

Oxfordshire FAMILY HISTORIAN



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Steve Pickthall, Kevin Poile, Angie Trueman

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

Front cover:

A sheep going through the fleece washing process at the newly-restored
Sarsden wash pool. 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.

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

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 December 2017 issue is 15 September 2017. Urgent and short items may be submitted up to 1 October 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

This issue of the journal seems to focus on occupations. We have contributed articles on shepherds, gamekeepers, Oxford college scouts and rectors – a good range. They highlight the importance of looking at the social history of your ancestors as much as the family tree, in order to get a good understanding of the context of their lives. That additional information may help to understand circumstances as well as perhaps being able to bring family history alive to new (and younger) future researchers.

Wearing another hat, I just want to thank all those people who have been in touch offering to contribute their knowledge to the new surname project, to contribute DNA tests or to enter our competition. By the time you read this, the competition will have closed and the entries will be under scrutiny. We wish everyone the best of luck. So far we have had over 250 people offering to contribute their specialist surname or

family knowledge when we get to the detailed analysis. We have also jumped by over 70 members in the DNA project. That is an amazing number of contributors to our work. Core team members Jessica Feinstein and Sally Abbey have made a first pass at the surname groups and Richard Merry is juggling variant names/groups and background research, while I work on maps. A special thank you goes out to the people who have offered to do some transcription for the surname project. They will be our future project stars this year. There is room for another 5-10 transcribers – so do get in touch if you are willing. Much of it can be done from home, so distance is no object.

Enjoy your summer (in the northern hemisphere)!

Sue Honoré

OFHS JOURNAL EDITOR
editor@ofhs.org.uk

From the Chairman

As I write this, there is still time for large numbers of nominations to arrive and for the entire committee to be replaced in a ballot at the AGM... but back in the real world I expect we will be struggling to fill the spaces around the table and also struggling to fill the spaces that are not around the table.

Looking at the two new gaps on our Exec table, Jessica Feinstein is a relative newcomer and is moving on to committees and duties elsewhere (see

page 86); we wish her well in those new roles. The other gap is caused by Julie Kennedy standing down. Regular readers of the *Oxfordshire Family Historian* will be aware that she took on the role of secretary in the summer of 1993. I guess we've had our money's worth after 24 years in the job!

Despite our regular pleas for assistance, our really valuable volunteers – those who transcribe records, or sit at helpdesks, or crawl

OFHS News

around graveyards, or post out sales, or do other largely unsung duties for OFHS – are doing a splendid job and OFHS seems to be in a healthy state.

The one item we should, perhaps, single out for attention is getting the message out about us to those who have only just started to venture into (or think about venturing into) their family history. Any suggestions as to how we can extend our outreach would be welcomed.

Projects large and small continue, transcriptions are extended, our register images on Ancestry are well received despite some issues, smaller items are being worked on for release in the Members-Only Area. Indeed that last point is one we are working on improving, delivering benefits to you, the members. Of course, progress isn't as fast as we (or you!) would like, but we are just a band of volunteers.

As something of an aside, it was good to talk to so many in April at the

NEC but it's sad (if inevitable) that the *Who Do You Think You Are?* show is now a thing of the past. We are watching patiently (but with no particular expectations) for sightings of a Phoenix.

Malcolm Austen
CHAIRMAN



The 7000th member of OFHS (Jo Guy) who joined the Society at the Who Do You Think You Are? Live show in 2017

New Exec Committee Members

Susan Matheus (Membership Secretary)

I come from New Zealand. I have lived in Oxford for five years now and I work in the education sector. My husband and I came over to explore the history and take advantage of the travel opportunities. I used to think that I had no relatives from Britain, my mother being a New Zealander and my father from South Africa. I have only seriously pursued my family history for the last year or so and I am proud to say that I have lots of ancestry in the British Isles and I am having a lot of fun chasing it.



New Exec Committee Members continued...

Dave Broughton

I spent the first stage of my career with the Atomic Energy Authority at Harwell and then Culham Laboratories. This scientific background helped me to enter the commercial world, first together with my long term mentor in an innovative venture, then working for an Oxford based semiconductor company, which gave me the opportunity to travel the world. Although ostensibly retired, charity work and consulting still keeps me busy. And now, like most of our OFHS members, I get to do what I have been planning to do for most of my professional career – family history.



Steve Pickthall (Treasurer)

My interest in family history began in the early 1980s. I quickly established that my family's roots were primarily in East & West Sussex, Worcestershire & Devon. I don't have any Oxfordshire ancestors (yet). I am also involved in a one place study (New Fishbourne, West Sussex) and a couple of other indexes (fatalities in railway accidents and parish clerks). My four children have only a passing interest in this family history stuff, although our son-in-law has a family connection to Laura Secord in Canada, someone accused at the Salem witchcraft trials, a Mayflower passenger and the kings of France!

The treasurer role is not my only volunteer role and I have a full time job in the IT industry which sometimes keeps me awake at night and also involves working away (so please understand if I don't respond to you straight away).



Kevin Poile (Advisor)

I am a retired Civil Servant (IT Engineering). I've been doing family research since the mid-1980s. I originally started doing just my paternal line, which is from Sussex/Kent border trying to find whether it may be French, but have expanded my research to include my wife's family and various cousins. My wife's father's maternal family come from Oxfordshire. I like to follow the lines of the siblings to see where they go, which has thrown up some strange coincidences linking parts of the family we would never had thought had any possible connection. Currently I am working on the families that are listed in the 1939 and 1911 census in the village where I now live. I act as an advisor at the OHC and at the OFHS Fair also help on the Computer Helpdesk at the OFHS regular meetings.



OFHS Family History Fair

7 October 2017

Since early in the year, planning and organisation for the 2017 Oxfordshire Family History Fair has been underway and we know that it is an event that many of you look forward to. Please make sure that you have Saturday 7th October in your calendars. Doors open at 10:00am at the Marlborough School in Woodstock, OX20 1LP. As I write this in May, we have 35 different organisations booked into the Sports Hall offering a wide range of services, research, advice, books, CDs, maps and family history materials. Other counties' Family History Societies who are booked to attend include: Nuneaton and North Warwickshire; Buckinghamshire; Berkshire; Romany and Traveller; Wiltshire; Suffolk; Northamptonshire and West Surrey. Please consult the

latest information on our website www.ofhs.org.uk/fair.html or call me Angie Trueman on 01488 71714 to make sure that someone you particularly want to see is there. The local Oxfordshire resources will again be in full force in the Enterprise Centre adjacent to the Sports Hall.

Please also bring along friends who may not have attended before. As usual entry and car parking are free. We are also pleased to say that Good Food Catering will again be providing the refreshments so you can make a day of it! If you are new to the Fair or a regular attendee you will be very welcome to our 2017 event – Saturday 7th October.

Angie Trueman (6044)

OFHS FAIRS ORGANISER

fair@ofhs.org.uk

News from the Churchyards

There is very little new to report in this issue. The CDs for Over & Nether Worton, Chalgrove and Freeland were all released as predicted and recording is now well under way again at Bampton and at Sandford St Martin. The North Leigh local group joined Mary Whitehead and her team at Bampton for a 'training session' and are now busily recording at North Leigh.

Building work at Sandford St Martin church has resulted in access to the crypt being temporarily possible, so in about a week's time several of us will be emulating moles and will add what we discover to the Sandford transcript.

The intention is still to transfer this team to Wroxton when Sandford is

complete and contact has been established with the vicar there. We have also had an enquiry from some local enthusiasts at Great Milton and I have had a preliminary meeting with them, with a view to recording the monuments there at some stage. So if anyone reading this lives close to Great Milton and would like to be involved in this team, please get in touch with me.

Alan Simpson (3960)
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Who Do You Think You Are? Live 2017

For the third year WDYTYA was held at the NEC. Alex McGahey and I set up our stand on the Wednesday afternoon and left through the obstacle course created by the laying of the carpets.

Over the next three days of the exhibition, fifteen volunteers manned our stand, providing us with six or seven people each day. This gave us all the opportunity to look around the exhibition.

Although we had a well-manned stand there were times that all were engaged in selling books, CDs or helping with searches. Overall the numbers of visitors to the exhibition seemed lower

than previous years.

For the first time the Society booked a stand for next year's event. Sadly, a few weeks later the announcement was made that the event was being cancelled due to the organisers not making sufficient income from it. There is a new event being held at Sandown Racecourse, Esher, Surrey, 'The London Family History Show', on 24 September. Maybe if this is a success, it will become a replacement to WDYTYA. OFHS has a stand booked for this event.

John Cramer
EVENTS CO-ORDINATOR

News from Oxfordshire History Centre

Future service provision

Oxfordshire History Centre is busy planning for its move to a split-site service from 24 October 2017. With the redevelopment of the Westgate shopping centre site, Oxfordshire County Council is taking the opportunity to move part of the History Centre collections and service into the refurbished library and to benefit from the increased footfall and exposure that this prime location will bring. More specifically, we shall be providing a staffed public service for the consultation of Local Studies and digital collections, including the photographic archive, in the Westgate library building. Meanwhile a staffed public service for the consultation of archive and digital

collections, including the existing on-site strongroom storage, will continue to operate from the St Luke's, Cowley, site.

Staff are now fully engaged on preparations for the partial move to Westgate and investigating ways to ensure we continue to offer as integrated a service as possible in these circumstances to Oxfordshire History Centre customers. Inevitably we shall be looking at temporary service closures in September/October while the move is achieved, but we shall be publishing more precise dates in due course. Do keep an eye on our website –

www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/

oxfordshirehistory – for further announcements.



Ref: POX0419146. Granary at Burwell Farmhouse, Curbridge, long since surrounded by Witney's Thorney Leys housing estate

Photographic collections online

We have recently added to the coverage of the digital images available on our Picture Oxon website – www.pictureoxon.org.uk

Oxfordshire listed buildings



Ref: POX0102923. George Street, Oxford, looking west from New Inn Hall Street, 1900. Lisemore's Stores on the right is now the site of the Odeon Cinema; just in view is the gated entrance to the Chapel of St George-the-Martyr, demolished in 1934

Almost 10,000 photographs of Oxfordshire listed buildings were taken by Oxfordshire Museums Service for English Heritage in late 1980s, and the black and white prints are now in the safekeeping of Oxfordshire History Centre. Search Picture Oxon, choosing the 'SMR Historic Buildings' collection name as a filter, to view images for any desired place, street or building name.

Given that these images are now around 30 years old, they already have historic value, and may be useful in house and property history research. Using Picture Oxon's map function (just click on the Map button within an individual image record), and you can pinpoint the exact location of any depicted property on Google Maps.

Bellamy

Frank Arthur Bellamy was founder of the Oxford Photographic Society in 1889, and took photographs of changing Oxford which he donated to Oxford City Library in 1925. 150 formerly unattributed images have



Ref: POX0550176. Mr Cole of the Grand Union Canal Company towing in the 'Hebe', Oxford Canal, 1937

Scene Around

been identified as his work, and they provide a small but valuable record of the disappearing fabric of the city centre. They also include a batch of informal views of the Oxford Historical Pageant of 1907. Search on Picture Oxon for 'F.A. Bellamy'.

Vernon

We have been fortunate to borrow a collection of albums of photographic prints, dating from the 1920s to 1940s, taken by Beatrice Vernon, an enthusiastic amateur whose family jeweller's and antiques business, Walford & Spokes Ltd, was based in Magdalen Street, Oxford. The family had access to a car and enjoyed frequent trips around the Oxfordshire countryside, as well as taking holidays further afield around southern England. Beatrice was also active around the city

– her views of St Giles' Fair in 1934 and 1935 capture the fashions and entertainments of the period, she experimented with night-time views of King George V's Silver Jubilee, and recorded the deep snows of Jan–Feb 1947. A selection of 800 of these images has been copied and placed on Picture Oxon – to view them, choose the 'Vernon' collection name as a filter.

Mark Lawrence
HISTORY CENTRE MANAGER (LOCAL STUDIES)

Joyce Brown
LOCAL STUDIES LIBRARIAN
St Luke's Church
Temple Road, Cowley
Oxford OX4 2HT
01865 398203

www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/cms/public-site/oxfordshire-history-centre



Ref: POX0550002. Gaumont British News van filming St Giles' Fair, 1935

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
KIDLINGTON, OX5 1AL
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Computer Group organising panel:

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– see Search Services
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Website Manager:

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11 Corn Avill Close, ABINGDON, OX14 2ND
– 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**.

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.

August 2017

June-19 Sep Woodstock, OXF
'Discovering Wychwood,
Living & Working in a
Royal Forest' Exhibition
Oxfordshire Museum
OX20 1SN

Aug 12 SOG, LND
17th to 20th Centuries –
British Population Listings

Aug 19 SOG, LND
Latin for Beginners

Aug -Sep Wallingford, OXF
Guided Historical Town
Walks. Every Saturday,
Town Hall, 11:00am

September 2017

Sep 9 Bristol, AVN
Bristol & Avon FHS Family
History Fair

Sep 9-10 Across Oxfordshire, OXF
Heritage Open Doors
events – in locations
around the whole county.
Access to many historical
sites

Sep 24 Sandown Racecourse,
SRY
**The London Family
History Show**

October 2017

Oct 7 Woodstock, OXF
**Oxfordshire FHS Family
History Fair**

Oct 25 SOG, LND
Understanding Rural
Migration in late 19th
century England: Taking
Parish Research to a New
Level

Oct 28 SOG, LND
500 years of Reformation:
Tracing Nonconformist
Ancestors

Oct 28-29 Oxford, OXF
Understanding Manorial
Records 1500–1900
University Dept of Cont.
Ed., Wellington Square
£125

November 2017

Nov 4 Woking, SRY
West Surrey FHS Family
History Fair

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.

7 August 2017*

The Future of Genealogy on the Internet – Peter Christian

25 September 2017

Sex, Drink and Death in 17th Century Oxfordshire – Tim Healey

9 October 2017*

*Putting your Family Tree Online
Computer Group Panel*

23 October 2017

Finding Ancestors in Continental Europe – Peter Towey

27 November 2017

*The History of the Midland Railway and its
Staff Records – Chris and Judy Rouse*

4 December 2017*

Computer Group Christmas Forum

Back cover:

The view from the new sheep wash pool at Sarsden Glebe, across the medieval ridge and furrow land towards Chipping Norton. Photo by Sue Honoré

