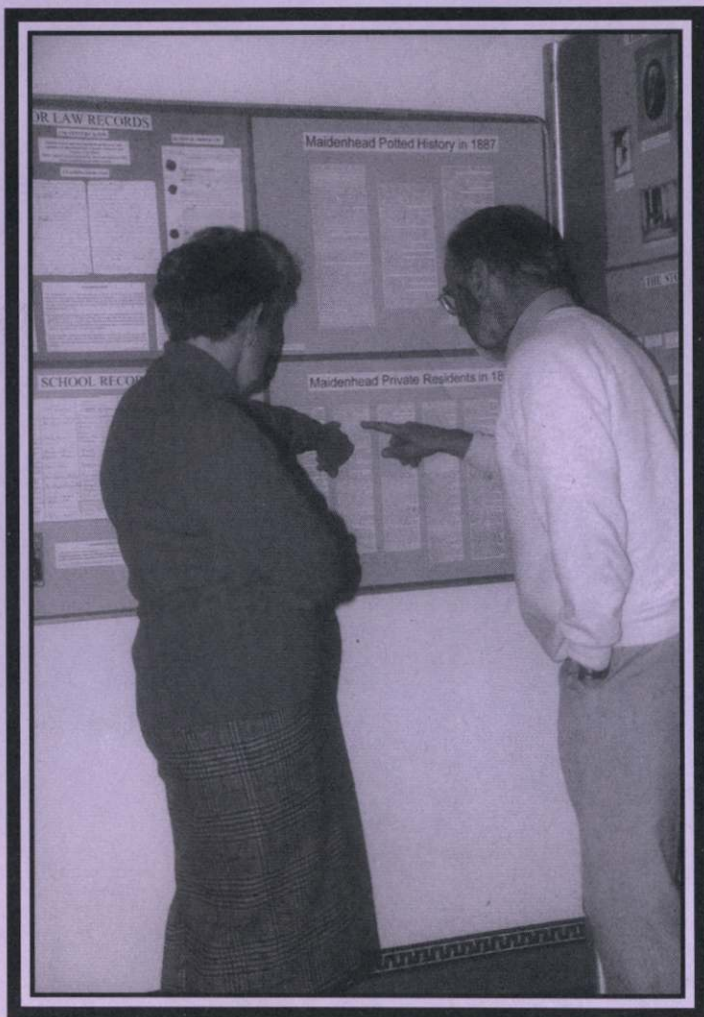




Berkshire Family Historian

Volume 21 - No 2 - December 1997



Events Calendar - 1997/1998

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.

*12 th December	"Dating Old Photographs"	Jean Debney
16 th January 1998	"Wokingham Old & New (Part 1)"	Ken Goatley
20 th February	"Getting the best from the PRO"	Simon Fowler
20 th March	"Alien Immigrants to England"	Paul Blake
17 th April	Members Evening	

Newbury Branch

United Reform Church Hall, Cromwell Place, Northbrook Street, Newbury
7:30pm

10 th December	"20 Objects from the Collections of Newbury District Museum"	Tony Higgott
14 th January 1998	"A Labouring Family from the Civil War to WWII"	Peter Mimms
11 th February	"Newbury & District Motor Services Ltd"	Paul Lacey
11 th March	"North London"	Lilian Gibbens
8 th April	"From Peninsular to Passchendale: British Army Records"	Brian Oldham

Reading Branch

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

Please note that Reading Branch meetings will now generally be held on the last Wednesday of the month, there is an extra meeting on Friday 13th February at Early St Peter's Church Hall.

10 th December	"Thames Valley Buses, Origins and Early Years"	Paul Lacey
28 th January 1998	"The Computerised IGF"	Roger Perry
25 th February	"Our Migrant Ancestors"	Dr. Colin Chapman
25 th March	"Researching from Home"	Richard Moore

Slough Branch

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

9 th December	Christmas Party	
27 th January 1998	"Records of the Other Ranks in the British Army"	Dr. C.T.Watts
24 th February	"On the Parish"	P. Park
31 st March	"Tracing Your London Ancestors"	Mrs J. Cox

BERKSHIRE FAMILY HISTORIAN

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

The photograph on the front cover was taken at the recent BFHS exhibition at Maidenhead Heritage Centre in the Nicholson's Walk Shopping Centre. See the Chairman's Comments for further details.

Chairman's Comments

By Ivan Dickason

During early October the Society participated in a "Family History Week" at the Maidenhead Heritage Centre in the Nicholson's Walk Shopping Precinct in Maidenhead. The invitation came from the Maidenhead Heritage Trust and was in support of their application for lottery funds to build the Maidenhead Heritage Centre.

We provided a static display comprising about 20 A2 size panels covering such matters as the census, poor law and civil registration. Some kind members also made available family trees. One of them spanned some 500 years! Fiche readers and 1881 census indexes and transcripts from the Research Centre were also provided for use by visitors. Some beginner's books on genealogy and other material was available for sale. Our display was manned by volunteers who explained our display to visitors and guided them into family history and, hopefully, into membership of the Society.

Was it successful? Well, yes it was. On average, the Maidenhead Heritage Centre has 110-120 visitors each week. During the eight days of the Family History Week there were about 450 visitors! We have been invited to go back again next year.

Cliff and Jean Debney were responsible for preparing the display and for arranging the event on the Society's behalf. Thank you, Cliff and Jean, for a splendid effort. Thanks also to those other members who attended as volunteers.

The Society is a member of the Central Southern Group of the Federation of Family History Societies. The Group meets annually to discuss matters of common interest. Bucks FHS were the hosts for this year's meeting. I, along with Chad and Leslie Hanna, attended on behalf of the

Society. Among the matters discussed were the problems of finding volunteers to help run societies (it was nice to know every society seemed to have this problem); the sharing of software applications for common society tasks e.g. membership lists, memorial inscriptions, census transcripts etc. and genealogy and the Internet. However, the main topic of the day was concerned with creating and running of society research centres. On this item we were able to offer substantial help from our own experiences. All in all it was a very useful day. Our offer to host the 1998 meeting was accepted.

As I write this piece I have just come back from the West Surrey FHS Computer Conference. About a hundred people attended. Our own Robert Clayton ran a workshop on demonstrating how to move data on disk downloaded from the LDS Church 'FamilySearch' computer system into your own genealogy program. Another workshop demonstrated the use of general-purpose software for family history. Another workshop was, inevitably, concerned with genealogy and the Internet. Several firms were present showing their family history software.

It was an enjoyable day out. However, when I return from events like this I always feel slightly ashamed by my lack of computing expertise. The demonstrators always seem so much more competent than I am but I have resolved that I will get better!

Finally, Meridian Television are considering a series of programmes on family history. Their recent letter to us asking for suggestions and/or ideas for such programmes is reproduced elsewhere in the magazine.

Dates for Your Diary

- Sat. 17th Jan. 98* *Family History Workshop (Beginners)* from 9.30am to 3.30pm. Tutor: Derek Smith at Woodley Hill House Adult Education Centre, Earley, Reading (Tel: 0118-926-1621)
- Sat. 24th Jan. 98* *Your Family History II: Getting unstuck* from 10am to 4.30pm. Tutor: Polly Lawrence at University of Reading, Centre for Continuing Education (with WEA), London Road, Reading, RG1 5AQ (Tel. 0118-931-8347)
- **Sun. 25th Jan. 98** Family History Fair at The Sports & Leisure Centre, Bagshot Road, Bracknell, Berks from 10am to 5pm. Admission £1. **Volunteers to help with the Berkshire FHS Bookstall would be appreciated - please contact Cliff and Jean Debney (Tel. 0118-941-3223)**
- Sat. 7th Feb. 98* Day School "*Archive sources for local history - Enclosure documents*" from 10am to 4.30pm. Tutor: Joan Dils at Berkshire Record Office, Shire Hall, Shinfield Park, Reading, RG2 9XD (book via University of Reading).
- 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 Bulmershe College, Woodlands Avenue, Earley, Reading (book via University of Reading).
- Sat. 7th Mar. 98* **BFHS Open Day at Kingsway United Reform Church, Church Street, Slough from 10am to 4pm. See inside centre of this magazine for further details.**
- Sat. 14th Mar. 98* *Family History Workshop* from 10am to 3.30pm. Tutors: Polly Lawrence & Jean Debney at Newbury College, Oxford Road, Newbury, RG14 1PQ (Tel: 01635-550066).
- Sun. 22nd Mar. 98* Family History Fair at Crufts Sports Centre, Swindon, Wilts from 10am to 4pm. Admission £1.
-

Getting the Money In

By Robin Mosses

From time to time I undertake family history research (mostly for BFHS members living overseas) on a fee-earning basis. Fortunately, to-date, all have had a British bank account - but what if they hadn't?

I have a similar problem with US\$ I occasionally receive. Even cashing a \$47 cheque would result in a significant amount being taken up by fees etc.! I discussed this, and possible alternatives, at my bank.

Now, one can use a credit card abroad and also pay into such an account here. My bank confirmed that one can also make in-payments in local currency abroad. There may be a small counter fee and one might get a slightly lower rate of exchange, but no other charges.

Obviously conditions (and charges) may differ according to the brand of credit card, but generally it might be the answer to efficient transfer of small sum from abroad.

My School Days in Slough

By Lucy Hudson

As a sequel to my article on Slough High Street as a child, I thought I would continue with my school days. It was a very happy time and my childhood is nice to look back on. I started school at the age of six years in 1915. I've been told I was a delicate child, that being the reason for starting school a year late. Fortunately I had my maternal grandma to teach me. She lived with us and was very well educated. As she was born in 1837¹, she was one of the lucky ones to have attended school in those days. I only stayed for two days in the baby class as it was called, then taken up one.

I went to the Tonman Mosley School in William Street, a pleasant building, modern for that period. The infants were separate with Miss Mathews as the head teacher. I believe the others were pupil teachers. I can only remember two names, Phyllis Keir and Doris Lewis. At age seven you went up to the big school as it was called. A mixed school but the playgrounds were separate. We had a very nice hall with a platform at one end and a gallery of steps the opposite end. Standard 7 girls stood on there for assembly which we had every morning. Pupils who could play the piano were chosen to play a march and a favoured one would beat time on the triangle. We all marched into our various classrooms. Our head master was Mr John Clegg. He would sit up on the platform facing us, sometimes accompanied by his wife, who always wore voluminous black attire, and one or two governors, Mr Templeman, a well known Slough figure, was one of them. We would sing two hymns, have prayers and a lesson from the Bible. Then we dispersed to our various classrooms.

I was in Standard 7 at eleven years and sat the eleven plus, but owing to illness in the family, it was not possible for me to go to the secondary girls school only a few buildings away. So there I stayed until I was fourteen and a half.



I remember the war years with some sadness. When a pupil lost a relative in France or elsewhere, it was announced and we always sang the hymn "*Peace Perfect Peace*". The walls around the hall were filled with photos of pupils relatives, some of them old boys of the school. When they were home on leave, it was a proud child who escorted a loved relative to the school. I was one of those with my cousin Arthur². You felt so important. We did not appreciate the sordid reality of life in the trenches.

Of course our playgrounds were concrete - no grass like today. One day each week we would march up to Salt Hill recreation ground and play netball, the boys played football. This was only the top classes. At the entrance to the school there were two lots of gates. On the girl's side of the building was a domestic centre. At a certain age, we went one

¹Ellen Knowles b 4th September 1837 in St Albans daughter of Charles Goodwin Knowles and Elizabeth Radland who were married at Christ Church, Spitalfields on 29th May 1832. In 1837 Charles Goodwin Knowles was toll collector at the Kingsbury Gate on the St Albans and Barnet Turnpike Road. Ellen married Charles Cooper at Dallinghoo, Suffolk on 27th July 1865. She died in Slough in 1926.

²My cousin Arthur Thomas Suttling, b. Bethnal Green 8th October 1898 d Slough 10th July 1956, was the only child of my mother's oldest sister, Eliza Cooper, b Charsfield 27th April 1866 d Slough 27th July 1953, who married Thomas Suttling at St Luke's Richmond 14th April 1894. Arthur was wounded in France serving in the King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry, and I remember going with his mother to see him in a convalescent home at Epsom. The picture shows him in the blue uniform worn during convalescence. While he was in France he met with his cousin Ethel Daisy Cooper, the daughter of my mother's oldest brother, Alfred Cooper, who was serving as a nurse.

day a week. Other schools, Slough National, St Ethelbert's and Montem, came there as well, all on different days. The other side through the boy's entrance was a woodwork centre. We did a few weeks of what was called housewifery, then cookery and finally laundry. We used to take some of our efforts around the classrooms to sell and of course took some home. The laundry was fun with one of the big wooden roller mangles and the old irons you heated up on the gas. Some of the teachers brought their underwear for us to do. I remember one girl scorching some camiknickers belonging to a teacher. In the cookery lessons we had to clean out the larder. We use to pinch the currants. I remember one girl upset a tin of treacle on the floor and had to clean it up - no easy task. At prize-giving we always gave concerts which our mothers used to attend. I still have my prize slips which were pasted in the book of your choice. One year we only had a certificate in lieu of the prize as the war was still on and money was short. It was a happy school and I remember the teachers with affection.

I am 88 years old now so I don't expect many of my classmates are still around. I will conclude by listing the teachers' names.

Head Master	Mr. J. Clegg
Standard 1	Miss Page, afterwards she became Mrs. McCrill. ³
Standard 2	Miss Pickard, became Mrs. Ray
Standard 3	Miss Curd, became Mrs. Leggett
Standard 4	Miss Pithouse, became Mrs. Rolfe
Standard 5	Mrs. Burnett
Standard 6	Mr. J. Drewitt
Standard 7	Miss Porri (girls), Mr. Warren (boys).

We were taught well and learnt respect. We always had to stand when anyone came in. I don't say we were always good but got what we deserved when necessary. It was a sad day when the school was demolished and Slough College, now part of Thames Valley University, was built on the site.

Help Wanted

Mrs J Benson (2606) of 3 Darwin Avenue, Christchurch, Dorset, BH23 2JA wrote asking for help with various missing Aunts and Uncles:

"The first is Mary Ann Hunt, daughter of Alfred and Phoebe Ann née Miller. Mary was registered in the third quarter of 1881 in the Hungerford area and was the fourth of thirteen children and known as "Paul" or "Poll" by some of her brothers and sisters. I don't know her first husband's name but three of her children were Phoebe, Mary and Elsie and there were probably others. Her second marriage was to George Shepherd/Sheppard and she lived in the Windsor area until her death in 1959. If there is anyone who knows of her children or grandchildren I would be pleased to hear from them.

The second is my father's sister who was Rhoda Ann Phillips, daughter of John and Ann née Colbun, born at Chieveley, February 1898. She married James Philip Brown in 1921 at Reading and died 1966. I understand from another cousin that she had several children and one may, at one time, have played football for Swindon Town. If there are any of her children/grandchildren still around in the Reading area I would be pleased to hear from them."

³ Mrs McCrill, as she then was, later taught my daughters when they started at the National Infants School in Herschel Street Slough in 1949.

J.M.W. Turner and the Lovegroves and Marshalls of Sunningwell

By Dr Selby Whittingham

I have for some years been trying to provide a full account of the family of the great artist Turner, on whom two new biographies appeared in 1997. Like earlier ones these mention a Berkshire connection without fully explaining it.

Joseph Mallord William Turner (1775-1851) was named after his maternal uncle, Joseph Mallord William Marshall (1740-1820). Their string of names was in token of the fact that they were in turn to inherit property under the will of an ancestor, Joseph Mallord (1671-1741), Master of the Butchers' Company.

Turner, when he was about ten, was sent to stay with his uncle Marshall at Brentford, where Marshall was a butcher and Turner went to school. In 1789, if not earlier, Turner, now a budding artist, stayed with his uncle at Sunningwell, not far from Abingdon.

At Sunningwell, Marshall and his wife had neighbours called Lovegrove, who appear in Turner's correspondence and notebooks. A little research by myself and others shows that they were more than neighbours. Samuel Lovegrove married at Sunningwell on 22nd October 1786 Sarah Haines (1738-1822), who was the sister of Marshall's second wife Mary (1733-1826), who in turn was the sister of his first wife, Ann Haines (1729-1798?), who was buried at St Laurence, Brentford, in a grave marked with a damaged M.I., "*aged 60*". Fred Turner, librarian at Brentford, earlier this century claimed that her husband was buried there too, but in fact he was buried at Sunningwell on 17th June 1820, aged 79, though there appears to be no record of a stone on the grave. The three Haines

women were baptised at St Mary, Hanwell, Middlesex, daughters of John and Jane. They all married at mature ages which were considerably understated when they were buried.

Marshall had married each of his wives at St Mary, Hanwell (in 1776 and 1798). Neither had any children, and Mary in her will, executed on 19th July 1820 and proved in the PCC on 12th January 1827, left £200 each to Turner and Henry Harpur, grandson of Marshall's eldest sister. Turner and Harpur had shared the Mallord inheritance in 1820. Mary also left £50 each to Harpur's eldest sister Elizabeth, and to Samuel Lovegrove and Sarah Lovegrove. The latter was buried at Sunningwell on 4th July 1822 "*aged 78*". Samuel, who had been a witness of Marshall's will in 1804, was buried there on 10th July 1832, aged 87. The registers do not record the baptisms of any children.

Lovegrove was typically a Berkshire name then and is still today. Samuel was perhaps baptised at Holton, Oxfordshire, on 12th May 1745, son of John and Elizabeth. How he came to know Sarah Haines from Middlesex is unclear. Perhaps he and Marshall were both in the cattle trade? Possibly she was his second wife and he had a son Samuel by an earlier one. Anyhow a Samuel (described as a "*sojourner*") married Frances Knight at St Ebbes, Oxford, on 16th October 1798, and from 10th August 1800 Samuel and Frances started having children baptised at Holton.

A plan by Turner of 1822 (?) showed where Mrs Marshall and Mrs Lovegrove were living at Sunningwell, and gave a sketch of the front of the house, which was

nearly opposite the church. It is said that Marshall had retired there many years earlier, but the indexes to Middlesex deeds suggest that he still owned property at Brentford at his death.

The Royal Academician, Joseph Farington, recorded in his diary on 12th May 1803 that “*a Clergyman has complained of [Turner] neglecting an Uncle, a Butcher, who once supported him for 3 years.*” This suggests that Marshall was still in business then, though the Brentford Rate Books indicate that he lived at Brentford from 1777 until 1802. The clergyman was probably the Rev. H.S. Trimmer, who became one of Turner’s executors and was the son of the educationalist, Mrs Sarah Trimmer of Brentford. Another executor was to be Philip Hardwick, whose grandfather, Thomas, of New Brentford, was the architect who rebuilt the nave of St Laurence, Brentford, where he and his son were buried, and St Mary, Hanwell, of which parish New Brentford was once part.

The implication of these details seems to be that the Marshalls used to stay at Sunningwell, perhaps from 1786, before retiring from Brentford. Why they should have gone to live there has hitherto been a mystery, but now we can see the reason, though it would be interesting to know more about the Lovegroves. For Turner the

Sunningwell connection had a significance for his work, beginning with his early water-colour of Radley Hall (reproduced in the recent book on Radley College by Christopher Hibbert), and continuing with a series of views of Oxford. Some biographies gave an early echo of this when they said that the Rev. Henry Harpur (who in fact went to Cambridge) fell in love with Marshall’s eldest sister “*when at Oxford*” and their marriage brought Turner’s mother to London. This is virtually the opposite of the truth and shows how traditions become garbled.

Acknowledgements

I am grateful for the help which I have had from Berkshire Record Office, the late Tom Girtin, Simon Harrington, Roger Lovegrove, Tim Marshall and Valerie Payne.

On Sunningwell, see David Hill, “*Turner on the Thames*”, 1993, p.6.

My account of Turner’s family, of which the first three parts have appeared, has the title “*Of Geese, Mallards and Drakes.*”

On the Trimmers, see Mrs D.M. Yarde, “*Sarah Trimmer of Brentford and her children*” Hounslow and District History Society, 1990 (her remark, however, that the Rev. H.S. Trimmer was present at Turner’s death is incorrect).

Berkshire Marriage Index Update

Pam Knight, who runs the Berkshire Marriage Index, has asked us to apologise on her behalf to any members who are awaiting replies to marriage enquiries. She is working as quickly as she can through a backlog which has built up over a very busy period.

All searches will be carried out as soon as possible but, if anybody is anxiously awaiting a response, please send a SAE to Pam (not to the BFHS) giving the date and details of your original letter. She will then check that your enquiry has been received and try to let you know approximately when you may expect to receive the result of your search.

New enquiries are welcomed as usual, although please allow for a delay of four to six weeks at present. Please note that the Berkshire Marriage Index is a private one, but which offers a special discount rate to BFHS members. Updated details and addresses are given on the Postal Research Services page.

An Aversion to Water

By Valda Shrimpton

The Berkshire village of Kintbury lies between Newbury and Hungerford not far from the Hampshire and Wiltshire borders. An Ordnance Survey map shows the River Kennet and the Kennet and Avon Canal passing to the north of the village. There are two weirs, a sluice and small tributaries running either side of the village into the Kennet.

On 18th August 1771 Richard Shrimpton married Hannah Stratton in Kintbury, the first appearance of the name Shrimpton in the registers. He could have come from any of the surrounding areas, or moved down from southern Buckinghamshire, where the name was widespread. Hannah was local to the village having been baptised there on 2nd January 1748. They had three sons and two daughters and, when Hannah died in 1782, Richard remarried on 25th July 1783. With his second wife Ann Hawkins he had a further three sons. Ann died in 1805, having outlived her husband by ten years.

Three of Richard's sons are known to have produced children. The eldest surviving two remained in the village. The three youngest moved away. One of them Charles (1791-1859) became a coachman in Lambeth, Surrey. William (1771-1852) the eldest was the last named Shrimpton to live in the village. On the 1851 census he was a pauper, a former agricultural labourer, now deaf. His only son had moved to Shinfield by the 1830s.

The Kintbury Shrimpton line continued with Richard (1778-1828) who, like his father, married twice. His first wife was a widow, Jane Boyton, whom he married on 26th May 1806, but who died in 1809. The marriage produced one daughter. His second marriage was to Charlotte on 14th

October 1814. She outlived her husband and married again, to Charles Marshall in 1833. The story and its title follows the fate of the four sons of Richard and Charlotte, who were:

- | | |
|---------|---|
| George | baptised 17 th December 1815;
buried 23 rd July 1820 |
| Charles | baptised 10 th January 1819;
buried 23 rd July 1820 |
| William | baptised 25 th March 1821;
died 18 th October 1840 |
| Mark | baptised 16 th March 1823;
buried July 1875. |

The Kintbury burial register tersely conveys the tragedy of the first two boys' short lives - "*Both accidentally drowned.*" Where and how the children died is no longer remembered. Perhaps they were playing too close to the weir on a fine summer's day.

Despite this tragedy with water, the baby Charlotte was pregnant with, William, enlisted in the Royal Marines on 25th October 1838 at Reading. At the time of his enlistment, William was a labourer, with light brown hair, a fresh complexion and hazel eyes. He was five feet seven and three-quarter inches in height and 18 years of age. On his enlistment, he received two shillings and sixpence. He was illiterate, so made his mark.⁴ William's enlistment papers are silent on his subsequent career and fate. It is necessary to track him through other marine records. Portsmouth Description Books⁵ say he was:

'set off the rolls on 18th October 1840 DD Benbow.'

⁴Royal Marines Attestation Papers ADM 157/354. There is a nominal card index for Royal Marines of this period at the Public Record Office Kew.

⁵ADM 158/179

The *Benbow* was one of Her Majesty's ships. DD is the abbreviation for the term discharged dead. The ship's muster⁶ says William arrived on the ship on 16th April 1839 as a Private 3rd Class. He died on board the *Powerful* at Beyrout. The ship had previously been at Naples so presumably this was somewhere in the Mediterranean. As with his elder brothers' deaths, these records tersely convey all the information remaining on how William died. Not perhaps by drowning, more likely by disease, but the brothers' unhappy connection with water seemed to be continuing.

What then was the fate of Mark the youngest brother? On the 1841 census Mark was still in Kintbury where his occupation was given as a servant. He did not remain long in the village, though he avoided a job connected with water. He enlisted in the army on 7th April 1842. His occupation was recorded as a labourer. As he did not receive an army pension at the end of his service, no Attestation papers survive for him. These would give more details of his army career in the Reserve Battalion of the 23rd Foot. To follow his army life without them, it is necessary to search the quarterly Pay Lists and Muster Rolls.⁷ These survive for the Reserve Battalion from 1843 to 1853. It is apparent from the first quarterly pay book, that Mark was sent almost immediately overseas. It was quite a risk for him, considering his background. He escaped any perils an Atlantic crossing might have held for him, as he appears as Private number 1928 in London, Ontario, Canada in 1843.

Mark seems to have been a good soldier as by 1849 he had been promoted to corporal. The battalion had also moved on to Montreal, Quebec. On 7th May 1849 at St.

James Street, Montreal, Mark married Catherine Callaghan. The ceremony was an Anglican one, even though Catherine was Catholic. She was born in Ireland about 1831 and her surname is more often spelt in records as O'Callahan. Perhaps the Anglican service is explained away by Mark's need to get permission for the marriage from his commanding officer. 1849 was only twenty years after the passing of the Catholic Emancipation Act. Discrimination against Catholics continued, particularly Irish Catholics.

The regiment moved back to London, Ontario in 1850. Mark and Catherine's eldest child was born there on 11th June 1850. The first indication that something had gone wrong with Mark's army career, occurred in the July to September 1851 pay lists quarter. For 18 days he did not draw any army rations. Where was he and why? Unfortunately pay and muster records do not give these sorts of details. In the next quarter he was tried, convicted and sentenced to be reduced to the rank of private. Obviously unhappy at his treatment Mark discharged himself from the army, through payment of what was probably most if not all of his hard-earned savings. £15 earned him a discharge on 31st March 1852, forfeiting all his good conduct pay and pension. His army life over, Mark settled in London township with his growing family.

On the 1861 census Mark is no longer just Mark, but has become Henry Mark. He is also now a Catholic (*what religion?* was a question asked on Ontario censuses) and stated that his occupation was an engineer. The baptisms of all the children occur in the Catholic church of St. Peter's with the last child born in 1867. On the first four baptisms until 1855, the father's name is given as Mark. The change to Henry from Mark comes after that date, when Mark is

⁶ADM 37/8738

⁷ WO 12 series

never used again. Henry first appears in the London directories in 1863. In the 1866 directory he was a porter at McDonough and Shoebottom. On the 1871 census he continued to assert that he was an engineer. In the directories between 1874-1878 (he died in 1875) he appears as a carpenter.

Civil registration started in Ontario in 1870, but there is no death registration for Henry or a Mark. In this early period of registration it is estimated that only 20% of all deaths, 33% of births and 67% of all marriages were registered. This puts into perspective our own complaints at some lack of early birth registrations in this country. There is no obituary for Henry in the local newspaper, 'The London Free Press', though it had mentioned in July 1873 that he had been charged with breaching a bylaw. One can only presume he escaped the fate of his brothers and his death had no connection with water.

Henry's widow, Catherine, survived him by eleven years, dying in 1886. In all they had eight children. As adults the eight married Baptists, Episcopalians, Presbyterians, Methodists and Christian Disciples, either moving to their spouses' church or remaining Catholics. This fluidity between High and Low Church seems uniquely Canadian and does not make tracking down entries in parish registers any easier.

Of the eight children only the third son William Richard, unlike his siblings, seems to have led an eventful life, on the wrong side of the law. He first appeared in the local press in March 1877, charged with larceny with a revolver and assault. In October he was charged with assault and robbing Mr. Diamond. In October 1879 he was selling liquor at fairgrounds without a licence.

The *London Free Press* of 25th February 1886 reports the final events in William's life.

Shrimpton Shot

A Fifth Ward Rough Kicks in the Door of the House of an Inoffensive man and is Rewarded With a Charge of Gunshot in His Body.

Last night Police Sergeant Adams, while on his rounds in the Fifth Ward, observed a sleigh load of men and women driving east along the Hamilton Road. The vehicle was a farmer's wood-rack, and the occupants, from their boisterous conduct, appeared considerably under the influence of liquor. Sometime after [about 11.45], Adams, who was then standing near the corner of Rectory street and the Hamilton Road, noticed the party again approaching, making no noise whatever. On reaching Rectory street they turned north, and Adams had an opportunity of making a close inspection of the crowd. Three men and two women were seated on a board, while on the bottom of the rack was the prostrate form of a fourth man, enveloped in robes, horse-blankets, &c. The Sergeant, suspecting something was wrong, followed the party, who, on reaching Steadman street, turned east, and stopped in front of a house, into which the apparently lifeless man was removed. Adams reached Steadman street just as the driver was turning his horses, and jumped into the rig and demanded an explanation of the mysterious doings. The man at first refused to give any explanation, and Adams ordered him to drive back to the house. On entering the place the Sergeant found Bill Shrimpton, a well-known Fifth Ward rough, who is well-known in police circles, lying on a bed, moaning and evidently suffering intensely from a wound in the groin. Standing by the bedside were two men, one named Humphrey and the other a shoemaker, who declined to give his name, but is well-known to the police, besides the two women-Annie McEvoy and Annie Farr.

From the driver, Neil Munro, a farmer residing on the 4th line, lot 8, 8rd con, Westminster, Adams obtained the following statement:-

Munro had been to town during the day and sold a load of wood, and on his way home fell in with Shrimpton and his companions. They drove from one tavern to another, visiting every public house on the Hamilton Road, and succeeded in getting well filled with liquor.- Finally Shrimpton suggested to Munro that the latter drive the women out of town, which the former consented to do. This was about 11 o'clock. They drove east on the Hamilton Road till they reached the house of Wm. Monks, a peaceably inclined man about 58 years of age, and a member of the Salvation Army. Here Graham and Humphrey alighted and knocked at the door. In reply to the demand, "Who's there?" they answered "We've got some Salvation lasses here." Monks refused to open the door, and with an oath Shrimpton kicked in a panel. The old man, evidently thinking his life was in danger, placed the muzzle of a gun through the aperture made in the door and fired, the charge of shot entering Shrimpton's body. Shrimpton dropped with a howl of pain and was picked up and driven home by his companions. By the time Munro had concluded his narrative Dr. Gardiner, who had been sent for, arrived and examined the wound, and pronounced it a serious though not necessarily a fatal one. Adams, accompanied by Constable Pope, proceeded to Monk's house and after some difficulty [the old man evidently thinking the rowdies had returned] secured entrance and placed Monks under arrest, the gun, a single-barrelled breech-loader, was also taken to the Station.

Subsequently the ambulance was sent for and Shrimpton was conveyed to the Hospital. Monks states that this is not the

first time his place has been attacked by the rowdy element of the Fifth Ward. He will probably appear at the Police Court this morning, and Shrimpton's companions will be summoned as witnesses.

The story continued in the following day's paper.

William Shrimpton in a very critical condition in hospital. Most of the charge effect took place inside his thigh, tearing off the flesh and exposing some bone and artery. His vitality ebbed slowly during the day and at a late hour last night he was reported very low.

He died the next day. His mother followed him to her grave a few days later. William Monks was acquitted of the murder. Neither Henry or his son William's death show any connection to water.

Henry's emigration seemed at least initially to have left that particular shadow behind. But one last tragedy awaited the family and again it struck at one of the children. William Shrimpton had married a local woman Sarah Bowman at some point. They had one known child, Amelia Maud, who was born on 26th February 1882.

"The Woodstock Sentinel Review" of 4th April 1887 takes up the story.

A most disastrous and appalling accident occurred at Ingersol this morning. At about three minutes to seven a rumbling noise was heard proceeding from the direction of the King's mill-dam, which was plainly heard all over the town. This noise was immediately followed by cries of "The dam is giving away!" Before further warning could be given, the water rushed furiously over the flume in a mighty torrent, and threatened to carry to destruction everything with which it came in contact. In a tenement situated on the south side of King street, immediately adjacent to the flume, there resided three families: John

Bowman, his wife, three children and grandfather: a Mr. McLean and son, and a Mr. and Mrs. Laird and child. This house was caught up with its living occupants, by the raging torrent, and carried down to the main line of the C.P.R., a distance of about five hundred yards. The experience of the unfortunate inmates was a most melancholy one. Of the Bowman family all escaped except a little grand-daughter, about four years old, named Amelia Shrimpton, and a son Johnnie, aged fourteen. The escape of Mrs. Bowman was miraculous. When the flood first struck the house it was turned over and floated away in sections. Mrs. Bowman seized her niece, Amelia Shrimpton, and clung to a bureau. On this she floated with the torrent, till the bureau was struck by some timber, and Amelia was precipitated into the water and carried quickly to her death. Mrs. Bowman was rescued in the nick of time by a man named James Cain, who rushed into the water and carried her to a neighbouring house. The escape of Richard Bowman, the father of John, was also most providential. He is an old man, fully eighty years of age, and was in his bed when the flood struck the house. The section of the floor on which his bed rested became detached from the rest of the floor, and floated down the current. Fortunately it remained intact, keeping the bed above water. In this position it floated down the stream made by the flood to within a few yards of the river, where it became stranded and remained till Mr. Bowman was rescued. Had it floated as far as the river another victim would undoubtedly have been added to the list.

John Bowman, the father of the family, fortunately escaped uninjured. Up to the time of writing the body of little Johnnie had not been found. Of the second family consisting of a Mr. Laird, his wife and son, Mrs. Laird is the only one remaining. She was carried clear across the flood on a plank. Her face and breast are badly cut, and her legs are bruised in a frightful manner. She is in a state of feverish excitement and is continually asking for her child, of whose fate she is yet unconscious. How Mr. Laird and his child, which was only eight months old, met their death, has not yet been learned. Up to two o'clock Laird's body had not been found.

Over sixty years after the first two brothers' tersely recorded deaths in the Kintbury parish register, newspapers had progressed. The death by drowning of the boys' great niece had been graphically worded in every detail by the local reporter. Was this the last time the descendants of Henry, the only surviving brother of the four born in Kintbury, faced a tragedy connected with water? Amelia's mother remarried a year after the death of her daughter, to John Shurlock, a cigar-maker. It is to be hoped that for her and the remaining members of this Canadian Shrimpton family, the past cast no further shadows on their future.

Valda Shrimpton is researching Shrimptons as a one-name study and would welcome anybody contacting her. Her address is 143a Grosvenor Road, Langley Vale, Epsom Downs, Surrey, KT18 6JF or e-mail vshrimpton@aol.com.

Reading Branch News

The experimental Friday Branch meeting on 7th November 1997 at Earley St Peter's Church Hall was a success and the Branch Committee have decided to repeat the experiment. The next Friday meeting has been fixed for Friday 13th February 1998. The topic for the meeting is yet to be arranged.

Tea and Bara Brith

By Dorothy Wise

Two years ago I paid a visit to the Llangefni Archives to search for Thomas Evans my great-grandfather on my father's side of the family. Years ago before I became interested in family history, a cousin had told me that Thomas Evans had been a "pork butcher and he'd sat in the BIG SEAT at chapel!" This meant that he'd been a deacon in the local Wesleyan Chapel in Holyhead. So I looked for Thomas Evans in the archives and found him, and also obtained a copy of his marriage certificate and discovered that his wife's name was Ann.

Now I already knew where Thomas' shop had been (in my day it was an ironmonger's shop); by "in my day" I mean when I lived and grew up in Holyhead. My cousin had stressed that Thomas was "The Pork Butcher" in the town. Knowing where the shop was made looking him up in the census for 1851 easy. I soon found the family and Thomas was described as a "Pork Merchant" and what was so interesting to me I discovered that Ann had come from the village of Llangian on the Lleyn Peninsula, a very beautiful part of Caernarfonshire and even the farmhouse where she'd been born was named "Talsarn". Her maiden name was Ann Thomas.

So back in July of this year my sister and I set off for the Lleyn Peninsula and stayed at a very comfortable Bed and Breakfast at Pwllheli. Once settled in, we found we'd time to spare and it was a lovely afternoon and so we drove on a further few miles to find Llanigan and Talsarn Farm.

After a few enquiries in Llangian we found the farm and drove into the farmyard. There was much activity going on - loads of hay bales being brought in and the

farmer and his dog and other helpers in evidence. I felt that some explanation was called for and so I got out of my car and approached Mr Owen, for that, I discovered, was his name.

"You will think that I'm a bit mad but my great-grandmother was born here around 1820 and I just wanted to see the house."

"Oh yes and what was her name?"

"Ann Thomas"

"The Thomas' left here in 1932 when we moved in. They moved to a small-holding up the road."

I thanked Mr Owen for that piece of information and asked if I might photograph his house. Permission was granted: "But you must meet my son". By that time we'd been joined by an extremely good-looking young man. "And you must come in and meet my wife."

I protested but was overruled and joined by my sister. We were ushered into a huge kitchen, with a great open hearth - well it could have been great but now it housed cupboards and an Aga.

Mrs Owen was introduced and father and son disappeared to resume getting the baled hay under the barn roof; rain was threatening.

It transpired that Mrs Owen had that day fed fourteen for lunch. "Our neighbours help us to get the hay in - you'll have a cup of tea?"

At that moment - after a long drive from Oxfordshire to where we were - a cup of tea seemed a brilliant idea! Thus we found ourselves sitting down at a huge table. Out came the cups and saucers and also a plate of scones which were cut in half and

buttered, then gooseberry jam, and then a loaf of Bara Brith (a spicy currant loaf peculiar to Wales). Both my sister and I have a weakness for Bara Brith.

"But you're not eating, Mrs Owen?"

"No" she replied, with a big smile "I love to see people eat!"

We had a delightful half-hour talking to Mrs Owen who told us that had we come

after August she'd not have been there as her handsome son was getting married and soon to move into the farmhouse, while she and Mr Owen were going to retire and move to a smaller house as the Thomas' had done before them in 1932.

Not every search for an ancestor ends in such a surprising and delightful way.

Berkshire Record Office News

The following items are reproduced from The Berkshire Echo - The Newsletter of Berkshire Record Office (No.3 Autumn 1997)

What's New?

We have acquired more microfiche of the National Probate Index so that we now cover the period 1858-1943. The index covers wills and administrations proved country-wide by local probate registries. We have also improved our index to probate material held at Berkshire Record Office for the period 1711-1858. The wills and administrations have been combined, so you no longer have to look at two indexes to find the person you want and each name has its full reference number and microfilm or fiche number against it. For those interested in local or social history, the material is now also indexed by place and by occupation, as well as by name.

Just Catalogued

The last few months have seen a particularly large number of church records catalogued, including a fine series of records from Maidenhead Congregational Church 1760-1996 (D/N 33); and a number of Anglican parishes, including: South Ascot marriage register 1976-1994 (D/P 186); Stratfield Mortimer 1726-1990, including banns 1915-1944; Welford 1725-1982, including registers of baptisms 1813-1948, marriages, 1800-1982, burials 1813-1900, and banns 1813-1837, 1872-1974,

and churchwardens' accounts 1725-1895 (D/P 147); and Wickham chapelry 1838-1978, including marriage registers 1838-1978 (D/P 147B).

Parish records for Wokingham 1650-1930, which had strayed from the collection of Canon Long (the rest of which is to be found among the records of Wokingham Borough) in 1943, were also received (D/EZ 110). These include a copy of a parliamentary survey of the rectory and parsonage, 1650, and minutes of Wokingham National School Committee, 1829-1842. A transcript of marriages in Reading St Laurence 1754-1837 was presented.

One of the most interesting collections catalogued recently consists of the papers (D/EX 1410) of Thomas Noon Talfourd, the Reading-born poet and judge, who was also MP for the town in the 1830s and 1840s, 1829-1854, including his journals, 1841-1854, and, perhaps of most interest, the notebooks he kept of the cases he heard at assize courts across the country and the Old Bailey.

Records of the Robert Piggott CE Junior School, Wargrave, 1898-1993 (97/S CH13) include admission registers, 1921-1991. Private schools are under-represented in our holdings, so we were pleased to receive

minutes of meetings of old pupils of Amersham Hall school, Caversham, 1931 - 1938 (D/EX 1462).

Most interesting of the official records is an admission and discharge book of St Laurence's workhouse, Friar Street, Reading, 1843-1847 (D/EX 1450); this was used as the Reading Union workhouse until the building now known as Battle Hospital was built in 1867. It can also be revealed that in 1904, Reading Borough planned to turn Prospect Park into a cemetery! This came to light in the records of the public Committee for the acquisition of Prospect Park, 1901-1904 (D/EX 1449). Also of interest is the letter book of Reading Corporation and Charity Trustees, 1846-1849 (D/EX 1451). Records of the Blagrove Estate, c.1787-1979, also help to illuminate the history of the development of Reading in the late 19th century (D/EX 1416).

The papers of John and Llewellyn Treacher of Twyford, 1832-1961 (D/EX 564) include a particularly entertaining letter of complaint about the "incessant bellowing" of Llewellyn's cows, culminating in the comment that they "would make much better beef than milkers"! On a more serious note, there are records relating to Twyford District and Wokingham Rural District Councils, particularly relating to the provision of mains water in Shinfield and Swallowfield at the turn of the century. Also catalogued were minutes of a committee to form a memorial to Dr Joseph Stevens, first curator of Reading Museum, 1890-1891 (D/EX 1454), and bound copies of the *North Wilts Herald*, 1928-1981 (D/EX 1438).

Diary of an Ordinary Man

An astonishingly long run of diaries has recently been transferred to the Record Office, written by William Henry Hallam,

who was born at East Lockinge in 1868. Although Hallam lived all his adult life at Swindon, where he was employed as an iron-turner in the GWR workshops, he remained devoted to his native Lockinge Estate, referring to it always as 'home'. His wife Sarah came from Padworth and they had three daughters.

Broken only for brief spells between 1894 and 1897, his diaries begin in 1886 and continue to 1952 [BRO ref D/EX 1415]. Although much of the content is humdrum and repetitious daily routine, the occasional entry has a wider interest:

29 Oct 1917 Mr Eady late of Lockinge bought that old house at Shrivvenham, Elm Tree House, by Inigo Jones, for £1000.

He naturally records his spare-time activities. He was keenly interested in Berkshire history and antiquities, with a particular enthusiasm for churches, their monuments and bells, old books and coins, and local customs and dialect. He enlarged on his village school education by reading and attending lectures, and in 1900 published a *History of East Lockinge* (copy in BRO Library, the manuscript being here with his diaries).

His writing becomes more detailed with the disruptions of the Second World War, and there are particularly poignant entries at the time of his wife's illness and death in 1946. The diaries end without explanation in September 1952; Hallam died in February 1956. More than mere personal records, these 63 notebooks provide an unusually detailed insight into the social condition of an ordinary working man and his family at the end of the 19th century and over the first half of the 20th. He regularly used his local library (paid for, of course, out of the rates he so disliked paying) and would surely have used the County Archives too, had he lived today.

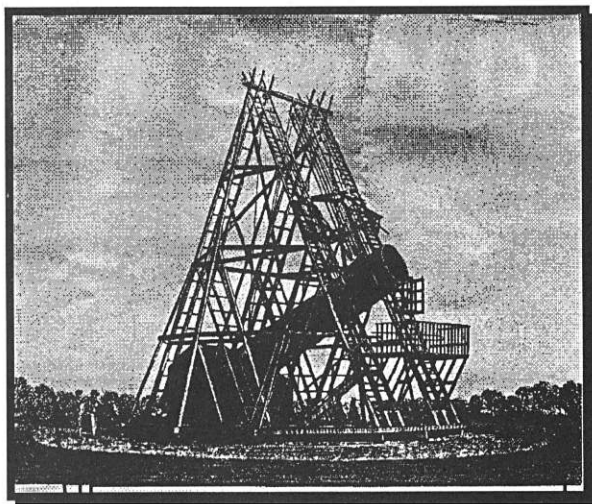


BERKSHIRE FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY

presents

1998 OPEN DAY

at SLOUGH



*Herschel, can you see the BFHS
Open Day?"*

Saturday 7th March 1998 10am-4pm
Kingsway United Reform Church
Church Street, Slough

Free Admission

ATTRACTIONS

- Comprehensive BFHS Bookstall
- 1881 Census Index for England & Wales.
- 1988 International Genealogical Index for U.K.
- Advice on your Family History research.
- Printouts from the Berkshire 1851 Census
- Project Displays
- Neighbouring Family History Societies eg Buckinghamshire,
- Rallymaps of West Wellow
- Bill Lloyd Books
- Slough Civic Society
- Slough Museum
- Preview of Book of W.W.1 Casualties of Slough, and a chance to add your family knowledge to the project.

Light refreshments will also be available.

TRAVEL

Kingsway United Reform Church is in the centre of Slough, within easy walking distance of the Railway Station.

If you come by car, please use the public car parks, the nearest being in Church Street, and another in Herschel Street adjacent to Church Street.

O.S. Grid Reference SU9779 NE

What Can You Find On The Census?

By Ann Davis

I was asked recently by a newcomer to family history, "*But what can you find on the census?*".

The census gives you a snapshot of every household in the country on one night in every ten years. The censuses currently available are those for 1841 to 1891. They are available on microfilm at the Family Records Centre, Myddleton Place, London. Those for Berkshire are also available at County Local Studies Library at Reading Central Library. The 1881 census has been transcribed and indexed on a county-by-county basis and is available at the BFHS Research Centre in Prospect School.

I began my family history with two good leads - a family Bible, listing children, "*DC*", John, Mary, and James Emmott, all born between 1830 and 1840, and a sampler noting "*Jane Emmott, work Thorlby 1846*". The family Bible also recorded the death of baby Mary and of "*James Emmott, father of the above children*"(sic). I discovered that Thorlby was a tiny Yorkshire hamlet of 132 persons in 1841 and it was therefore quite feasible to search the whole village for them .

In 1841 James Emmott, age 35, innkeeper, and Ann Emmott, age 35, were listed, but not the children. The 1851 census was much more informative, since it shows the relationship of those listed to the head of the household, and place of birth in addition to the occupation. Winding through the microfilm looking for Thorlby, I found three families named Emmott living next door to one another. The names meant nothing to me but I took them down and pressed on for Thorlby. There I discovered my family, James Emmott head, age 48, innkeeper/farmer of 119 acres, with wife Ann (47), and the children listed in the family Bible. "*DC*" was revealed as David Clark Emmott, now aged 21, veterinary surgeon. The reason for his second given name was clear, since David Clark, father-in-law, farm labourer, was also a member of the household. At age 78 in 1851 he would have been born about 1773 and at this stage was the earliest ancestor I had traced. I now had the maiden name of Ann Emmott. The inn was full, with eleven guests. This was certainly something my granny had not told me; when she talked about her granny Jane Emmott growing up in a big house in Thorlby, she never mentioned it was a pub! In fact the 1861 census, which I checked next, actually gave their address as "*Publick House*". By now Ann was a widow and the only one of her children at home was John, age 29. In 1851, while her husband was alive there was no occupation given for her, but now as a widow she was described as "*Innkeeper and farmer*", just one of many examples I have seen of the widow carrying on the farm. There were no guests and I believe this reflects the coming of the railways. Thorlby had been on the cattle trail to Skipton market but by the 1860s much of the cattle was being moved by rail rather than on the hoof. Finally, I looked at 1871 when the census revealed the name of the pub, "*The Bay Horse*", a common name for a pub in Yorkshire. By then none of my direct ancestors lived in Thorlby, John was the head of the household but his brother David was in the household, as well as a servant and three guests. So, after my first foray into the census I had found not only "*my*" Jane Emmott age 17 in 1851, born Beamsley; but her parents and brothers with their places of birth, occupations, and approximate dates of birth, her mother's maiden name and *her* father.

I had also found, though I did not realise it at first, two of her Emmott uncles with their families, and her grandmother, because the three other families named Emmott I had noticed

were James Emmott's widowed mother and unmarried sister, plus two of his brothers with their wives and families.

I had to wait a few years for the 1881 census to become available and when it did I took a quick look at Thorlby, even though it seemed hardly necessary since I knew that my Jane had married and I had found her with her husband, a successful plumber and glazier, in Skipton. in 1871. John was still *"mine host"* at *The Bay Horse*, assisted by his brother James. However there were two other members of the household *"Jane Smith, age 47, married, housekeeper, sister, born Beamsley"* and *"John William Smith, 19, unemployed clerk, nephew, born Skipton"*. Obviously the Smith family were going through a crisis, and family legend suggests this could have been the collapse of Jane's husband's business. Years later again, when the census index for 1881 became available I found him, staying with *his* married sister in another village.

In my experience a substantial minority of households included one or more people who were not described as *"head"*, *"wife"*, *"son"* *"daughter"* or *"servant"*. It is often these other members of the household who are not members of the nuclear family who provide clues to take your family history further back, or help to show how Victorian families operated.

Very recently I looked at the 1891 census for Southampton, for my grandfather Stafford William Fuidge. I found him, as expected, in New Alma Road with his father and mother. I already knew the address from a street directory, and indeed without it would have had a mammoth task to find them, since they had moved in 1890 from the address where he was born. The entry showed

Charles S Fuidge	Head	M	50	Map Engraver	Fareham
Juliana E	Wife	M	29		Liverpool
Julia V	Dau	S	16		Southampton
Violet A	Dau	S	13		Southampton
Stafford W	Son	S	4		Southampton
David E	Son	S	2		Southampton
Dorothy	Dau	S	2mnths		Southampton
Clementine Lamont	Visitor	S	45		Southampton

I knew his parents' names already, and that he had a brother David. I did not know about Dorothy, neither did I know where Stafford came in the family. The unexpected *"find"* was the visitor, Clementine Lamont.

I had met Clementine before. In the 1851 census, at four years old she was the youngest child in the household headed by John and Eliza Lamont. John was a shoemaker and he, his wife and the older children, Eliza, John, and Priscilla, had been born in St. Helier, Jersey. They must have arrived in Southampton about 1835, because the younger children, Daniel, Sophia, Charles and Clementine, were all born there. By 1871 all the older children had left home but Clementine, aged 22, no occupation, was still at home, no doubt assisting her 64-year-old mother in the care of the household. John, age 73, was still working as a bootmaker, and the household also contained nine-year-old Juliana Swanson and seven-year-old William Swanson, both shown as grandchildren of the head of the household. There were also two lodgers to take care of. By 1881, John, now aged 84, had retired, and Eliza was 74 so presumably the care of her parents, also William Swanson, now aged 17 and described as a seaman, plus a boarder named M. Vaseline, fell mainly on Clementine, aged 30. The place of birth of the boarder was *"France, Havre"*, a reminder that this was probably a bilingual

household.⁸

Clementine Lamont was not related to the *Head* of the household at New Alma Road, but she was related to his wife - the 29-year-old Juliana Fuidge of the 1891 census was the nine-year-old Juliana Swanson of 1871. She was John Lamont's granddaughter, and Clementine's niece. Clementine had almost certainly come to help care for Juliana on the birth of baby Dorothy.

My Davies ancestors lived in Newington in 1861, and in the same house, 16 Frederick Place, lived three other households. One of these consisted of:

Margaret Mackenzie	Wife	Mar	44	Shirt maker	Holland. Rotterdam
do do	Dau	Unm	19	Servant	Surrey, Lambeth
Lewis P do	Son		13	Scholar	France,
Charles do	do		12	do	Surrey, S Saviour
William do	Visitor do	do	23	Maltster	Holland, Schrarianhagen
James do	do	do	18	Soldier	Surrey, Lambeth
John do	do	do	21	Fisherman	Holland, Rotterdam

The head of this household is away from home, and the family have obviously travelled, perhaps Mr Mackenzie is a soldier. The census enumerator has an irritating habit not only of showing "do" when the surname is the same as on the line above, but also when the Christian name is repeated. Is William Mackenzie a son of Margaret who normally lives elsewhere and so is shown as "Visitor, do"? The "do" here presumably indicates he is, like Lewis and Charles, a son of the (absent) head of the household. Does the "do" against both James and John imply that they are also sons, or also both visitors and sons? The fact that they are all listed after their younger brothers suggests that they are not normally part of the household.

One must be wary of what the census does *not* say. It does not include members of the family who happened to be away from home on census night (although I believe later censuses have done). Neither does it show whether visitors are only there overnight, or on a more long term arrangement, nor where they normally reside. It only shows the relationship of members of the household to the head, not to each other. For example, it is obvious in the Fuidge family above that 29-year-old Juliana could not be the mother of 16-year-old Julia, and is probably not the mother of 13-year-old Violet, but nothing on the census actually says that they are her step-daughters. Juliana and William Swanson are both shown as grandchildren of John Lamont, but the census gives no indication of who their parents are, or whether they were on a short visit or lived with their grandparents. Neither in fact does it state that they are brother and sister. I have another Emmott household, James, head, 36, joiner, Elizabeth, 46, joiner's wife and Mary, daughter, 7, scholar. Only when I came across a Memorial Inscription for James which listed his three wives and two children did I discover that Mary was not Elizabeth's daughter.. Relationships are sometimes vague, for example "relative". I have seen a number of examples where a "visitor" is possibly, like Clementine Lamont, a relative of the wife.

So, if you are beginning your family history it is well worth looking for your family on the census. You could be lucky, as I was, and find an elderly relative in the household taking you back a generation. You will almost certainly find brothers and sisters you did not know about and will see the sort of neighbourhood your family lived in. It is easy to picture Jane Emmott

⁸ The difference between a boarder and a lodger was that , while both received accommodation, a boarder also received meals.

growing up in the busy pub, possibly one of two or three "big houses" in a small hamlet where the family next on the census is headed by the man her father named as his executor. Clementine Lamont comes alive, always busy caring for other people, living near Southampton docks where some of the neighbours would have spoken French or Jersey patois as well as English. Her birth certificate tells me that Annie Davies was born in 16 Frederick Place, but not that twenty people already lived in that house. To me, these sort of details are what separates "family history" from simply drawing up a pedigree.

Computer Forum

By Robert Clayton

In the September 1997 Magazine (Vol.21 No.1) I wrote about extending the scope of discussion in the Society about computers. Having discussed this further with the Chairman a Steering Group is to be formed with a view to creating a Computer Group. The Computer Group may get involved in the following activities:

- 1) Arrange meetings at which 'experts' on computers in genealogy would speak on the finer points of family history with computers and there would be an opportunity for members to discuss within the group such things as:
 - software selection
 - getting the best out of your computer
 - obtaining data and information via the Internet
 - using data from the 'FamilySearch' system
 - asking questions about any issues concerning computer genealogy
- 2) Report on meetings in the Society's Journal.
- 3) Arrange computer 'help desks' at all branch meetings.
- 4) Answer questions and provide short articles for the Computer Forum of the Society's Journal.
- 5) Form a team of computer users to assist with Projects within the Society.

If you have any comments about the above or anything else which you think a Computer Group could do then please let me know as soon as possible.

Finally, I have received five letters/messages in response to my comments in the last Magazine. Two of them were asking for more information about the Internet, which I shall be dealing with in the next issue. Another asked about software available for a specific 486 computer, to which the answer is pretty well all of the genealogy software currently available - the choice is yours (but try to have some idea of what you want to record about your family members BEFORE you choose a program). Another was an article about how to draw a family tree using a DOS word processor - unfortunately you can't do the same thing with a Windows word processor, so the usefulness is limited as most computer users now are using Windows. (If you would like a copy of the article please send an SAE and I will send you a copy). The last letter I received asked whether there was an Internet co-ordinator for the Society. This is something for the Steering Group to consider when a Computer Group is being formed as I believe there is nobody on any committee who has this title !

I will be replying personally to anyone who has (or will be) contacting me, so please keep the messages/comments coming. My address is: 10 Vidlers Farm, Sherborne St John, Basingstoke, Hampshire, RG24 9LS. Tel: 01256 850155. e-mail: robert_clayton@compuserve.com.

Q & A with Jean

By Jean Debney

Q Mrs Kay Smith (1825) of 47 Elmstone Drive, Tilehurst, Reading, Berks RG31 5NS asked: my great-grandfather died intestate in Peckham, Surrey in 1888 leaving a personal estate of £3,000, later revised to £2,300. Probate was granted to his eldest daughter, Elizabeth, in 1889 at the Principal Probate Registry. How do I go about finding out how the money was apportioned, and is this likely to yield any information regarding Elizabeth's siblings, etc., contemporary addresses and married names where appropriate?

A As you say, the legal term used when the deceased does not leave a will is that he died intestate and therefore Letters of Administration would be granted to the next-of-kin, in this case his eldest daughter: this placed her under the obligation to distribute the estate among the immediate family as required by law at that time. Probate is only granted where there is a will. From January 1858 all wills and letters of administration for England and Wales are at the Principal Probate Registry in Somerset House, London. Often a copy of the Grant of Administration gives little information beyond that found in the annual indexes but they are always worth checking for that extra snippet of useful detail.

Additional information about the distribution of estates can be found in the Death Duty Registers - sometimes referred to as Estate Duty Registers - and may include the details you are looking for: such as names, amount of the legacy received by each person, plus the duty payable on a scale calculated according to the beneficiary's relationship to the testator. Death Duty was introduced in 1796 and the

records continue to 1904. The registers are in class IR 26 and indexed in IR 27. Up to 1857 they are available on microfilm at the Family Records Centre, Myddelton Street, London EC1R 1UW, and from 1858 to 1904 can only be seen at the Public Record Office at Kew where they require a week's notice for production.

Further details about these records - and other probate documents - can be found in *An Introduction to Wills, Probate and Death Duty Records* by Jane Cox (FFHS 1993) and in *Prerogative Court of Canterbury Wills and other Probate Records* by Miriam Scott (PRO Guide No.15, 1997).⁹

Q L.H.Harris (3186) of 77 Gatewick Close, Slough, Berks SL1 3SE wrote and asked "A relative, who died in 1969, was a prominent member of the Royal Observer Corps. He was awarded the B.E.M. but I not know when or whether it was in connection with these activities. His newspaper obituary gives no clue. Are there any records of the Royal Observer Corps please?"

A My husband, Cliff, was in the Royal Air Force for his two-year National Service in the 1950s and he immediately knew that the Royal Observer Corps was part of the RAF. From our bookshelf he selected his copy of *Britain's Wonderful Air Force* by Air Commodore Fellowes (published about 1943) which, on page 303, said as follows: "*The Royal Observer Corps is the ground organisation for keeping track of enemy aircraft flying over the country and reporting their movements*

⁹ Books obtainable from Berks FHS Bookstall at meetings or by post - address on back cover. Please mark your envelope "Postal Sales"

to units of air defence organisation. This information is required for two purposes, first to enable fighters to be sent to the right position to intercept the raiders, and second, to enable air-raid warnings to be issued to districts in advance of the direction in which the raiders are proceeding.”

Observations about aircraft movements, etc. were made at various posts and passed on via a telephone network to the centres where it was plotted with distinctive markers and symbols on a map table. Above this on a raised dais the duty crew controller sat at another table flanked by two “tellers” and the alarm officer - a scene very familiar to anyone who has watched World War II films. All the information was then passed to Fighter Command Headquarters at Stanmore, Middlesex.

Until January 1929, the Observer Corps had been under the control of the War Office, but in 1936 the Air Ministry placed

them with Fighter Command. According to RAF Records in the PRO (PRO Readers’ Guide No.8, 1994) some records relating to the Observer Corps can be found in class AIR 16 which includes papers on the organisation, defence schemes, trials, training, etc. of Fighter Command HQ.

The award of the British Empire Medal will be recorded in the *London Gazette* and in *The Times*, which is indexed. Copies of both are at the PRO at Kew and the Guildhall Library, London, and of *The Times* at Reading University and Reading Central Libraries. Once you have ascertained the date when he received his medal, a local newspaper may include further details from the citation. These can be seen at the British Library Newspaper Library at Colindale Avenue, London NW9 5HE - but be warned, this library is often crowded and you are advised whenever possible to use the relevant county record office or reference library.

Letter to the Editor

John M Pollock, (3103) of 221 Hemdean Road Caversham Reading RG1 70X wrote as follows:

I am greatly discouraged by the Executive Committee’s decision not to support the campaign for earlier publication of census returns. The probable introduction of a freedom of information bill would provide a suitable occasion for amending the legislation regarding non-publication for 100 years.

Now that up to a third of children are born out of wedlock and cohabitation is normal for many couples the main reasons for withholding information have lost most of their validity. Has anyone asked people if they would object to earlier publication? I suggest a structured survey asking 10,000 people if they would agree to publication

after 30, 50 or 80 years. If as few as 5% objected strongly to publication after a given time there would be a very strong case for non-publication

Hayley Smith of Social Affairs Department, Meridian Broadcasting, Television Centre, Southampton, SO14 0PZ wrote to ask for help from BFHS members:

“We are currently researching the possibility of producing a series of programmes about tracing your family history and hope that you may be able to help us at this early stage.

The proposed series will take one family each week on a journey to discover whether what they *think* they know about their ancestors is in fact true. As I’m sure you already know too well, what people believe they have in their past is not always what

they actually do have. So starting from this idea, I am trying to discover the reasons why people start their search, what kind of information they start with and the sorts of things they have eventually discovered.

I would very much like to hear from any of you who can tell me more about your own searches. They do not have to conclude in the Meridian region, as we may be looking to make this series on a more national scale. Given the enormity of the task, I would be grateful if you could perhaps drop me a few lines with a contact phone number in the first instance."

Barbara Young of 39 Howard Road, Wokingham, Berks RG40 2BX wrote to let me know that the article "How Wokingham got its Nickname of 'Louse Town", published in the Berkshire Family Historian (Vol.21 No.1) was taken verbatim from Arthur Heelas' notes which can be seen in Wokingham library or in the Wokingham Historian Vol.8 (1995).

"It is particularly frustrating that this has been published without explanatory comments because so many readers will assume this to be authentic and credible. Arthur Heelas' notes were written some sixty years ago, when antiquarianism had a renaissance, and contain many errors,

simply because he did not have access to the many documents that are now available. This fact should be kept in mind when using such as historical sources.

Arthur Heelas depended a great deal on oral reminiscences, and knowing the local sense of humour, this story could so easily have been made up for his benefit. There is NO evidence whatsoever to support this fictitious story, BUT there is an even more bizarre tradition that IS documented in the council minutes (which have actually been found since Heelas' original article was written). The Aldermanship was offered to the Burgess who was "furthest from the Chair" - this does not mean in distance but in rotation. Some fascinating situations resulted from this peculiar tradition which I believe is being studied by another member of the Wokingham Local History Group."

Editor's Note:

Please could all contributors please remember to acknowledge any sources used in articles, particularly if the majority of the article is reproduced from another book, as that may have copyright implications if the book is less than 75 years old. It is OK to use such articles, but I need to have a mention of all major sources consulted.

Help Wanted

David A. Barrett of 9 Bethune Road, Horsham, Sussex, RH13 5JN needs help with two particular Barretts as follows:

"Firstly, William born c.1823/1827 Hungerford or Kingbury, was a gamekeeper living at 1 Bere Court in the Manor of Pangbourne in 1861. By 1871 he had disappeared and in 1881 his widow and daughter turn up in Speen, near Newbury. Both were carrying on the trade of dressmakers.

Secondly William George Barrett who lived firstly at Cromwell Place, Newbury, but by 1912 had moved to 4 Roseberry Place off the Greenham Road. According to *Cosburn's Directory* for 1912 his trade was that of plumber. I would very much like to know what happened to these two Barretts."

Seen in Beaconsfield General Cemetery, Tasmania, Australia:

"To the Beloved memory of Robert Deane, late of Waltham St Lawrence, Berkshire. Died 7 Aug 1882 aged 84 years. Also his infant daughter Lilian May aged 9 weeks."

Marriage Witness Index

By John Gurnett

When we hit a particular problem in family history it's sometimes like '*looking for a lock in a door in a house that no longer exists*'. Collecting evidence from every available source is essential if we are to build up a complete picture of the physical ties of ancestry. We may look at records associated with a particular place and search through wills, parish documents, and manorial records. However, documents which are often overlooked are records giving witnesses to marriages.

Now a new index is being compiled to fill that gap. The witness index is intended to cover marriages that took place in the United Kingdom, Australia and New Zealand. Every entry contains the names of witness, groom and bride and the date and place of marriage. The index is limited as it is compiled from data submitted by family historians researching individual families and is not an index to parish registers. So it is extremely unlikely that a search will reveal a specific marriage - that would imply that somebody else is researching your family and sent in their data for the index. However, they may be a relative, or provide an unresearched connection. Naturally if you are carrying out a one-name study you may find unknown sources that could be followed up.

Entries are accepted from 1750 and the current database has 50,000 entries from the United Kingdom, 19,800 from New Zealand and 19,000 from Australia. The index is organised by family historians from New Zealand which accounts for the relative dominance of entries from that country.

Data for the index should be submitted in the following format:

Witness	Church
Bride	Town
Groom	County
Country	
Date	

Name and address of sender

When sending your entries make sure that you provide your full postal address so that other historians interested in your entries may contact you by letter. It is also helpful if you adopt the standard convention of using upper case for surnames to avoid confusion between first and last names.

Submit entries to:

Marianne Philson
167 Carlisle Road
Browns Bay 1310
Auckland
New Zealand

To make a search of the index write to:

Hugh Winters
31 Park Avenue
Papatoetoe
Auckland 1701
New Zealand

enclosing a stamped self-addressed envelope.

Searches may also be made by e-mail to Hugh Winters at hughw@xtra.co.nz. The organisers prefer to have searches made on a specially designed search form available on the marriage licence index home page on the Internet:

<http://midas.ac.uk/genuki/mwi>.

Don't expect an immediate reply, but a pebble thrown into a pond may return a worthwhile ripple.

Bookends

By Jean Debney and Simon Harrington

Reviewed below are some of the new books recently received, which, unless stated otherwise, are available from the bookstalls at BFHS branch meetings, the Research Centre or by post (write to The Berkshire Family History Society, c/o Prospect School, Honey End Lane, Tilehurst, Reading, Berks, RG30 4EL).

Making Use of the Census by Susan Lumas

(PRO Readers' Guide No 1, PRO Publications, 3rd ed. 1997); diagrams and maps; 11 appendices include a bibliography; 111pp; price £5.99 + P&P 95p UK, £1.60 overseas surface, £4.10 airmail.

This updated best-seller includes the location plans of the new Family Records Centre at Myddelton Street, London and the first floor where census returns from 1841 to 1851 can be seen on microfilm. The appendices list the increasing number of town street indexes now available and the numerical list of registration districts have been divided by county. [JD]

New to Kew? by Jane Cox

(PRO Readers' Guide No 16, PRO Publications, 1997); plans and cartoons; bibliography and useful addresses; 128pp; price £5.99 + £1.05 UK, £1.75 overseas surface, £4.50 airmail.

The transfer of all the records from the Public Record Office at Chancery Lane to Kew was completed at the end of 1996 effectively making all previous guide books out-of-date. Those who are familiar with Jane Cox's "Never Been Here Before?" will welcome this new, updated and expanded version to help you trace your family history among the many rich sources now available under one roof. This book is especially recommended for all who are new to family history as well as the more experienced who want to use a new source. [JD]

Education and the State from 1833 by Ann Morton

(PRO Reader's Guide No 18, PRO Publications, 1997); illustrated, indexed, 206pp; price £14.99 + P&P £1.55 UK, £2.45 overseas surface, £6.80 airmail.

If your ancestor received any education during the past 150 years or so, then this should prove a useful publication to guide you through the surviving education records held at the Public Record Office from the 1830s to the 1970s. Twelve chapters, which all include a list of classes, deal with elementary and secondary education, universities, teacher training, school buildings, Welsh education, special services (i.e. school meals), examinations, etc. Also included are some useful case studies. Both the early 19th century Parliamentary reports and parish files from 1870 mentioned in these pages have proved useful sources in my research.

PS. For school log books and registers you must visit your local county record office. [JD]

World War I Army Ancestry by Norman Holding

(3rd Edition, FFHSPL, 1997) 95pp Price £5.45 + 60p UK, 95p overseas, £2.20 airmail.

Very few of us can claim to have NO First World War soldiers on the family tree. There were five million men (how many women?) serving in the Forces at the time, so the odds are pretty high. Yet, surprisingly, this book seems to be the sole authority on tracing your ancestors' Great War records. Perhaps this is due to the

nature of the available documents – to quote the author, “the ‘Parish Registers’ of army research, have already been destroyed and no ‘Bishop’s Transcripts’ or copies exist”. This can make research hard work, with lots of intuitive record searching with the evidence uncovered often circumstantial. At first glance, this book made me feel that researching great-grandfather Hart’s service record in the Royal Veterinary Corps would probably be a lot of work for little return. However, I think Norman Holding is just preparing those like me who blithely assumed that all we needed to do was go down to Kew and look up the name in the index! The author stresses preparation – check all the sources, documentary and oral, at your disposal **BEFORE** you visit the records. I would suggest reading this book should be an essential part of that preparation. [SH]

Kent – A Genealogical Bibliography Vol. 3 Kent Family Histories and Pedigrees by Stuart A Raymond

(FFHSPL, 1997); 52pp. Price £5.

“Usefulness rather than comprehensiveness” is the author’s intention, as he has neither the time nor the money to produce an exhaustive list. From our viewpoint, we should be thankful, as the result would be much bigger and much more expensive, or might never be published! This series now covers a lot of counties, and provides a Surname Index to 35 pages of genealogical directories, biographical dictionaries, visitations, heraldry, diaries, letters, family histories etc., all indexed by author, place and family. If someone else has printed it about your ancestor, this is probably the best place to start looking for it. Personally, I hate duplication of effort (although double-checking some-one else’s research is always recommended), and this book is designed to enable you to see what’s

available. Who knows, you might find a printed pedigree or perhaps a diary! Either way, if you have ancestors from Kent, consider it a worthwhile handy reference guide. [SH]

Basic Facts about Irish Family History Research by Bill Davis

(FFHSPL, 1997) 16pp; £1.25+35p UK, 60p overseas surface, £1.30 airmail.

If you are an Irish researcher, a key date is probably 1922, the year of the attack on the Four Courts building in Dublin (then used as the Irish PRO) during the civil war. This has entered genealogical folklore to the extent that, as the author states, Irish descendants “view Irish ancestry with disappointment and gloom believing that all records have been destroyed and that it is pointless to begin research”. However, as there are millions who claim (even boast) Irish ancestry, interest is thriving, and it is not surprising then that we find a slim and inexpensive introduction to those records available, offering hope to the despairing genealogist. This book contains beginner’s information (e.g. there are heritage and research centres but NO county record offices in Ireland), and will make a useful stocking filler for anyone embarking on Irish research. [SH]

Guide to Churchwarden’s Accounts by Mike Brown

(Published by and available from Dartmoor Press, 24 Lipson Court, Greenbank Road, Plymouth PL4 7JG) Price £3.

Also available from the same publisher is “The Devon family History Researcher’s Essential Mini-Guide to Dartmoor Region Monumental Inscriptions, Surname Distributions and Parish Registers” by Mike Brown, price 70p

Using records from Devon Parishes, this book shows how records of the various parish officers can be very revealing about

people and happenings from the 15th Century to the 19th Century. It is a fascinating insight into parish life and gives researchers an incentive to make more use of the parish records (other than the parish registers). Interestingly there is considerable mention of beer! Each person is listed by full name (making identification easier), with work done and amount paid. Spellings can be wonderfully varied e.g. "payr of glovys", often indicating regional accents and that people wrote as they spoke. [SH]

Berkshire Overseers' Papers 1654-1834, ed by Peter Durrant

(Berkshire Record Society, Vol.3, 1997); two maps, indexes to names, occupations and places, 325pp; price £25

Members of the Berkshire FHS and others have, since 1991, been abstracting the information from the surviving poor law overseers' case papers. The co-ordinator is Brian Hunt who also prepared the original transcript for this volume. Final publication was delayed due to indexing problems.

The main body of this volume consists of detailed summaries from settlement certificates, examinations, removal orders, apprenticeship, bastardy and other miscellaneous settlement documents. Among the thousands of names indexed are

Also received were the following titles:

- **Bishops' Transcripts and Marriage Licenses, Bonds and Allegations - A Guide to their Locations and Indexes** compiled by Jeremy Gibson (£3.50+50pUK, 80p overseas surface, £1.60p airmail).
- **Coroners' Records in England and Wales** compiled by Jeremy Gibson and Colin Rogers (As above this is again a guide to the location of records, arranged by County) (£2.95+50p UK, 80p overseas surface, £1.60 airmail).
- **London and Middlesex - A Genealogical Bibliography, Volume 2, Family Histories and Pedigrees** by Stuart A.Raymond (£5+50p UK, 80p overseas surface, £1.60 airmail).
- **An Introduction to Reading Old Title Deeds** by Julian Cornwall (£2.50+35p UK, 60p overseas surface, £1.30 airmail).
- **FamilyHistory News and Digest September 1997 Vol 11 No 2** (£1.70+ 75p UK, £1.10 overseas surface, £2.35 airmail).

to be found not only those of the poor but also of the local officials and magistrates administering the system in Berkshire and in other English counties. The area covered is not the whole of Berkshire, as the title would suggest, but twelve parishes in the "Kennet Valley". The introduction does not mention the plans for publishing the remaining records. Despite this limitation this welcome publication provides an important, but previously inaccessible, source for family historians to locate their lost or migrant ancestors. [JD]

Berkshire Contiguous Parishes

(CART Publications, 1997) Price £1.

One of a series covering several English Counties. Not a very exciting title, but what a great idea! How often have you searched in one parish for your ancestor, only to find someone who moved away, or wasn't born where they said? Then, you need to do an organised search of the surrounding parishes. Rather than searching for a map and working out what they are, why not buy this handy booklet, which lists all (old) Berkshire parishes alphabetically with all "contiguous" (i.e. adjacent) parishes! So simple - why didn't anyone think of it before? [SH]

King Honours Tilehurst Man

Mr R.E.Aitken (3482) of 27 Wainfleet Avenue, Collier Row, Romford, Essex, RM5 3BX, sent the following extract from the *London Gazette* of 12th August 1913 about the bravery of his ancestor and would very much like to contact any relatives of Mr Lowthian.

"His Majesty the KING has been graciously pleased to award the Edward Medal of the 2nd class to Thomas Aitken under the following circumstances:-

On the 3rd of October 1912, Mr. George Lowthian, Consulting Engineer to the Tilehurst, Pangbourne and District Water Company, Limited, descended a well at the pumping station at Tilehurst to examine a set of pumps while they were working, accompanied by Mr Aitken, the Foreman. The Engineer was standing on a staging, nearly in the centre of the well, about 80 feet below the surface, when a plank suddenly broke, and he fell about 34 feet. He crashed through an old pump staging, shattering his left foot and ankle, but managed to get hold of an iron bar about 4 feet below the old staging and 6 feet above the water. Mr Aitken, who had almost crossed the plank when it broke, caught hold of a beam and crawled round the pump to a ladder. He was in darkness, for the light had fallen with the Engineer, but he groped his way down the slippery ladder to a second staging. He obtained a light, and found the Engineer clinging to the girder below the staging. He reached him, and, with great difficulty, as the Engineer weighed 14 stone and the whole place was very slippery, succeeded in dragging him to a place of safety on a ledge of brickwork. Then, ascending to the surface, he arranged for tackle to be let down into the well, and, going down again, managed to bring the man safely to the top. The Engineer's strength was nearly exhausted when Mr Aitken reached him, and he undoubtedly owes his life to Mr Aitken's prompt and courageous action in going to his rescue at great risk to his own life."

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 January. 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. Please ring either 0118-941-0211 or if there is no answer on that try 0118-942-7524 which is the main number for the LDS Church. [CMBH]

Editor's Notes

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

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

If you use a computer I should be pleased 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.**

Finally, I would like to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Research Centre News

By Cliff Debney

Library tours were successfully held every month, as programmed, in 1997 when many members and visitors were introduced to the contents of, and their location in, the Research Centre. I am pleased to advise that tours will be continued throughout 1998 with the same regular pattern of the third Monday of every month, except December, alternating afternoons and evenings. The tours for the next four months will be held as follows:

19 th January	2 - 4 pm
16 th February	7.30 - 9.30 pm
16 th March	2 - 4 pm
20 th April	7.30 - 9.30 pm

Several family history classes and other groups have been on "private" tours of the Centre during the last year. If any group from a Branch, family history class or similar would like to have a "private" tour please contact me so that a convenient date and time can be arranged. Please note that tours can only take place outside normal Centre opening hours (see below) and the evening of the Reading Branch meeting.

The Research Centre will be closed for Christmas from Friday 19th December until Tuesday 6th January. Otherwise, for the foreseeable future, there will be no change to the normal opening times of:

Tuesday	7 - 9.30 pm
Wednesday	10 - 4 pm
Thursday	1 - 4 pm & 7 - 9.30 pm

Recently someone raised the subject of disabled access and it is worth repeating that access is available, whenever the school is open, through the second door on the left (just passed the bins) in the side playground, and there is no limitation on the disabled driving to the slope and

parking by it. Once down the slope and in the school building, turn left and the Centre is the third door on the right. For all other Research Centre users the side playground is only available in the evenings.

The archived Exchange Magazine Library is now up-to-date, leaving only the latest two years available for borrowing from the Reading meeting. Due to the logistics of storing and moving the archive, even these two years holdings means they have to be stored on the premises of Prospect School; regretfully they are, therefore, not taken to any other Branch meeting. We have now received a list starting in 1979 of all articles which have appeared in the "Digest" section of the Federation twice yearly publication "Family History News and Digest". This list is in the Research Centre to enable you to make more use of the fantastic range of other society magazines (as well as our own) which have had articles listed under the many subject headings in the Digest section of the FHN&D. Which is your research problem area? - find the subject title in the list and then read the article which sounds most likely to help you!

Like any list of volunteers, the ranks of the Library Assistants slowly change and June Dickason, address on the back cover as Ivan Dickason, will be pleased to hear from any member who would like to help other Family Historians by an occasional or regular slot as a Library Assistant. No special abilities are required, only that you are able to make a commitment to be a Library Assistant at a particular time and date, and are capable of asking all in the Centre if they can help answer any question to which you do not know the answer.

Members' Interests

Compiled by Robert Houseman

Due to the shortage of space in this month's Magazine, Members Interests have been printed in the strict order in which they were received; the remainder of received Interests will be published in the March Magazine

MEMBERS SUBMITTING THEIR INTERESTS:

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

- 3385 Mrs A THOMAS, 12 Anson Close, Marcham, Abingdon, Oxon OX13 6QF
 3487 Mr RJ THORN, 5 Toutley Close, Wokingham, Berks RG41 1JH
 3508 Mr G KING, 79 Parker Street, Bassendean, West Australia 6054, AUSTRALIA
 3514 Ms P BURNS, 85 Ruby Street, Denton, Manchester M34 2BZ
 3526 Mrs AJ HODGES, Bag End, 45 High Street, Stoke-sub-Hamdon, Somerset TA14 6PR
 3528 Mrs C COX, 91 College Road, Southwater, Horsham, West Sussex RH13 7TQ
 3542 Mrs J DANIELS, 46 Otterfield Road, West Drayton, Middx UB7 8PE
 3559 Mrs T WEST, 33 Cottesmore Road, Woodley, Reading, Berks RG5 3NX
 3564 Ms C HALL, 44 Catherine Street, St Albans, Herts AL3 5BU
 3573 Mr EW SHIRLEY, 8 Delmar Gardens, Wickford, Essex SS11 7NA
 3578 Mr WG BRADFIELD, 4 Beech Close, Overton, Basingstoke, Hants RG25 3JN
 3580 Mr GC ARNOLD, South Riding, Maidenhatch, Pangbourne, Berks RG8 8HH
 3585 Mr MJ ROPER, Flat 3, 19 Colville Terrace, London W11 2BU
 3590 Mr R HEATON, 16 St Bernards Court, Harlow Road, High Wycombe, Bucks HP11 1BL
 3605 Mr N WAKEFIELD, 6 New Road, Clifton, Shefford, Beds SG17 5JH
 3615 Mrs D TIDMAN, 1100 Gorham Street, Suite 11B-261, Newmarket, Ontario L3Y 7V1, CANADA
 3621 Ms L SPENCER, 92 Vausedale Road, Northdene, Queensburgh 4093, SOUTH AFRICA
 3625 Mrs M MOON, 15 William Road, St Leonards on Sea, East Sussex TN38 8DE
 3635 Ms M SKELTON, 1 Glover Road, Pinner, Middx HA5 1LQ
 3637 Mrs J LAWRENCE, 18 Mandeville Close, Tilehurst, Reading, Berks RG30 4ST

No.	Surname	Place	Code	Period	No.	Surname	Place	Code	Period
3542	ACOTT	Coleshill	BRK	1700-1810	3526	CHRISTALL	Aberdeen	ABN	1800-1900
3580	ARNOLD	Nuneaton	WAR	1700-1850	3526	CLARKE	Washingborough	LIN	1600-1800
3526	BALFOUR	Edinburgh	MLN	1500-1900	3542	COOPER	Coleshill	BRK	1800-1853
3528	BALL(S)	Anywhere	WAR	1600-1900	3573	COURTLADE	Reading	BRK	1780-1790
3542	BANHAM	Barnham	SFK	1750-1860	3637	COWDERY	Westbury	WIL	1700-1900
3635	BARRET	Marylebone	MDX	1700-1859	3625	CURTIS	Beedon/Compton	BRK	1066-1800
3487	BASKILLS	Cinder Hill	NTT	1800-1930	3580	CUTTRISS	London	MDX	1800-1850
3487	BASKILLS	Sipson	MDX	1870-1930	3542	DANIELS	Bethnal Green	LDN	1800-1997
3542	BELSHAM	Barnham	SFK	1610-1857	3564	DRAKE	Anywhere	DEV	1500-1900
3559	BETTS	Falmouth	CON	1820-1900	3564	DRAKE	Beaulieu	HAM	1700-1997
3542	BILES	Southampton	HAM	1800-1857	3580	DREWRY	Anywhere	LND	1700-1900
3580	BIRCHMORE	Anywhere	LND	1750-1870	3542	DRIVER	Bethnal Green	LDN	1800-1960
3559	BLOWER	Anywhere	MDX	1800-1900	3526	DUDGEON	Edinburgh	MLN	1800-1900
3578	BRADFIELD	Anywhere	BRK	1500-1997	3580	DUNCAN	Ballymoney	ANT	1800-1900
3578	BRADFIELD	Anywhere	HAM	1800-1997	3580	DUTILLEUL	Islington	MDX	1800-1870
3578	BRADFIELD	Anywhere	LEC	1800-1997	3580	DUTTON	Nantwich	CHS	1850-1940
3578	BRADFIELD	Anywhere	WIL	1800-1997	3585	DYER	Marcham	BRK	1750-1996
3578	BRADFIELD	Rochester - USA		1800-1997	3487	ELISHA	Earley	BRK	1760-1900
3625	BREADMORE	Kinbury	BRK	1700-1900	3526	ELTON	Reading	BRK	1800-1900
3637	BROCKWELL	Paddington	LND	1800-1900	3580	FERGUSON	Corrie	PER	1800-1830
3508	BRONSDON	Kinbury	BRK	1500-1997	3559	FISHER	Birmingham	WAR	1830-1980
3526	BROWN	Edinburgh	MLN	1800-1900	3573	FOSH	east London	LND	1800-1900
3559	BURDETT	Anywhere	IRL	1850-1990	3637	FRANKLIN	Brinkworth	WIL	1800-1900
3526	CAMERON	Edinburgh	MLN	1890-1990	3585	FRANKLIN	Marcham	BRK	1750-1996
3580	CART	Nuneaton	WAR	1700-1800	3637	GABY	Bromham	WIL	1600-1900
3542	CATCHPOLE	Barnham	SFK	1750-1840	3637	GABY	Chippenham	WIL	1700-1900
3528	CHALLIS	Anywhere	BRK	1500-1800	3637	GABY	Marylebone	LND	1800-1900

No.	Surname	Place	Code	Period	No.	Surname	Place	Code	Period
3637	GABY	Paddington	LND	1800-1900	3573	MORRISON	Reading	BRK	1763-1783
3637	GABY	Sutton Courtney	BRK	1700-1800	3528	MURPHY	Rickmansworth	HRT	1700-1900
3564	GAME	Hitchin	HRT	1850-1900	3573	NEAL	Rotherhithe	SRY	1825-1860
3580	GEMMELL	Glasgow	LKS	1860-1890	3635	NORRIS	Pishill/Swyncombe	OXF	1650-1833
3508	GILES	Kintbury	BRK	1500-1997	3580	ORTON	Nuneaton	WAR	1700-1822
3542	GILL	Bethnal Green	LND	1800-1885	3487	PARKINS	Ashton Clinton	BKM	1750-1850
3573	GLASGOW	Shoreditch	MDX	1810-1840	3637	PARSONS	Trowbridge	WIL	1800-1900
3564	GRAFHAM	Ewell	SRY	1750-1850	3637	PARSONS	Westbury	WIL	1800-1900
3580	GRAVENER	Dover	KEN	1700-1900	3621	PICKETT	Reading	BRK	1800-1850
3559	GRAY	Chiswick	MDX	1870-1997	3585	PLUMB	Greenham	BRK	1860-1996
3559	GRAY	Mylor & Feock	CON	1700-1900	3508	PREST	Egloskerry	CON	1500-1997
3585	GREENWOOD	Abingdon	BRK	1860-1996	3508	PREST	Lewannick	CON	1500-1997
3585	HAINES	Peasmore	BRK	1750-1996	3580	PRICE	Llangenny	GNT	1066-1997
3564	HALL	Alton	HAM	1700-1990	3508	PROUT	Egloskerry	CON	1500-1997
3542	HAMMOND	Exing	SFK	1850-1930	3508	PROUT	Lewannick	CON	1500-1997
3559	HEATH	Anywhere	MDX	1830-1900	3559	PYMM	Anywhere	SRY	1830-1990
3580	HEATON	Bolton	LAN	1300-1880	3526	RIDGWAY	Anywhere	HAM	1800-1900
3580	HIGGINS	Ebbw Vale	GNT	1066-1997	3487	ROGERS	Colehill	BKM	1760-1900
3637	HITCHINS	Brinkworth	WIL	1800-1900	3487	ROGERS	Sipson	MDX	1870-1930
3637	HITCHINS	Westbury	WIL	1800-1900	3625	ROSIER	Kintbury	BRK	1700-1900
3385	HITCHMAN	Harwell	BRK	1820-1997	3514	RUSSELL	Farncombe	SRY	1600-1770
3526	HODGES	Charlton Adam	SOM	1600-1800	3559	SAUNDERS	Richmond	SRY	1850-1950
3542	HOWE	Soham	CAM	1795-1800	3580	SHARP(E)	Lydden	KEN	1700-1900
3637	HUMPHRIES	Edingham	WIL	1800-1900	3542	SHEPPARD	New York, USA		1750-1800
3635	HURREN	Beccles	SSX	1650-1744	3542	SHEPPARD	Southampton	HAM	1800-1857
3573	HYDE	Reading	BRK	1763-1783	3559	SHERRARD	London	MDX	1600-1997
3564	JACKSON	Clewer	BRK	1750-1800	3573	SHIRLEY	Brixton	SRY	1825-1840
3528	JOHNSON	Anywhere	WAR	1600-1900	3635	SKELTON	Chelsea/Westminster	MDX	1650-1820
3559	KEMP	Sevenoaks	KEN	1850-1920	3615	SLY	Cookham	BRK	1800-1997
3559	KEMP	Tunbridge	KEN	1850-1920	3559	SMITH	Holborn	MDX	1800-1870
3564	KENTFIELD	Barnet	HRT	1800-1900	3573	SMITH	Reading	BRK	1763-1783
3564	KENTFIELD	Esher	SRY	1750-1850	3559	SMITH	Tottenham	MDX	1800-1870
3385	KING	Harwell	BRK	1563-1997	3590	SOUTHWOOD	Exeter	DEV	1780-1850
3508	KING	Kintbury	BRK	1500-1997	3590	SPANSWICK	Croydon	SRY	1700-1900
3385	KING	North Stoke	OXF	1800-1900	3580	SPRATT	Lydden	KEN	1820-1900
3385	KING	South Stoke	OXF	1800-1900	3564	SQUELCH	Anywhere	ALL	1400-1997
3385	KING	Wimbleton	SRY	1881-1940	3564	SQUELCH	Clewer	BRK	1800-1870
3385	KING	Winkfield	BRK	1863-1940	3526	ST JOHN	Anywhere	SRY	1750-1850
3385	KING	Wootton	BRK	1826-1900	3573	STEVENS	Plumstead	SRY	1840-1860
3621	LAMBOURN	Burghfield	BRK	1800-1825	3585	STONE	Draycot Moor	BRK	1750-1996
3621	LAMBOURN	Reading	BRK	1820-1855	3585	STONE	Fyfield	BRK	1750-1996
3542	LAYTON	Soham	CAM	1795-1800	3585	STONE	Kingstone	BRK	1750-1996
3564	LEEMING	Anywhere	IRL	1800-1900	3573	SWITZER	Reading	BRK	1763-1783
3564	LEEMING	Bradford	WYK	1900-1960	3625	TAYLOR	Mildenhall	WIL	1600-1800
3564	LEEMING	Keighley	WYK	1850-1900	3487	THORN	Ashton Clinton	BKM	1750-1900
3514	LUSH	Goring	OXF	1785-1800	3487	THORN	Buckland	BKM	1750-1900
3514	LUSH	Sparsholt	BRK	1500-1800	3487	THORN	Drayton Beauchamp	BKM	1750-1900
3526	MACDONALD	Cromarty	ROC	1750-1850	3487	THORN	Earley	BRK	1860-1900
3615	MAISEY	Cookham	BRK	1800-1997	3487	THORN	Sipson	MDX	1870-1930
3573	MARSH	Bermondsey	SRY	1840-1870	3580	TINNEY	Lanivet	CON	1820-1880
3585	MARSHALL	Abingdon	BRK	1750-1996	3573	TOYE	Bethnal Green	MDX	1780-1850
3585	MARSHALL	Donnington/Shaw	BRK	1750-1996	3605	TURNER	Hurst	BRK	1800-1840
3585	MARSHALL	Shifford	BRK	1750-1996	3526	VICKERS	Lincoln	LIN	1700-1850
3573	MASTERS	Reading	BRK	1780-1790	3564	VYSE	Hatfield	HRT	1850-1900
3528	MATTHEWS	Anywhere	OXF	1600-1860	3559	WALLIS	Birmingham	WAR	1830-1900
3580	MCCORMICK	Glasgow	LKS	1860-1890	3635	WARRILOW	Reading	BRK	1650-1811
3580	McILROY	Dunluce	ANT	1800-1900	3637	WEBB	Hawkeridge	WIL	1700-1900
3580	McISAAC	Comrie	PER	1800-1830	3637	WEBB	Westbury	WIL	1800-1900
3580	MERTENS	London	MDX	1780-1840	3528	WELLS	Anywhere	OXF	1600-1860
3580	MIDDLETON	Hoxton	MDX	1840-1890	3559	WELLS	Anywhere	MDX	1800-1900
3605	MILEHAM	Hurst	BRK	1740-1800	3559	WEST	Newington	SRY	1850-1890
3605	MILEHAM	Reading	BRK	1860-1900	3585	WESTON	Reading	BRK	1860-1996
3542	MITCHELL	Lambeth	SRY	1800-1842	3625	WETHERALL	Beedon/Compton	BRK	1600-1900
3637	MITCHELL	Nottingham Gate	LND	1800-1900	3625	WETHERALL	Hampstead Norreys	BRK	1600-1900
3526	MORGAN	Frome	SOM	1770-1880	3635	WHITE	Fordington	DOR	1650-1798
3580	MORO	Anywhere	LND	1066-1997	3542	WICKER	Halstead	ESS	1565-1880
3564	MORRELL	Bradford	WYK	1800-1900	3526	WILSON	Edinburgh	MLN	1800-1900
3564	MORRELL	Keighley	WYK	1800-1900	3526	WINKWORTH	Combe	BRK	1680-1800
3580	MORRIS	Lanivet	CON	1820-1860	3526	WINKWORTH	Egham	SRY	1800-1900
3573	MORRISON	Clerkenwell	MDX	1783-1840	3559	WOOL(A)WAY	Chawleigh	DEV	1700-1900

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