



Berkshire Family Historian

Volume 19 - No 1 - September 1995



HERE LYETH BVRIED THE BODYE OF
RICHARD GEALE & ELIZ: HIS WIFE
WHO HAD ISSVE: 4: SONNES &: 5: DAUGH
TERS THE SAIDE RICH: DECEASED THE
18: OF SEPT: ANNO DNI: 1608.





Events Calendar - 1995

Bracknell Branch:

Priestwood Community Centre, Priestwood Court Road, Bracknell @ 7:15pm for 7:45pm

15th September	"Miss Nightingale and Mismanagement"	Brian Oldham
20th October	"English Poor Laws"	Marjorie Moore
17th November	"Hand Writing"	John Hurley
15th December	Members Evening	

Newbury Branch:

United Reform Church Hall, Cromwell Place, Northbrook Street, Newbury @ 7:15pm for 7:45pm

13th September	"Beginners Evening"	Polly Lawrence
11th October	"Irish Records"	Bill Davis
8th November	to be advised	
13th December	Inter-branch Quiz and Christmas Party	
10th January	"Boats & Boaters"	Avril Lansdell

Reading Branch:

BFHS Research Centre, Prospect School, Honey End Lane, Reading @ 7:15pm for 7:45pm

29th September	"Beginning Family History"	Lillian Gibbens
27th October	"Fashion á la Carte - Dating Photographs by Costume"	Avril Lansdell
17th November	"Was Your Granny a Suffragette?" - The Fawcett Library	D Doughan
8th December	Christmas Meeting	

Slough Branch:

St Andrew's Church Hall, The Grove, Slough @ 7:30pm for 7:45pm

26th September	"Getting To Know One Another"	Members
31st October	"Some Under-used Records and Record Offices in London"	Peter Bennett
28th November	"Families of Slough"	Rev Derek West
12th December	Christmas Party	
30th January	"Bring an Heirloom & Talk About It"	Members

BERKSHIRE FAMILY HISTORIAN

Volume 19, 1995/6

Part 1, September 1995

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Chairman's Comments

By Mike Sheppard

Firstly, let me, on behalf of the Berkshire Family History Society, congratulate Geoff Mather for his sterling work in carrying out and completing the Index of 1851 Census for Berkshire, which has been produced with such a high standard of accuracy.

Congratulations also go to David Watkins and his team of helpers who have completed the recording of all the graves in Reading Cemetery at Cemetery Junction, Reading. Much work remains to be done to convert this into a format ready for publication - further details will appear in a future issue.

However, project work does not stand still - elsewhere in this issue, Chad Hanna has some preliminary details about the Parish Register Transcription project, which we hope will take off once all the technical details have been worked out - watch this space.

Your attention is also drawn to the report of the AGM in this issue, which includes the Chairman's Report and the accounts for the past year. Please take time to read this section as it does involve you as a member of the BFHS.

At the time of writing, I do not know whether this magazine will be with you before the September conference, so if it is, see you there and if you receive it afterwards, I hope you enjoyed the conference. There will be a full report in the December magazine.

Now that the Conference is over, it is time to concentrate on supporting the BFHS Research Centre at Prospect School, Honey End Lane, Reading. This is a resource that the Society is providing for the membership and we need your support - both as volunteers and as users of the library. If you can help as a volunteer please contact Ann Armstrong on Reading 421427.

One valuable resource we have is the Bookstall, ably managed by Jean Debney with the assistance of her husband Cliff. Jean now feels that the time has come to relinquish this post and we need a replacement so that she can complete a handover by next June. This is a very important job, particularly as the income from the Bookstall has in the past helped to build up our Reference Library which now forms the basis of the collection in the Research Centre. If you feel you could rise to the task of running the bookstall, please contact Jean on Reading 413223 or myself on Newbury 46897.

Finally, don't forget to inform the membership secretaries if your postcode is changing this year.

The BFHS 1851 Census Index Project

By Geoff Mather

With the recent publication of the final volume in the BFHS census index project I must take this opportunity to thank all those past and present members and other who have helped in so many ways over the last ten years. Without the transcription, data entry and checking skills which were shown in abundance the project would never have got off the ground.

It has unfortunately taken much longer to complete than some comparable projects in other societies. This has been due to the decision taken at the outset to transcribe and enter onto the computer ALL the data. Of course this meant that all the other processes took that much longer but we do now have a unique archive which can yield much more information than is given in the indexes.

One only has to look at the various ways in which the nationwide 1881 census transcription has been presented to realise that once the data is on computer our own indexes are only a start and there is no reason why we cannot present our information in a similar fashion if there is a requirement to do so.

The data may also be analysed in a variety of ways and the following is a rather trivial example of what can be achieved:

Total number of entries is 171,595 of which those over 80 was 1,382, those over 90 was 108 and 2 claimed to be 100.

Most popular firstnames: William (11,607), John (10,237), Elizabeth (7,654) and Mary (7,649).

Most popular surnames: Smith (2,550), Brown (1,387), Taylor (1,108) and White (1,085).

We intend to produce the indexes in fiche form as an alternative to the booklets and before long we hope to be able to produce fiche of the whole data.

In the meantime we can produce paper printouts of all the data from individual folios. The cost of these is 50p per folio with a minimum order of £1, i.e. that will give two folios. This includes postage, so there is no need to send an SAE. Send your requirements either directly to me, Geoff Mather (address on back cover), your membership secretary or to Jean Debney. Please make cheques payable to BFHS. Overseas members should enquire first about any extra postage costs.

A final word - although we have tried to make the index as accurate as possible, given the vagaries of nineteenth century handwriting there will always be errors. If you can't find someone who you think ought to be in the index, please look at the film yourself and if you find any errors let us know.

New telephone number for Colindale Newspaper Library, London is 0171-412-7353

Editor's Notes

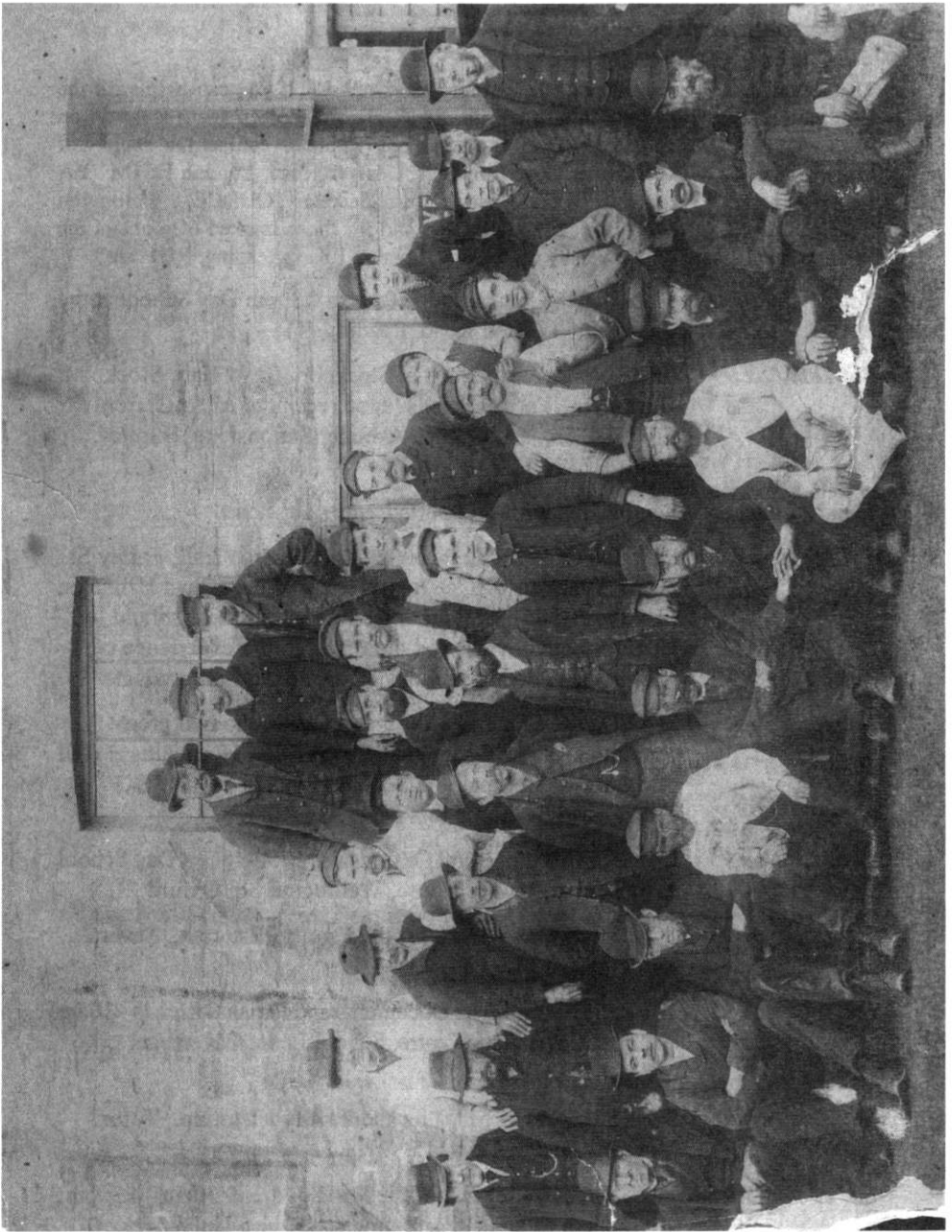
Thank you to all the contributors to this issue. However, you may notice that the names of Harrington and Debney crop up several times in this issue. The well of articles appears to have dried up somewhat and I was forced to write something myself!! My husband, Simon, has also written an article about his ancestor who was a parish constable - how about other articles about the parish offices your ancestors held - were they churchwardens, justices of the peace, overseers of the poor? If they were perhaps you could write an article? I am still trying to feature Berkshire villages (old and new) so if you know something about a particular village - why not write in and share it with us? We also need stories about how you found that elusive ancestor - perhaps you used an unusual source which might help others on their way too. Even if you don't think it is interesting - by writing an article mentioning other Berkshire people you may find that others are interested in the same family as yourself. Finally, short fillers are always welcome, even if they don't appear immediately as are lists of people. Don't worry if you think you can't write an article - your thoughts are always welcome. So basically, please contribute, it is **your** magazine and the same names should not appear on the contents page every single issue! Deadlines are as follows: **21st Oct 1995 for December 95, 26th Jan 96 for March 96, 26th April for June 96 and 26th July for September 96.**

Recently the Society learnt that alterations were to be carried out to Stubbing and Hurley parish churchyards. A visit to Stubbings found that a number of monuments had been cleared. If you notice that a local church is about to undergo changes and there are monumental inscriptions that need to be recorded - please let us know. Indeed "*News from around the County*" could be a regular feature of the magazine if people could contribute information about the area of Berkshire that they live in.

The illustration on the front cover is taken from a brass rubbing by Michael Dumbleton and is of Richard Geale and his family at Sandhurst. The accompanying inscription records that he died in 1608. Michael has written an article about Monumental Brasses in Berkshire for this edition of the magazine.

The photograph facing this page was sent in by Liz Ballard of "Carno", Church Lane, Peppard, Henley-on-Thames, Oxon, RG9 5JL. Her husband's grandfather, John Ballard is at the centre of the back row. John was born in 1861 at Southampton St in Reading. The photo is believed to have been taken in the early 1900s. John was a steam engine maker (fitter) for the railway in 1891 and lived in Swansea Rd. If you recognise your ancestor or anyone else in the photo, please write and let Liz know.

Catherine



Dates for Your Diary

The following events are taking place around the country. If you can help with the Bookstall at any of those marked with an * please contact Jean Debney on 01734-413223. For further details of those marked (2) please contact the Society of Genealogists (SOG), 14 Charterhouse Buildings, Goswell Road, London EC1M 7BA for those marked (3) contact the Local History Course Secretary, OUDCE, 1 Wellington Square, Oxford, OX1 2JA (tel. 01865-270369) and for those marked (4) contact the Extramural Office, The University of Reading, London Road, Reading, RG1 5AQ.

- Sat 21 Oct 95* Maps and the Landscape - 10am to 4.30pm Day School at the University, London Road, Reading (4)
- Sat 28th Oct 95* FFHS North West Group at Stockport Town Hall, Stockport, 10am-4pm. Further details (upon receipt of an SAE) from Mr E.W.Gullick, 4, Lawrence Avenue, Simonstone, Burnley, Lancs BB12 7HX
- Sun 29th Oct 95* Family History Fair, Sports Centre, Bracknell*
- Sat 4th Nov 95* Pedigree User Group meeting at the Church Hall, Earley St Peters, Church Road, at 2pm. Please contact Chad Hanna on (01734-663585) for more information, but there should be talks for both novices and those with more experience of Pedigree and demonstrations of several add-on products.
- Sat 4th Nov 95* SOG Day Conference - Birth and Death: the two great certainties - at the Conference Centre, New Horticultural Hall of the Royal Horticultural Society, London SW1 (SOG Library will be closed that day). Cost £24. (2)
- Sat 11th Nov 95* Crime or Custom: Rural Oxfordshire 1750-1850 - Day School to be held at Rewley House, Wellington Sq, Oxford (3)
- Sat 11th Nov 95* SOG Study Day - Maps for the Family Historian. Several Tutors. Cost £15. (2)
- Sat 18th Nov 95* The Parish Chest - The Documents and Parish Officials - 10am - 4pm at Caversham Centre, School Lane, Caversham (tel 01734-572327).
- Sat 25th Nov 95* SOG Study Day - Maps for the Family Historian. Tutor: Michael Gandy. Cost £15. (2)
- Sat 25 Nov 95* The Thames Valley in the Late Middle Ages 9.30am - 4.30pm. Day School to be held at Bulmershe Court, University of Reading, Woodlands Ave, Woodley. Tutor: Joan Dils. (4)

- Sat 16 Dec 95* Keep Tabs on Your Ancestors - Record keeping on computer
10am - 4pm - at Wilson Centre, Wilson Rd, Reading RG30
2RW (Tel: 01734-575575, 575958, 589900)
- Sat 10th Feb 96* Publishing Local History - Day School to be held at Rewley
House, Wellington Sq, Oxford (3)
- Sat 24th Feb 96* London, Bristol and Oxford: Transport History in the English
Heartland - Day School to be held at Rewley House,
Wellington Sq, Oxford (3)
- Sat 9th Mar 96* Wills and Inventories for Historians, 10am - 4pm at Caversham
Centre, School Lane, Caversham (tel 01734-572327).
- Sat 4th May - Sun 5th May 96*

Society of Genealogists' 1996 Family History Fair -10am -
5pm in the Royal Horticultural Society New Hall &
Conference Centre, Greycoat Street, Westminster, London
Advance tickets available from the SOG from 1 Jan 1996 at
£3 (saving £2 "on the door"). (2)

**I have had details of the following family history courses taking place in
Berkshire:**

- Mon 11th Sep 95* Dig up Your Ancestors - Family history for beginners, 2pm
-4pm 13 week course (beg) and 11 weeks from 8th Jan 96
(cont) at Caversham Centre, School Lane, Caversham, RG4
8HX (Tel: 01734-572327)
- Thurs 14th Sep 95* Family History Forum - for those with some knowledge
9.30-11.30am or 2-4pm 13 weeks course + 11 weeks from 11
Jan 1996 also at Caversham Centre.
- Mon 18th Sep 95* "Family History for Beginners (England and Wales)" 7-9pm 8
weeks, £32, at East Berks College, Furze Platt Centre,
Maidenhead, further details from East Berks College,
01753-793000.
- Tues 19th Sep 95* "Tracing your Family History" 7.30-9.30pm 12 weeks, £48, at
Langleywood Centre, Langley, Slough, further details from
East Berks College, 01753-793000.
- Thurs 11th Jan 95* Introduction to Family History 7:30-9:30pm 6 week course at
Prospect Centre, Prospect School, Honey End Lane, Tilehurst
(Enrol at Sutton Centre, Crescent Rd, Reading) (Tel: 01734
661100)

Monumental Brasses in Berkshire Churches

By Michael Dumbleton

Two hundred years before the advent of parish registers, vital statistics of our ancestors and their families, and information on their occupations and offices, were being recorded in inscriptions on monumental brasses in our Berkshire churches. Often there are also incised figures showing the changing fashions of their hair styles, costume and armour (although these may be typical of the age rather than specific to the individual), and representations of their coats of arms. These in themselves make monumental brasses a fascinating study, in addition to their potential as a source of genealogical information, and both will be greatly aided in Berkshire by a recently published book.

Berkshire has 273 early brasses, ranging from the fourteenth to the seventeenth century. It would be a fine thing to trace an ancestor to one of those commemorated, and some of their descendants must be alive today. Success is more likely with the thirteen eighteenth century brasses and the 712 modern brasses. I found a brass at St Michael's Sandhurst commemorating the gift of the clock by Ellen Dumbleton in 1879. This led me to her gravestone in the churchyard, giving further information. Ellen's gift was made in her 80th year and included the tenor bell, as is made clear in Frederick Sharpe's book on Berkshire bells (1). Ellen's son Edgar Norris Dumbleton (1829-1903) was a prebendary of Exeter

Cathedral, where he is figured in vestments on a brass in an aisle. Ellen and Edgar are not of my family, alas.

The Popularity of Brasses and their Study

Brasses have advantages over stone monuments for incised inscriptions and detailed effigies because they cause no obstruction when set flat in the floor, they are more resistant to erosion and defacement, and they could be cheaper and more portable from distant workshops. Several of these factors have contributed towards the relatively large numbers surviving to the present day in fine condition. The numbers and character of brasses laid down have been affected by economic conditions, religious attitudes and fashion. Jerome Bertram examined their distribution over the centuries in five southern counties and concluded that Berkshire was the most typical (2). The numbers given below were obtained from a new count of the most recent information for Berkshire (3). The dates are usually of deaths, sometimes estimated, but manufacture was sometimes earlier or later.

Brasses first appear at the end of the thirteenth century but the earliest Berkshire examples are the figures of rector William de Herleston at Sparsholt, 1353, John de Walden at Ashbury, 1360, and rector Water de Annefordhe at Binfield, 1361; and an inscription for John Barfoot at Cholsey,

1361. There are 11 brasses earlier than 1400.

The two halves of the fifteenth century have 31 and 32 surviving brasses, but the unstable times of the Wars of the Roses are marked by a drop from a peak of fourteen from the decade 1440-49 to a trough with only three for each of the following two decades.

The two halves of the sixteenth century have totals of 62 and 49, with peaks of seventeen for the 1510s and fifteen for the 1580s, separated by a trough, with only five for the 1550s, corresponding with the Reformation and financial depression.

The two halves of the seventeenth century have 73 and fourteen brasses. Numbers drop from a peak of twenty for the 1610s to only two for the 1650s, showing the influence of Puritanism, the Civil War, and a permanent change in fashion. Only thirteen brasses are recorded for the whole of the eighteenth century.

From 1800 to 1839 there are still only twelve brasses, which are inscriptions, one including a shield. The first, at Sulhamstead Abbots, is shared by John Thoys (1775), William Newman Thoys aged one day (1794), and another William Newman Thoys aged two years, 1803. Then, with the Gothic revival, there are fifteen brasses in the 1840s including six shields and three figures. At Theale, 1848, Mrs Sophia Sheppard, who built the church at her own expense, is shown dressed in medieval style as a widow, with a dog at

her feet. The brass is also illustrated by David Meara (4).

From then on numbers rise steeply, with 302 for the second half of the century and a peak of 108 for the decade 1900-9. Then numbers drop steeply again. The first half of the twentieth century has 292 brasses and the second half only 76, with fourteen for the 1980s and three for 1991, although the numbers for the most recent decades may be affected by the date of recording. Overall, for the nineteenth century and up to 1991 a total of 712 brasses are recorded which, with thirteen from the eighteenth century, 273 earlier ones, and four of unknown era, brings the total remaining for the County to 1002.

The recording and study of monumental brasses received early attention, probably because they are the easiest monuments to record in precise detail. A virtually exact reproduction can be obtained on paper by rubbing with cobblers' heelball wax. Before this method was introduced Craven Orr took impressions using printers' ink around 1779-1786; they are in the British Library. Revd. Herbert Haines's influential *A Manual of Monumental Brasses* was published in 1861, a revision of his earlier work of 1848 produced around the time that brass rubbing had become popular. Haines's son was a co-founder of the Oxford University Brass Rubbing Society in 1893, and the Ladies Brass Rubbing Society of Oxford followed a year later. The national body, the Monumental Brass Society, was formed in the same

year, arising out of the Cambridge University Association of Brass Collectors dating from about 1887.

Records of Berkshire Brasses

The numbers of brasses given above are compiled from the records in the latest of three books containing increasingly complete catalogues of the Berkshire brasses. In 1924 Thomas Henry Morley (1861-1951) published his *Monumental Brasses of Berkshire (14th to 17th Century)*, recording nearly all the early brasses, with full transcriptions and translations of the inscriptions and blazons of the coats of arms (5). He illustrated most of the effigies and inscriptions from his own collection of over 3000 rubbings. Morley was Honorary Curator of Reading Museum and consecutively the Treasurer, Excursion Secretary, Secretary and Vice President of the Berkshire Archaeological Society. His obituary and fine portrait photograph are in the journal of the Society (6), and Richard Busby gives an account of his publications and notes that some of his rubbings and those of Revd J.E.Field were held by the Society (7) (now apparently not available).

In 1926, two years after Morley's book, Mill Stephenson published *A List of Monumental Brasses in the British Isles*, acknowledging the assistance of Morley in the compilation of the Berkshire section (8). Together the two authors recorded some 266 surviving brasses in 88 Berkshire churches, including only about four of the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries.

More recently there has been a greater interest in modern brasses. David Meara illustrates many fine Victorian and later examples including three from Berkshire (4). As long ago as 1970 the Monumental Brass Society planned a revision of Mill Stephenson's list, extended to include the modern brasses, and the second resulting county volume, for Berkshire (referred to hereafter as MBS), appeared in 1993 (3). After listing the brasses of the early period with Mill Stephenson's descriptions little changed, the new book goes on to note the few early brasses that he did not record, adding only two new sites (Lambourne Alms Houses and a brass deposited in the BRO), and about 10 new brasses including some that were lost and have now been recovered.

Then the authors list later brasses with more concise descriptions, names, dates, engravers and position in the church. They add 51 new churches and list thirteen brasses for the eighteenth century and 712 for the nineteenth century and up to 1991. In all they record 1002 remaining brasses. Dates quoted for brasses usually relate to a date of death but modern brasses often commemorate gifts. Examples of commemorative window plates and organ manufacturers' plates are also included.

The book is very thoroughly researched, with full references to the published descriptions and illustrations of each brass, and to records and rubbings in the collections of the Ashmolean Museum, the Bodleian and British Libraries and

the Society of Antiquaries. There is an extensive bibliography of printed and manuscript sources and an index of names, places and regiments, with group entries under shrouds, trinities and engravers.

The 216 illustrations in MBS show nearly all the pre-1700 figure brasses, most of the later ones, and many inscriptions, mostly smaller but of better quality than in Morley, who illustrates more inscriptions and clearer coats of arms.

Lost Brasses, Indents and Palimpsests

In addition to the brasses that remain, MBS notes 289 lost brasses and indents in stones where brasses were formerly fixed, many of them known only from Elias Ashmole's survey of 1665-6 (9). Some are illustrated from rubbings in the libraries mentioned. In the Reformation of the mid-sixteenth century, brasses and other monuments suffered along with other images and inscriptions especially where they contained features or sentiments considered idolatrous or superstitious. Avarice played a part, the brass being sold for scrap. At Reading the churchwardens' accounts record such sales, by St Laurence's in 1524 and 1558, and by St Mary's in 1547, when 3 cwt of brasses were bought by a local bell-founder.

In the mid-seventeenth century brasses again suffered under Puritan asceticism and from both sides of the Civil War. Losses continued, as a result of neglect

in the eighteenth century and restorations in the nineteenth century. Most of the brasses of St George's Chapel Windsor were lost in the repaving of 1788-90 (10). At Wargrave a large angel holding sword and chalice, part of Colonel Raymond White's brass of 1844, was destroyed in a fire in 1914 supposedly started by Suffragettes.

Some early brasses were acquired by engravers who used their backs for new clients, so these palimpsests have details of older brasses on the reverse. The brass of Richard Turner and his wife at Binfield was engraved about 1539 on the back of a figure brass of an abbot and an inscription for William Bampton, both of them early fifteenth century. The two new figures are missing but are shown by MBS from a rubbing in the Bodleian Library. Morley illustrates the remaining fragments which are mounted in a hinged frame so that both sides can be examined.

Recovery of Lost Brasses

Some brasses have been lost and subsequently recovered. Brasses were returned to St George's Chapel Windsor in 1840 and 1884, in 1947 from Hereford Cathedral, and in about 1937 from New Zealand. Robert Loyshe's brass of 1605 was dug up in Sparsholt churchyard, and a brass of about 1500 was found in a ditch in Benson in 1890 and is now in Reading Museum. Edmund Fetyplace's brass of 1540 was stolen from March in 1837, sold at Sotheby's in about 1890, and bought and replaced in the church in 1911.

Thomas Trulock's brass of 1615 at Sutton Courtenay is recorded by MBS as 'loose at vicarage in 1903, now lost?', but has now been replaced and is illustrated by the *Berkshire Family Historian* (11).

Notable Collections and Characters

St George's Chapel Windsor has thirteen remaining early brasses, Little Wittenham twelve, Bray eleven and Cookham ten. The largest collections of modern brasses are at St George's Chapel Windsor again with 43, Reading St Laurence and Easthampstead with 24.

Among notable individuals commemorated are John Smalwode alias Wynchcom, the clothier popularly known as Jack of Newbury, 1519, Newbury; Benjamin Disraeli at Shrivenham, 1881; and Robert Fenn 'the Pioneer in ... improving the Potato' at Sulhamstead Abbots, 1912. Thomas Hughes, author of *Tom Brown's Schooldays* and *The Scouring of the White Horse*, has his portrait in low relief in gun metal at Uffington, 1896. At St George's Chapel Windsor the brass of Alamayu, Prince of Abyssinia, placed by Queen Victoria, includes a silver plate with the Prince's name in Amharic script. He died in 1879 aged 18 (10).

Priests, Founders and Judges

Figures of priests in their vestments are disproportionately numerous, particularly in the modern period. Water de Annefordhe at Binfield, 1362, is shown with tonsure and stubbled

chin, above an inscription in Norman French. A priest holds a chalice at Cholsey, 1471, and a chalice and wafer at Brightwell, 1507.

A justice of the king's Bench, Sir William Laken, 1475, stands by his wife Sibilla (now lost) at Bray. He wears a coif, the close-fitting cap of his office, and a long fur-lined mantle over his gown, from the belt of which hang a rosary and an anelace, a tapering dagger. The inscription is lost but MBS reproduces Craven Orr's impression of it in the British Library.

Turning to modern brasses, at East Hendred Charles John Eyston, 1883, holds a model of St Mary's which he founded (and another inscription records that Captain George Edward Thomas Eyston, 1979, held the World Land Speed Record in 1938). Revd. William Nicholson at Welford, 1878, holds two church models. Revd. William Gresley at Boyne Hill Maidenhead, 1876, kneels within an elaborate Gothic canopy and border over six feet high, with coat of arms, saints, angels with censers, the emblems of the evangelists, and Christ sitting in majesty. At Clewer Revd. George Davenport who died in 1932 aged 94 is shown as an old man at St Stephen's, and Harriet Monsell, first Mother Superior, is shown life-size at the Convent of St John Baptist, 1883.

Revd. W. Matthews at Ashbury died preaching in church in 1870. Revd. J.S.H Burr at Aldermaston was drowned in 1852. Revd. Ernest Courtenay Carter and his wife Lilian, daughter of Thomas

Hughes, were lost in the Titanic in 1912, Longcot.

Families and Fashions

Husbands appear on brasses along with their wives and children, figured in the fashions of their day. At Bray Sir John de Foxle, 1378, with drooping moustache, is flanked by his two wives who have nebule head-dresses, kirtles buttoned tight from elbow to wrist and cote-hardies with short sleeves from which hang long tippets. At Tilehurst Gauwyn More's wife Isabel, 1469, and their two daughters have off-the-shoulder gowns, large back-swept butterfly head-dresses, stands between her two husbands who have shoulder-length hair. Thomas Noke 'comenly called Father Noke', with short hair and a long fur-trimmed gown, is flanked by his three wives at Shottesbrooke. He died in 1567 aged 87.

John Ayshcombe at West Hanney, 1592, stands between his two wives in wide ruffs, with ten sons and four daughters below. Richard Warde at Hurst, 1578, faces his wife Colubra Flambert (1574), he backed by eight sons and she by nine daughters, all kneeling. Part of the Latin inscription translates:

*To Henry, Edward, Mary, great Elizabeth,
Sub-treasurer he was faithful in love till death.*

His eldest daughter Alice Harison died in 1558 at the birth of her only son Richard and is shown in a four-poster bed; the child survived.

Edward Page is shown in swaddling

clothes on his parents' brass at Bray, 1610. Dorothy King died aged eight months in 1630 and her brother William died aged ten weeks in 1633. Each has a brass in St George's Chapel Windsor showing them in their cradles, accompanied by touching verses. Ewen David Mann died at school aged ten in 1930, Shellingford.

An Ancient Line

Ten generations of the Hyde family illustrate several variations in dress and style. At Denchworth there are brasses for three generations, each man in armour: Olyver and Agnes in 1516, originally with their four sons and four daughters; William kneeling with Margery in 1562 with twelve sons kneeling behind him and eight daughters behind her; and William and Alice, who had five children of each sex, in 1567. Alice wears the Paris hood as worn by Mary Queen of Scots, and her over-dress exposes the richly embroidered front panel of her petticoat below.

After a gap of centuries there are brasses for a further three generations including Revd Henry Barry Hyde, Prebendary of Exeter Cathedral (1932, also illustrated by Meara), his brother Sir Clarendon Golding Hyde (1934) kneeling at prayer in barrister's wig and gown alongside his wife and daughter, and an inscription for Major Anthony John Fitzwilliams Hyde; he also kneels at prayer at Longworth in army uniform with sword and spurs, and the inscription names his wife and children and records that he died of wounds in

Normandy in 1944.

The brasses of five of these six generations include coats of arms. These are blazoned by Peter Spokes (12), who also gives detailed biographies of them and other members of the family represented by their arms in five windows at Denchworth and two at Longworth. They add two more generations by taking the recent members back to Captain Henry Barry Hyde, 1831, Judge of the High Court of the Admiralty.

Armour and Military Brasses

Many gentlemen are figured in armour. An early example is Sir John de Foxle at Bray, 1378, who wears a pointed steel bascinet on his head with a camail of chain mail hanging from it to protect his neck and shoulders. Over his body armour he wears a close-fitting jupon, a sleeveless leather or cloth tunic, with a scalloped lower edge. His arms and legs are protected with steel plates, he has rowel spurs, and his sword hangs from a belt around his hips. Sir Robert Corbet at Marcham, died 1403 but engraved about 1385, is similarly armed; his brass was stolen in 1837 and sold for five shillings, but is illustrated in MBS from a tracing of a rubbing in the Bodleian Library.

By the time of Laurence Fyton at Sonning, 1434, chain mail had given place to steel plate armour overall. He has a gorget encircling the neck, a cuirass or breast-plate, and a skirt of horizontal steel bands or taces. A diagonal belt supports his sword. Christopher Lytkott at Swallowfield,

1554, has a mail skirt again, showing below short taces, to which are attached steel plates or tuilles to protect his thighs. He wears a helmet with the visor open.

Armour continued to be worn into the seventeenth century with Francis Wellesborne, 1602, wearing it at West Hanney with a small ruff at the neck.

Officers are widely commemorated on modern brasses. A brass at Newtown, Newbury, for William Edward K Cockell, First Lieutenant of *HMS Rattler*, shows Christ stilling the storm, and medals for Fatshan and Canton. He died at Penang in 1866 aged 24. The brass is illustrated by Meara. At Easthampstead there is an inscription for Corporal Edward Thomas Hollings who died in 1916 of wounds received in action on the Somme, and all ranks are listed on brass war memorial tablets, of which the County has some eleven for the First World War and seven for the second.

Heraldry

Coats of arms are often featured on brasses and most of them are blazoned by Spokes, with biographies of their bearers (12). The head of John de Foxle at Bray, 1378, rests on his tilting helm with a fox's head for crest, and he displays his arms on his jupon and on the cote-hardies of his two wives, impaled on Maud's with a lion rampant representing the leopard of her father Sir John de Brocas. Tabards-of-arms became popular in the mid-fifteenth century and are worn over their armour by William Fynderne at Childrey, 1444,

and by Henry Leyneham at Tidmarsh, 1517, who also has four separate shields set in his stone.

Roger Campedene, 1398, rector of Stanford-in-the Vale, has four shields bearing the emblems of the evangelists, each a palimpsest with another coat of arms on its reverse. Roger Eldysley, 1439, has three shields bearing merchant's marks at East Hendred. Richard Ward, 1578, has his brass and six shields deployed around an appropriated older tomb-chest at Hurst.

Lord Stowell of Earley Court died in 1836 aged 90 and has a rectangular bronze floor-plate at Sonning with a very bold inscription, and a shield with a large coronet above it and two lions for supporters.

Life and Death

The reality of death sometimes seems to be denied, sometimes emphasised. Elizabeth Chute, 1627, is shown at Sonning as a grown woman although she died aged three years and six months. Richard and Joan Yate, 1500, stand in their shrouds at Longworth, with seven sons (two in shrouds) and seven daughters (before losses). John Goodryngton at Appleton, 1518, has his shroud turned back to expose his naked and emaciated corpse. William and Elizabeth Feteplace, 1516, rise shrouded from their tombs at Childrey. Elizabeth Bligh died aged 30 at Finchampstead in 1635 and stands in a hood-like hat and lace-trimmed collar, with one hand holding that of her five-year-old heir Jane and the other resting on a skull.

Old and New Berkshire

The brasses discussed so far relate to old Berkshire, before parts in the north were lost to Oxfordshire and in the east were gained from Buckinghamshire. The latter county is the subject of the third volume published by the Monumental Brass Society and includes records for ten churches now in Berkshire (3). They contain 41 early brasses (1410-1657), two of the eighteenth century, 373 modern brasses (1802-1993), and 44 lost brasses and indents. Many of them are in Eton College Chapel which has 24 early brasses, 298 modern, two of the eighteenth century, 26 lost, and nine indents. Among those illustrated are seven priests, one wearing the mantle of the Order of the Garter with badge, and some modern brasses of unusual design, one including a '*scene with troops crossing a river near 4 pyramids*', 1889, and another with a figure in academic dress '*receiving degree from king on throne*', 1902. Datchet has an inscription for a woman killed in the great Yokohama earthquake of 1923, at Upton a woman kneels in her shroud, 1472, and at Langley Marish there are two angels, one enclosed in the head of a cross, 1873, and one in flight with a wingspan of some 2ft 6in, 1887.

Footnotes

1. Sharpe F - *The Church Bells of Berkshire* Second Edition 1970/71, p236
2. Bertram J - *Lost Brasses*, 1976, pp 120/1
3. Lack W, Stutchfield H M and

Whittemore P - *The Monumental Brasses of Berkshire*, Monumental Brass Society, 1993. (£15 plus £1.50 p&p from the Society, Lowe Hill House, Stratford St Mary, Suffolk, CO7 6JX. Tel 0181-520-5249), Bedfordshire 1993, Buckinghamshire 1994, and Cambridgeshire in press 1995, are all by same authors and on same terms. Cheshire expected 1996.

4. Meara D - *Victorian Memorial Brasses*, 1983, Plates 21, 28 and 54. He now questions his attribution to Pugin of the design of the Sheppard brass, Plate 21 (personal communication).

5. Morley H T - *Monumental Brasses of Berkshire (14th to 17th century)*, 1924

6. Berkshire Archaeological Journal, Vol 53, 27-8, and Frontispiece

7. Busby R J - *A Companion Guide to Brasses and Brass Rubbing*, 1973, pp218, 153

8. Stephenson M - *A List of Monumental Brasses in the British Isles, 1926*, and Appendix 1938, Berkshire is on pp 14-38

9. Dumbleton M - *Elias Ashmole: Berkshire Herald and Genealogist* Berkshire Family Historian, Vol 17 No 4, June 1994, pp 146-8

10. Bond S M - *The Monuments of St George's Chapel Windsor Castle*, 1959, pp xxiii-xxvii

11. Berkshire Family Historian, Vol 17 No 1, Sept 1993, cover and p3

12. Spokes P - *Coats of Arms in Berkshire Churches* In 23 parts,

Berkshire Archaeological Journal, Vols 35-45, 1931-41. For Hyde see Vol 36, 1932, pp49-50 and 135-40)

13. Intervals marked * include the following numbers of brasses dated only to century or era; 1490- has 1, 1790- has 2, 1890- has 4, Early has 1, Modern has 15

DATES OF BERKSHIRE BRASSES Number per 10 & 50 years			
	10	50	10 50
1350-	1		
60-	3		
70-	4		
80-	1		
90-	2	11	
1400-	4		1700- 2
10-	6		10-
20-	2		20-
30-	5		30-
40-	14	31	40-
1450-	3		1750-
60-	3		60-
70-	7		70-
80-	7		80-
90-*	12	32	90-*
1500-	16		1800-
10-	17		10-
20-	16		20-
30-	7		30-
40-	6	62	40-
1550-	5		15
60-	7		17
70-	10		17
80-	15		47
90-	12	49	70-
1600-	14		78
10-	20		80-
20-	19		80-
30-	14		90-*
40-	6	73	87
1650-	2		302
60-	3		108
70-	4		108
80-	3		79
90-	2	14	20-
			32
			30-
			42
			40-
			31
			292
			19
			23
			17
			14
			3
			76
Early	1350-1699*	273	
18C	1700-1799	13	
Modern	1800-1991*	712	
Unknown era		4	
Total surviving brasses		1002	
Lost brasses & indents		289	

Based on data of Ref 3.

* see Ref 13

The Ken Shepherd Archive

By Colin Hague

Mr Ken Shepherd of St Mark's Road, Windsor, was a military historian who died in 1994. In pursuing his lifelong interest in everything connected with the Great War of 1914-1918, he carried out research on hundreds of names shown on war memorials in the Windsor area. Over 600 files have now been placed in the care of the Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead Council. Data held may include full name, address, age, where enlisted, next of kin, regiment, battalion, rank, medals, date and place of death, Commonwealth War Grave location, etc. Some files contain only a single sheet, but some hold many pages of information.

If the person named was serving in one of the county regiments even more is available. Mr Shepherd also accumulated masses of information on the war service of the Royal Berkshire Regiment, the Berkshire Royal Horse Artillery and the Berkshire Yeomanry. These files have also been handed over to the Borough Council for safekeeping, so you can find out what was happening on the day the man was killed.

All this forms a valuable information resource for anyone tracing relatives lost in the Great War. A simple index of the Archive has now been published, and can be consulted in reference libraries at Slough, Windsor and Maidenhead. Slough branch of BFHS also has a copy. You can then study the actual file at the Royal Borough Collection, by making an appointment with the Honorary Curator, Mrs Judith Hunter BSc, 26 Wood Lane, Slough, SL1 9EA (please enclose SAE).

Sheila Smith (2779) of "Tigh an Iasgair", Steet of Kincardine, Boat of Garten, Inverness-Shire, PH24 3BY wrote as follows:

"I have purchased from a local antique dealer two World War I medals with ribbons. One is the Winged Victory Medal and the other the British War Medal. They are both stamped on the side 6836 Pte. E. George 17 Lond. R.

The regiment's full title is 1/17th London Regiment, Poplar and Stepney Rifles. Their recruitment office was at Tredager Road, Bow, East London.

Information I have shows that Pte. E. George received severe gun shot wounds to the hand, arm and chest on 9.1.1917 and on 10.1.1917 was transferred to the Station Hospital, Wimereux, near Boulogne, France. He was evacuated back to England on 14.1.1917 arriving on 16.1.1917 at the War Hospital, Reading, Berkshire.

This is not proof that he came from Reading, but I am told that it was normal practice to send wounded back as near as possible to their home town.

Does any one know this man or is he an ancestor of yours?"

Three Victorians of the 2nd Life Guards

By Pamela Roberts

Helped by the acquisition of old family Bibles, prayer books, letters and hearsay, I possessed quite a good picture of my Roberts ancestors, but I had not bothered with my grandfather's brothers and sisters, I did remember that he talked about his brother in the Life Guards.

Recently, a second cousin, Frank Roberts, gave me copies of several old family photos to identify. Three of these were of Life Guards. Two were of the same person, the third of someone else. The two were obviously of the same man, who, when older, figured in another photo taken in Windsor, by Glass and Son of St Leonard's Road, in about 1897. This was of a family man with his wife and two daughters.

I applied to the Curator of the Household Cavalry Museum at Combermere Barracks, Windsor, asking for any information concerning James Roberts, whose parents, date and place of birth I was able to give.

Very promptly a copy of the CV of James was sent to me, containing a full account of his appearance, medals awarded, marriage and children; two daughters, Anne Daisie, born in 1883 and Ethel Grace born in 1887.

An invitation was sent to me to visit the Household Cavalry Museum, where in addition to many interesting details

concerning the Life Guards, I was shown photograph albums that permitted me to identify the two brothers, who between them served from 1870 to 1904.

While I was examining the records the Curator asked me if the name Stephen Henry Bridgeman Roberts meant anything to me. I knew that he was my grandfather's younger brother and was soon told that he too was a Life Guard. When I was given Stephen's CV and a photocopy of a photograph of him in his uniform, I immediately saw that he was the man in my third photo.

My two great uncles each married a Mason girl. James married Emma Mason in Holy Trinity, Windsor in 1882. His brother, Stephen married Janet Mason in the same church in 1891. All this information was supplied by the Household Cavalry Museum, where I was so courteously received.

The two Mason sisters were daughters of Joseph Mason, himself a Corporal Major in the Royal Horse Guards, who served from 1832-1856. This means that the two Roberts brothers and their father-in-law, Joseph Mason, between them, served in the Royal Household Cavalry during the major part of Queen Victoria's long reign.

Simon Harrington found that his ancestor, Harry George Clothier, a coffee house and dining rooms proprietor drew his servants from a wide area with the following two girls listed in the 1891 census for 106 Hampstead Rd, London (West St Pancras, Ward 5, Schedule 156):

"Jane Parker, servant, single, 19, kitchenmaid, domestic, employee, Berks, Reading
May Marian Neville, servant, single, 18, waitress, employee, Canada"

The Household Cavalry Museum

By Andy Morris

People all over the world recognise the Queen's Life Guard at Whitehall or the Sovereign's Escort on state occasions. The Household Cavalry also operates in the field, and has seen active service ranging from Tangiers (1661) to Bosnia (1995).

The Household Cavalry today consists of The Life Guards and The Blues and Royals. The Life Guards is the senior regiment of the British Army and was originally formed in 1660 as a mounted bodyguard to King Charles II. The Royal Horse Guards, The Blues, were raised in 1650 and taken into Charles II service after the restoration. The 1st Royal Dragoons were raised in 1661 as a troop of heavy cavalry for the defence of Tangiers. The Royal Horse Guards, The Blues and the 1st Royal Dragoons were amalgamated in 1969 to form The Blues and Royals.

On 12 June 1964, the Duke of Wellington opened the Household Cavalry Museum in a large building by the main gate of Combermere Barracks, Windsor.

The collection relates to The Life Guards, Horse Grenadier Guards, Royal Horse Guards (The Blues) and The Blues and Royals, covering over three hundred years of the history of the Sovereign's mounted bodyguard.

The collection contains Uniforms, Ancient Weapons, Standards, Guidons, Drum Banners, Horse Furniture, Campaign and Gallantry Medals, Regimental Medals from the 17th Century. Silver, including Silver Kettledrums presented to the 2nd Life Guards by William IV, hallmarked and dated 1831, and many other personal gifts from the Monarchy as well as Oil Paintings, Water Colours, Prints and many other curios of the Regiments.

The Library contains Officers and Soldiers records from the latter part of the 17th Century, Orders Books, Court Martial Records, Historical Records of the Regiments, Marriage and Birth Records. There are also documents signed by Charles II, James II, etc., private letters, private journals, War Diaries; records of State Occasions and Photographic Records from the mid-19th Century.

The Museum is open weekdays only, 10.00 am to 12.30 pm and 2.00 pm to 4.30 pm, but **NOT** Bank Holidays. Please do not hesitate to contact the Museum on 01753 868222, extn 5203/5112 for further information. At present, there is no admission charge, but a small donation is always appreciated. Please do come and visit us.

Andy is Assistant Curator at the Household Museum as well as a BFHS member at Slough.

Bookends

Compiled by Julia Cox and Jean Debney

Unless otherwise stated, all the following books are obtainable from the Society Bookstall, see address on back cover.

Berkshire 1851 Census Index Vol 7: Bradfield Registration District;

A5, red card cover with county map on back with insert of District enclosed, 80pp; price £2.75 + P&P 45p UK, 85p overseas surface, £1.75 airmail.

This publication completes the Society's series of 17 volumes of the 1851 census index for Berkshire; **[Congratulations and thank you Geoff!! You've done a good piece of work]** it contains almost 14,000 of the 170,000 persons enumerated in the county on the night of Sunday, 30 March 1851. Bradfield RD (no.126) contains 29 parishes in the Bucklebury, Mortimer and Tilehurst sub- districts (PRO Piece No.HO 107/1691). A small number of entries from Hampshire and Oxfordshire have been included where these occur in the same enumeration book as Berkshire entries; those for Whitchurch north of the river Thames plus Mapledurham, Goring and Streatley, all in Oxfordshire, are not. The details comprise surname, forename(s), age and folio number. [JD]

PS. Errata - on p.i - read "*North Street*" not "*North Stoke*".

Berkshire Old & New, No.12/1995,

pub. by Berkshire Local History Association; 64pp; price £2.95 + P&P 50p UK, 90p overseas surface, £2.15 airmail.

This latest edition from the BLHA was delayed because of a change of editor half-way and the final version was completed by a committee of four.

The contents consist of seven interesting articles: "*Ephemera and the local historian*" by Diana R Mackarill; "*The rise & fall of a Tudor family: Essex of Berkshire*" by Julie Shuttleworth; "*Petty Criminals, Publicans and Sinners*" by Sarah Flynn & Christian Jackson - very useful source information on the Petty Sessions records in the Berkshire Record Office; "*The age of the clothier: entrepreneurial ambition and achievement in Reading 1500-1650*" by Christine Jackson; "*District Nursing in Berkshire 1914*" by Pamela Horn; "*The Kitchener Battalions of the Royal Berkshire Regiment, 1914-1918*" by Colin Fox and Barry Croucher - written as a result of a research workshop at Reading University Extramural Studies department; and "*Winkfield marriage horizons, 1754-1899*" by Bernard Slatter - a winner in the BLHA essay competition.

Then follows several pages of local advertisements and a Bibliography of Berkshire books compiled by Margaret Smith, Senior Librarian for Local Studies at the County Library in Reading. [JD]

The Royal County of Berkshire by Luke Over

Hardback, Landscape, illustrated, 168pp; price £11.95 + P&P £2.50 UK, £3.00 overseas, £6.75 airmail.

The text includes many line drawings by Michael Bayley and photographs by Henry Taunt (c.1875-90). Within the space allowed, the author has wisely not attempted a definitive history of the county, but has concentrated on the main aspects from prehistoric to modern times.

This is a very readable history of the county which would look well on your bookshelf or coffee table. [JD]

The Barefoot Family of the Lower Thames Valley by Michael Barefoot;

A4, white shiny card cover with photograph, illustrated with charts, photos, etc. index, revised & enlarged reprint of 1986 ed, 112 pp; price - see below; orders via Mrs Valerie Barefoot, The Barn, Fore Street, Bovey Tracey, Devon TQ13 9AE

Michael Barefoot (548) was a loyal member of Berkshire FHS for many years. He always sent copies of his Barefoot publications, which are in the Society's Reference Library at the BFHS Research Centre. Sadly, this latest volume was received after his sudden death: but he had prepared a letter two days before and his widow, Valerie, included it with the copy sent to the Berkshire FHS. It is reproduced below with her permission:

"In 1986 I produced a booklet (now long out of print) about the 'Barefoot Family of the Lower Thames Valley',

including reference to other Barefoot and Bearfoot Families. Then, lest I be accused of male chauvanism, I turned to the distaff side and other aspects of family history until a year of so ago, when I returned to the Barefoots. I have just published a book with the original title which is much revised and enlarged from the previous effort.

It concentrates on the Family of the title but there are Chapters on those from Stratfield Mortimer, Berks. and Iffley, Oxon. as well as the Bearfoots of Woolwich.

Attention has been paid to various aspects of Family life affecting many of these folk, such as the lacemakers of Buckinghamshire, the development of the Great Western Railway and workers of Woolwich Arsenal, to name but three.

In addition, attention has been paid to variations of the name, to others in the past and several more Chapters have been devoted to relevant matters. A sizable part of the book is devoted to eleven simplified Family Trees, comprising antecedents (born prior to 1900) of all Barefoots and Bearfoots now living in this country together with detailed complementary Appendices, giving details of the lives of all these people.

The book, litho printed, runs to over 100, A4 pages (77 illustrations) and is priced at £8.95 (plus £1.05 P&P, £2.05 overseas). It is a limited edition of 150 and is below cost price, quite apart from all the research work involved,

which was considerable. However, my reward is mainly the pleasure of all the study involved as well as the thought of leaving a chronicle of the Barefoot Tribe to posterity.

It is obtainable from me - Michael BAREFOOT, June 1995."

Those Were the Days! - Recollections of Shinfield, comp. by Shinfield & District LHS (1995).

A5, bright green card cover, 58pp; illustrated with line drawings & sketch map; price £2.50 + P&P 40p UK; 75p overseas surface, £1.45 airmail.

This is the first publication by the Shinfield Group which was founded in 1982; the text is based on taped interviews with six senior inhabitants, some specially written pieces and the transcript of a talk. JD

Maidenhead Bridge and Taplow 1897, Berkshire Sheet No.24.15;

Alan Godfrey Facsimile Old Ordnance Survey Map (1995); price £1.85 + P&P 25p UK, 60p overseas surface, 70p airmail.

Reduced from original OS 1:25,000 to approx. 15" / mile; lots of detail with potted history notes and reproduction entry from local directory on back.

Also available: Reading 1898, Maidenhead (Town) 1897, Windsor 1897 & Windsor Castle 1897, and from surrounding counties:

Oxfordshire: Oxford 1898, Banbury 1900, South Oxford 1898;

Buckinghamshire: Amersham 1897, Aylesbury 1924, Marlow 1897, Slough

1897, Eton and Eton Wick 1897, etc.

Plus any other map listed in latest catalogue - prices as above JD

Please Note: The Swallowfield local history booklets, nos. 1, 2 & Local Documents, are now out of print and completely sold out. Please delete from your BFHS book lists.

A History of the Thames Valley Traction Company Limited 1920-1930, by Paul Lacey

Short-run production, 144pp, 135 half-tone illustrations, 9 line drawings, full-colour map and covers, indexed, Price £15, all orders sent post free, please send order to Paul Lacey, 17 Sparrow Close, Woosehill, Wokingham, Berkshire, RG41 3HT

Includes full details of the operations and vehicles used in the Uxbridge Area on behalf of London General between 1922 and 1928. Text includes mention of 207 other smaller operators - many one-man outfits. [CH]

Cumberland, Lancashire and Westmoreland: Pigot & Co's National Commercial Directory 1828-9

(Facsimile ed. 1995); price £12.50 + P&P UK £1.40, overseas surface £4.00, airmail £9.70. JD

Other Pigot's facsimile directories still available in this series are as follows:

Bedfords, Cambridge, Hunts, Lincolns & Northants 1830 (£6.95 + P&P UK 90p, overseas surface £1.60, airmail £3.80)

Berks, Bucks, Gloucs, Hants & Oxon

1830 (£9.50 + P&P UK £1.40, overseas surface £2.20, airmail £5.10)

Cornwall, Devon, Dorset, Somerset & Wiltshire 1830 (£9.50 + P&P UK £1.40, overseas surface £2.20, airmail £5.10)

Durham, Northumberland & Yorkshire 1834 (£13.75 + P&P UK £2.40, overseas surface £3.10, airmail £7.50)

Essex, Hertfords & Middx 1839 (£7.50 + P&P UK £1.20, overseas surface £2.00, airmail £4.40)

Post Office London Directory (W Kelly & Co) 1846 (£17.54 + P&P UK £3.50, overseas airmail £4.00, airmail £9.70)

Norfolk & Suffolk 1830 (£6.95 + P&P UK 80p, overseas surface £1.50, airmail £3.20) JD

Lincolnshire - A Genealogical Bibliography by Stuart A Raymond

(FFHS, 1995), A5 two-tone pink card cover, index, 108pp, price £7.50p + P&P 65p UK, £1.10 overseas surface, £2.30 airmail.

Has a variety of sections covering places, family pedigrees as well as the more usual, church, estate, government records etc. Occupations are also covered - it is a very loose term for anything from Bankrupts to Inpatients. A more unusual topic being *"Bastardy among the Boatmen of Gainsborough 1540-1812"* [JC]

Hampshire - A Genealogical Bibliography by Stuart A Raymond

(FFHS, 1995), A5 two-tone pink card cover, index, 103pp, price £8.40p + P&P 65p UK, £1.10 overseas surface, £2.30 airmail.

As above, a variety of sections covering such topics as *"Westmoreland pack horse men in Southampton"* to *"They went to the Dogs"* Hampshire strays in the the Isle of Dogs. [JC]

Records of the Royal Marines by Garth Thomas

(PRO Guide No.10, 1994); A4, dark laminated cover, price £8.95 + P&P £1 UK, £1.80 overseas surface, £4.50 airmail.

According to my dictionary, a Royal Marine (RM) is a soldier serving in the Navy. Here ends the simple bit. A few years ago I *"broke into"* these records almost by mistake: while showing a friend around at Kew, I opened an index drawer in the Reference Room and found a name I was researching. The index turned out to be to the surviving nineteenth century Royal Marines Attestation Rolls (ADM 157) which had previously only been accessible if you knew when your man enlisted!! However, apart from obtaining details of *"my man"* - who was, incidentally, *"DD"* (discharged dead) - I have been unable to get any further. I hope that this book will assist me with my research.

Because the Marines are part of both the army and the navy, their randomly surviving records are to be found not only among both services but also those of central government, etc. The

author of this guide has attempted to produce some logical answers to the questions: "Has the information I want survived?", "If so, where can I find it?".

The book starts with a coloured, but undated, picture of two Subalterns in uniform, followed by a useful table of the evolution of the Royal Navy from its foundation in 1664 to the present century. The chapter headings are linked to the documents, etc, to find the answer to the questions posed above: An historical introduction; General records; Divisional records; Pay and accounts; Military operations and reorganisation in the twentieth century; Ceremonies and war memorials; Medical, educational and musical records; Service records; Other service records; and Records of Royal Marines' families. The three appendices list the distribution of Companies throughout the Divisions, hints on identifying a RM Division and some addresses of other record repositories; plus, of course, a bibliography. the evolution of the Royal Navy from its foundation in 1664 to the present century. The chapter headings are linked to the documents, etc, to find the answer to the questions posed above: An historical introduction; General records; Divisional records; Pay and accounts; Military operations and reorganisation in the twentieth century; Ceremonies and war memorials; Medical, educational and musical records; Service records; Other service records; and Records of Royal Marines' families. The three appendices list the distribution of Companies throughout

the Divisions, hints on identifying a RM Division and some addresses of other record repositories; plus of course, a bibliography. [JD]-

Railway Ancestors by David T Hawkings

(Alan Sutton Pub 1995) hdbk, 384pp, illus. £25 + P&P (please ask)

Published in association with the Public Record Office, this book is a guide to the staff records of the railway companies of England & Wales between 1822 and 1947. JD

Criminal Ancestors by David T Hawkings

(Alan Sutton Pub) hdbk, £25 + P&P (please ask) JD

Finding Your German Ancestors by Dr Ronald M Smelser

(Ancestry, USA, 1991); A5; red, yellow & black laminated card cover with Brandenburg gate; 34pp. price £2.40 + P&P 35p UK, 60p overseas surface, £1.25 airmail.

Background history of Germany - which was not unified until 1871 - periods of emigration (especially after 1645, 1840s & 1880s) for religious, political and economic reasons and summary of main record groups to look for plus two appendices of addresses. The latter may have changed since the Berlin Wall came down but the authors advise writing anyway and hope they will be forwarded. JD

Parish Register Copies in the Library of the Society of the

Genealogists, Library Sources No.1

[11th ed.1994]; A5; pale blue card cover with Society logo in black, 152pp; price £5.25 + P&P 60p UK, £1.05 overseas surface, £2.65 airmail.

An extra 32 pages since the last edition indicates the increasing number of register copies - including non-conformist and some overseas - that can now be consulted in this ever-growing library. Minimum details arranged by country, county (pre- 1974) and parish with an introduction to explain what the information means. They use their own easy system of two-letter codes for counties etc. and a list is included. JD

The British Overseas, a guide to records of their births, baptisms, marriages, deaths and burials available in the United Kingdom; Guildhall Library Research Guide No.2

(3rd rev.ed.1994); A5, grey & pale green laminated card cover with facsimile document; 112pp; price £5.75 + P&P 60p UK, £1.05 overseas surface, £2.65 airmail. green laminated card cover with facsimile document; 112pp; price £5.75 + P&P 60p UK, £1.05 overseas surface, £2.65 airmail.

At last, it's back in print. If your ancestor "did" it overseas and the record is in the UK, then this is your best guide to finding it. The main section is arranged alphabetically by place but the first 14 pages are very necessary reading before you turn to the back. [JD]

Greater London Parish Registers, Guildhall Library Research Guide No.5

(7th ed.1994); A5, pale green laminated card cover illustration with a Hogarth print; 44pp; price £3.50 + P&P 35p UK, 60p overseas, £1.25 airmail.

The title page describes this booklet as a "handlist of parish registers, register transcripts and related records for Greater London" held in the Guildhall Library. The introduction explains the sources included in the main section which is arranged alphabetically by church dedication, with a place-name index at the end. Research in London has been described as walking in soft sand! This booklet is therefore a must for anyone who has lost an ancestor in London and is trying to "break into the system".

How to tackle your family history - A Preliminary guide for the beginner

(FFHS, 3rd ed 1995), A5 1/4, 7pp, price 65p + P&P 25p UK, 60p overseas surface, 70p airmail.

A very simple quick guide, probably the ideal leaflet to have on stalls at non family history events to encourage complete novice to start researching. [JC]

The Family Historian's Enquire Within by Pauline Saul

(FFHS, 5th ed 1995), A5 yellow laminated card cover, index, 286pp, price £7.95 + P&P £1.05 UK, £1.90 overseas surface, £4.70 airmail.

Alphabetically arranged reference

book, giving information about a topic or pointing you in the right direction if there is a wealth of information or the subject is too vast. Extremely useful. Also provides useful list of Records held at Kew, Chancery Lane and leaflets on them, Units of the British Army, Chapman County Codes and County Maps. [JC]-

Beginning Your Family History by George Pelling

(FFHS, 6th ed 1995), A5 red laminated card cover, illustrated, index, 88pp, price £3.25p + P&P 65p UK, £1.10p overseas surface, £2.30 airmail.

Useful straightforward guide for the novice covering Civil Registration, Census Returns, Parish records, Wills etc as well as informing the reader where to go for research and how to go about it in a methodical way. [JC]

Basic facts about Heraldry for family historians by Iain Swinnerton

(FFHS, 1995), A5 grey card cover with maroon printing, 16pp, price £1.25p + P&P 40p UK, 60p overseas surface, £1.25 airmail.

Very useful little guide, not knowing much about heraldry (my ancestors being of common stock) I found it quite interesting. However, if you wanted more details you would probably borrow or buy something more comprehensive. [JC]

An Introduction to Using Computers for Genealogy, by David Hawgood

(FFHS, 1994), A5 orange card cover,

index, 51pp, price £2.50p + P&P 45p UK, 80p overseas surface, £1.40 airmail.

Although I use computers at work, I have not yet purchased one for home so I know very little about genealogy packages - therefore the ideal person for this review! A very straightforward easy-to-understand book which I shall refer to again if I ever get around to buying a package. [JC]

An Introduction to Civil Registration by Tom Wood

(FFHS, 1994), A5 green card cover, index, 55pp, price £2.50p + P&P 45p UK, 80p overseas surface, £1.40 airmail.

Covers the history and various acts that came into force and their implication for the researcher. Covers England, Wales, Scotland, Isle of Man and Channel Islands. A useful guide reminding all researchers not to be too blinkered in the hunt for surnames, exact dates etc and what to do if what you want isn't there. [JC]

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Berkshire Record Office News

From Elizabeth Hughes

Collections Catalogued

Additional Winkfield parish registers, covering baptisms 1945-1988, marriages 1980-1987, and burials 1861-1961 are now available, as is a recent Cranbourne register of marriages, 1977-1988. Transcripts of parish registers of Peasemore (1540-1991), Goosey (1850-1945), Marcham (marriages 1754-1783) and Aston Upthorpe (1861-1994), and of Wallingford and Wantage nonconformist registers (1788-1897). The Record Office is grateful to receive such transcripts from Berkshire and Oxfordshire societies and from individuals, and our users much appreciate the hard work which goes into them.

A deposit of records by Speen parish council includes not only minutes from 1894, when the council was set up, but also a number of poor rate books from the 1840s to 1890s. Two local history collections, which were presented to the office, have also recently been catalogued. The first was collected over a period of 40 years by Mrs Violet Howse of Stanford-in-the-Vale, and

relates primarily to her home village and the surrounding parishes in what was formally North Berkshire, but is now South Oxfordshire. It includes Nineteenth and Twentieth century sale catalogues, records of Lyford almshouses 1836-1939, original and copy maps and plans, photographs, copies of records, her own local history notes and a substantial collection of monumental inscriptions. The second is a very miscellaneous collection of local acts, maps, prints, postcards and other documents, 1593-1989.

Library Cataloguing

At the moment we are in the throes of being "*Dynixed*". The Record Office's library collection is currently being entered onto the Library Service's computer catalogue (called *Dynix*). When this has been completed, there will be access to the catalogue at all libraries which have the computer system installed, and we hope that this will increase awareness of the office's library holdings. Just a reminder though: library items are, like the archives, for reference, not loan.

From the Adams Weekly Courant of 9th February 1773, reprinted in News From the English Countryside 1750-1850 by Clifford Morsley:

Reading, January 30

Monday last, two young Men underwent a Flagellation at the Parish Whipping-Post in our Market-Place, in consequence of an Order from a Justice of Peace, conformable to a late Amendment in the Game-Act, for killing a Hare. As the Act now stands, the offending Party must be punished (i.e. whipt) within three Days after his Commitment, and on the fourth he may bring an Appeal.

Was Your Ancestor A Parish Constable ?

By Simon Harrington

Well, mine was! James Harrington served as constable for the manor of Wethersfield in Essex for 1783-4 and 1784-5. This discovery, made by my wife after some hours of fruitless searching through the parish records at Essex Record Office, not only gave new life to my interest in my family history, but also made me wonder what a parish constable actually did. I thought that it might be useful to others if I wrote an article about what I found out.

The parish constable was originally a manorial appointment (the name derives literally from "Count of the Stable"), and could be known by a variety of names such as Borsholder, Bozzler, Chief Pledge, Headborough, Petty Constable, Thirdborough, Tithingman, Verderer. Whatever the name, the role was that of the lowest level of local law enforcement in England, accountable to the Hundred, High or Chief Constable for the area. The constable was originally sworn in by the Court Leet (usually held once a year) which also appointed other local officials. Tudor local government reorganisation led to the parish vestry becoming more powerful, and the responsibility for the appointment of constable fell on them, but this was a very gradual process. Only in 1842 were vestries made responsible officially and manorial courts were not abolished until 1977! In the intervening period, the manor

and the vestry sometimes appointed constables for the same parish.

The constable was an unpaid office lasting for a year (sometimes longer). No property qualifications were officially required until 1842, although it was usually given to substantial villagers (usually ratepayers). The job was not a popular one, and villagers were fined for not undertaking it (in 1665, Henry Letch of Aynho in Northamptonshire was fined £5). There were a variety of roles over the hundreds of years that the system lasted and over the wide area it covered:

Supervising Watch and Ward (dating back to the Statute of Winchester of 1285); maintaining the stocks and lock-ups etc; inspecting alehouses; suppressing gaming houses; apprenticing poor children; removing unwanted beggars and strangers; assisting in the relief of the poor; collecting the county rate and other national taxes; maintaining Parish Arms; training the local militia; convening parish meetings; caring for the parish bull; presenting recusants; assisting at shipwrecks; arresting criminals and escaped prisoners; suppressing riots and unlawful assemblies; compiling jurors' and militia lists; taking lewd women before the Justices; collecting child maintenance from fathers of illegitimate children.

All of this for an unpaid official! In

fact, the constable's duties were not officially clarified until 1842 under the Parish Constables Act. Nevertheless, while central government control was dependent on the parish constable, there was ambiguity between his role as a local villager and that of being the machinery of law, between his police role and keeping the peace. This could, and did, lead to clashes of interest. For instance, the Warwickshire Sessions Order Book for the 1680s records constables who allowed escapes, lodged vagrants, and failed to execute warrants, and the constable for Wivenhoe in Essex in 1713 was accused of colluding with smugglers against whom he had been ordered to proceed!

The constable often dealt with travellers and vagrants. The former were

given passes which stated that they were on their way to their own parish of settlement, while the latter were supposed to be sent on their way as soon as possible and whipped (the constable of Aynho was paid 1s "for whipping fore vagerents").

The constable presented his accounts to the Vestry each year, and these can be particularly illuminating. My ancestor James claimed his expenses at the Wethersfield Select Vestry Meetings, and they included travelling to Rochford, "one day and one night after French", writing out the militia list, "serveing Summons on Mr Perrey", and "Carring Wid French to Finchingfield". Below is part of James' expense sheet.

Meeting at the Dog May 10 th 1785	
1785 James Harrington Constable paid his Acct as under	£ 8 9
Oath of Office	1
Parish Meeting	1
Pays	6
Setting down the militia	7 6
Writing the list for Do	5

I was intrigued by "Mr Perrey", and I had a look in the Quarter Sessions Records where I found that, in April 1785, the Reverend Samuel Perry, clerk, appealed against two poor rate assessments made on him, but then withdrew his appeal. Samuel Perry is one of those characters you find in the course of your family history researches who turns out to be much more interesting than your own ancestors - he went on to refuse to pay the next year's rates, plough up land belonging to the manor, and block access to the village pesthouse during the smallpox outbreak of

1789!

There is a lot of information about the parish constable in many local history books, and I have really only touched upon the subject. I was personally very pleased to have a little more information on an otherwise document-shy ancestor. Ironically, while researching my Harringtons in Wethersfield, I had been lamenting the loss of the early (eighteenth century) militia lists before I discovered that my ancestor had compiled (and probably thrown away!) one himself!

Bibliography

N. Cooper, "Aynho - A Northamptonshire Village"
Markwell and Saul, "The Family Historian's
Enquire Within"

P. B. Park, "My Ancestors Were Manorial Tenants"
J. Richardson, "The Local Historian's Encyclopaedia"
J.A. Sharpe, "Crime in Early Modern England"

Talbot Green (2762) of 54 Elms Road, Wokingham, Berks, RG40 2AA wrote in response to Pamela Roberts article "Nineteenth Century Army Connections" published in the June 95 Berkshire Family Historian:

"Like Pamela, the two of my ancestors who were military men at the time of the Napoleonic Wars were famed in family legend as having fought at Trafalgar and Waterloo respectively and both statements are what Winston Churchill got away with in the House of Commons as "terminological inexactitudes"! But Victorian family prestige demanded such claims, especially in the course of the "parlour jousting" when the lady of the house was "at home" to her social circle.

The Admiralty Records section rapidly found it necessary to have *HMS Victory's* muster book printed; they have copies of Greenwich and, I think, Kew. Thus claims that Midshipman Francis Noble served aboard *Victory* on 21st October 1805 could be readily squelched; I now know from his

pocketbook he was aboard *HMS Le Hercule* based at Port Royal, Jamaica that day.

The army lists showed that Lt Gen Thomas Baker never got the Waterloo Medal, in spite of vehement assertions by my relatives that he actually commanded the Coldstream Guards in the defence of Chateau Hougoumont and/or was Wellington's ADC. The real source - from which I can prove there weren't any people called Baker amongst Wellington's staff at all - is *The Waterloo Medal Roll* published by the Naval & Military Press (Chippenham 1993, £65). Berks County Local Studies Library does not own a copy but you can get one through the inter-library loan system; they do have an earlier book at Slough, but I don't know what it's like.

By the dint of a little time searching, you may well prove the old folks right, Pamela, and find out too which regiment William Emery Bridgeman fought in!

Membership Numbers for the Membership Cards

By Dawn Garlick and Margaret Pyle (Membership Secretaries)

Would all members please note that if you renewed since 1st July up to the main post-out of this September Magazine you will find enclosed the **NEW** membership card for the year 1995/96. We would be grateful if you would complete the card by entering your name and membership number and then signing your card. If you are unsure of your membership number this can be found at the top right-hand corner of the address label. Any renewals after this date will find the number entered onto the card.

We apologise for the inconvenience to you, but as you will appreciate, the task of filling in these cards for a 1000+ membership would be very time consuming not to mention ensuring that the right card was placed in the right envelope. We think that Robert Houseman and his two boys do an excellent job as it is with the enveloping and despatch of the magazine, and we, and hopefully you, truly appreciate their efforts. Don't forget we are only volunteers and do not get paid for our endeavours for the Society.

We wish you all a fruitful year with your "trees".

Mortality among the Agricultural Labourers in Berkshire

Taken from "The Bucks Gazette" of 19 December 1846 reproduced in "News from the English Countryside 1750-1850" by Clifford Morsley:

"So destructive have been the ravages of fever in some parts of Berkshire that in the parish of Upton, a hamlet adjoining Bluebery, in that county, the population of which was 142 seven weeks ago, is now reduced to 73, sixty-nine having died within that short period - many through want. Among the number are four children of the minister, who, on attending the dying beds of the victims, caught the infection and conveyed it to his dwelling, whereby he lost four of his offspring. According to the opinion of the physician of the place, the only alternative appears to be for every individual to quit the village, and for every dwelling to be destroyed, there being no other means left to stay the infection; such is therefore about to be done. Respecting the cause of this awful malady, the following facts are stated: That the labourers' wages are not half sufficient for the support of their families; that the potatoes they had partly subsisted on for the last three months were poisonous and infectious; that their food was bread alone - and of that not sufficient; that meat or other substantial food they never tasted; that they could not procure firing, hence their huts were always damp and unhealthy, nor the soap necessary for common cleanliness. At length fever broke out, till none remained unvisited by the calamity."

Parish Relief in Purley c. 1828

by Jean Debney

Before the creation of the Bradfield Union in 1835 and the first Old Age Pensions awarded in 1910, the old and infirm, widows and children, etc. received weekly payments from the Overseers of the Poor of their parish of settlement. One book of these accounts, dating from 1825, transcribed to 1835, exists for the parish of Purley in Berkshire. (1) In between payments for coal at 1/5d. per cwt (2) to heat the Parish Church of St Mary the Virgin, 16 "loads" of stones at 6d a load to repair Long Lane (leading to Tilehurst), sparrows at 3d per dozen and hedgehogs at 4d each - considered vermin and a threat to the crops - the names of those who were given cash payments (Parish Relief) for one reason or another were listed weekly.

The men received 3/6d a week, women 3/- and married couples 6/-. Other women had irregular payments during periods of illness, etc. and were presumably expected to obtain what work they could in the fields - for which, incidentally, they received substantially less than the men. Children received 2/- a week plus the occasional article of clothing or pair of shoes, the latter costing between 5/- and 10/-.

When I first studied the names in the accounts, my reaction was that here were people who should have been "trying harder" to support themselves

and their families - the lazy and indolent poor was how society saw them then, and how we still tend to view things today. However, closer examination using the parish registers, etc. revealed that most were either far too old to work, ie "Old Age Pensioners", or children under 16 whose father had died.

Among the "old men" who received 3/- were William Lukeman and John Sherman, 85 and 76 respectively in 1826. The widows, who incidentally were all called "Dame", were Dames Hamblin and Lambourn. These have been identified as 67 year old Jane Hamblin née Gutteridge, widow of James, a labourer who died in 1796, and Ann Lambourn, née Sherman (Shurman), aged 74, whose husband Joseph died in 1799.

In families where the father - ie. the breadwinner - had died it was almost impossible for the widow to earn sufficient at field work to support herself and any children still living at home. James Buckland came to Purley in the early 1790s (3) and married a village girl, Elizabeth Lambourn, (4) in the parish church in 1792. The family fell on hard times when, 34 years and 12 children later, James died in 1826 aged 68. This left his widow with their youngest surviving child, 12-year-old Elizabeth (Betty), and a son, Joseph aged 18, still at home. In April 1826 "Buckland's girl" received shoes which

cost 5/6d and in February 1827 Joseph was given a great coat worth 11/6d. Household repairs were sometimes paid for in Purley. In autumn 1827 "*Buckland's house*" was thatched with straw at a total cost of £3.15.4½. It has not been possible to identify where this house was, but the family may have been living in the Parish Cottage. In February 1832, a "*Necessary*" was built at the "Workhouse" (ie. the Parish Cottage) for £2.19.11 for which the carpenter received 4/9½d. At the same time, Thomas Draper was paid 13/3d for repairing a window. This building, although much altered and extended, still exists: it was later known as Lichfield Cottage and is on the south side of the Oxford Road almost opposite the present Purley Rise Stores.

Medical payments are interesting. Mutton was then considered a nourishing food for the sick and when "*Ilsey's wife*" (5) was ill in April and May 1828 she was given two pieces worth 2/- and 3/-. This was probably Harriet Ilsey, née Rust, wife of John who had married in Reading in 1799. Between November 1828, when Dr May attended the couple at a cost to the parish of £2.9.6., and January 1832 the couple received numerous payments on account of "*illness*". John died in January 1832 and the Parish Overseers paid his funeral expenses of £1.10s although he was not buried in Purley. His widow continued to receive 2/- a week even though she lived in Reading. It is not known how they obtained their (Poor Law) settlement in Purley.

On one occasion William Lukeman was helped by the parish to get rid of what must have been a very uncomfortable predicament. William lived in Purley for over 60 years. In the seventeen years between 1764 and 1788 he and his wife Ursula (who died 1800) had ten children of which only two died as babies. It must have been a keen disappointment to the couple when their eldest daughter, Sarah, had two illegitimate children before getting married: however, these grandchildren, Ursula and Fanny, grew up in Purley and received a Prayer Book and Testament in 1892, probably when they were confirmed by the Rector, Rev Charles Manesty. (6)

In 1810, when Fanny Lukeman was 19, she married 45-year-old widower, Richard New, and they produced 12 children during the next two decades. Tragically three children aged 4, 3 and 1, died within ten days of each other in June 1819. As their family grew up Richard and Fanny found it harder to make ends meet and they received intermittent assistance from the Parish plus 5/- for the midwife at the last two confinements.

Meanwhile, by the late 1820s, Fanny's grandfather, the widowed William Lukeman, was well into his 80s and becoming increasingly frail and infirm. Apart from his weekly payments from the Parish of 3/6d he also had supplementary benefit in the form of 50 faggots of wood for his fire worth 9/-. In March 1827, the Overseers spent £3 on Doctor's fees and from September

1828, when William was about 87, "New's daughter" (probably Eliza aged 15 and his great-grand-daughter) was paid 1/6d a week for attending him. The following May was evidently a period of crisis: "Dame New" - Fanny - now looked after him for 3/- a week and at the end of the month a shilling's worth of castor oil was obtained. I do hope it did the trick! Fanny's "pay" was reduced to 2/- a week in November 1829, and the following month, "R New's girl" (?Eliza) took over again at the same rate as her mother. She continued to look after the old man until he died five months later at the grand old age of 89. During this

period, Richard New his son-in-law, received 1/6d a week; this ceased at William's death and appears therefore to be a form of rent allowance for housing the old man.

Looking back, it is hard to imagine how the poor managed as the money they received barely covered their rent and basic food cost, leaving little or nothing for clothes or any small luxury that we now take for granted.

[Adapted from an article first published under the same title in the Purley Parish News in May 1981 and reproduced here with the Editor's permission]

Footnotes

1. BRO D/P 93/5/1
2. cwt=hundredweight ie 112lbs
3. James Buckland is listed as "An inhabitant of Purley" from 1790 in the Court Leet Records of the Honour of Ewelme (Oxf RO CH/E. XVI).
4. Bap in Purley 16 Mar 1773, daughter of Joseph and Ann (BRO D/P 93/1/1).
5. Probably Harriet Ilsley, née Rust, wife of John. She was not buried in Purley.
6. See list in Parish Register (BRO D/P 93/1/3).

The Police in Berkshire

The following illustrates the development and amalgamations of the police forces in Berkshire following various Police Acts of 19th and 20th centuries:

Abingdon Borough Police 1836-1889; then in Berkshire Constabulary
Newbury Borough Police c1836-1875; then in Berkshire Constabulary
Reading Borough Police 1836-1968; then in Thames Valley Constabulary
New Windsor Borough Police 1836-1947; then in Berkshire Constabulary
Wokingham (not listed - policed from Reading)
Berkshire Constabulary 1855-1968;

then in Thames Valley Constabulary

Information abstracted from "Police Forces of Great Britain & Ireland, their Amalgamations & their Buttons" by H Ripley (1985) in Berkshire FHS Reference Library at our Research Centre: Ref. 1/L/1497.

See also: "Police History Notes for Family Historians" by L A Waters ** "Police Uniform & Equipment", by A A Clarke ** "The Rural Constabulary Act 1839 by D Foster** [JD]

** Available from BFHS Bookstall at meetings or by post (address on back cover)

Trinity House Petitions

The Trinity House Brethren are now known primarily as the lighthouse authority for England, but between its foundation by Charter in 1514 and the Mercantile Marine Act of 1854, they also distributed charitable funds to help seafarers and their dependents. The original petitions consist of family details entered on printed forms and often accompanied by marriage and/or baptismal certificates. The records from 1514 were badly damaged by fire in 1666 and 1714, other later material destroyed.

In 1934, the Corporation of Trinity House presented their collection of surviving petitions made between 1787 to 1854 to the Society of Genealogists (SOG). Some apprenticeship indentures (1780, 1818-1845) were found in 1969 and, together with the petitions, formed 113 bound volumes. In 1987 the SOG published an indexed calendar, which is still available at £8.40, and a copy is in our Reference Library at the Research Centre, Ref. 1/L/2120.

This year, the original petitions, apprenticeship indentures and almshouse petitions have been deposited in the Guildhall Library on a "*permanent loan*" basis where they can be stored in a controlled archival environment. In exchange, the SOG received a full set of films of the archive which can be seen in the microfilm reading room.

For further details see: Genealogists Magazine (Vol 25 No 2 June 1995 p72) & Vol 16 Dec 1970 pp.427-529); The Trinity House Petitions by Anthony Camp (Family Tree Magazine, Vol 2 No 4 May-Jun 1986 p13); also entries under "Trinity House" in FH Enquire Within & The Dictionary of Genealogy. [JD]

Using the Victorian Censuses

Six week course to be held at the University of Reading, London Road, Reading on Mondays from 9th October 95 to 11th December 95 (7:30-9:30pm). Tutor: Margaret Escott, cost £33.

The aim of this accredited course is to introduce students to the contents of the Victorian census returns. It will deal with the important differences in the information sought and the way it was recorded in each census and provide opportunities to see and discuss how this has been used in a wide range of family and community studies, some covering Berkshire and nearby counties. There will be practical work on photocopies of census material enabling students to gain experience in extracting, recording and using the information in studies of the age profiles, household composition and occupational structures of communities as well as family history.

Enrolment is at the Extramural Office, The University, London Road, Reading, RG1 5AQ, tel: 01734-318347

RCHME Farmsteads Survey

By Penelope Stokes

I have obtained copies of this survey for several farms in Hamstead Marshall as part of my research into the village's history. These run to about six or seven pages each, and are very interesting although more concerned with the farm buildings and their agrarian uses rather than any occupant families. However, the reports would certainly be of interest to any family history researcher with an established connection with a particular farm.

The editor of the series is Colum Giles, RCHME, Shelley House, Acomb Road, York YO2 4HB

Mr Giles is very helpful and aware that this information will be published in the "*Berkshire Family Historian*". However he does point out that if the Publicity results in large numbers of requests for report copies he may have to make a photocopy charge. The rest of this article is taken from the publicity supplied by the Royal Commission on the Historical Monuments of England.

"Farm buildings are an important element in the English countryside and can tell us a great deal about the way in which agriculture has developed over the centuries. Modern changes in agriculture and the pressure of a shifting population have, however, had an impact on the nation's stock of historic farm buildings. Many have become redundant, leading often to demolition or conversion to new

business and residential uses.

Both demolition and conversion of buildings lead to a loss of historical information. The Royal Commission on the Historical Monuments of England, the national body of architectural and archaeological survey and record, is seeking to enhance its holdings of records of farm buildings. A survey being carried out by the National Monuments Record aims to identify the nature, extent and location of existing archives. This has provided information about which parts of the country are best covered by past or current research. RCHME's farmsteads survey builds on this knowledge and will involve original survey work in five small areas across the country. The areas have been chosen to provide geographical and agricultural contrasts and to cover the period from 1500 through to the early 20th century.

The areas selected for recording are north Northumberland, south Lincolnshire, central and eastern Cheshire, south-west Berkshire and east Cornwall. Within each of these regions the Royal Commission aims to record 50 farmsteads. Groups of parishes have been chosen to provide a representative range of evidence, taking account of aspects such as typical farm size, date, and the type of agriculture represented by the buildings.

Within each area our survey has two

principal stages. A rapid survey of farmsteads within the selected areas will provide us with evidence for the way in which local farmsteads reflect the area's agricultural history. The archive resulting from this stage of work will comprise a brief written report, a 35mm black and white photographic record and a block plan. The second fieldwork stage involves a return visit to a smaller number of farmsteads, identified as typical of aspects of local farming, to make more detailed records. At both the rapid and detailed stages of survey the evidence of fieldwork will be combined with

material drawn from documentary sources. The records will be held in the National Monuments Record.

RCHME also seeks to encourage other agencies and individuals to make records of farm buildings. To this end, it joined with the Historical Farm Buildings Group and the Institute of Advanced Architectural Studies in a conference, held in January 1994, on recording the buildings of the farmstead. RCHME would welcome information about the recording work carried out by other bodies."

Parish Register Project Update

By Chad Hanna

Irene Littleby recently received a letter from Colin Harris of Oxfordshire Family History Society asking for some help to transcribe the Parish Registers for Kingston Lisle in the Vale of the White Horse. Colin would like the Kingston Lisle marriages 1813 onwards transcribed, including witnesses and whether parties and witnesses signed or marked the registers. He would also welcome further help at the Berkshire Record Office.

Irene along with Gwen Prince and Pam Ayres have done sterling work in transcribing the Parish Registers for the rest of Berkshire and now have the end in sight, with only a handful of registers remaining. This project has not been under the auspices of the Berks FHS but

was started by the late John Brooks, probably before the Berks FHS was founded in 1975. The transcripts cover the period up to 1850 or the end of the volume whichever is the later.

A future Berks FHS project is envisioned to convert the existing transcripts to computer format, possibly using scanners and optical character recognition, following by checking the new transcripts against the original registers or microfiche.

If anyone can help either with the Kingston Lisle parish register transcription or with the future project, please contact Chad Hanna, 161 St Peter's Road, Earley, Reading, Berks, RG6 1PG.

Q & A With Jean

Compiled by Jean Debney

Well - here it is: the 'bumper bundle' of "Q & A with Jean" rashly promised in the June journal ... But before I launch into the pile, I would like to say a big "Thank you" to all of you who wrote and sent cards while I was recovering from my op. I am pleased to say that in mid-June, half-way through our holiday in Greece when we were enduring temperatures of 105! the 'cotton- wool-feeling' started to clear from my head and I felt much better. My 'get-up-and-go' which had gone, has now come back again and wakes me up at night to panic about the things that I have left undone that I ought to have done ...! Lifting boxes of books is still difficult (and officially forbidden) and the blanket for Oxfam still awaits completion as I find myself once again embroiled in my usual round of activities ... however, c'est la vie.

While writing this, I would like to give a big thank you to Sally Ritchie, who valiantly and efficiently looked after the main book stock while I was "off duty", to Elizabeth Hailstone who is continuing to deal with the mail orders, and to Jan Jones and Joan Klopke who answered some of my letters; plus the teams who took the books to the SOG Fair and the Gloucester, Wiltshire and Bristol & Avon FHS Open Days in April, May and June.

Anyway, here goes ...

What Was Its Value?

Q Robert Aubrey (2586) of Altringham, Cheshire: "An ancestor who lived in the village of Crookham bequeathed in his will of 1738 the sum of £50 to his sister. What would that be worth in today's terms?"

Since there is evidence to suggest that he was a bricklayer by trade, could he have saved this sort of sum during his working life?"

A In recent years we have become accustomed to continuous upward inflation but this was not always so. In the past, prices might remain static for decades and then perhaps fall before rising slowly again. The publication *How Much is That Worth?* by Lionel Munby is now, unfortunately, out of print but you may be able to obtain a copy through the inter-library loan service. In it, the author quotes a 'cost-of-living' index based on wages in the 18th century. Using a base figure of 100 in 1700, the annual rate fluctuated between a low of 81 in 1732 to a high of 179 in 1795 before falling the following year to 153.

Earlier this year I was given a copy of the following (author unknown): "*Comparison of money values in family history: a table which shows the figure by which you should multiply money values to make a comparison with present day values. It is based on a study of prices of consumer goods - food, drink, fuel, textiles, etc. - known as the Phelps Brown-Hopkins Index up to 1954, and updated on a rough basis to January 1995 by using the retail price index for the most recent years. Although they are no more than a very approximate guide, they should serve to give some idea of relative values:*

1500 - 552 1600 - 113 1700 - 77 1800 - 33 1900 - 52
 1510 - 503 1610 - 103 1710 - 65 1810 - 31 1910 - 52
 1520 - 379 1620 - 107 1720 - 82 1820 - 38 1920 - 38
 1530 - 307 1630 - 87 1730 - 87 1830 - 45 1930 - 41
 1540 - 328 1640 - 95 1740 - 81 1840 - 40 1940 - 33
 1550 - 198 1650 - 62 1750 - 88 1850 - 54 1950 - 16
 1560 - 196 1660 - 76 1760 - 81 1860 - 39 1960 - 12
 1570 - 173 1670 - 90 1770 - 73 1870 - 42 1970 - 8
 1580 - 152 1680 - 91 1780 - 71 1880 - 44 1980 - 2.2
 1590 - 131 1690 - 101 1790 - 60 1890 - 55 1990 - 1.2"

Using the multiplier 81 (for 1740) gives an approximate modern value of £4,050 for the £50 left by your ancestor to his sister in 1738. As to the question how did he have so much money? There is always the possibility that your ancestor saved the £50 during his lifetime or perhaps inherited it. Have you checked the wills of relatives (including on the female side) to see if he is mentioned? It is also worth remembering that not everyone in the past lived a hand-to-mouth existence, although thousands did there were plenty who had sufficient for their needs and a very few wealthy people who had too much ...!

Descriptions of people's occupations often give no indication as to whether they were simply an employee or perhaps a "Master" (employer) with their own business. The need for housing, cheap land prices, one or more wealthy partners or a nice inheritance, plus the ability and skill to build, meant that some humble "brickies" became successful and relatively wealthy "property developers"

Delayed Death Registration of a Suicide

Q Rev Philip Wall (2591) of

Trowbridge, Wilts: "Benjamin Weston, innkeeper of the Old Waggon & Horses Inn in the Market Place, Newbury, senior Town Sergeant and Borough Treasurer, committed suicide by cutting his throat on 3rd July 1848 of the length of six inches and of the depth of half an inch of which said mortal wound he the said Benjamin Weston lingered and languished until the twenty third day of July'. These words are taken from the signed statement of the 12 jurymen following the Coroner's Inquest held on 24th July. It seems strange that medical care lasting nearly three weeks should fail to save the man's life, but my surprise is that the coroner did not register the death until 27th December. could there have been any dissatisfaction with the inquest verdict? Further investigations to be carried out perhaps?-

I wondered if the date recorded on the death certificate obtained from St Catherine's House had been carelessly copied, but the death does not appear in the index until the December quarter of 1848"

A The description of the "mortal" wound does not indicate what damage was done to the neck, but a depth of half an inch would, almost certainly, involve the windpipe (larynx and trachea) allowing air to escape. In normal circumstances, air is warmed and filtered by passing through the nose and mouth, but this injury would allow bacteria to pass unchecked directly into the lungs leading to pneumonia. In addition, the major blood vessels if not severed in the initial attempt, may have eroded and haemorrhaged from later infection. We forget that until the end of the Second World War, survival from many injuries was rare due to the absence of modern surgical intervention and antibiotics.

Until the passing of the Suicide Act in 1961, suicide was dealt with as a criminal matter. Christian injunctions against suicide rested on a respect for life and of the soul in the hereafter. Unfortunately, the original motivation went sadly wrong, victims were degraded, their heirs impoverished and survivors subjected to criminal persecution. All property held by a victim was seized by the Crown and anyone who aided and abetted a suicide was liable to 14 years imprisonment. Until the late 17th century, there was not even a word in the English language for the act which was referred to by euphemisms such as "self murder", etc. and in legal documents as "felo-de-se". (This information came from my "Encyclopaedia Britannica")

Since the 12th century, knights and wealthy landowners were appointed as coroners for their county to investigate unnatural, sudden or suspicious deaths, etc. They had to bring in a verdict of who or what caused the death, to instigate criminal proceedings against the person or persons causing it or confiscation of the cause (the "deodand" - eg. a horse, a bale of hay, etc.) Any sudden and unexplained deaths were said to be due to "An Act of God". Until 1860, fees and travelling expenses only were allowed and claimed by submitting a "bill" to the magistrates. Some of the original bills may survive amongst the records or a summary entry made in the "Order Book" of the Quarter Sessions. It includes the date and place of inquest, names of the jury who may have been neighbours, date of and events leading up to the death (which can make gruesome reading) and the verdict; it is signed by the Coroner.

In my copy of the latest edition of "*The Family Historian's Enquire Within*"** is the following: '*If an inquest into a suspicious death was held and adjourned then the death cannot be registered until the inquest has been closed. In certain circumstances this may be several months later and will account for why the death registration does not appear in the GRO indexes when you would expect it to (i.e. at the time of the actual death).*'

Apart from the records of the Newbury (and perhaps also the County Quarter Sessions), the local newspaper may

have further details about this case: the background that led up to the attempt, evidence from witnesses, etc. which do not appear in the "bill" or other court records. Look in *"The Reading Mercury"* or *"Berkshire Chronicle"*, copies of which can be seen in Reading Central Local Studies Library or the Newspaper Library at Colindale. It is worth checking the editions at the time of his attempt, his death and when the event was registered by the Coroner. The *"Newbury Weekly News"* did not commence publishing until 1869.

Further information about coroners and their records can be found in the introduction to the Gibson Guide: *"Coroners' Records in England & Wales"* ** and an entry in Terrick Fitzhugh's *"Dictionary of Genealogy"*; it is also worth referring to the introductions and county listings in the *Gibson Guides: "Quarter Sessions Records"* ** and *"Local Newspapers 1750-1920"* **.

My Ancestor was a Surgeon
Q Jenyfer Haxton (2756) of Raumati Beach, New Zealand: "The article in the *Berkshire Family Historian*, June 1994, about William Savoury, surgeon of Bartholomew Street, Newbury in 1791, mentions the Corporation of Surgeons in London and the "practise of St Thomas and Guy's Hospitals, London".

My ancestor, Thomas Carter, practised surgery at the same address in 1832 and was in Newbury until 1854. He also had a brother, Samuel, in the same profession.

Where can I find out records of surgeons practising at that time? Were they registered and did they train in London?"

A This letter, originally addressed to the Editor for inclusion in the "Help" section, was passed to me some time ago, but because of pressure on my time it got filed in my "pending" tray and has just come to light. I hope that you are still interested in an answer, Jenyfer.

The new edition of *"Enquire Within"* ** includes almost two pages under *"Medical Profession"* with many suggestions for sources and further reading. Terrick Fitzhugh's *"Dictionary of Genealogy"* also has a useful entry. Stuart A Raymond's *"Genealogical Guide to "Londoners' Occupations"**** has a page of printed sources to medical men which could be consulted either through the inter-library loan service or in large reference libraries. *"Records of the Medical Professions"**** by S Bourne & A H Chicken deals with records not only of medical practitioners, but also nurses, midwives and hospitals and should be essential reading for anyone researching this subject. Records of surgeons from 14-19th centuries are to be found in the Guildhall Library, London, and details of the surviving records are listed in their Search Guide No.3: *"City Livery Companies"****.

The Surgeons' Company, formed in 1745, received its charter and became the College of Surgeons (later the Royal College) in 1800. The College

granted licences to candidates who completed a seven-year apprenticeship to a surgeon. In their private library they keep Examination Books, lists of members, etc. the Medical Directory (from 1845) and Medical Register (from 1859). Although not open to the public, they will deal with written enquiries; Write to: *The Librarian, Royal College of Surgeon, 35/43 Lincoln's Inn Fields, London WC2A 3PN*. However because of the number received you may have to wait some time for a reply. No charge is made for this service but they are always grateful for donations towards the cost of conservation of their fragile books and records.

PS. Here's a bonus for you - by chance I was looking in Pigot's Directories for Berkshire and found the following:

1823-4: Samuel Carter, Surgeon, Bartholomew St, Newbury
1830: Samuel Carter, Surgeon, Speenhamland, Newbury

The Old Contemptibles Association

Q Mrs Vera Lennard (1267) of East Grinstead, W Sussex: "My father served at the beginning of the 1914-18 war with the R.A.M.C. in France, but it appears that all their records were destroyed by enemy action during WW2, so it has been very difficult to find any details of his service. He had three medals, one of which was the Mons Star and he was in France when his first wife died in February 1915.

I have tried several sources without success, but I know that he belonged to the "Old Contemptibles Association". Is it still in existence and have any records been kept?"

A You do not say what records you have looked at, but since you mention destruction by enemy action in WW2, I think you are referring to his personal record of service. Only about 25% of these survive and are currently held by the *Ministry of Defence, (CS (R)2b), Bourne Avenue, Hayes, Middx UB3 1RF*. They will search these for a non-refundable fee.

The three books on WWI army records by Norman Holding are essential reading and contain many suggestions. Currently available are *"World War I Army Ancestry"*** and *"More Sources of WWI Army Ancestry"****, unfortunately *The Location of British Army Records* is now out of print, but you may be able to get a copy through the inter-library loan service. Also useful are the PRO guide *"Army Records for Family Historians"*** and the Watts brothers' book *"My Ancestor was in the British Army"***, which both cover army records from the 17th century.

Among the records mentioned in the books above are the medal roll index cards on microfiche (Ref. WO 329) at the Public Record Office at Kew which contain information about (almost) all WWI service personnel, their regiment(s), number(s) and medals awarded. The entry may give the date of embarkation and theatre of war first

served in, and the associated registers available for some medals occasionally include further details.

Whilst trawling through "*Records of the Medical Professions*" for the previous subject I came across the following references which relate to your query: The Wellcome Institute for the History of Medicine, London, holds the Muniment Collection of the Royal Army Medical Corps which includes photographs, diaries, etc; the address of the RAMC Museum at Aldershot, Hampshire; and the PRO references for documents listing the locations of medical units and hospitals during WWI.

I have no knowledge of the "*Old Contemptibles*" - is there anyone who can help Vera - and me - with details of this organisation and their records?

Another Army Ancestor

Q Sara Fraser-Paterson (2952), Reading, Berks: "I cannot find the marriage of my gt.gt.gr-father, Thomas Truckle, which took place between 1851 and 1877. There is no trace of it at St Catherine's House. He served with the 7th Foot in Ireland, Malta, Canada and India. I have checked the IGI for Ireland and Canada and looked through some of the army muster rolls at Kew. Also any information on Truckles would be gratefully received."

A It is possible that you may have to search through the remaining regimental muster rolls for a reference to this marriage. Do you have any

dates of birth for the children which may help to narrow the search period? Of course, they may never have been married - some couples lived together for so long without '*benefit of clergy*' that it got too difficult to make it official. Your letter does not mention if you have seen his enlistment papers. These will have been retained by the War Office (PRO.ref: WO 97) if he completed his period of service and retired with a pension and may give details of marriage and children. These papers are not retained if the soldier was discharged early or died during his service. The books that will help you with research into these other army records are the PRO and the Watts brothers' publications mentioned above.

At St Catherine's House, apart from the main indexes from 1837 there are also, in the "*Miscellaneous*" Section, the Army Chaplains' Returns of Births, Baptisms, Deaths, Burials and Marriages from 1796-1880, which took place abroad. [This information comes from "*An Introduction to Civil Registration*" by Tom Wood**].

The 1881 census index is now appearing county by county and is rapidly superseding the IGI as the source to locate ancestors. Start with the surname (and Christian name) index, note the piece & folio reference numbers in the right hand columns and locate these on the as enumerated fiche for the complete household. Although it won't tell you anything about the marriage, it may give clues about

children's age and place of birth.

A Bargemaster at Maidenhead
Q Mrs Pat Mundy (818) of St Albans, Herts: "My ancestor, George Fuller, is listed in the *Universal Trades Directory 1798* (copy at Maidenhead Library) as a "Bargemaster" of Maidenhead. His father had owned the "Wharfe" and other outhouses and buildings at Maidenhead Bridge according to his will dated 4 Feb 1744. Is there a register of boats and barges at Maidenhead? Is there any other information available about the barge trade?"

A According to *My Ancestor was a Merchant Seaman*** (by C T & M J Watts), (1) between 1795 and 1871 barges had to be registered with the Clerk of the Peace and the records will be in the County Record Office; (2) the Guildhall Library in London holds records of the Livery Company of Watermen & Lightermen (which may only apply to those plying their trade within London and Middlesex); and (3) an index of Thames Waterman is being compiled by Miss Joanna Hards, 64 Mayfields Road, Sanderstead, Surrey CR2 0BF.

There are references to barges on the Thames in the Quarter Sessions records in the Berkshire Record Office. Many were transporting malt to London on which duty was payable and if the barge was wrecked then they claimed it back. There are also references to boats in *The Thames Highway* by Fred S Thacker, 2 vols. pub 1920, reprinted

1968 by David & Charles: you may be able to obtain this through the inter-library loan service.

The Thames Water Authority was set up in 1751 to control the river above Staines: its main activities were to replace the flash locks with pound locks and appoint lock keepers, create the tow paths for the men and horses and generally control the flow of water and traffic. In 1771 it became the Thames Commissioners and from 1866 the Thames Conservancy and is now the Thames Region of the National Rivers Authority. Some early records were deposited in the Local Studies Library in Reading and these may include something of interest to you.

Many books have been written about the river Thames and should be listed in any good library catalogue - or even the British Library Catalogue of Printed Books - to discover some of the numerous titles which could help you with background or even specific information. And when looking at any book, don't forget to check the Bibliography or '*Further Reading*' to discover other potentially useful titles.

Brian Boulter may have more specific details about Maidenhead and the barge traffic on the river; his address is 43 Bannard Road, Maidenhead (don't forget your s.a.e).

Moulsford Lunatic Asylum
Q Yvonne Shadbolt (704) of Watlington, Kent "I have been trying to trace the movements of Ann Woodley who was baptised with her

twin sister Hannah at Wokingham on 5 Apr 1811; they were daughters of Joseph and Jane (née Dunt). In the 1851 census, Ann is recorded in Littlemore Hospital (Asylum), Oxford, as a "patient aged 27, lunatic, born Early, Berks". The Death and Discharge Registers (1846-1893) for this asylum have been indexed by the Oxford FHS and I found that Ann was sent to the Moultsford Lunatic Asylum, Berks, on 15 Dec 1880.

I looked at the 1881 Census Index for Berkshire without success. Realising that she could have died or just been missed out I checked the returns (RG 11/1292 En.Dist.2) for Moultsford village and read "Berks Lunatic Asylum" containing about 500 patients & attendants" noted among the list of householders. I could not find any 'institution' returns for the county. I then tried the 1891 census (RG 12/985 En.Dist.1) which covers Moultsford, but again could find no sign of the asylum. Was the asylum enumerated in 1881 and 1891?"

A Jan Jones helped with the solution to this problem after I came out of hospital. First of all we looked at the Berkshire OS maps (1:50,000 road map and my larger-scale OS book) and located the Asylum in Cholsey - not the neighbouring village of Moultsford after all. Jan then went to our Research Centre to look at the 1881 Census on microfiche. On the fiche with the brown header and labelled "*Institutions*" was the "*Berks County*

Moultsford Asy" under Cholsey, ref. RG 11/1293 fo.82 p.1. The "*As Enumerated*" fiche for this reference shows the entries for staff and inmates, including "*Woodley Ann, Paup, O (= Other Marital status), 19, F, occup. unknown, place of birth NK*" (not known).

Thus, in answer to your query: yes, the Moultsford Asylum was enumerated (under Cholsey) and yes, Ann Woodley was alive and present on Census night, Sunday 3 April 1881.

My Ancestor was a Prisoner

Q Joyce Taylor (2895) of Chislehurst, Kent: "On the 1881 Census I found a "Charles Taylor" listed in Reading County Gaol; the Head of the Prison was a Thomas Stokes. How can I verify that this man is my husband's grandfather, Charles Anthony Taylor. The County Record Office have checked St Lawrence Parish Register, Reading and he wasn't there; nor was he in St Giles. I have also checked the 1871 census for St Lawrence.

This man is proving difficult to trace: he deserted his children in 1898 when their mother died and none of them spoke about their father. The only information I have is from his marriage certificate (Jan 1882) and I would like to find out more about him."

A Just over ten years ago, when I was researching for an essay for my Local History Studies Certificate, I made a

list summarising the Quarter Sessions records in Berkshire Record Office: this includes, under Ref. Q/SMc, Calendars of Prisoners at Quarter Sessions 1854-1971, and Assizes to 1881 only. [Recent Calendars will be subject to closure and not available. Calendars from c1734 are on the Quarter Sessions Rolls, Ref. Q/SR]. Information includes prisoners' names and ages, crime committed, date of conviction and length of sentence. Also in the Quarter Sessions records are the "Order Books" which record a summary of the cases tried and the verdict. Among the papers filed each quarter - the Quarter Sessions Rolls - may be documents relating to the case: indictments (small parchment forms naming the accused, date and place of offence, name of the committing Magistrate) and depositions (evidence of witnesses), etc. Studies Certificate, I made a list summarising the Quarter Sessions records in Berkshire Record Office: this includes, under Ref. Q/SMc, Calendars of Prisoners at Quarter Sessions 1854-1971, and Assizes to 1881 only. [Recent Calendars will be subject to closure and not available. Calendars from c1734 are on the Quarter Sessions Rolls, Ref. Q/SR]. Information includes prisoners' names and ages, crime committed, date of conviction and length of sentence. Also in the Quarter Sessions records are the "Order Books" which record a summary of the cases tried and the verdict. Among the papers filed each quarter - the Quarter Sessions Rolls - may be documents

relating to the case: indictments (small parchment forms naming the accused, date and place of offence, name of the committing Magistrate) and depositions (evidence of witnesses), etc.

Although the above are unlikely to include the personal details you are looking for, once you have a date, the local newspapers - eg. Reading Mercury and Berkshire Chronicle - may contain a report of the trial, including (with luck) personal details of the prisoner. As "*your*" man married in January 1882 and therefore was not in prison, part of your proof will be whether the "*1881-census-man*" was still serving his sentence that month.

A more expensive way of finding out might be to obtain the birth certificate for the man in prison and see if his father is the same as that on the marriage certificate. But since that will cost you £6 it might be worth keeping that line of enquiry in reserve.

What's in a Name?

Q Fred Stuart (2907) of Blackthorn, Northampton: "I am researching my late father's Pizzy/Pizzey ancestors and have traced them back to 1781 when William Pizzy married Rebecca Earles in St Michael's, Bray; the family lived in Stroud Green and Fifield, near Maidenhead and were in Finchampstead by the early 1800s. Do you have any idea where this surname came from? It is said that it came from Spain via the Spanish Armada from one of the captains who was ship-wrecked, but

I am not sure. I believe there was an Admiral or Captain Piazzi."

A I don't know anything about your Spanish admiral, but I do know that there are said to be almost as many claims of descent from Armada survivors as there are from Huguenots and those who served at the Battle of Trafalgar, etc. etc. In other words, there are many legends which need to be proved, or otherwise, by carefully tracing the family back until the truth is discovered.

My surname reference books contain the following information on your surname, Pizzy, with its variant spellings, Pizey, Pizzey, Pizzie, Peasey, Pezey, Pusey & Pussey. All are said to be derived from the village of Pusey in Berkshire. This pre-Conquest (Old English) place name means "*island where peas grow*". There is also the possibility that the sound-alike

Pewsey in Wiltshire - also an Old English name meaning "*Pefe's marsh or well-watered land*" - may be the origin of your surname, but only careful research will decide this one way or another.

Place names are one of the four main sources of surnames. In Medieval times, large land-holders often took the names of their estates and an Adam de Pesy of Berkshire is listed in 1220 in "*Liber Feodorum*" (London 1920-31). As the centuries progressed other, less wealthy men, became known by the name of the village they had left to find work, etc. Dialect pronunciation and the difficulty of knowing the 'correct' spelling often led to curious variations of some names.

** Publications available from the BFHS Bookstall at meetings or by post, see address on back cover.

Rolls Chapel, PRO Chancery Lane

The Rolls Chapel Microfilm Reading Room, which is in the same building as the Census Room at the PRO Chancery Lane, is now open on a Saturday from 9:30am-5pm. Microfilms available there are the PCC Wills up to 1857, Death Duty Registers up to 1857 and Non-conformist Registers.



ROOTS FAMILY HISTORY SERVICE

I have access to most census and parish records for Great Britain. I specialise in the Greater Manchester area (Bury, Bolton, Manchester, Rochdale and Salford etc).

I will search parish registers, census index to wills, trade directories, newspapers and IGI.

I have access to Scottish Old Parochial Registers (pre 1855) St Catherine's House Indexes - births, marriages and deaths 1837-1940. Irish Indexes - births and deaths 1864-1921 and marriages 1845-1932. Scottish indexes - births, marriages and deaths 1855-1931.

Please send S.A.E (or 1 IRC) to :-

Mrs K Stout
372 Bury New Road
Whitefield
Manchester
M45-7SY

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Tel No. 0161-796-7130.

Minutes of the 20th Annual General Meeting of the Berkshire Family History Society

*Meeting held on Friday 23rd June 1995, at 7:45pm at Prospect
School, Honey End Lane, Reading, Berkshire*

Chad Hanna, the Reading Branch Chairman, welcomed everybody to the 20th Annual General Meeting of the Berkshire Family History Society, and then handed over to Michael Sheppard, the Chairman of the Society.

Michael Sheppard informed the Meeting that the Annual General Meeting would follow the Agenda as published in the March 1995 issue of the *Berkshire Family Historian*.

1. Apologies for Absence

The following apologies have been received: The Hon Lady Palmer, DL, Dr Peter Durrant, Margaret Pyle, Rita Denman, Pat Dean, Helen Relf.

2. Minutes of the 1994 Annual General Meeting

The Chairman reminded the Meeting that these were published in the September 1994 edition of the *Berkshire Family Historian*.

The phrase 'Chairman's Report 1992/93' should read 'Chairman's Report 1993/94'

The Chairman asked the Meeting that the Minutes be accepted as read - Cliff Debney proposed the motion, Derek Spraggate seconded and the Meeting unanimously approved.

3. Matters arising

There were no matters arising.

4. Chairman's Report for 1994-1995

This last year has been a very pleasing one for Berkshire Family History Society.

Firstly, The Society's Membership. 1994/5 has yet again seen an increase in numbers - 1,240 compared to 1,188 in 1993/4 - an overall increase of 53 Members. I would like to thank the two Membership Secretaries, Dawn Garlick and Margaret Pyle and also to Robert Houseman for the sterling work they have put in over the past year.

Secondly, the Society's Premises: as you all know from reading your March 1995 Berkshire Family Historian, The BFHS Research Centre opened on 1st March 1995. The location at Prospect School, Honey End Lane, Prospect Park, Reading could not be better.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the members of the Premises Sub Committee and other Society Members for all the hard work they put into making the Research Centre happen.

In particular, I would like to thank Robert Houseman and Ed Pearce for all the preliminary work they did in obtaining these Premises, including the negotiation of the Lease. In addition, I must also thank Chad & Lesley Hanna,

and Alan Klopke for organising the Library, and Tom and Rita Hine for installing the Berkshire Name Index. We confidently expect the Exchange Magazine Archive to arrive soon under Beryl Gorse's direction.

Now that the Research Centre is open on Tuesday evenings and all day on Wednesdays, we are again in need of volunteers to man the rooms. With Ann Armstrong as Rota Secretary, the Research Centre is beginning to fulfil its potential. But we still need more volunteers - do remember that this facility is for you, the Members, so please help in any way you can.

I make no apologies for all that detail regarding the Research Centre, as it is a major step forwards for Berkshire Family History Society and our Members.

The Society has been actively involved with the various Projects throughout last year: The 1881 Census has been completed and our grateful thanks must be given to Vincent Millett for his hard work in managing this project, the 1851 Census is nearing completion, and here we must thank Geoff Mather for the sterling work that he has put into this project, the Poor Law Project is making progress, and Brian Hunt must be thanked for his continuing hard work. The Reading Cemetery Junction Project is also nearing completion, and our thanks must go to David Watkins for leading it, through fair weather and foul!

We took part in the SOG Fair in London in year, which was staged over two

days. We are once again indebted to Chad Hanna and Robert Houseman for organising our stand.

We all take it for granted that we will receive our Berkshire Family Historian every quarter. But without our Editor, Catherine Harrington, this would not be the case and our grateful thanks must be given for her continuing hard work in producing the Magazine to such a high standard. What we do need from you, the Members, are yet more contributions and articles for this magazine, and particularly those with a Berkshire theme.

The amount of monies raised by Bookstall Sales has again increased this year. The Cash Sales from all sources, including post & packing on mail orders, exceeds thirteen thousand pounds. A huge vote of thanks must go to the Bookstall Manager, Jean Debney, and her helpers, Elizabeth Hailstone, Jan Jones and Sally Ritchie, whilst not forgetting the four Branch Bookstall Managers. The four Branches at Bracknell, Newbury, Reading and Slough have given our Members a excellent and varied programme of speakers. Each of these Branches have their own Committees, whose continuing efforts must be thanked. I would still like to see some new faces coming forward to serve on these Committees. It is not much to ask for you to help run your Society is it?

Finally I would once again like to thank all the members of the Executive Committee, and all those members co-opted on to subcommittees, for all

the hard work they have put in over the last year.

The Future

1995 will be a special year for Berkshire Family History Society as we are hosting the six monthly Federation of Family History Societies Conference.

This event will be taking place at Reading University, from Friday 8th to Sunday 10th September. The Theme of the Conference is "Victorian Virtues, Vices and Virtuosity". There is a full programme of lecturers as well as a chance to meet like minded family historians. I trust we shall see all of you at some time over that weekend, either as a participant or as a volunteer. Should you wish to help as a volunteer, please contact myself or Joyce Wells, the Conference Organiser.

Lastly, I have a message from our Bookstall Manager, Jean Debney.

Jean has been running the Bookstall, with Cliff's help, since 1980 and now wishes to hand over the reins to someone else. By agreement with myself, Jean has agreed to continue running the Bookstall until June 1996, to enable her to ensure coverage at the September Conference this year.

A Notice for the Bookstall Manager's Job was placed in the June Edition of the Berkshire Family Historian. If any one is interested in this job please have a talk with Jean Debney.

5. Treasurer's Report for 1994-1995

Roy Croton, The Treasurer, presented

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

Roy Croton gave a commitment to the Meeting that he would thoroughly investigate the Extraordinary item of £860.07 as well as the Miscellaneous item of £1,140.78 as detailed in the BFHS Expenditure 1994-95.

The Chairman proposed that the Audited Accounts be accepted by the Meeting, and Ron Edwards proposed the motion, seconded by Lesley Hanna, and the Meeting unanimously approved

6. Election of President and Vice President

The Chairman informed the Meeting that the Executive Committee have invited Lady Palmer, our current President, and Dr Peter Durrant, our current Vice President, to continue in those posts for the 1995-1996 Society Year - they have graciously accepted this invitation. The Meeting unanimously accepted these nominations.

7. Election of Officers for 1995-1996

The Chairman informed the Meeting that the following nominations were received by the Secretary by the closing date of 3rd June, 1995, on the form published in the March 1995 *Berkshire Family Historian*:

Society Chairman - Mr Michael Sheppard

Society Secretary - Mr Robert Houseman

Society Treasurer - Mr Ron Dobrée

The Meeting unanimously accepted this appointment

As no other nominations were received by the closing date, the Meeting unanimously accepted these appointments.

8. Accept the Branch Committee Appointed Ex-officio Members

The Chairman informed the Meeting that the Branches Committees have nominated the following Members to serve as their Representatives on the Executive Committee:

Bracknell - Mr John Elkin
Newbury - Mrs Helen Relf
Reading - Mr Chad Hanna
Slough - Mr Andy Morris

The Meeting unanimously accepted these appointments

9. Election of Executive Committee Members for 1995-1996

The Chairman informed the Meeting that the following nominations were received by the Secretary by the closing date of 3rd June, 1995, on the form published in the March 1995 *Berkshire Family Historian*:

Mrs Jan Jones; Mrs Jean Debney; Mrs Margaret Pyle; Mrs Catherine Harrington; Mr Geoff Mather

The Meeting unanimously accepted these appointments.

10. Nomination of Auditors for 1995-1996

The Chairman informed the Meeting that Mr Jack Hobbs has kindly offered to perform the role of Auditor of the Society

11. Any Other Business

Chad Hanna, Society Project Manager, gave the following report to the Meeting:

The past year has seen much of the project work which has been done in the past come to fruition.

The hard work which we and others put into transcribing and checking the 1881 Census for Berkshire has been computerised and is now available in our Research Centre and elsewhere in the form of fiche. We already seen that the main use of the Research Centre, so far, has been to look at the 1881 Census. The fact that the coverage is almost 100% and there is a surname index is making it a particularly valuable resource for us all. I do think Family Historians at large owe a tremendous debt to those who organised the project, and took part even if only in a small way.

We cannot mention the 1881 census without mentioning our 1851 census index project. The last volume will be available shortly and will represent the fulfilment of the efforts of Geoff Mather and his team. We have Census indexes for many counties in the Research Centre, and Berkshire will join the select few, which includes Hants, Oxon, Beds which have published complete indexes.

Sales of the 1851 census indexes are a significant source of income for the Society, and we must expect that, like North Sea Oil, this will diminish with time. Clearly, we can think about publishing a complete surname index and publishing the complete returns, like Oxfordshire have done, but this will only defer the fateful day when this source of revenue runs out. We

need to look elsewhere!

Many would argue that we should not rely on income from publishing resources for Family History, but the fact is that we do, just like many other Societies.

This brings me to the Poor Law records that have made great progress over the last year or so. The value of these records is immeasurable, and we must continue to support Brian Hunt and the Record Office in making these records more readily accessible. I must say I am sad that we are currently not permitted to publish these in a form suited to the needs and pockets of Family Historians, but they are available in the Research Centre and they are planned to be published by the Berkshire Record Society.

The unfortunate death of John Brookes has not stopped work on transcribing Parish Registers by Irene Littleby, Gwen Prince and others, now helped by Brian Edwards entering the transcripts onto computer.

Monumental Inscriptions are close to my heart, and I am looking forward to helping to record the MIs at the

redundant church of Ufton Nervet St Peter on 28th July. However, significant progress has been made by a dedicated band working on Reading Cemetery. The completion of the transcription of about 12,000 gravestones is expected this year. The completion of Reading Cemetery will mean that a large area to the East of Reading has been covered, certainly the entire ancient parish of Sonning.

There are several areas where the Society may be able to use your skills. First, we need help with mapping churchyards. Second, we do need project leaders, to learn about organising projects and taking charge of them. Third we do need computer literate people to help in publishing the results to a high standard.

These should be treated as opportunities to learn. We do not expect 10 years of experience in recording churchyards, but we treasure someone with vision, enthusiasm and the willingness to point others in the right direction.

Branch Committees for the following year are as follows:

Bracknell: John Elkin (Chairman), Mike Allen (Meetings Secretary), Caroline Saunders (Bookstall), Laurie Lowther (Treasurer), and Peter Barrett, Ann Willis, Maureen Harris, Brian Hornsby (Committee Members)

Newbury: Helen Relf (Chair), Jean Hughes (Secretary), Joyce Keaney (Treasurer), Barry Bellinger (Bookstall), Norma Bellinger (Refreshments) and Rick Maynard, Yvonne Brick (Committee Members)

Reading: Chad Hanna (Chairman), Lesley Hanna (Secretary), Bob Hudson (Noticeboard), Clive Tomlin (Programme Secretary), David Watkins (Project Leader), Jackie Blow (Refreshments), Carol Wright (Minutes Secretary) and David Wright, Beryl Gorse (Committee Members)

Slough: Barbara Swiatek (Chair), Helene Jessup (Secretary), Albert Lindo (Treasurer), Jenny Harman (Librarian), Andy Morris (Bookstall) and Jan Cleeton (Strays).

BFHS - Balance Sheet 30th April 1995

	1994		1994	
<u>Liabilities</u>	£	£	£	£
Accumulated Funds	25369.25		18264.37	
Bookstall Surplus	1.41		2437.99	
Bookstall Creditors	681.45		1081.67	
General Surplus	-2730.32		4666.89	
General Creditors	134.91		341.61	
Conference Bookings	2704.50		-	
Loan	1000.00		-	
<u>Assets</u>				
General Account		38.46		714.39
Instant Savings Accounts		19.96		1.78
30 Day Account		9372.37		10330.57
Bookstall Account		1115.69		1661.05
Instant Savings BSA		4506.64		5079.58
Conference 1995		3986.72		550.08
Cash		355.46		432.78
Stock		7765.90		8022.30
	<u>27161.20</u>	<u>27161.20</u>	<u>26792.53</u>	<u>26792.53</u>

BHFS - Income 1994-95

Subscriptions				
1993-94	195.00			
1994-95	8973.78			
1995-96	<u>46.00</u>	9214.78		9178.93
Inland Revenue		-		465.14
Deposit Interest		436.31		357.50
Advertising		75.00		52.50
Research		12.00		19.00
Symposia		762.82		2087.24
Catholic Conference		23.00		452.00
SOG Fair		-		141.00
Donations		86.03		253.43
Bookstall		78.47		13.45
Berkshire Name Index		39.81		-
1881 Census		168.15		-
Miscellaneous		<u>133.25</u>		<u>146.20</u>
		<u>11029.62</u>		<u>13166.39</u>

Total Income & Expenditure

Income		11029.62		13166.39
Contribution from Bookstall		<u>2500.00</u>		<u>2500.00</u>
		13529.62		15666.39
Expenditure		<u>16259.94</u>		<u>10999.50</u>
		-2730.32		4666.89

BFHS - Expenditure 1994-95

	1994-95	1993-94
Magazine	3680.90	3476.56
Magazine Postage	1482.84	1094.89
Meeting Halls		
1993-94	188.00	
1994-95	<u>1327.55</u>	1354.25
Symposia	1018.71	1658.81
Catholic Conference	258.23	
1995 Conference	323.02	573.45
Reference Library	-	226.71
Speakers	896.23	504.50
SOG Fair	187.00	18.75
Premises	2282.44	
Refurbishment	<u>704.53</u>	220.00
Computer Costs	436.91	282.92
Insurance & FFHS	300.20	499.82
Other Affiliations	-	152.67
Postage	545.30	383.01
Stationery	454.77	121.13
Photocopy	63.79	95.34
Telephone	25.57	50.89
Travel	83.10	130.30
Miscellaneous	1140.78	155.50
Prior Year Extraordinary item	860.07	-
	<u>16259.94</u>	<u>10999.50</u>

BHFS - Bookstall A/c
Profit and Loss Account

	1994-95	1993-94
Income		
Sales Income	13163.67	12489.09
Deposit Interest	127.06	91.59
Opening Stock	8022.30	6487.19
Purchases	8179.70	6611.14
Census Printing	873.00	1144.00
	<u>17075.00</u>	<u>14242.33</u>
Closing Stock	7765.90	8022.30
Cost of Goods	<u>9309.10</u>	<u>6220.03</u>
	3981.63	6360.65
Stationery	67.19	115.36
Postage	346.73	573.34
Travel	178.40	274.90
Sales Commission	37.11	56.61
Conference Fees	220.00	106.00
Photocopying	175.00	52.40
Miscellaneous	14.02	119.05
Reference library	214.77	125.00
Quilt Raffle	227.00	
	<u>1480.22</u>	<u>1422.66</u>
Surplus	2501.41	4937.99
Contribution to General A/c	2500.00	2500.00
Profit/(Loss) to Accumulated Fund	<u>1.41</u>	<u>2437.99</u>

Letters to the Editor

Jeremy Gibson of Church Hanborough, Witney, Oxon, OX8 8AB has written following reviews of various of his "Gibson Guides", published in the June 1995 edition of the *Berkshire Family Historian*:

"May I first thank Julia Cox and Jean Debney for the pleasing notices of various of my Guides etc. in the June 1995 issue. However, there is a specific criticism of Census Returns in Microform which suggests the Preface does not point out that libraries may hold records of places just over the county border. The fourth paragraph does exactly that, but warns that such information depends on that supplied by the library concerned (though it is always requested). A great many such cross-border entries appear throughout the Guide. Unfortunately details were not received from Reading, though they have now been asked for again.

Incidentally the registration districts were based on the Poor Law Unions formed in 1834, so an idea of their possible border overlaps can be got from the maps in my Guide to PLU Records.

The records volume of the *Oxfordshire and North Berkshire Protestations* was in fact published by the **Oxfordshire Record Society**, not the Oxford Record Society. This may seem a quibble, but there is a quite separate record publishing body, the Oxford Historical Society, and confusion can easily arise."

Mrs Sheila Martin (362), of

"Concord", Welsley Road, Cubert, nr Newquay, Cornwall TR8 5EU:

"Having searched unsuccessfully for many years for an Amelia Day née Franklin, I remembered an aunt who married three times and died in the 1980s under her original maiden name. Her third husband was distant relative called Franklin. I then obtained a death certificate for an Amelia Franklin with the right age but in the wrong place and found, by back-tracking, that she was the lady I had been looking for after all. I found her second marriage quite easily, but could find neither another marriage nor her death under that surname. But, by purchasing the death certificate, the 'wrong' county turned out to be right for me and tied up a few loose ends, expensive and time-consuming though it was."

Professor R.A.Shooter, of "Eastlea", Back Edge Lane, The Edge, Nr Stroud, Glos, GL6 6PE wrote as follows:

"As a member of the Jenner Educational Trust I am searching for things related to smallpox - a disease unique in that it is the only infectious disease so far eradicated by deliberate action. The Jenner Trust is based in Jenner's house in Berkeley, Gloucestershire, where he carried out his first vaccinations against smallpox. I would be most grateful if any members could consult their records and to let me know of any reference to smallpox or to vaccinations. The Jenner Museum is at High Street, Berkeley, Glos, GL13 9BH, tel. 01453-810631."

Beginners' Notes

By Catherine Harrington

Firstly please let me know if there is a need for this type of information. It is sometimes difficult to know what you - our members - want to read in the "*Berkshire Family Historian*" - do you join knowing all the basics and wanting to learn more about the Berkshire that your ancestors came from - or are you a beginner who is put off by the free use of jargon and abbreviations scattered through the magazine? This column is **NOT** intended to replace *Q&A with Jean* (Debney) which is for those questions about unusual or puzzling things. Finally, I am no expert - if this basic introduction has whetted your appetite, there are several excellent books on the market for beginners eg "*Beginning your Family Tree*" by George Pelling and others listed at the end of this article. Also refer to the BFHS Booklist published in the June 1995 BFH.

What is the IGI?

The International Genealogical Index, to give it its full title, is produced by the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints (the Mormons), who believe in researching their ancestors in order to seal (or baptise) them. It is compiled through microfilming original parish registers which are then transcribed by LDS Church Members in Salt Lake City, Utah and entered onto computer. There is also - especially in the latest edition - an increasing amount of data submitted by patrons. It is published periodically on microfiche (and now also on computer, CD-ROM). The latest edition is the 1992/3.

For the British Isles it is arranged by County and then by Surname, Forename and Date of event. The events recorded are

generally baptisms or marriages, but there are no burials.

Where can it be consulted?

The IGI is available at various locations, mainly libraries and record offices. For example it is available in Reading at the Reading Reference Library, Berkshire Record Office, LDS Family History Centre as well as other libraries throughout Berkshire. For further details contact your local library or record office. Many places have the IGI for the whole country, whilst others have selected counties.

Accuracy of the IGI

The IGI is only an index of material that has first been made available on microfilm and then transcribed. If an entry is not there, it could mean that the parish your ancestor came from has not been covered, or that an original entry has been misread. If you do find entries relating to your family, you must check the original register or source of information in order to verify the information. The IGI is not 100% accurate; however it is a very useful starting point once you have some information back into the Nineteenth Century.

What is Civil Registration?

The following relates to England and Wales only as Scotland and Ireland differ.

The system of Civil Registration of Births, Marriages and Deaths, which you have probably come across when you married or your children were born or relatives died, began in 1837. Prior to that, parish registers must be consulted.

From 1st July 1837, all births, marriages and deaths had to be registered with the State. The country was divided up into a number of districts with a Superintendent Registrar and below him a series of sub-districts with a registrar. Duplicates of completed registers were passed to London at the end of each quarter, where these were bound into volumes and a separate national index compiled for the quarter.

These national quarterly indexes are available for consultation at St Catherine's House, Kingsway, London. Admission is free. From 1837, the indexes for births, marriages and deaths show name and surname of the child and the district and a reference number. From September 1911 the mother's maiden name is shown in the birth index. Marriages indexes after 1912 give the surname of the other spouse. After 1866, the deaths index shows the age of the deceased and after 1969, the date of birth.

If you find an entry which looks promising, you can purchase a certificate, through filling in a form available at St Catherine's House and paying £6.

However, if you know where your ancestor was born you can obtain a copy of the certificate directly from the local district office. The cost is £5.50.

If the thought of going to London puts you off, don't despair. The indexes are increasingly available on microfilm or microfiche in libraries and Record Offices, for example, the Berkshire Record Office, the Oxford Local Studies Library and Birmingham Reference Library. Again it is worth checking with your local library before making a trip to London. Furthermore, the indexes in St Catherine's House are heavy and space is often limited - you need muscles like a body builder and sharp elbows to keep other researchers off your space - or a posse of children!!

BEWARE - if you have a reference, but apply by post to St Catherine's House - they will charge the full postal search rate of £15.

The indexes are fairly accurate - however if you don't find your ancestor's birth there are several possibilities. Up to 1874 it was the responsibility of the local registrar to ensure registration - after that it became the responsibility of the parents - so some early births may not have been registered. However, they could have been registered but missed off the London index. It is therefore worth double-checking with the local office who will perform a search of five years for £6.

Bibliography

The following books are all available, by post (from Jean Debney) or can be obtained by the Branch Bookstalls. They are all listed in the BFHS Booklist mailed out with the June 1995 copy of the Berkshire Family Historian. If you would like a copy of the BFHS Booklist, please contact Jean Debney (address on back cover).

Beginning Your Family History by George Pelling
Basic Sources for Family History by Andrew Todd
Planning Research: Short Cuts in Family History by Michael Gandy
Marriage, Census and Other Indexes by Jeremy Gibson
Introduction to Civil Registration by Tom Wood
St Catherine House Districts by Wiggins

Help!

Mrs Bernice Strangward (2515) of 2412 Paliside Dr S.W. Calgary, Alberta, Canada, T2V 3V3 has the following problems that she would like help with:

"Edward Thorne of Fremington Devon married Ann Money 1728 at Shaw-Cum-Donnington, Berks. Son Edmond bapt 8th March, 1729 also at Shaw. Nothing else of this family appears on the parish record. Can anyone help?"

Also James Thorne, bapt c.1750 unable to find any trace of him. He was a blacksmith and married 2nd March 1778 at Sulhampstead Bannister to Mary Hackley."

Doris Spratley (3003) of 107, 3015 - 51st Street S.W., Calgary, Alberta, Canada, T3E GN5 has sent the following plea for help:

"I am searching for my 3 x gt. grandfather, James Spratley, who, in the 1851 census, declared that he was born in Mortimer West End, Hants. He was born about 1782 and died, in Mortimer West, in July, 1856, aged 74. I have searched Bishop's transcripts for Stratfield Mortimer, Berks., (the West End was a tithing of Stratfield Mortimer), as has the Berkshire Record Office, but without success. I have also searched the Parish records of the surrounding villages.

James married Hannah Dicker, both of Aldermaston, Berks., by licence, on 25th January, 1815, in Aldermaston. Hannah (later known as Anna) was the daughter of David and Mary (nee Stroud) Dicker of Aldermaston. James and Anna had two sons - James, born in Aldermaston in 1818 and David, born in Stratfield Mortimer in 1825. Amongst burials for Aldermaston, I noticed an Anne Spratley, aged 24, buried June 1810. It wasn't until I noted in Pamber records, recently, a James Spratley marrying Anne Simpson on 7th November 1804, both of Mortimer (no further sign of them in either place), that I began to wonder if they hadn't moved to Aldermaston and that Anna Dicker weren't his second wife, especially as the marriage was by licence and James was some eight to ten years older. I have also done a thorough search of Aldermaston records.

I do have a theory that Peter and Elizabeth (Henwood) Spratley, of Mortimer, might be the parents of James but have been unable to prove it. If anyone knows where 'my' James was born and the names of his parents, I would be grateful if you could contact me."

Reading Members please note:

The 29th September Meeting which is a talk by Lillian Gibbens entitled "*Beginning Your Family History*", will be held at the new location of Prospect School, but will be in the Upper School Hall, Cockney Hill Lane entrance. There is a sign at the entrance that says, not Prospect School, but "*Reading Sports and Leisure Dance Studios*".

Members' Interests

Compiled by Robert Houseman

WE ARE SAD TO NOTE THAT THE FOLLOWING MEMBERS HAVE PASSED AWAY:

0548 Mr MJ BAREFOOT, The Barn, Fore Street, Bovey Tracey, Devon TQ13 9AE
2063 Mr J A WHITFIELD, 263 Dunkery Road, Mottingham, London SE9 4HW

CHANGES OF ADDRESS:

0398 Mr RJ WHEELER, 18 Evelyn Clark House, Hatch End, Upper Close, Forest Row, East Sussex
0567 Mr S PINKNEY, 3 St Chads Road, Cox Green, Maidenhead, Berks SL6 3BG
1416 Mrs J RUSHTON, 14 River Reach, Teddington, Middx TW11 9QL
1424 Mr TJ LOVEGROVE, 24 Elmgate Drive, Littledown, Bournemouth, Hampshire BH7 7EG
2721 Mr & Mrs D SMITH, 17 Haywood Road, Tilehurst, Reading, Berks RG30 4QP

MEMBERS SUBMITTING THEIR INTERESTS:

(* Member of Guild Of One Name Studies)

0619 Mr GA WEIGHT, 69 St Peter's Street, Gharb GRB 104, Gozo, MALTA
2692 Mrs JM ABSALOM, 19 Cippenham Close, Cippenham, Slough, Berks SL1 5BH
2930 Mr & Mrs B HORNSBY, 35 Lightwater Meadow, Lightwater, Surrey GU18 5XH
2988 Mr JR HYDE, 6 Bramble Rise, Prestbury, Cheltenham. Glos GL52 5LR
3044 Mr FA EIGHTEEN, 18 Buckstone Drive, Edinburgh EH10 6PQ
3074 Mrs JA BURDEN, 9 Bournside Road, Cheltenham, Glos GL51 5AL
3076 Ms J CLINCH, 134 Penn Road, Datchet, Berks SL3 9JE
3078 Ms M GLEADALL, PO Box 162, St John's, Antigua, WEST INDIES
3115 Ms G & C MARLOW, 445 Basingstoke Road, Reading, Berks RG2 0JF
3133 Mr PN LEWENDON, 66 St Ronans Road, Southsea. Hants PO4 0PX
3139* Mr PJ PLIM, Flat 1, Northwick House, No. 1 St Johns Wood Road, London NW8 8RD
3147 Miss H VINCENT, 8 Three Gates, Mellow, Guildford, Surrey GU1 2UP

No.	Surname	Place	CodePeriod	No.	Surname	Place	CodePeriod
2692	ABSALOM	Anywhere	GLA 1890-1995	2930	COLE	Kirby le Soken	ESS 1750-1887
2692	ABSALOM	Benson	OXF 1860-1940	2930	COOPER	Kirby le Soken	ESS 1725-1760
2692	ABSALOM	Brightwell	BRK 1830-1920	3074	COTTRELL	Newnham Murren	OXF 1700-1830
2930	ANDREWS	Ipswich	SFK 1790-1871	2930	COX	Plymouth	DOR 1808-1849
2930	BAFSELL	Cheselbourne	DOR 1752-1899	3078	CRESWELL	Canterbury	KEN 1780-1980
2930	BAILY	Powerstock	DOR 1630-1700	3076	CUE	Anywhere	BRK 1700-1900
2930	BAKER	Richmond	SRV 1810-1871	3115	DAY	Anywhere	BRK 1800-1950
2930	BAKER	Whitelackington	SOM 1790-1790	2692	DEERE	Barry	GLA 1800-1995
3078	BANNISTER	Finchampstead	BRK 1600-1980	3115	EDWARDS	City of London	LND 1800-1920
2930	BARKER	Cobham	SRV 1740-1762	3044	EIGHTEEN	Anywhere	SFK 1660-1890
2930	BASTABLE	Stour Provost	DOR 1730-1884	3044	EIGHTEEN	Anywhere	BRK 1850-1960
2930	BEAUSY	Caulde Marsh	DOR 1725-1725	3078	FAGG	Isle of Sheppey	KEN 1800-1980
3115	BEZANT	Anywhere	BRK 1800-1950	3078	FLOWERS	Sheffield	YKS 1850-1920
2930	BIGNELL	Cnobham	SRV 1720-1720	3074	GARDINER	Abingdon	BRK 1700-1870
2930	BIRD	Twickenham	MDX 1760-1830	3078	GEALL	Yateley	HAM 1700-1980
2930	BRAZIER	Chieveley	BRK 1700-1799	2988	GIBBS	Miserden area	GLS 1550-1850
2930	BRIDLE	Sydling	DOR 1780-1860	0619	GODLEMAN	Fyfield	BRK 1850-1995
3074	BROOKS	Abingdon	BRK 1700-1870	0619	GODLEMAN	Bray	BRK 1750-1850
2930	CHRISTOPHER	Glanvilles Wootton	DOR 1772-1820	0619	GODLEMAN	New Windsor	BRK 1800-1900
3078	CLARKE	Kingston	SRV 1800-1900	3078	GOLDING	Romney Marsh	KEN 1780-1980
3076	CLINCH	Anywhere	KEN 1600-1800	3078	GOODEN	Portsea Isle	STH 1780-1850
2930	COCK	Plymouth	DOR 1808-1849	3078	GOULD	North Walsham	NFK 1850-1980
2930	COCKS	Plymouth	DOR 1808-1849	0619	GOULD	Datchet	BKM 1800-1850

No.	Surname	Place	CodePeriod	No.	Surname	Place	CodePeriod
3078	HAWTHORNE	Reading	BRK 1650-1800	3078	OADES	Wokingham	BRK 1700-1800
2988	HIDE	East Lockinge	BRK 1600-1750	3147	OWEN	Reading	BRK 1800-1860
2988	HIDE	Stratton St Marg	WIL 1650-1995	3147	OWEN	Medway Towns	Ken 1860-1900
2988	HIDE	Wantage	BRK 1650-1850	2692	PINCH	Cardiff	GLA 1870-1995
2988	HIDE	Drayton	BRK 1650-1850	2692	PINCH	Bary	GLA 1870-1995
2988	HIDE	Northleach	GLS 1800-1925	2692	PINCH	Plymouth	DEV 1800-1900
2988	HYDE	Stratton St Marg	WIL 1650-1995	3139	PLIM	Anywhere	ALL All
2988	HYDE	Northleach	GLS 1800-1925	3139	PLYM	Anywhere	ALL All
2988	HYDE	Wantage	BRK 1650-1850	3147	RAYNER	Medway Towns	KEN Pre 1860
2988	HYDE	Drayton	BRK 1650-1850	3076	REEL(E)Y	Anywhere	BRK 1500-1900
2988	HYDE	East Lockinge	BRK 1600-1750	3076	REEL(E)Y	Anywhere	OXF 1500-1900
3076	KEEP	Anywhere	BRK 1700-1900	3078	SOANE	Finchampstead	BRK 1700-1995
3078	KIMBER	Portsea Isle	STH 1780-1850	3078	SOANE	Yateley	HAM 1700-1995
3133	LEWENDON	Anywhere	BRK 1500-1840	3078	ST JOHN	Finchampstead	BRK 1700-1800
3133	LEWENDON	Anywhere	OXF 1500-1840	3115	TAYLOR	Devises	WIL 1800-1950
3078	LININGTON	Portsea Isle	STH 1820-1980	2692	THYER	Anywhere	GLA 1890-1950
3115	MARLOW	Rugby	WAR 1800-1950	2692	THYER	Anywhere	SOM 1850-1950
3115	MARLOW	Reading	BRK 1880-1950	3115	TITCOMBE	Devises	WIL 1800-1950
3147	MASTERS	Tenterden	KEN 1818-1900	3147	VINCENT	Chatham	KEN 1830-1990
3147	MASTERS	Maidstone	KEN 1750-1815	3147	VINCENT	Stepney	MDX Pre 1830
2692	MAZEY	Barry	GLA 1800-1995	3074	WALLIS	Abingdon	BRK 1700-1870
3115	MILES	Paddington	LND 1850-1920	3076	WHEELER	Anywhere	BRK 1700-1900
3133	NEWBURY	Anywhere	BRK 1500-1840	2692	WHILE	Netherton	WOR 1820-1860
3133	NEWBURY	Anywhere	BRK 1500-1840	2692	WHILE	Barrow	LAN 1850-1995
2692	NOREDGE	Combe	OXF 1800-1850	2692	WHILE	Rowley Regis	STA 1800-1860
2692	NORLEGE	Combe	OXF 1800-1850	3074	WIGGINS	Abingdon	BRK 1700-1870
2692	NORRIDGE	Kirklington	OXF 1860-1995	3074	WOODLEY	Newnham Murren	OXF 1700-1830
2692	NORRIDGE	Combe	OXF 1820-1900	3074	WOODLEY	Sutton Courtney	BRK 1700-1890
2692	NORTH	Cardiff	GLA 1860-1920				

Unwanted Certificates

Birth Certificates

- 1840 Elizabeth FRANCIS, dau of James & Sarah - Frome, SOM
 1842 John WHEELER, son of James & Elizabeth - Bucknell, OXF
 1850 Mary Ann HUTCHENS, dau of Edmund & Jane - Southsea, HAM
 1870 Walter John DAVEY, son of David & Matilda - Battersea, SRY
 1884 Alfred MILLS, son of Richard Wm & Mary - Brentford, MDX
 1892 Gertrude Ethel THOROGOOD, dau of Elizabeth - Wh Notley, ESS

Marriage Certificate

- 1849 John THOROGOOD & Julia SHEPHARD - Weston, HRT
 1874 James CLARK & Emma SMITH - Hertford, HRT

Death Certificates

- 1892 Thomas CLARKE, 73y - Bramfield, HRT
 1926 Harriet BENNETT, 52y, wife of Albert Wesley B - Bulwell, NTT
 1951 Albert Wesley BENNETT, 69y - Nottingham, NTT

Contact Jean Debney (address on back cover) if you think any of these relate to your researches. Send family details to identify plus s.a.e. (UK) or 2 IRCs (overseas)

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: **Mrs Pat Deane, 183 Long Lane, Tilehurst, Reading, Berkshire RG31 6YW**

Berkshire Marriage Index:

This privately run index to 175,000 marriages in Berkshire between 1538 and 1837 may be consulted at a reduced rate by BFHS Members. Fee: £1.50 per specific marriage enquiry (£2.50 to non-Members) - cheques/PO's should be made out to **Mrs P Knight**. Please send details of the marriage being sought (groom's full name, bride's as known and approximate date) with your Membership No., SAE, additional 2nd Class postage stamp, and cheque/PO to **Mrs Pam Knight, Old Oak Cottage, The Pound, Cookham, Maidenhead, Berkshire SL6 9QE**. Stray Marriages appreciated and acknowledged. *Postal enquiries only - blanket searches cannot be undertaken - maximum of 3 surnames per request - allow 28 days for results of search.*

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