

Berkshire Family Historian

The quarterly journal of the Berkshire Family History Society

June 2019

volume 42

Family names appearing in this issue

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

Atkinson	11	Marshall	28
Beale	11	Molden	33
Bembridge	17	Mullin	16
Berry	19, 28	Murray	30
Boshier	29	Nash/Naish	18
Bowers	29	Norris	28
Bradshaw-Smith	29	Ostridge	28
Bright	27	Padget	29
Brookeman	19	Parker	28
Brown	16	Payne	10+
Bullivant	26	Pearce	18
Bunce	26	Phipps	17
Chapman	16	Pibworth	17
Cooper	16, 27	Pi(y)nnell	19+
Curtis	19	Pocock	29
Dalrymple	30	Postel	14+
Davis	31	Prior	28
Day	28	Purton	17
Dixon	15+	Quatermaing	16
Eales	28	Reeves	18, 28
Fisher	30	Rey	14
Freeman	28	Richardson	16
Goddard	27	Rush	16
Godfrey	19	Russell	30
Green	27	Saunders	16
Gweelines	21	Savory	36
Heath	27	Sellwood	27
Herbert	16	Sheppard	18
Higgs	28	Simmonds	18
Holloway	28	Smith	16, 28
Hopkins	16	Soffe	31
Horwood	29	South	16, 36
Hose	28	Sutton	14
Hummel	16	Talbot	11
Ibos	14	Tigwell	28
Jarvis	36	Waldron	10+
Jennings	16	Warren	31
Keep	28	Weedon	36
Kimber	17	Williams	28
King	28	Willink	26
Kirkwood	28	Willis	28, 29
Liddiard	33	Wise	28
Lock	28	Wood	10
Lovejoy	36	Young	18
Macbeth	16		
Mahr	31		

Contents

- 2 Editor's notes**
- 2 Chairman's corner**
- 3 Notice of AGM 2019**
- 4 Projects and publications**
- 5 Why your membership renewal
will cost a little more this time**
- 6 Events at the Centre for Heritage
and Family History**
- 9 Your magazine needs you**
- 10 Sheep farming in Patagonia**
- 13 Free tours of Brookwood cemetery**
- 14 St Joseph's Convent in Reading
celebrates 125 years**
- 17 Evening classes at Shaw Farm,
Windsor**
- 18 Unfinished business**
- 19 Brick walls in a lineage?**
- 23 The great road to Bath**
- 25 Berkshire schools in the
eighteenth century**
- 26 Burghfield war memorial**
- 29 Dates for your diary**
- 30 Around the branches**
- 34 The Centre for Heritage and
Family History**
- 35 Members' surname interests**
- 36 News from the Berkshire Record
Office**

Editor's notes

Where is the year going? It seems that only yesterday it was Christmas, and now we're rapidly heading towards Midsummer's Day.

Before I go any further I would like to express the editorial panel's gratitude to Penny Stokes who, I'm sure you remember, was editor for over a decade, for kindly agreeing to help with the production of this issue. This was a one-off occurrence, and we are still in need of someone to lay out the pages. Please contact me at editor@berksfhs.org.uk if you can help.

In this issue, we have a range of articles for you, from South America to Windsor. Also, a round-up of what's been happening around the county, and what's yet to come. Society events are proving ever popular, especially the walks. It is best to book places at events early to avoid disappointment.

Don't forget about your local branches. The committees for the six branches work hard to

arrange a variety of talks and outings, covering aspects of family, local and social history. At the monthly meetings you can expect to be warmly welcomed by people who share an interest in history. Their experience and expertise is something you cannot get from online research.

We're looking forward to joining the Windsor, Slough and Maidenhead Branch in June for the society's AGM (more on the next page). It's an excellent opportunity to meet members of all the branches, along with your Executive Committee, so do come along for what will be an enjoyable meeting in delightful surroundings.

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

Vicki Chesterman
editor@berksfhs.org.uk

Chairman's corner

As I write this update, I've just returned from *Family Tree Live* at Alexandra Palace in London. It was lovely to meet so many members at the event, and also to welcome new ones to the society. After *Who do you think you are? Live* ended in 2017, it seemed that might be the end of large-scale family history shows, but the void has been filled; this year we're fortunate to have the choice of several large national and regional shows and at least one international conference.

One of the many pleasures of fairs is helping visitors break down their long-established brick walls, local knowledge often going a very long way. This year proved no exception, and I hope we'll hear updates from some of those individuals over the coming year in the *Historian*.

Over recent months, the trustees have been negotiating a new contract with Findmypast, the online provider of many of the society's baptism, marriage, burial and census data.

Now, the society is delighted to be able to offer members the option to benefit from a 15 per cent discount on the standard price if they purchase or renew a subscription with Findmypast. Packages vary, but based on current prices, this could give a saving of between £10.50 and £23.40 a year. Final details of how to claim a discount have yet to be agreed, but full details will be added to the Members' Area of the website.

Societies such as Berkshire Family History Society are usually run entirely by volunteers, and we do need a few more people to step forward and help. Please take some time to consider the requests for help in this *Historian*, and get in touch if you can spare a little time on a regular basis.

I look forward to seeing many of you at the society's AGM; please do come along and support it.

Catherine Sampson
chairman@berksfhs.org.uk

Reminder: Annual General Meeting and election of officers and trustees

As published in the last edition of the *Berkshire Family Historian*, and 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. It will precede the Windsor, Slough and Maidenhead Branch meeting in the William East Room, Berkshire College of Agriculture, Hall Place, Burchetts Green, Maidenhead SL6 6QR.

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&searchp=ids.srf>

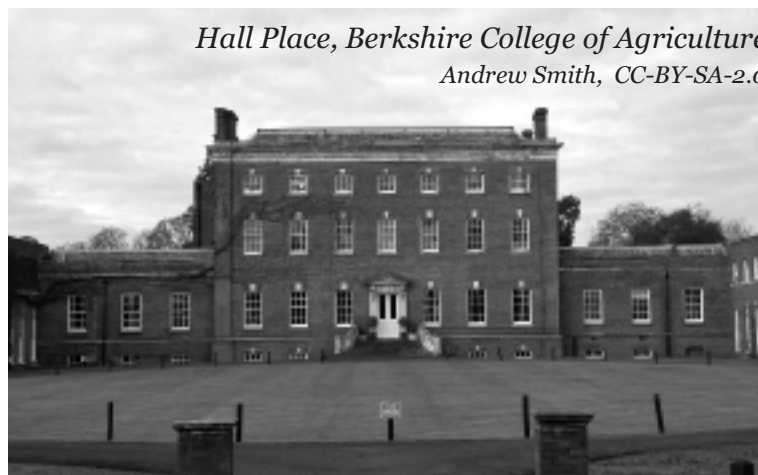
There is ample parking available at the venue, which has a long history and has been the home of the Berkshire College of Agriculture since 1949.

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 30th April 2019



William East Room

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



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*. Without its full complement of trustees, the society may be unable to continue to provide all existing services.

** 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.*

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*. Film and sound archives are an often forgotten resource available to family historians, which can be a rich seam of information on the past.

Projects and publications

We were very saddened to learn of the death of John Pearce, who built a number of CDs for the society, most recently *Berkshire Marriages* fourth edition, which he completed in January. John was a very talented man who pushed the boundaries still further in the scope of our CDs, even managing to achieve the indexing of alias names in his last *Berkshire Marriages* CD. We're very grateful for everything that he did for the society, and our sincere condolences go to his wife Anne and their son Simon.

We've been busy checking and double-checking entries for the next edition of *Berkshire Baptisms* and, if all has proceeded on track, at about the time this *Historian* hits your doormat we'll be beginning the process of publishing the data. This process always takes both time and effort, but the next edition should hopefully be ready in the autumn. What parishes can you expect to find added to or introduced in the third edition? Certainly considerable content for the larger parishes, such as Reading St Giles, St Laurence and St Mary Minster, Newbury St Nicolas, Bray St Michael, Easthampstead SS Michael and Mary Magdalene, Kintbury St Mary, the Wallingford parishes and Windsor. And also a large swathe of locations across the entire historic county, including some registers from nonconformist chapels and union workhouses.

Elsewhere effort is focused on transcribing and checking the final registers for the thirteenth edition of *Berkshire Burials*. This will hopefully contain all of registers deposited within the Berkshire Record Office which haven't made it into *Berkshire Burials* to date,

to bring the project to an official close, although I hasten to add that we will continue to transcribe new registers as they are deposited by churches. We are also now beginning the mass transcription of more marriage registers, with the aim of widening still further our current coverage.

To date, the society has published its transcripts online via Findmypast and on CD. However we're aware that many modern laptops and computers no longer have disk drives; CDs are increasing yesterday's technology. For some time, we've been investigating the possibility of making data downloads available at a small cost, and we'd welcome some more help in achieving this. Do you have database and website skills and some spare time you could offer to the projects team?

Finally, thanks to all of our trusted team of volunteers across the world. If you feel you could give a little time, especially in transcribing and checking records at the Berkshire Record Office in Reading, transcribing and mapping monuments in burial grounds, joining our team of CD builders, or helping us make the transition into data downloads, please get in touch. My email address is projects@berksfhs.org.uk.

Catherine Sampson
Projects co-ordinator

Transcribing monumental inscriptions gets you out into the fresh air, and is companionable work



Why your membership renewal will cost a little more this time...

...but brings new and substantial benefits for you too

The trustees would like to thank you for your ongoing backing of the society's work. Your support is vital, and very much appreciated. Your continued support and involvement is key if the society is to maintain the many products, services and facilities currently offered. It is no less important for the successful launch of new initiatives and resources, and your backing has helped in bringing extra benefits for you and your fellow members, as you will find in a later paragraph in this article.

Price changes are rarely welcome, nor are they made lightly, but they are a fact of life, and the world of family history is no exception. Your copy certificate or a PDF for a life-event now costs more than it did. In 2018 global paper prices rose by up to 8 per cent. Postage rates (unavoidable if the *Historian* is to reach its many overseas and UK destinations) are higher than a year ago. Demands have risen on society funds to facilitate and underpin branch meetings and other activities across and beyond Berkshire. No family historian and no family history society can ignore the true costs of resourcing such items, and much more besides.

After full and considered discussion, the trustees approved modest increases in most membership prices for this coming year, as renewals fall due. If you are a young person (aged 18-25), the price of your membership

does not change. For UK single and family members, your renewal price rises by just £1: that is less than 2p per week. If you are an overseas member, you are asked to pay a little bit more, but still below 4p per week, or £2 more overall. The increase simply reflects changes over recent years in the real cost of delivering your *Historian* to you every quarter. While the society is already looking carefully at electronic publishing options, many members have voiced firm preferences for a 'proper magazine', one that you can take and read anywhere, unlike an online or on-screen substitute. Renewal prices remain far below what you are likely to pay for life's optional necessities; take, for example, your newspaper subscription, your gym or WI membership, Amazon Prime or Netflix, or even an online genealogy service.

Which links neatly to the first significant extra benefit for those members who renew their membership for the year starting on 1st July. After recent society negotiation with Findmypast, members who take out or renew a subscription to Findmypast online will benefit from a 15 per cent discount on the price. As an example: on the Pro membership option, it means over £23 saved for the year. You will find full details on the society website.

When you renew your society membership, you will continue to enjoy useful savings whenever you purchase a society publication. You will secure a saving every time you book your place for a talk, a walk, a workshop, a visit or a course. You can look forward to planned website updates and service improvements during the year too.

If you are among the many who have renewed their memberships for the coming year already (details and rates have been online since April), thank you. If you have yet to renew, the society looks forward to receiving your renewal very soon. Remember to update instructions to your bank if you pay by standing order. And if you are a UK taxpayer, remember to return that all-important Gift Aid declaration, increasing (at no cost to you) the value to the society of your membership payments and donations, all of which qualify for Gift Aid.

Events at the Centre for Heritage and Family History

June to September 2019

month	event	booking
June		
Tue 4th 12.00 - 14.00	Drop-in session: breaking down brick walls with Sandra Barkwith	FREE just turn up
Tue 4th 18.45 for 19.00 - 21.30	Natter Group: informal discussion led by Chad Hanna and Gillian Stevens	FREE just turn up
Sat 8th 12.00 - 14.00	The Duke of Wellington's country house at Stratfield Saye: with Brigadier Michael Aris CBE DL and Richard Bennet DL Stratfield Saye House and grounds consist of 5,000 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 Advance booking recommended but you can pay on the door subject to availability Coupon code WASING20
Sat 15th 11.00 - 13.00	Workshop: Census records of Scotland, Ireland and overseas Tutor: Tony Roberts Ancestors in Scotland, Ireland and overseas? Discover how 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.	BOOK £10, members £9 includes tea or coffee Places limited, pre-booking required Coupon code WASING10
Sat 22nd 12.00 - 14.00	Mid-summer book sale: pre-loved and new books. Come and find a bargain: family, local and social history books at prices to suit all purses. Don't forget there is free parking near the Centre on Saturdays if you want to really stock up on your summer reading. For details contact booking@berksfhs.org.uk	FREE just turn up
Sun 23rd 14.00 - 15.30	Tour of the historic buildings in the University of Reading	FULLY BOOKED
July		
Tue 2nd 12.00 - 14.00	Drop-in session: breaking down brick walls with Sandra Barkwith	FREE just turn up
Tue 4th 18.45 for 19.00 - 21.30	Natter Group: informal discussion led by Chad Hanna and Gillian Stevens	FREE just turn up

month	event	booking
Tue 9th 14.00 - 15.30	Tour of Georgian Reading: with Joy Pibworth Follow in the footsteps of eighteenth-century visitors and see what the eighteenth-century town had to offer.	BOOK £5 Members £4 Places limited, pre-booking required Coupon code WASING20
Sat 9th 12.00 - 14.00 1st in talk series: Shops & businesses	Reading's print industry: with Paul Joyce By 1722 Reading had become the second largest printing town per head of population in Great Britain. This is its fascinating and often overlooked story, richly illustrated.	TICKETS £5, members £4 includes tea and cake or book all five talks in the series for £20, members £16 Advance booking recommended but you can pay on the door subject to availability Coupon code WASING20
Sat 20th 12.00 - 14.30	Tour of northern Whiteknights Park area of the University of Reading: with The Friends of Reading University. This walk takes in Foxhill House, the development of the University's halls of residence, the site of the Marquis of Blandford's New Gardens, and also visits the sites of Park House, Erleigh Park (now demolished) and the ice house. The trail will finish at Whiteknights Park House.	BOOK £5, members £4 Places limited, pre-booking required Coupon code WASING20
Thu 25th 14.00 - 16.00 2nd in talk series: Shops and businesses	Queues, U-boats and useless mouths: food in WW2: with Mike Cooper Worldwide, more people starved in WW2 than were killed by bombs or bullets, although Britain emerged from the war healthier and with a better diet than ever before. This talk looks at the choices made by the warring nations, and at the food available at home in Britain and the British Army.	TICKETS £5, members £4 includes tea and cake Advance booking recommended but you can pay on the door subject to availability Coupon code WASING20
Sat 27th 14.30-16.30	DNA Interest Group Self-help, facilitated, special-interest discussion group with Debbie Kennett.	£3, including tea and cake Turn up, pay on the door
August		
Tue 6th 12.00 - 14.00	Drop-in session: breaking down brick walls with Sandra Barkwith	FREE just turn up
Tue 6th 18.45 for 19.00 - 21.30	Natter Group: informal discussion led by Chad Hanna and Gillian Stevens	FREE just turn up
Thu 8th 14.00 - 16.00 3rd in talk series: Shops and businesses	Reading's Old Shops: with Ann Smith Jacksons, Langstons and Tutty's are familiar shop names to people in Reading, but do you remember Hawkes Ironmongers or Cook's Dairy and Farm Equipment? This talk will look at shops from the nineteenth century to the present day, and how shopping has changed over the years.	TICKETS £5, members £4 includes tea and cake Advance booking is recommended but you can pay on the door subject to availability Coupon code WASING20

month	event	booking
Thu 22nd 14.00 - 16.00 4th in talk series: Shops and businesses	Jack of Newbury: with Dr David Peacock Jack of Newbury (John Winchcombe) was producing cloth on an industrial scale in and around Newbury during Henry VIII's reign. It brought him immense wealth and considerable status. His life story was confused by a contemporary of Shakespeare's, but he was a historical figure of national importance. Come and hear local historian Dr David Peacock unravel the story of this colourful and important character.	TICKETS £5, members £4 includes tea and cake Advance booking recommended but you can pay on the door subject to availability Coupon code WASING20
September		
Tue 3rd 12.00 - 14.00	Drop-in session: breaking down brick walls with Sandra Barkwith	FREE just turn up
Tue 3rd 18.45 for 19.00 - 21.30	Natter Group: informal discussion led by Chad Hanna and Gillian Stevens	FREE just turn up
Thu 5th 14.00 - 16.00 5th in talk series: Shops and businesses	Reading's manufacturing industries: with David Cliffe 60 old Reading firms in 60 minutes, richly illustrated. Discover some of the many different things produced in Reading over the years, including flour, silk, railway signals, barges and racing cars.	TICKETS £5, members £4 includes tea and cake Advance booking recommended but you can pay on the door subject to availability. Coupon code WASING20
Thu 12th and Thu 26th 13.00 - 15.00	Basic Latin for family historians course with Joan Dils. Joan Dils is president of the Berkshire Local History Association and a former tutor at Oxford and Reading universities in English local history. This two-part course will cover the words and phrases commonly found in the most frequently consulted family history documents and resources. An unmissable opportunity for a rare-to-find course.	BOOK £20, members £16 includes both sessions and tea or coffee Places limited, pre-booking required Coupon code WASING20
Mon 16th 13.00 - 15.00	Drop-in session: Merchant Navy records: with Tony Wright	FREE just turn up
Sat 28th 11.00 - 13.00	Workshop: Parish registers Tutor: Catherine Sampson Increase your chances of success with family historians' core resource. Better understand what registers can provide for you, where to find them, how Church of England and non-conformist registers differ, and how to interpret them. Also, indexes and transcripts, their benefits and pitfalls.	BOOK £10, members £9 includes tea or coffee Places limited, pre-booking required Coupon code WASING10

How to book

1. 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 code to obtain your members' discount. Coupon codes are valid for all bookings made between 1st June and 31st August 2019, regardless of the event date. The next coupon code will be published in the September *Historian*.
2. 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.
3. Book by phone during Centre opening hours: if you do not have internet access, call the society on 0118 950 9553 during 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.
4. 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 July and September, the Centre exhibition will focus on **Shops and Businesses**.

The editorial panel is in need of someone to do the page layouts of 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 we wish him well.

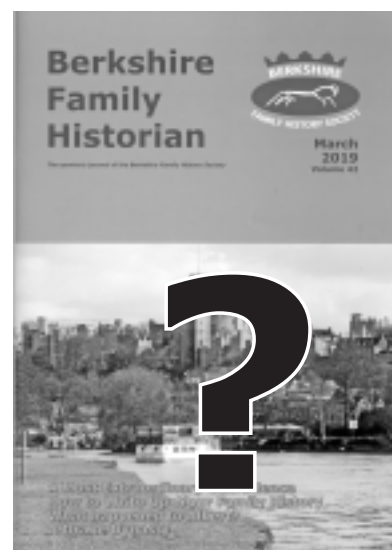
The panel receives regular and feature articles from a variety of sources. These are edited and checked before being sent as final versions to the compositor, who arranges them within the pages to become the quality magazine you all expect.

The new compositor does not necessarily need to be a member of Berkshire Family History Society, nor live in Berkshire, as all production matters can be managed via email if necessary.

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.

Your magazine needs YOU!



An odd title to choose for an article, but it does produce a connection between two families from West Berkshire who came from very different backgrounds, but both resided in the Newbury area at the end of the nineteenth century.

First, the Waldrons, an extensive family, who originally came from near Ramsbury in Wiltshire, but one member moved to Lambourn Woodlands and then to Peasemore. Second, the Payne family, who lived in various locations around the Newbury area.

Patagonia occupies nearly the whole of southern Argentina and Chile, stretching from the Andes in the west to the Atlantic Ocean in the east. Even today it is mostly savannah grasslands, but in the nineteenth century it is difficult to convey just how wild this area was. The border between Argentina and Chile was ill-defined, and this led to border disputes. Transport was on dirt roads, there were no railways and no river transport. In spite of these difficulties the area became attractive to overseas investors because it could be used for sheep farming. Many of these investors came from England and Scotland, and one such family were the Waldrons, in particular, Walter Brind Waldron and his brother Thomas.

Walter was born at Eastridge House, near Ramsbury in 1840. His father was a farmer on a large scale, and he sent Walter to attend Bews Commercial School at Speen near Newbury where he is to be found in 1851. In 1867 Walter married Marian Wood in Cuxton, Kent and they had a total of eight children together but only one son, Walter George. By 1871 the family had moved to Poughley Park in Lambourn Woodlands, and by 1891 to Peasemore House.

There was a second marriage between the Waldron and Wood families, when Walter's sister Elizabeth married Henry Pye Wood in 1873. Henry also came from Kent, but in 1881 he was farming at Manor Farm, Eastbury in the Lambourn valley.

A third marriage between the two families was between Walter's brother Thomas and

Sheep farming in Patagonia

John Bowley finds an unusual link to West Berkshire

Frances Wood, which further strengthened the bond between the two families.

Walter and Thomas are believed to have first visited Patagonia in about 1883, arriving via the Falkland Islands, which was a route used by many immigrants. Entry would have been via the port of Punta Arenas in Chile, the town having a large English population.

By 1895 Walter and Thomas were renting large tracts of land in Tierra del Fuego although they were mostly registered in the names of Walter's wife and daughters. These were estancias, or ranches, of about 10,000 hectares. To manage them the Waldron family, together with the Wood family, set up the Patagonian Sheep Farming Company Ltd which was registered in London in 1886. The legal side of the company was run by Walter's son, Walter George, and he also acted as a shipping agent to transport, initially wool, but once refrigeration became available, sheep carcasses, to Britain. The company was relatively short-lived and was wound up in 1909.

In the meantime, Messrs Waldron and Wood had



*Walter Brind Waldron
courtesy of Gary Prall*

purchased an estancia called El Condor which was close to the Straits of Magellan in Chile, but was actually just over the now established border, in the Argentinian province of Santa Cruz. In about 1896 they recruited members of the Payne family to work at this estancia; in particular they employed Charlotte Payne as a cook. They are thought to have employed several families from West Berkshire and Wiltshire to work for them in Patagonia. Estancia El Condor can still be visited, as it is now run as a holiday destination close to the Andes.

By 1911 Walter Brind Waldron had virtually retired from the company leaving his son Walter George, and eventually his grandsons, to look after his interests in Argentina. He died in 1913 at Leamington Spa, Warwickshire and was buried at Peasemore. His life, and that of his brother Thomas, are commemorated by memorial plaques in the parish church at Ramsbury.



The Payne family's relocation from Newbury to Patagonia must have been a huge undertaking. Charlotte Payne's husband was Henry, and his employment as a groom in Newbury hardly equipped him for the life that he must have experienced at Estancia El Condor. He was born at East Woodhay in 1848, married his wife Charlotte at Woolton Hill in 1873, and had always lived and worked in the Newbury area. Charlotte was born at Burghclere in 1852, and was perhaps slightly better qualified, as in 1891 she served as a cook for the Beale family at Waltham St Lawrence before being engaged by the Waldron family. By 1896 five of their six children were grown-up enough to look after themselves, and they remained in England in various employments. However, their youngest son William, who had been born in Leckhampstead in 1885, accompanied his parents to Patagonia. His steps to adulthood must have been very rapid of necessity

because, not many years after their arrival at Estancia El Condor, his father left for the stated purpose of returning to England but he was never heard from again.

By dint of his own efforts, and as a result of entering into a partnership with John Atkinson in 1905, William and John were able to purchase a small estancia called Lago Roca which is near Lago Argentino and is cradled by the peaks of the Andes mountains. To give some idea of the remoteness, the first step in the shipment of wool to England involved a journey of 200 miles by bullock cart, the round trip to Rio Gallegos, the nearest port, taking about a month. The winters could be bitterly cold, with the sheep flock at risk from attacks by pumas. Most of the farming activity took place during the summer. There were no doctors or dentists, and the local school operated only during the summer, when a teacher arrived from Chile. In spite of this, when the First World War broke out William volunteered to serve in the British Army. He was not alone because the English-speaking community which was centred on Punta Arenas in Chile raised funds to pay for the passage to England of 120 fellow volunteers.

William signed on as a private in the Royal Horse Guards in 1915 and served in France and Flanders. He would have been an expert horseman. He had no previous military experience, but in 1917 he gained a commission as a second lieutenant, serving in the Worcestershire Regiment and later in the Hampshire Regiment. He also found time to marry Gertrude Talbot in 1917 at Mortimer, near Reading. He did not return to Argentina immediately after the war; in fact the first two of his children were born in England. His war medals were sent to a bank in Rio Gallegos.

When he did eventually return he found that the business at Lago Roca had prospered in his absence and was able to purchase a second estancia at Lago Cardiel, but this was four days' journey by car to the north. By this time the family had acquired an American Chevrolet for transport, and also five more children in the post-war years. These were lawless times, and in 1922 William had to be



Estancia Lago Roca
John Bowley

rescued by the police when strikers invaded his estancia.

The lack of schooling in Patagonia persuaded the family to return to England in 1925. The whole family consisted of William, his wife, his mother Charlotte, and seven children. In England he farmed at Bockhampton Farm, just to the south of Lambourn and a further five children arrived making 12 in total.

No doubt farming in England was a very different matter to sheep ranching in Argentina, and in 1933 the Paynes sold up and all the family returned to Patagonia for good, except for William's mother Charlotte, who had died during this period in England. We now have a detailed account of their life in Patagonia because William's wife Gertrude was a prolific letter writer, and over a period of 20 years she corresponded with her relatives in England recounting every detail of her life at Lago Roca.

Life for a woman in a man's world must have been really tough. For instance, she was required to cook meals for the family, and in the summer months this was augmented by up to eight itinerant farm workers who were required to help in the handling of 6,000 sheep. This could require the slaughtering, butchering and cooking of numerous sheep per week.

William died in 1959 and Gertrude in 1980. Towards the end of her life she left Lago Roca for the relative comfort of estancias nearer the Atlantic coast, but the ownership of Lago Roca stayed in the family until the 1950s. The remainder of their children were scattered all over Argentina, although one or two did return to England to settle.

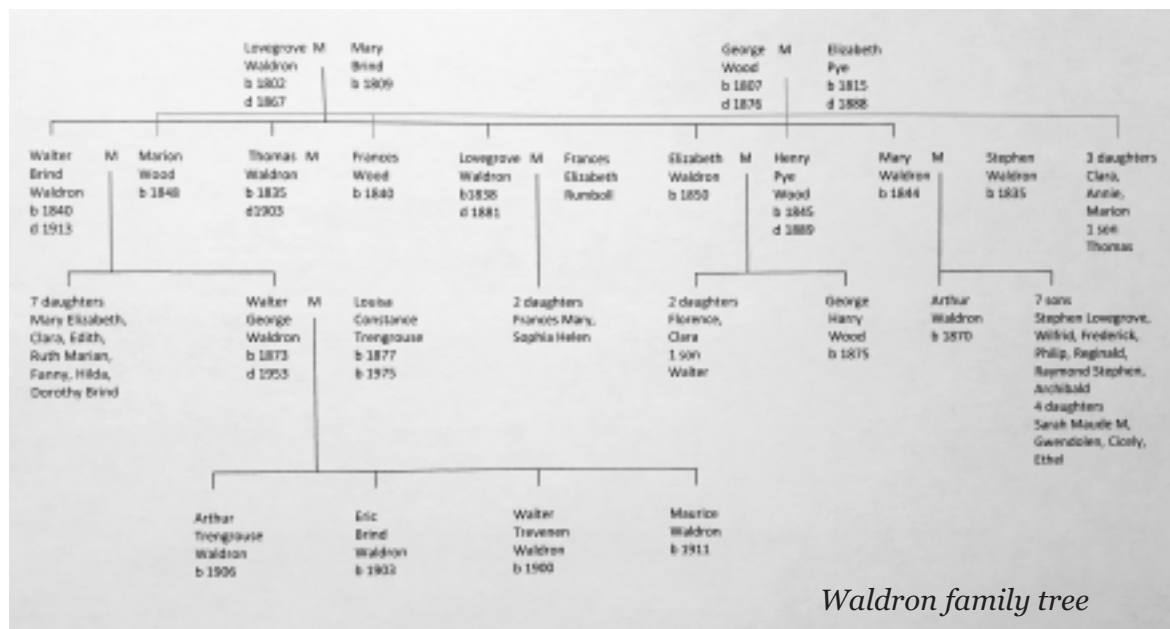
The passenger lists of ships sailing between England and Patagonia, principally to Punta Arenas, reveal that the Waldrons were regular travellers up to the 1950s. Many passengers gave their profession as shepherds, revealing just how close the contacts were between the two countries when it came to sheep farming.

Walter Brind Waldron's grandsons did much to expand the families' interests. In 1931 Arthur Waldron was a vice-president of a society based in Rio Gallegos, whose aim was to promote animal husbandry in Patagonia. Arthur was the son of Stephen Waldron, a second cousin of Walter Brind, and had married Walter's sister, Mary, making him nephew of Walter Brind and cousin to Walter George. Stephen had farmed at nearby West Shefford, and of his 12 children at least three of his sons emigrated to Patagonia, as witnessed by the fact that they were married in Punta Arenas between 1907 and 1911. Several members of the family retired to the

Newbury area towards the end of their lives, and George Harry Wood, son of Henry Pye Wood, lived at Tydehams in 1939.

Unfortunately, there appear to be very few paper records still existing in this country which might reveal more of the activities of

the Patagonian Sheep Farming Company and the opportunities that it gave to employees from west Berkshire. Early records from Patagonia are very fragmented, but much can be learned from the website “British Settlers in the far south of Argentina”.



Free guided tours at Brookwood Military Cemetery

Containing more than 5,000 Commonwealth war graves and almost 800 war graves of other nationalities, Brookwood Cemetery in Surrey is the final resting place for service personnel from Australia, Canada, India, New Zealand, South Africa, and the UK and Ireland. It is the largest Commonwealth War Graves Commission Cemetery in the UK. The military cemetery was established as the First World War drew to a close, and then extended for the burial of Second World War service personnel. Brookwood shares many of its

architectural and horticultural features with CWGC sites overseas, including the Cross of Sacrifice and Stone of Remembrance.

This summer, visitors to the cemetery in the UK will have the opportunity to join a new series of tours to discover its history and the stories of those buried there. The CWGC's experienced volunteer guides will be stationed at Brookwood Military Cemetery two to three days a week from 6th June to share the cemetery's story. At the time of going to press for the *Historian*, the tour dates had

not yet been announced but visitor information can be found at: www.cwgc.org/find/find-cemeteries-and-memorials/44400/brookwood-military-cemetery.

During the tour, the commission's guides will share the history of the various plots and memorials in the cemetery and the stories of some of the brave men and women it commemorates. There is no need to book for the tours: just turn up. They begin outside the Canadian Records Building, at the main entrance.

St Joseph's Convent in Reading celebrates 125 years

but some of its pupils are missing!

Caroline Piller gives an insight into a local school

St Joseph's Convent is a familiar name in Reading. Today called St Joseph's College, it stands on Upper Redlands Road but it hasn't always been there.

In October 1894 four nuns from the Congregation of Sisters, which had been founded by Mother Marie Madeleine Postel in Normandy, made a difficult journey to Berkshire. After landing at Southampton, they took the train to Farnborough, where they met Father Ibos. He wanted to set up a school for Catholic families in his ministry in the village of Bracknell. The hard-working Sisters, facing some local discrimination, created their school in an old outfitter's shop in about 10 days. It was dedicated to St Joseph. They must have made a good impression, because within six months the number on roll rose from four to 11, some non-Catholics. The numbers steadily increased to nearly 40, and a connection was made with Professor Rey at Reading University College. It was his idea to move the school to Reading, and eventually St Joseph's Convent High School left its first home.

Professor Rey helped by finding two houses to rent on Castle Hill, and even brought his own plants to decorate the entrance hall. Arriving in December 1901, the nuns again busied themselves with preparations, and over the Christmas holidays Catholic parents in the area were contacted in an effort to find pupils. The new

convent opened on 16th January 1902 with eight fee-paying pupils, bringing in much needed income.

As the number of boarders increased, the adjoining houses in the terrace were added on as accommodation. One of these was the building known as the Round House, which had formerly been the King's Arms Inn. It was here in 1797 that 342 French priests, fleeing from the Revolution, had found sanctuary. By 1908 St Joseph's Convent occupied six houses on Castle Hill, but still there was not enough room for a growing school, so Reverend Mother began searching around Reading for a new home.

She soon found the perfect place, adjacent to the recently established Catholic Church of St William of York, in Upper Redlands Road: Broad Oak House. But there was just one problem; it was already occupied by a Mr Sutton, seed merchant, who had no intention of selling. The nuns were undaunted, and prayers were made to Blessed Marie Madeleine Postel, followed by a novena (an





Aerial view of St Joseph's in the 1930s

ancient tradition of devotional praying in Christianity which consists of private or public prayers repeated for nine successive days or weeks) to St Joseph. Their prayers were answered and a letter arrived the day before the Feast of St Joseph, informing Reverend Mother that Broad Oak would soon be on the market. Permission to buy it was granted, loans to meet the cost of £5,000 were raised and the deal was signed on 9th November 1909. The convent did not actually move into their new home until March 1910, presumably because work needed to be done to adapt the house.

Broad Oak had been built in 1870. The name derives from the magnificent oak tree growing in front of the house. When the convent moved in, Broad Oak was enhanced with lawns front and back, in addition to including the piece of land to the east nearly reaching St William of York church.

The school opened in March 1910. Class rooms were ready, but there was insufficient space to house 28 boarders. Luckily one of the parents came to the help of the nuns, namely Oliver Dixon, whose children had been among the first pupils in Castle Hill. He was a well-to-do horse dealer living in Crescent Road, where he had business premises, but he also owned Mockbeggar

House on Whiteknights Road overlooking the lake. Normally rented to a tenant, it stood unoccupied, so he offered it to the convent.

A former pupil described the experience: *Early days at Broad Oak were very pleasant. We seniors slept in a spacious dormitory on the first floor of the main building. I feel that the Sisters had very cramped accommodation, and in order to help Reverend Mother, Mr Oliver Dixon lent her his house, "Mockbeggar" in Whiteknights Road. This was a delightful spot for a summer dormitory. There was a wonderful garden and the roses were superb. We thoroughly enjoyed our stay in that house, which was totally empty except for our beds.*

Back at Broad Oak, construction work on the adjacent block started in the spring, but there were delays. During this time, 68 day pupils had their lessons in a house called Coburg Lodge on London Road. By September 1911 they had moved in to their own day-school built at the top of Eastern Avenue, and the boarders were now fully accommodated at Broad Oak in the newly built extension.

After 1918 a much-needed chapel and a gymnasium were added to the school. This was followed by a huge programme of expansion, which included a large hall, music rooms, a domestic science block and other class

rooms. The outcome was that by 1936, all the day pupils and the boarders were now on the same site in Upper Redlands Road, sharing the same facilities. It was at this time that the brown and gold uniform was adopted.

In 1947 St George's Hall (belonging to the University) on Christchurch Green was purchased to be used as the Prep School. During the 1950s and 1960s, there was more development at Broad Oak: science laboratories, a swimming pool, a gym and a beautiful new chapel. Then in 1988 a specially designed prep school was built in the orchard, to replace the dilapidated building on Christchurch Road.

In the early 1900s boys could stay at the convent up to the age of 11; then later, only up to the age of seven. This was to change in 2010, when boys began to be admitted through to the sixth form and the co-educational school for three to 18 year-olds was renamed St Joseph's College. Two years

later, its first headmaster was appointed.

There was one more big change: in 2018 the three old houses of Clitheroe Jude, Augustine Postel and Bernadette Isadore were replaced with four new ones. It was decided that they would be named after some of the first pupils' families. So Dixon, Hummel, Jennings and Richardson were chosen from the 1902 register.

The college has plenty of background information on the Dixon family. However, they are very keen to find out more on the other Catholic families. It is believed that the Jennings were local butchers. Hummels had a watch shop in Bridge Street and later a jeweller's shop in Pangbourne.

If anyone has information on any of these four families, then Julie MacLean, alumni co-ordinator at St Joseph's College, would love to hear from you. She can be contacted at alumni@sjcr.org.uk.

Pupils who came to St Joseph's Convent School, Castle Hill from January 1902-03

date	surname	forename	religion
16 Jan 1902	JENNINGS	Mary Francis, Theresa, Charlie and Andrew	Roman Catholic
	HUMMEL	Teresa and Andrew	Roman Catholic
	RICHARDSON	Cecilia and Mary Agnes	Roman Catholic
28 Jan 1902	MACBETH	Marjorie	Church of England
1 May 1902	RUSH	Beatrice	Roman Catholic
	DIXON	Irene, Howard and Thomas	Roman Catholic
8 May 1902	MULLIN	Reginald and Cecil	Roman Catholic
	SAUNDERS	Eileen	Roman Catholic
	SOUTH	Maud, Winnie and Jenny	Church of England
	QUATERMAIN	Olive	Church of England
	CHAPMAN	Nessie	Church of England
15 Sept 1902	BROWN	Mary	Church of England
	HERBERT	Georgie	Roman Catholic
	SMITH	Gerty	Church of England
15 Jan 1903	COOPER	Maurice	Church of England
	HOPKINS	Charles and Mary	Roman Catholic

Sources

Caroline Piller *The life and times of Oliver Dixon: A Reading horseman remembered* (Reading, author)
 Sister Calista *From Acorn to Oak 1909 - 1959: the history of St Joseph's Convent* (Reading, Broad Oak 1959)
 Sister Mary Margaret Hanly *A hundred years a-growing: Sisters of St Marie Madeleine Postel* (Reading, St Joseph's Convent, 1994)

All photographs by kind permission of St Joseph's College

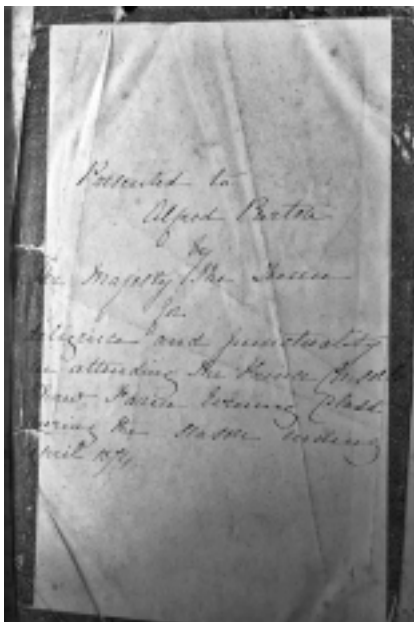
Evening classes at Shaw Farm, Windsor

*Jane Barrett
discovers a case of
royal philanthropy*

Whilst visiting an aunt recently, I was shown a bible belonging to her grandfather Alfred Purton. Inside was the inscription:

Presented to Alfred Purton by Her Majesty the Queen For diligence and punctuality in attending The Prince Consort's Shaw Farm Evening class during the season ending April 1874

This inscription intrigued me, so I set about researching the evening classes mentioned.



Alfred Purton was born in April 1856, son of George and Charlotte, and lived most of his life in Enborne, Berkshire. He ended his working life as a plate-layer on the Great Western Railway, but in the 1871 census he was a 14-year-old farm servant working for Charles Kimber at Wash

Farm, Enborne near Wash Common.

It would seem Alfred then went to work at the Crown Estates in Windsor, according to information from Colin Parrish, research room assistant at the Royal Archives. He wrote that the Shaw Farm Evening Classes were begun by Prince Albert in about 1855 for the employees of Shaw Farm and the Royal Dairy. They were basically adult literacy classes, held throughout the winter months each year until 1901, by which time the improvement of the national educational system had rendered them unnecessary. Prince Albert was very concerned all his life for the welfare of his workers, and was determined that the farms on the Crown Estate should be models of good management. He designed the farms themselves along with accommodation for the workers,

and took particular interest in Shaw Farm, which adjoined Windsor Castle.

According to John Chalmers Morton's book *The Prince Consort's Farms: an agricultural memoir* (London, 1863):

This evening school is earnestly and laboriously conducted. A schoolmaster, Mr Bembridge from Windsor, comes at night, three times a week during winter: and the award of a bible or of a money prize at the end of the season is regulated by the attendance of the scholars, of whom twenty to twenty-five are generally present, as well as by the specimens of their work in writing and arithmetic, which have been annually submitted by Sir Charles Phipps to the Prince [until his untimely death in 1861]... The prize awarded to any of the labourers attending this school was always, in the first instance, a bible, bearing on its title-page the intimation that it was the gift of the Prince; in subsequent years a money prize was given if deserved.

Alfred received his bible when he was just 18 years old.

Alfred married Sarah Pibworth in 1884, and they had 13 children. He died in May 1927 aged 71, after 'a long illness patiently borne'.



With grateful thanks to Colin Parrish for the above information and references.

Unfinished business

Early in 2014, I set about the task of identifying all the men on the Roll of Honour in St John the Baptist's Church, Caversham, my church. I aimed to complete this by 11th November 2018, but I have failed. There are 56 names on this Roll of Honour.

My daughter joined me in the search and at first it was easy. Using the Commonwealth War Graves Commission site, we found that many had their parents' names and addresses on their CWGC Roll of Honour page, but others did not. Some were even wrongly spelt on the CWGC Roll of Honour and had the wrong initials.

After using the census, FreeBMD, the GRO index and other online sites, I headed to the Local Studies in Reading Central Library. I was shown the *Reading Mercury* books of soldiers photos, which were a great help, as were the electoral rolls of 1914 and 1918.

We returned back to the computer to find other sites, for example, Soldiers' Effects, which gave us more family information, such as leaving money to a brother or to a married sister. Our aim was to find their connection to Caversham.

Jean Nicholls gives us a story of partial success, with a plea for assistance

We also explored the Hemdean Road, Caversham, cemetery and took photos of the relevant headstones. Family illness and bereavement then stopped our search.

The information we have found, for almost 50 of the 56 soldiers is at present unchecked and not yet in the book we hoped to produce.

The following is a list of those who have completely stumped us:

Nash (or Naish?), W T
Pearce, T
Reeves, A C
Sheppard, J G
Sheppard, W
Simmonds, W H
Young, F

When we get back to it, we may yet find them. I do hope so. Those we think we have identified may, of course, not be correct.

If you have any information on any of the above names (even with different initials) or indeed any connection to Caversham in the early 1900s, I would be delighted to hear from you. jean@summerdown.org.uk

READING CARD CLUB'S ANNUAL POSTCARD FAIR

SUNDAY, JUNE 23rd 2019

9-30am – 4-30pm £2.00

RIVERMEAD LEISURE CENTRE, RICHFIELD AVENUE, READING RG1 8EQ

**160 TABLES, 93 DEALERS,
CIGARETTE CARDS & POSTCARDS
COVERING LOCAL & SOCIAL HISTORY, MILITARY, SHIPPING,
UK & FOREIGN, SOME EPHEMERA
CAR PARK & CAFETERIA**

Readers with some experience of researching eighteenth-century century and earlier ancestors will be familiar with the experience of discovering little more about an individual than a name and the dates and places of his or her baptism, marriage and burial, and perhaps not all of them. Whilst wills and inventories may add information about familial relationships and a person's occupation, wealth and material possessions, their level of detail is very variable and, for many people, such documents simply don't exist. There are, however, many obscurer documents which, if discovered through a name search in archival catalogues, can reveal remarkable details of a person's character and life, and perhaps assist in breaking through a brick wall in the parish and probate records.

This was my experience when seeking to ascertain the parentage of one of my 8x great grandfathers, Richard Pinnell of Upper Lambourn (Uplambourn in many early records). His identity emerged from my research into the origins of my mother's maternal grandmother, Sarah Ann Berry, née Wilkins (1845 - 1926), who was born in Leamington, but whose parents had married in Milton, Berkshire. The ancestors of her mother Frances (Fanny), née Godfrey (1803-81), had for several generations been mostly associated with East or West Hanney. Her Godfrey line, working backwards, being Joseph (1762 - 1849), George (1734/35 - 1822), Robert (1697/98 - 1786) and Robert (c1655 - 1744/45). Their longevity is remarkable. Two further Godfrey ancestors are identifiable: William (1610-96) and William (c1580 - 1633/34), but it is through Robert's wife, Katherine Pinnell, that I was led to a number of intriguing records about her ancestors.

She and Robert married at Ashbury in 1695, and she was to end her days at Grove, being buried at Wantage in October 1755. My discovery of her baptism, at Lambourn in March 1674/75, hinged on the existence of a licence for her marriage, which described her as 'of the parish of Lambourn'.

Katherine was the fifth of 11 children of Nicholas and Elizabeth Pinnell, née

Brick walls in a lineage?

*Tim Lockwood
tells of success,
questions and
unusual resources*

Brookeman. Her precise identity is established by 1675 will of her father Thomas, which includes her married name. Few records relate to Nicholas and Elizabeth, but he was from Uplambourn and she from Highworth, their baptisms being in April 1634 and March 1647/48. They married at Compton Beauchamp in December 1665, and their respective burials were at Lambourn in 1691 and 1718.

Whilst Nicholas' baptismal record establishes that his father was named Richard, and Richard's burial was evidently on 23rd December 1641 at Lambourn, his baptism and marriage seem not to be on record and, despite his having written a lengthy and informative will, his origin and his wife's maiden name eluded me. The will did name his wife as Margery, and a brother-in-law as Henry Curtis, but it established neither that she was the mother of his children, nor that Henry was her brother (rather than the husband of a sister of Richard). It was more promising in recording that Richard had brothers named Thomas and Edward and a 'cousin' Jeffery Pynnell of Hannington (Wiltshire), but nothing in the parish records for Lambourn, Hannington or elsewhere provided a robust clue as to Richard's parentage. Whilst it seemed possible that Richard's brother Edward was the Edward, son of Thomas Pennell, baptised at Lambourn in 1592, and that the boy's father was the Thomas Pinell who married Elizabeth Waldron at Lambourn in 1577, a proposition that they were Richard's parents was inherently speculative.

There the matter would have rested but for the providential existence of a 1622 deed of gift at the Berkshire Record Office (D/A1/16). Whilst the three parties to the deed were Thomas Pynnell the elder, his wife Elizabeth and their son Thomas Pynnell the younger, all of Uplambourn, it is evident from the deed's text that the elder Thomas also had sons named Edward, William and Richard. Since Edward is identified as the fourth son, and his baptism can be placed in 1592, it is likely that my ancestor Richard, and his other two siblings, were born in the 1580s, when three years with implausibly few Lambourn baptisms are followed by a five-year gap in the register. As to the deed, it sought to address a £500 debt of Thomas the elder, whilst gifting property to the value of £400 to Edward and the remainder of Thomas' property and effects to Thomas the younger, whilst also making arrangements for Thomas and his wife to be cared for in their declining years. Richard's name appears in the document only as that of a witness.

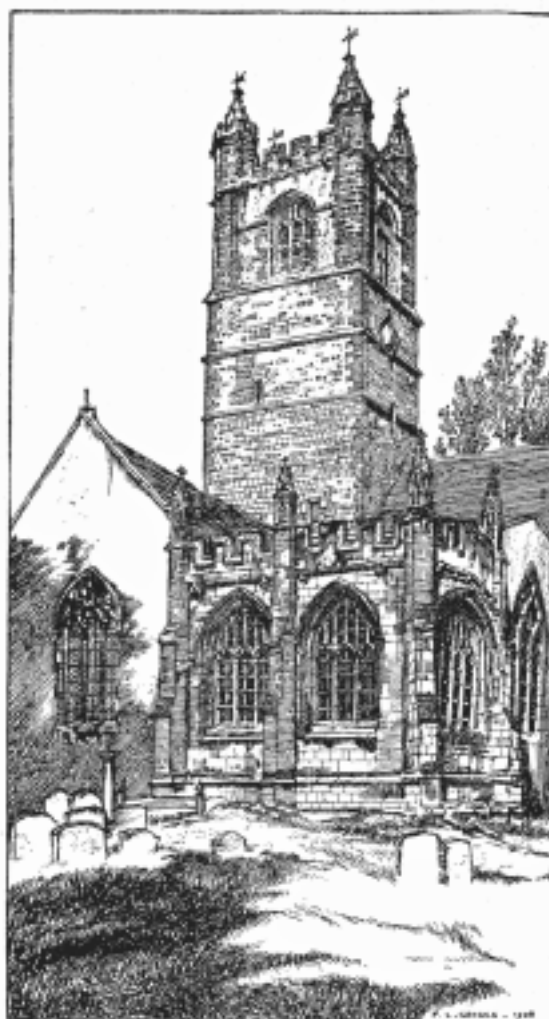
Richard's burial was, as previously noted, in 1641, bizarrely on the same day, 23rd December, as his brother Edward's burial in Witney. Their brother William had died in 1635. Richard's estate comprised several interests in property, notably his home ('Moremans') in Uplambourn; the inventory of his possessions, which divides the farmhouse into 11 parts, values his effects at £313 and, amongst other livestock, notably lists 230 sheep and 11 horses. One might infer from the latter number that he was a breeder. Chancery Court documents at TNA (C3/457/13,

C7/80/50, C7/86/116 and C6/110/42) reveal that Margery, Richard's widow and executor, was within a few years to be saddled with several financial claims against his estate, arising because he had agreed to be guarantor of his brother Thomas' debts. The documents are by no means easy to read and understand, but they leave little doubt as to the enormity of those debts, which are recorded in one place as £1,200 and in

another as £1,400, Thomas' estate being worth £140 when he died in 1648. Margery, in her responses to the claims, refers to payments of almost £422 already made from Richard's estate 'and with her own money' and, by judgment of the court of common pleas at Westminster, of £100 paid to Alice Pynnell, widow of Hannington. Margery does not, generally, deny the claims, but she was clearly struggling with a situation not of her making, stating in one document that she 'would be very willing and glad to be eased of the greate trouble'.

I have not discerned the outcome, but Margery outlived her husband by over 50 years, and was

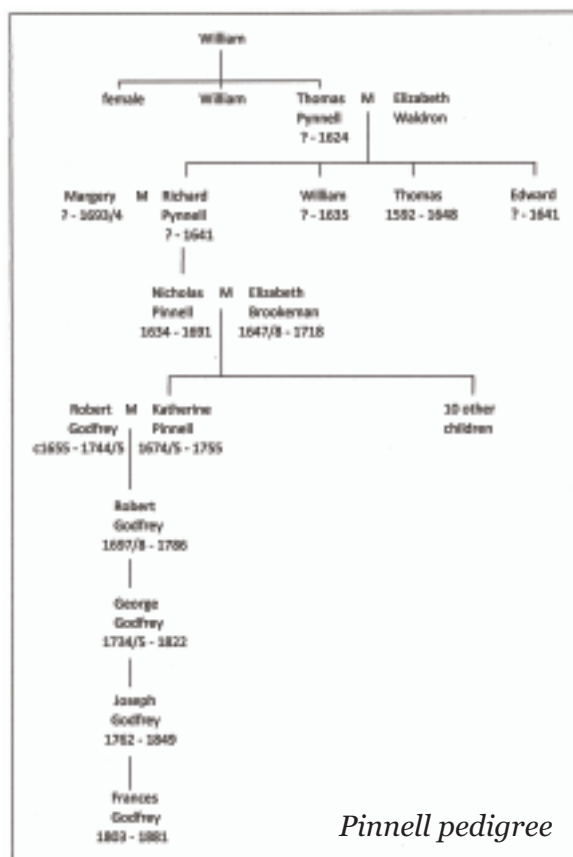
probably aged over 85 when she died. Her burial was on 25th March 1693/94. One genealogical benefit of the Chancery cases is that they reveal maiden names, one of her responses having been made jointly with a brother Nicholas Curtis. The surname did not lead me to a baptism, but the 1609 will of a widow Katherine Curtis of Castle Eaton, Wiltshire, includes a bequest to her son Henry's daughter Margerie, to be paid on her attainment of the age of 15. That places the girl's birth in the period 1595 - 1609, and it seems reasonably likely that it was she who



Lambourn Church.

married Richard Pynnell prior to his first child's birth in 1628.

To return to Richard's father Thomas: the mention in Richard's will of a cousin Jeffery Pynnell of Hannington, and the involvement of a Nicholas Pynnell in the compilation of the inventory of Richard's possessions, raises doubt as to Thomas' origin. Was it perhaps in



Wiltshire rather than Berkshire? To look first at Berkshire, one characteristic of the records so far mentioned is that they all associate Thomas with the parish of Lambourn, as also, in Uplambourn, do three early seven-teenth-century records relating to land ownership (EX51/E2 and E3 at the BRO and C8/25/38 at TNA). None of those documents mentions other Pinnell men, from which I infer that, if Thomas had any male siblings, they were by the early 1600s either living in some other parish, or deceased. Stepping back in time, there is firm evidence of a Pynnell/Pennell presence in Uplambourn early in the sixteenth century, with men named Rychyd and William recorded by tax assessments in 1523 and 1543, followed by William alone in 1549 and (at Lambourn) in 1563 (TNA documents E179/74/192,

E179/73/161, E179/74/195 and E179/74/222). There are wills for Richard Pynnell in 1550 and 1551, and for William Pynnell of Uplambourn in 1567/68, with sons named Thomas being beneficiaries in 1551 and 1567/68 (in the latter case with a sister and younger brother, William). The 1567/68 will is of significance because it indicates that the son Thomas was a young unmarried man; it consequently seems distinctly likely that it is that son, probably born by about 1550, who fits into my lineage as my 9x great-grandfather Thomas, who married in 1576/77 and whose death was in December 1624.

If correct, my identification of William of Lambourn as Thomas' father (and Richard's grandfather) begs questions as to how Richard came to have a cousin Jeffery in Hannington, some 15 miles to the north-west of Lambourn. If Richard and Jeffery were first cousins, in the same generation, one can infer from the 1567/68 William Pynnell will that there is only one man, William's younger son William, who could be Jeffery's father. But is there any evidence of his presence in Hannington? There certainly was a William Pynnell in Hannington, recorded as marrying Margaret (Gweelines) in September 1584, but there is a strong possibility that he was the 'Willm Piniell my brother' who was a beneficiary of the 1632 will of Jeffery Piniell of Hannington, who had married there in January 1577/78. William's marriage (unless he married twice) may, however, have been one in the nearby Gloucestershire parish of Meysey Hampton in 1574, and it is also apparent that Jeffery and William may have been sons of John Pynnell of that parish, whose 1558 will names children William, Geffrey, Edy and Jane. The children were in that year probably comparatively young, as John's widow was his sole executor and long outlived him: her burial was in April 1589.

My suspicion that the two men moved to Hannington is bolstered by the fact that their sister Edy is likely to have been the Edithe Pynnell who married there in 1575. There is separate evidence of the presence of a Nicholas Pynnell in Hannington prior to the aforementioned marriages; he, implicitly somewhat older than Jeffery, was in 1565 a

defendant in a Chancery court case relating to property in Meysey Hampton (C2/Eliz/S8/26 at TNA), as well as being named in a Hannington tax assessment in 1576, and probably being buried there in 1593.

These various records, and ones that follow in the Hannington parish register, provide scant evidence of a familial connection between the Pynnels of Lambourn and Hannington. The description 'cousin' can, however, be a distant or very loose one (I have an Oxfordshire ancestor who was described as a cousin in his step-mother's will) and one hypothesis, if there was a genuine blood relationship between Richard and his 'cousin Jeffery', is that their grand-fathers, probably born around the 1520s, were brothers.

Looking to Richard's contemporaries in Hannington, the parish register, which commences in 1571, records nine Pinell baptisms in the period 1578/79 - 1590, albeit with no indication of parental names. Five of the children were boys, and it is fortuitous that bequests in Jeffery Piniell's 1632 will establish that two

(Nicholas and Thomas) were certainly his, as probably was John, who long predeceased him. The will also benefits the children of an Andrew Piniell, for whom there is a 1584 baptismal record, but he is neither a beneficiary, nor identified as a deceased son, and I suspect that he may have been a son of the William Pinnell who married just two months before the baptism. The only other boy in the records is a Gefferie, baptised in August 1589 but for whom there is a possible burial record in February 1601/02. If he did survive it is unlikely that he was Jeffery's son, since he is unmentioned in the will, and it is probable that his father was another man, eg Jeffery's brother William or Thomas' brother

William from Uplambourn, if he had moved from there to Hannington. In the latter case, Jeffery would have been Richard Pynnell's first cousin.

There is one demonstrable connection between the Hannington and Uplambourn families: the elder Jeffery's son Nicholas (born 1580/81) obviously being the man of that name who was a compiler of the inventory of Richard's possessions. Nicholas died in 1643/44 leaving a widow Alice, who I have previously mentioned as the Alice Pynnell, widow of Hannington, to whom Richard's widow Margery paid £100 in settlement of a debt. Nicholas and Alice's

eldest son, born in 1619, was named Jeffery, and he is clearly a contender to be Richard's 'cousin Jeffery', albeit a generation junior to Richard and lacking a close blood relationship. One might however question whether, aged only 22 when Richard died, Jeffery is actually likely to have been the man described as a yeoman and chosen as a supervisor of the will.

I feel bound to conclude that evidence of Pynnell families' presence in Lambourn and Hannington in the early-

to-mid sixteenth century is too patchy to establish the precise relationship between Richard Pynnell, born in the 1580s in Lambourn, and his 'cousin Jeffery' of Hannington, perhaps baptised there in 1589 or 1619. Whilst my initial investigations certainly broke down the brick wall that concealed Richard's Lambourn origins, the Hannington connection has yet to emerge from a heap of rubble!

The documents are by no means easy to read and understand, but they leave little doubt as to the enormity of those debts...

The great road to Bath

did it lead to health... or depravity?

more Fam'd for Pleasure than cures...

Penny Stokes lifts the lid on respectable Georgian society

What sort of people took the stagecoach along the Great Bath Road in order to benefit from the health-giving mineral springs of Bath? One imagines folk of quality, delicate Jane Austen-ish maidens, elegant matrons, dashing young officers perhaps: a stylish coterie of respectability, wealth and high fashion, governed by strict social conventions.

In an age when gentlemen and ladies often neither dined together, nor even shared the same church pews, Bath's communal facilities must have come as quite a shock for the first-time visitor. When Edward Ward travelled through Reading, Theale and Newbury to visit the famous city he observed a startling and deeply unattractive picture of the eighteenth-century's middle classes taking to the waters.

In this Bath was at least fifty of both Sexes, with a Score or two of Guides, who by their Scorbutick Carcasses, and Lacker'd Hides, you would think they had lain Pickling a Century of Years in the Stygian Lake: Some

had those Infernal Emissaries to support their Impotent Limbs: Others to scrub their Putrify'd Carcasses like a Race-Horse.

In one Corner was an Old Fornicator hanging by the Rings, Loaded with Rotten Humidity; Hard by him was a Buxom Dame, Cleansing her Nunquam Satis from Mercurial Dregs, and the remains of Romast Vitriol. Another, half cover'd with Sear-Cloth, had more Sores than Lazarus, doing Pennance for the Sins of her Youth...

At the Pump was several a Drenching their Gullets, and Gormandizing the Reaking Liquor by wholesale.

From thence we went to the Cross-Bath, where most of the Quality resorts, more Fam'd for Pleasure than cures, tho' they pretend it hath wrought Miracles on Barren-Soil, and wonderfully helps Conception. Not long since, a Gentleman of Quality was beholden to it for an Heir, as he reported; but his Lady is of a Contrary Opinion...

Here is perform'd all the Wanton Dalliances

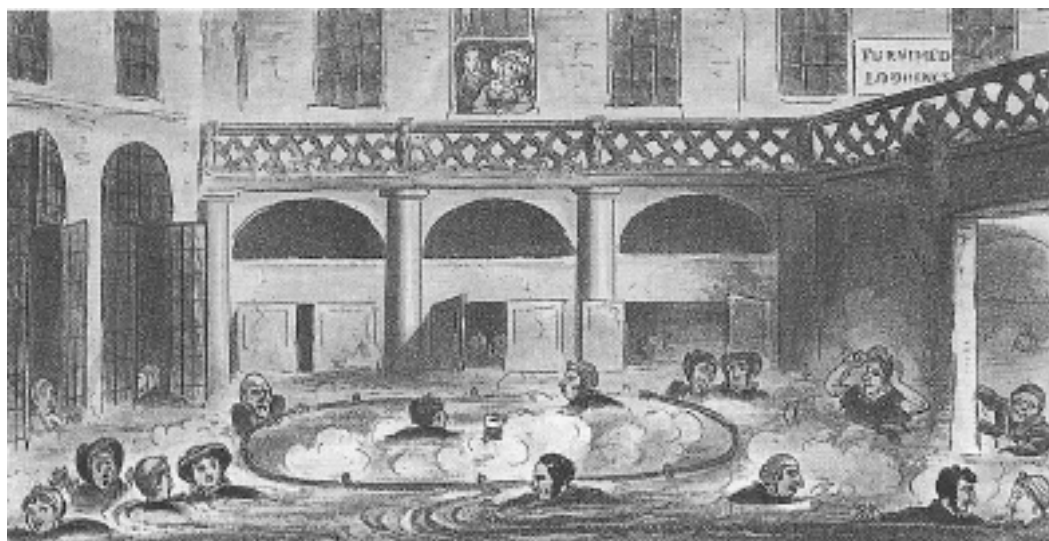
imaginable; Celebrated Beauties, Panting Breasts, and Curious Shapes, almost Expos'd to Publick View ; Languishing Eyes, Darting Killing Glances, Tempting Amorous Postures, attended by soft Musick, enough to provoke a Vestal to forbidden Pleasure, Captivate a Saint, and Charm a jove... The Spectators in the Galleries, pleasing their Roving Fancies with this Ladies Face, Another's Eyes, a thirds heaving Breasts, and Profound Air. In one Corner stood an old Letcher, whose years spoke him no less than threescore and ten, making Love to a young Lady, not exceeding fourteen.

After the diversions of the baths, the writer sits on a city-centre bench with a friend, who supplies him with a commentary on the assembled company. One or two of the words may defy modern translation, but the imputations are unmistakeable.

Those two Ladies with the Gentleman in Blew, are Sisters, live near the Church that is Dedicated to a Saint who expir'd on a Gridiron, they are Amorous Dames; The Gentleman is a Broken Officer, and lives better on their Allowances, than he could on his Pay;

This Gentlewoman in the White-Damask Gown, is a Sea-Captain's Lady, who, while her Corniferous Mate is Plowing the Ocean, takes Care to manure his Pasture, that he may have a Fruitful Crop this Harvest... That Foppish Beau in Scarlet Stockins, whose Hilt of his Sword bears a bob with his Calves, and his Jubilee Hatband, lies stitch'd cross the Crown, was a Pettycoat-Pensioner to Madam C— near Bucklersbury, but being lately Discarded, is come down here for promotion...

That young Lady with the Gold Orice Petty-coat, was a great Fortune, and not long since was married to a Flannel Wastecoat, and a double Night-cap of the same Stuff; But now by reason of her Husband's Imbecility, is forc'd to have recourse to the Bath;
That tall Gentleman attended by three Liveries, is something of Quality, a right Courtier, for he abhors the Citizens' Wives as much as the Sword Bearer does custard;
That Broad-piece Doctor, in the diminutive Band, makes a purchase every year by the Wickedness of the Age and Vindicates Writing more than ever G. K— Writ against the Quakers;



*Bathing at Bath, or stewing alive
 Cruikshank's cartoon of 1825 scarcely does justice to the libertines of Edward Ward's reminiscence*

That Pert young Gentlewoman with the two Silver Fringes, was compell'd by her Friends to Marry a Slovenly stockjobber, and now is surfeited with his Embraces; and came to the Bath to mend his Breed.

That Crafty Priest is as fickle as a Weather-Cock, and would sooner discard a good Conscience, then a fat Benefice;

This Tun of Iniquity, in the Crimson Gown with Monsieur at her Elbow, two Devils behind her, Aetna in her Face, all the Water in the Severn is not able to Quench her desires; she is a second Messalina, will tire, but ne'er be satisfied; she hath already quarter'd a Troop of French Dragoons, a Regiment of Dutchmen, and now is come to Exercise a Battalion of Britains;

That Powder'd Lobster in the Edg'd Hat, is the Spawn of a Broker, from thence Evaporated to a Bully, now shams an Officer, sets up for a Stallion of the first Rank, and

pretends he receives several Favours from a Qualitificated Lady;

That Spark with his Hat under his Arm, is a Limb of the Law, but hath Studied Chamberlin's Midwifry, more than Cook's Reports; That Dowdy Minx in the Scarlet Topping, and Pinck'd Scarff, is the Relick of a broken Grocer, an Industrious Woman, for her Head's no sooner lay'd, but her Breech is at Work.

One wonders how those who went to Bath were able to return to their genteel homes with reputations intact.

For those who would like to read more of Edward Ward's experiences (which included some lechery in Newbury) his book *A Step to Bath* can be read online at <https://onlinebooks.library.upenn.edu/web-bin/book/lookupname?key=Ward%2C%20Edward%2C%201667-1731>

Berkshire Schools in the Eighteenth Century **a new resource from the Berkshire Record Society** **published February 2019**

This book represents several years' work by a small group of volunteers, several of whom were members of Berkshire Family History Society. Trawling a wide range of primary sources in archives within and beyond Berkshire, they have painstakingly constructed a coherent picture of the charity, religious and commercial schools which provided education to the Georgians of Berkshire. Arranged A to Z by parish, the book contains a wealth of information on dates, curricula, teaching practices, pupil selection criteria, finance and, of course, many personal names of teachers, school-owners and benefactors. There is 13-page index of names.

The closing date of 1833 was chosen because that was the first year in which the government began to support education financially. By then, however, many National (Anglican) and British (nonconformist) schools had been established in the county, later forming the backbone of the state primary school network.

The work was edited by the late Sue Clifford (a former treasurer of Berkshire Family History Society) who sadly and unexpectedly died shortly before publication. She had been combining her editorial work on this book with her PhD thesis on elementary education in nineteenth-century Berkshire.

Volume 26 is available to members of the Berkshire Record Society as part of their subscription. The price to non-members of the society is £25.00 (plus £2.50 p&p).

Burghfield war memorial

*Peter Beaven
takes a look at
some of those who
lost their lives
fighting for
our country*

The recently published survey of the Burghfield St Mary Memorial Inscriptions (BRKo287) contains lists of the 55 men who were killed in the two world wars. The names are recorded on the war memorial, and also in an illuminated book which is displayed in a glass-fronted case inside the church. These records are just the surnames and initials; no dates or any other detail. A marble wall plaque in the church contains the family details of one officer and there are four Commonwealth War Grave Commission (CWGC) stones in the churchyard. This article describes the techniques used to try and identify the people behind the other names, and also records the 31 other people with connections to Burghfield who died in these conflicts.

The main face of the war memorial contains the Great War dedication and the second face has the names of officers and sergeants starting with Bullivant, R P. The Commonwealth War Grave Commission website <https://www.cwgc.org/find/find-war-dead>, finds:

Captain Bullivant, Ritchie Pelham
Died 24/09/1918 Middlesex
Hussars

Findmypast contains links to several military collections including the Imperial War Museum, which has a photograph of Captain Bullivant. Neither of these sites makes any reference to Burghfield. However, a search of the newspaper collection found an extract from his will, and the National Probate Calendar on Ancestry also lists his three addresses, starting with the Mill House, Burghfield. The newspaper article (*Pall Mall*

Gazette 11th January 1919) also includes this extract:

Executors endeavour to purchase from the Government his two chargers 'Mike' and 'Joe' and if successful to hand them over to his friend and brother officer Arthur Macdougall, or to make such other arrangements so that they may have a comfortable home.

The next name is for George Ouvry William Willink, and the marble plaque in the church lists his family. The CWGC record is:

Captain Willink, George Ouvry William
Died 28/03/1918 Aged 30
2nd/4th Bn. Royal Berkshire Regiment
MC, Mentioned in Despatches
Son of Henry George Willink and Mary Grace Willink of Hillfields, Burghfield, Berks.
Eton (E. L. Vaughan's House), in the Eton eight.
B.A. Oxford (C.C.C.[Central Criminal Court]), Barrister (Inner Temple), ex-Capt. Inns of Court O.T.C. [Officer Training Corps] Born in London.

This record contains a clue to checking other names on the memorial, in that he was in the Royal Berkshire Regiment, which would have been the first choice for local recruits. The CWGC search has a box where a regiment can be chosen from a drop-down list. Entering 'Berk' leads to a list including the Royal Berkshire Regiment and the names on the memorial were checked for this. Another name from the war memorial is 'Bunce E' and one name shown in this way is from Cheriton, Alresford, which could be possible.

However, this record is of a Private, and the information on the CWGC memorial states he was an NCO.

A later search found a Lance-Corporal Ernest Edward Bunce from the Berkshire Yeomanry, Son of William Robert and Ellen Elizabeth Bunce, of 'The Laurels', Burghfield Common, Mortimer, Berks.

About a half of the names on the war memorial are found in the ranks of the Royal Berkshire Regiment but only eight of these are noted as having links with Burghfield. Two of these are buried in the churchyard. Captain Willink has a memorial stone in the churchyard, and the CWGC site records his burial on the Somme. Without any filter it would take an inordinate amount of time to check all names on the memorial. As an example, there are 88 records for 'Cooper S.'

The CWGC site does have additional filters; the most useful in this case is *Additional information*. Clicking this link opens a box and entering 'Burghfield' restricts results to records to those that include that word. It is not necessary to put any more information at all, and a search produces 20 records where Burghfield is mentioned in the notes. This is half of the First World War records, but five of these are not recorded at Burghfield church.

The next source searched was Findmypast, where a similar technique was used. Opening the search page for *Military records* and selecting *First World War* in the side menu, Burghfield can be used as a filter in *Optional keywords*. This then says there are 183 results, which can be slightly reduced by putting a year of death as 1916 ± 2.

These records can then be sorted using the keys at the head of the columns, and by clicking on *Died*, it is seen that the first four pages do not record a death, despite the selection of *Year of death* on the search page. This reduces the number of records to 59, and this represents 50 individuals because of the use of several databases. Half of these are not on

the Burghfield war memorial.

One record from the war memorial was for 'Sellwood, W' and this did not occur on the CWGC database. This record was found on the Findmypast site as William George Sellwood #5807 of the Royal Berkshire Regiment recorded in *Soldiers Died in the Great War* database © Naval and Military Press Ltd 2010. His residence and birth place is listed as Burghfield. The original transcription on the CWGC database had been Selwood and, as the search engine does not use similar names, it did not appear in searches. It has now been updated.

At this stage, only eight on the original list were not identified and other methods were tried to identify them. A similar search was made for S Bright and E Goddard on the 1911 census, to find possible connections with Burghfield. Potential matches were found but as yet there is no other proof that these are the names on the war memorial. Some effort has been made looking at newspaper records without success.

Better success has been with the name 'Green, A L'. Albert Leonard Green was living at Burghfield Hatch in the 1911 census, aged 11. Findmypast has two records for A L Green. The first is for his enlistment into the Royal Air Force on the 1st February 1918, which corresponds with a call up at age 18. The second is for his death on 4th September 1919 in Archangel.

Second World War

Similar searches were made on the 15 names from the Second World War. The CWGC site has five containing reference to Burghfield, two of them being in the churchyard at Burghfield. Another eight records (including two non-military) are also found.

The name 'Heath, F N' produced only one record, for Frederick Nolan Heath, but no information on place in Berkshire. However, the date of death and age at that time, gives a 1916 date of birth which leads to this record in June 1916 on FreeBMD:

surname	first name(s)	mother	district	vol	page
Heath	Frederick N	Nolan	Bradfield	2c	615

The CWGC record names his parents and the 1939 register shows them living at Lodge Cottage, Bradfield R.D.

There is only one record for W E Wise, who died in 1941 aged 33. A search on *Berkshire Baptisms* found William Ernest Wise baptised in Burghfield in 1907.

The CWGC record for 'Kirkwood, T G H' is for Major Tristram Guy Hammett Kirkwood, but contains no other information. However a birth was registered in 1916 at Bradfield, which includes Burghfield, as

surname	Kirkwood
first name(s)	Tristram G H
mother	Alleyne
district	Bradfield
vol	2c
page	619

Names not recorded at St Mary, Burghfield

While researching the names recorded at St Mary, Burghfield, 24 other names were found with references to Burghfield and the First World War together with seven from the Second World War, two of these being civilians who died in London.

The names of those lost in the First World War may be missing from the war memorial because the families of those men did not put their names forward for inclusion to the Burghfield War Memorial Committee at the time funds were being raised to build the memorial in the early 1920s.

First World War

<i>surname</i>	<i>forename</i>	<i>rank</i>	<i>service #</i>	<i>date of death</i>	<i>age</i>
Berry	Ira	Private	TR/7/24848	17 March 1918	18
Eales	George Anton	Gunner	61777	15 April 1917	30
Cooper	Henry James	Private	26361	17 February 1917	37
Lock	Rodney	Private	T4/142185	3 September 1916	36
Marshall	Robert Burnaby	Lieutenant	Sp. Mem. B18.	14 September 1919	23
Hose	Horace Albert	Private	10023	26 November 1914	
Day	William	Private	9401	9 May 1915	
Norris	William Charles	Private	9186	10 March 1915	
Norris	Herbert James Alfred	Private	23874	24 April 1917	
Prior	John Thomas	Private	9847	15 March 1915	22
Williams	Harold	Private	15560	25 September 1915	
Willis	William James	A/sgt.	665	8 May 1915	34
Ostridge	William	Private	Po./18428. (Po.)	31 May 1916	
Keep	Percy	Private	19671	24 October 1916	
Freeman	Frederick Theodore	Ftr/gnr.	87176	16 September 1917	
Higgs	Ernest	Sergeant	3/482	24 April 1917	45
King	William Francis Charles	Sergt	27059	15 August 1917	
Holloway	Alfred William	Private	13136	16 October 1918	
Holloway	Percy George	Corporal	200459	7 September 1918	24
Parker	George Edward	Private	182452	4 November 1918	25
Reeves	John Harold	Serjeant	S/9147	15 July 1918	
Smith	William Charles	Lance Corporal	33431	11 August 1918	20
Tigwell	Ernest	Private	28250	25 August 1918	29
Wells	James William	Private	M2/101240	10 November 1918	

Second World War

<i>surname</i>	<i>forename</i>	<i>rank</i>	<i>service #</i>	<i>date of death</i>	<i>age</i>
Horwood	William Leon	Chief Motor Mechanic			
			C/MX 116181	16 February 1944	29
Boshier	William Charles	Gunner	1496666	26 May 1940	22
Padget	James William Henry	Staff Serjeant	5772743	17 June 1944	26
Bowers	Horace George	Corporal	927992	26 October 1943	29
Bradshaw-Smith	Brian	Major	AW/976	31 May 1941	49
Pocock	Stanley	Volunteer		23 December 1940	35
Willis	George Henry Caleb	Police Constable		17 April 1941	37

Post script: All the First World War names have now been identified, and details will be added to the Berkshire FHS website shortly for anyone who is interested.

Dates for your diary

7-8 June 2019 10.00-17.00
The Genealogy Show
National Exhibition Centre,
North Ave, Marston Green,
Birmingham B40 1NT
www.thegenealogyshow.uk

22 June 2019 10.00-16.30
The Family History Show,
The Knavesmire Exhibition
Centre, The Racecourse,
York YO23 1EX
<https://thefamilyhistoryshow.com/york/>

6 July 2019 10.00-16.30
The Family History Show,
South-West
UWE Exhibition and Conference
Centre, Filton Rd,
Stoke Gifford,
Bristol BS34 8QZ
<https://thefamilyhistoryshow.com/south-west/>

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

24 August 2019 10.00-16.30*
The Family History Show,
Sandown Park Race Course,
Esher KT10 9AJ
<https://thefamilyhistoryshow.com/london/>

**** Berkshire FHS will be present with a stand. Come and have a chat with us.***

Around the branches

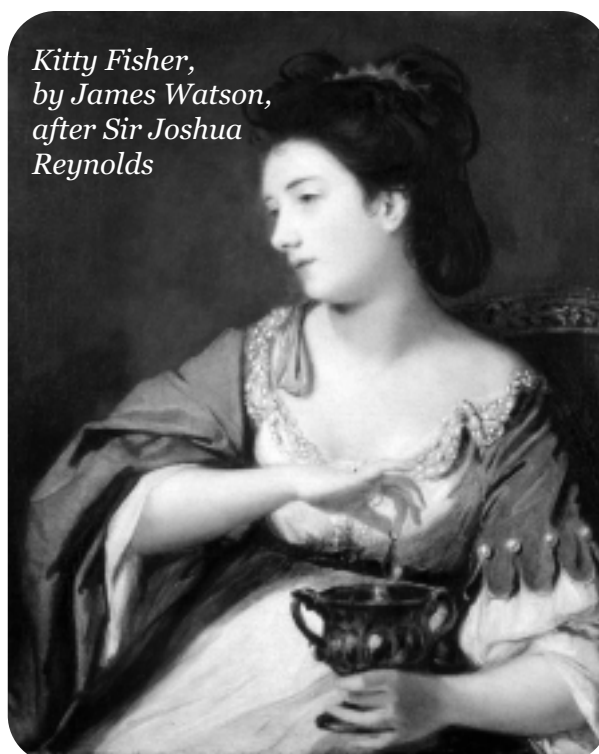
Vale of White Horse

Martin Collisson started our 2019 programme with a story of Covent Garden. He explained that the area had once been a monastery known as the Garden of Abbey and Convent, later shortened to Covent Garden. Following the seizure by Henry VIII in the 1530s, the Russell family built their large house there in 1578. John Russell was the 1st Earl of Bedford, hence the name of Bedford Square among others. The Russells continued to hold land in the area until the early twentieth century.

The first central square in London (1631) it was developed by Inigo Jones in 1654 into a piazza, later an area where fruit and vegetables were sold. Traders would bring their produce in on carts, such that in time the area declined. The wealthy moved away and the area became a red-light district with numerous coffee houses and shops.

The vice industry in Georgian London was huge, turning over £20 million, with an estimated 50,000 people involved. Covent Garden was home to the bawdy houses whose keepers

were known as Mothers. There were different levels of courtesans, from 'Women of fashion', who were bored housewives, to 'Bulk mongers', who were homeless beggars. The *Harris' List*, a book of Covent Garden ladies, was published for the men of pleasure.



*Kitty Fisher,
by James Watson,
after Sir Joshua
Reynolds*

One of the better known courtesans was Fanny Murray (1729-78) who was orphaned at 12, became a flower girl in Bath, was brought to London and became the toast of the town. Another was Kitty Fisher, immortalised in the nursery rhyme *Lucy Locket lost her pocket, Kitty Fisher found it*. Her nightly fee was 100

guineas. Grace Dalrymple Elliott was born in Scotland, and became a courtesan following an affair with Lord Valentia. She was known for having an affair with the Prince Regent.

Our February meeting saw a large turnout with several new faces, no doubt because of interest in the talk

by Bill King on *Yesterday's Runways*.

With war looming, many airfields were built from 1935 to early 1939 and more during the war itself. At the peak in 1942, 60,000 people were working on building airfields, two-thirds of them women. Many were sited within a 25-mile radius of Oxford, and in the Thames Valley, because the land was flat and gravel was available for construction. Fighter airfields were mainly in the south-east, bomber airfields in the

east (Yorkshire and Lincolnshire) and US bomber airfields in East Anglia. The ones around Oxford and the centre of the country were used for training.

Each airfield had three runways, the main one into the prevailing wind. All around the perimeter would be hard

Around the branches

standings for aircraft to be dispersed against aerial bombardment.

Each operational airfield had between 3,000 and 3,500 staff, all billeted in adjacent villages. Mains electricity and sewerage were installed, benefiting the villages. The buildings at Hullavington were faced in Bath stone because the Duke of Beaufort insisted that they match his estate. Welford, Aldermaston, Greenham, Membury and Ramsbury were all built on higher land, and were given to the USAAF in 1943, as was Berinsfield, which had been a bomber Operational Training Unit, and had to have a runway extension for the heavier US bombers. The same was true of Membury, but the main NE/SW runway

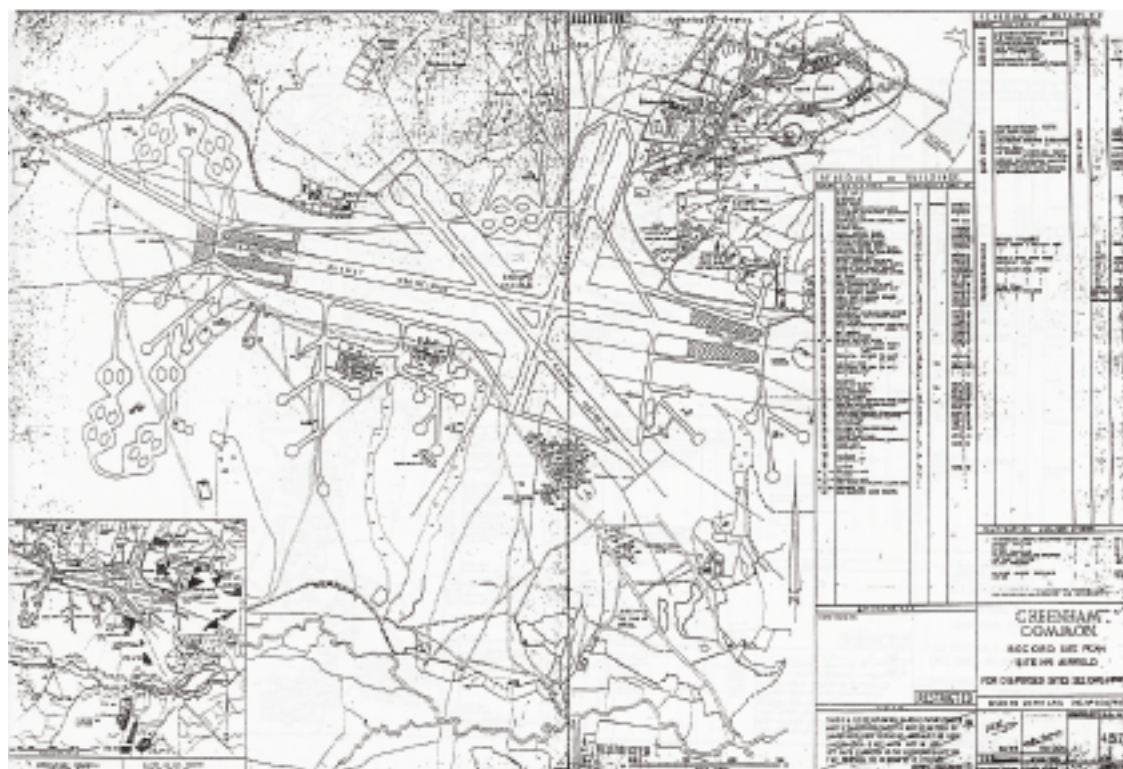
couldn't be extended because of the surrounding hills, so the N/S runway was extended instead.

Ahead of D-Day, our area became devoted to airborne troops. Kidlington and Weston on the Green were bases for glider training. Harwell was the base for twin-engined Albemarles and four-engined Stirlings that were used for towing the gliders.

Our March meeting was an open evening themed *Who is your ancestor furthest back in time?* but we heard from a number of members about different aspects of their research. These included an elusive ancestor surnamed Mahr who was finally tracked down in Bodmin Gaol, and

Soffe ancestors who have been tracked back to the thirteenth century using manorial records. Another member told of a brick wall being broken down by a chance discovery in a book of a reference to her Warren ancestor looking after a herd of cows during the battle of Naseby. Another talk was on members of the Davis family of Abingdon, one of whom deserted from the Navy during the First World War, and another was on a lightship strafed by the Luftwaffe in the second. A different war story concerned two brothers in the RAF who were prisoners of war, one in Colditz and the other in Sagan. All in all, it was a lively, varied evening that was all the better because we had a number of new faces to welcome.

The design for a wartime airfield at Greenham Common



Around the branches

Bracknell & Wokingham

Our January meeting was entitled *Discovering My Ancestor*, in which talks were given by members. Our first was about breaking brick walls, in which a member described how he had had difficulty in tracing an ancestor who she had dropped her first forename and went by her second name. We heard about a letter sent from the front, in 1940, in which the writer gave advice to his wife on how to protect herself in the event of air raids and, to assuage the curiosity of his son, he gave an account of the traumatic experience of being rescued by the Navy after spending three days on the beaches of Dunkirk. Another member told of how collaboration can yield fruitful results such as when he had been in contact with researchers in Australia having seen the family tree on Ancestry. We concluded with a member telling us how he enjoyed finding

documents that he could actually touch, such as muster books and pay lists relating to his great-grandfather, who had been a private in the 11th Hussars.

Henley Union Workhouse: the story of Townlands was the title of the talk given by Valerie Alasia in February. The Old Poor Law in 1601 placed responsibility on every parish to collect money for the relief of the poor. In the eighteenth century Henley Corporation built a poor house which was taken over in 1834 under the new Poor Law, and was administered by commissioners in London. In 1938 workhouses were designated Public Assistance Institutions, which continued much as before but without the children. Townlands became a hospital in 1948 under the NHS Act.

Our March speaker was Philip Williams, who told us

about American naval personnel walking though the quiet Thameside village of Hurley (a curious event, such a long way from the sea), and about sightings of Eisenhower and Churchill at the Bell Inn and the Manor House. The reason being OSS Station Victor, which served as a communications base for many secret operations during the Second World War. Information had been gathered from the now declassified diary which covers Victor from its conception and establishment, through to its operational running up until the later stages of the war.

Hit a brick wall in your research? Come and join us at our drop-in sessions at Bracknell and Wokingham libraries. Details on <https://www.berksfhs.org.uk/cms/Events/Month/>.

**Sandra Barkwith and
Bryan Pledger**

Reading

We started the New Year with Mike Swaddling giving us a talk entitled *Telling Tales*. Mike regaled us with hints and tips for gathering and recording the memories of our relatives and friends. Ways of getting people to open up were shared, along with ideas for environments conducive to the exercise. Mike spent over 10 years, visiting retirement homes

and recording first-hand stories of lives of 500 people, stretching back almost 100 years. These were compiled into 10 or 12 anthologies. The stories are as varied as human nature itself, and his talk brought a handful of them to life in an entertaining fashion and with lots of humour. He also shared some of the techniques he learned on how to get people

to talk about their past lives.

In February, we welcomed David Cliffe back to give an updated version of his *History of Reading Cinemas*. David's original talk in 2014 resulted in the book *Reading's Cinemas: Picture Palace to Penny Plunge*. After a description of how cinematography developed, David took us on a tour of

Around the branches

Reading's cinemas with illustrations of the earliest picture houses through to those of more recent times. Included in this were buildings that were not technically

cinemas, but still showed moving pictures.

We continue to hold a drop-in service at the Centre for Heritage and Family History

on the last Thursday of the month (same day as our evening meeting) where you can get one-to-one guidance with your research.

Vicki Chesterman

Newbury

2019 opened in Newbury with a talk on Jack of Newbury by Dr David Peacock. Dr Peacock is a popular Newbury historian and, perhaps unsurprisingly, he attracted a larger than average audience. The legendary figure of Jack of Newbury is often conflated with his father of the same name; both were successful clothiers in Tudor Newbury, the son more so than the father, leaving Newbury the legacy of a substantial parish church.

In February we welcomed another academic historian, Dr Manfred Brod, who spoke on the relationship between Lord Craven, an ardent Stuart supporter, and the Commonwealth. Dr Brod explained how Lord Craven succeeded in retaining his extensive estates in Berkshire during a period of Parliamentary appropriation. This talk too drew a large audience.

In March, Judy Rous returned with the story of a distant relative, Enos Molden, a Wiltshire policeman with an exemplary record who was murdered in the course of making an arrest right at the end of his career in 1892.

April brought us Karen Rogers, back again from Australia to organise another Liddiard family reunion. She updated us on her one-name-study of this ubiquitous west Berkshire surname, which boasts a formidable range of spelling variations.

Not long ago the branch had no projects to its name. Now, thanks to the efforts of Newbury Branch volunteers, the MIs of Enborne churchyard have been transcribed and published on CD, the same for Hamstead



Jack of Newbury's house and workshops once occupied a massive 90-foot frontage along Northbrook Street, stretching back to what was then called the Marsh (now Victoria Park). Later his premises became a hotel. Today, all that remains is this single house (on the right, in the picture above). Much of the rest of the site yielded to Marks & Spencer in the 1930s.

Marshall is well under way, and our volunteers are also embarking on a transcription of Shaw-cum-Donnington parish registers.

Penny Stokes

The Centre for Heritage and Family History

Gain a new perspective on your research from the Centre



Bill Nicholls / Reading Central Library / CC BY-SA 2.0

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

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

New 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 burials
Berkshire probate index	Berkshire marriages

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 January 2019.) 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.

Members' surname interests

Members submitting their interests

8168 Mrs C Bartlett, 62 Vine Lane, Hillingdon UB10 0BD
christine_bar37@hotmail.com

8168 RUMBALL	Maidenhead	BRK 1830 - 1900
8168 WOLFF	Reading	BRK 1840 - 1860
8168 AUSTIN	Mortimer	BRK 1750 - 1900
8168 MATTHEWS	Reading	BRK 1910 -

Directory maintained by Bob Plumridge memsec@berksfhs.org.uk



New in the archives

Recently catalogued items which may be of interest include:

- papers of Lovejoy's Library. Founded by George Lovejoy in 1832, this was based in London Street, Reading, and closed in the 1980s (R/D131);
- records deposited by a Reading solicitor (D/ESE) relating to properties in the Reading area, 1675 - 1970;
- deeds including those of the South family's estate in Caversham, 1632 - 1895 (R/D138);
- papers of the Weedon family, 1694 - 1892, which relates to property in Caversham and Reading (R/D139);
- original apprenticeship indenture of John Jarvis of East Ilsley to William Savory,

surgeon of Newbury, 1791 (D/EX2704);

- the original parish copy of the tithe award for Bray, 1843-44, previously thought to have been lost (D/P23).

Our website has much information about family and local history, as well as our opening hours and online catalogue. You can read our latest newsletter and see what events we have on, so 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: use our online contact form on the website to get in touch.



Events

How to read old handwriting workshop 10.15 - 14.45 1st July 2019

Always wanted to be able to read old handwriting?

Come along to our workshop, using samples from

There are 10 places available so booking is essential: arch@reading.gov.uk or 0118 937 5132.

Behind the scenes at the BRO tour 10.30 - 11.30 15th July 2019

Come along and see some historical documents, where we store them and get an insight into how our conservator repairs them. There are 12 spaces available, and it's free, but please book on arch@reading.gov.uk or 0118 937 5132.

'A great deliverance': Berkshire and the aftermath of World War One exhibition 22nd May to 16th August 2019 (normal opening hours)

The Treaty of Versailles in June 1919 was the official end of the First World War:

this exhibition will look at how the county responded. Free admission.

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