

# Berkshire Family Historian

'the myth  
of stable  
communities  
in the past'



# Programme calendar 1999

## Bracknell Branch

Priestwood Community Centre, Priestwood Court Road, Bracknell,

7.15pm for 7.45pm

- 17 September tbc
- 15 October *Writing up family history*, Mrs J. Bunting
- 17 November *So you think your ancestor was a publican*, Judith Hunter
- 10 December tbc, with festive fare

## Newbury Branch

United Reform Church Hall, Cromwell Place, Northbrook Street, Newbury, 7.30pm

- 8 September *Reading between the lines*
- 13 October tbc
- 10 November *Coroner's inquests*, Kathy Chater
- 8 December tbc

## Reading Branch

Prospect Technology College, Honey End Lane, Reading, 7.15pm for 7.45pm

- 29 September *Some descendants of those who fought alongside Nelson on the Victory*, John Gurnett
- 15 October *Starting your family history*, Liz Longhurst, John Pollock and Barry Boulton
- 27 October *Genealogical sources in Reading Library*
- 24 November *From Mafeking to Monte Casino*, Brian Oldham
- 8 December *More about changing Reading*, Doug Noyes

## Slough Branch

St. Andrews Church Hall, 2 Merton Road, Slough, 7.30pm for 7.45pm

- 28 September *40,000 souls (How to use the IGI)*, Geoffrey Sewell
- 26 October *Photographs for the family historian*, Paul Blake
- 30 November *Genealogy and the Internet – a practical demonstration*  
Mrs J. Bunting
- 14 December Annual Dinner, venue to be confirmed

## Vale of White Horse Branch

Tomkins Room, Baptist Church, Ock Street, Abingdon, 7.30pm

- 13 September *Army ancestors*, Marjorie Moore
- 11 October *Victorian village life*, Martin Greenwood
- 8 November *The village farm labourer*, John Hanson
- 13 December Christmas social evening, with Christmas fare

# Berkshire Family Historian

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## Yes, this is us with a new face and make-up.

This issue of the Berkshire Family Historian marks a watershed in the life of the Society. After eight years as editor Catherine Harrington decided to take on other responsibilities within the Society. Over the years she has produced an accomplished magazine that has always maintained the very highest standards.

As family historians we look back to the past, but with the advent of electronic databases and computers we are of necessity entering the future too. As we begin the transition to the twenty-first century and the move to the new Research Centre, we believe it is important to make a clear statement about the Society and the way we are perceived by non-members and members alike. You will already have noticed the first of these changes: this magazine. The Society has a new logo – which you will see on the cover – and the design of the magazine has undergone a number of important changes. This issue represents the work of a dedicated team, including Sally Pellow, Catherine Harrington, Louise Stubbings, Vicky Bevan and Ruth Vincent, typography students from The University of Reading, and your new editor.

We hope you like the new magazine for the Millennium.

John Gurnett  
*editor*

# The Jerome chronicles

## Family life through half a millennium

by Barry Jerome

My story begins with Giles Gerom who was born in France and came to England to live and work. During the first part of the sixteenth century the French population escalated. The rural population grew rapidly, expanding by approximately 10% every decade. By 1550 France was, in the words of a contemporary 'crammed as full as an egg'. This seems to be the most likely reason for Giles coming to England rather than to escape religious persecution, which did not begin until later in the century.

Berkshire was famous for its wool trade with centres in Newbury, Reading and Abingdon. Fortunes were built on the trade that must have attracted many skilled workers to the area. On 1st July 1544 Giles received denization from Henry VIII for himself, his wife and two children. At this time he was a fuller living in Chieveley, Berkshire.

Fulling was a process used to clean and thicken the wool that involved the use of a fine clay called Fuller's Earth. As a fuller, Giles' skills would have been much in demand and this is probably the reason why he settled firstly in Chieveley and then in Yattendon. This was the start of nearly three hundred years' association with Yattendon by the Jerome family.

Giles died and was buried at Yattendon on 29 January 1582. The next generation was Ric(hard) Jerrom and although it cannot be proved, as the parish records do not begin until 1558, there seems little doubt that Ric was Giles' son. Ric married Margaret Coxe at Beenham on 4 Feb 1573 and during the following twenty years they had nine children all born at Yattendon. Whether or not Ric continued in his father's trade as a fuller is not known, but it seems likely as a hundred years later the Jerrom family was still involved in clay that by 1700 was used for brick making.

In the late sixteenth and early seventeenth century other Jerroms start to appear in Berkshire in the Reading area and at Sandford in Oxfordshire, across the river from Abingdon. Both Reading and

1544. The war with France and the threatened invasion, which was attempted the following year, necessitated a more stringent account of strangers in this country to be taken, more especially in the southern shires which were liable to attack from France. Those of the able bodied strangers who would not become denizens and be sworn to the English King were compelled to leave the country,

while the very young and the aged and impotent were allowed to remain, Letters of Denization being provided for them. Of course it was against the French that these measures were taken, nearly one thousand nine hundred of whom procured Letters of Denization in 1544, while for the subjects of the Emperor less than two hundred were granted.

*Extract from the Proceedings of the Huguenot Society*

Abingdon were associated with the wool trade. It may be coincidence but one theory is that the families originated from Giles' other unidentified children who moved from Yattendon. The family in Sandford moved into Abingdon and within a generation become wealthy. In his will Henry Jerrom left the modern equivalent of nearly £1million in property and goods to his family and friends. However, by the next generation the property was largely mortgaged - probably as the result of the heavy taxes imposed by Charles I during his occupation of Abingdon in the civil war.

Of my direct family in Yattendon; several of Ric's children moved away, only William stayed. William was the fifth of Ric and Margaret's children, born in 1583, the year after Giles' death. William married Joane and by 1610, when they had the first of their seven children, the wool industry was in serious decline as a result of a change in fashion and competition from mainland Europe. Attempts were made by the government to avert unemployment and large-scale poverty by encouraging silk weaving. Silkworms were grown as an alternative for weavers and large plantations of mulberry trees were established locally on the Norreys estate to feed them.

Of William and Joane's children their eldest William married and brought up a family at Yattendon, Richard and Mary both died tragically young aged 14 and 13 respectively. William (the elder) also died relatively young compared to other generations of the family. There is no indication why the children died in their teens or William when he was 55 years old. It may have been poverty that made them susceptible to disease. The plague was a frequent visitor to towns and villages, as well as smallpox and diphtheria. In the 1625 outbreak in Reading Mary Jerome, a widow, was paid

the substantial sum of four shillings per week to inspect bodies to see if they had died of the plague.

My family line continued with William and Joane's youngest son Samuel who was born on 8 June 1628. He was ten years old when his father died. The years following William's death must have been a worrying time for Joane as most of the family were in their teens and early twenties during the civil war. By the spring of 1642 when the war began the whole economy and social order was on the point of breakdown. As well as poverty and religious differences there were widespread enclosure riots. During the first three years of the civil war many battles and skirmishes were fought in Berkshire and the Thames valley. Towns frequently changed hands from Royalist held to Parliament and back again. Young men were pressed into military service for one side or the other as the armies marched through. Raids were also made on rural crops and livestock to feed the troops.

There is no evidence of what happened to William and Joane's middle son Thomas after his baptism and although it is possible that his marriage and burial are missing from the parish records it raises the question whether he became a casualty of the war. Joane survived her husband by more than thirty years dying in 1669 having lived through the civil war, the period of the Commonwealth and changes in English life during the seventeenth century.

Samuel married Johane about 1650 but I have not found where it took place. Like most parishes Yattendon's records have several gaps during the period of the civil war and Commonwealth. Four of their children are recorded in the parish records in 1651, 1663, 1666 and 1670. Two more are in the Bishops' Transcripts in 1654 and 1656. There were probably two or three more children during the seven-year gap from 1656 to 1663. In particular there is no baptism for Nicholas Jerrom who married Ann Cheney at Yattendon in 1682 and may well have been born about 1660. My line continued through Isaac Jerrom. He was Samuel and Johane's youngest son baptised on 5 April 1670.

As the wool industry went into decline the brick making industry was beginning to grow. Berkshire was short of natural building stone and from the sixteenth century bricks were widely used for vernacular buildings. In the seventeenth century brick was used predominantly in church towers and most buildings in Berkshire used brick. It is not certain when the Jerome family first became

Berkshire in the eighteenth century was still very rural. Most of the population lived and worked in numerous villages, hamlets and farms. None of the half a dozen market towns were built up beyond their commercial centres. The forest extended to the River Loddon and Royal deer were hunted as far as the outskirts of Reading. Farming in the open

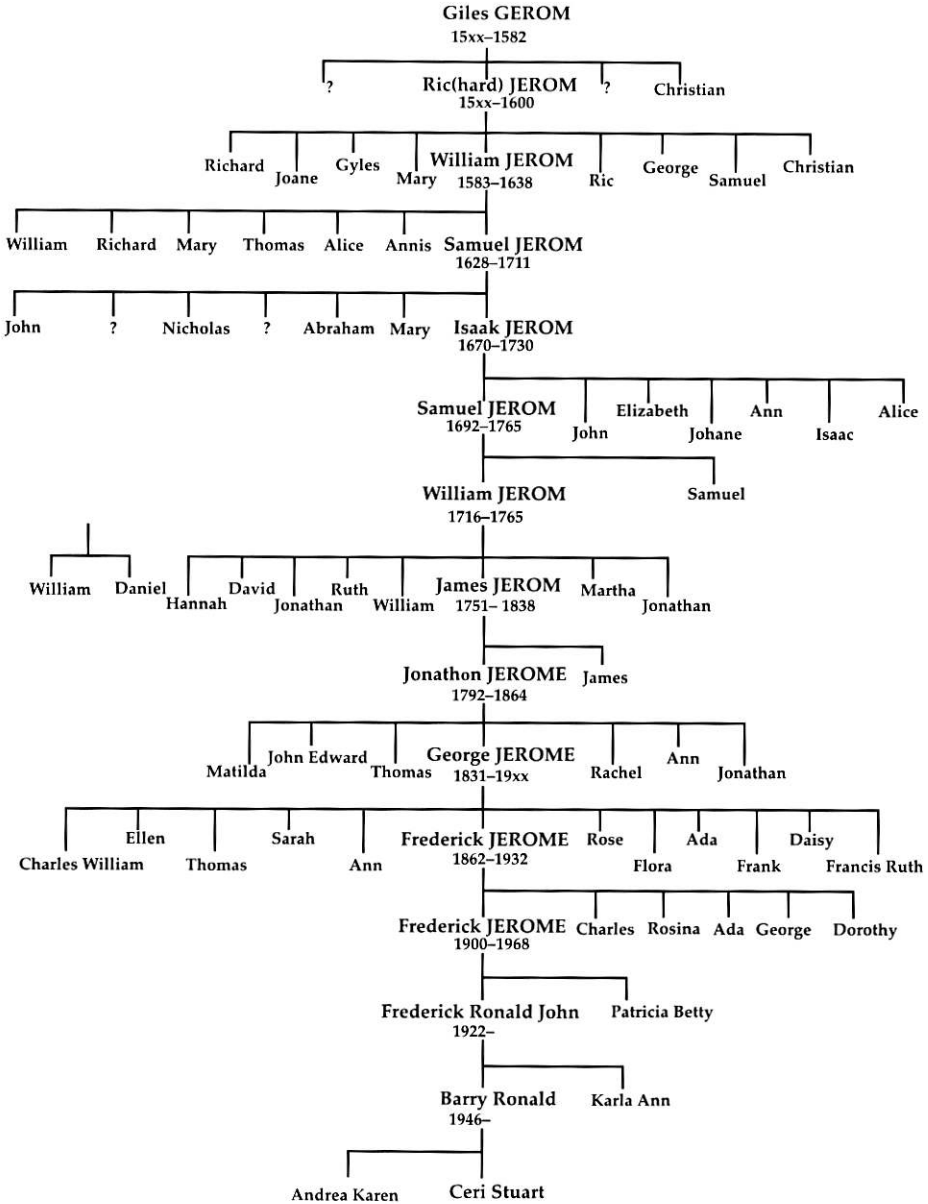
fields and commons was carried on in traditional methods. Change was coming however with Jethro Tull's inventions and the improved methods on George III's 'model farm' towards the end of the century which required fields to be enclosed by hedges.

involved in brick making but by 1731 Isaac Jerrom owned sufficient land at Burnt Hill to make bricks from the local clay. There was a thriving brick making industry in the area around Yattendon. The local geology provided the clays and sands needed to make the bricks and the extensive woodlands provided the fuel to fire them.

Isaac married Johane Fuse on 19 October 1691 at Yattendon. They lived at Burnt Hill at the far eastern end of the parish, bordering the adjacent parishes of Ashampstead, Stanford Dingley and Bradfield. Of Isaac and Johane's seven children, Alice died in infancy and Johane tragically died aged 22 years. The other children all outlived their parents and are mentioned in Isaac's will of 1731. The land was divided between two of his sons Samuel and Isaac and money from his estate was divided between all of the other surviving offspring.

Of the two brothers, Samuel married Hannah and Isaac married Rachel Lock. They both lived on the plots of land left to them by their father. Isaac and Rachel had seven children between 1729 and 1750. Samuel and Hannah appear to have had two children (but once again this may be missing records), William born in 1716 and Samuel in 1719. Baby Samuel died before he was a year old. In 1722 Elizabeth Fuse 'a poor child of Englefield' was apprenticed to Samuel Jerom, and may well have been related to Samuel's mother Johane (nee Fuse).

My direct family line continued through Samuel and his eldest son William. William married firstly Elizabeth and they had two sons William and Daniel. I have not found a burial record for Elizabeth but William appears to have married Rachel in 1741 and they had eight children between 1742 and 1755. William and his father Samuel both died within a month of



*The Jerome family tree*



each other in 1765. Samuel's land seems to have been divided between William's daughter Hannah and his son William.

In 1773 Robert Weston produced a detailed map of Yattendon which contained the owners and occupiers of the land. Members of the Jerom family owned three adjacent plots on Burnt Hill. Isaac, who was now a widower, had the biggest plot; William Jerom and John Hope (who had married Hannah Jerom a year earlier) owned the other two plots. It is a fascinating map for anyone researching families in Yattendon. There is a copy of it on the wall inside Yattendon Church (as well as in the Berkshire Record Office).

During the latter part of the century some of the family gave up their land in Burnt Hill and moved to Bucklebury. Isaac's land stayed in the family for another three generations however. Isaac died in 1778 and his son Isaac occupied the land until he died in 1806. Isaac did not leave a will and it was nearly four years later when his son Richard presented himself, under oath, as the beneficiary. Richard and his son John were living there in adjacent cottages when the tithe map was made in 1844 and when the land was subsequently sold in 1853.

This has been something of a diversion as my direct family interest was with those who moved to Bucklebury around the end of the century. My line follows James Jerom, one of William's sons who was a younger brother to Hannah and William. James Jerom was born at Yattendon on 26th March 1751, married Hannah Bond in 1792 and their first child Jonathon was baptised on 17th March 1793. At some point James moved to Bucklebury Alley, an area on the far west edge of Bucklebury parish, where he brought up his family.

During the Napoleonic wars militia units were raised to assist the army in the event of invasion. Men were conscripted by a ballot system. If a man was chosen in the ballot but was unwilling to serve, he found and sometimes paid a substitute in his place. John Jerome of Bucklebury was selected by ballot in 1805 and provided a substitute on 10th September that year.

The enclosure movement that assisted the agricultural revolution in the late eighteenth and early nineteenth century completed the traditional pattern of ordered countryside familiar

Parishioners vigorously contested the Bucklebury enclosure. A campaign and petition were organised by John Morton, a well-known local lay preacher, who was concerned about the impact it would have

on the local people. The petition collected a large number of names and he also started a subscription with his own money to raise funds to pay for solicitors in London to help fight the enclosure.

### *The Bucklebury Enclosure*

to us today. Many enclosures did not benefit the inhabitants of the parish, especially the poorer members who relied on commoners' rights to collect firewood and graze their animals. Many of these became dependent on the 'poor rate'. Some Lords of the Manor also took advantage of it to build grand new manor houses on the newly enclosed land.

The Bucklebury enclosure bill was thrown out by 38 Noes to 6 Ayes, a majority of 32, on Thursday 8th May 1834. In summarising the reason the bill was thrown out "as it would only benefit the Lord of the Manor. The people who currently had rights to collect fuel and graze animals would have become paupers dependent on the poor rate."

James seems to have been infamous in the parish as he was mentioned several times in the Manor Court Leet. In 1818 and 1819 he was fined, with several others, for not attending the Court Leet. On 7th November 1834 it was noted that pigsties erected in Bucklebury Alley, near the road, by James Jerom, James Kimber, Thomas Brundon and George Brooker were a nuisance. James Jerom and his son James both put their names on the petition, as did John Hope (Hannah's husband).

James and Hannah's eldest son Jonathon started the trend for migration that continued to the present day. Until then, apart from the move from France, the family had moved only the short distance from Yattendon to Bucklebury. Little is known of Jonathon's early life between his baptism in 1793 and the baptism of his first child, Matilda, at Kingston-upon-Thames in 1821. In the intervening 30 years he trained as a baker, married Ann Jones from Wales and moved to Kingston. From here Jonathon and his young family moved to Richmond, still working as a baker, then back to Kingston again where my family line continued through George Jerome who was born in 1831.

It is uncertain why Jonathon and his family's next move was to Shiplake, also on the Thames, north of Reading. In Shiplake Jonathon was employed as an agricultural labourer rather than as

a baker. Kingston at that time was a thriving coaching town and each day “four and twenty coaches ran through the market place”. Traffic on the old wooden bridge had become so congested that in 1828 a new stone toll bridge was opened. Poverty and disease were a problem and cholera was common in Kingston during the 1800s causing many deaths. It is possible that Jonathon moved away to protect his family from this constant threat of disease.

Jonathon and Ann had two more daughters in Shiplake then tragedy struck in January 1835 with the death of their eldest daughter Matilda aged 13 years. In 1838 they moved again, this time to Henley-on-Thames where they finally settled and their last child Jonathon was born. George Jerome was Jonathon and Ann’s third child, born at Kingston. His early years were spent in Shiplake and he was about ten years old when the family moved to Henley. Spending all of his life in towns and villages on the Thames it was natural for George to be involved in an industry around the river, becoming a boatman and fisherman.

Henley’s prosperity came to an abrupt halt when the Great Western Railway was built bypassing the town. By 1857 when a branch line was opened much of Henley’s previously thriving trade had been drawn away. Photographs of the town taken around 1850 show it in a state of decay. The river that had

brought its previous prosperity over the centuries eventually saved the town. A Regatta had started in 1839 but the turning point came when it received Royal patronage in 1851 and gave Henley international fame and fortune. George’s youngest brother Jonathon became closely involved with the Regatta.

George married Ruth Woodley in 1853 and they had a total of fourteen children. George’s younger brother Jonathon had an even larger family. He married Mary Ann Clements in 1858 and they had seventeen children. But several of them did not survive childhood. Frederick Jerome was born in Henley-on-Thames on 5th April 1862. He was George and Ruth’s sixth child



Frederick Jerome 1862-1932

and grew up in Henley becoming prosperous in his younger days owning boats on the River Thames. He was a bachelor into his late thirties before he met Rosina White, a children's nanny to the Palmer family in Reading (of Huntley and Palmers biscuits). Frederick and Rosina married in 1899 and settled in Dorking, Surrey, where they raised a family of five children. They owned and ran a poultry and fishmonger's shop. Frederick became well known in the area with the nickname of 'stasher' owing to his large moustache.

Frederick Jerome (junior) was born at Dorking at the start of the new century on 18th January 1900, the eldest son of Frederick and Rosina. At the age of 14 he went to the *Arethusa* training ship and joined the Royal Navy in the closing stages of the First World War. Fred's preference was to join the merchant navy but possibly by misunderstanding, or perhaps the pressure to enrol in the armed forces, Frederick signed his son up for the Royal Navy. Fred met Harriett Lucas at Brockham Fair when he was on home leave and they married in 1922. Their first child was Frederick Ronald (Ron). The ships Fred served in were mainly stationed at Chatham and so in 1924 they moved with baby Ron to Gillingham in Kent to be closer to the naval base. The family was completed with Patricia Betty's (Betty) birth in 1931.

Fred's career in the Navy spanned almost 30 years including active service in the Second World War. He was on convoy support duty in the North Sea, saw action at Narvik and was then posted to the Pacific in the war against the Japanese. He retired from the RN in 1946 as a Commissioned Gunner and joined the Admiralty staff in Gillingham, working there until it was relocated to Bath in the early 1960s when he retired.

Frederick Ronald (Ron) was born on 10th September 1922. It was this part of my family tree that almost ended on three different occasions before I appeared on the scene. The first incident was when Ron was five years old. He had a near fatal accident when he fell 50 feet down a slope at the back of Gillingham laundry and was not expected to live. Having survived he took the Royal Airforce entrance examination during the summer of 1939. He was accepted into the RAF and after officer training as an engineer went on active service in August 1942 in the Special Duties 138 squadron, which at this time of the war was dropping agents behind enemy lines and supplies to the Resistance. The next incident was in January 1943 when the aircraft he was flying in was

attacked and set on fire and he escaped by parachute. This was followed only a month later when he was shot down in France on another mission. He survived yet again, but was captured and spent the rest of the war in a POW camp in Poland.

After the war Ron married Winifred Edith Legg and I was born on 13th August 1946. Ron left the RAF and worked initially for HM Customs and then the Kuwait Oil Company. My sister, Karla Ann, was born in 1951. Ron was now a qualified mechanical engineer and worked as a Marine Superintendent for a number of shipping companies. During the later stages of his career, and prior to retiring he worked on the Thames Barrier.

*Acknowledgements* Peter Baigent and Cliff Greetham who have shared their research with me and made this article possible

*This study of the Jerome family was the basis of the display that won the Society's family history competition earlier this year.*

## *Family Crests and Mottoes*

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## Centenarians found on the CD ROM of the 1881 Census

Roy Stockdill, editor of the *Journal of One-Name Studies*, has been turning up some interesting curiosities from the CDROMs. It is now possible to find out who was the oldest living person in Britain in 1881. Roy says: "It's quite easy, except you have to search each of the 16 census disks individually. On the disks you enter the year 1775 in the Birth Year box and set the Year Range to 5. Be sure to leave the given name and surname boxes blank. Each disk produces a surprising number of centenarians. I didn't count the total, but I estimate there were over 100. By far the largest number was in Scotland and Wales. There are of course some glaringly obvious errors - like a 'son' of 110 born in 1771 and a 'niece' of similar age. However, here are the front runners":

### **Oldest man in Britain in 1881**

William Riley, widower, aged 105, born at Poole in Dorset, head, gypsy living with Caroline Lee, unmarried, aged 40, born Gloucester, also a gypsy.

Being a gypsy William's age may be a bit suspect, but he is supposed to have been born in 1776. He must have fathered his daughter, Caroline, when he was 65, but this is by no means impossible, or even unlikely. The fact that he was called Riley and she Lee, although unmarried, is not unusual either. Gypsies were often known by more than one name (see an article in the current issue of the *Genealogists' Magazine*).

### **Britain's oldest women in 1881**

Ann Howard, widow, aged 110, born in Borneo. Ann is supposed to have been born in 1771. This one is a bit debatable, but if the age is correct she is the clear winner and also Britain's oldest person on the 1881 census. But there are several other contenders (all women).

Mary Slater, a soldier's widow, aged 108, born in Gibraltar.

Chirsty Macpherson, a crofter, aged 108, with an unmarried daughter of 58.

Margaret Cameron, unmarried, aged 108.

Emma Wood, an unmarried nurse, aged 106.

In Berkshire one of the rare centenarians is Lady Julia Lockwood who was living at Ravensbury, Sunninghill. She was born in Dublin.

Apart from interesting himself in centenarians Roy has been looking for eminent Victorians. He found William Ewart Gladstone (at No. 10, where else), the six-year-old Winston Churchill, and literary lions like Oscar Wilde, George Bernard Shaw, and Arthur Conan Doyle. Sir Arthur Sullivan, the composer lived alone, aged 38, and was sandwiched in splendid isolation between a Metropolitan fire station and a church. He also found Oscar Wilde in Chelsea on census night. Living in the same house were a 13-year-old apprentice and a 22-year-old printer, both described as 'visitors'. The apprentice would appear to have been the son of the housekeeper, but the printer is unexplained...

If you find more famous entries, or oddities, while looking through the census do let the editor know.

### **More from the CD ROM of the 1881 Census**

The Queen was in residence at Windsor Castle on census night in 1881 together with some of her numerous children, and the ex-Empress Eugenie of France. If you go to 'Neighbours' and then scroll upwards you find that the very next person listed to the Queen is a coachman's wife, who rejoiced in the splendid name of Fanny Whip. No, she was not an ancestor of Nanny Whip in 'Blot on the Landscape'!

## **Family History Research**

### **New Brunswick, Canada**

Census Records

Vital Records

Municipal Records

Land and Probate Records

Marriage Bonds

Loyalists of NB

Parish Records

Cemetery Transcriptions

Newspapers and Directories

Militia and Military Records(pre-1900)

Published and Unpublished Family Histories

Enquiries, including an SAE and first class postage to:

Carolyn Harris, BA, MEd. PO Box 20226 Fredericton, NB Canada E3B 7A2

Tel: 506-454-4965, e-mail: [hilderly@nbnet.nb.ca](mailto:hilderly@nbnet.nb.ca)

search fees: £7.50/hr or \$15 Canadian/hr

## Our MI project needs your help

As many of you are aware, over the years, numerous members have spent many hours noting down the Monumental Inscriptions in various Berkshire Cemeteries. These have been typed up and put into our Library. Some are cross-referenced to maps of the cemetery, others are not. In order to make these MIs available to people who are unable to visit our Library we plan to put them onto fiche. This will only be done when permission has been obtained from the owner or when the Society owns the copyright.

The conversion process involves the following steps:

(a) Reading the original document using a computer and scanner with Optical Character Recognition (most modern scanners come with their own OCR software) to create a computer document. After checking and editing the document against the original, we produce a version in either hard copy or diskette ready for verifying.

(b) Verifying the edited document, either on hard copy or computer diskette, against the original document. Drawing maps of cemeteries in a form which allows easy reduction, in sections or as a whole, to A4 size (cartographic skills would be helpful, but not essential). Writing brief histories of each parish and its cemetery to accompany the fiche. If you have an interest in a particular cemetery and wish to be involved with any stage in the production of the fiche please let me know. Steps (a) and (b) can be done at home at a time to suit you. We have over 50 MIs that could be put onto fiche, so we would be grateful for any help you could give. 'The more the merrier' as they say. I look forward to hearing from anyone who would be willing to help.

Jocie McBride Tel. 01491-573705

email [jocie@globalnet.co.uk](mailto:jocie@globalnet.co.uk)



## **BERKSHIRE RECORD OFFICE ON THE MOVE**

Building work on the new Record Office building in Castle Hill, Reading, is well under way. It should be completed by January 2000, so that we can spend February and March moving ourselves and the records in our care into the new building. The new office will have a larger search room, and an exhibition/group visits room which is badly needed.

It will be necessary to close the Record Office to the public for a period of time during the move, but we hope to keep this as short as possible. It is likely that the service will be reduced gradually, with access to records on film and fiche continuing longer than to original documents. Our ability to answer enquiries will also be reduced as the move progresses.

The timetable is not yet certain. **However, disruption to the normal service is likely to begin in January and continue until the end of March, with total closure during the month of March. We ask all users and potential users to bear this in mind when planning their research.**

We hope to issue more bulletins later and to announce our new postal address and telephone number nearer the time. Meanwhile, you can contact us at:

**Berkshire Record Office, Shinfield Park, Reading, RG2  
9XD, tel. 0118 901 5132, e-mail [ARCH@Reading.gov.uk](mailto:ARCH@Reading.gov.uk)**

## Movers and stayers in nineteenth-century Abingdon

*Mike Robbins*

Most people that have tried to trace their ancestors for more than a few generations will soon discover that in the past, families moved around much more than might be expected. Sons and daughters left to get married, husbands and brothers left in search of work, and children were often packed off to live with relatives or to work 'in the big house'. However, knowing that people migrated around the country is of little help when trying to find an elusive ancestor. Fortunately, much work has been done to establish patterns of migration, and some of this research can be helpful to family historians.

Challenging the modern myth that geographical mobility in the 19th century was small compared to that of today, Michael Anderson (1971, 1983) used an analysis of the 1851 census to show that by the age of fifteen, 40 per cent of people had moved from their birthplace, and less than half of the entire population was living in the place where they were born. He found also, that the majority of migrants could be traced to addresses only a short distance away.

Other researchers have since found that short-distance moves occurred for economic reasons: e.g. families tended to move to the best accommodation they could afford. This meant, of course, that people moved both up and down on the housing scale as their wealth or poverty increased. It has also been shown that unskilled workers were most likely to migrate, and those with businesses tended to stay put.

Putting figures to the subject has been a long and tedious process, but with the advent of the personal computer, the task has been eased considerably - unfortunately leading to a plethora of (sometimes) confusing figures. However, if we are going to stand any chance of finding out where to look for our ancestors, we need to know how far, how often, and how many of them were likely to move home. The following is a summary of my own research into residential persistence in the parish of Abingdon St Nicholas, without too many boring statistics.

Abingdon sits on the banks of the river Thames. Prior to the boundary changes in 1974, it was in Berkshire, but then 'moved' to Oxfordshire. Abingdon Saint Nicholas was a small parish, bordered by The Vineyard in the North, Stert Street in the West, the river Isis (Thames) forming a physical barrier to the South, and a large expanse of shrubbery and open fields to the East acting as a similar barrier to the next parish. This research examines the area that falls within these boundaries, with the exception of The Vineyard which is partly in the next parish.

The aim of this project was to look at the relationship between employment and residential stability in Abingdon St Nicholas between 1841 and 1851. In short, to see which groups of workers moved home the most. Although more a social history than family history, it might help to explain why many of our ancestors migrated from place to place so often. My primary sources were

## ABINGDON, &c.

## Berkshire.

### BAKERS.

Beasley Francis, East St. Helens  
 Benham George, West St. Helens  
 Bradfield Edward, Marcham  
 Burden Daniel, West St. Helens  
 Cox George, Ock st  
 Faulkner William, Ock st  
 Fisher John, Ock st  
 Gearing Richard, (and bacon curer)  
 Broad street  
 Godfrey Charles, Marcham  
 Higgins Mary, Marcham  
 Higgins William, Vineyard  
 Ivey Joseph, jun. Vineyard  
 Leverett Joseph, West St. Helens  
 Pusey John, Bridge st  
 Pusey Richard, Ock st  
 Tomkins William, Ock st  
 Webb Joseph, Stert st  
 Wise John, Pig market

### BANKERS.

Knapp Henry & Co. High st, (draw on  
 Williams, Deacon & Co. London)

### BASKET MAKERS.

Brown Henry, West St. Helens  
 Flory John, Boar st  
 May William, Ock st  
 Mayo William, Square

Pointer John, Sutton Courtney  
 Winterborn Joseph, West St. Helens  
 Winterborn Thomas, Thames st

### BRUSH MAKERS.

Stanniland John, Lombard st  
 Tayler William, West St. Helens  
 Wiblen Thomas, High st

### BUTCHERS.

Bailey Edwd. jun. (pork) Pig market  
 Collingwood John Vindin, Square  
 Copeland Joseph, Bridge st  
 Copeland Thomas, East St. Helens  
 Fisher Joseph, Marcham  
 Grimes Richard, Stert st  
 Mulcock Thomas, Stert st  
 Slaymaker Richard, Ock st  
 Strange Benjamin, High st  
 Wiblen William, (pork) Ock st

### CABINET MAKERS AND UPHOLSTERERS.

Bayley Charles, Market place  
 Beckensell William, East St. Helens  
 Goldby Henry, Boar st  
 Grainge John, (& furniture broker)  
 Boar street  
 Jennings William, Ock st

### CARPENTERS.

the Census Enumerators Books (CEB's) for Abingdon St Nicholas in 1841 and 1851; the Parish Registers for Abingdon St Nicholas; and Pigot's 1830 Commercial Directory for Berkshire.

Census Enumerators Books were compiled using information from schedules completed by householders every ten years since 1841. They (attempt to) list every individual in the British Isles by name, age and sex, occupation, marital status, relationship to the head of the household in which they are staying on census night, additionally (except for 1841) they list address, place of birth, if deaf-and-dumb, blind, imbecile, idiot or lunatic.

As we know the CEB's need to be used with care. Enumerators were liable to make mistakes in transcribing household forms; householders may have supplied inaccurate information - deliberately or unintentionally. Illiterate people needed help to fill in their household returns: mistakes were bound to occur.

The Parish Registers were the responsibility of religious bodies prior to the introduction of civil registration of births, marriages and deaths in 1837. They continue to be recorded after this date, and are useful for tracing baptisms, marriages and burials. They can vary considerably in both the amount of information they record, and in the legibility and accuracy of records. As with the CEB's, this is partly due to illiteracy - many people did not know how to read or write their names, and it was up to the incumbent to interpret spelling and pronunciation of names.

To carry out the research, details from the CEB's were entered into a computer database, then individuals were traced from the 1841 census to determine who was still in the parish in 1851. The parish records of Abingdon St Nicholas were searched for women who had changed their name through marriage in the intervening years: additionally, I hoped to find some of the residents who would otherwise appear to have left the parish but were in fact still there, (albeit in the graveyard) as most people would be buried relatively near to where they died (people were buried soon after death for reasons of hygiene, and the transportation of bodies was, for most families, not practicable).

Once details of those who remained in the community were separated from those who left, I compiled tables of each, grouped by the type of employment they list in the census. Calculating the difference between the number of people involved in trade or business, and the number of unskilled labourers and those in irregular employment showed who was most likely to move.

The findings were as follows: the number of households dropped from 175 in 1841 to 168 in 1851, with a corresponding fall in the number of people in the parish down from 812 to 741. There is no obvious reason for this: however, in 1856 the railway arrived in Abingdon. The terminus, engine sheds and sidings covered a large area, so it is possible that clearance work started in late 1850 or early 1851, and some dwellings were demolished (in 1851, census night was March 30). Mean household size was 4.6 in 1841 and 4.4 in 1851 - similar to the figure of 4.4 arrived at by Anderson using his 2 per cent sample of the 1851 census (Anderson, 1983).

In 1841, 630 people (77% of the residents) said that they were born in Berkshire - understandably higher than Anderson's figures of under 50 per cent living in their place of birth, as he had the benefit of more detailed birthplace information in the 1851 census.

By 1851 a total of 422 (56%) residents list their birthplace as Abingdon: of those, almost 200 people gave no precise location, 140 (19%) give St Nicholas as their birthplace, and 111 (14%) list St Helen's - the adjacent (and almost surrounding) parish. In other words, over half of the local population was still living in the town where they were born; roughly one fifth was living in the same parish, and around one tenth had moved no more than a mile from their place of birth.

Moving on to look at residential stability over the years between censuses. Just 184 people could be found in both the 1841 and 1851 census, giving ten year persistence rates in the same area of 23 per cent. Bearing in mind that the 1841 census did not record precise addresses, this is understandably higher than other studies that have found rates of 13 to 20 per cent at the same address (Dennis and Daniels (1981 p.204).

Examination of the Parish Register revealed only 6 burials amongst the 628 individuals who had apparently left: this is extremely low compared to the 3.6 per cent traced to death registers by Pritchard (1976) in his research. It must be borne in mind, though, that Pritchard was able to consult the civil registers as opposed to parish records. Only one missing female was found to be married in the parish - she had also left the area.

By 1851, nearly one hundred households had left the area and seven complete households were still there. The other remaining households had lost at least one person. No attempt was made to

determine relationships within the households, i.e. members of the household could have been either kin or employees.

The majority (over two hundred) of people that left was aged between 15 and 25. The potential working population, i.e. individuals over the age of fourteen, dropped from 551 to 451 - a fall of 100.

*Table 1. Distribution of the workforce*

<i>Occupation</i>	<i>1841</i>	<i>1851</i>
Clothing makers	77 (14%)	85 (19%)
Shopkeepers & traders	52 (09%)	51 (11%)
Skilled & semi-skilled	85 (16%)	68 (15%)
Unskilled workers	134 (24%)	148 (33%)
Professionals	7 (01%)	7 (01%)
Independent means	20 (04%)	7 (01%)
No occupation	176 (32%)	85 (19%)
Total	551	451

(Percentages represent the proportion of each group in relation to the available workforce)

It is interesting to look at the occupations listed by those who stayed. From table 1 we can see that in ten years, the number of people employed in the clothing industry increased by 5 per cent, shopkeepers and traders increased by 2 per cent, the skilled and semi-skilled workers fell marginally, and the unskilled workforce rose by 9 per cent.

A closer look at unemployment shows that in 1841 and 1851 around 90 per cent of the people not listing an occupation were women. Around 16 per cent of these were wives. Many occupations were, of course seasonal, and others 'hidden', so no real conclusions can be drawn from these figures.

The real differences that show up are those concerned with trade or occupation. Around 60 per cent of traders and shopkeepers left; other groups showed losses of around 80 to 85 per cent each. Comparing these figures with the size of each group of workers in 1851, it is obvious the people who left were soon replaced by new workers from elsewhere.

Overall, the ten year persistence rate was 23 per cent. For shop-

keepers and traders it was 40 per cent, and for labourers, unskilled workers and the clothing industry it varied from 15 to 19 per cent. These figures appear to broadly coincide with other research using various sources and in other parts of the country. (For example, Holderness (1971); Dennis and Daniels (1981) (Pritchard (1976)).

By combining my definition of shopkeepers and traders with clothing makers I was able to find fifteen businesses in Pigots (1830) directory that could be traced forwards from 1830 to the census in 1841. Of these, seven were still there in 1851. This suggests twenty year persistence rates of 10 per cent, and ten year persistence rates of around 23 per cent, remarkably consistent with figures obtained using the census information.

### **Conclusions**

The limitations of this project and the sources used are apparent - the small number of people involved makes some of the findings unreliable. Clearly migration patterns vary with different types of employment: shopkeepers and traders dependent on a steady client base were less geographically mobile than labourers and traders who could carry out their occupation independently of other people. It has been suggested that increasing numbers of young people were leaving home, however, this needs to be proved by studying earlier migration patterns and comparing results. Another suggestion is that people tended to move no further than the distance that could be travelled in one day, again more research is needed. Migration is obviously a wide ranging and tempting topic...

### **Primary sources**

1841 Census Abingdon (HO107/0032)

1851 Census Abingdon (HO107/1688)

Abingdon St Nicholas Parish Registers.

Pigot. & Co. (1830) Commercial Directory of Berkshire, Buckinghamshire, Gloucestershire, Hampshire, Oxfordshire. London, J. Pigot & Co. (1994 Facsimile Edition, Kings Lynn, Winton).

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- This article was based on my research for the Open University course 'DA301, Studying Family & Community History', which provides an excellent introduction to the wider aspects of family history. I have been researching my own family history for around ten years, tracing them from 20th century Dorset to 17th century Berkshire.*

**DO YOU NEED HELP WITH YOUR RESEARCH IN LONDON?  
RESEARCH UNDERTAKEN at all LONDON AREA ARCHIVES**

Family Records Centre - B.M.D Certificates, Censuses & PCC Wills. SOG Library (PR copies, MI's, etc.).  
Post-1858 wills. PRO (army, navy, railwaymen - especially GWR, tithes, land tax, etc.). Newspaper Library  
Parish registers at Westminster, London Metropolitan, Guildhall, Surrey, Sussex & Berkshire archives

**SAE/2 IRCs to Martin Price, Thorwood Cottage, Knoll Road, Godalming,  
Surrey, GU7 2EL or email: [knoll\\_research@knoll33.freeserve.co.uk](mailto:knoll_research@knoll33.freeserve.co.uk)  
Web site: <http://www.knoll33.freeserve.co.uk>**



## Reading Local Studies Library news

*Margaret Smith*

People who live in the Reading area but don't have regular access to the Internet but who know how to use it might like to know that the Reference Library (on the first floor of Reading Library) now has public internet access. The hire fee is £2.50 per half hour. For further details and to book, contact (0118) 901 5955/5956. Public terminals are also available for hire (same fee) at Battle and Caversham Libraries. As the opening hours of these two libraries are more restricted, please telephone (0118) 901 5100 and (0118) 901 5103 respectively in advance of any visit. There are many genealogical websites available now. 'Genuki' is bookmarked under the family history section of the home page at Reading Reference Library. Otherwise, the URLs of 'Genuki' and 'family-search', two of the most useful sites, are as follows: [www.genuki.org.uk](http://www.genuki.org.uk) and [www.familysearch.org](http://www.familysearch.org). Staff in the Reference and Local Studies Libraries can advise further.

Please note that we have a new email address:

[reading.borough.libraries@reading.gov.uk](mailto:reading.borough.libraries@reading.gov.uk)

This should be used instead of [reading.ref@dial.pipex.com](mailto:reading.ref@dial.pipex.com) which is no longer reliable.

Finally some personal news. As I am taking early retirement, I shall be leaving Reading Library, and full time work, at the end of September. I hope to keep in touch with the library/archives/museums world through part time and voluntary work however. I also intend to continue researching my own family history.

### **London & Middlesex: a genealogical bibliography**

Stuart A. Raymond

The essential guide for researching London ancestors, now in its Second edition. Price (2 volumes) £14.10. Overseas (airmail)

£15.75; \$US26.80; \$Aus39.50

S.A. & M.J. Raymond, PO Box 35, Exeter EX1 3YZ, UK

## Projects - volunteers wanted

by Sue Matthews

I was recently appointed the new Projects Co-ordinator for the BFHS and my first job has been to find out what everyone is doing. I hope that by now I have been in touch with most people involved in projects. Let me tell you a little bit about myself first. I have been interested in family history for many years but only started serious research about five years ago. At that time I joined the Oxfordshire Family History Society because I live in Abingdon and that is where my father's family (Wiblin) lived for at least nine generations. About two years ago a group of us started meeting in Abingdon (now the Vale Branch) because we had interests in what was the ancient County of Berkshire, now in Oxfordshire. We felt that we were never a part of Oxfordshire when it came to family history meetings in Oxford: although work done by OFHS on our local parish records is quite remarkable, they still haven't completed St. Helens, Abingdon. But most of the North Berkshire parish registers have been transcribed and they have a very user friendly marriage index for Oxfordshire and are working on the North Berkshire marriage index.

This brings me to my first project, a new Berkshire Marriage Index, which everyone will be able to access and buy on fiche at the Research Centre or in the local Record Office.

There is also a Burial Index in progress as part of the National Burial Index. Jocie McBride is also trying to regenerate the Parish Register Project. So that hopefully one day all Berkshire registers will be transcribed onto fiche. Of course none of this will happen without volunteers and this is where you come in. Can you spare some time to transcribe either from fiche or at the Berkshire Record Office from the original parish registers or to put data onto computer? If you can, please contact me.

Sue Matthews

83 Curtis Avenue, Abingdon, Oxon., OX14 3UW.

Phone 01235 203042 after 6.00pm or email

[suematthews@dial.pipex.com](mailto:suematthews@dial.pipex.com)

## Berkshire marriage index 1538-1837

*To all BFHS members*

I apologise to everyone who has written to me with Berkshire Marriage Index requests and not yet received a reply. The delay has been due to the fact that my personal domestic circumstances changed dramatically and beyond my control over the past two years or so, due to the long illness and death of my husband, along with the resulting problems. Consequently, over most of this period the running of the Index has been at a virtual standstill. The delays experienced must have been most frustrating and I really do hope this has not caused undue inconvenience to too many members.

Not everyone is aware that the Index is a private one that I run alone from home in my 'spare' time, it is not part of a team effort. Therefore, I regret that having received an enormous number of letters over this period – and even though some people wrote twice – it was not possible in the circumstances to respond.

However, I am now working through a mountain of post and will gradually be contacting everyone who has written. As a precaution to ensure that nothing is missed, it would be helpful if anyone who has already written but not had a reply by the end of September, could then re-apply.

Cheques will not be cashed until each search is completed, so any out-of-date or duplicate cheques will be destroyed or returned. As I will have a large backlog of enquiries, I must apologise in advance if there is still some delay. I have much additional work to do, but am planning that the service will be completely back to normal again by the end of the year.

Due to this backlog, it is unlikely that I will be able to undertake new enquiries until at least the beginning of October and it would be helpful if members do not send any until then. As my workload gradually reduces I will attempt to respond within about three weeks of receipt, but will appreciate patience until this is possible.

Many thanks to all those who heard of my circumstances and sent kind messages.

Mrs. Pam Knight  
Old Oak Cottage, The Pound, Cookham  
Maidenhead, Berkshire SL6 9QE

## A tax for all seasons - the seventeenth century Hearth Tax

*John Gurnett*

New government taxes have never been popular: the riots that followed the poll tax of 1381, the introduction of income tax during the Napoleonic wars, and Lloyd George's land tax in 1911, that caused a constitutional crisis, are just three examples. But it was the hearth tax imposed by Charles II's Cavalier Parliament in 1662 that created widespread public condemnation and riots in Bristol and London.

It was levied in England and Wales from 1662 until 1689 when it was abolished after the accession of William and Mary and eventually replaced by the Land and Window tax. The tax of two shillings a year was imposed on every fireplace, stove or hearth. There were a number of exemptions: most charitable institutions were not required to pay, nor were industrial hearths. Two further exemptions were paupers and those whose dwellings were worth less than 20 shillings a year in rent. Although paupers were exempt from paying the tax, from 1663 the law required them to be listed, but on many occasions the legislation was ignored. However, many of the lists do include everybody, those paying the tax and those who did not.

As with all tax returns they must be treated with some caution as they give an unreliable account about the condition and wealth of Society at this period so they must be used with a number of caveats. Most importantly because of widespread evasion and the subsequent under-reporting which must have occurred. But for family historians they can provide a list of names of those who lived in the parish in question. No indication of occupation is given, although occasionally titles are used and sometimes widows can be identified. The number of hearths often gives some idea of relative wealth and social status as the size of the houses has an approximate relationship to the number of assessed hearths. More than seven usually indicate gentry, between four and seven moderately wealthy merchants, yeoman and craftsmen, the labouring poor usually had one hearth. Addresses are not given, so individual dwellings are only identified if the occupants at the time were known from other sources.

The tax was collected twice yearly at Michaelmas and Lady Day. Returns were made to the Justices by petty constables, tithingmen, high constables and sheriffs, but in 1664 responsibility was shifted to a new set of officials called the “chimney men”. The tax lists the householders (not owners) who were liable to pay the tax together with a list of the number of fireplaces in each home. A return was sent to the Quarter Sessions and a duplicate to the Exchequer. If the constable was not satisfied with the household-er’s statement, he was empowered to search the house and count individual hearths. Whether or not this occurred on a wide scale is doubtful as even at this time an Englishman’s home was still his castle and a search for hearths could easily reveal other kinds of illegal activity.

Like all unpopular taxes there was wide-spread evasion and for many years the tax was not audited by the exchequer, so in general only assessments from the years 1662 to 1666 and 1669 to 1674 can be found in the public records. Because of the widespread evasion the tax was “privatised” or farmed out to Commissioners to collect and hardly any lists of taxpayers exist for periods outside these dates. However, a few can be found in quarter session records at county record offices.

The taxation lists for some years are virtually complete, although the most comprehensive records are those for March 25, 1664. They list the taxpayer’s name, and the amounts they had to pay and returns showing the tax paid, or the number of hearths. Sometimes lists of arrears can be found together with exemption certificates.

It does provide us with what is probably the most important single piece of information about individuals in the mid-seventeenth century, especially during the Interregnum between 1654 to 1660 when many parish registers were poorly



## Instructions

*To the Officers appointed for receiving the Duty and Revenue arising and belonging to His Majesty by Fire-Hearts and Stoves, &c.*



**I**nprimis, Having received from His Majesties Auditors, Books of the former Certificates, and Returns of the said Duty and Revenue, which are Ordered to be delivered unto you, you shall endeavour to procure from the Constables or Tythingmen, &c. Copies of the Taxations of the said Duty for the half year ended the 25<sup>th</sup> of March 1664. And in case you can readily have them, you are by comparing them with the said Books, to make the best use of them you may for His Majesties Service; But if they cannot readily be had, you are nevertheless to proceed, and in your proceeding to observe these Rules following.

- I**F the party in the former Roll be an Owner of the Houle, and continue still in Possession, and you find his Hearths by your view the same number tha

A

Instructions to collectors

maintained, or in some cases non-existent. It acts as a kind of mini-census at this crucial time after many Anglican ministers had been ejected from their parishes because of the Royalist sympathies. Some buried their registers for safety, but how many of these survived after the restoration is questionable, especially as the registers that were left behind were often destroyed by Cromwellian soldiers. From 1653 parish registrars were appointed to oversee records. Many parishioners deliberately avoided registration as the officials were authorised to charge a fee of a shilling for each entry.

Many counties have published returns for individual years, the most popular being 1662, 1664 and 1665. The surviving accounts and administration records are held at the Public Record Office in the Subsidy Rolls (E179). Constables or quarter sessions copies can usually be found in county record offices. However, none exist for Berkshire.

Very often it is possible to trace a family line back to the late seventeenth century and then profound problems appear. But using the hearth tax records it is possible to bridge the gaps left by parish records. The first step in locating a particular householder is to find the hundred in which your ancestor lived, as the assessments themselves are arranged by county and hundred and then by parish.

Although Berkshire has not published transcripts we are particularly fortunate that Frederick Simon Snell transcribed many of the returns. His massive collection of genealogical transcripts held at the Society of Genealogists' library is probably one of the most important collections devoted to Berkshire. Amongst other records he transcribed the hearth tax for the County for around 90 parishes, with lists of names grouped under each parish followed by a full surname index. The introduction to Volume 17 explains his working method:

“The following lists are taken from a very complete series of papers – over 500 in number – consisting of lists of each village in Berkshire county of persons assessed for the hearth tax – years 1663, 1664. I copied them in 1898, and had I continued in England would have finished the county. As it is I think the following lists take up about half the county. Since completing these lists I have made others from the same set of documents. I do not claim great accuracy for the lists, as I worked hard and long, but

*(continued on page 33)*

*(continued from page 28)*

did not revise, so that there must be several mistakes. The spelling of surnames is often capricious – more so than other seventeenth century documents – but where these are very unusual a cross-reference will be found in the index. Christian names are all spelt in every conceivable way, but in order to save time I wrote down the conventional form in each case.

“The Subsidy Lists for Charles II reign are of peculiar interest as they are very full, giving not only the names of the chief people in the villages, but those of the poor cottagers as well. This last item alone would make the lists unique, as the rural poor are quite lost sight of, save in parish registers and perhaps some less accessible sources. The whole series of documents in fact forms quite a little directory for the county. When the date 1663 is mentioned alone it means ‘Our Lady Day’ of that year. Note that certain villages e.g. Swallowfield and Hurst, should be looked for under Wiltshire”.

A surprising number of counties have published returns and many more are planned. Margaret Spufford who has applied for lottery funding to microfilm the original PRO files and make them available at County Record Offices is leading a major research effort. The Berkshire Record Office already has photocopies of many returns from Michaelmas 1663 (T/A 17), but the largest original collection is at the Public Record Office.

In collaboration with the University of Cambridge the PRO is also developing an on-line database of all the E179 taxation records from 1200 to 1689 which will encompass the hearth tax records. It is early days yet but when it is finished a whole class of records – not just the hearth tax – will become available to local and family historians.

The University of Reading Library at Whiteknights and the Society of Genealogists’ Library have the tax for the parishes of Uffington, Baulking, Woolstone, Kingstone Lisle and Fawler, 1663/John E. Little, 1968; Records of the hearth tax for Reading and Caversham 1662-3/ Edgar Powell, 1912. A transcript of the Wantage names from the 1663 tax list was printed in the Berkshire Family Historian in the summer of 1982.

For a complete guide to the surviving records, county by county see Jeremy Gibson’s *Hearth Tax, Other Later Stuart Tax Lists*, and the Association Oath Rolls, available from our Bookshop.

## National Burial Index

We commenced work on the Berkshire contribution to the National Burial Index Project, organised by the Federation of Family History Societies in May, some four months earlier than anticipated. There are currently about 15 volunteers; most of whom responded when we announced that we were taking part in the project last March. Much of the present effort is dedicated to transcribing from fiche registers of some 18 parishes, mainly in the west of the county, and a solid start has been made on the registers of Newbury St. Nicolas, covering the period 1813 to 1900, and one or two smaller neighbouring parishes. A good part of the data has also been entered into the computer format prescribed by the Federation, but checking the entries has not started. Some work has also been carried out on transcribing Wokingham Baptist burials and on inputting records of Reading's London Road Cemetery.

If you would like to help, we are looking in particular for people who have a fiche reader at home, or access to one, to transcribe from the fiches presently available to us. Volunteers to help with data input would also be welcome; the dedicated input programme, Shroud, will work on any computer from a 286 PC upwards. If you have neither a fiche reader nor a PC but would be willing to spend the occasional hour or two transcribing from deposited material in the Berkshire Record Office, your local library, the new Research Centre when it is up and running in its new location, or indeed any other archive with Berkshire records, please let me know.

David Wright, 45 Picton Way, Caversham, Reading RG4 8NJ.  
Tele/fax: 0118 947 8025.  
email [David.Wright@nationwideisp.net](mailto:David.Wright@nationwideisp.net)



# Berkshire War Memorial Project - an update

*Alan Hutchins*

In 1997 I discovered that the original war memorial transcription project started by Mike Wilshin in 1985 had come to a halt after his death. I decided to complete it and found that 50 memorials had been published and another 80 had been transcribed, but were in various stages of checking and typing. Some of the memorials gave a description and location and others did not (some had names of the fallen and others had inscriptions as well). I had no idea what had been checked, so I decided to verify all the memorials that had been done, as well as finding new ones.

The first (and logical, so I thought) step was to contact the Royal British Legion headquarters in Arborfield for a list of monuments in the county, only to be disappointed – they did not have one. At this point I decided to visit every village and hope to find them all. As some of the memorials previously transcribed were monuments, and some were plaques inside the parish church, it seemed prudent to visit every church as well. I obtained a list of all the parish churches in the county, some 278, from the Berkshire Record Office, photocopied my county map so I could mark off where I had been and set about my task.

I decided (rightly or wrongly) that the memorials I would transcribe would be those to a war or conflict, raised by parishes, villages, congregations, colleagues, etc, not those to individuals, raised by the family, and not on gravestones, as these would be covered in time by other projects transcribing churchyards. Also I would only transcribe memorials containing names, not dedication plaques on memorial halls etc. After visiting around 60 churches I discovered that the Imperial War Museum was working on a National Inventory of War Memorials. I contacted the project co-ordinator only to be told that they were collecting memorials to individuals and those without names. They were not, however, instigating the transcriptions themselves, but relying on individuals sending information. It was at this point that I realised that the project would take longer than originally envisaged, as I now had to revisit the 60 churches already done. I was not disheartened (much).

As there were now several types of memorial emerging, I decided to divide them into sections for ease of issue. Part 1 is to inhabitants of parishes, villages or towns and raised by their communities. Part 2 is to individuals, raised by family, friends or comrades. Part 3 is to members of church congregations (other than Church of England), schools, colleges, clubs, businesses and associations. Part 4 is to regiments and military units and Part 5 are memorials without names. Parts 1,2 and 4, when ready for issue will be complete apart from any memorials I may have missed, but parts 3 and 5 will need a great deal more work as there are many schools, businesses, village halls still to be visited. However, they will be issued anyway with the memorials completed so far. I am hopeful that parts 1 and 2 will be completed by the end of the year, and all other parts issued soon afterwards.

So, here we are two and a half years, 530 memorials, and thousands of miles travelling the county later. My spare time has been totally consumed by war memorials (weekends transcribing, lunchtimes and evenings typing), not having had any time for my other hobbies (family history, painting military figurines, and collecting and researching campaign medals), and still with 70 churches to visit. But the end is now in sight.

### **Berkshire Marriage Index 1538-1837**

Contains more than 175,000 marriages (including over 5,000 strays) of grooms only. Most entries contain all register or Bishops' transcripts. This is the original and only complete version of the Index compiled by the late John Brooks up to 1993, and contains subsequent additional entries. Stray marriage contributions are appreciated and acknowledged with postage returned.

BFHS members are eligible for the reduced rate of £2 per search for each specific marriage (plus SAE or at least three IRCs). Please do not apply for more than three specific searches at a time. Details required include groom's full name and bride's if known, with approximate date and any other relevant information. Regrettably, non-specific or blanket searches cannot be undertaken.

Please see letter on page 24 and send enquiries after October 1 to Mrs., Pam Knight, Old Oak Cottage, The Pound, Cookham, Maidenhead, Berkshire SL6 9QE (please make all cheques payable to P. Knight).

# Computer Forum

*Eddie Spackman*

## **Schools on the Internet**

Some months ago I found my name listed as an old boy of my school on its web-site. This suggested that other sites might provide information for family historians. Mine is an old school, founded originally in 1702, and the Old Scholars Association has a project to complete listings for each academic year. Their earliest reference so far is to pupils in the 1920s.

Recently I carried out further research and although there are many schools with some kind of presence on the Internet there are relatively few with references to old boys. So far I have found no listings of former students prior to the 1920s. The aims of 'school sites' are varied - some just supply information about the school to an ill-defined audience whilst others present an ethos of the school, its curriculum and prospectus to potential parents. Some web-sites are written by the pupils of the school as part of their experience. Unfortunately the majority of school sites are of no practical use to family historians although a few do have something about the history of the school. Perhaps we should encourage schools with a long history to create pages or accessible databases with details of their old boys?

To find potential sites I typed '+old +scholars' into AltaVista. This gives a substantial number of relevant links. Yahoo UK and Ireland gives 11 Berkshire schools listed under Home > Regional > Countries > United Kingdom > England > Counties and Regions > Berkshire > Education. The longer countrywide list at Home > Regional > Countries > United Kingdom > Education > Primary and Secondary > Schools > Secondary is longer and more interesting. Unfortunately the links and the accompanying information make it difficult to identify the location of many of the schools. Among other links for schools in the south are:

[schoolbox.sys.uea.ac.uk/schools/southeast.html](http://schoolbox.sys.uea.ac.uk/schools/southeast.html)  
for southeast England

[www.ukdirectory.com/edu/sch\\_sth.htm](http://www.ukdirectory.com/edu/sch_sth.htm) - for the south

[www.mersinet.co.uk/~pbarnes/education/english-county/berkshire.htm](http://www.mersinet.co.uk/~pbarnes/education/english-county/berkshire.htm) - for Berkshire.

Eton College at [www.etoncollege.com/](http://www.etoncollege.com/) provides little information but has a page on the College's history from 1860 to the present day and some excerpts from 'A History of Eton College' by Sir Henry Maxwell-Lyte. Harrow School at

[www.harrowschool.org.uk/](http://www.harrowschool.org.uk/) has an 'Old Harrovian Contacts Page'.

Most of these are post war. They do however have a page giving a few 'Famous Harrovians' including Lord Byron, Sir Winston Churchill and Pundit Nehru. Among the more exotic is the site at [www.bhsosa.org.lb](http://www.bhsosa.org.lb) for Brummana High School Old Scholars Association in the Lebanon. Some sites include pages to help old boys establish Email communication. In Berkshire, the Old Bradfieldian Society is at [web.ukonline.co.uk/ob.society/](http://web.ukonline.co.uk/ob.society/) - it includes a page, but so far with few entries, on 'Where are they now?' Similarly, Didcot Grammar School has a DGS Alumnae at [www.dgs.sch.uk/alumnae.htm](http://www.dgs.sch.uk/alumnae.htm)

Perhaps others will have more success in searching the Web for schools with information that can be used for family history research?

### **The 1881 Census**

The Email group has been relatively quiet recently but it's not clear whether members are out in the garden or feverishly searching their newly acquired LDS CDROMs. However, there have been a number of postings about the 1881 census. The main problem - one that must also be a feature of the fiche version - is "I cannot find 'so-and-so'". It is not clear if this is because the surname has been spelt in an unusual fashion or whether there are some missing entries. The main benefit of the CDROMs is the ability to search nationwide for individuals. Most of us have already done this using the fiche but the CDROMs make it much easier and most of us will have found some new entries for our family trees from this resource. It will be a first 'port of call' for most newcomers to family history research in the future.

There is a substantial review of the LDS 1881 CD census set by Barney Tyrwhitt-Drake in the July 1999 issue of *Family Tree Magazine* and an article by Susan Lumas on reported mistakes in the June 1999 issue.

## **Which ISP? (Internet Service Provider)**

It is becoming more and more difficult to decide which ISP to join up with (or to change to). There are many 'subscription free' providers but, because their help lines are charged at around 50p per minute, they will be of less use to newcomers to computing and the Internet who need 'help' than the 'subscription' providers such as AOL, CompuServe, GlobalNet etc.

Some guidance can be obtained from the Internet magazines.

*Internet Magazine* provides monthly ratings of the performance of around 100 ISPs. It is clear that there is a dramatic change in performance from month to month for many of them. In the August issue there is a useful article on the merits of the big six which also provide content - CompuServe, MSN, Virgin, AOL, Lineone and Freeserve.

It is expected that an announcement will shortly be made by AOL about free telephone access using an 0800 number. Some subscription ISPs (e.g. BTinternet) already give free telephone access at the weekend and Screaming.net is an example of a subscription-free ISP which gives free access both in the evening and at the weekend but only if you switch your telephone service to Localtel.

We await with some interest the introduction of the new ADSL system by BT. It is reported that about a quarter of British households and small businesses will be able to subscribe to high speed Internet access for a flat monthly fee starting at £40 - possibly next Spring - and will be able to use existing 'copper' phone lines.

## **Future contributions**

If you have contributions to include in future editions of this column please send them to me at [EASpackman@Lineone.net](mailto:EASpackman@Lineone.net) or to my address given elsewhere in this magazine. It would also be useful to include Questions and Answers on any Family History Computer issues you may have.

*Note: [http://](#) has been omitted in all web site references given in this article.*

## Q & A WITH JEAN

*Hugh Berry (3328) of Newbury, Berkshire*

### **When did the custom of marriage in the bride's parish start?**

Although this is a frequently asked question I was not sure of the answer and turned to my bookshelf for Colin Chapman's "Marriage Laws, Rites, Records and Customs". It says that "In many parts of the country it was the custom for the marriage rite to be celebrated in the bride's home parish. In some large parishes there could be several chapelries a few miles apart to choose from; it was not uncommon for the one furthest from the bride's house to be chosen so giving the family an opportunity for a 'day out'."

As I read this paragraph my eye strayed over the rest of the chapter about the various customs, most of which arose from pagan fertility rites and were intended to bring happiness and prosperity to the couple and the community by confusing or appeasing witches and evil spirits. And, often without knowing why, most modern couples still try to incorporate at least some of these traditions - just in case.

Hence for good luck Cupid, son of Venus and god of love, is depicted on wedding invitations and cards. A horseshoe is shaped like a cow's horns through which the moon's orb can be seen and symbolises Isis, the Egyptian goddess of procreation and Universal Mother. To bring good luck it is often carried by the bride or attached to the back of the car. Hung over a door it is also thought to protect the house from plague and witches.

The bride's "bottom drawer" re-enacts the dowry or bride price given by her father to the groom as part of marriage-by-purchase arrangements and her trousseau - little bundle - also originates in the dowry. To confuse the spirits, the bridesmaids dress like the bride and the best man, with his supporters or ushers, like the groom. A canopy held over the couple shielded them from danger from above and is still used in Jewish weddings. The old adage, "Something old, something new; something borrowed, something blue" signifies the bride's past life and her future as a married woman; 'borrowed' is for friends' future help and support and blue is for loyalty. Noise disturbs evil spirits so church bells were rung, gongs banged and trumpets blown. Candles represent fire

that eradicates evil and keeps out witches: the bride's veil was therefore yellow like a flame but today it is white for purity. Also, the veil is apparently a symbol of her submission and obedience to her husband - not a lot of people know that...

The best man and his ushers represent the bands of young men who participated in rape-marriage or marriage by capture. The bride's father now gives her away instead of selling or exchanging her for the bride price.

The reception at a separate location is the result of the seventeenth century Puritan attempt to suppress the 'popish and heathen' behaviour of the wedding party at the post-nuptial festivities in the church itself. As this consisted mainly of copious quantities of bride-ale or hot pots of brandy, ales, sugar, eggs and spices there was a great deal of drunkenness and ribaldry. This survives as the toasts drunk to the bride and groom. Bridal-cakes of flour, salt and water were distributed to the contracting parties in Roman times. Later, small cakes with honey and spices added were given to all the guests. Today's cake is thought to be the invention of a French chef to incorporate several small cakes under a coating of marzipan and icing.

*Doreen Langford (3075) of Tilehurst, Reading, and Berkshire:*

**I found the birth entry for an uncle, Frederick, registered in the September quarter 1909. Because his existence was previously unknown I assumed he had died young and checked the death index for the same quarter and found an entry under "male". The local registrar confirmed that the parents were the same in both entries and I ordered the certificates. These showed that baby Frederick was born prematurely on 11 July 1909 and died the same day. But, the Coroner registered the death on 14 July and the birth was not registered until the following 14 August. Is this an unusual situation?**

In the circumstances this disparity of dates appears to be the result of the special circumstances arising because of the post-mortem. A copy of the death certificate was, and is, needed before burial can take place and the coroner always registers the event immediately on completion of his inquest. The birth certificate is

not required before burial and, in this case, it would seem that the parents took time to recover from their grief and simply registered their son's birth within the legal six-week limit. I am sure that they, and other officials, were not aware of this reversal of the usual order of events in the records.

It is worth remembering that, if the coroner had not been involved, the parents would almost certainly have registered Frederick's birth and death together on the same day.

Please send your questions about any aspect of family history research for inclusion in "Q & A with Jean" either to the editor or direct to Jean Debney, 8 Huckleberry Close, Purley on Thames, Reading, Berkshire RG8 8EH or email [jeandebney@onename.demon.co.uk](mailto:jeandebney@onename.demon.co.uk)

### **Maidenhead Family History Week**

Berkshire Family History Society is staging the third Maidenhead Family History Week in conjunction with the Maidenhead Heritage Trust from October 2 – 9 1999 inclusive.

Please come along and support the Society at this popular public event.

Among the attractions will be:

- Displays by members of the Society
- Transcripts and indexes for the 1881 Census of England and Wales
- The CD-ROM "Soldiers who died in the Great War"
- The Society Bookstall
- Help desk

The venue is the Maidenhead Heritage Trust Shop in the Nicholson Centre, Maidenhead and the opening hours are 10am to 4pm.

For more information ring Ivan Dickason on 0118 978 6785

We look forward to seeing you there.



## WILTSHIRE'S NIMROD INDEX

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all fiched)

1. 1871 census SURNAMEN  
(complete)
2. Burials to 1837 (collection 1)
3. Wills Beneficiaries 1800-58  
(14 courts)

SEARCH fiche £1.99 or £5.00 for  
three (prices include postage)

THE RING – marriage index by parish

1851 census FULLY transcribed by  
piece number

Both on fiche. Send SAE for details.

P. Wilson, 11 Ardmore Close,  
Gloucester, GL4 0BJ

e-mail: [wis@mcm.com](mailto:wis@mcm.com)

web: [www.wis.mcm.com](http://www.wis.mcm.com)

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~

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~

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~

Computer reproduction keeping as far as possible  
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~

For a free estimate send brief description of task  
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## Help Wanted

Mrs. Pat Smith, 11 Rosecroft Close, Lancing, West Sussex BN15 9HL

“Alice Beatrice Lelliott was born on 2 June, 1900 at Cuckfield, Sussex. She married Charles Cox on 14 February 1920 at Watford and they had two daughters Peggy, born 1920 and Melita, born 1923. They then moved to Reading where Peggy married in 1939 Frederick D. Helmore. They had two sons Leonard, born 1941 who married Ann D. Ellis in 1961 at Harrow, and Brian who was born in 1944 and who married Janice J. Liddiard in 1966 at Reading. So far I have not found a marriage for Melita.

Alice Beatrice Lelliott was my mother’s eldest sister and my mother and I would like to hear from any descendants, as my mother has not seen her sister since her marriage”.

## A rare rhyming will

This will by John Hedges was found in the PCC probate registry dated May 5, 1737. It was proved by his brother Charles Hedges on July 13, 1737.

*This 5th day of May  
Being Airy and Gay  
To Hipp not inclined  
But of vigorous mind  
And my Body in Health  
I’le dispose of my Wealth  
And of all I’m to leave  
On this side of the grave  
To some one or other  
I think to my Brother  
But because I foresaw  
That my Brethren-in-Law  
If I did not take care  
Would come in for a share  
Which I noe ways intended  
Till their manners were mended*

*(And of that God knows there’s no Sign)  
I do therefore Enjoyn  
And do strickly command  
Witness my hand  
That nought I have got  
Be brought in Hotch Pott  
But I give and devise  
As much as in me lyes  
To the son of my Mother  
Mine own dear Brother  
To have and to hold  
All my silver and gold  
As the affectionate Pledges  
of his Brother John Hedges*

# Oxfordshire Archives Opening Hours

From week beginning 5 July 1999, Oxfordshire Archives will open *only* on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday. Hours will be as follows:

Monday 9.00am to 5.00pm  
 Tuesday 9.00am to 5.00pm  
 Wednesday 9.00am to 5.00pm

We do apologise for this curtailing of opening hours which is forced upon us by the need to carry out extensive work ready for the move to the new record office in Cowley in the year 2000. The new hours will apply for *one year only* after which the opening hours will be expanded considerably for the new premises.

If you would like a say in what the new opening hours should be when the office relocates, please contact Carl Boardman at Oxfordshire Archives, County Hall, New Road, Oxford OX1 1ND, or email the office on [archives.occdla@dial.pipex.com](mailto:archives.occdla@dial.pipex.com)  
 Remember, we cannot give you what you want unless we know what it is!



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 COUNTY COUNCIL**  
 CULTURAL SERVICES



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*Compiled by Bob Plumridge*

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3942 Mr KC BINNS, 16 Mattock Way, Abingdon, Oxfordshire, OX14 2PD  
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4065 Mr RC LEESON, 11 Bridle Way, Alveston, Gloucestershire, BS35 3RF  
4069 Mr C NORRIS, 225 Papplewick Lane, Hucknall, Nottingham, NG15 8EJ  
4075 Mr C TWINCH, Hill Farm, Rendham, Saxmundham, Suffolk, IP17 2AL  
4081 Mr RF LOVE, 20 Wilverley Avenue, Havant, Hampshire, PO9 2LL  
4083 Mr DH ROGERS, 88 West Way, Broadstone, Dorset, BH18 9LS  
4087/F Mr & Mrs M WRIGHT, Salmar, 6 The Borough, Downton, Salisbury, Wiltshire, SP5 3ND  
4091/F Mr. MJ SMITH, 2 Lea Close, Reading, Berkshire, RG30 3NB  
4094 Miss TA BOOZER, 48 Court Road, Burham, Rochester, Kent, ME1 3TA  
4113 Mr M MILLS, Birchwood, Plymouth Drive, Sevenoaks, Kent, TN13 3RW

No.	Surname	Place	Code	Period	No.	Surname	Place	Code	Period
4043	ADAMS	Aylesbury	BKM	pre 1999	3942	BINNS	Liverpool	LAN	pre 1881
3036	ALBANS	Comingsby	LIN	pre 1850	4062	BOND	Charney Bassett	BRK	1700-1850
3967*	ALDER	Anywhere	BRK	All	4094	BOOZER	Newport Pagnell	BKM	pre 1850
3036	ALDWORTH	Garsington	OXF	pre 1850	3996	BOSELEY	Basildon	BRK	1800-1850
3822	ALLEN	North Berks	BRK	1600-1900	4069	BRIDGER	Sevenoaks	KEN	1800-1940
3822	ALLEN	Reading	BRK	1830-1940	4087	BRIGHT	Ramsbury	WIL	1750-1900
4048	ALLUM	Anywhere	BRK	1750-1850	3860	BROWN	Reading	BRK	1800-1900
4048	ALLUM	Anywhere	MDX	1800-1900	4087	BROWN	Kintbury	BRK	1700-1999
3036	ANDREWS	Nuneham	OXF	pre 1820	3996	BRYAN	Wrexham	DEN	1890-1950
4081	ANGEL	Liddiard Tregole	WIL	1600-1800	3996	BRYAN	Mold	FLN	1867-1900
4094	ARDREY	Cookham	BRK	pre 1899	3996	BRYAN	Neston	CHS	1800-1880
4094	ARDREY	Maidstone	KEN	1852-1910	4081	BUNDAY	New Forest	HAM	1600-1800
4043	ARNOLD	Ansley	WAR	pre 1999	4060	BURGESS	Wharham	YKS	1700-1980
3822	BAILEY	Honiton	DEV	1700-1900	4087	BURROWS	Chippenhams	CAM	1700-1960
4060	BANKS	Wharham	YKS	1700-1980	4043	BUSHELL	St Albans	HRT	pre 1999
4048	BARNES	Anywhere	WIL	1750-1850	4043	BUSHELL	Deal	KEN	pre 1999
4087	BARTHOLOMEW	Bedwins	WIL	1700-1999	4060	BUXTON	Wells	SOM	1700-1980
4087	BARTHOLOMEW	Anywhere	BRK	1800-1999	4060	BUXTON	Warfield	BRK	1880-1900
4048	BARTLETT	Anywhere	MDX	1800-1900	3036	CAMPLIN	Dorchester	OXF	pre 1750
3036	BATCHELOR	Isfield	SSX	pre 1900	4083	CAUSER	Lichfield	STS	1700-1870
4081	BEASANT	Liddiard Millicent	WIL	1600-1800	4063	CHAMP	Swallowfield	BRK	1700-1800
3967*	BEER	Anywhere	DEV	All	4083	CHANDLER	Godalming	SRY	1750-1850
4094	BENEFIELD	East Kent	KEN	pre 1870	4060	CHANEY	Binfield	BRK	1800-1980
3036	BENNET	Anywhere	SSX	pre 1700	4063	CHARLTON	Swallowfield	BRK	1600-1900
4091	BEVAN	Deptford	KEN	1800-1990	4065	CHURCH	Chieveley	BRK	pre 1840
4091	BEVAN	Greenwich	KEN	1800-1990	3967*	CLANFIELD	Anywhere	BRK	All
4091	BEVAN	Lewisham	KEN	1800-1990	4087	CLARIDGE	Wallingford	OXF	1750-1850
4091	BEVAN	Mitcham	SRY	1800-1990	4087	CLARIDGE	Kintbury	BRK	1750-1850
4091	BEVAN	Streatham	SRY	1800-1990	3036	CLARKE	Barcombe	SSX	pre 1900
3942	BINNS	Dublin	DUB	pre 1881	4065	CLEVERL(E)Y	Dartford	KEN	pre 1870

No.	Surname	Place	Code	Period	No.	Surname	Place	Code	Period
3036	CLINKARD	Toot Baldon	OXF	pre 1710	3990	DIMMOCK	Hitchin	HRT	1875-1920
4056	COOK	Reading	BRK	1750-1900	4063	DOUGLAS	West Ham	ESS	1875-1920
4091	COOKE	Streatham	SRV	1800-1990	4063	DOUGLAS	Anyhwere	SCT	pre 1881
4091	COOKE	Mitcham	SRV	1800-1990	3942	DRURY	Salop	SAL	pre 1881
4091	COOKE	Chessington	SRV	1800-1990	3942	DRURY	Chirk	DEV	pre 1881
4091	COOKE	Westminster	MDX	1800-1990	3822	DUNSDON	North Berks	BRK	1750-1900
4056	CORNELL	Anywhere	CAN	1800-1970	4069	EAST	Shiplake	OXF	1800-1900
4056	COMELL	Anywhere	USA	1800-1970	3970	EDWARDS	Anywhere	SRV	Any
3036	CORNFORD	Anywhere	SSX	pre 1870	3970	EDWARDS	Godalming	SRV	Any
4003	COTTERELL	Eversley	HAM	1880-1935	3996	EDWARDS	Ruthin	DEN	1800-1900
3036	COTTRELL	Anywhere	SSX	pre 1900	3970	EDWARDS	Maidenhead	BRK	1800-1999
4083	COUSINS	Flitwick	BDF	1750-1850	3822	ELDERFIELD	North Berks	BRK	1750-1950
4043	CRAWLEY	St Neots	HUN	pre 1999	4087	ELLWOOD	Boxworth	CAM	1700-1900
4060	CREW(E)	Marlow	BKM	1830-1980	4048	EMMS	Anywhere	MDX	1800-1900
4087	CRISP	Bermondsey	SRV	1870-1960	4048	EMMS	Anywhere	NFK	1800-1900
4087	CRISP	Mutford	SFK	1700-1880	3036	FARLEY	Anywhere	SSX	pre 1900
3970	DAMEN	Anywhere	SRV	pre 1860	3990	FARR	Hitchin	HRT	1848-1900
3970	DAMEN	Anywhere	WIL	1850-1999	3967*	FAULKNER	Abingdon	BRK	All
3970	DAMEN NEE(Alice) Romsey	Romsey	HAM	c1854	3822	FOSTER	Anywhere	BRK	1700-1900
4015	DARBY	Anywhere	KEN	1500-1990	3822	FOSTER	Anywhere	HAM	1700-1900
4015	DARBY	Anywhere	MDX	1500-1990	3996	FOX	S. Lincs	LIN	1800-1850
4015	DARBY	Anywhere	LDN	1500-1990	3970	FRENCH	Anywhere	DOR	pre 1900
4045	DAVIES	Faringdon	BRK	1400-1850	3970	FRENCH	Anywhere	HAM	pre 1900
4081	DAVIS	Manningford	BRK	1600-1800	3036	FRYER	Minchinhampton	GLS	pre 1850
4081	DAVIS	Lambourn	BRK	1600-1800	4087	FRYER	Thorley	IOW	1750-1850
3822	DAY	North Berks	BRK	1700-1900	3990	GADSBY	Anywhere	DBY	1840-1880
3990	DAY	Berkeley	GLS	1880-1920	4087	GALE	Burbage	WIL	1700-1900
3996	DEANE	Reading	BRK	1780-1900	4094	GARLINGE	East Kent	KEN	pre 1999
3990	DEAR	Hitchin	HRT	1858-1920	4048	GARRARD	Anywhere	SFK	1750-1850
3990	DENT	Birmingham	WAR	1890-1920	4048	GAY	Anywhere	WIL	1800-1900



No.	Surname	Place	Code	Period	No.	Surname	Place	Code	Period
4063	GAY	Battersea	SRY	1600-1900	4063	HILL	Aston Rowart	OXF	1500-1900
4087	GIGG	Bedwins	WIL	1700-1850	4087	HIRCOMBE	Bedwins	WIL	1700-1850
3822	GODDARD	Anywhere	BRK	1700-1900	4094	HODSELL	West Kent	KEN	pre 1890
3822	GODDARD	Anywhere	HAM	1700-1900	4094	HODSOLL	West Kent	KEN	pre 1890
4062	GODDARD	Stanford-in-the-Vale	BRK	1800-1900	4043	HOILE	Deal	KEN	pre 1999
4062	GODDARD	Eaton Hastings	BRK	1800-1900	4087	HOLLIS	Shalfleet	IOW	1800-1880
4062	GODDARD	Thrupp	BRK	1850-1942	3996	HOPE	Anywhere	LIN	1800-1950
4062	GODDARD	Faringdon	BRK	1800-1950	3996	HOPE	Dewsbury	YKS	1870-1880
4094	GODDEN	Thanet	KEN	pre 1882	3036	HOWARD	Anywhere	SSX	pre 1920
4094	GODDEN	Chelsham	SRY	1855-1882	3036	HOWELL	Great Walsingham	NFK	pre 1880
3036	GOODINGS	Anywhere	NFK	pre 1910	3822	HUGHES	Newbury	BRK	1850-1950
3036	GOODINGS	Houghton Regis	BDF	pre 1910	3967*	HURFORD	Anywhere	SOM	All
3036	GOODY	Garsington	OXF	pre 1840	3967*	HURFORD	Anywhere	DEV	All
3996	GRASSBY	Glandford Brigg	LIN	1800-1850	4063	HYDE	Evesham	WOR	1600-1900
3996	GREEN	Charlbury	OXF	1780-1880	3036	INNES	Dorchester	OXF	pre 1720
4045	GREEN	Faringdon	BRK	1400-1850	4060	IRELAND	Wharram	YKS	1700-1980
3996	GREEN	Cornbury Park	OXF	1830-1890	4083	JELLS	Flitwick	BDF	1750-1850
3036	GROVES	Stanner	SSX	pre 1830	4081	JENKINS	Scilly Isles	CON	1600-1800
4081	HABLIN	Lambourn	BRK	1600-1800	3036	JENNINGS	Minchinhampton	GLS	pre 1870
4091	HACK	Westminster	MDX	1800-1990	4063	JOHNSON	Swallowfield	BRK	1600-1900
4091	HACK	Morden	SRY	1800-1990	4083	JORDAN	Shrivenham	BRK	1700-1999
4091	HACK	Mitcham	SRY	1800-1990	4062	KEEP	Denchworth	BRK	1800-1930
3996	HAM	Stratfield Saye	HAM	1780-1880	4062	KEEP	Thrupp	BRK	1800-1900
4083	HAMMOND	Frensham	SRY	1750-1850	4062	KEEP	Fernham	BRK	1850-1950
3036	HARPER	Oxford	OXF	pre 1820	4087	KILLICK	Godstone	SRY	1760-1880
4087	HARPER	Kintbury	BRK	1700-1999	3990	LAW	Hitchin	HRT	1830-1900
4048	HEAL(EY)	Anywhere	COR	1850-1900	3036	LEARY	Welton	LIN	pre 1850
3154	HEDGES	Abingdon	BRK	1790-1999	4065	LEESON	Rous Lench	WOR	pre 1840
3036	HERBERT	Miserden	GLS	pre 1850	3036	PARRINDER	Coingsby	LIN	pre 1860
4063	HIDDEN	Evesham	WOR	1600-1900	4015	PATCHIN	Anywhere	SSX	1500-1990

No.	Surname	Place	Code	Period	No.	Surname	Place	Code	Period
4015	PATCHIN	Anywhere	BRK	1850-1999	3990	SHIRE	St Maues	CON	1890-1936
4015	PATCHIN	Anywhere	BKM	1850-1999	4043	SILLS	Anywhere	HRT	pre 1999
3990	PEARCE	Charlton Kings	GLS	1860-1900	3822	SIMES	Hagbourne	BRK	1700-1900
3990	PEARCE	Gloucester	GLS	1860-1900	4063	SIMMONS	Anywhere	SCT	pre 1881
3970	PERRIO	Anywhere	CHI	pre 1890	3990	SIMONS	Exhall	WAR	1850-1920
4087	POCOCK	Kingsclere	HAM	1700-1960	3822	SKUSE	Stroud	WIL	1700-1900
4048	POLL(E)Y	Anywhere	SFK	1750-1850	3996	SLOPER	Devizes	WIL	1800-1880
4094	POPE	Salehurst	SXE	pre 1850	3996	SLOPER	Reading	BRK	1850-1920
4113	POVEY	Chieveley	BRK	1750-1850	3822	SMART	North Berks	BRK	1700-1900
4113	POVEY	Anywhere	BRK	1500-1750	4048	SMITH	Hampstead	MDX	1800-1900
3942	POWELL	Welshpool	MGY	pre 1881	4056	SMITH	Sidmouth	DEV	1750-1900
3036	PRATLEY	Bassingham	LIN	pre 1890	4091	SMITH	Liverpool	LAN	1800-1990
4091	PRICE	Depiford	KEN	1800-1990	4087	SMITH	Boxworth	CAM	1700-1890
4048	RANDLE	Anywhere	MDX	1750-1850	4087	SMITH	Willenden	MDX	1750-1960
4048	RANDLE	Anywhere	BRK	1750-1850	3036	SMITH	Stickney	LIN	pre 1870
4081	READ	Downton	WIL	1600-1800	4045	SOLLIS	Hinton Waldrist	BRK	1400-1750
3970	REED	Maidenhead	BRK	1870-1999	3996	SOUNDY	Reading	BRK	1780-1855
3970	REED	Chichester	SSX	1800-1860	4094	SPICE	West Kent	KEN	pre 1999
4083	ROGERS	Shrivenham	BRK	1800-1999	3996	SPIGHT	Glandford Brigg	LIN	1800-1850
4083	ROGERS	Lechlade	GLS	1700-1837	4065	STEPTOE	Acton/Hamwell	MDX	pre 1870
4094	ROSE	Mayfield	SXE	pre 1850	4069	STONE	Oxford	KEN	1800-1890
3036	ROUSSEAU	Stamford	LIN	pre 1850	4048	SULLIVAN	Anywhere	MDX	1800-1900
4083	ROUTLEDGE	Wolsingham	DUR	1750-1850	3996	SURCH	Little Compton	GLS	1815-1880
4094	SANDER	Newport Pagnell	BRK	pre 1850	3996	SURCH	Reading	BRK	1850-1930
3996	SANDERSON	Barton-U-Humber	LIN	1800-1950	4003	SURRIDGE	Ware	HRT	1850-1900
3996	SARGENSON	Boston	LIN	1800-1950	4087	SWAYNE	Kintbury	BRK	1750-1850
4087	SARGENT	Bermondsey	SRY	1860-1990	3822	TANNER	Ringwood	HAM	1700-1900
4087	SARGENT	Chippenhams	CAM	1700-1880	4069	TAYLOR	London	MDX	1750-1930
4060	SCURRY	Belchamp St. Pauls	ESS	1700-1980	3822	THOMAS	Harwell	BRK	1800-1900
4081	SHALL	Lambourn	BRK	1600-1800	3036	THORPE	Uppingham	RUT	pre 1860

No.	Surname	Place	Code	Period	No.	Surname	Place	Code	Period
4045	TIBELS	Faringdon	BRK	1400-1850	3036	WHITEPAYN	Anywhere	SSX	pre 1750
3996	TIGWELL	Reading	BRK	1850-1930	4065	WILK(E)S	Belbroughton	WOR	pre 1850
3996	TIGWELL	Ufton Nervet	BRK	1780-1860	4087	WILLIAMS	Petworth	SSX	1870-1960
3036	TINDEL	Middle Rasen	LIN	pre 1890	3996	WILLIAMS	Mold	FLN	1800-1900
4083	TOWNSEND	Stratton	WIL	1750-1850	3942	WILLIAMS	Liverpool	LAN	pre 1881
3036	TURNER	Louth Grantham	LIN	pre 1790	3996	WILLIAMS	Wrexham	DEN	1800-1900
4075	TWINCH	Clewer	BRK	1500-1800	4087	WILLIAMS	Dudley	WOR	1800-1880
4075	TWINCH	Windsor	BRK	1500-1800	3996	WILSON	Boston	LIN	1800-1850
4075	TWINCH	Appleford	BRK	1500-1800	4069	WISE	Reading	BRK	1890-1999
4075	TWINCH	Radley	BRK	1500-1800	4069	WISE	Henley	OXF	1780-1925
4075	TWINCH	Cippenham	BKM	1800-1999	4069	WISE	Remenham	BRK	1800-1890
4075	TWINCH	Winchester	HAM	1700-1900	4083	WOODROW	Hingham	NFK	1700-1850
4075	TWINCH	Bodenham	HEF	1600-1800	3036	WOODWARD	Anywhere	NTT	pre 1890
4075	TWINCH	London	LND	1400-1999	3036	WOODWARD	Bassingham	LIN	pre 1890
4075	TWINCH	Oxford	OXF	1500-1900	3822	WYETH	Anywhere	BRK	1700-1900
3036	VINES	Prestbury	GLS	pre 1820	3822	WYETH	Anywhere	HAM	1700-1900
4087	WAKEFIELD	Beeton	BRK	1750-1900	4063	YOUNG	Kingsey	BKM	1750-1850
3967*	WAKLEY	Anywhere	DEV	All					
4063	WAKLIN	Kingston Blount	OXF	1700-1900					
3996	WALLIS	Whitchurch	OXF	1840-1900					
3036	WALNE	Bungay	SFX	pre 1880					
4043	WARD	Ansley	WAR	pre 1999					
4081	WARNE	New Forest	HAM	1600-1800					
4091	WATSON	Liverpool	LAN	1800-1990					
3860	WERNHAM	Hampstead Marshall	BRK	1836-1875					
3860	WERNHAM	Wallingford	BRK	1800-1900					
3860	WERNHAM	Kimbury	BRK	1851-1870					
3990	WESLEY	Hitchin	HRT	1850-1950					
4003	WHITE	Eversley	HAM	1830-1950					
4003	WHITE	Newport	IOW	1900-1950					

# Minutes of the 24th Annual General Meeting

*Held on Wednesday June 30, 1999 at Prospect Technology College, Reading*

The Chairman welcomed everybody to the 24th Annual General Meeting of the Society and informed the Meeting that the AGM will follow the Agenda set out in the March 1999 edition of the Berkshire Family Historian.

1 Apologies for Absence. The following apologies were received: Lady Palmer and Pat Deane.

2 Minutes of the 1998 Annual General Meeting. The Chairman reminded the Meeting that the Minutes of the last AGM had been published in the September, 1998 issue of the Berkshire Family Historian. The Chairman asked the Meeting that the Minutes be accepted as read. This was proposed by Jean Debney and seconded by Sue Bouchard.

3 Matters arising. There were no matters arising.

4 Chairman's Report for 1998-99. The Chairman delivered his report. Last year I started my report by saying that the Society had two principal assets; you—the members—and the Research Centre and I make no apology for starting this report with the same topics.

The final membership total for the 1998–1999 membership year is 1,611. This compares with 1,523 for last year. Thus, the increase in the membership year on year is 88 members or 5.28%. You may not realise that there is generally a 'wastage' of about 200 members each year representing those people who do not renew their membership of the Society for one reason or another. This means that we actually found about 300 new members this year.

This is a splendid achievement and I would like to thank our Membership Secretaries Dawn Garlick and Margaret Pyle for all their hard work. The Membership Secretaries are the first points of contact with many of our new members. I know that new members raise many queries and we are grateful to Dawn and Margaret for all their hard work.

Members will recall that at last year's AGM Robert Houseman retired from the post of Secretary of the Society. You will not know that Robert has nevertheless continued to manage the membership database and to be responsible for distribution of the Berkshire Family Historian. Robert has informed us that he now wishes to retire completely from working for the Society and his last duty was the distribution of the June Berkshire Family Historian. I would like therefore to thank Robert again for all his hard work for the Society over the years.

I am told that the membership in the Society year 1993–94 was 1,141—so that there has been a growth of 41% over the five years since that time. This is a splendid achievement by all concerned.

One reason for that growth has, of course, been the Research Centre. During the year a total of 1,829 people - members and non-members - vis-

ited the Research Centre. The total number of visitors is a little less than last year's total. In some ways this is not unexpected. We were lucky, I think, to open the Research Centre just as the indexes and transcripts of the 1881 Census were being published and there is no doubt that this generated a huge interest. There is, of course, a limit to the number of people in the Census that members can look up and I think that this accounts for the slight reduction in visitors to the Research Centre.

As you all know, at Christmas 1998 we were given notice to quit the Research Centre on 31st July, 1999. The intervening period has been quite traumatic for the Society and for a long time it looked as though we would have difficulty locating new accommodation in time.

However, I am pleased to say that we have now agreed with Reading Borough Council to lease some space in Yeomanry House. Those of you who are—or have been—residents of Reading will already be familiar with the building in Castle Hill at which you register births, deaths and marriages. The new Berkshire Record Office is being built in the grounds of Yeomanry House. Reading's Director of Museums and Archives, Karen Hull, kindly led us to this accommodation. Karen is keen that we should be near to the new Record Office and that we should work closer with the Record Office. The Society has for some time thought that there are ways in which we should co-operate. Since we are soon to share the same site this will now be possible.

The accommodation we are to lease has been completely refurbished as part of the new Record Office project. However, the entrances to our accommodation presently remain behind the Contractor's security fencing.

A fly in the ointment is the cost of the rent for the new premises, which is about double what the Society pays for the rooms here. The Executive Committee and the Research Centre Committee have ideas for increasing the revenue from the new Research Centre. Some of these are mentioned in the Chairman's Notes column of the June Berkshire Family Historian. It remains the case, however, that the prospect of charging members for use of the new Research Centre is very real.

On the other hand, there is one way that you could help. Presently only a small proportion of the membership - something like 150 - have covenanted their subscriptions to the Society. Very briefly, a covenant is a procedure whereby the Inland Revenue refunds to the Society the tax that members have already paid on the cash from which you pay your subscription to the Society.

In the June Berkshire Family Historian you will find the usual membership renewal form but this year you will also find a covenant form. Please do complete it. If the Society were able to recover all the tax that we have paid on our subscriptions, any worries we may have on funding the new Research Centre would evaporate.

And the beauty is that it would not cost any of you a single penny.

### **Some highlights of the year include:**

A second successful Family History Week was held at Maidenhead in con-

junction with the Maidenhead Heritage Trust. Some 400 members of the public attended the display and were encouraged to start or continue their family history—and of course, to join the Society. We have been invited to go again in October this year. However, we do need a couple of volunteers to take charge of arranging the display.

In January we were able to form a new, fifth, Branch of the Society in Abingdon called the “Vale of White Horse” Branch. Like many other societies- ourselves included - the origins of the Vale Family History Group can be traced to an evening class whose members decided that they should continue to meet after their formal classes ceased. Wisely, they decided they needed the strength of a larger Society around them and we were pleased when the group decided that they should become a Branch of our Society. Welcome to you all.

We had our Open Day here on 29th May. As I understand it some 500 people attended. I spent some of the day in the Research Centre and it seemed to me that all 500 were in there at the same time. All efforts to persuade people not to enter because the Research Centre was full seemed to be of no avail. We have since had several messages from both exhibitors and visitors thanking us for a good day. I am pleased to say that we made a profit. The Open Day was organised by Jocie McBride and Barry Boulton and I would like to record the Society’s thanks for their splendid efforts.

Two stalwart members of the Executive will not be with us next year. Chad Hanna has served the Society well over several years including a period as Chairman of the Society. He is presently our Projects Co-ordinator. Nevertheless, he has now served on the Executive Committee for the full period of five years allowed by the constitution and is not therefore able to seek re-election. Thank you, Chad for all your hard work.

Cliff Debney is retiring from the Executive Committee at this AGM. This is because he became Chairman of the Federation of Family History Societies at its April meeting. This is a demanding job and Cliff feels that he should withdraw from his activities for the Society. Cliff is also a former Chairman of the Society. I think that over the years Cliff has done nearly all the backroom jobs that the Society has to offer. In a mad moment the Executive asked Cliff for a list of his current jobs - we were amazed at the length of the list. Thank you, Cliff we all wish you well with your work for the Federation.

Needless to say, the Society therefore needs volunteers to take over some of Cliff’s former jobs. Some of the most important are mentioned in the Chairman’s Notes column of the June Berkshire Family Historian.

5 Treasurer’s Report for 1998/99. The Treasurer’s report for the last financial year was presented to the Annual General Meeting. The Chairman asked the Meeting to approve the audited accounts. This was proposed and seconded and the meeting agreed unanimously.

6 Election of President and Vice-President. The Chairman informed the Meeting that the Executive Committee had invited Lady Palmer, our current President, and Dr. Peter Durrant, our current Vice President, to continue in those posts for the 1999/2000 Year, and they were duly elected.

7 Election of Officers for 1999/2000. The Chairman informed the Meeting that the following nominations were received by the Secretary by the closing date in the last issue of the Berkshire Family Historian:

Society Chairman –Ivan Dickason

Society Treasurer –Ron Dobree

Society Secretary –John Gurnett

As no other nominations were received, they are duly elected to serve as Officers of the Society for 1999/2000.

8 Branch Committee Appointed Ex-officio Members. The Chairman informed the Meeting that the Branch Committees have nominated the following Members to serve as their Representatives on the Executive Committee for 1999/2000.

Bracknell –Pauline Wales

Newbury –Rick Maynard

Reading –Liz Longhurst

Slough –Barbara Swiatek

9 Appointment of Executive Committee Members for 1999/2000. The Chairman informed the Meeting that the Secretary had received the following nominations by the closing date in the Berkshire Family Historian: Jocie MacBride and Eddie Spackman. As no other nominations were received they were duly elected to serve on the Executive for 1999/2000.

10 Appointment of Auditor for 1999/2000. The Chairman informed the Meeting that David Muzzlewhite FCA has kindly offered to remain in the role of Auditor of the Society. The Chairman asked the Meeting to approve this appointment. All were in favour.

11 Any other Business. There was no other business.

12 The Chairman closed the meeting.

### **Treasurer's Report**

I present the Annual Accounts for 1998-99. As you can see, the Society made a deficit on Membership activities of £864, which was covered by the Bookstall surplus of £2636, resulting in a final surplus of £1772.

I would like to point out that the bookstall has maintained profitability on a reduced turnover, and despite my best efforts to ensure that we have not over-stated the value of their stock. Congratulations to all concerned and my thanks to everyone who has provided accounting information in an accurate and timely fashion during the year.

**Berkshire Family Historical Society  
Balance Sheet as at 30th April 1999**

	£	£	30.4.98 £	30.4.98 £
<b>Liabilities</b>				
Accumulated Funds	33892		30741	
Bookstall Surplus	0		3141	
Bookstall Creditors	253		2521	
General Surplus	1772		10	
General Creditors	377		1873	
<b>Assets</b>				
Computer and Copier Equipment		980		605
Debtors		0		78
General Account		4857		6259
Instant Savings Accounts		209		208
30 Day Account		19180		18527
Bookstall Account		3903		4523
Instant Savings BSA		659		642
Cash		206		144
Stock		6300		7300
	<u>36294</u>	<u>36294</u>	<u>38286</u>	<u>38286</u>

**Berkshire Family History Society  
Income for the Year ended 30th April 1999**

	£	£	1998 £
Subscriptions	16015		14889
Inland Revenue	0		411
Deposit Interest	672		736
Advertising	115		0
Research	5		37
Symposia	45		224
Donations	58		80
Berkshire Name Index	250		126
1851 Census	401		239
Fiche Printer	1856		1914
Miscellaneous	<u>702</u>		<u>859</u>
	<u>20119</u>		<u>19515</u>
<b>Total Income &amp; Expenditure</b>			
Income	20119		19515
Contribution from Bookstall	<u>2636</u>		<u>-</u>
	22755		19515
Expenditure	<u>20984</u>		<u>19505</u>
	<u>1772</u>		<u>10</u>

Signed: I Dickason, Chairman; RB Dobrée, Treasurer

**Report of the Auditor to the Berkshire Family History Society**

I have examined the books and records of the Society and confirm that the above Accounts are in accordance therewith

Signed: DJ Muzzlewhite FCA



**Berkshire Family History Society**  
**Expenditure for Year ended 30th April 1999**

	<b>£</b>	<b>1998</b>
		<b>£</b>
Magazine	5676	4799
Magazine Postage	1864	1689
Meeting Halls	1841	1393
Speakers	1328	1015
Symposia, Open Days & Other Events	528	666
Reference Library	1453	1898
Premises Lease	2232	2188
-Other Research Centre Costs	1019	676
Computer and Project Costs	284	336
Computer Depreciation	525	1124
Conference Fees	145	230
Insurance & FFHS	1023	962
Other Affiliations	24	203
Postage	463	590
Stationery	665	616
Photocopy	54	150
Telephone	94	70
Travel	485	442
Donation: Wiltshire Wills Project	1000	-
Miscellaneous	281	458
	<u>20984</u>	<u>17484</u>

**Berkshire Family History Society**  
**Bookstall Income & Expenditure Account**  
**Year ended 30th April 1999**

	<b>£</b>		<b>1998</b>
			<b>£</b>
<b>Income</b>			
Sales Income	11126		12513
Opening Stock	7300	7200	
Purchases	6831	8527	
Fiche and Census Printing	138	75	
	<u>14269</u>	<u>15802</u>	
Closing Stock	6300	7300	
Cost of Goods	7969		8502
Margin	3157		4011
Stationery	64	29	
Postage	250	220	
Telephone	3	2	
Travel	25	158	
Sales Commission	138	429	
Photocopying	3	32	
Miscellaneous	39	0	
	<u>521</u>		349
Surplus	2636		3141
Contribution to General A/c	2636		-
Profit/(Loss) to Accumulated Fund	<u>0</u>		<u>3141</u>

## Postal research services

We are happy to search the following indexes. Please send your request and search fee, together with a stamped self-addressed envelope, or two IRCs, to the person whose name and address is given against the particular index.

### Berkshire name index

This contains more than 100,000 names found in documents and a large number of members' birth briefs have also been indexed. This Index is continually growing as new material is added. Searches may be made with a maximum of six references photocopied onto an A4 sheet. The charge is £5 for up to five surnames with a maximum of 30 entries (five A4 sheets) per enquiry. If you are not a member there is a search fee of £1 per surname. Please send two stamped self-addressed envelopes or two IRCs if you wish an acknowledgement.

BFHS, c/o Mrs Pat Deane,  
183 Long Lane, Tilehurst, Reading,  
Berks, RG31 6YW

### 1851 Berkshire census

The Census is fully transcribed and held on computer. Printouts can be supplied of any folio (the required references can be obtained from our published indexes) and the charge is 50pence per folio with a minimum of £1 (£1 and £2 respectively if not a member) giving two folios. The charges are £1 per search per surname (£2 if not a member) and printout charges are then as above. Send your request and search fee, together with a stamped self-addressed

envelope, or two IRCs to:

BFHS, c/o Mr Geoff Mather,  
18 Ravenswood Avenue, Crowthorne,  
Berkshire, RG45 6AY

### 1881 Census for England and Wales

This Census has been transcribed and indexed after a nationwide effort. We have a complete set of fiche for each county. The charge for an estimate of the number of prints is £2 per county searched per surname, including two sample printouts (£3 if not a member). Thereafter A4 printouts are charged at 50pence for each additional page. We can search and produce printouts by county in "Surname order", "Surname by Birth Place", "Surname by Census Place", "As Enumerated", or from the "Miscellaneous - Notes, Institutions or Vessels" fiche sets.

BFHS, c/o Mr Ivan Dickason,  
1 Mower Close, Wokingham,  
Berkshire, RG40 1RZ

### Other county census indexes

We hold copies of Census Indexes, mainly 1851, for many other counties of England, Scotland and Wales in booklet form or on fiche. The charge for a search and an estimate of the cost of any printouts is £2 per county searched per surname including two sample prints (£3 if not a member). Charges thereafter will depend upon the type of A4 size copies to be made and the number of prints involved.

Please write to Mr Ivan Dickason, as above.

# *Useful addresses*

## **Chairman**

Ivan Dickason  
1 Mower Close, Wokingham  
Berkshire RG40 1RZ  
0118 978 6785

## **Secretary/Editor**

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Purley Lodge Cottage, Purley Village  
Reading RG8 8AT  
0118 984 3995

## **Treasurer**

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102 Shinfield Road, Reading  
Berkshire RG2 7DA  
0118 986 0206

## **Membership secretary A-K**

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136 Nightingale Road, Woodley,  
Reading,  
Berkshire RG5 3LZ  
0118 969 5236

## **Membership secretary L-Z**

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Berkshire RG2 7HU  
0118 987 5660

## **E-mail discussion group**

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40 Western Elms Avenue, Reading  
Berkshire RG30 2AN

## **Burial index co-ordinator**

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45 Picton Way  
Caversham, Reading  
Berkshire RG4 8NJ

## **Project co-ordinator**

Sue Matthews  
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Oxon OX14 3UW

## **Branch chairs**

### ***Bracknell***

Pauline Wales  
5 Foxglove Close  
Simons Park, Wokingham  
Berkshire RG41 3NF

### ***Newbury***

*Vacant*

### ***Reading***

Liz Longhurst  
20 Stanhope Road, Reading  
Berkshire RG2 7HL

### ***Slough***

Barbara Swiatek  
48 Farm Crescent  
Wexham Estate, Slough  
Berkshire SL2 5TH

### ***Vale of White Horse***

Ken Marsden  
3 Wharfe Close  
Wilsham Road, Abingdon  
Oxon, OX14 5HS

## **Website**

[www.berksfhs.org.uk/](http://www.berksfhs.org.uk/)

## **Other addresses**

### ***Family Records Centre***

1 Myddelton Street, London EC1R 1UW  
0181 392 5300

### ***Public Record Office***

Ruskin Avenue, Kew, Surrey TW9 4DU  
0181 876 3444

### ***Berkshire Record Office***

Shinfield Park, Reading RG2 9XD  
0118 901 5132

### ***First Avenue House***

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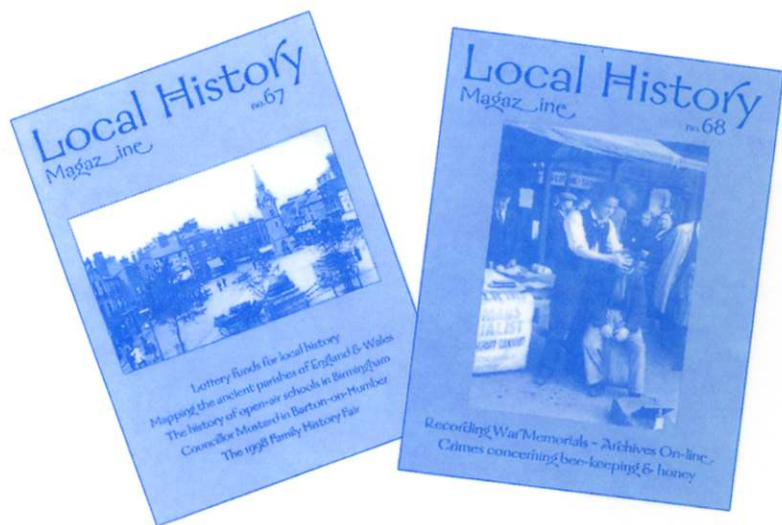
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# The Bulletin

## Editorial - the 1901 Census

Nineteenth century census records are freely available on fiche and film, and some have been published. Like many other county family history societies we have transcribed and indexed the whole of the 1851 census, while recently the 1881 census of England, Wales and Scotland was produced on CDROM. When it comes to the census for 1901 the PRO has decided that it should be made available in digital form on the Internet.

There are more than 32 million names on the 1901 index on something like 2.5 million pages. In order to cope with the huge influx of researchers expected at the Family Records Centre it seems sensible to use modern technology to make it available. Given the timescale for the digitisation process the PRO decided to seek commercial partners under the Private Finance Initiative.

A number of companies expressed interest and a shortlist is now under consideration. One of those companies – the Defence Evaluation Research Agency – has recently been carrying out a survey on how much family historians and demographers are prepared to pay to use the first census of the twentieth century. This particular company is looking at a number of options. One of these is a large one-off fee, a figure of £10,000 is being suggested, which would give a researcher unlimited access for a lifetime. Another possibility

is a quarterly fee of perhaps £500, or a system based on pay as you use. This may be something in the order of £10 for half an hour, or paying for the number of records you use for each visit to the site.

Given that these records are in the public domain, most family historians must ask themselves whether or not they wish to pay such exorbitant fees in order to look at the new census material, or if they will use alternative sources that are freely available. Also if this is a sign of the times, how much longer will it be before birth, marriage, and death certificates at the Family Records Centre will be subject to commercial companies milking what has until now been relatively free from the profit motive?

## Chairman's Notes

### *Dear Members*

June and I hope you enjoyed your holidays.

The Society has been concerned for some time about its corporate image. A small group from the Executive Committee led by our Secretary has been working with the Department of Typography at Reading University on this initiative. They have been looking at how we can improve the image of the Society by using modern typographic design.

The first tangible result of this work is the new look Berkshire Family Historian that you are now reading. We hope that you like it. The principle aims of the new look magazine have been to give it a modern look; to improve the quality of the paper on which it will be printed so that we may have better reproduction of photographs. Last but not least, we wanted to produce an attractive marketable product that we can sell to non-members through the bookstall.

The Executive Committee would welcome any comments that you may have concerning the new look magazine.

You will notice that John Gurnett has assumed the editorial chair. Catherine Harrington has been our Editor for some eight years and she now feels it is a good time for a change. We thank you, Catherine, for all your hard work with the Berkshire Family Historian during that time.

I am writing this soon after the contents of the Research Centre was put into store. During the early part of July a group of volunteers led by our librarian carried out a complete stock check on the Research Centre Library and packed the whole collection into boxes. Then on a hot July Saturday about fifteen volunteers came to Prospect College and we loaded the entire stock, furniture, fiche readers and all and transported it into store. At the same time some volunteers remained at the College to tidy up the remnants. It is amazing how much junk we removed. I would like particularly to thank Lesley Hanna who organised the stock check and packing; Ed Pearce who

masterminded the removal operation; Chad Hanna who played the part of trucker and Eddie Spackman who loaned the use of his camper van. To all the other members who gave their time so generously – thank you.

I am able to report that the refurbishment work at Yeomanry House will be entirely completed by August 8 when the building will be handed back to Reading Borough Council. That is the good news. The bad news is that both entrances to our new premises remain stubbornly behind the security fencing of the contractor for the new Record Office.

We are continuing to find a way of gaining at least temporary access to the premises so that fitting out can commence. I fear, however, that fire regulations will mean that we are unlikely to open the new Centre before January 2000.

At the Annual General Meeting in June Ron Dobree was re-elected Treasurer of the Society. Unfortunately this was the last time he shall be able to do so. Next year Ron will have completed five years as our Treasurer and this is the maximum an officer of the Society can serve under the Constitution. So we need to find a new Treasurer before the AGM in June 2000. It seems to me that the sooner we are able to appoint a 'shadow' Treasurer the better so that we have the maximum opportunity for a smooth take-over. If any member feels able to take on this important role please contact me. I have a job description if you need to know more about the work.

Also at the AGM I was able to announce

the prizewinners of the 1999 Display Panel Competition. A judging panel of Jean Debney, Chad and Lesley Hanna and I carefully examined the seven entries. We considered the logic told by the presentation; the evidence of additional research; the use of colour and space and the overall impression of the entry. The clear winner was the entry submitted by Dr. Barry Jerome of Southampton who won a leather briefcase. Second and third places were tougher to decide but we awarded second prize to Chris Sibbald of Maidenhead and third prize to Walter Townsend of Bracknell who won vouchers for the bookstall. Chris was able to come to the meeting to collect her prize. Well done by everyone who took part.

The Society will be staging the third Maidenhead Family History week from October 2 - 9. This is staged in conjunction with the Maidenhead Heritage Trust. The Society will have a display at the Maidenhead Heritage Trust Shop at the Nicholson Centre at Maidenhead.

Needless to say we require volunteers to staff the display during the week to assist the public with their family history questions. You will be encouraging newcomers, or those resuming their research, to use the facilities at the Research Centre and to advise them on the benefits of belonging to a family history society – preferably Berkshire. In other words you are selling family history as a hobby or pastime. So if you live in the east of the County why not help to run the event. June and I have found it very interesting during previous years. If you are able to help please ring me at any time.

*Ivan Dickason*

## **Sandhurst - missing baptisms uncovered**

The damaged parish register for Sandhurst covering baptisms 1696-1812, marriages 1696-1753 and burials 1696-1812 has recently been made available at the Berkshire Record Office. The original had suffered from water damage and it was thought that the records would be lost forever. New materials have enabled a conservator to separate the folios and they have been photocopied. The copy is now available in the search room, together with an index and transcript of the missing baptism and burials.

## **Soldiers Who Died in the Great War 1914-1919**

The Society has purchased a copy of the CDROM version of Soldiers Who Died in the Great War 1914-1919 that contains 703,000 names in two sections: soldiers and officers.

We are offering, for members only, a postal search and print-out service. For each enquiry, please send as much detail as possible: full name (if possible), place of birth and regiment, to enable us to identify the correct entry. However, a frequent surname, such as Smith, may produce an impossible number of matches.

The information supplied for a surname will usually consist of an A4 page with up to 20 possible matches for each enquiry and an A4 page with full details of one entry. Further pages of detail will be charged at 50pence each.

Enquiries, quoting your membership number, should be sent to Mrs. June

Dickason, 1 Mower Close Wokingham, Berkshire, RG40 1RZ. Please send your payment by sterling cheque only payable to BFHS. The charges are £2 for up to two surnames, plus £1 for each additional surname. Please send an A4 size stamped self-addressed envelope or two IRC's with each enquiry.

## An unusual entry from the 1871 Census

2 Leopold Road, Reading (Ref. RG10 1284 Folio 72), home of George Amor, a baker at Huntley and Palmers. Among his family was a baby girl aged 30 minutes, born at 11.30pm. Did the enumerator wait outside the door to see what sex the child was before filling his return?

## Parish relief fraud

Peter Shilham, who runs the Selon Index, covering south and south east London, came across an early fraud while searching through some 1833 parish relief records. A pauper was getting relief from the parish and from the Catholics down the road, simultaneously. Clearly a case for the Parish Constable, or the Fraud Squad.

## University of Oxford Day and Weekend Schools in Local and Social History

Title Deeds, Saturday/Sunday October 23/4. This is a practical weekend that will enable students to interpret title deeds for the period 1600-1900.

Students will handle both facsimiles and original deeds to learn how the information they contain can be readily extracted.

Family History and Autobiography, Saturday November 13. Personal testimonies, whether written or spoken, offer the historian unique insights. Subjective but revealing, they demand careful collection and interpretation. The day school will draw on autobiography and oral history from urban and rural areas.

Further information can be obtained from OUDCE, 1 Wellington Square, Oxford OX1 2JA

## Family Records Centre

A computerised index for births in Northern Ireland is available in the Scottish Link area of the Public Search room. The index contains births for the years 1922 – 1993 inclusive. Use is free but time, in half hour slots, must be booked at the Scottish Link desk.

*And finally...* Peter Shilham, also came across the a death certificate for a man named William Crapp, who died of 'Inflammation of the Bowels'.