

# Oxfordshire FAMILY HISTORIAN



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The Society's website can be found at: [www.ofhs.org.uk](http://www.ofhs.org.uk)

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**Front cover:**

A portrait of Octavius and Frances Caroline Holloway, children of Benjamin and Georgiana Holloway, with their dog, in Woodstock in the 1820s. The artist was Richard Livesay.

See article by Robert Thompson on the Holloways of Woodstock and Charlbury



# Oxfordshire FAMILY HISTORIAN

*The Journal of the Oxfordshire Family History Society*

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Vol. 30 No. 3

ISSN 0309-2275

December 2016

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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.

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) Barbara Geeves, 5 Esperance Court, Mount Martha, Victoria 3943, Australia  
Email: [agent-au@ofhs.org.uk](mailto:agent-au@ofhs.org.uk)

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

## Contributions to Future Issues

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 April 2017 issue is 15 January 2017. Urgent and short items may be submitted up to 1 February 2017.

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

By the time you read this journal, our 40th anniversary fair will be over. This year was particularly interesting (if that is the right word) in terms of publicity. Wendy Archer, Jessica Feinstein and several others of us did all we could to publicise the event on social media and through printed means. It fell to Angie Trueman (who has the enormous challenge of organising the fair) and me to cover the broadcast media. Now, to be honest, there is nobody on the Committee who is a real media bunny, but when pushed we all do our duty.

Preparing for the events made me think hard about what appeals to the interviewers and to the public. Over the years in my normal job and in my role with OFHS I have learned to expect that question: 'What most surprised you about...?', so at least now I come prepared with my spontaneous surprises. Also on radio, I can cover my intense grimace when they ask me a question I really don't want to answer or, even worse, don't know how to answer. Not so easy on TV. I must admit that the question this time about 'So what do you do when you have finished your whole family tree?' did stump me for a second. Finish? Nobody has finished their tree!

However, one thing I find is that researching family history is a subject that stimulates intense interest in the interviewers. The real challenge is to make sure you don't end up talking about one person's tree for the whole

broadcast. Off air, especially on BBC Radio Oxford, we did have some great discussions and I was even collared by the other guest, Felix Francis, son of jockey and author Dick Francis, to discuss our amazing mutual connections and his family history.

Looking at the positive feedback from our fair, especially for the search advisors, and seeing the grateful thanks to many people who help out as advisors during the year in the libraries and at the OHC, I know this is very much a feel-good pastime. Hopefully there will be many OFHS volunteers in another 40 years from now. That human interaction and help is so important.

Good luck with your winter family history projects that you all discussed when I met you at the fair.

*Sue Honoré*  
OFHS JOURNAL EDITOR



*A special 40th anniversary cupcake*

## From the Chairman

The highlight of the last four months is, of course, the launch of our parish register scans on Ancestry. This is the culmination of a long process which has been steered by ex-chairman Wendy Archer and to whom a great many thanks are due. Other people have been involved, as those who attended the recent (3 October) talk will be aware. The slides from those talks are now available in the Members-Only Area (henceforth MOA) and I would encourage you to visit and look through them. The MOA also contains details of an Ancestry subscription discount available in connection with the PR launch.

As to the registers on Ancestry, unsurprisingly Ancestry's transcription of our images have some 'rough edges' that means our own transcriptions are still a useful, even essential, finding aid. It's early days and some systematic problems found by us in the weeks before the launch have already been corrected. If you find problems, even simple ones, as well as reporting them via the Ancestry tools, please do let us know by email to [pr-report@ofhs.org.uk](mailto:pr-report@ofhs.org.uk) so that we can spot systematic issues.

Of course, the PR launch was not all that has happened since the last journal. Several fairs have been attended, our own (very successful) fair has run and other projects are ongoing.

A project of note is that (permissions having finally been obtained) Alan Simpson has photographed the pages of the Oxford City Honour Rolls held in St Michael's church in Cornmarket Street.

While we are committed to making these publicly available, some permissions need to be confirmed, so in the interim these Rolls are available for members to browse in the MOA.

The last item I have to squeeze into my allotted space is to encourage you all to visit the MOA ([moa.ofhs.org.uk](http://moa.ofhs.org.uk)) and fill in the survey to help the committee to decide priorities in our activities. About 50 people have already completed it but we need that to rise significantly to feel that we have a true sample of the views of you, our members. The survey closes at the end of January 2017.

Finally, I thank everyone who has helped in the work of the Society and I encourage the rest of you to consider what you can do to help. We have several ideas for projects that cannot progress without 'person-power' to work on or coordinate them.

*Malcolm Austen*  
CHAIRMAN

## Members' Only Area

Do please explore the Members' Only Area ([moa.ofhs.org.uk](http://moa.ofhs.org.uk)) on a regular basis. The Chairman's report details plenty of reasons to try it out this month, but we will be adding new content on a regular basis. Please start by giving us your views in our survey before the end of January. It is important to know what you want from the Society as we plan for its future.

## News from the Churchyards

As I write this in September it is getting towards the end of the year's transcribing season. The northern team completed work at Nether Worton and have moved on to Sandford St Martin, another parish in the same benefice. It is a lovely churchyard to work in with very friendly parishioners but has quite a lot of old, hard to read, stones and it is unlikely we will finish it this year. The Witney area team completed work at Freeland and have now moved on to Bampton (or as the constant stream of visiting coach parties would have it, 'Downton'). Again a nice churchyard with lots of old stones that will not be completed this year.

The weather does rather seem to have had it in for us of late. As I write

this, it is Monday and raining steadily so the Bampton team will have been rained off. On Friday, we had no sooner started work than the rain started and we had to adjourn indoors where we are now just about running out of monuments to transcribe. Perhaps next week the sun will shine!

Once the recording season is over your scribe will concentrate on getting the Worton and Freeland transcripts created as CDs for publication. A team of local enthusiasts have been busy recording at Chalgrove and we have converted this to CD format, a first iteration of which is currently being checked. So with luck we should have three more CDs to add to our collection this winter.



*The tomb of the Earl and Countess of Deloraine at Sandford*

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## **OFHS News**

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Amongst other monuments at Sandford is this interesting grassed over arched tomb for the Earl and Countess of Deloraine (see previous page). Henry Scott was a son of the first Duke of Monmouth and was granted the Scottish Earldom of Deloraine, by Queen Anne in 1706. This got him a seat in the Scottish parliament where he naturally voted in favour of the Acts of Union. He died suddenly on Christmas day in 1730.

Despite the size of the tomb, the inscription is a very small rectangular

panel merely giving the names and year of death. On the other hand, Sarah Taylor, their housekeeper for 20 years, merits this highly ornate stone.

*Alan Simpson (3960)*  
MI CO-ORDINATOR  
*Forest Farmhouse, Old Road*  
*Shotover Hill, Headington*  
OXFORD OX3 8TA  
*mis@ofhs.org.uk*



*The gravestone for the Deloraine's housekeeper Sarah Taylor*

# OFHS 40th Anniversary Fair October 2016

We once again opened the doors at the Marlborough School in Woodstock to hold our annual fair on 1 October. As usual it was a massive team effort with volunteers from the Society agreeing to help set up on the Friday evening; man help desks and provide face to face expert advice; welcome our visitors on the door or even work in the car park on Saturday. This year we saw some 320 visitors which is a great turnout considering that some societies are no longer holding their own fairs.

There were stallholders from over 40 organisations ranging from other counties' societies to local history societies and museums and of course our friends from the commercial companies with all their wares to buy. They all reported that the day went well for them with a buzz about the halls, great networking and many interesting conversations with visitors.

This year we marked two special occasions: the first was the launch of the Oxfordshire parish registers (PRs) as scanned images on the Ancestry.com website and the second, the 40th anniversary of the OFHS.

Ancestry was in attendance with 2 representatives to inform folk of the range of the PRs available and offering a 20% discount on subscriptions for OFHS members to help anyone who

wishes to sign up. For our 40th celebration we arranged for all visitors to have a cupcake (with special OFHS logo!) and Ancestry kindly agreed to fund tea or coffee for all the visitors and stallholders, both of which were very much appreciated.

This year too we tried to encourage younger 'researchers' and there was a table dedicated to young visitors, with Jessica Feinstein's daughter Hannah (a qualified nursery nurse) keeping the small ones engaged.

The prize draw took place at the end of the day and our President Hugh Kearsy drew the winners: Joan Reid won the worldwide subscription to Findmypast and Susan Pearce won one for Ancestry.

Many thanks to the volunteers across the Society who make this event possible. Thanks too to the school and our caterer Wendy Dickins of Good Food Catering who again provided excellent refreshments.

I do hope that many of you attended the fair; we have already set the date for next year – **Saturday 7 October 2017**. Any ideas for what you would like to see then would be welcome – please email me at [fair@ofhs.org.uk](mailto:fair@ofhs.org.uk).

*Angie Trueman*  
OFHS FAIRS ORGANISER

# OFHS 40th Anniversary Fair October 2016



# News from the Berkshire Record Office

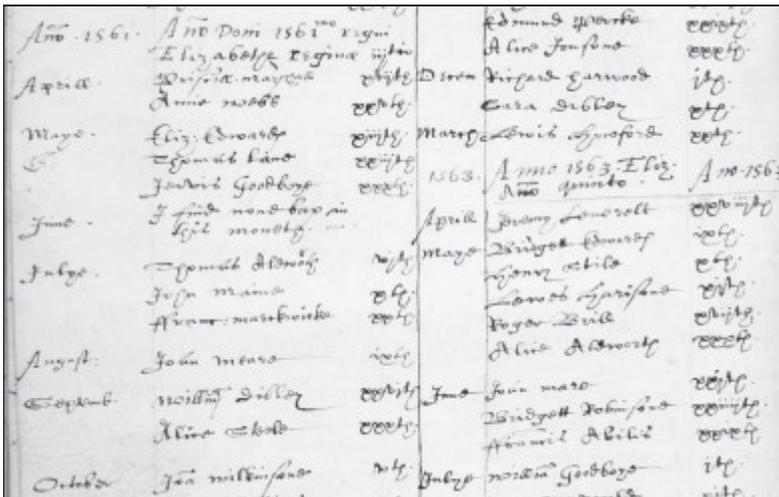
## What's new?

We have received and catalogued a number of archives related to Oxfordshire such as the Garford enclosure award of 1826 (D/EZ184; unfortunately there is no map), and a letter book of Faringdon Rural District Council, 1916–1917, which has many entries relating to local tribunals dealing with requests for exemption from conscription (RD/F/CZ). We have purchased the original bank pass book for Moulsoford Asylum (later Fair Mile Hospital) Committee of Visitors, 1867–1873 (D/EZ188). We have also been given some photographs showing Ashbury Manor House and the White Horse and Dragon Hills, Uffington, in

the 1960s/70s (D/EX2503).

Those with family history connections will be interested to know that the parish registers covering marriages, 1990–2012 for Milton (D/P85) and marriages, 1977–2014 for Steventon (D/P119) are now available. A substantial addition has also been made to the records of Abingdon Congregational/United Reformed Church (D/N1), 1900–1999, which includes marriage registers for 1900–1968. Details of newly accessible records for the rest of Berkshire can be found in the BRO newsletter, *The Berkshire Echo*. This is available online on our website:

[www.berkshirerecordoffice.org.uk/berkshire-echo/](http://www.berkshirerecordoffice.org.uk/berkshire-echo/).



One example of the type of old handwriting that is explored in the 'Reading Old Handwriting' events held at the BRO

## Scene Around

### Educational Events

Interested in caring for your own historical documents or ever wanted to know how to read old handwriting? The BRO is now offering educational workshops on 'Collection Care' and 'Reading Old Handwriting' (both first held in October 2016). They are for absolute beginners and cost £20 per person. Perhaps you would like to see what goes on behind the scenes? Well we are also offering FREE 'Behind the Scenes' visits in mid-November 2016 and 21st January 2017.

All the above events require booking; please contact the BRO to book a place. Keep an eye on our Events page on the BRO website for the most up to

date schedules:

[www.berkshirerecordoffice.org.uk/events/](http://www.berkshirerecordoffice.org.uk/events/) as we will be planning more of them in 2017.

Don't forget to look at our website [www.berkshirerecordoffice.org.uk](http://www.berkshirerecordoffice.org.uk) for general information and the latest news. You can also find us on Facebook (The Berkshire Record Office) and follow us on Twitter (@berksarchives).

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## News from Oxfordshire History Centre

We are pleased to have several articles in this issue from the OHC written by a number of the staff at the Centre.

### Name-rich sources for family historians

Many archive collections held at Oxfordshire History Centre contain

records of potential interest to family historians. Below are examples of sources that we have been highlighting via our social media accounts :

[www.facebook.com/OxfordshireHistoryCentre](http://www.facebook.com/OxfordshireHistoryCentre) and  
[www.twitter.com/Oxhist](http://www.twitter.com/Oxhist)

The Blue Coat document has been recently catalogued, having been



*The suitcase containing the Blue Coat records 1890 [Ref: BOR1/24/1L/1]*

Year	Age	Years at school	Boys	Girls
1785	14	6	Will. Ancliffe	
1787	12	4	Will. Cloudege	
1787	12	4	The Woodman	
1788	11	3	The Gubbins	
1788	11	3	Robt. Lemprey	
1789	13	2	The Tomkins	
	11	2	The Lynce	
	10	2	Will. Williams	
	10	2	The Kalloway	
1790	12	1	John. Harwood	
	10	1	George White	
	10	1	Benj. Charles	
	10	1	John Lane	
	10	1	William Salway	
				Sarah Perry 1786 12 5
				Isabella Stiller 1786 12 5
				Ann Lane 1786 13 5
				Elizabeth 1787 10 4
				Catherine Paragat 1788 9 3
				Sarah Compton 1789 9 2
				Elizabeth Mander 1790 9 1
				Elizabeth Taylor 1790 10 1
				Mary Tomkins 1790 9 1
				Ann Harwood 1790 9 1
				Isabella Harwood 1790 8 1

Banbury Blue Coat School Trustees minutes and accounts:  
 [Archive reference:S21/1/A4/1]

discovered in its own quirky packaging; a bespoke suitcase! It contains both the minutes and the accounts of the Banbury Blue Coat School from 1785, but unusually it also features information about the pupils themselves. The document lists the names of both the boys and girls who attended the school between 1785–1813, as well as their age, the year they started school and years they spent at the school.

The Banbury Blue Coat School was founded in 1705 and was originally located in rooms above the Town Gaol. When the National School opened in 1817 this school took on the education of the Blue Coat School pupils. The school is now St Mary’s Primary School and the charity still exists, providing grants for educational purposes.

## Allotment records

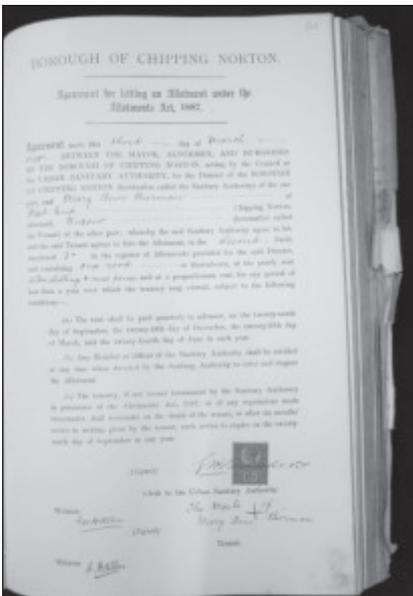
For National Allotments Week in August, we promoted allotment records, using Chipping Norton records as an example. Did your ancestor have an allotment?

The early nineteenth century saw organised movements to promote the establishment of allotments and by the mid-1840s, it has been estimated, there were around 100,000 plots in England. They provided a valuable opportunity for families to improve their diet and quality of life. The concerns of some farmers that their workers would be less productive if they also had their own plots to tend, gave way to a general acceptance that allotments were socially beneficial. Oxfordshire saw an expansion in allotment provision during the second half of the century with demand outstripping supply in the

## Scene Around

1880s. By 1887 there were nearly 345,000 plots recorded nationally. Allotment landlords could include: landowners, parish officers, charities and allotment societies. In 1908 legislation came into force, placing a duty on local authorities to provide sufficient allotments, according to demand.

Archive collections may contain registers of tenants and maps of the land allotted, and individual tenancy agreements. The documents pictured are examples from Chipping Norton Borough records. The register of tenants of 'Poor's Allotments at Southcomb' includes a map of the allotment and a list of the names of the tenants of each plot. The example of an allotment



Mary Ann Burman, Chipping Norton allotment agreement 1890 [Ref: BOR1/24/1L/1]

agreement shows widow Mary Ann Burman agreeing to pay an annual rent of 10 shillings and 9 pence, in 1890. You can search for more collections of allotment records in our catalogue [www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/heritagesearch](http://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/heritagesearch)

*Ellie Reid (Local Studies Librarian)  
and Alison Smith (Archivist)*

## Antiquarian Cataloguing Project

Following an earlier article in this magazine on antiquarian cataloguing at Oxfordshire History Centre, we are now pleased to report that this project is complete.

Lucy Evans, a freelance specialist cataloguer working with the Bodleian, has been working on around 260 volumes belonging to the History Centre, all of which were published before 1820, and which librarians at the Centre do not have training to catalogue themselves. Details of these books are now visible worldwide through the university's SOLO catalogue. 52 of them are unique to our collection. These are not available in the Bodleian or in any of the other libraries represented on the SOLO catalogue.

Items which might be of particular interest to family historians include a series of poll books covering the period 1750–1868, and a range of 18th and 19th century guidebooks to Oxford. Other books of more general interest include a large selection of English Civil War tracts, local Acts of Parliament providing for new roads and waterways

Michaelmas 1855 . 1856					
No	Signature of Tenant	No	Signature of Tenant	No	Signature of Tenant
1	John B. Bucknell	20	Richard Woodcock	39	Joseph Warkipole
2	Thomas Lee	21	Walter Smith	40	Thomas Grant
3	John Lee	22	John Baker	41	Henry Dunder
4	James Lee	23	William Smith	42	John Matthews
5	John Robinson	24	Richard Jones	43	Joseph Smith
6	Edward Robinson	25	John Robinson	44	Richard Smith
7	Joseph Robinson	26	William Smith	45	Thomas Robinson
8	Joseph Robinson	27	William Smith	46	Thomas Dunder
9	George Smith	28	Charles Smith	47	Joseph Piggott
10	Thomas Smith	29	David Robinson	48	John Lee
11	William Lee	30	Richard Robinson	49	Henry Smith
12	George Piggott	31	William Smith	50	Thomas Robinson
13	William Lee	32	William Smith	51	John Robinson
14	Thomas Robinson	33	Joseph Smith	52	Henry Piggott
15	Richard Robinson	34	Thomas Lee	53	Thomas Smith
16	Walter Robinson	35	Richard Smith	54	Thomas Robinson
17	Walter Robinson	36	George Robinson	55	Charles Robinson
18	William Robinson	37	Thomas Robinson	56	Joseph Robinson
19	Thomas Robinson	38	Thomas Robinson	57	William Robinson

List of the tenants of 'the poor's allotments at 'Southcomb', Chipping Norton, 1848–1905 [Archive Ref: BOR1/24/3a/1]

and for various aspects of the administration of the university and its colleges. There are also some intriguing titles such as 'Oxford sausage'. (You will have to request this in the searchroom if you want to know what it is about!).

All antiquarian books listed on SOLO or on the History Centre's own Heritage Search catalogue can be viewed in the searchroom by filling in a request slip.

Joyce Brown (Local Studies Librarian)

## Oxfordshire History Centre Closure in December

The air-conditioning plant is being replaced at the History Centre. The OHC will be closed the weeks beginning 5 and 12 December 2016 to allow the crane to remove the unit and install a new one and for stocktaking to take place at that time rather than during the

usual stocktake closure period in January/February. The OHC will therefore be open as normal through January/February 2017.

The air conditioning work will take several weeks before and after this closure, which means that car parking may be limited for an extended period in November/December/January.

Please check the OHC website for up-to-date details on this work and the closure period.

Mark Priddey (History Centre Manager (Archives))

Oxfordshire History Centre

St Luke's Church

Temple Road, Cowley

Oxford OX4 2HT

01865 398203

[www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/cms/public-site/oxfordshire-history-centre](http://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/cms/public-site/oxfordshire-history-centre)

# Victoria County History Update

## Ewelme Hundred volume published

VCH Oxfordshire XVIII (Ewelme Hundred) was published in July, and is available at a 25% discount until the end of December (i.e. including the run-up to Christmas!). As OFHS members you should have already received a discount flyer and order form – but if yours has been lost, misplaced, or purloined, then the form can be downloaded from the VCH Oxfordshire website (see link from the home page). Copies of the book are also available at Oxfordshire History Centre and through the Oxfordshire Library Service. A fuller note on the contents was included in the August

issue but, just to remind you of the outlines: the volume covers a total of 14 ancient parishes from Warborough and Benson across to Nuffield and Nettlebed, stretching northwards as far as Rycote (in Great Haseley parish). The discount form also includes an offer on our earlier Henley volume (2011), which covers several neighbouring rural parishes as well as the town itself.

## Wychwood area progress

The next volume due for completion is that on the Wychwood area, covering a dozen places from Idbury on the Gloucestershire border across to Leafield and Ramsden near Witney, and including (along with Shipton and



*The blacksmith Edward GODDEN and his wife outside Ewelme forge:  
an illustration from VCH Oxfordshire XVIII*

Milton-under-Wychwood) both Cornbury park and the former royal forest. Six of those places (Idbury, Fifield, Bruern, Lyneham, Milton, and Shipton) are already on the VCH website in draft form, and Ascott-under-Wychwood will follow before Christmas, with Wychwood and Cornbury to appear early in 2017. Leafield and Ramsden will follow by early 2018, after which the whole volume will be revised ready for publication. More detailed summaries of those places will appear in future issues of *Oxfordshire Family Historian* as they

appear on the VCH website – but as a taster for family-history purposes, prominent early names appearing in Ascott include CHAUNDY, DUNFORD, and WHITING (established by the 14th century), along with PEISLEY, WINCHESTER, BOND(E) and HAMMOND. The village is, of course, well known not only for the ‘Ascott Martyrs’ but for the remains of its two 12th-century castles (one built on the d’OILLY family’s manor, the other at nearby Ascott Earls), which will be fully explored in the draft text.

### Chilterns progress

Alongside the Wychwood work, research is under way on a dozen remaining Chiltern parishes from Crowmarsh Gifford across to Shiplake, which will complete our coverage of the south-eastern part of the county. Both Crowmarsh and Shiplake are currently being finalised for the web and will appear very shortly. Crowmarsh itself was a small (661 acre) parish which, like most others in that area, stretched from the Thames up onto the Chiltern uplands, providing a variety of agricultural resources which probably reflect conscious planning when Crowmarsh manor was first created in the 10th or early 11th century. Though always predominantly agricultural, its proximity to Wallingford gave it some suburban characteristics, and as well as acquiring a medieval market it remained a focus for roadside trades and crafts. Shiplake, adjoining the Thames on the other side of the Chilterns, was comparable in many respects, but from the 19th century (when it acquired a railway station) shared in the general



*The JENNINGS family memorial in Shiplake church. The family lived at Shiplake Court (since rebuilt and now a private school)*

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## Scene Around

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gentrification of the Henley area, also attracting tourists and fishing and boating parties. Prominent Shiplake yeomen included the FOWLERS, HESTERS, JEMMOTTs and KENTs, while prominent landowners included the HEYWOODs, WRIGHTs, and (later) PHILLIMOREs, along with the Roman Catholic PLOWDENS.

## Talks and Events

Upcoming talks through to 2017 are listed on the VCH website, including a talk to the OFHS on 27 March. Please get in touch if your local history group is interested in a talk on any of our current or recent projects.

*Simon Townley*  
VCH OXFORDSHIRE COUNTY EDITOR  
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# The Oxfordshire Health Archives

Many people may not realise that there is a medical archive housed in the Oxfordshire History Centre. The Oxfordshire Health Archives may be a useful resource if you have any ancestors who were in the medical profession or may have been a patient in Oxfordshire. The archives hold content on the management and administration of the hospitals, committee minutes, nurse training records, alumni records, building records, even a doctor's medical bag and blood pressure apparatus along with many more items. Of special note to family history researchers are the patient records, which may contain dates of admission and discharge (or death) plus in some cases, information on treatment. Not all Oxfordshire

hospitals are covered, although there is a long list. Please check the website for details.

The content is available to holders of a CARN reader's ticket. Please note that some information, such as patient and staff records, may have restricted access. Please bring along official documents and other evidence to prove your relationship to a person mentioned in the archives; if in doubt, contact the Archives first to determine what would be needed in your specific case.

Roy Overall, an ex-nurse and volunteer at the Archives, provides some extra insights:

'We try to find as much information as we can for people who enquire. It must feel dreadful if an email comes

back to say that nothing can be found. We spent a long time for one lady who knew that her relative was at Horton hospital and found nothing. Then I remembered there was a Horton hospital in Epsom in Surrey and that was the right one.'

'I wanted to preserve as many records as possible. I do transcribing for OFHS, but enjoyed working through the difficult admission certificates for the hospital archives. The certificates were very delicate and folded, so needed to be straightened out carefully and held down with weights before we could transcribe the information. Having a medical background helps; I was able to read some of the doctors' handwriting and translate terms that may not have been understood by the layman.'

Two examples of early patients were:

5 October 1854 Mary SADLER, died of exhaustion of disease of the knee, aged 44. Entered 11 April 1854.

31 Aug 1854 Hannah COX, discharged, recovered. Entered 26 April 1854.

'There is an interesting relationship between Littlemore and Warneford hospitals. Warneford was generally for the more wealthy patients who could pay for treatment. The rest went to Littlemore. Hence you tend to see the home addresses of those at Warneford covering a wide area; many of the patients came from London. Before Warneford opened, patients were in other hospitals around the country, so for example we have a large block of

people arriving together from Dorchester in Dorset on one day. During the war the army took over many hospitals and most of the Littlemore patients went to Birmingham. After the war not many returned to Oxfordshire. Littlemore had two burial grounds starting from 1882 right through to 1954.'

There is plenty to explore in the Health Archives, so if the area is relevant to you, do check the website for further details.

Oxfordshire Health Archives  
Oxfordshire History Centre  
St Luke's Church  
Temple Road  
Cowley, OXFORD  
OX4 2HT  
01865 398243

[archives@oxfordhealth.nhs.uk](mailto:archives@oxfordhealth.nhs.uk)  
[www.oxfordshirehealtharchives.nhs.uk](http://www.oxfordshirehealtharchives.nhs.uk)



# Peterborough and the Great War

Did you have an ancestor who served in the First World War and could have travelled through Peterborough by train in 1916 or 1917? If so, they may feature in a project taking place at the moment.

Peterborough used to have two railway stations. The present station was known as Peterborough North and there was also a Peterborough East.

An organisation called the Women's United Total Abstinence Council ran a coffee and tea wagon in Peterborough city centre to try and keep men away from the pubs. During WWI they transferred to the railway station to provide refreshments for servicemen travelling through. Visitors were invited to sign a guest book and two of these books, from 1916 and 1917, survive from the East Station.

An award from the Heritage Lottery Fund has enabled these guest books to be digitised, indexed and a website created.

Although mainly soldiers some entries were from sailors and a few women also feature. Some just signed the book, others wrote messages or poems and there are also drawings. The people came from all over the country so this is not just a local project.

The main aim is to find out about the servicemen and record anything that might be known about them so bringing to life the person who wrote in the book. It is interesting generally to browse the entries on the website, reading the messages, seeing the

different handwriting and the places people came from.

There is a Project Officer but most of the transcribing and research has been carried out by volunteers. They hope that anyone who recognises a name will be able to provide more information including photographs. They would be delighted to hear from you if one of your ancestors featured in the book.

The website:

**[www.peterboroughww1.co.uk](http://www.peterboroughww1.co.uk)** has images of the pages, an index of names and any information that they already have about a serviceman. More up to date information is available on social media. It is a fascinating social document and well worth looking through.

*Dorothy Harbron*  
*pgandd\_harbron@hotmail.com*

## Help Wanted

In 1801 a male child was baptised John ROSE CHERRY of Wheatfield, Oxfordshire. Could this have been John ROSS Cherry? So far no occurrence of ROSE has been found in the family. Any help would be appreciated.

*Mrs E A Ferris (6797)*  
*3 Nursery Gardens, ALFORD*  
*LN13 9EN*

## OFHS Looking Back in Time...

### **Colin Harris writes about the very beginning of the society:**

*We, a mix of enthusiasts, were invited to a meeting in Rhodes House in Oxford in November 1976. Gerald Hamilton-Edwards, an author of the very popular *In search of Ancestry and Oxford* resident was encouraged to convene a meeting with the aim of forming an Oxfordshire Family History Society to join the burgeoning band of family history societies then being established around the country. By the end of that meeting he was the President, Jeremy Gibson, the Editor and Mary Beck the Secretary. At the first meeting our objectives were conceived.*

*Jeremy used his skills as sometime Editor of the Banbury Historical Society and as a printer/publisher to produce our first magazine in record time. In no time he was suggesting projects, one of the first being the pilot project of indexing Oxford City marriages, 1813–37, and completed it himself. This was the kick-start of the Oxfordshire Marriage Index achieved with a team of volunteer slip-indexers I organised, mainly working on original registers in the Bodleian Library which was then the recognised depository for Oxfordshire parish registers. While the*

*Marriage Index was being compiled Brigadier Goadby used his skills from his time in Indian Civil Service to systematically transcribe, parish registers deanery by deanery, encouraging others outside his current ‘patch’ to ‘take up arms’ and work on their local parish registers. His ‘commands’ were generally accepted without question. Being personally instructed on how the project should be organised I duly took over his mantle as Parish Register Co-ordinator when he died and helped to see the transcription of most parishes’ registers for the county to at least 1837, several editions of the Parish Register booklet appearing over the years with timely updates.*

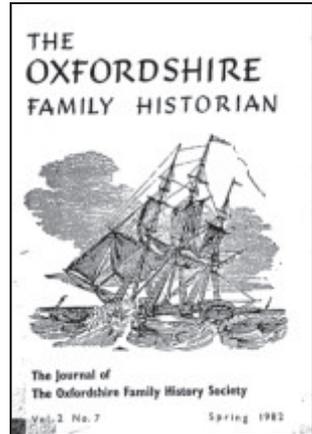
*I could not finish without recalling Mary Beck who not only had excellent typing skills, but a way with words and who would today be called an outreach officer (or is that passé now?). She made it her business to teach family history to an eager audience at various venues around the county. I accompanied her and quietly provided the slide show. Many a local project was initiated following such talks and new OFHS memberships also resulted.*

*The rest is (Oxfordshire family) history!*

## OFHS Looking Back in Time, continued...

*The best memory for me was in being able to take a full part in all the exciting new activities of OFHS when we moved to Oxfordshire from Kent. I took on new members' interests in 1983 and joined the Committee as Membership Secretary in 1985. I enjoyed this task enormously and only stopped when I became Chairman in 1990.*

**Joan Howard-Drake**



*Not So Retiring Now...*

*In the late 1980s and early 1990s, attending a monthly Society meeting was a very 'grey-haired' event. The enthusiasm for family history burned bright, but the age demographic was definitely over 60 or even older.*

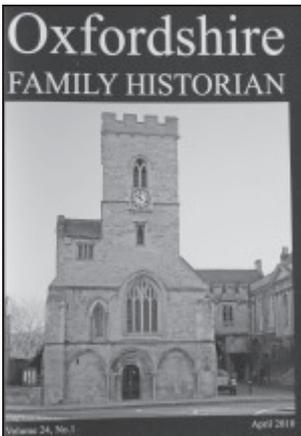
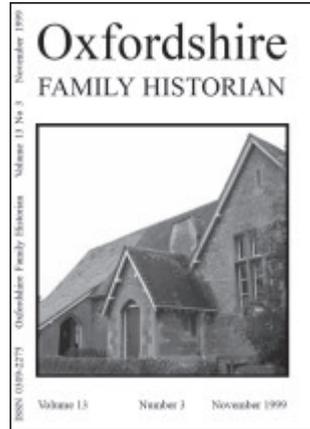
*Genealogy and family history were seen as retirement hobbies for those who had the time and the inclination to visit far-flung record offices and parish churches. But family historians are NOT so retiring now. Having moved into the mid-60s myself, I am pleased to see that CD projects, the internet and popular television programmes have brought a younger cohort to family history. Hopefully, these new enthusiasts will have plenty of time to query those who are still living and fill out their trees with first-hand information unlike those who started too late to call upon 'living memories'.*

**Rebecca Vickers**



*I joined OFHS about 1980 because I wanted to find out more about my father's ancestors. They were agricultural labourers in north-west Oxfordshire from at least the time of the Reformation until the late 19th century. Becoming a member of OFHS opened up many opportunities to learn more and I was greatly aided by fellow members, such as the Reverend Ralph MANN, Terry PRATLEY and Marjorie CURRIE (née GEORGE), some of whom proved to be relatives of mine.*

*In those days, research proceeded at a leisurely pace. Often, there were pauses of months or even years between major advances. Gathering information generally meant writing letters (sometimes more in hope than expectation) and visiting people, places and institutions. Technology has*



*changed that considerably, though we should not be fooled into thinking everything is on the internet, nor that what is there is always correct.*

*Today we have the fascinating merger of traditional genealogy and DNA studies. Anyone imagining that even the most scrupulously compiled family tree reliably shows the actual genetic connections between all the people shown is deluded!*

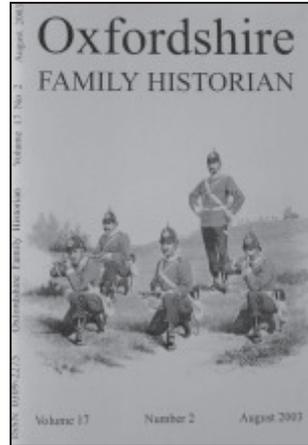
*OFHS is moving with the times and leading the way, with its support of the Oxfordshire DNA project. It's early days but already this is indicating that the cluster of HADLANDs around Charlbury (my lot) and the cluster around Bicester are, as was expected,*

*over...*

## OFHS 40th Anniversary

*closely related. But DNA testing also indicates that Oxfordshire HADLANDs are closely related to people with variants of the surname MAYNARD. As there were MAYNARDs in the same part of Oxfordshire as HADLANDs, did some MAYNARDs get given the toponym HADLAND? We may soon have a better idea of how these families connect.*

*There's always more to learn and that's why I'm glad I joined OFHS and why I happily continue to pay my annual subscription. **Tony Hadland***



*Like Topsy OFHS has grown and grown. How marvellous it is to see this. When Secretary of OFHS, our committee was responsible for a FFHS conference and what fun it was and what tremendously hard work. It would not have gone as smoothly as it did without committee support and Carole NEWBIGGING. Her brilliance at arranging such events came to the fore and sustained us all. We held a SoG conference after that on computer use – a new venture for many in family history. Success again as Carole led the way. My FH interests lie in Wales and not Oxfordshire, but I had a thoroughly great time being on the committee and later helping in other ways. Keep it up OFHS! Many, many congratulations on your 40th birthday. **Jill Muir***



*1993 Exec Committee:  
Back from left: Barry Muir, Tony Chalkley, Hugh Kearsey, Bob Boyd. Front row: Chris Fenn, Carole Newbigging, Jill Muir, Jean Price, Linda Dore.  
Photo from Jill Muir*

# Who's Who in Oxfordshire FHS

## Book Reviews:

Contact the Editor – see inside front cover  
– book-reviews@ofhs.org.uk

## CD/DVD Sales:

June Whipp,  
217 Banbury Road  
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– cd-sales@ofhs.org.uk

## Computer Group organising panel:

Contact the panel via Alan Simpson:  
– see Search Services  
– computers@ofhs.org.uk

## Fairs: OFHS Family History Fair Organiser:

Angie Trueman  
20 Gwyns Piece  
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– fair@ofhs.org.uk

## Fairs: Organiser for all other fairs:

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– events@ofhs.org.uk

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– 01865 358151  
– help@ofhs.org.uk

## Journal Editor:

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– editor@ofhs.org.uk

## Membership Secretary & Members' Interests:

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– membership@ofhs.org.uk

## Monumental Inscriptions:

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## Programme Co-ordinator:

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## Project Co-ordinator and PR Transcription Project:

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– projects@ofhs.org.uk

## Projects (other):

**DNA:** dna@ofhs.org.uk – Sue Honoré  
**Scanning:** – Wendy Archer (see Helpline)

## Publicity Team:

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## Search Services:

Dr Alan Simpson, Forest Farmhouse, Old  
Road, Shotover Hill, Headington, OXFORD,  
OX3 8TA  
– searches@ofhs.org.uk

## Treasurer

(Position currently vacant)  
– treasurer@ofhs.org.uk

## War Memorials Co-ordinator:

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24 Newland Close, Eynsham, WITNEY, OX29 4LE  
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– war-memorials@ofhs.org.uk (via Malcolm Austen)

## Website Manager:

Malcolm Austen,  
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– 01235 533626  
– webmaster@ofhs.org.uk

## Wills Library Co-ordinator:

Dave Beames,  
162 Black Road, MACCLESFIELD, SK11 7LF  
– wills@ofhs.org.uk

If a postal address is not listed, please send correspondence, addressed to the appropriate role, to:

Oxfordshire Family History Society  
St Luke's Church  
Temple Road  
Cowley, OXFORD  
OX4 2HT

If you cannot find the role you are seeking in the list above, please contact the Helpline (see column 1 on this page) or consult [www.ofhs.org.uk](http://www.ofhs.org.uk).

# 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 [geneva.weald.org.uk](http://geneva.weald.org.uk).

Events in bold will have an OFHS presence.

## December 2016

- Dec 7      Islip, OXF  
              ‘The Westgate Project’, Ben Ford (Oxford Archaeology)  
              Islip Village Hall, 8:00pm
- All Dec     Banbury, OXF  
              Cold War Frontier: The story of ‘Little America’, RAF Upper Heyford Banbury Museum  
              Exhibition until 7 January

## January 2017

- Jan 11     Woodstock, OXF  
              ‘The Water Gypsy: how a Thames fishergirl became a viscountess’, Julie Ann Godson, The Oxfordshire Museum, 7:30pm
- Jan 12     Wootton, OXF  
              ‘Leisure and Entertainment in Victorian and Edwardian Oxford’, Liz Woolley  
              Wootton Community Centre, 7:30pm

## February 2017

- Feb 22     Dorchester, OXF  
              ‘Intriguing and Surprising Themes in Medieval Illuminated Manuscripts’  
              Dorchester Village Hall, 7:30pm
- Feb 23     Aston, near Bampton, OXF  
              ‘Local Stagecoaches and Highwaymen’, Martin Way  
              Fellowship Centre, Cote Road, 7:30pm

## March 2017

- Mar 4      Canterbury, KEN  
              Heraldry
- Mar 10     Woking, SRY  
              Family History Course (6 weeks) – Research Made Easy

## April 2017

- Apr 6-8    NEC Birmingham, WAR**  
**Who Do You Think You Are?**  
**Live**

# Meetings at Exeter Hall

Oxford Road, Kidlington

OX5 1AB

General meetings take place in the large hall.

Bookstall and computer advice from 7:15pm. Talks start at 8:00pm.

Computer meetings (\*) usually take place in the small hall. Doors open at 7:15pm. Talks start at 7:30pm.

**5 December 2016\***

*Christmas Forum – Computer Group general discussion & helpdesk*

**23 January 2017**

*Child labour in nineteenth-century Oxfordshire – Liz Woolley*

**6 February 2017\***

*Cloud Computing for Family History – Norman Dutton*

**27 February 2017**

*The Psychology of Brick Walls – Sharon Hintze*

**27 March 2017**

*Benson to Bruern – Recent Victoria County History Discoveries from the Chilterns to Wychwood – Simon Townley*

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## **Back cover:**

A selection of issues of The Oxfordshire Family Historian, including the one commemorating the silver anniversary in 2001



Oxfordshire  
FAMILY HISTORIAN

ISSN 0109-2273  
Oxfordshire Family Historian  
Volume 17, No. 3  
December 2003

Samuel M.  
Arthur M.  
Florence M.  
Thomas C.  
James Charles  
Charles  
Violet S.  
Frederick  
Simon



Volume 17  
Number 3  
December 2003

Volume 14  
Number 2  
August 2009