



Berkshire
Family
Historian

Volume 19 - No 4 - June 1996

T H E

Holy Scriptures

In the Way of

Common Place,

For the USE of the

CHARITY SCHOOLS

I N

B L E W B E R R Y.

By JOSEPH ACRES, Vicar of
Blewberry.



L O N D O N,

Printed and Sold by Joseph Downing in Bar-
~~bolonew-Close~~ near West-Smithfield, 1711.

Events Calendar - 1996

Bracknell Branch

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

21st June	"19C Country Life"	Avril Lansdell
19th July	to be announced	
20th September	to be announced	
18th October	to be announced	
15th November	to be announced	
20th December	to be announced	

Newbury Branch

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

12th June	Branch AGM - Members Evening	
11th September	to be announced	
9th October	"Irish Research - part 2"	Bill Davis
13th November	"Basic Scottish Ancestry"	Marjorie Moore
11th December	Members Evening & Christmas Party	

Reading Branch

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

28th June	"The Breadwinner"	Meryl Catty
27th September	"I've Drawn The Tree - What next?"	Douglas Jackson
25th October	to be announced	
22nd November	"The Parish Chest: its officers and contents" ..	Jean Debney
6th December	Christmas Meeting	

Slough Branch

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

25th June	Society AGM + "Getting the Most from the GRO"	Audrey Brown
30th July	Problem Solving Evening for our Members	
24th September	"London: The Metropolitan Nightmare?"	Paul Blake
29th October	"Emigrants and Immigrants"	Lillian Gibbens
26th November	"19th Century Country Life"	Avril Lansdell

BERKSHIRE FAMILY HISTORIAN

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Part 4, June 1996

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Chairman's Comments

By *Chad Hanna*

First, I must apologise for the lateness of the last issue of the *Berkshire Family Historian*. This was because of a fault in the print run.

The Society's Annual General Meeting at Slough will be imminent by the time you read this and the new Executive Committee will be taking up their posts. I think you and everyone else will agree with me that we must be very grateful for the work of Jean Debney, ably assisted by Cliff, in managing the Society's Bookstall for very many years. As chairman, I particularly appreciate the way she has dealt with the 'succession' so you can look forward to a continuing bookstall service. The profits of the bookstall, and the 1851 census indexes in particular, have been of enormous help to the Society. So a big thank you, and not a good-bye, to Jean.

Thoughts about Publications

Last Saturday, Lesley and I drove up to London to visit the Society of Genealogists' Family History Fair. We'd done our homework as far as possible during the two previous evenings, comparing the library catalogue with what other family history societies were offering, particularly in the area of 1851 census indexes. Needless to say this is one area where societies differ greatly. Some like the Oxfordshire FHS have completed the 1851 census index and returns, helped us with the 1881 census, and then went on to the 1891 census. They also have the fiche of their marriage index, for both husbands and wives. Other societies seem to publish very little of their own. Perhaps you, like me, wonder why this is?

Each project does need someone who thinks that the project is important enough

to devote their time and effort to it. If necessary, they will recruit a group of co-workers to speed the process along. In our own Society we have seen this with Geoff Mather and the 1851 census, David Watkins with Reading Cemetery MIs and Brian Hunt with the Overseers' Project. Outside of the Society, we can think of the late John Brooks, with the Parish Register transcriptions, and Violet Howse, with many items relating to 'North' Berkshire. What our Society can and should do is provide help, support, encouragement and sometimes direction. We also try and set a standard by trying to make sure that everything is independently checked.

Getting the information into a more readable form and indexing it is the major part of the work, but getting it to the people who can use it is no less important. About half of our members live outside Berkshire and a hundred or so live overseas. It helps many people if the information is lodged at the Society of Genealogists, but for most the cost of travel or employing a researcher is much greater than buying a booklet or a fiche 'on spec'.

Publication is changing. Not long ago booklets were the most practical way to publish, now microfiche is very economical and fiche readers are being discarded by many companies ready for use by family historians. Next, everyone who buys a new computer is likely to be buying one with CD-ROM drive, particularly as a CD-ROM drive now costs well under £100. This is paralleled with the growth of the Internet where a hundred messages a day discuss UK and Irish genealogy and many 'newbies' are surprised they can't search the census indexes or St. Catherine's indexes via their telephones. The

economics of each of these is very different to the others and will provide a lot of scope for discussion. However, the first step is clear – get existing information onto fiche.

What you need to do – now!

First, fill in your renewal form and the accompanying project questionnaire and return it to your membership secretary. The

questionnaire will help us with the New Parish Register Project.

Next complete the enclosed BIG R registration form and send it off. Many of you will remember the 1994 British Isles Genealogical Register (BIG R). We do have the complete 1994 BIG R in the Society's Research Centre.

Here We Go Again.....

Another MI Project for the Reading Branch

By Carol Wright

Now that the lengthy project to record the monumental inscriptions at Cemetery Junction in Reading has been completed and is being prepared for publication, the Reading Branch is about to start on another MI project.

This is to be at the Victoria Road Cemetery, off Hemdean Road, in Caversham. This cemetery was opened in 1885 and continued in use until 1956 when no further space was available for new plots, although occasional interments do still take place in purchased, family plots, as does the deposit of cremated remains. The Henley Road Cemetery and Crematorium in Caversham took many of the local burials and cremations when it opened in 1927.

There are approaching 3,700 plots in the Victoria Road Cemetery with an estimated 2,500 - 3,000 monuments. It is laid out very much in the Victorian style with pathways and ornamental trees and shrubs. In recent years it has been designated a wildlife conservation area, with the grass being cut only twice a year in order to let the wild flowers re-seed. When initial MI plotting was carried out in early April, there was a profusion of wild primroses and scillas.

During the coming months, we will be recording MIs on the following Saturdays between **10.30 am and 4.00 pm: 22nd June, 31st August and 12th October**. If anyone would like to come along and help, at any time during the day, they will be most welcome. Don't worry if you've never done this work before, there will be someone there to help. In addition, the Reading Branch July meeting will, as in previous years, be an MI recording session and will take place at the Victoria Road Cemetery on the evening of **Friday, 26th July from 7.00 p.m. until dusk**.

As part of the preparation for recording the Victoria Road Cemetery MIs, the six Registers of Graves are also being transcribed and indexed. This will give the names of all who are interred or whose cremated remains are deposited in the cemetery - whether or not the graves are marked with an MI - together with relevant dates, although only the year is normally shown before the mid 1950s. Additional information includes the names and addresses of the purchasers of plots and, very occasionally, their profession. Some of the names so far recorded will be familiar to those interested in the history of Reading and Caversham, for example, the Crawshays of Caversham Park. For those with Reading, or South Oxfordshire interests, there are numerous references from the town and the surrounding area generally, in addition to the many Caversham entries. Much of the transcribing of the Graves Registers has already been completed and it is hoped to make the material available for publication during 1996.

Dates for your Diary

The following events are taking place around the country. For further details of courses marked (*) contact the Institute of Heraldic and Genealogical Studies, (IHGS), 79-82 Northgate, Canterbury, Kent, CT1 1BA.

Sat 29th Jun - Sun 30th Jun 96: Yorkshire Family History Fair to be held in the Tattersall's Stand at York Racecourse. Day tickets available from Mr S Merridew, 206 Moseley Wood Gardens, Cookridge, Leeds, West Yorkshire, LS16 7JE.

Sat 20th July 96: Buckinghamshire Family History Society Open Day from 10am to 4pm at Bourne End Community Centre, Wakeman Road. Bucks FHS attractions include Bucks 1851, 1881, 1891 Census, Bucks Lists Marriage Database, Monumental Inscriptions Library, Bucks Church Photographs, Strays, Bookstall Publications, General Library as well as Second-Hand Books, MW Microfilm, Postcards, Binders, Rally-maps, S&N Computers. Other Family History Societies attending include Bedfordshire, Berkshire, East Surrey, Gloucestershire, Hampshire, Hillingdon, Oxfordshire, Quaker, Sussex, West Middlesex, West Surrey, Wiltshire and the Wooster Clan

Mon. 22nd July-Fri. 26th Jul.: *Beginners Residential Course* at IHGS, Canterbury. All basic sources will be discussed and practical experience is gained with the help of a stimulated genealogical exercise.

Fir 30th Aug.-Sun 1st Sep. 96 FFHS Conference "*A Taste of Yorkshire*" Hosted by Doncaster & District Family History Society at High Melton College, Doncaster. Speakers include Ian Dewhurst, David Hey, George Redmonds, Brian Elliott, Peter Franklin, Michael Gandy and Eric Houlder. There will be a choice of lectures on Heraldry, Surnames, Demography and the West Riding Registry of Deeds as well as different social groups. Further details, upon receipt of a SAE, from Mrs J.E.Grundy, 33 Beech Road, Wath-upon-Dearne, Rotherham, S63 7AN.

Sat 3rd Aug.-Sat 10th Aug. 96: Eleventh Family History in Wales Course at the University of Wales, Aberystwyth. See below for details of where to apply

Fri. 6th Sep-Tue 10th Sep. 96: Weekend Second Stage Course on "*People, Places and Pedigrees*" These residential courses are accredited by the University and people are welcome to attend them either to gain academic credits (10 credits at Level 1) or for personal satisfaction. Special consideration is given to the needs of overseas participants. Full details of this course and Eleventh Family History in Wales course available from: The Course Directors (FH), The Dept. of Extra-Mural Studies, University

of Wales, 10-11 Laura Place, Aberystwyth, SY23 2AU, Wales.

- Sat. 14th Sep. 96:* Day School on "*Heraldry for Family and Local Historians*"* at IHGS, Canterbury. Latest applications by 30th August.
- Wed. 9th Oct. 96:* Day School on "*The Family History Library*"* - a day school, at IHGS, Canterbury, designed to assist librarians, archivists and others in the field of genealogy who are faced with other people's genealogical problems. Latest application by 24th September.
- Fri. 1st Nov- Sun 3rd Nov. 96* Cornwall Family History Society AGM and Weekend Conference to be held at the Hotel Riviera, Newquay, Cornwall. There will be a series of interesting talks, as well as an opportunity to browse the various stands and access the computer database of names. Details can be obtained from David Holman, 3 Harbour Court, North Parade, Portscatho, Truro, Cornwall TR2 5HH
- Fri. 15th Nov-17th Nov. 96* Day School "*Occupations*"* at IHGS, Canterbury. Latest application by 18th October.
- Sat 1st Feb. 97* Day School "*Making More Sense of the Census*" from 10am-4pm to be held at Caversham Centre, Reading. (01734-477646). Tutor: Jean Debney
- Sat 8th Mar 97* Day School "*In a 'manor' of speaking - An introduction to Manorial Records*" from 10am-4pm to be held at Caversham Centre, Reading. (01734-477646). Tutor: Jean Debney

I have been notified of the following courses in family history which are being run by the Reading Adult College and will be held at the Caversham Centre (tel 01734-477646):

- Dig up your Ancestors - (Beginners) to be held on Mondays 2pm-4pm from 16th September for 24 weeks. Tutor: Barbara Dove
- Family History Forum - (Intermediate/Advanced) to be held on Thursdays 9:30am-11:30am from 19th September for 13 weeks. Tutor: Jean Debney
- Family History Forum - (Intermediate/Advanced) to be held on Thursdays 2pm-4pm from 19th September for 13 weeks. Tutor: Jean Debney
- Dig up your Ancestors - (Beginners) to be held on Tuesdays 7:30pm-9:30pm from 14th January 1997 for 11 weeks. Tutor: Jean Debney

The following courses in family history are being run under the auspices of East Berkshire College Adult Continuing Education. Full details of enrolment, fees etc. are available from Adult and Continuing Education, Langley Centre, East Berkshire College, Station Rd, Langley, SL3 8BY. (Tel: 01753-793000):

- Langleywood School, Langley, Slough to be held on Tuesdays 7:30pm-9:30pm from 17th September for 12 weeks.
- Ascot Heath C of E Junior School, Ascot to be held on Wednesdays from 7:30pm-9:30pm from 18th September for 12 weeks.

Barbados to Berkshire

By Sarah Brewer

When I first became interested in my family history, shortly after I married in 1977, the only information I had to go on was what my father could tell me: which was that his father's name was Walter Maycock (1871-1933) and that he had left his home town of Hythe, Kent, and walked to Canterbury at the age of fourteen to enlist in the Army. At some point, he had met and married my grandmother, Alice May Parris (1872-1956), but where and when, or where grandmother hailed from, my father didn't know. Enquiries to my aunt and uncles elicited that Alice May Parris was born in Padworth, near Aldermaston, the daughter of John Parris (1835-1906) and Eliza Long. John was apparently a gamekeeper, but he was an educated man as his signature on his marriage certificate shows. Eliza, however, merely "made her mark".

I later discovered that this Maycock-Parris marriage was celebrated at St Martin's, Westminster, in 1896. Alice May had gone up to London to find work, as did so many girls of lowly station, and was working in the box office of HM Theatre when she befriended Maggie Cobb, who also worked there. Maggie was engaged to be married to a Trooper in the Royal Horse Guards 'Blues', Harry Maycock. Harry's brother Walter often accompanied him to visit Maggie - and there he met Alice May, fell in love and married her.

Walter Maycock's family in Hythe were average folk - his father was a Master Baker who had prudently married the daughter of the local cornfactor; his grandfather an innkeeper and before that, his ancestry was based 'on the land'. Walter and all his brothers, however, took to life in the armed forces like ducks to

water, each joining a different regiment and travelling all over the world during their respective services. One place they did not visit, however, was the West Indies - if only they knew what they had missed!

If they had been able to visit Barbados, they would have had quite a surprise, for the name of Maycock is well-known there. The first settlers in Barbados were, like any pioneers, people of spirit and vision, and comprised a good cross-section of any average community in the 1600s - labourers and lords, innkeepers and brothel-keepers, men seeking sanctuary and men seeking solace. Among them were members of a Gloucestershire land-owning family, that of Thomas Maycock, (who later rose to be a Member of Assembly for the island), and then a little later, a merchant from London, Thomas Parris and his wife, one of whose sons, Samuel Parris, I believe later became the Minister whose daughters precipitated the calamitous Salem Witch Trials in Massachusetts. The Maycocks were wealthy, owning two windmills and a plantation called "*Lemon Grove*" on the western side of the island, and establishing a defensive fort in the bay which bears their name. They were among the first sugar-planters on the island, and family legend has it that the land was granted by King Charles on his restoration in gratitude for the family's loyalty, although this has yet to be proved. The Parris' were relatively simple folk, wealthy enough, honourable and upright citizens, but, like many on the island who were caught up in the repercussions of the Civil War and Commonwealth, involved in rebellions against the island's Assembly which sought to impose the will of Parliament upon the people.

This state of affairs, of course, put the Maycocks and Parris' on opposing sides of the fence, the Maycocks sitting in the Assembly and the Parris' rebelling against it. Did they ever come to terms with each other's views? It is unlikely, given the incendiary politics of the time.

At present, I am trying to establish whether any members of those two families intermarried. I have no evidence yet to suggest that this was so, although the Parris family certainly seemed to have 'bettered themselves' as evidence suggests that they employed "*servants for life*" (a euphemism for slaves), indicating that land of some quantity was under their tenure. Certainly,

there are coloured families on both Trinidad and Nevis today who bear the names of Maycock and Parris, and I can only think that they followed a well-known procedure in taking the former owner's name as their own when they were eventually emancipated.

My research into this link is only in its infancy, and it may be a pipe-dream, but it would please my romantic soul to believe that my grandparents' marriage may have healed a rift which began some 250 years before.

Needless to say, if anyone can shed any light on the above. I would be most grateful to hear from them!

County Local Studies Library News

By Margaret Smith

On the 1st May, the County Local Studies Library moved to new premises on the third floor of Reading Central Library, Abbey Square, Reading. This area was occupied until last summer by the Careers Service who subsequently moved to new offices in Duke Street.

There is now a much larger area for the Library, and more seating, thus providing better access to resources. Material for family historians located in the Local Studies Library include directories and parish register and monumental inscription transcripts. There is now a separate area for material on microfilm and microfiche, i.e., census returns, Reading-based local newspapers and the International Genealogical Index. Please note that the electoral rolls are still located in the County Reference Library on the first floor.

Drinks and snacks machines have been installed in the foyer of the third floor.

All floors of Reading Library are open as follows:

Monday	9.30-5
Tuesday	9.30-7
Wednesday	9.30-5
Thursday	9.30-7
Friday	9.30-7
Saturday	9.30-4

The area telephone code for Reading has recently changed, so the phone number for the Local Studies Library is now 0118-9509243, and the fax number is 0118-9589039. Booking a microfilm reader is recommended.

For those who have not visited us yet, David Cliffe, County Reference Librarian, Margaret Smith, Senior Librarian: Local Studies and all the staff look forward to seeing you.

A Marcham Family

By Sheila Smith

The first definite appearance in the records is the will of a Thomas Sury dated June 1543. He left a wife, two sons and two daughters one of whom was old enough to be married. So Thomas may have been born around the turn of the century. In his will he asks to be buried '*within the church of Marcham by the burial place of my father Richard Sury*'. So we may assume that Richard was born around 1475. To put some historical perspective on this, Edward IV was then on the English throne. When he died in 1483 his two sons Edward V and Richard Duke of York mysteriously disappeared and became known to history as the Princes in the Tower. Edward's brother Richard usurped the throne but did not live long to enjoy his ill-gotten gains being killed in 1485 at the Battle of Bosworth when Henry Tudor took the throne as Henry VII. Henry had a rather tenuous claim to the throne through the Lancastrian line and to improve his title he married Elizabeth of York thus bringing to an end a long family quarrel over the throne known to us as the Wars of the Roses. Henry was succeeded by his son Henry VIII who was about to marry his sixth wife, when Thomas Sury died. So our early family lived in fairly turbulent times but just how much the doings of the high and mighty impinged on the lives of ordinary folk is not really known.

There are many different spellings of the name in the early records and later an 'H' is added making it Shury but the continuity given by the various wills makes it clear that this is the same family. In the early parish registers this name does not appear anywhere else in the British Isles apart from a handful of villages in the Vale of the White Horse. Besides the Marcham family

there are at this early date families in West Hanney and Letcombe Bassett. By 1600 the Marcham Shurys have spread to Hinton Waldrist and by 1700 the Hinton Shurys have spread to Buckland where it is spelt Shewry. None of the books on the subject give a derivation for the name. A possibility given to me by an expert on the subject suggests it could be from an old, now obsolete, personal name of Seuary. This is believed to be the derivation for the name Savory which does certainly appear in the same area.

These early Surys describe themselves as yeomen, that is farmers. A middle class between peasants or farm labourers but not '*gentry*'. Thomas left a house and land in Nedderton (Netherton) with land in Fyfield to his son Edward and to his other son William '*the years of the farm of the parsonage*' in Marcham.

This latter property was leased from Christ Church College Oxford and remained in the family hands until 1707.

Thomas left sums of money to his two daughters and his widow Jane was to have all the household goods at the parsonage and to live there with her son William unless she remarried.

Thomas also left sums of money to two servants or maids who could well have been distant but more impoverished members of the family. They would have lived with the family and eaten as well or as poorly as they did. The later '*upstairs downstairs*' mentality when servants were regarded virtually as sub-human did not apply then.

By the late 16th Century any middling class of person would have had flock and feather beds and pillows rather than straw palliases

with a log for a pillow of earlier times. Chimneys too had become much more common replacing the central fire with a hole in the roof. The bedroom was often the best furnished room of the house and wills of the time often mention beds and specific items of bedding as legacies. Other furniture was fairly sparse, with stools or benches for the family and servants with a wooden chair with arms for the head of the house. Floors would have been of stone laid direct on the earth in a farmhouse and of bare earth in a labourers cottage. Floors were still strewn with rushes, reeds or straw perhaps sweetened with Rosemary or Lavender clippings and changed only at infrequent intervals. This applied across the social spectrum from a humble cottage to the Royal palaces. Anyone rich enough to afford carpets hung them on the walls or tables.

When William died in 1566 he must have already been a widower because he asked his mother Jane to take care of his five children who *'be as yet infants and not of age'*. He left the Parsonage to his eldest son Richard and some copyhold land in Frilford part of the parish of Marcham to another son, Henry. A third son Paul received no real estate only the sum of £30. It was in accordance with the custom of the times that the greater part of any real estate would pass to the eldest son.

At best a wife would be left a life interest in some property to provide her with her upkeep, then passing to the son in accordance with the father's will. Daughters were usually left either some specific items such as *'the bed on which she now lies'* or a sum of money perhaps to be raised by the main beneficiary out of the estate and paid within a time limit, often one year. A married daughter may have received her *'portion'* on marriage and for

that reason they do not always appear in wills.

Farmers were still virtually self-sufficient, keeping an assortment of animals and fowls to provide meat, dairy produce and eggs, making their own butter and cheese and brewing their own beer from their own barley. Such medicines as existed would be prepared by the housewife in her still room from herbs grown for that purpose. Looking after the pigs, poultry and dairy was also considered woman's work, as well of course as producing a child every two years or so! Most livestock had to be killed in the autumn and salted down for winter use because it was not then possible to produce enough food to feed the stock through the winter. Bread was the staple diet, white bread made from wheat for the rich, but as it was not possible with the farming methods of the time to produce enough wheat the poorer folk ate coarser stuff made from oats in the north or rye in the south. Quite a lot of meat was eaten except by the very poor but not much fruit or vegetables. Puddings as yet played no great part in the diet. Potatoes were beginning to be grown in gardens by around 1600 but not yet commercially. It was not what today would be regarded as a balanced diet. Rickets was very common in children in the 17th century and it didn't matter whether you were rich or poor. Charles I for example suffered from it. Beer was drunk by young and old, male and female, morning, noon and night. It was probably healthier than drinking the water. Strong drink, spirits and tea and coffee didn't really start to arrive until around 1700 and the tea and coffee were certainly only for the very rich.

The young Richard Sury inherited the parsonage on the death of his father William in 1566 but in his will of 1617 it is not specifically mentioned. He makes

numerous bequests but the bulk of the estate goes to his son Thomas. Jane, one of his daughters, has married Hugh Pusey of Pusey an armorial bearing family. It may be this that gives the family delusions of grandeur because the Shurys of Marcham were at this time sporting a coat of arms. It is shown in *Burkes General Armoury of 1884*. However in the Visitation of Berkshire of 1623 Thomas was made to make the following promise

'We whose names are hereunder subscribed do disclaim to bear Arms or to use the title of squire or Gentlemen: and do promise henceforth not to take upon us the title of squire or gentlemen anymore'

Thomas died in 1642 and made numerous bequests to cousins, nieces and nephews evidently having no wife or children of his own.

The parsonage may then have passed to Thomas's nephew Francis. It was certainly later in the possession of Francis's son John. We are now into the time of the Civil War, indeed there was a minor skirmish at Faringdon on 2nd May 1645 and Oliver Cromwell was at Hinton Waldrist on 9th May 1645. The Royal Headquarters of Charles I were of course at nearby Oxford.

In the visitation of 1665/1666 Francis made the same promise as his uncle before him regarding the bearing of Arms.

Two of Francis' unmarried daughters lived in Covent Garden in London. I have not been able to discover what they were doing there, although their mother Amy West came from the parish of St Mary Somerset in London. Both these daughters left wills so they certainly were not paupers. The early houses in Covent Garden in the 17th Century when our Shurys were there were for the rich and the nobility although the area deteriorated to an all-time low in the 18th Century. They may have been governesses which was considered a

suitable occupation for respectable unmarried women. One of their other sisters could certainly write so it is reasonable to assume that they too had received some education.

In 1703 John son of Francis died unmarried and intestate and a very comprehensive inventory was made of all his goods and chattels including the lease of the parsonage. This contained at least nine rooms plus cellar, brewhouse, dairy and stables. Furniture amounts to eight beds with bedding, thirteen chairs, five stools, a dresser, two cupboards, one clock, three tables and several trunks. All the 'crockerly' is of pewter with two items of silver plate. In the brewhouse are five hogsheads and ten barrels presumably for brewing beer. He kept sheep, horses, cattle, pigs, turkeys, peahens and peacocks and grew hay, wheat peas, oats and barley. Letters of Administration were taken out by his sisters Elizabeth Shury and Frances now the wife of Robert Enston. The lease of the parsonage became vested in them and they sold it to one Felix Calvert. According to the administratrix John's debts exceeded his assets and there is a list of over fifty creditors so that the beneficiaries were informed that there was nothing to inherit. Under the law at the time the intestate's beneficiaries were his sisters or where these had predeceased him the children of those deceased sisters. There were in fact eleven other beneficiaries besides the two administratrix mentioned above and these eleven sued the two administratrix in the Court of Chancery in London claiming that certain goods had been undervalued or omitted altogether from the inventory and further that the administratrix had appropriated rents from certain other freehold properties which John rented out. These proceedings began in 1703 or 4 and the case was still active in 1707 but I have

not unfortunately been able to discover the outcome as yet.

The parsonage still stands beside the church at Marcham and on one side of the large stone fireplace are carved the two sets of initials RS and ES with the date 1580 and on the other side the initials TS. Richard Shury with wife Elizabeth and son Thomas? I like to think so, the date fits.

The sale of the parsonage was not quite the end of the Shurys of Marcham because John's cousin, another John, married Ann Evans in Abingdon in 1708 and they had a number of children in Marcham. However all the surviving children seem to have moved by around 1740, one to Abingdon and three to London and their descent can be traced to the present day.

A Berkshire Farmer's Will

By Eileen Dickson

Jonathan Legge was my great-great grandfather and farmed at Greendown Farm, Childrey. He recovered from the illness which caused the emergency Will to be drawn up and did not die until four years later, in 1842. His wife Hannah took it over as she is named as "farmer" in Kelly's Directory for 1845, but I do not know how long she ran it as I have not had access to later Directories. She died in 1860 and is buried with Jonathan in St Mary's Churchyard, Childrey. I find it interesting that while he left his wife his books, furniture, etc. the money was securely tied up with a Trustee! The fact that he made his mark on the Will instead of signing it may have been due to his illness - if he had books and ran a farm it is probable he could read and write.

I would very much like to know more about the history of Greendown Farm, which still exists, but do not know where to look for information. As yeomen are generally described as freeholders it is possible Jonathan owned the farm, but again I have no information about this. Thomas Bush, described as "*a gentleman of Lambourn*", took the Executor's Oath when the will was proved at Wantage in June 1842.

I Jonathan Legge of Green Down Farm in the Parish of Childrey in the County of Berks, yeoman, ill in body but of sound and disposing mind, memory and inclination, do make this my last will and testament in manner following - that is to say I give and bequeath with my dear Wife Hannah Legge all my Household Furniture, Linen and Books to and for her own use and benefit for and during the remainder of her natural life. I give and bequeath with friend Tho. Bush of Lambourn in the said County all money and securities for money whatsoever and wheresoever of which I may die possessed in Trust in the first place to pay all my just debts and financial and Testamentary expenses and to place the residue in government or other securities and to pay the interest thereon and arising therefrom with my said dear wife Hannah Legge by equal and half-yearly instalments for her during the term of her natural life. From and after the decease of my said dear Wife Hannah Legge I do hereby give and bequeath and order the same to be equally divided between and amongst my children which shall be living at the time of her decease share and share alike. If any shall have died bearing issue the children of such shall receive which should have been their parents' share share and share alike and my Hannah's furniture also after my said dear Wife's decease shall be equally parted among my children Share and share alike. And I do hereby nominate constitute and appoint the said Tho. Bush sole Executor of this my Will and revoke any previous Wills. I do hereby

declare this to be my last Will and Testament as witness my mark as by hand and seal this Ninth day of May in the year of our Lord 1838.

The mark of + Jonathan Legge

Signed, sealed, published and declared by the said Testator Jonathan Legge having been first read and explained to him as his last Will and Testament in the presence of us the words "*share and share alike*" having been first inserted in his presence at his request and in the presence of each other have subscribed our names and witness thereinto. And also on the first sheet from lines from the bottom the words "*for and during the term of her natural life*" having been first inserted. The said Will has been made in haste the Testator lying dangerously ill of a stricture on his bladder.

The will was witnessed by Thos. Bush and Charles Heath.

British Isles Genealogical Register 1997

With this magazine, you should find an entry form for the BGR 1997. The BGR is the "*British Isles Genealogical Register*" which is a list of family names in the British Isles being researched by family historians to complement the present system of county/society/regional directories to which comparatively few members contribute.

It is open to everyone, not just members of family history societies. Application forms will be available through societies, record offices, libraries, family history groups, Family Tree magazine and the Internet. Family historians living outside the UK with ancestral roots in the British Isles are also encouraged to send their interests for inclusion.

Each entrant submits their research names with places and dates for a £1 fee per form (16 entries) which will cover the operating costs of the project. Unlike other research directories, the "*British Isles Genealogical Register 1997*" is county-based and it will be available in county sections - e.g. the Yorkshire section will contain Yorkshire interests only, thus helping family historians to concentrate their interests within one county. This should increase the possibilities of "*family contacts*", and enable subscribers to select only the counties in which they are interested. Ireland, Scotland & Wales will be processed as separate sections, as will the Isle of Man and the Channel Islands.

Sally Ritchie (2103) of Caversham sent me a copy of the will of Marion Scorer of "Neville House, Whinfield Road, Darlington in the County of Durham" in which she made the following stipulations:

- a. That Seaton Leng & Sons Limited of Bondgate Darlington shall be employed in connection with my funeral.
- b. No notice shall be inserted in any newspaper in connection with my death.
- c. There shall be no laying out.
- d. There shall be no breast plate on my coffin.
- e. My age shall not be included on the coffin or upon any headstone.
- f. The funeral shall be as simple and cheap as possible.
- g. The service shall be held in All Saints Church Blackwell Darlington in the County of Durham."

Research Centre News

By Cliff Debney

At the time of writing this article it is too early to say if the extension of the opening hours has eased the pressure of visitors on Wednesdays, particularly the mornings, as the first two Thursday afternoon sessions were during the school Easter holidays. May I remind all our members that the school is usually closed at weekends, and on Bank Holidays.

Space for a wheelchair in the Research room is getting less as we have recently been given a large film reader which is now installed, in addition to the nine microfiche readers, the microfiche photocopier and the general photocopier. It is still possible to use a wheelchair and we intend to make sure it always is. For those members who need to use a wheelchair or cannot manage stairs, there is access from the north playground. Drive round the school to the right and at the end of the next playground, (carpark), on the left, you will find a slope leading down to a double door. Inside the door turn left down the corridor, through the double doors and the entrance to the centre is on the right just before the next double doors.

Shelf space for the fiche binders and reference books had become acute so we have now removed the blackboard and replaced it with shelves. All our census holdings - transcripts, indexes, fiche and films - are now on these new shelves, leaving room for a reorganisation of the rest of the library which Lesley and Chad are carrying out. It may be quite a time yet before everything has its own regular place, especially as the contents of the library are constantly increasing. Although a proportion of our holdings naturally relate to Berkshire, we hold material for almost all UK counties - England, Scotland,

Ireland and Wales - as well as some for overseas countries.

The Library Tours have proved worthwhile to many members and they are continuing as the schedule in the March 1996 magazine. As the notice has gone out to so many people and places it is not yet possible to hold regular tours on other days but if any member cannot ever get to the centre on a Monday afternoon or evening, please contact me and I will see if we can help. In addition to visits by all the Society Branch Committees, tours have been made by the staffs of the Berkshire Record Office, the Mormon Family History Centre, (Tilehurst), and the Reading Local Studies Library to acquaint them with the range of books, films and microfiche we have in our Reference Room. They have seen how our holdings of family history material complement theirs, as well as the more occasional duplication of information. This helps us all to give advice to our researchers on the best place to go for the answer to the current problem.

To avoid disappointment for members and visitors who have to make a special visit to Reading, due to living well over an hour's drive from the centre, we now have a fiche-reader booking system. When you have decided which day you are travelling to Reading, write (in good time) to Ivan and June Dickason (you will find their address on the back cover of this magazine) so they can tell the Volunteers on duty, who will then ensure a machine is made available for you when you arrive. Please note that we are not in the position of being able to have a general fiche-reader reservation service; but for members who have to travel a long way for a day's research we feel it is a limited service we can and must offer.

Research Centre Library News

By Chad Hanna

Two major events that affect the library have occurred between the March issue of *Berkshire Family Historian* and this one. The first was East Surrey FHS's weekend conference at Roehampton in April, and the second was the Society of Genealogists Family History Fair in London at the start of May. Major changes are:

- The Research Centre Library now has all of the 1881 Census Project fiche for England and Wales with the exception of Lancashire which is expected in the next month or two.
- The Family History Fair was used to extend our large collection of 1851 census indexes from other Family History Societies. We now have almost complete sets for Durham, Leicestershire, Northumberland and Buckinghamshire. We've also added fiche indexes for the Leeds area of Yorkshire and Essex, and some 1891 census indexes for Oxfordshire. We would be pleased to receive any census indexes you've outgrown, particularly for Cornwall, Yorkshire, Lancashire, and Nottinghamshire.
- We have also received another volume of *Overseer's Records* from Brian Hunt, this time for Newbury Union. You must look at these if you've any Berkshire ancestors.
- One interesting pair of volumes is *In Search of the 'Forlorn Hope'* by John M. Kitzmuller II, which will help you identify which army unit was where at any particular time.
- We now have a copy of *Monumental Brasses of Berkshire* which lists most of the brasses in Berkshire Churches, many now lost and not a few hidden under carpets.

There have been many other additions, including *Members Interest Directories*, Poll Books and Pigots Directories for London and Westminster, and we should reach the magic number of 5,000 accessions in the next month or two.

Again we're grateful for the many donations, particularly one from our wily agent, Jean Perrin who picked up a *1944 Who's Who* for the princely sum of 50 pence. If you do donate anything please leave a note of your name and address so that we can record it properly.

At the time of writing, we're still in the middle of stocktaking to make sure the catalogue matches what's on the shelves. Our other task is to produce a list of the 1851 census indexes we haven't got, which is quite a bit harder than listing what we do have!

Historians Beware

By Barry Bellinger

It is inevitable that what ever ones interests are, be it pleasure, hobby or professional, there is always some organisation or group of persons ready to exploit to their own financial gains.

I am fairly shrewd in these matters when it comes to offers from so called genealogical sources, offering information about ones family name or being invited to join their user club. But I must confess I have been taken by one or two of these organisations offering such selected services.

Last year I purchased a book that was offered to me through a mailing service by an organisation in the USA. This was offering a list of family researchers, who were researching my family name with their addresses world-wide. It turned out to be a two-page listing from a

phone index, followed by several pages on genealogical and heraldry history. They must have got my name from the phone book, as my father and brother also received the same mailing offer. At the time I knew what I was buying, but expected more information than was sent.

Another mailing service by an organisation operating in the UK, offered one a chance to join their Family History Club. They were in the process of compiling a list of research sources and interests, and invited one to submit a list of surnames and search dates for a nominal fee. Once they had indexed and completed all listings submitted, they were to publish a Directory and send these books out to all subscribers. I am still waiting to receive mine.

After some three years at a cost of over £25, and several letters to this organisation in UK, I have decided to write the whole thing off and put it down to experience.

Now one would say it was probably due to a lack of insight that I parted with free information at my cost, but this organisation advertised endorsements from FFHS and other well known family history organisations. '*It pays to advertise*', is one known expression, but be warned, you may get offers from organisations whose only interest is getting free information and money from you.

If you happen to attend a Family History fair or an open day, you will find plenty of non-society groups offering their services at a cost. Most of this information is on present day surnames and address listed in various countries such as the USA, Canada and UK, the latter can be gained from any library that have a full range of BT phone directories.

If anyone is offered such services through the post or otherwise, first speak to your local Family History Society committee members. They should be able to advise on whether these so called genealogical groups are worth pursuing. Alternatively, there are plenty of legitimate sources advertised in the family history magazines, to be found on sale at your local meetings. Also free leaflets are available on request for most of the respectable genealogical sources.

Information Wanted - Brown, Berkshire 19th Century

By Robin Mosses

This is a fictitious request for family history information, but not untypical of some received. The surname is only chosen because it isn't particularly rare. What are the chances of getting useful information?

At 72 square miles (pre-1974), Berkshire may seem tiny to some people. Yet by 1901 the average population was 3553/square mile. Compare this to recent figures for countries like Australia and Canada (about 5/square mile) Even in the USA it is well under a 100.

Berkshire's population figures for 1801 and 1901 were 110,752 and 256,480. During the century people were born and died (or both) and, perhaps fewer, moved in or out of the county. So at least half-a-million people spent at least part of their life in nineteenth century Berkshire.

In the county about 4 in every 1000 people are surnamed Brown.¹ So, within the time and place specified, about 2,000 separate people could be a match. It isn't worthwhile anyone sending information, with the chance of a meaningful match so remote.

Of course in places, or times, of sparse population, a broad sweep might get somewhere. Also for a particularly uncommon surname it's worth a whirl. I'm sorry, Mr Brown, but I hope you now see the problem, and why Brown: BRK: 19c doesn't produce much response.

¹ Reading telephone directory.

“Gipsy Jane” - Miss Anne Courtney Locke, East Hendred

By Len Harris & Tom & Lilian Willis

A report entitled “Miss A.C. Locke retires” in the *North Berks Herald* for 7th August 1931 begins: “Few schoolmistresses in North Berks can have been so universally respected as Miss Anne C. Locke, who has just concluded 30 years’ work at East Hendred Church of England School”.

Miss Locke was the daughter of Edward Walter Locke (c.1829-1909), one of nine children. The 1881 census for Worcester shows her living at Pitmaston Road, Worcester, one of eight children, the eldest, Harry, having already left home. None were to remain in Worcestershire throughout their lives; one emigrating to the United States.

Her father had an artisan background, coming from a family of potters, and was a foreman at Grainger’s Royal China Works, Worcester. They had moved from another address in Worcester to Pitmaston Road in 1866 when it was newly developed as part of the St. John’s area of the then rapidly expanding City of Worcester. Pitmaston Road was a good class area; a contemporary sale catalogue of a shop there stated “*The inhabitants of Pitmaston Road can afford to pay cash*”. Edward Walter Locke was later to found his own porcelain works, Locke & Co. Ltd., in Worcester (1896-1915) and in the 1880’s was getting much involved in local affairs being a Sidesman at St. John’s Church, Treasurer of the St. John’s Working Mens’ Club and a well-known performer of glees and part songs at local entertainments. His daughter was later to follow his example.

Anne was born at Upper Barbourne, Claines, Worcester on 28th August 1866 and baptised at St. John’s 14th June 1868. She was registered and baptised just “*Anne*” but together with some of her brothers and sisters “*adopted*” during her lifetime the second Christian name “*Courtney*”. Her youngest brother, born 1875, was the only child actually to be named “*Courtney*”. It is presumed, but not known for certain, that “*Courtney*” was the maiden name of her paternal grandfather’s first wife although despite exhaustive research it has not yet been possible to find the marriage.

Details of her early schooling are not yet known, but it is reasonable to suppose she followed her elder brother and sisters in attending the St. John’s National School near her home, in course of time becoming a Pupil Teacher and getting qualified. She was not in the Worcester 1891 census and nothing is known - yet - of her appointments until she came to East Hendred Church School about 1900. Her first headmaster was George Robert Stevens who was followed about 1909 by Bertram Everest Newman. Mr. Newman’s daughter, Mrs Stella Chasney, who attended the village school, remembers Miss Locke well and reveals she was known (among the pupils) as “*Lockey*”.

Anne could not have been satisfied merely with her responsibility in educating and guiding the village children but entered fully into every aspect of village life. Few requests for assistance could have been refused. Among other activities she was an original member of the Womens’ Institute, Member of the P.C.C., Treasurer of the National Savings Certificate Association, Treasurer of the Girl Guides, one of the Delegates to Wantage Area Council Womens’ Conservatives (Womens’ Unionist Association), Lay Representative to the Church of England R.D. Conference and acted as collector for many local good causes such as Alexandra Day.

She joined in not merely as an official for in May 1926 she won a handicraft exhibition at the Womens' Institute with a plaited straw hat and afterwards led some of her infants in songs and character recitations. Inheriting some of her father's love of music she also gave lessons in the piano.

Above all she was in great demand at Fêtes and Flower Shows in the capacity of the fortune teller "*Gipsy Jane*", Many times in the '20s and '30s the North Berks Herald reports that "*Gipsy Jane's tent*" helped to raise money. The paper's long account on 10th July 1931 of the Hended Fête when £40 was raised for the local Nursing Association is pure nostalgia in its account of the entertainments provided by the villagers, including "*Gipsy Jane, Miss Locke*".

Retiring at last in July 1931 she was presented with an inscribed grandmother clock "*with Westminster Chimes*" by the scholars, teachers and managers of the school. The words of the East Hended Rector on that occasion seem to sum up her career:

"The School without Miss Locke is difficult to think of... little infants that came under her care in the School are now grown-up men and women. We are sure that there is not one who does not look back with loving remembrance to the days spent in the infant school".

Anne continued to live in the village, but is reported to have spent a long holiday in the United States, believed sailing in the "*Leviathan*" from Southampton on 3rd October 1931. Her youngest brother, Francis Courtney Locke, had married before emigrating there in the early 1900's and had several children. On return she continued her village activities as far as health permitted and her attendance is still recorded in the P.C.C. minutes up to 1944 when she was 78 years of age.

Finally admitted to hospital in Abingdon, she died on 8 March 1951 following an accidental fall. There was an inquest where the Coroner returned a verdict of:

"Death from cardiac failure due to senile heart disease, accelerated by a fracture of the femur caused by misadventure".

She was buried at St, Augustine's Church, East Hended on 15 March 1951 and rests there in an unmarked grave.

The authors are aware that this account is not complete and would welcome any additional information. They wish to thank Mrs. Stella Chasney and Mr. John R. Parker both of East Hended, the Newspaper Library at Colindale and the Berkshire Record Office for assistance without which this article could not have been written.

The photograph below shows Miss A.C.Locke with East Hended's Infants before the School house in 1920. Miss Locke is on the right



The New Parish Register Project

By Chad Hanna

Introduction

This article introduces a major new project to computerise the Parish Registers of Berkshire. I do hope you'll want to help with this important venture. First, let me tell you something about the Parish Registers and the large amount that has already been achieved before I go on to tell you how we hope to build on the work that has already been done.

Looking at Parish Registers

Parish Registers are likely to be the central part of your family history research after you've sampled the delights of Birth, Marriage and Death certificates and the Census Returns.

In Berkshire, almost all completed Parish Registers have been deposited at the Berkshire Record Office in Shire Hall, acting as the Diocesan Record Office. There are exceptions to this, some parishes like St Helen's in Abingdon have been able to hang on to their parish registers while other parish registers, sadly, did not survive to the present day. In a few cases, the original upkeep of the registers was not all it might have been and the records were not even made. However, you can look at most Parish Registers in the Record Office either on microfiche or microfilm.

The Bishop's Transcripts (BTs), a copy of the register entries sent to the bishop every year, can often be used as a substitute for the Parish Registers. These will normally be found in the County Record Office for the 'seat' of the diocese. Prior to its move to the Diocese of Oxford in 1836, the Archdeaconry of Berkshire was part of the Diocese of Salisbury and so most of the Bishop's Transcripts are in the Wiltshire Record Office at Trowbridge.

There are a number of ways to find out about the whereabouts of parish registers. *Philimore's Atlas and Index of Parish Registers* is useful, but limited, in that it only gives a start and end dates for the parish registers along with where they are deposited. The *National Index of Parish Registers (NIPR)* published by the Society of Genealogists is much more exhaustive, and gives greater detail. Current information for Berkshire is provided by the Record Office's *Handlist of Parish Registers*. All of these are available from the Society's Bookstall.

Transcripts and Indexes

Transcripts, full copies, of the parish registers are an alternative to looking at the registers. It is easier to read a typewritten transcript instead of peering at a microfilm of a faded 16th century parish register and it is then a simpler job to check what you find against the film. Also, many copies of the transcript can be made and placed at other locations. The Society of Genealogists has a particularly good selection of transcripts and has standardised the layout of the transcripts.

Any copy will be lacking in some way as it involves extracting what is thought to be important (names and dates) and leaving out what is thought to be unimportant (Roman numerals for dates, the style of handwriting and so forth). Errors can creep in due to silly mistakes, like missing a word, or lack of skill, such as confusing Tho. (for Thomas) and Jno. (for John). The transcriber will have had time to get to grips with the handwriting and with experience and often, access to the original registers where needed, will produce a very good piece of work. However, a transcript which has been checked by someone else will be even better.

All the Berkshire parish registers will soon have been transcribed, and copies can be found on the shelves at Berkshire Record Office and the Society of Genealogists. Many of these are the

results of a small team which commenced work in 1975 under the leadership of the late John Brooks (an honorary member of the Society). Others, particularly in the Vale of the White Horse have been attended to by Colin Harris and our friends at Oxfordshire Family History Society. The remainder have been individual efforts or organised by Local History Groups.

Name indexes are the next major step forward. Clearly, it is easier to look up the name you're interested in, dictionary fashion, instead of running your finger down a long list of other people's surnames. Many transcripts have been indexed, but indexes introduce their own errors. Some entries may be missed or have the wrong page or date against them, while if the transcript has recorded someone's surname incorrectly, you're even less likely to find it in an index, particularly if the error is in the first letter! One big index is always easier than many small indexes.

The *International Genealogical Index* (IGI), now called *Family Search*, is the most important finding aid for most researchers, and provides a single index for each county (the country, for the computer version). Not all parishes are included, although Berkshire is much better off than some other counties. Also, you may wonder how a Latter Day Saints worker, perhaps coming from Brazil, can do a better job working from a parish register film in Utah than someone working from an original register in Reading. Please remember that an index is the result of the skills and other resources available at the time. One notable limitation of the IGI is that it is restricted to Christenings and Marriages and does not include Burial Registers.

The Federation of Family History Societies has now proposed a National Burial Index project to complement the IGI and a couple of meetings have been held, one in York and one at the Society of Genealogists to present the project.

Another major tool for research in Berkshire is the Marriage Index, again produced by the late John Brooks and now under the management of Mrs. Pam Knight. This comprises about 250,000 slips and is an index to bridegrooms. One of its particular strengths, according to John, was that it includes many neighbouring parishes, and information from BTs and Wills where the parish registers have not survived. (Details on using this index are normally on the inside back cover of the *Berkshire Family Historian*.)

Clearly, there is a lot of very useful information available but using and making sense of it can be a challenge.

What is this new project?

The aim of the project is to computerise and index the parish registers of Berkshire, and to make the results available to researchers.

It clearly makes sense to build on the work that has gone before, instead of starting again from scratch, and over the past few months an outline plan has been developed.

The registers for each parish will pass through four stages:

1. **Scanning** – The typewritten transcript will be scanned into a computer, and the result converted to text using Optical Character Recognition (OCR).
2. **Checking** – The computer file or printout will be checked against the film or fiche of the original registers to identify and remove errors introduced by both the OCR and the transcription.
3. **Indexing** – The computer file will be automatically converted into an index by a special computer program and then checked to make sure it is sound.

4. **Publication** – the final results are then published on fiche, and later, as an annually updated CD-ROM.

Let us now look at each of these stages in more detail.

Scanning

There are about 300 parish register transcripts in the Record Office, amounting to some 24,000 pages of typescript. By arrangement with the County Archivist, we will have access to the transcripts over the weekend and someone with a scanner should be able to scan in at least one of the 100 or so binders during those two or three days. We have already scanned in four binders during the pilot project. While the process is a bit tedious, scanning will form only a small part of the project. However, the more local helpers we have with scanners the faster this phase will be completed and the less wear and tear there will be on anybody's scanner.

Optical Character Recognition (OCR) will normally be carried out separately, so as to make best use of the efforts of those with scanners and the limited time we have access to the registers. In the pilot project, the best results have been achieved by someone working with the OCR program, to tell the program about words it is not sure about. This takes a few minutes a page, so there is a fair amount of work here. If you have access to Textbridge or a similar OCR program you may be able to help us in this area.

Checking

This is the most important and time consuming part of the process. The transcript produced by the computer will have about 1% of characters in error. In many ways, this is a good percentage as a few errors do keep you alert – I find there is nothing so boring as checking something which is very nearly perfect. Can you be one of the three different sorts of checker we need to help?

- If you have access to a microfiche reader, we can send you instructions, a computer printout, and a loan copy of the original parish registers. You then return the corrected printout and the parish register copy.
- If you have access to both a microfiche reader and a PC, we will be able to send you instructions, a computer disk with the computer file and a loan copy of the original parish registers. You then return the corrected computer file and the parish register copy. If you live outside the United Kingdom, we would prefer this approach.
- If you can get to the Berkshire Record Office fairly regularly then we would like you to help us check the computer printout against the microfilmed parish registers or perhaps the original parish registers.

The time taken depends on the quality and age of the original register. However, an average of half an hour per page would mean that we need 7 years of 40 hour weeks from a single person, or 10 hours from everyone who gets this magazine. I am sure we will be able to strike a happy balance between these two extremes.

Clearly, if you have a particular attachment or expertise about a particular parish we would try to send those in your direction.

Indexing

No, we do not intend to produce half a million paper slips! Instead the computer will do most of the hard work. If we can clearly identify surnames, Christian names and dates, then the computer should be able to do a large part of the work. Indeed we must work this way, as spot

checking of indexes is the only alternative. Work on the best way of indexing is still in progress and opportunities for help in this area are likely to be limited.

Publication

One of the difficulties of using the current range of parish register transcripts is that a single parish might be associated with three or four transcripts, carried out by different groups, to different standards at different times. Each transcript is likely to be in a separate binder at the record office. We intend to publish a single set of fiche for each parish, containing both the transcript and index, along with any necessary notes.

While we know that many of you have fiche readers, or access to a fiche reader, we also know that more and more of you are getting computers with CD-ROM drives. One option that is being proposed is the annual publication of a CD-ROM containing all the available parish register transcripts and a single index. The exact details still need to be worked out and after buying the first CD-ROM, you will be able to buy later CD-ROMs at a discount if you return the first CD-ROM.

Publication also involves copyright, and we must obtain permission from many people before publication, including the parochial church councils and the original transcribers. We do not want any arguments to arise later.

What next?

I am sure you would like be able to help with this worthwhile project. If you can help, please complete the form attached to your membership renewal and return it with your subscription to the membership secretary. We plan to start sending work out to checkers in September.

Addresses and Acknowledgements

A large project needs a large team and each of the three phases will have its own co-ordinator:

- **Scanning and OCR** – Brian Edwards, 46 Tilsworth Road, Beaconsfield, Buckinghamshire, HP9 1TP.
- **Checking** – Alan Hutchins, 26 Bowfell Close, Tilehurst, Reading, Berkshire, RG31 6QR.
- **Indexing** – Chris Willis, 2 Hawthorn Villas, Darby Green Road, Blackwater, Camberley, GU17 0DT.

Or if you want to discuss the overall details, please contact Chad Hanna, 161 St Peter's Road, Earley, Reading, RG6 1PG

A number of people have already helped with this project, including those above, Robert Clayton, Lesley Hanna, Irene Littleby, Peter Durrant, the County Archivist, and the staff at the Berkshire Record Office. However, the person who really made it possible, and to who this project will be dedicated, is the late John Brooks.

Reading Dialling Code Changes

Please note that the Reading STD code which is currently 01734 has changed to 0118. In addition all six-digit numbers have been prefixed with a 9. The old code will still be effective until 1st January 1998. The back cover of this magazine shows the new amended numbers.

Reading's Changing Face

By Doug Noyes

One of the many changes I noted whilst putting together my shows on *"The Changing Face of Reading"* was the disappearance of those small shops each dealing in their own range of merchandise. They were mostly family-run, and often the name above the door was the person behind the counter, as it had been for years, each business being handed down from father to son, along with the knowledge of their products. They were always there to help you in your choice, knowing you would undoubtedly return.

Let's look at some of these shops as we, with our memory, take a stroll, for a start down Castle St. in 1965. On the north side today is *"The Horse and Jockey"*, there for years, but their near neighbour, James White & Sons, ran taxis, buses, and were manufacturing engineers; next door was Hutchinson, a tobacconist, then Mrs. Lyne kept a sweet shop. Unlike the replacement market of today, one would have shoes repaired many times before changing them, and Lenn Watts next door was there to help. Further on down was a well-known grocer, Trustrams, then Ben Holt kept a fish shop and John Miller a bakery. Passing little alley ways like Grape Passage, there was Nash the watchmaker, Anstey's the butchers I knew well, being at school with two of them - they had a number of shops around Reading, all very helpful. Another busy family next door was Townsend, the newsagent. Onward past Boarded Lane, one of the many roads swallowed up with this area's development, was Kedges for clothes and things, then Gordon Sutcliffe had antiques, Seaby had rural crafts, and Cecil Keeling had Reading Radio Supplies. Even the bakers next-door was a family business, G.G.Parslow & Son. How often do we see *"& son"* today?

Around the corner into St. Mary Butts, names crop up like: Herbert and Lascelles, where around the turn of the century, at No.22 my uncle, Arthur Herbert, started. Five years earlier he was possibly the first person in England to give a demonstration of X-rays, using homemade equipment, he showed it to a number of interested people in the old university in Valpy St. Along from Herbert & Lascelles was Collier & Catley the builders. Opposite was Powell's the chemist - in early days, Mr. Powell senior, the founder, would arrive each day in a horse-drawn carriage always wearing a fresh red rose. Adjacent was Kenches for furniture, in business in Reading before the turn of the century. Baylis, on Broad St. corner, where not so long ago, everyone was served individually - cutting and patting the butter to your required weight, turning a flat piece of paper into a cone, then using a scoop, filling it with sugar, weighting it, finally tucking the top over. Biscuits were in glass-topped tins along the front of the counter, but after all that, there was no waiting at checkouts.

A quick look down Oxford Rd. where other local names come to mind: - Langstons started at 1a West St. around the 1880s, later taking over the other three shops in Friar St. Their shop in Oxford Rd. was on the corner of Cork St., that's about where the entrance to The Broad St. Mall is today; Dunsters made, supplied and repaired shoes, they were on the western corner of Thorn St.; further down was Richard George Jackson, the scrap merchants, a regular haunt for youngsters with jam jars etc. for which they could get the odd penny. Opposite was a greengrocer, ran at one time by the two Miss Dunmall's, before the last war they had a second shop in London Rd. opposite Gowrings Ford garage. Earlier when their father was alive, only the best stock was on display, yet he would not allow anyone to take it, supplying all from his stock behind.

Looking at the larger shops, where many of the owners gave their services as mayors, and during their term of office, donated much to the town. Names that come to mind are:- William Mellroy, Alfred Bull, William Colebrook, Edward Jackson, Frederick Cox, Richard Venner, Leonard Sutton, Daniel Heelas, Edward Langston, William Bale, George Palmer, to mention just a few.

Today with computers, bar codes, closed circuit televisions, security discs, etc. we all serve ourselves, and our main conversation is with our fellow shoppers, standing in the queues at the checkouts.

A Lord Above You?

By Ron Dobrée

Have you a Lord in the House? Or even a Knight at home? Have you realised how small a landed community existed in the past? My family came from Guernsey which was small enough (10,246 in January 1727 according to Royal Court Records) for many of the families to have multiple intermarriages. However, recently I discovered that there existed a similar community of the Nobility in England prior to 1700, (and maybe later) and that their families over the years have been well-recorded.

My search started by chance while tracing the Rectors of a Suffolk parish with strong family connections. I knew that the Hankeys, represented by my 3x-great-grandmother, had owned the living of the parish of East Bergholt. They were obviously wealthy, being goldsmiths of St Dionis Backchurch Parish in London and taxed at the £600 rate in the 1695 Poll Tax records. There had also been a couple of Aldermen and Knights in the family so they appeared to be respectable merchants and probably bankers of some sort. Going further back by a couple of generations up maternal lines, there is Joseph Chaplin, something of a mystery man, who I was trying to sort out.

Joseph married three times and it was his second wife Mercy Parker (died 1711) who brought the manor of Old Hall at East Bergholt into the family. Mercy had married at least once before, and some histories seem uncertain that she ever married Joseph (I can't find their marriage although it appears in Boyd). However I am told that her MI says that she did and a Manorial Court was held in his name at Old Hall in 1702 and again in 1705. Mercy was not my direct ancestor, as I am descended from Joseph's first wife, Anne Price, daughter of Rice Price (another mystery!) but an afternoon at the Society of Genealogists set me on a fascinating side track and revealed the interlocking of the early land-owning community. Copinger's *Suffolk Manors* revealed that when Joseph Chaplin died (in 1728) Old Hall Manor comprised a cottage, a barn and 16 acres, with the rents to go to charity. (This was hardly enormous, but the Parkers did own other estates as well). Copinger also referred to Henry Parker, Lord Morley.

Curiosity led me through the Visitations of Suffolk and Norfolk, into Burke's Dormant and Extinct Peerage and I started to put direct ancestors of Mercy onto Brother's Keeper. In a very short time (about 2 or 4 days) I had accumulated some 400 names going back up to 20 generations, and if I wanted to, I could probably spend several years verifying the facts (Burke's is not entirely reliable and needs checking). But that is not the point - it provided lots of information, and some interesting stories on individuals in a network of families who married within their social circle. If you can use this network (which is not limited to the 17th and earlier centuries) it may be a fast route into an extended family tree. In the meantime, does anyone know the parents of Joseph Chaplin (1648-1728)?

Help!

Mr A. Butler (3114) of 11 Harrington Court, Meltham, Huddersfield has an elusive family she is trying to find. The 1851 census for Watlington revealed the following:

<i>Forename</i>	<i>Surname</i>	<i>Status</i>	<i>Age</i>	<i>Occupation</i>	<i>Where Born</i>
James	BUTLER	Head	46	Brewer's Labourer	Berks, Abingdon
Harriet	BUTLER	Wife	49		Ditto
James	BUTLER	Son	21	Carpenter	Berks, Long Wittenham
Ben	BUTLER	Son	15	Errand Boy	Ditto
Mary	BUTLER	Dau	13		Berks, Sutton Wick
Richard	BUTLER	Son	10	Scholar	Oxon, Watlington
Emma	BUTLER	Dau	7	Scholar	Ditto
Edwin	BUTLER	Son	5		Ditto

James Butler was Mr Butler's great-grandfather and he would like to trace this family. The marriage of James to Harriet does not appear on the IGI. However, this may be explained by the family being Catholic. Mr Butler is a member of Huddersfield FHS and would gladly research a fellow-members interests in Huddersfield in return for help with the Butlers.

Shirley Millie (3209) of "Erica Knoll", 31 Cliffe Rd, Barton-on-Sea, New Milton, Hants, BH25 7PA would like some help with her search for Hannah Glass and wrote as follows:

"Twelve years ago I was looking for my maternal great-grandmother Hannah Glass. I had her marriage certificate which showed that she married Frederick John Marter in 1868 and thus I knew her approximate age. I searched and searched, but could only find one Hannah Glass, who was born in Newbury, Berks. Never! All my ancestors were Londoners, so I dismissed this. I could not find her in the 1871 or 1881 census. When the 1891 census was released it was very welcome, for there I found Hannah living in St. Pancras, London, with her husband and children and she claimed that she was born at Coldash, Thatcham. Quickly, I ordered the 1851 census of Thatcham and sure enough there she was (aged 3) with her parents David and Sarah Glass also several brothers and a sister, living in Newtown, Thatcham. As her father's name was David on her marriage certificate I was finally convinced. However, I could not find Newtown either on a map or when I visited Thatcham.

Hannah's father was an agricultural labourer, so it is possible that he worked on Coldash Farm (mentioned in the 1891 census). Can anyone locate these areas for me?"

Miss Marion Sackett (659), of 53 Surley Row, Caversham, Reading, Berks RG4 8LX sent in the following question for "Q&A":

Why did great-uncle Sam get married twice in different churches within 11 months - and to the same woman? Copies of both marriage certificates are enclosed.

Jean's initial reaction was to guess that the couple thought that their first marriage had not undergone Civil Registration: but both are recorded in the marriage indexes at St Catherine's. In any case, why would the bridal pair have separate addresses in 1901 if already married? Furthermore, Jean assumed that in 1900-1901 a couple would not have time to marry, divorce and remarry?

It seems highly unlikely that these certificates relate to two different couples: there are too many details the same! Both appear to be copies made by the presiding Curates each time, so presumably, we can eliminate the possibility of Sam accidentally ending up with someone else's Marriage Certificate as well as his own.

Please, has anyone any suggestions that have not yet been considered?

Blackwood Street and Villa Street are very near each other in SE17, but there is no sign of South Street in Jean's Street Atlas of 1947.

The two certificates are reproduced below. Perhaps other members can shed some light on this problem!

No.	When Married	Name and Surname	Age	Condition	Rank or Profession	Residence at the time of Marriage	Father's Name and Surname	Rank or Profession of Father
122	Novemb 14 1900	Samuel Sackett	27	bachelor	Sas- fiter	30 } Blackwood 28 } Street	Samuel Sackett (deas)	of the Conf Slave
		Charlotte Frances Clark	26	spinster	Servants Servant		James Clarke (deas)	Master husb

Married in the Parish Church according to the Rites and Ceremonies of the Established Church after Banns by me *Bryan W. Bt Curate*

This Marriage was solemnized between a } *Samuel Sackett*
 } *Charlotte Frances Clark* }
 in the Presence of us } *J. Home*
 } *W. Murray*

I Herby Certify the above to be a true copy,
 Witness my hand this *14th* day of *Nov* 1900
BB *Bt* *Amal Curate*

PAGE 195

No.	When Married	Name and Surname	Age	Condition	Rank or Profession	Residence at the time of Marriage	Father's Name and Surname	Rank or Profession of Father
310	Oct 26 1901	Samuel Sackett	28	bachelor	Cho fiter	Villa Street 186	Samuel Sackett Neway House	
		Charlotte Frances Clark	29	spinster		South Street	James Clark Neway	

Married in the Church of St. Stephen's, according to the Rites and Ceremonies of the Established Church, by me, *or after Banns*

This Marriage was solemnized between us, } *Samuel Sackett*
 } *Charlotte Frances Clark* }
 in the presence of us, } *Edw. St. Clements*
 } *Fredrick Page*
 } *Edw. Clarke*

The above is a true copy of the Marriage Register of the Church and Parish aforesaid, extracted this *14th* day of *Nov* 1901

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0596/CD

Dates to avoid using the Public Record Office at Kew

During the upgrading and refurbishment of facilities for readers at Kew there will at times be an unavoidable reduction in seats there. In order to plan your research in 1996 you should note the following dates:

18 December 1995 to 11 March 1996 - loss of 10 seats

Mid March to early July 1996 - number of seats return to normal

Early July to 16 September 1996 - loss of 48 seats

There will also be two one week periods during 1996 when the Reading Rooms at Kew will be closed for improvement works:

24-28 June 1996 and 7-11 October 1996.

There will be no annual stocktaking closure in 1996 at either Kew or Chancery Lane.

We will endeavour to maintain as near a normal service as possible throughout 1996 and should like to apologise in advance for the inconvenience that will be caused.

DAVID THOMAS
New PRO Programme Manager

Q and A with Jean

By Jean Debney

Seventeenth Century Records

QMalcolm Parr (1859) of Western Australia writes: My paternal 7x-great-grandmother, Anne Parr, had an illegitimate son, Ralph, born in Sulhampstead Abbots in 1685; his father was Ralph Harmswood of the same parish. A search for Anne in the parish records in Sulhampstead Abbots and all the surrounding parishes has so far drawn a blank. The Harmswoods and the Parrs were prominent families in the locality and the latter owned and sold Brazenhead Farm in 1639. The farmhouse still stands today. Members of the two families sometimes acted as executors or witnesses for each others' wills.

The following sources have been suggested to me:

1. Manorial records - do they include all members of a family?
2. Bastardy bonds - were they in existence at the time?
3. Poor Law Records?
4. Taxation records for the period: what, if any, are available? Do they list family members?

Can you suggest any other sources of research?

AThe Berkshire parish map² shows that Sulhampstead Abbots is split into three detached portions and Sulhampstead Banister in two; they are situated in the centre south of the county on the Hampshire border. They are surrounded by and intermingled with Ufton Nervet, Englefield, Tilehurst, Burghfield, Shinfield, Beech Hill (Hampshire) and Stratfield Mortimer. *The National Index of Parish Registers (Vol.8/1) for Berkshire*² lists Sulhampstead Abbots in Reading Hundred with parish registers from 1602, Bishops' Transcripts from 1612 and christenings and marriages on the IGI; Sulhampstead Banister is in Theale Hundred, parish registers from 1646 (baptisms) and 1654 (marriages and burials), baptisms and marriages are also on the IGI. Similar details are there for all the other parishes you have looked at. It is worth bearing in mind that there is often a gap in the parish records between c1640-1660, i.e. during the Civil War and Commonwealth period. "Your" Anne may fall into this gap - or she may be recorded as "Purr" instead of "Parr". Have you checked the burial records? The answer to your four points are as follows:

1. **Manorial Records:** If the family were "copyhold" tenants, the records may list three 'lives' who are often related. If a series of records survive then a family tree extending over several generations may be possible. The *Victoria County History for Berkshire* (four volumes published in the 1920s) names the manors in every parish and chronicles the descent of the lords of each with copious references to national and other records. The Royal Commission on Historical Manuscripts at Quality Court, Chancery Lane, London, WC2A 1HP maintains an index to surviving manorial documents (write enclosing SAE. or 2 IRCs). The Berkshire Record Office has a card index to the manorial documents it holds. There is less information in manorial records about freeholders and a search among surviving title deeds and personal papers may be necessary. Two useful introductions to this source are: *How to locate and use*

*Manorial Records*² (Palgrave-Moore) and *My Ancestors were Manorial Tenants* (Peter B Park)

2. & 3: Bastardy Bonds and Poor Law Records: the surviving records from the “*parish chests*” are now in the BRO. A detailed calendar of these is due to be published later this year by the Berkshire Record Society. Also in the BRO are the records of the county Quarter Sessions from 1703 which include some poor law documents. Details are in the *Gibson Guide to Quarter Sessions*.²

4. Taxation Records list only those heads of households who were wealthy enough to be liable and sometimes of those who were exempted on the grounds of poverty, etc. The Hearth Tax in the 1660s is probably the most well-known. Details of surviving returns, some of which are in print, plus other seventeenth century tax lists, are in the latest edition of the *Gibson Guide to the Hearth Tax*.² The Protestation Returns 1641-2 list all adult males or sometimes females and surviving records are detailed in the *Gibson Guide to Protestation Returns and other contemporary listings*.²

According to my copy of the *Guide to the Berkshire Record Office* (1952) they hold 600 deeds for Sulhamstead House 1618-1910 which may contain “*your*” family. The miscellaneous place and surname card indexes in the BRO may produce useful references. And lastly it might be worth checking the records across the border in Hampshire in case the family appears there.

What does the name Ailwood mean?

Q Mrs Pam Fuller (2886) of Maidenhead, Berks writes: I am a regular listener of Radio Berkshire and I find your slot most interesting. I phoned in last week but as usual the telephones were busy and time ran out. I wonder if you would be kind enough to check your records for the name Ailwood. Last year I began to trace my family history and became a member of the Berkshire FHS. My uncle emigrated to Australia as an apprentice and for two years before he joined the army in 1914 worked for a farmer of this name. He was also born in England around 1873 son of George and Elizabeth Ailwood. I am hoping to find out which part of the country this name originates from and then if possible, whether my uncle was an apprentice to the farmer before emigrating.

A Thank you for listening to my “*Surname*” slot which is broadcast alternate Tuesday afternoons on BBC Thames Valley FM (Radio Berkshire and Oxford combined). This is always a popular phone-in programme with more calls than there is time to deal with. Your call was logged in my notes with the comment “*no time*” against it. I therefore dealt briefly with your enquiry two weeks later which I hope you heard.

According to my reference books, the surname Ailwood has the following spelling variations: Ailward, Aylward, Aylwood, Allward, Alward, Elward. It is said to be from an Old English (Anglo-Saxon) personal name Aeoelweard meaning “*noble protector or guard*” or “*elf or noble guard*”. There is a reference to a “*Robertus Ailwardi*” of Gloucestershire in 1229 in the Close Rolls. I’m afraid there is no mention in my reference books regarding the county distribution of this name.

² Publications available from BFHS Bookstalls at the Research Centre, Branch meetings or by mail order - see new book list included with this journal or write to the address on the back cover.

There is no central record of twentieth century apprenticeships either in this country or in Australia. Probably the best way to find George and Elizabeth Ailwood and their son "in England" circa 1873 is to check each county in the IGI or the recently-released 1881 census indexes. We have both in our Research Centre at Prospect School, Tilehurst.

Using The 1881 Census

Q Judith Lawrence (3085) of Earley, Reading, Berks writes: "On a recent visit to the Society Research Centre I looked at the 1881 Census Indexes for Kent under "Place of Birth" but was unable to find my grandmother, Alice Arnold, although I had located the family in the "As Enumerated" section. Also, I think there may be a mistake in the entry as I know that my grandmother was born in Bexley, Kent and the census gives "Bickley", Kent.

A There are three different indexes for the 1881 census: Surname, Place of Birth and Census Place. All are arranged strictly alphabetically by the surname as spelt (or interpreted by the transcribers) in the original. For example, in the Birthplace index, all the Smiths are together but grouped alphabetically by a three-letter code county or country code (which are not always the same as the "Chapman" County Code) and then by place.

Each of these indexes can be used to locate individuals in the "As Enumerated" section by noting the full Public Record Office Reference in three columns on the right of the entry line.

If the Surname index includes a large number of references, it is better to refer to the Census Place index which - depending on the number of references - brings family groups together.

The Place of Birth index is also useful when you need to decide which of one or more people with the same name and age might be "yours", but remember that the birthplace is as given in the census and possibly not where you think it ought to be. A birth certificate includes the registration district and sub-district plus an "address" which may vary in detail. Local knowledge - and using a large-scale map of an area - can often help locate various hamlet, farm and other small place names within a parish which may be referred to differently in each record. Using this criteria, either "Bickley" is a mis-transcription for "Bexley" or it is a small area within that parish. Perhaps one of our readers may be able to help with this?

PS. It is always important to go back and look at the original document for all entries found in an index to (1) check that the transcription is correct and (2) locate any additional information not included in the index. Although great care was taken with the 1881 census transcription, it is still important to refer back to the original source. If, from the original you decide that the "mistake" in the index is really an error of transcription, the Mormons would like to be informed of the correct entry. However, they cannot do anything if the original entry is wrong. For example I located a Debney family at a specific address but found that the enumerator had interpreted the householder's surname as "Seebney" - which is how I am sure it will be entered in the index for Middlesex when issued and no amount of complaining on my part will make any difference!

[Editor's note: Whilst preparing the above for publication, the name Bickley rang a bell with me, and I consulted the *Ordnance Survey Street Index for West Kent*, (pub. 1989), which showed that Bickley is near Bromley in Kent. Furthermore, it is the station stop after Bromley South and before St Mary Cray where I have family connection.]

Baptised Twice

Q Simon N.Lloyd (2435) of Powys, Wales writes: Two baptisms in the Ilsley family I have been studying are recorded in the records of both Speen and Shaw-cum-Donnington on the same day. Is this something to do with ensuring legal settlement for the children in both parishes? I do not have any genealogical evidence to show that this is the case. Is there, perhaps, a simpler explanation?

A The Berkshire parish map² shows that Speen and Shaw-cum-Donnington are adjacent parishes north of Newbury. *The National Index of Parish Registers for Berkshire (vol 8 part 1²)* which details the registers for these parishes has nothing to suggest a solution. However, two possibilities come to mind for this interesting question:

1. During the temporary absence of the incumbent from the family's "home" parish, the baptism was performed in the next parish. That incumbent naturally entered it in his own register and then made a duplicate entry in the "home" register, i.e. as a record of the child's place of birth and legal settlement.
2. One incumbent or curate was responsible for both parishes and made a mistake when completing the registers. Many clergy are known to have made "batch" entries in their registers at infrequent intervals or in a hurry before the Archdeacon's annual visitation from a notebook or scraps of paper in their pocket. Is this perhaps an example where the baptism was entered in the "wrong" parish and then copied into the "correct" register?

Follow up to Salvation Army Records

Ann Willis (1737) who posed the question (see BFH Vol.19/3 March 1996 p121) wrote to the address given in my answer and received a very helpful reply enclosing a page of notes about sources for family history research at their International Heritage Centre, 117-121 Judd Street, King's Cross, London WC1H 9NN; telephone 0171-387-1656 ext. 244. Personal research is free and by appointment only; postal enquiries are £5.00 an hour after an initial search to see if any information is available.³

The letter goes on to say that information about "soldiers" (and not "officers") may be in the early Soldiers' Rolls. These are held by the corps officer: Captain Linda Watson, 8, Peshurst Way, Boyatt Wood, Eastleigh, Hants S05 4RJ. The records of their emigration department have not survived.

Follow up to Court Of Conscience

In answer to my request for help in "Q & A" in the March edition of the *Berkshire Family Historian* (Vol.19/3 page 121), Gwen Hardwidge (211) of Wokingham, Berks has kindly send me a copy of an entry she found in Richard Sims' *Manual for the Genealogist, Topographer and Antiquary* (1888) which is summarised as follows:

The Court of Requests is sometimes called the Court of Whitehall, because the court was held in or adjoining to the chamber in Westminster Hall called the White Hall. It was sometimes also called the Court of Conscience. Originally an Equity Court for poor men's suits to the king without payment of money, it was established in 1493. The Lord Privy Seal and Masters of Requests presided over it as ordinary judges. Although its

³ If you want a copy of these notes, send me an SAE + 19p stamp (overseas 3 IRCs) (address on back cover)

powers were contested in 1597 it continued to sit until it was virtually abolished, along with the Star Chamber, in 1640/1 and was not revived after the Restoration in 1660.

Some of the records were, according to the "Manual", stored in 1888 in the British Museum (where presumably they still are) and the Chapter House at Westminster. However, the latter were actually moved to the Public Record Office in 1859 and are detailed in the *Guide to the Contents of the PRO* (1963) part 1, page 148.

"*Select Cases in the Court of Requests*" (1497-1569) have been published by the Seldon Society, Vol.XIII, 1898.

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Berkshire Record Office News

By Elizabeth Hughes

User Survey

The Record Office has been carrying out a survey of its users in order to gather feedback on the services it provides and to help to plan for the future. This was done by means of questionnaires issued to researchers visiting the office and to local and family history groups. We are very pleased with the response and grateful for the trouble that was obviously taken to complete the questionnaires. We shall be analysing the responses from both visitors and groups, and will send a copy of the report to all societies who took part.

Just catalogued

We have been carrying out a programme to catalogue records of non-conformist churches, and a number of these collections are now available. They include the records of Abingdon Congregational Church, Ascot Baptist Church, 1958; Long Lane Baptist Church, Chieveley, 1970-1988; Trinity Congregational Church, Reading, 1846-1980; King's Road Baptist Church, Reading, 1890-1979; the Reading Free Church Council, 1916-1985; Sunningdale Congregational Church, 1864-1980 and Baptist Church 1915-1963; Sutton Courtenay Congregational Church, 1854-1957; Uffington Baptist Church, 1983; and the Berks, South Oxon. and South Bucks Congregational Union, 1840-1972.

Also worth a mention are the records of the banking family of Simonds, which date from the thirteenth to the twentieth centuries and include title deeds and papers of trusteeship and executorship, together with Arborfield poor rates and an account book for Lady Dorothy Harrison's charity, Hurst. We have also received records of

Oakfield Hostel, Wokingham, which took in children evacuated from London during World War Two. The collection includes an album of photographs of and notes on the children and the work of the hostel, and photographs of former residents and their children. Also recently received are a fine set of rate books from the parish of Wallingford St Leonard, 1815-1851.

Exhibitions

The latest exhibition at Shire Hall is on the county of Berkshire, its origins and its institutions, which runs until the end of June. Medieval Berkshire is illustrated by a facsimile of the Domesday Book and a fourteenth century writ from the sheriff of Berkshire to the bailiffs of Wallingford. Government at county level is represented by the Quarter Sessions order of 1795 which became known as the "*Speenhamland Resolution*", a Police Examinations Book, an Education Committee attendance medal, and a photograph of the shadow County Council elected to see through the local government reorganisation and boundary changes of the 1970s. Other institutions are not forgotten. A book of penances from the records of the Archdeaconry of Berkshire is on display and shows how those condemned of moral wrong-doing were required to come to the parish church during morning prayer, wearing a white sheet, to acknowledge their guilt. Also on display is the first minute book of the Thames Navigation Commission, which was set up in 1771 to control the navigation of the Upper Thames from London to Cricklade. Its pages cover a wide variety of business, including the building of locks and payment of tolls.

An Index to the 1841 Census

By John Gurnett

Towards the end of 1990 Trevor J. Harris set up an Australian company, *Censearch*, to compile an index to the 1841 census. The project had the approval of the Public Record Office and Her Majesty's Stationery Office. Within a year four counties in England had been completed: Bedfordshire, Berkshire, Cambridgeshire and Huntingdonshire. The resulting database had three quarters of a million names, of which about a quarter of a million were from the Middlesex and London region.

Searches in the database were carried out by Censearch for a fee, but microfiche indexes of all names and ages shown in the census schedules were also published. These microfiche indexes used a unique reference number so that only Censearch could provide the full census information. After the initial enthusiasm for the project a number of complaints began to emerge that letters were not being answered by the company. Sometimes payment was enclosed but the cheques were not cashed and family historians could never be sure if their letters had in fact been received.⁴

Two years ago the Spring edition of *Cockney Ancestor* reported that a member of the East London Family History Society had finally tracked down Trevor Harris who is reported to have said that he had "*become disillusioned with the genealogical community, the cheating, non-payment and abusive letters and had simply stopped opening any mail*". The implication was that he would no longer be continuing with the Censearch service.

This was unfortunate as the database for the four counties was invaluable, particularly for family historians who have interests in the counties. The microfiche indexes with their unique numbering system and without reference to Public Record Office census schedules now lead nowhere. These indexes merely indicate whether or not somebody is listed in one of the counties already published.

On the face of it a wasted opportunity.

However, some interesting statistics have emerged from the Berkshire indexes for 1841.⁵

Total population recorded	158,247
Those born in the county	120,574
Those born outside the county	33,070

Most Popular Male Names	
William	12,809
John	11,073
Thomas	7,606
James	7,507
George	6,425

Most Popular Female Names	
Mary	12,104
Elizabeth	9,316
Ann	8,493
Sarah	8,328

⁴ "Descent: The Journal of the Society of Australian Genealogists", Vol 25 No. 2, June 1995, pp. 81-2

⁵ "The Essex Family Historian", No. 66, Nov. 1992, pp. 34-6

Occupations	
No occupation or profession given	94,525
Labourer	21,153
Female servants	7,923
Independent means	4,881
Male servants	3,455
Publicans, inn keepers	832
Total	132,769

(Presumably the difference between the total occupations given here and the total population of the county could be accounted for by a failure to give occupation and by double counting for some occupations).

So what use is the Censearch microfiche index?

The Society of Genealogists' library and the census room at the Public Record Office have a complete set of the fiche (unfortunately the Berkshire Record Office do not have a copy). However, looking through the references it is possible to identify family groups with some degree of certainty. For example, John Badger, aged 50 and Joseph Badger, aged 45, both have the same reference 0057. David Bateman, aged 25, Charlotte, aged 25, Eliza, 3, Elizabeth, 2 and Caleb, 5, all have a 0066 reference. Clearly the references bear some relationship to the PRO piece numbers. This has been confirmed by the Cambridgeshire Record Office who have developed their own crib sheet. Working back from the original piece numbers they have identified which particular Censearch numbers refer to which individual parishes or group of parishes. Censearch number 0027 refers to HO/107/63 and 0056 refers to HO/107/88.

For Berkshire it appears there are fewer than 100 unique Censearch numbers, so in theory it ought not to be too difficult to break the code of the numbering system. Once this was done then it might be possible to identify all the names on that particular schedule. Given that the microfiche for Berkshire has been issued it might be possible to complete the index and make it useable for family historians interested in the county.

Is there anybody out there who would like to give it a try?

Threads of Family History

In response to a number of requests the FFHS have succeeded in finding venues in the West Country for this exhibition. The FFHS realise that this is comparatively short notice, but these are the only dates available before the exhibits are returned to their owners.

4th June -16th June Wells Museum, The Cathedral Green, Wells, Somerset

18th June-13th July Taunton Library, Paul St, Taunton, Somerset

Ken Pearce of 29 Norton Road, Uxbridge, Middlesex UB8 2PT spotted the following in the "Bucks Advertiser" for September 1868:-

"On Wednesday 16th ult in Salt Lake City in the presence of the Saints, Brigham Young to Mrs. J.B.Martin, Miss Emily P.Martin, Miss L.M.Prendegast, Mrs R.M.Sericson and Miss Susie B. Cleveland, all of the county of Berks., England."

In the Beginning

By *Avril Ison*

We sat around a large table on high-backed dining chairs in Autumn '73. Seven of us had read the notice in the paper, placed there by two ladies, Mrs. S.Wilmott and Mrs. J.Blow, announcing the possible formation of a Family History Association. We met in a Hall on the edge of Twyford, all eager to trace our Family Trees. The vibes were good and as we went home in the glowing dusk of a September evening, our minds were busy with what we could produce from the annals of time.

By 1974, *Reading Amateur Genealogical Society* was formed, complete with news letter. Contacts were made with other Family History Societies, local Record Offices, Libraries and Public Record Offices in the Metropolis. Speakers, local and distant, were asked to educate our growing membership.

By common consent, January '75, the group's name was changed to the more friendly *Berkshire Family History Society*. Our first magazine came into being. Alf Ison consented to edit for nine months, continuing until 1990. He and other academic members became tutors and ran classes under The Adult Educational organisations in Berkshire. People in high places, e.g. a Mr. R.Massey F.S.G., gave us the benefit of their vast experience. Members told us of their exciting searches and the unexpected results. Games, presented by J.Townsend and Mrs James, used Family History formats. With Jackie Blow's refreshments, each of us gained a feeling of belonging.

Audience participation came in the form of meetings, in various weather conditions, to meticulously record Memorial Inscriptions in some forgotten corner of a far-away Churchyard. We started with St.

Lawrence's, Reading as the Inner Distribution Road was to have intruded. Armed with brushes: today, bristle or plastic, boots (for you never know what lies beneath or around the monuments), pads, pencils, numbered plastic labels, suitable winter or summer clothing and, of course, refreshments, we knelt and brushed and felt for the words. That is not all. Such words need to be checked and cross-checked, often three times before being coded, classified and indexed, ready to be handed to a Church, Record Office, Library or Family History Society. The whole of Berkshire and most other counties have members who work on such projects in order to preserve the past, as it was written on tablets of stone, for future generations to find their ancestors, before pollution ruins and disintegrates the words.

The last ten years were bad. The last three years, in some cases, have been disastrous. The polished granite stones are, so far, the most weather-worthy. In Graveyard 2 of St Michael's Tilehurst, the stones have sunk because of the alternately dry and wet weather. It is dangerous to lean on these heavy stones. The ground becomes eroded and the kerbs (curbs) sink easily and unexpectedly beneath. Care needs to be taken when working around them. The work is often very interesting, but time-consuming.

I chose my project of St.Michael's Churchyard in 1979. Alf measured every stone and corner of the Church to produce an exact model. Every tomb was numbered. At that time we thought that it was best to number from the left of the Church's West door and work our way North, then to the East and South sides, without using rows; which were not in

keeping with the casual mode, previously chosen to site the graves. Marjorie Philpott came along to check the words and join in the fun.

The Rev. Hacker pointed out that, viewed from the tower, one could discern where graves had sunken, by the differences in the colour of the grass at certain points. (Look to the left of the New Lane Hill entrance where Richard and Mary Beckley's flat stone has been removed). The late Mr. Wilkins allowed me to stay on my own, one very gloomy day, to record the epitaphs within the Church. These are still in their rough state, for after a while, certain siting changes were made. By '85 most of the work done from around the Church was ready to be laid out and volumed. Then - more changes. So, we looked across the road....

From time to time, the summers were wet or the grass was long and dry and we waited. A friend in sandals one summer, in the second part of the Churchyard across the road, found amongst the tall, waist-high blades of dried grass, a small sunken headstone. She tried to flatten the grass in front and saw a mound of earth which had grown up the front of the stone. As she lifted her foot again to clear the face, a crowd of red ants scurried busily around. We called a halt and learned by our mistakes.

For two or three years, concentration was on the demonstrating of the work done and less on recording. Whenever I approached the hayfield over the road, someone would complain, "*What a disgrace it is!*". One irate, tall lady, with waving shears, did not appreciate my saying that the goodwill of the Church members brought about the shearing of the grass. So it was with great appreciation that many have welcomed the beautifully-mown lawns by one kind elder who copes carefully with the Church

surrounds, and the contractor who does a spirited job across the road. To this latter place in recent years, people have come in ones, twos, threes or in families, to daily tend graves. So far, I find it a warm place to be. No matter what time of day it is, someone will walk through. Happy chattering can be heard early in the morning or late in the afternoon, when normal talking floats on the breeze. When gone, they leave their presence behind.

The Graveyard across the road has now been enlarged, measured and mapped. Thanks to the Rector for his kind acknowledgement and to Mrs. Dawson for her efforts to battle with row-numbering in the contemporary sections. With such co-operation, we can produce other map facsimiles which, with future deposited MIs can further benefit the community's needs.

Now, Graveyard 1 Records need to incorporate the recently repositioned stones, where possible. Thanks are due to The Reverend Jones and his advisers for their positive reaction to the request for some Memorial, in honour of those whose graves were disturbed, during the building of the well-designed and tasteful Annexe with Cloisters. The peaceful Memorial Garden, with appropriate central Family Stone, is a rightful tribute to all those who went so long before.

We need to quickly record the many inscriptions that still remain, as traffic pollution not only sickens and kills people, but eradicates the few accessible words that belong to them, on Memorials they leave behind. Many stones have disappeared, but quite a few have appeared on graves that were never remembered in '79. Like the seasons, changes occur daily.

BFHS members are not always accurate for, when lichen and time, with pollution, deface the letters, all sorts of cunning is

needed to decipher the words. Stones can crack, break or become faceless. Lead letter inlets can drop away, leaving only peg holes where the letters have been. Then experience and ingenuity step in to

solve a riddle. We cannot solve the mystery of the unmarked grave. That is a matter for Church Records.

My grateful thanks to Mesdames I. Mahon Daley, J. Fooks, Mr. and Mrs. Hill for their recent checking and palaeographic skills and to J. Blow, S. Harris, S. Townsend & spouse, and Dora Gregory for all their kind support in the past.

With voluntary help, at the end. We WILL Remember Them.

The above article first appeared in the December 1995/January 1996 edition of "St Michael's Church News" and is reproduced by kind permission of St Michael's Church, Tilehurst.

The illustration below represents those who are remembered on the Family Tablet erected in the Memorial Garden.

This tablet is placed in this garden
In memory of members of the families listed below
Who were buried between 1734 and 1870
In the area where this building now stands.

Arlett	Grace	May
Beckley	Ilsey	Smith
Cumber	Justice	Streek
Davis	Keep	Turpie
Dyke	Kemp	Vandercott
Eckert	Knight	Webb
Elm	Loader	Wigmore
Foley	Little	

~ R I P ~

Bookends

Compiled by Jean Debney

Unless otherwise stated, all the following are available from the bookstalls at BFHS branch meetings, the Research Centre or by post (see Booklist or write to address on back cover).

The Changing Faces of Botley and North Hinksey by John Hanson.

(Boyd Publications 1995) includes maps & photographs, 96pp; price £17.95+p&p from the publisher, 260 Colwell Drive, Witney, Oxon. OX8 7LW.

Botley and North Hinksey were, until 1974, places in North Berkshire: now they are part of Oxford City's spreading suburbs. This book is a visual history of the old hamlets and their inhabitants now overshadowed by twentieth century development. [JD]

Marriage Laws, Rites, Records & Customs by Colin Chapman with Pauline Litton.

(Lochin Publishing 1996) endnotes, bibliography, 3 appendices: marriage-related statutes, consanguinity & affinity tables and sums payable under 1694 marriage duty act, index; 116pp. Price £5.50 + p&p 60p UK, £1.20 overseas surface, £2.50 airmail.

You may have heard and enjoyed the lecture at our Reading branch; now you can read the book which explains everything about courtship, marriage and divorce in the British Isles from the sixteenth to twentieth centuries. It also explains the laws and legislation which may have affected why your ancestors did, or did not, marry - or perhaps were not legally married after all! Also has details of courtship customs, legitimising bastards, divorce and wife sales, religious rites, customs and records (including their present location on parchment, CD-ROM, etc.) of Christians, Jews and others. There is also a useful list of marriage anniversaries. [JD]

Protestant Nonconformity and Roman Catholicism, a guide to sources in the Public Record Office (PRO Readers Guide No.13) by David Shorney

(PRO Publications 1996); with illustrations, index, 126pp; price £9.99 + p&p £1.30 UK, £2.00 overseas surface, £5.00 airmail

Many family historians are familiar with the IGI which includes births and baptisms from many of the authenticated non-conformist registers (except Catholic and Quaker) deposited in 1837. What they may not be familiar with is the vast storehouse of other material which may help them unravel the "what", "why" and "how" religion affected their family in the past.

This welcome volume charts the development of non-conformity in England and Wales from the 14th to the 19th century and its control, to a greater or lesser degree, by the crown and government departments. The book's aim is to introduce the main classes of documents about non-conformity and Catholicism held in the PRO but does not attempt to give a definitive list - this can be obtained by consulting the class lists in the PRO, some of which have been published by the *List and Index Society* and can be seen in some large reference libraries.

Included is a useful glossary, details of other archives collections and a bibliography. [JD]

My Ancestors were Jewish by Isobel Mordy

(SOG 2nd ed 1995); 330pp; price £1.25 + p&p 30p UK, 60p overseas surface, £1.25 airmail

In this revised edition, in which the author managed to complete the text before her death in 1993, the bibliography has been updated by Charles Tucker.

Also available in this series "My Ancestors were ...": **Baptist**, £4.99; **Congregational** £3.90; **Methodist**, £3.45; **English Presbyterian**, £3.00; and **Quaker**, £2.10.

Historical Notes on English Catholic Missions by Bernard W.W.Kelly

(1907 reprinted 1995); price £12.00 + p&p from Michael Gandy, 3 Church Crescent, Whetstone, London N20 0JR.

Details of Catholic Missions from the "breach with the apostolic see to our own times" with the omission of a 43-page introductory essay on the history of English Catholicism since the Reformation and the addition of an alphabetical index by county.

Also available are: **Roman Catholic Missions & Registers 1700-1880**:

1. **London & Home Counties**, 2. **Midlands & East Anglia**; 3. **Wales & West England**; 4. **North East England**; 5. **North West England**; 6. **Scotland** - £6.00 each; **Atlas of England, Wales & Scotland** £2.00 + p&p.

My Ancestors were Londoners by Cliff Webb

(SOG 1996); includes London street map, 64pp; price £3.55 + p&p 40p UK, 75p overseas surface, £1.45 airmail.

Because London has grown and changed so much over the past 500 years, finding your ancestor amongst the teeming throng is like looking in "soft sand": the London County Council has gone, Middlesex has been "lost", bits of Kent, Surrey and Essex added and records are now stored all over the place.

The main section deals with sources and local details; appendix 1 lists the names, addresses and telephone numbers of

London repositories; appendix 2 is a table of parishes in Greater London with their county, hundred, registration district, metropolitan and London Boroughs, Probate court and family history society plus footnotes. (unfortunately this table is on the front and back of each page instead of across a two-page spread); and appendix 3 is a list of "substantial places" and their parishes: e.g. Barkingside was part of Great Ilford until 1841.

Cliff Webb is an experienced user of and writer about London records and this book will therefore be a vital finding aid for both new and seasoned family historians. [JD]

Family History News & Digest

(Vol 10 No 3, FFHS April 1996); 136pp; price £1.50 + p&p 60p UK, 95p overseas surface, £1.15 airmail. (also available by subscription via BFHS - see form elsewhere in this journal)

Includes feature article on "The Post Office Archives". The print size of the listing of societies and their contact addresses on the back cover has been enlarged and now extends both sides of a fold-out sheet.

Family Trees, a Manual for their Design, Layout & Display by Marie Lynskey;

(Phillimore 1996); hardback, illustrations, index, 102 pp; price £15.95 + p&p £1.60 UK, £2.60 overseas surface, £6.75 airmail.

Detailed guide to ways of laying out and drawing genealogical charts, etc. before producing a document to display on the wall or in that family history book you are going to write. [JD]

CAGE - Computer Aided Genealogy, A Guide to Using Computer Software for Family History by Nigel Bayley;

61pp; price £4.95 + p&p 50p UK, 75p overseas surface, £1.60 airmail.

Based on the author's ten-year experience with computer programmes for family history, this guide will help you choose the

best programme and compares best sellers for both DOS and Windows. It also includes using the IGI (computer based sources), GEDCOM, graphics (i.e. scanning photos into your files) and the Internet. [JD]

Computer Programs for the Family Historian on Amstrad PCW Computers by Ken Drake

(Birmingham & Midland SGH 1996); 91pp; price £5.00 + p&p 65p UK, £1.10 overseas surface, £1.60 airmail.

As well as reviewing and comparing five genealogical programmes, the first chapters will also help you to use your computer

New Titles and Editions Also Available

The following books are also available now from the Bookstalls. Reviews of them will appear in the September magazine.

Basic Facts about using Marriage Records for Family Historians by Pauline Litton with Colin Chapman

(FFHS 1996): 16pp; price £1.25 + p&p 30p UK, 60p overseas surface, £1.25 airmail.

An Introduction to Using Newspapers and Periodicals by Colin Chapman

(FFHS revised 1996): 31pp; price £11.95 + p&p 40p UK, 75p overseas surface, £1.45 airmail.

English Genealogy - a Bibliography by Stuart Raymond

(FFHS 3rd ed. 1996); 64pp; price £4.30 + p&p 50p UK, 75p overseas surface, £1.60 airmail.

Lancashire, a Genealogical Bibliography: 3 vols. by Stuart Raymond;

Vol 1 - not yet available; Vol.2 - Registers, Inscriptions and Wills (FFHS 1996); Vol.3 - Family Histories and Pedigrees (FFHS 1996);, 56 & 64 pp; price £5.00 each + p&p each 50p UK, 75p overseas surface, £1.60 airmail.

Gibson Guide: the Hearth Tax, Other Later Stuart Tax Lists and the Association Oath Rolls, compiled by Jeremy Gibson

(FFHS 2nd ed. 1996); 80pp; price £4.50 + p&p 55p UK, 90p overseas surface, £2.15 airmail.

Gibson Guide: Marriage, Census and Other Indexes for Family Historians by Jeremy Gibson & Elizabeth Hampson

(FFHS 6th ed. 1996); 76pp; price £3.50 + p&p 55p UK, 90p overseas surface, £2.15 airmail.

Gibson Guide: Record Offices, How To Find Them by Jeremy Gibson and Pamela Heskett

(FFHS 7th ed. 1996); 64 pp; price £2.95 + p&p each 50p UK, 75p overseas surface, £1.60 airmail.

The Surnames of Wales by John & Sheila Rowlands

(FFHS 1996); 217 pp; price £9.95 + p&p £1 UK, £1.80 overseas surface, £4.60 airmail.

more efficiently, use GEDCOM & transfer information between PCW, PC and other computers all making this publication useful for anyone with a PCW. [JD]

Internet for Genealogy, by David Hawgood,

(Author, 1996); 24pp; price £1.60 + 45p UK, 60p overseas surface, £1.25 airmail.

If you want to know more about the latest craze of "cruising the Internet highway" for family history, this short guide will tell you. Topics include public and private messages (e-mail), the World Wide Web, surname searching, etc. [JD]

A Small Victorian Tragedy

By Pat Mundy

About twenty years ago I began to research the family of my great-grandmother Maria Fuller née Shelton. Her father, Stephen Shelton, was the son of a tenant farmer, William Shelton of Lee Farm, Pinkneys Green, where Stephen was born in 1779. Stephen married Mary Ann Beman, the daughter of a Gloucestershire farmer in 1807 and shortly before his marriage, had leased Apple House Farm, Bisham from John Frederick Falwasser, where he remained until his death in 1860.

Stephen and Mary had two sons, William 1808 and Henry 1816 and five daughters, Ellen 1812, Maria 1818 (my great-grandmother), Elizabeth 1820, Lucy Sophia 1823 and Frances 1826.

Over the years I managed to trace the lives of all of them to their deaths, with the exception of Frances. She appeared in the census of 1841 at Apple House Farm and in 1851 at Woolley Hall Farm, Maidenhead Thicket at the age of 24 living with her brother William (agent to the family of Sir Gilbert East of Hall Place, Hurley) and acting as assistant to her sister Elizabeth described as housekeeper. After that she disappeared. She had not been married at Bisham Church, where her sister Maria was married in 1850 to William Walker Fuller, an accountant, neither could I find any trace of her death in St. Catherine's House.

It was not until, after a long search, I finally found the graves of Stephen and Mary Shelton, Henry Shelton and William Shelton at St. James the Less, Stubbings, that the mystery was solved and a tragedy uncovered.

Here I would like to digress a little. I had been looking for these Shelton graves for

many years, searching at Bisham, where Stephen's father, mother, brother and sister were buried, at Hurley, Knowl Hill and Maidenhead. In despair I did what I should have done in the first place, consulted an Ordnance Survey map. When I finally did this I saw a little cross marked at a place called Stubbings. I drove down there the following day and found the graves neatly lined up in the second row to the right of the church.

The gravestone next to Stephen and Mary Shelton read:

"Sacred to the memory of Frances Plumridge the beloved wife of Mr. William Plumridge of Newington and Hurley and youngest daughter of Mr. S. Shelton of Apple House Farm who died Oct. 14 1854 aged 28. Also Frances Marian Jane daughter of the above who died March 1 1855 aged 5 months."

I obtained the marriage certificate of Frances and the birth certificate of her daughter, Frances Marian Jane. Frances had been married to William Plumridge at St. Mary's Church, St. Marylebone on 28th March 1854. The daughter had been born at Newington, Surrey on 27th September 1854. Frances had been three months pregnant when she married.

The Shelton family had already had to endure the scandal of their second son, Henry, who had only married Caroline Cole, a servant's daughter, the mother of his daughter, Sarah, in 1845, two years after the birth. Frances' pregnancy must have been the last straw. William Plumridge was the son of a farmer, Charles Plumridge, of Lots Farm, Hurley, not far from Woolley Hall Farm, Maidenhead

Thicket where Frances was helping to keep house for her brother William. When Frances's pregnancy was discovered the Shelton family acted 'swiftly'. William Plumridge and Frances were packed off to London to be married at St. Marylebone. The two witnesses were George and Alfred Plumridge, possibly brothers of William. I don't suppose the Shelton family were represented.

Frances had her baby at 3, West Terrace, Newington on 27th September 1854. On the marriage certificate William gives his occupation as Farmer, but six months later on his daughter's birth certificate he describes himself as Private Secretary.

Obviously some influence had been used to obtain employment for William as far away as possible from the Sheltons and Apple House Farm. Frances died at Newington on 14 October 1854, three weeks after the birth of her daughter. Only then was she allowed to return to Bisham to be buried at Stubbings. Just over five months later her daughter, Frances Marian Jane, was buried with her.

I wonder if the Sheltons went to the funeral - I somehow think they did - and if so what their thoughts were. Frances and her daughter, by their deaths, had literally buried the scandal.

TO ALL MEMBERS

This is a request from the Volunteers Co-ordinators, Ivan and June Dickason, for your help in opening and running the Research Centre.

The Research Centre is presently open Tuesday evenings, all day Wednesday and Thursday afternoons; this means 8 volunteers are required each week. Members would like the Centre to be open even more; this means we must have more volunteers.

The job of a Volunteer is not difficult. You have to:

- Open the Centre
- Welcome visitors
- Assist researchers
- Sell books and other publications
- Collect moneys together and enter into Cash Book
- Close the Centre

If you have a few hours to spare once or more a month, we would be pleased to hear from you (Tel: 0118-978 6785). Alternatively, you could visit the Centre for one of the regular Monday Research Centre tours when we can explain the duties of a volunteer to you in more detail.

The dates of the library tours are:

- | | |
|------------------------------|--------|
| • 17 th June | 7:30pm |
| • 15 th July | 2:00pm |
| • 19 th August | 7:30pm |
| • 16 th September | 2:00pm |
| • 21 st October | 7:30pm |
| • 18 th November | 2:00pm |

Writing for Information

By Jean Debney

The following is adapted from a form letter used by a family historian when writing with a questionnaire to reassure people in telephone directories, etc. Although its originator was studying all references, including variations, to his surname, sections of the following would be useful for those just starting their family history. This was originally published in another family history society magazine, the name and date of publication of which were not, unfortunately, noted on my copy:

“Dear ...,

Over the past ... years I have collected together a considerable amount of information about the surname ... and its history. I have been closely associated with / a member of the Family History Society for ... years / some time. I have been in touch with a number of people bearing the surname ... and have found that most of them are interested to know more about the name and its origin.

I am writing to you to see whether you are at all interested. I emphasize that this is simply a hobby. I am not asking for any money nor am I planning to put any information I have to any commercial use.

I would be most grateful if you could help me by spending a little of your time, and I invite you to give the details set out in the enclosed questionnaire. If you are interested in your family history I would hope to be able to send you more information about your branch of the family. Even if I cannot fit you in to one of the family trees which I have I will certainly send you some notes on the origin of the surname and its distribution.

If you are not yourself interested there may be other members of the family who are and perhaps you could pass this letter to them.

Should you have any queries at all about ... families I shall be glad to try to answer them either by letter or on the telephone.

I hope to hear from you. You may find it interesting!”

Suggested Questionnaire

Can you please supply the following details:

I am writing to people with the surname ... or family connection to let me have the following information. This information is requested for family history purposes and for no other purpose at all.

If there is not sufficient room please write overleaf or on a separate piece of paper.

1. Please can you give your name, address, and date and place of birth.
2. Please give the name of your husband/wife and the place and date of marriage.
3. Please give the name, dates and places of birth of your children and the same details for any children they may have, including details of any marriage.
4. Please give the names of your parents and their dates of birth and the date of their marriage. Please give the details for any other children they may have, and their descendants.
5. Please give the same details that you have for your father's father and any previous generations in the male line - that is people whose surname is one of the variations of ...
6. Are there any family traditions relating to the origin of the ... family?

7. Are you in contact with any distant relatives who are interested in the ... family? If so, could I please have their names and addresses.
8. Would you be interested in being put in touch with any one to whom you are distantly related?

Please reply to [your name and address] Thank you very much for your co-operation.

Public Record Office News

The Public Record Office at Kew will be closed for two separate weeks, 24th June to 28th June and 7th Oct. to 11th Oct. 1996. Before your next 1996 visit - phone the Hotline: 0181-8763444 or 0181-392-5200 to check that the record/s you wish to see are available and not in transit somewhere ... !!

On 11 November 1996 - Armistice Day - duplicate records of soldiers in the British Army (1914-1920) held by the Ministry of Pensions and known as the "*unburnt documents*" will be available at PRO Kew on microfilm in class WO 364.

A grant of lottery money from the National Heritage Memorial Fund to the PRO announced on 14th February 1996 will be used for a pilot project to estimate the cost of microfilming 10% of the First World War soldiers documents 1914-1920 - 33,000 boxes - currently stored at Hayes, near Heathrow Airport. These are the "*burnt documents*", the 40% which survived fire and water damage in the Second World War and for which we currently have to pay a search fee - with no guarantee of finding anything. If further grants are forthcoming, it is hoped to make these records available - also on microfilm - by the end of 2001 in class WO 363.

The transfer to the PRO of the records of Army and RAF officers will commence early in 1997, and those for Naval officers and seamen (1892-1924) probably about 2001.

The PRO Museum at Chancery Lane closed in April and a new exhibition prepared - due to be opened on 6 June 1996 - of Sir Winston Churchill's papers purchased with lottery money for the nation from Church College, Cambridge. They will be displayed with complementary documents from the PRO archives.

The Museum is open Mon-Fri 9.30am-4.45pm; admission free (no reader's ticket necessary).
[JD]

NORCAP is a support group for all those involved in adoption in any way, be they adopted, adoptive parents or those who have had a child adopted. If you would like to know more please contact NORCAP at 112 Church Road, Wheatley, Oxon, OX33 1LU. Telephone 01865-875000. [CH]

Tom Hine (2096) of Purley Berks has provided information about the Family Tree Message Service which broadcasts free Family Tree enquiries - maximum 40 printed words including address - on Sky television in Sky News Fastext page 268. Monthly printout details are available in "*Tree Tops Genealogical Journal*" £2.29 UK, £2.58 Europe and £3.10 Australia/NZ per month (cheques payable to C.NICHOLLS). Further details from: Family Tree SK/TT, Tree Tops, PO Box 116, Swindon, Wilts SN3 2SX or telephone 01793 538730.

Bookstall Changes

After starting the bookstall sixteen years ago, Jean Debney is now handing it over to fresh hands. Because of the variety of jobs which have been carried out under the title of "*Bookstall Manager*" the various functions are being handed on to more than one person. From the AGM, when Jean officially retires, Lynne Macmillan takes over the job of Bookstall Stock Control, Judith Morgan-Russell has already taken over dealing with all the orders received by post and Margaret Pyle will be handling all subscription orders for the monthly *Family Tree Magazine* and the half yearly *Family History News and Digest* (the official journal of the Federation of Family History Societies). Enclosed with this journal you will find a new Booklist and an order form covering both the *Family History News & Digest* and the *Family Tree Magazine*. For those members who have current orders for either or both of these magazines you will continue to receive them but before your order runs out you will need to complete and send back this new application form so that you do not miss an issue and the Society continues to benefit from your subscription.

Jean will not be entirely divorced from the Bookstall as she will continue to take it to other society Open Days from time to time, and is to continue temporarily as Research Centre Bookstall Manager until September this year.

The Overseers' Project

Brian Hunt of 2 Warfield Road, Bracknell, Berkshire RG12 2JB wrote as follows:

"Some four years ago I agreed to resurrect the Overseers' Project and having worked on it ever since, I feel that the current state of the project needs to be made quite clear to the membership.

It was only very recently, and then only by chance, that I personally learnt of the behind-the-scenes politics regarding publication of some of the results of our labours. This was detailed in March "*Berkshire Family Historian*" (in Chairman's Comments and on page 111).

The **full** results of the project, as I understand it, are now planned to consist of 26 Volumes, each fully indexed by personal names, placenames and occupations, of which 14 volumes have now been completed. What has not been made clear in the March magazine is that as each volume has been completed, the results **have already** been made available. At my own expense I have produced six copies of each volume. Admittedly, at present no member can study these in their own home, but I have distributed five copies as follows:

- BFHS Research Centre Library
- Berkshire Record Office
- Reading Central Library [Local Studies]
- Society of Genealogists' Library
- Another main Berkshire Library [relevant to the area covered by the volume concerned]

I had personally envisaged that when the project was finally completed (perhaps another goal to aim for at the Millennium?) I would prepare combined indexes to all 26 volumes and then the whole project could be published to reach a much wider readership - perhaps in microfiche format.

No doubt I will first learn of this by reading my copy of a future BFHS magazine."

Chad Hanna, Society Chairman, replies:

First, I must thank Brian Hunt for his reminder that the Overseers' Records are already available in our Research Centre and elsewhere. When I wrote the *Chairman's Comments*, my main concern was to make sure the Berkshire Record Society's offer was included in the journal before it became history. After talking to Brian, I realised that I would need to remedy my oversight.

I should point out that I am a member of the Berkshire Record Society as well as the Berkshire FHS – I think it would be more surprising if I wasn't! Peter Durrant, the County Archivist, is Vice-President of our Society as well as General Editor of the Berkshire Record Society. Nevertheless, the aim in my discussions has been the best overall result for the Society that I could achieve, while leaving Brian plenty of elbow room.

You may wonder why the Berkshire Record Society, and not our Society, is publishing these Overseer's papers. In fact, it is and has always been our Society's desire to publish these valuable records of the old Poor Law more widely as many would find it more economical to buy the one or two fiche for their area rather than make the journey to Berkshire or the Society of Genealogists or engage a researcher. I'm also aware that several volunteers on this project hope that their transcribing work will benefit our Society financially.

Again, almost since its inception, the Berkshire Record Society has made clear its desire to publish some of the Overseer's Records. The two previous volumes on *Correspondence of the Foundling Hospital Inspectors in Berkshire* and *Berkshire Glebe Terriers* are handsome, even if their cost is greater than most family historians would willingly pay for a 'finding aid'.

Any family history society values a good relationship with 'their' county record office, and the benefits of this are clear in the article on *A New Parish Register Project*. I also recognise that both Dr Peter Durrant and Sabina Sutherland, from the record office, have made significant contributions to the Overseer's Project.

So how was it best to respond to the Berkshire Record Society offer? I saw two options:

- to reject the offer and publish now, which would help our Society financially in the short term, but would risk our relationship with the staff at the Record Office.
- to try and improve the offer: by reducing the cost of the Record Society volume to our members, publishing on fiche when stocks of the Record Society volume ran low, and publishing anything which the Record Society did not publish.

To me, co-operation is better than confrontation, and while I don't doubt that someone else could have achieved a better arrangement, I feel that the arrangement is fair to our members – I do hope you agree. If, as Prince Bismarck said, "*Politics is the art of the possible*" then I must admit to playing politics.

After that explanation, I must publicly apologise for not keeping Brian up-to-date with what was going on on the publication front. I do have excuses but I won't share them here.

Finally, I would add that we must be grateful for Brian's decision to publish the existing six copies at his own expense, as our Society would happily reimburse this cost. I think anyone who has examined the existing volumes will acknowledge we have a lot to thank Brian for."

Computers and Family History

I have had two letters this time which concern the use of computers and family history. Perhaps other members will be able to help with the questions posed.

John Talbot (977) of 21 Cranborne Waye, Hayes, Middlesex, UB4 0HW wrote following the article by Ruth Marler "Widows - A One Name Study" questioning the value of the Internet for family history:

"Although a computer user for about twelve years, I have not yet purchased a modem to "hook up with anyone who is out there" due to my thinking along the following lines:

- the percentage of family history computer users is quite small
- the percentage of modem-owning family history computer users is extremely small
- the percentage of modem-owning family history computer users with similar name interests to me is, at the best, positively minute.

Ruth's experience with the Internet is interesting and obviously the One-Name Study aspect does lend itself to this type of network, but do you consider that there is any advantage to be gained by the average researcher? I already belong to the BFHS and Oxon FHS plus a One Name group for my own surname. The Members' Interests List for these groups reveal that there is limited interest in my families."

Editor's note: What do other members think? Write and let me know if you have found that being connected up via the Internet useful or not?

Victor Pocock (163) of Hillcrest, Beedon, Newbury, Berks, RG20 8SN wrote in to ask which program is suitable for printing out family trees:

"I have a Dell Dimension Computer with Microsoft Windows 3.1 and I have been creating family trees and listings using Brother's Keeper. A new printer Canon LBP-460 has just been installed. All the programs except Brother's Keeper work perfectly, but it is difficult to get printed information from Brother's Keeper. Also the presentation is not very good. Can you suggest a program that works with Windows that might be suitable. At the moment I have nearly 3,500 linked records on one directory and other smaller groups and I need to send out copies of family trees to people in this country and abroad."

Editor's note: I personally use Pedigree, which does not run under Windows, not even with a mouse, but I find it very easy to use especially as it seems to hold an infinite number of people, who do not have to be related. It prints out fairly good family trees, but I have not really done so because the sheets of paper all need sticking together. Furthermore as soon as you print something out it changes! However, I do use Pedigree to print out lists which you can customise from within the program. Thus for example, I can print out a list of Trulocks born in Berkshire, without having to print out the entire database. I have also used Family Tree Maker for Windows which is very easy to use and prints out fairly well, although again you end up with great reams of paper. What do other people recommend? Write and let me know!

Society Post Box

The Society now has a post box at the Research Centre and all Bookstall mail, etc. should be addressed to The Berkshire Family History Society, c/o Prospect School, Honey End Lane, Tilehurst, Reading, Berks, RG30 4EL.

Editor's Notes

Thank you once again to all the contributors to this magazine. As always, however, we still need more articles. In past issues we have featured death and marriage, so I thought that the September magazine could include tales of your ancestors' births. The deadline for the September magazine is the 26th July.

June 1996 Magazine Cover

The following is a foreword to a book of Holy Scripture compiled by the Vicar of Blewbury in Berkshire, printed in 1711, whose title page is shown on the cover of this issue of the "*Berkshire Family Historian*". The book is held by the Local Studies section of the Central Library in Reading (ref:B/UB 630). It reveals not only the theological viewpoint of an eighteenth-century vicar, Joseph Acres, but also some of the teaching methods employed at Charity Schools in Berkshire. It is addressed as follows, to the "Reader", in the form of a letter, written at "Blewberry" on 6th November 1710:

"It has been my Lot to govern Two Charity Schools these Three Years, that are well endow'd; I turned my Thoughts for about a Year, with some Application, to set the Boys and Girls to work, and all my Projects have succeeded according to Expectation. I have at present an Eye to push on some trivial Schools in our larger Villages, but I cannot reconcile my self to the common way of Teaching; certainly, the young and tender Years of Boys and Girls, might be improved to much greater Advantages than usually they are. I have read, that the Jews make their Youth get large Portions of the Bible without Book; and in several of the Mahometan Schools, the Children go over the Alchoran so often, that they have the whole perfectly by heart; and shall we that are Christians come short of them? We are Members of a Protestant Church, and the Books of the Old and New Testament being given by divine Inspiration, and being our Rule of Faith, 'tis our Duty to teach them to all, especially to them that are weaned from the Milk, and drawn from the Breast, that so from their Childhood they may know the holy Scriptures which are able to make them wise unto Salvation. In this Collection, you may easily perceive, that I have a particular Aim to the Principles of Natural Religion, and Moral Duties. I propose the Children may get them by heart, as Boys in the Latin Schools do the Acciden[ce?] or Grammar, two or three Verses each Day, will go over the whole in a short Time. If this finds any Acceptance, I intend quickly to publish a Second Part which shall contain Christian Principles and positive Duties, which depend upon immediate divine Revelation. I desire your Prayers for my Assistance, and that the rising Generation may be taught the Fear of the Lord."

Members' Interests Omitted

I received the following Interests from Major Alex Greenwood (1081) of RR1 Box 40, Madrona Drive, Nanoose Bay, B.C. Canada, VOR 2R0 and forgot to pass them on for inclusion in Members' Interests:

BISHOP	BRK,	Wallingford	1700-1910
COOPER	BRK	Wallingford	1700-1910
FLAMANK	BRK	Wallingford	1700-1910
GREENWOOD	BRK	Wallingford	1600-1910
PARSONS		Knighton	1700-1910
WRIGHT	BRK	Cholsey	1750-1910

Catherine

Members' Interests

Compiled by Robert Houseman

APOLOGIES:

To all Overseas Members who received their December Magazine late - this was due to the British Post Office destroying the original magazines in December and only notifying us of this fact in late January.

And to all members for the late mailing of the March Magazine - this was due in part by the printer not including the Members Interest section, and having to reprint the whole run again, and in part to inaccuracies in our mailing database

To Mr and Mrs Peter Ward, of 28 Marne Avenue, Welling, Kent DA16 2EY whose Membership No. in the March *Members Interests* section appeared incorrectly as 3139 instead of 3193. Their Interests are repeated below for clarification

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

2816 Mrs V ATKINSON, 30 Beech Close, Brasside, Durham DH1 5YB
2161 Mr AA SALT, 8 Martins Close, Ramsgate, Kent, CT12 6TD

CHANGES OF ADDRESS:

0998 Mr & Mrs V PERRY, 8 Barn Lane, Oakley, Basingstoke, Hampshire RG23 7HT
2187 Mr & Mrs EH WOOD, 11 Ropley Street, Ambeley, North Canterbury 8251, NEW ZEALAND
2435 Mr SN LLOYD, 49 Warden Close, Presteigne, Powys LD8 2DH

MEMBERS SUBMITTING THEIR INTERESTS:

(* Member of Guild Of One Name Studies)

2422 Mrs ML COLLINS, 4 Drovers Way, Woodley, Reading, Berks RG5 3PW
2435 S LLOYD, 49 Warden Close, Presteigne, Powys LD8 2DH
2586 Mr RJ AUBREY, 'One Oak', 29 Harrop Road, Hale, Altrincham, Cheshire WA15 9DD
*2953 Mr A QUARTERMAN, 5 Cottesmore, Bracknell, Berks RG12 7YL
3114 Mr A BUTLER, 11 Harrington Court, Meltham, Huddersfield
3120 Mrs SP HORNE, 109 Fallowfield Road, Halesowen, West Midlands B63 1BY
3145 Mrs F VAUGHAN, 73 Frenches Road, Redhill, Surrey RH1 2HS
3192 Ms D FINDING, 6 Thirlmere Close, Stubbington, Hants PO14 2DT
3193 Mr & Mrs P WOOD, 28 Marne Avenue, Welling, Kent DA16 2EY
3200 Mr D BIRDSALL, 3 Lane End Close, Shinfield, Reading, Berks RG2 9AS
3204 Mr LB BRUSH, 122 Abbots Road, Cheam, Sutton, Surrey SM3 9SX
3216 Mr M KUTAPAN, Flat 2, 2 Hanway Place, London W1P 9DF
3218 Mr & Mrs D CULLEN, One Bee, Dobbins Lane, Wendover, Aylesbury, Bucks HP22 6BP
3224 Mrs M DURKIN, 43 Princes Avenue, Gunnersbury Park, London W3 8LX
3227 Ms E WOODS, 5 Balfour Drive, Calcot, Reading, Berks RG31 7BN
3230 Ms A HIMMONS, 88 Lutterworth Road, Nuneaton, Warks CV11 6PH
3238 Miss D DEIGHTON, 42 Harbord Street, Fulham, London SW6 6PJ
3244 Mr G KING, 11 Hayfield Close, Tilehurst, Reading, Berks RG31 5DA
3232 Ms R BATEMAN, 3 Kintbury Walk, Southcote, Reading, Berks RG30 3HE
3261 Mr T LANFEAR, 23 Graig Lwyd, Radyr, Cardiff, S Glam CF4 8BG
3265 Mrs LJ RAYNER, 67 Riversmead, Hoddesdon, Herts EN11 8DP
3269 Mr CF TINKER, PO Box 498, Intervale, NH 03845-0498, USA
3271 Mrs M SMITH, 6 Edward Close, Seaford, East Sussex BN25 2RZ
3279 Mrs J LOW, 10 Rumsey Close, Hampton, Middx TW12 3XY

3287 Ms J TALLIBUT, Cambria House, Llansteffan, Carmarthen, West Wales SA33 5JQ
 3307 Mr AG NORCUTT, 194 Delce Road, Rochester, Kent ME1 2EP

No.	Surname	Place	Code	Period	No.	Surname	Place	Code	Period
2435	ADAMS	Bucklebury	BRK	1740-1810	3145	DAY	Oxford	OXF	1828-1900
2953	ADAMS	Gt Coxwell	BRK	1700-1995	3238	DEIGHTON	Huntingdon	HNP	1700-1900
3192	ADKINS	Bloxham	OXF	1700-1900	3230	DENNIS	Anywhere	BRK	1750-1950
3307	ALDOUS	Anywhere	SFK	1700-1900	3265	DIGGINS	Aston Tirrold	BRK	1700-1995
3287	ANSTEE	Godington Wap	GLS	1700-1850	3265	DIGGINS	Brimpton	BRK	1700-1995
3287	ANSTEY	Dyrham Hinton	GLS	1700-1850	3265	DIGGINS	Cholsey	BRK	1700-1995
3192	APPLEBEE	Reading	BRK	1700-1996	3265	DIGGINS	Shinfield	BRK	1700-1995
3271	ARCHER	Great Marlow	BKM	1700-1800	3265	DIGGINS	Thatcham	BRK	1700-1995
3279	ASHTON	Anywhere	MDX	1830-1950	3265	DIGGINS	Aston Tirrold	BRK	1700-1995
3232	ASK	Anywhere	LND	1500-1890	3265	DIGGINS	Brimpton	BRK	1700-1995
3232	ASK	Leicester	LEI	1500-1890	3265	DIGGINS	Cholsey	BRK	1700-1995
3232	ASK	Liverpool	LAN	1500-1890	3265	DIGGINS	Shinfield	BRK	1700-1995
3232	ASK	Nottingham	NTT	1500-1890	3265	DIGGINS	Thatcham	BRK	1700-1995
3232	AYLING	Bognor Regis	SSX	1800-1937	3307	DRANE	Anywhere	SFK	1750-1900
3232	AYLING	Chichester	SSX	1800-1937	3307	DRANE	Anywhere	BRK	1850-1950
3200	BARKER	Rotherham	YKS	1800-1900	3307	DRANE	Anywhere	NFK	1750-1900
3218	BARNET	Angus	SCT	1700-1800	3307	DREW	Anywhere	BKM	1700-1850
3271	BARTHOLOMEW	Great Coggeshall	ESS	1700-1830	3307	DREW	Anywhere	OXF	1700-1850
3232	BATEMAN	Chichester	SSX	1800-1900	3307	DREW	Anywhere	BRK	1700-1850
3193	BELCHER	Chilton	BRK	1700-1890	2435	DURBRIDGE	Crookham Common	BRK	1850-1880
3227	BELL	Anywhere	BRK	1775-1875	3244	EBORN	Oakley	BKM	ALL
2435	BERRY	Bucklebury	BRK	C1790	3244	EBORN	Thame	OXF	ALL
3265	BIGGS	Harrow	MDX	1700-1900	3238	ELLIS	Westminster	MDX	1700-1890
3265	BIGGS	Hendon	MDX	1700-1900	3230	EMMANS	Anywhere	BRK	1750-1950
3265	BIGGS	Roxeth	MDX	1700-1900	3230	EMMONS	Anywhere	BRK	1750-1950
3200	BIRDSALL	Anywhere	YKS	ALL	2953	FARMER	Anywhere	BRK	ALL
3271	BLAY	Bray	BRK	1700-1800	3227	FEASEY	Marlow area	BKM	1800-1890
3230	BOSLEY	Anywhere	BRK	1800-1950	3192	FINDING	Raunds	NTH	1700-1900
2435	BRADLEY	Bucklebury	BRK	1818	2435	FISHER	Bucklebury	BRK	1830-1875
3218	BRAMBLE	Canterbury	KEN	1700-1820	3244	GARLAND	Harefield	LND	ALL
2953	BRANT	Stepney	MDX	1800-1996	2953	GIBBONS	Cowley	OXF	1650-1995
2435	BRAZIER	Chieveley	BRK	C1760	3193	GIBBS	Lewes	SSX	1700-1850
3200	BREWERTON	Leeds	YKS	1700-1900	3193	GIBBS	New Haven	SSX	1700-1850
3230	BRIDGEMAN	Anywhere	BRK	1750-1950	3271	GINGER	Great Hampden	BKM	1600-1700
3271	BROOKS	Bledlow Ridge	BKM	1700-1800	3265	GIPPS	Blunham	BDF	1600-1850
3204	BRUSH	Buscot	BRK	1500-1994	3265	GIPPS	Cambridge	CAM	1600-1850
3204	BRUSH	Swallowfield	BRK	1500-1994	3265	GIPPS	Steeple Bumpstead	ESS	1600-1850
3204	BRUSH	Waltham St Lawce.	BRK	1500-1994	3227	GIRDLER	Anywhere	BRK	1800-1890
3218	BRYANT	Portsea	HAM	1750-1820	2953	GOOD	Anywhere	SFK	1700-1995
3218	BURNET	Angus	SCT	1700-1800	3232	GOOD FELLOW	Salisbury	WIL	1800-1875
3114	BUTLER	Abingdon	BRK	1805-1900	3224	GODDGERS	Gosport	HAM	1665-1800
3114	BUTLER	Long Wittenham	BRK	1830-1900	3224	GOODYEAR	Gosport	HAM	1665-1800
3114	BUTLER	Sutton Wick	BRK	1838-1900	3230	GORE	Anywhere	BRK	1750-1950
3114	BUTLER	Watlington	OXF	1841-1900	3193	GOSWELL	London	MDX	1700-1900
3232	BUTLERS	Evercreed	SOM	1700-1890	3271	GREEN	Great Marlow	BKM	1700-1780
3227	CARTER	Aldermaston area	BRK	1795-1865	3238	GREENAWAY	Steventon	BRK	1700-1900
3200	CATCHPOLE	Sheffield	YKS	1700-1900	3271	HADAWAY	Princes Risborough	BKM	1700-1775
3227	CHALLIS	Monk Sherborne	HAM	1800-1875	3238	HAINES	Paddington	MDX	1860-1900
3287	CHANDLER	Petersfield	HAM	1750-1850	3238	HAINES	Steventon	BRK	1700-1900
3224	CLARKE	Bagshot	SRY	1800-1900	2586	HAMBLIN	Newbury	BRK	1750-1850
3265	CLARKE	Biggleswade	BDF	1550-1800	3227	HARMSWORTH	Bramley	HAM	1775-1890
3265	CLARKE	Blunham	BDF	1550-1800	2953	HARRIS	Burford	OXF	1780-1840
3232	CLEWS	Birmingham	WAR	1800-1917	2953	HARRIS	Oxford	OXF	1780-1840
2586	COLLIER	Newbury	BRK	1750-1850	3271	HATHAWAY	Princes Risborough	BKM	1700-1775
3193	COLLYER	Basingstoke	HAM	1800-1860	3244	HAWES	Oakley	BKM	ALL
3218	COUZENS	Portsmouth	HAM	1750-1820	3244	HAWES	Thame	OXF	ALL
3120	COWDEROY	Anywhere	BRK	1700-1996	3192	HEAL(E)	Bristol	SOM	1700-1996
3238	COX	Steventon	BRK	1700-1900	3230	HEMMANS	Anywhere	BRK	1750-1950
3218	COXETER	Pancras	LND	Pre 1815	3230	HEMMINGS	Anywhere	BRK	1750-1950
2953	CREED	Anywhere	BRK	1800-1995	3230	HEMMONS	Anywhere	BRK	1750-1950
3218	CROAL	Angus	SCT	1750-1800	3216	HERBERT	Reading	BRK	1770-1830
3218	CROLL	Angus	SCT	1750-1800	3218	HERRING	Canterbury	KEN	1700-1820
3218	CULLEN	Manor Hamilton	LET	1800-1882	3200	HEWITT	Garforth	YKS	ALL
3287	CULLIMORE	Biddestone	WIL	1600-1800	3230	HIMMINS	Anywhere	BRK	1750-1950
3120	CURTIS	Welford	BRK	1750-1880	3230	HIMMONS	Anywhere	BRK	1750-1950
3269	CURTIS	Welton	YKS	1700-1900	3307	HITCHMAN	Anywhere	BRK	1600-1930
3287	DANIELS	Bristol	SOM	1780-1850	3120	HORNE	Anywhere	WMD	1870-1996
2435	DAVIS	Ashampstead	BRK	1750-1850	3120	HORNE	Englefield	BRK	1700-1996
3307	DAVY	Anywhere	SFK	1750-1900	3120	HORNE	Smethwick	WMD	1880-1996
3145	DAY	Chatham	KEN	1882-1939	3120	HORNE	Tilehurst	BRK	1700-1996

No.	Surname	Place	Code	Period	No.	Surname	Place	Code	Period
3224	HOUSEMAN	Anywhere	HAM	1695-1800	3307	POLDEN	Anywhere	OXF	1700-1850
3279	HULL	Burghfield	BRK	1750-1870	3307	POLTON	Anywhere	OXF	1700-1850
3271	HULL	Earls Colne	ESS	1700-1830	3200	PRINCE	Church Fenton	YKS	1700-1900
3279	HULL	Twyford/Hurst	BRK	1800-1890	3218	PRIOR	Bembridge	IOW	1800-1882
3287	HUMPHREYS	Biddestone	WIL	1700-1800	3218	PRIOR	Hanney area	BRK	1700-1775
3287	HUMPHREYS	Northwaxell	WIL	1700-1800	3218	PROFIT	Angus	SCT	1700-1820
3238	HUNT	Westminster	MDX	1700-1850	3218	PROPHET	Angus	SCT	1700-1820
3227	HUNT	Wootton Bassett	WIL	1725-1800	2953	QUARTERMAN	Anywhere	ALL	ALL
3192	ILLSLEY	Reading	BRK	1700-1996	3230	RANDALL	Anywhere	BRK	1750-1950
2435	ILLSLEY	Anuwhere	BRK	ALL	3265	RAYNER	Walthamstow	ESS	1750-1920
3230	IMMONS	Anywhere	BRK	1750-1950	2953	REASON	Gt Coxwell	BRK	1700-1995
3230	IMONS	Anywhere	BRK	1750-1950	3200	RENNISON	Anywhere	YKS	ALL
3145	IRWIN	Windsor	BRK	1850-1920	3271	RIACH	Rothes	MOR	1700-1800
3227	JACOB	Ashbury area	BRK	1725-1800	3287	RICKARDS	Paul	WIL	1700-1800
3232	JEFFRIES	Birmingham	WAR	1800-1917	3287	RICKARDS	Shiptonmoyrn	CON	1700-1800
3218	JOHNSON	Gosport	HAM	1700-1800	3287	RICKARDS	Tetbury	GLS	1700-1800
3216	KEATE	East Hagbourne	BRK	1500-1700	3287	RICKETTS	Paul	WIL	1700-1800
3145	KING	Windsor	BRK	1850-1920	3287	RICKETTS	Shiptonmoyrn	CON	1700-1800
2953	KINGSBURY	Anywhere	SFK	ALL	3287	RICKETTS	Tetbury	GLS	1700-1800
3193	LACEY	Anywhere	SSX	1800-1900	3145	RIXON DRUETT	Oxford	OXF	1833-1910
3227	LAMB	Anywhere	BRK	1775-1875	2953	ROBERTS	Langtoft	LIN	1800-1995
3238	LAMM	Kensington	MDX	1864-1899	3200	RODGERS	Sheffield	YKS	1800-1900
3238	LAMM	Rayleigh	ESS	1899-1931	3120	ROLLASON	Smethwick	WMD	1880-1960
3261	LAN(D)FEAR	Anywhere	BKM	1600-1837	3218	ROSS	Angus	SCT	1750-1800
3261	LAN(D)FEAR	Anywhere	HAM	1600-1837	2435	RUMBLE	East Ilsley	BRK	1800-1995
3261	LAN(D)FEAR	Anywhere	BRK	1600-1837	2422	SALT	Aldbarn	WIL	Pre 1850
3261	LAN(G)FEAR	Anywhere	OXF	1600-1837	3232	SAVAGE	Groydon	SRY	1801-1875
3261	LANPHERE	Anywhere	HAM	1600-1837	3269	SELLERS	Hessle	YKS	1700-1900
3261	LANPHERE	Anywhere	OXF	1600-1837	2435	SHACKLER	East Ilsley	BRK	1800-1995
3307	LARTER	Anywhere	SFK	1750-1900	3271	SHARP	Great Coggeshall	ESS	1700-1825
2435	LAWRENCE	Bucklebury	BRK	1750-1950	2953	SMITH	Faringdon	OXF	1760-1860
2953	LEA	Bethnal Green	LND	1850-1995	3232	SNAPE	Birmingham	WAR	1800-1917
3218	LEMOND	Canterbury	KEN	1700-1820	3227	SPICER	Hungerford	BRK	1795-1850
3200	LOGG	Kippax	YKS	ALL	3192	ST JOHN ROUS	South Africa		1800-1995
3244	LOOSLEY	Oakley	BKM	ALL	3200	STOREY	New Sleaford	LIN	1700-1900
3244	LOOSLEY	Thame	OXF	ALL	3279	STREET	Old Windsor	BRK	1880-1940
2435	LOW	Basildon	BRK	1750-1780	3279	STREET	Winkfield	BRK	1860-1880
3218	MACDONALD	Holloway	LND	Pre 1850	3244	STURGESS	Hughenden	BKM	ALL
3265	MALT	Axford	WIL	1750-1900	3216	SULLIVAN	Reading	BRK	1770-1830
3265	MALT	Shinfield	BRK	1800-1995	3200	SWIFT	Sheffield	YKS	ALL
3218	MARRIOTT	Bradford	YKS	1910-1915	3287	TALLIBUT	Upham/Farnham	HAM	1700-1800
3287	MARSHALL	Brimpton	BRK	1600-1900	3271	TAYLOR	Cookham	BRK	1700-1800
3120	MASON	Anywhere	WAR	1800-1996	3269	THORLEY	Hessle	YKS	1700-1900
3232	McKINLEY	Sligo	IRL	1800-1850	3193	TILLET	Anywhere	NFK	1800-1900
3232	McLEAN	Tobermory	SCT	1800-1850	3287	TINGLE	Leeds	YKS	1700-1900
3192	MERRY	Adderbury	OXF	1850-1996	3269	TINKER	Anywhere	BRK	1500-1700
3269	MERWIN	Anywhere	BRK	1500-1700	3200	TOWNEND	Anywhere	YKS	ALL
3192	MILSOM	Bristol	SOM	1700-1996	2435	TREADWELL	East Ilsley	BRK	1800-1995
3192	MILSOM	Pontynewynydd	MON	1835-1870	3287	TRULOCK	Thatcham	BRK	1700-1900
3192	MILSOM	Reading	BRK	1838-1996	3271	TUGWOOD	Cookham	BRK	1700-1800
2953	MOORE	Anywhere	OXF	1750-1995	3238	VICCARS	Kensington	MDX	1700-1900
3232	MORGAN	Leicester	LEI	1800-1917	3230	VINCENT	Anywhere	BRK	1750-1950
3232	MORGAN	Rochdale	LAN	1800-1917	3120	WAITE	Bradfield	BRK	1800-1900
3200	MORLEY	Tadcaster	YKS	1700-1900	3227	WALLINGTON	Childrey area	BRK	1700-1790
3307	MORRIS	south east area	OXF	1700-1800	3200	WARD	Sherburn-in-Elmet	YKS	ALL
2435	MORTON	Bucklebury	BRK	C1800	2953	WARNER	Lexden	SFK	1780-1995
3271	NEW	Burbage	WIL	1600-1710	3200	WEBSTER	Kippax	YKS	ALL
3307	NORCOT(T)	Anywhere	BRK	1600-1930	3265	WHITCOMBE	Newington	SRY	1700-1900
3307	NORCUT(T)	Anywhere	BRK	1600-1930	3265	WHITEHEAD	Newington	SRY	1700-1900
3227	NOYES	Monk Sherborne	HAM	1800-1875	3265	WHITEHEAD	Wandsworth	SRY	1700-1900
3218	O'CONNOR	Dublin	DUB	1750-1850	3271	WILLIS	Great Marlow	BKM	1700-1800
3227	ORPOT	Hanney area	BRK	1700-1775	3218	WILSON	Lancaster	LAN	1800-1880
3227	ORPWOOD(S)	Hanney area	BRK	1700-1775	3193	WOOD	London	MDX	1840-1890
3279	PAINE	Anywhere	MDX	1830-1880	3227	WOODS	Bramley	HAM	1775-1890
3218	PALMER	Slough	BRK	1750-1840	2953	WOOLFORD	Gt Coxwell	BRK	1700-1995
3193	PASSEY	Stepney	MDX	1750-1900	2435	WORRAL	Bucklebury	BRK	C1790
3200	PATRICK	Knottingley	YKS	ALL	3287	WRIGLEY	Leeds Gildersome	YKS	1700-1900
3192	PAYNTON	Adderbury	OXF	1800-1996	3192	YARDLEY	South Newington	OXF	1800-1995
3192	PAYNTON	Deddington	OXF	1750-1850	2953	YOUNG	Anywhere	USA	1800-1950
3193	PERRY	Honiton	DEV	1650-1800	2953	YOUNG	Middleton	NRK	1800-1995
3230	PETTIT	Anywhere	BRK	1750-1950	2953	YOUNG	Poplar	LND	1800-1995
2953	PICK	Cowley	OXF	1650-1995					
3287	PINNEGAR	Chippenham	WIL	1750-1850					
3271	PITTS	Bicester	OXF	1700-1800					

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