

Berkshire Family Historian

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Family names appearing in this issue:

excluding living people, authors of sources and members' interests

Barlow 24+	Haslock 12	Shergold 12
Binyon 29	Johnson 18	Simpson 26
Boud 25	Maxwell 20	Stradling 13
Browne 28	Oliver 10	Thoyts 10
Canning 26	Parrott 24+	Vaughan 27
Cannon 26	Parsons 25	Whistler 22+
Cole 22	Pellew 12+	Williams 10
Elborough/Elbury 25	Pepys 22	Williams 24
Fane 12	Plenty 12+	
Gegg 10	Povey 26	
Gower 17	Rawlinson 22+	

Chairman's corner

THE CHANGING NATURE OF RESEARCH

Interest in family history continues to grow at an ever-increasing pace. Have key drivers of this interest – technological advances, emergence of social media, new (and repeated) family history programmes on TV, to cite just three – changed the direction of your research and the way that you undertake it?

Recently, I helped a couple at Berkshire Record Office who were using fiche to find GRO references. Six or seven years ago, this would have been unexceptional, especially if travel to the Family Records Centre in Clerkenwell was impractical. Today, the emergence of online resources like Findmypast and FreeBMD has rendered fiche and fiche readers almost irrelevant, certainly for finding civil registration details.

In a similar way, how soon will it be when you turn to your smartphone or your tablet for your research, rather than your “old-fashioned” desktop PC or laptop? What fresh challenges will face family history societies and data providers in building and utilising suitable mobile platforms and apps?

Consider too how DNA testing has advanced. Today's tests now offer all family historians information that can complement traditional sources, maybe filling or bridging some inevitable gaps left by paper records. And in the last decade, how many millions of digital images of original records, associated transcriptions and indexes have become available for family historians to access online? And how many more will be there tomorrow? Only inherent inadequacies in many of the search options, and perennial quality shortfalls in finding aids and indexes, deter researchers from conducting even more of their research online.

Incessant progress demands that family history societies, and those who run them,



should keep an unwavering and objective focus on all that is happening in the family history universe, and on the evolving expectations of researchers. Family historians will always have a need to ask questions, to learn who best can deliver informed advice and fresh ideas, and to draw on the expertise of those with better understanding of places, record sets and research techniques than they have themselves. Researchers will always need the reminder that not all key resources are available online (nor are they ever likely to be), where such resources can be found, and how to access them. Better family history societies still have key roles to play in all of this, but only by taking an outward-facing stance. Outward to recognise opportunities – and outward to convince family historians, of all ages, that societies can make a real difference in their research.

THE FUTURE OF THE RESEARCH CENTRE

Since 2000 your society has leased its Yeomanry House premises from Reading Borough Council, as some of you will know. The proximity of the Research Centre, the county's foremost facility for family history research, to Berkshire Record Office, home of the Royal county's original records, brings significant and synergistic benefits to both organisations. The present lease expires early next year, and in mid-September the trustees

submitted a paper to the council requesting a further lease. By the time this December *Historian* drops through your letterbox, the outcome of that application may be known. Till then, with a decision pending, some of your society's longer-term operational tasks are clouded by uncertainty.

Were the society to be forced to find, secure and relocate to new premises, the immediate costs to the society in terms of volunteer effort and financial resources would be substantial. Sadly, such outgoings would make little or no contribution in helping your society to realise its charitable objectives, but would dent its reserves severely. Trustees, volunteers and members await Reading councillors' decision on the request for a new lease with considerable interest. A number of key decisions and directions for your society hinge on that outcome.

UNDERSTANDING YOUR NEEDS AND INTERESTS

At the risk of giving a hostage to fortune, your society plans a number of surveys and research initiatives over coming months. It is some considerable time since the society undertook any comprehensive research of this kind, and the work is overdue. Whether it is your local branch questionnaire, or a postal or online survey, look out for these initiatives and please do respond to them thoughtfully and constructively, sharing your thoughts and ideas. Of course, you never need to wait to give your views – contact details are inside the cover of your magazine!

Derek Trinder
<chairman@berksfhs.org.uk>

New society publications

NOW OUT

Reading London Road Cemetery 1843-1994 Monumental Inscriptions (CD)

Reissue on CD of transcriptions of the extant memorial inscriptions and maps of London Road Cemetery. The cemetery contains the graves of approximately 14,500 people, and

this CD holds transcriptions of their monuments and memorials.
Shop £10.00, UK £11.50, airmail £14.30

CORRECTION

In the September *Historian* the Crowthorne MI CD was said to cover 1683 - 2011; this should have read 1863 - 2011.

BERKSHIRE BURIALS 11TH EDITION – due in Dec – watch the website

www.berksfhs.org.uk – what's new in the Members' Area?

All surnames in the Berkshire Marriages, Burials and Probate CDs
Interactive maps, linked to Berkshire parishes and articles
Discussion List: all topics – not just Berkshire – in a searchable archive
Meeting summaries: what did you miss?
Berkshire gazetteer, with map links
8,000 surname interests of current members (September 2012)
35,000+ names: ancestral charts
Berkshire Family Historian – read copies archived since October 1975

YOU MUST REGISTER TO ACCESS THE MEMBERS' AREA

Berkshire Burials

11th edition

The 11th edition of *Berkshire Burials* will be in the Berkshire FHS Bookshop in December, at £20. The parishes and periods included are shown below, comprising more than 831,000 entries in total. Some 57,000 new entries have been added since the publication of the 10th edition. Parishes which have new entries and the newly-added periods are shown in **bold italics**. For purchase details please see the Publications List in the centre of this magazine. For details of searching *Berkshire Burials* please see pages 34-35.

David Wright

Abingdon Baptist (Lower Meeting House, Ock St)
1764 - 1837
Abingdon Cemetery 1861-84, 1886 - 1914, 1920-21 and 1923-24
Abingdon Congregational (Upper Meeting House)
1730-40 and 1787 - 1836
Abingdon St Helen 1696-97 (BTs), 1730 (BTs), 1737-42 (BTs), **1742 -52 (BTs)**, 1753-64 (BTs), **1767-71 (BTs)**, 1772 (BTs), **1773 (BTs)**, **1775-77 (BTs)**, **Jan - May 1794 (BTs)**, **Aug 1794 - Mar 1795 (BTs)**, **Jun 1795 - Oct 1798 (BTs)**, **Jan 1800 - Jun 1801 (BTs)**, **Aug 1801 - May 1803 (BTs)**, **1803-05 (BTs)**, 1805-27 (BTs), **1828-36 (BTs)** and 1837-67 (BTs)
Abingdon St Nicholas 1558 - 1608, 1615-24 (BTs), 1625-92, 1692 - 1703 (BTs), and 1704 - 1880
Aldermaston St Mary the Virgin 1558 - 1672, 1672-77 (BTs) and 1678 - 1992
Aldworth St Mary 1556 - 1978
Appleford SS Peter & Paul 1564 - 1988
Appleton St Laurence 1570 - 1891
Arborfield St Bartholomew 1580 - 1707 (BTs), 1707-36, 1736-39 (BTs) and 1739 - 1925
Ardington Holy Trinity 1607-70 (BTs) and 1674 - 1929
Ascot Heath All Saints 1865 - 1958
Ashampstead St Clement 1607-86 (BTs), 1686 - 1956
Ashbury St Mary 1612-38 (BTs), 1653-83, 1683-87 (BTs), and 1687 - 1993
Aston Tirrold Independent 1763 - 1837
Aston Tirrold St Michael 1728 - 1960
Avington SS Mark & Luke 1700-25 (BTs) and 1727 - 1994
Barkham St James 1539 - 1733, 1733-40 (BTs) and 1741 - 1985
Basildon St Bartholomew 1667 - 1982
Baulking St Nicholas 1850-59 (BTs)
Bearwood St Catherine 1846 - 1929
Beech Hill St Mary the Virgin 1868 - 1996
Beedon St Nicholas 1607 - 1721 (BTs) and 1681 - 1969
Beenham St Mary 1561 - 1983
Besselsleigh St Lawrence 1689 - 1994
Binfield All Saints 1731 - 1957
Bisham All Saints 1560 - 1707, 1707-08 (BTs), 1709 - 1849 and **1849 - 1900 (BTs)**
Blewbury St Michael 1588 - 1674, 1675 - 1720 (BTs) and 1720 - 1928
Boxford St Andrew 1558 - 2009
Bracknell Holy Trinity 1851 - 1960
Bracknell Independent (Congregational) 1822-59
Bradfield St Andrew 1540 - 1685, **1687-89 (BTs)**, 1691-93 (BTs) and 1695 - 1952
Bradfield Workhouse 1845 - 1932
Bray St Michael 1607-36 (BTs), 1654 - 1929 and **1944-55**
Brightwalton All Saints 1561 - 1959
Brightwell St Agatha 1615 - 1902
Brimpton St Peter 1607-74 (BTs), 1678 - 1734, 1735-55 (BTs) and 1756 - 1992

Buckland St Mary the Virgin 1605-78 (BTs) and 1678 - 1930
Bucklebury St Mary the Virgin 1539 - 1910
Burghfield St Mary 1559 - 2005
Buscot St Mary 1676 - 2000
Catmore St Margaret 1728 - 1810 and 1814 - 1985
Caversham Hemdean Road Cemetery 1885 - 1921 and 1921-93
Caversham St Peter 1597 - 1955
Chaddleworth St Andrew 1538 - 1676, 1677 (BTs) and 1678 - 2007
Charney Bassett St Peter 1747 - 1979
Chieveley St Mary the Virgin 1560 - 1643 and 1647 - 2003
Childrey St Mary the Virgin 1558 - 1789, 1717-29 (BTs) and 1789 - 1883
Chilton All Saints 1608-35 (BTs), 1677 - 1812, 1813-35 (BTs), **1836-65 (BTs)** and 1960-92
Cholsey County Lunatic Asylum 1894 - 1917
Cholsey St Mary 1540 - 1611, 1612-17 (BTs), 1617-21, 1621-29 (BTs) and 1631 - 1980
Clewes St Andrew 1607 - 1960
Clewes St Stephen (recorded in registers of Clewes St Andrew)
Cold Ash St Mark 1865 - 1947
Coleshill All Saints 1560 - 1752 and 1753 - 1986
Combe St Swithun 1560 - 1729, 1729 - 1812 and **1813-71 (BTs)**
Compton SS Mary & Nicholas 1553 - 2005
Compton Beauchamp St Swithun 1551 - 1775, 1776-86 (BTs) and 1790 - 1994
Cookham Holy Trinity 1607-36 (BTs) and 1656 - 1935
Cookham Dean St John the Baptist 1845 - 1973
Cranbourne St Peter 1850 - 1997
Crowmarsh Gifford St Mary Magdalene (OXF) 1678 - 1812 and 1813 - 1992
Crowthorne St John the Baptist 1893 - 1968
Cumnor St Michael 1682 - 1755 and 1755 - 1970
Denchworth St James 1538 - 1812, 1814-35 (BTs) and 1836 - 2007
Denford Holy Trinity 1848-53 (BTs)
Didcot All Saints 1568 - 1942
Drayton St Peter 1607 - 1732 (BTs), 1737 - 1812 (BTs), 1813 - 1967
Earley St Peter 1854 - 1916
East Challow St Nicholas 1712 - 1829 and 1867 - 2006
East Garston All Saints 1554-63, 1607-68 (BTs), 1670 - 1750, 1750-51 (BTs) and 1751 - 1876
East Hendred St Augustine 1558 - 1728, 1746 - 1863 and **1863-74**
East Ilsley St Mary 1607-38 (BTs) and 1649 - 2005
East Lockinge All Saints 1546 - 1812, 1813-35 (BTs) and 1862-66
East Shefford 1604 - 1734, 1737-70 (BTs) and 1774 - 1917
Eastbury St James the Great 1867 - 2005
Easthampstead SS Michael & Mary Magdalene 1558 - 1915
Eaton Hastings St Michael & All Angels 1575 - 1724, **1724 - 1812** and 1813 - 1998

Enborne St Michael & All Angels 1607-38 (BTs)
 and 1667 - 1929
 Englefield St Mark 1559 - 1935
Faringdon All Saints 1644 - 1948 and **1948-62**
Faringdon Society of Friends 1867-80
 Farnborough All Saints 1607 - 1738 (BTs),
 1740 - 1812, 1813-35 (BTs) and 1836 - 2007
 Fawley St Mary 1550 - 1987
 Fernham St John 1860 - 1994
Finchampstead St James 1607-36 (BTs), 1653-82,
1682 - 1708 (BTs) and 1709 - 1812
 Frilsham St Frideswide 1607 - 1710 (BTs), 1711-68,
 1769 - 1804 (BTs) and 1813-35 (BTs)
 Fyfield St Nicholas 1605 - 1812 (BTs) and 1813 - 1906
Garford St Luke 1617-18 (BTs) and 1785
 Grazeley Holy Trinity 1851 - 1964
 Great Coxwell St Giles 1557 - 1645 and 1654 - 2002
 Greenham St Mary 1799 - 1914
 Grove St James/St John the Baptist 1832 - 1993
 Hagbourne St Andrew 1612-38 (BTs), 1661 - 1751,
 1745-56 (BTs) and 1757 - 1973
 Hampstead Norreys St Mary 1543-93, 1598 - 1626,
 1628-38 (BTs) and 1666 - 1919
Hamstead Marshall St Mary 1605-75 (BTs),
 1675 - 1812, 1813-36 (BTs) and **1837-67 (BTs)**
 Harwell St Matthew 1559 - 1943
 Hatford St George/Holy Trinity 1539 - 1969
 Hermitage Holy Trinity 1840 - 1978
Hinton Waldrist St Margaret 1662 - 1705
 and 1813 - 1977
 Hungerford Independent 1819-30
 Hungerford St Lawrence 1559 - 1969
Hurley St Mary the Virgin 1563 - 1864
 and **1869 - 1917 (BTs)**
 Hurst St Nicholas 1579-82 (BTs), 1585 - 1605,
 1605-21 (BTs), 1621-23, 1623-33 (BTs)
 and 1633 - 2004
 Inkpen St Michael & All Angels 1607-23 (BTs)
 and 1725 - 1986
 Kingston Bagpuize St John the Baptist 1541 - 1812
 Kingston Lisle St John the Baptist 1559 - 1713
 Kintbury St Mary 1558 - 1925
 Knowl Hill St Peter 1842 - 2002
 Lambourn St Michael & All Angels 1560 - 1976
 Lambourn Woodlands St Mary 1842 - 2005
Leckhampstead St James 1845-61 (BTs)
 and 1861 - 2007
 Letcombe Bassett St Michael & All Angels 1565 - 1643
 and 1683 - 1989
Letcombe Regis St Andrew 1536 - 1640, 1702-98
 and 1798 - 1863
 Littleworth Holy Ascension 1839 - 1909
Little Coxwell St Mary 1583 - 1771 and
1840-65 (BTs)
Little Faringdon (dedication uncertain) (OXF)
1865-99 (BTs)
 Little Wittenham St Peter 1543 - 1811 and 1813 - 1992
Longcot St Mary the Virgin 1612-80 (BTs),
1679 - 1782 and 1813 - 1993
 Longworth St Mary 1563 - 1648 and 1654 - 1940
Long Wittenham St Mary the Virgin 1607-79
(BTs) and 1737 - 1979
 Lyford St Mary the Virgin 1843 - 1978
 Maidenhead Boyne Hill All Saints 1857 - 1948
 Maidenhead Congregational 1791 - 1837
 and 1845 - 1908
 Maidenhead High Street Wesleyan Methodist
 1858 - 1903
 Maidenhead New Chapel (Countess of Huntingdon)
 1843 - 1858
 Maidenhead St Luke 1866-90
Marcham All Saints 1658 - 1712, **1712-17 (BTs),**
 1718 - 1943 and Feb to Jul 1953
 Marlston St Mary 1925-98
Midgham St Matthew 1607-37 (BTs), 1638 - 1733
 and 1753 - 1980
Milton St Blaise 1606-37 (BTs) and 1662 - 1938
 Mortimer West End St Saviour 1869 - 1982
 Moulsoford St John the Baptist 1617 - 1773 (BTs),
 1773-84, 1787 (BTs) and 1788 - 1992
 Newbury Baptist 1773 - 1823
 Newbury Baptist (Northcroft Lane) 1818-37
Newbury Lower Meeting House Independent
1725-34 and 1784 - 1837
 Newbury Newtown Rd Cemetery 1868-84
 and 1898 - 2006
 Newbury St John the Evangelist 1860 - 1900
Newbury St Nicolas 1746 - 1894, **1894 - 1907,**
1932-58 and 1965 (single entry)
 Newbury Shaw Cemetery 1913-72
 Newbury Upper Meeting House Presbyterian
 1783 - 1836
Newnham Murren St Mary (OXF) 1813 - 1992
 New Windsor All Saints (recorded in register of
 New Windsor St John the Baptist) 1974-88
 New Windsor St George's Chapel 1625 - 1737
 New Windsor St John the Baptist 1559 - 1988
 North Hinksey St Lawrence 1607 - 1702 (BTs)
 and 1703 - 1984
 North Moreton All Saints 1735 - 1996
 Oare St Bartholomew 1854 - 1975
Old Windsor Burial Ground (Eastern End)
1886 - 1941
Old Windsor New Burial Ground 1922-34
 Old Windsor SS Peter & Andrew 1612-32 (BTs),
 1634 - 1771 (BTs) and 1772 - 1940
 Padworth St John the Baptist 1607 - 1723 (BTs)
 and 1724 - 1981
Pangbourne Independent Chapel 1984 only
 Pangbourne St James the Less 1559 - 1926
 Peasemore St Barnabas 1538 - 2007
Purley St Mary the Virgin 1607-38 (BTs)
 and 1663 - 1985
 Pusey All Saints 1607 - 1835 (BTs)
 Radley St James the Great 1599 - 1981
 Reading Broad Street Independent 1787 - 1869
 and 1875 - 1881
 Reading Castle Street Congregational 1857-62
Reading Henley Road (Caversham) Cemetery
 1927-47, **1947-48,** 1948-62, **1962-63,** 1963-68,
1968-69, 1969-72 and 1972-79
Reading Henley Road (Caversham) Crematorium
 1932-59 and **1959-62**
 Reading Holy Trinity 1834-55
 Reading King's Road Baptist Church 1785 - 1835
 Reading London Road Cemetery (consecrated)
 1843 - 1959
 Reading London Road Cemetery (unconsecrated)
 1843 - 1959
 Reading Prison 1862 - 1913
 Reading St Giles 1564 - 1644, 1648 - 1895
 and 1955-90
 Reading St Laurence 1603 - 1901
Reading St Mary 1538 - 1640, **1640-80,**
 1680 - 1942 and 1947-95
 Reading St Stephen 1929-56
 Remenham St Nicholas 1605-96 (BTs), 1697 - 1762,
 1762-64 (BTs) and 1764 - 1909
Ruscombe St James the Great 1569 - 1812,
 1813-35 (BTs) and **1836-77 (BTs)**
 Sandhurst St Michael 1580-93 (BTs), 1603-96,
 1610 - 1812 (BTs) and 1813 - 1959
Shalbourne St Michael 1587 - 1634 (BTs), **1634-74**
(BTs) and 1678 - 1862
 Shaw cum Donnington St Mary the Virgin
 1563 - 1637 (BTs) and 1647 - 2007

Shellingford St Faith 1581 - 1812, 1813-36 (BTs), **1837 (BTs), 1838-48, 1848-64 (BTs), 1864-66 and 1867 - 1907 (BTs)**
 Shinfield Cemetery 1928-91
 Shinfield St Mary 1602-38 (BTs) and 1653 - 1907
 Shippon St Mary Magdalene 1856 - 1974
Shottesbrooke St John the Baptist 1567 - 1811, 1813-36 (BTs) and **1837 - 1872 (BTs)**
Shrivenham St Andrew 1575 - 1867 and **1867 - 1972**
Sonning St Andrew 1592 - 1688, **1688 - 1728** and 1728 - 1906
Sotwell St James 1606-76 (BTs), 1693 - 1812, 1813-36 (BTs) and 1837-68 (BTs)
 South Hinksey St Lawrence 1607-93 (BTs) and 1693 - 1894
South Moreton St John the Baptist 1600 - 1700 and 1757 - 1994
Sparsholt Holy Cross 1558 - 1865 and **1865-73 (BTs)**
Speen St Mary the Virgin 1614-28 (BTs), 1629 - 1904 and **1904 - 1923**
 Speenhamland St Mary 1831-81 and 1953-71
 Stanford Dingley St Denys 1538 - 1979
Stanford in the Vale St Denys 1558 - 1774 and 1774 - 1946
Steventon St Michael & All Angels 1631-71 (BTs), 1672 - 1744 and 1796 - 1922
Stockcross St John 1839-63 (BTs)
Stratfield Mortimer St Mary 1668-81 (BTs) and 1681 - 1977
 Streatley St Mary 1679 - 1907
 Stubbings St James the Less 1852 - 1993
 Sulham St Nicholas 1612 - 1724 (BTs) and 1724 - 1983
 Sulhamstead Abbots St Mary 1602 - 2007
 Sulhamstead Bannister St Michael 1608-37 (BTs), 1654 - 1811 and 1813 - 1994
 Sunningdale Baptist 1843 - 1978
 Sunningdale Holy Trinity 1842 - 1938
 Sunninghill St Michael & All Angels 1561 - 1641, 1653 - 1947
Sunningwell St Leonard 1546 - 1741 and 1741 - 1960
 Sutton Courtenay All Saints 1540 - 2002
 Swallowfield All Saints 1539-52, 1587-97 and 1638 - 1931
 Thatcham/Bucklebury Congregational/Independent Chapel 1819-71
 Thatcham Cemetery 1887 - 1940
Thatcham St Mary 1561-1766, 1767 only (BTs), 1768 - 1914 and **1914-51**
Theale Congregational 1922-95
 Theale Holy Trinity 1832 - 1932
 Tidmarsh St Lawrence 1608 - 1729 (BTs) and 1730 - 1999
 Tilehurst St George 1886 - 1969
 Tilehurst St Michael 1614-29 (BTs) and 1630 - 1978
 Twyford St Mary 1847 - 1967
Tubney St Lawrence 1847-74 (BTs)
 Uffington St Mary 1607-38 (BTs), 1654 - 1744, 1748-49 and 1760 - 1946
 Ufton Nervet St Peter 1607-35 (BTs) and 1636 - 1990
 Upton St Mary 1862 - 1990
 Wallingford Baptist 1796 - 1837
 Wallingford Independent 1814-36
Wallingford St Leonard 1605-70 (BTs), 1671-78 (in register of Wallingford St Mary le More), 1679-96 (BTs), **1711-42**, 1742 - 1869 and 1873 - 1975
Wallingford St Mary le More 1612-70 (BTs), 1671-78, 1711 - 1939, **1786-87 (BTs), 1939 - 1961** and 1961-76
 Wallingford St Peter 167178 (in register of Wallingford St Mary le More), 1711 - 1862 and 1865 - 1969
Waltham St Lawrence 1713-23 (BTs), 1730-74 and 1775 - 1995
Wantage SS Peter & Paul 1618 - 1705 and 1793 - 1964
 Warfield St Michael 1779 - 1922
 Wargrave St Mary 1539 - 2007
 Wasing St Nicholas 1608 - 1736 (BTs) and 1763 - 1990
 Welford St Gregory 1599 - 1900
 West Challow St Laurence 1608-35 (BTs), 1654-90, 1669-89 (BTs) and 1694 - 1820
 West Hanneley St James the Great 1783 - 1964
 West Hendred Holy Trinity 1727 - 1972
 West Ilsley All Saints 1558 - 1967
 West Shefford St Mary 1599 - 1897
 West Woodhay St Laurence 1612-38 (BTs), 1656-88, 1689-92 (BTs), 1692 - 1744, 1744-68 (BTs) and 1771 - 1985
 White Waltham St Mary 1813 - 1937
Winkfield St Mary 1577 - 1620, 1620-66 and 1720 - 1961
 Winterbourne St James the Less 1567 - 1979
Wokingham All Saints 1632-40 (BTs), 1668-74 (BTs), and 1675 - 1947
 Wokingham Baptist Church 1841 - 1906
 Wokingham Free Church Burial Ground 1921 - 2004
 Wokingham St Paul 1864 - 1961
 Wokingham St Sebastian 1866 - 2002
 Woodley Congregational (Woodley Chapel) 1858 - 1905
 Woolhampton St Peter 1607-36 (BTs), 1636-46, 1749-59 (BTs) and 1761 - 1926
Woolstone All Saints 1849 - 1987
 Wootton St Peter 1732-86 and 1813 - 1947
Wytham All Saints 1589 - 1812 and **1813-66 (BTs)**
 Yattendon SS Peter & Paul 1558 - 1982

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>

Around the branches

Vale of the White Horse Branch

<vale@berksfhs.org.uk> Vanessa Chappell

At our September branch meeting Sarah Charlton, an archivist at the Buckingham Record Office, gave us an illustrated presentation on Berkshire manorial records. The process to identify the manorial records for the two counties had taken from 2006 to 2008, and Sarah had researched all 145 of the ancient parishes in Berkshire (as it was before 1974). She had identified 347 manors. The earliest reference to manors can be found in the 1086 Domesday survey, which is not arranged by parish but by manor. Sarah explained how the manorial courts developed, and how the disputes were recorded on the court rolls, which listed people present, and also the existence of account rolls, which detailed the rents paid by tenants. Some of our members helped out with role-play to bring the actions

of the courts to life, and it made for a very enjoyable and informative evening.

Our library surgeries are continuing, following on from the Heritage Weekend: Abingdon in September; Wantage in October; and Faringdon in November.

To assist members in their research we are beginning to include more members' evenings at our branch meetings, to provide a chance to discuss research techniques, "brick walls" and hopefully find some solutions.

Average attendance at branch meetings from January to July 2012 has been 26. Five new members have been recruited.

We are looking forward to our meeting on 21 January, when local historian Bruce Hedge will be talking to us about the malting industry in Abingdon.

Windsor, Slough and Maidenhead Branch

<windsor@berksfhs.org.uk> Mike Booth

The September speaker was Dave Peters, town crier and beadle of Guildford, Surrey. His was the fourth generation without a break to hold the post. He described the origin and history of the post, mentioning also its increasing attraction for tourism. Both Newbury and Hungerford have town criers already, and the Royal Borough is considering re-introduction.

Dave was in full uniform (as illustrated here) and he described the various items, covering trousers, jabot, coat, beadle's cape, tricorne hat, scroll, staff and, of course, the bells. The audience asked questions throughout the talk, and several took the opportunity to photograph him.

A FH advice session was held at Eton Wick Library on the afternoon of Wednesday, 19 September. Unlike the very successful session held here earlier in the year, this time we only received one visitor.

Average attendance at the branch meetings January to June this year has been 40.



Computer Branch

<computerbranch@berksfhs.org.uk> Gillian Stevens



Following last year's successful Heritage Open Days (HOD) event we decided to open the Research Centre again for all four days this year, 6 to 9 September. Jean Herbert arranged for six assistants to be on duty each day, some all day and others for just a few hours. As well as the normal help given to visitors, each person was given a short tour of our facilities and handed Berkshire FHS leaflets and a membership form. To entice visitors to come and/or stay we had tea/coffee plus hand-made cakes available for a donation in the upstairs library area. (Many thanks to Julia Varey for her excellent cakes.) We did not charge for entrance (part of the rules for HOD) nor did we charge for use of any of the subscription websites but we did apply our normal charges for prints. This year we had to com-

pete with extremely hot sunny weather, the Paralympics and the US tennis, but we still managed to achieve 110 names in our visitors' book. Three family and four individual memberships were purchased, and we hope that some of the other visitors we saw will decide at a later date to become members. As well as taking money for these memberships, donations for refreshments and printouts, we also took a fair amount in bookshop sales.

Library advice sessions are not attracting very many visitors, and those that are turning up don't seem interested in coming to meetings, visiting the Research Centre or even becoming members, so we have decided that we will not be continuing after the end of the year. We are also finding that the library staff have often forgotten that we are coming, and on a number of occasions this year we have needed to make sure that the computers we will be using have not already been booked to other visitors. We will continue to monitor what is going on around the area, and perhaps try other venues, dates and times. We feel that the session we had at MERL last summer and special events at the RC like the Heritage Open Days were much more productive in advertising the resources, assistance and support that the society can give to potential members and visitors.

Average branch attendance this year to July has been 28 (excluding the June MI recording session).

Bracknell and Wokingham Branch

<bracknell@berksfhs.org.uk> Fiona Ranger

The branch shared a stand with the Windsor, Slough and Maidenhead branch at the Ascot Retirement Fair in August, where there was interest from visitors wanting to know how to start on their family history. Details on membership, branch meetings and the Research Centre were handed out. There was interest in joining the society, but only one former member was signed up on the day.

A talk has been arranged at Finchampstead Library for 8 November 2012, and Crowthorne Library has asked for a presentation in early 2013.

The branch has a stand at the West Surrey Family History Society Fair on Saturday 3 November.

Average meeting attendance for the first seven months of the year has been 43.

Newbury Branch

<newbury@berksfhs.org.uk> Nick Prince

Newbury Branch is widening and co-ordinating its recently introduced programme of library advice sessions. The West Berkshire area is large, and contains nine libraries, of which Hungerford, Newbury, Lambourn and Wash Common have received visits from the branch in 2011-12, some more than once. Pangbourne Library has asked for a session, but no local volunteer has yet come forward. One member now volunteers at Thatcham Library and is now able to offer regular advice for new researchers.

We will be speaking to Thatcham Lakeside Women's Club in 2013.

Average attendance at branch meetings in January to June this year has been 27.

An update on projects and publications

The past few months have been exceptionally busy, with the publication of five new CDs, including Speenhamland parish registers and three new collections of monumental inscriptions (MIs). On CD for the first time are the inscriptions of Reading's London Road Cemetery, which dates to 1843, and is one of the country's early garden cemeteries. This mammoth project began in September 1990, when 25 members gathered at the cemetery for the start of what would be a five-year project. The following is taken from the introduction to the original publication of the MIs on fiche in 1995. It captures the hard work and camaraderie as the months progressed:

A good start was made in the three sessions before the cold weather set in. In 1991 sessions were held about once a fortnight between April and September with numbers averaging about a dozen. In subsequent years numbers rarely exceeded six. Progress was not, however, slowed as much as the numbers might suggest, as those attending did so regularly and became fairly expert. In 1993 the project leader, David Watkins, retired early and was able to lead Monday morning sessions from April to November. Numbers averaged around four, and few Mondays were missed, doubling the rate of progress.

In the first 18 months Brian Wilson attended regularly, often on his own on weekdays and recorded a number of sections by himself. He unfortunately had to withdraw for family reasons. Vincent Millet also turned out on his own occasionally as well as attending regular sessions. Saturday sessions were usually led by one David or another, David Watkins, David Wright or, until he moved from the area, David Hammond. Mike Seymour and Chad Hanna broke the David domination on a few occasions.

On Saturday 29 July completion was very close and around 12 members, an amalgam of the Monday and Saturday groups attended. By mid-day Chad and Lesley Hanna, Yvonne Watkins, Carol Wright, Pam Cotterell and Jacqueline Harbor had departed to other tasks. But before leaving David Wright, Bob Hudson and David Spraggett watched while David Watkins checked the last inscription. All four then celebrated with champagne.

If you're interested in helping future MI projects, and especially if you live in the Chieveley, Wokingham or Woodley areas, do get in touch with us via the details below.

On pages 4 to 6 of this *Historian* you'll read of the new records that can now be found in Berkshire Burials 11th edition. Containing more than 830,000 burials records, this invaluable CD testifies to 13 years of work so far which has gone into tracking down all possible records of burial in Berkshire. In contrast, whilst the Berkshire Burials project nears completion, Berkshire Baptisms in its relative infancy. Our aim is to produce the first edition during 2013, and a group of volunteers, some as far away as Australia and America, are working together to achieve this. If you'd like to get involved with this important undertaking, and have a few hours you could spare to help, and a little knowledge of Excel, please do get in touch.

However our biggest plea is for help from individuals who have an expertise in manipulating Excel using macros, and anyone who may be prepared to produce CDs for us. For further details or to offer support please contact Catherine Sampson at projects@berksfhs.org.uk.

Catherine Sampson
Projects co-ordinator



The view from next door

In his regular column from the Berkshire Record Office, where he is senior archivist,

Mark Stevens

has been reading diaries

The latest edition of the *Berkshire Echo* lists a number of diaries that we have recently acquired. Diarists are variable people, as many of you may know from those kept by members of your own family: some diarists create lists and nothing more, while at the other extreme, some attempt to open a window onto everybody's soul. At their best, diaries are literature in their own right, while at their worst they can be almost wholly useless.

Generally speaking archivists will want to keep only examples of the more factual ones to give some flavour of a type of life. Such choices are reflected in those that have come into our collections. The most moving are four diaries kept by Helen Williams (later Gegg) of East Ilsley, spanning 1842-46. They include references to her courtship with her husband John Gegg, or "dearest Peesley" as she refers to him, and deal with the personal crises of both a stillbirth and a miscarriage in the years after their marriage. Helen died childless in 1850, aged just 28. Touchingly, when her grieving husband eventually remarried over a decade later, he chose to remember Helen by naming his eldest daughter after her.

More mundane affairs are those diaries kept between 1884 and 1891 by Vere Langford

Oliver of Sunningdale – a noted genealogist, despite his dull journals – as well as his wife Celia and sister Ethel. Ethel was lady-in-waiting to the Princess of Monaco; her diary provides a good example of a potentially fascinating life made forgettable by a diarist. But even these are a better read than the long diaries of William Thoyts, gentleman land-owner from Sulhamstead. William kept a diary for over 50 years from the 1850s, and managed to do little more than make a note of his hunting activities. Insight into the animal condition, let alone the human one, there is none.

You can't help feel when confronted by a diary like Thoyts' that his whole endeavour was one great missed opportunity, for a diary provides anyone with the chance to create a document of historical value. It is a very egalitarian form of record, and one of the few ways that anyone can leave their thoughts to influence those who come after them. If you are going to take the time and trouble to write one, then I would suggest that you don't follow Thoyts' lead. Instead, find your own unique voice, and then seek to add something to the canon of history. You never know: if it's good enough, one day it might end up in a place like ours.

Dates for your diary

10.00-17.00 Sun 27 Jan	Bracknell Family History Fair	Bracknell Sport and Leisure Centre, RG12 9SE	< www.familyhistoryfairs.org/dateloc.html >
Fri 22 - Sun 24 Feb	<i>WhoDoYou ThinkYouAre? Live</i>	Olympia, London SW1	< www.whodoyouthinkyouarelive.com >

The new *Historical Atlas* of Berkshire

Peter Durrant

*reviews the second edition of
this landmark local publication,
first published in 1998 by the
Berkshire Record Society*

This new edition is almost half as large again as its predecessor, with 74 articles on Berkshire's history (and pre-history) from the Palaeolithic period to the twenty-first century, each accompanied by specially-drawn maps in full colour, and with numerous illustrations. Most of the original articles have been revised and updated, and many new ones added. The editors, Joan Dils and Margaret Yates, have assembled a formidable band of specialists to create what is likely to become the standard work on Berkshire's history for many years to come. For those wishing to possess an accessible introduction to the county of their ancestors, this book will be indispensable.

The scene is set with articles on Berkshire's geology and topography and on the changing county boundary.

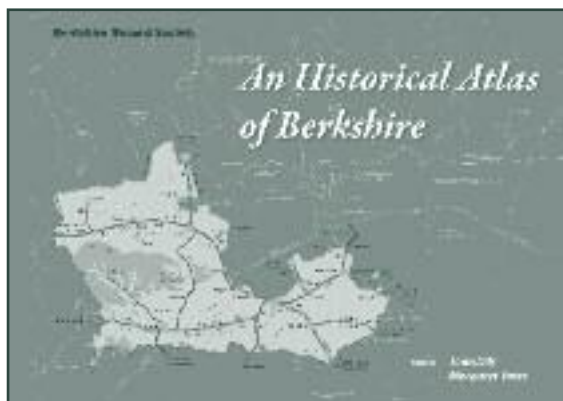
Major upheavals in the county's history are covered by articles on the Civil War, the enclosure movement and the Swing Riots, while essays on bridges and roads, rivers and canals, and the railways, explore the history of features in the landscape that still shape the Berkshire of today. Church and chapel, which featured large in the lives of our ancestors are covered by a range of articles on Anglican churches medieval and modern, church monuments, Protestant nonconformity from the sixteenth to the nineteenth centuries, Roman Catholicism in Berkshire, and the 1851 religious census: the essay on religious houses reveals that there were many more such establishments in Berkshire besides the two great abbeys of Reading and Abingdon. The essay on Anglican church building in the nineteenth century shows what a rich legacy of

buildings was left to us by our Victorian forebears. The stories of rich and poor are both covered, with articles on country houses and workhouses: Berkshire was a popular place for new country houses in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries, with nearly 100 being built between 1750 and 1800, while the poor were herded together into the gaunt union workhouses (the largest accommodating up to 500 paupers) erected after the 1834 Poor Law Amendment Act. The importance of farming in Berkshire's economy is revealed in articles on

landholding and agriculture, while the contribution that agriculture made to business and industry in the county becomes clear in articles on rural crafts and servicing trades, woodland trades and industries, and malting and brewing.

A ground-breaking article on country carriers reveals the complex network of routes established by these vital providers of transport in the nineteenth century. But while Berkshire was predominantly an agricultural county, the history of its towns is not forgotten, with articles on the market towns between 1750 and 1901, the development of Reading from 1800 to 2010, and (new for this edition) on Bracknell New Town. Other aspects of the county's twentieth-century history are covered in articles on Berkshire during the Second World War and Berkshire airfields.

This can be no more than a taster for the wealth of information contained in this welcome new book – well worth buying, for yourself and your friends. Copies are available from the Berkshire FHS Bookshop and from the record office, at £20, plus postage.



Plenty & Son Ltd of Newbury

Ellie Thorne
of the Berkshire Record Office
traces the history of a
well-known family firm

Many local people will know of the name Plenty as the engineers who produced the Plenty Pump in Newbury, but few can be aware how far back this company can be traced. Back in the late eighteenth century a William Plenty, iron-founder, moved from Southampton to Newbury, and so began over 200 years of successful innovation for the family in the town.

From the very beginning we find intrigue. When William moved to Newbury he already had a family in Southampton. He had married Jane Haslock in 1781 and they had at least six children: William, Jane, John, James, Philadelphia and Elizabeth. At some point after Elizabeth's birth in 1794 William Plenty moved to Newbury with at least daughters Jane and Elizabeth (both said to be weak-minded from birth) and son John. There is no indication of what had happened to his wife; she does not appear to have died at this time, and I cannot find any later entry for her death, although William's will of 1824 refers to her as his late wife.

After moving to Newbury William met Mary Ann Shergold, and from 1804 they lived as husband and wife, although they never married. Mary Ann already had a daughter Betsey from a previous relationship, and William became father to her. In about 1808 their first son William was born, followed by James Shergold in 1810, Alfred in 1814, Edward Pellew in 1816 and John Ross in 1819. Sons William and John from his previous marriage were still alive at this time, so may not have been too happy about their father giving their new siblings the same names as them.

At this time William Plenty was producing agricultural equipment and in December 1815 was issued with a patent for improvements to a plough, known as the Berkshire Plough.

One of the most striking things throughout the history of Plenty's has been the company's willingness to diversify and take on new challenges.

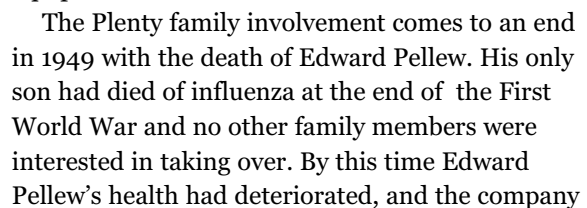
In this spirit of experimentation in the 1810s, whilst still producing ploughs and despite living nowhere near the sea, William Plenty began designing lifeboats. His first boat, *The Experiment*, was launched to much success in 1816, and by 1824, when the Royal National Institution for the Preservation of Lives from Shipwreck (now the RNLI) was formed, 11 of the 14 lifeboats stationed around the country were made by Plenty's. One of his key supporters was Admiral Sir Edward Pellew (later Viscount Exmouth), who became godfather and namesake to William's son Edward Pellew Plenty.

When William died in 1832 the business was left to his two illegitimate sons, James Shergold and Edward Pellew. The firm continued to make lifeboats as well as producing agricultural equipment, and in 1851 the brothers entered a model of a lifeboat, based on a modified version of their father's design, in the Duke of Northumberland's competition for an improved lifeboat. The entry came third, and the models were displayed at the Great Exhibition in 1851. James Shergold died shortly afterwards, and Edward Pellew took sole charge of the company. During his lifetime the company increased massively in size, from employing 12 men in 1851 to 90 in 1881.

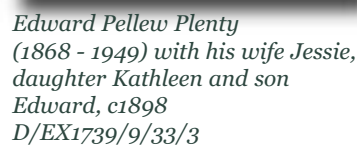
The biggest change came in the 1860s when the company started making marine steam engines. By 1860 they had produced nearly 3,000 engines and boilers for companies all over the world. Edward Pellew retired in 1884 and handed the company over to his son Edward Pellew and partner Captain H G Fane. Fane retired in 1891, and the business became a limited liability company, with Earl Russell becoming chairman and the younger Edward Pellew managing director.

The elder Edward Pellew, a former mayor, died in 1898 and his obituary states that *he may well be regarded as one of the worthies of Newbury from his life-long connection with the*

Following this venture the company started manufacturing their own Plenty's diesel oil engine, and even produced their own monthly magazine entitled *Oil-power: the epoch-maker of industry*. The next big innovation by Plenty's is the one for which they are best known today. In 1935 they started



The archives of Plenty & Son Ltd are held at the Berkshire Record Office under the references D/EX 1739 and D/EX 1771, ranging in date from the 1740s to the 1990s.



Photographing churches

Lionel Carter (6136)

makes a plea for churches to be photographed more carefully

INTRODUCTION

This article arose because someone who knew that we visited Norwich asked us to try to identify a church from the wedding photo of a relative. This so far has proved to be impossible.

The traditional wedding photo usually showed the guests lined up as a group in front of the church doorway. Modern wedding photographs are less traditional and tend to be more creative. However family historians are mainly dealing with photographs from the time when customs were more traditional. Unfortunately although there are many photographs of churches around and online, not that many provide close-ups of the doorway, so identifying the location of old wedding photographs can be difficult.

It would not be so difficult if, whenever a photograph of a church was taken, two other photographs were also taken – one of the entrance door and one of the church name board – to add to a database. The purpose of photographing the church name board is to try to ensure that the name of the church is correctly quoted. For example, if someone said their grandparents were married in the Reading area at St Peter's, would it be at St Peter's, Caversham or at Earley St Peter's? The doors might seem similar from memory, but a photo allows the differences to be identified.

THE PROPOSAL

The proposal is that when photographing churches for family history databases, three photos should be taken: a general view of the church; a close-up of the main door where traditional wedding groups might pose; and the church name board to ensure that the name is accurately recorded.

The name board can often indicate whether

it is Protestant or Catholic. With other denominations the board might indicate more subtle differences such as Free Baptist, Independent Baptist or Strict Baptist. Knowing these differences can aid in identifying the appropriate sources databases to consult.

PHOTO TIPS

A few general points about taking these types of church photos are:

- Bright cloudy days are best, because strong sunlight leads to either the shadows being too dark with no detail or the highlights similarly to being completely white with no detail.
- If you tilt your camera to get all the church in the print, it will look as though the building is falling over. Books on photograph traditionally warn about not tilting the camera to avoid this effect (which can be corrected nowadays with photo-editing software). However, a family history record of a building is not a work of art; its purpose is to record, so do whatever is necessary to record the church.
- When taking the doorway, include the surrounding columns, small windows, gargoyles and any other features that would aid identification.
- When photographing the church name board, be aware of any reflections if it is glass-fronted. It might be better taking it from a slight angle rather than straight on.

TWO CHURCHES, TWO HISTORIES

The pictures accompanying this article illustrate the basic concept applied to the two



*St Peter's, Caversham,
on the left, and
Earley St Peter's
on the right*



Reading churches of St Peter. Although they are from two different periods, it is remarkable how the two doors are architecturally in a similar style. The pictures of the name boards illustrate the slight distinction in names which

would be lost when verbally referring to “St Peter’s”.

St Peter’s at Caversham is by far the older church. There is a detailed account available on the web by Mr W Wing, who gave a talk on

the history of Caversham in 1894. He quotes the date of building as sometime during the reign of Henry I (1100-35). However, due to general deterioration, parts were rebuilt by monks sometime during the perpendicular architectural style (1399 - 1547) so it is a mixture of styles.

At the time of the talk Mr Wing commented on the quaintness of the phraseology and spelling to be found on tombs, some dating from 1652, and he claimed the parish registers, which date from 1597, are fairly well kept, although many of the entries could only be deciphered by an expert, owing to the peculiarity of the writing.

Earley St Peter's by comparison is a much later church, dating from 1843. The grave registers prior to 1922 have been lost, but there are a number of records and transcripts available. Since 1936 most burials have been at May's Lane Burial Ground. Burials between 1854 and 1916 are included in the Berkshire FHS Berkshire Burials CD. The Berkshire Family History Society holds a copy of transcriptions of registers by Lesley Hanna for

baptisms, marriages and burials in their Research Centre library. Also Lesley Hanna with Chad Hanna produced a booklet *The story of Earley St Peter's*.

CONCLUSION

It would be easy for a distant memory of a St Peter's in Reading to lead to searching the wrong records. Anything to identify the correct church is to be welcomed. Many traditional group photos are taken in front of the church door, so identifying the church from the door in the photo can be an important initial step. A photo of the name board can ensure the name is not corrupted as a result of writing it down. (No need to talk of the problem of transcription errors to family historians!)

It is recommended therefore that if you are taking the trouble to visit and photograph a church, in addition to the general shots you should include one of the main door and one of the name board. These could be invaluable for later identification purposes.

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

Articles may be of any length up to 1,200 words, but definitely no more. Shorter articles are equally welcome; amusing extracts from the registers and brief anecdotes are important to the overall balance of the magazine.

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

Articles are best emailed to the editor as Word or RTF attachments. Please send pictures as separate files (JPEG); images pasted into Word files cannot be extracted without degradation.

No fees are paid to any contributors, alas, but all articles published are greatly appreciated by thousands of readers.

Readers should be aware that any submissions to the editor will be considered to be offered for publication in the magazine and also on the society's website, unless the opposite is made clear. Please also advise if the article is being or has been submitted elsewhere.

Grandma flew Spitfires

Judith Mitchell (2031)
*reviews Maidenhead's tribute to
the Air Transport Auxiliary*

Grandma flew Spitfires is the title of the permanent exhibition devoted to the history of the Air Transport Auxiliary (ATA) at Maidenhead Heritage Centre. ATA grandmas flew not only Spitfires but virtually every other military aeroplane during the Second World War. Grandads and great-grandads might well have flown or worked for the ATA too. Number 1 Ferry Pool, ATA, was located in White Waltham, near Maidenhead, so a good number of Berkshire people worked there in various capacities.

On 1 May 1940 the ATA was set up to ferry aircraft from the various factories to the RAF stations and other jobs. Before the war the logistics of moving aircraft had not been considered; it was assumed the task would continue to be carried out by RAF pilots. However, it soon became plain that all fit RAF pilots were required for combat duties. Pilots would have to be recruited from among civilians, and the most obvious source was qualified male pilots who were too old or unfit to join the RAF and many were recruited; hence the ATA nickname of Ancient and Tattered Airmen.

Another group of qualified pilots was also available and very keen to help – but they were women. There was considerable resistance to women being employed by ATA: it was a man's world then. Eventually commonsense prevailed, and in January 1940 Miss Pauline Gower, a very experienced aviator, was given the task of recruiting qualified women pilots, and eight were initially allowed to ferry training aircraft. This first group of women pilots had considerable pre-war flying experience: most had taken part in flying displays and taking people up on joy rides at



air shows. The ATA eventually set up its own training programme to make sure that recruits were up to standard. Gradually the skills of the women were recognised by the Air Ministry, and they were permitted to fly fighter and two-engine aircraft, and 11 of them qualified to fly four-engine bombers. At first most women pilots came from well-off families who could afford flying lessons before the war. Later, women from the WRAF also trained to become ATA pilots. In May 1943 ATA women pilots were the first women to receive pay equal to that of their male colleagues. The total number of women pilots employed was 166, plus four women flight engineers.

ATA aircrew were very versatile, swapping from one aircraft to another, relying on their copy of Ferry Pilots Notes and a set of well-used maps. Radios or armaments were not fitted at the factory: these were provided on arrival at the RAF base. Flying crews were usually ferried to the various factories in ATA's Ansons. Aircrew could spend days grounded by bad weather at some remote RAF station, or find themselves returning to base on long, disrupted train journeys in dimly lit, chilly carriages.

As news got around that there were vacancies in ATA, pilots both male and female travelled to join up from Commonwealth countries, the USA and other parts of the world as far away as Argentina. Before the USA joined the war, a pilot in search of adventure could join ATA without actually signing up for the armed forces of a foreign country. ATA personnel were civilians, but they wore uniforms and, although subject to rules and regulations, were able to resign if they wished.

The ATA employed 1,152 male pilots, 151 flight engineers and 19 radio operators. Each ferry pool, of which there were 14 by 1944, employed ground staff, and the total number of employed was 2,786. Some young members of the Air Training Corps (ATC) were allowed to volunteer for suitable jobs around the airfield and, in exchange for cleaning aeroplanes and other tedious jobs, occasionally had the privilege of taxiing aircraft or being taken up for a flight: one unfortunate lad lost his life while on flying duty.

The ATA had its own aircraft: training aircraft and Ansons which were used to ferry aircrew to the factories and collect them from RAF stations.



Ferrying aircraft was not without danger. Sixteen women and 129 men lost their lives while serving with the ATA. Many pilots were lost to bad weather conditions, aircraft failure, enemy action or mistakes. Navigation instruction and aids were not as good as they might have been. The most famous fatality was Amy Johnson, who disappeared while over the Thames estuary in January 1941. Pilots were often required to fly damaged aircraft back to the factories for repair, and sometimes these aeroplanes were hardly airworthy.

As the war drew to a close the ATA's workload declined, and many employees looked for work elsewhere, quite a number joining BOAC

and BEA and other civil airlines. One enterprising ex-ATA flight engineer acquired an aeroplane and contracted to fly in supplies on the Berlin Airlift. His career flourished from then on; his name was Freddie Laker.

Unfortunately jobs for women pilots were few, and only a select number of dedicated aviators continued as commercial pilots. Many reverted to their pre-war careers or married and had families. Gradually the Ferry Pools closed down, and the airfields were put to other uses. White Waltham became home to the West London Aero Club.

Where do you find out more? There are now quite a few books about the ATA. *Brief glory* by E C Cheesman was written just after the ATA was disbanded. Lettice Curtis, who qualified to fly bombers, wrote *The forgotten pilots*, which is a very carefully researched history. Diana Barnato Walker, a high-society lady, wrote an interesting autobiography *Spreading my wings*, which mostly covers her time with the ATA. Another book is *Spitfire women* by Giles Whittell. A DVD called *Spitfire sisters* has won an award. Most of these publications can be ordered online from the Maidenhead Heritage Centre at <www.atamuseum.org>. Service records for ATA staff are kept at the RAF Museum in Hendon, but due to confidentiality will only be shown to relatives who can provide suitable evidence of their relationship. In America Stanford University has a collection of ATA items.

After lengthy fundraising and planning, Maidenhead Heritage Centre is now able to house and display its considerable collection of ATA documents: log books, diaries, photograph albums, uniforms and memorabilia of all sorts. The collection is attractively displayed in the ATA room. The Centre is open between 10am and 4pm Tuesday to Saturday. The cost of admission to the ATA collection is £2.50 for a ticket, which lasts a year. However, if you fancy trying to recapture what it was like to fly a Spitfire, try a session on the Spitfire simulator at the centre. It is great fun, and a most unusual museum experience!

B I R T H

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/birthbriefs>, 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

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Did your great-granny have the right to vote?

Brian Dray (7237)
*looks at early electoral registers,
and finds that women were
sometimes included*

Who was the first woman to vote in a British general election? It was Lily Maxwell in Manchester in 1867.

Hang on a minute! Didn't women only get equal voting rights with men in 1928?

You would be right of course, but changes in British electoral law over the years mean that many of our ancestors may have been recorded in electoral registers during the nineteenth century, and these can include women.

From the late eighteenth century until 1832, payment of the Land Tax was the qualification for voting in parliamentary elections. (Incidentally, this is why there is often such a good series of land tax records in county record offices (CROs) from the early nineteenth century, as the Clerk of the Peace used Land Tax records to compile lists of eligible voters.) The Reform Act of 1832 referred specifically to male persons, and there was a strong tradition that women could not vote, but there was no law that actually forbade it. Therefore, if a woman's name, like Lily Maxwell's (a shopkeeper who met the property owning qualification), did slip on to an electoral register, she was entitled to vote.

Outrage at the 1867 vote cast by Maxwell led to the law being changed to prohibit women from voting. Despite this prohibition, female ancestors could still appear on the electoral register before the twentieth century. In 1869, an Act was passed which gave women voting rights in local municipal elections if they were ratepayers of the borough and aged over 21 years. A woman's name may therefore have appeared in separate local electoral registers from 1870 if she owned or occupied a shop or business, or owned her own home. This was likely to apply only to widows and spinsters until 1882, when the Married Women's Property Act allowed a married woman to own property in her own right. (Previously, any property owned by a woman became her husband's on marriage.)

The Local Government Act of 1894 liberalised voting rights in local elections further. The Act split off the civil functions of local government at the parish level. Parish councils were also introduced, with all ratepayers in the parish having a single vote. Women were allowed to vote in these local elections, as well as stand for election themselves as Poor Law Guardians, and they were allowed to act on school boards. County councils had already been established in 1889, with the right to vote in those elections being the same as the parliamentary qualification.

Of course, the restriction on women voting in parliamentary elections remained in place until it was fully lifted in 1928. However, for those tracing their male ancestors, changes in electoral law during the course of the nineteenth century also means that many more of our male ancestors are also likely to be found in surviving electoral registers. Elections to the House of Commons returned MPs for individual boroughs (Abingdon, New Windsor, Reading and Wallingford in Berkshire) and on a separate county basis, normally two per county.

In 1832, the male electorate was about one million. The Reform Act of 1832 gave the vote in the boroughs to all male householders (including tenants) of land worth at least £10 per year. In the county constituencies, the vote was given to owners of property worth at least £10. In 1835, the Municipal Corporations Act extended the franchise in local elections to men who paid the poor rate. Then, in 1867, the electorate reached about 2.5 million men, with the franchise extended in the counties to all owners of property worth £5 or more and occupiers and tenants who paid rent of £50 or more. In the boroughs, all owners of dwelling houses and most occupiers and lodgers, who paid rent of £10 or more were enfranchised. In 1884, freeholders of inherited land (or land acquired by marriage) worth 40 shillings; free-



Many women refused to take part in the 1911 census in protest against the exclusion of most women from the franchise. Some defaced the census form; others absented themselves from home on census night. The number involved has been estimated as several thousand.

holders of any land worth £5; and certain lessees, occupiers and lodgers, were enfranchised. The borough qualification, which had so extended the franchise in 1867, now applied also to the counties, meaning that the 1884 Act created a further three million voters, with many in rural areas. The next change to the parliamentary voting qualification was in 1918, when it was extended to all men over 21 years normally resident in the constituency, and women over the age of 30 who were householders, or the wives of householders. In 1928, all women over 21 years were enfranchised. The Registration of the People Act 1969 reduced further the voting age to 18 with effect from 1971.

How useful are electoral registers to genealogical research? Until 1918, electoral registers listed the names of electors, their address and the nature of their qualification to vote in the constituency. Many nineteenth century registers contained separate lists for property owners and occupiers. For much of the nineteenth century, the registers list electors in alphabetical order, but as the franchise was extended, later registers are compiled by ward or street, a format that was standardised in 1918. Handwritten annotations can sometimes be found in early registers about individuals giving voting intention (before the secret ballot was introduced in 1872), or recording deaths, removal, or an election agent's observations. You should also bear in mind that, in addition to women, at certain times aliens (unless naturalised), peers, lunatics, election agents, policemen (until 1887), postmasters (until 1918), prisoners, and conscientious objectors (1918-23) were also excluded from voting. You should also remember that the date

the register was compiled was well before it came into force and was published. Your ancestor could have moved or died in the intervening period; they might have been late paying their rates in order to qualify; or they could have moved into a new area and have missed the qualifying date to register.

Should you find an ancestor in an electoral register it should be possible to find him (or her) in a series of subsequent registers. An ancestor who disappears from a series of registers might be a clue as to when a death occurred, or indicate a date where the ancestor moved elsewhere. They can of course confirm residence in a locality in between the decennial censuses, and provide you with an indication of your ancestor's social and economic status. They are particularly useful for tracing families after the 1911 census. You should note however that electoral registers were not compiled in 1916 and 1917, nor between 1940 and 1944.

Most surviving registers are now held in CROs, the British Library, and local libraries. For those researching Berkshire ancestors, the Berkshire Record Office holds electoral registers for Berkshire constituencies from 1839 to the present day.

Therefore, do not discount electoral registers as a source for your family history because you thought your ancestors did not own property – they may have qualified as a tenant or lodger. Similarly, your great-granny may be one of those women who owned property, and thus started appearing in local registers after 1869. As the franchise widened during the nineteenth century many ancestors will have been included in parliamentary or local government registers.

Some tombs at Combe

Diana Whistler (5587)

has been researching the Whistler family of Combe from the seventeenth century. Her own branch of the family came from around Basingstoke, and her great-grandparents emigrated to Vancouver in 1903.

In 1441 Henry VI granted the manor of Combe to King's College Cambridge, who retained ownership until February 1894, when it was sold to Alfred Clayton Cole, Governor of the Bank of England from 1911 to 1913. Alfred Clayton Cole was the son of William Henry Cole, who owned the nearby manor of West Woodhay in Berkshire, close to the border with Hampshire. In 1895 the county border was changed so that Combe was switched from Hampshire to Berkshire. A note about Combe on the website of the Berkshire Family History Society states: *It is said that the Cole family arranged for its transfer into Berkshire for convenience, because that was the county of their other landholdings.*

Documents at the King's College Archive Centre reveal that in the early 1600s Combe manor was leased to Robert Boswell. In the late seventeenth century the leaseholder of the manor was Gabriel Whistler, appointed sheriff of Hampshire by Charles II in November 1681. Born in the nearby Hampshire village of Facombe in about 1630, Gabriel was one of seven sons and three daughters of Hugh Whistler, the Facombe parish rector. There is some evidence that Hugh Whistler was the ancestor of the famous artist James McNeill Whistler; but records to confirm this are elusive.

Gabriel Whistler built two castles in Londonderry, at Magherafelt and Salterstown, on the Irish estates granted to the Salters' Company of London. A window with the Whistler coat of arms was installed in St Swithun's Church, Magherafelt. Gabriel was a donor to King's College Chapel, Cambridge and, in recognition, his arms were included in a row of shields mounted in the carved oak-work of the choir. This panelling was removed

and placed in storage during renovations in the 1960s.

At a wedding in Combe in 1658 Gabriel married his cousin Ann, the only surviving child of Ralph Whistler and his wife Elizabeth. Ralph Whistler, an older brother of Gabriel's father Hugh, was a cavalry officer on the side of Parliament in the first major battle of the Civil War, fought at Edgehill, near Banbury, in 1642.

Gabriel Whistler was buried at St Swithun's Church, Combe, on 14 August 1710. He was predeceased by his wife; they had no children. A stone tomb with a side panel inscribed to Gabriel Whistler is in the churchyard. His wife Ann, who died in 1681, was commemorated with a black marble gravestone in the chancel floor of the church at Combe.

Another tomb in the Combe churchyard is dedicated to Gabriel's mother-in-law Elizabeth Whistler, buried on a winter's day, 25 January 1700/1.

After 1710 a lease for the Combe manor farm was granted to an Edward Basse. In September 1714 the lease was transferred to Gabriel Whistler's nephew, John Rawlinson, who was the son of Gabriel's sister Eleanor and her first husband John Rawlinson, a haberdasher of London. The chancel floor of the church at Combe has memorial stones inscribed to John Rawlinson, who died in 1680, and his son John, who died in 1724. Eleanor remarried the London merchant Peter Joye at St Swithun's Church, Combe, on 5 October 1685.

Their longevity is notable: Gabriel Whistler lived to 80; his sister Eleanor, buried at Combe in January 1728/9, lived into her eighties, as did their brother Henry Whistler, a London merchant known to Samuel Pepys. A surmise

is that a long life in this past era may reflect an affluent lifestyle of comfortably furnished homes, fine clothes, and good food supplied by the manor farm.

On 23 February 1724/5 John Rawlinson, the grandson of Hugh Whistler of Faccombe, was buried at Combe. His will mentioned no children; he named an heir as his kinsman John Rawlinson, eldest son of Christopher Rawlinson deceased, but formerly of Ingram Grange in North Yorkshire. The Combe churchyard has a tomb enclosed by iron railings with side panels inscribed to Christopher Rawlinson who died in 1775, John Rawlinson who died in 1798, and Christopher Rawlinson who died in 1811.

The *Oxford dictionary of national biography* has an entry for Sir Christopher Rawlinson, a judge in India, who was born at Combe on 10 July 1806. His youngest son, John Frederick Peel Rawlinson, who played football for England in 1882 and was MP for Cambridge University from 1906 until his death in 1926, left a bequest for the upkeep of the Rawlinson family graves and memorials at

St Swithun's Church, Combe, as well as for general repairs and maintenance of the church and churchyard.

There have been reports that the Combe manor house is haunted. Local people have told stories about seeing ladies and gentlemen dressed in the style of the seventeenth century, a reminder of the time when the Whistler family had a presence in the community.

Sources

Diana Whistler *Whistler family sketches: An English family in the seventeenth century*, privately published, donated by the author to the library of the Berkshire Family History Society

"Combe", Hampshire *Victoria County History* vol 4, pages 310-1

Wendy Boase *The folklore of Hampshire and the Isle of Wight* 1976 (includes stories about the haunted manor house)

<<http://www.imagesofengland.org.uk>>, online archive of English Heritage includes photographs of the Whistler and Rawlinson tombs in the Combe churchyard.

King's College Cambridge archives (estate records for Combe)

Hampshire Record Office (documents for the J F P Rawlinson bequest)



The churchyard of St Swithun, Combe, with Gabriel Whistler's stone tomb near the centre. Photo courtesy of Alan Dunlop-Walters, November 2007

Your pictures, your stories, your queries

keep sending them in to
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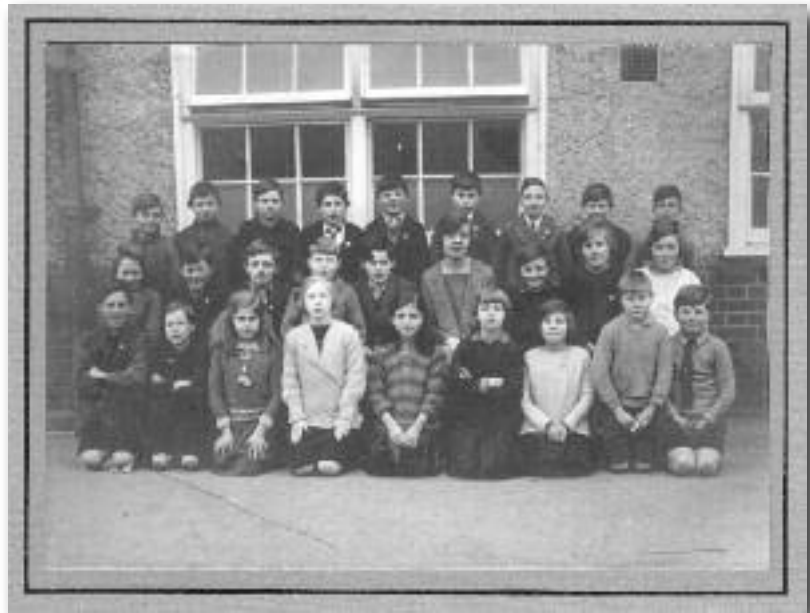
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Don Barlow (4016) has sent in these pictures, found amongst his mother's belongings. As Eleanor Vera Parrott, she taught at Hermitage Council School from about 1922 until she married in Hungerford in 1930, and became Eleanor Barlow. Previously she had been at Enborne School as a pupil and a pupil teacher.

If anyone can add any information to these scenes please contact Don Barlow on <donbarlow@tiscali.co.uk>.

*Eleanor Parrott with
Class II of Hermitage
Council School,
6 March 1930*



*B Patrol of West Woodhay Troop, Boy Scouts,
taken 24 May 1918. Don Barlow's uncle William
Parrott is in there somewhere. The scoutmaster is
named on the back of the print as L P Williams.*



These (mostly) ladies enjoying an outdoor tea party may have been a Mothers' Union group, or perhaps the WI. Don Barlow thinks they may have been in Hungerford or East Woodhay. The photographer was A Parsons of Hungerford.



All these ladies also appear in the tea party picture, presumably photographed on the same occasion, because they are in the same clothes. Perhaps they were the organising committee? Eleanor Frances Parrott (née Boud), Don Barlow's maternal grandmother, stands at the right-hand end of the back row in this group.



British Legion members in a picture probably taken in Hungerford between the wars. Charles Parrott, Don Barlow's maternal grandfather, is at the left-hand end of the front row. Before the First World War Charles had been chauffeur to the Butler and Wills families near Windlesham, Surrey, and after the First World War is thought to have lived only in East Woodhay and Hungerford, until he moved with his wife to Dunstable in 1940.

Elborough/Elbury

Is my John Elborough, labourer, who died in Egham, Surrey, in 1831, the son of John Elbury and Martha Belcher born 1748 in Kintbury? Also, is he the beneficiary of the will of William Elbury (possible brother) born Kintbury 1746, and died there in 1813? John Elborough's will of 1831 mentions funds in the Bank of England. He married Mary Brown in 1769 in Egham, and they had 12 children.

June White, 5 Oakley Gardens, Banstead, Surrey SM7 2DF



from Barbara Campbell (6931)
 <BARBANDKEITH10@aol.com>

The photograph is of my great-grandparents, George Walter Simpson and Mary Ann Simpson (née Povey). I believe that it was taken by my grandfather, as he was a process photographer during his teens and twenties. I'd be grateful if any readers could date the photograph for me.

George was a painter and decorator and, according to the 1861 census, was born with one hand. I have a copy of a letter from one of their granddaughters, who describes George as "a stern Victorian character" and Mary Ann as "a long-suffering gentle soul".

George and Mary Ann married on 29 June 1880 at St Paul's Church, Hounslow Heath. Mary Ann's residence at the time of the marriage was St Paul's vicarage, so maybe she was a servant there.

Mary Ann was born on 27 April 1859 in Winterbourne, the illegitimate daughter of Eliza Jane Povey. It would appear that she was raised by her grandmother Sarah Canning (née Povey). Sarah had given birth to Eliza Jane, who was also illegitimate, on 1 January 1840 in the Wantage workhouse. I believe that workhouses were also used as lying-in places for births for poor people. I know that at this time Sarah was a servant, and that Eliza was with

her grandparents, so they could not have lived in the workhouse. Sarah later married David Canning, an agricultural labourer, born in East Ilsley. Mary Ann appears on the 1861 census as Mary Ann Canning, granddaughter, with her grandmother in Winterbourne. On the 1871 census she is still living with Sarah in Compton, but the family name is now shown as Cannon.

The family moved to Middlesex sometime between 1876 and 1881. Mary Ann met and married George, and her mother Sarah lived with her family in Heston. In the 1891 census Sarah gave her employment as annuitant. I wonder how someone of her background ended up with an annuity.

Whilst I've been able to trace the lives of Mary Ann and her grandmother Sarah, I've not been able to find out what happened to her mother Eliza Jane. I can find no mention of her on a census after the birth of Mary Ann, nor can I find a marriage or a death. I do know that on 22 March 1866 she gave birth to a son, William Povey, in Wantage workhouse, with no mention of a father. William too was bought up by his grandmother, Sarah. I would dearly love to find out something more about her. I have only accessed Ancestry records and the IGI, so I'd be grateful if anyone has any ideas, or suggestions as to where else I might do some research.

George and Mary Ann went on to have five sons, George (my grandfather), William, who in 1938 became the Sheriff of Canterbury, Frank, Edward, who died aged three in 1889, and Thomas who was killed in the First World War.

The twist in the tale is that when Mary Ann registered the births of her children she seemed to pick and choose her maiden name. For George she registered her maiden name as Canning, for William, Frank and Edward she said it was Povey, and for Thomas she said it was Cannon. I wonder why she chose to do this.

I am researching elementary education in Berkshire during the period 1850 to 1920 for my doctorate, and I am currently looking at the children's views on school. What did they like and dislike? Was it enjoyable or would they rather have been working? What did they think of their teachers? Did any of your relatives attend an elementary school in Berkshire during the period? If so, do you have any notes/diaries made by them or on their behalf at a later period? Any assistance gratefully received.

Sue Clifford, 0118 9427827, <sue.clifford@hotmail.co.uk>

Gleanings

from exchange magazines

compiled by Tony Wright <gleanings@berksfhs.org.uk>

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ARCHIVES

Heritage corner

An extensive look at the new archives and history centre in Maidstone

Journal Kent FHS (20), vol 13, September 2012, p706-712

Norfolk records and the FamilySearch website, Part 2

MI's, nonconformist and Poor Law records, register of electors and advanced search facility

Norfolk Ancestor Norfolk FHS (35), vol 9, June 2012, p118-120

Oxfordshire History Centre: what's in it for me?

An extensive article on the Oxfordshire History Centre and what you can find there

Oxfordshire Family Historian Oxfordshire FHS (39), vol 26, August 2012, p101-109

Family history resources at the British Postal Museum and Archive

What records you can find about ancestors who were postmen or worked for the Post Office

Oxfordshire Family Historian Oxfordshire FHS (39), vol 26, August 2012, p116-120

Freemasonry and family history

The library and museum at Freemasons Hall, Central London

West Middlesex FHS (34), vol 30, September 2012, p28-29

GENERAL INTEREST

Parchment and vellum through the ages

Parchment and vellum: what's the difference?

Both are hides. Which side to write on?

Origins Buckinghamshire FHS (4), September 2012, p149-150

2011 journal index

Index of personal names, place names and subjects appearing in the journal in 2011

Journal Northumberland & Durham FHS (37), vol 37, Autumn 2012, insert

An unlawful marriage?

"He shall prick that annual blister, marriage with deceased wife's sister." Number 17 on the table of kindred and affinity. Since 1907 Marriage Acts have reduced the forbidden list.

Shropshire FHS (41), vol 33, September 2012, p127-129

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

The last weekend of peace and the first

weekend of war – 2 and 3 September 1939

Summary of a talk given by Geoff Scargill. The black-out, evacuation (Operation Pied Piper), the ban on public gatherings, and Chamberlain's speeches are all topics covered in this article.

Bedfordshire FHS (1), vol 18, June 2012, p14-18

King Cholera in Bristol 1832

Some background to the event, some of the "cures", selected extracts from parish registers.

Bristol & Avon FHS (3), September 2012, p67-71

Body-snatching in Great Yarmouth

The resurrectionist Thomas Vaughan was paid 10 to 12 guineas per body by the president of the Royal College of Surgeons. Includes names of some of the "snatched".

Norfolk Ancestor Norfolk FHS (35), vol 9, June 2012, p103-105

The historical role of the High Sheriff

The role of High Sheriff began over 1100 years ago. Covers what the High Sheriff did, and gives some specific examples up to around the 1550s.

Shropshire FHS (41), vol 33, September 2012, p140-143

NAME LISTS

Lunatics in licensed houses

Includes admission lists to the licensed house of Mr Rich Browne of Great Foster House, Egham, Surrey, licensed under the Madhouse Act of 1774.

Root and Branch West Surrey FHS (46), vol 39, September 2012, p83-85

PARISH PROFILES

Godmanchester: a history

The Huntsman Huntingdon FHS (19), July 2012, p34-35

Greens Norton: parish profile

Footprints Northamptonshire FHS (36), vol 35, August 2012, p40-41

Amble: a Victorian boom town

Journal Northumberland & Durham FHS (37), vol 37, Autumn 2012, p4-9

Shipton under Wyche wood parish

Oxfordshire Family Historian Oxfordshire FHS (39), vol 26, August 2012, p97-100

Bushy Park

West Middlesex FHS (34), vol 30, September 2012, p14-19

PERSONAL ACCOUNTS

Houlsyke in the 1950s and 60s

Memories of the tiny village of Houlsyke in the Eskdale valley between Danby and Leholm. Being part of a National Trust area, it is required to retain its original character.
Journal Cleveland FHS (8), vol 11, July 2012, p40-43

One man's war

Extracts from the author's husband's papers found after his death in 1995. An account of his war service from call-up to demob. Involved in the relief of Tobruk and the invasion of Sicily.
Essex Family Historian Essex Society for FH (14), September 2012, p5-9

More cinema memories

The author's grandfather bought the Tivoli picture house in the 1930s and subsequently a number of others.

The Flowing Stream Sheffield and District FHS (53), vol 33, Summer 2012, p62-64

RECORDS

The St Albans pub database

Database of over 10,000 entries from many sources, tracing the history of most of the pubs from 1750 to 1914.

Hertfordshire People Hertfordshire FHS (18), June 2012, p33-35

More abstracts of Surrey wills in the PCC: Byfleet 1809-57

Extracts from a selection of wills

Root and Branch West Surrey FHS (46), vol 39, September 2012, p75-79

RESEARCH

Research before parish registers

Summary of a talk given by Ian Waller. Useful if you have managed to trace your family back to the 1500s.

Origins Buckinghamshire FHS (4), September 2012, p141-144

Pre-1858 probate records

Before 1858 probate was dealt with by ecclesiastical courts – over 300 of them, so finding a will can be difficult. Explains what you may find in a will.

Journal Kent FHS (20), vol 13, September 2012, p725-729

Getting the most from the civil registration indexes – free

How to use the FreeBMD website. Also covers the Marriage Locator project run by the SoG and GOONS, the object being to enable you to determine a church from a GRO Reference.
Nottinghamshire FHS (38), vol 13, July 2012, p24-26

Bookends

Compiled by Ivan Dickason, Tony Roberts and Mary Smith

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LISTINGS

Newbury Wesleyan Methodist Circuit, baptisms 1796 - 1852

Eileen and John Bartlett and Angela Hiller
(Eureka, 2012)

A5, softback, 40pp

Shop £3.00, UK £3.92, airmail £5.90

Lists the baptisms within the Newbury Wesleyan Methodist Circuit, formed in 1796, showing places of worship at Boxford, Brightwalton, Chaddleworth, Chieveley, East Ilsley, Halfway, Hampstead Norris, Inkpen, Kintbury, Leckhampstead, Newbury, Shefford, Stockcross, Thatcham, Winterbourne and World's End, all in Berkshire, and also Ashford Hill, Baughurst, East Woodhay, Faccombe and Kingsclere in Hampshire. In some but not all, date of birth, place of baptism and occupation of the child's father is given. Section RG4/2691 is a list of baptisms in water – especially useful to those researching ancestors, as extra information on the mother's maiden name and that of her parents is included. Dates for this section are April 1823 to 1837. Fully indexed.

Mary Smith

Berkshire Monumental Inscriptions Collection, Volume 1

(Berkshire FHS, CD, 2012)

Shop £ 7.50, UK £9.00, airmail £11.80

Lists names of almost 2,800 people (and around 1,000 family names), and contains transcripts of inscriptions on monuments and memorials at eight sites: St Mary's, Aldworth; St Clement's, Ashampstead; St Bartholomew's, Lower Basildon; Midgham Park Burial

Ground; St Laurence's, Reading; St Nicholas', Remenham; St Mary Magdalene's, Shippon; and St Peter's, Woolhampton. Although much of this data has been previously published on fiche, it is now reissued, with some updated information, on a CD for use with Adobe Reader software.

Despite variations in format between the sites (due to the original compilation styles of the data) all contain the same basic information: churchyard, church and burial ground plans, a brief history of the site, indexes of names and memorial locations, and of course transcripts of the monumental inscriptions. In addition Midgham Park Burial Ground and St Mary Magdalene's, Shippon, have several colour photographs of monuments. Also the sections on St Laurence, Reading, and St Bartholomew, Lower Basildon, include transcripts of their burial registers, and notes on the occupations described on the memorials, which provide useful additional information to family researchers (especially at St Laurence's, where many memorials have been since removed). The St Bartholomew, Lower Basildon, record includes a list of the place names mentioned on memorials.

Among the notables appearing in these records are the agriculturalist Jethro Tull (Lower Basildon) and the poet Laurence Binyon (Aldworth), whose phrases from *For the fallen* "They shall not grow old... We will remember them" are apposite to this important first volume reissue and update of the Society's monumental inscriptions records.

Tony Roberts

Snare's Post Office Directory of Reading 1842-43

(Berkshire FHS CD, 2002)

Shop £7.50, UK £9.00, airmail £11.80

Contains over 2,000 addresses and covers everyone from accountants to woollen drapers. There is an interesting essay on Reading and its surroundings, and an 1840 map of the town. An index and an expandable street key in alphabetical order make the addresses easy to find.

A stroll along Broad Street shows a shopping experience very different to that of today: there were many more varied shops, trades and inns. The directory lists residents, trades people such as carriers, councillors and policemen, as well as the expected shopkeepers and craftsmen. Schools and friendly societies are also included along with churches and their leaders. One page displays the itinerary of the opening of the Royal Berkshire Hospital on 27 May 1839, and lists the dignitaries attending, as well as the names of key medical staff.

Mary Smith

PRACTICAL FAMILY HISTORY

Military photographs and how to date them

Neil Storey (Countryside Books, 2009)

23cm x 16cm, flexiback, 192pp

Shop £8.50, UK £12.21, airmail £20.53

Lavishly illustrated with over 200 photographs of individuals and groups in uniform over the years 1865 to 1945, this book is an excellent general guide to the changing styles of uniforms and their accoutrements during the period. The book is divided into five principal sections: Victorian, Edwardian, First and Second World Wars, and the inter-war years. Each section starts with a summary of the main military events and the drivers for changes in military dress of the time. The author takes the reader through each

photograph, picking out and clearly explaining the tell-tale dating signs evident in each. Here the reader realises just how many clues for dating military photographs there are: not just the badges, general style and theatres of activity variations, but details such as cuff shapes, insignia locations, caps, braiding, collars and epaulette styles, button and pocket types, boots, equipment, and much more.

Two appendices frame the period covered. One lists all the 99 infantry regiments of line in 1865; the other the Home Guard county designations of the Second World War.

Most of the photographs in the book are of regular, reserve, territorial and auxiliary army subjects. This is not authorial bias, but merely underlines the greater degree of standardisation encountered in the Royal Navy and the RAF compared to the army, where every regiment and corps displayed its own separate identity.

Neil Storey is a professional military and social historian with over 30 books, many lectures and contributions to family history magazines to his credit. His expertise shines through the explanations attached to each photograph. Yet he manages to maintain his focus on providing a valuable general guide to dating military photographs, leaving individual researchers to look further into the minutiae of their own particular research topics. To help them the author provides a short bibliography and list of internet resources.

Tony Roberts

DNA and social networking

Debbie Kennett (History Press, 2011)

26cm x 18cm, hardback

Shop £14.99, UK £18.70, airmail £27.02

The new millennium has brought many changes in family history research methodology. First, the internet, where for example censuses from 1841 to 1911 are available. Then, DNA testing for the purposes of family history burst upon the world. Thirdly, the rise of social

networking has been equally explosive. Debbie Kennett's new book, subtitled *A guide to genealogy in the 21st century*, sets out the background to these developments, and explores in some detail how family history research has been affected. Part I deals with DNA, and Part II explores developments in social networking.

Chapter 1 explores the basic principles behind DNA testing. Different types of tests are explained, and their uses and limitations are described. It is explained that DNA testing is not a magic solution, but simply a tool that can aid research. The author gives advice on identifying relatives for whom testing is likely to yield meaningful results. A brief introduction to the test companies is given, along with the process of taking a DNA test.

The most popular DNA test, taken by males, can determine father-to-son relationships. In chapter 2 the concept of markers is introduced; these enable further analyses. Normally testing is linked closely to surname projects, and can be used to prove or disprove hypotheses of family relationships. The author explains that illegitimacy and non-paternal events, such as aliases, change of surname, adoption and, of course, faulty research can upset DNA results.

Also in chapter 2 is an extensive description of organising DNA projects. They may be surname or location based. This is followed by the method by which results are analysed, and some of the conclusions that may be drawn from them are explained.

Some DNA test providers also have DNA databases that could also lead to matches of DNA results.

In chapter 3 there is a discussion of haplogroups, whereby it is possible to identify whereabouts in the world your DNA originated.

Chapter 4 introduces DNA tests that can be taken by females. Such tests are more expensive than those for males, and they are a less precise tool for confirming or disproving relationships. The author explains in some

detail the procedure for analysing the results of these tests, which also provide haplogroups. These can lead to the identity of one of the *Seven daughters of Eve* and their migration routes. Again, some DNA testing houses have DNA databases that may lead to further matches. The chapter ends with an example of some historical mysteries for which maternal DNA testing has provided solutions.

The DNA tests previously described are concerned with one's direct ancestry. For a male, DNA tests will help with two of your 32 great-great-great-grandparents; for a female, tests may only help with one of these. In chapter 5 the author describes a new type of test: the autosomal DNA test. The results of this will assist the family historian to find genetic cousins in the ancestral line. The ins and outs of such tests, and how the two providers of these tests can analyse and make available the results are explained. However, it seems that these yield probabilities rather than conclusive results. Much of the subsequent analysis depends on intensive computing resources.

How to set up and run a DNA project is the subject of chapter 6. Generally these projects will be surname based. Obviously a prerequisite of initiating a project is that the manager has already undertaken extensive family history research. How to choose possible subjects for testing is described, as is choosing a testing company (including consideration of cost), the range of tests, project management tools, size of provider's database, and more.

The introduction to Part II is a brief résumé of the origins of the internet and the rise of social networking. Of course, family historians have always practised networking. In chapter 7, the author discusses some of the methods traditionally adopted. Family history societies and their journals have for some 30 years been the focus of much of this networking. Surname listings first appeared in 1981 in book form, and subsequently there have been numerous surname listings available on websites. A spin-

off of such listings has been message boards and forums, enabling researchers to post their genealogical interests and a number of them are described. Mailing lists are another of these traditional networking tools such as the Discussion List run by Berkshire Family History Society.

Extensions of these networking tools are the subject of chapter 8. Several of the better-known genealogical societies' network websites are mentioned, and their principal features outlined: Genes Reunited; My Heritage; Genealogy Wise and Lost Cousins. These and some other websites provide the facilities for researchers to build their family tree online. Readers need to be aware that there may be privacy and security concerns when using these sites.

General social networking sites are the subjects of chapter 9, and several of the better-known sites are noted and the principal features described: Friends Reunited, Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn and others. Several pages are devoted to Facebook, which the author describes as an essential resource for family historians. Setting up a Facebook account is described, as is the means of setting up a surname group. Users are warned of privacy concerns. The author gives examples of her success stories when using Facebook. The features of Twitter are described, including setting up an account, and selection of fellow tweeters to follow. Careful choice of what to put on your profile and how these details are used in Twitter directories are discussed.

Blogs are the subject of chapter 10. A blog is a personal website that is frequently updated by its owner. Many genealogical societies and commercial organisations have created blogs in order to keep in touch with their members or customers. There are directories and other tools available to enable users to find blogs that are of interest to them. Several companies provide free blog hosting, storage and the software needed to create your blog. The author describes her own blog devoted to her one-name study, characters in her family history,

progress on the related DNA projects, and her means of communication with fellow researchers. The chapter concludes with a listing of blog service providers.

Chapter 11 introduces wikis. A wiki is an easy-to-use collaborative community website that can be edited by anyone. Wikipedia, the most well known, has become the popular reference work on the internet. It has a range of genealogical articles on notable families, genealogists, relationships, family history software and more. Readers are warned that one needs to take care with the contents of the site, as the accuracy of the entries varies enormously. There are wikis devoted solely to genealogy set up by specialist societies and research groups, such as The National Archives and the Mormons. Several are described with features and constraints.

Multimedia is the subject of chapter 12. The photo-sharing website Flickr is described, and advantages of uploading your photographs are outlined. The exact benefit to family historians is unclear. There are some specialist photography websites that will be more helpful to family historians, such as Geograph, which aims to have a picture of every square kilometre in UK, the War Graves Photographic Project and the Gravestone Photographic Resource, which has photographs of grave-stones. (Your reviewer has had some success with this site.) YouTube is a video-sharing website which, surprisingly, has some genealogical channels.

Podcasts or pre-recorded digital audio files are available on the internet. The National Archives for example has an extensive collection on its website. The BBC also provides a number of podcasts including some from their radio programmes *Tracing your roots* and *Digging up your roots*.

Chapter 13 details other collaborative tools which may be useful after making contact with a fellow researcher, and where you are embarking on some sort of collaborative project. Google has a free tool for collaborative editing. Both Google and Microsoft have

systems that enable documents to be uploaded to the cloud and made available to collaborators.

The book has several appendices: DNA websites; testing companies; DNA projects; surname resources; bibliography and an index.

And, finally, readers are advised to study the glossary before beginning to read the book, so that they are familiar with all the acronyms and TLAs (Three Letter Acronyms) and at least some of the technical terms used in this book.

Ivan Dickason

*Debbie Kennett's second book **The Surnames Handbook: A Guide to Family Name Research in the 21st Century** is due to be published by the History Press in October.*

LOCAL HISTORY

Thatcham then and now in colour

Dr Nick Young (History Press, 2012)

24cm x 17cm, hardback, 96pp

Shop £12.99, UK £16.70, airmail £25.02

Thatcham lies in West Berkshire, and is a historic town close to the River Kennet and the Kennet and Avon Canal. This book is a selection of archived photographs shown in comparison with the same views in modern times. It highlights the changes and developments of the town, and includes an introduction from its beginnings in the Stone Age up to the present day. In the 1970s Thatcham became a town rather than a village, as the growth of population and the transformation of the town centre tell of a thriving community.

Each photograph is accompanied by a paragraph giving a brief history of the scene or building. All areas of the town are depicted: road layouts, the memorial hall, the high street, schools, churches, the workhouse, shops and pubs. Some families and their trades are named, so this book will appeal both those living in Thatcham and those with family connections.

Mary Smith

Some nineteenth-century Berkshire squires; a county history 1800 - 1900

John Trigg (author, 2005)

A5, 168pp, softback

Shop £9.50, UK £10.73, airmail £14.87

This well-researched book contains a wealth of information on the lives and considerable powers of country squires. It will appeal to both family and local historians. Each chapter is split into headed paragraphs on individual topics. For example: chapter 1, *A review of nineteenth-century Berkshire*, includes town and country, workhouses, medicine, temperance, celebrations, cricket, law and order, and religion. Other chapters cover land ownership, magistrates, farming, the Swing Riots, servants, the Reform Bill, family events and village schools. A pictogram shows at a glance the many areas of life in which these influential men would be involved.

Land ownership was a status symbol, and in 1873 a survey of landowners in England showed that in a population of 31 million, just 7,400 owned four-fifths of the land. Often they would be politicians or members of the judiciary, which gave them enormous power over the lives of not only their household staff, but others in their employment, tenant farmers, local villagers, rectors, craftsmen and teachers. In some cases an entire village would be under the ownership of the squire.

There is a weights and measures glossary, a comparison of money with today's equivalents and a list of events from 1799 to 1899.

The villages in this book are Aldermaston, Ashdown, Basildon, Benham, Buckland, Bucklebury, Buscot, Coleshill, Crookham, East Hendred, Englefield, Lockinge, Marcham, Midgham, Pusey, Ramsbury, Shrivenham, Shaw, Thatcham, Welford, Woolley Park and Woolhampton. Not only are the landowners named, but also some tradesmen, manufacturers, innkeepers, criminals and many more. There is an extensive bibliography for those wishing to explore further.

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

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

Christmas closing: from 4pm on Thursday 20 Dec 2012 until 10am Tuesday 8 Jan 2013

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.*

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.

who

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.

how

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.

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

Ancestry worldwide, with family trees Origins

British Newspaper Archive

Provided that a PC is available, these subscriptions can be used 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
- 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

-
- **£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

directory maintained by Bob Plumridge
 <memsec@berksfhs.org.uk>

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.

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7448	BELCHER	Faringdon	BRK	1700-1900
7448	BELCHER	Wantage	BRK	1700-1900
7439	BOWDEN	All	BRK	pre 1765
7469	CLAYTON	St Pancras/Clerkenwell	LDN	19th C
7448	COLLINS	East/West Hanney	BRK	pre 1800
7469	HAMMERTON	Sunninghill/Wraysbury		18/19C
7469	HAMMERTON/HAMILTON	Marylebone/Kensington	LDN	19/20C
7469	HARVEY	Blacknest Gate Sunninghill		1822
7439	HAWKINS	Guestling	SSX	1765+
7439	HAWKINS	All	SSX	1765+
7439	HAWKINS	Tunbridge Wells	KNT	1870+
7439	HAWKINS	All	BRK	pre 1765
7469	HERBERT	Sunninghill/Windsor	BRK	19C
7444	IRESON	All	BRK	1901-1982
7469	JENNER	Shepherds Bush	LDN	20C
7469	KING	Holborn/Clerkenwell/St Pancras	LDN	18/20C
7469	MICHELL	Cookham	BRK	18C
7469	MORGAN	Kensington/Camden Town	BRK	20C
7448	PINDER	Wantage	BRK	1800-1850
7448	PINDER	Faringdon	BRK	1700-1900
7469	POLLARD	W Drayton/Chelsea		mid 1800s
7434	SEAWARD-CANTRELL	Windsor	BRK	1770-1899
7448	SELL	Wantage	BRK	1790-1850
7448	SELL	Faringdon	BRK	1790-1850
7448	SHERIFF	Aylesbury	BKM	1800-1850
7444	TILLEY	All	SRY	1901-1982
7448	WELLAWISE	East/West Hanney	BRK	1600-1850