

In Touch

Berkshire FHS <noreply@berksfhs.org.uk>

24 September 2023

in touch



Edwardian postcard of Theale - note the well-stocked grocer to the right

Image colourised by Jim Bradshaw

Hi

This week, we have another image from Jim Bradshaw and, like many others of his that we've seen over the last year or so, this location is [immediately recognisable today](#). The well-stocked grocer in the old image has been replaced with a modern and rather brash Co-op. I'm afraid that 'updated' building and garish signage get a big fat 0 out of 10 from me for aesthetics compared to the original.

We have another batch of exchange journals for you this week - enough reading matter to keep you busy for a while. Enjoy!



Journal Exchanges

A few more new editions for the September quarter

Aberdeen & North-East Scotland FHS

Herefordshire FHS

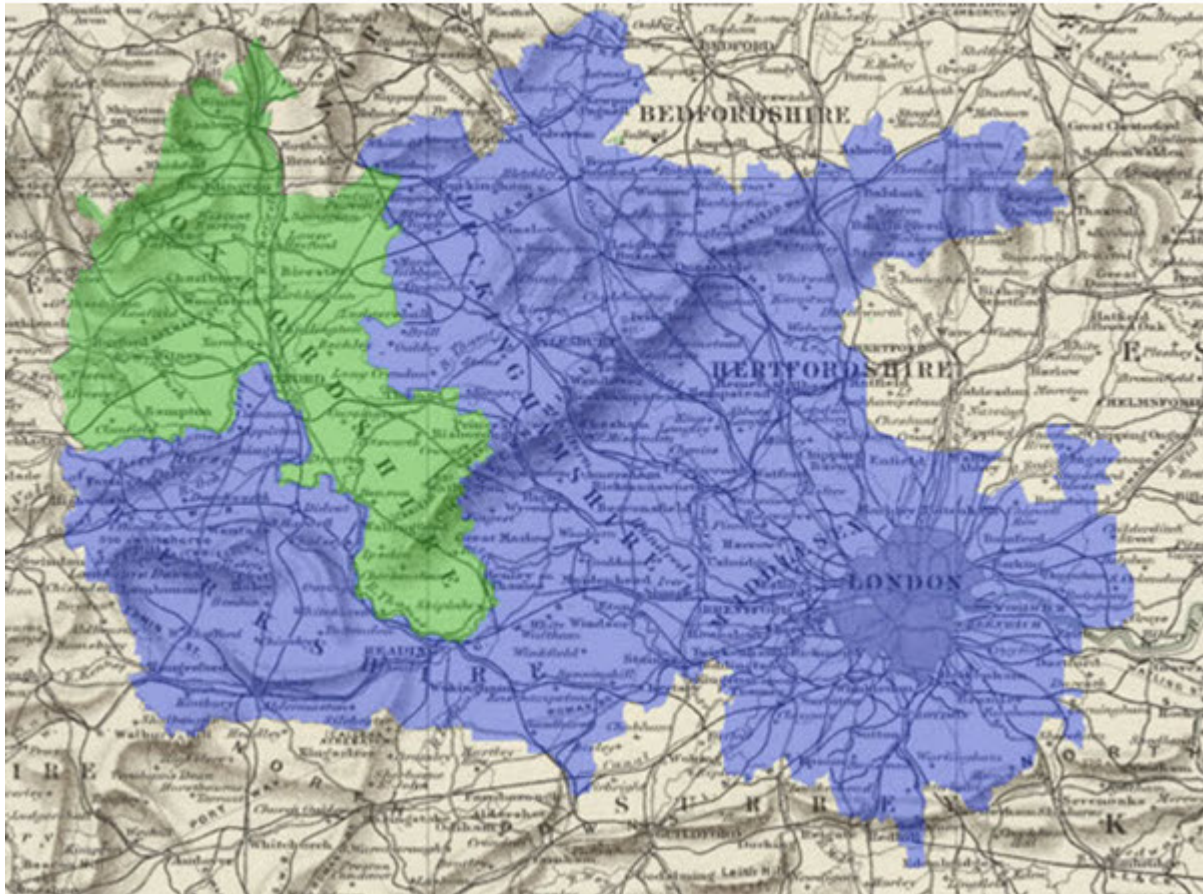
International Society for British Genealogy and Family History

Lancashire FHS

Queensland Genealogical Society

St. Louis Genealogical Society

You can view them here: [Journal Exchange - Berkshire Family History Society](#).



Over 1,000 square miles of land tax records released by The Genealogist

Attendees at one of our previous Combined Branches Talks will recall that the 1910 Lloyd George Domesday Survey is a potentially rich source of data for family historians.

This major record set is key for family historians researching where their ancestors lived in early Edwardian England. The 1910 Lloyd George Domesday Survey is a unique combination of maps and residential data originally held by The National Archives.

Researchers can precisely locate their ancestor's house on large scale (up-to 5 feet to the mile!) hand annotated maps. The historic maps reveal each house annotated by the surveyors with a reference number to link the property to the details in the accompanying books.

Researchers can view images of original Field Books often with a detailed description of the property.

The records are fully searchable by name, parish and street.

The georeferenced OS maps are a layer over a modern street map underlay so that

changing the base map displayed allows researchers to understand what the area looks like today.

The Genealogist has been adding to their online collection for some time now. Newly launched - records covering every head of household and property owner in Oxfordshire around the period 1910-1915, with over 1,000 square miles of searchable property records.

There are now over 2 million records in this online collection, covering all boroughs of Greater London plus Middlesex, Buckinghamshire, Berkshire, West Hertfordshire, and now the newly added Oxfordshire.

Don't forget that members of Berkshire Family History Society can access The Genealogist for free as part of their membership benefits. Please make sure you log out when you leave The Genealogist website though, so the next member can have access. Demand may be high immediately after the release of this newsletter so please try later if you don't succeed the first time.

Access The Genealogist via the Society's account (you need to be signed in first):

[The Genealogist via our website](#)

Access the main Genealogist website here:

[The Genealogist Homepage](#)



Rootstech 2024 Registration now open

Is it me or do Rootstech annual conferences seem to come around increasingly frequently nowadays?

Registration for Rootstech 2024 is now open and you can also already register for

updates to be sent to you.

Find out more at and book your place at:

<https://www.familysearch.org/rootstech>



New York Naturalisation Records now online

If your ancestors emigrated to New York - then a new website may open even more records for you.

NY Naturalizations (nynaturalizations.com) was created by the county clerks of Queens and the Bronx and includes more than 250,000 records of immigrants who applied for US citizenship from these New York boroughs.

The records date from 1795 - 1956 and include people from all over the world. They can be searched by name, year of arrival, country of origin and the places where the application was filed.

The original records have been digitised and include details of each individual such as their physical description, country of origin, date and place of birth, occupation, residence, spouses, children's names, and even their photograph.

The website is free to search and can be accessed here:

<https://nynaturalizations.com/>

TWO DNA Family Secrets



Episode 1

Series 3 Episode 1 of 6

Olympic athlete Sarah wants to find her father. Jean, 91, wants to know if her mum died during WW2, and twins Tanya and Kim want to discover their origins before time runs out

27 September 2023

🕒 59 minutes

Series 3 of DNA Family Secrets

Professor of Genetics Turi King and presenter Stacey Dooley return to our screens on 27 September for another heart wrenching series of DNA Family Secrets.

The genealogy programme has proved so popular that it's now into its third series and resolves some of its biggest mysteries yet.

Professor King believes that "There are two things that are so important about our programme. The first is that we show the reality of DNA testing - that people don't always get all the answers they want or expect - it's not always wrapped up in a nice little bow. It's really important that we show that. And the second is that we don't take on cases we think will be easy, our cases also highlight the complex social history of our society. It's heart-warming, intelligent, thoughtful television."

DNA Family Secrets starts on 27 September, 9pm on BBC Two.

Find out more here:

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/m001qwzx>

Events

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



Drop In Advice Session

Tue 26 Sep 14:00 - 16:30

Wokingham 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.

PLEASE NOTE THAT WOKINGHAM LIBRARY HAS MOVED TO:

Carnival Hub,
Wellington Road,
Wokingham,
RG40 2AF.

The entrance to the Centre is on the right of the building looking from the road.

No booking is required.
Free to all.

Find out more



Cross Your Fingers Until You....

Tue 26 Sep 19:30 - 21:30

Windsor Branch Meeting with talk by Graham Sutherland

Online

☀ Discover the Fascinating World of Ancestral Superstitions and Customs! ☀

🌍 Join us for a captivating genealogy talk: “Cross Your Fingers Until You...” by the renowned genealogist, Graham Sutherland. Prepare to embark on a mesmerizing journey through the intriguing tapestry of superstitions, traditions, and customs that have shaped the lives of our ancestors!

🔍 Uncover the Hidden Threads of Our Ancestral Beliefs:

Delve into the secrets of the past as Graham Sutherland unravels the rich tapestry of customs and superstitions that guided our forebears through life’s many twists and turns. From the mystical to the practical, from the whimsical to the profound, this talk will leave you spellbound.

🌿 Step into the World of Rituals:

Explore the enigmatic rituals that have been practiced for generations. Whether it’s the uncanny rituals to ward off evil spirits, the peculiar customs surrounding birth and marriage, or the age-old traditions related to death and mourning, you’ll gain fresh insights into the lives of your ancestors.

👉 Embrace the Power of Superstition:

Superstitions have woven themselves deeply into the fabric of human history. Discover the compelling stories behind these beliefs, from lucky charms to talismans and from omens to old wives’ tales. Explore the fascinating reasons behind our ancestors’ seemingly irrational actions.

🔥 A Talk Full of Surprises:

Graham Sutherland’s dynamic storytelling and extensive knowledge will keep you on the edge of your seat. With a blend of humor, intrigue, and historical accuracy, you’re in for a treat that’s both educational and entertaining.

🔑 Key Takeaways:

- Gain a deeper understanding of your ancestors’ lives and the forces that shaped their decisions.

- Explore the profound and quirky customs that still influence our culture today.
- Reconnect with your roots and appreciate the enduring power of tradition and belief.

Don't miss this unique opportunity to unearth the hidden treasures of your family's past. Join us for "Cross Your Fingers Until You..." and embark on a journey through time, superstition, and the customs that bind us to our ancestors.

Secure your spot now and get ready to be captivated by the enchanting world of ancestral traditions and superstitions. This talk promises to be an unforgettable experience! 📖 📅

Free to members.

We request a donation of £5 from non-members.

Book now



Industrial Archaeology in your Garage, Shed and Attic

Thu 28 Sep 14:00 - 15:15
Talk by Bill King

Online

We are surrounded by elements of industrial archaeology throughout our everyday lives but often take them for granted without realising their significance or the history which surrounds them. This talk shows how artefacts reveal over a timescale of hundreds of years, the development of culture and society through the use of materials and technologies. The talk highlights the pace of change and contrasts items from Victorian times with items from the 1920's, 30's, 40's and latter 20th century and the present day.

Image: Annatsach, CC BY-SA 4.0 <<https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/4.0>>, via Wikimedia Commons

Tickets cost £5 (members £4).

Pre-booking is required.

Book now



A Grandmother's Legacy: Serendipity follows me on my journey

Thu 28 Sep 19:45 - 21:00

Reading Branch Meeting with talk by Jenny Mallin

Online

Through a short and fascinating glimpse into the lives of my ancestors, we learn more about my own journey in the realisation that with both parents now elderly and frail, that the passing of their lives would mark the end of an era of those generations which went before me who were part of a chapter of British Indian history.

This talk is truly inspiring for anyone who recognises the importance of preserving a family heritage, it's also an entertaining presentation in which we discover the ambitious lengths one would go in order to achieve the impossible and the outcome of one's efforts in a positive and delightful way. Serendipitous stories which reflect the journey from start to finish enhances this charming illustrative talk.

Free to members.

We request a donation of £5 from non-members.

Book now



Online Family History Advice Clinic

Mon 02 Oct 14:00 - 16:00

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

Pre-booking is required because full joining instructions will be emailed to attendees in advance. You will also be asked to confirm the advice you are seeking, so that we can make the session as useful as possible for you.

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

[Book now](#)



Coal Mining Ancestors Course

Mon 02 Oct 19:00 - 21:00

Mon 09 Oct as above

Tutor: Richard Marks

Online

Coal was an important part of Britain's history and many families have some involvement in the industry but what did they do? What was it like to work in the Victorian collieries and how did it change in the 20th century? Who were the miners and how did they live and where? What role did the Miner's Unions play in the life of the collieries and what was the 'Miner's Welfare'? Where do you look for more information about the miners in your family ?

Find out more in this short two-week course.

Two sessions: Oct 2nd & 9th – both sessions 7 – 9pm.

Tickets cost £20 (members £18).

Pre-booking required.

[Book now](#)



October Natter Group

03 Oct 18:45 - for 19:00

Discussion group led by Gillian Stevens and Chad Hanna

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 attend, but pre-booking is required so that the meeting link can be emailed to you.

[Book now](#)



Victorian Sources for Historians Course

Week 1 - Fri 06 Oct 14:00 - 16:00

Week 10 - Fri 08 Dec as above

Tutor: Dr Margaret Simons

Online

Build your knowledge of Victorian sources in this ten week course.

The nineteenth century is a treasure trove of documents relating to the lives of our Victorian forebears. A selection of these sources will be used to provide context and a sense of period, whilst developing our knowledge of what is available from museums, archives, libraries and record offices. During the course we will consider the type of sources available and using a themed approach uncover what life was like in the 19th century, a period that witnessed profound change and development. There will also be an opportunity to apply learning in a small project.

Session dates: October 6th, 13th, 20th & 27th, November 3rd, 10th, 17th & 24th and December 1st & 8th

All sessions: 2 – 4pm

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| Week 1 | Introduction – overview of course and the variety of sources that are available, their reliability and how to use them. |
| Week 2 | Society and Class – during the 19th century social class became more complex and working life more demanding, here we will have as our focus working life of the masses. |
| Week 3 | Family – looking at sources that can help us understand family life and structure. |
| Week 4 | Health and Hygiene – as the urban population increased the health of the population became increasingly compromised, here we look at sources that show how precarious life could be. |
| Week 5 | Built Environment – the 19th century has become notorious for its slum housing, but there is still a huge amount of Victorian building still in use today. Here we use sources to find out about living conditions. |
| Week 6 | Education – during the 19th century the building blocks of today's education system were laid down. Here we look at what sources can tell us about it's progress. |
| Week 7 | Travel, Transport and Communication – a time of great change and technological development, sources will help us assess the impact on the population. |
| Week 8 | Popular Culture – it was not all work and no play. Leisure time for the masses became big business and we shall use sources to find out exactly |

how the Victorians enjoyed themselves.

Week 9 **Crime and Punishment** – many of the Victorian prisons are still in use today, but conditions are vastly different. Using various sources we will look at attitudes towards crime and the treatment of prisoners.

Week 10 **Conclusion** – students will present their projects and we will have an overview of the themes and sources.

Tickets cost £125 (members £115) – which covers all ten sessions.
Pre-booking required.

[Book now](#)



DNA Special Interest Group

Sat 07 Oct 14:30 - 16:30

Facilitator: Debbie Kennett

Online

This special interest discussion group is aimed at those wanting to get the most out of their DNA results. It is facilitated by international DNA expert, Debbie Kennett. Sessions are held quarterly, but there is no obligation to attend on a regular basis and first time attendees are always welcomed. This is a great opportunity to ask questions and to gain ideas for how you can use your results to solve questions and break down brick walls. All levels of expertise with interpreting DNA results welcome from beginner level to experienced.

Tickets cost £5 (members £4).
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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