



Berkshire
Family
Historian

Volume 21 - No 1 - September 1997



MISS LOUISA BRUNTON.
(Countess of Craven. Married 1807. Died 1860.)

Events Calendar - 1997

Bracknell Branch

Priestwood Community Centre, Priestwood Court Road, Bracknell

7:15pm for 7:45pm

*** Please note that the December meeting is on the second Friday, not the third, as usual.**

19 th September	"It's Elementary Really"	Jim Golland
17 th October	"Was Your Ancestor a Coastguard?"	Eileen Stage
21 st November	"History of the Bath Road"	Judith Hunter
*12 th December	"Dating Old Photographs"	Jean Debney

Newbury Branch

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

7:30pm

10 th September	"The Manor, Its Records, Its People"	Peter Park
8 th October	"Families of Hamstead Marshall"	Penelope Stokes
12 th November	"St Bartholomew's School, Newbury"	Richard Moore
10 th December	"20 Objects from the Collections of Newbury District Museum"	Tony Higgott

Reading Branch

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

7:15pm for 7:45m

Please note that from September onwards, Reading Branch meetings will generally be held on the last Wednesday of the month, there is an extra meeting in November on a Friday.

24 th September	"Why Can't I Find Them? Alternative Sources"	Dr Robert Mesley
29 th October	"The Fascination of Maps for Family Historians"	Judith Hunter
7 th November	3 Talks by Members - Meeting at Earley St Peters Hall	
19 th November	"Family History Sources in the British Library"	Jill Allbrooke
10 th December	"Thames Valley Buses, Origins and Early Years"	Paul Lacey

Slough Branch

St Andrew's Church Hall, The Grove, Slough

7:30pm for 7:45pm

30 th September	To Be Announced	
28 th October	"Parish History"	Mike Hallam
25 th November	To Be Announced	

BERKSHIRE FAMILY HISTORIAN

Volume 21, 1997/8

Part 1, September 1997

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

Chairman's Comments

By Ivan Dickason

First, I must thank all those who voted for me to be your Chairman. It is a great honour.

Jan Jones has stepped down from the chairmanship due to ill health. We wish her a speedy recovery. On behalf of members I would like to thank Jan for her efforts during her short time as Chairman. At the AGM in Bracknell, Jan was elected to the Executive Committee.

A full report of the AGM on 20th June at the Bracknell Branch appears elsewhere in the magazine. The AGM was chaired by John Elkins. The society's thanks go to John for so ably chairing the meeting.

I should introduce myself. I spent my entire working life in the construction industry. I worked for the Costain Group for some twenty-five years - most recently at their Maidenhead Office - before I took early retirement just over two years ago. I now work on a part-time basis as a consultant.

My wife and I were introduced to the world of family history by my brother who has been researching the Dickason name for many years. His database now has some 5,000 Dickasons and he is in touch with researchers in South Africa, USA and Australia. We decided to research my wife's family names - Marden and Webb. We joined the Society in 1992 and learned most of our family history from the Reading Branch meetings. We started going to the Research Centre just after it opened and soon became volunteers. We then took on the role of organising the volunteers roster. The 1881 census transcripts for Middlesex were exciting for us, for we discovered my wife's great-grandfather was born in Compton!

Those of you that did not attend the One Day Conference '*Berkshire Forever!*' on 28th June missed a splendid and informative day. Talks were given by Dr. Peter Durant on Quarter Sessions records, Judith Hunter on the Royal Borough of Windsor Collection and by our own Jean Debney on Berkshire Surnames. The Society's thanks go to Chad Hanna who organised the day, to Dawn Garlick who looked after registration and to Robert Clayton who arranged the public address system. Special thanks must be offered to Jackie Blow who provided refreshments and a superb lunch for the visitors. A full report of the conference appears elsewhere in the magazine.

The Research Centre was open during the conference and most of the visitors found time to explore the Centre. All were, I think, impressed with the Centre and many expressed surprise at the range of material we have. We hope they will all come again in order to carry out research. I think the Research Centre is a very valuable asset to the Society.

There was not much response to our appeal in the June magazine for additional volunteers for the Research Centre. Can I appeal again for members to come forward so that we have sufficient volunteers to staff properly the centre? It is not a difficult job, honestly! Ring my wife at home (our number is on the back of the magazine) or, better still, come to one of the Research Centre Tours.

Many of you will have read in *Family Tree Magazine* of the campaign by Mr Denis McCready of Solihull for earlier access to census returns. The matter is not as simple as it may seem at face value. The Federation of Family History Societies have looked at this and the views of the FFHS Chairman are reproduced elsewhere in this Magazine, as well as the view of the Executive Committee of the Berkshire Family History Society.

Hurrah for WO 364!

By Margaret Thorogood

Recently I had the opportunity to visit the Public Record Office at Kew where I was hoping to find, among other things, details of my father's service in the First World War. He died when I was only eleven and neither he, nor my mother, ever spoke about his experiences in the War. I have his medals, which show his Regimental number as 2108, and his nursing dictionary in which he had recorded his home address in Brixton, "*St Thomas, Denmark Hill*", South London where he had done a nursing course and his regiment, "*3/5 London Field Ambulance R.A.M.C.*"

I was aware, of course, that many First World War army papers were destroyed in London during the Second World War but I felt I had to investigate the new records in "*WO 364*" which were released on Armistice Day, 11th November 1996, and consist of the service records for about 8% of the men who served between 1914 and 1920.

On arrival at Kew I made straight for the Microfilm Reading Room on the first floor where, almost immediately, I spotted a prominent notice saying "*NEW-WO364*". On top of the film cabinets was a file with an alphabetical list of the names contained in each roll of film - the one I needed was "*Bullick to Bullock*". Once the film was threaded on to the reader, it was only a matter of minutes to wind through the early pages: a large note at the foot of a page indicted the opening of a new file and there, on pages 297 to 307, were the details of my father's army service. Needless to say I photocopied all ten pages of his entry. Somewhere along the line his army number was changed from 2108 to 536422, and there are still a lot of initials and

abbreviations which I have yet to decipher but I now know a lot more about him than ever before.

Dad enlisted on 1st February 1915 in Chelsea "*for the duration of the war*" as a "*First-Class Nursing Orderly*" in the 3/5 London Field Ambulance R.A.M.C. for 4d a day; his home address was 50 Crawshaw Road, Brixton, he had been vaccinated against smallpox in infancy and his previous occupation was as a tobacconist for [Mr?] Harris in Foster Lane, Cheapside.

On 1st December 1916, he embarked from Southampton for Le Havre. The following February he was wounded in action and shell shocked, was later awarded a Good Conduct Medal and then wounded and gassed in December 1917. After a fortnight's home leave he was posted to the 109 Field Ambulance Company on 3rd March 1918 and, three weeks later, posted as missing. In the next entry, an Adjutant General's Office noted he had been repatriated from Germany on 8th January 1919 and had been a Prisoner of War for 293 days!

I count myself very lucky to have found so many interesting details in the life of an ordinary serviceman in my own family: the greatest surprise was to learn that he had been a Prisoner of War.

I also looked for the service records of my father's two brothers, both of whom enlisted in different regiments about the same time and who also survived the war, but could find no trace of either. Nevertheless, if you have relatives who were involved in the Army between 1914 and 1920, do consult this new War Office file, you may be lucky - as I was.

Dates for Your Diary

Day and Evening Classes in Berkshire 1997/1998

The following day and evening classes in Family History/Local History are taking place around the county in 1997/1998. The three letter code at the end of each entry refers to the addresses for details of courses and one-day schools:

- BRO Berkshire Record Office, Shire Hall, Shinfield Park, Reading, RG2 9XD (book via UR)
BUL Bulmershe College, Woodlands Avenue, Earley, Reading (book via UR)
CAV Caversham Centre, School Lane, Caversham, Reading, RG4 8HX
(Tel: 0118-947-7646)
NC Newbury College, Oxford Road, Newbury, RG14 1PQ (Tel: 01635-550066)
SCW St Crispins, London Road, Wokingham, Reading (Tel: 0118-978-1144)
UR University of Reading, Centre for Continuing Education (with WEA), London Road,
Reading, RG1 5AQ (Tel. 0118-931-8347)
WHH Woodley Hill House Adult Education Centre, Earley, Reading (Tel: 0118-926-1621)

- *Digging up your ancestors* to be held on Tuesdays from 7.00pm to 9.00pm from 16th September 1997 for 10 weeks. Tutor: Polly Lawrence at NC.
- *Family History* - (Beginners) to be held on Mondays from 7.30pm to 9.30pm from 15th September 1997 for 10 weeks. Tutor: Derek Smith at SCW.
- *Family History* - (Continuation) to be held on Mondays from 7.30pm to 9.30pm from 19th January 1997 for 10 weeks. Tutor: Derek Smith at SCW.
- *Dig up your Ancestors (I)* - (Beginners) to be held on Mondays 2pm to 4pm from 22nd September 1997 for 12 weeks. Tutor: Jean Debney at CAV.
- *Dig up your Ancestors (II)* - (Continuation) to be held on Mondays 2pm to 4 pm from 12th January 1998 for 12 weeks. Tutor: Jean Debney at CAV.
- *Get back to your roots (I)* - (Beginners) to be held on Tuesdays 7.30pm to 9.30pm from 23rd September 1997 for 12 weeks. Tutor: John Gurnett at CAV.
- *Get back to your roots (II)* - (Continuation) to be held on Tuesdays from 7.30pm to 9.30pm from 13th January 1998 for 12 weeks. Tutor: John Gurnett at CAV.
- *Family History Forum (I)* - (Continuation/Intermediate) to be held on Thursdays from 9.30am to 11.30am or 2pm to 4pm from 25th September 1997 for 12 weeks. Tutor: Jean Debney at CAV
- *Family History Forum (II)* - (Continuation/Intermediate) to be held on Thursdays from 9.30am to 11.30am or 2pm to 4pm from 15th January 1998 for 12 weeks. Tutor: Jean Debney at CAV
- *Rural Life in Victorian England* to be held on Thursdays from 7.30pm to 9.30pm from 9th October 1997 for 10 weeks. Tutor: Jeremy Burchardt at UR.
- *Victorian Towns in Berkshire* to be held on Wednesdays from 7.30pm to 9.30pm from 14th January 1998 for 10 weeks. Tutor: Brian Boulter at UR.
- *Getting to know the Reading area* to be held on Thursdays from 7.30pm to 9.30pm from 15th January 1998 for 10 weeks. Tutor: Joan Dils at UR.
- *Life in Berkshire during a century of change, 1800-1900* to be held on Mondays from 7.30pm to 9.30pm from 28th April 1998 for 6 weeks. Tutor: Margaret Escott at UR.

Berks FHS Bookstall will be at those Open Days marked ** - please ring Cliff Debney (0118 941 3223) if you can help for an hour or two at any of these events.

- Sat. 20th Sep. 97* Kent Family History Society Open Day, 10am to 4pm at St George's Centre, Chatham, Kent. For further details contact The Secretary, The Conifers, Spenny Lane, Collier Street, Tonbridge, Kent TN12 9PR.
- ** *Sat. 20th Sep. 97*** Oxford Family History Society Open Day, 10am to 4pm at Exeter Hall, Kidlington, Oxon; further details from Tony Chalkley, 47 Bull St, Aston, Bampton, Oxon OX18 2DT.
- ** *Sat. 27th Sep. 97*** West Middlesex Family History Society Open Day, 9.30 to 4.30, at St Peter's Church Hall, Laleham Road, Staines, Middlesex; further details from Peter Roe, 171 Fernside Avenue, Feltham, Middlesex, TW13 7BQ.
- ** *Sat. 27th Sep. 97*** The Hampshire Genealogical Society Open Day, 10am to 4pm, at Colden Common Community Centre, St. Vigor Way, Colden Common, near Winchester; further details from Rosemary Rawcliffe, 44 Southway, Bridgemary, Gosport, Hants PO13 0XD.
- Sat. 4th Oct. 97* Warwickshire FHS One Day Seminar entitled "*Trace your Scottish and Irish Roots*" to be held at Bulkington Village Centre, Bulkington, Warwickshire from 9.30am to 5pm.
- Sat. 4th Oct. 97* North-West Group Family History Fair to be held at Stockport Town Hall, Stockport, Cheshire from 10am 4.30pm.
- Sun. 5th Oct. 97* Family History Fair at Leisure Centre, Bruton Way, Gloucester from 10am to 4pm. Admission £1.
- Fri. 17th Oct. - Sun. 19th Oct.* Conference organised by Felixstowe FHS, entitled "*The England of George III*". Details from The Conference Secretary, Felixstowe Family History Society, 49 Grimston Lane, Trimley St. Martin, Felixstowe, Suffolk, IP10 0SA.
- Sat. 18th Oct. 97* Day School "*Your Family History I: Getting started*" from 10am to 4.30pm. Tutor: Polly Lawrence at UR.
- Sat. 18th Oct. 97* Day School "*Introduction to archives*": from 10am to 4.30pm. Tutor: Peter Durrant at BRO.
- Sat. 18th Oct. 97* West Surrey FHS Computer Conference to be held at Merrist Wood Agricultural College, Worplesdon, Guildford, Surrey from 9.30am to 5pm. Send SAE for information to: Mrs Heather Hicks, 28 Whitley Road, Yateley, Hants GU26 6DQ.
- Sat. 25th Oct. 97* Day School "*Piety & pride in Southern England*" from 9.30am to 4.30pm. Tutor: Joan Dils at BUL.
- Fri. 31st Oct. - Sun. 2nd Nov.* Cornwall FHS 21st Anniversary Weekend Conference and AGM to be held at the Edgcombe Hotel, Newquay, Cornwall. Further details from AGM Co-ordinator, Cornwall

- Family History Society, 5 Victoria Square, Truro, Cornwall TR1 2RS.
- Sat. 1st Nov. 97 Day School "*Exploring local newspapers*" from 10am to 4.30pm. Tutors: Margaret Escott and Judith Hunter at BUL.
- Sat. 8th Nov. 97 Day School, in conjunction with Berks Local History Association, "*Local history in Berkshire 1996-7*" from 9.30am to 4.30pm. Tutor: Brian Boulter at BUL.
- Sat. 8th Nov. 97 *Family History Workshop (Beginners)* from 9.30am to 3.30pm. Tutor: Derek Smith at WHH.
- Sun. 9th Nov. 97 Family History Fair at Greenway Centre, Doncaster Road, Southmead, Bristol from 10am to 4pm. Admission £1.
- Sat. 15th Nov. 97 Day School "*Making more sense of the Census*" from 10am to 4pm. Tutor: Jean Debney at CAV.
- Sat. 22nd Nov. 97 *Family History Workshop* from 10am to 4.30pm. Tutors: Polly Lawrence and Jean Debney at NC.
- Sat. 17th Jan. 98 *Family History Workshop (Beginners)* from 9.30am to 3.30pm. Tutor: Derek Smith at WHH.
- Sat. 24th Jan. 98 *Your Family History II: Getting unstuck* from 10am to 4.30pm. Tutor: Polly Lawrence at UR.
- **Sun. 25th Jan. 98** Family History Fair at The Sports & Leisure Centre, Bagshot Road, Bracknell, Berks from 10am to 5pm. Admission £1.
- Sat. 7th Feb. 98 Day School "*Archive sources for local history - Enclosure documents*" from 10am to 4.30pm. Tutor: Joan Dils at BRO.
- Sun. 15th Feb. 98 Family History Fair at The Town Hall, The Point, Eastleigh, Hants from 10am to 4pm. Admission £1.
- Sat. 28th Feb. 98 Day School "*Victorian childhood*" from 9.30am to 4.30pm. Tutor: Judith Hunter at BUL.
- Sat. 7th Mar. 98 Day School "*Finding your poor ancestors (Poor Law)*" from 10am to 4pm. Tutor: Jean Debney at CAV.
- Sat. 14th Mar. 98 *Family History Workshop* from 10am to 3.30pm. Tutors: Polly Lawrence & Jean Debney at NC.
- Sun. 22nd Mar. 98 Family History Fair at Crufts Sport Centre, Swindon, Wilts from 10am to 4pm. Admission £1.

The Latter-Day Saints Reading Family History Centre which was temporarily in Prospect School, Tilehurst, Reading is now CLOSED. They hope to re-open at the LDS Church, The Meadow, Tilehurst, Reading in early October. If you wish to use the Family History Centre, it is best to ring to check the exact date that they are re-opening and to make an appointment. From mid-September, the number to try is 0118-941-0211 or if there is no answer on this try 0118-942-7524 which is the main number for the LDS Church. [CMBH]

Front cover picture is of Lousia, Lady Craven, Lady of the Manor 1825-1860 at Hamstead Marshall and is reproduced by permission of Penelope Stokes

Life and Death in a Victorian Village

By Penelope Stokes

I recently borrowed the current volume of the burials register for Hamstead Marshall for transcription. It begins in 1813, although entries up to 1837 were some time ago copied from the Bishops' Transcripts and deposited in Newbury Library. I have now been able to update this record to 1995.

In particular I isolated the 352 entries for Queen Victoria's reign (1837-1901) and analysed them to obtain some insights into Victorian village life. Of prime interest was the age profile. Some 23 per cent of the entries were for children under 10, and half of these were under one year old. Their lifespan was registered in weeks, days, hours and in one pathetic case, just 10 minutes. Although I could not be sure of sibling relationships (because the parents were not named) a few families seemed to be uncommonly prone to infant death. Sometimes one could detect the probable ravages of infectious disease in poor housing—young children of the same surname, just a year or two apart in age, dying within a week or so of each other.

Life expectancy improved after ten; a mere fifteen per cent of the entries were for people in their teens, twenties and thirties. Middle age (forties and fifties) was the end of the road for another sixteen per cent, but a cheering 46 per cent galloped past their sixtieth birthdays. There were 45 octogenarians and two nonagenarians in the total.

Nearly 80 per cent of the deceased were villagers, with another eleven per cent coming from adjoining parishes. The workhouses (Newbury and Hungerford) shipped their dead back to the parish for burial; it seems that those who could not

find a livelihood on home ground could at least be assured of a resting place there after death. (After the turn of the century, however, the blunt description "*Newbury Union Workhouse*" as the place of abode was succeeded by the more genteel euphemism "*214 Newtown Road*" in the register). Two bodies were pulled out from the river Kennet, origins unknown.

The Victorians were not imaginative in their choice of Christian names. The 352 entries used just 41 girls' names, and 32 boys'. Mary, Sarah, Ann (never Anne) and Elizabeth were favourite, their brothers being named chiefly William, John, George, Thomas and James. These nine names accounted for half the entries. Surnames totalled 121; the families of Miles, Snook, Coxhead, Russ, Burton, Hall and Plumb represented more than a quarter of Hamstead's Victorian burials.

It was difficult to check the accuracy of entries in the early years, but I found some definite mistakes in this century. Some entries were out of date order, suggesting that the rector or his clerk didn't bother to make up the register until a batch of burials had accumulated. (One burial was recorded as having taken place a year before the actual death!). There was a suspiciously long gap—no burials apparently in the years 1953 to 1957 inclusive, which I found hard to credit. Within the last 20 years I found a surname mis-spelt, and some elastic manipulation of the parish boundary. I also happen to know that both this volume and a new one have been running concurrently since 1995. We are accustomed to think of the parish register as a primary source of data, but it seems that parsons are as fallible as the rest of us!

The following story was first published in the Purley Parish News in November 1983 and has been adapted and reproduced with permission of the editor.

A Riot at the Red Lyon, Purley

By Jean Debney

On 13th November 1773, John Sherman, a labourer of Purley, was out poaching when he was arrested by Philip Worlidge, Esq.'s gamekeeper, William Southby. By the latter half of the eighteenth century, the game laws had become increasingly severe so as to protect all the wildlife on a gentleman's estate for his own use. This meant that only the lord of a manor, or his appointed servant - i.e. the gamekeeper - could carry and use a gun, for which licences were issued by the magistrates at the Quarter Sessions. However, this didn't stop the country folk continuing to do what they had always done - that is, to supplement their cooking pot from the produce of the hedgerows and fields.

The family surname is variously spelt in the Purley parish records as Sherman, Shirman, Shurman and Surman. John "Shurman" was baptised on 9 April 1749, the third of eight children of William and Ann (née Merwick/Merrick) who married in Purley in 1743. Soon after the birth of their first child, William and Ann were served a Removal Order by the Purley Poor Law Overseers to send them to Bucklebury. But Bucklebury didn't want them and, on 3rd April 1745, appealed to the County Magistrates who discharged the order. William and Ann spent the rest of their lives in Purley. In 1786, they were recorded as occupying a cottage and garden on land enclosed from the waste land at the side of the road leading to Pangbourne (now the A329). This was probably on the south side of the Oxford Road nearly opposite the present Post Office; for many years it was the "parish house", now called "Lichfield Cottage".

John was charged with the illegal possession of a gun and of planting a wire snare to kill and destroy game. It was late in the day when he was caught and, as no magistrate was available to deal with the offence and Purley did not have a "lock-up", John was marched off to spend the night at the "Red Lyon" in Purley kept by John Emmons, the victualler. He arrived at six o'clock and was placed under the care of Thomas Heath, the Tithingman (the assistant or deputy constable for the manor) and Benjamin Jerum, a labourer, both of whom were Purley men.

During the course of the evening, more neighbours arrived at the Red Lyon. There is no mention of how much, if any, ale was consumed, but, between the "hours of 11 and 12 o'clock in the night" the party "began to make a riott [sic] in the house by dancing, etc." In addition to the prisoner, his two guards and the landlord, there were at least five other people involved, all of whom can be identified from the parish records as residents of Purley. They were the landlord's wife Elizabeth Emmons aged 45, their daughter Lucy aged 18 and already married to Richard Wellman, George Newberry a cordwainer (shoemaker) aged about 44 with his son Thomas aged 23, a footman to Rev Benjamin Skinner, Rector of Purley, and Jemmy Martin also a cordwainer aged 18.

In the ensuing rough and tumble, the candle was put out and no-one would light it again. Thomas Heath, mindful of his responsibility, immediately placed himself in front of the closed door but was pushed aside by Elizabeth Emmons who opened the door and allowed the prisoner escape.

Two days later, Thomas Heath and Benjamin Jorum were brought before two magistrates to explain themselves. In their "*depositions*", they named the five participants in the "*riott*", who were all committed to appear at the next Quarter Sessions on a surety of £40 each.

However, like many other promising stories from the old records, the immediate outcome of this case is not known. John Sherman does not appear to have been recaptured and no record of the case has been located in the Quarter Sessions Order Book. All the above details were found in the "*depositions*" and "*recognisance to appear*" which are filed in the Quarter Session Roll relating to the Epiphany Sessions held in January 1774.

The postscript to this story is that John

Sherman returned to his native Purley at some time where, as an old man of 77, he received parish relief of 3s 6d a week from April 1826 until his death. In March 1828 and March 1829 he also received 50 faggots of wood worth 9s for his fire: in the first year this was cut from trees in Purley and in the second from Basildon. He was buried in Purley on 28th March 1829 aged 79 and the cost of his funeral, £2 3s 5d, was borne by the parish.

Sources:

Purley Parish Registers: Berkshire Record Office (BRO), D/P 93/1/1-5

Purley Overseers Accounts: BRO. D/P 93/5/1

Quarter Sessions Roll: BRO. Q/Sr 130

Court Baron for Purley Magna: British Library Add. MS.28672

Reading Local Studies Library News

By Margaret Smith

Last time I wrote in the magazine about the Local Studies Library was in the issue for September 1996. Since then, more material has been brought up to the third floor from the first floor. All our large scale Ordnance Survey maps are now on open access - superseded editions of post Second World War National Grid plans on the 1:10,000, 1:2,500 and 1:1,250 scales have been brought up from their former location in a store off the reference library. Also upstairs are back copies of electoral registers for Reading (from the early 19th century), Wokingham (from 1949), Newbury (from 1946, 1949 onwards), and Bracknell (from 1977). Our collection of local history books for loan have been moved to a separate bookcase thus making room for our small reference collection of books on neighbouring counties, most notably South Oxfordshire, to be brought up from our reserve stock

Referring back to the September 1996

article, I should point out that while genealogical material for counties other than Berkshire is now available in the Local Studies Library, most general histories for other counties, in particular the Victoria County History series remain in the Reference Library.

Finally, we can now be accessed via the Internet. Our e-mail address is: reading.ref@dial.pipex.com.

For those who don't have access to the Internet, we can be contacted at:

Central Library, Abbey Square, Reading, RG1 3BQ. (Tel: 0118-950-9243, Fax: 0118-958-9039).

Noted in Suffolk Record Office, Ipswich Branch, Gatacre Road, Ipswich IP1 2LQ (01473-583000):

"Reference HA174/1026/87

Plans, correspondence, estimates etc. Relating to the erection of the new house at Beckett, N.W.Berkshire 1814-1839" [MG]

The Missing Children of John Robert Dance and his first Wife, Mary née Morrissey

By Eunice Rider

At the death of their mother Mary Dance on 5th Dec 1892, it is thought that her three children, Joseph Albert Dance (aged about seven), William Charles (age five) and their sister Ellen (age two) were living with their grandparents William and Ellen Dance at Happylands¹, Hurst, (just off Pound Lane). However, I am not completely certain about this.

The 1891 Census for Hurst show John and Mary Dance living at Barn Lane, Hurst. Mary's place of birth, along with her sons Joseph and William, is given as Ireland, whilst that of the daughter Ellen is given as Hurst. Bridgett Morrissey, mother-in-law, (sick), wid., born Ireland, occupation Nurse, is also shown.

The place of birth of the eldest son Joseph Albert is clearly given on his birth certificate as Forest Road, Wokingham whilst that of William Charles is shown as Ward Cross, Broad Hinton. Ellen is the only child born at Barn Lane, Whistley.

Records at the Reading Registrar's Office show at least one stillbirth child (who lived for 20 minutes) born before 1885 to John and Mary Dance from Hurst. Perhaps Mary did what many daughters do when pregnant, go home to mother. It may have been that because of the Poor Laws of the time, plus the troubles in Ireland, Mary decided to register the children's birth in England. The Irish would certainly have considered Joseph and William to be English.

The Hurst School Log Book for 3rd October 1892 (two months before the death of Mary Dance) gave the following entry:

"1892 Oct 3rd. Admitted two boys from Wokingham - both very backward."

Were these two boys Joseph and William Charles? Had the family moved from Barn Lane since the census? And where did they go?

In 1881, four years before Joseph was born, the census for Happylands, Hurst showed Joseph's grandparents, William and Ellen Dance, as follows:

William Dance	49	Hd.	Ag Lab.	Sindlesham
Ellen Dance	52	Wife		Woodley
Mary Dance	12	Dgt	Scholar	Embrook
Joseph Dance	9	Son	Scholar	Embrook

In 1891, the School Log Book has an entry as follows:

"1891 Dec 7th-11th. Had a visit from Inspector Bennett (Society of Prevention of Cruelty to Children) on Monday with ref; - to the Dances. On Wednesday the father called. It seems a very hard case, 13 shillings weekly coming in and a sick wife, 7

¹ I had great difficulty finding "Happylands", eventually to be told "Oh, it was not called 'Happylands'. That was a secret name, us children gave it. Every Sunday after Church, from early spring to autumn, all the family in Wokingham would gather at a meeting place. We would hitch the horse to one of the farm carts. The very young children and some of the older people would get in, we would put in some meat pies baked by our mothers, perhaps a bag of nails for Granddad, some sewing thread for Grandmother or a bolt of cloth if one of us needed a new Sunday dress and off we would go, with the older children, and the men walking by the side. There was always something to do. We gathered blackberries, wild strawberries, etc. The little cousins were always so happy to go to our Grandparents' house that we called it 'Happylands'."

children. How can poor people live on this?"

Who was this?

Three years after the previous entry, and two years after the death of Mary Dance another such entry appears in the school log.

"1894 March 12-16th. The Dance Family (Happylands) went into the Union. Three boys Wm Hn, Jos and Geo Dance left."

Who were they?

William and Ellen did die in the Union Workhouse in 1903 some nine years after the last entry. In 1894 they would have been aged about 62.

Reg Dance, their grandson, remembers that the family as a whole celebrated the Golden Wedding of William and Ellen at the Green Man, Hurst. This would have been around 1901. It would seem unlikely that the Union would have allowed this, although not impossible. The Union was run on rates levelled on the local population, much argument arose because of the amount payable. If William and Ellen were living in the Union at that time, almost certainly questions would have been asked as to why their family were unable to support them, yet could afford a party at the local inn.

Again from another entry in the school log book:

"25th Feb 1895. Geo Dance and William Dance left to go to America. Both quiet, solid, well behaved boys."

Who were they? Could William be Joseph's brother? In 1895 William Charles would be aged about eight years old. So if that was William Charles, where were Joseph and his sister Ellen?

Hurst School Log Book again:

"1898 April 18th. Re-opened school G and J Dance withdrawn left village."

In August 1894 John Robert Dance, Joseph's father, married his second wife Elizabeth Riddle On:

"14th Sept 1894). I paid a visit to Edith Dance at Shaw Cottage, Cockpitt Path, Wokingham"

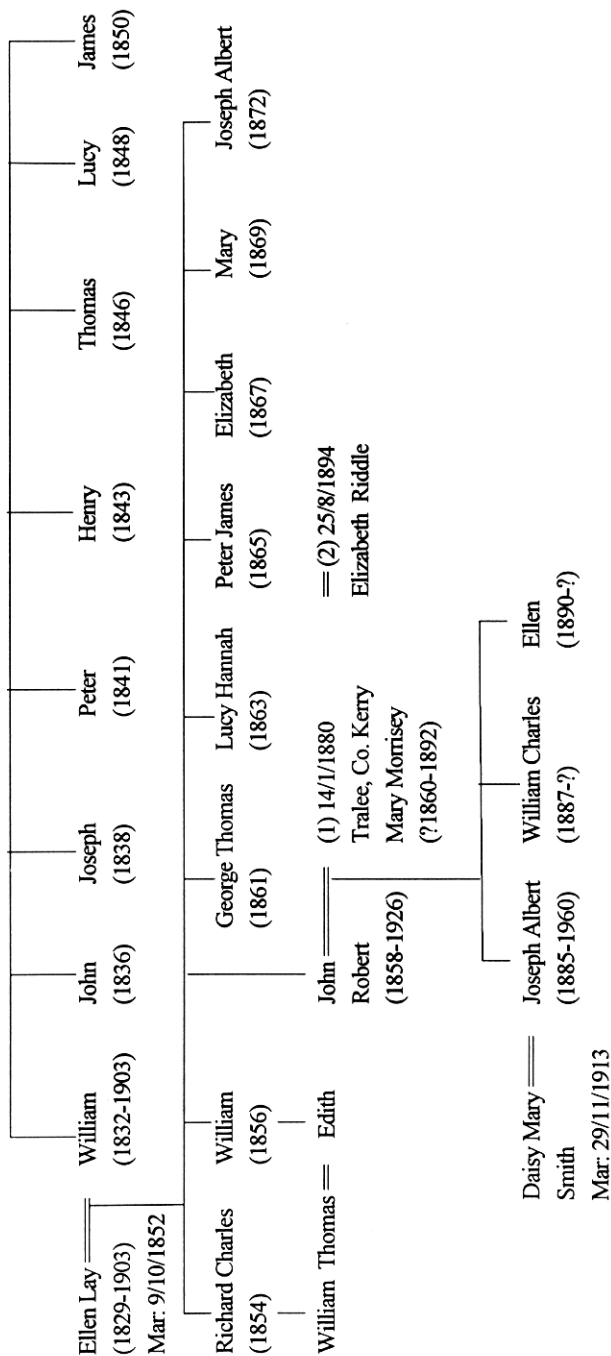
Edith was the daughter of William Dance and married William Thomas Dance son of Richard Charles. William Thomas Dance was Edith's first cousin, and their fathers were brothers to John Robert Dance.

Edith said that her grandfather, William Dance of Happylands was a keeper of Billingbear Park. Edith remembered Joseph's mother, Mary Dance who was called Aunt Maine. Edith thought she lived at one time in one of the small cottages near the Old Pond in Hurst. Edith said that her cousins were always very smartly dressed. Mary Dance was a very accomplished needlewoman. Edith remembered one of the boys accidentally falling in the pond during one of their games together.

At Mary Dance's death four large candles were lit at each corner of her coffin and they burnt all night until she was buried the next day. The menfolk of the family took it in turns to stand vigil throughout that time. Edith also remembered that Elizabeth Dance, her father's sister, went to America as a nursemaid to a Mrs Shaw.

Reg Dance, Joseph's half-brother, thought that Joseph had stayed with William and Ellen Dance at Happylands until his father, John Robert, married his mother, Elizabeth Riddle, in

The Dance Family Tree



August 1894.

William Charles was taken to America by his father's sister who was working for a Mrs Shaw (which Edith Dance had also remembered). Reg Dance did not know what happened to Ellen his half-sister.

No amount of checking has brought to light the whereabouts of the missing children. Daisy, Joseph's wife, did say that he often wondered about his brother and sister and thought that they had both been taken to America. The only photo of his mother, Mary Dance, he took with him during the First World War and it was lost during the fighting.

Eileen Burns, Joseph's daughter, recalls that at some point a notice in a newspaper was found which referred to someone named Dance who had died in America. It requested that the next-of-kin come forward. At that time Joseph thought it might be his brother. Not being very good at reading and writing, it is probable that he never replied to it.

In March 1951 Horace John Dance, the youngest son of Joseph Albert, was killed in Germany. A few months before Horace was killed he had written to Joseph at Farley Hill, asking for information about the missing brother. Horace, it seemed, had met an American soldier, whose name was Dance, and who said that his English-born father had died recently. His family thought that he came from Berkshire. As the American soldier was due home on leave in a few day's time, Horace arranged to meet him on his return. Both men agreed to check with their parents, to see if they were related. The meeting never took place owing to the untimely death of Horace.

In 1983 in a local Wiltshire newspaper, an entry for a Joseph Morrissey's death appeared. Hoping it might be a connection to Mary Dance née Morrisey, I contacted his son. The son became quite interested in the story of Joseph's missing brother. It seemed that his father Joseph Morrissey came from Wexford, Ireland. Some years previously an old aunt of his father's had died, leaving her estate to a nephew's son in Canada. Other older members of the family, said that the old Aunt had never married, and that she had been a novice nun. The Aunt had gone to England to take care of a family member, who was very ill. Later on she had returned, with a small boy, which she claimed was her nephew, whose mother had died. The nephew later emigrated to Canada. After the Old Aunt was buried, the nephew's son returned to Canada. There was no forwarding address left. Family photos shown to me of Joseph Morrissey in Ireland show a startling resemblance to Ronald Dance, Joseph Dance's third son.

Contact with this family has been lost since the family moved to Swindon. Enquiries in Ireland have not proved successful. Was this nephew William Charles and was his name changed to Morrisey?

I shall need to do a blanket search of the 1891 census and then track down any of Joseph's surviving cousins. With a great deal of luck perhaps someone kept in touch with Elizabeth Dance who went to America.

Edith Dance remembered Elizabeth's sister and called her Aunt Polly. Apparently she married a Baptist minister and went to London. Edith said that they had one son. Sisters are perhaps more likely to have kept in touch than brothers. However, I cannot ascertain which sister Edith called Aunt Polly so I shall need to check the Baptist list of ministers for a marriage entry and go from there.

Another source perhaps is James Dance, the brother of William Dance, who lived at Happylands, whose family still live in and around the town. Edith Dance called him "Big

Jim". He was a postman at Bearwood with one son who was in the army. I have not researched this branch of the family as yet, but I have come across various entries, in parish books and papers etc., so I know roughly where to look.

Another brother was Thomas Dance. Thomas was born a cripple, and did not marry. Edith said that he went about in a wheelchair and was a shoe maker. He lived in a little bungalow at Bearwood. However as Thomas did not have any children it is a dead end.

Other leads may be provided by John Robert's brothers. One of these is George Dance, father of Moses Dance. I remember working for a short time with Moses at Arborfield Camp. Moses' son and daughter Stanley and Sheila are still in touch with the family.

Peter Dance moved to Ascot. His daughter Violet used to live at Crowthorne, where Reg Dance said that Peter died. Reg also said that he thought that Peter had a son nicknamed "Doodle Bug", as he used to buzz around on an old motor cycle. "Doodle Bug" was a frequent visitor to Joseph Albert's house in Peach Street, Wokingham. Gladys Watson, Joseph's daughter, also remembered him and thought that he was in the army with Joseph Albert.

I cannot find anything about Joseph Dance, after whom Joseph Albert was named, except for an entry in the school log book for Hurst 9th-13th October 1882:

"J.Dance brought before Wokingham Magistrates for stealing and sentenced to six strokes with a birch rod."

The *Reading Mercury and Oxford Gazette Newbury Herald and Berkshire County Paper* dated Saturday 14th October 1882 reads:

"Larceny. Joseph Albert Dance 10 years of age was charged with stealing two plough tops and a chain value 1/6 pence. The property of Gilbert King, farmer he pleaded guilty and the bench ordered him to receive 6 strokes with a birch rod."

Joseph Albert Dance from Farley Hill was not born until 26th July 1885 (three years after this incident) so this must have been the son of William and Ellen, who lived at Happylands.

John Robert Dance also had three sisters, Elizabeth Dance, who may have gone to America, Lucy and Mary, one of whom was known to Edith as Aunt Polly.

If there is anyone who knows anything more about the Dance family and particularly my lost relatives in America, I should be delighted to hear from you.

Help Wanted!

Mrs Hilda Ayres (219) of 55 Barnsfield Crescent, Totton, Southampton, Hants, SO40 8GZ is desperate to find her elusive ancestors for whom she has been searching for fifteen years:

"My great-great-great-grandmother was Hannah Richens or Richenson/Richardson from Hurstbourne nr Andover. I do not know who her husband/partner was. My great-great-grandparents were Henry Richens/Richerson/Richardson (bn 4th Jan 1818) married Mary Choules (bn 1816-died 12th Feb 1869) on 18th May 1838. They had ten children, William, Hannah Harriot, Charles Henry (my great-grandfather who married Jane Hilliard), John, Anne, Emma, Edmond, Thomas, Mary Anne and Jane. My father Bert Richardson married Violet Simmonds; he was born in Reading. My grandfather Henry Charles Richardson married Mary Ann Birch. They lived in the Hungerford/ Ham area. Any light that anyone could shed on this family would be most welcome."

Mrs Ayres also has a card index of all Richardsons/Rithins/son and other variants which she is willing to use to help anyone looking for this name.

Colin Brown (813) of Lynwood, 4 All Hallows Road, Caversham, Reading, RG4 5LP is trying to find a farmer:

“John Clark said in censuses that he was born in Pimlico, London about 1814/1815. His marriage certificate at Windsor in 1839 stated that his father was John Clark, farmer and witnesses were George and Harriot Clark. John Clark jnr. had close connections with Reading and children baptised in St Pancras, London, in Ash, Surrey and in Frimley Surrey. Pimlico was redeveloped in the 1820s and the Market Gardens, previously there, were removed. Rate Books show lots of John Clarks who may or may not have been farmers. John Clark, jnr., was for many years until the 1880s a baker at St Mary Butts Reading. Can anyone help me to find out more about my John Clark, farmer?”

Mr A.R.Thompson (1223) of 12, Wendover Way, Tilehurst, Reading, RG30 4RU would like help with estimating the population of the villages in which his ancestors lived:

“I am keen to find the populations of the parishes in which I am researching my family history. Parish registers with a large number of entries will reflect a big population and vice versa, but is it possible to make an accurate estimate? I imagine that by counting the number of baptisms, marriages and burials it would be possible to create a profile of the population. If data was taken over a period of time and social factors such as disease, famine, and war were taken into account the estimate could be refined. Does anyone know of a mathematical model by which it is possible to estimate the population of a parish?”

Keith Stegges (2489) needs help with his ancestor Thomas Wellman as follows:

“My great-great-grandfather Thomas Wellman was ‘**Accidentally Killed**’ by being thrown against a truck while going over a level crossing in a Goods yard (at Twyford, Berks) with a load of coal drawn by two horses. The Coroner registered the death. Unfortunately the Inquest papers have not survived and the only newspaper article I have found consisted of two lines, stating that a man named Wellman had been killed. The date was 30th May 1882.

Does anyone know of any records or newsprint items that may give additional information? Incidentally, Thomas Wellman was not an employee of the GWR.”

Mrs Berenice Strangward (2515) of 2412 Palisade Dr SW, Calgary, AB T2V 3V3, Canada would like help with the following:

“William Thorn(e) son of Edmund of Newbury married Mary Ann Cox (20 years) daughter of James Cox of Newbury, 22nd Jul 1855 at Taunton, Somerset. William, a widower, aged 26, was a Private in the 15th Hussars. Mary Ann (Cox) Thorn was in the 1861 Census with three children staying with her parents. Does anyone know about his first marriage or where William Thorn went?

Can anyone help me with the whereabouts of the marriage of Ann Thorne, daughter of Edmund Thorn(e) born 1817 Newbury, to Thomas Thornton? Probably about 1837. Ann’s second husband was James Plumb of Hamstead Marshall whom she married at Marylebone, London, 28th December 1863.”

Mrs Sheila Webb (3443) of 13 Mill Field, Bagshot, Surrey, GU19 5DR would like help as follows:

“Information sought on the following people and their descendants. Dennis Broughton (bn 1873, Hoxton, Middlesex) and his sister Mary Ann (bn 1871, Hoxton, Middlesex), emigrated to America in the 1890s. Mary Ann married Garrett Roach of Illinois. Dennis went to New York where he or his son Dennis was at one time fire chief of that city. Using the US Social Security Records on CD-ROM I was able to ‘pick up’ one Garrett Roach (bn 8th Nov 1895-died Oct 1963, Springfield, Illinois) and one Dennis Broughton (bn 17th Mar 1895-died Jan 1967, Brooklyn, New York), these two people could be ‘sons of’ but will need to be checked. Suggestions for further avenues of investigation would be gratefully received.”

Richard P. Taylor of 42, Fiskerton Way, Oakwood, Derby DE21 2HY is searching for information on the family of John Barrett (born c1814) and Jane Prince of West Challow:

“One of their children, Eli (born 1850), was my 2x great grandfather who subsequently moved to Ilkeston, Derbyshire where after working at one of the local collieries he became landlord of the *Prince of Wales* public house until his death in 1923. I have a great deal of information on Eli and his descendants, but sadly know very little of his ancestors. I would be very grateful for any information offered”

Maidenhead Heritage Trust

By Cliff Debney

The Maidenhead Heritage Trust have applied for a lottery grant in order to build a Heritage Centre in Maidenhead and is generating interest by running temporary exhibitions in the Maidenhead shopping precinct.

Berkshire Family History Society has been approached with the suggestion that we sponsor a “*Family History Week*” in the precinct, both to publicise the proposed centre and our Society, and they have provisionally suggested the seven days commencing Saturday 4th October to Saturday 11th October 1997. We have agreed to participate and will be mounting an exhibition of family history material, including Parish Register, Census, IGI and local Directory copies, etc., all referring to a local family(ies). We need ideas and display items and will be pleased to visit and discuss your material on a very urgent basis, as time is very short.

The temporary exhibition centre will be open from 10am to 4pm daily, except Sunday, and we need volunteers to be present to answer simple queries raised by members of the public. It is suggested volunteers work on a shift basis, say from 10am to 1pm and 1pm to 4pm daily, as in this way nobody will have to be on duty for an excessive length of time. The responsibility for the general running of the centre will be with the Heritage Centre staff, while you will only be responsible for talking to the visitors interested in family history.

Please phone Cliff Debney (tel: 0118-941-3223) offering your material for display and/or the time or times you can be available as a volunteer. Please phone soon, as time to complete the display and the rota is now very short. This is your opportunity to discuss in a friendly and informal way your hobby with interested passers-by, as well as promote the Society to your neighbours, be they from Bracknell, Reading, Slough or Maidenhead areas.

How Wokingham got its Nickname of “Louse Town”

By Marilyn Wooldridge

There is a very old tradition that has been handed down through many generations with regard to the election of the Alderman in ancient times - probably during the Seventeenth Century.

It is a curious, although a somewhat unsavoury, story but this is the tale of how Wokingham got its nickname.

When the self-elected (usually for life) members of the Town Council met in solemn conclave to choose the alderman for the coming year and a tie happened to occur for the office, a louse was procured from one of the worthies sitting around and dropped haphazardly onto the middle of the table. Whoever the little insect crawled towards and showed a strong tendency to favour with its presence was elected Alderman for the coming year.

Another version of the story states that the bottom of a well-filled pot of ale was used to make a wet ring on the centre into which the interesting little ‘umpire’ was dropped, then two or more dry openings were made, made with a finger opposite each of the eligible candidates. Sometimes a lot of patience was required, as well as much beer, before the little parasite made up its mind as to its future home.

Tradition does not state whether the small insect, after its duty was successfully performed became a prerequisite of the new Alderman and eventually a pet.

However it does not matter much which was the correct version, but what does matter is the nickname that was given to the town on account of the unique method of Alderman-making. The town became known as “*Louse Town*” throughout a very wide area, and the name has stuck to the town ever since. The horrid yokels of villages around used to insult our young bloods by calling them “*Louse Towners*”, the insult was invariably resented by both old and young and many a tough battle was fought over it. Mr.W.Breach (an old inhabitant of Wokingham) was said to admit proudly that he had often taken part in a fight brought about by being called a “*Louse Towner*”. He also remembered a table in the Council Chamber with lines radiating from the centre so that each member had his place clearly defined - this he always maintained was the table used for the annual ceremony.

It is a great pity that the Municipal Records of those days have been lost as they might have thrown some light on this ancient tradition.

BT Archives hold the documents produced by British Telecom PLC and its predecessors from the early nineteenth century to the present day.

By the time you read this, BT Archives will have moved to a new address at:

**3rd Floor, Holborn Telephone Exchange,
268-170 High Holborn,
London WC1V 7EE
Tel: 0171 492 8792 Fax: 0171 242 1967**

The revised opening hours will be: Monday to Friday, 10 am to 4 pm.

All their collections will be held on site allowing immediate access. Please telephone to book in advance to ensure that a space is available for you in the searchroom.

(From information issued Apr 1997) [JD]

The following article narrates further episodes in the life of William Savory (1768-1824), the Brightwalton surgeon-apothecary and covers the period after 1791. Previous articles based on extracts from his commonplace book² appeared in the June 1994 and June 1997 editions of the Berkshire Family Historian.

William Savory: Rise and Fall

By Stuart Eagles

On 17th March 1791 Savory paid one guinea to secure an agreement between himself and William Adnam for the purchase of premises in Bartholomew Street, Newbury. The purchase of this 'substantial, modern, well built dwelling-house and shop, with suitable and convenient offices, outbuildings and garden walled in entire'³ cost him £252, freehold. His own commonplace book contains an account of the move from Brightwalton to Newbury. It is worth quoting extensively, for the sense it gives of how hectic a time the period from March to September proved to be.

23rd [March 1791]. I gave Charles Hamblin orders to do the carpentering etc. Whitewood the glazing and George Brown, the bricklaying, and Daniel Brown the inside painting, the shop excluded. 27th. John Jarvis came upon trial.

...I bought of Stroud four bath stove grates at eleven pence per inch and ordered Davies to paper the two chambers...

Savory agreed at Easter to attend the poor of Leckhampstead for £5 5s a year, and of Farnborough, for £2 12s 6d a year, excluding inoculations for small-pox, the mending of fractures, and midwifery cases, for which he was to be paid extra by the parish overseers. He was to administer the health of seventy-two poor families⁴ for the next ten years.

...23rd [April]. John Jarvis⁵ was bound apprentice to me for the sum of fifty pounds for five years. 28th. Bought of Mr. William Adnam the washing copper, locks, bells etc. Gave him one pound, eleven shillings and sixpence.

May 11th, Mr. William Hooper of Puizey⁶, brother to Mr. Hooper who lived at Farnborough, fell from his horse and fractured his skull, near Duvtill, in the parish of Brightwalton, as he was returning to Puizey from Farnborough, being intoxicated with strong liquor. Also, a fracture of the sternum. Mr. Withers and Mr. Stephens of Puizey likewise attended but could not get the grant of performing the operation being of so stubborn and resolute disposition, and would go to Puizey. However, the operation was performed at Puizey, and he died owing to his own misconduct, and Mr. Hooper of Farnborough went to live at Puizey, and Reeves, his brother-in-law came to Farnborough to live.

22nd. Went to London. My companion on the coach was a painter and he told me the best thing to clean an old picture was the white of an egg, beat to a froth, and well rub

² The original commonplace book can be consulted at the Local Studies library in Abbey Square, Reading, ref. B/TU/SAV/1928; my transcript can be consulted at the BRO.

³ See *Reading Mercury*, February 2nd 1795.

⁴ For names, see my article in the June 1994 edition of the *Berkshire Family Historian*.

⁵ According to Wallis and Wallis (*Eighteenth Century Medics*), John Jervis - not Jarvis - was apprenticed to Savory from July 30th 1791.

⁶ According to Peachey (*William Savory* etc.) this is probably Pewsey, in Wiltshire.

the pictures after being well scowered [sic] with new urine, warm water or warm water and soap, only mind the soap should be wiped off. I ordered my stock of drugs of Crawly and Adcock in Bishopgate Street, and surgeons' instruments of Davenport in White Chappel [sic], oils etc. of Clarks, in Red Lion Street, White Chappel. I came from London on the Bristol mail. [I] set off from Piccadilly at nine o' clock at night and was at Thatcham by three the next morning.

26th. This morning I attended Kember's wife⁷ of Leckamstead in labour and delivered her of a boy about two o' clock in the afternoon.

June 2nd. Bought glasses etc. of Goslings, being Newbury Fayre. I had a great many guests at my new intended habitation - by this time I got almost all my things from Brightwalton to Newbury. 20th. Died Mrs. Chittle, wife of Thomas Chittle of Westbrook, and sister to Mrs. Jones being married eighteen years previous to her pregnancy and was delivered of a child about a week before she died.

21st. My nag died owing to a wound on the hollow above its eye which was done in the stable at Lilly. Had of Mr. Trulock twenty-five pounds, the 14th. 29th. This morning I attended Leah Prines⁸ of Leckamstead in labour. I was there about an hour.

July 6th. George Whiting of Chaddleshworth took to Trulock's mortgage. My uncle had £558 upon it. This Trulock lives at Charlton in the estate mortgaged. 8th. Paid George Brown nineteen guineas, Charlie Hamlin, thirty-one pounds and Fiddler for bricks, £6 6s. 10th. Went to London. Bought the large mortar with seventy-two [!] at ninepence per pound. July 11th. John Jarvis, my sister Jenny and Leah Pointer came to Newbury to continue. I hired Leah Pointer at the rate of three and a half guineas per year, but she was not fit for my service. Therefore [she] stayed but a few weeks, and her sister Martha came in her room. They are daughters of Thomas Pointer of Leckhamstead Egypt. 20th. This evening I slept at Newbury at my new habitation, and the 21st I opened shop, being market day. 25th. Bought a grey horse, of Mr. Ward of Paughly [sic], [I] gave him twenty-five guineas. 26th. Bought of Ben Ford a new saddle and bridles. 28th. Uncle, Adnam and myself met at Blagrove's and settled about the house. Gave Adnam a band for £200. 30th. This morning I went to Reading. Bought of Mr. Collins spirit wine and Malaga wine...

It was then that he placed an advertisement in the *Reading Mercury*, thanking his friends, and advertising his new shop and services⁹.

...August 24th was the new bedstead and furniture put up in the best room by Davies.

September 1st was young Craven's birthday. This present Lord Craven being twenty-one years of age, on this occasion [there] was a great entertainment at the mansion house. 2nd. Webb furnished my dining room. 3rd. Bought a license of Dansers Greaves, curate at Chieveley. Gave him £1 12s 6d. Bought a ring of Thomson the jeweller for nine shillings. 5th. Bartholomew Fayre. That this time Bartholomew tradesman and a few others keeps feast from one house to the other. 6th. Was Grigs feast. I could not go. The 8th. I entered the altar of hymen but as I entered into a new life I shall for such a memorandum enter into a new book...

⁷ One of the poor he was contracted to attend.

⁸ Another of his Poor Law patients.

⁹ See *Berkshire Family Historian*, June 1994; *Reading Mercury*, July 1791.

Despite Savory's promise to keep a second commonplace book after his marriage to Mary Tyrrell at North Moreton on 8th September 1791, no record of it survives; it is doubtful, given Savory's new life, that he ever kept one. It is, then, to other sources that we must now turn for his history after the move to Newbury.

On 9th April 1792, he concluded an agreement with the Poor Law overseers in Newbury, John Webb, Chris Butler, Thomas Crisp, William Wrenford and one other (whose name is indecipherable)¹⁰, to attend to the medical needs of the poor of the parish. Such work was essential for the rural medical man: it guaranteed both a regular income and the opportunity to come into contact with potential private patients. Add to that the poor of Leckhampstead and Farnborough, and the profit he made from selling medicines such as Dr. Anderson's Scots Pills - useful for relieving indigestion, sleeplessness, rheumatism, kidney stone pains and the breeding of worms [!]¹¹, - Savory, the surgeon, apothecary, chapman and dealer, would have enjoyed a comfortable living. There is also evidence, despite the fact that no formal record of a contract exists, for supposing that he continued to attend the poor of Brightwalton: the account books kept by the churchwardens record payments of £1 2s in 1792 and 4/6 in 1793.¹²

It is likely that Savory occasionally found himself confronted by a difficult case that he was unsure of how to handle. At times like these, the large quarto volumes in which he had recorded his notes of the lectures he heard at St. Thomas' Hospital in London, must have proved a useful resource, made all the more accessible by Savory's own characteristic sketch index. One volume contained his notes for the lectures of William Saunders MD, on the theory and practice of physic, delivered in the Michaelmas term of 1788; another two, notes on the lectures of Henry Cline (1750-1827) [see biographical notes, below] on anatomy¹³ and surgery, delivered in the Spring and Summer of 1789. The first two volumes have been preserved in the archives of the hospital since being sent there by George C. Peachey at the beginning of this century, when Peachey was himself Brightwalton's resident Medical Officer.

Savory's Bartholomew Street dwelling must have been packed: accompanied by his wife, son (William, born 1793), daughter (Martha), a servant, his apprentice (John Jervis), not to mention visiting patients and customers, Savory's was certainly not a quiet home. His practice expanded sufficiently for him to purchase copyhold property, apparently in Newtown Common, near Newbury, comprising '*a substantial, new built dwelling-house, offices and premises, with about two acres of land adjoining*'¹⁴. He used this as an inoculating-house, where his patients would have lived in isolation from the outside world, as their bodies learnt to resist the mild form of small-pox with which they had been infected - a method of inoculation called variolation.

In 1785 John Haygarth published his '*Rules for Preventing the Smallpox*' (London: Johnson, 1785, pp. 118-120):

1. *Suffer no person, who has not had the smallpox to come into the infection house. No visitor, who has any communication with persons liable to the distemper, should touch or sit down on anything infectious.*

¹⁰ BRO ref. D/P 89/J/2; MF 97113/B (no. 55).

¹¹ See *Newbury Roundabout II*, p. 16.

¹² BRO ref. D/P 24 5/1.

¹³ This volume also contains notes on the clinical lecture of John Rutherford.

¹⁴ See *Reading Mercury*, February 2nd 1795.

- II. *No patient, after the pocks have appeared, must be suffered to go into the street, or other frequented place. Fresh air must be constantly admitted by doors and windows into the infected chamber.*
- III. *The utmost attention to cleanliness is absolutely necessary during and after the distemper, no person, clothes, food, furniture, dog, cat, money, medicine, or any other thing that is known or suspected to be bedaubed with matter, spittle, or other infectious discharges of the patient, should go or be carried out of the house till they be washed; and till they be sufficiently exposed to the fresh air. No foul linen, nor anything else that can retain the poison, should be folded up or put into drawers, boxes or be otherwise shut up from the air, but must be immediately thrown into water and kept there till washed. No attendant should touch what is to go into another family, till their hands are washed. When a patient dies of the smallpox, particular care should be taken that nothing infectious be taken out of the house so as to do mischief.*
- IV. *The patient must not be allowed to approach any person liable to the disease, till every scab has dropt off; till all clothes, furniture, food and all other things touched by the patient during the distemper, till the floor of the sick chamber, and till the hair, face, and hands have been carefully washed. After everything has been made perfectly clean, the doors, windows, drawers, boxes, and all other places that can retain infectious air should be kept open, till it be cleared out of the house.¹⁵*

Presumably Savory demonstrated equal caution. However, virtually all medical men at the end of the eighteenth century, notwithstanding impressive qualifications and an eminent career, found that not all of their patients survived these early experiments in immunology. About 1/5-1/8 of all people who caught smallpox actually died; 1/50-1/70 of those people who were variolated also died.¹⁶ On 28th April 1794 a boy from Newbury died ‘at the inoculating-house’: he was wrongly buried at Burghclere rather than Newtown (Savory was paid £7 14s in March 1793 and £3 13s 6d in September 1794 by the overseers at Burghclere for medical attendance¹⁷). In the same year the burial registers for Newtown show that four children had died of smallpox: whilst there is no mention of the inoculating-house it seems likely that they died as a result of inoculation.¹⁸ Tom Wood wonders how doctors such as Savory were able ‘to pass off what really was murder’ as well-meaning medical research.¹⁹ The truth is that these unfortunate victims of primitive medical science were to be found in every part of the country before Jenner’s discovery in 1796 that those rural workers who had come into contact with cowpox rarely contracted the smallpox virus. His cowpox vaccine was to revolutionise preventive medicine and was to begin the eradication of what was then the fifth biggest killer in Britain. It is perhaps most important to remember that up to 1796, and for many years after, the same primitive methods that caused the deaths of some of the poorest and most vulnerable members of the community also appeared to save the lives of a much greater number.

Perhaps Savory tried to expand too fast, extending his liabilities beyond his means. Perhaps he over-estimated his own ability to pay back debts and to attract the requisite number of patients and customers. Perhaps he considered his options with less than the required depth of thought.

¹⁵ Op. cit. p. 29, Jenner’s Smallpox Vaccine: the riddle of vaccinia virus and its origin, Derek Baxby, London: Heinemann, 1981.

¹⁶ See Baxby, p. 24.

¹⁷ Hampshire Record Office ref. 148M82/PO4, a ledger for the overseers of the poor at Burghclere.

¹⁸ Letter to Stuart Eagles from Hampshire Record Office, dated 15 July 1997, their ref. CAS/AS/GT.

¹⁹ See ‘Genealogical Miscellany’ in *Family Tree Magazine*, July 1997, vol. 13, no. 9, p. 13.

Whatever happened, what we do know is that everything went sadly wrong, and that the expanding bubble suddenly and tragically burst. By the end of 1794 Savory was filing for bankruptcy, his Newbury practice in ruins and his life turned upside-down.

The *Reading Mercury* carried a notice on 5th January 1795 directing him to appear in front of the 'Commission of Bankrupt' on 14th January, at 4pm, on 15th January at noon, and on 14th February at 10am - at the White Hart Inn, Newbury. At the first of the three meetings Savory's creditors had to prove their debts; at the second Savory chose, to the Commission's approval, his assignees; at the third, he had to 'make a full discovery and disclosure of his estate and effects'. Anyone indebted to him was directed to contact Messrs. Allen at Clifford's Inn, London, or Mr. Bulkley, Savory's Attorney, at Newbury.

Such appearances before the Commission must have been crucifying: Savory had to remain level-headed in order to try and sort out the mess that was now before him. It must have been a comfort to secure as an assignee his own uncle, John Savory, with whom the family doubtless went to live during this period. Mr. George Whiting of Chaddleworth, earlier referred to, was his other assignee. Both must have been pillars of strength at such a tough time.

By 2nd February the *Reading Mercury* was advertising the auction of Savory's two properties, by local luminary, Mr. Benjamin Stroud. Both the freehold property in Bartholomew Street and copyhold property at Newtown Common were sold at the White Hart Inn, Newbury, on Thursday, 19th February from 3pm. Anyone who wished to view the premises had had to apply to Mr. Stroud, whilst particulars were available only from Mr. Thompson²⁰, of Wantage, solicitor to the assignees. If that wasn't mental torture enough, on the following two days, at 10am, Savory's household effects were auctioned, and the *Reading Mercury* gives us such a comprehensive listing, that we can really begin to comprehend both the comfort which Savory enjoyed in Newbury and, by extension, the height of the fall he suffered on the occasion of his bankruptcy.

Those present at the White Hart Inn were offered Savory's household furniture, plate, linen, china, books, electrifying machine²¹, capital riding horse, valuable shop and other fixtures:

bedsteads with mahogany and japanned pillars, dimity, Manchester and other furnitures, corresponding festoon window curtains; fine bordered and other feather beds, mattresses, and bedding; floor and bedside carpets; large painted floor cloth, pier and dressing glasses, mahogany dining and pembroke tables, and chairs, bureau, and bookcase with glass doors, an eight-day clock, general assortment of kitchen requisites, washing and brewing coppers, mash tub, coolers, wort pump, lead underback, upstand casks and barrels; bridle and saddle, hard wood, &c. a full fixed containing upwards of 20 gallons, &c. &c.

Recently purchased oils, drugs and medicines, along with the rest of his goods were viewed either the day before or the morning of the sale. Catalogues were made available from the Bear Inn at Reading, Wantage and Hungerford; the Swan Inn at Ilsley and Kingsclere; Messrs. Dickers at Woolhampton; the Marlborough Arms at Marlborough; and the auctioneers, at Newbury. As Audrey Franklin observes:

This betokens a very comfortable standard of living before the crash occurred and it

²⁰ This may be George Thompson, a witness to Savory's grandfather's will, proved at the PCC in 1786.

²¹ Savory had purchased this around Easter 1789, from Simpson, bookbinder in Lombard Street, at the cost of 12 shillings; his father owned one before him. [See his original commonplace book, or my transcript in the library of the BRO]

*must have been heart-breaking to watch potential buyers carelessly handling prized goods.*²²

We must presume that the auctions went ahead, and that Savory's wounds left only superficial scars. Presumably his servant lost her position, and what happened to his apprentice, John Jervis, is not known. Nor have I been able to ascertain whether he was able to retain his contract to attend the poor in those parishes around Newbury. By April the *Reading Mercury* was still notifying anyone indebted to Savory to contact Samuel Slocock, Samuel Grigg, or Mr. Bulkley (Savory's attorney), at Newbury. Presumably, this was an attempt to claw back something, however small, from the considerable wreckage; hence the continuation of occasional notices until September.

Savory remained in Brightwalton for the rest of his life, never again venturing out to the nearby market town in pursuit of greater things. By 1800 he had certainly recommenced attending the poor of Brightwalton: the accounts record a payment of 5s made to him in that year. From 1803 the registers of the re-named Royal College of Surgeons in London (later, of England), a body of which he became a member automatically by virtue of having been admitted into its less eminent predecessor the Corporation or Company of Surgeons, record his practice in Brightwalton. In 1802 he had lost his mother; and in 1806, his beloved uncle passed away.

Savory voted for Charles Dundas and Richard Neville according to poll books for 1812, 1818 and 1820, proving that he owned freehold property, possibly bequeathed to him by his mother and uncle. Records from the parish chest imply that by 1815 Savory owned thirty 'lengths' of land (however much that might be!?) in Holly Street demonstrating, perhaps, the extent of his (financial) recovery. On 30th October 1816 he was called upon to attend a jury on Law Day, and by the time of the 1821 census we know that he was living with his wife, son, a maid, a servant and a 'Doctor's man' (possibly an apprentice?) implying that he had recovered much of what had been lost twenty-five years before.²³

Savory died, aged 56, on 31st August 1824, and was buried with his family in the old churchyard at Brightwalton. His widow, Mary, formally relinquished her right to file for letters of administration, so that William's son, another William, called upon the service of his cousin, John Savory Eagles, and uncle, Joseph Norris, both yeomen of Brightwalton, to witness the court proceedings: he was worth something under £600. Mary lived another twenty years, joining her late husband in a corner of the old churchyard at Brightwalton on December 30th 1844.

Bibliography

- George C. Peachey, *The Life of William Savory, Surgeon, Of Brightwalton* (1903) [originally published in the *St. Thomas' Hospital Gazette*, vol. XIII, nos. 4 and 5; May and June 1903].
- Audrey Franklin, 'Portrait of a Town. Newbury in 1795' in *Newbury Roundabout II* (1991).
- *Reading Mercury*, July 1791; January-September 1795; 15/9/1967.

On a recent visit to France, Ms D.Holmes of 7 Burtons Hill, Kintbury, Hungerford, Berks RG17 9XJ came across the following at the Thiepaul Memorial:

"Rifleman Henry Victor Tuckey, son of Henry/Alice Tuckey, Fullers Lane, Woolton Hill, Newbury"

Ms Holmes will pass on further information to any relatives or interested parties.

²² See *Newbury Roundabout II*, p. 18.

²³ See my transcript at the BRO, pp. 77-8.

Berkshire Record Office News

The following items are reproduced from The Berkshire Echo - The Newsletter of Berkshire Record Office (No.2. Summer 1997)

What's New?

We are still getting some anxious enquiries from people who are worried that Berkshire Record Office will disappear on 1st April 1998. Fear not! Foster Wheeler, the engineering firm which has bought Shire Hall, is allowing us to stay on in our present premises, and for public access to continue until the year 2000, by which time we should have a new purpose-built Record Office. At the moment the most likely site for the new office is adjacent to the Registry of Births, Marriages and Deaths at Yeomanry House, Castle Hill, Reading, although this has not yet been *finalised*. From 1 April 1998 the Record Office will be run by Reading Unitary Authority, as a county service, on behalf of all the unitary authorities in Berkshire, and with any luck it should be a seamless transition. That's what we're aiming for anyway. So, don't stop coming after 31st March. We'll still be going strong.

Just Catalogued

The last few months have seen some exciting additions to our catalogued holdings. The highlight of these is probably the papers of the Loveden family of Buscot 1190-1907 (D/ELV). The oldest deed in this collection has a well-preserved seal, which is the oldest in the Record Office. There are some other medieval and sixteenth and seventeenth century estate papers, but the archive is at its fullest for the lifetime of Edward Loveden Loveden in the late eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries. It includes many papers, principally accounts, of the building of Buscot Park (now a National Trust property) in 1780-1783. On a more

scandalous note, the archive also contains a copy of a love letter from Edward's wife Anne to her lover, which was intercepted and produced in evidence in a divorce suit in 1809.

We are delighted that minutes of Maidenhead Countess of Huntingdon's Connexion Chapel 1815-1838 have been deposited (D/N 34). The church closed in 1858, so the survival of its earliest records is fortunate. Received at the same time were records of the Maidenhead Auxiliary of the London Missionary Society 1828-1974 (D/N 35) and of Maidenhead Free Church Council 1892-1921 (D/N 36), and annual reports of the Berks, South Oxon and South Bucks Association of Independent Churches 1875-1899 (D/EX 1447) (earlier than those in the Association's own archives).

Anglican parish records have been deposited from a number of parishes, including: the first ever deposits by California (D/P 189), including registers of baptisms 1940-1980 and marriages 1972-1978; Pangbourne 1920-1992, including banns 1962-1992 and PCC minutes 1920-1978 (D/P 91); Reading St Laurence 1754-1853, including pew rents 1775-1809 and 1852-1855 (D/EX 1427); Tilehurst 1835-1991, including marriage registers 1946-1986, banns 1924-1991, and overseers' quarterly accounts 1835-1848 (D/P 132); and Waltham St Lawrence 1867-1994, including a roll of honour of World War One soldiers from the parish (D/P 141).

Official records include a complete run of the minutes of Newland parish council, 1894-1948 (CPC 73D); accounts of John Kendrick's charity (run by Reading Borough), 1837-1852 (D/EX1448); visiting

JPs' reports on Reading Gaol, 1787-1801, including references to escape attempts (D/EX 1452); and the letter book of Reading and Wokingham District School, Wargrave, 1850-1856 (D/EX 1461). This school, in the old Wargrave workhouse, was for the education of pauper children, and was designed largely to keep them away from the bad influence of older paupers. The letter book was one of several deposits received via the Reading Local Studies Library.

A fascinating glimpse of local pubs is to be

found in the detailed probate inventory of Mrs Elizabeth Burd of Reading, 1748 (D/EX 1453). Mrs Burd owned pubs in Beenham, Caversham, Knowl Hill, Reading, Theale and Tilehurst; all probably inherited from her first husband Robert Noake. The inventory gives details of the contents of her own house in Castle Street, arranged by room - an interesting indication of the furnishing of a wealthy tradesman's home in the mid-eighteenth century.

Computer Forum

By Robert Clayton

Back in September 1996 I set up a table at the Reading Branch meeting and began answering questions and providing information regarding the use of computers for genealogy. Since then I have had a steady stream of enquirers which has kept me busy between meetings finding information and answers for those who attend the Reading Branch meetings.

Then, in the December 1996 magazine (Vol. 20 No.2) I published the results of the Computer Questionnaire which showed that out of the 55.8% membership who replied to the Questionnaire, 65% of these members owned, or had access to, a computer.

Therefore, I think there may be a case for widening the discussion about computers within the whole membership of the Society so that those who cannot attend meetings can get the benefit of what is being discussed.

With these facts in mind, I propose to start a Computer Forum in this journal, and this is my first contribution.

As this is a Computer Forum for the membership, I would like to hear from any member about:

- Whether a Computer Forum is a good idea
- Any questions you may have regarding computers and genealogy.

If you would like to see short articles about how to do genealogy with the aid of computers or have an idea for an article I would also like to hear from you. I particularly need the views of those who have recently bought a computer and want to start using it for their genealogy.

One final plea:

At one Reading Branch meeting I was handed 2 copies of Family Tree Maker for Windows. One is United Kingdom version 2.0 and the other is an unused version 3.0 from America. Both are compatible with UK data. They are both for sale at very reasonable prices. If you are interested then please contact me.

The address for ideas, articles, questions and information is:

Robert Clayton, 10 Vidlers Farm, Sherborne St John, Basingstoke, Hants. RG24 9LS. Tel: 01256-850155

e-mail: robert_clayton@compuserve.com

A Name Curiosity

By John Gurnett

Recently my son came across a blackboard in an antique shop in the centre of Reading which attracted his attention. It was a list of names beginning in 1880 and ending in 1925. In one corner is a rudimentary colour drawing of a woman - she looks rather like a youthful Queen Victoria. Around each corner of the picture are the letters V, R, A, C. Clearly it belonged to a club, with the winners of cups or awards either in June or December.

Any ideas? As it was found in Reading are there Berkshire connections?

T. Twigg Dec. 1880	J.H Wood Dec. 1895	T.W.Clarke June 1910
W.H. Casswell June 1881	E. Holmes June 1896	J.E. Huddleston Dec. 1910
C ^{has} Haylock Dec. 1881	A. Fowell Dec. 1896	G.H.Spalding June 1911
John Clive June 1882	J.G.Twigg June 1897	H. Spurr Dec. 1911
C ^{has} Panton Dec. 1882	H.R. Deighton Dec. 1897	P.C.Mitchell June 1912
Fred ^k Kealey June 1883	W.C. Smith June 1898	J.H. Chambers Dec. 1912
R.W. Chapman Dec. 1883	A. Twigg Dec. 1898	H. Shaw June 1913
Ed. Holmes June 1884	A.J. Doughty June 1899	P.J. Truswell Dec. 1913
E.F.Arnold Dec. 1884	G. Metham Dec. 1899	W.F. Spurr June 1914
Geo. Metham June 1885	B.G. Worship June 1900	G. Metham Dec. 1914
Geo. Gibbins Dec. 1885	F. Kealey Dec. 1900	G.H.D. Reynolds June 1915
Chas. Haylock June 1886	W. Haylock June 1901	Geo. Metham Dec. 1915
W. Mortimer Dec. 1886	G.H. Street Dec. 1901	P.C. Mitchell June 1916
W. Spurr June 1887	H. C. East June 1902	F. Kealey Dec. 1916
C. Heafield Dec. 1887	T.W. Butler Dec. 1902	F. Winfield June 1917
G. Asman June 1888	W. H. Holmes June 1903	A.E. Huddleston Dec. 1917
C. Haylock Dec. 1888	G.H.D. Reynolds Dec. 1903	J.R. Weaver June 1918
C. Haylock June 1889	F. Winfield June 1904	R.L. Roberts Dec. 1918
T. Doughty Dec. 1889	G. Metham Dec. 1904	H. Shaw June 1919
T.J. Plant June 1890	Alb ^l Huddleston June 1905	C. Clench Dec. 1919
J.W.S Greaves Dec. 1890	W.H.B. Smith Dec. 1905	G.W.Spurr June 1920
F. Cousans June 1891	Thomas Edenboro June 1906	G. Metham Dec. 1920
F.T. Holoran Dec. 1891	Isaac Brown Dec.1906	F. Kealey June 1921
W.S. Parkin June 1892	J. Willerton June 1907	C. Clench Dec. 1921
T. Buttery, jun. Dec. 1892	G.H.D. Reynblids Dec. 1909 ²⁴	G. Metham June 1922
A Biggadike June 1893	W. Haylock June 1908	H. Shaw Dec. 1922
Fred ^k Kealey Dec. 1893	G. Gibbins Dec. 1908	F. Cousans June 1923
G.H. Street June 1894	G. Metham June 1909	F. Winfield Dec. 1923
? M. Mortimer Dec. 1894	G.D.Reynolds Dec. 1909.	F. Kealey June 1924
T.W. Grantham June 1895		G.H. Street Dec. 1924
		F. Cousans June 1925
		F. Kealey Dec. 1925

²⁴ This error is as it appears on the Board itself.

Hamstead Marshall in the 1920s

The following two photographs are reproduced by permission of Penelope Stokes. The first one shows Hamstead School Class of 1922 and the one below is of Craven Estate agent Victor Schmidt (with gun) and beaters, Hamstead Park mid to late 1920s



Hampstead Marshall A Reminiscence

Excerpt from Newbury Weekly News 25th Jun 1896.

Some time ago I wrote a few reminiscences of this place, which I have reason to believe were well received by all in the place, from the Squire and Rector, down to the humblest inhabitant, whilst many copies were dispatched to former inhabitants of the place, who I am informed were deeply interested therein. As the former paper was drawn up somewhat hurriedly it was necessarily incomplete, and it has struck me several times since that it would be as well to supply in a second paper what was omitted in the first.

This paper, like the first, will afford little interest to the present generation; still I hope there are many living who in reading this will recall familiar faces of forty or fifty years ago, and will think with pleasure on the days that are past, even if they are not acquainted with the incidents mentioned herein. Alas for some of us, who can look back over half a century, we have no longer on us the dew of youth, and strangers coming into our midst would speak of us as rather elderly people, and our own families growing up around us testify to the truth of that statement.

One of the first things I can remember is the building of the Chapel, which took place in 1846. I cannot remember the opening, but I am told the ceremony was performed by Mr CURWEN, of Reading, and that there were over 200 people at the tea meeting. I can remember the numbers of people that used to come out in Clements' van and other conveyances from Newbury to the early anniversaries, and on one of these occasions I remember the celebrated Rev. Mr ROWLAND, of Henley, being the preacher. I can also remember Farmer Charles HEATH, of Enborne Street, (chiefly I expect on account of his always

wearing a frilled shirt on Sundays), after a Sunday afternoon visit to his brother Anthony, coming into chapel for the evening service. Being a good singer his presence was always welcomed.

One of the first things I can remember in Church was the funeral of Mr. BUNCE, who for 20 years had been coachman to Lady Craven. I distinctly remember the bearers - James HARDY, Alfred RUSS, Charles MILES, and James PADWICK, four garden men. One of Bunce's daughters was married to HARVEY, whom I forgot to mention in my former paper. He was for several years groom of the chambers to the Dowager. They lived in Newbury for some time after their marriage.

The first incident in my school life that I can remember was to be allowed on several occasions, with the rest of the children, in the dinner time, to go down to the crossing and see the trains pass; this I think must have been in the spring of '48, and I have before me now an original placard of the opening of the line between Hungerford and Reading, which states that on and after December 21, 1847, passengers, carriages, horses and cattle will be conveyed between the above mentioned place, and I gather from it that there were five up and five down trains, the first up train leaving Newbury at 6.35, whilst the first down train reached Newbury at 9.45, and the last one at 9.50pm. The fares were 14s., 9s. 6d, and 5s, for first, second, and third class. Four wheeled carriages were charged 35s., and two wheeled ones 26s.; single horses 31s., pair 50s.; whilst the journey varied from two to two-and-three-quarter hours.

Another school incident, a year or two later, was the going round singing at Christmas -

not carols, for not many of them were in existence then, or if they were they not reached Hampstead. We sang only a few hymns, one of the principal ones being, "*Whilst shepherds watched their flocks by night,*" to the tune called "*New Victory,*" which had several flourishes and repetitions. Our mode of procedure was as follows: Meet at the School, and first night begin with John WITHERS in Park-lane, then across the Park to the fisherman's, the Mill, the park keeper's, the gardens and finish at Hampstead shop. Second night - Holtwood Farm and neighbouring cottages, Red Hill, the Horse Shoes, and back up to the Ash Tree. Third night - Farther end of Hampstead, calling at nearly every house on our way back to the school. This little outing usually meant a few shillings each. On one occasion when we went to the Lodge to sing, Lord Craven himself presented us with what to us at that time was a handsome sum of money.

Then with regard to the Church Psalmody at that period I wonder what clergyman or congregation in these days would tolerate such tunes. I remember some now that were sung then, that I have never seen either in print or manuscript. Two in particular are in my mind now, a long and common metre; each had several repetitions, and into one particular syllable in each eight or nine notes had to be contracted. I mentioned in my former paper that the then clerk (Mr ARNOLD) played his flute in church, and on several occasions for the opening hymn he brought his flute and music to the rails, where the children sat, and played it there, and once, I remember, we got flat, and the flute was useless, but, like a University oarsman in the Oxford and Cambridge boat race who breaks the blade of his oar, still keeps his body and arms in full swing, so our worthy friend kept the flute to his lips and his

fingers in motion to the end of the hymn without producing a sound. Sometimes, I suppose it was in order to improve the church psalmody, we went to Enborne Rectory to practice; we were ushered into the drawing-room, Miss JOHNSON (Mrs MOREWOOD) playing the piano. Not the least pleasing of these journeys was the rice pudding which Mr. JOHNSON generously supplied us with in the kitchen after the practice was over.

Another feature in connection with this period was the high price for provisions, especially bread, which once reached 2s. a gallon, going up 3d. in one week. There were then eight or ten families in this place, and I unhesitatingly say, there was not one but what could have done with a great deal more food than they got. Wheat was at a high figure then, and market teams went through this place from Ham and Linkenholt at about five in the morning, with bells on their horses. It was interesting to see what an effort was made by those who could afford it to get half-a-bag of flour in case it went up on the Tuesday, and if there was a fall instead of a rise they were in no way disconcerted about it. "*Don't care if we do lose half-a-crown as long as the flour sinks.*" Bountiful supplies of soup were distributed from both the Lodge and the Rectory, and occasionally, from Mrs HEDGES, at the "*White Hart*". Rice was also retailed at one penny a pound at the Rectory, which was a great boon to the poor at that time. In comparison with the state of things then, there are no people much in want now. Then a boy had been known to eat all he had to last him through the day on his way to work in the morning. Can any boy relate such an experience springing from necessity now? I trow not. [trow = think or believe]

Somewhere about this time the subject of emigration to Australia was well to the

front. The gold fields were the rage then, and it was only lack of means that kept several families from trying their fortune in the New World. A man, named WEBB, a groom in the employ of the Hon. Frederick Craven, did emigrate, and thinking boots would be a rare article out there, took out a quantity as a speculation. Someone however had forestalled him, and in no way was he a successful emigrant. The "Emigrant Almanack and Guide to the Gold Fields" was in circulation then, and set forth in glowing colours the land, if not flowing with milk and honey, had abundance of gold, and employment for all the children that could work, so that instead of being a drag, they could be a help -

*"There's a good time coming boys,
A good time coming.
And a poor man's family
Shall not be his misery.
In the good time coming
Every child shall be a help
To make his right hand stronger;
The happier he the more he has."*

Whether if any of them at that time so disposed had emigrated and prospered cannot of course be said, but the circumstances of those alive here now are certainly better than at that period.

It is surprising how some little common incident sometimes sticks to one all through life. For instance, at one of the wood sales as long ago as I can remember, a lot was bought by Mr EARLY for the Dowager, It was cut by TUCKER and his son from Enborne. On one occasion I was with young TUCKER in the wood where EARLY (who though a kindhearted man was sometimes brusque in manner) rode in. Young TUCKER then accosted him, "Father said if you come to day I was to ask you for some money." "I got no money." "Or if you hadn't any money with you if I should go round to your house at

night." "That's no good." Those were the exact words used, but I can remember no more. Whether the man went round and got any money I cannot say. The probabilities are that he did.

I will now mention in alphabetical order, as near as I can, a few names I omitted before. Stars of less magnitude perhaps than some of the others, but each diffusing a certain amount of light in home and village. I will mention them with the appellation common to them when living. Daniel BEAKHURST, a well-known resident, used in the stripping time to do a good bit of wood tying, was generally one of a shooting party, either a beater or stop. Thomas BROWN kept a shop which did not keep him. Before the days of clipping machines, did a good deal with scissors and comb. Removed to Snelsmore Common, subsequently to a Donnington Alms House, where I think he died. His youngest son, Fred, keeps the "Furze Bush," East Woodhay. John CARTER lived in Hampstead Common, a clarionet player, went to the Salt Lake City, returned and died a short time ago at Enborne at the age of nearly 90 I think. His family were noted for the peculiarity of their names. COXHEADS, there were several of them, and they were oldish men when I was a boy. Their father lived at Holt-wood farm, but I do not remember him. One son, Thomas, lived at Holt and was a carter to Marlborough, taking his tilted cart there and back every Saturday. Hence if any Hampstead folks wished to visit a relative say at Pewsey, they had to be at Holt pound about three in the morning, and go jogging on, being transferred at Marlborough to the Pewsey carrier, doing in fifteen or sixteen hours what could now be accomplished in about two. Billy, another of the family, for a long time lived in a wretched cottage just on the brow of Holt hill. Jimmy lived at

Holt wood, and was hayward of the parish, when more cattle were impounded than at the present time. I remember once how the usual quiet of a Sunday evening here was disturbed by some horses of the late Amos BLACK, of Inkpen, being impounded. Amos at that time went about a good deal with a caravan and eight or ten loose horses about. A good many people had congregated, waiting for the hayward to come and unlock the pound. I remember "Granny" BLACK sitting down complacently, smoking her pipe and expressing her regrets that there were no snuff boxes to shy at. I may just mention that Amos has been dead twenty-two years, that "Granny," who is a well known character for miles round, is over eighty, has two hundred and fifty two descendants, yet goes her rounds and carries her basket very little different to what she did forty or fifty years ago. To return to the COXHEADS. John I think lived at Cold Ash, and Joe lived a bachelor life chiefly at Woodhay. William CUIIN, a bricklayer, lived at Holt Wood, went to Salt Lake City, and I presume died there. One of his daughters, the widow of the late George SANDFORD, is still living.

Charles and John CROCKER both left Hampstead when I was quite young. Daniel CULLEY I remember seeing only once, having been sent to his house for some "*Culleys Oils.*" Johnny DEAN, an old coachman or groom, kept the post office, with Mrs. MASON as his housekeeper, used to employ some of his spare time in grubbing hedge-rows and tree stools, which he said warned him several times. Billy FISHER, rather a diminutive man, hence if a man had a boy that did not grow he would tell him that he would never be as tall as Billy FISHER. One of his daughters, Mrs. ARNOLD, died a short time since. Old FROUDE, an eccentric old

man; his daughter, Charlotte, excelled as a rapid walker, a regular "*Mountjoy*" in fact. for many years she did all the weeding at the Lodge, and as she went to and from her work past the school it used to be our delight either by walking or running to keep pace with her. George GODDARD lived at Frog Hall, was at different times bricklayer's labourer, road scraper, and grave digger. John GREEN lived at a small cottage farm near the school, rented a little land, eventually emigrated. Daniel HALL, for many years a labourer on Mr. COKE's farm. I can just remember his father, Benny HALL, who lived in a cottage between the canal and railway. Jim HAYWARD, a hay trusser at times, very infirm for some years before he died, but managed to do a bit of carrying with a donkey and cart. He was a bit of an agriculturist too in his way, and when discussing swede growing with a neighbour, once I heard him say, "*Why Old THATCHER told me he didn't know how to grow swedes, till I told him.*" I also heard him say that farmer Joseph RANDALL had left him ten shillings as a slight remembrance. Mrs. HAYWARD is still alive. Charles HALLETT, shoemaker, the last in the place. Kept his garden and "*lot*" in a high state of cultivation.

George HEDGES, lived at the Ash Tree and with his two sons, was expert in thatching and hurdle making. I think his oldest son is an inspector in the Berks Constabulary. Charles HOCKLEY, not a native I think, but lived in the place some time. John HOCKLEY, bricklayer, whom I distinctly remember as one of the bearers of the Rev C.T. JOHNSON, the grandfather of the present Rector. William KING, sometimes called "*Royal KING,*" was about the last man in the place that wore a white smock frock on Sundays. George LOCKEY, not many removes from a

tramp, always slept in a corner of the barn at Holt Wood Farm, where were all his worldly possessions, except what he carried in his basket. Usually spent his evenings at his sister, old Sally EXALL, at Gore End. Moses MARTIN was carter for a long time to Mr GIBBONS, but going to work early and not coming home till late was not seen much at home. His son William, lived with a gentleman at Leigham Court, Brixton, a small estate owned now I think by the Artizan Labour and General Dwelling Company, Limited. One of William's children was very ill, much to the anxiety of Moses and his wife, and one morning as he was about to get up he said *"Mother I've been and zid summat white roll off the foot of the bed, and we shall have a letter this morning to say the child is dead."* Whether such news actually came or not I cannot remember, but I distinctly remember hearing Mrs MARTIN relating it to my mother. The old folks afterwards when to Brixton to live. George MILES brought up a large family, his son Charles, who for many years worked for Mr COKES, with Daniel HALL, mentioned above. Frank MILES used to work in the gardens, and when past work was allowed a pension by Lady Craven. He lived in a small cottage with an old housekeeper, and when he died it was found impossible to get the body downstairs and a hole had to be made through the wall to get the coffin out. Shepherd OWEN lived in the cottage between the two barns. George PATEY was for something like forty years clerk at Enborne Church, a flute player, and in his younger days did a little watch dealing. Jim POUNDS, a noted rat catcher, whose professional duties took him many miles round the country. His brother Charley died only a few months ago. John PROUT usually wore a tall hat and smock frock, and did a little hay trussing etc. His son

Charles died only a short time since.

Nanny PLUMB, with her crippled son Bill shared a cottage with Phebe COX, commonly called old *"Febby,"* and Mary COX. They had the house in common, but not the fire, as a rather wide fire place on the hearth, was divided by bricks and one couple had a fire on one side and one on the other. Bill had always to be wheeled about, and as boys, we used to like to take him to church or elsewhere when he wished to go. I believe that at the death of *"Febby,"* a sum of money was found in the house which the parish authorities claimed, she having been in receipt of relief for some time. William SNOOK, a labourer, played the flute and clarionet a little. Jim STRATTON, rather an oddity with a peculiar shake of the head, generally worked at the *"White Hart"* or *"Waterman's."* William SHUTTLE, son of Joseph SHUTTLE, mentioned in my former paper, as a rule always employed on the estate.

Joseph TOOMER, a retired tradesman used occasionally to live in the cottage for many years since occupied by the late Mr. NEALE. He had a good knowledge of music and played the viola, and occasionally would invite a few kindred spirits to his house, where with a few voices, and two or three instruments a little melody was produced. Betty WATTS, an old woman that lived at the back of the Chapel. She professed to have the art of curing warts etc. by whispering them. We as children used to resort to her. I suppose the secret, if any, was confided to her son Josiah, as he used to practise, but the secret I think must have died with him. Thomas WERNHAM, kept the little farm at Holt Wood; usually had a good herd of cows. After his death his son Omar looked after the farm for his mother, and, never did any man take greater interest in anything than

he did in the hedges and ditches down the old lane, which were a model of neatness, a great contrast indeed to a good part of the estate now, which is overrun with briars and thorns. Omar's widow is still alive, and as long as life lasts will be known as Winnie WERNHAM.

In this list I may have omitted a few names, but I am persuaded only a few, and I think that with scarcely one exception all are gone to the great majority. If the Parish Councils Act had come into operation at the time those worthies lived, I think the population would have been sufficiently large to have claimed a parish Council, and some of those I have mentioned might have become able councillors, as it is the place can only boast of a parish meeting.

I might also add, in case these somewhat disconnected reminiscences are handed down to posterity, that within the last two

or three years, the church, through a legacy bequeathed by the late rector, and the unwearied exertions of the present rector and others, has been thoroughly restored. More recently still a new school has been built, to the maintenance of which Mr. BISHOP liberally contributes, besides taking an active interest in all parochial affairs. It is pleasant too to hear that aged and infirm employees are generously treated by Mr. and Mrs. BISHOP.

I think I have pretty well exhausted the subject, if any other man think otherwise an open field is before him. If these few recollections of days and people long past awaken any interest or pleasure to any who may peruse them, I shall be amply repaid.

NB Mountjoy - A great walker, nearly fifty years ago, from Newbury to Andover. People in this neighbourhood used to try their pace against his for a distance.

Editor's Notes

Thank you once again to all contributors to this issue. The next four deadlines are:

- 31st October (December 1997)
- 31st January (March 1998)
- 25th April (June 1998)
- 25th July (September 1998)

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. I am of course always delighted to receive articles, letters, comments or general feedback in whatever format you are able to send them!! **I am running a bit short of articles currently, so all contributions will be very gratefully received, by whatever means you care to send them.**

You may have noticed mention of the case of *Loveden v Loveden* in the BRO News; further details of that divorce case can be found in "*Broken Lives Separation and Divorce in England 1660-1857*" by Lawrence Stone (OUP, 1993). If anyone would like to know more, I have this book and can supply a photocopy of the relevant chapter

Finally, you may be interested to know that archaeologists from the Oxford Archaeological Unit who have been digging at the site of the proposed Oracle Shopping Development on the site of the old Courages Brewery/Yield Hall Car Park in Reading, have found some remains of the original Oracle Workhouse, as well as some evidence of Medieval Reading and vast Victorian Cellars. On the Yield Hall site, a gargoyle was found which had been used as a foundation stone, but which originally came from Reading Abbey. All the finds will be given to Reading Museum for display and further study and the OAU will eventually publish their findings.

Q & A with Jean

By Jean Debney

Q Brian Short (3525) of 4 Ash Grove, Feltham, Middlesex TW14 8AR: At the Society's Research Centre I photocopied the Berkshire 1851 Census [index] which contained the name Short. I was advised that the 1851 Census Records for Windsor are contained in film reference 1695 which includes part of an adjacent county.

To assist my search can you please advise me what the reference numbers highlighted on the list below refer to; will it help me to skip through the films from Short-to-Short without having to look at each frame; and is there is reference / index at the front of each film which lists these reference numbers.

I was also advised that similar census films are available at the Research Centre covering Windsor in 1861 (748-761), 1871 (1297-1302), 1881 (1321-1325) and 1891 (1009-1013). Are there any names indexes for these which would shorten my search?

SHORT	Alfred	1	474
	Ann	21	475
	Charles	35	250
	Charles	15	474
	Daniel	49	446 etc.

A If I had a £1 each time I was asked by a family historian looking up "their" name in an index or finding aid, "Jean, what does this mean?" I would be rich by now! My answer is always the same: "look in the introduction" which will explain how the contents are arranged, abbreviations used, etc. - and this also applies to our series of 1851 census indexes where the first paragraph is as follows:

"[This] index comprises the surname, firstnames, age and folio number. On the film the folio numbers are to be found on the upper right hand corners of even numbered pages and apply to that page and the following one."

In addition, at the top of each page, there is running header with the relevant microfilm number (the Public Record Office reference number) of the original return, plus the names of the Registration District and sub-district indexed. For example, most of Volume 12 (Windsor), which you consulted, has the header: "HO 107/1695: Windsor Sub-District of Windsor". This enables one to turn immediately to the relevant film, wind through to the appropriate folio number/s and locate the full entry for each person which includes, in addition to the details from the index, the address, marital state, relationship to the head of the household, occupation and place of birth. Occasionally, in the far right hand column, there may be a note of an infirmity such as "deaf" or "blind" etc. There is no name index actually in the original returns, but at the beginning of each enumerators' district - i.e. a subdivision of the sub-district - there is a page describing the houses and streets, etc. included which is always worth reading and making notes from. This additional information may assist you to pinpoint your ancestors' residence more accurately.

The recent publication of the "Master Name Index" enables one to locate which volumes of the Berkshire 1851 Census Index include references to your surname/s of interest. Details of this new finding aid are included in this magazine.

Material relating to the Berkshire census returns available in the Research Centre include part of the 1841 census, 1851, 1861, 1871 and 1881²⁵ on film, and 1891 name indexes to the Abingdon and Faringdon Registration Districts in north Berkshire.

More information about the census returns can be found in *An Introduction to the Census Returns of England and Wales* (FFHS) or *Making Use of the Census* (PRO Readers' Guide no.1), both by Susan Lumas, details of which are on our book list; another useful publication is *A Clearer Sense of the Census* by Edward Higgs (HMSO).

Q Bob Brock (2436) of 5 Ashridge Road, Wokingham, Berks RG40 1PP left this comment about the surname Sizmur after my talk about "Berkshire Surnames" at the "Berkshire Forever" Conference on 28th June 1997:

Recently I have spent some time researching the name of Sizmur, which I notice does not appear in your slip index! A friend at school had this surname which he pronounced "Sizzmer". The name has been recorded in Chertsey, Surrey back to the mid-18th century. I have also found references in the IGI back to c.1650 in Gloucestershire: here it mutated to Sizemore and Sissmore, and also were Seizemore and Scysmore - possibly the local dialect may be the cause of the Z/S change?

P.H.Reaney lists a Sysmore (1492) in Essex. The derivation is presumed to be OF from six (seize) marks (as in money).

A Entries for my surname index are made (on 5 x 8" slips) as names are requested either for a talk or as a result of my broadcasts on Thames Valley FM. Much as I would like it, it would be impossible for me to include every surname that exists - apart from the time factor, the weight would be huge. Yes - I know that I could enter them on to a computer database - but I can't take my computer to meetings where everyone enjoys dipping into the boxes after my talks.

The only reference that I can locate for Sizmur is the one you mention in the *Dictionary of English Surnames* by P.H.Reaney & R.M.Wilson (OUP 1995). This lists the following spellings: Sismore, Sissmore, Sizmore and Sizmur and suggests that the name means "six marks" from the Old French "sis mars". Included in the entry are the following references: Thomas Sysmore, 1432 in Essex, from the Petre Documents in the Essex Record Office, calendared by C.J.Kuyppers; and John Sysemore, 1591 in Worcestershire from the *Worcester Cathedral Priory Cartulary*, published by the Pipe Roll Society (New Series) vol.38, 1968. Reaney's original research, using his extensive knowledge of languages, consisted of combing available printed medieval documents and linking the names found, as far as possible, with modern surname spellings. At the same time he also compared the work of earlier researchers to produce his detailed dictionary which is considered a "bible" to many. However, it is possible that modern family historians who pursue careful and in depth research into individual names and their variations over a widespread area and time-span may produce the "correct"

²⁵ We also have the whole of the 1881 census index on microfiche for all counties of England and Wales. In this series, you locate the name/s of interest in either the "surname", "census place" or "place of birth" indexes and note the class, film and folio numbers in the right hand columns, which leads you to the household entry on the "as enumerated" fiche

answers to the origin and meaning of some surnames.

Pronunciation - and spelling - can play a very large part in how a name changes as it moves across dialect boundaries and some names can change almost beyond recognition. The substitution of "Z" for "S" in pronunciation and spelling is a feature of the counties in western England - except for part of Cornwall and, of course, the rest of England. Apart from the usual illiteracy factor which obviates the ability to check an entry in, say, a parish register, the incumbent may interpret an unfamiliar name in one of three possible ways: either from the form of speech heard in his childhood, from his later classical university education which will include Latin and possibly Greek and Hebrew, or by "*translation/correction*" to a local and more familiar form of spelling. One way to see how well we would manage is to listen to a Polish or other eastern European name on the news and try and work out how to spell it! The answer is guaranteed to look very different from the original.

If anyone would care to write to me with an outline of the spelling/s and distribution of their surnames this could prove a useful forum of information and thought-provoking ideas.

Recent Research Centre Library Additions

By Chad Hanna

The insert in this journal will tell you more about the Census Index holdings of the Research Centre. Recent additions have included indexes and transcripts for much of Cumberland and Westmoreland, along with the impressive looking Index and Transcript for Berkhamstead in Hertfordshire.

Additional fiche have been bought, and donated, for Gloucestershire and Buckinghamshire including Wexham and Upton-cum-Chalvey which should include much of present day Slough. Hopefully, the 1851 indexes for Devon, Warwickshire and Norfolk which we have just ordered will be delivered by the time you receive this journal. These were done as a trial for the 1881 project and are in the same format. Please phone Lesley or Chad on 0118-966-3585 before making a special trip.

Other accessions during the last few months have included new editions and titles of Federation of Family History Society publications, including the

invaluable "*Current publications by Member Societies*" which has separate editions for fiche and paper formats.

We've also acquired a 1990 edition of the Oxford Diocesan Year book which is useful for knowing which C of E churches exist and how they are staffed. The National Index of Parish Register volumes for Leicestershire, Rutland, Lincolnshire, Derbyshire, Cheshire, Cambridgeshire, Norfolk and Suffolk are now on the shelves to answer the detailed questions that Philimore's *Atlas of Parish Registers* doesn't have the room to answer.

There are also several local history books, notably for the Northcourt Avenue area of Reading and the Broad Street Chapel (now occupied by Waterstone's, the bookseller).

Remember, the Research Centre is for Family Historians living in Berkshire as well as for Berkshire Family Historians, so there should be something to interest you - if there isn't please tell us.

Bracknell branch attendees please note that the December meeting is on the second Friday of the month and not the third as that would be too close to Christmas.

Research Centre News

By Cliff Debney

The number of members and temporary members using the Research Centre has fallen a little since the heady days when, almost monthly, yet another county in the 1881 Census Index fiche sets arrived. A large number of members carried out their research immediately and many of you are now finding some of the other treasures held in the Reference Library, returning regularly for additional research. Now the children have returned to school why not give yourselves a break from the routine and visit the Centre for a pleasurable and selfish morning, afternoon or even evening?

We have just completed a stock check of the library and during it took the opportunity to make some small adjustments to the order in which books and fiche are located on the shelves, partly due to the increase in our holdings. In particular we have re-ordered some of the 1851 Census Indexes we hold for so many of the counties of the UK, mainly to reflect more strongly the pre-1974 county names, particularly as some local government councils have yet again changed their titles and area of administration and also because of new gifts and purchases. Donations of fiche, indexes and other family history material are always welcome.

Library Tours are for those who have not yet used the Centre or need a refresher, so why not come to one of the monthly two hour tours and learn the easy way what is held, where it can be found, and how it may help you in your researches. It will also allow you about one hour free time to either browse or do some research. The tours during the next three months, all held on Mondays, will take place on:

15 th September	7.30pm to 9.30pm
20 th October	2pm to 4pm
17 th November	7.30pm to 9.30pm
December	No tour
19 th January	2pm to 4pm

The school have changed their system of logging visitors in and out due to a modification in their fire regulations. When you visit the centre please sign in the Society's loose leaf book on the counter as you arrive, and sign out when you leave. Car parking during the day is now limited to the front of school only, so if the car park is full I regret you will have to park in the lay-by outside the school railings. Please also remember that the only time the Research Centre is closed is on Bank Holidays and the whole of Christmas week - children may not be at school but we are.

Volunteers are necessary for the Centre to be open, without them who would you ask for guidance on what, where, how, etc., and to repeat the question to others beavering away, because someone there will know the answer even if they don't? The duty is not arduous, you DO NOT have to be an expert in either family history or the contents of the Research Centre to volunteer for a three hour duty, but without volunteers we cannot open. Please volunteer by contacting June Dickason, (0118-978-6785), when she or husband Ivan will arrange for you to take your first duty with a regular, so you can learn the ropes by example. They love volunteers who regularly carry out a duty a month, but they also love those who can only help occasionally, so now you have no excuses. Ring or write today.

Back to Basics?

By Catherine Harrington

Stepfamilies are not a modern phenomenon. Probably what is new is that families are broken up by divorce rather than by death as in the past. Thus when looking for families on the census, you might find your ancestor with a mother and step-father or with a father and step-mother or with grandparents.

For example, in the course of my researches into the Davis' of Sutton Courtney (and related families), I found the following entry on the 1891 Census for Sutton Courtney, Berkshire (all places of birth shown as Berkshire, Sutton Courtney):

Schedule 28, High St, Sutton Courtney (RG12/981/fo 85), 4 rooms in house.					
William J Davis	Head	M	40	Farm Lab Horse Carter	Employed
Ellen Davis	Wife	M	37		
Frederick Davis	Son	S	17	Farm Lab	Employed
Francis Whitehead	Step son		13	Farm Ag	Employed
Joseph Davis	Son		11	Scholar	
William J Howard	Step son		7	Scholar	
Rose E Davis	Daur		2		
Thomas Davis	Son		7mo		

To reconstruct this family, I have used the IGI and the Marriage and Burial Registers for Sutton Courtney, as well as the 1881 and 1891 Census Returns. All events/dates listed take place in Sutton Courtney unless otherwise noted.

On 18th November 1871, William John Davis (chr.1850), son of James Davis and Priscilla née Smith, married Susan Treadwell, (chr.1852). They had eight children, including two sets of twins, of whom Frederick Arthur (chr.1873), Susan (b.1876, Sevenhampton, Wilts), Joseph Benjamin (chr.1879), his twin brother James Charles (chr.1879), and Sarah Jemima (chr.1882) survived infancy. Sadly on 19th July 1886, the Parish Register records the burial of Susan Davis, age 34. Of their children, James Charles was buried in August 1890, but Frederick and Joseph turn up on the 1891 census living with their father, while Sarah J[emima] is also to be found in Sutton Courtney living with her widowed grandmother, Priscilla Davis²⁶ and her great-grandmother Elizabeth Smith.

William's second wife, Ellen (chr.1853), was the daughter of Joseph Whitehead and Hannah née Dewe. Her father Joseph was buried 11th January 1862, age 42. Her mother Hannah remarried less than eighteen months later to George Quarterman (4th June 1863). Ellen and her son Francis [George] Whitehead, (c.24th August 1877) were living with Hannah and George Quarterman in the 1881 Census.

A year later, on 16th September 1882, Helen Whitehead (as she signed herself) married Thomas Howard, a Pensioner, son of James Howard, labourer. Their son William Thomas Howard was born a year later on 9th September 1883, but by the time he was baptised (on 17th July 1885) his father had been buried twelve days previously.²⁷ She remained a widow until 12th August 1888 when she married William Davis, a widower, with a young family. Their

²⁶ James Davis was buried in November 1890, 3 months after his grandson James Charles.

²⁷ 2nd July 1885, age 34.

first child, Elizabeth Rose, was born exactly a month later, followed by Thomas (1890) and George (1893).

As these are not my direct relatives, I have no oral knowledge of how this mixed family all rubbed along together. However, a glance at the marriage register for Sutton Courtney (1904-1926) shows that they must have been fairly harmonious because as they married, they witnessed each other's marriages. Thus when Joseph married Beatrice Annie Stimpson in 1906, his half-sister Rose Elizabeth witnessed the marriage and when she married Alban Charles Mooring in 1912, her half-brother William Thomas Howard witnessed the marriage. His co-witness was Beatrice Mary Prior whom he married the following year, witnessed by George Davis, his youngest half-brother and Daisy Jane Carter. (Their father William died in 1937, aged 87 and his wife Ellen in 1944, age 91).

The Parish Register for Sutton Courtney also shows that there was another Frank Whitehead born and baptised in 1879 to a singlewoman Hannah Whitehead and William Davis. This could be the William Davis mentioned above or his cousin William George Davis, (c.1861), the son of Benjamin Davis and Hannah née Thornton.²⁸ Hannah Whitehead subsequently married John Alfred Davis, another son of Benjamin and Hannah. The 1891 Census for High Street, Sutton Courtney shows John Davis, Head, age 27, his wife Hannah Davis, age 28 and his son Frank [Davis], age 11. Ten years previously, in 1881, Frank Whitehead was living with his mother Hannah and her father Benjamin and brother Alfred.

It is thus worth bearing in mind that our ancestors could have been brought up by step-mothers or step-fathers or by other relatives. Incidentally "my" George William Davis, the son of George Davis and Sophia Trulock was brought up in Sutton Courtney by his father and his step-mother Jemima nee Coombs along with his two half-brothers and half-sister. His mother Sophia née Trulock died when he was only a year old. Although there was some memory of "stepping and halving" in the family there is no suggestion that Jemima was other than a loving son to her step-son George William. Indeed, the story is that he ran away to join the army, because of his father's treatment of him, but he first went home and said goodbye to his "mum".

Sources

- Parish Registers of Sutton Courtney, Berkshire.
- IGI (1988 edition) for Berkshire, entries for Howard, Treadwell, Whitehead.
- 1881 and 1891 Census Returns for Sutton Courtney, Berkshire.

Reading Branch Meetings

Don't forget that Reading Branch meetings will be held mainly on the last **WEDNESDAY** of the month at Prospect School from September 1997 until July 1998.

To accommodate those members who prefer a Friday meeting, we have arranged one for Friday 7th November 1997 at Early St Peter's Hall, Church Road at 7pm for 7.45pm. There will be three short talks by members. If this is successful, there will be another one arranged for February or March and for May or June. [LL]

²⁸ The fathers of these two Williams, James and Benjamin were brothers, sons of Henry Davis and Rachel née Church, from whom I am descended via their son George, who married Sophia Trulock

Bookends

By Jean Debney

Berkshire Old and New, no.14, 1997

(Berkshire Local History Association 1997; A5, 54pp, price £4.50. +P&P 45p UK, 75p overseas surface, £1.65 airmail.)

Six interesting articles about Berkshire: Map for the Bagshot Heath Manoeuvres 1792, by Eugene Burden; The Bucklebury woodlands and their management in the 18th and 19th centuries, by Pat Preece - well-written, informative, and very readable; The Royal Berkshire Regiment, the Kitchener Battalion Project - update on the work of this group who have already produced two excellent publications with lots of names; An introduction to Nonconformist records for Berkshire, by Lisa Spurrier - good resumé of the type of records available for this useful source even if you are not specifically interested in Berkshire; Early schools in Langley Marish, by Angela Tuddenham - potential information spoilt by poor writing and worse editing; A Swiss visitor in Berkshire by Stefan Howald - something a little different from the usual. And lastly, the Berkshire Bibliography 1997 compiled by Margaret Smith, Senior Librarian at Reading Local Studies Library. [JD]

Army Service Records of the First World War by Simon Fowler, William Spencer & Stuart Tamblin

(Public Record Office, 1996; A4, 55pp; price £5.99 + P&P 65p UK, £1.10 overseas surface, £2.80 airmail)

Published to coincide with the release, on Armistice Day 1996, of some First World War army service records, the "unburnt documents", this is an excellent, readable and informative book which will be of

assistance to anyone who has the legend "killed in WWI" on their family tree.

In addition to chapters on different classes of records, there are some good worked examples of research using these and other records. [JD]

Prerogative Court of Canterbury, Wills and other Probate Records by Miriam Scott

(Public Record Office Readers' Guide no.15 (PRO Publications, 1997; illustrations, appendices, abbreviations and glossary, a short bibliography & an index, 81pp; price £5.99 + P&P 80p UK, £1.40 overseas surface & £3.40 airmail.)

Next to parish registers, names and relationships found in wills, etc. are invaluable to build up your family tree with increased accuracy. The Prerogative Court of Canterbury (PCC) was the senior court with jurisdiction in England and Wales from the 14th century to 1857. During the final century it was operating, it was used by an increasing number of people because many of the smaller courts had ceased to function, nonconformists did not want the local church courts to know their business, the Bank of England would only recognise PCC wills if there was a dispute or if people had investments in "Consols", and so on.

Included in this publication are details of some 37 different classes of probate records in the PRO and separate chapters deal with original and register copy wills, inventories, letters of administration, probate act books and records of litigation, etc. In addition there is a section on the very useful Death Duty records, 1796-1903. [JD]

Minutes of the 22nd Annual General Meeting of the Berkshire Family History Society

*Meeting held on Friday 20th June 1997, at the Priestwood
Community Centre, Bracknell, Berkshire*

John Elkin welcomed everybody to the 22nd Annual General Meeting of the Berkshire Family History Society, and informed them that he would be acting as the Meeting Chairman in Jan Jones' absence due to illness

John Elkin informed the Meeting that the Annual General Meeting will follow the Agenda as published in the June 1997 issue of the Berkshire Family Historian

1. Apologies for Absence

The following apologies were received:

The Hon. Lady Palmer, Dr. Peter Durrant, Jan Jones, Helen Relf, Jean & Cliff Debney, Lesley Hanna

2. Minutes of the 1996 Annual General Meeting

The Chairman reminded the Meeting that these Minutes were published in the September 1996 edition of The Berkshire Family Historian. The Chairman asked the Meeting that the Minutes be accepted as read. Edward Richardson proposed, Chad Hanna seconded and the meeting agreed unanimously

3. Matters arising

There were no matters arising

4. Chairman's Report for 1996-1997

The Chairman delivered Jan Jones' (the retiring Society Chairman) report as follows:

"So much has been achieved in this last year that it is difficult to decide what to highlight. The most visible parts of our society are the monthly Branch Meetings. These don't just happen by magic, but take a lot of time and effort on the part of the

branch committees. Many of us are aware that we don't thank them often enough, both for their commitment and achievements, often against great odds with late changes in speakers, venues and sometimes dates. But it all seems to run smoothly on the night. The standard and range of speakers is quite amazing, and not only are we entertained but also learn a little each month. Many thanks to our branch committees.

It is nice to get around to visit the branches and our first invitation was the splendid quiz hosted by Slough last Christmas. Where do they get the questions from? Many thanks to the teams that entered and were brave enough to risk showing their knowledge or otherwise in front of some of our experts. Well done and thank you to Slough.

March took us to Newbury's 10th Anniversary birthday and the Open Day at St Nicholas Church Hall. What a smashing day it was. I was amazed at just how far people had travelled to be with us that day, and oh so many interesting stories, please write them up for the magazine. So many people worked hard that day that it is impossible to thank them all, but special thanks must go to Helen Relf and Rick Maynard for getting us all organised.

Finally, on our trip around the county, here we are in Bracknell, many thanks to the Bracknell branch for their hospitality this evening.

I mentioned the magazine just now. Don't you agree that ours is one of the better ones? The mix of articles both informative and amusing, long and short, is just right.

Catherine Harrington does a wonderful job as editor and is one of the unsung heroes of the society. Our thanks also to all the contributors, both old and new, and please keep writing.

The research centre has gone from strength to strength over that last 12 months with increased opening hours and a rise in the number of visitors. Its popularity has increased as people become aware of just how much research material we hold there. We now have the 1881 census for the whole of England and Wales and a very high coverage for the 1851 census, along with many other county microfiche, and the fiche printer has been worth its weight in gold. The library contains many directories and "how to" books along with reference books on most towns and villages in Berkshire, and a great deal for other counties, and indeed, countries. We also hold back copies of most other family history societies' magazines containing a wealth of articles and contact names and of course the Berkshire Name index containing Berkshire strays from all over the world. And there is always that very tempting bookstall. It is a very large team of committee members and volunteers under Cliff Debney's leadership that keep the centre and its postal services thriving. We are very fortunate to have such dedicated people, thank you to all of you.

I mentioned the bookstall in the Research Centre. Splendid though it is, it is only the tip of the iceberg that is managed by our bookstall team. It is the profits from the bookstall that enable us to hold down our membership fees. Most of the income comes from taking the bookstall to open days and fairs around the south of England. Thank you to Cliff and Jean for organising these and to all the helpers at them. But it isn't run just as a profit making venture but also as a service to our

members. This entails a tremendous amount of work to provide a service in each branch and a postal service for our more distant members. There are a lot of people involved in the bookstall but our special thanks must go to Lynne Macmillan for stepping into the breach when Jean stood down last year.

The heart of our society for me is the work we achieve in our various projects. Many of our members have family, work and community commitments but they still manage to give time to our projects. Some take a long time to come to fruition, others happen much faster. However long they take, I believe they are the essence of a good family history society, bringing education and new skills to participants, and assistance and encouragement to other family historians. They can also bring a lot of fun. There is nothing quite like lying on your stomach in the middle of a graveyard with your brush and washing up liquid trying to decipher Latin that you failed at school anyway. It does tend to bring on the giggles. But much progress has been made in the last year culminating in the splendid publications of the Monumental Inscriptions you will have seen advertised in the latest magazine, the first batch of more to come. We have also published an index to the 1851 census series, a great boon for those ancestors lost in Berkshire.

Many of our members are assisting with the Overseers Project at the Berkshire Record Office and some of those are also helping in our largest current project to publish Berkshire parish registers. Large numbers of members have volunteered to help with transcribing, scanning, checking and rechecking, some of them overseas members, but there is always room for more volunteers!

Many projects start as a one man band. For example our treasurer is working on

creating a database system for the Berkshire Name Index. Once his work is complete we will need a team to help enter all those slips onto the computer. Another member is transcribing the burial books for Reading Cemetery, but was unsure what she was going to do when finished. Hopefully we will be able to publish her transcripts on microfiche. So don't be put off starting something by thinking you can't do it all yourself, we all seem to be great at joining in if someone gives us a shove to start.

My final words are to thank the Executive Committee. Our membership continues to grow year on year thanks to the work of our secretary Robert Houseman and his intrepid team of membership secretaries and our bank balance is in the safe hands of our treasurer Ron Dobrée. Thanks also to Chad Hanna who appears to be involved in every aspect of the society, we wouldn't want to be without him, and to all the other members of the executive for the ideas, work and support of the society throughout the year. A special word of thanks must go to Catherine Harrington, our Editor, who is stepping down from the Executive after five years continual service - her efforts on the Committee will be missed.

I am very sorry to be standing down after such a short time. I have enjoyed every minute of my year as Chairman, particularly because of the wonderful people I have met and had the pleasure of working with. I wish you all the very best of luck, particularly your new Chairman, and look forward to seeing you all soon."

5. Treasurer's Report for 1996-1997

Ron Dobrée delivered his report and took questions.

Treasurer's Report to the Members

"Ladies and Gentlemen, Good evening. I am sorry that this year I have far less

interesting things to report than last, but that should probably be the way of Treasurer's reports. I am sure that you would be concerned were I to report an exciting one-way trip to the Bahamas or Monte Carlo as part of my accounts.

This gives me the only opportunity each year to thank all the members who help the Society in any way involving the Society's funds. I worked out that over 100 members must be involved in generating and recording the money belonging to the Society, including Research Centre volunteers, bookstall supporters and all the various people involved in refreshments, raffles and open days. While it is impossible to thank each of these individually, I must express particular thanks to those who collate the information on activities and thereby reduce the hundreds of individual transactions to manageable levels. They are Ed Pearce, who checks the Research Centre, Cliff Debney, who supplies much of the information on away-day bookstall sales (and who also subdued the bookstall numbers until last June), Lynne Macmillan who tracks the unsold books, the Membership Secretaries and the branch Treasurers who keep me in touch with local activities

Now to take you on a fast tour of the accounts. The balance sheet of the Society, being almost entirely cash with few debtors, is fairly strong for a Society of this size. The income is primarily from Member's subscriptions, which increased last year as more joined us. This continuing rise means that there is no need to consider any changes in subscription levels at present. A substantial contribution came from the fiche printer-reader in the Research Centre, which has been well used.

The other income figure of significance is the Miscellaneous Income which includes

Raffles and Refreshments amongst other small items. This has been inflated by recording for the first time in the various "local" funds which had been generated in the branches and which had escaped the main books as they were too small to record. However they totalled in excess of £300 and it seemed appropriate to include them in the main books.

Costs of most of the Society's activities rose during the year. The communications with members, which includes magazines and members packs, increased by nearly 20%, partly due to the increase in members. The costs of speakers also climbed, and some of this may be attributed to their travel costs being included when they were previously covered by local funds and so not recorded. These increases were compensated by reduced spending on new acquisitions to the Reference Library, compared with last year when we had the cost of the 1881 Census index and of binding the Magazine archive. However over the year the Committee has contained the costs to the same overall cost as before.

Finally the bookstall, where the members have given disappointment. While not wishing to denigrate one iota the efforts of those currently running all the bookstall activities, the bookstall has suffered from Jean Debney's retirement as manager, together with a lack of new publications. Your Committee anticipated a fall in Sales after that, but in reality a drop of over 25% was more than expected. At the same time it has been harder to obtain discounts since suppliers have also been squeezed during the recession. I expect the bookstall to recover its profitability this year as Members will hopefully have more money available (the effects of the recession on members' spending power was noticeable) and the bookstall will be able to offer more fresh publications, particularly in the area

of the Society's local information and project results.

Finally, I must express my appreciation of the Honorary Auditor's hard work in checking the Accounts before they get to you. I am pleased to be able to say that those errors he found were minor and easily corrected, but would not want to under-emphasise the amount of work involved, carried out in his own time."

The Chairman asked the Meeting to approve the audited accounts. Simon Harrington proposed, Edward Richardson seconded, and the meeting agreed unanimously

6. Election of President and Vice President

The Chairman informed the Meeting that the Executive Committee has invited Lady Palmer, our current President, and Dr Peter Durrant, our current Vice President, to continue in those posts for the 1997-1998 Society Year, and so they are duly elected

7. Election of Society Officers for 1997-1998

The Chairman informed the Meeting that the following nominations were received by the Secretary by the closing date of 17th June, 1997, on the form published in the June 1997 Berkshire Family Historian:

Society Chairman - Mr Ivan Dickason
Society Secretary - Mr Robert Houseman
Society Treasurer - Mr Ron Dobrée

As no other nominations were received by the closing date, they are duly elected to serve as Offices of the Society for 1997-1998

8. Branch Committee Appointed Ex-officio Members

The Chairman informed the Meeting that the Branch Committees have nominated the following Members to serve as their Representatives on the Executive Committee for 1997-1998

Bracknell Dr Peter Francis
Newbury Mr Rick Maynard
Reading Mrs Liz Longhurst
Slough Mrs Barbara Swiatek

9. Appointment of Executive Committee Members for 1997-1998

John informed the Meeting that the following nominations were received by the Secretary by the closing date of 17th June, 1997, on the form published in the June 1997 *Berkshire Family Historian*:

Mrs Jan Jones
Mrs Margaret Pyle
Mr Simon Harrington
Mr Cliff Debney
Mr Chad Hanna

As no other nominations were received by the closing date, they are duly elected to serve on the Executive for 1997-1998

10. Appointment of Auditors for 1997-1998

The Chairman informed the Meeting that David Muzzlewhite FCA has kindly offered to remain in the role of Auditor of the Society. The Chairman asked the Meeting to approve this appointment. Susan Lenton proposed, Mike Allen seconded and the meeting agreed unanimously

11. Any Other Business

Chad Hanna asked the Meeting to register their sincere thanks to Jan Jones for serving the Society as its Chairman for 1996-1997 - the Meeting enthusiastically registered its thanks

12. Close the Meeting

The Chairman closed the Meeting

Berkshire Forever Conference (28th June)

By Chad Hanna

This conference was the first since the weekend conference in September 1995. All three speakers gave excellent talks and many of those who came told me how much they had enjoyed the day. Others, including the County Archivist, Dr Peter Durrant, had commented on the appropriateness of the topic with imminent demise of the Berkshire County Council in a few month's time.

Peter Durrant's talk on the County Records of Berkshire was an excellent survey of the records of Berkshire and highlighted many resources which Berkshire family historians could usefully investigate. Of course, many other counties have similar less frequented archives.

Jean Debney began "*What's in a Berkshire Surname*" by asking whether there were such things as Berkshire surnames, given that many families moved through Berkshire over the centuries. As times goes on, and family historians provide concrete information about the origin of surnames to replace the speculations of earlier academics, a clearer answer should emerge.

After lunch, Dr Judith Hunter told us about the Royal Borough Collection of Windsor, and gave us an insight into the trials, tribulations and opportunities of maintaining a collection of museum items without a museum.

The low attendance of fifty or so was a disappointment, particularly after the our previous conferences and symposia where an audience of 150 wasn't unusual.

Thanks are due to all those who helped with lunches, refreshments and staffing the Research Centre. Special thanks are due to Gill Brown-Lee and the LDS team for making LDS Family History Centre available.

Berkshire Family History Society
Balance Sheet as at 30th April 1997

	£	£	£	30.4.96	30.4.96
Liabilities					
Accumulated Funds	30636			22640	
Bookstall Surplus	1			0	
Bookstall Creditors	1122			50	
General Surplus	103			7996	
General Creditors	1999			731	
Assets					
Computer and Copier Equipment		3823			
Less: Depreciation		<u>2094</u>			
Debtors			1729		2111
General Account			1324		279
Instant Savings Accounts			2199		4141
30 Day Account			17820		13270
Bookstall Account			2584		777
Instant Savings BSA			622		1595
Cash			382		316
Stock			7200		8699
	<u>33861</u>		<u>33861</u>	<u>31417</u>	<u>31417</u>

Berkshire Family History Society
Income for the Year ended 30th April 1997

	£	1996
Subscriptions	13453	12672
Inland Revenue	0	469
Deposit Interest	635	940
Advertising	120	122
Research	11	17
Symposia	39	
Donations	206	233
Berkshire Name Index	95	79
1851 Census	82	51
Fiche Printer	1693	432
Miscellaneous	679	603
	<u>17013</u>	<u>15618</u>
Total Income & Expenditure		
	£	£
Income	17013	15618
Surplus on Conference and Quilt Raffle		5440
Contribution from Bookstall	<u>174</u>	<u>3728</u>
	17187	24786
Expenditure	<u>17084</u>	<u>17073</u>
	<u>103</u>	<u>7713</u>

Berkshire Family History Society
Expenditure for Year ended 30th April 1997

	£		1996
			£
Magazine	4296		4034
Magazine Postage	2015		1435
Meeting Halls	1416		1787
Symposia	134		201
Reference Library	1189		2532
Speakers	1111		891
Premises Lease	2123	2000	
-Other Research Centre Costs	<u>495</u>	<u>2618</u>	<u>408</u>
Computer Costs		129	
Computer Depreciation	1038		1056
Insurance & FFHS	944		835
Conference Fees	302		283
Other Affiliations	43		34
Postage	498		357
Stationery	408		233
Photocopy	276		339
Telephone	63		78
Travel	210		309
Miscellaneous	<u>396</u>		<u>261</u>
	<u>17084</u>		<u>17073</u>

Berkshire Family History Society
Bookstall Income & Expenditure Account
Year ended 30th April 1997

	£	£	1996	1996
			£	£
Income				
Sales Income		9384		13546
Opening Stock	8699		7766	
Purchases	6649		8947	
Census Printing	<u>712</u>		<u>520</u>	
	16060		17233	
Closing Stock	<u>7200</u>		<u>8699</u>	
Cost of Goods		<u>8860</u>		<u>8534</u>
Margin		524		5012
Stationery	32		186	
Postage	184		627	
Telephone	34			
Travel	66		92	
Sales Commission	38		13	
Photocopying	2		47	
Miscellaneous	<u>-7</u>	<u>349</u>	<u>36</u>	<u>3728</u>
Surplus		175		3728
Contribution to General A/c		<u>174</u>		<u>3728</u>
Profit/(Loss) to Accumulated Fund		<u>1</u>		<u>0</u>

Signed: R J Houseman (Secretary) R B Dobrée (Treasurer)

I have examined the books and records of the Society and confirm that the above accounts are in accordance therewith. (signed) D J Muzzlewhite FCA

20th Century Census Returns Campaign

By Ivan Dickason

As mentioned in my *Chairman's Comments*, the early 20th Century Census returns have been the subject of a recent campaign.

Two BFHS members have asked the Society to take part in this campaign. Firstly, by having its Executive Committee write to government declaring the Society's support for a reduction in the closure period. Secondly, we are asked to promote a petition to the government on the subject. Thirdly, we are asked to promote a petition to the FFHS.

The closure period for census returns is presently 100 years. This is enacted in law by a statutory instrument issued under the authority of the Public Records Act, 1958.

It is the case that, when the Censuses were taken in 1901 and 1911, the public were given assurances about confidentiality of the information they gave to the enumerator. The Office of National Statistics have taken the view that a period of 100 years is appropriate in order to protect information about the people that are living.

The Executive Committee of the BFHS discussed the matter at its meeting on 2nd August. The unanimous view of the Committee was that securing accurate information for the census was paramount and that, therefore, the Committee were not able to support the campaign to reduce the closure period for the twentieth century census returns.

Federation Response to the 20th Century Census Campaign

By David Lambert

The following statement is reprinted from the Federation of Family History Societies 'Newsflash' of June 1997 and is a report from David Lambert, Chairman of FFHS

"I report the outcome of my correspondence with the Lord Chancellor on the availability and retention of this Century's Census Returns. I have been told:

1. The Returns for 1901 are due to be opened for public scrutiny in 2002. Microfilms of these Returns will be available at No.1 Myddelton Street.
2. Specimens of the actual forms used when the Census was taken in 1911 can be seen at the PRO (Reference RG27/8) but not of course the completed forms themselves.
3. In 1966 the then Lord Chancellor prescribed a 100 year closure period for Census Returns. The period does not have to be reviewed and has not been under public records legislation. It has been repeatedly restated as a matter of public policy. The 1981 and 1991 Census forms stated explicitly that they would not be released for 100 years.
4. In 1992 the Lord Chancellor approved the retention by the Registrar General of the 1961 Returns until the year 2001.
5. In 1996 a similar approval was given for the retention of the 1921 and 1951 Returns by the Registrar General until the year 2010.
6. The two approvals have no bearing on the arrangements for the preservation of the three Census returns as distinct from the "retention" of the original records, "retention" meaning being kept in the department of origin rather than "preserved".

7. The approvals were given on the basis of the need to maintain the high confidentiality of the Returns taken under the Census Act 1920 and of the duty not to disclose information from them to anyone outside the Census organisation.
8. The Public Record Office is considering with a number of departments including the Office of National Statistics (ONS) the format in which some of the large accumulation of records that they hold can be preserved. The cost of microfilming to a proper archival standard as against the continued storage of originals has not been favourable to filming but there are questions concerning the feasibility of providing accommodation over the long term for some of the records or facilities for consulting them as originals. These matters are kept under review. I have stated that we would wish to see the original 20th Century Returns preserved and like confirmation that they will not be destroyed, particularly if they are ultimately microfilmed. I have asked that the FFHS be consulted as a matter of policy whenever a review of Census closure and retention takes place. This has been noted.
9. The Advisory Council on Public Records, under the Public Records Act, is the body to whom the Lord Chancellor looks as a prime source for advice when considering such matters as applications for records to be closed or retained. The Council acts as a focus for the very many interest groups which may have concerns in these areas. There are no plans for any review of the closure of the Census in the near future in view of the statements of Government policy quoted above.
10. Prescriptions of closure periods can only be made with the approval or at the request of the person who is primarily concerned with any particular record; in the case of the Censuses this is the Registrar General.

The above is a résumé of the comments passed by the Private Secretary of the Lord Chancellor. Since the Summer of 1995 I have been in correspondence with Mr Denis McCready concerning 20th Century Census returns. In February 1996 he indicated that he was beginning some research into the way family historians feel about the period of closure that prevents us reading a Census return until it is 100 years old.

I am aware that Mr McCready has written in a recent issue of *Family Tree Magazine* and has suggested that a petition might be sent to the Prime Minister on the subject of the extended retention and closure of the Census returns.

I have pointed out to Mr McCready that in my opinion, having read the 1920 Census Act and subsequent legislation that it will be a criminal offence for anyone in the office of the Registrar General to publish or make available the information contained in the 1921 and later returns. I believe that it would be necessary to amend the primary legislation if the closure period was shortened to, say, 30 years.

I understand further that the Census returns in 1911 and subsequently were not taken in a format which could easily be made available for research, the form being different from that of the 19th Century Census Enumerator's Books with which we are familiar. It should of course not be overlooked that the 1931 returns were destroyed by fire in the War and the 1941 Census was never taken. There is therefore a gap between 1921 and 1951 for which no Census returns exist

Members' Interests

Compiled by Robert Houseman

CHANGES OF ADDRESS:

- 0338 Mr CL ORAM, Willow Cottage, High Street, Twyford, Winchester, Hants SO21 1RF
1211 Mr D SIBTHORPE, Blakes Cottage, Horn Street, Winslow, Bucks MK18 3AP
1763 Mr D OBEE, 4687 Falaise Drive, Victoria, BC V8Y 1B4, CANADA
2040 Mr HA KEARSEY, Windmill Place, Windmill Road, Minchinhampton, Stroud, Glos GL6 9EE
2518 Mrs M AVERY, 1 Mallory Avenue, Caversham Park Village, Reading, Berks RG4 6QN
2932 Mr JHB DUFF, 43 Bingham's Road, Crossways, Dorchester, Dorset DT2 8BW
3098 Mr AS HARPER, Burrow Farmhouse, 102 Church Road, Plymstock, Plymouth, Devon PL9 9BG
3121 Mrs E SIMPSON, 14 Ladymask Close, Calcot, Reading, Berks RG31 7QB

MEMBERS SUBMITTING THEIR INTERESTS:

(* GOONS - Member of the Guild Of One Name Studies)

- 3171 Mrs R TAIT, 77 Victoria Road, Preston, Lancs PR2 8NH
3318 Mr PD KNIGHT, 3 Cranbrook Court, Fleet, Hants GU13 8QA
3352 Mr AT HOUSE, 2 Lakeside, Bracknell, Berks RG42 2LE
3414 Mr B BAGGOTT, 1120 Lake Twintree Drive SE, Calgary, Alberta T2J 2T1, CANADA
3420 Mrs J ANGIER, Tithe Barn, 30 Chalkpit Lane, Oxted, Surrey RH8 0NE
3456 Mrs J FAIRBURN, 28 Old Vicerage Green, Keynsham, Bristol BS18 2DQ
3476 Ms M EVANS, 24 Wychwood Way, Central Hill, Upper Norwood, London SE19 1HR
3480 Mrs MJ DANCER, 228 Ermin Street, Lower Stratton, Swindon, Wilts SN3 4LW
3482 Mr R AITKEN, 27 Wainfleet Avenue, Collier Row, Romford, Essex RM5 3BX
3486 Mr K GODFREY, 94 Wishing Well Drive, Scarborough, Ontario M1T 1J4, CANADA
3492 Mr E DAVIES, 32 Rances Lane, Wokingham, Berks RG40 2LH
3512 Mr D GEORGE, Lowburn 2 Road, Cromwell 9191, NEW ZEALAND
3525 Mr B SHORT, 4 Ash Grove, Feltham, Middx TW14 8AR
3529* Mr & Mrs B YOUNG, 376 The Meadoway, Tilehurst, Reading, Berks RG30 3NX
3537 Mr AE SARGENT, 2a Victoria Road, Harborne, Birmingham B17 0AH
3539 Mr S MORLEY, 10 Oak Drive, Woodley, Reading, Berks RG5 4BA
3545 Mr AJ MARKS, 20 Koumala Street, Mansfield, Brisbane, Queensland 4870, AUSTRALIA
3549 Mrs L SAVILL, 9 Ash Grove, Westham, Pevensey, East Sussex BN24 5AF
3551 Mr P WEST, PO Box 996, Gawler, South Australia 5118, AUSTRALIA
3565 Mrs PK RICHARDSON, 48 Lynchgate Avenue, Pedmore, Stourbridge, West Midlands DY9 0TS
3567 Mr & Mrs KW LEE, 14 Wiltshire Avenue, Crowthorne, Berks RG45 6NG
3579 Ms MJ LINDEN, 32 Priors Road, Windsor, Berks SL4 4PD
3587 Mr P MUSGROVE, Autumn Cottage, 24 Chobham Road, Knaphill, Woking, Surrey GU21 2SX
3591 Mrs N MORRIS, Turnberry, Front Street, South Clifton, Nr Newark, Notts NG23 7AA
3607 Mrs D TIGHE, Strath Colin, Pettridge Lane, Mere, Wiltshire BA12 6DG

No.	Surname	Place	Code	Period	No.	Surname	Place	Code	Period
3607	ABBOTT	High Wycombe	BKM	1850-1910	3420	ANGIER	West Ham	ESS	1860-1914
3607	ABBOTT	Westminster	MDX	1750-1850	3607	ARNOLD	Great Shefford	BRK	1700-1850
3537	ADKINS	Kingsnorton	WOR	1890-1997	3420	ASHBY	Yalding	KEN	1700-1850
3482	AITKEN	Anywhere	WAR	1855-1950	3565	BACON	Lambourn	BRK	1740-1850
3482	AITKEN	Reading	BRK	1840-1920	3565	BACON	Lambourn	BRK	1650-1850
3607	ALLEN	Great Shefford	BRK	1700-1850	3565	BAILEY	Wantage	BRK	1650-1800
3579	ALLISON	Burt	DON	1840-1869	3552	BAKER	Bristol	SOM	1800-1900
3420	ANGIER	Brightlingsea	ESS	1600-1800	3420	BAKER	Edenbridge	KEN	1750-1850

No.	Surname	Place	Code	Period	No.	Surname	Place	Code	Period
3420	BAKER	Richmond	SRY	1600-1750	3352	ELDRIDGE	London	LND	1800-1900
3539	BANISTER	Finchampstead	BRK	1100-1900	3171	EMANS	Anywhere	BRK	1066-1800
3414	BARLOW	Andover	HAM	1650-1750	3480	EVANS	Ludershall	WIL	1700-1900
3420	BARTHOLOMEW	Allington	KEN	1850-1910	3171	EVANS	Newbury	BRK	1066-1800
3529	BARTLETT	Warborough	OXF	1750-1860	3537	EXALL	Sonning	BRK	1832-1900
3414	BEFFER	Anywhere	BRK	1700-1800	3482	EYLOTT	Reading	BRK	1850-1970
3486	BENNETT	Stratfield Mortimer	BRK	1500-1750	3456	FAIRBURN	London	LND	1800-1931
3549	BISH	Bromley	KEN	1800-1900	3318	FALLON	Ballynaughan	IRL	1780-1900
3318	BISHOP	Iworth	SFK	1780-1860	3579	FISHER	Sheffield	YKS	1780-1853
3318	BISHOP	Neasden	LND	1860-1960	3420	FROST	Bradfield	SFK	1800-1900
3318	BISHOP	Newmarket	SFK	1780-1860	3539	FULLER	Caversham	OXF	1600-1836
3565	BISHOP	Wanborough	WIL	1700-1800	3549	FULLER	Islington	LDN	1750-1870
3414	BLAKE	Newbury	BRK	1750-1850	3512	GEORGE	St Giles, Reading	BRK	1780-1810
3529	BLUNDEN	Wolverton	HAM	1700-1950	3512	GEORGE	St Mary, Reading	BRK	1820-1850
3565	BOND	Kingstone Lisle	BRK	1700-1850	3567	GIGG	Egham	SRY	1750-1997
3579	BOWEN	Newport	MON	1810-1890	3607	GILES	Great Shefford	BRK	1700-1850
3587	BOWERS	Anywhere	SFK	1850-1890	3486	GODFREY	Brightwalton	BRK	1500-1700
3529	BOWLER	Reading	BRK	1750-1850	3486	GODFREY	East/West Hanney	BRK	1066-1900
3551	BRASIER	Bampton	OXF	1730-1760	3486	GODFREY	Lambour	BRK	1600-1700
3551	BRASIER	Cholsey	BRK	1750-1780	3512	GOSNELL	Sevenoaks	KEN	1840-1870
3318	BRAY	Egham	MDX	1790-1881	3456	GRAY	Bray	BRK	1800-1847
3318	BRAY	Old Windsor	BRK	1790-1881	3456	GRAY	Clewer	BRK	1800-1847
3318	BRAY	Sunningdale	BRK	1790-1881	3539	GREENER	Waltham StLawr/ce	BRK	1550-1700
3529	BREADMORE	ALL	ALL	ALL	3567	GREENHAM	Leigh	LAN	1800-1930
3486	BREAKSPEAR	Wantage	BRK	1700-1800	3607	GREY	Liddington	WIL	1650-1750
3492	BRIDER	Eiham	KEN	1840-1900	3414	GROBERTY	Greenwich	KEN	1700-1875
3492	BRIDER	Islington	LND	1880-1920	3529	GUNTER	Aldermaston	BRK	1665-1880
3486	BROOKEMAN	Compton Beauchamp	BRK	1500-1700	3476	GUNTER	Ardington	BRK	1500-1997
3476	BROOM	Blewbury	BRK	1500-1997	3476	GUNTER	East Lockinge	BRK	1500-1997
3476	BROOM	St Helens	BRK	1500-1997	3529	HALL	South Moreton	BRK	1800-1880
3420	BUCKLAND	Burnham Beeches	BKM	1800-1850	3529	HALLS	W Dereham	NFK	1830-1880
3476	BUNCE	East Lockinge	BRK	1500-1997	3579	HARFIELD	Hartley Wintney	HAM	1807-1860
3486	BUNCE	East/West Hanney	BRK	1700-1830	3607	HARPER	Hungerford	BRK	1870-1910
3565	BUNCE	Kingstone Lisle	BRK	1700-1800	3607	HARPER	Ogbourne St Andrew	WIL	1750-1870
3414	BURLEY	Andover	HAM	1650-1750	3486	HARRISON	Pangbourne	BRK	1500-1710
3512	BUTLER	Marton	SAL	1880-1920	3486	HARRISON	Stratfield Mortimer	BRK	1600-1780
3565	CARNE	Wantage	BRK	1704-1860	3539	HARVEY	Lewknor	OXF	1600-1820
3318	CHALLIS	Egham	MDX	1790-1881	3539	HAWTHORN	Reading	BRK	1600-1720
3318	CHALLIS	Old Windsor	BRK	1790-1881	3549	HAYNES	North Leach	GLS	1800-1900
3318	CHALLIS	Sunningdale	BRK	1790-1881	3512	HENRY	Canden Town	LND	1850-1880
3480	CHAPPLE	Torquay	DEV	1850-1900	3512	HENSLER	Wokingham	BRK	1820-1830
3567	CHARLTON	Shrewsbury	SAL	1800-1930	3486	HERMAN	Garford	BRK	1800-1871
3414	CHING	Speen	BRK	1650-1875	3565	HICKS	West Hanney	BRK	1650-1800
3565	CHURCH	Lambour	BRK	1740-1850	3529	HOPKINS	Salperton	GLS	1750-1900
3549	CHURCH	Leighton	BDF	1700-1900	3352	HOUSE	Chard	SOM	1600-1900
3549	CHURCH	Northall	BKM	1800-1900	3549	HUDSON	Cote	OXF	1750-1850
3539	CLARK	Caversham	BRK	1750-1900	3480	HULBERT	Figheldean	WIL	1700-1850
3492	CLOOS	Rhineland, GERMANY		1840-1910	3352	HUMPHREY	Wingrave	BKM	1800-1900
3486	COLLINS	East/West Hanney	BRK	1700-1800	3565	HUNT	Kingstone Lisle	BRK	1700-1850
3567	COLLINS	Lyne	SRY	1800-1900	3414	HYDE	Newbury	BRK	1650-1875
3480	COOK	Ludershall	WIL	1700-1850	3551	JACOBS	Clewer	BRK	1795-1850
3587	COOPER	Hurst	BRK	1815-1900	3579	JOHN	Mydrim	CMN	1830-1860
3579	COUSER	Roscommon	ARM	1860-1895	3579	JONES	Bedwelty	MON	1840-1870
3567	COUSINS	Dalwood	DEV	1800-1900	3567	JONES	Seaton	DEV	1870-1930
3414	CRIPPS	Newbury	BRK	1650-1875	3512	JOYNER	Marylebone	MDX	1850-1860
3567	CROFT	Lyne	SRY	1800-1997	3537	KETTLEBURY	Sonning	BRK	1500-1850
3539	CROOK	Caversham	OXF	1700-1900	3420	KIMBER	Bradfield	BRK	1800-1900
3480	DANCER	Hederley	BKM	1750-1900	3549	KING	Potton	BDF	1700-1900
3492	DAVIES	Bargoed	GLA	1870-1936	3318	KNIGHT	Chieveley	BRK	1785-1850
3579	DAVIES	Llanely	CMN	1800-1860	3318	KNIGHT	Newbury	BRK	1785-1850
3492	DAVIES	Llangolman	PEM	1780-1840	3579	KNIGHT	Steep	HAM	1824-1846
3512	DAVIES	Marton	SAL	1840-1920	3476	LANE	Blewbury	BRK	1500-1997
3492	DAVIES	Moylgrove	PEM	1840-1895	3529	LAWRENCE	Shudy Camps	CAM	1800-1900
3579	DAVIES	Mynyddislwyn	MON	1800-1870	3567	LEE	Crowthorne	BRK	1800-1997
3476	DICKER	Blewbury	BRK	1500-1997	3420	LIGHT	Knowl Hill	BRK	1800-1900
3352	DIMENT	Chard	SOM	1600-1900	3579	LINDEN	Newry	ARM	1826-1895
3476	DOCKRELL	Anywhere	BRK	1500-1997	3512	LLOYD	Carmel	GVN	1860-1920
3529	DOE	Brimpton	BRK	1780-1850	3587	LONGHURST	Anywhere	BRK	1870-1920
3318	DOHERTY	Ballynaughan	IRL	1780-1861	3476	LORD	Maidford	NTH	1500-1900
3318	DOHERTY	Dublin	IRL	1780-1861	3551	LOVENBURY	Easthampstead	BRK	1790-1820
3512	DORMAN	Canden Town	LND	1830-1870	3456	LUCKETT	Canterbury	KEN	1800-1876
3476	DOWSETT	Hackney	MDX	1500-1997	3539	LUTTMAN	Waltham StLawr/ce	BRK	1550-1700

No.	Surname	Place	Code	Period	No.	Surname	Place	Code	Period
3565	MABERLY	Wanborough	WIL	1750-1900	3318	SCULL	Coombe	WIL	1780-1881
3537	MARLOW	Birmingham	WAR	1860-1997	3318	SCULL	Newbury	BRK	1780-1881
3537	MARLOW	Nuneaton	WAR	1500-1900	3318	SCULL	Thatcham	BRK	1780-1881
3579	MARTIN	Rostrevor	DOW	1860-1895	3476	SHARPE	Anywhere	SFK	1500-1900
3551	MASLIN	Clewer	BRK	1750-1795	3607	SHERMAN	Lambourn	BRK	1800-1910
3420	MAUNDERS	East Hanney	BRK	1750-1900	3607	SHERMAN	Little Hinton	WIL	1650-1800
3420	MAUNDERS	Northmoor	OXF	1700-1800	3607	SHERMAN	Sparsshot	BRK	1600-1700
3420	MAUNDERS	West Horsley	SRV	1880-1915	3525	SHORT	Anywhere	DOR	1700-1800
3420	MAUNDERS	White Waltham	BRK	1850-1900	3525	SHORT	Windsor	BRK	1750-1950
3480	MILLER	Quarley	HAM	1700-1875	3529	SHURMER	Nolgrove	GLS	1800-1850
3607	MINCHIN	Liddington	WIL	1700-1800	3456	SILVER	Cookham Dean	BRK	1700-1829
3486	MOREING	East/West Hanney	BRK	1750-1850	3549	SIMMONS	Stockwell	LDN	1800-1900
3480	MUNDAY	Quarley	HAM	1700-1800	3480	SITTERS	Brixham	DEV	1850-1930
3587	MUSGROVE	Anywhere	DEV	1800-1880	3318	SKULL	Coombe	WIL	1780-1881
3587	MUSGROVE	Fulham	MDX	1900-1974	3318	SKULL	Newbury	BRK	1780-1881
3587	MUSGROVE	Marlborough	WIL	1870-1900	3318	SKULL	Thatcham	BRK	1780-1881
3352	NASH	Anywhere	LND	1800-1900	3565	SMITH	Kingstone Lisle	BRK	1700-1800
3539	NASH	Hurst/Binfield	BRK	1600-1725	3539	SMITH	Mapledurham	OXF	1700-1880
3539	NEWMAN	Reading	BRK	1700-1900	3565	SPACKMAN	Lambourn	BRK	1682-1800
3512	NORTON	Birmingham	STS	1800-1830	3607	SPACKMAN	Westminster	MDX	1700-1800
3414	PALMER	Vernham's Dean	HAM	1680-1780	3587	SPENDLOVE	Anywhere	SFK	1850-1890
3537	PARNCOTT	Sonning	BRK	1500-1900	3549	SPINKS	Peck	LDN	1800-1900
3537	PARNCUTT	Sonning	BRK	1500-1900	3539	STEVENS	Caversham	OXF	1600-1775
3476	PATE	Baldock	HRT	1500-1900	3476	STIFF	Anywhere	SFK	1500-1900
3414	PAYNE	Lambourn	BRK	1700-1875	3567	STONE	Leigh	LAN	1800-1960
3480	PECK	Figheledean	WIL	1700-1850	3352	SWAIN	London	LND	1800-1900
3565	PERT	Sparsholt	BRK	1700-1860	3567	THOMAS	Dalwold	DEV	1870-1950
3171	PETRIE	Nottingham	NTT	1066-1800	3579	THOMAS	Mynachlogddu	PEM	1830-1860
3591	PEWSEY	Anywhere	BRK	1500-1800	3482	THOMPSON	Anywhere	WAR	1800-1900
3486	PIKE	Kingston Lisle	Brk	1650-1755	3529	THRING	Steeple Langford	WIL	1650-1900
3486	PINNELL	Lambourn	BRK	1500-1700	3565	TOMBS	Lambourn	BRK	1700-1850
3486	PINNELL	Stanfordish Vale	BRK	1500-1600	3420	TUCK	Little Snoring	NFK	1800-1900
3607	PIONFOLD	Longcot	BRK	1600-1700	3549	TURNER	North Leach	GLS	1800-1900
3476	PLUMB	Brinkley	CAM	1500-1900	3567	TURNER	Shrewsbury	SAL	1800-1930
3529	POTHECARY	Steeple Langford	WIL	1750-1900	3565	WALKER	Chilton	BRK	1700-1800
3492	POWELL	Troedrhufuwch	GLA	1860-1900	3480	WALLEN	Figheledean	WIL	1700-1850
3579	PRICE	Llywel	BRE	1780-1870	3476	WALSOM	Hackney	MDX	1500-1997
3549	PRIOR	Besselsleigh	BRK	1800-1900	3549	WARD	Fulham	MDX	1800-1900
3549	PRIOR	Hanney	BRK	1750-1900	3414	WATTS	Newbury	BRK	1650-1850
3549	PRIOR	Hinton Waldrist	BRK	1550-1890	3545	WELLBELOVE	Egham	SRV	1700-1836
3591	PURSEY	Northern Area	HAM	1500-1900	3545	WELLBELOVE	Old Windsor	SRV	1700-1836
3591	PUSEY	Englefield	BRK	1500-1800	3551	WEST	Aldworth	BRK	1777-1810
3591	PUSEY	Pusey	BRK	1500-1800	3551	WEST	Cholsey	BRK	1750-1780
3591	PUSEY	Yattendon	BRK	1500-1800	3551	WEST	Wallingford	BRK	1810-1850
3591	PUSSE	Anywhere	BRK	1500-1800	3551	WEST	Warfield	BRK	1790-1830
3591	PUSSEY	Anywhere	BRK	1500-1800	3539	WESTBROOK	Waltham StLawr/ce	BRK	1550-1650
3486	PYNNELL	Lambourn	BRK	1500-1700	3537	WESTON	Burton on Trent	STS	1850-1997
3414	RANDALL	Vernham's Dean	HAM	1600-1700	3537	WESTON	Heston	MDX	1750-1900
3529	READINGS	Wallingford	BRK	1750-1860	3537	WESTON	Sonning	BRK	1830-1875
3525	REBBECK	Anywhere	WIL	1700-1800	3529	WHICHELLO	Tetsworth	OXF	1750-1840
3525	REBBECK	Windsor	BRK	1750-1950	3567	WHITE	Egham	SRV	1800-1900
3537	ROBERTSON	Sonning	BRK	1650-1850	3579	WHITHAM	Sheffield	YKS	1830-1997
3352	RUNNEGAR	Walton on Thames	SRV	1700-1950	3607	WHITTAKER	Lambourn	BRK	1700-1800
3414	SAINSBURY	Newbury	BRK	1650-1875	3482	WICKS	Reading	BRK	1850-1970
3476	SANSOM	Anywhere	MDX	1700-1997	3537	WILL(L)SON	Barnacle	WAR	1600-1900
3480	SAVAGE	Emsworth	HAM	1700-1895	3512	WILLIAMS	Brgnretail	GWV	1840-1900
3607	SAVORY	Liddington	WIL	1650-1750	3579	WILLIAMS	Newport	MON	1800-1885
3529	SCHOFIELD	Reading	BRK	1800-1900	3492	WILLIAMS	Troedrhufuwch	GLA	1800-1900
3318	SCHOLE	Coombe	WIL	1780-1881	3539	WINFIELDb	Witney	OXF	1600-1900
3318	SCHOLE	Newbury	BRK	1780-1881	3414	WISE	Newbury	BRK	1650-1875
3318	SCHOLE	Thatcham	BRK	1780-1881	3420	WOODAGE	Hampstead Norris	BRK	1800-1900
					3512	YAPP	Marton	SAL	1880-1920

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