

Oxfordshire FAMILY HISTORIAN



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

Front cover:

Horses ploughing at Clanfield, September 2018. Photo by Sue Honoré. Many of the articles in this issue concern farming families who left to start again in a new location



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 3934, 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 2019 issue is 15 January 2019. Urgent and short items may be submitted up to 1 February 2019.

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

It was not by design on my part, but our articles in this issue have a flavour of migration, whether that be just up the road in Oxfordshire or to far flung parts of the world such as New Zealand, India and Bermuda. In some cases it was people seeking a better life and in others they had no choice.

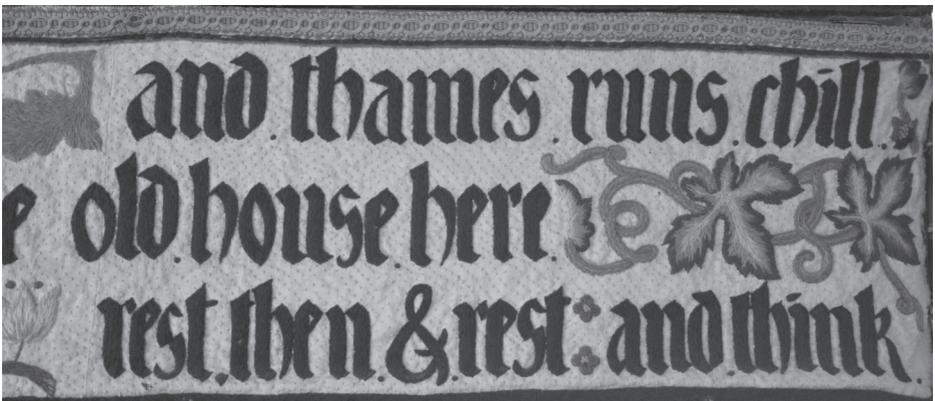
I have been working on a presentation for another FHS on my Derbyshire ancestor who migrated to New England in 1629, however I am more concerned about those older generations: how the loss of their fit, healthy farming children during a period of royal, political and religious unrest had an impact on those left behind. My ancestor's father seemed to vent his frustration by suing everyone he could find in the highest courts of the land, based on what must have been, in several cases, a 'poor recall of events'! However, I am grateful, as it means

there is at least some documentary trail in times of very meagre surviving evidence.

Looking at more permanent fixtures, I have been helping two separate people research the history of owners and tenants of houses in Witney going back into the eighteenth century and earlier. It is exciting to find something relevant at the Oxfordshire History Centre and call up the original document, don the gloves and hope there is a gem in the original text that will help your research. If you live close to an archive, do make a visit and see what mysteries you can solve in your own family history research.

Happy ancestor hunting to you all this winter.

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



A seasonal section of the bed hangings at Kelmscott Manor, home of William Morris



Photos from the 2018 OFHS Fair by OFHS Chairman Malcolm Austen instead of his usual report!

News from the Churchyards

It is the 26 September and I have just returned from a successful morning's transcribing at Great Milton. The sun was shining and this makes reading the old stones so much easier. If we are really lucky the weather will stay fine for another few weeks and we may be able to complete the exterior monuments before the end of the year. Fingers crossed!

Awaiting me on my return was an email from the PCC at St Peter's, Great

Haseley, another church in the same benefice at Great Milton. The Rector has been spreading the word! So that may well be a churchyard to tackle next year.

Mary Whitehead and the Witney area team completed work at Bampton early in the year and have been busy tackling the smaller churches in this benefice. Eve Magee and Carol Shadwell have made progress at Great Tew but injuries and family commitments have slowed things down and this churchyard is likely to carry over to 2019.

CDs are now complete and on sale for all the 2017 transcripts. These are Sandford St Martin (OXF-MI-SSM), Littlemore (OXF-MI-LIT) and Wroxton (OXF-MI-WRX). So when the weather closes in we will have plenty to keep us busy putting CDs together for this year's transcribing.

Alan Simpson (3960)
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This image shows the oldest readable exterior stone at Wroxton, let into the outer wall of the porch. It is for Robert and Catherine Coleman who died in 1637 & 1650 respectively and obligingly mentions all 11 of their children!

Membership

We know members are keen to get in contact with others researching the same surnames in Oxfordshire. We have had a drop in those registering their interests when they join the Society and hence fewer surname enquiries are being printed in the journal. Therefore we may soon cease doing so altogether. We would encourage all members to consider adding your name and interests to the online Oxfordshire Surname Interest List (OXSIL) at www.oxsil.org.uk, a resource for genealogists and family historians to find others researching the same surnames in the towns and villages of Oxfordshire. If you are a member, you can also add names that fall outside of Oxfordshire.

Meanwhile the OFHS Executive Committee and the OXSIL team (run by OFHS members) are discussing how best to maximise the marketing and value of the two groups for our members. Do contact secretary@ofhs.org.uk if you have any input on this subject.

If you do not have access to email, you can nominate a buddy within OFHS

to act on your behalf to register your names on OXSIL. Please provide this person with written consent to act for you. If you need a buddy and don't know of any OFHS members who can act as such, please contact the OFHS Help Desk on 01865 358151.

Email addresses

Most of our members have given us their email address but have you? An email address is a much easier way of us communicating with you. You can be added to our email list and receive information about OFHS events and other items of interest. You can also have access to our Members Area where you will find write-ups of our talks, transcriptions of Oxfordshire documents, audio files, special offers and much more. If you have not shared your email address with us and would like to, then please get in contact with the Membership Secretary at membership@ofhs.org.uk

Susan Mattheus
MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY
membership@ofhs.org.uk

It is with regret that we note the deaths of the following members:

4257 Mrs Miriam Bosworth of Alderney, Channel Islands

4422 Mrs Lyn Anderson of Haywards Heath, West Sussex

Membership Renewal

A reminder that membership comes due on 1 January 2019. Please use the form in the middle of this journal to pay. If you have not already done so, consider setting up a standing order to make renewal easy and automatic. Our membership is currently approximately 1500 and we would love to have you all still with us this time next year. **Memberships not renewed by 28 February 2019 will be discontinued.**

Fairs Attended

South West Area Group (SWAG)

This year's event was held on 30 June at STEAM, Swindon. The Society was represented by Angie Trueman, Malcolm Austen and me. The stand had a steady flow of visitors but most were just browsing or needed some help tracing an elusive ancestor. While we didn't sell a lot of books or CDs it was interesting talking to the visitors that were looking for a relative.

Bucks FHS Open Day and Family History Fair

The fair took place on 28 July at The Grange School, Aylesbury. The Society was represented by Gay Sturt, Stella Wentworth, Dave Wedd, Alex McGahey and me. Alex was kept busy, until about lunch time, with a steady flow of people searching for a missing ancestor. Visitors to the stand looking to buy were low but many did want to chat and tell us something about their ancestry. With the afternoon being fairly quiet, Stella and Dave had an opportunity to visit other stands and confirm a few bookings for our own fair. There was a

possibility that this year's BFHS event would be the last, due to a lack of volunteers to organise another one. It has however been announced since that there will be another event next year on the 27 July at the same venue.

The London Family History Show

This is the second year of this event which was held on 22 September at Sandown Racecourse, Esher. Due to the success of the first event a larger hall was used this year. Bill Seary, Susie Pearce, Elizabeth Mills and I represented the Society. From the moment the doors were opened we were busy. Throughout the day we had a steady flow of people trying to find a missing ancestor. Apart from one person we were able to advance the research for all that we spoke to. One gentleman we helped said that we hadn't made his day but had made his year. All that we helped were very grateful with one person coming back at the end of the show to thank us again.

John Cramer
EVENTS COORDINATOR

OFHS Fair October 2018

On the first really autumnal day of the year the OFHS Fair took place on 6 October in the Marlborough School, Woodstock. The wet and cold weather may have had an impact on the numbers, which were down from last year at 279, but there was still a buzz about the place and none of stallholders I spoke to felt that they had not had enough visitors and customers!

This year we welcomed 36 different organisations - 5 new ones - or returning to Oxford after a gap. This was noted by visitors who felt that there was a good range, breadth and variety amongst the stallholders. These stalls were supplemented by the Oxfordshire History Centre and Health Archives along with our own bookstall. Our Help

Desk, Search Services, DNA & Surname Project, Family Tree software and Wills advisors were all kept busy during the day.

Once again we were pleased to provide free hot drinks funded by Ancestry to all visitors, stallholders and volunteers. These hot drinks were particularly welcomed by those who took on a challenging shift in the car park to direct people to the spaces in wet and cold conditions.

The children's table was well used and kept little ones happy and quiet for some time so thanks go again to Hannah for hosting that facility.

Reading through the feedback and comments, the friendliness and helpfulness of all stallholders, other



A queue forming at the door at opening time. Photo by Kevin Poile

Family History Societies and specialists is a strong theme.

The breakthroughs some people made on their research was encouraging to hear and whilst centred on Oxfordshire roots there were many who noted that good starts were made on their Irish history - or those who moved round from Oxfordshire to Wales and back again.

The lucky winners of the prizes were Giles Darkes from Historic Towns Atlas who declared his surprise as he 'never wins anything' and Anthony Morgan. They won a year's subscription to worldwide access for Findmypast and Ancestry respectively.

Again the food and drink provided by Good Food Catering was appreciated and another telling indication of the turn in the weather was that salads may have been left but the hot pork sold

very quickly.

Considering the day, the most bizarre fact may be that the volunteers from St John Ambulance (who are always present at our fairs and thankfully seldom needed) were called upon to treat a wasp sting!

So thanks again go to all the volunteers who helped in various ways and gave up so much of their time not just over the few days before the fair, but throughout the year to make the fair a success.

We do it all again next year - Saturday 5 October 2019. The same venue is already booked; and watch out for updates to the Fair page on our website as we gather everyone together again.

Angie Trueman
OFHS FAIR ORGANISER



Stalls being set up in the main sports hall. Photo by Kevin Poile

Annual General Meeting

25 June 2018

The OFHS AGM took place in Exeter Hall, Kidlington on 25 June 2018. The agenda was similar to those of previous AGMs. There were, however, some innovations. The agenda, statement of accounts and the minutes of the previous AGM were projected onto a screen using a rolling PowerPoint presentation before the meeting. It also included clauses of the constitution which had been revised by the Executive Committee.

Hugh Kearsley, the Society's President, gave his address at the start of the meeting. He lives in Gloucestershire and explained how he is still involved in Family History research. He was thanked by the Chairman, Malcolm Austen, who then went on to give his report after giving apologies for absence and obtaining the approval of the members present for the minutes of the previous AGM.

He thanked all who had contributed to OFHS activities during the year. After mentioning changes in the committee, he said how pleased he was that the 2017 Fair had been a great success. He emphasised the many projects OFHS was engaged in. In the past year, there had been two major challenges - GDPR legislation and the redesigning of the Society's website. He hoped that a redesigned website would be online in the

first half of 2019.

Progress with the Members' Only Area of the website had been slow. There were now podcasts of OFHS slots on BBC Radio Oxford and reports of meetings in it. Helpdesks had been re-established at the Oxfordshire County Library in the new Westgate shopping area. The many other helpdesks had continued successfully throughout the county. He appealed for more volunteers to cover some inevitable absences. There were no questions and his report was accepted by the members present.

The OFHS Treasurer, Steve Pickthall, then gave his report. There was a small deficit of £430 in the last accounting year. He explained why this had happened and answered questions from the floor. An Independent Examiner had agreed the statement of the accounts and his report was accepted by the members present. The Independent Examiner was re-appointed.

During the past year, the post of Secretary, which had been vacant, was filled by Angie Trueman. The Officers of the Society together with all but one of the previous committee were proposed for re-election. A show of hands approved the election of the Executive Committee for 2018-2019.

Finally, there was unanimous

approval of the revised clauses of the constitution which can be seen on the OFHS website at <https://www.ofhs.org.uk/constitution.html>

Christopher Fance then presented a talk entitled 'Finding Relatives using DNA tests'. An account of it is in the

Members' Only Area of the website at <http://moa.ofhs.org.uk/tiki-index.php>

Christopher Fance
PROGRAMME COORDINATOR



Giles Darkes receives his prize of a year's subscription to Findmypast from OFHS Fair Organiser Angie Trueman at the annual OFHS Fair in October

News from Oxfordshire History Centre

Staff

In September we welcomed to the team a new History Assistant, Becky Hogben, who comes to us with useful experience in the heritage sector, and has previously been a volunteer on the Manorial Documents Register project.

Digitisation of Buckler and Minn images

Oxfordshire History Centre holds photographic copies of early topographical drawings of Oxfordshire street scenes, churches and other historic buildings, made by John BUCKLER and his son, John Chessell BUCKLER, between c1810 and 1840. Moving into the 20th century, we also

hold copies of photographs by Oxford watchmaker and antiquary, Henry MINN, who recorded the changing face of Oxford city from c1900 until the 1950s.

The originals of both Buckler and Minn images are held by the Bodleian Library, and with their cooperation, together with funding from Oxfordshire Family History Society, we embarked in 2017 on a project to digitise the copies held at Oxfordshire History Centre. The task of physically selecting and extracting almost 4,000 images from geographically arranged files in History Centre strongroom storage has been completed. We can now move forward to the scanning stage, with the ultimate



St Aldate's and Oxford Town Hall (JC Buckler, 1827)

target of publishing the digital images on the Picture Oxon website in 2019, providing online access to the Bucklers'

and Minn's work for the first time.

Oxford Mail and Times Biographical collection of photographs

A collection of 10,000 images of Oxfordshire people, taken by Oxford Mail photographers during the 1930s-1970s period is currently being digitised and made accessible on our Picture Oxon website www.pictureoxon.org.uk.

The collection, which was donated by Newsquest Oxfordshire, publishers of the *Mail* and *Times*, to Oxfordshire's Local Studies collections in the 1990s, includes both the original photographs and the newscuttings in which they feature.

The whole collection of photographs and newscuttings has been catalogued by name, place and subject, and is searchable on Picture Oxon. Work to scan the photographs themselves and place them online began in 2015, through volunteer effort, and almost half of the images have now been digitised.

On Picture Oxon, use the Filter By Collection option and select 'Oxford Mail and Times Biographical' to browse or search only the photos in this collection (overleaf)

The images with this article give a flavour of the breadth of people and roles portrayed in this collection – a real cross-section of Oxfordshire's social history.

Mark Lawrence

HISTORY CENTRE MANAGER (LOCAL
STUDIES)



*Jack Sutherby. Lock keeper, Days Lock, Long Wittenham, c1955
ref: POX0400753*



*Martha Buckland. Fairground worker.
St Giles' Fair, Oxford, 1977
ref: POX0392111*

Scene Around

Filter By COLLECTION ▼

Oxford Mail and Times Biographical ▼

all
pre-
1974

The 'filter by collection' option on the Oxford Mail and Times Biographical collection of photographs, see overleaf.

Manorial Documents Register Project

Did you know that many families rented their homes from the lord of the manor until 1922 and lists of their names are included in manorial records? Parliament abolished the power of manor courts in 1922 and set up the Manorial Documents Register (MDR) to protect tenants' rights.

The Oxfordshire MDR project is running at Oxfordshire History Centre until next June. Virginia Bainbridge the project officer is updating information on

Oxfordshire manors for *The National Archives Discovery* website.

Surprisingly most manorial records were written after 1700. They are a great source for family and local history. There are 3 main areas of information: 1) people, families and inheritance, 2) farming, field names and buildings, 3) how the lord of the manor and leading



Two more images from Picture Oxon: Elsie Brooker, at retirement and closure of village shop, Brightwell-cum-Sotwell c1973 – ref: POX0391852



Winifred ('Win') Peters. Oxford's first woman bus driver in peace time, c1969 – ref: POX0399283

tenants organised their community. You can already search the *TNA Discovery* website for pre-1974 Berkshire parishes:

[http://
discovery.nationalarchives.gov.uk/
manor-search](http://discovery.nationalarchives.gov.uk/manor-search)

Follow our website and MDR Facebook posts. Come in, find out more from Virginia and sign up with her for our activities! A free study afternoon ***Manors and their Records: a New Source for Family and Local Historians*** will run on 21 November 2018, and again in Feb 2019. We are also planning a summer conference to celebrate the

completion of the project and launch of MDR Oxfordshire on *TNA Discovery*. Contact Dr Virginia Bainbridge, project officer:
virginia.bainbridge@oxfordshire.gov.uk

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The Wood Feild		
⊕	1:ac	Martin Blea
+	1:ac	John Collins
+	1:la	Wid. Clarke
⊕	1:la	John Bedford
+	1:la	William Franklin
+	1:la	Wid' Groomer
+	1:ac	John Collins
+	2:ac	Demaines in oc: Ben: and John
+	1:la	— headland to y furth: followinge

An extract from the Terrier of Church Cowley, Temple Cowley and Hockmore Street, c1610 – ref. Bly. II/ii/1.

Victoria County History Update

The latest addition to the VCH website is a draft history (by Stephen Milson) of **Caversham** – a Thames-side village on the edge of the south Oxfordshire Chilterns, which since the 19th century has grown into a major suburb of Reading. This will eventually form part of a volume covering the area between Crowmarsh Gifford and Shiplake (*VCH Oxfordshire* Volume 20), which will complete our coverage of the Oxfordshire Chilterns, and should appear in around three years' time. Other draft histories already on the website include **Crowmarsh Gifford**, **Goring**, **Mapledurham**, **Newnham Murren**, and **Shiplake**, and **Mongewell** will be added in the coming months.

Caversham is perhaps most widely known as the home (since 1943) of the

BBC Monitoring Service, until recent funding cuts forced the Corporation to announce it would be selling Caversham Park and transferring its operations to London. The historic Caversham parish was the largest in Binfield Hundred, and like most parishes in that area encompassed both an upland zone extending into the Chiltern Hills, and a lowland area towards the river. The upland part contained half a dozen scattered hamlets including Emmer Green, Kidmore End, and Cane End, although the bulk of the population was concentrated at Caversham itself (by the medieval river crossing at Caversham bridge), and further east at Lower Caversham.

Some of the earliest discoveries in Caversham are Palaeolithic tools associated with an ancient channel of



Landing craft made in Caversham during the Second World War at the Elliots factory, a major local employer with over 600 workers in 1947.

the Thames running through the parish's central part, while extensive Roman finds include the extraordinary discovery near Dean's Farm of a Roman lead font bearing the Christian Chi-ro symbol. By the 13th century the parish was the seat of William MARSHAL, regent of England, who established a Marian shrine and pilgrimage centre at his manor house near Lower Caversham (now Dean Farm). Later lords developed a palatial residence at Caversham Park (burned down in 1850), which in the early 18th century was 'one of the noblest seats in the kingdom', almost rivalling Blenheim. Much of Caversham's history, however, was shaped by ordinary farming and trading families such as the CROCKFORDS, CURTISes, BERRYs, and PEABODYs, the last of whom were fishermen and boat-builders who thrived by the riverside from the 17th to the 20th century. Such people typified what became a predominantly 'open' parish, marked by strong religious nonconformity, and by strong outside connections.

Reading exerted a strong influence throughout, and as the town's economy developed during the 19th century (stimulated by the arrival of the Great Western Railway in 1840), detached villas started to appear on Caversham's south-facing slopes, with their 'magnificent prospects'. Terraced housing followed by the 1880s–90s. The scale of subsequent development is reflected in stark population figures, which by 1901 stood at 6,580, a six-fold increase compared with a century earlier. By 1911 Caversham's population

was larger than Henley's, and today it numbers around 32,000. The accompanying changes are fully explored in the VCH account.

Alongside the South Chilterns work, much of the last few months have been spent finalizing our **Wychwood** volume, which will go to the publishers at the end of the year for publication in the second half of 2019. While these final stages can be slightly fraught, it is also a huge pleasure to see the eventual publication taking shape, with maps being drafted and fine-tuned, illustrations selected, and everything being consolidated into (I hope!) a coherent whole. The draft texts on the website have now been largely superseded, but will remain accessible for a few more months, and give some flavour of what the book will contain. Other plans for 2019 include commencement of work on the **Chipping Norton** area, on which I'll report in a future issue.

Simon Townley

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Upcoming Meetings

Monday 3 December 2018

Title: Computer Group Christmas Forum

Speaker: All attendees

Summary: A chance to discuss any topics of interest, share hints and tips and hear ideas and solutions to problems from others in the audience. Bring along your thoughts and queries. Mince pies are usually a key part of the session.

Monday 28 January 2019

Title: Four Generations at Fair Mile Hospital, Cholsey

Speaker: Ian Wheeler

Summary: This presentation aims to examine a wide range of aspects of the county lunatic asylum system bequeathed to the nation by high-minded Victorian thinking. It does so through Ian Wheeler's family connections with Fair Mile, Berkshire's asylum from 1870;



nine of his family worked there in a period of a little over a century. A key message is that, although ultimately in need of reform, the asylums were a force for good and that their value and importance has been overshadowed by a long-standing 'bad press' - some of which is simple misunderstanding and some the result of miserly government policy.

Speaker Background: Ian Wheeler has spent years at a time in selling, purchasing, quality assurance, academic editing and train driving without causing major disasters. Most of his employers were enjoying better fortunes by the time he departed; some were beyond salvation. Now a gentleman of leisure, he tries to get around to all those tempting little retirement projects that beckoned as he slaved at his desk. In reality he spends most of his time slaving at a different desk and reflecting on the culpable fiction that is information technology. In quieter moments, Ian enjoys good literature, walking and classical music. He is also a performing folk musician, a Morris dancer and a railway modeller, which goes to show that nothing in life is perfect.

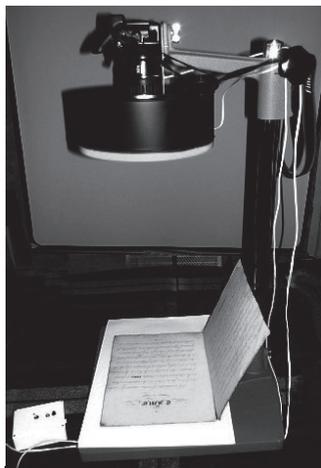
[Note: the image of the nursing staff has been kindly lent by Tony Spackman from his collection]

Monday 4 February 2019 (Computer Group)

Title: Photographing and Transcribing Old Books

Speaker: Alan Simpson

Summary: Alan has been photographing various books both for OFHS and his own family use, since first getting a digital camera around the year 2001. During the course of this he has come up with a number of techniques for making the job easier. In his talk he will be describing these and illustrating the results from an assortment of books ranging from an amazingly neat copy book written in 1860 by his then 13 year old step great grandfather to the amazingly untidy collected notes of a mid 19th century vicar of Forest Hill.



Monday 25 February 2019

Title: Coaching Days on the Oxford Road

Speaker: Julian Hunt

Summary: Julian's talk Coaching Days on the Oxford Road brings together his knowledge of the turnpike trusts which greatly improved the condition of our main roads in the 18th century, the stage coaches which plied between the major towns and the coaching inns where the travellers broke their journeys.

Speaker Background: Julian Hunt was born in Romsley, Worcestershire in 1949. He began his career at Birmingham Reference Library in 1968 and was Local Studies Librarian in Oldham, Lancashire, from 1976. He was co-author of *The Cotton Mills of Oldham*, now in its third edition. He moved to Buckinghamshire in 1988 to become the County's first Local Studies Librarian. He has written numerous histories of Buckinghamshire towns, including *A History of Amersham* (2001), *A History of Gerrards Cross* (2006) and *A History of Beaconsfield* (2009).



Upcoming Meetings

Monday 25 March 2019

Title: An unexpected discovery of Indian ancestry in Oxfordshire (via Ireland)

Speaker: Mark Davies

Summary: Mark's Indian heritage came as a complete surprise, realised only because of the totally unexpected revelation in the 1881 census that a great grandfather had been born in Calcutta. This in turn led to the discovery of an Oxfordshire heritage of considerable antiquity and a somewhat bizarre



coincidence of Indian/Irish ancestral landownership in Oxford. He will discuss some Dos and Don'ts of Indian ancestral research (via Ireland and Oxfordshire) and how to take the first research steps in dealing with ancestors in India.

Speaker Background: Mark Davies is an Oxford local historian, author, and guide with a particular knowledge of the history and literature of the city's waterways, including the Oxford realities which underlie Lewis Carroll's 'Alice'. This interest stems from having lived on a canalboat in central Oxford since 1992. A biography of the Oxford pastry cook and first English aeronaut James SADLER – from a family with very long Oxford associations – is the most recent addition to his range of local publications.

Monday 1 April 2019

(Computer Group)

Title: Apps for Family Historians

Speaker: Malcolm Austen

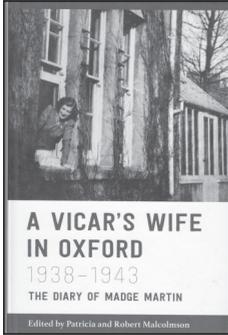
Summary: Malcolm will cover some of the popular and useful apps now available for family historians. Find out what exists and share information and experiences of your favourite apps.





Please remember to renew your membership soon – ideally before Christmas. Do encourage new members to join too. We need as many members as possible to help us progress our Oxfordshire activities and projects.

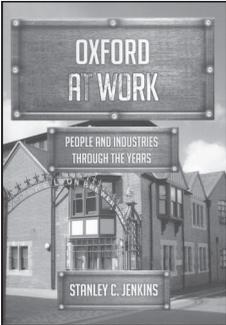
Thank you!



Book Reviews

A Vicar's Wife in Oxford, 1938-1943, The Diary of Madge Martin, edited by Patricia and Robert Malcolmson. Oxfordshire Record Society, volume 72 (2018). ISBN 978-0-902509-74-0. Price £25 plus p&p. Published by Boydell & Brewer. Available from The Oxfordshire Record Society, c/o Hon. General Secretary Paul Gaskell, 28 Bulan Road, Headington, Oxford, OX3 7HT or online at www.oxfordshire-record-society.org.uk/oxfordshire-record-society-pubs.htm

The latest volume from the Oxfordshire Record Society, with a new focus on more modern times, consists of extracts from the diary of Madge MARTIN, a clerical wife during the Second World War. Her husband was vicar of St Michael at the North Gate in Oxford and the diary begins in 1938 prior to the war, continuing through to December 1943. The diaries provide a personal view of life in Oxford at this time of great change and describe both social history and the personal feelings of someone in her role. Madge kept a diary for most of her life up until she was in her nineties. 'I think I only do it because it gives a sort of permanence to our lives,' she claimed in 1944. Life in Oxford covered both adjustments for the war and the normal growth of the city. In March 1941: 'A bus to Rose Hill, then a walk through Cowley village – what enormous new estates there are everywhere. We looked into the new and beautiful St Luke's church whilst we were there. It is really lovely, spacious and all of one style. We had tea at the 'Moorish' then saw a dismal film at the Oxford, *The Long Voyage Home*. Another alert at night until 2.00am'. She saw numerous plays and films during the period of these published extracts and the books she read are listed over 6 full pages in an appendix; her comments provide an interesting review of media output at the time. She remained childless but formed a strong relationship with a boy 12 years younger than herself – John Hall – which lasted for over twenty years and became very intense through her lifetime. The book is more interesting than the title



might at first suggest, especially for those keen to reflect on life in Oxford in the 1940s. The editors Patricia and Robert Malcolmson are social historians with a special interest in mass observation, women in World War Two, and English diaries written between the 1930s and the 1950s.

Oxford at Work, People and Industry through the Years, by Stanley C Jenkins. Price £14.99 plus postage. Published by Amberley Books Ltd, (2018). Available from Amberley Publishing, The Hill, Merrywalks, STROUD, GL5 4EP www.amberley-books.com or bookstores/online sales outlets. ISBN: 978-1-4456-8045-3.

This paperback is a continuation of the series by the author of photographs and commentary on different aspects of life in Oxfordshire. This volume covers the history of Oxford at work from St Frideswide's nunnery in the eight century to the modern Mini plant at Cowley in the 21st century. Chapters include the University, transport by river, canal, road and rail, Victorian development and expansion of the city to modern times. Each page has at least one photograph or illustration, ranging from early line drawings to present-day images, with accompanying text. Stanley Jenkins' thorough research provides a considerable range of facts and figures about each location or industry. A typical example describes Victorian college servants: 'the twenty four colleges and halls all required varying numbers of college servants ranging from two at St Alban's Hall, four at St Edmund's Hall, seventeen at Exeter and as many as thirty two at Christ Church. The average number of servants employed in each college seems to have been around seventeen, which would imply at total of around 400 throughout the university. Most of the colleges had a cook and a butler, while others employed a 'manciple' or steward...In 1911, 26.9 percent of the Oxford labour force were employed as domestic servants.' This book provides an interesting glimpse into the working history of Oxford city.

REVIEWER: *Sue Honoré*

Useful Addresses

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OX4 2HT, UK
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Email: help@ofhs.org.uk

Oxfordshire County Library:

Westgate, OXFORD, OX1 1DJ
Open 09:00–20:00 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

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

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

Berkshire Record Office:

9 Coley Avenue, READING, RG1 6AF

Telephone numbers are shown for UK
callers. From elsewhere replace the
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09:00–21:00 Thu
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Web: www.berkshirerecordoffice.org.uk

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LONDON, EC1M 7BA
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10:00–20:00 Thu
Tel: 020 7251 8799
Web: www.sog.org.uk

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

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

The National Archives (TNA):

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

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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 2018

Until Dec 31 Henley, OXF

The Boat Race – 80 years
through the lens
River & Rowing Museum

Dec 14 Rumble Museum, Cheney
School, OXF
All-day celebration of
women's suffrage*

February 2019

Feb 15-16 Belfast, ANT
Back to our Past Conference

Feb 16 Kew, TW9 4DU
Medieval and More Seminar
Guild of One-Name Studies

March 2019

Mar 16 Gillingham, KEN
FFHS AGM and General
Meeting

Mar 20 **Littlemore, OXF**
'Exploring your Roots'
Talk by Alan Simpson
Littlemore Local History
Society

Mar 27 **Rumble Museum, Cheney**
School, OXF
Iris Festival of Natural
History, Art and More
3:00-6:00pm*

Mar 29-31 Leicester, LE1
Guild of One-Name Studies
Past, Present and Future
40th Anniversary Conference

April 2019

Apr 2 Henley, OXF
'The Swing Riots'
(Museum of English Rural
Life)
Kaye Knight & Jenny Gough
Henley Archaeological &
Historical Group

Apr 26-27 **Alexandra Palace, LND,**
N22 7AY
Family Tree Live

*See <http://rumblemuseum.org.uk/index.php/what-s-on>
for more details

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.

3 December 2018*

Computer Group Christmas Forum

28 January 2019

Four Generations at Fair Mile Hospital, Cholsey – Ian Wheeler

25 February 2019

Coaching Days on the Oxford Road – Julian Hunt

25 March 2019

*An unexpected discovery of Indian ancestry in Oxfordshire
(via Ireland) – Mark Davies*

29 April 2019

Name Lists of the 17th and 18th centuries – Michael Gandy

Back cover:

*Alec and Harold Batts: Shoe repairers of Parsons Street, Banbury retiring in 1973
ref: POX0390616 from the Newsquest collection available from Picture Oxon. See the
Oxfordshire History Centre article in this issue for more details*

