



Left Wokingham Baptist Church 1984

Below Monument (in the form of an obelisk) to Richard Badcock & Lydia Briginshaw and their two daughters Lizzie Watts and Charlotte, Wokingham Baptist Churchyard, with John Warren and Martha Briginshaw buried in the adjoining grave.



Jesse Briginshaw born 1823 I also referred briefly to Jesse (brother of John and Richard Badcock) on the last page of the first Newsletter and expressed the hope that I might be able to trace him. This I have been unable to do so far but have not given up hope that I may be able to find something one day. Jesse, youngest son of John Warren and Martha was born at the Grange Saunderton and baptised in 1823 (believed on Aug 8th as far as a poor Bishop's Transcript seems to show). At some date probably in the 1840's he emigrated to North America and was driving a passenger train on the Long Island Railroad circa 1851. The only information we have of him is contained in a letter in the possession of Hilda and which was written to his brother John. This is reproduced on the next page. We do not know anything further about him and the passage of time has destroyed any other evidence there may have been. It is fascinating to read these brief passages on the early conditions and climate, particularly so to me as I lived in Eastern Canada for seven years prior to 1929 and the memory of the severe winters are all too familiar. Hoping that even if I could find no trace of Jesse I might at least learn something of the Long Island Railroad I wrote to the New York Central Library and they put me in touch with a New York author who has written a history of the Long Island Railroad. A letter to him brought the reply that although he has written a seven volume history of that railroad he has not yet covered the vital period 1832 to 1862. However he took a great deal of trouble to help me and I have sent him a letter of sincere thanks. Fascinated by the uncommon name of Briginshaw and such an early reference to 'his' railroad Mr Soyfried made searches in the Federal Census for 1850 for Jamaica (then a separate town) and not finding him there and assuming he might have lived in a boarding house in New York made extensive searches in the 1850 Federal Census for New York City and finally in the 1850 Federal Census for the whole of New York State without luck. He then went through his large collection of press cuttings of marriages and deaths (besides his interest in railroads Mr Soyfried is Queens County Historian) again without success and finally he checked with the railroad but their pay records only go back to 1910. There have been numerous fires over the years and valuable documents have also been thrown out.