

Berkshire Family Historian

the quarterly journal of the Berkshire Family History Society

Contents

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News

Chairman's corner by Derek Trinder	2
New society publications	3
Notice of Annual General Meeting	4
Around the branches	5
Berkshire baptisms 1st edition by Catherine Sampson	8
Update on projects and publications by Catherine Sampson	9
www.berksfhs.org.uk: what's new in the Members' Area?	11
The view from next door by Mark Stevens	12
Dates for your diary	12

Features

Genealogy on the go: apps for smartphones by Penny Stokes	13
Life on the land by John Gurnett	14
Bell-ringers and their records by Kate Crennell	16
Parson's piece: Rev Robert Milman by Penny Stokes	19
Settlement and removal: where did my pauper ancestors go? by Brian Dray	20

Regulars

Your pictures, your stories, your queries	22
Gleanings from exchange magazines by Tony Wright	28
Bookends by Ivan Dickason and Tony Roberts	30
Berkshire FHS Research Centre	34
Members' surname interests by Bob Plumridge	36

Family names appearing in this issue:

excluding living people, authors of sources and members' interests

Abery 18	Gosling 10	Nelson 9	Stuart 10
Badcock 9	Hagland 22	Ogle 17	Treacher 22
Beasley 9	Hammond 22	Parsons 10	Vansittart 9
Bennet 9	Hibbert 16+	Pearce 10	Vincent 9
Bunce 10	Hine 9	Penn 9	Warwick 17
Clark 25	Horsman 23	Pither 9	Winkworth 10
Doe 9	Jockies/Jockey 10	Pollentine 10	Wright 9
Elliott 23	Lee 9	Russell 9	
Field 17	Lovegrove 9	Sackville/Sackville 10	
Giles 9	Millar 9	Smith 9	
Goddard 17	Milman 19	Sneller 17	

Chairman's corner

SURVEYS ARE UNDER WAY

Those of you living “out of county” may be unaware that your society’s research into members’ needs and interests is well and truly under way. For those closer to home, if you had an opportunity to fill in your survey form I hope that you seized it, to ensure that your perspectives and thoughts are included in this important society process. When you see a further survey in coming weeks, whether online, in the Members’ Area of the website, at a branch meeting or in your magazine, do respond to it and give your honest and constructive feedback.

The world of family history research continues to change rapidly, something that is not going to stop any time soon. Your Berkshire society is determined to keep pace with those developments and the changing expectations that they bring, and to do so as closely and quickly as volunteer and financial resources allow. No society can afford to be among those that will be left behind, still resolutely continuing in yesterday’s role, to yesterday’s standards, by yesterday’s means, for an ever-diminishing core of support.

Remember that you don’t need to wait for a survey to share your views. Your thoughts and constructive ideas are welcomed at any time.

MORE NEW BERKSHIRE PUBLICATIONS

Thanks are due to the team of project volunteers, ably led by Catherine Sampson and Tony Wright, for delivering three standard-setting CD publications in as many months. The 11th edition of Berkshire Burials came first, to be followed by Wargrave parish register transcriptions (not in the IGI and only accessible previously at the record office). Now, a long awaited first edition of Berkshire Baptisms is available, details of which are in this magazine. The excellent second edition of *An historical atlas of Berkshire* is another key publication too. Those of you with local or family history interests in the Royal County now have access to a first-class set of published



resources. Researchers with interests in many other counties can only look on with envy.

THE LEASE AT YEOMANRY HOUSE

As explained in December’s *Historian*, back in September your society requested a further lease on its Yeomanry House premises from Reading Borough Council. It is disappointing to have to tell you that despite further overtures, as I draft these lines in mid-January, the council has given no indication yet of its intended response to the renewal request.

Of course, the trustees recognise that all councils have plenty of other issues to consider in a difficult economic climate. The situation for charities is no different but, in practice, for many it is infinitely more difficult. Donations to UK charities fell by 20 (yes, twenty) per cent in the last year. This represents a real cut in resources, not simply a small shaving off spending. This society’s donations received from members and others have fallen too, if not quite so dramatically. And trustees and all of the other key volunteers have many other things to address in running this charity effectively, for all of which they are unpaid, unlike their counterparts in public and private employment.

For the time being, plans and contingency plans are in place, and as the saying goes, “we can only await developments”. Meanwhile, the charitable work of the society must remain our collective top priority.

A WORD OF THANKS

Thanks go to all of you who helped at the recent Bracknell Family History Fair. Despite minimal promotion of the fair from the organiser, your society enjoyed record returns in product sales and new memberships.

It also contributed much of the information and online data for a Berkshire feature in February's *Who Do You Think You Are?* magazine. That issue carries the show guide for the Olympia event too, so timing could not have been more opportune. As your *Historian* wends its way to you, *WDYTUA? Live* — the UK's biggest family history event — will be in full swing. For many researchers it has become the only one that they choose to attend in the year. For your society, a presence at Olympia is a significant outlay, especially in terms of demands on volunteers, but that presence is vital to maintain awareness of the society and of the many benefits that it can deliver, among today's family historians. Building on

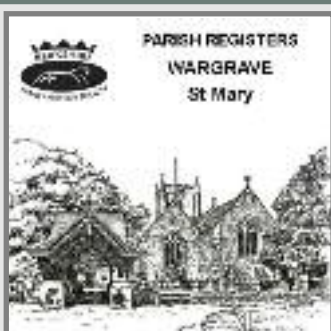
Bracknell results, backed by new publications and boosted by a timely Berkshire feature, the returns from three long days spent at Olympia are awaited with interest.

CALL FOR NEW TRUSTEES

You can read the statutory notice of the 38th Annual General Meeting of the society elsewhere in your magazine. The AGM takes place this year on Monday 17 June, and Vale Branch at Abingdon will be the hosts. Several new trustees are sought, ideally from among those members who can bring and apply key skills and experience acquired in their business or professional capacity to the leadership, direction and development of your society. If you could make a little time to spare (because most trustees, from experience, are already busy people), and you live in or close to Berkshire, do contact me — or any other trustee — to find out just what can be involved.

Derek Trinder
<chairman@berksfhs.org.uk>

New society publications



Wargrave St Mary parish registers 1538 - 2008 CD

Baptisms 1538 - 2003
Banns 1755 - 1814 and 1914-95
Marriages 1558 - 2008
Burials and funerals 1539 - 2008
NB Wargrave is not included in the IGI.
The CD includes a brief history of the parish and is fully indexed.

Shop £10.00, UK £11.50, airmail £14.30



Berkshire baptisms 1st edition CD

The first edition of this CD contains almost 160,000 records, transcribed by volunteers from 58 parochial and non-parochial registers. The earliest records date to 1538 and the latest 2008. For further details of the parishes and periods covered please see page 8.

Shop £20, UK £22.10, airmail £24.90

**FOR ORDERING DETAILS GO TO <www.berksfhs.org.uk/shop>
OR see PUBLICATIONS LIST IN CENTREFOLD**

Notice of Annual General Meeting

and election of officers and trustees

In accordance with the society's constitution, notice is given that the 38th Annual General Meeting of Berkshire Family History Society will be held on Monday 17 June 2013 at 7.30 pm, before the Vale of the White Horse Branch meeting at Long Furlong Community Centre, Boulter Drive, Dunmore Road, Abingdon OX14 1XP. There is free car parking opposite the centre.

At this short meeting the main business will be to receive a brief chairman's report on the past year's activities, to receive from the treasurer the independently examined accounts for the year ending 30 April 2013 for acceptance and approval, and to elect for the year 2013/2014 the society's President*, Vice Presidents, Officers and Trustees. It is not anticipated that there will be any other major business to transact.

Officers and trustees form the society's Executive Committee. Of its current membership, Margaret Crook (Reading Branch representative) retires under the five-year rule, and Dr Michael Booth (Windsor, Slough and Maidenhead Branch representative) has indicated his wish to step down. The Executive Committee seeks to fill these vacancies and, in addition, to restore trustee numbers up to their permitted maximum (16).

In the absence of a society secretary, nominations should be emailed or posted to reach the chairman (for contact details see inside front cover) no later than Monday 3 June 2013. Nomination forms are available from branches, from the Research Centre and are downloadable from the society website <www.berksfhs.org.uk>. Nominations should include names and membership numbers of nominee, proposer and seconder and, for written nominations, the signatures of all three members.

Current trustees can provide more details and the Charity Commission website <www.charitycommission.gov.uk> gives general guidance on what is involved in being a trustee. Certain people are disqualified by law from acting as trustees, including anyone described in sections 178 to 180 of the Charities Act, 2011.

** Members attending the 2012 AGM gave unanimous support to a resolution granting the incoming Executive Committee interim authority to appoint a successor to Sir William Benyon, immediate past president, before the AGM in 2013, at which any person so appointed would be nominated for re-election in the normal way. At the date of publication of this notice, the committee has not made such an appointment.*

After the AGM

Liz Woolley, who has previously given a number of excellent talks to several society branches, will talk on *Children and war*. Liz is a local historian specialising in aspects of the history of Oxford and Oxfordshire, and her talk examines how the lives of children, both those born locally and those evacuated from other parts of the UK, were affected by the Second World War.

Getting to OX14 1XP from A34

(distances approx)

Leave A34 at Marcham interchange, sliproad left to roundabout, take 3rd exit onto the A415
0.4 miles to roundabout, take 2nd exit
0.2 miles to roundabout, take 1st exit, Colwell Drive
0.2 miles to roundabout, take 2nd exit
0.3 miles to roundabout, take 2nd exit, Copenhagen Drive
0.7 miles to roundabout, take 2nd exit, Dunmore Rd
In 1 mile turn right onto Boulter Drive.

Around the branches

Bracknell and Wokingham Branch

<bracknell@berksfhs.org.uk> Fiona Ranger

In October John Dunne talked to us on tracing Irish ancestors. For centuries men and women have been leaving Ireland for a better life, and the Great Famine of the 1840s prompted mass emigration that continued through and beyond the end of the nineteenth century.

The availability of the records varies throughout Ireland. We were reminded that you cannot normally access most census records before 1901. Civil registration began in 1864 in Ireland. Religious orders are well documented, and can either be investigated via the internet or by visiting the church in question.

Our November speaker was Tony Hadland, whose talk was titled *A tiger in the bathroom and bullets up the chimney*. It was an absorbing tale from his maternal family, leading from his talented artist ancestor who was in the army in India through to his grandmother who lived during the unrest in Ulster.

We celebrated the 200th anniversary of the

publication of Jane Austen's *Pride and Prejudice* at our Regency-themed Christmas party. Members brought food to share, and the committee organised quizzes and other pursuits including Regency consequences, which brought many chuckles amongst members.

Our drop-in sessions at Wokingham Library are still attracting visitors and members, who continue to bring an interesting selection of queries. The Bracknell Library drop-in sessions resume on Tuesday 8 January following the library refurbishment, and we will actively advertise the resumption of this service.

In 2013 we have been booked for two library talks, for which we have prepared a new PowerPoint presentation. At the Bracknell History Fair on Sunday 27 January, the branch has its own stand. We are striving to find new venues to advertise the society and to encourage people to visit the drop-in sessions at the libraries.

Vale of the White Horse Branch

<vale@berksfhs.org.uk> Vanessa Chappell

Our October meeting was a change to the advertised event, as our booked speaker was unable to attend. We took the opportunity to have a back-to-basics session to help our newer members. Members of the committee came up with talks and handouts about parish registers and using the census. This prompted lively discussion. It is something we intend to do more, as it not only helps those who are new to research, it also gives the group a chance to share experiences and ideas.

For our November meeting we enjoyed a talk by John Foreman about a local man called Horatio Davis, his family's association with Abingdon and his work on the Trinity House lightships where he met his death.

At our Christmas meeting in December we socialised with mulled wine and mince pies. We formed teams to compete in a 30-question quiz on family history, which had been compiled by a committee member. The evening was completed with a raffle.

February will see us in Abingdon for the start of our library surgeries, followed by Wantage in March and Faringdon in April. The library sessions continue to be popular, and our branch members enjoy taking part.

We are looking forward to representing Berkshire FHS at the Abingdon Air and Country Show on Sunday 5 May.

Reading Branch

<reading@berksfhs.org.uk> Margaret Crook

At our November meeting Simon Burbridge talked about the Foundling Hospital, the history of its foundation and where to find its records. By using the apprentice records of the hospital he was able to find when his ancestor was admitted, who his parents were and what happened to them after his ancestor was left in the hospital. It was an excellent talk, recommended to other branches.

The branch meeting in December showed how we can discover so much more now about our ancestors via the internet. John Price reported on how he was able to confirm that missing members of his family had emigrated to the USA, one of whom had joined the army during the American Civil War (although had not actually been involved in the fighting). Margaret Crook was able to finally solve the mystery of what had happened to a great aunt who'd emigrated to Australia in 1911 and then disappeared. Despite family members in Australia looking, no trace of her could be found. Thanks to Trove (Australian

newspapers, free to view) as well as shipping and UK census records she was eventually narrowed down to a possible marriage in Winchelsea. She married, raised four sons and lived to her late seventies. Richard Brown showed how he had traced his family forwards in order to find the heirs to a cousin's estate.

Richard has been attending Mortimer Library each month and, as the librarians are keen to get people in, they advertise the session. In November and December there were two new people each time, as well as a returnee on both occasions.

At the April branch annual meeting Margaret Crook will be standing down as branch representative on the society's Executive Committee, having served five years. Volunteers are needed to help run the branch, and one to represent Reading Branch on the Executive. If you live in the Reading area, please do give consideration to stepping forward, otherwise the branch may have to close.

Newbury Branch

<newbury@berksfhs.org.uk> Nick Prince

The November meeting welcomed Mark Stevens, BRO's senior archivist, to talk on Fairmile Asylum, from its beginnings in 1870 to its closure at the turn of the twenty-first century. The topic and speaker attracted an excellent turnout – 42 – for whom there was much to be learned, not least that the ethos and practice of the asylum was more benevolent than some might have assumed. The regime consisted of rest and routine, with few medical interventions, although both sedatives and purgatives were used. About a third of those admitted between 1870 and 1914 were discharged recovered.

The branch held its Christmas party and quiz on 12 December to which members brought food and Secret Santa presents to

share for an enjoyable evening.

Penny Stokes is now co-ordinating branch library outreach, from the point of view of keeping track of what is currently happening across the branch, and making sure that all sessions are publicised on the society website diary. Brian Snook is continuing to run his Friday morning sessions at Thatcham Library, and Yvonne Brick attended a session at Newbury Library on 22 January. National Libraries Day on 9 February will find Eileen Barnes and Sylvia Green at Wash Common Library, and Dave Morris and Penny Stokes will be returning to Lambourn Library. Further outreach possibilities are being explored.

Windsor, Slough and Maidenhead Branch

<windsor@berksfhs.org.uk> Mike Booth

We welcomed back Else Churchill in November for a talk originally scheduled two years ago, which was cancelled as she was snowed up in Kent. This time it was rain and floods, but she made it. The topic was *Georgian ancestry: sources for the eighteenth century*.

Else briefly discussed the world from the Glorious Revolution up to the beginning of the Victorian age, how this might influence your ancestors' movements and the difficulty of finding them. She talked about early national and local censuses and census-substitute lists, various taxes (which people tried to avoid and so are absent when expected to be present), the growth of nonconformity, early directories, poll books, freemen of cities and title deeds. Finally, she briefly mentioned emigration (convicts, civil servants to India) and the Army

and Navy Lists.

This was a valuable introduction to those unfamiliar with the era, listing helpful booklets, websites and archives. Else also added that a shorter version of the subject could be found on the FamilySearch website under the Learn tab (NB: this little-known area contains useful podcasts and lessons which are free to view).

We had another small audience: either our members have fully researched the area or are perhaps not very active in research – they certainly were not full of questions at the end.

Just before Christmas, a sizeable number gathered at a local carvery for our annual seasonal dinner. This was an enjoyable occasion for reminiscences, some even of a family history nature.

Computer Branch

<computerbranch@berksfhs.org.uk> Gillian Stevens

Just as we were about to go into the Oakwood Centre for our Christmas party the heavens opened, and the audience looked more like drowned rats than members of the Berkshire FHS. The hall's caretaker kindly brought in a coat rack to put over a heater so that we could dry out our coats before going home – unfortunately we did not have a supply of dry trousers.

This was a very successful evening. Ten people came prepared to give a short talk

about one of their ancestors who served in either the army, navy or air force, from the 1780s to the twentieth century. As we had time for only six talks the rest have been postponed until later in the year. Many of the speakers had never offered their services before, so asking them to talk about their own ancestors or something they know really well may be a useful method for growing in-house speakers.

We had mince pies and non-alcoholic mulled wine for our refreshments.

The Berkshire FHS bookshop is seeking a volunteer

with bookkeeping experience to deal with routine recording of cash and online sales receipts, and to keep track of invoices. The information is recorded in spreadsheets, from which quarterly reports are produced. Training will be given. The time requirement is an hour or so per week. The volunteer needs to be able to come to the Research Centre three or four times a year for reporting and consultation but, other than that, the work may be carried out at home.

If you are interested in helping your society please contact Ivan Dickason on 0118 897 6785 or <ivan@dickason.co.uk>.

Berkshire baptisms



1st edition

The 1st edition of Berkshire Baptisms will be in the Berkshire FHS Bookshop in March, at £20. At the time of going to press it is intended that the following parishes and periods will be included in the 1st edition, giving a total of 58 parishes and almost 160,000 entries. Please check <www/berksfhs.org.uk> for the final list of parishes included. For purchase please see the Publications List in the centre of this magazine. In line with the Berkshire Marriages and Berkshire Burials CDs, it is intended that when the 2nd edition of Berkshire Baptisms is launched an upgrade will be offered to purchasers of the 1st edition at a reduced price (currently £5.00).

Catherine Sampson

Appleford SS Peter & Paul 1563 - 1812
 Appleton with Eaton St Laurence 1570 - 1709, 1802-12
 Ardington Holy Trinity 1873 - 1901
 Ashampstead St Clement 1813 - 1980
 Barkham St James 1538 - 1903
 Bearwood St Catherine 1846 - 1949
 Beech Hill St Mary 1868 - 1995
 Boxford St Andrew 1799 - 1861
 Bradfield Methodists (Tutts Clump) 1877 - 2002
 Bradfield St Andrew 1539 - 1866
 Braywood All Saints 1867 - 1961
 Brimpton St Peter 1756 - 1982
 Bucklebury St Mary 1813-65
 Burghfield St Mary 1559 - 1913
 Catmore St Margaret 1724 - 1850
 Clewer St Andrew 1607-1635 (BTs), 1653 - 1707, 1707 (BTs), 1708 - 1860
 Combe St Swithun 1560 - 1812, 1813-71 (BTs)
 Compton Beauchamp St Swithun 1551 - 1776
 Compton SS Mary & Nicholas 1553 - 1925
 Denford Holy Trinity 1832 - 1920
 East Ilsley St Mary the Virgin 1608-37 (BTs), 1653 - 2003
 East Lockinge All Saints 1546 - 1787
 East Shefford Holy Innocents 1603 - 1734, 1779 - 1811
 Farnborough All Saints 1607 - 1738 (BTs), 1739 - 2004
 Fawley St Mary 1540 - 1987
 Grazeley Holy Trinity 1850 - 1963
 Hinksey South see South Hinksey
 Hinksey, North see North Hinksey
 Hurst St Nicholas 1890 - 2004
 Illsley, East see East Ilsley
 Illsley, West see West Ilsley
 Little Wittenham St Peter 1538 - 1991
 Lockinge, East see East Lockinge

Longcot St Mary 1720-75
 Mortimer West End St Saviour 1615-80 (BTs)
 North Hinksey St Lawrence 1607 - 1731 (BTs)
 Padworth St John the Baptist 1607 - 1723
 Peasemore St Barnabas 1538 - 1990
 Reading All Saints 1904-48
 Reading Greyfriars 1864 - 1957
 Reading St Agnes 1904-37
 Reading St Giles 1564 - 1830, 1655 (BTs)
 Reading St Laurence 1772 - 1812
 Reading St Luke 1878 - 1919
 Reading St Mark 1904-75
 Reading St Mary (Castle St) 1884 - 1947
 Reading St Mary (Minster) 1904-17
 Reading St Michael and All Angels 1901-46
 Reading St Saviour 1963-85
 Remenham St Nicholas 1605-97 (BTs), 1697 - 1776, 1762-764 (BTs), 1777 - 1812
 Shefford, East see East Shefford
 South Hinksey St Laurence 1607-68 (BTs)
 Sparsholt Holy Cross 1707 - 1944
 Speenhamland St Mary 1831 - 1971
 Sunningwell St Leonard 1636-53
 Swallowfield All Saints 1607-37 (BTs), 1636 - 1840
 Theale Holy Trinity 1832 - 1947
 Tilehurst St Michael 1559 - 1715, 1614-28 (BTs), 1716 - 1841
 Ufton Nervet St Michael 1607-37 (BTs), 1636 - 1743, 1813 - 1837
 Wargrave St Mary 1538 - 2008
 West Ilsley All Saints 1558 - 1870
 Winnersh St Mary 1966 - 2001
 Wittenham, Little see Little Wittenham
 Wokingham All Saints 1674 - 1831
 Yattendon SS Peter & Paul 1813 - 1914



U P D A T E

Projects and publications

Catherine Sampson,
projects co-ordinator,
reflects on a busy and
successful year

2012 whizzed past with a constant stream of activity and the launch of nine new CD products to help family, local and social historians:

Berkshire Marriages 2nd edition, Ascot All Saints and Priory Road MIs, Berkshire Probate Index (in partnership with others), Shaw-cum-Donnington St Mary MIs, Crowthorne St John MIs, Monumental and Memorial Inscriptions vol 1, Speenhamland St Mary parish registers, Reading London Road Cemetery and Berkshire Burials 11th edition.

By the time you read this we'll already have started 2013 with the publication of Wargrave St Mary parish registers on CD, and either have published or be close to publication with Berkshire Baptisms 1st edition. This latter completes the trio of parish-register-based county-wide collections, and will be a valuable help to family historians trying to trace ancestors in Berkshire.

I'd like to share with you some of the many fascinating entries that David Wright and his team have come across as they compiled our transcripts of burial records. All are genuine entries, and can be found in Berkshire Burials 11th edition.

A surprisingly high number of fatalities were caused by falling into pits of various sorts, or by their collapse: lime pits, chalk pits, gravel pits all feature in the registers. One such accident befell Elizabeth Badcock, buried on 2 May 1796 at Marcham All Saints; ironically she met her death near Puzey Furze "returning from mother's funeral". In July 1662 a triple accident occurred in Sonning, where three people, John Bennet, John Pither (son of Robert) and Thomas Smith, were "kild by ye fall of a chalk pit". The registers of Moulsoford St John record on 5 February 1855 that one Samuel Nelson was "killed by a fall of gravel".

Animals appear to have been hazardous, horses especially so. John Penn, coachman to Mr Vansittart of Shottesbrooke, was killed by the kick of one in 1755, and in 1817 Buckleigh Hine likewise on South Moreton Common. The register of All Saints Church in East Lockinge records that poor John Doe was "gored by a bull" in 1599, which sounds very painful, whilst

in Welford John Lovegrove was "stung to death by his bees" in 1889.

The natural environment was routinely cited as the cause of death, with drowning in rivers or canals particularly common in some locations. More uncommonly, Robert Millar and William Wright were killed on 3 July 1845 "by lightning, sheltering under tree [on] London Road, Hungerford". Almost 60 years later, in Buckland, John Beasley and John Giles were "struck by lightning standing under a tree in a field". There appears to be a pattern to be avoided here.

Many registers record deaths from falling off carts or being run over by them. Shrivenham St Andrew records the burial of one Samuel Vincent in June 1787 who was "killed by a fall in wrestling at the revel", whilst John Russell was buried in August 1824 in Hurley after he was "killed by leaping from the speeding Stroudwater Coach on Rose Hill". Health and safety would have had a field day in Shottesbrooke in 1717, when Henry Lee was killed by a fall of stone, pulling down the ruins of the great house there, and even the rector of Reading St Mary felt the need to comment on the unsafe conditions of the "second bridge from Beare", presumably in Reading, where two women drowned in December 1655 "for want of a bridge rail when frosty".

War has claimed the lives of a number of Berkshire folk, most notably in the twentieth century, but it is the effect of the Civil War which I find particularly fascinating. Whilst many registers are incomplete or missing for this period, those surviving with entries such as at Stanford in the Vale and Ruscombe often include the burials of soldiers and sometimes of their civilian victims, such as Edward Parsons, “most inhumanly murdered by soldiers” in June 1644 and buried at St Andrews, Shrivenham. A better known victim of the Civil War is recorded in Wytham All Saint’s register: Edward Sackville (spelt Sackville in the burial entry) was the second son of the Rt Hon Edward Sackville, fourth Earl of Dorset; although often cited as dying at the Battle of Kidlington, he was more likely killed in cold blood whilst a prisoner, as the burial entry reads “slayn near Comner [Cumnor] by a soldier of Abingdon Garrison – died 11 Apr”.

The Civil War’s best-known victim however can be found in the registers of St John the Baptist in New Windsor. You could be forgiven for skipping past the simple one line entry recording the burial of Charles Stuart on 9 Feb 1648/9, until you note his residence as “the castle” and the simple “(king)” that reminds you that this was the executed King Charles I, and you reflect on the changes that his death brought to our country.

Unsurprisingly disease and illness were common causes of death, sometimes another consequence of war and sometimes signalling localised or national epidemics. Nineteen burials in August and September 1794 at Hungerford St Lawrence attest to an outbreak of smallpox there, whilst croup was recorded as the cause of death for 13 burials at Shalbourne St Michael between March and June 1819, the victims mostly young children or the elderly. Plague is routinely blamed in many registers. An outbreak in May and June 1646 at Twyford is noted in the registers of nearby Ruscombe, where five children of Edward Pollentine are recorded as being buried in one single entry on 17 May, all

apparent victims of the plague. Sadly the next burial recorded is that of Edward himself. In Reading, St Mary’s register records 12 deaths attributed to plague between 31 May and 27 July 1638, and then no more until the following January, when it is apparently back to claim a further 19 victims, before retreating by mid-April. In the neighbouring parish of St Giles, 1640 and 1641 were peak years for the plague. Childbirth remained a dangerous time for women and their babies until relatively recently, and it is not unusual to come across comments such as that applied to Mary Gosling in the registers of Shalbourne St Michael after she was buried in 1824, as death being because “nato filio deceptit [she disappointed with the birth of a son]”.

One of the many advantages of having a county-wide collection of burials is that it enables you to track families from one parish to the next – sometimes for unsuspected reasons. In Shaw-cum-Donnington St Mary’s registers you will find the burial entry on 16 Feb 1637 of a “young man child of Joane Jockies by her drowned, for which she was executed”, whilst the register of Reading St Mary contains the burial entry for one Joane Jockey, who was one of five prisoners recorded in the register as executed on 25 Feb 1637.

The burial registers also reveal an insight into the legal requirements and social tensions of the times. “Buried in woollen” appears frequently to remind us of the prevailing woollen laws, as do references to the fees collected or due. At Hungerford St Lawrence the rector seemed to have had particular trouble persuading his parishioners to pay up. The family of Sarah Ann Pearce buried on 27 February 1832 had apparently “treated with contempt” requests for payment. Likewise the relatives of Thomas Winkworth, buried 20 July 1832, made “promises but not any hope of payment – break ground 7s, burial fee 2s 6d”. Worse was to come though; the family of Sarah Bunce, buried in January 1833, advocated that they “won’t pay [fee] – the woman told me she would bury in the garden next time.”

Projects and publications continued



I hope you have enjoyed this vignette of burial transcriptions. Thank you to all of our volunteers who work so hard to ensure that we continue to produce quality transcripts to help fellow family and local historians across the world. Your support is really appreciated.

Our work as ever continues. Several new parish CDs are planned for publication this year, and new projects under way include **Kintbury** and **Binfield** (whose church is pictured left), where more help is needed. The MIs team will be out and about

once the weather gets better, and they are looking for more volunteers in the **Chieveley**, **Wokingham** and **Woodley** areas. Transcription work and checking continues for Berkshire Marriages 3rd edition, Berkshire Burials 12th edition and of course now Berkshire Baptisms 2nd edition. How pleasing it is to be able finally to write that! If you would like to offer your help with transcribing, pedigrees, data manipulation, CD production or recording monumental inscriptions, please do get in touch with us at <projects@berksfhs.org.uk>.

Catherine Sampson
Projects co-ordinator

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

- **Discussion list archive updated to December 2012**
- **A-Z of all surnames in Berkshire Marriages, Burials and Probate CDs**
- **Interactive maps linking to Berkshire parish articles**
- **Berkshire Family Historian – search the archive copies from 1975**
- **Meeting summaries – read what you missed**
- **Berkshire Gazetteer – find that elusive Berkshire placename**

YOU MUST REGISTER TO ACCESS THE MEMBERS' AREA



The view from next door

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

Mark Stevens

reflects on the value of local FH services

Where Berkshire FHS leads, so the BRO follows. For the past few years the society's Research Centre has been able to provide members with access to a wide range of online resources, the list of which grows longer all the time. We knew that our visitors wanted us to provide something similar, but we have been unable until now to find the funds to do so.

The good news is that free access to Ancestry and Findmypast has arrived. Our vending machine gave its life for this arrangement. Regular visitors may recall that one day last year the machine disappeared, to be replaced with a hot and cold water dispenser and a more DIY approach to drinks. The good news is that you can still get a hot drink at the BRO for a fraction of the price charged on the high street; on top of that, the vending machine money is now better spent.

The family history landscape has changed hugely in the last 10 years. Organisations like Berkshire FHS and the BRO find themselves small players in a market dominated by multinationals, all of whom have access to massive amounts of finance and marketing. The corporate world has discovered that money can be made from family history, and it has become almost impossible for us to compete on the same ground.

I know that this is a subject often acknowledged within the pages of this magazine, yet we are set up better than the family history behemoths to deliver three things: knowledge, care and trust. These qualities

might allow us to find our own space rather than be submerged by the online providers.

Knowledge is an obvious one: we know our county better than anyone. We are the local experts, the people who can settle disputed stories and spot obvious mistakes. The care that we can give comes from our individual approach to people's queries. We don't try and take the impersonal call-centre route, but rather treat everyone as someone that we are here to help, rather than to process.

Trust is hard won and I suspect may become a more valuable commodity in future. Both the Berkshire FHS and the BRO have a good track record with making available only information that has been rigorously checked and quality-controlled. Findmypast has benefited directly from the society's reliability. And as more and more information becomes available online, then reliability will become appreciated. People will go to places that they can trust.

Of course, the commercial providers have woken up to that, which is why they ask us all to help correct the numerous mistakes in their own data. It is also why we will continue to have to maintain the highest standards ourselves in any work that we do. So the challenge is there: to raise the bar rather than to compete directly. We can start at home: if next time you're searching Ancestry at the BRO and something can't be found, then why not ask somebody you can trust?

Dates for your diary * denotes Berkshire FHS participation

10.00-16.00 Sat 4 May	Gloucestershire FHS Open Day	Gloucester Rugby Club Kingsholm Rd GL1 3AX	< http://gfhs.org.uk/events-dummy/gfhs-open-day >
Sun 12 May	Hampshire Genealogical Society AGM and conference	Discovery Centre Winchester SO23 8SB	< www.hgs-online.org.uk >
10.00-16.30 Sat 1 June	Museum of English Rural Life village fete*	MERL, Redlands Road Reading RG1 5EX	< www.reading.ac.uk/merl >
14.00-15.00 Mon 10 June	Introductory tour of Berkshire Record Office	BRO, Coley Avenue Reading RG1 6AF	book places on 0118 901 5132
9.30-18.30 Sat 6 Jul	LDS Open Day*	The Meadway, Tilehurst RG30 4PE	< www.rfhc.org.uk >
10.00-16.00 27 July	Buckinghamshire Family History Society Open Day	Grange School, Wendover Way Aylesbury HP21 7NH	< www.bucksfhs.org.uk >

Genealogy on the go

apps for smartphones and tablets

Penny Stokes

Apps for family historians with smartphones or tablets have mushroomed over the last year or so. Some come from existing genealogy databases and family tree software, whilst others are standalone. Some offer tree-building data and photo uploading to storage online (although as with any online store, it is best to keep your own copy as well, in case the business fails and the data is taken down). Others seek volunteers for mass participation in database building. Some are free, some priced. The market is too vast for an overall review, but a few examples are given below. Information has been taken mostly from the suppliers' websites, so has not been checked in use. Readers who have tried and tested applications like these are welcome to send in their reviews.

Vimily <www.vimily.com> is for iPads and iPhones (with an Android version coming soon). Photos, documents and videoed interviews can be uploaded to a private store online, and shared as wished. The "creator" pays a one-off fee according to the number of interviews. There is a trial option. Viewers, as nominated by the creator, can see them for free. The app claims to handle non-digital photos, without need for pre-scanning.

Legacy Family <http://news.legacyfamilytree.com/legacy_news/families---iphone-app> For those already using Legacy software this app works with iPhone, iPod Touch, iPad, tablet and Android smartphones, enabling you to take your Legacy files, pictures, and to-do list to the library, cemetery, or anywhere else. You can view and edit the data on your mobile device, and synchronise changes back to your Legacy file on your home computer.

MyHeritage <<http://www.myheritage.com/myceleb?mode=site>> Like Legacy, this free app for iPhone, iPad and Android will synch data added on the hoof with your existing MyHeritage account data. It boasts touch-screen using pinch-zoom and panning. Tap on a card to view a family member's profile page, to browse information and events, view birthday and anniversary info, tap to email or give them a call. Photo-sharing works with face recognition to identify family members in the photo. The same technology claims to discover celebrity lookalikes, matching your family against a database of 4,000 celebrities.

Ancestry <www.ancestry.com/ancestry-app> Ancestry account-holders can take their family trees on the go, adding records via this app. The information thus recorded will be there next time you visit your Ancestry account on your home computer. Version 4 for iPhone, iPad, and iPod Touch now includes Ancestry Hints – "shaky leaves" leading to new information to help grow your tree. Three million users are claimed, and use is said to be easy and intuitive.

FamilySearch <<https://familysearch.org/volunteer/indexing>> In an extension of its volunteer indexing programme the LDS has added a free iPhone, iPad and Android app for users to download, and become volunteers in a project to index the entire US 1940 census.

Billion graves <www.billiongraves.com> This ambitious project, for Android, iPads and iPhones, embraces an app and a site which aims to create a worldwide MI database of headstones photographed and uploaded with their GPS co-ordinates by volunteers. A US venture, it had, at the time of writing, just 697 UK gravestones on record, so it probably has some way to go before it puts an end to Berkshire FHS MI projects.

Life on the land

John Gurnett, who was editor of this magazine until 2006, sketches the livelihood of the agricultural labourer

Like many of us I come from a long line of farm labourers, mostly from small farms in Essex. Wherever yours came from, we share a long history of changes in the English landscape.

In the eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries most of the population worked in agriculture. English parishes typically used the open-field system of farming, whereby large fields were divided into strips, each farmer holding a number of strips. There was also common land where the landless could scratch a living from growing their own vegetables and grazing their animals. However, as the population grew, this system was not productive enough for farmers and landowners. With government support, the process of enclosure began in earnest, breaking up the strips to create much larger field systems. Productivity rose, but so did poverty, rural depopulation and homelessness. By 1850 the enclosure movement had almost eliminated the open-field system of agriculture, and all but changed the face of the English countryside.

So how did the labourer survive when times were hard and paid employment on farms was scarce? Many families relied on rights of access to common land, where they could raise animals at little cost. The hedgerows could be used for foraging, and poaching would serve as a supplement to their meagre rations. Where common rights did not exist, many had small gardens where they could grow vegetables and other crops. After the harvest, gleaning the fields was another right, providing

enough grain for bread, and straw for bedding. *Lark Rise to Candleford* reveals many examples of this way of life.

At this time agriculture was being transformed by revolutionary ideas by Jethro Tull. He advocated the use of manure and invented the seed drill that sowed in straight lines, rather than haphazard hand-sowing. The steam engine was first used to power a threshing machine and pump. In 1850 it began to be used for ploughing, turning 10 times the area that horses could plough in a day, although its early use sometimes caused fatal accidents. Mechanisation was an irreversible trend from the early 1800s, but there was an increasing resistance to its use by farm workers, who feared the loss of their livelihoods.

Rural poverty caused by high grain prices prompted magistrates at Speenhamland, near Newbury, to introduce a system of outdoor relief: a sliding scale of means-tested supplements to top up wages. The level varied according to the number of children and the price of bread. The Poor Law Commissioners report of 1834 denounced the Speenhamland system as a *universal system of pauperism*, and it was traditionally seen to have aggravated the underlying causes of poverty, although more recent research suggests that it did alleviate malnutrition, poverty and discontent amongst the rural poor. Apart from a few isolated parishes the system died out after 1815, apart from those counties that experienced the Swing Riots.



Farm workers flailing corn, depicted by James Ward 1769 - 1859

The problem of low wages was worst in the arable south-east, where there was a widespread uprising by agricultural workers in 1830. They set about rick-burning, destruction of the threshing machines which destroyed their winter employment, and cattle maiming. The leaders of the riots were often craftsmen, and those who joined them were predominantly labourers, often paupers on poor relief. A total of 387 threshing and 36 other agricultural machines were destroyed in 22 counties during the riots.

Another cause of dissent was animosity to the established church, because many ministers were also magistrates. For this reason the lower classes flocked to dissenting religions.

Farm workers were sometimes hired by the day, earning a shilling a day in the eighteenth century, rising to about eight shillings a week by the 1830s. At harvest time when work was plentiful they could earn more, as the whole family would be in the fields. Whole households worked to provide a subsistence level of income; the labourer's wife was a working woman, and children were expected to work scaring crows and stone picking. In 1851 there were 1,431 female farm labourers in England and Wales.

Traditionally the grain crop was harvested by sickle, but by 1850 it had been replaced by the scythe. A typical harvest at this time would have 34 men mowing the wheat and laying it evenly. Following the men, women or children would gather it into small sheaves. Eight teamsmen would follow to gather the sheaves into shocks. Three hundred acres of wheat would be cut in six days; carting took a further eight.

The high point in the agricultural year during the nineteenth century was the hiring fair, usually held on Martinmas Day (11 November) in market towns. Thomas Hardy paints a colourful picture of a hiring fair in Far From the Madding Crowd:

At the end of the street stood two to three hundred farm and other labourers waiting to be hired. Among these, carter, carriers and waggoners were distinguished by a piece of whip cord twisted round their hats; thatchers wore a fragment of woven straw, with shepherds holding their sheep-crooks in their hands. Farm workers, if they were single, might be taken on as servants, usually for a year. Married farm servants were obliged to live out in farm lodgings in the surrounding villages or hamlets.

Hiring fairs encouraged the movement of labourers from place to place, which tends to explain their surprising mobility. But this system gradually died out by the twentieth century, when farm servants' sharing their master's table was unknown.

Throughout the eighteenth century labourers would wear smocks with elaborate designs to denote their occupation. These might depict occupation: a shepherd's smock with sheep, a waggoner's with cartwheels.

Agricultural wages were lower in the south; the standard of living was higher in the northern counties, where most farm hands were better paid.

Even by the middle of the nineteenth century almost half the population was involved in agriculture in one form or another. In the 1851 census just over a million were described as outdoor labourers; some were shepherds or horsemen, others cowmen or dairymaids, all living in the farmhouse.

By 1881 agriculture had lost a third of its productive power. According to *The Times* "the golden age of British agriculture ended". Between 1871 and 1891 the number of farm workers fell by more than 60 per cent, and the number of women on the land by almost 90 per cent. In the 1870s it was said that they did not live in the proper sense of the word, they merely didn't die.

However, we can be proud of the contribution our ancestors made to the landscape of England and Wales.

Sources:

Museum of English Rural Life, University of Reading
Royal Commission on the Depressed Condition of Agricultural Interests (the Richmond Commission) 1880-88
Reports on Agricultural Labourers 1893-94
Dr Jonathan Brown *Tracing your rural ancestors, a guide for family historians* (2011)
John Gurnett *The agricultural depression in Berkshire, 1874-1899*. A dissertation submitted for an MA in the History of English Landscape and Agricultural History, University of Reading, 1991-93

Bell-ringers and their records

*Following Lionell Carter's article in the last issue
on photographing churches,*

Kate Crennell (3958)

***points to bell-ringers' knowledge as another
source of church identification,
not to mention the value of their records if your
ancestor was one of their number***

Church bells have been rung in England for hundreds of years. Early bells dating from before the Reformation were cast in pits dug in the churchyard, because it was difficult to move heavy bells on the muddy rutted roads at that time. Later, bells were cast in foundries, where the founder could control the casting and add an inscription on the bell more easily.

Bells in parish churches were usually paid for by a local resident. They might be the gift of the lord of the manor, as in Englefield, or paid for by a fund collected by residents to mark a special occasion, such as a memorial to the village men killed in the First World War, as in East Ilsley; parents might give a bell in memory of a child killed in a tragic accident, or children might give a bell in thanksgiving for the life of their parents.

Bells are stored under cover, so their inscriptions last much longer than those on

gravestones, which grow moss or become corroded by acid rain. The inscriptions (see Fig 1) usually list the name of the bell founder, often the names of the churchwardens who organised the installation with the services of a local bell hanger, and then the name of those being commemorated.

The tenor bell in East Ilsley has an inscription to an individual:

*Recast in memory of
Richard Tom Hibbert
for 29 years secretary of the
Oxford Diocesan Guild
1948
Mears & Stainbank
London*

These examples show the kind of information you can find on the bells. The last three lines indicate the date cast and the name and address of the bell founders. When bells are hung in the tower it is difficult to photograph inscriptions, so some founders keep rubbings of inscriptions or transcribe them into a book.

Bells are not the only memorials normally hidden from casual visitors. There are also plaques commemorating particular events, installed by the ringers themselves in the room where they ring, such as in East Ilsley, when they had trained enough local residents to be able to ring well.

Fig 2 commemorates the first peal with all the ringers from East Ilsley. It lists the guild to which the ringers belong, the date and time taken as well as the particular tune (known as a method) and the weight of the heaviest bell (measured in pounds,



*Fig 1: a bell recently cast for Abingdon,
showing inscription*



Fig 2

hundredweights and quarters, before the UK used metric weights), the names of the ringers, which bell they rang and the name of the conductor. At the bottom is the name of the rector and the churchwardens. Perhaps such plaques should be transcribed as part of the memorial inscriptions projects produced by the Berkshire FHS?

Ringers are not required to be members of the church where the bells are hung. Instead, they form independent societies which are normally affiliated to their local guild, which has a similar structure to that of the diocese. Berkshire churches are in the Oxford diocese, and their ringers belong to the Oxford Diocesan Guild of Church Bell Ringers (ODG). This contains over 500 bell towers in the counties of Berkshire, Buckinghamshire and Oxfordshire. It is subdivided into 15 branches, with smaller numbers of towers forming a more easily managed social group. The ODG publishes an annual report listing towers with names of their ringers, and has two newsletters with reports of recent events, such as which towers rang for the Diamond Jubilee and the start of the 2012 Olympic Games.

Lists of ringing events are maintained by the guilds, now mostly online. Ringers often visit other towers and arrange outings where they ring in other counties, especially those who delight in ringing over 1,000 peals. These ringers can be useful to those who want to identify churches shown in old wedding

photographs. If you know the area, contact the secretary of that branch. Alternatively, ask the secretary of the ODG for help. There is a librarian who keeps the reports and newsletters, and who may know of some prolific peal-ringers who have rung in many churches. Start with <www.ringing.info>, which has lists of many useful links.

Some churches have embroidered kneelers showing bells, such as those in Fig 3 below, in memory of Cyril Hibbert who rang Bell 5, and his wife Marjorie, also a ringer. He died in 1962, aged 62, and Marjorie in 2002, aged 91. Ringing is often a family activity where several gene-rations of the same family enjoy participating. Cyril and Marjorie are buried in the churchyard and listed in the CD of East Ilsley MIs. As far as I know there is no database of church kneelers with bells embroidered on them.

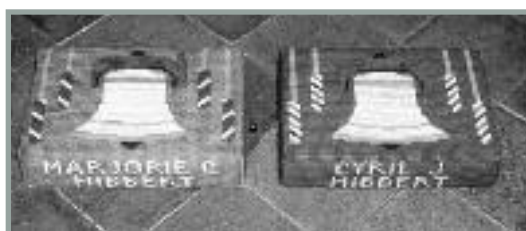


Fig 3

Ringling is thirsty work and you often find that the local pub landlord is one of the ringers. There are a number of pubs with "bell" in their names, sometimes just The Bell. When more bells have been given to the tower the pub name may change from the Six Bells to the Eight Bells.

Ringers sometimes have bells carved on their gravestones as in Fig 4, for David and Margaret Abery at Englefield. I would be very pleased to know of other stones like this, or which company carved this type of gravestone. I know of one other example of this style, in Bradfield.

The Ringing World <www.ringingworld.co.uk> is the weekly newsletter which publishes recent peals and quarter peals, articles about bells or ringers. Contact the editor at <editor@ringingworld.co.uk> to enquire what



image formats he can accept, and whether he might publish your unknown church photo, for ringers all over the world to see, and perhaps identify your mystery church.

Further information

Church Bells of Berkshire by Frederick Sharpe, last published in 1970. Reprints are still available from the Sharpe Trust <www.sharpetrustees.org.uk>.

Fig 4

Members' surname interests & birth briefs

Are yours on file?

If you are in the habit of reading the back pages of the *Historian* you may have noticed that new Members' Surname Interests (MSIs) have been shrinking over the last couple of years. Birth Briefs (BBs) too are not being submitted as often as they used to be.

Whilst Google may offer a seemingly broader service to search your surnames of interest, it cannot link you to family historians who have chosen not to post details of their research online. And vice versa.

There can be good reasons for choosing not to publish your full details to the wider world. (How many of us, for example, use names from our family tree as passwords?) Using the intermediary of Berkshire Family History Society allows a degree of confidentiality; your own name and contact details are not published online for all to see and use. Anyone may look at the register of surname interests or Birth Briefs, but contact with the submitter can be made only through the society.

The two lists contain 8,000+ (MSI) and 35,891 (BB) surnames. Are yours there? If you have not submitted yours, or maybe not updated them since you joined years ago, it is perhaps time you did. Surname interests can be emailed direct to the membership secretary (please take a look at <www.berksfhs.org.uk/cms/Members-Surname-Interests> to make sure you get the format right), and Birth Briefs can be written onto a form downloadable from <www.berksfhs.org.uk/cms/Birth-Briefs>.

Parson's piece

*portraying some of
Berkshire's more
colourful
clergymen*

Rev Robert Milman

Penny Stokes



Lambourn was, in the nineteenth century, no plum posting for a parson. Not only was it remote, it was considered “one of the wildest and most neglected parishes in the diocese of Oxford”. So said Miss Frances Milman, sister of the Rev Robert Milman, who was to take up the cure of Lambourn’s souls in 1851. His brother commented that the job was as much policeman as priest.

But Milman was up to it, being robust in health and character, and having no fear of controversy. He preached three times each Sunday, either in St Michael’s in Lambourn or at St James’, Eastbury, where he consecrated a new church in 1853. He also delivered cottage sermons in the more far-flung corners of the parish. He saw to the completion of Lambourn’s National schools, as well as “middle-class schools for boys and girls” (Miss Milman again), and another school at Eastbury. He started night-schools. Much of this was financed from his own pocket. Although renowned for making others work hard, he was said always to take the lion’s share of work himself.

His appointment to Lambourn had an ironical side, in that Milman had strong views on the evils of horse-racing, an industry which was already well-established locally. He took particular exception to the custom of ringing the church bells to celebrate a local horse win. *Wild Dayrell’s* victory in the Derby of 1855 was Lambourn’s biggest racing triumph, and the bell-ringers locked themselves in the tower in order to celebrate in their usual fashion. The following Sunday they were denounced from the pulpit with such fury that the parishioners hesitated to trifle with Milman again. Nonetheless, he was also conspicuously kind and dedicated in tending his flock, particularly those employed by the Lambourn training stables.

The Devon-born, third son of a baronet, Robert Milman was educated at Westminster School and Exeter College, Oxford, and had held two parishes before Lambourn: Winwick in Northamptonshire, and Chaddleworth. He had no wifely support in his battles with the ungodly. The 1851 census noted that he was unmarried, sharing his vicarage in Oxford Street with a curate, a schoolmaster and three servants. In the first few years of his time in Lambourn he lost both of his parents, but following the latter death in 1858, his sister Frances moved in with him.

One can imagine a spartan lifestyle. Milman was famed for sleeping no more than four hours, preferring to read theological texts late into the night. He learned German in order to extend his studies. When not attending to the spiritual health of Lambourn, he composed and published his own devotional texts. He also enjoyed poetry.

In 1862 he was transferred from Lambourn to Great Marlow, leaving behind him a parish which he and his sister considered much the better for his tenure. Given his missionary nature it is perhaps unsurprising that four years later Robert Milman took up the post of Lord Bishop of Calcutta. He died in Rawalpindi 10 years later.

Memoir of the Right Rev Robert Milman by Frances Milman (1879) has been re-issued in paperback, and can also be seen free on <<http://archive.org>>.



Settlement and removal

where did my pauper ancestors go?

Brian Dray (7237)

***reminds us that the Poor Law generated detailed records
on folk at the bottom of the social heap***

Family historians are used to delving into parish registers back in the eighteenth century, but as you go back in time there may be no mention of an ancestor anywhere, unless those authorities which kept records encroached on your ancestor's life.

Before the development of county councils, the parish was the main unit of local government, generating many different types of record that still survive in county record offices today. Ancestors of lower social status may well end up being mentioned in parish records, because it was the parish that operated the Poor Law.

The first significant Poor Law was passed in 1531. Henry VIII's dissolution of the monasteries had removed a major source of help for the poor, and the government responded by handing over duties previously carried out by charitable institutions to the local parish. Up to 1598 a series of laws dealt with poor people. In 1598 an Act was passed to have beggars returned to the place where they were born, but it was not until the mid-seventeenth century that the Poor Laws were tightened.



Reading poor house, 1790s

The parish became a person's place of legal settlement (first legally defined in the Act of Settlement and Removal 1662) and it was the parish of legal settlement that incurred the financial burden of poor relief for those who fell on hard times. Many might well depend on poor relief at different times in their lives, but it was in the parish's interests to protect ratepayers from the financial burden of those from outside the parish.

Various Acts of Parliament were passed before 1834 regulating the operation of the Poor Law, and parishes often took legal action to determine the place of proper settlement and remove paupers (sometimes forcibly) back to their legal place of settlement. Happily for the family historian, considerable paperwork survives in the form of settlement certificates, settlement examinations, and removal orders. These may mention your pauper ancestors, explaining why a person suddenly appears in (or disappears from) a parish register.

Before considering some of the documents that survive, it is worth understanding what was meant by the term *settlement* under the Poor Laws, and how different legislation altered the criteria over time. A person could gain settlement in a number of ways.

- From 1662 this meant residing in a parish for 40 days, and from 1685 this was reckoned from the time their arrival was notified to the parish authorities.
- From 1691 settlement was extended to include paying the parish rate, serving as a parish officer, being apprenticed in a parish or, if unmarried, working as a servant in the parish for one year.
- Settlement could also be obtained by renting property in the parish worth over £10 a year.
- A woman who married a man of the parish gained settlement; likewise, a legitimate child aged under seven years whose father lived in the parish.
- An illegitimate child born in the parish also gained settlement, and much litigation between parishes was generated by parish officers keen to stop bastard children from being born in their patch. After 1744 an illegitimate child took the

mother's place of settlement, and so parishes were often quick to investigate lone women who they feared might be pregnant and leave the ratepayers with a mother and child to support.

From 1697 temporary movement was tolerated, provided that a person held a settlement certificate from their own parish. Surviving certificates can be found in parish records where these had been presented to the parish authorities. If that family became needy, the settlement certificate was proof of the parish responsible for their relief.

Settlement certificates exist in a pre-printed format from about 1740 – before that they were handwritten – and list family members at a certain date, their place of settlement, and sometimes occupations. When a family appears in a parish where they seemingly have no prior history, they can sometimes be traced using these certificates to parishes (and their records) where they were formerly resident.

Before birth registration, determining a place of settlement without a settlement certificate could be difficult. If parish officers had concerns, the person was questioned under oath before two magistrates. Where these settlement examinations survive, they provide for the family historian in effect a potted biography of an ancestor, full of useful genealogical information. The examinations were often recorded on printed forms, where space was provided for the examinant's place and date of birth. At the end of the examination the JPs had to decide whether the person should be removed and, if it was decided that they belonged to another parish, a removal order was issued. Two copies were made, one for each parish, and where these records survive they also summarise the information given in the

settlement examination. A lucky researcher may find more information on a pre-1800 removal order than in a later nineteenth-century census.

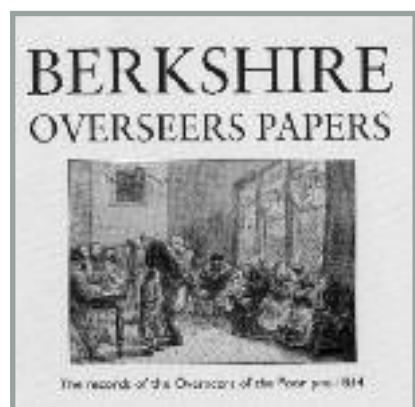
If the receiving parish did not accept responsibility then the matter could go before the Quarter Sessions, whose records will also contain useful genealogical information, as litigation could become protracted. Indeed, some parishes probably spent more money on legal fees than they saved in poor relief.

Similar examinations before JPs could take place for women accused of having an illegitimate child, and these bastardy examinations can help identify places where female ancestors had come from, as well as identifying putative fathers.

The effect of the settlement and removal system was to trap the poor where they were; it was a huge system of social engineering, as well as being very costly, especially when expensive litigation between parishes occurred. This led to demands for reform.

Towards the end of the eighteenth century, the settlement laws saw some liberalisation. The 1795 Removal Act prevented pre-emptive removal from a parish unless a person applied for poor relief. The Settlement Act was repealed in 1834 under the Poor Law Amendment Act, but the practice of removal continued much later into the nineteenth century, and was finally repealed in 1876.

After 1834, poor law unions were extended across the country. These unions, groups of parishes bound together to administer poor relief, formed the basis of the civil registration system that was to follow in 1837. Each union built a workhouse into which people would be compelled to live as a condition of receiving help ending the previous system of outdoor relief.



Berkshire Overseers' Papers on CD, published by Berkshire FHS

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Includes a master index.

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If pixels are a mystery with which you prefer not to engage, you can post your photo to the editor at the address on the inside front page, and it can be scanned, and then returned to you.

No 1 Greyfriars Road, Reading



**From Jenny Harris (6429)
<trustrueme2@yahoo.co.uk>**

This is No 1 Greyfriars Road, Reading, where my great-grandmother (Adelaide Mary Hammond) lived prior to her marriage (1865) to Alfred Treacher, who lived just over the road at No 4. No 1 is the only house left standing, the rest of the road having been demolished. I was hoping that some members out there may be able to tell me if the house was boarding rooms at this time, or was let as a full house? At the time of this picture being taken (2007) I do know that the building was being used as solicitors' offices: when did this happen? I am greatly intrigued to know some of its history.

No 5 Castle Hill, Maidenhead

**From Beverley Turzynski
<beverley.turzynski57@gmail.com>**

I am trying to trace the history of my family and, having received the birth certificate of my mother, Joan Patricia Hagland, born 28 May 1930 at 5 Castle Hill, Maidenhead. I am wondering whether that address was, at that time, a nursing home. Grateful for some guidance on this please.

Horsmans of East Ilsley

From Eric Saxton (4389)

<e.saxton123@btinternet.com>

EAST ILSLEY

AN APPEAL TO THE GENERAL PUBLIC on behalf Mr. ALFRED HORSMAN and FAMILY who, under unfortunate circumstances, after thirty years, through no fault of their own, have lost their ALL, and to this appeal, if funds can be raised, will emigrate to Canada on Friday, March 21st sailing from Liverpool – S. S. Tunisian.

Mr Horsman and Family have always been ready and willing to help raise funds for things required, such as Singing at Concerts, Stage Acting, Carol Singing, Boy Scouts, &c. He has held Government appointments as Tax Collector and Land Valuation Officer; for many years also Agent for the National Deposit Approved Friendly Society; for 28 years also as a Parish Councillor from its commencement; a member of the Management of the Compton Pilgrims' Approved Benefit Society; and Government Army Contractor for 25 years and their removal from the village will be a loss indeed.

He founded the now celebrated Ilsley United Brass Band, and was Bandmaster for 16 years.

I make this appeal as I know their adverse circumstances, and trust funds will be forthcoming to help them in their circumstances.

SUBSCRIPTIONS will be thankfully received, and will be acknowledged by me,

ELI ELLIOTT,
West End Farm,
East Ilsley,
Newbury.

Also H. A. Peason, Esq., Manager Metropolitan Bank, Newbury, has kindly consented to act as treasurer.



Every two months I compile a feature for our local village newsletter entitled "100 years ago". This entails searching the *Newbury Weekly News* on microfilm in Newbury Library, for any mention of East Ilsley. Recently I came across the item above from 20th February 1913.

This appeal was obviously successful for in June 1913, Alfred Horsman wrote a letter to the newspaper from Canada, pleased with his decision to emigrate and wishing he had done it when he was younger. Subsequent research has revealed that he died in Canada aged 90 in 1949. Both he and his sons were allotted land in Saskatchewan, and at least two of his sons enlisted in the Canadian Army during the First World War. It is not known whether they actually fought in Europe.

There is evidence that two sons, Herbert and Guy, returned to England in 1922 with their families. Another son, Wilfred must also have returned, as he died in the Reading district in the last quarter of 1958.

If there are descendants or relatives still in the area, I would be interested in hearing from them. I would like to know the circumstances in which Alfred "lost his ALL". This happens to tie in with some recent research I have been doing into the Scout Troop which was formed in East Ilsley in 1912. Two photographs have come into the possession of the local history society, and efforts are being made to identify the people in them. One who has been identified is Wilfred G Horsman (mentioned above) who was an assistant scoutmaster. If there are any of Wilfred's descendants locally who could supply information I am willing to trade copies of these pictures.

Who were the survivors of the Bridge?



From Vic Blackman 7445

<vic.blackman@care4free.net>

1 Mayfair, Tilehurst, Reading RG30 4RA

0118 9431473

This postcard was sent to my grandfather in Portsmouth, and is postmarked Chatham 5 July 1909. It was signed by someone named Jack who was going to Portsmouth to be stationed, but I don't know if Jack was a relation or a friend. The only indication of why the group was photographed is where Jack has written *This is a postcard of the survivors of the Bridge*.

There is no longer anyone alive in my family to give any information on the identity of Jack or the occasion on which the photograph was taken.

I sent a copy to the National Army Museum, and they suggested that the group of soldiers in the postcard are Sappers of the Royal Engineers at Chatham, but cannot give any information as to the occasion.

As this photograph was printed as a postcard, I assume more than one was produced and that, perhaps somewhere, a reader of the *Historian* may have information about the event.

Who are these happy Edwardians, and where are they?

Anna M Hemmings (7298) sent in these snaps with an intriguing story as to their provenance

These prints were made from negatives that my sister and I found in about 1965. We lived in Woodley. Thatchers, formerly a public house, in Fairwater Drive, was then a private house owned by, I think, a Nobby Clark, and included the surrounding woodland and a lake. The lake still exists but most of the area is now houses.

After Nobby Clark died the house appeared empty. As teenagers we explored the outhouses and, amongst a lot of inexpensive items and rubbish, we found the negatives and kept them.

The house pictured (no.9) is not Thatchers, so it would be intriguing to know more about the people and the property.



more of these pictures overleaf





The pictures have been numbered for ease of reference, but this does not represent any chronological sequence.

If you have any idea who these people are or where these places might be, you can contact Anna Hemmings at [<mariekehemmings@yahoo.co.uk>](mailto:mariekehemmings@yahoo.co.uk), or write to her at 18 Hazel Drive, Woodley, Berkshire RG5 3SA.

Gleanings

from exchange magazines

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

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

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

Parish officers

Using his ancestors as examples the author details churchwardens, parish constables and overseers of the poor.

Footprints Northamptonshire FHS (36), vol 35, November 2012, p26-28

Clandestine marriages

A marriage not conducted in accordance with canon law was “clandestine”, covering a very broad spectrum of possibilities.

Footprints Northamptonshire FHS (36), vol 35, November 2012, p17-20

The Babies’ Castle

Information on Barnardo’s “Babies’ Castle” at Hawkhurst Place, Kent, with four pages of photographs

Essex Family Historian (14), December 2012, p37-42

Oranges and lemons: the churches of the rhyme

A talk covering a brief history of each of the churches mentioned in the nursery rhyme

Hillingdon FHS (33), September 2012, p30-34

Distraint

Behind in your rent? Distraint as a method of recovering debts has been on the statue books since 1257.

Essex Family Historian (14), December 2012, p35-36

DNA

Autosomal DNA: the new revolution

An example of what can be found using autosomal DNA and how it differs from Y-chromosome and mitochondrial DNA.

Chinook Alberta FHS (71), vol 33, October 2012, p10-11

Discovering cousins with autosomal DNA testing for genealogy

What is autosomal DNA, and how can it help find relations?

Chinook Alberta FHS (71), vol 33, October 2012, p5-9

GENERAL INTEREST

The lost 11 days: an explanation of the calendar changes in 1752

Essential reading for anyone who has traced their family back this far

Herefordensis Herefordshire FHS (17), vol 11, October 2012, p349-50

Christmas Day in the Australian colonies

Roast koala anyone? Wattle birds on toast?

Christmas food from 1888

Australian Family Tree Connections (65), December 2012, p12-14

The 10 golden rules of genealogy – and how to ignore them

Make sure you don’t commit any of the genealogical sins given in this article.

Australian Family Tree Connections (65), December 2012, p34-36

Tales from beyond the grave and other matters at Arnos Vale

How record searches are conducted, and some stories of the inhabitants of Arnos Vale cemetery

Bristol & Avon FHS (3), December 2012, p22-26

A new publication

Describes the work on producing the first CD of apprentice book transcriptions

Bristol & Avon FHS (3), December 2012, p55-56

PARISH PROFILES

My parish: Blagdon

Bounded by the wonderfully named Nempnett Thrubwell, Blagdon is on the north side of the Mendip Hills.

Bristol & Avon FHS (3), December 2012, p41-46

RESEARCH

The Facebook generation

Summary of a talk given by Debbie Kennett, covering not just Facebook but also LinkedIn, Google+ and Twitter

Origins Buckinghamshire FHS (4), December 2012, p208-210

The "P" in baptism

Ever come across a "P" in the margin of a baptism register? Private baptism is not the only possibility.

Hillingdon FHS (33), September 2012, p7-9

Parish of St Mary Magdalen, Bermondsey

Alternative sources when few poor law records survive

Journal East Surrey FHS (45), vol 35, September 2012, p19-22

Was your ancestor a civil servant?

Summary of a talk given by Alan Ruston on where to find records of civil servants

Origins Buckinghamshire FHS (4), December 2012, p206-207

Using nicknames to identify Irish ancestors

Catholic naming conventions led to many people in a parish sharing the same name. Nicknames provide a way of distinguishing one from another.

Descent Society of Australian Genealogists (64), vol 42, September 2012, p113-117

Romany travellers in Oxfordshire prior to 1750: assessing the evidence

Register entries of "Egyptian" may be indicative of Romany ancestry.

Oxfordshire FHS (39), vol 26, December 2012, p192-195

COMPUTERS AND INTERNET

Using A Vision of Britain through Time to investigate an Oxfordshire village

With Great Rollright as an example

Oxfordshire FHS (39), vol 26, December 2012, p165-172

Why do we still need archives when we've got the internet?

Summary of a lecture given by Nick Barratt

Essex Family Historian Essex Society for FH (14), December 2012, p68

ARCHIVES

The Irish Genealogical Research Society Library

An overview of the IGRS library in London

Journal East Surrey FHS (45), vol 35, September 2012, p8-11

Bookends

Compiled by Ivan Dickason and Tony Roberts

Prices quoted are for:

a) direct sales from the bookshop at the Research Centre

b) mail order purchase within UK, including p&p by second class post unless stated otherwise

c) mail order purchase from overseas, including p&p airmail.

NB Royal Mail postage prices will change from 2 April, so please check the website.

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

BEGINNERS

Hw 2*t ur fmly hstry

Jane Starkie (The Family History Partnership, 2008) 250 mm x 170 mm, perfect bound, 160 pp

Shop £ 6.50, UK £ 10.21, airmail £18.53

At some time during their early years children will ask questions such as “Where do I come from?” and “Who am I?” Written primarily for the nine to 16 year old age group, this book shows how youngsters can find answers to their questions by introducing them to family history in a lively and entertaining way. With a plain, straightforward and confiding style of writing, Jane Starkie delivers the concepts of family trees, ancestor tracing, family history sources, and recording findings, in clear and understandable language.

Throughout the book the messages in the text are reinforced with a great many photographs and pictures, word games and puzzles, each chapter finishing with a short list of points for the young researcher to remember. Woven throughout the text is the social history that parallels the family history text, putting our ancestral names, occupations, placenames, habits and dress, urban and rural life in context, often illustrated through the lives of the children of the time. No doubt many of the readers of this book will be as shocked by the thought of going to work in a mill, or mine, from dawn to dusk at nine years old, as by the lack of mobile phones and iPads in those earlier times.

For the child of an enquiring mind, and interested in “Where do I come from?” and “Who am I?” this book provides an excellent starting point, and is likely to inspire the

persevering reader to get more involved in “Fmly Hstry”.

Tony Roberts

PRACTICAL FAMILY HISTORY

The Home Front 1939-45; a guide for family historians

Stuart A Raymond (The Family History Partnership, 2012), A5 perfect bound, 64 pp
Shop £ 5.95, UK £ 6.87, airmail £8.85
This book does exactly what it says in its title: it guides the family historian to sources of archive material on the personnel and activities of wartime Home Front organisations. After a brief introduction, and notes on civil registers and other death records, the author takes the reader through a further 15 short chapters of notes on various facets of Home Front life during this exceptional period. The first five of these chapters look at national registration, electoral registers, taxation records, trade directories and newspapers. Apart from the national registration chapter, the others are not specifically wartime but serve as reminders that these sources still may have useful information for the war period researcher.

The next 10 chapters cover more specifically wartime topics: the Home Guard; Royal Observer Corps; Civil Defence; war damage; medals; internees and conscientious objectors; voluntary organisations; evacuation; and education. Each chapter has a brief background resumé and is then followed by notes on the scope and location of surviving archives.

The last chapter comprises a third of the whole book and is devoted to the occupational sources available for the period. Some of these

are not specifically wartime: they were simply reorganised for the duration, but all important occupations during the war (and in some cases in its aftermath) are covered. Here, among others, are the Bevin Boys (coalminers), farmers, Women's Land Army and munitions workers as well as police, firemen, coastguards and railway workers.

The book has a number of contemporary photographs, but more importantly each chapter or sub-chapter has information on the location of relevant archive material, and on the online sources available. For the family historian researching this period this book is an invaluable tool and guide.

Tony Roberts

PRACTICAL FAMILY HISTORY

Title deeds for family historians

Tim Wormleighton (The Family History Partnership, 2012) A5 booklet, 32 pp
Shop £ 4.95, UK £ 5.45, airmail £7.33
With about 30 years of service as an archivist and heritage manager the author is well acquainted with title deeds in their many forms and styles. These useful and valuable family and local history documents are sometimes overlooked, and are often perceived as difficult to read and interpret. In this book Tim Wormleighton explains clearly and precisely the different types of title deeds extant, how they were used, how to recognise the phrases of legalistic jargon that give structure to the documents, and above all how the family historian can quickly get to the real nub of the matters outlined in them.

The book is set out in four principal sections: what title deeds are; medieval deeds; post-medieval deeds; and how to recognise the key sections of deeds. Within this framework the author discusses the origins and intentions of different types of title and their parts: freeholds; copyholds; lease and release; quitclaim; bargain and sale; charges; final concords; recoveries; feoffments; and others besides. In

the recognition section the reader is shown how specific phrases are used to divide a deed into its main components: the introduction; names of parties; recitals; terms; duration and witnessing.

The book is well illustrated, and in both the text and reference sections a number of useful websites are given. Overall this small book is a very useful and readable digest and guide to the topic.

Tony Roberts

LOCAL HISTORY

High stewards of Wokingham

Jim Bell (self-published, 2010) A5 paperback
40pp

Former town clerks of Wokingham

Jim Bell (self-published, 2011) A5 paperback
40pp

Each book: Shop £ 3.50, UK £4.00, airmail
£5.88

Both of these books by Wokingham-based author Jim Bell are of very similar format. Each comprises an introduction on the origins of the office followed by a collection of short biographies of each holder of the office in the title. The book on town clerks additionally has a short chapter detailing the responsibilities of the clerk.

The office of High Steward is that of an eminent person who acts as a medium of communication between the Crown, government and the town of Wokingham, and the first appointment was made in 1612, following the town charter granted by King James I. An unbroken series of 19 appointments from 1612 takes the reader through to the 1992 appointment of the incumbent at time of publication, Lady Elizabeth Godsall. As might be expected with persons of eminence their biographies (with a couple of notable exceptions) only contain a small amount of Wokingham area information among their many national and international activities.

The charter of 1612 also saw the establishment of the office of common clerk (renamed

town clerk in 1885) and the book covers all 20 clerks through to the retirement of Keith Abnett in 2011. As might be expected with a rather more parochial appointment, the clerks' biographies contain much more of interest to local and family historians. However very little is known of the early appointees, and the four seventeenth-century clerks are only known as names (in one case the only evidence is a lone signature). However, from the mid-eighteenth century onwards the reader is presented with enough biographical detail to bring out the personalities and stories of the men (and woman) that have held the office.

Taken together these two books contrast two very different views of civic service, the well-known intermediary between town and state, and the diligent and unsung local public servant. Both offer interest to historians; which one depends on the reader's preference.

Tony Roberts

Tadley tracks, Tadley facts

Tadley and District History Society 112 pages
Shop £8.00, UK £11.20, airmail £15.98

The introduction to this small book explains that this is the second edition of a booklet first published in 1982.

This glossy, wire-bound volume contains an introduction to Tadley (with hints as to how the book may best be used), a description of the maps for each walk and some information about, for example, parking at the beginning of the walks. There is also useful information about the Countryside Code (for the walkers) and the Code for Land Managers (for the owners of land).

There are nine walks varying from two to seven and a quarter miles. Each walk has a theme, such as Tadley churches, or Silchester. There are illustrated notes for each walk with photographs of important turning points and places of interest along the route. For each walk there is a colourful, detailed, large-scale map of the route.

The final walk plots a route past more than 30 buildings in the Tadley Conservation Area

together with photographs of many of them. The book concludes with a bibliography and notes for further reading.

This book will be useful for members with interests in Tadley and, indeed, anyone who wants a day in the country with a guided walk.

Ivan Dickason

SOCIAL HISTORY

Reporting the Blitz: news from Home Front communities

Stuart Hylton (History Press, 2012)

250 mm x 170 mm, flexiback, 223pp

Shop £ 14.99, UK £ 18.70, airmail £27.02

Reading author Stuart Hylton is a freelance writer and local historian whose works will be familiar to many readers of the *Historian*. He has written several books dealing with the Home Front 1939-45, and this new book demonstrates again Hylton's considerable knowledge of the period.

Drawing heavily on contemporary advertisements, public notices and newspaper clippings to illustrate his text, he takes the reader on a journey through the many aspects of British Home Front life during the Second World War as it was seen and reported at the time by those experiencing it. Starting with the early days of the Phoney War, evacuation and blackout, the reader is taken through many facets of life as it was lived under onerous and restrictive conditions. Entertainment, food, rationing, salvage, make-do and mend, transport and fashion are all examined.

Throughout these chapters the author shows how the British coped (in the main) with shortages, rationing and restrictions on personal freedom with ingenuity, stoicism and humour. However his generally light touch in dealing with these topics is punctuated by the darker side of life in the untimely night deaths caused by blackout, the black markets, and occasions of unfair rationing distribution, moral decline and social divisions. On the other hand, reading newspaper reports of magistrates' proceedings, it is startling to find

the rigour with which even the smallest breach of regulations (no matter how innocently caused) was pursued.

The last three chapters of Hylton's book are concerned with class division, attitudes towards our Russian and American allies, and the nation's war aims. To a twenty-first-century reader the class divisions existing in this period challenge our own perceptions of one nation united and equal in the common struggle. Attitudes to our allies were understandably mixed, but the chapter on our war aims of the time is disturbing, revealing their absence at the start of hostilities, and muddled thinking by their end.

This book is purely social history, and even then is not specific to Reading or Berkshire. Nevertheless, for any family historian who wants to understand how people lived and thought during this critical period of the twentieth century it is an excellent guide. The book is well researched and written, and highly readable, engaging the interest of the reader throughout.

Tony Roberts

LISTINGS

Newbury Wesleyan Methodist circuit baptisms 1796 to 1852

Eureka Publications 2012 40 pages
Shop £3.00 UK £ 3.92 airmail £ 5.90

The Newbury Wesleyan Methodist circuit was formed in 1796. A physical plan of 1854/56 reveals that the circuit included places of worship at 16 parishes in Berkshire and five parishes in Hampshire. This volume contains a transcription of the baptism entries found in circuit registers for the period 1796 to 1852. The entries for 1796 to 1823 are for those baptisms recorded in the Wesleyan Chapel in Northbrook Street, Newbury, and gives the name(s) of the child and the parents together with the place of residence.

Between 1823 and 1837 the entries are from the registers held by the Newbury circuit. These entries give the useful additional information of the names of the mother's parents. From 1838 the entries revert to a simple statement of the child's name(s), the parent's names and the place of residence.

The booklet concludes with a useful index of names.

Eureka has published other transcriptions for the Newbury Wesleyan Methodist circuit and this volume complements the existing publications.

Members with nonconformist interests in the Newbury district will find this new volume a useful tool.

Ivan Dickason

BERKSHIRE and LONDON

*(all of England & Wales
for 19th and 20th centuries)*

Experienced and affordable researcher. I am a member of the Society of Genealogists. No task too small. Please contact me for more information – the initial consultation is free.

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Email:

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Berkshire FHS Research Centre

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0118 950 9553 <researchcentre@berksfhs.org.uk>

- 15 minutes' walk from the centre of Reading
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- 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)

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.

Members submitting their interests:

6434 Mrs B THURGATE 10 Greenside Drive, Hale, Altrincham WA14 3HX
<bridget.thurgate@sky.com>

7475 Mr F BOND Tyr Waun, Porthyrdd, Carmarthen SA32 8BP
<fredbond@btinternet.com>

7486 Mr R SLATER 1 Angells Meadow, Ashwell SG7 5QS
<richard.slatter@slatter.com>

7475	BOND	All	BRK	pre 1800
7486	BROMLEY	Sonning	BRK	1730-1850
6434	DEACON	Ashbury	BRK	1600-1700
6434	HACKER	All	All	All
6434	LEIGH	Washford	SOM	1500-1920
6434	PROCTOR	Old Windsor	BRK	1650-1700
6434	TRIPP	Taunton	SOM	1500-1900
6434	UPTON	Wilmslow	CHS	1500-1900
6434	UPTON	Old Windsor	BRK	1680-1700
6434	VIGOR	Manchester	CHS	1600-1800
6434	VIGOR	Altrincham	CHS	1600-1800

The editor welcomes contributions to the Berkshire Family Historian

Articles may be of any length up to 1,200 words, but – please – no more. In the interests of fairness this limit is strictly applied to one and all. Shorter articles are equally welcome; pictures with questions or stories, amusing extracts from the registers and brief anecdotes are important to the overall balance of the magazine. Articles will, of course, be subject to the editing process, which may involve changes (usually minor) at the editor's discretion.

Subjects will usually have direct relevance to Berkshire, or concern genealogical methodology. If you're considering researching a new subject with a view to publication in the magazine it's wise to let the editor know, just in case someone else has had the same idea.

Pictures enhance the text, but please be aware that:

- they must be cleared for publication, either by being out of copyright (which applies equally to internet pictures) or by obtaining the permission of the copyright holder.
- In order to print well, digital picture files should ideally be 300 ppi (pixels per inch); therefore, an image to be printed 3in x 4in in the magazine would need to be 900 x 1200 pixels.
- Please send your pictures as separate JPEG files, not as images pasted into Word files, because these cannot be extracted without degradation. Alternatively you can send photos and paper illustrations, which will be returned to you after they have been scanned.

The deadlines are:

7 October for the December issue
7 January for March

7 April for June
7 July for September.

No fees are paid to any contributors, alas, but all articles published are greatly appreciated by thousands of readers. The *Historian* is read not only by the society's 2,000-odd members, but also by the users of several public libraries and institutions. Issues of the journal are posted on the society's website (in the members' area) soon after publication.