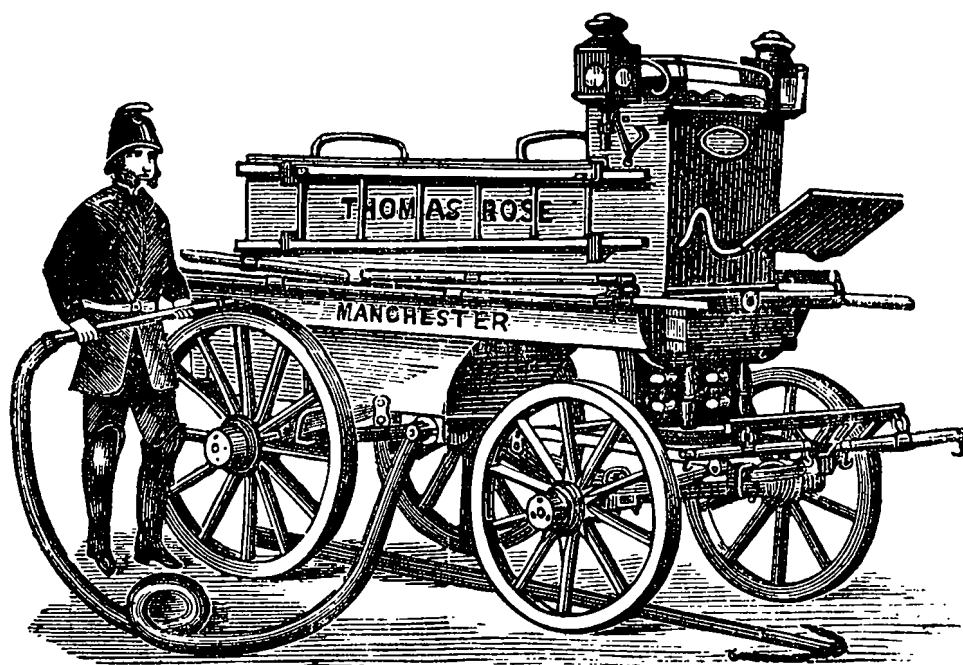


CAKE AND COCKHORSE



Banbury Historical Society

Spring 1971

20p

BANBURY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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The Society was founded in 1957 to encourage interest in the history of the town of Banbury and neighbouring parts of Oxfordshire, Northamptonshire and Warwickshire.

The Magazine *Cake & Cockhorse* is issued to members four times a year. This includes illustrated articles based on original local historical research, as well as recording the Society's activities. Publications include *Old Banbury - a short popular history* by E.R.C. Brinkworth (2nd edition), *New Light on Banbury's Crosses*, *Roman Banburyshire*, *Banbury's Poor in 1850*, and *Sanderson Miller of Radway and his work at Wroxton*, and a pamphlet *History of Banbury Cross*.

The Society also publishes records volumes. These have included *Clockmaking in Oxfordshire, 1400-1850*; *South Newington Churchwardens' Accounts 1553-1684*; *Banbury Marriage Register, 1558-1837* (3 parts) and *Baptism and Burial Register, 1558-1723* (2 parts); and *A Victorian M.P. and his Constituents: The Correspondence of H.W. Tancred, 1841-1859*. A new edition of *Shoemaker's Window*, *Wigginton Constables' Books, 1691-1836*, *Banbury Wills and Inventories, 1591-1650*, *Bodicote Churchwardens' Accounts, 1700-1822* and *Banbury Politics, 1830-1880* are all well advanced.

Meetings are held during the autumn and winter, normally at 7.30 p.m. in the Town Hall. 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 £2.00, including the annual records volume, or £1.00 if this is excluded. Junior membership is 25p.

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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In February the Historical Society's summer excursions seem very remote, but plans for these are well advanced. Members will receive detailed notice in due course; however, attention can already be drawn to one in particular: a coach trip to the Ironbridge Gorge Museum Open Day on Sunday, May 2nd.

The Ironbridge Gorge Museum was formed in 1968 to preserve the many notable monuments of the Industrial Revolution which survive in the Severn Gorge in Shropshire, and to set up an open air industrial museum comparable with those in Scandinavia, the Netherlands and Belgium. The Museum now has a full-time staff and headquarters, and a considerable amount of landscaping and restoration has gone on at its principal sites.

Such a vast project will always be short of money, for the range of what can be done is infinite, and the scope for voluntary work is consequently enormous. The Open Days, of which that on May 2nd is the fourth to be held, are a stop-gap measure to enable people to see what the Museum is doing before its main sites can be opened to the public. A shuttle service of coaches takes visitors from site to site, at each of which guides are available to explain what can be seen.

Among the places to be visited are the world's first iron bridge, the furnace where in 1709 iron was first smelted with coke, the famous Coalbrookdale works museum, the remains of a canal inclined plane which carried boats 207 ft. up and down the slopes of the Seven Gorge, the china works at Coalport, and the Museum's open-air site at Blists Hill, where a number of working exhibits can already be seen. Quite apart from the Museum the spectacular scenery of the Severn Gorge makes a visit very worthwhile. Full details of the visit will be available later, but members are advised to reserve the date now for this is a chance to see one of the most exciting experiments in local history in Great Britain.

Our Cover: shows a Fire Engine of the 1870s, as advertised by Thomas Rose of Manchester in *Fire Protection, A Complete Manual*, by Eyre M. Shaw, published in 1876. We are indebted to Mr. F.H. Anker for this illustration.

SOCIETY NEWS AND ACTIVITIES

Spring Programme

Thursday, 25th February. 'Oxfordshire Watermills'. Mr John Carter, until recently a committee member, is the local industrial archaeologist. An energetic enthusiast, he will be well worth hearing on a subject he has made his own. We can expect excellent illustrations from an archaeologist who is also a keen photographer. *Banbury Town Hall, 7.30 p.m.*

Thursday, 25th March. 'The Gardens of Stowe'. Mr George Clarke. Members will recall the very pleasant A.G.M. held at Stowe School some years back. Mr Clarke has done a great deal of research into the well-documented history of the creation of the gardens and park, and the building of the temples which still adorn the school grounds. His exceptionally fine colour slides not only show the buildings and gardens as they are now, often from unexpected and revealing angles, but also the 18th century development of the grounds from maps of different dates. The design and layout underwent some surprising changes in direction and emphasis in the transition from formal gardens to informal park. *Banbury Town Hall, 7.30 p.m.*

Tuesday, 27th April. 'The Village of Middleton Cheney'. Another of our always-popular Village Meetings, when Mr G. Forsyth Lawson will speak on the architectural features (illustrated with his fine coloured slides) and one of our Vice-Presidents, the Bishop of Dorchester, will lecture on the village itself, and more particularly on the church and one of its incumbents, Archdeacon Churton. *Middleton Cheney Village Hall, 7.30 p.m.*

Advance notice.

Sunday, 2nd May. Ironbridge Gorge Museum Open Day (see Editorial).

Saturday, 5th June. A.G.M. at Rousham Park. Members will be informed in due course of the full programme of summer excursions and in particular of the arrangements for the coach trip to Ironbridge.

Winter Meetings

Since the last issue of *Cake and Cockhorse* there have been three most successful and varied gatherings of the Society. On November 20th Professor R.H.C. Davis of Birmingham University and current Editor of *History* was the principal guest at the Society's Annual Dinner. This was a most sociable occasion, wittily presided over by our President, the Lord Saye and Sele, and attended to capacity at the White Lion Hotel. Entertainment was provided by the Bloxham Consort Players in a suitably historical vein.

The novel attempt to make 'instant history' by gathering together four old Banburians and recording their reminiscences was an undoubted success. On November 16th under Dr E.R.C. Brinkworth's Chairmanship, Mr F. Anker, Mr D. Braggins and Mr N. Scropton gave three delightful pictures of Banbury half a century and more ago. They, however, will be the first to admit that the highlight of the evening was the previously taped conversation with Miss D. Bromley whose clarity of expression and vivid recall captivated the audience. We were delighted she could attend, although she could not be persuaded to face the audience 'live'. These reminiscences have all been transcribed by Dr. G. E. Gardam and will probably form an issue of this magazine at some future date.

On January 19th Mr T. Rowley lectured on the first year's excavation of a medieval site at Middleton Stoney. This is a five year excavation which has so far produced interesting and rather surprising Roman finds. It is hoped to visit the site in July, and receive another welcome visit from Mr Rowley when the work has advanced further.

Subscriptions for 1971

Members are reminded that subscriptions for 1971 were due on 1st January. These should be paid direct to Dr G.E. Gardam, 11 Denbigh Close, Broughton Road, Banbury, who is now Hon. Treasurer of the Society, and *not* to Mr A.W. Pain, whose ever-increasing duties as Borough Librarian make it necessary for him to restrict his participation to the provision of information.

JOHN DAVIS OF BLOXHAM, ENCLOSURE COMMISSIONER

In studies of agricultural history, particularly those discussing the parliamentary enclosure movement of the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries, the emphasis is usually placed on the social and economic causes and consequences. Such studies often ignore the role of the 'personalities' of the enclosure period, the commissioner being the central figure. Two notable exceptions are the account of Oxfordshire by W. E. Tate (1951),¹ and the wider study by M. W. Beresford (1946).²

One personality who emerges is 'John Davis of Bloxham, Gentleman, Enclosure Commissioner'. The handlist of the Inclosure Acts and Awards published by the Oxford County Council lists three commissioners bearing the name John Davis, all of whom hailed from Bloxham.³ Study of the enclosure material for Buckinghamshire reveals that there were at least four commissioners with this name.⁴

The Rev. John Davis acted on seven occasions in Oxfordshire before his death at the age of fifty-seven in 1789. It was often stated that he came from Cropredy but in fact his incumbency was at Bloxham where he served as vicar from 1762–1789.⁵ In his one appearance in Buckinghamshire Davis replaced the celebrated Northamptonshire commissioner Francis Burton, who died in 1777 whilst engaged upon the Ludgershall enclosure. Tate informs us that Davis usually represented the collegial, rectorial, or vicarial interests.⁶

The most celebrated John Davis followed the Rev. John Davis. He was the Oxfordshire commissioner who acted on most occasions in his home county, appearing on thirty-six commissions between 1793–1819. Outside Oxfordshire he seems to have been equally sought after. In Buckinghamshire between 1796 and 1813 he was employed at one time or another on thirteen commissions, making him the fourth busiest commissioner in the county. In Bedfordshire he served on at least four occasions between 1799 and 1811, and he was a member of five commissions in Leicestershire.⁷

Arthur Young in visiting Bloxham was particularly impressed by two farmers, Messrs. Warriner and Davis. The latter he described as an excellent practical farmer who had a great deal of experience as an enclosure commissioner, 'having been employed upon twenty six at the same time'. Indeed, Young in compiling his *General View of the County* in 1813 paid close attention to the opinions given by John Davis on the question of enclosure. It was Davis's belief that enclosure had greatly increased arable production and that as much could now be grown on half the number of acres as on the whole before. Also, he was of the opinion that rents would improve as a result of enclosure and was equally convinced that there would be little difference to the situation of the poor.⁸ Regarding costs, Davis offered as one very material way to lessen the expense of enclosure, the suggestion that there was not any need to have posts and rails to support the young quickset hedges, 'it was only required to restrain the sheep from being without a shepherd'. Needless to say, Davis did not post and rail his own farm.⁹

The fact that Davis was a commissioner thirty-six times in Oxfordshire as well as serving elsewhere may sound exceptional. However, a witness to the House of Commons Select Committee on Inclosures in 1795 reported that he had been a commissioner over one hundred times.¹⁰ It was not surprising that commissioners could undertake so many enclosures, even twenty-six at the same time. For a fee of two guineas and later four guineas per day plus expenses, it proved to be a very rewarding profession. On the other hand, it must have been difficult to undertake as many commissions as Davis did. Indeed, the surviving enclosure records for Buckinghamshire are witness of much absenteeism. John Davis above all other commissioners in the country was most frequently absent from meetings. For the Moulsoe enclosure of 1802 he only attended half the recorded meetings. For the seven years of the Stewkley enclosure negotiations 1811–1817, it appears he only attended those meetings which dealt with the draft award and was absent from most of the other meetings.¹¹ Young, once again, observes that 'Mr. Davis's bill on all his enclosures has not amounted to above 100 pounds per enclosure; though not attending so much as some, he may be less than others'.¹²

For the earlier enclosure period a commission may have consisted of as many as five or seven members, but as the eighteenth century advanced it became usual for the number of commissioners to be restricted to three. Also, as it became more of a profession it was usual for a commissioner to represent a particular landowning interest. For his thirty-six commissions in Oxfordshire John Davis represented Lords of the Manor five times, Tithe owners six times, 'other proprietors' nineteen times and the rest of his commissions were made up of various combinations. In Buckinghamshire he represented Lords of the Manor three times, Tithe owners three times (New College twice and the Bishop of Oxford once), and on all other occasions he represented the 'majority in value' of the owners. It could be that John Davis chose to be present only at those meetings which concerned his sponsors. Thus, at the Stewkley enclosure he may have felt that he had completed his obligation by only attending those meetings where the Tithe commutation to the Bishop of Oxford was discussed. On the other hand, Davis's work in Buckinghamshire could not be considered as local. Indeed, of the thirteen commissions seven were for parishes in Newport Pagnell Hundred in the extreme north-east of the county.

Tate has suggested that occasionally commissioners formed a syndicate offering their services en bloc to enclosure promoters.¹³ Beresford makes the same suggestion, 'in some cases commissioners seem to have worked in groups, undertaking as a team (although of course engaged as individuals) work in many parishes'.¹⁴ John Davis in turn shared a number of his Buckinghamshire enclosures with the same commissioners. On nine occasions he shared a commission with John Fellows of Foscott, who incidentally was the busiest of all commissioners in Buckinghamshire. On four occasions Thomas Hopcraft of Crowton partnered John Davis. For the enclosure of Singleborough in Great Horwood parish 1799–1800 these three commissioners acted together.

The end of this John Davis's career as an enclosure commissioner coincided with the close of the period of greatest enclosing activity. After 1820 when the pace of enclosure slackened, yet another John Davis of Bloxham emerges. This third Davis acted on five commissions in Oxfordshire and on four in Buckinghamshire. For two of these four occasions he was unable to complete his duties, dying in 1845 while in office at the age of fifty-four. On both of these commissions, Quainton (1840–43) and Great Horwood (1841–42), he was able to put his name to the completed awards but there were certain post-award duties left unfinished. For the Quainton enclosure he was replaced by his son, yet another John. This fourth and final John Davis acted on just the one occasion in Buckinghamshire. While he did not act as a commissioner in Oxfordshire, the County Handlist does list him as a surveyor.

This short essay has concentrated on showing the contribution made by individuals to a well documented process and period. Guidance has been borrowed from the maxim of the French Historian, Marc Bloch, who believed that 'it is men that history seeks to grasp'.¹⁵

Michael Turner B.Sc.

References

1. W.E. Tate, 'Oxfordshire Enclosure Commissioners, 1737–1856.' *Journal of Modern History*. Vol. XXIII, No.2 1951, pp.137-45.
2. M.W. Beresford, 'The Commissioners of Enclosure'. *Economic History Review* Vol.XVI 1946 pp.130-40.
3. *A Handlist of Inclosure Acts and Awards relating to the county of Oxford*. Oxford County Council Record Publication No.2 1963.
4. I am obliged to Mr. E. J. Davis and his staff at the County Record Office, Aylesbury for assistance in making the material available to me.
5. Recorded in Bloxham Church, east window. I am obliged to Mr. J.S.W. Gibson for this information.
6. W.E. Tate, *op.cit.* 1951, p.142.
7. I am obliged to Miss McGregor of Bedford County Record Office, Bedford for this information. For Leicestershire see H.G. Hunt, 'The Parliamentary Enclosure Movement in Leicestershire 1730–1842'. Unpublished London Ph.D.Thesis. 1956, App.II p.313.
8. The deterioration in the standards of the poor has often been blamed on enclosure, especially J.L. and B. Hammond, *The Village Labourer* (1912)

9. Arthur Young, *General View of the Agriculture of Oxfordshire* (Board of Agriculture, 1813). pp.93-5.
10. *Report From The Select Committee* appointed to take into consideration the means of promoting the Cultivation and Improvement of the Waste, Unclosed, and Unproductive Lands of the Kingdom. (1795) *Reports from Committees of the House of Commons*. Vol.IX p.223.
11. *Moulsoe Enclosure Commissioners Minute Book*. Carrington Mss. Box 8a Moulsoe Settled Estates Bundle No.11. County Record Office Aylesbury. *Stewkley Enclosure Commissioners Minute Book*. 1R/M/10/2. C.R.O. Aylesbury.
12. Arthur Young, *op.cit.* 1813. p.93.
13. W.E. Tate, *op.cit.* (1951) pp.142-3.
14. M.W. Beresford, *op.cit.* (1946) p.132.
15. Marc Bloch, *The Historian's Craft* (1954 translation) Manchester University Press. p.26.

A LETTER FROM AN AYNHO EMIGRANT

The letter which follows was published in the Northampton Herald on 1st March 1834, with the comments that it was surprising that more labourers did not try to go to the United States and Canada, and that landlords in parishes distressed by redundant population should encourage emigration. All three of the place names mentioned are fairly common in the United States, but it seems most likely that this particular family were living in upstate New York. The reference to the high quality knives made by George Thomas the cutler in Parsons Street, Banbury, is particularly interesting.

Richland.
Sept.22,1833.

Dear Father and Mother,

We received your letter August 24th and was glad to hear you was all in good health, as, Thank God, it leaves us. We like this country very well. We have purchased two cows for thirty-five dollars. We never was so well off before as we are now. We intend to have a farm as soon as you come. We are now living two miles from Pulaski, by the side road towards Oswego, and it is very pleasant indeed. Our house is built with trees about a foot thick, laid one on top of another, and let in at the corners, chopt smooth on the inside; it is about 20 feet long, 18 feet wide, 2 storey high, the gable ends are boarded up; the roof is made secure with boards, for board is cheap in this country. We have board for the floors. Our chimney is made with brick and stopt, which makes it as comfortable as it is in England. I can get plenty of work at ditching, and well sinking, and cellar sinking, so bring your tools with you and small drills, and your stocking axes. Augers, broad-axes, saws, sickles and scythes are as cheap here, and household furniture is as cheap here. Wheat one dollar a bushel, rye 5 shillings, oats 2 shillings, barley 5 shillings; superfine flour 3 dollars a cwt.; potatoes 2 shillings a bushel, apples one shilling, pork ten cents a pound, butter ten cents a pound, whiskey three shillings a gallon, rum, brandy and wine one dollar a gallon. Wages is high in this country, and I get my living where I work. Bring plenty of garden seeds, a few field beans and vetches with you. Dear mother, bring plenty of sewing cotton and threadneedles and pins. Father bring your measuring tape and one for me. Please to bring a pocket knife for me of Thomas's make, Banbury. Dear brother Thomas, if you was here you would make a fortune. I wish we had all come to this country when we was first married. I wish you had come when we did, if you had we should have had a farm by now. Thomas does reckon of his grandpap's coming. John is seven months old. Give my best respects to all my neighbours, enemys and friends. Father has sold his farm, he finds that he can get land cheaper, which he intends to have another soon. They are all well at present. Jane is with them. Henry Elly and his family is all well, so I must conclude with my kind love to you all.

John and Ann George.

THE TRIBE OFF BANBURYE

This ballad appears in *Bishop Percy's Manuscript Ballads and Romances*, edited by John Hales and Frederick Furnivall, and published in 1868. Bishop Percy described it as 'an old Cavalier Song on the Taking of Banbury by Colonel Lumford', and his editors give an account of the events leading up to the attack on Banbury which the ballad bemoans or celebrates. Hales and Furnivall speak of the ballad as 'an insolent Cavalier account, put into the mouth of a Puritan, of the occupation of Banbury by a Royalist force'.

On: the 7th day on the 7 month,
most Lamentablye
the men of Babylon did spoyle
the tribe of Banburye.

A brother post from couentry
ryding in a blew rockett,¹
sayes 'Colbronde Lunsforde comes, I saw,
with a child's arme hang in his pockett.'

Then wee called up our men of warr,
younge Viuers,² Cooke & Denys,
whom our Lord Sea³ placed under
his Sonne Master ffyenys.⁴

When hee came meere, he sent vs word
that hee was coming downe,
& wold, vnless we lett him in,
Granado⁵ all our towne.

Then was our Colbronde – fines⁶ – & me,
in a most woefull case;
for neither he nor I did know
who this granado was.

wee had 8 gunnes called ordinance,
& foure score Musquetiers,
yett all this wold not serve to stop
those Philistine cauleerees.

Good people, the did send in men
from Dorchester & Wickham;
but wher this Gyant did them see,
good Lord, how he did kick han.

'You round heads, rebels, rougs,' quoth hee,
'Ile crop & slit eche eare,
& leaue you neither arme nor lege
much longer than your heere!'⁷

Then wee sett ope our gates full wyde;
they swarmed in like bees,
& they were all arraydd in buffe
thicker then our towne cheese.⁸

Now god deliuer vs, we pray,
from such blood thirstye men,
forom⁹ Leuyathan Lunsford
who eateth our children!

ffor Banburye, the tinkers crye,
you hanged vs up by twelves;
now since Lunsford hath plundered you,
you may goe hang you selues.

ffins.

Notes.

1. rockett. The editors give several definitions. It seems to have been a garment which served the purpose of an overcoat today.
2. Captain Robert Vivers, b.1606/7, of a prominent Banbury family, and married Anne Hawthaine of Calthorpe Manor. He later fought at Edgehill.
3. Lord Saye – William, 1st Viscount Saye and Sele.
4. Fiennes – Colonel John Fiennes, third son of Lord Saye and Sele.
5. Granado, grenade. The editors describe a Pomegranet, which was similar, and was an iron ball filled with gunpowder and bits of iron, like the seeds of a pomegranate.
6. Fiennes.
7. heere: hair.
8. Banbury cheese.
9. forom: this.

This attack on Banbury took place early in the Civil War, in August 1642. The King and Parliament had each insisted on having the management of the army, and the former appointed the Earl of Northampton to 'array' the forces in Warwickshire, the latter Lord Brook. In July Parliament granted Lord Brook six pieces of ordnance to strengthen Warwick castle. These had come as far as Banbury by July 29th. But now, Lord Northampton refused to allow them to be brought any farther.

At last Lord Brook and Lord Northampton agreed: the guns must be carried back to Banbury, and neither party must remove them without giving the other three days notice. The people of Banbury were alarmed, rumour spread, and proved to be well-founded: it was said that the Royalists would attack the town and seize the ordnance, and on Sunday night, the 7th August, a force was discovered by a scout, coming down Hardwick lane. But 'the night growing extreme dark, they forbore all that night'. Next morning, a parley was held, and

'The town being in a sad case, not knowing how they would deal with them, exposed themselves and town on Munday morning, and . . . they came in with about 5 or 600 horses, but 300 good ones, and the rest sorry jades, anything [they] could get from the poor country men. . . ; and as beggarly riders set on them, though for the present they flourished with money, yet their clothes bewrayed them to be neither gentlemen nor Cavaliers. And having fil'd the town with horses the chief of them came to the Red Lion Inne, and desired to speak with Colonell Feines and Captaine Vivers, who were in the castle, to whom reply was made, they should. . . : then they produced the Commission of Array, and required them to deliver the Ordnance, otherwise they would take them by force and fire the town, And having obtained what they came for . . . they clear'd the town againe, and were all departed before night, who carried them to the E. of Northampton's house [Compton Wynyates], and it was thought they intended to go to Warwick castle the next day, but the Lord Brooke had noe notice from the Earle of three dayes warning, as was agreed between them; There was also Colonell Lunsford, and divers Lords too long to name; There was the Lord Wilmot who kept back the town of Atherbury from coming in to aid Banbury, and threatned he would hang up the men and send the souldiers to their wives and children.' (*Proceedings at Banbry since the Ordnance went down for the Lord Brooke to fortifie Warwick Castle, 1642*, among the King's pamphlets in the British Museum, quoted by Hales and Furnivall, and see Beesley's *History of Banbury* p.302.)

Tea Kettle Broth

Mr H.O. Bennett of Oxford Road, Banbury, points out that what was called Tea Kettle Broth in North Oxfordshire in the late 19th century was not always the 'tea' made from burnt bread mentioned in Mrs. Horn's article in our last issue. He recalls a broth which he enjoyed many times as a child, which was made thus:

Break a slice of bread into pieces, place in a basin; add a lump of dripping and pinches of salt and pepper; pour boiling water over it and cover with a plate for a few minutes, afterwhitch it is ready to eat.

Mr. Bennett also mentions that he lived at Alkerton between 1913 and 1922 during which time the school described in Mrs. Horn's article had ceased to function, although the building still remained.

FIRE-FIGHTING IN THE MID-19TH CENTURY

The place of the old Banbury Volunteer Fire Brigade, formed in 1870, in the social history of the town is well known. The letter from William Hobley which follows records something of fire-fighting before that date. It was written to an ironmonger at Brackley in whose premises it was found some years ago. It was kindly brought to our attention by Mr D.W. Peacock. William Hobley is recorded as a painter and sign painter in Rusher's Banbury List, and appears at 23 High Street for the first time in 1854. He was also agent for the Unity Fire Office, founded in 1853.

Plumber, Glazier, House Decorator.
Plate, Sheet, Crown & Ornamental Window Glass Warehouse, etc.
French and English Paper Hangings.

23 High Street,
Banbury.
Nov.5th., 1870.

Dear Sir,

In answer to your enquiry, I beg to say that I have no printed rules for the management of the Fire Engines at Banbury, but as far as I can I will give you a few particulars how I do in the case of Engines being called out to a fire. We get away with the Engines as quickly as possible to the place and remain there till the danger is over. I then take a list of the helpers and if they have worked very hard I order some ale and bread and cheese as refreshment. I then ascertain the cost of the same and start for home.

I then make out a proper list of the helpers (alphabetically) and all the bills for horse hire, etc., and deliver them to the Agent of the Fire Office where the property is insured, soon as I get (*the*) money I appoint a day and go to the village and pay them which is rather an unpleasant job as it is very difficult to satisfy them.

I pay them according to their work and the time engaged, say 1/- up to 2/6 each in some few instances as much as 5/- for those men who are very *free workers* and those who will ascend (sic) upon the roofs and cut off communications of the materials such as thatch and timbers, etc., etc., some of these men work very hard indeed and deserve great praise for their labours. There (*is an*) other class who are unwilling to render any assistance but are the first to come forward to have their names put down but my plan is to go round when the work is being done and pick out the most deserving helpers and so pay them accordingly.

Whenever I go out with the engine my fee is £1 .. 1 .. 0d. I also take the foreman who receives from 5/- to 10/- according to the number of hours, the men who work the Engines generally have a little extra. Should you require any more information on any specific point I should be happy to give you all the information I can.

Yours Respect.,
W(illiam) H (obley)

Extracts marked thus: (*and*) are nibbled away from original by mice and inserted.

During the 18th and part of the 19th century there were two manual fire engines in use in Banbury. They were kept in an Engine House in Calthorpe Street until the building of the new Town Hall in 1854, when one engine was removed there and the other was kept in the porch of St. Mary's Church. A fire alarm was given by ringing the treble and tenor bells of the church.

In 1857 the second engine was removed from the church to Hobley's Lane in Neithrop, with the keys at Lampitt's Foundry. This was the engine that was in the charge of William Hobley. Later it was said to be kept at the Eagle Inn in Foundry Street.

COUNTY FIRE OFFICE,

LONDON, APRIL 3, 1833.

REGULATIONS

FOR THE

ENGINES AND FIREMEN,

BELONGING TO THE

County Fire-Office in Provincial Towns.

1. An *Engineer* and *Ten Firemen* are to be appointed to each Engine. They should be all young men.
2. The *Engineer* should be a *Plumber* or *Whitesmith* by trade, at all events a working *Mechanic*. Some of the *Firemen* should be *Carpenters*, or other tradesmen in the building line, if they can be procured, others may be common *Labourers*.
3. The *Men* are to be numbered, and in the absence of the *Engineer*, one is to act in his stead, according to his number.
4. The *Engineer* is to be allowed an annual *Fee* of One *Pound*, for keeping the *Engine* and appurtenances in safety and good order, and *Five Shillings* for every *Fire* he attends with the *Engine*; and if he have occasion to work it, *Five Shillings* for *Train* or *Neat's-foot Oil* to liquor the *Hose* and occasionally the *Buckets*, and also the *Chains* and *Forcers* of the *Engine*.
5. The regular *Firemen* to have *Sixpence* an hour for the time they are at work, and in coming and returning, but so as not to exceed *Five Shillings* per man in one day and night of twenty-four hours; nothing for a false *Alarm*, or where the *Fire* is extinguished before their arrival.
6. Common *Labourers* assisting may have *Threepence* an hour, and bread, cheese, and beer, to the value of *Threepence* an hour more; or if no *Refreshment* be given, they may have not exceeding *Sixpence* an hour, according to circumstances.
7. The *Agent* is not to authorise the supply of other *Refreshments* than as above, nor to suffer any to partake of the *Refreshments* he has ordered, who have not worked well: and he is to reject bills for *Refreshments* which he has not ordered.
8. The *Engine* is only to be taken out upon good information that it is really wanted; and not then, unless it be to protect *Property* insured in the *County*, or upon an undertaking that all *Expenses* will be paid by the party or parties interested.
9. If the *Fire* be further than two miles from the *Town*, not more than four *Firemen*, including the *Engineer*, are to proceed with the *Engine*; they may be assisted in pumping by *Labourers* on the spot.
10. After the *Fire* is thoroughly subdued it is seldom necessary to leave more than two men on the watch the following night; and not that number, unless property be exposed to depredation; or to take fire, should the remains rekindle.
11. When the *Fire* is within two miles of the *Town*, and the *Engine* is not worked more than two hours or not at all, the *Charge* for the use of the *Engine* is £1. But if the *Engine* be worked for a longer time, or it be run to a greater distance, the charge is £2.
12. Where any other Party than The *County Fire Office* is interested in a *Fire*, the *Fire Bill* should be immediately made out, and contain the *Charges* for the Use of the *Engine*, for the Attendance of the *Engineer*, for—Oiling the *Engine* and *Pipes*, Hosing the *Engine*, *Repairs* of any thing Damaged, the *Firemen*, Others Assisting, and authorised *Refreshments*.
13. The Parties to be deemed interested in stopping a *Fire* are the *Offices* insuring the *Property* destroyed, or so immediately near and exposed to it, that but for the exertions used, it must have been also destroyed; and the *Owners* of similar *Property*, running their own insurance, or being under insured.
14. The *Expences* are then to be divided rateably between these Parties, according to the interests they respectively had at stake. The *Agent* for the *County* is to pay no more than the proportion due from his *Office* for the expences incurred. If other Parties fail to pay theirs he is not to pay for them. If Parties interested fail to pay him their proportion for the use of the *Engine*, &c. he is not to let the *Engine* go out on a future occasion for their assistance.

By Order,

J. A. BEAUMONT, *Secretary.*

In spite of Hobley's opening remarks there were in fact printed rules for the management of provincial fire engines and firemen, and a copy of these is reproduced.

The method of payment described by William Hobley is well illustrated by documents surviving in the possession of myself. A disastrous fire occurred in Banbury on 12th July 1859, involving property between the Brewery and the Crown Hotel in Bridge Street. In addition to the use of the Banbury and Neithrop engines, several were brought in from the district – from Middleton Cheney, from Brackley, from Wroxton Abbey and from Oxford. The bill of costs and receipted accounts show how this was shared by the Fire Insurance Offices:

Expences incurred at Fire in Bridge Street, Banbury, on 12th July 1859

		£		
400 Men at 2/-		40 0 0	Riley Mrs	0 6 3
23 Women)) at 9d each, say	3 0 0	Wm. Page	0 8 8
52 Boys)			Bazeley	0 12 6
Brackley men			Lampitt Engineer	4 16 9
Royal Exchange		0 12 0	Hobleys Bill repairs to Engines	
Banbury Engine Men		8 3 0	paying men etc	7 12 0
Neithrop Engine		6 9 0	lost buckets	0 6 6
Brackley Engineer		2 4 6	Enocks & Golby's Garden	6 10 0
Horses etc for do.		3 6 4	Mr Hunts Garden &)	10 0 0
Wroxton Engine		14 6	" Beer)	
5 Soldiers		12 6	Lampitt & Bloxham)	15 0
Jenkins for Beer		3 6 0	2nd day)	
Payments made by Mr Jarvis		1 4 3	Dumbleton Bill for Hose	2 0 6
Water Company		8 0 0	Middleton Engine say	1 0 0
Hurlston		2 7 9	Oxford Engine	2 9 0
Allison		0 8 0	C. Bromley	1 1 0
				<u>120 8 6</u>
			Brackley Engine	2 2 0

Risks of offices

County	7460	71 12 3	
Phoenix	3550	34 1 5	
Birmingham	300	2 17 4	
Royal Exchange	150	1 8 4	
	<u>11460</u>	<u>110 0 . .</u>	(torn and faint)

The bill shows that whilst there were charges for horsing several of the engines there was no charge for horsing the Oxford engine – probably it was sent by train, as the railway line between Oxford and Banbury was laid in 1856.

The account also shows that beer and cheese money was paid at the rate of 2s. each to 400 men, and at 9d. each to 23 women and 52 boys. Mr Hunt was the brewer, and his garden was damaged during the fire fighting. Mr Jarvis acted on behalf of the County Fire Office and wrote up this account.

The Country Seat. Essays presented to Sir John Summerson and edited by Howard Colvin and John Harris. Allen Lane, The Penguin Press. 1970. £6.50

This fascinating volume of 48 essays on country houses in the British Isles has been written by friends and colleagues of Sir John Summerson to celebrate his sixty-fifth birthday. The essay that concerns our own area is the first in the book: "A 'Fontainebleau' chimney-piece at Broughton Castle, Oxfordshire", by Martin Biddle.

Richard Fiennes, 6th Baron Saye and Sele, altered the external and internal appearance of what was a medieval house by the insertion of a flat ceiling in the hall, the creation of two floors above this, and the addition of two stairways on the south side to serve these floors. On the north side, a gallery was made, and a series of rooms, including the Star Chamber, opened off it.

What makes this work particularly interesting is its date: 1554. English architecture was beginning to reflect strongly the influence of the Renaissance. Patrons like Somerset, Northumberland and Sharrington were employing architects and carvers in an attempt to establish Renaissance plans and elevations as well as details. But the Renaissance style of these buildings was not Flemish, as in Elizabeth's reign, but French, from Fontainebleau in particular. The movement had begun before Edward VI's reign, for this court style was best exemplified in Nonsuch Palace, built for Henry VIII. It did not last long beyond Edward's reign. The chimney-piece in the Star Chamber at Broughton is one of its monuments.

Mr P.S. Spokes (in *Cake and Cockhorse* IV.i. Autumn 1968 pp.13-15) has shown that the stone chimney piece in Queen Anne's Room at Broughton is also of 1554 and thinks that it was made by John Chapman who was working at Lacock for Sir William Sharrington. Mr Biddle regards the Star Chamber piece, which is made of stucco and not of stone, as being of a higher quality than the other. Its central scene is of Dryads dancing round an oak. This illustrates Ovid's *Metamorphoses* VIII.738ff. and the cartouche below it contains a few words from this work. The scene is copied from an engraving by Boyvin, itself based on a fresco at Fontainebleau. We know that Henry VIII had such stucco chimney-pieces made for Nonsuch by Nicholas Bellin of Modena, and this piece may be another of Bellin's works.

The history of Renaissance architecture in 16th century England has yet to be written. When it is, these two chimney-pieces and the other mid-16th century work at Broughton are sure to find a place in it.
F.J. Willy.

Northamptonshire Past and Present, 1970/71. Northamptonshire Record Society (Delapré Abbey, Northampton). 15p.

Excellent as always! Of particular interest to our readers will be Christopher Tongue's article on 'Thomas Thornton at Astrop Spa'. The Spa, patronised variously by Celia Fiennes, the Norths of Wroxton, and such well-known Northamptonshire families as the Brudenells and the Ishams, flourished in the 18th century. With the help of contemporary descriptions and Thornton's doggerel lines Mr. Tongue has brought it all enchantingly to life.

Rosemary Eady contributes an account of the writing and editing of Bridges' *History of the County of Northampton*, which suffered many vicissitudes in the 72 years between its inception by John Bridges and its eventual publication in 1791. A letter from Daniel Prince, overseer of Oxford University Press, to Mr. John Loveday of Williams-cote, explaining delays in publication, shows that the economic and production difficulties of local history publication are nothing new!

It is of course gratifying to find two of our own publications well reviewed – the most recent volume of Banbury registers, and the Sanderson Miller offprint. With the latter, we must regretfully disclaim the 112 pages credited – it is in fact only 36 pages. May we, however, take issue with the reviewer over the number of illustrations – seventeen in a booklet this length seems far from 'limited'. It is also suggested that more of these should have been devoted to Miller's architecture than to portraits of his friends. This comment misses the whole point of their inclusion, as illustration to the *biographical* account by Anthony Wood. Miller's architecture is far too big a subject to be discussed in so short a publication, and for this reason William Hawkes restricted himself to one village and estate – a full-length book on Miller, the man and his buildings, is now in preparation by the same authors.

J.S.W.G.

The Oxfordshire Election of 1754. Oxfordshire County Council Record Publication No.6. An archive teaching unit prepared by a Joint Working Party set up by the Oxfordshire County Record Office and the Oxfordshire Education Committee. Compiled by G.H. Dannatt. 1970. 75p.

Archive teaching units, many of them modelled on the well-known 'Jackdaws' are very much in fashion as a means of teaching local history at all levels. Groups of teachers in many parts of the country in recent years have been engaged in considering the suitability for school purposes of the varied contents of Record Offices. Many such projects have been begun but few completed. Some of the published collections present a far more structured view of history than the textbooks they are designed to supplant. It should not be imagined that simply by presenting a schoolchild with a set of photographically reproduced original sources he will be able to arrive in some magical way at an unbiased yet profound conclusion about the events they concern. A teacher imposes his own view of history by selecting documents as effectively as by talking in front of a blackboard or by writing a textbook. Some of the worst archive units have been those which try to deal with subjects altogether too large for such treatment. It is to the credit of the group of Oxfordshire teachers who prepared this collection that they treated a subject limited in itself, but with far-reaching implications, and one which had already, in R.J. Robson's excellent book, been well treated at a high academic level. This is certainly one of the best units of its kind which has yet been published, and will be of interest to a far wider public than the educationalists for whom it is principally intended.

Miss Dannatt has contributed a sound and lucid introduction to the collection, based, with acknowledgement, on Mr Robson's book. The first items in the collection are portraits of the leading contenders in the election, of which two, that of Philip 6th Viscount Wenman as a child, and that of Sir Edward Turner, are particularly memorable. A selection of documents concerning the election follows, which can easily be fitted into the framework of events provided in the introduction. Some of the skits from *Jackson's Oxford Journal* will provide good training for young historians in the detection of irony. The physical context of the election is well treated with plans of the hustings and a contemporary map and prints of Oxford. Some pages of the poll book are reproduced, and the Record Office offers to provide more if they are wanted by readers. Hogarth's famous series of election prints is reproduced with an illuminating commentary. Two pages of notes in an Epilogue bring the story of parliamentary representation up to date, and Thomas Kitchin's map of Oxfordshire in 1750 provides a splendid endpiece.

Readers of *Cake and Cockhorse* may also be interested in a less ambitious unbound set of documents concerning Crime and Punishment which has recently been produced by the Northamptonshire Record Office. This includes some particularly interesting reflections on the social history of Moreton Pinkney, an archetypal open village in the early 19th century. Like the Oxfordshire collection this is well conceived and well produced. Both units can be thoroughly recommended to all our readers.

B.S.T.

HISTORY WORKSHOP PAMPHLETS

Several members of the Historical Society have attended the History Workshops held in recent years at Ruskin College, Oxford, and must have been impressed with the quality of local historical research being undertaken by Ruskin students. Three studies based on papers delivered at previous History Workshops have now been published. Two of them are of considerable local importance. Sally Alexander's *St. Giles's Fair, 1830-1914, popular culture and the industrial revolution in 19th century Oxford* is the first full-length study of a 19th century fair. Bernard Reaney's *The Class Struggle in 19th century Oxfordshire: the social and communal background to the Otmoor disturbances 1830-35* is a far fuller investigation of the social setting of the famous Otmoor riots than any previously published. Both are obtainable at 75p each plus 5p postage from History Workshop, Ruskin College, Oxford.

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

- Arts Council of Banbury (Miss Rosemary Hall, Flat 33, 20 Calthorpe Road, Banbury). Minimum 21/-.
- Banbury Art Society (Hon. Sec., R. Edgson, Print's Cottage, Bloxham, Banbury) 20/-.
- Banbury Geographical Association (B.E. Little, 2 Burlington Gardens, Banbury) 10/6d.
- Bicester Local History Circle (Hon. Sec., Miss G.H. Dannatt, Lammas Cottage, Launton Road, Bicester, Oxon.) 10/-.
- Buckinghamshire Record Society (Hon. Sec., E.J. Davis, County Record Office, New Council Offices, Walton Street, Aylesbury, Bucks.) 42/-.
- Council for the Preservation of Rural England, Oxfordshire Branch (Mrs. E. Turner, Woodside, Woodgreen, Witney, Oxon.) Minimum 10/-.
- Dugdale Society (publishes Warwickshire records) (Shakespeare's Birthplace, Stratford-upon-Avon). 42/-.
- 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 (Délapre Abbey, Northampton). 42/-.
- Oxford Architectural and Historical Society (Ashmolean Museum, Oxford). 15/- or to include *Oxoniensia*, 42/-.
- Oxford Preservation Trust (The Painted Room, 2 Cornmarket Street, Oxford). Minimum 5/-.
- Oxfordshire Record Society (Dr. W.O. Hassall, Hon. Sec., Bodleian Library, Oxford). 40/-.
- 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/-.
- Woodford Halse Historical Society (J.W. Anscomb, 7 Manor Road, Woodford Halse, Rugby, Warw.) 5/-.

The Local 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 21/-

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