

Berkshire Family Historian

the quarterly journal of the Berkshire Family History Society

March 2015

vol 38

Family names appearing in this issue

*excluding living people,
authors of sources, roy-
alty, corporate names,
glancing reference to
famous people and
members' interests*

Agnew 21
Albinolo 26
Bird 22
Booth 20
Butler 17
Caudwell 23
Clark 15
Coade 13
Dickinson 23
Fisher 17
Golding 24
Hart 21
Helsby 20
Hine 29
Holloway 26
Hopcraft 20
Howells 21
Instone 27
Jones 17
Joyce 20
Lawson 21
Lighton 21
Lousley 23
Lynch 21
Martin 27
Martin-Holloway 27
Millar 20
Mosley 13
Neale 28
Norris 28
Ody 23
Philpotts 24
Plant 21
Purton 16
Racionzer 21
Ransom 21
Richardson 21
Rolls 27
Ross 24
Shaw 20
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Notice of Annual General Meeting and election of officers and trustees

In accordance with the society's constitution, notice is given that the 40th Annual General Meeting of the Berkshire Family History Society will be held on Wednesday 17 June 2015 at 7.30pm, before the Computer Branch meeting at the Oakwood Centre, Headley Road, Woodley, Reading RG5 4JZ. See <http://tinyurl.com/Oakwood-Centre>, where you can see the centre, the car park opposite and Headley Road.

There is parking (free after 6pm) available in the public car park opposite the centre.

The meeting chairman is to be nominated by those trustees present.

The main business of the meeting will be to receive a brief report from the secretary on the past year's activities, to receive from the treasurer the independently examined accounts for the year ending 30 April 2015 for acceptance and approval, and to elect for the year 2015/2016 the society's president*, vice-presidents, officers and trustees. It is not currently anticipated that there will be any other major business to transact.

Officers and trustees form the society's Executive Committee. The committee will be seeking to fill a number of vacancies to restore trustee numbers to their permitted maximum.** Without its full complement of trustees, the society may be unable to continue to provide all existing services.

If you would like to nominate a member to the Executive, please let the secretary know, in writing, by Wednesday 3 June 2015. Nomination forms may be obtained from the Research Centre, the secretary, at branch meetings or downloaded from the website at www.berksfhs.org.uk. Please ensure that the person you nominate is prepared to sit on the Executive Committee and be a trustee of the charity. All nominations should be seconded. Information about being a trustee of a charity and what it entails can be found on the Charity Commission website at www.charity-commission.gov.uk (publication CC3). Certain people are not able to be a trustee:

Persons under the age of 18;

Anyone convicted of an offence involving deception or dishonesty unless the conviction is spent;

Anyone who is an undischarged bankrupt;

Anyone who has been removed from the trusteeship of a charity;

Anyone who is disqualified from being a company director;

Any other person described in sections 178 to 180 of the Charities Act 2011.

**Members attending the 2014 AGM gave unanimous support to a resolution that the incoming Executive Committee be granted authority to appoint a society president, such power to expire at the conclusion of the next annual general meeting of the society after the passing of this resolution (unless previously renewed, amended or revoked in a general meeting) and on the understanding that any president so appointed should be nominated for re-election by society members at the annual general meeting in 2015 in the normal way. At the date of the publication of this notice the committee has not made such an appointment.*

*** Tony Wright has indicated a wish to step down.*

After the AGM the branch is hosting a talk by Ian Waller on "Wicked" Wikis.

How to get there

Directions to Oakwood Centre from A329(M)

(distances are approximate)

Travelling southbound (towards Bracknell)

At interchange of A3290 with A329(M) take the slip road signed *non-motorway traffic* (A329) and P+bus. Follow Woodley/Sonning signs and lane markings to traffic-light-controlled roundabout. 200 yds.

Take the second exit onto the Bader Way (signposted Sonning, Woodley). Follow the Bader Way to the roundabout. 0.9 miles.

At roundabout take 2nd exit into Miles Way and straight on until next roundabout. 0.25 miles.

At roundabout take 2nd exit into Spitfire Way and straight on until next roundabout. 0.2 miles.

At roundabout take 1st exit into Headley Road East and straight on until next roundabout. 0.25 miles.

At roundabout (Just Tiles) take 2nd exit into Headley Road, and follow to the 1st mini-roundabout. 0.25 miles.

Take 1st exit into shopping precinct car park. 50yds.

The Oakwood Centre is on the other side of Headley Road, opposite the car park.

Travelling northbound (towards Reading)

Leave the A329(M) at interchange marked P+bus, Winnersh, Woodley, Earley, A329.

Keeping to the right, follow the signs and lane markings to Woodley and Sonning through two traffic-light-controlled roundabouts. 0.5 miles.

After second roundabout and passing under the A329(M) keep left, and take 1st exit at the traffic-light-controlled roundabout onto the Bader Way. 300 yds.

Follow the route given in the previous section from here on.

Directions to Oakwood Centre from A4

(Distances are approximate)

Travelling from Reading on the A4

Take 3rd exit at the Shepherds Hill roundabout, signposted to Woodley (Reading Road). Follow Reading Road until reaching the mini-roundabout in the centre of Woodley.

0.8 miles.

Take 1st exit at the mini-roundabout into Headley Road and follow to the next mini-roundabout. 100 yds.

At the mini-roundabout take the 2nd exit into shopping precinct car park. 50yds.

Travelling from Maidenhead on the A4

At the roundabout with 1st exit marked Woodley (10 T mgw limit), 2nd to Reading A4 and 3rd Sonning (7.5T limit) – take the 1st exit (for Woodley) into Pound Lane.

Follow Pound Lane and subsequently Butts Hill Road until the roundabout is reached. 1 mile.

At the roundabout take 3rd exit into Headley Road.

Follow Headley Road to the mini-roundabout. 0.25 miles.

Take 1st exit into shopping precinct car park. 50yds

If you've never considered attending an AGM before...

...why not give it a try this year? The formalities are brief (but informative), and a good speaker has been booked to follow them. You'll have the chance to meet some of your fellow members, and perhaps to put faces to the names you read about in your *Historian*.



Register exchange scheme helps to preserve records

Peter Durrant, the recently retired county archivist, and Jocie McBride representing Berkshire Family History Society, exchange new registers for old with the Rev John Townend of Great Shefford.

In order to preserve the parish registers of pre-1974 Berkshire, the society has been working with Berkshire Record Office in buying blank baptism and burials registers to donate to churches, which can then deposit their old registers with the BRO. Under this scheme new baptism and burials register books have recently been donated to Brightwalton, Great Shefford and Welford & Wickham, enabling these parishes to deposit their existing registers with the BRO.

If your church would like to preserve its registers in this way please contact the BRO.

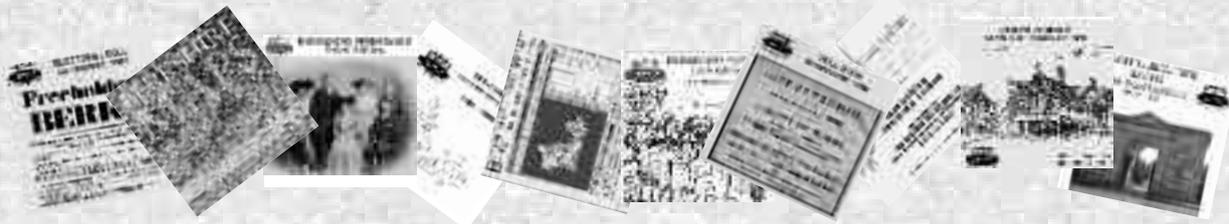
And the winners were...

...three lucky attendees at the society's October conference, *Conflict and change*, whose names were drawn out of the hat to win prizes donated by conference sponsor Findmypast. They were Richard Mallett, who won 12 months' worldwide membership, and Jane Joslin and Audrey Curtis, who each won 12 months' UK membership.

2015 is the society's 40th anniversary year

Watch out for further announcements in the June *Historian*

UPDATE



Projects and publications

You will have noted in my last couple of updates that we've been struggling to produce parish and county-wide CDs for some months now, due to a lack of suitable volunteers, so thank you everyone who responded to my request for help in September's *Historian*. I'm pleased to be able to say that we had a good level of response, and three volunteers are now actively working on each producing a CD for the society: John Pearce (*Berkshire marriages edition 3*); Brian Edwards (Fawley St Mary parish CD); and Nick Walker (Brimpton St Peter parish CD). We hope to be able to start CDs with several other volunteers in the not-too-distant future. The more people who are able to own a project, the more we are able to do, and the more thinly the work can be spread. So please, don't be shy in coming forward if you have website or technical skills.

Transcribing remains ongoing for *Berkshire burials edition 12* and *Berkshire baptisms edition 2* plus a number of planned individual and cluster-parish CDs. Checking is underway for transcriptions of the parish registers for Binfield,

Peasmore and Kintbury, and for a proposed cluster CD covering Purley, Sulham and Tidmarsh. At the same time we're tackling some of the poorest quality registers to read, such as the early registers for White Waltham St Mary and Newbury St Nicolas. Several people have requested Wallingford baptism and marriage transcriptions in recent months, and I'm pleased to say that we've started to tackle these, and the first registers should be in the next edition of *Berkshire baptisms*.

Brian Wilcock's eloquent article in the December 2013 *Historian* described the pleasures of recording monumental inscriptions and also the pressing need to act quickly in what really can be "rescue" family history. When the weather improves Brian and his volunteers will be back out in the churchyards, so if you would like to help with any of our indoor or outdoor projects over the coming months, please do contact us via the projects' email address.

Catherine Sampson
Projects co-ordinator

New publications now available from the bookshop



**Fully photographed,
with interactive plans
and church history**
Bookshop price £6,
mail order £7.73 UK,
£10.48 airmail



Berkshire and the War was originally published by the *Reading Standard* in 1923. Edition Two (Edition One was a 5-CD set by a now-defunct company) is produced by Berkshire FHS on one CD with completely redone indexes (over 50% bigger) covering name, location, regiment, civilian organisation, military organisation, date, page, photographer, status, advertisements, and others.

Nearly 12,000 WWI names, most with photos

Bookshop price £20, mail order £22.17 UK, £26.05 airmail



Research Centre developments

I would like to tell you about some of the recent developments at our Research Centre, which together have made it a much more amenable and useful place to visit.

These changes have been led by a newly re-established Research Centre committee with Lin Ricketts as chair and Joan Vinall as vice-chair. I'm the member of the Executive Committee responsible for the development of the centre, and ensuring that the Executive is fully on board and in agreement with the developments. We are all strong believers in good communication and keeping volunteers and members fully informed about what is going on at the centre.

What will you as a potential user notice about the centre now?

- The chairs are comfortable and the centre has been painted, the carpets cleaned and it is generally a much more pleasant place to visit.
- We now have **The Genealogist** (see opposite for details), **Ancestry**, **Findmypast** and the **British Newspaper Archive** online for you to use for a token payment of £1 per hour. These are generally working well and providing many breakthroughs for our members. We accept that our computers are a bit creaky and not state-of-the-art, but until our future at Yeomanry House is known, we cannot justify the investment required for a new networked system.
- Once a month, our Tuesday evening session takes the form of a "natter night" where there's discussion and advice on a particular topic, together with light refreshments (see our web page for further details of the programme).
- We have recently recruited four new assistants (with another joining us in May) who are all very knowledgeable about Berkshire records and/or internet resources and research methodology.



- All assistants are welcoming and very willing to give you any help they can on your visit. Whilst we're happy to let you work on your research on your own if you so wish, **one of the big advantages we have over libraries and record offices is that we are willing to talk to you about any aspect of family or local history that interests you**, and we're also willing to learn from your particular knowledge base and experiences. You too may well learn from other people there in a mutually helpful environment.



The Research Centre library

- You can buy society products (books and CDs) as advertised on our website and can now pay either by cash, cheque or credit card without any surcharge or postage costs.

Please come and visit us (opening hours are to be found on page 34), have a cup of tea and see what we have to offer. I hope you'll be pleasantly surprised, but if you do have any comments or suggestions, please let me know.

Richard Ashberry
treasurer@berksfhs.org.uk

The Genealogist is now available on the computers in the Research Centre



Coverage stated:

GRO index 1837 - 2005 ≈ overseas records ≈ 1841 - 1911 census England and Wales ≈ largest online collection of nonconformist records ≈ parish records ≈ wills, probates and testaments ≈ military records ≈ international records ≈ school, college and university registers ≈ directories ≈ electoral registers ≈ newspapers and magazines ≈ telephone directories ≈ occupational lists ≈ peerage and heritage records ≈ visitations ≈ regimental records ≈ landowners ≈ poll/electoral records ≈ royal records

Some of these datasets are also available on Findmypast and Ancestry but ***it is always useful to look at more than one website, because even though the data should be the same in all transcriptions, this is not always so, and different search engines sometimes give different results.***

Check out **www.thegenealogist.co.uk**, then come and use The Genealogist for a nominal fee* at the Research Centre.

*£1 per hour for access to The Genealogist, Findmypast, Ancestry and the British Newspaper Archive

Around the branches

Bracknell and Wokingham Branch **bracknell@berksfhs.org.uk**

In November Alan Healey, a retired registrar from Windsor and Maidenhead register office, gave a talk on the history of registration. In 1538 Thomas Cromwell ordered all clergy to record every baptism, wedding and burial within the parish. It was not a success; data collection was patchy at best, and much of it false. In 1754 an Act of Parliament required permission for those marrying under 21, and for all marriages it prescribed two witnesses and a record in a register. In 1836 the Registration Act set up civil register offices and registrars (who were paid per entry), but this saw abuse: in Liverpool one was given six months' hard labour for false recording. In 1928 it became a salaried job.

One bride recently wanted "domestic goddess" put down as her occupation on the marriage certificate, but it was refused.

Between 1836 and 1874 a single mother could name anyone as the father on the birth certificate, but from 1874 the father had to attend to have his name recorded. From 1990 computers took over from handwritten methods. These days the registrar must be aware of different cultures and their rules, such as women not being allowed in a room alone with a man. Registrars undertake many duties, such as citizenship procedures, baby-naming ceremonies, and even marriages of the terminally ill at home.

The government wanted to put registration online, but the House of Lords rejected the idea.

Our Christmas meeting had the theme of frost fairs, the last of these having been held in 1814. It was an entertaining evening with quizzes, call my bluff, ground hoopla, shove halfpenny, tombola, music and a display of historical frost fairs. Fine food was washed down with a tasty punch, and a thoroughly enjoyable evening was had by all.

Library drop-in sessions continued to the end of the year at Wokingham and Bracknell.

The branch is organising a boat trip to Henley, with a guided walk around the town in July. This has been warmly received, with over 20 people signed up to date. It is open to all branches.

Brian Pledger

Computer Branch **computerbranch@berksfhs.org.uk**

The Computer Branch held an early Christmas party in November 2014 attended by 18 members. This year, in addition to mince pies and Christmas drink, we had a quiz. Members were divided into four teams for questions on computers and technology, Latin, Reading, Berkshire, historical dates and ancestral occupations. Scores were recorded after each section, with the lead changing; it was a real nail-biting occasion, undecided until the very end. A good time was had by all, and many said that they not only had fun but had also learned a lot.

In June the Computer Branch is hosting the society's AGM. The meeting will start at 7.30pm, ie earlier than usual. After the AGM the speaker will be Ian Waller, the title of his talk being "*Wicked*" Wikis.

On Thursday 9 July (instead on a meeting on the 16th) we're planning an outing to The National Archives at Kew, open to all. Participants will make their own way to Kew, but we will have a set train leaving Reading, through Wokingham, Bracknell and all other stations to Richmond on the Waterloo line, for first-timers and those who prefer to travel with others. Some may wish to go by car, and we'll meet them there. We're planning an introductory meeting, help for those with getting or renewing their readers' ticket, and we'll be on hand to help anyone who needs assistance during the day. Thursdays are late-night opening, meaning that we can leave late if we want to avoid the rush-hour. Could all branch reps please let their branch members know? All queries and reservations should be made to **computerbranch@berksfhs.org.uk**. In addition we're planning our April branch meeting on TNA: how to get there, what to expect when you get there, what records/data do they have, and research best done beforehand. Other branch members may be interested, regardless of whether they plan to come on the trip.

Gillian Stevens

Newbury Branch
newbury@berksfhs.org.uk

In November Paul Blake's talk title was *London genealogy, or the metropolitan nightmare*. Paul is a well-known writer and lecturer, and he gave an interesting description of the development of London from the time of Boudicca, the influences that changed it from a small, undefended trading centre to a thriving metropolitan city, as well as the boundary changes which occurred over hundreds of years.

Newbury members had asked for this talk, as many had struggled with ancestors in London. There are numerous places where a huge variety of records have been deposited, and population growth has made it easy for people to disappear. In 1820 one sixth of the population was nonconformist, and from 1837 to 1850 probably 10 to 15 per cent of births were not registered. Paul gave many helpful examples of useful places to look for records as well as many online resources. These included the London Metropolitan Archives, the Guildhall Library and the online picture resource at collage.cityoflondon.gov.uk.

In December the Christmas meeting was an enjoyable social event, with mulled non-alcoholic wine with nibbles, and a challenging quiz devised and led by Nick Prince. It was a good start to the festivities.

Penny Stokes and Dave Morris manned outreach sessions in Hungerford and Lambourn in December. With hindsight this may not have been the best month to re-launch these sessions, and the booking system at Hungerford Library had some glitches, but they will continue later in the New Year. Brian Snook was able to offer fewer sessions than usual in Thatcham.

In December I represented the society at the formal re-opening of the West Berkshire Museum. The refurbishment and redisplay project cost £2.26 million and has taken four years to complete. It was good to see a copy of the *Berkshire Family Historian* on display. The new facilities are well worth a visit – on Wednesdays to Sundays and Bank Holiday Mondays, 10am to 4pm.

www.westberks.gov.uk/museum

Eileen Schofield

Vale of the White Horse Branch
vale@berksfhs.org.uk

In November we had a talk from Keith Crawford about the Blanket Hall in Witney, which provoked much interesting conversation from some visitors who had childhood memories of it. A member brought an authentic Witney blanket that had been in her family for many years, which again contributed to discussions after the talk.

We have introduced a time after the talks to help members with problems which they have encountered with their research. It is early days, but we hope this will take off as people get used to it. To aid this we have bought a dongle for our laptop, so that we are now able to use the internet at our branch meetings and also at future outreach events.

For our Christmas meeting we arranged a question time, and asked members to bring

along their questions, as well as a plate of food, to make it more of a social event. It was a little harder than I thought to manage but, despite my lack of David Dimbleby skills, it was a good evening and we managed to break through a couple of brick walls and share skills in using online websites. We also signed up a new member to the society.

At our meeting in January Clare Sargent, the archivist at Radley College, will talk about WWI memorials and public schools during the Great War. The February meeting is one for steam engine enthusiasts: *Steam and steel in the Vale of the White Horse* will be our talk by Tony Hadland.

Family history surgeries continue at Abingdon, Wantage and Faringdon.

Vanessa Chappell

Windsor, Slough and Maidenhead Branch
windsor@berksfhs.org.uk

We welcomed back John Hanson to our October meeting. His subject this time was *Getting the most from Ancestry*. John has been a lecturer and teacher of family history for over 10 years and has lectured throughout England, including at the *WhoDoYouThinkYouAre?Live* shows.

He began by explaining that there are in fact six versions of Ancestry: UK, USA, Australia, Canada, Library Edition and Ancestry Institution. All versions were covered during the talk, each offering a different range of records. In the USA, for example, each state has its own criteria for record-keeping and, as you might expect, Australia's version catered for the intake of convicts. Tips on the use of Ancestry were given, with short cuts and methods of accessing supposedly non-accessible information. Alternative websites were mentioned with comparisons of content and ease of use. This was a well rehearsed talk, clearly spoken, with no script.

Liz Woolley was our speaker for November, her title being *Children and the War*. With the use of photographs, school logs and newspapers, an outline of how children experienced WWII was presented. Liz has an MSc in English local history, and she is particularly interested in the lives of ordinary working people in Oxfordshire where she lives. Most of her material was sourced from her home county. She spoke clearly and from a script about the experiences of a child during the war, beginning in September 1939, when a mass evacuation was made from London and the south-east of England to more rural areas such as

Oxfordshire. However, after several months of the Phoney War, during which a threat did not materialise, many children moved back home. The fall of France and the Blitz saw many children moved away again, some to Canada and the USA.

Some of those at the meeting recounted how they were evacuated, some to the north and others to the west country. I was able to say how my father, his mother and younger sister were evacuated from London to Norfolk.

Liz described how these children had mixed fortunes depending on who took them in, varying from a very harsh environment to one of a caring family with whom lifelong friendships were made.

We heard how children were encouraged to do their bit for the war effort. Collecting scrap metal, including shrapnel, was a popular task; potato-picking and gathering wool were also described. There were Mars for Merit Bars awarded to those who had collected, dug and saved for victory. Groups such as the Boy Scouts had waste paper salvage schemes, and even acted as runners for the police. Children could earn a few shillings with their own enterprises: carrying troop kit bags from one station to another, and selling sweets (obtained from American servicemen) to their classmates were examples mentioned. In finishing, Liz talked about the Soldiers of Oxfordshire (SOFO) Museum, which opened last September, telling how conflict affected the county. More details at www.sofa.org.uk.

Reading Branch
reading@berksfhs.org.uk

Our November meeting was about putting our ancestors' lives in context, with Trevor Ottlewski's excellent *History of houses* talk. He took us from the most basic of dwellings to 1960s architecture, via great halls. His knowledge and enthusiasm on the subject were clearly evident. From his presentation it was easy to imagine the sort of dwelling our ancestors lived in and the way that houses were furnished.

In December Margaret Crook, our former branch chairman, returned to take us through her search

for her ancestor, Annie. This took us to the Antipodes and sources for tracing ancestors there. Margaret also brought along the family bible, which proved a great source of interest. After Margaret's presentation, we had seasonal refreshments and time to chat.

Vicki Chesterman

New editor needed

In 2016 the *Berkshire Family Historian* will need a new editor

The present editor will be stepping down in a year's time, having completed 10 years in the post, and a replacement is being sought. There is not room here to detail the responsibilities of the job, nor to itemise all the skills which might be sought in a new editor. Suffice to say that enthusiasm and literacy are the most important requirements, as well as time available and a readiness to learn. (The present editor readily admits that most of what she now knows about producing a substantial magazine was learned on the job.)

Do not be put off by the thought, on looking at the current magazine, that this is not exactly what you could or would want to produce. The present editor is leaving because she feels that 10 years is long enough in the job, and that both she and the magazine would benefit from a change. The Executive would welcome new thinking about the future of the *Historian*.

Production of a 40-page issue each quarter is no lightweight task, but it is enormously rewarding. The magazine has dozens of regular contributors, whose relationships with the editor require nurturing (and sometimes nagging) but the results that they produce are invariably gratifying. Readers are almost always appreciative. For someone who enjoys working independently, and who takes pride in seeing their efforts culminate in a finished product well received, editing the *Berkshire Family Historian* is an unbeatably satisfying job.

The new editor (who need not necessarily be a society member, nor even live in Berkshire) would be welcome to take up the reins earlier than March 2016 if available, and the retiring editor will be happy to help, if wanted, in the changeover period. If the post of editor (unpaid, of course, as are all society officers, but expenses will be paid) appeals to you, take a look at the job description on www.berksfhs.org.uk/editor. Feel free also to contact the present editor or the society's secretary to ask more questions with, of course, no obligation.

Penny Stokes editor@berksfhs.org.uk

Tony Roberts secretary@berksfhs.org.uk





The view from next door

Ivone Turnbull
Visitor services archivist
of the Berkshire Record Office

2015 sees the 800th anniversary of the signing of the Magna Carta, a famous piece of English history about which we hear a great deal. We can even see copies of it at Lincoln Cathedral, Salisbury Cathedral and the British Library. But what is it really all about?

Back in the 1200s the feudal system meant that land was held through a hierarchy of tenants, from the king at the top right down to the rural peasant. All sorts of payments were due to the king, through marriage, wardship of heirs and control of widows. And then there was scutage.

Scutage was a tax paid by barons to the Crown for military service, instead of the provision of knights. This was the cause of baronial discontent against King John. King John was a ruthless ruler who often held people hostage if debts were not paid. By 1214 the barons had had enough. They rebelled and took hold of London. King John had no choice but to discuss terms, and the result was the signing of the Magna Carta in June 1215.

It limited fines that could be imposed on villeins (the unfree) so as not to deprive them of their livelihood; it regulated royal forest boundaries; and it prevented escalating interest on the debts of minors and widows, among other provisions. Essentially it was a peace treaty that dealt with all the grievances of the barons, but it did not last. Civil war broke out in September 1215, and not until 1216, after King John died and Henry III revised the charter, did everything settle down again. In fact Henry revised it twice more, in 1217 and 1225.

Interestingly, only three clauses of the 1225 edition remain part of English law today: defence of the rights and liberties of the English Church; confirmation of the liberties and customs of London and other towns; and the right of all free men to justice and a fair trial. It effectively acknowledges that no one, not even royalty, is above the law.

And that is what the Magna Carta is all about: the right to a fair trial and justice. That is its legacy. Much has been superseded over time by such things as the Human Rights Act of 1995, but the right to a fair trial and justice is what captures people's imagination.



The Magna Carta monument at Runnymede, donated by the American Bar Association. The American Declaration of Independence drew heavily on its provisions. Photo copyright Gerard Krupa, licensed under the terms of Creative Commons cc-by-sa-2.0

I have seen the copy held at Salisbury Cathedral and to be honest it looks like an ordinary vellum document. At the end of the day though, it's not what it looks like that counts; it's what it contains. Magna Carta has shaped our history and our laws, and protected our rights, and that is what matters. It has done so for 800 years, and counting.

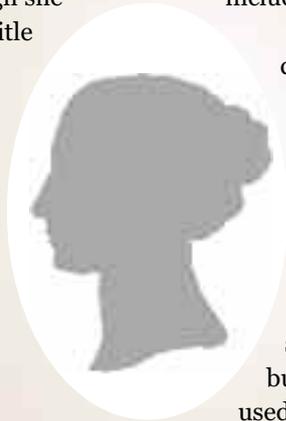
Following the retirement of Peter Durrant at the end of 2014, Mark Stevens has been appointed county archivist at Berkshire Record Office.

We tend to think that our ancestors would have been styled Miss or Mrs on the same basis as such honorifics are applied today.

Not so, says Dr Amy Louise Erickson – she finds that money, not marriage, was the traditional deciding factor.

A short history of the Mrs

A piece in a recent issue of the London Metropolitan Archives (LMA) newsletter on Eleanor Coade (1733 - 1821), who manufactured artificial stone in Southwark, explained that she was often called Mrs Eleanor Coade because, although she never married, Mrs was a courtesy title extended to unmarried businesswomen. Researchers at LMA may also have come across women in the records whom they know to have been unmarried, but to whom the title Mrs is given. The explanation is not courtesy – by implication, to raise the status of a single woman to that of a married woman – although that is the one usually encountered, in the *Oxford English Dictionary* among many other places. In fact, Mrs had nothing to do with marriage at all until the nineteenth century. It signified the possession of capital, just as Mr did. The vast majority of the population until the nineteenth century was known simply by forename and surname, or married women as so-and-so's wife. Mr and Mrs were reserved for people of



gentry status or people in business: literally, for the master or mistress of servants and apprentices. Mrs is merely an abbreviation of mistress, one of many abbreviations seen in early modern documents, including Mtris, Mrs, Mis and Ms.

The first English title to indicate marital status was Miss, also an abbreviation of mistress, and indicating an unmarried gentlewoman. Until around 1740, Miss was applied only to girls; after that point, genteel young women adopted it, probably to distinguish themselves from their upper servants and from the proliferating businesswomen in urban society who used Mrs.

MRS IN LMA

The contemporary definitions of Mrs and Miss can be identified in dictionaries, letters and fiction, but also in the records of LMA. Livery companies' apprenticeship indentures refer to the apprentice's Mr or Mrs. For example, in Eleanor Mosley's apprenticeship indenture of

This synopsis was published on the London Metropolitan Archives website on 30 October 2014. The author, Amy Louise Erickson PhD of the University of Cambridge, has kindly given permission for it to be reproduced here.

The full paper, which is well worth reading, can be downloaded from www.econsoc.hist.cam.ac.uk/docs/CWPESH%20number%208%20July%202012.pdf

1718, which took the standard form, she was bound to “do no damage to her said Mr or Mrs ... the goods of her said Mr or Mrs shall not waste ... hurt to her said Mr or Mrs shall not do ... she shall neither buy nor sell without her Mr or Mrs leave”, and so forth (COL/CHD/FR/02/469/27). The same formulation appeared in thousands of indentures to mistresses in the London livery companies in the second half of the eighteenth century.

Churchwardens’ rate books and tax lists recorded women paying rates and taxes, all of whom must have been either single or widowed, since if they had been married then their husbands would have been liable for payment under the custom of coverture. Practice in recording social status varied with the man doing the recording, but in order to establish that fact it is necessary to trace a single woman in different records. As an unmarried milliner, Eleanor Mosley paid land tax on her premises in Gracechurch Street to the clerk of the ward of Bishopsgate Within, who never referred to her by anything other than her name between 1737 and 1752 (CLC/525/MS11316/111-156). But the parish clerk of All Hallows Lombard Street, who collected the poor rates from her at the same address, invariably referred to her as Mrs Mosley (P69/ALH4/B/058/MS10771).

“MRS MAN” AND BEYOND

Throughout the early modern period, England was the only country in Europe in which married women routinely took their husband’s surname, a consequence of the distinctive marital property regime of coverture. But where a married woman was entitled to the social standing of Mrs, that title was followed by her own first name and her husband’s last

name. The development of the “Mrs Man” form (Mrs John Smith, rather than Mrs Mary Smith) appeared only in the early nineteenth century, and may have been yet another attempt to establish social precedence by the upper gentry over the urban commercial proprietors who used the same form of address in Mrs. Over the course of the nineteenth century, titles were democratized, and extended to what George Eliot in 1857 called “the poorer class of parishioners”. So the “Mrs Man” style was extended to all married women, just as all men acquired Mr. But the census as late as 1881 shows that the choice of Mrs by single women was still an option favoured by a minority, and not only the elderly. As Mrs lost its distinction of social level, only its marital meaning remained by the twentieth century, with the sole exception of upper servants who were still Mrs though unmarried.

The alternative title of Ms was proposed in the US in 1901 as a solution to two problems: not knowing a woman’s marital status; and women not wanting people to identify them by their marital status. It was not widely taken up until the later 1960s and 1970s when, ironically, Ms restored female titles to a state similar to that which had prevailed for some three centuries before the nineteenth, when Mrs described women (with capital) of all marital situations.

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Membership fees remain unchanged for 2014-15

There will be no increase in subscriptions this year. Renewal will cost £14 for single membership, £17 for families and £16 for overseas when the new subscription year starts on 1 July.

New members may join before 1 July taking advantage of the extended membership offer carrying through to 2016. See www.berksfhs.org.uk/cms/Membership/joining-the-society.html for details.



Enborne Church of England Primary School 2011

Enborne Church of England Primary School

With what skills did our ancestors leave school? Jane Barrett details the legislation which gradually raised standards and the school-leaving age, using the experience of her own family at a west Berkshire village school

The register of the Church of England school in Enborne recorded its first documented pupil, Eliza Clark, in 1882, and this register is still in use today. In the intervening years 3,367 pupils have been registered at the school. In the nineteenth century a school had previously operated in Enborne for over 60 years, with education provided at the expense of the local rector. After many disputes between the vicar and the education authority, and the

construction of the school building that exists today the school became state funded. A more detailed account of this can be found in Penny Stokes' book on Enborne and Wash Common published in 2011.

The two most significant Education Acts in England in the nineteenth century were the Elementary Education Act of 1880, which made school attendance compulsory from the age of five until 10, and that of 1891, which made elementary education free.

An Act brought into force 13 years later under the name of the Elementary Education (School Attendance) Act 1893, raised the minimum leaving age to 11. This Act was amended in 1899 by the Board of Education Act, which created a new government department to oversee education, and raised the school-leaving age to 12 years.

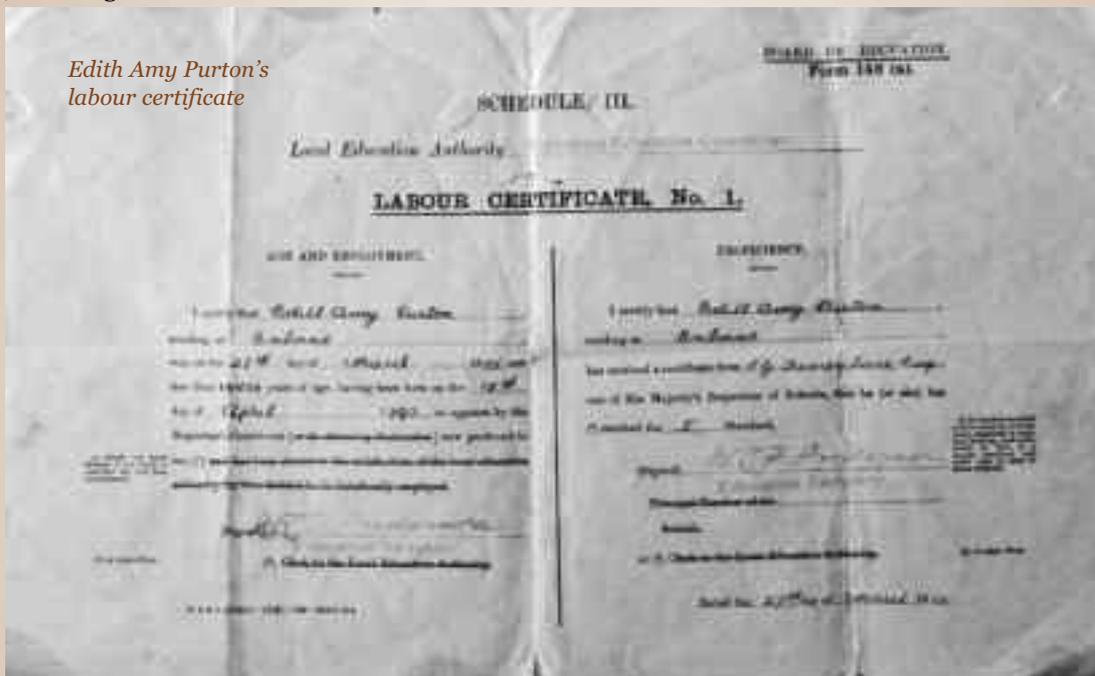
The 1902 Education Act abolished the school boards and created local education authorities (LEAs), based on county councils and county borough councils which the 1888 Local Government Act had established. The new LEAs had authority over the secular

curriculum of voluntary (church) schools. They provided grants for school maintenance, but if a school wanted to provide denominational teaching the buildings had to be paid for by the church.

The elementary schools were for the working class. They provided a restricted curriculum with the emphasis almost exclusively on the 3Rs (reading, writing and 'rithmetic) and pursued other, less clearly defined aims including social-disciplinary objectives (acceptance of the teacher's authority, the need for punctuality, obedience, conformity etc). They operated the monitorial system, whereby a teacher supervised a large class with assistance from a team of monitors (usually older pupils). Very little in the way of other subjects, such as history or geography, was taught.

My grandmother Amy Purton who was born in April 1892 became a pupil at the school on 19 February 1903, and was registered as number 267. She had previously been at the school in Woolton Hill where she had reached Standard IV. She remained at Enborne until 3 March 1905 when, at the age of 12, she was issued with a Labour Certificate that confirmed that she was qualified to work, having completed her schooling to Standard V. Children under the age of 13 who were employed were required to have a certificate to show they had reached the educational standard. Employers of children who weren't able to show this were penalised.

*Edith Amy Purton's
labour certificate*



The Revised Code of Regulations for teaching standards in 1872 prescribed the following six standards of educational attainment:

STANDARD I

Reading: Read one of the narratives that comes after monosyllables in an elementary reading book used in the school [sic].

Writing: Copy in manuscript handwriting a line of print, and write from dictation a few common words.

Arithmetic: Simple addition and subtraction of numbers of not more than four figures, and the multiplication table to multiplication by six.

STANDARD II

Reading: Read a short paragraph from an elementary reading book.

Writing: Write a sentence from the same book, slowly read once, and then dictated in single words.

Arithmetic: The multiplication table, and any simple rule as far as short division.

STANDARD III

Reading: Read a short paragraph from a more advanced reading book.

Writing: Write a sentence slowly dictated once by a few words at a time, from the same book.

Arithmetic: Long division and compound rules (money).



Leonard Walter, pictured with his sister Barbara, and his leaving certificate

STANDARD IV

Reading: Read a few lines of poetry or prose, at the choice of the inspector.

Writing: Write a sentence slowly dictated once, by a few words at a time, from a reading book, such as is used in the first class of the school.

Arithmetic: Compound rules (common weights and measures).

STANDARD V

Reading: Read a short ordinary paragraph in a newspaper, or other modern narrative.

Writing: Another short ordinary paragraph in a newspaper, or other modern narrative, slowly dictated once by a few words at a time.

Arithmetic: Practice and bills of parcels.

STANDARD VI

Reading: Read with fluency and expression.

Writing: Write a short theme or letter, or an easy paraphrase.

Arithmetic: Proportion and fractions (vulgar and decimal).

The school log book recorded that on 24 February 1905 a 60 per cent pass rate of Standard V was achieved, including Amy Purton. She left the school on 10 March and did what many young girls did at that time: she went into service. The 1911 census documents her as working as a domestic for Evan Jones, a

bank manager of the Capital and Counties Bank, and living in the White Lodge, Speen, Newbury. She carried on in service even after her marriage in 1915.

The year 1918 saw the introduction of the Education Act 1918, commonly known as the Fisher Act as it was devised by Herbert Fisher. This enforced compulsory education from five to 14 years. The wide-ranging Education Act of 1921 consolidated all previous education legislation, and raised the school-leaving age to 14.

Some 18 years after Amy left Enborne School her first-born son, Leonard Sidney Frank Walter, started at the same school aged nearly five as pupil number 653. Interestingly he is entered on the register as Leonard Walters, a common mistake with that particular surname. Len remained there from 6 April 1923 until 7 September 1925, when he transferred to Newbury Council School before going to St Bartholomew's Grammar School in 1928. Len's sisters also attended Enborne School later in the 1920s and 30s.

In 1924 Len (or Lennie as he was known then) received a certificate of good conduct and satisfactory progress for his first year of education at Enborne School. At St Bartholomew's he matriculated with a School Certificate in 1934 at the age of 16.

The 1936 Education Act raised the leaving age to 15. In 1944 Rab Butler introduced the

Education Act 1944 which amongst other changes, included raising the school-leaving age to 15. This was raised yet again to 16 in 1972, and in 2015 training until 18 will be made compulsory.

In 1967 my brother started at Enborne School, thus completing three generations of education in the same institution. He was pupil number 3,169 and remained at Enborne for two years before proceeding to John Rankin School and then to Christ's Hospital in Horsham. After a reduction in numbers during

the later part of the twentieth century, which resulted in a threat of closure, the school is now thriving again with 60 pupils on the roll.

References

- Gillard D (2011) *Education in England: a brief history*.
 Stokes P (2011) *Enborne and Wash Common: an illustrated history*
 Enborne Church of England Primary School Register 1882 - 2014 (held at the school)
 Enborne School Log Book (BRO C/EL 94)

Dates for your diary

Tue 24 Mar	WWI family history workshop	Woking Library	01483 543599
16-18 Apr	Who Do You Think You Are? Live	NEC, Birmingham B40 1NT	www.whodoyou-thinkyouarelive.com
10.00-16.00 Sat 16 May	South West Area Group family history fair	Winter Gardens, Weston-super-Mare BS23 1AJ	www.swag-fair.co.uk
Sat 13 Jun	WWI family history workshop	Walton Library	01483 543599
10.00-16.00 25 July	Buckinghamshire FHS open day	Grange School, Wendover Way, Aylesbury HP21 7NH	www.bucksfhs.org.uk

Reading War Hospitals' WWI newspaper: *The Ration*

This article has been taken, with kind permission, from the blog of Emmy Eustace. It first appeared in two parts, on 1 and 15 August 2014. Emmy is a professional genealogist, and she blogs about Berkshire history on <http://berkshireresearch.me>.

The illustrations are shown by kind permission of Reading Local Studies Library.



The first issue of *The Ration*¹ came out in January 1916, declaring its intention to bring cheer to all the “brave fellows” sent to Reading War Hospitals. Unlike most trench newspapers, it was always aimed at a mixed audience: patients and ex-patients, staff (military and civilian, doctors and nurses), family and friends. As a result and not unexpectedly, there is scant mention of difficult subjects like the current state of the war effort or a man’s specific injury and subsequent treatment. It differed from papers like the *Wipers Times*, in another way too: *The Ration* was run by and for, regular soldiers and non-commissioned officers.

Available to all for a reasonable price, *The Ration*’s humour was gently satirical, focusing on “conditions and grumbles”,² such as the terrible dearth of potatoes in April 1917.³ It’s peppered with in-jokes and surprisingly high quality cartoons like the example on the front

cover, drawn by Private F Lynch from the London Regiment.⁴

For family historians, *The Ration* is a fantastic source of information. Part of its remit was to act as a link between the various Reading War Hospitals (including some of the local auxiliary and voluntary hospitals) so it is packed with news, obituaries, announcements of awards, football team fixtures and the biographical details of RAMC staff, QAIMNS nurses and magazine contributors.

After only six issues, sales of *The Ration* reached an encouraging average of 1,500 copies per month.⁵ The men behind its success were all with the Royal Army Medical Corps, working in Reading’s busy Central military hospital, Reading War Hospital No 1 (on the site of the old Battle workhouse). Not only were they responsible for its production but, more often than not, large chunks of its content too.

From the first issue in January 1916 to the last in January 1919, the editor of *The Ration* was Corporal (later Acting Sergeant) John William Sinton, the registrar's clerk. Sinton (regimental no 101059) was in the RAMC from August 1915 to his demobilisation in June 1919.⁶ As editor, he was responsible for "the whole of the letter-press with the sole exception of the verse".⁷ In addition to his regular columns, he wrote humorous articles under various pseudonyms, such as "The Grumbler" and "Haverill".



Corporal, later Staff Sergeant J R Smith

The magazine committee comprised Corporal (later Staff Sergeant) J R Smith, Sergeant A S Wood and Private H J Booth. Staff Sergeant J R Smith, assistant pay clerk in the pay office, was in charge of all "the business connected with our magazine". Like the rest of the team, he wrote several articles, including one about an escort duty down to Brighton. A keen musician, Smith was the organist for the Sunday service in the dining hall and a regular accompanist at concerts for patients.

Sergeant A S Wood was the RWH pay clerk and therefore the best known NCO on the hospital's staff. He wrote most of the poetry in *The Ration*, under his own name, as "K" or sometimes "Kayman the Scribe". The final issue features his poignant poem *Peace* on its front page.¹²

Proof-reading was done by Private T J Hopcraft of the admission and discharge office, with help from patients, including a Lieutenant Helsby of 18th Northumberland Fusiliers, who, though "too ill to write", was able to help with proofing.¹³

Among the contributors, Private George W Millar was a rare beast: an author who illustrated his work. From 1916 Millar, an



Private Ernest Shaw RAMC

Sinton's right hand man was the cartoonist, Ern Shaw (1891 - 1986). Private Ernest Shaw RAMC was attached to the quartermaster's staff and worked in the orthopaedic department of RWH No 1. By the closure of the magazine in January 1919 he had contributed over 300 drawings and several articles.⁸

His article *Kits* outlines what happened to a patient's kit on arrival at the RWH: it was sorted, fumigated, washed, inventoried, repaired and where necessary, exchanged. He ends the piece with a few figures pertaining to numbers of items issued to patients in the Reading War Hospitals in a single month, including 780 combs, 30 civilian suits to discharged soldiers, 1,303 pants, 1,234 socks and 719 puttees.⁹

Ernie Shaw, as he was known on *The Ration*, was a talented artist who had trained (via correspondence course) at the Press Art School in London. When King George V and Queen Mary visited the hospital in March 1918 Queen Mary took time to notice "a fine charcoal study by our gifted artist", examining it with interest before drawing the king's attention to it.¹⁰ Whilst his cartoons graced the pages of *The Ration*, his "sketches of details of operations on wounded soldiers, as performed by Surgeon Major J L Joyce" were printed in *The Lancet*. After the war, he went on to work as a newspaper cartoonist, starting out on the paper *All Sports* in 1919.¹¹



Pte. E. SFAW
(Artist).

Staff-Serqt. A. S. WOOD
(Poet).

Photo by Walton Adams & Son.
Serqt. J. W. SINTON
(Editor).

assistant in the pathological laboratory, wrote under the pseudonym “Mike”.¹⁴ In the March 1917 issue Millar was congratulated on his promotion to an officer’s rank and referred to as Second Lieutenant G W Millar RGA.¹⁵

Staff at RWH Section 3 (Wilson School) were repeatedly mentioned in the list of contributors. They included the hospital postman, Private R Richardson (poetry), the London regiments’ privates G S Plant, W Lawson and F Lynch (artwork) and Acting Sergeant J G Ransom of the Middlesex Yeomanry (*Our Pepys’ Diary*).

Patients were published too. Names, ranks and regiments include: Sergeant S A Hart of the 8th Somerset Light Infantry (once again from RWH Section 3), Private F H Agnew of the Scottish Rifles, Sergeant F Lighton of the 2/3rd London Regiment and Captain Howells of the 15th Royal Welsh Fusiliers.

The September 1916 issue has an illustration by patient Lance Corporal Joseph Leon Racionzer of the 17th Highland Light Infantry. According to the magazine, Racionzer was a

Scotsman, who was persuaded to submit an illustration after being discovered “working diligently at a drawing of the hospital grounds”.¹⁶ He left hospital soon after and, according to his medal card and RAF service records, he transferred to the 38th (Jewish) Battalion Royal Fusiliers in January 1918.¹⁷ His departure prompted the editor to lament: “Pity that so many patients only consent to write or illustrate for us on the eve of their departure.”¹⁸

Another editorial complaint was the lack of material from the nursing staff, as per Sinton’s comment in September 1916, which ends with an interest-



Private H J Booth



Private T J Hopcraft, proof-reader

ing question: “A sister at one of our branch hospitals has been courageous enough to send a contribution. We have had several articles from VAD ladies, but this is actually the first to be received from a senior member of the nursing staff. As usual, though, anonymity is claimed. Why, we wonder?”¹⁹

Between June and December 1916 several articles including *A story retold by a lady visitor* and *At random by a wanderer through the wards* were written by a VAD known only as “MW”. According to a few intriguing pencil notes in a copy of the magazine deposited the Berkshire Record Office, the article entitled *The sorrows of Cynthia* by a VAD (July 1916) was written by one Cicely Bird.²⁰

Sister Eliza West (based at RWH No 1) gave *The Ration* at least two of her photographs. One was entitled *Open air concert at Central Hospital* (July 1917) and the other, *A Convoy* (January 1918).

According to the magazine Sister West was awarded the Royal Red Cross in 1917.¹⁷ This information is corroborated by West’s entry in Sue Light’s transcrip-

tion of the Royal Red Cross Register available on www.findmypast.co.uk, and her Queen Alexandra’s Imperial Military Nursing Service (QAIMNS) records, available for download at The National Archives. Full of useful biographical information, Sister West’s service record tells us that she trained at the Royal Isle of Wight Infirmary and County Hospital and joined the RWH in June 1915, where she stayed for the duration of the war.²²

Footnotes

1. *The Ration*, vol I no1 (8th January 1916) Reading Local Studies Collection (shelf no R/DY)
2. *Satirical Magazines and the First World War: Punch and the Wipers Times* by Esther MacCallum-Stewart on www.firstworldwar.com/features/satirical.htm
3. *The Ration*, vol II no 16 (April 1917) Reading Local Studies Collection (shelf no R/DY)
“At Park House the nurses must enter their names on a list...if they are desirous of having potatoes...”
4. *The Ration*, vol II no 13 (January 1917) p247 Reading Local Studies Collection (shelf no R/DY)
5. *The Ration*, vol I no 7 (July 1916) Reading Local Studies Collection (shelf no R/DY)
6. Medal Card TNA ref WO 372/18/87962 via www.ancestry.co.uk
7. Article by Bt-Major J L Joyce RAMC, Registrar Reading War Hospital *The Ration*, vol III no 29 (January 1919)
8. *The Ration*, vol III no 29 (January 1919)
9. *The Ration*, vol I no 8 (August 1916)
10. *The Ration*, vol III no 27 (Royal Visit 1918)
11. Entry for Ernest Shaw in www.lambiek.net/comiclopedia.html

plus blog about Ern Shaw: *The Boy Who Wouldn't Grow Up* www.ernshawcartoonist.blogspot.co.uk

12. *The Ration*, Vol.III No.29 (January 1919)
13. *The Ration*, Vol.I No.7 (July 1916)
14. Ibid
15. *The Ration*, Vol.II No.15 (March 1917)
16. *The Ration*, Vol.I No.9 (September 1916)
17. Medal Card TNA Ref: WO 372/16/125224 via www.ancestry.co.uk RAF Officers’ Service Records via The National Archives Online TNA Catalogue Ref: AIR 76/416
18. *The Ration*, Vol.I No.9 (September 1916)
19. Ibid
20. *The Ration*, Vol.I No.7 (July 1916) Berkshire Record Office Ref: D/EE/234/3
21. *The Ration*, Vol.II No.24 (December 1917). Further information about Sister Eliza West’s award can be found on www.findmypast.co.uk under ‘The Royal Red Cross Register Transcription’ compiled by Sue Light. Further information on nursing in WWI can be found at www.scarletfinders.co.uk
22. QAIMNS Nursing Service records via The National Archives Online TNA Catalogue Ref: WO 399/8857 Eliza West was born in Leeds on 2nd May 1870

The story of Joseph Caudwell (1809-93)

Nicky Stepney unravels the unhappy story of her three-times-great-uncle.

Was he guilty of perjury, or was he the victim of a miscarriage of justice?

Joseph Caudwell was born in Harwell in north Berkshire on 30 May 1809, son of William Caudwell and Hannah Lousley, an affluent agriculturalist family from Drayton, near Abingdon. Joseph married Susannah Ody on 25 August 1829 at Clifton Hampden in Oxfordshire. Their first son, Francis, was born in 1830, followed by William in 1833 and Walter in 1834.

In 1836 smallpox carried off the two younger boys during the same night, which must have been incredibly distressing for Joseph and Susannah. Frederick was born in 1837 and a daughter Emily Jane in 1838. By this time Joseph and the family had moved into 18 Queen Street in Oxford. Joseph and Susannah's daughter Emily died of pneumonia in 1840 and then Joseph's wife died in July 1841 after giving birth to their daughter Susannah.

On 8 June 1842 widower Joseph married 16-year-old Elizabeth Wells Carr Dickinson, the daughter of a London solicitor, at St Matthew's in Brixton, Lambeth. Three children



were born: Edmund (1844), Allgood (1845) and Kenrick (1847). Sadly, history repeated itself, as Allgood died in 1846 and Kenrick lived for only three weeks.

In 1849 Joseph had a house built in Oxford. The folly still stands today and, although originally known as North Hinksey House, it is now referred to as Caudwell's Castle. It is a grand, pretentious house, decorated with gargoyles, situated alongside Folly Bridge overlooking the Thames.

The 1851 census first indicated to me that Joseph's life was not all that it seemed.

Joseph and Elizabeth were still living at North Hinksey House, now with their newborn daughter Elizabeth, but none of Joseph's other children were with them. Joseph was described as a proprietor of houses, but it was the *Annual register: a view of the history & politics of the year 1851*¹ that revealed the shocking truth. *The Serious occurrence at Oxford* outlined the court case of Mr Caudwell, who was an accountant "but on a less reputable note was also unfavourably

known as a money lender to the needy and local Collegians”.

Further details came from *Jackson's Oxford Journal*² dated 19 July 1851, which confirmed that the Caudwell in the article was my ancestor Joseph Caudwell. Apparently, one night in June 1851 some gentlemen *animated by the spirit of fun, entered the court-yard of Joseph's house and made some show of dislodging the cannons, and displacing some of the tawdry ornaments. They were saluted by the discharge of a loaded blunderbuss from one of the windows, the contents of which took effect upon the person of Alex Ross wounding him severely in the head, neck, shoulders, and in one of his hands.*

Joseph was indicted on 14 July at Abingdon Assizes for shooting with intent to maim and cause grievous bodily harm. Although the judge remarked on the disregard exhibited by these men, he told the jury that, as the prisoner had no pretext for supposing that his tormentors were about to attack his house, he was not justified in firing at them, and they must find him guilty. The jury, however, returned a verdict of not guilty, much to the surprise of the courtroom, and Joseph was discharged.

Events took a turn for the worse when, several days later, Joseph was charged with wilful perjury for an incident that had allegedly occurred two years previously (in 1849). *The household narrative of current events of 1851*³ gave details of this second case, and the subsequent stages of Joseph's tumultuous life were revealed. Through TNA Discovery catalogue⁴ Joseph's second court case came to light in letters written by Joseph over a 30-year period, revealing the details.

Basically Joseph had been charged concerning an alleged £2 debt of 1849, which he denied and refused to pay to a Mr Golding. Joseph swore he did not owe any money but, on the unsupported statement of Golding, Joseph was ordered by the court to pay, thereby laying a foundation for the charge and indictment of wilful perjury. The charge was originally brought against Joseph in Oxford, but the case was removed to Berkshire upon

Joseph's request, as he alleged that he would not have a fair trial in Oxfordshire, so great was the prejudice against him following the shooting incident.

The judge urged the jury to find Joseph guilty. He was convicted on 16 July 1851 and sentenced to seven years' transportation and fined one shilling. He had been legally advised not to attend court for sentencing or to "surrender to such injustice", but retire to the continent and make a plea for relief from there. Joseph left for France but, unfortunately, as he was absent from court, an appeal for a new trial could not be made.

It was in April 1852 that the first of many letters, including a Memorial in 1872⁵, a petition and 229 certificates vouching for Joseph's good reputation were sent from Boulogne to the Home Office in London pleading his case, up until his last letter of 1886. The certificates were signed by British subjects, unrelated to Joseph, who declared that he remained in exile in France and believed a miscarriage of justice and conspiracy had been committed. In his plea for a pardon, Joseph remarked on *how the same judge, in the same court, gave a certain Mr Philpotts a sentence of only 12 months imprisonment for a similar offence of perjury but for which Joseph had been found guilty and sentenced to 7 years transportation and fined!*

Although Joseph was exiled to France, it was apparent from GRO records that he returned to England, as two children were born: Augustus in 1855 and Laura in 1856. However, it was the record of Laura's death in Boulogne that indicated Joseph's final move to France with his family. The French National Archives⁶ confirmed that Joseph died in Boulogne on 13 October 1893, and also mentioned that a descendant of Joseph had written a book on the Caudwell family of France,⁷ of which they held a copy. Contact with the author helped explain some of the gaps in Joseph's later life.

Although Joseph remained in France for the rest of his life, he appeared to travel freely between the two countries, as is indicated from photographs taken of him at Clapham Junction

in later life. He lived a simpler life than in Oxford. Joseph had always loved the water, and from 1872 he lived out his days alone on his boat, without ever gaining reparation or a pardon for what he deemed an injustice.

I have not found any official documents to show that Joseph was ever pardoned for the alleged incident, but this does not necessarily confirm that he was guilty. An autobiography written in 1909 by one of Joseph's sons sheds a little more light. He wrote that *a small journeyman builder contended that £2 was owed to him and he was anxious to fasten the liability on my father. The case was adversely decided against Joseph there being evidently much prejudice in the matter in that the Judge had connections with the College so feelings were running quite high. The principal witness was also worse for drink.* The details here cannot be substantiated to prove Joseph's innocence, but a final reference might explain why the transportation sentence was not enforced. *It was said that the Judge never signed the verdict of the Jury but my father thought it better to move away and later on to leave the country.* According to *Legal Observer Digest 1851*⁸ the defendant was not in court, sentence having been passed, but no warrant had been issued.

The twists and turns of Joseph's life were unravelled through Google Books online. This free resource can be accessed by logging onto the Google website, following the drop-down tab entitled *More*, clicking on *Books* and inserting keywords in the search box. Likewise TNA's Discovery catalogue was extremely useful, and without these research tools I

might never have learned of Joseph's struggles.

Joseph's status of criminal or victim of a miscarriage of justice is still unclear in my mind. It is likely he got involved in a misdemeanour from which he found it difficult to extricate himself, and his money-lending background and the shooting incident may have made him a scapegoat or example. That the judge might not have signed the verdict is open to interpretation. Joseph had suffered his fair share of family tragedy, and the fact that he remained exiled from the country of his birth was perhaps an unfair and unjust sentence after all.

References, sources and further information

1. *Annual register, or a view of history & politics of the year 1851* vol 93, page 85 (Google Books: <http://books.google.co.uk/bkshp?hl=en&tab=wp>)
2. *Jackson's Oxford Journal 1800 - 1900: a weekly newspaper*
3. *The household narrative of current events of 1851* monthly upplement to *Household words*, conducted by Charles Dickens, Wellington St North, London (Google Books)
4. The National Archives ref HO 144/214/A48962 Perjury Sentence of Caudwell July 1851, <http://discovery.nationalarchives.gov.uk>
5. A Memorial (presented by a Memorialist) is a written statement of facts accompanying a petition presented to a person or group in authority.
6. The National Archives of France <http://www.archivesnationales.culture.gouv.fr/>
7. *Les origines de la famille Caudwell de France*, written in 2001
8. *The legal observer, or, Journal of jurisprudence*, vol 43 1851-52 (Google Books)

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Solution to the crossword in December's Berkshire Family Historian

Flesh on their bones

Andrea Ruddick volunteers for gravestonephotos.com, and in the course of her work came across this distinguished trio buried at St Michael and All Angels in Sunninghill. Using her local knowledge, her Ancestry subscription and Google she set about researching their life stories.

THOMAS HOLLOWAY (1800 - 1883)

Thomas Holloway was a Victorian entrepreneur who became a multi-millionaire from the sale of his patent medicines, pills and ointments designed to cure all ills, though they were later found to have very few medicinal properties.

He was born in Plymouth, the son of a baker who later ran an inn in Cornwall. After spending time in France, Thomas began working as a foreign and commercial agent in London. One of his clients, an Italian, Felix Albinolo, who manufactured a “general purpose” ointment, inspired him to set up a business of his own producing ointment and pills, allegedly in his mother’s kitchen, using her pots and pans.

He was not immediately successful, largely because of a long-running feud with his former partner, Albinolo and, after a spell in a debtors’ prison, he resumed his business, concentrating on digestive medicines, and working from the Strand. These premises were demolished to make space for the new law courts, so the operation moved to New Oxford Street in 1867, now employing 100 people. The company continued until 1930, when its viable products were taken over by the Beecham Company.



*The Holloway tomb in Sunninghill.
Photo posted on Wikimedia by Deeday-UK and licensed
under the terms of Creative Commons cc-by-sa-2.0*



*Founders' Building, Royal Holloway College
Posted on Wikipedia by Seabhcan*

A major factor in his success, making him one of the richest men in England, was his belief in, and use of advertising. In 1842 he spent £5,000 on advertising; at the time of his death it had risen to £50,000.

Possibly because he and his wife had no children, Thomas later became better known for his philanthropy, founding and personally funding the Holloway Sanatorium for the Mentally Insane in Virginia Water, and the Royal Holloway College in Egham, both in Surrey and both established as “gifts to the nation”. Thomas Holloway claimed that it was his wife, Jane, who inspired him to found the college, which was women-only until 1945.

His brother in law, Sir George Martin-Holloway (he and his wife, Dame Sarah Anne, took the extra Holloway name after Thomas’ death), assisted Thomas in the foundation of the sanatorium and college. Sir George became trustee of the Mount Lee Estate in Egham in 1876, on which Holloway College was built, and he supervised the building of the college and laid the foundation stone in 1879. Holloway College is “royal” because it was opened by Queen Victoria. He was also patron of the chapel at St Michael and All Angels Church. Sir George and Dame Sarah are also buried in the cemetery.

Tittenhurst Park in Sunninghill was bought by Thomas Holloway in the late 1860s, and was his home until his death. He lived there with his wife, her sister Sarah Anne and her husband George Martin, as well as Holloway's sister Matilda, an invalid who died in 1867 and is also buried in the cemetery. Jane died in 1875, Thomas on 26 December 1883 of congestion of the lungs, 18 months before the opening of the Holloway Sanatorium.

From 1969 until 1971 Tittenhurst was the home of John Lennon and Yoko Ono, and another Beatle, Ringo Starr, lived there after Lennon until the late 1980s.

UNDECIMUS STRATTON (1868 - 1929)

According to *Automotive Quarterly*, few car salesmen ever owned a house on the fashionable Old Mile at Ascot, maintained a stable of racehorses and trotters, and rode to Royal Ascot as a guest in the king’s landau. Born into a wealthy family, Undecimus Stratton was the son of a solicitor. He became a lawyer, then started his own brewery and, by the time he was in his early thirties, was able to marry a noted society beauty and retire in great comfort.

A pioneer motorist, he and two friends, one of whom was C S Rolls (of Rolls-Royce), set an altitude record of 7,000 feet in a balloon in 1905.

Having turned down Rolls’ offer of going into partnership, Stratton later helped a fellow motorist stranded by a flat tyre, only to discover that he was the chairman of Daimler. The company had just lost its London manager. Stratton was offered the job and took it and, already having made his fortune early in life, he declined a salary, stating “I’ll just take commission on anything I happen to sell.”

Not long afterwards, through Daimler’s royal connections, Stratton taught the young Prince of Wales (later briefly King Edward VIII) to drive at Sandringham. At Stratton’s death, King George V expressed “deepest and most heartfelt sympathy” and regretted that the royal family “will never be able to avail themselves again of the invaluable advice and assistance given to them for so many years.”

In 1921 Stratton went into partnership with Ernest Instone and they took charge of the Daimler showrooms at 39 Pall Mall, naming the business Stratton-Instone. Each morning at 11 a butler in morning suit brought oysters and champagne to the directors’ rooms. This may in part explain his sudden and early death at just 61 in 1929.



Silwood Park, engraved in 1818 by J P Neale

SIR WILLIAM NORRIS (1797 - 1859)

Sir William was a chief justice of the City of London and Recorder of Penang from 1836 to 1847. While in Penang he collected ferns, but more memorably he contributed to a report which recognised and recorded an affliction amongst the locals whereby the sufferer became suddenly violent and attacked others at random, usually with a curved knife called a *kris*. Those affected seemed unbalanced and manic, waving their arms and wailing. The condition was known locally as *mengamok*, and it was believed that it was caused by the *hantu belian*, which was an evil tiger spirit that entered the body. This became *amok* in English. So, next time you hear of someone running *amok*, you'll know where it came from.

In 1826 Sir William Norris purchased the estate of Silwood Park, Sunninghill, and lived in the house for two years. His son, also William, a novelist, wrote 62 novels, including a book entitled *My friend Jim* that contained characters named after the district, such as Lord Sunning and Lord Bracknell, as well as a book entitled *Miss Wentworth's idea*.

The eldest son, James Thomas Norris, is buried in the cemetery alongside his father. He was a lieutenant with the 27th Bombay Native Infantry, and he died in 1857 during a mutiny at Kolapore in India.

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:

- a) 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;
- b) 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 the editor (address inside front cover) photos and paper illustrations, which will be returned to you after they have been scanned.

The deadlines for copy and images are:

7 October for the December issue

7 April for June

7 January for March

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 by at least 2,000 – not only the society's members, but also the users of several public libraries and institutions. Issues of the journal are posted on the society's website (in the Members' Area) at the same time that the printed edition is mailed.

Readers write

*your pictures,
your stories,
your queries*

Send them in to editor@berksfhs.org.uk



Tom Hine has made a happy discovery

We family historians plough on steadily as and when time allows, and we are pleasantly surprised now and then with a name, date or event to reward our endeavours. What was it Oscar Wilde said about family historians? *The indomitable chasing the impossible*. Earlier this year I was tracked down by a great-nephew from Australia of whom I wasn't aware: one Christopher Hine. A series of emails were exchanged, with my sending him a tree of Hines back to c1590. He meanwhile is researching and finding out still more, helped by being in the IT industry.

On my 80th birthday recently I received an email from him asking if I knew of a Stuart W Hine. I knew no-one of that name in the family. Back came an email telling me that this Stuart was a son of my granddad's younger brother, Edward Hine, who was born in Newbury in 1874. Stuart was born in 1899, and at the age of 14 became involved first with the Salvation Army and then with the Baptist church. He served in WWI, and shortly afterwards married. A few years later he and his young wife are recorded riding their bicycles through Germany, Poland and Russia as missionaries spreading the good word. They had to make a hurried exit from Russia when Josef Stalin started his exploits, but they remained in Europe, returning to England with their young daughter in 1939, with the onset of WWII. In 1948 he was at a large Polish camp helping displaced persons. Some time later he was at a Sussex camp helping Russian displaced persons.

In the early 1950s he sang a hymn of his own composition at a convention in America. By now he had met Billy Graham. His hymn was quickly accepted by the American public and was recorded by Burl Ives, Tennessee Ernie Ford and even by Elvis Presley. Most of you readers will have sung it at some time: *How great thou art*. Stuart lived to 90 years of age, and died and is buried in Essex. In mid-October I was delighted to speak by telephone to his daughter, my new cousin, Sonia Hine. She is 86, unmarried and lives in Essex. When we spoke she said, "Tom, I thought I was the only one of the Hine family left", so I was pleased to tell her of my own family. We are going to meet up soon.

David Childs picks up a point from *December's Historian*

The Windsor, Slough and Maidenhead Branch were apparently surprised by the rarity of Plasterer as a name (December 2014, p9). It should not be forgotten that the craft was formerly known as parget(t)ing, from which we get the name Pargetter.

Bookends

Reviews by Ivan Dickason, Judith Mitchell 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

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

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Three histories of Radley

The history of Radley

Patrick Drysdale ed (Radley History Club, 2002)

A5 perfect bound, 120pp

Shop £2.00, UK £3.48, airmail £9.90

This illustrated book describes the history of the area within the pre-1986 boundaries of the civil parish, and covers all of Radley and Lower Radley today and former parts now in Abingdon. Commencing with landscape and geology, the book moves from prehistoric times and the early inhabitants, to Roman, Saxon, Norman and medieval periods, to the modern seventeenth to twentieth centuries.

The early history is of a generalised nature but, from the foundation of Abingdon Abbey around 700AD and mentions of Radley and Barton in medieval documents, the history of the area becomes more focused. The book tends to concentrate on the infrastructure, division of lands, buildings, the agriculture and industry of the area, Radley College and the notable people in its history (mainly landed gentry and clergy).

This book is a very good history of a neighbourhood, and the editor has done an excellent job in bringing the articles by the six authors together in a single voice. For the family historian with Radley connections this book gives a good background picture of the village, its lands and notable residents, but mentions of ordinary folk are scarce.

Early modern Radley: people, land and buildings 1547 - 1768

Richard Dudding (Radley History Club, 2014)

A4 perfect bound, 150pp

Shop £12.00, UK £14.01, airmail £22.75

The book takes its time setting from the two major estate surveys which conveniently frame that period from the dissolution of Abingdon Abbey (1538) and its monastic manorial lordship to the start of the social changes brought by the agricultural and industrial revolutions. In this scholarly work the author looks at the socio-economic context in which people lived, the people themselves, the lands and tenancies of Radley, and the buildings in the village and its environs.

As well as the two great estate surveys of 1547 and 1768, the author has drawn on sources such as protestation oaths, hearth tax records, land terriers, copyholds and wills to trace the development of the village through this period and the structure of its population, from lords of the manor to the meanest labourer. In particular the author looks at the fortunes of the yeoman farmer. The book is illustrated with photographs, maps, tables and graphs that show social change, buildings and land use.

For the family historian with ancestral connections in Radley during this period this is an excellent guide to understanding the context in which your ancestors lived and worked. There is also a good chance that your ancestors may be mentioned somewhere in the text; there is no specific name index, but there

is a good general index that includes names. For family and social historians generally, this book provides some useful background to the structure of rural society in early modern times.

The history of Radley Church of England Primary School

Christine Wootton (Radley History Club, 2008) 249 x 193mm perfect bound, 168pp
Shop £7.00, UK £8.48, airmail £14.90

This book describes in detail the people and events at this rural school from its opening sometime in the mid-nineteenth century up to 2007. Using school logs, parish magazines, newspapers and oral sources the author has produced a book packed with information and anecdote. Although the book is Radley-specific, there is much for the social and family historian to find here that would help in understanding junior scholastic life in rural villages.

For the genealogist interested in Radley during the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries the book's substantial surname index contains 400 family names, but of course a significant proportion of these will be school staff, who may or may not have any other association with the village.

Tony Roberts

Public house families of Wallingford 1785 - 1920

Christine Eke and Lynne Thorne (self-published) A4, stapled, 62pp
Shop £7.99 UK £ 9.47 airmail £ 15.89.

This little book is about public houses in Wallingford, (old) Berkshire, and their licensees. It begins with a brief history of brewing: how to turn barley into ale was known by about 5000BC. The other important matter relating to brewing and public houses is

that since the fourteenth century there has been a legal framework governing the sale of liquor: the licensing laws. Thus, the names of licensees have been a matter of public record, and these lists from 1784 are in the Berkshire Record Office.

The main body of the book is an alphabetical list of 41 public houses and their licensees, although the authors warn that not all the pubs known to have existed are listed. The oldest, the George, is at least 430 years old and is still flourishing. For each of the 41 public houses listed, the names of the licensees are given, and for each licensee a brief family history is given. In addition, a potted history of the building is given, and in many cases a photograph of the building dating from the 1970s is included.

Appendices to the book list references, trade directories, some licensees for whom no address is known and beer retailers who are not themselves listed as licensees of public houses. There is a name index of some 400 people who were licensees and some 300 people who were listed as sureties. (As part of the licensing process prospective licensees were required to provide sureties who put up bonds for the good behaviour of the licensees, and Appendix 3 lists the names of such sureties.)

For any family historian with ancestors in Wallingford this is an invaluable source of information on publicans' families.

About the authors: The authors are both residents of Wallingford, with a common interest in the past of the people of Wallingford. Lynne Thorpe has been the town hall keeper for more than 25 years, and is a researcher of family history. Christina Eke is a social historian and has written several publications about Wallingford.

Ivan Dickason

History of Greyfriars Church

Malcolm Summers (Downs Way Publishing)
21 x 15cm, perfect bound, 352pp
Shop £10.00, UK £11.48, airmail 17.90

Greyfriars Church in Reading has an interesting story which is chronicled very successfully here. The book has been well researched, from the church's medieval origins to the present day, drawing from many references. If you have an ancestor who was involved with Greyfriars from the nineteenth century onwards, you may find him or her mentioned in one of the many lists contained in the book.

The Greyfriars, the religious order founded by St Francis of Assisi, placed emphasis on preaching the gospel to both rich and poor. Friars owned no possessions, but were out and about in their community. In 1233 members of the order arrived with a letter to the abbot of Reading Abbey from King Henry III and the pope requesting that the abbot provide the friars with land to build a church from which to carry out their work. Reluctantly the abbot gave them some low-lying land near Caversham Bridge, a site subject to flooding. In 1282 the archbishop of Canterbury wrote to the abbot of Reading requesting that he grant the friars more land. In 1285 the extra land was transferred, and a new friary with a church was built on the present site. Grants of wood from Windsor forest were made by the king, and other benefactors left money in their wills. The new abbey church was completed around 1311.

In 1538 the friars were turned out as part of Henry VIII's suppression of religious orders. The friary, mostly constructed from flint, was of little value, and the Crown accepted an offer from Reading corporation to buy most of the church to use as a guildhall. Other parts of the site and lands were leased to one of the king's servants.

About 1544 the borough burgesses decided to meet elsewhere. There was a need for accommodation for the poor of Reading parishes, and Greyfriars was converted into a

hospital, ie a poor house. Inmates were provided with accommodation, but had to work if they could. Almshouses were provided for the infirm.

In 1614 part of Greyfriars became a house of correction (a prison for petty offenders). The book gives interesting detail of how the Poor Law operated in Reading at that time.

In 1642 the Civil War came to Reading when King Charles I arrived in the town with around 2,300 men. Greyfriars and other buildings were requisitioned by the army. When the siege of Reading ended in 1643 the house of correction was in a ruined state, but the almshouses appear to have been untouched, as two old women had lived there throughout.

Between 1644 and 1862 the building continued as a house of correction, later called a bridewell. Ironically, as many inmates were incarcerated for being drunk and disorderly, a pub was on part of the site. By the 1860s the building was in a bad state of repair and other provision had been made for offenders. Some energetic clergy now took over. The Victorians' passion for medieval buildings and the need for extra church provision resulted in Greyfriars being purchased, the church partially rebuilt at a cost of £8,887 and re-consecrated in December 1863.

A Sunday school was held but many of the children were without a day school. An appeal went out, and in 1864 schools for 450 children had been built next to the church. These finally closed in 1932, but the buildings continued in church use until 1982 when they were replaced by a community hall and facilities.

In 1876 Greyfriars opened a corrugated-iron mission hall in North Street, where most of the poorer members of the parish lived, and also mission houses. The book has biographies of the vicars and curates, and also describes the many mission projects sponsored by Greyfriars congregation both at home and overseas. Greyfriars ladies visited families in some of the worse slums of Reading as well as serving as missionaries in Ceylon, India and China.

In 1884 the parishioners purchased a house

adjoining the church to be a vicarage. It was replaced by a new building in the 1960s, and was adapted to become a day nursery in 2006. In 2001 the new Hope Community Church was built in York Road, replacing the old mission hall, so the preaching of the gospel continues today as it did in the days of the friars.

This book provides an excellent church and parish history. Those aspiring to produce a similar book would be very well advised to read it; it is a splendid model.

About the author: Malcolm Summers is a maths teacher originally from Birmingham, who has been living in Reading since 1981. He has attended Greyfriars Church since coming to Reading,

and first became interested in the history of Greyfriars when the church celebrated 700 years in 2011. There had been two short histories of the church written in 1963 and 1988, and Malcolm wondered what further information could be gleaned from available records to give a fuller picture of the rather chequered history of the friary church. The complete history in the form of a book was first on sale at the 150th anniversary of the restoration of the church.

Judith Mitchell

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7611	MURSELL	All	All	All
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7680	PAGE	Shrivenham	BRK	1750+
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7680	TITCOMB(E)	Faringdon	BRK	1750-1850
7680	TITCOMB(E)	Watchfield	BRK	1750-1850
7611	TOWNSEND	Witney	OXF	1750-1850
7714	WEBB	Wantage	BRK	pre 1800
7714	WHITEHORN	Jamaica		pre 1800
7714	WHITEHORN	Scotland		pre 1750
7714	WHITEHORN	Wantage	BRK	pre 1800
7611	WILSON	Coleshill	BRK	1750-1860
7611	WILSON	Culham	OXF	1840-1910
7611	WILSON	Highworth	OXF	1800-1850
7611	WINDOWS	West Hannay	BRK	1710-1850

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