

Berkshire Family Historian

The quarterly journal of the Berkshire Family History Society

March 2019

Volume 42

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excluding living people, authors of sources, royalty, corporate names, glancing reference to famous people and members' interests

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Editor's Notes

Another year already in full swing – where does the time go? Your March 2019 *Berkshire Family Historian* is again packed with personal stories, a look at another local archive, a guide to writing up your family history and news of new society publications.

Society events continue apace with popular walks, talks, courses and workshops. You will see in the Events Programme a new kind of event – ‘Scrapbooking for Family Historians’. Scrapbooking is a popular way to present cherished memories, and has a particular synergy with family history. If you’ve not tried it before – why not give it a go?

As usual there is plenty to do and get involved with in the society, from helping in the Centre for Heritage and Family History to joining the

Executive committee and having a say in the way the society moves forward.

Unfortunately, we are looking again for a new layout editor to pull together your magazine – please see the advert in this issue. If you think you can help, please do get in touch.

As always, we are pleased to receive any articles from our readers, and are always grateful for the effort, as they are invariably interesting. Please send anything you feel would be of interest to others to us at editor@berksfhs.org.uk. Long or short articles, it doesn’t matter, they all count and are welcomed.

Vicki Chesterman
editor@berksfhs.org.uk

Chairman's Corner



We have another packed quarter ahead which culminates with the society’s Annual General Meeting, hosted this year by Windsor, Slough and Maidenhead Branch. Advance notice of the AGM is given in this *Historian*, and more details will appear on the website, so do keep an eye out

for updates. It would be lovely to see you there.

If you haven’t already checked out the coverage for the new Berkshire Marriages Fourth Edition CD, please do so. It’s one of two more new products published this quarter. In addition, as I write this update, another batch of 32,000 baptisms has just been sent to findmypast for publication online, and more will follow shortly. Hopefully, this will help some of you uncover more of those elusive ‘lost’ ancestors. Thank you to the dedicated core of volunteers who have given significant amounts of time to bring these new products and data releases to fruition.

Thank you also to those who responded to our plea for more volunteers to help in the Centre. We still need a few more people to help, so please do get in contact if you can spare a little time on a regular basis. It is a hugely fulfilling role and one that is greatly appreciated by our visitors. And we are a very friendly bunch.

Catherine Sampson
chairman@berksfhs.org.uk

Notice of AGM 2019

And election of offices and trustees

In accordance with the society's constitution, notice is given that the 44th Annual General Meeting of the Berkshire Family History Society, will be held on Tuesday 25th June 2019 at 7.15 pm, before the Windsor, Slough and Maidenhead Branch meeting at the William East Room, Berkshire College of Agriculture, Hall Place, Burchetts Green, Maidenhead SL6 6QR.



Andrew Smith, Hall Place, Berkshire College of Agriculture CC-BY-SA-2.0

For location details of the venue, see:

[http://www.streetmap.co.uk/map.srf?
x=483350&y=181881&z=0&sv=sl6+6QR
&st=2&pc=sl6+6QR&mapp=map.srf&sea
rchp=ids.srf](http://www.streetmap.co.uk/map.srf?x=483350&y=181881&z=0&sv=sl6+6QR&st=2&pc=sl6+6QR&mapp=map.srf&searchp=ids.srf)

The main business of the meeting will be to receive a brief report from the Chairman on the past year's activities, to receive from the Treasurer the independently examined accounts for the year ending 30 April 2019 for acceptance and approval, and to elect for the year 2019/2020, the Society's President, Vice Presidents, Officers and Trustees. There will also be some minor changes to the society's constitution to be approved by simple majority.

Officers and Trustees form the Society's Executive Committee. The committee will be seeking to fill a number of vacancies to restore trustee numbers to their permitted maximum*.

* In addition to the branch member of the current committee who will be standing down having served the maximum continuous number of terms for Trustees, there are vacancies for ordinary Trustees

Without its full complement of trustees, the society may be unable to continue to provide all existing services. There is also the need for a Trustee to be found to represent Newbury branch whose current Trustee has reached their maximum permitted number of years on the Executive Committee, please speak to your branch committees if you are interested in joining their committee and representing the branch.

If you would like to nominate a member to the Executive, please let the Secretary know, in writing, **by Saturday 25 May 2019**. Nomination forms may be obtained from the Centre for Heritage and Family History, the Secretary, at Branch meetings or downloaded from the website at <www.berksfhs.org.uk>. Please ensure that the person you nominate is prepared to sit on the Executive Committee and be a Trustee of the Charity – all nominations should be seconded. Information about being a Trustee of a Charity and what it entails can be found on the Charity Commission website at www.charity-commission.gov.uk (publications CC3 and CC3a). Certain people are not able to be a trustee:

- Persons under the age of 18;
- Anyone convicted of an offence involving deception or dishonesty unless the conviction is spent;
- Anyone who is an undischarged bankrupt;
- Anyone who has been removed from the trusteeship of a charity;
- Anyone who is disqualified from being a Company Director;
- Any other person described in sections 178 to 180 of the Charities Act 2011.

After the AGM the Windsor, Slough and Maidenhead Branch will be hosting a talk by Kathy Chater on 'Film and Sound archives for the Family Historian'.

New in the Bookshop

Berkshire Marriages Fourth Edition (CD)



Berkshire Marriages CD, Fourth Edition, builds on previous editions. It contains nearly 200,000 marriage records, plus more than 22,000 banns records, transcribed from details entered in 232 parish and non-parochial sets of registers. Over 800,000 people are named. Fully indexed and searchable using a variety of finding aids. Details of the coverage is given elsewhere in this Historian.

Upgrades from previous editions are available at a discounted price (please return previous CD when purchasing upgraded edition).

Price: From new, shop £20.00 members £18.00, from edition 1, shop £15.00 members £13.50, upgrade from edition 2, shop £10.00 members £9.00, from edition 3, shop £5.00 members £4.50

See centre pages for postal rates.

Burghfield St Mary Monumental Inscriptions (CD)



This CD lists the names of almost 1,700 people and holds transcriptions of their monuments and memorials in the churchyard (including the adjacent civil cemetery) from 1735 to 2016, and within the church from 1327 to 2016. There are photos of every extant monument and interactive plans allowing plots to be located, and the whole is comprehensively indexed.

Price: shop £10.00, members £9.00

See centre pages for postal rates.

Family Tree Charts from ObituariesHelp.org

Suzie Kolber created http://obituarieshelp.org/free_printable_blank_family_tree.html to be the complete online resource for “do it yourself” genealogy projects. The site is a not for profit web-site dedicated to offering free resources for those that are trying to trace their family history.

Berkshire Marriages Fourth Edition Coverage

John Pearce

Berkshire Marriages Fourth Edition is now available to purchase via Berkshire Family History Society's website or face to face in The Centre for Heritage and Family History, Berkshire Record Office, or at family history fairs attended by the society.

This edition holds nearly 200,000 marriage records plus more than 22,000 banns records, transcribed from details entered in 231 parish and non-parochial registers of pre-1974 Berkshire, and one parish register from neighbouring Oxfordshire. These transcriptions name well over 800,000 people, providing a rich source of information for researchers.

The earliest records date from 1538 and the most recent are from 2010. Thirty-six parishes

appear for the first time with important new marriage transcriptions, including Cholsey St Mary, Faringdon All Saints, Stanford in the Vale St Denys, Steventon St Michael & All Angels and Wallingford St Mary the More. Significant additions have also been made to Binfield All Saints, Kintbury St Mary, Newbury St Nicolas, Sunninghill St Michael and Wallingford St Leonard. There are 13 new banns transcriptions, including major additions for Kintbury St Mary, Reading Greyfriars and Reading St Mary (The Minster).

In the tables below, parishes containing new or extended transcriptions are **highlighted in bold**.

Register/Place	From	To	Marriages	Notes
Abingdon, St Nicolas	1538	1862	1,329	Extended coverage
Aldermaston, St Mary	1559	1965	1,237	Extended coverage
Aldworth, St Mary	1556	1837	380	
Appleford, St Peter & St Paul	1567	1989	447	Extended coverage
Appleton, St Laurence	1710	1846	249	
Arborfield, St Bartholomew	1580	1837	360	
Ardington, Holy Trinity	1607	1812	261	Extended coverage
Ascot, Baptist Church	1958	1958	1	
Ascot, South, All Souls	1898	1926	199	NEW
Ashampstead, St Clement	1614	1976	537	
Ashbury, St Mary	1612	1836	1,147	Extended coverage
Aston Tirrold, St Michael	1607	1978	532	Extended coverage
Aston Upthorpe, All Saints	1862	1971	40	
Avington, St Mark & St Luke	1699	1971	187	Extended coverage
Barkham, St James	1542	1998	1,206	
Basildon, St Bartholomew	1540	1837	986	
Bearwood, St Catherine	1846	1979	845	
Beech Hill, St Mary	1868	2003	229	
Beedon, St Nicholas	1607	1985	631	Extended coverage
Beenham, St Mary	1563	1836	441	
Besselsleigh, St Lawrence	1689	1992	695	Extended coverage
Binfield, All Saints	1538	2009	3,138	Extended coverage
Bisham, All Saints	1560	1836	834	
Blewbury, St Michael	1813	1837	166	NEW
Boxford, St Andrew	1559	1982	1,005	
Bradfield, St Andrew	1559	1989	1,697	

Register/Place	From	To	Events	Notes
Bradfield, Tutts Clump (Methodists)	1921	2006	80	
Bray, St Michael	1607	1837	2,375	
Braywood, All Saints	1867	1957	342	
Brightwalton, All Saints	1559	1837	447	
Brightwell, St Agatha	1691	1837	183	Extended coverage
Brimpton, St Peter	1607	1982	782	
Buckland, St Mary	1605	1837	619	
Bucklebury, St Mary	1538	1876	1,325	
Burghfield, St Mary	1559	1987	2,218	
Buscot, St Mary	1607	1978	608	
Catmore, St Margaret	1724	1971	145	Extended coverage
Caversham, St Peter	1597	1936	4,146	
Chaddleworth, St Andrew	1538	1836	377	
Challow, East, St Nicholas	1754	1840	185	
Challow, West, St Laurence	1612	1635	8	
Charney Bassett, St Peter	1607	1834	123	Extended coverage
Chieveley, St Bartholomew (Oare Chapel)	1802	1853	40	
Chieveley, St Mary	1560	1837	1,403	
Childrey, St Mary	1559	1928	653	NEW
Chilton, All Saints	1607	1696	24	
Cholsey, St Mary	1547	1917	1,366	NEW
Clewer, St Andrew	1607	1837	2,399	
Clewer, St Stephen	1874	1972	499	Extended coverage
Coleshill, All Saints	1755	1812	126	Extended coverage
Combe, St Swithun	1560	1985	376	
Compton, St Mary & St Nicholas	1553	1963	1,104	
Cookham, Holy Trinity	1563	1837	2,207	
Cookham Dean, St John Baptist	1846	1911	337	NEW
Coxwell, Little, St Mary	1840	1949	138	
Crowmarsh Gifford, St Mary Magdalene	1598	1668	29	NEW
Crowthorne, St John Baptist	1874	1908	250	NEW
Cumnor, St Michael	1559	1948	1,977	
Didcot, All Saints	1571	1840	278	NEW
Drayton, St Peter	1814	1846	99	
East Garston, All Saints	1554	1837	569	
Easthampstead, St Michael & St Mary Magdalene	1558	1835	618	
Eaton Hastings, St Michael	1754	1811	50	
Enborne, St Michael	1607	1837	460	Extended coverage
Englefield, St Mark	1561	1938	635	Extended coverage
Faringdon, All Saints	1654	1742	890	NEW
Farnborough, All Saints	1614	2004	385	
Fawley, St Mary	1545	1850	303	
Finchampstead, St James	1607	1838	556	
Frilsham, St Frideswide	1607	1837	170	
Fyfield, St Nicholas	1813	1835	76	
Grazeley, Holy Trinity	1850	1987	462	
Greenham, St Mary	1612	1837	629	Extended coverage
Hampstead Norreys, St Mary	1541	1839	878	

Register/Place	From	To	Events	Notes
Hamstead Marshall, St Mary	1605	1837	277	
Hanney, West, St James	1564	1837	1,168	Extended coverage
Harwell, St Matthew	1559	1837	712	
Hatford, St George	1803	1836	26	
Hendred, East, St Augustine	1813	1837	128	
Hendred, West, Holy Trinity	1558	1833	435	
Hinksey, North, St Lawrence	1608	1730	151	
Hinksey, South, St Laurence	1607	1668	140	
Hungerford, St Lawrence	1600	1837	2,565	
Hungerford, Wesleyan Chapel	1886	1897	58	
Hurley, St Mary	1600	1836	806	
Hurst, St Nicholas	1579	2005	4,465	
Isley, East, St Mary	1609	1978	1,082	
Isley, West, All Saints	1560	1839	202	
Inkpen, St Michael	1607	1900	695	
Kingston Bagpuize, St John Baptist	1754	1836	136	
Kingston Lisle, St John Baptist	1560	1837	330	
Kintbury, St Mary	1557	1981	2,817	Extended coverage
Lambourn, St Michael & All Angels	1571	1837	2,286	
Lambourn Woodlands, St Mary	1842	1986	245	NEW
Leckhampstead, St James	1754	1985	412	
Letcombe Bassett, St Michael	1612	1856	228	Extended coverage
Letcombe Regis, St Andrew	1698	1840	276	NEW
Lockinge, East, All Saints	1547	1866	396	
Longcot, St Mary	1671	1850	393	Extended coverage
Longworth, St Mary	1754	1812	206	
Lyford, St Mary	1846	1979	90	
Maidenhead, Congregational Church	1879	1895	26	
Maidenhead, St Luke	1867	1892	499	NEW
Marcham, All Saints	1658	1754	189	
Marlston, St Mary	1907	1996	78	
Midgham, St Matthew	1608	1837	129	
Milton, St Blaise	1606	1753	254	
Moreton, North, All Saints	1562	1835	448	Extended coverage
Moreton, South, St John Baptist	1600	1837	371	NEW
Mortimer West End, St Saviour	1615	1680	85	
Moulsford, St John Baptist	1616	1837	104	Extended coverage
Newbury, Congregational Church	1839	1938	73	
Newbury, St John	1860	1913	747	NEW
Newbury, St Nicolas	1538	1854	8,131	Extended coverage
Padworth, St John the Baptist	1618	1838	181	
Pangbourne, St James the Less	1562	1841	636	
Pangbourne, United Reform Church	1984	1984	1	NEW
Peasemore, St Barnabas	1540	2003	644	Extended coverage
Purley, St Mary	1607	2005	1,106	Extended coverage
Pusey, All Saints	1615	1631	6	
Radley, St James	1599	1825	553	NEW
Reading, All Saints	1909	1980	1,694	

Register/Place	From	To	Events	Notes
Reading, Christchurch	1862	1877	218	
Reading, Greyfriars	1866	2002	2,492	
Reading, Monthly Meeting (Quakers)	1801	1835	27	
Reading, St Giles	1564	1991	13,141	
Reading, St Laurence	1605	1963	9,149	
Reading, St Luke	1909	1965	1,052	
Reading, St Mark	1920	2010	892	
Reading, St Mary (Castle Street)	1914	1997	169	
Reading, St Mary (The Minster)	1619	1954	12,295	
Reading, St Saviour	1922	1985	458	
Reading, White Eagle Lodge	1974	1991	5	NEW
Remenham, St Nicholas	1607	1963	480	
Ruscombe, St James	1559	1932	685	Extended coverage
Sandhurst, St Michael	1580	1837	396	
Shaw cum Donnington, St Mary	1563	1837	785	
Shefford Woodlands, St Stephen	1916	1992	25	NEW
Shefford, East, St Thomas	1604	1833	92	
Shefford, Great or West, St Mary	1599	1799	438	
Shefford, West, Methodist Church	1962	1971	5	NEW
Shefford, West, St Mary	1813	1837	98	Extended coverage
Shellingford, St Faith	1583	1960	507	
Shinfield, St Mary	1605	1837	1,020	
Shippon, St Mary Magdalene	1856	1975	253	NEW
Shottesbrooke, St John Baptist	1566	1915	351	Extended coverage
Shrivenham, St Andrew	1813	1835	217	NEW
Sonning, St Andrew	1592	1837	2,899	
Sotwell, St James	1606	1835	133	Extended coverage
Sparsholt, Holy Cross	1559	1812	405	
Speen, St Mary	1617	1918	4,244	
Speenhamland, St Mary	1847	1973	1,263	
Spencers Wood, United Reform Church	1902	1972	43	NEW
Stanford Dingley, St Denys	1540	1834	246	
Stanford in the Vale, St Denys	1564	1754	751	NEW
Steventon, St Michael & All Angels	1559	1866	679	NEW
Stratfield Mortimer, St Mary	1607	1837	855	
Streatley, St Mary	1607	1836	447	
Sulham, St Nicholas	1607	2001	622	Extended coverage
Sulhamstead Abbots, St Mary	1602	1837	419	
Sulhamstead Bannister, St Michael	1607	1837	185	
Sunninghill, St Michael	1562	1929	1,788	Extended coverage
Sunningwell, St Leonard	1741	1811	143	NEW
Sutton Courtenay, All Saints	1728	1786	287	Extended coverage
Swallowfield, All Saints	1607	1926	1,598	
Thatcham, Independent Chapel	1859	1880	37	NEW
Thatcham, St Mary	1561	1970	3,722	
Theale, Congregational Church	1928	1956	20	NEW
Theale, Holy Trinity	1833	1964	689	
Three Mile Cross, Methodist Church	1959	1983	20	NEW
Tidmarsh, St Laurence	1609	1979	307	Extended coverage

Register/Place	From	To	Events	Notes
Tilehurst, St George	1886	1905	250	NEW
Tilehurst, St Michael	1614	1986	6,600	
Tubney, St Lawrence	1848	1978	108	
Twyford, Congregational Church	1918	1951	11	NEW
Twyford, St Mary	1877	1918	250	NEW
Uffington, Baptist Church	1983	1983	1	
Uffington, St Mary	1612	1988	1,294	
Ufton Nervet, St Peter	1607	1836	502	
Upton, St Mary	1663	1735	28	
Wallingford, St Leonard	1605	1925	1,258	Extended coverage
Wallingford, St Mary the More	1654	1925	1,597	NEW
Wallingford, St Peter	1769	1967	543	NEW
Waltham St Lawrence, St Lawrence	1558	1837	748	
Wantage, St Peter & St Paul	1691	1848	3,076	Extended coverage
Warfield, St Michael The Archangel	1569	1837	813	
Wargrave, St Mary	1539	2006	3,558	
Wasing, St Nicholas	1612	1832	155	
Watchfield, St Thomas	1858	1958	255	NEW
Welford, St Gregory	1603	1753	146	
Welford & Wickham, St Gregory	1754	1835	568	
White Waltham, St Mary	1556	1836	982	
Wickham & Hoe Benham, St Swithin	1620	1699	38	
Windsor Castle, Royal Free Chapel of St. George	1627	1856	975	
Windsor, New, All Saints	1867	1898	499	NEW
Windsor, New, St John The Baptist	1559	1837	4,801	
Windsor, Old, St Peter & St Andrew	1612	1837	1,501	
Winkfield, St Mary	1564	1837	1,366	
Winnersh, St Mary the Virgin	1967	1999	6	
Winterbourne, St James the Less	1565	1837	268	
Wittenham, Little, St Peter	1539	1986	351	
Wittenham, Long, St Mary	1607	1834	160	
Wokingham, All Saints	1589	1837	2,691	
Woodhay, West, St Lawrence	1614	1836	231	
Woodley, Congregational Church	1952	1962	5	NEW
Woodley, St John	1881	1935	249	NEW
Woolhampton, St Peter	1636	1837	343	
Wootton, St Peter	1725	1977	649	
Yattendon, St Peter & St Paul	1559	1932	504	
TOTAL			193,840	

Information on Banns records may be found on the page following

Banns records

Register/Place	From	To	Banns	Notes
Avington, St Mark & St Luke	1756	1812	15	NEW
Binfield, All Saints	1754	1984	946	NEW
Brimpton, St Peter	1754	1982	688	NEW
Burghfield, St Mary	1754	1825	71	
Buscot, St Mary	1754	1812	150	
Combe, St Swithun	1755	1966	152	
Compton, St Mary & St Nicholas	1892	1955	281	
Farnborough, All Saints	1822	2004	218	
Fawley, St Mary	1754	1922	279	Extended coverage
Ilsley, East, St Mary	1823	1866	200	
Kintbury, St Mary	1754	1932	1,398	NEW
Lockinge, East, All Saints	1754	1802	73	
Peasemore, St Barnabas	1727	1948	346	NEW
Purley, St Mary	1756	1964	384	NEW
Reading, All Saints	1980	1998	556	NEW
Reading, Greyfriars	1866	1965	3,130	NEW
Reading, St Giles	1754	1822	313	NEW
Reading, St Mary (The Minster)	1811	1952	9,899	NEW
Speenhamland, St Mary	1847	1963	1,669	
Sulham, St Nicholas	1754	1944	136	NEW
Sutton Courtenay, All Saints	1754	1786	36	NEW
Tidmarsh, St Laurence	1754	1997	308	NEW
Wargrave, St Mary	1755	1995	1,477	
TOTAL			22,725	

Reading Register Office Moves

Many of you will be aware that the Register Office at Yeomanry House closed its doors for the last time at the end of November 2018. Since then the Register Office has relocated to Reading Civic Offices in Bridge Street, and been re-named Reading Registration Service. Marriages are now conducted in the Town Hall, with birth and death registrations taking place at the Register Office in the Civic Offices.

Birth, marriage and death records dating back to 1837 should, hopefully, have transferred to their new purpose built home at Henley Road Cemetery.

To obtain copies these historic records, you can use one of the following methods, all will end with a certificate being posted to you –

a) visit reading.gov.uk/life-events where you

can choose to order a birth, marriage or death certificate. Where it asks for the event date, if only a vague date is known, we have been advised to enter a dummy date (close to that suspected). They will conduct a search up to 5 years either side of the date given. Online orders can only be paid for online by credit/debit card.

b) by telephoning 0118 9373533. You can give them the known details and payment can be made by card over the phone.

In extenuating circumstances, they will accept requests in writing to Reading Registration Service, Civic Offices, Bridge Street, Reading RG1 2LU, giving as much detail as you can and enclosing a Postal Order. Cheques are currently not being accepted.

From mid February, the service has brought its fee into line with the General Register Office – costing £11 per certificate.

Dating a Photograph—an Unusual Approach!

Mick Henry becomes a detective to date this image



Candy Stores, Shurlock Row, 7th August, 1963

For some years I have had a photograph of a shop my parents worked in and the property they lived in which was attached to it, in Shurlock Row. We think, because of the angle of the shot, it was taken from an upstairs room over the road from the property, maybe Mortimore's Stores.

My parents, Edwin (Ted) and Peggy Henry ran The Candy Stores newsagents in the mid 1960s when I was just a young lad of 10 or 11.

I remember the home quite well and around the back there was a large deep pond. My brother and I used to trawl the pond with a rope and hook and occasionally we would bring up cow skulls, which we hung in the tree... children, eh!

The shop was attached to Boveny Cottages, a row of three or four houses. They were quite small homes to live in, but I never realised that at the time.

When my mother passed away last year, I took the photograph of The Candy Stores out of its frame and saw that my mother had written on the back of it. "Our Newsagents at Shurlock Row. Our house on left, Mr Vernon in rear through the gate. Ken Northway worked in the butchers next door called Yoxals." Mum reckoned the houses were built in the 1500s, but I'm not sure about that.

Anyway, I have looked at this photograph for some while and wondered if I could read the notices to the left of the "Ice Cream" sign and from these I realised the date it was taken.

So, I wrote down what I could see and waited for an opportunity to visit the Berk-

shire Record Office in Reading... it did not happen.

But then I had another thought, on the far left of the picture there is a rack of daily newspapers and you can just about read what the headline was on the bottom paper, "US Slams out at Six" and it is quite obviously a copy of the Daily Express. The Daily Express archive is accessible at www.ukpressonline.co.uk, so I put in the headline and up came the date with the headline as Wednesday 7th August 1963.

I have never seen any other pictures of The Candy Stores in Shurlock Row, so this photograph could be unique, but if any of your readers know differently, then please do contact me, as I'd be interested to know (mickjohnhenry@gmail.com).

There cannot be many who have extracted an exact date for such a photograph, unless it is a wedding or funeral, I guess!

A Most Extraordinary Coincidence

David Moseley tells us what can happen when you search the internet

Family history can sometimes throw up some interesting stories and coincidences. One even-
ing in 2017 I came across a notice in the London Gazette which surprised and intrigued me.

I had been researching my family history on the Newberry side and came across Rachel Newberry who was the wife of Nathaniel Newberry, my 1st cousin, 7 times removed, so not a direct ancestor. Rachel had died in Southampton Row, London in 1818, and I Googled “Rachel Newbury Southampton Row” - it’s surprising how often one can find something by Googling a name and a place. Nevertheless, I was amazed to come across a notice from the 12 October 2016 issue of The London Gazette relating to the same Rachel Newberry!

The notice had been placed by a firm of solicitors in Maidenhead, asking for any knowledge of the identity and whereabouts of any descendants of Rachel Newberry, the freehold owner of 14 West Street, Maidenhead, who had died in Southampton Row on 9 May 1818 (aged about 85 years).

Her husband, Nathaniel Newberry, died a wealthy man in 1790 and owned property in Taplow, Cookham, Maidenhead and Bray, as well as London. In researching my family history I had found several instances of wealth in various branches of my family, but such wealth always bypassed my direct lineage!

Having come across this reference to Rachel Newberry some 200 years after her death, I felt compelled to write to the solicitors. I soon received an email from a lady who had been employed to research the history of the property in Maidenhead, which, it turns out, was the Maid-

enhead Quaker Meeting House. A 999 year lease on the Meeting House had been granted by Rachel Newberry in 1805, and the Maidenhead Quakers wanted to trace any of her heirs with a view to buying the freehold.

Now the coincidence. My wife’s sister (who lives in Reading) is a Quaker but I did not know she was a Trustee of Mid Thames Quakers who own all the Quaker property in the Mid Thames area, including the leasehold of Maidenhead Meeting House. She had been one of the trustees who had commissioned the research and appointed the Maidenhead solicitors. When the researcher reported that a certain David Moseley had replied to the London Gazette notice it turned out to be her brother-in-law!

Not being a direct heir I did not pursue any claim to the property. I also waived my claim to 200 years of back rent, which I think amounted to slightly less than £5! The Quakers have since succeeded in buying the freehold.

Rachel made a Will on 13 December 1817, which was proved 20 July 1818 and is held at the West Glamorgan Archive Service in the papers of James and Collins Collection (a Swansea

firm of solicitors). It states she bequeathed her estate near Maidenhead to her great nephew John Forkes. She also left a legacy of £20 to the British and Foreign Bible Society.

Rachel was a subscriber to the Institution for the Cure and Prevention of Contagious Fever in the Metropolis in 1803. Rachel was also one of the original subscribers to the Capital Joint Stock of the Sierra Leone Company (instituted for the promotion of the Civilization of Africa) in 1792, purchasing 1 share at £50. So it would



High Holborn and Southampton Row
(Philafrenzy CC-BY-SA-4.0)

seem that she was of a philanthropic nature.

Southampton Row is a major thoroughfare in central London, and is, and has, since Rachel's time, been home to numerous artistic and educational venues as well as hotels. There are several large and magnificent properties which look to predate when Rachel was there.

About the Friends Meeting House in Maidenhead

In the early eighteenth century, Friends met in each other's homes. In 1734, a meeting house was built on land leased from William Wickens. In 1803, a replacement building was privately built by Hannah Wilson and Rachel Newberry

on the present site (14 West Street, Maidenhead). It was built by John Cooper who won the contract in 1801 (his son, Charles, went on to be Mayor of Maidenhead). In 1805 or 1809 they donated it to the Monthly Meeting. In 1871-96, Quaker use briefly lapsed and the building was used as a club for the poor and as a chapel for the Plymouth Brethren. In 1927, the building was deemed unsafe, it was demolished in 1934-5 and a new building erected in 1935.

The local council has identified West Street as a 'key development area' and is currently discussing a number of options, some of which propose the demolition of the meeting house.

Missing Pieces of the Jigsaw— Second Cousins Once Removed Unite!

Liz Butcher tells how a chance email brought a new relative and answers

Imagine my delight when an e-mail arrived one evening via *Ancestry.com* asking if I had any information to help with a family tree. The charming person who had contacted me – Anne – proved to be my previously unknown second cousin once removed and there followed an exchange of information from which we both benefited.

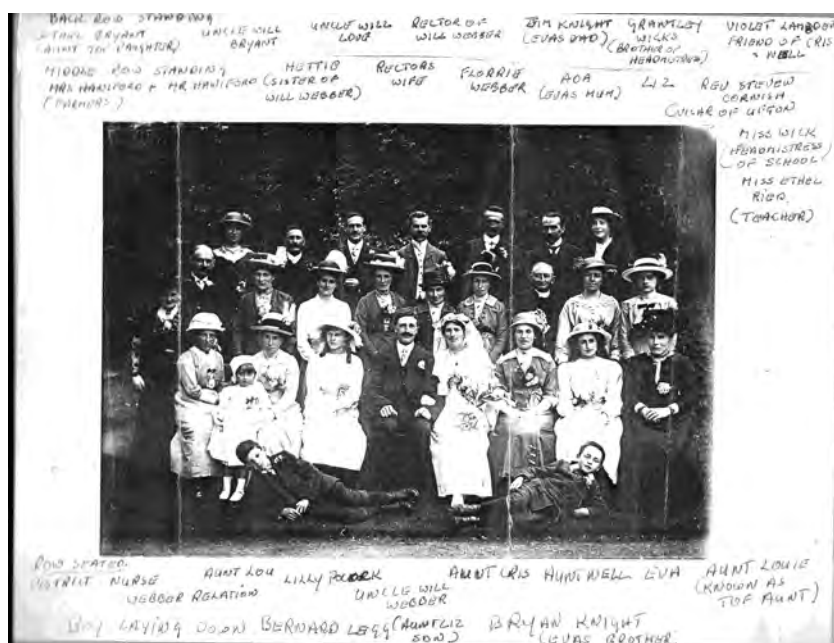
She sent me a delightful copy of her grandparents wedding photo with many names added. This was in 1914 and Anne's grandfather was about to go off to war.

I had previously found a newspaper report on this wedding which I sent to her, and she tells me that her family still have the "handsome clock" mentioned.

She shared a fascinating letter giving details of her grandfather's life as Head of Gardening Services at the Wingfield Morris hospital complex. He had previously worked at Sir Frederick Keble's garden at Boars Hill and for Sir Arthur

Evans, archaeologist, who donated part of his land (Youlbury) to the Scout movement for camping, two very wealthy and famous men.

Together we worked out that a hazy photo of a couple which she had, and also similar photos which I had, must be of her great grandfather, who was a farmer at Ufton and later Chieveley,



Wedding Photo of W Webber and C Briant

UFTON.

WEDDING OF MR. WEBBER AND MISS BRIANT.—On Saturday, in St. Peter's Church, Ufton, Miss Christina Briant, fifth daughter of the late Mr. W. Briant, was married to Mr. William H. Webber, younger son of Mr. J. Webber, Chieveley, formerly of Ufton. The bride has taught in the Village School for 16 years and has also been a helper in the church and choir. Many friends and well-wishers attended the ceremony and afterwards went to the School, where a reception was held. The bride, who was given away by her brother, Mr. William Briant, wore a dress of ivory poplin, and carried a sheaf of white lilies. Her tulle veil was arranged with a wreath of orange blossom and white heather. Three bridesmaids were in attendance—Miss Nellie Briant (sister of the bride) wearing a dress of saxe blue and a hat trimmed with roses; the two younger girls, Miss Eva Knight (niece of the bride) and Miss Lily Pocock (cousin of the bridegroom) wore white dresses and hats trimmed with saxe blue. The bridegroom was accompanied by Mr. William Love as best man. The bride was the recipient of many useful presents, including a handsome clock, suitably inscribed and given by all her friends in Ufton. The presentation was made by Miss Sharp, of Ufton Court, in the School, on the afternoon of May 29th.

Wedding notice from Reading Mercury 13 June 1914

John Webber, and his wife Emilie. This was very satisfying for me as I had long been comparing likenesses with others in the family, but could not be sure.

In one of the photographs, a group were holding guns, as if they were off rabbiting. It made me think of a funny diary entry by my father in 1933 in Chieveley when he was 26:

"Cousin Newton motored over at Dad's invitation for some ferrettings. They started out just as I got back from the milk round. After they had been out about 15 minutes or so, a young man came for Dad and I ran up the lane to fetch him. Dad asked me to stop in his place while he went indoors, telling me that his gun was loaded.

Picking up the gun, I stood in what I imagined was the professional attitude, hoping very sincerely that the rabbits would all go to Cousin Newton's side of the hedge. In less than five minutes a rabbit suddenly came from a hole, and after hesitating a bit, ran right across the meadow in front of me. (Before it came out, I had decided that if a rabbit should come out my side, I had better have a shot at it, or else CN would think I was a

fool or half-wit or both, or worse!)

I lifted the gun, sighted the rabbit, pulled the trigger and to my profound astonishment and relief, it rolled over and over and after two or three kicks lay still. This is the first time that I've used a gun or shot at a rabbit. When Dad came out again I went off to light the fire in the sitting room."

Anne also shared some beautiful photos of her grandfather William, who had been a "trooper in the cavalry", Royal Horse Artillery, and had survived a gas attack. He wears the bandolier but without a lanyard, which I understand is odd.

Two of the photos of this handsome man are of him recuperating at Moor-gate hospital in January 1918 in his "hospital blues" (not reproduced in this article). This is all we know of his military career and we wondered if

any military experts on the RHA in the Berkshire FHS might help us here; any pointers would be gratefully received.



William Webber

Sometimes those second cousins really come up trumps!

Please contact Liz at liz@butchers.me.uk

Events at The Centre for Heritage and Family History

March 2019 to June 2019



Why not combine your visit for an event with time for research as well? The Centre will be open for an hour before each event, even if it's not one of our normal opening days.

Month and Day	Event	Booking Details
March		
Tuesday 5th 12.00-2.00 pm	Drop-in session: Breaking down Brick Walls with Sandra Barkwith.	FREE just drop in
Tuesday 5th Arrive 6.45 pm 7.00-9.30 pm	Natter Group: Informal discussion led by Chad Hanna and Gillian Stevens.	FREE just turn up
Saturday 9th 12.00-2.00 pm 'Transport' 5 th Talk in series	Smith's Coaches of Reading: with Paul Lacey Smith's Coaches of Reading were an integral part of the local scene for six decades. Hear how a single charabanc business grew to become Southern England's largest privately-owned coach firm.	TICKETS £5 (members £4) includes tea and cake Advanced booking is recommended but you can pay on the door (subject to availability). Coupon code BARKHAM20
Tuesday 12th 10.00am-12.30pm	Guided Walk – Reading: with Terry Dixon Terry's 'Reading Walkabouts' get great feedback from those who book them. This easy-going, fact packed walk into Reading's rich history will reflect on Reading's strategic position and transport links over time.	BOOK £5 Members £4 Places limited, pre-booking required Coupon code BARKHAM20
Saturday 16th 11.00am-2.00pm (includes lunch break)	Workshop: Where there's a will, there's a relative: Tutors: Chad Hanna and Gillian Stevens This workshop will look at wills, pre and post 1858, plus other probate documents, such as inventories, administrations and death duties. Find out their benefits for family historians and where to	TICKETS £10 Members £9 includes tea or coffee Places limited, pre-booking required Coupon code BARKHAM10

Month and Day	Event	Booking Details
April		
Tuesday 2nd 12.00-2.00 pm	Drop-in session: Breaking down Brick Walls with Sandra Barkwith.	FREE just turn up
Tuesday 2nd Arrive 6.45 7.00-9.30 pm	Natter Group: Informal discussion led by Chad Hanna and Gillian Stevens.	FREE just turn up
Friday 5th 11.00am-2.00pm Includes lunch break	Beginners' Family History Course: Tutors: Chad Hanna and Gillian Stevens A series of four workshops for those new to researching family history including where to start, how to progress and good research practice. Learn how to work with core records of civil registration, censuses, parish registers and modern wills. Discover the different genealogy websites, the content they offer and their strengths and limitations.	Tickets: £30 for four sessions (members £24) Places limited, pre-booking required Sessions are held on 5 th and 12 th April, 3 rd and 10 th May Includes tea and coffee. Coupon code BARKHAM20
Thursday 11th 2.00-4.00 pm 'Grand Houses' 1 st talk of series The other talks in this series are on 25 th April, 9 th May, 23 rd May and 8 th June	The history of Coley Park House and estate: with Katie Amos and Mike Cooper Coley Park House, Reading, in its various iterations has a rich and varied history. The Tudor Manor House was built by the staunchly Catholic Vachell family. Its Georgian replacement, once set in landscaped parkland, would be taken over by The Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food after the Second World War.	TICKETS £5 (members £4) includes tea and cake Advanced booking is recommended but you can pay on the door (subject to availability). Coupon code BARKHAM20 Book all five talks in the series for the discounted price of £20 (members £16)
Saturday 13th 2.30-4.30pm	DNA Interest Group: NEW - self-help, facilitated, special interest discussion group for those wanting to get the most out of their DNA results. This follows on from last year's successful DNA talks and workshops and will run quarterly. Initial sessions will benefit from the expertise of international DNA expert, Debbie Kennett.	TICKETS £3 includes tea/coffee and cake Just turn up, pay on the door
Tuesday 23rd 12.00-2.00 pm	Drop-in session: Military Records with Trevor Maidment.	FREE just turn up
Thursday 25th 2.00-4.00 pm 'Grand Houses' 2 nd Talk of series	The Nabobs of Berkshire and their houses: with Clive Williams Nabobs' were employees of the East India Company during the 18th and 19th centuries, who made their fortunes in India and returned home to England as wealthy men. So many made their home in Berkshire in the 18th century, at estates such as Englefield House, Purley Hall and Basildon Park, that the county became known as 'the English Hindoostan'. Find out more in this fascinating talk.	TICKETS £5 (members £4) includes tea and cake Advanced booking is recommended but you can pay on the door (subject to availability). Coupon code BARKHAM20

Month and Day	Event	Booking Details
May		
Tuesday 7th 12.00-2.00 pm	Drop-in session: Breaking down Brick Walls with Sandra Barkwith.	FREE just turn up
Tuesday 7th Arrive 6.45 7.00-9.30 pm	Natter Group: Informal discussion led by Chad Hanna and Gillian Stevens.	FREE just turn up
Thursday 9th 2.00-4.00 pm 'Grand Houses' 3 rd Talk of series	The history of Prospect Park Mansion House and its occupants: with Katie Amos A local landmark in Tilehurst, The Mansion House is associated with many of Reading's more important families such as the Childs, Kendricks and Liebenroods. Katie Amos shares its many stories and rich history in this talk.	TICKETS £5 (members £4) includes tea and cake Advanced booking is recommended but you can pay on the door (subject to availability). Coupon code BARKHAM20
Friday 17th 2.00-3.00pm	Tour of Watlington House, Reading: with Michael Jones Watlington House has a rich and fascinating history. Built in 1688 for Samuel Watlington, twice Mayor of Reading, its walled garden to the rear has been much restored in recent years, whilst inside the house retains many of its original features.	BOOK £5 (members £4) Places limited, pre- booking required. Coupon code BARKHAM20
Saturday 18th 11.00am-1.00pm	Workshop: Scrapbooking for Family Historians: with Angie Catt Creating and preserving family history in bespoke scrapbooks has become increasingly popular over recent years. Find out how you can create scrapbook pages based on images from your own family history in this practical and hands-on workshop. Attendees should bring a copy (not original) of an image they would like to use. Scrapbooking papers will be provided.	TICKETS £10 Members £9 includes tea or coffee and scrapbooking materials Places limited, pre-booking required Coupon code BARKHAM10
Thursday 23rd May 2.00-4.00 pm 'Grand Houses' 4 th Talk of series	Padworth House: with David Peacock Padworth House is a grand 18th-century house close to Aldermaston, with elaborate decorative plasterwork by Robert Adam's plasterer. It was home for several generations to the Darby Griffith family and is tucked away in part of the original "park," with its own lake, next to a Norman church. Find out more in this fascinating talk.	TICKETS £5 (members £4) includes tea and cake Advanced booking is recommended but you can pay on the door (subject to availability). Coupon code BARKHAM20
June		
Tuesday 4th 12.00-2.00 pm	Drop-in session: Breaking down Brick Walls with Sandra Barkwith.	FREE just turn up
Tuesday 4th Arrive 6.45 7.00-9.30 pm	Natter Group: Informal discussion led by Chad Hanna and Gillian Stevens.	FREE just turn up

Month and Day	Event	Booking Details
June continued		
Saturday 8th 12.00-2.00 pm 'Grand Houses' 5 th Talk of series	The Duke of Wellington's Country House at Stratfield Saye: with Brigadier Michael Aris CBE DL and Richard Bennett DL We are delighted to welcome two of the county's Deputy Lieutenants to give the final talks in this series. Stratfield Saye House and grounds consist of 5000 acres and its history can be traced to before William the Conqueror. The house owes much of its style to George Pitt who played a pivotal role in its development. However, it is a house where the presence of the Great Duke is felt to this day.	TICKETS £5 (members £4) includes tea and cake Advanced booking is recommended but you can pay on the door (subject to availability). Coupon code BARKHAM20
Saturday 15th 11.00am-1.00pm	Workshop: Census Records of Scotland, Ireland and Overseas: Tutor: Tony Roberts Ancestors in Scotland, Ireland and overseas? Discover how the census data for Scotland, Ireland and North America can help you discover more about your family's history. This workshop also briefly looks at the census of some other English-speaking countries.	TICKETS £10 Members £9 includes tea or coffee Places limited, pre-booking required Coupon code BARKHAM10
Sunday 23rd 2.00-3.30pm	Tour of the Historic Buildings in the University of Reading: with The Friends of Reading University The Friends of the University will take us on a trail of the historic and interesting buildings found within the Whiteknights University campus. Taking its name from the 13th century knight, John De Erleigh IV, or the 'White Knight', the campus covers 1.3 square kilometres, and includes a lake, conservation meadows, woodlands, as well as most of the university's departments.	BOOK £5 Members £4 Places limited, pre-booking required Coupon code BARKHAM20

Your Magazine Needs YOU!

The editorial panel are in need of a new compositor to layout forthcoming issues of the Berkshire Family Historian. Unfortunately, Tony Jones, who has pulled together the last three issues, has had to step down from his role as compositor. We extend our thanks to Tony for his able assistance and wish him well.

The panel receives regular and feature articles from a variety of sources. These are edited then proofread before being sent as 'final versions' to the compositor who arranges them within the pages to become the quality magazine you all expect.

The new compositor does not necessarily need to be a member of Berkshire Family History Society, or live in Berkshire, as all production can be managed via email if needed.

Alternatively, if you would like to become involved in the production of the Berkshire Family Historian in more independent way, you may wish to consider becoming the sole editor managing the whole process yourself (with support from the existing panel in the beginning, of course).

If you feel you can help, or wish to know more, please contact the editor at editor@berksfhs.org.uk.

How to book

Use the society website

Follow the link for 'Events' on the home page at www.berksfhs.org.uk and you will find that you can either:

- Book and pay online, or
- Download an events booking form as a PDF, complete it and send it, with your cheque (payable to Berkshire Family History Society) for full payment, to the society at the Centre address.

When booking online, please quote your membership number and the relevant coupon codes to obtain your member's discount.

Coupon codes are valid for all bookings made between 1st March 2019 and 31st May 2019, regardless of the event date. The next coupon code will be published in the June *Historian*.

Book at the Centre for Heritage and Family History

If you are visiting the Centre, events may also be booked during normal opening times. The society is able to accept credit and debit card payments at the Centre.

Book by phone during Centre opening hours

If you do not have internet access, call the society on 0118 950 9553 during Centre opening hours and ask for an events booking form to be posted to you.

NOTE The society is unable to accept card payments over the telephone.

Contact the Booking Administrator by emailing booking@berksfhs.org.uk for details of the free parking arrangements on Saturdays and for any other queries. The Centre will be open for an hour before all talks for anyone wishing to do some research.

Between April and June, the Centre Exhibition will focus on 'Grand Houses'.

Dates for your diary

26-27 April 2019 Friday 9.30-18.00, Saturday 9.30-17.00 * **6 July 2019** 10.00-16.30

Family Tree Live
Alexandra Palace, Alexandra Palace Way,
London, N22 7AY
www.family-tree.co.uk/ftre/show/family-tree-live

The Family History Show, South-West
UWE Exhibition and Conference Centre,
Filton Rd, Stoke Gifford, Bristol BS34
8QZ
<https://thefamilyhistoryshow.com/south-west/>

7-8 June 2019 10.00-17.00

The Genealogy Show
National Exhibition Centre, North Ave,
Marston Green, Birmingham B40 1NT
www.thegenealogyshow.uk

27 July 2019 10.00-16.00*

Buckinghamshire Family History Society
Open Day
The Grange School, Wendover Way,
Aylesbury, HP21 7NH
www.bucksfhs.org.uk

22 June 2019 10.00-16.30

The Family History Show, York
The Knavesmire Exhibition Centre, The
Racecourse, York, YO23 1EX
<https://thefamilyhistoryshow.com/york/>

* *Berkshire FHS present with a stand – come and have a chat with us*

How to Write Up Your Family History

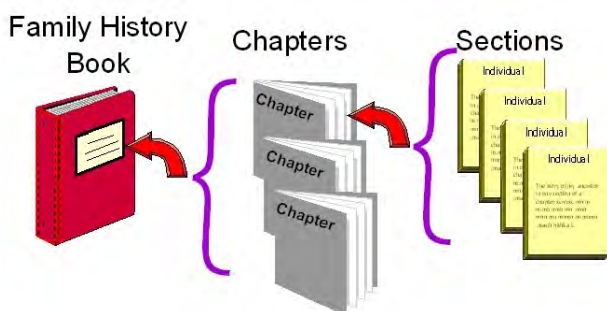
Barry Jerome shares the approach he has used to turn his family history research into a story

I began writing up my family history about twenty years ago. I wanted to turn my research into a story which included something of what life might have been like for my ancestors. One driver for this was an eager audience within my family who, I suspected, would be quickly bored by a list of dates and places.

I had a dilemma. If I wrote up my story and continued my research I would have to keep modifying it, on the other hand if I just continued my research I would never start writing. I thought a lot about how to overcome this, consulting books on the subject and looking at how others had written their family history. Eventually I decided on an approach that has proved to work well for me. New ideas have been incorporated but the original basis still holds good. This article describes my approach, which hopefully you may find useful, or at least provide ideas for your own approach.

Step 1 - Structuring the book

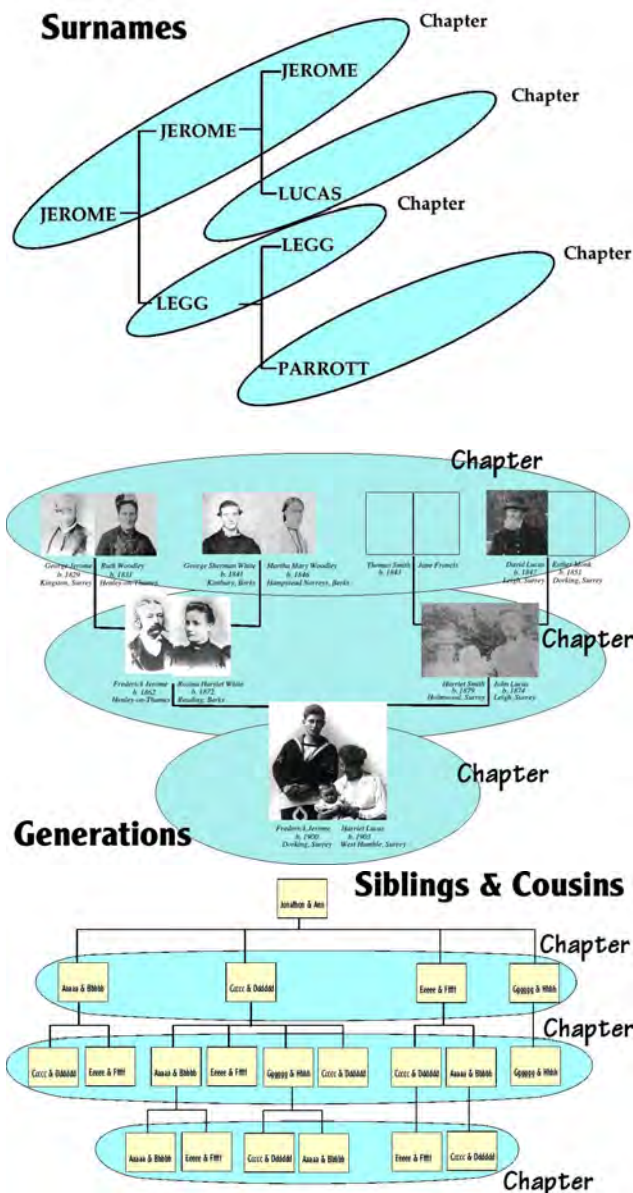
My family history book is made up of several chapters. These chapters are composed of sections, where each section is about a person.



Structure:

One of the first tasks is to choose what will be the contents of each chapter i.e. how will the individual sections be brought together into a chapter.

For example, there could be a chapter for each surname being researched, or a chapter about everyone in a particular generation e.g. parents, grandparents, great-grandparents, or a chapter



about siblings and cousins in a family tree.

I have used surname chapters giving the following structure to my family history book:

- Chapter 0 Introduction containing family tree diagrams
- Chapter 1 Jerome
- Chapter 2 Legg
- Chapter 3 Lucas

etc.

Each chapter consists of many sections, one for each individual, where each individual has the same surname. A chapter based on surnames does not have to only contain a direct ancestor; it could include sections for siblings in a family as well.

Volumes and Binding:

There could be just one, or more likely, several bound volumes making up the Family History book .

A volume is part of the family history, bound separately, to make it more manageable for reading and distributing.

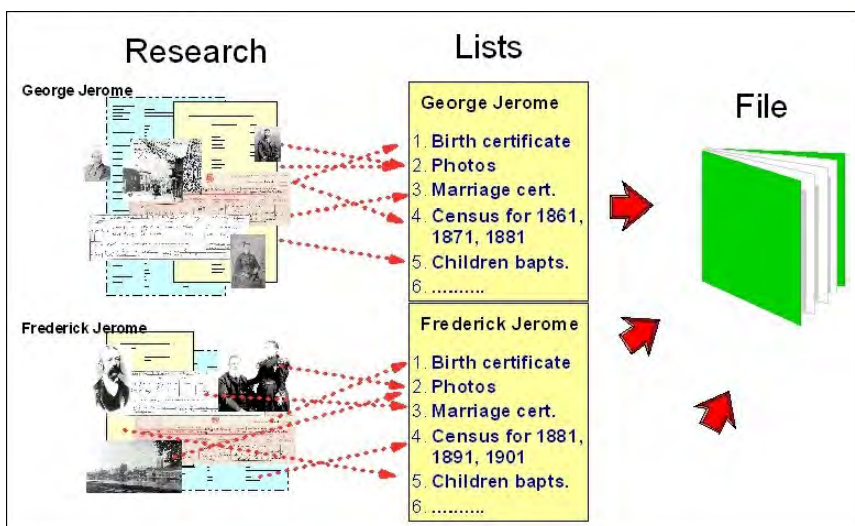
Examples of binding the sections (individuals) together into volumes:

- All chapters bound together into one volume => A single volume book
- Each chapter bound separately as a volume => Book consists of bound chapters
- Several or one large section bound as a volume => Each chapter consists of several bound sections

Preparation for writing:

To be able to start writing you need to know what information you have about each individual. This information will be what you will write about in each section.

I go through my research and pull out a list of the type of information I have for each individual e.g. birth, census, marriage, family, jobs, residences, death.



Step 1 Summary

- 1 Choose the structure of your book
- 2 Make lists of all the information you have about each individual you want to include in your book

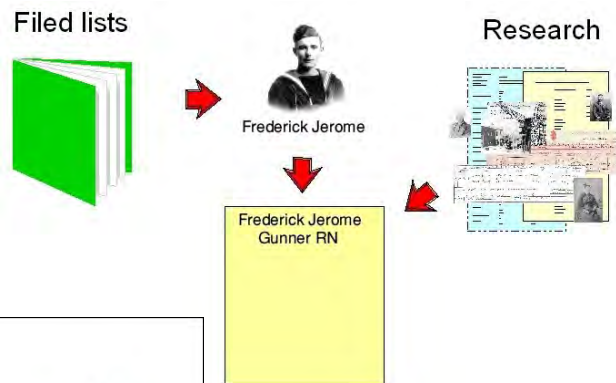
Step 2 - Writing the Story

The next question is where to start? With the book broken down into small sections the overall task did not seem so daunting, but which section should I write first? Should I start from my oldest discoveries or start with recent family members? It does not really matter - the most important thing I found was to start on a section which I would be enthusiastic about finishing.

What do I write?

That blank computer screen, or sheet of paper, can seem quite daunting. To overcome this I have adopted a mechanistic approach to getting some words on the paper or screen. I modify the words later to make it into a more readable narrative.

First I take the list of all the information I have about the individual. and also try to gather information about the lifestyle that the individual would have experienced.

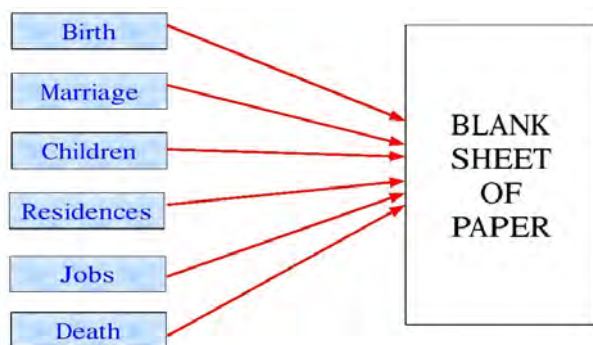


I then put a heading relevant to the person I have chosen. In my example "Frederick Jerome - Gunner RN" (my grandfather).

Using standard sentences

I use a standard sentence approach to fill in the blank

screen. These standard phrases would not win a literary prize, but they are a way of starting the story without too much effort. The exact words are refined later as more information is woven into the story.



A standard sentence may just say for example:

“Frederick Jerome was born on 18th January 1900, the eldest son of Frederick and Rosina (nee White)”

Step 2 Summary

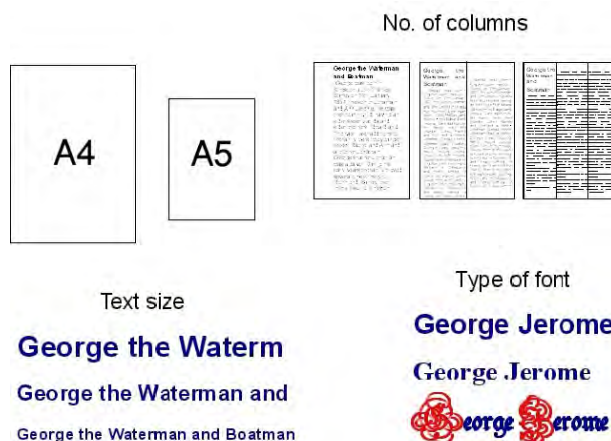
- 1 Select a person to write about
- 2 Pull out the list of information you have about that individual
- 3 Put a heading on the page
- 4 Use standard sentences to start writing about your selected person

not have to be old photos, a modern photo of the village church taken during a research trip can be just as useful. I also include coloured text frames to break up the plain text.

How do I make my story look like a book?

One of the most important considerations is consistency between each section in a chapter. This includes deciding on the size, format and layout of the pages, using font types consistently and using the same heading styles.

This decision is partly your own preference, but also consideration of who is your target audience to read your story. What size paper e.g. A4 or A5? What size font - larger fonts for an older audience?

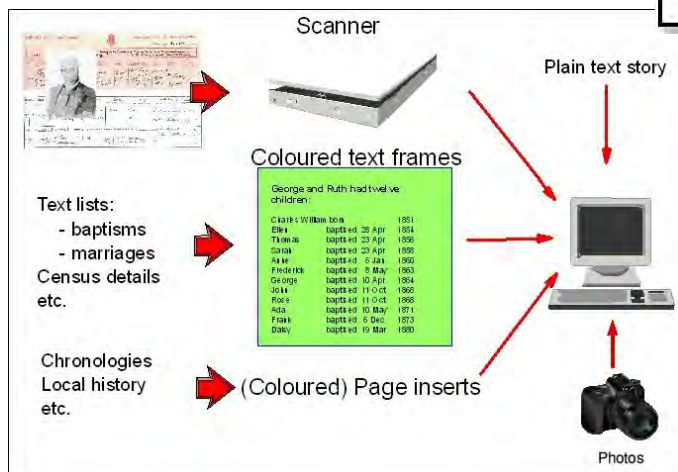


Step 3 - Publishing and Printing

Having written the story, I like to illustrate the plain text with pictures. This helps to break up the text and hopefully make the story easier to read and understand. Photos of the individual I am writing about are ideal, but this is often not possible. Other options are photos of places, for example where they lived or worked. These do

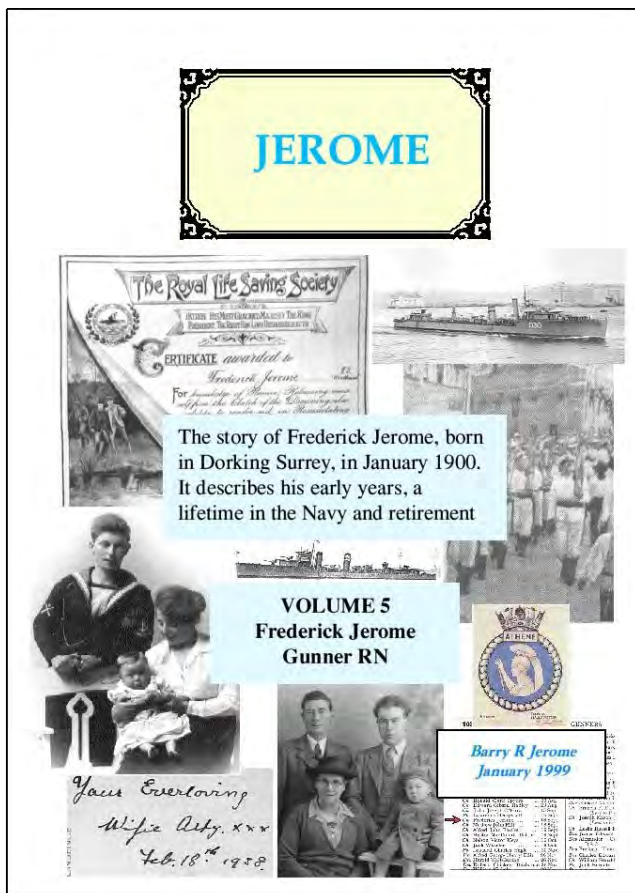
Step 3 Summary

- 1 Identify illustrations to include
- 2 Create the style for your book
- 3 Do a quality control pass, apply your book style to the text, add illustrations
- 4 Print a copy and ask a friend to review it
- 5 You now have the first section of your book



Step 4 - Collating and Binding

Once I have written a few sections I like to bind them together into a volume that I can distribute to my family and friends. I create a cover page and a couple of introductory pages for each volume. If you have a lot of information about one individual then you may decide to have a volume just for that person. The section of my book about my grandfather Jerome is bound in a single volume.



Binding options

The final stage is binding the pages. Numerous bindings are available, I started with a simple plastic strip to hold pages together. I now use comb binding having invested in a binding punch which I have been using for a number of years. For me it was worth the extra initial cost

as I think it presents the story in a way that looks good and the volume is easy to handle. It is now ready to send to my family and friends.

DIY or commercial printing and binding?

I have always printed and bound the volumes of my book. Commercial printing is an option but can be expensive for short runs, and also it is best left until you are sure that you will not want to update that volume within the foreseeable future.

Other ways of publishing

Printing is not the only way of publishing your family history book. I have also sent it out as pdf files on a CDROM so that it can be read on a computer. A presentation may be a good option for a family re-union. A website is another option I have begun. I do not publish it on the internet however, but distribute it to family and friends.

Step 4 Summary

- 1 Create more sections for your book (following steps 2-3)
- 2 Create a cover page for a volume
- 3 Print a volume and bind it
- 4 Distribute to family and friends (keep a distribution list of versions sent)
- 5 Consider other ways of publishing

Members' Interests

Compiled by **Bob Plumridge** memsec@berksfhs.org.uk

MEMBERS SUBMITTING THEIR INTERESTS:

8090 GRANTHAM Mrs B. 73 Pye Bridge End, Broughton,
Milton Keynes, MK10 9QZ
barbara345@btinternet.com

8090	GRANTHAM	Kensington	LDN	1870-
8090	GRANTHAM	Paddington	LDN	1870-

What Happened to Albert?

Lynne Smith tries to unravel a family mystery

Albert James Henry Peever/Cope/Kalvi was the brother of my paternal Grandmother Nellie (nee Cope).

Nellie's family had been split up when her mother – Ellen – re-married bigamously to Frederick Kalvi in 1891. Her first marriage was in 1880 to Charles Peever, Albert and Nellie's natural father. Nellie and her mother had been living in Eastney Road, Portsmouth close to the Royal Marine barracks in the 1891 census, but there was no Albert in the household. Frederick Kalvi (sometimes spelt Calvi) was a Royal Marine artillery gunner at Eastney Portsmouth, and it is thought that this proximity was how they met. Frederick sadly died of enteric fever (typhoid) at just 30 years of age in 1897.

When my father (born 1922) asked "What happened to [uncle] Albert?" all he had been told was that he went on a scheme to the Commonwealth, which might have been Australia or Canada, and it upset his mother Nellie to speak of it. So he never did again.



Albert in 1905

This photo is of Albert in 1905 which I surmised to be taken for his 21st birthday, as he was born in August 1883.

I feel if you have a photo it somehow brings that person alive, as they look out from the camera over 100 years ago, looking straight into your eyes.

Over the years I have subscribed to Ancestry or Findmypast at different times and asked relatives, but was unable to progress in my search for further information on Albert. A marriage registration for Albert Peever and Florence Penny in 1909 showed they married in Portsmouth, but nothing further. On checking birth and death records there did not appear to be any children born to them but it was one of those problems that I kept returning to.

I took advantage of a free newspaper archive one weekend and found a number of notices from his mother (Ellen) and sister (Nellie), in the Portsmouth Evening News. On 26 November 1912 a death notice was printed, reading:

'CALVI-PEEVER – In loving memory of my dear brother, who died Nov. 26th, 1911. To live in the heart is not to die. – Nellie

CALVI-PEEVER – In memory of my dear son, who died Nov. 26th, 1911, at Calgary, Canada.

*Darling Bertie how I miss you,
Could you speak what would you say
To your sad and lonely mother
Left to mourn for you day by day?*

This was followed by 'In Memoriams' in 1914, 1915 and 1916. As Peever is a relatively unusual name and I knew the 'bigamous' husband was called Kalvi/Calvi as mentioned in the obituaries, this was very exciting, especially as the region –Calgary, Canada - and a death date – 26 November 1911 – were also included.

After hitting the World Wide Web I found an email address for the Provincial Archives of Alberta, Canada and asked via email the procedure of how to track down a death

registration giving the facts I had. The Record office personnel replied next day saying they had found a possible match, told me the price, which was less than £6 and two days later after paying online, I received both a certificate of cause of death from Calgary General Hospital, and a registration of death from the Province of Alberta.

It was very sad reading. He was working as a checker in a freight shed for the Canadian Pacific railway when he developed pneumonia of two weeks duration and died aged only 28 in November 1911. To me it seems impossible that this information would have been found without using the internet. I had visited Portsmouth Record Office looking for other records 20 years ago and presumably the Portsmouth Evening News may have been in the archives. With no idea of Albert's whereabouts after his wedding in 1909 and his

witnessing his sister's wedding in 1910, I don't think it would have been possible to check all the papers for all the years, to have found that small nugget of absolutely crucial information.

Albert had only been in the country for five months. His wife Florence had previously been in Canada for a period of 7 months as a servant in 1906, then returned to UK and they emigrated together in June 1911 aboard the *Ascania* to Quebec. In the original Canadian passenger lists 1881-1922 it states he was to be a farmer and they took £96 7d which in today's money is approximately £11,000, which seems a huge amount as the family weren't wealthy by any stretch of the imagination. He had been a warehouseman at home.

It is a great shame that my father died before I solved the mystery and that he never got to find out "What happened to Albert?"

A Drake Dynasty or the Richard and Roger Saga

Paul Bryant unveils his confusing lineage

In the September 2018 edition of the Berkshire Family Historian there was an interesting article on the Civil War and its protagonists. Of course, there were many other side events taking place that are of more interest to the family historian. Take, for example, my 11 times great-grandfather Richard Drake who was born on 21 April 1609 in the parish of Westcheap, London to Roger Drake, a wealthy mercer of Cheapside, London and his wife, Margaret Allyn of Uttoxeter, Staffordshire. Confusingly there are many Richards and Rogers in this story as just about every Drake generation contains a Richard and Roger. Fortunately, many of the Drakes left long and complex Wills that are gold dust for genealogists.

Richard attended Pembroke College, Cambridge and graduated in 1627. In 1638 he became rector of Radwinter, Essex, a living bought by his father. He was also a physician – an odd combination. His elder brother, as you may probably

have guessed, was a Roger Drake, who also attended Pembroke College and then went to Leiden University to study medicine while being active in the Presbyterian church.

Richard's main claim to fame came in 1651 when he took part in the so called and ill-fated "Love Plot" that was a conspiracy to bring Charles II to the throne. For his trouble he was imprisoned in the Tower of London. It is surprising that he was not executed since this was an age when heads rolled at the slightest excuse. Christopher Love was convicted of treason and executed at the Tower on 23 August 1651. However, when Charles II took the throne in 1660 Richard was released and the King, no doubt aware of his efforts to get him to the throne, made him his chaplain. He became the Chancellor of Salisbury Cathedral in 1663. Richard died on 24 October 1681 in Salisbury, and is buried under a large black marble slab in the north aisle. The engraving is all but vanished with the

passage of many thousands of feet but is recorded as saying "H.S.E The Rev. Richard Drake. D.D. Chancellor of this Church, who died 24 Oct. 1681, aged 72". H.S.E is Hic Situs Est or He Lies Here.

Richard produced an autobiography that is held in the Bodleian Library, Oxford. Unfortunately it is written in Latin and there is no translation. I gave up Latin in my second year at Grammar School having sunk to an exam score of 13% and took woodwork instead, so was unable to translate it myself. He did, however, leave a complicated Will dated 15 October 1681. He had properties in Cheapside, London known as the White Lion and the Golden Key. He also has an entry in the Oxford Dictionary of National Biography.

His sons, Richard and Roger, were of no great note.

Richard's grandson, Roger Drake 1697 to 1762, was a partner in the firm of Drake and Long (with Beeston Long) who were in the sugar trade in the West Indies. The Company built the docks at Wapping, London. No doubt they were also into the slave trade. Roger married Jane Long, the sister of Beeston Long. You can speculate as to whether he married Jane as a result of being a partner with Beeston or married first as a way into the company. A cousin, Edward Beeston Long, owned the Lucky Valley Estate, Clarendon, Jamaica together with its complement of slaves. I doubt whether it was lucky for the slaves! The Long family is large and intricate and appear to have made their fortunes in the West Indies.

A second grandson, Richard, sired his great-grandson Roger Drake 24 September 1721- 4 April 1765. Roger went to India in May 1737 as a "writer" or civil servant and was made Governor of Calcutta on 8 August 1752. I suspect that he may have got his job through his connections with his uncle Roger of Drake and Long. He married Mary Coals on 10 January 1742/43. Their first daughter Mary was born in 1744 and died in 1748. Their second daughter Charlotte was born in 1747 and also died the same year. Their third daughter Millicent was born in 1749 and survived to return to England. She married into the aristocracy when wedding John Talbot

Dillon. Unfortunate Roger's wife Mary died shortly after Millicent was born, presumably of birth complications. Life goes on and it seems Roger married or lived with Mary's sister Martha who bore him three sons - Roger, Richard and Nathaniel - although there are no records of their births. Apparently, it was frowned upon to marry your wife's sister although it often happened in the colonies. The records of births, marriages and deaths in Calcutta are poor as the transcriptions contain numerous errors and the records I seek may be there in some jumbled form.

Roger offended the new Nawab of Bengal, Surraj-ud Daulah, over a plan to strengthen the defences of Calcutta and, in consequence, the Nawab attacked Calcutta in June 1756. Roger fled down the Hooghly river. It seems Roger was a Quaker and so a pacifist and that may account for his action. He was also high up in the Bengal Masons. After the successful attack the Nawab locked numerous residents in a small room where many died - the infamous called 'Black Hole of Calcutta'. One who died was recorded as Nathan Drake who I suspect was Nathaniel. Martha may well have been another casualty as there is no record of her death just as there is no record of her marriage or the births of her three children. However, a John Coals died in the Black Hole and left a small fortune of 52,000 Rupees to Millicent, Roger, Richard and Nathaniel. He was a relation of Mary and Martha although I cannot find the exact connection.

Clive of India (Major-General Robert Clive), who recaptured Calcutta, was none too pleased, and Roger was back in England in 1757. He first rented a house in Hanover Square, London, being very wealthy from successful trading. He at once married Henrietta Mary Baker on 16 October 1759. They rapidly produced a son, George, on 22 August 1760.

Roger bought the Fern Hill or Farm Hill or Farn Hill estate in Windsor from Elizabeth Clayton in June 1764. He was in the process of adding a substantial extension when he died on 4 April 1765 in London. There was an Act of Parliament involved when the property was sold in 1767, to enable the trustees of his Will to dispose of the property, these being Beeston Long and his

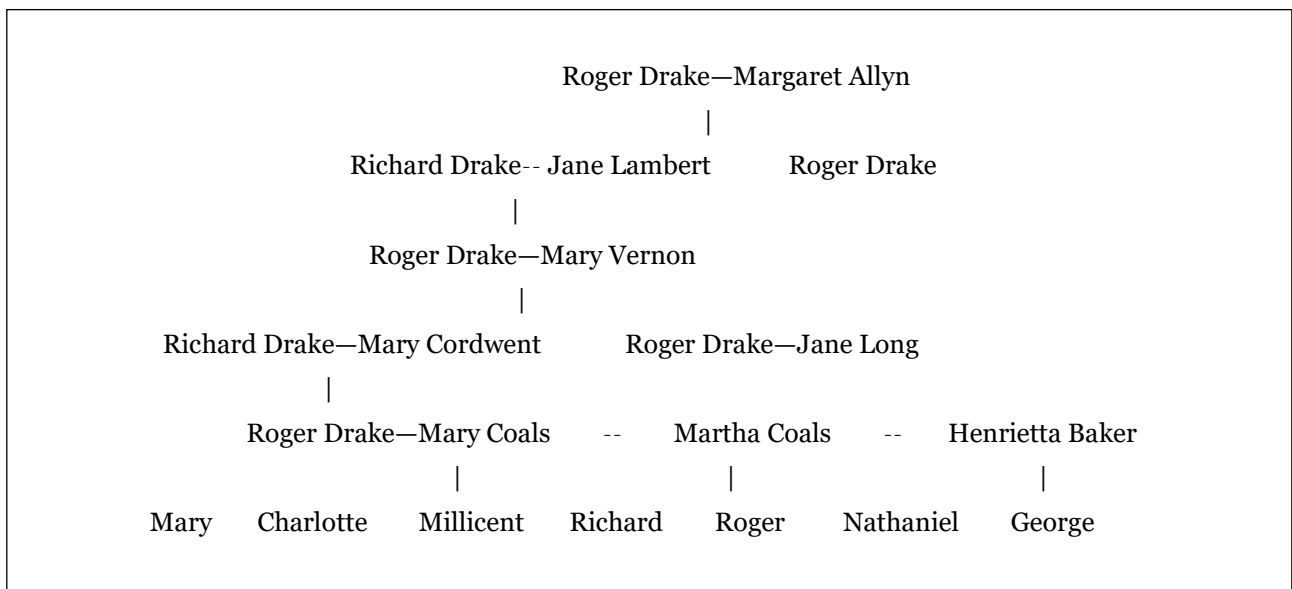
brother, another Richard Drake. Curiously the Drake ownership of the estate is not mentioned in the history of the Fern Hill site on the internet. Roger left an extensive and detailed Will and, from the codicil, it would appear he died of a stroke. He was buried in an unmarked vault in the crypt of St. Margaret's, Westminster, London. Incidentally, the estate is now on the market for £48M.

Roger, son of Roger the Governor of Calcutta, went to Italy apprenticed to a large merchant in Turin. George joined the Horse Guards in 1778. He achieved the rank of Major commandant in 1798. That is the last we hear of him, maybe he expired in the Napoleonic wars? Richard also joined the army, but I can find no record of his service apart from a scrap of paper passed down the family. He turns up in Dingestow in Monmouth, Wales in 1800 with a 14 year old daughter Amelia from whom I am descended. After that he vanishes, maybe also a victim of the Napoleonic Wars?

There are about 60 people in the Drake dynasty many of whom left wills. I have hopes but have yet to meet anyone else researching this area.



Robert, Lord Clive 'Clive of India' by Thomas Gainsborough (Wellcome Collection CC-BY-4.0)



Lifting the Lid on some of our Local Archives and Museums

The Berkshire Yeomanry since 1794: over Two Centuries of Volunteer Service

The Berkshire Yeomanry has a distinguished history of more than two hundred years' service to the nation. Recruited from all corners of the county, the regiment has had variously roles as cavalry, machine gunners, artillery, infantry, signals, and even cameleers and bicyclists. Like all Yeomanry units throughout the UK, the regiment has had to adapt to the constant tide of change brought about by war, by changing military requirements, and by restricted Government finances.

Building on a fine tradition of volunteer soldiering begun during the Napoleonic Wars of the late eighteenth century, the Berkshire Yeomanry has seen action in a variety of conflicts over the past two hundred years. From maintaining law and order during the social unrest of the mid-nineteenth century, through to the Boer War at the end of that century, followed by the two World Wars of the twentieth century, and more recently on operations in Iraq and Afghanistan, the regiment has served its sovereign and country with distinction.

In particular, the First and Second World Wars saw the regiment involved in some of the heaviest fighting. During the First World War the regiment was in action at Gallipoli in 1915, in Palestine during 1917 and on the Western Front in 1918. In the Far East towards the end of the Second World War, the regiment was embroiled in the bloody attempts to restore order in Indonesia following a full-scale insurrection.

Today, as part of the Army Reserve, the regiment continues to build on its many fine traditions. Between 2000 and 2014, members of the Berkshire Yeomanry provided support for the British Army deployed on operations in Former Yugoslavia, Iraq and Afghanistan. Altogether 104 operational tours were completed by members of the regiment.

Berkshire Yeomanry Museum

The Museum was founded in 1974 and today

contains a varied collection of artefacts illustrating the roles, arms and uniforms adopted by the Berkshire Yeomanry since its beginnings in 1794. The collection also covers the regiment's activities during the Boer War and the First and Second World Wars.

The Museum is owned and funded by a small charitable trust whose aims are (i) the upholding of the traditions of the Berkshire Yeomanry, (ii) the perpetuating of the regiment's deeds, and (iii) the preservation of the Museum collection.

The Museum is administered entirely by volunteers. It is located within the Army Reserve Centre in Windsor and is generally open on Tuesday evenings, between 6 pm and 8 pm, and by appointment. Admission is free.

Contact details are shown below.

Berkshire Yeomanry Museum Archive

In recent years the Museum has expanded its archive and now has a considerable amount of detail relating to officers and soldiers who served in the regiment. Museum volunteers regularly handle enquiries from family descendants and from those undertaking research into local or military history. The Museum does not charge for research or for access to the archive.

The archive contains a large collection of photographs, letters, keepsakes and mementoes, much of which has been kindly donated by many former members of the regiment. A large part of the archive covers the First and Second World Wars and includes a sizeable collection of Second World War documents comprising regimental orders, field battery diaries and the official regimental war diary.

Museum volunteers have given illustrated talks on the Berkshire Yeomanry to local schools and local organisations such as the Museum of English Rural Life, Newbury Field Club and

Royal British Legion branches.

The Museum actively welcomes visits from anyone seeking to research details of former members of the Berkshire Yeomanry. However, the Museum's records, including the photographic archive, are not readily in a format that can be independently searched by members of the public.

Museum volunteers are more than happy to provide the necessary assistance to search the archive on an enquirer's behalf and to offer suggestions for further lines of enquiry.

The best way to start an enquiry is to get in touch with the Museum through the museum website (details below) or write to the Curator (*by post or email via the website*) setting out the nature of the enquiry. If the enquiry is about a specific individual then it is helpful to provide, if possible, some basic information about the individual including approximate dates of service in the Berkshire Yeomanry.

Museum volunteers are pro-active in the research process and from small beginnings the archive has grown so that it now holds details of one sort or another of over three thousand Berkshire Yeomanry soldiers. The type of records available often depends on whether an individual served as an officer or as an "other rank".

Museum volunteers have access to various online sites such as the London Gazette, the

British Newspaper Archive, Ancestry and the Great War Forum. The archive includes many records that have been downloaded naming soldiers and describing their activities to a greater or lesser extent. However for data protection reasons the Museum does not have direct access to Army Records and therefore the archive is less than complete.

Sometimes of course the archive does not contain any specific information about an individual soldier but Museum volunteers can often provide considerable context for that individual based on factors such as date of enlistment and home address. Museum volunteers can also provide advice on other avenues of research such as at the National Archive, the Berkshire Record Office, the Army Personnel Centre, and the Australian War Memorial (where appropriate).

The Museum trustees take the view that the Museum and enquirer both benefit from the exchange of information that occurs during the research process and, consequently, no charge is made for the research work undertaken by Museum volunteers.

The Museum has recently established its own website berkshireyeomanrymuseum.co.uk and is planning over the next decade or so to publish further archive material on this website.

The following photographs illustrate some of the items in the Museum's collection.



Tarleton helmet, dating from 1794, comprising leather skull cap and peak, with bearskin crest and red and white plume. Name band Berkshire White Horse Cavalry and badge on right side showing Hanoverian leaping horse with regimental motto "Ducit Amor". Refurbished by the Armourer of the Royal Collection in March 1997. The work included a new bearskin cover and feather plume.

Vickers (Enfield) Heavy machine gun: water-cooled; .303in bore, no 619, mounted on a tripod with ammo box and dummy belted ammo. Used in support role by the regiment in 1918 as a unit in the Machine Gun Corps. The weapon was crewed by a subsection of 6 men.





25 pounder Quick Firing Gun Mark II: Field gun issued to Royal Artillery units from the late 1930s. Issued to the regiment from May 1941 and used in action in the Far East in 1945 and 1946. Withdrawn from the regiment in 1961.

Telephone Switchboard F&F (Field and Fortress) serial no 5877. Manufactured c1938. A collapsible wooden-cased switchboard for use in the field or in buildings, capable of serving up to 60 extensions and operated by Central Battery or Manual Magneto signalling. For transport and storage the whole unit fitted into the wooden case forming the base. This particular example was in use with 94 (Berkshire Yeomanry) Signal Squadron for many years and was last deployed by them on Exercise Crusader in September 1980.



Example of a troop photograph from August 1914 at the outbreak of the First World War

CONTACT DETAILS

Location:	The Army Reserve Centre, Bolton Road, Windsor SL4 3JG	
Appointments:	01753 860600	
Research Contact:	Andrew French	andrewgfrench@hotmail.com
Archivist:	Wayne Ratcliffe	wayne.ratcliffe@hotmail.co.uk
Website:	www.berkshireyeomanrymuseum.co.uk	

The Centre for Heritage and Family History

Gain a new perspective on your research from the Centre

Centre for Heritage and Family History, 2nd Floor, Reading Central Library, Abbey Square, Reading, Berkshire, RG1 3BQ

www.berksfhs.org.uk 0118 950 9553 *centre@berksfhs.org.uk*

Main features of the new research zone

- **FREE admission** for everyone
- **FREE of charge access to burgeoning online datasets** of Findmypast, The 1939 Register, The British Newspaper Archive, Ancestry worldwide edition and The Genealogist
- **Research assistants** — society volunteers provide expert advice and support where needed
- **Printing and photocopying** available for a nominal charge
- **Dedicated PC preloaded with Berkshire data** (including baptisms, marriages, burials, probate records and trade directories). Data from many other English counties too, including the National Burial Index, 3rd edition
- **Reference library** containing an extensive collection of primary and secondary source material such as Berkshire trade directories. You can also copy material, subject to provisions of UK copyright law
- **Microfiche data** is available on most English counties
- **Complementary resources** — Reading's top-class local studies library adjoins the Centre
- **Quarterly exhibitions** to inspire your research
- **The Bookshop** with society publications, and a range of products in electronic and print formats. These include transcriptions, indexes, general and local guides for family historians, maps and a selection of local history books for Berkshire and adjoining counties. Browse and purchase at the Centre (credit and debit card payments accepted)
- **Refreshments** — tea and coffee, at just £1.00 a cup
- **Lockers** to ensure that your personal possessions and valuables stay secure at all times.

Opening hours (correct at time of going to press)

Mondays	11.00 to 16.00
Tuesdays	10.30 to 16.00 and 18.45 to 21.00
Saturdays	10.30 to 14.30
And last Thursday in the month	10.30 to 16.00



Assisting family historians at a distance

The society recognises that not everyone can take up the research benefits of the Centre straight away. Keep in mind that the website, discussion list, and social media like Twitter and Facebook still offer you the means to benefit from the collective expertise and experience of fellow researchers.

In addition the society offers an established postal/online search service of Berkshire names based on:

Berkshire baptisms

Berkshire marriages

Berkshire burials

Berkshire probate index

Simply nominate a surname (or several surnames) to access information. The detail supplied for each entry will vary depending on the particular database, and the content of any individual record within it.

You can request searches online or by post. Current charges are:

- **Individual database search: £3 per surname per database.** You will receive full details, to a maximum of 25 entries. Where there are more than 25 entries (likely for more commonly encountered Berkshire surnames), the society will let you know what the extra cost would be of supplying them all.
- **Search of all available databases: £6 per specified surname.** You will receive full details, to a maximum of 25 entries per database. Again, the society will advise the extra cost if there are more entries than this.

To obtain an estimate of likely costs for any searches that you are considering, or to resolve any other query, contact *berksnamesearch@berksfhs.org.uk*

For postal requests, you need to enclose a large A4 self-addressed envelope and stamps to cover return cost. (UK Large Letter size, First Class £1.01, Second Class 79p; Overseas postage costs will be between £2.65 and £3.45 according to country. Prices correct at July 2018.) Send postal search requests to Berkshire Name Search at the Centre for Heritage and Family History.

Or supply an email address and results will be emailed to you. In case of any queries, it is helpful to provide a UK phone number too.

Around the Branches

Bracknell and Wokingham Branch

bracknell@berksfhs.org.uk

In October, Mark Bowman gave his talk entitled '1752 and all that', a summary of which has been previously reported in the *Historian*. 'A curly tale of crime in Finchampstead' was the intriguing title of November's talk given by Trevor Ottlewski. On Thursday, 15th March 1827 at around 6pm, William Loader put his pig to bed. At 6am next day, he found the door open and his pig gone. Trevor told of how William traced the pig to Hounslow where it had been sold to James Shervill, a butcher and how the thief, Thomas Peck, was caught after a 100 mile pursuit. He was charged with larceny at the Old Bailey, found guilty, and sentenced to transportation to a penal colony for 7 years. After just 3 years, Thomas was given a pardon for good behaviour and released (Old Bailey Archives, 5th April 1827, ref.: *t18270405-136 no. 889*). James Shervill, the butcher, was also charged for receiving, but was found not guilty (Old Bailey Archives, 5th April 1827, ref.: *t18270405-74 no. 827*).

Trevor concluded the evening by telling us about some of Wokingham's lost buildings and features. Among which was the tannery, Brimblecombe Coaches, two breweries and the brick works where they produced orangey-red bricks with heavy sharp corners which were used in Westminster Cathedral, amongst other famous locations.

Bracknell & Wokingham Branch members provide advice on the second Tuesday of every month at Bracknell Central Library, in Town Square, and also on the last Tuesday of each month at Wokingham Library, in Denmark Street, (check the society's event calendar at www.berksfhs.org.uk for these event dates).

Sandra Barkwith

Newbury Branch

newbury@berksfhs.org.uk

Dr Colin Chapman (of Chapman Code fame, and much else besides) talked to us in November about the various ways in which our ancestors could have fallen foul of the law, and the records wherein we could trace their fate. The talk is written up on <https://www.berksfhs.org.uk/cms/Meeting-Summaries/was-your-ancestor-a-criminal.html>.

The much looked forward to branch Christmas party, featured, as is now traditional, a feast of snacks, Secret Santa, non-alcoholic punch and Nick's quiz, and the branch Christmas dinner, the fourth now held, took place at Bella Italia.

Following the Enborne and Hamstead Marshall MI projects, our outreach co-ordinator is assembling a team of winter project volunteers to while away the dark evenings transcribing Shaw parish registers.

Our 2019 programme is already full, and detailed on the society website calendar.

Penny Stokes

Reading Branch

reading@berksfhs.org.uk

In November, we welcomed back Kathy Chater who gave a short talk on 'Institutions in the Censuses'.

Records from the 16th Century are few and far between, notable exceptions being Coventry 1522 and the 1801 'Head count'. Information about these can be located in the Gibson Guide Local Census Listings, 1522-1930: Holdings in the British Isles. Kathy suggested the use of 'keywords' when looking for ancestors who are missing from family groups in the census, e.g. occupation or place, as this might help find someone out of the area or carrying on their trade elsewhere. It could help with those wrongly indexed or with incorrect ages listed.

Incorrect or unexpected spellings are another cause of missing people, and it is possible to use wild cards in searches on commercial websites to check this out. There are many places where 'missing people' may be found, for example workhouses, hospitals, asylums, boarding schools, industrial schools, orphanages, prisons (both inmates and warders) and also Magdalene schools for wayward young girls and women.

The talk was followed by an open discussion session on finding missing relatives.

In December, we held our Christmas get together, where we enjoyed four short talks by members. Peter Caton gave a well-documented and illustrated talk about Watty Hildyard, an entertainer, who had links to Lord George Sanger. Daphne Spurling spoke of a Liberian wedding and scandalous divorce. Susan Hora continued last year's piece on her family history. Graham Vockins spoke of his old Granny, and her brother, who performed a play in front of George Bernard Shaw. This was followed by a 'fill in the missing bits of a Royal Family Tree' quiz excellently set by Angie Catt and Rosemary Whitehead. We concluded the evening with non-alcoholic mulled wine and mince pies as is our tradition.

Graham Vockins

Vale Branch

vale@berksfhs.org.uk

In keeping with the centenary of the ending of the First World War, our meeting in October was an open one with members bringing stories and artefacts relating to their ancestors. The evening opened with a talk from Dick Richards about the Commonwealth War Graves Commission, who he was representing. Dick described the inception of the CWGC or rather the Imperial War Graves Commission, as it was originally known.

As many will know, the driving force was Sir Fabian Ware, assisted by many prominent supporters including Edwin Lutyens, Gertrude Jekyll and Rudyard Kipling. What may not be so readily known is that he involved Frederic Kenyon, Director of the British Museum in

order to gain consensus amongst all the egos.

Dick explained that Ware's team produced some fundamental principles that apply to all CWGC cemeteries:

- The fallen would be buried close to where they fell;
- Those already buried in isolated graves would be moved to larger cemeteries;
- There would be no repatriation of bodies;
- Cemeteries would have flowers, shrubs, a level grave and a fenced boundary;
- All cemeteries would have two monuments and a shelter;
- Headstones would be uniform in size, shape and materials in each cemetery (it does vary, they are lower in Gallipoli, for example, because of earthquakes);
- There would be no distinction on account of rank, race or creed;
- The fallen would be individually named, either on a headstone or on an inscription on a memorial;
- Cemeteries, headstones and memorials would be permanent.

On the headstones, the CWGC uses its own font, which must be visible from 6 feet and at 45 degrees. Personal inscriptions can have up to 66 letters. The CWGC has 23,000 cemeteries in 154 countries, 200 memorials, and it employs 1,200 staff of whom the majority are stonemasons and gardeners. Its annual budget is £60M of which the UK contributes 79%, Canada 10%, Australia 6%, New Zealand and South Africa 2% and India 1%.

Dick went on to talk a little about Captain Noel Chavasse, who came from Oxford. He is one of only three people to be awarded a Victoria Cross twice. He qualified as a doctor and joined the 10th (Liverpool Scottish) Battalion, the King's (Liverpool) Regiment. He was awarded the Military Cross for gallantry at Hooze, Belgium in June 1915. His first VC was awarded for his actions on 9th August 1916, at Guillemont, France, when he attended to the wounded all day under heavy fire. Chavasse's second award was made during the period 31st July to 2nd August 1917, at Wieltje, Belgium.

Although he had been severely injured carrying a wounded soldier to the Dressing Station, he refused to leave his post, and for two days went out repeatedly under heavy fire to search for and attend to the wounded who were lying in No Man's Land. He died of his wounds a few days later and is buried at Brandhoek New Military Cemetery, Vlamertinge.

After Dick's very interesting talk, we had plenty of discussion as members told stories of their ancestors, describing what had happened to them.

Our November meeting continued the World War 1 theme with a talk by Tony Hadland entitled 'Pilgrimage to Plug Street'. Tony is a well-known speaker and has given us a number of talks over the years and this one was very interesting and informative, as usual.

He told us all about his great-uncle Robert Fisher, who was born in Bristol, the son of an Irish Catholic soldier. Robert grew up on the British army camp at the Curragh of Kildare in Co. Donegal. He became a waiter in London and married into the Church of England. In WW1, he joined a local "pals' regiment" and fought in Flanders.

Robert died at "Plug Street" (Ploegsteert), leading a charge and was awarded a posthumous Distinguished Conduct Medal. Robert's body was never recovered. His brother-in-law, Tony's grandfather, soon learned of the death, as he was an ambulance driver working nearby.

Robert died leaving a widow and two small sons. Tony explained that he had visited many of the places Robert Fisher knew, including Plug Street, hence the title of the talk.

As we did last year, our December meeting was a dinner at the King's Head and Bell in Abingdon. We had a very convivial festive meal, including crackers. In addition, we had a 'pass the parcel' with a difference, provided by Vanessa. As each wrapping came off, the person with the parcel was invited to describe something about their ancestors or their research. A very enjoyable evening.

Simon Burbidge

Windsor, Slough & Maidenhead

Windsor@berksfhs.org.uk

"The Great Western Railway comes to the Thames Valley" was the subject for our October talk by John Chapman. John gave us the history of this project's birth from the 1820's and 30's, to the 1890's, during which time it was said to be "the greatest railway in the world". He spoke of the efforts to raise capital to finance it, the engineers who designed and built it and the political debates in parliament. It was not a smooth process, with objections over the route, including from Eton College who believed it would be detrimental to the welfare of their young boys if it came through Windsor, to the design and engineering behind it.

We learnt of the battles Isambard Kingdom Brunel had with his fellow engineers, the 7ft gauge rail, was just one, though sadly he lost that argument. However, Brunel's legacy can be seen in the many landmarks that we see along the track today, including Paddington Station and the railway bridge over the River Thames at Maidenhead. The GWR brought many changes to the Thames Valley, but this would have to be a talk for another day.

A young girl had a dream, but knew it was only a distant fantasy that would never come to fruition. Then at the age of 49, Jean Pumphrey learnt to fly. Her dream had come true, she had gained her pilots licence. Jean told the story, at our November meeting, of how she learnt to fly at White Waltham, an airfield to the west of Maidenhead, and her subsequent travels around the world. A very personal talk about the planes she has flown, what she had to learn, and the people she has met.

Ken Houghton

News from the Berkshire Record Office



By Ivone Turnbull, Senior Archivist at the Berkshire Record Office

What new archives are now available at the BRO?

Recently catalogued items which may be of interest include the papers of the Castle family of Home Farm, Charlton, 1704-2008 (D/EX2547) as well as deeds of the family's property, 1713-1902 (D/ECA); the papers of the Blandy, Hooper and Watlington families of Reading, 1692-1933 (R/D142); the papers of the Loveday family, 1697-1848, (R/D155); and the records from the linked Harrison, Martin, Salter and Talbot families, 1717-1943 (D/EX2188). We also have the court roll for Cholsey manor, 1749-1750, (D/EX2617).

A number of schools in Reading are represented, such as Reading School, 1714-1866 (R/ES19); the British School (established by local nonconformists) in Southampton Street, 1809-1905 (R/ES12); Kendrick Girls' School, 1875-1955 (R/ES13); and minutes of the private Reading Nursery School, serving Whitley, 1937-1939 (R/ES18). There is also material for Basildon CE School, 1877-2010 (SCH39); John Blandy Primary School, Kingston Bagpuize, 1872-1980 (SCH45); and a small amount of material relating to Roysse's Grammar School, Abingdon, 1854-1935 (SCH41).



Our website has lots of information about family and local history in general as well as our opening hours and online catalogue; you can even read our latest newsletter and see what events we have on – why not take a look: www.berkshirerecordoffice.org.uk/. If you're interested in seeing something, please do visit, but if you're not able to come in person we can still assist you remotely; just use our online contact form on the website and get in touch.

What's going on at the BRO?

Behind the Scenes at the BRO

18th March 2019, time 10.30-11.30

Have you ever wondered what goes on behind the scenes at the Berkshire Record Office? Come along to our 'Behind the Scenes' tour where you will be shown how we store our documents and given an insight into the job of our conservator as well as the work that the BRO does. It's FREE, there are 12 spaces and booking is essential. Please email arch@reading.gov.uk or call 0118 937 5132.

World War One Exhibition

To commemorate the end to the First World War and the Treaty of Versailles, we will be showcasing some World War One records in an exhibition from May 2019.

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Berkshire Record Office
9 Coley Avenue
Reading
RG1 6AF
arch@reading.gov.uk
0118 937 5132
www.berkshirerecordoffice.org.uk