



Berkshire Family History Society

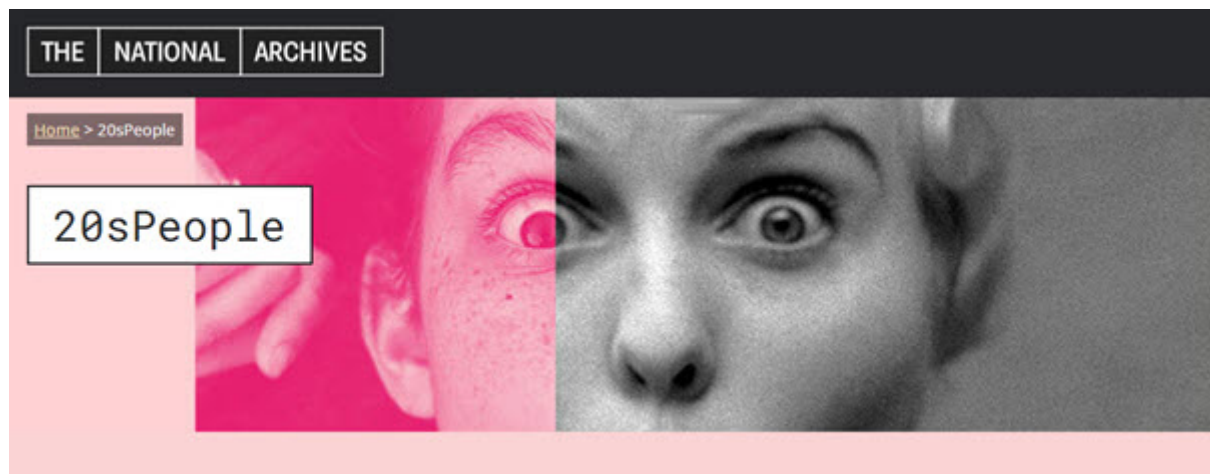


**Detail from monument to Sir Peter Vanlore & wife Jacoba Thinbault, St Michael's Tilehurst, showing some of children who predeceased them, carrying skulls
- image courtesy of Catherine Sampson**

Museums and archives - two parts of the staple diet of family historians - and they form a significant part of this week's **in touch** too.

We're also delighted to tell you that our library-based drop-in advice sessions are ramping up again, at last, with no less than three in the course of seven days, at Newbury, Bracknell and Newbury (again) on the 2nd, 9th and 10th Dec respectively. More details below.

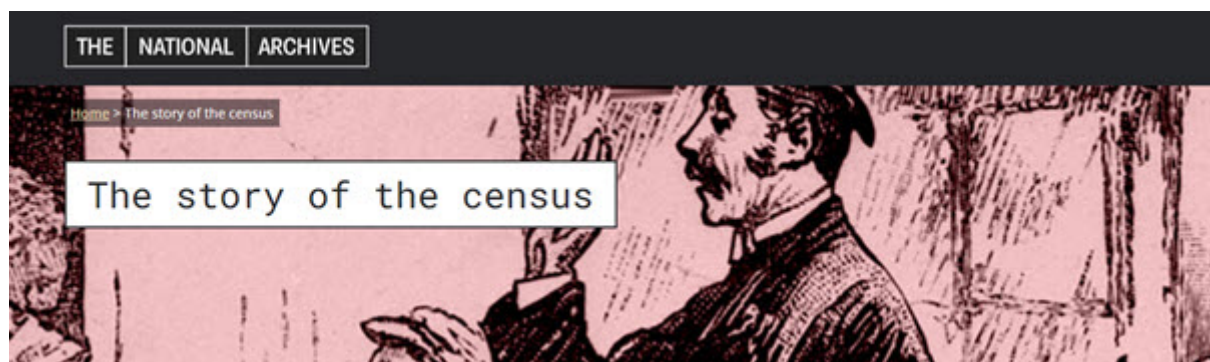
Reading Branch's Christmas Quiz is another face-to-face meeting, which means the mince pies will be real this year! But many of our events are and will continue to be online for the benefit of those who live out of county.



1921 Census - help from The National Archives

There is lots new at The National Archives (TNA) as they gear up for the biggest release since the 1939 Register.

20sPeople is a season of exhibitions, activities and events that explores and shares stories that connect the people of the 2020s with the people of the 1920s. Accompanying the release of the 1921 Census of England and Wales, 20sPeople shows what we can learn by connecting with those who have gone before us. Find out more at: nationalarchives.gov.uk/20speople



In addition, if you're interested in learning more about the history of the census, visit TNA's dedicated portal nationalarchives.gov.uk/census



New Hungerford Exhibition

The West Berkshire Museum's latest exhibition has now opened - a Focus on Hungerford. This is the latest in their series of exhibitions looking at the

history of West Berkshire's parishes and includes objects from the museum's collections and some lent for the occasion. It runs until 4th September 2022.

The museum is situated in The Wharf, Newbury, and is usually open Wednesday to Sunday's 10am to 4pm.

Check the website for full details.

<https://www.westberkshireheritage.org/west-berkshire-museum>

Hungerford Virtual Museum

If Hungerford is one of your ancestral places, but Newbury's a bit too far to travel, don't forget the wonderful virtual museum run by the Hungerford Historical Association which focuses not just on Hungerford but also its surrounding area. We have featured this impressive resource in previous newsletter and Historians, but it's so good – it's worth a reminder.

Amongst the newly added items – images from a large photo album "Presented on All Saints Day 1894 To Their Vicar The Revd. J.B. Anstice MA by Teachers who have worked with him in the Sunday and Day Schools of Hungerford Berks 1867 – 1894."

Check it out here:

<https://www.hungerfordvirtualmuseum.co.uk/>

BHO | BRITISH HISTORY ONLINE

The Cromwell Association Online Directory of Parliamentarian Army Officers

English Civil War Army Officers

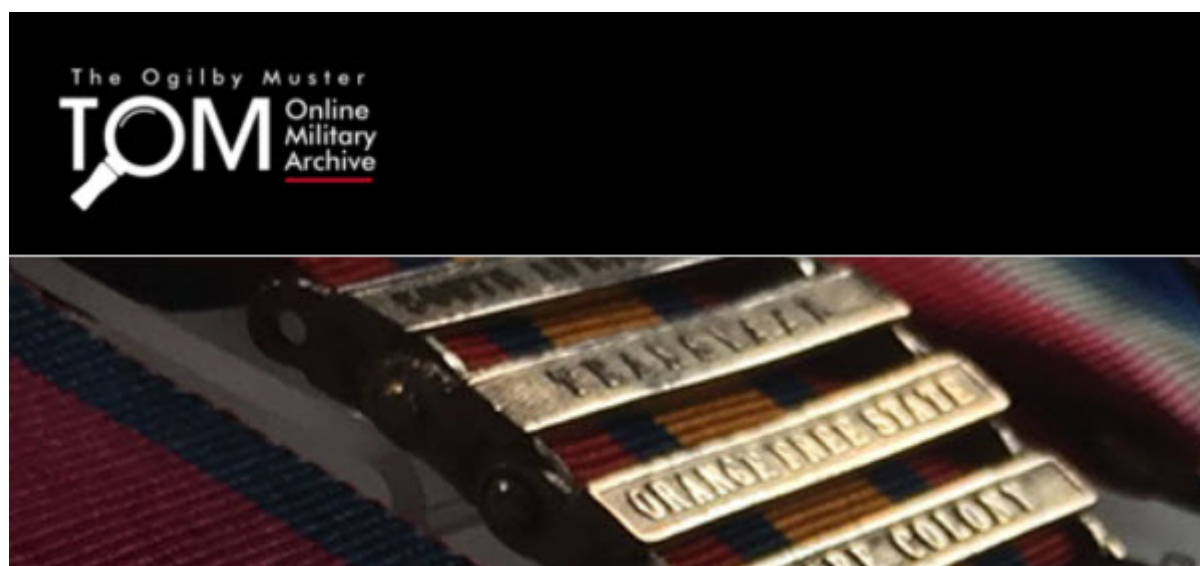
For those fortunate enough to have been able to trace their ancestors back into the early 1600s – this lesser known resource from the history stalwart British History Online may prove very valuable.

Funded and supported by The Cromwell Association, a registered charity, the online directory contains the names and short biographies of over 4,000 officers who served in the armies of Parliament during the first English civil war (1642-6), and in some cases subsequently.

The directory is presented in alphabetical order and is fully searchable. It covers all regions of England and Wales and, while not claiming to be comprehensive, brings together in one place the largest listing of parliamentarian officers in service prior to the creation of the New Model Army in 1645.

Check it out here at:

<https://www.british-history.ac.uk/no-series/cromwell-army-officers>



New First World War digital archive launches

And now to a much later conflict - over two million documents relating to First World War regiments are now available to search on a new free website, with more to be added next year.

The Army Museums Ogilby Trust has launched The Ogilby Muster which brings together records, photographs, letters and diaries from more than 75 participating collections.

Researchers may search the website's collections for free. Images of each document are available to purchase, with a typical fee of £4 for non-commercial use.

Documents on the website date from 1900 to 1929, but primarily focus on the

men and women who served in the British Army during the First World War.

Find out more at:

<https://www.theogilbymuster.com/>



Newbury Library advice sessions resume

Family History advice sessions resume each Friday morning, 10.30 - 12.30, from 3rd December at Newbury Library.

Whether you are just beginning, or you have become stuck on your family tree, you can get free, one-to-one help from a member of Berkshire Family History Society's Newbury branch.

Book yourself an hour's slot by calling in to Newbury Library (the first floor desk) or by telephoning them on 01635 519900.

For more info - see the links in the events section below



Events

Our events programme is mostly online

Join us - wherever you are

Twentieth Century Family History

Windsor branch meeting and talk by: Janet Few

30 Nov 19:15 for 19:30



Venue: Online

We often neglect the twentieth century as being 'not really history' but there is plenty to be discovered about individuals and the communities in which they lived between 1901 and 1952.

Twentieth century research brings with it the difficulties of larger and more mobile populations as well as records that are closed to view. Janet

Few, history interpreter, writer, speaker and researcher, describes some sources that can help you to bring those more recent ancestors to life.

Free to members. Non-members £3.

Pre-booking required

Book now



Drop-In Advice Sessions

Did you make a start on your family tree during the lockdowns? Have you always wanted to research your family but are not sure how to start?

Whether you are just beginning, or you have become stuck on your family tree, you can get free, one-to-one help from a member of Berkshire Family History Society's Newbury & Bracknell branches.

Newbury 3rd Dec - more info ...

[Bracknell 9th Dec - more info ...](#)

[Newbury 10th Dec - more info ...](#)



The history of Greyfriars Church, Reading

Talk by Malcolm Summers
04 Dec 11:45 for 12:00

Venue: Online

Greyfriars Church, in Reading, started life as part of a larger Franciscan friary church, within a complex of other buildings – a chapter house, cloister, dormitory and others. When the friary was closed down under Henry VIII, the nave survived. After half a century as Reading's town hall, it was used as a poor house, barracks in the civil war, and a prison. There was even a pub attached to it, where the south transept is now. In 1863, it re-opened as a parish church, restored and enlarged.

This well-illustrated talk covers its rich and varied history from the arrival of the first friars in the town, to the present day redevelopment of the site.

Tickets cost £5 (members £4)

Pre-booking required

[**Book now**](#)

December Natter Group

Discussion Group facilitated by: Chad Hanna and Gillian Stevens

07 Dec 18:45 for 19:00

Venue: Online



Join in this online discussion from your own home, wherever where you live. Open only to members of Berkshire Family History Society.

Informal discussion group, facilitated by Chad Hanna and Gillian Stevens. Topics are chosen by the group on a monthly basis. End time varies

Free to members

Pre-booking required

Book now



Short talks and quiz

**Reading Branch Meeting
09 Dec 19:15 for 19:45**

Venue: Face-to-face!

We are delighted that for our December Branch meeting, we will be gathering in person at our pre-Covid venue of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saint in Tilehurst.

Join us for an informal evening of entertainment, personal stories and a quiz to test those brain cells. Branch members will be sharing their stories of personal triumphs and tribulations and introducing us to some of their ancestors.

There will be mince pies and non-alcoholic drinks available for a nominal charge.

Free to members

£3 - non-members

Pre-booking preferred

Book now



Getting more out of Ancestry and Findmypast

Workshop facilitated by Tony Wright

22 Jan 14:00 - 16:00

Venue:Online

Are you getting the most out of Ancestry and Findmypast (FMP)? In this workshop, discover the datasets they hold using Ancestry's Card Catalogue and FMP's Record Sets. Learn the benefits of the lesser used records. Such as Ancestry's Census Enumerator's Summaries, and where to find Census References and why you should use them. Find out how to locate Family History Societies' transcriptions of parish registers and why you should prefer them. Tony will also share tips and best practices such as saving and renaming images.

If there is time, Tony will also touch upon military records and passenger lists.

Members £9

Non-members £10

Pre-booking required

Book now

That was just a selection from our extensive
events programme ...

... [click here for the full programme](#)

Events routinely sell out so book early to secure
your place



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
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