

# CAKE & COCKHORSE

The Magazine of the Banbury Historical Society



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1960/1961

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## CAKE AND COCKHORSE

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 VOLUME I.

NO. 6.

NOVEMBER 1960.

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WINTER PROGRAMME, 1961.

For the New Year three meetings have been arranged, including an additional one for February. We have been very fortunate in securing three speakers who are all leaders in their own fields. It is hoped that members will respond by attending in large numbers, to give them the audience they deserve. All meetings are held at 7.30 p.m. in the Court Room of the Town Hall.

Tuesday, 31st January

"Parish Government in the 18th Century : Wigginton and its Records"  
 by Mr. F.D. Price, Dean of Keble College.

Although this talk concerns Wigginton, it is just as applicable to any local village. Mr. Price, who spends his vacations in Wigginton, has brought to light many fascinating glimpses of ordinary rural life and conditions as they were two hundred years ago.

Tuesday, 28th February

"The Civil War in North Oxfordshire" by Miss Margaret Toynbee.

Those who came to Edgehill in May, 1959, will have pleasant memories of the last time Miss Toynbee visited us. Edgehill was by no means the only event of significance in this area during the Civil War. The siege of Banbury Castle, and the important Battle of Cropredy Bridge form only part of a subject in which Miss Toynbee is one of the foremost experts.

Tuesday, 28th March

"Barrow Diggers of the 19th Century" by Mr. Humphrey Case, M.A., F.S.A.

Mr. Case is Senior Assistant Keeper, Department of Antiquities at the Ashmolean Museum, and this summer headed a joint Anglo-French excavation in Brittany. His account of the beginnings of interest

in archaeology and the somewhat surprising methods used is sure to be both interesting and amusing.

Important Note. There are no meetings of the Society in November or December, 1960.

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### L E C T U R E S

On Tuesday, 18th October, a Meeting was held in the Court Room of the Town Hall at which three short talks were given by members - Mr. J.C.B. Coffin used the epidiascope to show a series of coloured photographs of buildings of architectural and historical interest in the neighbourhood. These were pictorially most successful owing to the choice of view-point and background, and technically a remarkable achievement as most were taken with the camera held in the hand at 1/20th second exposure. Mr. J.S.W. Gibson gave a comprehensive discourse on the material and sources of genealogical information from which ones ancestral history can be reconstructed. The variety of documentary evidence was described, referring particularly to the research in this field which is a special activity of this Society, but not overlooking the initial help to be obtained from the memories of aged relatives. Dr. C.F.C. Beeson commended auction sales of the contents of private houses in town and country as a field for the investigation of local history, illustrating from his experience numerous cases of discovery of identifiable and dateable objects in unexpected places.

The diversity of subject-matter offered in these three talks, as an alternative to one single subject usually provided by a lecture, suggests that Members' Meetings might be further encouraged.

### R E S E A R C H

#### PARISH REGISTERS

Copying of Bloxham and Milcombe parish registers continues.

Mr. D. Brown, of Lower Tadmarton, has offered to copy Tadmarton parish registers.

Dr. E.R.C. Brinkworth has presented to the Society a copy of Swerford parish registers, 1746 - 1812, together with copies of a number of documents connected with Swerford and its history.

An index to Adderbury Burial Registers is being typed by Mr. V. Shirley, of Adderbury West.

An index to Swalcliffe Parish Registers is being typed by Miss Y. Obbard, of Deddington.

We are most grateful to all these voluntary workers, and would be very pleased to hear from anyone else prepared to help, either by copying original parish registers and other books and documents, by typing (paper & carbons supplied by the Society), or by indexing.

#### ANNUAL RECORDS PUBLICATION

The issue of the 1960 Records Publication, the first part of Banbury Marriage Registers, is being delayed until early in 1961, so that all subscribers' names can be included.

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#### OXFORDSHIRE CLOCK AND WATCHMAKERS

I am preparing for publication towards the end of 1961 a small book on antique clockmaking in Oxfordshire from 1400 to 1850, to contain (a) Historical : the origin and development of the craft in Oxfordshire, (b) Biographical : a dictionary of makers, their lives and products, and (c) Illustrations : photographs of examples of typical products.

Some time ago I appealed through the medium of Banbury and Oxford newspapers for information on Quaker clockmakers and made contact with many owners of Quaker-made clocks all over the United Kingdom - an encouraging response which showed how widespread is the dispersal of these clocks and watches and how eager are owners to know more about such possessions.

I should like, therefore, to be able to record the existence of clocks and watches by other Oxfordshire makers known to members of our Society. Particular attention is drawn to the following names :- Banbury (Drury, Hide, Kenning, Lamprey, Peacock, Pinfold, Saunders, Strange). Bicester (Ball, Hemins, Tomlinson). Chipping Norton - (Atkins, Morris, Nethercot, Simms). Fritwell (Harris, Jennings). Thame (Buckland, Lawrence, Stockford, Stone). Witney (Harris, May). And, of course, the Oxford city men and others in the villages.

The so-called turret clocks in churches, colleges, stables of large houses and town halls will be recorded if earlier than 1850. Some bear the names of Oxfordshire clockmakers but most are anonymous; for their identification and maintenance church-wardens' accounts, bursarial books and similar records provide some clues.

May I invite your cooperation? Typical or outstanding examples can be illustrated by photographs if owners are willing.

C.F.C. Beeson.

### TREASURER'S REPORT

Membership. Total membership for this year is 170 of which 121 are paid, i.e., Life 23, Record (including Life/Record members) 37, Ordinary 61.

Records membership has been taken out by individuals and societies as far afield as Sweden and the U.S.A.

Financial. Major items of expenditure since the last report are - Printing £25. (in connection with the forthcoming Record), Stationery £9.2.6., and Wheelbarrow £3.10.0. (for archaeological work near Salt Lane). Income during the last period £13.16.6., chiefly from subscriptions and sale of Christmas Cards. Balance in hand £52.8.10.

Christmas Cards. - The Society's Christmas Card for 1960 is of Broughton Castle, home of the President of the Society. It has been drawn specially for us by our member Mr. Walter A. Clark, F.R.I.B.A., It is a plate-marked card, and, whilst maintaining the high quality of our cards, it has been possible to reduce the price considerably on last year, as it is printed in one colour only. The price to members only is 3/9d per dozen, which, though we say it ourselves, we think is as good or better value than can be found elsewhere. This price can only be economic if members support us by buying a considerable number. An order form will be found enclosed. Supplies of previous years' Christmas Cards are still available, as follows:-

(1959)	Banbury Cross in 1860 (two colours)	-	6/-	per dozen
(1958)	Cornhill, Banbury, in 1858 (one colour)	-	4/6	" "

All prices do of course include envelopes.

R E V I E W S

## BANBURY'S INDUSTRIAL REVOLUTION

A Review by Marcus Lower of  
TRADITION AND CHANGE.

A STUDY OF BANBURY by Margaret Stacey, 231 pp., i-xii,  
49 tables, 20 charts.

Clarendon Press, Oxford University Press, 1960, 35s.

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In 1929 shares rose to a record height in the U.S.A. and prospects of a new age of prosperity were trumpeted in the American press, supported by confident statements from the White House. In Great Britain, after a decade of unemployment and industrial strife, economic recovery from the Great War appeared to be on the way. An international company in the same year made an offer for land just outside Banbury to build a rolling mill. It looked as if the project would fall through because of failure to agree on the price but some local men put up enough money to close the gap and the contract was signed. In October the New York stock market collapsed and started the depression which had world wide effects. Nevertheless, the building of the aluminium factory started in 1931 and it began production in 1933. By this time the depression had hit Great Britain, a government had fallen, another had been elected and when the factory was opened unemployment was rising to heights not previously known.

The population of Banbury increased from 13,000 to 19,000 in a few years and change was soon apparent. Little disturbed by the Industrial Revolution, Banbury had remained in many ways what it had been for some hundreds of years but now it was required to absorb nearly a 50% increase in its people.

'Tradition and Change, A Study of Banbury', by Margaret Stacey, is a study of these developments. "The purpose of the research was to study the social structure and culture of Banbury with special

reference to the introduction of large scale industry". By questionnaire, field work and the help of a number of people the initiative provided by the Banbury branch of the Workers' Educational Association in asking for a class connected with a social survey was carried through to a successful conclusion. As with so many surveys the book appears ten years after the project was launched. But it has been worth waiting for.

The first idea that it might be focused on the distinction between Banburians and immigrants was soon broadened to a study of tradition and class structure which revealed alignments which were not always those of newcomers and old residents. Yet this is a study which has Banbury written clearly across it. The values of the traditional shop-keeper or local manufacturer who was content to limit his operations to the size of personal contact with workers and customers, not wishing to expand his income beyond certain expected levels and seeking reward in part in his standing among his peers and the town at large, were still to be seen 15 years after the great factory brought a swift flowing flood of new people into the town.

Closely packed in some 200 pages with tables and charts are the problems arising from earning a living, the disposition of its political forces, the life of the churches, where people live and what kind of neighbours they are, the influence of the family, and social status and class. Much is attempted; a good deal necessarily left undone, but much revealed. The exercise will be really worth while if some people in Banbury discuss it and weigh up the information in the light of developments 10 years later.

"In sum, it was with the arrival of the immigrants that Banbury felt the full force of non-traditionalism. One important key to the social structure and culture of the town therefore is the opposition of non-traditionalism to traditionalism, an opposition which contains within it some of the problems of immigrant assimilation. This is the key rather than a simple opposition of Banburian to immigrant".



Mrs. Stacey lived in Banbury for a few years and has placed all thinking local residents in her debt by the careful examination which she has made of the biggest event in its recent history. The basis of English political life is the spontaneous action of its people as expressed through a large number of voluntary organisations. The problems that she has revealed and the possible solution of some of them, which is implicit in what she has to say, should help and energise these bodies in contributing still further to the betterment of the town.

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ALL SAINT'S SCHOOL, BLOXHAM CENTENARY, 1860-1960.  
BRIEF HISTORY OF THE SCHOOL AND ITS PROGRESS

Anon. 40 pp., 59 figs., no price. 1960

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To Old Bloxhamists the publication of this Centenary Booklet is a memento, the merit and message of which they have doubtless appreciated long ago. To the members of our Society this review may serve as an introduction to a remarkable literary production and an interesting piece of local history. The anonymous compiler of the brief history is fortunate in having at his disposal adequate documentation and a comprehensive pictorial record. His choice of items from the latter source is quite successful. No fewer than fifty nine illustrations have been used, all photographic except three - and that means lavish expenditure on half-tone blocks which, we understand, has been defrayed by an anonymous donor. The effective layout of the illustrations in conjunction with the text and the siting of captions or descriptions is evidence of much editorial thought and of the technical cooperation of the printers.

An outline list of the main events in the history of the school, 1860-1960, occupies three pages and an expansion of which, dealing with events in greater detail, forms the main story of the booklet. The theme of the first fifty years covers the personality

and objectives of the founder of the school, the Rev. Philip Egerton, who in 1859 was inspired to buy the derelict building of a former school in Bloxham and to found a new one from his own resources. For the first quarter of 1860 it consisted of only two day boys. By the date of the school's Jubilee there had been a steady addition of the buildings which form the main block of the school, made possible by its educational prosperity and the generosity of benefactors and eventually incorporation with the Society of the Woodward Schools.

During the second fifty years further additions to the buildings could not come nearly so frequently as previously owing to rising costs. Nevertheless much has been done to meet the needs of the 20th century in the arts, sciences, athletics, playing fields and so forth. Accommodation is now available for 260 boys, the maximum figure intended on the basis of 65 in each of the four houses. An aerial view and a panoramic view illustrate the results of developments in this second period more picturesquely than could a surveyor's ground-plan.

Copies of the Centenary Booklet are obtainable at the School Shop, Bloxham. No price is stated but the proceeds from the sale of it will be added to the Centenary Fund, which is still some £23,000 short of its target.

C.F.C.B.

### THE STORY OF ADDERBURY CHURCH

by Walter H. Clark, F.R.I.B.A.,

foreword by Rev. A.D. Walmsley, price 1s., 1960.

It has been stated that Adderbury Church is the finest in this Rural Deanery and one of the finest in the County of Oxford. Thus it is not surprising that numerous records and booklets exist devoted to the history of the Church and its architectural features but in the main they are somewhat too detailed, too technical to appeal to the average visitor or layman. This small

defect has now been remedied by the publication of a booklet which is obtainable from Messrs. C. Strong & Son, High Street, Adderbury and Messrs. W.H. Smith & Son, Ltd., Banbury.

This tastefully presented booklet describes in simple, easily understood phraseology the siting, development and present day activities of Adderbury Church. It draws attention to the special features of the windows, to architectural items of interest to be seen in the aisles, chancel, the nave and the transepts and briefly comments on the discovery of a stone coffin and the remains of two 14th century tombs.

The two centre pages are in the form of a ground-plan which enables the reader to learn at a glance the layout of the Church interior. Pen-and-ink drawings by Mr. Clark illustrate some of the quaint figures on pillars and on the exterior musical friezes.

The exterior of the Church is very happily described by the author and visitors will be well rewarded by following his account of the friezes and gargoyles and their representation.

Special mention is made of the clock, chimes and carillon, the latter strongly associated with all who live in Adderbury. The purpose of the Church bells is given prominence in the booklet and it is good to know that the ancient craft of campanology is still diligently practised in Adderbury.

This brief review does not claim to exhaust the many fascinating features dwelt on by Mr. Clark in his booklet. His main purpose has been to provide a short history of Adderbury Church with interior and exterior features of interest to the layman and visitor and in this he has succeeded admirably.

V. & D.S.

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THE GILLETTS IN BANBURY AND OXFORD: A STUDY IN LOCAL HISTORY.

By Audrey Taylor

In anticipation of the centenary in 1967 of the present firm of Gillett Brothers Discount Company Limited of 52, Cornhill, London, E.C.3, there is in preparation a history of the banking and other business and public activities of the Gillett family, well-known in the Banbury area since the end of the 18th century. Papers surviving in the archives of the present firm and family papers and family memories, besides a variety of public records, are affording the basis for this excursion into local economic and social history.

Through much of the nineteenth century the principal business interests of the family were in plush manufacture and in banking; both these activities had their roots in the farming and wool-combing carried on by the family at Brailes in Warwickshire in the late 18th century. Like many another West Midland farmer, William Gillett participated in the rural textile industry that employed an appreciable part of the local population. Out of this business the Gilletts developed a special line in the manufacture of plush, for which they had spinning shops in the Banbury area certainly by 1805 and perhaps earlier. In this work they employed men and women in Banbury itself, in Neithrop, and many villages in the area. The firm developed a high grade product which found a market all over the country, and was exported for use in the furnishing of wealthy homes in many countries. About 1840 they bought from Henry Bessemer, the famous inventor, the machine he had constructed for producing an exceptionally good plush, and it was on this machinery that they made the plush for the new House of Lords. As this machinery was at a later date known to be at Shutford, it is possible that this famous furnishing was woven by Shutford weavers, but any information throwing light on this would be welcome.

As bankers Gilletts emerged, as did most of the country bankers in nineteenth century England, into banking simply because they were successful people who by the conduct of their business and private lives inspired confidence among the people surrounding them. As Quakers living an austere and upright life,

watched by other members of that closely-knit Society, they could be trusted to put money into safe employment, and to honour their obligations without question. Already before the end of the 18th century William Gillett, farmer and woolcomber at Brailes, was taking deposits from his neighbours. In 1822 his son Joseph Gillett, with Joseph Gibbins, another Quaker, bought the Banbury New Bank. This, after some difficult early times, especially in the crisis of 1825-6, became the basis of a strong banking partnership which eventually had offices at Woodstock, Heyford and Steeple Aston (1841) and, as a separate business, opened in Oxford in 1878, in Witney (where they took over from the Clinches) and elsewhere. These banks had a strong connection throughout Oxfordshire and in the neighbouring parts of Northampton and Warwickshire.

At the time when Joseph Gillett purchased the Banbury New Bank in 1822, it had about 200 customers, a quarter of them farmers, the same number of traders, and the rest mainly landed gentry or professional men; surprisingly, about a tenth of the total were women. In the first months after the take-over Gilletts lost some customers to Cobbs Bank but this initial suspicion of the new banker was quickly overcome, and the number of his customers then increased rapidly. By 1840 there were over 600 of them, the biggest increase being in the farmer customers, the number of whom had multiplied fourfold; these farmers came from almost every village within a ten-mile radius of Banbury, and some of them from as far as 15 miles away; it is not surprising that from this time onwards Gilletts Bank was known as the "farmers' bank". On the other hand, most of the traders who banked at Gilletts in 1840 had their businesses in Banbury and Neithrop and the threefold increase in the number of trading customers of the bank was thus a close reflection of the increase in the town's population which had taken place in the last twenty years.

A close study of the bank's records has emphasised, however, the severe impact on the Banbury area of some of the well-known slumps that characterised the economic history of Britain through the 19th century. Particularly the Gilletts as bankers were among the first to feel the impact of the disastrous slump that followed the great railway boom of the middle 1840's. But it was not as bankers alone that they busied themselves. The Gillett family was well to the fore in organising relief of the unemployed, for the

regular poor relief had to be supplemented in various ways in 1847-8.

From about 1850, of course, the business of Gilletts Bank increased rapidly with the coming of the railway and the expansion of Bernard Samuelson's Works. After Joseph Ashby Gillett's death in 1853 his sons Charles and Alfred took over the Banbury banking business, and in 1867 Alfred, with another brother George, branched out into one of the specialist activities of the City of London, by forming in a separate partnership the discount house now known as Gillett Brothers Discount Company.

The facts that have emerged, not only about the partners, but about those who were employed both in the plush business and in the various banks have greatly enriched this investigation as a study of life and work in the Banbury area. It has been possible, too, to identify a large number of customers and, by ascertaining their own occupations, to see more vividly the structure of economic life in the area. A wealth of information has been obtained, also, from interviews with former managers and clerks in the Banbury and Oxford banks. There must, however, be many others who know, either directly or by family tradition, of those who were customers or connected in some other way with the activities of these firms, and every scrap of information would be welcome to Miss A.M. Taylor, at Gillett Brothers Discount Company Ltd., 52, Cornhill, London, E.C.3. She would particularly like to know whether the father of the famous James Gardner was Joseph Gardner, ironmonger, and whether William Walford, who was a customer of the bank in 1840, was the well-known Town Clerk, or a farmer at Neithrop. Any original letters or other documents would be carefully preserved and returned; and Miss Taylor would gladly go to see anyone whose memory preserves some acquaintance with the personalities and their business.

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Sir,

Your correspondent the Vicar of Deddington raises an interesting point with his quotation from his earliest register concerning the baptism of a bastard born in a neighbouring parish. Entries of this sort are most unusual as early as 1640, and indeed illegitimacy itself was comparatively rare before the 18th century.

The operation of the various Poor Laws of the 17th and 18th centuries was based on the system of "settlement". Until 1662 such settlement could be obtained by only a few weeks' residence, and the parish was liable to maintain paupers so settled. A legitimate child left destitute would normally be maintained by the parish of its father's, or possibly its mother's, settlement. However legally a bastard, having no privity of blood between it and its parents, could not take their settlement, and hence was settled in the parish of its birth, very much to that parish's indignation.

The whole subject is dealt with in great detail by W.E. Tate in "The Parish Chest" (Cambridge University Press, 35/-), which should be available from the County and Borough Libraries.

It is not clear why the child in question was baptized at Deddington. It would appear to have been the responsibility of Barford St. John, or Adderbury itself, of which parish Barford St. John was a chapelry. It would be interesting to know if Bakers Mill is identifiable.

Yours, etc.

J.S.W.G.

THE WARWICKSHIRE HEARTH TAX RETURN FOR 1663 continued.PRIORS HARDWICK. Hearths Liable.

Thomas Kent	Cler.	(3)
Benjamin Goodwin		(3)
Willm. Heritage		(4)
John Mason		(3)
Willm. Bradshaw		(3)
Willm. Townsend		(3)
Robert Edmunds		(2)
Thomas Budd		(2)
George Walford		(2)
Richard Palmer		(2)
John Fessey		(3)
George Fessey		(2)
Robert Clarke		(3)
Widd. Ebrall		(1)
Richard Raynbowe		(4)
Mary Raynbowe	wid.	(2)
Bernard Bradshaw		(1)
Richard Hemings		(2)
Robert Steel		(1)
Willm. Palmer		(1)
Widd. Gubbins		(3)
Richard Washbrooke		(3)
Nicholas Eyles		(1)
Henry Edmunds		(1)
John Elmore		(1)
John Benson		(2)
Widd. Robinson		(2)

Hearths not Liable.

John Croffts	(1)
Richard Cleridge	(1)
Thomas Heynes	(1)
Richard Elmore	(1)
Leonard Carter	(1)
Robert Tidman	(1)
John Heynes	(1)
Dorothy Jackson	(1)
Alexander Hastings	(1)
John Driver	(1)

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THE WARWICKSHIRE HEARTH TAX RETURN FOR 1663 continued.RATLEY      Hearths Liable.

John Danvers Esq.	(9)
Thomas Walker Gent.	(11)
Thomas Lewis Gent.	(6)
Richard Borrowes Gent.	(1)
John Borrowes Gent.	(5)
Richard Tompkins Cler.	(3)
John Harris	(2)
Thomas Hitchcocke	(3)
Willm. Hitchcocke	(9)
Symon Lucas	(2)
John Lambe	(2)
Thomas Malins	(2)
Edward Goldby	(2)
Richard Usher	(1)

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Hearths Not Liable.

Kniveton Usher	(1)
John Archer	(1)
Thomas Weaver	(1)
Willm. Coop (?Coox)	(2)
Francis Jenings	(1)
Silly Maggitt	(1)
Thos. Miller	(1)
Willm. Waram	(1)
Silvester Lovesley (?)	(1)
Richard Archer	(1)
Willm. Genings	(1)
Willm. Archer	(1)
Thomas Heretage	(1)
John Russell	(1)
Willm. Broy (?)	(1)
Widd. Archer	(1)
Richard Denney	(1)
Thomas Russell	(1)
Ellin Weaver	(1)
Anthony Smith	(1)

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These extracts from the Hearth Tax Return are published by kind permission of the Clerk of the Warwickshire County Council, and were copied with the cooperation of the County Archivist.

for

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*and*

*TYPING*

*contact*

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