

Keeping in touch

Berkshire FHS <noreply@berksfhs.org>

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in touch

Berkshire Family History Society



Pangbourne - the Elephant Hotel
Image courtesy of Jim Bradshaw

Hello

Once again we have an image from Jim Bradshaw. They may be overly representative of west Berkshire but they are such evocative scenes that we just have to continue the series - and there are plenty more where these came from - enough to last another year. If you've ever dabbled with photo colourisation you'll know how difficult it can be to achieve the wide palette of colours required to achieve a good result, even with the help of software. But Jim does it consistently, every time.

We have details of new records from MyHeritage and The 'Railway Work, Life & Death' project, a reminder of the value of GENUKI, and information about a little-known, rarely-used resource 'Settlement Certificates.' If, like me, your

ancestors include a large number of 'ag labs,' this is a resource that's well worth taking a look at and we have the means to do so in our online shop.



MyHeritage Adds One Million Emigration Records from Norway

MyHeritage has announced that they have recently added one million emigration registers from Norway to their website. During the 19th and 20th centuries, an estimated 800,000 Norwegians left their homeland largely for economic reasons. The majority of these emigrants settled in the United States, although significant numbers also went to Canada, Australia, and other countries. If you have Norwegian ancestors who emigrated from Norway during this time period, this collection may offer an invaluable snapshot about their lives.

This collection of records was created between 1867 and 1973 by local police departments tasked with assisting emigrants leaving Norway for foreign ports. These records include, for each emigrant, his or her name, gender, departure date or year, and last known residence. Other details may also appear, depending on the time period.

Search the collection here:

<https://www.myheritage.com/research/collection-11013/norway-emigration-registers-1867-1973>

GENUKI

A reminder of just how useful the free website GENUKI is for those with UK or Irish ancestry.

GENUKI provides a virtual reference library of genealogical information of particular relevance to the UK and Ireland. It is a non-commercial service, maintained by a charitable trust and a group of volunteers.

The Berkshire pages are maintained by Robert Monk, one of Berkshire Family History Society's volunteers, and are particularly detailed.

Check them out at:

<https://www.genuki.org.uk/big/eng/BRK>



Railwork Work, Life and Death Project expands

The 'Railway Work, Life & Death' project's database of accidents to British and Irish railway staff has recently expanded to include an additional 16,000 cases, covering 1900-1939.

The project looks at accidents to railway staff before 1939, and contains a summarised transcription of official accident investigations. In total, the database includes approximately 21,000 individuals, all transcribed by volunteers. The records tell us who was involved in an accident, what they were doing, where, when and why.

The project is a joint initiative of the University of Portsmouth, the National Railway Museum and the Modern Records Centre at the University of Warwick, working with The National Archives. The team is always keen to hear from family members - so do get in touch with them if you have a story to share.

Search the database and find out more here:

www.railwayaccidents.port.ac.uk

Using settlement certificates in family history research

Settlement certificates are an often underused resource by family historians. Not altogether unsurprising - their survival rate is patchy and few are online, making their identification more tricky.

For those unfamiliar with the usefulness of this resource, there is a very useful article in the latest Lost Cousins newsletter, available free online, by Berkshire-based historian Margaret Ounsley. Drawing on examples from the Berkshire Record Office, and indexed by Berkshire Family History Society volunteers, the article outlines the importance of these documents and how they can be “a real jewel if you can associate one with your family.”

Find out more about Berkshire old poor law papers at:

<https://shop.berksfhs.org/product/berkshire-overseers-papers-cd/>

<https://shop.berksfhs.org/product/berkshire-overseers-papers-1654-1834-berkshire-record-society-volume-3/>

<https://shop.berksfhs.org/product/hungerford-overseers-papers-1654-1834/>

Read the article here:

<https://www.lostcousins.com/newsletters2/aug22news.htm#Settlement>





Events

Our events programme is a mixture of online and face-to-face (F2F)



One hundred years of shopping in Reading

Talk by Ann Smith

25 August 14:00 - 15:15

Online

Jacksons, Langstons and Tuttys are familiar shop names to people in Reading. But do you remember Hawkes Ironmongers or Cook's Dairy and Farm Equipment?

This talk will take us on a virtual walk round the town centre and look at shops from the 19th century to the present day, and how shopping has changed over the years. Some of these shops were unique to Reading, others house-hold names.

Tickets cost £5 (members £4)

Pre-booking required

[Book now](#)

Latin for Family Historians Course

Tutor: Joan Dils



03 September 11:00 - 13:00

10 September as above

Online

This two-part course will provide a very basic introduction to the Latin used in some local history documents, especially parish registers and probate records. It is intended to give family historians a start in acquiring enough Latin to translate

documents they frequently encounter, and on which they can build advanced skills to translate more complex documents.

Two sessions: Sep 3rd and 10th, both sessions 11am – 1pm

Tickets cost £20 (members £18)

Pre-booking required

[Book now](#)



September Natter Group

**Discussion Group facilitated by:
Chad Hanna and Gillian Stevens
06 September 18:45 for 19:00**

Online

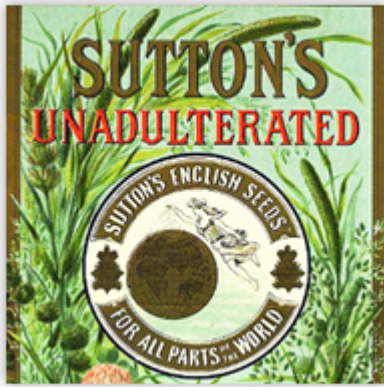
Join in this online discussion from your own home, wherever where you live. Open only to members of Berkshire Family History Society.

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](#)



Suttons Seeds

Talk by Richard Marks

08 September 14:00 - 15:30

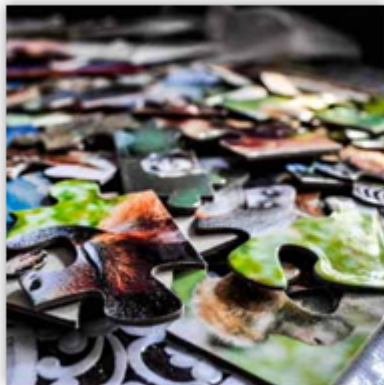
The Centre for Heritage & Family History, Reading

Suttons Seeds was an iconic institution in Reading for decades. This talk will look at how it all began and what it was like to work for the company. It will examine how the company built its global reputation for reliable seeds and plants which were guaranteed across the world. The talk will also look at how Suttons developed over the years from humble beginnings in Reading to its move to Devon in the 1970s.

Tickets cost £5 (members £4)

Pre-booking required

[Book now](#)



Who Do We Think We Are?

Talk by Catherine Sampson

10 September 12:00 - 13:00

The Centre for Heritage & Family History, Reading

Are you interested in tracing your family tree? Discover how to research, what types of records are available and how to interpret them. The talk is interspersed with humorous and poignant stories of ancestors encountered along the way and their stories. Speaker, Catherine Sampson, will share some of her own back story. This includes war heroes, pioneers, an early Union activist and aspiring politician, smugglers, criminals and a murderer. And it takes us to the coal mines of the North-East, London's dockyards, the fields of Cambridgeshire, the Suffolk coast, the prairie lands of Canada and the battlefields of the First World War.

For members and non-members of Berkshire Family History Society
Free
Pre-booking required

[Book now](#)



Caversham Two Bridges Walk

Walk Leader: David Cliffe
13 September 14:30 - 16:00

The Centre for Heritage & Family History, Reading

Join eminent historian David Cliffe on a walk around the Reading/Caversham border, exploring the historic aspects of the River Thames. From leisure to industry there have been many businesses that have sought the energy, resources and tranquility of Reading's most famous river.

The walk will take about one and a half hours.

Tickets cost £5 (members £4)
Pre-booking required

[Book now](#)



1-1 Family History Advice Session – September

19 September 14:00 to 16:00

Online

Are you just getting started in family history and wanting guidance as to how to

proceed? Or are you stuck at a particular “brick wall” and need some help?

These popular family history advice sessions are online, using Zoom technology – so you can book a session, wherever you live in the world. Sessions are 1-1, free of cost and are available to members and non-members alike.

Book a 25 minute slot with our advisers and you’ll receive help from our experienced research assistants. We will provide whatever help and suggestions that we can within the time frame and will book a follow-on session with you if needed. Four 1-1 slots are available in this session:

Slot 1: 14.00 – 14.25

Slot 2: 14.30 – 14.55

Slot 3: 15.05 – 15.30

Slot 4: 15.35 – 16.00

For members and non-members of Berkshire Family History Society

Free

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
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Reading, Berkshire, RG1 3BQ, United Kingdom
Registered Charity Number 283010

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