



# *Berkshire Family Historian*

Volume 15 – No 2 – December 1991



# PROGRAMME SUMMARY TO MARCH 1992

## 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.

8th Jan	Berkshire Record Office.....	<i>Dr. Peter Durrant</i>
12th Feb	Brains Trust	
11th Mar	Oral History .....	<i>Marion Brackpool</i>

## Reading Branch

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

31st Jan	Company Records.....	<i>Eric Probert</i>
28th Feb	Maps .....	<i>Marjorie Moore</i>
27th Mar	History of a Family.....	<i>Norman Holding</i>

The series of Tuesday evenings to do project work together, including checking the 1881 census and MI data entry, are continuing, with meetings on the 7th Jan, 4th Feb, 10th March and 7th April at the Church Hall (1st Floor), Earley St Peters, Church Road, Earley, Reading at 7.00pm.

## 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.

28th Jan	Heirlooms .....	<i>chiefly yourselves</i>
25th Feb	Quiz .....	<i>Connie Marshall</i>
31st Mar	"If you don't search you won't find".....	<i>Norman Holding</i>
28th Apr	Local Military Records.....	<i>Dr I. Beckett</i>

## 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

17th Jan	Fifield Village Mission.....	<i>Ruth Timbrell</i>
21st Feb	Maps for Family History .....	<i>Jenny Whiteley</i>
20th Mar	To be announced	

No meeting in April as the 17th is Good Friday.

# BERKSHIRE FAMILY HISTORIAN

Volume 15, 1991-92

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## Part 2, December 1991

### Contents:

Chairman's bits.....	Chad Hanna	38
Some thoughts on discovering your Ancestor's neighbours and friends .....	Catherine Davis	39
Archive Services in Danger.....	Rosemary Dunhill	46
Researching Officers and Men of the post-1913 British Army .....	Peter B. Boyden	48
"The Man in the White Coffin" .....	Bryan Willson	53
Some Berkshire Women.....	Joan Dils	54
Q and A with Jean .....	Jean Debney	60
Book ends .....		63
Help! .....		65
Letters to the editor , inc St Michael's, Tilehurst.....		66
Members' pages .....	compiled by Meg Goswell	68

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*The opinions expressed in the letters and articles in this magazine are those of their authors and do not necessarily reflect the opinions of the editor or the Society.*

*Cut-off date for the March issue contributions is 31st Jan 1992.*

# Chairman's bits ...

by Chad Hanna

A lot of water has gone under the bridge since I electronically 'pasted-up' the last *Berkshire Family Historian* in August. So how I have got another chance to bring you up to date.

## New Editor

First, we must welcome Catherine Davis as the new editor of the Society's journal. This is one of the more important tasks in the Society

## A talk on tape

Jim Golland's talk, *A Slow Boat to Paradise* at the June Symposium was recorded on cassette tape. The talk was a very entertaining look at migration to the colonies. If you would like to borrow a copy of the talk, please contact Geoff Mather, the 1851 Census Coordinator whose address is on the back cover.

## The County Library Service

Most of you will have read John Hicks' article in the last issue with considerable interest. Four of the Executive committee had a wide-ranging discussion with John Hicks and three other members of his team. The information and ideas which have come out this will now go on to be discussed with the rest of the Executive committee.

## Monumental Inscriptions

You will see in this issue, a short article by Avril Ison on the changes to the churchyard at St. Michael's, Tilehurst. I would like to remind you all that we are interested in any changes planned at your local churchyard or burial ground. We do hear of CofE information, but of-

ten after the change has occurred. Even better if you can make a record of the affected gravestones' inscriptions before they are lost.

I meant to include a list of Monumental Inscriptions held by Monica Martin for the east of the county this issue, but I am afraid space (or the lack of it) has postponed this and other things to the next one.

## 1881 Census thank you

At the week-end conference at Sheffield in September, the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints were there in force, including Jack Hoare, the pre-eminent organiser of the 1881 Census Project. We were asked to pass on their thanks to all those who were helping in the project, to which I must add my own. Apparently, another 10 counties will be finished by the end of the year, but I am afraid Berkshire will not be among them – mainly because of a late start.

However, the pile of batches to be checked is getting bigger as both the 'A' and 'B' transcriptions are completed. What we now ask is for more people to help with the important work of checking (which in my humble opinion is more satisfying than transcribing, and once you get your hand in, a little faster). Please get in touch with Vincent Millett if you'd like some checking to do.

## Merry Christmas

Finally, I and the rest of the 'team' must wish you a happy Christmas and a fruitful look at the 1891 census in the coming year.

## Some thoughts on discovering your Ancestor's neighbours and friends by *Catherine Davis*

Have you ever wondered who your ancestors' friends, neighbours and business associates were? This article is not the definitive guide to finding out, but offers some thoughts on the subject.

I had the good fortune to discover that a high proportion of my family of Trulock made wills which survive in the Berkshire Record Office, and that they lived in the same village practically until living memory, although in considerably reduced circumstances. Despite all this, my research appeared to have come to a full stop on this line with the marriage in 1700 of my ancestor Francis Trulock who appeared to have sprung "fully-armed from the head of Zeus", complete with three and a half acres of land in Sutton Courtney. Then a chance remark by Anthony Camp to the effect that you could never say that your family history research was completed until you had looked at every will, every deed, and indeed every record for the village and neighbourhood, suggested a new line of enquiry. I have now looked at all the Eighteenth Century wills for Sutton Courtney that are available at the BRO, as well as some from the 17th and 19th centuries. I have also looked at many deeds and parish records and am in the process of transcribing the parish register. There have been two results from this. I found the will of a childless widow, Elizabeth Moulden, made in 1708, in which she left three and a half acres, in Sutton Courtney, to her nephew Francis Trulock, a shepherd. However, this lead has proved impossible to follow up! The other result was that reading a large

number of wills for the same area covering a comparatively short period of time, I realised that the same people kept appearing. I began to construct networks showing how groups of kin and or neighbours interacted.

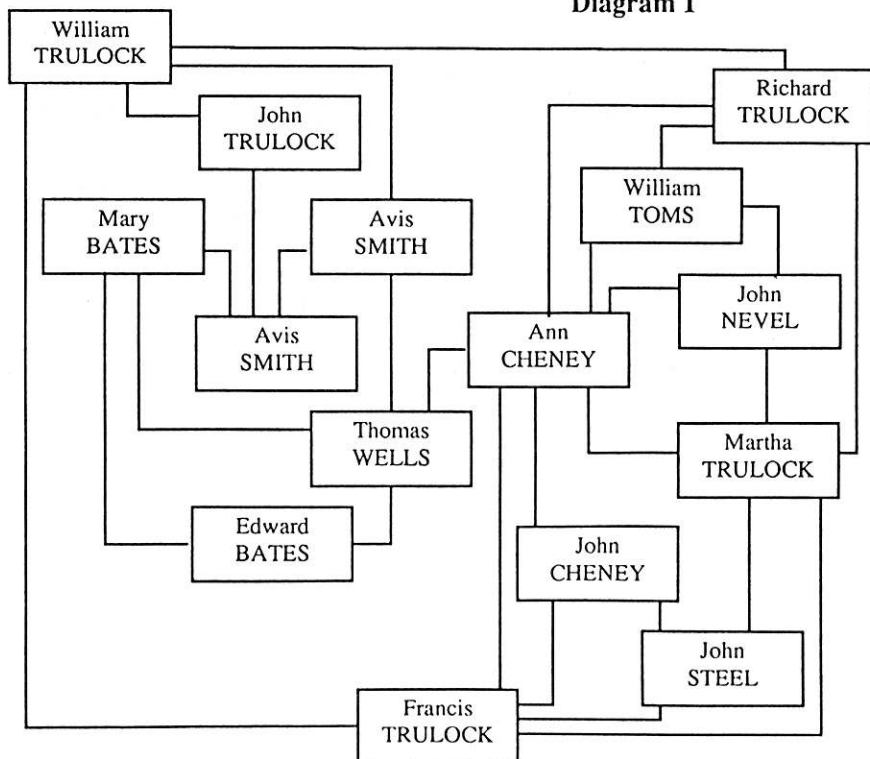
The diagrams show some examples of this. The diagram below is primarily that of a Trulock family, who are not "my" family. However, unlike a conventional family tree this network illustrates the way that the family interacted. I began with the will of John Trulock, who died in 1703. He had three surviving children whom he named in his will, Katherine Koy who does not appear anywhere else, his daughter Avis, married to John Smith and his son William. With the will of his daughter Avis, things begin to get more interesting. She died in 1726, leaving two daughters; Avis, who was still unmarried, and Mary married to Edward Bates. However, neither of them appear to have been left much property in her will. Furthermore the Manor Court book shows that the next heir to her land was a Thomas Wells, who was not even mentioned in her will. The answer to these puzzles is to be found, not in the marriage register, but in a deed of 1726. From this it appears that John Smith had made a will in 1711 in which he had divided his property equally between his two daughters. By the deed of 1726, John Wells bought from Edward Bates property inherited by Mary, Edward's wife. Apparently John was acting on behalf of his son Thomas and in anticipation of Thomas' forthcoming marriage to Avis Smith. Therefore, the two halves

of the property were once again joined under one owner. One of the witnesses to this transaction was William Trulock, Avis's uncle.

William himself did not leave a will. The Manor Court record does show however that his land passed to his son Richard in 1737. Richard himself died in 1746, leaving a widow, Ann and a four-year-old daughter Martha. Ann took out letters of administration. The inventory appraisers were her brother-in-law Francis and the aforementioned Thomas Wells. Although I have found other references to Thomas Wells buying property in the village, he does not appear to have main-

tained links with his in-laws after Avis's death in 1761. His will made in 1771 left all his property to friends. Unlike Thomas Wells, Ann Trulock maintained her links with her late husband's family even after her remarriage. She remarried in 1752 a John Cheney bringing to her marriage sixteen acres of land and a daughter. During the period 1758-1760 John Cheney witnessed the marriages of Francis Trulock's daughters and together with Francis Trulock witnessed at least one other marriage. Under English law at that time, a wife's property was at the disposal of her husband. However, Ann Cheney had ensured that she had a marriage settlement allowing her to dis-

Diagram 1



pose of her own property which she duly did by making a will in 1761, the year she died. In it she left her land to her daughter Martha, then under 21, appointing her two good friends John Nevel of Appleford and William Tyrell of Milton as trustees. Interestingly her will and that of John Nevel shared a common witness, William Toms.

A year after her mother's death, Martha married John Steel. Her marriage was witnessed by Francis Trulock and John Nevel, who was described as her guardian in the marriage register. John Steel was later mentioned in the wills of both her stepfather and uncle as a "good friend". This network then is quite interesting as it shows what you might very well expect to find that people called on their family and friends to help them at need, such as settling orphaned nieces. (see Diagram 1)

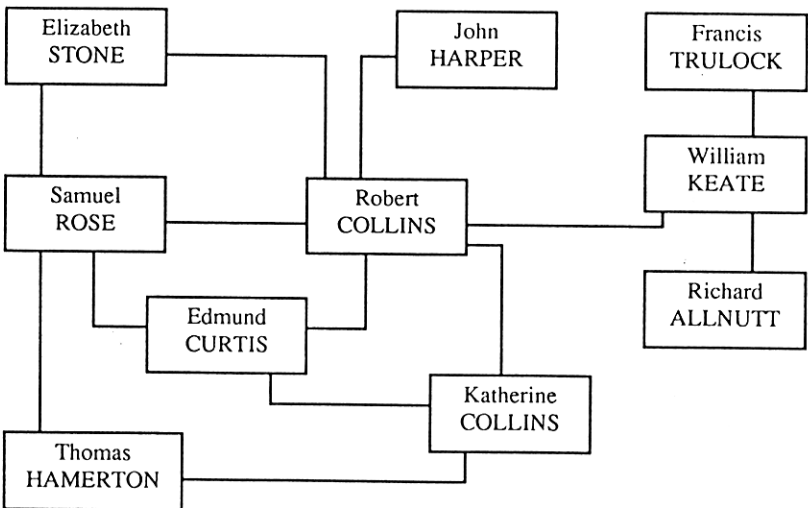
The second network that I have constructed, in fact has very little to do with

my family, but concerns the Keate, Collins, Allnutt and Bristow families who interact over three generations in a number of ways. I will try and draw this diagram as I go along in order to show how the links are built up.

It begins with Robert Collins, a bachelor who made his will in 1727, naming as his principal beneficiary, one Elizabeth Rose, with her father Samuel being bequeathed a gun. Robert also mentioned his widowed mother and sister Joan married to Edmund Curtis. The will was witnessed by William Keate and John Harper.

When Samuel Rose made his will in 1744 he mentioned his married daughter Elizabeth Stone. His will was witnessed by Edmund Curtis and Thomas Hamerton, who later witnessed the will of Robert's mother, Katherine Collins. The second person on the network is William Keate, a maltster who made his will in 1735. He left everything to his wife

Diagram 2



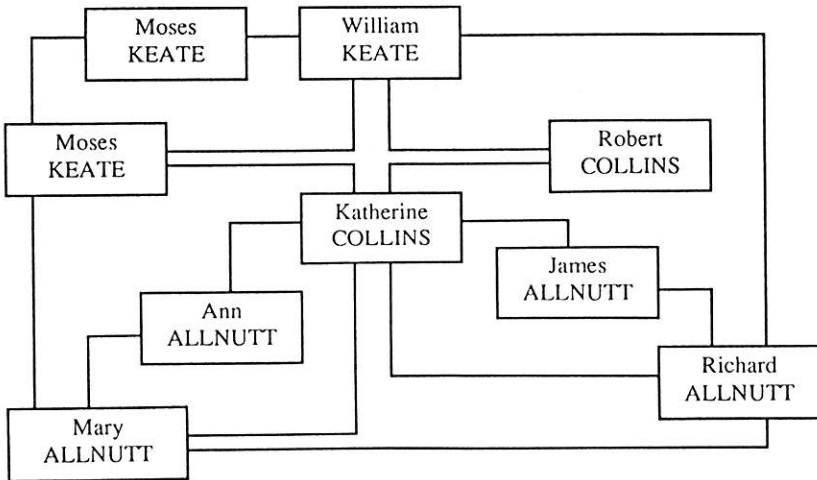
Frances and commended his young (unnamed) children to the care of their mother. Two of the witnesses were Francis Trulock and Richard Allnutt. Richard Allnutt was William Keate's brother-in-law, being married to his sister Mary (See Diagram 2)

Fifteen years later, Robert Collins' mother, Katherine made her will. Sadly, for her, her two children had predeceased her, although her son-in-law Edmund Curtis was still alive and she left him a nominal shilling. For the family historian, wills such as hers are a goldmine, as she mentions a large number of people, some of them her nieces and nephews and the rest being servants and friends. She left to her friends Richard and Mary Allnutt, her clock and case, with the stipulation that it was to go to their son John after their deaths. To Mary Allnutt, she also bequeathed her "best suit of headclothes, her best apron and her best handkerchief". She men-

tioned too her "little nursemaid" Ann Allnutt, a grand-daughter of Richard and Mary Allnutt, whilst one of her god-children was a James Allnutt. Richard Allnutt was named as her executor. One of the witnesses of Katherine Collins' will was Thomas Hamerton; the other was a Moses Keate, who was the brother of Mary Allnutt. Diagram 3 illustrates the above, as well as showing connections with the diagram 2.

With Martha Bristow, the third generation begins to come into focus. Amongst deeds in the BRO, I found a superseded will of hers, which she made as a married woman, although, unlike Ann Cheney, she made no reference to a marriage settlement. However, she made her final will in 1756, by then a widow. From both of these wills, it can be seen that her main concern was to provide for her niece or cousin Mary and her children. Mary had three children, Gabriel Copeland, her son by her first husband

Diagram 3



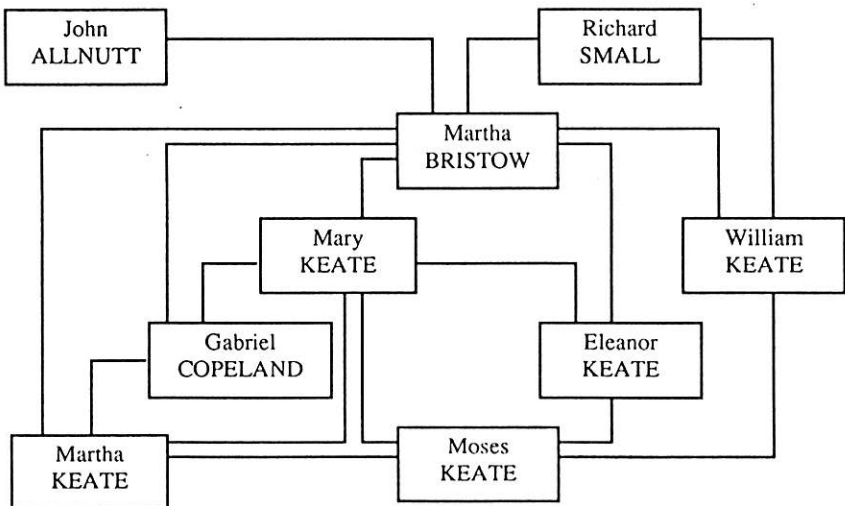


the Rev Gabriel Copeland and Martha and Eleanor Keate, her daughters by her second husband Moses Keate. He was one of the “unnamed children” of William referred to above. It may be the way that the will is phrased, but it seems as though Martha Bristow, did not much like Moses Keate. Thus she left her house and land in Sutton Courtney to Mary Keate and her children after her, as joint tenants. However, she appointed trustees to oversee this land. The two trustees named were William Keate, the brother of Mary’s husband Moses and Martha Bristow’s relation Richard Small. These two also appear together as witnesses to the will of Alexander Napier in 1771. One of the witnesses to Martha’s will was John Allnutt, the son of Richard and Mary. (See Diagram 4)

In 1768, Mary Allnutt made her will. As there were plenty of members of her immediate family still living, she did not

name any of her more distant kin. It is noticeable that the bequests to members of the family still living in the village are more personal. Thus to her son Moses, who another source shows to have been a wealthy oil merchant in London, she left £5, as also to her son Richard. However, she left to her daughter-in-law Mary, the wife of her son John, “her best gown and best apron”, remembering perhaps items similarly bequeathed to her by Katherine Collins. Several of her grand-children were mentioned including William and Elizabeth, the son and daughter of her son John. Her will is witnessed by Mary Keate and William Keate. The final link on the network is provided not by a will, but by a property transaction, which involves the land that Martha Bristow left to her relation Mary Keate and after that to her children. The Manor Court records show that in 1757 after the death of Martha Bristow the

Diagram 4

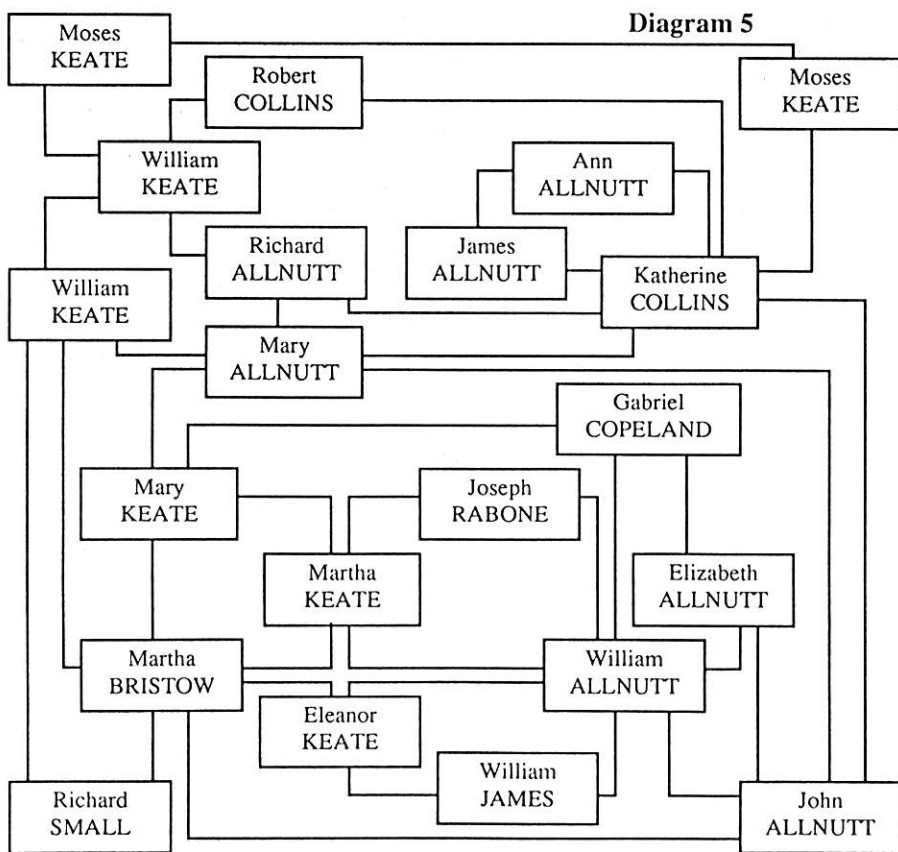


land duly passed to Mary Keate and that when she died in 1779, the land was inherited by her children, Gabriel Copeland, Martha and Eleanor Keate. The IGI shows that in 1777 Gabriel Copeland had married an Elizabeth Allnutt. She was the daughter of John and Mary Allnutt and a grand daughter of Mary Allnutt. In 1796 her brother William purchased seventeen acres from Gabriel Copeland, Joseph Rabone and his wife Martha and William James and his wife Eleanor. Thus property which had been divided between Gabriel Copeland and

his two half sisters was reunited by purchase. (See Diagram 5)

This network then is quite complex and interesting because it shows people interacting across more than one generation.

Finally, I have drawn a network which links both main diagrams together, partly to show that there are any number of networks which can be constructed. This one centres around a common witness, Edward Bowles. As you can see he witnessed the wills of Mary Allnutt, John Cheney, Thomas Wells, Francis Tru-



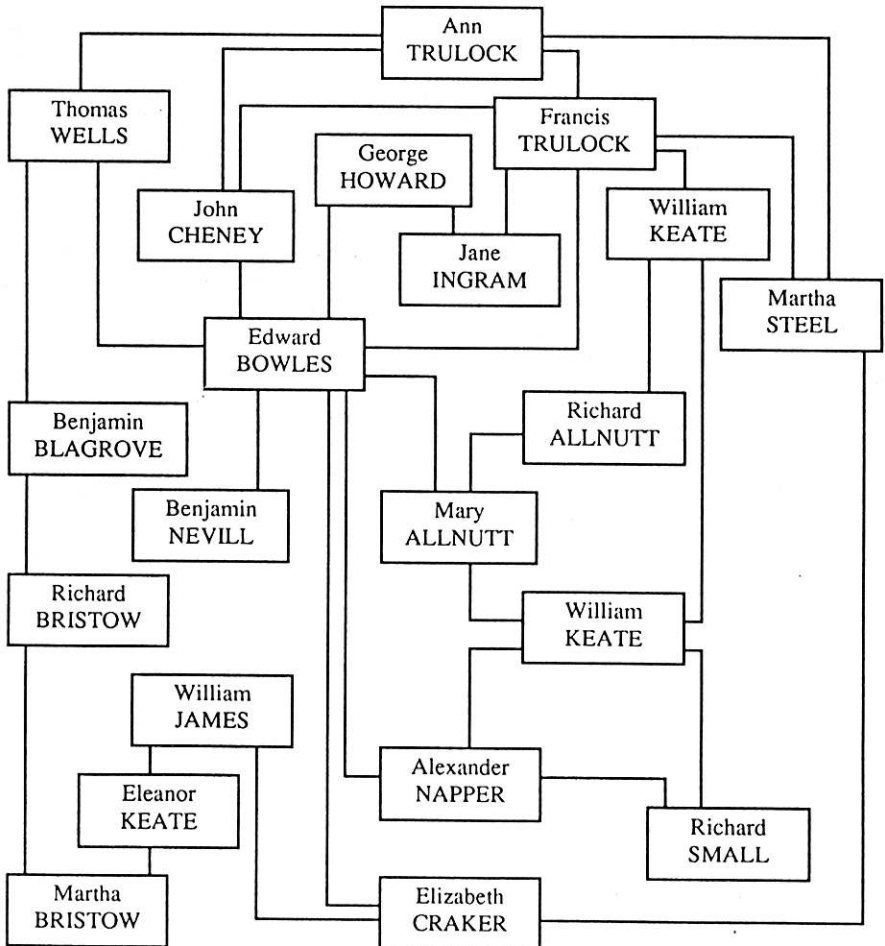
lock, who have all appeared on the other networks. He witnessed too the will of Elizabeth Craker, which was also witnessed by Martha Steel, the daughter of Ann Trulock, and William James, the husband of Eleanor Keate. (See Diagram 6)

From the fact that this diagram centres around a common witness, you could perhaps surmise that he was a local lawyer, whose services were affordable by

people of roughly the same standing within the community, who probably all knew one another. Thus I hope I have shown one way in which as family historians we can begin to discover more about our ancestors lives and how they fitted into their local community.

*Catherine Davis has a Degree in History and is the new editor of the Berkshire Family Historian.*

**Diagram 6**



# Archive Services in Danger

*by Rosemary Dunhill*

All UK readers of the Berkshire Family Historian will of course be aware that the government is now committed to the abolition of the community charge (poll tax). Few issues have aroused such widespread and keen interest, as few issues have had such immediate effect on so many people. Inevitably there was much less general interest in the statement which accompanied this announcement by government, that a radical review of local government organisation and structure was to be undertaken.

Yet for users of record offices, so many of whom today are family historians, and for the much larger number who value this country's unique archive heritage such a review may be of the greatest significance and the outcome may do untold damage. It is essential that all these supporters should understand the issues and should be willing to make their views known before decisions are made. The government's consultation paper, *The structure of local government in England*, emphasises that local people's views will be considered in determining the form of local government to be set up in their area, so it is most important that these views should be expressed.

The government considers that the dual system of local government which has existed since 1974, whereby some services are provided by County Councils and other by District Councils, is confusing to the public and has made local government less accountable to the electors. Of course, a dual system predates 1974 by a long time, with the old urban and rural district councils exercising many of the powers of the present dis-

tricts. In the shire counties it was only the old county boroughs which had been the unitary authorities (a single authority responsible for the provision of all local government services in the area) before 1974.

The government will therefore establish a Local Government Commission which will consider in turn the various parts of the country, and, after hearing local submissions, will recommend on what it considers the appropriate structure. Normally this will comprise unitary authorities. These might be based on existing districts, existing counties, or something between, though it is intended that the new authorities will 'reflect community loyalties'.

So what does this mean for archives? The local government archive service in this country is based overwhelmingly on shire counties. Of English shire counties, only Avon (a creation of the 1974 reorganisation) has no county record office. Of 296 shire district councils only six run archive services. County archive services have many achievements to their credit. A whole series of new record office buildings, designed to the highest environmental standards, have been erected or are being planned; education services are making a valuable contribution to the development of National Curriculum history; publication programmes are making the contents or archives more widely available; and talks, exhibitions and open days are increasing awareness of this important part of our heritage. Throughout the network there is increasing concern to provide the sort of service which the

customers want, while recognising, of course, that the needs of the archives themselves must come first. Users, as never before, are co-operating with the archivists both in protecting and exploiting the archives, with family historians always well to the fore in offering help.

If county councils are abolished and replaced by a number of smaller authorities, what will happen to these archive services and the collections they hold? The logic of unitary authorities is that all service should be provided by them. So if unitary authorities were based on existing districts we might in place of 44 local authority record offices in shire counties have 296. This might sound like good news to those who would like a record office nearer to their doorstep; in fact it would mean either an enormous increase in expenditure, in providing staffing, storage, and specialist facilities at all these new sites to the necessary standard, or, more likely, a proliferation of small and under-funded services providing at greater cost a much diminished service compared to what it replaced. And how would the holdings of a county record office be divided between the new authorities? Many collections relate to the whole county area, which in most cases has existed more or less as an administrative unity since medieval times and beyond.

One solution might be for the new authorities to combine in providing an archive service, effectively continuing something like the present county-wide service. How will this be funded? What will happen if one of the authorities wishes to reduce or withdraw its contribution? Some of the problems of voluntary co-operation have been illustrated in the development of archive services in

the former metropolitan counties, abolished in 1984. A well co-ordinated and hard-hitting campaign to give statutory protection to archive services in these areas ultimately failed, the government preferring to state that it 'looked to' the districts to co-operate. The result has been that two of the former five metropolitan county archive services have been dismembered, and two of the others have found it impossible to reach long-term agreement on funding.

The future of local government structure will not be decided on the basis of the needs of the archive service, but the needs of that service must be borne in mind as decisions are reached, and its many supporters must be vociferous in ensuring that this happens. The National Council on Archives, the national umbrella body for archive professional and user groups (and of which the Federation of Family History Societies is a member), is working with the Society of Archivists and the Association of Country Archivists to raise and co-ordinate support. Please do all you can to help.

*Rosemary Dunhill is the Secretary of the National Council on Archives, and Country Archivist of Hampshire*

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## **Bristol R.O. is moving**

Bristol Record Office will be closed to the public from the 29 Nov 1991 for a period of ten weeks to allow for their move to new premises. They will reopen on the 18th February 1992 at 'B' Bond Warehouse, Smeaton Rd, Bristol BS1 6XN. Tel: Bristol 225692.

# Researching Officers and Men of the post-1913 British Army

By *Peter B. Boyden*

## Introduction

Since 1 January 1914 the British Army has experienced considerable changes to its size and structure. The rapid expansion in its numbers required for the exigencies of the First World War was followed by an equally dramatic contraction during the inter-war years, only for there to be another mushroom-like growth during the Second World War. After 1945, National Service and the threats posed by the Cold War restricted the scale of post-war cuts until the defence reviews of the late 1960s. Now in the wake of events in Eastern Europe, there is the renewed prospect of further reductions in the strength of the armed forces.

Despite these changes, the period has a unity for the family historian as at present there is no public access to the service papers of the officers and men who served during it. A 'dark age' for genealogists, who look forward to 1996, when it is anticipated that the papers of soldiers discharged between 1914 and 1920 will be made available at the Public Record Office (WO 363 & 364).<sup>1</sup>

Unfortunately these post-1913 service papers, currently stored at Hayes<sup>2</sup>, are probably not the answer to a genealogist's prayer that wishful thinkers believe them to be. A large percentage, perhaps as high as 40%, of the service papers of other ranks (privates, non-commissioned officers and warrant officers) discharged 1914-1920 were destroyed by fire during the Second World War, while the information supplied

from those that survive suggests that they are by no means as forthcoming about the movements of individuals as many researchers would like. The personal files of the officers (Second Lieutenants and above) who served during the First World War were severely weeded on two occasions between the wars. Thus, "Army Lists" may contain more information about many of them than their files, if these have survived. The papers of other ranks discharged after 1920 are arranged by the regiment from which they ultimately left the Army (not necessarily the one in which they served) and the year of their discharge, while officers' files are stored in their P[ersonal] number order. While service papers, if they survive, will clearly contain some helpful information, they are no panacea. Indeed, it seems highly likely that once these records are open to public inspection it will still be necessary to do a considerable amount of research elsewhere in order to create a reasonably full picture of an individual's movements.

Many family historians already know a certain amount about the service of their ancestors from material in their possession, such as medals, pay books, letters and photographs, together with oral traditions handed down through the family. Thus, having exhausted family heirlooms and hearsay, and obtained such information as Hayes will release, from where can further details be obtained about the officers and men who served in the Army after 1913? This article provides guidance on the use and limita-

tions of sources which contain both personal and background information to 'flesh out' an understanding of the careers of these men.

## Commissioned Officers

Finding basic career details of commissioned officers is not difficult because notifications of the granting of their commissions were published in the "London Gazette", in addition to which certain details about them appear in "Army Lists". The information about an individual officer which can be derived from these sources depends upon the nature and date of his service. Details on those who served only in wartime may be rather sketchy, but more can be learned about regular officers as they appear in Part III of the "Army List", a restricted publication subject to the 30 Year Rule, which records their date of birth, dates of their commission, staff appointments and decorations. Even for a wartime officer it is worth spending time working carefully through "Army Lists" and associated "London Gazettes", as they may yield useful snippets of information.

Runs of both "Army Lists" and "London Gazettes" are available at the National Army Museum<sup>3</sup>, the Public Record Office and may also be found in larger reference libraries.

## Decorations

Since 1815 it has been the custom to award medals to men of all ranks of the Army who participated in military campaigns. The only major post-1913 conflict for which details of the campaign medals awarded to the participants are publicly available is the First World

War. This information takes the form of an alphabetical index (WO372) and medal rolls (WO329) at the Public Record Office. Although incomplete, the index to soldiers and airmen who were issued with campaign medals after the First World War is the closest thing in existence to a complete list of everyone who served in the Army between 1914 and 1918. The index gives details of the regiments and numbers of individual soldiers, together with, if appropriate, the date when they entered a theatre of operations in order to qualify for the 1914 or the 1914-15 Star. If a man's service papers have been destroyed and no other details are known from family sources, the information on his index card may represent the sum total of the information that can be obtained about his service during the First World War. Men discharged during the War on medical grounds received a Silver War Badge to wear on their civilian clothes, thereby indicating that they were not shirking their military duties. The index to World War I medal entitlements frequently gives the addresses to which these badges were sent, while the rolls (WO329) contain the following details – regiment, number, rank, surname, first Christian name, unit discharged from, number of badge, dates of enlistment and discharge, cause of discharge, and sometimes whether the man had served overseas. This is a useful source, but unfortunately is restricted to men who were discharged during the course of the war.

Medal rolls for most later campaigns are held by the Army Medal Office<sup>4</sup>, who, while being as helpful to enquirers as possible, do not have the staff to reply to large numbers of public enquiries.

In addition to campaign medals, members of the Army who behaved gallantly or performed distinguished service were decorated with gallantry awards or mentioned in the dispatches sent by their senior commanding officer to the Secretary of State for War. Notices of these awards were published in the "London Gazette", with varying amounts of detail on the reason for them. In most cases it is not possible to obtain more background information on awards made during the First World War than is published in the "Gazette", except in the case of some Military Medal awards which are detailed in the war diary of the unit in which the man served. It should be noted that some Distinguished Service Orders and Military Crosses were not awarded for specific acts of gallantry, but as rewards for a series of good works, and were included in the New Year and Birthday Honours Lists. Citations for World War II gallantry and distinguished service awards (WO373) are being microfilmed and will be made available at the Public Record Office, who will also have from mid-1992 records of, but *not* citations for, the foreign decorations awarded to members of the British Army for service during the First World War.

## The Dead

It is sometimes possible to obtain more information about those who died during a war than those who survived it. The Commonwealth War Graves Commission<sup>5</sup> is responsible for maintaining the graves and commemorating those with no known graves who died as a result of the two World Wars. While it has published registers of those buried and com-

memorated in individual cemeteries, the only index to the names listed in them is held at the commission's offices. From the registers it is possible to obtain details of the deceased's name, rank, number, regiment, age, date of death, next of kin, and details of where they are buried or commemorated. From the series of books "Soldiers Died in the Great War" and the World War II Roll of Honour (Public Record Office WO304) it is possible to trace the places of birth and domicile of soldiers, to identify the theatre of war in which they died or received fatal wounds and their date of death. After the First World War in particular, rolls of honour were published by companies, schools and other organisations, which frequently contain background information on members and colleagues who failed to return from the battlefield. Similarly, obituaries and other reports in local newspapers may also provide anecdotal information which would otherwise be difficult to come by.

To trace information on soldiers who died during the years between and after the World Wars, it is necessary to make use of the indexes of deaths at St Catherine's House, regimental journals and local newspapers. The National Army Museum has in its archive (9102-333) a series of records relating to the disposal of money owing to soldiers who died in service. In addition to naming and frequently giving the address of the deceased's next-of-kin, they also record name, rank, number, regiment and date and place of death. The records currently available for study cover the years 1902-1914 for all ranks, 1928-1960 for other ranks and 1939-1960 for officers. They are fully indexed, including separate in-



dexes for officers and other ranks of the Home Guard. Leaflets describing these records can be obtained from the Museum.

## Background

Having discovered details of the unit in which an ancestor served it is highly likely that the researcher would than wish to ascertain where it was stationed, which battles it was engaged in and as many other details as possible about its activities during the years that he was a part of it. Fortunately there is no shortage of sources which will provide this type of background information.

One of the most accessible sources of background information on a military unit is its own published histories. Extensive collections of these are held by the National Army Museum and Imperial War Museum<sup>6</sup>, as well as being found in public libraries in the localities with which individual units had connections. Although they vary enormously in both quality and length, there is normally at least a thorough history of the First World War. Many histories contain references to gallantry awards and lists of casualties, in addition to the narrative account of the regiment's activities. It is important to remember that as in most cases regimental histories were written and frequently paid for by officers, they are not always very forthcoming about the activities of other ranks. A more egalitarian form of unit publication is the journals produced by most regiments and corps. In addition to reports on training, active service and ceremonial occasions, they also contain details of births, deaths and marriages occurring in the regimental family, reports on the success

of the unit soccer team and other 'domestic' matters which are frequently not covered in regimental histories. Regimental journals are especially valuable when researching peacetime service, as regimental histories are frequently sketchy when describing it.

More detailed narratives exist in the form of war diaries (WO95, 165-179, 191, 281) and their peacetime equivalents, unit historical records (WO261-271, 305). The main series of these is held by the Public Record Office, although regimental museums normally have copies of First World War war diaries and may hold some later diaries and records. Clearly, the information which these accounts contain depend upon the attitude of the person who compiled them.

Once these regimental sources have been exhausted it is sometimes possible to obtain further information on the individual being researched from the biographies, autobiographies and private papers of the officers and men who were his contemporaries. The best place to begin enquiries when trying to locate someone's papers is the Royal Commission on Historical Manuscripts<sup>7</sup>, which has details of the whereabouts of tens of thousands of collections of archives. Unfortunately, not all repositories keep the HMC up to date with their acquisitions, so if they are unable to help it is worth contacting appropriate record offices and regimental museums in case the papers of the individual you are looking for have only recently been deposited with them.

## Conclusion

In concluding, it may be appropriate to remark that just as the British Army of 1914-1918 and 1939-1945 absorbed vast numbers of men from every walk of life, the documentation about their war service also appears to be scattered and diffuse. Tracking it down and weaving the snippets of information garnered into a coherent picture presents a considerable challenge to the family historian, and one that may take many years of patient work, leading it is hoped to the creation of a rounded picture of the military careers of our less remote ancestors.

## Further reading

P E Abbott & J M A Tamplin – *British Gallantry Awards* (London, 1981)

E C Joslin, A R Sutherland & B T Simpkin – *British Battles and Medals* (London, 1988)

F H Lake – *Regimental Journals and other Serial Publications of the British Army 1660-1981* (Unpublished FLA thesis, 1985)

A S White – *A Bibliography of Regimental Histories of the British Army* (London, 1988)

T Wise – *A Guide to Military Museums* (Doncaster, 1988)

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## Endnotes

<sup>1</sup> Ruskin Avenue, Kew, Richmond, Surrey, TW9 4DU

<sup>2</sup> MOD CS(R), 2B, Bourne Ave, Hayes, Middlesex UB3 1RD

<sup>3</sup> Royal Hospital Rd, London SW3 4HT

<sup>4</sup> Government Buildings, Worcester Rd, Droitwich, Worcs WR9 8AU

<sup>5</sup> 2, Marlow Rd, Maidenhead, Berks SL6 7DX

<sup>6</sup> Lambeth Rd, London SE1 6HZ

<sup>7</sup> Quality House, Quality Court, Chancery Lane, London WC2A 1HP

*Dr Peter Boyden is Head of the Department of Archives, Photographs, Film and Sound at the National Army Museum. He was responsible for planning and speaking at each of the four Day Schools on aspects of Military genealogy held at the Museum in recent years and has lectured on this subject to interested groups outside the Museum. His own pretensions as a family historian are modest, and to date, apart from two grandfathers who served in the Army during the First World he has not discovered any military ancestors.*

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## Do you use a computer for Family History purposes?

If you do, have you discovered some little trick that makes all the difference to the layout of your family tree or information gathered and feel you would like to share it with everyone else. Perhaps you use a particular program and feel that it merits recommending to everyone else or you have tried to use a program and are stuck and can't see how it will ever help you? In fact if you have anything to contribute to a small column about computers and family history, send it to the Editor (address on the back cover).

# “The Man in the White Coffin”

## *A Reading Cemetery profile by Bryan Willson*

The memorial to Charles Henry Plummer in section 75 caught my interest as it was surmounted by a stone football and the inscription included the fact that this gentleman had been a Director of Reading Football Club for many years. I sensed that there could well be a ‘story’ here, so decided to investigate.

For reasons best known to his family and friends, C. H. Plummer was known to everyone as ‘Jack’. There seems little doubt that he was a well known and popular character in Reading and was often to be seen about the local streets, driving his pony and trap. Jack lived in Chain Street where he carried on business at ‘The Hotel de Plummer’. Yet it was for his sporting interests that he was probably best known.

Not only was he a Director of Reading Football Club but also its self-styled ‘Programme King’. Jack took a great interest in all types of sporting activity and did much to encourage the local youth to take up sport.

Sadly, at 65, he became stricken with cancer and whilst awaiting an operation in Royal Berkshire Hospital, died there in June 1920.

The day of his funeral was wet and thundery, but Chain Street was thronged with people intent on giving Jack a good ‘send off’. But there was also another crowd puller, for word had got around that Jack had left instructions that he was to be placed in a white coffin!

Messrs Heelas were the undertakers and provided the motor cavalcade. The white coffin must have looked splendid cov-

ered in floral tributes, including one in the shape of a football made of blue and white flowers on a green moss base. The funeral service took place at St Mary’s but in accordance with another wish of the departed, the church bell remained silent.

Afterwards, Jack, in his flower-decked white coffin was driven to his resting place in Reading Cemetery.

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## **1891 Census News**

Reading Reference Library have placed an order for the 1891 Census for the whole of the pre-1974 County of Berkshire, which they hope to receive sometime during the first quarter of 1992, so please do not rush in on the 2nd January 1992. Margaret Smith would also like to remind all members that there is now a booking system for the microfilm readers in operation, so please phone or write to make an appointment (Reading 509245/509243). The opening hours of the Reading Central Library are now: Mon & Fri: 9.30 – 5; Tues & Thurs: 9.30 – 7; Sat :9.30 – 4 and Weds: Closed.

Slough Library have placed an order for the 1891 Census for the Slough and South Bucks area Further details from Slough Library who can be contacted on Slough 535166.

# Some Berkshire Women

*found by Joan Dils*

History, for many of us, is more often than not about the causes of wars and the political dealings of the great and the good, rather than the lives of ordinary men and women. The most intriguing details about the past are the everyday things: peoples' homes, their friendships, the hours they worked, how they felt about their husbands/wives, how many children they had and how they coped with them.

Historians of the late Victorian period and after are able to use autobiographies and diaries, or the memories of people still alive, as source material. Oral history is a most valuable and important way of tuning in to the authentic voice of individuals - they may speak only for themselves, but they tell us about the hopes and fears, ambitions and dreams, the daily grind or the occasional high days of their generations.

For the period between the Dissolution of the Monasteries and the Civil War in England such sources are very rare. Even the wealthy left only a comparatively small number of personal recollections; there are a few written by humbler folk, but they are scarcely typical. Except for some high born ladies, one half of the population, the feminine half, is largely without a voice in this kind of material.

Apart from wills and inventories, the principal, and very often the only source of information about everyday life at this period is the verbatim evidence in court cases. The depositions, or statements of witnesses in Quarter Sessions courts and Church courts have been used to illumi-

nate the sexual mores of women in Somerset, the problem marriages of Essex, literacy and migration patterns.<sup>1</sup> Berkshire has nothing like the riches of Somerset Quarter Sessions records (indeed none at all before the eighteenth century), or the vast archives of the diocese of Norwich, which includes Essex. However, we do have a short, broken series of deposition books for the Archdeaconry of Berkshire between 1558 and 1620.<sup>2</sup>

These books contain the statements of witnesses in cases brought before the Archdeacon of Berkshire concerning disputed wills, arguments over non-payment of tithes, matrimonial problems and defamation; all essentially cases brought by one individual against another. Lawyers for both sides drew up a number of questions (which have not survived) to be put to the witnesses for their opponents; the witnesses' answers to the questions were written down, apparently verbatim. They do not always make sense because there is no record of the questions, but the main requirement always seemed to be to tell the details of the events at issue, which the witnesses did, sometimes in graphic detail. These vignettes of country and town life are merely the setting for the main business of ascertaining if a woman has been wrongly slandered or a rector deprived of his tithes, but they provide us with fascinating details about the lives of women at this period.

It's a sobering thought that of over 1,000 rural witnesses so far listed, only 115 were women, and only a few from the towns. Women appear also as defend-

ants and plaintiffs, particularly in slander and claims of irregular marriage and even occasionally as defaulting tithe payers, or because their families argued over their wills, but in the two latter areas they were far inferior numerically to men. A married woman had no legal right to dispose of property; a woman could only make a will as a spinster or widow. Once married all her goods became her husband's so legally he was solely responsible for paying tithes. Yet patently such a second rate role was far from the reality in most women's daily lives.

Of the female witnesses in these depositions, about two fifths were aged between 19 and 30. The under-25's were almost all spinsters, some of whom described themselves as servants, though many more could have been. More of the over 25's were married (three times as many as under 25), and once over 30, marriage or widowhood was the lot of all but a few, about 7%.

Many girls left home to live as servants - farm servants and domestic servants, or very occasionally apprentices. In the early seventeenth century, the borough records of Abingdon record the 'placing' of ten 'wenches' with named households, in London, one specifically to be a 'silk knitter' with Mr Hudson, a tailor. Henley on Thames in the seventeenth century placed some of its poor girls with local tradesmen to be taught the skills of housewifery, although one suspects that they might have been used as domestic skivvies.<sup>3</sup> More fortunate girls would expect to spend the time before marriage working for their parents or leave home to live in with farmers or craftsmen in the same village or town,

but many had to move away. Of all our sample, only 27 - less than a quarter - had apparently always lived and worked in the parish of their birth. Over half were living elsewhere. Others did not say where they were born, but claimed to have lived in more than one parish.

The vast majority did not move very far, often only to the next parish or next but one, although a few ventured much further. Why they chose the employers they did - or perhaps more accurately, how it was all arranged - is a mystery, although occasionally it is clear they went to relatives. Those who appear in these documents were usually employed by yeomen (substantial farmers) and occasionally by gentry in the country, or by master craftsmen in the towns.

How they spent their time is much easier to ascertain. The account books of Robert Loder of Harwell indicate that his two maid servants were habitually involved in the work of the dairy and in other tasks such as selling produce in Abingdon market. They, along with the mistress of the house and her daughters were responsible for the work of the house and the adjoining workrooms and farmyard.<sup>4</sup> At this level of society, and at this period of time, there was no question of the yeoman's wife and daughters sitting in idleness while the servants worked unseen. So we find Mary Savage returning home with her mistress after sunset having milked the cows, as was the custom, in the fields at North Hinksey; or Elizabeth Harwood and her mistress Jane Tewin 'washing woollen hose on a Friday morning about Shrovetide in Newbury'; or Helen Bowles of Abingdon helping to trim candles on a Saturday evening, the women in the house,

the men (master and apprentice) in the shop. Clearly gender determined work division at this time. They were in fact learning the skills needed for their main role in the future, running the house, helping with the family enterprise, taking responsibility for the garden and the dairy, not to mention the children. There is only one reference to specific domestic training; Agnes Bentwell, aged 15, claimed she was learning to sew at the Butler's house at Abingdon. The only reference to a young girl caring for a child was Martha Gower in Newbury, on a Sunday afternoon. She carried a youngster up the steps of the church tower to watch the young men firing their guns.

Despite the arduous work, there was a remarkable camaraderie among the young women. Groups of them, six in the village of West Hendred in November 1593, came back from milking together, or went out to the fields together. These were 'occasions of sin' it was said, when they gossiped about the latest lapse from grace in the community. They were rarely alone: they slept together, calling each other 'bedfellows' and occasionally slept with other women in the employer's family. Catherine Allen, a relative, but a servant, slept with her second cousin, Joan Loader; Elizabeth Coles slept with her mistress, Margaret Champion of Reading, when the master was away. The young women in the household, daughters and servants, seem to have been companionable, sitting and chatting, no doubt exchanging confidences.

Married women seemed to have had the same kind of companionship as young girls. Sunday afternoons were often

spent visiting neighbours, especially the sick. Whole family groups - at least five on one occasion went to Coleshill 'to one goodwife Butcher who lay in childbirth'. During this particularly dangerous time for women, childbirth, neighbours came to help and give encouragement. Catherine Worall of Abingdon and others went to visit Catherine Bradstock. 'In the afternoon between dinner and evening' they sat by the fire and husband George asked Catherine, 'Kate if thou die, who shall have thy legacy?' She said her stepdaughter should have her 'wedding smock'. She died four days later.

Relations with the men in the household might not always be so straightforward, although there are very few cases here where servants claim to have been seduced by the master. One case in Berkshire was that of Agnes Tutty dismissed when found pregnant, although on the pretext that she had stolen a pot.

One important aim of girls during this stage of their lives was to acquire some small nest egg against the time they married, though one Elizabeth Henwood, at the ripe age of 28 was disarmingly frank about how little she had so far managed. She said she 'dependeth of her father and that she hopeth she shall have 20 from him but as yet she has nothing but her apparell, and what she getteth by her service, which she as yet layeth out as fast as it cometh in to buye her apparell and other necessaries'. Newbury was full of temptations to spend; in still being single in her late 20s, Elizabeth was fairly typical of her time.

When she came to marry, it would almost certainly be with someone she had

met at work or socially in the place where she lived, though these records are silent on the first meeting of young couples. Even if young women remained at home before marriage, they still had opportunities to meet with someone from elsewhere. Thomas Roberts came courting Joan Bennett all the way from Reading to Newbury. Had he first spied her when she was helping her father at Newbury market, or was it when she travelled to other market towns as we know she did? The age-old attraction of the male to the female was delightfully expressed by William Smith of Wittenham: Richard Sadler 'being old could forbear women's company, yet he and others could not'.

There were formal and informal opportunities for young folk to meet at leisure; so much seems to have happened when groups of people were sitting chatting by the fire, or standing by the door watching the rest of the world walk down the street. However, the most interesting occasions are the traditional festivities which still survived, albeit infrequently, in Berkshire in the early seventeenth century. In 1617 Joanna Mackerill was with 'divers other young maids and children sitting together in one Giles Hatts meade in Leckhampstead looking upon football players, and others that were sitting there upon midlent Sunday last'. Juliana Buckland on Sunday evening in Shrevenham was with other women at play called 'running at Catt'. Such activities might well continue for many years, but others were rapidly disappearing. The Revel Day at Milton, 1590, took place about Midsummer. 'Youths of the parish were gathered together to be mery at supper in the church'. One of the

maids was the whitsun or summer lady and a young man the summer lord. One of the tasks of the summer lady was to make guests welcome - perhaps an inversion of the normal role of master/mistress and daughter/maidservant. A similar event took place at Wasing. More private opportunities for courting were contrived, often at the girl's home. Margaret Blagrove needed to send for her sweetheart, John Kimber, to come in one evening and once they spent the whole night together in the milking house 'until the grey morning'. Fellow servants, bedfellows, were usually the source of this information.

The 'goodwill' of their peers was often nearly as important as that of the parents if the match was to go forward. Friends acted as companions, carriers of messages, even chaperons. A widow, Alice Heywood, of Clewer made the consent of her friends a condition of her marriage. However, the goodwill of the parents was crucial if the girl was expecting a marriage portion. William Palmer, of Moreton, was reluctant to agree to Agnes Buckeridge's request to take her away from her father's house because her sisters had all made good marriages and she might be 'well bestowed' with her father's goodwill. She won, they were married irregularly, he was 'taken up for a soldier' and she was left with a baby.

Conflict between parents and daughters over the choice of husband inevitably occurred. There seems to be only one example of an unwilling daughter forced into an unwanted marriage: Alice Parrock often cruelly beat her daughter, Joan, with bed staves to persuade her to accept an offer from John Harding. Once

married all Alice's debts, about 140, would be paid by the groom's father and she would receive 20 nobles a year. At the betrothal young Joan, only 15, wept and was for a long time silent before she agreed to be betrothed 'as you and my mother will'.

Betrothal was the first stage in the making of a marriage. The couple exchanged vows in a formal public ceremony, often conducted by a clergyman. In early February 1560 in the 'backside' of the house of Richard Keate in Harwell it was not the vicar but an old respected villager Robert Loder, who put the questions to the young man and woman, 'Did they intend to marry? Were they free?' They then joined hands and said 'I take thee to my wedded wife/husband as the laws of God and Holy Church will ordain, and thereto I plight my troth before God and these witnesses.' They kissed and exchanged tokens, two pieces of gold. Such a ceremony created a binding contract provided the words spoken were in the present tense and no conditions were attached. Later would follow the triple calling of the banns and the solemnisation of the marriage in Church, completing a valid, regular sacrament as ordered by the Church.

However until 1753 it was quite possible to contract a valid, though irregular marriage, in a much simplified fashion. Provided the young couple exchanged unconditional vows in words of the present tense preferably in the presence of witnesses for added verification, they were married if the marriage was afterwards consummated. Such ceremonies were officially discouraged since it was so difficult to establish their validity; attempts by one party to disavow the con-

tract often led to appearances in the Archdeacon's court. Elizabeth Neighbour of Aston Tyrell and William Barebones had made promises and given a broken ring as a token. He claimed it was a true marriage; they had asked a friend to go to Oxford to get a licence, so no one would know until it was done. She counter-claimed it was, 'only in show of goodwill and liking towards marriage.' She had changed her mind, perhaps because her brother had threatened to cut her out of his will, perhaps instead she now preferred one of the other two suitors to whom witnesses claimed she was also betrothed. By the time the case came to court, she was married by licence to Gregory Slade at Blewbury, and she was pregnant.

Whatever their origins, marriages were not always successful. Though divorce was not allowed by the Church of England, separation 'from bed and board' was, and in the last resort an injured partner could sue for this in the church courts. Sometimes cruelty was alleged: Emma Brooker, a servant in Didcot, told how her master's daughter Joan, married to Robert Blake, came home to her father's house for her meals every day and how her husband had beaten her during the three years they were married. Emma had dressed the wounds on Joan's head with sugar 'to stay the blood'. Joan claimed it was her husband's doing and was seeking separation. Other causes were frequenting the alehouse and desertion. Unfaithfulness by one partner or the other, or at least accusations of, are common. Anne Bell of Abingdon was said to have been 'thrust out of doors by her husband' when Thomas Lupton called her a 'drab and a baggage' when



she defended her neighbour against his accusations. A good name and reputation seems to have been important to society considering the number of cases brought to court. Elizabeth Barnes was nearly thrown out by her husband when she was called a 'gill-flirt'. Only her mother saved her.

One of the most interesting cases in the depositions is one involving Dorothy Keate who brought a suit to court for the restoration of conjugal rights in 1594. It was at the end of a period of one and a half years during which she and her husband were separated. Dorothy had asked several friends, John Mardell gent., William Barnes, who had known them since their marriage and others to speak to her husband. Dorothy was either very foolish or actually unfaithful in her husband's house. She visited John Scorie in his room when everyone else was in bed, so the maid said, and sent him a silk garter. She also sent a present of handkerchiefs to another and love letters to yet another. William Keate took a pot shot at her husband, the maid said, at Dorothy's instigation. She refused to live with her husband and while he was away she had been told hot to leave the house. Her husband counter sued for separation on the grounds of Dorothy's adultery. He had agreed to pay her an allowance of 40 a year if she went to live with her father and stopped slandering him. She refused and left him taking with her the jewelry and clothes she brought at her wedding. Attempts by friends to get him to take her back failed.

Of happy marriages these records say nothing, though we know from other sources that many couples lived in companionable, loving relationship. Despite

their undoubted drawbacks, the major one being that they only describe breakdowns in society, the deposition books can uniquely provide a picture of English life in the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries. With their help we can make some attempt to 'make the dead live' which surely is no small part of the historian's task.

<sup>1</sup> G.Quaife : *Wanton Wenches and Wayward Wives* (1979); F Emmison: *Elizabethan Life* (5 vols 1970-1980) ; P.Clark: *Migration in England during the 17th and early 18th centuries. -Past and Present* no 83 (1979). .

<sup>2</sup> *Berkshire Archdeaconry Deposition Books (1558-1620)* BRO D/A2 c40, c46, c61, c153, c154, c155.

<sup>3</sup> *Henley Apprenticeship Indentures* (Oxfordshire Record Office MSS DD Henley AX/108).

<sup>4</sup> G.E.Fussell ed : *Robert Loder's Farm Accounts* (Camden Series 3rd Series vol 53 1936).

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## Many a True Word...

"The theory of family history research ... must develop to such a point that the family historian, who will make the necessary effort, may learn effectively from the experience of others in the past what to avoid and how to act under the conditions of the present. Otherwise, research will continue unsystematic, haphazard, and for many ... a pathetic gamble ..."

(Adapted from the HARVARD BUSINESS REVIEW Oct 1922 vol 1 no 1 - found on the front cover of an ICL training file.)

Jean Debney.

# Q & A with Jean

*Compiled by Jean Debney*

## Army Ancestors

Syd QUARTERMAN (703) of Cheshire says he has plucked up courage to write with several questions which I will deal with one after the other. He has also offered to send photocopies of his Dad's Army Discharge papers. Thank you for writing, Syd, and thanks for the offer: these would be a useful addition to the Society's archives [Help! we need an archivist – there's no more room in our house for another pile of paper!]

**Q.1:** During the First World War, Syd's Dad served in the Royal Berkshire Regiment and the Oxfordshire Yeomanry and was in several hospitals before ending up in Cheshire. He never returned to Berkshire. Syd would like to know where the records of the Royal Berks Regt are kept and where it served.

**A.1:** The trilogy of books by Norman HOLDING: *World War I Army Ancestry*, *The Location of British Army Record* and *More Sources of WWI Army Ancestry* (pub by FFHS) are compulsory reading for anyone researching this period. The second volume lists regiments by county for England, Wales, Scotland and Ireland and says the Royal Berkshire Regt. is now amalgamated with the Wiltshire Regt. and their museum is at 58 The Close, Salisbury, Wilts SP1 2EX. Although their records do not include any lists of men, they should be able to tell you what actions the regiment was involved in during WWI. From this information, the war diaries of the regiment, held at the Public Record

Office at Kew, can be identified and searched. Further sources are suggested in the other booklets.

Also at PRO Kew is the Medal Rolls index on microfiche (WO 329). This was formerly kept at Droitwich and lists almost all who served in the armed forces in WWI. The PRO produce information leaflets about this and other sources but apparently only on personal application; most are in the BFHS Reference Library and they can be copied for the price of photocopying and a stamp.

**Q.2:** Syd says that his father's younger brother was killed in France and his body never found. He has heard that somewhere in France is a monument with all the names of soldiers who could not be found and asks how he can find out where his uncle died and was he in the same regiment as his brother?

**A.2:** Information about the graves or memorials of those killed in service during the two world wars can be obtained from the **Commonwealth War Graves Commission, 2 Marlow Road, Maidenhead, Brk SL6 7DX**. It is best to provide as many particulars as you can to identify the correct entry but, if necessary, they will supply information from minimal details. They do not make a charge to next of kin for this very efficient and speedy service, but a donation would be acceptable. The Army Deaths (Officers and Other Ranks) at St Catherine's House, London, list the name, rank, number, regiment and year of death of English soldiers in WWI and WWII. Once you have established these details,

then one can consult *Soldiers who Died in the Great War 1914-1919* which lists by regiment or corps and then battalion further details of those who died: these can be seen at the Imperial War Museum, Dept of Documents, Lambeth Road, London SE1 6HZ, from whom reprint copies can also be purchased.

The new edition of *Tracing Your Ancestors in the Public Record Office* (1991) is essential reading for anyone contemplating research at the PRO. Other useful sources are the section on ARMY RECORDS in *The Family Historians Enquire Within* (4th ed. 1991) by Pauline Saul & F C Markwell (pub FFHS); *Army Research Bibliography*, lft. no.19 by the Society of Genealogists (only 20p); the new publication *English Genealogy* by Stuart Raymond & Jeremy Gibson lists several titles relating to army – and other – research. All the above items can be purchased from the Society Bookstalls at meetings or by post (address on back cover).

**Q3:** Syd has been unable to find the baptism of Leonard QUARTER MAN c1695. According to the parish registers, there were QUARTERMANS in Sunningwell Brk from 1629-1634 and then from 1724. He asks if there were any wars between 1640 and 1690, were there any records and where are they?

**A3:** Sunningwell is close to the border with Oxfordshire, and the surrounding parishes in both Berkshire and Oxfordshire should be searched for this baptism.

The period between circa 1640 and the restoration of the Monarchy in 1660 was the Civil War & Commonwealth period.

It was a time of great upheaval and resulted in the break up of many families and gaps in many parish registers. Fighting took place around Abingdon and Faringdon in north Berkshire and the King's HQ was at Oxford. *Berkshire in the Civil War* by David G Disbury (1978) may give some clues as to what might have happened to your family in Sunningwell at that time. Although there is a copy in the Society Library it is not available for loan by post; however, it should be possible to obtain a copy locally via the Inter-Library loan service. Also *The Civil War & Interregnum* by G E Aylmer & J S Morrill suggests many sources for historians. Between 1660 and 1690, England was at war at various times with France, Holland and in America. *In Search of Army Ancestry* by Gerald Hamilton-Edwards (1978) is still the how-to-do-it book for this early period for which few records survive for "other ranks".

## Scarlet Fever in the 19th century.

**Q.** Jean PERRIN (837) of Caversham Brk says that three of her grandmother's siblings died of scarlet fever in the 1830s and asks if this was a common cause of death.

**A.** Scarlet fever is an extremely contagious disease which is spread by droplet infection (coughs and sneezes spread diseases) or contaminated milk. Since many 19th century children from all walks of life were undernourished by today's standards any infection could quickly become life-threatening. Scarlet fever was rapidly fatal in children under 10 (breast-fed infants were immune) and

might cause the death of several children in the same family within days.

(If you're squeamish about illness, don't read this paragraph) The disease is caused by the bacillus, haemolytic streptococcus; it starts with a severely painful sore throat and a rapid rise in temperature (possibly as high as 109°) which causes rigors & convulsions. This is followed by the typically bright red "scarlet" rash; survivors later slough off all their skin starting from head to feet and including the tongue.

(OK - you can start reading again). It is possible that the severity of the scarlet fever was declining by the end of the 1800s, but by then the following measures were being introduced: All sufferers and their contacts were quarantined for 6 weeks and schools closed. For the wealthy who could be nursed at home, all unnecessary furniture, including carpet and curtains, was removed from the patient's room and a damp sheet hung across the door. Isolation hospitals were in use by the early 20th century. The disease has practically disappeared in UK after the introduction of anti-biotics after World War II.

## King of France

**Q.** Jean WILLES of Caversham Brk was looking at a document dated 1737 which said that George II was "King of France". She would like to know how long English kings had this title?

**A.** Among other titles, the Kings of England also called themselves "King of France" for over 450 years. In January 1340, Edward III (1327-1377) claimed the French throne and declared himself

to be King of France after the death of the French king, his mother's brother, without a direct heir. As a result of this claim, the Hundred Years War between England and France was waged until 1435 when the English were finally driven out of France. The title was finally abolished during the reign of George III (1760-1820) in January 1801 during the Napoleonic Wars with France (1793-1820s).

## Legal Age of Marriage

**Q.** Hilary GARDENER (353) of Camberley Sry writes to ask when did 16 years become the minimum age for marriage? She has a marriage in 1773 when both bride and groom appear to be under that age.

**A.** "Before Hardwicke's Marriage Act of 1753, there was no lower legal age of marriage, except during the 1650s when it was 16 for 'men' and 14 for 'women'. In 1753 it was fixed at 14 for men and 12 for women, and remained at those ages until the Age of Marriage Act in 1929, which raised it to 16 for both." [*The Family Tree Detective* by Colin Rogers (1989) p115]

The Age of Marriage Act in 1929 forbade marriage for anyone under 16 years of age; until then, girls of 12 years and boys of 14 years could legally marry.

## Records of Bankrupts

**Q.** Brian EDWARDS (791) of Beaconsfield Bkm says that he has discovered in his researches a watchmaker stated to be bankrupt in Lincoln in 1780s. He asks where he can find details of bankruptcy or other proceedings?

**A** My dictionary says that a “bankrupt” is an insolvent person whose effects, on his own or his creditors’ petition to the Bankruptcy Court, are administered and distributed for the benefit of all his creditors. From 1543, debtors who were “traders” were declared bankrupt and the records of the proceedings in England and Wales from 1710 are in the Public Record Office, Chancery Lane, London. They are incomplete until 1821 and recent ones are closed for 75 years. From 1842 there were also District Bankruptcy Courts whose records are held locally. Records of Scottish bankrupts are in the Scottish Record Office. The latest edition of *Guide to Tracing Your Ancestors in the PRO* Section 46 gives details of the classes of records available as well as some published works.

Names of bankrupts are published in the London Gazette (from 1665 continuing) which can be seen at PRO Kew and some large reference libraries. The BFHS reference library has the following on microfiche: Alphabetical List of Bankrupts 1774-1786 (ref. 8/X/2135) and 1820-1843 (ref. 8/X/1808)

### **Did you know that ...?**

At the end (after “Z”) of the birth and death indexes at St Catherine’s House from 1837 are the names of those registered without a surname. The births will mostly relate to foundlings and deaths to unidentified bodies but if you have been unable to find your ancestor’s entry it might be worth looking at these entries.

## **Book ends**

### **Berkshire Local History**

*Berkshire 1851 Census Index Vol 4.1: Abingdon Reg. Dist (part)* (BFHS 1991) £2 75; £3 10 UK; £3 35 surf/Europe; £4 30 airmail; includes parishes of Abingdon St Helens & St Nicholas, Marcham, Radley & Sunningwell. (Hungerford Vol 2 due 1992)

*Llewellyn Treacher FGS. 1859-1943 and his Photographs* (Twyford & Ruscombe LHG 1991) 2 50. Treacher lived in Twyford and many examples of his photographs of the area are included with a foreword by Sadie Ward of the Museum of English Rural Life, Reading, which has a good collection of his photos and text by John Finch. **JD**

### **Family History**

*Pre-1841 Censuses & Population Listings* by Colin R CHAPMAN (2nd ed. Lochin Publishing 1991) £5 00. Text mentions many early listings taken during past 900 years which may include names, addresses and occasionally personal details. Two appendices catalogue county-by-county the pre-1841 listings mentioned in main text plus a parish index to many 1801-1831 censuses. **JD**

*Current Publications by Member Societies* 6th ed. and *Current Publications by Member Societies on Microfiche* (FFHS 1991) £2 80 each. The number of publications produced by FHSs has increased to the extent that these important lists have had to be divided into 2 booklets: includes census indexes, parish registers, etc. etc.

*British Genealogical Periodicals, A Bibliography of their Contents: Vol 2 part 2 - The Genealogist, Family Histories* by Stuart RAYMOND (FFHS 1991)

£3 00. Same pale pink cover with a mass of text as before; this edition contains a list of family histories etc. published in the 44 volumes of the *Genealogist* between 1877 and 1921.

**Record Offices and How to Find Them** by Jeremy GIBSON & Pamela PESKETT. (5th ed. FFHS 1991) £2 50. This new, bigger & up-dated edition retains its distinctive yellow cover with a nice picture of the Public Record Office in Chancery Lane, London. Inside are more maps (especially for Wales), changed locations for 11 CROs plus many new telephone numbers. [This is best used with *In & Around Record Repositories in GB & Ireland* by CHURCH & COLE at £3 95] JD

### Army

**The Location of British Army Records 1914-1918** 3rd ed. and **More Sources for World War I Army Ancestry** 2nd ed. by Norman HOLDING, (FFHS 1991) £3 95 each. These updated editions complete the trilogy of WWI army "how-to-do-it" books (plus *World War I Army Ancestry* which needs to be read first). They have shiny red and green covers respectively with easier to read text; however, the contents lists do not include page numbers which can make them difficult to use. The three books ought to be used in conjunction with each other to get a better picture of the history and sources available. JD

### History of Houses

**Tracing the History of Houses** by Bill BRECKON & Jeffrey PARKER (Countryside Books 1991) £7 95. Clear text with many line drawings, it contains four sections dealing with the house in history (i.e. in different centuries), in its region, in detail (roofs, walls, etc.) and a

guide on how to date a house plus a bibliography and index. Looks good. JD

### Other Berkshire Local Histories

The following Berkshire local history publications are also now available from BFHS bookstall:

**Gordon Clifford Remembers** £1 25. Brief autobiographical notes compiled from interviews with Gordon Clifford, founder of Cliffords Dairies, Bracknell.

**Easthampstead – Enclosure 1827** and **Easthampstead – Tithe Apportionment 1841** by Dr Michael Dumbleton. £1 80 each. Transcripts of records in Berkshire CRO plus maps; useful source books for anyone with interests in Bracknell.

**History of Hampstead Norreys** by Roger CHAPMAN (1990) £8 99

**A Pictorial History of Maidenhead** £10 95\*

**A Directory of Photographers: Newbury District 1854-1945** by P Cannon (Newbury Dist Museum 1991) £1 50

**A Pictorial History of Slough** £10 95\*

**Twyford's Railway Heritage** 150 years of GWR £1 50

**A Village Post Office (Twyford)** £2 75

**Old Inns & Alehouses at Twyford** £1 25

**Twyford & Ruscombe Village Walks** £2 00

**Polehampton C of E Infants' School Twyford 1888-1988** £1 50

**A Pictorial History of Wokingham** £10 95\*

Please note that *A History of Berkshire* by Luke Over which was expected to be published in October 1991 is not now due until April 1992 – sorry about this.

Above publications are available at branch meetings or by post from Jean Debney (address on back cover); please add appropriate post and packing for UK or overseas (see booklist for details)

\* Only available surface mail overseas

# HELP!

This column continues to grow in popularity. Don't forget if you've lost an ancestor or relative or are stuck somewhere, drop us a line because someone else might be able to help.

Mrs Jean Brant (1458), Braeside, 21 Owlsmoor Rd, Owlsmoor, Camberley, Surry, GU15 4SD, is trying to find the baptism and first marriage of her 3xGreat Grandmother Elizabeth. According to the Census, she was born about 1789, at Easthampstead. The Easthampstead Parish Register shows that she bore two sons by a Samuel Trueman, William (1814) and James (1816).

Elizabeth married again in 1821, to a Richard Collier of Wokingham. There were two children of this marriage, Mary Ann, born 1821 and Richard, born 1829.

Elizabeth died at Honey Hill on 23 July 1871. A Johannah Hurdle was present at the death.

"Do any of these dates or names ring a bell?" Robert Waite (2233), 18a Lower Rd, Chinnor, Oxon, OX9 4DT, is seeking to establish that the marriage he has found for his ancestor George Waite is the correct one. He has traced his family back to 1742 in Overton Wilts, with the baptism of a Thomas son of George, but who was his mother and where did the family come from?

Did James Owen have two wives called Mary?

Paul Scriven (376), The Boundaries, Frostenden, Beccles, Suffolk, NR34 8BN, writes that he is unable to find the baptism of James Owen, who was buried at Kintbury aged 84, and also his marriage to Mary, buried at Kintbury in 1782 aged 47. There were two children

baptised at Kintbury in 1775 and 1777 and there were also two baptised at Welford in 1763 and 1766. There is a marriage of a James Owen to a Mary Crockford in Nov 1770 at Woolhampton.

He is also trying to trace the whereabouts of Caroline Owen, and her family, between 1847, when her husband Charles, a chemist of Abingdon, died, and 1871 when she reappears on the 1871 census returns for Lambeth, as the wife of John Stamp.

Mrs Pam Parsons (2481), 50 Pembroke Crescent, Hove, East Sussex, BN3 5DG, would like to hear from anyone who is researching Long and Johnson in the Bradfield area. Her ancestor, Elizabeth, later the wife of John Wheeler, was born in Bradfield in about 1837, the daughter of John Long and Amy Johnson, who were married on 11 June 1825 at Bradfield. John Long was one of the eight children of John Long and his wife Susanna Spokes. They were married on 28 October 1802, also at Bradfield.

Elizabeth Long had two brothers and four sisters who, at the time of the 1841 and 1851 censuses lived with their parents at Rotten Row.

Mrs Parsons would like to know whether Rotten Row still exists.

Yes, Rotten Row still exists, between Stanford Dingley and Bradfield, off Rotten Row Hill Road. (Meg Goswell)

Bob Pauling (2423), PO Box 292, Neutral Bay, N.S.W. 2089, Australia, is trying to trace the baptism of his ancestor James Paulin(g) born c1800. He married Mary Ackling at Abingdon in 1818. His parents were John and Hannah Paulin(g). Their other children were John, bapt 1807 at Abingdon, and Sarah, bapt 1812, also at Abingdon. She later married George Bowler at Abingdon.

# Letter's Page

442 Farnham Rd, Slough, Berks, SL2 1HZ

Dear John Gurnett,

In your article "Disease in Berkshire" you wondered at the disparity in consumption deaths. May I suggest that the Berkshire people had the version known as "Bovine" TB and not that of the urban disease, at least not in all cases.

Even if the rural communities did not have much access to milk, as I know from personal experience a week drinking milk from a tubercular herd in 1942 was enough. I was lucky in that it wasn't in my lungs and by the time it was diagnosed streptomycin had been discovered. Children of rural families could presumably build some immunity because the daughter of the family I was on holiday with had been a number of times to her relatives and she had it far less seriously than myself or another visitor.

Shirley Knight (1770)

## The building proposals for St Michael's Tilehurst

Since July, this year, there have been varying reports in the local press concerning some proposed projects at St Michael's Church, Tilehurst. The most immediate of these is the proposed extension.

So that the Church can march confidently into the 21st. Century, providing essential facilities for its worshipping community, it is proposed to build an aesthetic addition to the North-west sector of the graveyard. The plans have been sensitively presented. The new building will consist of a meeting room, vestries, offices and toilet facilities.

Where Routh Lane joins New Lane Hill the triangular graveyard provides an open vista to the church. The £400,000 extension will in no way disturb what has now come to be regarded as a cherished view. Planning permission has been granted.

The last complete refurbishment of the church and the addition of the spire and renovations to the tower were carried out by G.E.Street, between 1854 and 1856. His erstwhile employee and friend Wm. Morris designed the East window in the Lady Chapel, part of the original building.

Application has now been made for a Faculty to remove some C18th and C19th grave headstones in the Northern sector of the graveyard so that the foundations can be made. It may be possible in some cases, where the stones are in good condition and the inscriptions have stood the test of time, that they may be incorporated into the fabric of the extension walls. Some 40 graves may be affected by these improvements.

If your ascendants seem to be included in the following list of 40 plots and you wish to question the proposal, please contact The Rector of St Michael's Church – The Reverend Clive M.P.-Jones. Tel (0734) 427331

Date	Surname	First Name
1834	BECKLEY	Mary
1838	BECKLEY	Richard
1804	DAVIS	Henry
1794	DAVIS	Jane
1780	DAVIS	John
1842	DAVIS	Mary
1822	DAVIS	Will
1812	DYKE	Mary
1754	ECKETT	Ann
1756	ECKETT	Ann
1870	ECKETT	Bernard
-	ECKETT	William



Date	Surname	First Name
-	ECKETT	Wm.
-	ELM	Edward
1833	FOLEY	Ann
1858	FOLEY	George
1847	FOLEY	James
1847	FOLEY	W...
1843	GRACE	Christian
-	GRACE	James
1866	GRACE	Martha
1843	GRACE	Thomas
1842	ILSLEY	Amy
1835	ILSLEY	George
1846	ILSLEY	James
1814	ILSLEY	Mary
1852	ILSLEY	Sarah
1866	ILSLEY	William
1771	JUSTICE	Ann
1769	JUSTICE	Caesar
1810	JUSTICE	Caesar
1767	JUSTICE	Hannnah
1791	JUSTICE	Matthew
1772	JUSTICE	William
1855	KEEP	William
1748	KNIGHT	Anne
1771	KNIGHT	Mary
1741	KNIGHT	William
1781	LITTLE	Mary
-	LITTLE	Simon
1746	LOADER	Anne
1782	LOADER	Ann
1744	LOADER	John
1771	LOADER	John
1767	LOADER	Mary
17?9	LOADER	Mary
1734	LOADER	Sarah
1717	LOADER	Will
1774	LOADER	William
18?	MAY	Ann
-	MAY	Frances
1843	MAY	James
1742	MAY	Mary
1750	MAY	Thomas
183?	MAY	William
1839	MAY	William Kent
1814	SMITH	Jacob
1811	VANDERCOTT	Elizabeth
-	VANDERCOTT	Henry

Date	Surname	First Name
1798	WEBB	Grace
-	WEBB	John
1840	WIGMORE	Ann
1830	WIGMORE	John

If any members require further information on the above deceased and the appropriate inscription, please send an SAE to Mrs A.J.M.Ison, 20, Boundary Close, Tilehurst, Reading, Berks RG3 5ER.

Sincerely yours Avril J.M.Ison.

I have not received any answers to the question I asked in September's magazine, on where the royal entries appear on the I.G.I. The answer, ( which is of course obvious) is E. for England. Meg Goswell.

Robert E.Waite has accumulated quite a lot of information on Waites (and derivatives) from his searches through most of the parishes of Wiltshire and some in Berkshire. He would be happy to supply any information on these to interested fellow members. His address is 18a, Lower Rd, Chinnor, Oxon, OX9 4DT.

## 1891 Census

As I'm sure everyone realises the 1891 Census Returns will become available for public inspection from 2nd January 1992. It will be issued on both microfilm and microfiche. However, you could perhaps buy the census for the area your ancestors lived in. The prices are as follows (excluding VAT): Full set (All of the 1891 Census) £40,000 Set per Sub-District £7.50 Index on Fiche of all District numbers £10 Set of Class List £1.50

Further details from Reprographic Ordering, Public Record Office, Ruskin Ave, Kew, Surrey TW9 4DU

# Members' pages

*compiled by Meg Goswell*

I apologise for two errors in the September issue of the magazine:

Member No 2384 Mrs G.Charlton of Windsor,

Entry TOOOTES, should read ROOTES.

Member No 2423, Mr R.G.Pauling of Neutral Bay, Australia.

I moved him across the continent to Western Australia! His address should read:- Neutral Bay, New South Wales 2089 Australia.

In the July issue member 2296, Miss V.E.Bushell. The parish for the name CULLEY should be Hampstead Marshall, not Hampstead Norreys.

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2098 Mrs R.H.Cope, The Old House, Binfield Heath, Henley-on-Thames, Oxon, RG9 4DR

DBY STATHAM Clay Cross & Belper pre 1840

NTT BROOKS Sutton-in-Ashfield & Mansfield mid 19th C

NTT CHAPMAN Kilby pre 1842

NTT COPE Nottingham pre 1825

NTT REEK Lowdham pre 1812

NTT WHITE Kirkby-in-Ashfield pre 1840

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2303 Mrs Betty Willis, 77, Donald Hall Rd, Brighton, BN2 5DL  
sends an update of her interest.

BRK ARCHER Donnington pre 1700

BRK WILDE/WYLDE Sandhurst R.A. pre 1850

BRK WILDE/WYLDE Reading 1930s

HRT WILDE/WYLDE Pinner All

KNT WILDE Eltham & elsewhere All

SUR WILD/WYLDE Yorktown pre 1850

USA BRISSENDEN Illinois All

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2313 Mr D.Latimer, 13, West Avenue, Chelmsford, Essex CH1 2DB

BRK BO(U)LTON Peasemore pre 1880

BRK DARLING Wantage pre 1880

BRK DARLING Newbury pre 1860

BRK EDLING Any pre 1820

BRK EVANS Welford and Wickham pre 1870

BRK HAMBLIN Great Shefford pre 1720

BRK HOUSE Great Shefford & Welford, Wickham and Kintbury pre 1900

BRK HOUSE East Illsley pre 1740

BRK LATIMER/LATIMORE Hungerford and Kintbury pre 1900

BRK LOOKER/LUKER East Hagbourne & Hungerford pre 1825

BRK LOOKER/LUKER Great Shefford pre 1750

BRK LOOKER/LUKER Lambourne pre 1680

BRK TOE Hungerford pre 1860

BRK TOE Kintbury pre 1830

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2350 Francis R.Carpenter, 50 Arbury Rd, Cambridge, CB4 2JE  
Sends amendments to his interests.

BRK COVENTRY Wargrave pre 1881

MDX BRUMBY Kingsbury pre 1881

MDX BUTTRESS Any pre 1900

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2358 Mrs B.Hirst, 106, Long Furlong Drive, Slough, Berks, SL2 2PG

DEV CARTER, LITTLEBY, & WHITE Colyton All

GLS LAWRENCE Rodborough Pre 1866

LND SPARKES London Pre 1865

SRY BLAKE Lambeth & Southwark Pre 1837

SRY ROTHERHITHE Any All

STS GREENWAY Staffordshire All

YKS HIRST Mirfield All

2364F	Miss Julia Cox, 21, Hildens Drive, Tilehurst, Reading, RG3 5HW				KEN	HOOK, LONG & TURK		19 C
CANADA					MDX	DYDE & PORCHER	East End	19 C
	GREEN		1887-1991		MDX	DYDE, POWIS, BROWN & LAKE	East End	18 C
DEV	GREEN	Torquay	1900-1991		NTT	SMART, SWINDALL, SHAW & DOBSON		18 C
DUR	POULTER	Darlington	1881-1991		SOM	BOND & HUSS		19 C
ESS	GREEN	Southend-on-Sea	1900-1991		SSX	HOOK		19 C
HAM	GREEN	Sherfield on Loddon	1881-1991					
IOW	GREEN	Isle of Wight	1900-1991		2410	Mrs K.P.Collins, 286 Newton Rd, Rushden, Northants, NN10 0SY		
LND	MODSBY	London	1881-1991		BRK	TAYLOR	West Woodhay	1560-1720
SRY	POULTER	Weybridge	1881-1991		BRK	TYLY/TILEY	Enbourne	1600-1710
2364F	Mrs Betty M.Cox, 21, Hildens Drive, Tilehurst, Reading, RG3 5HW				BRK	WALDEN	Inkpen	1813-?
MDX	MADDEN & OWEN	Poplar	1860-1910		BRK	WATTS	Kintbury	1600-1780
YKS	COE	Wiston	1750-1850		BRK	WHITEWAY	Shrivenham	1610-1800
YKS	DUCKMANTON	Harthill & Sheffield	1800-1900		BRK	WILLOUGHBY & TWILLY	Shrivenham	1580-1850
YKS	JEPSON	Sheffield	1750-1850		BRK	WISE	Shaw & Donnington	1600-1720
YKS	PASHLEY	Laughton en le Morthen	1750-1900		WIL	CRAWFORD	Highworth	1783-1850
2372	Mrs J.Cleeton, 3 Bader Gardens, Cippenham, Slough, Berks, SL1 9DJ				WIL	CROOK	Highworth	1690-1800
GLS	HERBERT	Ampney Crucis, Maisey Hampton & Barnsley	19 C		2411	Martyn A.Lloyd, 11, Windsor Rd, Ealing, London, W5 3UL		
HRT	JENNINGS	Royston, Wheathampstead & Bushey	19 C		BKM	GREEN	Datchet	19 C
MDX	JENNINGS	Stepney, Clerkenwell, Hoxton & Islington	19 C		BKM	SMITH	Langley	All
SHR	CLEETON	Broseley, Madeley & Farlow	19 C		BRK	DOPSON	Hungerford	All
SHR	CLEETON	Stottesdon	18 C onward		BRK	TUBB	Hungerford	19 C
WIL	SKINNER	Easton Grey & Sherston	19 C		EIRE	WILLIS	Sligo	18 C
2407	Mrs N.E.Rawlings, 96, Oxendon Way, Ernsford Grange, Coventry CV3 2GR				GLA	JONES & LLOYD	Pontypool	19 C
COR	LONG		19 C		LAN	CRELLIN & WILLIS	Liverpool	19 C
HAM	BOND & CALLINGHAM		19 C		LAN	GWYNNE	Liverpool	20 C
					WIL	ADAMS	Any	19 C
					WIL	ILES & MARTIN	Swindon	19 C

2412F Joseph C.Hinge, 3, Crawters Close,  
Three Bridges, Crawley, West Sussex,  
RH10 1PW

ESS STARR, DYE, MANSER,  
BARNETT & GEORGE  
Chrisall & Heydon 1600-1760

GLS SIMMONS  
& WILCOX Bristol &  
Bedminster 1600-1775

MDX ROBERTS Kentish Town  
1700-1840

SRY TUCKER & HANSCOMB  
Southwark & Lambeth 1700-1840

2412F Jean Hinge as above

HAM HOWELL Silchester 1720-1820

MDX WALTER Westminster,  
St Marylebone and the City 1750-1850

NYK BRITTON Northallerton 1700-1780

NYK BULMER Moorsholme area  
1750-1800

NYK HARBOTTLE Ayresome 1750-1800

WIL WHELLER  
Chirton & Burbage area 1700-1800

YKS TIPLING York City 1700-1780

2418 Leslie A.Bolton, 6, Manor Court,  
Brackley, Northants, NN13 6EL

BRK BOLTON Peasemore,  
Thatcham and Farnborough all

2422 Mrs M.Collins, 33, Leighton Court,  
Pepper Lane, Reading, Berks RG6 2SG

BRK HAYES Reading 1870-

BRK SALT Reading 1855-

BRK POWELL Reading 1880-

HAM POWELL ?-1880

LND BAKEWELL & MASKELL  
Bethnal Green and Poplar -1880

OXF SHAW ?-1870

WIL HAYES & SALT Aldbourne ?-1870

WIL MUDGE Aldbourne ?-1855

2425 V.A.Pyne, 82, Main St, Wolston, Cov-  
entry, CV8 3HJ

BRK GILBERT Hungerford 1700-1991

BRK GREEN  
Welford & Kintbury 1700-1991

WIL GRACE, GILBERT & STONE  
Great Bedwyn 1700-1991

2427 Eric J.Rennles, 59, Grange Rd, Sutton,  
Surrey, SM2 6SP

BRK TEGG Any 1700-1900

DEV BLACKLER Dartmouth 1650-1750

DEV NARRAMORE Paigton 1550-1690

DEV RENNEL(L)S Dartmouth 1650-1820

DEV RENNEL(L)S  
Abbotts Kerswell 1775-1850

HAM CROOK Southwick 1700-1800

HAM NEWLYN Boarhunt 1700-1800

HAM TEGG Privett 1850-1900

HAM TEGG Droxford 1800-1900

LND GRAY  
& HARRIS Camberwell 1800-1890

SFK LARTER Wesselton 1700-1800

SRY KIBBLEWHITE Godalming 1550-1720

SSX VAUGHAN Cuckfield 1650-1785

2430 Mrs M.Foreman, Russetts, Oakside  
Way, Shinfield, Reading, RG2 9BJ

BKM FOWLER, OWEN & CARTER 1540-1900

BKM HUGHES & MEAD 1570-1870

BKM REED 1780-1840

BKM TYLER 1540-1850

BKM WHITEHEAD 1780-1850

BRK FOWLER, OWEN & CARTER 1540-1900

BRK HUGHES & MEAD 1570-1870

BRK REED & WHITEHEAD 1780-1850

BRK TYLER 1540-1850

OXF FOWLER 1540-1900

OXF WHITEHEAD 1780-1850

2431 Carol Miles, Box 531, Minden, On-  
tario, Canada, KOM 2KO

BKM BROWN and HEULEY pre 1880-1991

BRK	FULKER and JOHNSON		?-1882
LAN	WALDRON	Liverpool	pre 1884
LND	GALE	Stoke Newington	pre 1826
MDX	LIDDALL		pre 1865
SRY	MILES		pre 1840
?	MILLER, SELMAN & THORNECROFT		pre 1900

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2432	Karen Bullock, Flat 3, 44, Bulmershe Rd, Reading, Berks, RG1 5RJ		
NTT	BULLOCK		1800-1900
SFK	BULLOCK		1800-1900
SFK	HEFFER/HEIFER	Exning	1700-1850
SFK	THURSTON & WADE		1850-1950
WMD	HOLDSTOCK		1850-1950
WYK	HOLDSTOCK		1850-1950
WYK	NAYLOR	Pudsey	1800-1900

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2435	Mr Simon Lloyd, 50, Glenthorn Rd, Jesmond, Newcastle-on-Tyne, NE2 3HN		
BRK	BRAZIER	Chieveley	1760-1820
BRK	DAVIS	Ashampstead	1741-1810
BRK	ILSLEY/ILLSLEY	Chieveley and Ashampstead	1750-1930
BRK	RUMBLE	East Ilsley	1813-1930

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2436	Mr Robert H. Brock, 5, Ashbridge Rd, Wokingham, Berks RG11 1PP		
BRK	HERMAN	East Iilsley	pre 1860
BRK	TALMAGE	Hanney	pre 1900
DEV	BROCK	Exbourne	pre 1840
KEN	KNIGHT	Greenwich	1840-1860
LND	BROCK	Bishopsgate	1800-1860
SRY	BROCK	Croyden	1860-1940
SRY	BROCK	Camberwell	1830-1890
SRY	BAVRIDGE	Croyden	pre 1920
SRY	LEDGER	Chertsey and Cobham	pre 1940
SRY	KNIGHT	Chertsey	pre 1940

SXE	NOAKES	Whatlington and Ticehurst	pre 1840
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2444F	Mr and Mrs J. Anderson, 1, Kendal Ave, Shinfield, Reading, Berks RG2 9AR		
BDF	WILSHER	Stotfield	pre 1800
BRK	ANDERSON	Reading	pre 1790
BRK	BARLOW	Reading & Basildon	pre 1855
BRK	BEASLEY	Reading & Wokingham	pre 1850
BRK	BECKETT	Reading	pre 1835
BRK	CREED	Reading & Caversham	pre 1800
BRK	WILLOUGHBY	Kintbury	pre 1827
HRT	WILSHER	Norton	pre 1800
KEN	ANDREWS	Cheriton & Folkestone	pre 1886
SCT	GALLOWAY	Kilmarnock	pre 1850
SCT	HAMILL	Croy Cumbernauld, Dumbarton	pre 1860
WIL	WILLOUGHBY	Ham	pre 1827

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2452	Mrs Enid Cole, 40, Wesley Way, Devauden Green, Chepstow, Gwent NP6 6PG		
BRK	RIVERS	Aldermaston	All
BRK	SMITH	Any	All
HAM	SMITH	Any	All

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2466	Mr R.A. Claydon, 17, 2nd Avenue, Ravenswing, Aldermaston, Berks RG7 4PU		
OXF	CLAYTON	Checkendon	1830-1900
OXF	CLAYDON	Ipsden	1800-1900
OXF	CLAYDEN	Pyrtton	1740-1800

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2471	Mrs June Page, 19, Carlyle Rd, Staines, Middx, TW18 2PU		
BRK	CADELL (CADLES) & SEALEY	Shrivenham	
BRK	GROUT	Bray	
BRK	HAYWARD	South Marston	
ESS	COTGROVE, PERRY & ROBINSON	Leigh on Sea	

ESS	PAGE	Colchester		BRK	MOORE	Reading	1760-1765
ESS	STOCK	Wethersfield		BRK	PENNINGTON	Woolhampton	1780s
KEN	GROUT	Maidstone		BRK	PETTIFER	Welford & Wickam	1801-1825
LND	BECK	East End		BRK	SWAIN	Reading	1790-1895
MDX	STEVENSON & SHERGOLD	Staines		BRK	WALLIN	Newbury	1796-1837
SRV	STEVENSON	Chobham		BRK	WHEELER	Thatcham	1811-1925
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2481	Mrs P.M.Parsons, 50, Pembroke Crescent, Hove, East Sussex, BN3 5DG			BRK	WOLLFE	Reading	1786-1791
BRK	HULON & JOHNSON	Bradfield	1750-1800	DOR	PENNINGTON	Canford Magna	1780s
BRK	LONG	Bradfield	1780-1840	<hr/>			
BRK	SPOKES	Bradfield	1780-?	2493	Geoffrey M.Packer, 2, Cranbourne Rd, Oldswinford, Stourbridge, West Midlands, DY8 1QZ		
HAM	COLBORNE	Lymington	1810-1830	BRK	PACKER	Reading	1820-1850
IOW	BROWN	Cowes	1800-1840	MDX	COCKSHULL & HALL	London	c.1840-c.1890
SOM	DUTTON	Ingliscombe	1750-	MDX	LONG	London	1790-1830
SOM	KENTGE (I)N(S)	Bath	1800-1824	MDX	MARCHANT	London	c.1785-c.1860
SOM	WHITE	Bath	1750-	MDX	PACKER	London	1842-1916
SOM	WRIGHT	Bath	1830-1850	WIL	EATWELL	Swindon	1860-1900
SRV	PIGGOTT & WRIGHT	Bermondsey	1780-	WIL	TOLL	Lyneham	1860-1896
WIL	ADAMS	Dilton & Westbury	1750-?	<hr/>			
WIL	ALFORD	Upton Scudamore	1750-1780	2501	Mrs D.M.Wilkinson, 4, Laud Avenue, Eilerslie, Auckland 5, New Zealand		
WIL	HAYWARD	Dilton	1750-1800	BRK	RAFFELL	Windsor	1844-1864
WIL	HOLDING	Upton Scudamore	1780-1800	<hr/>			
WIL	KICK	Edington & Upton Scudamore	1730-1850	2505	Mrs Beryl E.Mason, 19, Elgar Ave, Surbiton, Surrey, KT5 9JH		
WIL	PARADICE	Edington	1730-?	ABD	GORDON & McCARTNEY	Aberdeen	Pre 1900
WIL	WHEELER	Corsley, Dilton & Chapmanslade	1750-1900	BDF	BARFORD & LEAVER	Luton	Pre 1900
<hr/>							
2489	Mrs Jeanne Money, 43, Wallingford Rd, Cholsey, Oxon, OX10 9LG			BRK	BARFORD	Maidenhead	Pre 1900
BRK	COXHEAD	Newbury	1786-1816	BRK	BARFORD, HEDGES & LEAVER/LEEVE	Cookham	Pre 1900
BRK	FISHER	Welford	1798-1901	BRK	FITCH	Windsor	Pre 1900
BRK	FRENCH	Thatcham	1844-1863	WAR	BARFORD	Birmingham	All
BRK	HARRIS	Reading	1820s				
BRK	MONEY	Wokingham area	1811-1952				

# 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

### Chairman

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

### Secretary

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

### Treasurer

†Roy Croton, 18 Maple Crescent, Shaw, Newbury, RG13 1LL, Tel: Newbury 47809

### Branch Chairmen

#### Bracknell

†Peter Francis, 39 Northcott, Bracknell, RG12 4WR, Tel: Bracknell 59941

#### Newbury

†Michael Sheppard, 1 Jubilee Road, Newbury, RG14 7NN, Tel: Newbury 46897

#### Reading

†Bill Grose, 120 Foxcote, Wokingham, RG11 3PE, Tel: Wokingham 734209

#### Slough

†Connie Marshall (Mrs), 1 Prestwood, Slough, SL2 5TX, Tel: Slough 26792

### Membership Secretaries

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### Library & Bookstall

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### Magazine Library

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### Covenant Secretary

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

### 1851 Census

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