

Briginshaw One-Name Study

Founded 1984

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Newsletter No 3

EDITORIAL

When I wrote in my Introductory Letter, which accompanied Newsletter No 1 in July 1984, that I would issue further Newsletters at irregular intervals, it was never my intention that after the next one (Newsletter No 2 which I produced in December of that same year) nearly five years would elapse before No 3 would make its appearance!

I can only apologise and, without going into lengthy excuses, just say that it was the growth of interest in family history itself that was the main culprit. I was responsible from 1977 for many duties as a founder and executive member of East Surrey Family History Society, becoming its Chairman 1984-87. Growth of this society, in common with many others, was so rapid and so great that what began as an enjoyable hobby grew into an almost full-time job. This, in the end, became irksome as it pushed all my own research into the background. I then decided that after spending ten years helping to further family history generally I must relinquish my position, let others take up the burden, and try to catch up with some of my personal research before too late.

Before doing so there followed the fulfillment of a long held desire to visit the land of my birth, renew old acquaintances and try to recapture something of those 'dear dead days beyond recall'. All this is another story but not unrelated to family history. My parents emigrated to Canada in the early years of this century. I was born on Vancouver Island in 1913 and the family came back to England in 1929. So, after an absence of 58 years, I took my wife on 'The Holiday of a Lifetime' when we spent three months in Canada travelling some 13,000 miles from the Atlantic to the Pacific and the American border to the Arctic. Most of this I drove in a motorhome, meeting old friends and making new ones, visiting haunts of my youth and many other parts inaccessible in those far off days of the 1920's. I then stopped to write up the story of this trip and the history of my youth but am now back to researching various branches of the family which, of course, includes the Briginshaws and I can promise that Newsletter No 4 will not appear five years hence!

Since the issue of Newsletter No 2 undoubtedly the most exciting development happened quite recently when Geoffrey Briginshaw of Mississauga, Ontario, Canada (descended through John - b1707/Richard Jeffries/Jeffries/George/Frank Frederick) in communication with John Briginshaw of Tasmania (descended through John - b1707/John/Thomas/Henry/Arthur/Henry Ernest) produced a pedigree that had been built up in 1952 and which purports to take up back from John (b1707) through five generations to William Briginshaw who married Ann Sharp 23.10.1564 at Aston Clinton. The majority of the entries on which this pedigree are based tie up with those extracted from Aston Clinton and surrounding Parish Registers by Georgina, Jenny and myself in 1984 but there are some differences and I wish to make exhaustive checks and verify entries from other sources before reproducing this pedigree in our Newsletters. This will be done as soon as possible.

May I appeal once again for short articles or items of interest connected with the Briginshaw family. A Newsletter such as ours is for the whole family and I hope an historical record for the future and should be more than the work of just one individual. However, I am quite happy to continue the production of these Newsletters so let me hear from you.

Although I shall always take care in their production it is quite impossible to do so without making errors from time to time and to enable corrections to be made I will issue erratta sheets when necessary. The first of these is enclosed with this Newsletter. I would, of course, always be glad to have a note of any mistakes noticed by anyone at any time.

As previously promised I am going to feature in this issue four generations of John's (father, son, grandson and great grandson) who lived out most of their lives in Taplow and Bray. I will also record what is known of William Davis (1790-1860) who was deeply involved with Taplow all his life.

FOUR GENERATIONS OF JOHN BRIGINSHAW'S OF TAPLOW AND BRAY

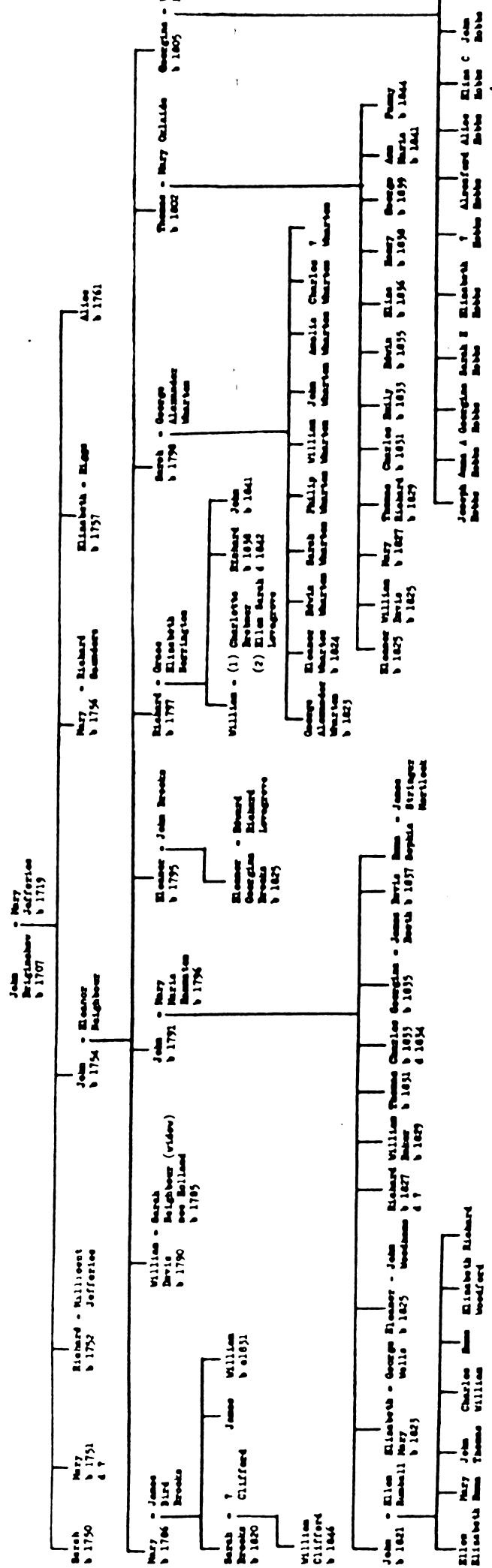
John Briginshaw	1707-1797	- married	Mary Jefferies
"	"	1754-1832	- " Eleanor Neighbour
"	"	1793-1858	- " Mary Maria Hammaton
"	"	1821-1861	- " Ellen Rumball

Not a great deal is known of these forebears for it is not easy to produce much more than a list of dates against these early generations, leaving us with little or no real knowledge of them as individuals (as was recorded by Edmund Blunden in his poem 'Forefathers' reproduced in our Newsletter No 2 - 'I know you not within - there is silence, there survives not a moment of your lives'). However, with careful and often painstaking research, it is surprising how much can be sometimes unearthed; then these details, together with knowledge of where they lived and their surroundings, the national and local history of their times, a little imagination and speculation can perhaps conjure up a picture of what life was like for them.

The details that have been uncovered by research by a number of the family and some not even family who nevertheless dedicated time to it (a shining example being Georgina Baker) are set out here and on following pages. I feel that further investigation in lesser known archives may yet bring to light some additional information to broaden the picture but as I have already said, the work involved will be painstakingly slow.

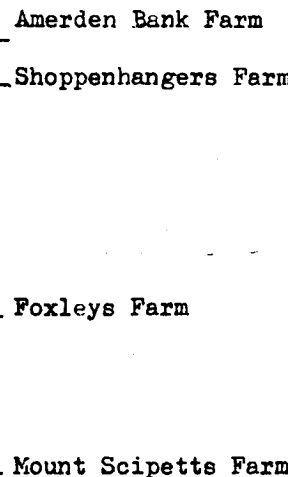
It is obvious that these Briginshaws, their brothers, their co-laterals and their friends were men of standing and influence, men of substance, and in many cases, of considerable wealth. Although we might wish we could know more of them and their lives and their families we are very lucky to have unearthed enough to make us the envy of very many wouldbe family historians struggling with their research. I feel quite embarrassed when someone asks 'How far back have you got?' and having told them find that after several years they are still trying to find their grandparents!

To help in indentifying generations and individuals referred to in this Newsletter, and in the wills of those covered, there follows an outline pedigree. This does not show precise dates nor full details of families as does my master pedigree but is intended only as a rough guide. When you see how much I have to reduce this to even get it on the page you will appreciate the problem. I shall, of course, produce more detailed sections from time to time.





This older Ordinance Survey Map shows Shoppenhangers Farm:



JOHN BRIGINSHAW (1707 - 1797)

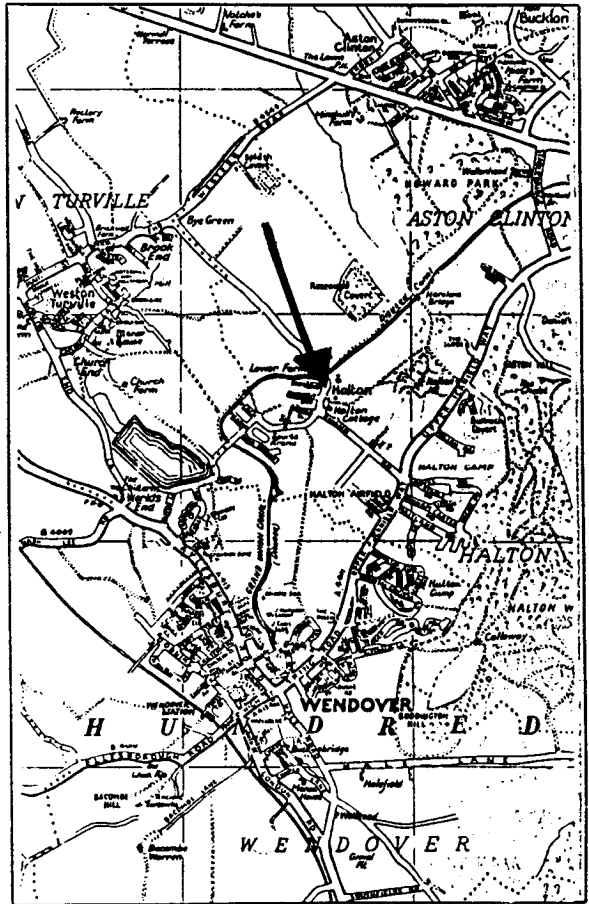
The Parish Registers of St Michael's Church, Halton, Buckinghamshire (just south-west of Aston Clinton) gives us his Baptism:

'John ye son of Wm and Sarah Briginshaw was Baptised July 13th 1707'

Also to be found is an earlier Baptism of a sister:

'Sarah ye daughter of Wm and Sarah Briginshaw was Baptised on ye 16th of June 1704 - Day Labourer'

We have already seen in Newsletter No 1 that his birth 11.7.1706 is recorded in a Family Bible. There is a year's difference between the Bible and the Parish Register entries but if John was 90 when he died in 1797 (as is shown in the Parish Registers of Taplow and on his tombstone) then 1707 would be correct



This is the present day Church of St Michael's Halton built in 1813. All that is left of the one John knew is some stone curbing.

However it is probable that the surrounding country would be familiar to him even to-day.



As yet we do not know for certain exactly where his father, William, lived beyond the Baptism of these two children at Halton and what is probably his recorded burial there:

'William Briganshaw was buried October 18th, affid^t entered October 22nd 1729'

Nor do we have any record of John's early life. The next time we find him is on the 7th of June 1749 when at Windsor Parish Church at the age of 42 he married 30 years old Mary Jefferies of Wooburn.



Windsor Parish Church in the 17th Century

The aforementioned Family Bible gives the following entry for Mary:

'Mary Jeffries was born Aug 29th 1719 - died Oct 3rd 1809 wife of the above John Briginshaw'.

Wooburn Parish Registers record her Baptism. The day and month is not clear, only the year 1719.

When John first came to Taplow is not known. His burial is recorded there in the Parish Registers in 1797 but there is a (as yet unsolved) mystery for the Registers also record the burial of another John Briginshaw 2.1.1788. At one time we thought these two John's must be father and son until the Halton Parish Register and Bible entries showed our John to be son of William.

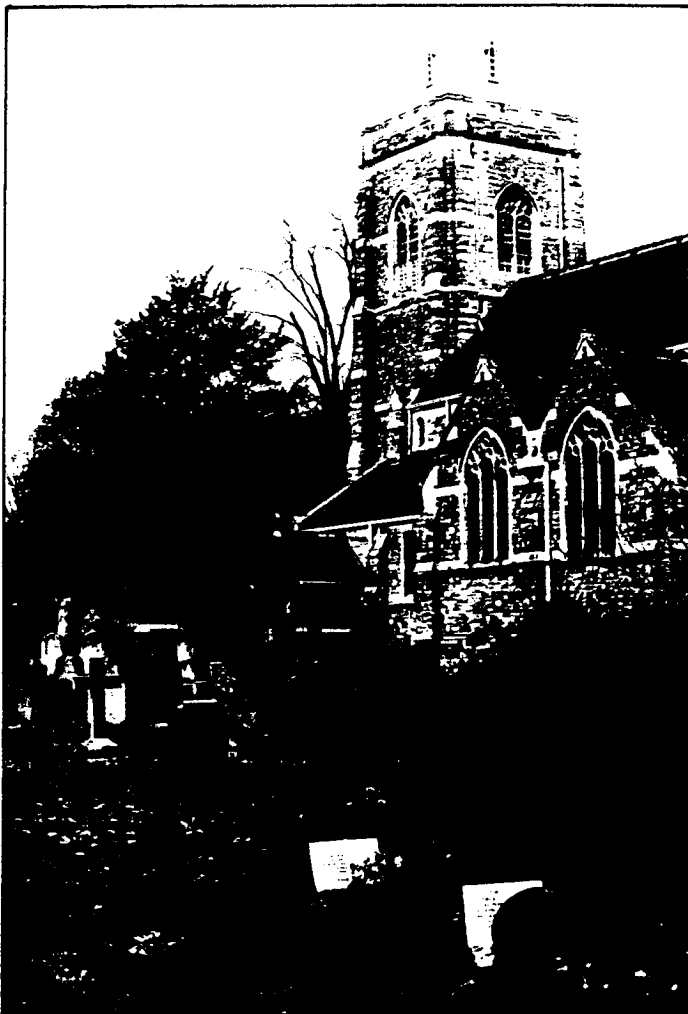
The Churchwardens Accounts Taplow, which start in 1706, record that a John Briginshaw was elected a Churchwarden 16.4.1746. Did our John come to Taplow before his marriage at Windsor in 1749? Probably, but was he the one to be elected a Churchwarden or was this the other John and what was the relationship?

Births and Baptisms of seven children born to John Briginshaw and Mary his wife are recorded in the Parish Registers of Taplow:

Sarah	born 16. 6.1750	Baptised 15. 7.1750
Mary	"	" 22. 8.1751
Richard	" 15. 8.1752	" 23. 9.1752
John	" 9. 5.1754	" 7. 6.1754
Mary	" 27. 1.1756	" 21. 2.1756
Elizabeth	" 2. 5.1758	" 28. 5.1758
Alice	" 28.11.1761	" 26.12.1761

We have further record of all these children except Mary 1751. She undoubtedly died in infancy although no burial for her can be found in Taplow. This is further confirmed by the Baptism of a second Mary as was often the custom in those days. It is not unknown to find three or more given the same name where the earlier ones died in infancy. This second Mary was to become my gt gt gt grandmother.

The Church Rate for 1795 shows John Briginshaw at £4 to be rated the highest for 'The Tythe Farm'. It is probable that this was, or became, 'rectory Farm' which stands near the present church and which we know was later occupied by John's grandson Richard. We cannot be certain at present but it seems probable that this is where he lived:



This is the present church of St Nicholas Taplow. The old Church of St Nicholas was situated next to Taplow Court and the churchyard is still there. The Church was pulled down in 1828 and rebuilt on a site further down the hill. A new chancel was added in 1865 and the church rebuilt in 1912.

Briginshaws are buried in both churchyards as we will see presently.

John died 16.7.1797 aged 90 and was buried in the old Churchyard 19.7.1797. His wife, Mary, and all their family also rest here. Although some of them will be referred to in other Newsletters it might be appropriate to record in this one all the monumental inscriptions recorded by me on a recent visit. One look at these stones told me that it was urgent to record fully all the inscriptions in both the old and new Churchyards whilst they can still be read for they are deteriorating rapidly. In the old Churchyard the stones lie horizontally in a line partly buried by moss and grass and when the grass is mown the machines run over them and hastens their destruction. In the new Churchyard they still stand erect in a row but are now flaking badly.



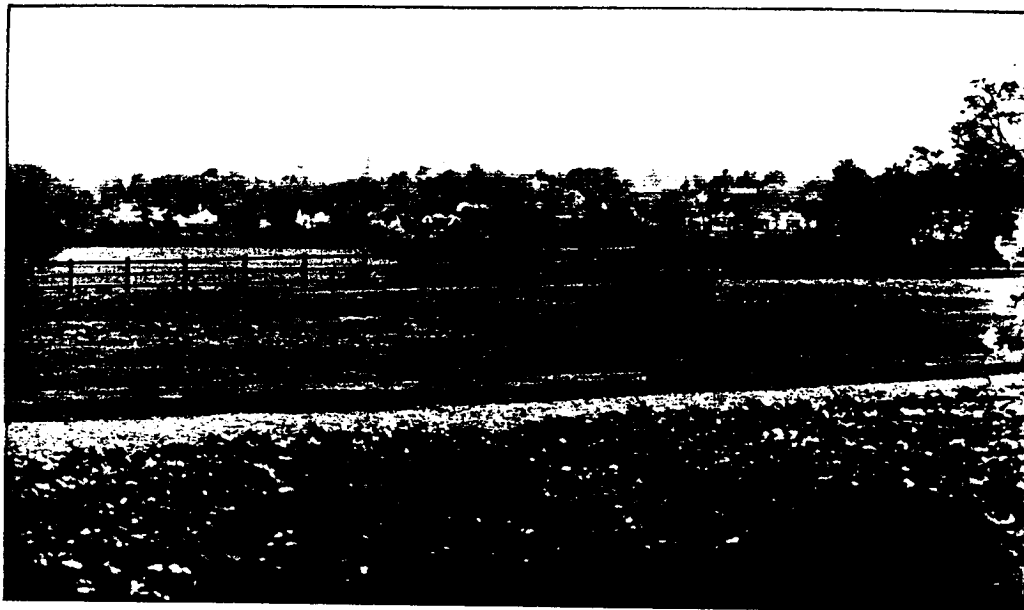
These early Briginshaws rest in the old Churchyard a few yards from 'Taplow Court' and almost at the foot of an ancient burial mound of a Saxon Chief in a peaceful place.

Mr Welsford has this old postcard which shows this group of tombstones when they stood in an upright position.





Here, beside 'Taplow Court', the Churchyard looks out over the countryside towards the river Thames which they knew so well; where they farmed the land, brought up their children and lived out their lives in a world very different from to-day, and yet, enough of these surroundings remain unchanged for us to be able still to hold in affection the land that was so dear to them and to picture those far off days as we walk the same roads and paths and where they to return now they would have no trouble in finding their way about.



I photographed all the tombstones with the exception of two no longer legible but in these cases was able to record and photograph the footstones. I had hoped to reproduce them all in this Newsletter but although the inscriptions can be quite easily read they are not good enough on the whole to photocopy. I must be content, therefore to record here the details and just give examples from .

two of the best photographs and put the rest in my 'Briginshaw File' for safe keeping.

1. The tombstone of John is no longer legible apart from a letter here and there but the footstone laid at the end of the tombstone does show quite clearly that it is his:

J. B.
1797



2. Mary his wife (nee Jefferies) is buried next to him. This is quite clear but the lettering is too feint to photograph:

In Memory of
MARY BRIGINSHAW wife
of JOHN BRIGINSHAW
who departed this life
October 3rd 1809
Aged 90 years

Footstone

M. B.
1809

3. Sarah and Alice, the two unmarried daughters, share one grave. The inscription can no longer be read except for the words 'Sarah Briginshaw' just discernable. There was obviously a second name on this stone. Illegible now but must have been Alice for the footstone is still quite clear and shows:

S. B.
1815

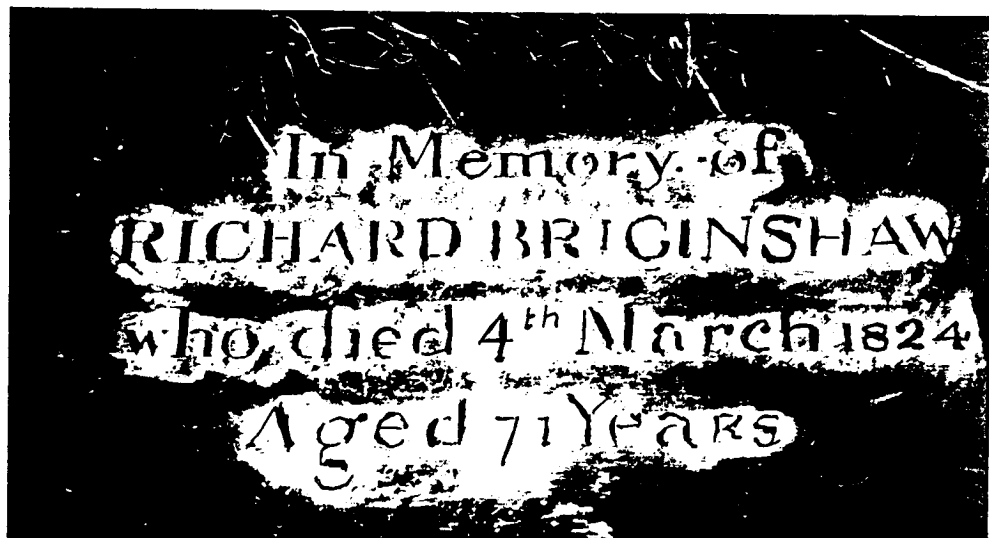
A. B.
1825

These dates tie up with Parish Register entries for them. Sarah Briginshaw 28.2.1815 aged 65 and Alice Briginshaw 6.7.1825 aged 64 years.

4. In Memory of
RICHARD BRIGINSHAW
Who died 4th March 1824
Aged 71 years

Footstone

R. B.
1824



5. In Memory of
MRS MARY SAUNDERS
who died August 10th 1831
Aged 75 years
No footstone
6. In Memory of
JOHN BRIGINSHAW
who died April 1st 1833
Aged 78 years
Footstone
J. B.
1833
Also ELEANOR
wife of the above
who died January 18th 1836
Aged 72 years
E. B.
1836
7. In Memory of
ELIZABETH HIGGS
daughter of JOHN and
MARY BRIGINSHAW
who died 12th June 1829
Aged 71 years
Footstone
E. H.

The Register shows May, not June.

Also buried with this group is Sarah Jefferies, spinster sister of Mary Briginshaw, and mentioned in Newsletter No 2 (page 5):

8. Sacred
to the Memory of
SARAH JEFFERIES
late of Islington
who died 31st October 1830
Aged 82 years
No footstone

John made his will 15.7.1797, signing it with his mark, the day before he died, no doubt, knowing that death was upon him. This was proved at London 2.8.1797 by the Master Keeper of the Prerogative Court of Canterbury. He appointed his wife Mary, his son John and William Aldridge (Corn Dealer of Northtown in the Parish of Cookham) joint executrix and executors. He remitted £400 of the sum of £630 that his son Richard stood indebted to him upon bond, leaving him with only £230 to be repaid to his executors. He left upon trust all his goods for the benefit of his wife Mary (except the goods, stock in trade and effects then in and about the dwelling house of his daughter Mary Saunders in the town of Maidenhead) and such money not wanted for the purpose of carrying on his husbandry business in and upon the farm then in his occupation at Taplow. The profit from same to be paid to his wife for the support, cloathing (sic) and maintenance of herself and son John and such of his daughters who should remain unmarried. Specifically willing that his three daughters Sarah, Elizabeth and Alice should have full liberty, so long as they remain single, to dwell in his farmhouse at Taplow until the decease of his wife without making any allowance for the same, and left them £400 apiece after the decease of his wife. Also he directed that at the same time £300 be invested with the interest for the benefit of his daughter Mary, the wife of Richard Saunders. Naturally I was delighted when I found this will in PCC for not only did it confirm all his family including my Mary, wife of Richard Saunders my gt gt gt grandfather but showed that he had some interest in stock in trade in their house. I know that the next two generations of Saunders (both named Richard) had a very prosperous grocery business in the High Street, Maidenhead. John was certainly involved in some way and it looks as if this may have started with assistance from him to his daughter and son-in-law.

John's wife Mary died and was buried 3.10.1809, also aged 90, in Taplow old Churchyard. She made her will 1.2.1808 and this was proved by the Master Keeper of the Prerogative Court of Canterbury on 24.10.1809. Her will, which she signed, showed her to be then living in Maidenhead. She bequeathed the sum of £1250 4% Bank Annuities to her sons Richard and John and her daughters Sarah, Mary Saunders, Elizabeth (wife of - Higgs) and Alice in equal shares. The shares of Elizabeth and Mary to be placed in trust to pay the interest to them during their lives and after to go in equal shares to any children they might have. All the remainder of

her goods etc., to be equally divided amongst all her children, appointing Richard and John to be her executors.

JOHN BRIGINSHAW (1754-1833)

John was the second son of John and Mary Briginshaw (nee Jefferies). He was born 9.5.1754 and Baptised at Taplow old Church 7.6.1754.

He married at the age of 32 by licence at Taplow old Church 24.3.1786 Eleanor Neighbour aged 22 (Baptised Taplow 27.6.1764), the Curate Adam Gordon officiating and the witnesses were Davis Neighbour her father and James Brown.

The Baptisms of their eight children are recorded in Taplow Parish Registers:

Mary	Baptised	26. 9.1786
William Davis	"	7. 3.1790
John	"	26. 5.1793
Eleanor	"	19. 8.1795
Richard	"	11. 6.1797
Sarah	"	7.10.1798
Thomas	"	16. 5.1802
Georgina	Born	11.12.1805
	"	12. 1.1806

Their eldest son was the first Briginshaw to bear the Christian Names, William Davis. This came from the mother's side and I will record what is known of him in this issue for we probably have more information on him than any other Briginshaw of this period.

In the Manor of Taplow Rolls we find the following entry:

'Manor of Taplow in the County of Bucks. The General Court Baron of the Right Honourable Frederick, Lord Boston and the Honourable James O'Bryen, commonly called Lord James O'Bryen - Lords of the said Manor, holden at the Queen's Head Taplow, in and for the said Manor on Friday the 24th day of May 1811 before James Payne Esq., Steward there.

Homage Jury William Davis Neighbour)
John Briginshaw) Sworn'

We have little other direct information but his will reveals something of his connections with Taplow.

John died 1.4.1833 and was buried 8.4.1833 Taplow old Churchyard aged 78. He made his will 3.12.1831 and this was proved at London 2.7.1833. He appointed his sons William Davis and Richard to be his executors. He bequeathed £2400 (part of £3000 now $3\frac{1}{2}\%$ reduced annuities standing in his name) upon trust for his wife Eleanor to receive the interest for her life and after her death to divide it equally between his four daughters Mary (wife of James Brooks), Eleanor (wife of John Brooks), Sarah (wife of George Alexander Wharton) and Georgina (wife of William Hobbs). To his daughter Sarah a further sum of £250 stock. To his son William Davis £200 stock. To his son Thomas £150 stock, these sums being the residue of the £3000 stock and whereas he had sometime since given to his son Richard halfpart of his business as a farmer and the live and dead stock thereon and now carried on in partnership with himself he confirmed such gift and bequeathed to him the remaining halfpart and all the live and dead stock except household furniture etc., and except the crops last taken from a parcel of land called 'The Nine Acres' given to his son William Davis. He now gives him the crops and instructs that Richard inherits the business on condition he pays to his son Thomas the sum of £500 Sterling. All household goods etc., to his wife Eleanor, also a yearly rent charge of £36 for life issuing out of his copyhold estate devised to William Davis. He releases and discharges his son John all sums he may be indebted to him. He also releases John Hobbs and William Hobbs (sons of sister Georgina) from payment of their note of hand for £200 due to him provided they pay to his daughter Mary (wife of James Brooks) £100 within six months. He also releases John Brooks from his note of hand for £200 on condition he pays to Sarah (wife of George Alexander Wharton) £100 within six months. He also gives to

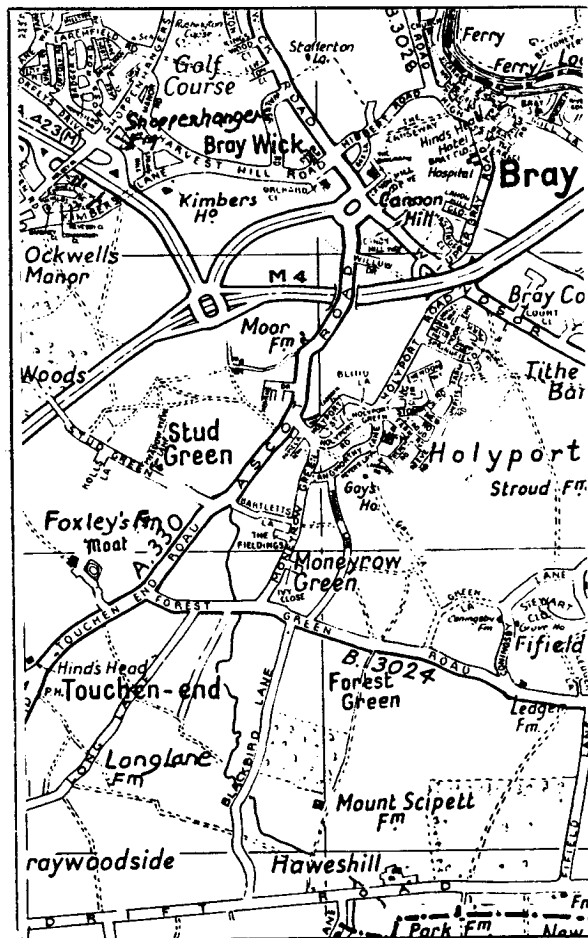
his son, William Davis (subject to the payment of £36 pa to his mother) the butcher's shop, garden, outhouses and other premises, now in occupation of John Aldridge, butcher, also baker's shop, garden, orchard and adjoining premises now let to Richard Briginshaw, baker, Benjamin Mason, Widow Fountain and Widow Brown in the Parish of Taplow, also parcel of copyhold meadowland about 1 acre in the Parish of Hitcham together with premises. He further directed that his wife, Eleanor, should, if she thinks proper, reside in the tenement now in the occupation of Benjamin Mason, without rent.

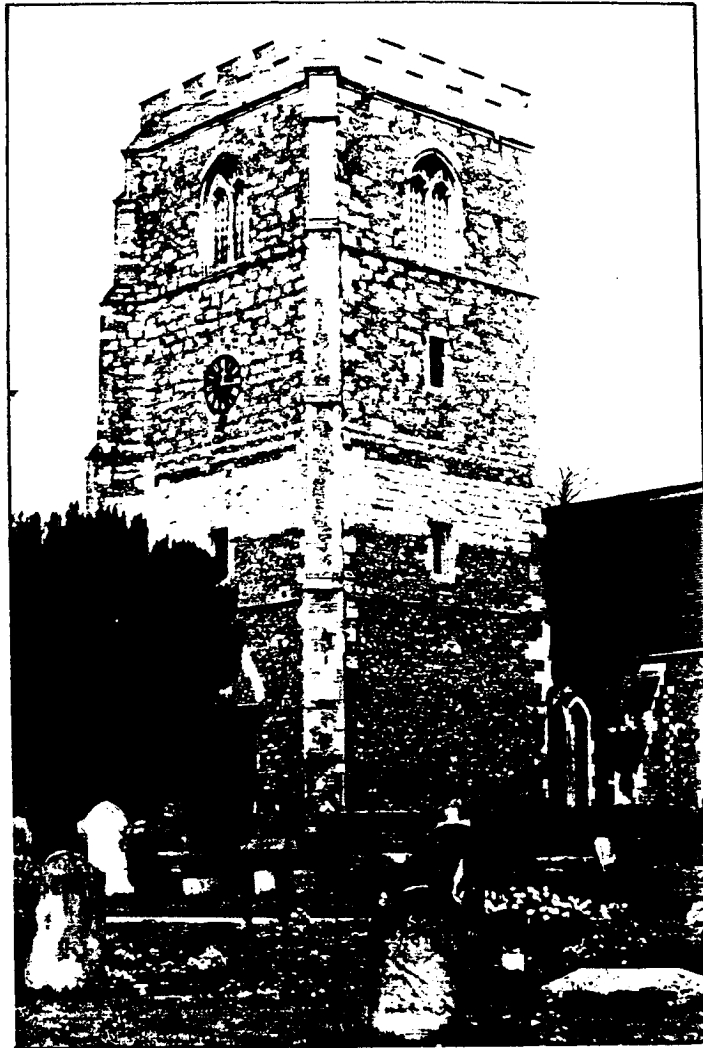
Eleanor died four years later at the age of 72 on 18.1.1836 and was buried 25.1.1836 in Taplow old Churchyard. We have already seen details from their tombstone on page 10.

How very valuable these old wills can be when building up family history.

JOHN BRIGINSHAW (1793-1858)

John Briginshaw was the second son of John and Eleanor (nee Neighbour) and was Baptised at Taplow old Church on 26.5.1793. He married on 17.2.1820 by licence at St Michael's the Parish Church of Bray, Mary Maria Hammaton (born 6.7.1796 and Baptised Bray 28.8.1796, the daughter of William and Elizabeth Hammaton). John and Mary Maria produced ten children, all Baptised at Bray Parish Church.





Bray Parish register entries
Baptisms

25.12.1821	John Briginshaw	son of John & My Maria	Foxley's Farm	Farmer
(born 1.11)		(late Hammaton)		
19. 9.1823	Eliz My "	dau " John & My	" "	"
9.12.1825	Eleanor "	" " John & My Eliz?	Foxley's	"
18.11.1827	Richard "	son " John & My Maria	Touchen End	"
25.10.1829	Wm Baker "	" " " " "	Foxley's	"
20.10.1831	Thomas "	" " " " "	"	"
13. 9.1833	Charles "	" " John & Mary Maria	Foxley's Farm	"
28. 6.1835	Georgina "	dau " John & My Maria	" "	"
17. 8.1837	Davis "	son " John & Mary	Shoppenhangers	"

Emma Sophia Briginshaw was registered in 1841 under civil registration and the Baptism has not been extracted yet.

Charles died in infancy

Burials

10. 5.1837 Charles Briginshaw (6 months) Foxley's Farm

We have further record of most of these children and it is my intention to cover them in future Newsletters. It is possible that Richard also died young as he was not mentioned in his uncle's will (William Davis Briginshaw) in 1860 whereas all the others were.

From the Parish register entries of Baptism of their children it would seem that John and Mary Maria started married life at Foxley's Farm and were there from 1821 to 1835, moved to Shoppenhangers about 1836 and by 1851 were at 'Mount Scipetts' or 'Wades Farm' as it was formerly known.

1841 Census Returns Bray (taken 7th June)Shoppenhangers

			If born in	County
John Briginshaw	50	Farmer	N	
Mary "	45		Y	
John "	20	Farmer	Y	
Elizabeth "	15		Y	
Eleanor "	15		Y	
Richard "	12		Y	
William "	12		Y	
Thomas "	10		Y	
Georgina "	5		Y	
Davis "	4		Y	

(It has to be remembered that in taking the 1841 Census ages for those over 15 were to be given, according to the wording on the forms 'To the lowest of the term of 5 years within which the age is'. So Elizabeth 18 and Eleanor 16 were both recorded as 15. John was 19½ so might have been given to the Enumerator as 20. William, Thomas, Georgina and Davis were correct but for some unexplained reason, Richard 14 was shown as 12)

However there is some, as yet unsolved, mystery surrounding these 1841 census returns for also appearing at Bray were:

Foxley's Farm

John Briginshaw	15	Farmer	Y
William "	10		Y

(In addition various Agricultural Labourers were there and a female servant, Lucy Jerome, aged 50)

Touchen End

John Briginshaw	50	Ag Lab	N
Sarah "	20		N

What does this mean? One can only speculate. Who were the John 15 and William 10 at Foxley's Farm in 1841? Was this a double entry? Where they John and William Baker, the sons of John and Mary Maria also shown at 'Shoppenhangers'? Had John Senr by now taken on 'Shoppenhangers' and put his sons into 'Foxley's' to run it? John Junr was certainly there with his own family in 1851. Had the Enumerator, calling at 'Shoppenhanger's', been given all the family including John 20 and then the Enumerator, calling at 'Foxley's' been given the precise age of John there? The census was taken on the 7th June 1841 and John was born 1st November 1821 making him 19 years and 6 months and could have been recorded as 15. William should have been 12 and not 10. Double recordings did sometimes happen. In reading census returns one has always to bear in mind that they were a record of individuals taken on a single day in the whole of history and what applied to-day could have been quite different the day before or the day after. Maybe John and William just walked down the road whilst the Enumerators were on their rounds or the housekeeper gave their names not knowing they had already been recorded.

Who were the John 50 and Sarah 20 at Touchen End? Looks as if there must have been another family around. I have spent a great deal of time on this, including a return to the census records to double check, so the matter must rest there until perhaps future research may throw further light on the subject.

1851 Census Returns Bray (taken 30th March)Mount Scipetts' Farm

					Born
John Briginshaw	Hd	M	60	Farmer 330 Acres	Taplow
Mary Maria "	W	M	53	Farmer's wife	Bray
William Baker "	S	U	21	Farmer employed on Farm	Bray
Emma Sophia "	D		9		Bray
Davis "	S		13		Bray
Sophia Chip	Ser	U	16	House Servant	Bray
John Marcham	"	U	21	Plowman	Lucknor
Abraham Langley	"	U	26	"	Wokingham
John Beck	"	U	37	Shepherd	Hurley
George Stacey	"	U	14	Driving Boy	Bray
Charles Bird	"	U	15	" "	Bray
William Norris	"	U	19	Plowman	Bray

At the same time their son John was farming 'Foxley's Farm' as we will see on page 20 when dealing with the next generation.

Wanting to know more about these farms and being interested in the ancient Manor of Foxley's I paid visits to the farms and carried out limited searches in Manor Rolls and other records at the Berkshire County Record Office at Reading, and in particular, at the time of tithe redemption. I did not have time to inspect tithe maps but intend pursuing this research in due course. What I was able to do revealed some interesting facts. The Manor of Foxleys included 'Foxley's Farm', 'Mount Scipetts' or 'Wades Farm', 'Long Lane Farm', Coppice Woods, Blackbird Cottages, Pratts Hill together with other fields and woods. It would seem that Foxleys Manor was formed out of various holdings in Bray acquired in the 14th century by Sir John de Foxley. Some of the land had belonged before 1266 to Henry Wade and no doubt this is where 'Mount Scipetts' got its alternative name.

In 1765 Foxleys Manor was bought by Henry Vansittart MP for Reading. It was still in the hands of the family at the time of tithe apportionment. It was later sold to W H Grenfell who became Lord Desborough. 'Foxley's Farm' was then occupied by John Briginshaw, 'Long Lane Farm' was occupied by Thomas Glover and one William Baker owned and occupied a small orchard.

An indenture (lease and release, bargain and sale) dated 19.9.1765 refers to 'Wade's Farm' occupied by William Hammaton (otherwise Hamaton).

A contract for redemption of land tax 1799 refers to farm 250 acres Trustees of Henry Vansittart (minor) in occupation of Sarah Hart widow and other farm occupied by widow Hamaton.

An indenture of 1812 mentions lands formerly in occupation of William Hammaton (otherwise Hamaton).

A lease dated 28.7.1812 Henry Vansittart to William Baker, yeoman of 'Wade's Farm' and 'Long Lane Farm' for 18 years (1812-1830) at rent of £460 in occupation of William Baker. Total of two farms A251.0.31 plus Walton Hills and Pond A44.3.11.

There is another lease bearing the same date of 25.7.1812 Henry Vansittart to George Gotelee, yeoman of 'Foxley's Farm' for 18 years (1812-1830) at rent of £450. Farm/Buildings/Moat A251.2.37 now in occupation of Gotelee.

There was also an interesting Declaration dated 18.11.1863 by one Thomas Stacey of Holyport, shoemaker, who says he has lived in Parish all his life, is now 65, and knows well farms called Foxley's, Long Lane and Mount Scipetts or Wades. Foxley's was in occupation of George Gotelee and recently the same was for some years in occupation of John Briginshaw, now deceased, who was succeeded in the tenancy by Messrs Headington. Long Lane was, when he first remembered it, in occupation of William Baker and was after for some years, occupied by the same John Briginshaw and then Messrs Headington. Mount Scipetts otherwise Wades Farm (with the exception of property called Blackbirds Cottages) was formerly in occupation of William Baker, then John Briginshaw and now Messrs Headington.

The Tithe Apportionment of Rent Charge in lieu of Tithes Bray gives interesting details of the fields of Foxleys once occupied by John Briginshaw:

Part of Lot 1
No on Plan

			A.	R.	P.
869	Sandy Lease	Arable	25	1	3
873	Grove	"	17	0	0
878		Meadow	1	3	8
879	Cottage yard and barn			1	37
880	Middle Lease & Harford				
	Meadow	Arable	42	2	0
881	Cottage & Garden				16
882	Clay Lease	Arable	18	0	0
884	Brook Lease	"	14	2	20
886	Brook Mead	Meadow	2	3	26
887	" "	"	7	3	0
888	Wood			1	25
889	Brick Close	Arable	10	3	22

904	Little Park	Arable	13	1	10
905	Great "	"	13	3	37
906	Long Slipe	"	4	3	4
907	Gt & Little Horseleys	Meadow	11	3	26
908	Park Mead	"	16	3	0
909		"		3	20
910	Garden			1	16
911	Cottage Garden & Road			1	28
912	Private Road		1	0	11
913	Orchard & Moat		1	0	32
914	Farmhouse Yard & Buildings		1	1	28
915	Orchard		1	0	20
916	August Meadow	Meadow	5	2	0
918	Millfield	Arable	19	0	34
919	Barn Close	Meadow	6	0	24
920	Little "	"	4	1	24
921	Gladmans	Arable	8	1	7
928	Old Orchard	Meadow	7	2	30
			260	0	28

Two other documents show us:

<u>No on Plan</u>	<u>Landowners</u>	<u>Occupiers</u>	A.	R.	P.
1350	John Briginshaw Cottage & Garden Parts of Lot 5	Richard Wells	1	0	13
1349	Wm Baker Orchard	Himself		2	21

What does all this information tell us? Firstly that John Briginshaw's association with these farms probably came about through his marriage with Mary Maria Hammaton. The Hammatons (otherwise Hamatons) had been connected with this land for a long time.

The indenture we have seen of 1765 refers to Wades Farm in occupation of William Hamaton (could be father of Mary Maria or her grandfather). Her grandfather and grandmother died there in 1808 and 1806 respectively and this was 10 and 8 years after their son William (and father of Mary Maria) died there in 1798 when Mary Maria was just 2 years old. The contract for redemption of Land Tax in 1799 refers to a farm occupied by Widow Hamaton. This must be her mother as her grandfather died some years later but not before his wife. Three years later she re-married in 1803 Wm Baker. Mary Maria was then 7 years old and when she married John Briginshaw, Wm Baker was a witness and later she named her third son William Baker after her step-father. We have already seen that Mount Scipetts or Wades and Long Lane Farms were leased to Wm Baker in 1812.

Bray Parish Registers give us the picture:

Baptisms

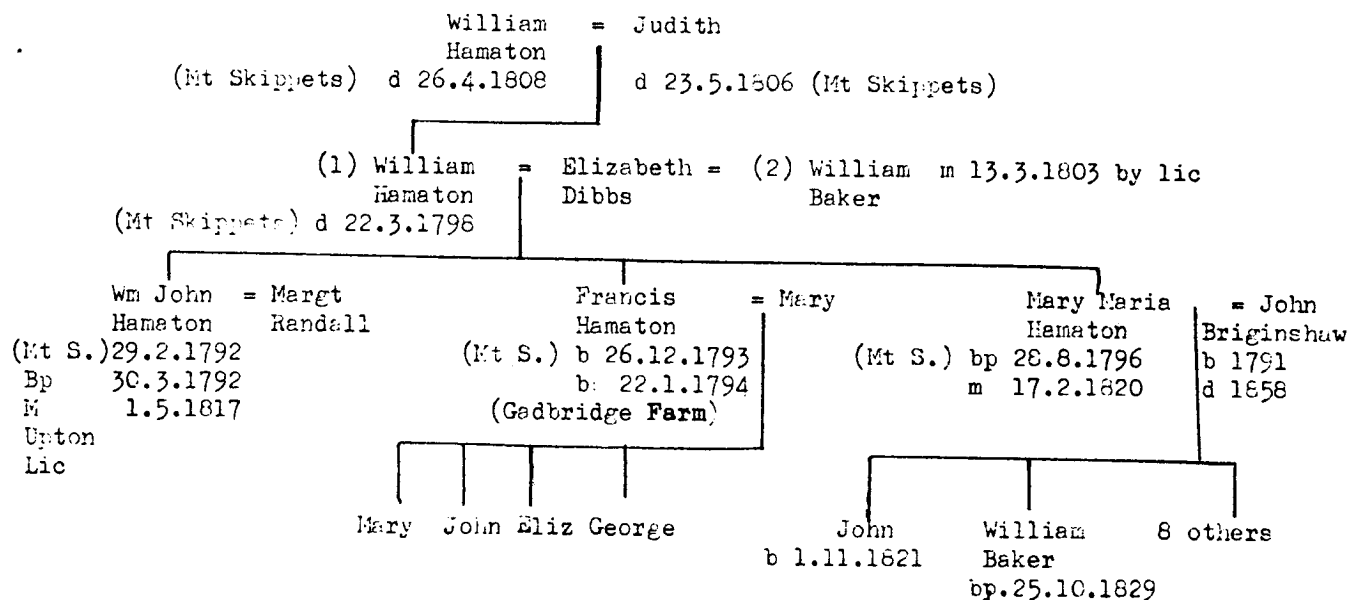
30. 3.1792 (b. 29.2.1792)	Wm John Hamaton son of Wm & Eliz (Dibbs)	Mt Skippets
22. 1.1794 (b. 26.12.1793)	Francis " " " " " "	" "
28. 8.1796	My Maria " dau " " " "	" "

Marriages

13. 3.1803	Wm Baker b otp and Eliz Hamaton wid otp by lic.
17. 2.1820	John Briginshaw b otp and My Maria Hammaton sp otp by lic (Witness Wm Baker)

Burials

22. 2.1798	Wm Hamaton	Mt Skippets
26. 4.1808	Mr Wm Hamaton	" "
23. 5.1806	Judith Hamaton Wife of William Hamaton	" "



'Gadbridge Farm' which Mary Maria's brother Francis once farmed is still there in Bray.



John died 21.1.1858 at Bray. His will made 5.10.1855 was proved at London 1.10.1858. He devised all his real estate and bequeathed all his personal estate except mortgages and trust estates to which he would be entitled at the time of his decease to his wife Mary Maria for her life and after her decease unto his son Davis absolutely. Real Estates vested in him as trustee or mortgagee to his executors and he appointed his son John and son-in-law John Woodhams in this capacity. (John Woodhams was the husband of his daughter Eleanor).

John had also acted as High Constable for the Parish of Bray. Maidenhead Advertiser of Friday 12th March 1858 records:

County Petty Sessions - Tuesday

Appointment of Mr W. Lovegrove as High Constable for the Parish of Bray in the room of Mr John Briginshaw deceased, was confirmed.

Mary Maria died on the 12th of May 1864 in Maidenhead where she was then living with her youngest daughter Emma Sophia, who had married James Stringer Mortlock, harness maker of Maidenhead. Her will dated 1.10.1861 was proved at Oxford 12.7.1864. She devised and bequeathed all her real and personal property to her daughter Emma Sophia.

All estates vested in her as trustee to George Norrington of Taplow whom she appointed her executor and trustee. Administration was granted to Emma Sophia, George Norrington having died in the lifetime of the Testatrix.

I recently paid visits to these farms to take photographs. At 'Mount Scipetts' this was not possible as the farmhouse burnt down several years ago and was replaced by an extensive modern one. In spite of a notice on a closed gate

STRICTLY NO ADMITTANCE TO ANYONE

I drove up to the house in the hope I might photograph surroundings or old farm buildings but was deterred from getting out of the car by a pack of loose Dobermanns which surrounded it with bared teeth! Wonder what they have to hide? Research does have its dangers!



At 'Foxley's Farm' I was able to photograph the house and this attractive old castiron letter box.



The present owner, Lady Croft, knew little of its history but showed me this delightful moat which once surrounded the ancient Manor.



At 'Long Lane Farm' I was met by a charming couple who whilst they too, knew little of the history of their farm were very interested and the Farmer's wife took me down a long muddy grass track, which she said was once the main road, to a pond known as 'Drover's Pond', which contained a number of waterfowl including a waterhen with her newly hatched chicks. She told me that this lane was once lined with cottages and that at times bricks come to the surface.



Looking at an old map I see reference to the 'Drovers of Drift Road' in this locality and no doubt this is the pond referred to in the 1812 lease. Drovers must have once brought their cattle this way, making use of the pond. I must try to unearth more information.



JOHN BRIGINSHAW (1821-1861)

John was the eldest son of John and Mary Maria (nee Hammaton). Born 1.11.1821 he was Baptised at St Michael's Parish Church Bray on Christmas Day 25.12.1821.

He married 8.1.1842 at the age of 21 at All Souls Marylebone Ellen Runball aged 23.

The births of their seven children were registered in GRO records in the Registrati District of Cookham with the exception of the first who was registered in the Registration District of St Anns London. I have not seen the Baptismal records.

Ellen Elizabeth Am-lia Briginshaw		1843
Mary Emma	"	1845
John Thomas	"	1847
Charles William	"	1849
Emma	"	1851
Elizabeth woodford	"	1852
Richard	"	1854

The death of Emma is registered in 1852 Cookham aged one. We think John Thomas married in 1890 St Giles. None of the others married and all died in Margate where they owned a house, four of them leaving wills and passing on the house from one to the other in turn.

We have already seen that John, a farmer, was recorded in the 1841 census returns with his father's family at Shopenhangers and probably also at Foxley's Farm when he was 19. By 1851, now with his own family, he was certainly there:

1851 Census Returns - Bray (30th March)

Foxley's Farm

	Id	M	Age	Occupation	Where born
John Briginshaw	Hd	M	29	Farmer 260A employing 10 men	Bray
Ellen	Wf	M	31		Middx
Ellen	D		8	At school	St Anns
Mary	D		6	" "	Bray
John Thomas	S		4	At home	Bray
Charles William	S		1	At home	Bray

Elizabeth Burret	Serv	U	16	House Servant	Bray
Harriet Weston	"	U	10	" "	"
John Cooper	"	U	37	Carter	Hambledon
Henry Chip	"	U	21	"	Winkfield
George Stevens	"	U	15	Carter's Boy	Cookham
Henry Chaplin	"	U	19	Shepherd	Easthampste
George Godfrey	"	U	18	Cowman	Hanney Bks
Thomas Nichols	"	U	13	Carter's Boy	Bray
Thomas Watts	"	U	13	" "	"

In 1861 the family were still at Foxley's Farm.

1861 Census Returns - Bray (7th April)

Foxley's Farm

John Briginshaw	Hd	M	39	Farmer 360A Employing	Bray
Ellen	Wf	M	41	7 men 3 boys	Lnd
Ellen E A	D	U	18		Lnd
Mary E	D		16		Bray
John Thomas	S		14		"
Charles William	S		12		"
Eliza Woodford	E		9		"
Richard	S		7		"

The full entry of servants was not taken and the farm seems to have gained 100 acres.

Sadly John died shortly after at the age of 40 on the 18th June 1861 and only three years after his father, leaving Ellen with six children aged from 18 to 7. She died in 1877 at Windsor.

John's will was made 21.5.1861 just a month before his death and proved at Oxford 27.8.1861. He appointed his brothers-in-law executors and trustees - George Wells, farmer, Marlow Bottom, Parish of Great Marlow and John Woodhams farmer, Winkfield (George was the husband of his sister Elizabeth Mary and John the husband of his sister Eleanor). He bequeathed all the contents of his house to his dear wife Ellen; all the rest of his estate upon trust for his wife during her lifetime or widowhood, then in equal shares to his children.

In looking at the two Briginshaw Families who farmed in Bray and when dealing with other family connections in the area it is helpful to remember that Maidenhead, although an important centre from early times, was not constituted a parish until 15.10.1894. Prior to this, after crossing the River Thames from Taplow in a westerly and southerly direction the immediate area was divided between the parishes of Cookham and Bray. Part of the line of demarkation between the two being the centre of the High Street. Thus entries in Bray Parish Registers and other parish records did not necessarily mean that individuals recorded therein lived in the village of Bray but could have resided in other parts of this large parish including the centre of Maidenhead. The same applied to the Parish of Cookham. There are family members and co-laterals who will be mentioned in later Newsletters who are recorded in the registers and buried in the Churchyards of both parishes but whose associations were almost exclusively with Maidenhead itself.

In dealing with our families who knew Bray so well it is interesting, in passing to touch upon one or two historical references to the parish.

There was a church at Bray at the time of Edward the Confessor, before William the Conqueror landed more than 900 years ago. In 1293 the old Saxon Church was pulled down and a new one was started.

Of course, the legend of the notorious Vicar made St Michael's Bray one of the most famous parish churches in the country. There has been much speculation as to who he was. It has been suggested the most likely turncoat Vicar was Simon Aleyn who died in 1565. Certainly the legend was known as early as 1662 when Thomas Fuller DD published his 'Worthies of England'. The ballad by an unknown author was not written until about 1720 for it starts with Charle

and covers a period sometime before 1685, when he died, to sometime after 1714 when George I came to the throne, so this is completely conflicting evidence. There is a school of thought that a likely explanation is that the author used Fuller's story as a peg on which to hang a satirical song. However, it still remains as part of English folklore and no doubt amused our Bray ancestors

The Vicar of Bray Ballad

In Good King Charles golden days,
When loyalty no harm meant,
A zealous High Churchman was I
and so I got preferment.
To teach my flock I never missed,
Kings were by God appointed,
And damn'd are those that do resist
Or touch the Lord's anointed.

For this law I will maintain
Until my dying day, sir,
Whatever King in England reign
I'll be the Vicar of Bray, sir.

When Royal James obtained the crown,
and Popery came in fashion,
The penal laws I hooted down
and read the Declaration,
The Church of Rome I found would fit
Full well my constitution,
And had become a Jesuit
But for the revolution.

When William was our King declar'd
To ease a nation's grievance,
With this new wind about I steer'd,
and swore to him allegiance.
Old principles I did revoke
Set conscience at a distance,
Passive obedience was a joke,
A jest was non-resistance.

When gracious Anne became our Queen,
The Church of England's glory,
Another face of things was seen,
And I became a Tory.
Occasional Conformists base
I damn'd their moderation,
And thought the Church in danger was
by such prevarication.

When George in Pudding-time came o'er
And moderate men looked big Sir,
I turned a cat-in-a-pan once more,
And so I became a Whig Sir,
And thus preferment, I procured
From our new faith's defender,
And almost every day abjured
The Pope and the Pretender.

The illustrious House of Hanover
And Protestant succession,
To these I do allegiance swear
While they keep possession.
For in my faith and loyalty
I never more will falter,
And George my lawful King shall be
Until the times shall alter.

Repeat chorus after each verse.

Some of the families who came to Bray also left their names as place names. Just two which are of special interest to us are Roger de Shoppenhanger who acquired land in the 14th century and the Foxley family who arrived about the same time, the latter being well commemorated by splendid brasses etc., in the church.

Touchen End (the name is said to come from two old English words meaning two chains) would have been connected with the two roads which now meet there and which when Touchen End was part of the royal hunting ground would have been two tracks in the forest. Here stood the whipping post and stocks.

Jumping the centuries to 1853, James Edward Austen Leigh, nephew of Jane Austen, became Vicar and it was he who in 1857/62 changed quite drastically the church as so many other churches were by the Victorians. However the basic structure remains.

William Nicholson, Alderman, founder of Nicholson's Brewery, sportsman and benefactor of the town of Maidenhead, who married my great grand aunt, Sarah Saunders (great granddaughter of John and Mary Briginshaw) shared a great love of cricket with E C Austen Leigh, old Etonian and son of the Vicar. Both of

them earned fame in the great days of Maidenhead Cricket Club for both played for the club and later William became its president. They died within a few days of each other in 1916, William at the age of 96.

Maidenhead Cricket Club holds the honour of the first record of cricket in Berkshire and many famous games were played, including some against the MCC and players whose names are now legend. An amusing story is told of the early days when a match at Oldfields Bray in the late 18th century resulted in another victory for the Maidenhead eleven. The Londoners were so disgusted at hearing the bells of Bray Church proclaiming the victory they turned their backs on an excellent luncheon and retired in high dudgeon. Not exactly cricket!

WILLIAM DAVIS BRIGINSHAW (1790-1860)

We have already seen that William Davis was the eldest son of John and Eleanor (nee Neighbour) and was Baptised at Taplow old Church on 7.3.1790.

I have said that he was the first Briginshaw to bear the Christian names of William Davis, names which were to be used in the family a number of times in later generations and which were also used extensively by the Neighbours and Norringtons.

I am going to digress here before continuing his story to show where these names came from and to cover a little of the Neighbour/Norrington connections with the Briginshaws. These three families of Taplow were close friends over many years, taking part in working together as farmers, running the community in association with the Manor and the Church, witnessing each others weddings and no doubt acting as Godparents, performing the duties of executors and trustees to each others wills and in several cases marrying to form a quite involved relationship.

On first discovering the marriage between John Briginshaw and Eleanor Neighbour I spent some time researching the Neighbours for they appeared in almost every record I searched. At the same time I found connections with the Norringtons although their association with the district obviously did not go back as far. The latter led me to inform a fellow member of East Surrey Family History Society, John Norrington (founder of the 'Norrington One-Name Study') and he then researched the Taplow branch of that family. In doing so he came across a number of Briginshaw references and he and I exchanged information and I acknowledge his help with gratitude.

I found that Eleanor Neighbour (Baptised 27.5.1764 Taplow old Church), the wife of John Briginshaw and mother of William Davis was the daughter of William Davis Neighbour, farmer of 'Home Farm' Taplow and his wife Lydia (nee Lonon). So this is when and where the names William Davis, given to her son by Eleanor, first came into the Briginshaw family. However Eleanor's father was not the first Neighbour to bear them as they appear in even earlier generations and one day I hope to trace them back to their source. Eleanor was the sister of Lydia Neighbour (daughter of William Davis and Lydia) who married William Norrington as we will see in a moment. She was also the sister of John Neighbour who will be mentioned again.

The Taplow Norringtons originated in Devizes, migrated in the 16th century to Rowde in Wiltshire and then in the 19th century one William Norrington came to Taplow and married the above mentioned Lydia Neighbour in 1808. This William Norrington of Rowde was the fifth generation of that name to have lived there. Born 6.5.1775 to William and Grace (nee Hunt) he was only six months old when his father died leaving Grace with a family aged 6 mos, 2 yrs, 4 yrs and 7 yrs and a bakery to run. The father had been a maltster and baker and it seems Grace carried on at least part of the business until her death at the age of 53 in 1801 for she was paying land tax up to that date. An oval stone tablet which can still be seen in the organ chamber on the north side of the chancel of St Matthew's Church, Rowde is engraved with her epitaph:

Her Life was Virtuous, Meek & Lowly
 Patient, Harmless, Kind & Holy
 Free from Malice, Void of Pride
 So she Liv'd & so she Dy'd

Isn't that lovely?

If Grace hoped her sons would continue the business this was not fulfilled for the two eldest died in her lifetime and William, although he became a baker, seems to have mortgaged the house and bakehouse and another house and malthouse occupied by a tenant. The next time we know of him was when he married Lydia Neighbour at the old Church of St Nicholas Taplow on 27.10.1808.



In the minutes of a vestry meeting tentatively dated this same year of 1808, held to decide a poor rate, William Norrington presented himself as the representative of Lady Orkney. She would have been Mary, Countess of Orkney who inherited the estates of her father the Marquess of Thorndown who had recently died. In 1826 William is described as her Steward. In the same year he is also called a steward to Lord Kirkwall which was the title of the Earl's eldest son.

William was still managing the Taplow Court Estate in 1846. In addition he was acting overseer of the poor in 1817 which paid £20 per annum and as Overseer 20 years later, presumably at an increased fee.

At his wedding with Lydia in 1808 the witnesses were her brother John Neighbour (already mentioned and of whom we will hear again) and Mary Briginshaw. Six years later William repaid the compliment, witnessing the

marriage in 1814 of Mary Briginshaw (daughter of John and Eleanor) when she married James Bird Brooks of St Barlow.

William and Lydia Norrington had five children, the eldest son was named William Davis after her father as her sister Eleanor had done with her first son. The youngest daughter was named Grace Elizabeth after his mother. In due course Grace Elizabeth was to marry Richard Briginshaw (brother of William Davis Briginshaw).

Lydia died at the age of 43 and was buried in Taplow old Churchyard two days before Christmas 1824. Five years later on 14th May 1829 William, now aged 54, married again at Taplow, Jane Lloyd, a 36 years old spinster. The witnesses this time were Sophia and Richard Jeffries Briginshaw. They produced a daughter, Charlotte, the same year.

To return to the Briginshaws, our William Davis married at Taplow old Church on 6.4.1811 at the age of 21, Sarah Neighbour (widow of John Neighbour mentioned above) who was five years his senior. Sarah was the daughter of William Holland and his wife Sarah, farmer of Shoppenhangers Bray. She was Baptised Bray 21.4.1785 and first married at the age of 17 on 23.9.1802 at Bray, John Neighbour, brother of Eleanor and Lydia. He died 17.5.1809 aged 43.

Have I lost you by now? Perhaps this will help!

William = Sarah
Briginshaw

John = Mary
Briginshaw = Jefferies
(b 1707)

William = Lydia
Davis = Lonon
Neighbour
(b 1734)

William = Grace
Norrington = Hunt
(b 1744) (b 1748)

John = Eleanor
Briginshaw = Neighbour
(b 1754) (b 1764)

John = Sarah
Neighbour = Holland
(b 1766) (b 1785)
(d 1809)

Lydie (1) = William
Neighbour = Norrington
(b 1781) (b 1775)
(d 1824)

= Jane (2)
Lloyd

John = Mary
Briginshaw = Maria
(b 1793) Hammaton

William = Sarah
Davis = Neighbour
Briginshaw (widow of
(b 1790) above
John Neighbour)

Richard = Grace
Briginshaw = Elizabeth
(b 1797) Norrington
(b 1815)

John = Ellen
Briginshaw = Rumball
(b 1821)



I wonder if
these ancient
cottages in
Taplow had any
connection
with the famil

So, here was William Davis born into a farming family already well established in Taplow. His grandfather was to live another seven years and his father would live until he was 42 so it was not until then that he would come into his full inheritance. His earliest years were troubled ones with the Anglo-French war of 1793, the French Revolution, the end of the French Monarchy and the rise to power of Napoleon with its threat to Great Britain. There was also internal discontent, Irish and Indian problems, poor harvests and economic problems, all of which put Great Britain in a perilous position. The Napoleonic Wars, with blockade and disrupted food imports forced prices up but this did put farmers'

in a more prosperous position. William Davis was just 15 when Nelson was victorious at Trafalgar and 25 when Napoleon met his Waterloo. Following victory, prices slumped and although the main burden fell on the labourer, many small farmers found themselves in dire straits. This would have affected the family but by now they must have been established in and around Taplow long enough to weather the storm into more stable times.

Five years after William Davis was born the Taplow Church Rates for 1795 showed John Briginshaw to be occupying 'The Tythe Farm'. It is probable that this was, or became, 'Rectory Farm' as we have seen on page 6 of this Newsletter. This John could have been William's grandfather or his father. Further evidence is provided by his father's will and census returns, for when he died in 1833 John made his sons William Davis and Richard his executors and the will shows that Richard was then farming in partnership with his father and that he was to inherit the business. Forty-two years old William Davis got an immediate £200 stock, a parcel of land called 'the nine acres', some crops together with a butcher's shop, garden and outhouses and other premises, a baker's shop, garden and orchard and other premises in Taplow together with 1 acre of copyhold meadow-land and premises in Hitcham. Certainly by 1841 his brother Richard was at 'Rectory Farm' as is shown in the census returns. He died there in 1849 after which it was occupied by George Norrington until his death and was then carried on by his widow.

We do not have precise records but we must assume that William Davis's youth was probably spent helping his father and it would seem likely that he branched out on his own and took his first farm some time before his father's death and probably with his backing otherwise it might be assumed that it would have been him and not his younger brother Richard who would have been in partnership with their father.

From census returns we know that by 1841 he was at 'Amerden Bank Farm' and was still there in 1851 when we are given the additional information that he was farming 250 acres and employing 11 labourers.

However some references to our William Davis have been found which help to show something of his life and standing in the community.

The earliest reference is in the Taplow Land Tax Assisments of 1811 when he was 21 and when together with William Norrington they were Assessors. In 1821 both were Collectors and in 1831 both were Assessors again, other years were not inspected.

Amongst the Parish Records is 'The Red Book' which lists pews in the new Church and we find No 8, 20, 23 and 36 in lieu of the two pews occupied by Mr W Briginshaw Mr ? and Mr Norrington under Lord Kirkwalls Aisle.

An occurrence which must have affected William Norrington, George Norrington and our William Davis was the coming of the railway and the building in 1838 of a bridge over the Thames with its long brick span by the famous engineer Isabard Kingdom Brunel. Some evidence of this can be found in the Times of 9th January when they reported that at the Bucks Quarter Sessions on Thursday 4th the Earl of Orkney appealed against the refusal of the Bench to grant more compensation by the Great Western Railway for obstructing a culvert to his mill on the grounds that the Earl had sold the land to the railway at a very high price. As his Steward, William could have been deeply involved in the case and as a cornmillier, who rented the Earl's mill, George may have suffered disruption to his business through loss of power to his stones. We find, too, in Parish Records this item: It was agreed that the sum of £100 received by Mr W D Briginshaw from the GWR for gravel pit on Glebe be put in trust for the Parish in the names of Messrs W D Briginshaw and Richard Briginshaw.

At a Vestry Meeting held 16.4.1841 we find: Churchwardens appointed

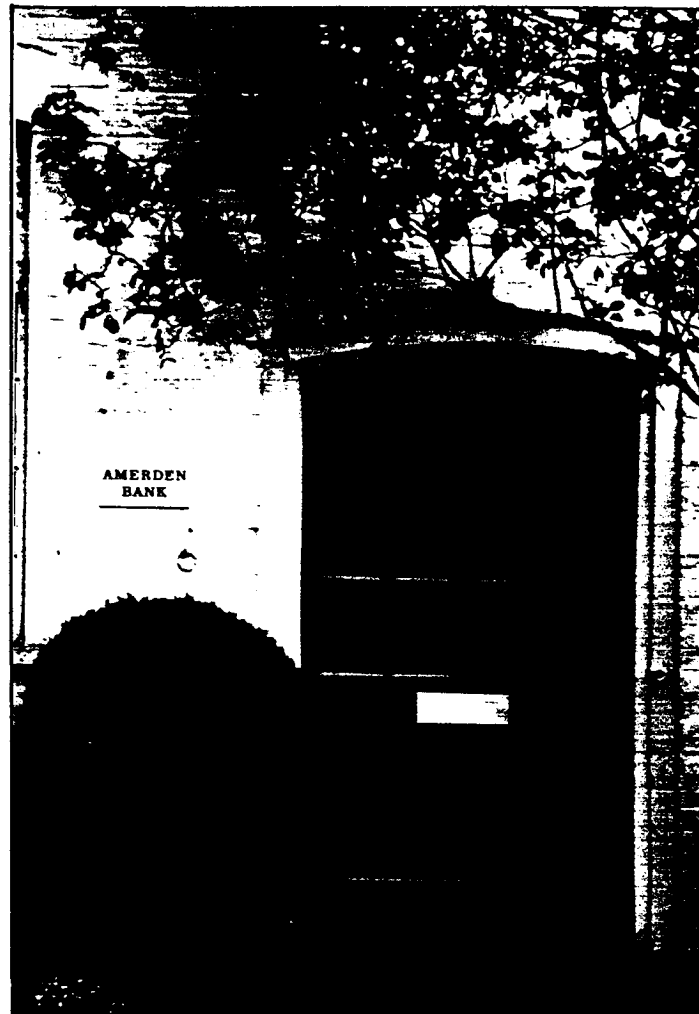
Briginshaw Wm Davis	appointed by the Rector
Norrington George	" " " "

The same appointments are recorded for 1838 to 1843 and 1851/52 and 1857.
(the only ones examined)

1841 Census Returns TaplowAmerden Bank

			<u>If born in County</u>
William Briginshaw	51	Farmer	Y
Sarah "	55		Y
Thomas Marcham	15	Ag Lab	Y
Richard Jaycocks	20	" "	Y
William Shearer	15	" "	Y
Charles Bird	12	" "	Y
Sarah Hobbs	10	Female Servant	Y
Sarah Watts	22	" "	Y





1851 Census Returns Taplow

Amerden Farm

Where born

william Davis Briginshaw	Hd	M	61	Farmer 250 acres employing 11 labs	Taplow
Sarah	Wf	M	66		Bray
Ann Fife	Serv	U	30	Cook	Wilts
Eliz "	"	U	18	Use Maid	"
John Morcut	"	M	34	Carter	?
Mary "	"	M	30	Wife of Carter	Marlow
Thos "			?		Taplow
Daniel "			?		"
Chas "			1		"
James Herbert	"	U	27	Shepherd	
James Langels	"	U	23	Carter	Burnham
Wm Howard	"	U	30		Taplow
Thos Newell	"	U	15	Flowboy	Dorney
Wm Green	"	U	20	Cowman	"
Wm Spencer	Visitor	wid	62	Brewer	Reading

Another Parish Record shows:

The piece of ground immediately in front of the wall on the South side of the Rectory Farm Yard belongs to the Rectory. The breadth is 10 ft at the west end, 9 ft in the middle and 6 ft at the East end.

Charles Whately	-	Rector
George Korrington	-	Churchwarden
W D Briginshaw	-) Surveyors
?	-	

March 14 1852

The Churchwardens Accounts dated 8.3.1841 give the following assessments:

		<u>Annual Value</u>	<u>Sum Assessed</u>
No 6	Wm Davis Briginshaw Farmer 'Amerden Bank'	£372.12.0.	£4. 6. 3.
No 7	Richard Briginshaw Rectory Farm	£354. 0.0.	£8.17. 0.
No 28	William Davis Neighbour Farmer	£ 23.10.0.	11. 9.
No 29	William Norrington (Steward Earl of Orkney)	£ 13.15.0.	6.10 $\frac{1}{2}$
No 30	George Norrington Miller	£ 97.15.0	£2. 8.10 $\frac{1}{2}$
No 31	Earl of Orkney Taplow Court	£477.15.0.	£11.18.10 $\frac{1}{2}$

(Values and Assessments did not bear much relationship one to the other in many cases as fields etc., were assessed on their different uses))

South Bucks Free Press Friday 23.4.1858 gives us:

Taplow Vestry Meeting

Following Officers appointed for ensuing year:

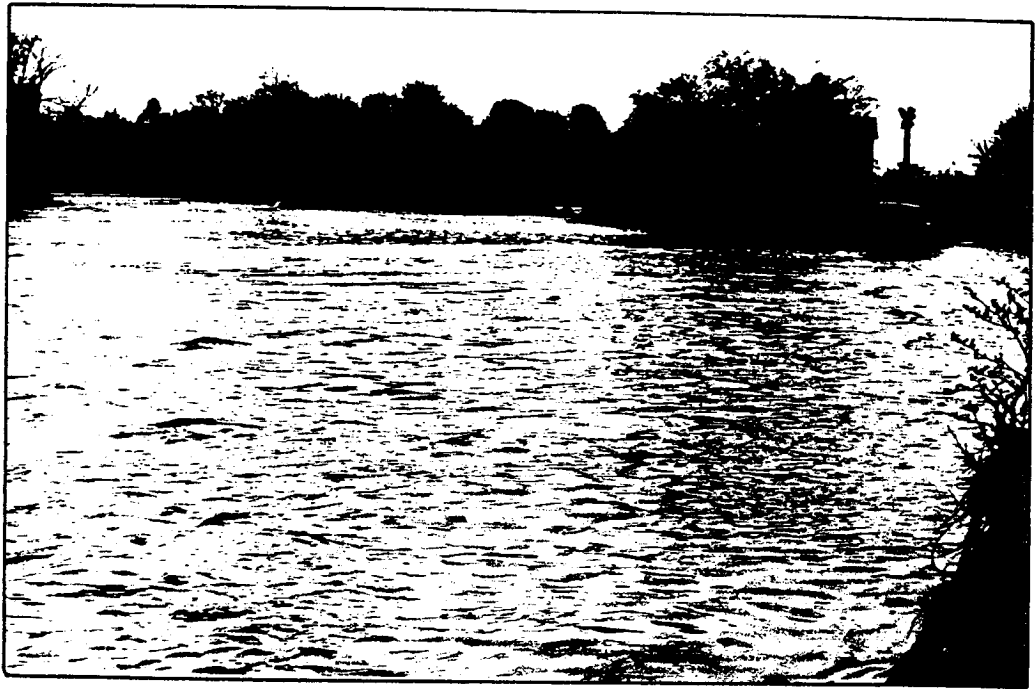
Churchwardens	Mr W. Rance Mr W. D Briginshaw
Highway Surveyors	Mr W. D Briginshaw Mr J Rutland

The above named George Norrington, the Miller, was the son of William Norrington of 'Home Farm'. In addition to his association and friendship with William Davis Briginshaw he figured in many documents inspected but that is another story. However, I cannot pass without quoting this delightful bequest in the will of his bachelor Uncle, another William Davis Neighbour, who died in 1846 and left George most of his considerable fortune. Having made provision for his spinster housekeeper, Ann Avery, he further expressed the wish that George would give her 'about Christmas each year, a fat pig of weight of tenscore at the least'!



One of William Davis Briginshaw's fields at 'Amerden Bank Farm' Taplow

'Amerden Bank Farm' lies to the South of the Maidenhead to Slough road. The farmhouse stands a few yards from the towpath along the Thames near Bray Lock. The profitable business of towing barges was connected with both 'Amerden Bank' and adjoining 'Barge Farm' over a very long period but there is not space in this Newsletter to do more than mention the fact.

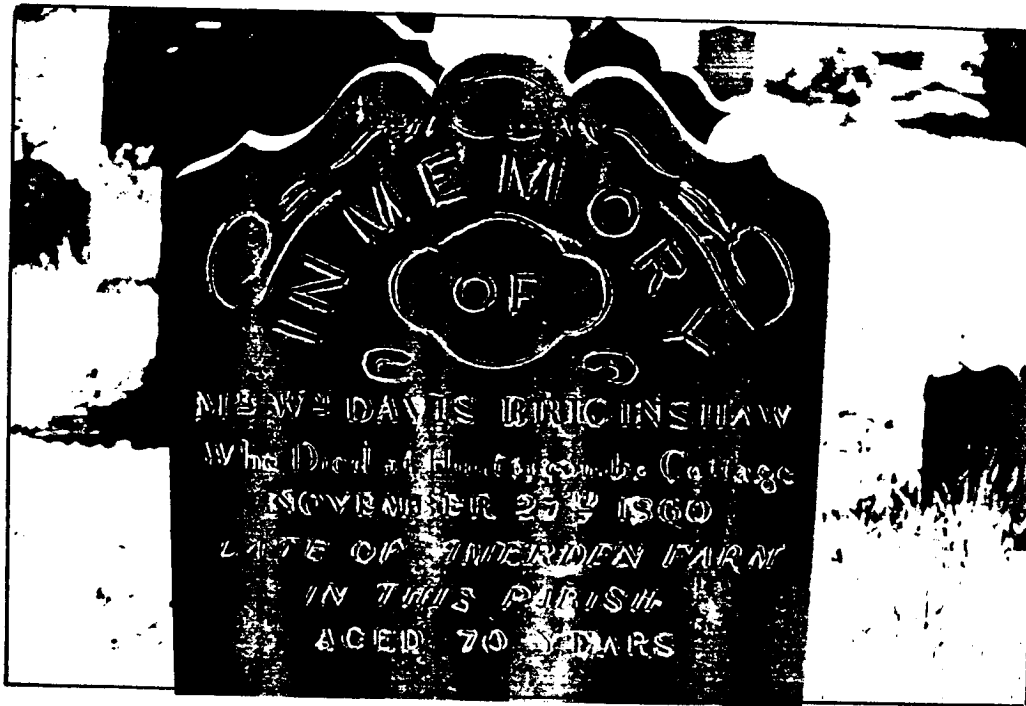


William Davis's wife Sarah died aged 73 on 24.5.1850 and rests in Taylors new Churchyard.

William Davis followed two years later, dying on 27.11.1860 at 'Huntercombe Cottage' at the age of 70 and was buried beside his wife on 3.12.1860. I could not find the cottage but it must have been connected with nearby Huntercombe Manor.



As with the old Churchyard I will take this opportunity to record overleaf all the monumental inscriptions to the Briginshaws in the new Churchyard. This row of tombstones are all of the same design with matching footstones and record from left to right William Davis, Sarah, Richard, Grace Elizabeth and infant Richard, Caroline Norrington, Wm Norrington and George Norrington, as a declaration of the unity of the two families.



1. In Memory of
Mr Wm Davis Briginshaw
who died at Huntercombe Cottage
November 27th 1860
Late of Amerden Farm
in this Parish
Aged 70 years Footstone
W D + B
1860
2. In Memory of
Sarah wife of
Mr Wm Davis Briginshaw
of 15 Lower Road
who died May 24th 1858
Aged 73 years S + B
1858
3. In Memory of (Brother of Wm Davis)
Mr Richard Briginshaw
of this Parish
who died August 8th 1849
Aged 52 years R + B
1849
4. In Memory of
Grace Elizth Briginshaw
wife of Mr Richd Briginshaw
who died Nov 9th 1842 aged 27 years G E + B
1842
also
Richd Briginshaw infant son
of the above R + B
1842
who died July 10th aged 3 years
5. Caroline dau of Wm & Lydia Norrington
6. Wm Norrington
7. George Norrington

William Davis Briginshaw signed his will just three days before he died on 3.12.1860.

William Davis and his wife Sarah had no children so when he came to make his will it was one of those rare ones that are a mine of information. The wills of widowers and widows (where they have no children of their own) together with those of bachelors and in particular spinsters often list many family members. That of William Davis was no exception being by far the best example I have ever come across. He had a large estate to distribute (£15000) and forgot none of his very large family. The will together with subsequent examination of the Death Duty Registers at the Public Record Office in Chancery Lane gave me the names and relationship of no fewer than 75 legatees and family members, thus confirming a large section of the Briginshaw Pedigree I had already drawn up and at the same time filled in a number of gaps. The names picked up from the Death Duty Register are shown in brackets.

His will was proved at Oxford 10.12.1860 - would that things were settled that quickly to-day. He made bequests as follows:

To Eliza Davis his housekeeper £300 and a yearly charge of £12.0.0. payable at the rate of 5/- per week out of his copyhold estate.
 To Mrs Mary Winter of Brentford, a friend £400
 To Ann Burrows of Peppered Oxon, a friend and sister of Mary Winter £300
 To George Norrington, his friend £140
 To each of his Executors £100
 To William and John, the sons of his late brother Richard his copyhold estate held of the Manor of Taplow and in occupation of William Rance but subject to the charge payable to Eliza Davis
 To Ellen his niece, the wife of Edward Richard Lovegrove, a parcel of freehold land near Taplow Railway Station, also 3 acres of freehold land at Upper Green Common Taplow which he had bought of the Earl of Orkney.
 To William Davis Briginshaw, baker of Burnham, his nephew £500
 To James Brooks of 'Finimore Farm', his nephew £500
 To William Brooks of Great Marlow, his nephew and brother of James £300
 To Sarah Clifford of Great Marlow, his widowed niece and daughter of the late James Bird Brooks £300
 To Amelia Wharton, now at school at Clapham £100
 To son of late niece Amelia Brough £100
 To Betsy Hobbs, the daughter of his late sister Georgina Hobbs £400
 To the children of his late brother Richard £200 (William and John)
 To the children of his late brother John, except his nephew John, £1000 (Georgina/Thomas/Wm Baker/Richard/Eleanor/Elizabeth Mary)
 To the children of his late brother Thomas £1000 (Fanny/Anna Maria/George/Henry/Eliza/Edwin/Charles/Thomas Richard/William Davis/Mary/Eleanor)
 To the children of his late sister Sarah Wharton £1000 (Georgina/Eleanor/Edw/Sarah/Philip/William/John/Amelia/Charles/? illegible)
 To the children of his late sister Georgina Hobbs, except her son Joseph £2000 (Anna/Georgina Deacon/Sarah H/Elizabeth/Alresford/Alice/Allen C/John/Frank/? illegible)

He also set up trusts as follows

For Ellen, the wife of his nephew John Briginshaw of Foxley Farm Bray for life and thereafter for her children £700 (Ellen Elizabeth/Mary Emma/John Thomas/Charles William/Elizabeth Woodford/Richard)
 For Mary Maria Briginshaw, the widow of his late brother John for life and thereafter for her children except his nephew John £700
 Residue of trust monies on trust for the children of his deceased brother John, except his son John, his deceased sister Mary Brooks, his deceased sister Sarah Wharton and his deceased brother Thomas, except his son William Davis.
 He appointed as his executors George Norrington - Farmer Taplow, William Rance - Butcher Taplow, Edward Richard Lovegrove - Plumber and Glazier Maidenhead.

The Lovegrove connection is also an interesting one and another family very much involved with local affairs. I have the Lovegrove pedigree back to the early 16th century and down to the present day and a mass of information on the family. That again is another story but I will touch upon it in a future Newsletter when dealing with those members of the Briginshaw family who married Lovegroves.

ODD SPOT

In looking at the IGI (1981 Edition) for possible clues to the fate of Jesse Briginshaw (Newsletter No 2 Page 9) I examined all 49 States of USA without success but I did find these entries, the only ones.

State of Missouri

Marriages in the Parish of St Joseph in the town of Trenton, County Grundy:

1. Joseph Chamberlin/Mary Briganshaw 18.11.1810
2. The same entry but dated 27.11.1810
3. William Briganshaw/Mary Garner 11.10.1796

I wonder who they were?

In the next issue I hope to take a preliminary look at the exciting pedigree produced by Geoffrey.

