	WEST	East Kirkby	1775-1800	HRT	HARROW, PASSMORE pre-1850
LIN	GRUNDY	Tathwell	pre-1785	MDX/LND	PASSMORE pre-1850
LIN	DUNKLEY	Bolingbroke	pre-1900	MDX/LND	TYLER pre-1900
2384	Gladys Charlton, 46 Edinburgh Gardens, Windsor, Berkshire, SL4 2AW				PAGE pre-1850
BRK	OWEN	Lyford, West Hanney	18c	2392	Mrs. Angela Cash, 28 Cullern Close, Abingdon, Oxon. OX14 1XH
BRK	FIELD	Lyford, West Hanney	18c	BRK	BEACHEY Faringdon and west Berks
BRK	STEPHENSON, STEVENSON, STIMSON	Lyford, West Hanney	18c	BRK/WIL	PANTING/PANTIN/PONTING East Wiltshire, Faringdon, west Berkshire
BKM	CHARLTON	Langley Marish	18c		
BKM	SYRETT	Amersham	19c	2407	Mrs. N.E. Rawlings, 96 Oxendon Way, Emmsford Grange, Coventry CU3 2GR
MDX	CHARLTON	West Middlesex	All	BRK	MAY Wokingham 18c
MDX	HART	Paddington	19c	BRK	RANCE Wokingham 17-19c
ESS	HART		19c	BRK	MARSHALL Ruscombe 18c
KEN	TOOTES	Marden, Benenden, Biddenden, Goudhurst	18c	BRK	SWAIN Hurst 18c
KEN	VOUSDEN	Cranbrook	18c	BRK	PAIS 17c
	DYERSON	Any	All	GER	SCHFU 19c
	DAVEY	Any	All		
	HALE	Any	All		

MDX	SCHFU		19c
MDX	TREVARTON	East End	19c
MDX	RILEY		19c
YKS	RILEY		19c
MDX	CHALLIS		19c
ESS	CHALLIS		19c
LEI	BISHOP		18-19c
KEN	WHITE		19c
MDX	WHITE		19c
LEI	SMITH		19c
LEI	JARVIS		18-19c
LIN	JARVIS, KINDALE		18c
LIN	CLAYTON		17-18c
LEI	CLAYTON		17-18c

2410	Mrs. Kay. P. Collins, 286 Newton Road, Rushden, Northants. NN10 0SY		
HAM	ANSELL	East Woodhay	1650-1880
BRK	CHAMBERLAIN	Lambourne	1550-1650
BRK	COLLINS		1630+
BRK	COMBS/COOMBS	Coleshill	1685-1710
BRK	DANCE	Kintbury	1600-1730
BRK	EDMONDS	Shrivenham	1590-1800
BRK	HOLDEN	Speen	1500-1650
BRK	HOLDWAY	Lambourne	1540-1652
BRK	LAWRENCE	Lambourne	1540-1730
BRK	LOVEDGE	Welford	17c

2412f	Mrs. Jean Hinge, 3 Crawters Close, Three Bridges, Crawley, West Sussex RH10 1PW		
BRK	JARVIS	Mortimer	1750-1840
SRY	ATTRIDGE	Wimbledon	18c
HAM	MAY	Broughton	18c
HAM	SMITH	Sherfield-on-Lodden, and Silchester area	1700-1780
HAM	MORGAN	Nether Wallop	1700-1770
HAM	SIMPSON	Silchester and Dean	1700-1750
HAM	JUDD	Bossington, Broughton	1750-1850
HAM	JACKSON		18c

2412f	Mr. Joseph C. Hinge, 3 Crawters Close, Three Bridges, Crawley, West Sussex RH10 1PW		
BRK	INDGE/INGE/HINGE	Ashbury	1650-1820
BRK	BRIND	Ashbury	1650-1750
BRK	BUTLER	Ashbury	1650-1720
BRK	WALTER	Ashbury	1650-1770
BRK	CROFTS	Yattendon	1650-1720
BRK	SMITH/SMYTHE	Thatcham	1550-1650
WIL	BUCKINGHAM	Alderton, Baydon	1730-1830
WIL	PEARCE	Ramsbury	1750-1810

2414	Miss Joan Hobbs, 89 Whyte Avenue, Aldershot, Hants. GU12 4AF		
BRK	HOBBS	Kingston Bagpuize	1892-1896
HAM	HOBBS	Hawley	19c
HAM	HOULTON	Hawley	pre-1900
HAM	HOBBS	Aldershot	1900+
SRY	HOBBS	Bagshot	pre-1888
SRY	HULTON	Windesham	pre-1888
SRY	GODGREY	Guildford	pre-1888
SRY	DURRANT	Alfold	1850-1888
SSX	DURRANT, PULLEN	Kirdford	pre-1880
SSX	PULLEN	Petworth	Any

2415	Mr. Darren John Westall, 6 Morrell Close, Barton Hills, Luton, Beds. LU3 3XB		
BRK/WIL	WESTALL/TEL/TELL/TOL/WOSTOL	Aldbourne, Lambourn, New Swindon	

2421	Mrs. I. Smith, 39 Stafford Road, Caterham, Surrey CR3 6JG		
BRK	PATEY	Wokingham, Reading	1600-1763
BRK	PATEY	Pangbourne	1840-1891

2423	Mr. Robert G. Pauling, PO Box 292, Neutral Bay, Western Australia		
BRK	PAULIN(G)	Abingdon	pre-1850
IRL	GUMLEY		pre-1880
AUS	GUMLEY	New South Wales	1800+
MDX	GREGG		pre-1900

AUS	GREGG	Victoria, NSW	1872+
TIP	HEFFERNAN	Tipperary	pre-1840
AUS	HEFFERNAN	New South Wales	1840+

2437	Ms. Pennie	Redmile, 4710 Decarie Blvd., Apt. 35, Montreal, Quebec, H3X 2H5, Canada	
BRK	BRADLEY	Cookham	All
BKM	LATHAM	Iver	1850+
MDX	BRADLEY, MORRIS	Stepney, Mile End	1870+
NBL	PROUDLOCK	Any	All
NBL	ORDE/ORD	Kisdon	1750-1900
NBL	RICHARDSON	Rothbury	1825-1900
NTT	REDMILE	Basford	1800-1940

Several new members this month have sent in very long lists of surnames. I have included approximately half their lists and the remainder will be included in the next issue of the magazine.

By coincidence this time, we have three new members all with the name of May of Wokingham in their ancestors. It's a very small world.

It is with sadness that we must report that one of our longest serving members, Robert Newland (9), died of cancer on 17th August 1990, aged 69 years. His wife Jean is continuing his research.

Baptist infants register

The Society has recently published a list of infants born to members of the Baptist Church in Reading. Those of you who have Baptist ancestors will know that Baptists did not christen infants, but kept baptism for adult believers. This causes many problems when trying to trace a Baptist family. You will find a marriage

in the parish church - Baptists were not allowed to conduct marriages until after 1837 - and then nothing until more marriages a generation later of a family you did not know existed. Fortunately, some Baptist churches kept a list of children born to their members and the Reading list covers the period from 1750 to 1819. It gives the date of birth, parent's names, and the parish where the birth took place. Most of the babies were born in Reading, but there were Baptists in many of the surrounding villages who came in to Reading to worship. There are entries from Goring, Streatley, Mapledurham, Bray, and Cookham and there are also some who were born in London. I think they were probably families who moved to Reading and then had their children listed after they arrived.

There is a copy of the index in the Society library, the Berkshire Record Office, Reading Reference Library and the Society of Genealogists in London, and also a copy went to the Latter Day Saints library. I also have a copy, so for the usual stamped self addressed envelope I will check the index for anyone who has a missing birth in the Reading area. I also have a similar index for children born to members of the Wokingham Baptist Church from 1783 to 1814. As with Reading, it includes babies born in the surrounding parishes, such as Hurst, Barkham and Easthampstead.

Meg Goswell (see address on the back cover)

BERKSHIRE FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY

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.

The Society is a registered charity - number 283010.

Berkshire Name Index

This index may be consulted by sending a stamped, self-addressed envelope, with your membership number, to:

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

Berkshire Marriage Index

This index (to males names only) to 175,000 marriages in Berkshire between 1538 and 1837 may be consulted by sending details of the marriage being sought (groom's name and approximate date) and a stamped, self-addressed envelope showing your membership number, together with an additional second class postage stamp, to the Secretary. (Blanket searches cannot be undertaken.)

Directory of Members' Interests

The directory, compiled from information submitted by members, gives surnames being researched, together with period and locality, is published from time to time.

Bookstall

A wide selection of books of interest to family historians is available at meetings and by post. Publications lists are available from the Secretary and from the Bookstall organiser (addresses on back cover)

Subscriptions

The Annual Subscription is payable on 1st July each year. The membership rates, from 1st July 1991, are:

ordinary membership :	£6
family membership :	£7
overseas membership :	
additional postal supplement of	£2
all new members :	
additional enrolment fee of	50p

Cheques should be made out to the Berkshire Family History Society, overseas payments can only be accepted by a sterling cheque drawn on a London Clearing Bank. Membership submissions should be addressed to the appropriate membership secretary for your surname (see back cover for addresses and ranges of initials covered).

Covenants

Members who are UK taxpayers, are urged to take out a covenant on their subscriptions. As the Society is a charity, this enables us to claim a sum of money from the Inland Revenue each year - at no cost to members. See back cover for covenant secretary's name and address.

1991/2 Executive Committee members† and useful addresses

Executive Officers for 1991-92

Chairman

†Chad Hanna, 161 St Peters Road, Earley, Reading, RG6 1PG, Tel: Reading 663585

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†Meg Goswell (Mrs), 87 Finchampstead Road, Wokingham, RG11 2PE, Tel: Wokingham 791128

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Pat Hawes (Mrs), 7 Highlands Lane, Rotherfield Greys, Henley on Thames, Oxon, RG9 4PR

1851 Census

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1881 Census

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