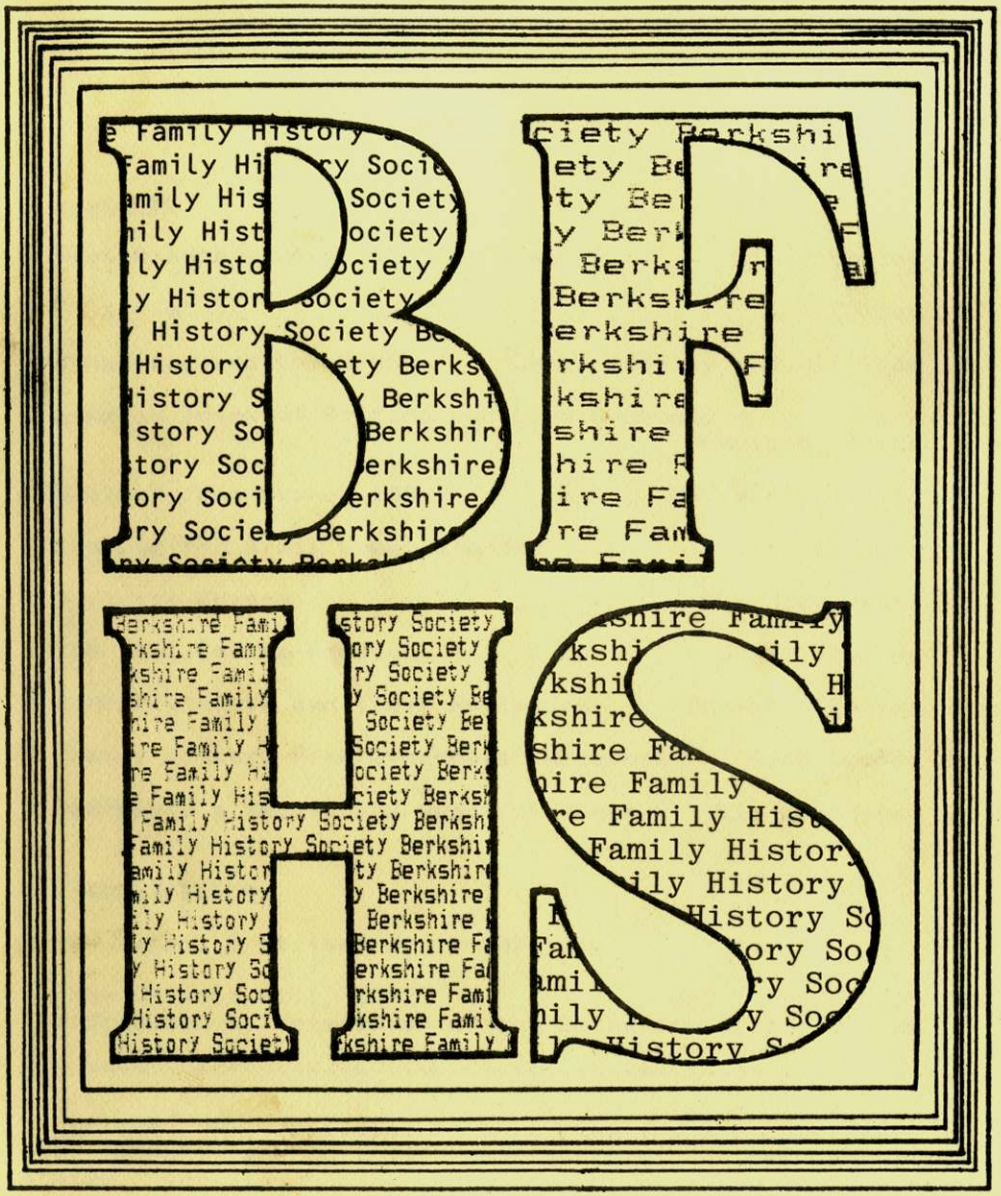
ISSN 0140-5942



Volume 8 Autumn 1982 Number 1

BERKSHIRE FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY

Autumn 1982

Volume 8 number 1

~ contents

~ Miss Amanda Arrowsmith - a Farewell — Cliff Debney 3

~ Editorial — Alf Ison 3

~ Computers and the BFHS — Chris Bingley and Alf Ison 3

~ Wakelin Index of Britons who Died Overseas — Dennis H Pearce 8

Will of John Stone, 1582 — BRO ref D/A1/115 9

* Looking for Great Great Grandma — Norma Ringham 10

* A Pigott Enigma — G W H Bramhall 16

* The 1851 Census Project — Chris Bingley 18

* Nonconformists and their Registers — Dermot O'Rourke 20

~ Family History from Overseers' Accounts — Jean Debney 24

~ Secretary's Report and Members' Pages — Liz Longhurst 27

illustrations

~ The Pigott Tree (see pp 16-18) 2

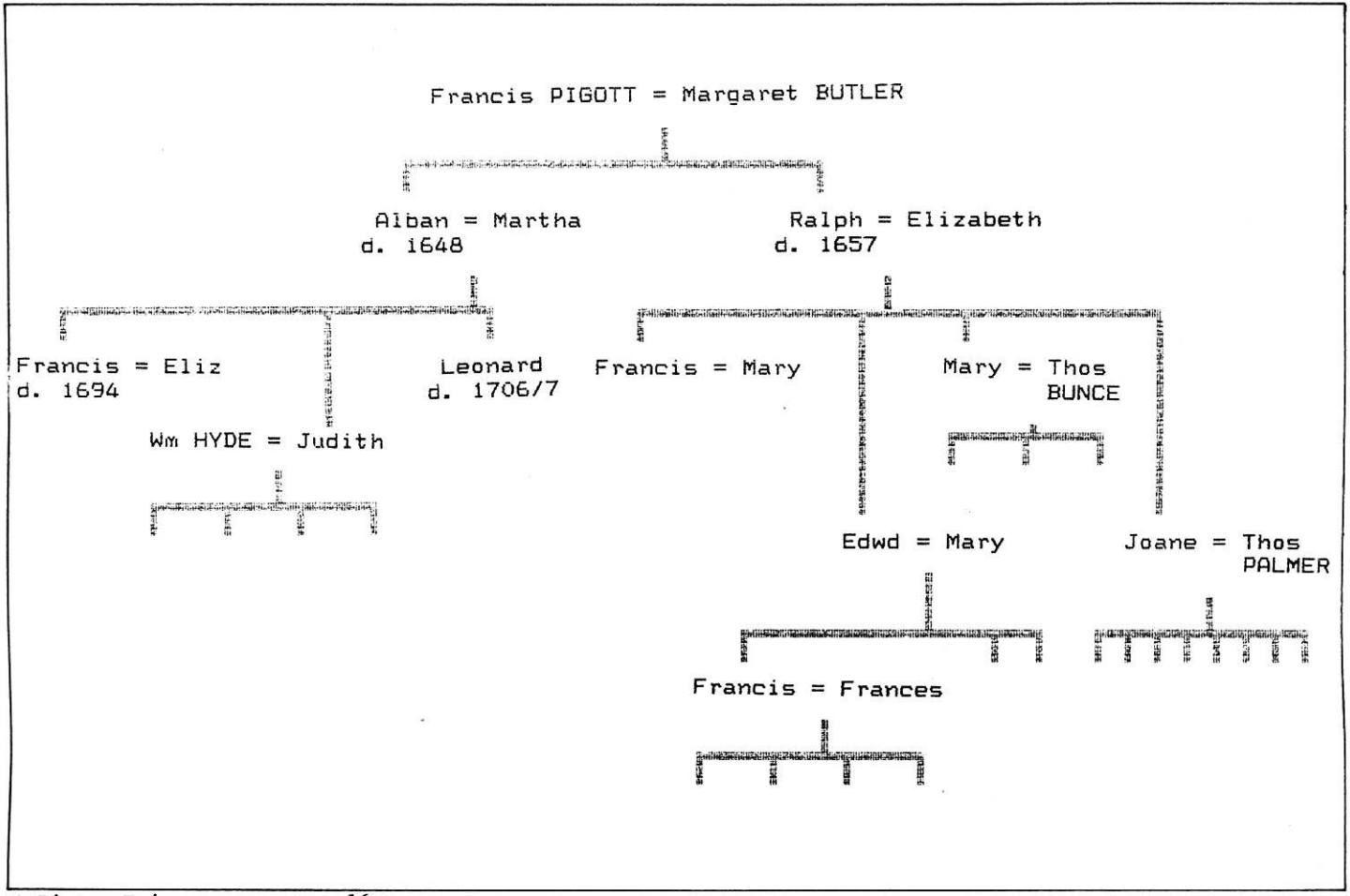
John Stone's Will, 1582 — BRO ref D/A1/115 9
reproduced by permission of the Berkshire Record Office

~~~~~~

Copyright: All articles in this magazine are copyright to the Society and to their contributors, unless otherwise stated, and may not be reproduced without the written permission of the Society.

The opinions expressed in the articles in this magazine are those of their authors and do not necessarily reflect the opinions of the editor or of the Society.

The next issue is due for distribution at the Decemoer meeting and will be posted during December/January to other members.
~~~~~~



A Pigott Enigma - see page 16

Miss Amanda Arrowsmith

I am sorry to announce that our Vice President Miss Amanda Arrowsmith has regretfully had to resign after such a short time with us. She left her post as Berkshire County Archivist on the 17th September to take up a new one as County Archivist for Suffolk, where she will be in charge of both the Ipswich and Bury St Edmunds Record Offices.

Tinged with sadness at losing such a friend and helper to us all, I am sure that you will join me in wishing her every success and happiness in Suffolk. Those of us with interests in that county look forward to continuing our friendships with her.

Cliff Debney

~~~~~~

EDITORIAL

Alf Ison

The majority of this issue has been produced by computer, of one sort or another. Quite a bit of it is about computers, of one sort or another. The signs to the left of the article titles in the contents page indicate the method by which each has been produced:-

* = word processor produced (see page 4)
{ = computer produced on a dot-matrix printer
\+ = typewritten

In many respects it has considerably reduced my editorial load, if only because that load is mainly a matter of my typing the whole lot, pasting it up and then persuading the printer to produce the finished article in about one half of what would be considered a reasonable time. He will be astonished when confronted by what will be my neatest paste-up job ever. In addition to being very grateful to all contributors, special thanks must go to Norma Ringham and to Chris Bingley for their camera-ready copy of their articles, on Grandma and on the 1851 Census, which they both kindly produced for me on (different) "borrowed" word processors.

The dot-matrix pages, those like this one, are relatively easy for me to produce, but the "~"-marked articles, other than the two submitted by Norma and Chris, have meant my going on the scrounge in ill-affordable lunch hours so I may not be able to repeat printing of that quality with such ease in the future. The common or garden typed ones continue to be produced by me on a typewriter on "loan". I for one would vote for a computer just for use in the production of the magazine! But of course after twenty eight issues, plus the odd supplements, I could be regarded as slightly biased . . .
~~~~~~

COMPUTERS AND THE BFHS

Chris Bingley and Alf Ison

Introduction

A comprehensive introduction to computers and computing is beyond the scope of this small article; it merely introduces some of the fundamental techniques which can be adopted to suit a very wide variety of requirements and applications. It continues by looking at the advantages to be gained by the society and briefly at the machine requirements and costs.

The first of the computer techniques is word processing which is widely recognised and probably generally accepted by the public at large - albeit without neccessarily understanding its meaning. Anyone who has had contact with such a system will already be aware of its advantages. It can be regarded as an advanced typewriter with many more facilities than the normal ones with which most of us are familiar. Its biggest advantage over traditional typewriters is its memory! Instead of immediately turning every key depression into a typed number, letter or punctuation mark on a piece of paper, or into some carriage movement on the typewriter, a word processor "displays" them on its visual display unit, or vdu. It also remembers all of the information being input as a "document" - both inside the computer's memory and on its "storage" device, which will be either a cassette tape, as used in audio systems, or a "floppy disc", rather like a miniature, flexible record permanently sealed in an outer sleeve. Having once typed in a document, and hence having stored it on either a cassette or a floppy, we have a permanent copy which can be displayed, section by section if it is large, on the vdu for casual reading or for checking. The same document can also be printed out automatically, either in full or page by page. Such displaying and/or printing can be done on demand as often as is necessary with the minimum of typing. In practice the technique will vary depending on the word processor in use, but will normally be a straightforward set of "commands" to be "typed" into the computer. It might be as simple as the typing, for instance, of "*P". The word processor's second major advantage can then be brought into play. Having checked a document, either on the vdu screen or in a printed version, the document may be corrected where necessary. To apply any corrections to a document, the section of it in the area of an error is displayed on the screen where it is usual to have about twenty or so lines "in view" at one time. Moving up or down one or more lines to find a particular section is easy and the offending word or words can then be deleted or changed, or new words can be added, on the screen. This process might leave the odd hole where words have been deleted or appear to push bits of some of the lines off the edge of the picture. One simply carries on regardless, well almost, and when all corrections in that area of the document have been made, at

the press of a key or two according to the technique used, the text will miraculously sort itself out into a well ordered series of lines, which can also be automatically right-justified on demand, as has this article.

In addition to normal typed documents such as letters, minutes, magazine articles and the like, tables and other special formatted text can also be handled.

Hopefully that lightening description will give readers a rough (!) idea of word processing.

Word processing then can take us through to the production of typed and rigorously checked and corrected proof copies from either an original manuscript or from a transcript. In addition we must remember that, once saved, we have the added bonus of a permanent copy on either a tape or a disc and that:-

i) once the extra control keys have been mastered, the "inputting" of a document is as easy as ordinary typing - and often easier/quicker for "amateur" typists since any accidental finger-trouble is easily corrected. Some word processors will even handle the checking of spelling!

ii) the document can be copied, in a similar manner to the printing described above, to other tapes or discs for security, in case of loss or accidental damage, or for distribution for use on other computers

iii) it can be displayed or printed on demand.

Accurate computer held documents are fine, but it needn't end there! The fact that they are computer files means that their information, whatever its nature, is readily available for alternative uses in the machine. For example, the word processor's facilities can be utilised in an overseer's document, to mark those words, for example names, locations, trades, which should be indexed from the document. This "indexing" marking can then be checked, on the vdu screen or in a printed version, prior to running a specially written indexing program, which will extract all the "marked" words and add them to a special index file. This index file will again be a computer file which can then be sorted into alphabetical sequence ready for printing, to be read on the vdu or to be merged into a larger, composite "Berkshire Index".

Specially written programs need not be restricted to reading document files input through a word processor. Some projects, notably those where the documents involved are not of free text, lend themselves to being typed into a program which recognises their special structure or format and hence can be used to verify that format as they are input. The 1851 census project is a particularly good example of the type. Not only can the entries be checked column by column on input to ensure that they are sensible, but a certain degree of cross checking can be carried out by the computer

program to ensure a high degree of accuracy. Checking and correcting in this case can be just as rigorous as that relevant to word processor type documents.

Advantages

The above section has indicated some of the ways in which "computer power" could assist the Society in its attempts to put Berkshire on the genealogical map. It certainly will not eliminate the need for "member power", and I don't think that many of us would want it to do so. We do project work because we enjoy doing it, well most of us do! But oh!, the luxury of not having to sort out that endless stream of index slips! The ease with which our name index could suddenly gain companion location and trade indexes! That feeling of confidence in knowing that the slip which someone desperately needs to forge that missing link can't have been accidentally filed out of sequence, to lie hidden until someone else equally accidentaly turns it up and notices that it is mis-filed - by which time the searcher has probably moved on anyway. Printed copies can be easily produced for the BRO, Reading library, our own library, the Society of Genealogist, etc. Not to mention the speeding up of any publishing we might undertake from any of the society's various projects, thus precipitating the earlier start to the recovery of some of the initial costs of the machine. It is also to be hoped that with the help of willing members a semi-automatic information service could to be set up in respect of declared members' interests.

Requirements

Of course to gain these advantages "computer power" must be available to the society. (And how about increased "member power" to go with it - the benifits then could be positively mind boggling.) The three options open to us as a society are to use computers which are owned by:-

* individual members of the society
* local industry, schools or other "friends of the BFHS"
* the society.

The first of these is already in operation on the 1851 census project. It is an admirable way for the society to acquire computer time and it is to be hoped that a number of members will be able to help the society in this way over the years. It does however pose problems of access, particularly as the amount of information held in various computer files and indexes grows. It also leaves the society in a "grace and favour" situation, so that if this is its only computer power, it would be ill-placed to properly control its work on the computer.

The second really falls into the same category as the use of members' machines, though the problems of access, etc. are much greater. It is most likely that even if anyone is able

to identify such a source of machine power, that we would only be able to use it for single free-standing projects rather than in a comprehensive project for Berkshire records as a whole.

The final option has none of the drawbacks of the first two but will of course need to be very carefully managed so that all members will be given an opportunity to assist in its control and operation.

The best solution af all would be to achieve a combination of all options. The society's computer would be regarded as the "master" computer with all information from other sources, such as that from members' machines, being eventually "fed" into it. To arrive at such a happy solution means that the society's own computer must be chosen with extreme care, and with an eye to the microcomputer market as a whole, so that links, either machine to machine or simply by way of computer files, can be effected with as many members' machines as possible, both now and in the future.

The question must then be, what equipment is needed in such a system? The very minimum on which the society could do any work at all would be:-

* computer
* visual display unit (a domestic tv set could suffice)
* storage device (probably casette as the cheapest option on which to start)

Information collection could begin on such a system, but all checking would have to be carried out on the vdu. In the case of transcripts, this would mean checking against the transcript itself rather than being able to take a printed copy for comparison with the original. Since most members will have both tv and casette recorder, the society could "begin" with the computer alone - or rely on the good offices of members, or their contacts, to get computer files printed out. The next, and very important, stage must therefore be:-

* printer - a choice of "dot-matrix" or "corresponence" quality (a wide difference in prices)

followed at the earliest possible date by:-

* disc storage system to cope with larger quantities of information than casettes can reasonably handle.

The above very theoretical presentation of the staggered acquisition of computer kit by the BFHS is also a very simplified one. The actual process would depend always on a system of review at each stage, rather than deciding at the outset exactly what should be bought and when. With the rapidly changing situation in respect of both computers and associated kit, such as disc drives and printers, our prime aim should be to protect the society's investment by buying wisely for the future, always bearing in mind that all our kit must continue to function as a complete "set" regardless of what additions we are able to make in the future.

Costs

Of course it is very difficult to give exact prices several months ahead of prospective purchase, not only because of that demon inflation but also because of the very reverse in that the kind of equipment about which we are thinking is actually coming down in price in a number of areas.

Our best estimates on going to press (September 1982) are:-

* microcomputer - around £300
* matrix printer - around £350
* floppy disc drive - £300 but hopefully dropping
* floppy discs - about £2 each

Other Societies

In general it appears that this is a subject of discussion elsewhere but as yet little or no information on the subject has been published. However this should soon be rectified as the Society of Genealogists held a seminar on the subject of "Computers and the Genealogist" earlier this year, and are to start publishing a regular newsletter from this Autumn. Hopefully, we shall not be alone in venturing into computing. All family history societies could, and hopefully will, use the same computer programs. With common file formats, or at least compatible ones, "strays", to use just one small example, could be given a new lease of life, being sent from one computer to another for dissemination to all interested members of other societies.

The opportunities are upon us . . .

"Wayside"
Roman Road
Twyford
Hampshire
SO21 1QW

Dear Secretary,

Wakelin Index of Britons who died Overseas

George Wakelin, former chairman and a founder member of the Hampshire Genealogical Society started this index. Sadly George died a few months ago since which time I have been asked to continue the work.

The 2,000-odd names that George collected are, I know, only the tip of the ice-berg so I shall be very grateful for any help you can give me in the way of lists of names or information as to where such information is stored or may be obtained.

This index will of course be available for research by anyone affiliated to the Federation of Family History Societies.

Yours sincerely,

Dennis H Pearce

P.S. I enclose some Berkshire strays. D H P

In the name of god amen the firste daye of marche and in the xxiiijth yeare of the raigne of our soueraigne Lady Elizabeth by the grace of god of England ffraunce and Irelande quene defendour of the faithe &c And in the yeare of our Lorde god Thousande fyue hundred Eighti & two knowe ye that I John Stone of the parishe of Letenbery w^in the Countie of Sussex Iuller beinge sick in bodye and whole in mynde and of perfecte remembraunce thanke be to allmyghtye god do make my laste will and testamente in maner and fourme followinge That is firste I gyue and bequeth my soule to allmyghtie god my maker and redeemer and my bodye to be buried in christian buriall in the parishe churche or churche yarde of Letenbery Item I gyue and bequeth towarde the reparacion of the said churche xijd Item I gyue and bequeth all my ffreehold landes w^in the manor of Letenbery to my sonne and heire william Stone and if he happene to dye w^out lawfull heires of his bodye lawfully begotten I gyue and bequeth my foresaid landes to my daughter Jane Stone and in defaulte of her or their issue lawfully begotten I gyue and bequeth my said landes to John Stone the sonne of Robert Stone and to his heires male lawfully begotten and in defaulte of such issue I gyue and bequeth my said landes to Moste Stone the sonne of Henrye Stone and to his heires for ever Item I gyue and bequeth that thirde parte of my goode moueable and vnmoueable to Jane Stone my daughter after all my dette and legacies be paid Item I gyue and bequeth a ewe and a lambe that is nowe alyue callide Cowsell in the parishe of Pharmyngton to John Stone my godsonne beinge sonne of Robert Stone Item I gyue and bequeth to my foresaid sonne william Stone two of my beste Sheepe Item I gyue and bequeth a chamber to william Kette duringe the terme of his naturall life whilste he shalbe retayninge w^in my newe dwellinge house And will that the reste of my goode I gyue and bequeth to Alice Stone my wyfe whome I do make to be my true and lawfull executrix to distribute all my goode and to pay my dette and legacies to be paide Item I constitute and ordeyne my trustie and welbeloued brethren Henrye Stone and Robert Stone to be ouer seers and to see that this my will be done in maner and fourme as is before saide In witnesse hereof I haue putto my hand this daye and yeare firste aboue written

Thomas

BRO reference number : D/A1/115/John Stone 1582

LOOKING FOR GREAT GREAT GRANDMA

or Beginner's Look

N M E Ringham

It all started one day at work when one of the members of my department asked me if I would type a small article for him. It was for an evening class he taught, something about genealogy. It was an interesting article and I asked him some questions about the subject which led to quite a long discussion the result of which was that I became keen to trace my ancestors.

I enquired about how to start and was told which places to go to for different information. Saint Catherine's House for Births and Marriages, St. Andrew's House for Deaths, The Public Records Office for Census records and Somerset House for Wills since 1858.

I told my father of my intentions to trace the family's history back as far as I could and sought his help through all he was able to remember about his family. He had his parents' birth certificates and their marriage certificate which he gave to me. He was also able to give me names of brothers and sisters, aunts and uncles and cousins and the name of his grandfather; but that was all, he could not remember dates or addresses. Still it was a start and armed with this information I began my search.

- - - - - - -

On the 19th of October I had one day's leave, so armed with notebook, pencil and shin and elbow guards I set off on the 8.50 bus to London.

During the journey I made a note of the things I needed to look up, the area in which my husband's grandfather was born, so that I can trace back on his side as well, and the date of my great-grandparent's marriage. The date to start looking for that was going to be from a year before my grandfather's birth as I did not know if he was the first born or not. The start of the journey was fine, then after the half-way stage the bus started to lose time; I ended up getting to my destination an hour late, which of course threw out all my time-table. The next time I had to go to the record offices in London I was determined to go the night before and stay with my father so that I could be there as soon as they opened.

I started off at Saint Catherine's House, found the shelf for the year I wanted and began to look for the initial on the spine only to find that the particular book was away at the printers being re-bound; I had to fill in a form for information and leave it with the clerk at the desk who told me that it would be about half an hour. Time was precious so I left there and went to the Public Records Office in Portugal Street. On arriving there I filled in a form for a day pass to get in to see the

Census Records. I then went up to the Census Room. All the viewing machines were in use, and there was a queue of people waiting, the Commissionaire told me that it would be about 2 hours before the queue would clear, so off I went again, this time to the enquiry desk in the main Records Office building in Chancery Lane where I filled in a form and got a permanent pass, as I knew that I would have to visit the offices in London many times in the search for my ancestors.

Leaving Chancery Lane I went back to Saint Catherine's House, whence I picked up the form I had left there earlier. The district where the birth had been registered was filled in, so I knew what to look for when I went back to the Records Office. The next objective was to find the details of my great-grandparents' marriage.

I walked up the three steps leading to the section that housed all the index volumes and walked the short distance to where the shelves of books began. When I had called there earlier in the day I had been surprised at the number of people who were there, but it had not seemed as bad as I had been lead to believe it would be. Now I was amazed at the masses of people to be seen searching through the records, how could it have increased so much in only an hour. It was just like a rugger scrum, no wonder you needed elbow pads and shin guards. Ah well into the fray!

I started loooking at the index from December 1876 which was five months before his birth, well you never know, every generation has its slip ups. The books are big and heavy. As luck has it the top shelf is not too high. They have at least realized that there are a lot of short people in this world, of whom I am one, who are bound to have to look through their records at some time or another and it is no good relying on somebody to get a book down for you. As I have already said it is like a rugger scrum, you battle your way to the shelves through the masses of bodies to get the book you want. If somebody else has got it already, you have to take the next one and be sure to remember to go back for the missing one later. You battle your way back to any small space on the table, find the initial letter of the surname that you are looking for and start looking down the pages until you find it, or not, as the case may be, then battle your way back to the shelf, replace the book and take the next one. There may be several books to a quarter of a year in alphabetical style like a telephone directory and of course four quarters to the year. I had to go back 15 years before I found the entry I was looking for, on the way I had found a few other marriages of the same name so had jotted them down in my notebook in case they turned out to be relatives and it would save me some time at a later stage in my research. I then went to another part of the building where I filled in a form to get a copy of the marriage certificate, queued up at a window, handed in the form and paid my money for the certificate, which is sent to you. It arrived about 10 days later. The waiting for the certificate to arrive was the worst part, I have never known ten days take so long to pass.

My next point of call was Somerset House to look at the records of the Wills, I hurried there from Saint Catherine's, dodging the traffic to get across The Strand. Everything seems to move so much faster in

London and you can never find a Pedestrian Crossing when you want one. Then into the peaceful confines of Somerset House, the contrast between here and the place I had just left was incredible. I walked into a large quiet room, with only a couple of people in, and was soon able to find the books I wanted and quickly found the record of my grandfather's will. I was also able to note down other peoples dates of death who bore the same name and also those of my husband's surname. I left the peace and quiet of that lovely old building and again did battle with the traffic to get across the wide main road on my way back to the Public Record Office.

On arriving back at the PRO I was able to go straight in as I had already signed in earlier. There was still a queue but only three people in it, I was quite lucky as it turned out and only had 15 minutes to wait before getting a reader. The queue behind me had grown to about twenty.

I read the instructions beside the reader on how to use it and then went to the reference books to look up the details I needed to fill in a form to get the relevant reels of census film. These duly obtained I settled myself at the reader and began a painstaking search of the information thereon. By this time it was 3 o'clock. I sat engrossed in the reels of film. There were three to the section I was looking through. When I got to the end of them my back was aching from sitting for so long in one position and my eyes were getting tired. Some of the records are written in clear neat handwriting but others look as if they had just been scribbled and so it took a lot more concentration to find the name. I had no luck, could not find the information I needed. I took the reels back to the counter to get the next one I wanted to look at and the man came forward and rang a hand-bell. It was time to close. I was quite astonished that time had passed so quickly. I gathered up my things and left.

On the way out I asked the Commissionaire the way to the nearest Central Underground. I followed his directions and found myself at the end of Chancery Lane in the middle section of a road unable to see a street name anywhere, so I concluded that I must have turned left instead of right whilst trying to remember all the directions I had been given. I have a terrible sense of direction and can literally get lost in a field and as it was 30 years since I was last in that area there had been some changes. I walked back down Chancery Lane and found myself in Fleet Street. Having been there earlier in the day things looked a bit more familiar to me, then I saw a bus number that I knew. It was travelling in the opposite direction to which I wanted to go so I started to walk in the direction from whence it had appeared. As I walked, landmarks became more familiar and I ended up walking to Oxford Circus where I then caught the tube train to Shepherds Bush. It wasn't until I arrived at my father's flat that I realized I hadn't eaten or had a drink since my breakfast at 7.30 which was then just over 12 hours earlier. So the first thing I did was make myself a cup of coffee and a slice of toast as my father had already eaten.

I stayed with my father for a couple of hours and then left to return to Reading. I arrived back home at midnight very tired and ready for my bed. So ended the first day in my search for my great great

grandmother.

- - - - - - -

The following month I rang my husband's cousin mid-week to see if it was convenient for us to visit her for the day on the Sunday, to which she replied in the affirmative. I told her that I was tracing the family tree and wanted to talk to her mother to see what she was able to remember and also to take photographs of any momentoes that they had.

My mother-in-law was staying with us for that week-end, so we all went off to Wales for the day, leaving at 10 o'clock on the Sunday morning. We arrived at mid-day, after the first half-an-hour of general talk catching up on the family news, we started talking about the family tree. I showed them what I had managed to do so far on my side of the family, and how I wanted to do one on my husband's side of the family suggesting that I would let her have a copy when I had done it, as it was her side of the family also.

The mothers started telling us all they could remember about their relations. It was incredible. In a couple of hours I had masses of information and had got back as far as my husband's great great great grandfather, and looking through some books that his great grandmother had written in as a child found a mention of one of her brothers whom they knew nothing about, so that aroused their interest even more.

In the middle of the afternoon, we decided we would have a ride out to the local churchyard and see if we could find the graves of the family and check the dates with the information I had. At the churchyard we found all the graves and I was able to confirm the dates. We also found the grave of the brother they hadn't known of. My daughter took a photograph of the headstone.

When we arrived back at the house cold but exhilarated with our find the sisters wanted to know all about it. They had also remembered some more things from the past which I wrote down for future reference.

After a pleasant, relaxed evening, and armed with plenty of new material to keep me busy for weeks, we returned home to Reading in the early hours of the morning.

- - - - - - -

My next trip to London was in January 1981, I stayed with my father for three days and went to the Records Offices each day, getting there when they opened and staying until they closed. I managed to get quite a bit of information, but there were a lot of dates I couldn't find as I was looking for the name of Crook on my grandmother's side, and there are hundreds of them in Lancashire, also I tried to find my mother's mother whose maiden name was Morgan and I don't know where she was born. There are an awful lot of Morgans mainly in Wales. I have since tried all those that I thought might be her but still no luck. It has been rather expensive for no results.

I got some Birth and Marriage Certificates for ancestors on my father's

paternal side. It gives one a thrill to be able to have something concrete to look at.

- - - - - - -

I took another three days holiday at the end of March which I again spent with my father, going daily to the Records Offices. This time I spent a lot of time in St. Andrew's House going through the deaths looking for the name of Thurbon. I started at the beginning of the records and worked my way through the years. I did quite well and managed to record as far as 1914.

- - - - - - -

The following month my father went on holiday, a coach tour to the Lake District and North Wales which he thoroughly enjoyed. Whilst he was on the trip he phoned me on the Wednesday to tell me how he was getting on and what a nice time he was having. The tour was ending on Good Friday, so we made arrangements for him to come to us on the Saturday and spend the rest of the Bank Holiday with us. This wasn't to be. When he arrived back at his flat he dropped down dead from a heart attack.

For a few months after this I didn't get a lot of work done on my family tree, as there were arrangements for the funeral, then clearing out the flat and disposing of my father's effects. I had a lot of old family photos to add to my collection, also my parents' marriage and birth certificates. Then the next few months were taken up with organising my eldest daughter Liesel's wedding which took place on the 25th July, so now there is another branch to the tree.

- - - - - - -

In June at one of the Berkshire Family History Society's meetings I was looking through a booklet of the Cambridge Society, and found a W.T.Thurbon who was interested in obtaining information on Thurbons in Cambridge and London. I wrote to him and sent him a copy of the information I had managed to compile. He replied a couple of weeks later and it turned out that we were related, his grandfather and my great grandfather were brothers. He sent me copies of all that he had collected about the family, some of it coming from a relative of another of the brothers, this person who lived in Kent has unfortunately since died. Bill and I arranged to meet when I went to Cambridge for my holiday.

- - - - - - -

In September my husband and I went on holiday to Cambridge and spent a week there at the Shire Hall going throughs the records and collecting a lot of information, managed to get back to 1771. During this research we found that the surname had varied a lot in the spelling. One particular instance was when we found a marriage and the banns recorded, each of the three weeks for the calling of the banns the spelling was different and the actual marriage was the same spelling as the second week. All the records were recorded in the same handwriting. I realize now that I shall have to go over the years I have recorded on deaths and

look for variations of the spelling.

On the Thursday my husband and I spent a very pleasant and interesting evening visiting Bill Thurbon and his wife Alice, a very nice couple. He told me a lot about his family and showed me the file that he has pre- pared. We have corresponded regularly since then exchanging information and hope to visit them again this year.

On the Saturday we left Cambridge and travelled up to Preston going via Baston and Bourne in Lincolnshire where we looked at graves for my husband's ancestors. We managed to find three, so noted down the details on the headstones for future reference.

We stayed at a farmhouse situated half-way between Preston and Blackpool. This was an ideal location as were able to spend all day at the Shire Hall in Preston looking at the records. In the evenings we were able to go to Blackpool and Cleveleys to visit relatives.

We had a really productive holiday the information gathered has kept me busy all year collating it. We are going to have a repeat of the holiday this year and hope to get further back in our search.

- - - - - - -

In January of this year, 1982, my daughter Liesel and her husband Trevor bought a house in London, so once again I am able to spend a couple of days at a time going to the Records Offices. I spent two days in June with them, visiting the Census Office to look at the 1881 Census, found quite a lot of information, some of it on my husband's paternal side. The census records have helped me to get back to the mid 1700s to discover that his family came from Rutland, a County which has long since been swallowed up by Leicestershire. I was very pleased with the results of my efforts.

I visited them again in July for a couple of days. This time I concentrated on Births and was able to record one hundred years of Thurbon births. Next time I go I hope to finish the births, then I shall start on the marriages. When I have completed them I shall return to the deaths and check them for variations that I have missed.

This year I have also been tracing living relatives, casting my mind back over the years and recalling people I met as a child, then looking through the telephone directories to see if I can find them. I have had some success and found three people who have been able to give me additional information on their branches of the family.

There is one person I remember very well as I used to meet her at my grandmother's and at my great aunt's. She was a cousin of theirs and visited my parent's home a few times. Though lots of people that I have spoken to can remember her, nobody can recall where she lived. One person recalls visiting her years ago when he was a young man, and at that time she was living in Blackpool. When I go to Preston this year I will have a look in the records there and see if I have any luck in tracing her. The trouble is I don't know what her christian name was as she was always called "Cissie" which was probably a pet name.

A PIGOTT ENIGMA

G H W Bramhall

Quite early in my pursuit of the Pigott family of Berkshire and Buckinghamshire I came across this surprising entry in the Hatford burial register :-

> "Mr Lenard Piggot of Frilsham in ye parish of Marcham in ye county of Berks., after his body had been six days in ye Church of Marcham and Mr David Jones refused to bury, it was brought to Hatford and buryed in Woollen only as by Affidavit does appear - March 21st 1706/7." [i]

It is as well to mention at this stage that in the 17th and early 18th centuries the manors of both Marcham and Hatford were owned by various members of the Pigott family.

As my searches continued it became clear that I was not alone in finding this burial record interesting. In their respective books on the village of Hatford both Violet House and Percival Goodrich have drawn attention to this oddity but whereas the former was content to record it without comment, the latter asserted that burial must have been refused because the body had not been wrapped in the statutory woollen shroud.

It will be recalled that in an attempt to boost the ailing wool trade burials in woollen shrouds became obligatory in 1678 and that an affidavit had to be sworn within eight days of burial showing that the law had been obeyed. Thus the expression "buried in woollen" is very common in parish registers of the late 17th and early 18th centuries and ought not to have any special significance - particularly as failure to comply with the law meant nothing more than a fine not large enough to bother a land-owning family.

I began to get the feeling that there was more to this business than the possible absence of a woollen shroud. Whatever the reason, the Rev. David Jones' refusal to bury poor Leonard seemed like an act of considerable courage in an age when the parson was usually very much "under the thumb" of the local gentry. And whatever the reason it did not prevent the Rev. Joseph Collier of Hatford - another Pigott stronghold - from giving Leonard good Christian burial, complete with inscribed tombstone, in the chancel of his church.

And there the matter rested until quite recently I found - to my utter amazement - no less than three documents which, if they do not solve the mystery, at least throw new light upon it. [ii] The first was a letter written at Frilford on September 11th 1673 by Thomas Bunce to his kinsman Francis Pigott - Leonard's eldest brother.

This letter makes it abundantly clear that before his death in 1648 Alban senior realised that his third son - then twenty seven years old - was incapable of making his own way in the world, that elder brother Francis had been made responsible for Leonard's welfare and that if Francis should pre-decease his inadequate brother, then future

provision for Leonard would fall on the estates of Marcham and Hatford - thereby damaging the prospects of his Pigott, Bunce and Palmer cousins and their numerous offspring.

> " . . . Though I doubt not in the least your care to provide for him while you live, yet if you should die before him and a settlement be not made for his future maintenance for ought I know he may then sue this bond upon me or mine and so we may be ruined and undone.
>
> "I remember I once spoke to you about this and you then brake out into a passion . . . and I did not receive any satisfactory answer. I must confess he is guilty of very many weaknesses and much folly and I could heartily wish that he were wiser but the less he is able to help himself the more care ought to be taken of him and for him.
>
> "And therefore I make . . . this proposition that you will be pleased to draw up a settlement either of thirty or forty pounds per anno to commence after your decease . . .
>
> "I do not apprehend any reason you should be against it since according to this method . . . you may have it still in your power to put a curb and restraint upon him . . . "

Did this letter have the desired effect or did Francis "fly off the handle" yet again? In the event Francis did pre-decease his less fortunate brother - as the tree on page 2 briefly records - but in the meantime brother Alban, who had married a daughter of the Bishop of Oxford, had felt moved to assume a share of the responsibility. In his will of 1679 he says :-

> " . . . to my loving brother Mr. Leonard Pigott the sum of ten pounds by the year to be . . . payable out of the ground in Hatford aforesaid called the Stonepit Ground next to the Lane there and to be paid him at the four usual feasts of the year . . . by equal portions . . . " [iii]

This may have allayed the fears of Thomas Bunce in some measure since Leonard's modest annuity was thus limited to the income from a single seventeen acre plot of land. Leonard lived to enjoy the fruits of his brother's careful provision for another twenty-eight years until his death at the age of eighty five.

Thomas Bunce's letter indicates that Leonard's handicap was of long standing and not just the eccentricity of advancing age. One can accept that Thomas might have overstated the case since he had "an axe to grind" but Alban's will confirms that something was amiss. But whatever it was, Leonard was not so inept that he could not draw up a workmanlike will of his own, sign it in a shaky but perfectly legible hand and seal it with the family's greyhound crest. [iv] It comes as no surprise that there is no mention of a wife or children of his own. He appoints his kinswoman Frances Bunce, widow, as his executrix.

After remembering the poor of Frilford and setting aside thirty pounds for his funeral expenses he directs that:-

- ten pounds be given to his niece Judith Hyde and her four children
- thirty pounds be given to the children of Robert Mason of Longworth
- twenty pounds be given to the children of his kinsman William Bunce
- ten pounds be given to the children of his kinswoman Frances Pigott of Hatford

Probate was duly given to Widow Bunce - but how much was there "in the kitty" at the end of the day? Had Leonard really managed to save over one hundred pounds from his quarterly allowance - or was it just a fantasy? Of all his bequests I am most impressed by the ten pounds he left to the children of widow Frances Pigott of Hatford - for by this gift he had, with remarkable shrewdness, chosen to assist the cousin who - in the light of research - was most clearly in need of a helping hand. I confess that I cherish the notion that Leonard was not quite so "weak and foolish" as everybody thought and that the numerous youngsters in the extended family would have had fond memories of "uncle" Leonard - even if their parents had found him an embarrassment.

But exactly why was Parson Jones so adamant in his refusal to give the old man the dignity of Christian burial in his home parish?

i] BRO: Hatford Parish Register
ii] BRO: D/ER.F2
iii] PRO, Chancery Lane: PCC Wills 1679
iv] BRO: Berkshire Wills 1706/7

THE 1851 CENSUS PROJECT

by Chris Bingley

The project has got going very well with a number of people now working on the initial transcription work. However, the initial transcription is not the end of the matter, and work has begun on the subsequent stages. This article intends to give some idea of what these later stages involve.

Although the first stage is a manual transcription, the project is very much a computer based one. Once a suitable section of transcript has been made, it is sent in to me where it is copied into computer files. From these files are initially produced a draft print in a form closely matching the details in the original document. This draft can then be used to check against the original and be marked up with corrections. This should catch the majority of errors produced in the first two stages, and thus when the computer files have been updated with these corrections, there will be a high level of confidence in the stored data.

From this point onwards, it is just a matter of running appropriate programs against the stored data to produce the required printed form for publication, and subsequently further programs for production of the surname indexes.

There are three stages which require considerable effort (if the total project is considered), and these are the initial manual transcription, the entry of the data into the computer files, and the subsequent checking of the drafts against the originals (it is hoped that there will not be too many corrections to apply). The first of these already involves a number of people, and is progressing well. The second stage is now in progress and work for this is flowing in. At present this second stage is being carried out purely on my own computer (a BBC model B) which will act as the central system for this project. However, as you may guess, the quantity of work is really too large for one person, and therefore it would be useful if other people could help at this stage. As we do not have a computer that can be loaned out to members for this work, I can only expect assistance from people who have their own computer and would be prepared to use it for this project.

Unfortunately this is not as simple as it first sounds since, in order to produce the master files, it is necessary to centralise all the data onto one system, and at present there is no standard for the storage of data on cassette tapes. Thus for example, data stored by a SPECTRUM is not readable by the BBC computer, and vice versa. This does produce some problems, however they are not all insurmountable. A simple solution, due to the BBC computer being the 'master', is to utilise a computer's serial printer interface (where this exists) since the BBC computer is capable of receiving input via this interface. In theory it is thus possible to transfer data from any computer that supports output to RS232 standards.

If therefore you would be prepared to help in this work, and have access to a computer with which data communication may be possible, please let me know - I shall be only too glad to hear from you. Obviously I would expect that if physical connection between computers is required, I would do so at a member's own home, but equally I am afraid that I must limit the distance I am prepared to travel to do so. If in doubt please do give me a call.

NONCONFORMISTS AND THEIR REGISTERS

Dermot O'Rourke

Socialists and Mormons - these were the two groups which outraged the Bishop of Salisbury in 1850. He was compelled by law to license their places of worship if requested. Who now remembers the Christian Socialists? Has the Church of Latter Day Saints established more than a toe-hold in England?

Yet certainly the LDS influence has pervaded Family History enthusiasts. But be warned - the "Mormon microfiche" is not infallible. The Saints do not claim that it was photographed on to gold halide film by the Angel Moroni. It is merely a copy of imperfect, incomplete registers kept by Anglican clergy under laws which were in no way designed to help the genealogist.

It is not fair to the Mormons to use their work without knowing why they did it. They believe in the efficacy of "baptism for the dead", a practice described by Saint Paul (I Cor 15-29). So a Mormon will wish to trace his own ancestors in order to receive baptism on their behalf and thereby bring them to salvation. If you have a Mormon relative you may find he has done your work for you.

This is by no means the only instance where it helps to know a church's doctrines or practices and their implications for family history. A Quaker is more likely than others to have made a will, since the Friends believe that a person should order his life - and death - efficiently. Baptisits believe in the baptism of adults and do not practice infant baptism. Their baptismal records are therefore more like the membership rolls of other churches, and some of their chapels kept a separate register of births. It was to cater for the Baptists that the Dr Williams's Library register (now in the PRO, Chancery Lane) recorded births rather than baptisms.

In my last article, BFHS vol 7 no 1, Autumn 1981, I pointed out that nonconformity matters, without really saying how to deal with it. Enquiries I have received have suggested some points that need to be covered. Since this article can only touch major points, if you suspect a nonconformist ancestry you should consult the standard books: Sources for Nonconformist Genealogy and Family History, by D J Steel

(Phillimore,1973). This is part of the Society of Genealogists' series A National Index of Parish Registers. As well as the regional volumes, there are some national, specialised ones. Besides Don Steel's - some of you may remember him from his Bulmershe days - there is a similar volume on Roman Catholic sources.

The regional volumes of the index, which do not yet include Berkshire, list all known registers, copies and transcripts. In particular they include the so-called Non-Parochial Registers for the region.

Before 1837 the only evidence of age and parentage which would be accepted without question in a court of law was a baptismal entry in the Anglican parish register. With the advent of civil registration the nonconformists saw an opportunity to gain legal status for their registers. They were successful, and registers deposited with the Registrar General (mainly in 1837 and in 1857) were given legal authenticity. These are now in the PRO at Chancery Lane. They include the burial register of Bunhill Fields, the City of London's cemetary which was largely used for nonconformists, and of course the central register of births transferred from Dr Williams's Library.

This last was mainly used by the three older denominations; the Presbyterians, Independants (Congregationalists) and Baptists. The English Presbyterians were quite distinct from the Scottish, Calvinistic variety. Most of their congregations became Unitarian (as in Newbury) or died out (as in Reading), though some became Congregationalist. The only one in the South of England which survived as a Prebyterian church (though now of course United Reformed) is in our county. When the Scottish church had become organised in England, Aston Tirrold joined it.

Many chapels of the Old Dissent deposited their records, as did Friends' meetings and some Roman Catholics. The largest group, and probably the one that will most concern BFHS members, is the registers of the Methodist circuits.

Most towns and villages in Berkshire have a Methodist chapel. The oldest of these was probably that belonging to Silvester Richards in St Mary's Butts, Reading, where John Wesley preached on 12th March 1747. In the villlages, while there are many Wesleyan chapels, many others derive from the evangelisation of John Ride and other Primitive Methodists which swept the county from the Wiltshire border in the years following 1829.

These chapels generally did not keep separate registers.

Methodist organisation is based on the Circuit, and it was its principal chapel which kept registers for the whole area. When tracing a Methodist family one must first find out which Circuit included their place of abode at the relevant time, remembering that boundaries often changed. Wesleyan and Primitive Methodists had a similar organisation, but of course their records are separate, the Circuits and boundaries different. If the registers were deposited, so that they are in the PRO, then those of any likely circuit church may be searched with relative ease. From 1818 to 1837 there was also a Metropolitan Wesleyan Register with over 10,000 entries, which is also in the PRO. If the registers were not deposited - and very many were not - it is worth trying the County Record Office in case the Circuit records have been deposited there. Otherwise it is a matter of finding out which Circuit Superintendant now holds the appropriate records.

With the older denominations we also have the problem of finding out which register a particular family might appear in. First of all, many congregations were drawn from a very wide area around the chapel and the catchment areas overlapped. Moreover, there was nothing to stop a family who had a local chapel attending another one some way away, perhaps because they preferred the minister; their register entries would not then appear in the records of the local chapel but in the one they had adopted. Another complication is that some registers belonged to the minister rather than to the congregation; he took it with him when he left, and it would contain entries for all the places he had served.

I could give a list of the three dozen Berkshire registers deposited with the Registrar General, but it would be misleading without a close study of the contents of each. It is much safer to treat each person or family as an individual case. Anyway, the registers are not the only documents available; membership rolls, dismisssal records (from one church to another) and minute books may all record even a relatively inactive churchgoer, while a minister or lay preacher should be even better documented. Registers by themselves are a skimpy source.

Most of the entries in nonconformist registers are of baptisms or births, but marriages and burials are registered to some extent.

Up to 1753 marriages were performed in meeting houses and are recorded in their registers. They are more common in Quaker and Baptist registers since Presbyterians and Independents often used the parish church. (The Methodists

were not then independent of the Church of England.)

From 1754 to 1837 marriages were legal only if celebrated in an Anglican church (except for those of Quakers and Jews). With those exceptions the parish registers contain all the marriages of the period apart from a few illegal Catholic ceremonies.

From 1837 all marriages apart from those of Anglicans, Quakers and Jews came under the civil registration procedure. Certificates are available from St Catherine's House. Until 1898 a local copy will always be held by the Superintendant Registrar; after that date chapels were permitted to keep their own registers and for those which did so the local Registrar will not hold a record.

To summarize: up to 1753 look for a meeting house register as well as the parish register; for 1754-1837 use the parish register except for Quakers, Jews and some Catholics; from 1837 use St Catherrine's House.

Now to burials. Most nonconformists were buried in the parish churchyard or in a cemetery where one existed (for example Bunhill Fields). Some meeting houses did have burial grounds. If a meeting house register exists, a burial record may be found in it or in the parish register or in both, wherever the actual burial took place. As always, there may be a monumental inscription.

Having made it clear, I hope, that nonconformists genealogy is unusually difficult, I have to add that I am prepared to give a limited amount of guidance. I had a number of letters following my previous article; those who read the Secretary's report in the Spring 1982 issue will have seen that Liz was apologizing for letters that possibly went unanswered. Her rogue postman was my postman too! in fact I got a handsome refund from the Post Office for one bit of genealogical research that went astray. I would also like to appeal for help. At a day-school on nonconformist local history last March, an informal interest group was set up. We are not likely to hold meetings or anything time-consuming like that; but we would quite like to know the names of people who have a special interest in, or knowledge of, any aspect of Berkshire nonconformity. I take that in its widest sense - Jews Catholics, Sikhs equally welcome, and does anyone know about the Labour Churches? I would particularly like to know of anyone knowledgeable about local Methodism.

(Please ring 0734-871154, evenings or weekends, or write to me at 38, Stanhope Road, Reading, RG2 7HN.)

Family History from Overseers' Accounts

Jean Debney

The office of Churchwarden is an ancient one, and that of the Overseers of the Poor dates from the Great Elizabethan Poor Law Act of 1601, so that, in theory, their records and accounts should be available for several hundred years. But in fact their survival rate is unpredictable and often disappointing. Where they do survive, the records of the overseer often provide valuable information regarding the health, wealth and fortune of certain families who, often through no fault of their own, find themselves "in receipt of parish relief".

Only one book of Accounts survives from the parish chest of Purley. It dates from 1825 to 1914. Until 1835, payments to the poor are mixed up with other accounts, including the poor rate assessments. After that date, payments to the poor are made by the Bradfield Union Guardians and the parish accounts are less useful to the family historian.

Week by week the payments are listed and at the end of each financial year (in March) any extra items are listed and the whole lot is totalled before being "passed" by two JPs. I am not sure how closely the books were audited and I must admit that I have not checked the churchwardens' sums, but it looks as if the entries were all made in one go, probably working from a notebook and memory. Occasionally there seems to be an omission or a repeated entry.

From my preliminary studies of the families who appear in these accounts, I have come to the conclusion that most receive parish relief through no fault of their own. Most of them only earned enough in agricultural work for a bare subsistence; illness or any other family crisis sent them immediately for help. I have not discovered any evidence of payment of a bread allowance under the Speenhamland system. This system stemmed from a suggestion made by a group of local JPs in 1795 to supplement labourers' low wages by payments from the parish. The payments would be in accordance with the prevailing price of bread and the number of children in the family.

Many of the families that I have reconstituted from the parish registers appear in the churchwardens' accounts; there are also some whose names only appear in this source. So even if your ancestors do not seem to belong to a parish, they may in fact be living there, having moved in to work.

Old age pensioners

Elderly parishioners figure largely among those receiving regular weekly payments: 3/6 for a man, 3/- for a woman and 6/- for a couple plus 9/-'s worth of wood or bavins (bundles

of brushwood or firewood) free each year if they are resident in the Parish. Payments ceased immediately on death and indicate when to look for the record of a burial. This is relatively easy when they are living in the parish, but not so good if they had had to move out of their tied cottage on retirement. Widow FORD lived at Henley and Widow Hannah SIMMONDS at Eton; I don't know where Richard and Rebecca MILLARD lived, but it was probably in Reading.

Dame LAMBOURN received 3/- per week plus the annual wood allowance. Payments ceased in October 1831, the burial register records - Ann LAMBOURN of Purley, buried 3 Oct 1831 aged 79. On 2nd October the parish paid her funeral expenses of £1/10/11d. Her bachelor brother, John SHERMAN had 3/6 per week plus wood, and his funeral expenses were £2/3/5d for burial on 25th March 1829 at the age of 79.

Occasional relief in family crises

The extra expense occasioned by a birth or death sent many folk "to the parish":

28 Nov 1829 - Midwifery for Dame WIGGINS - 5/-
(register entry - William son of George and Sarah WICKENS bap Purley 13 Jan 1829)

7 July 1832 - Funeral expenses attending TRUMAN child - 14/6
- Coffin for TRUMAN's child - 14/-
(register entry - Mary TRUMAN of Purley aged 12 years, bur 4 Jul 1832)

Removal orders

No settlement certificates, removal orders or similar allied papers survive for Purley but the churchwardens accounts give some clues of their previous existance:

March 1832
Paid to Messrs Blandy and Co. Solrs. for an appeal against an order for the removal of Harriet DEARLOVE from Saint Mary's, Reading, to this parish - which order was confirmed - - - - - £16/0/6d.

March 1833
T POPE's examination to settlement (away) - - 3/-

Illness or death of the breadwinner

Especially where there was a young family, extra payments were given, or purchases made, in the case of illness:

April 1828 - Mutton for ILSLEY's wife 2/-
Nov 1828 - Widow POPE - mutton (child ill) 1/6
April 1829 - Leech for Dame JORUM 1/4
- Blister for Dame JORUM 1/-

The parish had a contract for several years at £25 per annum with Messrs. HARRIS and Co., surgeons, to treat the poor of the parish.

When the breadwinner died, the parish supported any children until they were old enough to earn a living (this often had to be from the age of ten years). After Joshua FRANKLAND died in July 1828 his young family received 4/- each week, as well as the occasional item of clothing:

April 1829	- 2 pairs of shoes for FRANKLAND's children	- 10/8
Sept 1830	- clothing for FRANKLAND's children	- 16/-
	- shoes for FRANKLAND's children	- 7/6

And then a further crisis occurred:

August 1830	- different persons for attending Dame F. for several days and night (she) being in fits	- 11/-
	- rent of cottage for Dame F. - 22 weeks	- 16/6

An episode in the life of Richard NEW . . .

. . . whose family group card was illustrated in the Summer 1982 magazine (vol 7 no 4). In August 1828, the eldest child William is taken ill and the family receives regular payments of between 1/6d and 3/6d over the next few years. The midwife is paid 5/- in January 1929 (Richard, baptised Feb 1929) and again in Sept 1830. This last delivery runs into complications:

26 September 1830	- Dame NEW, midwifery	- 5/-
24 October 1830	- Dane NEW, ill	- 1/-
7 November 1830	- Nurse for Dame NEW	- 5/-

This youngest baby, Thomas, was baptised in November 1830. Various payments were made for illness over the next eighteen months, but it is not clear exactly who was ill. It might have been Jane who was buried in September 1833 when the parish paid:

21 September 1833	- NEW's child, funeral expenses	- 7/-
	- and coffin	- 10/3

From September 1828 regular payments of 1/6d per week were made to "R NEW's girl for attendance on William LUKEMAN". He was Dame Fanny NEW's grandfather and had been receiving his old man's allowance of 3/6 per week plus free wood for some time. By 1828 he was 87 years old and obviously getting frail, and it was probably his great grand-daughter, fifteen year old Eliza who was given the job of looking after him. A crisis occurred the following May when 1/-'s worth of castor

oil was purchased for he old man (I hope it did the trick . . .) and Dame NEW took over his care for which she received 3/- per week. By December 1829, Eliza was again able to look after him until he died in May 1829 at the ripe old age of 89 years. Surprisingly, the parish did not pay for his funeral. It is possible that he belonged to a Friendly Society or Funeral Club. He had certainly not been desperately poor when as a young man in 1809 he had paid a bill for goods from a Reading surgeon to the value of 10/6d. (This information comes from some accounts which are still in private hands.)

I hope that this illustrates some of the rich store of information that can be gleaned from this useful source of family history . . .

Back Issues Still Available

Volume 3 nos 1, 2, 3 and 4
Volume 4 nos 3 and 4 only
Volume 5 nos 1, 2, 3 (79-80 members' index) and 4
Volume 6 nos 2 and 4 only

Copies can be ordered from Maureen Braithewaite (address as back cover) price 50p per copy at meetings, 65p by post in UK or £1 sterling overseas.

SECRETARY'S REPORT

Liz Longhurst

The holiday season, which is quiet as regards Society meetings, means for me a flurry of enquiries and renewals of memberships.

It has been a great pleasure to have met personally George French (590) and later Christine Malham (607), as well as to have had numerous telephone enquiries and letters. I heard recently from a Mr Tegg in Australia who is almost certainly one of Bill's distant relatives, being another descendant of the infamous George Tegg (BFHS vol 4, no 4) and I feel confident of welcoming him as a member in due course.

In the four-page "Introduction" to the Society which we now send to new members (it is available on our bookstall too), the various indexes to which the Society has access are listed, together with the terms on which they may be consulted. I am giving the list here for the benefit of those people who haven't yet seen it. Please note that the Marriage Index and the Index to the Berkshire Protestation Oath Rolls do not "belong" to the BFHS but may be consulted

by kind permission of their respective compilers, and on terms which are agreeable to them.

1) The International Genealogical Index (Mormon Microfiche)
The Genealogical Society of Utah microfilms registers etc. whenever permission is granted and feeds the information into its computer. This produces a huge index which has been put onto microfiche. The BFHS has leased a copy of the 1978 edition for the whole of the British Isles and this may be consulted at the Berkshire Record Office.

Access is by personal visit to the BRO. Members may book a reader by phoning (0734) 875444 ext 3182.

2) BFHS Names Index
This index includes the names being extracted by some of our members from the Overseers' Records in the BRO. Two index slips are made for each name, the second of the sets goes into a special set of drawers on the index shelves at the BRO. The society's set is merged in the index with names from other sources, such as the memorial inscriptions also being transcribed by BFHS members.

Access to this, and to the Strays Index which follows, is either at one of our meetings or by post to Jean Debney at 8 Huckleberry Close, Purley, RG8 8HE.

3) Strays Index
"Strays" are people from Berkshire who have been found in the records of other counties, for example in baptismal registers or in census returns. Contributions for this index from any source will be welcome. If you find strays from other counties in any Berkshire records, please pass them to Jean Debney who will make sure that they are put through the Federation of Family History Society's clearing house for strays.

Access is as for 2) above

4) Members' Interests Index
This is being constantly updated and supplements to the 1982 edition are planned for 1983 and subsequent years.

Copies may be purchased from Jean Debney. Price £1 plus postage (25p UK, 50p or 3 IRCs overseas)

5) The Berkshire Marriage Index
This is being compiled by member John Brooks and is held in his own home. It covers the period from 1538 to 1837 for CofE marriages (where records exist). Records of other marriages, for example Quaker or Jewish, for the county would be welcomed. There are about 170,000 marriages at present. He also has an index of about 6,000 "stray" marriages (brides and grooms). His main index,

however, is in alphabetical sequence of grooms' names only.

Access is only through Liz Longhurst either at a meeting, please put your request in writing though, or by post, address as back cover.
NOTE: searches for specific names only can be carried out, LISTS of names will not be provided.

6) Index to the Berkshire Protestation Oath Rolls (1642) Compiled by Chris and John Townsend, it is kept in their home. As all males over the age of 18 had to sign, they are a useful form of "mini-census", though not all the rolls survive.

Applications for information, specific name entries only, LISTS of names will not be provided, should be posted direct to John Townsend, 9 Stanton Close, Earley, Reading, RG6 2DX.

* Postal Application Rates:-
members: sae (or three IRCs)
non-members: 50p per entry + sae (or 3 IRCs)

I have heard that not all requests contain the very small amounts asked for towards postal and administrative costs. Please remember to include the stamped addressed envelope (or IRCs but see below) and, in the case of non-members, the fee. If these very modest requirements are not met, we reserve the right to leave requests unanswered.

Overseas members may prefer to purchase British stamps direct from the British Post Office Philatelic Bureau, 20 Brandon Street, Edinburgh, EH3 5TT. If this is done, then the high cost of International Reply Coupons can be avoided.

I look forward to meeting some of you at our meetings in the autumn and am relishing the thought of seeing the Family Trees and Histories which will be on display, and perhaps in the competition too, during our Open Day on Saturday, 23rd October.

As ever, happy hunting.

MEMBERS' PAGES

Changes of address

178 Major R Hudson
Hudson Enterprises
PO Box Mae Ping 1146
Chiang Mai Thailand

418 Richard Green
18 Folly Avenue
St Albans
AL3 5QD

Changes of Address (continued)

299 Mr A C Westall
8 Stoneham Close
Petersfield
Hants GU32 3BX

554 Mr Arden H Brame Jr II
9545 E Guess Street
Rosemead
California 91770 USA

General

168 Mr A D Fox
165 Cubbington Road
Lillington
Royal Leamington Spa
Warwicks CV32 7AZ

has been researching for some five years now and has C18 and C19 interests in old Berkshire from Coleshill and Great Coxwell: ATKINS, ELCOM and WESTHILL; and from North Hinksey: WILKINS.

589 Mrs Pauline Wales
5 Foxglove Close
Simons Park
Wokingham
RG11 2NE

housewife and mother, has been researching for three years. She has extracted many of the WALES in St Catherine's House. Her Berkshire interest is in C19 BOND in Reading and Burghfield.

596 Mrs D W Wood
109 Brookside Drive
Springville
Utah 84663 USA

housewife, is enquiring into early C19 W(H)ITNEYs, mainly from the Windsor area. She will be most grateful for any information which members can provide.

598 Dick and Carolyn Abery
13 Stonor Close
Didcot OX11 7LF

have only just started their researching and have got back to early C20 with their own name in Reading, CLARK (Bray area), DALTON (Maidenhead) and ROLLS (Bray).

602 Mr & Mrs S A Harris
68A Beecham Road
Reading RG3 2RD

Mr Harris is a traffic warden and has been engaged in his research for about 10 years. His Berkshire ancestors came from tha Wokingham and Winkfield areas mid C18. They were CHEESEMAN, SE(A)RL(E) and STRIKE. Help please!

608 Mrs J Shaw
c/o David E Shaw
105 Branch Avenue
Red Bank
NJ 07701 USA

has most of her names from congregational registers. Her families came from the Newbury and East Woodhay areas: SHAW back to mid C18, RUMSEY early C19, CRUS mid C18.

612 Mr Mike Cross
13 Buxton Road
Wembley Downs
Western Australia
6019

writes, "My original ancestor in Western Australia (WA) was James John CROSS who was born in Kingston Bagpuize in 1830, the eldest son of George and Hannah. George Cross is shown on James's death certificate as a blacksmith and appears to have died before James was

10. The 1841 census for Kingston Bagpuize lists James (10) and his sister Priscilla (8) living with Hannah and George WATTS, so presumably Hannah remarried. In the 1851 census George and Hannah Watts have Priscilla Cross, daughter-in-law, still with them. There is also another Cross family in the village, Richard and Mary and their children Ann, John, Sarah and Martha. James Cross is missing from the 1851 census. He was probably at Abingdon on census day as on 26th February, 1851, he was convicted along with John Tucker, Jos Rowles and John Bushnell of "feloniously setting fire to stacks". The Berkshire Chronicle of 1st March, 1851, recorded that James Cross (21) and John Tucker (17) set fire to the property of Wm Brooks at Kingston Bagpuize and also destroyed a plough. The paper said that Caroline Thatcher said at the time of the fire that Cross and his wife lodged with her. The incident was also recorded in the Times of London on 4th March. All four arsenist received sentences of 15 years and were transported in the "William Jardine" which arrived at Freemantle on 4th August 1852. James received his "ticket of leave" in 1854 and in 1859 he married Ann SWIFT and it is from their offspring that I am descended. James died of influenza in 1871. There is no evidence that James ever attempted to bring his wife to Western Australia, or that she ever came to the colony. This was not unusual as the convicts were generally unable to afford the cost of passage for their families, even if they could locate them after some years away from England. Eventually the authorities turned a blind eye to the great majority of the convicts in WA entering into de facto, bigamous marriages.

"I have traced the entire family of descendants of James and Ann Cross and am writing a book about them, especially the early members who were pioneers of the pearling industry in WA.

"It would be most interesting if I could trace James's other family in England (the convict records show that he and his wife had one child when he was transported) as well as the Cross family tree in England. I am also interested to learn more of the circumstances that lead to James's conviction - I believe it may have had something to do with the protests by agricultural labourers at that time over the application of the Speenhamland system of poor relief.

"I would be very grateful for any assistance other members may be able to give me."

622 Revd D E West
298 Stoke Poges Lane
Slough SL1 3LL

a clergyman, is interested in the DOWSE family, mainly from East Anglia. He is very interested in church funerary monuments, especially C17 ones and is a member of the International Society for Church Monuments.

Free and Reciprocal Research

593 Mrs K M Benny
19 Mary Vale
Godalming
Surrey
GU7 1SW

schoolteacher, is prepared to reseach reciprocally in the Guildford area. Her interests are from DBY and the DBY/STS borders, Marylebone C19 and in BRK: GARLICK Sutton Courtney C19.

594 Mr S P Excell
61 Loxwood Avenue
Broadwater
Worthing
West Sussex BN14 7RF

retired bank official, has a considerable knowledge of Sussex and its records and will be prepared to research freely or reciprocally (but no protracted searches in parish registers etc.). His BRK interests are: EXCELL Newbury area, KENT Sonning.

607 Mrs Christine Malham
4726 Placidia Avenue
North Hollywood
CA 19602 USA

is a co-owner of a film laboratory for television and motion pictures. Her BRK relations were from Reading and Tilehurst: MALHAM, BRYANT, STROUD. She has also found MALHAMs in Basildon and there are GROVERS from Sulham. She will research reciprocally within locally available records.

610 Miss C D Critcher
11 Arnold Road
Laleham
Middlesex TW18 1LY

an administrative officer, has been researching for under a year. Her family came from Chiswick, Birmingham, the WIL/BRK borders and BRK. She is prepared to do reciprocal research in the Greater London area. Her own name, CROCKETT and NEWTON (mid C19) came from Holyport and Bray. Help please!

611 Mr A R Tigwell
102 Balaclava Road
Eastwood
NSW 2122
Australia

is a self employed importer of Scottish and Celtic jewellery. He would like to pursue a theory that the people of Tonqueville were transferred from Normandy at about the time of the Norman conquest, gradually moving from S. HAM until one branch settled at Ufton Nervet. He will research freely in NSW. He has discovered that there were many variations of his name such as TIGAL, TIGGOLD, etc.

616 Mrs Alison K Englefield
34 Florence Road
West Bridgford
Nottingham NT2 5HR

mother and part-time textile designer and artist is interested in her name in Stratfield Mortimer, the Reading area or in the BRK area in general. She will research reciprocally in Nottingham. Her other interests are in DBY, LAN, LND and ANS.

B F H S COMMITTEE for 1982-83

Chairman

Cliff Debney
8 Huckleberry Close
Purley
Reading RG8 8EH
tel Reading 413223

Treasurer

Roger Stacey
10 Lakeside
Earley
Reading RG6 2PQ
tel Reading 64544

Projects Co-ordinator

Polly Lawrence
2 White House Cottages
The Ridgeway
Wantage OX12 8XL
tel Wantage 4798

Computer Sub-committee

Chris Bingley
Westwood
52 New Road
Twyford RG10 9PT
tel Twyford 340734

Magazine Despatch

Maureen Braithwaite
47 Avalon Road
Earley
Reading RG6 2NR
tel Reading 666211

Vice-Chairman

Brian Hunt
2 Warfield Road
Bracknell RG12 2JB
tel Bracknell 3426

Secretary

Liz Longhurst
20 Stanhope Road
Reading RG2 7HL
tel Reading 873888

Minutes Secretary

Adrian Todkill
44 Elms Road
Wokingham RG11 2AA
tel Wokingham 789866

Magazine Librarian

Margery Mayes
3 Chetwode Close
Wokingham RG11 2LL
tel Wokingham 780046

Committee Members

Ann Armstrong
Fortune's Well
41 New Road
Twyford RG10 9PS
tel Twyford 340537

Pauline Wales
5 Foxglove Close
Wokingham Berks
tel West Forest 5251

Editor

Alf Ison
20 Boundary Close
Tilehurst
Reading RG3 5ER

Strays Co-ordinator/Indexes/Library

Jean Debney
8 Huckleberry Close
Purley
Reading RG8 8EH

Published by the Berkshire Family History Society

Printed by