

Berkshire Family Historian

the quarterly journal of the Berkshire Family History Society

March 2016

vol 39

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Family names appearing in this issue

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

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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 41st Annual General Meeting (AGM) of the Berkshire Family History Society will be held on Wednesday 8 June 2016 at 7.30pm, before the Newbury Branch meeting at Shaw House, Church Road, Shaw, Newbury, West Berkshire RG14 2DR. For location details, see:

info.westberks.gov.uk/index.aspx?articleid=29158

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 2016 for acceptance and approval, and to elect for the year 2016/2017 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 25 May 2016. 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 2015 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 AGM 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 AGM in 2016 in the normal way. At the date of the publication of this notice the committee has not made such an appointment.*

*** Two members of the current committee will be standing down having served the maximum continuous term for trustees.*

Prior to the meeting, Shaw House, an Elizabethan manor house, will be open from 6:30 to 7:30pm to allow members and visitors attending the AGM to look round this historic building and its current exhibition. Here, AGM attendees will be offered a complimentary drink (wine, juice, coffee or tea) and nibbles.

After the AGM the Newbury Branch is hosting a talk by Trevor Sapey, who is the educational officer for the Mary Rose Trust. Mr Sapey is a lively presenter and will bring both original artefacts found on the *Mary Rose* and replicas for his audience to handle and identify.

Directions to Shaw (distances are approximate)

Please note that at the time of writing only disabled vehicles may access the house from Church Road. Other visitors need to use the car park accessed from Love Lane. Drivers are advised to check the West Berkshire Council/Shaw House website or telephone Shaw House (01635 279279) for the latest information before setting off.

Travelling southbound from the M4 (junction 13)

Follow local signage to join the A34 approximately ¼ mile south of junction 13.

After about 1 mile branch off the A34 onto the A339 signed Newbury and Thatcham. After 1 mile continue straight on the A339 at the roundabout towards Newbury.

After ½ mile there is a traffic light controlled junction. Here the A4 from the west joins the southbound A339.

(Routes from the other directions join here)

Keep to the left on the lane marked A4 Thatcham and B4009.

Approximately 200 yds from where the A4 joins the A339, there is the traffic light controlled Robin Hood roundabout.

Take the first left, signed B4009 Hermitage (note that this turning off the roundabout is not controlled by traffic lights).

Follow the B4009 for around 400yds, to the pair of mini-roundabouts. Keep left at the first mini-roundabout and at the second mini-roundabout vehicles with disabled badges/occupants should take the first left into Church Road, where Shaw House is found on the right after about 400 yds. All other visitor vehicles should take the second exit to this second mini-roundabout and continue on the B4009 for a further 200yds, taking the first exit at the next mini-roundabout into Love Lane. The car park is approximately 200yds on the left.

Travelling west (from Reading) on the A4

On approaching the A339/A4 junction (the Robin Hood roundabout) take lanes 2 or 3 and follow round to the third (northern) exit. Keep to lane 2 signed Thatcham A4 and Hermitage B4009, which then sweeps to the right, joining the A4 from the west beneath the elevated northbound A339. Move to left hand lane and follow the route given in the previous section.

Travelling from the south on the A339

Keep to the centre or left lanes on approaching the Robin Hood roundabout. Carry on straight ahead, and follow lane signed Thatcham A4 and Hermitage B4009, which then sweeps to the right, joining the A4 from the west beneath the elevated northbound A339. Move to left hand lane and follow the route given in the first section.

Travelling east (from Hungerford and A34 northbound) on the A4

Continue on this road until passing under the elevated A339 northbound. At this point keep left and then follow the directions in the first section.



Volunteers thanked at 40th anniversary party



Berkshire Family History Society would not exist or be able to offer any of the services that it does without the time and commitment given by dedicated volunteers. It was therefore very fitting that as part of the society's fortieth birthday celebrations 75 volunteers past and present gathered with their partners in the eighteenth-century former manorial barn at Purley-on-Thames on Saturday 14 November for a special afternoon tea party. Whilst most of the invitees travelled to Purley from across Berkshire and its surrounding counties, long-term volunteer Jean Debney made the journey down from her new home in Shropshire to meet up with everyone. The volunteers were joined by special guest Mark Stevens, Berkshire's county archivist. Society secretary Tony Roberts welcomed everyone to the party and thanked them for their support over many years for the society and also for their generous contributions to the buffet tables. Pictured above are the two longest-serving volunteers present – Jackie Blow and Liz Longhurst – who cut the special cake to mark the occasion.

Catherine Sampson

Projects and publications

In the BRO we continue our focus on completing a handful of long-running parish CD projects, whilst also building content for future editions of our three county-wide collections. A combined-parishes CD for Purley, Sulham and Tidmarsh should be completed shortly. This will contain not just the usual transcriptions of the baptisms, banns, marriages and burial registers but also a number of photographs of former residents, mainly from the late nineteenth century, which have been kindly made available to the society from the photographic archive of a local family. The production stage of Brimpton parish CD is now underway, and we have completed checking Peasemore's parish registers. Checking of Kintbury St Mary parish records is progressing well.

Production of the second edition of *Berkshire baptisms* is progressing well and we hope this will be available shortly. Keep an eye on our website for its launch. Edition Two will contain over 250,000 entries from over 100 parishes across old Berkshire, many new to this edition. Transcribing and checking also continues of remaining registers to be included in the twelfth and final edition of *Berkshire burials*. Tentatively, we hope this may be finished late this year.

Do keep an eye on the free data section in the Members' Area of the website, as we regularly upload new resources, including some less-accessed archival material. An index to some of Berkshire's Feet of Fines records has just been added, as well as electoral roll and poll book data.

Finally, we could do with some more help producing CDs and building databases to spread the workload between our volunteers. Is this something you could help with? If so, please drop me a line at projects@berksfhs.org.uk.

Catherine Sampson
Projects co-ordinator

1975 - 2015



Fortieth anniversary talks programme Preserving your precious family memorabilia

Linda Connell



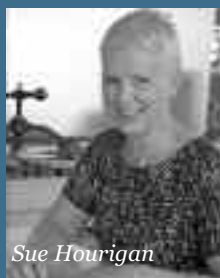
Documents, letters, photographs (old and new), textiles, christening gowns, embroidery etc:

a practical workshop run by Linda Connell (director, National Needlework Archive)

and Sue Hourigan (senior conservator, BRO)

Organised & sponsored by Berkshire FHS

Monday 14 March 2016, 2-4.30pm
at the Berkshire Record Office, 9 Coley Ave, Reading RG1 6AF



Sue Hourigan

Open to members, their friends and family
Each attendee may bring one item on which they would like to receive advice
Places limited: first come, first served
Tickets £10.00 (tea and cake included) by post from
Richard Ashberry, Treasurer Berkshire FHS
22 Burroway Road, Langley, Slough, Berks SL3 8EN
Please include your name, address, email and telephone number together with
a cheque payable to Berkshire Family History Society

Your society needs you



Tony Roberts, the society's secretary, appeals to all members to consider that they may have something to offer the society

YOUR CHANCE TO HELP YOUR EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEET FUTURE CHANGES

In the 40 years since the society came into being much has changed. Everyday communications by letter and landline telephones are now supplemented (or even supplanted) by emails, mobile phones, Facebook, Twitter etc, and all via the

internet and devices we could only dream of in 1976. Not only have communications changed but they are generally far quicker now than in the past, and increasingly rely on digital messaging rather than oral or hand-written means. This in turn means that the society's Executive Committee needs to be able to match the increasing pace of life in its responsiveness to change and member needs.

For the Executive Committee to positively meet the management and communications demands of 2016 and the years beyond is a major challenge, and the committee is investigating ways of improving its own effectiveness and engagement with the society membership. To this end, currently under review are the sub-committees through which the more day-to-day activities are monitored and society business managed. Several of these only need minor changes, but there are two that need action soon: there are spaces for more interested people in the events team, and in the newly created editorial team to cover the non-technical aspects of magazine production. Also within this review it has become very obvious that two areas that we do not address as effectively as we should are those of meeting our educational aims and of promoting the society both through internal and external communications, ie, public relations, marketing and member communications.

Later in the year I hope that I may report to you considerable progress on our examinations into these topics. In the meantime, if any of you reading this article have and are willing to offer help or your skills in the editorial, events, educational or in public communications areas of activity, I and the rest of the Executive Committee would be delighted to hear from you.



*The 2015-16 Exec, left to right:
Tony Roberts,
Ken Houghton,
Joy Pibworth,
Eileen Schofield,
Derek Trinder,
Sandra Barkwith,
Vicki Chesterman,
Catherine Sampson,
Richard Ashberry,
Chad Hanna,
Gillian Stevens,
Colin Jones.*

*Judith Mitchell and
Margaret Crook
were absent.*

COULD YOU BE A TRUSTEE OF THE SOCIETY?

In the coming year there will be several vacant trustee positions on the society's Executive Committee.* Trustees are responsible for the good governance of the society and its assets on behalf of the membership, and for ensuring that the society's activities are aligned with its aims.**

The Executive Committee meets six times a year, and sometimes on a seventh occasion to specifically approve the society's annual accounts. Trustees may serve several years continuously, but they do need to be re-nominated and re-elected at each annual general meeting.

The primary duties of a trustee are to act in the best interests of the society, ensure that the decisions and actions of the society are compliant with its constitution, and ensure that the society provides public benefit. A trustee must also ensure that the society's budgets are reasonable and sustainable, and in accordance with the society's aims, and that the accounts maintained by the treasurer reflect these properly. A trustee should also be involved in planning for the future of the society, and reviewing the relevant actions needed to achieve those goals.

A trustee must be committed to the charity, have a duty of care to the society as a whole, and an ambition to keep the Berkshire Family History Society as a forward-looking and class-leading family history organisation. A trustee must be able to exercise independent judgment, and be willing to question and challenge any proposals presented to the Executive Committee.

If this is YOU, and you consider that you can help direct the society, then details of nominations and eligibility are given in the *Notice of annual general meeting* on page 2 of this *Berkshire Family Historian*, or contact the secretary, Tony Roberts, at secretary@berksfhs.org.uk or apply through your local branch committee. Each nominee must be a current member of the society and have a proposer and seconder who are also current members. The closing date for nominations is Wednesday 25 May 2016.

* comprising officers and elected members

** Those aims are (1) to advance education of the public in research into family history and genealogy, primarily but not exclusively within the boundaries of the pre-1974 Royal County of Berkshire; and (2) to work to promote the preservation, transcription, indexing and ready public accessibility of related records and information.

Tony Roberts
secretary@berksfhs.org.uk

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.**

Rob Dickinson BSc
Chestnut Tree Genealogy
9, Leighton Road, Ealing, London, W13 9EL

Email: info@chestnut-tree-genealogy.co.uk

Around the branches

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

At our October meeting we learnt about the Kennet and Avon Canal Trust from the chairman of its Reading branch, David Copley. The trust, which now has over 3,000 members, was founded in the 1950s mainly due to the threat of closure of the canal, which starts in Reading. The speaker related the history of the canal, from the straightening of the river Kennet between 1720 and 1723, and the river Avon being made navigable from Bath to Bristol in 1723, followed by the opening of the stretch from Newbury to Bath. The Great Western Railway, which opened in 1841, removed much of the canal's traffic and in 1852 took over its operation. The canal then fell into dis-repair over a century of decline; by the 1960s parts of it were closed to boats, with between half and two-thirds of the locks unusable. With hard work and dedication, trust volunteers gradually restored the waterway to its former glory, and on 8 October 1990 the Queen officially reopened the Kennet and Avon Canal. The aim of the trust is to protect, maintain and enhance the waterway. There are four boats crewed by qualified staff for cruises and private hire, at Bradford-on-Avon, Devizes, Hungerford and at Newbury Wharf.

The Almshouse Association was the subject of our talk in November, given by Sue Turner. The association is a registered charity based in Wokingham with over 1,700 member charities and over 32,000 almshouses. The objectives are to preserve the historic traditions of almshouses, to provide good quality housing for needy people, to promote the welfare and independence of residents and to manage the charitable resources as effectively as possible.

The first recorded almshouse was founded by King Athelstan in York in the tenth century, and the oldest still in existence is thought to be the Hospital of St Oswald in Worcester, which dates from c990. The audience was surprised to hear that almshouses are still being built. The most recent is Combe Park, one of the St John's Almshouses in Bath, which was opened in 2003 by the Prince of Wales. Almshouses were set up by wealthy philanthropists, believing that by doing so they would get to heaven, and they wanted the residents to pray for them. Most of the almshouses have *hospital* in the name, which is derived from the word *hospitality*, and not to be confused with the modern sense of *hospital*. St John's Hospital, founded in 1250 in Lichfield, was built in front of the city gate, so when the gate was shut in the evening visitors could be given hospitality until morning. Lord Leycester Hospital, Warwick, is a fine timber-framed black and white building built alongside the gateway dating from the fourteenth century, with the chapel twelfth-century. The patron of the association is the Prince of Wales, who gives an annual award to the best rebuilt or new property each year.

We called our Christmas meeting *Celebrating 2015 anniversaries*. Members and guests enjoyed a relaxed evening with quizzes based on the many anniversaries that occurred in 2015 and a table quiz testing their knowledge of the Kennet and Avon Canal (the subject of October's talk). A finger buffet was provided by members.

We continue to hold our drop-in sessions at Bracknell Library (second Tuesday of the month) and Wokingham Library (last Tuesday of the month).

Sandra Barkwith

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

On 27 October Windsor Branch members enjoyed a talk by Sue Gibbons from the Society of Genealogists on shopkeepers as ancestors. She listed many online sources for research but also mentioned that visits to local archives are often very productive, as high-street photographs, local directories, guides and ephemera such as invoices and handbills may be found there. Trade museums such as the shoe museum in Northampton have libraries which contain useful information. For tradesman ancestors there may be apprenticeship records and freeman's records. Online newspaper archives are often very productive, as shopkeepers often appeared in court cases, bankruptcies and in the obituary column. They were often involved in friendly societies, sporting and other clubs. Being better off they often sent their sons to local grammar schools, acted as councillors and served as churchwardens and, at their end, their families could afford a tombstone in the local cemetery.

Judith Mitchell

The field and wall where the Wall Game is played, with Eton College buildings and the Chapel in the background



Our November speaker was Eleanor Hoare, the Eton College archivist, who talked of the college's history from its foundation by Henry VI in 1440, and of the records that it holds dating from 1091. The college was originally a charity school providing free education to poor boys, an element of which continues to the present day with sponsored scholarships offered to less privileged children, known as King's Scholars.

Many of the documents from the foundation of the college survive, including the original coat of arms, wages books recording workmen who built the college, and several items signed by Henry VI, but only during the past 50 years has there been any interest in preserving and collating these records. Some records are donated, others are acquisitions and some are on loan. We also learned that 5,000 Etonians served in WWI, with 1,300 not returning. Eton College archives can be viewed online at www.etoncollege.com/online_resources.aspx.

Ken Houghton

Reading Branch **Reading@berksfhs.org.uk**

The topic at Reading Branch's October meeting was *Heraldry for family historians* by Tim Powys-Lybbe, who related how family historians could use heraldic patterns to make connections to families.

Heraldry dates back to 1150, and by 1200 inheritance was established through the eldest son, who would get the majority of the will, with portions going to other legitimate children including daughters. Rules of heraldic succession exclude illegitimacy. Sometimes the inscriptions were handed down with the land. The holder of the manor could use the coat of arms symbol of the family. These patterns were used for seals, in lieu of a signature. Early heraldry was of simple geometric design. From 1300 quartering, impaled and differenced started to be used. In these designs the husband's section was on the right and the wife's armorial was on the left. Sons used top bars of varying number to designate they were descendants of their father. A square in the top left corner indicates they were not the senior holder. Different arms of the same family name usually indicate unconnected families.

Our November meeting centred on a book, *The water gypsy*, based upon research carried out by Julie Ann Godson on Betty Ridge, a Thames fisher girl who married a viscount. Without the documentary proof of family portraits and scans of original documents it would be hard to believe the fantastical, Cinderella story that was told to us. The speaker's book was available to buy on the night.

December's meeting was a members' night and history quiz, followed by seasonal drinks and mince pies. It was an informal night with much opportunity for conversation.

Reading Branch will soon be holding monthly family history help sessions at the Whitley Museum at the South Reading Community Centre. We have also been approached to do a "family history basics" talk at Tilehurst Library on 31 March, from 10.30 to 11.30am.

Graham Vockins

Newbury Branch

newbury
@berksfhs.org.uk

Our December branch meeting featured a lively speaker in Beefeater costume, Tony Strafford, who expounded for about 45 minutes without hesitation, deviation, repetition – or even notes! – on intriguing matters relating to the Tower of London. (His advertised title of *Bishops, sex and money* was just a tease; his topics ranged far more widely.)

Some 15 members of the branch enjoyed a lively Christmas dinner at Café Rouge, the first to be held by the branch for many years. The event will certainly be repeated next Christmas, possibly at a different venue, and we hope that even more may decide to join the party.

January's meeting at Shaw Hall took the form of a post-Christmas social, complete with Nick's quiz, mulled "wine", nibbles and a Secret Santa.

GOODBYE FROM THE EDITOR

As most of you will know from earlier announcements, this is my last issue as editor of the *Berkshire Family Historian*. I took the task on 10 years ago, since when I've edited 40 issues, which is long enough for me, and for you as patient readers. It has been a stimulating and gratifying decade for me, but the time has come to move on to a fresh challenge.

I should like to thank the many dozens (maybe hundreds) of members who have kept me supplied with lively articles, photographs, questions and comments over the years. Through the magazine I've made friends with a varied bunch of contributors who have educated me on many aspects of local and family history. My only regret is that I have met so very few of you in person. Nonetheless, you have been (by and large) punctual and reliable in sending in interesting copy, which is the most that any editor could wish for.

Thank you and goodbye.

Penny Stokes

co-ordinated by Margaret Crook and Gillian Stevens

Events

The society will be attending the *Who Do You Think You Are? Live!* show, which this year runs from Thursday 7 to Saturday 9 April at NEC Birmingham. We'd love to meet any members who are visiting the show, together with any friends who are interested in family history and/or Berkshire.

In addition we're looking for some help. Whether you live near Birmingham, or are thinking of visiting from further afield, would you like to help on the stand for 3 to 3½ hours? In return we can let you have a pass which will get you in for free for all three days. The task mainly involves talking to visitors; if they ask a question which you cannot answer, there will usually be someone else on the stand who can (you would always be with someone who has helped in the past), and taking money for items they wish to buy.

Be prepared to be hooked: there is a great atmosphere, and once you have done it you will want to come again and again. If you are interested, or even to just find out a bit more, please email events@berksfhs.org.uk.

Events

Could you help at one of our events, even if just for an hour or two, on the society's stand? Drop a line to Margaret or Gillian on events@berksfhs.org.uk if you think you could.

The view from next door



Ivone Turnbull
senior archivist at the BRO

We start the year with the fabulous news that the BRO has obtained a £25,000 grant from the Wellcome Trust to repair badly damaged Reading Prison records. The trust has funded the conservation work because the archive contains records of health care in custodial environments. Among the documents to be repaired is a register of prisoners admitted between 1892 and 1894, so severely damaged by damp that it cannot currently be opened. Each page will have to be

repaired and strengthened before the book is re-sewn into a new cover.

Centuries-old records are particularly prone to damage from poor storage, flood or a fire, or even the material with which they were made. They can end up in a poor state for all sorts of reasons. Sometimes just making sure that the damage doesn't get any worse is all that can be done to preserve them, but if the damage can be repaired, it can make an item more accessible.

Conservation work involves science, attention to detail and a great deal of patience. From removing Sellotape and rusty staples, to repairing tears, a conservator works hard to make documents fit for consultation. An archivist will provide detailed information on documents in the form of catalogues, and work to promote their existence and enable access. Together the two professions work to preserve historical documents by providing good collections care, storage and accessibility. The BRO is very pleased that it can now employ a conservator specifically to repair items from the Reading Prison archive, which it is hoped will be completed by January 2017.

To mark the centenary of the 1916 Easter Rising the BRO will be staging an exhibition relating to the internment of Irish prisoners in Reading Prison. It will be available during usual opening hours from 27 April 2016. Free admission.

Dates for your 2016 diary

| | | | |
|-----------------------|--|---|--|
| 10.00-16.00 12 Mar | Dorset FHS Family History Day | Parkstone Grammar School, Poole, BH17 7EP | www.dorsetfhs.org.uk/openday.htm |
| 09.45-15.00 12 Mar | Celtic Family History Day, run by Surrey County Council | Surrey History Centre, 130 Goldsworth Road, Woking GU21 6ND | www.surreycc.gov.uk/heritage-culture-and-recreation/archives-and-history/surrey-history-centre/heritage-events |
| 7-9 April | <i>Who Do You Think You Are? Live!</i> | NEC Birmingham | www.whodoyouthinkyouarelive.com |

What's new at the BRO

A digest of accessions to the Berkshire Record Office over the last 12 months, taken from four issues of the BRO newsletter, the Echo
For fuller details see the original pdfs of each issue
<http://www.berkshirerecordoffice.org.uk/berkshire-echo>

JANUARY 2016

Moulsford rate book, 1872-76 (RD/W)
Littlewick Green, Chalk Pit House, 1962 sale catalogue, (D/EX2399)
Wallingford, property sale catalogues 1846 and 1940 (D/EX2446)
Stratfield Mortimer, premises called Wilders, copy of court roll 1766 (D/EX1624)
Reading, letter book of millwright and engineer James Phillips, 1850-60 (R/D148)
Earley, land tax assessment, 1766 (R/D179)
Reading, 44-46 London Street, abstract of title, 1878 (D/EZ178)
Abingdon, records of coroners' inquests, 1894 - 1942 (COR/A)
Caversham, Reading and Tilehurst, Queen Victoria Institute archives for district nursing, 1897 - 1961 (R/D146)
Newbury District Hospital, training notes of a student nurse (D/EX2458)
Berkshire County Council, chief officers' annual reports, 1904-74 (C/CL/C7)
Reading, the bond of James Macaulay, appointed as collector of stamp duty, 1861 (R/D210/1)
Berkshire County Cricket Club, archive 1903 - 2013 (D/EX2432)
Wokingham St Sebastian's Football Club, 1946-75 (D/EX2442)
Reading Horticultural and Reading & District Rose and Sweet Pea Society, records 1902-23 (R/D143)
Reading Chess Club, 1899 - 1951 (R/D144)
Berkshire Archaeological Society, scrapbooks (R/D194)

OCTOBER 2015

Reading, applications for assistance to the Reading Distress Committee, 1905 - 1921, which aimed to find work for the "respectable" unemployed; much personal detail on applicants (R/AS3)
Berkshire County Council, public assistance department, poor relief and health matters, 1930-48 (C/PA)
Berkshire, variety of records relating to WWII evacuation to Berkshire (C/CD/B)
Berkshire, attendance registers for London schools evacuated during WWII, listing the children who came here and who remained with their original school group (C/ED/H)
Bradfield, official instructions to staff on how to deal with the initial influx of evacuees, 1939 (D/EX2454)
Berkshire Quarter Sessions Licensing Committee, papers 1903-28, including many reports on individual pubs (Q/AC6)

JULY 2015

Newbury, Bartholomew Street Primitive Methodist Church, 1877 - 1971 (D/MS2)
Newbury, Northbrook Street Wesleyan Methodist Church, 1832 - 2004 (D/MS51)
Newbury, Stroud Green Primitive Methodist Church, 1871 - 1991 (D/MS15)
Slough, (Methodist) Central Hall and its successor, St Andrew's Church, 1928-78 (D/MS69)
Slough, William Street Primitive Methodist Church, 1893 - 1908 (D/MS70)
Sunninghill, Cheapside Wesleyan Methodist Church, 1841 - 1969 (D/MS17)
Windsor, Wesleyan Methodist Church, 1836 - 2002 (D/MS9)
Henley, Methodist Church, Oxfordshire (Berkshire circuit), 1886 - 1983 (D/MS104)
Lambourn, Wesleyan Methodist Church printed memoir of founder Thomas Bush (D/MS8)
Tilehurst, Wesleyan Chapel, papers of schoolmistress Frances Morden, 1857-1906 (D/EX2220)

Reading, Faith Forum and the Reading Faith Community Leaders Group, 2002-12 reflecting co-operation between different religions in the area (D/EX2131)
 Bracknell St Paul, parish register, baptisms 1986 - 2013 (D/P 165C)
 Brightwalton, parish register, marriages 1979 - 2013 (D/P24)
 Chaddleworth, parish register, marriages, 1986 - 2000 (D/P32)
 Coleshill, parish register, marriages 2002-13 (D/P40)
 Cookham, parish register, marriages 1960 - 2004 (D/P43)
 Easthampstead, parish register, baptisms 2003-12, burials 1915-49, with parish clerk's rough record of burials and interments of ashes, 1919 - 2008 (D/P49)
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 Berkshire, charity deeds transferred from the Charity Commission, including the Reading School of Industry for Girls, and charity schools at Chaddleworth and Kingston Bagpuize (P/CC2)
 Maidenhead Cottage Hospital, trust deed 1917 (D/EX2388)
 Blewbury, papers of the artist Sydney Langford Jones, Quaker and pacifist, including two small sculptures he created out of porridge whilst interned in Pentonville Prison as a conscientious objector during the First World War (D/EX1795)


Karen Rogers, née Liddiard, is organising a family gathering of Liddiards which will take place in Aldbourne on 13 and 14 August 2016. Contact her at liddiard@one-name.org or by mail to 33 Peat Place, Lower Portland, NSW 2756 Australia or local enquiries to John Dymond 01672 450371 or john@dymond.com if you would like more details.

A noble ancestor?

Di Lawer (née Maynard)

**relates the misdeeds of her
great-great-grandfather**

No, a bit of a swine!



Most of us have a skeleton in the family history cupboard and, on perusing the British Library newspaper articles for the 1800s on Findmypast, I came across the report of a disturbing incident involving my great-great-grandfather, Richard Maynard, at that time the landlord of the Black Boy at Shinfield, Reading. He was featured in my Berkshire publicans article in the December 2015 issue of the *Berkshire Family Historian*.

The Reading Mercury of Saturday 23 October 1847 gives a graphic account of a sitting of the Berkshire County Bench the week previously, under the heading *Case of Assault*:

A stout powerful-looking man, named Richard Maynard, a farmer and public house keeper residing at Shinfield, was brought up on a warrant, charged with having assaulted a married woman named Lovell, on the 15th inst., at that place.

Mrs Lovell deposed that on Thursday evening she lost her pig, and on the following morning, understanding that it was locked up in Mr Maynard's cow stall, she went there and found it locked in the calf pen on his premises. She afterwards went out, and her two sons and herself met Maynard in the road, and her eldest son asked Maynard for the pig. The defendant replied that, not till they had paid for the damage the pig had committed, and the poundage, should he let the pig out. Her son replied that the cow stall was not the pound and refused to pay.

The witness then said that if he did not give up the pig she would go to Mr Merry, to which he replied: "I don't give a d--n for you, nor Mr Merry either." She called him a rogue,

and he immediately struck her twice on the side of her head with his fists. Her son interposed, and a fight ensued between them, in which the defendant got the best of it. The witness and her sons ran away across Shinfield Green, Maynard following them. He overtook the witness near a pond and, taking hold of her by the right arm and breast, threw her into the water.

James and Alfred West, the two sons of the last witness, corroborated her statements as to the assault in every particular.

The defendant made a long statement of the case, complaining that he had first been insulted, and declaring that he did not even know the pig was on his premises.

The room was then cleared for the magistrates to deliberate and, on Maynard's re-admission, the chairman informed him that the bench were unanimously of the opinion that he had committed a most unjustifiable and unmanly assault, disgraceful to himself, and they had decided on inflicting a penalty of immediate payment of £2 - 9s - 6d, in default of immediate payment of which he would be committed to the house of correction for one month. The fine was paid.

This interesting article about the disgraceful behaviour of my ancestor led me to dig up information on local traditions and the people mentioned.

Mrs Lovell's son was quite correct in stating that Richard Maynard's cow stall was not the pound, and that he was therefore totally out of order in demanding a fee.

The village pound dated from medieval times and was a common feature of many villages. Shinfield today still has an area

named Pound Green. A pound could be either square or round, surrounded by a hedge or a stone wall, to hold stray sheep, pigs, geese and cattle. Finding livestock on his land a farmer or “impounder” was obliged to take the animal to the pound to await collection by the owner. It was only released to him after the owner had paid the impounder a fee for watering and feeding the animal, plus a fine if any damage had been caused by the stray to that person’s property.

An ingenious form of receipt was sometimes used. The person who found the animal on his land cut a stick and made notches, one for every beast, and then split the stick down the centre of the notches so that half each notch appeared on each stick. One half he kept, the other he gave to the pound-keeper. When the owner came to redeem his property and had paid his dues, the impounder gave him his half stick. He took this to

the pound-keeper and if the two pieces tallied, it proved he had settled up and his beast was freed. This is the origin of the tally-stick, the pound-keeper being referred to as the tally-man. After three weeks any unclaimed animal was taken to the nearest market and sold, the proceeds divided between the impounder and the pound-keeper.

I was also curious about Mrs Lovell, and why her two sons James and Alfred had the surname West. I discovered that a Mary Ann

Critcher, born 1796, was baptised at St Mary’s, Shinfield, on 17 February 1799, and that she had married James West there on 9 January 1826. They had four sons: Alfred, born 1826; James, born 1827; Ishmael, born 1834, who sadly died aged eight; and George, born 1836.

By the time of the 1841 census Mary West had been widowed, and the family were all living at the Black Boy, Shinfield, so they must have been well known to the landlord, Richard Maynard. Also with the family was Mary’s father, James Critcher, born c1762, who was the parish clerk in the 1840s.

On 17 May 1846 Mary West married John Lovell who, according to the 1851 census, was

farming seven acres on Whitley Common, so doing quite well for himself. Mary’s two sons, James and George, were agricultural labourers on their step-father’s farm, but Alfred had moved on to work on Robert Calcutt’s 98-acre farm at Cookham.



The Black Boy c2008. Photo copyright Rob Wilcox and licensed for reuse under Creative Commons

And who was the Mr Merry to whom Mary threatened to report Richard Maynard about the pig incident? He was none other than William Merry, the county magistrate who, in his later years, resided at Highlands, Shinfield. He came from a very prestigious family, as he was the son of the eminent William Merry, born c1771, who in 1809 had been appointed deputy Secretary of State for War to Lord Palmerston.

A further search on the British Library’s

Newspaper Index revealed another snippet of information about my ancestor. *The Reading Mercury* of 18 November 1848 carried the following notice:

Stolen or strayed, about five to six weeks ago, from Hartley Common, a white and red heifer, the property of Mr Maynard, the Black Boy, Shinfield, whoever will bring the same to him shall receive the £1 reward and all reasonable expenses paid them.

Richard had most likely already checked the pound for the heifer, but he does seem to have

adopted a more reasonable attitude concerning lost livestock. However, sadly, he was no longer the “stout, powerful-looking man” as described in the first newspaper article, for on 19 November 1850, at only 39 years of age, he passed away at his Shinfield home from “carcinoma – uncertain peritonitis 4 or 5 days certified”.

And as for Mary Lovell? She died aged 64 and was buried at St Mary’s, Shinfield, on 21 December 1860.

As others see us

Most family historians must sometimes wonder if their obsession with genealogy is entirely healthy. Mick Southwick collected these quotations for his book Dead end hobby, and has kindly allowed them to be reproduced here

To be ignorant of what occurred before you were born is to remain perpetually a child. For what is the worth of a human life unless it is woven into the life of our ancestors by the records of history? (*Marcus Tullius Cicero, Roman philosopher and statesman*)

Genealogy: an account of one’s descent from an ancestor who did not particularly care to trace his own. (*Ambrose Bierce, US writer*)

We can scarcely call birth and ancestry and what we have not ourselves done, our own. (*Ovid, Roman poet*)

Being Southerners, it was a source of shame to some members of the family that we had no recorded ancestors on either side of the Battle of Hastings. (*Harper Lee, US writer, To Kill a Mockingbird*)

He who has nothing to boast of but his ancestry is like a potato; the only good belonging to him is underground. (*Sir Thomas Overbury, British poet*)

Mules boast much that their ancestors were horses. (*German proverb*)

People will not look forward to posterity who never look backward to their ancestors. (*Edmund Burke, British politician*)

We owe it to our ancestors to preserve entire those rights which they have delivered to our care; we owe it to our posterity not to suffer their dearest inheritance to be destroyed. (*Junius*)

Whoever serves his country well has no need of ancestors. (*Voltaire, French writer*)

I can trace my ancestry back to a protoplasmal primordial atomic globule. Consequently, my family pride is something inconceivable. I can't help it. I was born sneering. (*W S Gilbert, British dramatist, The Mikado*)

The difference between us is that my family begins with me, whereas yours ends with you. (*Iphicrates, Athenian general, replying to a descendant of Harmodius, an Athenian hero, who had derided Iphicrates for being the son of a cobbler*)

No man is responsible for his father. That is entirely his mother's affair. (*Margaret Turnbull, US writer, Alabaster Lamps*)

There are no credentials. They do not even need a medical certificate. They need not be sound either in mind or body. They only require a certificate of birth – just to prove that they are first of a litter. You would not choose a spaniel on these principles. (*David Lloyd George, British statesman, on the aristocracy*)

He that has no fools, knaves, or beggars in his family must have been begot by a flash of lightning! (*Thomas Fuller, British clergyman*)

The theory of relativity says that no matter what you do in life, your relatives will have a theory. (*anon*)

There is something about a closet that makes a skeleton terribly restless. (*John Barrymore, US actor*)

Found a Yankee in my family tree; will trade for horse thief or other black sheep. (*anon*)

No one is better born than another, unless they are born with better abilities and a more amiable disposition. (*Seneca, Roman philosopher and statesman*)

High birth is an accident, not a virtue. (*Metastasio, Italian writer and poet*)

Englishmen hate Liberty and Equality too much to understand them. But every Englishman loves a pedigree. (*George Bernard Shaw, Irish playwright*)

We live with a heritage from earlier generations and must seek to create positive legacies for those who follow us. When the old are not allowed to tell their story, the young grow up without history. If the young are not listened to, we have no future. (*Dr Gunhild O Hagestad, Norwegian sociologist*)

To obtain a copy of Dead end hobby visit Mick Southwick's website at <http://historymick.weebly.com/publications-1.html>

It's what we do

Newtown Road Cemetery in Newbury closed in the year 2000. In 2009 the Friends of Newtown Road Cemetery formed with the aim of restoring it and recording its memorials. The recording exercise has expanded into researching the life stories of the cemetery's occupants, and this in turn has led to a steady stream of enquiries from their descendants. Here are two such stories from the Friends' newsletter, described by [Ros Clow](#), who leads the Friends' History Research Group

From the Autumn 2013 issue

Pratts and Sparrows

Jessica Lempp visited Newtown Road Cemetery to find her grandmother's grave, just inside the South Lodge gate, where she left flowers. As she was leaving, the woman locking up suggested that she contact the Friends through our website, which she did.

Doug Larsen found the three graves of Jessica's family and made sure they were cleared. This led to an exciting morning on Monday 29 July when Jessica brought her mother, Jill Sparrow, and her son Christopher to 1 Rockingham Road, where Jill's mother, Katherine Sparrow, ran Craven School for many years. There they were all invited inside and given refreshments.

Then they came to Priory Road, where we spent an hour going through photographs and newspaper cuttings relating to the Pratt family. Henry Pratt (1834 - 1922) was headmaster of the National School (now St Nicolas). Katherine Sparrow was the daughter of one of his sons, James, who was born in the tower of the former school, an imposing building designed by Butterfield on the corner of Rockingham Road and Enborne Road. James was a stationer in Cheap Street for much of his life. Another son, Lawrence Charles, died in 1921 aged 23, reportedly as a result of being gassed in WWI.

The family left not only copies of photos but also Lawrence's medals and dog tag, which will be on show when the chapel is open on 3 November for the Remembrance event. Doug took our visitors across to the cemetery so they could see all their family graves, where they laid flowers.

This is exactly the kind of interaction we hope will happen more and more as family historians use our website. As a result of the visit we have eleven more individuals identified, with photos of most.

Following up the Pratt/Sparrow query, I found Katherine Sparrow's obituary in the *Newbury Weekly News* of July 1971.

Mrs Katherine Fitzgerald Sparrow, who for forty years ran Craven School, Newbury, died in Donington Hayes Nursing Home on Sunday aged 70.

Mrs Sparrow started the school in 1928 with one pupil at premises in West Mills, and built it up at 16 Craven Road before moving to 1 Rockingham Road, her home at the time of her death.

She had as many as 60 pupils at the school at one time, many of whom gained successes to Christ's Hospital and the local grammar schools.

She taught the piano and took part in many local music festivals. Until taken ill in 1969 she played the violin with Newbury Amateur Orchestral Union, now Newbury Symphony Orchestra. Music was an obsession with her and in 1968, at the age of 67, she enrolled with the Royal College of Music.

Mrs. Sparrow was keen on carnivals and her entries in the King George V silver jubilee carnival in 1936, the Queen's Coronation in 1953 and the St Nicolas' Church carnival, all won first prize.

She came from a teaching family. Her grandfather was the first headteacher of St Nicolas' School at the time when education became compulsory [1870], and her mother was headmistress of the St Mary's School, Speenhamland.

Her father, James Edward Pratt, kept a newsagent's shop at 64 Cheap Street.

Among her other activities was bridge. She was a keen player and at one time won a large cup at a bridge competition in the Corn Exchange.

She is survived by a twin son, Mr John Sparrow, who is a chief engineer with the United States Line, and a daughter, Mrs Jill Rufus, who teaches music at a Stevenage, Hertfordshire School. She also leaves three granddaughters.

The funeral service is at St Nicolas' Church, at 12 noon tomorrow and burial will follow in the family plot at Newtown Road cemetery.

From the Autumn 2015 issue Lipscombs

Back from holiday in France I found an email from Lorraine on Vancouver Island, Canada, sent just after I left, via the website.

I am contacting you on behalf of my husband, Colin Francis Lipscomb, who is the son of Louisa Angela Lipscomb. By your records her burial took place on September 28, 1935. She is listed in your Book #1917, Page #190, Record # 11119.

Colin was born on September 6, 1935. His mother, Louisa, died approximately two weeks after his birth, a terrible tragedy. He does not have the information of her actual date of death, and would like to find the missing piece of this

puzzle. He is now nearing 80 and is himself dying, possibly with only a few weeks to live. There are no other family members from whom we can obtain this information.

Colin was raised by his paternal grandparents, Edgar and Eleanor Lipscomb, and had a happy childhood with them in spite of the war. He studied medicine at the University of Bristol, eventually specializing in psychiatry. He moved to Canada in 1967 and worked for many years in Saskatchewan, retiring to Qualicum Beach on Vancouver Island, British Columbia where we currently reside.

Luckily Doug Larsen already had a photograph of the gravestone, from which we learned Louisa's date of death and that she is buried with her mother Martha Bonney, who died in 1944. That was sent to Canada.

David Clow then started to track down Martha's marriage to Walter Bonney. Walter died in 1957 and is also one of our residents, buried with his son Frederick, who predeceased him in 1938, dying at Abingdon Sanatorium, which I believe was a TB hospital. He was only 21, but must have known his step-mother and stepsister Louisa from when his father married Martha Mason in 1920. The Bonneys lived (and died) at 91 Craven Road. Louisa died at 11 Arthur Road, so I sent photos of both houses in case Colin remembered visiting them.

On the morning of Sunday 12 June
the Friends of Newtown Cemetery will be performing

Residents Resurrected

which was first staged at the Phoenix in Newbury for last Hallowe'en. This time it will take place in the cemetery, either in the chapel or by the graveside. Four actors will deliver monologues resurrecting: William Corden the younger, painter to Queen Victoria; Sarah Louisa Hopson, servant at Wickham House and unmarried mother; Herbert Finn, brewer and maltster of the Phoenix Brewery on Bartholomew Street; and Richard Goddard, teacher, special constable and publican at the Pineapple, Brimpton, and the New Market Arms by the cattle market.

Free to all visitors, but we may ask people to book.
More info on our website. <http://www.fnrcnewbury.org.uk>



Brian Sylvester went along to the library to scour the *Newbury Weekly News* for death notices, and these were forwarded to Lorraine too.

Colin had lived with his grandparents, Edgar and Eleanor Lipscomb, shown in the 1911 census at 2 Oxford Terrace, Oxford Road. By coincidence, I found on my computer a photo I had labelled Lipscomb shop (shown above). I have no idea where I found it or where the shop was, but I sent it to Canada anyway. Colin and Lorraine have the very same photo (in much better condition) enlarged and framed in their hallway, and it was the home Colin grew up in.

Incidentally, Colin told us that the man with the bike was his great-grandfather Edwin, and one of the men on the roof was his grandfather, Edgar. He believed the shop was decorated for one of Queen Victoria's Jubilees [1887 and 1897].

Colin's father, Harry Malphus Lipscomb, went on to marry twice more, the third time to Freda Longmate, the sister of Norman (Jim) Longmate, the author.

I featured this story in the talk I gave to Berkshire Family History Society, and Angela Wilson, a member, remembered Colin from Speenhamland School. I have checked, and she was right: they were at school together.

Lorraine asked us to buy birth certificates for Colin's parents and she is going to post a photo of her parents' wedding for our website. Colin had a small 80th birthday party, and FNRC's praises were sung, I suspect to anyone who would listen.

When Lorraine thanked us profusely I was able to say "This is what we do!"

Following this, I have to report the sad news that Colin died on Wednesday 23 September. He had a peaceful death at home with his wife at his side.

The Hydes and their hidden faith

In the sixteenth century laws were introduced compelling everybody to attend Anglican church services. Those who refused to comply were known as recusants. The vast majority of these were Roman Catholics.

Hyde is a common surname among Berkshire recusants. There were two persistently recusant Hyde families in Berkshire, but there is no strong evidence they were closely related. Nonetheless, both Hyde families did end up at Hyde End, Brimpton.

Tony Hadland takes up the story.

THE HYDES OF PANGBOURNE, PURLEY AND MARLBOROUGH

Francis Hyde I of Pangbourne, head of a cadet branch of the Hydes of Denchworth, started a recusant tradition that persisted for 200 years. He inherited a manor at Purley where, in 1609, he built Hyde Hall. Francis was the father of a clandestine nun, the grandfather of five more and the great-grandfather of another. Four generations later, the Jesuit-educated Francis Hyde IV sold Hyde Hall, subsequently renamed Purley Hall. His brother John, who also had estates at Baulking, succeeded him. By 1740, John Hyde was living in Hyde Lane, Marlborough, where he housed a clandestine Benedictine chaplain.

John Hyde I of Marlborough died in 1750 and was succeeded by his son, another John. In 1788, John Hyde II inherited the manor of Whatcombe, about six miles south of Wantage, from Elizabeth Young. The Youngs had housed a missionary priest funded by the Franciscans, and John Hyde II allowed this Catholic mission to continue. Meanwhile he still kept a Benedictine chaplain at Marlborough, and retained his Berkshire estates at Baulking.



*Purley Hall, formerly Hyde Hall, in the late 1980s.
Photo: Savills plc*



*The derelict Hyde End House, Brimpton, in 1989. It has since been restored.
Photo: Tony Hadland*

THE HYDES OF HYDE END, BRIMPTON

There was another recusant Hyde dynasty in Berkshire, at Hyde End, Brimpton (not to be confused with Hyde End, Shinfield). However, the Heralds' Visitations, while tracing the main line of this family back to the fifteenth century, show no evidence of links to the Hydes of Denchworth. (This, of course, does not stop people imagining or inventing links between these families or to the completely separate Hyde family of the Lords Clarendon.)

The Kennet valley around Brimpton was an area with a number of strongly recusant families, two of whom had close family ties to Catholic martyrs. The Hydes of Hyde End will have known their fellow recusants, the Wollascotts, Fingalls and Perkins, very well. These Hydes were also associates of the recusant Throckmorton family of Coughton, Warwickshire.

Francis, last of the original Hydes of Hyde End, died in 1754. He left the estate to his cousin Mary's four sons and their male heirs in succession. Their surname, which has half-a-dozen variants, was Switzer, but Francis imposed the condition that, on inheriting the estate, each should adopt the surname Hyde.

Thus, the oldest Switzer boy, Richard, became Richard Hyde of Hyde End. He died in 1779. His will left a bequest to the Catholic chaplain at Woolhampton to pray for his soul. His brother Charles succeeded him. In his will, Charles left bequests to the Catholic chaplains at both Woolhampton and Ufton Court, "to say prayers twice each at their respective Chappels and once at Hyde End for my repose".

The other two Switzer brothers had no male heirs and predeceased Charles. This brought another clause in Francis Hyde's will into play. This gave the estate "to my cousin John Hyde (son of my cousin John Hyde late of Marlborough in the County of Wilts Esquire deceased) his heirs and assigns for ever". There seems to be no evidence that John and Francis Hyde were cousins in any meaningful sense, but at least John had the surname Hyde and was a Catholic, which plainly meant a lot to Francis Hyde of Hyde End. So, in 1803 Hyde End became the main country residence of John Hyde II, late of Marlborough.

THE DRIFT TOWARDS ANGLICANISM

John Hyde II and his wife had five sons and at least five daughters. On 1 January 1784, at the parish church of St Peter and Paul, Marlborough, the Hydes had six of their children baptised according to the Anglican rite. Their ages ranged from a few months to six years, so it can be assumed that they had already been baptised soon after birth by John Hyde's Benedictine chaplain. All the Hyde children born thereafter were baptised in the Anglican church at Marlborough. The Anglican parish register nonetheless noted that the Hydes were "registered as papists".

At that time, John Hyde II was probably just smoothing the way for his sons to get good jobs in the British military or with the East India Company. These jobs were not open to Catholics, and it was not unusual for Catholics to be baptised in the Church of England in the days before civil registration. Maybe John intended for his sons merely to pass themselves off as Anglicans while privately remaining Catholics. The strategy seems to have worked in respect of getting good jobs: John Hyde II's first and third sons served in the Indian army and his second son was a civil servant in India. But it appears it was less successful in keeping the family Catholic: another son became a lieutenant in the King's Own 4th Regiment of Foot, a regiment with a distinctly anti-Catholic tradition.

Indeed, the appetite of John Hyde II and his children for Catholicism seems to have ebbed away during the very period in which anti-Catholic legislation was slowly being repealed. John died in 1819, well after the first two Catholic Relief Acts had been passed, and just a decade before the Catholic Emancipation Act. But, despite having maintained Catholic chaplains at two separate locations, even when it was still illegal to do so, his will contained not a hint of Catholicism.

THE END OF THE HYDES AT HYDE END

John Hyde II's son Charles, the former civil servant in India, succeeded him and promptly disposed of Whatcombe and its Catholic mission. *Burke's Landed Gentry* subsequently gave the pedigree of the Hydes of Hyde End as that of the Pangbourne, Purley and Marlborough Hydes, but with no mention of their recusancy, no reference to the original Hydes of Hyde End and not a hint of the Francis Hyde's preferred (and more closely related) successors, the humble Switzers. The new Hydes of Hyde End seem to have glided effortlessly and profitably into the bosom of the Protestant establishment, airbrushing away their "papist" past.

From the 1860s onwards, the Hydes were using Hyde End merely as a country retreat and letting it out to a succession of well-heeled tenants. Finally, in June 1917, *The Reading Mercury* advertised the Hyde estates at Hyde End and Baulking for sale. They comprised 750 acres and included Hyde End House, five freehold farms, various cottages and smallholdings, a fishery and "choice residential sites". With the estates sold, that particular branch of the Hydes severed its main connection with Berkshire, a century after it abandoned the religion it had nurtured so painfully for so many difficult years.

For a more comprehensive version of this story, including a list of sources, visit <https://hadland.wordpress.com> and click on the "Recusant History" link.

Acknowledgements

The author acknowledges with thanks the research of Tony Harrison into the connection between the Switzers and the Hydes.



Endell Street Hospital

Jane Joslin

discovers a forgotten

WWI hospital

In 2014 I wrote about my father, who in WWI had been injured and was invalided out of the Battle of the Somme on 1 July in 1916 to Endell Street Hospital in London. I know parts of London reasonably well, but I'd never heard of this hospital, so I decided to investigate where it was and whether it is still there.

Endell Street is just off Shaftesbury Avenue, with its shops and cafés. As the street leads down to within a stone's throw of Covent Garden Market and the Royal Opera House it is now a very busy part of the London tourist scene.

The Endell Street Hospital building started life as St Giles Workhouse, and was enlarged and combined with the parish of St George in 1725, but by 1915, when the military hospital opened, it had been used by the Metropolitan Asylums Board to house enemy aliens and refugees from the continent.

That the building became a hospital at all was due to the persistent efforts of two women, Dr Louisa Garrett Anderson (daughter of Elizabeth Garrett Anderson) and Dr Flora Murray, who were also involved in the suffragette movement. Having decided that the situation in England was unlikely to offer them a chance to open a hospital, and knowing that the French were desperate for help, they approached the French Embassy and were accepted by the French Red Cross, who found them a disused hotel in Paris. Within a very short space of time the Women's Hospital Corps, as they were called, had managed to raise funds and staff to open the former hotel as a hospital for both French and English soldiers. This was managed and run entirely by women. The Paris hospital was such a success that another hospital was opened at Wimereux near Boulogne.

At the beginning of 1915 there was an obvious need to open more military hospitals in England,

and the two women were invited to meet the Director General of the Army Medical Service, Sir Alfred Keogh, who asked them to set up a hospital of 500 beds in Endell Street in London. This was a tall order, because the building was in no way planned or equipped as a hospital. Major alterations were necessary such as a lift, electric lighting and modern cooking equipment, as well as cleaning and decorating and medical equipment but, nonetheless, the hospital opened later in 1915.

The hospital was also managed and run entirely by women. Dr Flora Murray was in charge and ensured that activities and entertainment were part of the treatment, and Dr Louisa Garrett Anderson was the surgeon. They treated all types of medical and surgical emergencies, including operations to remove bullets, which was what my father had suffered. Over 24,000 were received and treated in the years of the war.

The hospital closed in 1919, and Drs Garrett Anderson and Flora Murray returned to the children's hospital they had founded. Another senior doctor, Dr Helen Chambers, went on to a career in cancer research, but other members of staff found that their career progression was blocked because they were women.

Not until 1918, after the Representation of the People Act, were some women able to vote, and not until 1928 did they gain the right to vote on the same terms as men.

The building was knocked down, and is now a housing complex, but a blue plaque has been put up on it to remind people what an important part it played in treating injured soldiers in WWI.

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Representation of the People Acts 1918 and 1928

English Poor Law records and a Canadian mystery

Ken Godfrey
*is in pursuit of a
mystery child emigrant*

*Mary Godfrey in the Richmond
Poor Law records*

This genealogical quest started with Richmond Poor Law Union records, containing information on several Godfreys, and particularly on a James Godfrey. I knew from earlier research that this James could have a Berkshire connection, so, after a further query to Surrey FHS, I eventually received a large package containing all of the desired records.

Before describing these records, I should give you some history of my Godfrey family in East Hanney (then in Berkshire, now Oxfordshire). George Godfrey, my great-great-grandfather (born c1801), married Sarah Bunce (born c1805) on 30 July 1827, and had five boys: William (c1831); Charles (c1834); James (c1836); Robert (c1842); and Gabriel (c1846). William, the eldest, was my great-grandfather. He married Mary Herman, and their son, Thomas Godfrey (my grandfather, born 30 November 1860), came to Canada in 1888 or perhaps earlier.

William's younger brother, James, lived in East Hanney from the time he was born in 1836 to at least the 1881 census, according to which he was a ploughboy. By the 1861 census he was married to Caroline Prior, and they had had their first child, Henry, in 1858. By 1871 they had had two more: John (c1862) and William (born 1869). They were still in East Hanney in 1881, but by 1891 the family had moved to Richmond, Surrey, and James' new occupation was nursery gardener.

The Poor Law records show the date of application; applicant's name, age, address; how long in the parish without relief; marital status; description of disability and/or cause of seeking relief, amount of moneys paid; and sometimes additional comments. James Godfrey had applied for relief in 1891, as he had fractured a thigh and was unable to work. Nothing too unusual about that, but I found an entry on another Godfrey which created more questions.

Mary Godfrey, living at 18 Trinity Cottage in 1895, was shown with children: Alfred, 13, at Brentford School; George William, 9, in Canada; Lillie, 7, living at 11 Crofton Terrace with her grandfather (James, a gardener); Ernest William, 5, illegitimate; and Alfred, six weeks old, illegitimate. So who was her husband, where was he, and why were her last two children illegitimate?

Part of the answer to mysterious Mary Godfrey seems to be John (born c1862), the second son of James and Caroline. John married Mary Jane Pullen in the third quarter of 1881 in the Wantage RD, very likely East or West Hanney (marriages index volume 2c, page 535). Mary Jane is shown as born c1859 in Hanney, Berkshire, in the 1901 census. In the 1861

| | | | | | |
|------------------|-----------------|--------------------|------------|-----|--|
| James Godfrey 11 | | | | | |
| 36 | Godfrey Mary 34 | 18 Trinity Cottage | Working 11 | yes | |
| | Alfred 13 | Brentford School | Legt | | |
| | George Wm 9 | In Canada | Legt | | |
| | Lillie 7 | 11 Crofton Terrace | Legt | | |
| | Ernest Wm 5 | illegitimate | Legt | | |
| | Alfred 6 weeks | illegitimate | Legt | | |
| 24 | Samuel John 9 | Brentford School | Legt | | |

census I found Mary J Pullen, aged one (born c1860) in East Hanney with her father John, 25, ag lab, born in West Hanney, his wife Eliza, 21, also an ag lab, and older sister, Martha A, aged two. In the Poor Law records John Godfrey is shown at Christmas 1885 living at 8 Twenty Row (Richmond): John, aged 24; Mary, 25; George, 5; Albert, 3; and Charles, one and a half. Again in the Poor Law records, at Christmas 1886 we have John, 28; M Jane, 26; William, 6; Albert, 5; Charles, 3; and John, dead at eight months. The reason for the entry was that funeral expenses were allocated, though the amount was not specified, and granted for a burial. Note that the father, John senior, was employed at this time, earning 18 shillings per week.

It is possible that Mary's husband, John, died in 1887, as I found a burial for a John Godfrey, St Mary Magdalene in Richmond, Surrey, on 31 December 1887. He is shown as aged 26, and his place of abode was Sheen Dale, New Richmond.

So Mary Jane (née Pullen) Godfrey seems to have been widowed in late December 1887, just six years after her marriage to John. This could explain why her last two children (Ernest William of 1890, and Alfred of 1895) are recorded as illegitimate, as she was apparently unmarried at the time of their birth.

In the 1891 census I found Mary Godfrey, aged 31, living in Richmond as head of the family, with children: George, 10; Albert, 9; Charles 7; Lily, 3; and baby Ernest, just nine months.

I then found a subsequent marriage for her to a John Baker in Richmond, Holy Trinity, on 20 August 1899 (certificate no. 402 on Ancestry), where she is recorded as Mary Jane Godfrey. Her father is shown as John Pullen, and John Baker's father as Samuel Baker. John Baker was a widower, Mary Jane a widow, and they both resided at 18 Trinity Road, Richmond (the address where she was living in 1895).

In the 1901 census I found Mary J Baker, age 42 (born c1859, in Hanney, Berkshire), as head of the family, in St Mary's parish, Stanwell, Middlesex. With her are Ernest Godfrey, 10, Alfred Godfrey, 5, William Higgs, 35, and Eli Pullen, 19.

What happened to her new husband, John Baker, in the two years from the marriage in 1899 to the 1901 census? Was she unlucky in love?

Now back to the other mystery: what of her son, the George William Godfrey, shown aged nine in the Poor Law records of 1895 (and therefore born c1886), and recorded in these same Poor Law records as being in Canada? I searched in passenger lists and in

Canadian census data without success. Logically, young George William could have been sent to a relative for a better life than Mary Jane could offer him, but there is no record of his ever living with my grandfather, Thomas Godfrey, in Carleton Place, Ontario, and Thomas is the only known Godfrey relative to have been in Canada in 1895.

Could George William have been taken by the Barnardo's Homes (or similar resettlement scheme) to be sent to Canada? I have not been able to find any evidence for this theory either.

I looked at the 1911 UK census, and found some of Mary Jane's children not living with her were recorded and then struck out. (Note that in 1901, she had been head, and William Higgs her boarder, but these roles are reversed by 1911.) So, besides Mary (52), William (46), Ernest William Godfrey (29), and Alfred Godfrey (15), we learn about three more of her children: Albert Godfrey (28, single, soldier); Lily Godfrey (23, single, housekeeper); and the all-important George William Pullen (30, single, born in East Hanney, and recorded as in Canada). Although born George William Godfrey, he now seems to be known as Pullen. Hence, I had a new route to search for him.

I looked in the Canadian 1911 census and found living in Windsor, Ontario, and employed as a railway brakeman, a George Pullin, born in England in September 1885, age 25, having emigrated to Canada in 1889, and married to Olive Bateman (born in Ontario, March 1885). Living with them were their daughter, Frances Pullin, age one (born October 1909), and a Clifford Payne, age 21, a boarder employed as a railway fireman.

My last search was in the 1921 Canadian census for this same George Pullin. I think I may have found him, now recorded as George Pullon, living in Winnipeg, Manitoba, aged 43, his former wife Olive missing, but apparently replaced by Nellie (36), and children Horace (13), and George (7). He is a railway clerk, so the railway connection is still there, but his age, and immigration date of 1912 does not fit.

It seems that this George is the man who disappeared from England, but more work is required to prove it. In conclusion, if any members have any suggestions about confirming the mystery of what really became of this George William Godfrey (also known as Pullen/Pullin/Pullon), I would be most happy to hear from them. My email is ken.godfrey1@gmail.com, and my address is 94 Wishing Well Drive, Scarborough, Ontario, Canada, M1T 1J4.

15 years of local BMD websites

a celebration, and a look to their future

The Local BMD website for Cheshire reached the grand old age of 15 last October. This project marked the beginning of what has become known as the Local BMD Project, which now includes 11 regions of the country.

So, a long overdue thank you to all the volunteers who have contributed to the various local BMD websites over the years. To take the project forwards we're always looking for volunteers to transcribe but, more important, the project could make use of people with project management skills who would be willing to help drive the project into new areas. Links to the various websites are at the end of this article.

Local BMD websites are based on the indexes held by the local register offices, which should be used in preference to GRO-based websites. GRO-based websites may offer a more national coverage but, being copies made from the original local register, are liable to have incorporated errors and omissions.

The Local BMD websites offer other advantages too, such as fully pairing marriages and naming the wedding venue. You can find more about these problems on the Local BMD Project web pages at <http://LocalBMD.org.uk>.

What's the future for the Local BMD websites? Our long-term aim has always been to have as many local register offices involved in the project as possible, getting as large a coverage as we can across the country but, as noted above, volunteer help is often a limiting factor. We're also limited by the willingness of some register offices to become involved, and by what content UK law allows us to show.

On 18 December I attended a meeting at the GRO's premises in Southport as one of their user group. Here are a few highlights that I noted:

Many family historians have experienced the frustration of being unable to find a known family event in the GRO index. Access to the original record at the local register office is the only recourse.

Ian Hartas

is the author of the UKBMD website, and here he describes why the data on local BMD is superior to that of the GRO, and where the work may be heading in future

- *Digital by default: the GRO aim is to work from digitised records and provide digital versions, where the law permits;*
- *A large proportion of the early birth and death records have already been scanned and digitised;*
- *87 per cent of applications to the GRO are online applications, and this figure is likely to increase;*
- *The distinction as to what is considered to be a historic record is still a bit vague, but it's likely to be 100 years, 75 years and 50 years for births, marriages and deaths respectively;*
- *From the FreeBMD representative present at the meeting we heard that the copy of the FreeBMD data held by ancestry.co.uk does not have any of the updates and corrections that have been applied on FreeBMD;*
- *How much would you pay for a purely digital copy? Various views were put forward on this topic, as it would affect their plans for future access;*
- *The recent 2015 Deregulation Bill permits changes to the way in which access to the BMD records may be made by the public, but only for the GRO.*

This last point came as something of a shock. I had heard that the Deregulation Bill sought to change the law enabling future changes to our access to the BMD records, but I hadn't realised that it limited these changes to the GRO only, meaning that local register offices will not benefit by this de-regulation bill and potentially could lose income because of it.

My MP heard from me the next day!

If the Local BMD projects are to be allowed to move forward to the point that they too can offer digitised images as an option, then the law will need updating so that the Deregulation Bill permits local register offices to offer the same level of service as the GRO.

You can read the Deregulation Bill online. It's a long web address, so I've shortened it using Google's url-shortener to <http://goo.gl/3csPwT> If you feel as strongly about this as I do, please contact your MP and ask that the Deregulation Bill is amended further, so that the local register offices have the same rights and opportunities as the GRO.

Related websites:

Cheshire BMD: <http://CheshireBMD.org.uk>
Staffordshire BMD: <http://StaffordshireBMD.org.uk>
West Midlands BMD: <http://WestMidlandsBMD.org.uk>
Lancashire BMD: <http://LancashireBMD.org.uk>
Yorkshire BMD: <http://YorkshireBMD.org.uk>
North Wales BMD: <http://NorthWalesBMD.org.uk>

Links to all of the above and other Local BMDs:

<http://UKBMD.org.uk/localbmd>

Local BMD Project information: <http://LocalBMD.org.uk>

Full Bill web page:

http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/bills/lbill/2014-2015/0095/lbill_2014-20150095_en_9.htm#pb13-l1g94

Chad Hanna writes:

Berkshire family historians should know that we've created a free BMD website for Berkshire at **www.BerkshireBMD.org.uk** and this contains 284,465 birth, 95,781 marriage and 165,058 death index entries from the Reading Registration District up to around 1968. Check the limited coverage for other areas like Bucklebury and Mortimer.

The information is not the same as you find on FreeBMD or other copies of the GRO indexes, because there is less copying between the original record and what you see, which means that events that didn't make it to the GRO are included, and there should be fewer (or different) copying errors. The subdistricts are included, which will help you home in on where a birth or death took place, and you can see whether a marriage was conducted in a church or the record office and, if a church, which church. Births do not include the maiden name of the mother, but age at death is included from 1837 (not just from 1866).

As an independent transcription it's a valuable source of information, particularly if it directs you to an entry in a parish's marriage register, rather than requiring the purchase of a certificate.

Personally, I'd like to see this extended to the other register offices in the county, and this would need local people to champion it and work with their register offices.

We owe thanks to David Watkins and his team for all their work in transcribing and checking the Reading District registers.



Reading Register Office

Michael Jenkins
has vivid memories of
the contrast between
London and the sleepy
west Berkshire village
to which he moved
in 1940

Evacuated to Kintbury



I was seven when WWII was declared. We had to register with the local council by 29 September 1939, and we were each issued with a gas mask. We had to take them to school and practise sitting with them on, and we weren't allowed to take them off until told. If we were noisy the teacher would say "gas mask practice" and that made us quiet.

Steel air-raid shelters were delivered to all houses that had a garden, and we had to dig a large hole to bury it. One of the problems was that it used to fill with water. Then the bombing started, and we had searchlights on our allotment, 200 yards from our house. Each evening Ack-Ack guns were towed around our streets at dusk, and barrage balloons appeared in the sky each morning to prevent low-flying enemy aircraft.

At first when the sirens sounded we dashed for the air-raid shelter in the garden or at school, but after a while the sirens went every night. I caused my mother trouble, because I was reluctant to go downstairs; I liked to watch the action from my bedroom window. The searchlights used to pick up the enemy planes and then the guns would fire at them, shaking the houses and breaking windows, but when the searchlights went out and the guns became silent it was time to take cover, as the bombers were overhead.

When the cold weather came we didn't go out into the garden, but instead crouched under the kitchen table. On the way to school next morning we would collect shrapnel from the guns and bombs. Some mornings, when there had been a bad raid locally, the roads and pavements were covered with it.

Eventually, our school was bombed, so we had no more lessons. After a few weeks they organised a one-hour session twice a week in a room above the local hairdresser. We would go in groups of 10 or 12 and one of our teachers would be there to give us an

arithmetic lesson and homework. Then the nightly blitz became more severe, and we were informed that our school was to be evacuated out of London. I had a younger sister under school age, so my mother was permitted to go with us. The council made arrangements for us to go to Kintbury in Berkshire.

When we got off the train at Kintbury we were in for a shock. At weekends in London we'd spend our time in Hyde Park watching kite-flying competitions, or walking through Epping Forest, or walking to the fruit orchards at Bulls Cross, all of which were large green areas with trees surrounded by buildings. Kintbury was the opposite: a small village with houses on both sides of the road, surrounded by countryside. We left behind a house in London with all modern facilities, and now arrived at a very old cottage. To cook we first had to light the fire, to obtain water we had to drop a bucket down a well, and the toilet was a bucket in a little shed at the bottom of a long garden. We had to cut up newspaper and fix it on a string, because there were no toilet rolls during the war. When it got dark we had to light candles. After a while we bought a paraffin lamp, which provided better light, and a battery-powered wireless that I had to take to the accumulator to be recharged every week to keep it going.

The first day at the village school was quite an experience. I was one of seven evacuees of varying ages who arrived that day, and we caused quite a commotion as we were not expected. The headmaster took us all into the infants' classroom, which had a large circular coal stove in the middle. A low wooden bench was placed near the fire for us to sit on and watch the class being taught on the other side. The vicar arrived and took us to the village church, where we were taught by volunteers each day. We were given a slate board and chalk to do our work, as there were no books available at the time. Later we moved

into the vestry, which was easier to heat.

We were gradually fitted into the village school. One of my clearest memories is of the school garden, where we spent much time growing potatoes, carrots, cabbages and onions. When the weather was icy the boys made a long slide in the playground, which the teachers had problems crossing on their way into school.

The village shops were not like those in London; the butcher collected live animals, the baker baked all his own bread and the doctor made up his own medicine. Another difference was the emptiness of the roads in comparison with the continuous traffic of London.

With the evacuation of Dunkirk just months

Jimmy Hagan (Sheffield United) and included Stan Cullis (Wolverhampton Wanderers) and Joe Mercer (Arsenal). The RAF team was captained by Frank Soo (Stoke City) and included Mapson (Sunderland) and Hardwick (Middlesbrough). The RAF won 7:2.

In 1943 the American army came into the area and took over several camps. As a result we had baseball at the recreation ground. Nearly every young person in the village had a soft ball to practise with, but when they played a real game they used a smaller, harder ball.

The Canadian army had a camp outside the village, and in one training event they came and defended the village while the Home Guard



The centre of Kintbury, rather earlier than Michael Jenkins' time, but probably still recognisable

before we arrived, temporary army camps were situated all round the village, and convoys of lorries, Bren gun carriers and tanks rolled through regularly. Off-duty soldiers visited the eight public houses most nights, while the young people of the village, including me, played football with a tennis ball down the main street. The troops joined in, making as many as 50 a side. After a while the army started to use the recreation ground and I used to help put nets up and mark out the pitch for the football matches. Most teams that took part had pre-war professional players. Once, when the RAF played the army, both teams were full of international players, and the village was bustling with military vehicles bringing supporters from near and far. The army team was captained by

attacked. The action started at six pm. The young people took a great interest in watching the events. Two workmen from the village bakery could not leave their ovens until they had cooled, and when they left they were captured. The Home Guard captured the village by wading through the water meadows and the canal.

The village hall was used for ENSA concerts. We used to listen from outside. One such concert was given by the singer Jessie Matthews. The Americans also had the world boxing champion, Joe Louis, to give an exhibition.

My country adventure came to an end in 1944 when we returned to London.

Readers write

***your pictures,
your stories,
your queries***

Send them in to editor@berksfhs.org.uk

Tom Hine
tomhine@hotmail.com

Since retiring I've spent the last 20 years researching the millers and mill histories of Berkshire's 150-plus watermills and windmills. I spend every Thursday at the National Mill Archive Trust in Reading. Here's an enquiry about one of the former millers at Hamstead Marshall: Henry Everard, who was there in the early 1850s. His wife Caroline née Hine was my great-great-aunt. She was the daughter of a local Hine miller. She and Henry had at least one son. I know where Henry had been previously milling with his brother. My question is: does anyone know where and when they went after leaving the mill? I cannot find them anywhere. I hope someone can help with a little more information.



Hamstead Mill c2000

Anthony Maunder
maunder@clara.net

I'm interested in finding whether anybody has any information relating to the Berkeley Private Hotel, which was located at 25 Bath Road, Reading (just along from the Berkshire FHS office), where I lived with my parents from time to time in the later war years.

This whole area was redeveloped in the 1960s, sometime after the hotel was closed following the deaths of the manager, Ella Ward, in 1958 and earlier of her daughter, Edith Rose. With the help of Berkshire FHS members and the BRO, quite a lot of information has been obtained, in particular that the whole family were from this local area.

The remaining immediate family survivor was the granddaughter, Anne Margaret Rose, then aged about 22. I believe she then moved to St George's Road, Reading, but I'm unable to establish how long this was for. Being of similar age, I had been friendly with her for some time following the war until I moved to various locations in south London, and we lost touch.

I should be very interested to find out more (assuming that she is still alive), but obviously I wouldn't expect to receive any confidential information without her consent.

Philip Smithers
philipsmithers@gmail.com

I'm doing research into an Edward John Wiggins, who was born on 9 May 1921 in Stanford in the Vale. His birth certificate states that he was adopted. According to the minutes of meetings of the Standing Joint Committee held by the BRO, he was adopted by a policeman. He was baptised at St Deny's on the 29 May 1921 (No.595).

This is my mother's brother. Can anybody be of assistance, please?

These two cartoons were sent in by a society member who collects postcards (and who prefers to remain anonymous). From the 1920s, they reflect a cheerfully robust approach to family relationships.



Berkshire FHS Research Centre

what's in it for you?



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

researchcentre@berksfhs.org.uk

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

Admission is free for everybody.

Society volunteers will explain anything you need to know about the centre's resources, and as far as is possible, help you with your research. You can print pages or photocopy them for a nominal additional charge.

Opening hours

Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays: 10.00 to 16.00

Tuesday evenings 19.00 to 21.30: the first Tuesday evening of each month is a Natter Group session of informal discussion around a set topic, open to all.

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

Ground floor: reception area, computer suite, **bookshop**, refreshment facilities and cloakrooms

First floor: **library**

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 baptisms

Berkshire miscellaneous index

Berkshire probate

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 (now incl Origins)
Ancestry worldwide, with family trees
British Newspaper Archive
The Genealogist

All six 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 baptisms
Berkshire burials
Berkshire marriages
Berkshire probate
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 4,500 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.

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

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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

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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 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 top left.

Members' surname interests

Directory maintained by Bob Plumridge

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| | | | | |
|------|-------------|------------------|-----|----------|
| 7781 | ASHFORD | Barston | WAR | pre 1850 |
| 7781 | BROOKER | Any | KEN | pre 1850 |
| 7814 | BURET | Finchampstead | BRK | All |
| 7814 | BURRET | Finchampstead | BRK | All |
| 7814 | BURRETT | Eversley | HAM | pre 1923 |
| 7814 | BURRETT | Finchampstead | BRK | All |
| 7814 | BURRETT | Folkestone | KEN | pre 1935 |
| 7814 | CHIPPINGTON | Any | Any | All |
| 7814 | COMLEY | South Wales | WLS | pre 1960 |
| 7781 | CURTIS | Beedon | BRK | pre 1850 |
| 7814 | D'LANDON | Southern England | Any | All |
| 7814 | EDMUNDS | South Wales | WLS | pre 1960 |
| 7781 | FARLEY | Any | BRK | pre 1840 |
| 7814 | FAULKNER | London | LND | pre 1987 |
| 7781 | FIDLER | Kintbury | BRK | pre 1870 |
| 7814 | HATTON | Windsor | BRK | pre 1954 |
| 7814 | LANDON | Aylesbury | BKM | All |
| 7814 | LANDON | Eire | IRL | aft 1600 |
| 7814 | LANDON | Oxford | OXF | All |
| 7781 | MARSH | Cambridge | CAM | pre 1840 |
| 7814 | MUNDY | London | LND | pre 1942 |
| 7781 | OWEN | Any | STS | pre 1840 |
| 7781 | OWEN | Radnorshire | RAD | pre 1850 |
| 7781 | PETTIT | Any | Any | pre 1840 |
| 7781 | QUIHAMPTON | Any | KEN | pre 1800 |
| 7781 | ROOTS | Any | KEN | pre 1850 |
| 7814 | SPRATLEY | Finchampstead | BRK | All |
| 7617 | STRATTON | Newbury | BRK | All |