

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 shows a bill heading from the Three Tuns when William Barker was landlord, some time between 1756 and 1768, Bodleian MS. North c. 21, f. 384.

CAKE & COCKHORSE

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

Volume 8	Number 1	Autumn 1979
J.S.W. Gibson	Tavern Keeping - Part 2. The Three Tuns in the 18th Century	3
Barbara Adkins	Banbury Rest Station and Canteen 1914-1919	13
Calthorpe Manor (Report)		17
Book Review		23

This issue completes Jeremy Gibson's account of two Banbury pubs of which the first instalment appeared in the autumn 1977 issue under the title 'A Century of Tavern-Keeping'.

We also have a most interesting account by Barbara Adkins of the Rest Station and Canteen run by Banburians at the railway station during the first world war, for troops on those appallingly lengthy, overcrowded, uncomfortable and tedious journeys from the north of England to the front in Flanders. Our Treasurer has provided a judicial opinion on Banbury cheese, and our Chairman an opinion on the annual dinner. What a gastronomic issue this is! No bad thing. Not only armies march on their stomachs; history too is kept going by the taste-buds.

History is also kept going by conserving things and associations of the past. Such a thing, with long associations, is Calthorpe Manor. Application to demolish Calthorpe Manor, probably Banbury's oldest building, has been rejected. The grounds for that rejection, to which our Society contributed, are quoted in this issue at some length. The evidence is reprinted here, at the risk of boring some of you, because it is important. It is important to conservationists that Calthorpe Manor should be preserved; it is important to the commercial owners that, unless it is allowed to collapse through neglect, they have on their hands a building expensive to maintain for which it must be difficult to find a profitable use. And who these days would want to live in it, right in the middle of Banbury, or could afford to do so? It is a dilemma repeated all over England, how to preserve the best of our heritage, while maintaining its active relevance to the 20th century. Rejection of an application to demolish does not conclude the affair; it only begins it.

Reverting to the dinner, whether you were there or not, please let committee members have any suggestions for next year and future years. It is the Committee's duty, and wish, to please you.

BANBURY HISTORICAL DINNER 1979

Woadmill Farm, the home of David Fiennes, on the road between Broughton and North Newington was the unique setting for the memorable and highly enjoyable Annual Dinner of the Historical Society on Friday 26th October.

What was a very fine barn adjacent to the farmhouse itself has been skilfully converted with the very minimum of basic alteration into a "great hall" that would grace any small medieval manor house. Complete with raised dais for those dining "above the salt", it even outdoes our President's home just down the road, for it boasts a minstrels' gallery reached by an elegant spiral staircase.

From this gallery minstrels were indeed to entertain throughout the evening the sixty guests gathered below at two long tables. The minstrels – Messrs Roberts, Bell, Stein and Parrington (what other school can boast a performing bursar?) – came from Bloxham School and performed a variety of ancient and modern music, both instrumental and vocal, which was admirably complemented by the excellent fare provided by Mrs Young and her accomplices.

The guest of honour was Mr Leslie Wood, accompanied by Mrs Wood. Mr Wood was for many years until his retirement last year the Secretary of the Oxfordshire Rural Community Council, and is well known to many local historians throughout the county. In a speech that was witty, and full of apposite historical quotation and allusion, he kept his listeners so entertained that the President, in his concluding remarks, regretted he had not been encouraged to speak for double the time.

Our thanks are due to David Fiennes for so generously allowing us to use his home, and to Mrs Nan Clifton and Mrs Gwladys Brinkworth for the preparatory work which resulted in such a successful evening.

J. S. W. G.

RECORDS PUBLICATIONS

Due to pressure of other commitments on the records series editor, there will be some delay before another volume is issued to subscribers. The two next volumes, at present in production, are the long-awaited Volume 13, "Banbury Wills and Inventories, Part 1, 1591-1620", and Volume 17, "Banbury Burial Register, Part 3, 1723-1812". A generous grant from the British Academy has been received for the latter.

THE THREE TUNS IN THE EIGHTEENTH CENTURY

Part Two of A CENTURY OF TAVERN KEEPING

The first part of this article ("The Stokes Family at the Unicorn and the Three Tuns", C&CH 7, 4, pp. 103-113) concluded with an account of the earliest references to the Three Tuns, the tavern in the Horsefair in Banbury, probably established around 1687 by Charles Stokes, youngest son of the family which had already been at the Unicorn for a generation. The Corporation granted a wine licence "to Mr Charles Stokes to keep a tavern at the Three Tuns" in September 1687, and that month King James II visited Banbury and was entertained at the Three Tuns, as still recorded on the lintel of an upstairs door of the present Whately Hall Hotel (which incorporates the surviving parts of the original Three Tuns).

These are the first certain references to the Three Tuns, although the building itself has at the rear a datestone of 1652. When writing earlier I argued that the tavern probably dates from around 1687, rather than 1677 as suggested by Beesley. Wine licences were granted to "Mr Stokes" in 1676 and in 1677, and specifically to "Mr Charles Stokes" in 1678 and several succeeding years, but the taverns run by the licensees were not named in the record until 1686. The Stokes family were still associated with the Unicorn, so these early licenses might equally well relate to that tavern as to a just-established Three Tuns.

This argument remains valid, although it is hard to reconcile the visit of the King on 2nd September to a tavern whose licence was apparently only granted by the new Corporation sworn in on 29th September (in September 1686 the taverns licenced are actually named as the Unicorn, with Daniel Style, Stokes' brother-in-law, as the licensee, and the Reindeer; no mention of Charles Stokes). However, a conflicting statement has very recently come to my notice, which might be taken to re-establish an earlier date. This is in "Jackson's Oxford Journal" of 16 December 1775, when the Three Tuns was advertised for sale or letting. It was then described as having "been an Inn and Tavern for above an hundred years past". Newspapers are notorious for inaccuracy and advertisements for exaggeration, so not too much faith can be put in this claim to age. In the absence of further evidence it should nevertheless be taken into account.

After these early references to the Three Tuns, there are frustratingly few to the tavern during the sixty years it was to continue in the possession of the Stokes family, probably the heyday of its existence. Throughout this time it must have been unchallengingly the leading tavern in Banbury, with its commanding position on the main road from London and Oxford to Warwick and Coventry, and with its "Great Room" for the town's meetings and entertainments. Typical of the type of meeting for which it was the natural location (in days before the provision of public halls) was that of the archdeacon's court (doubtless one of many) held at the Three Tuns in 1707.

So, for this period of its existence, its history can only be traced

in its owners. Charles Stokes was baptised in March 1643/4, so was in his 40's at the time of the King's visit to the Three Tuns. Like two of his brothers before him, he was elected to the Corporation in 1678-9, and an Alderman in 1685-6. Although he served as Auditor several times, he was clearly reluctant to become Mayor, as at least twice he paid fines for refusal to serve.

He appears to have married quite late - the first of the baptisms of his children in the Banbury registers occurs in 1685; however two mentioned in his will, John and Elizabeth, may have been born and baptised elsewhere earlier. But by the time Vade, his youngest child, was born in 1699 he was well into his 50's. Elizabeth married the local supervisor of excise, William Hide, who evidently took over the running of the tavern in Charles's old age, as the will described Hide as then being in possession of the Three Tuns. Charles had for some time before his death in February 1717/8 been "aged, infirm and weak", and he paid tribute to his unmarried daughter Mary for "the extraordinary love and affection" he bore her for "her diligent care of me". His main estate was divided between his two married daughters and his three sons, John, Morton and Thomas. This estate included not only the Three Tuns, the Crown (in the possession of Thomas Ward) and other property in the Horse Fair, but also "greensward ground" called Barrows Leyes, adjoining the gardens belonging to the Three Tuns; and a mortgage for £800 on land at Flecknoe in Leicestershire. Shares in some of the Horse Fair property were left to Mary and the two youngest daughters, Magdalen and Vade - but tragically they were both struck down within a year of their father's death, at the ages of 23 and 19, in the smallpox epidemic of December 1718. The devoted daughter Mary, happily, survived and married Mr William Gulliver - of London, but surely a connection with the Banbury family - in 1719.

William and Elizabeth Hide were still at the Three Tuns in February 1719/20, but by September 1727 Elizabeth was widowed and living two doors away. In March 1723/4 Charles's youngest son Thomas was being described as "at Three Tuns", and probably had been the landlord for some years. Although only born in 1694, he was named in the 1718 Borough Charter as the junior Burgess, and the following year was elected an Alderman. Like his father he was reluctant to be Mayor, and paid a fine of three guineas to avoid this in 1724. In 1730 no one could be persuaded to take on the office in September, but in December Thomas was chosen and accepted. In 1735 he again was fined for refusal to serve, and in 1737 he served a second term. Finally in 1748 he was appointed Deputy Mayor.

There is other evidence of his standing and the Three Tuns must have retained its dominant position that it had held under his father. According to tradition Jonathan Swift stayed there in the 1720s and got the name Gulliver from tombs in the churchyard opposite - or maybe from his landlord's sister!

Thomas Stokes made his will in October 1749, two months after

his younger daughter, Sarah, had died. Apart from an annuity of £40 and some furniture left to his wife Elizabeth, the whole property (without any specific mention of the Three Tuns) was bequeathed to his daughter Vade and her husband Dr Edward Burford, an apothecary and surgeon whom she had married in 1742. He too had recently been elected to the Corporation. By then there was already a grandson, Francis, and days before Thomas Stokes died, in 1750, a grand-daughter, another Vade, was born, who was baptised the day after his own burial. But sadly preceding both these was the death and burial of the mother, Vade, on 24 December.

As a result it was Dr Edward Burford alone who inherited the property. Left with two young children, for baby Vade survived, it is not surprising that he remarried 15 months later. He was still the owner of the tavern in 1763, when he was ordered by the Corporation to "pay one shilling a year for a stone pillow erected before the Three Tuns"; though the actual landlord was one Francis Edge from the early 1750's.

The first reference to the tavern in "Jackson's Oxford Journal" (founded 1753) was in August 1754, a meeting there of gardeners and florists. In May 1756 Edge moved to Towcester, and the newspaper announced:

"WILLIAM BARKER, Vintner from London, BEGS Leave to acquaint the Publick, that he has entered on the THREE-TONS at Banbury, late in the Possession of Mr Francis Edge; where all Noblemen and Gentlemen, who shall please to honour him with their Company, may depend on the best Accommodation, by

Their most obedient humble servant, W. BARKER.

N.B. Exceeding neat Four-wheel Post-Chaises, etc., with able Horses."

Three years later, on 23 April 1759, the Commissioners appointed under the Neithrop Inclosure Act held their first meeting there. In contrast, in June 1766 the first of twelve monthly subscription concerts and balls were advertised, and in October works by Handel were performed in the Parish Church and a concert and ball took place "in Mr Barker's Room at the Tuns ... Tickets 5s. each". The newspaper subsequently reported "In the evening there was a Concert and Ball in the Great Room at the Tuns; where likewise the Company was very numerous and brilliant, and the whole was conducted with the greatest Elegance and Propriety."

On 3 December 1767 Matthew Lamb, the politically inclined Vicar of Banbury, mentioned in a letter to the Earl of Guilford: "The Man who keeps the Mitre at Oxford has taken the Tuns, and Mr Barker goes to Mr Aplin's Office." In due course the newspaper carried announcements of William Barker's removal to the Red Lion in Banbury, whilst

JOHN FRY, at the Mitre Inn, Oxford, ... takes this Method of acquainting [his friends] ... that he has taken the THREE TUNS Inn in Banbury and will enter upon the same in April next [1768] ... N.B. The House will be neatly fitted up with all possible

Expedition - Neat Wines, Rum, Brandy, etc., wholesale and retail. Neat Post Chaises and careful Drivers.

The same issue of 26 March carried the advertisement: To be Sold by AUCTION, by Mr Way, . . . at the Three Tuns at Banbury - All the Furniture, etc., belonging to Mr William Barker . . . ; consisting of Bedsteads, with Harrateen and other Furniture; 29 Feather Beds; Blankets, Quilts, Chairs and Tables; Kitchen Furniture, Brewing Utensils and Vessels; a Four-Wheel Chaise, a new One Horse Chaise and Harness, a Broad Wheel Waggon, a new Mahogany Billiard Table, etc.

Two years later:

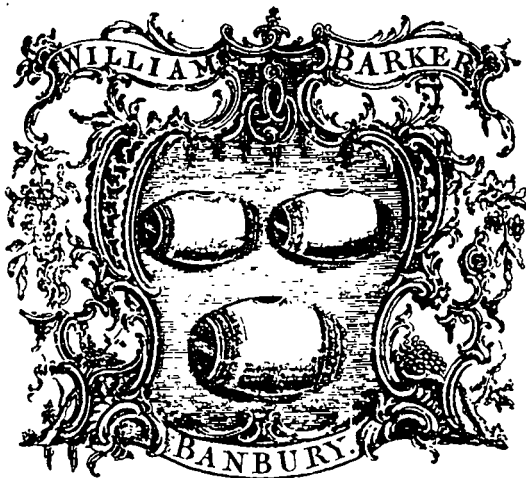
JOHN FRY, at the Three Tuns Inn in Banbury, Begs Leave in this publick Manner most gratefully to acknowledge his Obligations for the extraordinary Encouragement he has received at the said Inn, where the Excise and Post Office is now kept, and where the Nobility, Gentry and all his Friends may always depend on meeting with the best Accommodation of every Kind; and the most civil Treatment. . .

That summer of 1770 Barker's bankruptcy was exercising Lamb, as the parson had acted as guarantor for the former's office as Postmaster, presumably whilst he was still at the Tuns. At some date in the 1760's or 1770's ownership of the inn passed from Dr Burford to Matthew Lamb - very probably in 1775 or 1776, when it was advertised for sale. The Vicar's acquisition of the Three Tuns may well have been connected with his ardent support of Lord North, M.P. for Banbury, through his father Lord Guilford. The tavern was then as earlier the focal point for political gatherings, and it must have been convenient for it to be owned by such a supporter (especially as Dr Burford is often referred to as an opponent on the Corporation). The billhead illustrated must have been just one of many met by the Earl. Before the 1774 election Lamb informed Lord Guilford: "The Mayor acquitted himself vastly well. We came to a Resolution which I believe will be agreeable to Lord N. - that his Lordship should be carried from the Town-Hall the nearest way to the Tuns." Chairing the Member was a traditional hazard of election to Parliament, familiar from Hogarth's famous picture.

Whoever its owner, in the issue of "Jackson's Oxford Journal" of 16 December 1775 this advertisement appeared:

To be SOLD or LETT, and entered upon on the 5th day of April next, - A large, commodious and old-accustomed Inn and Tavern, called the THREE TUNS, in the Horse-Fair, Banbury, with stabling for forty horses, a large handsome garden and spacious bowling-green, well frequented in the Season, and is the only bowling-green in or near the place.

The above has been an Inn and Tavern for above an hundred years past, well situated upon the great road leading from London



Eating ——— 6 —
Liquor ——— 7 $\frac{1}{2}$
Fire ——— 1 —
Servants ——— 2 —
£ 16 $\frac{1}{2}$

Rec: the above in full
W Barker

A receipted bill for the Earl of Guilford from William Barker at the Three Tuns, some time between 1756 and 1768, Bodleian MS North c.21, f.384.

to Coventry and Warwick, and is now in full business, and fit for the reception of the genteelist company; with which may be bought or rented, if more agreeable to the purchaser or tenant, five acres of exceeding rich pasture-ground, adjoining the Tuns.

A fortnight earlier Lamb has been writing to Lord Guilford: "I do not know that Dr B[urford] intends to make any attempts to get the Post Office from Fry. He is only uneasy and afraid lest he should. Fry is a very industrious, inoffensive, civil Man, is much respected in Banbury, and has managed the Post Office much to the satisfaction I believe of both Town and Neighbourhood." This letter, taken in juxtaposition with the advertisement, suggests that this was when Dr Burford sold the Three Tuns and Dr Lamb acquired the property.

Through the 1770's there is evidence of Fry's initiative in promoting events at the Tuns. On 13 April 1771 "Mr George Alexander Stevens will exhibit his Lecture upon Heads in the Great Room at the Three Tuns"; 27 August 1774: "For the BENEFIT of Mr JARRETT, Organist, at Mr Fry's, at the Tuns, in Banbury, on Tuesday the 27th September, will be a CONCERT of Vocal and Instrumental MUSIC. To begin precisely at Half past Six in the Evening - Immediately after will be a BALL, to which none will be admitted without a Concert Ticket. Tickets at 2s. 6d. each. . . "

Mr Jarrett appears to have been a regular attraction. Again on 14 April 1775: "Mr JARRETT's CONCERT. At Mr Fry's at the Tuns . . . A Band of the best Performers will be engaged; and after the Concert will be a Ball. . . Tickets at 3s. 6d. . . ." He was back again on 13 May 1777, when "FLETCHER, Perfumer, Ladies and Gentlemen's Hairdresser, the Corner of Carfax, Oxford . . . sells all Sorts of the best Perfumed Powders, Waters, Essences, etc. . . ." announced "N.B. FLETCHER being engaged to dress some Ladies near Banbury for Mr JARRETT's Concert, on the 13th inst., thinks proper to inform the Ladies in that Neighbourhood, he may be heard of at the Tuns, from Eleven in the Morning, till the Concert begins. Will bring with him proper Cushions, and Artificial Hair, in the present Taste. "

On 28 March 1778 the newspaper reported on an event of outstanding importance to Banbury:

"We hear from Banbury that the Oxford Canal is completely navigable to that Place . . . the Inhabitants of Banbury and Villages adjacent are so rejoiced at the approaching Event that we hear the Boats are to be ushered in, with Bells ringing, Colours flying, and a select Band of Music for the Occasion; Afterwards, a Dinner is ordered at the Three Tuns, at which a great Number of Gentlemen are expected. "

But all was not well at the Tuns, and the Vicar's purchase, though politically expedient, may not have been a good investment. At any rate, on 26 May 1778 he was writing to the Earl: "I thank you for what you are so good as to say concerning F[r]y. I have writ to the wine-Merchants to try

to prevent a Statute . . . Mrs F. has a rich brother who would help, if there appears any reasonable Prospect of their doing better hereafter . . . It seems to me as if nobody could live in the House; for there has been no want of attention, industry or economy. My interest, I am persuaded, would be best promoted by selling the House, or conveying it into private Tenements. But as the public would lose some Convenience, I am disposed to continue it as an Inn, if F. or any other Tenant can do well in it. "

This crisis was weathered somehow, but in 1780 Fry gave up the struggle and moved to the Mitre in Banbury Market Place. Once again the Three Tuns was advertised for sale, on 1 July 1780:

To be LETT, or SOLD - An ancient and well-accustomed INN, at Banbury in Oxfordshire, known by the Name of the THREE TUNS. It is pleasantly situated by the Side of the Great Road thro' the Town; its good Parlours, Bedchambers, and a large Dining Room, in which during the Winter Season, there is a genteel Assembly; good Cellars, Stabling for near forty Horse; a large walled and well-planted Garden; a Bowling-Green, which is much frequented; and a Close of about five Acres adjoining the Garden - For further Particulars enquire of the Tenant, who will shew the Premises.

Saturday 16 September 1780:

TO be SOLD by AUCTION, by Mr HOLLOWAY.

On Thursday the 28th, and the two following Days of September 1780 - All the neat HOUSEHOLD FURNITURE, Plate, China, Linen, Liquors, Brewing Utensils, Casks, Horses, Chaises, Harness, a Cow, some Pigs, Hay, and Effects of the Three Tuns Inn, at Banbury, Oxfordshire; consisting of upwards of thirty Bedsteads, with Chintz-Pattern, Cotton, and other Furniture and Window-curtains; large fine Down, Goose, and other Feather-Beds, and Bedding; Pier, Sconce and Dressing-Glasses; Mahogany and other Chairs and Tables; about 400 Ounces of Plate; a large Quantity of China and Glass; upwards of sixty Pair of Sheets; Damask and Diaper Table-Linen; thirteen Chaise and Saddle Horses; three Post Chaises and Harness, etc.

Saturday 7th October 1780:

Banbury, 6th October.

WHEREAS a Report has been malevolently and industriously propagated, that the THREE TUNS INN in this Town will be discontinued and shut up, we are under the Necessity of adopting this Method to inform the Publick, that it is entirely without Foundation. We hope that the ungrateful and combined Attempts which have been practised to injure and asperse this antient and well accustomed Inn, will be fruitless and ineffectual, and that they will redound to its future Advantage; and we beg Leave to solicit the Patronage and Support of the Nobility and Gentry who have honoured it with their Company,

assuring them that every Endeavour will be executed to render it convenient and agreeable, and that they will shortly meet with every Accommodation in a superior Degree to what they hitherto experienced.

Saturday 14th October 1780:

THREE TUNS INN, BANBURY.

JAMES HADDON (son-in-law to Mr EDGE, who formerly kept this Inn) begs Leave to acquaint the Publick, that he has taken and entered on the said INN, and is, with all possible Expedition, fitting it up in the most commodious Manner for the Reception of the Nobility, Gentry, Tradesmen and others, assuring them, that his best Endeavours will be exerted to accommodate them to their Satisfaction; for which Purpose he has laid in an Assortment of the best Wines, and other Liquors, and also provided neat Post-chaises and good Horses; he therefore hopes for the encouragement of the Publick which will be most gratefully acknowledged by

Their most obedient, humble Servant

JAMES HADDON

10th October 1780

N. B. A Cook Maid-Servant is wanted at the said Inn who well understands the Business of a Kitchen - Apply to Mr Haddon, at the Three Tuns Inn; or to Mr Edge, at Potterspurty, neat Stoney-Stratford.

But James Haddon stayed no more than two years, and on 24 August 1782 the Inn was once again advertised for sale. The wording was very similar to the earlier notice, and need not be repeated, though it did state that "Many public meetings are held at it, and it enjoys other singular Advantages", and there was an assurance that it would continue open. The following month James Haddon, who was removing to the Bridgman's Arms at Castle Bromwich, advertised household goods for sale, again much the same as those two years earlier, but including "several large Oak Dining and Tea Tables, and Chairs of various Sorts; Mahogany double Chest upon Chest of Drawers, with Writing-Desks in them, and single Chest ditto, and a Set of small Mahogany Dressing-Drawers . . ."

The Three Tuns certainly stayed in business, though the name of Haddon's successor is unknown. The Banbury Assembly was advertised regularly from the autumn of 1782 and throughout 1783. In April that year Dr Lamb reported to Lord Guilford, when one of the North family had just been elected, possibly to the Corporation: "On Wednesday Morning Mr N. went round the Town, and the Election came on at twelve o'Clock and was very soon over. Mr N. was chaired to the Tunns, and everything was conducted much in the same Manner as upon former Occasions. There were very few Country Gentlemen at the Dinner."

Advertisements for the Banbury Assembly appeared during the winter months of 1784, but not thereafter. On 23 February that year Dr Lamb was again writing to Lord Guilford about election matters:

"I hope you will give me Leave to shorten the List of Persons invited to the Election Dinners, by striking out the Names of the Subscribers to the Address. I will avow it to be my own Act and Deed. As the Room at the Tuns may probably not be at Liberty upon a further Occasion, there will be a Necessity for curtailing a little, and who can be more properly omitted?"

Then, on 7 March Lamb specifically mentions that he has sold the Tuns, so evidently in 1780 and 1782 the inn was merely leased to Haddon and his successor. This did not prevent him mentioning the probability of an election dinner being held there later that month, probably the same as that discussed in February, but thereafter there is no further reference to the Three Tuns in Lamb's correspondence with Lord Guilford.

Nor are there further occurrences in "Jackson's Oxford Journal". The final item, after silence throughout 1785, is one of the issue of game licences at the Three Tuns, on 24 July 1786. The inn must have been near the end of its days by then, and so far as is known it became a private house shortly afterwards. This it remained throughout the 19th century, and it was only between the wars in this century that it became once again, as the Whately Hall Hotel, one of the leading centres of the Banbury social scene.

J. S. W. Gibson

Sources

Stokes family details

- Banbury Corporation Records: Tudor and Stuart (B.H.S. 15, 1977)
- Banbury Baptism and Burial Registers, Pt. 2, 1653-1723 (B.H.S. 9, 1968)
- Banbury Baptism Registers, Pt. 3, 1723-1812 (B.H.S. 16, 1978)
- Banbury Burial Registers, Pt. 3, 1723-1812 (in press)
- Banbury Marriage Registers, Pt. 1, 1558-1723 and Pt. 2, 1723-1790 (B.H.S., 2, 1960, and 3, 1961)
- Wills of Charles Stokes, 1718, P.C.C. 246, and Thomas Stokes, 1751, P.C.C. 25.
- Banbury Corporation Journal, 1718-1768. Oxfordshire Record Office.
- Bodl. MS. Ch. Oxon. 3595, an assignment of securities in 1729 shows that Thomas Stokes was a man of standing and trust.

The Three Tuns

- Bodl. Oxford Archdeaconry Papers, c. 28, f. 116v, for the Archdeaconry Court meeting
- Bodl. MS. Ch. Oxon. 2651, a deed of 1727 which refers to Elizabeth Hide as widowed.
- Jonathan Swift, "Gulliver's Travels", ed. Paul Turner, 1971, pp. xli, 309
- Neithrop Enclosure Act, MS note on printed copy in Banbury Public Library
- "Jackson's Oxford Journal". The key to this is the magnificent two-part (1752-1780, 1781-1790) "Synopsis" prepared by Eileen Davies and others, in eleven volumes including indexes. There are sets in the

Oxford Central Library at Westgate, the Oxfordshire County Record Office and in the Bodleian Library (open shelves, in Selden End, Dept. of Western Manuscripts). The Oxford Central Library has bound copies of the newspaper 1753-55, 1767-68, 1770-71, 1772 (incomplete), (1775-76 (a few issues only), Dec 1779-1782, 1785-86; and much of the missing periods on microfilm, from British Library copies. A more complete set of originals is in the Bodleian. The index entries under "Three Tuns, Banbury" will easily identify quotations.

North MSS. d. 7-22, Correspondence with the 1st Earl of Guilford, for the Reverend Dr Matthew Lamb's letters (individually indexed under Lamb). These have all been transcribed for eventual publication by the Banbury Historical Society.

THE NATIONAL TRUST

Those of you who are members of the National Trust will have received an invitation to attend on last October 15 the inaugural meeting of the Banbury and District National Trust Association. There is a membership subscription of £1.50 for the first member of a family household and 50p for each additional member up to a maximum of £3. To join the local Association you must be a member of the National Trust; if you are not, that is easily remedied by writing to the Chairman, Banbury and District National Trust Association, Stonecroft, Barford Road, Bloxham, Banbury, OX15 4EZ.

A JUDICIAL OPINION OF BANBURY CHEESE

In a case of debt heard in the Common Pleas in 1538 one of the judges, Sir William Shelley, thought that the case was overlaboured far beyond its merits, and he gave pithy expression to his view. In a report of the case, written in law French, Sir James Dyer wrote: "Et Shelley compare le case a un Banbury cheese, que vault petit in substance quant les paringes sont amputes. Et ici le case est briefe in substance, si le superfluous nugation soit tolle que est pleade" [Dyer's Reports, p.42b]. That may be translated: "And Shelley compared the case to a Banbury cheese, which is worth little when the parings are cut off. And here the case is brief in substance, if the superfluous trifling that is pleaded be taken away". Banbury has long been noted, not only for its Puritans, its cakes and its cross, but also for its cheese-paring. A recipe for making Banbury cheese is printed in **Cake and Cock Horse**, Vol.4, p.114.

Geoffrey de C. Parmiter

BANBURY REST STATION & CANTEEN 1914-1919

"HOPE CONFIDENTLY - WAIT PATIENTLY - DO VALIANTLY"

The above was the motto adopted by the Red Cross Nurses of the Banbury Rest Station and Canteen and was displayed throughout the war at the Great Western Railway Station here. It was one of the first of Banbury's war activities to be started and it was the last to close after five years, during which time it administered to more than three million men, most of whom only found hospitality on their journey at the railway station here.

It all started on the 10th September 1914, only a few weeks after the outbreak of war, when a letter appeared in the Banbury Guardian drawing attention to the fact that troops passing through Banbury Station were so parched that they were drinking water from the fire buckets. Miss Freda Day of Elmleigh, High Town Road Banbury and granddaughter of Mr. John Mawle, the founder of the ironmongery business in High Street, was a Quartermaster of a Red Cross Detachment in Oxfordshire and it so happened that she read this letter. She consulted her uncle, Mr. Sydney Mawle, Assistant Director of the Red Cross in Oxfordshire and together they interviewed Mr. Short, the Stationmaster who agreed to the setting up of a Rest Station and Canteen, and placed the general waiting room at their disposal. Sufficient nurses were found to start at once and that afternoon 500 men were served with lemonade. After a few days fruit and cigarettes were served as well. Large quantities were given by friends in the town and district.

Then with the troop trains conveying men abroad and ambulance trains northward, the War Office made Banbury an official Rest Station for ambulance trains and Mr. Mawle was held as the responsible official for it here, and telegrams were sent from Southampton or Dover giving times of arrival of trains here and the number of patients on board. Extra staff and nurses had to be summoned and supplies obtained. Tea, coffee, hot and cold milk were provided and each patient received a little tray containing a sandwich, a newspaper, cigarettes, fruit, chocolate, bread and butter and cake; also postcards on which to write home. These were afterwards collected, stamped and posted. Special trays were provided for the Medical Staff, Nurses and Orderlies. These trains usually stayed here for 20 minutes and had 100 to 350 patients on board.

All this was provided voluntary. After heavy fighting 2 or 3 ambulance trains were served in one day, as well as the ordinary troop trains. As many as 200,000 men on Red Cross trains passed through the hands of the station staff.

The troop trains were served from 4 am. until after mid-night, all through the years and in all weathers. Early on a cold, often snowy winter's morning the staff were at work, preparing for and feeding troops and again long after the inhabitants had retired for the night they remained at their posts waiting for late trains. The trains brought men from all

parts of the British Isles, Australia, Africa, Canada, New Zealand and India as well as French, Belgians, Italians, Serbs, Chinese, Lascars, and later Americans. Then there were also trains of prisoners liberated by the Russians. In addition the staff were called upon to supply refreshment to convalescent soldiers, mostly Australians and Canadians. These came in batches of about 50 and often at not more than an hours notice.

The largest amount of credit was ungrudgingly given by her staff, to Miss Freda Day (later Mrs. Raymond Cherry). As stated above it was she who originated the effort and organised the work. She was present day by day in all weathers. As Lady Superintendent she conducted the work with the Red Cross Detachments and when the Red Cross Hospital¹ was opened in Banbury on Oct 26th 1915, Miss Day was appointed Quartermaster of this. She retained the superintendence of the station with Mrs. Arkell and Miss Whitehorn as Assistant Superintendents and recruited a band of workers. It was exceedingly hard work as ambulance trains became more numerous. When at last, on medical advice, Miss Day resigned at the hospital, but she was determined to continue with the Canteen and Miss Canham became her assistant in 1916, when Mrs. Arkell became ill, and Miss Whitehorn became Quartermaster at the hospital. Miss Day carried on until January 1919 when she relinquished it on her approaching marriage, and Miss Canham and Miss Bradford conducted the work until it finally closed on 1st August 1919. After the Armistice the Staff welcomed and refreshed the men. "Welcome Home" and "Welcome back to Blighty" were displayed on two large banners over the platforms. Gradually the work lessened and it was felt that the Canteen had "done its bit".

Next to Miss Day, mention must be made of Mr. Sydney J. Mawle, M. B. E. to whose support the establishment of the Canteen was due and whose unbounded energy and inexhaustible determination contributed so much to its maintenance. Throughout the years Mr. Mawle pleaded the cause and never failed to secure the necessary support. He was made Commandant of the Red Cross Hospital and as treasurer he managed the financial side of the work.

Miss Day presided over the business committee consisting of Miss Canham (secretary) Mr. Mawle (treasurer) Miss Bradford and Miss Metcalfe. The funds were raised by voluntary contributions from the civilian population, no soldier or sailor was allowed to contribute. Concerts and other entertainments were arranged by the nurses, the Early Closers Association² and other people. Large sums of money were collected by the travelling public and collections were made on the platforms and trains by Mrs. F. Jones (who personally collected £700). Miss P. Hood and other nurses, also Mr. Short and Mr. Goss and the staff of the Great Western Railway Station helped.

This Canteen was in existence before the installation of the buffets at the London termini and throughout the War maintained a unique position



among provincial stations. When the King and Queen passed through the station on two occasions they noticed the work of the Canteen staff and made enquiries concerning it. The workers were all voluntary and supplied their own uniforms.

The above has been taken from an article in the BANBURY GUARDIAN dated 14th August 1919 entitled 'The Banbury Rest Station and Canteen - The Close of an Excellent Work'.

References:

1. The Red Cross hospital with 130 beds was at the Wesleyan Schoolroom, Grimsbury and Doctors Beattie, Penrose and Prichard were the medical officers. When it closed in May 1919, 1,500 wounded men had been cared for. 'A History of Banbury' Second Edition 1978 - p.324.
2. Early Closers Association - This was a Social Club for Shopkeepers on early closing day. They had a Pavilion and Sports Field in West Street, Grimsbury, which back on the railway.

Barbara Adkins

NAMES OF SOME OF THE CANTEEN HELPERS

Mr S.J. Mawle

Dr Penrose

Miss Bradford

Miss Canham

Mrs Metcalfe

Mrs Barker

Mrs Wilks

Mrs Ross-Walker

Mrs King

Miss Jones

Miss Nelson

Miss Woolnough

Miss Jerrams

Miss Cox

Mr and Mrs Jones

Miss Dawson

Miss Stourton

Mrs J. Roberts

Mrs Cholmondeley

Mrs England

Miss Evans

Miss M. Bradford

Miss Robins

Mrs Fremantle

Miss F. Williams

Miss Riddle

Miss Sealey

Miss Claridge

Miss E. Claridge

Mrs Hayward

Miss O. Bennett

Miss Whitehorne

Miss Oaky

Mrs Matthews

Miss A. Bennett

Miss Godfrey

Miss Savage

Miss M. Tucker

Miss Gander

Miss Butler

Miss Standage

Miss Kyte

Miss G. Trevor

Mr E. Berry

Miss Underwood

CALTHORPE MANOR

Calthorpe Manor is not as well known as it deserves to be to those interested in Banbury's history. Parts of it are probably the oldest surviving building in Banbury (the remains of the medieval bridge only excepted), and it is without doubt the most important pre-Civil War building in the town. It is little known because it is tucked away down a drive off Dashwood Road, with only a restricted view of rear gables from the southern end of Calthorpe Street. Moreover for many years now it has been used merely as offices (or worse), linked to a complex of small factory buildings. Those who venture down the drive off Dashwood Road are rewarded by an excellent view of the handsome oriel window and entrance beneath - a view used for the front cover of the first edition of Ted Brinkworth's "Old Banbury", the Society's first publication.

Though attractive to historians and to those who care for the character of Banbury, the building is inevitably expensive to maintain and repair, and not particularly convenient for its present use as offices for the Design Furniture Group. Recently the Group submitted plans for its demolition. The building (and its neighbours) being listed as of special architectural and historic interest, the planning authority, Cherwell District Council, understandably refused permission, and in due course the Group appealed against this decision. The Secretary of State for the Environment (at that time the Right Honourable Peter Shore, M.P.) ordered a public inquiry, which was held at Bodicote House on 12 and 13 December last, before the appointed Inspector, Stephen Marks, M.A., A.R.I.B.A.

The original grounds for refusal of planning consent for demolition included:

"The three buildings are listed as being of special architectural and historic interest and the intrinsic value of their architectural features, which in the case of Calthorpe Manor date from the 16th century, and their historical connections with important local families of the past are sufficient to warrant their preservation."

"Despite adjacent industrial uses these buildings together with Dashwood Terrace form an area of character within the Banbury Conservation Area worthy of preservation."

The Historical Society submitted written objections to the demolition before the Inquiry, concerning itself solely with the historical interest of Calthorpe Manor. At the Inquiry itself the Society was represented by Jeremy Gibson, who, stung by the derogatory suggestion of the Counsel for the Appellants that no one had ever heard of the local families who had lived there, and that they were of no national importance, gave very detailed evidence on the succession of families who had lived there. In this he showed that though of little or no national importance, the inhabitants had often been leading families in the town, taking a considerable part in local affairs. He emphasised that "historical" was intended to cover local

as well as national events, and that indeed if it did not, then the historical aspect of conservation could apply to very few buildings indeed.

The report on the Inquiry was dated 22 January 1979 and to our delight the Inspector recommended refusal of the appeal, upholding the planning authority's refusal of permission to demolish the buildings.

The report itself runs to 18 pages, so obviously quotations from it must be highly selective. The description of the exterior of the main building, the chief object of interest, reads:

Calthorpe Manor: exterior

11. The most prominent feature of the east facade of Calthorpe Manor is a rectangular bay embracing the principal entrance to the house and rising through ground and first floors, surmounted by a battlemented parapet, mainly under the southern of its 2 gables. On the first floor the bay comprises mullions and transom enclosing 12 lights in 2 rows facing the front and a pair of lights on each side, with a hood mould over. The ground floor of the bay is composed of plain wall work against which has been set a stone door surround with simple mouldings and very shallow pointed arch, surmounted by a gable partly overlapping the first floor window. The gable is enriched with quadrants, obelisks and dies, with the top pinnacle set on the diagonal, and incorporates a tabernacle enclosing an armorial device.

12. To the left of the bay there is on first floor a mullioned and transomed window of 6 lights in 2 rows similar to that of the bay, with some modern stone replacement, over which the hood mould is continued. All the first floor windows so far described have modern lead comes with large squares of plain glass. Also under the southern gable of Calthorpe Manor are a 3-light mullioned window at second floor with diagonal leaded lights and a door and window at ground floor. To the right of the bay under the northern gable are 3 sash windows, that on first floor having a continuation of the hood mould over it. The northern gable has a flatter pitch than the southern.

13. The north facade is 3-storeys high, with the top-storey slightly set back over a drip mould, and has an external iron fire-escape staircase attached to it with exits from windows on first and second floors. The western section of the facade, formerly the centre of the house, consists of a shallow projecting bay through all 3-storeys with a high gable, probably of the late 18th century rather than the early 19th. The bay is built of larger and more regular stones than in other parts and has corner shafts with the eroded remains of finials on top.

14. On the ground floor of the bay there is a projecting porch with drip moulds, battlemented parapet with a central shield, and corner shafts with capping stones. The main opening of the porch has a wide low pointed arch and is now filled with a large pair of casements with glazing bars picking up the shape of the pointed arch. At first and second floors are pairs of narrow casements and fixed lights with similar pointed arches and glazing

bars. Between the bay and the north-east corner are 2 sash windows to each storey, those on ground and first floors having hood moulds.

The few remaining features of architectural and historical interest of the interior are described as follows:

20. On the ground floor Calthorpe Manor has a long entrance hall leading to a single-flight staircase and the 2 principal rooms which are on the north side of the building. One of these rooms, the larger, has early 19th century cornice, fireplace and joinery; the other incorporating the porch on the north facade, is probably of the late 18th century: it has a semi-octagonal inner end with 4 arched recesses (one accommodating the doorway), shallow ribbed vaulting in the main compartment and over the semi-octagon, 2 plaster panels, 2 figure corbels with shields supporting a main rib, and a quatrefoil window at the rear lighting the room behind. The staircase has moulded lozenge-shaped balusters and flat brackets with Gothick tracery to the ends of the moulded treads. Near the staircase are 4 fluted timber columns, 2 with Ionic capitals, in odd positions (perhaps moved); these may be contemporary with the decoration of the large room. There are small rooms to the south of the entrance passage, with a flight of stairs down to a damp brick-vaulted cellar under the large room only, a room behind the vaulted room with a flat ceiling divided by ribs with 3 heraldic shields at the intersections (a fourth is missing), and access via a small yard to the workshops.

21. On first floor there is one large room (the 'oak room') with the mullioned bay window and a large oak door but no other features of note, and 3 smaller rooms along the north side reached by short flights of steps.

Between the southern gable and the rear wall of Calthorpe Manor the roof is supported on 4 substantial collar trusses with 2 purlins on each side; 3 of the trusses have had their collars removed, the complete fourth truss being that nearest to the rear wall. Stumps remain below these trusses of lower-pitched trusses with moulded principals.

There is then a detailed description of other parts of the building, and its present allegedly poor condition and the cost of repairing it. The Planning Authority submitted the following historical and architectural evidence:

48. Calthorpe was first mentioned in documents of 1278-9 and remained the centre of a large landed estate outside the town of Banbury until borough boundary changes in the 19th century. The earliest part of the present Calthorpe Manor, the successor to an earlier manor house, was built in the late 15th or early 16th century by the Danvers family to whom the estate was given in 1394 and who lived there till about 1600. In 1601 it was purchased by Sir Anthony Cope; by 1614 Henry Hawtyn was living in the house and his family owned the house till 1680. From 1680 to 1841 it was owned by important though absentee landlords including Sir James Dashwood. In

1723 it was leased to Thomas Cobb, a weaver and farmer; his family lived there for over a century and owned it till 1875 and were important tradesmen and leading unitarians and in 1783 founded the Banbury Old Bank as a side line to their girth-weaving business. In 1852 the house was let to Thomas Draper, Mayor of Banbury in 1844, 1852 and 1862, an important citizen of Banbury who was responsible for the new Town Hall in Bridge Street and for the layout of several roads. His family lived there till 1872. In his time the house stood in its own grounds, with 2 main carriage entrances, in Calthorpe Street and St John's Road, a coachman's cottage, stables, carriage house, orchard, vegetable garden, rustic summer house and a large pond with an island. In 1875 the estate was purchased by a Banbury wool stapler who sold part of the house to Joseph Lambert. Thus the house has been occupied by a variety of people, ranging from gentry to factory owner and banker, many among the most important of their contemporaries in the life of Banbury.

49. The earliest feature of the house is the remains of a first floor hall house with the hall open to the roof, lit by the mullioned and transomed bay window and adjoining window. Its roof appears to have been flatter until it was raised in the 17th century to accommodate a floor inserted into the upper part of the hall with a 3-light window to light the upper-storey. In the 17th century a second and parallel wing was built, originally of 2-storeys indicated by the drip mould which was the eaves line on the north facade; the shallow porch was added over-lapping the bay window, with the arms of the Hawtyn family in the gable. The 2-storey range at the rear of the house probably dates from the 16th or 17th century, perhaps the service quarter of the house.

50. Two phases and styles of neo-Gothic remodelling took place in the 19th century. The first, about 1800-1815, comprised the additions and rebuilding work on the north front, the extra storey and the central projecting bay and porch. The second in 1862 comprises the work by Thomas Draper, the present middle section, with kitchen and school room and the battlemented porch and Gothic window over it. In 1876 and 1900 the final extensions comprising the sections under the 2 southern gables were built by Joseph Lambert. The most interesting internal feature is the roof of the former first floor hall with the remains of badly-mutilated arch-braced collar beam trusses with curved struts from collar to principals, suggesting a late 15th or early 16th century date. Moulded stumps were left when the trusses were cut out for the extra floor and the present 17th century roof with tapering principal rafters and collar and tie beams. The stained glass panels from the bay window are now in Banbury Museum. Early 19th century features of interest include timber fluted pilasters in the entrance hall, the staircase with grooved and lozenge-shaped balusters and cusped scrolls at the ends of the treads, and the vaulted room.

51. The exterior is more important than the internal features. The 3 extensions comprising Nos 7 and 8 were built in a wholly compatible manner and successfully complement Calthorpe Manor in massing, scale and materials, so that the whole group makes a fine composition. The slight view from Dashwood Road is an inviting glimpse; the position is central to the drama and surprise of seeing these buildings there. The portal-framed building is very much in the background and obtrudes little.

52. As one of only three or four medieval buildings in Banbury, Calthorpe Manor has great scarcity value and it is the most distinguished of them. Allied with its architectural and historic merit it is a building of unique quality and interest. It would be practicable but undesirable merely to record it and preserve bits of it elsewhere, such as the porch, plaster decoration and woodwork. However, if demolition were allowed the Museum would negotiate for their removal but could not accommodate the bay window.

Following evidence from the Council for the Protection of Rural England (Oxfordshire Branch) and the Oxfordshire Architectural and Historical Society the Banbury Historical Society's own case was summarised by the Inspector:

60. The Society opposes the proposal because of the special historic interest of Calthorpe Manor, especially its connection with important local families. There are very few houses, apart from the great and famous country houses, for which so many occupants are known. Before the present house was built the manor house was occupied by the medieval family of Brancastre; in the 16th century it was occupied by the Danvers family about whom a bulky book has been written; they were followed by the Hawtyns who had connections with the Washington family from whom George Washington was descended, by Dashwoods, by Cobbs whose lives are documents of the local Banbury scene, and by Thomas Draper. Although these people may have had little impact outside Banbury they make up a remarkable succession of historic interest in the town. To dismiss this connection is to dismiss local history of which there is a growing consciousness.

The Inspector concluded:

66. Although Calthorpe Manor has been substantially extended and altered since the earliest parts were erected, there are significant remains of these parts which date back from the 16th and 17th centuries, perhaps as early as the late 15th century. The principal front of the earliest buildings retains much of its early character, especially in the large 2-storey bay with the 17th century doorway, gable and armorial device, and the 17th century gable window, together with the 17th century roof structure and remains of the earlier roof beneath it. Buildings of the 16th century are a rarity in Banbury.

67. The main extensions and external alterations until the erection of

workshops have generally been sensitively executed using matching materials with sympathy for the scale and nature of earlier work, neither competing nor clashing with it. The repetition of gables of similar height but slightly differing pitches and the simpler detailing of the southern portion have produced an interesting and attractive composition. The Gothic north bay and porch, with the associated interior, add refinement, even if the detail of the porch is not in good condition. The effective obliteration of the western portion of the north facade certainly detracts from its composition but not to the extent of destroying the considerable interest of the building as a whole.

68. The association of locally important families with a house is one of the proper elements of historic interest, especially when the house itself has been of importance as the centre of an estate and is of architectural interest in its own right. While the facts about the activities of these families in Banbury may not be affected by the demolition of this house it does seem to me that the understanding of their place and significance in Banbury is greatly enhanced by the possibility of seeing the house where they lived, even if it has undergone many alterations since their time. The positive identification of this house as the residence of several families whose importance to Banbury is generally accepted does, in my opinion, give it considerable historic interest.

69. I am satisfied on the evidence before me that the house is of special interest both architecturally and historically.

Shoemaker 's Window. Recollections of Banbury before the Railway Age, by George Herbert, 1814-1902. Third edition, Gulliver Press, Banbury, 1979. £2.95.

This well known book was first published in 1948 when it was edited by the late Mrs. C. S. Cheney with the minimum of annotation. In 1971 the Banbury Historical Society published a second edition with a long and perceptive introduction by Mr. B. S. Trinder who also added a few notes at the end of the book (mostly bare references to **Cake and Cock Horse** and other journals) together with a bibliography of works on 19th century Banbury. The present edition is a reprint of the second edition with some additions to the bibliography to bring it up-to-date.

George Herbert was a shoemaker who later turned to photography to earn his living; he was also an amateur musician and he dabbled in chemistry; above all, he was a born gossip. When he was in his eighties he was persuaded by two friends to write his recollections of Banbury as it was in the eighteen-twenties to the eighteen-forties. His recollections consist partly of an autobiographical memoir (divided into two parts) and partly of a "perambulation" of Banbury, all of which contains many lively anecdotes of Banbury people. Herbert had a wide circle of acquaintance which enabled him to describe many aspects of life in early nineteenth century Banbury, and the great value of this book is that it preserves an oral tradition that would otherwise have been lost. The reader gets a fascinating jumble of memories, observations and gossip by a man of many parts who was born in Banbury in 1814 and lived most of his life in the town. There are some surprises too. For instance, in the course of this gallimaufry Herbert mentions by name no less than forty-nine inns in Banbury, and one is surprised to find that the phrase "You are joking", so common to-day as an expression of disbelief, was used by Herbert in that sense nearly 150 years ago (p.36).

It is well known that old men have great precision of memory for some things, while for others their memory can lead them seriously astray. Herbert is no exception. There are several instances where it is clear that Herbert's memory has failed him; but there are many others where the reader is left in doubt and looks in vain for editorial help. One may wonder whether Herbert's father really was able to construct a Jacquard loom after only a brief look at one or two during a visit to Coventry, and one is puzzled by his reference to his visit to Paris to buy French calf with which to make Wellington boots; that visit must have been the most remarkable event of his whole life, yet he dismisses it in a few sentences.

Herbert's house by house "perambulation" of Banbury is often confusing and difficult to follow, and the difficulty is increased by Herbert's occasional habit of omitting a few houses in one street and then making good the omission when describing another; some cross-references would have been welcomed by the reader.

George Herbert's memories provide serious problems for the reader who wishes to make intelligent use of them; indeed, Mr. Trinder in his introduction to the second edition said that the text "contains many dangers for the unwary" (p.xi). It was to be hoped that, with the publication of a third edition, the opportunity would at last have been taken to help the reader to avoid the dangers which Mr. Trinder mentioned. That, unfortunately, has not been done.

The original editor, Mrs. Cheney, provided very little in the way of annotation and nothing in the way of introduction. When Mr. Trinder edited the second edition he stated that "Like the Editor of the first edition I consider that Herbert's text should, as much as possible, be allowed to stand alone, without a large burden of annotation." In the opinion of the present writer, that editorial policy was mistaken and it is to be regretted that it has been allowed to prevail in the third edition which is, to all intents, a mere reprint of the second. It seems essential that an edition of a text such as this should safeguard the reader from the traps inherent in the text. At the very least, Mrs. Cheney's original notes should have been checked; for example, footnotes on pages 94 and 100 have, with the passage of time, become misleading.

Some information of a more general nature would also have been welcome. It would be of great interest to know more of the early daguerrotypers, Heeley and J. A. Thorpe, who worked in Banbury at one time, and of the shoemakers' strike in Margate which Herbert encountered when he went there as a young man.

The book itself is remarkably cheap by present day standards. It is well produced, with few misprints, but the inner margins could, with advantage to the reader, have been wider. In addition to some interesting illustrations, there is a plan of Banbury in 1825, drawn by a Banbury surveyor of that time. Many of the places referred to by Herbert are not shown on the plan whose utility is further reduced by the disappearance of its central strip into the binding of the book; much more useful is the map of Banbury about 1800 printed in vol. 1 of **Historic Towns**, edited by M. D. Lobel.

Geoffrey de C. Parmiter

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 has also published fifteen records volumes to date. These have included **Banbury Parish Registers** (in six parts: Marriages 1558-1837, Baptisms 1558-1812, Burials 1558-1723); **Banbury Corporation Records: Tudor and Stuart; Banbury Wills and Inventories 1621-1650; A Victorian M.P. and his Constituents: The Correspondence of H.W. Tancred 1841-1860; South Newington Churchwardens' Accounts 1553-1684; Wigginton Constables' Books 1691-1836; and Bodicote Parish Accounts 1700-1822**. Volumes in preparation include **Banbury Wills and Inventories 1591-1620 and 1661-1723; Banbury Burial Register 1723 1812 and Baptisms and Burials 1812-1837**; and an edition of letters to the 1st Earl of Guilford (of Wroxton, father of Lord North the Prime Minister).

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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