



Berkshire
Family
Historian

Volume 19 - No 2 - December 1995





Berkshire Family History Society

President: *The Hon. Lady Palmer D.L.*

Events Calendar - 1995-6

Bracknell Branch:

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

15th December	to be announced
19th January	to be announced
16th February	to be announced
15th March	to be announced
19th April	to be announced
17th May	to be announced
21st June	to be announced
19th July	to be announced

Newbury Branch:

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

13th December	Inter-branch Quiz and Christmas Party	
10th January	"Boats & Boaters"	Avril Lansdell
14th February	"How to Make the Best Use of your Time at the PRO"	Simon Fowler
13th March	"East London Research"	Lilian Gibbens
10th April	"The Poor Law"	Jean Coles
8th May	to be advised	
12th June	Branch AGM - Members Evening	

Reading Branch:

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

8th December	Christmas Meeting	
26th January	to be announced	
23rd February	"The Manor, Its Records & Its People"	Peter Park
29th March	"Quaker Records"	Edward Milligan
26th April	to be announced	
31st May	Branch AGM + "From Penninsular to Passchendaele"	Maj Brian Oldham
28th June	"The Breadwinner"	Meryl Catty

Slough Branch:

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

12th December	Christmas Party	
30th January	"Bring an Heirloom & Talk About It"	Members
27th February	"Fire Insurance Records"	David Hawkins
26th March	"Victorian Way of Death"	Tom Doig
30th April	"Heraldry"	Mr Whitefoot
28th May	Branch AGM + "Coroner Records"	Mr Corner
25th June	"Getting the Most from the GRO"	Audrey Brown

BERKSHIRE FAMILY HISTORIAN

Volume 19, 1995/6

Part 2, December 1995

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Chairman's Comments

By Michael J. Sheppard

September 8th to 10th saw the Berkshire Family History Society host the Federation of Family History Societies' Six Monthly Conference at the University of Reading with the theme *Victorian Virtues, Vices and Virtuosity*. The weekend was a great success, but it could not have taken place if it was not for the dedication of a small number of people, drawn from the initially small sub-committee formed two years ago, and with other members drawn in as the need arose. This system served us well.

I would like to pay tribute to our Conference Organiser, Joyce Wells. The amount of time that Joyce spent on the conference was unbelievable! Over the last four months, most of her days and evenings were taken up with conference business.

Having spoken to a great many of the delegates and visitors over the weeks following the conference, the general consensus of opinion from them was as follows. Firstly, the accommodation was praised by all who stayed and it was said that ours was the best of any conference held so far. Next, people were pleased that the lecture and exhibition rooms and bookstalls were all under the same roof. As for the lectures themselves, one person commented that he had not been to a conference that has had such excellent speakers, each one informative, yet having a humorous side to them.

On the catering side, the choice and quality

of the food was very good. That is, except for the Banquet, when some participants' portions of Barbary Duck were a little underdone. It has to be said, though, that not everyone complained, and quite a lot enjoyed it.

Overall, we in the Berkshire Family History Society can be proud that we hosted this conference, at which all agreed they had an excellent weekend.

Finally I would like to thank all those members and friends who came and helped us in so many ways. As I said before, without them, this conference could not have taken place.

If you did not attend this conference, you missed an excellent weekend. All is not lost though, as the next conference is in April 1996 hosted by East Surrey FHS.

Now that the conference is behind us, we need to concentrate on our own Berkshire Family History Research Centre. This is your Centre, so I hope that you will make good use of it. We still require volunteers to assist in manning the Centre on opening days. If you would like to know more, please contact Cliff Debney (tel. 01734 413223) who will be happy to give you further details.

Finally, can I please remind those Berkshire Members whose Postcode has changed to let their respective Membership Secretary have the new code.

Editor's Notes

Thank you to all who responded to my plea for articles, please keep them coming - in fact I have had to hold over a couple of things. The deadline for the March magazine is 26th January 1996. The picture on the front cover is of Arborfield Hall, Arborfield, Berks c.1950.

Catherine

All Those Legends About the Family - Are They True?

By Tim Morland

I started getting an interest in family history in the time-honoured fashion, by consulting "*Elderly relatives*". They were only too keen to expound all kinds of stories about our ancestors; it would seem that we could claim descent from an Indian princess, and had it not been for a premature death we could claim descent from a peer of the realm. One branch of the family had been cheated out of their estate by a rascally lawyer, while in another case a young heir married a scheming woman who sold off his property after his death leaving their two sons with nothing. And so on.

Well, I started work on all these exciting stories and met with disappointment all round. Not a word of it was accurate, so now, having myself reached the status of "*elderly relative*" I must try and set the record straight and hope that those who follow won't suffer from as much disillusionment as I did.

First of all, the Indian princess. A Captain Heron, who was a pilot on the Hooghly River at Calcutta in the late seventeenth century, is recorded as having married a Circassian lady. Circassians come from a region of Russia near Georgia and I don't know how she fetched up on the shores of the Hooghly River but she certainly wasn't a Ranees or Begum or any other kind of Indian nobility.

The aristocratic ancestor - he doesn't appear at all in Burke's Peerage, and he doesn't appear to have married the lady in question. There was certainly a daughter, but when she in her turn came to be married she is described in the marriage settlement by her mother's maiden name, so you can draw your own inferences.

The family cheated by a rascally lawyer had for years been in poor circumstances. The

manor house that they occupied had no estate to go with it, so that there was no way of making an income from it. The owners had to seek their fortunes elsewhere, and the eldest son invested what capital he could raise in a ship and engaged in trading up and down the coast. Sad to say they were stopped by the Press Gang (this was during the Napoleonic Wars), and not only did they take nearly all his crew but he himself was only able to escape by buying himself off at great expense. After this there was nothing for it but to sell the ancestral home.

The "*scheming woman*" was supposed to have been the daughter of the young man's landlady while he was at Oxford studying for a degree with the intention of entering the church. Actually she appears to have been well-off and the sister of a clergyman in the Midlands, and when the young man died leaving two small sons she saw to it that the estate was looked after properly and, in accordance with her husband's wishes, it was divided between them at her death. The elder had wished to marry a Catholic lady but his mother had disapproved, so in a rage he married the daughter of a livery-keeper by whom he had seven daughters; in order to keep them he was forced to sell his share in the farm. The younger had by now entered the Church and was settled with a living in Dorset; he had no interest in farming so he too sold his share. Both in fact sold out of their own free will, and there was no question of their mother having got rid of the farm without consulting them; she had done her very best for them during the whole of her widowhood.

So never believe all that you are told; check it all out and if you find skeletons carefully hidden away then bring out the truth. After all that time it can't do much damage.

The Research Centre

By *Cliff Debney (Research Centre Manager)*

Just over a year after the Premises Committee first met, our Research Centre opened on 1st March 1995. Those of us who had been heavily involved in setting up this Centre worried that the volunteers would be overwhelmed by a rush of members and visitors. The reason we were worried was because everyone could again get their hands on the Reference Library which our Librarian, Lesley Hanna, with the help of Chad, had worked so hard to reassemble and display. Meanwhile we got on with the work involved in preparing for the September Conference and hoped the volunteers would cope.

We waited and waited, aware that the visitors were not coming in hoards but too busy to really investigate why, saying that it was due to the Conference, or the long hot summer, etc..., and then that it was the start of the autumn activities... It has slowly dawned on us that it may be our fault you aren't making better use of the facilities and the splendid library now available for ALL our members - ALL, who live both in and out of Reading.

What does the Research Centre contain? The main bulk of our society's Reference Library is now stored there, as well as the Archive Exchange Magazines, the Berkshire Name Index and other related family history material.

The Reference Library contains copies of family history textbooks, including all Federation Publications - Gibson Guides, etc. About 800 items relate to Berkshire and nearly 2,000 to the other English Counties. There are also 150 items for Wales, 80 for Scotland, 15 for Ireland (including the 1988 IGI) and 80 for Overseas including Australia, New Zealand, USA and Canada. In addition there are various directories, family histories and pedigrees (some indexed into the Berkshire Name Index), and maps.

A copy of the Reference Library catalogue is available in the Research Centre, listing over 4000 items (and still growing), about 800 of which relate to census returns. We are purchasing the 1881 census on microfiche as it is published and also have a large number of the 1851 indexes issued by other family history societies. It is hoped to make copies of the full Catalogue available for members - probably on microfiche - in the near future. In the meantime, brief "*Research Guide*" leaflets to assist you are also "*in the pipeline*" and we hope to enclose an abridged catalogue as an insert in this magazine.

The Archive Exchange Magazines have also been unearthed from storage in various lofts and cupboards and are now being sorted, put into binders and then, as they are ready, placed in the Centre. You will get a better idea of the size of this collection when I tell you that we have been exchanging magazines with other family history societies for nearly twenty years, including many of the overseas Associate members of the Federation of Family History Societies. At present we exchange journals with over 80 societies and those received in the past two years are available for loan at the Reading Branch Meeting, with a limited number of titles from the Bracknell, Newbury and Slough Branches.

The Berkshire Name Index, which is a collection of slip indexes, contains over 100,000 slips from a miscellany of sources: out-of-county strays, baptisms, marriages and burials

from a few parishes, Tudor Reading, pedigrees or family trees (which link to the relevant documents), etc. Also available are a number of indexed birth briefs.

The centre is yours, whether you live in Reading or Timbuktu, and the volunteers will be delighted to welcome you on Tuesday evenings from 7 - 9.30pm and Wednesday from 10am - 4pm. You can stay all day and we have tea and coffee-making facilities if you have time to realise you are thirsty. The only stipulation we make is that you either show your current 1995/6 Membership Card or become a Temporary Member for the day.

Where is the Research Centre? The Society has taken a long-term lease of two large inter-connected classrooms in Prospect School, Honey End Lane, Tilehurst, Reading. The school is situated west of the town centre, about 3 miles from the station. It is 5 minutes walk from the Bath Road (A4) served by 8 buses and 10 minutes from the Meadway with another 4 buses. If you arrive by car (perhaps via M4 Junctions 11 or 12) there is ample car parking in front of the school, with another area round to the right. Close to the school is a shopping precinct where you can do your weekly shop, buy sandwiches or have your suit dry-cleaned if that is your wish - what more could you want!

Well, alright, we *will* have a regular article in the magazine from now on to keep you up-to-date with the latest news of the Centre: to list library items received by donation, review or purchase, the acquisition of more equipment, the latest project work there, etc. As demand rises we will also keep you informed of extensions to the opening hours, the range of projects being carried out at the Centre, and anything else we hope will be of interest to you as a member and researcher. **Make use of the Centre:** the rooms are leased for a minimum of three years so that you, our Members, can carry out your research without having to travel to the far ends of the UK, or even the world. It is up to you, and we will help by regularly reminding you how you can benefit from **YOUR RESEARCH CENTRE**.

I mentioned that the volunteers will welcome you when you arrive. Why don't you volunteer for one of the (currently) three sessions a week? You can not only make yourself useful to other members but do some of your own research, and help with the project work in the Centre which is now being organised. See you there?

1881 Census Update

from Margaret Pyle

New and Future Releases

Since June 1995, the BFHS has received the fiches for the Counties of Cumberland (£13.25), Northumberland (£21.25) and Cheshire (£30.75). These counties are now available for consultation at the Society's Research Centre, Prospect School, Reading.

It has been reported that publication of the Counties of Staffordshire and Yorkshire are expected by end of 1995, to be followed by the publication of the Counties of Durham,

Kent, Lancashire, Middlesex, Norfolk and Surrey in the early part of 1996.

Sponsorship

In the past, some members have sponsored a specific county or given small donations towards the cost of these fiches. If you wish to sponsor a county or send a donation, please contact me - address on back cover of magazine. Please make cheques payable to BFHS and mark envelope "1881 Census".

Treasures of '81

By Talbot K Green

By now the BFHS owns 1881 census fiches for most of the counties of the southern half of England, and all of Wales: a map on the wall of the Research Centre reading room shows the current holding. The BFHS is intending to buy each county as it becomes available. And what useful things they are!

Each line shows:- **Surname, Forename(s), Age, Sex, Relationship to Head of Household, Marital Condition, Census Place, Occupation, Name of Head of Household, County and Parish where Born, Note, PRO RG11/Piece, folio & page, LDS film number.**

A county's series consists of seven different sets:- **As Enumerated; alphabetical by Surname and forename; by Birthplace; by Census place; list of Vessels/Ships; list of Institutions; Miscellaneous Notes.**

The beauty of this scheme is that you can check rapidly whether someone with a particular name occurs anywhere at all in a given county. Even if they do, you can see whether their other details look right. I am hoping to find one Henry Aldous in London - which means Middlesex, Essex or Surrey with this system - and have already proved that, despite there being three men of that name in Essex, none of them was either the right age (63) or in the right occupation (tea-dealer). The work of a minute or so.

Had he turned up, of course, the PRO piece/folio/page reference at the end of the line would have shown me which fiche to go to in the "*As Enumerated*" set, so I would have found his address; in North London, I expect it will be.

For those who are doing more "*sociological*" studies of village inhabitants

etc. the alphabetical listings within each Census Place will be a god-send. And, for another of my themes (a "*Green Mafia*" among East Midlands millers in the later 18th and early 19th centuries) a few minutes' work among all the Greens in Bedfordshire in 1881 showed the only two still giving "*miller*" as their occupation - working the Keysoe and Colmworth windmills - both came from the Northants village of Kingsthorpe and were born just six years apart. So a check there in the 1851 census should show them as children and - presumably - brothers; I'm hoping their father comes from one of the places I already know of as among the Greens' haunts. A check in the "*As Enumerated*" set showed the intriguing detail that their respective wives both came from Colmworth, too.

It is perhaps worth pointing out, however, that there is no listing by trade or occupation. Thus, you have to hunt through the fiches for occupations, as in my cases, millers. Once you try it, you understand just why it wasn't attempted as a standard form of presentation; the enumerators' descriptions of a given occupation - or those of its practitioners' - are so variable that a straight alphabetical sort and listing would be highly unreliable. Only with the data on computer file could you do an effective string-search.

When you see an asterisk in the Note column, you will find something on the Miscellaneous Notes fiche logged against the person's name. There may be a gap or indecipherable entry on the original, or an alteration of which you should be aware. It can cover infirmities or handicaps, notes

about whether people were at home when they should have been, or all sorts of curious things which may explain the households' circumstances better. So, whenever you notice that little asterisk, always find out what extra information the transcribers thought you should know about.

One of our recent visitors was thrilled to find an ancestress who had been adopted and was no longer in Berkshire in 1881. She flipped through the counties and found the girl with

her foster-parents up in Warwickshire; well worth the £2 fee, I fancy.

Now! Don't all rush ... Provided someone's volunteered to open the Centre for your benefit, of course.

Finally a word of warning: the Chapman County Codes haven't reached Utah yet, so we're in "BEK". There's a booklet giving their abbreviations, at the front of the binder holding the Berkshire fiches.

The Results of the Quilt Raffle

Over 1,900 tickets were sold for the patchwork quilt titled 'A Trip Round the World' which, including some donations and after deducting expenses, raised a grand total of over £800 for our Society's Research Centre Funds. We are extremely grateful to Mrs Margaret Quarterman (703) who made and donated both the bed quilt and the cushion, also to her husband Syd who built the display stand for the quilt and made several journeys between their home in Cheshire and Reading to attend meetings, etc. It is anticipated that the money will be used for a specific purchase - yet to be agreed, at the time of writing, by the Executive Committee - for the use of members in our new Research Centre in Reading.

The winning tickets were drawn by David Lambert, Chairman of the Federation of Family History Societies, at the closing ceremony of the BFHS Conference at Reading on Sunday 10 Sept 1995. The winners, all of whom are members of the Society, were:

- | | | |
|------|------------------|--|
| 1st: | Bed Quilt | Mr G D Perks (2693) of Dorchester, Oxon. |
| 2nd: | Quilted cushion | Mrs G D Fuller (2886) of Maidenhead, Berks. |
| 3rd: | Sandwich toaster | Mrs S Parker (wife of 1316) of Henley, Oxon. * |
| 4th: | Bottle of wine | Mrs H G Williams (1300) of Godalming, Surrey.* |

* These were additional prizes left over from the Tombola which were added at the last minute. None of the winners were present nor able to attend the next Reading Branch Meeting but all have been notified and collected their prizes.

A big thank you to everyone who contributed to this fantastic fund-raising effort - and a special "thank you" to Margaret & Syd Quarterman who made it all possible. [JD]

Research Centre Rota

Please note that Ann Armstrong has resigned as Research Centre Rota Organiser. The responsibility has been taken on by Ivan and June Dickason. Please contact them on Reading 786785 to volunteer your services in the Research Centre.

Some of the Berkshire Pockocks

By *Victor Pocock*

Many years ago while I was at school I noticed that the surname Pocock was a frequent name in the *Victoria County History of Berkshire*, but it was not until 1967 whilst training to become a member of the teaching profession that I became enthusiastic about local history and ancient families in the neighbourhood. While visiting relatives in Chieveley, I was shown a copy of the Rev. Attlee's notes on the History of Chieveley published at the end of the First World War. In it were many references to Pockocks including a vicar of Chieveley who lived in the village in 1603. One of his sons, Edward Pocock, became a famous Orientalist and was Rector of Childrey. It was Edward who planted the cedar which is still growing there today. The *History of Chieveley* also mentioned several of my uncles who fought in the Great War. My grandmother had a letter from Buckingham Palace showing the King's pleasure that five of her sons and a son-in-law were involved in the war. Sometime later I was shown a Family Bible that belonged to a John Pocock of Winterbourne and other documents.

My grandfather, Samuel, became a partner of the firm Fereday and Pocock where he made Venetian blinds and palliasses. The business still carries on today under its original name, but it has moved from its old premises in London St., Reading, where it was established in 1878, to Cemetery Junction. His father, William, who was John's brother, was mentioned in the Family Bible which also gave his father and mother. William, my great-grandfather, married twice and had twelve children. During his lifetime he was a grocer at Speenhamland, Peasemore and Boxford where he is buried

with his second wife, Matilda.

William's father, Benjamin, was farm bailiff for many years under Mr. Fisher of Lower Farm, Winterbourne. At one time this Benjamin owned a house in Peasemore but so far the location of the house or its site has not been positively identified, unless it was the house where Matilda's six children were probably born. This was where Jacobs' shop used to be in Roughdown Lane at the back of the present Fox and Cubs Public House in Peasemore. Nearby was the old picturesque thatched chapel long since disappeared. The parish registers of Shaw and Winterbourne show that Benjamin's father and mother were John and Elizabeth. They too had a large family of twelve children. Some of their children were born around the time of an important meeting when the magistrates met at the Pelican Inn, Speenhamland, to fix wages, but instead they decided on an allowance system which depended on the price of bread, to help the poor. This allowance system became the Speenhamland Act of 1795. Bread was an important part of the diet at that time and John and his family almost certainly sought parish relief under this system.

For several years I could get no further although the marriage of John Pocock and Elizabeth Bailey in 1782 was found in the Shaw registers. Where this John was born was a complete mystery. The marriage register gave his place of abode as Shaw. On one of my visits to the Berkshire Record Office I happened to notice that there existed some settlement records of Chieveley. In those days poor people were not allowed to move from village to village without authority from the Churchwardens

and Overseers of the Poor, because they were likely to become a burden on the rates. I discovered that a John Pocock, his wife Elizabeth and only child, James, were ordered as a result of a Removal Order to leave Chieveley and to return to Winterbourne in 1783. A second Removal Order a few years later in 1787 only mentions the husband at Winterbourne. It was usual for the head of a family to seek employment in another village whilst his family remained behind. At last John appears to have found suitable employment, probably as a farm labourer at Lower Farm, Winterbourne, although their legal place of settlement seems to have been Shaw.

Furthermore, the settlement records of Chieveley show that John Pocock originally had another surname, "*John Mathews alias Pocock*". Now here was a definite clue to the ancestors of John Pocock of Shaw. The evidence from this document dated 1787 suggested that he might have been baptised as John Mathews. Therefore another search of the parish registers was indicated. No trace of a baptism of John Mathews was found at Shaw, but in an adjacent parish called Hampstead Norris I found a baptism of John Mathews the '*bastard*' son of Mary Mathews, a Quaker, for the year 1759. Was this the John who married Elizabeth Bailey of Shaw? Several members of Mary's family were Quakers. This Quaker family was at one time closely connected with William Penn who founded Pennsylvania in USA and George Fox another Quaker leader.

Here we must leave the Mathews' family and mention what I will call the Pocock '*legend*'. An aunt of mine, who lived at Downend, Chieveley, and died in 1983 at the age of 93, remembered her father always saying that we were related to a Sir John Pocock who lived at the large mansion

called Langley Hall in Hampstead Norris parish. This mansion was pulled down sometime before 1871 when a new farm house was built on the site. Either he or his son had run off with the housekeeper. How much of this legend is true?

Was it a coincidence that the property of the Mathews' family at Oakhouse Farm, Bothampstead, joined that of the estate of Langley where the Pococks lived? A Mary Mathews was born in 1739, according to the Quaker records, and she could have been a Housekeeper at Langley, though it is unlikely as Mary's father, Richard, was a gentleman farmer. The housekeeper who ran away from her employment must have been Elizabeth Bailey the wife of John Mathews alias Pocock as she was about three months pregnant when they married at Shaw.

Why then did John Mathews change his name to Pocock? Was his father John Pocock of Langley? Did Mary marry another John Pocock after John Mathews alias Pocock was baptised in the Church of England at Hampstead Norris? Almost certainly Mary had to leave the Society of Friends or Quakers although no record about this appears in the minutes of the Quaker meetings at Reading or Newbury. Mary married Benjamin Hutt some distance away from the family home at Longcott and Fernham in 1761, about two years after the birth of her son John and she continued to live in the same parish as her own family. However, she does not seem to have had any help from the family at Oakhouse because towards the end of her life she received regular help from the poor rate. It is interesting to note that her father's will of 1764 mentions this marriage but does not mention John. Where was John Mathews alias Pocock during this period? There is

every indication that John did not go to live with Mary and Benjamin Hutt otherwise he would probably have taken the family name of Hutt instead of Pocock. Living at Langley Farm, not Langley Hall as the legend suggests, was a John Pococke who was a gentleman farmer. By 1759 this John was aged 36 and at that time he was unmarried or more likely a widower, but he was probably betrothed to Mary Puckeridge of Compton as they married in 1762. This John soon lost his wife who died in 1764. In her will she mentions a John Mathews who was almost certainly related to the Oakhouse family. Other documents mention the Mathews and suggests further that the Pococks were great friends. For example, a Pocock chest of drawers is mentioned in Richard Mathews' will of 1764.

Perhaps John was educated at a local boarding school, as he could write his name in the marriage register at Shaw. Most of the poor people in the 18th century could not read or write as there were very few schools in the country. It is possible that John went to the boarding school established at North Heath by Thomas Henshaw. The evidence that he could write indicates that his parents might have come from the Gentry or at least from a higher stratum in society than the ordinary labouring classes. (All the evidence so far points to the fact that John Mathews alias Pocock was the illegitimate son of John Pocock Gentleman of Langley.) There is another aspect that deserves some consideration and that is where John lived. I rather suspect that he was brought up with John's son John who was the only child of his second wife Mary King. Unfortunately, John Pocock the Gentleman died during 1765 and Mary King married James Pottinger of Compton. John's son also died in 1780 when he was only 15. By 1775 a

Thomas Pocock, possibly a son by an earlier marriage, was living at Langley. In that case Mary Puckeridge may have been his second wife. Thomas married Ann Bartholomew and he was probably living at Langley Farm after John Pocock died. Was Elizabeth Bailey Thomas Pocock's housekeeper?

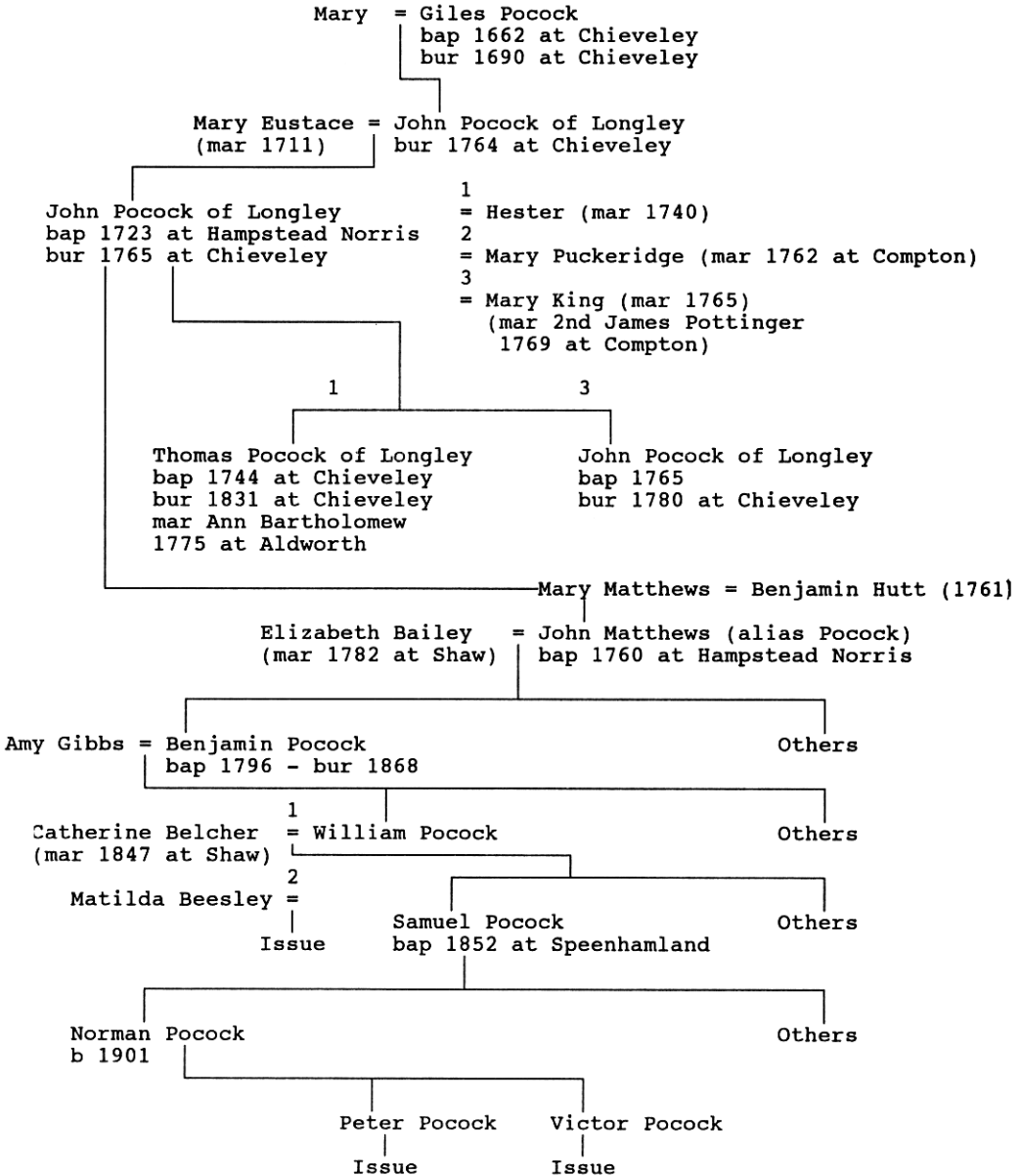
Moving on to the direct ancestors of John Pocock alias Mathews we find that John Pocock the gentleman of Langley Farm had a father also called John, who married Mary Eustace of Aston Rowant in Oxfordshire. The family had moved from the parsonage (now Coombe House) at Chieveley. Mary and John had four daughters, Rebecca, Mary, Elizabeth and Hannah who married Charles Head of Beedon. Charles had links with the Heads who owned Langley Hall. The Pococks who lived at the Parsonage probably farmed Rectory Farm opposite Coombe House. I remember seeing part of the Medieval Rectory Farm before it was pulled down this century. Giles Pocock, his father, also spent many years at the parsonage. His ancestors owned large areas of land around Chieveley, including Shaw, East Ilsley and Winterbourne. I have now traced this family back to the 16th century to the period when a John Pocock, a Merchant Taylor of London, and his grandfather Richard Pocock, a clothier, owned Bradley Court at Chieveley. This was at a time when the woollen industry was at its peak in Berkshire. Probably he knew the famous Jack of Newbury called John Winchcombe.

Where does the researcher like myself go from here? The next lead could be found in the records of the Guild of Merchant Taylors in London, or perhaps in the Southampton area where another John Pocock was a merchant. It is likely that the trail may end one day in Hampshire perhaps at Hawkley or Colemore, the home of the

ancestors of Richard Pocock the traveller Ireland. It was Richard who wrote that his
 who became Bishop of Ossary and Meath in ancestors came from Chieveley.

Pocock Family Tree

(showing those mentioned in text)



Widdows - A One-Name Study

by Ruth Marler (*née Holloway*)

For several years I knew that had my grandparents been married, my surname would have been Widdows rather than Holloway. It wasn't until I received a thirteen-page letter from my aunt, describing her early childhood and the final days of her father's life that I developed a curiosity about the name.

I found out that though my grandmother was born in Berks, my grandfather was born in Southleigh, Oxon. I soon discovered that there were quite a few Widdows in the county.

I began with the 1851 census index of Oxford and of course the IGI. Next I made a trip to my own local library where I wrote down all Widdows listed in the telephone directories for Oxon and Berks. One gentleman that I wrote to was particularly interested in learning more about his family and was delighted when I was able to take him back several generations.

All this digging into the past nearly made me forget that we are in the 1990s! In February of this year we gained access to the Internet and a new world stretched before me. I made contact with two people with the name Widdows, one in Australia and one in Canada. Neither of them showed any interest in genealogy.

Of course I had heard of the IGI and had bought print-outs via an advert in *Family Tree Magazine* but I steered clear of *The Church of Jesus Christ of the Latter Day Saints*. I did not believe that "they" would not attempt to convert me. By "lurking" in the genealogy groups on the Internet, I read several postings about exactly what to expect at an LDS Family History Centre

and finally made my first visit to the one at Staines. What a pleasant surprise! The librarian and other users were welcoming and extremely helpful. Of course it took a little while to familiarise myself with the filing system and how the microfiche/microfilm viewers worked, but soon I became adept at both.

Now (time permitting) the Staines LDS FHC is a regular port of call for me. I am slowly transcribing all Widdows entries on the microfilms of the St. Catherine's House Indexes. As the microfiche of the index to the 1881 census arrive, I am also transcribing (or printing-out) all Widdows entries, for all counties.

I have discovered the Centre for Oxfordshire Studies, on the top floor of the Oxford Central Library. This has a wonderful collection of typed parish register transcripts. If I lived nearer and had less family commitments, I would spend a considerable amount of my time, gradually working through, transcribing any Widdows entries.

Through a contact on the Internet, I received a list of the 218 Widdows listed in the UK phone book. I have written to all of them and received replies from almost 25%. Though a large concentration of people with the name has origins in Oxfordshire, another group has roots in Norfolk where, to this day, they receive the freedom of the city. I have been told that there is a stained-glass window in Norwich Cathedral commemorating someone with the name.

One gentleman from Norfolk has always wondered what happened to his illegitimate cousin who was sent to a children's home

and later (between the wars) shipped to New Zealand with other children. This sent me off on a tangent. I discovered (via the Internet again) that there are three people listed in the NZ phone book and four on the electoral roll. Of course, I wrote to them all. Three were related; mother, son and daughter-in-law, the mother having been born in the UK. The fourth was an elderly NZ-born bachelor.

Through another contact on the Internet, I was sent a full list of entries from the NZ equivalent of St.Catherine's House Index from 1840-1980 for the name Widdows. Can you believe that the death index lists both parents (if known) of the deceased? As the indexes list such full information, I was able to construct family trees for most of those featured.

As anyone who has an interest in genealogy knows, it soon becomes addictive. Next I received a telephone listing of the 52

Widdows in Australia and the 90 Widdows on the electoral roll. I have yet to write to and unravel these.

There are now approx. 250 people in the USA with the name Widdows and 6 in South Africa. I have written to all those in South Africa. There are a few Widdows in Canada but I have not managed to receive a full listing of them. The US SSDI (Social Security Death Index) also lists a few Widdows and there are eleven listed in the 1880 census of Ohio.

Compared to those who have membership of GOONS (Guild of One-Name Studies), my attempt may not amount to much, but I hope that in the future, if anyone has an interest in the name Widdows, they may find my efforts of some use.

Ruth's email address is:

ruth@jamerton.demon.co.uk

News from St Catherine's House

From 1993: the references in the birth, marriage and death indexes for England and Wales have been altered as follows:

1. DIST = Registration District: eg. Reading
2. POST = Registrar's or Officer's number + sub-district letter (A,B,C etc): eg. 0320A
3. REG = Register number: eg. A24C
4. ENT = Entry number in a register: eg. 149
5. DOR = Date of registration by month & year: eg. 1094=Oct 1994

These references can be used when ordering certificates from local Register Offices.

Prior to 1993 the index references are name of registration district, volume number and page number. These references are not the same as those used by local Register Offices. From 1837 to 1983, quarterly indexes were issued from 1984 onwards annual indexes, which include month of registration have been produced.

OPCS (Office of Population Censuses & Surveys), St Catherine's House, 10 Kingsway, London WC2B6JP: Public Search Room open Mon-Fri (except public holidays) 8.30am to 4.30pm. [JD]

Search for the Taylor Family of Speen, Enborne and Hungerford.

By Peter Breen

"*The Search for the Taylor Family of Newbury*" was the title of my article included in the December 1994 "*Berkshire Family Historian*", which described details of the life of that family in the first 75 years of the last century.

I am now in possession of a great deal more information, and I now know that Daniel Taylor (who married Elizabeth Beckingham at Saint Nicholas Church, Newbury, in 1801) was the last child of the marriage of Daniel Taylor and Elizabeth Goddard, which took place at Speen on 17th June 1750. [I believe that Elizabeth was the daughter of George and Martha Goddard, baptised at Hungerford, in March 1731/2].

Daniel and Elizabeth (née Goddard) appear to have migrated between the parishes of Hungerford, Speen and Enborne throughout their marriage, with their children being born at regular intervals: Daniel (died of smallpox, aged sixteen, in 1768), Martha, Jane (died, aged four, in 1759), Benjamin, Elizabeth, Jane (died, aged 26, in 1786), Sarah, Mary and finally Daniel (baptised at Speen in 1771, and, according to the 1851 census returns, born in Stockcross). [There are entries on the Speen marriage register for Elizabeth Taylor and Thomas Munday, in 1775, and Mary Taylor and George Wakelin, in 1787, as well as the marriage of Sarah Taylor and Joseph Lankton (or Langton) at Newbury, in 1786: I have not yet found the time to check if these Taylors are the siblings of Daniel].

Daniel did not have an easy childhood, due to the fact that (before his third birthday) his father died (being buried at Speen Churchyard at the end of October 1773). Daniel's mother, Elizabeth, 'settled' in

Enborne shortly after her husband's death, probably with the support of her other son Benjamin, by then aged seventeen years. However the parish accounts show regular payments (for medical treatment, "cloathes", breeches, gowns, coats, "shuse" and, several times, for a "hatt") for Widow Taylor and her children: Jane, Sarah, Mary and Daniel, until late in 1786.

I believe that the husband of Elizabeth Goddard is the Daniel Taylor who was born in Aldworth in 1725, the eldest son of (yet another) Daniel Taylor, who had married Rosanna Taylor in 1724, at East Ilsley. [Having traced a Taylor family back to the middle of the eighteenth century, I think that I deserve better than marriage into another family of the same, widespread, surname: still, I have not yet found any Smith or Jones on my family tree.]

The marriage register for East Ilsley contains an entry, dated 1st October 1724, for the wedding of "*Danniell Taylor of Chevely and Rose Taylor of this parish*"; their children (all baptised at Aldworth) were Daniel (1725), Mary (1726), John (1730), William (1737), Elizabeth (1740) and Sarah (1742). [The gaps suggest that there might have been other children born to the couple].

"*Danniell Taylor of Chevely*" was baptised on 20th June 1693, the son of John Taylor alias Ogborne and his wife Jane (née Cuxey) who married at Chievely, in 1691. Rosanna Taylor was one of two daughters (possibly twins, baptised on 8th August 1702, at West Ilsley) of John Taylor (son of Alexander), who had married Mary Hopkins at the same church, on 3rd October 1700.

I have researched (in fact, I have received

the benefits of a great deal of excellent, reciprocal research by another member of the BFHS, Barbara Young, of Wokingham) the extensive probate records relating to the Taylor family of the Chieveley area, as well as the Taylor family of the Aldworth/Isley areas, but, other than gathering some very interesting information about prosperous, [lower ?] middle class life in seventeenth century England, I have not been successful in my main intention which was to establish

the origins of Daniel Taylor, who married Elizabeth Goddard at Speen, in 1750.

I hope that someone reading this article will be researching the same families, or at least some of them, and that we can exchange the details that we each have: I should add that these notes are only a brief summary of the information that I have.

Peter's address is 152, Henniker Gate, Chelmer Village, Chelmsford, CM2 6SB.

Dates for Your Diary

The following events are taking place around the country. For further details of those marked (1) please contact the Society of Genealogists (SOG), 14 Charterhouse Buildings, Goswell Rd, London EC1M 7BA; for those marked (2) contact the Local History Course Secretary, OUDCE, 1 Wellington Square, Oxford OX1 2JA (tel 01865-270369) and for those marked (3) contact the Extramural Office, The University of Reading, London Rd, Reading RG1 5AQ (tel. 01734 318347)

- Sat 10th Feb 96* Archive Sources for Local History: Parish Records - 10am-4.30pm. Day school to be held at BRO, Reading. Tutors: Joan Dils and Peter Durrant (3)
- Sat 10th Feb 96* Publishing Local History - Day School to be held at Rewley House, Wellington Sq, Oxford (2)
- Sat 9th Mar 96* Wills and Inventories for Family Historians, 10am-4pm at Caversham Centre, Church Lane, Caversham (tel 01734-572327). Tutor: Jean Debney.
- Sat 16th Mar 96* Researching and Writing Local History, 10am-4.30pm at 77 Building, The University, Bulmershe Court, Woodlands Ave, Reading. Tutor: David Dymond (3)
- Sat 16th Mar 96* Records of the New Poor Law, 9.30am-4.30pm - Day school to be held at BRO, Reading. Tutor: Dr Peter Durrant (2)
- 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 St, Westminster, London. Advance tickets available from the SOG from 1 Jan 1996 at £3 (saving £2 "on the door"). (1)

The following family history courses are taking place around Berkshire:

- Tues 9th Jan 96* Introduction to Family History, 7pm-9pm, 10 week course at Newbury College, Newbury. Further details from Adult Studies, Newbury College, PO Box 90, Oxford Road, Newbury RG14 1XY
- Thurs 11th Jan 96* Family History for Beginners, 6 week course at Prospect Centre, Prospect School, Honey End Lane, Tilehurst. (Enrol at Sutton Centre, Crescent Rd, Reading)(Tel 01734-661100).
- Tues 22nd Jan 96* Investigating Berkshire's History, 7.30pm-9.30pm, 10 week course at University of Reading, London Road, Reading (3)

Letters to the Editor

Rev Stephan Welch of St Mary the Virgin, Hurley and St James the Less, Stubbings, wrote to clarify the situation at Hurley and Stubbings which I referred to in my editorial in the September 95 edition of the Berkshire Family Historian:

"No 'alterations' are being carried out at all. At Stubbings a new church centre is under construction on a piece of land that used to be part of the parsonage grounds and has never belonged to the churchyard. No monuments or memorials are affected by this. Your visitor will have seen the remains of curbings removed under faculty many years ago. These are more visible at the moment due to the hedges under which they lie having been trimmed back.

It appears that your visitor did not continue to Hurley to inspect the "alterations" there as Hurley is not mentioned again. This is a pity and I encourage your members to go to Hurley, as there are to be welcome developments there which will be of interest to your members. In 1987 an extension to the church was built, known as the Priory Room. It adjoins the ancient church at its south-east corners and was constructed over some ancient grave spaces. Monuments from these graves were carefully removed and are stored in good condition behind the Priory Room itself. Leaning against the outer walls of the Priory Room are some quite old wooden grave memorials that are being treated and preserved. Our present churchyard is to be extended southwards next year, making provision for the burial of local inhabitants for at least the next two generations. It is hoped to incorporate the old, detached memorials I mention into the landscaping of the new extension so as to protect them from further displacement and ensure that they remain available as testimony to the burials they originally recorded."

Arthur Langford (3075) of 20 Fullbrook Crescent, Tilehurst, Reading, RG31 6RX wrote in response to the letter from Professor R A Shooter in the September edition of the Berkshire Family Historian who is researching smallpox:

"Whilst researching my Langford family at the Berkshire Record Office, I came across the following as a note in the transcript of the Parish Register of Great Shefford.

'Richard Langford. He died of the smallpox at the age of 55 years after having had it very severely in his infancy. There were persons living in the parish who remember his taking the infection the first time and likewise his giving it to others. I was a witness to his giving it to 3 or 4 the second time, one of whom I buried. Charles Lockety'.

Richard Langford was baptised at Great Shefford on 27th May 1720, the third son of Henry and Elizabeth Langford. He was buried on the 28th May 1775."

[Professor Shooter replied that it must have been unusual to have a second attack, particularly a fatal one - it could be that the initial one was of chicken pox which is not easy to differentiate.]

Talbot Green of 54 Elms Rd, Wokingham, RG40 2AA has a follow-up to his article published in the September edition of the Berkshire Family Historian:

"It turns out that, instead of being the General, our ancestor Thomas Baker was a Sgt Major in the Coldstream Guards who WAS one of the heroes of Waterloo and the first man in modern times made a Yeoman of the Guard for his military prowess. The souvenirs told the right story, the letters and papers the false one."

Berkshire Local Newspapers

by Jean Debney

The latest message from the British Library Newspaper Library at Colindale, London, is "Please Read Your Local Newspapers Locally". The Reading Rooms there have reached saturation point with no prospect of expansion in the foreseeable future. Remember that the index to *The Times* from 1785 is available at most County Libraries.

Although original copies of some Berkshire local newspapers are held at the Newspaper Library at Colindale as well as by some Berkshire Central Libraries, you will usually only be allowed to see them on microfilm. The following are currently available at Berkshire Central Libraries:

Berkshire Chronicle - later Reading Chronicle	1825+	R
Berkshire Mercury - later Reading Mercury	1723-1784 (incomplete); 1785-May 1987	R
Bracknell News	1959+	B
Bracknell Times*	August 1968+	B
Maidenhead Advertiser	1870+	M
Newbury Weekly News	1867+	N
Evening Post - later Reading Evening Post	Sep 1965+	R
Reading Evening Gazette	Aug 1935-Oct 1939	R
Reading Observer	1873-1924	R
Reading Standard	1891-Sep 1965	R
Slough & Langley Observer	1883-1943	S
Slough & Langley Express (formerly Windsor & Eton Express)	1812+ (some Slough or Windsor editions)	S
Wokingham Times**	1977-1981, 1988-1994	[B]

B=Bracknell Central Library, Town Square, Bracknell, RG12 1BH (01344 423149)

M=Maidenhead Library, Maidenhead, SL6

N=Newbury Central Library, Carnegie Road, Newbury RG14 5DW (01635 40972)

R= Reading Central Library, Abbey Square, Reading RG1 3BQ (01734 509241)

S=Slough Central Library, High Street, Slough SL1 1EA (01753 535166)

W=Windsor Library, Windsor (01753 860543)

* *Some Bracknell Times are repeated with area edition front pages, eg. 'Ascot, Crowthorne, Wokingham'; these are in addition to the regular Bracknell Times archive.*

** *Due to lack of storage space, the Wokingham newspapers do not appear to be currently available in the Berkshire County Reference Library Service.*

"The Times" - Microfilm copies and Indexes from 1785 - date are available at Reading University Main Library, Whiteknights, Reading (on open access) and from 1882 onwards at County Local Studies Library, Reading (+ indexes from 1785).

The above draft list of Berkshire local

newspapers held on microfilm by Berkshire Central Libraries was compiled from details supplied by Mrs Margaret Smith, County Local Studies Librarian, Reading and various other Central Librarians who dealt with my urgent telephone calls and to whom I owe a debt of thanks. It is hoped to produce a more detailed list at a later date.

The Story of a Blewbury Girl

By Bernard Slatter

On 20th October, 1821 James Davis married Hannah Pether in their native parish of Blewbury, Berkshire. Early the next year their first child was born and baptised Ann in Blewbury church on 13th March, 1822. This little girl was destined to become my great-grandmother and this is her story.

Although there was a school in Blewbury at the time, it is unlikely that Ann attended it; her father being a farm labourer the pennies would have been scarce and it is far more likely that Ann had to help her mother with the other children in the family. As soon as possible Ann would have been put to work as a farm or domestic servant to bolster the family income. She was not living at her parental home at the time of the 1841 census but on marriage, in November, 1843, she was recorded as a servant resident in Blewbury,

Her husband, Edmund Slatter, came from the hamlet of Berrick Prior in the parish of Newington, Oxfordshire. This was some 10 miles by road from Blewbury which suggests that Ann was a good walker. The market town of Wallingford lying between Blewbury and Berrick Prior would have been a natural place for their first meeting. The two married at Newington parish church, both using a 'mark' to sign the register which may illustrate Ann's lack of schooling.

Ann's husband was a farm labourer and his search for work appears to have taken them to Benson, adjoining Newington, where their first child, Phillis, was born in 1844. A second daughter, Caroline, was also born at Benson in 1845 (although baptised at Berrick Salome). The following year would have brought news of the effects of the fever at Upton, the hamlet adjacent to Blewbury, where half of the population died in only

seven weeks (as recalled in the September 1995 issue of *Berkshire Family Historian*). These must have been frightening times for Ann and her parents,

By 1848 Edmund and Ann had returned to Berrick Prior. Two more children were born there - Elizabeth in 1848 and Eli (a son at last!) in 1850. Going to Wallingford to register the births would have been something of an occasion. The whole family appeared at Berrick Prior in the 1851 census when the two older girls were recorded as scholars.

Some time after March, 1851 and before October, 1853 the family moved about 10 miles to Headington Quarry - then a notoriously rough district, little more than a settlement of primitive hovels amongst the old stone pits where police would go only in pairs. Two further sons were born here, Daniel in October, 1853 and Edmund (subsequently my grandfather) in January, 1857. In October of the same year Ann's husband died of typhus, aged 35. This left her with six children, the youngest aged 10 months and the eldest fourteen.

Like many women in Headington Quarry at that time Ann earned her living as a laundress and was recorded as such in the 1861 census. By then her eldest daughter was already married (perhaps she could not stand helping Mum with the laundry work) and another was a housemaid in the household of a Headington schoolmaster; Ann's youngest son was staying with her parents back in Blewbury.

Ann soldiered on alone for four years after her husband's death during which time she became acquainted with Robert Humphries, a widower of St Ebbe's, Oxford. Born at Forest Hill, Robert was a carpenter, some 14

years older than Ann. They married at the Oxford register office in November, 1861. Although Robert signed the register with his mark, on this occasion Ann managed to write '*Ann Slatter*', Strangely enough, her daughter Phillis who had been a scholar at Berrick Prior used a mark when signing as a witness.

It seems that straightaway Ann and her second husband lived back in Headington Quarry. Their first child, Abraham, was born there in June, 1862. This birth was followed by those of James in 1864 and Sarah in 1865, James living for only 18 months. Ann's daughter Caroline Slatter married in 1867 so that the 1871 census found Robert and Ann living at Field View, Headington Quarry with three Slatter sons from Ann's first marriage and two Humphries children from her second.

Ann's parents were recorded as paupers in the 1871 census, living in Churchyard Square, Blewbury. Her father, James, died in 1876 of '*old age*'; he was 81. Ann's mother lived on as a pauper in the Wantage Union workhouse until 1883,

Some time after 1871 Ann's husband also entered the workhouse. By the 1881 census he was recorded in the Headington Union Workhouse as a married pauper. There was no sign of Ann in Headington, however. This was because by then she had moved some 20 miles to live at Tilehurst back in Berkshire. At Tilehurst Ann lived in Park Road, appearing in the census as a widow aged 59. There was one other household in the house and also 4 lodgers. Ann herself was still shown as a laundress.

Although at this time Robert Humphries, in Headington workhouse, described himself quite properly as married, Ann was recorded as a widow. This is an astounding and perhaps sad difference of opinion. Clearly Ann must have regarded Robert's departure to the workhouse as the equivalent of death. In fact, he lasted another year dying in June, 1882.

In the 1891 census Ann Humphries does not appear in Tilehurst, nor indeed does Park Road. As yet no trace of her death or further marriage has been found so Ann's story remains tantalisingly unfinished.

Victorian Virtues, Vices and Virtuosity

Looking back at the September Conference

By Joyce Wells

After a long, scorching summer, the weather changed. The days before the Conference were either very wet or overcast. Had I made a dreadful mistake? I had visions of grumpy, damp delegates tramping across the muddy grass of the university campus, muttering sinister incantations about the incompetent Organiser. On the day before the Conference, I trudged gloomily behind Margaret Pyle, as, in rehearsal for the next few days, she guided her team of Stewards around the site in the pouring rain. Then, miraculously, on Friday, 8th September, the skies cleared and became blue, the sun

shone and we had two and a half glorious early autumnal days which ended precisely at the finish of the Conference, when the rain resumed again.

The Federation of Family History Societies hold two Conferences a year, hosted by a different Society each time. Berkshire FHS agreed to host the Autumn 1995 Conference back in April 1990. I was asked to help with the organisation at that time, when 1995 seemed light years away, and somewhere along the line (I am not quite sure how it happened) I became **The Organiser**. I had

organised many conferences, seminars, meetings etc. in my working life, but doing this with a limited budget and using only voluntary help was quite a challenge. I was fortunate in having a very supportive Conference Committee behind me.

Excluding some Federation representatives who came only for their meeting on Saturday afternoon, 226 delegates came for all, or part of, the Conference. A party of 10 came from New Zealand, and others came from Australia, Scotland, Wales and, of course, all parts of England. It was disappointing that so few of our Berkshire members came. We had made the assumption that between 100 and 200 of our members would want to come, that is 10% or more of our membership. This was based on the experience of other host societies, and our charges were geared to this higher attendance figure. Once it was seen that only 38 Berkshire members would be attending as delegates, some fairly stringent cost cutting had to take place. I am, therefore, very grateful to those members who came along to support their Society.

The Conference took off on a high note. We were extremely fortunate in securing Catherine Hail as our speaker on Friday. Catherine has been a Curator and Research Assistant at the Victoria and Albert Theatre Museum for some years and she gave a most interesting and often hilarious talk about the actors in the archives there. She concentrated mostly on two groups of entertainers and traced their progress through the years. They seemed to change their names quite regularly, and in one case, appeared to change sex as well! Catherine was quite an actress herself and her talk was a spirited performance. The fact that she did this whilst sitting on a stool flashing some lovely long legs was quite a bonus for some!

The Mayor of Reading officially opened the Conference on Saturday morning. I hope that few in the audience realised the panic of Mike Sheppard and I, when five minutes before the two lectures were to start, neither speaker had arrived. The Mayor was let into this secret and sportingly he extended his welcome speech. Similarly, the announcement of the winners of the "*THREADS*" competition was extended a little. Behind the scenes, there was some frantic collecting together of material for two impromptu talks. However, all was well, two breathless speakers arrived, having been held up because a train had caught fire.

Julian Litten, also of the V & A, whom some Berkshire members will remember coming to speak to us a few years ago, gave a very polished talk and an intriguing insight into the Victorian manner of death, illustrating that the ponderous processions with mutes and pages were not the reality of the Victorian funeral.

In the other lecture theatre, Dr Carl Chinn, a Lecturer in Modern History at the University of Birmingham, charmed his audience with his "*Brummie*" accent and refreshing personality. Carl addressed the issue of the urban poor and using evidence from working-class people showed how people reacted to poverty and with the support of neighbours and kin, formed thriving villages in towns and cities.

We were delighted that Jean Cole was able to come and talk to us and I am glad that I had been able to make a firm booking for her time in March 1993, as she appears to dash all over the world giving talks. If not everyone has heard her speak, I am sure they will have read her *Questions and Answers* column in the *Family Tree Magazine*. Jean, in her talk entitled "*No Jam on their Bread*" spoke of the profound effect the new Poor

Laws of 1834 had on our ancestors, when not mere poverty, but absolute destitution was the criteria for admission to the workhouse or even outdoor relief. To have to enter "*the house*" was seen as a shameful fact of life and also perceived to be almost a criminal act in the earlier years of the Victorian age.

Janet Foster, an archives consultant, at one time worked at the Wellcome Institute for the History of Medicine establishing the Medical Archives and Manuscript Survey. With her considerable experience of medical history, Janet gave a fascinating illustrated talk on Hospital Records, covering the medical provision in the Victorian era and providing guidance to locating the records that hospitals produced and how they can be used in genealogy.

Apart from the talks, there were a host of other things delegates could do. Our own Society had a large bookstall and were also carrying a range for some other publishers. The Federation of Family History Societies, the Society of Genealogists, and The Institute of Heraldic and Genealogical Studies were all there with comprehensive ranges. In addition, Kings England Press, Bill Lloyd and John Townsend were all present with Bookstalls. Elizabeth and Philip Simpson brought along their Genealogical Research Directory, and Pictures Past postcards had a stand. The Scottish Association of Family History were also represented. S & N Computers were there, demonstrating a wide range of computer software for genealogists, including the latest version of Reunion. The LDS Family History Centre brought along two computers and a CD ROM and they were able to print out a lot of valuable research material for delegates. Naturally, the Berkshire Family History Society had a display. The Berkshire Record Office had a

sales table, an interesting display and provided information that complemented the delegates' afternoon visit to look behind the scenes at the BRO. Another popular attraction was our Tombola. In the end we were able to offer over 150 prizes and I would like to thank all those members who generously donated them, as well as those that bought tickets.

The Museum of English Rural Life was open on Friday and Saturday and put on a special display of exhibits of interest to family historians. The Threads of Family History competition and exhibition was a huge success. Entries from all over the world were received and family historians showed enormous skill and ingenuity in creating an heirloom for future generations. These came in many forms - quilts, cushions, embroidered pictures or collages, samplers, to describe only a few. It must have been extremely difficult for the judges to pick the winners, as they were all so good. Other delegates went off to visit the Berkshire Records Office or Basildon Park House, the latter being ably guided by our Chairman, Mike Sheppard and his wife Shirley.

On the Saturday evening, about 150 Victorian matrons and maidens, bewhiskered gentleman, Hussar Officers, ladies of the stage and those from below stairs, gathered together for the Victorian banquet and the Parlour entertainment by the Piggott Choir which followed. Everyone seemed to enjoy it, even those unfortunates who were served with a portion of "*rubber*" duck. Delegates were really pleased to meet up again with old friends and to make new ones. After the banquet, parties went on for quite a few hours longer. Apart from the one lapse, the catering staff at Whiteknights, used to the large appetites of hungry students, provided

a substantial, appetising and varied menu at each meal. The fact that some people had special dietary requirements did not faze them one bit.

On Sunday our delegates were still full of enthusiasm. Some were up early to attend an ecumenical service held in the smaller lecture theatre, some strolled round the extensive university grounds, whilst others lingered over their full English breakfast.

Again we had some first-class speakers. We were fortunate to have Dr Brian Bowers, Senior Curator at the Science Museum, talk to us about the history of the public electricity supply, electrical manufacturers and the people who worked in the industry. I had been very anxious to arrange such a talk, for as far as I know, this is the first time this particular subject has been discussed at a family history conference.

Many of our delegates had Post Office workers as ancestors and the lecture hall was packed to hear Kevin Squelch's enthusiastic talk on "*A Postie's Life for me*". He told us about life in a Victorian Post Office, what the job entailed, what they earned and showed us what their uniforms looked like. He made very useful reference to the types of material which could be found within the Post Office Archives.

Jennifer Thorpe, currently the archivist at Highclere Castle gave a fascinating talk based on a study of the estate and household papers. She gave an account of the people who lived and worked there and influenced its history. The estate reached its heyday in the second half of the 19C after it had been

remodelled in the 1840s from a mansion house. It was renamed Highclere Castle and became the centre of a glittering social life. We were very disappointed that the Castle was unexpectedly closed on the Saturday that our excursion was planned but Jennifer included many illustrations to help make up for it.

Our Vice-President, Dr Peter Durrant, Archivist at The Berkshire Record Office, gave the last talk in the main lecture theatre on Sunday morning. He explained that a surge of record-keeping began in the nineteenth century because of increased legislation, cheaper printing costs and increased literacy, and an enormous range and variety was to be found. He was able to tell us some of the places to look for these records and with the help of his slides, whetted our appetites by showing us some of their contents.

Everyone seemed to have a particular favourite speaker, and as the list seemed to cover every one of them, I think we must have got our content about right.

Dr Colin Chapman (of The Chapman Code fame) gave the closing speech and thanked everyone who had participated in the Conference. I too, would like to add my appreciation. We did not get as many volunteers to help with the Conference as we would have liked, but the quality of help far outweighed the lack of quantity. Everyone was brilliant. We had a really versatile, helpful and willing team which made my job so much easier. Thank you all very, very much.

Unwanted Birth Certificate

1846 Mary Ann HUTCHON, dau Samuel & Louisa Emma - Shoreditch, Mdx.

If you think this belongs to "*your*" family, write to Jean Debney (address on back cover).

Bookends

compiled by Jean Debney

Unless otherwise stated, all the following are available from the bookstalls at BFHS Branch meetings or by post from the Bookstall Manager (address on back cover).

A History of Berkshire by Judith Hunter M McIntyre & L Webb

Phillimore & Co Ltd 1995; hardback with illustrations, 144 pp; price £14.95 + P&P £1.60 UK, £2.50 overseas surface, £6.35 airmail.

The latest in the Darwen County History series tells the story of the ancient County of Berkshire that existed for over a thousand years until 1974; the press release, from which the above was taken, promises that this long-awaited book will be available in time for Christmas. [JD]

Map of the Ancient Boundaries of Reading

Two Rivers Press 1995; 2-colour map price £4.50 + P&P £1.00 UK

Hand-drawn map of Reading boundary in 1880s littered with copious information and anecdotes which make compelling reading. Includes the mouth of the River Kennet, Coombe Bank near Cow Lane and the rock festival site, Cemetery Junction, Redlands, Waterloo Meadows, Coley Park and Battle Hospital, etc. [JD]

Where Two Rivers Meet

Two Rivers Press 1997; price £4.00 + P&P

This is the story of the junction of the river Kennet with the river Thames at Reading. Another interesting production packed with lots of fascinating detail and line drawings with a difference. [JD]

Responding to the Call, the Kitchener Battalions of the Royal Berkshire Regiment at the Battle of Loos 1915

by J Chapman, B Croucher, I Cull, C Fox,

Extra Mural Dept of Reading University, 1995 64pp, illustrated with maps & photos, 6 appendices, many names; Price £3.95 + P&P 70p UK, £1.10 overseas surface, £2.70 airmail.

Well compiled and useful source booklet resulting from a group project on 5th & 8th 'Kitchener' Battalions of the Royal Berkshire Regiment which served on the Western Front in WWI 1914-15. Appendices include biographies (some with photos) of a few who served, lists of casualties & missing, plus a timetable of events 1914-1918. More details are held on a growing database: apply to Colin Fox, c/o Dept of Extended Education (Extramural Studies Section), University, London Road, Reading, Berks RG1 5AQ. [JD]

The Wokingham Historian, No 8, by various authors

Local History Group of the Wokingham Society, 1995 40pp; price £2.00 + P&P 35p UK 55p overseas surface, £1.20 airmail.

Another well-illustrated miscellany of stories about the history of Wokingham researched and written by members of this Society: Recollections of the town from 1897, notes on the Sale family, the 1st Mayor of Wokingham, Gorrick Wood and Gorrick Well, the Holt Estate & its owners (pt 2), the Aldermen and Mayors of Wokingham (including lists of names) and "From rags to riches", the story of Paul Holton. [JD]

Wokingham from Elizabeth I to Cromwell

Wokingham Society LHG, 1955, includes appendix of list of documents transcribed, 64 pp; price £3.25 + P&P 60p UK, £1 overseas surface, £2.00 airmail.

A fascinating analysis of the social and economic life in Wokingham during the first half of the 17th century using local wills and inventories from the Court of the Dean of Salisbury held in the Wiltshire Record Office. Many people were involved in the transcription, analysis and editing of the final text which results from a class held in 1991-2 by Joan Dils of the Extra Mural Studies Dept of Oxford University. [JD]

Lights Out and the Stars Appear: the story of the Slough Co-operative Film Society, by Clive Dellow

Slough Co-op Film Soc. 1995 21pp; price £2.50 + P&P 40p UK, 60p overseas surface, £1.30 airmail.

Written to celebrate the 50th anniversary of a Film Society "born" in 1946 during the heyday of the cinema; it includes details of the public cinemas in Slough that year and lists many familiar film titles shown to the Society. A copy of the Society's Constitution is in Appendix A, and a list of the most popular films shown is in Appendix B. [JD]

Newbury in the 1890s by Penelope Stokes

Blacket Turner & Co Ltd, 1995, 36pp Price £3.95 from bookshops and newsagents in West Berkshire or via Newbury Weekly News Group, Newspaper House, Faraday Rd, Newbury, RG13 2DW (+ 55p P&P)

Written by BFHS member Penelope Stokes this book is a snapshot of Newbury a century ago, drawing extensively on the Newbury Weekly News archives and including many pictures. [CH]

The Handy Book of Parish Law

Wiltshire FHS, 1st ed 1859, new ed. 1995; 112pp; price £4.00 + P&P 70p UK, £1.10 overseas surface, £2.70 airmail.

Modern typeset of guide for parish officials originally produced by a barrister in London; twenty three chapters covering such subjects as the churchwardens, vestries, constables, removal of nuisances, parish apprentices, etc. Invaluable background reading to your 19th century research. [JD]

How Heavy, How Much and How Long, weights, money & other measures used by our ancestors, by Colin R Chapman

Lochin Publishing 1995; 92pp, many tables (indexed); price £5 + P&P 60p UK, 95p overseas surface, £2.20 airmail.

Described as "another in the series of *Chapmans Records Cameos*", this fascinating booklet will be useful for anyone faced with unfamiliar units of weights and measures in old documents, when solving a crossword puzzle or who like to collect unusual facts. The 7 chapter titles are self-explanatory: General numeration; Length: linear measure; Area: square measure; Volume & capacity: Cubic Measure; Weight & mass; Money; Metric measures & equivalents.

Among the memory-jerking measures included in the tables are a Sabbath Day's Journey (1 or 2 miles) in Biblical Lengths, ancient British numerals for counting sheep (yana, tana, tethera, etc) and weights for sugar, cocoa, plums, cloves, etc. [JD]

Tracing Ancestors in Northamptonshire by Colin R Chapman

Lochin Publishing 1995; 54 pp; price £4.50 + P&P 60p UK, £1 overseas surface, £2.00 airmail.

If this is "your" county, then you're in luck: lots of basic "how-to-do-it" information with

a bias towards local records; list of parishes with starting year of registers, plus which deanery, hundred and union; list of parishes in hundreds, Northants regiments, etc. [JD]

Quaker Marriage by Edward H Milligan

Quaker Tapestry Booklet, 1994; 32pp; price £2 + P&P 50p UK, 80p overseas surface, £1.45 airmail

Interesting and informative booklet written about one of the embroidered panels of a Tapestry created by over 4,000 Friends which is on exhibition in Kendal, Cumbria.

Includes list of Parliamentary Acts which affected Quaker marriages. [JD]

Quaker Family History Society - Members' Interests

No.1, June 1995; 24pp; price £2.00 + P&P 40p UK, 60p overseas surface, £1.30 airmail.

First list of members' interests by the Quaker FHS which has yet to reach its 2nd birthday. If you want to know more write (+ sae) to Katherine Slay, The Smoke Hole, Rumbolds Close, Chichester, W Sussex PO19 277 [JD]

TO BE REVIEWED "NEXT TIME"

FAMILY HISTORY NEWS & DIGEST, Vol.10/2 (FFHS Sept 1995); price £1.50 + P&P £2.10 UK, £2.45 overseas surface, £3.65 airmail.

BASIC FACTS ABOUT SOURCES for FAMILY HISTORY in the HOME by Iain SWINNERTON (FFHS 1985) - £1.25 + P&P 35p UK, 60p overseas surface, £1.30 airmail.

BASIC APPROACH TO KEEPING YOUR FAMILY RECORDS, by Iain SWINNERTON (FFHS 1995); price £1.25 + P&P 35p UK, 60p overseas surface, £1.30 airmail.

BASIC APPROACH TO LATIN by Michael GANDY (FFHS 1995); price £1.25 + P&P 35p UK, 60p overseas surface, £1.30 airmail.

BASIC FACTS ABOUT FAMILY HISTORY RESEARCH in YORKSHIRE by Pauline MLITTON (FFHS 1995); price £1.25 + P&P 35p UK, 60p overseas surface, £1.30 airmail.

The PROTESTATION RETURNS 1641-42 & other contemporary listings by Jeremy GIBSON & Alan DELL (GIBSON GUIDE, FFHS 1995); price £3.95 + P&P 60p UK, 95p overseas surface, £2.15 airmail.

QUARTER SESSIONS for Family Historians by Jeremy GIBSON (GIBSON GUIDE, 4th ed. ffhs 1995); price £2.50 + P&P 50p UK, 80p overseas surface, £1.65 airmail.

CHESHIRE Genealogical Bibliography: Part 1, Genealogical Sources; Part 2, Family Histories & Pedigrees, by Stuart A RAYMOND (FFHS 1995); prices (1) £9.50 + P&P 70p UK, £1.10 overseas surface, £2.55 airmail, & (2) £7.00 + P&P 50p UK, 80p overseas surface, £1.65 airmail.

WAS YOUR GRANDFATHER A RAILWAYMAN? by Tom RICHARDS (3rd ed, FFHS 1995); price £4.95 + P&P 70p UK, £1.10 overseas surface, £2.55 airmail.

DATING OLD PHOTOGRAPHS by Robert POLS (2nd ed. FFHS 1995); price £4.95 + P&P 60p UK, 95p overseas surface, £2.15 airmail.

Project Evenings at Research Centre

Two project evenings have been arranged at the Research Centre, Prospect School, Reading on 11th Jan 1996 and 8th Feb 1996 at 7:30pm for 8pm.

Berkshire Record Office News

From Elizabeth Hughes and Bob Hale

Local Government Review

At the time of writing we have just heard that the County Council has won its case to have John Gummer's decision to create six unitary authorities set aside; the action was declared illegal. The Government could appeal, accept the Commission's original recommendations for five unitary authorities, or refer Berkshire back to the Commission for reconsideration. So the future of the Record Office, which is currently run by the County Council, is still uncertain. While it has been agreed that keeping the Record Office as a unit is the only practical way forward, the question of how the service will be funded and its future development secured if the county is broken up still remains.

Ratebooks

Rating and valuation records from the former rural and urban districts of Berkshire (the districts which were reorganised in 1974) have just been catalogued. A thirty-year closure period applies, which means that records up to the mid 1960s are now available for research.

District councils took over responsibility for rating from the parishes in 1927. What had been the "*poor rate*" administered by the parish overseers became the "general rate" to fund local expenditure which we were all familiar with until the poll tax and now the council tax were introduced in its place in recent years. Two principal series of records were compiled: valuation lists by which an assessment was made on each property, and rate books which recorded the collection of the rate. Both list owners and occupiers and record any changes taking place.

The districts appear to have inherited existing parish valuation lists, and occasionally rate books, for odd year, when they took over in 1927, and those that survive, go back in some cases to the first world war, in others to the 1890s. Some parishes are well documented, others not at all. After 1927, the districts continued to value and rate properties by (civil), but usually all parishes were recorded in a few large volumes or even one single enormous one. The records can therefore be heavy and cumbersome to use. Survival of post-1927 material is also variable, as some councils did not retain old valuation lists which had been superseded by new ones, or rate books which were no longer current.

As an addition to, and in some senses an improvement on, electoral registers, these records will be of interest to local and house historians and to family historians. At the time of writing (October 1995) all the old Berkshire Rural and Urban Districts' records are catalogued and ready for use except for a number of volumes, particularly from Faringdon and Wantage Rural Districts, which still require cleaning or repair by our conservation staff before they can be handled. It is hoped to work next on the rate books and valuation lists of the former boroughs of Berkshire (although it may be some months before Reading is completed).

We suggest that if you are interested in consulting these records, you ring us to check on what is available for any given parish or date. Alternatively, when visiting the BRO, consult our catalogues labelled RD and UD.

Other Records Catalogued

Apart from the rate book, a variety of other

records have been catalogued over the past few months. Amongst them are papers of the Boham and related families of Blewbury (1606-1916) which include a number of title deeds as well as wills and other probate material. The papers of Wilders of Wallingford, agricultural engineers (1884-1949, 1964) comprise journals, purchase and sales ledgers, cash books and order books. These supplement journals and wages books of the business already available. The author Jerome K Jerome was a frequent customer of the garage department in the early years of the 20th century, and clearly did not have a very reliable car! Other business records catalogued were those of the Uffington Brick and Tile Company.

Also now available are maps of Frilsham and Eling manors (1768) and Streatley (1814) and administrative records of Progress Theatre, Reading, 1948-1994.

Gibson's Guides

We have just received the latest guides hot off the press: "*Quarter Sessions for Family Historians*", 4th edn, and the new "*Protestation Returns 1641-42*". Jeremy Gibson invites us to bring these to your attention, and we are pleased to do not only that but to remind you that all his guides are available for reference in the BRO library.

Census Returns

The BRO has just acquired copies of the 1841 to 1881 census returns for Berkshire to add to the 1891 returns and the 1851 and 1881 indexes which are already available. They are on roll film and take up 66 reels, so will require a considerable amount of indexing, but this should be completed during our two week stocktake in November. After this all we need to do is find space for them in the searchroom!

NB The censuses cover "old" Berkshire so do not cover Slough or Caversham.

News from Record Offices and Archives

Electoral Rolls 1993-94 have been moved from St Catherine's House, London, to the Office of Population Censuses & Surveys (OPCS), Lancaster Court, Sagensworth Road, Tichfield, Hants. Opening hours 9 am - 4.30pm when public access is allowed if convenient. Tel. 01329 813051.

Essex Record Office is now open Saturdays 9.15am to 4.15pm.

Warwickshire Record Office may be imposing admission charges - write with your views to The Archivist, Christopher Jeans, Priory Park, Cape Road, Warwick CV34 4JS

Public Record Office, Chancery Lane - Rolls Chapel Microfilm Reading Room now open Monday to Saturday 9.30am - 5pm: microfilm documents available include PCC Wills before 1858, Death Registers before 1858, Nonconformist Registers (RG 4) and certain classes of State Papers. Reminder: The Census Room is also open Monday to Saturday - same hours.

Somerset House, London - From 1 June 1995, fees for copy Wills and Letters of Administration on personal application are:

1. Office Copy - 75p
2. Sealed & certified Copy for legal purposes - £1.50

Q & A With Jean

By Jean Debney

School Records and Child Immigration to Canada

Q Mrs Beryl Griffin (715) of Newmarket, Suffolk writes: "My grandfather lived in the Orts Road area of Reading and probably attended Newtown School. When was that built, were there other schools in the area and could I see his school records? Also, when Grandfather was about 10 years old, probably in 1886, he went to Canada and returned at an unknown date. He doesn't seem to have "been away" for very long and was back with the family in Reading when he married in 1903. When I asked him why he went, his reply was "just for a trip". The family were too poor to have paid the fare and his only living daughter, who is in her eighties, will not talk about it. Did they send "naughty boys" to Canada in the 1880s as they sent criminals to Australia? We are curious to find the answer to his 'trip'."

A There appear to have been two schools in the Newtown area of Reading that your grandfather could have attended, and the records for both are in the Berkshire Record Office: (1) The Reading and Earley Board School (Newtown), built in 1875 for 1,580 children and now called Newtown Primary School: Log Books (1875-1974, closed from 1911) and Admission Registers (1896-1976, closed from 1951) (2) St Stephens National School, built in 1871 for 325 children: Log Books (1871-1929) and Admission Registers (1887-1929).

According to my local paper, a new local history book, *"Newtown - the Inside Story"*, has just been published but I have not yet had a chance to see a copy. This may supply some answers for you.

Regarding the "trip" to Canada, it is possible that your Grandfather was sent under *"The British Child Emigration Movement"* which began in 1869 - two years after Colonial Canada became a nation - and continued for almost 70 years. Its purpose was to save poor and "destitute" children from the workhouse and place them in good homes with Canadian farmers where they were to receive some education and training and attend Church regularly. The scheme spread among various philanthropists and children's homes, including the Church of England and Dr Barnardo's. Although most of the children came from London, many were sent from other industrial areas of England, Scotland and Ireland. This information was drawn from the entry *"Children's Societies and Emigration"* in the *"The Family Historians Enquire Within"* by Pauline Saul (FFHS 1995)**; which refers to an informative article *"Off to a New Life"* by D Phyllis Harrison in *Family Tree Magazine*, Vol. 2/6 (Sep-Oct 1986) pp30-31, which includes a list of sources.

The reason for grandfather's reluctance to talk about his experience may have been (1) he was ashamed of being poor or, more likely, (2) he ran away from Canada and was afraid of being caught.

An Old Occupation

Q Rod Hallam of Reading, Berks, a member of my Family History class: I have an old directory c1850 which includes the occupation of "higgler" - what does this mean?

A A Higgler is an itinerant peddler or hawker, a man that used the roads to buy poultry for resale; the term is derived from the verb *"to higgler"* (or haggle) which means to bargain or sell a for small advantage. The

phrase "higgledy-piggledy" or "higglety-picklety" - ie. in confusion, without order, topsy-turvy - probably has the same root.

On hearing this, another class member recited the nursery rhyme "Higgledy piggledy my black hen, She lays eggs for gentlemen, Sometimes nine and sometimes ten, Higgledy piggledy my black hen". My Oxford Dictionary of Nursery Rhymes does not include this version nor does it suggest any connection with "higgler". Does anyone else have another suggestion?

The Old Contemptibles Association

Further to the question about the 'Old Contemptibles Association' from Mrs Vera Lennard (see BFHS Vol.19/1 Sep 1995 p42), Colin Davies (857) of Emmer Green, Reading, Berks has sent some information from *The Mons Star: the British Expeditionary Force 5 Aug - 22 Nov 1914* by David Ascoli (1981) from which the following is a summary:

The term *The Old Contemptibles* - so called because the German Kaiser referred to the British Expeditionary Force to France and Flanders in 1914 as "... that contemptible little army" - is limited to the 230,000 individuals who were awarded the Mons Star with bar. The Mons Star was originally

awarded to all who served in France and Belgium between 5 August and 30 November 1914 and the bar (with the inscription '5 Aug - 22 Nov 1914') was added later exclusively for those who had been "under fire", ie. "within range of enemy mobile artillery". Casualties during this first phase of the Great War were very high, and the diminishing band of "Old Contemptibles" are still regarded as unique amongst those who fought in World War I.

A Bargemaster at Maidenhead

Pat Mundy (818) who posed this question (see BFHS Vol.19/1 Sep 1995 p42), wrote to say: "Thank you for the information which I shall follow up. There were just two points in case you have a similar query. Firstly you were quite right that the Livery records in the Guildhall Library only apply to London and Middlesex, ie. the tidal Thames from the mouth of the river to Teddington Lock. And secondly, the Reading Central Local Studies Library have a large number of books about the river Thames. The best book I have found about a working river is one you mentioned: **The Thames Highway** by Fred S Thacker, especially volume 1. I managed to get a secondhand copy, at great expense, of the David & Charles reprint - but it was well worth the money."



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

Help!

John Harper (2416) of 3 Pond Head Lane, Earley, Reading, RG6 7ET wrote in the hopes that a fellow member could help him with some information about the Tinker family of Windsor:

"I have been trying to help some family historians in the USA to find the British ancestors of a John Tinker who is believed to have arrived in America in 1637 with his widowed mother on the ship "*Blessing*". It was at first thought that they were from the Holmfirth area of Huddersfield, Yorkshire, where my own Tinker ancestors come from. Then they discovered that John Tinker was born in New Windsor, Berks., the son of Robert Tinker and his second wife, Mary Merwin, who were married in Amersham, Bucks.

As I live in Berkshire, I was asked to carry out some research on the Tinkers of Windsor. In the New Windsor Parish Registers at the BRO, I have found the baptism of a John Tinker (18th July 1613) son of Robert Tinker, who could well be the John who arrived in the USA in 1637. I have, however, tried without success to find the birth of John's father, Robert, believed born about 1565. I have found what is almost certainly his burial in 1624 (the date given by my American correspondents) and possibly his first marriage in 1591 to Anne Berrington. I have passed this information on to my contacts in the USA.

They have told me that Robert Tinker was a merchant and, at the time of his death, owned property in Clewer and Winkfield, Berks; Burnham, Bucks; and Berkhamstead, Herts. He probably had a brother, Randall, who was apparently clerk of the choir at Windsor Chapel in 1596. It seems that the Tinkers were in Windsor for only about 100 years. The Parish Records of New Windsor

do not contain that surname prior to a baptism of a Randell Tinker in 1589, nor later than a burial of a Hester Tinker in 1687. Where they came from and where they went to, I do not know.

I wondered if any other Berkshire FHS members with a better knowledge of families in this area than I have know anything about these Tinkers of New Windsor, particularly about John Tinker's father, Robert, or Robert's brother, Randall, and if possible their parents. I would welcome any information that I could pass on to my American correspondents, one of whom is writing an article on the Tinker family for a genealogical publication in New England."

Julie Goddard of 11 Chandos Rd, Newbury, Berks, RG14 7EP has a question on behalf of Margaret Martin, a fellow member of the Goddard Association:

"Mrs Martin has a certificate which was awarded on 11th July 1864 to James and Sarah Goddard "*for having brought up their family in honest sober and industrious habits*" and was given by "*The Prince Consort's Windsor Association for improving the condition of Labourers and others*". We think that this James Goddard is the one who died in Windsor Workhouse on 16th October 1882, when he was said to be a gardener aged 84. However the 1881 census of the workhouse states that James Goddard says that he was aged 76 and a farm labourer, born at Leatherhead. The death certificate of James was signed by his son, William Goddard of Richmond, who was Mrs Martin's great-grandfather. There was certainly a James Goddard, married to a Sarah, in Leatherhead who had a son William in 1821. Can members tell me anything about the Prince Consort's

Windsor Association? And does general opinion agree with me that the three James Goddards are the same - despite the discrepancy in ages?"

Colin Brown (813) of Lynwood, 4 All Hallows Road, Caversham, Reading, RG4 5LP would like some help:

He has an Edwin Henry Clark born Reading 1864 who married Emily Stowell at Reading in 1887 and had sons Edward and Alfred and daughters "Cissy", Ada and Emily. They all seem to have "disappeared" but perhaps someone knows differently?

Susan White (712) of The Bungalow, Fairfield Rd, Goring, RG8 0EY wrote about Reading Cemetery:

"I would like to know where the unconsecrated ground is which includes

divisions 16 and 21, according to the Cemetery Order Book in the BRO. My ancestors were buried there - apparently unmarked!

Second, a piece of information to pass on to anyone mapping the cemetery. On the right (going in) of the central path are three stones leaning together belonging to Conrad Ernest Hanson, Mary Elizabeth Robinson and Mary Ann Dunsdon. Behind these is an unmarked grave housing my grandmother Emma Bolton (formerly White, née Watts) As I could be the only person alive who knows this, I thought I should record it for posterity.

Third on the subject of recording things, we were recently looking again at some graves (not in Berks) that we transcribed less than ten years ago. Some are now illegible. The time for transcribing is NOW!"

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Members' Interests

Compiled by Robert Houseman

(great demand for space in this issue of the Magazine has resulted in the need to publish some Members' Interests in the March issue - my apologies to those Members)

MEMBERS SUBMITTING THEIR INTERESTS:

(* Member of Guild Of One Name Studies)

- 1128 Mr J **WILLSON**, Woodland View, Downley Common, High Wycombe, Bucks HP13 5YL
 1623 Miss M **WATTS**, 86 Michael Court, Bristol Road, Edgbaston, Birmingham B5 7TS
 3004 Ms H **JENSEN**, 17 Walford Drive, Onkaparinga Hills 5163, SOUTH AUSTRALIA
 3032 Ms J **CARVER**, 10 Whitehall Road, Canterbury, Kent CT2 8BQ
 3070 Ms EM **HUNT**, 94 Nursery Road, Taplow, Maidenhead, Berks SL6 0JU
 3088 Miss R **KENNY**, 32 Heath Halt Road, Cardiff, South Glamorgan CF2 5QF
 3108 Mr M **COGGINS**, 172 Westmorland Road, Wyken, Coventry, West Midlands CV2 5BU
 3116 Mrs RE **BOWLER**, 4 Florence Villas, Bottle Lane, Littlewick Green, Maidenhead, Berks SL6 3SA

No.	Surname	Place	Code	Period	No.	Surname	Place	Code	Period
3070	ALWAY	Reading area	BRK	Pre 1900	3116	HOBBS	Hambleden	BKM	1560-1890
3088	ATWELLS	Anywhere	LDN	1750-1825	3116	HOBBS	Henley-on-Thames	OXF	1800-1900
3004	BAKER	Anywhere	BRL	1700-1900	3088	HOWELL	Llansamlet	GLA	1750-1850
3004	BAKER	Anywhere	BKM	1700-1900	3070	HUNT	Ilford area	ESS	1800-1900
3116	BOWLER	Princes Risborough	BKM	1600-1800	3108	JAGGER	Barnsley	SYK	Pre 1930
3116	BROOKS	Wilmington	KEN	1700-1800	3088	JAMES	Anywhere	LDN	1750-1825
3108	COGGINS	Binfield	BRK	Pre 1800	3070	JEFFERY	Reading area	BRK	Pre 1900
3108	COGGINS	Blackburn	LAN	Pre 1930	3032	KEAT(S)	Anywhere	BRK	1700-1900
3108	COGGINS	Coldash, Thatcham	BRK	Pre 1800	3088	KENNY	Galway	GAL	1783-1857
3070	COGGINS	Mortimer	BRK	Pre 1900	1623	LAMBOURN(E)	Hungerford	WIL	1700-1850
3108	COGGINS	Mortimer	BRK	Pre 1800	3116	LEADER	Coleshill	BRK	1600-1800
3108	COGGINS	Pangbourne	BRK	Pre 1800	3088	LEWIS	Llansamlet	GLA	1750-1850
3108	COGGINS	Reading	BRK	Pre 1800	3088	McNEIL	Sneaton	NYK	1750-1880
3108	COGGINS	Silchester	HAM	Pre 1800	3108	MORBEBY	Northampton	NTH	Pre 1930
3108	COGGINS	Tilhurst	BRK	Pre 1800	3088	NEWBERRY	Anywhere	LDN	1750-1825
3004	COOPER	Anywhere	BKM	1700-1900	3070	PLATTEN	Hampstead	LND	1850-1930
3004	COOPER	Anywhere	BRK	1700-1900	3116	SHEPPARD	Bermondsey	SRV	1600-1800
3004	COOPER	Clewer	BRK	1700-1900	3116	SHEPPARD	Chariton	KEN	1800-1900
3004	COOPER	Windsor	BRK	1700-1900	3004	SINGER	Anywhere	BKM	1700-1900
3088	COVERDALE	Hawsker	NYK	1700-1880	3004	SINGER	Anywhere	BRL	1700-1900
3116	CREWE	Bracknell	BRK	1700-1800	3004	SINGER	Clewer	BRK	1700-1900
3088	DAVIES	Carms	CMN	1800-1850	3032	SKEAT(S)	Anywhere	BRK	1700-1900
3088	DAVIES	Merthyr	GLA	1800-1850	3088	TREBY	Plymouth	DEV	1800-1870
3088	DAVIES	Swansea	GLA	1750-1850	1623	WALKER	Hungerford	WIL	1800-1870
3116	DAY	Reading	BRK	1600-1890	3070	WALTER	Alsace Lorraine, FRANCE		Pre 1865
3070	DUFFETT	Ryde	IOW	ALL	3070	WALTER	Plaistow area	LND	1860-1995
3088	EVANS	Carms	CMN	1800-1850	3070	WALTER	Sunderland	DUR	1870-1900
3088	EVANS	Merthyr	GLA	1800-1850	3088	WARWICK	Eston	NYK	1700-1800
3108	GREEN	Barnsley	SYK	Pre 1930	1623	WATERS	Shalbourne	BRK	1700-1860
3070	HADLEY	Harborne area	STS	Pre 1860	1623	WATTS	Newnham	HRT	1800-1900
3070	HADLEY	Oldbury area	STS	Pre 1860	1623	WATTS	Steeple Morden	CAM	1700-1800
3070	HADLEY	Plaistow area	LND	1850-1930	3088	WILLIAMS	Plymouth	DEV	1800-1870
3070	HALLETT	Anywhere	USA	1870-1995	1128	WILLSON	Anywhere	BRK	1620-1900
3070	HALLETT	Guildford	SRV	1870-1995	1128	WILLSON	Newbury	BRK	1620-1900
3070	HALLETT	Newport	IOW	Pre 1900	1128	WILLSON	South Oxon	OXF	1620-1990
3070	HALLETT	Ryde	IOW	1840-195	1128	WILLSON	Streatley	BRK	1620-1900
3116	HAWKES	Turville	BKM	1600-1800	1128	WILLSON	Wallingford	BRK	1620-1900
3116	HAWKES	Watlington	OXF	1600-1800	1128	WILLSON	West Bucks	BKM	1620-1900

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.

The Research Centre:

Open FREE to Members on Tuesday 7pm-9:30pm, and Wednesdays 10am-4pm

Situated in Prospect School, Honey End Lane, Reading, the Research Centre houses the Society Reference Library, containing books, articles & research material on Berkshire as well as many other Counties; in addition, it has the 1881 Census (fiche) for all Counties published to date, the Berkshire Exchange Magazine Archive (magazines exchanged with other FHS Societies), the Berkshire Name Index and many other research aids; the Centre has numerous fiche readers, as well as photocopying facilities. For more information contact: **Cliff Debney, 8 Huckleberry Close, Purley, Reading, Berkshire RG8 8EH**

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**

Bookstall:

A wide selection of books of interest to family historians is available at meetings and by post. Publication lists are available from the Bookstall Manager **Mrs Jean Debney, 8 Huckleberry Close, Purley, Reading, Berkshire RG8 8EH**

Subscriptions:

The Annual Subscription is payable on 1st July each year and the current rates are:

Ordinary Membership: £9.00

Family Membership: £10.00

Overseas Ordinary Membership: £11.00

Overseas Family Membership: £12.00

Initial One-off Enrolment Fee for all New Members: £1.50

Cheques should be made payable to *The Berkshire Family History Society*.

Overseas payment can only be accepted by a Sterling cheque drawn on a London Clearing Bank. Requests for Membership details should be addressed, with SAE, to: **Robert Houseman, Hon Secretary, The Corner House, Shaw Road, Reading, Berkshire RG1 6JX**

Advertising Rates:

£30.00 per full page; £15.00 per half page; £7.50 per quarter page. Requests for advertising should be addressed to the Editor, **Mrs Catherine Harrington, 20 Test Close, Tilehurst, Reading, Berkshire RG3 4DL**

1994-1995 Executive Committee Members(*) and Useful Addresses

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Vice-President: Peter Durrant (Dr), County Archivist, BRO, Shire Hall, Shinfield Park, Reading, Berks RG2 9XD
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Magazine Library: Beryl Gorse (Mrs), 95 Vandyke, Great Hollands, Bracknell. Berks RG12 8UR (01344-422326)
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*In the event of non-delivery, please return to The Secretary: Robert Houseman,
The Corner House, Shaw Road, Reading, Berkshire RG1 6JX, United Kingdom*



Research Centre Guide No. 1

What is in the Library?

November 1995

This aim of this leaflet is to tell you what is in the Library at the Research Centre. After reading this leaflet you should know how a visit to the Berkshire Family History Research Centre can help you.

It just isn't possible to list the entire contents of the library here – the catalogue runs to over 100 pages – so this leaflet highlights the most significant holdings in each section of the library.

Census Returns and Indexes

The Research Centre is receiving all the fiche from the **1881 Census Project** for the **whole of England and Wales**. This includes Surname Indexes, Place name indexes, Birthplace indexes, the returns as enumerated, lists of Ships, Vessels and Institutions. There will be approx. 5,000 fiche when complete.

The Society also has a policy of buying all Census Indexes published by other UK Family History Societies, particularly for the **1851 census**. We have complete collections of indexes for Bedfordshire, Berkshire, Oxfordshire and Hampshire. Unfortunately, for some counties, such as Wiltshire, no indexes have been published, while in others such as Cambridgeshire, only one or two have been made available. Many indexes, such as those for Buckinghamshire and Leicestershire are on fiche. To help you find the 1851 census index you need, we are preparing a **Gazetteer of place names** which will direct you to the right volume and index.

The Research Centre also holds a small number of Census Returns on fiche.

There are **over 800 items** related to the Census, and because it is such a significant part of the library, they are kept together for easy reference.

Family History Textbooks

Many text books have been published about Family History, and related subjects such as palaeography, heraldry, local history and old occupations, over the years. The Research Centre holds a comprehensive selection of these including recent editions of **all the Gibson Guides** and the booklets published by Eve McLaughlin.

Stuart Raymond's **Genealogical Bibliographies** are also on the shelves under their appropriate counties, and the same applies to the **National Index of Parish Registers** published by the Society of Genealogists.

Berkshire

Being Berkshire based, the Society has more publications about Berkshire than any other county. The list includes publications by the Libraries and Berkshire Record Office, Local Histories, Church Guides, Parish Registers, Monumental Inscriptions, Maps, Kelly's Directories, books of photographs, indexed calendars of the records of the Old Poor Law. There are a total of **600 publications** related to Berkshire.

Other English Counties

With such a large influx of people into the Royal County of Berkshire in recent years, the Society could not neglect the members with interests outside the county. The Society has obtained many of the publications of other Family History Societies and supplemented these with genealogical bibliographies, indexes, parish registers, County Record Office and other publications. In all this amounts to **nearly 2,000 publications**.

Other Countries

Much information has been published both about research in other countries and immigration to and from other counties (both voluntary and involuntary). The main sections are:

- ◆ Ireland (about 15 items, including the 1988 IGI)
- ◆ Scotland (about 80 items)
- ◆ Wales (about 150 items)
- ◆ Overseas, including Australia, New Zealand, USA and Canada (about 80 items)

Directories

Directories are lists of names, which is grist to the mill of the Family Historian. The Research Centre shelves hold copies of Burkes Peerage (1909), Debrett's Peerage (1950), Kelly's Handbook, Crockfords (clergy), Cricketers, Who's Who, Who was Who, Bankrupt directory, Lloyd's Captains' Register amongst other more recent directories.

Some of these directories are produced by genealogists for genealogists, these include the complete British Isles Genealogical Register (BIG R), The Register of One Name Studies (by the Guild of One Name Studies), Genealogical Research Directory (1982-1995), National Genealogical Directory (1979-1992), Family History Knowledge UK.

Members' Interests directories produced by family history societies are found with other publications for the appropriate county.

Family Histories

Some people publish large books about their family's history, others just collect a few notes about a particular name. The library includes information about the following surnames (This doesn't include the Berkshire Name Index or the collection of members' birth briefs).

A'BEAR, AITKEN, ALDWORTH, ARMSTRONG, BAREFOOT ,
BLAGRAVE/BLAGROVE, BOWYER/BOYER & FISHER, BRETT, BROOKS,
BROWNING, BUXTON FORBES LAURIE, CAREW, CHANCELLOR, CLARK,
CLARKE, CLEARES, CLEMENT, CLIFFORD, CUMMINGS, DAVIES,
DEBNEY, DODDERIDGE, DUNSDON, FETTIPLACE, FIELDER,
FOTHERGILLS, GLAZEBROOK, GOSBY, GREENWOOD, HAVELL,
HAWKINS, HAYES-PALMER, SLOWCOCK / FOSTER / WOOTON,
HEDD/HED/HEAD, HUGHES, JACKSON / FIELDER / NOBLE, JONES,
KENDRICK, LEE, LOADER, LONSDALE, LYDLLI , MASON, MAYOTT,
METCALFE, MILLS, MITCHELL & COBBIN, MITCHELL, MONTGOMERY,
MORLAND, MORTIMER, McNAIR, McNEAR & McNEIR, NEWBERY,
NOBLES, PALMER, PARKE, HOOPER, PEIRCY, PENN, PIGGOT / PYGGOT,
POULTON, PRATER, RICHARDSON & HILLIARD, SHERMAN, SMALLBONE,
SMITH, STACEY, STONE, STRATTONS, STROUD, TREACHER,
TRENTHAM, TRIMMING, TUFF, TWENEBROOKES, TYRELL, URRY,
VALPEY, WHEATLANDS, WHEELER, WISE.

Many of these items will be found in the filing cabinets in the administration room or along the top bookshelf on the wall alongside the corridor.

Maps

The Society has a collection of large scale maps of Berkshire. These are on the scale of 25 inches to the mile and cover almost all the pre-1974 county of Berkshire.

There is also a collection of maps showing the parishes for each of the counties.

The Society also holds the current Ordnance Survey Street Maps of both Berkshire and Oxfordshire, so the entire pre-1974 county of Berkshire is covered at a scale of 3½ inches to the mile.

Magazines and Periodicals

The Society exchanges magazines with **over 80** other family history societies some for as long as **20 years**. The Research Centre also has good runs of the **Amateur/Local Historian** (Vols 1 to 15), **Family Tree Magazine**, and the **Genealogist's Magazine** published by the Society of Genealogists.

Berkshire Name Index

The Berkshire Name Index is in reality a collection of indexes, amounting to over 100,000 slips and including many stray Berkshire people found outside the county. This includes (in approximate order of number) references to:

- ◆ Census Returns (20%)
- ◆ Baptisms (20%)
- ◆ Electoral Registers and Poll books (20%)
- ◆ Monumental Inscriptions (8%)
- ◆ Marriages (8%)
- ◆ Burials (5%)
- ◆ Pedigree or Family Tree references
- ◆ Banns of Marriage
- ◆ Witness or authoriser
- ◆ Removal orders
- ◆ Book references
- ◆ Recusants (Catholics)
- ◆ General Survey
- ◆ Reading Standard (1914-18)
- ◆ Death
- ◆ Apprenticeships
- ◆ Marriage Settlements
- ◆ Births
- ◆ Presentments
- ◆ and Wills, Wages Receipts, Marriage Licences, and so on and so on.

There is also a special index to Tudor Reading.

Note that the **Berkshire Name Index** is separate from the **Berkshire Marriage Index**. The Berkshire Marriage Index is an index (in bridegroom order) to marriages in the county and surrounding parishes. Up to date details of access to the Berkshire Marriage Index are given on the inside of the back cover of *Berkshire Family Historian*.