

In Touch

Berkshire FHS <noreply@berksfhs.org.uk>

30 July 2023 at 08:01

in touch



Berkshire Family History Society
for family historians, wherever you are



Stanford Dingley - 1878

Colourised image by Jim Bradshaw

Hi

Swathes of Berkshire were rural in the 19th century and remain so today - how many of us have ag labs among our Berkshire antecedents? Stanford Dingley is no exception and [comparing the the modern satellite map with the OS maps of the time](#)

reveals a field and hedgerow system that is largely unchanged. It's so rural that I haven't attempted to find the location in the photo - a field, a gate, a hedgerow - no shortage of those!

To the east of the village, the 19th century map shows a large area to be 'Liable to floods'. Given the weather we've had the last couple of weeks I would imagine that has become a modern-day reality. The enterprising locals turned this to their advantage though and created some watercress beds



Hampshire, England, Church of England Baptisms, Marriages and Burials, 1536-1812

Hampshire Parish Records - now online on Ancestry

Almost two million Hampshire parish records dating between 1536 and 1812 have now been added to Ancestry.

This joins the already published collections there of Hampshire probate records (1398-1858), baptisms (1813-1921), marriages and banns (1754-1921) and burials (1813-1921).

Great news for those with Hampshire ancestors. Happy hunting.

[View the collection](#)

Help Identify 85 Unknown Sailors from the U.S.S. Arizona

If you are a bloodline family member
of a sailor killed aboard the
U.S.S. Arizona,
WE NEED YOUR HELP!!



Can you help?

Relatives of servicemen who were killed on the USS Arizona on 7 December 1941 at the US Naval base at Pearl Harbor, Honolulu are being asked to take part in DNA testing to help identify the remains of 85 casualties.

1,177 men died on the battleship, of whom 1,072 were never recovered. The remains of 85 men, who were never identified, were buried in a mass grave at the National Cemetery of the Pacific in Honolulu. Now a project is hoping to identify the 85 remains so that they can be properly commemorated.

If you are able to take part - please complete the online form at:

[U.S.S. Arizona](#)



New Marriage & Banns Data Downloads - Part 6

This week we bring you news of more new data downloads which can be purchased from our online shop.

The downloads are in PDF format and your purchase is automatically fulfilled as soon as you have paid. Ts & Cs apply and these downloads are for your personal use only.

Prices vary but start from just £2.00. The usual member discounts apply.

Marriage and Banns entries are presented in alphabetical and date order. If you're interested in a number of parishes, the Berkshire Marriages Fifth Edition CD may be better value.

The sixth batch, of 16 downloads is now available (click the links below) and more will be released shortly. Keep an eye on the website and the newsletters.

[Arborfield St Bartholomew Marriages 1580-1837 \(Download\) D1058](#)
[Ashampstead Bethel Independent Chapel Marriages \(Download\) D1835](#)
[Challow, East St Nicholas Marriages \(Download\) D1494](#)
[Coxwell, Little St Mary Marriages \(Download\) D1509](#)
[Fawley St Mary Marriages \(Download\) D1564](#)
[Fernham St John the Evangelist Marriages \(Download\) D1847](#)
[Greenham St Mary Marriages \(Download\) D1869 Part 2 of 2](#)
[Hagbourne St Andrew Marriages \(Download\) D1848](#)
[Hungerford St Lawrence Marriages \(Download\) D1877 Part 2 of 3](#)
[Hungerford St Lawrence Marriages \(Download\) D1871 Part 3 of 3](#)
[Inkpen St Michael & All Angels Marriages \(Download\) D1540](#)
[Kingston Bagpuize St John the Baptist Marriages \(Download\) D1541](#)
[Littlewick St John Evangelist Marriages \(Download\) D1854](#)
[Twyford Congregational Church Marriages \(Download\) D1440](#)
[Watchfield St Thomas Marriages \(Download\) D1454](#)
[Woolhampton St Peter Marriages \(Download\) D1472](#)



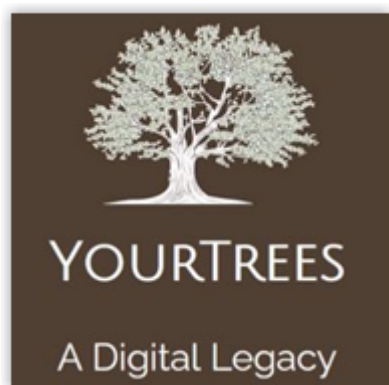
Post Office workers

Do you have postal workers in your family tree? Some Postal Service employment records are available at Ancestry, but even more can be discovered in The Postal Museum Archive. The Postal Museum contains over 60,000 objects and thousands of records detailing 500 years of postal history. The museum's archive can be visited in person and it also has an extensive digital archive, including a significant collection of photographs and oral histories.

You can find out more about some of the collection in the "highlights" section which

covers categories such as the First World War, uniforms and postcards.

[Search the catalogue here](#)



YourTrees Workshop - The Recordings

Our regular online workshops usually attract a good audience. If you've been unable to catch one, live in a far-flung time zone or just want a refresher, we recorded the last one and have published it on the website, where you can stream the content at your leisure.

To make the topic easier to digest, they come as a series of eight, bite-sized chunks - well more like TV dinners. You'll find them in the YourTrees Help area, along with a few other video shorts we've provided on how to export a GEDCOM.

[View the modules](#)

We've also added a useful little function to YourTrees. Now, if you have entered a date against a life event such as B, M or D, we will display the day of the week on which that date fell. How cool is that? You're welcome - all part of the (free) service!

 SMITH, Charles

I4374

b. Thu 12 Aug 1841

Events

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

August Natter Group



Tue 01 Aug 18:45 for 19:00
Discussion Group facilitated by: Chad
Hanna and Gillian Stevens

Online

Join in this online discussion from your own home, wherever 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](#)



Drop In Advice Session

Thu 10 Aug 14:00 - 17:00
Bracknell Branch

Bracknell Central Library

Bring your questions, problems and 'brickwalls' ... and get some new ideas and advice from members of the Berkshire Family History Society.

For ALL family historians wherever your ancestors came from.

[Find out more](#)

Shaw House: Berkshire's Hidden Gem



Thu 10 Aug 14:00 - 15:30
Talk by Sarah Sommerville

The Centre for Heritage & Family History

The Elizabethan mansion at Shaw has many fascinating stories to tell. Built from the profits of the cloth trade in 1581, it has since enjoyed visits from royalty, including Elizabeth I and Charles I, as well as being the setting for Civil War skirmishes and accommodation for soldiers during World Wars. Later, Shaw House became a school for local pupils.

Now in the 21st century, following over £6 million of conservation and restoration, which revealed many secrets, the house is a visitor attraction and business and conference centre.

After the talk, tea/coffee and cake will be available (included in the price).

Image reproduced with grateful thanks to West Berkshire Council

Tickets cost £5 (members £4).

Pre-booking is preferred, but you can pay on the door, if there are spaces available.

[**Book now**](#)



University of Reading Central Whiteknights Tour

Sat 12 Aug 14:00 - 15:30
Tour Leader: The Friends of the University

Meeting Point will be notified within booking process

Our tour guides for this walk are The Friends of the University. They will take us on a trail through the heart of the Central Whiteknights area of the University campus. We will visit the site of its oldest building and some of its newest. Come with us for an historical tour which starts in the early 1800s. Our journey will take us through 200 years of history to the acquisition of the park just after the Second World War and its

development into the vibrant campus it is today.

Tickets cost £5 (members £4).

Pre-booking is required because places are limited.

[Book now](#)



Face-to-Face Family History Advice Clinic

Thu 17 Aug 11:00 - 14:30

**The Centre for Heritage & Family History,
Reading**

Just beginning your family history research and need some advice? Baffled by so many competing research websites? Banging your head against a brick wall? Or struggling with some other issues? In this one-to-one session, one of our seasoned advisors will help you make some progress.

To make the most of your session our advisors will carry out some preliminary research beforehand, and for that we need you provide us with some information please:

- to tell us what you've done so far
- describe the nature of the problem
- attach copies of any key documents such as BMD certificates, research notes
- if possible, provide a link to a family tree we can view (members – if your tree has been uploaded to YourTrees, that would be perfect) or at least attach a copy of a hand drawn tree of the immediate family of the people you're researching

For members and non-members of Berkshire Family History Society.

Free.

Pre-booking required.

[Book now](#)

That was just a small selection from our extensive events programme

[Click here for the full programme](#)

Our events routinely sell out -
book early to secure your place



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