

# CAKE AND COCKHORSE



**Banbury Historical Society**

**Autumn 1967**

**2s.6d.**

BANBURY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

President: The Rt. Hon. Lord Saye and Sele, O.B.E., M.C., D.L.

Chairman: Dr. G.E. Gardain, 116 Bloxham Road, Banbury.

Hon. Secretary

J.S.W. Gibson, F.S.G.,  
Humber House,  
Bloxham,  
Banbury.  
(Tel: Bloxham 332)

Hon. Treasurer:

A.W. Pain, A.L.A.  
c/o Borough Library,  
Marlborough Road,  
Banbury.  
(Tel: Banbury 2282)

Hon. Editor "Cake and Cockhorse":

B. S. Trinder, 90 Bretch Hill, Banbury.

Hon. Research Adviser:

E.R.C. Brinkworth, M.A., F.R. Hist. Soc.

Hon. Archaeological Adviser:

J. H. Fearon, B.Sc.

Committee Members:

Dr. C.F.C. Beeson, D.Sc., R.K. Bigwood,  
G.J.S. Ellacott, A.C.A., G. Fothergill.

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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. These have included Oxfordshire Clock-makers, 1400-1850; South Newington Churchwardens' Accounts 1553-1684; Banbury Marriage Register, 1558-1837 (3 parts) and Baptism and Burial Register, 1558-1653. Volumes in advanced preparation include the Correspondence of Henry Tancred and Banbury Inventories, 1621-50.

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.  
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## Editorial

Industrial Archaeology, "the organised, disciplined study of the physical remains of yesterday's industries", according to Mr Kenneth Hudson's definition, owes its origin to the concern felt by both historians and professional engineers and architects to preserve the outstanding relics of the Industrial Revolution. In the first serious study of the subject, an article in "The Amateur Historian" for October 1955, Michael Rix quoted, among other monuments, the Coalbrookdale furnace where iron was first smelted with coke, the world's first iron bridge, Telford's Menai suspension bridge, and Euston station. Since 1955 it has become increasingly evident that the study of remains of a much less monumental character has much to teach the historian.

Banbury has no iron bridge and its original railway station had none of the qualities of Philip Hardwick's Euston. It is perhaps not surprising therefore that Industrial Archaeology has not so far figured prominently in the Historical Society's activities. Some work has already been done in the area however. One of our members is working on a detailed study of the water mills on the tributaries of the River Cherwell, and the Banbury Steam Club have already done much to record the history of a branch of engineering to which Banburians made a number of significant contributions.

Of course much remains to be done, and that urgently, for schemes for the re-development of Banbury's town centre cannot be postponed indefinitely. There survive many buildings hidden in back alleys which have much to tell us about the processes employed in local industries during the 19th century and perhaps earlier. It is good news therefore that the W.E.A. is organising a course of lectures on Industrial Archaeology this autumn, which, it is hoped, will stimulate practical studies in the area.

It is clearly the duty of the Historical Society to encourage Industrial Archaeological activities as much as possible. One way in which this is to be done is the publication of the first Industrial Archaeology number of "Cake and Cockhorse" which will appear in the summer of 1968, and will include an article on the North Newington mill, a series of photographs of the Hook Norton railway viaduct, and, it is hoped, a history of the firm of Lampitts, makers of steam engines. It is also to be hoped that many of our members will be able to attend the series of lectures this autumn. The Society has already requested local authority planners to take particular note of certain buildings of industrial archaeological interest. Such requests amount to little less than impertinence unless the Society's members are ready and competent to record the buildings concerned.

OUR COVER - shows the figure of a devil used by the firm of Cheney's to illustrate a number of different publications in the early 19th century.

## SOCIETY NEWS AND ACTIVITIES

### Autumn Programme

Tuesday, 26th September, 7.30 p.m. Conservative Club (next to Martins Bank), High Street, Banbury. 'How to be a Medieval King', a talk by R. H. C. Davis, of Merton College, Oxford. Reviewing his recently published "King Stephen" The Times says 'Mr Davis makes the tangled business of Stephen v. Matilda clear and exciting. Under his touch the dim cast of a far-away melodrama becomes living men and women.' Mr Davis's talk will not be on Stephen himself, but will cover a much wider period. We can be certain however of the same style of presentation, to give us a scholarly, witty and entertaining evening.

October. It is hoped to hold a Village meeting at Aynho towards the end of the month. Local members will be circulated with details in due course.

Tuesday, 28th November, 7.30 p.m. Location to be announced. 'Where were Banbury's Crosses?', a talk by Paul Harvey, author of the section on Banbury for the Oxfordshire Victoria County History. Mr Harvey will be discussing the sites of the medieval crosses in the light of recent documentary discoveries. His revelations and controversial conclusions will make this one of the most exciting meetings yet to be held by the Society.

### Industrial Archaeology

A course of six lectures, to be held on Fridays commencing in October, has been arranged by the W.E.A. Talks will be given by experts and by local speakers. Exact dates and location will be announced at the meeting on 26th September, and it is hoped in addition to circulate members.

### Christmas Card

The illustration shown opposite of Banbury Steeplechase, 1839, is the subject of this year's Christmas Card, which will be available to members at 12/- dozen (including envelopes). A great deal of money has to be committed to producing such a card and members are urged to support the Society as much as possible by buying large quantities. The subject is one of three coloured lithographs published in May, 1839, by D. Gould, Parsons Street, from paintings by Goode. The horses, from left to right, are Little Bob, Needwood, Sportsman, Areator and Yellow Dwarf. Copies of all three pictures are in the possession of the White Lion Hotel, by whose kind permission this is reproduced.

### ARCHAEOLOGY

We have recently become affiliated to the Northamptonshire Federation of Archaeological Societies, and this body is acting as host for the annual exhibition and meeting of the Council for British Archaeology Regional Group Nine. This will be held at the College of Technology, Northampton, on Saturday 11th November at 2.30 p.m. Much of the meeting will be devoted to ten-minute talks by speakers from the whole of the Group Nine Area (Oxfordshire, Berkshire, Buckinghamshire, Bedfordshire and Northamptonshire). An exhibition of recent finds will be mounted in association with the meeting.

### Dredging Operation on the River Cherwell

Spoil heaps from dredging of the River Cherwell in the vicinity of the ford on the footpath between Bodicote and Warkworth (SP 478389) have been examined. A quantity of potsherds dating from the 12th to the 14th century were found. Another feature of interest was the presence of an unusually large number of flints. Most were natural but some showed signs of working, including a part of a scraper. No dating is possible, but this evidence does point to the use of the ford in prehistoric times.

### Sulgrave Castle

We have been informed by Mr B. Davison that the Anglo-Saxon site at Sulgrave will be excavated again in 1968 under the sponsorship of the Royal Archaeological Institute.



The Banbury Steeple Chase, 1839

CHENEY & SONS: TWO CENTURIES OF PRINTING IN BANBURY

William Potts, in his "History of Banbury" (1958), referred to 'our oldest business, which has been carried on continuously without a break from one generation to another, for 190 years'. He was speaking of Cheney & Sons, a firm of letterpress printers which this year celebrates its bicentenary. Its present managing director is great-great-great-grandson of the John Cheney who set up a printing press in the town in 1767. Not many English printing houses boast so long a history, and fewer still show a descent from father to son through six generations, as this one does. The firm began two hundred years ago in a modest, tentative, way and even now is far from being one of Banbury's major industrial enterprises. But its very continuity and the nature of the business give it a local interest out of proportion to its size. Its annals illustrate a good many aspects of the town and its neighbourhood from the eighteenth century onwards. Fortunately, records survive from even the earliest period of its history and the part it played in the life of the borough is seen in many miscellaneous specimens of printing preserved either in the firm's possession or in libraries elsewhere.

John Cheney the first (1733-1808) kept The Unicorn Inn, in the Market Place, Banbury. He was about thirty-four years old when he added to the trade of publican the craft of printing. In those days of small-scale enterprise it was not unusual for inn-keepers to branch out in other concerns which finally engrossed all their time. A classic instance of the versatile tradesmen is Peter Stubs of Warrington, licensee of The White Bear, who in this same period combined his innkeeping with the business of file-making and prospered in it. John Cheney's mixed activities are recorded in a little account book which shows that in 1767 he was both selling ale and French brandy (the latter at 3s. 6d. a bottle) and supplying ballads by the ream. In 1768 he was also printing turnpike tickets for Edgehill and Drayton. Banbury had boasted booksellers long before this (William and George Thorpe, recorded 1662-95 and 1703-6); but hitherto, so far as is known, no printing press had been set up in the town. Nor was there much demand for print. The spare time of a publican was enough to provide the occasional placard, bill-head, or sale-catalogue, or the hymn sheets 'for the Charaty' which Cheney noted in 1769. An inn in the Market Place was not a bad site for a printing office. When carriers' carts provided the main link between the town and the wide circle of villages which looked to Banbury as their metropolis, nine carriers put up once a week at The Unicorn. They provided a rudimentary local post and parcels service, and on market days their headquarters became a little social and commercial centre.

Within four years John Cheney's printing had so far advanced that it attracted the notice of older-established printers in Oxford or other towns. This, it seems, explains why in May 1771 the nearly obsolete Statute of Artificers (5 Elizabeth cap.4) was invoked against him, for exercising the art of printing, not having served a legal apprenticeship. Cheney appeared at Oxford Assizes in July, entered into a rule of court to desist from exercising the trade, and by so doing escaped a fine of £34. He then went back to his inn-holding and proceeded, two months later, to apprentice himself to a journeyman printer. Printing continued at The Unicorn. No dated work has been found with Cheney's name upon it until he was out of his articles, in 1778. Instead, the imprints 'At the Unicorn' and 'At the Printing Office' occur on a few surviving pieces.

Until 1788 John Cheney remained both publican and printer at The Unicorn. In that year he gave up innkeeping and removed to premises in 'the upper end of Red Lion Street', that is, a house now replaced by the premises of Messrs. Brown, next to Messrs. Millett (at the corner of George Street), in High Street (Red Lion Street was renamed about the year 1800). Here he opened a shop and advertised as letterpress and copperplate printer, book-seller, stationer, and printseller. But The Unicorn continued to house a printer, one Matthew Savage, who produced two works from this address, one in 1789, the other between 1791 and 1794. His later history has not been traced. John Cheney remained in Red Lion Street for twenty years until his death in 1808. Three children, as they grew up, all came to be associated in different ways with his business. The elder son, the second John (1773-1850)



ESTHER CHENEY 1782-1859

Wife of Thomas; proprietor of the business after his death in 1820. From a portrait in oils, by her son John, painted in her widowhood. Original (framed): 15 $\frac{1}{2}$ " x 13 $\frac{1}{2}$ "

practised the trade of a signwriter, but he helped in the printing office with proof-reading and retained a financial interest in the firm all his life. His younger brother, Thomas (1782-1820) was apprenticed to his father, and succeeded to full management of the printing business until he died in 1820. Their sister Elizabeth (1775-1815) attended to the shop. She received as her share of her father's estate 'all the stock in the bookselling, stationery, and haberdashery business'. After her marriage to William Dickason in 1812, Thomas's wife Esther took over the shop.

These first fifty years of the firm's existence had seen John and Thomas Cheney win an established position as printers in Banbury. The business was still on a very small scale, and probably employed no more than a man and a boy with the master. But the town was small, too: the population of the borough in 1801 was 2,755. Cheney's account books and specimens of work together give a good impression of the demand for printing in Banbury at that time. From the earliest days town and country orders came in for the printing of Articles of association of friendly societies, in Banbury, Bloxham, Adderbury, Deddington, and Chipping Norton. The Rules and Orders of the Female Friendly Society, meeting at the house of Joseph Hopkins, Slater, in North-Bar Street (dated 1806) form a twelve-page pamphlet, which includes a hymn for the annual meeting. Friendly societies remained customers until at least the middle of the nineteenth century. A Tontine Society was established at Banbury in 1790, soon after the creation of the big national Tontine, and this required printed Rules. (This chance for gamblers was matched by the state lottery; Cheney's shop was an agency for the sale of tickets.) Other local institutions were customers. The Society for the Prosecution of Felons produced a regular crop of orders for 'reward' notices. The Overseers of the poor needed printing, and even the town Bellmen, who in 1785 produced eighteen stanzas of jingling verse 'humbly presented to all our worthy masters and mistresses', printed by John Cheney on a demy sheet, within a decorative border, with three woodcuts. The Chipping Norton Bellman followed suit in 1792. When the National Schools Society set up a school in Banbury in 1817, Cheney printed the first annual report.

The Napoleonic wars left their mark on the ledgers. In 1794 eleven prominent townsmen had handbills printed, appealing for a subscription for extra clothing for the soldiers and sailors who 'are gallantly exerting themselves in Defence of our Lives, our Liberty, and our Property, against the specious, but pernicious Doctrine of Liberty and Equality'. The Militia and the Banbury Armed Association needed print, and a booklet of 58 pages, which describes cavalry manoeuvres by the use of diagrams, was printed for the use of the Bloxham and Banbury Squadron of Oxfordshire Light-Horse Volunteers. A printed circular of 1804 relates to the requisitioning of waggons and carts throughout the county in the event of a French invasion: it goes some way to confirm a remark made a little earlier by Sir William Scott (later Lord Stowell) about the prevailing discontent with the government among Oxfordshire farmers.

Local preachers and poets brought occasional work of greater extent which gave the Cheney's experience in book-production. The longest piece which survives is the "Twelve Sermons" (1800) of one John Tomes of Hook Norton, which extends to 240 pages demy octavo. Poems include a tirade in rhyming couplets, with copious annotation, against boarding schools for young 'Ladies Seminaries', entitled "Modern Accomplishments." (1813); also "The Tanner's Ass" (1813), a long and libellous work by William Gauthern of North Newington, who was a Quaker at odds with other local Friends. Several small books were printed for a local bookseller of some repute, William Rusher. These include a spelling-book of which the publisher was author: Rusher's "Reading Made Most Easy", and an anthology of popular songs, issued in weekly penny numbers under the title "The Banbury Songster".

All these books had been printed to the order of an author or publisher. But between 1767 and 1820 the Cheney's also built up a considerable business in chapbooks and broadside ballads. Indeed, the entries in the oldest account book suggests that John Cheney's first venture in printing may have been to produce and market literature of this sort. During his



lifetime, as in the previous century, printers in various parts of England were turning out cheap editions of fairy tales, moral discourses, and old ballads. They were small unbound booklets or single sheets, made more attractive by woodcut plates. The 'walking stationers' or chapmen sold them, and they were to be had in village shops and inns. This was the literary diet of the unlearned, and the broadsides provided songs to be sung in convivial gatherings. References to them occur in the more polite literature of the age. Readers of "The Vicar of Wakefield" or of "Bleak House" may recall "The great messenger of mortality; or a Dialogue betwixt Death and the lady", which appears in many broadside editions, including one printed by Cheney now in Harvard College Library. The known productions of the Cheney press between 1767 and 1820 include several dozen titles, mostly of old favourites. "The Proud squire reformed", a little eight-page pamphlet with five woodcuts 'printed and sold by J. Cheney, in the High-Street', sums up in its colophon the scope of this trade: 'Cheney, Printer, Banbury; By whom Country Shops, Travellers, &c. may be supplied with a large and new Assortment of Godly Books, Patters, Histories, Old Sheet Ballads, Collections, Songs, Children's Books, &c. &c. on the most reasonable terms.' Thomas Cheney advertised the same wares, 'on the lowest terms, wholesale or retail.'

The second half-century of the firm opened inauspiciously with the sudden death of Thomas Cheney in 1820. His widow Esther was saddled with the care of the business and of a family of five (reduced to three by the death of two infants in the following year). Her predicament was worsened by new and vigorous competition for Banbury's custom. John Golby Rusher, son of William Rusher the bookseller, set up as a printer in 1808 and carried on a prosperous business until 1877. William Potts (1800-67) came as a young man from Daventry in the twenties and set up a printing and bookselling business which in 1838 became the office of *The Banbury Guardian*, continued by his son and his grandson (William Potts, 1868-1947). Henry Stone had set up as a bookseller in Parson's Street by 1841. Other transitory names appear as booksellers and printers in Rusher's Banbury Directory in the middle years of the century. This increase doubtless corresponded to an increase in population and in the commercial and industrial prosperity of Banbury. The railway came to Banbury in 1850. To some extent social changes were reflected in the Cheneys' printing. As tradesmen multiplied the demand for neat copperplate cards and billheads increased. The Sunday Schools and the Banbury Amateur Musical Society brought casual business. Prospects of parliamentary reform before the Reform Act of 1832 and an enlarged franchise after the Municipal Corporations Act of 1835 aroused in the townfolk of Banbury a lively political consciousness which found expression in print. But it was all on a small scale, and the evidence of the firm's ledgers suggests that the Cheneys' printing business was in a decline.

When Esther's elder son, Thomas Henry (1813-60) came of age to take over the management in the 1830s matters went from bad to worse. He 'took to drink' at an early age and neglected the printing office. Affairs reached such a pass in 1854 as to produce an enforced sale of the premises in High Street. Esther relinquished business in favour of her son, who set up his printing office in Fish Street. A year later Thomas Henry went out of business.

The initiative had passed to his younger brother, John Cheney the third (1814-87). This John had been brought up to the trade of signwriter and painter, in which he had assisted his uncle John. But his brother's shortcomings had led him virtually to manage the printing business for his mother during the twenty years before it collapsed in 1854. When Thomas Henry took over the business in that year he was heavily indebted to Esther and John Cheney. His debt to John was secured on the printing equipment, and in November 1855 John acquired the whole of the types, presses, and materials. At first he was disposed to sell the stock in trade; but an advertisement in January 1856 offering it for sale at a price 'from £100 to £120' brought no response. Friends urged John Cheney to carry on the business himself, but he was reluctant. Six months later he put up to auction all the equipment and stock in trade. Everything was sold. It seemed as if the family connection with printing was severed. Instead, within a few weeks, John went into partnership with the printer who had bought most of the materials, George Hitchcox. After six and a half years, ill recorded, in which they traded

as 'Cheney & Hitchcox', first at no. 12 and then at no. 6 Butchers Row, the two parted company in April 1863. George Hitchcox went off to America, leaving Cheney in sole possession. The fact that Hitchcox was bought out for £80 hardly suggests a large or flourishing business.

Just as John Cheney the first had made a livelihood by innkeeping combined with printing, so his grandson now practised the two crafts of painter and printer. In the sixties the printing business was probably no bigger than it had been at the end of the eighteenth century. Two or three presses and an old stock of type constituted the equipment, one or two men and an apprentice were the employees. While John Cheney met customers, superintended work, and read proofs, he probably did not do much of the manual work himself. His other trade of sign-writing and gilding, in which he was reputed a first-class craftsman, occupied his time and brought in a steady income. The shop which had been started in 1788 was now of comparatively slight importance. It closed when the printing office moved to no. 5 Butchers Row in 1884. There were too many bigger competitors in the bookselling and stationery.

The prospect for this diminutive printing office can hardly have seemed bright in the mid sixties. Contemporary Banburians would hardly have prophesied that it would last another hundred years and grow to its present size. Maybe the times were auspicious. Banbury's trade and industry were steadily growing. But the survival and progress of the firm must have owed almost everything to the man who took charge. It is now just eighty years since John Cheney the third died; but the impression gained from his diaries and recorded doings and the reminiscences of his children is of an unusually active and determined character, known and respected by his fellow townfolk. He had grown up in difficult times, tenaciously holding on to family traditions and possessions. They represented a hard-won lower middle class status. He had inherited a tradition of craftsmanship and had developed a taste for the arts. He was a keen musician, who played the flute in amateur ensembles, formed a little library of chamber music, and encouraged his family to be instrumentalists. In due course they, too, brought to their work the high standards, care for detail, and self-respect which mark the good craftsman.

Trade did not increase enormously during the sixties. The amount of machinery and number of employees probably remained unchanged. The little business must surely have been snuffed out if John Cheney had not had his other profitable pursuit. But the expanding manufactures of Banbury began to hold out the promise of more trade: John Lampitt's foundry and Bernhard Samuelson's factory for agricultural machinery. Samuelson was by far the biggest customer at this time and his account (according to the recollection of G.G. Cheney) 'practically kept the firm alive'. It had printed Samuelson's first circular when he took over James Gardner's business in 1849 (James Gardner had been a regular customer for twenty years before this). In the late sixties Samuelson's implements won many prizes at international exhibitions, and the printing of prize lists became a regular order. A Lawn-mower List, printed in what then seemed large quantities of thirty thousand at the beginning of each year, paid the annual rent for the printing office and dwelling house. The chance of getting bigger orders from this important customer encouraged Cheney to buy more plant to cope with it. This was happening to some extent during the seventies, when John Cheney brought his two elder sons into the business. John Cheney the fourth (1856-1930) began work in 1870, his brother George Gardner Cheney (1860-1933) in 1876. Like their father they served no formal apprenticeship, but they learned all the processes of the trade and displayed their father's meticulous care and pride in accuracy of detail. In 1878, when they were both still very young men, their father's illness imposed most of the responsibility of management upon them. After the death of John Cheney the third in 1887 his widow Elizabeth formed a partnership with her sons, which traded (as their successors trade) under the name of Cheney & Sons.

During the eighties the progress of the firm was marked by the removal to larger premises next door (1884) and their extension (1888) to provide room for more machinery, more ranges of type, more employees. In 1889 the staff numbered eleven besides the partners. This growth was matched by increasing work for local firms, above all Samuelson's, and by the acquisition in 1884 of the formes, types, and goodwill of a monthly railway guide previously produced by Rusher. Cheney's Railway Guide was a substantial monthly booklet, with

particulars of train services, carriers, and (latterly) motor buses. It provided a good advertising medium for local tradesmen, and for the publishers themselves. (Publication stopped when the formes with standing type were destroyed in the fire of 1923.) A circular on satin wove tinted paper put out by John Cheney in March 1883 advertised 'high class printing in gold and colours'. The development of printing in this style was made possible by the encouragement of local customers who wanted work done well, gave their printer a free hand, and were prepared to pay for a good result. For work in gold and colours there were no local competitors.

The eighties also saw the beginnings of expansion into wider markets. It began when an employee of the firm, Henry T. Robinson, started to tour the neighbourhood with pony and trap, visiting Cotswold towns and villages to obtain orders. At the same time a personal friend secured London work for the Cheney's with West End booksellers and stationers. In 1889 Robinson began travelling to London for business and very rapidly found customers among music-publishers and makers of musical instruments. By the mid nineties Cheney's were producing illustrated catalogues of a high standard of workmanship for most of the leading piano makers. Work of this type continued to be an important part of the business until well into the twentieth century.

By 1895 the printing office at no. 5 Butchers Row was bursting at the seams. New works were built for Cheney & Sons in that year by Messrs. Claridge and Bloxham, on a site purchased on the east side of Calthorpe Street. This site offered ample room for expansion, and there the firm has remained and expanded. A few machines were brought from the old printing office; but much was new. The machinery was powered by a steam engine with a large locomotive-type boiler, which also provided steam for the heating plant. Artificial light was at first provided by Cheney's own electrical installation - an early experiment in electric lighting in Banbury, which served to supply current for the illumination of St. John's Church at the Diamond Jubilee of Queen Victoria. But it was not satisfactory; within a few years it was abandoned in favour of gas-lighting.

The period between the removal to Calthorpe Street and the First World War was a time when the London market expanded and counted for more in the firm's trade. In 1895 the firm employed a staff of twenty, in 1914 between forty and fifty. Perhaps the limits of its expansion were set by the determination of the partners to conduct their business on the old personal lines which had ensured its success in their earlier days. It remained a family affair; a high proportion of the employees saw long service and the sons of old employees were often recruited. (In 1914 the foreman compositor had started with the firm in 1886, the foreman machinist in 1889). The office staff was minimal, for the partners wrote most of the correspondence themselves and letters were not typed. A telephone was installed, but John Cheney the fourth was a reluctant user. London customers were apparently contented with old-fashioned family personal service. Not many small country printers had yet come into the London market. Cheney & Sons had lower costs of production than the London printers and produced work above the average in quality.

The First World War brought grave problems: depletion of staff, labour disputes, shortage of raw materials. Loss of business in some quarters found partial compensation in orders from the Ministry of Munitions and the Admiralty. It was during the war that G.G. Cheney's elder sons, John (1900-58) and Walter Gardner (1901-49), left school and entered the business. Both boys went through the composing and machine rooms to learn the details of the craft. After the war old employees returned, links with old clients were re-established, and John the fifth and Walter entered the office to take responsible parts in estimating and costing and works management. They were made partners in the firm in 1925. Meanwhile, a London representative in the person of Frederick Robinson, son of Henry Robinson, found valuable new customers among the many new advertising agencies which set up business in the early twenties. In the process of modernising the plant, the firm first bought a mono-type installation in 1921.

The post-war development was abruptly checked in March 1923 when the Calthorpe

Street works were almost completely burnt down. The firm suffered heavy financial loss and a serious dislocation of trade. But its friends in the printing trade in Banbury helped to tide over immediate difficulties. Temporary premises for offices and machine-room were available on the firm's own property, and the building of new works was set in hand at once. The result was a building half as big again as the old one, with many improvements. Electricity was used to provide both power for the machines and lighting. Since all the old machinery had been destroyed the firm faced the necessity and opportunity to modernize its plant, introducing for the first time two-revolution machines (quod crown Meihle). A second monotype installation was bought in 1928 and a complete re-equipment of the composing room (which had escaped destruction in the fire) followed a little later. In the late twenties the senior partners were content to relinquish the active management of the business to the fifth generation. John Cheney the fourth died in October 1930, his brother three years later. They had entered as lads into what was little more than a one-man business. Thanks to their skill and industry during over half a century they left it firmly established and giving employment to over sixty persons.

In 1930-31 the decision was taken to enlarge the building and plant. Although trading conditions were not propitious, the amount of work at certain seasons of the year demanded more machines. The works were enlarged by Bloxham and Hardy, on plans by P.G. Hardy, to about twice the area of the 1895 building. Within, new presses, some of them equipped with automatic feeders, and a third monotype caster, were installed in the next few years. During the thirties the seasonal fluctuation of trade which had created many problems in the last decade was counteracted by the printing of monthly magazines and other periodical work.

It might have been supposed that the increasing trade with London customers which had been a marked feature of the firm's development ever since the 1890s would eventually loosen its roots in Banbury. But this does not seem to have happened. Local customers were always numerous. Other printers in the town did not do the same sort of work. In the twenties and thirties the establishment of important new manufactories in Banbury brought a good deal of new business. The partners, moreover, took part in local affairs and institutions. Without particularizing further about their public activities one may note that John Cheney the fifth became a town councillor in 1928 (and later alderman) and held office as mayor of the borough in 1936-7. He was chairman of the borough magistrates from 1939 until shortly before his death. His son, John the sixth, has also served as a town councillor. John Cheney the fifth was the first member of the firm to enter into the affairs of the printing trade at large. From 1928 to 1930 he presided over the Oxford & District Master Printers Association, was Treasurer and (1940-2) President of the South Western Alliance of Master Printers; he became Vice-President of the Federation of Master Printers in 1956, but ill-health denied him the honour of election to the presidency.

With the outbreak of the Second World War problems multiplied for this, as indeed for all, industrial undertakings. The extra calls upon the two partners in various forms of public service imposed a great strain upon them, at a time when the business depended more than ever on their personal attention. There was shortage of labour and shortage of paper. The paper warehouse was requisitioned to be a training centre for Royal Air Force mechanics, under the management of Messrs. Armstrong Siddeley. This naturally caused congestion in other parts of the factory. As in the First World War a good deal of official printing of a confidential sort was done, on the order of H.M. Stationery Office.

After the war was over many old employees of the firm returned; and as the trades and industries of peace-time were resumed, the commercial printing of former times revived for both old and new customers. One unusual piece of work in the immediate post-war years interests historians of Banbury. Cheney & Sons' work has not normally been in the field of book-production; but shortly before the war ended Mr. (now Sir) Basil Blackwell proposed that the firm should print the recollections of George Herbert (1814-1902), which had been edited by Mrs. C.S. Cheney (mother of the partners) from a manuscript in her possession. The task

# MESMERISM & PHRENOLOGY

*Rev. Dr. EDEN,*

*Of 79, Regent Street, London, Professor of Moral Philosophy and Cerebral Physiology, will deliver*

## TWO LECTURES, AT THE MECHANICS' INSTITUTE, BANBURY,

*To Morrow, (Thursday) and Friday Evenings, April 15th and 16th, 1847.*

*Each Lecture to commence at 8 o'clock precisely, and conclude at half-past 9.*

**LECTURE 1—Thursday, 15th.** Mesmerism—its Philosophy, &c.—Rev. Lay Roy Sunderland's theory—Dr. Braid's theory—Division of the phenomena. First stage. Second stage. Third stage—Surgical operations performed during this stage. Mesmerism a curative agent in cases of nervous diseases, viz., hysteria, epilepsy, rheumatism, &c.

**LECTURE 2—Friday, 16th.** An explanation of the Physiology of the Brain and other leading principles of Phrenology; its harmony with Sacred Scriptures; Phrenology useful in Education, and for success in certain Trades and Professions; Phrenology proved to be the best way of discovering how many talents and propensities each individual possesses. How to Train and Educate Children at half the expense, and in half the usual time.

Doctor E. has also given hundreds of Analyses and Sketches of the Inhabitants of the Principal Towns, comprising the most respectable of both Clergy and Laymen, which had the effect of convincing all parties of the truth and importance of Phrenology, some of whom previously thought it a mere delusion. The Examinations have been of the greatest importance to many, enabling them to call into play, powers, with which they were not acquainted, and to check others which were a constant source of trouble to them: they have likewise been equally important to parents, enabling them to quicken in their children those powers that are productive of knowledge and virtue, and to restrain those that have a tendency to evil, and to make choice of those professions, trades, or other walks of life for which they are adapted.

Testimonial of the Rev. D. WELCH, D. D. Professor of Church History, in the University of Edinburgh. \*\* I have found great benefit from the science, as a Minister of the Gospel, \*\*\* in dealing with my people in the ordinary duties of my calling; the practical benefit I have derived from Phrenology is inestimable.

*The Lecturer may be consulted at his Residence, for one week only, at Miss Thomas's, Parson's St., opposite the Buck and Bell.—Attendance from 11 till 4, and from 6 till 8. Schools and Parties visited at their Residences, if required.—Terms for Examinations, 2s. 6d., 5s., and 10s.*

**ADMISSION, —Front Seats, 1s. Back Seats, 6d.** *After the Lecture Persons suffering from Toothache, &c. may be Mesmerized. Dr. E's Patient will show the beautiful Mesmeric Attitudes, and persons may have any Organ excited, by conveying their wish, in writing, to the Lecturer.*

[CHENEY, PRINTER, BANBURY.]



### MESMERISM & PHRENOLOGY

A notice of lectures to be delivered in Banbury in 1847. A typical example of the work of the firm at the period.

was willingly undertaken and the book was published by B. H. Blackwell in 1948 under the title "Shoemaker's Window". The partners, whose grandfather, John Cheney the third, had been a personal friend of Herbert, took special pains to see that the book was worthily produced and illustrated. Readers of "Cake & Cockhorse" know how much light it throws on the history and topography of Banbury in the nineteenth century.

The firm suffered a severe blow in December 1949 by the unexpected and early death of Walter Gardner Cheney. This put much additional strain on the surviving partner, who found it desirable to reconstitute the partnership in 1951 as a private limited company. John Cheney the fifth became chairman and managing director and his son John the sixth, who had recently entered the firm after completing a spell of national service, joined the board together with Arthur Henry Cheney, F.C.A., a younger brother of John the fifth. In 1955 Walter Gardner Cheney's son, Robert Gardner Cheney, entered the firm after a course of training in the London School of Printing, and in 1958 he joined the board of directors. In the years which followed the death of Walter Cheney the cares of management and the many outside activities of John Cheney the fifth bore hardly on his health. For several years before his death in August 1958 he suffered from frequent illness, and the day-to-day control of the business devolved on his son. In August 1958 John the sixth became managing director and Arthur Cheney became chairman of the board. Another member of the family entered the firm in 1961 in the person of Walter Richard Cheney, son of Arthur Cheney. He, like Robert Cheney, had received a technical training in the London School of Printing. In 1964 the board of directors was strengthened by the addition to it of Ernest Charles Hunt, who had been with the firm since 1938, first as foreman of the composing room and latterly as works director.

To make an ending, I may borrow words written in 1936 at the end of a book on "John Cheney and his descendants". The history is of a firm that is still existing, still growing. Like all businesses with a long life, its features have changed beyond recognition in the course of time; but while the Calthorpe Street works of today are designed to face modern trade conditions and look to the future, Cheney & Sons preserve a valuable tradition of work done in the eighteenth century at The Unicorn and in High Street, and in the nineteenth century in Butchers' Row.

Corpus Christi College,  
Cambridge.

C.R. Cheney

#### Sources

William Potts, "A History of Banbury" (1958).

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"John Cheney and his descendants, Printers in Banbury since 1767" (printed by Cheney & Sons for private circulation, 1936).

C.R. Cheney, 'Early Banbury Chap-books and Broad-sides', "The Library" (Transactions of the Bibliographical Society), new series, xvii (1936) 98-108.

Records and specimens of printing in the possession of the firm and of the writer.

#### Acknowledgements:

The writer gratefully acknowledges help from the present directors of the firm.

BANBURY AND THE RIOTS OF 1830

In the autumn of 1830 the even tenor of rural life in the southern counties of England was rudely disturbed by a spate of riots and acts of incendiarism on the part of the agricultural labourers. The troubles commenced in Kent and Sussex and gradually spread westward and northward, until in November of that year, they began to affect the county of Oxfordshire.<sup>1</sup> The rioting was a culmination of dissatisfaction with the administration of parish poor relief, whereby many agricultural labourers received very low wages which would then be supplemented out of the parish rates, and with the redundancy situation; the latter was itself exacerbated by the employment of machinery by farmers - particularly for threshing.<sup>2</sup> Other factors, too, could add to resentment, such as the enclosure of common lands, or the great desire to take vengeance against unpopular local figures.

The alarm felt at the outbursts is made clearly apparent in the contemporary newspaper accounts. Jackson's Oxford Journal of 27th November stated: "We have been given to understand that strangers are traversing the country as if under a commission from some central band of ruffians, to excite the labouring poor to acts of outrage. They generally travel on horseback, or in buggies, sometimes in post chaises, and their custom is to enter a village, put up at the public house, and then proceed to make enquiries about the farming concerns of the parish. . . . . These itinerants are the forerunners of tumult and mischief, . . . . . Strangers coming into towns and villages, and conducting themselves in this way, should be questioned as to their business . . . and if they cannot give a good account of themselves, they should be detained and brought before the nearest magistrate, to be dealt with according to the Vagrant Act . . . . ." In Banbury the unease manifested itself by the swearing in of Special Constables during the week commencing Monday, 22nd November, and, at the same time, by the ordering there of a small detachment of the county yeomanry. Even in late October at the Quarter Sessions, the Deputy Recorder, in his charge to the Grand Jury, had alluded to riots and disturbances within the town in the recent past, and had declared that he "trusted that in future every respectable inhabitant would assist in the suppression of such disgraceful tumults . . . ."<sup>3</sup>

Rumblings of discontent were shown in the nearby village of Steeple Barton, where on 25th November a threshing machine was fired; this was the property of a Mr. Barnard, who was said to be a member of the Deddington Prosecuting Association, a body presumably established to deal with this type of unrest.<sup>4</sup> In the south of Oxfordshire, as well as in the neighbouring county of Northamptonshire, similar disturbances took place. Then, on Monday, 29th November, the disquiet took a positive form in Banbury and its immediate environs.

Although in the early part of the day a section of the yeomanry had marched into the town, towards evening a large mob gathered together and roamed the streets, carrying effigies of Lord Norreys, one of the Members of Parliament for the county and Villiers Stuart, one of the borough Members. These two men were said to have made themselves "obnoxious . . . . . by voting in the minority on the Civil List question".<sup>5</sup>

Eventually the mob, numbering by this time several hundreds, made its way out of town to Neithrop. The effigies were duly burnt and then an attack was made on threshing machines belonging to local farmers. Two or three of these were in process of destruction when the yeomanry arrived from Banbury to try to restore order. The mob immediately turned its attention to them; stones were thrown and burning brands thrown at the horses, which were unused to the fire.<sup>5b</sup> Major Stratton, who was in charge of the detachment, was thrown from his horse in the skirmish, and although he remounted, there is little doubt that the mob had the best of the exchange. The yeomanry were chased back to Banbury, but the progress of the rioters was halted on the outskirts of the town by what one of the contemporary newspapers called "a strong posse of tradesmen", i. e. by the special constables.<sup>6</sup> After a struggle the rioters were dispersed, and the town was patrolled by special constables for the remainder of the night. A detachment of the 14th Light Dragoon Guards later arrived from Coventry and several of the rioters were taken prisoner and committed to the county gaol at Oxford.

It was generally agreed that the number of agricultural labourers involved in the Banbury riot was quite small and that the dissidents were primarily dissatisfied townsmen - according to the Oxford University and City Herald they were "idle and ill-disposed fellows", while the same newspaper thought that encouragement was given by some "miscreants of a higher class". Perhaps these were people with a taxation 'axe to grind' - hence the parade of the effigies of Lord Norreys and Mr. Stuart, who had supported a government whose policies were likely to maintain taxes at a high level rather than reduce them.

However, if the agricultural labourers were not to the fore in Banbury, this was certainly not the case in the nearby villages of Upper Boddington, Tadmarton and Kings Sutton. On this same evening large crowds were busy destroying threshing machines and, at Tadmarton, it was also recorded that a draining plough was set on fire.

Leaders in the rioting at the first-named village were escorted to Northampton gaol to await trial, with the exception of one, a man named William Endall, who had decided to escape to Warwick to avoid capture. This did not avail him much, however, for he was soon discovered and taken into custody;<sup>7</sup> eventually he, too, was sent to Northampton gaol, to stand trial with the others. The Kings Sutton men were also transported to Northampton gaol, but those from Tadmarton were accommodated in Oxford.<sup>8</sup>

On the following night Banbury itself remained peaceful. It had, in any case, been decided by the town authorities that they would dispense with the service of the military if trouble should arise during the night, and this decision was considered to have been well received by the labouring classes, many of whom agreed to be enrolled as Special Constables. Outside the town a small-scale disturbance at Bodicote occurred at about midnight, when a threshing machine belonging to a local farmer named Wilson was burnt. The 14th Light Dragoons were rapidly despatched to the village and the mob was soon dispersed. It was said that "nothing afterwards occurred to disturb the peace there."

It seemed as if the labouring classes in Banbury and district had compressed all expression of their pent-up feelings into a wild outburst on one night, for after 29th November little violence occurred in this area, despite continuing sporadic riots in the south of the country and elsewhere. On Wednesday, 15th December, it was decided that the danger was passed and the yeomanry, which had been in quarters for three weeks, was finally dismissed from duty. All that remained was the punishment of those who had rebelled in so violent a fashion in the last days of November.

None of the offences committed in the immediate vicinity of Banbury was of a very serious nature, and only two of the rioters were sentenced to transportation - Richard Cotton, who was concerned with machine breaking at Neithrop and again at Bodicote, and William Brothers, who was concerned with machine breaking at Upper Boddington; both were sentenced to seven years' transportation. William Endall, despite his attempt to escape to Warwick to avoid the course of justice, was sentenced to three months' imprisonment only for his part in the rioting at Upper Boddington. Apart from the transportation, the next most severe punishment was fifteen months' imprisonment; this was received by two of the rioters at Neithrop and four of those concerned at Tadmarton.<sup>9</sup> For the rest sentences ranged from twelve months' imprisonment down to four months - in some cases with, and in others without, hard labour.

The riots in Banbury as, indeed, elsewhere in the country were at any rate valuable to the labouring classes in one respect, even if evil resulted from them in others - they focused (for a time) the attention of the general public on the often lamentably poor conditions under which the labourers lived, and they did lead to at least some measure of heart-searching on the part of the wealthier sectors of the community. A correspondent, signing himself "ABC Special Constable" wrote to Cobbett's extremely Radical Political Register and pointed out that wages in the Banbury area in fact only averaged 9s. a week for a labourer with a wife and family - "Allow the family three meals a day . . . . . allow one penny per head for each meal; at the end of the sixth day the whole wages will have been spent, and not a single farthing left for the seventh day, for fuel, for clothing, for the other little articles absolutely necessary to keep a family in cleanliness."<sup>10</sup> The same writer declared that single men, in winter, sometimes earned only 3s. or 3s. 6d. ("very rarely 4s.") a week. Since the price of a quartern loaf at this time was, in Oxfordshire, 8½d. or 9d. in many cases, it can be appreciated that the wages mentioned were inadequate.



The estimate also ignored the fact that a number of men were unemployed for many months in the year and therefore could only rely upon poor relief for their income.<sup>11</sup> Apart from the moral degeneration of this, it also, naturally, produced a low standard of living. A "Bill for Bettering the Condition of the Agricultural Poor" was ordered to be printed by the House of Commons on 18th October, 1831, and among its provisions was one that there should be a "Patron of the Poor" in every parish who should provide fields or allotments on which unemployed labourers could work. Unfortunately the worthy aim of abolishing reliance on poor relief and removing the redundant and aimless worker from the villages was not achieved, save where the latter took matters into his own hands and migrated or emigrated elsewhere.

From the short-term point of view, too, the rioting had some effect in Banbury and environs. At the village of Bloxham, the inhabitants raised a subscription and purchased twenty fat sheep and eleven tons of coal, which were distributed amongst the poor. "More than eight hundred individuals were supplied with meat, and one cwt. of coal was given to each family, as an acknowledgement of their honourable behaviour and good conduct during the late disturbance in Banbury, and the adjacent villages, and especially for the readiness with which the men presented themselves to be sworn in special constables."<sup>12</sup>

A little earlier the inhabitants of Banbury had raised £100 for the purpose of "providing the poor with meals at a cheap price during the winter." In addition to this gesture it was also pointed out that the Banbury Visiting Charitable Society would provide, and had already provided, help in the form of food, clothing, etc., to those in need.<sup>13</sup>

In this manner the public conscience may be said to have been aroused - and thus faded into the history of Banbury and district part of what has been termed by the Hammonds "the last labourers' revolt."<sup>14</sup> Soon new passions were to be aroused as the battle for the passage, or otherwise, of the Parliamentary Reform Bill got under way.

From the long term point of view, the labourers probably gained little from their revolt. Once the initial impact of the labourers' position had been forgotten by the general public only the memory of repression and punishment remained for a class singularly ill-equipped, both educationally and financially, to press effectively for an improved standard of living. However, while the Banbury labourers appear to have submitted to their fate, this was by no means the case in all of the surrounding villages. In 1834, for example, when trade unionism had an early spurt among the urban workers and there was considerable unrest among the labouring classes, there are records of acts of incendiarism in Bodicote, Brailes and Deddington.<sup>15</sup> Like their predecessors in 1830, these actions proved to be rather gestures of defiance than effective means of alleviating unfavourable conditions, however, and not until the 1870's did the agricultural worker again make a determined effort to press for a higher standard of living.

Pamela Horn.

Notes:

1. The leader of the movement was the legendary "Captain Swing" and threatening letters signed in his name were sent to farmers as a warning or as precursors of violence. His true identity was never established, although several false arrests were made and the Radical journalist and politician, William Cobbett, also fell under suspicion.
2. The acts of incendiarism were normally aimed at agricultural machinery and stacks of corn, hay, etc. The employment of machinery was regarded with disapproval, however, even by some impartial observers, as the following extract from the Oxford University and City Herald of 22nd January, 1831 indicates: "In the southern parts of England, through a vicious abuse in the administration of the poor laws, you have labourers reduced to a minimum of wages, and in redundancy . . . . . At the same time, when this is the case, perhaps about one-sixth of the farmers in these districts, cultivating their lands on the same system and realising equal profits with their neighbours, use threshing machines." The farmer in this minority group "realises more than an average profit and throws those labourers out of employment who would have threshed his corn."

3. Jackson's Oxford Journal - 30th October, 1830.
4. Jackson's Oxford Journal - 27th November, 1830.
5. Oxford University and City Herald - 4th Dec. , 1830. Shortly beforehand the Tory Chancellor of the Exchequer had placed before the House of Commons the Civil List; the economies proposed were considered inadequate by many of the Members, and on a division taking place the Government was defeated. As a result a Whig administration took over the government of the country.
- 5b. According to George Herbert (Shoemaker's Window - Oxford 1948), the long cross bars used for attaching the horses to the threshing machines were set alight and brandished at the Yeomanry. I am indebted to Mr. Trinder for this reference, which provides a very graphic account of the rioting, written from personal experience (pp. 77-80).
6. Oxford University and City Herald - 4th Dec. , 1830.
7. Coventry Herald - 24th Dec. , 1830.
8. Among those who were taken prisoner for destroying machinery at Tadmarton was James Bodfish. He was not the only Bodfish to have a brush with the law. In 1872, when Joseph Arch and his helpers developed trade unionism among the agricultural labourers, Isaac Bodfish was thrashed by a farmer of Tadmarton for his part in attempting to encourage labourers to enrol in the union. The circumstances of the case were such that it was reported in the national press, while the matter was also raised in Parliament. - Hansard - Vol. 211 - p.1349.
9. As a matter of interest, James Bodfish was among these four. Under Section IV of an Act of 1827 for Consolidating and Amending the Laws of England relative to Malicious Injuries to Property, destruction of threshing machines could be punishable by seven years' transportation; as can be seen this maximum sentence was not demanded to any extent in connection with the Banbury riots.
10. Political register - 11th Dec. , 1830.
11. After the riots it was decided to appoint a Commission to look into the Poor Law administration; this commenced work in 1833 and the following is an extract from a Copy of the Report issued in 1834 (1905 Edn. - p.40): "At the parish of Bodicott . . . a printed form is delivered to those who apply for work. The labourer takes this to the farmers in succession, who, if they do not want his labour, sign their names. The man, on his return, receives from the overseer the day's pay of an industrious labourer, with the deduction of 2d. The same system takes place in other parishes." It was partially against the degradation of this system that the labourers rioted.
12. Jackson's Oxford Journal - 1st Jan. 1831.
13. Northampton Mercury - 25th Dec. 1830.
14. J.L. and B. Hammond - "The Village Labourer" - Guild Book edn. 1948.
15. Jackson's Oxford Journal - 1st March, 5th April and 17th May, 1834.

Household and Farm Inventories in Oxfordshire, 1550-1590, edited by M. A. Havinden. Oxfordshire Record Society, XLIV and H. M. S. O., 1965. £5 .0 .0.

In the 16th and 17th centuries detailed inventories, often describing the contents of a house room by room, were attached to wills. This collection of 259, one of the largest yet to be published, includes all Oxfordshire inventories up to 1590 to be found in the records of the Consistory, Archdeaconry and Peculiar Courts now deposited in the Bodleian Library. A good cross-section of husbandmen and the smaller tradesmen are covered. The wealthy, the gentry and more prosperous tradesmen do not appear, as their wills were proved in the Prerogative Court of Canterbury. These inventories, such as survive, for long scandalously inaccessible to the historian, are at last being catalogued and will eventually be available in the Public Record Office.

By far the greatest proportion of the inventories relate to the parishes of Banbury (49) and Cropredy (including Wardington and Mollington) (39). For some reason the records of the Peculiar Court appear to have survived in much greater quantity. Even so the Banbury inventories all come from two periods, 1573-1580, and 1586-1590. Only 14 inventories in all survive before 1570, none from the Banbury area. For 1581-1586 the records for Banbury at least appear to be missing. No such gap occurs for the county as a whole, and most parishes are represented by one or two inventories. In his detailed and scholarly Introduction Mr Havinden discusses what proportion of the population is likely to have left wills. In the 8-year period 1573-1580 109 adult males were buried in Banbury, of whom 27 left wills proved in the Peculiar Court, with another 4 in P.C.C. In the 4-year period 1587-1590 the figures are 77 and 15, with 3 in P.C.C. Thus it seems that approximately one man in four was making a will. The irregularity of the survival of the records makes valid statistical comparison difficult if not impossible.

It is difficult to exaggerate the importance and interest of these inventories. They build up a graphic picture of small town and rural life under Elizabeth I. In the great majority they underline the paucity of possessions, the acute discomfort and the poverty of all but the most prosperous. Of the Banburians, over half had goods totalling less than £10 in value; only three had goods worth more than £90. These were Thomas Allins, shoemaker (27 dossene of shoues & 1 per at 13s 4d ye dossen, £18.1.1, 50 butes of lether at 6s.8d a pece, £16.13.4); Robert Symons, baker (7 vessels of Butter wayginge by estimacion 600 li, £8.14.0); and John Hasker, no trade stated but perhaps he kept an inn, for he had 12 fether beddes furnished, worth £24.

The largest house recorded in Banbury was that of Henry Pilkington, alderman, which included a hall (gatehouse), shop and buttery, each with chambers over them, kitchen and fishhouse.

Space does not permit proper consideration of Mr Havinden's masterly analysis of the evidence from these inventories. He goes in detail into social status, occupations and wealth, the size of farms and houses, crops and livestock, and his Introduction will serve as a model for future works. One immediate inspiration of this volume has been the transcription of some 350 Banbury inventories between 1590 and 1650, which the Banbury Historical Society will be publishing in 1968, edited by Dr E. R. C. Brinkworth. With those discussed here they will give Banbury a collection of printed inventories unrivalled in the country.

J. S. W. Gibson

The activities and publications of some or all of the following bodies should interest readers:

- Arts Council of Banbury (Miss B.G. Rooke, Cornerstones, St. Mary's Road, Adderbury West, Banbury.) Minimum 21/-.
- Banbury and District Civic Society (J. Barnden, Hon. Tr., c/o Barclays Bank Ltd., Bridge Street, Banbury). 10/6d.
- Banbury Art Society (Hon. Sec., 24 Bloxham Road, Banbury). 15/-.
- Banbury Geographical Association (B.E. Little, 2 Burlington Crescent, Banbury). 5/-.
- Bicester Local History Circle (Hon. Sec., Miss G.H. Dannatt, Lammas Cottage, Launton Road, Bicester, Oxon.). 5/-.
- Buckinghamshire Record Society (Hon. Sec., J.G. Jenkins, Twitchells End, Jordans, Bucks.). 42/-.
- Council for the Preservation of Rural England, Oxfordshire Branch (Mrs. J. Scott-Cockburn, North Oxon. Sub-Committee Membership Sec., Hornton Hall, Banbury). Minimum 5/-.
- Dugdale Society (published Warwickshire records) (Shakespeare's Birthplace, Stratford-upon-Avon). 42/-.
- Farthinghoe Historical Society (Hon. Sec., R.E.J. Lewis, Abbey Lodge, Farthinghoe, Nr. Brackley, Northants). 5/-.
- Heraldry Society (59 Gordon Square, London, W.C.1.) 30/-; or to include "The Coat of Arms", 50/-.
- Historical Association (59a Kennington Park Road, London, S.E.11) (Oxford Branch: A.J.P. Puddephatt, 93 Old Road, Headington, Oxford). 20/-; or to include "History", 35/-.
- Northamptonshire Record Society (Delapré Abbey, Northampton). 21/-.
- Oxford Architectural and Historical Society (Ashmolean Museum, Oxford). 15/-; or to include "Oxoniensia", 42/-.
- Oxford Preservation Trust (The Painted Room, 3 Cornmarket Street, Oxford). Minimum 5/-.
- Oxfordshire Record Society (Dr. W.O. Hassall, Hon. Sec., Bodleian Library, Oxford). 21/-.
- Shipston-on-Stour and District Local History Society (H.G. Parry, Hon. Sec., 8 Stratford Road, Shipston-on-Stour, Warw.). 7/6d.
- Warwickshire Local History Society (47 Newbold Terrace, Leamington Spa.). 10/-.

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"The Amateur Historian", published quarterly is available from the National Council of Social Service, 26 Bedford Square, London, W.C.1. - single copies, 3/6d; annual postal subscription, 15/-.

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Printed by Express Litho Service, Oxford  
for the Banbury Historical Society

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