



# Berkshire Family Historian

Volume 18 - No 1 - September 1994



## PROGRAMME SUMMARY TO DECEMBER 1994

### **Bracknell Branch:**

*Monthly Meetings are held on the third Friday of the month at 7.45pm at the Priestwood Community Centre, Priestwood Court Road, Bracknell.*

- |                |  |                  |
|----------------|--|------------------|
| 16th September | "Food, Cookery & Table Manners through the Ages" | - Lilian Gibbens |
| 21st October   | "Military Records for Family Historians"         | - Simon Fowler   |
| 18th November  | "Women in the 1800's"                            | - Tom Doig       |
| 16th December  | Inter Branch Quiz                                |                  |

### **Newbury Branch:**

*Monthly Meetings are held on the second Wednesday of the month at 7.15pm for 7.45 at the United Reform Church Hall, Cromwell Place, Northbrook Street, Newbury*

- |                |                                  |                 |
|----------------|----------------------------------|-----------------|
| 14th September | "Probate Inventories & Houses"   | - Jo Cormier    |
| 12th October   | "My Ancestors in the Royal Navy" | - Paul Blake    |
| 10th November  | "Australian Research in London"  | - Peter Bennett |
| 14th December  | Christmas Social                 |                 |

### **Reading Branch:**

*Monthly Meetings are normally held on the last Friday of the month at 7.15pm at the Park United Reform Church Hall, Wokingham Road, Reading*

- |                 |  |                    |
|-----------------|--|--------------------|
| 23rd September* | Beginners talk - title to be announced | - Marion Brackpool |
| 28th October    | "Books"                                | - Bill Lloyd       |
| 18th November*  | "Maps, Directories & the Census"       | - Mrs Bunting      |
| 9th December*   | Christmas Meeting                      |                    |

\*: NOT on the last Friday of the Month

### **Slough Branch:**

*Monthly Meetings are held on the last Tuesday of the month at 7.45pm at St Andrew's Church Hall, The Grove, Slough*

- |                |   |              |
|----------------|---|--------------|
| 27th September | Members' Evening - 4 people talk about their research & ancestors |              |
| 25th October   | The Great Exhibition 1851   | - Reg Morris |
| 29th November  | Photographs and the Family Historian                              | - Paul Blake |
| 13th December  | Christmas Party   |              |
| 31st January   | Members speak about their Heirlooms                               |              |

# BERKSHIRE FAMILY HISTORIAN

Volume 18, 1994/5

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## Part 1, September 1994

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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.*

*The inclusion of advertisements in this magazine does not imply any recommendation or otherwise by the Editor or the Society.*

*The deadline for articles for the December issue is the 21st October, 1994. All contributions gratefully received.*

*The front cover is of schoolchildren at Sulhampstead School c1911. If anyone recognises anyone in it, please contact Elizabeth Adams, (2812) of 22 Floriston Gardens, Ashley, New Milton, Hants BH25 2DL. Her father, Eric KIMBREY is 1st right, bottom row and her uncle Roy KIMBREY is 3rd from right on top row.*

# Chairman's Comments

*By Michael Sheppard*

Elsewhere in this Magazine you will find a report of the Berkshire Family History Society Annual General Meeting held at the Newbury Branch on the 13th July. Please take time to read this section as it does involve you as a member of BFHS.

You will also see that we have now set up a Project and Publications Sub-committee. Do you have any ideas as to what publications relating to Berkshire you would like to see, which would be of benefit to members researching their Berkshire ancestry? If you do, please write and let us know.

The Big R is now completed and available from the BFHS Bookstall. What is it, I hear some of you ask? It is the "*British Isles Genealogical Register*". It contains surnames that are being researched in the British Isles by family historians worldwide. The database contains over 250,000 entries from more than 17,000 contributors. For details of the availability of other counties please refer to the "*Family Tree Magazine*" August 1994 issue.

We are looking for more members to contribute to this magazine. We particularly need short articles about Berkshire families and places. If you would like to try your hand at writing an article and need a little advice, why not contact the Editor or a member of the Executive Committee.

# Editor's Notes

Thank you to all contributors to this edition of the Magazine and to everyone who has sent an article which has not yet appeared. The Executive Committee has decided that we will have two "*short*" magazines and two "*long*" magazines a year to correspond to the appropriate postal bands. The September and December magazines will therefore contain 40 pages and the March and June ones 76 pages. Thus if you are thinking that you have an article but it is really too long - do not worry - long articles can be accommodated. However as Mike mentioned, we still need short articles.

Is there anybody who would like to try their hand at indexing the "*Berkshire Family Historian*"? The last index appeared in Volume 6 (1980/1) and there has not been one since. If you would like to, please contact me. A duplicate set of magazines can be supplied of the relevant issues.

The deadlines for articles for the Magazine for the following year are as follows: **December 94 - 21st October 1994, March 95 - 20th January 1995 and June 95 - 24th March 1995.**

Finally thank you to everyone who has sent me their petrol coupons for converting into raffle prizes for BFHS tombola at the FFHS September 1995 Conference which the BFHS is hosting at the University of Reading next year. If you have any more, please send them to me or pass them to you Branch Chairman.

## Dates for Your Diary

The following events are taking place around the Country. If you would like further details please contact your Branch Chairman or write to Robert Houseman with an SAE. Further details about those courses taking place at Rewley House, Oxford are available from The Course Secretary, OUDCE, 1 Wellington Square, Oxford OX1 2JA (tel: 0865 270368).

*Saturday 24th September, 1994* - Hampshire Genealogical Society Open Day, West End Parish Centre, Southampton

*Saturday 1st October, 1994* - Tyrell Family History Society AGM, Lansdowne School, High Wycombe at 2pm. All welcome.

*Saturday 1st October, 1994* - Pedigree User Group Meeting, Earley St Peter's Church Hall, Reading.

*Saturday 1st October, 1994* - FFHS North West Group Family History Fair, Stockport Town Hall

*Friday 28th - Saturday 30th October 1994* - Sir Thomas Tresham and His Buildings - Rewley House, Oxford

*Saturday 29th October, 1994* - West Surrey FHS Open Day, The Methodist Church Hall, Bushey Hill Drive, Merrow, Nr Guildford

*Saturday 12th November 1994* - Women Travellers - Rewley House, Oxford

*Saturday 26th November 1994* - Medieval Society and Culture in

Southern England - Rewley House, Oxford

*Wednesday 30th November 1994 (day)* - Records of the Old Poor Law - Newbury Museum, Tutor Dr Peter Durrant

*Saturday 3rd December 1994* - The Oxford Apostles - Rewley House, Oxford

*Friday 13th - Sunday 15th January 1995* - The 17th Century Great House - Rewley House, Oxford

*Saturday 21st - Sunday 22nd January 1995* - Tudor and Stuart Handwriting - Rewley House, Oxford

*Saturday 11th February 1995* - Computers and Local History - Rewley House, Oxford

*Saturday 25th February 1995* - What's in a word? - Rewley House, Oxford

*Saturday 11th - Sunday 12th March 1995* - The Gentry - Rewley House, Oxford

*Saturday 18th March 1995* - Quarter Sessions Record - Berkshire Record Office, Tutor Dr Peter Durrant

*Saturday 25th March 1995* - Family and Household Revisited - Rewley House, Oxford

*Saturday 31st March - Tuesday 4th April, 1995* - 7th British Family History Conference, Isle of Wight

*Saturday 29th - Sunday 30th April 1995* - The Thatched Roof in England - Rewley House, Oxford

# Berkshire Record Office News

*From Elizabeth Hughes*

Preparations are well under way as I write for the move to our new accommodation, and by the time you read this we may already be there. We are closing during the month of September in order to move the staff offices, search room and large maps to the new premises and will reopen to the public on 4th October. We hope that the closure will not cause too much inconvenience for researchers.

We have had quite a few busy months as far as exhibitions are concerned. In April we displayed a few of the many records received over the previous year. Amongst church records received was a burial register of Long Wittenham, 1884-1979, which was one of two which had been missing since the late 1970s but were found in an Essex rectory and returned to Berkshire by the Rural Dean of Rochford.

School records were also represented, with a school inspector's report on Clewer National school in 1889. It was not a favourable report, remarking that, *"From the whole tone and demeanour of the boys, as well as from their conduct in a number of separate instances, it is clear that the teachers, although animated, I believe, with the best intentions, have failed to influence the boys' characters aright."*

Some of the oldest records received during the year have related to charities, including a sixteenth century deed of the

Chantry House in Lambourne and the first account book of Thomas Pearce's charity in Newbury, which dates from 1671. Sadly, not all the recipients of the charity proved deserving. In 1777, for example, the accounts record that John Gilbert *"render'd himself an Improper Object of this Charity' by imprudently marrying a wife much younger than himself."*

Also on display was an occurrence book from Reading Police Station from the 1880s and 90s, which reports incidents and their subsequent investigation, including an extensive fire in Pangbourne in 1897. The occurrence book records the arrest of a man found sitting on a bank under a hedge 150 yards from the fire with two boxes of matches in his pocket, and his trial and sentence of five years penal servitude.

This was followed with an exhibition on *"Berkshire at War"* to commemorate the 50th anniversary of D-Day, which looked at how the people of Berkshire prepared for possible attack or invasion, and coped with rationing, the blackout and the billeting of children, as well as actual bombing raids.

Our summer exhibition is on a criminal theme, *"Petty Criminals, Publicans and Sinners"*, and is based on the recently catalogued records of Petty Sessions (Magistrates) courts which cover the period 1840-1960. It includes examples of the main records of the court, the

registers and minute books, featuring a trial in 1881 of James Herradge whose crimes included the theft of a muscovy duck and ferret. Also on display is a register of pub licences from Reading Borough dating from 1869, one of many such registers amongst the Petty Sessions records, together with an example of the plans of the premises submitted with the application for the licence, for the Warren House in Wokingham. Pride of place goes to the "missing persons" poster for Agatha Christie, who disappeared from her Sunninghill home in 1926. Petty Sessions records are an important but underused source for both local and family history from the mid-nineteenth century. Many may think of looking at the records of Quarter Sessions, out of which the Petty Sessions evolved, but fewer have as yet delved into the court papers, registers and minute books, probation reports and registers, licensing registers, papers and plans created by the lesser court. Also worth noting are the Forest division (Wokingham) land tax returns covering the period 1846-1920, particularly in

view of the extremely low survival rate for such records in the count.

### *Staff News*

Sarah Flynn has left to be the archivist at the Refugee Studies Programme at Queen Elizabeth House, Oxford. We are very sorry to see her go, but wish her well in her new job. The Petty Sessions catalogue, which she and Mark Stevens masterminded, will ensure she is not forgotten here! We hope to appoint a replacement in July or August.

Steven Jackson, the camera operator for the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints, has been slaving over a hot camera since April and is likely to continue doing so until at least the end of November. He has so far finished filming the parish registers and is well into other parish records such as churchwardens' and overseers' accounts for those parishes which have given their permission. After that he will be going on to the probate administrations. We are just beginning to receive the films and we will be getting them jacketed as and when time permits.

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## News from Wokingham Library

*from Carol Carson*

Wokingham Library, at Montague House, Broad St, Wokingham, RG11 1AU, tel no 0734-781368, now holds a copy of the International Genealogical Index for 1988. The public microfiche reader is already used for telephone directories and therefore, anyone wishing to carry out lengthy research would be advised to use the IGI in the evenings. The library does not, at present, have a printer on site, which means that fiche may be off the premises on occasions, for reproduction. You may wish to check that the required part is immediately available. Our opening hours are **Monday - 9.30-7.00, Tuesday - 9.30-5.00, Wednesday - Closed, Thursday - 9.30-7.00, Friday - 9.30-7.00 and Saturday - 9.30-4.00.**

# Family History Resources in the County Reference Library

by Alan Hankin

This present article is based on sources available at the County Reference Library in Reading, but most of what I will discuss can be found in any decent Reference Library.

As you may know, the Federation of Family History Societies publish a number of guides to family history sources, popularly referred to as "*Gibson Guides*" after Jeremy Gibson who instigated them. In Reading we have a standing order with the FFHS to receive all new editions of every title, and in practice you should find this is true for most big libraries. A recent addition to these is a series of County Bibliographies produced by Stuart Raymond. Counties covered so far are Cornwall, Cumberland and Westmorland, Devon, Dorset, Gloucestershire and Bristol, Norfolk, Oxfordshire, Somerset, Suffolk and Wiltshire. Forthcoming are Buckinghamshire, Hampshire and London and Middlesex.

Eve McLaughlin also writes booklets, sometimes referred to as "*McLaughlin Guides*", but these have been reprinted in the form of two books "*First Steps in Family History*" and "*Further Steps in Family History*". Copies of both of these are available for sale in the Library.

Stuart Raymond is also producing bibliographies of the contents of old genealogical journals and so far has produced specific bibliographies of "*Collectanea Topographica et Genealogica*", "*Topographer and Genealogist*", "*Ancestor*", "*The Genealogist*", "*Miscellanea Genealogica*

*et Heraldica*". He is intending to produce a further volume on British genealogy in miscellaneous journals.

These bibliographies, which make these old journals much easier to use, should be available in most large reference libraries. Here at the County Reference Library we have, "*The Genealogist*", "*Ancestor*" and "*Miscellanea Genealogica et Heraldica*" and also "*Genealogical Magazine*". We also take "*Family Tree Magazine*" and have every issue since November 1986 (Vol 3, No 1).

The "*Genealogical Research Directory*" is a useful document to check to see if anyone else in the world is researching the same family as you. It is published annually, and we have every issue from 1982 (except 1989), although only the most recent copy is on the shelf. If you need to see an earlier edition, please ask.

We have subscriptions with two societies who publish material of use to family historians. The Harleian Society publish parish registers of the London parishes as well as the visitations of the various counties. The British Record Society, under the imprint of the Index Library, publish indexes to probate records. We also have printed registers from various counties, including marriages in Wiltshire and Oxfordshire, produced by Phillimore and individual registers for counties such as Surrey and Northamptonshire.

Another of our standing orders is the National Index of Parish Registers, subtitled "*A Guide to Anglican, Roman Catholic and Non-conformist Registers*



before 1837, together with information on Bishop's Transcripts, modern copies and Marriage Licences." There is a general volume, one on Non-conformist Genealogy, Roman Catholic Genealogy, Scottish Genealogy and Parish Registers of Wales as well as volumes for a number of English counties. Berkshire is Volume 8, part 1, Buckinghamshire is Volume 9, part 3 and Oxfordshire can be found in Volume 5, pages 95-139.

A useful series to know about is the English Surnames series, for which we have volumes on Lancashire, Norfolk and Suffolk, Oxfordshire and Sussex.

Many of you will be familiar with "Who's Who", "Burke's Landed Gentry", "Debrett's Peerage", the Army, Navy and Air Force Lists and "Wisden", but you may not know that we keep old copies of all of these titles. You will only find the current copy on the shelves, but please ask if you would like to see an earlier one. You may be familiar with the genealogy section of the library, but not aware of "Alumni Oxonienses" and "Alumni Cantabrigienses", the lists of scholars at Oxford and Cambridge Universities, which is kept in the Education section; or that "Criminal Ancestors", is kept amongst

the other books on crime and that "Where to Find Adoption Records" is kept with other sociological works. It is also worth reminding readers that we have "The Times" newspaper on microfilm from 1844 and that this is indexed.

Amongst our general books on various aspects of genealogy are "how to do it" guides, many of which are also held in the Lending Library on the ground floor. We have books on family history in Ireland, Wales and Scotland and a small number of histories of families. Not all of these are on the shelves, but they are all on the library catalogue and we will bring them for you if you ask.

This is necessarily a brief summary of the type of material we hold in the County Reference Library. You are welcome to visit us any time that we are open. Our opening hours are:

Monday.....	9.30-5.00
Tuesday.....	9.30-7.00
Wednesday.....	9.30-5.00
Thursday.....	9.30-7.00
Friday.....	9.30-7.00
Saturday.....	9.30-4.00.

**Berkshire Family History Society**  
**Federation of Family History Societies Conference**  
**8th - 10th September, 1995**  
**at University of Reading**

## **Victorian Virtues and Vices**

**Booking Forms available NOW**

**Please send SAE to**

*Joyce Wells, 15 Wellington Close, Shaw, Newbury, RG13 2HG*

# Charles Crook - Who or Where are You?

By Margaret Crook

It started with a letter from Australia from a Mr Charles Crook to a fellow "Crooks of Wallingford" researcher asking if I could help. He wanted to find the Court records of one Charles Crook who was transported to Australia in 1826 to see if it mentioned his parents' names, as without them he could go no further in tracing his ancestors. As soon as commitments allowed, I went to the BRO and had a look.

In WJQ vol. 2 I found the records for the Wallingford Quarter Sessions in Epiphany 1825 and there was one Charles Crook with Richard Messenger who together:

*"were tried and severally found guilty upon an indictment for petty larceny in feloniously stealing taking and carrying away six pieces of copper called penny coins and twelve other pieces of copper called half pennies, the property of Richard Swadling".*

Charles was sentenced to seven years transportation and Richard to three months hard labour in Reading Gaol, *"during that time he be once privately whipped"*. In the same session of the court I also found:-

*"Conviction of John Crook (son of George Crook), Charles Crook, William White otherwise William Scraggs, John Crook the Younger and Thomas Bartlett otherwise Henry Bartlett respectively for offences against the act of 1st George IV*

*Chapter 56 were severally produced and ordered to be filed among the records of the court."*

This act states in the preamble

*"that it is an Act for the summary punishment in certain cases of persons wilfully or maliciously damaging or committing trespass on public or private property".*

Reading through it, it appears to be a catch-all bill against damage to stiles, hedges, fields, plants, trees, etc., etc. Were they poaching or just running away from the local beaks or protesting at Charles's punishment? At first sight it appears that Charles got the rough end of the stick and Richard got off lightly. However looking back through the volume of Wallingford court records I had a piece of luck when the name "Charles Crook" leapt out at me from the page. Some eighteen months earlier in the Wallingford General Quarter Sessions held on 14th October in the Third Year of the reign of George IV (i.e. 1822), Charles Crook was tried and found guilty of petty larceny to wit *"stealing two quarts of beans"*. Maybe this is why Charles was transported - he was a local "villain"!

None of this information, interesting as it was, had actually led me to Charles's parents. I did think that the rest of his family could be the ones mentioned at the same session in January 1825. I looked at the Registers for St Leonard's Parish in Wallingford and found the

marriage of one John Crook to Elizabeth Cottrell in 1794 followed by the baptismal records of their children, Sarah (1796), John (1798-1804), John (1806), Charles (1809) and several others, all of whom died before they reached 30 years. Had I found the "Australian" Crook? If anyone has found another Charles Crook aged 18 (according to the ships indents of 1826 when he was transported), native of Berkshire and a farmer's boy, I would be delighted to hear from them.

My next point of research was to the newspaper records for that time in the hope that they had more details of the trial including the missing link, plus of course the records for the other two Parishes in Wallingford and the surrounding villages.

*"Jackson's Oxford Chronicle"* of 22nd January 1825 gave a report of the trial. The court was in session from eleven in the morning until ten at night. Most of the prisoners were *"inhabitants of the neighbouring village of Crommersh, from which place a party of dissolute and depraved young men have for some time past been in the habit of paying their nocturnal visits to the town of Wallingford, for the purpose either of committing depredations or disturbing the peace by the violence of their conduct. They have until now eluded the vigilance of the Magistrates, but it is hoped that the punishment awarded to some of their companions will operate as a salutary warning to the rest."*

The report goes on to detail that Charles stole money out of the Wallingford Bridge Toll house. It finishes: *"The*

*prisoner Crook, who is not more than 16 years of age, is a hardened and most determined thief and has been several times before convicted and imprisoned for serious offences against the laws."*

This would make him born in 1809 - so is he "mine" or someone else's? The Registers of the surrounding Parishes have not revealed another Charles. I've looked at wills for Crook in Wallingford and found four. Sarah Crook, widow, (1777) mentions her daughter Hannah (who died 1796 leaving a will), son John who died in 1813 (with a will) and a daughter Sarah married to Richard Cripps. With these three wills lines began to tie together. John's will mentions his sons John, Christopher and George Augustus as well as his daughters and Charles son of John the Younger. This may be the Charles who went to Australia.

George Augustus was married to Frances Burrows at Shiplake (Oxon.) on 24th November 1795 by licence with the consent of parent. He died on 25th March 1853 and his will in 1854 mentions his dear wife Frances and Elizabeth, *"The widow of my eldest son George"* and *"my son John Crook of Streatley in the aforesaid county of Berkshire Carpenter and Joiner..."*. I had previously traced my husband's ancestors back to a George married to Elizabeth (1821) and one of their sons was Christopher Hucks Crook (more of him later). George was baptised on 24th July, 1796 at St Mary the More, Wallingford and died in 1850 of *"lock jaw, 5 days certified"*. I was now able to draw a few more lines and it all really

began to fit together with a few "if and but" links I believe that I have joined the "Convict Charles" to our family and it makes him a first cousin four times removed from my husband.

At the same time I have gone back to the marriage in 1712 of a John Crook to Sarah Hucks in Crowmarsh and before that with a baptism of John to Christopher Crook and his wife Elianor in St Mary the More Wallingford on 30th November 1688 and later in the same church the marriage of Christopher Crook and Elizabeth Hucks "both of ye Burrough of Wallingford were married July ye 28th 1708". I suspect that this Christopher is John's eldest brother and that they married sisters. I intend to investigate this further along with a gem of information given to me by a Wallingford historian (Judy Dewey) that Hucks was the name of one of Wallingford's two Members of Parliament in 1725. Do we have both convicts and Members of Parliament as our ancestors? Only time and research

will prove that.

How the family links together in the 1700s is not totally clear as I have found several "Crook's" in St Mary the More parish and I now need to recheck the other parishes in Wallingford to see if any missing links are hiding away there. What is not helping is that George Augustus and his sister Hannah were both baptised on 14th March 1832 at St Leonard's church, George stating that he was born on 25th October, 1771 and that Hannah was born 5th March, 1769 to a John and Elizabeth Crook. I have "John and Mary" producing a family around the right time but no sign of a "John and Elizabeth" or even one or both marriages or the death of Mary. Hey ho, it's back to the parish registers and the microfiche readers again.

IF any one should happen to find a Charles Crook born in Berkshire around 1809 and nothing else about him please could they let me know as he may be the one who eventually led the good life out in Australia.

## Don't Forget

Entries for the 1994 G.R.D. close 30 Nov. 1994

The *Genealogical Research Directory* is the best medium for local and international family history research - published annually.

Ask your Society for an entry form at meetings or send a self addressed envelope (220 x 110mm - no stamp required) to:-

Mrs Elizabeth Simpson, 2 Stella Grove, Tollerton, Notts NG12 4EY

# Bookends

Compiled by Jean Debney

## **Berkshire: Big-R**

*3-fiche pack with yellow card cover, price £1.50+p&p35p UK, 65p Europe/Surface, £1.35 Airmail*

It's here! and it's on microfiche! The forms you filled in last year with your interests and sent off to the Federation have now been entered onto computer, sorted and published by county according to where your research interests are. Those with interests in ALL sources (ie only those who are members of The Guild of One-Name Studies - who are researching a given name world-wide) are listed in every county.

## **Society of Genealogists Greater London Cemeteries and Crematoria,** revised by Cliff Webb

*3rd ed. (SOG 1994); A5 booklet, 40pp, mauve laminated card cover, price £2.80+p&p, 60p overseas surface, £1.25 airmail.*

If you have an ancestor that died somewhere in London in the 19th or early 20th century, then this is the book to help you find out where they were buried. London churchyards were mostly closed for health reasons in the 1850s and large cemeteries were opened in the then rural areas surrounding the metropolis.

This updated edition gives the names, addresses and telephone numbers of all known cemeteries, etc, within the Greater London Area, plus the date

when registers commence and if you can search them yourself. In addition to a map of the London Boroughs, there is also a list of "restricted" cemeteries, including Army, Navy, Catholic and Jewish.

## **My Ancestors were Manorial Tenants, how can I find out more about them?** by Peter B Park;

*2nd ed. (SOG 1994); A5 booklet, fawn laminated card cover portraying a manorial court document; 61pp, illustrated with copy documents and glossary, bibliography and index; price £3.60+p&p 45p UK, 75p overseas surface, £1.75 airmail.*

Manorial documents are full of details of family relationships of people from all walks of life and can be used in conjunction with parish registers, etc. to build up and confirm a family tree. They may also contain interesting comments about the character or behaviour of your ancestor as well as details of where he lived. This booklet deals with the records between 1600 and 1926, explains their history, type of documents and their contents and, most usefully, how to find out what records survive and where they are stored.

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## **Corrections to June 1994 (Vol 17 No 4)**

P 171 - the Author of the "Oxford Dictionary of English Place Names" should have been "E.Ekwall"

# Mistresses and Maids: Domestic Service in Berkshire 1840-1914

by Pamela Horn

'WANTED, respectable GENERAL SERVANT, good character; abstainer, wages £12, not under 21; good home. Miss Ashby, Barkham, Wokingham.' Advertisement in "Reading Mercury" 25th January 1890

As family historians will be well aware, throughout the Victorian and Edwardian years domestic service was by far the biggest single employer of women both in Berkshire and in the nation at large. In 1891, 49% of all the women in the county declaring an occupation to the census enumerator were in private domestic service, and if inn servants, charwomen and laundresses are added the proportion rises to over 61%. Twenty years later Berkshire had the third highest proportion of servants to households in the country, with an average of 278 maids to every 1,000 families in the county; only Surrey (with 353 servants per 1,000 families) and East Sussex (with 331 per 1,000) had a higher level. 1

To the Victorians the ability to employ a maid was a mark of middle-class respectability and an important status symbol. It appealed to the skilled tradesman and his family as well as to the landed, white collar and professional classes, who are more usually regarded as employers of servants. In 1871 in the small market town of Wantage, where about one household in six employed a

resident maid, two-fifths of the employers were small tradesmen. 2 Again, in a sample of 169 households at Hungerford in 1891, where around one family in six also kept a servant, two-thirds of the employers were in trade. They included brewers, hotel keepers, licensed victuallers, coal merchants, a butcher, an ironmonger, a smith, an undertaker, a dealer and an electric bell fitter whose wife was a laundress. 3 Even in villages a similar situation could apply, with around a quarter of servant employers in mid-century East Hendred and South Moreton - to name but two villages - falling into this category. 4 Among them were carpenters, blacksmiths, grocers, plumbers and the like and in the main they relied upon the services of the maid-of-all-work, who was the most common form of English domestic. At the 1871 census not far short of two-thirds of the nation's 1.2m female servants fell into the 'general' class and a similar proportion applied to Berkshire itself. Census reports indicate how quickly servant numbers grew in the mid-Victorian period, with the Berkshire female servant total jumping by more than half between 1851 and 1871. (See Appendix A)

As Mrs Beeton pointed out in her famous book of household management, a general servant's duties

were 'so multifarious', that unless she were quick and active she would have difficulty in accomplishing all of them. It was also a very solitary existence:

*"she has to rise with the lark, for she has to do in her own person all the work which in larger establishments, is performed by cook, kitchen-maid, and housemaid, and occasionally the part of a footman's duties which consists in carrying messages."* <sup>5</sup>

A systematic routine was required to carry out any special cleaning needed alongside the normal daily chores, but even then to *"discharge these various duties properly [was] a difficult task, and sometimes a thankless office."* <sup>6</sup>

Farmhouse servants, who were particularly numerous in villages, were also expected to lend a hand in the dairy and in looking after the poultry. Elsewhere, as at the Reeves family farm at Catmore in the 1850s and 1860s, the maids might be involved in curing home-produced bacon and hams and in brewing beer for the farm workers. Although the Reeves's servants had plenty of good food and were well treated, discipline was strict. *"If caps and aprons were discarded a sharp reprimand followed as it was considered a grave fault."* <sup>7</sup>

Advertisements in the press indicate what was expected of Victorian servants - like the appeal in the *"Reading Mercury"* of 16th January, 1865, from a Maidenhead family for three *"very good Servants, the cook to understand a Dairy and Baking. Good Cooking essential; a few hours help given her*

*daily. Housemaid (thorough) and good plain Needlewoman ... to get up fine things... Good wages given to good servants; they must be early risers and Protestant."* Then there was the vicar's wife at Ardington who on 7th June, 1890, sought a kitchen maid: *"Churchwoman; must know her work. Wages £12 to £16 all found but beer."* Other mistresses merely asked for applicants who were *"strong"* or *"clean and active."* <sup>8</sup>

In recruiting domestic staff, employers might rely upon advertising in the press or upon personal contacts and recommendations. However a number used servants' registries, including nine in Reading, four in Newbury, two in Abingdon, and one each in Maidenhead, Wantage, Wokingham, Faringdon and Windsor. Sometimes, as with Mrs Goodman in Reading, they were combined with other businesses; in Mrs Goodman's case this was as a herbalist, while Miss Ayris of Abingdon had a *"fancy repository"* and Mrs Bickerton of Newbury a *"berlin wool"* business. <sup>9</sup> By using the registries both mistresses and maids could consider the range of choice available before becoming involved in the intricacies of an interview.

The varied duties expected of servants in small households were in marked contrast to the position in large establishments, where staff members had their own special tasks, and every senior servant headed a department. Thus the cook or chef controlled the kitchen, the housekeeper the housemaids and stillroom maids, the

head laundry-maid the laundry and so At Englefield House, for example, the Benyon family employed fourteen female servants and five males in 1891. The females comprised a housekeeper, a cook, two lady's maids, four laundry maids, a stillroom maid, a kitchen maid, a scullery maid and three housemaids. As Appendix B shows, their places of birth ranged widely, from Suffolk in the East and Devon in the West to Scotland in the North. Only two had been born in Berkshire and none originated in Englefield itself. This pattern was not unusual in large households, where

mistresses were anxious to recruit experienced and efficient staff and were perhaps also concerned to make sure that family secrets were not betrayed by indiscreet locally-born maids.<sup>10</sup> This situation may be compared, incidentally, with the sample of households in Hungerford in the same year, mentioned above. There, out of 41 maids, four were born in Hungerford, seventeen elsewhere in Berkshire and thirteen in Wiltshire; 26 out of the 41 were general servants.<sup>11</sup>

[To Be Continued]

### Footnotes

1. 1911 Census: Occupations, Parliamentary Papers, Vol. LXXVIII, xxvii.
2. Pamela Horn, *"The Rise and Fall of the Victorian Servant"* (1990 edn), pp19.
3. 1891 Census Returns for Hungerford: first part in RG/12/972 at the Public Record Office.
4. 1851 Census Returns for East Hendred, HO/107/1689 and South Moreton, HO/107/1690.
5. Mrs Isabella Beeton, *"The Book of Household Management"* (1861), pp 1001.
6. Mrs Isabella Beeton, op. cit. pp 1003.
7. Kathleen Philip ed., *"The Memoirs of Sarah Jane Harris of Manor Farm, Catmore, Berks"* (1973), sections on *"The Kitchen"* and *"The Farm Servants"*.
8. See, for example, the appeal in the *"Reading Mercury"* of 25th February, 1865 for a *"steady, clean and active Woman, as Good Plain Cook"* by an employer in Newbury.
9. See Kelly's *"Directory for Berkshire"* (1895), pp358 for a list of servants' registry offices.
10. See 1891 Census Return for Englefield, RG/12/989 and Pamela Horn op. cit. pp 36.
11. See 1891 Census Return for Hungerford, RG/12/972.

### Appendix A

#### Female Employment in Berkshire - 1851-1911

From Census Reports. In 1851-71 females of all ages were covered. From 1881 onwards employment covered only those aged 10 years or more. Earlier employment was now illegal.

	1851	1871	1881	1891	1911
Private domestic service					
General	6,561	8,962			
Housekeeper	503	1,127			
Cook	648	1,413	14,744	16,491*	15,374+
Housemaid	803	1,822			
Nurse	498	1,078			
Laundrymaid	n/a	119			
Inn Servant	350	159	219	341	694

\* Domestic servants in this census only included family members working as "servants".

+ Included a small category of "day" or non-resident servant.



## Appendix B

### Female Servants at Englefield House at the Census of 1891

	Position	Age	Annual Earnings	Date of Arrival	Place of Birth
Anne Hobart	House keeper	45	£65	Apr 1890	Scotland
Sarah Green	Cook	36	£50	Nov 1886	Hants
Rosina Bragg	Lady's Maid	36	n/a	n/a	Norfolk
Maria Gale	Lady's Maid	27	n/a	n/a	Wilts
Elsie Nunn	Kitchen maid	23	£18	Jun 1888	Cambs
Emily Harris	Stillroom maid	21	£18	Mar 1890	Bucks
Jane Woods	Scullery maid	23	£12	Dec 1890	London
Matilda Hannington	1st laundry maid	25	£25	Sep 1887	Arborfield Berks
Mary Anne Moye*	2nd -do-	25	£18	Sep 1888	Suffolk
Charlotte Turner	3rd -do-	23	£14	Feb 1890	Sunningwell Berks
Anne Ballard	4th -do-	17	£10	Nov 1890	Hunts
Mary A Cann	1st housemaid	55	£24	Apr 1888	Devon
Elizabeth Boshier	2nd -do-	30	£18	Mar 1888	Hants
Rose Smith	3rd -do-	19	£10	Aug 1889	Oxon

\* originally 3rd laundrymaid

Sources: 1891 Census Return for Englefield House, RG/12/989 and Englefield House Servants' Book, D/EBy/A/130 at Berkshire Record Office.

NB: By the end of September 1891, Mary A Cann, Elizabeth Boshier and Elsie Nunn had all left Englefield, and had been replaced by fresh servants. Rose Smith had been promoted to 2nd housemaid, at £15 pa. By Christmas a new 2nd housemaid had been recruited and Rose had reverted to 3rd housemaid, but still retained her higher earnings.

## Letters to the Editor

*Tom Hine (2096) of "Oakley Cottage", Westbury Lane, Purley-on-Thames, Reading, Berkshire, RG8 8DL, has written as follows:*

"I have been researching my family since 1975 and have always known that Great Grandad was a water miller on the River Kennet at Newbury, Berks, before moving to Hammersmith/Fulham area with his young family around 1880.

I now find that I come from a long line of Millers certainly back to the 1600s in the Brimpton, Berks/Kingsclere, Hants area. I have on record at least 12 Hine millers at seven different mills in Berks, Hants and Oxon.

I suppose that as a result of my researches I have become totally absorbed by Water Mill workings, history and mostly their occupants. Thus I am listing/indexing millers names, dates they were milling, which mill and town/county. I would very much appreciate it if family historians knowing of such data in Berks and the adjacent counties of Hants, Wilts, Oxon, Bucks, West Middlesex and Surrey would write and let me know of them so that I can add to what is becoming an interesting project where one can see the movements of an individual miller from mill to mill or generations in a family carrying on the milling traditions in an area.

Naturally I welcome any enquiries if you have a "hunch" there's a miller on your "tree".

*Jill Mackay nee Deacon (1869) of 33*

*Mapperley Orchard, Arnold, Nottingham, NG5 8AH has written in response to the article by Stuart Eagles in the June edition of the "Berkshire Family Historian"*

"How fortunate Stuart Eagles is to be able to draw his background knowledge from the diary of William Savory. I look forward to being able to read the diary in its entirety one day.

Apart from enjoying all the articles in each magazine I always look for relevant names for my research and this time an incident related by William Savory caught my eye. He refers to meeting John Deacon, collar maker of Brightwalton.

My grandfather Edward King Deacon of Reading, was articled to the organist of St Giles Church, Reading and afterwards appointed first organist and choirmaster at the Royal Military College Sandhurst, later taking similar posts at St Lawrence, Reading, St Mary and St John, Mortimer and finally St Peter's, Caversham, where he died in 1941. He came from a family of collar and harness makers who came to Reading from Pangbourne around 1854. Unfortunately the direct line seems to be broken in the eighteenth century although all the Deacon families in the village were harness makers back to the end of the seventeenth century. I have no idea where they previously lived although I have found evidence of this trade carried out by "Deacon" families in the villages of Chieveley, Lambourne, East Ilsley, Faringdon,

Hermitage and now Brightwalton - maybe also over the border in Wiltshire. I should be very pleased to know if any study has been made of harness/ saddle/ collar/cordwainer trades in Berkshire or if any member has researched a Deacon family in this trade."

*Mrs Phillipa Nesbitt (2373) of "Donegal", 42 Barndark Road, Teignmouth, South Devon TQ14 8PN was also pleased to see the article by Stuart Eagles:*

"I have long been searching for items on my maternal great-grandfather's family - surnamed Lovlock or Lovelock - he was a farmer in the Aldermaston area. So far I have had little success and am eagerly awaiting the publication of the 1851 Census for the Aldermaston district.

However, I was reading the very interesting feature on "The Life of William Savory, Surgeon of Brightwalton" by Stuart Eagles, when I came upon the romantic little piece regarding a love-letter being sent to a Miss H. Lovelock of Grange Farm on 28th January, 1788. How I wish the young lady's Christian name had been given, also the location of the farm!"

*Mrs Connie Wood (2187) of 25 Moreland Avenue, Christchurch, 5, New Zealand wrote in response to S.W.H.Aust's item in the June 1994 "Berkshire Family Historian" as she too is researching the name Aust in Corsham:*

"Being curious about the name and having read "Names" by Dr Basil Cottle, I wrote to him in 1991 about Aust and the Welsh name of Gwladys. Part of his reply states:

"As for Aust, the surname will certainly come from the village near the great Severn Bridge, twelve miles from Bristol. In answer to your question, it's neither Old English nor Norman! - it's a mystery, but is probably one of the Latin Augusta names that honoured the Emperor. What has bedevilled (or in this case, besainted) the whole issue is that St Augustine of Canterbury is said to have met the heads of the Welsh Church here c.600, under "St Augustine's Oak" and so left his name."

*Christine Ealing-Godbold, Senior Librarian Reference and Special Collection, of the State Library of Queensland, PO Box 3488, South Brisbane, Queensland 4101, Australia has written about the Queensland Heritage Project:*

"The State Library of Queensland, Australia is undertaking a search for original material relating to the history of the State of Queensland. Letters, diaries, manuscripts, photographs, art works, ephemera, maps, business records and documents are sought. Printed material (books, journals, newspapers) may also be of interest. Many early administrators of the Colony of Queensland returned home to Britain after completing a contract, and their papers relating to the Colony returned with them. Many ordinary immigrants made no written record of their experiences in the colony except for the letters sent home to Britain. Early photographs were also purchased for the purpose of showing the family at home what it was like in the colonies."

# Help!

**Mrs Judith Gilbert (1227) of 25 Salcombe Drive, Earley, Reading, Berks RG6 2HU** is looking for one of her husband's ancestors with the "*genealogically unhelpful name*" of John Moore. He was the innkeeper of the Kings Arms tavern on Maidenhead Bridge in the 1820s/30s. Does anyone know of a photograph of this building? It was at the Maidenhead end of the Bridge, next entry in the census to the Toll House. We would also be interested to know when it was pulled down - apparently some time after the 1880s.

**Mr E H Cannon (1436) of 25 Jessop Avenue, Bridport, Dorset DT6 4AT** is trying to find the birth date and place of his maternal grandmother, Ellen Sadler. She was the youngest daughter of a family of five of William and Ester Ann Sadler (née Saunders). There were four or five more children in the family from William's first marriage to an Ann Parker. The 1861 Census shows Ellen to be 1 year old and living with her family at Turvill, Bucks. That should tie the year of her birth down fairly closely, but there appears to be no record of her birth at St Catherine's House in or around 1860. The family moved from Radnage, where the father and mother were married, to Stokenchurch, Lewknor and then Turville, all very near to the Berks and Bucks border. Family stories suggest that she may have been born in Ireland, but I feel this is a red herring as far as

tracing her birth. She died in Swindon in 1946 at an age of 86, 88 or 90. Who knows?

**Mrs Kay Collins (2410) of 285 Newton Road, Rushden, Northants NN10 0SY** is looking for Job Walden born about 1785/1790 who married Martha Honey in 1813 at Buttermere, Wilts and had a daughter Elizabeth baptised the same year in Inknep, Berks. The next reference to this family is the marriage of Elizabeth to William Ansell in East Woodhay, Hants. In the same parish are the marriages of two sisters Mary Walden, to Edward Baverstock (1836) and Martha to Edward Pullick (1846). Please can anyone help find one of these sisters or the parents in a census? Several places in all three counties have been tried without success. Mrs Collins is also seeking the burials of Job and Martha Walden sometime after 1823.

**Maurice T Weston (1094) , 5/48 May Street, Bayswater 6053, Western Australia** who is President of the Western Australian Genealogical Society Inc mentioned at the Symposium in July that his Society has a Convict and Historical Records Special Interest Group that will carry out convict research and another "*Research*" section that handles normal enquiries. Both make small charges and appreciate the enclosure of an SSAE (not IRCs!). They are able to access other state records since they have the microfiche of States Births, Marriages and Deaths.

**Minutes of 19th Annual General Meeting of the Berkshire Family History Society held on Friday 17th July, 1994, at 7:45pm at the United Reform Church Hall, Cromwell Place, Northbrook Street, Newbury, Berkshire**

Helen Relf, Newbury Branch Chairman, welcomed everybody to the 19th Annual General Meeting and then handed over the Chair to Michael Sheppard, the Society Chairman

Michael Sheppard informed the Meeting that the Annual General Meeting would follow the Agenda as published in the March 1994 Issue of the Berkshire Family Historian.

**1. Apologies for Absence**

The following apologies have been received: The Hon. Lady Palmer, DL, Dr Peter Durrant, John Elkin

**2. Accept the Minutes of the 1993 Annual General Meeting**

Michael Sheppard reminded the Meeting that the Minutes for the 18th Annual General Meeting were as printed in the September 1993 Issue of the Berkshire Family Historian. He then asked the Meeting that the Minutes be accepted as read - Chad Hanna proposed the motion and Cliff Debney seconded and the Meeting unanimously approved

**3. Matters Arising from the Minutes**

There were no matters arising

**4. Chairman's Report for 1992-1993**

*This last year has been a time when the Executive Committee of the Berkshire Family History Society has taken stock of where we are.*

*As far as Membership was concerned, this has shown an increase for 1993/4, which is very pleasing. Because, without you, the Members, there would be no Berkshire*

*Family History Society.*

*The question of Premises for our Society occupied the minds of your Executive Committee on numerous occasions. So a Premises SubCommittee was set up. They have been looking at the various options available to us. This is no easy task as we, as you well know, are a Charity and are not made of money. We also have to decide what the premises are to be used for. The Sub Committee have already looked at various premises and the search goes on.*

*The Society had various Projects on the go last year, and I am sure Chad Hanna, our Projects Coordinator, will go into these in more detail. But what I want to say is that these projects do not just happen by themselves. They need to be organised and then work of completing the task can be started, this requires more help from our Members.*

*The Executive Committee have set in motion the formation of a Projects Sub Committee and also a Publishing Sub Committee. By linking these two activities together it is hoped that the results of our projects can eventually be published for the benefit of all our members.*

*We again participated in the SOG. fair in London. This year it was staged over two days. This made it easier for the general public and Family Historians, but it made the organising of the event that much more difficult. A vote of thanks here must go to Lesley and Chad Hanna and Robert Houseman for all the work they put into this Fair.*

*We again ran a coach to London for the Fair, calling at all our Branch Towns. Sad to say the coach was only just over half full. We shall have to think seriously as to whether we run a coach next year.*

*There was also another Family History Fair, this time run commercially, appearing on the scene. One of the events took place on Sunday 27th February 1994 at Rivermead, Reading. Following a favourable report from Bill Lloyd, who attended the Winchester Fair in January, Jean and Cliff Debney decided to go at the last minute. It was well worth while as they took over £600 on the bookstall, as well as enrolling 3 new members to BFHS. They later attended the Family History Fair at Bracknell, again taking about £400 on the bookstall.*

*The Annual Symposium was held again in July, with the theme of 'Law and Order'. The numbers of people attending were down slightly on that of last year, even though the other participating Societies and other organisations were numbering the same.*

*The four Branches of Bracknell, Newbury, Reading and Slough have continued to give our members a varied and high standard of lectures. I know of quite a few members who regularly attend more than one Branch meeting. Each of these Branches have their own Committees, and I would like to see more new faces coming forward onto these committees.*

*Finally I would like to thank and pay tribute to all the members of the Executive Committee for all the hard work that they have put in over this last year. I would also like to thank all the Branch Committees.*

#### **THE FUTURE.**

*The year 1995 will be quite eventful especially in Berkshire. Firstly, it is the*

*25th Anniversary of the Federation of Family History Societies. Secondly, and more importantly to us in Berkshire, we are hosting the Federation of Family History Societies six monthly Conference in the Autumn.*

*This will take place at Reading University, from Friday 8th to Sunday 10th September 1995. The Theme of the Conference is "Victorian Vices and Virtues". This is a marvellous chance for the members of BFHS, who actually live in the County to attend one of the six monthly Conferences. We shall be looking for a lot of support from all of the members from the four branches. If anyone has a burning desire to get deeply involved, please come and see me.*

#### **5. Treasurer's Report for 1993/94**

Roy Croton presented the Audited Accounts to the Meeting, and then took the Meeting through all the items in the Accounts.

Helen Relf proposed that the Audited Accounts be accepted by the Meeting, and Joyce Kearney seconded - this was unanimously accepted by the Meeting.

Roy Croton gave notice to the Meeting that the Membership Fees would have to rise at the start of the 1995-1996 Society Year - the actual amount had yet to be agreed by the Executive Committee but he felt that it would be in the region of £2/Member. He added that the current Membership fees had not been increased for four years but the Society costs had - in addition, the running cost of the proposed premises would have to be met from the common fund even though the Premises themselves would generate a proportion of their own costs.

## **6. Election of President and Vice Presidents for 1994-1995**

Michael Sheppard reminded the Meeting that this election was held annually. He added that the Executive Committee had proposed Lady Palmer for President and Dr Peter Durrant for Vice President, and they were unanimously elected by the Meeting.

## **7. Election of Officers for 1994-1995**

Michael Sheppard handed over the Chair to Helen Relf, who then informed the Meeting that the following nominations had been received by the deadline of 20th June, 1994:

Society Chairman: Michael Sheppard  
Secretary: Robert Houseman  
Treasurer: Roy Croton

These nominations was unanimously accepted by the Meeting. Helen Relf then handed over the Chair to the newly elected Chairman, Mike Sheppard.

## **8. Accept the ex-officio committee members appointed by the Branches**

Mike Sheppard informed the Meeting that the following ex-officio Members of the Executive Committee had been appointed by the Branches; John Elkin (Bracknell), Helen Relf (Newbury), Chad Hanna (Reading) and Andy Morris (Slough). The Meeting unanimously approved these.

## **9. Election of Committee Members for 1994-1995**

Mike Sheppard informed the Meeting that nominations for Members of the Executive Committee had been received from Jean Debney, Catherine Harrington, Margaret Pyle, Cliff Debney and Geoff Mather. The Meeting unanimously accepted these nominations.

Mike Sheppard then offered his, and the Society's, grateful thanks to the following retiring members of the Executive

Committee for all their hard work, dedication and unstinting efforts towards the Society: Peter Francis, Clive Tomlin & Jan Cleeton

## **10. Nomination of Auditors for 1994-1995**

Mike Sheppard informed the Meeting that Mr Jack Hobbs had yet again agreed to perform the role of Auditor for the Society. Roy Croton proposed this nomination and Chad Hanna seconded - the Meeting unanimously agreed this appointment.

## **11. Any Other Business**

Michael Sheppard told the Meeting that the Executive Committee had granted Honorary Membership to Jackie Blow for her dedication and unstinting support to the Society since its inception, of which she was one of the founding Members - the Meeting loudly applauded this gift.

Chad Hanna gave a progress report on the Projects currently in hand.

Cliff Debney briefed the Meeting on the Proposals from the Boundary Commission and how they could affect the Society's use of the Berkshire Record Office and Reference Libraries.

Mike Sheppard thanked the Newbury Branch for hosting the Annual General Meeting and then formally closed the Meeting.

## BFHS - Balance Sheet 1993-94

Liabilities	1993-94	1992-93	1993-94	1992-93
Accumulated Funds	18,264.37	14,827.81		
Bookstall Surplus	2,437.99	1,521.46		
Bookstall Creditors	1,081.67	551.71		
General Surplus	4,666.89	992.97		
General Creditors	341.61	370.42		
<b>Assets</b>				
General A/c			714.39	924.77
Instant Savings 1			1.63	1.50
Instant Savings 2			0.15	-
30 Day			10,330.57	5,474.48
Bookstall A/c			1,661.05	822.37
Instant Savings BSA			5,079.58	4,177.99
Conference 1995			550.08	-
Cash			432.78	376.07
Stock			8,022.30	6,487.19
	<u>£26,792.53</u>	<u>£18,264.37</u>	<u>£26,792.53</u>	<u>£18,264.37</u>

## BFHS - Expenditure 1993-94

	1993-94	1993-92
Magazine	3,476.56	3,016.00
Magazine Postage	1,094.89	1,009.50
Meeting Halls:		
1992-93	31.00	
1993-94	1,170.75	
1994-95	<u>152.50</u>	
	1,354.25	1,453.48
Symposium:		
1992-93	46.53	
1993-94	1,538.18	
1994-95	<u>74.10</u>	
	1,658.81	-
1995 Conference	573.45	-
Reference Library	226.71	-
Speakers	504.50	597.05
SOG Fair 1993	18.75	-
Premises	220.00	-
Computer Hardware	175.00	712.64
Computer Software	107.92	-
Insurance & FFHS Affil:	499.82	376.54
Other Affiliations	95.19	-
Expenses:		
1992-93	54.18	
1993-94	<u>3.30</u>	
	57.48	546.59
Postage:		
1992-93	2.40	
1993-94	<u>380.61</u>	
	383.01	502.52
Stationery	121.13	-
Photocopy	95.34	-
Telephone	50.89	-
Travel	130.30	152.15
Miscellaneous	155.50	527.32
	<u>10,999.50</u>	<u>8,893.79</u>

## Total Income & Expenditure

	1993-94	1993-92
Income	15,666.39	9,886.96
Expenditure	<u>10,999.50</u>	<u>8,893.79</u>
	10,999.50	8,893.79
Income over Expenditure	£4,666.89	£993.17



## BFHS - Income 1993-1994

	1993-94		1993-92
Subscriptions:			
1992-93		221.00	
1993-94		8,888.88	
1994-95		69.05	
		<u>9,178.93</u>	
Inland Revenue		465.14	8,151.13
Deposit Interest		357.50	559.47
Bookstall		2,500.00	422.52
Advertising		52.50	
Research		19.00	73.00
Symposium:			28.00
	1993	1,925.24	132.49
	1994	<u>162.00</u>	
		2,087.24	
Catholic Conference		452.00	
SOG Fair:			
	1993	18.00	
	1994	<u>123.00</u>	
		141.00	33.00
Donations		253.43	324.43
Bookstall		13.45	22.29
Miscellaneous		<u>146.20</u>	<u>140.63</u>
		£15,666.39	£9,886.96

## BFHS - Bookstall A/c

### Profit and Loss Account

	1993/94		1993/92	
<b>Income</b>				
Sales Income	12,556.40		11,176.10	
Deposit Interest	91.59		121.67	
Opening Stock		6,487.19		6,410.73
Additional Purchases		6,611.14		7,538.52
Census Printing		<u>1,144.00</u>		<u>503.00</u>
		14,242.33		14,452.25
Closing Stock				
Books	4,825.30			
Census	3,197.00			
		<u>8,022.30</u>		<u>6,487.19</u>
Cost of Goods		6,220.03		7,965.06
<b>Expenditure</b>				
Stationery		115.36		
Postage		573.34		693.19
Travel		274.90		
Refund		67.31		
Sales Commission		56.61		
Conference Fees		106.00		
Photocopying		52.40		226.84
Miscellaneous		119.05		153.85
Expenses		125.00		380.92
Reference Library				356.45
Surplus		2,437.99		1,521.46
General A/c		<u>2,500.00</u>		
	£12,647.99	£12,647.99	£11,297.77	£11,297.77

# The Army in Berkshire in 1887

*Compiled by Jean Debney*

## *Introduction*

Kelly's Directories for counties and large towns were published between the 1840s and 1972. Apart from details of private residents and commercial concerns, they include a potted history for each place and details of local services such as schools, churches and non-conformist chapels, times of collection and delivery of letters, trains, etc.

The information was collected in a variety of ways: the best was by agents who recorded details from local residents, and the worst was by plagiarising someone else's publication. Because information found in directories is not always 100% correct (they used such small type-face it is surprising that more spelling/typographical errors do not appear) it is important, where possible, to check data against another source. Details from the following abstracts may be found in the printed "Army Lists" and in the War Office records (ref. WO) in the Public Record Office at Kew.

The following abstracts were compiled from Kelly's Directory of 1887, a copy of which is in the Society's reference library: from page four and the introduction and commercial sections under each relevant place name.

Reading is the Depot of the Regimental District No.49 which is comprised of the 1st (late 49th foot) and 2nd (late 66th foot) Battalions of the Princess Charlotte of Wales's (Royal Berkshire) Regiment; it is also the head quarters of the Royal Berkshire Militia which forms the 3rd battalion.

The [Brock] barracks, situated in the Oxford Road, outside the limits of the borough, have ample drill grounds. In Friar Street are situated the head quarters of the 1st Volunteer Battalion of the Royal Berkshire Regiment.

Lieut-Col. Commanding Regimental District: Col A.S.M. Browne

Paymaster Regimental District: Major T.C.A. Fox (staff paymaster)

### **1st Battalion**

Depot: F.B.R. Hemphill, Capt. & Lieut. C. Turner

### **2nd Battalion**

Depot: Major S.J. Butler & Lieut. D.R. Williams

### **3rd Battalion (Royal Berkshire Militia)**

Head Quarters, Barracks, Reading

Col. A. Blandy - Jenkins, Lieut-Col. commanding

Capt. H.W. Holden, Adjutant

Lieut W. Hollyer, Quarter-Master

### *Volunteers - Royal Berkshire Yeomanry Cavalry*

The Royal Berkshire Yeomanry Cavalry have their headquarters at Park Street, Hungerford and their stores at Little Church Street, Hungerford; the regiment consists of

four Troops, stationed respectively at Newbury, Reading, Hungerford and Wantage.

Col. G.S. Willes, Lieut-Col. commanding

The Hon. O.W. Craven, Major

Capt. P.H. Massey, Adjutant

R.H. Barker, Surgeon

William Hew Dunn, Captain of Hungerford Troop

Sergt-Major Michael Roach, Drill Instructor

George King, Regimental Sergt-Major

**A Troop, Newbury:** Captain/Major\* E.H. Thurlow, Capt.

Sergt-Major F. Robinson, drill instructor

**B Troop, Reading:** Major J. Hargreaves, commandant.

**C Troop, Hungerford:** G.O. Sloper, Captain

Sergt-Major Geo. Regan, Drill Instructor.

**D Troop, Wantage:** Captain G.C. Ricardo, commanding;

Sergt-Major J. Rogers/ Sergt-Major W Grist\*, Wallingford Street,  
Drill Instructor

*Princess Charlotte of Wales's (Royal Berkshire Regiment)*

### **1st Volunteer Battalion**

(Comprising A, B, C, D, E, F, G, H, I, J, K, L, M, N, O, Q & V [mounted] companies)

**Head Quarters:** 22 Friar Street, Reading

Col. Lord Wantage, V.C., K.C.B., lieut-col. commandant

Col. J.L. Toke, lieut-col.

Capt. St. J.G. Rathborne / Major J.C. Carter,\* adjutant

Capt. J.T. Morland quarter- master

Hon. Surg-Maj. J. Ellison, M.D. surgeon

J.H. Walters & F.W.D. Fraser, acting surgeons

Rev T.H. Archer Houblon, M.A. vicar of Wantage, acting chaplain  
to the battalion

Head quarters of battalions A, B & C & mounted companies, 22 Friar Street, Reading

**Mounted Company** - Major James Simonds

**A Company** - Capt. L. de L. Simonds

**B Company** - Capt. J.H. Cooper

**C Company** - Capt. H.M. Dowson

**D Company** - Church Lane, Windsor

Major J.R. Holmes, Commandant

Saml. Ingram, Drill Instructor

[To Be Continued]

# Whose Family History is it Anyway?

By David G Disbury

As an amateur genealogist and family historian for twenty years and a professional trainer in industry over many more, early retirement allowed me the opportunity to take up tutoring the subject I enjoyed most. When asked to title the planned course I blithely wrote "*Genealogy and Family History*." After all that is what my interest is all about. Have I not drawn up dozens of pedigree charts and compiled a small book on the life of one of my soldier ancestors?

A year ago I purchased "*Local Family History in England*" by Colin Rogers and John Smith. Page one challenged my definitions and my whole perspective had changed by the end of the book. Yes I was dealing with genealogy - that is those genetically related only to me - and yes I was compiling a family history - my own. My files contained a mass of information and data on my family, examining that data again gave it a far wider application.

My ancestors can be found in the Vale of the White Horse for over five hundred years, along with those families with whom they married. In the parish of Ashbury, where my family have lived for 150 years, there are a number of other families that have become relatives by marriage to my countless kin, all of whom have been painstakingly recorded on computer and chart.

Under the chapter entitled "*Family and*

*Total Reconstitution*" Rogers and Smith suggest how all this information can be looked at and used to interpret a much wider family and community history. Among the examples given are age at first marriage, duration of marriage, how long from marriage to first child, gaps between births, duration of child bearing, incidence of multiple births, average number of births per marriage, re-marriage on death of a spouse, sex ratio of children, illegitimacy, mortality, life expectancy, the occurrence of certain occupations in a family, movement within and across social classes. Your own imagination is the only boundary to what can be gleaned from the wealth of records which are probably more familiar to genealogists than any other historian.

Beginning with the families I already had for Ashbury, I have started to gather all the family data from within the parish, using first the Parish Registers and incorporating census returns, rentals, overseers accounts, workhouse records, bastardy orders, wills. So far I have compiled over 30 family trees relating to Ashbury families, with almost 2000 individuals traced.

The rewards have been more than worthwhile, whilst my knowledge of Ashbury and its people has grown so have gaps in pedigrees been filled. Name changes, parentage, movement of families, all gain clarification from the reconstitution. What seemed to be father and son became the same

individual marrying three times, with his last bride being 25 years his junior! This is the case of Roger Page, (there is still a path in the village called "*Roger Page's Lane*"), who was born about 1733. In 1759 Roger, described as a widower by the Ashbury registers, married Sarah Taylour of East Garston. Sarah died in September 1802. One year later Roger married for the third time, this time to a Rachel Stanbrook, born about 1758. Roger survived her and died aged 94 in 1827. Another triple marriage involved a woman and also required some detective work. Ann Ebsworth, who was born in 1801, first married William Johnson in 1831; poor William died two years later. In 1840 Ann married again, but par for the course Thomas Willis survived only two years of marriage. In 1844 Ann married Charles Coventry, one of my family and obviously made of sterner stuff; he not only outlasted Anne, who died in 1875, but re-married two years later.

Another interesting problem concerned illegitimate offspring who use first their mother's name, then the putative father's and sometimes subsequently revert to the mother's. An example of this is Thomas Coles. He was born in 1808 to Ann Coles. In 1814, Ann married William Walklett, a cooper by trade. In 1832 Thomas "*Cowls*" married Elizabeth Wilson and their five children were variously baptized as Cowls and Cowls alias Walklett. The Census Returns consistently show a Thomas Walklett, publican and cooper, with his wife Elizabeth and children all

surnamed Walklett. Another example of name change is that of Joseph Henry Sealey. His mother Winifred Sealey, a widow, married Jonathan Dowling and Joseph is shown on the census living with his mother and stepfather. Joseph later married Jemima Chivers and their ten children are variously baptised as Sealey or Dowling, almost as the mood took them!

Several fathers have been identified from the cross referencing, of Faringdon Workhouse records (where a large number of illegitimate children were born) with baptisms in the village and later census returns. For example reconstitution has brought to light a Maria Martin alias Geering marrying a Taylor. No bastardy order existed for her.

Christian names seem to change at will. Betsey and Elizabeth or Mary and Polly I was used to. Thus William and Elizabeth Tilling and William and Mary Tilling were the same parents and not a case of William remarrying as I first thought. I found too that although families shared a surname they could have quite separate origins. Thus I found, upon examination, that the Johnsons, Chivers, Browns, Jacobs, Lawrences and Bunces who were all established Ashbury families, were anything up to three disparate groups with the same surname.

Reconstituting Ashbury families has led to my own pedigree being extended relationships with other village families have been established, migratory paths have been identified leading to the discovery of lost relatives. For example

a person may be found on a census return as a lodger, boarder or visitor to the family. By identifying multiple marriage, maiden names and recording marriage witnesses, that visitor proves to be a relative and their place of origin can lead to a parish not previously considered. Thus an ancestor of mine, Edward Coventry of Buckland, gave his place of origin as Kingston. I tried Kingston Bagpuize, Kingston Lisle and Ashbury as Kingstone Winslow is a hamlet within the parish. When I reconstituted the Ashbury Coventrys, one incidentally married three times and each time to a Martha, my Edward turned up, born at Knighton which is adjacent to Kingston Winslow where parishioners were inclined to baptise either at Ashbury or Compton Beauchamp.

Reconstitution of a community does not stop at genealogical linkage. Outbreaks of disease, epidemics and causes of death, literacy across trades and professions can also be traced as well as

errors at age of marriage, census or death, place of origin in census returns. For example a study of 96 Berkshire strays in the Wiltshire census returns of 1851 who gave their place of origin as Ashbury revealed that 52% did not actually originate with the parish.

Examining a parish such as Ashbury can only be a microcosm of the Vale of the White Horse, of Berkshire and of England in general. Recent membership of the Local Population Studies Society has led to my being able to pass on some of my data, as well as access to like material from other areas and to be become involved in other projects. I believe that the task is endless and would be better served by the formation of like-minded groups and I am working towards this with "*my parish*".

Finally should any BFHS member have an Ashbury connection, please contact me at 44 Hythe Park Road, Egham, Surrey, TW20 8DA.

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## Berkshire Family History Symposium held at The Holt School, Wokingham, Berks on 3rd July, 1994

*By Phil Chamberlain*

The opening address was from the BFHS Vice-President, Dr Peter Durrant of the Berkshire Record Office, who gave us a timely reminder of the effect that the re-organisation of local government may have on the archives service - which was scarcely mentioned in the Commissioners Report for Berkshire.

The first speaker on the theme of "*Law and*

*Order*", was David Hawkings. He had us all eyeing each other warily after declaring that "*You have all got a crook in the family!*". He gave us many examples of wrong-doers, their crimes and sentences and included those found connected with his own family. One illuminating fact was that the Assize Records - from courts held by central court judges, who went on

circuit around the country twice a year - which usually dealt with serious crime, also have occurrences of minor crimes. David suggested that this was because the assizes were paid for by central government (the Treasury, rather than local government (the Sheriff), the mechanism for requesting money to pay for assizes by government being known as the "*Sheriff's Cravings*".

David indicated which classes of records to examine to uncover more information about criminals or their crimes. One major class of such records, are the Quarter Sessions records (so-called because they were held four times a year, typically Easter, Trinity, Michaelmas and Epiphany) which were dealt with in further detail by Richard Ratcliffe. Richard advised, however, that we search all our other family history sources first, because "*you will forget all about your family tree and become engrossed in these records!*", and we could well believe it judging by the examples that he showed to us. A practical tip for research was to take a flannel, soap and towel, as the accumulation of dust on bundles of little-used Quarter Sessions records can be great. The role of the Justices of the Peace was explained, including their power to withhold cattle markets for five years. Unpaid, hard working, holding office until the reigning monarch died and chosen for their "*justice, wisdom and fortitude*", these men had special qualities.

Many Family History Societies and trade stands attended this year, the BIGgest seller was the British Isles Genealogical Register for those counties which had it available, including Berkshire. There was a distinct "*technology*" feel to the Symposium this year, as both S & N Enterprises and Maze Productions were selling genealogical computer packages, the former being able

to demonstrate them "*live*" on his computer. The Church of the Latter-day Saints brought along their computer, complete with CD-ROM version of the 1993 IGI and Ancestral File. Chad Hanna gave sterling service demonstrating the "*Pedigree*" computer package.

The usual research facilities were available. The whole of the Berkshire Name Index was available to search, in over 35 metal drawers, as was the Pedigree Index. The Reference Library containing some 2000 items now - was available for perusal, as was the Magazine Library, containing periodicals produced by many other FHS. The microfiche held by the Society were available, along with four microfiche readers.

The BFHS Chairman, Mike Sheppard, rounded the day off with a vote of thanks to the speakers and organisers. He reminded everybody that Berkshire Family History Society will be hosting the Federation Conference in September 1995 and asked for full support and help from all BFHS members. The Conference will replace the Symposium for 1995. Mike himself is a Justice of the Peace.

On behalf of the Society, I should like to thank all those who helped out on (or before) the day - an event like this survives on goodwill of the membership - we couldn't have done it without you! To those of you who didn't come; we hope we have whet your appetite - look out for the application forms in 1996!

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Phil found two piece of lost property found after the Symposium - a pair of ladies pearl framed reading glasses and a metal framed hair slide about three inches long.

# Q & A With Jean

*Compiled by Jean Debney*

**Q** - Michael Barefoot (548) of Bovey Tracey, Devon would like to know about Berkshire ag labs and writes: "I am revising a booklet I wrote ten years ago on the 'The Barefoot Family of the Lower Thames Valley' to make a much improved version and shall be including little sub-chapters on local history. My lot in Berkshire were very much ag-labs and I am wondering if you know of any article, say in the Berks Family Historian, which would give me what I need. I have books on 17th, 18th century farming in general but it would be nice to have something specific for the Thames Valley."

**A** - I made a quick trawl of my bookcase and book catalogues and came up with the following suggestions which do not in any way claim to be complete - other suggestions welcome from our members please.

## Local Sources

Berkshire Local History Association: Berkshire Old & New: A Story of Countryfolk (Vol.3, 1986); Peasant Farming in the Vale of the White Horse (Vol.6, 1989 -£2 +P&P)  
Pamela Horn: A Georgian Parson and his village (1981) - the story of David Davies (1742-1819), Rector of Barkham, Berks which includes details of expenses of labouring families in his parish. Flora Thompson: Lark Rise to Candleford (Oxford 1954) - mainly relating to Oxfordshire, but that is not far from Berkshire. Wm Fordyce Mavor: A General View of Agriculture in Berkshire (1809)

## General Books

David J Eveleigh: The Victorian Farmer [Shire Publication £1.95 + p&p from BFHS Bookstall] Pamela Horn: Labouring Life in the Victorian Countryside (1976) - plus many other titles on social history. W B Stephens: Sources for English Local History (Camb.Univ.Press 1973) - Chap.8: Agriculture (before and after 1750); general text plus Lots of sources listed in copious footnotes; these include references to various Parliamentary reports into such matters as agricultural distress (1820), labourer's wages (1824), persons employed in agriculture (1833), causes of distress (1836), labourers' average weekly earnings (1861 onwards), children and women in agriculture (1867), the depressed condition of agricultural interests (1882), etc. These may contain interviews with named persons as well as other details of conditions and can possibly be seen on microfilm in large libraries, eg. Reading University. Pamela Horn draws on these as a source in her books on Victorian life. J West: Village Records (1962 - Phillimore, £20 + P&P). Sir H Rider Haggard: Rural England (1902; 2nd.ed. 1906)

## Other Sources

Census Returns for 1851 include the farmers' names, the number of acres farmed and men, women and young people employed; there were fewer details requested in 1861, for men only in 1871 and 1881 and none in 1891. The printed statistical returns state the number engaged in agriculture in each county, etc, and report by parish, the state of local employment and any reasons for a rise or fall in the population. These may be seen in



the Reading University Library; they should also be available at the Public Record Office. Photographs - The Museum of English Rural Life in Reading University has a large collection of photographs. Many old photographs have been published in the "Victorian and Edwardian ... from Old Photographs" series, etc: although some were obviously posed by the photographer to create the "correct" impression, close study can often reveal a clue to the truth about real life in the country.

Footnote (1): BFHS Ref.Lib [9/B/1008]; we also have: The Barefoot Family Tree 17C to date (1986) [9/A/1009] and 191 Subscribers (1993).

**Q - Dr Peter Francis (2024) of Bracknell, Berks has found a reference to the occupation of "Indweller" in a Register of Sasines in Scotland and would like to know what it means.**

A As Peter actually put this question to me at a Branch meeting I was able to go directly to the Bookstall and pick up a small booklet entitled "*A Scottish*

*Genealogists Glossary*" by Lawrence R Burness (1990) price £1.50. This said that an Indweller is an inhabitant or occupant, and an Instrument of Sasines is a document recording the transfer of land. [Needless to say, after this success I sold him the last copy - however, I plan to obtain more copies so there should be some available by the time you read this!]

**Q - Ed Pearce (1659) of Emmer Green, Reading, Berks noticed that the list of available microfiche of the 1881 Census Returns includes one for the Royal Navy and would like to know what it includes.**

A - The answer is to be found in a book called "*Making Sense of the Census*" by Edward Higgs (HMSO 1989) from which the following has been compiled.

The chapter on Special Returns deals with institutions, the Army, Royal Navy and Merchant Marine, fishing vessels, vessels engaged in inland navigation, itinerants, travellers and, finally, nightworkers.

As the deck of a Royal Navy ship is considered to be English soil, those on board should have been enumerated. However, it seems that only a head count was attempted in 1841 and although special schedules "*appear to have been issued to commanding officers of vessels in British ports*" in 1851 the results are vague. Between 1861 and 1881 (also 1891 and 1901), "*commanding officers of naval vessels*" in both "*home waters and abroad*" were issued with "*special naval schedules in which they were to record the names & relevant details of their officers and crew*" as well as any passengers. "*The schedules for those in British ports can usually be found at the end ... of the registration district in which the port lay*" and those at sea or in foreign ports are "*at the end of the record class*". Good hunting! I would be pleased to hear from anyone who has used this section of the census.

### **More Problems with Surname Spellings**

Two examples of surname mis-spellings have been sent in by members following an item in my Q & A in the last magazine (see Vol.17/4 June 1994 p158): they prove the point that it is always worth checking as many spelling variations as you can think of in any index,

and especially in the IGI!!

I. Mrs Elizabeth Paczek (2715) of Maidenhead, Berks found the marriage of her Oxby ancestors in Coddington, Notts in 1827 was followed by the baptisms of 11 children: those between 1828 and 1841 and the last one in 1854 had a 'correctly' spelt surname. However, there was a change of incumbent and he recorded two baptisms in 1843 and 1847 as the children of William and Hannah Hoxby. It appears that in copying from earlier entries, he transferred the final "H" of the mother's name on to the surname.

II. Mrs Ann Rigby (2793) of Corsham, Wilts has been tracing her Slaymaker ancestors in White Waltham, Berks. She was unable to locate them in a typewritten typescript in the Berkshire Record Office until she noticed a whole clutch of Haymakers with the correct christian names! She was allowed to examine the original and found that the transcriber had misread SL for H (seasoned transcribers will recognise this problem with some capital letters). Although she reported the error to the archivist it has, unfortunately, been perpetuated in the IGI.

### Window-Peeper - an explanation

The Oxford English Dictionary defines a Window peeper as a "*Surveyor whose duty it was to inspect and assess window tax.*" [Many thanks to Miss Ella Sutherland (1765) of Bracknell, Berks and D G Jackson (2118) of Congleton, Cheshire who took the trouble to send this information following the question in "*Berkshire Family Historian*", Vol. 17/4 p 158]

Window Tax was collected in England from 1696 until 1851. It was the cause of many old houses having bricked-up windows to avoid payment. Further information and details of surviving records in "*your*" county can be found in the Gibson Guide: "*Land and Window Tax Assessments*" published by Federation FHS and listed in our latest Booklist sent out with the June 1994 magazine. Write to me if you would like a copy (address on back cover of magazine).

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## Removal of Tombstones from Reading United Reformed Church

*Compiled by Catherine Harrington*

The following is a list of names which appeared in the "*Reading Evening Post*" of Monday 15th August, 1994, as the "*Notice of Intention to Remove Human Remains and Tombstones, or other Memorials from the United Reformed Church, Broad Street, Reading, Berkshire.*" The second part of the list relates to those who have tombstones or memorials. I have marked with a + those names which appear in both lists. The plan is for the bodies to be re-interred in Reading Cemetery, so that the old Church can be converted into a bookshop. Anyone who would like to know more should contact The United Reformed Church (Wessex) Trust Ltd, c/o 23 Chaucer Road, Crowthorne, Berkshire, RG11 7QN as soon as possible.

Barnes Children	Mrs Francis Jennings' Child	Sherman Watson
Miss Ann Bell	Johnson's Child	Mr Watson's Child
Mrs Ann Bell	Mrs Jones Infant	Moses Willatts
George Bell	Laister Infant	Rebecca Willatts
Richard Bell	+Margaret Lamb	Mrs Wilmshurst
Thomas Bell	+Mary Lamb	Wilson Infant
Mr Breakworth	+Philip Lamb	Mrs Wilton
Norman Brown	+Samuel Lamb	Mrs Mary Wright
Elizabeth Chinner	Mrs Nancy Lea	
Mrs Cool's Infant	Mr Leaves	Cornelius Allnutt
Mrs Cooper	Mr Legg	Mary Allnutt
+Mrs Sarah Corbett	Mrs Legg	Mrs Mary Arnold
Mr Crawley	Mr Locke	George Thomas Chandler
Elizabeth Davidson	Mrs Mowbury	Mrs Eliza Davidson
+James Davidson	Murney's Daughter	Alfred John Elkens
Mrs Dear	+Mrs Ann Noon	Charles Henry Elkens
+Revd Archibald Douglas	+Mrs Phoebe Noon	John Coster Elkens
+Mrs Elizabeth Douglas	+Revd Thomas Noon	John Jackson Elkens
Randall Durban	Mrs Elizabeth Poole	Howard Henry Francis
Miss Edwards	Mrs Peacock's Sons	Mrs Annie Margaret Francis
Egerton Sons	Mr Pecover	Mr Charles Francis
Mr Elkens	Mrs Pecover	Revd William Legg BA
Mr and Mrs Emery	Mr Price	Cornelius Poulton
+Mrs Eliza Everett	+Mary Rhodes	Mrs Mary Poulton
+David Fenton	+Robert Rhodes	Miss Rachel Poulton
+David Fenton jnr	Mrs Rimmington	Mrs Martha E Powell
+Mary Fenton	Mr Sandhurst	Mr William Powell
James Fergusson	Orford Shepherd	Mrs Mary Ryder
Thomas Field	Simmonds' Infant	Emily Southgate
Hannah Glover	Mr Smith	Mrs Elizabeth Smith
Israel Glover	Mrs Smith	Miss Selina Smith
John Glover	Mr Stevens	Charles Steward Smith
John Glover	G Steward's Child	Mrs Anne Talfourd
Sarah Glover	Mr Swains	Margaret Winkworth
Mrs Haslam	Mrs Sweetger	Mary Anne Winkworth
Haslam's Child	+Edward Talfourd	
Mr Hetherington	Henry Talfourd	
George Hudswell	Mrs Mary Talfourd	
Henry Hudswell	Mr Taylor's Servant	
John Hudswell	Elizabeth Thorn	
Miss Martha Hudswell	John Thorn	
Miss Sarah Hudswell	Mr F (?) V (?)	
Miss Jacobs	Mrs Warman	
Mrs James	Chapman Watson	

# Jean's Miscellany

## *Foreign Exchange*

Foreign exchange cheques can be obtained for a conversion fee of £3 (less than the main clearing banks) from REUSCH International Ltd, 18 Saville Row, London W1X 2AD. Call freephone 0800 136232, quote the amount and currency required, they will then quote you the exchange rate, total amount and a transaction number; you then send them a sterling cheque for the foreign currency cheque. (**Family Tree Magazine, May 1994**)

## *Was your ancestor a Brushmaker?*

See "*Brushmakers or Tramps*" by Ken A Doughty in Family Tree Magazine, March 1993. The author also organises the Society of Brushmakers Descendants (annual subscription £5) formed as a self-help and information group; there is an index of apprentices and information write (with SAE or IRCs) to 47 Harrow Road, Barking, Essex IG11 7QZ. Details of this,

and many other occupational indexes etc. are to be found in the latest edition of the Gibson Guide: Marriage, Census and other Indexes.

## *The Red Cross Society*

Interesting article by Colin Chapman about the history and work of the Central Tracing Agency of the International Committee of the Red Cross from their HQ in Geneva, Switzerland. The UK address is: The British Red Cross Society, 9 Grosvenor Crescent, London SW1X 7EJ (**Family Tree Magazine, May 1994**)

## *Royal Marines Historical Society*

Mr J S FINNEY is organising a register of memorials, monuments and graves of Royal Marines who died on active service from 1664 onwards. Write (with SAE.) to 26 Adair Road, Eastney, Southsea, Hants PO4 9PH (**Family Tree Magazine, May 1994**)

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**The FFHS announces "Threads of Family History" - by kind permission of the Ontario Genealogical Society on whose idea this is based.**

Put down your pens, switch off your computers, and delegate your indexing; now for something different!

Prepare to participate in "*Threads of Family History*", a special competition of textile craft to be exhibited by the FFHS during Autumn 1995 to celebrate its 21st Anniversary. The exhibition will attempt to show how family history can be creatively used in the many forms of needlework and other textile crafts.

Craftwork itself connects us with our ancestors. In every culture, both women

and men took great pride in the production of distinctively decorated textiles. For this exhibition, participants will be asked to take the process beyond the merely decorative - integrating family history - to produce a unique heirloom for future generations.

Any type of textile craft is eligible - embroidery, applique, quilting, needlepoint, weaving, rug hooking and beadwork to name a few techniques. There's no need to be an expert craftsperson.

The complete rules and an entry form are available from Mrs Jill Valentine, 157 Kent House Road, Beckenham, Kent BR3 1JZ **after 1st October 1994**. Please enclose an SAE 9" x 4" or 2 IRCs.

# Members' Interests

*Compiled by Robert Houseman*

## 1994 Members Interests Index

The last time that the BFHS Members Interests booklet was published was way back in May 1991 - so a form to enter your own Interests was placed on the back of the Membership Application Form in the last Magazine

The response so far has been fantastic but please remember that the closing date, and we have to be very strict on this, will be the last post on *Wednesday 30th November*.

Just fill in the form and return it to your Membership Secretary and she will forward it to me for inclusion in the **1994 Members Interests Index**.

### CHANGES OF ADDRESS:

- 0723 Mr D LIMPUS, 'Naggs Head', 16a Westbourne Terrace, Budleigh Salterton, Devon EX9 6BR
- 1802 Mrs S KEARLEY, 20 Braysdown Lane, Peasdown St John, Bath, Avon BA2 8HN
- 1819 Mrs Dawn SMALLEY, 14 Lovelace Court, Bethersden, Kent TN26 3AY
- 2313 Mr D LATIMER, 1 Towncroft, Chelmsford, Essex CM1 4JX
- 2435 Mr S N LLOYD, 49 Warden Close, Presteigne, Powys LD8 2DH

### MEMBERS SUBMITTING THEIR INTERESTS:

(\* Member of Guild Of One Name Studies)

- 0744 Mr B A WHITWORTH, La Jaoniere, Val au Bourg, St Martin's, Guernsey C.I. GY4 6E
- 2466\* Mr Robert CLAYTON, 17 Second Avenue, Ravenswing, Aldermaston, Berk RG7 4PL
- 2760 Dr Barry JEROME, Rareridge, Rareridge Lane, Bishops Waltham, Southampton, Hampshire SO3 1DX
- 2820 Mr Victor CURTIS, 'Grasmere', 48 Hamilton Avenue, Pyrford, Surrey GU22 8RU
- 2874 Ms Karen GELLEY, 110 Sackville Street, Montmorency, Victoria 3094, Australia
- 2878 Mr B BLACKMAN, Coome Barn Cottage, Witheridge, Tiverton, Devon EX16 8PT
- 2880 Mr Terence GREGORY, 18403 - 80 Avenue, Edmonton, Alberta T5T 1E8, Canada
- 2882 Mr Ray HATHAWAY, 70 Stoneclose Avenue, Heythorpe, Doncaster, S Yorks DN4 0BA
- 2888 Mrs R COLES, Tharrics Lea, 3 Wents Close, Great Bentley, Colchester, Essex CO7 8PZ
- 2892 Mrs Joyce GIBBS, Cuffnells, Chequer Lane, Bosham, Chichester, West Sussex PO18 8EJ
- 2894 Mrs J GLEGG, 1785 North 1500 East Provo, UT 84604-5714, USA
- 2896 Lorne CAMPBELL, 7 Chipper Court, Georgetown, Ontario L7G 1L4 Canada
- 2902 Ms Jackie BARTLETT, 78 Stanley Road, Broadstairs, Kent CT10 1BN
- 2906 Mr & Mrs M J HAYES, 31 Poulters Lane, Worthing, West Sussex BN14
- 2937 Mrs J A WRIGHT, 6 Auster Close, Mundeford, Christchurch BH23 4JR
- 2973 Mr Randy MESSENGER, 65 Summitcrest, Trabuco Canyon, CA 92679, USA

No.	Surname	Place	Code	Period	No.	Surname	Place	Code	Period
2874	ALLEN	Coleshill	BRK	1700-1830	2902	JOHNSON	Anywhere	SRY	1870+
2874	ALLEN	Shrivenham	BRK	1700-1830	2937	KING	Sturminster Newton	DOR	1800-1850
2892	ANDERSON	Edinburgh	MLN	Pre 1880	2880	LANFEAR	Brinkworth	WIL	Pre 1890
2892	ARNOT	Edinburgh	MLN	Pre 1830	2894	LEE	Anywhere	BRK	Pre 1675
2902	BARTLETT	Finchampstead	BRK	1700-1950	2894	LING	Anywhere	BRK	Pre 1700
2906	BEAL	Blendworth	HAM	1700-1960	2902	LONG	Anywhere	SOM	1850+
2906	BEAL	Farnham area	HAM	1700-1960	2894	LOOKER	Anywhere	BRK	Pre 1700
2896	BEST	Greenham/Newbury	BRK	1700-1884	2937	MARSHALL	Denham	BKM	1850-1900
2894	BLACKWELL	Anywhere	BRK	Pre 1750	2892	MASON	Edinburgh	MLN	Pre 1830
2894	BLAKE	Anywhere	BRK	Pre 1700	2906	McVITTY	Anywhere	ALL	1750-1950
2820	BLAKELY	Gateshead	DUR	Pre 1860	2973	MESSINGER	Chaddleworth	BRK	1800-1908
2820	BOURNE	Minley	SRY	Pre 1860	2902	MILLS	Anywhere	DEV	1850+
2896	BUCKLAND	Anywhere	BRK	1700-1884	2902	MILLS	Anywhere	SOM	1850+
2894	BULFORD	Anywhere	BRK	Pre 1700	2937	MONK	Anywhere	BRK	1750-1850
2894	BUNCE	Anywhere	BRK	Pre 1650	2880	MORSE	Hurstbourne Tarrant	HAM	Pre 1880
2902	BUTTERWORTH	Manchester	LAN	1900+	2894	MUDGE	Anywhere	ALL	Pre 1700
2820	CHANNING	Topsham	DEV	Pre 1860	2892	NISBET	Anywhere	BRK	Pre 1850
2937	CHOULES	Anywhere	ALL	All	2894	PANTING	Anywhere	MLN	Pre 1675
2466*	CLAYTON	Anywhere	ALL	All	2902	PARTRIDGE	Woodstock	OXF	1850-1950
2894	CLIFFORD	Anywhere	BRK	Pre 1700	2892	PEARCEY	Southampton	HAM	Pre 1850
2937	COLE	Anywhere	ESS	1800-1900	2902	PECK	Anywhere	SFK	1840+
2888	COLES	Basildon area	BRK	All	2902	PECK	Anywhere	ESS	1840+
2906	COLES	Catherington area	HAM	1700-1900	2937	POCOCK	Anywhere	BRK	1700-1800
2888	COLES	Wallingford area	OXF	All	2894	PONTING	Anywhere	BRK	Pre 1675
2906	COOK	Beddingfield area	SFK	Pre 1850	2820	PRATER	E Hendred	BRK	Pre 1860
2894	COX	Anywhere	BRK	Pre 1700	2937	RAMMELL	Deal	KEN	1700-1850
2874	COX	Shrivenham	BRK	1500-1800	2888	READ	Reading	BRK	19C-20C
2937	CRAIG	Medway	KEN	Pre 1860	2820	SEARLE	Minley	SRY	Pre 1860
2906	CROSS	Sax Mundham	SFK	Pre 1850	2894	SEYMOUR	Anywhere	BRK	Pre 1675
2820	CURTIS	Patrington	ERY	Pre 1860	2894	SIDWELL	Anywhere	BRK	Pre 1675
2820	CURTIS	Rowley	ERY	Pre 1860	2902	SIMMONS	Anywhere	ESS	1870+
2902	DAVEY	Anywhere	SFK	1850+	2906	SPARROW	Great Cornard	SFK	Pre 1850
2894	DEANE	Anywhere	BRK	Pre 1675	2892	SUTHERLAND	Edinburgh	MLN	Pre 1880
2906	DUFFIELD	Anywhere	SSX	Pre 1700	2894	SYLVESTER	Anywhere	BRK	Pre 1700
2937	DUNCAN	Medway	KEN	All	2937	THORN(E)	Deal	KEN	1750-1860
2892	DYER	Southampton	HAM	Pre 1870	2937	THORN(E)	Medway	KEN	1850+
2892	FINCH	Lockerley	HAM	Pre 1850	2896	TITCOMB	Newbury	BRK	1700-1885
2906	FOSTER	Hampton	MDX	1700-1850	2896	TITCOMB	Shaw/Speen	BRK	1700-1885
2906	GATER	Newbury area	BRK	1700-1900	2902	TRINDER	Anywhere	LND	1870-1950
2892	GAWN	Southampton	HAM	Pre 1850	2906	TUBBY	Pulham	NFK	Pre 1850
2906	GEATER	Newbury area	BRK	1700-1900	2894	TUCK	Anywhere	BRK	Pre 1700
2894	GERRARD	Anywhere	BRK	Pre 1625	2882	TURNER	Sunninghill/Egham	BRK	Pre 1900
2892	GIBBS	Newbury	BRK	Pre 1800	2902	VICKERY	Anywhere	SOM	1800-1900
2892	GLASSPOOL	Owlslebury	HAM	Pre 1880	2937	WALLACE	Steventon	BRK	1820-1900
2896	GODDARD	Newbury	BRK	1700-1885	2937	WALLIS	Steventon	BRK	1820-1900
2896	GODDARD	Shaw/Speen	BRK	1700-1885	2888	WELLS	Bray	BRK	1870-1908
2902	GODDARDS	Finchampstead	BRK	1750+	2888	WELLS	Wallingford	OXF	1870-1908
2906	GOODWIN	Brighton	SSX	1800-1900	2937	WICKHAM	Anywhere	ESS	1800-1950
2896	GORE	Newbury	BRK	1700-1885	2937	WILKINS	Anywhere	DOR	1700+
2896	GORE	Shaw/Speen	BRK	1700-1885	2880	WILTSHIRE	Swindon	WIL	1880-1920
2892	GREENING	Dorchester	DOR	Pre 1850	2892	WINKWORTH	Southampton	HAM	Pre 1850
2880	GREGORY	Swindon	WIL	1870-1994	0744	WOOLNOUGH	Anywhere	Australia	1750-1900
2880	GREGORY	Wantage	BRK	Pre 1870	0744	WOOLNOUGH	Anywhere	GLS	1750-1900
2882	HATHAWAY	Sunninghill	BRK	pre 1910	0744	WOOLNOUGH	Anywhere	SFK	1750-1900
2906	HAYES	Epsom	SRY	1700-1900	2906	WOOLNOUGH	Stonham	SFK	Pre 1850
2906	HAYES	Reigate	SRY	1700-1900	2820	WORBY	Garboldsham	NFK	Pre 1860
2906	HAYES	Thames Ditton	SRY	1700-1900	2760	WORSLEY	Chatham	KEN	1500-1860
2906	HAZELL	Newbury area	BRK	1700-1900	2760	WORSLEY	Gillingham	KEN	1500-1860
2894	HEDGES	Anywhere	BRK	Pre 1675	2760	WORSLEY	Rochester area	KEN	1500-1860
2894	HEDGES	Anywhere	WIL	Pre 1675	2878	WRIGGLESWORTH	Marcham	BRK	Pre 1700
2906	HERRINGTON	Anywhere	SSX	Pre 1750	2878	WRIGGLESWORTH	Wallingford	BRK	Pre 1700
2894	HEWETT	Anywhere	BRK	Pre 1725	2760	WRIGHT	Derby area	DBY	1500-1910
2820	HILL	S Molton	DEV	Pre 1860					
2937	HILLS	Anywhere	KEN	1750-1800					
2820	HINE	E Hendred	BRK	Pre 1860					
2888	HISSEY	Bracknell	BRL	1800+					
2906	HOTSTON	Anywhere	SSX	Pre 1700					
2894	HUNT	Anywhere	BRK	Pre 1675					
2892	HUNTER	Edinburgh	MLN	Pre 1870					

# 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 Berkshire Family Historian*.

The Society is a registered Charity - number 283010.

## **Berkshire Name Index:**

This index may be consulted by sending a SAE and a fee of £1.00 for 5 names & 50p/name thereafter, with your Membership No. to: **Tom and Rita Hine, Oakley Cottage, Westbury Lane, Purley-on-Thames, Reading, Berkshire RG8 8DL**

## **Berkshire Marriage Index:**

This index (male names only) to 175,000 marriages in Berkshire between 1538 and 1837 may be consulted by sending details of the marriage being sought (groom's name and approximate date) and a stamped, self-addressed envelope, with your Membership No., together with an additional 2nd Class postage stamp, to **Mrs Meg Goswell, 87 Finchampstead Road, Wokingham, Berkshire RG11 2PE**. *Blanket searches cannot be undertaken - maximum of 3 surnames per request - allow 28 days for results of search*

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