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Winter 1982/83

Volume 8 number 2

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The **next issue** is due for distribution at the March meeting and will be posted during March/April to other members.

STOP PRESS Next **work-in** date is Saturday 14th May, 1983, from 10am 'til 5pm at the Friends' Meeting House, Church Street, Reading. Please make a note of the date - and make the day a success by turning up in great numbers.



Class III, Wilson Road Infants, Reading, 1910-11

Edith May Woodley 2nd from right, front row

The Woodley Family

Phyllis Lindsay

It would seem that generations of the WOODLEY family have lived in the Yattendon/Ashampstead area of Berkshire for many hundreds of years.

Research has shown that they were agricultural labourers, wood cutters and general labourers throughout the years. This pattern was broken when three Woodley brothers left the county in the early 1900s for Australia and Canada, and since then, many of their descendants have returned to visit Berkshire to see where their roots began.

The three brothers, all sons of Josiah Woodley and Elizabeth Kent, who emigrated were:-

1 Robert Woodley, born in Ashampstead on 30th April, 1871, he married Mary Jane Vince and had a family of five children. Robert worked on the Watney estate, but left for Australia in 1911 with his family. He settled in Queensland. Descendants of his can be found in most of the major cities in Australia. He and Jane were buried in Brisbane.

2 Henry James Woodley, born in Ashampstead on 13th March, 1878, married Ada Palmer, daughter of Robert and Ellen Palmer of Ashampstead. They left for Canada one week after their wedding on 13th April, 1905. They first lived in Victoria, British Columbia, then later moved to the prairie provinces, finally settling at Stony Plain, Alberta. They had a family of seven. All are wheat farmers in Alberta. Jim and Ada are buried at Stony Plain.

3 Edward Woodley, born in Ashampstead on 7th May 1873, married Ellen Gertrude Fisher, daughter of Luke Fisher and Emma Willis, on 4th August, 1893 at St Paul's Yattendon. "Ted" was a bricklayer by trade and worked on many of the buildings in Reading. Ted and Nell had a family of five. Hilda, born in Yattendon, and Ernest, Maurice, Leonard and Edith, all born in Reading. Edith attended Wilson Road School in Reading before their departure for Canada in 1911. A copy of her school photograph is reproduced opposite - can anyone identify any of the pupils or the teacher? The year is 1910/11.

Ted and Nell and their five children sailed for Canada from Bristol in the "Royal George".

They settled in Victoria, BC, where Ted carried on his trade as a bricklayer. Their son Ernest returned to England in 1914 as a member of the Canadian Army. Ted and Nell lived into their 90s, in excellent health to the end. Both are buried in Victoria. Their children and grandchildren have returned to Berkshire many times to visit the villages of Ashampstead and Yattendon, with the writer of these notes, a daughter of Edith Woodley and grand-daughter of Edward and Ellen, visiting the villages in September, 1981.

Extensive research has been done on the families connected with the Woodley family. Correspondence is welcomed and information will be gladly shared

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BOOKS FOR THE GENEALOGIST
or
A Quick Sprint Past Some Library Shelves

John Gurnett

The first introduction to the study of family history usually comes from a chance remark from someone in the family or just a need to know about our own particular grandparents. Once started, it's hard to stop. As genealogists we get side tracked into local history, geography, social history, architecture, the list is endless. Having laid out the bare bones of our family we begin to want to know more about how people lived, what they had to eat, how much they earned and even what their pleasures were. With the vast resources of our public libraries, from the British Museum down to the travelling village library, at our disposal, the question most often asked is where to begin?

This short account is meant to point the way, set up some signposts for your exploration. Of necessity it can only scrape away at the huge store of material in libraries, but once started you can find your own way through the maze of catalogues and bibliographies.

For the broad brush approach there's G M Trevelyan's English Social History, an account of the English people from Chaucer to the end of the Victorian era. It does tend to concentrate on the Middle and Upper classes, and to an extent it's a little out of date, but for all that it's a valuable start. Another broad approach is Quennell's History of Everyday Things in England. In five volumes, it begins in 1066 and continues until 1968. Full of line drawings and illustrations and written in easy to understand English, it is probably one of the best histories of what life was like for the majority of Britons.

Another interesting book on rural life is Jekyll and Jones' Old English Household Life, a somewhat romantic view of life in the countryside. The major problem with the older social histories is that they tend to talk about Society as if it consisted entirely of the upper and middle classes, ordinary people are hardly worth a mention. One of the main reasons for this apparent rejection of the working man is that very few records exist on how they lived. Fortunately for us modern historians have set the record straight, and the newer histories do concentrate as much on the life in the hovel as in the drawing room.

It is remarkable how many records have been found which do throw a great deal of light on ordinary people. For instance a new series of volumes, The Pelican Social History of England gives some revealing glimpses into the lives of the poor of Britain, and at £2.95p a volume is well worth the price. While we are with the poor, the increasing amount of material being made available from the Poor Law Records should be mentioned. There are a number of county guides available such as The Guide to the Sussex Poor Law Records, but for a national history Taylor's The Problem of Poverty is worth looking at. For city life Asa Briggs' Victorian Cities and R Roberts' The Classic Slum, an evocation of slum life in Salford in the early 20th century, are both

well worth reading. The How They Lived series, which runs from 55BC until 1815, is also worth a glance. These marvellous books are compiled from original documents, written at the time, and cover topics such as food, drink, housing, crime and education.

Another overview of Victorian country life comes from the magnificent two volume Victorian Countryside, a collection of essays on life in rural communities, from labourers to Lords. Two other books worth mentioning here are J L and B Hammond's The Town Labourer, 1769-1832 and its companion volume The Village Labourer. For an unparalleled profile of a village community do try to get hold of a copy of Richard Gough's History of Myddle. Written in 1701, this remarkable study of the social and economic structure of a rural community is carried out family by family, based on the pew seats in the village church. It brims over with anecdotes on the inhabitants of this small Shropshire village.

For more personal recollections there are the autobiographies of the not so famous. Like Isaac Mead in The Life Story of an Essex Lad, about his life on a farm in the second half of the nineteenth century. Or the Diary of Thomas Turner, an eighteenth century shopkeeper of East Hoathley in Sussex, who wrote about his daily life, his wife and children, his drinking and dining. Another invaluable book is the Diary of a Country Parson by James Woodforde and then, of course, the Rural Rides of William Cobbett. There's A Victorian Poacher by James Hawker, and Molly Hughes' delightful trilogy which begins with A London Girl in the 1880s and ends with an account of her own children in the 1930s.

Sometimes one comes across books of edited recollections like Across the Years, produced by the Walthamstow Antiquarian Society, a record of the personal memories of Walthamstow residents dating back to 1860.

If you are looking for a particular biography there is a handy little index in British Autobiographies Written Before 1951. This book is indexed by place and by the occupation of the writer. So if you want an autobiography of a coalminer in Derbyshire, it's quite possible to find one. Incidentally, there is a companion volume on British Diaries.

Perhaps it is worth mentioning here some other biographical sources. You may have used the Dictionary of National Biography, but have you also delved into the Victorian Boase's Modern English Biography, in six volumes, or the magazine Notes and Queries, with its easy to use indexes? In addition, Musgrave's Obituary, an index to death notices before 1800 of the nobility and landed gentry, is an important source of background information. Another under-used source is the Book of Dignities, which lists all the holders of important office in Britain for the past 800 years.

There are many photographic collections. Grandfather's London, an interesting collection of photographs taken in the streets of Greenwich around 1885, or the still more remarkable A Richer Dust, photographs from an Edwardian photo album, with an account of the family who took them. For pictures of life in England there is also a series on the

Life and Work of the People of England. With a volume devoted to each century, it has some good pictures of the life and times of ordinary people. Another good source is the American Library Association's Portrait Index, with thousands of portraits taken from printed books and periodicals.

So much for non-fiction, but then there's the whole range of fictional works which can provide valuable insights into the life of our ancestors, and give an added dimension to what we read in history. Bleak House, Nicholas Nickleby and Hard Times are a splendid beginning to understanding what life was like for our great-grandparents, scraping a living in the impoverished cities of Victorian times. Scharzback's Dickens and the City forms a good starting point for any study of life through the Victorian novel. Another interesting book on life in London is Keating's Working Class Stories of the 1890s, a collection of short stories describing life in the poorer East End of London during what we have come to know as the naughty nineties. There are harsher words to describe the workhouses for the urban poor as you will discover.

Novels like Herbert Jenkins' Bindle series, on the life of an Edwardian removal man, told with humour, they paint a rosy picture of life in London at the turn of the century. A less romantic, and probably more accurate view can be found in The Ragged Trousered Philanthropist, the story of a house painter and decorator, who became involved in the trade union movement before the first world war. This "novel" is, in reality, a fairly detailed biography of Robert Tressell, and contains one of the best descriptions of a parliamentary election outside Charles Dickens.

Another good read is Flora Thompson's Still Glides the Stream, a portrait of an Oxfordshire village in the 1880s, and of course we must not forget our own Mary Russell Mitford's Our Village, a delightful account of her days spent in Three Mile Cross, which first appeared in the Lady's Magazine in 1819 and has been reprinted dozens of times since then.

In most cases these books have bibliographies, so once you start on a particular track it can be followed down any number of paths. There's nothing better than spending a few idle hours wandering around a big reference library, just taking down the odd book and leafing through its pages. But always remember, if you are stuck ask the librarian, they can be very helpful.

The Sheer Number of our Ancestors

D T O'Rourke

Go back thirty generations and we should theoretically have had one or two billion ancestors each, only there weren't that many people around. Your editor only partly explained the paradox. We have all those billions of ancestors; they are only a few million separate individuals.

Each of us has two parents. Most of us have four grandparents: incest is relatively rare and usually undisclosed. We may have eight grand-parents and sixteen ancestors in the next generation. It was shown that a second cousin marriage reduces the number of ancestors at this level from sixteen to fourteen.

Could you find yourself with four great-grandparents instead of eight? It only needs two brothers of one family to marry two sisters of another and then for two of their respective children to contract a first-cousin marriage. Children of that marriage would have four grandparents but only four great grandparents. Marriages giving rise to such situations would not be particularly unusual, especially in a small community.

In addition to the previous indication of the effect of second cousin marriage, I have added the effect of related people marrying non-relatives who are themselves related. I have tangled the branches of the well-pruned family tree.

Someone might like to work out how far the sixteen great-great-grandparents can be reduced. The branch of mathematics called network theory is not one that I have studied. Meanwhile what about a "Multiple Cousins Award" as well as the "Remotest Cousins Award"? These would go to people who found themselves to be related in more than one way, through different ancestors.

ELEMENTARY MY DEAR WATSON

Chris Bingley

Last year (in volume 6 number 3) I wrote of the problems I was having in tracing the birth of my ancestor Watson Bingley, and had got to the point where he was living in adjacent addresses in 1849 (at the birth of a son - also named Watson Bingley) and 1855 (at his tardy marriage). The 1851 census was obviously the next stop, however there was no sign of him in that census at any address in that street. Since he clearly was none too settled (at this point I had three different addresses and three different occupations for him) I checked in detail all houses in the streets he had lived in and the one his wife lived in at their marriage, repeating the check for each of the 1851, 1861 and 1871 census returns. But still he could not be found.

So where do I go from there? Clearly, it would not be practicable to search even one years' census for the whole of London, and therefore I needed further addresses to help. Having already obtained the certificates for all the likely births, I thought I would try the deaths. Upon finding, and obtaining, Watson's death certificate (his wife I believe died later), I found yet another address and occupation, but on checking the census returns, he still could not be found. The only option that seemed to remain was the marriage of his son (Watson the younger) which, not being on my line, I had not previously obtained. With yet another address and occupation for my Watson I returned again to Portugal Street with little optimism, only to find that at last I had succeeded. There he was with his wife and three sons (I only knew of two before this!) and with yet another occupation!

From this census entry, I now knew that he had been born in Cottingham

(just outside Hull) in about 1825, and that his father, Thomas, was a "Gentleman". I tried the 1841 census for Cottingham, but with my luck there was, of course, no trace of him.

Unfortunately, it was not until very recently that I was able to take a few days off and my wife and I travelled to Beverley, the home of the Humberside Record Office. Once there, we would be able to look for his baptism, and hopefully those of lots of relatives too. There's nothing like hoping.

Locating his baptism did not take long. He was born in 1826 to Thomas Robinson, a labourer(!), and Elizabeth Bingley. Oh dear, was the father Thomas Robinson Bingley or just Thomas Robinson? No other baptisms of Bingleys appeared in the register, nor were there any Bingley marriages. So we started on the task of checking adjoining parishes; the only entry to be found that seemed to be of any interest was that of the baptism of one Thomas Robinson in 1807, so it did look as though they had not been married. After a number of hours spent poring over registers, with eyes aching and little further progress having been made, we decided that we should stop for this visit and review what approach to take on our next trip.

Before returning home, we thought we would look at the church where Watson was baptised, and at the farm where his parents had lived at that time. The church turned out to be larger and more ornate than I had expected; obviously Cottingham had not been just an average village. The churchyard was of a reasonable size and in fair order, so we decided to look around, on the off-chance of there being any Bingleys buried there. To our surprise there was a headstone for Elizabeth Bingley, and for her son William Bingley and husband Thomas Robinson Bingley.

From the inscribed dates, it was clear that William was Watson's older brother by about 13 years and that at Watson's birth, Elizabeth had been aged about forty. One would have thought that there would be some other children as well, but we had not found any, nor, for that matter, had we found the baptism of the William we had now discovered. It would seem likely that they had moved into this parish shortly before the birth of Watson. So now I needed a clue to another parish to check. Since Elizabeth died in 1844, William in 1850 but Thomas not until 1864, I should be able to find him in the area in the 1851 and 1861 census returns, so that is to be my next step. But why didn't I find them in 1841? Probably because I had only checked Cottingham whilst the farm he worked on is some three to four miles away.

Although I can now continue with my research along this line, I have a fresh puzzle. The gravestone we had found had some very distinctive carving; the adjacent gravestone was very similarly carved - but we did not see any others like them. Just a coincidence? Maybe, but that adjacent gravestone is for one Thomas Watson and his wife who were of the same generation as Thomas and Elizabeth Bingley. Could this be a member of the family my Watson was named after?

BFHS Open Day - Family Tree Competition

Jeremy Gibson

When you are faced with no less than twenty exhibits of family trees, with no apparent criteria except that they needed to fit within one or two display panels, how do you attempt to assess and compare them?

Right from the start it was obvious that each and every one deserved a prize. However my suggestion that the prize money of £10 be split into twenty prizes of 50p each instead of just three was rejected by the organisers!

To start with I worked through them in numerical order, making notes on each as they struck me. Even doing this took about two hours. After "light refreshment" for lunch (the pub could only run to crisps), I settled down to decide how each could be judged against each other.

Unfortunately the requirements for a display of this nature are pretty well the opposite of what distinguishes good genealogical research. I could take no account of the months and years that had probably gone into the discovery of the pedigree; nor even of the hours that had been taken in the preparation of each exhibit. The essence of family history is in building up a picture of the lives of one's ancestors, but this might easily result in a whole book on just one or two people. Detailed research requires and deserves detailed study - but even spending a total of three hours on the exhibits - far longer I imagine than anyone else present - meant I could look at none for more than ten minutes.

This gave me my guideline - if your exhibit has to attract attention from nineteen "competing" displays, then it has to get its message home very quickly and simply. And this, I now realised, is important. Even in our mutually-adulatory company, few have time to study another's work. Outside this circle, we have first to grab the interest of the inherently uninterested. Not for them, nor for the viewers of this exhibition, the niceties and minutiae of genealogical research, satisfactory though it has been to us in the process.

Thus I awarded points for layout, general clarity and calligraphy (including of course typing); for evidence of source material; for illustrations: portraits, places, documents; for narrative accompanying the tree; and for anything else which struck me but did not come into these categories. The emphasis, unashamedly, was on the initial impression I got.

The range of displays and presentations was amazing. Some did not even incorporate a pedigree, in the recognised form, at all. In several, which I liked, the tree was mainly there to show use of particular documents census and probate records for instance. One included a nightdress case, with the suggestion (not fully carried out) that the tree might be built round the various owners good potential here. This also included maps showing the mobility of the

family. Even better use of maps, tied to photographs of the places mentioned, was in the display of Shetland ancestry (also showing most interesting evidence of patronymics). May of the displays used photos of ancestors, postcards or photos of the places they lived, occasionally pictures of the trades they followed, and photocopies of directories, certificates, census entries and other records. At least one showed three or four generations back with photos of virtually every ancestor recorded. There were also several in book form - this of course enabled far more detailed information to be shown. I particularly liked the quotation from a Baptist Church Minute Book, which brought to light an unexpected hazard:

1818 Oct 27 - drought continuing.

Dec 1 - still no water sufficient for
the ordinance of baptism.

Without the pedigrees of display for reference, there is no point mentioning each one and the aspects I particularly liked, as I did before giving my verdict. Suffice to say that I had awarded scores of between four and one for each of the points listed. The winning layout got 28 points, those equal second 26, over half the remainder over 20 and none were out of double figures.

The equal second places were awarded to:

Alice Bamford - The Strudwicke Family

In this I was much influenced by her really superb calligraphy, which made the tree a thing of beauty even before it was examined. The tree shown was very clear, interesting notes relating to each generation were shown at either side (indicating considerable depth of research) and, on another panel, photos of people, places and documents were keyed to the individuals they concerned by use of coloured symbols.

Brian Hunt - Where There's a Will - The Loft Family

in the 17th Century

An example of how probate records could amplify the bare details found in parish registers. Several generations were shown, with three or four photocopies of wills, the names suitably keyed by coloured underlining, and a concise narrative to bring it all together.

Whilst I had been examining the entries, I had been guided from one to the next by a helpful lady whose name I had quite forgotten to notice. It was with surprise and pleasure therefore that I found that I had awarded the first prize to the actual organiser of the whole display:

Maureen Braithwaite - Braithwaite Pedigree

This was a lovely, simple layout, showing about half a dozen generations, the progenitor in each generation centred, clearly written, with characterful portraits, well photographed places, one well chosen document and a first class but concise narrative.

I later learnt it was originally designed for an exhibition of hobbies, thus having had in the first place to compete "in the market place" for attention from people not necessarily interested in the past and their ancestors.

Open Day

Maureen Braithwaite

Thank you to all those members who helped to make this year's Open Day so very successful! Thanks to the excellent publicity laid on by John Gurnett and Diane Wetherell, we welcomed over 150 visitors, some of whom had travelled considerable distances to be with us - the Englefields and their two toddlers had travelled from Nottingham for the day. The library and bookstall were particularly popular and Jean Debney and her colleagues had a very busy day. Chris Bingley was also kept very busy all day demonstrating, to a steady stream of interested visitors, the use of his computer in recording the 1851 Berkshire census in readiness for its eventual indexing.

Especial thanks must go to everyone who brought along their family trees, which illustrated so fully the many different ways in which we can display our researches. Many hours of work had obviously been put into them. As this was our first venture into competitive display we had left it open to each member to choose his own theme and form of exhibit. Your ideas or suggestions for a similar event next year would be very welcome.

We must also thank Jeremy Gibson who so kindly came along to judge the "Family Trees" for us. He found that he had a long and difficult job but his obvious enjoyment of the task was made very clear and in his summary he had though that "... he would have liked to award everyone a prize". The prizes were presented by the Mayor of Reading, Mr George Robinson.

=====

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Dear Editor,

I find it very interesting to see what lines of interest others have in their research, I never thought to seek for anything other than my direct and lateral forebears although I am most interested in the places where they lived. It makes them so much more real when I can visit the towns and see the streets they knew - sometimes the actual buildings!

Of course, when I saw that my grandmother's last home (in Willow Street, behind the Maltings in Southampton Street) had been demolished for the one-way system, it made me quite sad. Still, I can remember it very well, and I don't suppose that many people today would like to live in those little nineteenth century terraced houses . . .

Yours sincerely,

Sheila Crowley (signed)

Identifying a Coat of Arms

J E Titterton

A coat of arms may contain useful genealogical information for the family and local historian. To utilise this information the researcher must be capable of putting a name to a coat of arms and to appreciate the family relationships implied by the various combinations of arms on one shield. This article is only intended to give very basic guidance on these two aspects of Heraldry, so the reader will eventually need access to certain reference books to achieve this end. Details of the various books available are listed at the end of the article. Main reference libraries generally have the principle ones required. A full explanation of several of the aspects discussed is not possible in the space available, such items have been marked an * and the reader should consult one of the reference books for further details.

Unless the coat of arms is on something readily portable, it will be necessary to make a simple but detailed drawing of the arms and to take the drawing to the reference books. It may be preferable to supplement such drawings with a written description of certain of the details. For example, the lions on the Royal Arms of England can be described as walking from right to left with three feet on the ground, one forepaw raised and facing out of the shield. The positions of the feet and head are very important and perhaps are best described rather than drawn.

The first step in putting a name to a coat of arms is to produce the correct heraldic description of the arms. This description is called a blazon. Once the blazon is completed the researcher can use one of the two main reference books to find the associated surname. The first one is Burke's General Armoury. It lists, in alphabetical order by surname, most, but certainly not all, coats of arms one may encounter. It can be used when a possible identification of the arms is known, either from the situation of the arms concerned or from other researches. If such additional information is not available, then the second book, Papworth's Ordinary of Arms, must be used. This lists arms in an order based on their blazons. More comprehensive details of this book appear below. To be able to use it, it is essential to blazon the arms correctly.

The production of a blazon requires some knowledge of how a coat of arms is built up. One starts with the plain surface of the shield which is called the field. Onto this field, a selection of heraldic devices can be placed, in a variety of positions. These devices are called charges. Further charges can be placed on top of the initial charges.

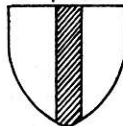
Charges fall into three categories: ordinaries, sub-ordinaries and object charges. Ordinaries are solid bands

placed on the field, traversing it from one side to the other. The principle ordinaries found in English coats of arms are illustrated on the right. The bar is a slightly narrower version of the fess. A bend which goes from top right to bottom left is called a bend sinister. Ordinaries in their basic form have straight border lines but there are several types of ornamental lines*. With the exception of the chief, the ordinaries occupy the central part of the field. The chief can be on the same shield as any of the other ordinaries except the fess. Other pairings are rare. However two or more bars, pales, bends or chevrons do occur together. The field appearing on either side as well as between them. Very narrow versions* of these charges are called barrulet, pallet, bendlet and the chevronel respectively. If the main ordinary is shown with a small diminutive version on either side, however, it is then described as cotised* (a pale in such circumstances is called endorsed) Note: two barrulets placed close together may be called a bar gemmel.

a fess



a pale



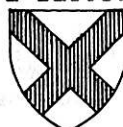
a bend



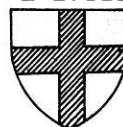
a chevron



a saltire



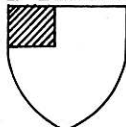
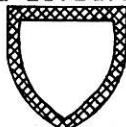
a cross



a chief



a bordure a canton



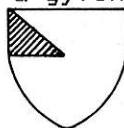
escutcheon



a fret



a gyron



a lozenge



a roundel



Subordinaries are again basically geometric devices placed on a shield but they are smaller than the ordinaries. The principle ones are illustrated on the left, but there are others. The lozenge* has a number of variants.

The remaining heraldic charges are representations of objects, real or imaginary. The number of them is so large and the variety of objects so diverse that it is impossible to illustrate or list them here. A comprehensive range is covered in Boutell's

Heraldry, which is well illustrated, and in some of the other books referred to below. Many charges are easily identified though some based on medieval objects are not instantly recognisable. An example of such a charge is the maunch, the sleeve of a medieval garment.

The correct heraldic names of the charges must be estab-

lished. There is usually an heraldic term to describe the stance or position of birds and beasts, for example, the description of the lions of England given above reduces to "passant guardant". Again, such terms can be found from reference books. No small detail on the original should be ignored, it may be significant. For example, if the charge is the head of a beast, one must know if the neck is depicted as cut cleanly from its body (couped) or torn away (erased). Thus it is important to make the drawing, or description, from the original source as accurate as is possible. It should be noted that if a small charge is found in the centre or centre chief of the arms, it may not be a proper charge but a mark of cadency*, used to indicate a younger branch of the family.

Once the ordinaries, subordinaries and object charges have been identified, it only remains to describe the "tincture", or colouring, of these charges and of the field. In some cases the arms to be identified may not be coloured, the researcher will then have to check all the possible combinations, which may be a mammoth task! For printed, engraved or carved arms a system of hatching* may have been used to indicate the correct tincture.

Tinctures are divided into metals, colours and furs, as follows:-

metals	gold/yellow	or	or
	silver/white	argent	arg
colours	red	gules	gu
	blue	azure	az
	black	sable	sa
	purple	purpure	purp
	green	vert	vert
	*there are three other colours		
	but they are rarely found		
furs	of the furs, ermine is the most readily identified with its black flecks on white, three* other versions exist made by white flecks on black, gold flecks on black and black flecks on gold		
	vair*, the other fur, is an alternating pattern of blue and white shapes, but again there are different colour combinations.		

The field of a shield is not necessarily of a single tincture. It can be divided into a number of parts by straight lines, when two tinctures can be used. These dividing lines take their names from the ordinaries which they resemble. Thus we have party per fess and also per pale, per bend, per chevron, per saltire and per cross. Further division can also be found: paly of four or paly of six describes the division of the field into four or six parts by vertical lines (from the pale) likewise bendy of four and bendy of six refer to such divisions using diagonal

lines. Barry is the term used for horizontal divisions. Chevrony and Gyrony (based on the subsidiary) are also found.

It is important to appreciate the distinction between the blazons "two pales" and either "paly of four" or "paly of six". The first describes two ordinaries on one field, the latter pair are each two different fields. This distinction also applies to the fields barry, bendy and chevrony with their appropriate ordinaries.

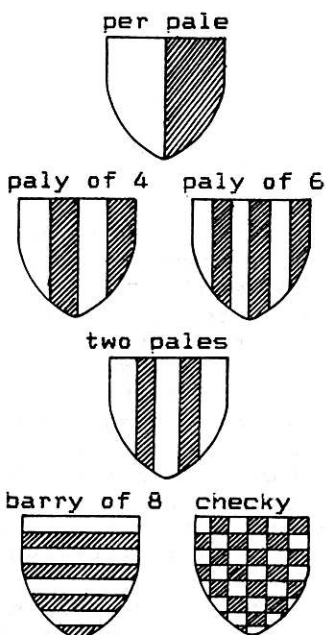
More complicated fields are made up by using combinations* of the above, for example, the combination of paly and barry produces checky (chequer-board pattern). With a party field, the order in which the tinctures are specified is significant*; "per fess gules and argent" is a different coat from "per fess argent and gules". The first named tincture is in the top half of the shield. A field is described as seme* when it is "strewn" with very small charges. Such a field should give the impression of having been cut from a larger patterned surface.

The blazon of a coat of arms is made up by describing all the elements discussed above in the following order:-

- 1 the tincture of the field (plain, party, seme, etc.)
- 2 The ordinary (other than a chief) or main charges occupying the centre of the shield
- 3 other charges on either side of the ordinary or main charge
- 4 charges on the ordinary or main charge
- 5a charges in the chief of the shield
- 5b charges in the base of the shield
- 6 the chief/bordure/canton
- 7 any charges on the chief/bordure/canton

In the absence of an ordinary or other main charges, charges in 5a,b and 6 are promoted to line 2.

The use of suitable pronouns and prepositions reduces the above to a more grammatical description of the arms. The arms of the Hill family, Marquesses of Downshire, formerly of Easthamstead Park, is made up of a black field with a white fess, above the fess are two gold leopards "passant guardant" with black spots, there is a third one below the fess, on the fess are three red escalloped shells. Following the order of the notes above, the blazon is made up from:-



- 1 sable
- 2 a fess argent
- 3 three leopards passant guardant or, with sable spots,
two above and one below the fess
- 4 on the fess are three escallopes gules
- 5,6 & 7 nil

This reduces to "sable, on a fess argent between three leopards passant guardant or, spotted of the first, as many escallopes gules". The use of the prepositions "on" and "between" are necessary and are used to maintain the order in which the charges are mentioned. The use of the words "of the first" and "as many" to avoid repetition of the words "sable" and "three", respectively, is a matter of personal taste. The preposition "between" is used when the charges appear on either side of the main charge. Should such charges be dissimilar, then the blazon is "between in chief . . . (charge A) . . . and in base . . . (charge B)", priority is given to that in chief. "Within" is used if the principle charge is surrounded by a bordure or its variants, an orle* or a tressure*.

If the principle charge is several like charges, then their relative positions must be recorded. Six like charges can appear in two rows of three (three and three) or in three rows with three in the top row, two in the second and one in the third (three, two, one). Five charges can be arranged in saltire or in cross. Three charges placed side by side are "in fess"; but placed one above the other the description is "in pale". A charge which can be placed either horizontally or vertically on a shield, for example an arrow, is described as "fesswise" when placed horizontally and "palewise" when vertical.

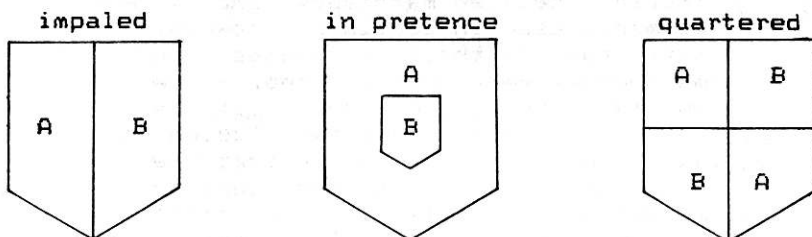
Once the blazon is complete, the arms can be looked up in Papworth's Ordinary of Arms. The introduction to the book states that the arms are "arranged in alphabetical order by the names of such of the respective charges as are first mentioned in the blazon". Thus whatever charge appears in line 2, above, is the section to turn to. Each such section is sub-divided. The first sub-division is by number of charges, namely one, two, three, etc. Further sub-divisions are illustrated by the use of an example with one chevron:-

- 1 chevron
- 1 chevron and in chief
- 1 chevron and in base
- 1 chevron between or within
- 1 chevron between or within and in chief
- 1 chevron between or within and in base
- On 1 chevron
- On 1 chevron and in chief
- On 1 chevron and in base
- On 1 chevron between or within
- On 1 chevron between or within and in chief
- On 1 chevron between or within and in base

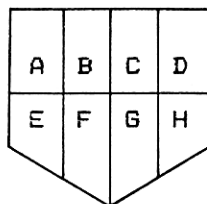
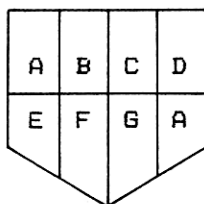
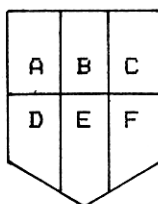
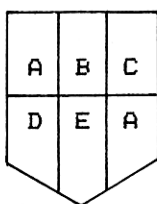
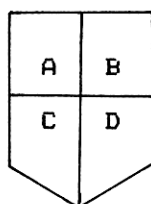
Once the correct section is found, one searches for the charge entered in lines three and/or four. Blazons of arms with identical charges are listed in alphabetical order by order of tincture. All beasts are grouped together, the lion and the deer are sub-divisions of a collective charge, beasts. Similar treatment is given to birds, fish, monsters, heads, legs, flowers, fruit, reptiles and trees.

As with Burke's General Armoury, not all arms encountered will be found in Papworth's. If the arms are not found initially, the blazon should be checked again against the section/sub-section being used, alternative blazons should also be considered. Some blazons will give more than one name, but even six different names must be better than no name at all. Initially the reader is advised to practice with one or two known coats of arms.

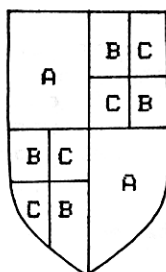
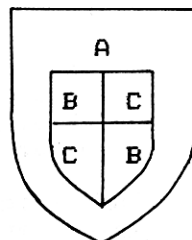
The shield being researched may be a combination of two or more coats of arms. Each of these coats of arms should be identified separately. The relative positions of each can give some indication of the past relationships between the families. The three different ways that two coats of arms can be displayed on a shield are:-



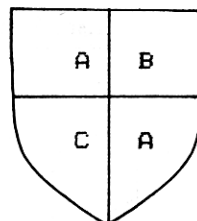
The arms of A impaling B are those of Mr A who has married Miss B, this combination is only used in the lifetime of these two partners. However, should Miss B be an heraldic heiress, that is should she have no brothers or only have had brothers who died without any children of either sex, then her arms are put in pretence on those of her husband. This again is only used for the period of their marriage. Where the mother is not an heraldic heiress, her son will use only his father's arms combined, as required, with the arms of his own wife. If the mother is an heraldic heiress, then their son will use their arms quarterly A and B, this quarterly coat will be inherited by his son, grandson, etc. The blazon of such a quarterly coat is quarterly 1 and 4 A, 2 and 3 B. If a descendant using this quartered coat marries an heiress C, then their son quarters the coat C in the third quarter. The arms are now blazoned 1 and 4 A, 2 B, 3 C. Marriages with successive heiresses are illustrated by the following drawings. It will be seen that the shield is divided into quarterly of 4, 6, 8, etc., with the last quarter repeating the first quarter when an uneven number of coats are to be displayed.



This is straightforward but presupposes that none of the heiresses has a quarterly coat. If Mr A who uses the arms of A alone marries an heiress whose father quarters B and C, then Mr A uses his arms with an escutcheon of pretence of quarterly B and C. His son can quarter his mother's arms with those of his father in one of two ways: he can place his father's arms in the first and fourth



quarters with his mother's quarterly coat in both second and third quarters, or he can split up his mother's coat and use quarterly 1 and 4 A, 2 B and 3 C. (This coat is identical to that outlined above for successive marriages of the family A with heiresses B and C.) The former method maintains the genealogical distinction between marriages and is commonly used in Scotland, however with two or three marriages the coat of arms becomes very complicated. The latter method is used in England. It is heraldically much simpler but some genealogical detail is lost. One can only assume that the heiress of the family in the second quarter married a member of the family in the first quarter and an heiress of the family in the third quarter married a member of the family of either the first or second quarters, etc.



One must also be able to distinguish between quarterly of eight and quarterly of four impaling quarterly of four. The repeat of the first quarter in the fourth quarter is a useful guide in such cases. If a man marries more than once, then there are various ways it can be indicated*.

The coat of arms is not the only heraldic device which can identify a family. If a crest and/or motto is shown with the arms then these might also lead to a surname. Elvin's Book of Mottoes and Fairbaine's Book of Crests should be consulted.

Bibliography

Surname Reference Books

- 1 The General Armoury by Sir Bernard Burke. This lists, in alphabetical order, the arms borne by many

- families. It has a section on crests and mottoes.
- 2 Ordinary of British Armorial by Papworth. As detailed above, the arms are grouped together according to their charges.

NB These two books only deal with British arms. Similar books exist for continental arms.

Books to aid identification of charges and other aspects of heraldry (both can usually be found in main reference libraries)

- 3 Boutell's Heraldry: edited by J P Brooke-Little.
- 4 A Treatise on Heraldry British and Foreign by John Woodward and George Burnett.

Descriptive books on many aspects of heraldry, perhaps more suitable as initial reading on the subject

- 5 Learn About Heraldry (A Ladybird Book) for children.
- 6 Discovering Heraldry by Jaqueline Fern (excellent value for money).
- 7 The Observer Book of Heraldry.
- 8 Simple Heraldry Cheerfully Illustrated by Iain Moncrieffe and Don Pottinger. Heraldry light-heartedly explained with excellent, amusing illustrations.

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Letter to the Editor

Mrs Julia Shaw
c/o David G Shaw
105 Branch Avenue
Red Bank
NJ 07701
U S A

Dear Editor,

I wonder if any members would be interested in a reciprocal exchange of postage stamps if they require to send SAEs to America? I would be happy to oblige.

I have done some delving into the ecclesiastical records of the East India Company. They are on microfilm at the LDS Genealogical Society Library and have been very well indexed. If I am there, and have time, I may be able to help someone. In addition to name, date, etc., one needs to know, if possible, in which of the three Presidencies, Bombay, Bengal or Madras, the search is to be made. I suppose these records are available at the India Office or somewhere in London.

Yours sincerely,

Julia M Shaw (signed)

PS I used to visit Reading in the '30s, my brother was a scholar at Bradfield.

Assisted Emigration of Paupers from Berkshire, 1834-1847

J S W Gibson

Under the Poor Law Amendment Act of 1834, parishes were encouraged to assist paupers to emigrate by raising part of their costs of emigration on the rates, with government subsidies or bounties to assist. The scheme only accounted for a very small proportion of those emigrating to Canada, Australia, New Zealand and the Cape of Good Hope, but it has left its records in various archives. The most accessible are the printed reports of the Poor Law Commissioners between 1834 and 1848, when they were replaced by the Poor Law Board. The annual reports list the number of assisted emigrants from each parish, county by county, and their destinations. Emigration was greatest from the southern counties, Kent and Sussex in particular, and from East Anglia, but the rural Home Counties and southern midlands are also well represented. The parishes in Berkshire which took part in the scheme are listed below. The printed reports do not list the names of the emigrants, but it should be possible to ascertain these from minutes of Poor Law Guardians (probably to be found locally) or from the Poor Law Commissioners' bound volumes of correspondence, class MH 12 at the Public Record Office (Kew). These are arranged by county and within each county, by Poor Law Union, several years per volume. They are bulky and dirty, but, with the key to parishes and dates given here, it should be quite easy to locate the forms returned to the Commissioners for any emmigration scheme. These will normally give surnames, and approximate ages, also occupations (usually agricultural labourers).

Berkshire Parishes from which paupers were assisted to emigrate

Taken from tables published as Appendices to Annual Reports of the Poor Law Commissioners, 1835, 1836 and 1847-48 (consolidated for 1836-47).

Asnbury	1845	7 Upper Canada 9 Cape of Good Hope
Childrey	July 1835 - July 1836	30 Upper Canada
Hungerford	April 1840 - April 1841	12 Australia
Kintbury	April 1839 - April 1840	2 South Australia
North Moreton	1845	1 Canada
South Moreton	1845	4 Canada
Newbury	1843	4 South Australia
Snalbourne	April 1839 April 1840	18 Upper Canada
Speen	April 1840 - April 1841	10 South Australia
Stanford	July 1836 - July 1837	15 Upper Canada
Uffington	1845	4 Cape of Good Hope
wargrave	April 1840 - April 1841	5 Canada

For Your Bookshelf

Jean Debney

These are just a few of the recent publications which are available at meetings on the Society's Bookstall and also, in some instances, on loan to members from the BFHS Reference Library.

Jeremy GIBSON is continuing his useful work of producing cheap booklets which are a must for every family historian worth his (or her) salt:

**1 Quarter Sessions Records for Family Historians:
A Select List**

This is a county by county list of what is available, whether it is indexed, etc.

**2 Bishop's Transcripts & Marriage Licences
second edition**

Invaluable for tracing that elusive marriage . . .

3 Record Offices: How to Find Them - 2nd edition

There are more maps in this edition, plus information that has come to hand since the first edition - tells you where all the record offices are and gives phone numbers (always phone first to make sure they are open and have a seat available for you) and sketch maps which are so useful when finding your way through a one-way street system.

The above cost £1 each + 20p p & p (75p overseas airmail)

Berkshire in Camera - Susan Read

Susan Read collected old photographs from many sources to create this magnificent record of Berkshire as it was from the golden age of the Victorian era to the end of the First World War. Few of them have been published in book form before.

Published jointly by Countryside Books and Reading Museum and Art Gallery (1981) at £4.95

A Village in the Town - Fred Padley

This is a study of a conservation area within Reading, republished in a revised form. It deals with the area bounded by Watlington Street, Queen's Road, Eldon Road and London Road which contains many important buildings and has been the home of a number of interesting people. Published by the Reading branch of the WEA, it first appeared in 1972 and sold out several reprints. This revised edition contains more material and photographs and costs £1.40 + 20p p & p (75p by airmail).

**Redding 1540-1640 - Joan Dils and students of the
Extra-mural Dept of Reading University**

The first printing sold out and this reprint has just become available. The information has been gained mainly from wills and inventories to enable a picture to be

drawn of life in Reading during the century before the outbreak of the Civil War. It is full of fascinating snippets of information with line drawings and maps. Price £1 + 20p p & p

Give and Take - Scenes from the History of Christ's Hospital, Abingdon: 1553-1900

by John Carter and Jacqueline Smith

Another useful book, especially if your ancestors came from Abingdon - interesting reading even if they do not.

Price £2.65p.

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I hope that I didn't confuse too many of you with my mix-up over ~s and }s in the last issue. So that you can tell the method of production of the copy of the various articles, I have included the same markers (+ = typed, \* = word processed and ~ = computer produced) on the contents page in this issue. Because of the different qualities of copy, and the need to present uniform material for each sheet being printed, all computer printed pages have been grouped into the middle pages.

Editor

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MEMBERS INTERESTS

Liz Longhurst

General

- 595 Mrs Iris Day has photocopies of letters written to
32 Dawes Street her great grandparents after they
Little Bay arrived in Australia in 1838. She has
NSW 2036 a lot of family information from an
Australia old bible. Her most pressing want is
for the ancestry of William King TATE
and Matilda HOWARD alias HOGSFLESH who were married in
1833 at St Lawrence's, Hungerford. She says that the
name was changed by deed poll (and no wonder!). She
will be happy to give information already obtained in
her seven years of research.
- 615 Mr D J Wickens solicitor, has very many ancestors
168 Furzehill Road from our county and will deposit a
Borehamwood copy of his family data with the
Herts BFHS library. The names are ABERY/
AVERY, APPLEFORD, BLACKMAN, BRANT,
BROCKS/BROX, BURGESS, FULLER, GOLDING, HUMBERSTONE,
KIRTON, MAN, SIMMONS, SOUTH, TUGGY, WICKENS & WOODERSON.
- 620 Mr R W Spurgeon retired airline manager, is related to
Cooinda the Victorian preacher of the same
Woodrow Drive name. His ancestors were from London
Wokingham and Norfolk. He is particularly
RG11 1RS interested in C19 Wokingham, education
and transport and in the history of

transport generally.

- 632 Mr and Mrs K Dowd Their names: CLARK(E) pre 1900; COX
18 Willlowholt Reading pre 1900; GIBBONS Cookham,
Ravensthorpe Maidenhead, any time; KEELEY Maiden-
Peterborough head, Cookham, Bray, pre 1900; WELL-
PE3 7LU AND Maidenhead, any time.
- 635 Mr & Mrs S R Dance are an engineer with computers and
46 Wavell Road secretary, respectively. They are
Maidenhead SL6 5AD researching DANCE and CLINKABERRY.
- 640 Miss J E Godden a clerk, has been researching for
20 Felton Close nine months now, her own name and
Petts Wood HISCOCK in West Berkshire - Thatcham,
Kent Newbury and Wantage - and in
BR5 1AD Kingsclere, Hants.
- 641 Mr Stephen Allberry is particularly keen to locate
104C Northchurch Road the birth or baptism of John
Islington ALBERY (variously ELDBOROUGH,
London N1 3NY ALBREY, etc.) who died in Jesus
Hospital, the fishmongers' alms-
houses in Bray in 1820 aged 78. He is also interested
in the AWBERY/ABRY/ALBURY families in Berkshire. These
seem to predominate in the Pang valley, he writes, a
number of whose manors were held by the Norris family as
was the manor of Albury near Thame, Oxon, C16-18. It
may be a co-incidence but, he says, it would be of
interest to him to find evidence of the movement of
peasants or retainers from Oxon to Berks at any time.
- 643 Mrs Janet Young has ancestors from the Vale of the
52 Portland Drive White Horse, C18-19:-
Church Crookham DAY Sparsholt and Shellingford
Aldershot GU13 0PQ LOCKEY Eaton Hastings.
- 643 Dr Jon V Pepper is searching for the birth or bapt-
18 Frank Dixon Way ism of Thomas HARRIOT c 1560. He
Dulwich was supposed to have been born in
London SE21 7ET Oxford but no record has been found
there as yet. Perhaps it was at
Newbury - where there are some family connections. As
well as Thomas, a well-known mathematician of his day,
he is interested in Thomas's uncle and cousin, both
called John HARRIOT, and in his nephew, Thomas YATES.
- 648 Rev D J Gynes BA is interested in his name -
110 Peveril Rise worldwide. Its variants
Livingston West Lothian include GISNES, GUINES, JINES
EH54 6NX and JOYNES.
- 649 Mr G Witney is interested in his own name and in
25 Loring Road the villages of Blewbury, Appleford and
Isleworth Mddx Tilehurst (now a suburb of Reading).

Reciprocal and/or free research offered

- 600 Mrs S M F C Crowley is a member of the Oliver Society
53 Boxted Road and is interested in C19 OLIVERS
Hemel Hempstead from Newbury, also HICKS Thatcham
Herts HP1 2QL C19. She will be happy to research
freely for members in South West
Herts and in Bedfordshire.
- 612 Mr M J Cross superintendent of education in
13 Buxton Road the Education Department of
Wembley Downs Western Australia, will research
Western Australia 6019 freely for members on the
convict settlers in Western
Australia. (See previous issue for Berks interests.)
- 617 Mrs C E Stanley has BULL, HATWELL and RIX from the
Rt 63 Box 269 Abingdon area and will do a limited
Glennville NC 28736 amount of research reciprocally in
U S A western NC.
- 623 Miss Sandra Harding library assistant, would like to
11 Donnington Road find out more about what her
Reading ancestors did and especially about
RG1 5NE the SE railway where her
grandfather and his father both
worked. Some of her ancestors were from Basingstoke,
Hants and from Surrey. Berkshire names pre 1900: BED-
BOROUGH White Waltham, HARDING Cookham.
- 625 Mr Graham K Swain insurance broker, is trying to trace
7 Waverley Road the whereabouts of William STEVENS
Hindley (from Reading), who was invalided
Wigan from the Zulu War (1879). So far the
only information he has is that
William enlisted in the 90th Regiment of Foot, the
Scottish Rifles, on 9th July 1873 and his trade was
hammerman. On 31st July 1873 he was paid 1/- and
invalided to the Royal Victoria Hospital, Netley. Mr
Swain has found no trace of him in the PRO at Kew and
the regimental museum has been unable to help either.
Perhaps there was something about him in a local paper
of the period? Can anyone help please? He will
research in the Manchester area archives in return -
also some free, non-reciprocal research for members too.
- 642 Mr J W Perrin is a production superintendant in
11 The Spinney a pressure vessel and chemical
West Park plant, etc. His PERRIN ancestors
Hartlepool were from Wokingham and from
Cleveland TS26 0AW Henley (Oxon) and Windlesham
(Surrey) from mid C16. Other
ancestors from C19th London and Surrey. He will be
happy to answer questions on the Perrins.

Dear Editor,

Calligraphic Skills

I can remember back to the 1920s when we lived in the School House in the middle of the village. I remember answering the door, night after night, to couples who had become eligible for an Old Age Pension. They had encountered a **form** (probably for the first time in their lives) and so came to enlist my father's aid! Many of them were able to read and write to some extent, but certainly could not understand forms. So what easier way out could one have than being illiterate. Of course these were people born around 1860 - before the Education Act - although there was an earlier **Dame School**. Probably they had spent the whole of their lives without the necessity of writing or reading; their family lived in the village so to whom should they write? The belief that one should 'never sign anything' was implanted into every child; there were already tricksters around. This belief, coupled with the Wiltshire habit of replying 'Ooh-Ahh!' to almost anything, put the rural population in an impregnable position.

There is a picture in **Illustrated English Social History**,* vol 4, plate 146 in my 1964 edition, of a class using slates. There were still some slates around in 1923, but I think they were only used by five year olds; pencils and paper were used by six and seven year olds and then it was ink from an inkwell and steel nibbed pens. Ink (terrible stuff made from powder) must have been in use before 1900 as one of the old **Log Books** recorded that the school had to be closed due to the ink's freezing in the inkwells. Those steel nibbed pens were another reason for avoiding writing. Those provided 'for the public use' (Post Offices were particular offenders) usually had crossed nibs, probably due to their being dropped onto the floor - their steel points stuck into the wooden floor just like darts.

We have an original **slate** which my wife salvaged from the scrap heap and used for many years as an aide-memoire. In its frame it would have had a writing area of 12" by 8"; unfortunately the frame has fallen to pieces, but one day I will make it another.

It is a matter of great surprise to me how well some of my ancestors could write. Great-great-great-grandfather James **Elliot**, born around 1765 and William **Edwards** born 1795, Mary **Druett** who witnessed great-great-grandfather's wedding in 1810, great-great-great-grandmother, Ann **Robinson**, born around 1770 and great-great-grandmother, Mary Elizabeth **Forrest**, born 1798 all have beautifully clear and precise writing, while the signature of my great-great-grandfather, Thomas **Forrest**, born 1795, is a real work of art!

Hope this is of interest,

Yours sincerely,

Harold Druett (signed)

*by G M Trevelyan, pub. Pelican

note: It is very interesting to hear confirmation of reluctance to sign ones name as I'm sure we may all experience it at times in our searches. Harold also raised the matter of Foundling Hospital burials in his letter but more of that another time . . . Ed.

HIDDEN alias CLYDESDALE

Norman Hidden

An article in the BFHS Magazine, volume 7 number 4, by John Brooks referred to the Hungerford family of Hidden alias Clydesdale, and requested more information concerning the alias. First, to correct one small point in Mr Brooks' reference: the family of this name were in the Hungerford area more than one hundred years earlier than the dates Mr Brooks has given. Perhaps I might add also that although it was not unknown in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries for estates to be willed to persons on condition that they adopted a particular surname (usually that of the testator), I have never heard of the practice in medieval or Tudor times.

The first record of the name Clydesdale in Berkshire was of Sir Thomas Clydesdale in 1465; he was not a knight but a chaplain of the chantry of the Bessed Virgin Mary in Hungerford. In 1488 a John Clydesdale obtained from the prioress of Littlemore a lease for life of the manor of Haywood and Leverton (formerly in the parish of Chilton Foliat, now in that of Hungerford). In 1506 the prioress of Littlemore granted a further lease to Thomas Hall and "John Clydesdale the younger", presumably the son of the first John. By 1515 a John Lyddysdale had begun farming the neighbouring manor of Hidden, the manor of Haywood having been relinquished to the Hall family.

The genealogist who gets as far back as the fifteenth century is accustomed to the problem of variant spellings and it will be noted that both in 1506 and 1515 variants occurred. The two earliest spellings in 1465 and 1488, however, are spelt unambiguously Clydesdale, conclusive evidence that this is the original spelling of the name. It is not a Berkshire name, no trace of it occurring before 1465. It is clearly a place name, and the obvious place would seem to be in Scotland, where the name was current and not uncommon. Uncommon, however, it certainly was in Berkshire and this alien quality no doubt created problems of spelling. The query as to how a Scot (in those days an alien and often an enemy) might come to settle in Berkshire is almost certainly answered by Sir Thomas's profession; clergy had an international status. It must be remembered also that Hungerford was part of the Duchy of Lancaster's possessions, that Sir Walter Hungerford was the leading Lancastrian supporter during the Wars of the Roses, and that the House of Lancaster had frequent recourse to help from Scotland.

The "John Lyddysdale" who acquired the manor farm of Hidden appears in many documents, but very variously spelt, for instance Clydesdale, Cledisdale, Lyddysdale, Gledysdale, Ledisdall, Cledesdale, Clydale, Glyddesdall, Clysdale and Clidesdale. It was an age of phonetic spelling, but even so there is a wide variety here applied to a single individual during his lifetime. The scribe's difficulty in 'catching' a man's name when spoken is compounded when it was unusual or foreign, even though the John whom we are discussing must have been at least two generations away from the chaplain of 1465.

The surname Hidden derives from the Anglo-Saxon name (Hyddene = valley with a landing place) of the valley which runs a mile or two north and north-west of modern Hungerford and is marked on Ordnance Survey maps (rather more prosaically) as Old Hayward Bottom. From this valley with a landing place the later manor of Hidden took its name, since the valley cut right through the manor's lands. These included the vill of Eddington and several farms, such as Great Hidden, Little Hidden and North Hidden. At one time the whole area was known as Hidden but in the eighteenth century this name was replaced by the uglier, and less accurate, name of Hungerford Newtown.

Before John Clydesdale's formal grant of lease in 1515 there is, with one dubious exception, no known record of anyone named Hidden. There would seem, therefore, to be no question of a Clydesdale marriage to a member of an existing Hidden family, nor even of an illegitimacy arising from a Clydesdale-Hidden liaison. Well before 1500, English surnames had settled and before this time it would be relatively unusual for a surname that had been in existence locally since at least 1465 to change. Nevertheless, from some time after the grant of the lease of the manor farm in 1515, John Clydesdale became John Hidden alias Clydesdale.

There are three reasons why he may have welcomed this:-

- 1) the change to Hidden would disguise the family's alien origin
- 2) before 1521 the use of two names would assist John in avoiding detection by the ecclesiastical authorities in his Lollard sympathies and activities (he was finally tried for heresy in 1521 and although he escaped burning at the stake, he was made subject to various legal restrictions) - on the other hand, the use of a new name after 1521 would assist (if he so wished) to cover up his heretical past
- 3) bearing in mind the Clydesdale's Scottish origin, he may have followed the traditional Scottish custom for the Laird to take as his name, that of the manor of which he was laird.

None of these reasons on its own seems to me to be entirely adequate, and one learns to suspend judgement on all 'fanciful' ideas and possibilities in genealogical research which cannot be substantiated by positive proof.

In most local documents of this period a person's name is written down as that by which he is known to the writer. A lawyer, however, may particularly wish to make certain of a person's identity by referring to him by all his known names and by all versions of his name previously used. Thus in a Hungerford deed of conveyance in 1616 one of the parties is described as "John Lyddysdale alias Clydesdale alias Eden alias Hydden". Perhaps one record above all where a person's own choice might be followed as to the form of his name was the baptismal register. Marriages might take on a certain legal, contractual quality, deaths were recorded by the parson by the name most familiar to him; but in the case of baptism the parent not only chose the Christian name but also dictated the form (though not the spelling) of the surname.

It is a striking fact that all Hungerford parish register baptismal entries for the Hidden family from 1559 until 1613 (there are 43 of them) give Hidden as the name without any reference whatever to Clydesdale. These are all direct descendants of the John Clydesdale who changed his name to Hidden when he acquired the manor farm c 1515. However the family sold their lease of the manor in 1599 and the main line of the family thereupon dispersed. Of the junior branches which remained in the area at least one member felt obliged to revert to the old Clydesdale surname, so we have a small series of entries between 1613 and 1623 for the children of 'Thomas Clydesdale alias Hidden'. Thomas in fact not only baptised his children under this alias, but also used it in his two marriages and was buried under it. As a churchwarden, he may have been particularly meticulous in describing himself with almost legal exactitude.

After 1623 baptisms of other Hiddens continue (as before) without any reference to the Clydesdale alias, until in 1687 we have a late and unexpected revival of the alias, with an entry for the son of "John Clisdell alias Hidden"; and so for other children of the same John. This revival continues in baptisms until 1726 after which it is not used again. It is last used in Hungerford marriages in 1713 and in Hungerford burials in 1750. One interesting marriage entry in 1690 (Jones-Biss) lists Thomas Hidden as bondsman, but he signs the register as Thomas Clisdell. During this period there were two Johns who were both prominent in town affairs so that their names occur with some frequency. One seems to have been known (mostly) as John Clydesdale alias Hidden, the other (mostly) as John Hidden alias Clydesdale. Unfortunately, this distinguishing pattern is not 100% complete; no doubt local contemporaries themselves became confused, though not so much as later genealogists!

In neighbouring parishes, such as Kintbury and Inkpen, the same pattern of surname use was not followed as in Hungerford. Thus all the early entries in the Kintbury register are of Clydesdale, the first Hidden not appearing until 1589; and in Inkpen, where the register begins later, the first baptism using the name Hidden did not occur until 1658. Clearly the further in distance from the manor itself, the longer the old Clydesdale name held. In the end, despite the 'revival' mentioned above, the name Hidden survived, perhaps because it was simpler and easier to use.

Some Hiddens remained in Hungerford until the early part of the twentieth century. Many emigrated to other parts of Berkshire and these suffered permanent spelling variations, especially to Heddon, Hedding and sometimes Heading. Those who emigrated to London in the early nineteenth century, on the other hand, took with them the 'pure' Hidden spelling.

The name is a very rare one; a few years ago I counted less than forty in the telephone directories covering the whole of Great Britain. It was particularly sad to see that, after five centuries, there was no longer one in Berkshire.

Hungerford

D/P 71 25/14/1

National School Admissions Register: (continued)

Oram (continued)

- 283 Har^t (9) Hungerford (2-6-1818)
I, labourer
& S at end of book
248 Ja^s (10) Hungerford (29-9-1817)
Isaac, ostler
& mother Susan at end only
32 Maria (5) Hungerford (1-10-1816)
Isaac, bricklayer

ORCHARD

- 2105 James W^m (5) High St (4-10-1854)
John, bricklayer, & Eliza
1571 Joseph (8) } Hungerford
1572 Marianne (7) } (5-2-1841)
1570 Sarah (9) }
David, Shoemaker, & Elizth

ORUM

- 1877 Louisa Jane (12) Hungerford
(5-12-1849)
John, smith, & Jane

OSMOND

- 457 Cha^s (5) Hungerford (1-10-1822)
John, labourer
546 Charlotte (5) Cow Lane (2-3-24)
died
dau of John
242 Hen^y (6) Hungerford (29-9-1817)
Jn^o, labourer
& Sarah at end of book

PAGE

- 408 Barlow (6) Kintbury (3-7-1821)
Barlow, carpenter
1414 Barlow (8) Kintbury (6-7-1838)
Rob^t, lab, & Lucy
1107 George (8) - (6-3-1835)
Rob^t, labourer
408 John Kintbury (3-7-1821)
Barlow, carpenter
entry signed (✓) Charlotte

- 899 Sarah (10) Froxfield (3-12-1830)
Edw^d, labourer
742 Tho^s (7) Froxfield (5-10-1827)
his name crossed out
Edw^d, labourer
entry signed (x) Rebecca
1598 William (8) Hungerford (7-5-41)
Thomas, labourer

PAINTER

- 1627 Alfred (10) Chilton (7-1-1842)
George, lab, & Mary
1701 Catherine (11) Newtown (7-2-45)
James, lab, & Mary
1497 John (7) Hungerford (10-1-1840)
John, lab, & Mary
1006 Thomas (8) Kintbury (1-2-1833)
Thomas, labourer
544 William (10) Chilton (2-1-1824)
Joseph, blacksmith
entry signed (x) Frances

PALMER

- 1998 Charlotte (4) High St (7-4-1852)
William, chairmaker, &
Charlotte
1515 David (8) Hungerford (6-3-1840)
Ja^s, baker, & Jane
421 Eliza (10) Chilton (6-11-1821)
Eliz^h, widow
entry signed (x) by
Diana CHAMBERLAIN
1396 Elizabeth (10) Newtown (4-5-38)
John, wheelwright, & Martha
1837 Ellen (5) Hungerford (7-7-1848)
John, shoemaker, & Ellen
1949 George (4) Hungerford (6-8-1851)
Ellen
1398 James (6) Newtown (4-5-1838)
John, wheelwright, & Martha
1660 James (7) Hungerford (7-6-1844)
John, shoemaker, & Ellen
214 Job (7) Edington (7-4-1817)
Tho^s, labourer
1469 John (5) Newtown (5-7-1839)
John, carpenter, & Martha
1659 John (8) Hungerford (7-6-1844)
John, shoemaker, & Ellen
1397 Letitia (8) Newtown (4-5-1838)
John, wheelwright, & Martha
1996 Mary (8) High St (7-4-1852)
William, chairmaker, &
Charlotte

Palmer (continued)

- 1948 Mary Ann (6) Hungerford (4-6-51)
Ellen
- 1836 Sarah (6) Hungerford (7-7-1848)
John, shoemaker, & Ellen
- 1997 Stephen (7) High St (7-4-1852)
William, chairmaker, &
Charlotte
- 1743 W^m (5) Hungerford (1-8-1845)
John, shoemaker, & Ellen

PARSONS

- 1359 Charles (6) Edington (6-4-1838)
John, labourer
- 1493 Ellen (9) Hungerford (6-12-1839)
James, lab, & Elizth
- 1452 George (5) Edington (14-6-1839)
John, lab, & Elizth
- 1768 Henry (7) Edington (3-4-1846)
John, lab, & Ann
- 265 W^m (6) Hungerford (5-5-1818)
Dixon, engineer
& Sarah at end of book

PASSFIELD

- 481 William (8) Chilton (5-11-1822)
(John dec'd) & Frances
entry signed for her by
Harriot (x) PEARCE

PEAPALL

- 85 Mary (6) Froxfield (1-10-1816)
Elizth
child entered as Mar^a at
end of book

PEARCE

- 2132 Alfred (7) Charnham St (7-3-55)
Alfred, ostler, & Emily
- 1726 Caroline (10) Froxfield (2-5-45)
James, lab, & Mary
- 1718 Charlotte (8) Hungerford
orphan (7-3-1845)
- 1770 Elizabeth (6) Froxfield (1-5-46)
Elizabeth, spinster
- 1549 Emily (9) Edington (6-11-1840)
Thomas, lab, & Mary
- 1058 Henry (5) Chilton (4-4-1834)
Richard, labourer
entry signed (x) Harriett

- 1534 Henry (7) Hungerford (5-6-1840)
Tho^s, shoemaker, & Jane
- 773 H^y (6) Edington (11-4-1828)
Thos & Mary
Jane (✓) COPE signed for them
- 154 Ja^s (7) Hungerford (1-10-1816)
Tho^s, shoemaker
- 1309 James (7) Edington (3-11-1837)
Thomas, lab, & Mary
- 153 Jn^o (5) Hungerford (1-10-1816)
Tho^s, shoemaker
- 555 Mary Anne (8) Chilton (2-3-1824)
Harriett
- 420 Sarah (9) Hungerford (6-11-1821)
Jacob, labourer
entry signed by Jane (x)
- 1492 Sarah (11) Hungerford (6-12-39)
Thomas, lab, & Mary
- 2170 Sarah (6) Park St (5-12-1855)
James, shoemaker, & Eliza
- 402 Tho^s (7) } Hungerford (1-5-1821)
401 W^m (5) } (1-5-1821)
Tho^s (✓), shoemaker

PEARSE

- 691 David (8) Hungerford (6-9-1826)
John, lab, & Elizabeth (✓)
- 898 Henry (7) Hungerford (3-12-1830)
William, shoemaker
- 1333 Sarah (8) Hungerford (2-2-1838)
Thomas, shoemaker, & Jane
- 867 William (8) Chilton (7-5-1830)
b.b son of Harriet (✓)

PECK

- 133 Han^h (6) Hungerford (1-10-1816)
Geo, labourer
- 195 Joel (5 died) Hungerford
Geo, lab (2-12-1816)
- 134 John (8) Hungerford (1-10-1816)
Geo, labourer
- 760 John (7) } Hungerford
758 Sarah Anne (9) } (1-2-1828)
John, linen draper - entry
signed for him by J G FOWB

PENNEY

- 918 George (6) Hungerford (8-4-1831)
Roger. postman

PENNY

828 Elizabeth (8) } Hungerford
 827 Sarah (7) } (1-5-1829)
 Roger, postman
 entries signed by Mary (✓)

PERRY

1016 Charles (5) Hungerford (12-4-33)
 John, bricklayer
 767 George (9) } Hungerford
 768 James (8) } (7-3-1828)
 766 William (6) }
 John, bricklayer
 entries signed by Sarah (✓)
 1965 Thomas (8) } Hungerford
 1966 William George (6) } (5-11-1851)
 William, lab, & Charlotte

PETTIT

315 Ann (7) Hungerford (5-1-1819)
 Ja^s, tailor
 & Hannah at end of book

PHELPS

815 George (8) Hungerford (4-4-1829)
 Anne, widow of the late
 Tho^s, hairdresser
 2050 Richard (6) } Church St
 2049 Thom: (9) } (2-3-1853)
 Rich^d, cabinet maker, &
 Susan

PHILLIPS

554 Anne (10) Kintbury (2-3-1824)
 Stephen, labourer
 entry signed by Hannah (x)
 1032 Maria (13) Inkpen (4-10-1833)
 Stepⁿ, lab, & Hann^h (x)
 340 W^m (7) Eddington (6-7-1819)
 W^m, shopkeeper
 entry signed by Mary (✓)
 (as mother at end of book)

PIKE

1329 Alice (11) Hungerford (2-2-1838)
 orphan
 26 Ann (6) Hungerford (1-10-1816)
 W^m, labourer

59 Elizth (5 died) Hungerford
 Tho^s, yeoman (1-10-1816)
 1145 James (-) Hungerford (8-5-1835)
 no parents named
 926 John J^s Fox (5) Hungerford
 (6-5-1831)
 John Fox, schoolmaster, & M^y
 1613 Maria (9) High St (8-10-1841)
 W^m, bricklayer, & Maria
 2201 Maria (2) High St (2-7-1856)
 John, lab, & Ellen
 49 Mary (7) Hungerford (1-10-1816)
 Tho^s, yeoman
 1714 Stephen (8) } Froxfield (7-3-1845)
 1773 Thomas (6) } (3-7-1846)
 John, lab, & Phæbe
 177 Tho^s (5) Hungerford (4-11-1816)
 Tho^s, labourer
 891 William (6) Hungerford (5-11-30)
 Tho^s, mason

PINNOCK

588 Tho^s (5) Hungerford (2-11-1824)
 Elizth, bookbinder
 entry signed by
 Elizabeth (✓) NOBBS

PITHOUSE

2060 Moses (8) Milliard, Smithan Bridge
 Mary (1-6-1853)

PLUMMER

883 George (7½) Avington (6-8-1830)
 Will^m, labourer
 entry signed Elizth (x) COOK

POCOCK

2078 Elizabeth (8) High St (7-12-1853)
 Tho^s, labourer
 11 George (8) Eddington (1-10-1816)
 Jn^o, labourer
 1698 James (8) Hungerford (7-2-1845)
 John, lab, & Maria
 74 Ja^s (6) } Chilton (1-10-1816)
 73 Lu^a (8) }
 Ja^s, gamekeeper
 1740 Louisa (5) Hungerford (1-8-1845)
 John, lab, & Maria
 2077 Louisa (10) High St (7-12-1853)
 Tho^s, labourer

Pocock (continued)

- 10 Mary (9) Eddington (1-10-1816)
Jn^o, labourer
75 Sarah (10) Chilton (1-10-1816)
Ja^s, gamekeeper
1851 William (7) Church Lane (2-2-49)
John, lab, & Maria

POFFLEY see also Pofley, Poughley

- 1019 Anne (8) Hungerford (3-5-1833)
William, labourer
873 Charles (8) Hungerford (7-5-30)
W ROSIER entered as parent
1020 Eliza (7) Hungerford (3-5-1833)
William, labourer
583 George (5) Hungerford (6-7-1824)
John, lab, & Caroline
1153 Hannah (7.6) Hungerford (3-7-35)
Henry, bricklayer, & Jane(x)
582 Martha (5) Hungerford (6-7-1824)
John, lab, & Caroline
497 Mary (6) Hungerford (3-3-1823)
Henry (x), bricklayer, &
Jane
503 Tho^s (7) Hungerford (8-4-1823)
W^m, labourer
entry signed Charlotte (x)
1848 Thomas (8) Hungerford (3-11-48)
Francis, blacksmith, &
Hester

POFLEY

- 324 Eliza (5) } Hungerford
323 Frances (8) } (6-4-1819)
Jn^o, labourer
signed Catherine (✓) at end
294 Har^t (4) Hungerford (4-8-1818)
Henrietta at end of book
Tho^s, bricklay^r
30 M A (12) } Hungerford (1-10-16)
31 Sophia (7) }
Tho^s, bricklayer

PONTIN

- 183 Geo (8) }
182 Tho^s (10) } Chilton (2-12-1816)
W^m, farmer

POUGHLEY see also Poffley, Pofley

- 603 James (6) Hungerford (1-2-1825)
W^m, labourer
491 Thomas (5) Hungerford (4-2-1823)
Tho^s, bricklayer
830 William (9) Hungerford (5-6-1829)
William, labourer

POUND

- 199 Din^h (9) Chilton (6-1-1817)
Tho^s, labourer
1293 Mary Anne (11) Hungerford
dau of Mary DANCE (6-10-37)
84 W^m (8) Froxfield (1-10-1816)
Edw^d, labourer

POUNDS

- 224 Ann (8) Chilton (5-5-1817)
Jn^o, labourer
mother Ann added at end
1445 Caroline (8) Edington (3-5-1839)
John, carrier, & Sarah
1311 Charles (7) Newtown (3-11-1837)
Thomas, coachman, & Susan
1548 Charles (8) Avington (6-11-1840)
George, carrier, & Eliza
1330 Elizabeth (12) Newtown (2-2-38)
John, fruiterer, & Sarah
1430 Elizabeth (13) } Newtown
1431 Harriet (10) } (7-12-1838)
John, fruiterer, & Sarah
1550 Harriett (11) Hungerford
(6-11-1840)
John, carrier, & Sarah
1197 James (7) Templeton (8-7-1836)
John, shepherd, & Sarah
1310 Jane (11) Newtown (3-11-1837)
Thomas, coachman, & Susan
840 William (7) Hungerford (2-10-29)
Mary (), widow
1516 W^m (16) Hungerford (6-3-1840)
John, carrier, & Sarah
specially admitted over age

PRINCE

- 1478 Albert (6 died) Hungerford (1839)
Thos Nash, writer, & Elizth
(to be continued)

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- Volume 3 numbers 1, 2, 3 and 4
- Volume 4 numbers 3 and 4
- Volume 5 numbers 1, 2, 3 (The 1979-80
Members' Names Index) & 4
- Volume 6 numbers 2 and 4 and the Supplement*

Note: the supplement to volume 6 is the "Handlist of Parish Registers of the Archdeaconry of Berkshire" which have been deposited in the Berkshire Record Office (plus lists of transcripts of registers available in the BRO and Reading Reference Library). The price for the supplement at meetings is 40p.

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