

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

The cover illustration is from the brass of Lady Bishopston in Broughton Church.

CAKE & COCKHORSE

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

Volume 8 Number 9 Summer 1982

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It is warming to the heart to learn, from the second article in this issue, that in the year 1400 North Newington was brought to the attention of Pope Boniface IX (Pietro Tomacelli of Naples). He issued instructions that North Newington's chapel should be upgraded to parish church because "in time of winter floods the local people there found great danger and difficulty in getting to their parish church at Broughton". A committee was formed to raise the funds, and was still at it 120 years later. But North Newington to this day has no parish church, still sharing parish and priest with Broughton. One doubts whether in 1982 anyone will renew the plea during the visit of Karol Jozef Wojtyla, the pope from Poland. Perhaps no separate church is now needed; in 1699 a stone bridge was built over the Sor Brook, and was rebuilt or widened in 1845. (The dates are on the bridge.) The Sunday morning rush-hour along the lane past your editor's house proves that the bridge and the use of four wheels have eventually solved North Newington's problem.

The summer programme includes a meeting at Burton Dassett church on May 13. The affluent among our members may like to know that this year the Oxford University Press has published at £29 a book by N.W. Alcock entitled Warwickshire Grazier and London Skinner. The grazier and skinner was Peter Temple of Burton Dassett who founded the fortune of the family which built (and sold) Stowe and was progenitor of the

prime minister Lord Palminston. What is thought to be his tomb is in Burton Dassett church.

The indefatigable Pamela Keegan continues her minute examination of the historical geography of Cropredy, dealing this time with cattle-yards and hovels. It is good to know, from the Short Oxford English Dictionary, that the word hovel was not before 1625 used in the generally accepted sense of "a rude or miserable dwelling place" for humans. Here in north Oxfordshire it retains its original meaning of "an outhouse used as a shelter for cattle".

The Society's Twenty-fifth Anniversary

The twenty-fifth anniversary of the founding of the Society falls in January 1983. The committee had thought of combining this celebration with the 1982 dinner. But it would be disappointing if snow at the level of this year were to deter members from arriving at whatever entertainment might be arranged, however warming. We state, without apologies to the London Weather Centre, that we have examined the entrails and find next January's weather unpredictable. Your committee has therefore decided not to prepare a 1982 dinner, even for January 1983; we will concoct instead a jollification at daffodil time next year. You will hear more of it. Please save up.

Born in Banbury

Duncan Harrington has kindly sent us the following extracts:-
Consistory Court of Canterbury: Probate Depositions [CCL]

Abstracts re deponents:

X.11.5 folio 254 2 Mar 1597/8 John Wachier locksmith of the parish of St Alphege Canterbury has lived there 7 years and before St Mary Magdalen Canterbury for 7 years. Born at Banbury, Oxon aged 40 years.

X.11.19 f 45v 8 Mar 1621/2 [13 Feb 1621/2]

John Wager locksmith of the parish of St Mary Magdalen Canterbury has lived there 22 years. Born Banbury, Oxon aged 64 years.

What did Canterbury have that we did not? Evidently a demand for locksmiths. Yet another proof of Banbury's honest puritanism.

Theodore Lamb, "The Hermit", of Sibford Gower

Michael Pickering (c/o Sunderland Polytechnic, Forster Building, Chester Road, Sunderland SR1 3SD) is writing a biographical sketch of this "intriguing and eccentric character". He asks for help with any information, records, recollections, etc.

Cattleyards andhovels in Cropredy, Oxon. 1981.

To conserve our vernacular buildings we have begun to re-use other local buildings, namely farm hovels. To maintain our dwelling houses we are destroying the visual history of agriculture.

In the last few years builders desperate to comply with planning stipulations have been requesting landowners for permission to purchase their hovels, whether of stone or brick! The untidy pile cluttering up the arable field becomes an asset overnight, and another hovel is wiped off the map.¹

This is an attempt to find out a little about one parish's cattleyards and hovels before their dispersal. Unfortunately it has had to precede the study of the village and parish farms due to this vulnerability. Perhaps other local areas whose cattleyards and hovels vary from ours, due to an earlier or later enclosure of their fields, may be alerted to the dangers early enough to obtain photographs and measurements. Wardington parish which borders on to Cropredy (both are in Oxfordshire), has a set of yards and hovels which vary quite considerably from the later Cropredy buildings. This was in all probability due to the building of the Oxford canal starting just after the enclosure of our fields in 1775; Wardington's act was passed in 1763 and they did not have the advantage of the new brickyards and bricklayers as Cropredy did, preferring to rely on the traditional materials of stone and thatch, or tiles.

Although the buildings were first surveyed and photographed, it was vital to try to find associated documents to help interpret the ground evidence. It was also necessary to look at the history of farming in Cropredy, before and after the dramatic upheaval caused to some farms by the Enclosure award. The year 1775 was used as a base to work up to and to proceed from.

Three maps are in existence dated 1774, the year the land was surveyed.² Two are estate maps but give the whole of the parish to the west of the river Cherwell. The village is included and shows each farm with its farmstead. In the parish outside the village the proposed mounds for the new fields are given but NO buildings are shown. It is the same with the vicar's copy of the award. Unfortunately there is no map of the strips, but as the surveyor has so meticulously drawn in the village buildings, I am fairly persuaded he would not have left out similar assets in the previous open fields.

To back this up is the evidence resulting from a close study of the Terriers from five farms. The series begins in the early 1600's and continues up to 1769.³ These list not only their Lands, Butts and Leys in the North and South Fields, but also their buildings which can be found to be the same as those in a 1757 Valuation,⁴ and later on are shown on the estate maps of 1774. The building materials are given in every case as stone and thatch or tile. The fate of many of these early buildings can be followed through, due to the careful preservation of archives by Brasenose

Job's Oxhay Hovel, 1974.



Mangers

College, and there is no evidence that the college farms had any hovels away from the village before 1775.

On the 1900 o.s. map there are 24 cattleyards and hovels besides the post enclosure farms outside the village, and a further 7 hovels about the village closes. By 1971 19 remained in the whole parish, but by 1981 they have now dwindled to 2 cattleyards and 6 hovels of which only three are in use. The prospects of these surviving into 1991 appear slim with the ploughing up of pastures and meadows.

The buildings themselves fall into three groups:-

- 1) Farmsteads with farm houses built together as a unit.
- 2) Cattleyards with or without a later cottage or House.
- 3) Field hovels for cattle or sheep.

The first group needs a major separate study, but the farm buildings were looked at and photographed as they too are vulnerable to changes, and many had similar features.

The cattleyards were built in the centre of allotments given to the farmers in lieu of their previous yardlands in the open fields. At first these farmers lived on in the village but kept their animals housed in new accommodation on the farmland. There were five yards built but only three of these later acquired a house. Two became farms away from the village, and the third was a separate farm for a short period, but was originally built to house farm workers.

In the third group of isolated field hovels or pens, the early ones were built of stone and the later ones of either brick or wood.

Why the farmers needed to build new yards and why they appeared to change their type of farming demanded a closer look at available documents. No manor rolls with mention of farming practices have come to light, but a great many wills and inventories⁵ have been looked at and also the vicar's account books from 1669 up to 1775.⁶ He lists all the farmers with the amount of land they farm, not only for Cropredy, but the neighbouring villages in his ecclesiastical parish.

Apparently many tradesmen were also farming in 1674 as well as the farmers' younger sons taking up a trade. On the Boothby Estate (which owned two-thirds of the land), Sir William in 1683 was prepared temporarily to overlook the plumber and glazier's arrears in his land rent, because he did not wish to "Dyscourage his industry" .. "I heare (he) hath a good trade".⁷

in 1674 the yardlands were divided as follows:-

9	farmed between $\frac{1}{8}$ and $\frac{3}{4}$	of a yardland	
5	"	"	1 and $1\frac{1}{2}$
10	"	"	2 and $2\frac{1}{2}$
3	"	"	3 and $3\frac{1}{2}$
1	"	"	4

which gives a total of 28 farmers in all.

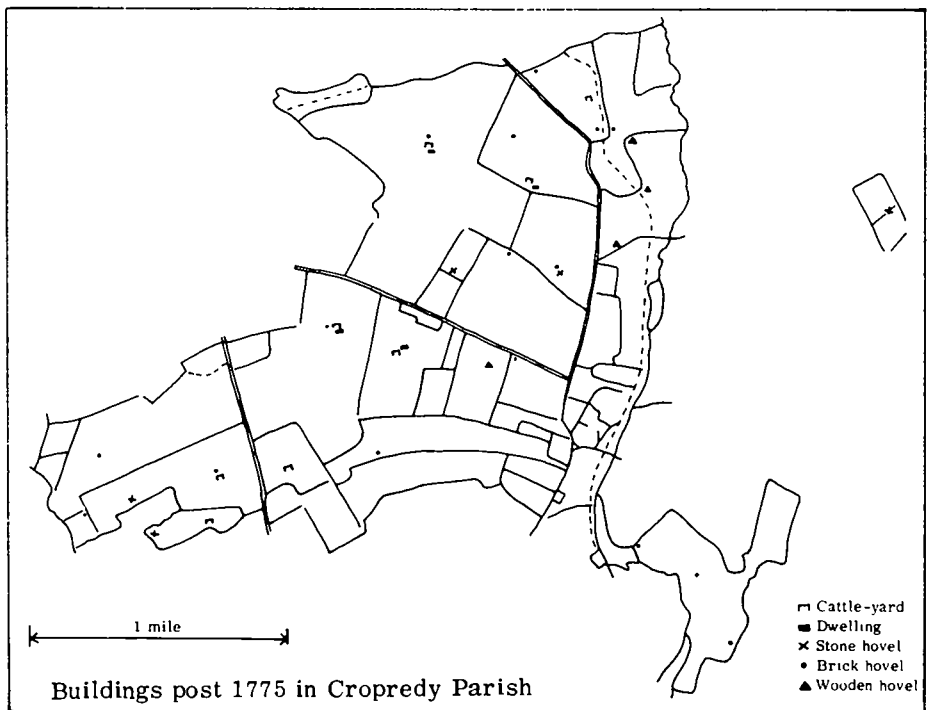
This compares with 16 farmers in 1774 made up of:-

- 1 with less than one yardland.
- 3 farmed between 1 and $1\frac{1}{2}$ yardlands.
- 4 " " 2 and $2\frac{3}{4}$ "
- 2 " " 3 "
- 1 " " 4 "
- 3 " " 5 and $5\frac{3}{4}$ "
- 1 " " $6\frac{1}{4}$ "
- 1 farmed the vicar's glebe.

The tradesmen had not continued to farm more than their accommodation fields and the smallest farm was farmed from the neighbouring village of Bourton. Another small freeholder likewise farmed from Bourton and gained an allotment at the enclosure situated in Cropredy, but on the parish boundary near Bourton Hills.

The college tenants' farms remained the same size up to 1775, but they were able from time to time to rent land from the Boothby Estate. After 1775 the Boothby Estate sold off land to two tenants,⁸ and again in 1788⁹ more farms were sold. This has complicated the followthrough of farms.

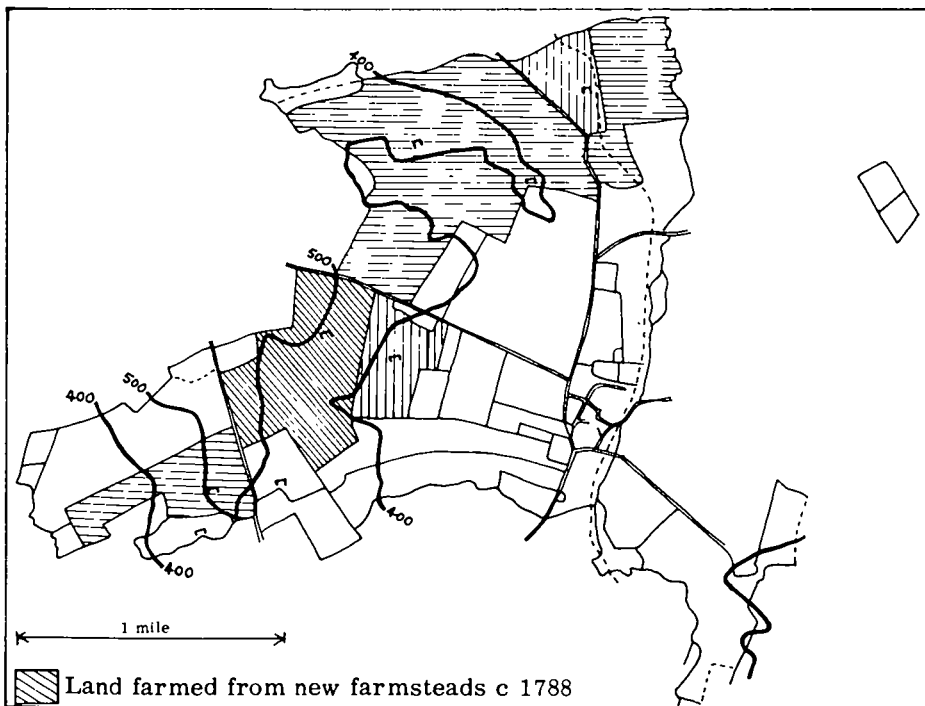
As the rector and vicar had land allotted to them in lieu of tithes all the farms have a reduced acreage allotted to them.¹⁰ The bishop's land was made into 4 farms and the vicar had an allotment of 34 acres on which no farm house was built.



By 1788 the farms in the parish were as follows:-

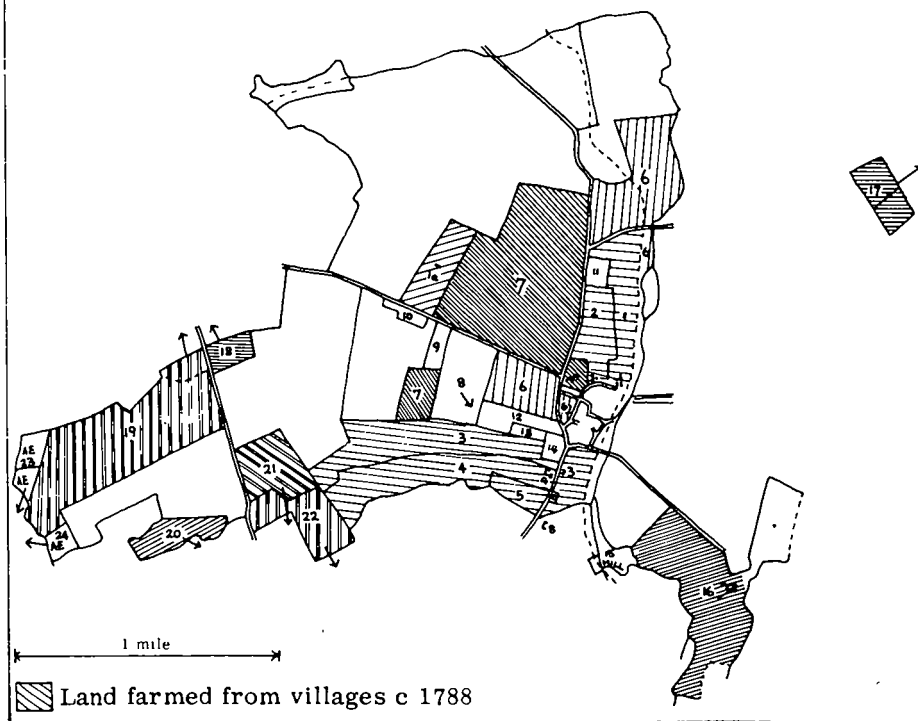
	<u>Pasture</u>	<u>Arable</u>
1 outlying farm of 428 acres + 1 cattleyard & 2 cottages	4 parts to	3 "
1 outlying farm of 148 acres	4 "	to 3 "
1 outlying farm of 88 acres	3 "	to 1 "
1 outlying yard with 18¼ acres	1 "	to 2 "
1 outlying yard with 31 acres	?	?
1 outlying yard + cott; 65 acres	4 "	to 2½ "
1 outlying yard + house: 48 acres	?	?
1 farm (Bishops), no house: III acres	?	?
1 vicar's farm, no house: 34 acres	5 "	to 2 "
1 village farm of 91 acres	18 "	to 1 "
1 " " of 41 acres	All pasture	
1 " " of 12 acres	All pasture	
1 " " of 37 acres	All pasture	
+ outlying hovel and 27 acres	All pasture	
1 village farm tied with outlying 17½ acres	All pasture	
1 village farm of 173½ acres	c4 parts to	1 arable
1 village farm of c84 acres	?	?

It appears at this early stage of looking at the farms that the village farms increased their livestock at the expense of corn. This tendency eventually gave rise to the building of cattle hovels on the larger



Key to land farmed from villages. c1788.

- | | |
|------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------|
| 1. Andrew's College farm. | 13. Brasenose Inn copyhold land. |
| 1a Freehold Andrew's. | 14. Let to tradesmen. |
| 2. Elkington's College Farm and Freehold. | 15. Miller's land. |
| 3. College Manor Farm. | 16. Loveday's Farm from Williams-cote hamlet in Cropredy. |
| 4. College Springfield Farm. | 17. Astmead from Chipping Warden. |
| 5. College Wilke's Farm. | 18. Goodes Ground from Mollington. |
| 6. Anker's Nob Farm. | 19. Holbech's (Bishop's) from Mollington. |
| 7. Poplar Farm. | 20. Buckett's from Great Bourton. |
| 8. Vicar's Glebe, Farmed from Bourton. | 21. Holloway's (Bishop's) from Great Bourton. |
| 9. Poor's Land. | 22. Wyatt's (Bishop's) from Great Bourton. |
| 10. 4 holdings in lieu of common rights. Later Brickfield. | 23, 24 Ancient Enclosures from Shotswell. |
| 11. 4 copyright holdings. | |
| 12. Small Constone farm. | |



farms but not on the smaller ones. If they needed extra accommodation they built near the homestall. Those on larger farms needed the cattle hovel near the (reduced) arable:-

e.g. The outlying farm Cropredy Lawn, built later hovels around the farmyard and also two more in the farther fields, which were divided from the farm by the railway line of 1846. At the cattleyard brought into the farm in 1788 a pair of cottages were built and a long brick hovel.

Going back to how the farmers pay for their rented land before 1775, the evidence points to selling enough corn to pay their way. e.g. In 1688 Boothby's tenants were slow to pay and the landlord thought they had no excuse as "corne is all ways ready money", not like others who live upon grazing and cannot sell their stock for what they bought them in .."¹¹ He arrived for his money after the Banbury Market at which some of his tenants sold corn. Others went to Daventry and Warwick.¹²

The first of the old farms looked at in detail was one of a yardland leased from the college.¹³ The farm consisted of a farmhouse of 4 bays, a barn of 4 bays, a stable and cowshed of 2 bays, all in one long stone building with a thatched roof.³ The grass yard was exposed to the north, east and south sides. Over the road was a Coppis. The land was divided into 16 acres of arable, and 9 acres of Greensward, in the north and south fields, the arable being made up of 20 "lands", 10 butts and an acre. The pasture land besides the greensward consisted of 16 sheep commons in summer, and 32 in winter with 3 cow commons,¹⁴ though by 1757 the sheep commons are described "as of little value".

This farm in May 1631 had growing 4 lands of wheat, 12 lands of barley, 3 butts of oats and 6 butts of pease, leaving only 4 lands and 1 butt fallow (for some time the two fields had been sub-divided to give four fields). On this acreage he managed to feed 2 carthorses, 4 "bease", 1 heifer and 17 sheep, besides keeping a pig. Like many others his wife made cheese.¹⁵

After the enclosure this farm's tenant no longer grew corn. The farm was leased totally for pasture on the reduced acreage of 12 acres. He had no need of new hovels as the small field was near to the farmstead, and there was enough accommodation in the old building.¹³

Another farmer at the other end of the Cropredy farming ladder was the yeoman who farmed the college Manor Farm. In 1674 he had 4 yardlands. A valuation in 1757 (when it was still leased as 4 yardlands) gave the acreage as 149 acres, of which:-

- 60 arable were in the north field @ 8/- an acre,
- 44 arable were in the south field @ 4/- an acre,
- 14½ greensward in the north field @ 10/- an acre,
- 17 greensward in the south field @ 4/- an acre.¹⁶

There were also 10 acres of meadows and 2 closes near the home-

stall. They were entitled to 12 cow commons, which were supplemented by 21 lays and a hadlay in the Oxhill cow pasture to compensate for the burden of collecting rents and entertaining the college officials on their circuit of the estates.

Before enclosure this land was distributed on poor and good land, but afterwards the farm had only land in the poorer part of the south field. Though some was on the higher better drained area, the majority lay in the wet lands near the village. The acreage now stood at 94 of which only $11\frac{1}{2}$ were allowed to be ploughed. Looking back to May of 1627 this farm kept 6 horses, 10 cows, 2 bulls and two 3 year heifers. The corn in the field was worth £40. This would be on about 70 to 80 acres, but of course gives no real idea of the total quantity he could produce.¹⁷

The house was a large one of 8 bays. The barn also had 8 bays, the stables 4 and the cowhouse 3 bays.¹⁸ The farm was a mixed one up to 1775; after that it was all pasture except for the $11\frac{1}{2}$ acres. For a hundred years they managed with their previous buildings; but by 1890 a cattle hovel was built near the corn field rick-yard, the farmer requiring "a shelter for young cattle in winter as well as having a good manure heap close to the ploughing every year".¹⁹

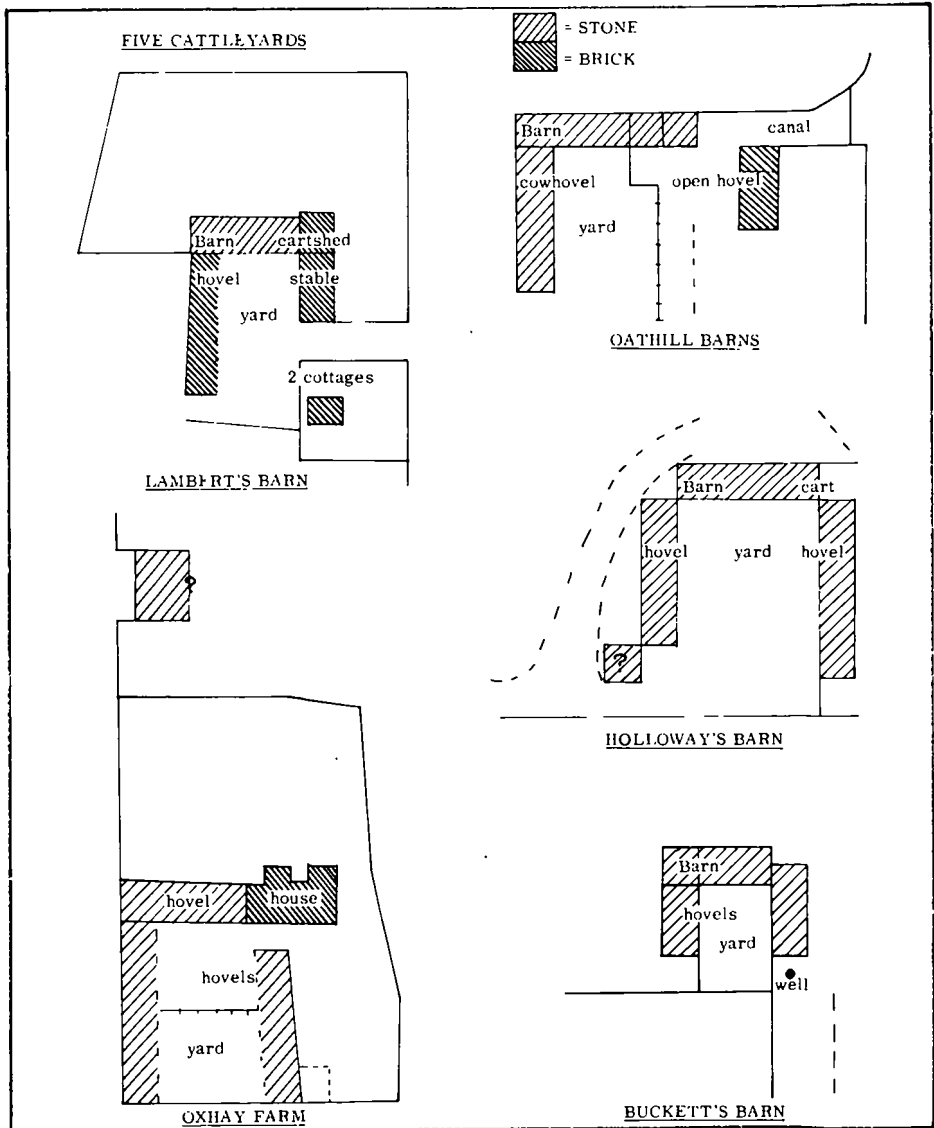
The third farm had $2\frac{1}{2}$ yardlands in 1695 and $5\frac{3}{4}$ on 1774. This was on the Boothby Manor Estate and the landlord stayed in new rooms here from time to time.²⁰ An inventory taken in April 1695 found the farm with £16 of grass valued in the meadows, £16 worth of wheat planted, and £43 of barley and pulse in the fields. The sheep were valued at £32. 12s., and there were also 8 cows, 3 calves, 2 pigs and some horses separately valued at £16. The farm paid the rent by selling corn, but kept up a mixed husbandry. The landlord 10 years earlier found him "a good honest tenant y^t is carefull".²²

After the enclosure the farm remained in the village until 1788 when the college purchased the farmland. They did not want the old farmstead, preferring to build a new modern farm and yard in the centre of the land a mile out of the village. At first they had enough buildings but later when more accommodation was required it was built near the premises. This farm remained a mixed farm.²³

The Enclosure Award of 1775 therefore stimulated a vast amount of building only on those farms whose land was away from the village; 5 cattleyards and three large farms. 3 of the cattleyards soon acquired dwellings and at least 5 stone hovels were built away from the village.

CATTLEYARDS

The 5 yards were all built of stone on the outside, but as the brickyards were opening for the building of the canal, bricks were being purchased by the masons and used to line the inside of the walls. This gave in most cases a wall of between 18 and 22 inches. Not every wall was so lined but certainly the largest of the new buildings were, for example at Oathill's barns, Lambert's barn and two of the farmyards' barns. At least two of the barns had tile roofs.² Oxhay cattleyard had a smaller building and the walls were not brick-lined.



The remaining two cattleyards, Buckett's and Holloways, were built originally of stone, with a later brick hovel at the Holloway yard. The evidence came from the foundations, local knowledge and maps, as these two no longer exist possibly because neither had a dwelling attached, and so never became a separate farm unit.

The yards were all built fairly central to the allotted land, with the arable adjacent, the rickyards being placed in most cases to the north. The largest building was built at the top of the yard on the north side, and in all but Oxhay was built as a barn with doors on the north and south sides. This was a new development as the village barns had doors on the east and west, thus creating a natural current of air to help with the winnowing. Only the Vicar's barn was built in the old way on his Bourton farm.

On the west side of the yard a cow hovel open to the yard helped to provide protection, with the barn, from the prevailing winds. Oxhay did not require a tall barn, because the land rises 100 feet to the north of the yard, and the site slopes giving the building at the top of the yard the height of a one and a half storey hovel.

On the east of the yard the farmers put either a barn or another hovel. Not all were attached to the north barn, but allowed an entrance into the yard. To the south of the square was generally a fence or wall with an exit gate for carts and cattle. Oxhay's yard wall was built of stone outside and brick inside.

Dating buildings is difficult without documentation, but the five north buildings belong to the first phase of 1775 to 1780, along with 4 other stone hovels. Then each farm and yard varied slightly but most of the stone-built east and west yard hovels come into the first phase, the brick ones being added in the second wave of building. In 1788 at least two of the new type of brick haybarn have been built as shown by the renaming of a field to "Barn Ground". When the Hill Farm was built in 1788/9 both kinds of building are built. The main stone barn had brick-lined walls, but the chaff house and carthorse stables are built in brick using similar designs and bonds to Cropredy Lawn.

As the war progressed and labour and materials rose in price, the later buildings were built of brick, in spite of the taxes on brick introduced in 1784 (2s. 6d. a 1000). The fact that Lambert's barn has small bricks of $8\frac{1}{2} \times 4 \times 2\frac{1}{2}$ ²⁴ (all varying around this but under $8\frac{3}{4} \times 4 \times 2\frac{3}{4}$) means it was most likely built prior to this tax as some of the later bricks are bigger. Several of the surrounding villages were building after enclosure and the demands on stone may have exceeded the supply. The new brick-yards opening for the canal, plus local enterprise in promoting brick, had resulted in brickbuilt dwellings along the canalside in the village. By 1821 one village farmer who had a share in a brickyard rebuilt his leased house and homestall at his own cost, and this at a time when his neighbours were seeing their bank balances vastly reduced. He built it in brick but reused the old stone on the inside giving the walls an added thickness. He

refaced the cattlehovels with brick on the outside.²⁵ No longer was brick an inside material for it had changed with stone as the fashionable building block.

Most early brick walls were of 1½ bricks thick but by the second half of the nineteenth century the hovel walls are only one brick thick, though the pillars supporting the roof timbers were 1½ bricks wide.

When the first yards were built there was little effort made to make them labour saving, except to bring the food via the barn and out to the yard, where the straw would be turned into valuable manure and removed out of the south gate to the arable fields. Some stoned yards did keep the mud down, but they were still difficult to keep clean.

As there were no feeding hatches at the rear of the hovels the food had either to be fetched from the loft above or between the animals from the yard. The lofts had gable-end doors, as at Job's Oxhay hovel. The later stone and brick hovel in No.16 field had a hatch made at the rear.

THE STONE HOVELS looked at were all built soon after 1775 except Field 16's hovel, though this may be a rebuild of an earlier hovel from Timm's adjacent meadow and shown on the 1842 estate map of Bourton Fields Farm. Of the stone hovels left by September 1981 only Job's Oxhay still stands.

Field 16's hovel faced south with a pen in front and a rickyard behind. A pond served the ground which remained pasture until 1975. The rear wall was stone, all of which appeared to have been recycled. The gable ends had old bricks at the base and newer bricks above and the roof timbers resembled the post-enclosure barn at Bourton Fields where in 1842 the owner came to live on the farm, making quite a few alterations.

Nearby the third big Cropredy farm, Thickthorn, built a stone hovel in the old mead, as this was not allowed to be ploughed up.²⁶ It stood 100 feet below the farmyard at the western end of the farm. The hovel faced south and had a northern enclosure and pond nearby. In 1898 the roof was repaired with "zinc" and possibly this was when they altered the gables by adding brick above the endplates. In 1938 the walls were out of repair and corrugated iron replaced some of the north wall, while a new wooden and iron loosebox was made.²⁷ No bricks lined any of the stone walls of these small buildings and they averaged 18" except at the footings. This mead hovel and No.16 were bulldozed down in September 1981.

The third stone hovel was built by a village farmer on the land purchased by him in 1788. This small freehold parcel of 27 acres had road and brook frontage. The new owner chose to build a good coursed stone hovel of two bays central to the plot with a farm track leading up from the road. The hay once entered the loft by an eastern door from the rickyard and was kept aired by vents at the west end. The roof is now of slate and once had gutters, which would have helped to prevent excessive dripping onto the valuable manures being built up in the pen below.

This hovel, later called after an owner and his field, remains as

Job's Oxhay today. Inside are a fine set of mangers which can accommodate eight cows. Here some of Job's dairy cattle were milked away from the homestall; and where over the years farmhands have rented the fields to run a small milk business, until new dairy stipulations demanded concrete floors and milking parlours separate from the winter quarters. Up to the 1930's milk was taken the half mile down to the village in pails on a yoke, though towards the end this was replaced by two churns in a pram.²⁸ Since then it has remained as a cattle or sheep shelter until 1981 when the pen walls were removed and the two fields made into one large arable field.

The fourth hovel stood in an outlying piece of Cropredy called The Ast Mead. This went to a Chipping Warden farmer who built a stone building. The 20 acre parcel is now part of a huge open arable area and only a few stones mark the spot on the ground.

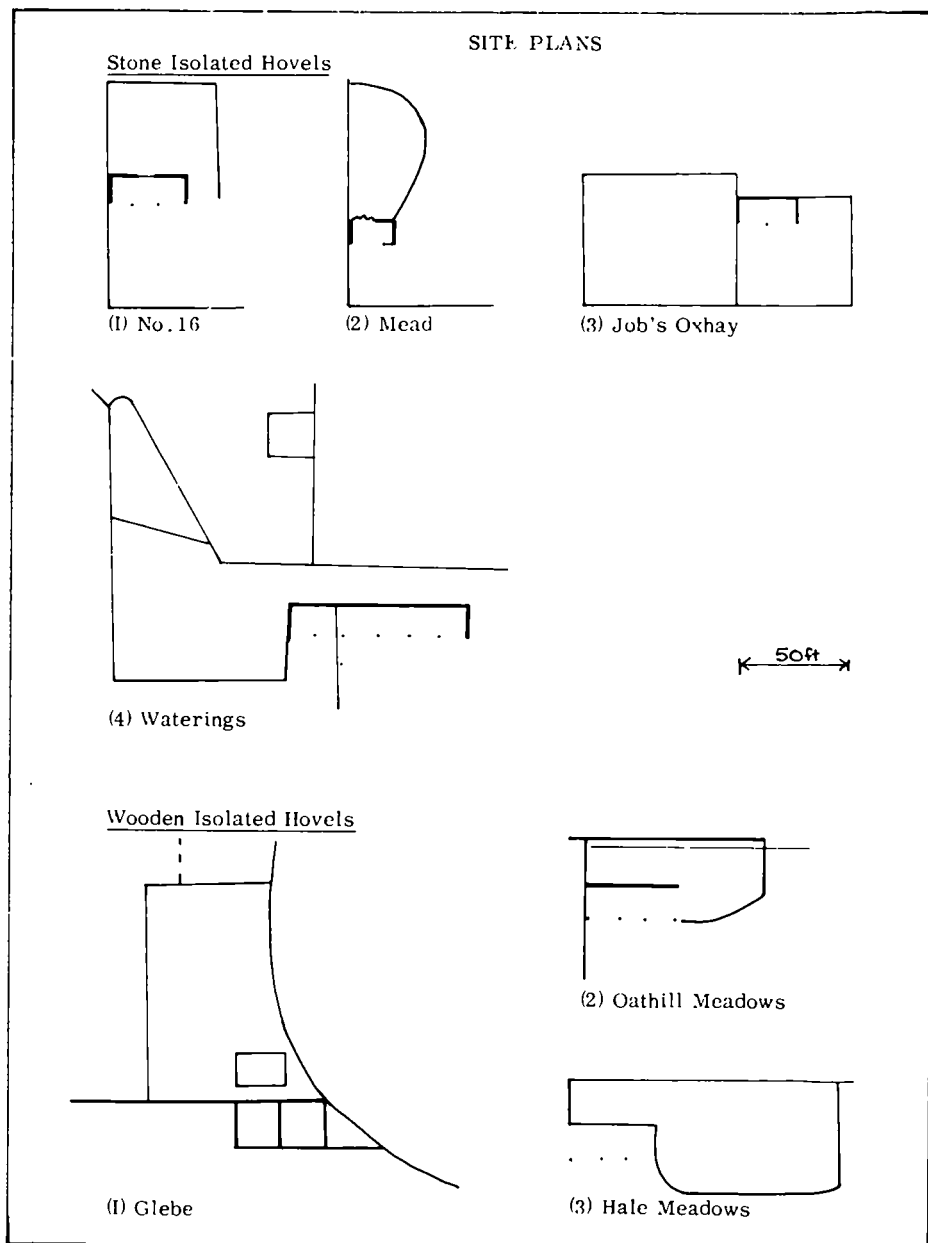
The last early hovel was the largest and an air photograph of 1948 shows a stone open building of at least six bays. This faced south with a rickyard to the west and an old watering area to the south. This was mentioned in 1704 as the "Water Furrow" in a terrier and ever since as the "Waterings". A cart track passes along the top of the old furrows which reach down to the brook. The land was sold in 1788 and it seems likely that the landlord had already built the shelter, but there is as yet no evidence. After 1788 the farm had the arable near this hovel and the dairy ground also led off. In the late 1960's the farm ceased dairy and beef production and the buildings began to fall into disrepair. At the north end of this rickyard was a later small brick hovel used up to the 1970's.

The cattleyard buildings left in 1981 are (1) Oxhay Farmyard, which was modernised in 1910. By that time the west hovel had already gone but the east hovel was repaired and extended forward, while the north building was closed in to make loose boxes. (2) The only other yard left is at Lambert's Barn. This became for a short period a separate farm, but a few years ago rejoined Cropredy Lawn and is now used as stables and store. In the 1970's a house was made up of the two cottages.

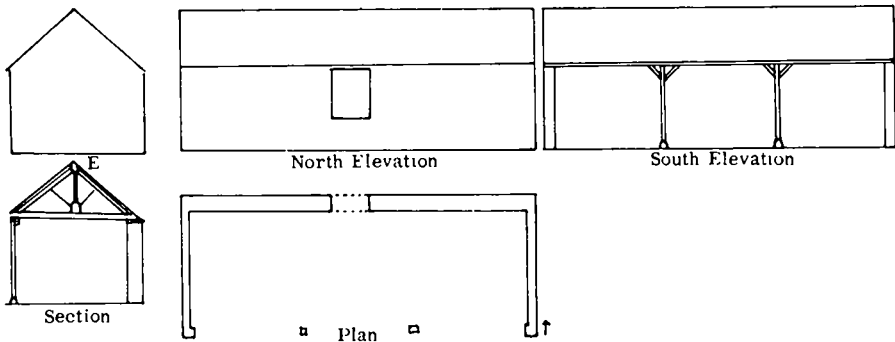
The other three yards are no longer used to house animals. Oat-hill was sold in the 1970's separately from the land and house; but the present owner intends to repair the buildings for a smallholding. The other two yards possibly failed to survive because they had no dwelling attached. Buckett's Barn was sold to a neighbouring farm in 1796 and although Buckett's continued to farm it, the yard remained in the hands of the tenant of nearby Bourton Fields Farm. No-one can remember them being in use and the last of the foundations went to fill up the deep well in 1975.

Holloway's yard lasted through the last war when the surrounding fields were used to grow potatoes. Some of the land was taken up by the "dummy ally" which was a building made to look like the Alcan Factory in Banbury. (This helped to fool the enemy aircraft.) Now the land has been sold and the walling materials were used as hardcore for the new drive. Only a slight rise in the land shows where it stood.

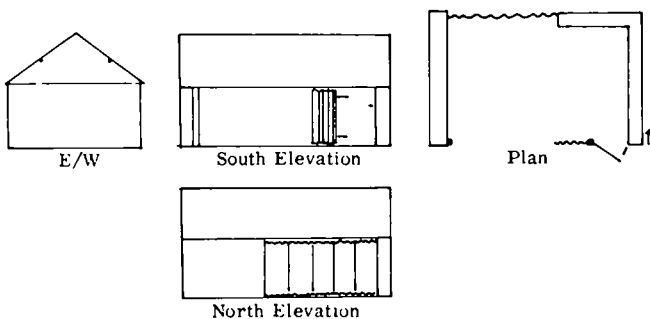
The following plans show the stone, wooden and brick hovels. Measurements were made on the ground for all but the waterings and glebe hovels. The hovels which had already disappeared with no ground or documentary evidence other than a map are lost forever, but their sites are indicated on the map of the parish.



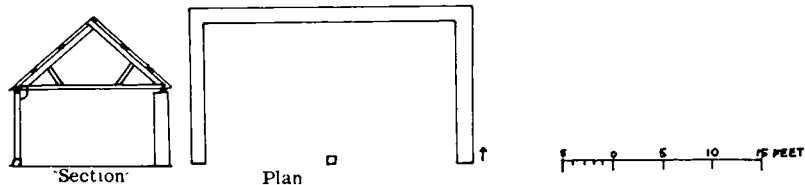
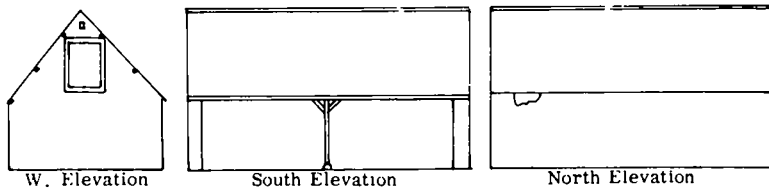
ELEVATIONS OF STONE HOVELS



No. 16 Hovel



Mead Hovel



Job's Oxhay Hovel

HOVEL DETAILS

STONE HOVELS

No.16. post 1892

18" stone walls, brick gables. Thatch then slate. 3 bays with 2 oak posts on stones. No loft door. Hatch added later. Good repair 1980. Pulled down Sept. 1981.

Mead c1775

18" stone walls, $\frac{1}{2}$ brick gables. Thatch then iron roof. 2 bays, no posts. Loosebox of wood and iron. No hatch. Good 1980, pulled down 1981.

Job's Oxhay. c 1775-1788

18" stone walls. Thatch then slate roof. 2 bays with 1 oak post and stone. East loft door, west vents. New loft floor. Original (?) mangers of wood. Candle recess. **Still standing** 1981 but in arable field.

Ast Mead. c1775

Stone. Pulled down post war. Arable field.

Waterings. c1775-1788

Stone and thatch. 6 bays. Still standing on 1948 photograph. Foundations only by 1971.

WOODEN HOVELS

Glebe. Pre 1882

Stood in a rickyard. Repaired or rebuilt by Alfred Smith. (Tenant from 1899 to 1928.) In 1922 sold to Brasenose College. Nothing further built. Remains still visible pre-war.

Oathill Meadows. Between 1882-1900

Wooden rear wall, 8 posts (4 near wall). Corrugated hip roof. **In use as cattle shelter**. No yard. Subsiding to rear.

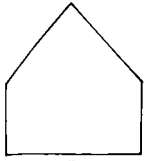
Hale Meadow. Pre 1882

Similar to Oathill meadow hovel with wooden rear wall and iron roof. Fell down in 1970's. Cattle use Oathill shelter.

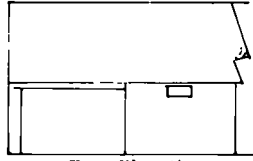
Limekiln Field. c1900

Wood and iron. Fell down mid 1970's. Field now arable.

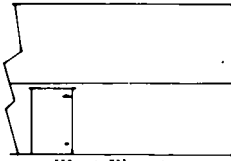
ELEVATIONS OF BRICK HOVELS



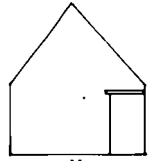
S.



East Elevation

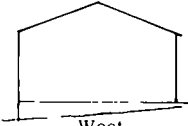


West Elevation

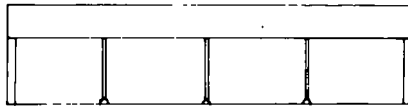


N.

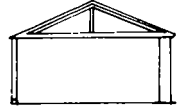
CHAMBERLIN'S HOVEL



West

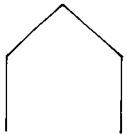


South Elevation

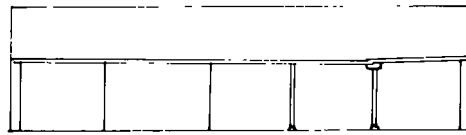


Section

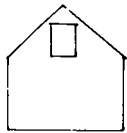
ASHTREE GROUND HOVEL



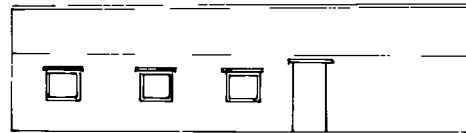
W.



South Elevation



E.



North Elevation

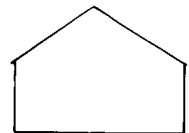
DEEP FURROW HOVEL



West

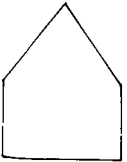


South Elevation

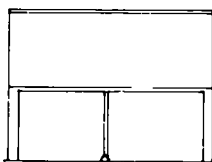


East

HARBLE HOVEL



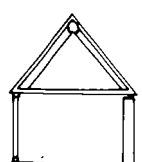
E/W



South Elevation



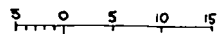
North Elevation



Section

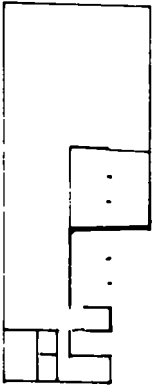
ANKERS HOVEL

Cropeydy Brick Hovels.

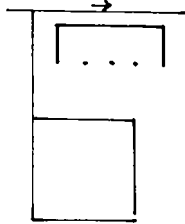


SITE PLANS

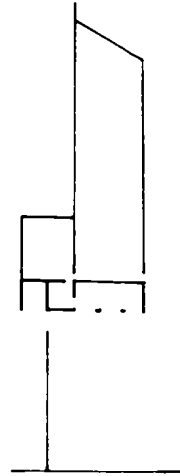
Isolated Brick Hovels



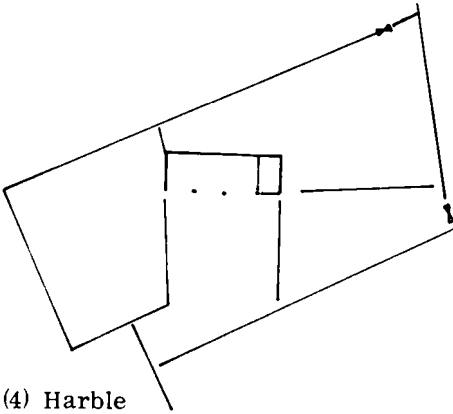
(1) Chamberlin's



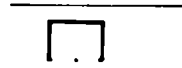
(2) Ashtree



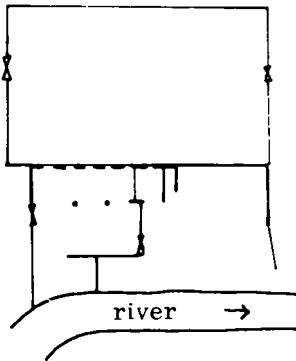
(3) Deep Furrow



(4) Harble



(5) Anker's



(6) New Close

50ft. →

BRICK HOVELS

CHAMBERLIN'S

Built 1826 this is being demolished in 1981.

The gables $1\frac{1}{2}$ brick thick, rest 9" walls. The roof was tiled. The tiles had one nip. 8 bays of which one was a loosebox. The bond was English Garden (E.G.). This faced east and was used as a sheep pen. Original plans exist.³⁰

ASHTREE

Built between 1846 and 1881. Not now in use but still standing in arable field. Pasture in 1960's.

The walls are 9" thick. The roof now corrugated iron. There are 4 bays, no loosebox or mangers in 1970's. E.G. Bond. 3 oak posts on stone supports.

DEEP FURROW

Built between 1846 and 1881. Being demolished in 1981.

Beautifully constructed with rounded corners and good blacksmith work to fittings. It had 9" walls and a tiled roof. They had one nip. There were 5 bays, the three east ones had hatches to the north supplying the brick and wooden mangers. The fourth bay was a loosebox with north door and entrance to 3 bays. The fifth was one bay open to the south and fenced off from the rest. The hovel served two fields.

CROPREDY FIELDS

Built pre 1881 and in use in 1929. Had a good water supply. In 1981 covered by scrub. There were two buildings and it could serve four fields.

HARBLE

Built 1890 by Smith's for College farm. Plans exist.³¹ It was built of recycled bricks with 9" walls and iron roof. It had 4 bays with the east one fitted as a loosebox with manger. It had 3 oak posts on stones. The west gable had a door to a loft. Built to shelter young cattle in winter and provide manure for arable field adjacent. Pulled down 1980. No longer required.

ANKER'S

Built between 1881 and 1900 for a dairy ground. Used as a shelter for milking cows up to last war. Now being recycled by a building firm.

The walls were 9" and the roof was tiled. The tiles had two nips. It was of two bays with an oak post on a stone base. The bond was Flemish Garden Bond. As the bricks were smaller than $9 \times 4\frac{1}{2} \times 3$ they may have already been recycled. (Average size $8\frac{1}{2} \times 4\frac{3}{4} \times 2\frac{1}{2}$.)

NEWCLOSE

Built between 1772 and 1843.³² It has recently been repaired with breeze block and a new corrugated roof put on. There are 5 bays with the end one being partitioned off as a loosebox. This has doors to field, yard and rickyard at the rear. The other bays have hatches to the rickyard behind the mangers. The yard is concreted and has a watering to the river.

There are three fields served by this yard. In 1981 it is used for beef cattle.

The oldest wall was built in English bond, the rest in English Garden Bond.

The conclusions so far drawn from available evidence support the theory that all the buildings outside the village of Cropredy are post-enclosure.

The absentee landlords and the small local freeholder developed their sites according to their circumstances and so produced a variety of individual buildings. The masons however used natural materials and traditions to succeed in creating an overall very parochial style of building. This comes across very strongly once several sites have been looked at. These buildings are now two hundred years old and out of step with modern requirements. A few have been adapted expensively but the majority await the redevelopment of the farmyard with prefabricated buildings, common to the whole of the British Isles.

Sadly the 1980's look like being the last decade in this North Oxfordshire area, when post-enclosure agriculture can be studied on the ground.

A. P. K.

References

1. Letter from Mr. F. Anker 17 September, 1981:-
... "quite recently both Midland Marts and Cherry have been in touch with me as Cherrys have a repair job in the village requiring bricks and tile similar to those used in the hovel..."
2. Brasenose College (B.N.C.) 29a Plan and Survey of Lordship of Cropredy, surveyed by Geo Salmon 1774.
B.N.C. 37, surveyed by T. Weston.
Enclosure Award of 1775, surveyed in 1774 by Geo. Salmon.
3. B.N.C. Terriers. Mun, Cropredy 523, 552, 554, 558.
4. B.N.C. Mun. Cropredy, Valuation Book I.
5. Bodl. MS Wills Peculiar, Cropredy. Transcripts in Bodleian and Oxford Record Office.
6. 1669-1674 MS dd par Cropredy c25, 1694-1784 in c26 and c27.
7. Cardiff, West Glamorgan Record Office: D/D F bo 100, p.30.
8. O.R.O.S and F colln, Box 47 Bundle e. Sale to E. Elkington. and J. Eagles and others.
9. B.N.C. Hurst No.282, Particulars of sale 1788.
10. 1775 Enclosure Award for Cropredy.
11. Cardiff Record Office, D/D F bo 100 (3), page 120.
12. MS dd par Cropredy c25/2, 1587-1619, Vicar's Accounts.
13. "Wilkes" farm, Station Rd. Cropredy His. Soc House File, using B.N.C. documents.

14. B.N.C. Mun, Cropredy 552⁽⁹⁾, 554, 523.
15. Bodl. Wills Peculiar, Cropredy 36/4/15 and III/631 Trans.
16. 1757 Valuation, Val.Bk and Hurst 250. B.C.
17. Bodl Wills Peculiar, Cropredy 54/4/46 and trans. 100/628.
18. B.N.C. Mun, Cropredy 552.
19. B.N.C. Mun, Cropredy 209 and Bursar's Letters B362, p.30.
20. Cardiff Record Office, D/D. F bo 100 p36, May 1683.
21. Bodl Wills 53/2/26 and trans 163/696.
22. Cardiff Record Office, D/D F bo 100 (2) p222.
23. Crop. His. Soc. Hill Farm File using B.N.C. Documents.
24. Act of Parl. 1776, brick sizes fixed at $8\frac{1}{2} \times 4 \times 2\frac{1}{2}$.
25. Andrews Farm, B.N.C. Valuation Book 3, page 84.
26. O.R.O. S and F. Box 45, Bundle K.
27. B.N.C. Mun, Cropredy, Bursar's letters, B369 p158, and 1125.
28. Local knowledge.
29. Datestone on north wall of eastern building. 1910.
30. Oxford Record Office: 32 Stilgoe.
31. B.N.C. 209.
32. Cropredy Tithe Map 1843.

THE 'FRIENDS OF NORTH NEWINGTON'; A NEW PYNSON BROADSIDE

(The Bodleian Library Record, Vol. V, No. 5, May 1956).

In the year 1400 Pope Boniface IX issued a mandate to the Bishop of Lincoln, in whose diocese it lay, to erect the chapel of St. John the Baptist at 'Nawenton' (North Newington) into a parish church. The reason given for so ordering was that in time of winter floods the local people there found great danger and difficulty in getting to their then parish church at 'Browton' (Broughton, near Banbury). Broughton, the mandate stated, could afford to forgo this part of its parochial income, and the inhabitants of North Newington were ready to contribute towards supporting a parish priest and a clerk.¹

From the beginning, the erection and maintenance of the new parish was recognized as a big undertaking for this small village;² besides, the transformation of the chapel into a parish church called for some degree of rebuilding or enlargement. Accordingly, about the same time and certainly before 1404, when he died, Pope Boniface issued in favour of the chapel a bull granting pardons to those who should 'devoutly visyte every yere the sayd chapel in the feest of the Nativyte of the forsayd saynt John Baptist', and should put 'theyr helping handes to the costruccio and maynteyning of the same'. He followed this later with a second bull greatly enlarging and extending these privileges.

One hundred and twenty years later we find the parishioners of North Newington still actively organized for the support of their church. They had formed a fraternity – today it would be called the Friends of North Newington – presided over by two wardens or governors; by enrolling in this, pious people could enjoy those special privileges already granted and also share in all the masses and prayers offered, and to be offered, at the shrine which their alms were helping to support. In 1521 the two wardens, John and Ralph, caused a Latin document to be printed recapitulating the terms of the papal grants and ending with a form of admission to the confraternity, with a blank space for the insertion by pen of the name of the confrater to whom it should be issued.

The printer, whom the type indicates was Richard Pynson, the King's Printer, followed what was a common practice at the time for small documents of which large quantities were required to be printed. He set up the whole document twice over within the confines of a single folio page;³ by a second pull of the press the double setting could thus be printed twice, giving four copies of the document on a single folio sheet. The sheets could then be cut up when copies of the letter of confraternity were needed to give to persons newly enrolled as 'Friends'.⁴ Efforts to make the needs of the chapel and the favours granted to its benefactors more widely known did not stop at the cheap multiplication through the printing press of these forms of admission to the confraternity. By means of another printed document, a complete copy of which has just been bought and presented to the Library

by the Friends of the Bodleian,⁵ we know that those in charge of the chapel also obtained from King Henry VIII letters patent requiring the ecclesiastical and civil authorities to assist their proctor and his deputies, who were employed to go round the kingdom gathering alms and enrolling confraters.

Whereas the letters of confraternity, being for personal issue to benefactors, were printed in Latin in one of Pynson's smallest types, the new document⁶ is spaciouly printed in English and occupies the whole of a folio page. Though without imprint or date, it proclaims itself by its types and woodcuts to be also of Pynson's printing. The letters of confraternity bear the date 1521, and lacking other evidence⁷ it is reasonable to suggest that the English document was printed about the same time to help launch the same appeal. Its use would perhaps be twofold; the proctor and his deputies (as the document itself styles them) as they rode about England and Wales could show it to the functionaries of the bishops, deans, sheriffs, and mayors through whose territories they were passing, as a witness of their right to be collecting alms, for the two final paragraphs of the broadside summarize the terms of the king's letters patent of recommendation and protection. And where they halted, the broadside could be used both as a flysheet and for billposting in public places.

Its appearance certainly suggests that this use of it was intended, for it has been designed to attract the eye. In its layout it has considerable affinities to a proclamation. Across the top Pynson has set three woodcuts which proclaim the patrons under whose aegis the document came forth; on the left stand the arms of the pope then reigning, Leo X,⁸ and on the right the royal arms of England between two angel supporters. In between is a woodcut of St. John the Baptist, to whose honour the North Newington chapel was dedicated, and on a separate line at the foot of the document is the formula 'God save the kyng', which is often found in this position in proclamations. The woodcut of St. John, closely copied from one belonging to a set used by Wynkyn de Worde for his various editions of the Golden Legend,⁹ is otherwise known to us only from the lower of the two settings of the North Newington letter of confraternity. In that document, as we have already noticed, Pynson was printing two settings simultaneously and as he wished to ornament his text with a woodcut of the patron saint of the church, he needed two cuts. We find, therefore, that he uses another copy of the block, but cut in reverse. Assuming that Pynson's first replica of de Worde's cut would present the subject the same way round as in the original, which is suggested by the fidelity with which his cutter has copied all the details, then it is the cut used for the lower setting of the letter of confraternity and also for the new broadside, that is the first of the two which he had made. From this, in turn, another copy was prepared when the need for it arose, but this time the cutter did not follow the details of his original so closely, nor bother to transfer his design to the block in reverse so that it should print the same way round. It would be natural to

suppose that this 'copy-of-a-copy', not otherwise recorded, was cut in 1521 when the letter of confraternity was put to press. Against this inference is the fact that both the upper and the lower blocks used in 1521, and the lower block as used in the new broadside, show considerable damage to their borderlines. That we are unable to produce any book or document showing an earlier, undamaged state of these blocks should remind us that a high proportion of the output of early printing-presses has undoubtedly disappeared entirely. If only seven copies in all of both settings of the 1521 letter of confraternity have survived out of the several hundreds which must have been printed, it is not unlikely that there was one, or even more, earlier printings which have totally perished. This would explain how, when in 1521 the Friends of North Newington commissioned from Pynson the broadside notice and a new supply of these letters, neither of the blocks he used was any longer in the undamaged state it would be in when first it left the cutter's hand.

D. M. Rogers

Notes

1. The mandate is summarized in the Calendar of Papal Registers (Letters), Vol. V, p.282. Between North Newington and Broughton flows a stream which appears, though unnamed even in the 25-inch Ordnance map, to be the upper reaches of the Sor Brook, a tributary of the River Cherwell. The same map marks a disused bed for this brook which shows the typical meanders of a stream flowing through almost level fields, and hence liable to flooding. But not even the site of the vanished chapel of St. John is to be found on this map.
2. Kelly's Directory gives the population as 281 in 1931.
3. Numerous examples of this practice are recorded. Cf. the Catalogue of the Fifteenth-Century printed books in the University Library, Cambridge, no.4227 (and accompanying plate) which describes no less than twelve settings of a Portuguese indulgence printed on a single sheet. For an English example contemporary with the North Newington ones, cf. Siberch's Stamford letter of confraternity (B. L. R. iv. 144), printed twice on one sheet from a single setting.
4. The Bodleian has three copies (Arch.A.b.8 (I*); MS.Rawl.A 269 (50, 51) of each of the two settings, all preserved in their complete half-sheets, i. e., with the two settings one above the other on the same page. The Short-Title Catalogue does not record any others (no.1866I^a), but a single copy of the lower setting was offered in 1950 by the Oxford bookseller A. Rosenthal (catalogue 20 item 254), and has gone to Harvard. I am indebted to the Librarian for confirming which setting it is.
5. Our copy, preserved, as most of these documents have been, by being used to line the covers of a book, has a few small defects. Another,

fragmentary, copy from the same book-cover has since been acquired by the British Museum.

6. It is not entered in the Short-Title Catalogue, but this identical copy, bought for us as lot 341 in the André de Coppet sale at Sotheby's on 9 May 1955, was recorded by E. Hodnett in his *English Woodcuts* (no. 1446) as offered in 1930 by Bernard Quaritch (catalogue 436, item 254).
7. I have not managed to find the king's letters patent in Brewer's *Letters and Papers, Henry VIII*. But the handsome and appropriate woodcut initial used in the new broadside, an O with the figure of St. John the Baptist in the centre, is to be found, with similar damage to the top border line, in Pynson's *Hore beatissime Virginis Marie ad legitimum Sarisburiensis ecclie ritum*, dated 18 Jan. 1522 (STC.15933). This points to a nearby date.
8. The broadside cannot therefore be later than 1521, since Leo X died on 1 Dec. of that year.
9. The original cut of St. John is Hodnett's no. 709, illustrated as his fig. 39; the series occupies his nos. 678-733 and was largely used for the editions of 1507, 1512, 1521, and 1527. Some (it is not clear how many) of the cuts used in the 1507 *Golden Legend* (not in STC; copy at Lambeth) belonged to Pynson, who published this edition jointly with de Worde. The St. John cut was evidently not his, for de Worde continued to use it in books up to 1522. Then for the *Golden Legend* of 1527 (STC.24880) de Worde himself used a fresh copy (Hodnett no. 710) made from his own original which by this time has presumably either worn out or been lost. Pynson's two cuts are Hodnett's nos. 1446-7.

AN HISTORIC CUP

In the Oxford Mail's Anthony Wood Diary for January 28, 1982, Don Chapman wrote an article under the heading "Found - doomed soldier's last gift." It described, and illustrated with a photograph, a small double-handled wine or brandy cup of Portuguese silver, identified by its marks as of Oporto manufacture around 1600.

The cup is inscribed "John Hampden to John Fiennes 1643." On the opposite side are the letters CCH; by their appearance these letters seem to be of a considerably later date, the H being crudely superimposed.

John Hampden was of course the famous parliamentary leader from Great Hampden in Buckinghamshire, whose name is for ever written into English history for his resistance to the payment of ship-money to King Charles I. He was mortally wounded at Chalgrove near Thame in June 1643, aged 47.

John Fiennes was the third surviving son of William Fiennes of Broughton Castle. He had fought at Edgehill as a captain of horse in 1642. With his brother Nathaniel he was in garrison at Bristol from February to July 1643, and was commissioned as colonel sometime that summer. He commanded the siege of Banbury in 1644. He was about 29 years old in 1643 and probably remained a bachelor till 1647.

It is difficult to see the occasion for the gift. The two men cannot, if the records are accurate and John was at Bristol from February, have met except in January; and then the dating would surely have been 1642, in the old style. There does not appear to have been any domestic event - marriage, coming of age - to justify the gift. John Hampden's will has been examined, but there is no mention of John Fiennes nor of a silver cup. However, the two men must have known each other well. The families were closely connected in politics and in overseas colonisation; Hampden's daughter Elizabeth had married Richard Knightley of Fawsley in Northamptonshire, a close associate and relative of the Broughton family.

There is the possibility that this was another John Fiennes, perhaps a baby who subsequently died, to whom John Hampden may have been godfather and given a christening present. In timing James Fiennes, William's eldest son, could have had a child in 1643; but no evidence for such a baby is known.

Another intriguing question is the history of this cup over the last 300 years. John died in 1696. His eventual heirs, through his daughter Susanna Filmer, were the family of Fiennes Trotman, who had connections with Sanderson Miller. His daughter Hannah in 1689 married John Knight, rector of Broughton from 1692 to 1704 and the builder of the present "Old Rectory". The cup could have been inherited by the descendants of either daughter.

There is a possible clue to the first stages of the cup's journeyings in the will of Cecil Langley, dated 18 July 1713, with 1715 codicils, proved 3 August 1715. Cecil Langley was a grand-daughter of James Fiennes, second

Viscount Saye and Sele, by his daughter Frances, and in 1713 was co-owner of the Broughton estates with her first cousin Cecil Mignon (previously Twisleton), also a grand-daughter of James Fiennes by his daughter Elizabeth. She had married in 1678 as her second husband William, the fourth of five sons of John Fiennes, and the only one to marry; they had no children, or at least no surviving children.

John Fiennes in his old age lived at New House, Stretton Grandison, Herefordshire. His niece Celia Fiennes visited him there on her ride round England and described the house, which still survives. Of his five sons, Thomas, the second, had died in 1683; Henry, the third, was evidently already dead; John, the eldest, died in 1700 or 1701, and William within a few months of him; the fifth, Lawrence, succeeded as fifth Viscount Saye and Sele in 1710. So it happened that William's widow Cecil was living at Stretton Grandison when she made her will in 1713, the only survivor of the generation of John's children except Lawrence.

In that will she left "to Mrs Susanna Filmer daughter of Susanna Filmer widow the silver cup which was always designed her by her uncle Fiennes" [i.e., by Cecil's husband William, John's fourth son.] Was that the Hampden cup? Susanna Filmer was grand-daughter of John Fiennes and married Robert Eddowes.

She also left "to my god-daughter Mrs Hannah Knight a cup"; presumably Hannah was the daughter of the previous rector of Broughton and his wife Hannah, John's other daughter.

If anyone can throw light on the occasion of the gift, or on the cup's whereabouts over the last 300 years, we would be much interested to hear.

David Fiennes

References

1. For John Hampden and John Fiennes, DNB and general civil war sources.
2. Will of Cecil Langley. PRO, PCC Fagg 162 (old indexing).
3. Administrations of John Fiennes Esq (Feb 1700/01) and William Fiennes Esq (March 1700/01) of New House, Hereford, in PCC Wills and Administrations (copy among family papers in Gen. Soc. Library).
4. The will of John Hampden is printed in "Wills from Doctors' Commons", Campden Soc. 1863.

SIR WILLIAM BISHOPSTON (d 1447)

There are still many people in Britain who remember their fathers and grandfathers, their uncles and great-uncles, filling the fireside evenings with stories of battle on the north-west frontier of India. In fact, there is quite a vogue for books on the great days of the raj.

Similar must have been the tales by the firesides of 15th century England, the previous period of fighting English imperialism. It must then have seemed as far from Banbury to Chateau Gaillard on the Seine as our grandfathers found it in the 19th century to the cantonments of Peshawar. And the name of Chateau Gaillard was surely then on local lips in Banburyshire because it was that great fortress which Sir William Bishopston lost to the French in 1429 when he should not have done so, or so they said. They said he had lost it "par negligence, inadvertance, ou foible resistance". Chateau Gaillard was not a fortress to lose by inadvertence. Anyway, he was strictly detained in prison at Rouen for the space of thirty two weeks by his fellow-countrymen, in great poverty and misery of body, so that he was much debilitated. It was just as well, he must have thought, that his wife's soul was in a happier place, her body being these fifteen years under the ground in the south aisle of Broughton Church, protected from profane feet by a handsome brass, as it still is.

Sir William's immediate troubles came to an end on 12 December 1431; when King Henry VI personally ordered his release, in response to the prisoner's petition, in view of the ransom he had paid to the French to exchange imprisonment at the lost Chateau Gaillard for imprisonment by the English at Rouen, his son's continuing imprisonment by the French, his long incarceration, the pain and damage suffered by his body, and the expense he had been put to because neither he nor his garrison had been paid for the months of October, November and December 1429. Henry VI was notoriously soft hearted; he could seldom resist a petition; that characteristic proved to be one tragedy of his reign. But 12 December 1431 was a special occasion; the King of England was actually in Paris; it was just four days before his coronation in Notre Dame as King of France; it was six days after his tenth birthday. It is also of some interest that Sir William had been newly imprisoned in Rouen when on May 30 Joan of Arc was burnt there to the mighty shouts of the populace, which Sir William's ears were not yet too debilitated to hear nor, if the grills of his cell were in that direction, his eyes to see. The hard eyes of the King's advisers may have been somewhat softened by the retaking of Chateau Gaillard before the King ventured to Paris.

But to a 20th century view Sir William was hardly done by.

Chateau Gaillard was (as its ruins still are) on a bend of the Seine up-stream from Rouen, near les Andelys. It was built in 1197-98 by King Richard I as a primary defence of the Duchy of Normandy, and as a signal to the French King, who was becoming aggressive, that at this point his

aggression would stop. It has been described as being then the greatest fortress in the west of Europe; Richard was constantly there through 1198, and used in its building all his experience gained in the crusades. Gaillard was no mean chateau.

However, the castle could not stand against the French tide which engulfed Normandy in the reign of John. Chateau Gaillard was invested in September 1203 and surrendered six months later in March 1204. It has been estimated that the garrison consisted of some 300 men, including 40 Knights.

In 1415 King Henry V made a massive incursion into France, defeating the French army at Agincourt. He returned to England, and in 1417 started the systematic conquest of northern France. On 8 December 1419 Chateau Gaillard fell to the English forces. Lord Roos was appointed captain of the castle but, as was then usual, he merely took the revenues and appointed a deputy to do the work. Certainly from 1424 Sir William Bishopston was in residential charge. He had a garrison of six mounted men at arms including himself, five on foot, twelve mounted and twenty one foot archers, a total garrison of forty four. When a field army was needed in France, the generals bled the garrisons; that probably explains why in 1425 the garrison was reduced to three mounted and two unmounted men at arms, including Bishopston, and fifteen archers, a total of twenty men. The garrison remained the same in 1429 when the French took the castle. Twenty men, including the Commander, where three hundred had not sufficed to repel Philip Augustus in 1204! Twenty men to defend the castle which Richard I had built to be the greatest fortress in western Europe!

That one might think was enough excuse for William's failure in defence. But it was not all. Two sentries had absented themselves, one Norman and one English, and failed to warn of the enemy's approach. Perhaps they were just drunk and left the gate open; perhaps William awoke from a snooze to find a French pike at his throat.

Sir William Bishopston, before that disastrous day in 1429, had a likely career. He was heir of a family of landowners long established at Ettington and at other manors near Stratford-upon-Avon and in Gloucestershire. He was sheriff of Warwick and Leicester in 1417/18, the same year that his dead wife's brother-in-law, Sir Thomas Wykeham of Broughton, was sheriff of Oxford and Bucks. He was on a commission of oyer and terminer in 1418, and in 1419 was one of those (as was Sir Thomas Wykeham) entrusted to organise defence as commissioner of array against a threat of Spanish invasion. One can only guess the reason for the death of his wife in 1414, evidently while she was staying with her sister at Broughton.

It is not known when Sir William began his military activities in France. His name does not appear on the surviving Agincourt rolls.

His wife Philippa was daughter of William Wilcotes of North Leigh, Oxfordshire, and of his wife Elizabeth Trillow; she was sister of Elizabeth

Wykeham of Broughton. No record of his son has been found except for the mention in the Norman rolls that he was taken prisoner at Chateau Gaillard; certainly he died before his father who left his two daughters or their offspring as his coheirs. The elder daughter Philippa married Sir William Catesby of Ashby St Ledgers where her monumental inscription described her as one of two co-heirs of Sir William Bishopston and his wife Philippa, and one of four coheirs of William Wilcotes and his wife Elizabeth, daughter and heir of Sir John Trillow. She died in 1446 before her father. Sir William made a settlement of his manors in 1439 and died in 1447; so far as is known he had thirty three years of lonely widowerhood with no activity recorded after his release in 1431. He had a long old age in which to remember that fateful lapse at Chateau Gaillard in 1429.

David Fiennes

References:-

- Actes de la Chancellerie d'Henri VI concernant la Normandie sous la Domination Anglaise 1422-1435. Société de l'Histoire de Normandie 1907/08 (for the capture of Chateau Gaillard and Sir William Bishopston).
The Visitation of Warwickshire 1619. Harl. Soc. Vol.12, 1877 (for Bishopston pedigree).
Dugdale's Warwickshire.
Warwickshire Feet of Fines 1345-1509. Dugdale Society.
Baker's Northamptonshire under Ashby St Ledgers.
Victoria History of the County of Warwickshire Vol.V.
Calendar of Fine Rolls (for appointment as sheriff in 1417).
Calendar of Patent Rolls (for commissions of oyer and terminer and of array in 1418 and 1419).
The Loss of Normandy by Sir Maurice Powicke (for the building of Chateau Gaillard).
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The Broughton Estate in 1444

VCH Oxon Vol. IX gives on page 93 some facts on the Broughton estate of William Wykeham in 1444, taken from B.M. Add. Roll 67029. We have had this roll transcribed in full, in its original abbreviated medieval Latin. (The transcriber writes "I normally extend all abbreviations, which is the correct thing to do, so I hope you will not mention my name in connection with this".) It is not suitable to print in Cake and Cockhorse as it is, even if the abbreviations were extended. Would anyone like to edit it for publication, either in a local context or as part of a wider examination of 15th century rural life in north Oxfordshire? In the County Record Office there are also the Manor Rolls of Bloxham, including a few from the 15th century.

THE CARDINAL'S DAUGHTER - a near miss for Banbury

This short article is in no way based on original research. It merely brings together facts researched by others, which may be of interest to some readers of *Cake and Cockhorse*.

The family of Danvers was for centuries to be seen riding through the streets of Banbury. One branch lived at Calthorpe Manor, now in the centre of the town; others were at Epwell, Prescote, Culworth, Adderbury and further away at Waterstock, near Oxford. The name is still remembered in roads, farms and a manor. They married into many local families from the 14th to the 17th centuries.

A mother figure of some of this Danvers brood was Anne, the "Lady of Dauntsey", daughter and eventually heiress of John Stradling of Dauntsey, Wilts; on 13 December 1487 she married John Danvers, son of Richard Danvers of Prescote and Culworth. Their ten children must still have many descendants in the Banbury area.

The Stradlings almost certainly came from Switzerland; one member of the family settled in England in the 13th century, arriving in the train of Otto de Granson who was a prominent soldier and civil servant under Edward I. His descendants established themselves as minor landed gentry in Somerset, Dorset, and Glamorgan.

Early in the 15th century ability and ambition moved the family up in the medieval world. In that century social and material escalation for the ambitious involved finding the right girl to marry. Edward Stradling went straight to the top. He fought at the battle of Agincourt in 1415 in the retinue of Humphrey Duke of Gloucester, youngest brother of King Henry V. Presumably through the introductions made at that time he moved into the orbit of Henry Beaufort, legitimised son of John of Gaunt and Catherine Swynford, uncle to King Henry V and great-uncle to King Henry VI. As bishop of Winchester and later cardinal, Beaufort became the richest and, until his death in 1447, most powerful subject of King Henry VI. Edward Stradling married the cardinal's illegitimate daughter Jane, or Joan. He had his rewards, such as royal appointments in South Wales; he was sheriff of Somerset and Dorset in 1424, and opportunities to make money were put his way.

Edward Stradling had a younger brother John. It was this John's grandson John whose daughter Anne married and brought the Dauntsey inheritance to John Danvers. It is a pity that so many Banbury families thereby just missed descent from Cardinal Beaufort's bastard daughter, though no doubt still benefiting from the material patronage which John Stradling certainly received through his Beaufort sister-in-law.

D. E. M. F.

References:

Memorials of the Danvers Family by F.N. Macnamara, London, 1895.
The Rise of the Stradlings of St Donat's by Ralph Griffiths. Transactions of the Glamorgan Local History Society, Vol. VII 1963.

BOOK REVIEWS

The Reign of King Henry VI by Ralph A. Griffiths. Ernest Benn 1981. 968 pages. £25.

Henry VI by Bertram Wolffe. Eyre Methuen 1981, in the English Monarchs series. 400 pages. £19.95.

These books are not for buying, you will say, looking at the price. But if you are interested in the 15th century they are certainly for borrowing and reading.

They add nothing to the history of Banbury, except to tell us that the King passed through Banbury several times on his itineraries. But they are a lesson to all of us in the value of deep meticulous research.

Henry VI and his reign have been unduly neglected by historians. The reason may be that the nearly forty years from the premature death of Henry V to the dramatic seizure of the crown by Edward IV were a time of national disaster, when all English possessions in France except Calais were lost. They have seemed a dim bickering interval best forgotten between the national military glories of the reign of Henry V and the glowing hopes of the Yorkist age. Or it may be that research into those forty years has been difficult; there is a lack of good contemporary chronicles for events outside London, while the chronicles of the next century which colour Shakespeare's histories are notoriously biased to soothe the susceptibilities of insecure Tudor monarchs.

But these books show how it is possible to recreate the past, and the personalities and motives of people, by research into state papers, local archives, wills and other records which still survive, often unprinted. Neither book is a rehash of dubious past findings and opinions. Each is firmly based on original research. R.A. Griffiths' monumental history of the reign of Henry VI equals any other book anywhere in the depth of its investigation and in its use of rarely accessible sources, including a combing through of unpublished dissertations and theses. It will be long before it is superseded, if ever.

D. E. M. F.

A Georgian Parson and his Village: The Story of David Davies (1742-1819) by Pamela Horn. Beacon Publications 1981. 90 pages. £2.80 post free.

Pamela Horn is well known as a social historian and has often contributed to *Cake and Cockhorse*. Her latest book concerns a Welshman, educated in Barbados, who became parson of a Berkshire parish. It has no direct relevance to Banbury, but the agricultural labourer of Barkham must have had many counterparts in the parishes of north Oxfordshire. This little book is well worth £2.80 of anyone's money, post free if prepaid from Beacon Publications, 11 Harwell Road, Sutton Courtenay, Abingdon, Oxon, OX14 4BN.

ANNUAL REPORT 1981

Your Committee have pleasure in submitting the 24th Annual Report and Statement of Accounts, for the year 1981.

As mentioned in last year's report, Geoffrey Parmiter, our Hon. Treasurer, resigned early in the year, though he has been able to remain an active committee member. Mary Stanton has gallantly carried on throughout the year as Acting Hon. Treasurer, assisted by Sarah Gosling, the Membership Secretary, who collects the subscriptions, and the Chairman, Jeremy Gibson, who has prepared the annual accounts. Other officers and committee members have continued unchanged. In the autumn we were saddened by the death of Jack Fearon, whose obituary appeared in the last issue.

It is difficult to thank our Secretary, Nan Clifton, enough for all the work she does, of which the most obvious is the unfailingly interesting, nay fascinating, programme of speakers and talks she arranges. During the 1981/2 season we heard about Anglo-Saxon Jewellery (Dr George Speake), William Wing, a great north Oxfordshire character of the 19th century (Geoffrey Stevenson), Oxford's Markets (Malcolm Graham), Aerial Archaeology (James Pickering) (this coincided with the December snowstorms, which deterred many, and we are pleased to say Mr Pickering will pay us a return visit in 1983) and Saxon Oxford (Dr Tom Hassall). An innovation, which arose through an accidental clash of dates, was the meeting held jointly with the local National Trust Group, on the subject of Claydon House, which proved very popular and filled the Town Hall - we shall be repeating such collaboration in future programmes. The January snow did defeat us, and the scheduled speaker, Mr David Brown on The Archaeology of Board Games, will instead be visiting Banbury this autumn. The North Oxfordshire Technical College was again a satisfactory home, but we do need additional helpers with the coffee, whose provision falls too much on too few shoulders.

The village meeting was held at Deddington, and the A.G.M. in the Barn at Tadmarton, as guests of our long-time members Major and Mrs Asser, when we were fortunate to have a lovely evening for strolling in their garden, preceded by a talk on the history of the Tithe Barn by James Bond of the Oxfordshire Museum. For the Annual Dinner we were again the guests of David Fiennes at Woadmill Farm, a very happy occasion, with as our guest speaker our old friend George Fothergill. His speech on why the day (23rd October) was memorable concluded with the revelation that he and his wife, Tessa, whom we were meeting for the first time, had in fact only been married that very morning!

A welcome return to a full summer programme was made under the organisation of Elizabeth Asser, John Roberts, and Nick Griffiths, which included visits to South Newington church to see the wall paintings, to Honington Hall, and an all-day excursion to Avebury and Littlecote. Gladwys Brinkworth continued to look after publicity.

Another three excellent issues of 'Cake & Cockhorse' have appeared under David Fiennes' editorship, who somehow fits this in with incessant global wanderings. Contributors included (in addition to members of the committee) Barbara Adkins, John Edwards, Michael Pickering, Harry Gordon Slade, John Steane and Barrie Trinder.

The records series continues to be an embarrassment to your Chairman, in his role of Records Editor, and no volume has appeared since the index to Northamptonshire Administrations. Help with typing is sorely needed, and if any reasonably local member would like to offer this, the Society can provide the typewriter, and even some remuneration, for relatively straight-forward work (on the Banbury Burials register, which is already partially typed). In late 1982 there is a likelihood that an edited version of Barrie Trinder's doctoral thesis on "Victorian Banbury" will be published and issued to members.

The non-issue of a records volume has meant that the Society's finances were under less strain than usual, cushioned by useful income from bank interest, but to the discerning it will be evident how necessary the recent rise in subscription is for future viability.

BANBURY HISTORICAL SOCIETY
BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31ST DECEMBER 1981

<u>1980</u>	Liabilities	Assets	
129	Subscriptions in advance	-	1981 Subscriptions, outstanding cheques
		34.00	86.50
	Sundry creditor (sub/donation to OLHA)	7.00	432 Cash in current account
			302.08
2132	Publications reserve	<u>2482</u>	2050 Cash in deposit account
			<u>2550.00</u>
338	at 1.1.81	2470.83	
<u>2470</u>	Add: 1981 Transfer	<u>400.00</u>	
2599		2870.83	
(15)	Capital Account at 1.1.81	(117.78)	
<u>(102)</u>	Surplus on 1981	<u>144.53</u>	
<u>(117)</u>		<u>26.75</u>	
<u>2482</u>		<u>2938.58</u>	

AUDITORS' REPORT

We have audited the above Balance Sheet and annexed Accounts, and certify them to be in accordance with the books and records of the Society.

19 April 1982

Ellacott, Stranks and Co.
Chartered Accountants.

BANBURY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Revenue Account for the Year ended 31st December 1981.

1980		1980		1980
	Expenditure			Income
612	"Cake and Cockhorse":		1028	Subscriptions
	typing, printing, etc.	582.37		per Cash Book
<u>160</u>	postage	<u>110.55</u>		681.31
772		692.92		<u>132.50</u>
<u>36</u>	Less: Sales	<u>60.00</u>		813.81
736				Uncashed cheques o/s
			632.92	86.50
22	Subscriptions			Subscriptions in
	(to other bodies) 4.00			advance (1980)
	(sub/donation to			<u>128.99</u>
	OLHA o/s <u>7.00</u>	11.00		1029.30
	Lecture and Meeting			Less: Subscriptions
	Expenses: Printing 36.37		<u>338</u>	in advance (1982)
	Postage 4.78			<u>34.00</u>
	Hire of hall 60.00		690	
	Entertaining speakers			995.30
	and speakers' expenses			
	34.31			Less: Transfer to
	From donations spent			Publications Reserve
	on entertaining			<u>400.00</u>
	<u>25.00</u>			595.30
	59.31			Sales of Publications:
	Secretary's			189 Less: Discount to
	sundries 19.64			Museum 35.53
	Petty Cash <u>70.00</u>			<u>128</u> "Cake and Cockhorse"
220		<u>213.73</u>		<u>60.00</u>
		250.10		317
				<u>95.53</u>
				110.09
				[Surplus on] Summer
				Excursion
				85.40
				Less: Cost
				<u>82.40</u>
				3.00
				31 [Surplus on] Annual
105	Less: Donations at			Dinner
	meetings			260.00
	per Cash Book			Less: Cost
	20.98			<u>220.88</u>
	Unrecorded donations			100 Exhibition prize
	<u>25.00</u>			39.12
	45.98			264 Interest on Deposit
				Account
				257.64
				54 Income Tax Refunds
18	Surplus on			102 Excess of Expenditure
	Coffee <u>12.42</u>			over Income
123		<u>58.42</u>		<u>—</u>
97			<u>1558</u>	<u>1005.15</u>
		191.70		
250	Northamptonshire Admons			
451	Exhibition Expenses (and ptg)			
	Insurance	25.00		
	Excess of income over			
	expenditure	<u>144.53</u>		
<u>1558</u>		<u>1005.15</u>		

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 £6.00 including any records volumes published, or £4.00 if these are excluded.

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

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