

Bob Clayton's Great, Great, Great Grandfather Stephen Franklin was born in Basingstoke in 1805. When the Basingstoke Borough Police was formed in 1836 Stephen Franklin became the first appointed day constable and his younger brother William, became the first appointed night constable.

1861 England Census for Stephen Franklin  
Hampshire > Basingstoke > District 6

No. of Schedule	Road, Street, &c. and No. or Name of House	HOUSES		Name and Surname of each Person	Relation to Head of Family	Condition	Age of		Rank, Profession, or Occupation	Where Born	Whether Blind, or Deaf, or Dumb
		Inhabited	Value of the House (Rs.)				Males	Females			
21	New Street	1		Elizabeth Hawkins	Head	W	52			Monmouth	Wiltshire
				Samuel B.	Son	W	21	Deaper	Wiltshire	Monkton	
				Elizabeth G.	Daughter	W	18		Wiltshire	Monkton	
				Henry W.	Son	W	15	Deaper	Wiltshire	Monkton	
22		1		Charles Peasman	Head	W	56	Carpenter	Hants	Basingstoke	
23		1		Harriet Budd	Lodger	W	40		Hants	Lisicham	
24		1		Samuel Hart	Head	M	81	Formerly Post Boy	Devon	Colchester	
				Elizabeth B.	Wife	M	71	Dealer in Cloth	Hants	Hamilton	
25		1		George Todd	Head	M	44	Butcher	Hants	Ositham	
				Alison B.	Wife	M	27		Hants	Reading	
				Samuel B.	Son	W	2		Hants	Reading	
				William B.	Son	W	2		Hants	Reading	
				Alison B.	Daughter	W	11 months		Hants	Reading	
				Annie Coates	Wife	W	18		Hants	Reading	
				Elizabeth Baker	Serv	W	44	General Serv.	Hants	Reading	
26	Police Station	1		Stephen Franklin	Head	M	56	Superintendent of Police	Hants	Basingstoke	
				Harriet B.	Wife	M	56		Hants	Basingstoke	
				Gilbert R.	Son	W	22	Attorney Cl.	Hants	Basingstoke	
27	New Street	1		Henry B.	Daughter	W	13		Hants	Basingstoke	
				James Lamb	Head	W	59	Retired Spirit Merchant	Middlesex	Stamford	
				Ellen B.	Wife	W	61		Hants	Basingstoke	
28		1		Elizabeth Miles	Serv	W	26	General Serv.	Berkshire	Marlow	
				Robert A. Davis	Head	M	39	Superintendent of Police	Hants	Basingstoke	
				Mary Ann B.	Wife	M	30	Employer of 54 men & 2 boys	Hants	Basingstoke	
				Mary J.	Daughter	W	6		Hants	Basingstoke	

Total of Houses 26      Total of Males and Females 8      24

What is very interesting is that between 1853 and 1857 Superintendent Stephen Franklin kept detailed diaries of his dealings in the police. These diaries have been fully transcribed in the book 'Drunkards, Thieves and Rioters and the Basingstoke Borough Police 1836-1889'. Bob is now trying to obtain a copy of the book, which is unfortunately out of print at the moment, but he does hope to get a copy at some time. Bob is also currently contacting the Hampshire Family History Society with the hope of being able to view the original diaries.

Stephen Franklin's story does not end here, and does not end well. Bob believes Stephen Franklin retired from the police in about 1864 and moved to London, where he found a job working on the North London railway line. In December of that year, while he was repairing fencing he was struck by a train and severely injured. He was taken to The London Hospital but unfortunately died as a result of the accident. The incident was reported in the Berkshire Chronicle on 3<sup>rd</sup> Dec 1864.

at the CROWN INN, SLICHERS.

**RAILWAY ACCIDENT.**—Mr. Stephen Franklin, who for many years resided in this town, and for a long period filled the situation of superintendent of the town police, met with a severe accident on the North London line on Saturday last. Mr. Franklin, some short time since, obtained a situation on that company's line, and on the day in question was engaged with two other men in repairing some fencing adjoining the railway. Observing a train approaching he stepped into the six-foot way between the up and down rails, unfortunately not noticing a train coming in the opposite direction. The engine caught him in the side and knocked him completely round. He fell with his left foot and arm across the rails, and they were frightfully crushed. He was also found to have sustained severe injuries on his side. Assistance was immediately procured, and the unfortunate man was at once conveyed to the London Hospital, where his leg was found to have been so injured as to require amputation, which operation was performed. Mr. Franklin has, we regret to say, since died from the effects of the accident.