

'that loss of virtue
in a female is
irretrievable'



Programme calendar 2000

Bracknell Branch

Priestwood Community Centre, Priestwood Court Road, Bracknell,

7.15pm for 7.45pm

- 21 January *Home grown roots, members and their families*
- 18 February *Family history from newspapers, John Gurnett*
- 17 March *Fire insurance records, David Hawkins*

Newbury Branch

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

7.30pm

- 12 January *The Royal Berkshire Regiment and the First World War, John Chapman*
- 9 February *Shops, shopkeepers and shopworkers, Audrey Collins*
- 8 March *Brickworks in Berkshire, Mr. D. Johnson*
- 12 April *Mills on the River Kennet and tributaries, Brian Eighteen*

Reading Branch

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

- 26 January *Introduction to the Internet, Eddie Spackman*
- 18 February *This meeting will be held at St. Peter's Church Hall, Earley, Members' use of computer packages, bring your own*
- 23 February *The Society of Genealogists' Library, Marjorie Moore*
- 29 March *Using company records for family history, Tony Corley*
- 26 April *Manorial records, Jean Debney*

Slough Branch

From January 25 the Branch meetings will be held at Windsor. The venue is Christ Church, United Reformed Church, William Street, Windsor, 7.30pm for 7.45pm

- 25 January *tbc*
- 29 February *tbc*
- 28 March *tbc*
- 25 April *tbc*

Vale of White Horse Branch

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

- 10 January *The new Berkshire Record Office, Peter Durrant*
- 14 February *An Enumerator's Tale, Meryl Catty*
- 13 March *Poor Law, Marjorie Moore*
- 10 April *tbc*

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It's good news week....

The news, reported elsewhere (see page 103), that the Research Centre will be open in February 2000 will come as a great relief to all those who have missed the Centre since it closed in July. We intend to open the Centre gradually in the opening months of the New Year. How long it will remain open depends to a great extent on the number of volunteers coming forward to staff the Centre. We have plans to hold evening classes on a wide variety of topics from computers to using basic sources like the IGI and the 1881 Census. We expect to have a number of computers linked to a printer with at least one on-line to the internet at an early stage. We have purchased a new fiche printer and our large collection of CDROMs will also be available for research.

So come to the aid of your Society and volunteer for a morning, afternoon or an evening at the Centre.

John Gurnett
editor

The illustration on the front cover is of Buscot House, the home of the Loveden family (see page 84)

The copy deadline for the March issue will be February 1.

Light in dark places: photographs of prisoners in Reading Gaol

Elizabeth Hughes

Amongst the records of Reading Prison deposited at Berkshire Record Office (BRO) are four photograph albums of prisoner “mug shots” for the period 1883-1915.¹ They were transferred to BRO from the Public Record Office (PRO) with other records of Reading Gaol in 1977.

Such albums by no means exist for every prison and their creation and survival do not appear to have been general. The idea of recording prisoners photographically seems to have arisen from the Habitual Criminals Act of 1869, which stated that a register of all people convicted of a crime in England should be kept by the Metropolitan Commissioner of Police, together with evidence of their identity. This was interpreted in some areas as meaning a photographic likeness.² It certainly seems to have been the case at Reading, and Thomas Wood, a local photographer, was employed to take a portrait and profile photograph of prisoners.³ When it proved difficult to take the pictures in the open air, a small studio was erected in the exercise yard. This venture only lasted six months, after which it was discontinued for financial reasons, and the studio turned into an execution chamber.⁴ The early photographs have not survived; those at Berkshire Record Office represent a revival of the practice.

It is interesting to see how the photographs change over time. The earliest pictures show the inmates from head to lap. Many are dressed in their ordinary clothes, others in prison uniforms, complete with arrows. This not only identified the clothing as being of government origin, but also meant that escapees stood out from the crowd.⁵ Many uniformed prisoners also wear circular badges bearing numbers indicating the wing, floor and number of their cell (see fig.1). There were three wings for criminal inmates, A, B, and C. These are indicated on plans held at Berkshire Record Office which show the prison as it was rebuilt in 1841-44.⁶ The plans also show that each wing originally had three landings on which there was a series of numbered cells. Thus, CIII.3 identified a prisoner belonging to cell 3 on landing 3 of C wing. This was

Oscar Wilde's cell number, and the pseudonym he used when *The Ballad of Reading Gaol* was first published.⁷

In the photographs taken between 1887 and 1895, most prisoners have their hands in front of them, palm inwards and fingers spread, presumably to show if any fingers are missing, since the photographs were acting as a means to identify prisoners, and as a supplement to prison registers (see fig. 1). The style is very similar to that used to photograph prisoners in Pentonville Prison at about the same period.⁸

In 1889 the photographer begins to use a mirror so that the profile, as well as the front view, is included in a single shot. In 1896 the technique changes completely; the photographer takes two facial shots, one face on, one in profile, we no longer see the prisoner's torso, and prison uniform is more rarely seen.

Albums two and three are well indexed by surname, volume one incompletely so, while the index to volume four is lacking. Where the volumes are indexed, however, it is a straightforward process to find named individuals within them. The index normally states a register number, which appears to be a running serial number that starts again at one each 1 April; the prisoner's surname and first names, including aliases; the page of the album on which the photograph appears; and the reference number relating to the inmate in a nominal register of prisoners (a volume and page number, e.g. 7/43). The photographs themselves are labelled with the name of the prisoner, the register number and a date.

The subjects of many of the photographs can be found in the nine surviving nominal registers of prisoners in Reading Gaol deposited at Berkshire Record Office.⁹ They cover the period 1889-1915, but with significant gaps, and are not indexed. Registers recording male and female prisoners together cover the period 1889-1894, although that for 1892-1894 is currently not in a fit physical state to be consulted. There is then a gap (which includes the period of Oscar Wilde's incarceration) until a register of women only for the period 1905-1915 and four registers of men only covering 1908-1915. The final register is of Aliens and Irish, and dates from 1916-1918 when Reading Prison was used as a place of internment during the First World War. There are no photographs of these "enemy aliens".

Because not all the nominal registers have survived, the BRO references do not correspond to the original register volume

Book C.C. [For instructions respecting the Photographing of Prisoners, see Standing Order N^o 41].



(2068)

Figure 1

numbers to which the photograph indexes refer. The first surviving nominal register, for example is volume seven. However, the date on the photograph should lead the researcher to the correct volume.

The nominal registers include the prisoner's name, the time and place of hearings of their case, their offence, sentence, education, height, hair colour, trade or occupation, religion, birthplace, number of previous convictions, discharge date and comments. The photographs and registers therefore complement each other, the former showing the person in black and white, the latter adding the hair colour and height and details of their past. However, not every name in the nominal registers has a photograph. Certainly, no-one convicted at a Petty Sessions court appears, but nor do all those tried at Assizes or Quarter Sessions. It seems unlikely that Oscar Wilde's photograph was taken as his name is not in the index to the appropriate album. Several prisoners appear more than once.

A few examples will serve to show how the albums and nominal registers may be used together to build up a picture of individual prisoners. Further information can also be gained from calendars of prisoners and from the records of the court at which the prisoners were tried. This may have been the Berkshire county or borough Quarter Sessions, the records of which are held at BRO, but is just as likely to have been the Assizes, the records of which are held at the Public Record Office, or Quarter Sessions of counties and boroughs beyond Berkshire.

Figure 2 shows a page from the fourth album as it appeared before conservation.¹⁰ The first photograph on the third row is labelled G Rotzoll, is dated 17.1.13 and has the reference number 2871. This reference appears in the nominal register covering 1913 which tells us that the prisoner's name was George Rotzoll alias Willy Strauss, and that he had been transferred to Reading from Portsmouth Prison.¹¹ He was a waiter, born in Germany, who stated his religion to be Church of England. He was 23 years old, five feet and one inch tall with brown hair. He was convicted at the Berkshire Assizes on 11 January 1913 on two counts of larceny, for which he received two concurrent sentences of three months, and one count of false pretences for which he was sentenced to one



Figure 2

month hard labour.¹² It was also recommended that he be expelled from the country despite the fact that he has no previous convictions. It was noted that the appropriate form had been sent to the Secretary of State and his photograph was stamped with the words “expulsion order”.

Next to George Rotzoll is the photograph of M Finch, also dated 17.1.13, with the reference number 506. She does not appear in the same register as Rotzoll because she is a woman, for which there is a separate volume.¹³ Her entry in this register records that her full name was Mary Finch and that she was a 36 year old laundress from Chester. She was five feet and one inch tall with light brown hair. She was committed for trial on 6 January 1913 at Beaconsfield, convicted at the Buckinghamshire Assizes on 11 January of larceny in a dwelling house of goods of value above £5, and sentenced to six months hard labour. She had 15 previous convictions. The entry also records the nominal register reference to her most recent conviction so that her criminal career can be traced further back if the relevant register survives. She was transferred to Holloway Prison on 24 January 1913.

The third photograph on the row above Rotzoll and Finch is labelled J Saunders, is dated 3.1.13 and bears the reference number 2907. The relevant nominal register records John Bellingham Saunders, aged 16 and two months, a labourer born in Aldershot.¹⁴ He was committed for trial at Wokingham on 28 November 1912 and convicted at the Berkshire Quarter Sessions on 30 December for stealing a purse and ring. He received a sentence of 18 months at borstal, where he was transferred on 21 January 1913.¹⁵ A note records that his escort took Saunders' photograph and finger prints with him.

Because he was convicted at the county Sessions, we can trace Master Saunders in the records of the court, which are held at Berkshire Record Office. The relevant calendar of prisoners elaborates a little on the nominal register.¹⁶ It tells us that he was an errand boy and was convicted on two indictments, the first for stealing an antique purse and ring, the property of Thomas Martin, and the second for stealing seven shillings from Catherine Elliott Lockhart. Both offences took place in Wokingham and he pleaded guilty to both. He received two sentences of 18 months but to run concurrently. A record of

Saunders' conviction also appears in the relevant Quarter Sessions order book but does not add any additional information.¹⁷

Until recently, the albums had not been fit to consult because the sewing was loose and the binding, which was half suede leather, was very badly damaged. Most of the photographs, as well as the album paper, were also dirty, and many of the pages were torn. The Record Office's conservation staff have recently finished their work of cleaning and conserving the photographs. It was not possible to restore any of the binding, so the photographs are now in melinex (inert plastic) sleeves which have been bound in post binders with new covers, held together by screws rather than sewn. They are now available for consultation and are sure to bring to life the black sheep, and the unfortunates, of many a family.

Captions

fig. 1. BRO P/RP1/5/2

fig. 2 BRO P/RP1/5/4

I am grateful to Roberta Ciocci for the information concerning conservation of the photographs.

References

1 BRO P/RP1/5/1-4

2 Hawkings, D. T., *Criminal Ancestors: A Guide to Historical Criminal Records in England and Wales* (Alan Sutton, Stroud, 1992), pp. 214-215

3 Southerton, P., *Reading Gaol by Reading Town* (Berkshire Books, 1993), p.40

4 Ibid.

5 Ibid., p. 54

6 BRO D/EX 485/2/2-4

7 Southerton p. 32

8 See illustration in Hawkings p. 232

9 BRO P/RP1/1/1-9

10 BRO P/RP1/5/4

11 BRO P/RP1/1/8

12 Abbreviated to "h.l." in the register

13 BRO P/RP1/1/4

14 BRO P/RP1/1/8

15 The borstal system for the detention of offenders between the ages of 16 and

21 was introduced in 1908. It was named after the former convict prison at Borstal, Kent, where the system was pioneered. See Southerton pp.5-6

16 BRO Q/SMC5

17 BRO Q/SO39 (indexed)

Elizabeth Hughes was born and educated in Reading. After studying for her B.A. at Durham University, she gained her Diploma in Archive Administration at University College London. She worked at Hampshire Record Office in Winchester for ten years, then moved in 1992 to the post of Senior Archivist at Berkshire Record Office, where she is in charge of the public service. She has been a part-time tutor for the extra-mural departments of Oxford, Reading and Southampton Universities and for her husband's archaeological and historical tour business. She is also Honorary Secretary of the British Records Association and a member of the shadow South East Regional Archives Council. In what little spare time she has she tries to keep the garden and the cat in check and enjoys choral singing and watching old films.

Family Coats of Arms

by established Artist

*Gordon McWilliam. Colour Prints,
mounted, ready for framing
in two overall sizes:*

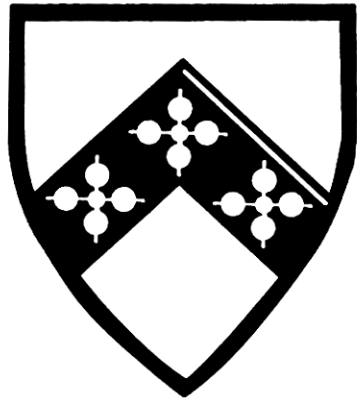
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Famous ancestors

John Gurnett

I was in my doctor's waiting room the other day and while waiting to be seen I saw a copy of Hello! Magazine dated August 1, 1992. To be honest a rather glamorous picture of Whitney Houston made me pick it up, but what I found totally fascinating was an article on descendants of famous and infamous Americans. A few of those featured include Susan Brown, who drives a school bus, and is a descendent of Abraham Lincoln; and George Armstrong Custer IV, a landscape designer, who is the great-great-great grandson of General Custer. Among the infamous there's a descendent of the notorious Dalton Brothers, who ironically earns a living as a private detective. The great-niece of Al Capone lives in France, but she's not at all proud of being a relative of the 1930s gangster. Prairie Rose Little Sky is quite determined to become a biology teacher and as she inherits the genes of her ancestor Chief Crazy Horse the Sioux warrior, no doubt she will.

Curiously enough in November the Telegraph Magazine had a similar feature. Laura, Emmeline Pankhurst's great-great-granddaughter, is apparently obsessed by her Barbie dolls; Charles Dickens great-great-great grandson Harry Lloyd (an Eton schoolboy) says "I was always aware of him but I didn't realise how famous he was, I just thought he was this old geezer who wrote books". None of the present Duke of Wellington's children has a passion for military warfare, so another family tradition has come to a full stop.

If you've got a famous ancestor let me know and perhaps we'll be able to tell your story in a forthcoming magazine.

The X-files

Ralph Bradbury

All of us in our time must have looked at those worthy publications: “My Ancestor was a Tinker, Tailor, Soldier, Sailor”, etc. I am beginning to think there is a real need for an addition to the series. I have, therefore, done some lateral thinking and hit upon the ingenious idea of an additional index – one might even suggest a “spirit guide”. My sense of duty calls me to help those frustrated researchers who have spent night after night burning the midnight oil vainly searching through every parish record they can find looking for that elusive ancestor only to face a blank wall at every turn. What I have in mind would appeal to everybody. How about My Ancestor was a Heathen? No, don’t snigger and laugh behind your hand, I am serious. Of course I don’t mean those far off ancestors who ran around with woad to keep out the cold or who settled friendly disputes with clubs and shields and who shouted down at their neighbours with war cries. No, that would be ridiculous. What I have in mind is not any old list. It must conform to our usual run of ancestors, just like you and me.

The publication should list people like wizards, witches, magicians, warlocks, shamans, witch doctors and the general run of helpful people who must have lived in every community. There would be a list of those who organised covens, where they took place, full details of what went on, how they were dressed (or undressed for that matter). In other words, how ordinary people let their hair down and thoroughly enjoyed themselves. Just imagine after a frustrating search for a long lost ancestor, you finally do the obvious and turn to this publication and there is the very entry you have been looking for, together with all the necessary details, including references. You then sit back and conjure up a picture and pleasantly imagine yourself joining in. It would make the search entirely worthwhile.

There could also be details of burnings, hangings (even those who were drawn and quartered), and the prophecies or curses they made.

Is there anybody out there who would be willing to join Scully and Mulder and make a start on just such an index?

Biscuits, Beer & Bulbs - Reading's old company records

Tony Corley

At the beginning of the nineteenth century Reading was predominantly an agricultural town with few major industries; yet by the end of the century, while farming still played an important role in the town's activities, Reading had established itself as a major employer with companies producing beer, biscuits and seeds.

Reading was the largest centre for brewing in the county. There were five brewers in the 1830s, but Simonds established itself as the single largest brewery in the town. The magnitude of the growth of Simonds can be understood when we see that in 1860 beer output was 19,000 barrels a year, while by 1890 it had increased to 111,000 barrels a year. Meanwhile, another Reading company - Huntley and Palmers - was achieving significant growth. In the 1850s the flour required for a nine-month period cost just under £25,000: by 1873-4 the company's annual intake of flour was more than 10,000 tons, costing just over £195,000. Between 1874 and 1894 biscuit production alone increased by 38.6 per cent.

Between 1851 and 1901 the population of Reading increased from 22,000 to 72,000. Migration was playing an increasing role in the growth of the town, attracted by the new industries. Reading had expanded its boundaries in 1887 absorbing Newtown, the Wokingham Road area beyond Cemetery Junction, and part of Tilehurst. It had the largest population of all the towns in the county and was the only one big enough to achieve county borough status in 1889.

To understand the social background and employment of individuals at this time we have to rely on the decennial census returns. The official Census Report every ten years gives a breakdown of the population between men and women, and in the various age groups, and also the numbers in the principal trades and professions.

The transcription and indexing of the 1851 census for Berkshire has given us a snapshot in time of the age, family background and life in Berkshire's largest town.

The 1881 index on CDROM, and that for 1901 (when it becomes available), will enable us to trace the working life of individuals over a period of time.

To take at random a not uncommon Reading name, the 1851 Census records George Shackleford, tinman, 55 and his two sons, Thomas, 27, foundry labourer, and Charles, 24, tin plate worker. It would enrich the Shacklefords' family history to know that one was employed in what became the Reading Iron Works and the other two at the future Huntley Boorne and Stevens. In fact, Charles became the foreman and inspector at the tin plate works, his son (also Charles) was a tin plate worker, and another son, Samuel, was a clerk at the biscuit factory. It would also add to our knowledge of this family if additional information were available, such as the dates of their employment and wage rates.

So as not to raise expectations unduly, it has to be said at the outset that surviving company archives in Reading yield very patchy data on individual employees. Yet that information is still well worth exploring. To provide some background for those interested, let us see how patterns of employment in the town changed between 1851 and 1901. Here are some of the changes in occupations that took place, according to the Census Reports:

	1851	1901
Professional people, including teachers	430	1,600
Construction workers	680	3,000
Engineers	60	990
Railway workers	160	980
Gardeners	190	475
Road transport workers(coachmen, carters etc.)	100	920

Table 1 Occupation changes

These figures are only rough guides, as they depend on the skills of the Census enumerators in finding out what some people – say clerks, labourers or smiths – actually did. Also some categories changed between Censuses. Yet they help to sketch in the town's infrastructure, or the activities of those behind the scenes in Reading's dramatic period of industrial boom. At heart this was still a market town, with weekly markets, a Corn Exchange, regular fairs and agricultural shows. But by 1901 Reading had an

enviable reputation far and wide for its industrial products, internationally as well as at home. The Three B's Bar, near the Old Town Hall and Reading Museum, recalls the fame of biscuits, beer and bulbs (or seeds), to which we may add (tin) boxes. In an article in the Berkshire Family History Society magazine (Spring 1980), I wrote about 'Reading's Nineteenth-Century Industrial Families: An Enquiry'. The principal families were:

		Founded	Employees	
			1851	1901
Simonds	Beer	1785	32	250
Cocks	Sauce	1789	11	30
Sutton	Seeds	1806	12	500
Barrett Exall and Andrewes	Iron works	1817	250 (closed 1887)	
Huntley & Palmers	Biscuits & cakes	1822	143	5000
Huntley Boorne and Stevens	Tins	1832	12	850

Table 2 Reading's nineteenth century industrial families

All six of these firms manufactured products out of agricultural materials, such as wheat and barley, often bought in from the countryside that still surrounded the town, or else undertook ancilliary business: Huntley Boorne & Stevens supplied Huntley & Palmers with tins, while the Iron Works made agricultural machinery. The founders of the firms had usually been born elsewhere, but were impelled to move to the town by its good communications with the rest of England, whether by road, canal, or rail (and now motorways). The spectacular increase in the workforce of most of these firms shows how their business leaders took full advantage of the commercial opportunities in this era.

Sadly, all but one of the above firms has now disappeared from Reading. Only Simonds' brewery remains. In 1960 it amalgamated with Courage and Barclay of London, and later moved from its original site in Seven Bridges (now Bridge Street) to the southern edge of the town, as the headquarters of Courage Ltd.'s Central Region. Its ultra-modern building, completed in 1980, overlooks the M4 motorway at Worton Grange. Before the many changes had taken place, I examined its archives, and found no wages documents. I discuss the other five firms in turn below.

Cocks

This firm closed in 1962, and the last chairman handed me the remaining papers, comprising mainly books of labels and the like. The name of William Biggs, manager of the Reading sauce warehouse in the mid-1860s, survives because he was Grand Secretary of the Provincial Grand Lodge of Berkshire and Buckinghamshire freemasons from 1869 to 1877. We know about Lucy Dore, 36, of 4 Vine Court, because in the 1851 Census she described herself as a labourer at the sauce makers; I did not note her in my trawl through the 1861 Census.

Huntley Boorne & Stevens

Again, there were very few surviving records of this kind. George William Brown had been chief engineer in the Reading Iron Works, but when it closed in 1887, he moved to an identical post in the tin factory. In 1873 Charles Shackelford (whom we met earlier) was appointed Inspector of Work, in his mid-40s. A printed notice warned the hands of his duties: 'To prevent waste of Time, Tin-plate, Gas, Solder, Solution, Iron, Varnish, Turpentine, Coke, Rosin, Cotton Waste, or any other materials'. He must have been a thoroughly detested work study man-cum-progress chaser. A tradition handed down to my time recalled an employee – his name now lost – who had suffered a nasal accident and was given a tin nose. The only nominal list, with wages between 21 and 27 shillings weekly, was unfortunately undated but is clearly a twentieth-century one. It contains 107 names, of No. 1-5 shops. Some pencilled comments include 'poor hand', 'very old' and 'bad eyesight'.

Reading Iron Works

The Reading Iron Works Ltd., as it became in 1864, then had about 350 employees. I managed to identify 158 names in the 1861 Census. This revealed that 33 per cent had been born in Berkshire; one came from France and one from Germany. In the Berkshire Family History Society magazine (Summer 1981), I discussed two 'Addresses' from the workmen (no women then) to the partner Charles James Andrewes in 1858 and to Alfred Barrett in 1863, both on the occasion of their marriages. The former 'Address' contained 267 signatures, 18 marked with an X because of illiteracy (someone else filling in their name). In 1863, there were 331 signatures; six pencilled names are perhaps of those unable to sign, but some others are clearly the efforts of those still

trying to master the art of writing. One of those in the 1858 list was Stephen Gyngell (1832-1904), a former apprentice there, who two years later was the founder of the Reading Co-operative Society. He obviously left to work full-time in the co-op as he does not appear in the 1863 'Address'. A fellow-committee member was Charles Henry Cheer, foreman of the boiler shop, who signed both. One would like to know more about the splendidly named Rockcliff Greenaway (1863), who had some Greenaway relatives there.

The firm closed in 1887, owing to a lengthy agricultural and general depression. That was made worse by Andrewes' poor commercial judgement in a very cut-throat market for the agricultural machinery and steam engines on which it had achieved such a strong reputation.

Sutton & Sons

The man who built up the seed firm from an insignificant flour and meal business to international fame was Martin Hope Sutton (1815-1901). The most gifted of all Reading's nineteenth-century entrepreneurs, he spent his life making out lists of one kind or another. He kept three separate diaries, on personal, business and religious matters respectively. Fifteen 'Labour lists' for the 1860s and 1870s have survived, all on separate pieces of paper in his handwriting. His first comprehensive schedule dates from 1869, and contains 110 names by department, with weekly wage rates, most in the range of 14-16 shillings, with five shillings for juveniles. As by then it was a mail order firm, fulfilling orders from their annual catalogues, 33 of the employees worked in the offices. The final list was for 1878-9, with office staff numbering 69 out of the 243 employees. Martin's younger brother was a committed evangelist; a note reads 'A book given to each by Alfred Sutton' – almost certainly a religious one.¹

An altogether more valuable document is an A3-sized volume, a 'List of Employees', started at the beginning of 1910 but clearly kept in use up to 1939. As it has separate alphabetical sections, names can be found relatively quickly within each letter. Of the 1,524 names, B is the most used letter (164), followed by S, W and H (140, 135 and 132 respectively); there are only six Y's and 2 Q's. For each employee the book gives name, address, wages, department, when came, when left and 'remarks'. An extra bonus for family historians is that relationships (sons, daughters, mothers, sisters) are noted; the first lady clerks were employed, in the

Despatch Office, in 1916.² Other registers are those of sales ledger and invoice clerks from 1872 to 1905 and annual lists of ledger office staff between 1899 and 1914.³

Huntley & Palmers

The most noteworthy company in Reading, by reputation and as the largest employer of labour, was Huntley & Palmers, which departed from the town in the 1970s. The co-founder, George Palmer, had in 1846 invented the first continuously-running biscuit machinery in the world. Although his biscuits were expensive, their quality was of the highest. The goodwill he built up was helped by well-developed marketing skills.

In the full-length history of the firm I wrote in 1972, I gave the number of employees and average wage rates from 1844 to 1914. Over these seven decades, the total workforce rose from 17 (all men) to 5,000 directly employed, of whom 1,200 were females. In 1914, average wages for unskilled men were 21 shillings; women (all unmarried) had to be content with 11 shillings. Of the 143 employees in 1851, I found 99 in that year's Census, 66 of whom had been born in Berkshire.



Mixing machine

During my time researching the book, the company received a number of letters each month, asking about an ancestor or two believed to have worked for the company. It was then impossible to answer particular queries of that kind. However, after my book was published, Lord Palmer was kind enough to present to the University of Reading (which had received many benefactions from the Palmer family) all the company records. These are now available, in the Archives Office in the University Library, to all researchers giving prior notice. Only a few very recent documents are at present closed. Some of the employment records are of specific interest: 23 names of those working in No. 4 shop in 1891, 100 names of staff between 1916 and 1931, and salaries of 46 office workers together with wages of 27 skilled operatives such as engineers, a chemist, photo artist, binder, stamp-maker and ink grinder, between 1912 and 1923.⁴

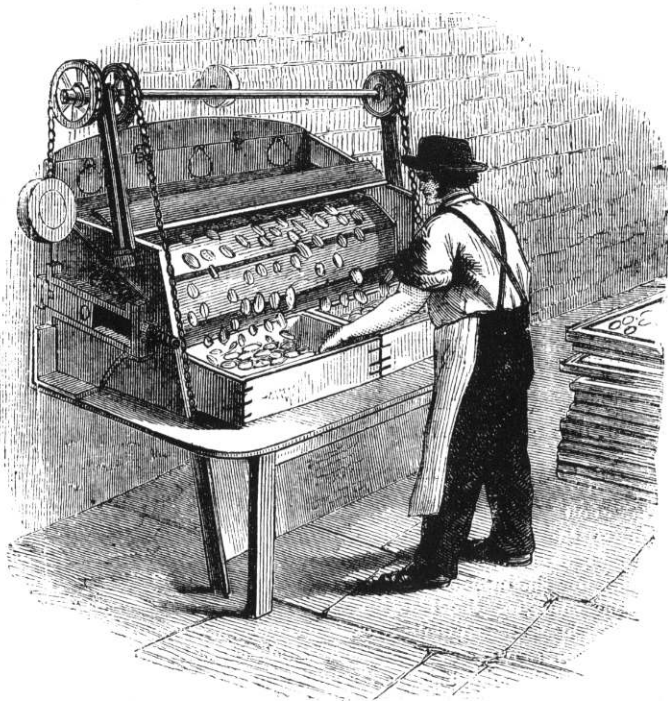
Another relevant document is the minute and account book of the firm's Sick Fund from its establishment in 1849 until 1855. All employees who wished (some belonged to other benefit societies) could, after vetting, join the scheme. They contributed sixpence a week, and received 12 shillings a week benefit during illness. The fund employed a doctor at £25 a year; his services, which included 'cupping, bleeding, tooth drawing and leeches' were very heavily used until a refundable shilling fee was charged for each consultation. A list for 1855 has 98 names (including first names), showing the amounts paid in and paid out and in credit to each member.⁵

Other H & P records have their own family history value. The 39 Visitors' Books cover the period from 1869 to 1973. Many signers, of course, gave addresses outside the borough, but during that century most inhabitants of the town, especially schoolchildren, must have done the factory tour escorted by lady guides. A separate book shows signatures of British royalty and overseas dignitaries such as the ex-US president Ulysses S. Grant and the Empress Eugenie. In 1892, Oscar Wilde came with some theatrical friends and signed the ordinary book. He was a friend of Sir Walter Palmer, who dropped him when Wilde was tried and then imprisoned in nearby Reading Gaol three years later.⁶

The company had its team of fire-fighters, with its own launch to tackle any blaze with water-jets from the canal: mercifully, seldom needed for real. The Fire Brigade Report Book, covering 1881 to 1948, recorded the names – over 100 in a separate list for 1909 – and all the drills carried out.⁷ A further document, with signa-

tures, was described in the *Berkshire Family History Society* magazine in 1981 in conjunction with the Iron Works' Addresses. This was an illuminated Address given to George Palmer's eldest son George William on his marriage in 1879. No fewer than 110 of the firm's reading-room committee and members signed the Address, to accompany the presentation of a silver epergne, or dinner-table ornament.

Although covering only the period 1857-1868, for family historians the most generally useful source will be five books – measuring 25cms by 20cms – recording names and wage rates. The first volume, bound in black, runs from 1857 to 1859. It contains 517 names (surnames only, except to differentiate those with a like surname), 286 in the manufacturing department, 134 – plus 17 girls – in packing, 45 carpenters and coopers, 42 smiths and engineers, and 10 shop and general workers. Unskilled hands were paid 4d. an hour, or 3s.4d. a day of 10 hours; they worked from 6.30am to 6.30pm, with 40 minutes for breakfast and an hour for dinner. Their weekly wage was then 20 shillings for six days, closing at 2pm on Saturdays. As each employee left, a new



Travelling oven discharging biscuits

name was inserted; that creates a moving picture of activity in the firm rather than a snapshot at one moment of time.⁸

The four succeeding books are all red-bound. Like the previous black one, the book covering 1860-3 lists all departments with a total of 650 names, 299 in manufacturing and 200 (plus 16 females) in packing. The smiths and engineers, still 42 in number, remind us how the factory relied on steam engines by then. Bearing in mind the labour turnover, the 'snapshot' number of employees in 1861 was 535.⁹ As this total increased to 920 by 1867, all departments could no longer be included in one volume, and the last three books are divided.

The Manufacturing Department book partly duplicates the earlier one, starting in August 1860 and running through to April 1869. It contains 602 names, as against the previous 299. Pasted in the front are the 'Rules and Regulations, for the purpose of preserving good order', which laid down fines for offences such as swearing, bringing in liquor and having hands and faces unwashed. The fines went into the Sick Fund box; no one was dismissed except for a criminal act.¹⁰

The Packing Department book runs from 1865 to 1868. Numbers were up from 200 to 395, but there were only eight females listed instead of 16. The final book, of 'Fitters, Carpenters, Bricklayers, etc.' is for 1862-9, but a note reads, 'Transferred, March 1865'. It lists 49 box carpenters (tins for overseas were packed up in bulk wooden boxes) as against 20 previously, 32 smiths and engineers – formerly 42 – 16 tinmen, 29 bricklayers, 13 shop boys and 10 miscellaneous.¹¹

Those were all the wages books I could find, but I remember seeing some large wages ledgers for the 1870s. These were not kept in strong rooms but were stacked in open shelves. No doubt they were discarded when the premises in Kings Road were cleared before being demolished. If we must regret their destruction, it is a matter of satisfaction that all the documents in safes and strong rooms were secure, and are now available to be studied by researchers at the University.

Conclusion

This is a preliminary attempt to bring together, from the sources known to me, all the surviving information by name about employment in Reading industries before 1914. This information does seem to be a little thin, with very large gaps in what the firms

concerned apparently felt to be worth preserving. More extensive searches, or (as sometimes happens) an unexpected reference in another document or catalogue of archives, may help to broaden our knowledge about those who worked in the town and are nowadays almost entirely forgotten, except by those family historians who are helping to bring their memories alive again after so many decades.

My thanks are due to Michael Bott, Archivist, University of Reading, and to Professor E J T Collins, of the University's Rural History Centre.

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- 8 *ibid* HP 187
- 9 *ibid* HP 45
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- 11 *ibid* HP 140/1 and 2

Notes

The author, as T.A.B. Corley, has written the following articles in the *Berkshire Archaeological Journal*. The volume number is given before the date.

- 66 1971-2, 'The Earliest Reading Bank: Marsh, Deane & Co., 1788-1815, pp 121-8
- 67 1973-4, 'Barrett Exall & Andrewes' Iron Works at Reading. The Partnership Era 1818-64', pp. 79-87
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75 1994-7, 'A Berkshire Entrepreneur Makes Good: Martin Hope Sutton of Reading, 1840-71' pp. 103-110

76 2000 (forthcoming), 'The Last Years of Martin Hope Sutton, Seedsman of Reading, 1871-1901'.

He also wrote *Quaker Enterprise in Biscuits, Huntley & Palmers of Reading 1822-1972* (London: Hutchinson, 1972). This is now out of print.

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Sex & scandal in north Berkshire

John Gurnett

Until the 1857 Divorce Act divorce and separation was confined to the rich elite. If a husband wished to divorce his wife he would need to go through a complicated series of procedures with no certainty of the outcome. In the early nineteenth century divorce involved three separate lawsuits: one in an ecclesiastical court, for separation from the adulterous wife, one in a civil court against the wife's lover for damages for criminal conversation, or crim con, and a private parliamentary bill. Crim con involved a writ of trespass, the principle being that by using the body of the wife, the alleged adulterer had damaged the property of her husband.

The nature of the divorce procedure meant that few husbands came before the courts, but one scandalous case involved Edward and Anne Loveden of Buscot Park near Faringdon. Little is known about their marital relationship, although as an MP, and with his county commitments, Edward would have been away from home on many occasions. Anne said she felt neglected, so a young good looking visitor 'who had the reputation of flirting with every woman he came near', would have been a clear temptation despite the moral climate of the time. Thomas Raymond Barker, the son of a close friend of Edward, lived a short distance away at Fairford Park, and he was a constant visitor to Buscot. Edward supported him at College and even lent him an expensive horse. In 1805 both friends and servants noticed a growing attachment between Anne and Tom. The love affair had begun.¹

'that loss of virtue in a female is irretrievable, that one false step involves her in endless ruin'

One of the witnesses in the divorce action that followed four years later who heard the gossip felt compelled to approach Anne. She is said to have taken it badly declaring that "so long as Mr. Barker behaved well to her she should not alter her behaviour to him". According to the Consistory Court judge this was a symptom of

blind attachment, because a “women of delicacy who had been informed by a friend that her character was suffering would, for her protection and good name, have avoided such unfavourable impressions of her character”.² As Jane Austen wrote in ‘Pride and Prejudice’: “that loss of virtue in a female is irretrievable, that one false step involves her in endless ruin, that her reputation is no less brittle than it is beautiful”.

Anne does not seem to have cared for her reputation. The couple were often seen walking arm in arm in the grounds of the house, and when her husband was away they would remain closeted for hours in Anne’s dressing room, where men were not usually admitted. The housekeeper, Hannah Calcutt, later gave evidence that the couple had already ‘conceived a criminal passion for each other’. In the following year more evidence emerged. On one occasion the butler noticed first Anne and then Tom enter her dressing room before she had rung the bell to announce she was awake. When breakfast was served the butler also saw them sitting close together and “mixing their legs or feet together in a very peculiar and indecent fashion”.

Anne paid particular attention to his accommodation when he visited the house, taking care with the ornaments, getting lavender, hyacinth roots, and roses, even assisting with making the fire. No sooner was her husband absent than Tom arrived by appointment. When he was in the house she told the servants to say she was out if visitors called.

By the end of 1806 Edward became suspicious. He sought the advice of an old friend Francis Knight. Edward wanted to send Anne back to her mother, but Knight counselled that there was no real evidence of any impropriety. Francis Knight did talk to Tom about Edward’s suspicions and warned him not to visit Buscot Park. Later in 1807 Anne and Tom spent two nights at the Barker family house at Fairford. Edward was furious with his wife for disobeying his wishes, but Knight once again advised that there was no proof of misconduct.

Gradually more rumours began to reach Edward, and his son Pryse, and Tom was once again ordered never to come to the house again. But the liaison continued. They were seen kissing and almost discovered making love in the greenhouse.

While the family was in London Edward’s coachman and footman gave evidence that in May 1806, his mistress picked up Tom in

her coach. It was hot weather and she was accustomed to have the carriage open, but on this occasion it was closed and when she got out “she looked very warm and wild in her attire”. On another occasion in 1807 while the house guests were out hunting, the cook looked for her mistress to ask how to make a particularly fine dish. She searched the house and finally Anne emerged from the dining room closely followed by Tom. Anne was “very red in the face and extremely confused, and held her riding habit half-way up her legs as if she did not know what she did for the confusion she was in”.

By 1808 Edward’s under-butler, Warren Hastings, suspected that his mistress had received Tom. She denied that he had been there, yet upon hearing a noise late at night, Hastings ran out of the house with a pistol in his hand and caught Tom attempting to leap over the palings. The two men, one a servant and the other a lay

‘Anne was very red in the face and extremely confused, and held her riding habit half-way up her legs as if she did not know what she did for the confusion she was in’

fellow at Merton College, Oxford, spent three-quarters of an hour in conversation. Hastings warned Tom that the affair was well known in the neighbourhood, a horse-dealer had even mentioned it at a local market. Tom admitted that he was planning to see Anne, but promised Hastings that he would never visit the house again. Tom’s father and Edward’s son-in-law, Mr. Cox, also warned Tom to stay away from Anne. The following morning Hastings saw Anne and she admitted seeing Tom. Hastings said that her behaviour was imprudent, and he told her that Tom had given him an assurance that the clandestine affair would end. She promised never to see Tom or correspond with him again. But the lovers were now committed to each other and entering into correspondence.

What Anne did not know was that the servants were conspiring against her. In November 1808 James Hooper, Edward’s manservant, took a locked bag of letters from Buscot to the Faringdon Post Office. He was warned by Anne’s maid that the package contained letters addressed to Tom. Hooper removed the package and found that it contained three letters. One was from Tom dated

1804, another was an amorous love-letter from her. The third letter was sealed and became the decisive evidence of adultery which the servants had sought. In it Anne gave details of her menstrual cycle over the winter months, so that they could avoid making love on those days. She recommended the avoidance of intercourse for six days after her period. It was clear that she was embarrassed by writing such personal details. "Now love, she wrote, "you cannot but consider me most indulgent. I flatter myself too, most explicit, but I am so much ashamed of what I have said that I shall instantly seal it up and expect that you as readily and immediately commit it to the flames". With this evidence of adultery it remains curious why Hooper did not immediately pass the correspondence on to his master? He waited for a further four months before doing so.

In March of the following year while Edward was at Abingdon for a meeting of the local militia the servants suspected that Tom would try to see Anne again. Hastings said that he heard the library window open and Tom admitted by Mrs. Loveden. At about nine o'clock he was ordered to bring a glass of wine and water into the library. Tom was not there, but Hastings suspected he was in the study, on the other side of the stairs. The servants said that Anne went earlier to bed that night than was usual. Hastings suspected that the defendant would go from the study to his mistress's bedroom. He watched until nearly two o'clock but saw nothing. Hannah Haynes, Anne's maid, usually slept in the same bed with her mistress when Edward was absent. But on this occasion she was in an adjoining room.³ In the middle of the night she heard a noise as if the bolt of the door was raised and somebody entering her mistress's bedroom. The next morning she examined the bed and found it "very much tumbled" leaving her without any doubt that two people had slept in it.

The next morning Hastings tried the door of the library and found it locked and asked his mistress for the key; she denied having one. Hastings was not satisfied and got a carpenter to put a ladder against the window and when it was opened Tom was found hiding in the room, with his boots on and his greatcoat over his arm attempting to hide himself behind the door. He was released by Anne who had found a key to the room.

The housekeeper immediately sent a letter to Edward, who was staying with his son at Woodstock. When it arrived Hooper took the letter, with the package of letters from Anne intercepted the

previous November. Hooper's reason for not handing over these letters before was that Pryse had been out hunting: a justification which really does not make any sense, unless the servants were waiting to catch the couple in the act of sleeping together. But why not hand over the letters to Edward rather than his son? In the event Edward sent for his lawyer and the legal formalities began.

The High Court action for crim con was heard on July 3, 1809. It involved eight separate occasions when intercourse was said to have taken place, although only two were relied on in court, the rest going to prove an improper familiarity between the parties. Although the evidence was convincing Edward was unable to introduce the damning letter about his wife's menstrual cycle as it had not been delivered to Tom, and the indelicate nature of its contents could not be read in court. Despite that the remaining evidence should have been sufficient to convict. In his summing up Lord Ellenborough went through the eight occasions when it had been suggested that adultery took place. He found the evidence unconvincing or ambiguous. He set very high standards of proof, and his view was that all the evidence was circumstantial. The jury was out for 45 minutes and when they returned brought in a verdict of not guilty. Although they won the case both Tom and Anne's reputations were tarnished.

The turning point was Anne's letter on her menstrual cycle....."it is a letter which from public decency is not permitted to be read in court."

Edward took the case to the Consistory Court, before Sir William Scott, when 20 witnesses gave evidence. Anne denied adultery, although she admitted an unnatural attachment to Tom. Contrary to the opinion given in the High Court Sir William said it was a fundamental rule that it was not necessary to prove the direct fact of adultery. "It is rare for the parties to be caught in the act", he said. It was not necessary to prove that adultery took place in a certain room at a precise hour, circumstantial evidence should be sufficient.⁴

The turning point for the Consistory Court hearing was Ann's letter on her menstrual cycle. "It is a letter which speaks for itself", Sir William said, "without reference to any external transactions. It is a letter which from public decency was not permitted to be read in this Court; but I feel that my public duty calls upon

me to state so much as this – that it does contain an account of the times in which the periodical indisposition of the sex visits her, and when she says she must avoid intercourse; she promises to mark the period in future so that he may always compute it without difficulty”.⁵

The evidence from the witnesses seems conclusive, said Sir William, “the only wonder in the case is that such an intercourse could have been possible for such a length of time, without in some way or other, by some accident, by some information, reaching the notice of Mr. Loveden”.⁶

In his judgement Sir William declared that he was satisfied that adultery had taken place for a considerable time. So Edward could now be legally separated from Anne. The next step was the introduction of a Bill in the House of Lords for full divorce. When it finally reached the Commons Anne was awarded maintenance of £400 a year. Edward was clearly furious at the high cost of his divorce settlement and when the amendments went back to the Lords Edward urged them to drop the Bill. By abandoning the divorce action Edward deprived Anne of a substantial settlement, now he would only need to pay her expenses under the original marriage contract amounting to no more than £100 a year.

The servants played a key role in gathering the evidence for their master and protecting his good name. But why did they fail to keep him informed about Anne’s relationship with Tom on a continuing basis? What seems doubly strange is that Edward did not attempt to find out from the servants what they knew. As we have seen the affair lasted for four years. Edward and his son had heard rumours and banned Tom from the house, yet the servants made no move. They must have been aware of developments in the household; they spied on Anne and set traps for her yet they seemed to have held their counsel. Even when they obtained the damning letters they were withheld from the family for four months. The question is why? Why did Hooper not give the letters immediately to Edward’s son? The reason given in court that Pryse was out hunting seems particularly weak. When Edward had all the evidence surely he would have demanded a full explanation from his own servant Hooper? The only answer would seem to be that the servants were acting on the instructions of their master or his son. They must have been told to watch Tom and Anne and report all the evidence. It is possible despite the explanation given in court that the letters were in fact given to

Edward or Pryse four months before. Edward may have been waiting to catch his wife and Tom actually sleeping together. If this explanation rings true it does mean that Edward was attempting to entrap his wife. Alternatively were the servants, more particularly Hooper and Hastings, blackmailing Anne and Tom? It may be unlikely, but it is unquestionably a possibility. How else to account for the delay in handing over the letters to the family?

However, Sir William Scott was convinced that this was not a case of entrapment. "There is I think no reason to presume any kind of connivance" on the part of Edward. Laurence Stone believes this effectively destroys any argument that Edward set a trap for his wife.⁷ If we accept that he may have ignored his wife's affair we are still left with many unanswered questions. Did his son know the full story? If so his motive could have been to destroy his step-mother's reputation and deprive her of a substantial legacy after Edward's death.

What kind of man was Edward? He was born in 1750. When he was 17 years old he inherited his father's large fortune. Five years later his uncle died leaving the whole of his estate to the young man described at the time as remarkably handsome. He married three times, firstly to Margaret Pryse, a Welsh heiress in 1773, then an even richer heiress, the daughter of a hop merchant. The third time he found another wealthy bride Anne Liddell. When they married in 1794 Anne was 21 years old and Edward 43. So far he had received two large inheritances, one including Buscot Park, and married three rich heiresses. It could be argued that he was lucky, alternatively that he had a mercenary streak which made him seek out money. His constituents had already detected a parsimonious streak in his character which strengthens this hypothesis.⁸

His political career gives many clues to his character. His Berkshire property gave him a strong county interest and he was returned as an MP for Abingdon in 1783. At a time of shifting political allegiance changing sides was common, but Loveden seems to have changed his political loyalties more than most, possibly in an attempt to gain political office, or even a peerage. Many of his constituents, already resentful for his frugality, were outraged during the Regency crisis at his attitude which at best could be described as equivocal and at worst as changing sides to gain financial reward from political office. He opposed Pitt as a

(continued on page 95)

(continued from page 90)

“man of doubtful gender”, but later sought his support when attempting to stand as one of the Berkshire County Members of Parliament. He lost his Abingdon seat in 1796 while he was still unpopular in the county but then said he was determined never to enter Parliament again – however, he eventually became MP for Shaftesbury.⁹

So what conclusions can we draw? At the time of his separation Edward was almost 60, while Anne was 36. His interest in her may have waned and once the liaison started Edward may have seized the opportunity of waiting for his young wife to step over the bounds of impropriety which could lead to divorce. Whether it was Edward or his son Pryse either one, or both of them, had much to gain from separation and divorce.

There was no love lost between Edward’s family and Anne. Edward wrote to his sister Jane Gill telling her about the discovery of the letters. Jane wrote back immediately, “how such devils never existed, I wonder much they did not connive to give you a dose of poison, I am certain they were both equal to it - and I firmly believe had she continued under your roof, it would have been effected, without doubt”.¹⁰

What happened to Anne and Tom? The Loveden papers at the Berkshire Record Office includes a letter from the Town Clerk at Abingdon, Samuel Sellwood, dated 9 August, 1811.¹¹ In it he refers to the vacancies at Merton (Tom’s old College), “B[arker] of course has taken his leave, but I think with you his courage will never carry him to Spain as a Volunteer”. The letter goes on to speculate that Anne and her mother were planning to leave Berkshire.

Anne and Tom did in fact leave the county. They moved to Hambleton in Buckinghamshire where Tom purchased ‘Bakers House’. Here they lived together until 1821 when his beloved Anne died. In her will she left her entire estate worth about seventeen thousand pounds to Tom.¹² Her husband Edward died the following year so Ann and Tom were never able to marry. Edward bequeathed “to his old and faithful friend Francis Knight” a dress sword and gold-headed cane. His servants received annuities: “my old and faithful servant Hannah Calcott” received one of £20, the widow of another servant received £11 for life, the widow of his groom an annuity of £20 and Warren Hastings and James

Hooper, who played such an important role in the story, were given £50 each. Most of the estate apart from provision for his sister and his daughters by an earlier marriage was left to Pryse. Clearly the servants did well by standing by their master.¹³

Tom's father John Raymond Barker died in 1827. As well as his property at Fairford Park he also owned a house in Portman Square, London.¹⁴ He provided for all his sons and daughters, including Tom. The size of the estate would have allowed Tom to have a good lifestyle. He appears to have played a full part in the life of the community in Buckinghamshire curiously becoming a magistrate, probably as early as 1832, and chairman of the Gaol Building Committee. He seems to overcome his love for Anne and eventually married Eliza Jane, who was nine years his junior. He died on 23 June 1866 aged 88 and is buried at Hambledon churchyard with Eliza Jane.

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I am grateful to Lisa Spurrier of the Berkshire Record Office and to Sue Baxter from the Buckinghamshire Record Office in identifying some of the Loveden and Barker documents in their position.

BERKSHIRE RECORD OFFICE THE LATEST ON THE MOVE

Building work on the new Record Office building in Castle Hill, Reading, is nearing completion, and if all goes to plan we shall be moving ourselves and the four miles of records in our care into the new building in the period January to March 2000.

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Computer Forum

Eddie Spackman

The 1881 Census CDROM - “Is this a suitable present for Christmas or a Birthday”?

It's often said that having milked the fiche copy of the Census dry there is no point in buying this CDROM. Many members of the email group would not agree: “I am amazed at the ease with which unknown facts are rapidly discovered without too much effort from the Indexes, Neighbours searches and Place searches. I consider that the British package for under £30 is the best value for money of any genealogical programme in my possession.” Another says: “The 1881 CDROM is an absolute must. Despite having used the fiche index beforehand, I have come up with a number of new additions to my family tree after browsing at my leisure. More importantly, through applying some lateral thinking, I have managed finally to trace my Yorkshire roots - after being stuck on this line for 35 years. At such a modest price, it is excellent value for money. And if you don't buy it, you will never know if you have missed that vital clue.” And a final quote: “The 1881 Census CDROM must be the biggest bargain in the history of mankind, let alone for family historians.”

Other advantages are that married women with unknown surnames can sometimes be found by searching on forename with year and place of birth - if the forename is relatively uncommon. Occupations with long names or additional details are not truncated so useful information may be found on the size of farms and the number of people employed by the head of the household.

Some researchers have found it difficult to find ancestors who were known to be living in Britain. One reason is because the indexing of surnames is not what one might expect - Oxford appears with the A's for instance. Another is that names may have been spelt differently to that expected. So, persist with searches on alternative spellings.

Church Photographs - “Where can I get hold of photographs of churches?”

There is an obvious interest in churches by those who want to identify where their ancestors were baptised, married or buried - or where they lived or went to church. Photographs add colour to what can otherwise be very bald statements of dates and places extracted from parish registers or a census.

There are now some internet sites which contain pictures of churches. My experience is limited to Essex which has a site with over 300 churches at www.debkay.clara.net/chind1.htm and one started more recently for Hertfordshire with over 60 churches at www.debkay.clara.net/chind21.htm. So far I know of no site for Berkshire but perhaps somebody out there would like to start one.

Another possibility for obtaining church photographs is to go to the church web-site (if there is one). These usually include not only information about times of services and activities but also photographs. Some may have the exterior - perhaps as a line drawing - but if you are lucky there will also be pictures of the interior and of other interesting features. Some have histories of the parish (generally rather sketchy). How do you find these sites? There are several ways. Perhaps the easiest is to go to the Diocesan Home page and find links to the churches in the Diocese. A list of Home Pages for Anglican parish churches and communities in the Diocese of Oxford can be found at www.oxford.anglican.org/parishes. Links to parishes in the Roman Catholic diocese of Portsmouth can be found at www.portsmouth-dio.org.uk/diolinks/portlink.htm. Another way is to use a search engine and look for a particular church.

Do you have an interest in Pubs?

The ‘Pubs, Inns and Taverns Index for England, 1801-1900’ is a non-profit-making project to create a nineteenth century database of all premises with recognisable names, including hotels, coffee houses and clubs, and their keepers. It was estimated in 1900 that there were approximately 60,000 establishments in England, from which it is possible to estimate that the finished project will contain something of the order of 6,500,000 entries. At present the database has over 317,000 entries. Details can be found at www.pubsindex.freemove.co.uk.

The Internet - Source or Resource?

At our Open Day one lady commented to me: "There is really no point in going on the internet for family history purposes as there are no authoritative sources of data. Even if you do find information on individuals you still have to go to the census or, preferably, parish registers to get the details". All this is certainly true, but we should not forget that the real value of the internet is as a resource for identifying and finding data bases. It is above all a means of communicating information.

At some sites, such as the PRO at www.pro.gov.uk, it is now possible to print off leaflets and identify records before making a visit. In the years to come we should expect to find 'authoritative data' on the internet and indexes of births marriages and deaths since 1837 and census returns. There are no technical reasons - other than political and financial - why copies of original records should not be accessible. As a start we already have access to census records in Scotland (at a price). And, do not forget that the IGI and ancestral records provided by the LDS can be searched at www.familysearch.org. This has recently been updated making it much easier to use and download information.

"Registration: modernising a vital resources"

Recently, a discussion document was produced by the Office of National Statistics (ONS) entitled: "Registration: modernising a vital resource". It concerns the need to modernise the 160 year old system for registering births, marriages and deaths. The full document can be downloaded from www.ons.gov.uk and printed. However, beware: the document runs to about 30 pages and with our modest 33.6 or 56 Kbps modems could take 10 minutes or more to download. It makes interesting reading and suggests changes that are required to meet the needs of society today and in the foreseeable future. There are implications about the data that will be available for family historians in the late twenty-first century. Responses and comments are requested on 28 questions. These had to be returned by 6th Dec but those with strong views might still wish to make them known to the ONS.

UK White Pages

Some people may not yet be aware that the UK 'white pages' are

on-line at www.bt.com/phonenetuk. This could prove a helpful resource for locating areas of the country where families originated - but only for those with relatively rare surnames. There are also sites to covert postcodes to addresses and vice versa.

Eye in the Sky - a glimpse into the future

A photographic survey of Britain, described as the new Domesday survey, which identifies "every house, town and street" will be pictured on the internet in "a real image depicting Britain at the end of the Millennium". Half of the UK will be visible by January 2000 and the whole by the end of 2001. Perhaps this is another resource that family historians will use to make their 'histories' more interesting. The snag - only paying customers will be able to view any location at a scale of 1:2000. The site is at www.millennium-map.com.

Miscellany

One of the problems with writing for the Computer Forum is that it is difficult to identify the needs of those with computers who do not use the internet. I would be grateful for contributions to meet your needs.

Some are not connected to the internet because the cost of telephone calls can still be very high - especially for those who do a lot of surfing. I had thought that by the end of 1999 there would be more ISPs providing free access. In fact in the UK only a few provide free access, usually only at weekends, and these ISPs mostly charge a monthly subscription. The future looks more hopeful as it is likely that the cost of calls will have to fall to enable e-commerce (buying goods over the internet) to flourish.

Help wanted

Christine Kendell, 16 Howard Road, Wokingham, Berkshire RG40 2BX

“I am trying to find out the identity of my grandfather, and wonder if any other members can help. My grandfather’s name does not appear on my father’s birth certificate or in the parish records. From my mother via one of my father’s aunts I know his surname appears to be King but not his first name. As my father was born in 1918, I have wondered if his father died in the war, but without a Christian name there is no way of finding out.

I have looked in the Petty Sessions Record for 1918, but there was nothing there. If he was in the army, would they have waited until his return to take him to the Sessions, in which case should I look at the 1919 records? On the other hand, my grandmother was seventeen when my father was born; if my grandfather was a similar age, would there have been any point in taking him to court, as he would be unlikely to have any spare money? At the time my grandmother was living in Hitchin, Hertfordshire.

I would be interested to know how other members have tackled similar problems.”

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.

Send enquiries to Mrs. Pam Knight, Old Oak Cottage, The Pound, Cookham, Maidenhead, Berkshire SL6 9QE (please make all cheques payable to P. Knight).

Chairman's notes

Ivan Dickason

The problems over access to our new Research Centre at Yeomanry House seem to have been resolved at long last. We can now have access for fitting out although some electrical work needs to be carried out and we shall require some security or closed circuit television systems to be installed. If any member has particular expertise in these areas could they please get in touch with John Gurnett (0118 984 3995) or Ed Pearce (0118 947 3054) as soon as possible.

Of course, the main bulk of fitting out will comprise installing the shelving for the library. Again, any member who is able to help with this work should get in touch with Ed Pearce. There will be several removal sessions and it is hoped that those volunteers who helped with emptying our Prospect School premises will be able to help with the removal of the Library from the store to the new premises.

We are not yet able to determine a precise opening date for the new Research Centre. However, it is likely to be in early February. The new Research is equipped with a telephone information line (0118 950 9553). Its first use will be to inform members of the latest news of the opening date.

Maidenhead Family History Week

The Society staged the third Family History Week at Maidenhead in early October. Visitors were able to see the range of work undertaken by the Society including the displays of the 1999 competition. About 400 people visited the display during the week. This is a record for any event staged by the Maidenhead Heritage Trust. Of course, none of this would have been possible without the generous help of the volunteers who staffed the display. Many thanks to you all.

June and I wish you all a happy Christmas and prosperous New Year. May each of you find the elusive ancestor during Millennium Year.

Family reunions

Chris Relf

The International Relf Society held their 9th annual meeting and reunion on 11th September at the village hall in Great Shefford, Berkshire. Some 25 members and relatives were present and the hall walls were covered by Relf/Relph family trees, photographs and other family memorabilia. The day turned out to be sunny and warm so the amble down to the Swan Inn on the river Lambourn for lunch was a leisurely one. Much exchanging of family news and connections was evident and it was good to see how well members mingled and a special welcome shown to those from Canada who had made the trip. After lunch we were given a talk on Relf army ancestry by Mark Relf from Cheshire who had brought along a marvellous collection of medals and documents he had amassed.

Then followed a talk by the Chairman, Graham Archard from Somerset, and another member, Ruth Hewlett from Reading on the Relf cricketers from Sussex. The most famous, Albert Edward Relf was in the first MCC tour of Australia in 1903-4. As well as playing for Sussex he also played for Norfolk, Suffolk, Ireland, Kent, and Berkshire. He was cricket coach at Wellington College for some time, and his father, John Relf, who lived at 95 Kensington Road, Reading pre-1921, also had cricketing connections with Berkshire. In spite of their Sussex birth there was another migration of this Relf family - Ruth Hewlett's grandfather, George Frederick Relf, brother of Albert Edward Relf, married a Berkshire girl, Alice Minnie Smith, in June 1898 at St. Mary's Church, Reading. We learnt about other Relf Berkshire connections that all belonged to the same family and have their roots firmly planted in Burwash and Brightling in Sussex.

The afternoon concluded with tea and cake provided by our hosts for the day, Cyril and Shelagh Relf of Great Shefford. The 10th anniversary for the International Relf Society will be held on September 9th, 2000 at Ashburnham in Sussex where William Relfe purchased the Lordship of the Manor of Ashburnham in 1637 - but that's another story.

Not all family reunions run as smoothly as the Relf's as Cheralynn (Charlee) Wilson explains.

It's summer, which means family reunions. Every other year, we have a reunion for my parents' descendants. My folks live in what was a "shelter over a picnic table" in New Mexico's Jemez mountains. It's grown to a 3-story permanent residence and has slept more than 50 people, 18 dogs, and a cat in a single weekend. This is where we congregate.

Our reunions are not dull. The first one (1994) was so exciting we almost decided to cancel further reunions, believing, or perhaps hoping, we'd never top it. Among the memorable events was the abseiling incident in which my eldest daughter caught her hair in a carabiner, and was suspended mid-way down a cliff. My brother, the ex-Marine, went down on a safety rope to free her. To do this, he required "The One Who Doesn't Hug" to entwine her legs and arms around his body. He planned to lift her enough to free her hair, but in doing so, managed to slip and get his T-shirt caught in his carabiner. Now they were both caught, and to make matters worse, his rope had slipped snugly around the tenderest part of his anatomy. To free his T-shirt, he opened his pocketknife with his teeth and began sawing away at the material that was about two inches away from my daughter's face. Cut free, the added weight dropped them further, painfully tightening the noose on his nether regions. The sensation caused him to drop his open knife that fell point down into the ground, narrowly missing a nephew. At this point, my sister-in-law, who was filming the whole thing, ran out of tape, so we missed seeing how brother and daughter got out of the mess. Brother sang soprano for a few hours. A nearby rock-climbing class witnessed the proceedings open-mouthed. Some of them quit the class.

That night, after getting hordes of offspring to bed in tents, cars, lofts, etc., the adults settled down for a cup of hot chocolate. It began to rain — a real frog-strangler, complete with sound and fury. Lightning struck, rattling windows. I yelled and grabbed a passing teenager, causing her to throw hot chocolate on several relatives who yelled and stampeded. Lights flickered. Another bolt hit with a loud crackle-boom. The lights went out. Mojo (our St. Bernard/Great Pyrenees puppy) went cracker-dog, yelping and running hysterically over and under furniture, triggering a round of the "Howlelujah Chorus" from the other dogs, whose owners began to shout and chase their dogs, stomping on people and

critters and waking the children in the loft who began to scream because the lights were off. The tent and car people ran inside, wet and shaking. I crawled under a bed with one of the Siberian Huskies. Next morning, we found that a huge pine tree next to the cabin had been hit, exploding bark in all directions. To commemorate the occasion, the ex-Marine carved the date and event into a piece of the bark. It hangs in the family room today.

During outdoor church services, one Siberian Husky found a porcupine, which goes to show what happens to dogs who don't attend church. What a mess! My husband, who had found a semi-legitimate excuse to miss this reunion, got to share in the last part when we drove into town and picked him up on the way to the vet. When he heard about all the fun he'd missed, he got tears in his eyes, and we could tell he was sorry.

Reunions are a lot of work, both for those planning and those attending. The ultimate test of family endurance happens when mother's clan camps for four days in southern Colorado. There are more than 250 of us, not counting dogs and friends. It is not my idea of fun to pack everything we own and sleep in a tent with wet, cowering dogs inside and vicious wild animals and sneaky teen-aged relatives outside. I do not enjoy port-a-potties, especially by the fourth day when the pre-school boys in camp have figured out that the basin on the side is not for washing hands, and consider it a matter of honour to use it as it was intended. I am not fond of cooking on a Coleman stove, although, in the mountains, people expect all meals to taste basically the same — burned or raw. I do not relish being hit with five gallons of water travelling at 30 miles per hour in the traditional water fight, although my sons-in-law tell me this is their favourite part. It's the only time they may abuse me with impunity. I do not like the 3 a.m. hike to the outhouse because I can't resist the bedtime Peppermint Patty (hot chocolate made with peppermint tea). It either rains, or it is dry and the talcum powder dust coats everything. So, why do I go? Maybe it's because I love to see all the little kids call each other "Cousin" — they never bother to learn names. Maybe it's because we have kids with every shade of skin and hair, and two hours after we arrive, they're all the same colour — dust or mud. Maybe it's the demonic giggle from a five-year-old throwing a cup of water on his Nanny during the water fight, knowing this is the only time he'll ever get away with it. Maybe it's the clusters of teenagers plotting to put oral anaesthetic in someone's toothpaste.

Maybe it's the family church session or the visits around the campfire when we hear new jokes and old ghost stories. But, mostly, it's the magic it works on kids. In these troubled days, when families are crumbling, reunions give our children security in belonging. Whether they achieve great things, whether they are "just folks," or rotten as year-old eggs, they know that they are loved unconditionally. My kids don't want to miss a reunion and that's pretty impressive.

Previously published by Julia M. Case and Myra Vanderpool Gormley, CG, Missing Links: RootsWeb's Genealogy Journal, Vol. 4, No. 32, 4 August 1999. RootsWeb: <<http://www.rootsweb.com/>>

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PUBLICATIONS & MONUMENTAL INSCRIPTION PROJECT

Jocie McBride

Since the September magazine we have published on fiche:

Burghfield, St Mary the Virgin Church, Parish Registers (1559-1987) - £5.30 (U.K.) £5.70 (abroad by surface mail) and

Wokingham, All Saints Church, Monumental Inscriptions - Part 1 (1590-1973) - £2.20 (U.K.) £2.60 (abroad by surface mail). The part of the cemetery consecrated in 1933 has not yet been recorded. Would you like to volunteer?

Both sets of fiche are available from our Bookstall Manager.

Once again I am appealing for help with preparing the Monumental Inscriptions in our library ready for putting onto fiche. There are four separate stages involved and help is needed on any separate process.

- a) Scanning the documents using Optical Character Reading Software (most modern scanners have this built in)
- b) Checking the scanned copy against the original – you do not need a computer to help with this
- c) Drawing maps for cemeteries
- d) Writing brief histories of the cemeteries – again this does not require a computer and will appeal to those with an interest in local history

We have over 50 MIs in our library and any help that you can give with any step will reduce the time it takes to put them onto fiche for distribution.

Typists are also needed for data entry and indexing.

Jean Debney has the Poll Books of Reading for 1790 & 1849 and the List of Creditors for the Marsh Deane Bank when it went into receivership. All of these need to be listed and indexed before we can put them onto fiche for the benefit of all family historians.

If you have time and would like to help with any of these projects please contact me by phone or email. We really do need your help to make this information available to everyone.

Jocie McBride Tel. 01491 573705 or email jocie@globalnet.co.uk

Q & A WITH JEAN

Barry White of Australia: e-mail <barrywhite@talk21.com>

I am researching my Ansell ancestors in east Kent and have found a Reginald Ansell, Rector of Stowting in Kent, who left to his son's children "the perpetual patronage of the Rectory of Stowtinge and to their heires forever". I'm trying to discover how Reginald came by this patronage. His father, also a minister but not at Stowting, didn't mention it in his will, nor did the previous Rector of Stowting.

How can 'patronage' be acquired? Did the Church have a say in who might receive it? And is there a class of record that might reveal how Reginald acquired it in the first place? I'm not asking you to comment on the specifics relating to Reginald.

The right of nomination or presentation to an ecclesiastical benefice is called an advowson. An advowson is held by a patron, who may be an individual or institution, clerical or secular. The patron presents the candidate to the appropriate bishop, although the nomination may be refused. Lay Advowsons date from the eighth century and became more common after the Reformation (1530s) when monastic estates and holdings fell into lay hands (they were sold). Since 1924 a Lay Advowson cannot be sold after two vacancies have occurred and, from 1933, parochial councils could purchase the advowson except where it was in the gift of the Crown or a bishop.

Mark Herber's 'Ancestral Trails' (pages 396-8), details records of Church of England clergy and their ordination, including various printed directories from the 19th century and biographical details of clergy from 1066 to 1854 by diocese and archdeaconry (indexed) in 'Fasti Ecclesiae Anglicanae'. Apparently this is now available, 1541-1857, on-line at <http://ihr.sas.ac.uk/publications/fasti2.html> and lists the 'higher clergy', bishops, archdeacons & cathedral clergy.

Institution Books (1556-1838) at the Public Record Office are arranged by county between 1556 and 1660, by diocese between 1661 to 1838 and then by place. Information includes the names and dates of the clergy instituted to the benefice and names the

patrons of the benefice. These can be used to trace when your ancestors started and ended their time as a patron. See 'Tracing your ancestors at the PRO', ed Amanda Bevan.

Among the bishop's miscellaneous documents in the diocesan record office (now usually the local county record office) may be found letters and other presentation papers of recommendation from patrons and others prior to the appointment of a new incumbent to a benefice. The bishop's act book records any appointments with the date, name of the patron and details of his right of presentation. Some bishops' act books have been printed and are listed in 'Texts & Calendars' by E L C Mullin.

In conclusion, although I have not found any reference to specific records relating to such changes, an advowson could be inherited or sold by the patron, which could be a bishop, monarch or a lay person. Nor have I spotted any particularly useful publication in any of the bibliographies in the books mentioned – unless I skimmed the lists too quickly of course.

* Publications available from BFHS Bookstall at Branch Meetings or via mail order

Ken Godfrey (3486), 94 Wishing Well Drive, Scarborough, Ontario, Canada 1T 1J4: email <kegod@ibm.net>

This photograph belonged to my grandfather, Thomas Godfrey, who came from East Hanney, Berkshire, to Canada about 1888. It is possible that this couple were William Godfrey (born 1831 whose first wife was Mary Herman) with his second wife, Sarah Ashfield, née Bunce (born about 1841) who were married in 1874. However, they could also be other members of the Godfrey, Herman or Bunce families.

No wedding ring can be seen on her left hand, so it is not clear if the couple in this photograph, who appear to be in their late 40s or early 50s, are married or just brother and sister. However, because it was found among Thomas Godfrey's effects, it does seem likely that they are all related and this picture was taken sometime prior to Thomas Godfrey's departure for Canada in the late 1880s.

Her best plain woollen dress chosen for the visit to the photographer's studio consists of a matching close-fitted bodice and separate pleated skirt. The boned and lined bodice is trimmed

with toning satin round the neck, in two wide strips either side of the row of shiny buttons and cuffs on her long straight sleeves. The only washable part of the outfit is a fashionable white 'pie-crust' frill tacked inside her neck-band. She appears to have a small brooch at her throat.

His comfortable, but unfashionably buttoned up, three piece suit has a low-waisted morning coat with stitched edges, a single breast pocket and close-fitting cuffs. The front edge of the skirt curves back so that the bottom button cannot be fastened. The



'Gentleman's Magazine' had said in 1886 that it was fashionable to leave coats unbuttoned or fastened with a single button only but this had obviously not reached all levels of Berkshire society. His wide spotted cravat is tied under a turn-down white collar.

This is a well-arranged example of the classic Victorian photographers' pose of a couple apparently disturbed while studying a book together. The out-of-focus lower background seems to be some sort of wall and she is seated in an elaborately carved wide wooden chair.

The photographer Walton Adams had an "Art and Science Studio" at 29 Blagrave Street, Reading, from 1886 until he retired in 1922. Born Arthur Walton Adams in Portsmouth, Hampshire, in 1843, he acquired his photographic skills from Dr Richard Leach Maddox, a keen amateur photographer and inventor of the dry gelatin plate which from the late 1870s revolutionised photography.

Adams lived in Southampton from at least 1867 and, with his London-born wife Annie and seven children, was recorded in the 1881 census as a photographer. At least two of his sons, Marcus and Christopher, later joined him in the business. Although the Blagrave Street premises were sold to Pelham Crowe in 1922 it continued to operate under the name "Walton Adams". In 1969 the business changed hands again and moved to 1 Prospect Street, Caversham where it is still listed as "Walton Adams & Sons Ltd".

Sources: A Century of Photography in Reading, compiled by Mary Southerton (1986), unpublished typescript in Berkshire FHS Reference Library. 1881 census: PRO - RG 11/1214/64 & RG 11/1351/62. BT Telephone Directory Reading 1998

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Compiled by Bob Plumridge

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No	Name	Place	Code	Period	No	Name	Place	Code	Period
1172	ABERY JOHN	Any	BRK	1700	4122	BAYLIS	Reading	BRK	1851
4112	ABSALOM	Aldermaston	BRK	1800-1900	4122	BAYZAND	Any	WOR	Any
4144	ADAMSON	Hartshead	WRY	1742-2000	4136	BEECHAM	Woolsthorpe	LIN	1800-1900
4112	ALDRICH	Croydon	SRY	1900-1960	4141	BELCHER	Any	BRK	1600-1800
4110	ALDWORTH	Hendred	BRK	1750-1830	3465	BELL	Any	CUL	Any
3867	ALLEN	Reading	BRK	1750-1910	1172	BELLINGER, HARRIET		BRK	1780
4095	ANDERSON	Any	DUR	1800-1870	4036	BENNET	Inkpen	BRK	1500-1770
4095	ANDERSON	Any	NBL	1800-1870	4136	BERRY	Stepney	MDX	1800-1900
4095	ANDERSON	Glasgow	SCT	1800-1870	4176	BETTERIDGE	Any	LCC	1750-1980
3465	ANDOW	Any	SOM	Any	4136	BILLINGHAM	Shoreditch	MDX	1800-1999
205	ANDREW	Glasgow	SCT	Any	4144	BLACK	Guthrie	ANS	1748-2000
205	ANDREW	Paisley	SCT	Any	2820	BLAKELY	Any	DUR	Any
4136	ANDREWS	Shinfield	BRK	1700-1800	4036	BLANDY	Great Bedwyn	WIL	1500-1700
4112	ATKINS	Any	OXF	1900-1960	4036	BLANDY	Inkpen	BRK	1500-1750
4112	ATKINS	Any	WIL	1900-1960	4176	BLIGH(T)	North	DEV	1500-1999
4112	ATKINS	Reading	BRK	1900-1960	4122	BOMFORD	Any	WOR	Any
2420	AUSTEN	Any	KEN	Any	4154	BOND	Clovelly	DEV	1800-1850
4110	AXTON/AXON	Cirencester	GLS	1750-1850	4154	BOND	Swimbridge	DEV	1800-1850
4001	BAGLEY	Any	BKM	1850-1900	4036	BOOTH	Ashton-U-	LAN	1850-1915
4001	BAGLEY	Any	BRK	1850-1900	4144	BOOTH	Aberdeen	ABD	1807-2000
4001	BAGLEY	Any	HRT	1850-1900	4108	BOOTY	Roxwell	ESS	1831-1999
4120	BAILEY	Godalming	SUR	1870-1994	2820	BOURNE	Minley/Yateley	HAM	Any
4120	BAILEY	Stanford Ding'	BRK	1066-1994	3465	BOUSTEAD	Any	CUL	Any
4144	BANNAN	Dublin	DUB	1780-2000	4093	BOXALL	Paddington	MDX	1800-1950
4174	BARNES	Penarth	GLA	1836-1875	4182	BRADFORD	Bray	BRK	1881-1925
4136	BAXTER	Reading	BRK	1850-1999	3465	BRADLEY	Any	LAN	Any

No	Name	Place	Code	Period	No	Name	Place	Code	Period
4123	BRICE	Axminster	DEV	1791-1914	3867	CHOWN	East Devon	DEV	1700-1900
4123	BRICE	Exeter	DEV	1791-1914	4174	CLACK	Cookham	BRK	1780
4136	BROCK	Kingston	BRK	1840-1880	4095	CLARE	East London	MDX	1800-1900
4144	BROWN	Biggar	LAN	1650-2000	4094	CLARK	Cookham	BRK	pre 1780
4093	BUCK	Kilburn	MDX	1800-1950	4112	CLARK	Exeter	DEV	1800-1900
4093	BUCK	Paddington	MDX	1800-1950	4136	CLARKE	Woolthorpe	LIN	1800-1900
4036	BUTLER	Amersham	BKM	1850-1910	4174	CLARKE	Cotleigh	DEV	1794
4122	BUTLER	Any	WIL	Any	4154	COHN	Dublin	DUB	1700-1900
4136	BUTTERY	Leytonstone	ESS	1899-1999	3867	COLEMAN	Reading	BRK	1750-1910
4141	BYE	Fairford	GLS	1650-1800	4068	COLES	London	LCC	1800-1900
4141	CANFIELD	Any	BRK	1700-1850	4110	COLLINS	Hendred Wan'	BRK	1750-1850
4141	CANFIELD	Kempsford	GLS	1800-1870	4126	CONNOR	Dulwich	SRY	1800-1950
4036	CANNON	Waddesdon	BKM	1500-1900	4126	COOK	Robertsbridge	SSX	1800-1950
4001	CAREY	Any	BKM	1850-1900	4144	COOK	Pt Sorell	TAS	1800-2000
4001	CAREY	Any	BRK	1850-1900	4141	COOPER	Thatcham	BRK	1650-1800
4001	CAREY	Any	SUR	1850-1900	4174	CORTIE	Warwick	WAR	1841-1882
3867	CARTER	Andover	HAM	1750-1910	3946	COSTA(E)R(D)	Any	ANY	1500-1770
4112	CARTER	Maidenhead	BRK	1700-1950	4154	COURTNEY	Landkey	DEV	1500-1750
4176	CATT	Rolvenden	KEN	1700-1900	4154	COURTNEY	Swimbridge	DEV	1500-1750
3932	CHALNOOD	Any	ANY	1066-1999	3990	CRAWLEY	Sandy	BDF	1880s
2820	CHANNING	Topsham	DEV	Any	1172	CRIPPS RICHARD	BRK	BRK	1761
4194	CHAPMAN	Hurst	BRK	1700-1800	3465	CROFT	Any	LAN	Any
3932	CHARLETT	Any	ANY	1066-1999	4135	CROSS	Shabbington	BKM	1800-1875
4095	CHARTERS	East London	MDX	1700-1850	4137	CROUCH	Binfield	BRK	1845-1855
4095	CHARTIER	East London	MDX	1700-1850	4137	CRUST	Romney Marsh	KEN	1700-1850
4174	CHICK	Ilminster	SOM	1854	4176	CUMNER	Any	BRK	1700-1950
4170	CHOLDITCH	Any	DEV	1500-1900	4176	CUMNER	Any	WIL	1700-1950

No	Name	Place	Code	Period	No	Name	Place	Code	Period
2820	CURTIS	Any	ERY	Any	4126	ELLIS	Any	LIN	1800-1950
4141	CUSSELL	Thatcham	BRK	1650-1750	4126	ELLIS	Harlesden	MDX	1800-1950
4174	DAFFARN	Any	BRK	pre 1886	4129	ELLIS	Croydon/Mitic'	SRY	1850-1950
4174	DAFFARN	Any	MDX	pre 1886	4112	ELSTON(E)	Maidenhead	BRK	1800-1900
4123	DAINTY	Hardwick	GLS	1800-1870	4107	ERBY	Beeton	BRK	1600-1999
4154	DARKE	Maidenhead	BRK	1895-1940	4116	ESSERY	Bideford	DEV	1700-1800
4154	DARKE	Reading	BRK	1895-1940	3705	EUDEY	Any	CON	pre 1850
4126	DE CAUCHY	Kintbury	BRK	1840-1920	4110	FARMER	Wantage	BRK	1750-1830
3465	DEAN	Any	LIN	Any	3705	FE(A)RN	Any	NTH	pre 1850
205	DEBNEY	Any	ANY	Any	4122	FERGUSON	Reading	BRK	Any
1172	DENBY, CHARLES	Any	BRK	1712	4122	FERGUSON	South Oxford	OXF	Any
1172	DENBY, JOSEPH	Any	BRK	1740	3705	FERN	Wolverhampt'	STS	1800-1899
4123	DEWBERRY	Thornborough	BKM	1800-1890	4148	FIELDER	Cookham	BRK	c1797
4110	DOEL	Horsley	GLS	1800-1900	4036	FISHER	Great Bedwyn	WIL	1750-1850
4174	DOWNING	Birmingham	WAR	1816-1838	4036	FISHER	Kintbury	BRK	1500-1850
4144	DRAPER	Any	TIP	1840-2000	4137	FLOWER	Sonning	BRK	1750-1850
4112	DUNCAN	Exeter	DEV	1800-1900	4137	FLOWERS	Earley	BRK	1750-1850
4123	DUNN	Bath	SOM	1800-1883	2820	FOSTER	Any	ERY	Any
4135	EAGLES	Marcham	BRK	1700-1850	4108	FRANCIS	Sunninghill	BRK	1853-1999
439	EAREE	Margaretting	ESS	1800-1860	4156	FRANCIS	Hungerford	BRK	1600-1800
4130	EDEN	Otterington	NRY	1730-1850	4156	FRANCIS	London	LCC	1800-1999
4120	EDWARDS	Dartford	KEN	1800-1880	4156	FRANCIS	Reading	BRK	1700-1990
4141	EDWARDS	Kempsford	GLS	1650-1800	4156	FRANCIS	Wallingford	BRK	1800-1999
4068	EGAN	Nenagh	TIP	1800-1870	4036	FRANKLIN	Inkpen	BRK	1500-1835
4110	EGGLETON	Kingstone Lisle	BRK	1750-1850	3990	FRECKELTON	Derby	DBY	1880s
4130	ELLIOT(T)	Kingsclere	HAM	1800-1851	4137	FRENCH	North Aston	OXF	1750-1850

No	Name	Place	Code	Period	No	Name	Place	Code	Period
4174	FRILL	Any	MDX	pre 1884	4126	HARPER	Kinbury	BRK	1800-1980
4174	FRILL	Wakefield	YKS	pre 1884	4126	HARPER	Salhurst	SSX	1800-1950
4141	FULBROOK	Any	BRK	1700-1850	4126	HARPER	Willesden	MDX	1800-1940
4066	FULKER	Reading	BRK	1800-1900	4093	HARRIS	City of London	LDN	1800-1950
4137	FULLER	Ashford	KEN	1845-1990	4093	HARRIS	East London	MDX	1800-1950
4137	FULLER	Canterbury	KEN	1700-1800	4093	HARRIS	Westminster	LDN	1800-1950
4126	GALE	Westminster	MDX	1800-1950	4123	HARRIS	Cam	GLS	1813-1850
3705	GARNER	Newport Pag'	BKM	pre 1850	4099	HASKER	Any	BRK	1660-1729
4123	GAY	Berkeley	GLS	1812-1840	4093	HART	City of London	LDN	1800-1950
4095	GIBSON	Glasgow	SCT	1800-1880	4093	HART	East London	MDX	1800-1950
4130	GILL	Reading	BRK	1800-1974	1172	HAWKINS, JEANE	BRK	BRK	1670
4001	GOFF	Any	BKM	1850-1900	1172	HAWKINS, MARY	BRK	BRK	1667
4001	GOFF	Any	BRK	1850-1900	1172	HAWKINS, SARAH	BRK	BRK	1666
4001	GOFF	Any	HRT	1850-1900	4160	HAYCOCK MOSES	Littlewick	BRK	1843-1924
4174	GOGAY	Spitalfields	LDN	1800-1851	4126	HAYWARD	Dulwich	SRY	1800-1950
4107	GOODCHILD	Beeton	BRK	1600-1999	4160	HAZELL, JAMES WILLIAM	BRK	BRK	1832-1845
2420	GOODHEW	Any	KEN	Any	4036	HEATH	Inkpen	BRK	1500-1900
4154	GOSSY	Dublin	DUB	1700-1900	4095	HEMMING	East London	MDX	1850-1920
4108	GREGORY	South Ascot	BRK	1853-1999	4112	HENWOOD	Bradfield	BRK	1750-1950
4093	GRIMES	Chelsea	MDX	1800-1950	4141	HERBERT	BRK	BRK	1700- 1880
4093	GRIMES	St Pancras	MDX	1800-1950	4078	HERMAN	Ashampstead	BRK	1600-1800
4170	GRINDLE	Gloucester	GLS	1500-1900	4123	HIGH	London	MDX	1800-1850
4136	GUY	Bottesford	LEI	1700-1850	4126	HILDER	Ore	SSX	1900-1950
4108	HAINES	Clewer	BRK	1890-1999	4126	HILDER	Robertsbridge	SSX	1800-1950
3465	HANDO	Any	SOM	Any	2820	HINE	East Hendred	BRK	Any
3465	HANDOL	Any	SOM	Any	4093	HINKES	St Pancras	MDX	1850-1950
4135	HARKER	Abingdon Area	BRK	1700-1875	4123	HOARE	Axminster	DEV	1770-1791

No	Name	Place	Code	Period	No	Name	Place	Code	Period
4170	HOULDEY	Gloucester	GLS	1500-1900	4144	LEE	Maidenhead	BRK	1780-2000
4120	HUBAND	Bath Easton	SOM	1700-1820	4130	LEWIS	Reading	BRK	1830-1855
3795	HUSE	Bray	BRK	pre 1850	4182	LIPSCOMBE	Beaconsfield	BKM	1800-1900
4116	HUTCHINS	Wantage	BRK	Any	4182	LIPSCOMBE	Bray	BRK	1881-1910
4182	ILLSLEY	Bray	BRK	1818-1881	4182	LIPSCOMBE	Shoreditch	MDX	1841-1871
4093	ISAACS	Mile End	MDX	1800-1950	4110	LITTLECHILD	Any	ESS	1800-1900
4093	ISAACS	Spitalfields	MDX	1800-1950	4130	LOFTHOUSE	Coverham	NRV	1770-1855
4136	JACKSON	Barrowby	LIN	1700-1880	4001	LOVERIDGE	Any	BKM	1850-1900
4136	JACKSON	Wigston Mag'	LEI	1880-1999	4001	LOVERIDGE	Any	BRK	1850-1900
2420	JACOBS	Any	BKM	Any	4194	LOWES	Sonning	BRK	1800-1900
2420	JACOBS	Any	BRK	Any	3867	LUNN	Sunninghill	BRK	1750-1890
2420	JACOBS	Marylebone	MDX	Any	4093	MADDAMES	Ham'rsmith	MDX	1800-1950
1172	JENNINGS, THOMAS		BRK	1700	4123	MADDAMS	Stepney	MDX	1800-1870
4093	JOEL	City of London	LDN	1800-1950	4066	MAKEPEACE	Reading	BRK	1800-1900
4093	JOEL	Mile End	MDX	1800-1950	4174	MALE	Barrington	SOM	1855
4129	JONES	Easthamstead	BRK	1800-1999	4136	MARLOW	Shinfield	BRK	1700-1800
4129	JONES	Windsor/Winkfield	BRK	1800-1999	1172	MARRINER, HENRY		BRK	1630
3929	JOYCE	Dunmow	ESS	1800-1999	1172	MARRINER, JANE		BRK	1680
4174	KEELER	Queenstown	IRL	1847	3867	MAY	Stanford	BRK	1750-1910
3990	KEENAN	Birmingham	WAR	20c	4144	MCKEOGH	Ballina	TIP	1840-2000
4128	KEEVIL	Stockcross	WIL	Any	4112	MEDGRAF	Oxford	OXF	1800-1950
3990	KEMP	Birmingham	WAR	1880-1920	4144	MELLOR	Almondbury	WRY	1742-2000
439	KINGHAM	Farnborough	BRK	1775-1800	4151	MERRIMAN	Newbury	BRK	pre 1750
439	KINGHAM	Lambourn	BRK	Any	4130	MILES	Stepney	MDX	1850-1900
439	KINGHAM	Tetsworth	OXF	1800-1830	3867	MILLS	Bobbing	KEN	1800-1900
4095	LANE	Any	WIL	1800-1900	3867	MILLS	Upchurch	KEN	1720-1850

No	Name	Place	Code	Period	No	Name	Place	Code	Period
4129	MILLS	Wallops & Longparish	HAM	1700-1900	3867	PARSONS	Axminster	DEV	1750-1900
4129	MILLS	Windsor/Winkfield	BRK	1900-1999	4137	PAY	Brook	KEN	1580-1900
4123	MILTON	Any	DEV	1800-1830	4141	PENSTONE	Any	BRK	1600-1800
4123	MILTON	Bath	SOM	1830-1880	2420	PERRIGO	Any	KEN	Any
2364	MOBSBY	Any	LND	1861-1895	2420	PERRIGO	Any	SSX	Any
2364	MOBSBY	Any	SSX	1800-1881	3705	PERRY	Exmouth	DEV	pre 1850
4110	MONEY	Sutton Courtenay	BRK	1800-1900	3946	PERRY	Sutton Courtenay	BRK	All
4137	MORRIS	Binfield	BRK	1845-1855	1172	PEIT ROGER	Any	BRK	1718
4137	MORRIS	Finchampstead	BRK	1790-1860	3932	PINCHIN	Any	ANY	1066-1999
4137	MORRIS	Warfield	BRK	1820-1850	4126	PITT	Willesden	MDX	1800-1950
4093	NEWTON	Kensal Rise	MDX	1800-1950	3946	PITTICK	Caversham	BRK	1750-1850
4093	NEWTON	Kensington	MDX	1800-1950	4135	PLAISTED	Oxford Area	OXF	1800-1900
4151	NIAS	Newbury	BRK	pre 1750	4135	PLASTED	Oxford Area	OXF	1800-1900
2420	NICKALLS	Any	SSX	Any	4135	PLASTED	Shabbington	BKM	1800-1875
2420	NICKALLS	Any	SUR	Any	4135	PLESTED	Shabbington	BKM	1800-1875
4144	NIHILL	Killaloe	CLA	1840-2000	2364	PO(UL)TER	Any	SRY	1871-1997
1172	NORCOTT, MARYE		BRK	1590	3705	POTTS	Broseley	SAL	pre 1850
4144	NORMAN	Pt Sorell	TAS	1800-2000	3705	POTTS	Wolvimpton	STS	1800-1899
4130	NORTH	Reading	BRK	1850-1882	4068	POWELL	Gloucester	GLS	1800-1890
4108	NUNN		LDN	1885-1999	3705	POWLES	Almeley	HEF	pre 1850
1172	ORCHARD, HANNAH		BRK	1730-1750	2820	PRATER	East Hendred	BRK	Any
4093	OUGHTON	Chelsea	MDX	1800-1950	4110	PRAIT	Barnsbury	LDN	1800-1900
3867	OXLEY	N. Kent	KEN	1750-1900	4110	PRAIT	Sutton Courtenay	BRK	1800-1900
3946	PAGE	Cumnor	BRK	1746-1846	4130	PRAIT	Wath/Melmerby	NRY	1750-1950
4068	PAICE	Aldermaston	BRK	1700-1999	3990	PRESS	Friern Barnet	MDX	1880s
4068	PAICE	St Giles	BRK	1700-1999	2420	PULLEYBLANK	Any	DEV	Any
4154	PARKIN	Stoke Rivers	DEV	1650-1750	4137	QUESTED	Aldington	KEN	1790-1870

No	Name	Place	Code	Period	No	Name	Place	Code	Period
4036	RAVENING	Any	OXF	1700-1900	2420	SHARPLIN	Any	HAM	Any
4154	REDD	Charles	DEV	1600-1750	2420	SHARPLIN	Any	KEN	Any
205	RHYDDERO	Any	ANY	Any	4174	SHAWCROFT	Alfreton	DBY	1775-1821
3932	RINCHIN	Reading	BRK	1066-1999	4112	SHEEPWASH	Any	GTL	1800-1950
4110	RIITCHEN	Chingford	ESS	1750-1850	1172	SHEPHERD, ABIGAIL		BRK	1627
3465	ROBERTS	Any	LIN	Any	4130	SHERWOOD	Read'g	BRK	1791-1851
4135	ROBINS	Abingdon	BRK	1700-1875	4129	SILVER	Westbourne	SSX	1700-1900
4144	ROBINSON	Maidenhead	BRK	1780-2000	4129	SILVER	Winkfield/Windsor	BRK	1800-1999
4135	ROBSON	South Shields	DUR	1800-1900	3465	SILVERSTONE	London LDN	Any	
4093	ROGERS	Monks Kisb'	BKM	1800-1950	4136	SILVESTER	Stepney	MDX	1800-1900
4093	ROGERS	Princes Risb'	BKM	1800-1950	4123	SIMKINS	Birmingham	WAR	1825-1895
4112	ROGERS	Quinton	BKM	1800-1900	439	SMITH	Kensington	MDX	1850-1900
4154	ROLLE-DARKE	Maidenhead	BRK	1895-1940	4123	SMITH	Whittington	STS	1867-1937
4154	ROLLE-DARKE	Reading	BRK	1895-1940	4135	SMITH	South Shields	DUR	1800-1900
439	ROSE	Yarnton	OXF	1800-1900	4144	SMITH	Any	TIP	1846-2000
4107	ROSE	Warfield	BRK	1600-1999	4174	SMITH	Denby	DBY	1825
4129	RUDDO(U)CK	Any	SSX	1700-1900	1172	SMITH MARY	Any	BRK	1666
4107	RUMBLE	Illsley	BRK	1600-1999	4045	SOLLIS	Faringdon	WIL	pre 1750
439	SANDERS	Ealing	MDX	1840-1870	4045	SOLLIS	Hinton Waldrist		Any
4136	SANDERSON	Shoreditch	MDX	1750-1900	4174	SOULT/SALT	Duffield	DBY	1811-1881
4099	SARGEANT	Any	BKM	1600-1615	3257	SOUTHWOOD	Exeter	DEV	Any
4099	SARGEANT	Great Marlow	BKM	1615-1616	3257	SOUTHWOOD	Kensington	MDX	Any
4099	SARGEANT	Summinghill	BRK	1682-1683	3257	SOUTHWOOD	Windsor	BRK	Any
439	SAUNDERS	Ealing	MDX	1880-1940	4141	SPICER	Stanford	BRK	1600-1750
439	SAUNDERS	Egham	SRY	1860-1900	4123	STARKEY	Sutton Coldf	WAR	1800-1850
439	SAUNDERS	West Hendred	BRK	1700-1900	4095	STEVENSON	Kirkburton	YKS	1850-1900
4120	SCOPE	Shoreditch	LCC	1800-1890	3932	STRATFORD	Any	ANY	1066-1999
2820	SEARLE	Sandhurst	HAM	Any	4110	STRATTON	Stanford in Vale	BRK	1750-1850
4110	SEYMOUR	Charlton	BRK	1800-1950	4110	STRATTON	Watchfield	WIL	1750-1850

No	Name	Place	Code	Period	No	Name	Place	Code	Period
4136	STREET	Stepney	MDX	1875-1999	4144	WATSON	Edinburgh	EDB	1800-2000
4194	STUBBLES	Any	BRK	1500-1900	4078	WATTS	Reading	BRK	1600-1800
4194	STUBBLES	Any	GTL	1800-1950	3867	WEAIT	Reading	BRK	1750-1910
4194	STUBBLES	Any	HAM	1800-2000	4094	WEBB	Cookham	BRK	pre 1740
4194	STUBBLES	Any	USA	1800-1900	3946	WELCH	West Ilsley	BRK	All
4194	STUBBLES	Sonning	BRK	1700-1900	4107	WELLS	Hamstead Nor	BRK	1600-1999
1172	SWAIN MARY	Any	BRK	1787	4107	WESTON	Beeton	BRK	1600-1999
4130	TAAFFE	Any	IRL	1850-1901	4129	WESTON	Staines	MDX	1850-1900
4130	TAAFFE	London	MDX	1901-1990	4137	WHEATLEY	Swallowfield	BRK	1820-1900
4110	TAME	Charlton Want	BRK	1800-1900	4156	WHITE	Reedham	NFK	1800-1999
4107	TAYLOR	Beeton	BRK	1600-1999	3867	WHITEHEAD	Gravesend	KEN	1750-1900
4112	THATCHER	Maidenhead	BRK	1800-1900	3257	WHITEHORN(E) Brighwell /SotOXF		OXF	Any
4135	THATCHER	Uffington	BRK	1700-1875	3257	WHITEHORN(E) Lambeth		SRY	Any
4137	THOMPSETT	St Leonards	SXE	1850-1940	3257	WHITEHORN(E) Wallingford		OXF	Any
4144	THOMPSON	Milton	CLA	1850-2000	4107	WILD/WYLD/E Beeton		BRK	1600-1999
4127	TIDBURY	Thattham	BRK	1500-1900	4136	WILLMOIT	Shadwell	MDX	1800-1900
4137	TILBURY	Burghfield	BRK	1835-1870	3465	WILLOUGHBY	Any	CUL	Any
4137	TILBURY	Swallowfield	BRK	1870-1910	4110	WILLOUGHBY Wantage		BRK	1750-1850
4174	TILLINGHURST	Any	LND	1788	4154	WILSON	Dublin	DUB	1700-1930
4151	TOMS	Newbury	BRK	pre 1750	4154	WILSON	Liverpool	LAN	1900-1920
4094	TOWERS	Cookham	BRK	pre 1800	4154	WINDSOR	Hurley	BRK	1066-1940
3465	TOWERZEY	London	LDN	Any	4141	WISE	Thattham	BRK	1700-1850
4094	TRUSS	Cookham	BRK	pre 1760	3867	WOODHAM	Basingstoke	HAM	1750-1890
4126	TUNBRIDGE	Dulwich	SRY	1800-1900	4107	WOODLEY	Ilisley	BRK	1600-1999
4130	TYERMAN	Osmotherly-Thrisk	NRV	1700-1870	4123	WOODWARD	Edgbaston	WMD	1800-1884
4123	VERNON	Watlington	OXF	1831-1999	2820	WORBY	Any	NFK	Any
4116	WALKER	Lockinge	BRK	Any	4154	WYE	Marlow	BKM	pre 1900
4120	WARD	Cockley Clay	NFK	1780-1890	4135	YOUNG	Radley	BRK	1650-1875
4174	WARREN	Buckerell	SOM	1832					

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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.

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www.berksfhs.org.uk/

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Family Records Centre

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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

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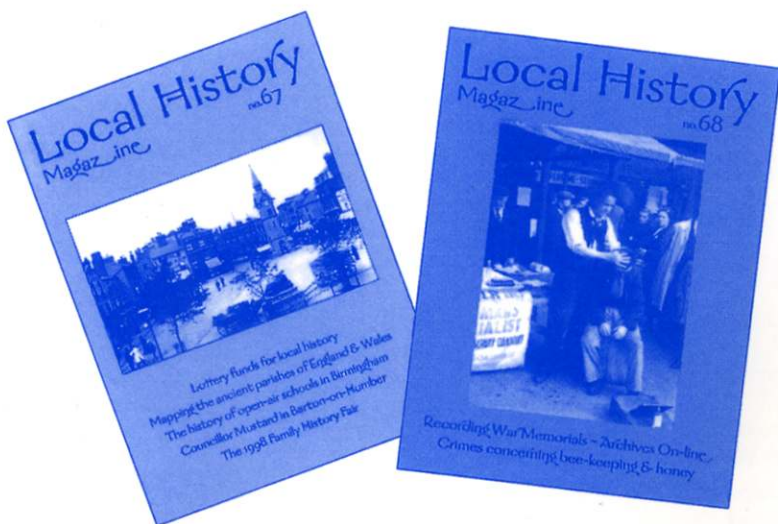
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In the event of non-delivery please return to

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The Bulletin

Editorial - Gravestones under attack

Graveyards in many parts of England and Wales will be threatened if a report compiled by the Institute of Burial and Cremation is accepted by local authorities. Written by Angela Dunn it suggests that tombstones should stand for no more than 30 years because of the number of accidents involving crumbling masonry. According to the study of the 199 authorities surveyed 1.5% reported accidents in graveyards they are responsible for – three of them fatal.

Although the memorials are the responsibility of the owners, the cemetery authorities are answerable for safety. The thirty-year rule would apply unless the onus for maintaining the graves was taken on by the owners. But family historians in the future may not come across a memorial for their family until many years after the burial took place. If this report is accepted then unless the local authority can trace the family involved, they may have the right to remove the memorial entirely.

This has already happened in many of the large cemeteries. In the older cemeteries in Greater London many local authorities have bulldozed acres of land with their memorials, to make way for new burials. Some, like Westminster Council, sold off cemeteries to private developers. It was only after a public outcry that the decision was reversed. Pressure will have to be put on

Berkshire authorities to ensure that similar measures are not taken here. The author of the report admits this is likely to be a very sensitive subject and that when considering the removal of memorials the cemetery authorities will have to consider the heritage of these sites, and that headstones will be spared if they have special historical significance.

The Society of Genealogists' policy is not to campaign for the preservation of headstones, providing they are properly copied, but that ignores the heritage of our past. Too many of our cemeteries have been allowed to decay to the point where the graves have become vandalised by hooligans. Alan Bennett after visiting his uncle's First World War Grave in Belgium was astute when he wrote: "if this foreign field were forever England the bronze door would have long since been kicked off, the gates nicked 'Skins' and 'Chelsea' sprayed over all". How should we preserve the past for the future?

Slough Branch Meetings

From January 25, 2000 Slough Branch meetings will be held at Windsor. The new meeting hall is at Christ Church, United Reformed Church, William Street, Windsor. As before meetings begin at 7.30pm for 7.45pm. For details of how to get to there contact the Branch Chairman on 01753 539975.

Roses to Roundheads

This is the title of the Federation Council meeting and conference to be held at Bishop Grosseteste College, Lincoln, during the weekend beginning September 1, 2000. The conference is being organised by the Lincolnshire Family History Society and will include speakers on a range of topics covering the period from the Wars of the Roses to the English Civil War. For further information and application forms write to Mrs. Brenda Webster, 25 Fen Road, Heighington, Lincoln LN4 1JL enclosing a stamped self addressed envelope.

Paddington train disaster

Most people living in Berkshire will have been touched in some way by the train accident that occurred on October 5. I have been a regular commuter on the Reading to Paddington line for more than 25 years, so seeing the pictures of the two trains after the collision was especially difficult to comprehend. I received a card from Una Wickett, from Honington, Bury St. Edmunds, who has been a member of the Society for many years. She writes. "May all of you who have been touched in any way know that the thoughts of those far away are with you. God bless and take care of you". Thank you, Una, for your kind thoughts.

Reading Town Hall Lectures 2000

In association with Reading Museum and Archive Service, the University of

Reading Department of Continuing Education has organised a series of lectures on life in Berkshire over the past millennium. Some of the keynote speakers, already familiar to Berkshire family historians, include Margaret Gelling, Brian Kemp, Ralph Houlbrooke and Joan Dils. The lectures cover a wide spectrum of Berkshire life: from church monuments, customs and manners in Elizabethan and early Stuart Berkshire to the changes that have occurred over the past century which has taken Berkshire from a predominantly agricultural county to the modern trading and technology centre of today. The lectures will take place on alternate Tuesdays at 7.30 in the Town Hall, Reading. The first lecture on place-names and landscapes will be held on January 25, 2000.

If it moves, tax it - hat duty

Did you know that between 1803 and 1811 a licence was required to sell hats: in towns and cities it was £1, and five shillings in rural areas. Failure to obtain a licence could lead to a fine of £50. In addition there was a graduated duty payable on all hats sold from 6d on hats between five shillings and seven shillings up to a hefty three shillings on hats worth 16 shillings or more.

More from the 1881 CDROM

Roy Stockdill, editor of the *Journal of One-Name Studies*, has been searching through the 1881 census on CDROM again. After finding Queen Victoria he's found more eminent Victorians. Florence Nightingale, the heroine of the

Crimea, was living in South Street, Mayfair; two doors away was the Earl of Lucan, who shared responsibility with the Earl of Cardigan for the Charge of the Light Brigade.

He's also discovered that one of the victims of Jack the Ripper, Annie Chapman, had connections with Windsor. She was born Eliza Anne Smith in 1841 to George Smith and Ruth Chapman. She married at All Saints', Knightsbridge, a coachman, John Chapman, a relative of her mother, and they lived in West London until some time in 1881 before moving to Windsor. Her husband was in the service of a gentleman at Clewer, Windsor. Annie was murdered on September 8, 1888, Jack the Ripper's second victim.

A 1901 Census update

The contractor for the digitisation and internet programme for the 1901 census is, as expected a government agency, the Defence Evaluation Research Agency. Charging on the internet will be based on the principle of the full cost of the service and rates will be set to encourage maximum use. Any profits will be used to finance the digitisation of other censuses. The charges have not been fixed, but the indications are that the index containing name and place would be free. To obtain a copy of the transcript would be about 50pence and to view the original, which could be downloaded, 80pence. There would be a minimum charge of five pounds, but heavy users may be able to maintain an account.

North Moreton

The register of burials for North Moreton for the period 1813-1891, includes the burial in November 1813 of three members of the Bland family, 24 year old Harriet, 36 year old Mary, and baby Elizabeth, all of smallpox; the suicide by hanging of Richard Woolley, 68, in 1816 and in 1844 the death and burial of "John Lamb alias John Moorhen", a travelling bottomer of chairs, who died in Wallingford workhouse aged 27. There are also some unusual prayers for an election: "pray that all candidates, agents, canvassers, and electors, may avoid every temptation to impute unworthy motives....and may refrain from making or embracing, unfounded promises". It's prayer that modern politicians ought to remember before every election.

South Moreton

The Berkshire Record Office has just acquired some parish records from South Moreton. Perhaps the most welcome were two volumes of overseers' accounts and rates for 1790-1808, thought to have been lost many years ago. They contain detailed records of expenditure on poor relief in this downland parish during a period of particular hardship in rural communities generally caused by a series of bad harvests in the mid-1790s which led to a scarcity of wheat and high prices for food.

Ain't this sweet - an entry from the 1851 Census

Geoff Mather contributed this entry from the 1851 Census at 69 Oxford Road, Reading.

Ellis, Henry F: Head: 38: Plebeian gardener and Chartist: Born: City of Chimney Pots

Ellis, Ann: Wife: 39: Fruitful wife: Household and maternal cares: Born: Ufton: BRK

Ellis, Mary: Dau: 15: Parents housemaid: Born: Reading: BRK

Ellis, Ann: Dau: 13: Parents housemaid: Born: Reading: BRK

Ellis, Henry: Son: 11: Much work and little pay: Born: Reading: BRK

Ellis, John: Son: 9: Helps brother and plays with the others: Born: Reading: BRK

Ellis, Charles: Son: 7: Goes to school whistling as he goes: Born: Reading: BRK

Ellis, Thomas: Son: 3: Stops at home and plays with baby: Born: Reading: BRK

Ellis, Edwin: Son: 4m: Nursed tenderly: Born: Reading: BRK

In deaf and dumb column presumably referring to his loving wife is: Can hear the Church bells: Talks to her baby and wears specs when daylight grows dim.

Kennington

The archives of Kennington Local History Society have been transferred to the Oxford Central Library. Before the local government changes in 1974 Kennington was in the ancient county of Berkshire.

Buckinghamshire Family History Society Open Day

The Buckinghamshire Family History Society will be holding an Open Day 2000 at Aylesbury Grammar School, Walton Road, Aylesbury, on Saturday July 22, 2000.

William Penn

Although William Penn, the English Quaker and founder of the colony of Pennsylvania was born in London, he lived at Ruscombe from 1710 until 1718, where he died aged 74. A Bristol based Community Group is carrying out research into the Penn family history. Any details of his family house, local correspondence, and pictures would be welcome. If you would like to help contact Jim McNeill, Chair, Living Easton, 10 Eastville, Bristol BS5 6JS

And finally...

If you like a Kiss go to Crewe, to see a Tart take a train to Telford and for a Binge visit Cambridge. This is not a vice tour of England, but a survey of unusual surnames compiled by a marketing and information company. Lovejoy, Flitter and Eighteen appear as the most unusual names in Reading. Unless of course you know better.....