

# Berkshire Family Historian

*the quarterly journal of the Berkshire Family History Society*

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June 2009

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Please note than personal contact details have been redacted from the online version of this issue. If you wish to get in touch with a contributor please contact the society.

## Chairman's note

As many of you know, this will be my last note as chairman. I am standing down after the AGM, which will be held before the Computer Branch meeting at 19.30 on 17 June 2009 at Oakwood Community Centre, Woodley, Reading RG5 4 JZ. Do come along and meet your new committee.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Executive and all who have helped me throughout my three years in the chair. They are too many to list here, but hopefully you will all come along to the Garden Party at Yeomanry House in May.

As I said in my note in the March issue of the *Berkshire Family Historian* we do urgently need a couple of people to organise our stall at family history fairs. Do please look at the item on page 4 about this job, which involves deciding what will be taken to fairs and how the stall will be organised – and it gets you in for free!

We continue to work with Buckinghamshire and Oxfordshire FHSs and the three archivists to persuade the Oxford diocese to allow transcripts of their records to be put onto the web. We are also working with the BRO to

produce a probate index for their large collection of wills. If you would like to help with this project, and can come into the BRO on alternate Mondays from 14.00 to 16.30, please let me know; <publications@berksfhs.org.uk> will find me.

The Berkshire Record Office will again be opening its doors for our members and their friends on Tuesday 21 July 2009 from 18.00 to 20.00. Our own Research Centre will be open from 18.00 to 21.30. These are very informal friendly evenings. Do come along and get help to knock down your brick walls or to start your family history.

After June I hope to spend more time putting Berkshire information onto CDs to assist all those with Berkshire ancestors who cannot travel to the county to do their own research. All our CDs are available from BerksFHS Books. Please check <www.berksfhs.org.uk> regularly to keep yourself up to date with all the society news.

**Jocie McBride**  
**Chairman**

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## Birth briefs booming

Sixteen more birth briefs have recently been added to the Birth Brief Name Index on <www.berksfhs.org.uk/birthbriefs>, thanks to Alan Brooker and Chad Hanna. As of February this year the index has a total of 32,586 names, an increase of 2,856 since January 2006. 12,026 of these birth brief entries are from UK members and 1,055 from overseas.

Birth briefs are five-generation ancestral charts containing the names and vital records – birth/baptism, marriage and death/burial – submitted by society members. The Birth Briefs Index gives surnames and forenames with vital records by year and county. For living persons (defined as those born less than 110 years ago for whom there is no death

record) dates are replaced by ‘...’ in the index, are not included on any printed output.

Users of the index may purchase a birth brief for £2 or ask to be put in contact with the member who submitted it. 10,261 of the index entries are from members contactable by email. Names from birth briefs of lapsed members are retained, and copies may be ordered, but the society does not forward enquiries to lapsed members, nor does it provide contact details.

**Have you submitted your birth brief? You can send in your details as a Gedcom file, or download a printed form from <www.berksfhs.org.uk/birthbriefs>.**

# Berks FHS at WDYTYA Live at Olympia February 2009



## Berkshire Burial Index

The parishes and periods which have been added to the Berkshire Burial Index since the position shown in the March 2009 issue of the *Berkshire Family Historian* are set out below. These, together with all other additions made since the publication of the most recent CD of the Berkshire Burial Index in late 2008, will be included in the next update of the CD, which we aim to issue towards the end of this year. The index now contains more than 639,000 entries.

Appleton St Laurence 1767 - 1801  
Beenham St Mary 1907 - 1983  
Bray St Michael 1752 - 1763  
Brightwell St Agatha 1615 - 1690  
Compton Beauchamp St Swithun 1551 - 1775  
Englefield St Mark 1559 - 1771  
Farnborough All Saints 1836 - 2007  
Inkpen St Michael & All Angels 1725 - 1750  
Radley St James the Great 1599 - 1741  
Reading Henley Road (Caversham) Crematorium 1955 - 1958  
Reading London Road Cemetery (burials in consecrated ground) 1935 - 1943

Reading London Road Cemetery (burials in unconsecrated ground) 1867 - 1875  
Shaw cum Donnington St Mary the Virgin 1964 - 1982  
South Moreton St John the Baptist 1757 - 1812  
Stanford in the Vale St Denys 1774 - 1812  
Sutton Courtenay All Saints 1696 - 1728  
Welford St Gregory 1700 - 1749  
Wokingham St Sebastian 1866 - 2002  
Yattendon SS Peter & Paul 1642 - 1812

Details of the services for researching burials in the Berkshire Burial Index are given on pages 34-5.

**David Wright**

## Do you enjoy family history fairs?

*If the answer is yes, why not mix pleasure with a very practical service to your society? We badly need a volunteer and friend to undertake the organisation of the society's participation at family history fairs.*

*You choose which fairs to attend, and you organise what is taken to them. You wouldn't have to attend all the fairs yourself, because other society members living near to the venue are usually willing to man the stall. The society has tables booked at*

**Buckinghamshire FHS Open Day, Aylesbury, 25 July 2009**

**Swallowfield Agricultural Show, August Bank Holiday 2009**

**Oxfordshire FHS Open Day 26 September 2009**

**West Surrey FHS Fair, 31 October 2009**

**Bracknell FH Fair, 31 January 2010**

**WDYTYA-live at Olympia 26 to 28 February 2010**

*We urgently need people to organise our presence at these fairs. Please do give some thought to volunteering for this important society work. For more information please contact Jocie McBride on 01491 573705 or email <publications@berksfhs.org.uk>.*

<b>Dates for your diary</b>			
<b>date</b>	<b>event</b>	<b>venue</b>	<b>more details</b>
10.00-15.00 Sat 13 June	Didcot Library history day	Cornerstone Arts Centre Didcot OX11 7NE	01235 813103
19.30 Wed 17 June	Berks FHS AGM	Oakwood Community Centre, Woodley Reading RG5 4JZ	<secretary@berksfhs.org.uk>
10.00 - 15.30 Sat 20 June	Wiltshire FHS open day and fair	New College, Swindon SN3 1AH	<www.wiltshirefhs.co.uk>
10.00 - 16.00 Sat 25 July	Buckinghamshire FHS open day	Grange School Aylesbury HP21 7NH	<www.bucksfhs.org.uk>
18.00 - 20.00 Tues 21 July	BRO special opening for Berks FHS members	BRO Coley Ave, Reading	0118 901 5132
28-31 Aug	<i>Open the door and here are the people</i> <small>national family &amp; local history conference</small>	East Midlands Conference Centre, Nottingham	<www.openthedoor.org.uk>
10.00 - 16.15 Sat 19 Sept	<i>It's all on the internet now - isn't it?</i> <small>with John Hanson and Jeanne Bunting</small>	Social Centre Bromham SN15 2JB	<www.wiltshirefhs.co.uk/ seminar>
Sun 20 Sept	HGS Open Day	Horndean Technology College	<www.hgs-online.org.uk>
10.00-16.00 Sat 26 Sept	Oxfordshire FHS Open Day	Marlborough Enterprise Centre, Woodstock	<www.ofhs.org.uk/OpenDay>



## Irish records online

Many of us have Irish blood coursing through our veins, but building up a family tree through census records has always been difficult; many records were destroyed at the Courts building in Dublin or by government order, although fragments have survived. This means that the earliest surviving comprehensive returns are for 1901 and 1911. The 1901 returns are available on microfilm at the National Archives in Dublin and for the six counties at the Public Record Office of Northern Ireland.

Now many of the records of the 1911 census have been made available online at <[www.census.nationalarchives.ie](http://www.census.nationalarchives.ie)>. The records may be searched by name, and transcriptions and digital scans are available which, unlike those for England and Wales, can be searched for free. In addition this census was the first that required women to state the number of years they had been married.

More good news for Irish researchers is that the entire catalogue of the Public Records Office for Northern Ireland is available online at <[www.proni.gov.uk](http://www.proni.gov.uk)>. Many of the records were until now only available to search in person, but it should now be possible to identify items of interest from the million or more records in the electronic catalogue before visiting the Public Records Office.

**John Gurnett**

**Don't discard the address sheet that came with your magazine...**

*...because the reverse is the form which you need to renew your society membership. Please write your membership number on the reverse of the cheque, and don't staple the cheque to the renewal form. Sterling payments only please, from overseas members. If you have inadvertently lost this sheet please go to <[www.berksfhs.org.uk](http://www.berksfhs.org.uk)> and renew online.*

**Berkshire Family History Society**

## ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

*will be held before the*

**Computer Branch meeting  
19.30 Wed 17 June**

*followed by Howard Benbrook's talk on researching surnames and one-name studies*

**Oakwood Community Centre, Woodley,  
Reading RG5 4JZ**

*All members are welcome to attend*

## Photo restoration course at South Hill Park, Bracknell



Sunday 21 June  
11.00 - 17.00  
members £48  
non-members £51  
concessions £49

details from  
01344 484123

# New acquisitions at the BRO

## Schools records including some admissions registers

(NB recent years subject to usual restriction)

- Ranelagh School, founded as an elementary charity school in Cranbourne by the Earl of Ranelagh in 1709, refounded as a grammar school in new premises in Bracknell in 1908, and since 1981 a comprehensive school; 1918-33, admissions 1909-90 (SCH5)
- Cranbourne Ranelagh School, Winkfield, 1904-42, admissions 1918-33 (D/EX1979)
- Mrs Bland's School, Burghfield Common, 1904-91 (D/EX2082)
- Princess Margaret Rose School (formerly St Stephen's Senior Girls' School), Clewer, 1889 - 1983, admissions (SCH8)
- Newbury County Girls' Grammar School, 1904 - 2003 (SCH12 and D/EX2060)
- St Bartholomew's Grammar School, Newbury, 1945-75, admissions 1903-46 (SCH11)
- St Bartholomew's [Comprehensive] School, Newbury, 1975 - 2001, admissions 1975-98 (SCH13)
- Winchcombe Infants' School, Newbury, admissions 1964-81 (SCH10)
- Wilson Primary School, Reading, 1904-90s (SCH14)
- Churchend School, Tilehurst, 1975-98, admissions 1962 - 2008 (SCH15)
- South Grange (formerly Burleigh Wood) Nursery School, Sunninghill (mainly photographs) (D/EX1931).

## Petty sessions

If your ancestors came from Aldworth, Catmore, Chilton, Farnborough or East or West Ilsley they may appear in the recently discovered Ilsley petty sessions court register, 1898 - 1915 (PS/I). Found with it was a rather interesting handbill advertising a meeting to discuss the establishment of a pitched market for the sale of corn in Wantage in 1845.

## Parish records

- Records of the Sonning parish charities, 1895 - 1980 (D/P113)
- Hungerford tithe map of 1849 (D/P71)
- Parish diary and memoranda book provides an illuminating insight into church and school activity in Clewer St Stephen, 1901-32 (D/P39B).

## Property sources

A large collection of documents from a Reading solicitor's office (D/EX1870) includes:

- deeds for properties in Burghfield, Caversham, Earley, Faringdon, Finchampstead, Hagbourne, Hurst, East Ilsley, Newbury, Sandhurst, Shinfield, Swallowfield, Thatcham, Theale, Tilehurst, Wallingford, Wargrave, Woodley and Reading.
- architect's plans for houses in Brighton Road, Earley Rise
- probates and other clients' papers.

Some deeds go back to the seventeenth century, but most are late nineteenth and early twentieth century. Deeds have also been deposited for 20 Howard Street, Reading, 1857 - 1971 (D/EX2087), and property in Binfield and White Waltham, 1773-77 (D/EX2086). The oldest is the grant of a tenement (small house) and land in Burghfield, which dates from the 1290s (D/EZ161). House historians can also consult the rate books for the boroughs of Maidenhead c1850 - 1962 (M/FR), and Wallingford 1838 - 1967 (WA/FR).

## Business records

- Accounts of the Druce family of Winkfield, 1865 - 1919, blacksmiths who carried out work for many local property owners (D/EZ159)
- Records of two Reading trade unions: the printing union, Reading Typographical Society, 1898 - 1970 (D/EX1941) and the Reading branch of the GMB union and its predecessors (originally the National Union of Gasworkers and General Labourers), 1911-188 (D/EX2017)

# Historic polar correspondence at the BRO

**Apsley Cherry-Garrard (1886 - 1956) was a Berkshire-born zoologist who took part in Scott's Antarctic expedition 1911-12. The Berkshire Record Office holds some of Cherry-Garrard's letters (D/EHR/Z5-11) including several letters to his solicitor from the Antarctic.**

Cherry, as he was known (the Garrard was a later addition, along with the Hertfordshire estates), was born at Denford Park, near Hungerford, where he spent the first few years of his life. As a local landowner and JP his father was involved in the 1830 Swing Riots. Later in Cherry's childhood the family moved to their newly acquired Garrard family estates in Hertfordshire and added to their name.

As one of Scott's Antarctic expedition, Cherry first forayed to Cape Crozier, and his account of this, *The Worst Journey in the*

*World*, is still revered as a classic of travel literature. As a back-up party survivor of Scott's South Pole attempt Cherry was plagued by depression in later life, stemming from a belief that he might have been able to save those who died had he made different decisions with regard to the siting of food depots. Nonetheless he went on to lead a life of public service. Following a scientific expedition to China, Cherry tried to set up an independent unit using dogs to find wounded soldiers at the Front during the First World War, based on his experience with the dogs in the Antarctic. When this failed to work out, he joined the army as a motorcycle dispatch rider. His letters from the ranks – a far cry from the upper-class milieu in which he was raised at Denford Park – are among those now at the BRO.



*Denford Park, seat of the Cherry family until the early twentieth century, and more recently home to the Norland Nursery Training College*

## **From the 1881 census**

Newbury Union Workhouse, Newtown Road, Newbury:

*Eliza Thorn 84 pauper charwoman  
where born: at sea on board H.M.S. Victory (latitude unknown)*

Penge Wood, Burghfield:

*James Pembroke 79 ag lab  
where born: Bay of Biscay - troop ship*

# Cassini maps from BerksFHS Books

*Ivan Dickason*  
**Acting Bookshop Manager**

## Old Ordnance Survey series

Cassini maps are digitally copied, enlarged and re-projected reprints of old Ordnance Survey (OS) maps with the National Grid super-imposed. They match the current OS Landranger series, covering the same geographical area, using the same name and map number as the Landranger series and with similar glossy, illustrated card covers. BerksFHS Books stocks the maps for 164 Oxford; 174 Newbury and Wantage; and 175 Reading and Windsor, as follows:

- **Old Series: reprints of one-inch maps printed 1816 to 1833**
- **Revised New Series: reprints from the late 1890s**
- **Popular Series: reprints from the early 1920s**

The bookshop also takes orders for any other maps from these series covering England and Wales and the Isle of Man. Order using the Landranger series number and specify which of the three series you are ordering.

## Past and Present series

Each contains four maps, each of which covers the same area of about 15km (12 miles) square, taken from the Old Series, the Revised New Series, the Popular Series and the current Landranger series. Of these BerksFHS Books stocks: Maidenhead, Marlow and Bourne End; Newbury and Thatcham; Oxford; Reading and

Henley on Thames; Windsor, Slough and Uxbridge.

## Greater London

Not stocked, but available to order there is a set of four maps covering Greater London between 1805 and 1948. Each covers 50 x 40 km (31 x 25 miles), from Enfield Lock south to Purley, Heston east to Romford. In addition to the three series first described, the fourth map is from the New Popular Edition published 1945 to 1948. The boxed set also includes a 6in to one mile scale (3.75cm to 1.6km) map of Central London published in 1891.

Greater London maps can be ordered rolled in tubes for framing; individually folded; or as a boxed folded set of 4. The loose sheets, individually tubed, are 100cm x 89cm (40in x 35in).

## Cassini county series

Finally, there is a series of multicoloured maps of individual counties reproduced from *Bacon's Atlas* of 1900. These are about A3 size and sold in tubes.

The society bookshop only stocks maps for Berkshire, but takes orders for maps of other counties in this series covering England and Wales.

Prices of these maps posted to addresses in the UK or airmailed to overseas addresses are shown in the booklist in the centre pages of this edition of the *Berkshire Family Historian*.

***Please be sure to advise any change of contact details to the membership secretary, at the address on the inside front cover. We receive many enquiries via the website, and it is much faster and more economical if we can forward them to the relevant member by email.***



## News in brief

### Not gone yet

For many months the Centre for Oxfordshire Studies has been rumoured to be closing. However, owing to delays in the Westgate development project, the timescale for its transfer to Oxfordshire Record Office, Temple Road, Cowley is as yet uncertain. The collection remains open in the Central Library at Westgate until further notice. For more details see <[www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/oxfordshirestudies](http://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/oxfordshirestudies)>.

### 30 year rule under review

On 25 October 2007 Paul Dacre, Professor David Cannadine and Sir Joseph Pilling were tasked with examining the rule under which most government records in The National Archives are not made available to the public before they are 30 years old. The review team's final report was published earlier this year, and can be seen on <[www.30yearrulereview.org.uk](http://www.30yearrulereview.org.uk)>.

### NI death registrations

The Northern Ireland Civil Registration Bill 2007 proposes that all future death registrations in the province should record parents' names, thus benefiting genealogical research and bringing Northern Ireland into line with the Republic of Ireland and Scotland. The Bill has completed its third stage and released its report. For further information visit <[www.cigo.ie/news](http://www.cigo.ie/news)>.

### BMD open access petition

An e-petition has been launched to gain open access to the registers of births, marriages and deaths from 1837 to 1908. This would enable family historians to find the right certificate without having to purchase those which may turn out to be incorrect. If you wish to support this petition then sign up by 22 July 2009 on <<http://petitions.number10.gov.uk/OpenBMDrecords>>. You must be a British citizen or resident to sign the petition.

## Your Life in Print

### • Let Us Write Your Life Story

We can write your life story from recorded interviews and provide you with professionally printed books, illustrated with your own photographs, to give your family and friends and to pass on to future generations.

### • Writing Your Own Life Story or Family History?

We can give you all the help you need with writing, editing, designing and printing your book.

### • The Story of Your Company or Club

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[jswordsmith@blueyonder.co.uk](mailto:jswordsmith@blueyonder.co.uk)



# Google Book Search

*Despite a slightly rocky start that had authors and publishers up in arms, Google Book Search seems to have allayed fears that it would undermine the industry. Following a recent agreement payment has been promised to rights-holders whose titles have been digitised, and Google Book Search is set to expand its ambitious programme of digitising the content of libraries worldwide, with enormous benefit to desk researchers.*

Tens of millions of titles have been digitised to date, and their contents can be searched online. Those which are out of copyright, or which have been released by their rights-holders, can be viewed or downloaded in full, for free. Each title falls into one of four categories:

**Full view** covers are those titles which are out of copyright, and can be read or downloaded in full, for free (consent having been given by the supplier library).

For other books the aim of Google Book Search is to help you discover books and learn where to buy or borrow them, not read them online from beginning to end.

**Limited view** tends to embrace books which are still in copyright but out of print. Some text access is allowed, but the choice is at the discretion of the publisher, and may not include the section which contains your search term. It's Google's intention to widen access to this category of text, possibly on a payment basis.

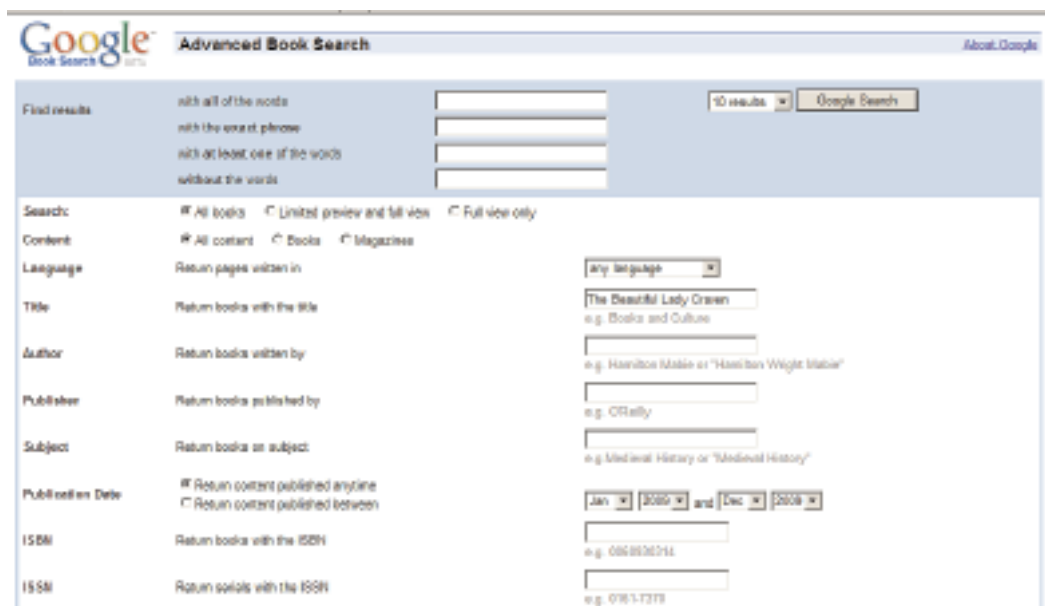
**Snippet view** books are those for which Google has yet to negotiate the right of full access. The snippets displayed consist of a few lines which theoretically contain the search term; in practice, this doesn't work well, probably because of the vagaries of OCR

applied to old type-faces. However the results entry itself can tell you something: for example, a search for Hamstead Marshall and the Compton census of 1676 brings up the standard Whiteman book in snippet view. The snippet manages to chop off the key information about Hamstead Marshall, but the results entry itself gives it to you in full.

**No preview available** generally means that the book is in print, so no access is given to the main text. Details given are a brief summary of contents and bibliographical information.

A standard Google search will yield results from within the Book Search database along with ordinary web results, but if you want to narrow the field, the advanced search option within Google Book Search is well worth using. With this you can limit the results to *full view*





to avoid a mass of titles to which you are not allowed online access, and choose between books and/or magazines. You can search on content and title words, authors, publishers, dates and language. You can also exclude unwanted terms. If for example you are searching on Berkshire as a term remember to exclude Massachusetts; the database still has a strong US bias.

The value of Google Book Search to family historians lies principally in its facility to access local history written in the eighteenth, nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, saving trips to major reference libraries. Mavor's *General view of the agriculture of Berkshire* (1813) is here in *full view*, as are Ashmole's *Antiquities of Berkshire* (1723), the pollbooks of Berkshire freeholders 1812 and 1818, and a Windsor guide of 1825. More

generally, there are historic runs of magazines such as *The Spectator*, the *Gentleman's Magazine* and *Cobb's Political Register*, law reports, sporting calendars, peerage, professional and army listings. However, from a family historian's point of view the coverage is random, because to date it is mostly US university libraries that have participated in the programme.

At its best Google Book Search can be extremely helpful, often alerting you to works that you never knew existed, and saving you trips to reference libraries. At its worst the search engine can be erratic, but even when you find no gems Google Book Search is never less than diverting; you will find yourself side-tracked into some extraordinary historical byways.

***If you are a published author and copyright-holder yourself, go to <[www.googlebooksettlement.com](http://www.googlebooksettlement.com)> and check whether your book has been digitised. If it has, you have until 5 April 2011 to request that your title(s) be removed from the database, or to agree to specific uses of your texts. There are some complicated terms, and it is well worth reading the FAQ section on the website. Broadly speaking, those rights-holders who consent to be part of Google's programme can expect payment of at least \$60 per title at some time in the future. If you are willing to license Google's future use of texts which are still commercially available there may be further returns.***

# Networking and the Cassell family

*Vicki Turner neé Sellwood (5101) demonstrates the practical value of sharing research*

My late eighteenth-century Sellwood family started off in Chieveley and Bucklebury, spreading from there all over Berkshire and Oxfordshire. They married into just about every family in Bucklebury, Chieveley, Cold Ash, Theale, Aldermaston, Mortimer, and Tilehurst. Wherever possible I've tried to research every linked family, and this has paid dividends in finding further links.

I've added literally thousands of people to my tree, not all but most proven. It's important to have primary records wherever possible, but they can be expensive. The point of this article is not just to tell you about my research into the Cassell family of Stratfield Mortimer, but also to show how networking is of positive benefit to all family researchers.

Over the past 30 years I've built up a network of about 600 people, and we swap copies of original documents both by email and post, and saving the cost of a record office search.

It's much easier today with the internet and the upsurge of interest in family research to make contacts, but I still correspond with people I contacted by post in the 1980s. Most were found through local press ads, family history societies and record office visits.

I'm not an Ancestry member, but I am of several other genealogy sites like Genes-Reunited, the Rootsweb message boards and, of course, the Berkshire Family History Society online discussion list. When I find a new family link, I like to research it as far back as I can: not just name collecting, but learning what people were, what they did for a living, their trials and tribulations, their social standing and the place where they lived.

A question on a message board is usually my first effort at contacting other people. Someone will usually reply if your heading is apt and has caught their eye, and heigh-ho, you have a

contact, even if it turns out they're not connected to the family you are researching. If they are, however, then very valuable information can flow between you.

Information of a secondary nature calls for care. Many people today copy without attempting to prove the information from primary sources. Always ask for sources. Most people are happy to share primary sources or transcripts with an interested party, although some are downright greedy people who want all your information without giving anything in return. They are also wont to plagiarise research and publish it as their own. You learn to suss out such people after the first couple of exchanges.

Most researchers are also very happy for you to correct their work if you can prove grounds for doubt. Others, however, get stroppy if anything is queried, no matter how delicately.

In 2003 I paid for a BRO search for BMD of the Cassell family (my father's grandmother's family) of Stratfield Mortimer. One was for a marriage of Hannah Cassell to Samuel Thorngate in 1829. A Hannah Cassell christened in 1807 was the sister of my great-great-grandfather, Daniel Cassell, and all seemed to fit. Over the next four years I duly acquired documents for Samuel and Hannah Thorngate, their children and grandchildren. Samuel was born in Basingstoke and was a baker and the family moved in and out of Berkshire and Hampshire.

I was always puzzled, however, that Hannah consistently gave her birthplace as Wallingford. In 2007 I found out why. There is a family of Edward and Elizabeth Castle/Cassell who christened children in a nonconformist chapel in Wallingford. A Hannah of 1808 is theirs, as are a Caroline and John, both names appearing as witnesses at the Stratfield Mortimer marriage.

I initially found this out from a correspondent who queried my research and, checking again on the IGI, found this family had been added since I had last looked. Why Hannah should marry in Stratfield Mortimer I know not as yet, but maybe there is a link to my Cassell family.

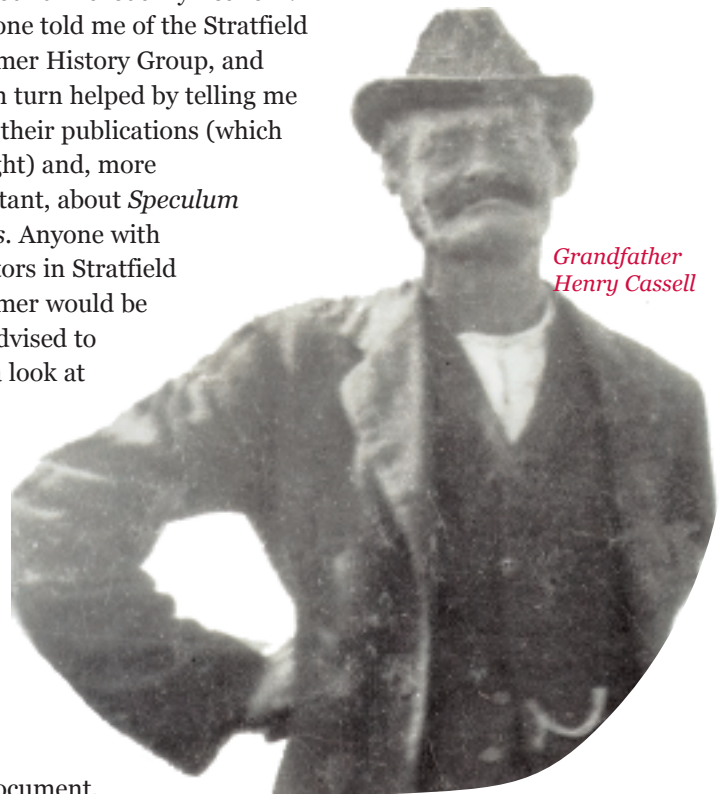
My Cassell family in Mortimer intrigues me. Daniel Cassell was christened in 1809 son of William and Susannah née Baughurst, and his wife, Lucy Chamberlain was christened in 1812 Burghfield of James and Ann unknown. They were originally squatters on the edge of Mortimer Common near the windmill, and either they or Daniel's parents had managed to build a "house" there, for which in 1840 Daniel paid three pence to the vicar. He was a day labourer, and as far as I can make out never worked for a one person for very long. His brother, Henry of 1811, had a smaller piece of land and homestead close by, but was rated higher at one shilling and five pence. His other brother, James of 1813, lived at Wokefield.

Daniel and Lucy had 12 children, all raised to maturity, bar Ann christened 1836, whom I cannot find after 1851. In those days that was some feat. It's even more amazing because Lucy was deaf and dumb, as were at least three of her children. This condition is mentioned on a couple of census returns, and confirmed by comments made by Rev R J Gould around the year 1859 in his *Speculum Gregis*. This a document is at the Berkshire Record Office, and is a personal survey of the vicar's parishioners. The deafness followed down via Daniel's daughter Emma, christened 1842, who married Richard Thomas Sellwood, my great-grandfather. Virtually every one of Richard and Emma's descendants' families has at least one member who is/was hard of hearing. My seven-year-old grandson is the latest addition. It is a condition called glue ear, which today is treatable, but in the nineteenth century was not, so children born with it rarely learned to talk, or if they did their speech was slurred.

John Cassell (1833 - 1917) son of Daniel, seems to have been the last Cassell in

Mortimer. He had the lane to his house nicknamed after him as Dumbys Lane. The local children used to torment him until he came roaring out of his cottage at the end of the lane near the windmill, yelling gibberish. (*Mortimer Through the Ages* published 1994 by Mortimer Local History Group)

These absolute gems of information which affect my present family I would probably not have found without my network. Someone told me of the Stratfield Mortimer History Group, and they in turn helped by telling me about their publications (which I bought) and, more important, about *Speculum Gregis*. Anyone with ancestors in Stratfield Mortimer would be well advised to have a look at



Grandfather  
Henry Cassell

this document.

Rev R J Gould has made some pithy but useful comments on his parish and parishioners. Unfortunately, the document is too fragile to photocopy, but the Stratfield Mortimer History Group did a transcription a few years ago.

Daniel and Lucy Cassell's children all kept their heads above water financially, and some did very well. I've followed them all down to the 1901 census, and a couple into the twentieth century. It then gets very difficult to research due to the privacy laws. However, this is where networking pays dividends, as long as you respect privacy and don't publish anything without permission.

Three of the Cassell children ended up in Guildford, which is where Lucy Cassell née Chamberlain died in 1888, five years after her husband, who is buried at Stratfield Mortimer. Again, although as yet I have no proof, I have a gut feeling that there is a link to the very early Cassells in and around that area.

I love to research, but I would have found it very much more difficult and almost impossibly expensive if I had tried to do it all on my own. As long as a few commonsense rules are applied when contacting strangers, then for me, collaboration is the name of the game.

---

## **Volunteers wanted for surname Y-DNA project**

**Tuplin**     *Anne Astling has recently started a Y-DNA project in connection with a*  
**Taplin**     *one-name study. Contact her on <tupling@one-name.org>, or at*  
**Tapling**    *18 Worcester Close, Scunthorpe DN16 3TL*

**We are seeking male volunteers with one of the Taplin surname variants.**

Our research has found the name Taplin primarily in Lincolnshire and southern counties of England, but we have a number of unanswered questions:

- Is the name Tuplin/g distinct from, rather than a variant of other similar names?
- Are the two Lincolnshire groups identified genetically related to each other?
- Are the Taplin families in Hampshire related to each other from before the 1500s?
- Are the Taplins identified in other counties distinct from those found in Hampshire?

- How far can we go back to identify a common ancestor for separated or orphan groups?
- How many distinct family groups can we identify?

You may be able to help us if you are interested in this particular family name, or know people who are, or for that matter might consider a Y-DNA project of your own. I'm willing to answer queries about the implications, pros and cons of running such a project.

And, by the way, testing does not involve needles and blood – just a simple cheek swab!

### **Debbie Kennett (5278) reports on two more DNA projects**

If you've been reading the *Berkshire Family Historian* you will know that I have successfully used DNA testing within my one-name study of the surnames Cruwys and Cruse. See <[www.one-name.org/profiles/cruwys.html](http://www.one-name.org/profiles/cruwys.html)> and <<http://cruwys.blogspot.com>>.

There are now over 5,000 surname projects at the largest DNA testing company, but there are still many names which are not yet included in surname projects. A geographical project provides an opportunity to compare results with those of other people from the same locality. The Hampshire project detailed below is collecting only Y-DNA results. Y-DNA tracks the direct paternal line (your father, your father's father, your father's father's father etc).

## **Hampshire**

Many Berkshire members will have lines originating in Hampshire. They might therefore be interested to know that Elizabeth Kipp, the co-ordinator of the Genuki Hampshire website, has just set up a new Y-DNA project for the county. Further information about the project can be found on <[www.familyreedna.com/public/Hampshire-County-England](http://www.familyreedna.com/public/Hampshire-County-England)>.

## **Devon**

If your ancestry is from Devon you might like to consider participating in my new Devon DNA project, for which I am collecting both Y-DNA and mtDNA (mitochondrial DNA). mtDNA tracks only the direct maternal line (your mother, your mother's mother, etc).

Further information from <[www.familyreedna.com/public/Devon](http://www.familyreedna.com/public/Devon)>.

# A way with wills

*Lionel Carter (6136) describes his solution to the problem of managing and accessing a family will archive*

## How I got involved

I got involved in what I call my wills project when out of the blue a distant and previously unknown relative (Christopher Whicker) contacted me. When we met it turned out that he had been very active in tracing the family tree and had produced all sorts of booklets. One, though, was proving troublesome to compile. The problem was how to assemble and present all the information he had about family wills. When he found out I had authored a few books he asked me for help, and passed over the information he had.

This information consisted of short notes concerning just over a hundred wills, a collection of transcripts (some translated from the Latin) and a collection of photocopies of wills. Some wills featured in all three categories, some only in one. It was decided to keep the three types of information in separate lists as the processing of each was different.

The short notes could be word-processed, and would contain 10 or so entries on a page. The transcripts for one individual might run to several pages, so for clarity each should start on a new page. The photocopies would become, in effect, a collection of jpegs. Thus starting with an index as Part 1, the notes, transcripts and photocopies would be Parts 2, 3 and 4 respectively.

## The problem

The problem was indexing these in a useful manner, taking into account that the booklet would be added to over time. The natural tendency was to compile numbered lists of each type of information in alphabetic order and then cross reference the entries. This leads to the fifth Whicker in the notes being cross-referenced to say, Whicker listed 20th in the

transcripts. This would work for a static index, but if a new person was added in alphabetical order in these lists the entire cross-referencing would have to be updated.

The approach I adopted was one similar to that used in database design. The essence of this is that every individual is given a unique number. The next available number is allocated to a person being added to the project. When the names are sorted alphabetically the numbers that were allocated are in no particular order, but the number indicates where the information is. If the alphabetic list indicates that an individual is, say, 45 that will be the number for information about them in all sections. This is what goes on behind the scenes in many family tree programs. A new person is simply given the next highest number, say, 89 and their notes, transcripts and photocopies are cross-indexed to the number 89. (This is a simplification of databases on a computer.) This means the additional information is simply added to the end of the existing sections. The only part that needs updating is the alphabetic sequence of names – easily done using a spreadsheet.

## An example of the solution

A simple example is shown in figure 1. The person index is in name order and is the master index. This shows John as number 2. Thus he will be number 2 in the collection of notes, transcripts or photocopies. He is not in the photocopies collection because there is no photocopy of John's will.

This approach may seem confusing at first sight. The difficulty some people have with this approach is that although the key numbers in say, the photocopy section are in numeric order, there are numbers missing because no

PERSON INDEX	
Name	Key
Arthur	4
Brian	6
John	2
Mavis	1
Stella	3
Thomas	5

Notes	
key	Name
2	John
3	Stella
5	Thomas

Transcripts	
Key	Name
1	Mavis
2	John
3	Stella
6	Brian

Photocopies	
Key	Name
4	Arthur
5	Thomas

Figure 1

photocopies exist for that individual. However this approach has a major advantage for a collection that is being added to. A new person would be allocated the number 7. Any information for them would simply be added to the end of the notes, transcripts or photocopies sections. No repagination or shuffling of the sections is required. The only change required is in the list of names. If this printed from a spreadsheet it is easy to re-sort this person's

index into alphabetic sequence. In use, to avoid having to search each section the Person Index also contains an indication if there is an entry in any particular section by using a *y* in a column. The complete Person Index for the example in figure 1 is shown in figure 2. Thus a person looking up John finds there are Notes and Transcripts, both numbered 2 in their respective sections (and there are no photocopies).

PERSON INDEX		Notes	Transcripts	Photocopies
Name	Key			
Arthur	4			Y
Brian	6		Y	
John	2	Y	Y	
Mavis	1		Y	
Stella	3	Y	Y	
Thomas	5	Y		Y

Figure 2

### The outcome

Having decided the principles, the laborious stage was retyping the entries in the different section to conform to a standard format, i.e. layout. The photocopies section processed using photo-editing techniques to obtain the best "clean" image, and a heading was added to confirm to the standard format decided on. The end result was a wills index comprising essentially a master Persons index and three parts: Part 1 notes, Part 2 transcripts and Part 3 photocopies. Examples of this are shown in figure 3.

Figure 3



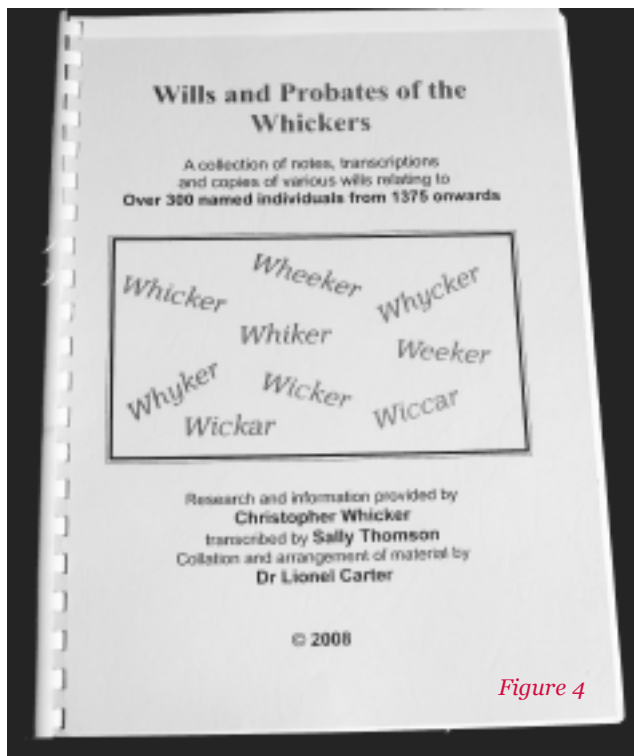


Figure 4

It was decided to produce the wills index as a hard copy and also as a CD. Figure 4 shows the spirally bound version. This was produced using desktop publishing (Serif PagePlus) and then, using the same program, each section was converted to pdf files for putting on a CD.

The interest beyond ourselves will be mainly other family members, so we needed to think about producing further copies. We couldn't afford to produce additional copies, so an arbitrary price was put on the index to cover the printing and binding and, not insignificant, the cost of pulling wills. The final step in this project was to produce a website announcing the existence of the index.

READING & DISTRICT CIGARETTE CARD & POSTCARD CLUB

## GIANT POSTCARD FAIR

*with CIGARETTE CARDS*

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**at RIVERMEAD LEISURE CENTRE,  
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93 dealers, 158 tables**

The dealers will have tens of thousands of topographical postcards, from 1900 onwards, of churches, buildings, street scenes in towns and villages throughout the UK. Military, social history, and many other themes.

There will also be masses of cigarette cards, if you are interested.

**A great opportunity to enhance your Family History Collection!**

IF YOU HAVE NOT BEEN TO THIS POSTCARD FAIR BEFORE, DON'T MISS OUT  
IT WILL BE AN AMAZING REVELATION!

Admission 10.00am – 4.30pm £1.00

By train: 20 minutes' walk, or taxi from Reading railway station

By car: exit M4 at J11, follow signs to Reading town, but continue towards Caversham, and Rivermead Leisure Centre. Car parking available.

For further details ring the Club Secretary on 01628 637868

# The parish of Bray

*Judith Mitchell (2031) offers a  
guided tour*

You may recall the song about the vicar of Bray who changed his religious beliefs to fit with those of the sovereign; this refers to the period from Charles II to George I, although an earlier story set the adaptable vicar to the time of Henry VIII through to Queen Elizabeth.<sup>1</sup> Unfortunately no one vicar held the living all through this time.

The modern village of Bray is perhaps best known for having two Michelin-starred restaurants. Little workmen's cottages in warm red brick sold until recently for high prices. Bray village is situated on the banks of the Thames around the church of 1293 (which replaced an earlier one), and contains many picturesque ancient buildings including Jesus Hospital, founded in 1609 by William Goddard of the Fishmongers' Company of London to provide homes for 40 poor old people and a chaplain.

Bray village never had a bridge to the other bank of the Thames, but it did have a ferry, mills, fisheries, wharves and a lock. Even today the Buckinghamshire bank opposite is mainly fields. Bray never really had much in the way of shops – it was not a place with any passing

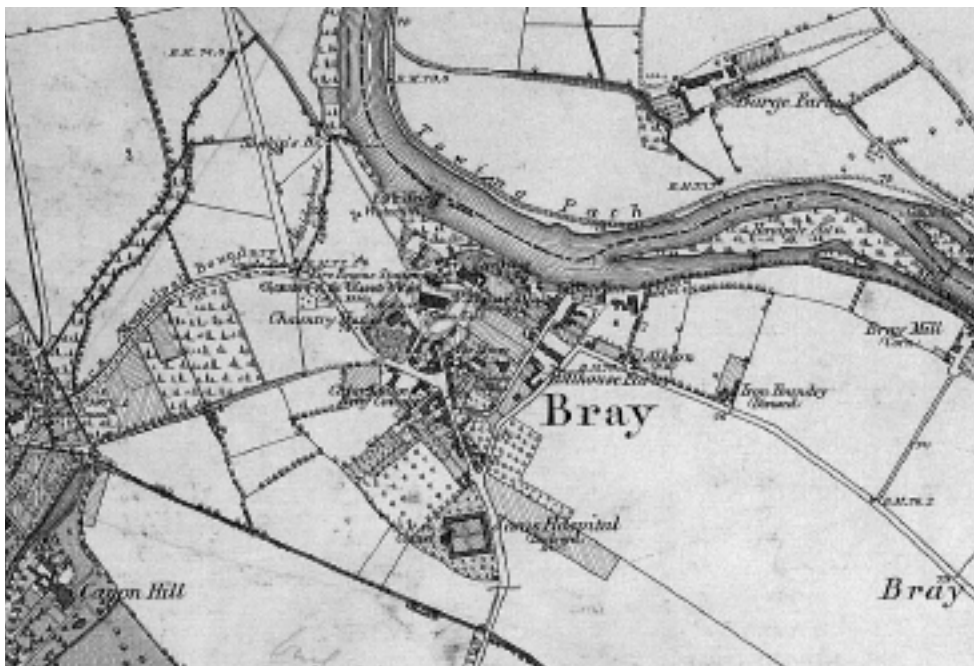
trade. The village derived income from the river traffic, but this went into sharp decline with the coming of the railway to Maidenhead in 1838. Boating enthusiasts and other tourists started to visit in the nineteenth century.

Bray manor belonged to the king from the time of Edward the Confessor, and usually provided the queen with part of her income. A smaller holding belonging to the church is recorded in the Domesday book, and it continued to provide for the upkeep of the parish church. The Crown sold the manor to Pascoe Grenfell of Taplow Court in 1818.

The parish contained low-lying riverside pasture, arable fields and a higher wooded portion called Braywood. Even today there is much agricultural land in the area. Nineteenth-century Bray had virtually no industry, so ancestors found living there were likely to be employed in agriculture, domestic service or later in hotels. Maidenhead and Windsor offered a wider range of employment opportunities.

*Copper engraving of Bray by J. Greig  
after a picture by J. Powell, published in  
The New British Traveller, 1819.*





*OS 1st ed 1881-87 (Berks FHS/BRO CD of Berkshire maps)*

The manor of Bray was split up into sub-manors at an early date, and small settlements often grew up around the manor houses, whose occupants were occasionally officials of Windsor Castle. Apart from the Crown no one aristocratic family dominated the area.

If you find nineteenth-century ancestors living in Bray they were more than likely living in Maidenhead. The boundary of Bray parish was the A4 London to Bath Road running through the centre of Maidenhead, so the area to the south of road was in Bray parish<sup>2</sup>.

Maidenhead did not have a parish church until mid-Victorian times, and most of the houses were in Cookham parish. After the arrival of the railway through Maidenhead in 1838 the town became an easy day out for Londoners, and commuting to London became feasible. All Saints Church on Boyn Hill was built to serve as a parish church for the growing number of people living in south Maidenhead in 1857. Even so, when first built All Saints stood among fields. St Paul's Church, a daughter church to All Saints, was built in 1889, and demolished for road improvements in 1965.

Braywick is on the road between Windsor and Maidenhead, and had few houses.

Braywood parish was formed in 1856 for Braywood, Fifield and Oakley Green, but when All Saints Church was demolished in 1963 the villages returned to Bray parish. Fifield has a chapel.

Water Oakley had a wharf on the Thames from ancient times, and shipping timber from the upper part of the parish is recorded. Down Place, an ancient manor situated there, belonged to many owners until it was bought by Hammer Films and became Bray Studios in 1950. The nearby mansion of Oakley Court, built in 1859 in a very elaborate gothic style, has appeared in many a horror film; it is now a hotel. Monkey Island Hotel was built for the Duke of Marlborough in the eighteenth century, and has a room with old paintings of monkeys.

Holyport, which despite its name is not on the River Thames, was probably a commercial centre in early time earning it the name "port", which originally meant a trading place. The village lies on the route from Maidenhead to the south, and now has grown larger than Bray village. There was a Wesleyan chapel in

Holyport (built in 1835) but it closed in the 1960s.

Touchen End, which once had a church-cum-school, is also in the parish.

Altwood and Cox Green (now a separate parish) are now part of Maidenhead, although they were originally separate settlements.

### Where to find out more

Bray parish registers start in 1653 and are at the Berkshire Record Office (BRO) <[www.berkshirerecordoffice.org.uk](http://www.berkshirerecordoffice.org.uk)>. A transcription and index made by Mr Brooks is available in Maidenhead Library. The BRO has a number of church documents dating back to the eighteenth century – churchwardens’ and overseers’ accounts, school records etc. Enclosure took place in 1817. Tithe award documents and map date from 1864 and later. The local newspaper, the *Maidenhead Advertiser*, was started in the 1870s, and back copies can be seen on microfilm in Maidenhead Library, as can Kelly’s Directories from 1923.

Cemeteries: Bray churchyard has some tombstones remaining. In 1906 an overflow burial ground was set up beside the A308, and it is still in occasional use (a typed burial index is in Maidenhead Library). Ancestors dying after 1888 (particularly if they were non-

conformist or Roman Catholic) might well be buried in Maidenhead cemetery or its successor Braywick Lawns. The records of both these cemeteries are kept by the Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead <[www.rbwm.gov.uk](http://www.rbwm.gov.uk)>.

All Saints, Maidenhead, churchyard contains graves. No burial register now exists, but monumental inscriptions have been recorded (see <[www.berksfhs.org.uk](http://www.berksfhs.org.uk)>).

Workhouse: for ancestors who fell on hard times Bray was in Cookham Union (later Maidenhead). Workhouse registers have been transcribed by the Eureka Partnership. The workhouse buildings are now part of St Mark’s Hospital, Maidenhead.

Manorial records for Bray (Berkshire) are in <[www.nationalarchives.gov.uk](http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk)>.

Maidenhead Heritage Centre <[www.maidenheadheritage.org.uk](http://www.maidenheadheritage.org.uk)> has photos and other information.

#### Books

*The Hundred of Bray*. Luke Over (Cliveden Press, 1994, now out of print)

*Bray today and yesterday*. Nan Birney (Kelmescott House, 1998)

*St Michael and All Angels, Bray*. (guidebook)

1 Fuller’s Book of Worthies 1662

2 In a return to the Ecclesiastical Commissioners in 1832 the vicar estimated that the population of the parish was 3,400, of whom 1,400 lived in Maidenhead

*The BBC Radio 4 programme Making History carried an item in early April describing the desperate measures resorted to by poor families unable to pay for the funeral for a dead baby. Undertakers would offer one of two solutions: first, by offering the baby’s corpse to a medical school for dissection the family could obtain a payment to cover the funeral cost. Second, the undertaker would (presumably surreptitiously) place the baby in the coffin of a stranger. No record would be made, but the parents would at least have the consolation of knowing that their baby had been buried in consecrated ground. Dr Elizabeth Hurren of Oxford Brookes University reported that archaeological evidence confirms this practice. She said that it continued even as late as the 1960s. The programme can be heard by going to the BBC’s Making History webpage.*



**Valerie Storie (1953), Berks FHS secretary and until recently chairman of the Windsor Branch, was also secretary of the Old Paludians for 10 years until 2003, as well as being editor of their annual newsletter for 12 years until 2006. She is now the Old Paludians membership secretary.**

## Birth of an archive records and memorabilia of Slough Grammar School



1912



1936



1936-82



1982-93

Survival of school records such as admission registers and log books can be patchy, and it isn't often that we can get down to the everyday minutiae – what did everyone wear, what books did they work from or write in, what sports were played, who supplied “tuck” in the morning break, and so on. The association for former pupils and staff of Slough Grammar School has just such an archive.

In 1908 it was decided that a grammar school was needed in Slough – however, the term grammar was a bit too elitist, so the new school was to be called Slough Secondary School (SSS). It opened in January 1912 to both girls and boys over 10 years of age, who were required to pass an entrance examination and pay £2 15s per term. The school had many modern features such as science labs, art and cookery rooms, a gymnasium with the latest equipment and even two large playing fields – one for girls and one for boys.

From the start it was hoped that pupils would go on to university, but war was looming, and as the older boys left they joined the Forces, some never to return from the battlefields of France. It was suggested that an old girls and old boys association be formed in March 1915. This prompted many boys to write back to the school with their experiences in the Great War. By July of that year a name had been agreed – the Old Paludians. (The headmaster was a Latin scholar and the reason for the name is at the end of the article.)

A memorial plaque records 56 members of school who served in the war. Of these, four masters and two boys were known to have given

their lives, but the full total of dead is not recorded.

Joint meetings began again by 1920; the boys took part in sports such as athletics, football, cricket and hockey, whilst the girls were more involved with social activities. Indeed throughout the years a number of ex-pupils went on to play at national, international and Olympic level.



**SSS first cricket XI, 1913**

*Back: Langston; W. Rutter; Mr John; C. Line; A. Leggett*

*Middle: B. Hawes; F. Squire; T. Tregear; B. Holt; Hopkins*

*Front: \*W. Southall; A. E. (Bert) Payne*  
\*H G Stone photo presented to the School in 1987 by W Southall

In 1936, with pupil numbers outgrowing the original building, the boys were moved to the new site of Slough Grammar School (SGS), which remains the site of the school today. The girls continued in the original building whilst their new premises were being completed. They were already renamed Slough High School (SHS). With this separation the Old Paludians voted to divide into separate organisations.

The girls moved into the new building just as war broke out in September 1939. Once more, Old Paludians were fighting in all services. Many were mentioned in dispatches and others decorated for gallantry. A Roll of Honour board in the school foyer lists those who gave their lives. The girls

continued their regular meetings throughout the war years and, on their return, the boys resumed their sports activities.

Further change came in 1982 when the site of the girls' school was sold off to become a retail park. Both SGS and SHS closed, and everyone went to the newly named Upton Grammar School on the SGS site. Girls and boys were together once again. Five years later the unity of the Old Paludians was restored, and the first joint reunion for 50 years was held in 1989. These have become a wonderful mix of boys and girls to the great satisfaction of everyone.

No-one liked the new school name, and in 1993 the old name of Slough Grammar School was restored. When the SGS and SHS were closed many of the old documents and records were lost, presumed destroyed – not even admission lists survived – so the Old Paludians set about starting up a new archive, and a plea went out to members.

It was amazing what people had kept. Scores of mementoes were handed in – a complete microcosm of social history as seen through the life of a school since 1912: books galore, prizes, textbooks, homework books, scarves, ties, hats, blazers, badges and even school colours so keenly fought for and proudly won both academically and on the sports field. Even an almost new school cap from the early 1920s was found when one of the girls was clearing out her brother's effects. At today's reunions

we display complete models of the school uniforms. Amongst the correspondence were letters sent to parents on what would happen should the sirens give warning of an imminent air raid. The wording, in hindsight, seems quite funny, but letters to the school from old boys during the First World War are very moving.

Best of all the many artefacts were the photographs. They came in their hundreds – all the long four-foot ones showing the whole school – and yes, there was at least one showing the same boy at both ends of the photo, having scampered from one end to the other as the camera panned round. There were the team photos, the earliest being the SSS Cricket 1st XI of 1913. We had class photos, those taken of school visits, home and abroad, as well as school plays and choirs. The early recording of the girls' school choir captures the spirited enthusiasm of the 1950s. The discovery of the Old Paludians song composed in 1915 was a real gem, and it was sung with gusto at the 2005 reunion shortly after it had come to light, fittingly on our ninetieth anniversary.

In April 2001 the setting up of our own Old Paludians website caught the imagination of all generations around the world – everyone finds it especially fascinating to look at the old photographs – *did I really look like that?* Today more than 450 photographs have been posted on the website, with the ultimate aim of having everyone named.

*“Over the Hill” gang  
1947 intake at the 2002 reunion*

*Jack Ditchfield  
Malcolm Hellings  
Jez Glanville  
Ronald Earley  
Eric Duncan  
David Pearce  
Brian Hannay  
Eric Simpson  
Malcolm Doyle*



Reunions are held annually, when around 200 former pupils spend the day at the school wallowing in nostalgia, poring over the ever-growing collection of items in our unique archive, renewing old friendships and making new ones. Some come regularly from Ireland, USA, Canada, France, Spain and Switzerland; often visits home from Australia and New Zealand are timed to coincide with a reunion. In March this year our oldest Old Paludian came along as usual; she will be 100 in July! Her memory is phenomenal and she rattles off the names in the photos from 1920 to 1926 when she attended the Secondary School.

The Old Paludians have published two books and a third is planned for the school centenary in 2012.

*Why "Old Paludians"? The name Slough is derived from the word slough meaning mud or swamp, a feature of the area southwards towards the River Thames in early times, and the Latin for a slough is palus, paludis: hence Old Paludians.*

#### Sources

1. *Recollections of Slough Secondary School and the Old Paludians as remembered by Peter Bennett and others.* Published by the Old Paludians in 2000
2. *School ties: further recollections of the Old Paludians 1936-1993.* Published by the Old Paludians in 2005 to commemorate their 90th anniversary.
3. <[www.oldpaludians.org](http://www.oldpaludians.org)> 2001 and ongoing
4. Personal correspondence and conversations

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## Thinking of writing for the *Historian*?

**The editor welcomes contributions from members and from other readers of the magazine, but suggests that anyone considering writing for the *Historian* should take a moment to read this advice.**

Articles may be of any length up to 1,200 words, but definitely no more. In the interests of fairness this limit is strictly applied to one and all. If you really feel that your subject can't be contained within 1,200 words please talk first to the editor about the possibility of a two-parter split over two issues. Shorter articles are equally welcome; amusing extracts from the registers and brief anecdotes are important to the overall balance of the magazine. Don't forget the Write Now column, in which members can post requests for information.

Subjects will usually (but not always) have direct relevance to Berkshire, or concern genealogical methodology.

*It's a good idea to check the journal indexes on the website to avoid repetition. If you're considering researching a new subject with a view to publication in the magazine it's wise to let the editor know, just in case someone else has had the same idea.*

*Pictures enhance the text, but they must be cleared for publication, either by being out of copyright, or by obtaining the permission of the copyright holder. Most internet pictures are not of sufficiently good quality for print, and they too are subject to copyright protection.*

*Articles are best emailed to the editor as Word or RTF attachments. Please send your pictures as separate files (JPEG or TIFF); images pasted into Word files cannot be extracted without degradation. If you're not a computer-user please send a typescript to the editor's address on the inside front cover. Photos and paper*

*illustrations will be returned to you after they have been scanned.*

*No fees are paid to any contributors, alas, but all articles published are greatly appreciated by thousands of readers. Remember that the *Historian* is read not only by the society's members, but also by the users of several public libraries and institutions, and it is available to the members of around 60 other FHSs through the exchange scheme. Back issues of the journal are also, after an interval, posted on the society's website.*

**Readers should be aware that any submissions to the editor will be considered to be offered for publication in the magazine and also on the society's website, unless the opposite is made clear.**

# Bradfield Southend Road shops in the 1950s

*A page of ads from an old church magazine sends Vicki Turner (5101) down memory lane*

In the 1950s I lived at Bradfield, Southend Road. As the eldest of five, and a girl, much of my spare time was taken up with helping my mother, including shopping.

At that time Southend had several shops and businesses, many of which advertised in the St Andrews church magazine. I still have four of these; they make fascinating reading, and the adverts are wonderful reminders of a less aggressively commercial time.

One of my first memories of shopping is not a happy one. I was about eight, and mother sent me to the butcher's for a lean pork chop for my father's tea, an expensive luxury. I came back with a lamb chop. My mother blew her top, and sent me back to change it. It was the first really embarrassing moment of my life. I stood, terrified, in front of the butcher, and had to tell this big man that he had given me the wrong thing. However, instead of the explosion that I was expecting, he changed the chop, also giving me a note and a poster, telling me to get my mother to teach me from it. I had that poster of animals and joints of meat for years. The note (which I read on the way home) apologised to my mother, saying that he'd given me the lamb chop because he thought that I'd made a mistake in what I had asked for.

On the corner of Admoor Lane and Southend Road was Carters the grocer's. Dry items were still weighed out and sold in paper bags, and biscuits were in tins at the front of the high counter. They also sold broken biscuits cheaply, and this is what we usually had. Many a time on the way home from shopping I raided those biscuits for the best ones, eating them or hiding them in my gym-slip pockets. My mother must have known, but she never said anything.

Perry's was the shoe repairer; Dyas the post office, although there was also one at Tutts Clump; and Bungalow Stores (Woolleys) made the most delicious ice cream. They also sold it at village fetes from a portable ice cream maker. One memory is of my younger brother with an ice cream that I'd proudly bought with pocket money. He was absolutely covered in it. I also remember the slap when I got home, for letting him get in such a mess. For punishment I had to wash his clothes. I was all of 11 years old, and a lot of tears went into that washing.

A few doors from us lived Mr Wallace, the window cleaner, who also swept chimneys and did odd jobs. However, as a sweep he had competition from Knapps, who were taken over by Mr Feast at Jennetts Hill in about 1958.

Like most women of that time mother made most of our clothes and did a lot of knitting. She bought the wool from Wilkins, where you could put a deposit on one dye batch, and buy ounces of it as you could afford them. Mother taught me to knit and crochet, and we made squares out of unravelled cardigans and the like, to make into blankets.

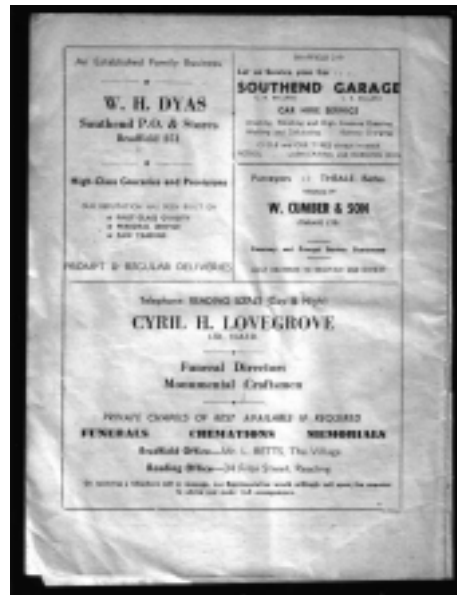
My best friend's father was an engineer and he had a workshop/garage opposite the "rec" and the Queens Head. The Foulke family lived in a flat over the workshop and Mr Foulke looked after the bookings for the village hall.

Ballard's Southend Garage I remember well, because it was there that I ran in panic to ask them to phone Dr Samuels from Theale when we believed my brother was dying. The doctor's quick response saved my brother's life, as it had done a couple of years earlier when my father had a burst appendix. There was no resident doctor in Bradfield as far as I remember.



My other friend's father was the village blacksmith in School Lane. The Beasleys were an old-established Bradfield family, although that was of no importance to me then. I loved to watch Rod's father work. Until very recently I had a bed frame that he repaired. Thanks to my family research I now find that both my friends were very distantly related to me.

My father was a cowman and worked for Mr Ward at the farm by the war memorial (now Tim Wale Ltd), but in the mid-1950s he worked in Reading for Wiggins and Sankey, cycling there and back every day for years. His earnings were far higher than at the farm, so for a short while my pocket money was the huge sum of one shilling a week. I was meant to save half of it to buy Christmas presents, but it went on second-hand books from a shop in Friars Walk, Reading, and sweets from a little shop in Bradfield Southend, opposite the school. It wasn't really a shop at all, but the front part of someone's house. You could get an awful lot for sixpence; sherbert dabs, gob-stoppers, liquorice, toffee bars, aniseed balls



and Refreshers all got stuffed into an embroidered canvas "handbag" that my mother had helped me make. Sunday between church visits and Sunday School (I was in St Andrew's choir so went twice a day) was spent reading and eating them. Ah! Memories!

## Mystery diarist from Berkshire

***Isobel Turner has stumbled upon a 1920s diary, and she asks Historian readers for help in identifying the writer, whom she knows only as Rene from Berkshire***

My neighbour is a postcard collector, and bought two diaries that look like old school exercise books. They are the journal of a lady on a fortnight's holiday in August 1922 staying with her aunt, Mrs Puddy, in Yarrow, Somerset. One side of each page is her writing, and the other has one or two postcards stuck in. Almost all the cards are unused and local. My neighbour was going to sell the books, but became captivated by them. He brought them to our village history society meeting, and now I'm hooked on them too! The problem is that the book is unsigned, and gives only clues as to the diarist's identity. With help from people in Somerset and the internet I have identified the aunt and uncle, but not the author. The trail also involves Berkshire and I thought that Berks FHS members might be interested in this intriguing puzzle.

Here's a summary of the clues:

We know that the author's name is Rene, she was born c1894, lives at Beenham near Reading, appears to be a teacher and is staying with her widowed aunt, Mrs Puddy in Yarrow, Somerset. Rene says she is glad she is "half Somerset". Her father was born and baptised at Edington, Somerset.

I am trying to find out who Rene was, so I need to know the siblings (and their offspring) of Mr and Mrs Puddy. The diary tells us that Mr Puddy was born 1 September 1866 and died in 1918. From this I have discovered this about Mr and Mrs Puddy:

**1901 census, West Hatch, Somerset**

*Charles Amos Puddy, head, 34, master of National school*

*Louisa Puddy, wife, 38, assistant teacher at school, born Reading*

*Ann Puddy, mother, 60*

*Thomas Whiteman, nephew, 10, born Bracknell*

In this and the 1891 census they are without children.

Confirmation that these are the correct people:

*Charles Amos Puddy's birth was registered in the fourth quarter 1866 at Axbridge.*

*Charles Amos, son of Amos and Ann Puddy was baptised at Mark, Somerset, on 30 September 1866.*

*Charles Amos Puddy's death was registered in the first quarter of 1918, aged 51, at Williton.*

I purchased a copy of their marriage certificate which shows that:

*Charles Amos Puddy aged 24 (father Amos, stonemason) and Louisa Martin aged 28 (father Joseph Martin, deceased, gardener) married on 25 June 1890 at Bracknell.*

Charles Amos is in the **1881 census at Yarrow Rd, Mark:**

*Amos Puddy, head, 54, mason, born Mark*

*Ann Puddy, wife, 40, born Creech*

*Charles Puddy, son, 15, pupil teacher born Mark*

And the **1871 census at Yarrow, Mark:**

*Amos Puddy, head, age 44, mason, born Mark*

*Ann Puddy, wife, 30*

*Charles Puddy, son, 5, born Mark*

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To join just send an email message with your name, membership number, postcode and a brief request to be subscribed, to [<listowner@berksfhs.org.uk>](mailto:listowner@berksfhs.org.uk)

**Records wanted**

*If you have records of any names that would fit into the Berkshire Miscellaneous Index (relating to an event occurring within pre- and post-1974 Berkshire), please send them by post to the address on page 34 or by email to [<miscindex@berksfhs.org.uk>](mailto:miscindex@berksfhs.org.uk).*

No other children (however, I cannot find Amos and Ann in 1861) but this could be him with a previous wife and their children:

**1861 census: Yarrow, Mark**

*Amos Puddy, head, 34, mason, born Mark  
Mary Ann Puddy, wife, 36, born Mark  
Martha Puddy, daughter, 3, born Mark  
Elizabeth Puddy, daughter, 1, born Mark  
Elizabeth Thompson, wife's mother*

I found what could be Mary Ann's death registered at Axbridge first quarter 1861. I also found Martha's birth registration, Axbridge, fourth quarter 1857, but could not find either Martha or Elizabeth in later census records nor in online marriage records, but another researcher has now told me that both had been buried on 26 December 1863, aged six and four, so neither of these could be Rene's mother.

I also found Amos Puddy's death aged 70 registered at Axbridge in the second quarter of 1897; the age at death ties up, and confirms he was alive when Charles and Louisa got married.

Charles Amos Puddy's wife Louisa Martin, (father Joseph, gardener, deceased before June 1890) was born in Bracknell (1862-3) but I failed to find any convincing entries for her family in any census.

I then turned to Thomas Whiteman, witness to Charles and Louisa's marriage in 1890. There was someone of the same name, but aged 10 as "nephew" to Charles and Louisa in the 1901 census. This family seems to cover both:

**1891 census: Bullbrook, Warfield, Bracknell**

*Whiteman Thomas, head, married, 30 born Mortimer  
Whiteman Emma, wife, married, 28, born Reading c1863  
Whiteman Emma, dau, 3, born Reading c1888  
Whiteman Louisa E, dau, 2, born Reading  
Whiteman Thomas, son, 6m, born Bracknell*

Thomas's wife Emma could be Louisa Martin's sister (and has named a daughter after her). Rene was born in 1894 and could be Thomas Jnr's sister (except that she says her father was from Somerset) – but I can find no trace of the family in 1901 to prove it except Thomas Jnr, who is with the Puddys.

Or Emma and Louisa could have another sister who is Rene's mother – if she married someone from Somerset. There are too many Emma Whitemans for comfort, since when I found Thomas Snr with his parents I found he had a sister named Emma also:

**1881 census: Gardener's Cottage, Whitchurch, Berkshire**

*George Whiteman, head, widower, 54, gardener born Wallingford  
Alice Whiteman, dau, 28, born Warfield  
Emma Whiteman, dau, 26, born Binfield, c1855  
Henry Whiteman, son, 24, gardener, born Binfield  
Thomas Whiteman, son, 20, gardener, born Mortimer*

To sum up, Rene could be:

A daughter of Emma and Louisa Martin's unknown sister – if she married someone from Somerset, or just possibly Thomas Whiteman's sister. If anyone can help me further with this I would be most grateful!

***If you recognise any of these families please contact***

***Mrs Isobel Turner***

## Websites

### **Debbie Kennett's (5278) response to the list in the March Historian**

[<www.geograph.org.uk>](http://www.geograph.org.uk)

The Geograph British Isles project aims to collect photographs and information for every square kilometre of Great Britain and Ireland. The website now has over one million images submitted by users, providing an armchair view of towns and villages where our ancestors lived. Coverage varies: most of England is well represented but Ireland and northern Scotland have many gaps.

[<www.imagesofengland.org.uk>](http://www.imagesofengland.org.uk)

A photographic library of England's listed buildings with detailed architectural descriptions. Register (free of charge) to enjoy the advanced searches. An astonishing range of buildings and monuments are listed, including many churches and even gravestones.

[<www.britishpathe.com>](http://www.britishpathe.com)

Footage from the 3,500-hour coverage of news, sport, social history and entertainment from 1896 to 1970 by British Pathé. Free to view.

[<www.medievalgenealogy.org.uk>](http://www.medievalgenealogy.org.uk)

An exhaustive site with links to online medieval source material and A-Z listings of pages relating to medieval English families.

[<www.smallandspecial.org>](http://www.smallandspecial.org)

Resources of the Hospital for Sick Children at Great Ormond Street in London, including a database of patient admission records from the first in 1852 to the last in 1914. Registration is required for more detailed records, such as patients' notes, some of which can be very detailed, and often quite heartbreaking to read.

[<www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~engsurry>](http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~engsurry)

The Surrey Plus Wills Index gives all names which appear in the wills of testators residing

## worth a glance

in Surrey and nine other counties including Berkshire. Links are provided to transcripts of wills, where available.

[<www.blacksheepindex.co.uk>](http://www.blacksheepindex.co.uk)

Contains more than 500,000 names taken from over 1,500 newspapers, compiled by a dedicated enthusiast.

[<www.nytimes.com/ref/membercenter/nytarchive.html>](http://www.nytimes.com/ref/membercenter/nytarchive.html)

A searchable digital archive of all the issues of the *New York Times* from 1851 to the present. Search results from 1851 to 1980 can be viewed free of charge as PDF files.

[<www.antiquusmorbus.com>](http://www.antiquusmorbus.com)

Rudy's list of archaic medical terms with their old and modern definitions. A wonderful resource for genealogists struggling to decipher medical terminology on old death certificates.

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### **And from Carolyn Boulton (3236):**

[<www.britishbattles.com/index.htm>](http://www.britishbattles.com/index.htm)

Run by an enthusiast in Henley, this site details the battles fought by British and Empire forces, from Hastings to the Boer War, listing combatants, statistics, uniforms, maps, illustrations and of the course the outcome.

[<www.mapyourname.com>](http://www.mapyourname.com)

Compiled by Kings College London in association with a company specialising in geodemographics. Like [<www.nationaltrustnames.org.uk>](http://www.nationaltrustnames.org.uk) mapyourname offers surname mapping, and it has beaten the NT website to coverage beyond the UK: mapyourname ranges over United States, Australia and most of Western Europe. Maps are a little smoother to navigate than the NT site. However the data is (presumably) present-day; there does not appear to be any facility for comparison with past centuries.

# Write now

*your queries  
your comments  
your news*

*Please send your letters and articles to the editor, either by email to <editor@berksfhs.org.uk> or by post to The Editor, Berkshire Family Historian, The Holding, Hamstead Marshall, Newbury, Berks RG20 0HW. Letters may have to be edited, and it will be assumed, unless you ask otherwise, that you are happy to have your postal and email address published for replies.*

## Wartime memories wanted

### Carol Harris

I have been asked by an established publisher of history titles to write a series of books drawing on first-hand, personal accounts from the Second World War. The first title will focus on air raids and ARP. The others (Dunkirk, military nursing, VE Day, Women's Land Army) will be published if there is sufficient original material of interest on the topic, and provided that the first volume sells well.

I am contacting family history and local history societies in the hope that members of such groups will be able to assist me in my research. I would be grateful if anyone who has any relevant material or memories would contact me, initially with brief details of the material they have, and we can take things forward from there. Original material sent to me will be copied and returned quickly by recorded delivery, but I prefer to be sent copies.

Any material submitted will be considered for publication in the book, although obviously I cannot say what will and will not be included at this stage, and I am unable to offer any payment. I will, however, send updates on the project to those submitting material and interested societies, so you will know how it is progressing and when the first book (and other titles) will be published.

The deadline for delivery of the manuscript

for the first title is the end of 2009, and I will need to collect the majority of material for this first volume by the end of the summer.

*Carol Harris, who is not a member of the society, offered this information about her background:*

I work full-time as a medical journalist: writing books on topics that interest me is a hobby. I have written (and co-written with my husband, Mike Brown) nine books in the last 10 years, mainly on aspects of the Home Front in World War Two. Mike and I are both freelance researchers, and we have contributed to various television and radio programmes, including BBC radio, Timewatch, Time Team, and Richard and Judy. I speak regularly on Home Front topics at local groups.

## Photos offered

### Val Hannington

I have a number of photographs of my family from the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, and I was wondering if anyone would like copies. My family names are: Lyford, Hamblin, Coxhead, Paulin, Nightingale and Peach, living in Bucklebury, Upper Bucklebury, Zinzan, Chapel Row. I am also interested in photos that other people may have for mutual exchange.

Where is Mount Pleasant?

**Judith Payling (6410)**

We have a relative (now deceased) who was born in 1908. He always believed that his place of birth was the workhouse in Wargrave, having been told this from his youth. After he died we saw his birth certificate, which gives the place of birth as Mount Pleasant, Twyford RD, (the certificate being issued in the Wokingham Registration District, sub-district Wargrave). Enquiries have shown that there was no Wargrave workhouse. Also, to date we have been unable to find a Mount Pleasant in Twyford. We wondered whether any readers have any local knowledge which might indicate the location and nature of Mount Pleasant (house, street, area, or...), or shed any other light on this. Any suggestions would be appreciated.

Not quite so many twins in Bradfield

**Vicki Turner née Sellwood (5101)**

I would like to comment on Jean Herbert's piece in the March *Historian* about multiple births in Bradfield. I can't comment on some of her examples, but I can about the Sellwood baptisms in 1829 that she quotes. The three children of Stephen and Elizabeth (nee Lambden) who were christened on 22 March 1829 Bradfield, St Andrews, were not triplets; they were siblings baptised in a batch.

Unless a baptism says that children were twins or triplets, it is unwise to presume that they were until other evidence is found. Most of the time they are simply batch baptisms, not multiple births. This often applies to non-conformist baptisms, as parents had to wait for the circuit minister to visit or travel to the nearest chapel. In the cases that Jean quotes, however, this is a C of E Church – one that I know well, as I sang in the choir there as a child. Like Jean, I have noticed many multiple baptisms in Bradfield St Andrews. In part I think the reason may be an evangelical incumbent doing the rounds in Southend, particularly after the C of E school was built, and about 1830 when the Methodists were very active.

To put the record straight, Stephen and Elizabeth Sellwood's son Stephen was born in 1829, but Mary was born in 1824, and Charlotte in 1826. They all survived to adulthood, (censuses) although Charlotte died in 1854, unmarried. Mary married James Henwood, Stephen married Mary Ann West.

I also have the Rider family in my tree, and there seems to be some discrepancy there with the survival of the girl twins (they do seem to be twins) mentioned in the article. Mary and Elizabeth Rider of Joseph and Sarah Rider were baptised in 1821. They both died and were buried three days apart at one week old. Another daughter Elizabeth was christened in 1823 and she married John Giles in 1845 Bradfield.



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# Bookends

Jean Debney

The editor regrets that prices for these titles were not available at the time of going to press. Please contact the bookshop on <[www.berksfhs.org.uk/books](http://www.berksfhs.org.uk/books)> or 0118 950 9553

## BERKSHIRE FINDING AIDS

### ***Twyford and Woodley Congregational Churches: baptisms, marriages, burials and members***

(Eureka Partnership, 2009)

A5, grey flexiback, 32pp

price on application

Another useful, indexed transcript of infrequently used records in the Berkshire Record Office. This edition covers two non-conformist churches in east Berkshire: baptisms 1812-46, 1861-88 and 1898 - 1924, marriages 1918-51, deaths/burials 1912-49, and lists of members 1809-45, 1860-64 and 1869 - 1948 for the Congregational church at Twyford, and baptisms 1876 - 1949, burials 1858 - 1905 and members 1913-35 of the Congregational chapel at Woodley.

## BERKSHIRE LOCAL HISTORY

### **Memories of Beech Hill: a short history of the village of Beech Hill, Berkshire**

(nd) A5, flexiback, 110pp

price on application

This booklet, full of black and white and colour illustrations, was, according to the conclusion the "brainchild of Iris Wait" who, with other (named) local residents, has connections with the village. Iris was one of the earliest members of Berkshire FHS when the society was founded in 1975, and she is still an enthusiastic family and local historian. She and others have brought together a huge amount of material in this fascinating publication.

Helpfully, the introduction includes a clear, coloured sketch map of the village. This is followed by sections such as *Beaumys Castle, The Priory House and Farm, Beech Hill*

*House, The owners, The Baptist chapel and the church and Personalities*. Sadly there is no contents, name index, nor the publisher's name and date, but there are a couple of telephone numbers and an email address for contact.

### ***Former mayors of Wokingham from 1947 to 1979***

Jim Bell (the author, 2009)

A5, flexiback, 52pp

price on application

This brings the list of potted biographies, each with a small portrait, of Wokingham's mayors up to 1978. It also includes a reproduction of the loyal message sent by Wokingham Borough Council to Elizabeth II at her coronation in 1953, and a nice drawing of Wokingham Town Hall.

## BERKSHIRE MILITARY and POLICE HISTORY

### ***Maiwand: the last stand of the 66th (Berkshire) Regiment in Afghanistan 1880***

Richard J Stacpoole-Ryding in association with The Rifles (Berkshire and Wiltshire) Museum (History Press, 2008)

7.8in x 9.8in (170 x 250mm), flexiback, 224pp

ISBN 978-0-7524-4537-3

price on application

In July 1880 the 66th (Berkshire) Regiment was involved in a disastrous battle in Afghanistan which almost wiped them out. This was the last time in which their regimental colours were carried into battle. Their valiant fighting inspired many, including Conan Doyle, who based Dr Watson on the 66th's medical officer, and Queen Victoria,

who presented gallantry medals to the survivors at Osborne, Isle of Wight.

This book is well researched and well presented. It will almost certainly become the classic source of information about the history of the 66th in India and Afghanistan, and the regiment's return to England in 1881.

One of the appendices contains a list of men who served between 1870 and 1881, Indian camp followers, memorials, selected bibliographies and much else.

Among the memorials in Berkshire to this terrible campaign is the statue in the Forbury, Reading, of an angry lion standing on a plinth engraved with the names of the 11 officers and 317 men who died during the campaign. Also in Reading there is a memorial window in St Mary's church, and the pub sign of the Bugle in Friar Street is a bugler of the 66th. Maiwand Gardens in Tilehurst was named in 1990. A list of names on the plinth of the Maiwand lion was published in *Berkshire Family History Society Magazine*, Spring 1981 (v6, pt1, pp58-60).

***Newbury Borough Police 1836 – 1875***  
Richard Godfrey (the author, 2008)  
A5, flexiback, 144pp

ISBN 978-0-9560926-0-1  
price on application

This is a fascinating history of Newbury's first police force, established in 1836, a year after the discretionary Municipal Corporation Act. Thirty-nine years later the force was absorbed into the Berkshire County Constabulary.

The account has been written by a local resident and former chief inspector in Newbury, who illustrates his interest in the history of the force in this well researched and written book. It is absolutely fascinating to read.

Apart from the history aspect, there are many interesting cases which throw light on the social conditions endured by our ancestors who, usually because they were poor, were punished for crimes committed in their struggle to survive. In 16 appendices there are transcripts of original documents, lists of special constables appointed during the Fenian scare in 1869, "Specials" appointed annually, fire brigade personnel and serving officers during this period. All the names of people and places mentioned throughout the text are fully indexed.

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## Members' interests

**Bob Plumridge**



6755 AMOS	All	WAR	pre 1819	6789 KING	Longwick	BKM	1840-1884
6740 APPLEBY	Woolhampton	BRK	1550-1650	6674 KNAPP	All	OXF	1800-1900
6740 BALLARD	Ufton Nervet	BRK	1550-1685	6674 KNAPP	London	LDN	1800-1900
6740 BAREFOOT	Ufton Nervet	BRK	1550-1650	6789 LADD	Coulston	WIL	1838-1850
6740 BAREFOOT	Purley	BRK	1550-1650	6749 LANGLEY	All	BKM	pre 1940
6746 BARWICK	Nottingham	NTT	All	6414 LIDDIARD	All	All	All
6749 BECKETT	Chertsey	SRY	1850 on	6674 LINSTEAD	All	NFK	1750-1850
6749 BECKETT	Long Crendon	BKM	All	6749 LUNN	Wokingham	BRK	1750-1880
6749 BIDDLE	Staines	MDX	pre 1900	6783 MATTHEWS	Newtown	HAM	pre 1793
6674 BLOOM	All	NFK	1700-1850	6674 MELLOR	All	CON	1750-1820
6799 BRANT	Wokingham	BRK	1850-1900	6674 MELLOR	All	STS	1650-1750
6674 BRIDGES	London	LDN	1800 on	6674 MELLOR	London	LDN	1820 on
6789 BROOKS	Little Bedwyn	WIL	1864-1881	6674 MELLOR	All	YKS	pre 1700
6789 BROOKS	Aldbourne	WIL	1785-1812	6783 MORRIS	Newbury	BRK	pre 1839
6674 BRYDGES	London	LDN	1800 on	6746 NOKES	Sulhampstead	Abbots	
6789 CARPENTER						BRK	All
	Cannings	WIL	1800-1880	6749 OGBURN	All	BRK	pre 1850
6746 CHILD	Reading	BRK	All	6749 OTHER	Thorpe	SRY	All
6765 COLLIER	Wigan	LAN	1750-1850	6749 OTHER	Chertsey	SRY	All
6749 COPE	Leek	STS	pre 1900	6674 PADGEN	All	KEN	1800-1900
6755 CORNWELL	All	LND	1850-1900	6799 PARKER	Wokingham	BRK	1859-1900
6789 COX	Cannings	WIL	1800-1880	6799 PEMBERTON	Tutts Clump	BRK	1924
6747 CROOK	Windsor	BRK	pre 1803	6799 PEMBERTON	S Stoke	BRK	1820
6789 DARK	West Lavington			6789 PHILLIPS	Marston	WIL	1800-1850
		WIL	1800-1850	6755 PLEDGER	Graffham	SSX	1640-1775
6789 DARK	Coulston	WIL	1815-1850	6749 PYKE	Ashampstead	BRK	pre 1850
6740 DEWBERRY	Tilehurst	BRK	1550-1670	4422 ROE	Hemel Hempstead		
6746 DUCKETT	Sulhampstead	Bannister				HEF	All
		BRK	All	4422 ROE	Luton	BDF	All
6674 EAST	All	BKM	1800-1900	6799 SEARL	Crowthorne	BRK	1829-1900
6789 EATON	W Ilsley	BRK	1780-1820	6804 SESSIONS	E Hendred	BRK	1780-1820
6804 FARNSWORTH		All	All	6804 SESSIONS	Cumnor	BRK	1663-1720
6737 FERREBEE	W Yorks	YKS	1890-1955	6804 SESSIONS	Bix	OXF	1820-1846
6737 FERREBEE	All	BRK	pre 1900	6804 SESSIONS	Henley	OXF	1846-1890
6737 FERREBEE	All	GLS	pre 1900	6804 SESSIONS	Appleton	BRK	1720-1780
6789 FRANKLIN	Oxford	OXF	1870-1885	6749 SKUSE	Horton	BKM	pre 1850
6799 FRANKUM	Wokingham	BRK	1826-1900	6789 STIMPSON	W Ilsley	BRK	1780-1820
6749 GARDINER	Reading	BRK	pre 1915	6600 TOMBS	Newbury	BRK	1769-1900
6749 GARDINER	Ashampstead	BRK	pre 1915	6755 TOMPKINS	All	LND	pre 1885
6749 GOODMAN	Ashampstead	BRK	pre 1850	6600 TOOMBS	Newbury	BRK	1769-1900
6674 HARRIS	All	DEV	1800-1900	6765 WALSH	Wigan	LAN	1750-1850
6755 HATLEY	Bottisham	CAM	pre 1870	6799 WEST	Ruscombe	BRK	1819-1924
6755 HATTON	All	DOR	pre 1846	6799 WEST	Wokingham	BRK	1924-1930
6765 HAYES	Wigan	LAN	1750-1850	6799 WEST	Cholsey	BRK	1924-1936
6765 HEYES	Wigan	LAN	1750-1850	6674 WHITE	London	LDN	1800-1900
6674 HIGGS	London	LDN	1800-1900	6746 WHITE	Nottingham	NTT	All
6674 HIGGS	All	BRK	1800-1900	6746 WHITE	Kingswinford	STS	All
6737 HITCHENOR	W Yorks	YKS	pre 1950	6789 WHITING	Aldbourne	WIL	1785-1819
6749 HODGES	S Stoke	OXF	All	6749 WICKS	Egham	SRY	All
6789 HOLMES	Chalfont St Giles			6749 WICKS	Staines	MDX	All
		BKM	1840-1884	6799 WILLATTS	Wokingham	BRK	1820-50
6789 HOLMES	Colnbrook	BKM	1875-1900	6804 YOUNG	Chalgrove	OXF	1748-1855
6740 HORNE	Woolhampton	BRK	1550-1650	6804 YOUNG	Benson	OXF	1863-1874
6749 HOUSE	Basildon	BRK	pre 1800				
4422 KEEP	Buckland	BRK	All				
4422 KEEP	Denchworth	BRK	All				



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**Yeomanry House, 131 Castle Hill, Reading, Berks RG1 7TJ**  
**0118 950 9553**

The Research Centre is 15 minutes' walk from the centre of Reading, next door to the Berkshire Record Office and in the same building as the Reading Register Office. Follow the signs to the Berkshire Record Office. There is ample free parking.

The Research Centre comprises two floors, with books, films and microfiche on the first floor in the library, and the administration, signing-in desk and the computer suite on the ground floor. The centre is open to members and the general public as follows:

**Tuesdays**

**10.00 - 16.00, 19.00 - 21.30**

**Wednesdays and Thursdays**

**10.00 - 16.00**

**2nd and 4th Sundays each month**

**11.00 - 16.00**

All staff on duty are volunteers who help researchers in the centre, but they do not carry out research for visitors. The computer suite includes three computers set up specifically for the Ancestry Library Edition, for which a nominal charge of £1.00 per hour is made. The Ancestry Library Edition is the .com version (much larger than .co.uk) which includes data from north American and other countries, making it much more useful to researchers.

### Berkshire Name Suite (BNS)

This is the master index on the computers, comprising the following databases:

- **Berkshire censuses and indexes for 1851, 1861 and 1871** (both complete but mainly unchecked) and **1881**
- **Berkshire Marriage Index**  
Over 95,000 entries from pre-1837 Berkshire parish registers. Note that the early entries only give dates and names of groom and bride. Later entries include parish if applicable, and whether married by licence.
- **Berkshire Burial Index (BBI)**  
Over 639,000 entries to date. More than 80 per cent show all the data available. The rest show (as available) name, age, relationship, occupation and title plus a note indicating if there is further information such as date, place or cause of death in the original record. The seventh edition of the BBI is available on CD from the bookshop. (See mail order booklist.)
- **Berkshire Strays Index**  
20,500 Berkshire people recorded in events outside the county. No further census (1841 - 1901) or WWI details are being added to this index.
- **Berkshire Miscellaneous Index**  
100,279 disparate records extracted and submitted by individuals.

### Other electronic databases

- **LDS Vital Records Indexes** for the UK and some other parts of Europe
- **Census returns of 1861, 1871, 1891**

for some counties including the London 1891 census

- **Census return for 1881 for all UK** including the Channel Isles and the Royal Navy
- **National Burial Index** second edition
- **Local trade directories** from 1830 onwards

## Library

The library's holdings total about 7,500 items. About 20 per cent of these specifically concern Berkshire, the majority of material being on other English counties, Wales, Scotland, Ireland, north America and the Antipodes.

Major items and series include:

**International Genealogical Index** on fiche (1988) for Great Britain

**1851 census return indexes** for most English and Welsh counties

CDs of **Berkshire MIs, overseers' papers, militia lists, directories**

**Local history and genealogy** books for other UK counties, Scotland, Ireland and some other countries

**General reference** section of how-to-do-it books, poor law, surnames, photographs, local history, education, poll books, National Index of Parish Registers, military

**Directories:** biographical, trade, professional, military, clerical and school  
Published **family histories/pedigrees** and a large number of donated hand-written documents

**Berkshire Family Historian** from 1975 to the present day

**Berkshire census returns** for 1851 to 1881 on film

**Exchange Magazine Archive** five- to seven-year files of other family history societies' journals.

Published Berkshire parish register transcripts are listed on the website. These are mainly for pre-1974 Berkshire and include north Berkshire (now Oxfordshire).

## Research Centre tours 2009

Saturday 12 September 14.30

Monday 16 November 19.30

Tours must be pre-booked, and they are limited to 10 people. They last for about two hours, and will allow a short time to browse in the library, to buy publications and to use the computers for your family history research. They will show you what research and finding aids are available (which are not restricted to only those with Berkshire connections). For further details please contact Arthur Beech on 0118 978 4781 or at <researchcentre@berksfhs.org.uk>

## Search options

- Do your own search at the Research Centre and make printouts.
- Visit a Berks FHS stand at a family history fair.
- Request a postal search.

## Postal searches and charges

The cost for searching one surname in the whole **Berkshire Name Suite** is currently £5. For searching one surname in one database only (from those listed on page 34) the cost is £2. These fees include the search and a print-out of up to 25 lines of results.

A search of **indexes to the 1851 census for other counties**, with print-out of results, may range from £3 to £10 according to media. Please check in the online library catalogue first to ensure that the county you want is stocked.

Please send your search request to the address on page 34 giving:

- your membership number
- email/telephone details
- a stamped, self-addressed envelope large enough for several A4 sheets (2 x IRCs if writing from overseas)
- a bank draft or sterling cheque drawn on a London clearing bank

and mark your envelope BNS or OCCI, depending upon the database you wish to search.

# Gleanings from exchange magazines

Copies of these articles (paper or electronic) can be supplied on request. For paper send your request with a SAE (min 11 x 22 cm) and two loose stamps to Exchange Magazines, Berks FHS, Yeomanry House, 131 Castle Hill, Reading RG1 7TJ. For electronic copies apply to <gleanings@berksfhs.org.uk>. Please supply both the issue date of the Historian and full details of the title and source of the Gleaning. Copyright law requires that photocopies of articles in journals may only be made for the purpose of private study or non-commercial research. Only one article from any one issue can be supplied. All digital copies must be printed off and deleted.

## Doreen and Tony Farmer

### *The Plea Rolls as sources*

Another source of information

(41) Shropshire FH v30/1 Mar 2009

### *Portrait of Martham village through the ages with photos*

(35) Norfolk Ancestor v5 no8 Dec 2008

### *The village of Aust with photos*

(3) Bristol & Avon FHS no134 Dec 2008

### *The Bakewell witches*

(11) Derbyshire FHS no 127 Dec 2008

### *Exchange journals*

Naming some areas covered by exchange journals

(53) Sheffield District FHS v29 no 4 Winter 2008

### *Anti-slavery petition 1783*

Lots of names

(74) Quaker Connections no 45 Nov 2008

### *Spotlight on Tunstall*

(52) East Yorkshire FHS no 117 Jan 2009

### *The blind houses of Wiltshire*

Small prisons

(49) Wiltshire FHS no 112 Jan 2009

### *1911 census*

The organising and counting of the census

(7) North Cheshire FHS v36/1 Feb 2009

### *National Memorial Card Index 1842 - 1994*

Names, grave numbers, ages, dates of death, cemetery

(45) East Surrey FHS v31/4 Dec 2008

### *Tattershall*

Village life in 1920s

(27) Lincolnshire FHS v20/1 Feb 2009

### *St Andrew's, Great Ilford war memorial*

100 years of church history and names on war memorial

(29) Cockney Ancestor no 121 Jan 2009

### *A Victorian Christmas at home*

Review of a Christmas talk

(53) Sheffield & District FHS v30 no 1 Spring 2009

### *Shotley during 1855 - 1874*

History, gazetteer and directory

(43) Suffolk Roots no 34/3 Dec 2008

### *An exciting naval history resource*

For researchers of Royal Navy or Royal Marine ancestors

(13) Dorset FHS v22 no 1 Dec 2008

### *Christmas Day in the workhouse*

1909 from a newspaper article - a far cry from Dickens!

(18) Hertfordshire People no 108 Mar 2009