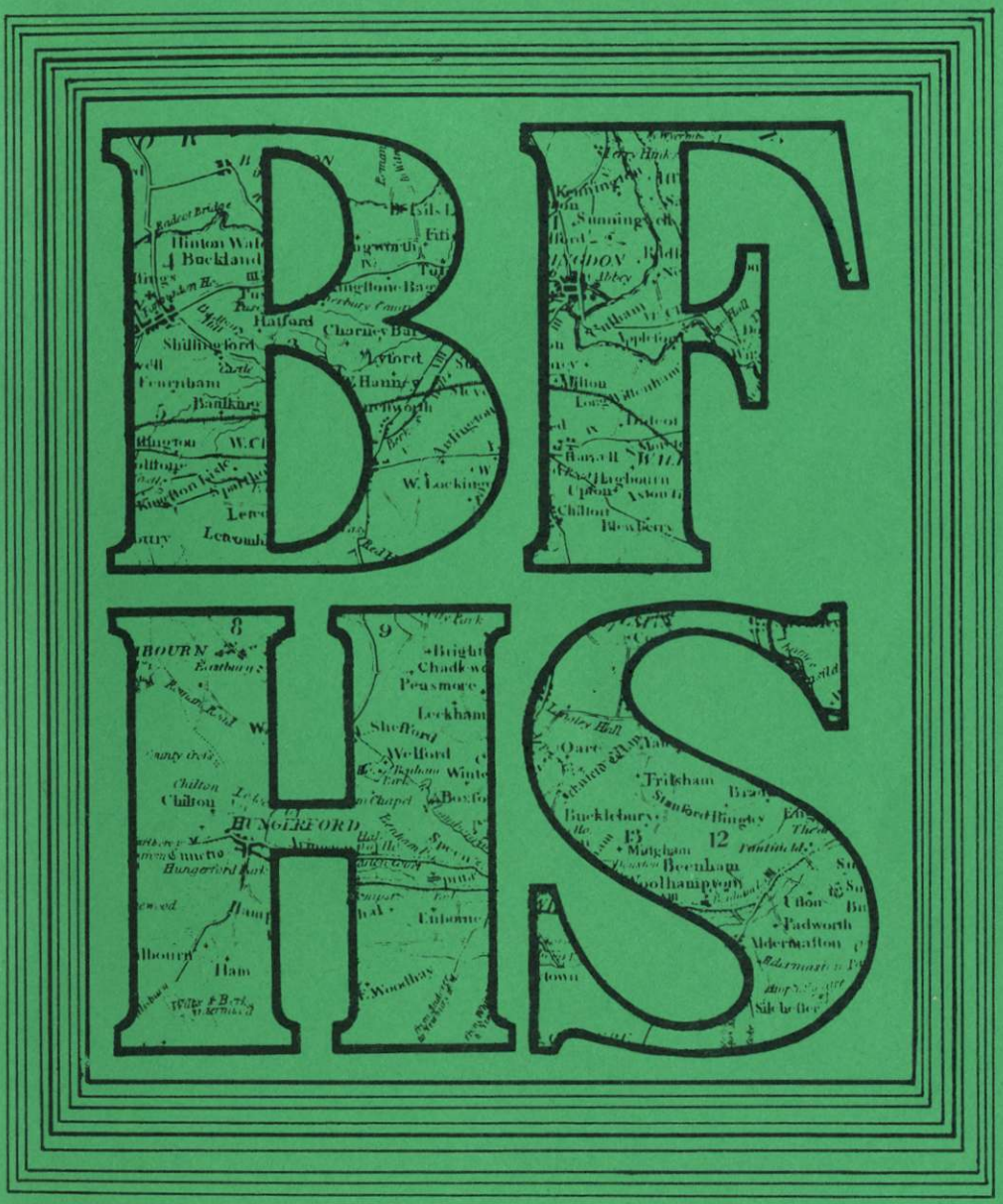
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Volume 9 Summer 1984 Part 4

BERKSHIRE FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY

Volume 9 1983-84

Part 4 Summer 1984

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The next issue, the first of our tenth volume, is scheduled for distibution during Septemoer's meeting and postal despatch during October; all copy to the editor as soon as possible please.

Subscriptions for 1984-85 are now due. As in previous years, the Society regrets that it can no longer afford to issue magazines to members whose subscriptions are in arrears; a membership renewal form is enclosed for your convenience. As indicated on the form, payments may be forwarded to Liz Longhurst, the retiring secretary, who will pass them on to her successor.

PROGRAMME for 1984-85

1984

Fri 28th Sept **Record Keeping** — **Alf Ison**

Sat 13th Oct **Open Day**

Fri 26th Oct **The Charge of the Light Brigade**
- a look at the history of some of the soldiers involved on the 130th Anniversary of the Charge — **Ken Horton**

Sat 10th Nov Work-in

STOP PRESS
Sat 3rd Nov **Overseers Project day in BRO (subject to confirmation at September meeting)**

Fri 30th Nov **The Identification and Dating of Photographs for the Family Historian**
Lawrence Taylor, Head of the History Division, Bulmershe College

Fri 14th Dec **Christmas Party**

1985

Fri 25th Jan **Members Group Evening**

Sat 16th Feb Work-in

Fri 22nd Feb **A Topic from the Berkshire Record Office**
Adam Green
Berkshire County Archivist
Vice-President, BFHS

Fri 29th Mar **Any Questions**

Fri 26th Apr to be announced

W/e(s) in May MI transcription sessions - dates and locations to be announced

Fri 31st May **Family Reconstitution in Berkshire**
Stephen Taylor
University of Reading

Sun 2nd June **An Afternoon on the River Thames**
(price and booking details later)

W/e(s) in June MIs

Fri 28th June **The Life of a Soldier in the British Army during the Nineteenth Century**
David Smurthwaite
National Army Museum

Sat 6th July **"A Passage to England**
- tracing immigrant families from Scotland, Ireland, Wales and France"
and Annual General Meeting"

w/e(s) in July MIs

Fri 26th July **The Elephant Game"**

A BERKSHIRE MAIL COACH FAMILY

Richard B L Smith

1984 marks the 200th Anniversary of the setting up of the Mail Coach network. This was the first 'modern' national organisation to run to a time-table and became a by-word for speed and regularity, not only in Britain, but throughout Europe. The disciplines laid down in 1784 were adopted by the railway companies 60 years later and today's guard is a direct descendent of the armed protector of George III's Royal Mail Coaches.

The Linchpin of this story is Edward FROMONT who moved to Thatcham from Essex in the mid 18th century, and who was a shopkeeper in 1777 when he married Mary DIBBIN. Mary was a widow with four young children who, when her husband Francis DIBBIN died, had stayed in Thatcham instead of returning to Urchfont in Wiltshire to live with her father, a market spinner by trade. She had probably decided that there was more chance of finding a new husband for herself and a father for her children in Berkshire, on the London Road, than on the edge of Salisbury Plain.

Edward FROMONT was an ambitious man and about 1780 he took over The King's Head, an inn on the main London road in Thatcham. In those days, after the road had been 'turnpiked' and was one of the best surfaced roads in the country, the stage coaches rattled by from London to Bristol, a journey which took seventeen hours.

John PALMER, owner of the Theatre Royal at Bath, who was frustrated by the slowness of the Royal Mail, which by Post-boy was taking 38 hours to reach London, decided to approach William Pitt the younger, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, with a plan to improve the service. When Pitt became Prime Minister in 1784, the plan was approved and the first Royal Mail Coach in the kingdom left Bristol at 4 pm on 2nd August, 1784, and arrived at the General Post Office in London at 8 am on the following morning. (1)

The way that Palmer had planned the operation was to engage five innkeepers, including FROMONT, who were contracted to supply the coaches and the horses to cover the 123 miles. The timetables were laid down and these were to be rigourously kept. Palmer duly became Comptroller General of the Post Office, a position he held until 1792, when he was 'pensioned off'.

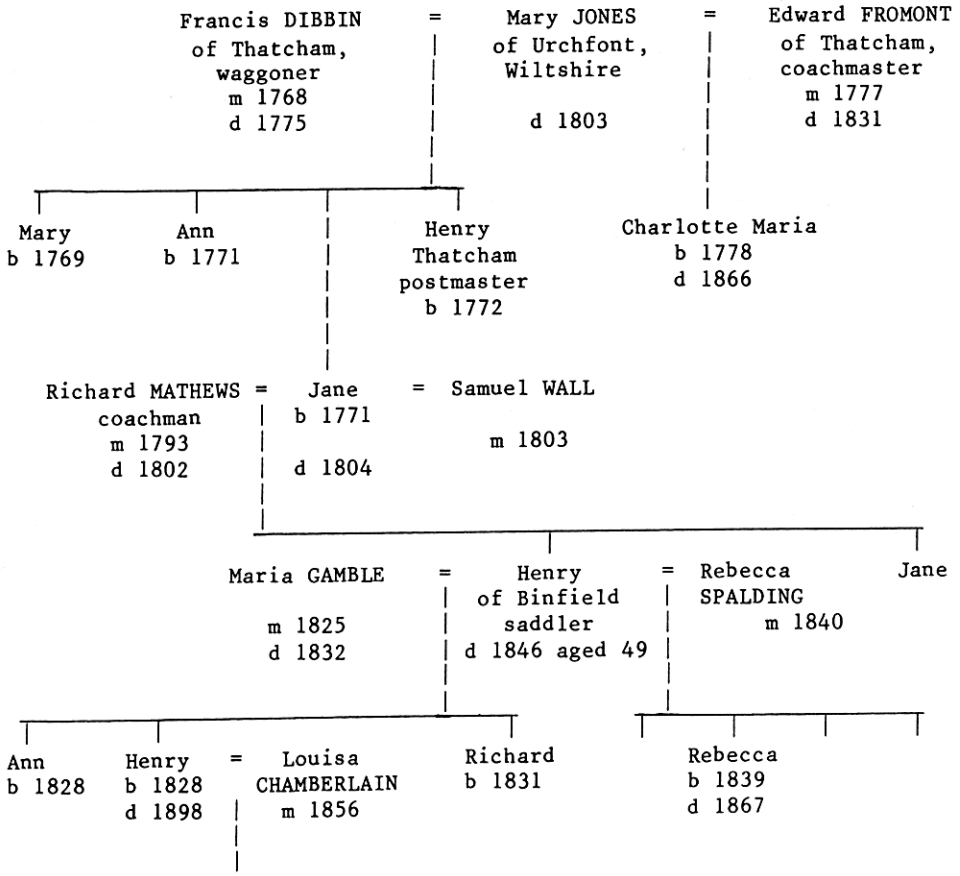
Meanwhile in Thatcham, Edward and Mary FROMONT were running a successful business from the King's Head and were providing horses for the Royal Mail at 3d per mile and refreshments for the travellers during the 20 minute stop, which was all that was allowed by the tight timetable laid down by the Post Office. At the same time they were bringing up Mary's four children from her first marriage, Mary, Ann, Jane and Henry, and their own child Charlotte Maria.

One of my problems was to find the marriage of Jane DIBBIN and Richard MATHEWS, from whom I am descended. In the parish register of Binfield, Berks, when their son Henry (my great-great-grandfather) was married for

the second time, his father's profession is recorded as 'coachman'. Finding no trace of his baptism or marriage in the Thatcham register I searched all the Berkshire parishes along the London to Bath road, until, with the publication of the 1981 edition of the Mormon IGI, I found it recorded at St Bride's, Fleet Street, in 1783; a few months after Jane's 22nd birthday. On a visit to London, to the Guildhall Library, I took a tracing of the signature of Richard, which tied up exactly with the one on his will of 1802, a photo-copy of which I have. But both were "of this parish . . .!"

I should like to know more about this marriage, and also Richard's birthplace, but could it be that the innkeeper's step-daughter was swept off her feet and eloped to London with the dashing young coachman of the Royal Mail? He must have seemed the 1790's equivalent of an airline pilot to a country girl! girl! Their courtship must have been conducted during the 20 minute stops at the King's Head whilst the horses were being changed and the passengers fed.

The DIBBIN - MATHEWS Family Tree



Their marriage did not last long as the coachman's life was particularly rigourous. He was employed by the contractors and was exposed to all weathers. An eye-witness's account of those days records that he knew one coachman who "drove from London to Newbury, or vice versa, every night, including Sundays, for six years . . ."(2) No small wonder then that by 1802, when he made his will, Richard was a "shopkeeper being weak in body . . ." at Thatcham. As he left only "money and my stock-in-trade", he could have been a tenant of his step-father-in-law, Edward FROMONT.

By 1797, Jane's brother, Henry DIBBIN, was the Postmaster at Thatcham and is mentioned in letters from Thomas Hasker, the Superintendant of Mail Coaches for the Postmasters General. More interesting though, are the curt memos from Hasker to Fromont concerning the poor time-keeping of his coaches, which I found in the GPO Record Office.(3)

By 1811, Fromont owned land at Theale (4), and in the Wargrave Inclosure of 1818 (5) he had several parcels of land on Bowsey Hill and adjoining the 'Bath Turnpike'. (He is also recorded as being the 'Lord of the Manor of Bowsey or Endall'.) Was this land used to change and rest his horses? It is spaced at 10 to 12 mile intervals from Thatcham, a convenient staging distance.

It is said that his horses, or rather those of his daughter, Charlotte Maria, who gradually took over, were "as fat as pigs". "She horsed the coaches from Twyford to Hungerford, a distance of thirty-four miles, for which purpose, had they been fast coaches, she must have kept between 70 and 80 horses, but at the quiet pace they travelled, fewer horses would suffice and last longer." (6)

I have a small book, "The Farmer's Boy - a Rural Poem" by Robert Bloomfield, written in 1798 from which these lines are taken:-

"Could the poor post-horse tell thee all his woes;
"Show thee his bleeding shoulders, and unfold
"The dreadful anguish he endures for gold;
"Hir'd at each call of business, lust or rage,
"That prompts the traveller on from stage to stage,
"Still on his strength depends their boasted speed;
"For them his limbs grow weak, his bare ribs bleed."

This was not the Fromont way . . . "I believe Miss Fromont managed her coaching business with considerable ability and from the slow rate at which they travelled, her horses lasted much longer and the wear and tear was very much diminished as compared with the stock of her opponents." (2)

The slowness of their coaches brought rebukes from the Post Office. In a report to the Postmasters General in 1795, Hasker says, "Mr Fromont, the Bath and Exeter & Bristol contractor has also notice. He does not keep time and has frequently been heard abusing the coachman for driving fast, though behind time." (3) Was this Richard MATHEWS I wonder?

Not only did the authorities complain, but also the passengers as they had an even shorter time to eat their supper, and this side of the story seems to have given the family a bad name with the coaching public, which was echoed in an article about the Old Mail Coaches in the

Reading Evening Post in February 1969. Having said that, they kept the franchise until the end of the Coaching Age when the railways came, in the 1840s, and took the Royal Mail business.

Charlotte Maria FROMONT did not get married, but she raised two families of children. First, when her half-sister Jane MATHEWS died in 1804, she brought up Jane's son Henry and his sister. Henry MATTHEWS (he adopted a second 'T' in his surname) was apprenticed to a saddler in Reading; after his first wife died, when their children were still infants, Charlotte Maria took on a second family of three, even though she was in her late fifties and running a successful business. She must have been well ahead of her time to be so concerned for the well-being of horses and children!

She retired to Thatcham Farm, now a listed building, opposite the parish church, whose land has only just been built upon and where there is now a road called Fromont Drive.

Her last years were spent at her home - Castle House, Speen, just out of Newbury on the Bath Road, which had also been a coaching inn in its day. "She died . . . at a good old age, much respected in the neighbourhood where she had been known for so many years." (2)

In Thatcham parish churchyard is a chest tomb with the following inscription:-

Sacred to the Memory of
Francis DIBBIN who died April 4th 1775 aged 44 years
Richard MATHEWS who died March 25th 1802 aged 32 years
Jane WALL who died July 18th 1804 aged 34 years
Edward FROMONT who died Feb 4th 1831 aged 85 years
Mary his wife who died Aug 26th 1803 aged 62 years
Charlotte Maria FROMONT only daughter
of Edward FROMONT and Mary his wife
who died Sept 20th 1866 aged 90 years
Rebecca MATTHEWS who died March 11th 1867 aged 28 years

Postscript: I am still looking for the baptism and parents of Richard MATHEWS c 1769 and the baptisms of his children Henry c 1797 and Jane, having checked over 30 parishes in south Berkshire and the IGI for the whole of southern England.

Henry DIBBIN moved to London where his children were baptised at St Mildred's, Bread Street, and he became a member of the Common Council of the City between 1811 and 1823

My family has been searching for the origins of Francis DIBBIN for over 50 years, and the search goes on . . . !

References:

(1) "The Mail Coach Men of the Late 18th Century" Edmund Vale 1967
(2) "Old Coaching Days" Stanley Harris 1882
(3) GPO Record Office, St Martin-le-Grand, London
(4) Berkshire Record Office - reference D/P 132 26
(5) BRO
(6) "The Coaching Age" Stanley Harris 1885

ANY QUESTIONS

Gwen Hardwidge

The Society's meeting on 24th February took the form of a Question and Answer Session, most of the questions having been submitted in advance of the meeting. The members of the panel who answered the questions were:

Mr Adam Green, County Archivist and one of our Vice-Presidents
Mr David Phillips, Institute of Agricultural History and Museum of English Rural Life, University of Reading
Mr John Brooks, honorary member of the Society
Revd Derek West, member of the executive committee

The questions covered a wide range of subjects, some of local interest, some concerning national records and one or two about overseas ancestors.

Q Are there in existence lists of employees of Huntley and Palmers, or records of other organisations and firms in Reading for the nineteenth century?
A Reading University has some Huntley and Palmer registers and business records, including wage books for 1850/60. The Institute also has records of Suttons Seeds up to 1945, which include wages and salary books and a register of employees giving home addresses.

Q Are there any lists of agricultural labourers in the agricultural account books held in the Museum of English Rural Life (MERL)?
A The University library has some farm records but no basic information from elsewhere. MERL does, however, have a considerable amount of information on Ransomes of Ipswich which includes details of biographies of employees. A photocopy of the Berkshire section of the historical farm records is in the Society's library.

Q Are there any lists of primary school children available, in particular those who attended Reading School and Kendrick School?
A The Berkshire Record Office (BRO) holds some management papers and a few school log books, but only a very limited number of school admission registers which might give the name and address and date of birth of pupils. It is possible that some schools have retained some of their records. Records for the London area might be found at Elizabeth House, York Road, Waterloo.

Q Are the Englefield Estate papers at the BRO available to the general public and are there relevant indexes?
A The Englefield Estate papers is one of the best documented sets of estate papers. The records are listed and there is an index to the list, but not a detailed index to the records name by name. Reference number: D/BY.

Q Was Ramsbury in Berkshire at one time? A birth certificate gives Ragbourn, Ramsbury in the Registration District of Hungerford.
A Hungerford Registration district covers parts of Berks and Wilts and is an indication that county boundaries require care.

Q Where will Ascot Bog be found in the 1871 census?
A Ascot was formed out of Sunninghill and Winkfield in the 1860s, Ascot Bog will probably be found either under Ascot or under Sunninghill Bog.

Q Does anywhere else in Berkshire, apart from Reading Reference Library, hold a microfilm copy of The Times, and is there an index to the paper.?
A Reading University Library holds The Times up to the 1980s, with an index from 1785. It also has the Manchester Guardian.

Q Where in Berkshire, other than at Reading Reference Library, can I find copies of the 19th century censuses?
A For a complete list of holdings consult the publication by Jeremy Gibson "Census Returns on Micro-film (1841-1881)", 4th edition.

Q Where is Dr Williams Library and what do its records consist of?
A The Library was originally at 14 Gordon Square, London, but is now understood to be housed in the Long Room at the Public Record Office (PRO) in Chancery Lane. It is a library of protesting dissenters, leading representatives of various churches - Protestants, Independants, Baptists. From the 1740s there was a registration system at the library for non-conformists, for a fee of 6d initially, and it is particularly useful for the London area. There are also some non-conformist records at Reading University Library.

Q Is it possible to find out anything about the activities of someone who was supposed to have had connections with MI5 during the First and Second World Wars?
A If the activities were very secret, it is unlikely that any information would be obtainable, but it would be worth checking Military Intelligence records and War Diaries in the PRO at Kew, and personal records. There are also a large number of books on military intelligence.

Q Does "Parish Records" refer to records of the Church of England? Where are non-conformist records to be found?
A Presumably the question refers to parish registers, which are the registers of baptisms, marriages and burials. Parish records cover a wide range of material - overseers' documents, parish constables' documents, vestry minutes, etc. These are all records of the established church (C of E), but it is as well to remember that at particular periods of our history non-conformists can be found within such records for a variety of reasons. The non-conformists themselves had very few records, apart from the Quakers who were very diligent record keepers. The non-conformist registers

which have survived are mainly in the PRO, Chancery Lane, up to 1837, but some may still be in individual chapels or in Record Offices. Most of the entries for those in the PRO are in the International Genealogical Index (IGI).

Q How can I find out where someone killed in the Great War is buried or commemorated?

A The Commonwealth War Graves Commission, Marlow Road, Maidenhead, has an index of all servicemen killed in both World Wars, as well as one of civilians killed in bombing raids during World War II. There is a list of aircrew killed in World War I at the PRO in Kew.

Q What does the date 24 February 1733/4 mean?

A This is associated with the change from the Julian to the Gregorian Calendar, which in England took place in 1752. Until then the year had started on Lady Day, 25th March. 1752 began on the 25th March but 1753 began on 1st January, leaving 1752 as a nine month year. Even so the calendar was still eleven days out of phase with the seasons, so the day following the 3rd September, 1752 became the 14th September. 24th February 1733/4 is interpretted as 1733 in the old style calendar, when January, February and the start of March were at the end of the year, but as 1734 in the new style calendar.

Q Is there any way of finding out anything about the family of an ancestor who came over from France at about the time of the revolution, although there is no suggestion that she was an aristocrat?

A There is no central record office in France, each Departement (county) having its own record office. There are both church and civil records from the time of Napoleon, though some were destroyed in wars. Birth cerificates give quite a lot of information such as parents' names, mother's maiden name and her parents' names, father's parents, also anyone else around at the time such as uncles, Godfathers, etc. There are immigration records at the PRO, see PRO leaflet number 6. See also "World Wide Family History" by N Currer Briggs.

Under French law a contract of any kind has to be registered by a Notary and only then is it a legal transaction. Consequently there are millions of contracts down the centuries recorded in the books of the Notaries. These are now being collected in local legal offices and will eventually be deposited in the record offices. They include land, inheritance, wills and marriage contracts, all centrally registered and going back to the 1790s.

Q How can I trace the forebears of an Irish ancestor?

A There are problems with Irish ancestry. Civil registration did not begin until 1864, and the Irish Record Office was destroyed in 1922 and so some wills and parish registers were lost, but indexes to wills are available. Some suggested books are: "A Simple Guide to Irish Genealogy" by W Clare; "Your Irish Ancestors" by T Anderson Black. There is also an Irish Genealogical Research Society based at St James, London.

MARRIAGE LICENCES

John Brooks

Every so often I get asked questions about marriage licences, usually what they were for and how they differed from Banns. I thought a few notes would not be out of place in what is a large and complicated matter. I do not pretent that I can cover every aspect, but at least I hope to convey some idea of the whys and wherefores.

Marriage licences go back to the middle ages and, in fact, are still with us, so obviously they have a long history. Before Hardwicke's Act of 1753, any marriage was valid provided it was carried out by a priest, even without a licence or banns.

Hence the clandestine marriages of the Fleet Prison Chapel, where priests in prison for debt (among other things) would start up a marriage "factory" and so get out of gaol on their earnings. There were a great number of churches and chapels in London where such marriages were carried out (102 are known, of which only 35 have their registers in the PRO), so if you are looking for an ancestor's marriage in London before 1754, it might very well be at one of these marriage "establishments", and it would be perfectly legal.

Hardwicke's Act simply tightened up the law - with a few modifications. As the preamble in the front of every Hardwicke Marriage Register (of the printed pro-formas) states ". . . for the prevention of clandestine marriages . . ."

A marriage after 1754, when the Act became law, had to have residential qualifications, have at least two witnesses and have had the banns called out in church on three consecutive Sundays, unless, of course, the marriage was by licence. This is the main difference between a marriage after banns and one by licence.

Of course all the marriage factories now went out of business and clandestine marriages became illegal. It should be borne in mind that the Hardwicke reforms were only valid in England and Wales. Elsewhere the old rules prevailed, so it was still possible to get married in the old way in Scotland (hence Gretna Green), the Cahnnel Isles and the Isle of Man.

The Issuing of Marriage Licences

Who could issue licences for marriage? You are possibly aware of the various Ecclesiastical Authorities who dealt with matters of probate; the same people processed marriage licences, as follows:-

1 The Archbishops of Canterbury and York issued licences for parties living in their respective provinces (special

licences). Those of Canterbury are known as Vicar-General Licences and are housed in the Library of Lambeth Palace; those of York are in the Borthwick Institute in York.

2 The Bishop of the diocese in which one of the marrying parties lived.

3 Archdeacons - in Berkshire's case, the Archdeacon of Berkshire (& Oxford), which covered most of the old county, and the Archdeacon of Wiltshire, which dealt with West Woodhay and with Chilton Foliat.

4 The Dean of Salisbury - in respect of certain parishes which were his 'peculiars', namely Blewbury, Hurst, Ruscombe, Sandhurst, Sonning, Sunninghill, Sunningwell, Wallingford, Welford and Wokingham.

5 The clergy of parishes who exercised 'Peculiar Rights' and could issue licences without consulting any higher authority - Faringdon, Hungerford, Radley and Wantage in the case of Berkshire.

Location of Berkshire Marriage Licences

Where are the records of the Berkshire Licences? Those of the Archdeaconry of Berkshire, by far the largest group of some 14,631, were all destrioyed during the last war. Fortunately a chronological index was made in late Victorian times and this has survived. A copy is in the Berkshire Record Office. It covers the years 1616 to 1864 with various gaps in the sixteenth century.

The records of the other issuing authorities mentioned above are at the Wiltshire Record Office, Trowbridge. A few have been transcribed; typescript copies are in the BRO. I have found quite a number of odd licences in parish recordswhich come from authorities other than those mentioned above, for instance, Bray has 76, and Burghfield has 28. All these licences I have now put into a separate index, totalling 15,728 entries.

The Nature of Marriage Licences

What Exactly was a licence? It is incorrect to call these records licences; they are 'Allegations' and 'Bonds', the actual licences having disappeared long ago.

There are actualy three documents which are connected with a marriage by licence:-

1 The Allegation or Affidavit

This is a record of the sworn statement, usually by the groom, to the effect that there is no known impediment to the forthcoming marriage, such as precontact (already

married), consanguinity (blood relationship), et cetera. It was also necessary for parental consent to be obtained, but this was dropped for those parties over 21 years. Often these documents state that the parties are 21 or over. This did not mean that the bride and groom were only just turned 21, they could be any age

2 The Bond

This required securities that the intended marriage would take place. Two witnesses were required, one of them known to the Judge. They had to swear that they knew of no impediment, etc. The bond was divided into two part. The first, the 'Obligation', was a declaration by two bondsmen (or sureties) - one usually the groom - and the sum of money by which they were bound. The other part, the 'Condition', gave the names of the parties involved and the name of the parish church (or church of choice) where the marriage was to take place.

3 The Licence

When all the above formalities were completed, then, and only then, was the licence issued. The licence was then taken to the clergyman and the marriage ceremony performed. The licence was then either handed back to the newlyweds or perhaps reatined by the clergyman, eventually finding its way into the parish chest. Very few have survived.

Marriage by Licence

What sort of people married by licence? The short answer is "every sort", from agricultural labourers to the gentry. Usually they were from the middle strata of society, the local bigwigs who did not like the banns being called so that all the yokels could talk about it. If one of the couple was from a distant parish, or if one of them was a minor (even with parental consent), a licence was applied for; in fact a clue to minors' getting married was the licence. Getting married in a hurry, for a variety of reasons, so that the calling of banns was not possible, could be another reason for a licence. Lent was a time when marriage after banns was prohibited - but that could be got around by means of a licence, and a willing vicar.

I am sure that you can all think of many other reasons for marriage by licence, although I must point out these licences did not necessarily mean that the marriage took place - they only indicate an intention to marry, so check!

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Look out for the Society's new **red letter ancestors** service next year
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Berkshire old and new
Berkshire Local History Association, 1983

It is always good to welcome another publication devoted to the history of Berkshire, so it is with special pride we wish a belated welcome to "Berkshire old and new", the first issue of the Berkshire Local History Association's magazine, published at the end of last year.

Family History crosses many of the boundaries which used to surround the study of history, yet its closest cousin is perhaps local history. All family historians concern themselves eventually with local history, and most local historians find that the study of families can provide new insights into local communities. The advent of family reconstitution, building up networks of families, studying all the documents relating to them, has given both disciplines new ways of looking at the impact of family life on the history of Britain.

Berkshire old and new has much to commend. Apart from the many interesting articles, ranging from an account of a road accident at Theale in 1835 to a description of the inns and taverns of Berkshire in 1577, perhaps the most interesting, as far as family historians are concerned, are the list of monumental inscription surveys and the bibliography of recently published works on Berkshire.

I have only one small critcism to make of the new magazine and it is that too many articles were included in the first issue. It would have been far better to have had fewer, but longer, articles on some of the interesting topics discussed. For instance, Anthony Cross could have done with more space to discuss in greater depth the quarter sessions records. Apart from that minor criticism, I look forward to reading the next issue.

JB

The Parish Chest

Derek West

In the darkest corner of the church stands the parish chest, its rough-hewn timbers, wrapped around with iron bands, are beginning to crumble. It bears huge locks, perhaps three of them bearing the date 16--. To many a tourist today it is a quaint bygone from the past; but to the people of yesteryear it was the storehouse of their local lives. But now it is empty, except perhaps for the host of 'it-may-come-in-useful-someday' objects that every church stores away. Its documents have followed the long-departed parish registers to the County Record Office (CRO). But what did it contain, and why are those contents of importance to the family historian?

There were usually three locks, one key held by the incumbent, usually the vicar, and one each by the churchwardens, and because it was the safest place in the village for the keeping of records, many documents of varying importance found their ways into its depths.

But what sort of things can the enquiring family historian expect to find when the bundle for Stanton Fitzwarren by Claydon Steeple,

say, is produced on demand at the CRO? Whose handwriting will we be looking at and who is this parade of people - churchwarden, parish clerk, sexton, overseer of the poor, verger, pew-opener, dog-whipper, verger and parish constable - passing before us?

The most important documents are of course the parish registers, but I will not dwell for long on these important records of our ancestors as their development and use is well documented elsewhere. However, the churchwarden's accounts, records and reports may be just as important as the registers for those inhabitants who spent more than a fleeting time in the village.

After the clergyman, the churchwarden was the most important officer in parish administration; if you are lucky enough to find that your ancestors were churchwardens you should have ample material to pad out the mere details of place and time. The origins of churchwardens are lost in the mists of antiquity, but their position was regularised by Canon 89 of 1604, by which churchwardens were appointed jointly by the incumbent and the poarishioners. If they failed to agree, then one was appointed by the Vicar and another by the people; indeed, until the establishment of Parochial Church Councils in 1921, they were the sole representatives of the laity in each parish. The election normally took place in the Easter vestry meeting at which all the inhabitants who paid the church rate were present. The duties of the churchwarden were many and varied, they comprise the business and financial side of parochial activity, particularly the collection and apportioning of alms, the care and preservation of the fabric and furnishings of the churchand also the duty of presenting offenders against ecclesiastical law, if your ancestors were recusants or dissenters, their names will appear regularly in the churchwarden's 'presentments'.

A glance at their accounts illustrates the varied nature of their activities:

Shiplake - just over the border in Oxfordshire

1693	For mending the ministers pew	6d
1744	Widow Hedges shift	2s 3d
1744	Ann Clarke's boys britches	1s 8d
1757	Paid Mr Tollinger for ye cure of John Forscuds thigh	£2 2s
1771	For blooding Martha Wright	3s 11 d
1775	Paid for mending Sam Bishops clock	4s 6d

The destruction of vermin also came under the churchwarden's supervision. Yearly we find payments made for the killing of 'polecatts and other vermin', amongst the latter being sparrows, 'hedgehoggs' and 'stotes'. The unfortunate hedgehogs, which are certainly not vermin, sometimes appear as 'porpentines'.

In the churchwarden's accounts of Good Easter, Essex (now in Essex CRO), there are accounts of the rebuilding of the church after its destruction by fire in 1885-6, including the vicar's diary of proceedings, press-cuttings, etc., together with overseer's documents, which include the deeds of the workhouse, 1714-28. There are also terriers and inventories, rental books, vestry parish books (1750-1840), settlement and apprenticeship papers (over 60 of these), deeds relat-

ing to charities and the National School accounts. A veritable pot-pourri . . .

(Don Steel's book **Discovering Your Family Tree** contains an interesting use of Churchwardens' accounts in building up the day to day history of the parish and its inhabitants, especially the incident he calls the Budge affair, p89.)

The parish clerk is a church official whose precise function is often misunderstood. For us, today, the clerk is the one who writes, but it would be wrong to mistake the parish clerk for the secretary of the parish vestry meeting, who takes the minutes and records the decisions. The term clerk in the past refers more to status, the clergyman was, and still is, 'a clerk in holy-orders'. The parish clerk could be in orders or more usually a layman who assisted the priest by leading the response of the people. He also helps in the general care of the church. The office, which is known from the time of St Augustine of Canterbury, could only be held by men of some education. He is, in the main, a shadowy character - although it may be his spidery handwriting that you encounter in the registers - hovering in the background of recorded village life. But occasionally he comes to the fore. Because he assisted the priest he was usually present at all services and it is possible that his name could appear in the registers, especially the marriage ones. After the passing the Hardwick Act in 1753, each couple that married had to have two witnesses. Usually they were relatives or friends, but occasionally, if the couple were orphans or new to an area or the family were boycotting the ceremony, then any two people present would sign as witnesses. So if a witness's name means nothing to you, then check the preceeding and following entries, if the signature occurs several times through the years, it is possibly the parish clerk's.

The parish clerk received a fixed wage, a house and glebe. In the churchwardens' accounts of St Giles Church, Reading, there is an item in 1542-3:

"paid for a latice to the clerkes hous iis xd"

At St Mary's, Reading, the clerk does not appear to have occupied the house but received a stipend from the rent. In St Lawrence's accounts for 1559, the clerk is named where he helps in the spoilation of the church at the Reformation:

"Itm for taking-downe the awlters and laying the stones vs
To Loryman for carrying out the rubbish xd"

Most of the other officers of the church are self-explanatory. The sexton was originally in charge of the church plate and vestments, but later came to be a mere grave-digger.

The verger properly showed to their seats those attending church for worship, but in fact rather took care of the cleaning of the church.

The dog-whipper, or knock-nobbler, maintained order among the dogs, who in rural parishes were allowed to attend church with their masters, but not of course to create a disturbance or approach the alter.

The pew-openers functions I don't think need describing.

Often the churchwardens, as prominent citizens, were also the local overseers of the poor - whose title very well indicates their duties. A

detailed description of the working of the poor law is outside the range of this article, but their accounts are there and if your ancestors were not able to keep one step ahead of the workhouse, then they are well worth a look.

The parish constable, though primarily concerned with maintaining law and order, had the more unpleasant duties connected with parochial administration thrust upon him, harrying the vagrant poor into someone else's parish, the provision of militia men or substitutes, in early days he often had charge of the parish armour, this, like the parish stock of gunpowder (for scaring crows) was stored in the church tower. Also, in the Midlands at any rate, he was charged with the care of that very important personage, the parish bull and the supervision of its activities.

Though we may no longer have the pleasure of rummaging in the depths of the parish chest for its treasures, many of these documents, because of their sheer volume, have not been sorted and definitely not indexed. So we can still handle the original documents and savour the delight of the interesting find.

Greenacre
Idmiston
Salisbury
SP4 0AN

Dear Editor,

I have been reading your articles on Binfield, in volume 3, with considerable interest. I am half FORREST and it is quite possible that I am descended from the Binfield family of that name: in any case I now know a lot about them!

Mrs A FORREST, Anneka, (no 47) was the wife of Arthur, abroad in Ceylon, (entered in no 46); I don't think they got on with each other! Strangely, their son Thomas isn't mantioned although in 1805, after his father's death, he applied for a Captain's commission on the basis of owning lands in Binfield to the annual value of £200 and he seems to have been rather an enthusiast for the Enclosure Acts. Thomas was born before 1780, possibly in Gibraltar, but he seems to have been baptised at Hurst on 5th April 1785. I don't know why Arthur and Anneka lived there. I do know that Arthur went into hiding in 1780 to escape from his creditors and then joined the East India Company, so perhaps it was 1785 before he could reappear in England.

Are any other members with interests in Binfield families, or who know whether a survey of the inhabitants of the parish has ever been made?

I would be most grateful for any advice or information.

Yours sincerely,

H A Druett (no 506)

Editor's note:
47's entry in the 1801 census does include a Thomas but marks him as "at school". A baptism in 1785 could fit in nicely with his being a scholar in 1801 but if, as Mr Druett suspects, Thomas was born before 1780, then he would seem to be a bit too old in 1801 to be classed as "at school".

AI

COMMONWEALTH WAR GRAVES COMMISSION

John W Brooks

Last year, Jacqui James gave a most interesting talk called "Death on the Somme". It concerned her grandfather who was killed in World War I, and of the conditions that he and his fellow soldiers had to endure. The talk was very well received and many of her audience showed more than a passing interest.

It was with this in mind that I thought it might be appropriate to say something of a very useful source regarding war casualties. I am, of course, referring to the Commonwealth War Graves Commission, which has its main office in Maidenhead.

This organisation was set up by Royal Charter in May, 1917, and was then known as the Imperial War Graves Commission (the change to its present title was in 1960). The idea was consolidated in 1921, although its work had been going on since the end of the Great War, and it continues to the present time with the Falklands Campaign.

The purpose of the Commission is to mark and maintain the graves of all members of the Armed Forces, to acquire land to construct cemeteries and memorials and also, to keep records and registers, which is the thing of great importance to we family historians.

Anyone who has driven through northern France and Belgium will, no doubt, have been aware of the cemeteries which are all kept in beautiful condition; all are cared for by the Commission. But there are many more sited throughout the world including Algeria, The Faroes, Japan, Malaya, Papua, Romania and South Africa, not forgetting Poland and Russia, to name just a few. All are maintained from the office in Maidenhead.

Well over one million war dead from World War I are commemorated, either on a headstone, when identification was possible, on on a memorial to the missing, such as Thiepval or the Menin Gate.

From the Second World War, there is something like a half million names which are commemorated in much the same way. Altogether there are 1,694,801 soldiers, sailors and airmen. All these names are on file at Maidenhead, together with as much detail as it was possible to ascertain.

A typical example is as follows:
"Beere, Pte W. 12163. 1st/6th Bn Lancashire Fusiliers. 14th Feb 1917" Then follows the information that he is buried in the War Cemetery, Port Said, Egypt, plot K21.
He was my step-grandfather, and he was killed fighting the Turks in Palestine.

Another, fuller example, has a bit more detail:
"Boyd, Pte Joseph Porter, 37373. 1st/7th Bn The Cameronians. Drowned in submarine attack on HMT Aragagon. 30th Dec, 1917. Aged 35 years. Son of Joseph Peter Boyd and the late Helen Anderson Boyd, and husband of Helen Boyd of 11a Church Wynd, Bo'ness, West Lothian. Native of Carluke, Lancs." He also is buried at Port Said, plot C45.

It is possible to obtain photographs of any grave or a name on a memorial from the Commission, the current price being 75p, for this you get not only the photo', but the negative too. A photograph I have before me as I write this makes very sad reading. It is of a headstone in Essex Farm Cemetery, Boesinghe, Belgium, and is for 5750 Rifleman V J Strudwicke, The Rifle Brigade, 14th January 1916, Aged 15 years.

If you wish to use the services of the Commission, you can do it in

one of two ways. Either call personally and make your request, which will be processed on the spot, or write to the:

Commonwealth War Graves Commission,
2 Marlow Road, Maidenhead, Berks, SL6 7DX.

The time taken to answer will depend on the nature of the request, but normally it takes a couple of months or so. You will find the staff at the Commission very helpful.

Besides the records mentioned above, the Commission has other records of which the general public are unaware. For instance, details of civilians killed in World War 2, mainly through bombing in London, Coventry, etc. There were 66,375 casualties all told. Again these can be examined on request.

Details of casualties of our wartime allies in both wars are kept, but not in great coverage, for instance, a friend of mine, Lieut Halna du Fretay, who was killed at Dieppe, is in the files. He was in the Free French Air Force, but since he flew in an RAF squadron, he is duly noted in the Commission's records.

For the Great War, there are people from Austria, Brazil, Bulgaria, Hungary, Portugal, Romania, Serbia, Turkey, USA and Japan. They were either prisoners of war who died whilst in captivity, or as allies fighting alongside our own forces. All their graves are looked after in the same way.

In World War 2, again; those who fought on our side included French, Polish, Norwegians, Dutch, Czechs, Russians, Greeks, Americans and, believe it or not, Germans and Italians, and just about every country in the world (outside the then British Empire) and the Commission also cares for the graves of members of the German and Italian Forces who died in our hands, namely airmen who were shot down over Britain or who died as prisoners of war. They are all treated in the same way and are often buried alongside our own people.

If you are interested in the work of the Commission there are booklets and information pamphlets available for the asking, so why not pay the Maidenhead office a visit next time you are in the vicinity. I'm sure you will find it worthwhile. Before finally closing, I would like to mention Norman Holding's book "World War 1 Army Ancestry", published by the Federation of Family History Societies.

The International Genealogical Index

We understand from the Latter Day Saints Library in Salt Lake City that the new, and much improved, edition of the IGI for 1984 will be available towards the end of this year.

Many additional Berkshire parishes will be included in the new edition and the indexing system has been improved and updated to keep up with the latest in computer techniques.

SECRETARY'S REPORT

Liz Longhurst

The meeting on March 30th was addresed by Michael Walcot on **Sources for Recusant (Papist) Research.** He deputised admirably for Lady Georgina Stonor who was prevented from coming. Michael came all the way from the west country to talk to us about Catholic records; this topic, which was new to many of us attending, was of very great interest.

To keep the balance, as it were, April's talk was on **Nonconformist Records** and was given by Mike Gandy. I had not had the pleasure of meeting him before although I had seen him earlier in the year on one of the ITV programmes in the series **Family Trees.** Having quantities of non-conformist ancestors myself, I was at least familiar with some of what he said, but I found the sociological reasons for growth of non-conformity in England particularly enlightening.

The **Work-in** on May 12th was a happy occasion with the BFHS computer on view for the first time; Geoff Mather spent the day putting the BFHS Reference Library's catalogue onto file in another computer. I was only able to stay about three hours in all and did only a modest amount of checking and writing of index slips.

The meeting on 18th May was addressed by one of our members, Dr M Dumbleton, on **The Colnbrook Turnpike Trust and the Bath Road.** Although it impinged only slightly on Berkshire and on family history, this excellent talk, illustrated with slides - superb illustrations from old photographs, old engravings, etc., and with first class present day photographs taken by the lecturer - gave us much food for thought about the conditions under which our ancestors and their belongings, and freight generally, moved about the country in days gone by.

Since my last report, I have spoken to a couple more groups on family history. At the Hungerford Historical Association I was able to sell a lot of **Beginning Your Family History** (the excellent Federation Booklet by George Pelling) on behalf of the BFHS bookstall, so our Society will have tangibly benefitted from my visit there!

Mr and Mrs Elms from Ontario (Madeline is member 866) spent a couple of hours with us one afternoon during their recent holiday and amongst other things they showed me was their treasure trove of very old registration certificates, some issued more than a hundred years ago.

Now to extoll the merits of reciprocal research: Mr Blundell (286) and I have been involved in this activity recently. When he sent me what I had asked for, and more, he was full of apologies for having found so little. In fact, what he sent was key information and was exactly what I needed to clinch another generation back in my Drewett ancestry! I didn't discover very much for Mr Blundell, but I was able to help him a bit and he certainly appreciated the two photographs of Wayfen Hospital (formerly the Bradfield Union Hospital) which I sent him - photos of [illegible]

"ancestral home" as he termed it.

In my perusal of the Admissions and Discharges registers and also the Workhouse Register of Births for him, lo and behold, I discovered that my husband's great grandma, who was married in 1861, had an illegitimate babe there in 1859 called Ann. I already knew about the one she'd had in 1855 when only 16, also called Ann, who died after only a few months. So now I'm going to search Stanford Dingley's registers for 1857 to see if she had yet another one. Dear oh dear - but it's one's least respectable ancestors who are the most fun!

Now, if I hadn't volunteered to do this reciprocal research, I never would have discovered these interesting facts for myself. That's moral number 1. Moral number 2 follows on what Mr Blundell discovered for me: William Drewett was described as a sheepmonger in 1701 and the earliest record we have of him is in 1684, when his son William was born, followed by four other children with very English names. They lived in Pulham Market, Norfolk at that time. It seems all very English to me. And yet this is the family which all of us have "known" to be Huguenots - coming over at the time of the Revocation of the Edict of Nantes (1685). What price my cherished Huguenot ancestry now?!

Enough of this rambling. I now bow out and wish my successor, whoever that may be, the best of luck and hope they enjoy the work as much as I have done over the past five years.

Liz

M E M B E R S ' P A G E S

compiled by Mr Bruce Maund and Liz Longhurst

no.	Name and address	Berkshire interests	Reciprocal research
76	Mrs Elsie Sterton 59 Summit Avenue Medford Oregon 97501 USA	ROBERTSON Sandhurst ELLSWAY Steventon BATH Abingdon PUDDLE Steventon	

Mrs Sterton, one of our octogenarian members, is anxious for help in tracing any members of her mother's family - see her letter elsewhere in this issue.

138	Mr M L Pembroke Badenoch Road Carey Gulley South Australia 5144 Australia	PEMBROKE anywhere WATLINGTON anywhere	

A psycologist by profession, Mr Pembroke is resuming his membership after a few years' gap.

no.	Name and address	Berkshire interests	Reciprocal research
708	Mr W H Osborne 22 St Peters Road Reading RG6 1NT		
751	Mr D R Hamilton 26 Golding Road Langley Eastbourne E Sussex BN23 7AW	NORRIS Hurst C18 EAMOUR Hurst C19 EAMER Hurst C19	Research Eastbourne and district

– a civil servant, writes "I was born in Reading most of my ancestors 'stood still' for centuries in the area. I have traced back to 1527 thanks to the BRO and RRL".

765	Miss R K Stickley 5 Wessex Walk Shoreham by Sea West Sussex BN4 5FZ	LAWRENCE & HIGGS Longcot and Shrivenham C18 & C19 WILLIS Lt Coxwell C19	Occasional research Brighton andrarian Worthing
766	Mrs Beth H Bauman 2714 Valleyview Bismark North Dakota 58501 U S A	JORDAN all in JURDAN the Vale WHEELER of the JACOBS White Horse MORTIMER C18/C19	Reciprocal research in the U S A

Beth is interested in corresponding with Berkshire members tracing the same name.

768	Mr & Mrs N V Lovejoy 4 Rowan Drive Woodley Reading RG5 4LW		
769	Mrs B M Dixon Martins Whitehill Bradford-on-Avon Wilts BA15 1SQ	PARSONS Windsor C18 HEIFORD Windsor C18 LEGGE Clewer C18	Research in the Wiltshire Record Office

She is a "full time wife, mother and granny" who has been researching since 1973 with just a little spare time for research. She has a copy of the 1841 tithe map of her home town.

772	Mr & Mrs A C East Delamorn Ladywood Droitwich WR9 0AJ	STACEY CHARLTON BECKLEY YEO REDGRAVE

no.	Name and address	Berkshire interests	Reciprocal research
774	Miss Billie R McNamarra Route 10 Box 416 Morristown TN 37814 U S A	BARFIELD C16/17 PEARCE Wokingham C18	research throughout U S A

is a business consltant (tax, finance etc.) who has alredy rsearched many branhes of her name and belongs to several FHSs. She has all the BARFIELD entries from the IGI for the UK.

780	Mr Robert D & Mrs M E Eaton 10017-11th Ave N.W. Seattle Washington 98177 U S A	EATON Littlewick Green C18/19 GILES Hurley C19	Research in the IGI

They have both retired. They are interested in all aspects of Maidenhead's history especially amateur regatta and yachting, the Cottage Hospital, Board of Guardians, District Council, etc. They are also interested in Littlewick Green and Hurley.

786	Mr J E Johnson 105 Yorkview Drive North York Ontario M2R 1L9 Canada	NEWMAN Hungerford C17/18	Research in C19 Ontario, Canada, data

A retired industrial engineer; he has just issued a 600 page ancestral record for 32 surnames related to his family.

787	Mrs S A Bills 32 Allandale Road Hornchurch Essex RM11 1AP	WYETH Sonning/ Shinfield C17/18 NORMAN Sonning	Research in London and in Chelmsford

She is a nurse (SRN, theatre sister) who has been researching since the spring of 1983.

788	Mr & Mrs R J Falconer 49 Lower Lodge Lane Hazlemere High Wycombe Bucks HP15 7AT	WOODLEY Bradfield/ Thatcham C18	

Richard is an RAF officer who is interested in military history applicable to his family.

no.	Name and address	Berkshire interests	Reciprocal research
789	Mrs M Strempel 25 Franklin Street Brooklyn Burnie Tasmania 7320 Australia	PICKETT/ PIGGOTT Maidenhead pre 1832	Research in Tasmania

- engaged in home duties, has discovered that the Daniel PICKETT she is researching was transported in 1833 when he was called PIGGOTT. He came from Maidenhead.

792	Mr J Hooker PO Box 361 Fortitude Valley Queensland 4006 Australia	WARNER Streatley C17 BEASLEY Reading C18 ROW Englefield C17 PENDLETON ?Reading pre 1811	Research in eastern states of Australia

Says he has been researching for over 20 years, has exhausted research into his father's line, is now concentrating on his mother's. She was Lilian WHITE of St Mary's, Reading.

793	Mr A W M Vokins Hillside Bungalow Glen Maye Isle of Man	VOKINS C17 WATTS C17/18 both in Lambourn area	Research in the Isle of Man

A prison officer, has been researching since 1982.

794	Mr H Godwin Arnold 97 Northcourt Avenue Reading RG2 7HG	interests mainly in Cambridge and Lancashire	Research in Winchester Record Office

An architect who has been researching on and off since 1964 is interested in Reading's Victorian buildings.

796	Mrs L M Gregory 8 Lytham End Tilehurst Reading RG3 6FG	interest mainly in Essex and Suffolk	Berkshire Record Office

A freelance translator, is interested in the social history of Essex and Suffolk and in the nineteenth century sect "Peculiar People".

805 Mr & Mrs R Place
40 Woodlands Avenue
Woodley
Reading
RG5 3HJ

no.	Name and address	Berkshire interests	Reciprocal research

A retired schoolmaster, says he has a family connection with "Great Eastern" and is interested in dissenters in the Leeds/Dewsbury area. He thinks there may be a PLACE connection with the Heugenots.

810 Mr R J Clack
7 Regent Close
Otterbourne
Winchester
Hants
SO21 2DN

CLACK
Wallingford C17
Shilton C17

Building services engineer who has been researching since 1980. He has discovered a few innkeepers and rectors in his ancestry.

811 Mrs C Newbigging
104 Fernhill Road
Cowley Oxford
OX5 2JP

HUDSON C18

812 Mr & Mrs C Relf
4 Blacklands Road
Upper Bucklebury
Reading RG7 6QP

Chris is in electronics manufacturing. They have been researching since 1979 and have a large file from registers (mainly Kent & E Sussex) and from census returns. They are learning to read secretary hand.

813 Mr C L Brown
68 Kidmore Road
Caversham
Reading
RG4 7LX

CLARK Reading
JORDAN Reading
NEWTON Welford
FEW Reading

He is a compositer (printing) who has been researching since 1979. He says he is unable to help others with their research at present but would be keen to assist in BFHS projects.

818 Mrs P Mundy
13 Meadow Close
Marshalswick
St Albans
Herts

FULLER Maidenhead C18
SHELTON Bisham,
Cookham, Hurley C19
HARRISON
Maidenhead C18

Some free research in St Catherine's House, etc.

Has been researching since 1981 and writes "The FULLERs were victuallers near Maidenhead bridge in 1744. Then they had a corn chandlers shop in Maidenhead High Street

no.	Name and address	Berkshire interests	Reciprocal research

until the mid-1840s. I am interested in photography of houses etc. connected with the family."

819 Mr Philip Lawrance
21 Wayside Green
Woodcote
Reading
RG8 0PR

LAWRANCE Reading C18/19
WALLIS Bray/
Maidenhead C18/19
SWAIN Pangbourne C17-19
WINSTON
Aldermaston C18/19

A manager, has been researching from the late 70s and has found ancestors nationwide. He is interested in all villages and locations where they came from.

821 Mrs M S Lumb
4 St Mary's Crescent
Alfrick
Worcs
WR6 5HW

HUMPHRIES/HUMPHREYS
Winkfield C18
TURNER Old Widsor C18
TAYLOR C18

Worcester area

A secretary who made a serious start to family history in 1983.

822 Mrs C S Bamkin
39 Cooper Close
Cropwell Bishop
Nottingham
NG12 3DL

MANLY/MANLEY
Little Wittenham &
Sutton Courtnay
C17/18

She has collectec many references to MANLEY (her maiden name).

823 Mr S Procter
9 Brechin Court
Kendrick Road
Reading RG1 5DH

An electronic engineer, has been researching since 1979.

825 Mr David Cobb
Sinodun
Shalford
Braintree
Essex
CM7 5HN

COBB
North Moreton
Basilcon
Wantage
Blewbury
C16/17

"Rural Essex"

A manager in publishing, also an ecucational writer. He has written on causes of death in Sutton Courtnay 1786-1812 (and also Wapping 1661-2) - "accicental fruits of my family history" he says. He has been researching since 1979, and is currently intrigued by the role of Abingdon shoemakers in C17 cissent. He has an index of about 500 COBBs.

no.	Name and address	Berkshire interests	Reciprocal research
826	Mrs Beryl R Hurley Fairfield Potterne Road Devises Wilts SN10 5DE	WEBB C18 ROMANS C18 PEAPELL Anywhere	Wiltshire Record Office

A typesetter who started her research in 1982.

829	Mrs L F Gibbens 277 Southbury Road Enfield Middlesex EN1 1RG	LAWRENCE Newbury C17 COOPER Newbury C17	London (GRO, SOG)

A science teacher who has been researching, on and off, since 1965.

830	Mr S R Baxter 23 St Michael's Grove Fareham Hampshire PO14 1DR	LOVEGROVE Sulham C17/18	Portsmouth

A civil servant, has been researching since 1979.

833	Ms E E Duffy 4 Victoria Road Caversham Reading RG4 7QY	interests in Gloster-shire & Somerset	PRO and Census Office London also Bristol

She has been researching since June 1983.

836 837	Mr A G Perrin & Mrs J P Perrin 12 St Barnabas Road Emmer Green Reading RG4 8RA	They have been researching since 1980 and have ancestors in Scotland and in Southern England.

841	Mr B S Reynolds 94 Oakes Road Carlingford 2118 Australia	REYNOLDS Speen C18	New South Wales Archives

He writes that Henry REYNOLDS and wife Fanny (maiden name unknown) had an inn "The Coneyhound" on London Road Woodspeen according to the 1971 census. One son, Edward, migrated to Australia in 1864. This family lived in Grantham, Lincs, earlier on. He would like to locate Henry's grave.

no.	Name and address	Berkshire interests	Reciprocal research
842	Mr J P Wallden Katandra Victoria 3634 Australia	WALLDEN Wokingham & Binfield C18	Victoria

A dairy farmer who started researching in 1983.

846 Mrs M E Loosen
28 Fifth Road
Newbury
Berkshire
RG14 6DL

- a nursery nurse, started her research in early 1983.

848	Mr T R Dennis 75 Woodford Road Forest Gate London E7 0DL	BUNE anywhere esp Speen/Newbury PERRY and SHIEL both E Garston 1750-185	Gtr London Record Office & sometimes Plymouth

A student who has been on the family trail since 1982 with some west country roots besides Berkshire ones.

855	Mr & Mrs D Beasley 18 Glebe Lane Sonning Reading RG4 0XH	BAILY Finchampstead, Wokingham 1730s BEASLEY Beenham, Buck- lebury, E Woodhay, late C18 and C19 BLAGRAVE, BROWN & WILLIS Reading C18 BOOKER Wantage midC19 BOSHER Bright'll C19 ELTHAM Sonning 1730s WADE Boxford mid C19 WATTS Shinfield 1650s WIGMORE Bucklebury 1700	reciprocally in Berkshire Also will search their extensive family name index - ring (0734)691719

David works with British Telecom and Joan in a theatre box office.

862	Mrs B J Turner 35 Charles Street Blairgowrie Victoria 3942 Australia	EDNEY (Hannah) b Buckland 1833 CARVEY (Jane) and EDNEY (John) m 1822 Wantage	

Bet writes that she is very happily retired and besides her genealogical interests she is a mad golfer, has been a "Brown Owl" for 25 years and is an amateur naturalist. She says that Blargowrie is on the Mornigton Peninsula in Port Philip Bay and that Sorrento (the next town) was

no.	Name and address	Berkshire interests	Reciprocal research

the site of the first settlement in Victoria, 18th October 1803.

864	Mr M J Talbot 142 Albemarle Avenue Elson Gosport Hants PO12 4HY	TALBOT any, especially family of Walter TALBOT of Wantage who died 1522 HERNE Berks/Hants border pre-1800	free res'ch in the Portsmouth Record Office

Michael is a manager in the retail trade and has been researching since 1960. He is the publicity officer of the Hants G S and also runs the Talbot Research Organisation (a one name society). Special local history interest concerns areas where the Earl of Shrewsbury had estates. Has some of the Transactions of the Shropshire Archaeological Society which contain some parish register transcripts.

865	Mr M Watts 346 Bristol Road Edgbaston Birmingham B5 7SN	ORCHARD Hungerford C19 (shoemakers, emp'd 2 journeymen) probably moved from Aldbourne, Wilts Other interests Yorks, Leics. and Surrey	reciprocal research Birmingham

Michael is a dental surgeon.

866	Mrs M Elms 32 Airport Road Sth Caledon East Ontario L0N 1E0 Canada	PUZEY W Challow area pre 1837 - especially John PUZEY	

Mrs Elms is a retired nurse.

873	Mrs E Hine 142 Bawtry Road Bessacarr Doncaster DN4 7BP	MATHEWS Boxford and the Berks/Wilts border area	

Eileen, who is a secretary, only started her research this year.

874	Mrs D Button 390 Wokingham Road Earley Reading RG6 2HX	her interests lie in Essex, Yorkshire, Durham, Hampshire and East Sussex	reciprocal research in Reading

no.	Name and address	Berkshire interests	Reciprocal research

A retired schoolteacher, Mrs Button started her genealogical researches in 1978.

875	Mr R S W Gyngell 22 Stanwell Gardens Stanwell Staines TW19 7JY	GYNGELL, GINGELL and variants Hurst pre 1828 Warfield 1828-32 Ashampstead 1832-47 Reading 1840-1939 WHITING Brightwell 1830- LENON Berkshire 1790s	limited research in the Staines area

Roy is a British Telecom engineer and has all St Catherine's House entries for his own name 1837-1900. He is interested in Palmers Farm Ashampstead; "Adams & Gyngell", boatbuilders, Caversham; Queens Road Methodists; etc.

876	Mrs R K Blackhall 39 Winchelsea Raod Rye E Sussex TN31 7EJ	BLACKHALL North Moreton, Aston Tirrold 1770s	
877	Mr C H Foot 159 Bramhall Lane Sth Bramhall Stockport Cheshire SK7 2KG	John MUGLISTON b Folkstone, 1798 lived at Windsor, his bride, Ann BARFURD/BURFORD came from Windsor	limited reciprocal research in Manchester

Mr Foot, a retired chemist, has other interests in Hampshire and Sussex.

878	Mrs R K Tilleard-Lewis 2 Allonby Close Noctorum Lane Birkenhead Merseyside L43 9JE	TILLEARD/TILLYARD Reading & home counties 1600-1700	

- a local government officer, researching since 1981.

880	Mrs J C Hartnett 64 Dicketts Road Corsham Wilts SN13 9JS	BUTLER Lambourn 1800-1850 PYNNEL, WALDRON Lambourn Ci7 ANGELL Hungerford 1800-1840	reciprocal research in Trowbridge and Bath

Mrs Hartnett is a retired teacher.

no.	Name and address	Berkshire interests	Reciprocal research
883	Mr Jack Saunders Watersmeet 55 Devon Road Cheam Surrey	ADAMS Bray, Maidenhead BEAL, FERRY(Huguenot) Reading BINGHAM, DANDRIDGE, GREENAWAY, WINGRAVE, WOOSTER any in Berks. BRIGINSHAW (etc) any BIRD, BROOKS, CAFFALL, CLARKE, CLIFFORD, COLEMAN, NICHOLSON, SAUNDERS Maidenhead HAMMERTON Bray	JEFFERIES Windsor

He write, "Although I am a Vice-Chairman and Publicity Manager for the East Surrey FHS, practically all my own research interests are connected with Berks or Bucks. In my five years research since retirement, I've had some phenomenal success . . .My first Richard Saunders, b 1747, had a grocery business at 173 High Street, Maidenhead; I have almost completed a one-name study of BRIGINSHAW; Richard SAUNDERS, my great-grandfather, followed in the family grocery business and later bought a brewery in Broad Street, Reading, and put his only son Richard (my great-grandfather, b 1854) in as a manager. My father was born at the brewery in 1877! My grandfather did not continue the business after his father's death but interested himself for the rest of his life in things that appealed to him! He was a talented artist, bred arabian horses and spent a lot of time sailing and motoring - he had one of the first cars in Maidenhead. My mother was Ann Eliza BEAL, daughter of Thomas BEAL and Mary Ann FERRY. Thomas was superintendant and clerk to the Bradfield Union. You can imagine how surprised I was to see one of my great-grandfather's letters reproduced in the Autumn issue of 1981 . . . "

887	Mrs P Peacock 10 Penshurst Road Ramsgate Kent CT11 8EG	BENNETT, DARRELL, ELEN WALL, ALLNATT Wallingford, any date ELEN any Berkshire references	has researched the follow- E Sussex families -

- in depth and would provide information about them: ADAMS, BUTCHER, BRIGHTSIDE, MARCHANT, STEVENS, RUSSELL, ELEN. Phyllis is interested in finding the history of the Waterloo Hotel which her g-g-g-grandmother (Martha ELEN, nee BENNETT) ran for 25 years; it may have been converted from an older building when the railway was built.

892 893	Mr & Mrs M Smith 25 The Paddocks Green Lane Little Witcombe Gloucestershire	SMITH (Thomas) 1770s-1805 Buckland - afterwards moved to Glos. Michael is a transport driver and	Ceiwen a housewife.

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