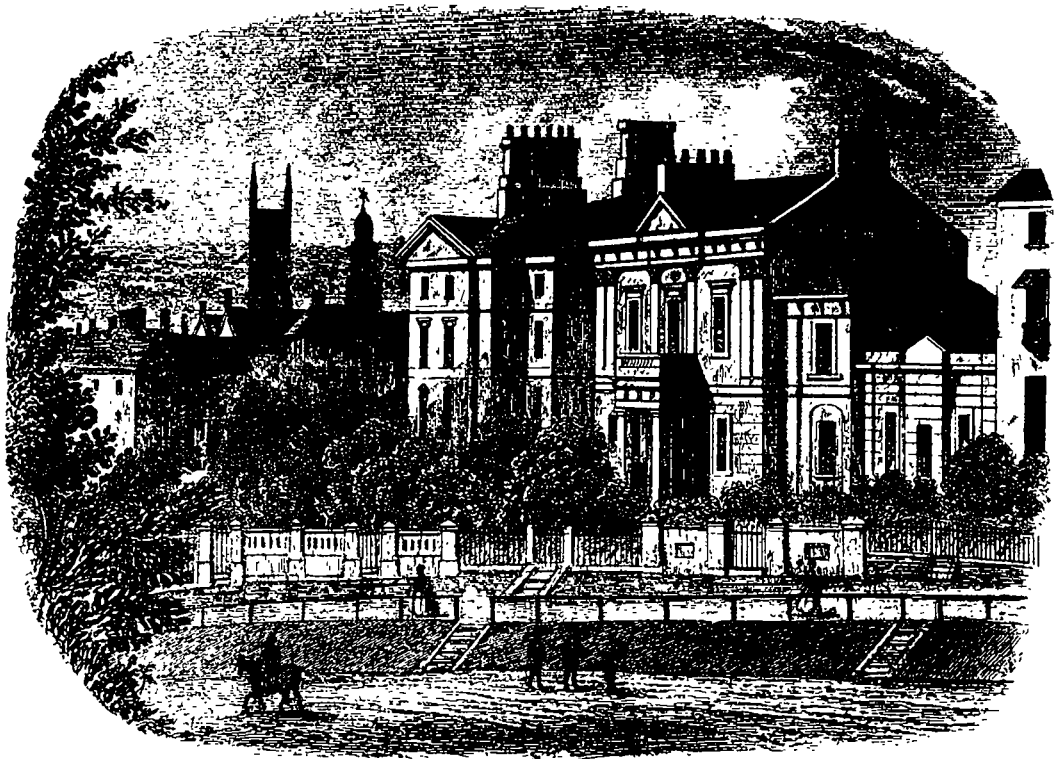


CAKE AND COCKHORSE



Banbury Historical Society

Summer 1966

2s.6d.

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 and 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 and a pamphlet A History of Banbury Cross price 6d have 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 and South Newington Churchwardens' Accounts 1553-1684 have been produced and the Register of Baptisms and Burials for Banbury covering the years 1558 - 1653 is planned for 1965 and 1966.

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 to local country houses and churches are arranged. Archaeological excavations and special exhibitions are arranged 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.

CAKE AND COCKHORSE

The magazine of the Banbury Historical Society. Issued to members four times a year.
Volume Three, Number Four, Summer, 1966.

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On Monday May 2nd 1966 the Globe Room, newly installed in the Municipal Buildings, was officially declared open by the Mayor of Banbury, and from the following Wednesday was on view to the public. At the same time the watch which once belonged to Bazaleel Knight, owner of the Reindeer Inn and the Globe Room, which was recently acquired by the Museum, was on display for the first time.

The return of the panels and the purchase of the watch provide good reasons for the existence of the Banbury Historical Society. If there had been no Historical Society and no projected Globe Room edition of Cake and Cockhorse it may be doubted whether knowledge of the sale of the panels would ever have reached Banbury. (It may not be inappropriate to record at this point that late in 1963 the agent who was selling the panels did write to a responsible official in Banbury, not a corporation employee, to ask if the Reindeer Inn still stood, and was told that it did and that its chief feature was a panelled room called the Globe Room). Even if an individual had learned of the sale of the panels, it may be doubted whether without the authority and resources provided by a society it would have been possible to bring about its purchase by the Council in so short a time.

But the Historical Society does not exist solely to discover panelled rooms and antique timepieces. The Society's publishing programme both of popular pamphlets and of learned records volumes is likely to be of just as much lasting value as the Globe Room and Bazaleel Knight's watch. Records publications, of which the next, the first volume of the Banbury Baptisms and Burials Register will be appearing very shortly, provide raw materials which will be useful to local historians far into the future. Such publications as Old Banbury do much to foster interest in Banbury not merely as a collection of fascinating ancient buildings but also as an organic community.

The Society may congratulate itself on the discovery and restoration of the panels and watch but should not be dismayed if no other such discoveries are made over the next half century. Its work in fostering research into the history of the town and making the results known through publications and meetings is of equal if not greater value.

OUR COVER shows the houses in Oxford Road built c1840 after the break-up of the Calthorpe Estate, and then named Calthorpe Terrace. The drawing dates from c1860 and was one of a series prepared for W. P. Johnson: A Stranger's Guide through Banbury.

SOCIETY NEWS AND ACTIVITIES

Sunday, 12th June, 3.00 p.m. Horse Fair (outside Essoldo Cinema), Banbury.

A "Perambulation" around the North Bar district has been arranged. It is hoped to visit the grounds of the Whately Hall Hotel (the former Three Tuns Inn), the Unitarian Chapel (initially the Presbyterian Chapel), the Quaker Meeting House, the Old Brewery, the site of North Bar, a 17th century house behind the Normeir Tyre Company, the Wool storage yard and the panels inside the house, St. Mary's Church and Churchyard and the Vicarage, and the Almshouses, returning to the Cross by about 4.30 p.m. Members will point out places of special interest and recount their historical associations.

Saturday, 18th June, 4.00 for 4.15 p.m. Annual General Meeting. Heythrop College, near Chipping Norton, by kind invitation of the Rector. A short talk on the house and its history will be given by the Rev. Kenneth Nugent. As well as seeing the principal rooms in the house members will have the opportunity of exploring the extensive grounds.

It is hoped to organise one or two country house excursions during the summer. Five Church Architecture visits have been arranged, to Marston St. Lawrence, Thenford, Warkworth, Barford St. Michael and Fawsley. Any member who would like and has not already received details of these should apply immediately to Dr. G.E. Gardam, 116 Bloxham Road, Banbury (Tel: 2841).

Autumn Lectures on Church History

A series of ten weekly lectures on "English Church History from the Reformation to the present day" will begin on Wednesday, October 5th, at 7.30 p.m. in the Reference Room at Banbury Public Library. The course will be given by E.R.C. Brinkworth, Hon. Research Adviser to the Banbury Historical Society and Director of Archive Studies for the West Midlands. The talks will be profusely illustrated with slides and special reference will be made throughout to events in Banbury and district and to such notable local figures as William Whately, Samuel Wells and William Wilson. The series is under the joint auspices of the Oxford University Delegacy of Extra-Mural Studies, the Banbury Historical Society and Banbury Parish Church.

The Globe Room

To mark the opening of the Globe Room the Society held a Reception on the evening of Tuesday, 3rd May, by kind permission of the Chairman of the Libraries and Museum Committee of the Council. We were very pleased to welcome His Worship the Mayor, Councillor Mrs. Wilson, as our Guest of Honour, as well as the Mayoress, Councillor Mrs. P.J. Colegrave, who was also attending in her capacity as a member of the Society. Approaching a hundred and fifty members and their guests were present, and apologies for absence were received from many more.

DR. THOMAS LOVEDAY

With the death of Thomas Loveday, of Williamscoote, the Society has lost one of its most distinguished members, who always took a close interest in our affairs. For many years Vice-Chancellor of Bristol University, Dr. Loveday was the head of the family who have lived at Williamscoote since the early 17th century.

His scholarly introduction contributed greatly to the interest and value of the Registers of Williamscoote School which were published in Cake & Cockhorse in 1963. Members will also remember the Society's visit to Williamscoote on a beautiful June day the previous year. Despite failing sight he would always lovingly show visitors the house, the heirlooms, books and portraits. Those who knew him in recent years will always like to remember him as he was so often to be found, seated on the south-facing terrace with the view over the Cherwell Valley, in a sunlit old age.

We also record with great regret the deaths of our members Mr. A.M. Colliard and Miss M.G. Stokes.

Our Neithrop Issue, containing a long article based on Vicar Wilson's survey of 1851, will now appear in November.

GENERAL ELECTION, 1715-STYLE

Lord Guilford to Mr. Clarson - letter on the Corporation Concerns at Banbury.

Sr

I have wrote by this post to Mr Mayor, and to you all in general, to express the Great concern I have for the prosperity of your Corporation, which I thought I could never have more effectually consulted than when I recommended that worthy Gentleman Sr Jonath: Cope to succeed my Dear Brother; you have allready had some experience of him in the last Session of Parliament wherein, to my certain knowledge, he acquitted himself as an honest Gentleman, with due regard to the true interest of his Country and so that I thought it was impossible that he should have met with any opposition among you this Election; and I am fully convinced he never had, but from the turbulent factious Spirits of some among you that are never easy whilst the Corporation is at peace; and because I am sure that was never your temper, who have allways kept steady to the interest I have recommended, I take this opportunity to express the grateful Sence I have of your past kindness to me, & my Dear Brother and to my Friend Sr Jonathan Cope, in his last Election; not doubting but that you will still continue the same on all occasions your-Self, and forward and promote the same disposition in your Bretheren. It is a particular pleasure to me to hear your two Sons follow your Example, and I assure you, and them, you can oblige no friend that will be more ready and willing to serve the Corporation in General, and your family in particular, than

Your most faithfull
Humble Servant

Guilford

Pray give my Service
to the good woman Mrs
Harvey, & your two Sons
Mr. Clarson and Mr. Andrew
Harvey

Durdanes Decbr: 30th
1714

For well over a century before the Great Reform Act the North family of Wroxton Abbey nominated Banbury's member of Parliament at almost every general election. Before 1832 only members of the Corporation could vote, and in this letter Francis North second Baron Guilford urges one of them, Henry Clarson, to support the sitting member, Sir Jonathan Cope, against opposition which had apparently developed among other members of the Corporation. Lord Guilford's appeals to Clarson and others were evidently successful, for he was spared the expense of a contest in the election of 1715.

Sir Jonathan Cope (1690-1765) first sat for Banbury in the parliament of 1713. He was created Baronet in the following year, and is commemorated by a tablet in Hanwell church. In the parliaments of 1701, 1702, 1705, 1708 and 1710 Banbury was represented by the Hon. Charles North (1677-1714), the "dear brother" mentioned by Lord Guilford. Lord Guilford was grandfather of the Lord North who as Prime Minister lost the American colonies and himself represented Banbury from 1754 to 1790.

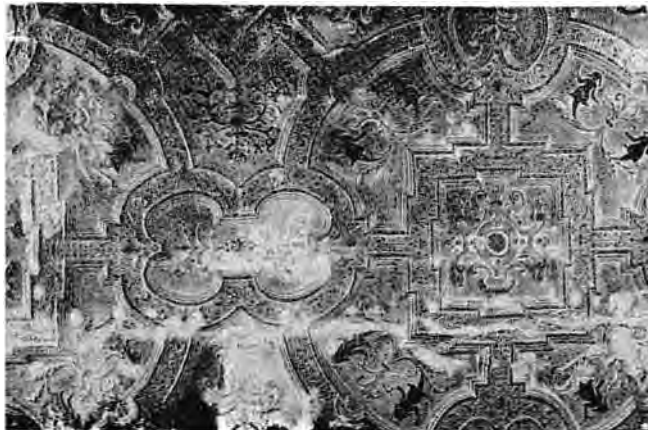
A Henry Clarson was Mayor of Banbury in 1732. This was probably one of the "sons" mentioned in the postscript to the letter, who had in 1702 married Abigail, daughter of Malachi Harvey (d.1718); the other, Andrew Harvey, being her brother. "The good woman Mrs Harvey" may have been their mother Lucy (d.1719).

The original manuscript of this letter is in Banbury Museum.

B. S. T. and J. S. W. G.



The ceiling at the Britannic Assurance Company's office on the Green, Banbury
(photograph: Gretsel Press)



Detail of the original Globe Room ceiling
(now destroyed)

THE GLOBE ROOM CEILING

An article in "Cake and Cockhorse" of November 1964 suggested that further investigation might reveal the identification of the Plasterer who made the fine decorated plaster ceiling of the Globe Room in about 1637 but was hardly so bold as to suggest that the ceiling may be found.

For many years I had known there was a ribbed decorated ceiling in the front room of the Britannic Assurance Company's Office on the Green in Banbury. A visit confirmed what I had come to believe after studying the illustration in "Cake and Cockhorse" that there was a similarity between this ceiling and that of the Globe Room at the old Reindeer Inn. The local Press reported my conclusions that the same Craftsman had been employed on both and that there were portions in each which were identical.

There are, of course, in the district a number of examples of decorative plaster work, even if only fragments, still in existence. Broughton Castle Oak room ceiling is one, undated, though the White Drawing Room ceiling above bears the date 1599. An interesting decorated panel was recorded and preserved when the old Weavers Cottages at Sycamore Terrace in Bloxham were restored in 1949. A local plasterer now working on the building of a new house within five miles of Banbury has suggested that the moulds he made some years ago might be used again for the Hall ceiling enrichment. The craft and skill have persisted.

The ceiling in the house on the Green was in the ground floor front room. Unfortunately, when the front wall was rebuilt about eleven years ago most of the ceiling was destroyed but a portion remains in what is now the entrance hall. This in many ways is identical with the lost Globe Room ceiling. It is almost certainly not part of the Globe Room ceiling because there is a fireplace in the building of the same period and the remains of the cornice and such like details which indicate it was part of the original structure. The decorations applied to the panels differ in both ceilings which supports my assertion that they are two distinct ceilings. However this may be, I am convinced that the work was contrived by the same hands.

The ribs of both ceilings form the same pattern having broken squares and double heart-shaped or hour-glass panels connected with short intermediate ribs. The radius of the curves is identical, as are the enrichments except those of the small connecting ribs which would necessarily vary where precast patterns had to be fitted into different areas.

During restoration work at Broughton Castle several spare pieces of ribs were discovered which had obviously been cast for the Oak Room ceiling but which had been surplus to requirements. The section showed how they had been built up. They were cast in short lengths with appropriate enrichments and then secured to the ceiling, the junctions afterwards being made up with the trowel. This is quite obvious too in the Britannic ceiling and, from a study of photographs, in the Globe Room ceiling.

The moulding of the ribs of the Britannic ceiling have a beaded edge on the inner side adjoining the enrichment and a small fillet or square moulding against the panels. Those at the Globe Room had an additional cavetto or quarter hollow mould where they met the flat plaster of the panels, but a study of the angles of the squares proves that the cavetto mould was worked in situ after the ribs were fixed. The points of the angles of the squares in both examples have a peculiarity in that they are very slightly pinched out rather more acutely than a right angle. This attenuating is exaggerated in the additional cavetto mould of the Globe Room and varies somewhat at each angle, which they would not do if cast from a mould.

A refinement about the Globe Room enrichments of the ribs was that in places they had been outlined with the modelling tool, giving them a distinct crispness. It would be interesting to clean the accumulation of whitening and distemper from those at the Britannic offices to see if the same artistry was apparent in this ceiling and so give added confirmation of the same authorship.

It would be wrong to attempt to rob the house on the Green of its ceiling to completely restore the Globe Room. Suitable plaques might be fixed to each so that the affinity of the one to the other is known and assured.

G. Forsyth Lawson

Summary Catalogue of the Privately-Deposited Records
in the Oxfordshire County Record Office

Record Publication No. 4, published by the Clerk of the County Council,
County Hall, Oxford, 1966. Quarto. pp. i-x, 1-158, index. 21s. (plus
postage, 2/-).

England is the richest country in the world for local records, and in spite of all the work that has been done the surface has barely been scratched. A look through the present Catalogue will soon convince one of that. Here is wealth indeed; prodigious, as the dominie remarked.

This volume also bears striking testimony to the widespread awareness of the value of historical records which has developed during the last decade or so, and to the right conscience as to their keeping which has grown along with it. Alas, it was not always thus. The present reviewer could tell some harrowing stories of major and utterly needless losses in Banbury. But it is no good crying. Rather, let us be grateful that so large an amount of material is now safe in the County Record Office; grateful to the many depositors, to Mr. H. M. Walton and his staff for bringing this about. We are further indebted to Mr. Walton and his staff, particularly the Assistant Archivist Miss M. Jones and Mr. J. Bolton, and advisers, for preparing this Catalogue before us. Any such compilation presents formidable problems, but here these are overcome in an admirably neat, efficient and scholarly manner. The introduction describes the principles upon which the Catalogue is arranged and gives a useful survey of the many locations other than the County Record Office in which local historical records of Oxfordshire are to be found.

Few places are unrepresented in the Catalogue. For many there is a very large amount of material. Banbury is among these. Messrs. Stockton Sons and Fortescue made the largest contribution. The listing of it runs to fifteen pages and provides a good example of the extent and variety of the records that may be found in the offices of long established firms of solicitors: deeds, court rolls, terriers, turnpike papers, land tax assessments, correspondence, maps, etc., etc. Messrs. Stockton dealt with most of the legal business in the Banbury area and so the deposit is one of particular importance. The firm handled all the affairs of Sir Bernhard Samuelson who from small beginnings at Banbury in 1849 became one of the great ironmasters with works at Middlesborough as well as at Banbury. He was M. P. for Banbury in 1859 and from 1865 to 1885, when he became the Member for the newly formed constituency of North Oxfordshire and remained so until 1895. His political papers, poll books, canvassers' lists, minutes of the local Reform Association, bills of costs, election posters, etc. are of great value for the history of the working of politics. Sir Bernhard was a pioneer in technical education in Britain and, much to the benefit of Banbury, his activities began at home. A large number of papers concern his rehousing of the Mechanics' Institute in 1884, developing it into the School for Science in Marlborough Road. He was mainly responsible for the opening of the Technical School on the same site in 1893.

This Catalogue is of course primarily a reference book, but it is also one to be browsed in and even read through: a great deal is to be gained thereby, for its calorific value is indeed high. It has a moral, too. The public-spirited action of all these many depositors should inspire others, whenever the opportunity occurs, to go and do likewise.

E. R. C. B.

The Warwickshire County Record Office has for some time been engaged in a survey of the older records relating to Nonconformity in Warwickshire. Its purpose is to list the records of each church, to give advice on their storage and preservation and to encourage the deposit of the older records which are no longer needed for legal or administrative purposes on loan for safekeeping in the County Record Office. A subject of concern is that of listing the records of chapels which have closed. As no-one is responsible for them, they are in danger of the salvage cart and may be lost for ever. The Warwickshire County Archivist, Mr. A. Wood, Shire Hall, Warwick, would be very pleased to hear from anyone who can offer assistance.

The Oxfordshire and Northamptonshire Record Offices will also no doubt like to hear of records of this sort.

GILKES OF SIBFORD : AN ENTERPRISING YEOMAN FAMILY

The families of the parish of Swalcliffe, which until the late 19th century included the present parish of Sibford, have three unusual characteristics : the length of their connection with the parish; the number of freeholders that they included; and the vigour with which they thrust out branches from this small remote village all over the Kingdom.

The Gilkes family is a good example under all three heads. It was established there as early as 1525, and as will be seen probably over a century earlier, and members of the family still live at Swalcliffe and all round the neighbourhood. At the Poll of 1754 no less than eight Gilkeses were registered in Sibford as forty-shilling freeholders entitled to elect the Knights of the Shire; and when the freeholders of Sibford Gower were compensated under the Sibford Gower Enclosure Award of 1773, eight Thomas Gilkeses received payments, distinguished in the award as "Thomas Gilkes, Sweetbriar" (probably a nickname or a house name; his award of £129 was the third largest), "Thomas Gilkes, at ye Well", "Thomas Gilkes, Charlbury", "Thomas Gilkes, Adderbury", "Thomas Gilkes, Slathouse" (presumably he lived in a slate-roofed house), and so on. They also established branches, not only in neighbouring villages like Barford, Charlbury and Adderbury, but as far afield as London, Buckingham, Devizes in Wiltshire, Nailsworth in Gloucestershire, Leominster in Herefordshire, Middlesborough in Yorkshire, and even Kendal in distant Westmorland.

It is almost certain that John Gylkes, or Jylkes, master carpenter, belonged to this family. He was first employed by New College on the hall and stable of their rectory of Swalcliffe in 1397-98, and on farm buildings there in 1408-9 and 1412-13, and was therefore very probably a native of the village. He worked at Adderbury about 1410/11, when he was given livery by the college and twice received commons. In 1412 he was on a large amount of outside work for the college and in particular was erecting a house at Drayton. In 1412/13 he was again given livery by the college and in 1418/19 was paid 5s. 3d. for covering a drain by the college. In 1421/23 his chief work was at Adderbury and from 1423 to 1433 he was working on the chapel at Swalcliffe. In 1423/24 he was working at Upper Heyford, and, with John Wiltshire, repaired Patys Inn in Oxford for New College in 1427-29(1).

At the Lay Subsidy of 1525 two contemporary Thomas Gilkeses were assessed as freeholders, one as of Sibford Ferris and the other as of Sibford Gower. To deal first with the Sibford Ferris family, this Thomas' descendants were registered as freeholders in 1525, 1546 and 1643, and can be traced in unbroken line to the middle of the 18th century; but there is nothing worthy of note to record about them, and the rest of this article is devoted to Thomas of Sibford Gower and his issue. They also were assessed as freeholders; in 1525, 1546, 1566, 1571, 1581, 1597, 1643, 1644, 1646 and 1662. John Gilkes, of Sibford Ferris, Mason, a descendant of this branch, was buried on the 25th October 1678, "ye first that was buried in wollens according to ye Act of Parli": as the Swalcliffe register records; and it also records the burial in 1677 of his fourteen year old son - "John, son of John Gilkes, mason, Hee was taken away morte repentina". Other entries indicate that the family owned The Grange in Sibford Gower about this time. Two members, Richard (1595-1636) and his son Thomas (died 1647) were Innkeepers at Sibford Gower.

In the early 18th century the family was represented by John, of "Broad Sibford" (baptized 25 December 1709, buried 10 August 1764), who was fourth in descent from Richard the Innkeeper. He bought freeholds in Sibford Gower in 1745 from the Calcots(2), and his only son John (1739-1820) further increased the family possessions, partly by purchase of freeholds in Sibford Gower and Burdrop from the Clarkes of Long Compton(2); and partly in Long Compton through his marriage there on the 10th February 1772 to Elizabeth (1732-1782), the eldest daughter and eventual co-heir of Richard Taplin, or Tappyn, of Long Compton, Gent., by Mary only daughter and heir of Robert Buller of Long Compton. In 1795 he was a large shareholder in the Boat and Coal Company of Warwick, and is the first of the family to be styled "Gent". His only son, John Gilkes, of Sibford Gower and Burdrop, was baptized on the 1st March 1777. When a subscription was raised in 1839 from the Sibford inhabitants towards the cost of the new church, John and his brother-in-law Edward Dix were the two largest subscribers; and as attorney for his

cousin the Rev. William Gilkes (of whom later), John executed a Deed of Gift on the 19th December 1839 of the site of the church and churchyard. In 1845 he also presented to the village the drinking well, now unfortunately in a dilapidated condition. John's only child Sarah married on the 20th May 1812 John Gautherne, Widower, who as "John Gautherne, Gent., aged 30", was baptised on the 21st July 1814. They had two children, William Gilkes Gautherne, baptised on the 29th May 1816, and Jane Sarah Gautherne, on the 31st January 1818; of whom there is no further record. John Gilkes' only sister Mary (1774-1859) married in 1795 Edward Dix (1764-1839) of Little Sibford, Churchwarden of Swalcliffe and lord of a moiety of Epwell Manor, by whom she had (with 4 daughters) 11 sons, not one of whom had male issue. The eldest son, John Gilkes Dix (1796-1844), of Farmington in Shutford, was completely disinherited by his father for marrying, at St. Martin-in-the-Fields, on the 7th March 1826, Mary Anne, the eldest daughter of Charles Fortnum (1770-1860) of South Newington, Oxon., a proprietor of the celebrated grocery firm of Messrs. Fortnum and Mason, by his first wife Sophia King. Poor John Gilkes did not make up on the round-about what he lost on the swings, for Mr. Fortnum, who was equally opposed to the match, married again and left his large fortune to his only surviving son by this union, Charles Drury Edward Fortnum (1820-1899), a noted art collector and benefactor, Vice-President of the Society of Antiquaries, and of the Royal Archaeological Institute, who obtained a place for himself in the Dictionary of National Biography, in which it is stated that his "strongest claim to regard is based on his splendid benefactions to Oxford University. He was the second founder of the Ashmolean Museum". The grateful University in due course conferred on him the honorary degree of Doctor of Civil Law. He died without issue, leaving his residuary estate to the Ashmolean, subject to a large legacy to the British Museum, of which he was a Trustee. To his nieces, the five daughters of Mary Anne Dix, he bequeathed 100 guineas apiece.

It might perhaps be recorded here that the Fortnums had been settled in Oxfordshire as early as the 13th century; and as yeoman proprietors in Enstone and South Newington at least from the middle of the 16th century. In 1705 William Fortnum of South Newington settled in London, lodging with a shopkeeper called Hugh Mason in St. James's Market. In 1707 he became a Footman to Queen Anne, when his perquisites included the Court's used candles; and on the side he began a used-candles business with his landlord Mason, which developed into the famous Piccadilly firm of Fortnum and Mason. His grandson Charles Fortnum (1738-1815) was a Footman in Queen Charlotte's service, and is mentioned in Fanny Burney's Diary. In 1807 he became a Page of the Presence, an important and responsible official, "the equivalent of an Equerry or Private Secretary today"; and in 1809 was promoted Groom of the Chamber, a post that he held till his death⁽³⁾. He was the great-uncle of Mary Anne Fortnum.

To return to the Gilkes family, John Gilkes (1739-1820) had a second cousin Nehemiah Gilkes (1732-1806), also a considerable owner of property in Sibford, who by Elizabeth daughter of Richard Hopkins of Sibford had a second son William, baptised on the 25th April 1766. He was apprenticed⁽⁴⁾ to his first cousin Joseph Hopkins of 17 Bread Street in the City of London, Cooper (the London Directory for 1790 describes him as a Sugar Cooper), and was admitted a liveryman of the Coopers Company on the 7th October 1794⁽⁴⁾. They carried on subsequently as Gilkes and Hopkins, Coopers, of 10 Old Fish Street, near the Monument. He is described in documents as of the parish of St. Nicholas, Cole Abbey, in the City, Merchant, and of Hampstead Heath, Middlesex, Gent. He married on the 20th January 1796⁽⁵⁾ Elizabeth (1767-1848) daughter of William Wilkes of Sutton-under-Brailes, and "departed this life after a few day's illness" on the 6th February 1827⁽⁶⁾. His only surviving child, the Rev. William Gilkes, M.A., of Pembroke College, Oxford, and in holy orders of the Established Church, was born on the 24th March 1807. He settled in Brighton, and "being uncertain of any Armourial Ensigns pertaining to his family", obtained on the 17th April 1830 a grant of arms, viz:- Azure on a chevron between two lions rampant in chief argent and a stag trippant in base proper, three cross crosslets of the first; and for a crest, Two arrows in saltire, the barbs downwards proper surmounted by a bezant charged with an eagle's head erased sable. The motto was "Et vitam impendere vero"⁽⁵⁾. In fact the Gilkeses had already used at times a most attractive coat, Ermine on 3 chevrons azure between 9 annulets gules as many bezants. These arms appear on pedigrees prepared for the family about 1820 by a professional genealogist; but there is no record of them in the College of Arms although on the doubtful authority of Burke's General

Armoury they are ascribed to a family of Gelks, with no geographical designation. It has already been mentioned that William Gilkes in 1839 granted land for Sibford church. He died unmarried on the 21st February 1844⁽⁶⁾, with whom his branch expired.

We now revert to an earlier member of this branch in Thomas, of Sibford Gower, who was baptised on the 30th November 1645, and assessed as a freeholder in 1662. He joined the Society of Friends, and with Bray D'Oyly at Adderbury, Thomas Farndon of North Newington and others founded the Sibford Gower Meeting House 1678-1681⁽⁷⁾. His eldest son, Thomas, of Sibford Gower, Quaker, Blacksmith and Clockmaker "pioneered his clockmaking industry in north Oxfordshire villages, which his brother Quakers developed so successfully that in some villages they held the monopoly of this craft for over 150 years"⁽⁸⁾. Dr. Beeson says that it is "uncertain where he learnt his trade, but, as a Quaker he should have been apprenticed to a Quaker, of whom the most likely is Richard Gilkes of the London Clockmakers' Company in 1686⁽⁸⁾". It would therefore seem that an earlier Sibford Gilkes was established as a Quaker clockmaker in London. The Friends' Records of the London Monthly Meetings unfortunately throw no light on this problem, but he can probably be identified with a member of this branch in Richard Gilkes, who was baptised on the 5th February 1644/5 and of whom there is no further record in the Swalcliffe registers or Banbury Monthly (Quaker) Meetings. Thomas the Sibford Clockmaker married at Shipton-under-Wychwood on the 16th February 1701/2 Ann Rollright - "Thomas Gilkes of Sibford and Ann Rollright of Great Rollright"⁽⁹⁾. She was the daughter of Edward Rollright of Great Rollright and grand-daughter of another Edward who was taxed in Great Rollright for 4 hearths in 1665⁽¹⁰⁾, and whose ancestors presumably took their name from this village; Gilkes descendants of this marriage prided themselves on their descent from "one of the original Oxfordshire families". A full account of the most attractive clock faces designed by Thomas and his descendants will be found in Beeson, beautifully illustrated⁽¹¹⁾. One of Thomas' apprentices was the well-known John Farndon (1700-1743) of Deddington⁽¹²⁾.

Thomas and Ann Gilkes had (with a daughter Mary who was born on the 31st October 1702⁽¹³⁾ married on the 8th March 1731⁽¹³⁾ Stephen Ashby of Plumpton, Northants, Husbandman, and had issue) five sons, of whom the second John (1707-1743) was a prosperous and well-to-do Woolcomber in Burdrop, as is shown by his Will⁽¹⁴⁾; he left 5 sons and 2 daughters. Thomas' third son, Simon, of Great Barford Grounds, Yeoman, born on the 28th April 1710⁽¹³⁾, founded the Barford line. Of the fourth son, William, all that is known is the date of his birth, the 4th December 1712⁽¹³⁾. The youngest son, Richard, born on the 18th April 1715⁽¹³⁾, was a very well-known clockmaker at Adderbury⁽¹⁵⁾. He died on the 14th February 1782⁽¹³⁾ without surviving issue except for a daughter Grace, wife of Francis Hastie. Richard held property at Ludgershall in Buckinghamshire: "Richard Gilkes of Adderbury, Co. Oxon., held lands here by allotment under the Inclosure Act in 1777. His estate passed by the marriage of his daughter to Francis Hastie, Esq., of Great Haseley, at whose death it passed in right of his daughter and heir, Mary Gilkes-Hastie, to her husband, John Ingram-Lockhart, Esq., Barrister-at-law, D.C.L., M.P. for Oxford 1809 to 1830 ..."⁽¹⁶⁾.

The eldest son of Thomas Gilkes and Ann Rollright, also called Thomas, was born on the 8th June 1704⁽¹³⁾, and in 1735 was a blacksmith at Sibford Gower, but shortly afterwards had set up as a Clockmaker at Charlbury⁽¹⁷⁾. He was a Quaker Minister too; the record of his burial on the 25th March 1757 at the Friends Burial Ground at Sibford reads "Thomas Gilkes, Senior, an eminent Minister"⁽¹³⁾. Thomas, his eldest son, will be noted later as ancestor of the Herefordshire branch of the family. His second son Richard (1745-1822), of Devizes, Wiltshire, clockmaker, founded a most interesting junior branch, through his eldest son, Benjamin Gilbert Gilkes, of Bamford Hall and Barn Close in Nailsworth, Glos., sometime Superintendent (Headmaster) of the well-known Friends School at Sidcot, Winscombe, Somerset. He married first at Dover on the 12th June 1804 Marion, daughter of Isaac Bedford by Mary daughter of Peter Smith "of the stock of the martyrs"⁽¹⁸⁾, by whom he had 6 sons and 4 daughters; and secondly Mary Anne Pegler, by whom he had another son and 2 more daughters. His eldest son Bedford had a second son Gilbert (1845-1920), an Ironmaster at Kendal in Westmorland and Mayor of that town. It was, however, B.G. Gilkes' fifth son, Edgar (1821-1894) who carved out for himself such a prominent position, only for his life to fall into ruins at the height of his success. With his

kinsman William Randolph Innes Hopkins, a descendant of the Sibford family - a second instance of the two families collaborating "in distant parts" - he was "the pioneer of the Cleveland Iron Trade"(19). Both men were Justices of the Peace, and Aldermen and Mayors of Middlesbrough, and their names appear in the middle of the last century on all the charitable committees in that neighbourhood. They were later partners or directors in the great firms of Hopkins Gilkes and Company Limited; Gilkes, Wilson and Leatham; and Gilkes, Wilson, Pearce and Company-owning numerous iron works, foundries and furnaces on Tees-side. In 1874 Hopkins Gilkes and Company took over and completed the contract for the Tay Bridge. On the 28th December 1879 occurred the terrible Tay Bridge disaster, when at the height of a storm the bridge collapsed carrying a train and all its passengers to destruction. A Government Commission of Inquiry was immediately set up, but even before it had started the designer of the bridge, Sir Thomas Bouch, died from shock. At the inquiry Edgar Gilkes gave the evidence on behalf of his firm: he had been connected with the manufacture and making of iron structures since 1842; he had constructed a great many bridges and viaducts in the United Kingdom, Norway, North Russia and other parts of the world, including the Beelah, Deep Dale, and Cockfield viaducts, the Kingston and Kew Bridges, the Wear Bridge at Sunderland, and the Albert and Victoria bridges in Windsor Park. The Commission found that "in the course of the examinations . . . charges of a very grave and compromising character were made as to the quality of the iron and the workmanship at the Wormit Foundry [of Hopkins Gilkes and Company]. And although all those charges were not fully established, enough has in our opinion been proved to show that there were defects introduced into the structure which should never have been there, and which certainly did very seriously affect its stability" (20). Although the Commission found that faulty design was the chief cause of the bridge's collapse, they added that "we think also that Messrs. Hopkins Gilkes and Company are not free from blame for having allowed such grave irregularities to go on at the Wormit Foundry. Had competent persons been appointed to superintend the work there, instead of its being left almost wholly in the hands of the foreman moulder, there can be little doubt that the columns would not have been sent out to the bridge with the serious defects which have been pointed out. . . . The great object seems to have been to get through the work with as little delay as possible, without seeing whether it was properly and carefully executed or not"(21). Under a final heading, "Responsibility for the Action", the Commission stated that "the conclusion, then, to which we have come, is that this bridge was badly designed, badly constructed, and badly maintained, and that its downfall was due to the inherent defects in its structure which must sooner or later have brought it down. For those defects both in the design, the construction and the maintenance, Sir Thomas Bouch is, in our opinion, mainly to blame."(22) After these findings Edgar Gilkes retired into obscurity, a ruined man.

We return to Thomas Gilkes, eldest son of Thomas, the Charlbury clockmaker. He was born on the 25th May 1736⁽¹³⁾ and succeeded his father as the village clockmaker⁽²³⁾. On the 27th August 1764⁽¹³⁾ he married Sarah, daughter of Richard Farnod of North Newington, and he died on the 14th February 1779⁽¹³⁾, having had 5 sons and 3 daughters. His fourth son William (born 8th November 1774)⁽¹³⁾, of Hook Norton and later of Buckingham, Cabinet Maker, had a third son William (1813-1867) of Leominster, Chemist and "Gent". In 1844 he married an Anglican, Mary daughter of Richard Heming of Kingsland, Herefordshire, as a result of which he joined the Established Church. His grand-daughter writes that "He was turned out of the Society of Friends on his marriage with an Anglican I have a somewhat amusing document - 1844 - in which more in sorrow than in anger they feel obliged to put him outside their society - as was the custom of those days"(24). His grand-daughter throws an attractive light on him: "He was fond of adventure and travel in his young days. He took £5 and walked across France to the Great St. Bernard Monastery. I have the journal he wrote and carried with him in 1836 Also the diary he kept when he and my grandmother went to see the Great Exhibition in 1851, travelling by coach as far as Gloucester, in which he very truly remarks that 'they felt safer in the train than galloping up and down the hills into Gloucester, as the coach swayed so'. He seemed grieved to find in London that so few Quakers still wore the old dress - showing they had not the courage of their opinions".(25)

William had 7 sons and 4 daughters. Four of the sons were doctors of medicine; Lieut. Col. Geoffrey Henry Gilkes, D.S.O., R.A., of Hookley Down, Chilbolton, Stockbridge, Hants, is the younger son of his seventh son, the late Dr. Ernest Osmond Gilkes of Brighton and of Llangrove, Herefordshire. William's fourth son was Arthur Herman Gilkes, the celebrated Master of Dulwich, who was born about 1849, entering Shrewsbury School in 1860 at the age of eleven. From Shrewsbury in 1868 he obtained a Senior studentship at Christ College, Oxford. He was First in Mods.(1870) and B. A.(1st Lit. Hum.) in 1872. A member of the University Football XI., he was a founder of the Oxford University Football Association. In 1873 he returned to his old school as an assistant master: "In whatever group he be placed - scholar, athlete, teacher, administrator or philanthropist - Gilkes like a second Saul overtops his generation 'from his shoulders upwards'. His commanding presence, the classic beauty of his head and features, the dignity of his movements, would have marked him out in any company; the casket was worthy of the jewel it contained".⁽²⁶⁾ He left Shrewsbury in 1885 on his appointment to Dulwich, of which he was Master until 1914. The details of his brilliant career there will be found recorded in "Gilkes and Dulwich, 1885-1914. A Study of a Great Headmaster", by W.R.M. Leake and others⁽²⁷⁾. After his retirement he was ordained, and was Vicar of St. Mary Magdalen, Oxford, from 1917 until his death in 1923. He took a great interest in his Sibford forbears and frequently stayed there with his friend Frank Lascelles, the pageant master.

The Rev. A.H. Gilkes had four distinguished sons. The eldest, Martin Heming Gilkes, M.C. (1893-1945), suffered the loss of a leg in the First World War. An Assistant Master at Shrewsbury for some years, he was the author of "Some Modern Poetry"; "On Poetry" (1934); and "A Key to English Poetry" (1937). He also compiled in 1939 an anthology of poetry under the title of "Tribute to England", and was one of the editors of "Public School Verse". The second son, Colonel Humphrey Arthur Gilkes (1895-1945), served with the Surrey Rifles being decorated with the M.C. and three bars, of which outstanding distinction there were only two other instances in the First World War. After the War he graduated in medicine and joined the Colonial Medical Service, in which he served with distinction as Assistant Surgeon-General at Trinidad 1936-40 and as Deputy Director of Medical Services in Uganda in 1940. He was seconded to the R. A. M. C. and appointed in 1943 Principal Medical Officer in British Somaliland, where he did much to re-establish the medical services in the former Italian Somaliland and then in British Somaliland. The author of several books on Africa, he was killed in a flying accident at Jibuti on the 11th July 1945. The third son, Christopher Herman Gilkes (1898-1953), followed in his father's footsteps as Master of Dulwich, 1941-53, having previously been Headmaster of Stockport Grammar School 1928-1941. At Dulwich "he followed the old traditions largely, but at the same time realized the value of many recent theories and practices in education and was not slow to introduce changes which he felt would benefit the school in its work. The boys were in his day drawn from a much wider field of the population than had been usual in his younger days, but he sought to impress on all the Dulwich stamp of character, devotion and comradeship as well as sound learning".⁽²⁸⁾ The youngest son is Mr. Anthony Newcombe Gilkes, who was born on the 2nd August 1900. He was Headmaster of Dean Close School 1946-1953, and High Master of St. Paul's School 1954-62. By Agatha Ruby his wife, daughter of the late Dr. Shaw, Bishop of Buckingham, he has four sons to carry on the name.

M. L. Dix-Hamilton

Authorities (Baptisms, Marriages and Burials from Swalcliffe Registers unless otherwise stated.)

1. Oxford Carpenters 1370-1530, E. A. Gee (Oxoniensia Vol. XVII/XVIII), 165; English Medieval Architects, J.H. Harvey (1954), 152; Traditional Domestic Architecture of the Banbury Region, R.B. Wood-Jones (1963), 22.
2. Deeds in writer's possession.
3. Information from Fortnum & Mason Ltd.
4. Records of Coopers Co., Guildhall Library.
5. Coll. of Arms Vol. XXXVIII f.62.
6. His Monument, St. Nicholas Cole Abbey.

7. Records of Friends House Library, London.
8. Dr. C.F.C. Beeson, *Clockmaking in Oxfordshire 1400-1850*, 105.
9. Shipton Register.
10. Hearth Tax Returns 1665.
11. Beeson, op. cit., 100, 101.
12. Beeson, 96.
13. Banbury Quaker Monthly Meetings, records at Friends House, London.
14. Dated 18th June 1743, pr. 31 Oct. 1743, Sibford Book, Bodleian Library.
15. Beeson, 101, 102.
16. Lipscomb's Bucks. 1., 312.
17. Beeson 103, 104.
18. Family Pedigree.
19. Sidcot School Register.
20. Papers of the House of Commons, 1880, Vol. 39 (Report of the Committee of Inquiry upon the Circumstances attending the Fall of a Portion of the Tay Bridge on the 28th December 1879), para. 80.
21. 1b., para. 121.
22. 1b., para. 120.
23. Beeson, 104.
24. Letter of 28th July 1948 from his grand-daughter Miss Enid M. Hill.
25. Letter of 5th August 1948 from Miss Hill.
26. Salopian Year Book 1923.
27. Published 1929.
28. "The Times" Obituary Notice of 4th September, 1953.

THE KNIGHT WATCH

The watch recently purchased for the Banbury Borough Museum is of a rare type and moreover, being a special order, is unique. Its dial (or face) has the hour numerals I to VI in roman figures with super-imposed arabic figures 7 to 12. Thus the hour hand revolves twice in 12 hours. Although concentric hour and minute hands had been made to work by 1680 their acceptance was by no means universal and other methods of measuring minutes were tried out. The earliest six-hour dials had only one hand with a minute-ring divided into 2-minute intervals for each hour space, so that the time could be read fairly accurately by the long hour hand.

This watch has a minute hand revolving once an hour and a minute-ring with every other minute numbered; it also has $\frac{1}{4}$ -hour divisions and $\frac{1}{2}$ -hours marked by stylised cockle shells. The maker was Charles Goode of the Strand, London, who was a member of the Clockmakers' Company from 1686 to 1730. No other watch with this kind of movement is known.

The centre of the silver champlé dial has a coat of arms, argent, three bends gules with, on a canton sable, a spur or, the arms of the Knight family formerly owning the Reindeer Inn. Round the inner rim of the silver case is engraved in cursive script "Bazaleel Knight of y^e Middle Temple London - And of Banbury in Oxfordshire". On the back of the case is the same coat of arms with mantling and crest, much worn, and the motto "Gloria Calcar Habet". Soldered to it are three seals, one the coat of arms, one a monogram BK and the third a crest, a bird with outstretched wings holding a spur in its beak. The engraving is worn in a way that suggests the seals were added after the watch had been in use for some years.

The movement has a fusee and verge escapement, a large rimmed cock of pierced and chased foliate scrolling with a bird above and a head below, and an indistinct monogram at the centre; the similarly chased cock-foot extends beyond the indicator dial. Winding is done with a key through the back of the case.

Bazaleel Knight was the great grandson of John and Joan Knight whose names occur on the gates of the Reindeer Inn, dated 1570. He was born in 1660, second son of William Knight of Banbury. On 17th November 1681 he was admitted student of the Middle Temple, London, and two years later married Margareta Gregory of Middleton Stoney. His name appears in the Minutes of the Parliament of the Middle Temple as late as 1703 but apparently he was not called to the bar.

Some time about 1690 the watch was specially commissioned with its very personal decoration, presumably by Bazaleel. But if the monogram in the centre of the cock is read as WK, then William Knight was the first owner and Bazaleel added his name when he inherited it. The experimental movement is, of course, the invention of Charles Goode and a citizen of Banbury goes down in history as the patron and sponsor.

C. F. C. Beeson



The face (enlarged)



The movement
(approximately actual size)

(both photographs by M. R. Dudley,
Copyright C. F. C. Beeson)

BANBURY HISTORICAL SOCIETY - EIGHTH ANNUAL REPORT - 1965

The Committee has pleasure in submitting its Eighth Annual Report and Statement of Accounts, for the year 1965.

Membership: There has again been a satisfactory increase, from 308 to 360. We record with great regret the deaths of Mr. W.H. Clark, Mr. H. Kirby and Mr. S.J. Vivian. Since the last A.G.M. Mr. G.J. Fothergill, the new head of the history department at Banbury Grammar School, has been co-opted to the Committee.

Dr. G.E. Gardam has succeeded Mr. J.H. Fearon as Chairman of the Committee.

Lectures and Meetings: Five general meetings have been held. The following lectures were given:-

January: "People, Places and Politics - the Records of Banbury Solicitors" - Mr. J. Bolton and Miss M. Jones of the Oxfordshire Record Office, with an exhibition of records from Stockton, Sons and Fortescue.

March: "Sulgrave, an 11th century Thegn's Residence" - Mr. B. Davison.

July (A.G.M.): "Stowe House and its former occupants" - Mr. J. Saunders.

September: "Forming a Museum" - Miss J. Cook, Oxford City and County Museum.

November: "The Village of Bloxham" - Mr. G. Forsyth Lawson and Mr. L.W. Wood.
(organised in conjunction with Oxfordshire Rural Community Council)

As always, we are most grateful to our speakers, all of whom gave their services without charge.

In addition to the A.G.M. at Stowe, where we were most hospitably entertained to tea by the Headmaster and School, a visit was paid to Upton House, and a "perambulation" of part of Banbury organised by Mr. B.S. Trinder was made on Palm Sunday (C & CH. III.24).

Mr. R.K. Bigwood, Dr. Gardam and Mr. Lawson once again organised Church Architecture Study Group visits, this year to Oxhill, Wroxton, Chipping Warden and Kings Sutton.

The Globe Room and Museum: Restoration and repair work on the panels was completed and they were returned to Banbury in the autumn. They are being erected in a second-floor room of the Borough Library. The Museum is also being transferred to this floor, where some of its exhibits may be displayed within the Globe Room.

Members of the Society have helped with cataloguing. It is hoped that the opportunity will be taken to redisplay the Museum exhibits boldly and imaginatively.

During the year members of the Society were responsible for bringing to the attention of the Borough Libraries and Museum Committee the 17th Century watch of Bazaleel Knight of Banbury. This has now been purchased with the aid of generous grant from the Victoria and Albert Museum for the Banbury Museum.

Archaeology: The Society was closely concerned with the negotiations that led to the sponsorship by the Ministry of Public Buildings and Works of an excavation of the Roman Villa at Wigginton, under the direction of Mr. E. Greenfield. Work is to continue there for further seasons. Oxford University Archaeological Society were active again at Rainsborough Iron Age Fort. Brief reports of both digs have appeared (C & CH. III. 36).

Cake & Cockhorse: The themes of this year's four issues have been 19th century Banbury (with particular reference to the Baptists); Adderbury; neighbouring Northamptonshire; and reviews of recent publications. Contributors have included (in addition to the Editor and other committee members) Mr. M. Avery, Dr. and Mrs. R.P. Beckinsale, the late Mr. W.H. Clark, the Rev. M.S. Edwards, Mr. L.S. Northcote and Mr. A. Potts.

Mr. Clark's last contributions have appeared in these issues and his help with illustrations will be sorely missed. As before credit for the high standard of production at low cost is due to our printers, Express Litho Service, of Cowley, particularly for the halftone printing in the Adderbury issue. Costs have once again risen, though not in the same proportions as previous years. Generous help with the cost of illustrations was received from Dr. Beeson and Mr. P.E. Middleton; the Boddington Methodist history was produced in conjunction with the church there, with a useful sharing of costs. A reprint of the 1964 "Roman Britain" issue, now entitled "Roman Banburyshire", has made this most popular number available once again, but accounts for part of the rise in costs over the year. Reprinting is not an economic proposition, but in this case at least it was considered justifiable as a service.

Records Publication: On grounds of length and cost it was decided to make "Banbury Baptism and Burial Register, Part 1, 1558-1653" a double volume to cover both 1965 and 1966. It will be issued during 1966.

Christmas Card and Postcards: A late-18th century painting of Broughton Castle was used for the Christmas card, by kind permission of the President. Postcards taken from former Christmas cards, of the Town Hall and Cow Fair, and of St. Mary's Church and North Bar, have proved most popular.

Accounts: In the Publications account realistic provision has been made for the year's proportion of the cost of the records volume. Grants towards this have been received from the Arts Council of Banbury and once again from the Borough Council Library Book Fund; and application for assistance has been made elsewhere.

The major item of expenditure in the revenue account is the magazine, and this is offset to a great degree by the generous grants received from the Borough Council and the Oxfordshire County Council Education Committee through the good offices of the Arts Council. However it will clearly be seen that but for these grants and donations from individuals the Society would have faced a very serious deficit. Other income-producing items, such as "Old Banbury" have produced smaller amounts. The programme and plans of the Society will make it impossible to retain the subscription at its present low level.

BANBURY HISTORICAL SOCIETYRevenue Account for the Year ended 31st December, 1965

1964	Payments	£. s. d.	1964	Receipts	£. s. d.
3	Lecture Expenses	8. 9. 0.	250	Subscriptions	271.10. 0.
14	Printing & Stationery	9.15. 5.		Less: Proportion attributable to	
17	Postages & Telephone	21. 5. 9.	108	Records	110. 5. 0.
2	Insurance	1.15. 0.	142	Sales:	161. 5. 0.
134	Cake & Cockhorse 181 3 4		15	Cake & Cockhorse	19. 8. 2.
	Less: Grants & Subsidies 82 0 0	99. 3. 4.	88	Christmas Cards	146.15. 7.
6	Subscriptions	7.16. 0.	16	Postcards	86.10. 5.
1	Church Architecture Study Group	1. 6.10.	83	Banbury Cross pamphlet	42.13.10.
11	Photographs & Research	4. 7. 6.	7	Donations	26.17. 0.
68	Christmas Cards	154.16. 1.	3	Deposit Account interest (less charges)	8.18.11.
-	Postcards	97.10. 0.	13	Balance transferred to Capital Account	- - -
111	Banbury Cross pamphlet	- - -			
-	Display case	2. 7. 9.			
-	Tfr. to Publications Reserve	75. 0. 0.			
-	Balance transferred to Capital Account (being excess of Income over Expenditure)	8.16. 3.			
<u>367</u>		<u>£ 492. 8.11.</u>	<u>367</u>		<u>£ 492. 8.11.</u>

Publications Account for the Year ended 31st December, 1965

158	Production costs	-	108	Proportion of subscriptions	110. 5. 0.
-	Provision for expenditure on Banbury Parish Register (1965/66 volume)	250. 0. 0.	41	Sales of Back Volumes	28. 7. 4.
3	Postage	- - -	31	Sales of Old Banbury	13. 4. 8.
39	Transferred to Publications Reserve	- - -	20	Grants:	
				Borough Council 20 0 0	
				Arts Council 25 0 0	45. 0. 0.
				Donations	42.18. 7.
				Balance transferred from Publications Reserve (being excess of expenditure over income)	10. 4. 5.
<u>200</u>		<u>£ 250. 0. 0.</u>	<u>200</u>		<u>£ 250. 0. 0.</u>

Balance Sheet as at 31st December, 1965

<u>Liabilities</u>			<u>Assets</u>		
15	Subscriptions in Advance	18.10. 0.	-	Cash in hand	1.10. 8.
-	Received in Advance	3. 0. 0.		Cash at Westminster Bank	
2	Sundry Creditors	32.13. 4.		Current a/c 93 17 9	
	Provision for Repayment to Dr. Beeson for Clock- making stock, as at 1.1.65 16 4 0		167	Deposit a/c 1 225 5 0	
16	Less: Repayments 2 14 0	13.10. 0.	-	Deposit a/c 2 35 0 0	354. 2. 9.
	Unexpended grant for archaeological expenses	25. 0. 0.	-	Prepayment	1. 3. 0.
-	Provision for expenditure on 1965/6 volume	250. 0. 0.	-	Grant receivable (now paid)	60. 0. 0.
	Publications Reserve		29	Sundry Debtors	145. 1. 7.
	as at 1.1.65. 114 12 8		11	Subscriptions overdue	28. 5. 0.
	from Revenue a/c 75 0 0		<u>207</u>		<u>590. 3. 0.</u>
	189 12 8				
115	Less: Pubs. a/c 10 4 5	179 8 3			
	Capital Account				
	as at 1.1.65 59 5 2				
59	from Revenue a/c 8 16 3	68 1 5			
<u>207</u>		<u>£ 590 3 0</u>			

Note: Stocks on hand of Christmas cards, postcards and publications have not been brought into account.

Audited and found correct,

Bloxham, (signed) A. H. Cheney, F. C. A.
Banbury. 3.3.66.

EXCAVATIONS AT WIGGINTON, INTERIM REPORT

This is a Romano-British villa site of the 2nd-4th century A.D., grid ref. 1" O.S. Map 145 SP/394337, threatened by ploughing. The first phase of excavation was from 31st May to 11th June and the second from 2nd August to 10th September, 1965.

The site was first discovered in 1824, (Beesley "History of Banbury" 1841 p. 41,) and was partially excavated in that year by the Rev. C. Winstanley. The main discovery was a room of semi-octagonal shape containing traces of a mosaic pavement of geometrical design with a hypocaust beneath. Indications were also found of other pavements and foundations in various directions. Coins of the 3rd and 4th century A.D., were found.

The site was tested by J. McTimoney late in 1964.

1965. Test Excavation. Phase 1

The area (384 ft. by 225 ft.) was tested by 50 test-holes on a 50 ft. grid with linking trenches where necessary. These showed a main range of buildings on an east to west alignment over a distance of 200 ft.

Phase 2

The site of the buildings was further tested by a grid of 25,20 ft. squares with 3 ft. baulks. The clearance of these showed a large corridor building with east and west wings. The corridor was on the south side and probably contains the entrance. 10 of the rooms and passages forming the main range contained the fragmentary remains of mosaic and coarse tessellated pavements and 5 of them (including the semi-octagonal room found in 1824) had been heated by hypocausts. Most of the pavements had been almost totally destroyed by ploughing but those identifiable were of geometric design and two have been recorded by D. Neale.

The course of a lead water supply pipe was found beneath one of the mosaics and was intended to convey water from a well on the north side of the building, downhill, to below the corridor. Part of a bath or tank of pink cement was located close to the well and had been partly destroyed by the insertion of a later wall. A large quantity of painted wall plaster was found in the hypocaust of a room on the north side of the building. This shows part of a winged cherub executed in red paint on a white ground together with fragments of a painted scene depicting columns and drapery in perspective. Coins and pottery indicate a date range from circa. A.D. 250 - 400.

The excavation showed that the site is large and of a complex nature. At least two main phases of occupation are indicated. Stratification shows superimposed floors and many structural additions and alterations.

Ernest Greenfield.

The Shipston-on-Stour Local Historical Society are continuing the excavate at Swalcliffe Lea, where they started work last year on a Romano-British site. Anyone interested in taking part in this should contact the Hon. Secretary of that Society, 8 Stratford Road, Shipston-on-Stour, Warw.; or our own Archaeological Adviser, Mr. J.H. Fearon (Fleece Cottage, Bodicote, Banbury), who may also know of other local archaeological activity.

OXFORD ARCHITECTURAL AND HISTORICAL SOCIETY

The Society is concerned with the archaeology, history and architecture of the Oxford regions. 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) two guineas. Ordinary membership, fifteen shillings.

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

Printed by Express Litho Service, Oxford

for the Banbury Historical Society

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