

1 messages

paul.b <paul.b@rrett.me.uk>

Keeping connected

Berkshire FHS <noreply@berksfhs.org>

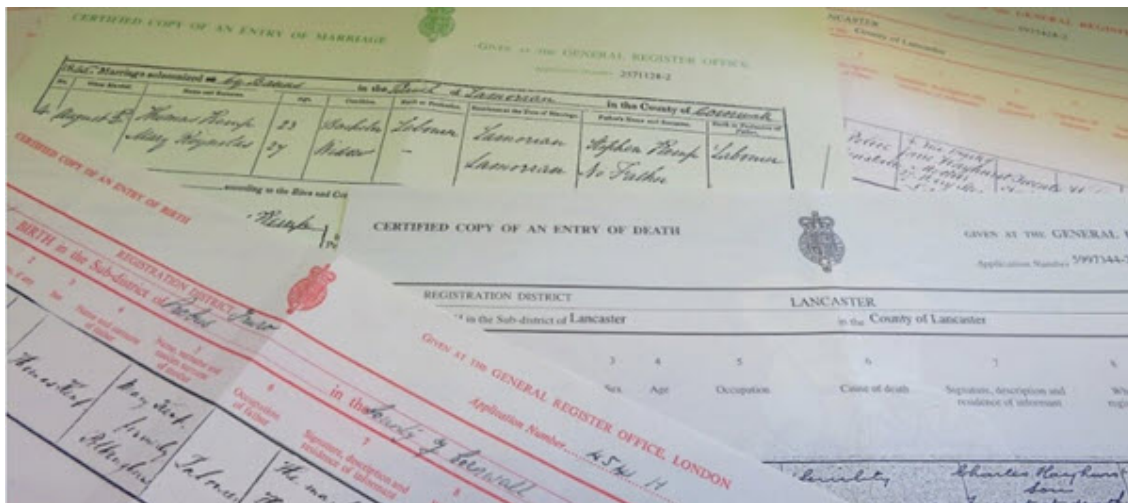
Sun, Jul 26 2020 10:57:07

To: Paul <paul.b@rrett.me.uk>

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in touch

Berkshire Family History Society



400 years and 75 years

The 400th anniversary of the departure of the Mayflower will soon be upon us although sadly the celebrations will be delayed due to Covid-19.

Meanwhile the 75th anniversary of the cessation of hostilities in World War II continues to provide a rich seam of online events for you to attend -

details below - as well as a milestone **25 million** records for Forces War Records.



400th Anniversary of the Mayflower Sailing

The Mayflower set sail on 16th September 1620 from Plymouth, UK, to voyage to America, known to English explorers at the time as the New World.

Whilst Covid-19 has sadly pushed many of the events planned to commemorate the 400th anniversary of the sailing to 2021, the stories of those who sailed have been brought to life in an impressive new website. Discover the story of the Mayflower, join the virtual voyage, and read about the lives and tragic deaths of many of those on board. September's Historian will reveal the Mayflower's Berkshire connections.

[View the site](#)

THE NATIONAL ARCHIVES

The National Archives has reopened

The National Archives reopened on Tuesday 21 July with a limited service. Visits must be booked at least a week in advance, and the booking system is made available two weeks before the date of the visit, on a rolling weekly basis every Monday morning.

Find out what to expect when visiting and some of the changes made to ensure everyone's safety in a short video put together by the TNA.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Wm4mq5X_EFs

Free downloads of digital records will continue for the time being



Amalgamated Society of Engineers, Reading Lodge

New to the Members' Area of the website is a reminder of the once rich industrial past of parts of Berkshire, particularly in the nineteenth century. Two lists from the Amalgamated Society of Engineers, Reading Lodge, have just been added. One is a list of members 1855–1891, with notes of their involvement up to 1919. The other is entries for those wishing to join the Branch 1855– 1863

which gives details of their current and previous employment and the names of those supporting their application.

For those with engineering workers from Reading in their family tree, this is an excellent way of finding out who they worked for and a brief summary of their employment history.

Many previous employers mentioned are from all over the UK, highlighting the increasing mobility of the population after the advent of the railways. Local employers mentioned include:

William Parsons,
Great Western Railway,
Huntley and Palmers, and most frequently of all,
Barrett, Exall & Andrewes.

Barrett, Exall & Andrewes was a manufacturer of agricultural machinery and portable/fixed engines, of Katesgrove Iron Works, Katesgrove Lane, Reading. It was in operation between 1818 and 1888. See the website link for more information.

[View the web page \(login required\)](#)



25 Million Records

Forces War Records, the website to visit for anyone researching their family's military history or searching for ancestors through military data have now reached the milestone of 25 Million individuals records transcribed and available to search by name

- A wide variety of collections with additional digital images of original historical records covering both World War One and World War Two
- Millions of exclusive records, only available at Forces War Records
- Military records from the Napoleonic Wars to WWII and beyond
- WWI actions and troop movements (ORBATS)
- An extensive Historical Documents Library
- Unique 'Dedication Wall' to post a lasting memorial to your ancestor

[Search the 25 million records](#)

Events

Coming up in August and September – five fascinating online talks about the Second World War in the 75th anniversary year of its conclusion. Book tickets for individual talks or an “all series” ticket which includes all five talks for the price of four.

Reading in the Second World War

6th August 14.00 – 15.00 Online Talk by Stuart Hylton



Based upon his book *Reading at War*, Stuart will explore how the war affected Reading and its citizens. From the victims of war, both military and civilian, the privations and shortages; examples of heroism and self-sacrifice; to in contrast, the black market and war-related crime. Hear about the relationship between the townspeople and the 25,000 or so evacuees visited on them in

September 1939. And see how wartime advertising expounded 'make do and mend', to combat the lack of things to buy.

£4 members £5 non-members

[Book now](#)



Reading's Home Guard

**13th August 14.00 – 15.00 Online Talk
by Mike Cooper**

Formed in 1940, the Home Guard was one of a number of voluntary and part-time formations raised for local defence. Despite the bumbling image created by the BBC classic "Dad's Army", the

force emerged as a well-trained, well equipped and highly motivated part of Britain's defences. Find out about Reading's Home Guard in this fascinating talk.

£4 members £5 non-members

[Book now](#)

The Battle of Britain

22nd August 12.00 - 13.00 Online Talk by Richard Marks



In 1940, Britain stood alone following the fall of France. With the German army poised across the channel, only the RAF could prevent the Luftwaffe from gaining the air supremacy needed to successfully mount the expected invasion. Historian Richard Marks, will look at how the RAF's systems and equipment allowed them to retain air

supremacy over southern England and prevent the invasion.

£4 members £5 non-members

[Book now](#)

Women in World War Two

3rd September 14.00 – 15.00 Online Talk by Bill King

Discover how the talents of women were integrated into the British war effort on the Home Front, in industry and in the Armed Services at every level during World War Two. Bill is a popular speaker and his talks are meticulously researched.

£4 members £5 non-members

[Book now](#)

The Changing Army: The British Army 1939-45

24th September 14.00 – 15.00 Online Talk by Mike Cooper

The Second World War mobilised British society in a way no other had, and this was reflected in the changing composition of the Army. The Army also adapted to different conditions, environments and technology. Discover how the Army was structured, recruited and supported and how this changed during the War.



What "being in the Army" meant could vary enormously from being a pay clerk in Manchester, to a tank crewman in Rangoon. A must for anyone with ancestors who fought in the war.

£4 members £5 non-members

Book now



Second World War Talk Series

All five talks for the price of four!

£16 members £20 non-members

Book all 5 for the price of 4

View the What's On page



Berkshire Family History Society
for family history research - in Berkshire and beyond

The Centre for Heritage and Family History
2nd Floor, Reading Central Library, Abbey Square
Reading, Berkshire, RG1 3BQ, United Kingdom
Registered Charity Number 283010

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