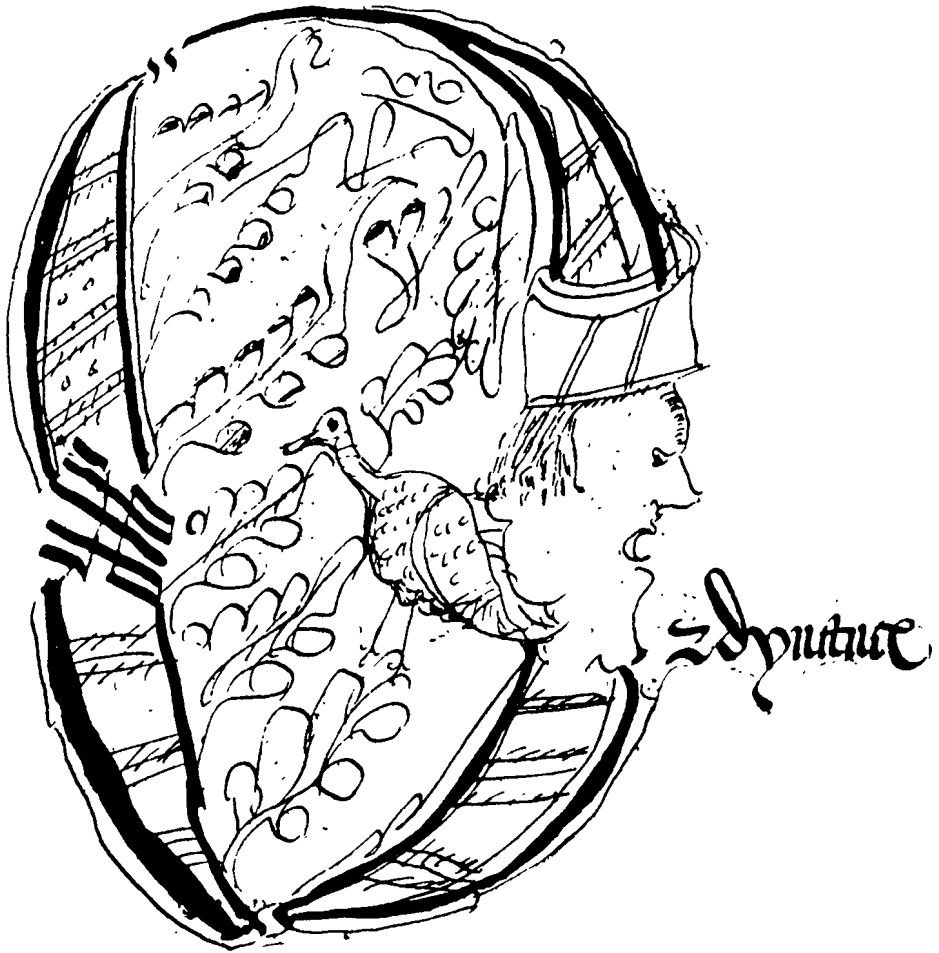


CAKE & COCKHORSE



BANBURY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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BANBURY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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Details about the Society's activities and
publications can be found on the inside back cover

Our Cover Illustration is an Elizabethan doodle in the Banbury Corporation Records, reproduced in Vol. 15 of our Records Series (which is reviewed on p. 184 of this issue).

CAKE & COCKHORSE

The Magazine of the Banbury Historical Society. Issued three times a year.

Volume 7	Number 6	Spring 1978
Barrie Trinder	The Distant Scene: Banbury and the United States in the Mid-Nineteenth Century	163
G. C. J. Hartland	Steam Power in Banbury	175
Book Reviews	Banbury Corporation Records: Tudor and Stuart; The Parish Registers of Tysoe; The Banbury and Cheltenham Railway; The Rollright Stones	184
Banbury Fair:	A Poem	193
Banbury Historical Society	Annual Report	194
	Accounts for 1977	196

It is a great pleasure once more to occupy the editorial chair of "Cake and Cockhorse", although only as a guest for one issue during the absence of David Fiennes in the Far East. It is a pleasure too to be able to include more of Geoffrey Hartland's patient researches into Banbury's industrial past. The main article in this issue is, alas, two years late. It was intended as part of the American Bicentenary celebrations in 1976, but its completion was unfortunately prevented by the pressures of other work.

Many members of the Society will doubtless be aware that a committee under the chairmanship of Lord Blake is currently reviewing the state of Local History in England. It is not a committee set up directly by the government, but by the Standing Conference on Local History, which operates under the auspices of the National Council on Social Services. The committee may seem remote from the activities of a local society, and of little real importance, yet its work could have important implications. There is a widespread feeling that there ought to be some form of national organisation for local history in England, to perform functions rather like those which the Council for British Archaeology performs for archaeology, and an acknowledgement that the Standing Conference does not currently do this. The annual meetings of the Conference, normally

held on Fridays, cannot be attended by many local historians who have their livings to earn, and representation on the Council is only obtained through the cumbersome machinery of county committees. Nevertheless some such organisation is needed, and it is to be hoped that the Blake Committee will recommend reforms which will bring into being a body which is of much more relevance and usefulness to organisations like the Banbury Historical Society.

Just how important a national pressure group is can be seen from the activities of the Record Users Group (RUG) an ad hoc body set up to enable such organisations as the Social History Society, the Society of Genealogists, the Victoria History of the Counties of England, the Cambridge Group for the History of Population and Social Structure and the Conference of Local History Tutors to make representations on matters of concern to users of historical records. The Group have attempted to improve conditions for readers at the Public Record Office, and have made representations on the Parochial Registers and Records Measure, which could have seriously restricted the availability of the whole range of parish documents.

It is unfortunate that in some quarters there seems to be an attempt in the discussions over the Blake Committee to set up antagonisms between local historical societies and professional local historians. The Banbury Historical Society owes its origins to a series of lectures given by the professional historian who is now our Honorary Research Adviser, and many another local society began in a similar way. We have enjoyed many lectures, as have most other societies, from professional local historians. Local history in England can make progress only through co-operation between amateurs and professionals, and the long and proud record of the Banbury Historical Society shows how fruitful such a partnership can be. Let us have no truck with those who would claim, without the experience or background to give them authority, that they speak for the interests of local societies in opposition to those of the professionals. The interests of the two groups are identical.

B.S. Trinder

HOOK NORTON LOCAL HISTORY COURSE

A course at the Hook Norton School on finding out about local history using source material. Commencing September 18: 7.30 - 9.00pm.
Fee £3 for the complete 10 weeks. Enrolment: September 11 from 7-8.30 or by contacting Alan Sibson, Prews Close, Park Hill, Hook Norton, Tel: Hook Norton 737737.

THE DISTANT SCENE: BANBURY AND THE UNITED STATES IN THE MID-NINETEENTH CENTURY

The links between Banbury and the United States in the nineteen seventies are obvious. They arise from the NATO alliance, the dominance of the dollar and of multi-national companies, and the almost universal acceptance of American popular culture. In these respects Banbury differs only in degree from many a market town in Bavaria, Turkey or Thailand. Yet it is difficult to set historical limits to these associations. The move of General Foods Ltd. from Birmingham in the nineteen sixties, the Second World War, the opening of cinemas, are milestones which show that the road is a long one, but not how long it is. The object of this article is to examine some of the ways in which a typical nineteenth century English market town was linked with what Richard Cobden called "the country that ought, beyond all others, to engage the attention and even to excite the apprehension of this commercial nation".¹ It is not claimed that the article is exhaustive, since it is based largely on research undertaken with different objectives, but it will, it is hoped, indicate some of the possibilities of this sort of enquiry.

Banbury lay at the centre of an agricultural district which in the eighteen thirties was fertile and productive, but over-populated and poverty-stricken. For the poor, America was a last resort and a last hope. The Northampton and Oxford newspapers frequently reported departures of groups of migrants, and from time to time published letters which they sent home describing their experiences, in the hope that "labouring families in Oxfordshire that had long lived in a state of pauperism" would be induced to go overseas. The Northampton Herald, a Conservative newspaper which in spite of its dislike of American democracy, was anxious to urge the emigration of the English rural poor, reported in 1832 that a party of 43 persons from Middleton Cheney and eight from Thenford had left for America, with the intention of going to the Ohio territory, a district "very far up country". The editor went on to comment:

"Nothing of the kind is more striking than the boldness and confidence of success with which poor persons set out for such a remote part of the world. The passage across the Atlantic seems to be regarded only as a trip, from the constant intercourse which is being kept up by emigrants with their friends, and the frequency with which small capitalists go over to explore the country and return to fetch their families. About 150 persons have quitted Middleton Cheney for America within the last three years from whom letters are being continually received inviting their families and friends to follow them".²

Published letters usually give a picture of modest prosperity, of an

abundance of food, and of well-paid employment, but it is likely that only letters giving a favourable impression of the consequences of emigration would have been printed. Not uncommonly such letters call upon future migrants to take out items unobtainable in America which were specialities of the Banbury district, like "as much shag cloth as would make me a coat, waistcoat and pantaloons. . . . I should like both blue cloth and small pattern" or "a pocket knife for me of Thomas's make, Banbury".³

It is impossible to give a full picture of emigration from the Banbury area, or indeed from any other part of Britain, at this period. Reasons for departure were varied. America was a convenient refuge for those suspected of crime or for the putative fathers of bastards. One of the leaders of the Banbury riots against agricultural machinery in 1830 found sanctuary there. It offered hope to the hopeless poor, to such an extent that in 1836 the poor law guardians agreed to pay for two pauper wives to join their husbands in the States.⁴ It is probable however that many of those who left for America were among the more intelligent of the poor, for the published letters, even if they form a faulty sample, do reveal a fair degree of literacy and considerable resourcefulness on the part of their authors.

Little is known of the fate of most of the Banburians who went to America. Some obviously succeeded and prospered. William Walker, keeper of Banbury Gaol until its closure in 1852, was killed in an accident on the Long Island Railroad in 1865, by which time he had a farm at Deer Park, Long Island, and a home at 168 Elizabeth Avenue New York.⁵ A letter from an emigrant from Mollington settled at Homesdale, Wayne County, Pennsylvania, in 1873 commended the good working conditions and the abundance of milk and beef in the district. In 1877 the Banbury Guardian reported that George Reynolds, late of North Newington, had nine thousand sheep on a farm at Palo Vantana, Newces County, Texas.⁶ In the eighteen fifties and after, Australia, New Zealand, and to a lesser extent Canada and South America, were increasingly competing for migrants, and philanthropic emigration agents, like the Banbury Quaker James Cadbury, seem actively to have promoted migration to the British Colonies rather than to the United States. From time to time there are nevertheless reports of Banburians leaving for the States. In August 1863 a group left Liverpool for America on board Brunel's Leviathan the SS "Great Eastern". In 1873 when accounts were coming to Banbury of the disastrous settlement of local migrants at Cananea in Brazil, the Burlington and Missouri Railroad sought, with an advertisement headed by a cow-catcher fitted locomotive, to find settlers for the spacious plains of Iowa and Nebraska, "only fifteen days from Liverpool".⁷ Some migrants returned to Oxfordshire. A carpenter born at Bampton, who had an Irish wife, had a son born in the United States about 1836, and was living in Calthorpe Street, Banbury, in 1871.³ Thomas Langton, alias Poker, a stump orator well-known in Banbury politics in the eighteen sixties, was

a native of Sheffield, but had "spent time among the Yankees".⁹

As a republic with a wide suffrage and vote by ballot the United States naturally appealed to radical politicians in the nineteenth century in the same way that the Soviet Union appealed to the Left in the nineteen twenties and early thirties. Equally it appalled the politicians of the Right. One of the most pro-American politicians in nineteenth century Banbury was Edward Yates, radical candidate in the 1857 election, who said that taxes should be reduced in Britain to enable producers to compete with the untaxed [sic] Americans, and urged an alliance of free peoples, to include the United States.¹⁰ In 1860 Henry Vincent, Chartist candidate for Banbury in 1841, and always a popular lecturer in the town, concluded a speech with "an eloquent peroration upon the progress of Liberty in Europe and America". A year later he was again lecturing in Banbury and giving his views on the American Civil War. According to local Conservatives he was quite wrong in his assessment of Abraham Lincoln.¹¹ As in other parts of Britain, feelings about the Civil War ran high in Banbury. Long reports on the military campaigns appeared in local newspapers. The war featured in a variety of popular entertainments, and several public meetings were held on the subject. Banburians massively supported the funds raised to aid the Lancashire cotton workers thrown out of work by the cotton famine caused by the war.¹² Opinions about the war were to a large extent predictable. The Banbury Herald which reflected the views of local Conservatives said early in 1863 that Banbury was for the South but not for Slavery. The Rev. W.T. Henderson, the radical Baptist minister reflected that he and his friends were "almost to a man with John Bright on the side of the North", and commended the Anti-Slavery side at his church's annual tea meeting in 1863. After the assassination of Abraham Lincoln in 1865 there were special sermons at the Unitarian Church.¹³ The war could be interpreted both as a triumph for Liberty and as an indication of its dangers. In the general election of 1865 the Conservative Benjamin Aplin attributed the resurgence of Conservative feeling in Banbury to "that state of things in America which had opened people's eyes to the folly and risks of Democracy", and the Conservative candidate claimed that the war was a warning of the consequences of Universal suffrage.¹⁴ Members of the Reform League at the same time spoke of the "triumph of our Brethren in America" and in 1866 demonstrators in Banbury called for the same democratic rights in Britain as in the United States. In the general election of 1868 a satire accused radicals of wanting an Act of Union with the United States.¹⁵

More than most English towns, Banbury owed its prosperity in the eighteen fifties and sixties to American technology. The town's economy revived in this period, due largely to Bernhard Samuelson's Britannia Ironworks, and the ironworks owed its success to the licence which it gained in 1851 to manufacture the McCormick reaper, the invention of a farmer's son from Rockbridge County, Virginia, which was

described in 1851 as "the most important addition to farming machinery since the threshing machine took the place of the flail".¹⁶ Samuelson was not the only English manufacturer of the reaper, but it was for thirty years the most important product of his foundry, and the one on which the rapid expansion of the works was based. It was not the only American invention which he adopted. In 1850 he gained a silver medal at the Royal Show for a churn to a patent design by Charles Anthony of Pittsburg, and he announced in 1857 that he would be manufacturing an American patent Floating-Ball Washing Machine. In 1864 another Banbury engineering firm Barrows and Carmichael began to make an American patent corn grinding machine.¹⁷ Even Banbury's market gardeners were affected by American imports. By 1864 Perry's the nurserymen were offering Wellingtonias for sale, and several of these Californian redwoods still adorn the town's skyline.¹⁸

The most sustained American influence on the lives of the respectable classes in Banbury was probably in religious matters. None of the Dissenting denominations in the town was unaffected by American ideas and practices. The most formal transatlantic contacts were those of the Quaker meeting. American Quakers regularly made circuits of English meetings in the eighteenth century, when numerous visitors to Banbury were recorded, and they continued to come to the town in the nineteenth. Among the visitors were Thomas Arnett, from Miami, Ohio, who came to Banbury "on religious service" in May 1850, and Richard H. Thomas of Baltimore, who was in the town in 1857.¹⁹

American theology had a considerable effect on the Banbury Presbyterian or Unitarian congregation, which in the eighteen thirties and forties was socially and politically the most influential religious group in the town. In the early eighteen fifties the minister, Henry Hunt Piper, and his son in law, the banker Edward Cobb, introduced a Romantic form of Unitarianism to the congregation, exemplified in the Gothic Christ Church Chapel, opened in 1850, and the use of a liturgy written by Piper himself. The changes brought resistance in the congregation, headed by the "Parsons Street Infidels" a small group of adherents of the American radical Unitarian Theodore Parker. Cobb and Piper left the town, to be followed within a few years by several of their opponents.²⁰ The congregation dwindled away, and never regained its previous position of influence.

Methodists also came under American influences. Throughout the nineteenth century a succession of American revivalists visited Britain, among them Lorenzo Dow, protagonist of camp meetings, whose visit in 1806 led to the emergence of the Primitive Methodist Connexion, and Dwight Moody and Ira Sankey in 1873. One of the most celebrated was Phoebe Palmer, who with her husband, came to Britain in 1859-60, in anticipation of a major national revival. The couple visited Banbury and took part in December 1860 in a series of revival services at the Church

Lane Wesleyan Chapel, which had begun earlier in the autumn. Their methods were criticised in a pamphlet by the local radical politician and atheist William Bunton.²¹

One dissenting congregation in Banbury owed its very existence to American influences. The Disciples of Christ were founded in the United States by a Scots Presbyterian, Alexander Campbell, who had migrated from Glasgow in 1809. He had become a Baptist, and then, rejecting all creeds, had formed his own denomination in 1827, teaching baptism by immersion and an imminent second coming. The first Disciples of Christ (or Campbellites) in Britain were Scots Baptists, but congregations had been established by 1842 in 19 English towns, the majority of them in a group in Lincolnshire and Nottinghamshire. The church in Banbury was founded on 12 May 1839, its founder being John Stuttard, a draper and teetotaler, who may have visited the United States. In 1847 Alexander Campbell visited England and was in Banbury in July:

"On the 17th of July... brother Campbell arrived in the clean and pleasant town of Banbury. Six lectures had been here announced for Friday and Saturday evenings, with three on the Lord's Day, and one on the Monday evening. The two first and fourth we were announced to occupy the time, which was accordingly done to attentive and respectable audiences in the regular meeting room of the brethren. Brother Campbell spoke in the Baptist chapel Lord's Day morning and evening. At each of the meetings there was a good attendance... Much prejudice has been removed and we hope much good will be the result".²²

In the eighteen seventies the influence of Dwight Moody and Ira Sankey, who visited Britain in 1873, was felt on religion in Banbury as elsewhere. In February 1875 the Rev. J. Davies of Bridge Street Baptist Church announced that he would be giving a Bible reading "after the manner of the great American evangelist Dwight Moody" on the subject of "The Blood", and that Sankey hymns would be sung at Sunday services at the chapel. The Baptists, Congregationalists and Methodists co-operated in the organisation of revival meetings which used the popularity of Sankey hymns to attract outsiders to services. In October 1875 Sunday afternoon services featuring Sankey hymns were held at the Town Hall for those who did not normally attend a place of worship.²³

The temperance movement in Banbury, particularly its prohibitionist sector drew much of its inspiration from America. The first demands for prohibition in Banbury came in 1852 when the Quaker James Cadbury called for adoption in Britain of the Maine Liquor Law. The state of Maine had introduced prohibition in 1851, and visits to Britain by several leading American prohibitionists stimulated the formation of the United Kingdom Alliance in 1852-53.²⁴ In 1855 Cadbury published a pamphlet extolling the benefits which would come to Banbury if the Maine

Law were adopted. America came to have something of the reputation of a promised land for the advocates of temperance in Banbury. The annual meeting of the Banbury Temperance Society in 1860 was addressed by a speaker on "The Temperance Movement in America" and in 1861 a meeting on the Maine Law heard a speech from the American General Riley, who, from his travels all over the United States had concluded "the brewer, the distiller and the liquor seller have fattened on the misery of their customers". In October 1865 a meeting in Banbury was addressed by Elihu Burritt, the "learned blacksmith", who was United States consul in Birmingham, and whose book of travels in Britain is full of short temperance homilies. He commended to his audience the support of temperance and missionary associations.²⁵ Another celebrated American puritan General Neal Dow spoke to the Banbury branch of the UK Alliance in 1867, and in 1870 there was a very large attendance at the Town Hall to welcome ex-Senator Cary of Ohio whose lecture on temperance persuaded twenty-one of his audience to sign the pledge. In 1872 Bernhard Samuelson, MP for Banbury, spoke against prohibition, basing his arguments on American experiences, alleging that where prohibition was most demanded, as in the state of Maine, it was least needed, and where it was most needed, as in New York City, public feeling would not allow it. In 1875 James Cadbury's interests in prohibition and emigration were combined when he chaired a meeting addressed by J. S. Rowe of London on emigration to Vineland, New Jersey, thirty miles from Philadelphia, which had all the various clubs and institutions of an English town, and yet, paradoxically, no liquor trade. Temperance, said Cadbury, was the foundation of Vineland's remarkable prosperity, but the meeting ended in anti-climax when Rowe was forced to admit that he had never been there.²⁶

In many ways the most significant of the American temperance lecturers to visit Banbury was not one of the advocates of the Maine Law but J. B. Gough, whose lectures in 1858 brought crowds which filled the Cornhill Corn Exchange to overflowing. Gough was a superlative performer, an entertainer who was "never for a moment at rest, and seems to love ample space, darting hither and thither across the platform and exhausting every tone and attitude". He could make his audience laugh and cry at will, but as one local critic remarked, while he greatly amused those who heard him, he was not necessarily effective in persuading them to cease drinking.²⁷

Gough's lectures exemplified the large area of overlap between education, propaganda and entertainment in mid-Victorian England. There were numerous ways in which Banburians could learn about America, and relatively few of them were through formal educational media, like lectures at the Mechanics' Institute, or articles in journals. Even some meetings which might appear from announcements to have been straightforward lectures are shown by detailed reports to have had, like Gough's, more of the characteristics of music hall entertainments, with songs,

impressions and mimes. America formed the subject of a considerable proportion of the popular entertainments and educational activities in Banbury in the mid-nineteenth century. Several people with local connections gave lectures on their visits to America. In 1852 for example, Edward Watkin, then secretary of the Buckinghamshire Railway, and later to become one of the most powerful figures in the British railway industry, spoke to the Mechanics' Institute on his impressions of a tour of the United States. Americans were often quoted as examples to copy in lectures on Self-Improvement, Benjamin Franklin and George Peabody, the philanthropist, being among those most commended.²⁸ The Anti-Slavery movement had received enthusiastic support in Banbury in the eighteen thirties, and in the fifties and sixties there was great interest in the question of American slavery. A black American spoke on Slavery at an overcrowded meeting at the Banbury Friends' Meeting House in August 1850. Another American negro, a Mr. Benson, lectured on both Slavery and Temperance in October 1852.²⁹ The publication of Harriett Stowe's "Uncle Tom's Cabin" made a great impact in Banbury as elsewhere, to such an extent that several none too scrupulous entertainers tried to exploit its popularity. In 1852 the Banbury Guardian reported:

"The week before last a person calling himself Dr. Welch announced two lectures on American Slavery at Banbury. They were delivered on Monday and Tuesday week at the British School Room, and were well attended. We are informed that they were, as we expected they would be, sad rubbish; that they were got up in consequence of the effect which has been produced by Mrs. Stowe's clever book there can be no manner of doubt; and it is quite probable that the same person had within no long space of time exerted his talents upon Chartism, Peace, Temperance, Mesmerism, Bloomerism or any other subject that might happen to be uppermost in the public mind. It is to be lamented that the tendency of Mrs. Stowe's work should be damaged, as it ultimately must be, by the way in which unprincipled adventurers are Uncle Tomming it in all directions both from the press and the platform. Our chief purpose in noticing Dr. Welch is to caution the public against him; for he decamped from Banbury without paying the hire of the room in which his lectures were delivered".³⁰

In January, 1854 two lectures were given at the Independent Chapel by a Mr. Watkins, a fugitive American slave, while at the end of the same month a presentation entitled "Uncle Tom's Cabin" at the Banbury Theatre in Church Lane was the success of the season. In August 1855 a young negro from Georgia who gave a "luculent, ludicrous and lugubrious" narrative of his escape from slavery, was enthusiastically applauded by an audience of largely young people in Banbury town hall. At

the Michaelmas Fair two months later a cheap john offered pictures from "Uncle Tom's Cabin" engraved from originals by the Italian artist Michaelangelo. In 1858 Pell's American Opera Troupe, delineators of negro character, gave three programmes of burlesques, songs, dances and acrobatics in Banbury.³¹

The same mixture of formal and the informal, of serious and frivolous means, informed Banburians about the Civil War and the question of Slavery in the eighteen sixties. Nigger minstrel style singing had become very popular by the beginning of the decade and many unsuccessfully tried to copy it. When the celebrated Original Campbell Minstrells performed in the town in July 1860 the Banbury Advertiser commented:

"Those who have only seen the miserable caricature of the "darkey" character which the begrimed denizens of Whitechapel profess to enact in the streets with two bones and a banjo can form but an indifferent idea of the mirth-provoking powers of more accomplished vocalists and better actors".³²

During the Michaelmas Fair in 1860 Bachelor's Panorama of Negro Life in America and Africa was performed at the Town Hall, and the following month the Female Christy's Minstrels sang Negro melodies to large audiences. The same group gave further successful concerts in Banbury in April 1862. At the Michaelmas Fair in 1864 there were complaints of Nigger Minstrels with English accents. By 1868 Banbury had its own group, the Banbury Christie's Minstrels, who gave regular concerts in the town.³³

At peep shows at the Michaelmas Fair in 1861 "every important engagement in the present American war was truthfully represented by scenery which has performed the same good offices for the Battle of Waterloo, the Crimean, Indian and Chinese wars". In May 1863 Gompertz's Panorama of the Great War of the Western World was shown at Banbury Town Hall, depicting amongst other scenes, the forcing of the passage of the Mississippi and the Bull Run. In March of the following year the Mechanics' Institute heard Thomas Butler Gunn, a correspondent of the New York Tribune, lecture on "Campaigning with General McClellan in the Virginian Peninsula".³⁴ After the conclusion of the Civil War a meeting organised by the National Freedman's Aid Union at Banbury Town Hall raised over £50 for freed slaves in America, but there are indications that interest in American affairs had been satiated. A lecture by a negro called W. Watson at the Bridge Street Baptist Schoolroom in March 1866 had to be cancelled because there was such a small attendance.³⁵

A great variety of other American entertainers performed in Banbury in the eighteen fifties and sixties, many of them combining a serious purpose with outright entertainment. The prospect of the arrival

of Henry Russell in the town in 1854 was greeted with enthusiasm. "No one can hear Mr. Russell" said the Banbury Guardian, "without having the more genial sympathies of his nature amused... he aims to delight and instruct... to excite a sympathy for human suffering and an admiration for the noble and good". His audience in the British School was too large for the room. He spoke about "The Emigrant's Progress from the Old World to the New", and "Negro Life in Freedom and Slavery", and his performances were characterised by the local press as "happy combinations of the pictorial, the verbal, the descriptive and the musical... one of the most taking entertainments of the day".³⁶ Another popular visitor was Washington Friend. At his 'Panorama' presented at the Town Hall in March 1860, "the wondrous scenes of the distant west passed like a vivid reality before the spectators, and the crowded city and the solitary forest were represented with a truthfulness which carried the imaginations of the lookers on to the shores of the Mississippi or the mighty plunge of waters over Niagara". The performance included songs, instrumental music, portions of lecture, and the display of pictures, "the most beautiful paintings in the world" according to the advance publicity. This was by no means Friend's only visit to Banbury. In 1857 he gave a musical and pictorial account of a five thousand mile journey through America at the Town Hall.³⁷

In November 1864 an Alabaman child pianist performed in the town. In April 1870 a Dr. Stock lectured on American women at the Good Friday Tea Meeting at the Bridge Street Baptist Chapel, deploring the number of divorces in America, even in Connecticut, which was not "a Southern, bowie knife, rowdy state". His speech mirrored exactly the rural, anti-emigrant aspects of American Puritanism: "if they wished to find the better class of woman it was not in the great cities that they would be found, but in the more thinly populated districts where life was more simple and patriarchal in its character". Paupers, he claimed, were never native born, but three quarters of them were Irish, and the rest other sorts of foreigners.³⁸

The circus in nineteenth century England was much influenced by American examples, and Banbury was visited on at least three occasions by the celebrated American circus of Howe and Cushing. In 1858 its performances coincided with the Michaelmas Fair, and its arrival in Banbury clashed with that of the rival Sanger's Hippodrome. The circus was a great success. Its performances were "of a most satisfying description" and the receipts totalled £470. In November 1860 hundreds failed to gain admission to Howe and Cushing's big top to see such spectacles as the two educated mules, Pete and Barney, the Royal Alabaman Brass Band, the state carriage of Charles II, a Spanish bullfight, and sparring exhibitions by Tom Sayers, the champion of the world. When the circus paid a further visit to Banbury in May 1863 one of its main attractions was again a prize fighter, Sayers's celebrated opponent of 1860, Heenan the American

champion. It is interesting that on the two latter occasions other American entertainers performed in Banbury at the same time as the circus, the Christie minstrels in 1860 and Gompertz's panorama in 1863.³⁹

Like many other parts of England, North Oxfordshire was affected by the American craze for spelling bees in 1875-76. The first such event in Banbury was sponsored by the Mechanics' Institute in January 1876, and drew vast crowds which filled the Town Hall, although one reason for the large attendance may have been that the decorations for the county ball held the previous night had been left up. A Banbury man, C.J. Dawson, won first prize in a spelling bee with four hundred competitors in Manchester and for the first few weeks of 1876 this "American innovation from Puritan New England" attracted great attention. A short-lived Banbury Spelling Club was formed but by the end of March spelling bees had "settled down to a distant hum in the villages".⁴⁰

Banbury was above what might be called the threshold of enthusiasm for the majority of popular causes in the nineteenth century. It was large enough and it had a sufficient number of concerned citizens to provide audiences for all but the most celebrated of popular educators and entertainers. Charles Dickens never lectured in the town, but George Dawson, Henry Vincent, Alessandro Gavazzi and J. B. Gough all did so, the two former on many occasions. Since so many popular lecturers and entertainers were Americans, Banburians had many more opportunities to find about the United States than the citizens of smaller towns like Bicester, Brackley or Chipping Norton. Englishmen in the mid-nineteenth century had many reasons for wanting to know about the United States. It was the home of many of their recently departed relations, and their own potential refuge in the event of poverty. They learned about America not just from formal lectures and the exhortations of emigration agents, but from a variety of musicians, peep shows and panoramas, and as they did so the local market town culture was exposed to transatlantic influences. The local jazz bands of the nineteen twenties and thirties, and the rock and roll singers of the nineteen fifties and sixties, had their predecessors in the minstrels of the eighteen sixties.

An awareness of America was thus part of the consciousness of every thinking Banburian, rich or poor, in the mid-nineteenth century. Perhaps one of the best indications of the importance of America to the citizens of a small market town is provided by a letter of February 1868 from Henry Vincent, the most consistent and most eloquent interpreter of America to the sort of Englishmen who lived in towns like Banbury:

"I have passed through large portions of Ohio, Indiana, Michigan, Illinois, Wisconsin and Iowa, and all that I see confirms me in the opinion that the West is the place to which English emigrants should push their way. . . You find churches and schools in every new settlement. The people are frank, hearty, hospitable, genial, with a certain

rough energy that refreshes you. . . It will interest old Chartists and Radicals to know that I have met with successful men in every city and village in the Union, who were earnest Reformers in England twenty five and thirty years ago, and who swarm around me with a love that warms my soul, and which shows how sacred was the affection that bound us together in a common love of God, humanity and freedom. I wish the foolish people who used to abuse these men so cruelly were alive to see them as they are now. Most of them have risen to good positions in society and in many cases to wealth and influence, and their moral and religious character is above all praise. At Waterloo, who should walk into my room, dressed in the comfortable garb of a farmer, but French of Banbury, who was one of my supporters in the Banbury election of 1841. He was then a journeyman shoemaker, and was literally starved out for the crime of believing that working men were the children of God and had souls and intellects and feeling, and, if sober and intelligent, had a better right to vote than rich gamblers or lazy, profligate dandies. Here he is a farmer with 160 acres of good land; his wife in cosy comfort with him, and seven children all doing well".⁴¹

The ambitions of many Victorian citizens of Banbury were achieved not in Oxfordshire but in the United States, and many penetrating insights into Banbury's history could doubtless be gained from the family traditions of Americans. Nevertheless for those Banburians who did not emigrate, America remained a powerful influence, on the products they manufactured, on their religious activities and above all on their means of recreation.

Barrie Trinder

REFERENCES

Abbreviations:

BA - Banbury Advertiser
 BG - Banbury Guardian
 BH - Banbury Herald
 BPL - Banbury Public Library
 NH - Northampton Herald
 PC - Potts Collection
 VCH - Victoria County History

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|--|---|
| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Richard Cobden. Political Writings, ed. 1886, p. 76. 2. NH 10 Mar. 1832. 3. NH 31 Mar. 1832, 1 Mar. 1834. | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 4. G. Herbert, Shoemaker's Window, ed. 1949, pp. 79-80. BPL, Banbury Board of Guardians Minutes 1835-36, sub. 10 Mar. 1836. |
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5. BG 28 Sep. 1865.
6. BA 20 Mar. 1873, BG 27 Sep. 1877.
7. BH 13 Aug. 1863, BA 6 Feb. 1873.
8. 1871 Census. HO RG 10/1464.
9. BG 29 June 1865.
10. BA 2 Apl. 1857. PC V 1856, p.34.
11. BG 20 Dec. 1860, BH 12 Dec. 1861.
12. PC VI 1858 pp.99-100.
13. BH 29 Jan. 1863, BA 9 Apl. 1863, W.T. Henderson, MS Autobiography, BG 4 May 1865.
14. BG 1 June 1865, PC VI 1858 p.175.
15. PC VI 1858 p.256, BPL Case W, f.66.
16. BG 4 Sep. 1851, JRHS XII 1851 p.160.
17. JRHS XI 1850 p.492, BG 22 Jan. 1857, BG 6 Nov. 1864.
18. BG 11 Aug. 1864.
19. Minutes of Banbury Monthly Meeting 1845-55, sub.1 May 1850, Ibid 1855-70 sub 7 Sep. 1857.
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21. American Revivalism and England in the 19th Century, a paper by Rev. John Kent, presented to the "Past and Present" conference on Popular Religions, July 1966. B. Trinder, A Visit to Dr. Palmer's Revival Meeting. C & CH III (1966) pp.75-77.
22. Christian Messenger VI (1843) p.325, III (New series. 1847) pp.383,570-72.
23. BG 4 Feb. 1875, 28 Oct. 1875.
24. BG 29 Apl. 1852. Brian Harrison, Drink and the Victorians (1971) p.196.
25. BA 7 June 1860, BH 24 Jan.1861, BG 2 Nov. 1865.
26. BG 28 Mar. 1867, BA 20 Jan.1870, 11 Jan.1872, BG 14 Jan. 1875.
27. BG 18 Mar.1858, BA 25 Mar.1858.
28. BG 19 Feb.1852, 21 Feb.1856, 19 Apl. 1866.
29. BG 22 Aug.1850, 7 Oct.1852.
30. BG 18 Nov.1852.
31. BG 12/26 Jan.1854, Lou Warwick, Theatre Unroyal (1854) p.181, BA 9 Aug.1855, BG 25 Oct.1855, BG 29 Apl.1858.
32. BA 19 Jly 1860.
33. BA 11 Oct.1860, BG 8 Nov.1860, 24 Apl.1862, 27 Oct.1864, 30 Apl.1868, 24 Dec.1868.
34. BH 24 Oct.1861, BA 28 May 1863, BG 14 Mar.1864.
35. BG 28 Nov.1867, BA 8 Mar.1866.
36. BG 30 Mar.1854, 13 Apl.1854.
37. BG 5 Nov.1857, 23 Feb.1860, 1 Mar. 1860.
38. BG 3 Nov.1864, 21 Apl.1870.
39. BA 21 Oct. 1858, 1/8 Nov.1860, 28 May 1863.
40. BG 6/13/27 Jan.1876, 30 Mar.1876.
41. The Beehive, 20 Feb.1868. I am greatly indebted to Dr. B. H. Harrison of Corpus Christi College, Oxford for this reference.

RECORDS PUBLICATIONS

Volume 15, "Banbury Corporation Records: Tudor and Stuart", has been available to 1977 records subscribers since early in 1978. Volume 16, "Banbury Baptism Register, Part 3, 1723-1812" is also now available, to 1978 subscribers. Because of the high cost of postage these volumes are not in the first place being posted to members in the Banbury locality, but are being held at Banbury Museum. Any members who are able to call there to collect their volumes are earnestly asked to do so. It is hoped also to deliver a certain number by hand in due course.

Please note that Volume 13, "Banbury Wills and Inventories, Part 1, 1591-1620" is still in production and is not yet available. It will be issued to present and past subscribers.

STEAM POWER IN BANBURY

The coming of the steam engine does not appear to have had an immediate effect on the economy of Banbury, despite the number of firms, Lampitt and Barrows and Carmichael among others, which built in the late 18th and early 19th century. Nevertheless, the Banbury area, although still mainly agricultural, seems to have been making good use of the steam engine by the mid 19th century.

A report in the "Banbury Guardian" dated 19 February 1857 records that eighteen steam engines were at work within a mile of the town.

The first steam engine to be erected in Banbury for industrial purposes is believed to have been in a factory in Mill Lane, at which were made wooden clogs and patten shoes. One of the finest engines in the town was that at the Upper Works of the Britannia Iron Foundry. Details of this engine are scarce, but from descriptions so far obtained, it seems to have been of the Horizontal Cross Compound type, with a flywheel approx. 15 feet in diameter. There was also an engine at the Lower Works details of which are as yet unobtainable.

The notable engines of John and Charles Lampitt were of course installed in many of the mills in Banbury and district. There were five engines at Hunt Edmunds Brewery; three at Banbury Tweed Mills; one at Fields Mill, Grimsbury (a table engine) and a Marine type engine at Edmund Kench's Mill.

Some Banbury firms employed steam road wagons. Hunt Edmunds had two Clayton Steam Wagons, so did Edmund Kench. A three-wheeled, chain-driven steam wagon was used to draw finished agricultural machinery from the Britannia Works to the G.W.R. goods yard. This steam wagon was designed and built at the Britannia Works,

Apart from the numerous stationary engines known to have been in use in the area, along with the few steam wagons, there were of course the steam locomotives used in the local ironstone quarries. There was also a locomotive at the Northern Aluminium Co. (now Alcan Booth) for a time, and at the Ministry of Munitions Factory in the Overthorpe Road.

More information is required concerning steam engines in the Banbury area. The following survey is, therefore, far from complete.

Three of the engines, whose mere existence can be recorded only, and details of which may be lost forever, are those at the Patten Shoe Factory; Messrs. Baughan's Mills; and a 16 hp engine at Messrs. Gilletts, known to have been working in 1856.

The existence of a Boulton and Watt beam engine at Sulgrave Flour Mills in 1788 is mentioned in C&CH, Summer 1971, p.203. This engine was of the 'sun and planet' type, and had a 16 in. x 4 ft. cylinder. It is recorded that a Mr. Cobbin purchased the engine in 1797 and sold it again in 1799 to Hodgson and Company of Battersea.

The James Watt engine at the Grimsbury Water Works is the subject of another disappointing story. This venerable old engine ended its sixty year old life on the scrap heap in April 1953. Installed in 1893, it had been in constant service, but owing to its low pumping capacity and high running costs, had to be replaced by modern pumps powered by electricity, with stand-by diesel generators. An enquiry was held regarding the preservation of the engine, when it was made redundant, and proposals put forward that it be retained in the Corporation's possession and placed on display at a suitable site in the Borough. On the completion of the dismantling of the engine, the Water Engineer submitted a suggestion that it should be re-erected for public display outside the old engine house at the Water Works. The cost of erection on this site was estimated at £30, as against the sum of £150 for erection on any other site. The Council, it is recorded, approved the suggestion and duly authorised the Water Engineer to proceed with the re-erection of the beam engine there, at the estimated cost stated, as and when it was practical to do so, but nevertheless it was not preserved. Copies of photographs showing the dismantling of the engine by James Friswell are kept in the Banbury Reference Library. Three of them are reproduced here by kind permission of the Library.

A SURVEY OF STEAM ENGINES IN THE BANBURY AREA

Wooden Clog and Patten Shoe Factory, Mill Lane, Banbury

A steam engine thought to be the first to be used in Banbury for industrial purposes. Known to be working in 1833. No other details.

Bloxham Grove Farm, Bodicote

Horizontal steam engine working a corn mill. Engine and corn mill built by John Lampitt and Company, Vulcan Works, Banbury. Date unknown. Approx. dimensions - Bore 9 in.; Stroke 1 ft. 6 in.; Flywheel 5 ft. diameter. Several parts missing. Further survey pending.

Grimsbury Waterworks

Original pumping engine constructed by John Lampitt and Company, c.1855 at a cost of £1,000. This engine was of the 'A' Frame type. Dimensions - Bore, 14 ins.; Stroke, 2 ft. 6 ins.; Valve gear, Slide type.

The Lampitt engine was replaced in 1893 by a beam engine supplied by James Watt and Company, late Boulton and Watt, Engineers. Its flywheel was 40 ft. in circumference and weighed 5 tons.

Mr. Horace Lampitt informed me that he once fitted a new crosshead to this engine, but did not remember any details of the engine.

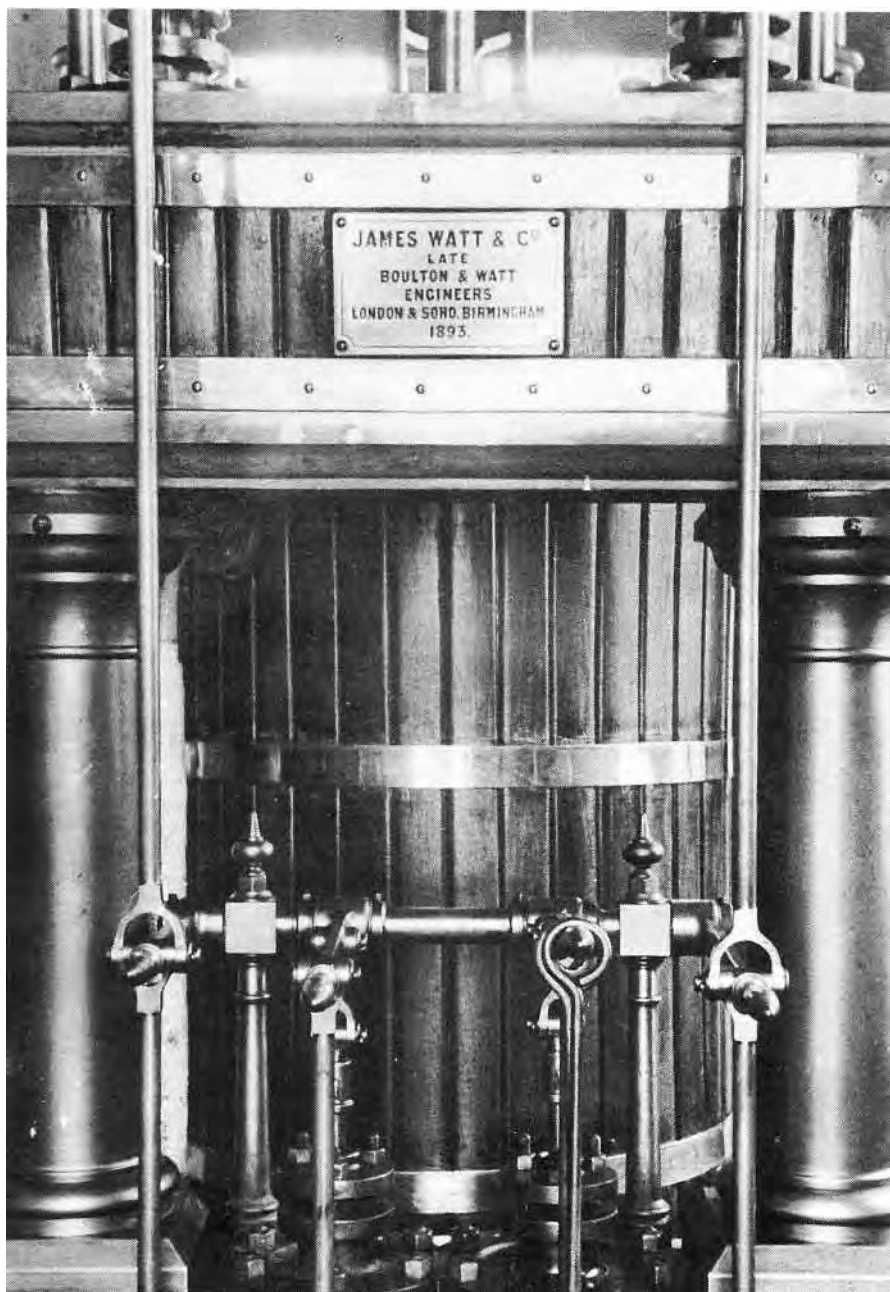
Banbury Co-operative Society Flour Mill, Broad Street, Banbury

Horizontal engine built by John Lampitt and Company. Date unknown. Named "Dorothy". The engine was of the twin-cylinder type. Size of bore - unknown. The H. P. cylinder was provided with Corliss type valve gear. The L. P. cylinder was provided with Slide type gear. Stroke, 4 ft. Steaming plant comprised one Cornish Boiler.

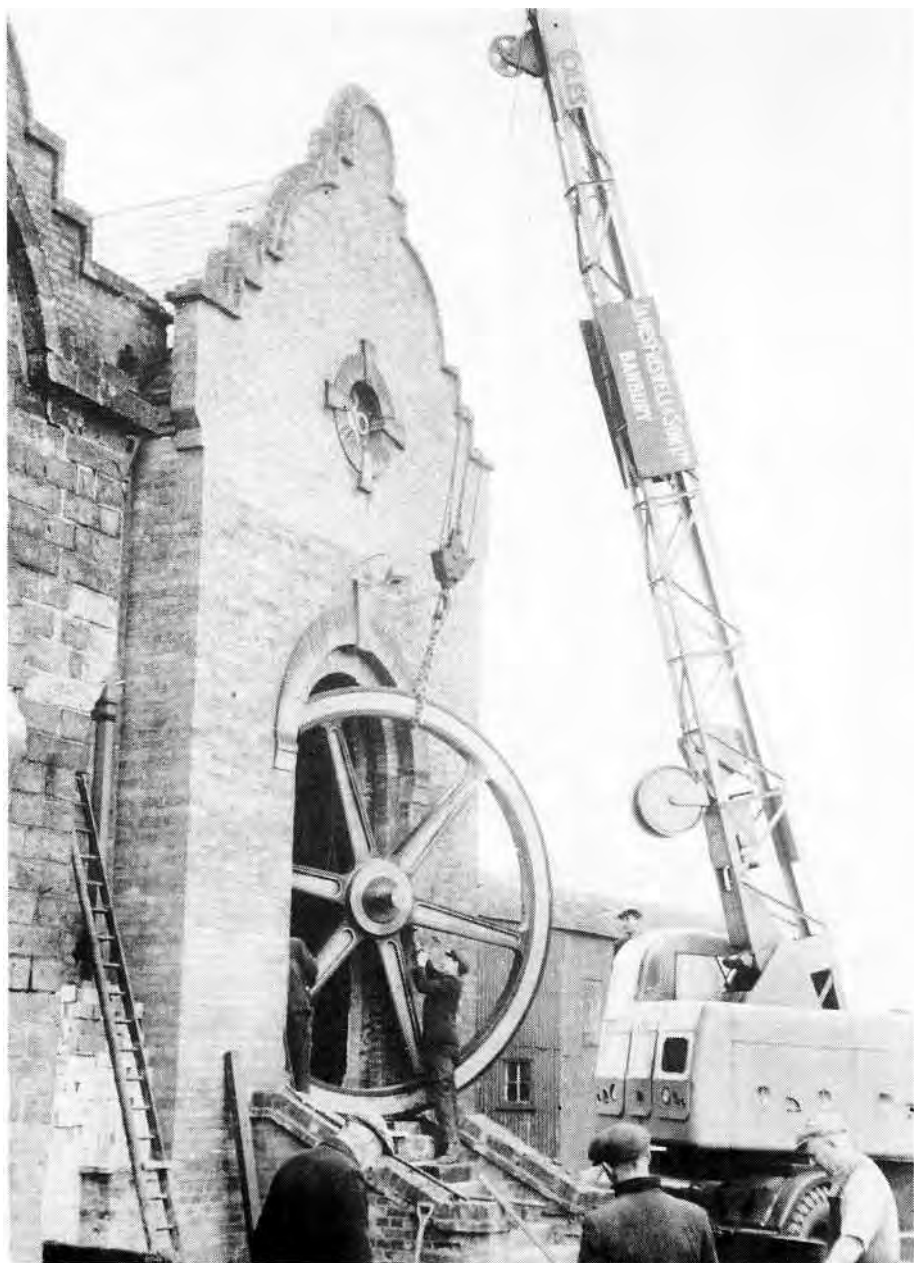
G. F. Braggins and Company, Timber Merchants,

Steam Saw Mill, Gatteridge Street, Banbury

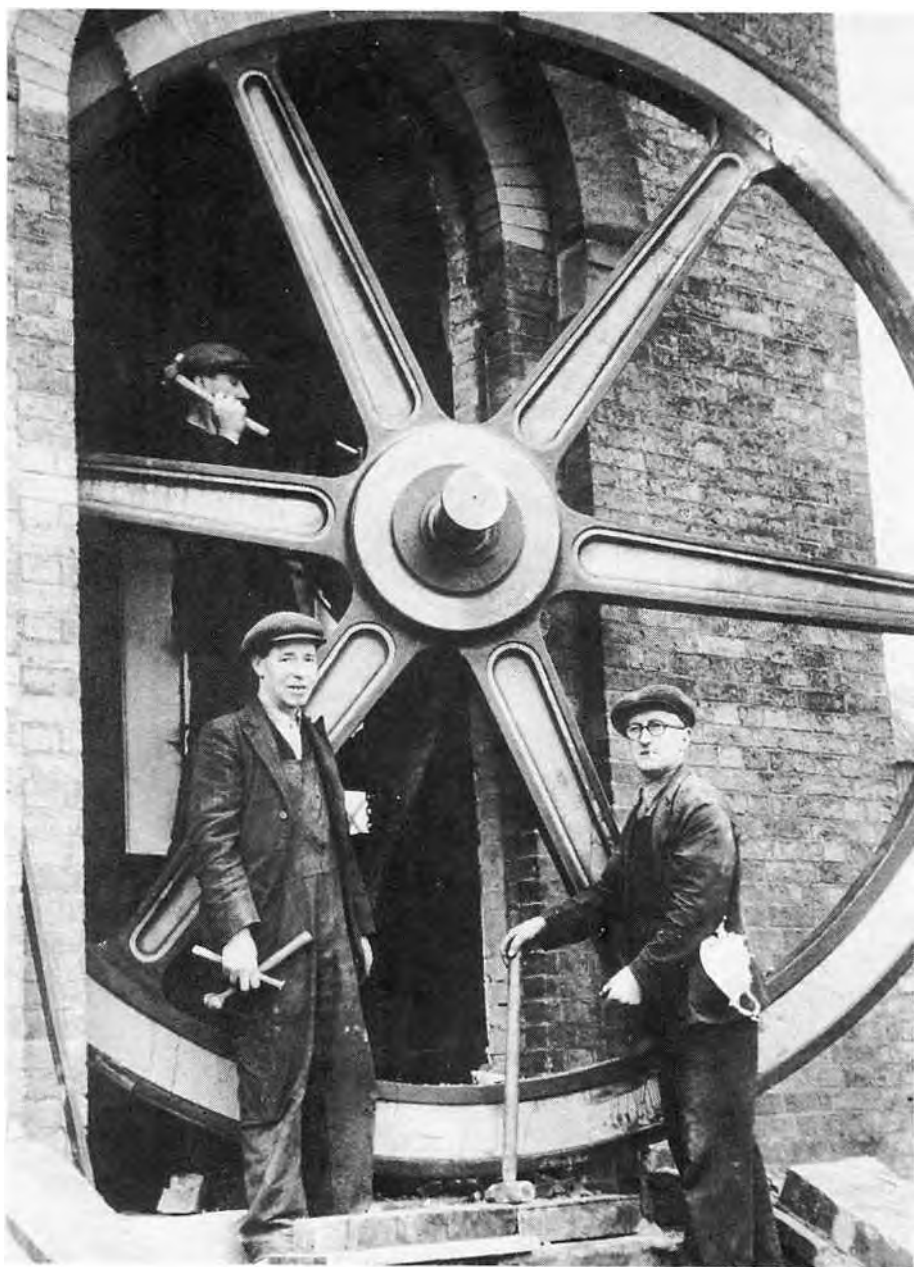
No. 1 Engine. A beam engine of the 'A' Frame type, made by Butlins of Kettering in 1880. Dimensions - Bore, 15 ins.; Stroke, 2 ft. 6 ins.; Valve gear, Slide type; Number of cylinders, one; R. P. M., 60. Machinery was driven by belt from flywheel. Engine in use till 1922.



Part of the Banbury Waterworks Engine



Removal of the Waterworks Engine from the Grimsbury Waterworks in April 1953.



Removal of the Waterworks Engine from the Grimsbury Waterworks in April 1953.

No.2 Engine. A vertical engine made by Easton and Johnson. Date unknown. Purchased second-hand in 1921 at Husbands Bosworth. Dimensions - Number of cylinders, one; Bore, 16 ins.; Stroke, 18 ins.; R.P.M., 250; Working pressure, 60 psi; Valve gear, Simple slide valve. Method of lubrication, Manzel pump to cylinder, drip-feeds to recesses in crank, oil cup drip-feeds on main bearings.

No.3 Engine. A Marshall horizontal engine. Date unknown. Purchased second-hand from a tannery at Maidenhead c.1934. Dimensions - Number of cylinders, one; Bore, 15 ins.; Stroke, 3 ft.; Working pressure, 60 psi; Valve gear, Expansion valve. Method of lubrication, Banjo crank, glass oil cup drip-feeds main bearings.

Other Engines. One horizontal engine driving sack bench. Makers and date unknown. Dimensions - Bore, 10 ins.; Stroke, 2 ft.; R.P.M., 180. One vertical engine driving chaff cutter. Maker and date unknown. Dimensions - Bore, 8 ins.; Stroke, 18 ins.

Steaming Plant. Two Cornish Boilers. Dimensions - No.1, 5 ft. x 13 ft., installed in 1890. No.2, 5 ft. 6 ins. x 15 ft., installed in 1900. Makers unknown. Working pressure, 60 psi.

The engines listed above are but a few of the many others known to have existed in the area. It is becoming increasingly difficult to obtain information and details of engines used in local industries. Records and plans have long since been destroyed, and the engineers responsible for their manufacture and maintenance have died, or left the district.

INDUSTRIAL LOCOMOTIVES

Ironstone Quarries

East Adderbury Pits

One locomotive known to have been at work in these quarries c.1860. No details, other than it was an 0-4-0 T, 2'0" gauge.

Hook Norton (Partnership) & West Adderbury Pits

Two locomotives. The first one to be used at Hook Norton was purchased new from Manning Whardle and Co. Ltd., in 1889. Details - Name, 'Hook Norton'; Number, 1127; Type, 0-6-0 T; Cylinder Position, IC; Gauge, Standard.

The second locomotive was also manufactured by Manning Whardle, and was originally purchased by the Partnership from the Florence Coal and Iron Co. Ltd., Trentham in 1890 for use in the West Adderbury Pits. This locomotive was transferred to Hook Norton in 1892. Details - Name, 'Florence'; Number, 579; Type 0-4-0 ST; Cylinder Position, OC; Gauge 1'8" (used on later narrow gauge system in these quarries, see chapter on Ironstone Quarrying).

* New in 1875.

'Hook Norton' was sold to the G.W.R., and re-numbered 1337, in 1904.

'Florence' was sold to Dick Kerr & Co. Ltd., Contractors, Surbiton in 1904.

Hook Norton (Brymbo)

Five locomotives here. Two were manufactured by Hudswell Clarke & Co. Ltd., and three by the Hunslet Engine Co. Ltd. Details - Makers, Hudswell Clarke & Co. Ltd.

Name	'Gwen'	'Joan'
Number	523	1173
Type	0-4-2 ST	0-4-2 ST
Cylinder Position,	OC	OC

'Gwen' purchased new in 1899. 'Joan' purchased new in 1915. Both locomotives sold for scrap in 1949.

Details - Hunslet Engine Co. Ltd.

Number/Name	No.352	'Russell'	'Betty'
Makers No.	1264	901	1101
Type	4-6-0 T	2-6-2 T	0-4-0 ST
Cylinder Position	OC	OC	OC

No.352 purchased from Ministry of Munitions, Purfleet in 1919 (new in 1917).

'Russell' purchased from the Welsh Highland Railway, via M.O.S. in 1942 (new in 1906).

'Betty' purchased from Penmaenmawr & Welsh Granite Co. Ltd., Yr Eifl Quarry, Trevor, via T.W. Ward Ltd., in 1942 (new in 1912).

'Russell' was transferred to B. Fayle & Co. Ltd., Corfe Castle, via M.O.S. in 1948. The other two locomotives were scrapped in 1949.

Sydenham Plts

Four locomotives. Three by Andrew Barclay Sons & Co. Ltd., and one by the Hunslet Engine Co. Ltd. Gauge 280".

Details - Andrew Barclay Sons & Co. Ltd.

Name	'Winifred'	'Gertrude'	'The Doll'
Number	1424	1578	1641
Type	0-6-0 T	0-6-0 T	0-6-0 T
Cylinder Position	OC	OC	OC

Hunslet Engine Co. Ltd. Name, 'Margaret'; Number, 1324; Type, 4-6-0 T; Cylinder Position, OC.

'Winifred', 'Gertrude', and 'The Doll' were purchased new in 1915, 1918, and 1919, respectively, and scrapped in 1926. 'Margaret' was acquired from the Springvale Furnaces, Bilston in 1918 and returned there in 1926.

Oxfordshire Ironstone Company

A total of twenty-eight steam locomotives are known to have worked this system during its fifty years of existence. Gauge - Standard.

Makers - Hudswell Clarke & Co. Ltd., eight locomotives.

Name	'Sir Thomas'	'Lord North'	'The President'
Number	1334	1346	1419
Type	0-6-0 T	0-6-0 T	0-6-0 T
Cylinder Position	OC	OC	OC

These three locomotives purchased new. 'Sir Thomas' and 'Lord North' in 1918 and 'The President' in 1923.

Name	'Gwen'	'Mary'	'Barnsley'	'Barabel'	'Betty'
Number	1662	1818	727	1886	1869
Type	0-4-0 ST	0-4-0 ST	0-4-0 ST	0-4-0 ST	0-4-0 ST
Cylinder Position	OC	OC	OC	OC	OC
Purchased new	1936	1950	On loan from H.C., 1951, returned to H.C., 1953.	1953	1953

Manning Whardle & Co. Ltd. One locomotive.

Name/Number, No.14; Makers Number, 1749; Type, 0-6-0 ST; Cylinder Position, IC. Built, 1909; acquired from Ministry of Munitions, Gretna in 1919 and scrapped in 1938.

Runslet Engine Co. Ltd. Nine locomotives.

Name	'Nancy' [‡]	'Ironstone' [⊙]	'The Dean' ^(a)	'Treasurer' ^(a)
Number	356	344	1496	1446
Type	0-6-0 ST	0-4-0 ST	0-6-0 ST	0-6-0 ST
Cylinder Position	IC	OC	IC	OC
Name	'The Bursar' ^(t)	'Spencer'	'Graham' *	'Newlay' ⁽²⁾
Number	1645	2374	2415	1292
Type	0-6-0 ST	0-6-0 ST	0-6-0 ST	0-4-0 ST
Cylinder Position	OC	IC	IC	OC

Name, 'Alex'; Number, 3716; Type, 0-6-0 ST; Cylinder Position, IC; Purchased new in 1952.

[‡] Purchased from Ministry of Munitions, Gretna in 1919. Scrapped in 1926.

⊙ Ex Lloyds Ironstone Co. Ltd., Corby, 1923. Sent to Stewarts and Lloyds Ltd., Corby in 1932.

(a) 'The Dean' was built in 1925 and delivered to O.I.C. in 1926. 'Treasurer' was built in 1927 and delivered to O.I.C. in 1929.

- (1) 'The Bursar' originally built in 1930 and worked at Haifa Harbour. Re-built by Hunslet Engine Co. Ltd., and purchased by O.I.C. in 1940.
- * 'Graham' was built in 1941 and supplied to Park Gate Iron and Steel Co. Ltd., Charwelton Quarries, and named 'Hellidon'. Purchased by O.I.C. in 1943 and re-named 'Graham' in 1953.
- (2) 'Newlay' was built in 1917 and supplied to the Steel Co. of Wales Ltd., Margam. Purchased by O.I.C. in 1951.

'Spencer' was purchased new in 1941.

Pecket and Sons Ltd. Seven locomotives.

Name	'Noel'(1)	'Basic'(2)	'Grace'(3)	'Maud'(4)
Number	1172	1867	1894	1937
Type	0-4-0 ST	0-6-0 ST	0-4-0 ST	0-4-0 ST
Cylinder Position	OC	OC	OC	OC
Name	'Sir Charles'(5)	'John'(6)	'Allan'(7)	
Number	1943	1981	1997	
Type	0-6-0 ST	0-6-0 ST	0-6-0 ST	
Cylinder Position	OC	OC	OC	

- (1) Built in 1912, purchased from Baldwins Ltd., Netherton in 1924 and sent to Stewarts and Lloyds Ltd., Bilston in 1946.
- (2) Purchased new in 1935.
- (3) Purchased new in 1936, loaned to Stewarts and Lloyds Ltd., Bilston in 1946, and returned to O.I.C. in 1948.
- (4) Purchased new in 1938.
- (5) Purchased new in 1938.
- (6) Purchased new in 1940. Originally named 'Joan', re-named 'John' in 1957.
- (7) Purchased new in 1941.

W.G. Bagnall Ltd. Two locomotives.

Name	'Phyllis'	'Byfield'
Number	1453	2655
Type	0-4-0 ST	0-6-0 ST
Cylinder Position	OC	OC

'Phyllis' was built in 1895 and supplied to Alfred Hickman Ltd., Bilston. Purchased from Hickmans in 1925 and sold to James Friswell and Sons Ltd., Banbury, and scrapped by them on site, in 1952.

'Byfield' was built in 1942 for the Byfield Ironstone Co. Ltd. It was purchased by O.I.C. in 1944 and sent to Loddington Ironstone Co. Ltd. in 1947.

Avonside Engine Co. Ltd. One locomotive.

Name/Number, 303; Number, 1822; Type, 0-4-0 ST; Cylinder Position, OC.

Built in 1919 for the Steel Co. of Wales Ltd., Margam. Purchased by O.I.C. in 1957.

Bloxham Pits. (Standard gauge)

Two steam locomotives are known to have worked in these pits between 1918 and 1929. The first one was built by Pecket and Sons Ltd., details as follows - Name, 'Northfield'; Number, 717; Type, 0-6-0 ST; Cylinder Position, OC. Built in 1897 for Byfield Quarries, and brought to Bloxham Pits in 1918. Scrapped c.1930.

No details are available of the second locomotive other than its name - 'Betty' - and that it was an 0-4-0 ST Type with outside cylinders.

Milton Pits. (Standard gauge)

Four locomotives here. One by Hunslet Engine Co. Ltd., one by Avonside Engine Co. Ltd., and two by Pecket and Sons Ltd.

Hunslet Engine Co. Ltd. Name, 'Barry'; Number, 363; Type, 0-6-0 ST; Cylinder Position, IC. Built in 1885. Purchased from Caffin and Co. Ltd., in 1917. Sold to Rossington Main Colliery Ltd., in 1919.

Avonside Engine Co. Ltd. Name, 'Edgar'; Number, 1815; Type, 0-6-0 ST; Cylinder Position, OC. Purchased new in 1918. Disposed of via W.D. Disposals Board,

Canterbury, to Skinningrove Iron Co. Ltd., c.1919.

Pecket and Sons Ltd.

Name,	'Margot'	'Betty'
Number,	1456	1549
Type,	0-6-0 ST	0-6-0 ST
Cylinder Position,	OC	OC
	Purchased new in 1918.	Purchased new in 1919.
	Sent to Islip Ironworks in 1929.	Sent to Islip Ironworks in 1931.

Edge Hill Quarries. (Standard gauge)

Three locomotives. Nos.1 and 2 originally owned by the London, Brighton, and South Coast Railway; and 'Sankey', built by Manning Whardle and Co. Ltd.

	No. 1	No. 2
Number,	673	674
Type,	0-6-0 T	0-6-0 T
Cylinder Position,	IC	IC
	Built in 1872 for L.B.&S.C.R.	Built in 1872 for L.B.&S.C.R.
	Worked on Longmoor Military Railway.	Brought to Edge Hill Quarries in 1920.
	Purchased from L.M.R. in 1919.	

Manning Whardle and Co. Ltd.

Name, 'Sankey'; Number, 1088; Type, 0-4-0 ST; Cylinder Position, OC. Built in 1888. Purchased from Topham, Jones and Railton Ltd., Contractors, Swansea, in 1922.

All three locomotives were scrapped on site, by James Friswell and Sons Ltd., of Banbury, in June, 1946.

Ministry of Munitions Shell Filling Factory

Overthorpe Road, Banbury. (Standard gauge)

Makers, Avonside Engine Co. Ltd.

Name, 'Lidban'; Number, 1770; Type, 0-6-0 ST; Cylinder Position, OC; Purchased new in 1917. Sold to Brymbo Steel Co. Ltd., Denbigh, in c.1920.

Northern Aluminium Co. Ltd. (now Alcan Booth)

Southam Road, Banbury. (Standard gauge)

Makers, Pecket and Sons Ltd., 1917.

Number, 1487; Type, 0-4-0 ST; Cylinder Position, OC. Purchased second-hand from Kryn & Lahy Metal Works Ltd., c.1917, Letchworth. Sold for scrap in 1949.

G. C. J. Hartland

BANBURY CORPORATION RECORDS: TUDOR AND STUART, ed.

J.S.W. Gibson and E.R.C. Brinkworth (Banbury Historical Society, Vol. 15), xxiv, 360 pp., 1977. Issued free to records members (1977 subscription), £6.50 to non-members; £4.00 to ordinary members; plus 60p postage. Available from the Society, c/o Banbury Museum. Local members who have not yet received their copies are asked to collect them from the Museum or, if this is impossible for them, to let Mrs Gosling know they need them delivered or sent by post.

The rediscovery of Banbury's earliest corporation records, and their publication in calendar form with a wealth of supplementary material, will be welcomed by all who are interested in the town's history. Banbury's early corporate life is not, by the standards of many other towns, well-documented, and the temporary absence of a book containing accounts and other material covering the period 1554-1741 was a serious frustration. Although a manuscript calendar of this document has long been available, the new calendar (and of course the original manuscript itself) add greatly to our knowledge of a critical period in the town's history.

Once again, but with more confidence, we may follow the familiar story of the development of this small municipality, created during the Marian reaction, first represented in parliament by a Catholic landowner, Thomas Denton, yet soon to become notorious for its puritanism. How well the early pages of this volume depict the pride and excitement of the heady days when the town first celebrated its independence from the Bishop of Lincoln - the pageants and plays, the entertainment of great men, the removal from castle to market place of punitive instruments symbolising the old seigneurial rule, the adoption of a town seal recalling the old religious guild and fraternity of St. Mary, which had been the focus of corporate life until its dissolution in 1548. Soon the councillors were drawing up weighty regulations governing the conduct of the corporation and freemen, emphasising, as in most towns at that period, the importance of dignified speech and bearing, of ceremonial, and of gown-wearing. Later they turned their attention to the control of the market and trade, and to the public health of the town; the specific prohibitions imply a great deal about what was really happening, and we may deduce that the Goose Leys were being used illicitly as a rubbish dump, that hogs wandered the streets, that honey barrels were soaked in the Cuttle Brook. While official dung hills were approved, their proximity to housing would hardly have satisfied modern standards. The corporation did not shrink from the task of supervising the town's moral welfare, and the charter of 1608 confirmed its power to control drunkards, whore-hunters, strumpets, scolds, brawlers, and quarrellers. This second charter not only set down the corporation's powers in elaborate detail but also substantially increased them, at the same time bringing some of the neighbouring country gentry into close association with town government. Although there were later

charters Banbury's constitution remained largely unchanged until municipal reform in 1835.

Not surprisingly the corporation records are little use for the Civil War period, merely recording, for instance, that in 1643-4 the corporation was involved in no financial transactions because of 'the disturbances of the times'. Thereafter the records illuminate the town's surprisingly easy acceptance of the Restoration (although one wonders if there was a later, unrecorded purge, of the kind that affected Oxford), and its fate during the constitutional turmoil of the 1680s. After a last flurry of excitement as Whigs and Tories battled over parliamentary and municipal elections in the last decade of the 17th century, there follows a decline of proper accounting or indeed of any other interesting documentation of corporate affairs as Banbury sank into the apathy of a typical 18th-century pocket borough.

Sadly some of the corporation book is still missing, but the unrecovered sections have been supplied in this calendar form from existing transcripts. The editors decided, rightly, to supplement the basic text, much of which comprises brief and enigmatic accounts, with contemporary documents illustrating the corporation's life, arranged in chronological order. The extra material has been chosen astutely, with the aim, not of comprehensive coverage, but of bringing together in one book a selection of widely different but closely related material. Among the unusual and important records thus brought to light are excerpts from a Star Chamber suit of 1604 describing the high-handed manner in which an inner circle of councillors sought to restrict power in the town to themselves; an important correspondence concerning opposition in the town to ship money; much interesting material about election disputes in the 1690s; and a vivid account of the corporation's visit to Warwick in 1657 in connexion with Thomas Oken's charity. This was a loan charity of the kind which was common in towns from the 16th century, providing an important source of capital for young tradesmen; sadly, most were eventually lost, and Banbury's was no exception, despite careful 'policing' of the charity by the Warwick corporation.

The value of this volume is greatly enhanced by ambitious appendices containing biographical notes of all corporation members and officials, and pedigrees showing the complex inter-relationship of the town's leading men; these will be useful to all future workers on Banbury's history. The biographies remind us, incidentally, that whatever the notorious health risks of town life, for the select few who survived the childhood illnesses and became reasonably prosperous, life expectancy was surprisingly good. The book is completed by a convenient list of supplementary material, chronological lists of corporation members, and good indexes, including a generous subject index which reveals the wide scope of the calendared documents. There is a useful sketch map and some well-chosen illustrations, mostly taken from the original documents;

the fanciful decorated initials reproduced from the early corporation accounts suggest the flamboyant optimism of those early years of corporate life more clearly than many pages of print.

The book has been produced by the cheapest possible printing process, based on ordinary typescript with bold headings. Mr. Gibson argues that this method is perfectly adequate for post-medieval records, and certainly most of the editorial devices used are perfectly clear. Many will not, however, share his satisfaction with the appearance of the pages: some are decidedly smudged, and surely the crude erasure on p.206, presumably an afterthought, is taking simplicity too far. Moreover, to read many pages of unjustified script is not as pleasurable as reading a conventional book. Even so it is obviously good to get records into print cheaply, and many record societies will have to consider such methods of production very seriously. It is important that if they do so they distinguish between Mr. Gibson's printing methods and his editorial approach, which in this volume is unashamedly cavalier; 'unnecessary verbiage' is removed and no attempt is made to distinguish between passages which are exactly transcribed and those which are calendared. However simple it might be to consult the original, it is always useful to know when one is likely to find additional information. Mr. Gibson's editorial comments are frequently useful, but sometimes show signs of haste: on p.11 he wonders, unnecessarily, whether a reference to a 10-year apprenticeship term might be an error (such terms were common enough in the 16th century), yet on p. 54 fails to tell us that a rent-roll of 1586 relates to the former properties of St. Mary's guild; while there are painstaking attempts to indicate the exact arrangement of names on fol.2 of the account book, there is no indication of whether the names of freemen on the next few folios are of one or of many dates. The word liberty is explained misleadingly in the glossary (since it relates not only to the area outside the town but to the town itself), and there is an amusing curiosity in the subject index, where 'saucy bitches' are cross-referenced under 'dogs'. The speed at which this book has been produced is laudable, but a little more work on the explanation and presentation of sources might have yielded some benefits.

There is one vital matter of dating which must be pointed out here. The very earliest accounts, although clearly dated in the original as November 1556, and therefore assumed to be covering the mayoral year 1555-6, in fact cover the year 1554-5; the clue lies in the weekly entries of receipts from market tolls, which, if the beginning of the accounts was in 1555, would relate to Fridays instead of Thursdays, although Thursday was Banbury's market day under the charter of 1554. Moreover 1556 was a leap year, a fact apparently ignored if the accounts really related to that year. If, however, we assume that the accounts relate to 1554-4 the market days work out correctly as Thursdays, and the apparent oddity of the town celebrating its independence a year too late is removed. Your

reviewer must take the blame for the lack of editorial comment on this point since he originally indicated the problem in a far too cryptic (and partly mistaken) footnote in the Victoria County History volume on Banbury, and failed to explain himself in time when Dr. Brinkworth sought enlightenment.

Minor flaws are inevitable in a book of this kind. It remains an important and readable publication, which will help to draw together and illuminate much that has already been achieved by the Banbury Historical Society. It will also be of great interest to all those working in the field of urban history.

Alan Crossley
Oxfordshire Victoria County History

Jeremy Gibson comments on the foregoing review:

I am most grateful to Alan Crossley for his generous review, but would like to take this opportunity to clarify certain points. He rightly criticises an erasure on page 206. This is of an editorial note which was discovered to be incorrect **after** the book was printed, and was accordingly deleted by hand. Had the correction been made before printing it would have been invisible, like the many other 'proof' corrections. Reading unjustified script is of course tiring, but I suspect (alas) that few others will in fact do more than refer to specific passages; and, indeed, the purpose of most records volumes is for reference rather than continuous reading.

Whilst in theory an indication of which passages in the calendar are direct quotation may be desirable, in practice it would be difficult to implement and might prove very irritating. Virtually every word of the calendar comes from the original, though often the exact phraseology is slightly altered. The kind of verbiage omitted is, for example, in the annual note of the election of the Mayor, the words "of the Borough of Banbury in the County of Oxford". It is maintained, as stated in the Introduction, that no historical information has been omitted.

The original and subsequent order of names on fol.2 is shown exactly just because there were deletions and rearrangements to the lists. The following list of freemen was all made at one time, without amendment. Had any of the names been added later this would have been mentioned.

A subject index is always open to criticism, as it is often difficult to visualise the type of information users will be wanting. Someone researching pets in the sixteenth century might think of looking under 'dogs' but would be less likely to think of 'bitches'!

As to the time which might be spent on explanation, it is always tempting for an editor to put off publication whilst he does further research. The late Shelagh Bond's magnificently detailed introductions to Worcester and Windsor borough records are examples of what may be done. However, it was the intention of Dr Brinkworth and myself to make these

records available for further research, not to have the last word on them ourselves. Already the edition has brought interesting new information from Mr Crossley, and we look forward to similar discoveries or corrections arising from the use of this book.

THE PARISH REGISTERS OF TYSOE, WARWICKSHIRE, "The Vale of the Red Horse", edited by Denis B. Woodfield, D.Phil. (Oxon.), with an introduction on Tysoe and its Families by M.K. Ashby, and with a Foreword on the Woodfield Family of Tysoe by Denis B. Woodfield. xlvii, 308 pp. Available in the U.K. from FAMILY HISTORY, Northgate, Canterbury, Kent CT1 1BA, £2.68 (post paid) and in the U.S. from Dr Denis B. Woodfield, 883 Lawrenceville Road, Princeton, New Jersey 08540, \$3.50 (plus postage).

Although just in Warwickshire, Tysoe is on the Oxfordshire borders and falls within "Banburyshire". The village is probably best known from the biography "Joseph Ashby of Tysoe" (1859-1919), by M.K. Ashby, which is also a study of village life in the latter half of the nineteenth century, and justly famous as one of the best village histories ever published. So it is a major bonus for this book that the late Miss M.K. Ashby had written a nine-page Introduction to the edition shortly before her death in October 1975. Anyone who thinks a parish register can be used for reference only and makes dry reading will be converted by Miss Ashby's perceptive commentary.

The registers start in 1575, and the edition covers entries to the end of 1837 (general registration of births, marriages and deaths started in July 1837). These are presented in the usual abstracted style. The marriages include witnesses, indicate signature by mark and whether by banns or licence. It is to be assumed that (after 1754) parties were single unless stated to be widows/ers.

The parish is unusual in having a record of monumental inscriptions compiled as early as 1812, included as an appendix. This is supplemented by a survey made in 1971 by the Tysoe Local History Group, presented in tabulated form with interesting additional details (when known) of the families commemorated. This is accompanied by plans of the churchyard. There are also very useful appendices listing Tysoe testators whose wills were proved in the Prerogative Court of Canterbury (to 1700) and in the Consistory Court of the Bishop of Worcester (to 1652). I had intended to comment that an acknowledgment to the source of these, mainly volumes published by the British Record Society, would have been courteous as well as useful, but I see that I have been similarly remiss in my own editions of Banbury registers! The Hearth Tax Returns for Tysoe for 1662 and 1671 are also included, and here the source and reference should have been included - are they from the Public Record Office or from the Warwickshire Record Office (there is certainly a return for 1663 at the latter)?

The index is to surnames only, which is a sensible limitation to a register of this size. It is a pity that multiple occurrence of a name on the same page has not been indicated by an asterisk. It is also most regrettable that there is no index of places.

The introductory pages include a detailed description of the church and its restoration; a list of Vicars from 1294; and a most helpful guide to sources of further information on the parish.

Our member Dr Denis Woodfield has contributed a 14-page genealogical account of Robert Woodfield and his descendants, "Eight generations of a Tysoe Family". Robert Woodfield arrived in Tysoe in 1757 and was apprenticed to Thomas Colcott, estate carpenter to the Marquis of Northampton. In traditional style he married his master's daughter, Elizabeth Colcott, and succeeded his father-in-law as estate carpenter, and this position has remained in the family to this day. A wide-ranging search of registers traced Robert's baptism at Leamington, and the Woodfield family back to the 16th century at Napton-on-the-Hill, Warw. A rather indigestible section traces all the known descendants of the Woodfields, mainly now in the United States (like Dr Woodfield) or New Zealand, though of Robert Woodfield's descendants Kenneth Woodfield is still living at Upper Brailes and Alice (Sally) Mulholland in Banbury itself. One of Robert's grandsons, William (1785-1873) although dying in his native village of Tysoe, was a cabinet maker at Foundry Square at Neithrop.

Finally, a word on the incredibly good value this book is for £2.00. It is of large format (approx. 11" x 8"), over 350 pages of typescript reproduction, in a sewn and strong hardback binding. The edition is limited to 300, and has been printed in Taiwan. It would be interesting to know whether this alone has made it economic to produce the volume at this price, or what element of private subsidy has been necessary.

Although Dr Woodfield edited the register, members of the Birmingham and Midland Society for Genealogy and Heraldry did much of the transcription, typing and indexing. The dedication is to members of that Society and the Tysoe Local History Group, and similar societies, with a reminder that it is customary for people to purchase at least one copy of any book dedicated to them! A sensible provision is made that the contents, Introduction apart, are not copyrighted - after all it is in the interests of those working on editions such as these that they are reproduced wherever they may be needed.

Altogether, subject to the minor strictures made, this edition is a model of how a parish register should be prepared and published, and all concerned deserve congratulation.

J. S. W. Gibson

THE BANBURY AND CHELTENHAM RAILWAY 1887-1962 by J.H. Russell (Oxford Publishing Company, 140 pp., illus., 1977), £4.50.

There has never been a time like the present for the production of railway books. Volume after volume of pictures rolls from the presses, and massive arrays of these productions, their titles usually feature the word 'steam' can be seen in the larger bookshops. Many cash in unashamedly on the current wave of nostalgia for the not-so-distant past, a period when the steam locomotive was at the centre of society. Many are of little value to the historian, since frequently the captions fail to reveal even the dates on which pictures were taken.

At first glance this book might appear to be just another bit of steam nostalgia. Is it really worthwhile to devote 140 pages and a mass of photographs and line drawings to just one not particularly important branch line? A closer examination of the book will reveal that it has indeed been very worthwhile. This is not just a piece of sentimental waffling about the past, but one of the most complete records in existence of a railway line. It is a notable contribution to the history of North Oxfordshire, and as well as being an essential work of reference in the future, it will give much pleasure to present day readers.

The history of the various schemes to build a railway westwards from Banbury in the mid-nineteenth century is complex. It would be well worth examining in detail for the light it would throw on the economy of the region in the period, but is of little relevance to the history of the line which was actually built, and, perhaps mercifully, Mr. Russell condenses his historical account into eight pages. The line came too late to fulfil the expectations of those who for several decades had looked forward to the prosperity it might bring. When it was finally opened throughout in 1887 foreign iron ore was already being imported into South Wales in considerable quantities, and the prospects for finding there large markets for the low grade Oxfordshire and Northamptonshire ores were limited. Yet the line did stimulate some quite considerable quarrying operations, as Mr. Russell shows, although it is doubtful whether it carried very much ore from east of Banbury to South Wales. The line's outstanding train was the one-time Port to Ports Express from Swansea, Barry or Cardiff to Hull or Newcastle, and this train features prominently in Mr. Russell's account.

Most of the book consists of a detailed description of the line, illustrated with some splendid photographs, extracts from maps, and line drawings. In the text we learn much from Mr. Russell's own experiences of working on the line, and from his acute sense of observation, which picks out for us the paste pot used by porters at Banbury station for sticking labels on passengers' trunks, or the colour of the distant signal arm at Chipping Norton. There are photographs which show private waggons belonging to the Chipping Norton Co-operative Society,



Two views of the Hook Norton viaduct on a magnificent summer's day in 1964.

the Bliss Tweed Mills, and Charles Wade, Coal Merchant, of Adderbury. The detailed accounts of the various ironstone quarries and installations alongside the line are of considerable importance, both to the economic historian and to the future historian of the Oxfordshire landscape.

This is a most welcome addition to the local historian's bookshelf, a work of industrial archaeology of high quality, which shows just how much can be learned from observation on the ground and from the close study of photographs.

B.S. Trinder

THE ROLLRIGHT STONES AND THEIR FOLKLORE, by L. V. Grinsell.
West Country Folklore, No.10, 30p.

L. V. Grinsell has made an extensive study of the folklore of archaeological sites and his book, "The Folklore of Prehistoric Sites in Britain" (David and Charles, 1976) has a full description of the folklore of the Rollright Stones, and includes several other Oxfordshire sites.

This pamphlet contains much of the same material as the book - it describes the archaeology and place name evidence, though not attempting to define the original purpose of the stone circle.

Many people know the legend of the king and his army who were on their way into battle when they met a witch, who predicted that:

"Seven long strides thou shalt take, and
If Long Compton thou canst see,
King of England thou shalt be."

His strides were not long enough and when the witch discovered that he could not see Long Compton, she turned him and his men to stone, and herself to an elder tree.

This is only one of many legends that have become attached to the stones - some, such as the legend that the number of stones can never be counted, apply to other sites, such as Stonehenge. The site is closely associated with witchcraft and the last fairies in Oxfordshire danced there.

The booklet carefully details and describes all the folklore and superstitions connected with the site, and makes fascinating reading.

Christine Bloxham

BANBURY FAIR

They came from Broughton's lordly halls,
From Wroxton's ancient fane,
From Tew, and Aston on the Walls
And from the Barfords twain.

From Abthorpe and from Appletree,
From Adstone old and grey,
From Buckingham and Coventry
And Bilston far away.

From Burton Dassett's height they came,
From Leamington's proud town,
From Birmingham that place of fame,
And Croughton on the Down.

From Burford and from Burdrop too,
From Chipping Norton's soil,
The Hanwell beauties you may view,
And those from Hampton Poyle.

From Hornton and from Horley,
And some from Hill of Edge,
From Deddington in Crowds they came,
And Hinton in the Hedge.

From Astons three and Marstons two,
From Adderbury vales,
From Culworth you the crowds may view,
From Shotteswell and Brailes.

From Charwelton where Cherwell springs,
From Moreton Marsh they came,
From Alkerton and Shennington,
And Toddenham by name.

From Tadmarton and Tackley,
From Sibford of renown,
And Bodicote and Brackley
And Shipston's ancient town.

They come from East, they come from West,
From North and South they're there,
The lads and lassies in their best
To visit Banbury Fair.

The above is for the economic historian an interesting definition of Banbury's hinterland, and for the folk lorist an addition to the range of local folk songs. It was published in the Banbury Advertiser on 21 October 1869, but whether newly composed or not is not indicated. It may be sung to the hymn tune 'Rodmell' (All things which live below the sky), which is an English traditional melody.

BANBURY HISTORICAL SOCIETY: ANNUAL REPORT

Your Committee have pleasure in submitting the 20th Annual Report and Statement of Accounts, for the year 1977.

This year has seen several changes in the Society's committee. Christine Bloxham, John Roberts, and Julian Barbour retired from their respective offices as Secretary, Chairman and Magazine Editor of the Society, all after several years of service, and we are sure that the members of the Society are grateful for the work they have done. Their duties have been taken over by David Smith, Alan Donaldson, and David Fiennes. John Roberts has also left the committee (temporarily only, we hope) and in his place we welcome Dr E. Asser for what we hope will be a long and pleasant stay.

The year's activities have, as usual, been varied in their scope and interest. The day trip was an enjoyable and fully booked outing to the Avoncroft Museum of Buildings and to Worcester. The summer evening meetings in 1977 were a mixture of the new and traditional. Mr Forsyth Lawson kindly showed us the churches of Swalcliffe, Oxhill and Shenington. The summer meeting at Shenington was something of a special occasion, consisting of a tour of the church, visits to the extensive strip lynchets and the deserted medieval village site of Sugarswell. An exhibition was arranged in the barn of Senendone House by Mr and Mrs Harold Clifton. The remaining summer visits consisted of an adventurous descent of Edge Hill and a discussion of the battle of 1642, and a visit to the Rollright Stones with an account of their history and extensive folk beliefs.

The theme of folklore was continued in the first of the 1977/8 lectures with an informative and entertaining talk by Christine Bloxham on "Oxfordshire Customs and Folklore". Local history was covered too, with an illustrated talk on Victorian and Edwardian Oxfordshire by Mary Clapinson, and David Hall speaking about the Shenington Parish Survey. History on a wider scale was provided when Dr Margaret Spufford spoke on "Seventeenth Century Literature and Popular Print" and also in the final lecture of the season when Dr Harry Judge brought us right up to date with a witty and learned talk on "History, Politics and Education", a timely reminder that our own lives are history too.

This was the year of our Twentieth Anniversary, and to mark this on 17th November Dr Brinkworth gave a special lecture on "Alfred Beesley and his History of Banbury". In the following month the "Gibson Players" (Messrs. Gibson, Donaldson, Roberts, Smith, and Dr Brinkworth) gave their opening (and so far, alas, their only) performance of "Rule and Misrule in Tudor and Stuart Banbury". This was a dramatised presentation of extracts from the newly published Volume 15 of the records series, the most ambitious yet, "Banbury Corporation Records: Tudor and Stuart", edited by Jeremy Gibson and Ted Brinkworth, a fitting climax to our twentieth anniversary year.

Our major problem in the past season was finding a meeting place. Education cuts forced Banbury School to close the Upper School Lecture Theatre on Thursday evenings. We were informed of this very few weeks before our September meeting and as, by then, all our speakers had been booked we had to find other accommodation quickly, although we were able to use the lecture theatre by special arrangement for our first meeting. We are a large society and rooms in Banbury of the size we need are hard to come by. The upper room of the Unicorn Hotel proved to be entirely unsuitable, so the remainder of the meetings were held in the Marlborough Road Methodist Church and the Conservative Club. We are grateful to both bodies for accommodating us in this way.

Obviously this situation is unsatisfactory and a regular meeting place must be found. We are hoping to use a room at the Marlborough Road Methodist Church and, as soon as the position becomes clear, our members will be notified.

Contributors to "Cake and Cockhorse", in addition to present committee members, included Nelson Bard Jr., O. Chaplin, Dr P. Horn, Mrs S Markham, B.S. Smith, B. S. Trinder and the late Mrs H. Wrighton.

A very serious financial position was revealed in the accounts for 1976, and as the most recent rise in subscriptions did not come into force until 1978, it is not surprising that the Society's financial position worsened further in 1977. Falling membership meant a drop of a hundred pounds in subscription income. Although the cost of producing the magazine and organising meetings were kept under the previous year's figures (itself a notable achievement) the adverse balance on the Revenue Account was over three hundred pounds. As a result it is only the publications reserve which has kept the Society solvent - a temporary measure which it is hoped that the 1978 increased subscriptions will rectify. Records members have received exceptional value for their subscriptions in Volume 15, which cost approaching nine hundred pounds (excluding postage), together with unreckonable hours of labour by Jeremy Gibson in typing (saving hundreds of pounds for the Society); even so the volume could not have been produced without the very generous grant aid from the Marc Fitch Fund and the British Academy.

The Society can be very proud of its achievements in its twenty years' life. If it is to continue its contribution to research into the history of Banbury and its area it is essential that the downward drift of membership is reversed. Existing members are therefore urged to recruit new members, in the certainty they will get good value both from the magazine and from meetings.

BANBURY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Revenue Account for the Year ended 31st December 1977

1976	Expenditure	1976	1976	1976	
436	"Cake and Cockhorse"	383	718	Subscriptions	617
62	Less: Sales	10		Less: Proportion attributable to records	315
374		373	2		302
2	Subscriptions		225	Deposit account interest	35
	Lectures and Meeting Expenses, printing, stationery, tele- phone and sundries		493	Excess of ordinary expenditure over income	312
155		145			649
102	Postage	114	43	Extraordinary income:	
	Annual Dinner	135	124	Proceeds from concert	-
279	Less: receipts	120		Legacy	-
252		15		Coach trip to Avonscroft	50
27		649	660	Less: cost	48
660	Extraordinary expenditure:				2
	Electric typewriter	-	275	Donation	5
136	Stock value written off	-	50	Excess of extraordinary expenditure over income	-
274	Repairs to typewriter	7			85
-		-	85		-
1,070		656	1,070		656
1,070		656	1,070		656

Publications Account for the Year ended 31st December 1977

	"Wills and Inventories"			Publications reserve, balance at 1.1.77	675
4	Part 1 (Vol.13)	38	670	Subscriptions	315
469	Part 2 (Vol.14)	-	225	Sales	164
45	Banbury Corporation Records (Vol.15)	827	85	Royalties	1
	Banbury Baptism Register, Pt.3 (Vol.16)	10	2	Grant towards "Wills and Inventories" Pt.2 from Marc Fitch Fund	-
518		875	270	Grants towards "Corporation Records" Marc Fitch Fund	500
55	Postage and packing	37		British Academy	100
25	Less: reserve	-			600
30		37			
29	Research	25			
	Publications reserve, balance at 31.12.77	818			
575		818			
1,252		1,755	1,252		1,755
1,252		1,755	1,252		1,755

Balance Sheet as at 31st December 1977

1976	Liabilities	1976	1976	Assets	1976
36	Subscriptions in advance	86	5	Cash in hand	-
270	Sundry creditors	-	609	Current account	635
575	Publications reserve	818	300	Deposit account	-
	Capital account		110	Sundry debtors	-
252	at 1.1.77	43			
209	Less: excess of expenditure over income	312			
43		(269)			
1,024		635	1,024		635
1,024		635	1,024		635

We have prepared the above Accounts from the books, records and explanations of the Society, and certify them to be in accordance therewith.

5th May 1978
Beechfield House, 38 West Bar, Banbury

ELLACOTT, STRANKS & CO.,
Chartered Accountants.

BANBURY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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. Taucerel, 1841-1850**; a new edition of **Shoemaker's Window**; **Wigginton Constables' Books, 1691-1836**; and **Bodicote Parish Accounts, 1700-1822**. Part 2 of **Banbury Wills and Inventories, 1591-1650**, was published in June 1976, and Part 1 is well advanced.

Meetings are held during the autumn and winter, normally at 7.30 pm. 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 £4.50 including any records volumes published, or £3.00 if these are excluded.

Application forms can be obtained from the Hon. Membership Secretary.

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