

# Berkshire Family Historian

Volume 15 - No 4 - June 1992



## PROGRAMME SUMMARY TO NOVEMBER 1992

## **Newbury Branch**

Meetings are normally held on the the second Wednesday of each month, 7.15pm for 7.45pm at United Reform Church Hall, Cromwell Place (opposite Marks & Spencers), Northbrook Street, Newbury.

10th June	The Society of Genealogists	Chris Watts
9th Sept	Beginners Evening on Civil Registration	Speaker TBA
14th Oct	Dialect	Speaker TBA
11th Nov	Newbury Shopkeepers of Northbrook Street	Audrey Franklin

## **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

26th June	Death beds and Last Wills	Ralph Houlbrooke
31st July	Members' working eveningat Earl	ley St Peter Church Hall
25th Sep	Beginners Talk	Mike Sheppard
30th Oct	The IGI	
20th Nov	Background to Non-conformity	Mike Gandy

Saturday Sessions at Reading Cemetery, start at 10.30am on 13th & 27th June, 11th & 25th July, 8th & 22nd August, 5th & 19th September and 3rd & 17th October. Project sessions at Earley St Peter church hall at 1.30pm to 5.00 pm on Tuesday 20th October and 17th November, and 7.00pm to 10.30pm on Tuesday 6th October and 3rd November.

## 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.

30th June	Biographical sources in the India Office records . Mr. T. Thomas
29th Sep	Members evening
27th Oct	To be announced
24th Nov	The Fascination of Old Maps

## 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

19th June	Family Traditions – True or False?	Eve McLaughlin
17th July	Dating photographs using clothes	Avril Lansdell
18th Sep	Using newspapers	Richard Moore
16th Oct	Illustrated Village History	Mr M Hallam
20th Nov	The Guildhall Library	

Monumental inscription recording at Priory Road, Ascot starting 10.00 am on Saturday 27th June and Sunday 19th July

## BERKSHIRE FAMILY HISTORIAN

### Volume 15, 1991-92

## Part 4, June 1992

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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.

Deadline for the September issue is the 31st July. All contributions very gratefully received. Also any suggestions of what you would like in the magazine.

The illustration on the front cover is taken from from an illustration accompanying "The Golden Farmer – A Poem Humbly Inscribed to the Right Honourable William, Lord Craven." by Thomas Wilkes and is from the collection of the County Local Studies Library, Reading.

## Bits & Pieces...

## by Chad Hanna & Catherine Davis

As many of the articles are topical and this is the end of the Society's year, a couple of articles have been held over. This is also a good time to remind you that you should <u>now</u> be renewing your subscription or updating your bank's standing order mandate. Do it today, before you forget!

#### A home of our own?

As I mentioned last time, we had hoped to obtain use of part of the Keep along the Oxford Road in Reading. Unfortunately, a panel of Reading Councillors decided that the complete building, rather than just the top three floors should be given over to artistic purposes. I am not sure I want to understand the logic!

So we are back to looking. Suggestions have been made about approaching the County Council and other local councils to make sure that we are on any lists of potential applicants that might exist. But we are also asking <u>you</u> to keep your eyes and ears open – it was a bit of surprise that only 1 (one) person told us about the possibility of using the Keep.

The size of our reference library (over 3000 items) together with the magazine library and name index mean we are looking for between 500 and 1000 square feet of space. How much the Society can afford would depend partly on the location and so forth, but while we cannot afford Berkshire's commercial rents we can afford a rent!

## Police Museum Visits

Visits to the Police Museum, at Sulhampstead have been arranged for the 16th May, 27th June, 18th July and 5th September, to transcribe the records

there. If you would like to go along and need a lift from the Reading or Wokingham areas please contact Jacky Blow or Bill Grose (see address on back cover).

## 1881 Census Project Update

Of the 441 batches issued, 170 have been fully transcribed and checked and despatched for computer input. However, that means that there are a further 271 batches left to do, so if you think you can assist with the checking, please let Vincent Millett, 1881 Census Co-ordinator know, (see address on back cover).

## Berkshire Record Society?

Berkshire is one of the few counties without a Record Society publishing its records. While the BFHS does its best, I must welcome the plans of a working group to launch a Berkshire Record Society with the aim of publishing the first volume in 1994.

#### **December Issue**

CRIME for Christmas! I thought that the Berkshire Family Historian could join the national trend. Whilst we can't have Miss Marple, Hercule Poirot or Inspector Morse, there must be plenty of you out there who have come across an example of sudden death, murder or other types of crime, as well as punishment like transportation. If you have, please write to the Editor, letters or articles welcome! The deadline for contributions to the December issue is 30th October.

Generally on the subject of articles, any contributions are always gratefully received, so if you have an interesting or entertaining story to tell about your Berkshire ancestors, please drop Catherine a line and. if they did not live in Berkshire, that is no bar to contributions. For example I should like to see more contributions to "the Rough Guide to ..." series. If you have used a particular

Record Office/Library often and know it well would you consider sharing your expertise with fellow members? The deadline for any contributions to the September issue is 31st July.

## **BFHS Symposium Update**

Since the programmes were printed, another society North West Kent have said that they will be attending, as will be the Tyrrell One Name Society.

## Dates for your diary

20th June, 1992

Berkshire FHS One Day Symposium at The Holt School, Wokingham "All Work and No Play?"

4th July, 1992

East Anglian Regional Conference, at Bury St. Edmunds Corn Exchange, "Our Ancestors at Leisure". Further details from Dr. M. Barnett, 30, Gowers End, Glemsford, Suffolk, CO10 7UF.

10th-15th August, 1992

English Genealogical Congress, at the University of Warwick. Further details available from Miss S. Colwell, Congress Organiser, Woodland View, Polstead Hill, Polstead, Colchester, Essex CO6 5AH.

4th-8th September, 1992

Sixth British Family History Conference, at Worcester College, Henwick Grove, Worcester, "Potters, Plotters and Pikemen of the Midlands".

12th September, 1992 (provisional) Record Office "Roadshow" at Maidenhead Library. Confirm details with Berks Record Office.

19th September, 1992

Glamorgan FHS Open Day, at Michael Sobell Sports Centre, Aberdare, 11am-4pm.

24th October, 1992

Oxfordshire FHS and Society of Genealogists present "Computers in Genealogy and Family History", One Day Confer-

ence, at Exeter Hall, Kidlington, Oxon. Further details from Mr. Barry Muir, 10, Bellamy Close, Southmoor, Abingdon, OX13 5AB.

29th October, 1992

BRO Book Bindery 40th Anniversary "Open Day" at the Battle Library, Oxford Road, Reading.

7th November, 1992

Guild of One Name Studies Regional Conference entitled "Which Way One-Name Research", at St. Paul's Church Hall, Malmesbury Rd., Chippenham. Further details from the Conference Organiser, Mrs. Marjorie Moore, 1, Cambridge Close, Swindon, Wiltshire, SN3 1JQ.

21st November, 1992

North East Regional Day Conference this year takes as its theme some of "life's little problems". It will be held at the Museum and Art Gallery, Chequer Rd., Doncaster. Further details from Mrs. J. Grundy, 5, The Brow, Brecks, Rotherham.

2nd-4th April, 1993

Norfolk and Norwich Genealogical Society Silver Jubilee Conference and AGM of Federation of FHS, at University of East Anglia. The theme will be "Life in Stuart England". Further details from Conference Secretary, Kirby House, 38, St. Giles St., Norwich, Norfolk, NR2 1LL.

16th May, 1993 The Society of Genealogists are planning to hold a "Family History Fair." Stands will include Family History Societies, Books, Postcards, Photographs, Computer Software, Professional Researchers and Research Advice. For further information write to the Family History Fair Co-ordinator, Society of Genealogists, 14, Charterhouse Buildings, London, EC1M 7BA.

Please remember when writing for further information about any of the above to include a Stamped Addressed Envelope.

# An old man tries to remember

## By Ann Mayers

My grandfather, Henry George Lock, was born in Abingdon in 1876, the fifth of eight children, including three older sisters and an older brother. Soon after his birth, his father took the family back to his native village of Sutton Courtney to become landlord of the Plough Inn, following the death of his widowed mother. Here three more children were born, two boys and a girl. In 1890, at the age of fourteen, he was sent away from the village to work in London for a firm called Devas Routledge in Cannon Street.

## Schooldays

Grandfather had a few recollections of his early school-days. He remembered being taken to the village school at the age of three. This had a gallery at one end, and the pupils sat in rows. An older girl looked after them. At the age of six he went up to the senior school, which was one room without any partitions. In this room, the master taught about a hundred boys and girls, assisted by a pupil teacher. There were some very rough boys who used to kick the master's legs and throw slates at him after being caned. Games in the playground were very rough, small boys were bullied and fights frequent.

Pupils were charged 2d a week to attend school. My grandfather recalled that when he was rolling his pennies on the desk one day, they rolled off and one disappeared, The master had him out and searched his pockets and there was the lost penny! It must have fallen in. He was called a cheat and made to stay after

school and write the word out one hundred times.

At eleven, he went to Culham College Practising School, which was about three miles away. This cost eight shillings a term. Some boys came from further away and two, who were farmer's sons came on ponies.

## Sutton vs. Drayton!

Villages at this time were very self-contained, and it was hardly safe to visit another village unless you wanted to fight. It was a case of saying:

"Here is a stranger. Throw a brick at him."

Grandfather and his brother were once very frightened over a village fight. Some Sutton youths had wandered into Drayton and had been set upon by the local inhabitants. During the week, the Sutton lads decided that they would march into Drayton the following Sunday and fight it out. The two boys, only ten and twelve, decided to miss Sunday School and go and see the fun. On the appointed afternoon, only a small number turned up from Sutton. However, they boldly marched towards Drayton, but on reaching the top of the hill, saw a great host in the distance. It looked as if all the men in Drayton had turned up. Fighting was out of the question, so it was decided to send a deputation to suggest that the three best men from Sutton fought the three best Drayton men. However, the Drayton men were not sportsmen and attacked the deputation, who had to flee for their lives and were badly knocked about. The two boys did not wait to see any more, but ran home across the fields, not feeling safe until they were indoors.

Some people enjoyed fighting in those days. One way to get into a scrap was to go into the tap room and turn a pint mug

upside down. This meant that you were ready to fight the best man in the house and there was usually someone ready to oblige. Of course, the beer was much stronger then and only 2d a pint.

## Queen Victoria's Jubilee Feast

This took place on a beautiful summer's day. Trestle tables were set up in the Abbey grounds, under the ancient elms, for this event. For days before, preparations had been going on for this gigantic feast. Bushels of potatoes were peeled, and wagers made on who could peel the most in a given time. My great-grandfather backed his wife against all comers and she won. Large numbers of Christmas Puddings were also made and my great grandmother boiled a copperful. One of the farmer's wives lost her wedding ring while mixing the puddings, so on the day a reward was offered, and much to her joy, the ring was found in one of the puddings.

The farmers slew the sheep and oxen for the feast and the village baker worked overtime, making the bread, cooking the joints and so on. The farm labourers were most eager to eat meat on the day, as they could have vegetables at any time, but meat was rarely seen on a farm labourer's table with the exception of bacon from their own pig. The children had to wait until the adults had finished before they got their share of the feast and, as they had been sent out soon after breakfast so that their mothers could get on with the preparations, were ravenous by the time their turn came. The day ended with sports and games, and, my grandfather believes, fireworks on the green.

## **Employment**

There was much poverty in the village, especially during the winter, when the

farmers used to stand men off. Those out of work would crowd round the black-smith's shop to keep warm. However, at that time, poor people got no help unless they went to the workhouse, which was looked on with horror. My grandfather recalled the funeral of a poor man who fell in the river while mowing along the bank. The coffin was made of rough planks and tarred over.

One way of earning money was to get permission from the farmer to grub up old tree stumps which could be sold for a shilling a barrowful. The men would break up the stumps with a beetle and wedge, which was very hard work indeed. Another way in which men could supplement their income was by helping with fire fighting which was hard work then. The old manual fire engines were still used. These were hand-pumped and had to come from Abingdon, three miles away. Men who wanted to pump were given a wrist strap. Many would man the pump on each side and go as hard as they could for a few minutes and then another gang would take over. It was very exhausting work, but there was keen competition to get a strap as the pay was good, compared with the ten shillings a week paid by the farmers.

#### **Annual Events**

One of the two annual events that my grandfather particularly remembered was the Steeplechase held every May. This took place in the meadows along the river, between Sutton and Abingdon. The Grandstand was just opposite the mouth of the canal, and so was the big water jump, where a good many of the riders came to grief. The meadow belonged to Mr William Pullen, a gentleman farmer, who owned the racing stables. All the village people were allowed in free. Often the village children were present as it coincided with May

1st, which was a school holiday. Thus in the morning the children celebrated Mayday by going "garlanding". This involved making garlands of wild flowers and then going from house to house singing special songs.

The other memorable annual event was the village festival. Village festivals were great events in those days and the most important in Sutton Courtney was the Village Feast held on Corpus Christi<sup>1</sup>. All natives of the village tried to get home for it. The day began with a band arriving from another village and being met by members of the Village Sick Benefit Society, headed by a man carrying a banner. This was a great honour and it required a strong man. Everyone then proceeded to the Church for a special service. Money had been left to pay the clergyman £1 for preaching the sermon.

Afterwards, the procession marched up the village, stopping to play at the big houses where refreshment was handed out. At the school, a hot dinner was provided for all the leading men of the village after which the band marched on, until, by about six, most people had drunk as much as they could carry and the man with the banner was staggering about. The band departed to their own village by horse brake and the rest of the people made their way to the village green where roundabouts, coconut shies and a dancing booth had been set up. The celebrations kept on until after midnight, often finishing with several fights, caused by the village girls consorting with the young men from Abingdon, which made the village youth see red.

## **Interesting Characters**

Some interesting people lived in the village, including three elderly ladies who

1. The Thursday after Trinity Sunday.

used to walk the ten miles to Oxford twice a week, pushing a four-wheeled pram to collect meat and bring it back to sell. They were delicately-brought up ladies who had come down in the world and it was later discovered that they were the daughters of the late General Shrapnel, the inventor of the Shrapnel shell

There was also a man called William Carter, who had twenty-five children by his two wives. On one occasion, Mr Carter and ten of his sons played a cricket match against the rest of the village. A photo was taken and published in the Abingdon Herald. When the Benedictus was sung in Church, the choirboys used to sing: "The noble army of Carters!"

Ann Mayers is an ex-primary school teacher who has lived in Wokingham for the past 25 years. She originally came from Oxford and her parents both lived in Sutton Courtney. At the age of eighty, her grandfather wrote an account of all he could remember of life in the Berkshire village where he grew up. This described the village. its people. occupations, games, pastimes and village occasions. This article includes some of his memories.

## **Obituary - Muriel Haynes**

I am sad to report the death of Muriel Haynes, a founder member of the Windsor, Slough and District FHS. She and her husband attended most of our monthly meetings until her illness became extreme and she finally entered the Thames Valley Hospice.

Connie Marshall

## Newbury Library: The Family/Local History Section

## By Susan Deering Local Studies Specialist

Local History magazines promote the image of the High Technology Library, and Newbury has its fair share of information on microform, and some of the hardware needed to decipher it. At the same time, much information remains between the covers of books and magazines, just waiting to be discovered. We tell the children to "always use the index", but do we heed our own advice? Using the indexes can save time and shortcuts our searching process.

To begin at the beginning, did you know that Newbury Library, which is tucked away in Carnegie Road, near the Railway Station, has within its Reference Department on the first floor, a Local History section? We cover most of Berkshire, some of Hampshire, Oxfordshire and Wiltshire. Within this section the Family History guides are shelved.

## Microform resources

We hold the I.G.I., 1988 microfiche edition, for England, Ireland, Scotland, Wales and the Channel Islands. The Parish and Vital Records fiches are essential, to make sure the Parish and years you are after are included. Currently, we have three microfiche readers available to the public.

On microfilm we have the census for Newbury District, (1841-1881). There is a printed index to these films at the Reference Enquiry Desk. We will be negotiating for the 1891 census during this financial year. The Newbury Weekly News, (1867-1990), is another source

that we now have on microfilm. Last year's papers are kept in labelled boxes beside the shelves of back issues of the daily papers. If you are planning to come to use the microfilms, we would appreciate it if you would let us know when you are coming, as we only have one microfilm reader for public use; our telephone number is 0635 40972.

We provide a copying service for these microform sources – but we do ask a week's grace to complete your order. We can send the results through the post (with an extra charge to cover postage) or we can hold the copies until you call back. Details of the charges for this service are available from the Reference Enquiry Desk.

#### Books of local interest

Book-wise, we hold several Kelly's directories for Berkshire, the earliest being 1849, and several Newbury and District directories mainly Cosburn, from 1900-1974.

We also hold the following Parish Register transcripts for the immediate area:

Aldermaston	1558-1671
Avington	1699-1834
Boxford	1558-1876
Brimpton	1607-1840
Enborne	1508-1837
Hampstead Marshall	1508-1837 <sup>1</sup>
Hungerford	1559-1700
Kintbury	1558-1840
Lambourn	1560-1837
Newbury	1538-1746
Speen	1750-1837 <sup>2</sup>
Upton	1588-1741
West Woodhay	1612-1837 <sup>3</sup>
Winterbourne	
Index to Burial Registers	1567-1979

- 1. Index to Baptisms 1605-1915
- 2. Index 1614-1704
- 3. Burials to 1851

We hold too the following Monumental Inscriptions:

Greenham (St Mary the Virgin)
Hungerford (St Lawrence)
Oare (St Bartholomew)
Shaw-cum-Donnington (St Mary)
Stratfield Mortimer (St Mary the Virgin)
Winterborne (St James-the-Less)
Woolhampton (St Peter)

You can find a lot of help with Family History sources and procedures through the Gibson and McLaughlin Guides<sup>1</sup> – which we keep near the Parish Registers. There are also the following interesting "one-off" titles relating to Berkshire:

Visitation of Berkshire 1664-1666
Berkshire Regiment and Militia
Probate Records ...Berkshire 1653-1710
Return of Owners of Land 1873
Victoria County History
Who's Who in Berkshire (1936)
Wills and Administration ... Berkshire 1508-1642.

Maps of the area are kept in locked cabinets, while printed indexes to the maps are kept at the Reference Enquiry Desk. We have a selection from 1880-1979, including Ordnance Survey Maps of the Newbury District, from the 1890s to the present.

We have several Special Collections, which may provide something of interest when sketching in the background of your Newbury ancestors.

AMERICA: includes l

includes Newburyport, Mass

Newbury, Vermont

CIVIL WAR: includes the TWO Battles of

Newbury.

CUTTINGS: clippings on set topics from

the Newbury Weekly News, including local notables.

POSTCARDS: of places within the District.

Happy hunting!

1. We hold most of the Gibson and McLaughlin Guides.

## New from the County Local Studies Library, Reading.

From Margaret Smith (Senior Librarian: Local Studies)

### Fee-based Research Service

Legislation has recently been introduced enabling public libraries to generate more income. This helps to keep the cost of services down. Since mid-April, the County Local Studies Library has been offering a fee-based research service, the research being carried out by library staff. Charges for unnamed record searches are £8.00 per quarter of an hour, £30.00 per hour. For named record searches, e.g. a check of the census returns, the fee is £5.00 per quarter of an hour, £20.00 per hour. The fee also includes the cost of any photocopies of microfilm printouts generated from that research, stationary and postage. Further details are available from the Library, Abbey Square, Reading. Berks, RG1 3BQ, (Tel 0734 509243/5, Fax 0734 589039).

## A New Name!

Berkshire Library and Information Service has been renamed. It is now called the Department of Libraries, Archives and Tourism. This name has been chosen to reflect the non-library services such as the Berkshire Record Office and "Beautiful Berkshire". "Beautiful Berkshire", by the way, is the section which promotes the county for business and tourism.

The Library and Information Service section of the Department has now been reorganised into three constituent parts.

There is the County Reference Library, which includes the County Local Studies Library, East Division which consists of the former Slough, Maidenhead and Bracknell Areas, and West Division comprising the former Reading, Newbury and Wokingham Areas. Those who know the County well will probably boggle at the thought of Wokingham being in the West! However, the split has been made to ensure more of an equal balance of large town libraries between the two Divisions.

## Berkshire Record Office News

# From Elizabeth Hughes (Senior Archivist: Public Services)

## Staff changes

In the last Newsletter we marked the departure for the Public Record Office of Sue Shaw, the Assistant County Archivist, who will be greatly missed. Her successor is now in post. Elizabeth Hughes, who joins us from Hampshire Record Office as Senior Archivist: Public Services, will be responsible for reader services within the Record Office and beyond, and for developing links with external organisations such as the BFHS.

We are also delighted to report that on the County Council's budget day in February funding was granted for two additional posts to help in tackling the serious problem of the cataloguing backlog. The posts – of Senior Cataloguer and a third Archives Assistant – should both be filled by early summer.

## Finding your family

A number of visitors and potential users of the Record Office have recently been frustrated to discover that "Finding Your Family", the guide to family history sources at Berkshire Record Office, has been out of print. We are now pleased to report that a fully updated version of the guide is about to be reprinted, which we feel will be even more useful that the last one and well worth the wait. We are also hoping to extend our range of publications. Watch our for more details in future issues.

## Overseers project update

Work is proceeding on the revived overseers' project. Calendars of the settlement papers from two more parishes have been completed and are awaiting inputting. However, more volunteers are needed if real progress is to be made. Brian Hunt's article in the last issue of the "Berkshire Family Historian" provides the background to the project, and offers of help can be made to him, to Peter Durrant or to Elizabeth Hughes. It may be possible to provide, on loan, microfilm copies of documents from some parishes for members to work on at home, so even if you can't get to the Record Office you might be able to help. Let us know!

#### Other events

Finally a couple of dates for your diary. Plans are underway for a Record Office "roadshow" to be held in Maidenhead Library, when members of staff will be on hand to talk about the Record Office, discuss research problems, identify documents and demonstrate the work of the Conservation Unit. Saturday 12th September is the provisional date for what is sure to be a popular event. Then on 29th October the book bindery in Battle Bindery, Reading, which is part of the Record Office Conservation Unit, will be holding an Open Day to mark its 40th Anniversary. Visitors will be able to marvel at how battered books are skilfully restored: it should be quite an eye-opener.

## **An Eagles Family**

## By Stuart Eagles

When I first began to trace my family history in March/April 1989 little did I know that I was going to be bitten by the infamous 'genealogical bug'. After only a few weeks of ancestral research, I was hooked. It amazes me that, although when I began I had information taking me back to 1911, I now know my family's history back to 1759. To relate my entire family history would probably prove tedious and boring. Therefore, in this article I should like to relate the story of finding a previously unknown relative, alive and well.

On an off-chance, I looked through the telephone directory for anybody by the name of Eagles and spotted an entry which seemed to be significant. This was "M.E.Eagles...West Ilsley". I decided to write to this person, as my ancestors came from the nearby village, Brightwalton.

My letter contained an explanation of what I was doing and that I thought there was a possibility that we were related. The best way that I could think of to ascertain a relationship between us was to write down all the names of members of the Eagles family which I knew anything about.

By the side of every name, I put that person's years of birth and death. I concentrated on three names in particular, as I knew of a branch of my family who moved to West Ilsley in the mid to late 1800s. The list was as follows:

Joseph Eagles 1727-1875

married Sarah Newton Earl

Joseph Eagles 1853-1917

married Kate Susanna Taylor

Edwin Kingham Eagles - b.1902.

Rather doubtful as to the accuracy of my information and the coherency of my letter, I didn't expect to hear anything more of the matter.

On the very day in August 1991 when I left for my annual holiday in Margate, I received a reply from Miss Mary Elizabeth Eagles. Her letter started off with stating a few facts, namely, that Joseph Kingham and Kate Susanna Eagles were her parents. They were Post Master and Mistress for the village of West Ilsley for many years. Her mother died in 1950. Joseph and Sarah Eagles were Mary's grandparents.

Edwin Kingham Eagles was Mary's brother. She told me that he was a School Master and Headmaster of Palmer C of E School in Wokingham. Edwin died in West Ilsley in the 1960s. One of Mary's sisters, Susan Amy had died in 1975, but her other sister Joan Kate Everett, although recently widowed, was alive and well in Weymouth.

The abundance of information proved very useful and confirmed that we were related. To be precise Mary is my great great great grandparent's great granddaughter, which makes her a second cousin twice removed.

Exceedingly pleased with this reply, I wrote her a ten page letter, explaining our relationship and our family history as I was sure that she'd be interested to hear of her ancestors.

After receiving a further letter from Mary, with more information and a little booklet about Berkshire in which John Eagles (my great great great great grandfather) features, due to his hurdle making, I arranged with my family to visit her

We met Mary shortly before her eightieth birthday and spent five hours going through various photographs and documents. We had lunch at the Harrow Inn which was owned by Mary's grandparents in the late Nineteenth Century. Mary herself is much respected in the village, having lived there all her life, and has been Churchwarden for the past thirty-five years. She is known to the villagers as Miss Eagles. A very pleasant meeting and the first of many to come.

Stuart Eagles is new to genealogy and one of our Society's youngest members, aged fifteen. He has recently begun a One Name Study of EAGLES. In this article he relates the experience of discovering a distant relative, by chance; searching a local telephone directory.

## "Reading Sauce"

# A Reading Cemetery profile by Bryan Willson

Ever heard of Reading Sauce? Well, for over a hundred years this fish sauce was virtually a household name in the UK. In 1910 it was being supplied to the Houses of Parliament and it even received a mention in Jules Verne's *Around the World in Eighty Days*.

Whilst recording MI's at the Cemetery, I have been privileged to come across the graves of a number of people who were closely associated with this product, although the originator of Reading Sauce, James Cocks (1766 - 1827) who first produced it in 1789 at his fishmongers shop in Butchers Row (and from 1797 in Duke Street), now rests in St Laurence's Churchyard.

On Jame's death, three sons were left to carry on the flourishing business: James jnr (1795 - 1836), John (1797 - 1860) and Charles (1805 - 1864).

The two younger sons mentioned are both buried in Reading Cemetery. John in Section 47 and Charles in Section 48.

Of the two, Charles it was who had the real flair and dynamism for building up the business and who acquired the additional premises for a warehouse at 25 Kings Road. Sadly, he died aged 59 following an industrial accident. A further tragedy then struck the family when Charles' only son, Charles Cooper Cocks (1841 – 1864), died of anguish at his father's death, just twelve days later. They lie together in the same grave, to be joined later by Elizabeth and Ellen Cocks.

Charles widow, Elizabeth (1811 - 1894), carried on the business for a while but when Jessie Ann, her youngest daughter, married Charles Morris (1834 - 1899), he bought the firm from his mother-in-law.

It was Charles Morris who had the Kings Road Warehouse/Manufactory rebuilt in 1878 and who sought to extend still further the range of products sold. Charles Morris and his wife Jessie Ann now repose a few rows behind Charles Cocks' memorial in Section 48.

A long standing employee of the firm then took over: Frank Winter (1869 - 1928). He registered the firm as a Limited Company 'Charles Cocks and Co. Ltd' in 1901 and became its Managing Director. Frank was a well known public figure and he worked tirelessly to maintain the Company's fortunes against growing competition. He too now rests in the Cemetery alongside the boundary wall adjoining Section 66.

Over the next 30 years the business changed hands several times. Finally, about 1960, Charles Cocks & Co. Ltd succumbed to the competition and trading ceased.

For further information about Reading Sauce see Tony Corley's article in *Berks. Archaeological Journal* Vol 70, Pages 97 - 106.

## A Brief Guide to Hampshire Record Office

## By Diana Mackarill

The Hampshire Record Office is near the town centre, about ten minutes walk from the Railway station. There is very little parking - do not rely on it. Easily recognised, the Record Office is housed in a redundant church with four floors built up to the height of the building, with archive deposits in the basement/crypt. There is a lift available. It has been well adapted and is very pleasant to use - warm and light, though somewhat alarming in high winds!

The ground-floor entrance hall provides registration point - day or permanent readers' tickets are easily obtainable on production of identification. The lockers, coat hanging space and toilets are to be found here. There is a small gloomy area with a table where sandwiches can be eaten - no drinks machine. All kinds of eating places are within easy reach in the city.

On the first floor is the library, (open shelf) containing local material, Hampshire publications, Trade Directories etc. and the main catalogues for wills, parish records, censuses, estates and so on. There are four microfilm readers in this section. Here you complete order slips which you post into a wall slit; documents are handed out on the top floor, usually within half an hour.

The General Card Index is housed on this floor. This is divided into library, people, places and subjects. These I have found difficult to use, partly because many are handwritten, the reference numbers are obscure, and the rationale of position is not very clear, but there is a vast amount there - only patience is needed! As with most record offices, if you know what you are looking for, it is straightforward; if you are hoping to discover something unexpected, you may feel frustrated.

The second floor houses the map room, with more catalogues, providing tithe, enclosure, estate and Ordnance Survey maps. Large tables allow for comfortable study; maps are ordered in the same way as other documents. Another eight microform readers are available on this level.

The Search Room is on the top floor. About a dozen visitors can be seated at well-lit tables and there are eight more fiche readers. Parish record fiches are available here on a self-help basis, as also are many parish record transcripts, Phillimore Marriage registers, transcribed MIs and the IGI for Hampshire only. Book rests and magnifying glass are available on request. Booking is recommended for microreaders, especially microfilm readers, although I have usually found a fiche reader free for quick use.

The availability and cataloguing of Parish records is excellent. Wills are divided into date periods and adequately indexed for easy reference. County census returns 1841-1881 are on microfilm. Also available are Quarter and Petty Sessions records, Borough records and deposited papers of several estate landowners, some containing detailed labour and tenancy information. Diocesan records are held here, and various collections of newspapers, photographs, engravings etc.

Staff are plentiful and are extremely helpful, both to the bemused first time visitor and to the persistent enquirer. Leaflet guides are available at the Registration desk where there are also pamphlets on sale. Opening hours are:

Mon - Thurs Fri 9am - 4.45pm 9am - 4.15pm

Sat

9am - 12pm

Within ten minutes walk you can find both the Local Studies Library and the City Reference Library. The latter holds the complete IGI for Britain with fiche photocopier available.

Go while you may - a splendid new Record Office is being built adjacent to the station scheduled to open in 1993; it will no doubt be impressive and functionally up-to-date; let's hope it is as congenial and human as the old one.

Hampshire Record Office address is: 20 Southgate St, Winchester, SO23 9EF. Tel No 0962 846154.

Diana Mackarill is a member of the Berks and Hants FH Societies. She is researching the PAICE and BULPIT families in N.Hampshire and is also working on the papers of Lord Bolton's estate at Hackwood Park, Basingstoke.

## **Record Office Closure**

Surrey Record Office at Kingston, will be closed for major building work during the summer, and will not therefore be open to visitors, although there will be a skeleton postal and telephone service. If you are intending to use the Record Office between June and September, please telephone 081-541-9065.

## **Inappropriate Occupation?**

Lesley Hanna noticed the following, whilst checking the 1881 Census for Burghfield, at one of the regular Tuesday evening sessions.

Folio 51 Page 2 (Ref RG11/1298)

"Manors Hill, Charles Love, Head, Unm, 59, Castrator, Theale!"

# List of Berkshire Parishes <u>not</u> included on the 1988 IGI.

## Compiled by Meg Goswell.

This list does not include any of the newer parishes formed after 1837.

Abingdon St Helens

Avington

Barkham

Baulking

Beedon

Besselsleigh

Boxford

Brightwell

Brimpton

Bucklebury

Catmore

Chilton

Cumnor<sup>1</sup>

East IIsley

Fawley

Fyfield

Hatford Kintbury

Leckhampstead

Letcombe Basset

Newbury St Nicholas

Pusey

Reading St Lawrence

Remenham<sup>2</sup>

Ruscombe

Shaw cum Donnington

Shottesbrook

Sotwell

Speen

Stratfield Mortimer St Mary

Streatley

Upton<sup>3</sup>

Wallingford St Leonard

Wallingford St Mary

Wallingford St Peter

Wargrave

Winkfield

Woolhampton

Wootton

Wytham

- 1. Only from 1607
- 2. Bapt to 1789, mar to 1758
- 3. 1588-1750 only

## Q & A with Jean

## Compiled by Jean Debney

## Q. St. Cath's Volume Nos

Barbara Debney (1908) of Spencers Wood, Reading, Berks:

When I was copying up the death entries for my family 1920-1950 extracted from the St Catherines House indexes, I became very worried in case I had copied down the later ones incorrectly as the volume numbers had changed: eg. the one for Mansfield which had been "7b" suddenly became "3c". I hope you can give me an explanation for this as I don't want to go back and repeat the exercise in order to obtain the correct references.

A. A letter published in the Family Tree Magazine, October 1991, shows that you are not the only one who is puzzled by changes in the volume number codes used in the SCH indexes. The explanation is that Roman numerals were used from 1837-1851 and Arabic numerals and a letter from 1851-Aug.1946 which relate to different counties in England and Wales. A list of these codes is in Beginning Your Family History by George Pelling and there is also a map for each period published by the Institute of Heraldic and Genealogical Studies.

What is not generally realised is that the system changed again in 1946 when the numbers and letters were re-allocated. A further change took place from September quarter 1982 when the registration system was computerised and a two-digit number is now in use. No maps or lists have yet been produced for the periods 1946 and 1982 for use in family history circles, but the enquiry desk at St Catherine's House should be able to answer any queries. Also it should be noted that these reference

codes only apply to the St Catherine's House indexes, they are no use in a district registry office.

So – don't worry Barbara, it sounds as if your work is OK. Sharp-eyed readers will have noticed the surname here – yes, Barbara and I are sisters-in-law!

## Q. Adopted Children

Pat Deane (1200) of Tilehurst, Berkshire:

In my family history researches I have discovered that a relative put a baby out for adoption in the 1940s. Is there any way I can find out more about this child without actually approaching the mother?

A. The answer is, probably not a lot! The only way for you or other close relatives (by blood or marriage) is, after supplying proof of relationship, to enter your name and address on the Adoption Contact Register (ACR) at OPCS, General Register Office, Adoption Section, Smedley Hydro, Trafalgar Road, Birkdale, Southport, PR8 2HH. If the register matches relative and adoptee, the latter only will be sent the name and address, the relative will be merely informed that this has been done. There is a registration fee and only applies to adoptions after 1st January 1927.

The above information comes from a leaflet issued by the Federation FHS (April 1992): Notes for guidance in tracing the natural parents of adopted persons in England and Wales. Photocopies can be supplied for 20p cost + sae (or IRCs for overseas).

## Q. Looking for a family

Robert Houseman (2458) of Reading, Berks:

My great-great-grandfather, John HOUSEMAN, a solicitor, died on 9th

April 1843 aged 44 and I have a copy of his will which names his wife Mary. His eldest son was born in 1833. I have also found the family in the 1841 Census in Marylebone, Middx: he was aged '40' and born in the county, his wife was not. Please can you suggest how to find firstly, the details of his marriage (it is not listed on the IGI) and secondly, details of any brothers or sisters he may have had.

 $\mathcal{A}$ . The first thing to do might be to obtain a birth certificate of a child born between 1 July 1837 (when Civil Registration commenced) and the June quarter 1844 (after father's death) - this will give the mother's maiden name. Secondly, Mary Houseman, as a solicitor's widow will almost certainly be listed under "private residents" in the London Post Office Directories. (There is a good run of these in the Greater London Record Office). Armed with an address, locate her in the 1851 census and find out where she said she was born. With any luck, she may have married in her home parish.

As an alternative, try *Boyd's Marriage Index*, although a quick glance at the SOG booklet<sup>1</sup> suggests that many of the parishes in the Maryelbone area of Middlesex end too early for your marriage to be listed. The original index is in the Library of the Society of Genealogists, a copy of the London and Middlesex section is in the Guildhall Library, London, and microfilm copies are available in many Family History Centres.

As for finding out about brothers and sisters (if any), perhaps it may be best to first try and find out more about his career as a solicitor. Apart from tracing his entries and details of any partners (rela-

tions?) in the annual Law Lists published from 1774 to date, there is a list of printed sources under "lawyers" in Occupational Sources for Genealogists by Stuart Raymond<sup>1</sup>. This includes records of the Inns of Court where he may have received his legal training. Further details of the Inns is given in The Growth of British Education ans its Records<sup>1</sup> by Colin Chapman. The PRO Information leaflet no.112 Records of Attorneys and Solicitors in the Public Record Office (Aug 1990) may also be useful.

## Q. Fisher for carpets

Barbara Mottershead (49) of Brighton, Sussex:

A large number of my "FISHER" ancestors in Abingdon were connected with the carpet trade – some were listed as 'manufacturers' and presumably ran small workshops. Would these small 'works' have amalgamated to form the "Abingdon Carpets Manufacturing Coy" or would some of them have grown large enough to buy up the others?

All the following are "family" – In Ock Street, Abingdon, in the 1841 census, Richard FISHER (60) was listed as a carpet manufacturer and his sons, Stephen a weaver and Henry a carpet manufacturer; Richard's brother, James, was a sack manufacturer (he was also Parish Clerk at one time).

In 1851, Richard was described as a "pauper, formerly hempdresser" and Stephen a matting and carpet manufacturer. By 1861, Stephen was a sacking manufacturer and in the 1863 Kelly's Directory he was listed as a matting manufacturer in Ock Street.

Richard's nephew, William was a sack weaver in Ock Street in 1841, handloom weaver in 1851 and sacking manufacturer employing 5 men and 5 women in 1861. The 1861 Directory lists him as a

<sup>1.</sup> See "Book Ends" for reviews of these books.

sack maker and Parish Clerk of St Nicholas Parish Church (a post his Uncle James held before him). In 1868 Kelly's Directory he was a sack and twine manufacturer. Other members of the family in Ock Street were also hempdressers and weavers. From the above it appears that the family fortunes go up and down.

A. Richard FISHER was "60" in 1841 and ?70-ish in 1851 and possibly too old to work. In the absence of today's old age pension, he would have been in receipt of parish relief – ie. a pauper – not an indication that the family's fortunes had declined.

My dictionary says that hemp and jute were used to manufacture both sacks and carpet backing, etc. so the occupational descriptions you mention may just be different names for the same trade. It seems likely that they were small family workshops dependant on local demand which later fell. Pigot's Directories 1823-24 and 1830 says about Abingdon that "The most considerable manaufactures of late years has been the dressing of hemp, sack-making ... and carpet weaving, these have been constituted the chief employment of the lower orders." By 1887, Kelly's Directory states that "a considerable trade was (my italics) carried on in sail cloth and sacking, still to some extent maintained ... and there are also flour mills and maltings." There are no FISHERs listed in Ock Street that year.

Having said all that, my answer to your question is that I don't know ... but I know a man who might! Write to John CARTER, 14, Gordon Drive, Abingdon (with an sae of course). He has done a considerable amount of research into the history of Abingdon and has published a couple of books (see the booklist)

## Q. The correct spelling?

Kevin Herring (2328) of New South Wales, Australia:

My Berkshire ancestors family name was MABBERLEY/MABBERLY/MABERLY with further variations. Those that could write sometimes spelt it differently to those who completed the church register records. In my Australian lot, apart from the convict ship indent, my man and his descendants have gone by the spelling of MABERLY (the 'A' as in HAY) and another family use MABBERLY ('MABB' as in 'dab'). What is the right thing to show on the pedigree chart? I think MABBERLEY is probably the more correct spelling, but then I live on the other side of the world.

A. It doesn't matter where you live it is up to you to decide which is the "correct" spelling of your family surname. But since you say that your "Australian lot" spelt it MABERLY then that would seem to be the right version for your family tree, provided that you indicate on the document/s that there are other variations. On my own charts I always give everyone their individual surname in capitals and women have their maiden names. I find it best to chart individuals according to how their name has been (mostly) spelt in the records rather than "correcting" it to common form.

## Where Was He Born? (cont)

As a result of Diane Ridley's query appearing in the *Berkshire Family Historian* in March 1992, Pamela E Roberts (183) of Goring-by-Sea, Sussex wrote as follows:

I have two scraps of information that might give Diane a lead – John NEWELL was No.21 in a list of the Loyal Ivy Lodge members in Abingdon in 1842. The Abgindon parish registers are still with the incumbent – at least they are for St Helens, St Nicholas records are, I believe, at Shinfield and copies of both are in the Bodleian [according to my records, copies of both are in the Oxford CRO – plus BTs in the Wiltshire CRO to 1836 and after that in Oxford CRO – JD].

From The Thames Highway, Vol II, Locks and Weirs, by Fred S.Thacker, I see that there was a weir owner at Shiplake named NEWELL in 1821. If Mrs Ridley's ancestors were waterman of one kind or another, they would have had easy access, by the Thames to Abingdon, Shiplake, Clewer and indeed any of the other intervening parishes.

Thank you, Pamela, for your suggestions, I have passed the information on to Diane.

## Magazine Gleanings

# By Rosemary Sarney (Magazine Librarian)

Berkshire Family History Society exchanges its journal with over 70 other family history societies in Britain and also includes societies in Australia, New Zealand and Canada on the exchange postal list. These magazines are offered to members for borrowing at our monthly meetings. Confronted with such a choice of magazines members may wonder which they should borrow and hopefully will find the following articles interesting and instructive.

## "Lest we forget"

Lincolnshire FHS remind us in Vol 1 No 4 of their journal that the motto of the Battle of Britain Memorial Flight – "Lest We Forget" is also a particularly

apt one for family historians. Continuing in this theme Eunice Wilson has written an article "Flying with the RAF" which should be read by anyone with RAF connections in the First or Second World Wars.

## **Wartime Identity Cards**

With the possibility of Britain coming into line with other EEC countries and adopting an identity system, Howard Perry in "The Essex Family Historian" No 55, reminds us of one of the greatest aids to future family historians — the wartime identity card. When the National Health Service was born in 1948 the wartime identity card number became and still is the holder's National Health number. Mr Perry offers help to decipher the district codes within this personal number.

This article also appears in the Waltham Forest FHS Journal Vol 5 No 7.

## Protestant refugees

The history of the Protestant Reformation can be found in an excellent article by Kenneth Francis in Felixstowe FHS Journal Vol 5 No 4. Entitled "The Flight of Flemish and Walloon Refugees to England in the Sixteenth Century", it summarises the political and religious upheavals in the Netherlands which led to the flight of thousands of refugees to England. The whereabouts of important lists of those banished, and Flemish and Walloon registers in England, are also given.

The flight of the Huguenots from France is also well documented and an article by Arthur Desforges can be found in Lincolnshire FHS Vol 2 No 1.

continued on page 144

# Women Landworkers in Berkshire

## By Pamela Horn

In the first part of her article, Pamela Horn looked at the situation of female landworkers, in general. In the second part, of her article, she illuminates the experience of women with a number of specific examples.

Against the general background of women's land labour in Berkshire it is now time to examine the female role on some individual farms, and to confirm the undercounting of their numbers in the census returns. The first example relates to John Badcock's Wick Farm at Radley. In 1861, the census reported a labour force of twelve men and five boys on the 400-acre holding; no mention was made of women workers. Yet wages books show that as many as seven females were employed during some weeks in that year. A number also worked jointly with their husband, as in the week ending 1 November, 1861, when 'John Greenaway and wife' earned 14s. In addition, from Michaelmas 1861, Mrs East, the carter's wife, secured 1s. a week 'looking after the fowls'. Elizabeth East and Ann Greenaway were both wives of male employees on the farm. Elizabeth was aged about twenty-three and had one small son, while Ann was in her mid forties and had an eight year old daughter still at home. In the 1861 census returns neither woman is shown as having an occupation.1

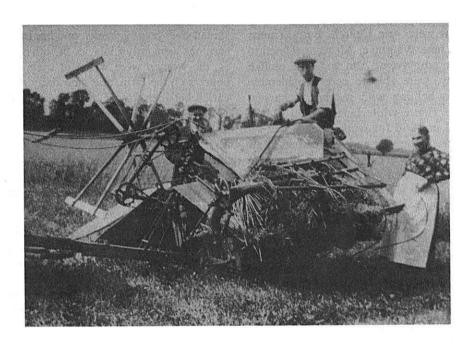
The Wick Farm labour books indicate the great fluctuations in the size of the female labour force during the year and the versatility of their contribution. In 1861 'women' (mostly unnamed)

worked during 43 weeks of the year at daily rates of pay which varied from 8d. or 9d to 1s. However, the numbers involved altered considerably. During the week ending 18 January, only one woman was employed for one day at 8d whereas during that ending 12 April, five women were at work, three of them earning 4s a week, one 3s 8d, and the fifth 2s 8d. With the start of haymaking in mid-June, the female total rose to seven and remained at that level until the end of the first week in July. During this last seven-day period 1 10s 10d, was paid out in wages to the women workers. One of them earned 5s; two 4s 7d; and the rest 4s 2d. By 26 July, with hoeing in full swing, five of the six women then at work earned 5s a week, while the sixth secured 2s 6d. Then, on 30 August, with the commencement of harvest, the number of females individually employed dropped to three, of whom one earned 6s, one 4s, and the third 2s. Others may have helped their husbands as part of a work team, but are not recorded in the wages book. By 6 September, the female labour force had slumped to two, and about a month later, except for two forays by Mrs Greenaway and one each by Mrs East and Mrs Smith (the latter a labourer's wife in her late forties), female employment on the farm dried up entirely.2 It did not resume until the week ending 10 January, 1862. In that year, too, the maximum labour force of seven women was recorded during haymaking at the end of June. In all, out of

<sup>1.</sup> According to the 1861 Census Returns, there were 7 female land workers in Radley in 1861; 6 were widows (of whom 5 headed their own households) and the seventh was a 17-year-old unmarried girl. No married women were shown as so occupied, although a number of wives were shown as dressmakers, needlewomen, laundresses and the like.

<sup>2.</sup> Labour book for Wick Farm at the University of Reading Farm Archives, BER.13.5.5.

Mrs Rixon of West Hendred continued to help in the harvest during the early years of present century, despite her advanced age. Such women were proud of their earning ability and the boost it represented to family income. (The late Mr F. Rixon).



a total farm wages bill of £586 4s 4d during 1861, the female share amounted to just under £34.

The flexibility with which women workers could be used was revealed with equal force at the Bradley Farm estate, Chieveley. Women were particularly important in the harvest here and in 1868, out of a harvest labour force of twenty-five (excluding migratory Irishmen), they accounted for ten; in 1869, women numbered ten out of a total of thirty-one. However, when the harvest home money was distributed, in lieu of the farmer providing them with a feast, the females received only 1s 6d apiece,

while their male colleagues obtained 2s 6d.

The way that women were expected to respond immediately to a sudden upsurge in demand for their labour is also illustrated neatly in December 1867. During the weeks ending 6 and 13 December work was slack, with only three females employed - and one of those put in just a day in one week and a half-day in the other. However, when threshing commenced, the basic labour force jumped from twenty-five to thirty-three workers. Women accounted for virtually all of the increase, with ten of them employed in that busy period, but once this task was completed, their numbers fell and there were only three employed by the beginning of January 1868.

<sup>1.</sup> Labour book for the Bradley Farm estate, Chieveley at the University of Reading Farm Archives, BER.28.3.1.

The amount of piecework a woman obtained during the spring hoeing or at havsel and harvest had a substantial effect on her annual income. Three of the most regular female labourers at Bishop Farm were Ann Church, Betty Timms and Jane Walgrave. All were related to male employees. Ann and Jane, unlike Betty, were able to earn considerable sums helping with reaping at harvest time. Hence while Jane secured £11 7s 1/2d in 1868 for work spread over 49 weeks in the year and Ann earned £9 0s 11d for work accomplished in 39 weeks, Betty obtained only £8 12s 10d, even though she worked for 46 weeks. These variations, although small to our eyes, could represent the difference between the purchase of several additional loaves to feed the family, or two or three pairs of children's boots, and the lack of means to do either of those things.

My third example relates to John Cozens's 195-acre farm at Little Wittenham. where two women were employed in 1881.1 As was the case with the three wives at Wick Farm quoted above, neither of them was shown with an occupation in the census. Cozens claimed to employ 6 men and 2 boys only, and the women reported no jobs in their own right.<sup>2</sup> One of them, Mrs Wheeler, worked for 63.25 days, spread over 27 separate weeks, and earned £4 10s 11d during 1881. Not only did she carry out field labour and work in the barn, but she assisted with the threshing, mended sacks, helped with the washing, repaired clothes, and worked in the house. Her colleague, Mrs Belcher, was employed

By the end of the century at this Little Wittenham farm, it was Mrs Bradbury, aided occasionally by a second woman, who was now the main female worker on the farm. Unlike most other women labourers she was able to use a fagging hook at harvest, and thus secured piecework rates equal to those of male colleagues. In 1898 her total annual income was £5 14s 4d for 74.5 days' work, plus piecework at harvest; the following year it had risen to £6 11s 8d to cover 72 days' work, as well as piecework and one day helping in the farmhouse. In both years, piecework earnings accounted for more than a third of her total pay.<sup>3</sup>

Yet, despite the contribution of women like Mrs Bradbury and the obvious undercounting of female workers in the census returns, by the end of the nineteenth century the number of women field labourers had dropped dramatically compared to the early years of Queen Victoria's reign. (See Table 1). Cheaper imported food and mass-produced cloth-

for 67 days, in addition to earning 12s 'reaping' at harvest on piecework rates. However, she carried out no 'extra' tasks, and so although she worked more days than Mrs Wheeler, they were spread over just 19 weeks, and her total earnings were only £3 4s 5d. In both cases, the women were wives of male labourers on the farm, and their daily pay varied between 9d for 'field' work and 1s 6d for threshing. Both were aged forty-four and had four children. Two of Mrs Belcher's sons, aged seventeen and thirteen, were also land workers, as was one of Mrs Wheeler's, aged only eleven. The remaining children in both families were still at school.

Labour book for Wittenham Clumps Farm, Little Wittenham at the University of Reading Farm Archives, BER.10.2.1.

<sup>2. 1881</sup> Census Returns for Little Wittenham. Pamela Horn, "Victorian Countrywomen" (Oxford: Basil Blackwell, 1991), p.152.

Labour book for Wittenham Clumps Farm, Little Wittenham at the University of Reading Farm Archives, BER.10.2.2.

ing had helped to ease the budgeting problems of rural households and had reduced the pressure on wives to work. Food prices alone fell by about a quarter in the last three decades of the century. Not until the First World War, when the shortage of male land workers led to the formation of the Women's Land Army and similar voluntary organisations, and village women were again encouraged to return to farming, was there a large-scale revival in the use of females in English agriculture. 1

This final change is illustrated in the records of Frederick Abbott's 130-acre Manor Farm at East Hagbourne. Before the First World War 'women' were very occasionally employed for a day or so at a time. In 1907, for example, they were employed during five weeks, mostly at haymaking, but their minor contribution

to the farm's activities is indicated by the fact that the payment made to all of them amounted to less than £1 10s out of an annual farm labour bill of just over £373. Then, with the onset of War, their role began to increase, until by 1916, three of them were at work for about six weeks during the harvest. One was the wife of one of the annually hired workers; the other two were apparently not wives of employees. In that year their joint earnings amounted to £5 4s 8d - an indication not only of war-time inflation but of their greater importance within the Manor Farm work force.2 It was symptomatic of changes elsewhere in British agriculture.

Table 1: Female Employment On The Land In Berkshire, 1851-1911. (Source: Census Reports)

Year	Farmers	Ag. Labs (outdoor)	Ag. Labs (indoor)	
1851	160	3,305	1,604 <sup>a</sup>	
1861	165	2,604	186	
1871 125		1,895	80	
1881	90	1,1	62	
1891	123	710		
1901	91	211		
1911	100	116		

a. In 1851, this figure may have included "domestic servants" employed on the farm as well as residential female land workers. From 1881, a "joint total" only was provided for agricultural labourers and farm servants.

Pamela Horn, "Rural Life in England in the First World War" (Dublin: Gill & Macmillan, 1984), pp.112-139.

<sup>2.</sup> Labour book for Manor Farm, East Hagbourne at the University of Reading Farm Archives, BER.26.2.1.

# Seven Farm Diaries 1904

## By Dorothy Wise

The 1904 Diary has lost the whole of January and both its covers. It starts on Feb 2nd with what must be a typical day for that time of year.

"Ben Hutchins with two horses to Reading with one ton hay, brot back load of Gas Lime."

"Tom Lewington carting dung from yard to field"

"Harry Hutchins done cattle and dung spreading in Lockran Field."
"Own Work, Frank dung spreading, Jack odd jobs."

"Self with Bert to Reading."
"Red Heifer with white face to
Tyser's Mercury."

As these are farm diaries, it is not surprising that a large number of the entries are concerned with the "Farming Year". From it the yearly round of tasks can be put together. Thus, the entries for February and March record hedging, ditching and dung spreading, collecting faggots out of the wood for Squire Palmer, digging potatoes and ringing pigs. Harnesses were cleaned, usually by one of the boys, whilst Mother made the butter, which the boys had churned. As the weather improved, we see:

"Bert cow minding on the common."
"Jack scaring rooks off oats with gun
and minding baby."

June brings the hay harvest with which all were occupied, one way or another. For example, there are references to preparing the rick bottoms, as well as mowing, turning, haycart and rick building. Thus June 30th:

"B.Hutchins and Frank with two horses mowing and cutting round until 10am, then hay cart with four horses and three vans till 9.30pm. George West cutting grass morning till 10.30 am then to Mowbray's till 9.30 pm."

On August 3rd, the oats at Upper Warrens Wood are being harvested and by the end of the week, the harvest is in full swing.

September saw Frank making boxes for apples and the potato harvest had begun. Apple picking went on until October, mostly done in the evenings, with the girls helping. Other autumn fruits were gathered such as blackberries and bullaces and these Aunt made into pies and jam.

The entry for 12th October records:

"Self went to Potato Exhibition at Crystall Palace"

Several hundred weight of potatoes were sold off the farm that month. Henry George not only grew potatoes for himself, he also took part in experimental planting of potatoes for a Mr Fenn, who was a breeder of potatoes. Henry George even paid his daughters' school fees in potatoes. The price that the potatoes could fetch is illustrated by the following entry for November 21st:

1. Robert Fenn to whom there is a memorial in Sulhampstead Abbots Church. According to Arthur Mee, "he spent many years teaching people to grow better potatoes."

2. The girls attended a private school for young ladies and small boys, run by two sisters, the Misses Johnson, at Mortimer. The boys went to the village school.

"Self to Reading Market by train, 10.26, home by 2.42 then to Illman for potato money. Illman paid 10/for potatoes. One bag to call for and three empty bags."

For a few days at the end of November B.Hutchins and Frank were busy carting soil to the garden of Wokefield House for Mr Palmer. In early December, much gravel was carted to Grazeley "below Bell". This was obviously a big job, as on the sixth all the staff including Frank were occupied with carting gravel, while Bert after churning went with "Self" to Spencer's Wood, Shinfield and Reading. On the 7th, "Started fatting Bacon hogs and porkers." On December 22nd, B. Hutchins was ploughing in Lower Warrens Wood whilst T. Lewington was "Spreading dirt" there. Harry was doing the cattle and odd jobs, whilst Self, Frank and Bert were harness cleaning and doing odd jobs.

## Family life

To me, half the fascination of the diaries is seeing my brothers and sisters-in-law as young children, full of hope for their future and enjoying a parental back up of love and care that many would have envied. True, they had to work hard but they had their moments of happiness attending fairs and harvest homes. Thus on Whit Monday, Henry George recorded,

"B. Hutchins and D. Collis, half day gravel cart to Bell (Inn) and half day off. Self, Mother, Aunt and family except Frank, Fred, Crissie, Millie and Jim Hancock, went with van to Bucklebury Common, picnicked, on to Marleston, Cold Ash and Thatcham."

whilst on September 24th,

"Mr Tyser's Harvest Home. Frank, Bert and Randal went."

Henry George even went on holiday. Thus against July 14th is written,

"Self, Fred, Aunt and Crissie went to Margate, No.5 Princes Crescent."

That left Mother to run home affairs and the farm shop and the booking. She tells us that,

"Bert took Father and Aunt to Reading, then loaded home with stuff from Allsops."

She managed to record the daily round pretty well for the next four days, but I see that Henry George, when he came back, went over things and asked a few questions, for he has written in a few headings here and there and although he returned on the Thursday, he wrote in the work for Wednesday, whilst on the Thursday, he recorded,

"Self to Bradfield and West End Flower Show with Mother and Fred, baby and the three girls."

The Diary also records family birthdays, usually in a childish hand, thus:

July 11th "Morther Birthday Party" September 13th "Alethea Birthday" September 25th "Hector Birthday", <sup>1</sup> October 1st, "Bert Birthday Party."

whilst on November 18th, the following entry is found,

"Bert, Churning and minding baby. The Baby Walked."

On November 5th, the little penciller tells us,

1. My future husband had survived his first birthday.

"We had a bonfire and had a tar tub, it was fun."

The 1904 Diary illustrates a fact that was previously noted, that this was a family that went to church or chapel, both or none as it suited them. It is noticeable too that the family did not attend any one favourite place of worship. Thus on Easter Sunday 3rd April:

"Self, Winnie, Randall, Alethea, Dorothy to Mortimer Church." whilst on April 17th,

"Noone went to church or chapel in morning... Leathy and Irene to Chapel at night."

However, on Sunday 16th November, we find that

"Self, Mother and Randall went to Meales Church morning Aunt, Self and Randall went to Mortimer Chapel afternoon." 1

## Family changes

On February 3rd 1904, Henry George recorded:

"Very wet day, Grandmother died." 2

After that he carried on more or less the same as the day before although,

"Self had Bonnie and rode to Post Office, and Mosdells and Spratley, [undertakers?] and to Doctor's."

1. Meales Church was St Michaels Sulhampstead Banister, which has since been demolished.

On Saturday 6th, the day of Grandmother's funeral, the farm work and the funeral are given equal priority. Thus under 'Own work' we can see that a great deal of tidying up was going on. Thus B. Hutchins, D. Collins and T. Lewington were

"Clearing up with three horses, fetched 6 loads Gravel, 3 for yard, 1 for stable doorway and two for the big gateway at Grandmother's." "Frank took Ludlams potatoes and grocery order to Manners and other odd jobs, then to funeral." "Jack to Brewery and to P.C. Butchers with Bonnie." "Self to Station twice for Martha and Dorothy, and Lizzie and F.dwin. "3 "Mother's funeral, Jack, Bert, Frank, Self and Mother went." "Light coloured heifer to Tyser's Mercury."

1904 also reveals a considerable amount of interaction between the Wise family and their cousins who lived at Tilehurst. The following entries illustrate this. For example the entry for Easter Sunday (3rd April), records:

"Later Self and Randall to Tilehurst, brot back Crissie. Fred came back on the black mare and went hunting next day. Self, Crissie, Winnie, Irene and Eric (aged 3) to hunting with Bonnie. Hounds met at A. Taylors."

<sup>2.</sup> This was Martha Wise his 82 year old mother (and my great grandmother), she had borne 12 children over a period of 25 years of whom ten had survived. Mark her husband had died in 1895.

<sup>3.</sup> Martha and Lizzie were sisters of Henry George and Edwin was a younger brother living in Henley at this time, he later emigrated to Canada.

Two weeks later, the entry for Sunday April 17th, records

"Self, Winnie and Jack to Tilehurst in afternoon. Jack returned to Compton on Fred's bike."<sup>1</sup>

Jack was the first of the family to leave home. He went to work as an apprentice engineer, at an engineering works in Compton near Theale. 1. Winnie and Fred were the children of Barnett and Sarah Stacey of Tilehurst. They were first cousins to the nine Wise children. Fred was the sole surviving boy, two other boys having died of TB. Fred married Crissie in 1907. He later became a dentist and had a practise in Zinzan Street, Reading.

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Note: a 'lackey' is a footman

## **Book Ends**

## compiled by Jean Debney

All the following books are available from branch bookstalls at meetings or by post from Jean Debney, (address on the back cover). Please remember to include the appropriate amount to cover postage and packing.

#### Federation of Family History Society Publications

#### Gibson Guides:

Local Census Listings 1522-1930 – Holdings in the British Isles (including the Channel Islands and the Isle of Man) by Jeremy Gibson and Mervyn Medlycott, 1st edition., (FFHS 1992, 60pp) £2.50 (+ 40p UK, 70p surface mail, £1.20 airmail).

A new title which catalogues county by county, in the efficient fashion we have come to recognise as Jeremy's hallmark, lists of inhabitants not connected with the 1841-1891 civil censuses. The introduction by Mervyn Medlycott explains the 1801-1831 civil censuses, other 'Official' and ecclesiastical censuses, incumbents' visiting books, Easter books, communicants lists and examination or catechismal rolls. There is also a list of books for further reading.

Marriage, Census and Other Indexes for Family Historians, by Jeremy Gibson and Elizabeth Hampson, 4th edition, (FFHS 1992, 60pp) £2.50, (+ 40p UK, 70p surface mail, £1.20 airmail).

A new edition with up-to-date details of indexes, changes of address, etc. since the third edition, four years ago. The familiar orange cover has a new picture on the front and the title on both sides of the spine which makes it easier to find on the bookshelf.

Quarter Sessions Records for Family Historians, a Select List compiled by Jeremy Gibson, 3rd edition (FFHS 1992, 48pp) £2.50 (+ 40p UK, 70p surface mail, £1.20 airmail).

This long-awaited edition contains larger lists of records for several counties which reflect recent advances made in cataloguing by some record offices. The grey cover is now adomed with the Royal Coat of Arms in dark blue and the title on both sides of the spine.

#### **Bibliographies**

Gloucestershire and Bristol County Genealogical Bibliography by Stuart Raymond, (FFHS 1992, 88pp) £6 00 (+40p UK, 70p surface mail, £1.20 airmail).

Among the many sources listed are printed parish registers, family histories and private estate papers for "your" county. Other counties are promised soon.

Also available are CORNWALL, DEV-ON, DORSET & SOMERSET.

Occupational Sources for Genealogists, a Bibliography by Stuart Raymond, (FFHS 1992, 40pp) £2.25 (+35p UK, 55p surface mail, £1.20 airmail).

Lists printed sources of information for many types of employment and status from accountants to yeomen via circus performers, feminists, hymn writers, pirates, smugglers and witches, etc. JD

The Book of Trades or Library of Useful Arts, 1811 Part 1, edited by Beryl Hurley, (Wiltshire FHS, 64pp), £3.00 (+35p UK, 55p surface mail, £1.20 air).

Was your ancestor a soap-boiler, a waterman or a spinner? 32 job descriptions circa 1811 (when the book was first published), illustrated with "Rustic Vignettes ..." by W H Pyne (1824). Part two is promised with more trades in the

near future. This book could be used with "Occupational Sources" above.

#### Family History Research Aids

Dating Old Photographs by Robert Pols, (FFHS 1992, 84pp) £3.95 (+45p UK, 85p surface mail, £2.00 airmail)

Lavishly illustrated, the text includes chapters on the beginnings of photography, identifying, dating and copying photographs, plus several "dating" charts by photograph types, background costume, etc. Invaluable, especially if you have some Victorian family portraits you would like to know more about.

An Introduction to Irish Research by Bill Davis, 1st edition, (FFHS 1992, 90pp) £3.95 (+50p UK, 85p surface mail, £2.00 airmail).

This is described as a beginner's guide and it looks good. The author was born in England of Irish parents, studied Irish History and Emigration and experienced at first hand the difficulties of Irish research. Includes further reading at the end of each chapter, plus a worldwide list of useful addresses and an index.

More Sources of World War I Army Ancestry by Norman Holding, 2nd edition, (FFHS 1991, 88pp) £3.95 (+40p UK, 70p surface mail, £1.20 airmail).

Improved cover and printing plus some minor corrections and additional information about sources at the Public Record Office, Kew, completes the upgrading of the WWI Army trilogy which every family historian with ancestors in the Great War needs.

## Society of Genealogists Publications

Marriage Licences: Abstracts and Indexes in the Library of Society of Genealogists (Library Sources No 2) 4th

edition, (1991 SOG) £1.80 (+30p UK, 40p surface mail, 75p airmail).

County lists for England, Wales and Ireland of the material held by SOG, this volume now includes the Library shelf numbers plus many new items since the last edition in 1987.

A List of Parishes in Boyds Marriage Index (Library Sources No 3) 6th edition, (1992 SOG, 56pp), £2.80 (+ 40p UK, 70p surface mail, £1.20 airmail)

The original typescript index covering approximately 15% English marriages between 1538-1837 is in the SOG Library but microfiche copies are available at many Family History Centres; it explains the abbreviations used and lists the parishes and dates covered. JD

My Ancestors Were Congregationalists – in England and Wales compiled by D.J.H.Clifford, 1st edition, (SOG 1992, 94pp) £3 90 (+50p UK, 85p surface mail, £2.00 airmail).

A welcome addition to the "My Ancestors were ..." series. The introduction outlines the history of Congregationalism, discusses some helpful sources and includes a list of useful addresses and a bibliography. However, the majority of the book is a detailed and comprehensive list by county in England and Wales of surviving registers to 1850 in the Public Record Office (plus RG4 ref.nos.), local record offices and the SOG library. For example, did you know that the burial register for Aston Tirrold UR Church from 1734-1870 is in the Berkshire Record Office? JD

## Berkshire Local History

Berkshire Old and New, No.9 (Berkshire Local History Association, 1992, 52pp) £3.00 (+35p UK, 55p surface mail, £1.20 airmail).

A further collection of articles relating to Berkshire: The Chalvey Stab Monkey, Foundlings at Nurse in the Burghfield Inspection, Windsor Borough Records, Buscot Coppice, Bradfield and Marriage – 1838 Style; plus a bibliography of recently published books relating to Berkshire.

#### **Bracknell Local History**

Bracknell & District Local History Group Publications:

Easthampstead Enclosure 1827 by Michael Dumbleton (1991) £1.80 (+40p UK, 70p surface mail, £1.20 airmail).

The holdings listed by owner, occupier and plot number, with table of totals and maps (one loosely inserted).

Easthampstead Tithe Apportionment 1841 by Michael Dumbleton (1991) £1.80 (+40p UK, 70p surface mail, £1.20 airmail).

The holdings listed by owner, occupier and plot number, with table of totals and maps (one loosely inserted).

Easthampstead – Monumental Inscriptions (A4 size) £7.00 (postal rates on application)

Robert Rogers' Bracknell by Bernard Slatter (1988, 8pp) 25p (+ 20p UK, 30p surface mail, 55p airmail)

Based on the 1851 Census.

Martins Heron – A House and Its Occupants by Violet Hunt, (A5 edition, 1991, 11pp) 50p (+ 20p UK, 40p surface mail, 65p airmail).

Lily Hill House – A Family History by V.G.HUNT, (A5 edition, 1991, 22pp) 80p (+ 20p UK, 40p surface mail, 65p airmail).

Brickmaking – a Local Industry by Michael Dumbleton, 2nd edition (revised) (1990) 24pp £1.00 (+ 20p UK, 40p surface, 65p airmail).

Iron Age Bracknell - Caesar's Camp by T.K.Green, (1984 Reprint, 14pp) 50p (+ 20p UK, 40p surface mail, 65p airmail).

I Remember... Reminiscences of Bracknell People edited by Allan Hanson (1991) Booklet – 46pp, £2 75 (+40p UK, 70p surface mail, £1.20 airmail). Tape Recording (1 hour) £2.00 (+35p UK, 55p surface mail, £1.20 airmail).

#### Thatcham

Thatcham Road Names by Roy B.Tubb, (Published by the Author, 1991, 258pp) £6.95 (+£1 UK, £1.65 surface mail, £4.50 airmail)

Old and new names with their meanings plus several maps – a veritable mine of information.

#### Wokingham Local History

The Wokingham Historian No 4 (Local History Group of the Wokingham Society, 1992, 40pp) £1 50 (+35p UK, 55p surface mail, £1 20 airmail)

A further collection of well researched and written articles about the town: Montague House, Emmbrook House, the 1930s, street names, the origin of Wokingham town, Old Wokingham in perspective and crafts and industries of rural Wokingham.

London and Middlesex FHS have recently published the following indexes:

CLERKENWELL St James, Settlement Examinations (1777-1851)

ISLINGTON St Mary Rate Books (1729-1851) St Mary Settlement Examinations (1758-1821) St Mary Magdalene Baptisms (1835-1851)

Further details available from Stephen Allberry, North Middlesex Publications, 375 Liverpool Road, Islington, London, N1 INL. Please send a stamp with your enquiry, but not an envelope.

## Letter to the Editor

Forge Cottage, Yelverton, Devon, PL20 6BT

Dear Editor.

Mv mother Violet Hannah STRUGNELL was born in St Mary's [Parish] Reading at 3, Easton Place, Brunswick Street, on 8th January 1907. She was baptised at the Parish Church, Wokingham on 12th May 1907. Her only godparent was Annie Child although against this name on her baptismal certificate is written (Mrs Trew). I'm not sure whether this is Annie Child's married name, or whether it means a Mrs Trew stood in for her at the ceremony. However, the main problem is - WHY was she taken to Wokingham for baptism? It can't have been an easy journey in 1907 with three other small children of two, three and five years old. I can find no family reason and my mother did not know. Any ideas?

All best wishes.

Len Heath

Please remember when writing to people, such as the Secretary, the Berkshire Name Index, the Bookstall or to other members to enclose a Stamped Addressed Envelope or the appropriate number of International Reply Coupons, or you may not get a reply.

## **Treasure Trove**

## **Unwanted Certificate**

The following certificates have been passed to Jean DEBNEY as surplus to requirements. If you think they relate to your researches, then an letter plus s.a.e. and information that will identify the link should be sent to Jean Debney and the items will be passed to you for the

cost of postage plus, say, a donation to BFHS funds.

1. Birth Certificate 1855, St George district, Clifton, Bristol, GLS:

Alfred BURCHILL son of Charles & Ann (ROBERTS)

2. Marriage Certificate 1856, Great Yarmouth, NFK:

William T BENFIELD & Emma E GODBOLT.

3. Death Certificate 1911, Hawkhurst, KEN:

Harriett GOODWIN (82 years); mentions E PIPER

1873 Birth Certificate: Arthur son of Frederick BUTCHER & Fanny formerly PHILLIPS born Worlington Sfk.

(This will be sent to anyone who can show it will further their research – plus s.a.e.)

#### **Education Certificates**

The following have been deposited in the Society archives and copies can be made for anyone who thinks that they might relate to their research at 10p a page from Jean DEBNEY (address on back cover):

Scholars Certificates awarded to Bessie WIGMORE:

- 1. 1906 (September) from London Institute for the Advancement of Plain Needlework (L.I.A.P.N.) for patching flannel, etc.
- 2. 1907 (September) from L.I.A.P.N. for darning stocking holes etc.
- 3. 1907 from the South Kensington Board of Education for model drawing
- 4. 1914 (July 22) from the Berkshire Education Committee, Maidenhead School of Art for drawing common objects, etc. Signed by W C F ANDERSON, Education Secretary.

## **Computer Corner**

If you agree or disagree with the things that people have written in, please drop me a line. For example, of the four letters, I have had, most seem not to use a commercial or shareware genealogical package, nor are they using IBM compatible PCs. Any thoughts on the subject?

Stuart Eagles, 90 Water Road, writes to say that he has an Atari ST computer and a database called "ZapCard". It allows three fields to be defined as, for example, name, area, and date of birth, and a further ten lines of data can be entered. Over two hundred records can be kept in one file on an ordinary 520 ST. As this program is in the "Public Domain", it can be copied free of charge. If any readers of the Berkshire Family Historian would like a copy, then send him an SAE and a 3.5" disk. There is full documentation on the disk.

Susan Peyman (2099), 15, The Grovelands, Lancing, West Sussex, has written to say that she uses both an Amstrad PCW 8256 and a PC. She purchased GENNY for the Amstrad 8256 sometime ago, and writes that she "has not really had time to use it to the full; I am still feeding in all my information. I would be interested to know of other members who may have this program and how they have progressed with it.

I also use a PC with SMART software. I have used the database of this to input all the PEYMANs I have found from St Catherine's House births marriage and death indexes from 1837 to approx 1970; also baptisms, marriages and burials from church registers prior to this date going back to approximately 1650. I am doing a one name study on this name which originates from Faringdon/Abingdon. This database is far more powerful than my PCW and enables me

to "sort" the information very quickly. I am then able to link families together either by mother's maiden name or by place.

The field headings I have used are as follows:

YEAR the year of the event being recorded.

BMD I enter a single letter under this column [to signify the type of event].

NAME I only enter the forenames unless it was prior to 1800s when the records show PYEMAN.

#### MOTHER/SPOUSE

The maiden name of the mother, if known or maiden name of spouse when given at time of marriage. Thus when sorting under this field the marriage and children from that marriage are listed together.

#### LOCATION

This is either the registration district as given in St Catherine's House records, or actual place name. Sorting by this field, again links families together.

AGE If known.

REF Family Tree Reference Number.

[Because I have so much information on the PEYMAN family history, I have drawn up several family trees, each of which I have given an individual reference number. By looking down this column I can see at a glance those PEYMANs I know and those I still have to work on.]

SOURCE ie SCH=St Catherine's House, BRO=Berkshire Record Office, IGI=IGI, SHA=St Helen's Abingdon etc.

The database is just a brief outline in order for various "sorts" to be made to ascertain family groups and as a main reference to my knowing exactly which family tree they appear on. The GENNY software contains fuller details of each person appearing on family trees."

## HELP!

Yet more cries of help from frustrated researchers! Can any fellow members offer a solution? If you are experiencing difficult ancestors, please write to the Editor. Help may be at hand!

R.B.Lawrence (1785), 41, Cheltenham Road, Parkstone, Poole, Dorset, BH12 2ND, writes, "My grandfather William LAWRENCE was born at Swallow-field on 18th October 1818 to Mary LAWRENCE and William STACEY, out of wedlock. William continued to use the name LAWRENCE even though William STACEY and Mary LAWRENCE married on 24th September 1820 at Swallowfield. My problem is to find William Stacey's family."

John Greenslade, (2002), 251 Ermin Street, Stratton St Margaret, Swindon, Wilts, SN3 4LN, would like to discover details of the marriage of his ancestor Charles REEVES, in Berkshire, Charles was baptised in 1817 at Chisledon, Wilts, the son of John and his wife Betty (nee ROMANS). The 1851 Census for Wiltshire shows that he strayed into Berkshire where he acquired his wife Mary and three children. His wife was born in Reading as was his youngest child, Lucy c1846, whilst the other two (c1842)and Frances/Fanny (c1844), were born at Mapledurham.

Mrs A. Harcourt, (2086), "The Cottage", 94, Woolbrook Rd, Sidmouth, Devon, EX10 9XD, is looking for the parents and baptism of Clementina AYRES – she married William BLACKMAN on the 25th May, 1799, at Thatcham and had two sons, Thomas, baptised at Chievely, and Amos, baptised at Boxford. Clementina and William separated and she had a daughter Arabella, baptised 1810 at Hungerford, by Thomas BLACKWELL. Can anyone help with

her parents and baptism, also what happened to Clementina, Arabella and Thomas BLACKWELL who appear to have disappeared without trace!

Mrs Brenda Peterson (2531), 16, The Fallows, New Street, Cockermouth, Cumbria, CA13 0ET, is seeking information on Matthew SWIFT, who died in Windsor some time before 1796. He was a tailor by trade and also did some surveying in London in 1792.

Mrs Stockbridge (2595), Forsters Barn, Benover Road, Yalding, Maidstone, Kent, ME18 6AX, is researching the name of STOCKBRIDGE in the East Garston/Lambourne areas. Any information regarding Thomas STOCKBRIDGE born 31st May 1741, son of James and Mary (nee BRIDGEMAN) would be most helpful. Has anyone heard of STOCKBRIDGE CRAGS or CRACKS?

Stuart Eagles, (2242), "The Eyrie", 90 Water Road, Reading, RG3 2NN, has written to say that he has begun a One Name Study of EAGLES. Any information is gratefully received. 300+ names so far on file, more awaiting entry.

John Greenslade (2002), writes that he holds a lot of information about the REEVES family in North Wilts and will be pleased to answer queries accompanied by a SAE.

Rev Philip Wall (2591), has photocopies of IGI (1988) entries for the name SAR-GENT and its variants for the counties of Berks, Devon, Glos, Hants, Herts, Somerset, Wilts and Sussex. Any enquiries to 9 Woburn Close, Trowbridge, Wilts, BA14 9TJ. Please enclose SAE.

Robert Houseman, The Corner House, Shaw Road, Reading, RG1 6JX, has just started work on his HOUSEMAN ancestry. Any references gratefully received, particularly if in the London, Surrey or Gloucestershire areas.

## Members' Pages

## Compiled By Mea Coswell

Con	npiled By	Meg Gosu	ell	WIL	TURNER	Shalbourne	Pre 1750
1564		Stamp, 57, St		2311		dford, 3, Bat okingham, B	
LND	COOKMAN		1856	BRK	BOLTON	Peasemore	1700-1900
SRY	HITCHCOX	Lambeth	1861	BRK	HOUSE	Welford	-1800
SRY	HULBERT	Southwark	1856	BRK	ORMOND	Reading	1800-1900
WAR	HITCHCOX		1817	BRK	SMITH	Wickham Hea	
WIL	COOKMAN		1834	DBY	BLYTH	Bury St Edmu	
2022	NA I PROPERTY	14.11		DBY	CARVER	Bury St Edmu	
2032	borne, Dorset	14 Harrier Dr	ive, Wim-	DBY	RADFORD	Tibshelf	1800-1900
BRK	NOON	Lambourne Are	a c 1850	DBY	STANLEY	Pilsey	1800-1900
BRK	NOON	Hungerford Are		НАМ	ORMOND	Portsmouth	1800-1900
				НАМ	SMITH	Overton	1830s
2254		ton, Flat 8, 1 El	don Road,	LND	BLAKE	Walworth	1890s
	Reading, Berl	ks, RG1 4DJ		LND	KEMP	Islington	1700-1900
BRK	HART	Newbury	Pre 1887	LND	MARKWELL	Any ·	1800s
DOR	HUNT	Piddletrenthide	1851-1900			<b>;</b>	
ESS	HARRINGTON	I Wethersfield	1600-1900	2415F	Mr D. and M		
ESS	HARRINGTON	I Finchingfield	1600-1900		Close, Barton	Hills, Luton,	Beds, LU3
GLS	CLOTHIER	Bristol	Pre 1859	2011	3XB		******
LND	HARRINGTON	Spitalfields	1860-1900	BRK	WESTALL	Lambourne	1600-1992
NTH	BOYER	Walton .	Pre 1837	BRK	WESTALL	Newbury	1600-1992
2296	Valerie Rush	nell, 67, Smyt	he Road	BRK	WESTALL	Speen	1600-1992
227(1		uckland 8, New		WIL	WESTALL	Aldbourne	1600-1992
BRK	LONG	Speen	Pre 1780	WIL	WESTALL	Axford	1600-1992
BRK	PAULIN(G)	Leckhampstead	Pre 1780	WIL	WESTALL	Baydon	1600-1992
BRK	PINFOLD	Shrivenham	17 C	WIL	WESTALL	Ramsbury	1600-1992
BRK	WA(L)TERS			WIL	WESTALL	Swindon	1600-1992
	Hampstead Ma	rshall	Pre 1740	2434	Lyn Cooper,	17. Latour St	Australia
BRK	WHITAKER/				Western Austr		, rradirana,
	WHIGHTWICK		Pre 1800	?	ALLAN		All
ESS	PEARCE	South Weald	Pre 1860	?	RAYNOR	?	All
HAM	NOYCE	Overton	Pre 1800	BRK	THATCHER	Abingdon	All
HAM	THUMWOOD	Overton	Pre 1800	BRK	WESTALL	Abingdon	All
HAM	TUBB	Crux Easton	Pre 1800	IRL	BENSON	Wexford	All
MDX	COX	Hampstead	Pre 1840	IRL	BERMINGHAM	Ballyburnie	All
MDX	KEEL(E)Y	Westminster	Pre 1840	IRL	JONES	Wexford	All
WIL	ANNETTS/ANN		170	IRL	MULREADY	Ballyburnie	All
A/II	Collingbourne F	Migsion	17C	LND	HASTINGS	?	Pre 1850
WIL	CULLEY Collingbourne F	Kinaston	17 C	LND	SHORT	?	Pre 1850
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WIL

WIL

MINCHIN

SCUTTS

Liddington

Pewsey

Pre 1760

Pre 1720

WOR	HOLLOWAY	Worcester	All	-			
WOR	HUNT	Worcester	Pre 1850	2496	Mr L.G.Burg	ess, "Birchwoo	d", Brown
WOR	STANTON	Worcester	Pre 1850			n End, Berkams	ted, Herts,
WRY	HUNT	Stainforth	All	DDV	HP4 2SG	N <b>a</b> mentari	
-		7,000		BRK	BURGESS	Any	-1860
2470F	Mrs Barbara I	10 10		BRK	CHAMP	East Hendred a	
		Reading, RG4	7RP	BRK	CRAPEN	Hampstead Nor	one of the companion o
BRK	ILES	Buscot		BRK	CURTICE	Hampstead Nor	1000000
BRK	ILES	Longcot		BRK	KEMBER	Hampstead Nor	(51)
BRK	JEFFRIES	Longcot		BRK	PITHER(S)	Any	-1760
BRK	JEFFRIES	Shrivenham		BRK	STANMORE	Any	-1810
BRK	NEAT	Buscot	1850-?	BRK	TITCOMBE	East Hendred a	rea -1730
BRK	NEAT	Longcot	1850-?	ESS	JOHNSON	Rayleigh	-1850
BRK	RIZATTO	Arborfield	1890-?	ESS	PARISH	Any	-1850
BRK	WELLS		Pre 1920	LND	BEDWELL	Any	-1820
BRK	YEOMAN(S)		19 & 20 C	LND	CLAPSHAW	Any	-1780
GLS	NEAT	Lechlade	Pre 1850	NFK	PAGE	Great Yarmouth	-1850
HAM	SUMNER	Eversley	Pre 1930	SOM	HEARSE/HAR	SE Any	-1840
HAM	SUMNER	Bramshill	Pre 1930	SRY	FRITH	Mitcham area	-1750
HAM	WELLS		Pre 1920	2400	Ma Alaa Cat	- 25 N - 1 - 1'	
HAM	YEOMAN(S)		Pre 1920	2498	Mr Alan Gater, 25, Northell Bray, Beds, LU6 2DE		te, Eaton
LIN	MOORE			All	CHILDERLEY		All
	Donnington Are	ea	Pre 1920	ВКМ	145 (1.45)		All
MDX	RISATTO		1903-?	ВКМ		X*0	
NFK	DOVE		Pre 1920		GATER/GAYTO	-estry as a recoverage.	All
SYK	THOMPSON	Bridlington	1880-?	BKM	HARRIS	Any	All
2402	Man	F	1 0	BRK	GATER/GEAT	CONTROL SHOOMS	All
2492	Hawthorn, Vi	Farmer, 4, Ar		BRK	GATER/GAYTO HARRIS	AND THE PARTY OF T	All
BRK	JOHNSON	Reading	1838-1858	CMA	GRIFFITHS	Any	All
BRK	MARTIN	Reading	1838-1858	OXF		Any	Pre 1780
DEV	BRIGHT	Exeter	1786-1900		GATER/GEAT		All
DEV	COX	Exeter	1786-1900	OXF	GATER/GAYTO	2. <b>%</b>	All
DEV	PENNEY	Exeter	1813-1900	OXF	HARRIS	Any	All
KEN	BEEZLEY	Bromley	1800-1852	2500	Mr Peter Grav	, 5, Brook Clo	se. Wok-
KEN	ISARD				ingham, Berks		,
		Bromley	1753-1852	All	SCAMMELL	Any	All
KEN	REEVES	Widmore	1800-?	BRK	GRAY		1870-?
KEN	WYNNE	Bromley	1757-?	BRK	HANSON		1880-?
KIK	BOLGER		1840-?	BRK	HAWKINS		1874-?
KIK	GREAVE		1840-?	BRK	SNELL		1840-
MDX	WARREN St Andrews Hol	horn	1833-1850	DOR	GRAY		1870-
PER	STRANG	DOM	1000-1000	DOR	WILCOX		1870-
. 411	Stanley & Dund	lee	1840-1855	SOM	GRAY		1870-
SCT	TAYLOR		1810-1855	SOM	WILCOX		1870-
	nonders and the		.0.0 1055	COIN	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·		10/0-

SRY	HANSON		Pre 1880	SFK	COLE	Lowestoft	1862-1907
WIL	GRAY		1870-	Part Control (News)			
WIL	WILCOX		1870-	2518		y, 245, Henl teading, Berks,	
2502	Mr John Hod	ges, 3, Arkwr	ight Road	BRK	CRIPPS	Chaddleworth	-1844
2.7(72	Milton Ernest	, Bedford MK4	4 1SE	BRK	MOSDELL	Compton	-1814
BRK	ABERCROMBI			GLS	BROAD	Cirencester	-1819
J		Cookham	1750-1850	GLS	HAYWARD	Cirencester	-1861
BRK	I(S)LES	Kingston Lisle	1800-1870	NBL	AVERY	Newcastle-on-	Tyne All
BRK	LOVEGROVE	West Berkshire	1800-1850	NBL	ELLIOTT	Newcastle-on-	Tyne All
NTH	BUCKBY	Maidwell	1700-1750	NBL	GRAY	Newcastle-on-	Tyne -1883
NTH	ENGLAND	Harleston	1600-1900	NBL	NORMAN	Newcastle-on-	M S
NTH	HODGES	Haselbeach	1700-1800				
NTH	MERRILL	Wilbarston	1700-1850	2519		am, Longways	
NTH	WARWICH	Collingtree	1700-1800		Chieveley, No	ewbury, Berks,	
NTH	WILFORD	Clipston	1740-1800	LIN	MARRIS	Glanford Brigg	Any
WIL	ILES	Inglesham	1750-1800	LIN	STAMFORD	Glanford Brigg	Any
				LND	HAYLEY	Lambeth	Any
2503		ton contraction we would		LND	MADDEN	Islington	1850-1900
		nurch, Aylesbu	ry, Bucks,	LND	SUTTON	Lambeth	c. 1900
107020	HP22 4LG		1000 1050	LND	VASS	Lambeth	Any
All	PEVALIN	555 M	1820-1850	NTT	COOPE	Warsop	Any
BKM	READ	Winchendon	1700-1750	NTT	EADSON	Pleasley	Any
BRK	HAMLIN & vari	ations Reading	1550-1700	NTT	HALL	Pleasley	Any
DDV	HAMLIN & var	10 17 17 17 17 17 17 17 17 17 17 17 17 17	1550 1700	NTT	<b>JEPSON</b>	Warsop	Any
BRK	HAMLIN & Van	Tilehurst	1550-1700	NTT	MARTIN	Pleasley	Any
BRK	HAMLIN & var	iations		NTT	TRANTHAM	Pleasley	Pre 1800
-		Burghfield	1550-1700	NTT	WOOLLEY	Pleasley	Any
HAM	MAIN/MAINE/	MAYNE Pre	1700-1800	NYK	ALTON	Thirsk	Any
IOW	MAIN/MAINE/	MAYNE Pre	1700-1800	NYK	STAPYTON	Thirsk	Any
LND	HAMLIN & var	iations		SYK	FLETCHER	Doncaster	Any
		London	1550-1700	YKS	HOLMES	York	Any
LND	PARTRIDGE	Southwark	1800-1850	YKS	LUMLEY-HOL	MES	
NTH	HART		1700-1830			York	Pre 1900
SRY	MITCHELL	Croydon	1750-1870				Don'd
SRY	WARREN	Croydon	1750-1870	2520	Susan Hora, Sing, Berks, R	51, Eastern Ave G1 5SQ	enue, Read-
2504		ett, 12, Golds Chase, Crowtho		ALL	HORA/DEHOR DA HORA	RA/ Worldwide	All
	RG117QP			CAN	ANDERSON	Ontario	1900-1992
BRK	LANGLEY	Sparsholt	1800-1903	CAN	BALLARD	Ontario	1900-1992
BRK	LANGLEY	Wokingham	1800-1903	ESS	HANSORD	Harwich	Pre 1800
MDX	BARRETT	London	1798-1931	ESS	LODGE	Leigh-on-Sea	1930-
MDX	COLE	Camberwell	1862-1907	HRT	BURNE	Cheshunt	1900-
OXF	WILLIAMS	Forest Hill	1930-1935	MDX	BUNN	Paddington	1900-

NTH	LODGE	Northampton	1930-				
SRY	CAWLEY	New Malden	1913-	2573			Road, Kings
SRY	HENTSCH	Ewell	1900-1960	BRK	Langley, Herts, WD4 8DU  NORRIS  Harwell & surrounding area 1600-19		
SRY	HENTSCH	New Malden	1900-1960	DHK			
SRY	VAZIE-SIMON	S					
WIN	HUGGINS	Camberwell Nevis	Pre 1900 Pre 1860	2577		son, 3, Greer Ieath, High 9JQ	Crescent, Wycombe,
2523		, 48, Coalford pshire, TF8 7N	9 15	ВКМ	HATT	Wycombe Ma	rsh 1800-?
BRK	FULLBROOK	Any	All	ВКМ	MELLETT Wooburn Gree	n	1800-1950
BRK	FULLBROOK	Letcombe Bas		ВКМ	PEDDLE	High Wycomb	
BRK	FULLBROOK	Letcombe Reg		ВКМ	WILKS	High Wycomb	e 1850-
KEN	MAXTED	Dover	All	BRK	COSTA	Windsor	1800-1950
OXF	FULLBROOK	Any	All	BRK	COURTNEY	Maidenhead	1850-1990
SXE	MIGHALL	Any	Pre 1920	BRK	TEGG Windsor & Cle	wer	1880-1950
SXE	WEBBER	Any	Pre 1900	BRK	WICKENS	Ulton Nervet	1800-1950
YKS	LACEY	Any	1840-1920	OXF	SANDALL	Park Corner	1800-1920
				OXF	VERNON	Park Corner	1800-1920
2555		Fhompson, RR nada, NOM1LC					
BRK	HEARMAN/ HERMAN	West Hanney	1600-1992	2587		g, Henbury Lo e, Banbury, O	0 .
GLS	FREEMAN	Oddington	1600-1800	BRK	WEAV(E)ING(	F) Evfield	1660-1900
KEN	BEDWELL	Blean	1600-1800	BRK	WEAV(E)ING(		1660-1900
KEN	BOULDING	Canterbury	1600-1800	BRK	WEAV(E)ING(		,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,
OXF	HERMAN	Horspath	1840-1992		Stanford-in-the		1679-1700
OXF	TANNER	Great Haseley	1600-1800	GLS	WEAV(E)ING(		
SFK	ROUSE	Kelsale	1600-1800	01.0	Coln St Aldwyr		1604-1850
2550	Cl. D			GLS	WEAV(E)ING(	E) Hatherop	1604-1850
2559	York, YO6 IJ	-16, Maple La IG	ine, Huby,	2591	Rev M.P.L.V	Vall, 9, Wob	urn Close,
BRK	ADAMS	Lambourne	All		Trowbridge, V	Wilts, BA14 97	Lì
BRK	BELL	Newbury	Pre 1850	?	AGUS	Any	All
BRK	CHANDLER	Wokingham	Pre 1800	BRK	GOSWELL		1700-1850
BRK	LINDSAY/	VVOKIIGIIAIII	116 1000	BRK	HAINES		1700-1800
5,	LINZEY	West Shefford	18 C	BRK	LOVEDAY		1700-1750
BRK	LYFORD/			BRK	NEWELL		1750-1900
	LIFORD	Bucklebury	Pre 1850	DOR	BLAMCHARD		1700-1800
BRK	PAULIN(G)	Hampstead No	rreys 18 C	DOR	CORBEN		1700-1800
BRK	RIXON/			DOR	HILL		1700-1800
00	REXON	Thatcham	Pre 1800	DOR	SARJEANT		1600-1800
BRK	SHEPPERD	Lambourne	All	GLS	RANDALL	Bristol	1700-1850
BRK	TILLIN	Bradfield	Pre 1800	GLS	RICHARDS	Bristol	1700-1900
BRK	WITHERS	Lambourne	18 C	GLS	SWEET	Bristol	1750-1850

GLS	WALL	Bristol	1700-1850
HAM	FERMOR	Ashmansworth	1750-1850
HRT	WELLS	St Albans	1700-1830
NFK	BLO(O)MFIELI	BLO(O)MFIELD 1700-1850	
SFK	BLO(O)MFIEL	D	1700-1850
SSX	FERMOR	Rotherfield	1700-1900
WIL	ROWDEN		1650-1800
WIL	SELF(E)		1650-1850
WIL	SHERGOLD		1650-1900
2593		eman, 11, Fei	
BRK	WHITEMAN	Benson	1827-1900
BRK	WHITEMAN		
	Vale of the Wh		Pre 1827
BRK	WHITEMAN	Wallingford	1827-1900
WOR	FREEMAN	Evesham	Pre 1900
2597	7 Mr G.E.Osman, 13, Penfold Croft, Farnham, Surrey, GU9 9JD		
BRK	DAVIS	Warfield	1800-1810
BRK	DAVIS	Wokingham	1800-1810
BRK	OSMON	Old Windsor	1880-?
BRK	OSMON	Warlield	1830-1841
MDX	OSMON	Staines	1700-1880
MDX	OSMON	Stanwell	1860-1881
MDX	OSMON Sunbury-on-Th	ames	1837-?
SRY	OSMON	Chertsey	1875-1885
SRY	OSMON	Egham	1833-1910
SRY	OSMON Englefield Gree	en	1833-1910
SRY	OSMON	Virginia Water	1850-1910
SRY	OSMON	Weybridge	1870-1875
2609	Mr Steve Miller, 6, Ravenleigh Court, 89, Bromley Common, Bromley, Kent, BR2 9RN		
BKM	HORTON	Burnham	1800-
BKM	MILLER	Stoke Poges	1790-1913
ВКМ	MITCHELL	Upton	Pre 1760
вкм	MITCHELL	Stoke Poges	1770-1915
вкм	MITCHELL	Langley	1770-1915
BRK	GRIFFEN	Newbury	1850-
BRK	GRIGG	Newbury	1880-
BRK	MILLER	Newbury	1885-

BRK	RICHMOND Shaw-cum-Do	nnington	1820-1850
BRK	RICHMOND	Newbury	1850-
CON	GRIGG		Pre 1860
HAM	FOR(E)MAN	Portsmouth	Pre 1880
HAM	FOR(E)MAN	Southsea	Pre 1880
HAM	GRIGG	Portsmouth	1870-1880
НАМ	GRIGG	Southsea	1870-1880

## Magazine Gleanings (cont)

## Catholic ancestors

Lost Berkshire ancestors could well be found in the registers of the many Berkshire Catholic Missions maintained during penal times. Anthony Wilcox lists those established before 1851 in "Catholic Ancestor" Vol 3 No 4. The earliest remaining Catholic register is that for the Woolhampton Mission with baptisms and confirmations from 1693. A copy of the Warfield register, the original of which is now lost, can be found in the British Library.

## Welsh family origins

Recognising a Welsh surname is not difficult, but there are stumbling blocks for the family historian when determining a family's origins within Wales. Alan Powell offers help in Glamorgan FHS Journal No 23 and explains the migration of Welsh families and important records to be found in archive repositories in Wales.

## Many Happy Returns

This is the title of an article in Northants FHS "Footprints" Vol 12 No 4 by Gerry Allen. He looks ahead to January 1992 and the release of the 1891 Census. If you have not yet delved into this new source material you may like to know from Mr Allen what information and changes we can expect to find.

## 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:

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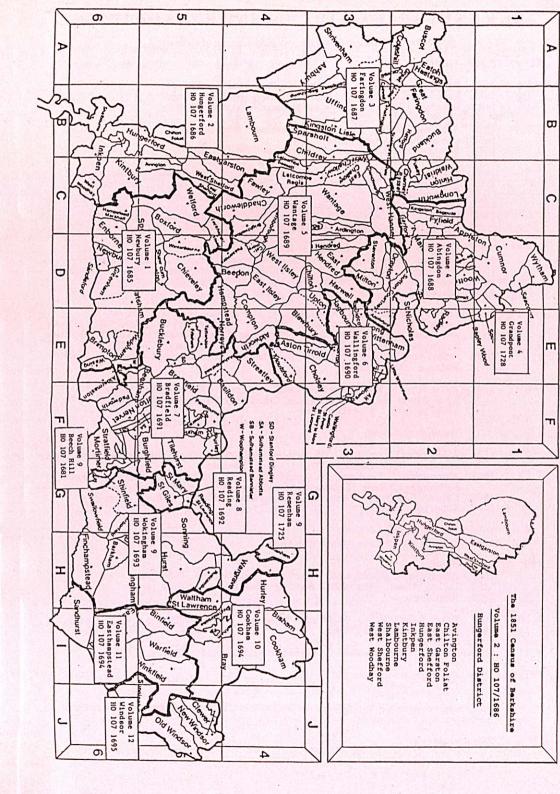
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P 5:1	1689	Childrey Denchworth East Challow East Hannay Goosey Grove Letcomb Bassett Letcomb Regis Sparsholt Wantage West Challow West Hanney	
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	1689	Aldworth Beedon Brightwalton Catmore Chaddleworth Compton East Ilsley Farnborough Hampstead Norris North Fawley Peasemore West Ilsley Ardington Blewbury Chilton East Hendred East Lockinge Harwell Upton Wantage West Hendred	
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	1690	Oxford All Hallows Wallingford St Leonard Wallingford St Mary Wallingford St Peter	
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	1691	Aldermaston Beenham Burghfield Grazeley Padworth Stratfield Mortimer Sulhamstead Abbots Sulhamstead Bannister Ufton Nervet Wokefield	
	1691	Calcot Englefield North Stoke Pangbourne Purley Sulham Theale Tidmarsh Tilehurst	
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P* 12	1695 1695		
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The surname, firstname, age and folio number are given.

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