

## **CORRESPONDENCE**

Letters intended for publication in **LPS** should be sent to RICHARD WALL, 27 Trumpington Street, Cambridge CB2 1QA.

### **Editor's note**

**LPS** readers are reminded that the editorial board is always prepared to offer advice on subjects within the scope **LPS**. Sometimes queries which have been raised are discussed in print in this section of the journal but there are many others which are not published, so if you think we can help do not hesitate to contact us.

### **Life in the 1930s**

Dear Sir,

Currently we are making a study of life in the 1930s. As part of our enquiry we discovered an 'overcrowding survey' which has been carried out by Biggleswade Rural District Council. Unfortunately I have no information as to its formation, function and purpose and whether the same constraints about confidentiality apply as with census information.

The items from this survey have proved to be an interesting source of evidence and our eleven-year olds have enjoyed working with them. I would be most grateful for any light you could shed on this matter.

Yours faithfully,  
P. G. Teague,

Robert Bloomfield Middle School, Bloomfield Drive, Shefford, Bedfordshire SG17 5BU.

### **Photocopying charges at the Public Record Office**

We print below a letter from Lieutenant Colonel Sir David Cooke, Bt., to the Deputy Keeper of Public Records and the current list of charges for copying services at the Public Record Office. We hope to print a comment on this situation, from the keeper, in **LPS** 30.

Dear Sir,

When I visited the Portugal Street building last week to obtain copies of the 1861, 1871 and 1881 Census Enumerator's Books for this parish — in connection with my Open University studies, I was shocked to find that a price of £1 per page or frame was quoted for photocopying.

In view of the implications of such a price for serious students, some 150+ sheets — I would be grateful for confirmation of the scale of charges so that I can raise this with the University authorities. It is surely

well in excess of that required to cover costs of the photocopying service and most produce diminishing returns.

Yours faithfully,  
David Cooke,

'Wheatley,' 21 Roman Way, Bourton-on-the-Water, Cheltenham, Gloucestershire GL54 2EW.

#### A. Microfilm

- (i) **Silver halide duplicate from existing negative:** for each run of consecutive frames, £0.44 per foot or £36.00 per reel or 100 ft, subject to a minimum charge of £8.80.
- (ii) **"Diazo" duplicate from existing negative:** for each run of consecutive frames, £0.38 per foot or £31.50 per reel of 100 ft, subject to a minimum charge of £7.60.
- (iii) **Copies of records of which no negative microfilm copy exists:** £0.16 per exposure with a minimum charge of £16.00 for each run of consecutive records. The Public Record Office reserves the right to retain the camera negative.

#### B. Microfiche

Prices for microfiche will be supplied on request.

#### C. Electrostatic Copies

- (i) **Copies made direct from original documents:** £0.25 per page print.
- (ii) **11" × 16" "Regma" prints from existing master microfilm:** £1.00 per page print. **Where no master microfilm exists:** £1.75 per page print.
- (iii) **13" wide "Copyflo" prints from existing master microfilm:** £0.25 per print, subject to a minimum charge of £10.00 for each run of consecutive frames.
- (iv) **13" wide "Copyflo" prints from specially commissioned microfilm:** £0.50 per print, subject to a minimum charge of £20.00 for each run of consecutive records.

#### D. Bromide Prints from specially made microfilm negatives

The Maximum size of document which can be copied by this process is 36" × 48". The prints are made by a photographic process and the quality is superior to that of copies produced electrostatically. They are available in three sizes: 12" × 16" (£5.85), 16" × 20" (£6.45), 20" × 24" (£7.35), respectively overall, and the image provided is normally the largest which can be fitted into the sheet size chosen after allowing for a caption. Reproduction of originals up to 20" × 24" at actual size or to customers' requirements can be supplied at an additional charge of £2.50 per print.

## **Travellers' and artisans' allowances**

Dear Sir,

There is a "non-racial" parallel at Herne, Kent, to the anti-Irish resolution at Steeple Ashton, Wilts., referred to in Note 24 to Dr. Kent's article on Population Mobility in the Midlands in **LPS** 27.

The Herne Churchwardens' accounts have an entry dated May 4 1715,

"It was y<sup>n</sup> agreed to at a Generall parish Meeting that for y<sup>e</sup> futter No Church-Warden shall at anny time Relive any travilers whatsoever uppon y<sup>e</sup> parishes account.

It was likewise furer agreed upon at y<sup>e</sup> same time y<sup>t</sup> No Carpenter Marson or other tradesman what ever shall for y<sup>e</sup> futter be a Lowed any Lowance uppon y<sup>e</sup> parishes account".

This seems to suggest that the parish funds were feeling the pinch, both as regards migrants and travelling paupers, who were the Overseers' responsibility anyway rather than the wardens and as regards the refreshments offered to artisans working on Church property, which the wardens usually paid for. However, this strict economy did not last long; for example in 1721 we find

"Mem. spent when ye workmen wear about Lad's house from ye beginning to the Ending 6s 3d which I forgott to Charge in my last years accounts".

Yours faithfully,  
Harold Gough,

Beverley House, 141 Grand Drive, Herne Bay, Kent CT6 8HU.

## **Constables' and Churchwardens' accounts of Waltham-on-the-Wolds**

Dear Sir,

How 'meaningful' are the calculations that Dr Joan Kent has made in her article 'Population Mobility and Alms' **LPS** 27 of the 'numbers on the road'?

In looking at extant material for poor/refugee relief for Waltham-on-the-Wolds why were the Churchwardens' accounts not used? In Waltham churchwardens like constables were responsible for providing relief to all categories (Dr Kent's) of people passing through the 'town'. For instance in 1632 when Robert Flower and Richard Sneath were churchwardens they gave aid to forty seven destitute travellers who were with or without briefs, letters of request, passes, certificates and the like.

If the forty seven destitute travellers dealt with in 1632 by Flower and Sneath are added to the ninety five Dr Kent calculated as being relieved by the constable then the total of the mobile population passing through Waltham is increased considerably by about one third to 142.

In 1632 on a number of occasions those relieved by the churchwardens were given money in spite of the officials in the first instance being not sure whether they should help. Entries like 'given to two women in the church by neighbours' consent and 'given to a brief 8 July by neighbours' consent 2s' suggest that a few of the travelling destitute appealed to a group of villagers for aid. This seems to imply that a proportion of the travelling destitute were refused assistance by the officials and possibly the villagers and therefore would not appear in either the constables, or the churchwardens, accounts. How stringent were officials in years of bad harvests?

How much of the iceberg has Dr Kent exposed.

Yours faithfully,  
William Couth,

351 Harlaxton Road, Grantham, Lincolnshire NG31 7JT.

### Birth-baptism ratios in Letterston

Dear Sirs,

I read with interest Leslie Bradley's review of **The Population History of England 1541-1871** (LPS no. 27). My attention was particularly caught by the inflation ratios applied to Anglican baptisms to convert them to figures for births: the figure for baptisms in 1835 is, as I understood it, 1.0682.

This figure, of course, applies only to England, where non-conformity was generally not such an important factor as in South West Wales, but your readers may be interested in the following figures recorded in the parish register by the Rector of Letterston, a rural parish between Haverfordwest and Fishguard in Dyfed, with a population of 428 in 1821. The table is headed "from 1811 to 1820 or rather December 1820", but appears in fact to run from the beginning of 1812.

	Male	Female	Total
Children baptised in Letterston Church	16*(19)	19	35( 38)
Children baptised before their parents came to live in the parish	7	5	12
Named by Baptist preachers	38	44	82
Baptised by Independent preachers	7	4	11
Baptised by Wesleyan preachers	2	3	5
Named only by their parents	4	3	7
	74	73	152(155)

\*From the registers, it appears that this figure should be 19 and the total 38.

Naturally one cannot assume that the figures are absolutely accurate, and there are some problems in interpreting them. But if one assumes that all the children, except those in the second row of figures, were born in Letterston, it seems that only 35 out of 140, or perhaps 38 out of 143, were

baptised in the Anglican Church. This represents a proportion of roughly one in four. It is also interesting to note that seven out of the 152, or nearly five per cent belonged, apparently, to no religious denomination, and are therefore unrecorded.

These figures would suggest that the task of the aspiring historical demographer in South West Wales would be fraught with considerably greater difficulties than his English counterpart, particularly if one bears in mind two further considerations: firstly many series of parish registers in Pembrokeshire do not start until after the rise of non-conformity in the second half of the eighteenth century; and secondly, the survival of registers of non-conformist churches, is, to say the least, sporadic.

Yours faithfully,  
J. Pepler,

Archivist-in-charge, Dyfed County Council, Dyfed Archives, Pembrokeshire Record Office, The Castle, Haverfordwest.

## Guides for Genealogists, Family and Local Historians

**Land Tax Assessments, 1690-1950:**  
Ed. Jeremy Gibson and Dennis Mills -1983 ..... **£1.20**

**Quarter Sessions Records for Family Historians:** A select list, 1982 ..... **£1.20**

**A Simplified Guide to Probate Jurisdictions:** Where to Look for Wills. Second edition, 1983 ... **£2.25**

**Bishops' Transcripts and Marriage Licences:** A Guide to their Location and Indexes. Second edition, 1982 ..... **£1.20**

**Census Returns 1841-1881 on Microfilm:** A Directory to Local Holdings. Fourth edition, 1982 ..... **£1.40**

**Census Indexes and Indexing:** Second edition, 1983. Ed. Jeremy Gibson and Colin Chapman .. **£1.20**

**Marriage Indexes:** How to Find Them; How to Use Them; How to Compile One. Third edition, 1982 ..... **£1.20**

**Record Offices:** How to Find Them. Second edition, 1982. Street maps. Ed. Jeremy Gibson and Pamela Peskett ..... **£1.20**

*Prices include postage in the U.K.*

From: **J. S. W. Gibson, Harts Cottage, Church Hanborough, Oxford OX7 2AB.**  
or **The Federation of Family History Societies, 96 Beaumont Street, Milehouse, Plymouth, Devon PL2 3AQ.**