

## CORRESPONDENCE

Letters intended for publication in **LPS** should be sent to Kevin Schurer, 27 Trumpington Street, Cambridge CB2 1QA

### **Editors' note**

**LPS** readers are reminded that the editorial board is always prepared to offer advice on subjects within the scope of **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.

### **Personal mobility**

Dear Sir,

In *Research in Progress* in **LPS** 44 Roger Bellingham implies that I hold an alternative view on life-long personal mobility to that of Pain and Smith. This is not so. In my article published in **LPS** 43 I cited them purely as an example of a study which investigates migration other than mobility at marriage. In addition, as I had reconstituted the parish in my study I was able to state that many of those who married in the parish (Nantwich) and who claimed that they were from the parish, had not in fact been baptised there, suggesting a move between baptism and marriage. The point of my article was that at marriage, distance and direction of movement of those coming from other parishes could be traced and this may be an indication of the changing migration network over time. It should be possible to trace this movement more comprehensively in parishes, such as Pocklington, where birthplace of bride is given.

Yours faithfully,  
Grace Wyatt

302 Prescott Road, Aughton, Ormskirk, Lancashire, L39 6RR.

### **London Diocesan Record Office**

Dear Sir,

I refer to your Editorial in **LPS** 44 (Spring 1990) on the Parochial Registers and Records Measure 1978. On page 8 you refer to the recent report of the Synod's Measure Review Group which says that, in the Diocese of London, steps to put the Measure into effect have been taken only recently. Indeed, as a result of the

Review Group's enquiries, "agreement has been reached" that "in future the Greater London Record Office, the Guildhall Library and the Archives Department of the Westminster City Libraries will be recognised as designated diocesan record offices for the Diocese of London", which hitherto had no diocesan record officer.

This is misleading. The Manuscripts Section of Guildhall Library has been the London Diocesan Record Office for the City of London since 1954, by virtue of a legal agreement between the Bishop of London and the City Corporation. The Section holds the registers and records of all save two of the ancient parishes of the City; it has an excellent working relationship with the Diocesan Registrar and Legal Secretary, and with the Archdeacon of London; and inspections under the 1978 Measure are made regularly. The registers and records of the two parishes referred to are also looked after in an entirely satisfactory manner and under proper conditions.

The Measure has therefore been working well in the City of London for many years. The first I heard of the new "agreement" was from your Editorial. I was not notified of any relevant meetings, attended none, and received no minutes, no doubt because the existing situation in the City was considered entirely satisfactory.

Yours faithfully,  
Stephen Freeth

Keeper of Manuscripts and London Diocesan Record Officer for the City of London, Guildhall Library, Aldermanbury, London EC2P 2EJ.

### **The 1881 Census project**

Dear Sir

Readers of LPS may be interested to know that the British Genealogical Record Users Committee (an informal group with representatives from the Federation of Family History Societies, the Society of Genealogists, the Institute of Genealogical and Heraldic Studies, Public Record Office and the Genealogical Society of Utah among others) have announced their intention of making the 1881 Census the object of a national indexing project. It was decided to concentrate on the 1881 Census for England and Wales as so much work has already been done on the 1851 Census.

The Genealogical Society of Utah (LDS), with permission from HMSO, will lend microfilm or photocopies of the 1881 returns. They will also provide forms onto which these may be transcribed, and after checking, the completed transcriptions will be collected and transferred to a computer data base by LDS, or other, volunteers.

The resulting data will then be made available on microfiche, both as a full transcript of the census returns and as an index to them. Initially the index will

be arranged by county and then by surname and given name: a format easily recognisable to those who have used the IGI. Other arrangements will also be possible and no other census will be so easily accessible.

The PRO will be giving advice wherever their particular knowledge of the records is required, and a National Co-ordinator has been appointed to take overall charge of the project.

We hope there will be volunteers willing to help in transcription, checking and regional organisation. As an added incentive, wherever possible workers will be able to carry out work on areas of interest, not just on the area in which they live.

Anyone is welcome to join in and help create a very important finding aid to one of the most popular historical sources in the world. Further details can be obtained by writing to the address below.

Yours faithfully  
J.E. Hoare

Project Manager, 1881 Census Project, West Park Road, Newchapel, Near Lingfield, Surrey. RH7 6HW.