

Berkshire Family Historian

the quarterly journal of the Berkshire Family History Society

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Family names appearing in this issue:

excluding living people, authors of sources and members' interests

Allen 29	Dann 12	Merriott 20	Steevens 12
Archer 14+	Dodwell 22	Northam 19	Stevens 30
Atkins 30	Drewe 31	Palmer 13	Suttons 12
Austen 26	Fowle 26+	Parry 16	Thomson/Thompson
Avis 29	Francis 14+	Powle 22	20
Badcock 20	Guy 12	Simmonds 29	Turner 19
Barnes 29	Hearne 22	Sittart, van see	Vansittart 22
Brush 19	Hewitt/Hewett 21	Vansittart	Veal 14
Cherry 22	Higgs 12	Smith 21	Vokins 22
Clacy/Clacey 21	Hussey/Huzzie 20	Smith 22	Wallis 12
Clarke 27	Knapp 19	Smith 27	Watts 20
Collier 12	Lewis 12	Smithers 21	Winterbourne 27
Craven 26	Lloyd 26	Staples 26	

Chairman's corner



LOOKING FORWARD TO THE NEW MEMBERSHIP YEAR

Thank you for your support, encouragement and interest in this past year. Society volunteers have worked hard to enhance your membership benefits and to aid your research. Do you take fullest advantage of their efforts and of the quality publications and service developments those efforts produce? You can anticipate more new services, facilities and new publications in the next 12 months.

On 1 July, a new membership year starts. While your 2012/2013 membership fee is unchanged, the same cannot be said, sadly, for most of the society's anticipated costs. Many of you will have renewed already, or have accepted extended membership offers to June 2013, or are paying by standing order this month, but for everyone else, a renewal advice accompanies your *Historian*. Prompt renewals make sure that more resources underpin members' benefits. Delayed renewals divert resources into less productive production and distribution of reminders to those who fail to pay

on time. So please renew NOW – in person, by post or online – to guarantee continued enjoyment of your membership benefits.

DO FAMILY HISTORIANS LIVE IN THE REAL WORLD?

Back in February at Olympia, one visitor to the stand declined to spend £5 on a society parish register CD because, while it contained checked and full transcriptions of registers from 1553 onwards, "at that price, it should have all the images included too". Her words returned to me recently as the Project Board signed off the excellent Berkshire Probate Index CD. A few people might feel that at £25, it is an "expensive" product. But think for a moment what specialist skills went into its production: a postgraduate researcher worked full-time for almost two years to create just the earliest section of it. Add in the time invested in gathering and standardising data, checking documents, building and testing the CD, and you can quickly appreciate that the CD was made possible only by thousands of hours of work. Had this been a commercial project, £25 would not cover an hour of the time involved.

Of course, no Berkshire researcher is obliged to purchase this new, easily searchable index to almost 400 years of archdeaconry probate records, with its many finding aids and summary details. He or she can still access all 39,000 documents independently and free of charge at Berkshire Record Office. There might be some travel costs and time needed, but these could be balanced against the cost of having instant easy access to information on a CD at any hour in the comfort of a researcher's own home. For those family historians unwilling to recognise that convenience comes at a very attractive price, traditional trips to record repositories remain a free-to-all option.

EVOLVING STRATEGIES FOR YOUR SOCIETY

Over recent months the trustees have been debating and developing strategies for the society, to secure its position as one of the leading society players in the fast-changing world of family history research. These discussions demand rigorous thinking and a willingness to re-evaluate objectively everything that the society does, and could do, and how it sets about, or might set about, doing it. A strong external focus is also vital because no society will survive for long inside a bubble of insularity and familiarity. Societies cannot ignore the rapid changes taking place in the family history marketplace, evolving technologies, initiatives of competitor organisations and the changing expectations of members and potential members. Throughout the strategy process, requirements of members remain uppermost, and plans are in place to engage regular volunteers and active members in ongoing strategic debate. Interaction with a

wide cross-section of society supporters is a key part in the process, and your ideas on future directions for the society are invited and welcomed. Get in touch, share your thoughts and take an active part in shaping your society's positioning and development.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The trustees invite you to support your society on 26 June at its 37th Annual General Meeting at Windsor. Some experienced trustees stand down in June, and this is an opportunity to thank them and their colleagues for the substantial contributions made to the successful progress of your society. I would also like to thank the many dedicated volunteers – worldwide – whose inputs ensure that the society satisfies the needs and expectations of its many members and those of the wider public. Very many thanks to you all.

Derek Trinder
<chairman@berksfhs.org.uk>

Just look what you're missing...

...if you still haven't registered to use the members' area of <www.berksfhs.org.uk>

- Past copies of the *Berkshire Family Historian*
- The Discussion List archive
- The Gazetteer, an index of about 1,000 Berkshire place names
- Summaries of branch meetings talks
- And now a clickable parish map: see the county union by union and click on a parish to read its profile
- More items being added soon.

Registration couldn't be simpler: Click on the Register link at the bottom of the left-hand sidebar of the homepage of <www.berksfhs.org.uk>. You'll then be asked to enter a given security code, followed by your full name, a username of your choice, a current email address, a password of your choice and your membership number.

Don't delay - register today

Projects = publications

One of the society's constitutional objectives is to transcribe and publish Berkshire records, and another milestone in this commitment has been reached in the last quarter with the publication of the Berkshire Probate Index.



from BerksFHS Books, online at www.berksfhs.org.uk/shop or by mail order from the address in the Publications List (centre pages), £27.10 posted within the UK and £29.90 airmailed overseas.

The Berkshire Probate Index contains details of 39,000 wills proved in the archdeaconry between 1480 and 1857. Surnames, forenames, parishes, sometimes location, and year of probate are given, together with (as available) aliases, occupational and status details, all as they appear in wills, administrations, inventories, probate accounts and associated documents. Executors, witnesses and beneficiaries are not included.

The datasets are searchable by surname, parish, year, occupation and BRO reference. In addition to the full details there are nine finding aids and three overview datasets.

The CD is the result of a collaborative project undertaken by the Berkshire Record Office, the Berkshire Family History Society, the Berkshire Local History Association, the Berkshire Record Society and the Oxfordshire Family History Society, with additional support from the Marc Fitch Fund.

Compilation of the Berkshire Probate Index was carried out by a team of dedicated volunteers. Had their work been paid for at commercial rates, approximately 400 CDs would have to be sold at £100 each simply for the publishers to break even. This underlines the vital contribution that is made by the society's project volunteers in bringing valuable datasets within the reach of ordinary family historians.

You could be one of this important team

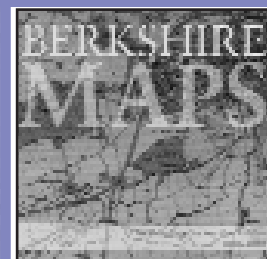
The society's next publication in this series will be Berkshire Christenings, scheduled for publication in 2013. Catherine Sampson, the projects co-ordinator, is currently seeking volunteers who can spare a couple of hours a week (or more), working at home using Excel to input prepared material. If you can help please email her on <projects@berksfhs.org.uk>.

AGM

The society's annual general meeting takes place at 7.30pm on Tuesday 26 June at Christ Church United Reformed Church, William Street, Windsor SL4 1BA.

The proceedings will include reports from the chairman and treasurer, and elections to the Executive Committee for 2012-13. The Windsor branch meeting will follow the AGM, with a talk by Graham Bandy on using photos and memorabilia for military family history research.

Topographical detail that will bring your ancestors to life



The Berkshire Maps CD covers the whole of the historic county mapped at six inches to the mile, marking schools, farms, churches, hospitals, factories, barracks, cemeteries and much more. These local details can help you to envisage your ancestors' day-to-day lives: where they lived, worked, worshipped, and were finally laid to rest.

The first edition of the Ordnance Survey map of Berkshire published 1881-87. The entire county in 46 sheets on one CD (with gazetteer) is available from BerksFHS Books for just £14.60 mailed within the UK and £17.40 airmailed overseas. See the Publications list in the centre pages for ordering details.

Have you renewed your membership?

All membership subscriptions fall due on 30 June, and this copy of your magazine includes a reminder form on which you can renew by post. Alternatively, you can renew online at www.berksfhs.org.uk. Whichever is your preference, *please do it now*. Chasing forgetful members takes up valuable volunteer time. Thank you.

Do you have something interesting for readers of the Historian?

The editor welcomes submissions from members in a variety of forms: articles of any length up to 1,200 words, parish register snippets, appeals for and offers of help, and interesting photographs. Please take a moment to look at www.berksfhs.org.uk/cms/Journal-general/could-you-write-for-the-historian.html to see how best to present and submit your writing and your pictures.

If in doubt contact the editor first, on editor@berksfhs.org.uk.

Out and about

Your society aims to keep itself in the public eye by attending relevant events whenever the opportunity arises. Our presence not only raises revenue for the society through CD sales, donations and increased royalties from Findmypast; it also raises the society's profile, attracts new visitors to the Research Centre and recruits new members.

- *WhoDoYouThinkYouAre Live* at Olympia kept volunteers busy over three days in February. Attendance was up by 12 per cent, although the society's gross revenue was slightly down (£1,524, as against £1,717 last year). Six new members were signed up on the spot. Chad Hanna and Gillian Stevens gave a talk on wills and obituaries, promoting the (then imminent, now published) Berkshire Probate CD, and advantage was taken of the captive audience to distribute publicity on other society publications.

Popular wisdom decrees that these large-scale FH events are of declining significance to family historians in the digital age, but the potential gains (often not fully realised until well after the event) are still attractive, and the society has signed up for WDYTYA 2013.

- Bracknell Family History Fair is Berkshire's own, and a must for the society. Attendance in January was around 1,000, the same as 2011, but at £698 the society's gross takings were 25 per cent down on last year. As in previous years Berkshire FHS ran a series of talks during the day, to which entry was free this year.

- We aim to attend the open days of neighbouring FHSs whenever possible, and in the second half of 2012 these fixtures may include Wiltshire, Buckinghamshire, Hampshire, Oxfordshire and West Surrey.

- Assorted one-off events at which the society has been or will be represented include the Ascot Retirement Fair, the MERL Jubilee Summer Fete, Abingdon's Hobbies and Crafts Day and Heritage Open Days. Add to this the numerous library advice days at which branch volunteers help family historians at all levels of research; regular sessions are now a fixture in the calendars of all six of the society's branches.

Volunteers are what makes all this possible. If you think you could lend a hand at a local event and help your society, please contact your branch chairman.

ONLINE DISCUSSION LIST: did you know that...

- Any member may join the online Discussion List, where information and problems are shared daily
- Topics range widely, and they are not confined to Berkshire
- Virtually every question posted receives several responses

- 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)

AROUND THE BRANCHES

Windsor, Slough and Maidenhead Branch

<windsor@berksfhs.org.uk>

Mike Booth

At the end of March we held our annual members' evening with the theme *Skeletons in our cupboards*. One member took the theme literally, and brought Stan, a real live (well, artificial) skeleton, who stood on the dais as a reminder to all about our ancestors.

- David Ross-Hamilton described the case of a master printer of the 1890s, sent by his sons to the Hoxton House Asylum by dubious means. Within 74 days he was released to regain control of the family business and in 1892 became a Freeman of the City.
- Pauline Hodges traced an ancestor of her husband who in the 1871 census was in Exeter prison for theft. His wife was sent to a West Riding asylum in 1879 and the children were found in the Bradford workhouse.
- Olwen Mundy described a woman whose husband was sent to Warwick prison after an Old Bailey conviction in 1892 for obtaining money by false pretences. She petitioned for divorce in 1901, and Olwen described how she found full details at TNA, including a marriage certificate, photos of the church where the ceremony took place and the reason put forward – desertion and bigamy (he had remarried in 1893 in another town). The decree was granted in 1902, but she died within three years.
- Ann Greenshield described an ancestor born in 1838 in Greenwich and brought up by a superintendent of police. She later married a plasterer who was in and out of prison, and she herself was jailed in 1871 for receiving stolen goods, as was her son.

- Jenny Gudgeon told the sad tale of her great-grandfather, aged 83, who shot himself. The inquest was held in the family home, and gave the verdict "shot himself whilst temporarily insane". A member of the Board of Guardians and well-known local farmer, he had been ill and in considerable pain. Details were found in the *Hants and Berks Gazette*.

- Judith Mitchell has a fairly rare Lincolnshire maiden name, and was surprised to find in the 1881 census a chap with that name serving in HM Prison Chatham in Kent. The *Leeds Mercury* of 1871 revealed that he had been found guilty of a rape in Sheffield when aged 18. Undefended, he was sentenced to 10 years.

- Mike Booth told of two brothers fined for street betting and obstructing pedestrians in 1947/8 in Perth, Western Australia – an embarrassment for their elder brother, who was a pillar of society, standing for election in 1948 to the local Road Board, and also secretary of the local branch of the Australian Legion of Ex-Servicemen and Women.

So, as you can see, our ancestors had quite a few secrets that they would not readily have passed on to their descendants.

An advice session has been arranged at Cox Green Library on the afternoon of Wednesday 16 May. This library is associated with the local secondary school, and it's hoped we might entice some younger visitors, teachers or even students. After the success at Eton Wick in February, we intend to do a follow-up in October.

AROUND THE BRANCHES

*Nothing to hide...
"Stan" reminds Windsor
branch members that the
naked truth will out at a
family history members'
evening.*



Vale of the White Horse Branch

<vale@berksfhs.org.uk>
Vanessa Chappell

Vale may be one of the smallest branches, but our meetings so far this year have been really interesting and very well attended. We try to use local speakers where possible, so that talks are linked into our area of the county.

In January Tony Hadland, a local historian, gave us an illustrated talk entitled *What my DNA told me*. February saw us being thoroughly entertained by Howard Benbrook on the subject of surname origins and meanings. The Surname Atlas software package kept many attendees occupied until well after we would normally have gone home.

We were happy to have Martin Buckland talk to us in March about the history and restoration of the Wilts and Berks Canal, with large maps and photographs of this wonderful local project.

We strongly believe in being a social branch where people can meet others with the same interests, share knowledge, and help with problems encountered in research. In April we hold our annual meeting, and this will be a members' social. Following the formalities of the evening there will be a cheese and wine party.

Our continuing library surgeries in Abingdon and Wantage were very successful in February and March. These events work well to publicise the society (and gain new members) and also bring people into the libraries. From May we will be adding Faringdon Library to our list of locations.

We represented Berkshire FHS at the Hobbies and Societies Day on Saturday 21 April in Abingdon.

Bracknell and Wokingham Branch

<bracknell@berksfhs.org.uk>

David Wooldridge

In conjunction with Bracknell Library Service a getting-started presentation was held at Harman's Water Library on Wednesday 25 January. The talk was well received by the six attendees, two of whom said they'd attend a drop-in session. Two others said they'd like to come to a meeting as visitors to see what we're like. (One said she hadn't started her family history because her sister in New Zealand had already done it!)

Bracknell Family History Fair on 29 January was quite busy in the morning, but rather quiet in the afternoon. The branch table had a fair number of enquiries, directing some to the look-ups and some to the main society tables for CDs. There were two individuals and one couple who seemed genuinely interested in joining, in addition to those who joined on the day.

National Library Day in Wokingham had minimal footfall, and we probably spoke to only four people, although one of those was with us for the full two hours, as he'd come

prepared for a normal drop-in. John Feast did however get photographed by the *Wokingham Times* and also by the council, the latter with the mayor.

We had short notice of Wokingham Register Office's open day on 3 March, but managed to arrange coverage, thanks to Ann Willis and Gillian Angell. There was family history interest from two members of the public, one of whom was a relation of the superintendent registrar who was over here on holiday from South Africa, but took the literature in the hope that his brother in Wokingham will do some research. The other was very keen, but can't get to the drop-in session so may come to a meeting. The staff, on the other hand, could not have been more interested – three potential new members. They were all amazed at how much information there is online, and none of them knew that they could access Ancestry for free at the library. They hope to hold another open day next year and it's likely they'll want us there again.

Reading Branch

<reading@berksfhs.org.uk>

Margaret Crook

The branch helped out at Mortimer and Cholsey branch libraries for National Library Day. Cholsey was a week later due to unforeseen family commitments, but several people dropped in, despite the snow, ice and cold. Some expressed an interest in coming into the Research Centre at a future date.

Thanks to Gillian seeing an advert in the local paper, Louise Fenner and Margaret Crook are helping on the third Monday of each month at Goring public library for a two-hour session run by a local historian.

Newbury Branch

<newbury@berksfhs.org.uk>

Nick Prince

Following the success of National Library Day, when the branch manned four simultaneous advice sessions in Newbury, Thatcham, Hungerford and Wash Common, we have since responded to a request from Lambourn branch for a session. This took place on Saturday 14 April, when Penny Stokes and Yvonne Brick helped around nine pre-booked visitors with a variety of problems. The librarian still has a waiting list of people seeking help, so another day is to be arranged for May.

Computer Branch

<computerbranch@berksfhs.org.uk>

Gillian Stevens

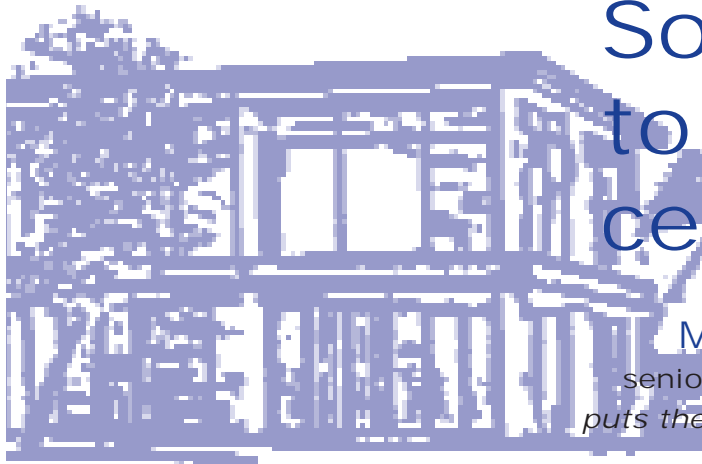
The Computer branch is working on producing a CD of transcripts and images of the memorial inscriptions in the churchyard of Woodley St John.

*general news**general news**general news*

Dates for your diary

*asterisk indicates that Berkshire FHS will attend

Mon 4 - Tue 5 Jun	Exhibition: Purley during the reign of the three great queens	The Barn, Goosecroft Lane, Purley	http://project-purley.eu
10.00 - 16.30 Sat 9 June	Museum of English Rural Life Jubilee Village Fete*	Reading University Redlands Rd Reading RG1 5EX	< www.reading.ac.uk/ merl >
10.00 - 15.30 Sat 16 Jun	Wiltshire FHS Open Day*	Civic Centre, Trowbridge BA14 8AH	< www.wiltshirefhs.co.uk /wfhsopenday >
19.30 Tue 26 Jun	Berkshire FHS Annual General Meeting	Christ Church URC, William St, Windsor SL4 1BA	< secretary@berksfhs.org. uk >
10.00 - 16.30 Sun 1 Jul	Reading Postcard and Cigarette Card Society Fair	Rivermead Leisure Centre, Richfield Ave Reading RG1 8EQ	G Ashton 01628 637868
14.00 - 16.00 Mon 9 Jul	Introductory visit to the Berkshire Record Office	9 Coley Ave Reading RG1 6AF	book on 0118 9375132 or < arch@reading.gov.uk >
10.00 - 16.00 Sat 28 Jul	Buckinghamshire FHS Open Day*	Grange School, Wendover Way, Aylesbury HP21 7NH	< www.bucksfhs.org.uk >
Wed 15 Aug	Ascot Retirement Fair*	Grandstand Ascot Racecourse	Ascot Project
Thu 6, Fri 7, Sat 8, Sun 9 Sept	Heritage Open Days	all over the county	< <a href="http://www.heritageopen
days.org.uk">www.heritageopen days.org.uk >
Wed 12 Sept	Berkshire Record Office Open Evening with Berkshire FHS	9 Coley Ave Reading RG1 6AF	0118 9375132 < arch@reading.gov.uk >
10.00 - 16.30 Sun 23 Sept	West Middlesex FHS Open Day	White House Community Centre 45 The Ave, Hampton TW12 3RN	< <a href="http://www.west-middlesex-
fhs.org.uk">www.west-middlesex- fhs.org.uk >



Something to celebrate

Mark Stevens,

senior archivist at the BRO
puts the 2012 Jubilee in context

Anyone with an interest in Berkshire might well have noticed that there is not much in the way of county structures left. In fact, after the fire service, the next largest public service run on county lines is our very own Berkshire Record Office. It's a far cry from the days of the County Council, the county police force and even the Court of Quarter Sessions, for that matter.

Becoming a larger fish in a smaller pond has some interesting side effects, though. One of the things we have found is that we have become increasingly involved in ceremonial matters. Because Berkshire is the Royal County, it has certain privileges, and in a Diamond Jubilee year that means certain things have to be done. To that end we have just helped the Lord-Lieutenant of Berkshire to complete the county's Loyal Address.

The Lieutenancy of Berkshire is another of those things that has continued performing a county function. Despite the loss of its military role, it is still the Queen's representative in Berkshire. These days the role involves organising royal visits and representing the county, and part of that job is to put together messages of appreciation and congratulation on such occasions as jubilees.

A Loyal Address is, at least in Berkshire's case, a thing of beauty. Helped by the Typography Department at the University of Reading, and a self-employed calligrapher, we

created four sheets of fine prose, surrounded by marble endpapers and sewn into a green cloth cover. In late March, the Berkshire party joined delegates from various other privileged bodies to go up to the Palace and deliver the Loyal Address to Her Majesty.

I would like to assure any concerned local taxpayers that this sort of thing doesn't cost us very much. However, the nature of resources does explain why the BRO will not mark the Diamond Jubilee in any other way. Faced with a choice of putting efforts into the Jubilee or the Olympics, we have gone for the latter, and used the results of our survey of sports clubs archives to support Reading Museum's *Our Sporting Life* exhibition, which is on over the summer. Hopefully some of you will get the chance to visit that and see the BRO documents on display.

Some of you may remember that we put on our own exhibition for the Golden Jubilee in 2002. I'm very pleased to say that this exhibition is still around: you can see it on our website at <www.berkshirerecordoffice.org.uk/albums/jubilee>. It gives you a flavour of Berkshire's commemoration of royal events across the centuries, starting with the first, Georgian Golden Jubilee celebrated in 1809 with a different notion of how to date a Jubilee. Two hundred years on, and the Royal County still takes pride of place in such events.

The Museum of English Rural Life

*Jonathan Brown
reminds us of an important
national collection on the
society's doorstep*

It might seem odd that Britain's foremost museum specialising in rural matters should be situated not far from the centre of Reading, a place that prides itself on being a dynamic commercial and technological town. The paradox is explained by the University of Reading's strength in teaching and research in agriculture. Members of the agriculture faculty, led by John Higgs, set out after the Second World War to record and preserve the changing rural scene. The Museum of English Rural Life (MERL) was established in May 1951, a few months after the first broadcast of *The Archers*, another institution recording the everyday story of country folk.

The museum started by collecting farm wagons, horse-drawn ploughs, craft tools and other objects being discarded by rapidly modernising agriculture. Members of staff also

undertook field recording of craftsmen at work and of surviving farm implements in situ. Out of this work came the beginnings of the photographic collections, the library and the archives which, together with the object collections, make up the whole of the present museum. The scale is now formidable – more than 20,000 objects, a million photographs, 70,000 library volumes, and archives that require a few miles of shelving.

MERL pioneered the collecting of modern rural archives – the records of farmers and agricultural organisations, such as the National Farmers' Union. The records of businesses associated with farming and the countryside are well represented, including those of well-known local firms, such as Suttons Seeds of Reading and Wallis &

Steevens of Basingstoke. Berkshire and Hampshire feature strongly in the photographic collections as well. Dann & Lewis was a Reading studio founded in 1856 by Mrs Dann, and a good collection of negatives from the 1880s to the 1930s is held at the museum. Philip Collier set up his business, also in Reading, at the turn of the next century, photographing the towns and villages of southern England, mainly for sale as postcards. His sometime partner was Eric Guy, whose interest was in farming and the countryside. About 4,000 of the photographs he took for sale to magazines and advertising survive in MERL's collections. Besides these local collections,

there are major national collections of photographs from the farming press, such as *Farmer's Weekly*, as well as a run of the published journals.

There is much to interest the family

historian here. Of course, the chances of finding your ancestor mentioned by name are modest: the frustrations of the family history search can be as great at this museum as in any other collection. A farm worker might be mentioned in a farm account, but even though MERL has the best collection of farm records, it still only covers a small proportion of the farms in Berkshire, let alone the country as a whole.

That said, for anyone with ancestors who lived and worked in the country, which includes many of us, MERL is an invaluable resource for finding out about their lives, from photographs of the villages, literature about the farms and countryside, and the things they used in their working and domestic lives. Berkshire's family historians have reason to be

Berkshire FHS
will be at the
MERL Jubilee Village
Fete
Saturday 9th June
details <www.reading.ac.uk/merl>

grateful to John Higgs and his fellow academics for bringing such valuable collections so close to hand.

VISITING AND USING THE MUSEUM'S COLLECTIONS

The Museum of English Rural Life is to be found at the bottom of Redlands Road, next to the London Road campus of the university and opposite the Royal Berkshire Hospital. It moved to this site in 2005, taking over a building that had been a hall of residence and was originally the house built in about 1880 for Alfred Palmer. Two of the main rooms of this house are used now as the reading room, a very pleasant space for studying the books, archives and photographs. The object collections are housed in a big new exhibition hall built for the redeveloped museum.

Entry to the museum and its collections is free, with the exception of a few special events, workshops and teaching sessions. The research collections – the archives, books and

photographs – are open from 9.15 am to 4.45 pm, Monday to Friday. The exhibition and object collections are closed on Mondays. It's best to make an appointment first (contact details below). Nowadays, the starting point for most of us in making a search is the website, and on MERL's site there is outline information about the collections and a fairly comprehensive online catalogue. It doesn't have everything on the database by any means; the traditional handlists and indexes still have their place. If you can't find what you want through the computer search, don't give up straight away: ask. If you're not a computer person, the same applies: enquiries by post and telephone are welcomed, with the rider that the staff cannot do your research for you.

*Museum of English Rural Life,
Redlands Road, Reading RG1 5EX
0118 378 8660
<merl@reading.ac.uk>
<www.reading.ac.uk/merl>*

READING & DISTRICT CIGARETTE CARD & POSTCARD CLUB

GIANT POSTCARD FAIR

with CIGARETTE CARDS

Sunday, July 1st, 2012

at RIVERMEAD LEISURE CENTRE,
RICHFIELD AVENUE, READING, RG1 8EQ
93 dealers, 160 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.
Good road access by car from all directions. Car parking available.

For further details visit club website <www.readingpostcards.com>
or ring 01628 637868 / 0118 969 5155

Buried treasure in naval archives

*Peter Francis (2024)
investigates schooling for
the children of sailors in the
Royal Navy*

When my ancestors William Francis and Elizabeth Archer married in Plymouth in 1845 both recorded their fathers as being members of the armed services. William, who was himself a Royal Marine, stated that his father Stephen was a corporal in the 22nd Foot, and Elizabeth claimed her father John to be a boatswain in the Royal Navy. Subsequent research showed that while Stephen Francis had been in the army, both cavalry and infantry, he had never risen above the rank of private, and never served in the 22nd Foot. I was inclined to believe that Elizabeth had similarly elevated her father in rank, but the difficulties at the time in tracing enlisted men's records in the Royal Navy meant that I put further research into the Archer family to the back of my list of things to do.

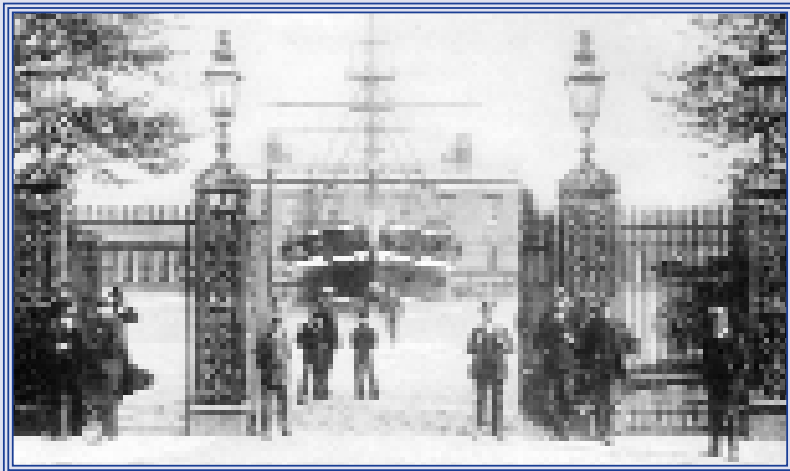
More recently I had another look at the online catalogue of The National Archives at Kew, and realised that more details of the documents involving enlisted men in the Royal Navy were being made available. An initial search of the online catalogue, putting John Archer's name into the search engine, and limiting the search to ADM (the Admiralty department code) gave several entries, but even taking into account what I knew to be his likely age, there were too many possibilities to pursue. Looking at the results of the search, I noticed that several wives were also mentioned, usually in documents relating to the Royal Greenwich Hospital School. Accordingly I put the

name of John's wife Elizabeth into the search engine, and the reference ADM 73/159/25 was displayed, which was expanded to refer to *The Royal Greenwich Hospital: Pensioners and School Admission Papers, Out Pensions Pay Books and Miscellaneous Registers, School Admission papers*. Clicking on the link to get further details revealed the following snippets of information:

Mary Jane Archer; John and Elizabeth Archer (née Neal?); when admitted to Greenwich Hospital School, not stated; mentioned other children, Elizabeth, John, and William Henry Archer. Includes various letters of petition for John and Elizabeth Archer. It seems that the father served in HMS Hecla during William Edward Parry's voyages to the Arctic.

This was a very exciting find, since I knew from their marriage details at Stoke Damarel, Plymouth, that Elizabeth's maiden name had been Veal. Very soon after this discovery I

*Entrance to the Royal Hospital School, Greenwich with the
drill ship Fame and Queen's House beyond, 1906*
© National Maritime Museum, Greenwich

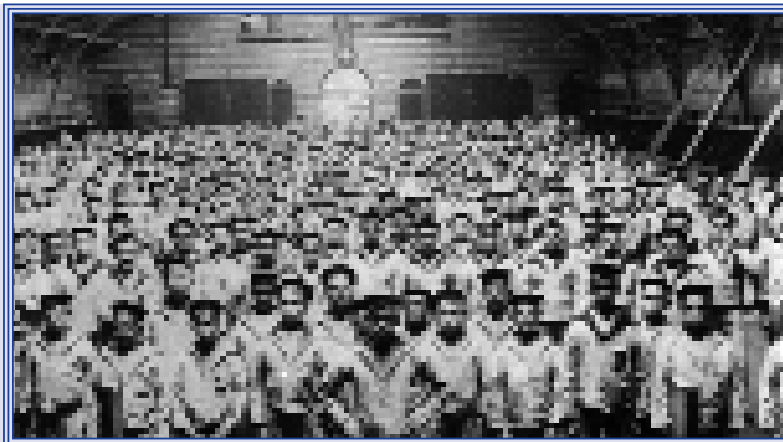


went to Kew for the first time in many years, and went through the easy routine of obtaining a reader's ticket. Aided by the very helpful staff, I then used the computer-driven system that allocates a seat number, allows you to request documents, and lets you know when they are available in the locker associated with your seat.

I requested to see ADM 73/159/25, which on arrival proved to be a cardboard box holding many large white envelopes, each with the main reference ADM 73/159, and then individually numbered in sequence. Number 25 contained a collection of more than 20 documents dealing with several attempts by John and Elizabeth to get their children admitted to the Lower School of the Royal Naval Hospital at Greenwich. The documents also yielded a wealth of data on John's career.

Before going further, it is worth explaining the origin of the Greenwich Royal Hospital Schools. After the establishment of the Royal Hospital in Greenwich, founded by William and Mary in 1694 to provide for injured sailors, thought was given to the provision of education for the children of seamen, especially orphans. The first pupils were sent to a local school in Greenwich in 1712, but the number of Greenwich Hospital pupils grew to such an extent that it became necessary to provide their own school building and teachers. The school became a great success, providing its pupils (boys only) with sufficient knowledge for them to become officers in the Royal and Merchant Navies.

Separately, in 1798 the British National Endeavour was established in Paddington. This was a small industrial school for children whose fathers had been seamen in the Royal



School photograph in Neptune's Hall, the gymnasium, 1927
©National Maritime Museum, Greenwich

Navy, and had fallen in action. It was later renamed the Royal Naval Asylum, and moved to Greenwich in 1807. Only the children (boys and girls, aged between five and 12, orphans or motherless, or the father disabled or serving on a distant station) of sailors and marines were admitted to the Asylum. The two schools operated side by side at Greenwich until 1821, when they merged to become the Greenwich Royal Hospital Schools. The old Greenwich Hospital School became the Upper School, and the Asylum became the Lower School. The combined schools offered the boys an education suitable for entry into a seagoing career at various levels, while the girls were given an education suitable for domestic service.

The collection of documents in ADM 73/159/25 consisted of letters and certificates. The letters, which petitioned for the entry of the Archer children into the Lower School at Greenwich, were written by professional letter-writers if coming from Elizabeth, or by the commanding officer of the ship on which John was currently serving. It is clear that his captains had a very high opinion of John, and were anxious to ensure that his deserving family had an opportunity for advancement. Placement of a child at the school ensured not only an education, but a better environment to live in than could be afforded on the wages of a naval rating. It was

also apparent that Elizabeth was often in poor health, and that she had difficulty in raising her family. John and Elizabeth petitioned at several times for three of their children to attend the Lower School. My own ancestor, Elizabeth Archer, was a successful candidate, and went to Greenwich in 1827, aged nine. How did she cope with what must have been a really traumatic event?

In addition to these letters and the various replies from the Greenwich authorities, there were certificates from various churches attesting to the marriage of John and Elizabeth, and the birth and baptismal dates of their children. These documents were a source of information on the children that I already had, but the additional details about John himself were all new. John's place of birth was given, Scarborough, which I would never otherwise have known, along with the fact that he had worked his seagoing apprenticeship "in the coal trade and in the Brazil trade" before joining the navy. Also listed were his dates of service on various naval ships, from 1815 onward. The most exciting part of his

service history was that alluded to in the snippets included in the catalogue entry. John had accompanied Captain William Parry on the *Hecla* during his voyages to find the North-West Passage in the early 1820s. I remember having read about these voyages while I was at school, and felt a thrill at knowing that I had even this very distant association with them.

Sadly the documents also reveal that John died aboard ship while on duty in the West Indies in 1834, in the rank of boatswain's mate. This fact, together with his service on the *Hecla*, which was annotated on the back of one of the several applications on her behalf, may have influenced the acceptance of his daughter Mary Jane into the Lower School at Greenwich in May 1835, aged 11.

According to Wikipedia, the Royal Hospital School moved in 1933 from Greenwich to Suffolk. It is now a co-educational independent day and boarding school.



Tim Powys-Lybbe (7001)

reviews an alternative to the two main paid-for sites

I started my subscription to TheGenealogist in July of 2011, having had problems with some FH sites' power to repeat-charge my credit card, even if I told my credit card company not to pay. However, TheGenealogist site offers single payment facilities, which suited me.

Another reason for switching to TheGenealogist was that they had a set of Quaker source records from The National

Archives (TNA). I had previously been using film and transcribed versions of the Quaker Digest for the various counties (aka Monthly Meetings). By this I had found about 60 direct Quaker ancestors, and wished to extend my knowledge from the source record books for the Digest; these were held by TNA, and were transcribed by a project between TNA and The Genealogist and released in 2008.

WHAT DOES THEGENEALOGIST OFFER?

- Censuses for England and Wales, a complete collection
- Registered births, marriages and deaths, complete from 1837 to 2005
- Nonconformist and non-parish records of TNA, a complete collection
- Parish records of baptisms, marriages and deaths, a limited collection
- Military records: principally some officer lists
- British adoptions from 1927-69, a look-up service
- Various indexed lists of directories and other compilations

The censuses have recently had their search facility upgraded, principally to include a direct entry for the birth year within a range of up to 25 years. TheGenealogist includes a “key words” facility whereby one can search for entries that have certain words in the transcribed data, so it requires a good guess about that data. It is perhaps useful to know that the data always includes the names of residence and birth counties in full, with “shire” on the end.

There is a curious difference between the new and the old census search facilities regarding double-barrel names. Previously you could search by either barrel or both together, but now you cannot do this directly; you must use only the second half of the barrel, and put the first half in the keywords box.

Birth, marriage and death registrations are all there from 1837 to 2005, but not fully indexed: marriages are complete; births only from 1920; deaths not at all. This means that you have to go through every page for every quarter that the search for your name has turned up in the range of years

selected: very boring! I got the impression that TheGenealogist was hoping that FreeBMD would get a move on and complete their magnificent project to index all registrations for nothing, and spare TheGenealogist the cost of unnecessary duplication.

For the years from FreeBMD’s current horizon of around 1951, to 2005 TheGenealogist does provide all the data. It is also fully indexed by person for births and marriages from 1951 – in fact from much before that, but not for deaths. So, for deaths after 1951, you have to search quarter by quarter on the GRO index sheets until you find the right one; or use Ancestry, either at the society’s Research Centre or your local library.

The search facility for double-barrel surnames has the same problem as with census searches, and the same fix works there too.



The original document of a 1685 Quaker marriage from the author’s ancestry

The TNA's nonconformist and non-parish records are the jewel in TheGenealogist's crown. The search routines work well, and the data abstracted from the originals are very well presented. Finally, the original documents are fantastic. These Quaker records are very detailed, particularly compared with the records of the established church. This method of presenting records should be a model for all genealogy data providers: first, good copies of the originals must be made available; secondly, the source documents must be competently abstracted; thirdly, the search routines must be quick and easy to use.

While TheGenealogist has some data on other countries, these are not vital records, but tend to be copies of almanacs, directories and printed lists. TheGenealogist is mainly concerned with England and Wales.

Parish record information is weak. You would do far better using the latest release of FamilySearch's baptisms and marriage records, although even that does not achieve more than 50 per cent of all parish records. TheGenealogist's parish record information principally comes from old books which solely listed the data, and to which has been added some index searching. The books of records were mostly done by county record societies. They were competent abstracts, but they have not been converted to a database, nor do they link to scans of the original registers.

Like all new sites TheGenealogist takes a bit of learning. After six months I am beginning to

get the hang of it, and I no longer expect it to work like the last site I got the hang of. Given a bit more use, I might even refer to it as intuitive, as there is a clear unity of design through its various facilities.

Subscriptions are competitive. I went for the Diamond subscription, with a list price of £149.45 currently discounted by £40 to £109.45, which is probably fair for the data offered.

There is a facility in the census transcripts to report errors. So far, I reckon their transcriptions are as good as any other company's, and there is a neat facility to offer corrections. However the transcription error reporting facility for birth, marriage and death registrations seems principally to allow reports on the image quality, not on accuracy.

So after all that, how does TheGenealogist compare? Not badly. The censuses are as good as any provider's, the BMD registrations are there, but with the weakest indexing. Quaker and nonconformist BMD records are top class. Parish BMD records are weak. And they have a fair few other databases that list people. Findmypast for the same price covers more of the core records, and Ancestry costs about 30 per cent more for a larger set of records. Finally, Ancestry does allow direct debit, so there need be no nonsense of recurring charges that you cannot stop. But I might give TheGenealogist a second year, as I have not bottomed-out all my Quaker and nonconformist forebears.

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Radley History Club

Christine Wootton

introduces a busy group of enthusiasts

Radley History Club was founded in 1997 by a very small group of local people. Since then it has grown in size, and now has about 80 members. Its aims are to study the history of Radley and its surrounding area and to pursue any historical activity that members may desire from time to time. Much of Radley's history is bound up in Berkshire but, following the reorganisation of the county boundaries in 1974, the village is now in Oxfordshire.

The club meets each month (except August) with either a speaker, tour or other activity. Meetings with a speaker are held in the hall at Radley Church of England Primary School, Church Road, Radley, near Abingdon, on the second Monday of each month. Doors open at 7pm for a 7.30pm start, and new members and guests are always welcome. The annual subscription is £10 and the guest fee is £2.50 for second and subsequent visits.

Over the last few years the club has gathered together an expanding collection of archives, which members may borrow: photographs, maps, documents, pamphlets and wills. It is also building up a library of oral history recordings of interviews with older residents recounting their memories. The project subcommittee has organised three very popular and well-attended exhibitions in recent years, and will soon be planning the next project.

Radley History Club publications include *The History of Radley* and *The History of Radley C E Primary School*. Its two latest books, published last year, are *Faith and Heraldry – Stained Glass in the Church of St James the Great* and *Radley Farms and Families 1600 - 2011*. The club has an impressive website at <www.radleyhistoryclub.org.uk>, where more details can be found.

Entries from the parish register of Kencot, Oxfordshire:

8 July 1714 Turner, Elizabeth,
ye son (mistaken by ye midwife
for a daughter) of Philip &
Christian

and

22 July 1714 [Burial of] Turner,
Elizabeth, son of Philip &
Christian

MI from an unknown location:

Sacred to the memory of Major
James Brush who was killed by
the accidental discharge of a
pistol by his orderly 14th April
1831.

"Well done thou good and
faithful servant."

*Reproduced with permission
from the book Dead End Hobby
by Mick Southwick
<www.bi-gen.blogspot.com>*

CORRECTIONS

Radley Farms and Families by Christine Wootton. In the review of this book published in the last *Historian* it was stated that the book had no index. This was incorrect; the book does have an index, and we are happy to make this clear.

In John Davies' article *A Devonian diversion* in the last issue of the *Historian*, the opening sentence should have read:

My maternal grandmother was Mary Ann Knapp (1866 - 1941), born a Northam in Rackenford, Devon.

rather than *at Northam*, which implied place. *Northam* should also have appeared in the list of family names on the contents page.

Monumental mistakes

The recent MI survey of St John's Church in Crowthorne solved several problems using a range of resources, including a study of the parish magazine.

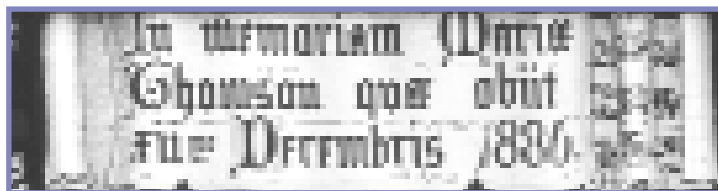
In many cases the root of the problem was that old bugbear of family history: transcription error. In some cases a monument is obviously wrong, for example, Threasa instead of Theresa. The parish register records the burial of George Huzzie, which is how he appears in the GRO, but in life his wife, who died before him, would have known him as George Hussey. A more common problem is that of variant forenames. Jasper Watts, as recorded in the parish register, appears as John Watts on his memorial. As his wife did not die for another five years, presumably that is the name the family used. A more subtle error is the inscription:

BORN MAY 5 1876 DIED SEPTEMBER 26 1951
AGED 65 YEARS.

The parish register contains the correct age of 75.

STAINED-GLASS WINDOWS

Two stained-glass windows memorialise people whose grave was not seen in the churchyard. The first of these, in the East Chapel, had suffered an earlier transcription problem: when first installed, the name read Maria Thompson. No memorial remains with her name, although the parish magazine of September 1911 describes one as a cross and kerb. From the date this was likely to be in the Old East churchyard, and there is a memorial here of a broken cross placed on its plinth, with kerbstones. The plinth has an inscription but no name. The next grave, however, has an inscription to Agnes Thompson (Thomson), known from the 1871 census as the



*Peter Beaven (5526)
finds that records can be
inaccurate, even when set in stone*

sister of Maria. The parish magazine for November 1911 contains notes on repairs to Maria's grave, and reports on the "Monument, and also on the Monument of Miss Thomson's Sister adjoining". Thus the cross-referencing of sources has filled a gap in the MI survey.

Another window in the church has been a puzzle for a long time. Martin Prescott's *The Crow on the Thorn* records that it was moved from the old baptistry to its present position in 1959, but the provenance was then unknown. The frame obscures the end of the inscription, which reads:

IN MEM: R.G. BADCOCK. DEC: XXV. MDCCCLXX

It is assumed that the first letter is I and the date is 1871, more than two years before the church was consecrated on 5 May 1873.

The 1871 census has the nearest name to this as Robert Gibson Badcock, a banker from Taunton, who died in the last quarter of 1871. The search for a relative who might have commissioned this window found a 13-year-old pupil at Wellington College. He had been born in India and his father proved to be a nephew of Robert. By 1891 another Badcock family was in the area: a "Bath Superintendent" born in Kent. These did not seem a likely source.

The next step was to look at the descendants of Robert's two marriages, which had produced 13 children, including six daughters. As none of the sons seemed to have lived locally, a search was made for the daughters' marriages, followed by looking for that family in the 1871 census. The third (known) daughter, Caroline, married John Hepburne Merriott in 1868, and in 1871 he was living in Edgboro Lodge, Sandhurst, with his wife and year-old daughter. He was listed as "Clerk in Holy Orders Asst Master W College". By 1874 he had moved to Eton, and so presumably the window was installed in the very early days of the church.

This article originated as one of the member talks at the Bracknell Branch meeting in January.

WAR MEMORIALS

The lych gate at the eastern end of the church contains four stone tablets commemorating casualties of the First World War. The first memorial on entering the churchyard from here is a granite block listing men and women who died during the Second World War. Within the churchyard is a variety of memorial stones, most of which carry names which are on the main memorials. The MI survey has attempted to link all of these names with the records of the Commonwealth War Graves Commission (CWGC).

The first problem is that the main memorials sometimes only contain surnames and initials, and dates are not recorded. The spelling of surnames is not always the same as that used elsewhere; there are two Claceys on the memorial, John A and E Edward. The first of these is recorded in the parish magazine as enlisting as Clacey, J A, Berks. CWGC records show John Alexander Clacey was a lance-corporal in the Royal Berkshire Regiment, but there are no records for any E Clacey. Searching the CWGC for alternative spellings finds Ernest Edward Clacy. With such an unusual name it was fairly easy to track down this alternative.

Even with his forenames, the record of Albert H Smith can not be identified. There are 17 records of that name on the CWGC site, with another 17 for A H Smith. However the parish magazine of January 1919 contains "Died in Hospital. Smith, Trp. A. H., Life Guards". The only guardsman of such a name who died at that time is "Smith, Albert Henry Rank: Lance

Corporal Service No: 30401 Date of Death: 16/11/1918 Regiment/Service: Grenadier Guards". Although the regiment is different, the date fits the listing in the parish magazine.

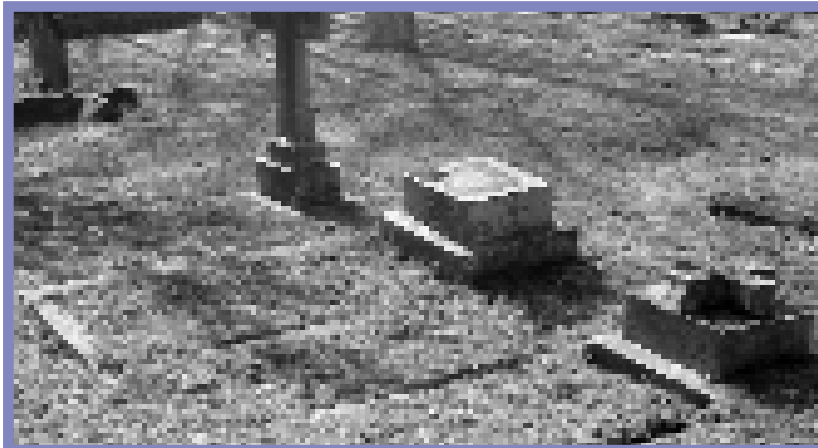
A different technique was needed to identify Edward D Smithers. The CWGC site listed six names and although only three of these fit the initials, none could be confirmed. However one name was a Royal Navy signalman, and a search of military records on the Findmypast site found him in *Naval Casualties*, noting that his wife lived in The Avenue, Wellington College.

The last example here is the memorial in the churchyard to M E Hewitt, who died in 1923, and also of her husband H Hewitt, who was killed in action 1 October 1916. The war memorial includes the name Harold but, although the CWGC records list three Harold Hewitts, none of them fits the date of death. However, the parish magazine of November 1916 records the death of Hewett, G H, Sergt RFA. With this information the CWGC records show Hewett, G Rank Serjeant date of death: 01/10/1916, Royal Field Artillery. It also records that he was awarded the Military Medal. The 1911 census records bombardier George Harold Hewett of the RFA, age 22 and so, although in official records he is George, at home he was Harold, despite being Thomas G H in the GRO marriage list. As they had no children there was nobody to check surname spellings.

CONCLUSIONS

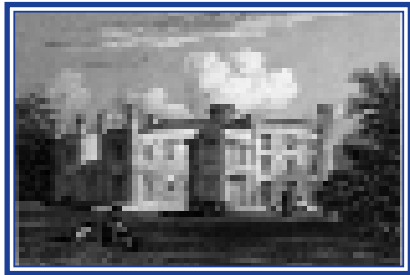
There are 109 memorials to WWI deaths in Crowthorne churchyard, and now only five are not linked to their service record. If it does not

fit other facts a similar sounding name could be the answer. Cross-referencing with other sources can provide a solution. I need to check the British Newspaper Archive for those five WWI missing records.



Grave of Maria Thomson, in front of her sister's

Upstairs and downstairs



Shottesbrooke Park in the 1830s

Shottesbrooke Park is believed to have been built for Henry Powle, Registrar of the Court of Chancery and Sheriff of Berkshire in the late sixteenth century. Subsequently it was inherited by his son Richard Powle (1628-78).

Richard sold Shottesbrooke to William Cherry, from whom it passed to the philanthropist Francis Cherry (1665 - 1713). Under Cherry's ownership the house was for a while occupied by his friend the nonconformist theologian Henry Dodwell (1641 - 1711). Here too the antiquarian scholar Thomas Hearne (1628 - 1735) spent his childhood, having been lifted from humble origins in nearby Littlefield Green by the interest of Francis Cherry, who paid for his education and took him into his house. Like his patron, Hearne refused to acknowledge the Hanoverian succession.

The house underwent a complete restoration in the eighteenth century, when it had been bought by Arthur van Sittart (later Vansittart) (1692 - 1760), a Dutch merchant who had recently settled in England. His sons grew up here, and later achieved eminent positions in public service.

Another remodelling of the house took place in the early nineteenth century, under Arthur Vansittart's son, also Arthur (1775 - 1829), when the house was "gothicised" with stucco "battlements".

The 1851 census finds the big house empty, save for a housekeeper, maid and gardener. On the census night of 1881 the occupants recorded were an Australian-born law student, brother to the household head, together with the



Shottesbrooke church and the house c1906



Shottesbrooke Park in the early twentieth century



Shottesbrooke Park today

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butler, Alfred Vokins of Hungerford, and his family, two maids and a footman. (In 1851 the butler had inhabited a lodge rather than the main house.)

In the mid-twentieth century some 43 rooms were demolished (mainly those created by the eighteenth-century rebuild) changing the original H-plan to a plain rectangle.

The estate remained in Vansittart family hands until 2007, the last occupant being Sir John Smith, founder of the Landmark Trust, which still has its offices at Shottesbrooke.

at Shottesbrooke Park

Michael Tubb recalls

A golden childhood on the Shottesbrooke estate

In 1934 my parents moved from an estate in Hampshire to Shottesbrooke Park, between White Waltham and Waltham St Lawrence, where my father took the position of head gardener. We lived in a house attached to the manor, which during the war had been a Canadian Red Cross hospital, and during the 1950s was used mainly for storage.

Our house had no bathroom; bathing was done in a tin bath in front of the fire. We were also not on mains electricity, but on DC, which was produced in what I knew as the engine house situated not far from the church. Both the bathroom and mains electricity were installed some-time in the middle of the 1950s.

It was an idyllic place for a child to grow up in. There were woods to explore, fields to play games in, ponds to fall into. I had many scrapes and minor injuries, but thankfully this was before the days of health and safety. I remember sitting on the back of the hay baler watching the bales come through, when a bale fell straight into a wasps' nest. I was immediately covered in angry wasps, and was stung all over. Amazingly I have never been stung by a wasp since. Another time, again sitting on the back of a baler, I suffered sunstroke, but with my mother's nursing care lived to see another day.

The estate at this time had quite a number of employees. Three worked on the estate looking after the woods, fences, gates, hedges and ditches, and five worked in the garden. I had a number of jobs during this time, including mole catching (sorry, I wouldn't do it now), tractor driving, clearing up the workshops, mangel wurzel hoeing, potato picking, hedging and ditching, and I enjoyed all of them. Mole catching meant getting up early before school and going to check one's traps. I was paid 1/6d (7.5p) for five tails. I would present the tails in a matchbox to the estate foreman, who would give me my earnings and would then throw the tails into some stinging nettles. It didn't take me long to work out a way to increase my earnings. At the end of a day of hedging and ditching one could look back along a clear ditch and neat hedge, and think what a good job had been done.

Among the animals kept were Guernsey cows for milk and butter, two carthorses, good to ride on, and pigs in the sty – they liked us to scratch their backs. Each day we were supplied with a can full of milk, which my brother and I used to collect from the milking parlour each morning. The cowman smoked Carreras Turf cigarettes, and used to leave the picture cards for us to collect – possibly the spark that lit the flame of my collecting passion now.

Most of what happened could of course not happen today: health and safety would rear its head and protest. I imagine the way we got our milk would also be frowned upon, and for a 10-year-old to be driving a tractor....? Now that I am retired I realise how privileged I was as a child to grow up where I did. By Jove, it was great.

Mr Tubb senior at work in the Shottesbrooke garden



Making PDFs work for you

*PDF documents don't
have to be read-only.
Lionel Carter (6136)
details some tools which
will enable you to
customise them*

Summary

- You don't have to use Adobe Reader; there are other free PDF readers available, usually with more features.
- Nonetheless, it's advisable to keep your copy of Adobe Reader up to date. It can co-exist with other readers.
- Annotating a PDF file saves having to match separately made notes with the original file. It's all together in one place.
- The Find option in PDF readers is extremely powerful and useful. It ensures you do not miss an entry as you might when scanning by eye.

PDF files are commonly used on data disks. Most people scroll up and down them looking for information. When they find it they make notes on paper, which is then filed away. However it's possible with a suitable PDF file reader to add comments and notes to the actual PDF file. This means that every time you consult the PDF file you can see your previous thoughts, and you don't have to hunt down your paper notes. This can also apply to PDF files downloaded from the web.

The most common way of reading a PDF file is to use Acrobat Reader, which most users have on their PC. There are competing (and free) products, however, and over time Acrobat Reader and these have leapfrogged each other in their facilities. This article is intended to make the reader more familiar with the features that can be found in some PDF readers.

Acrobat Reader is supplied free by Adobe, and updates are constantly offered. It's always best to use the latest version, which at the time of writing is Adobe Reader X. The software is backward-compatible, so there's no need to retain old versions. Some data CDs containing PDF files have Adobe Reader software included, which can confuse the novice user. If you have the latest version you don't need to install earlier ones. Unfortunately some CDs from FHSs try to install Adobe Reader without asking first. Berkshire FHS is not guilty in this respect.

Manipulating a PDF file on the PC can be tricky. Nowadays many software programs (including, for example, my copy of Word 2007 and Excel 2007) allow their files to be converted and saved as PDFs. A PDF file is useful for passing information to others; most people can read them, whereas they might not have your version of Word etc. As it's

difficult to make changes to PDF files, only the final version of the document should be converted.

However, it's not so simple to convert PDF into other formats. Some programs attempt this, but their results are varied. The most reliable way of converting a PDF to a normal text file can be to use an Optical Character Recognition (OCR) program, which is often supplied with printer-scanners.

The PDF specification is elaborate, and some PDF files can be created specifically not to print or copy, but this is the exception rather than the rule. You can usually select text in a PDF, then copy and paste it elsewhere, such as into a Word document. You can also select a photo or drawing and paste elsewhere.

Recent features in Adobe Reader include the ability to use a highlighter over the text, and to create notes within a small box (fig 1). The note can be switched off, leaving a small speech balloon to indicate its position. Although these are simple features they are useful, allowing some limited annotation without having to copy and paste to a different document. After saving, the annotations are built into the PDF, so sending it to someone else allows them to read your annotated version (provided that they have an up-to-date version of Adobe Reader).



fig 1

AN ALTERNATIVE TO ADOBE READER

It's been claimed that Adobe Reader is "bloated" software, meaning that it takes up a lot of computer resources, and so alternatives have been developed. Any program which says it requires Adobe Reader will work with these non-Adobe PDF readers. PDF-Viewer is a good example. It's available free but, like

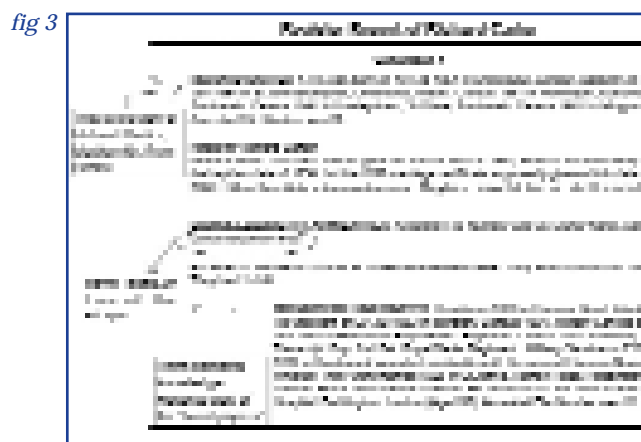
most free software, there's also a more elaborate paid-for version. This article describes the free version.

You don't have to remove Adobe Reader from the PC to install PDF-Viewer; they can co-exist. I have both on my desktop, but I use PDF-Viewer by default, because it seems a bit snappier on my PC (but I haven't timed it). The other reason for using PDF-Viewer is its enhanced annotation facilities (fig 2 shows part of the menu bar).



PDF-Viewer allows you not only to highlight text but also to choose a colour. You can strike through text, and you can underline it, again in a range of colours. If several contributors are passing round a document their individual changes can be identified by assigned colours.

Plain text can be added anywhere on the page or, as in Adobe, you can create a box containing text. There are two types: one is a stand-alone box, and the other links the box to a position in the text with an arrow. There are also a number of drawing tools. You can add arrowed lines, rectangles and other shapes. The range of annotation and drawing tools is too long to itemise here, but an illustration of what can be added to a PDF file is shown in fig 3 below. In this case the tools have been used to illustrate their features rather than to provide a useful annotation of the PDF content. Reading this file is not confined to users of PDF-Viewer; the saved file will open normally in Adobe Reader and show the annotations. However you can't edit them in Adobe, as Adobe doesn't have these features.

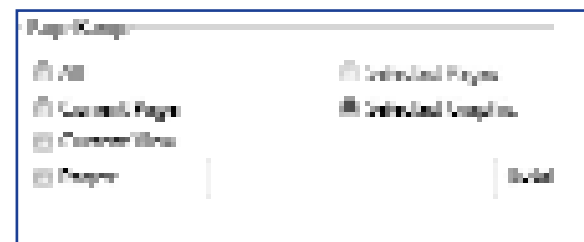


When a PDF file is annotated in this way it's advisable to save it under a different file name so that you can always recall the original.

Another feature of PDF-Viewer is the *Camera* button (fig 4). You can activate this and select any rectangular



area to copy to the clipboard. In addition, if you then call up the *Print* menu, there's an option to print just the selected area (see fig 5). In this respect PDF-Viewer acts like FastStone, described in the March issue of the *Historian*, but it's limited to PDF files.



THE FIND OPTION

An under-used feature of PDF readers is the *Find* option. Typically in family history you're presented with a long PDF file in which to search for a name, date or place. Rather than scan the whole document by eye and maybe miss an entry, you can use *Find* to go straight to each occurrence in turn.

The *Find* option can be found under the *Edit* menu. Clicking it opens a small box, in which you enter the text that you're seeking – a surname, for example, or part of a surname. In Adobe Reader the *Find* box appears at the bottom of the screen; in PDF-Viewer it appears top right of the menu bar.

With the *Find* option the software jumps from your current position in the document to the first subsequent occurrence of the text. There is a *Find next* button by the box, and successive clicks on this will cause a jump through the document to all occurrences of your sought text. Continuous clicking will cause the *Find* to loop round the identified texts. If no matching text can be found, a message to this effect appears. A large PDF document can be scanned in seconds using this feature.

Fulwar Craven Fowle 1764 - 1840

Penny Stokes (2916) portrays a larger-than-life vicar of Kintbury

Thomas Fowle followed his father of same name as vicar of Kintbury in 1762. The following year he married Jane Craven (1727-98). The bride was not the first in her family to rebel against her tyrannical mother, Elizabeth née Staples, sister-in-law to the second Lord Craven; Jane's three sisters had already eloped and made unapproved marriages. The strong-minded streak appears to have been passed on down the family.

Thomas and Jane named their first-born Fulwar (pronounced Fuller) Craven Fowle in honour of Fulwar Craven, the fourth Lord Craven, who had championed their marriage against the termagant Elizabeth. The forename passed down the Fowle family for six generations. The infant was baptised in St Mary's, Kintbury, in May 1764.

An enduring connection with Jane Austen's family began when Fulwar and his brother Thomas were sent to board at the school run by Jane Austen's father at Steventon in Hampshire. After gaining his MA at Oxford Fulwar Craven Fowle married his cousin Elizabeth Lloyd (1767 - 1839), daughter of Nowes Lloyd, the rector of Enborne. Subsequently two of Elizabeth Lloyd/Fowle's sisters married Jane Austen's brothers, and Cassandra Austen, Jane's sister, became engaged to Fulwar Craven Fowle's brother Thomas. This Thomas died of yellow fever in the West Indies in 1797, but the Austen and Fowle families remained close.

In 1789 Fulwar Craven Fowle took up the rectory of Elkstone in Gloucestershire, granted to him by his kinsman the sixth Lord Craven. It is believed by the family that the couple did not settle happily in the Cotswolds and, as their children began to arrive, they tended to flee back to Kintbury for the confinements and baptisms. Fulwar William was born in 1791, Mary Jane in 1792, Thomas probably in 1793, followed by a tragedy in 1794: Caroline Elizabeth was born and died within a matter of days. After a four-year gap Elizabeth Caroline arrived in 1798, Isabella in 1799, Charles in 1801 and Henry in 1804.

Thomas Fowle senior died in 1798, and was succeeded as vicar of Kintbury by his son Fulwar Craven Fowle, who had already returned to Kintbury to help his father in the parish. From then on until his death 42 years later Fulwar served Kintbury, declining other preferments which were offered to him. He nonetheless also kept the rectory of Elkstone, administered for decades by a curate, but pluralism was the norm for churchmen of the time.

After Thomas Fowle's death both the Austen and Lloyd girls continued to visit the Kintbury vicarage, which hosted what was clearly a fond and enduring relationship between the three families. Fulwar Craven Fowle judged Jane Austen to be "certainly pretty – bright and good colour in her face...quite a child, very lively and full of humour – most amiable – most beloved" but he read no more than the first and last chapters of *Emma*, having been told that it "wasn't very interesting". His descendants believe that the unbookish parson and the novelist found little in common. It seems unlikely that Fowle would have relished the charades, acrostic puzzles and other wordy games of which the Austens were so fond. Nor did he take kindly to losing at cards, another of their regular pastimes.

His Craven ancestry seems to have directed his interests outdoors, into a legendary love of field sports. Fulwar Fowle was a keen fisherman, but above all a mighty rider to hounds in what is generally regarded as the golden age of foxhunting. He was said to be unbeatable across country. One of the Craven Hunt ditties ran:

*See our Chaplain, so sterling, so racy, mature,
Tho' his name be FOWLE, he's a bottle that's pure,
And e'en if he's CRUSTY when thwarted in sport,
Why, the greater resemblance he bears to good port!*

Hunt legend credits him with drinking a bumper to the hunt on the same day that a fall had broken his leg and smashed most of his teeth. Fowle hunted with the Craven, a pack founded in the 1740s by the

Lord Craven after whom he had been named, riding a horse that was named Biscay, because it was “a great roaring bay”. His obituary in the *Sporting Magazine* also mentioned other horses (“Rubens, Pyramus etc”) implying that he was a respected owner of bloodstock. He also gained an honourable mention in Mavor’s *General agriculture of Berkshire* as a noteworthy breeder of sheep.

During the Napoleonic wars Fowle raised and trained a volunteer company of militia. At a military review on Bulmersh Heath in 1805, George III inspected all the Berkshire volunteers, more than 3,000 in number, and said of Lieutenant-Colonel the Reverend Fulwar Craven Fowle, CO of the Kintbury Infantry Company (Rifle): “I knew you were a good clergyman and a good man. Now I know you are a good officer.” Possibly this kind of compliment was freely dispensed at the review, but the Fowle family never forgot it.

“Physically rather short and slight, with fair hair, very blue eyes, and a long nose”, Fulwar Craven Fowle suffered from “most terrible paroxysms of temper” according to one of his descendants. In later life he suffered from gout, which would not have mollified his rages. A family legend depicts him sitting in the centre of a cleared room, everything within reach having been hurled away.

Some irascibility is evident in a document of 1826, surviving within his family. It is labelled *Queries proposed by Mr Clarke to the Nobility, Gentlemen and Clergy of Berkshire* and is a rambling questionnaire enquiring about the manors, estates and historic monuments in the parish, as well as asking for “interesting particulars” of patrons and former incumbents. Fowle’s answers are curt and dismissive; he clearly regarded the exercise as fatuous. He replied that begging is the principal trade in the parish, that the only barrows are wheelbarrows, and that the chief commodity sold at local fairs is lollipops. Further-more “the whole parish is a rabbit warren for the benefit of game-keepers and to the ruin of farmers.” However, since the completed questionnaire has survived in family hands, perhaps it was never sent back to Mr Clarke.

Nonetheless Fowle also enjoyed a reputation for being a conscientious parish priest, and may well have contributed to Jane Austen’s concept of what a clergyman should be. As a JP he dispensed the draconian justice of the day to poachers, but this appears not to have earned him resentment from his law-abiding parishioners. He had successfully recruited 232 able-bodied young men to serve in his militia company.

In 1830, at the age of 66, he played a significant part in the Swing Riots. He was by no means unsympathetic to the plight of starving labourers, and recommended that their wages be increased. After the rounding up of the machine-breakers, and the capital sentences pronounced upon three of them, it was Fowle who fought for their lives to be spared. In the event only one, William Winterbourne (also known as Smith), was hanged in Reading, and it was Fulwar Craven Fowle who brought the body home and paid for the burial. This grave was lost over time, but was re-discovered on the south-west side of St Mary’s churchyard in 1984.

Elizabeth Lloyd Fowle died in May 1839, followed by her husband less than a year later. Thus ended more than a century of Parsons Fowle at Kintbury.

Source: *The Kintbury Family 1762 - 1840* by George Sawtell, a privately published work, kindly supplied by a former member of the society who was of the Fowle family.

St Mary’s, Kintbury



Bookends

Compiled by Mary Smith, Judith Mitchell and Sue Matthews

Prices quoted are for:

- a) direct sales from the bookshop at the Research Centre
- b) mail order purchase within UK, including p&p by second class post unless stated otherwise
- c) mail order purchase from overseas, including p&p airmail.

Please note that from our online bookshop at <www.berksfhs.org.uk/shop>, you can pay by credit card, and you can make possible savings on p&p if you are buying more than one item.

PRACTICAL FAMILY HISTORY

Beginners guide to your ancestors' lives

Nick Barratt (Pen & Sword Books) hardback 24 x 16cm 282pp
Shop £19.99, UK £24.49, airmail £31.81

This well known and respected genealogist and television presenter takes you on a journey back in time, looking at the houses, streets and communities that have shaped the world around us. For those wishing to trace their ancestors this guide will explain how and where to find information, and how to organise their findings. It begins with clear steps on where to begin your detective work: from the personal accounts of living relatives to the census, civil registration, parish registers and more. An explanation of the terminology of family history research is given, along with the relationships within a family, for example, cousins and second cousins, and a glossary of abbreviations. Some of the most popular genealogy software is discussed, as one of these will prove very useful when you have started to gather your information. There is a comprehensive section on the major archives, which includes website addresses and what may be found there.

The author shows how much information may be found from birth, marriage and death certificates, and how copies may be ordered using the relevant website. An explanation of the census and the enumerator's records tells where to find them, and shows what may be obtained by viewing the records.

All of these sources are important to your research, but most people will find that to flesh out the family tree you will need to use many other sources, such as records of the military,

occupations, immigration and emigration. The web locations of these records are included. Maps and plans are also useful, many of which are held at the TNA, and the class marks for the various types of map and enclosures are given. Ownership of land and property, manorial courts and title deeds are all covered in the section on tracing the ancestral home. Again these records may be found at the TNA, but not exclusively.

With sections on education, religious life and much more this is an easy-to-follow, comprehensive guide for the beginner. It is illustrated and indexed.

Mary Smith

BERKSHIRE LOCAL HISTORY

Wantage looking back

(Images of England) Irene Hancock (Tempus Publishing), 16.5 x 23.5cm, flexiback, 128pp
Shop £12.99, UK £16.19, airmail £19.09

This second selection of photographs of Wantage provides an insight into the lives and times of this ancient market town, with chapters on Charlton and Grove. The introduction gives a brief history of major events and prominent people in the town, from the birth of King Alfred the Great in AD849 to the present day. There are chapters on the market place, businesses, schools, people, carnival and clubs, the fire brigade and more. Many of the people in the photographs have been named. It is illustrated not only with photographs, but also with ephemera such as advertisements and tickets for the Wantage Tramway. This book records changes to the town and its people, and is a reminder of how life used to be.

Mary Smith

The changing faces of Abingdon
Carole Newbiggin and Marilyn Yurdan (Robert
Boyd Publications, 96pp)
Shop £8.95, UK £12.15, airmail £15.05

This is the sixtieth book in the *Changing faces* series of books about Oxfordshire places, although of course Abingdon was in Berkshire until 1974. The book is chiefly dedicated to photographs and anecdotes of local Abingdon people in their natural surroundings at work, rest and play, be it a school class, sports team or place of work. The photographs date from the 1940s until the early 2000s, but are predominantly from the 1960s and 1970s. A list of names is given with many of the photographs, plus plenty of background information, so anyone with an Abingdon connection should recognise someone in the photographs. The book is divided into nine sections ranging from The Abbey and its legacy to Parties and events. So if you want to know about Abingdon's traditions of Morris dancing and bun throwing... I recommend this book to anyone with Abingdon interests for the nostalgia alone.

Sue Matthews

LISTINGS

Kelly's directory of Berkshire 1920 (CD)
(JiGraH Resources)
Shop £9.99, UK £11.68, airmail £14.89

Although some street directories have appeared on the internet this valuable ancestor-tracing resource can usually only be found in the local history section of the public library in the area.

While we await the arrival of the 1921 census, which will be the last that many of us will see, this CD will help you locate your ancestors living in Berkshire just after the end of the First World War. It contains a very good map of the centre of Reading, which has changed a lot over the years with inner relief roads, shopping malls and changes in the railway system and industry. A map of Berkshire

is also included. The original printed directory also covered Buckinghamshire and Oxfordshire as well as Berkshire, and so was too large to fit on one CD.

The first pages are advertisements, which may be of interest if your ancestor was a shopkeeper or manufacturer, or provided some service, for example Allen & Simmonds Ltd, piston ring specialists, or Barnes & Avis "We can supply all your musical requirements." Following on is an alphabetical list of towns and villages with quite lengthy histories, descriptions of the local church and other pieces of information such as the population in 1911, the area of the parish, local charities, where the post office and schools are. Villages have quite a small list of private residents, for example, West Ilsley, with 313 residents, has only 15 of them named: five gentry and the rest commercial. However, Maidenhead, with 15,219 residents, has a long introduction and three and a half pages of inhabitants.

The end of the book is a forerunner of Yellow Pages, offering lists of businesses under the products or services which they provide. Later directories often provide a clue to the location described as Rose Villa one year and 24 London Road the next. However, some of the information needs to be treated with caution.

In a book with so many entries, typos will inevitably appear. There will be entries for inhabitants who have left the area during the preparation of the directory. Also I found our local church at Furze Platt was described as being built of stone, whereas it was constructed of red brick. The construction dates are correct.

This is a very handy version of the original guide, with plenty of background information on the towns and villages of Berkshire and the addresses of some of the more prominent inhabitants.

Judith Mitchell

write now

write now

write now

write now

your letters, queries and stories

from John Stevens (7172)
<john.stevens@jhstevenscompany.com>

For nearly 30 years my sister and I have been researching the Stevens family, and have gone back as far as our eighth great-grandfather, John Stevens. John was born in Caversham in 1575, married Alice Atkins on 27 February 1597, and was buried in Caversham on 21 September 1627. Together, John and Alice had six children: three boys and three girls. One of the boys and one of the girls died at or shortly after birth, and in 1638 the two remaining brothers and one sister sailed to America. Try as we might, we cannot find any information on John or his parents.

First, we do know that John's two sons (John and William) and their mother Alice sailed to America in 1638 on the ship *Confidence*. This would mean that after 1638 there were no other male heirs of John left in Caversham to carry on the Stevens line. Yet there were Stevens in Caversham after 1638, and indeed there are Stevens living in or around Caversham today. I have a copy of a PhD thesis written by Dorothy Mary McLaren for the University of Reading in September 1975 entitled *A Thames-side community in Oxfordshire during the seventeenth century*. In this she mentioned several persons in Caversham named Stevens, living as early as 1640.

Secondly, there was a fellow living in Andover, Massachusetts, who married a Mary Stevens in Andover in 1642. Research shows that Mary was born in Reading, England, on 9 July 1620, and her father was Thomas Stevens (birth and death dates unknown). I can find no information on Thomas, but I feel that this Thomas from Reading, and our John from Caversham are somehow related – perhaps brothers?

Finally, I have been trying to locate some-

one in or around Caversham, Reading or indeed Berkshire who might be interested in their Stevens genealogy, and have information on John, Thomas, or any other Stevens living in that area during the 1600s. I have a considerable amount of information on the Stevens and related family lines in America after 1638, and would be more than happy to share with interested parties

from Pete and Glynis Croxford (4360)
<croxford-53@virginmedia.com>

We were reminded in the March magazine to register as members [on <www.berksfhs.org.uk>] to gain access to the members-only area, and as a consequence I was drawn to the section on the editions of the *Historian* from its first volume over 35 years ago. Over several evenings I have been trawling through past editions to view endless lists of names from census transcriptions, members' interests and other inscriptions. What particularly intrigued me was the original efforts that went into a Berkshire Marriage Index, and this is very topical many years later with the second edition being made available by the society. The point I wish to make is the sheer amount of work and dedication by some members in making this information more readily available and producing extremely accurate details of such marriages.

What a long way this has gone since the original thoughts of the project teams involved in these early transcriptions, as a year or two later, there is discussion in the society around donations for a computer! Whilst we may not be totally reliant on computers nowadays for accurate recordings of parish records and the like, I am sure that the first transcribers would have loved to have some access in those early days.

*write now**write now**write now*

from Gordon Drewe (3280)
<gordondrewe@aol.com>

This photograph, taken at a professional studio in Faringdon, Berkshire, was given to me by a distant relative who understood it to portray my great-great-grandfather, George Knowles Drewe (1803-80) and his family during his tenure as landlord of the Old Crown Inn in the late 1860s. I have since had the photograph examined, and am advised that it was taken in the 1880s, thus invalidating the original assumption that George Drewe was included in the group. It is likely, however, that there is a family connection, and I should be glad to discover it. It is possible that society members who are familiar with Faringdon's history may recognise the photograph and, even if it has nothing to do with my family, I can at least know something of this very interesting group.

Send in your questions, stories, offers of help or photographs for identification to the Berkshire Family Historian, where they will be seen by nearly 2,000 readers.

Email to <editor@berksfhs.org.uk> or post to the address on the inside front cover.

Gleanings *from exchange magazines*

Dear Readers

Over the last year there has been an average of three requests per quarter for copies of Gleanings articles. I would welcome your feedback on whether Gleanings is a useful section of this magazine or not. What subject areas would you like to see covered? What subjects are you not interested in? Please send any feedback to <gleanings@berksfhs.org.uk>. Thank you.

Tony Wright

ARCHIVES

News from Surrey Heritage

Justices of the Peace records since 1381: background and details of some interesting cases
Journal East Surrey FHS (45), vol 34, December 2011, p18-22

COMPUTERS AND INTERNET

From the geneasphere: using Google Translate for genealogy

How to use the free Google language translation to help with old documents, foreign websites, or corresponding with non-English speakers
Chinook Alberta FHS (71), vol 32, January 2012, p17-18

Norfolk records and the FamilySearch website Part 1

Covers archdeacons' and bishops' transcripts, parish registers and marriage bonds
Norfolk Ancestor (35), vol 9, March 2012, p21-23

The GENUKI Church Database Project

GENUKI is compiling a list, county by county, of all churches, chapels and other places of worship.
Lincolnshire FHS (27), vol 23, February 2012, p10-13

General

Palaeography: the study of old handwriting

Summary of a talk given by Tom Townsend of Norfolk Record Office
Norfolk Ancestor (35), vol 9, March 2012, p13

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.

Surname derivation

English surnames are primarily derived from font names, locatives, occupations or nicknames, modified by ignorance, inability to spell, humour, and a host of other influences.
Nottinghamshire FHS (38), vol 13, January 2012, p8-10

The distribution of surnames in Lancashire in the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries
Lancashire (23), vol 34, February 2012, p5-9

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

A snapshot of England 1912

"There seem to be many parallels with life as we experience it a century later, from the Ashes to Ecstasy."
Root and Branch West Surrey FHS (46), vol 38, March 2012, p152-156

Bridgend in the Industrial Revolution: industry and commerce

Beginning in the sixteenth century with the discovery of ironstone, through to the late 1800s
Glamorgan FHS (61), December 2011, p25-29

Here is the news from the Hereford Journal 200 years ago, January to March 1812

Napoleon faced war against Russia, Sweden and Prussia; the US was contemplating invading Canada. In local news a man down a well is killed by a falling bucket of water.
Herefordiensis (17), vol 11, January 2012, p260-63

In search of a final resting place

Where were infants and children of poor families buried? Frequently in the same grave as an adult
Doncaster Ancestor (50a), vol 22, Spring 2012, p22-23

Swing riots and transportation in the 1830s

Better pay for rural workers was what they wanted. Stories of people caught up in the disturbances
Hampshire Family Historian (16), vol 38, December 2011, p163-65

Tales from the workhouse

Summary of a talk given by Victoria Preece: history of the Poor Law system, some specific stories; records: what they contain and where to find them
Nottinghamshire FHS (38), vol 13, January 2012, p5-8

The fear of the workhouse

Two accounts of the extremes people would go to to avoid the workhouse
The Huntsman Huntingdonshire FHS (19), March 2012, p37-38

Titanic – the Yorkshire connection

A summary of a talk given by Sheila Dixon: people on board Titanic with Yorkshire connections
The Banyan Tree East Yorkshire FHS (52), January 2012, p9-10

PARISH HISTORIES

Littleton

West Middlesex FHS (34), vol 30, March 2012, p6-9

My parish: Filton

Bristol & Avon FHS (3), March 2012, p32-39

Parish profile of Burghill

Herefordensis Herefordshire FHS (17), vol 11, January 2012, p255

Rushton: parish profile

Footprints Northamptonshire FHS (36), vol 34, February 2012, p23-26

NAME LISTS

Admissions to Sanford Street Boys' School Swindon, 1934

Gives date, name, DoB, address, parent and parent's occupation
Wiltshire FHS (49), October 2011, p38-40

Births marriages and deaths recorded 200 years ago in the Hereford Journal from January to March 1812

Herefordiensis Herefordshire FHS (17), vol 11, January 2012, p250-51

Park Slip explosion 1892

Explosion in the Aberkenfig drift mine; brief history and list of survivors and dead
Glamorgan FHS (61), December 2011, p34-36

SOURCES

Bankruptcy

A summary of bankruptcy from Roman times (the debt was removed from the debtor's body – literally!) through to the late 1800s; what records are available and where you can find them
The Essex Family Historian (14), March 2012, p12-13

My ancestor was a foundling

Records of the Foundling Hospital
Yorkshire FHS (50), vol 38, March 2012, p10-11

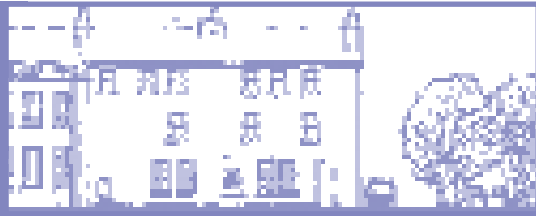
Sin, sex and probate: ecclesiastical records

Summary of a talk by Colin Chapman: history of the church courts and some cases brought before them
West Middlesex FHS (34), vol 30, March 2012, p20-23

Source assessments for Scottish genealogy (Part 1)

Parochial board records (of the poor) and protocol books
Journal Aberdeen & North-East Scotland FHS (58), February 2012, p20-22

Berkshire FHS Research Centre



where

YEOMANRY HOUSE, 131 CASTLE HILL, READING, BERKS RG1 7TJ
0118 950 9553 <researchcentre@berksfhs.org.uk>

- 15 minutes' walk from the centre of Reading
- next door to the Berkshire Record Office (BRO)
- in the same building as the Reading Register Office
- free car parking right outside

when

Tuesdays*: 10.00 to 16.00 and 19.00 to 21.30

Wednesdays and Thursdays: 10.00 to 16.00

4th Saturday each month from March: 11.00 to 16.00

2nd Sunday each month: 11.00 to 16.00 (excluding bank holiday weekends).

The Research Centre opens early, ie, from 18.00 to 21.30, in conjunction with the Open Evenings (from 18.00 to 20.00) hosted and run by society volunteers at the Berkshire Record Office.

**On most Tuesday evenings, knowledgeable helpers are available to answer your computing linked queries.*

The Research Centre will be closed on Tuesday 5 June because of the extra day at the bank holiday this year.

who

Admission to the centre is free for society members.

Non-members pay a £2 temporary membership fee per visit (offset against the membership fee should the visitor join the society at that visit).

Volunteer helpers are on hand to give advice and guidance.

what

Ground floor: reception area, seven PCs with internet access (see opposite page), bookshop, refreshment facilities and cloakrooms

First floor: library (see opposite page), fiche readers, magazine archive

Introductory tours of the centre are available – see <www.berksfhs.org.uk> for details.

how

Society volunteers will explain anything you need to know about the centre's resources, but you do your own research at the centre. If you wish, you can print pages or photocopy them for a nominal additional charge.

Can't get to the Research Centre?

The society offers a postal/online search service of Berkshire names, based on:

Berkshire censuses and indexes for 1851, 1861, 1871, 1881

Berkshire Burials

Berkshire Marriages

Berkshire Miscellaneous Index

Berkshire Strays Index.

All you need is a surname (or a number of surnames) to access information, the extent of which will vary with the individual database. Your search of the master index will show you the total of entries of that surname in each individual database. You can then request the full details available. You can ask for a search either online or by post. The charges are:

- £2 per surname to search the master index. You will be advised of how many entries there are for that surname in each database. Please note that this search will not give you information from the indexed records.



Computer suite

Findmypast holds: census records for England and Wales 1841 to 1911; the most complete online index of BMDs (1837 to 2006); millions of parish baptism, marriage and burial records; military, migration and other specialist datasets.

Ancestry Library Edition holds datasets from Europe, North America and Australia as well as UK material, including a growing number of parish and other records for the Greater London area (not Westminster).

Provided that a PC is available, you can access Findmypast and/or Ancestry for a nominal charge of £1 per hour or part hour. All PCs are internet-linked, so that other family history websites can be searched or consulted at any time.

CDs: Four PCs contain pre-loaded CD data on Berkshire and many other English counties including:

- Berkshire Burials 10th ed
- Berkshire Marriages
- Berkshire trade directories
- National Burial Index 3rd ed

Berkshire Name Search is a master index of Berkshire names from databases including censuses, marriage and burial indexes, strays and miscellaneous datasets.

Library

The library contains over 7,000 items, about 20 per cent of which are Berkshire-related; the rest cover UK, Irish and international material.

The library catalogue can be searched at the centre and online at
<www.berksfhs.org.uk/librarycatalogue>.

CDs of Berkshire data including MIs, overseers' papers, militia lists, trade directories

Local history and genealogy books for Berkshire and for other English counties, Wales, Scotland, Ireland and some other countries

National index of parish registers: volumes covering most English counties

Directories: biographical, trade, professional, military, clerical and school

General reference books on all aspects of family history

Published family histories/pedigrees and a large number of donated hand-written documents

Microfiche records including IGI (International Genealogical Index) 1988 for Great Britain, parish registers, census index and MI data for Berkshire, Buckinghamshire, Oxfordshire, Surrey and other counties

Berkshire Family Historian: 36 volumes from 1975 to the present day

Exchange magazine archive: back copies of journals of around 50 other family history societies

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- £2 per surname per database. With this search you will receive full details for up to a maximum of 25 entries. Should there be more than 25 entries, we will let you know the extra cost.
 - £5 per surname to search all databases currently available. You will receive full details for up to a maximum of 25 entries per database. Again, we will let you know the extra cost if there are more than 25 entries.

Note that for online applications a 50p transaction fee will be added to the total as a contribution to the fees that the bank charges the society for the online payment service. You can contact <berksnamesearch@berksfhs.org.uk> if you have any queries or if you would like an estimate of likely cost for the searches that you need.

You can also apply by post. Postal search charges are the same as those for online searches excluding the 50p transaction fee. For a postal search you must enclose an A4 self-addressed envelope (large) with stamps (or IRC) to cover return postal costs. An alternative is to supply an email address so that results can be sent to you by email. If you don't have an email address please supply a UK phone number. Please send your request for a postal search to Berkshire Name Search at the address above.

members' interests

members' interests

Members' interests

Bob Plumridge

<memsec@berksfhs.org.uk

Members submitting their interests:

- 1592 Dulley, Miss T Hawkwood, 46 Hillview Rd, Chislehurst BR7 6DS
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- 6172 Adey, Mr C Woodridings, East End, Witney OX29 6PZ
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- 7331 Luker, Mrs E Firlle Cottage, Waterlake Rd, Tatworth TA20 2SR
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- 7341 Turner, Mrs S 43 Sand Croft, Penrith CA11 8BB
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You may update your surname interests at any time via
<www.berksfhs.org.uk/cms/Members-Surname-Interests>

When contacting a member by post please always enclose an sae.

6172 ADEY	Basildon	BRK	1823	1592 LAWSON	Gateshead	DUR	<1845
1592 BEAUFORT	London	LND	<1800	1592 LOUCH	Sonning	BRK	<1770
7331 BENEY	Battle	SSX	1750-1850	7331 LUKER	East Challow	BRK	<1720
1592 BOUCHARD	Bethnal Green			7331 LUKER	Faringdon	BRK	1740-1804
			MDX	7331 LUKER	Devizes	WIL	1650-1700
7341 BRISK	All	SRY	1650+	1592 MILLER	Kensington	MDX	<1800
1592 BROOKS	Shoreditch	MDX	<1842	7331 MOYSE	Hartland	DEV	<1820
7331 BRUIN	Reading	BRK	pre 1855	1592 NEWHAM	Gateshead	DUR	<1845
7341 BUCK	Skeyton	NFK	pre 1750	6172 NOYES	Pamber	HAM	1816
7341 COPUS	Cookham	BRK	pre 1750	7341 PEARL	Rattlesden	SFK	All
7341 COPUS	All	SRY	pre 1850	1592 PEASGOOD		MDX	<1840
7341 DRAGE	Barkway	HRT	pre 1800	7341 PENNY	Canterbury	KEN	<1820
7341 DRAGE	Norwich	NFK	1800+	7341 POWELL	Pembroke Dock		
7341 DUGBALE	Barton Turf	NFK	pre 1780			PEM	<1842
1592 DULLEY	All	All	All	1592 SELBY	Bethnal Green		
7341 FAINT	Gt Oakley	ESS	pre 1765			MDX	<1840
6172 FARLEY	Heytesbury	WIL	1716	7331 SHEPHERD	Faringdon	BRK	<1750
1592 GALLOWAY	Alyth	PER	<1820	1592 SHERWOOD	Bethnal Green		
1592 GUTTERIDGE						MDX	<1816
	Whitechapel	MDX	<1850	1592 SILVERTHORNE			
6172 HARRIS	Spelsbury	OXF	1732		London	MDX	<1800
7341 HATTON	Ickleford	HRT	pre 1840	1592 SILVERTHORNE			
1592 HOWE	Tilehurst	BRK	C1837		Trowbridge	WIL	<1800
7331 KNIGHT	Tavistock	DEV	pre 1810	6172 SPARKS	Marlow	BKM	1849
6172 LACY	Alverstone	HAM	1795	1592 TOFFTS	Whitechapel	MDX	<1800
6172 LANGFORD	Southwick	NTH	1836				

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Birth Briefs are five-generation ancestral charts submitted by members of the society. They contain the names and vital records (birth or christening, marriage and death or burial) of the member and up to 30 ancestors. All members are encouraged to submit and update their birth briefs, which can be very useful to other family researchers.

A form for compiling your birth brief can be downloaded from <www.berksfhs.org.uk/cms/Birth-Briefs>, where you can also search the Birth Briefs Index, currently standing at 31,441 names, or you can order a search by post for £2.

If you have an interest in a name on a Birth Brief you can order a copy by post (on paper, or as a digital file in either PAF Pedigree or GEDCOM) for £2. See full details on the website or in your Members' Handbook.

Orders for searches or copies of briefs should be posted to

Alan Brooker
6 Meadow Way
Old Windsor
Berks SL4 2NX

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