



# Berkshire Family Historian

Volume 20 - No 3 - March 1997



# Events Calendar - 1997

## **Bracknell Branch**

*Priestwood Community Centre, Priestwood Court Road, Bracknell*

*7:15pm for 7:45pm*

21 <sup>st</sup> March	"Maps, Directories and the Census" .....	Mrs Y. Bunting
18 <sup>th</sup> April	"They came to court" .....	Joyce Hoad
16 <sup>th</sup> May	Branch AGM followed by Speaker	
20 <sup>th</sup> June	BFHS Annual General Meeting followed by "The Transportation of Convicts to Australia" .....	David Hawkins
18 <sup>th</sup> July	"From the Peninsular to Passchendale" .....	Major Brian Oldham

## **Newbury Branch**

*United Reform Church Hall, Cromwell Place, Northbrook Street, Newbury*

*7:15pm for 7:45pm*

12 <sup>th</sup> March	"The Berkshire Record Office: Past, Present and Future" .....	Dr Peter Durrant
9 <sup>th</sup> April	"The Transportation of Convicts to Australia" .....	David Hawkins
14 <sup>th</sup> May	"The Defenders of Rorke's Drift" .....	Rev. Derek West
11 <sup>th</sup> June	Branch AGM	

## **Reading Branch**

*BFHS Research Centre, Prospect School, Honey End Lane, Reading*

*7:15pm for 7:45pm*

21 <sup>st</sup> March	"The Poor Irish in England" .....	Mike Gandy
24 <sup>th</sup> April	Branch AGM followed by "Now You Can Read Parish Registers" .....	Chad Hanna
30 <sup>th</sup> May	"How Do You Identify Your Scottish Ancestors" .....	Marjorie Moore
27 <sup>th</sup> June	"Local History Can Bring Your Family Alive" .....	Prof Ruth Finnegan
25 <sup>th</sup> July	Recording Tombstones at Victoria Road Cemetery, off Hemdean Road, Caversham	

## **Slough Branch**

*St Andrew's Church Hall, The Grove, Slough*

*7:30pm for 7:45pm*

25 <sup>th</sup> March	"Life in a Regency Household" .....	Marjorie Vinall
29 <sup>th</sup> April	"Overview of the Civil War" .....	Mike Gandy
27 <sup>th</sup> May	Branch AGM followed by General Discussion	

# BERKSHIRE FAMILY HISTORIAN

Volume 20, 1996/7

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## Part 3, March 1997

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The illustration on the front cover is a from a photograph (taken by S.Harrington) of a memorial tablet in Sutton Courtenay Church, Berkshire (now Oxfordshire) which commemorates the bequest of a William Andrews whose will was proved in 1641.

The text is as follows:

*William Andrews sen gave eigh/ty Pounds towards the maintainance/of six poor Widows of Sutton Court/ney as followeth Every Sabbath day/each of them to have a penny Loaf/and yearly a Gown and three certain/days in the Year they are to have/Money to buy Meat and for a Sermon to/be preached by the Vicar on Corpus/Christi day yearly he gave ten Shillings*

*If anyone has a suitable photograph for inclusion on the front cover please let the Editor know.*

# Chairman's Comments

*By Jan Jones*

By the time you read this, we will be well into 1997, but a belated Happy New Year anyway. This should be an exciting year for Berkshire FHS. We plan several new publications on microfiche and the computerisation of the Berkshire Name Index. We also have two major events, the Open Day in Newbury on the 1<sup>st</sup> March and the One Day Conference at Prospect School on the 28<sup>th</sup> June. We look forward to seeing as many of you as possible at these two events.

Our Research Centre continues to go from strength to strength. We now have a new photocopier and all of the 1881 census microfiche. We are still short of some 1851 indexes, so if you have any spare, please give Chad Hanna a call. We now open on Thursday evenings too, hopefully this will enable more people to come and use the centre. Of course this means we need more volunteers so please call Ivan Dickason. He will arrange for you to work with experienced volunteers for the first few times, so don't feel you have to know everything before you volunteer.

From March, the Research Centre will have a new neighbour. The Family History Centre for the LDS church is moving to Prospect School, into the room next to us, whilst their church is refurbished. We expect much too-ing and fro-ing between the two centres, and hopefully an even closer working relationship. So, with even more reason to come and visit us in 1997, let's hope more of our non-Berkshire members can make the trip.

I have recently spent time transcribing parish registers onto the computer. My job was to test the procedures for the Parish Register Project and help measure how long a typical parish took. With Talbot, Chad and Robert all being computer whizzes I did wonder if I was chosen in order to check that the procedures were idiot-proof! Anyway, I thoroughly enjoyed myself, even though I often found a tear in my eye. You really feel you get to know some of the families in the parish and the death of a twin baby who "you" have only just baptised, or a joint burial of a baby and mum, is still very sad 250 years later.

Of course the problem is I recognised a name that appears in my family tree, and although none of mine were ever anywhere near a Berkshire parish, I have got side-tracked into trying to find a connection, but then, that's the story of my life. Each year I resolve to be more disciplined in both my research and record-keeping, and here I am, only a few weeks into 1997 and side-tracked already. Does this sound familiar to any of you?

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## Editor's Notes

Thank you once again to all contributors to this issue. As usual all contributions are gratefully received for use in future issues of the "*Berkshire Family Historian*". The next two deadlines are:

25<sup>th</sup> April (June 1997)

25<sup>th</sup> July (September 1997)

If you use a computer I should be delighted to receive your article on a 3½" disk in most IBM-compatible formats, (please

enclose a printed copy of your article), or e-mail me on [sharrington@compuserve.com](mailto:sharrington@compuserve.com). I am of course always delighted to receive articles, letters, comments or general feedback in whatever format you are able to send them!!

Readers of the article about St Giles' Mill in the December 1996 issue of the *Berkshire Family Historian* may be interested to know that, according to the

*Reading Chronicle* of 10<sup>th</sup> January 1997, the site of the planned Oracle Shopping Centre is going to be the subject of an archaeological dig. Sites to be investigated include the Seventeenth-Century Workhouse (The Oracle), St Giles' Mill

and the Seventeenth-Century Yield Hall. Please contact me if you would like a copy of the article, which includes a map of the area.

## Dates for Your Diary

I have been notified of the following events which are taking place around the country.

*Sat. 12<sup>th</sup> Apr. 97*

First Midlands Family History Fair, hosted by the Leicestershire and Rutland FHS to be held at the De Montfort Hall, Leicester from 10am-4.30pm. Admission £1.50

*Sat 3<sup>rd</sup> May-Sun 4<sup>th</sup> May 96:*

Society of Genealogists' 1997 Family History Fair to be held in the Royal Horticultural Society New Hall & Conference Centre, Greycoat Street, Westminster, London. Advance tickets available from the SOG at 14 Charterhouse Buildings, Goswell Road, London EC1M 7BA.

*Sun. 18<sup>th</sup> May 97*

The 1997 AGM of the Goddard Association will be held at the Portland Hotel, St John's Road, Buxton, Derbyshire from 2pm. Buffet lunch at 12.30 for members to meet and mingle. Bookings for buffet to hotel direct. Enquiries to J.Goddard, 11 Chandos Road, Newbury, RG14 7EP.

*Sat. 7<sup>th</sup> Jun 97*

Anglo-German Family History Society 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary One-Day Conference and AGM at The Institute of Historical Research, University of London, Malet Street, London, 10.30am to 4.30pm. AGM starts 9.15am. Further information and tickets can be obtained from Mrs Noele Barnfield, 30 Longford Road, Whitton, Middlesex TW2 6EA. Please enclose an SAE.

*Sun. 8<sup>th</sup> Jun. 97*

Research Day: "*Has It Been Done Before?*" to be held at Theale Village Hall, Theale, nr Reading 10:30am to 4:30pm. Fee £15. Tutor: Don Steel. To book ring 01278-760535.

*Sat. 28<sup>th</sup> Jun. 97*

Yorkshire Family History Fair, to be held at the York Racecourse, (Knavesmire Stand) from 10am-4.30pm. Admission £1.50. Further details from Mr A.Sampson, 1, Oxbang Close, Redcar, Cleveland, TS10 4ND.

*Sat. 28<sup>th</sup> Jun. 97*

Berkshire Family History Society One Day Conference "*Berkshire Forever*" to be held at Prospect School, Honey End Lane, Reading.

*Sat. 5<sup>th</sup> Jul. 97*

Family History Fair, hosted by the South West Group of Family History Societies to be held at The Winter Gardens, Royal Parade, Weston-Super-Mare from 10am-4pm. Admission £1. Further details from Mrs Ann Taylor, 103 The Downs, Portishead, BS20 8BE.

# Governor Roger Drake

By Paul Bryant

Many years ago, when I started researching my ancestors, an Australian relation came to England and visited Plymouth to search for a family link with the great and illustrious Sir Francis Drake. He had a scrap of paper which said:

*“Richard Drake, formerly of Dingeston (sic) Court in the county of Monmouth Esquire, was son of Governor Roger Drake Esq by his wife Henrietta daughter of the Reverend John Baker DD. The said Richard Drake was a captain in the army, he had a brother George Drake an officer in the Royal Horse Guards and a sister Millicent Drake wedded to Sir John Dillon and of the present General Sir Arthur Richard Dillon Bt. Of Lismullin, County Meath Ireland. Capt Drake was related to Henry James Pye Esq of Farrington (sic) Berks M.P. for Berkshire and Poet Laureate. Capt Drake was also related to the Mainwarings of Cheshire and Whitmore. Mrs. Watkins.”*

*Who was Governor Roger Drake?*

My relation drew a blank with the Sir Francis line and I also failed. The descendants of Sir Francis are well documented. Many of the statements in the document are easily checked. In particular Millicent Drake's entry into the Dillon Family (1767) is documented in Burke's Peerage. Mrs Watkins is a good link as Watkins is the family name of my great-grand-father. By studying the tenses - for example the *“present General Sir Arthur Richard Dillon”* (1814 to 1845) we can narrow the document down to 1840 to 1845. I cannot believe that Sir Arthur would have been a general before the age of 25. It is interesting to speculate on why the document was written. As the last

sentence is in the past tense it may be an obituary.

The Poet Laureate, Henry Pye, is in the Dictionary of National Biography. To quote *“No selection could have more effectively deprived the post of reputable literary associations...”*

Another relation of mine had a sampler dated 1800 which was done by Amelia Drake and the IGI yielded her marriage in 1807 at Dingestow, Monmouthshire to Richard Watkins (Bishop's Transcripts). She was christened in Dingestow in 1789, also listed in the IGI. Curiously the entry in the IGI has since been removed and a letter to the IGI got the response that the person submitting the entry did not wish to be identified. However, Monmouth records showed that Richard Drake rented Dingestow Court for a number of years but there was no record of where he come from or where he went. I will not bore you with the descendants from this marriage to myself as this was easy with the help of an old family Bible. However, there is a good chance that the document was written by Amelia as she had four sons and only one daughter and her grand-daughters would have been too young to write it.

Meanwhile what was Roger Drake a governor of? Governor of New Zealand, Australia or Canada - no. A prison governor - no. Eventually a correspondent, Mrs. Cowie, pointed out that the Pye, Mainwaring and Dillon families were associated with the East India Company and there I found the link. If only I had paid attention in history lessons many years ago I would have instantly known that Roger Drake was the Governor of Calcutta during the Black Hole incident (1756). I found that his life was poorly documented. Before

marrying Henrietta Baker he got through two earlier wives who were sisters and daughters of a merchant in India. Apparently it was fairly common when a wife died in those far-off places to wed her sister if she was still *"on the shelf"*. I have failed to count the number of offspring but it seems to be about six including the three in the document. He was not a particularly brave, wise, gallant or good Governor. During the Black Hole incident, to quote from *"Clive of India"* by Mark Bence-Jones,

*"... There was panic; the ships moved off carrying the women and children and some of the men - including Drake, who showed little courage on this occasion - and leaving the rest of the garrison to the mercy of the Nawob."*

He even left his family to suffer in the *"hole"*. I suspect he obtained his position by wealth and influence since there is some suggestion that another Roger Drake, his uncle or possibly father was also in the East India Company.

On his return from India his movements are unclear. I found his will which was a most extensive document. There is a codicil written as he lay on his death bed unable to write and this codicil describes how he communicated his agreement when clearly

## Luck at Last

*Mr Bateman (3232) of 3 Kintbury Walk, Reading, RG30 2HE wrote to remind people of other ways of finding that elusive ancestor:*

"If you can not find a trace of your ancestor in the St Catherine's House Indexes or the local Register Office, even when you think you have full details of them from the census and thus come to believe that their birth was not registered, think again!

only hours away from death. He died in 1765 at Hanover Square, London. The will shows he rented an estate at Fernhill in Berkshire. But, there is no Fernhill, only a Fernham. In any case I have found no Drake connection in any records I have so far searched. Interestingly, Henry Pye had an estate at Faringdon and there may be a connection. It is known that the Pye estate was heavily in debit at that time. The will shows that Roger Drake was very wealthy as he left £10,000 to his wife, £10,000 to his daughter's children as well as several other substantial bequests. I estimate he was worth at least £30,000 which in 1765 was a lot of money.

To me the more interesting people are my direct ancestors. It is therefore a disappointment that Richard Drake, the Governor's son, is difficult to trace. Apart from his stay in Dingestow and the fact that he was in the army I know nothing. Although the Society of Genealogists have in their library army records and these show a number of Drakes none of them seem to fit. The Governor himself is also shrouded in mystery as I have found no records of his origin.

There is always the hope that someone reading this may be able to supply the key to take the search further.

Try the Mother's name. The mother could have registered them under her own name before marriage and with luck put his father's name as part of the child's Christian name, the child then being brought up in his father's name, not as registered. My father's ancestors did just that, as they were married two months after he was born. Usually the church records, if found, will help to piece the story together."

# Memories of Slough

By Andrew Hudson

*The following article was originally written by my mother some twenty years ago (1977) while she was still living in Slough.*

*Muriel Lucy Thorn was born in Slough on the 3<sup>rd</sup> July 1909, the fourth daughter of Joseph Henry Thorn (1875-1918) and Ellen Martha Cooper (1876-1912). She married my father Edward Leslie Hudson (b.24<sup>th</sup> October 1904, Wantage and d.6<sup>th</sup> January 1989, Eastbourne) at Upton-cum-Chalvey 20<sup>th</sup> April 1935.*

*I have traced the Thorns back to c.1800 in Langley Marsh. The Coopers came from Charsfield and Dallinghoo in Suffolk. Ellen was the daughter of Charles Cooper (b.1836, Dallinghoo, d.25<sup>th</sup> January 1882) and Ellen Knowles (b.4<sup>th</sup> September 1837, St Albans, d.1926, Slough). Ellen Cooper née Knowles is the grandmother who is referred to in the following article.*

*Joseph was the son of Joseph Thorn (1846-1939) and Ellen Portsmouth (1852-1929) who were married at Upton-cum-Chalvey 5<sup>th</sup> Sept 1869. Ellen's brothers William and Thomas are referred to in the following narrative. Joseph senior was the son of William Thorn (c.1800) and Mary Ann Cheer (b.1805, Windsor) who were married at Langley 21<sup>st</sup> October 1826. Ellen was the daughter of David Hurling Portsmouth (b.1829, Slough) and Sarah Lovejoy (b.1833, Reading, d.1904, Slough) who were married at Langley 1<sup>st</sup> September 1850. The Portsmouths and Lovejoys were brickmakers. David Hurling's father James Portsmouth came from Ramsbury, Wilts and Sarah's father Samuel Lovejoy lived in Silver St. Reading.*

## Slough High Street as I remember it as a child

By Lucy Hudson

I was born in Wexham Road and can remember from the age of five which would make the year roughly 1914-15.

Starting at the south side, the first shop I remember well was Mr Gladwell's, just on the corner of Burlington Road. My mother dealt with him for many years. Not for us wandering around the supermarkets as today. Mr Gladwell would appear on the doorstep promptly every Tuesday morning complete with book and pen. We would have our order ready and he would write down each item carefully as my mother read her list. It would be delivered sometime during the afternoon. What service we got! My grandmother lived with us and each Bank Holiday he would put grapes or biscuits in with the order for her.

Then there was Fisher's the butchers and Napper's the barbers. Starting from the Crown the next shop I loved to pass was Striblings. The smell of coffee beans being ground was delicious. Then Neville and Griffins, the same firm today still run a dairy, and Langston the confectioners where they sold the most appetizing cream and custard slices. Next door was dear old Mr. Sangster the chemist and then Hiltons still there on the corner of Church Street.

Now on the other corner Mr. Wigglesworth, he would extract an aching tooth for one shilling. Then Eastman butcher, Thomas draper and Mr. Bowdgen. He sold sweets and minerals, also antiques and his shop was quite a novelty to us children. Next to him came Rhodes Jewellers, then Andrews drapers (afterwards Suters millinery department). Several shops along we came to John Harding - pork butcher and fishmonger. What tasty pork sausages!



I have omitted to mention Mr Abraham grocer he was a dear old gentleman with a pointed beard. Newman was the next high-class grocer, then Birtchnells still trading in Windsor Road. Now we cross the top of Park Street, the Eagle Public House was on the corner, then International Stores, not gone many years. Another butcher, then Dix draper and baby linen. The next shop I loved to wander round was Lewis. They always had shelves of crest china and we used to spend our pennies on small pieces for our mothers for Christmas or birthday gifts. Our sitting room mantle piece was well decorated with examples. I had the job of dusting on Saturdays.

After Lewis came Butler, picture framer, and Butler florist, but no relation. Then Worlds Stores and Madame Sylvia, high class milliner. What a regal lady she was! Very large if I remember rightly. Now we come to Lidstones, a name familiar to many. First the corn shop and then the confectioners with a restaurant at the back of the shop where you could pop in for tea served by smart waitresses in black dresses and frilly aprons. Old Mrs Lidstone was usually at the desk taking money and keeping a watchful eye on the girls. Then there was Morgan's dairy, another grocer, then Jackson's dairy, Darvilles, hairdressers and Mr. Giddings who sold leather goods and the shop always smelt of new leather. Next to him Freddy Grace, tobacconist, another name still in existence and last before Alpha Street, Isaacs, Pawnbrokers and china, glass, furniture etc. What a difference from Isaacs today (the same family).

Crossing Alpha Street, on the corner now Halfords, was Osmonds, another popular butcher, then Mr. Sharp, the undertaker who will still be remembered by many as the verger of Upton Church, a tobacconist next to him, Simmonds brewery then the Co-op, still the same site but in those days three small shops - drapers, grocery and bread and cakes. I used to be fascinated by the overhead money rail. The money and bill were put in a container and attached to the rail, a string was pulled and away it went to the desk. Back would come your change by return.

Now we cross the Grove. Mr. Wadley's garage was next. You could hire a bicycle for sixpence per day, also bath chairs with basket seat and a guide handle which the occupant used. I used to fetch one occasionally to take my grandmother out. I always had plenty of friends willing to come with me. We used to take it in turns to ride back home again afterwards.



The next public house was the Royal Oak, but not the last one which no doubt several later comers remember, but a very small old building. Other tradesman between there and the Pied Horse - I think the present building is the third one on the site. A few little shops at the side were occupied by various tradesmen. My great uncle Thomas Portsmouth lived in the end one and was a tailor. He was born with no legs and rode a tricycle around, but a dear man and a very good tailor. Then we come to Mrs. Taylor's sweet and mineral shop. She had tables outside and on

Holiday Mondays it was a popular venue for drinks by the numerous cycling clubs that came

down the London Road bound for Windsor and Burnham Beeches. The last building before Upton Road, now called Yew Tree Road, was the Rose and Crown, kept at that time by another great uncle, William John Portsmouth, brother to Tom and later by his son David. The public house is still there.

We now make our way along the north side. Proceeding from Uxbridge Road, Phillips timber merchants, across Wexham Road, and then Charles Turner's nurseries. The large imposing house in front was noted for its beautiful display of wisteria which was in bloom at the appropriate time each year.

Then a pleasant walk through a park, flanked on either side with plants, shrubs and flowers, coming out into Wellington Street. Next was the Slough Picture Palace and then Slough Skating Rink (roller skates of course) Then Calvert, another timber merchant, then the Crown and Anchor public house, Bryant photographer, Blay confectioner, and then Butler and Bowden. What a fascinating store it was. No Woolworth's in those days. All along in front of the windows was glass and crockery of all descriptions. I must mention the row of chamber pots - very ornate with roses and violet patterns round the outside. I don't remember any Butlers but I do remember old Mrs. Bowden. Like Mrs. Lidstone and Mrs. Harding she was on duty at the desk. She also always wore black - in fact that seemed the proper attire for personnel in shops those days.

After Butler and Bowden another tailors, cycle stores and another public house, The Havelock Arms (afterwards the Havelock Cycle Stores) kept by Harrison and Son. Next we have Pursers, a high class butcher again. The display of pork and poultry at Christmas time was a wonder to behold. The Golden Eagle was next, note how well the High Street was equipped with places of refreshment. Eastman's butchers, another tobacconist and the Home and Colonial Stores. I used to go there with my grandmother. They always cut you a taste of the cheese of your choice. I always had a piece as well. I have always loved cheese. The last shop before reaching Chandos Street was Rabbitt, Ironmonger, a family business still operating now in Windsor Road.

We cross Chandos Street and GPO is next, not long past moved to the new precinct. Ellimans Embrocation next, very well known. The youngest James Elliman gave the Salt Hill Park to Slough. Slough Public Hall with its familiar clock was the venue of many different social activities. Barclays Bank next - also not long gone to a new home in the precinct. Another clothier, a tailor and hatter, Bowles by name (later I believe Chard and Cleveland). Now Andrews draper, Blanchett music seller, Hopkins outfitter and shoes. Those three shops were on the site where Suters now stands. Then we have L.R.Thomas draper, Hoare milliner, Brooks (afterwards A.W. and R.E. Bacon) then the Reindeer Inn,(Marks and Spencer now on site). A saddler named Lloyd brings us to Mackenzie Street.

Across to Headingtons, corn millers on the corner. Deverill plumber and builder, another well known Slough family. Next an architect, Clements milliners (afterwards Tutty's); Griffith and Walden Chemist, Lee and Farr well known again: Roe tobacconist, Ribberd farrier and vet, Eastnans butcher again, Stevens outfitters and Parker cycles and prams. (Until recently the ABC was here). Then on the corner the old Red Lion Inn and adjoining it the famous Clockhouse, you went up three little steps into the shop, The delicious smell of cooked meat made one drool. Old Mr. Walton was the proprietor when I was at school in nearby William Street. I had to call in on my way home at lunch time for ham which I believe was one shilling per quarter. We cross William Street and come to Foster Brothers (now the new library),

W.Smith, fishmonger, a saddler, D.Cornish surveyor, Simpson wool shop, Drake, photographer. The White Hart, Foresters Arms, Walker vet, afterwards moved to London Road and still in business I believe. Last but not least Halley Ales and Minerals. Apart from private residences, Miss Moore's private School and Proctor coal merchant.

That completes my memory of Slough which I think of with affection and nostalgia.

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## Help Wanted!

*Alex Greenwood (1081) of RRI Box 40, Modrona Drive, Nanoose Bay, British Columbia, VOR 2R0, Canada is:*

"Seeking the marriage of my cousin Richard Greenwood, third son of John Read Greenwood, yeoman and Elizabeth Greenwood née Peters of Benson, Oxon. Richard was baptised 12<sup>th</sup> May 1815 at Ewelme, Oxon and married c.1835 Mary (1809-1872). Mary was from Cowley, Oxon and Richard was a printer of 3, Albert Place, Oxford, but died in Littlemore Lunatic Asylum on 20<sup>th</sup> September 1863, leaving a son John an ag lab of Ewelme who was born c.1835.

Richard had an elder brother, Charles Greenwood, who was baptised at Ewelme 20<sup>th</sup> January 1813 and was living in 1829. Did he marry? Or did he die young? Any help much appreciated."

*Mrs Bernice Strangward, (2515) of 2412 Palisade Dr Sw, Calgary, AB12V 3V3, Canada is trying to find the birth of Lucy Plum(b):*

"Lucy Plum(b) born c.1850 daughter of James Plum(b), born c.1810. Census recorded Lucy, her mother Ann (?), her father all born Newbury Berks. Have checked many records and unable to find these people. Lucy not in St Catherine's House Birth Indexes, Lucy and parents not on 1851 census Berks, but appear in 1871, 1881, 1891 census for London. Not on Bishops Transcripts for Newbury. Has anyone any suggestions. Postage returned."

*Ian Wilson (2577) of 3 Green Crescent, Flackwell Heath, High Wycombe, Bucks, HP10 9JQ would like to hear from any BFHS members who had ancestors who served in the 66<sup>th</sup> Foot, during the Second Afghan War of 1878-1880 as he is in the process of compiling a nominal roll for members of that regiment, the results of which he hopes to be able to publish in the future.*

*Mrs Catherine Sharpe (2675) of 8 Beast Banks, Kendal, Cumbria, LA9 4JW has a problem with a missing period of her mother's life:*

"Having been in Cottage Homes for Children in Christchurch (no records exist), my mother Jessie Bennett was fostered out in Bournemouth. She was born in Lynton, N.Devon in July 1912 where her mother Ada Gertrude Bennett was in hotel service. Jessie's birth was not registered until her parent's wedding - three months later, September 1912 in Barnstaple. Although her father's name was declared on the certificate as Ernest Wilde - Jessie retained her mother's maiden name.

Both parents came from Goring-on-Thames - Ernest a butcher (originating in Salop) whilst Ada's family and ancestors were well established there and in surrounding villages. Ada's mother died in May 1914.

The first seven years of Jessie's life draw a blank before Union, school and fostering records appear in 1919 in Bournemouth. I cannot determine why/when Jessie became parentless.

No death or remarriage of Ada her mother can be traced. Ernest her father is reputed to "have gone missing" during the First World War but in 1920 is back in Goring where he lived until he died in Reading in 1959.

Ernest had another daughter Ethel Adelaide Wilde born c1914/15 who married twice, dying in Goring in 1959 only months before her father. Wills have helped but not solved the problems. Neither Ethel's birth nor mother have been traced. Jessie, my mum, died without knowing or remembering anything prior to being fostered out in Bourne-mouth.

I think I have exhausted all channels of research in N.Devon, Hants and Dorset and lots in Oxon and Berks but would appreciate any suggestions that may help me solve a mystery of not too long ago!"

*Olive Sherrard (3235) of "Netherleigh", 14, Seaton Avenue, Hythe, Kent, CT21 5HQ is trying to find out where her great-grandmother, Sybella Neville was baptised:*

"According to the 1841 Census she was living as a servant, aged 14, with Forster Maynard (Clerk in Holy Orders) his wife Sophie and their family, in the village of Remenham, Berkshire. This would mean her birth was about 1827 and, according to the census, she was born in Remenham.

Her parents were William and Hannah Neville who lived next to the Rectory. William was an ag lab. On searching through the parish records held at the BRO it is noted that Hannah gave birth to the following, Mary (1817), John (1819), Thomas (1827), Maria (1829), William (1831), James (1834), Olive (1835).

Nowhere is there a mention of Sybella, not even in the Bishops Transcripts, which leads me to think that William and Hannah may have moved away between 1819 when

John was born and 1827 when Thomas was born and that in the intervening period Sybella was born; but where and also why? Would anyone know of any disasters or plague in this area which might account for a family to move?

I am certain that William and Hannah were her parents. I know that Sybella moved with the Maynard family to Kirkbramwith in Yorkshire where he was Rector. She signed many marriage certificates as a witness. Hannah and William moved up to Kirkbramwith and Sybella was present at the death of her mother, Hannah.

I have searched many records in adjacent parishes in Oxon and Bucks, without success. I should be grateful if anyone can advise me on further records to search. I know that William and Hannah were closely connected with the church and I am sure that Sybella would have been christened somewhere."

*Paul Rumbold (3419) of 26 Watson Way, Basingstoke, Hants, RG23 8AN would like to hear from anyone who knows anything about the following:*

"My maternal grandmother Dorothy Mary Sharpe was born in 1908 in Caversham, daughter of a Charles Parker and Elizabeth Sharpe (née Britnell) who had married in 1904. Elizabeth Britnell was born in 1868 in Hersham, Surrey and died c.1913. Charles Parker Sharpe was born in 1878 in Slough, the son of Thomas and Alice Jane (née Parker) Sharpe; they married in 1878 in Reading.

I understand that Thomas and Alice Jane once owned a pub called the Bedford Arms and possibly in the 1930s owned the "Chocolate Box". I should like to hear from anyone who knew the latter establishment."

# The New Family Records Centre

The new Family Records Centre at Myddelton Place, Myddelton Street, London EC1, is a joint venture between the Public Record Office (PRO) and the Office of Population Studies (OPS) and by the time this magazine is published the records formerly at the PRO Reading Rooms at Chancery Lane will have moved in, with the indexes previously available at St Catherine's House, Aldwych following at the beginning of April.

It is only a short distance from the London Metropolitan Archives (formerly the Greater London Record Office) and the Society of Genealogists. It is anticipated that both the PRO and OPS records will have the same opening hours which will be as follows:

<b>Mon, Wed, Fri</b>	<b>9am to 5pm</b>
<b>Tues</b>	<b>10am to 7pm</b>
<b>Thurs</b>	<b>9am to 7pm</b>
<b>Sat</b>	<b>9.30am to 5pm</b>

It is intended that the locker and refreshment areas will be open 30 minutes before the search facilities.

## *How to get there:*

**Underground:** Northern line to Angel, one stop from Kings Cross which connects with the Circle, Piccadilly Northern, Victoria and Metropolitan, lines.

**Buses:** 43, N43, 214 to Rosebery Avenue - from City, 56 from Barbican & St Pauls, 19, N19, 30, 38, 73, 153, 171A from Holborn & West End.

## *Office for National Statistics (ONS)*

Available at the Family Records Centre from 1 April 1997: ONS Birth, Marriage and Death quarterly indexes from 1837 and other miscellaneous indexes.

## *Public Record Office (PRO)*

Available from 10<sup>th</sup> March 1997: microform records (see list below) formerly in the Census Room at the Public Record Office, Chancery Lane which will close on Friday 7 March 1997.

Records available on microform:

HO 107	1841 and 1851 Census
RG 9	1861 Census
RG 10	1871 Census returns
RG 11	1881 Census returns
RG 12	1891 Census returns
IR 26	Estate Duty Office, death duty registers, 1796-1858
IR 27	Estate Duty Office, indexes to death duty registers, 1796-1903
PROB 6	Prerogative Court of Canterbury (PCC), act books, administrations, 1559-1858
PROB 11:	PCC, registered copy wills, 1384-1858
PROB 12:	PCC, indexes of wills & administrations, paper copies, 1383-1858
RG 4:	Non-parochial registers, 1567-1858
RG 43	Miscellaneous foreign returns of births, marriages & deaths: indexes 1627-1960

Also year-old electoral registers.

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## Empty Envelope!

Shelagh Lea (3047) of 36 College Road, Ramsgate, Kent, CT11 7AA received an empty envelope, unsealed, with a Reading Postmark. As she did not recognise the writing, she wondered whether it was from a fellow BFHS member. [CH]

# A Family Historian in Crete

*By Carol Angus*

We made our first visit to Crete in the early summer of 1996. Whilst there two of the places that we visited made such an impression on me that I decided to do a little research into the history of them and of the island.

Crete is the biggest Greek Island and the fifth biggest island in the Mediterranean. It is about 160 miles long and 36 miles wide. Its landscape is mountainous and is dominated by three mountain ranges with peaks reaching something in the region of 2,500 metres. It has a few fertile plateaux, a few small rivers, one small lake, many caves, and many gorges, the most famous and the biggest being the Gorge of Samaria in the west of the island. At Knossos there is the Palace of the legendary King Minos.

We stayed just outside Malame, on the northern coast, west of Chania. The old harbour of Chania is very beautiful and the Venetian, Turkish and Jewish quarters within its old town walls have many well-preserved buildings.

We made a journey through the high mountains, southwards, to visit the Monastery of Saint John the Theologian (Evangelist) at Preveli. This Monastery is built in a magical place, high up with fantastic views of the Libyan Sea. Inside is a plaque which says: -

## **MONASTERY OF PREVELI**

**1941**

**THIS REGION AFTER THE  
BATTLE OF CRETE BECAME THE  
RALLYING POINT FOR HUNDREDS  
OF BRITISH AUSTRALIAN AND  
NEW ZEALAND SOLDIERS  
IN DEFIANCE OF FEROCIOUS  
GERMAN REPRISALS SUFFERED  
BY THE MONKS AND THE NATIVE**

## **POPULATION THEY FED PROTECTED AND HELPED THESE SOLDIERS TO AVOID CAPTURE AND GUIDED THEM TO THE BEACHHEAD LIMNI WHERE THEY ESCAPED TO THE FREE WORLD BY BRITISH SUBMARINES**

There is also a fountain, donated as a perpetual reminder of the courage of Greeks of the area, in May 1991, fifty years after the Battle of Crete 1941, by Geoff and Beryl Edwards of Australia which is inscribed '*in Remembrance and Gratitude*'. Geoff Edwards was one of the soldiers helped by the Greeks.

The events of the heroic Battle of Crete in May 1941 are well-known, when the German forces met fierce opposition from Allied Armies and the people of the island. '*Operation Merkur*' began with landings near Maleme and Chania on the morning of 20<sup>th</sup> May and near Rethymnon and Herakleion during the afternoon. At each place the issue was fiercely contested, but what decided the battle was the British failure to eliminate the German forces that overran and occupied part of the Maleme airfield and the German decision to land forces at Maleme under fire. The Germans had been dropped by parachute on Maleme. Airborne forces had never before been used independently to secure a strategic objective. The seizure of Maleme airport in Chania and the advance of the German forces throughout Crete resulted in the evacuation of most of the Allied troops and the departure of the remnants of the Greek Army to the Middle East. Some 18,600 men of the British garrison of 32,000 men were withdrawn to Egypt, but the cost to the British Navy was considerable. Nevertheless a large number

of British, New Zealand and Australian soldiers remained on the island because they had no means of getting away. Although the occupying forces ordered very hard reprisals against the local population if they provided shelter to these remaining Allied troops, the Monastery of Preveli and the neighbouring villages became for many of them a place of safe shelter and a point from which they could escape.

In many of the local shops we found a book for sale called *'Ill Met by Moonlight'* by W.Stanley Moss. Once home I decided to get a copy from the local library and see what it was about. Billie Moss was in the raiding party, headed by Paddy Leigh-Fermor, who set out to kidnap General Kreipe, Commander of the Sevastopol Division in Crete. The initial plan had been to kidnap General Muller, but he had been replaced by General Kreipe. This was a pity as General Muller was a tyrant much loathed by the islanders.

The removal of General Kreipe, in April 1944, was of little military significance but the blow was aimed not at German strength but at German morale and their claim to mastery of the island. The audacity of the coup clearly rattled them.

On the northern coast of the island at Souda Bay is the British Cemetery which is run by the Commonwealth War Graves Commission (address is 2 Marlow Road, Maidenhead, Berks SL6 7DX). It stands alongside the sea. It was late afternoon when we visited and the sun had lost some of its heat and the light had mellowed from its mid-day brightness. The sea was deep blue. It was still, calm and beautiful. The grass was mown short, the edges neatly trimmed. There were rose beds carefully tended. Each grave was marked, not only with a stone, but with small plants, some in flower and all different. So tranquil. So very peaceful.

I had looked in the book of memorial for any of my family names and found to my surprise one Jarvis (my maiden name). After taking down the details we hurried along the rows to find grave 13.E. 2-8 which read:

**921009 FLIGHT SERGEANT  
J.D.MCD.JARVIS  
NAVIGATOR (BOMBER)  
ROYAL AIR FORCE  
16<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY 1944 AGE 26**

**OUR FAMILY CHAIN  
IS BROKEN NOW  
BUT MEMORIES LIVE FOR EVER  
MUM AND DAD**

We walked along the rows reading some of the inscriptions on the stones and were struck by the very young age on most of them, and could only think *'what a waste of young lives'*! However, they had given their lives for their country and for us and for our future, so how could that be a waste? We gave a silent prayer to thank them all!

These two places, the Monastery of Preveli and the British Cemetery at Souda Bay are connected because of the last war. Both are on a magical island in a beautiful, tranquil setting and both have been touched by violence and suffering. It is strange the memories one can bring back from a holiday. Most are forgotten very quickly, but just a few stay with us to remind us of what we are.

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*Ms R.S.White (3367) of 31, Spinney, Cippenham, Slough, Berks, SL1 2YF is researching the history of African/Afro-Caribbean people in Bucks and Berks before 1950. Earliest reference found is a 1571 baptism in Buckingham of a 14-year-old African boy. She now has a total of 70 references, half of which are in Berkshire. Any help from any fellow BFHS member would be much appreciated.*

# Frederick Fisher - Fulsome Philanderer?

By Isobel Chilton

"A bit of a ladies' man" is how the family described great-grandfather Fisher, and once I'd started to trace his life I decided maybe they were right.

Having established that Grandmother, Louisa Fisher, was born in Pimlico in 1874, obviously her birth certificate would reveal all. However, only a mother and no father was registered. Oh dear!

Mother was Emma Kilby... Frederick had always been known as Louisa's father and Great Granny's husband. What about Granny's sister, Mary Ann? When she was born in 1872, was she registered as Emma Kilby's daughter too? Apparently, yes.

A thorough search of the St. Catherine's House Marriage Index for a marriage about that period between Frederick Fisher and Emma Kilby proved negative, that is until it was decided to extend the search forward and, thank God, yes the pair were indeed married, albeit some three years later, in 1877. Lesson No.1 learned.

With an address for Frederick and Emma, it was a short step to locating them both in the 1881 census (no countrywide index available then). Lo and behold, there living with the family, a son, Charles William, born about 1866 in Nottinghamshire!

Sending for Charles William's birth certificate was the next step, and another wife declared herself - Eliza Allison, schoolmistress.

Marriage certificate no.2 was obtained for Frederick's marriage to Eliza in Colston Bassett in 1865, Frederick given as widower. **WIDOWER?** Not another wife!

Perhaps it was time to find out what Frederick had done with his wives. Poison? Well, if Grandma Louisa was born 1874, and Mary Ann about 1872, both in Pimlico,

and the child Charles William was born in Nottinghamshire in 1866, what chances of finding the death of Eliza Fisher between those dates?

That turned out to be easy, after all, we're talking fiche-searching, not film-searching. Good news too. It wasn't poison, but rather sadly, Eliza died following childbirth. The child died also, so there would have been another Frederick offspring had little "*Mary Ann Elizabeth*" survived.

Well, that solved that, but how did Frederick, born in Reading, Berkshire according to the census, come to be a widower in Nottinghamshire? Indications were that Frederick, a carpenter, was born about 1823, and a trip to Reading Central Library did locate him in the 1841 census, at Pangbourne Station. A clue at last. Was he building railway stations? No sign of him in 1851 however.

Another day was spent in Reading, this time at the Berkshire Record Office trying to find a baptism for Frederick, to no avail. His marriage certificates on both occasions stated his father was also Frederick and also a carpenter.

Had I looked at the IGI? The What ? There was a Frederick Fisher marriage to Mary Ann Winter in 1844. Obtained marriage certificate no.3. Frederick Fisher, carpenter, son of Frederick Fisher, carpenter married Mary Ann Winter, dressmaker, daughter of Jesse Winter, bricklayer, 22 Dec 1844.

So what happened to them after that? When and where did Mary Ann die? How? Did they have children? How did Frederick end up twenty years later in Colston Bassett?

And what of Emma Kilby, Grandma Louisa's mother? Well, she turned out to be the widow of Gowing Kilby, miller of



Cropwell Bishop, Nottinghamshire, and she had two daughters, Annie and Sarah Elizabeth in Nottinghamshire before the arrival of Mary Ann and Louisa in Pimlico. So Frederick must have known Emma in Nottinghamshire...

I am now into year five of the search for those missing twenty years, and still wonder what Frederick might have got up to in that time; the mind boggles when I

remember that the family had described him as a "preacher" as well as a philanderer. Might Frederick have started life in Reading, perhaps baptised in a non-conformist church? How did he wheedle his way into the heart of a schoolmistress in Nottinghamshire? Were there others?

Would **EVERYONE** out there ask their Granny if she knew Frederick Fisher!

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*Berkshire to Botany Bay* by Norman Fox  
(Littlefield Publishing); 162 pp; £4.95 + P&P.

Based on research from original and secondary sources, together with a visit to Australia where he was able to find out what happened to the convicts, the author traces the background to the Swing Riots of 1830 and the subsequent capture, trial and fate of the Berkshire men involved in machine breaking, etc. Their names and

some of their details are included in seven tables at the end of the book.

Although this book is well researched and very readable it does not, unfortunately, include an index, illustrations or date of publication. Apart from these limitations, this book should be read by all those with ancestors from Berkshire or the surrounding counties. [JD]

## Research Day

**"Has It Been Done Before?"**

**at Theale (near Reading) Village Hall (just off M4)  
on Sunday 8 June 10.30 - 4.30**

**A Trawl with Don Steel through lists, indexes and  
bibliographies to find out what work has been done or  
is being done on your family.**

Don will arrive with a car-load of books and fiches including the BIG R for whole UK, Family History Knowledge UK, & full runs of the Register of One-Name Studies, GRD (Genealogical Research Directory) & NGD (National Genealogical Directory). Also Societies' directories of members' interests, Marshall, Whitmore, Barrow, Thomson, surname dictionaries and other surnames books & much miscellaneous material.

This workshop will be combined with a **Beginners' Day**, the "Has it been done Before?" briefing being common to both. The beginners then receive instruction while the "*Has it been done Before?*" people are researching. People with a little experience might like to arrange a mix of both.

**Fee £15. To book ring 01278 760535**

# LOCAL HISTORY

## TRANSPORT

### BOOKS

#### By Paul Lacey

**Thames Valley - The British Years 1915 - 1920:** *the background to the formation of, and the early history of, the development of the 'Thames Valley' Branch of the British Automobile Traction Co. Ltd. The story is set against the difficulties brought about by the First World War, with events of the time brought to life by the first-hand recollections of those who were involved. An important slice of Social History, illustrated with many rare photos. 54 pages, A5 Booklet Format, 30 Halftones, 2 Line Drawings, Route Development Map and Full Fleet List. £2.95 post free.*

**A History of the Thames Valley Traction Co. Ltd., 1920 -1930:** *this is the definitive history of the first decade in the development of this interesting bus and coach operator. Also included are the activities of 207 other concerns operating within the Company's wide area bounded by (clockwise direction) Basingstoke, Newbury, Oxford Aylesbury, Uxbridge, Staines and Camberley. Also included are full details of the 'Marlow & District company and the routes operated on behalf of 'London General'. 144 pages, Perfect Bound with Full-colour Laminated covers, 135 Halftones, 9 Line Drawings, Full-colour Area and Route Development Map and Full Fleet List. £15.00 post free.*

**A History of Newbury & District Motor Service Ltd., 1932 - 1952:** *the very detailed account of the origins and development of this famous West Berkshire bus, coach and haulage concern, together with the other operators with which it shared the local roads. Written as the result of extensive researches and interviews with primary sources. Full details of all route and fleet developments of this colourful concern, with many rare photos and good period detail. 309 pages, A5 Ring-bound Format, 129 Halftones, 9 Line Drawings, 7 Route Maps plus Full Fleet List. £6.75 post free.*

**A History of the Penn Bus Co. Ltd., 1920 - 1935:** *tracing the origins and development of this well remembered bus and coach operator of the High Wycombe area.. Also contains much of interest regarding the general transport scene in that area, with particular detail on 'Thames Valley' and 'London Country'. Many rare photos from family and employees, with foreword by Francis Sugg. 44 pages, A5 Booklet Format, 25 Halftones, Route Map (which includes all local operators) and Full Fleet List. £2.50 post free.*

*All of the above titles are the result of over 25 years extensive research and many hours of personal interviews and correspondence.*

**Please order from:**  
**Paul Lacey, 17 Sparrow Close,**  
**Woosehill, Wokingham, Berkshire,**  
**RG41 3HT.**

# Family Trees

## *A Manual for Their Design, Layout & Display*

-----Marie Lynskey-----

A new book providing the first ever detailed guide to laying out and drawing up a genealogical chart. Designs that ensure good proportions and clarity are described, including left to right layouts, circular and semi-circular designs, tree shaped charts, boxed frameworks and direct lines of descent. Copious illustrations take the reader through each process in easy-to-follow stages. Solutions are given to such problems as re-marriage, intermarriage, natural children and doubtful information. Papers, writing materials & lettering styles, decorative titles and borders, coats of arms, constructing a chart in book form, binding, storage and framing are covered in detail. No aspect of pedigree preparation is neglected in this long-needed account. (Hardback, 102pp, 172 illus.)

*".....deserves a place on every family historians bookshelf"*

Family Tree Magazine, Sep. '96

*".....this book will surely be considered a classic in a short time"*

FFHS News & Digest, Nov. '96

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### ORDER FORM

To: Marie Lynskey, 109 Nutcroft Grove, Fetcham, Surrey. KT22 9LD

Please send me.....copy/ies of **Family Trees-A Manual** by Marie Lynskey  
at £15.95 plus £1.50 p&p.

I enclose a cheque for £.....made payable to *C.M.Lynskey*.

Name.....

Address.....

.....

.....Postcode.....

# Berkshire Record Office News

*By Elizabeth Hughes and the Conservation Unit*

## *Searchroom changes*

One issue which was drawn to our attention by last year's user survey was that some of our finding aids can seem a bit daunting, especially to new users. In our stocktaking fortnight in November we therefore took the opportunity to simplify access to a number of our most heavily-used classes of records. The lists of parish registers and transcripts, which were formerly filed in reference number order, have been rearranged in alphabetical order of parish. The transcripts themselves, which were shelved in reference number order, have also been rearranged in parish name order on the shelves. We hope that these changes will make finding what you want quicker and simpler.

## *New Microfilms*

We have recently purchased microfilm copies of parish registers in the Slough area which were transferred from Bucks to Berks in 1974. The parishes concerned are Colnbrook, Datchet, Eton and Eton Wick, Horton, Langley Marish, Upton cum Chalvey, Wexham and Wrayisbury and because microfilms often cover several parishes, they also include some registers of parishes still in Buckinghamshire, namely Addington, Buckland, Burnham, Halton, Horsenden, Soulbury, Wendover, Westcott, Willen, Wing, Winslow, Great and Little Woolstone and Woughton-on-the-Green. Coverage for each parish varies, so please check with us before coming in to see them. The original registers are, of course, at the Buckinghamshire Record Office in Aylesbury, to whom we are most grateful for allowing us to acquire the copies.

## *Just catalogued*

Parish registers have been received from Sunningwell (baptisms 1923-1972, marriages 1837-1989) and Radley (baptisms 1951-1991, marriages 1961-1990). Cataloguing of non-conformist church records has continued, and several additional collections have been made available for study. These include the records of Berks, South Oxon and South Bucks Congregational Union (1840-1972); Bracknell Family Church (1881 - 1995); Newbury Bartholomew Street Methodist Church (1841-1972); Reading and District Free Church Council (c.1930s- 1993); and Tyndale Baptist Church, Reading (1924-1994).

Other recently catalogued records include plans and elevations of Katesgrove School, Reading (1873) and Oakley Green Church school fittings (1857); records of the Reading Hard of Hearing Association (1946-1983); deeds of property in Abbey Street, Abbey Wall, Abbots Walk and Kings Road, Reading (1865-1983); Newbury District Hospital records (1884-1985); and an account book kept by Reading-based coroners (1775-1814). One entry in the latter, for 1797, relates to an unnamed highwayman who drowned, swimming across Virginia Water, whilst trying to escape.

## *New Book Cushions*

To ensure the long-term preservation of our collections we encourage careful handling of archive material by our searchers. This has resulted in replacing our old worn-out book cushions with a new design. A book cushion that would provide maximum support but keeping overall bulk to a minimum was desirable and a variation on

a design used at the Scottish Record Office seemed to suit our needs.

The purpose of a book cushion is to provide support under the boards of a volume holding them at a slight upward angle to reduce stress on the spine and sewing. From this specification we made up three cushions to be used as a set. They are made from pre-washed unbleached-linen and loosely filled with polystyrene beads, with two small cushions half the size of the large one. The result is a solid surface on which the boards of a volume are supported but the overall size and bulk is greatly reduced.

The spine of the book lies in the centre of the largest cushion, and depending on the depth of the spine, one or both small cushions are positioned under the left-hand board of the volume. Halfway through the volume one cushion is transferred under the right-hand board and, when the bulk of the text block is on the left, the small cushions are placed under the right-hand board of the volume.

More sets of cushions are now available and they are handed to all searchers when consulting a volume. A new size to fit volumes in a landscape format has proved to be a useful addition.

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## Public Record Office News

From 7<sup>th</sup> April 1997 the Public Record Office at Kew will remain open on Tuesday and Thursday evenings until 7pm. On Monday and Wednesday to Friday it will continue to open at 9.30am but on Tuesday it will not open until 10am.

From Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> July 1997, the Reading Rooms at the Public Record Office at Kew will be open from 9.30am to 5pm.

The PRO will be closed during the first two weeks of December for stocktaking and not in October as previously.

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## London Metropolitan Archives

The Greater London Record Office has changed its name to the London Metropolitan Archives (LMA). Its address is 40 Northampton Road, London EC1R 0HB, telephone number 0171 332 3820.

Opening Hours are:

**Mon, Wed, Fri** 9.30am to 4.45pm

**Tues, Thurs** 9.30am to 7.30pm

Ordering times for original documents: every half-hour (quarter to & quarter past) and up to 5.45pm on late evenings

**Refreshments:** Readers' Common Room on 1<sup>st</sup> floor with drinks vending machine. Lockers/coat racks on 1<sup>st</sup> floor. £1 coin (refundable) needed for lockers.

**Personal computers** can be used in the public rooms where a limited number of power-points are available. Scanners cannot be used.

### *How to get there:*

**Underground** - City/Metropolitan line to Farringdon, - Northern line to Angel - one stop from Kings Cross which connects with the Underground lines (Circle, Northern, Piccadilly, Metropolitan & Victoria), Thameslink & British Rail

**Buses:** 19, 38, 171A from Holborn and West End to Rosebery Avenue 63, 259 to Farringdon Road, 55, 505, 243 to Clerkenwell Green

**Parking:** Controlled by meters; some privately operated car parks nearby; cycle racks available.

**Limited mobility access:** From general public entrance use lift to first floor. Parking bays for orange badge holders adjoining the building provided by LMA, telephone for details.

# Q and A with Jean

By Jean Debney

**Q** Derick Birdsall (3200) of Shinfield, Reading, Berks asked: "During researches into my Birdsall ancestors in Yorkshire I have come across the following problem with relationships in two wills:

The first will, dated 1590, names Thomas and Ottiwell as the testator's '*natural sons*' and John as his '*son*'. In the second, dated 1614, the testator firstly names Robert '*my son*' followed by John '*my natural son*' and, after some other bequests, names Robert '*my natural son*' as residual legatee and sole executor with the provision that if Robert '*my son*' "*do refuse this my will and will not be my executor ...*" that four other named children "*shall administer with 'my son' Robert*".

Does this imply that the '*natural sons*' are from a previous relationship or marriage or are they, perhaps, illegitimate?

**A** Wills written prior to the seventeenth century are notorious for using relationship words in a random way which make it difficult to compile an accurate family tree from the information given in the document.

After trying several likely sources, my Websters Dictionary gave the answer that a "*natural child*" is a child born out of wedlock, i.e. illegitimate or bastard. However, given my comments in the previous paragraph, only further research may reveal the possible true relationships between the testators and their children.

**Q** Roy Lapidge (3291) of Henley on Thames, Oxon asked: "What are marriage '*banns*'?"

**A** My trusty dictionary says that "*banns*" comes from a Middle English word meaning a '*proclamation*'; they are a notice of a proposed marriage published in church - or other place prescribed by law on three consecutive Sundays during the morning or evening service, in order that any person may object if he knows any impediment to the marriage.

From the 1200s, under Canon Law (church law), the calling of banns before marriage was made compulsory in England. If a couple wished to marry without banns they had to apply either to the Archbishop of Canterbury for a special licence, or to a competent ecclesiastical authority for a common licence; today, common licences can also be obtained from a Superintendent Registrar.

Between 1754 (i.e. after Hardwicke's Marriage Act) and 1812 (Rose's Parish Register Act) it was a legal requirement that the details should be entered into a Banns Register. The banns remained valid for up to three months; any marriage knowingly contracted after that, or in a place not named in the banns, was to be considered null and void.

It is worth considering that some double "*marriage*" entries in the IGI (International Genealogical Index) - i.e. same date, differing places - may have been taken from Banns Books for two parishes. It is therefore important, as it is with **all** entries in the IGI, to check out the details in the original document. The clue to where the data / information has been obtained is given in the "*Source - Batch / Film No*"

column on the right hand side of each IGI page.<sup>1</sup>

**Q**When were passports to Australia first issued? My ancestor emigrated just before 1910 - would he have had a passport?

**A**A passport is a legal document issued by a government department to identify a person as a citizen of that country with the rights of protection while abroad and to re-enter his country of citizenship. It comes from two French words: "*passer*" = to pass, and "*port*" = harbour or port.

The earliest known passports, called "*Licences to pass beyond the seas*", were granted from 1573 for travel to Europe, etc. It was not until 1846 that regulations governing their issue were first formulated. Until 1915, passports for British-born subjects - mainly merchants and diplomats - were issued for single journeys only; most overseas travellers had no formal documents. Since the First World War, possession of a passport for foreign travel has become more common but is, apparently, still not a legal requirement: without a passport it is still possible to leave a country but re-entry may be refused. So it would seem unlikely that your ancestor would have had a passport, especially if he did not intend returning to England.

The surviving records for passports are in the Public Record Office (PRO). Stella Colwell has listed the various record classes and dates in her "*Dictionary of Genealogical Sources in the Public Record Office*" (London, 1992): see the entries under "*Licences to pass beyond the seas*" and "*Passes and Passports*", etc. There are further details in the PRO "*Records Information Leaflet No.69: Passport*

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<sup>1</sup> For further details about bans, etc. see the "*Chapman Cameo*", *Marriage laws, rites, records & customs*, available from BFHS bookstall.

*Records*" (1993): copies can be collected in person from the PRO but not by post.<sup>2</sup>

**Q**Jocie McBride (3201) of Henley on Thames, Oxon asked: "I recently read a book which referred to information obtained from insurance records for property and possessions in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries. Where can I find these records?"

**A**Fire insurance offices were first established in London in the late seventeenth century and in the provinces by the early eighteenth. Although most provincial firms remained small with local coverage only, by the late 1700s some London companies had local representatives covering much of England, Wales and Scotland. The records for over 80 London-based insurance companies and their subsidiaries are held by the Guildhall and the Westminster City Libraries, London. The surviving records of local firms may be in county record offices, etc. Brief details of many insurance records are given in *The British Insurance Business, 1547-1970* by H.A.L.Cockerell & E.Green (London, 1976). The names and foundation dates of Fire Insurance Brigades are listed in *The Local Historians Encyclopaedia* by J.Richardson (1993).<sup>3</sup>

The largest collections of insurance records in the Guildhall Library relate to the Hand-in-Hand (1696-1865), Sun (1710-1863) and the Royal Exchange (1753-9; 1773-1883). Although most are unindexed, the Library has a personal name card index to the Sun policy registers (1775-87), a microfiche index to the Sun and Royal Exchange policy register (1775-1787),<sup>4</sup> and a numerical index to the Sun policy registers (1723-1846).

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<sup>2</sup> If you want a photocopy send 30p plus large SAE/3 IRCs: see Cliff's address on the back cover.

<sup>3</sup> Available from BFHS Bookstall.

<sup>4</sup> Copies of this are also available elsewhere.

The existence of a lead firemark high on the wall of an old building may indicate the possible existence of an insurance policy. For further details about identifying these, see the *Shire Publication: Firemarks*.<sup>5</sup>

Fire policy registers may include the following information: policy number, name of agent or location of agency; name, status, occupation and address of policy holder; names, occupations and addresses of tenants (where relevant); location, type, nature of construction and value of property insured; premium; renewal date; and some indication of endorsements.

The Guildhall cannot undertake postal research; they do, however, publish a booklet entitled "*Genealogical Sources in the Guildhall Library*"<sup>14</sup> and also a free leaflet - "*Fire Insurance Records at Guildhall Library*".

**Q**B.A. Whitworth (744), La Jaoniere, Val au Bourg, St Martins, Guernsey, GY4 6EP: "For many years I have been trying to discover who was the father of William Whitworth, the spurious son of Sarah Field, baptised on 23 October 1796 in Speen, Berkshire. He may have been someone of consequence as William received an expensive education and, on his marriage certificate, named his father as "*Charles Whitworth, Banker*". We think that this may have been a figment of his imagination for reasons of propriety as he was a priest.

Despite help from three professional researchers, combined with my own efforts, we have had no success from traditional sources apart from finding three references in 1796 to the then rare name of Whitworth in Berkshire and the surrounding counties.

However, the one place I have not tried is the Berks FHS Research Centre. Do you

**have material of a more unusual nature? If so, where would one start and could one make an impression using the three days that you are open each week?"**

**A** Our Society Research Centre contains an ever-growing number of items, any of which could prove useful for someone's research. The first items that most visitors consult is the Berkshire Name Index which contains about 100,000 slips from many miscellaneous sources - if you cannot consult this yourself, details about this and other postal searches are inside the back cover of our Journal.

Other items in the Centre which may help are:

- all editions to 1996 of the Genealogical Research Directory
- the nationwide BIG-R (1994) - I suggest you follow up any Whitworth researchers who may be listed;
- transcripts of the surviving Poor Law Records pre-1835 for Berkshire include bastardy orders against putative fathers.

If William's father was indeed a banker and Sarah was, perhaps, sent into the "*country*" to have her baby in 1796, then your search for him should be extended over the whole of England and Wales using the IGI and local directories, etc.:

- we hold the 1988 edition of the IGI
- a facsimile copy of *Holden's Directory of England, 1811*, in 3 volumes, which includes lists of bankers and other professionals.
- Stuart A. Raymond's genealogical bibliographies of printed sources, Londoner's Occupations and Occupational Sources, includes sections for bankers, which could also be consulted either via your local inter-library loan service or a large reference library.

<sup>5</sup> Available from BFHS Bookstall.



Did William Whitworth become a priest in the Catholic Church or Church of England? If the former, the Catholic Record Society publications (not in our Research Centre) or the Catholic Family History Society may have some information. The CFHS are producing many titles including, in 1996, four bibliographies to Catholic sources. The name and address of their secretary is on the back cover of the current edition of *Family History News and Digest*.<sup>6</sup> However, if the latter, then the Alumni for Oxford or Cambridge Universities may contain a clue.

To check if William's father left a will (or letters of administration), consult the Death Duty registers for England and Wales from 1796 to 1903 which are in the Public Record Office. They cover all the probate courts for England and Wales and are a quick way of locating details for most probates, especially prior to 1858. The registers to 1858, and indexes to 1903, are available on microfilm at the Family Records Centre, Myddelton Place, London. I am not sure how many of the above would be considered "traditional sources", but I hope that my suggestions may prove helpful in your hunt for William's father.

*Tony Gamester (2924) of Cromlech, Blay's Lane, Englefield Green, Egham, Surrey TW20 0PH wrote about the variants of his surname:*

"Some time ago I was put in touch with Jim Brownlie of Glasgow who was searching for details about his ancestor, Hannah Gamester of West or Great Shefford, Berkshire. We found Hannah, and the rest of her family, mother Hester and brothers John and William, recorded under the name of Kempster in the 1851 census returns for West Shefford. The marriage of Hannah's parents, William Keamster and Esther

Hobbs (note the two spellings, Hester and Esther) on 17<sup>th</sup> November 1832 was found in the registers of East Garston, as were the baptisms of three children John Gamster, William Gamester and Hannah Gamster or Kempster.

Following a lead from Ann Willis, a member of Berkshire FHS and another distant relative, we discovered a William Gamester alias Kempster of Newbury, Berks who, aged 24, enlisted in the 23<sup>rd</sup> Regiment of Foot, the Royal Welch Fusiliers, at Newbury in 1804. He served as a corporal at the Battle of Waterloo and the Peninsula War as well as in the United States of America and Canada. He was a sergeant when he was discharged, aged 40, in 1820 and we believe that he then went on to found the USA branch of the family.

Just before Christmas I borrowed from our local library a copy of "*Family History Knowledge UK 1991*"<sup>7</sup> and followed up two people interested in Kempster who may be related: one has information back to 1570 in Buckinghamshire and the other in Somerset.

Now that we know about this mis-spelling of our name, we are proceeding rather faster than we were. Gamester/Kempster references found in the IGI have been followed up in Worcester, Gloucester, Oxford, Buckingham, Berkshire and Hampshire. We have also found references in Shropshire, Yorkshire, Cumberland, Northumberland and Scotland.

The list of mis-spellings now includes: Campster, Camester, Gamster, Gamester, Kamester, Keamster, Kempster and Kemster."

*This is a good example of variations in the spelling of a name on a phonetic or 'sound-alike' basis and illustrates the importance*

<sup>6</sup> Available from BFHS Bookstall

<sup>7</sup> This book, and other Genealogical Research Directories, is available for study in our Research Centre.

of listening to how a name might sound however weird the spelling. In Tony's example above, the initial 'G' and 'K' have interchanged and he has proved the link by the 'alias' names found in some documents. The spelling of the remaining elements are, perhaps, self explanatory.

In addition, the variation between 'Hester' and 'Esther' can be explained by the colloquial dropping of the initial 'H' by some people. A similar example is 'Helen / Ellen / Nellie' where the latter is a pet form. These, and many other examples, are listed in "First Name Variants" by Alan Bardsley for sale on the BFHS Bookstall.

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## Research Centre News

By Cliff Debney

As planned the Centre is now open every Thursday evening from 7pm to 9.30pm. In addition the Tilehurst Mormon Family History Centre is occupying a classroom in Prospect School, just along the corridor from ours. They expect to be there for ten months.

Over the last few months Robert Clayton and Ivan Dickason have been sorting and putting in to binders all the photocopy originals of the Berkshire 1881 Census returns, from which we transcribed the data used to create the microfiche indices. These photocopies are now available for use by those who want to find the details of the enumerators' returns which have not been fished. These missing/partial entries are indicated by a "+" at the end of a line on the fiche. The full explanation of the "+" symbol and all the other symbols used on the fiche is to be found in our copy of the Genealogical Society of Utah specification for the "England, Wales, Channel Islands and Isle of Man 1881 Census". This copy can be found in the front pocket of Vol.1 1881 Vol.1 Census binder. Of particular use, Appendix 1 defines the abbreviations for the "Relationship to the Head of the Household" and Appendix 2 the "Where born County/Country" abbreviations, which are not always the same as the "Chapman Codes". A tip for those using the 1881 "Surname", "Census Place" or "Birth Place" fiche sets is to note the "piece, folio and page" numbers in the right hand columns which enable you to quickly find the entry you want on the "As Enumerated" fiche set.

For the BFHS Open Day on 1<sup>st</sup> March at Newbury (which will have happened by the time you read this), we intend to take along three fiche readers, our complete stock, of Census material, the 1988 IGI, and all the other fiche we hold which have been issued by the PRO and other family history societies, etc. Whilst there we intend to take orders for print-outs or photocopies from any of our fiche or Census indexes.

### Table of Parochial Fees

From 1<sup>st</sup> January 1997 the fees due for searching the parish registers before 1<sup>st</sup> July 1837 for an entry of baptism, marriage or burial, where the approximate date is known, are £11 for the first hour, including a copy entry from the baptism or burial registers<sup>8</sup>, £9 for each subsequent hour or part hour. The fee for a more general search of the registers should be negotiated.<sup>9</sup> The fees are divided between the incumbent's stipend and the Parochial Church Council.<sup>10</sup> [JD]

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<sup>8</sup> The fee for a marriage certificate is fixed by the Registrar General and may be increased from 1 Apr 1997.

<sup>9</sup> Copies of the full table of Parochial Fees can be supplied for 20p + large SAE from Jean Debney, 8 Huckleberry Close, Purley, Reading, Berks RG8 8EH

<sup>10</sup>Source of information: The Church Commissioners, 1 Millbank, London SW1P 3JZ

# Censearch and the 1841 Census

By *John Talbot*

Some time after John Gurnett's article appeared in the June 1996 edition of *Berkshire Family Historian* I received a print-out from New Zealand of all Talbot references and the associated Censearch Number, and I think that I have been able to gain a foothold into the Censearch numbering.

Obviously, with only part of the jigsaw one cannot make definite claims, but it should be possible to eliminate some probabilities:

- The codes are not exclusively tied to the number following HO/107/ for both Moreton Hundred and Wallingford Borough share HO/107/23/, and they have different Censearch codes (0070 and 0071).
- The codes have nothing to do with the Registrars' Districts - the right-hand column on the attached list shows that Registrars' Districts are a general hotchpotch.
- It can hardly be villages or groups of villages, for Cholsey seems to be split down the middle and shared by Reading Hundred and Moreton Hundred.

The strongest claim would seem to be that each one refers to a particular Hundred or Borough, but there are weaknesses in this claim - Hormer Hundred contains both HO/107/20/nn and HO/107/32/nn. I have no information on the area which includes HO/107/20, but I am pretty sure that HO/107/32 is Censearch Code 0081. Could it be that Hormer Hundred has been allocated two (at least) Codes, one for Abingdon and one for the other areas? Similarly, Moreton Hundred contains both HO/107/23 and HO/107/25 and the latter also refers to Reading Hundred. What I have been able to establish follows, with the Censearch number being shown in the left hand column and the Registrars' Districts in the right hand column. My ideas on Censearch Numbers 0064 and 0067 are based on very little information indeed, but I have included them as "*reasonable guesses*".

0064 Could possibly refer to area which includes Little Coxwell

0067 Almost certainly the Inkpen / Hungerford area

## Moreton Hundred

0070	Didcot	HO/107/23/10	Cholsey
0070	West Hagbourne	HO/107/23/12	Cholsey
0070	Harwell 1	HO/107/23/13	Hendred
0070	Harwell 2	HO/107/23/14	Hendred
0070	South Moreton	HO/107/23/16	Cholsey
0070	Streatley	HO/107/23/19	Bucklebury <sup>11</sup>

## Wallingford Borough

0071	Wallingford St Mary Le More 2	HO/107/23/24	Wallingford <sup>12</sup>
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<sup>11</sup> also included in this part of the Moreton Hundred are another fourteen locations - which may or may not be under the same Censearch Number..

<sup>12</sup> also in Wallingford Borough are another seven locations - which may or may not be under the same Censearch number.

## Ock Hundred

0072	Draycot Moor	HO/107/24/9	Kingston Bagpuize
0072	Sutton Courtenay	HO/107/24/20	Sutton Courtenay <sup>13</sup>

## Wantage Hundred

0079	Ardington	HO/107/30/1	Hendred
0079	Childrey	HO/107/30/2	Wantage
0079	East Hanney	HO/107/30/4	Wantage
0079	Charlton	HO/107/30/11	Wantage
0079	Wantage 2	HO/107/30/15	Wantage <sup>14</sup>

## Horner Hundred (the HO/107/32 section)

0081	Abingdon St Helens 2	HO/107/32/2	Abingdon <sup>15</sup>
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I have formed the opinion, rightly or wrongly, that this was an idea which had not been thought out properly, and I agree with John Gurnett that it looks like a wasted opportunity. The lowest reference I can find is 0057 and the highest 0086, which means that the total recorded population of 158,247 has been split into about 30 groups, which would average over 50,000 under each Censearch Reference.

When looking for an ancestor somewhere in West Berkshire, it is very little help to be told that s/he will be found under 0070 which is an area covering about eighteen villages - you probably knew that already.

Is this why Trevor J Harris was receiving "*abusive letters*"? Maybe there was more detail on the Database, but, as it stands, the information available on microfiche leaves much to be desired.

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The following "*wrong*" birth certificates have been passed to Jean Debney - if you think one might be yours, contact her with some proof of family link + SAE, at 8 Huckleberry Close, Purley, Reading, Berks, RG8 8EH.

Born 1839 at Stockport, Cheshire - Maria Ashton, dau of James & Sarah (formerly Bounds)

Born 1870 at Whistley, Berks - Eliza White, dau of Harry and Mary (formerly Cox)

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## Berkshire War Memorial Project

*By Alan Hutchins*

On enquiring recently about Berkshire War Memorials I discovered that a project was started in 1985, and the first volume issued in 1987 ( a copy of which is in the Research Centre). It appears however that the project was never finished, and Chad suggested that as I had shown an interest perhaps I would like to take on the task of completing it (that'll teach me). To this end I would like to call on members to let me know of any War Memorials within the original boundaries of the county pre-1974, other than the ones we already know which are listed below.

The Memorials can be from any conflict and can include not only Parish Memorials but also Company Memorials, and Rolls of Honour.

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<sup>13</sup> also in Ock Hundred are another twenty four locations - which may or may not be under the same Censearch number.

<sup>14</sup> also in Wantage Hundred are fourteen locations - which may or may not be under the same Censearch number

<sup>15</sup> also in this part of the Horner Hundred are nine locations - which may or may not be under the same Censearch number

## Memorials already known :-

Abingdon  
 Aldermaston  
 Aldworth  
 Arborfield  
 Ardington  
 Ascot  
 Ashampstead  
 Ashbury  
 Aston Tirrold & Upton  
 Barkham  
 Basildon  
 Bearwood  
 Beech Hill  
 Beedon & Worlds End  
 Beenham  
 Binfield  
 Bisham  
 Boxford  
 Bracknell  
 Bradfield  
 Bray  
 Brightwalton  
 Brimpton  
 Bucklebury  
 Burghfield  
 Calcot SPP  
 Caversham  
 Charney Bassett & Lyford  
 Chieveley  
 Chilton  
 Cholsey  
 Compton  
 Compton Beauchamp  
 Cookham  
 Cranbourne  
 Crowthorne  
 Datchet  
 Denchworth  
 East Garston  
 East Hagbourne  
 East Ilsley  
 Eastbury  
 Easthampstead

Englefield  
 Faringdon  
 Farnborough  
 Finchampstead  
 Frilsham  
 Grazeley  
 Great Shefford  
 Greenham  
 Hampstead Norreys  
 Harwell  
 Hendred  
 Hermitage  
 Holyport  
 Hungerford  
 Hurley  
 Hurst  
 Kintbury  
 Knowl Hill  
 Lambourn  
 Littlewick Green  
 Long Wittenham  
 Maidenhead  
 Marcham with Garford  
 Midgham  
 Mortimer  
 Moulsoford  
 Newbury  
 Oare  
 Padworth  
 Pangbourne  
 Peasmore  
 Purley  
 Reading Brock Barracks (3)  
 Reading Christchurch  
 Reading Forbury Gardens  
 Reading Municipal Cemetery  
 Reading Old Cemetery  
 Reading St. Bartholomew  
 Reading St. George  
 Reading St. Lawrence (2)  
 Reading St. Mary (2)  
 Reading Trinity  
 Congregational  
 Remenham

Shaw-cum-Donnington  
 Shinfield  
 Shrivernham  
 Sonning  
 Speen  
 Spencers Wood  
 Stanford Dingley  
 Steventon  
 Stockcross & Marsh  
 Benham  
 Streatley  
 Stubbings  
 Sulhampstead Abbots &  
 Sulhampstead Banister  
 Sunningdale  
 Sutton Courtney  
 Swallowfield  
 Thatcham  
 Theale  
 Tidmarsh  
 Tilehurst  
 Tilehurst S & E Collier  
 Twyford & Ruscombe  
 Upton Nervet  
 Wallingford  
 Waltham St. Lawrence  
 Warfield  
 Wargrave  
 Wasing  
 West Hanney  
 West Ilsley  
 Wickham-cum-Welford  
 Windsor (3)  
 Winkfield  
 Winterbourne  
 Wokingham All Saints  
 Wokingham St. Pauls  
 Wokingham Forest Rd  
 Baptist  
 Woodlands St. Mary  
 Woodley  
 Woolhampton  
 Yattendon

If any member does know of any others could they please contact me at the following address:  
 Alan Hutchins, 24 Bowfell Close, Tilehurst, Reading RG31 6QR. Tel. 0118 941-8573.

# Transcription of “Cemetery Junction”, Reading

*By David Watkins*

The London Road, Reading, cemetery opened as a public company in 1843. It was one of the earliest of many out-of-town cemeteries created at this time as pressure on church graveyards led to fears that they were health risks. The last plot was sold in the 1950s and the company then went into liquidation. Reading Borough took it over and it is now run from the Henley Road Cemetery. There is still the occasional burial in family plots.<sup>16</sup>

Monumental inscriptions are a useful source of information to family historians particularly as they often give dates, places, ages and relatives which are not available by other means. The mere fact that two adjacent gravestones refer to the same surname can confirm other evidence. This is why family history societies and family historians record and index monumental inscriptions to make them more available and to form a more permanent record than stone exposed to the elements can provide.

In September 1990 some 25 Berkshire Family History Society members gathered at the London Road, Reading cemetery at the start of what was to prove a five year project. A good start was made in the three sessions held before the cold weather set in. In 1991 sessions were held about once a fortnight from April to September with numbers averaging around a dozen. In subsequent years numbers rarely exceeded six. Progress was not, however, slowed as much as the numbers might suggest as those attending did so regularly and became fairly expert. In addition in 1993 the project leader, myself, retired early and was able to lead Monday morning sessions from April to November. Numbers averaged around four and few Mondays were missed, doubling the rate of progress.

In the first 18 months Bryan Willson attended regularly, often on his own on weekdays and recorded a number of sections by himself. He had unfortunately to withdraw for family reasons. Vincent Millett also turned out on his own occasionally as well as attending regular sessions. Saturday sessions were usually led by one David or another, myself, David Wright or, until he moved from the area, David Hammond. Mike Seymour and Chad Hanna broke the David domination on a few occasions.

On Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> July 1995 completion was very close and around twelve members, an amalgam of the Monday and Saturday groups, attended. By mid-day Chad & Lesley Hanna, Yvonne Watkins, Carol Wright, Pam Cotterell and Jacqueline Harbor had departed to other tasks. However, before leaving David Wright, Bob Hudson and Derek Spraggett watched while I checked the last transcription. All four then celebrated with champagne.

Throughout the period the transcriptions were being entered on computer and checked. Initially this was done in sessions organised at Leighton Park School where a number of machines were made available. More was also done at St Peter's Hall, Earley, “*work-ins*” and at project evenings at Park United Reformed Church. However, the bulk was done by members on their home computers. By the end of the third year the computer input was following closely on the transcription. On that last Saturday everything done previously was already recorded and David Wright entered that day's work within a few days. Around 6,500 memorial stones were recorded with an estimated 14,500 persons named.

A large amount of checking of doubtful transcriptions thrown up during computer entry was carried out during the project. A number of inscriptions proved less than useful with, for

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<sup>16</sup> An article on the cemetery by Pat Smart can be found in *“Berkshire Old & New, No. 5”*, (1988).

example, "R T died 8 Jan 1936" (or even just the year) or details worn away. By consulting the Burial Order Books in the Berkshire Record Office Jacqueline Harbor and myself were able to resolve many of these queries where a date was shown, the entries being in date order. Jacqueline, a regular at Monday and Saturday sessions, is currently transcribing and indexing all of the Order Books!

Masons' names were recorded where they were noticed but will mostly have been missed. The following names occur:

G Ayres, Reading	J E Hope	F Maskell
A Barnicoat	J E Howe	H North, Princes St
B&D, Basingstoke	Powell, Eastern Ave	J Pinker
E Bowden, Kings Road	CE Fitt, Kings Road	H Powell, Cumberland Rd
W. Bull & Son.	C H Lovegrove, Friar St	H. Sherwood, King's Rd.
Daniels, Highgate	J Hillier	C. Stanley, 10, Charles St.
Davis, Hungerford, Berks.	C Hillier	Toms, Forbury Rd
ME Dunn, Granby Terrace	Jones, Bedford Rd	E Williams, Farnham.
B Dunn, Crown St	E.J. Maggs.	

Thanks go to all those mentioned above who formed the core of the workforce and to the following who also contributed: Jeannie Balch, Shirley Ball, B Beaumont, J M Bernard, Jackie Blow, Sarah Blow, Edna Bowman, Stella Bryant, Ann Cribb, Ann Davis, Eddie Dawson, Cliff Debney, Jean Debney, C Dobson, R Dobson, Meg Goswell, Ruth Griffith, Bill Grose, A Grove, Catherine Harrington, Simon Harrington, Margaret Hassard-Short, Avril Ison, Alf Ison, Kevin King, Arthur Longford, Doreen Longford, Margaret Lyall, A Mackay, Anne Mackie, Diana Mackarill, J Mitchell, Alan Osborne, David Osborne, Jan Palmer, Errol Page, J Pither, Diana Rayburn, J Robson, Dorothy Roffey, Marion Sackett, Julie Smith, Enid Spraggett, Ruth Timbrell, Clive Tomlin, Pauline Wales, Marilyn Wooldridge, Vicky Wren, Edward Wright. Thanks also to staff at Henley Road cemetery who allowed access to the grave plans which Chad and Lesley Hanna photographed. Also to the Chief Archivist and staff of the Berkshire Record Office.

Against the back wall of the cemetery and within Section 72 is a Sword of Honour erected and maintained by the Commonwealth War Graves Commission. The names of 99 servicemen are recorded here. They are buried in Section 72 in the area bounded by hedges. They presumably died of their wounds having been shipped back to Reading hospitals. They are from various British & Commonwealth units with one Serbian Sergeant. Some are also named on individual or family monuments in Section 72 or elsewhere in the cemetery.

The transcriptions occupy 435 pages. In addition there are three annexes:

1. Surname Index. Surnames are listed with an entry for each stone they occur on, showing Section, Row, Plot, eg 21A23, Section 21, Row A, Plot 23. Each of the references can be checked against the transcription.
2. Place-Name Index. Showing for each place all the stones they occur on.
3. Section Map & Diagrams. A map, based on Ordnance Survey, showing how the cemetery is divided into sections. A diagram showing each section as a grid with all the surnames appearing on each plot for which there is a stone. This should prove useful for anyone trying to locate a plot.

The work has now been finalised and passed to the Society's Executive for publication, probably on fiche. I am happy to search any names if members forward a stamped addressed envelope.

# Members' Interests

*Compiled by Robert Houseman*

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

0805 Mr R PLACE, 40 Woodlands Avenue, Woodley, Reading, Berkshire RG5 3HJ

## CHANGES OF ADDRESS:

0723 Mr DJ LIMPUS, Meadowside, 42 Honey Park Road, Budleigh Salterton, Devon EX9 6EG  
0971 Mr D LUDLOW, 46 Elm Drive, Garsington, Oxford, Oxon OX44 9AQ  
1264 Mrs Y RICHARDSON, 2 Cranford Cottages, Winchfield, Hook, Hants RG27 8BZ  
1349 Mr C TOMLIN, 12 Blake Close, Crowthorne, Berks RG45 7LF  
1461 Ms PAC READ, 5 Lady Godley Close, South Tidworth, Hants SP9 7RY  
2325 Mr & Mrs MJ TIGWELL, Riverdown, 11 Platway Lane, Shaldon, Devon TQ14 0AR  
2489 Mrs J MONEY, 'Upstreet', 18 Lapwing Lane, Cholsey, Wallingford, Oxon OX10 9QS  
2769 Mr FT WAITE, 4 Copperfields, Lichfield, Staffs WS14 9YQ  
3017 Mr C LIEBENROOD, 125 Bouverie Avenue South, Salisbury, Wilts SP2 8EA  
3172 Mr L GEARING, 3 Grosvenor Road, West Wickham, Kent BR4 9PU  
3187 Mr & Mrs B MILLS, 113 Eastgate, Deeping St James, Peterborough PE6 8RB  
3272 Mr RC CHANDLER, 39 Ramsbury Drive, Hungerford, Berks RG17 0SG

## MEMBERS SUBMITTING THEIR INTERESTS:

(\* Member of Guild Of One Name Studies)

2318 Mr CA JONES, 40 Keble Road, Maidenhead, Berks SL6 6BA  
2669 Mr JW PERRIN, 9 Glendale Avenue, Hartlepool, Teeside TS26 9QE  
3293 Mrs SM PEEK, 6 Freesia Close, Simons Park, Wokingham, Berks RG41 3NE  
3329 Mr AR TAWNEY, 6 Little Lane, Clophill, Beds MK45 4BG  
3341 Ms M POULTON, 102 Straight Road, Old Windsor, Berks SL4 2SB  
3342 Mrs C KEELING, 21 Kennedy Crescent, Cholsey, Oxon OX10 9QZ  
3350 Mr DB BARNARD, 1 Neufchatel Court, Bridgewater Park, Whitchurch, Salop SY13 1TY  
3355 Mrs L LUKER, 21 Wilderness Road, Mannamead, Plymouth, Devon PL3 4BN  
3357 Mrs GB WESTON, 2 Cowper Road, Moordown, Bournemouth, Dorset BH9 2UJ  
3358 Mr & Mrs TH JOHNSON, 5 Ruscombe Gardens, Datchet, Slough, Berks SL3 9BG  
3364 Mr M CROOK, 77 Wallingford Road, Goring-on-Thames, Reading, Berks RG8 0HL  
3367 Ms RS WHITE, 31 Spinney, Cippenham, Slough, Berks SL1 2YF  
3368 Mr & Mrs LT HANDLEY, 23 Saffron Road, Bracknell, Berks RG12 7BT  
3370 Mr & Mrs J HORSEY, 1 Shelley Close, Woodley, Reading, Berks RG5 3RN  
3372 Mrs J COBB, 19 Westfield Drive, North Greetwell, Lincoln LN2 4RE  
3376 Mr NJ CLARK, 7 Curlew Drive, Tilehurst, Reading, Berks RG31 4TA  
3382 Mrs M JENNINGS, 15 Gleneagles Rise, Swinton, Mexborough, South Yorkshire S64 8TP  
3389 Ms J MURRAY, 14 Littlestead Close, Caversham, Reading, Berks RG4 6UA  
3413 Mr & Mrs RJ PARKINS, 5 Broadleas Park, Devizes, Wilts SN10 5JB  
3435 Mrs D OVENDEN, 19 Ridleys, West Hoathly, East Grinstead, West Sussex RH19 4HN  
3443 Ms S WEBB, 13 Mill Field, Bagshot, Surrey GU19 5DR



No.	Surname	Place	Code	Period	No.	Surname	Place	Code	Period
3358	AIREY	Kendal	WES	1800-1840	3372	FULLER	Burwell	CAM	1700-1880
3358	AIREY	Sedbergh	NYK	1750-1820	3382	GILES	Warfield	BRK	1820-1900
3342	ALGER	Anywhere	SRY	1835-1996	3372	GILSON	Swaffham Prior	CAM	1720-1820
3342	ALGER	Plymouth	DEV	1800-1825	3378	GOODWIN	Cumnor	BRK	1750-1860
2318	ALLEN	Lambeth	SRY	1840-1900	3389	GOODWIN	Newport	MON	1750-1900
2318	ALLEN	Stockwell	SRY	1880-1915	3435	GOODYEAR	St Mary Bourne	HAM	1700-1900
3342	ANTHONEY	Anywhere	SRY	1800-1996	3389	GOULDING	Sligo	SLI	1800-1900
3389	BANCROFT	Keighley	YKS	1700-1900	3367	GREEN	Warfield	BRK	1760-1900
3389	BARFIELD	Anywhere	RUT	1700-1920	3370	GREENSLADE	Anywhere	DEV	1750-1850
3350	BARNARD	Faringdon	BRK	1837-1934	3358	GREY	Belford	NBL	1770-1810
3372	BARTLETT	Bristol	SOM	1800-1860	3358	GREY	Eglingham	NBL	1750-1840
3367	BATTYN	Warfield	BRK	1760-1900	3364	HAMILTON	Fulham	LND	1850-1996
3329	BELCHER	Anywhere	OXF	1850-1925	3368	HANDLEY	Anywhere	CAM	1600-1900
3329	BELCHER	Anywhere	BRK	1850-1925	3368	HANDLEY	Anywhere	WAR	1800-1950
3372	BLINKER	Moulton	SFK	1820-1900	3368	HANDLEY	Anywhere	STS	1850-1950
3342	BLONK	Anywhere	YKS	1850-1996	3368	HANDLEY	Stockport	CHS	1600-1900
3376	BOULTER	Anywhere	BRK	1750-1850	3435	HARRIS	Windlesham	SRY	1800-1900
3389	BRANSON	Anywhere	RUT	1700-1900	3413	HARVEY	Southampton	HAM	1700-1950
3293	BRANT	Sherfield-Loddon	HAM	1700-1996	3376	HATFIELD	Woolwich	LND	1850-1940
3382	BRANT	Warfield	BRK	1820-1900	3435	HATT	Newbury	BRK	1800-1900
3293	BRANT	Wokingham	BRK	1700-1996	3341	HAYLING	Egham	SRY	1870-1930
3443	BROUGHTON	Hackney	MDX	1700-1900	3341	HAYLING	Windsor	BRK	1870-1930
3389	BROWN	Keighley	YKS	1700-1900	3389	HEGERTY	Galway	GAL	1800-1900
3413	BULL	New Forest	HAM	1600-1950	3413	HOARE	Catherington	HAM	1500-1900
3376	BURCHELL	Anywhere	BRK	1850-1900	3413	HOARE	Southampton	HAM	1850-1990
2318	BUSH	Wantage	BRK	1880-1915	3367	HOCKING(G)	Anywhere	CON	1700-1959
3364	BUTLER	Newbury	BRK	1800-1996	3372	HOLLINGSHEAD	Hammersmith	MDX	1750-1850
3372	BUTLER	Ramsey	HUN	1770-1930	3389	HOLMES	Keighley	YKS	1700-1900
3364	BUTLER	Thatcham	BRK	1800-1996	3370	HORSEY	Anywhere	SOM	1700-1850
2318	BUTLER	Upton	BRK	1880-1900	3435	HUNT	Kingsclere	HAM	1600-1950
2318	BUTLER	Wantage	BRK	1880-1915	3370	HURFURT	Anywhere	SOM	1700-1850
3358	CASLEY	Lowick	NBL	1770-1830	3376	ILBURY	Reading	BRK	1750-1850
3367	CASAR	Easthampstead	BRK	1769-1900	3370	IVES	Anywhere	KEN	1700-1900
3370	CHILD	Anywhere	ESS	1800-1900	3355	IVES	Anywhere	MDX	1600-1900
3364	CHURCH	Fulham	LND	1850-1996	3367	JARMAN	Bridgewater	SOM	1700-1900
3372	CHURCH	Peterborough	NTH	1750-1860	3382	JENNINGS	Easthampstead	BRK	1880-1950
3382	CHURCHILL	Wokingham	BRK	1800-1850	3382	JENNINGS	Wokingham	BRK	1800-1900
3372	CLARK(E)	Hurst	BRK	1770-1900	3358	JOHNSON	Horham	NBL	1770-1830
3376	CLARK(E)	Reading	BRK	1750-1850	3358	JOHNSON	Spittal	NBL	1770-1830
3389	CLEMENTS	N Luffenham	RUT	1700-1920	2318	JONES	Upton	BRK	1880-1915
3372	COBB	Marylebone	MDX	1850-1920	2318	JONES	Wantage	BRK	1880-1915
3372	COOK(E)	Henley-on-Thames	OXF	1770-1870	3342	KEELING	Louth	LIN	1820-1900
3368	COOKE	Anywhere	SHR	1600-1960	3342	KEELING	Sheffield	YKS	1860-1996
3368	COOKE	Anywhere	STS	1800-1960	3389	KETTLE	Duddington	LIN	1700-1900
3413	COOPER	Faringdon	HAM	1750-1900	3355	KNAPP	Anywhere	MDX	1750-1920
3443	COPE	Reading	BRK	1700-1900	3376	LAMBDEN	Anywhere	BRK	1750-1860
3376	CORBIN	Anywhere	DOR	1750-1900	3355	LEWKER	Anyhere	ALL	1600-1900
3293	COTTERELL	Sherfield-Loddon	HAM	1700-1996	3355	LIDDARD	Aldbourne	WIL	1500-1900
3293	COTTERELL	Wokingham	BRK	1700-1996	3355	LIDDARD	Anywhere	MDX	1500-1900
3293	COTTRELL	Sherfield-Loddon	HAM	1700-1996	3355	LIDDARD	Aldbourne	WIL	1500-1900
3293	COTTRELL	Wokingham	BRK	1700-1996	3355	LIDDARD	Anywhere	MDX	1500-1900
3372	CRACK	Burwell	CAM	1750-1900	3372	LILES	Burwell	CAM	1750-1900
3389	CROW	Cardiff	GLA	1800-1900	3389	LIVERSIDGE	Rotherham	YKS	1700-1900
3443	CROWNE	Dereham	NFK	1600-1900	3355	LOOKER	Anyhere	ALL	1600-1900
3367	CULTICUTT	East Ham	LND	1700-1916	3435	LOW	Newport	IOW	1860-1920
3443	DAVEY	Dereham	NFK	1700-1900	3435	LOWE	Taunton area	SOM	1700-1870
3358	DAVIDSON	Glendale	NBL	1770-1830	3355	LUCAR	Anyhere	ALL	1600-1900
3443	DAVY	Dereham	NFK	1700-1900	3355	LUKER	Anyhere	ALL	1600-1900
3367	DIEGO	Sunninghill	BRK	1755-1900	3364	MacDONALD	Southwark	LND	1900-1920
3358	DUNCAN	Farr	SUT	1770-1830	3358	MACKAY	Farr	SUT	1770-1830
3372	EAGLE	Werrington	NTH	1730-1790	3341	MADDISON	Durham City	DUR	1770-1800
3443	EDWARDS	Islington	MDX	1800-1900	3341	MADDISON	East London	LND	1870-1920
3367	ELDING	Warfield	BRK	1760-1900	3341	MADDISON	Newcastle	NBL	1800-1870
3443	FLEMING	Shoreditch	MDX	1600-1800	3358	McBEATH	Farr	SUT	1770-1850
3368	FOLLAND	Anywhere	PEM	1600-1900	3358	McGHEE	Berwick	NBL	1770-1840
3368	FOLLAND	Swindon	WIL	1800-1900	3358	McINTOSH	Tongue	SUT	1770-1850
3367	FREEMAN	Remenham	BRK	1812-1900	3358	McKENZIE	Tongue	SUT	1770-1850
3367	FRY	Anywhere	LND	1700-1900	3358	McLEOD	Spittal	NBL	1770-1820

No.	Surname	Place	Code	Period	No.	Surname	Place	Code	Period
3413	MEADOWS	Holbeach	LIN	1500-1996	3357	SKATES	Reading	BRK	1750-1831
3367	MOLE	Bridgewater	SOM	1700-1898	3364	SMITH	Newbury	BRK	1900-1996
3443	MUNDAY	Chalfont St Peter	BKM	1700-1900	3443	SMITH	Reading	BRK	1700-1900
3358	MUNDELL	Langholm	DGY	1770-1850	3376	STAMP	Reading	BRK	1750-1900
3358	MUNRO	Farr	SUT	1770-1850	3382	STANMORE	Petworth	SSX	1890-1925
3389	NIXON	Rotherham	YKS	1800-1900	3382	STANSMORE	Petworth	SSX	1890-1925
3435	PACKHAM	Betchworth	SRY	1700-1850	3389	SWAN	Anywhere	LIN	1700-1920
3435	PACKHAM	Bletchingley	SRY	1800-1950	3413	SWEETMAN	Lewes	SSX	1500-1990
3435	PACKHAM	Buckland	SRY	1700-1850	3376	TANNER	Anywhere	DOR	1800-1940
3376	PAINTON	Longworth	BRK	1750-1850	3367	TEGG	Midgeham	BRK	1750-1900
3413	PARKINS	Rousham	OXF	1500-1940	3367	THOMSON	Purley	BRK	1822-1900
3443	PEACOCK	St Pancras	MDX	1800-1900	3357	TOWLER	Stepney	LND	1750-1800
2669	PERRIN	Anywhere	BRK	1066-1994	3355	TRIBE	Anywhere	ALL	1750-1920
2669	PERRIN	Anywhere	OXF	1066-1994	3367	TRICKY	Exeter	DEV	1700-1900
2669	PERRIN	Anywhere	MDX	1066-1994	3364	TURVEY	Anywhere	WAR	1700-1996
2669	PERRIN	Anywhere	SRY	1066-1994	3364	TURVEY	Anywhere	OXF	1700-1996
3413	PILGRIM	Reading	BRK	1800-1990	3364	TURVEY	Compton	BRK	1861-1996
3413	PILGRIM	Sulhamstead Abbots	BRK	1500-1800	3364	TURVEY	Easthampstead	BRK	1880-1996
3435	POVEY	Newbury	BRK	1800-1900	3370	VAUGHAN	Anywhere	HAM	1770-1850
3389	PRIESTLEY	Durham	DUR	1700-1900	3413	WALKER	Reading	BRK	1800-1990
3372	PROUD	Ramsey	HUN	1700-1920	3443	WEBB	Aldersgate	LND	1850-1996
3372	PRUDEN	Hammersmith	MDX	1770-1900	3443	WEBB	Clerkenwell	MDX	1850-1996
3435	RAYNER	Brading	IOW	1600-1800	3443	WEBB	Reading	BRK	1500-1800
3435	RAYNER	Newchurch	IOW	1600-1800	3342	WHITBREAD	Shefford	BDF	1700-1996
3435	RAYNER	Shanklin	IOW	1800-1980	3358	WHITE	Cheswick	NBL	1770-1840
3376	REEVES	Bourton	WIL	1750-1850	3367	WHITE	Windsor/Eton	BRK	1700-1935
3389	REWCASTLE	Newcastle	NBL	1700-1900	3364	WILD	Beedon	BRK	1800-1996
3358	ROBINSON	Barnburgh	NBL	1770-1830	3435	WILLETS	Windlesham	SRY	1800-1900
2318	ROSEBROOK	Lambeth	SRY	1800-1900	3376	WILLIAMS	Reading	BRK	1750-1820
3358	SCOULER	Lowick	NBL	1750-1840	3342	WINTON	Anywhere	SSX	1700-1996
3342	SEASTRON	Anywhere	YKS	1770-1996	3342	WINTON	Sevenoaks	KEN	1825-1900
3435	SIMS	Buttermere	WIL	1750-1800	3342	WOODHAMS	Sevenoaks	KEN	1795-1850
3435	SIMS	Easton Royal	WIL	1700-1800	3342	WOODHAMS	Speldhurst	KEN	1700-1800
3435	SIMS	Facombe	HAM	1750-1850	3367	WOOLLETT	Exeter	DEV	1700-1900
3372	SIMS	Hammersmith	MDX	1800-1900	3376	WYNN	Anywhere	DOR	1800-1940
3435	SIMS	St Mary Bourne	HAM	1800-1950	2318	WYNNE	Balham	SRY	1800-1900

## ANCESTRAL PORTRAITS

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# BERKSHIRE FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY

Registered Charity No. 283010.

## The Research Centre

**Open FREE to Members on Tuesdays 7pm-9:30pm, Wednesdays 10am-4pm Thursdays 1pm-4pm and Thursdays 7pm-9:30pm.**

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

### Search Service - Berkshire Name Index:

£2 for 5 different surnames (with max of 30 entries) & 50p/page of 6 entries thereafter, Membership No. & SAE to: **Mrs Pat Deane, BNI, 183 Long Lane, Tilehurst, Reading, Berkshire RG31 6YW**

### Search Service - 1851 Census Index:

£1/search for a surname to determine how many folios are required - then £1 for 2 folio printouts, minimum of £1, then 50p/printout thereafter; Membership No. & SAE to: **Geoff Mather, 18 Ravenswood Avenue, Crowthorne, Berkshire RG45 6AY**

### Search Service 1881 Census Index:

£1/search for a surname to determine how many folios are required - then £1 for 2 folio printouts, minimum of £1, then 50p/printout thereafter; Membership No. & SAE to: **Ivan Dickason, 1 Mower Close, Wokingham, Berkshire RG40 1RZ**

### Search Service - Berkshire Marriage Index:

£1.50 per specific marriage enquiry (max of 3 Marriages per request); Details required: Groom's full name, Bride's as known, approx. date. No blanket searches undertaken. Postal enquiries only. Allow 28 days for results of search. Cheques payable to **Mrs P Knight, Membership No., SAE & additional 2nd Class stamp to Mrs Pam Knight, Old Oak Cottage, The Pound, Cookham, Maidenhead, Berkshire SL6 9QE**

## Bookstall

A wide selection of books of interest to Family Historians is available at meetings and by post. Publication lists are available from **The Bookstall Manager, Berkshire Family History Society, c/o Prospect School, Honey End Lane, Reading, Berks RG30 4EL**

## Membership

Requests for Membership, with SAE, to: **Robert Houseman, Hon Secretary, The Corner House, Shaw Road, Reading, Berkshire RG1 6JX**

## Advertising Rates

£30.00/full page; £15.00/half page; £7.50/quarter page. Requests for advertising should be addressed to the Editor: **Mrs Catherine Harrington, 20 Test Close, Tilehurst, Reading, Berkshire RG30 4DL**

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*ISSN 0142-5942*



Berkshire Family History Society  
presents

# Berkshire Forever!



Pull yourself together Mr. Berkshire!  
There's plenty of life in you yet!

A one day conference with three talks  
at Prospect School, Tilehurst  
on Saturday 28 June 1997

# Application Form

I/We wish to book . . . . . place(s) for the Berkshire FHS Conference on Saturday 28 June 1997 at £5.00 per place.

I/We wish to book . . . . . lunch(es)‡ at £5.00 per head

My/Our choice is Quiche . . . . .  
Egg & Ham Pie . . . . .  
Cheese Ploughmans . . . . .

I/We enclose a remittance for £ . . . . . (payable to Berkshire FHS) and enclose Stamped Addressed Envelope for confirmation of booking, map and final details.

Name† . . . . .

Name† . . . . .

Address . . . . .  
. . . . .  
. . . . .

† Please print and give forename for your badges

Our principal interests are: . . . . .  
. . . . .

I/We would like Jean Debney to talk about the following (Berkshire)

Surname . . . . .

found in the . . . . . area

There will only be time to consider the first 50 surnames received.

I/We would like to provide a display.

I require . . . . .

table space

or

. . . . .

display board area

or I am bringing my own display which needs . . . . . floorspace.

Please return this completed form and SAE to Lesley Hanna, 161 St. Peters Road, Earley, Reading, Berks, RG6 1PG by

## Friday 31st May 1997

# The Provisional Programme

Full programme will be supplied with your confirmation and will be available on the Internet at <http://www.vellum.demon.co.uk/conf/>

- 9.30 Registration
- 10.00 **Welcome**
- 10.10 Talk on Berkshire Poor Law Records or Wills  
Speaker to be confirmed.
- 11.10 **Coffee**
- 11.30 **What's in your (Berkshire) Name** – the meaning of a selection of surnames by Jean Debney
- 12.30 **Lunch**
- 14.00 **One man's rubbish is another man's collection** – with reference to the Royal Borough Collection. Windsor by Dr.Judith Hunter
- 15.00 **Tea**
- 15.30 Project roundup and your questions answered
- 16.30 Final remarks
- 17.30 End of conference

## The Speakers

**Dr Judith Hunter** is a noted speaker and writer on Berkshire Local History. She is the author of "A History of Berkshire"

**Mrs Jean Debney** now lectures, broadcasts and writes on Family and Local History topics after teaching Family History for many years. Jean is an Honorary member of the Society after being both the Society's bookstall manager and librarian.

## Other attractions

Besides the displays provided by the Berkshire Family History Society, local organisations and visitors, there will be some time to use the Berkshire Family History Society Research Centre.

## Objective

This conference is intended to provide our members and visitors, particularly those from outside of the county, with a concentrated dose of information about Berkshire – it is intended to be parochial (though archdiaconal might be a better word).

## Important Notes

Those who are travelling on Friday 27 June and staying overnight are welcome to attend the Reading Branch meeting that evening.

Space for displays will be limited and must be booked in advance. Special self adhesive tabs will be provided for attachments to display boards (pins not allowed). If your display is on a sheet of A2 or A1 paper so much the better.

There are a couple of steps up into the school. Disabled visitors may need assistance and should note this on the application form.

Morning coffee and afternoon tea are included in the cost.

The set lunch with choice of three dishes, all including salad and dessert, **must** be booked with your application – they cannot be booked on the day.

## How to get there

The entrance to Prospect School is in Honey End Lane, Tilehurst, Reading, Berkshire, U.K. This is just off the Bath Road (A4), about 3 miles east of J12 on the M4.

The following buses stop nearby: Bath Road (5 mins walk) - Bus Nos. 52, 55, 56, 101, 102, 103, 143, 148; Meadway (10 mins walk) - Bus Nos. 33, 34, 35, 36.

## Parking

There is plenty of parking space both in front of Prospect School and around the side.

Hope to hear from you soon! Chad Hanna (0118 966 3585)