

Oxfordshire

FAMILY HISTORIAN



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The Society's website can be found at: www.ofhs.org.uk

Front cover:

Red Rose Close in Kencot

This property is discussed in the Lease & Release article in this edition of the journal. The near end is a listed building built in the 1650s. It has Tudor hoodmoulds over the windows and a partially covered datestone at the end.

The attached cottage at the back is early nineteenth century.

Photo by Sue Honoré.



Oxfordshire FAMILY HISTORIAN

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SOCIETY OBJECTIVES

1. to advance public education in family history and genealogy primarily within the county of Oxford
2. to collect, index, co-ordinate, publish and make accessible in the interests of genealogy any documents or records relating to the county
3. to promote the preservation of such documents or records
4. to encourage the study of genealogy
5. to assist educationally by lectures or otherwise in record research
6. to co-operate with Family History and other Societies with similar interests.



The Constitution of the Society is lodged with the Charity Commissioners and a copy is available from the Society's web site or, upon receipt of a stamped addressed envelope, from the Secretary.

OFHS Registered Charity Number 275891

Subscriptions are renewable annually on 1 January except that those joining during Oct, Nov, Dec have their membership carried forward through the following year.

Membership renewal forms are distributed with the December journal.

UK members: Individual £9.00, Family £10.00

Overseas members (incl. postage) £12.00

Cheques drawn in sterling and made out to Oxfordshire Family History Society should be sent to the Membership Secretary (see the Who's Who at the back of this Journal).

Australian members may pay via the Society's agent (member 2202) Mrs Barbara Geeves, 8 Sailing Lane, Mornington, Victoria 3931, Australia
Email: agent-au@ofhs.org.uk

Membership details are kept on computer and are used for Society activities only.

Contributions to Future Editions

The *Oxfordshire Family Historian* is published three times each year with cover dates of April, August and December. Items for consideration should be submitted to the editor. The earlier an item is received, the greater the chance of inclusion in the next issue. The deadline for the December 2013 issue is 15 September 2013. Urgent and short items may be submitted up to 1 October 2013.

The Editor reserves the right to edit, abridge, reject, or defer to a future date, all material submitted for publication. It is the contributor's responsibility to ensure that material submitted does not breach copyright laws. Contributions remain the copyright of OFHS and the authors jointly. The observations and opinions expressed in the articles and notices in the journal are those of their authors and not necessarily those of the Society.

From the Editor

I am hoping that you enjoy a wide variety of articles in the *Oxfordshire Family Historian*; in this edition we have everything from Catholicism to clocks and locations from Oxford to Indiana and Queensland. It also contains a collection of articles on Lease and Release documents. Much like family wills, these property sale documents can reveal both house and family history information that cannot be found elsewhere. Mark Priddey from the Oxfordshire History Centre provides an introduction and Mervyn Hewlett describes his research into a property in the village of Kencot. I have added a short piece showing women's property rights on a document from Minster Lovell. If the articles interest you, do try and find a Lease and Release or Conveyance document that might help your own research. The OHC staff tell me they have a large collection of them!

The DNA competition results are also included in this edition. Thank you to everyone who entered. There were some fascinating stories. We hope that the two deserving winners Dr Robin Price and Gillian Talbot will gain much from their prizes and that it will spur more of you to join the Oxfordshire DNA project. The more people who join, the more we can link up local families and solve some mysteries that cannot be proven on paper.

You will see that the OFHS library is being dispersed on the closure of the Holford location later this year. Priority is being given to OFHS members to select any books they want. If you are

interested in bidding for any of them, please follow the instructions in this journal.

There are plenty of events taking place over the next few months. Apart from our regular talks in Kidlington, we have the OFHS Open Day in October and there are other local fairs and meetings, including a special event in June 2014 to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the First World War, called 'Pip, Squeak and Wilfred'. It is sponsored by the OFHS and the Federation of Family History Societies. Do check the calendars at the back of this journal for details and come along to as many events as you can. The hard-working volunteers from the OFHS especially enjoy meeting up with members at the Open Day, where there is time to have conversations on all manner of subjects and browse the numerous stalls. I hope to see many of you there, where you can give me feedback on this journal and where I, in turn, might be able to persuade you to try writing articles for it.

Speaking of articles, it would be fantastic to see a few more stories on your family history searches. Do you have an ancestor who got into trouble with the law? Is there a hero or heroine in your family? Did someone make enormous sacrifices for a better life for future generations? Do you have an old photograph that tells a story? Please send them in!

Sue Honoré
OFHS JOURNAL EDITOR

From the Executive Committee Table

by Wendy Archer

Membership

We were pleased that the year-end membership figures showed a membership of about 2,000 members, comparable to last year.

Oxfordshire parish register scanning

The report to the May committee meeting announced that scanning had reached parishes beginning with 'W'. The project has now accumulated 127,000 page images of the parish registers, totalling 6TB of storage. There were a number of parishes which had not originally given permission for the scanning, so a second pass through the alphabet is starting in June. Both the History Centre and OFHS have liaised with the parishes to achieve the later permissions; furthermore, some parishes have been encouraged to make temporary loans of registers still in use.

Other projects

The new season of transcribing of Monumental Inscriptions has started. More details are on pages 78–79.

The project to transcribe the grave registers of the four Oxford City cemeteries has completed. The focus now is on addressing queries therein.

Rekeying of old parish register transcripts is progressing, as is building up the burial index.

The Oxfordshire DNA project now has 22 members with recorded profiles. A full report follows in this journal.

Open Day

We are looking forward to our well-established Open Day at Woodstock on 5 October. For more details, see page 143.

Fairs and talks

We attended the Bracknell Family History Fair and took part in the *Who Do You Think You Are? Live* show at Olympia. We also attended, for the first time, a U3A Family History Study Day in Ash, Surrey. Within Oxfordshire, presentations were given to U3A groups and other organisations.

Holford Centre Librarian

We were sorry to hear that John Blakeman, our Holford Centre Librarian, had decided to retire from the post, and wish him well. Derek Powles has taken over the post, although his responsibility is primarily for the library's dispersal.

Outreach

Our advisors continue to offer help at the Holford Centre, at the Oxfordshire History Centre in Cowley and at the Westgate library in Central Oxford on several days a week. They are often given intriguing challenges!

OFHS News

Blog

Our blog at www.news.ofhs.org.uk/news is a new means of publicising our news.

Finance

Monthly accounts were presented and reviewed.

Wendy Archer
CHAIRMAN

Meardon Golden Anniversary

We were delighted to mark Margaret and Maurice's Golden Wedding with a presentation of a gold-leaved plant. Both have given long service to the Society; Maurice is a former Treasurer and librarian, and Margaret has catered for us at our meetings since the very early days of the Society, as well as having had the responsibility of the accommodation register.



Margaret and Maurice being presented with their gift

Family History Advisors needed

We still need more volunteers to man the Help Desk at the Oxfordshire History Centre, in St Luke's Church in Cowley, particularly on Thursdays. Can you volunteer even for one day a month? Training and support will be given and there is a great network of volunteers who are willing to help each other with tricky challenges. It also helps broaden your own research skills and knowledge. Contact Wendy Archer for more information at chairman@ofhs.org.uk



Help Desk volunteer Mick Dumbleton helping Bruce Tayler from New Zealand to trace his Oxfordshire ancestors

The OFHS Wills Library

The Wills Library advances slowly, though with a gap earlier this year while the ‘coordinator’ was doing some PRs for a change.

At the time of writing, we have getting on for 4,700 wills and associated documents online for your use, plus many hundreds of inventories, affidavits etc. which may be included with a will. Over 55,000 persons are indexed as appearing in those documents – though the true number must be fewer, as people may appear several times in different wills.

If you haven’t found the Library yet, it’s at wills.oxfordshirefhs.org.uk.

We have about 210 contributors, many sending in just one or two wills, a few

offering hundreds. We are grateful to all of them. Why not join them? Wills can be a tremendous help, especially where PRs are patchy or non-existent.

At first sight the older ones may appear completely unreadable, but on the whole they aren’t; it just takes practice.

If you need help with transcription, we can offer that. Free of charge, of course – all we ask is permission to add the will to the website. Just contact wills@ofhs.org.uk.

Copies of wills are obtainable from OHC and (online) from TNA, also now from Origins, who are very supportive.

Dave Beames

WILLS LIBRARY CO-ORDINATOR

dave.beames@ntlworld.com

wills@ofhs.org.uk

Update from the Churchyards

Not a great deal of fresh information to impart as I write this in early June. This year’s MI transcribing season is mostly following the plans outlined in the last issue of *Oxfordshire Family Historian*. Spring was a long time coming and we lost a few sessions immediately after Easter, but with a few good sunny days for the last two or three weeks the memory fades, and Oxfordshire’s churchyards are once again a pleasant place to spend a few hours a week. (Yes, this is a hint! More volunteers are always welcomed and we never forget that we do it because we enjoy it. So do please contact me if you would like to

join in the fun!)

By the time you read this, the Deddington transcript (OXF-MI-DED) should already be available for purchase and if Stanton Harcourt (OXF-MI-STH) is not already released, it soon will be. The Deddington team, led by Eve Magee, have now moved on to South Newington, whilst the Stanton Harcourt team I am leading have moved on to Standlake, another parish in the same benefice. Like Appleton and Stanton Harcourt, Standlake is another parish where Jill and Barry Muir had made good progress a few years ago with a team of local volunteers, so it is now a

OFHS News

matter of completing this in a form suitable for publication as a CD with photographs of all the monuments. Hence there is a good chance we should also finish work there before the end of this season. Jill and Barry have themselves recently completed both recording and photography at Tubney and we will be converting this to CD format in the near future. Sheila Tree's Cowley St James team too are 'in the home straight', although in this case the 'home straight' contains many of the

oldest stones, which although often the most fascinating, are also the slowest to read.

Finally I have sad news for all you Ian Fleming fans: as you can see from the photograph below of monument S007 at Stanton Harcourt, James Bond is no more. Amazing what you find in Oxfordshire's churchyards, isn't it?

Alan Simpson
MI COORDINATOR
mis@ofhs.org.uk



The gravestone in Stanton Harcourt reads: 'Sacred to the memory of James Bond who died December 29th 1861 aged 50 years'

Useful Addresses

OFHS Research Centre:

The Holford Centre, School Lane
Stanton St John, OXFORD, OX33 1ET
Tel: 01865 358151
See www.ofhs.org.uk for opening details
Helpline: 01628 485013
Email: help@ofhs.org.uk

Oxfordshire Central Library:

Westgate, OXFORD, OX1 1DJ
Open 09:00–19:00 Mon, Tue, Wed
Thu; 09:00–17:30 Fri, Sat
Closed Sun and Public Holidays
Web: [www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/
oxfordcentrallibrary](http://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/oxfordcentrallibrary)
Tel: 01865 815509

Provides a self-service selection of local and family history books, and access to a range of computer-based resources.

Local Studies Centres at other Libraries:

Abingdon 01235 520374
Banbury 01295 262282
Didcot 01235 813103
Henley 01491 575278
Wantage 01235 762291
Witney 01993 703659
Web: www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/libraries

Oxfordshire History Centre:

St Luke's Church, Temple Road, Cowley,
OXFORD, OX4 2HT
Tel: 01865 398200
Email: oxhist@oxfordshire.gov.uk
Web: [www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/
oxfordshirehistory](http://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/oxfordshirehistory)

Open 10:00–17:00 Tue,
09:00–17:00 Wed–Sat
Closed Mon, Sun, Public Holidays and
Bank Holiday weekends

Telephone numbers are shown for UK callers. From elsewhere replace the initial 0 by +44

Berkshire Record Office

9 Coley Avenue, READING, RG1 6AF
Open 09:00–17:00 Tue, Wed
09:00–21:00 Thu
09:00–16:30 Fri
Tel: 0118 937 5132
Email: arch@reading.gov.uk
Web: www.berkshirerecordoffice.org.uk

Society of Genealogists (SoG):

14 Charterhouse Buildings, Goswell Road,
LONDON, EC1M 7BA
Open 10:00–18:00 Tue, Wed, Sat
10:00–20:00 Thu
Tel: 020 7251 8799
Web: www.sog.org.uk

Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints Family History Centre:

280 The Meadway, Tilehurst, READING,
RG30 4PE
Tel: 0118 941 0211
Web: www.rfhc.org.uk

The National Archives (TNA):

Ruskin Avenue, Kew, RICHMOND, TW9
4DU
Open 09:00–19:00 Tue, Thu
09:00–17:00 Wed, Fri & Sat
Tel: 020 8876 3444
Web: www.nationalarchives.gov.uk

Federation of Family History Societies (FFHS):

PO Box 8857, LUTTERWORTH,
LE17 9BJ
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Email: info@ffhs.org.uk
Web: www.ffhs.org.uk

Guild of One-Name Studies:

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Who's Who in Oxfordshire FHS

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Book Reviews:

Books (or other items) for review should be sent to
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– book-reviews@ofhs.org.uk

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Wills Library Co-ordinator:

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Pip, Squeak



and



Wilfred

On 28 June 1914, Archduke Ferdinand was assassinated in Sarajevo.

On 28 June 2014 we bring you:

Pip, Squeak and Wilfred – the record legacy of 1914–1918

at the Marlborough School, Woodstock

Talks will cover the medals and medal cards, the ongoing discovery of memorabilia, and a plethora of other aspects of the record legacy from the period. There will be speakers from the National Archives as well as from academia and the family history world.

With sponsorship from Oxfordshire FHS and from the Federation of Family History Societies, this will not be an expensive day. We'll provide tea and coffee, you bring your own lunch and we expect the ticket price to be no more than £10.



We'll also be looking for volunteers on the day — for the car park and for other jobs within the hall.

Put this date (28 June 2014) in your diary now!

*Medal images above are from the Europeana 1914–1918 collection:
www.europeana1914-1918.eu/*

OFHS Open Day

5 October 2013, 10:00 am to 4:00 pm
The Marlborough Enterprise Centre, The Marlborough School
Shipton Road, Woodstock OX20 1LP

With nearly **40 exhibitors** including staff from Oxfordshire History Centre, Oxfordshire Registrars and Oxfordshire County Library, as well as many local and county family history societies, the OFHS Open Day is not to be missed! Some exhibitors such as The Western Front Association and Soldiers of Oxfordshire have extensive databases to help fill in those missing links in your family tree. Others provide services, such as photographic restorer 'Moments in Time', so bring along your damaged photos. Research materials, such as family tree charts, binders, books and postcards will be for sale.

Onsite access to Oxfordshire Family History Society's database as well as findmypast.co.uk will enable our own team of **OFHS experts** to help you solve those difficult questions. Advisors will also be available on wills and DNA. Browse through our full range of **publications** for sale, including CDs of parish records and MIs as well as a wide range of books.

A full list of exhibitors and a map of how to get to the venue are on our website: www.ofhs.org.uk.

The Marlborough Enterprise Centre is on one level and fully accessible. A range of delicious refreshments will be available for you to enjoy in a seated area. There is ample free parking on site and Woodstock can be accessed by the S3 Stagecoach bus, which runs regularly from both Oxford and Chipping Norton.

Entrance to the event is free.

Jenny Lee (5842)

OXFORDSHIRE FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY
OPEN DAY ORGANISER

Diary Dates

For more dates, especially the many events hosted by the Society of Genealogists in London, see the joint GENUKI/FFHS event calendar at www.geneva.weald.org.uk. Events in bold will have an OFHS presence.

September 2013

- Sep 6 Windmill Hill, BKM
Waddesdon Archives:
Behind the Scenes
- Sept 6-8 Leicester, LEI
Exodus: Movement of the
People conference
Halsted Trust
- Sept 7 Newcastle, TWR
The National Family
History Fair
- Sept 12-15 Oxford, OXF
Oxford Open Doors
- Sept 21 Doncaster, YKS
The Yorkshire Group
Family History Fair and
FFHS General Meeting

Sept 28 Bicester, OXF
**Bicester History &
Archaeology Exhibition**

October 2013

Oct 5 Woodstock, OXF
OFHS Open Day

Oct 26 Woking, SRY
West Surrey FHS
**Family History Fair &
Open Day**

January 2014

Jan 26 Bracknell, BRK
Bracknell Family History
Fair

Bicester History & Archaeology Exhibition

Oxfordshire County Council Museum Service
Saturday 28 September 2013 (10:30 am to 4:30 pm)
The Methodist Church Hall, Sheep Street, Bicester

Oxfordshire County Council Museum Service, as part of their 'History in the Making' Project, is bringing their archaeological and historical collections to Bicester at an Exhibition at the Methodist Church Hall, Sheep Street, to celebrate the history and heritage of Bicester and the surrounding area. All are welcome and OFHS will be there too.



Meetings at Exeter Hall

Oxford Road, Kidlington OX5 1AB

General meetings take place in the large hall.
Library, bookstall and computer advice from 19:15. Talks start at 20:00. Computer meetings (*) usually take place in the small hall.
Doors open at 19:15. Talks start at 19:30.

5 August 2013*

Beginning Blogging – make yourself a WordPress website
Malcolm Austen

23 September 2013

Joining the dots: connecting normal genealogical research, origins of surnames and DNA
Anthony Adolph

7 October 2013*

The Oxfordshire DNA project: what have we discovered?
Sue Honoré

28 October 2013

Children and war: experiences of the Second World War in Oxfordshire
Liz Woolley

25 November 2013

My ancestor left a will – well he should have done!
John Hanson

2 December 2013*

Preserve those family photos and letters
Alan Simpson

Back cover:

The Old Vicarage and gravestones at Broadwell

The medieval St Peter & St Paul's Church in Broadwell is almost across the road from Red Rose Close in Kencot. The village boundary lies between the two buildings.

Photo by Sue Honoré.

