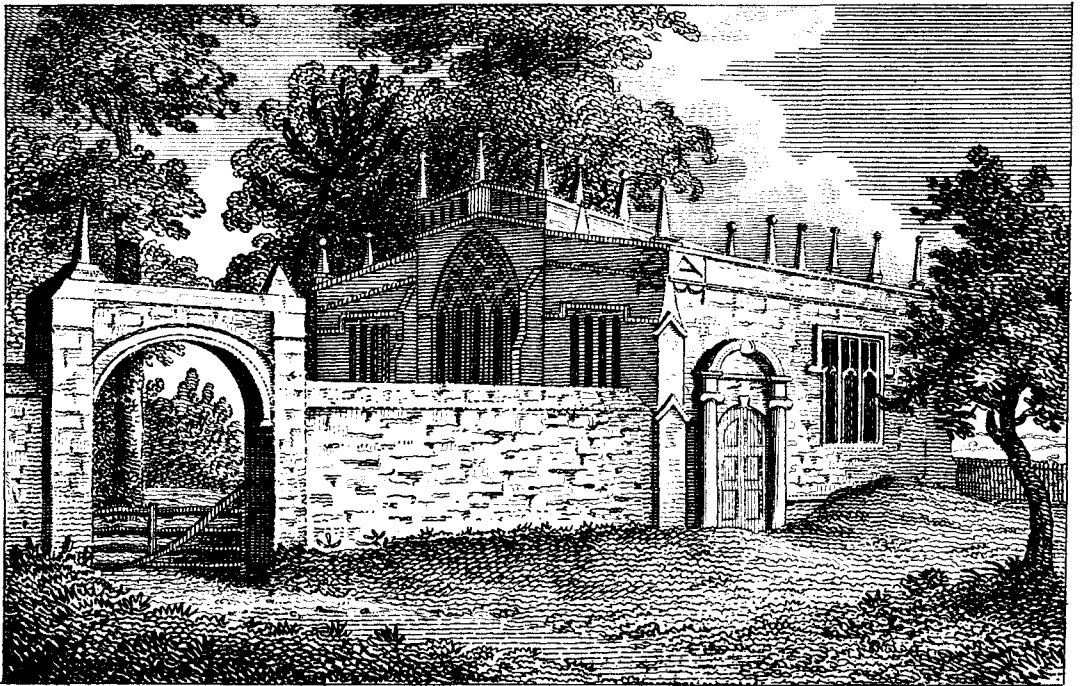


CAKE AND COCKHORSE



Banbury Historical Society

Spring 1974

BANBURY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

President: The Lord Saye and Sele
Chairman and Magazine Editor: F. Willy, B.A., Raymond House,
Bloxham School, Banbury

Hon. Secretary:
Miss C.G. Bloxham, B.A.
Banbury Museum
Marlborough Road
Banbury OX16 8DF
(Tel. Banbury 2282)

*Assistant Secretary
and Records Series Editor:*
J.S.W. Gibson, F.S.A.
11 Westgate
Chichester PO19 3ET
(Chichester 84048)

Hon. Treasurer:
Dr. G.E. Gardam
11 Denbigh Close
Broughton Road
Banbury OX16 OBQ
(Tel. Banbury 2841)

Hon. Research Adviser:
E.R.C. Brinkworth, M.A., F.R.Hist.S.

Hon. Archaeological Adviser:
J.H. Fearon, B.Sc.

Committee Members
J.B. Barbour, A. Donaldson, J.F. Roberts

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 three 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, Banbury Castle – a summary of excavations in 1972, The Building and Furnishing of St. Mary's Church, Banbury, 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); *A Victorian M.P. and his Constituents: The Correspondence of H.W. Tancred, 1841–1850*; a new edition of *Shoemaker's Window*; and *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 Large Lecture Theatre, Banbury Upper School. 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 £3.00 including any records volumes published, or £1.50 if these are excluded. Junior membership is 50p.

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 three times a year.

Volume Five	Number Eight	Spring 1974
NEWS		
	Kirsty Rodwell	Society Activities 142
		Banbury Castle 142
AS THEY SAW IT	J. S. W. Gibson	Travellers' Tales, Pt. 2 143
BOOK REVIEWS		
		<i>Victoria County History, Banbury Hundred</i>
	G. J. Fothergill	Banbury 156
	D. G. Loveday	Cropredy 159
	F. D. Price	Swalcliffe 160
	Christine Bloxham	<i>Working the Halls</i> 161
		<i>Britain's Inland Waterways</i> 161
	E. R. Stevenson	<i>Oxfordshire: A Handbook for Students of History</i> 162
	J. S. W. Gibson	<i>Perspectives in English Urban History</i> 162
		<i>Warwickshire in 1790</i> 163
		<i>In Honour of Shakespeare</i> 163
		<i>Northamptonshire Past and Present, 1974</i> 164
EXHIBITION	J. F. Roberts	'Banbury—A Victorian Scrapbook' 164

The current economic situation, and the petrol shortage in particular, has led many people to think again about their holidays. For most people, up to about 1950, a holiday meant a week or two by a British beach, with all the hazards of the weather, the food and so on, included. Then the trek to the Continent began in earnest, as people became better off, and British holidaymakers were seen at least as far afield as North Africa and the Indian Ocean. Thus, over the last twenty years, our knowledge of Western Europe has grown and we have come to know less and less about our own country; television has redressed the balance to some extent, but its impression is necessarily less immediate than that provided by a personal visit. Now, with the costs of foreign travel rising beyond the means of some who previously enjoyed it, many are thinking of taking a holiday in a part of Britain unknown to them.

These thoughts on travelling about Britain are prompted by Jeremy Gibson's article 'Travellers' Tales', the second part of which is published in this issue. From Leland onwards, these inquisitive men (and women) jogged or bumped from town to town, taking in mansions and spas, fairs and prehistoric monuments on the way, and then scribbling down their impressions each night in their diaries. Similarly, today, some families make a special point of keeping a detailed diary of each of their holidays, with drawings, photos, and ticket stubs supplementing the careful accounts of each day, written up in the hotel lounge after dinner. These diaries will, in time, become an invaluable record of the face of Britain and Europe in the twentieth century—and of the attitudes and assumptions of British travellers today.

However, though you can see more of the countryside from the back of a horse than from the car-seat, we are able to travel with a keener eye than our predecessors. This is because of developments in British local historical studies in our time. W. G. Hoskins' works have caused us to look at landscapes with a new insight into the stages of their creation, so that we can now appreciate that, in Hoskins' words, 'the English landscape is the richest historical record we possess'. Much of England is still unknown and unexplored, to most of us. Fuller's words still apply:

'Know most of the rooms of thy native country before thou goest over the threshold thereof. Especially seeing England presents thee with so many observables.'

Our cover: shows the 'sweet little chapel at Steane' visited by Horace Walpole in 1753, which still stands in the grounds of Steane Park.

SOCIETY NEWS AND ACTIVITIES

Talks this year have already been heard on 'The Banbury Gas Industry' by Mr. G. C. J. Hartland and on 'The Mordaunt Papers' by Lady Elizabeth Hamilton.

Thursday, 4th April. Barrie Trinder will talk on 'The Impact of the Railways on Victorian Banbury'. Before the coming of the railways the only methods of long distance travel and transport were by canal and road, so the rapid transportation allowed by the railways induced profound changes in the way of life.

Thursday, 25th April. Village meeting at Sibford, in the village hall. Leslie Baily, the broadcaster, who is doing research for a history of Sibford, will tell us about the village, and Geoffrey Forsyth Lawson will comment on the architecture, illustrated with slides.

From 1st March on. An exhibition in Banbury Museum, 'Banbury Borough—Past and Present'. The Victorian Scrapbook exhibition is still on show in the main gallery, and a catalogue has been published in conjunction with this, price 12p. It contains background information on Victorian Banbury including sections on Banbury Cakes, plush, fairs and markets, Sir Bernhard Samuelson and Banbury Cross. Available at the Museum.

Saturday, 29th June. Annual General Meeting, at Canons Ashby House, by kind permission of Mr. Louis Osman.

A History of Sibford

For some time Leslie Baily has been preparing a history of the Sibford area, with Barrie Trinder as research consultant. They would be glad to hear from anyone who has unpublished material that may have escaped their notice. The Sibford villages together with the Friends' School are the centre of the embryo book's field, but it will also trace historical connections with other places (Hook Norton, Brailes, Compton Wynyates, the villages between Sibford and Banbury, etc.). Leslie Baily, who was a pupil at the Friends' School and lived at Sibford Gower after the last war, is spending extensive periods on fieldwork in the area. His present address is 29 Saxon Way, Saffron Walden, Essex.

Banbury Castle

For the past three months the Oxfordshire Archaeological Unit has been excavating on the site of Banbury castle prior to its redevelopment as a shopping centre. Much has been learnt about the plan of the castle, which was formerly known only from a seventeenth-century estate map, but excavations have confirmed that it consisted of two roughly rectangular concentric enclosures defined by ditches over 30 feet wide and in excess of 20 feet deep.

The demolition after the civil war appears to have been very thorough. As a result the curtain wall in the outer bailey survived only as a foundation trench full of seventeenth-century rubbish, which included items like scissors, thimbles, buckles, window lead and glass, musket-balls and a cannon ball, as well as large quantities of pottery. A large square tower which formed the western half of the castle gate had received similar treatment.

The most unexpected discovery was a small rectangular stone building which was found in the south-western corner of the castle. At some time in the medieval period it had been buried in the outer bank and consequently the walls stood over 4 feet high in places. It had an earth floor; a doorway in the east wall led out to a yard and on the western side a second doorway, with dressed stone jambs, gave access to a garderobe chamber equipped with a stone-lined pit. Little pottery was associated with this building but it must certainly date to the thirteenth century and is possibly earlier, making it one of the oldest buildings yet found in Banbury.

Kirsty Rodwell, Field Officer

TRAVELLERS' TALES

Part 2

By the mid-eighteenth century conditions were very different from the times of Anthony Wood and Celia Fiennes (let alone John Leland). It is far too easy to allow time to telescope, and to forget that from the Restoration of Charles II to the accession of George III was as long a period as from the Franco-Prussian War to the present-day. Though change and improvement was not at the same hectic rate as in our own days, nevertheless things *did* change. To Walpole and Pococke, writing in the 1750s, the times and manners of the reigns of William III and Anne were old-fashioned, and in turn their own times were out-of-date to Byng and Young towards the end of the century. Meanwhile, roads continued to improve, with the wider application of turnpike trusts, and travelling became progressively easier. Celia Fiennes had to travel everywhere on horseback; John Byng could be accompanied by a phaeton. Enclosures changed the face of the countryside, and the wealth they generated for their fortunate landowners created a much larger, and more cultivated, leisured middle class.

Horace Walpole

Horace Walpole (1717-1797) though the best-known is perhaps the least typical of our travellers. Most of his voluminous correspondence, written with a careful eye to posterity, is designed to illuminate his contemporary scene; though his interest in country houses and artists adds a topographical and antiquarian flavour. It is our good fortune that one of his correspondents and great friends, George Montagu, lived at Greatworth, between Banbury and Brackley, from 1753 until 1768, and then for two years at Adderbury. Both sides of the correspondence survive, and the light they throw on the life of an eighteenth-century squire in 'Banburyshire' is to be the subject of a forthcoming article.

Walpole first visited Greatworth shortly after Montagu's move there, in the summer of 1753. The record of this visit is preserved in a letter written at Stowe to their mutual friend John Chute, on 4 August. From Oxford, on his way to Greatworth, he

'passed by Sir James Dashwood's, a vast new house, situated so high that it seems to stand for the county as well as for himself.' Kirtlington Park was built for Sir James Dashwood largely between 1741 and 1747, although the grounds were not laid out until after 1755. Sir James was Member of Parliament for Oxfordshire from 1741 to 1754, when he was unseated in the notorious Oxfordshire Election, and from 1761 to 1768.²⁶

'I did look over Lord Jersey's, which was built for a hunting-box, and is still little better.' William Villiers, 3rd Earl of Jersey, acquired the Middleton Stoney estate in 1737 and soon after enlarged the existing house, built between 1698 and 1710. Later in 1753 it was destroyed by fire, and its replacement 'a handsome brick structure' was itself eventually demolished in 1938 when the present Lutyens mansion was built.²⁷

Montagu was related to Francis North (1704-90), 7th Baron North (son of the 2nd Baron Guilford who lived at Wroxton at the time of Celia Fiennes' visit), who was created Earl of Guilford in 1752. He was father of Frederick (1732-1792), styled Lord North, who became Prime Minister in 1770. Walpole continues: 'But now I am going to tell you how delightful a day I passed at Wroxton. Lord Guildford [*sic*] has made George Montagu so absolutely viceroy over it that we saw it more agreeably than you can conceive; roamed over the whole house, found every door open, saw not a creature, had an extreme good dinner, wine, fruit, coffee and tea in the library, were served by fairies, tumbled over the books, said one or two talismanic words, and the cascade played, and went home loaded with pine-apples and flowers. — You will take me for Monsieur de Coulanges, I describe eatables so feelingly; but the manner in which we were served made the whole delicious. The house was built by a Lord Downe [William Pope] in the reign of James the First; and though there is a fine hall and a vast dining-room above, it is neither good nor agreeable; one end of the front was never finished, and might have a good apartment. The library is added by this Lord, and is a pleasant chamber. Except loads of old portraits, there is no tolerable furniture. A whole-length of the first Earl of Downe is in the Bath robes, and has a coif under the hat and feather. There is a charming picture of Prince

Henry about twelve years old, drawing his sword to kill a stag, with a Lord Harrington; a good portrait of Sir Owen Hopton, 1590; your *pious* grandmother, my Lady Dacre, which I think like you; some good Cornelius Johnsons; a Lord North, by Riley, good; and an extreme fine portrait by him of the Lord Keeper: I have never seen but few of the hand, but most of them have been equal to Lely and the best of Sir Godfrey. There is too a curious portrait of Sir Thomas Pope, the founder of Trinity College, Oxford, said to be by Holbein. The chapel is new, but in a pretty Gothic taste, with a very long window of painted glass, very tolerable. The frieze is pendent, just in the manner I propose for the eating-room at Strawberry Hill. Except one scene, which is indeed noble, I cannot much commend the without-doors. This scene consists of a beautiful lake entirely shut in with wood: the head falls into a fine cascade, and that into a serpentine river, over which is a little Gothic seat like a round temple, lifted up by a shaggy mount. On an eminence in the park is an obelisk erected to the honour and at the expense of "optimus" and "munificentissimus" the late Prince of Wales, "in loci amoenitatem et memoriam adventus ejus." There are several paltry Chinese buildings and bridges, which have the merit or demerit of being the progenitors of a very numerous race all over the kingdom; at least they were of the very first. In the church is a beautiful tomb of an Earl and Countess of Downe, and the tower is in a good plain Gothic style, and was once, they tell you, still more beautiful; but Mr [Sanderson] Miller, who designed it, unluckily once in his life happened to think rather of beauty than of the water-tables, and so it fell down the first winter.²⁸



Figure 1. 'There are several paltry Chinese buildings and bridges . . .' Horace Walpole at Wroxton. A sketch by S. H. Grimm in 1781 (reproduced by kind permission of the Trustees of the British Museum. B.M. ref. Gough MSS. 15546/81).

'On the Wednesday morning we went to see a sweet little chapel at Steane²⁹ [two miles from Greatworth], built in 1620 by Sir Thomas Crewe, Speaker in the time of the first James and Charles. Here are remains of the mansion-house, but quite in ruins: the chapel is kept up by my Lady Arran, the last of the race.' Elizabeth Crewe (d. 1756), fourth daughter of the 2nd Baron Crewe of Steane, and niece of Nathaniel Bishop of Durham, 3rd and last Baron Crewe, married (1721) Charles Butler, Earl of Arran. 'There are seven or eight monuments. On one is this epitaph, which I thought pretty enough:

*Conjux casta, parens felix, matrona pudica;
Sara viro, mundo Martha, Maria Deo.*

On another is the most affected inscription I ever saw, written by two brothers on their sister: they say, "This agreeable mortal translated her into immortality such a day": but I could not help laughing at one quaint expression, to which time has given a droll sense: "She was a constant lover of the best."

Then follows a description of the temples at Stowe; he ends:

'I forgot to tell you of a sweet house which Mr Montagu carried me to see, belonging to a Mr Holman, a Catholic, and called Warkworth. The situation is pretty, the front charming, composed of two round and two square towers. The court within is incomplete on one side; but above-stairs is a vast gallery with four bow-windows and twelve other large ones, all filled with the arms of the old peers of England, with all their quarterings entire. You don't deserve, after deserting me [Chute had hoped to join Walpole at Greatworth], that I should tempt you to such a sight; but this alone is worth while to carry you to Greatworth.'

In fact William Holman, the son of George Holman and the last of his name to own Warkworth, had died without issue in 1740, and his inheritance passed to his sister Mary, wife of Thomas Eyre of Hassop, Derbys. The Holmans and Eyres were 'zealous adherents of the religion of their ancestors'. Warkworth Castle was demolished in 1806, when the armorial glass which Walpole so admired was transferred to Hassop. It was eventually dispersed as recently as 1954 and its location is no longer known.³⁰

Richard Pococke

Three years later another assiduous traveller was in the Banbury area. This was Richard Pococke (1704-1765), a clergyman whose cures apparently left him plenty of time to travel. Archdeacon of Dublin since 1745, in 1756 he had just become Bishop of the Irish see of Ossory, and in September was in the Midlands:

'From Stratford I came, on the 29th, to Kyneton, a very bad road; here is a new Gothic church, built to a good old tower by the care of the worthy minister, Mr. Talbot, a nephew of the late Ld. Chancellor, with the help of some subscriptions, but chiefly, as I have been inform'd, at his own expence, on a very small living, not so good as a curacy.' The Rev. William Talbot was Vicar of Kineton from 1746 until his death in 1774. His close friend Sanderson Miller was probably responsible for the design of the new church, and Miller's mother went to live with Talbot on her son's marriage.³¹ 'I went two miles further through the field of battle of Edghill, which was in the grounds under the hill, where they find many bullets, and came to Mr. Miller's house at Radway. This gentleman, who lives on his estate, has a great genius for architecture, especially the Gothic, and I waited on him to consult about the adorning the Cathedral of Kilkenny, the design of which he has been so kind as to undertake. He has embellish'd his own house with Gothic architecture, and has made a fine lawn up the hill, with shady walks round it, up to the ruined castle on Edgehill, which he has built adjoining to the houses of some tenants. But he has erected a very noble round tower, which is entire, with a drawbridge, to which there is an ascent as by a ruine, and there is a very fine octagon Gothic room in it, with four windows and 4 niches, and some old painted glass in the windows. In one of these niches is to be placed Caractacus in chains, modeled, under Mr. Miller's direction, by a countryman of great genius, now settled in London; it is executed in the yellow free stone.' This statue, which still stands in the grounds of Radway Grange, was commissioned by Lord North (subsequently created Earl of Guilford) of James Lovell, a protégée of Horace Walpole, in 1751, for presentation to Miller, but as payment (of ten guineas) was not made until 1760 it

must have taken eight years to complete. The tower, a well-known landmark, now forms part of the Castle Inn at Edgehill.³² 'This gentleman design'd the County House in Warwick, with great contrivance and taste, in the Corinthian order. From this town we saw what they call King Charles Camp. They have a yellow free-stone, and between it they find a brown stone of a smooth and soft surface, but it does not polish; they make chimney pieces and coving stones of it. At Horton [Hornton], a little beyond the castle, they find a free-stone, some of which is full of shells, mostly a white cockle, many of which may be taken whole out of the soft earth.

'On the 30th I went to see Farnborough, Mr. Holbeche's, a good house in a narrow valley; there is in it several ancient busts and very beautiful finer'd ancient marble tables; he has made a very grand grass terrace, winding round the hill for half a mile; there is a obelisk at the end which may be 80 feet high, and in another part an oval open summer house, with a room over the colonade. This terrace commands a fine view of the rich country, which is called the Vale of Red Horse, from a red horse, near Tysoe, cut in the hill.'

William Holbech, who inherited the Farnborough estate from his father William in 1717, according to tradition was disappointed in love, took himself on a tour of Europe to drown his grief, there got ideas for beautifying and altering Farnborough, and on his return put them into practice. He died unmarried in 1771 and was succeeded by his nephew, also William, who was M.P. for Banbury 1792-96. The house is now owned by the National Trust.³³

'I went from Radway to Lord Guilford's, called Wroxton, an estate which Sr. Thomas Pope left to Trinity College, Oxford, of which he was the founder. His son had a lease of it, built the house, and it has been ever since in the family. There are several good portraits in the house, many of them Cornelius Johnson's, and a very remarkable one of Prince Henry, King James's eldest son, by a foreigner, who did not stay long in England. But this place is more to be admir'd without doors. There is a green house, with a lawn and a large piece of water. This leads to a wood through which there is a view of the Prince of Wales's pillar, erected when he was here in 1749. We then descended to a serpentine river, which is supplied from the large pieces of water; and going up by it we came to the Gothic open rotundo of Mr. Miller's design, in which he has practis'd curtains, that by turning screws let down so as to afford shelter which ever way you please. This commands a most delightful view of the head that supports the great body of water I have mentioned cover'd with shrubs, and a cascade falls down twenty feet from it, and forms the serpentine river which runs by the Chinese summer house; and there is another stream and small cascade to the left, which leads to a Chinese seat at a gate of this fine place that leads to Banbury.³⁴

'I came to Banbury, a very indifferent town, but has a great trade in cheese.³⁵ Here the Earl of Warwick surprized the Earl of Pembroke and his brother of the party of Edward 4th, and beheaded them. The church is a fine Gothic building; what is uncommon, one half of the cross isle is rais'd in its length much higher than the other, and so is the west part of the chancel, and is made very light, probably for the sake of the rood loft. There is a fine old Gothic monument in the church, *but it is not known to whom it was erected. There is also one of Judge Chamberlayne and his lady, with two kneeling statues.*' This latter tomb was for Sir Thomas Chamberlayne (d. before 1628), of Wickham, whose great-granddaughter Penelope married Robert Dashwood. Chamberlayne was a justice of the King's Bench and Chief Justice in the County Palatine of Chester.³⁶

A few months later, in May 1757, Poccoke was at Shipston-on-Stour: 'We came 9 computed, and 15 measur'd miles, to Banbury. They have a manufacture here in combing wool and weaving hair or worsted shag.³⁷ On the 25th I went 3 miles in the London road to Adderbury; here is a good church with a steeple, and, what appear'd to me at a distance, a fine light Gothic cross isle and chancel. Here the Duke of Argyll had a house, now Lady Dalkeith's, with large offices, built of a large sand stone, in some of which are small holes with diamond shoots, as about Redway, but it is a dark colour'd looking stone; lower down Sr. George Cobb has a very good house.' The first of these two houses was the one formerly occupied by Lady Rochester, and later described by Horace Walpole. 'Here I left the London road and went in the Oxford way to Dedington, where there is a good Gothic church, but no marks of great antiquity, as I expected, having some idea that it was the see of an ancient bishoprick.

'On the 28th I came from Banbury to Redway. When I was last here I did not see the walks up the side of the hill through the woods. I went also to see the Red Horse which is not above



Figure 2. 'The serpentine river which runs by the Chinese summer house . . .' Richard Pococke at Wroxton. Another sketch by S. H. Grimm (reproduced by kind permission of the Trustees of the British Museum. B.M. ref. Gough MSS. 15546/79).

30 yards long. It is represented with the tail held up; 'tis not so good a figure as the White Horse. 'Tis said the lands of Tysoe are held on condition of cleaning this Horse, which is distinguished by the red soil.³⁸ About two miles from it is Compton [Wynyates], the Earl of Northampton's; near it also the road comes up the hill from Stratford to Banbury. I went a mile to Red Chiffe Church, where are remains of painted glass and a variety of Gothic windows.' This must be a slip of the pen on Pococke's part, as there is no place of this name. It seems likely that it was Radway church, or possibly Tysoe. Radway church was rebuilt in 1866, but incorporates late seventeenth-century painted glass, probably from the earlier church, which might have excited Pococke's interest. However the old church, judging from surviving pictures of it, was a modest affair, the windows small and unremarkable. On the other hand, Tysoe church does provide a variety of windows (though the glass is now all modern): large perpendicular in the chancel, smaller and, except for the clerestory, of different periods in the nave.³⁹ 'The situation of Redway Hill is so cheerful that Burton on Melancholy mentions it with Beauvoir Castle as a place that inspires with cheerfulness.

'On the 30th I came 9 computed and 14 measur'd miles to Warwick, seeing by the way Mr. Newton's, whose mother is married to Mr. Nugent of the Treasury.' Again Pococke makes a slip, as Anne Craggs was the second wife of Robert Nugent, afterwards Earl Nugent; her first husband was John Newsham of Chadshunt, by whom she had an only son—so presumably Pococke called at Chadshunt on his way to Warwick.⁴⁰ 'I observed also this way a lime stone, much like what they call the clay stone towards Gloucester.'



Figure 3. 'The sweetest little groves, streams, glades, porticos, cascades and river, imaginable . . .' Horace Walpole at Rousham. A picture still at Rousham (reproduced by kind permission of Mr. T. Cottrell Dormer, from a photograph supplied by *Country Life*).

Horace Walpole

Though Walpole may have visited the Banbury area again in the intervening period, his next description of a visit is not until 1760, when on 19 July he writes to Montagu:

' . . . We went to Blenheim and saw all Vanbrugh's quarries, all the Acts of Parliament and gazettes on the Duke in inscriptions, and all the old flock chairs, wainscot tables, and gowns and petticoats of Queen Anne, that old Sarah could crowd amongst blocks of marble. It looks like the palace of an auctioneer who has been chosen King of Poland, and furnished his apartments with obsolete trophies, rubbish that nobody bid for, and a dozen pictures he had stolen from the inventories of different families. The place is as ugly as the house, and the bridge like the beggars at the old Duchess's gate, begs for a drop of water and is refused.' Until 'Capability' Brown widened the stream with a dam a few years later, the lake was smaller and only a 'little stream' which was 'dreadfully out of proportion' ran beneath the bridge. Elsewhere he refers to Blenheim on this visit as 'execrable within, without, and almost all round'.

He continues: 'We went to Ditchley, which is a good house, well furnished, has good portraits, a wretched salon, and one handsome scene behind the house. There are portraits of the Litchfield-Hunt, in *true-blue* frocks, with ermine capes . . .'—the Earl of Lichfield was a Jacobite. In the *Journals* he describes Ditchley on this occasion: 'Lord Litchfield's, built by last Lord, very good house except Salon, which too small, bad carved figures, painted olive; chimney and a buffet, each in a corner. Fine hall, basreliefs in marble, ornaments by Kent, ceiling [*sic*] and side pieces by him, not so bad as his common.'

Real praise he reserved for Rousham: 'But the greatest pleasure we had was in seeing Sir Charles Cotterel's at Rousham; it has reinstated Kent with me; he has nowhere shown as much taste. The house is old and was bad. He has improved it, stuck as close as *he* could to Gothic, has made a delightful library, and the whole is comfortable—the garden is Daphne in little; the sweetest little groves, streams, glades, porticos, cascades and river, imaginable; all the scenes are perfectly classic—well, if I had such a house, such a library, so pretty a place, and so pretty a wife—I think I should let King George send to Herenhausen for a master of ceremonies.' Rousham was the seat of Sir Charles Cottrell-Dormer (d. 1779), kt., hereditary master of ceremonies, which may have involved him in visits to the electoral palace in Hanover. Lt. General James Dormer (1679-1741) had collected a very fine library at Rousham and employed Kent on altering the house.

The parallel description in the *Journals* reads: ‘. . . was a small old indifferent house, built by a Dormer; much improved for General Dormer, by Kent, in four years; with the garden. . . . The library of good room, totally by Kent, a half kind of gothic; odd cieling, does not seem to belong to the room; chimney with ionic pillars. . . . The garden of 25 acres; the best thing I have seen of Kent. Gothic buildings, Arcade from ancient baths, temples, old bridge, palladian do., river, slender stream winding in a stone channel thro grass walks in wood, cascades overgrown with Ivy; grove of Venus of Medici. the whole, sweet.’

Three years later, in July 1763, Montagu was disappointingly writing: ‘Sir Charles Cotterel is going to sell General Dormer’s fine collection of books and turn the room into an eating chamber; there is a little place in the suburbs of Oxford called Sot’s Hole just by Bullock Lane; he had better have taken an apartment there.’ The library, consisting chiefly of classics and French literature, was sold the following February.

Walpole was back at Greatworth that summer, though the correspondence touches only on the preparations for the visit. On 23 July he wrote to Montagu of his departure:

‘It has rained perpetually till today, and made us experience the rich soil of Northamptonshire, which is clay-pudding stuck full of villages. After we parted with you on Thursday we saw Castle Ashby and Easton Maudit.’ In fact they also visited Fawsley, of which there is a long description in the *Journals*.

He does not appear to have visited Greatworth again, but passed through Adderbury twice after Montagu’s removal there in 1768—both times when Montagu himself was away. In the *Journals* his first visit to Adderbury, in September 1768, is described:

‘Duke of Buccleugh’s. a large but very inconvenient House built at several times in a dirty shocking country, by John Duke of Argyle. The Architect was Campbell I believe or Gibbs, the taste as bad as Vanbrugh’s. It was a lodge of the witty Lord Rochester’s. There is his bed and great chair of purple cloth embroidered, and his Wife’s chair of red damask. a small part of the old house remains. The hall is horridly ornamented in Stucco. . . . Many family pieces of the late Duke of Argyle’s Daughters, their husbands and children. handsome gallery 81 feet long Statue ill placed in a niche on the ground.’



Figure 4. ‘Handsome gallery 81 feet long . . . Statue ill placed in a niche on the ground.’ Horace Walpole at Adderbury House. A sketch of Roger Morris’s design for the gallery in Adderbury House, 1730 (reproduced by kind permission of his Grace the late Duke of Buccleuch, from a photograph supplied by Tom Scott, Edinburgh).

Adderbury at this time was the seat of Henry, 3rd Duke of Buccleuch (1746-1812), which he had inherited from his maternal grandfather, John, 2nd Duke of Argyll (1678-1743). Although designs were submitted by Gibbs, the architect appears to have been Roger Morris.⁴¹

'At Mr Barber's in Adderbury a head of his Ancestor *Sir Samuel Luke*, Butler's Hudibras, and Mrs Mallet wife of witty Lord Rochester.' This would have been Halle Place, the home of John Barber (d. 1773). John Wilmot, 2nd Earl of Rochester, had married Elizabeth Malet in 1667, after having attempted her abduction.⁴²

'William of Wickham was parson of this Parish. built the Church, which is very handsome, and each window of a different pattern, and a college adjoining, now in ruins. In the Church, a painted tomb of T. More 1586. old tomb of the Bustards with Stone columns. Do. of the Cobbes.' The advowson of the parish was granted by William of Wykham to New College in 1381. Shortly after Walpole's visit three of the chancel windows were walled up because of their bad state of repair, and later the tracery of the windows was replaced by plain stone bars. 'The college adjoining, now in ruins' was probably Adderbury Manor, the former home of the Bustard family, which was described as ruinous in 1712, and in the late eighteenth century was occupied by a boarding school run by the Revd. Dr. T. Woolston. The wooden painted memorial tablet to Thomas and Marie More still survives. The Bustard tomb was largely destroyed in 1866-7, and the Cobb monument removed and re-erected in Corsham Church (Wilts.).⁴³

'At Colonel Twisseldon's at Braughton. I was told there is a picture of Queen Elizabeth's Earl of Essex, his heart is seen thro his shirt, with this motto, "Videat Mundus".' Broughton Castle at this time was owned by Thomas Twisleton, Major-General and Colonel of the 9th Foot, whose claim to the barony of Saye and Sele was allowed in 1781.⁴⁴

On 18 June 1770 George Montagu was able to write with more news of the despised Blenheim:

'We have had no earthly summer yet but what I have passed at my fire-side. One day that promised fairly I made use of and went to see Blenheim and passed the day at Woodstock. The water now is amazingly beautiful and puts the bridge's nose out of joint, but the cascade at the end is not stately enough for such a river. I hope it is only a temporary one. . . . It was too dark to see the house and I was not sorry for it, as I hear there has been a vast introduction of blue paper and painting of Norway oak that would not please me.'

Only a few days later Walpole was 'summoned' to accompany Princess Amelia, the second daughter of George II, of whom he was, reluctantly, a great favourite, on a visit to Stowe, of which he has left an amusing and often quoted account. On his way he arrived, at short notice, to spend the night at Adderbury, to find, to his mortification, that Montagu was once again away from home, evidently at Wroxton with Lord Guilford—and his stay was too fleeting for Montagu to return in time. He writes, from Adderbury, that the housekeeper 'is all goodness; and being the first of July, and consequently the middle of winter, has given me a good fire and some excellent coffee and bread and butter, and I am as comfortable as possible, except in having missed you . . . pity me for the six dreadful days I am going to pass. Rosette is fast asleep in your chair, or I am sure she would write a postscript. I cannot say that she is either commanded or invited to be of this royal party, but have me, have my dog.'

On this light-hearted note Horace Walpole leaves the Banbury area for good. That autumn George Montagu moved from Adderbury to London, and thereafter the long friendship seems to have faded, and with it a most entertaining correspondence.

John Byng

Between 1781 and 1794 the Hon. John Byng (1742-1813) made a number of tours around England and Wales which he recorded in a series of diaries. Amongst his journeyings he visited the Banbury area, *en route* from Warwick to Oxford, in July 1785.

Byng, later to become the 5th Viscount Torrington, had around 1782 retired from the army as a Lieutenant Colonel in the Foot Guards, and was at this time a civil servant, a Commissioner for Stamps in the Inland Revenue. On this tour in 1785 he was accompanied by Colonel Albemarle Bertie (1744-1818), afterwards 9th Earl of Lindsey, a fellow officer from the 1st Foot Guards.

Bertie was driving a phaeton whilst Byng rode 'on the outside of a horse', apparently called Pony. After a night's stop at Warwick, they reached Kineton on the morning of 8 July:

'At the little miserable town of Keinton, we put up at the Red Lion Ale House (the best in the place), situate in a deep ugly country, but still remember'd for its field where King Charles's unlucky warfare commenced; and to this town was brought the wounded prisoners of consequence.

'For an hours stop in a summers day this house will do: where the wife cook'd and the grave old husband attended us with much respect.—The church being opposite, we got the key, but in it is nothing worth observation, being of the same meanness with the place: I did expect therein some memorials of the slain in Keinton Field. In this as in other churches I have visited, there are good old books placed (according to the canons,) viz, Fox Martyrs, &c. which seem to be read by the pious aged.

'This morning I had driven the chaise; now the Col. took my place; and I rose forward over Keinton Field, (in the vale of Red Horse,) to Edge-Hill; with many thoughts of the past time, and wond'ring what figure I should have made in those troubles.—The field is lately enclosed, and Prince Rupert's cavalry now could not make a home charge.⁴⁵ At the bottom of the hill, in a pit where the slain were interr'd, and where the kings standard was taken and retaken, a small clump of trees has been planted in memory of the mischief; it is about half a mile on the right of the road, and adjoining to a small cottage. When we had climb'd the hill, we passed by the seat of the late Mr Child.'

Upton House, on the Stratford to Banbury road at the top of Edgehill, which Byng evidently passed, was acquired from William Bumpstead by Francis Child III (d. 1763), of the famous banking family, about 1757. The Child family had long had connections with nearby Shenington. The property, with the manor of Warmington, was inherited by his brother Robert Child, who would be 'the late Mr Child' referred to, having died in 1782. It passed from him eventually to his granddaughter Lady Sarah Sophia Fane, later wife of the Earl of Jersey, as his daughter, Sarah Anne, had been disinherited for her notorious runaway marriage with the Earl of Westmorland in 1782. The house is now the property of the National Trust.⁴⁶

Byng continues: 'and in a few miles came to Wroxton, where Ld. Guildford [*sic*] has an old seat and I prevail'd upon my party to drive down to it: when unluckily for us Ld. G—— was just arrived from London and denied us admittance. Very rude this, and unlike an old courtly lord! [The Earl of Guilford was by now over 80.] Let him either forbid his place entirely; open it allways; or else fix a day of admission: but, for shame, don't refuse travellers, who may have come 20 miles out of their way for a sight of the place. Thus we lost our intention at Wroxton, which seems a venerable place, and no doubt contains pictures &c. of antiquity. In 2 miles we reach'd Banbury, which is a dirty, ill-built town; has a plush manufactory;⁴⁷ and must have tasted the sweets of their representatives being Prime Minister for 12 years.' Frederick, Lord North, was Member of Parliament for the Borough of Banbury from 1754 until he succeeded his father as Earl of Guilford in 1790; he was Prime Minister from 1770 to 1782. 'Our supper (at this indifferent inn) was a cold one; as we were all eager to get to bed, after the fatigues and heat of the day.'

'July 9. Our first visit was to the church which is very large, crouded with ugly pews, and has four aisles.—A marble to the memory of John and Joan Knight bears this inscription

Graves are lodgings to the blest
Not of horrou, but of rest,
Cabinets that safely keepe
Mortalls relickes while they sleepe.—
When the trumpe shall all awake,
Ev'ry soul her flesh shall take;
And from that which putrifies,
Shall immortal bodyes rise:
In this faith these liv'd and dide
In this hope they here reside.⁴⁸

'Being fond of seeing old houses, I fancied that Broughton-Castle might be worth viewing; and accordingly I prevail'd upon the phaeton to go that way round with me; for the road was not thought bad, or far out of our way.

'Broughton Castle, 2 miles from Banbury, is a noble old place, with a bridge and gateway of approach, and a moat around it, clean and transparent; the two distant gateways with the old wall are gone, but much of the turreted wall remains.—The bed rooms are clean and convenient, with good old chimney-pieces, and nice oaken floors: the chimney piece in the kings bed-chamber, where King Charles lay, in several of his marches, is of the superb stile.—But the ornament of the house are the dining and drawing rooms, which are noble apartments of compleat proportion with lofty chimney pieces. The entrance into the dining room I much admired, and the cieling of the drawing room is one of the most beautiful I ever saw, a model for such work.

'The whole house is well fire-grated, and looks comfortable: in short, it is a place worthy of inspection; and we congratulated each other in having come to view it.

'At our departure, the Col. mounted Po: and mistaking the way, led me into roads that were scarcely passable, most painfull it was to see the terror and embarrasment of our little cattle; and more than once we had nearly tilted over.—At the village of Tidmarton [*sic*] we learned our mistake, and that there was more uneasy road before we should get to Bloxham; where after some difficulties we stay'd $\frac{1}{4}$ of an hour to refresh ourselves and our beasts, opposite to the church with a very tall spire. In two more miles we enter'd the turnpike road at Adderbury, and thence over a newly enclosed country, and thro' Deddington to Hopcroft-Holt, a little, single public house of comfortable accomodation; where we feasted on beans and bacon and had tolerable port wine; but not equal to that of Bibury, and Warwick, which we thought excellent.—Our evening drive, or rather my ride, was a very sultry one of 12 miles to Oxford, with frequent stoppages to hear recitals of past huntings from Col. B. who formerly lived in this country.'

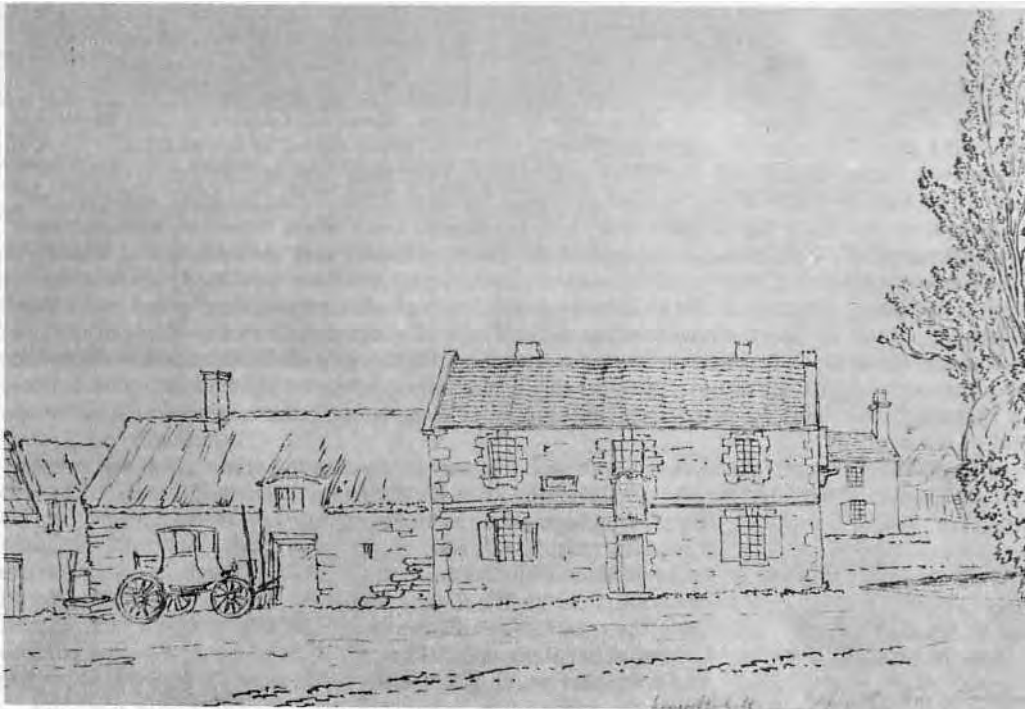


Figure 5. 'Hopcroft-Holt, a little, single public house of comfortable accommodation . . .'
John Byng in 1785. A sketch, probably by Grimm (reproduced by kind permission of the Trustees of the British Museum. B.M. ref. Gough MSS. 15546/2).

Arthur Young

Our final traveller was a very different man to his leisured predecessors. Arthur Young (1741-1820) effectively was a professional journalist. Although generally unsuccessful as a practical farmer, he had had great success with his *Tours* of various parts of the country, written as an agriculturist, of which the account of his visit to the Banbury area, in 1791, is a good example. Two years later William Pitt was to appoint him Secretary to the newly formed Board of Agriculture, in which position he was to write or supervise a series of *General Views* of the agriculture in different counties—that of Oxfordshire (1809) being the last before he succumbed to blindness.

This particular tour was part of one 'to Northamptonshire, Leicestershire, etc.' which had begun at Cambridge on 18 July. Young went via St. Neots, Bedford and Newport Pagnel, before spending several days with the Duke of Grafton at Wakefield Lodge, Northamptonshire. After passing through Banbury he went on to Stratford and Birmingham.

'July 31. Cross the [Whittlewood] forest towards Banbury. Of these twenty miles, the first eight are in the forest, which may yield, perhaps, 10s. an acre; the next five are strong land, that lets at about 14s.; and the last seven of good red loam, from 16s. to 20s.; the whole is inclosed; a great deal of it under grass, with much cattle and sheep. There are some fine views before descending from the high ground, over the rich vale around Middleton Cheney, and to Banbury.'

At Banbury he lodged at the Red Lion, a leading inn, much favoured of farmers. In 1800 it was owned by Henry Pratt, a prominent farmer and corn dealer. It was demolished in the 1920s and its site in the High Street is now occupied by Woolworths.⁴⁹

'Enquiring of my landlord, at the *Red Lion*, about persons curious in agriculture, he mentioned Mr. Goldby, of the town for a driller.' This would have been one of the Golby family who farmed on Drayton Road, Neithrop, and who were well known agricultural improvers.⁵⁰ 'I sent to his house, to request seeing his crops; he was not at home, but his farming man showed them; I found his beans and wheat good, but his barley among the worst crops I have seen this bad year, and I found his man condemning the system for barley, though very candidly admitting the merit for wheat and beans. After all the experiments that have been made, and premiums that have been given, the merit of the drill husbandry is almost as much unascertained, as it was in the time Tull, which can be owing to nothing but the excessive and exaggerated praise that have been given it.

'... There is a practice at Banbury, and the vicinity, which I think an execrable one, that of tethering horses on winter tares; the poor animal is exposed full to sun and flies, staked to a spot which he tramples till the soil is rendered as hard as a barn floor; the food is wasted, the field spoiled, and the horse gets lean instead of fat. Cross here the canal that joins Oxford and Coventry, above 100 miles [*sic*].' The section of the Oxford Canal from Coventry to Banbury was opened on 30 March 1778, and the remaining section to Oxford almost twelve years later on 1 January 1790.⁵¹ 'Shares in this canal, for want of water, were down to £60 and even £50. This was a pretty loss to adventurers, sinking half their capitals, because these canal projectors, who never see any other difficulties than that of getting people's money, are mistaken in their calculations. Reservoirs were here provided and exhausted, and the barges last year sailing merrily on dry land: they were very near having the same spectacle this year; but, by new exertions, things are coming about again, steam engines are built, or building, at the summit, three miles from Bransom [Braunston] and about twenty from Banbury, for throwing back the water wasted by passing the sluices; and, in consequence of this, shares are now got up to par. Undoubtedly the spirit of enterprise, the ardent, energetic, and daring attempts that are every day made in this kingdom, are glorious exertions, and do infinite honour to it. Success generally is commanded at last; but this does not remedy the evil, to those who lose half their investments: this is a private affair; individuals may lose, but the public is sure to gain. Coals, at Banbury, 1s. per cwt.

'August 1. Take the road to Stratford on Avon; pass Wroxton, the seat of Earl Guildford [*sic*]; there is one feature in the place which is very pleasing; a lake, with a river, and a most noble accompaniment of wood. From a gothic temple, on a knole of land that rises in the valley, the water view is double, and very pleasing; the wood singularly umbrageous. Many of the trees are remarkably fine: I measured a beautiful beech, on which some fool has written



Figure 6. '... very pleasing; the wood singularly umbrageous. Many of the trees are remarkably fine ...' Arthur Young at Wroxton. A picture by Grimm (reproduced by kind permission of the Trustees of the British Museum. B.M. ref. Gough MSS. 15546/77).

R.P. 1780, it is seven feet four inches and a half in circumference at five feet from the ground: also an ash seven feet four inches by another bent towards the top; both these trees are of a vast height. The house is situated in the most recluse spot that can be imagined; apparently calculated for that sort of retirement which forbids the entrance of ambition, or of any tumultuous passion that could invade the quiet of this sequestered shade: how pervers, that it should belong to a prime minister [Lord North], who sought for happiness in levees of knaves and fools, instead of the society of his beeches, his ashes, his swans, his carps, and cows:—Which of these have proved ungrateful?

From Leland's 'champaine baren of wood' to Young's 'the whole is inclosed' sums up the change to agricultural economy and landscape over two and a half centuries. The accompanying theme, the importance of the great house, at least when occupied by a great family, is epitomised by Wroxton Abbey, the Popes and the Norths. The contents, pictures and landscaped surroundings attracted travellers' attention, not the architecture. Broughton Castle and Compton Wynyates, of greater antiquity and size, but with impoverished or absent owners, and lacking the attention of a Brown or a Miller, merit scarcely a mention. Of least interest of all was Banbury itself, apart from Leland mentioned only in passing, and then generally disparagingly.

But then how many of today's tourists, who flock to Woburn, Blenheim, Longleat, notice, let alone set down, the type of farming in the countryside through which they pass, the traces of seventeenth- and eighteenth-century buildings above the brash shop fronts of today's High Streets?

J. S. W. Gibson

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28. For Sanderson Miller of Radway, see *C&CH*, iv, 6 (Winter 1969), 79-110. William Hawkes in 'Miller's Work at Wroxton' quotes extracts from this letter.
29. For Steane and its chapel see E. R. C. Brinkworth, 'Philip Thicknesse and the Steane Circle', *C&CH*, i, 7 (Jan. 1961), 84-88.
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31. Anthony C. Wood, 'Sanderson Miller of Radway', *C&CH*, iv, 6 (Winter 1969), 94, note 33.
32. *Ibid.*, 79-92. Radway Grange and Miller's Tower are illustrated, William Hawkes, 'Miller's Work at Wroxton', 105, 107.
33. I am indebted to the Rev. Gerald Holbech for this information.
34. William Hawkes, *op. cit.*, 99-107, quotes Pococke.
35. For Banbury's trade in cheese, see Beesley, 567-68; the recipe is given in *C&CH*, iv, 7 (Spring 1970), 114.
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37. For the Banbury shag, or plush, industry, see R. P. Beckinsale, 'The Plush Industry of Oxfordshire', in *Oxoniensia*, xxviii (1963), particularly 57-58.
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44. For the Fiennes-Twisleton relationship see David Fiennes, 'The Owner of Broughton Castle in 1729', *C&CH*, iv, 9 (Autumn 1970), 147-157. The whereabouts of the picture of the Earl of Essex is no longer known.
45. The inclosure of the fields at Edgehill by Sanderson Miller is discussed by Anthony C. Wood in 'Sanderson Miller of Radway', *C&CH*, iv, 6 (Winter 1969), 83-86.
46. I am much indebted to Miss Rosemary Ashbee, Archivist of Williams and Glyn's Bank Ltd., and to the Revd. Gerald Holbech, for this information.
47. For the Banbury plush industry, in its heyday at this time, see note 37.
48. For the full inscription on John and Joan Knight's tomb in Banbury church, see Beesley, 494.
49. *V.C.H. Oxon.*, x, 12; William Potts, *History of Banbury*, fig. 47, for a photograph of the inn.
50. I am grateful to Mr. Barrie Trinder for this information.
51. William Potts, *op. cit.*, 179.

A History of the County of Oxford, Vol. X, Banbury Hundred, edited by Alan Crossley (The Victoria History of the Counties of England). Published for the Institute of Historical Research by Oxford University Press. 1972. xxiv, 288 pp. 20 pp. of plates. £14.00.

Editorial note: The appearance of the Banbury volume of the Victoria County History is unquestionably the most important publishing event for those interested in the history of Banbury and its neighbourhood since Beesley's great history in the 1840s. The companion volume, for the Bloxham Hundred, dealt wholly with rural parishes none of which dominated the book, and Barrie Trinder was able to consider the book as a whole. The new volume is different, as inevitably the town and borough of Banbury take the major part. It would be hard for a single reviewer to treat the rural parishes as more than subsidiaries. Moreover many of our potential reviewers were debarred by their participation as contributors. We have therefore been very fortunate to have three members who are well qualified to review the sections devoted to the three main parishes: Banbury, Cropredy and Swalcliffe. Charlbury was also in the Hundred, but being geographically remote from 'Banburyshire' has not been reviewed here. We believe our readers will find the varied approaches of our three reviewers stimulating and entertaining.

Banbury (borough, town and parish, including Grimsbury, Neithrop, Easington and Wickham), by P. D. A. Harvey, Christina Colvin, B. S. Trinder, N. H. Cooper, and the Oxfordshire Editorial Staff, pp. 5-127, 34 plates, 6 plans.

It is at once flattering and alarming to be asked to comment on a new volume of the V.C.H. A local vicar asked to review a 67th Book of Holy Scripture could not feel less alarmed than does your general pedagogue of history, faced with a compilation by such experts as Crossley, Lobel, Hook, Turner, Jessup, Harvey, Colvin, etc., not to mention contributors from amongst members of the Society, Brinkworth, Cooper, Laithwaite and Trinder.

For nearly three-quarters of a century the Victoria County History series has plodded steadily forward Hundred by Hundred, Parish by Parish, towards its allotted goal of producing a basic, local history reference book on all the counties of England. The Hundred boundaries mean very little today and the County boundaries will have altered greatly by the time the work is completed. At least Oxfordshire will survive in name, and this volume of its history is a worthy addition to its predecessors. The Second Volume on the County was produced in 1907 when the memory of Her Gracious Majesty, to which it was proudly dedicated, was still fresh to all readers. By an odd quirk, the First volume did not appear until 1939. For thirty-two years the natural historians had been kept waiting for the details of Crustacea (Aquatic and Land), Insecta, Mollusca and other reptiles and amphibians which were assigned to Volume One but delayed to the second production. Now after envying other parts of the County covered in Volumes Five to Nine, the inhabitants of the Banbury Hundred have their own production. This Tenth Volume also rounds off North Oxfordshire, geographically, when it is fitted alongside the Bloxham Hundred Volume produced in 1969.

The section on Banbury Parish consists of 122 tightly packed pages of text, footnotes and illustrations; practically half the volume, in fact. Those familiar with the V.C.H. will be quickly at home amongst the sub-sections which range from the topography of the area and on through its architectural, economic, political, religious and educational history. New users will be amazed at the condensation of so much into such brief accounts. The secret, of course, lies in the footnotes, bewilderingly abbreviated, but amply explained in the introduction. And here we see at once how heavily reliant the writers have been on the great Alfred Beesley, who comes across after one hundred and thirty years as a remarkably accurate and careful historian. There is scarcely a page which does not owe something to Beesley and a great deal of the writers' time must have been spent checking his references and accuracy. They have also made use of over a hundred manuscript sources and seventy printed sources, not to mention the recording of local tradition and knowledge where it appeared sound and helpful. It is gratifying to note forty-three references to articles in *Cake and Cockhorse*, and numerous personal contributions by members of the Society.

The origin and growth of the town to Tudor times is given clear but rapid treatment. It is a story largely of episcopal domination, although there is no evidence that it was other than a benevolent surveillance, whether from Dorchester or Lincoln. By the end of Elizabeth's reign,

however, we have a town of newly acquired borough status and something of a national reputation, even notoriety, to judge from several proverbs associated with Banbury. The seventeenth and nineteenth centuries were clearly the most exciting, politically, and in many other respects. Here the authors have ample material, the footnotes proliferate and the account becomes positively racy. Puritans, Dissenters, Radicals, Chartists—what a lively, provocative lot they were! Nor is it all politics and religion. The excellent work done on social history gives a dimension usually absent from earlier volumes. It is a pity that Dr. Brinkworth's work on seventeenth-century Wills and Inventories could not have been used in this volume to throw new light on social conditions in this period in the same way that much of Trinder's and Harrison's researches bring the nineteenth century to life. A minor point on this period; surely the steeple chase was round Crouch Hill not the Borough boundaries (page 15). Taken together, the first eighteen pages can be recommended as the basic story of Banbury, and it is rounded off with a list of 'distinguished natives' and royal visitors, though there is no reference to the surreptitious visits of Edward VII, nor even to the present Queen, who came in 1958.

The section on the growth and layout of the town and parish contains useful demographic material and interesting notes on place names, but it is the excellent, if selective, survey of the town's buildings which will attract a great deal of interest. Readers will be encouraged to view their town with a closer scrutiny, to marvel at the variety of interesting detail and deplore the destruction of so much, so recently. This section contains some excellent photographs and maps. There is a well documented survey of the Castle, although the publication came out too soon to include Peter Fasham's hypotheses based on his work on the site in 1972-3. The outlying hamlets and manors are described, together with some details of local families and manor houses. Much of this is based on tenancy conditions, tithes and other financial burdens which form the bulk of the documentary evidence. Calthorpe Manor House is very well analysed from the architectural viewpoint, but Wykham Park (Tudor Hall School) is worthy of fuller comment.

The economic history of the region is the usual story of medieval agricultural patterns giving way eventually to more intensive farming in the last two centuries. Again the Open Field system proves to have been far more complex than the text books traditionally teach. Some sophisticated crop rotations were noted by Arthur Young in this area, though there seems little equivalent detail about breeds of livestock. The rapid decline of the town's dependence on agriculture in the latter half of the nineteenth century is briefly highlighted. This decline of direct engagement by the townsfolk in farming was, of course, compensated for by industrial growth and trading activity.

From the annual fair of 1154, down through the years when there were as many as nine fairs, and finally up to our day, the story of buying and selling is an interesting one in the town's history. The struggle is always against dishonesty and toll evasion, but the expansion of activity must surely be most impressive in the development of the cattle market from the street sales in Cow Fair to the largest auction complex in the country, on the east side of the railway. References to the Pie Powder Court will be noted. This interesting relic of a rough and ready market judicial arrangement is officially extinguished by recent local government changes. It is not surprising that attempts to re-enact the Court last year proved difficult since it had not been held in living memory as far back as 1835.

Following on from fairs and markets is a section dealing with trade and manufacture. Fuller accounts of cheese and cake making are found in Volume Two of the V.C.H., but we have here a comprehensive study of the more mundane products of the town ranging over the years from hides and horse cloths to aluminium and instant coffee. References to the labourers who produced these are few, but one detects a hint of twentieth-century industrial troubles in the statement of a manufacturer of 1787 who found Banbury a poor place to establish a works, 'the masters being so much under the control of the workmen'. Nevertheless industry did come to the town with the near mass production methods of Samuelson and it is interesting to speculate on why Banbury did not become a Coventry.

The amount of assumed knowledge on the part of the authors varies from section to section. In certain parts the general historical reader might be puzzled by terms like 'beanpleader', 'whittawyers' and 'forinsec'. This last word appears in the pages dealing with local government which in many ways is one of the most interesting sections. Here the value of the Calendar of

Corporation Accounts is seen, together with the capital store of sources kept sensibly in the Borough Library. Much of the story has already been put together by R. K. Gilkes in *Cake and Cockhorse*, but it still makes good reading as the town struggles to greater self-determination, on through the trials of the seventeenth century and into the tense struggles and increasing responsibilities of the Victorian Age. And, as always, there remains intriguing questions—What became of the maces and plate which the Council had to sell in 1835 to meet its creditors?

The inevitable loss of control to larger authorities begins towards the end of the nineteenth century. As the Council had taken over many duties of the Vestry, so the County absorbs the responsibilities of the Borough. And now, too late to be recorded in Volume Ten, the Borough loses yet more of its powers to the new District Council. The V.C.H. does not claim to be an up-to-date guide book. Indeed it draws a hasty veil over the last twenty-five years which have been as revolutionary as any in the town's history, but which are too contemporary to analyse. Sociologists must turn to Margaret Stacey's *Tradition and Change* and to the forthcoming follow-up of this by Colin Bell *Power, Persistence and Change*.

Nothing emphasises the remoteness of the nineteenth century from our own day more than the crude arrangements which existed then to safeguard public health. Barrie Trinder has already acquainted us with the state of the poor in Neithrop, but it comes again as a shock to read of one privy being thought adequate for forty people, or of canal water being used for household purposes. In 1919, however, Banbury carried out one of the first slum clearances in the country, and the pattern of improvement recorded in this volume provides useful ammunition to use in argument against those who constantly recall the better times of previous ages.

Mr. Anker could certainly add more to the account of Banbury's fire services, and no doubt the industrial archaeologists will find the record of Gas Company's activities meagre, but the factual skeleton is here, as is the outline of the local transport, electricity, telegraph and postal services. There are plenty of leads for further local research, and here and there new and arresting details, like the fact that Banbury's electricity station was the first in the country to be completely turbine driven.

The Parliamentary history of the town is dealt with very fully, and the exciting radical era when Banbury cast off its aristocratic control and emerged into the liberal era of Tancred and Samuelson is good reading by any standards. And what a fine adjunct to this section is made by the letters of Tancred published by the Society in 1970. In politics the V.C.H. is even more cautious than elsewhere and halts the account in 1895, though one suspects that the elections of this century could not match the colour and vituperation of their nineteenth-century counterparts.

The ecclesiastical history is dullish stuff to start with; tithes, jurisdictions, diocesan boundaries, form the bulk of local records, but again character comes through in the seventeenth century with the irrepressible William Whately, about whom so much has been written. The Puritan struggle and the nineteenth-century 'Oxford Revival' are well documented and there are some good illustrations of the old and new churches. Two interesting features of St. Mary's are omitted from the description—Back's arctic window and the elaborate carillon which we can now hear again. Events have moved quickly since the volume was written and the visitor who now looks for Christ Church, which is carefully described, will find a sad architectural gap.

The rich variety of Catholic and Nonconformist activity gets deservedly full treatment. The saga of the Quakers is particularly vivid and again enriched by character, like the intrepid ladies, Margaret Vivers and Jane Waugh. The spiritual vitality of the town in the nineteenth century has been noted in several editions of *Cake and Cockhorse*, but there are plenty of leads for further research and some more intriguing characters like Caleb Clarke, the Baptist preacher who managed a hosiery business as well as practicing medicine and mesmerism. The vigour of the Church in this age was of course reflected most vividly in the lives of the substantial entrepreneurs, Mewburn, Austin, the Cobbs, Gilletts, Beesleys, and Edmunds, whose influence is rightly emphasised. It is doubtful whether any other volume of the V.C.H. covers the rise of dissenting religious groups so thoroughly.

The final section on education and charities reveals the limitations of past provisions compared with the current situation. Education in the town has a tenuous history and it is a pity that the details of St. John's Hospital School and the great master, Stanbridge, are found in Volume One of the V.C.H., and not this. The effect of inflation on salaries never ceases to

amaze; £25 p.a. for the first master of the Bluecoats School in the early eighteenth century; whilst the inequalities are equally startling—£12.10s. for the school mistress. It is interesting to note the suggestion that the ubiquitous Pugin might have had a hand in the architecture of St. John's Catholic School, and intriguing to read of a Mr. Beane, a headmaster, who had to leave the town in 1832 for 'committing himself with one of the young ladies'. This incident and many other sidelights on the nineteenth century come, of course, from the very readable memories of George Herbert. Odd minor errors creep into the brief account of the Grammar School built on its Easington site in 1929 (not '30) damaged by fire in 1940, but certainly not closed for two years, and becoming comprehensive in 1967, not 1968. Charity provisions in the parish were numerous, if not lavish, and the extensive list is meticulously compiled, though the social historian will want to find out more about the recipients of charity as well as the sources. Thomas Oaken of Warwick certainly left his beneficiaries with a rather pleasant form of interest to pay on his loan fund, 4d. to the poor and 4d. for merry making on each pound borrowed.

A great labour and a worthy one. Newcomers to Banbury will still turn to Dr. Brinkworth's *Old Banbury* to get a broad picture of the town's past, but they, and all local historians, will be led speedily to Volume Ten of the V.C.H. if they want to start any deeper investigations. They will be pleasantly surprised by its readability as well as the reliability they have a right to expect.

G. J. Fothergill

The parish of Cropredy (including Great and Little Bourton, Claydon, Clattercote, Mollington, Prescote and Wardington), by J. F. A. Mason, pp. 157-225, 5 plates, 2 plans.

Volume X, just double the price of Volume IX, even at the enhanced price is still excellent value and is very much more detailed and interesting than the V.C.H. for contiguous Warwickshire parishes. The editors have cited comparatively rare books like Mary Smith, *Schoolmistress and Nonconformist* (of Cropredy) (p. 161), as supplying interesting sidelights on local history.

I well remember a later fire at Hadland's Mill than that of 1892 (p. 167). In 1904 or 1905 William Billington, our coachman at Willscott, aroused us at 2 a.m. one night and we dressed and witnessed the terrible conflagration. The Cropredy—Willscott lane was diverted in 1830 (p. 210) not by my grandfather Thomas Loveday, who was then Rector of East Ilsley, but by his eldest brother John, 1785-1864.

George Loveday, who in 1887 objected to the proposed removal of the organ to the south chapel of Wardington church (p. 222), owned not Williamscothe, the home of my father J. E. T. Loveday, but Wardington Manor House. In his opposition he was right: he was perhaps ill-advised to add the words 'to which it appertains' to the tablet recording that the chapel had been restored by George Loveday of the manor house, for if his successor had been a Roman Catholic a delicate situation might have arisen, like that at Mapledurham or Little Malvern. In 1887 it is incredible that £2,000 could have been expended on the organ (p. 222). This was the sum that D. J. Welburn raised for the restoration of the nave in 1887 and the chancel in 1889 (as stated three paragraphs later). He may well have raised a substantial sum for the organ, and his interest in the choir appears from several notes in the burial register recording the deaths of former members. Incidentally he records (not of choristers!) a girl of 24 was killed at Cropredy by jumping out of a fast train, a man of 39 was run over by a waggon, and a man of 44 was killed by his horse running away and him jumping out of his trap. Welburn's virtues are deservedly recognised: worthy of record is the fact that the excellent pulpit was the gift of himself and his wife; so was the stained glass in the charming circular window above the chancel arch. When the new east window in the south chapel was inserted, the triangular upper part of the memorial to George Denton was removed without detriment to the monument.

At Mollington the lectern, like that at Wardington, is the work of Bonham: the eagle is smaller and the design less ambitious than the other, but both are wonderful examples of local craftsmanship, especially the first. I possess a pretty carved book slide and a small wooden cross made by him for Vicar Welburn. The carved altar and reredos at Wardington were the work of a

crippled lady, Olive Barrows. Like the stone altar at Kings Sutton, it might be thought too large for the sanctuary, and it is now (1973) shrouded with hangings. James Eagles Sabin, of whom it was in memory, was churchwarden for 50 years. Mollington church was admirably restored through the generous and inspiring leadership of the Revd. R. R. Lewis, Vicar 1962-65.

Unlike some other parishes remote from their Diocesan and cathedral, those of the ancient parish of Cropredy were singularly fortunate in many of their incumbents between 1870 and 1920. Dr. W. Wood, 1870-1898, at Cropredy, D. J. Welburn, 1877-1913, at Wardington, A. D. Highton, 1874-1904, at Bourton, W. Hill, died 1911, at Mollington, who by his marriage to Jessie Holbech renewed an ancient link between Farnborough and Mollington, were close friends of each other and served their parishes faithfully. But the most effective pastor was S. R. Standage, Claydon 1891-1904 and thereafter for some 20 years at Bourton, a holy and humble man of heart—by his self-sacrificial and devoted ministry he exerted an influence on his parishes which I have never known surpassed.

+ D. G. Loveday

The parish of Swalcliffe, by Mary D. Lobel and the Oxfordshire Editorial Staff, pp. 225-260, 7 plates, 3 plans.

The Swalcliffe section of the Banbury Hundred volume of the V.C.H. embraces all the seven villages which were formerly parts of the ancient parish of the name: Swalcliffe itself, Epwell, Shutford (East and West), Sibford Ferris, Sibford Gower, Burdrop and the now lost settlement of Swalcliffe Lea. The attempt to deal with all these together is cumbersome and confusing, and it is curious that the editors did not see fit to treat each village individually as in the case of those originally forming parts of the ancient parish of Cropredy. Not only did the villages achieve their ecclesiastical independence, but, even before this, they developed individually distinctive economic and social characters. Property accumulations were already cutting across the manorial structure by the thirteenth century, and by the eighteenth century there were noticeably different patterns of land ownership and tenure as between Swalcliffe (with relatively few but large farms) and the Sibfords (with a large number of small owner-occupiers). Swalcliffe, moreover, remained a predominantly agricultural community, whereas Shutford came to be heavily dependent upon the plush weaving (until as recently as 1948), and Sibford was noted for its tradition of watch- and clock-making, practised especially by its Quaker families. One would like to know more of these characteristic activities of the individual villages than the brief paragraphs of this volume provide. Some of the wearisome details about manorial descents (occupying nine out of the thirty-five pages) could well have been spared if the space could have been used to probe more deeply into social developments.

Many questions arise. Why, for instance, should Sibford have become particularly associated with Quakerism when Swalcliffe was apparently untouched by it? One notices that the chief farming family in Sibford by 1700 was a Quaker one, the name of which (Gilkes) appears also among the clock-makers. Did they act as patrons and protectors of their co-religionists, while the New College influence kept them out of Swalcliffe? More information would be welcomed also about the Quaker school at Sibford, to which a brief reference is made in the introductory paragraphs but which receives only one sentence in the section on Education. This reviewer remembers seeing some fascinating correspondence about the school in the nineteenth century displayed at a Sibford village exhibition some years ago.

Was the New College control responsible for the different farming pattern at Swalcliffe? In the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries, we are told, the College used its estates there as a kind of 'home farm', receiving its rents largely in the form of produce, presumably gathered into the magnificent tithe barn. How has the situation been affected by the changed policies adopted by the College in more recent times, particularly since the Second World War?

Good use has been made of such parish records as survive, particularly of the overseers' accounts; but here the pattern that emerges is a familiar one. The problem of the poor seems to have developed much as in other North Oxfordshire parishes, expenditure remaining fairly static through the eighteenth century but rising sharply in the period 1800-30. As at nearby Wigginton, the workhouse established at Sibford Gower in 1785 seems to have been a brief and

unsuccessful experiment. Likewise the ecclesiastical history of Swalcliffe follows a familiar course, with an apparent decline in clerical standards to the early nineteenth century and then a revival—in which the squire perhaps played as important a role as the incumbent—in mid-Victorian times. There are the usual sad stories of the loss or mismanagement of village charities in the past. At Swalcliffe the 'poor's allotment' of 10 acres awarded at the enclosure of 1772 was bringing in £10 a year in rent in 1866: yet in 1969 'the only income was £8 from hunting rights'. The Sibford Gower 'town estate', donated in the sixteenth century, appears to have been more successfully administered, even if the feoffees were at times under suspicion of using its profits improperly.

If, as has been suggested, the contents of this section of the volume are somewhat awkwardly presented, this is in part the consequence of the editors' adherence to the prescribed format of the work. The information provided at least prompts the reader to ask questions: and that in itself perhaps serves to justify the publication.

F. D. Price

Working the Halls, by Peter Honri. Saxon House, 1973. £2.80.

Banbury has yet another claim to fame in having nurtured one of the famous music hall families. Music halls are in vogue at the moment, and consequently this book has received much attention from the media. Peter Honri, the latest of several generations to 'work the halls' gives a history of music halls over the past hundred years, based on the story of his family.

The story began in 1810, when Henry Thompson, aged 13, came to Banbury to be apprenticed to Mr. Needle, the chairmaker. He had musical talent, and played the horn in an orchestra in a small theatre housed in a barn behind Horsefair. This talent was inherited by his son Henry, who, although apprenticed as a butcher, was well-known locally as a comedy multi-instrumentalist, and entertained a great deal around Thorpe Mandeville.

A move to Birmingham started the family on a wider career, including continental tours, and it was due to an appearance at the Folies Bergère in Paris in 1883 that the stage name 'Honri' was adopted. Henry's son, Percy Henry, was appearing with them, and due to a typographical error his name appeared on the poster as 'Percy Honri'. They liked the name, and it 'stuck'.

The book gives a fascinating insight behind the scenes of music hall life, and adds to our knowledge of local theatrical history. A gift record is enclosed with the book.

Christine Bloxham

Britain's Inland Waterways, by Roger Wickson. Methuen, 1969. 75p.

How and why were canals built? Why were some broad and some narrow? What sort of life did the boatmen lead? This book answers these questions and many more. It gives a concise basic outline of the world of canals, illustrated by some good maps and photographs.

It contains a certain amount of material of local interest, with tidbits about the Oxford Canal, such as the fact that Banbury dairy until recently received 20 tons of coal a fortnight by narrow boat, and that Jo Skinner was the last 'Number One' to work independently. He worked mainly on the Oxford Canal, and the main reason he gave up in 1956 was because of the death of his mule, which he used to tow the boat.

The book is designed for secondary school children, but it is very readable, and should appeal to a wide cross-section of adults who are interested in the waterways.

Christine Bloxham

Oxfordshire: A Handbook for Students of History. Ed. D. M. Barratt and D. G. Vaisey. Blackwell, for Oxfordshire Rural Community Council. 1973. xii, 84 pp., 9 plates, 1 line illus. 50p.

This survey of county records, with a slim gazetteer of sites, meets the needs of active students admirably, and particularly those of three groups, schoolchildren, students in higher education,

and adult education classes, which the book's sponsors rightly associate with a resurgence of interest in local history. It clarifies the situation, peculiar to this county, of the joint role of the County Record Office and the Bodleian Library as custodians of primary sources. It does very much more, of course, noting the publications and activities of our own society, and the chief materials held by Banbury Public Library and Museum. There are a thousand details helpful to the researcher: it is a great comfort to know that the census enumerators' returns for 1841-71 for the whole county may be consulted in the Oxford City Library rather than requiring a journey to the Public Record Office. It is less comforting for an individual, and impossible for group work, to use a microfilm reader to transcribe them, so that the growing holdings, in photostat and transcription, of a range of Banbury historical sources by the Education service, whether in the Curriculum Centre at Kidlington or the Teachers' Centre at Banbury, may be of more direct value for groups working in north Oxfordshire.

Most readers will probably find the introduction to Oxfordshire history (almost half the handbook) enjoyable and stimulating, throwing out many suggestions for future work: religion in north Oxfordshire, 'a particularly sensitive area for the Elizabethan and Stuart establishments' being one of many. The suggestions emerging from this refreshing survey compare favourably with the well-worn nature of the 'How can I trace the history of my family/house?' questions which the authors, senior members of the staff of the Bodleian Library, feel duty obliged to deal with in their concluding chapter.

Perhaps it is not necessary to point out the imperfections of the 'county' concept of history to a society dedicated to 'Banburyshire', but for the record this handbook omits the city of Oxford.

E. R. Stevenson

Perspectives in English Urban History, edited by Alan Everitt. Macmillan (Problems in Focus series), 1973. 282 pp., 6 plates, 15 figs. £4.75.

In spite of its off-putting and largely meaningless title and series, this book has much of interest for local historians in general and for Banburians in particular. It consists of eight essays, ranging in time from the late medieval period to the coming of the motor car and in location from York to Margate. All but one deal with aspects of the development of one particular place over a relatively short and defined period.

That geographically closest to Banbury is a study of the buildings of Burford, by our member Michael Laithwaite. As the most 'visual' of the subjects discussed, this is illustrated by most of the book's line drawings and all its plates—unfortunately the latter are quite unnecessarily placed in quite different parts of the book. Nearly all the older houses in Burford were built between the fourteenth and seventeenth centuries, and over a period of years Mr. Laithwaite has been able to investigate both the buildings, through his own observations, measurements and photographs, and their former occupants, from many documentary sources. This has enabled him to analyse the different house-types and to show, for instance, how the larger houses were sub-divided in later less prosperous centuries. Mr. Laithwaite has done a good deal of preparatory work on Banbury, some of which appears in V.C.H., but we look forward to a detailed study something on the lines of Burford—it is rare for the building history of a house to be at all evident from its modern aspect, and it requires this sort of painstaking research to reveal the vicissitudes that have gone before. Sadly in Banbury many of the houses mapped and planned by Mr. Laithwaite have been demolished in recent years—there is far less appreciation of its building heritage in Banbury than in Burford.

Of the other essays, those of particular interest are the two by Professor Alan Everitt, on the English Urban Inn, 1560-1760, and on the interaction of Town and Country in Victorian Leicestershire as shown in the role of the village carrier. The former, although ranging country-wide for its examples, takes as its focus the innkeeping fraternity of Northampton. It demonstrates well the importance of genealogy to the local historian, for many of the inns were kept by successive generations, or at least the same families were to be found moving up the inn-keeping scale in a fairly established hierarchy. Whilst I normally deplore the reviewer who quibbles about minute misprints, I cannot resist comment on the section on 'urban innkeepers'

(p. 120) which opens: 'What kind of men were the innholders who organised these highly diverse activities?' and continues with the mind-boggling sub-heading 'The nobility of innkeepers'. On reading further one finds that this is a misprint for 'mobility'; presumably the 'inkeeping world' referred to later in the same paragraph were of a more 'stationary' nature!

Although Leicestershire carriers may seem rather more remote, in this essay there is a good deal of comparison too with Northamptonshire. Whilst Leicester itself is well situated in the centre of its county, with no boundary very far away, this is not so much the case with Northamptonshire, whose northern and southern tips are distant from the county town. The comparison certainly suffers by a too-rigid adherence to county boundaries, and thus Daventry is considered the only close parallel to Melton Mowbray, the Leicestershire town least dependent on Leicester, and Brackley is cited as an example of a country town whose hinterland was exceptionally small, with its carriers' routes covering only six villages. It would be quite wrong to read into this any implication of the importance of Northampton without first examining the influence and hinterland of Banbury, just across the county border.

A specially commendable feature is the bibliography, which *discusses*, instead of merely listing, the sources used in the various essays—most of these show the way for similar studies in other towns, and it is to be hoped that they will stimulate such research. There is plenty of scope, and the more that is done the more opportunity there is of placing local historical topics in their national context.

J.S.W.G.

Warwickshire in 1790, by Peter Lavery. The Landscape Histories, Osprey, 1974. 64 pp., 48 illus. £1.95.

This series focuses 'attention upon one small part of England during a single unexceptional year', describing the circumstances of everyday life in detail with lavish illustration.

Most attention is naturally given to the most populous places, Birmingham and Coventry, and to Warwick, the elegant county town. Most of the county, however, was still agricultural. The south-east had less arable land than elsewhere, and particularly rich pasture 'where great numbers of fine sheep and cattle are fattened for the consumption of the country; but chiefly for the London market. . . . About forty years ago, the southern and eastern parts of this county consisted mostly of open fields, which are now chiefly inclosed' (John Wedge, editor of *The General View of the Agriculture of the County of Warwick*, 1794).

Under 'Commerce and transport' reference is made to the activities of the Culworth Gang, whose ringleaders were executed at Warwick in 1787 and 1788. Under 'Entertainment and sport' is included a reproduction of a painting in the Birmingham Art Gallery depicting the prize-fight between Isaac Perrins of Birmingham and Tom Johnson, champion of England, which took place at Banbury on 22 October 1789. Johnson won after 'sixty-two rounds of fair, hard boxing'. Unfortunately the artist does not appear to have witnessed the battle, as the scenery in the background bears no recognisable resemblance to anywhere near the town.

J.S.W.G.

In Honour of Shakespeare: The History and Collections of the Shakespeare Birthplace Trust, by Levi Fox. Jarrold and Sons Ltd. in association with the Shakespeare Birthplace Trust, 1972. 128 pp. illus. £1.75.

In addition to Shakespeareana the Birthplace houses an excellent local history collection, and this book is illustrated with a number of eighteenth- and nineteenth-century views of Stratford. Under a section 'Local Authors' is reproduced the title page of William Whately's 'A Bride-Bush: or, a direction for Married Persons, plainly describing the Duties Common to both and peculiar to each of them, by performing of which, marriage shall prove a great help to such, as now for want of performing them, doe find it a little hell.' Before becoming Vicar of Banbury Whately had for a time been Lecturer at Stratford, and though born in Banbury himself, his family originated in Henley-in-Arden, and a great-uncle had lived at Stratford.

J.S.W.G.

Northamptonshire Past and Present, vol. 5, No. 2, 1974. 84 pp. 17 illus., 8 maps. 25p.

The arrival of the journal of the Northamptonshire Record Society is an eagerly awaited annual event. The new issue is of the usual outstanding value. Apart from the illustration of Astrop already reproduced in *Cake & Cockhorse* there is nothing relating specifically to the Banbury area, but there are several important general articles. Both 'The Geography of Coaching in the Early Nineteenth Century' and 'A Nineteenth Century Cattle Dealer' discuss routes outside the county as well, and make an interesting comparison with Professor Everitt's essay on Leicestershire carriers noticed above. Four of the regular coaches in the 1820s and '30s which called at or started from Banbury are mentioned: the *Union*, the *Banbury*, the *Birmingham Royal Mail* and the *Britannia* from Kidderminster, all London-bound. The 'Welsh Road' and 'Banbury Lane' are ancient drovers' roads, and the survival of mid-nineteenth-century account books of the Cardiganshire family of Johnathon throw a revealing light on the economics and practical aspects of the trade. 'Justices of the Peace, 1830-1845' gives a useful analysis of the social standing of active justices, amongst whom were the Cartwrights of Aynho, the Knightleys of Fawsley and the Carters of Edgecote, together with their family relationships and political leanings. The importance of the Knightleys three centuries earlier, discussed in 'Religion and Politics in the Reign of Henry VIII' is a reminder of the continuity of great families in this county of 'spires and squires'.

J.S.W.G.

EXHIBITION 1973-74 AT THE MUSEUM

'Banbury—a Victorian Scrapbook' is the title given to the exhibition which has been on display in the Museum, Marlborough Road, since July 1973. 'Banbury is noted for its Cross, its cakes and its ale', the attractively printed catalogue states. A few minutes spent visiting this exhibition will serve to show that the life of Victorian Banbury was far more complicated than this somewhat glib statement leads us to believe.

Exhibition design has become almost an art form in itself and this Victorian Scrapbook is surely a good example of the genre. The settings for the exhibits are aesthetically most satisfying with an interesting if rather subtle use of symbolism in their construction. Who would have realized at first sight for instance the connection between the backcloth and Betts Banbury Cakes? Cake manufacture has quite rightly been given a prominent place in the exhibition, and the display of tools used in the preparation of Banburys unique contribution to global gastronomy is suitably crowned by the vast sign from Brown's Original Cake Shop recently purchased for the Museum by the Borough Council.

In view of Banbury's importance as an agricultural market centre and its relatively early involvement in engineering industry it is perhaps a little disappointing that there is not much in the exhibition devoted to agricultural machinery, and its manufacture, although with limited space it is difficult to see how this could have been achieved. Perhaps there is material here for a subsequent exhibition? Plush manufacture on the other hand has been very well treated being represented by a number of most interesting exhibits. Transport has very justifiably been given some prominence; although probably as a result of the highly successful exhibition held at the Museum last year the Oxford Canal does not feature very largely in detail. However, as befits a Victorian exhibition, the railway's effect on Banbury is well illustrated. It is a pity perhaps not to have included a picture of the world's largest 'hump yard', but no doubt space would not permit.

Victorian Banburian pastimes very well illustrated photographically form one of the most interesting features. The Michaelmas Fair is specially singled out with some really splendid photographs. There are in addition many other small exhibits from theatre tickets for the Old Palace to samplers worked by our Victorian ancestors. Altogether a fascinating collection and well worth a visit.

J. F. Roberts

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 £1.05
- Banbury Art Society (Hon. Sec., R. Edgson, Print's Cottage, Bloxham, Banbury) £1.00
- Banbury Geographical Association (B.E. Little, 2 Burlington Gardens, Banbury) 53p
- Bicester Local History Circle (Hon. Sec., Miss G.H. Dannatt, Lammas Cottage, Launton Road, Bicester, Oxon.). 50p
- Buckinghamshire Record Society (Hon. Sec., E.J. Davis, County Record Office, New Council Offices, Walton Street, Aylesbury, Bucks.). £2.10
- Council for the Preservation of Rural England, Oxfordshire Branch (Mrs E. Turner, Woodside, Woodgreen, Witney, Oxon.). Minimum 50p
- Dugdale Society (publishes Warwickshire records) (Shakespeare's Birthplace, Stratford-upon-Avon). £2.10
- Heraldry Society (59 Gordon Square, London, W.C.1.). £1.50; or to include 'The Coat of Arms', £2.50
- Historical Association (59a Kennington Park Road, London, S.E.11.) (Oxford Branch: A.J.P. Puddephatt, 93, Old Road, Headington, Oxford). £1.00; or to include *History*, £1.75
- Northamptonshire Record Society (Délapre Abbey, Northampton). £2.10
- Oxford Architectural and Historical Society (Ashmolean Museum, Oxford). 75p or to include *Oxoniensia*, £2.10
- Oxford Preservation Trust (The Painted Room, 2 Cornmarket Street, Oxford). Minimum 50p
- Oxfordshire Record Society (Dr W.O. Hassall, Hon. Sec., Bodleian Library, Oxford). £2.00
- Shipston-on-Stour and District Local History Society (H.G. Parry, Hon. Sec., 8 Stratford Road, Shipston-on-Stour, Warw.) 50p
- Warwickshire Local History Society (47 Newbold Terrace, Leamington Spa.) £1.00
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