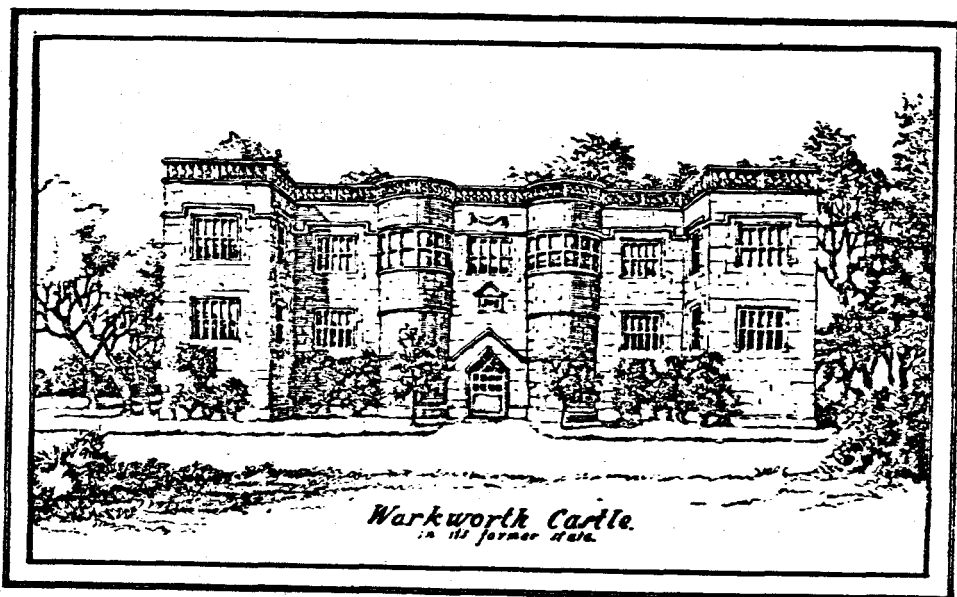


CAKE & COCKHORSE

The Magazine of the Banbury Historical Society



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BANBURY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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The Society was founded in 1958 to encourage interest in the history of the town and neighbouring parts of Oxfordshire, Northamptonshire and Warwickshire.

The magazine Cake & Cockhorse is issued to members four times a year. This includes illustrated articles based on original local historical research, as well as recording the Society's activities. A booklet Old Banbury, a short popular history, by E.R.C. Brinkworth, M.A. price 3/6, has been published and a Christmas card is a popular annual production.

The Society also publishes an annual records volume. Banbury Marriage Register has been published in three parts, a volume on Oxfordshire Clockmakers 1400-1850 has been produced and South Newington Churchwardens' Accounts 1560-1662 is planned for 1964.

Meetings are held during the winter, normally at 7.30 p.m. at the Conservative Club. Talks on general and local archaeological, historical and architectural subjects are given by invited lecturers. In the summer, excursions are arranged and archaeological excavations are undertaken from time to time.

Membership of the Society is open to all, no proposer or seconder being needed. The annual subscription is 25/-, including the annual records volume, or 10/- if this is excluded. Junior Membership is 5/-.

Application forms can be obtained from the Hon. Secretary or the Hon. Treasurer.

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After the favourable reception given to the Reviews Issue published in September last year it has been decided to devote this September's issue to the same theme.

At first sight it may seem astonishing that sufficient printed material should appear during twelve months to justify a further selection of reviews, yet the number of books which are first and foremost local history alone make this worthwhile. Mr. Colvin's welcome volume on Deddington, Mr. Styles' brilliant article on the Kinton Hundred in Essays presented to Philip B. Chatwin, the latest bulky edition of Oxoniensia and the Society's own fifth volume all present irrefutable demands for notice. All of this indicates that the state of local historical studies is healthy; an impression deepened by the richness of material to come. Dr. Wood-Jones' long awaited work on traditional domestic architecture, Miss Taylor's study of Gilletts Bank and Dr. Brinkworth's edition of the 16th century South Newington Churchwardens' Accounts are all expected in the not-too-distant future, and Dr. Beckinsale's work on the North Oxfordshire plush industry, due to appear in the next volume of Oxoniensia, should mark a major advance in our knowledge of Banbury and district in the 18th and 19th centuries.

The necessity to take notice of such volumes as are mentioned above is obvious and imperative, yet it would seem that it is also a useful function of this magazine to review works which are not by nature local history and which may, indeed, be slight in content and intention. There are few local publications which are of no historical interest however, and we regard it as a worthwhile activity to draw attention to the value of such publications as the guide to Banbury market and Birds of the Banbury Area.

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The Editor wishes to record his most grateful thanks to Squadron Leader Gilbert Wood for subsidising the cost of this issue.

WINTER PROGRAMME 1963-64

Tuesday, September 24th. Rev. E. P. Baker: "Church and Parson in 18th century Oxfordshire". Many local historians have reason to be grateful to Mr. Baker for his work on Bishop Secker's Visitation Returns of 1738, published by the Oxfordshire Record Society. In the course of his work on these returns and in other researches Mr. Baker has acquired a profound knowledge of ecclesiastical conditions in the county in the 18th and 19th centuries and his talk is likely to be most interesting.

Wednesday, November 27th

The film: "Twenty-Four Square Miles".

Tuesday, January 28th

Dr. R.P. Beckinsale: "The Plush Industry of North Oxfordshire".

All of these meetings will be held in the upstairs reception room of Banbury Conservative Club, High Street (next to Martins Bank), at 7. 30 p.m. It is not of course necessary to belong to the Club to attend, and no political connections are implied!

Mr. J.S.W. Gibson

It is with great pleasure that we record the award to the Society's Hon. Secretary of a Fellowship of the Society of Genealogists. Mr. Gibson has been the Banbury Historical Society's chief source of energy since its beginning, and has contributed in many other ways to the advance of historical studies in the district. This recognition of the boundless energy and enthusiasm he has put into genealogical research is indeed well-merited.

The Annual General Meeting

The annual general meeting of the Society was held on June 15th at Broughton Castle by kind invitation of Lord and Lady Saye and Sele. The President was in the chair. After reports from officers had been read and approved, the main item of private business was a series of minor amendments to the Constitution, the main effects of which were to change the title of Archaeological Director to Archaeological Adviser, to make the Editor of Cake and Cockhorse ex officio a member of the committee, to extend the period of office of the Chairman to three years and to increase from five to six the maximum number of non-officers on the committee. The amendments were passed nem.con. The only change in the committee for the coming year was the election of Dr. H. G. Judge.

When private business was concluded Dr. E.R.C. Brinkworth addressed the meeting on the subject of William Fiennes, first Viscount Saye and Sele. Dr. Brinkworth enthralled his audience with an account of his life and times which included many of the most recent conclusions of historians on the period. It is certainly unfortunate, as Dr. Brinkworth pointed out, that there is no modern detailed study of the life of this most important figure in 17th century history. The thanks of the meeting were expressed by the President who with Lady Saye and Sele entertained members to sherry after the conclusion of the talk.

Since the annual general meeting, Mr. J.H. Fearon has been re-elected chairman of the executive committee and Dr. Gardam elected vice-chairman.

CHRISTMAS CARD

This year's card, like the extremely popular one published in 1962, will be in colour. It will depict a view of North Bar including St. Mary's Church. The cost will be 9/- per dozen to members. As usual, overprinting can be arranged if required. Further details will be available in our next issue.

BANBURY AND DISTRICT ARTS COUNCIL

The Arts Council was formed in April 1963 to co-ordinate the activities of the various dramatic, musical and learned societies in the town, to avoid the clashing of important events and to aid cooperation in publicity and other matters. The Historical Society has been represented at its meetings from the first and is now a full member. Our representatives on the council are Mr. J. H. Fearon and Mr. J.S.W. Gibson.

A History of Deddington, Oxfordshire.

by H.M. Colvin, London: S.P.C.K. 1963, 12/6.

A mass of material relating to the history of Deddington has been collected for the Victoria County History of Oxfordshire, but as several years must elapse before the appropriate volume appears, it was certainly an excellent idea to utilise some of this material and to publish separately, and in a form which has allowed some divergence from V.C.H. conventions, the book which is before us. Both publishers and author are to be congratulated upon it.

The records of the lords of the manors of Deddington have happily been preserved in their entirety and Mr. Colvin has done full justice to them. He has laid down the manorial history in an account so full, lucid and altogether admirable that it is not likely to be superseded; only details here and there perhaps remain to be added.

The chapter on the houses, too, is another outstanding feature, short though it is: we would gladly have had more from such an authority as Mr. Colvin.

In spite of the author's modest disclaimer, he has given the best survey we have yet had of the history of the borough, the market town, local government and agricultural history. The comparatively brief accounts of these leave the appetite well whetted.

This is even more so of what we are given on the parish church, church history, schools and charities. But, as Mr. Colvin warns us, he has paid most attention to those aspects which interest him, and we must be content for the time being with the fascinating glimpses to which he has treated us. There is, for instance, Richard Greaves, vicar from 1822 until 1836, who made a name for himself locally by "preaching the opinions called Evangelical, so that Deddington church was filled with people who admired Calvinist doctrine, from the surrounding villages". (P. 99). (It is not quite right, by the way, to call Greaves a low churchman because he was an Evangelical; the two should not be equated, particularly at this date.) And there are the suspicions aroused of a "Puseyite and Romanist" plot when the Reverend W.C. Risley (vicar 1836-1848) favoured choir stalls and an altar-piece. Here and elsewhere in this chapter there is vivid illustration of the ecclesiastical tensions and of what the Banbury Guardian delightfully called the "aggrieved parishionership" of so much of the nineteenth century.

In Appendix Two Mr. Colvin sets out, for the first time, a complete and trustworthy list of incumbents, with dates of induction, of death or resignation, and names of patrons. To the incumbents' degrees might have been added the names of the universities from which they came, and the late Maurice Frost's Cambridge Litt. D.

The most interesting illustrations are those taken from mid-nineteenth century drawings by Joseph Wilkins. The photographs are rather common-place.

This book forms a most distinguished contribution to north Oxfordshire history and we extend it a grateful welcome.

University of Birmingham.

E.R.C. Brinkworth.

Essays in Honour of Philip B. Chatwin

Birmingham Archaeological Society
in collaboration with the Dugdale Society.

Transactions and Proceedings Volume 78
The University Press, Oxford 1962

This volume represents a splendid tribute to the work and enthusiasm of Mr. Philip B. Chatwin whose membership of the Birmingham Archaeological Society dates from 1904 and whose published works have been appearing since 1914. His contributions to the history of Warwickshire will be of permanent value and he could hope for no more appropriate an honour than the dedication to him of the ten essays in this collection.

Members of the Banbury Historical Society will find particular interest in the essay on "The Social Structure of Kineton Hundred in the Reign of Charles II" which is marked by those qualities of erudition, clarity and elegance that readers would expect in a contribution from Mr. Philip Styles. The Kineton Hundred in the seventeenth century included the Borough of Warwick, the Feldon country (in the South and South-East of the county) and the three detached parishes of Tanworth, Lapworth and Packwood. Attention is directed to three objectives: an examination of the relation between differences of wealth and of status; a comparison of the social structure of Warwick with that of the country districts in the area; a discussion of the prospects of social and economic improvement open to the lower ranks of the landed gentry.

The evidence is provided mainly by the eight hearth tax assessments made between the years 1662 and 1674 but these most illuminating returns are supplemented by such other sources, printed and manuscript, as the returns for the free gift of 1661, the heralds' visitations and the records of Quarter Sessions. The hearth tax returns provide important evidence bearing upon social questions of all kinds but, as the author is careful to observe, the nature of the evidence with which on this occasion these returns are correlated determine the exclusive concentration of this study on the upper and middle classes. The general pattern of the structure of these classes is marked by a clearly defined hierarchy with considerable areas of over-lapping between successive grades: a status system employing the categories of knight, esquire, clergyman, gentleman, yeoman, husbandman, labourer and craftsman was widely accepted but was without that degree of precision which would have delighted the theorist and simplified the task of the historian.

A scrupulously careful analysis of the usage in titles leads Mr. Styles to the important conclusion that the evidence under review reflects a critical stage in the transition from the relative clarity of the Tudor century to the general confusion of the Hanoverian. "In Tudor England the social distinctions implied by such words as 'Esquire' and 'Gentleman' still had what we may call an objective basis By the reign of George III these titles were commonly assumed by the whole body of landed gentry and by all the more prosperous of the tenant farmers and urban middle classes' (pp. 102-3.)

The dates covered by the hearth tax returns are therefore of critical importance, and a fascinating insight is given into the efforts of the heralds to reverse that general movement from formality to flexibility in social definitions which historians have long recognised. The heralds failed to ensure the triumph of theory over practice, even in a decade when the necessity of restoring the old order was accepted dogma.

No attempt can be made to summarise in detail the argument of the essay, which itself presents in skillfully condensed form a considerable mass of evidence not hitherto applied to a discussion of these important problems. One other conclusion which will command general interest should however be mentioned. Mr. Styles shows that the economic progress of the Warwickshire gentry after the Restoration was relatively slow: there was little building of country houses until the great age of the parliamentary enclosures. The principal route to advancement in fact led through the legal profession.

This essay will delight those who read it. It avoids both the triviality of much that passes as local history and the rootlessness of such contemporary controversies in national history as that which centres around the gentry. It restores perspectives to the history both of the local community and of English society. There could be no better essay to place in the hands either of a sceptical sociologist who believed that historians did not understand the rules of their craft or of a doubtful historian who could not see the deep value of the application of such techniques as those employed here to important historical questions which continue to demand answers.

Marriage Register of Banbury Part Three 1790 - 1837. Edited by J. S. W. Gibson.
 Banbury Historical Society. Vol. 5. viii + 126 pp. 8 $\frac{3}{4}$ " x 6" covers. 30/- (Members of
 B.H.S. 25/-) Issued to subscribers for the year 1963.

The third part of the Banbury Marriage Register is uniform in excellence, though not in format, with previous volumes. As in them the entries are complete, the index is first class and there are also those invaluable indices of place names and trades and professions, which raise these transcriptions above the general run of such works. Unlike previous volumes it is not duplicated but typed and then photolithographed. The type is smaller, which may not please the myope, but in compensation the book is smaller, far pleasanter to handle and much more securely bound than heretofore.

A parish register is a tedious thing to transcribe and, if it is not done with great care, the labour will be in vain, for there is nothing more annoying than an inaccurate copy. Mr. Jeremy Gibson has clearly done his work with diligence and precision and so earns the gratitude, not only of the Banbury Historical Society for the reflected glory it acquires by publishing such a book, but also of all genealogists, social historians, and others who make use of the materials of history.

J. P. Brooke-Little,
 Bluemantle.

"Midland Goldsmiths of the Elizabethan Period", by S. A. Jeavons.

Lichfield and South Staffordshire Archaeological & Historical Society Transactions, 1961-62,
 Vol. iii, pp 5-25, Maps pp 1-4. Illustrated.

Early published accounts of the church plate of Midland counties have recently been supplemented by Mr. Jeavons' own investigations of surviving vessels in the Archdeacons'ries of Stafford, Stoke and Salop, and in Warwickshire and Derbyshire. The data collected here have been used to classify the makers and centres of distribution during the second half of the 16th century. Makers have been recognised by their marks, their individual styles and by the dates of hall marks. Variation in the design of cups is shown by 22 excellent photographs. Distribution is plotted in a series of maps of the region which included the counties of Derbyshire, Nottinghamshire, Lincolnshire, Leicestershire, Northamptonshire, Oxfordshire, Warwickshire and Worcestershire.

The author recognised seven local makers who put their marks on the majority of their cups and whose unmarked pieces can be assigned with certainty to one or the other of them by similarity of styles. Two more makers produced unmarked cups with sufficiently distinctive designs. He therefore concludes that there were at least nine goldsmiths working in the region in the reign of Elizabeth I. It is likely that the workshops of these men were situated in three centres - Coventry, Nottingham and Lichfield and these supplied plate to churches not only nearby but at considerable distances.

It was due to a proclamation of Elizabeth I in 1559 that the alteration of chalices into communion cups became compulsory. Conversion was, of course, gradual, beginning in Staffordshire in 1562. This was a welcome opportunity for the local goldsmiths who made full use of it to the detriment of the London craftsmen and they held much of the business until well into the reign of James I, after which trade reverted to London.

Of the 453 Elizabethan communion cups found in seven of the above mentioned counties, no less than 176 were the work of local goldsmiths, the rest being by London makers. In the Lichfield district the local men were responsible for converting over three quarters of the chalices.

Mr. Jeavons hopes that some local scholar will find the necessary documents that will put names to these Midland goldsmiths; only one has so far been identified. In such a

hope he will be joined by other investigators who need the documentary evidence that could reveal as much about the origin of various church furniture and fittings as is known about the bells. For examples, why did the Oxfordshire churches of Alkerton, Shutford, Swalcliffe, Rollright, Barford, Cornwell, Idbury, Upper Heyford and Tackley all get their cups from one Coventry maker, and Hanwell from a second Coventry maker? It may be because Coventry was the nearest source, or because the goldsmiths soon staked out their exclusive territories. As Mr. Jeavons points out, the Coventry men failed to penetrate Staffordshire and Derbyshire because the Lichfield and Nottingham smiths got in before 1570.

Mr. Jeavons lectured to the Society on the subject of the present article on September 26th, 1962 and illustrated the series of communion cups with lantern slides.

C. F. C. Beeson.

Oxoniensia, Vols. XXVI/XXVII, 1961/2
Oxford Architectural and Historical Society, Oxford 1963

(Offprints of the "Bicester in the 17th and 18th Centuries" article are available from the offices of the "Bicester Advertiser", Market Place, Bicester. Price 5/-)

This latest issue of Oxoniensia is a lavish publication, with over 300 pages, forty four photographs and a particularly fine colour plate of the ceiling of Christ Church library as its frontispiece. The contents match up to the high standard of the presentation.

Of outstanding interest to North Oxfordshire readers is the article by Miss G. H. Dannatt on "Bicester in the 17th and 18th Centuries". This is the result of a long period of research on the wills and inventories of inhabitants of Bicester during which the author examined all of the wills of the period 1600-1732, and a sizeable sample of those between 1733 and the end of the century. The article shows what a wealth of material for social history there is to be gained from sources of this kind. We learn, for example, that a chapman was no mere wandering pedlar with a pack on his back, but a trader with a considerable stock on his premises, that communal stock breeding was practised by small farmers in the area, that chairs came into general use as household furniture only during the time of the Stuarts, before which benches, forms and stools were usual. There is much information about local trades, particularly brewing, textiles and the leather trade. Wills and inventories are not, as the author admits, a reliable basis for statistical analysis of social class or wealth, but she does present sufficient evidence to show that during the 17th century trade became gradually more important as a source of livelihood in Bicester. This is in every way an excellent article and we look forward to the time when a similar work on Banbury will appear.

"The Birds of the Banbury Area".

A Report by the Banbury Ornithological Society.

Edited by Glyn Davies. Sales Manager, R. Aplin, Esq., Ivy Cottage, Bloxham. 3/-

The connection between History and watching birds is not immediately apparent, yet Alfred Beesley included the birds of the area in his History of Banbury and perusal of this commendable production of the Banbury Ornithological Society suggests a number of interesting lines of historical enquiry. What changes in the area, for example, caused the disappearance of the Kite, which can be dated quite precisely to the two decades between 1830 and 1850? Has the revival of the fortunes of the Wheatear since Beesley wrote in 1841 been the result of the ending of the practice of eating this bird, considered such a delicacy by Lord Torrington? Dr. Bruce Campbell points out in his introduction that one of the most important functions of a local ornithological society is to record the response of common species to changes in their environment. Such changes are usually the work of man and the concern of the historian, and clearly historian and ornithologist have to solve a number of common problems. Anyone interested in the history of the Banbury area over the past century and a half will find this book a most interesting and unusual sidelight.

REPORT OF A PARTIAL EXCAVATION OF ROUND HILL BARROW AT
TUSMORE-CUM-HARDWICK, OXON.

by Gilbert Wood.

The round barrow which lies just south of the Tusmore-Souldern road (Map Ref: 51° 58' 20" N. 1° 12' 10" E.) was noted by Blomfield who associated it with another, which, until destroyed by workmen in 1842, stood behind the Bear Inn at the cross-roads on Ploughley Hill; he referred to them as the burial places of two Roman inhabitants of the neighbourhood(i).

The barrow at Tusmore is situated on the 450 ft. contour on the eastern slope of the oolitic ridge which descends gradually from its summit at Ploughley Hill into the heavy red clay of Tusmore, Hardwick and Cottisford. This clay constitutes the sub-soil on which the mound was erected and colours the surrounding ploughland.

Blomfield believed the adjacent road to be Roman, built as a spur from the Portway to the west and Akeman Street to the south-east, to exploit the peat deposits at Tusmore. (ii)

An examination of the barrow was conducted by Mr. Richard Cartwright of Aynho Park in 1927 when an irregular trench approximately 5 ft. wide was dug into it from the north-western edge to just beyond the centre (Figure 1). Two human tibia and what is thought to have been a portion of a bronze clasp were found in a shallow pit at almost the exact centre of the tumulus. No written report appears to have been made but it is claimed that the finds and the excavation were examined by Professor Beesley who expressed the opinion that the barrow was probably late Bronze Age. (iii)

The Cartwright excavation was greatly hampered by the roots of large trees then flourishing on the site, one of which, an oak, must have been at least 250 years old when finally cut down a few years later.

The excavation, of which this report is the subject, was carried out intermittently between the months of April and October in 1961 and 1962 with the permission of the owner, Mr. R. S. Brown of Round Hill Farm, Tusmore, and the help of Mr. Norman Moore of Fritwell.

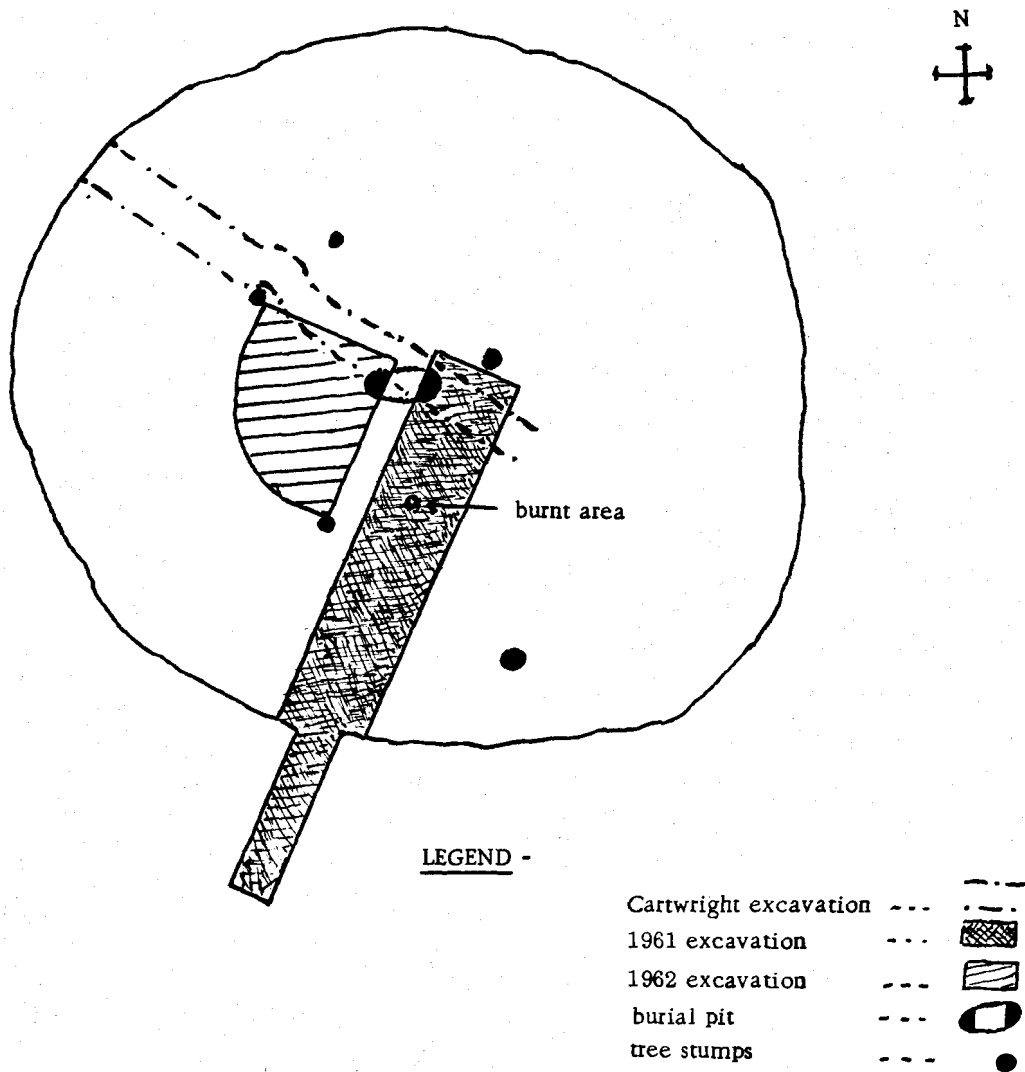
The barrow is constructed wholly of sandy clay with a surprisingly low limestone and pebble content in the light of their high incidence in the surrounding ploughland. It is currently 7 ft. 3 ins. above ground level at its highest point and has a maximum diameter of 67 ft.

Due to erosion and considerable disturbance by rabbits it has spread at least 6 ft. overall since its original construction; there is no evidence of a surrounding ditch. Some 40 yds. east of the barrow there is a deep depression which could have been the quarry which provided the stone for the original road, but as the latter diverts slightly to avoid this depression it seems more probable that it may have been to some extent natural and possibly the site of a spring. It may well, therefore, have been the source of at least some of the material from which the tumulus is constructed.

1961 EXCAVATION.

A trench 34 ft. long and 7 ft. wide was dug from its southern edge into the barrow as far as a large beech stump lying 4 ft. beyond the centre. (Figure 1). This was later extended outwards a further 14 ft. and 5 ft. wide to verify the absence of a peripheral ditch. The Cartwright trench was encountered and identified and in its upper filling a section of the vertebrae of an unidentified animal (iv) together with a piece of 19th century glass bottle were found.

FIGURE 1.



PLAN OF BARROW

Apart from a few odd flint and chert chippings and cores, nothing of significance occurred until 12 ft. from the centre of the barrow a flint arrowhead and a steep backed blade were found lying 6½ ins. above the natural undisturbed surface. In the same level and adjacent to the arrowhead lay a small piece of Romano-British pottery.

Ridges of outcropping oolite were encountered adjacent to these objects with intermittent areas of red clay overlapping it. Deep pockets of the same clay lay in between the oolitic ridges and in the area below the arrowhead it had been subjected to intense heat indicated by a scattering of particles of incinerated clay and charcoal and one area 9 ins. x 13 ins. and 4 ins. deep burnt to a brick-like consistency.

In the bottom of the Cartwright excavation the eastern end of the burial pit was identified and in it lay an iron ploughshare together with the two broken tibia which had apparently been thrown in prior to refilling.

1962 EXCAVATION.

In 1962 it was originally intended to remove completely a whole quarter of the barrow but inclement weather in the late Spring and early Summer and other factors limited the excavation to the removal of a segment only (Figure 1) to establish, if possible, the precise configuration of the original burial pit. A baulk 2½ ft. wide was left between the 1961 trench and the 1962 excavation. Significant small finds included a very small Romano-British sherd similar in texture and colour to that of 1961 lying 18 ins. above original ground level, a flint scraper the butt end of which had been grooved to form a spokeshave, a burin lying 13 ins. above original ground level and some thirty small cores and flakes which occurred sporadically from top to bottom of the excavation. Five of these could be defined as tools as they show evidence of secondary flaking and some positive wear on working surfaces.

Finally lying 1 in. above the undisturbed surface of the original ground level and 18 ins. from what subsequently proved to be the lip of the western edge of the burial pit, a small flint round scraper of fine workmanship, heavily patinated on all surfaces but showing evidence of having been rolled, was encountered.

FIGURE 2 (a)

SECTION OF 1961 EXCAVATION SCALE 1/8" = 1'

LEGEND

Top soil
 Yellow sandy clay
 Red clay (subsoil)
 Out cropping oolite (base rock)
 Burial Pit
 Cartwright excavation

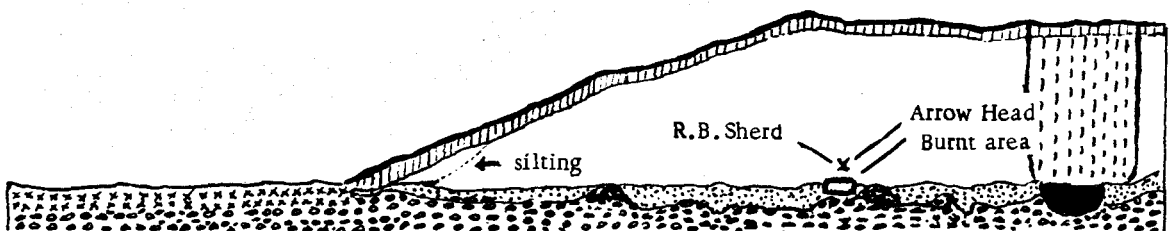
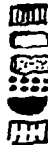
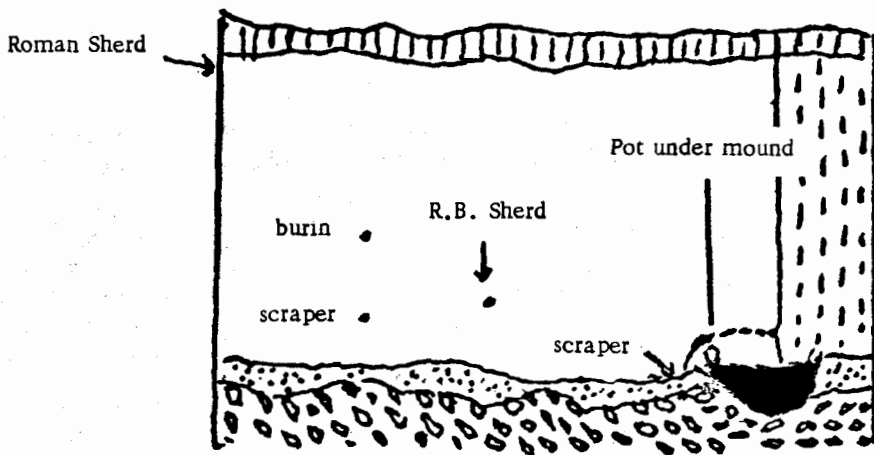
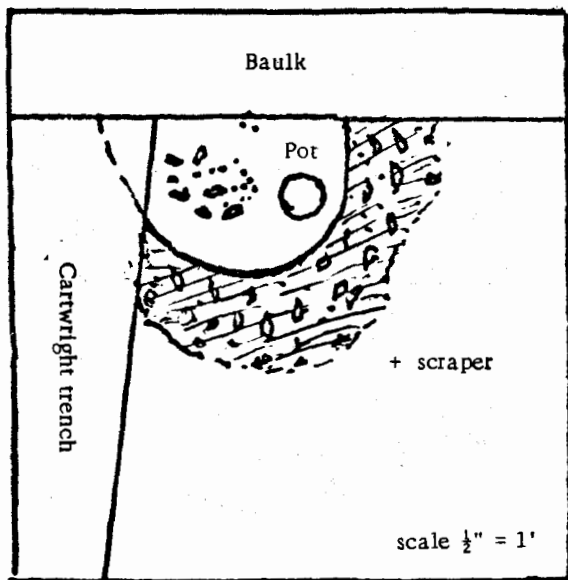


FIGURE 2 (b)

SECTION OF 1962 EXCAVATION SCALE $\frac{1}{4}'' = 1'$ Plan of western end of
burial pit showing:-

- (a) mound covering pit
- (b) skull fragments and teeth
- (c) Saxon pottery vessel
- (d) Position of round scraper +

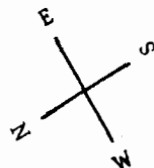


FIGURE 2 (c)

BURIAL PIT (Figure 2 (c)).

A clearly defined small mound covering the western extremity of the burial pit was identified by the presence of oolitic pebbles and lumps of red clay in the otherwise uninterrupted sandy-clay of the barrow. The roughly semi-circular portion protruding from the Cartwright excavation and the baulk was found to cover a depression in the red clay sub-soil which descended rapidly to attain a depth of 14 ins. where it merged into the Cartwright trench.

On the outer edge of the depression and standing on its base in a slightly inclined position lay an almost complete dark grey pottery vessel, burnished black, the upper portion of which had been perforated and fractured by tree roots which had penetrated into the loose soil filling it.

The remainder of the depression contained some decomposed, broken and scattered fragments of a human skull, fourteen dispersed teeth and small pockets of bone fragments mixed with the soil. The only evidence of the jaw was a minute piece still adhering to a molar. No other portions of the skeleton were found nor any evidence in the soil that anything else had been buried there. A portion of the burial pit remains unexcavated under the baulk however, due to an unexpected deterioration in the weather and the necessity for filling in. During filling operations two pieces of wheel-turned Roman pottery, grey in colour and of fine texture was uncovered in the upper, previously undisturbed, part of the barrow under an old beech tree root.

THE POTTERY.

The complete pottery vessel illustrated at Figure 4 is $5\frac{5}{16}$ ins. high and $4\frac{3}{8}$ ins. in diameter, of coarse grit tempered texture and burnished black on the outer surface only; it is undecorated, flat based and not wheel-turned. It is Pagan Saxon in type (7th Century A.D.) with parallels at Sleaford, Lincs., and at the moment is in the possession of the author but by agreement with Mr. R. S. Brown will be eventually presented to the Banbury Museum.

The other pottery consisting of two minute sherds believed to be Romano-British and two of fine wheel-turned Roman grey-ware are significant in that, from the position of the former, the mound as it now stands cannot be earlier than Romano British.

THE FLINT IMPLEMENTS.

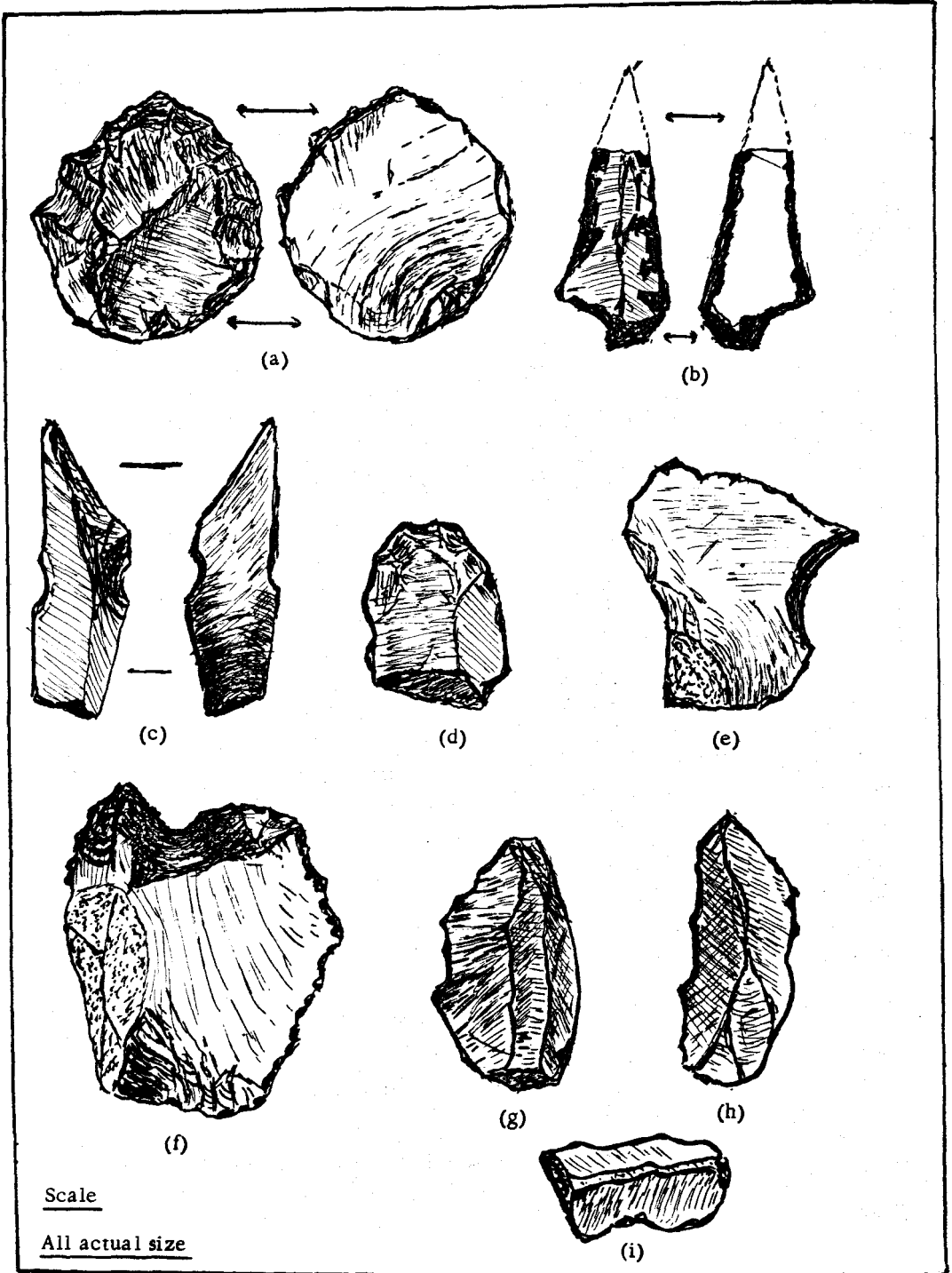
These consist of:-

- (a) one circular scraper patinated cream and apparently rolled. (Figure 3 (a)).
- (b) one point, partially patinated white, tip missing. (Figure 3 (b)).
- (c) one steep backed blade, patinated white and utilized. (Figure 3 (c)).
- (d) one end scraper. (Figure 3 (d)).
- (e) one burin. (Figure 3 (e)).
- (f) one scraper-spoleshave. (Figure 3 (f)).
- (g) forty-one assorted flakes and cores some of which show secondary working.

THE SKELETAL REMAINS.

Apart from the two tibia reburied by Mr. Cartwright and the portions of the skull and teeth no other human skeletal remains were found. The relative positions of the tibia, the pottery vessel, the pieces of skull and teeth indicate either a deliberate initial burial of these fragments or disturbance after inhumation but before the covering mound was raised. There was no evidence in the stratigraphy of disturbance of the burial pit or the mound apart from the Cartwright excavation of 1927.

FIGURE 3.



Too little remains to determine the sex of the subject but the marrow cavities of the tibia and the teeth indicate an adult of 30 to 40 years of age. The teeth are abnormally worn but otherwise mostly sound, the wearing is presumably due to grit absorbed in flour milled on poor quality millstones or querns.

CONCLUSION.

It is inconceivable, if a complete skeleton was initially interred, that no trace has survived of anything apart from the remains found so far, although it must be emphasised that a portion of the burial pit remained under the baulk and was not examined by the author nor possibly by Cartwright. The Cartwright excavation was apparently only exploratory and conducted under great difficulty due to the presence of growing trees of considerable size and age, the fact that the whole of the burial pit was not exposed is therefore to some extent understandable.

The Pagan Saxon vessel must date the covering mound in its present form as being 7th Century A.D. for there is no evidence it is intrusive, yet one would have expected a mound of such magnitude to have warranted a richer burial.

It is significant that Round Hill barrow is situated comparatively near to Fritwell from whence the alleged Saxon earth-work, known as Avis Ditch, runs south towards the Cherwell but also to Souldern village and Ploughley Hill where Blomfield records numerous early burials were discovered during the 19th Century.

The presence of flint artifacts and waste material of Bronze Age type in the body of the mound in comparative profusion permits the inference that the soil came from a living site of the period. Careful examination of the surrounding ploughland and the adjacent depression over a period of two years has yielded only one flint slake showing evidence of secondary workings.

A round barrow of similar size and composition to Round Hill lies at the cross-roads one mile south of Middleton Stoney on the A41 road to Oxford. There is no local record of it ever having been excavated and an examination may well prove rewarding and elucidate some of the problems of Round Hill.

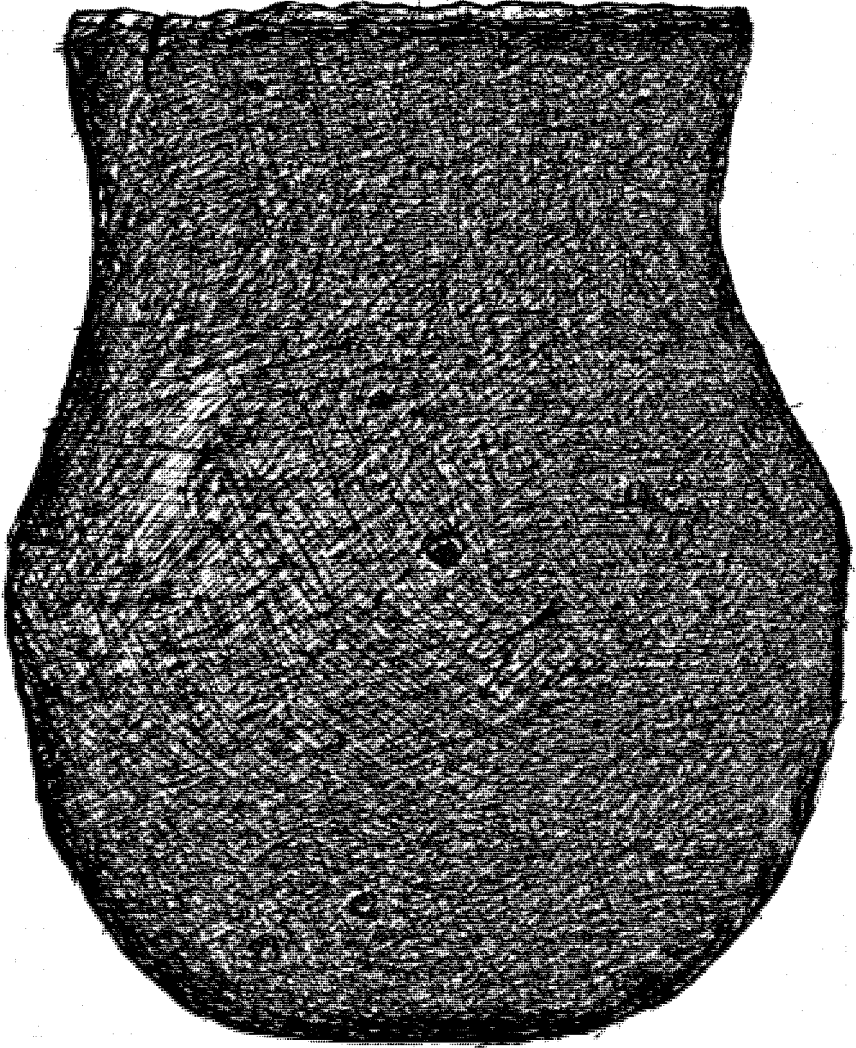
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS.

I am indebted to Mr. Roy Berry of Chesterton who carried out a detailed survey of the barrow and upon whose plans and section drawings all subsequent drawings, including those illustrated in this paper, are based and to Mr. D. M. Wilson of the Mediaeval Department of the British Museum, who examined the complete pottery vessel, and confirmed the classification and dating.

I am also grateful to Mr. Norman Moore of Fritwell for his help throughout two seasons in the often dull and mostly unrewarding task of removing many tons of earth without mechanical aids.

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- (i) J. C. Blomfield. History of Souldern. page 5.
 - (ii) Ibid.
 - (iii) I am indebted to Mr. Cole of Aynho, who assisted Mr. Cartwright in his excavation, for this information. Mr. Cole stated the tibia were complete when found but there was no trace of other skeletal remains.
 - (iv) Mr. Cole informed me that the complete skeleton of a monkey was found by Mr. Cartwright a few feet below the surface in the centre of the barrow and there was a story current in Souldern in 1927 that a former sailor, resident there, buried his pet monkey in the barrow some years before after putting it down because it persistently attached his neighbours.

FIGURE 4.



The Pagan Saxon Pottery Vessel.

Scale - actual size

BANBURY 1790 - 1837

(An exhibition held at Banbury Town Hall on August 24th to mark the publication of Volume Three of the Banbury Marriage Register).

The period covered by this exhibition was not chosen in the first instance as one of particular historical significance. Its limits were defined by the dates of the published marriage register which were fixed by printing considerations and by the availability of marriage records at Somerset House for the period after 1837. Nevertheless the exhibition did show that the period had a certain historical integrity, distinct both from the mid-eighteenth century, which seems to have been a time of stagnation in Banbury, and the later 19th century, when the traditional attitudes described in Margaret Stacey's Tradition and Change were established.

The first section of the exhibition attempted to show what Banbury looked like between 1790 and 1837. Many familiar landmarks were missing. The Cross was not erected until 1859, the Town Hall not until 1854 and St. John's Church was completed only at the very end of the period in 1838. The Town Hall of the time, which still stands as a warehouse in Lower Cherwell Street, could be seen in its original position in the Market Place. The neat and elegant shop fronts of the period were typified by those in the picture of Cornhill drawn by the architect of the Corn Exchange (now the Vine). Two of the bars at the entrances to the town still stood in 1790. Sugarford Bar, otherwise known as Bull or West Bar, which could be seen in the corner of a drawing of Linden House, was demolished in 1812 and North Bar followed in 1817. A view of South Bar showed the obelisk known as the Monument which marked the site of St. John's Bar. An important topographical change during the period was the break-up of the Calthorpe Estate of which the plan of sale was exhibited. An outstanding architectural feature of the town was the panelled Globe Room at the Reindeer Inn which was sold to an American in 1912. A selection of drawings of the room were displayed. Not all of the town was neat and elegant however. The plan of London Yard showed how crowded the accommodation there must have been and the 1832 Rates Book showed no less than 37 inhabited dwellings in Pepper Alley. The photograph of the notorious Rag Row in Neithrop, demolished in 1890, was a reminder that Neithrop had a reputation for being the rowdiest, dirtiest and most overcrowded part of Banbury during the period.

Of all the visible changes in the town, the destruction of the great medieval parish church was the most notable and the most shameful. The motives of those responsible for the pulling down of the church have yet to be fully revealed and it is possible only to ponder on what they might have been. Pictures could give no more than a slight and inadequate impression of what must have been a truly magnificent building. Permission to destroy the church was granted in an Act of Parliament of 1790 which could be seen in the exhibition. Progress in the building of the new church, designed by Samuel Pepys Cockerill, was slow, largely because of lack of funds, and as an invitation to contract showed, the completion of the tower was not begun until 1818. A picture of the interior showed how austere the church was before the alterations of the mid-nineteenth century. A portrait of Thomas William Lancaster, vicar of Banbury from 1815 to 1849, was displayed in this section.

Between 1790 and 1837 there was a striking revival of Nonconformity in Banbury. Socially the most eminent congregation was that of the Presbyterians, many of whom had become Unitarians by 1837. Their place of worship was the huge, barnlike meeting house which stood on the site of the garden of the present Christ Church Chapel. The congregation of the parish church worshipped there while they had no church of their own between 1790 and 1797. The leading family of the congregation were the Cobbs, owners of the Old Bank in High Street, now Lloyds Bank. Unfortunately few records of the congregation have survived. The Quaker meeting too was prosperous during this period as could be seen by its detailed and immaculately kept minute book. The Independents or Congregationalists began to meet at a room at the Star Inn in 1787 and built the chapel in Church Passage, now demolished, in 1792. A society was formally constituted in 1794 and its minute book, also used as a tailor's order book, was on

display. A most important source for the early history of the church is the account written by the Rev. Ingram Cobbin, then minister of the church, in 1808, which survives only as the preface to a minute book of the 1860's. The first Wesleyan society was founded in 1791, meeting in a building in the passageway later known as Lodging House Yard which ran from Calthorpe Street into South Bar. The original deed by which the Wesleyans acquired this property was on view. The James War mentioned in the deed entertained John Wesley on a private visit to Banbury in 1790. The rapid growth of Methodism in the area was shown by the increased number of churches mentioned on the circuit plans between 1810 and 1826. The Particular Baptist congregation in Bridge Street was founded in 1831 by Caleb Clarke, a draper and mesmerist whose memorial, written by his Quaker friend James Cadbury, was displayed. A picture showed the original design of the chapel which was completed in 1841.

Throughout this period and until 1885 the borough of Banbury returned its own member of Parliament. Except for a few months in 1806-7, the nomination of the M.P. rested with the occupier of Wroxton Abbey until 1831. At the beginning of 1790 the member was Frederick, Lord North, the former Prime Minister, but during 1790 his father died and he entered the House of Lords as second Earl of Guilford. The right of voting was restricted to the members of the corporation until 1832 so it was not difficult for a rich and powerful magnate to impose his will on the town. During the election of 1820 occurred the famous riots in which a mob demonstrated against the Hon. Heneage Legge who had not made the usual distribution of beer when returned at a by-election in November 1819. A crowd broke all the windows of the Town Hall and began to demolish the pillars on which it stood. The Rev. T. W. Lancaster tried to escape into the small room by the clock in the tower of the town hall, but the plaster would not bear his weight and his legs suddenly appeared through the ceiling of the main hall, fortunately bestriding a beam. Mrs. Sarah Beesley's description of the events of this election was on display. In 1831 demands for the reform of Parliament were spreading all over the country and a number of prominent men in Banbury demanded that the corporation should not return an anti-reformer as M.P. as this would offend the spirit of the majority of the townspeople. The Marquis of Bute, then occupant of Wroxton Abbey, brought forward Colonel Henry Hey Hutchinson, a determined enemy of Reform, and against him the leading men of the town, in particular the Cobb family, put up John Easthope, later to become a well-known radical M.P. Some of the corporation who lived in the town were willing to vote for Easthope and the inhabitants saw to it that the absentee voters would have no chance of voting against him by barricading North Bar to keep them out. This was also a precaution lest the supporters of Hutchinson should call in the army. When Easthope had been elected by six votes to two, Hutchinson was chased out of the town and after the mob had been dissuaded from ducking him in the Cherwell by a reformer, they enjoyed a token immersion of his hat. When the Reform Bill was finally passed in the summer of 1832 there was a great carnival procession in Banbury to celebrate the "Triumph of Reform". In the election of that year, the campaign of which lasted from early June to December, Henry William Tancred, a lawyer and the nominee of those who had supported Easthope, was opposed by Henry John Pye of Chacombe Priory, who called himself an independent reformer, but who received the support of the anti-reformers in the town who had formerly upheld the Wroxton interests. Pye withdrew shortly before polling day, fearing a repetition of the scenes which had attended polling day in 1831 and Tancred was Banbury's M.P. until he retired in 1859. This long election campaign brought forth many skits and satires, some of them displaying a high standard of wit. The "Extraordinary Rat Catching" was a particularly biting satire on Pye's methods of canvassing. In 1835 Tancred's opponent in the general election was Edward Lloyd Williams, another lawyer, and the chief issue seems to have been the Corn Laws. In the election of 1837 Tancred fought Henry Tawney, partner of Joseph Gillett in the local bank. The chief object of controversy was the new Poor Law, but Tancred's supporters also accused Tawney of favouring Ernest Augustus, the unpopular Duke of Cumberland and King of Hanover, as ruler of England in place of the young Queen Victoria.

In 1790 the corporation of Banbury was little more than a rather exclusive, self-perpetuating club, composed of the more reactionary members of the community whose

duties consisted of eating, drinking, and from time to time electing an M.P. In 1808 they presented the freedom of the Borough to the Prince of Wales and his brother the Duke of Sussex who were visiting Wroxton Abbey. At the end of 1835 the Municipal Corporations Act passed by Parliament in that year came into operation and the old corporation was dissolved to be replaced by one elected by the ratepayers. Notices of this and subsequent elections appeared in the exhibition. It was not for many years after this that the corporation began to assume the responsibilities they hold today and most aspects of social welfare were dealt with by voluntary societies or by ad hoc public bodies. The first of the latter was the Paving and Lighting Commission constituted by Act of Parliament in 1825.

It was unfortunately impossible to show very much of the town's two chief industries at this period. A cutting announcing the award of a silver medal to Richard Edmunds for his turnip cutter showed how advanced the making of agricultural machinery was by 1840. The weaving of plush had probably begun to decline but precise figures are difficult to obtain. An industry to which Banbury probably owes much of its fame was the publishing of children's books carried on by the Rusher family. The widespread currency of "Ride a Cock Horse" is probably due to their books of nursery rhymes, a selection of which were displayed. Like many other traders in the town, the Rushers issued tokens to overcome shortages of small change, and one of these could be seen in the exhibition. Banking was represented by a number of cheques of the period and the many minor trades by various advertisements. The full variety of trades could be seen in Rusher's Banbury Directory.

A cholera warning of 1831 emphasised that Banbury was not a healthy town during this period. Examination of the report of the Board of Health made in 1851 revealed further evidence of insanitary living conditions. Relief for the poor in 1790 was still administered on the old system set up in the reign of Elizabeth I, by the parish vestry, whose minute book was displayed. The vast number of paupers receiving relief in 1832 was shown in a published list. The old system as modified in the late 18th century allowed money to be given to paupers without their having to go into the workhouse. This was changed by the unpopular Poor Law Amendment Act of 1834 which confined relief for the able-bodied to those willing to enter the workhouse. Under the Act, relief was henceforward administered by Boards of elected Guardians representing a union of parishes. The first minute book of the Banbury Union which comprised 32 parishes was in the exhibition. Much social work was left to voluntary efforts as the relics of such an organisation as the Banbury and Neithrop Clothing Society showed. The importance of endowed charities was demonstrated in the report of the Charity Commissioners on Banbury in 1826. In 1830 there were riots in the town against the introduction of agricultural machinery which had to be suppressed by the army. One of the best surviving accounts, that of T.W. Boss, was displayed, together with the references to prisoners taken during the riots in the Banbury Gaol Register and the sentences passed on them in the Oxfordshire Assize List. The recreations of the time were reflected in the posters of the Banbury Music Society, founded in 1834, and in the playbills of the period. The most flourishing society in the town in 1837 was the Mechanics' Institute, founded in 1835, whose first minute book was exhibited together with plans of the Institute's first building, which still stands in Tink-a-Tank, and the first issue of their Manuscript Magazine.

In the last section a number of miscellaneous items of historical interest were displayed. The fear that the French would invade Britain in 1798 led to the formation of two infantry companies and a cavalry troop of militia at Banbury, and a cavalry officer's sword was exhibited. A number of poets were writing in the town during the period and some of the work of Philip Usher and Alfred Beesley could be seen. Thomas Colley was a baker who lived in Bridge Street who undertook in 1816 to walk 1,020 miles in 20 days. After succeeding in this feat he acquired the title of the Banbury Pedestrian, and posters advertising his achievement were printed, one of which was displayed, but he died from his exertions not long afterwards.

The atmosphere in Banbury between 1789 and 1837 was stormy and changeable. There were election riots, machinery riots, preparations for war, plagues, the destruction of the parish church and the overthrow of the systems of local government which had lasted

since the time of Elizabeth I. It was also a period of great creative activity, the founding of new social institutions, new societies, new churches, of inventions in industry, of plans for railways, of poetry writing and schemes for sanitary reform. It was fitting therefore that the last exhibits should show the summit of creative activity in the town at this time, Alfred Beesley's magnificent History of Banbury of which Volume XII of the illustrated edition was displayed, and also the beginnings of a new era in the account of the coronation celebrations of Queen Victoria. During her reign Banbury became a more peaceful place and the general level of public excitement gradually diminished, but so did the spirit of creativity which makes the years between 1790 and 1837 so memorable.

B.S.T.

* * * * *

A Reception held at the opening of the Exhibition was attended by over a hundred members and guests, including His Worship the Mayor, Councillor J.E. Ryan, and several Aldermen and Councillors. In a brief speech the President said that this was in a way the Society's fifth birthday party; it was formed in 1958 and the fifth records volume was now published. He paid tribute to the work of Mr. B.S. Trinder, who had both conceived and organised the Exhibition; and to the Hon. Secretary, whom he hoped would have to work ever harder on the Society's behalf, as that would be the measure of its increasing size and importance.

A steady stream of people passed through the Exhibition during the afternoon, when it was open to the public, and by 6.00 p.m. well over two hundred in all had visited it. The most often repeated comment was "What a pity it isn't open longer", which well sums up its success.

Lengthy reports and photographs appeared in the Oxford Mail (Banbury edition) of Monday 26th August, and in the Banbury Advertiser the following Wednesday.

"History of the Great Western Railway" by E.T. McDermot, revised by C.R. Clinker. Ian Allan. To be published November 1963. Vol. I £3. 3s. Vol. II. £2. 2s.

This classic of railway history is emphatically not a work of local history nor was it ever intended as such. Its re-publication is nevertheless an event of importance for historians of the Banbury area as it is the only authoritative account of many of the railway schemes, fruitful and otherwise, which aroused such excitement in this district in the 19th century. Mr. Clinker, whose name will be familiar to some of our readers as the author of a Dugdale Society paper on the Birmingham and Derby Railways, has modified the text in the light of recent research and events. We look forward to this third volume, bringing the story up to Nationalisation, which he himself is to write and which should tell us much about Banbury's importance as a railway centre in the 1920's and 30's and during the Second World War, an importance never likely to revive.

Readers of McDermot will be delighted by his account of the race for Banbury between the standard gauge Buckinghamshire Railway, a subsidiary of the L.N.W.R., and the broad gauge Oxford, Fenny Compton and Rugby line being built by the G.W.R. After over six months' delay on the G.W.R. line in 1847 and 1848, which incidently, provided James MacGregor, Tory candidate in the Banbury election of 1847 and himself a railway director, with a mob of unemployed navvies, the Buckinghamshire Railway won and the line to Bletchley was opened on May 1st 1850, an event well described in Sarah Beesley's My Life. When the G.W.R. line was opened through to Birmingham in 1852 the special train carrying the directors and other dignitaries,

pulled by the famous locomotive "Lord of the Isles" fresh from the Crystal Palace, was involved in a collision with a slow train at Aynho. Readers will also find references to the Banbury and Cheltenham Direct Railway opened in 1887 and to the Bicester "cut-off" opened in 1910.

Yet welcome as this reprint is, it leads one to question whether the approach to railway history through the development of the great pre-grouping companies is still the most fruitful. The problems of why the railways were built and what was their economic function are often left unanswered. Yet in the 1830's the success of the railways was by no means assured. In Banbury Library are plans for a new London to Birmingham trunk canal issued in 1836 which was to be of importance to "the agricultural and trading community of Banbury". The Liverpool and Manchester Railway had been operating for years yet clearly the railway could not then be regarded as the obvious transport for the future in southern England. It would be interesting to know what part the railway played in the growth of the foundry industry in Banbury in the second half of the 19th century, but these and similar questions are neither answered nor posed in books like McDermot. What is needed is a series of studies of the grass roots of the railways, relating demands for railways to the local economies which produced them. This will be a complex task, for in Oxfordshire alone, as Mr. Roger Davies of Jesus College, Oxford, revealed in a highly original paper presented to the University Railway Society in 1960, there is an Act of Parliament for every mile of railway actually built. It would be churlish not to show delight at the re-appearance of a classic now all too rare, but the shortcomings of this masterpiece show clearly that if historians of railways are in future to produce work of real value and significance as history they must not neglect the aims, purposes and methods of the local historian.

"The Stockyard of England".

The official guide to Banbury Market.

Worcester Press, for Midland Marts Limited, 1962.

Banbury's chief economic and social function has always been that of a market town, a centre where farmers from surrounding areas can purchase their necessities and sell their produce. Since 1923 however, the cattle market has gained an importance wider than local. In 1924, a total of 9,725 beasts passed through the market; the equivalent figure for 1962 was 442,000. On one recent occasion stock came to the market from no less than 31 English counties. The boast implied in the title is evidently well-justified. The statistics given of the growth and current throughput of the market and the explanation of the current workings of the stockyards are of great interest and may be of value to future historians. Also of interest are a series of short sketches of the development of local firms associated with the market. For these as for the section on the market itself one wishes for a book of this kind published in 1862 or 1762. Perhaps that is sufficient historical recommendation.

OUR COVER

The building shown on the cover of this issue is Warkworth Castle, demolished in 1806. The castle stood on a mound near to the parish church and was of various dates, part of it having been constructed by the Chetwode family in the 16th century and part by the Holmans in the 17th. Anthony Wood visited the house in 1659 when it was occupied by George Holman, whose daughter married Thomas Eyre, concerning whom there is a query in this issue. George Holman and his descendants were Roman Catholics, and it is from Warkworth that the congregation of St. John's Church traces its ancestry. George Holman's brother, Sir John, was M.P. for Banbury after the restoration of Charles II, but in accord with the opinions of the borough, he seems to have been a Presbyterian. The drawing on the cover comes from No. 7 of the Banbury Mechanics' Institute Manuscript Magazine for June 1838 and was made from memory by a member of the Institute. We are most grateful to our member Mr. W. A. Clark of Adderbury for re-drawing it. It makes an interesting comparison with the drawing by Rev. W. Higginson facing pages 93 of Potts' History of Banbury.

The Editor has received the following query from Miss R. Meredith of 15, College Street, Sheffield, 10.

EYRE, Thomas, of Hassop and Warkworth (See Baker's "Northamptonshire", p. 740 ff)

Could any reader give documentary evidence that he was actually residing at Warkworth or present in the Banbury district in 1745-6, especially September 1745 to April 1746.

Miss Meredith would also welcome information about the D'Oyly family at this period, especially the one who acted as Eyre's lawyer.

VISIT TO CANONS ASHBY

On Tuesday 2nd July sixty-five members were most hospitably entertained by Christopher and Peter Woodard at Canons Ashby House, the former home of the Dryden family. The house had been unoccupied for eleven years until the Woodards took up residence in September, 1962 and started the considerable labour of restoring and refurnishing it so that it will again be a fine example of a Tudor home. Most impressive was the enormous flag-stoned kitchen with its ancillary dairy, brewery, laundry and bakery, all of which are to be restored to something like their original condition. Of particular interest was the room in which Spenser reputedly wrote part of "The Faerie Queene". Currently the house is being developed as a Faith Healing Centre.

A.W.P.

VISIT TO ADDERBURY

On Wednesday 28th August about sixty members visited two houses in Adderbury: The Rookery, home of Lord and Lady Elton, and The Grange, home of Mr and Mrs P.E. Middleton. Our hosts combined to start our evening off with a glass of sherry, a generous gesture much appreciated by its recipients.

We were shown round The Rookery by the Hon. Rodney Elton, who had come over specially in the unavoidable absence of Lord and Lady Elton. The house was excellently preserved and little altered from the 17th century. A selection of manorial documents was displayed. In the beautiful gardens it was possible to see an archway and stables, relics of the vanished Cobb mansion.

At The Grange we were given a most interesting and informative account of its medieval religious background by Mr Middleton, before being shown the fine panelled rooms and magnificent staircase. The Cobbs were closely associated with this house too, and a portrait of one of them hung appropriately in the hall. In another really lovely garden there was a dominating magnificent view of the church on one side, and on the other the splendid Tithe Barn.

J.S.W.G.

WROXTON ABBEY

Whilst it seems sad that the four-hundred-year-old ownership of Wroxton Abbey by Trinity College, Oxford, should be broken, its sale to Fairleigh Dickinson University of New Jersey is intriguing and, we believe, good news. It is most appropriate the house should in this way become much more closely connected with education and scholarship. It is particularly satisfactory that the course the students there are to take is partially on English history. The Dean, Dr Haberly has said "We see Wroxton Abbey as the ideal place for these subjects to be pursued because of its many historical associations". In these propitious circumstances it is to be hoped that the links between the Abbey and the Society will remain as close as they were with Lady Pearson.

OXFORD ARCHITECTURAL AND HISTORICAL
SOCIETY

The Society is concerned with the archaeology, history and architecture of the Oxford region. Its activities include lectures, excursions and the publication of an annual journal, Oxoniensia. The Society also endeavours to preserve and safeguard local buildings and monuments. Full membership (to include Oxoniensia) one guinea. Ordinary membership ten shillings.

Apply Hon. Treasurer, O.A. & H.S., Ashmolean Museum, Oxford.

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