

Oxfordshire FAMILY HISTORIAN



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December 2017

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

Front cover:

The ruins of Minster Lovell manor by moonlight in the winter. 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 family history and 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 family history and 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 April 2018 issue is 15 January 2018. Urgent and short items may be submitted up to 1 February 2018.

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

The autumn seems to be a busy time for everyone involved in family history. At OFHS, queries and information are flowing in from across the globe and projects are moving forward as quickly as we can all manage them. At this time of year we also have our annual fair, which increases the communication level as we come into contact with potential new members and researchers, as well as some old friends. I certainly detect a feeling of 'headless chicken' behaviour amongst all the OFHS volunteers at the moment, me included! We very much appreciate all the work that everyone is doing and the fact that you as members continue to support OFHS. Every member counts and your subscriptions help us to fund the work that we do. So do please renew your membership as quickly as you can this year to help our new Membership Secretary Susan to keep her head.

Often I come into contact with people who say: 'I don't have Oxfordshire ancestors, so why should I

join?' but if you live in the county our talks and advice are useful to people with any geographic ancestry. Christopher Fance works hard on a programme with a wide range of OFHS talks. Recently we have covered Jewish, Huguenot and European ancestry and there is an Irish talk coming up soon. If you live far away but have Oxfordshire ancestors, we are working at providing more and more electronic information to help you in your research too. So do try and recruit any new members that you can.

Meanwhile, this issue of the journal is shaping up to provide a good variety of articles, hopefully with something for everyone. I must admit I look forward to seeing Alan Simpson's MI report each time and this one is fascinating. While the nights are drawing in, why not write an article yourself? I look forward to many new submissions over the next few weeks.

Sue Honoré
OFHS JOURNAL EDITOR
editor@ofhs.org.uk

Your 2018 subscription is now due

Set up a standing order or complete the renewal form in the middle of this journal

Thank you!

From the Chairman

Shall I start with the good news, or the good news?

First, the Fair which with Angie Trueman's organisation and good publicity, got about 30 more people through the door than last year. Everyone – visitors and stallholders – seemed to think it was a good day and we will be back in Woodstock on the first Saturday of October next year.

That brings me to 'staff' news. We have two more recruits to the Executive Committee – Gay Sturt and David Jackson. These additions bring the number of trustees back up to eleven putting us in a fairly comfortable position. Gay is getting involved in publicity and David is taking on some of the Fair organisation – specifically the organisation of the stalls and liaison with the stallholders. That will leave Angie with time to take on the role of Secretary.

Another role change is that Dave Broughton has taken on the mantle of Project Coordinator. This is a title that Hugh Kearsley has held for many years right back to the days when we only had one project – the transcribing of parish registers. Nowadays we need someone on the Executive with an overall view of all our projects. We have (and thank) of course all the leaders of individual projects, too numerous to list here.

Outside the Executive, Judith is standing down from the selling of microfiche (yes, people are still buying

them!) and if any of you would like to take on the handling of the low level of sales that continue, please do say so. If no one takes up the task then I'm afraid we will have to cease sales of microfiche. Thank you Judith for your many years of sale of both CDs and microfiche.

Ian Costar is also standing down from his role of the keeper of the birth briefs. These were put on computer many years ago and Kevin Poile is taking them on with a view to making them available in the Members-Only Area. Thank you Ian for all your years in this role.

Finally some less good news, we understand that the Central Library in the refurbished Westgate Centre will not now be opening until 18 December. Still the good news is that through all the variations in plans for the space within the Library building, our advisors are wanted back there and so we expect our central helpdesk to open up again early in 2018. The exact days/hours will, of course, depend on the availability of advisors. Meanwhile do visit our other advisor sessions at the OHC and various local libraries (details on our website).

Happy Christmas!

Malcolm Austen
CHAIRMAN

OFHS Fair October 2017

Over 350 visitors made their way to The Marlborough School in Woodstock for this year's Family History Fair on Saturday 7 October. The bank of OFHS Search Services and advisors' desks were constantly engaged helping visitors to find some elusive ancestors or provide hints and tips for further research. Amongst the comments we received were:

Very good sources of information-wide-ranging. Excellent help from the 'search team'

Excellent. Very useful stands.

Friendly and knowledgeable.

Extremely helpful gentleman. Found my 'long lost' mother

The Oxford History Centre and Health Archives were also in the first hall along with OXSIL and the Guild of One Name Studies. One visitor commented that the health archives were an 'eye-opener'.

In the adjoining Sports Hall we had arranged the stands differently to previous years, which gave more space for people to walk around, and was much appreciated. There were 35 different organisations represented including 7 who attended for the first time. Of course, many were familiar faces who support the Fair year on year and it is always great to welcome them back to Woodstock. Some had a busy weekend as they were packing up from our fair to move to Basingstoke for the Hampshire Fair on Sunday.

Our prize draw consisted of worldwide annual subscriptions provided by Ancestry and Findmypast. Our prize winners were: Mrs J Morris (Ancestry subscription) and Myra Burnley (Findmypast).

Two of our stallholders kindly donated some prizes to add to the subscriptions: MAXBAL Genealogy and R A Longley Publications donated charts, reference material, storage envelopes and a USB fan. These went to Ralph Thatcher, Fiona Blake, Maureen Smith, Sandy Mursell and Mary Hewlett.

Ancestry also kindly funded a cup of tea or coffee for all the visitors, volunteers and stallholders. The refreshments were again provided by Good Food Catering which this year was located in the school's restaurant area. Although it was a slightly longer walk down a corridor, the venue was purpose built and was a larger area in which to accommodate everyone.

With the dust settling on the fair for another year I do have to thank all the volunteers who made the day happen: manning the CD and bookstall; providing car park assistance and ensuring the signage was clear; all the advisors and help desk folk; greeters on the door; setting up on Friday evening and taking everything down again on Saturday when our last visitors had gone.

Overwhelmingly the feedback mentioned the words helpful, knowledgeable and friendly - but we

OFHS News

don't want to rest on our laurels, so any ideas for next year will be considered. Please email me at fair@ofhs.org.uk.

See you all again on Saturday 6 October 2018 at the same venue. Please check on the website through the year: www.ofhs.org.uk

Angie Trueman
OFHS FAMILY HISTORY FAIR
ORGANISER
fair@ofhs.org.uk

Below: A selection of images from the fair, including one of the winners, Fiona Blake, receiving her USB fan from Angie Trueman (next page)



Fairs Update

Fairs Attended

Wiltshire FHS Family History Fair - this year's event was held on 10 June at @Steam, Swindon. The Society was represented by Dave Broughton, Susan Matheus and me. The stand was fairly busy but most visitors were just browsing or needing help tracing an elusive ancestor. Sales of CDs were low with most of those we sold being bought by one person.

Buckinghamshire FHS Open Day and Family History Fair took place on 29 July at The Grange School, Aylesbury. Angie Trueman, Alex McGahey, Mick Dumbleton and Malcolm Austen attended alongside me. Alex and Mick were kept busy providing search services for those trying to trace that missing link in

Oxfordshire, while the rest of us had a steady number of visitors to the stand; sales of CDs and books were lower than previous years.

The London Family History Show – this is a new event which was held on 24 September at Sandown Racecourse, Esher, sponsored by GenealogySupplies.com. Visitors were serenaded before the fair began by a pair of musicians in period costume, playing a shawm and a hurdy gurdy to set the mood. There were about 40 exhibitors, mostly family history societies representing a wide area. OFHS volunteers on our stand carried out searches and were able to advise visitors to the stand about our parish register transcripts and other resources. (Paragraph contributed by Wendy Archer)



Potential Fairs in 2018

We have not at the time of printing decided which events OFHS might attend next year. Here are some that are under consideration.

- **The Name Event** – to be held on 5 May, Fulham, London.
- **SWAG Family History Fair** – to be held on 30 June, Swindon
- **Buckinghamshire FHS Open Day and Family History Fair** – end of July.
- **The London Family History Show** – to be held on 22 September at Sandown Racecourse.

John Cramer
events@ofhs.org.uk

New Members of the Executive Committee

David Jackson is passionate about researching not only his own ancestry, but that of his wife as well, due to his belief that he is conducting the research for his children and their families rather than just for himself. Branches of both David's and his wife's family trees have their roots in Oxfordshire, mainly in Kidlington, Northleigh, Woodstock and Oxford itself.



Following a career in the Royal Air Force and the Police, David is now retired and able to dedicate more time to family history. He has been researching his family tree for about thirty years and joined the Oxfordshire Family History Society in 1991.

His early research predates the ready availability of online records so he is eternally grateful to the Oxfordshire Family History Society transcribers. Oxfordshire History Centre archives have been an invaluable source of information too. David is excited about the use of DNA in family research, which

he has used this year to resolve one particular conundrum that he has wrestled with for over twenty years, and looks forward to seeing the development of the OFHS DNA Project. David now believes that it is time to make his own contribution to the OFHS, thus repaying the work of those who have gone before him.

Gay Sturt moved to Oxford over 30 years ago from Dorset and found herself stumbling over a host of family connections who, sadly, had died before she was even born. She claims that she only recently discovered the wonderful resource that is OFHS: 'why did I take so long?'. She spends quite a bit of her work time as an archivist researching interesting people who have had good connections with Oxford and its educational institutions, via enquiries from all over the world. She feels constantly challenged by new material and ideas, all good for the brain waves!



News from the Churchyards

It has been a good summer for the transcribing teams with very few days lost due to bad weather. As I write this in September, recording is still underway, though we will have stopped for the winter before you read this in December.

Mary Whitehead and her team have completed work in the church and churchyard at Bampton and have now moved on the parish cemetery, which will be included on the final CD. The cemetery was opened in 1890 and many of the oldest graves are now quite overgrown and thus make for slow work. It is unlikely this will be completed before the winter shut-down.

As predicted in my last report, building work for a new vestry at

Sandford St Martin allowed temporary access to a 'crypt' beneath part of the nave, which was an interesting new experience for your scribe and some of the team members! 'Family Vault' would probably be a more accurate description, since it contains the remains of nine coffins, all believed to be for members of the TAYLOR family covering a date range of 1732 to 1828. Interestingly the wood of the coffins has mostly disintegrated leaving the original lead linings intact, in many cases with the painted commemoration plates lying on top and still readable. For the full descriptions and photographs, you will have to wait until the CD is released, sometime in 2018.

Transcribing the remainder of the monuments within Sandford church is



The family vault of the Taylor family at Sandford St Martin

OFHS News

presently on hold until the building work is complete. Meanwhile the team have moved to Wroxton where we have been putting finishing touches to a transcription of the graveyard started by Liz Young around 16 years ago, when she was living in the village. Liz's transcription has now been converted into our CD format and the results checked against the actual stones. We now have photographs of all the stones and have moved on to the monuments within the church, which Liz had not recorded.

Here we come to another of these weird coincidences that seem to abound in the MI transcribing world. Around the end of August, we had an email from a Dan Nicewander of Minneapolis, telling us he was planning a trip to England and hoping he might find a memorial to his POPE ancestors from Deddington. We checked our MI Index and regretfully found no sign of any memorials to the POPE family near the right date, at Deddington, or anywhere else in the area. Just over a week later we started work inside Wroxton church and what should we find in the chancel but a plethora of POPE memorials including this most impressive canopied tomb with life size effigies of Sir William POPE and his wife Anne. He was a Knight of the Bath, Baronet of Bealturbit and Earle of Downe and died in 1631. Dan's preliminary research suggests he was the great uncle of Dan's direct ancestor Thomas POPE who emigrated to America. By the wonders of email we were able to contact Dan in time for him to visit Wroxton before leaving the

country. Dan's photograph, included here with his permission, shows him standing in front of the monument. It is moments like this that make all the scrabbling round in wet grass really worthwhile!

Alan Simpson (3960)
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Dan Nicewander standing in front of the Pope monument at Wroxton church

Surname Project and DNA Competition

It has been a busy few months for the surname project as we continue to analyse all the surnames and group them up into clusters of spelling variants. Richard Merry is doing a final analysis of these 1550 or so groups before detailed work begins. One of the first deliverables should be a selection of our top 200-300 'strong' Oxfordshire names, which will get priority attention. We will publish a list of those names when we have agreed them, as I am sure many of you are keen to see if yours is there.

Thank you to the 306 people so far who have volunteered to contribute their knowledge on a specific Oxfordshire surname. We will be contacting you when we get to your surname.

Special thanks go to our transcribers (now numbering 8 people) who are working mainly on surname lists from the indexes of the VCH volumes.

Our DNA competition had nearly 100 entries and it is not an exaggeration to say the standard was extremely high. We are pleased to announce that the winners of free 67 marker Y-DNA tests were: Peter BARTLETT, Joe BLEAY, Stan BLOXHAM, Roger MILLIN, Graham ORPWOOD and Chris SHAYLER. In addition, due to the quality of entries we felt we couldn't ignore so many good proposals for testing, so we dug around for personal funds and have given 6 runners-up a contribution towards a 37 marker Y-DNA test. Their

surnames are: BEESLEY, COX, DRINKWATER, JOYNER, TREDWELL and WIGGINS. These 12 results, which give a surname 'fingerprint', should help our understanding of Oxfordshire DNA and of our surnames enormously.

Meanwhile we are working on some DNA and surname project pages on the OFHS website and extra news in the OFHS Members-Only Area, but do be patient as all these things take time.

We need your help

If you have longstanding Oxfordshire ancestry into the 19th century and earlier and could buy a DNA test and join our Oxfordshire DNA project, please contact dna@ofhs.org.uk or go to www.familyreedna.com/public/oxfordshire and click on the 'join' button. We now have 250 members and are aiming for 1000 at least. Hint: DNA tests are always a good Christmas present for the person who has everything.

If you can help transcribe some lists of Oxfordshire surnames for our project then we would love to add you to our fantastic team of volunteers. The work can normally be done from home. Finally, if you have researched an Oxfordshire surname and have information to share please contact us. Use the following email address for both the above items:

surname-project@ofhs.org.uk

Richard Merry, Sue Honoré, Jessica Feinstein, Sally Abbey, Alan Simpson

SURNAME PROJECT TEAM

Upcoming Meetings

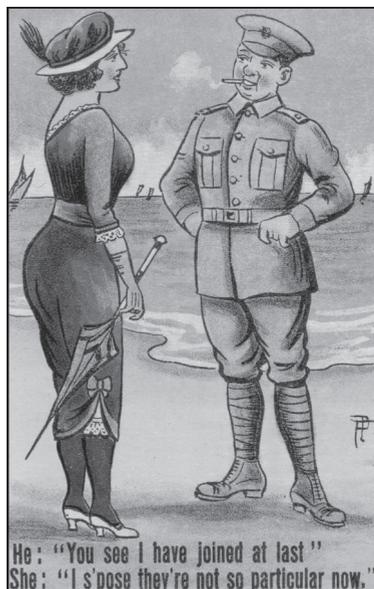
After reviewing member feedback on our talks held at Exeter Hall in Kidlington, we have decided to provide members with much more detail on the content of the talks. Therefore we are moving the talk reviews to the Members-Only Area of the OFHS website (<http://moa.ofhs.org.uk>). They will be available within three weeks of the talk being held, and hopefully sooner. The new talk reviews will be longer with greater focus on useful content and background. They will also contain more links to websites and other research sources. We hope you will enjoy them in their new home. As a replacement in the journal pages, we are experimenting with advance notice of upcoming talks, so that you can make a note in your diaries to attend if you are local, and also to check the Members-Only Area afterwards if the subject is of special interest. Ed

Monday 22 January 2018

***Oxfordshire on the Home Front 1914–18* by Stephen Barker**

Summary: 'Oxfordshire on the Home Front 1914-18' will explain about the impact of the war in the towns and countryside. It will focus upon fundraising and charitable events, munitions production, recruitment, the effects upon women and children, the fear of invasion, the influx of Belgian refugees and many other themes. The talk is fully illustrated and uses testimony from those who were there.

Speaker Background: Stephen Barker is an independent Heritage Advisor with many years of experience in the sector gained through working with a number of museums, universities, charities and other heritage organisations. He has managed and curated a significant number of historical projects. He is currently working with the History Faculty,



University of Oxford and the Soldiers of Oxfordshire Museum. Stephen specialises in military history, particularly the First World War and British Civil Wars.

Monday 26 February 2018

***Researching Ancestors in Ireland* by Maggie Loughran**

Summary: Over the centuries, one of Ireland's greatest exports has been its people. This has taken many guises, be it voluntarily to travel the world, to explore seeking fame and fortune, economic migrants, trade, colonise, govern or forcibly transported, to fight or to garrison some far off settlement. It is estimated that there are over one million people of Irish birth in Britain today, plus numerous second, third or fourth generation Irish. The major challenge to those of us with Irish ancestors is to determine their actual place of birth, without this it is nigh on impossible to undertake any research within Ireland, even if you trying to research a fairly uncommon surname. This talk will guide you through sources to help determine your ancestors place of birth and also look at some of the more easily accessible Irish records.

Speaker Background: Maggie is a lecturer, educator and author, regularly contributing articles family and local history to various journals and magazines and is co-author of the best selling *Discover Your Roots* (published 2006). She has lectured extensively both in the UK and USA and organised courses and conferences on family and local history related subjects. She is a past Chairman of both local and family history societies and a past Administrator of the UK-based Federation of Family History Societies. She is half Irish and has been



Upcoming Meetings

actively researching her own and her husband's Irish ancestors for over 25 years.

Monday 26 March 2018

Women in Oxford during the Great War **by Malcolm Graham**

Summary: This talk on Women in Oxford during the Great War will cover women's reactions to the war and its effects on home and family life; the part played by university women; the range of work, both paid and voluntary, undertaken by local women; the new financial independence enjoyed by some women; moral panic about khaki fever among young women and girls; and society's changing attitudes to women (women's suffrage, health and housing).

Speaker Background: Malcolm Graham is an Oxford local historian, now retired after a professional career as local studies librarian and then Head of Oxfordshire Studies with Oxfordshire County Council. He has published many books and articles about the city and county, including *Oxfordshire at War* about the county in the Second World War in 1994 and, in 2014, *Oxford in the Great War*. When he retired in 2008, he was honoured to be made one of Oxfordshire Family History Society's Vice Presidents for his work in improving the county's services for family historians.

Monday 23 April 2018

Old Photographs: their Identification and Dating **by Tom Doig**

Summary: Great grandmother's boxes of photographs, particularly her *cartes de visite*, were a source of fascination when we were children. She knew who the people were and so rarely wrote their names on the back. Many Victorian



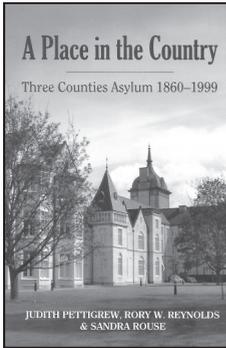
photographs were taken on specific occasions, such as coming of age, emigration or wedding anniversaries. Using unusual techniques, the speaker will look for clues for their identification and suggest procedures for dating them. He will spend some time before his talk discussing old photographs that members of the society may like to bring from their collections.

Speaker Background: Tom Doig is a qualified engineer, teacher and social historian researching rural life in the 19th and 20th century. He is well known for his books on local history and for his radio and television programmes and has lectured widely in the UK and abroad. During the 1990s, he held the post of Director of the Cambridge and County Folk Museum and subsequently the Amberley Industrial Museum. Currently, he is Honorary Curator to the 398th USAF Bomber Group Museum at Nuthampstead. Tom has recently completed five books of old photographs in a series on Hertfordshire and Cambridgeshire for the Francis Frith Collection.

A member of the University of Cambridge, and a Fellow of the Society of Genealogists. Tom Doig served a term as Vice President of the Cambridge Antiquarian Society. He lives in a remote rural part of north Hertfordshire in a converted cattle shed built during the 1840s as part of a model farmstead. When relaxing from his history research, Tom devotes his time to the preservation of his 1923 Morris 'Bullnose' Cowley and 1973 Triumph Stag cars.



Book Reviews



A Place in the Country: Three Counties Asylum 1860–1999, by Judith Pettigrew, Rory W Reynolds and Sandra Rouse. Price £12.99 plus postage and packing. Available from: University of Hertfordshire Press, HATFIELD, AL10 9AB; www.herts.ac.uk/uhpres; email:uhpress@herts.ac.uk. ISBN: 978-1-909291-50-8

Three Counties Asylum first opened in the wake of the Lunacy Act 1845, with a view to providing humane treatment to ‘pauper lunatics’ in the counties of Hertfordshire, Bedfordshire and Huntingdonshire. Built on two hundred acres of farmland at Stotfold on the border of Hertfordshire and Bedfordshire, its history mirrors that of many similar establishments. It subsequently became known as Fairfield Hospital before its closure in 1999 as the era of institutional care came to an end.

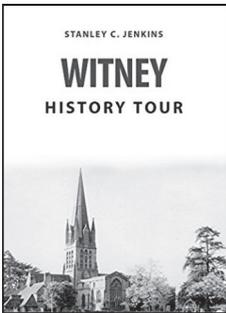
Opened with the intention of replacing the harsh regimes in private madhouses, prisons and workhouses, the Three Counties Asylum was a community with similarities to a self-contained village. The text describes how it provided work for many locals, and gives a detailed account of the buildings themselves and of the staff and patients who populated them. The buildings included a chapel - St Luke’s - and a nurses’ home, and even an on-site brewery!

This asylum was in operation for almost a century and a half, during which time approaches to treating mental illness changed. Using contemporary documentation, the authors describe the construction of verandas on the outside of the male and female ground floor dormitories and the isolation hospital in the early 1900s. These were a feature of similar institutions across the country, and were installed to accommodate the new open-air treatment being recommended for tuberculosis. Of course, those running the asylum had to react to changes in the law, updated guidance from the authorities and developments in medicines and other therapies.

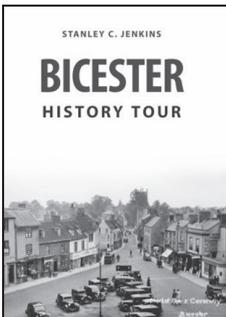
This is a slim volume of some 136 pages, which is presented in a soft cover. Sources are detailed via a sequence of numbered footnotes at the end of each chapter, and the text is fully indexed. The authors' words are illustrated by a substantial number of monochrome photographs. And for those who really want to understand the minutiae, a 'Schedule of Forms of Insanity', as taken from the Rules of Commissioners in Lunacy, is produced as an appendix. Even without ancestors in the Three Counties area it is a useful book on the subject of asylum care.

REVIEWER: *Paul Gaskell (3062)*

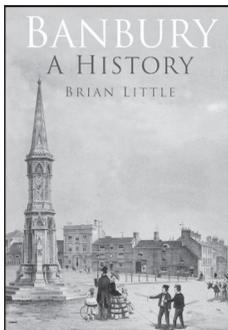
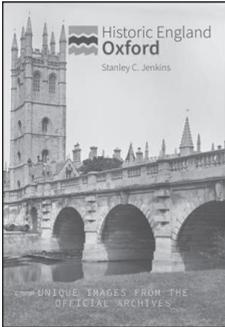
Witney History Tour, by Stanley C Jenkins. Price £6.99 plus p&p. Available from Amberley Publishing, The Hill, Merrywalks, STROUD, GL5 4EP www.amberley-books.com or bookstores/online sales outlets. Also available in Kindle, Kobo and iBook formats. ISBN: 978-1-4456-7318-9



Bicester History Tour, by Stanley C Jenkins. Price £6.99 plus p&p. Available from Amberley Publishing and online outlets (as above). ISBN: 978-1-4456-5578-6



Two more volumes in the 'History Tour' series from Stanley C Jenkins have been added to the one on Oxford (reviewed in the previous journal). These small volumes are packed full of photographs, both old and modern, as well as accompanying text describing the area photographed. They would be very useful as walking guides or just to see how Oxfordshire towns have changed over time. Both books have a handy map at the front with the photo locations marked on them for reference. The Witney book covers St Mary's church and surrounding areas including the 'castle' and Church Green, the railway, Market Square, Marlborough Lane, the High Street, Bridge Street and a small section on Cogges. The Bicester volume examines Market Square, London Road, the various churches and chapels, Sheep Street, the station and moves out to Caversfield, which, like Cogges,



was once a separate village, now swallowed up by the larger town. Some of the most interesting photos are the comparisons of the same site decades apart, such as Market Square in both towns.

REVIEWER: *Sue Honoré*

Historic England Oxford, by Stanley C Jenkins. Price £14.99 plus p&p. Available from Amberley Publishing, The Hill, Merrywalks, STROUD, GL5 4EP www.amberley-books.com or bookstores/online sales outlets. Also available in Kindle, Kobo and iBook formats. ISBN: 978-1-4456-7390-5

Stanley Jenkin's prolific output in 2017 also includes this A5 paperback on Oxford, based on photographs, many sourced from the archives of Historic England, a massive collection of over 12 million items stored in the specialist archive on the old railway site in Swindon. There are also some full-colour modern images included in the book. The chapters in the book cover the topics of: the Oxford colleges, university buildings, places of worship and a miscellaneous section, which has photos of the Martyrs' Memorial, the Cowley car works, Oxford castle, the Randolph Hotel and other iconic Oxford buildings. Each college or place has between two to five images and accompanying text. This book would be a useful Christmas present for someone who loves old photographs of Oxford.

REVIEWER: *Sue Honoré*

Banbury a History, by Brian Little. Price £14.99 plus p&p. Available from The History Press, The Mill, Brimscombe Port, STROUD, GL5 2QG or booksellers. Also available as an ebook from online sales outlets. ISBN: 978-0-7509-8367-9

This book was first published in 2003. This revised and updated 2017 edition covers the beginning of Banbury, mainly from the Roman times as a market town for the sale of livestock and goods, through to its modern reincarnation as a commuter town with the nearby M40 motorway and fast train links to London. The book includes the history of the castle area with details of mod-

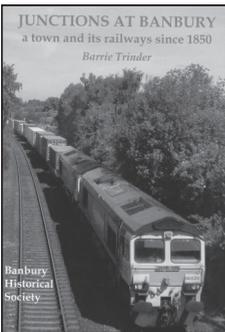
ern archaeological digs; church and religious history; farming and trading; politics; and important historical events and periods such as the Tudor era, civil war, and Victorian industrial expansion to the modern development of the shopping centre at Castle Quays and Spiceball Park leisure centre. It also touches on the history of the legend of the 'fine lady' at Banbury Cross.

For family historians there are a few lists of surnames such as AVIS, BUCKINGHAM, HADLEY and DRYVER in 17th century and members of the first Banbury Council in 1835 including William POTTS (a newspaper proprietor), Thomas GARDNER (a grocer), Richard GRIMBLEY (a wine dealer) and John WISE (a doctor).

Apart from extensive photographs, the book includes plenty of maps/diagrams charting the changes of the town layout over time as well as advertising bills, sketches, cartoons and programmes.

This readable and well-illustrated book forms an excellent reference for those with ancestors from Banbury or who have interests in life in north Oxfordshire over time.

REVIEWER: *Sue Honoré*



Junctions at Banbury: a town and its railway since 1850, by Barrie Trinder. Price £19.95 plus p&p. Available from The Banbury Historical Society, c/o Banbury Museum, Spiceball Park Road, BANBURY OX16 2PW or banhistsoc@outlook.com, or contact Mr Trinder directly through www.trinderhistory.co.uk. ISBN: 978-1-899246-61-8

The original idea for this book stems from a historical society presentation by Barrie Trinder on the subject, which generated enough interest for him to develop it into a book. It describes the growth and development of the railway and its impact on the town on Banbury as well as the people who worked to build and maintain the railways and their services, and the goods and people who were transported. The author recalls that the

study began with 'Banbury, in north Oxfordshire, was the meeting place of eight railway lines', although there are now only three lines left – all extremely busy in the 21st century!

The book has over 100 illustrations, mainly of individual engines, but including staff, tickets and building associated with the railway. There are several maps detailing railway routes in the area and there is an extensive index.

This is a fantastic book for train buffs with a wealth of industrial and historical detail which, thanks to Barrie Trinder, is now to be found in one book.

REVIEWER: *Sue Honoré*

Obituaries



Howard Fuller, a major contributor to OFHS, died on 19 July 2017 aged 92. Howard's contribution to the Society and many other projects in which he was involved will live after him. He is remembered for both his achievements and his friendly and supportive personality.

As well as his long service on the Executive Committee and on the

Computer Group Panel for OFHS, he was known as a greeter and helper at our meetings and, for many years, as an advisor in the Centre for Oxfordshire Studies. He spent many hours creating indexes such as that of the Freemen of the City of Oxford, census street name indexes, the Jackson's Oxford Journal obituaries index and the Oxford paupers index. Many will have used his city and county maps of Oxfordshire as references for their family searches.

Malcolm Graham described Howard as 'a great ambassador for the OFHS at the Centre for Oxfordshire Studies. I enjoyed many coffee break chats with him over the years, and recall that he would, on occasion, usefully remind me that, despite all the frustrations, we had actually achieved quite a lot!'. Mark Lawrence, History Centre Manager (Local Studies) at the OHC says: 'Howard

Obituaries

was a great support to me, especially in my earlier years at Westgate. His legacy lives on in the products of his many indexing projects'.

Wendy Archer, former OFHS Chairman adds: 'I first met Howard, appropriately, when consulting one of the OFHS 1851 census index booklets at Westgate more than 20 years ago. That I remember our meeting is itself a tribute to Howard's helpful character. Howard was a prolific and knowledgeable contributor to the Oxfordshire genealogy Rootsweb mailing list. It wouldn't have been the same without his frequent posts, appreciated by the many subscribers. Later, Howard invited me to be co-opted to the OFHS executive committee. For many years

he took the minutes of the committee meetings, in exemplary style. As Chairman, I much appreciated Howard's wise advice in relation to committee matters'.

Howard was generous with his time: he catalogued photos for the Vale & Downland Museum and was a trustee of the Pendon Museum. He taught science to schoolchildren and he and his wife Bron had a prolific fruit and vegetable garden which Wendy Archer recalls added to the hospitality of lunches at their home. He was a generous family man and loved his rescue dog.

RIP Howard, a good friend and family history colleague.

We were also saddened to hear of the deaths of two more people who contributed greatly to OFHS and Oxfordshire research.

Mike Portlock may not have been known by name to many OFHS members, but was a key man behind the scenes. He took over the duplication of our OFHS CDs in 2003 from Hugh Kearsey and continued up until 2017. Mike was a former chairman of the Stroud branch of the Gloucestershire Family History Society and ran his 'Back to Roots' business selling family history data on CDs. For some time he was based in Cyprus, but

that did not stop him working on behalf of OFHS and others. He passed away on 22 August 2017.

Stan Baker was the archivist of the Radley History Club and worked on the OFHS baptism index project as well as completing several cataloguing and transcription projects for Oxfordshire Studies. Stan gifted his transcriptions of early Radley wills to OFHS. Stan died in April 2017 aged 92. A tribute to him is at: www.radleyhistoryclub.org.uk/Stanley%20Baker_appreciation.pdf

Our thoughts are with their families and friends.

Useful Addresses

OFHS Correspondence and Help:

By post: Oxfordshire Family History Society,
Oxfordshire History Centre, St Luke's
Church, Temple Road, Cowley, OXFORD,
OX4 2HT, UK
Tel: 01865 358151
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

*Note: the Westgate library is closed until 18
December 2017 for redevelopment.*

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
leading 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 Meadow, 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):

The Federation of Family History Societies,
PO Box 62 Sheringham, NR26 9AR
FreePhone number: 0800 0856322
Email: info@ffhs.org.uk
Web: www.ffhs.org.uk

Guild of One-Name Studies:

c/o Hon Sec, Box G, 14 Charterhouse
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Email: guild@one-name.org
Web: www.one-name.org

Who's Who in Oxfordshire FHS

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– 01865 880792
– war-memorials@ofhs.org.uk (via Malcolm Austen)

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.

December 2017

Up to Dec 2 Woodstock, OXF
'Oxfordshire Remembers 1914–18 Part II' – Exhibition; Soldiers of Oxfordshire Museum OX20 1SN

Dec 13 Woodstock, OXF
Christmas in the Trenches: Bells of Hell, Trench Songs of the Great War; Soldiers of Oxfordshire Museum OX20 1SN, 7:00-8:30pm

Dec 14 Abingdon, OXF
A 17th Century Christmas – talk by Tim Healey; Northcourt Centre, Abingdon

January 2018

Jan 9 Oxford, OXF
Lepers, Pilgrims and Roundheads: Excavations at Bartlemas Chapel, Cowley, by Archeox (the East Oxford Project) – David Griffiths & Jane Harrison; Rewley House, 1 Wellington Square, Oxford, 5:30pm, Oxfordshire Architectural & Historical Society (OAHS)

Jan 11 Wootton, OXF
The Prehistory of the Upper Thames – talk by Andrew Sargent; Wootton Community Centre, 7:30pm

Jan 16 Witney, OXF
Drovers' Road in Oxfordshire and Beyond – talk by Tim Healey; Witney Methodist Church, 7:30-9:00pm
Witney Historical Society

February 2018

Feb 6 Banbury, OXF
Archaeological Finds Surgery; Banbury Museum

Feb 6 Oxford, OXF
Westgate Oxford: Initial Results from Oxford's Largest Excavation – a Prehistoric Floodplain, a Medieval Friary, Civil War Defences and Victorian Terraces – talk by Ben Ford (OAHS); Rewley House, 1 Wellington Square, Oxford, 5:30pm

March 2018

Mar 12 Canterbury, KEN
IHGS – Introduction to Heraldry Day Course

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.

4 December 2017*

Computer Group Christmas Forum

22 January 2018

Oxfordshire on the Home Front 1914–18 – Stephen Barker

5 February 2018*

Charting your Family History – Kevin Poile

26 February 2018

Researching Ancestors in Ireland – Maggie Loughran

26 March 2018

Women in Oxford During the Great War – Malcolm Graham

23 April 2018

Old Photographs: their Identification and Dating – Tom Doig

9 April 2018*

Fixing photos – Alan Simpson

(Note this is the second Monday of the month)

Back cover:

The church of St Mary at Shifford. Note the flood plain which comes up to the church wall and may explain why many records were lost to damp. See the article on the Basson family in this issue. Photo by Sue Honoré

