

## **A BRIEF REMINDER OF THE SOCIETY'S ARCHIVES**

Members will be well aware that the society owns the main part of the museum building in Church Street and a substantial portion of the collections. Less well-known is the fact that before the Record Office (now the Centre for Buckinghamshire Studies) came into existence in 1938, the society was also the principal collector of archival material relating to the county. In order to safeguard this collection, in 1932 funds were raised for construction of a purpose-built muniment room beneath the museum. It was noted shortly afterwards that 'since that date the flow of documents into this repository has continued at an ever-increasing rate'.

In 1936 the increasing interest in archives caused the society to create a Records Branch which in 1937 published its first volume, the *Quaker Minute Book for the Upperville of Bucks 1669-1690*. In 1947 the Records Branch was transformed into the Buckinghamshire Record Society which continues today to publish important documents relating to the historic county. Over the years as a professional archive service was established by the county council, many of the society's priceless documents including all of its maps, manorial records, deeds etc. were transferred on loan to the county service where most of its collection of early Buckinghamshire photographs has also subsequently been transferred from the museum. The society still holds archival material relating to its own history, collections of individual member's papers, many fine prints, and also election material etc. For details of the archives see the catalogue by Lorna Head, with additional material by Diana Gulland, which was published as the Society's Buckinghamshire Papers, no. 1 (2002).

For the early history of the museum see Christopher Gowing's paper in *Rec. Bucks* 17 (1961) and for the history of the society, Elliott Viney's papers in volumes 30 and 38.

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