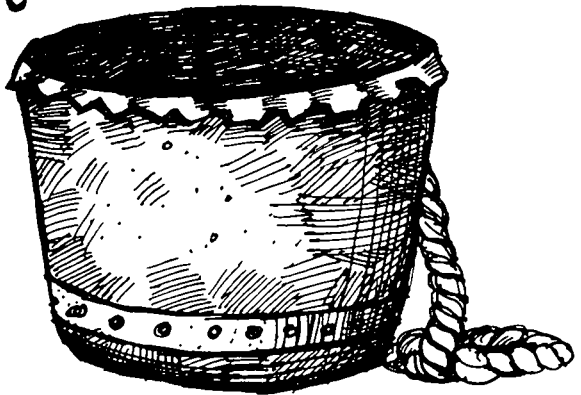
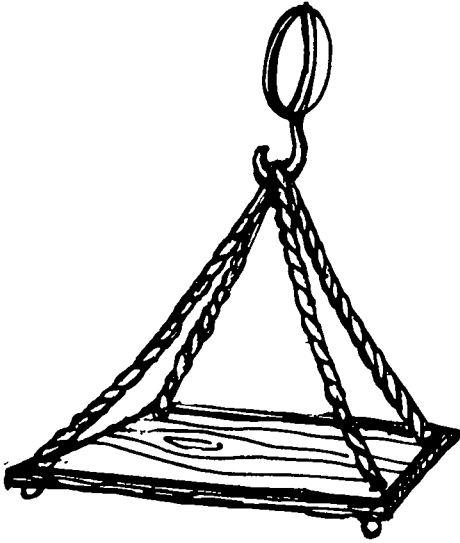


CAKE & COCKHORSE



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 of a copper bucket and of a well seat used by the
Halls of Hook Norton.

CAKE & COCKHORSE

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

Volume 9	Number 3	Summer 1983
Don Amphlett	The Village Schoolmaster 1866-1882	67
Kate Tiller	References to previous article - Autumn 1982	73
Mary Sumner	Tradesmen of Hook Norton in the 19th Century	74
Gill White and Jean Williams	The Halls of Hook Norton	79
Nan Clifton	John Plumb of Shenington, Husbandman	86
D. E. M. Fiennes	Burton Dasset and the Last Lady Say	89
Book Reviews		93
Annual Report and Accounts 1982		94

So we are twentyfive years old. Members and their friends packed the great hall at Broughton Castle on April 22, and evidently enjoyed celebrating the occasion. We thank our President and Lady Saye and Sele for their hospitality.

In this issue there are the last three contributions from Hook Norton. It is a pity that all could not be contained in last autumn's special issue. The local history group was over-productive, and the need for minimum postage limits us to 36 pages. What other local history group will volunteer for a special issue?

Subscriptions

At the Annual General Meeting on June 11th it was resolved that for 1984 the subscriptions would have to be increased to meet increasing costs. The annual subscription will be £8 for members taking records volumes, and £5 for other members.

George James Dew and his wife Mary Dew of Lower Heyford

From September 6 till November 5 there will be at Banbury Museum an exhibition of items collected by Mr George James Dew who lived at Lower Heyford from 1846 to 1928, being a poor law relieving officer from 1870 to

1923. Pamela Horn has edited his diary for the 1870s; a copy may be obtained from Beacon Publications, 11 Harwell Road, Sutton Courtenay, Abingdon, Oxon, OX14 4BN, for £3, post-free if pre-paid, or from bookshops. A review will be included in our next issue, and also an article by Pamela Horn on Mary Dew who was headmistress of Lower Heyford school.

Broad/Delafield.

We have had an enquiry about Jane Broad, probably née Delafield, who was matron of Northampton Hospital 1794-1805. She had a sister Susannah Delafield and a brother referred to as Captain Delafield. Would any member with information about these people please send it to the editor.

Records Volume No.19 - Victorian Banbury

All individual and corporate records members should by now have received their copy of our most recent records volume, No.19, VICTORIAN BANBURY, by Barrie Trinder. However, our distributors, Messrs. Phillimore and Co., inform us the two (overseas) parcels were returned as undeliverable, as the addresses had rubbed off the labels in transit. Any records members who have not received their copy are asked to inform the Secretary so that a further copy can be sent. We would like to emphasise that this problem is not the fault of Phillimore's, who used labels supplied by the Society.

Obituary

It is with deep regret that we record the death on October 11th of Mr. F.H. Anker who had been a member of the Society from its earliest days.

Mr. Anker will be remembered for the many ways in which he served Banbury; for his long association with the Banbury Fire Brigade; for his work for the Banbury Charities and as Secretary of the Old Charitables; for his work for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing - to name but a few of the organisations he served. In 1960 Mr. Anker spoke to the Historical Society about the history of the Banbury Fire Services for he was keenly interested in the history of the Fire Services, nationally and locally, and he set up a Fire Service Museum with a collection of helmets, fire buckets and other equipment used to equip the fire fighting services.

Members of the Society will remember Mr. Anker's valuable contribution to the Reminiscences series at meetings in 1970 and subsequently printed in 'Cake and Cockhorse'. Having lived in the town all his life, Mr. Anker recalled the time when the population was about 11,000; when cattle were sold on Market Days in Bridge Street, and horses were sold in the Horse Fair.

We extend sincere sympathy to Mrs. Anker and family.

G.W.B.

THE VILLAGE SCHOOLMASTER 1866 to 1882

Mr Etchells and his family took over Hook Norton National School in 1866. His predecessor Mr John Hughes and his assistant Miss Martha Bennet had had to relinquish their posts because they were unable to cope with the deplorable behaviour of the pupils. An entry in the school log book in May 1865 illustrates the kind of difficulty which he had to deal with, "W.S. punished for answering again. He brought sums, one was done very untidily. The master said "This is done in a slovenly manner W." He said sharply, "No sir it isn't." The master then lightly boxed his ears and then with a large map stick struck him several times, not very heavily. On being told to sit down he complained of his punishment as too severe, saying his mother would not suffer it. The master feeling it necessary once for all to conquer this bad habit, which several children are addicted to, but W.S. in particular, told him to hold out his hand for a stroke of the cane. He refused, and the Master repeatedly struck him with the cane until he at length submitted. The master was grieved afterwards on calling at the boy's home to see marks on the boy's back and side." The following day Mr Hughes was visited by the Minister and he wrote in his Log Book, "The master burnt the cane today having resolved to try the plan of dispensing with corporal punishment". However the plan did not last long, he soon resorted to the cane again but with little beneficial effect. He left the school early in 1866 and was replaced by Mr Etchells. At the end of his first week at the school he wrote, "Today closes our first week's work in this parish, one of, or may I say the most painful week's work ever it was our lot to endure, owing to the wretched state of the schools but more particularly the girls. . . . As I am able to examine more minutely the state of the school as regards the proficiency of the scholars I am surprised at the ignorance of the children in the four lower standards. . . . I am convinced that the mischief will not be remedied under three years, with the best of teaching. . . . It is a pity so many were presented for examination last year as I feel convinced that in some standards the majority would fail and it will so terribly affect the funds next year." This was the period of the infamous 'Payment by Results' scheme and success in the annual examinations and inspection determined the grant for the following year.

Mr Etchells set to with a will to restore order and discipline but he soon ran into similar difficulties to those experienced by Mr Hughes. He wrote in the Log Book, "I find already from two or three little circumstances which have transpired that parents are very sensitive upon the point of corporal punishment considering the state of the school, and the especial need there is at this period for firm discipline being enforced, this is to be regretted as interferences on the part of a parent always gives great annoyance and pain to the teachers." However in spite of the lack of cooperation he persevered and things seem to get better for a time, in fact in October 1867 one parent asked Mr Etchells for help; "Mrs E.

brought her boy to school today expressing her entire inability to cure him of many bad practices to which he is dreadfully addicted including truancy. His fingers and other parts of his body showed marks of very severe corporal punishment having been administered to him by his mother. She gave him entirely into our charge to do as we liked with him. After talking to him I locked him up in the coal house; soon after I had left he began cursing and swearing in the most awful manner. I went to him and punished him for it by well shaking him and told him the consequences of it if he did not desist. I heard no more of it; after keeping him in two hours I released him, for the Rev. J. Harding (the curate) to talk to him, but to him he was sullenly silent. The boys behaviour has since improved and he has been regularly to school. The boy is not yet six years of age and his mother has no control over him."

Not all parents were cooperative however. In September 1868 Mrs Etchells wrote, "E.N. was told to stop in after school but went home. I fetched her back and gave her some punishment. In the afternoon her father took her to the Curate's lodgings and laid charges against me of bruising her. The girl deserved severe punishment for so glaring an act of disobedience but I refrained from punishing her as she deserved because she had told me in the morning she did not feel well, but I believe this was her artfulness. The father of this girl, B.N. appears to have been a pest to the teachers who were here prior to us and he has been almost the only one who has troubled us with complaints during the two and a half years we have been here and always without cause." About a week later Mr Etchells was summoned to the Rectory and he wrote, "When I got there I found it was about the two cases of E.E. and E.N. The curate was there. Mr Rushton (the Rector) seemed very angry about it but on a proper explanation of the facts he seemed perfectly satisfied. . . . With regard to the corporal punishment of our schools nothing could be more free from severity as a cane is never used by any chance and what punishment is given is such as not to offend any reasonable parent."

However some of the parents continued to be offended and refused to cooperate. In October 1868 the following entry was made "The difficulty of getting home lessons from some children is very disheartening owing to the opposition of the parents. Mrs G. and Mr N. threaten to break the slates if they are taken home."

Between 1863 and 1870 the total population of Hook Norton fell but in spite of that the average attendance at the school doubled. By 1870, the year of the Forster Education Act, there was an average attendance of 121. School attendance was still not compulsory and all the children paid a fee which averaged out at about 1½d a week - a considerable amount in those days especially for large families. The school received a grant of £60 for day school and £5 for night school. The government inspector's report for 1870 said that, "The school appears to have been taught with care during the past year and has improved. The attainments are much more accurate

than they were. The order and sewing are also good. It might be desirable to practice a firmer and bolder form of handwriting than that which now prevails in the school." Towards the end of 1870 the National School received a boost when the British School in the village closed down. Mr Etchells wrote in November 1870, "Several children have of late been admitted from the British School which has been broken up and their extreme ill-behaviour reacts most unfavourably on the school at large."

The school curriculum, which up to 1870 consisted of the three 'R's and Scripture, Singing and Needlework, was enlarged by the addition of Geography. In March 1871 Mr Etchells wrote, "I have many times desired to set apart two half hours weekly to the subject of Geography but the children shew such inaptitude for it as almost to make one desist from it. There seems such a lack of intelligence." However he persevered and in July 1872 he reported that, "Horn's twopenny Geography has been introduced into the two upper classes; but we have a good deal of difficulty in getting some of the children to buy them. . . . Hitherto we have been sadly crippled for want of these and other lesson books."

The Agricultural Children's Act was passed in 1873 and it forced many children under the age of twelve, who had left school to work on the land, back into school. In January 1874 Mr Etchells wrote "Parents are beginning to feel anxious about the working of the Agricultural Children's Act. Several parents have already been to me about the reaction of their children to school from work, some of them feel it a hardship, and desire to know who is to provide them with food. Five children were re-admitted today some of whom have been a long time at work and they are fearfully ignorant. The action of the "Agricultural Children's Act" in forcing back to school rough unattended lads, will prove a heavy drag on the school and sorely try the teachers, who will have to watch with a careful eye over their actions to prevent the contamination of the school by their unseemly conduct. The beneficial effect of the Act will be of a prospective rather than retrospective character."

The numbers of children attending the school rose very rapidly during the 1870's and although Mr Etchells welcomed the increase because it helped to push up the grant he was not very happy about the quality of many of the intake. "Several fresh admissions during the past and previous week owing to the breaking up of a dame's school in the parish. . . . Three of them, although they are over six, can hardly tell a letter. Such cases as these are a fearful drag on a school and tend to swell the list of children unpresentable in Standard I, indeed the majority of such cases are recruited from the ranks of such children. What teacher with all appliances at his command can, during one short season, coach these and such like youngsters up, so as to enable them to pass successfully Standard I as soon as they are seven? It is impossible; generally speaking, it is here especially where a compulsory act would work beneficially in compelling parents to send them to a proper school at an earlier age." About this

time, work began on the building of the railway through the village and the Master wrote, "Some of the children belonging to the Navvies who are at work in the Parish are addicted to swearing, and I have felt called upon to threaten them with dismissal if the habit is not broken off, as such conduct is injurious to the morals of the whole school. If we could legally do so, I would rather be without any of them, as their habits are low, their attendance very irregular and their stay with us not to be depended on."

The Revised Code of 1867 had made Language, History and Goegraphy the subject of grant-bringing examinations and the Education Act of 1875 renewed the call to introduce new subjects into the curriculum, but as usual the authorities expected this to be done without any real increase in resources. Mr Etchells responded by introducing "Grammar" into the timetable but he was not very happy about things and in his report at the end of that year he wrote, "It is absolutely necessary that the school staff should be kept up, but the Rector contemplates a reduction, indeed has already made it. When one considers the extra work and requirements of the 1875 Code, it does seem a pity that the school should be deprived of help, just at the time it needs an increased staff rather than a diminished one. Besides the large amount of extra work that must necessarily be thrown on myself, I fear we must look in vain for progress especially in the extra subjects of the New Code which the circumstances of the time naturally demands of us." The Master was not the only one who was unhappy about the "extra" subjects; he records that "Mrs W. came to complain about her grandson W.W. having to learn Geography or "Grocery" as she termed it. She said, 'It was only fit for Gentlefolks and not for lads who would soon have to follow the plough tail.'"

Many entries in the school log books deal with absenteeism and school closures. In 1873 the exasperated Mr Etchells reported, "There is a sale by auction in the village this afternoon and several of the children as usual are gone strolling there instead of being at school. This practice of staying at home on such trivial occasions is very annoying to teachers and very injurious to the children, even in a moral point of view; every sale, burial, wedding etc. etc. furnishes sufficient reasons to them for absenting themselves from school. I should be heartily glad if this evil could be remedied but the fault lies with the parents who often take them and not so much with the children." In 1874 he recorded the fact that a fire in the village kept many children away from school and in October of the same year he wrote "Apple picking, potato gathering, acorn collecting and many more such avocations are the means by which our children at this season are detained from school." A week after that entry he wrote, "This week is what is called "Michaelmas Week", servants are at home and consequently with a good many parents it is considered a reason why children should be. Hence the school is partially deserted; add to this the causes of absence mentioned in the previous week and we have more than sufficient to account for the very desultory attendance just now. . . . Here

lies the great drag and the principal discouragement in Elementary Teaching. Teachers would universally hail with delight the entire, or even partial removal of this mighty obstacle, but I fear the day is far distant."

As well as these unofficial absences there were also a great many official absences during the year. There were short holidays at Christmas and Easter and a longer holiday in the Summer called "The Harvest Holiday". When this holiday started and how long it lasted depended a great deal on the weather. The school usually closed down also on the days when the churches held their Sunday School Treats; particularly important was that on St Peters Day, when the whole village was entertained to tea in the Rectory Garden. Another important holiday was that at the beginning of May when the children paraded round the village carrying the 'May Garland'. At the end of May 'Club Day' was held when all the adults paraded through the village with banners flying led by a brass band. Perhaps the saddest closures occurred when epidemics hit the village. Early in June 1878 the Master wrote, "Today a child admitted fresh this morning fell down at my feet before she had been in school two hours and yesterday another fell ill in church and had to be carried out as she was unable to stand or sit. The Fever has assumed quite an epidemic form. Yesterday one of my new monitors, a very active girl, was buried, having died only two days before, after rallying through an attack of fever. It appears she got out too soon and took cold." Two weeks after this he again reported that, "Another child died of fever on Monday and was buried yesterday. M.S. was buried two or three days before. Six children have already been buried besides the large list of children who have been attacked and recovered. But I fear we have not seen the end of this trying period." He was right, soon after that entry the school was closed for three weeks and cases of scarlet fever continued to occur in the village for several months. The Master and his wife did not escape unscathed and during the next two years frequent entries are made recording their absence from school because of ill health. One such entry was made in early December 1879 and was followed by a most amusing little story; "The past week has been most trying; owing to Mrs Etchell's absence through ill health, I have been compelled to send Miss Etchells into the infant room; thus I have been left with but little help to grapple with the difficulty of teaching one hundred and thirty children myself, to a great extent. Three girls have been admitted lately from other parishes. I was sorry to hear that one of them was guilty of a practice most reprehensible, but which is sure to manifest itself in mixed schools unless the morals of the scholars are well looked after. The practice I allude to is that of boys writing letters and passing them to the girls and vice-versa. Through constant vigilance and strict discipline on this point I rarely discover or hear of such practices and have generally found, as in this case, that if anything of the kind does crop up it has been imparted by fresh scholars from other localities. The letter in this case is so unusual of its kind and so far beyond the average of such silly but

mischievous effusions that I give it verbatim.

'My dear Miss, I write to you in hopes it may find you quite well as I am pleased to tell you I am alright. I write to ask you if you will be my love. I heard you had had a letter from some of the boys but I will give you a good character so I think I must put an end to it with plenty of xxx to A.T. with a merry, merry christmas and a happy new year when it comes. So good bye and God bless you my dear. Give me a answer soon sweet beloved dear A.'

I have found out that all three girls lately admitted have been mixed up with the above, though A.T. has been the worst. I gave them a severe talking to and I hope the like will not occur again."

Early in 1881 Mr Etchells recorded the death of the Rector, "This has been a week of sadness. The Venerable Rector of the Parish, who for forty years had had the charge of this parish and consequently the superintendance of the schools, was found dead in his bedroom on Thursday morning. He, the Reverend J.R. Rushton B.D., had reached the advanced age of 82. What effect this will have on the parish and school is hard to say." It was to have a much more serious effect than the Master could at that time foresee. The new Rector arrived in the parish in June of that year and does not appear to have been too happy about Mr Etchells churchmanship or the way in which he was running the school. The health of Mr and Mrs Etchells was still giving great cause for concern. On November 1st 1881 the Master made the following rather startling report, "Mrs Etchells being anxious to give up her post to her daughter if arrangements to that effect could be arrived at satisfactorily to both parties I laid the matter before the Rector. The place was offered to Miss Etchells but she would not accept it on the terms offered. Consequently I sent the Rector word, we would keep on as before for a while. I was thunderstruck at the reply received; that Mrs Etchells had resigned (but she had not, she only contemplated doing so) and Miss Etchells has refused the terms offered, their only resource left was to give me notice to quit which they do in the most peremptory manner." Mr Etchells and his family worked out their notice and in February 1882 he made his last end of year report; "What an extraordinary one it has been. Domestic trials and bereavements of no ordinary kind cast a gloom over our household nearly through the year and when we began to emerge as it were from under dark clouds, and prospects brightened a little, thicker gloom overspread us, and for four weary months prior to the exam, we have had to content with mental apprehension consequent on our cruel dismissal for no fault whatever after sixteen years faithful service. In the beginning of the Summer, the school was closed for three weeks owing to the prevalence of measles. The average for the year is less than that of its predecessor and in several other ways it will not vie with it. Labouring as we, one and all have, under so many trials and disadvantages, it will not at all be remarkable, should the results be below those of last year, however the best has been done that could be done

under the circumstances. We hope the year will be brighter for our successors."

His final entry was made on February 28th 1882, "Today all the old teachers who remain behind, vacate their situations and thus make room for their successors. Today brings my long service of sixteen years to a most inglorious end."

Don Amphlett

Village Dissenters: Hook Norton Baptist Chapel and its Chapelyard.

We regret that the reference notes to Kate Tiller's article in the autumn 1982 number were omitted. Here they are.

Notes

1. Mr. F. Beale in conversation with the author.
Mr. G. Dumbleton in conversation with the author and Mrs. G. White.
2. Original returns of Census of Religious Worship (1851). Public Record Office.
3. J. Thomas: A Short History of the Baptist Church at Hook Norton, Oxon Showing its Antiquity, Perpetuity and Stability (1786)
W.H. Cornish: A Short History of the Baptist Church, Hook Norton (1860).
4. E.D. Paul: The Records of the Banbury Monthly Meeting of the Society of Friends, in Oxoniensia, Vol. XXXI (1966), p.163.
M. Dickins: History of Hook Norton 912-1928 (1928) p.146 refers to the 'oldest deed of the Hook Norton Meeting House' dated 1705, the whereabouts of which are not now clear.
5. Oxfordshire Record Office: BMM VI/460
6. Oxfordshire Record Office: Quarter Sessions Rolls, Easter 1794.
7. Mr. T. Williams in conversation with the author.
Messrs. Beale and Dumbleton, op. cit.
8. Oxfordshire Record Office: Misc. Hook Norton I-III
9. J. Thomas, op. cit.
10. 1669 Return of Conventicles, in G. Lyon Turner: Original Records of Early Nonconformity, Vol.3 (1911-12), pp.823-828.
11. Articles of Enquiry Addressed to the Clergy of the Diocese of Oxford at the Primary Visitation of Dr. Thomas Secker, 1738, ed. H.A. Lloyd Jukes, Oxfordshire Record Society Vol.38 (1957).
12. Dates of first persons commemorated on stones.
13. See J. Jones: How to Record Graveyards (1976).

TRADESMEN OF HOOK NORTON IN THE NINETEENTH CENTURY

In the 19th century Hook Norton had a high number and variety of resident craftsmen, traders and professional people; that was one of the major characteristics of an open village. Under the guidance of Dr Kate Tiller a small group from the Parish Survey Group set out to explore and record the crafts and trades in the village during the 19th century.

Our aims were to try to answer the following questions:

1. What proportion of the population were involved in crafts and trades?
2. Had they changed much over the century?
3. Had any trades died out?
4. Which were the most important crafts and trades?
5. Who were the people involved?
6. Did the businesses run in particular families?
7. Which services were internal and which crafts came from outside? (How self-sufficient was Hook Norton?)

To answer these questions we had to devise methods of recording information. As our initial source we used a card index using names as the key.

HOOK NORTON PARISH SURVEY			INDEX OF CRAFTS AND TRADES : 19TH CENTURY	
TRADE OR CRAFT : SHOE MAKER / LAST MAKER				
DATE	SOURCE OF INFORMATION	NAME	ADDRESS	OTHER INFO
1864	P.O. Directory	Mrs Sarah BARRET	SOUTHROP	
1844 } 1854 }	Pigots "	William "	"	
1864.	P.O./Pigots.	REUBEN BOLTON		
1871 & '76	Hamods & CENSUS (2)	RICHARD WHITE JOHN WHITE	BRIDGE HILL?	Age 75 b. H.N. Age 42 b. H.N. (son William 16 yrs)
1871	CENSUS (1)	HENRY BASTRY	—	Age 27 b. H.N.

Our secondary index was headed under the main craft or trade. This immediately brought to light the numbers of craftsmen involved in each trade, how many in one family and distribution of the workforce throughout the village. The range of major crafts in the 19th century totalled 35 from our collected information. These were: baker, blacksmith, maltster/brewer, butcher, carrier/carter, coal dealer, cattle dealer, clock and watchmaker, carpenter, joiner, cooper, draper dressmaker, druggist,

florist/seedsman, grocer, hawker, innkeeper, laundress, chimney sweep, stonemason, miner, milliner/straw bonnet maker, painter, plumber, pedlar, shoemaker/bootmaker, seminary, saddler, surgeon, slater/plasterer, thatcher, tailor, tileman and wheelwright.

HOOK NORTON PARISH SURVEY (19th CRAFTS & TRADES)				
SURNAME	BORSBERRY	OCCUPATION(S)		BLACKSMITH/ DRAPER/GROECR
FORENAMES(S)	ADDRESS	DATE	SOURCE	ADDITIONAL INFO.
JOHN	?	1864 1869 1871	P.O. Direct " CENSUS (2)	Age 42 employed one other man
SON - WILLIAM -	OLD FORGE TOP COTTAGE DALBY PHIPPS & MRS WEBB neighbours	1876 1887	HARRODS KELLYS G.D.	Forge 1940

The sources available to us were Directories, Newspapers, Oral Records, Photographs, Documents and the 1871 Census.

DIRECTORIES

We used Trade Directories dating back to 1830 including the P.O. Directory of Oxon, Kelly's, Harrod's and Pigot's picking out the relevant trades and crafts people listed for Hook Norton from photocopied sheets obtained from the Westgate and Banbury libraries. These also gave us useful additional material, for example postal collections and the destination and deliveries by carriers. The directories although useful for their listings gave an unbalanced picture, because they only itemised more important tradesmen.

Oxon.]

HOOK NORTON.

697

Bisler Richard, general storekeeper	Phipps John, thatcher
Borsberry Henry, boot and shoemaker	Phipps Thomas, tailor
Borsberry John, blacksmith	Phipps Thomas, town orier
Borton John L. butcher	Phipps Thomas, market gardener
Brewer George, grocer, draper, and tailor	Prickett Thomas Henry, "Fox and Hounds"
Bull Alban, veterinary surgeon	Robins James, carpenter and wheelwright
Busby B., carpenter and wheelwright	Rowles Richard, grocer
Busby Henry, painter and plumber	Somerton Edmund, beer retailer
Busby Henry, slater and plasterer	Tappin John, blacksmith
Busby Thomas, bricklayer, plasterer, and slater	Tims Edward, coal dealer
Colegrove Job, miller, Hook Norton mill	Tims Josiah, market gardener
Cook John, saddle and harness maker	

CENSUS.

The 1871 census proved to be our most important source, but because of its greater detail tended to distort our picture of craftspeople in favour of the latter half of the century.

The census listed many of the lesser trades missing from the Directories, e.g., higgler, tinman, lime burner, skinner, pedlar, glover-ess, basketmaker, lastmaker and the smaller shopkeepers. It proved an essential element in unravelling the complex family relationships which arose, for example father, sons and cousins with the same name. Or two names, e.g., Thomas Hall, carpenter, and Thomas Hall, innkeeper, were found to be the same person, indeed Thomas Hall was innkeeper at 'The Sun' for 4 years but continued to make coffins at the back of the pub!

The otherwise hidden numbers of sons in apprenticeship came to light through the census, John Gilks, shoemaker and his wife Sarah, are listed as having their eldest son George (also a shoemaker) and 2 boy apprentices.

The enumerator's route (although in some sections still unclear) gave us an exact location of where people lived or at least pinpointed areas such as Southrop, East End, and Scotland End. Most of the shops were concentrated in the centre of the village (as they still are today) and included a post office, butcher and grocer, tailor, draper, shoemaker, saddler, smithy and milliners.

Craftsmen such as carpenter, thatcher, builders and their allied trades, carriers and coal merchants were scattered throughout the village. Bakeries of which there were at least 4 at any one time were equally well distributed throughout the village. Most craftsmen seem to have operated as small family businesses with only the occasional apprentice as an 'outsider' as in the case of the wheelwright and sawyer. They all apparently lived on the site of their work, and a walk around the village today emphasises how many houses had barns, outhouses and workshops attached.

The census also records the place of birth of each person which revealed that out of 133 craftsmen 76 were born in Hook Norton, 32 from the vicinity, and 25 from elsewhere.

This indicates a strong continuity with trades running in families for generations. The directories had given us the expected women's occupations of milliners, seamstresses, and straw bonnet makers, but the census revealed the laundresses, charwomen, a gloveress and a lady butcher. Also one Leah Buggins, aged 23, listed as an unmarried chimney sweep, living with her unemployed mother Alice, aged 61, brother William aged 14 and Charles aged 2 (Leah's son perhaps?).

The youngest age recorded for an apprentice in the census was 15 years which is a marked contrast to the 9 and 10 year old ploughboys employed on the land. At the other end of the age range there is a 70 year old wheelwright, an 82 year old carter and a butcher of 83.

NEWSPAPER:

The 'Banbury Guardian' of that period contained a number of articles which were able to add colour to mere names extracted from the census. We found out that Benjamin Busby (carpenter) and John Hayden played clarinet and bassoon; [it is also reported that John Etchels, school teacher, and his staff were dismissed by the Rev. Cox in 1882 and that Dr. Thomas Wilkins' charge of assault was dismissed. All this information was obtained by leafing through 19th century Banbury Guardians in hope of gleaning mentions of Hook Norton.]

ORAL RECORDS:

Oral Records of elderly inhabitants such as George Dumbleton and Kate French were invaluable. They talked of working conditions, wages, located families and their movements and gave us endless stories of memorable characters who died of drink or who went bankrupt.

Kate French was post mistress in Hook Norton and tells of the great distances she used to travel in all weathers delivering the mail throughout the year. She has also lived in the same house all her life and her mother moved there when she was newly married. Her memories therefore stretch back to the generation previous to her own as she remembers accounts of what her mother told her.

George Dumbleton tells of Dalby Phipps, taylor, barber and churchwarden who was mysteriously present only at the beginning and end of church services. (The Sun Inn and Red Lion being directly opposite the church) and also of how Dalby's hand would shake alarmingly just before he shaved a customer.

PHOTOGRAPHS:

Old photographs of the period, particularly of the High Street, helped to identify premises and put the faces to characters and jog memories. There are also numerous photos of employees from the ironstone works, others of a threshing gang, a sawyers yard and a mysterious picture of workers in heavy leather aprons the faces and location of which remains a puzzle.

DOCUMENTS:

Some of the documents which came to light were of great interest particularly the Hall family of wheelwrights and carpenters.

Our study gave us a very interesting picture of a self-sufficient 19th century village. Hook Norton is situated off the main transport routes and its distance from Banbury and Chipping Norton seems to have made it a centre for the smaller villages surrounding it. Certainly all needs seem to have been catered for. The general impression is one of stability and continuity, with only the occasional instance of a family or craft disappearing during the century as in the case of the gloveress and cordwainer. There always seems to have been room for newcomers and very few cases of emigration or enlistment have emerged.

Over this period of time there was a surprising consistency in the number of tradesmen supported by the village in each decade. We can tell

this by referring to graphs we devised of the crafts and tradesmen and the periods they were operating from. Each particular trade had a graph made up from 1830-1899, the dates being taken from directories as representative dates in the decade. For example there seems to have been 6-8 carpenters, 4 blacksmiths and 4 wheelwrights operating at any one time. The greatest turnover was in publicans whose average length of stay was 5 years. Out of 42 innkeepers only two stayed for 10 years or more and they doubled as farmers. It is also interesting to note that they were the 2 outlying pubs 'The Gate' and 'The Fox'.

Dual occupations were quite common, some being obvious combinations such as shopkeeper/insurance agents, farmers/butchers. Dalby Phipps doubled as tailor and barber and the Halls were well-sinkers as well as carpenters. There were also odd combinations such as John Borsberry listed as blacksmith, draper and grocer! Most workers 'in the building' were jacks of all trades - bricklayers, stonemasons, plasterers, slaters, plumbers, and glaziers.

This study is by no means comprehensive and as more and more material is added further conclusions will emerge. Other obvious sources that would give us greater depth and help counteract some of the imbalances are the Parish Records of baptism, marriages and deaths to cover the period of our study and the first third of the century where our information is scarce.

Also the 1851, 61 and 81 Census would highlight the disappearance of trades and the emergence of new ones. The establishing of the brewery in 1851 saw the introduction of brewers, maltsters and coopers, and the arrival of the railway (opened in 1887) and the ironstone works in 1889 must have introduced a wide range of new crafts not yet practised in Hook Norton.

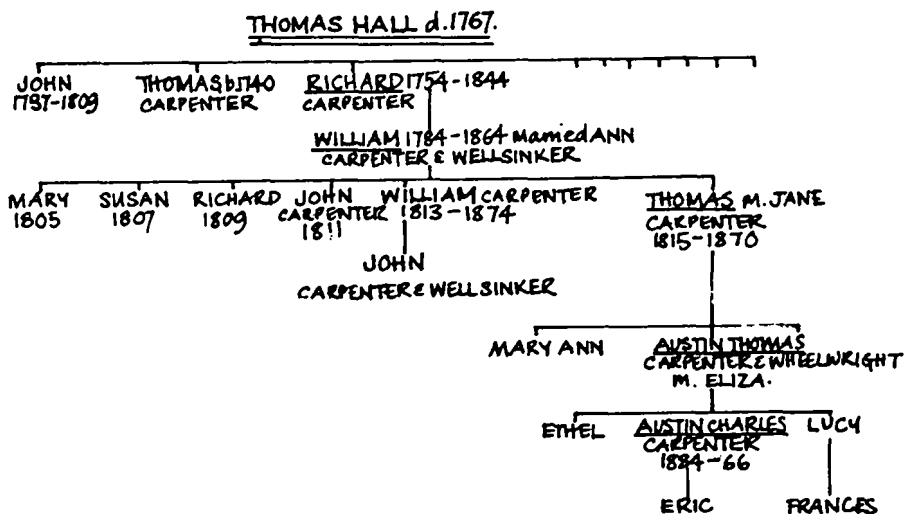
Mary Sumner

THE HALLS OF HOOK NORTON

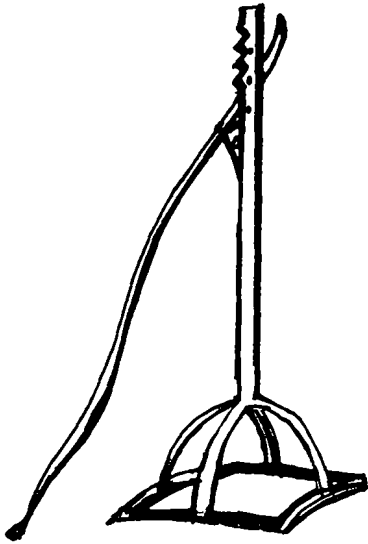
Carpenters, Wheelwrights and Wellsinkers

An exciting and unexpected bonus to studying the 19th century crafts and trades of Hook Norton, was the discovery that Mrs Frances Smith of Scotland End, a granddaughter of Austin Hall, had done extensive work on the family tree and has kept a variety of material including photographs, documents, tools and her great grandfathers book of accounts.

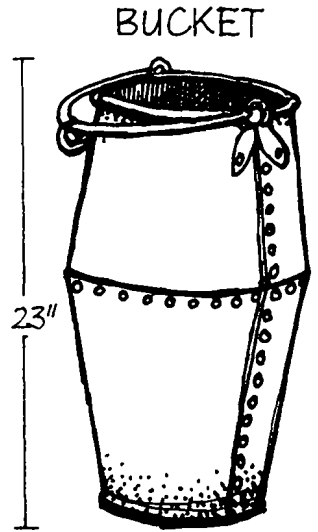
Our knowledge of the Halls had been limited to seven names on our initial index, where they appear merely as carpenters and joiners, but Frances Smith's family tree enabled us to unravel and extend the list. She thinks the family dates back to at least 1490, the name Hall being mentioned in Miss Dicken's History of Hook Norton.



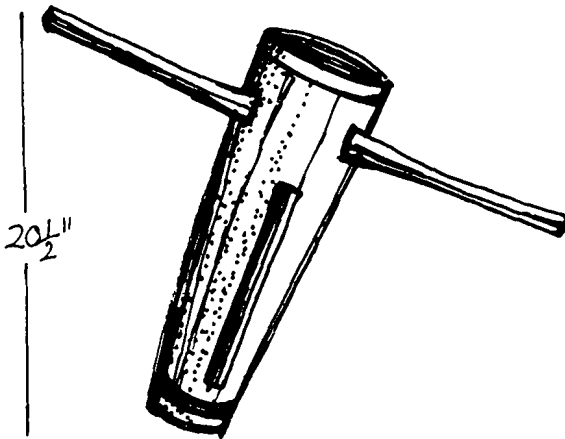
John, son of Thomas, is the first known member of the family to live in Wheelwrights Cottage, a house by the brook at Scotland End. John's brother, Thomas, is mentioned at the beginning of his nephew William's book - "did sawing for Uncle Thomas" - and it can be presumed he was a carpenter. Richard was the first Hall in the period covered by our survey, appearing in Pigot's Directory 1830. His son William built and lived in "Dove House" at Scotland End and kept a fascinating book of accounts, of which more later. Of his sons, Richard died of foul air while well sinking, aged about seventeen; John emigrated, aged about twenty one; William inherited £600 and lived in Brewery Cottage, Brewery Lane; Thomas inherited £300 and was his father's executor. He bought Wheelwrights Cottage before he was married and moved in there in 1846. His widow Jane and their seventeen-year-old son appear in the 1871 census. Austin Thomas went to Little Compton as a cooper in a family brewery and was



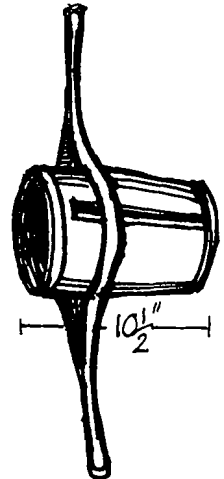
CART JACK

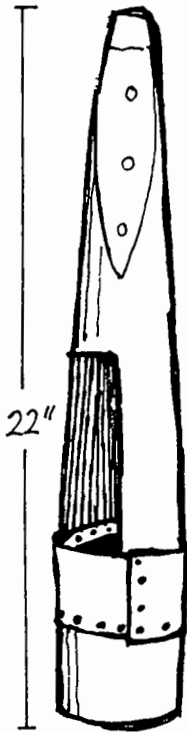


EXTERNAL PLANE

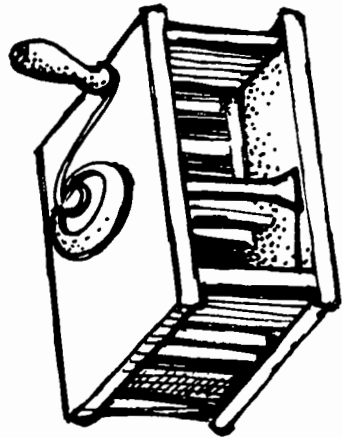


INTERNAL PLANE



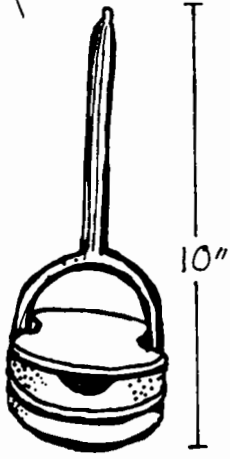


WOODEN BUCKET

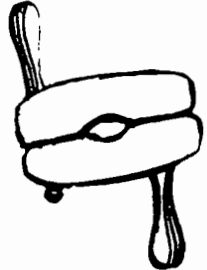


BUTTER CHURN

PISTONS
IRON BUCKET



7"



SPOKE PLANE

later apprenticed to John Hattin, a Hook Norton wheelwright. He made wagons for the Hook Norton Brewery, and a very elegant hand-cart is in the possession of Frances Smith. In 1885 Austin Thomas moved to the Sun Inn for four years (about the average length of stay for Hooky publicans) where he continued to make coffins etc. Meanwhile Wheelwrights Cottage was let to an Excise Officer. On his return to the cottage in 1889, he had an extra storey added - the original chimney quoins can be easily seen on the southern gable of the house today. Austin Charles Hall, uncle to Frances Smith, lived in Banbury and travelled to and fro daily by motor bike. He had a threshing machine which he rented out. He retired in 1949 and lived in Wheelwrights Cottage with his sister Ethel who died in 1974. In the last year this cottage has been renovated beyond all recognition.

The most exciting item in Frances Smith's collection is her great great grandfather's book of accounts kept from the age of twenty seven and written between 1811 and 1839. It is 8" x 6" and 1½" thick, covered in parchment, that is only slightly damaged, with WILLIAM HALL'S BOOK written on the front above a large ink blot. The contents make fascinating reading if you can decipher the writing - let alone the spelling. All of the 154 pages are written on including the fly-leaf which is a complete jumble of scribbled notes. It is then more organised with listings of work done, cost of materials, usually under the heading of the client, all neatly crossed out, presumably when paid.

On looking more closely, the order is in fact rather chaotic with perhaps only two or three entries for a year - most likely bills that were not paid on the nail, and the sequence of dates is by no means logical; he seems to have started about 1820 at the back of the book, worked forward, then jumped about filling in the gaps. The contents give us the range of his work, wages, prices of materials and who his customers were.

William Hall's carpentry was extremely varied and geared to serving the local community, especially the farmers, with only an occasional client from outside the village. The book is almost a directory of Hook Norton with over a hundred names listed, sometimes helpfully adding their trade, e.g., 'Cooper' Wyton, 'Wever' Goofe (Goffe), 'Bucher' Wilks, and sometimes the farms are named, e.g., Mr Wiggings at Lays, Mr Castle at Duckpool. Further afield clients are conveniently located, e.g., Mr Boger Swalklife, Mr Hugges Rolright, Joseph Pettifer Little Sibford.

For farmers, his work included: making and repairing gates, hurdles by the 'duzen', pig, sheep and cow 'roofs', barn 'doores', roofs and floors, mangers and milking stools; he mended wagons and 'plows', morticed 30 tines into a harrow, made and mended ladders, churnstands and grindstone boxes. More on the domestic side he built many privies and hovels, oak window frames, 'pantery doores' and the occasional bedstead and dressing table. He sharpened and heaved tools of all sorts, he felled trees, barked oak, and crosscut wood in the yard. Mysterious items that occur include a 'pigon trunk', a 'horse beetle', a 'chese shooter'

and a 'swivel tree'. There are a number of entries for 'hiway' work, e.g., Mr Gilkes to Wm. Hall for town work—repairing wheelbarrows, post and railing for watering place; and Mr Godson to Wm. Hall for church work—pulling down and repairing mens seats under the gallery. There are long lists of 'coffens' including their recipients name, particularly for the 'Borde of Guardians of Banbury Union' hopefully not all were for the inmates of the Union Workhouse at East End. An interesting collection of entries are to do with 'Pomp Work', i.e., well sinking and pump making. In 1811, making lid for well, 1814, turning and making a bucket plomp. 1818, repairing the pump at Harwoods. But around 1830 the entries increase and include detailed breakdown of the work, each separate list being almost identical. A typical one is 1833 June 8th:-

taking the pomp out	0. 7. 6
riding the well	0. 7. 6
boreing 31 feet	1.11. 0
making 3 joints	0. 7. 6
for New bucket	0. 5. 6
for New Rod	0. 5. 0
putting the pomp down	0. 7. 6
for cutting 3 trees Down Croscut	0. 7. 0
making 4 joints	0.10. 0
Boreing 10 feet top piece	0.10. 0
Sawing and dressing up	0. 3. 6
Bucket lether and clack	0. 2. 0
Sucker New	0. 2. 0
Bras and sucker lether	0. 0. 8
Bras sucker	0.10. 6
mending rod	0. 1. 0
spout	0. 1. 6

Costings in the book are interesting and amazingly stable over 28 years. In 1826 William's son John aged 15 earned 9d. for half a days work and he had not had a rise by the time he was 18; no wonder he emigrated. In 1812 pay for a days work for a man was 3/6, and a pound of nails cost 6d. In 1834 his son William aged 21 earned 5/- for two days work and Thomas aged 18 got 6/- for three days. Children's coffins at 8/- were half the price of adults'. An 'oake pig troofe' cost 10/6, ladders cost 4d per round; 4 duzen hurdles £2.16.0; 206 feet of elm bord £2.11.6; 147 feet of oak bord £2.1.0; 788 feet of rafters £4.10.8; for felling 16 little trees 4/-; seven new gates £3.10.0. By 1834 nails had gone down to 5d a pound. Interspersed are food prices, Mutton 6d a pound, Beef 3d, half peck taters 6d, 'to Baker Haines for Bred 6 loves 9/-' all of which are interesting when compared with the wages.

Other documents of William Hall include his will and the inventory of Dove House. The will reveals him to be the owner of a number of cottages and small pieces of land. A third document of Thomas Hall's dated 1846

deals with a disputed boundary between Wheelwrights Cottage and the Piece, and access to water.

Frances Smith has an enormous collection of photographs including some of the cottage with the workbench outside the shop.

Another photograph is of Austin Charles' threshing machine and his team on Mr Waddups farm.

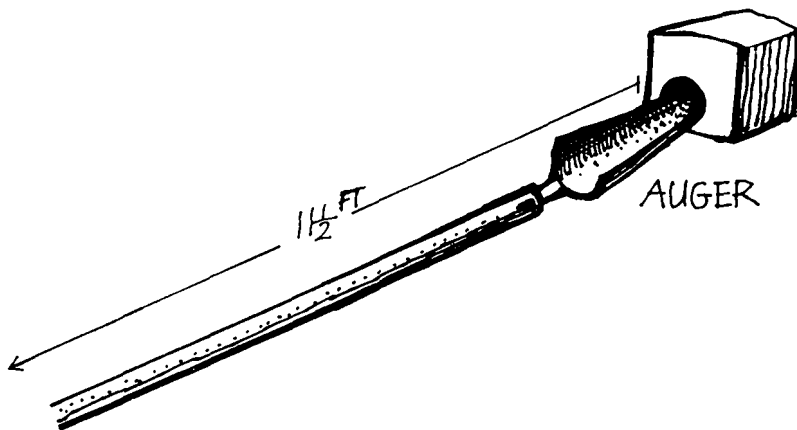
According to George Dumbleton (a mere lad on the photograph) it was the farmers responsibility to provide coal and water, to move the machine and steam engine to the next farm - "they didn't fetch it, they took it away". In fact George Dumbleton and others with memories (sometimes to the contrary) of the period draw vivid pictures of the characters and their working lives. George says that Austin Thomas and his cousin John, both well-sinkers, used different size augers so that "they couldn't follow one another - they always worked against each other"; but Frances Smith knew them as good friends in their old age. Fred Beale remembers the excitement for the village boys of the blacksmith's visit for tiring cartwheels - the heat, the sweat, the accuracy, speed, and careful timing that were needed. He also remembers wondering at the skill and strength of two men boring a straight hole with a line as a guide, through 10 ft of elm trunk. These formed the pipes on the wellshaft. It is curious that no one remembers two magnificent internal and external planes being used, most likely for shaping the two ends of pipes so that they could be joined together. In fact, Frances Smith has an enviable collection of tools rescued from the workshop when her mother died.

The craft of the village wheelwright and carpenter has been well documented by Joseph Sturt in 'The Wheelwrights Shop' 1923. But well sinking and pump making seems to be a neglected subject, which is why the Hall's tools and records are particularly interesting. There were three or four well sinkers in Hook Norton at the turn of the century and new wells were still being dug in the area well into the 1940's. The depth could vary from a few feet, such as the well at the Pear Tree, or to over 80 ft. At the Bourne well (according to George Dumbleton) 500 gallons were pumped from it in an hour, after which the level had gone down only 1½ inches. The wells were dug by pick and shovel and layers of rock were blasted. The spoil was raised, up to 3 cwt. at a time, with a winch set up on a tripod. It was dangerous work - note Richard Hall dying of foul air, and in 1856 William Buggins and his son Jabez "lost their lives by suffocating on digging a well - the father first falling senseless. The son perished on endeavouring to rescue him". Bill Cooper recalls getting the biggest thrashing of his life when he dropped a pebble of clay down on to his dad "as a joke". His father worked with Ted Luckett who died after having a heart attack in a well in 1930. Bill Cooper and Pincher Marshal describe how the well would be dug about 3 ft. wide and after 12 ft. down would be lined with bricks then back filled with a dry sand and cement mix. The next section was dug when the first lot of mortar had set.

Some well water was lifted by bucket, others had wooden pumps, which are still remembered, followed by the familiar cast iron pumps. The suction for drawing up the water was created by a piston known as a bucket. Frances Smith has examples of two types, one of iron, the other quite crudely made of wood. Both have washers of leather and the wooden one has a hinged leather flap called a clack. The last well to be dug in Hook Norton was in 1930 for Mrs. Hicks on Sibford Rd. Mains water came to the village in 1956.

I am indebted to Frances Smith for all the work she has done on her family history and for making all her material available to us. The result is a portrait of a hardworking extremely versatile family of craftsmen carrying out their trade over many generations. A chest of William Hall's is still to be seen in the church and there are probably many other examples of their work to be found on the farm in the form of gates, barn doors, windows and roof timbers; certainly they must have made an important contribution to the self sufficiency of Hook Norton.

Gill White
Jean Williamson



JOHN PLUMB OF SHENINGTON, HUSBANDMAN

John Plumb was born in Shenington in 1718, only son of David and Hannah. A daughter had been born in 1715, Elizabeth, known to John as 'Sister Bets'.

The lease of the family house "with one yard land" had been bequeathed to Hannah by her mother, Elizabeth Upton, who died in 1715 after being widowed a year earlier. Mrs Upton leaves it to "My daughter Hannah Plumb who now lives in the house with me". The rent was 10/-, 3 bushells of wheat and 4 bushells of malt, the landlord was Oriel College, Oxford.

In view of the amount of corn John later sold, he must have had some freehold in addition to the one yard land.

David died in 1723, leaving Hannah to bring up the two children and carry on the farm. She did both extremely well, being obviously a woman of strong character, possibly inherited from her Upton ancestors - they were Quakers, and several had suffered for their belief. "Widow Plumb" took an active part in village affairs, for instance she put her name to a document sent to Oriel College concerning the freehold rights of "ye fifth part of ye Mills of Shenington", and also presented a tree to replace the 'Great Elm' blown down in a spring gale in April 1745.

John married about 1749, and took over the lease from his mother who lived on until 1755, for 32 years she had been "Widow Plumb". John and his wife Mary had four children, David and Thomas died in infancy, John Gregory grew up to follow his father on the farm, and Mary, fairly late in life, married at Shutford.

An account book kept by John has survived, "The Daily Journal, or the Gentleman's, Merchants and Tradesman's complete Annual Account Book for the Year of our Lord 1770, being the second after Bissextile or Leap Year and the 17th of the New Style used in Great Britain" Price 20d. This includes useful information such as "Points to look for when buying a horse" and "How to walk with less risk of falling than is commonly done, in frosty weather and slippery Ways".

The first entries were made by John in 1772, his last in 1792; they are not consecutive, and include "What we had Don at the Blacksmiths", items on Window and Land Tax, grocery and butcher accounts.

The writing is regular, most of it legible, but what was "May 1790, paid 1/6d for salone osted"? In April of that year, John evidently was unwell; he paid 1/- for "a Box of Pills".

From the blacksmith accounts, we know that he had several horses; Bonny, Huell, Robin, Whitefoot, a Mare and Colt, and the "hold Horse"; Whitefoot was evidently a breeding mare, for John notes that she was "covered" on April 13th, 1792. Each new shoe cost 6d, and a remove 1½d. The smith, who lived almost next door to John, was a real handyman - "Ringing the Pig 2d, Mending the Spade 2d, Puting a Traces on the Well Bucket 1d, Mending the plough trasses 1d, Puting on a new muckkraise stale, Puting a hap on the sithe sned, Hookees and thimbles for the Gate,

Pouting the Irons on a swingle tree". These were all his work.

In December 1779, a year before Shenington Enclosure, John "bargain'd with Jo Glover for sheep commons att 9d p. common att but half a crown for 4 years".

He sold barley at 17/9 qtr., wheat at 17/- and maslin 14/- a bag, (though Horley miller bought some Maslin at 8/6d).

Many pages give names of the buyers of his corn, and also noted are all the days on which corn was "winnowed up".

Clover seed cost John 32/- cwt. and for 6 qtr of Barley "to so" he paid f5-2-0. In 1773 he paid 5/- for a Bushell of Rye and 15/9d each for 7 Bags of Beanes.

One cwt. of "Coles" cost 1/6d, but even 200 years ago bulk buying was worthwhile, for a month later he bought 10 cwt at 1/4d cwt.

In 1772 "Sister Bets had half a pig which come to f2-4-6," and soon after this John "paid one of the gards for two Dogs 3/-".

A "Buchars Bill" for 1776 includes - a Shoulder Lamb 1/10d Neck mutton 1/5½d. 3 bits of mutton 4¼ lb 1/4d. More mutton was eaten than other meats; loin was priced at 4d lb., but John and Mary occasionally bought "a bit of veal" at 3½d lb, and sometimes beef - 37 lb cost 13/-, 30 lb 11/6, and 31 lb at 4½d lb, presumably these large quantities were for salting.

A grocery bill from Pratt the shopkeeper includes - Tea, 2ozs. 4¾d, Shugar ¼lb 2d, Coffee 1 oz. 3d, Blue 2 ozs. 2½d. Thred 1 oz. 3d. 2 Hanks of Mohare 1/-, Salt 7 lb 1/-, Sope 4 lbs. 3/10½d, Candles 6 lbs. 3/10½, Butter 9d lb.

John and Mary made cheese buying "chees clouting" for 6d, and sold cheese to Pratt at 28/- cwt.

A "new pare of shoes from James Walker" cost 6/6d. Barme was bought for 6d, and 8 lb. Hops at 15d per lb. An item dated 1799, and this must be John Gregory as his father died in 1794, records "from Washbrook the beer seller, June to October - 2 Bushells Malt at 6/- Bush. 1 lb Hops, 8 Bottles Pourter, 1 pinte of Rom", and several entries for Beer. Probably for use during hay and harvest.

John Edwards, a stonemason, son of the landlord of the Bell Inn, supplied Mr Plumb with a "horse trofe" for 11/6, and on the same page is recorded "Recd. of Dan. Shelswell for commongrass money 13/-". Paid at the same time for mending the Highways out of it 9/11½d". In May 1789, Paid for Hemp weaving, 20 Ells 9/6d.

Like his father before him (though David had died tragically young) John was from time to time an Overseer of the Poor, a Church Warden, and eventually became Constable. Then we read "The Returne of the Pettey Constable of Shenington for the Seshanes Holden at the Boothall in Gloucester on the 28th of April, Nothing to Present". And "A Presentment made by the High Constable of the Uperpart of Tewkesbury Hundred. Nothing Presentable at this sessions by me, John Plumb, High Cons."

John was now a person of importance, High Constable, but his arithmetic left a lot to be desired -

"Shenington, Gloucester Shire 30 Sep.1772	
Going to have Pass signd and signing	1-6
Passing Vagrant to Honeybone with 2 Horses	3-4-4
Lodging 3d Subsistence 4d	7
	<hr/>
	f5-11-7

Finally we wonder if village life was sometimes contentious in those days, even as it is today, for in 1782 John quotes from Proverbs 16. "When a mans ways please the Lord, he maketh even his enemies to be at peace with him." and again - "I contended with them, and smote some of them, and Plucked them by the hare, and made them swear by God". It would be very interesting to know just why he wrote that.

The Plumb house fell down many years ago, but during 1976/7 a fine new stone house was built on the site, and it is most unlikely that the owner will have to pay the smith to "Brace the Well cerb", "Mend the Cagement" or spend a day as John Plumb did on Thursday 14th May 1772 "A puting up pales be fore the window."

Nan Clifton

Sources:

John Plumb's notebook, Mrs. Bell.

Shenington Par. Regs.

Shutford " "

Shenington Wills.

Oriel College papers.

"Suffering of Friends" M.S.S. Vol.1, Glos. Record Office.

Papers of J. Ward Shelswell, 19th century local farmer.

BURTON DASSETT AND THE LAST LADY SAY

In May 1982 members of the Society had an enjoyable rendezvous at Burton Dassett church in South Warwickshire. The church, remarkable for its escalated structure climbing up the hillside, was largely built over several centuries by the Sudeley family who, though probably living in Gloucestershire, were attentive lords of the manor of the then populous Burton Dassett.¹

With the extinction of the male line of the Sudeleys the manor was inherited, through marriage, by the Botelers or Butlers in the 14th century. Ralph Boteler was a prominent courtier in the next century and was created Lord Sudeley by King Henry VI in 1441; his only son died childless in his father's lifetime, leaving the heirs of Ralph's two sisters to divide the Sudeley and Boteler properties between them.²

Burton Dassett fell to the share of William Belknap, son of Hamon Belknap and Ralph's younger sister Joan. Hamon's father was of Kent and a famous judge in his day though, as for many in those perilous times, attainted and for a while exiled to Ireland.³ William's nephew and heir, Edward Belknap, was responsible for depopulating Burton Dassett in the reign of Henry VIII, replacing people with sheep, though he strongly defended his actions as being in the interests of modernisation, rationalisation and productivity.⁴ Burton Dassett then descended to the heirs of Edward Belknap's three sisters who eventually sold two-thirds to Peter Temple from Leicestershire, ancestor of the family who built Stowe in Buckinghamshire and produced the 19th century prime-minister Lord Palmerston. It was the youngest daughter of Peter's son and heir John, Elizabeth Temple, who married William Viscount Saye and Sele, "Old Subtlety", and is buried with her husband in Broughton church.⁵ Peter Temple's tomb and John Temple's memorial are in Burton Dassett church.

More remarkable than Joan Boteler and her Belknap descendants at Burton Dassett was her elder sister Elizabeth. She made her will on 31 January 1464/65 calling herself Elizabeth Lady Say, widow, identifying herself as sister to "S^r Raffe Buttler, Lord of Sudley". She needs to be explained.⁶

The medieval family of Say was rumbustious in the centuries before and after Magna Carta; in 1215 Geoffrey de Say was one of the twenty five barons appointed to enforce its observance. This duty he was well bred to execute manfully; his grandfather William had been described in the foundation narrative of Walden Abbey as "ferocis animi vir et bellicosus", his father as "vir magnus et militaris". From the twelfth to the fourteenth centuries, based on a wealth of manors, they rode with battleaxe and sword wherever there were heads, usually French, to be hammered or struck off. They married the cream of Norman aristocracy, mixing with their own the blood of Mandeville and de Toni, Beauchamp and Mortimer.⁷ One wonders why for so many centuries the peaceful Saxon

people of England have so revered their blood-thirsty Norman conquerors who not only stole their land but also for several hundred years used them as battle-fodder in their dynastic wars in France, enserfing their persons and their language.

But the Says did not see the war out. When William Lord Say died in 1375 he left as his heir an only son John, aged two, who died seven years later. The Say estates, and any pretension to peerage, were inherited by John's sister Elizabeth. She married two husbands; the first was Sir John de Falvesle of Fawsley, Northants, who was summoned to parliament in right of his wife and died without children in or before 1393. Elizabeth married secondly in 1393 Sir William Heron of Durham, who was also summoned to parliament. Elizabeth died in 1399 without children; her husband died in 1404. And that, it seemed, was the end of the house and title of Say. The estates were judged in 1405 to be vested in the heirs of the three sisters of the William who had died in 1375; they were subsequently divided among the survivors of them in 1432.⁸

Thus far the story is well known and fully recorded. Why then in 1410 did Master Peter, vicar of Bourne by Pevensey [Eastbourne] appoint Thomas Sinclair and Philip Darcy esquires, for the fulfilment of the will of William Heron Knight, "to enter the manors of Hammes [Hamsey] and Bukstede [Buxsted] thrusting out William Clynton Knight, Roger Fienles esquire and others whatsoever". Hamsey and Buxted were two of the Sussex manors of the Say estate; William Clinton and Roger Fiennes were two of the co-heirs of Say.⁹

The three entries in the rolls of 1410 make it clear that Sir William Heron married again after the death of Elizabeth Say in 1399, though the marriage is not definitely affirmed in the Complete Peerage. This lady called herself Lady Say and, despite marital vicissitudes in the meantime, still so called herself when she made her will in January 1464/65, over 80 years after the death of the last lord of Say blood.

The outcome of the intrusion into Hamsey and Buxted is not recorded. It may be that Sir William Heron lived in one manor or the other, (he founded a small hospital in Buxted and in his will provided for its completion;¹⁰ his will was dated at Buxted), and intended that his second wife should stay there for her life. But the heirs of the Say blood occupied the manors as they were entitled to do and she then tried to evict them through the agency of Master Peter and the muscles of Sinclair and Darcy. Whether the dispute was settled by persuasion or by legal judgment is not known; but certainly the Clintons made Hamsey their home after the sale of Maxstoke in Warwickshire in 1438, while Roger Fiennes of Herstmonceux owned Buxted where he signed his will in October 1449.¹¹

Sir William Heron's second wife was in fact Elizabeth eldest daughter of Thomas de Boteler (or Butler) Knight, sister of Sir Ralph Boteler who was created Lord Sudeley in 1441 as recounted above.¹²

After Sir William Heron's death Elizabeth married Sir John

Norbury of Bedwell in Essendon, Herts, who died about 1424. Their eldest son, Sir Henry Norbury, was a soldier in the French wars, fought at Formigny in 1450, the last battle of the hundred years war in Normandy, where he was captured and exchanged after ten days. Henry died before his mother in 1464, leaving a son John who was heir to half of the Sudeley estates.

Elizabeth married and outlived a third husband, Sir John Montgomery, a Scot who had settled at Faulkbourne in Essex. He too was a soldier; he died in 1448 or 1449 leaving at least two sons. The eldest, John (1426-63), was beheaded on Tower Hill for his part in the Earl of Oxford's conspiracy against Edward IV. The younger son, Sir Thomas, thus inherited. There was also a daughter Alice who married Clement Spice of Felsted, Essex, who was MP for Essex 1449-50.¹³

Elizabeth, who by "a far-fetched courtesy" (in Morant's words in his History of Essex) continued to call herself Lady Say through marriages with three husbands none of whom was a Say, must have been a remarkable woman. She first married between 1399 and 1404, and died in 1465; thus she lived to be about 80. She was widowed probably as a teenager, and three times widowed before 1450. She tried unsuccessfully to claim two manors of the Say inheritance by "thrusting out" the true heirs. In 1426 she was godmother, with Alice Countess of Salisbury, to Eleanor de Moleyns and attended her baptism at Stoke Poges; she gave Eleanor a silver-gilt basin and ewer, and wore for the occasion a robe of pale blue damask.¹⁴ She was a lady of style as well as of great connections.

A little-known fact of history is that in the 14th and 15th centuries women were admitted to the Order of the Garter as Dames of the Fraternity of St George. A total of 63 were admitted from 1376 to 1488. G.F. Beltz, Lancaster Herald, in his Memorials of the Most Noble Order of the Garter (1841) listed the Dames; their names were not enrolled but may be found in the Accounts of the Great Wardrobe where the cost of their Garter robes is recorded. Beltz included in the list for 1448 "the Lady de Say, wife of James Fynes lord Say". For various reasons this identification seems unlikely. Reference to the original accounts shows only "D'ne de Say". The rest must have been Beltz's presumption as he knew of no other Lady de Say. Almost certainly the Dame of the Fraternity of St George was the forceful lady described above whose brother Lord Sudeley was a Knight of the Garter, Steward of the royal household and chief butler. In Morant's Essex it is stated that her third husband Sir John Montgomery was also a Knight of the Garter; but his name does not appear in the published lists.

Incidentally, two effigies of Dames of the Fraternity of St George survive, wearing garters on their left arms. They were Margaret Byron, wife of Sir Robert Harcourt KG at Stanton Harcourt, and Alice Chaucer, wife of William de la Pole Duke of Suffolk KG, at Ewelme.

In her will Elizabeth mentions her daughter Alice, wife of

Clement Spice, her son Thomas Montgomery and her brother Ralph Boteler Lord Sudeley. It was dated at Faulkbourne, the Montgomery home. She willed to be buried in the priory of Arbury "where the bones of her ancestors rest"; Arbury was an Austin priory in Warwickshire founded in the reign of Henry II by Ralph de Sudeley who gave to it, among other endowments, the church of Burton Dassett with 200 acres of land, and a hide of land at Radway.¹⁵

D.E.M. Fiennes

References:-

1. VCH Warwickshire, Vol.V.
2. Complete Peerage, Vol. XII, pt. 1, Sudeley. Dugdale's Warwickshire (1730 ed) Vol.I.
3. Dictionary of National Biography.
4. Dugdale's Warwickshire (1730 ed) Vol.II.
5. Lipscomb's Buckinghamshire Vol.III for Stowe.
6. Her will is quoted in Collectanea Topographica III (1836).
7. Complete Peerage Vol. XI, Say.
8. Calendar of Fine Rolls June 26, 1405. Inquisitions Post Mortem 6 H IV No.21. Calendar of Close Rolls Nov. 15, 1432.
9. Calendar of Close Rolls (HIV), 1410, three entries.
10. VCH, Sussex, Vol.II, p.99, and will of William Heron, quoted in N.H. Nicolas Testamenta Vetusta (1826), at Lambeth 219 Arundel.
11. Roger Fiennes's will is at Lambeth 178 Stafford, dated 29 October, proved 18 November 1449.
12. See 9. The entries in the Rolls prove the relationship.
13. For Norbury, Montgomery and Spice see J.C. Wedgwood's History of Parliament 1439-1509.
14. Complete Peerage Vol.IX, Moleyns.
15. VCH Warwickshire Vol.II, p.89.

I am grateful to Mr Benson Tyler, Mrs Grace Holmes (archivist) and Mr William Winterbourne (sacristan) of St George's Chapel, Windsor, for information on the Dames of the Fraternity of St George.

BOOK REVIEWS

Hatchments in Britain No.4 - Bedfordshire, Berkshire, Buckinghamshire, Oxfordshire and Wiltshire. General editor Peter Summers. Published by Phillimore. 167 pp. price £9.95 plus 99p postage.

This is the fourth volume of a series which has been in preparation for thirty years. The series will eventually cover the whole country. Hatchments are an abstruse subject. But they add greatly to the decorativeness of many churches and seldom can visitors obtain information on them. It is therefore very welcome to have a book, slim and in convenient format, arranged parish by parish, to take with one as one visits churches. Each hatchment is described, with the quarterings attributed to families. There is also a key to the peculiar coding of hatchments, differentiating between married persons, widowers, widows and so on.

Many churches near Banbury are covered. Any members wishing to introduce themselves to the mysteries of the subject should examine the collections at Broughton and Great Tew, where there are the largest numbers in this area, taking this book with them.

Anyone ordering the book is invited to do so direct from the editor, Peter Summers, Day's College, North Stoke, Oxford. Discount and royalty will then be paid to a charity for the benefit of children in the Third World.

Oxfordshire Parks by Frank Woodward. Published by Oxfordshire Museum Services. 36 pp. £1.50 or £1.80 by post.

This illustrated booklet is publication No.16 of the Oxfordshire Museum Services. It tells the story of the parks from mediaeval times, when they were in the main enclosures for deer hunting, to the present century. The booklet is excellent value and should be in the hand of anyone exploring Oxfordshire.

Northampton Record Office

We have received the Report on the Work of the Archives Service for the year ended March 1982. The office has a well-ordered collection of documents and is well worth a visit in the pleasant surroundings of Delapre Abbey, Northampton.

BANBURY HISTORICAL SOCIETY - ANNUAL REPORT 1982

Your Committee have pleasure in submitting the 25th Annual Report and Statement of Accounts, for the year 1982.

During the year the Officers remained unchanged, but in the autumn Jeremy Gibson, who had completed his three year term, was succeeded as Chairman by Mrs Gwladys Brinkworth. Earlier in the year we had all been delighted when Christine Bloxham became Mrs Christine Blanks, but this sadly brought an end to committee service (of eleven years) in favour of family commitments. We wish Christine a happy married life and know that her interest in Banbury will continue. In her place we have been pleased to welcome Mrs Gillian Beeston, and have also since co-opted David Hitchcox to the committee.

A further year of well attended meetings is proof of the excellent programme arranged by Nan Clifton. During the 1982/3 season subjects included the Heralds' Visitations of Oxfordshire (John Brooke-Little, Clarenceux King of Arms), the Parish Chest (Mary Beck and Colin Harris), the Planning of Broughton Castle (Harry Gordon Slade), Canons Ashby (Rodney Melville), the Archaeology of Board Games (David Brown, a fated talk, after two postponements, eventually held on the snowiest night of the winter when it was an achievement to attract an audience in double figures), and a welcome return visit from James Pickering, talking on Aerial Archaeology. The high point of the season was undoubtedly our second annual joint meeting with the local National Trust Group, when the Town Hall was packed to hear an absorbing talk on Nonsuch by Professor Martin Biddle. The same few dedicated helpers provided coffee at most meetings. Regrettably it is difficult to find members prepared to assist with this service, but it is hoped that a rota of volunteers will be forthcoming. The North Oxfordshire Technical College has again been the location for most meetings, and we would like to thank our member of long-standing, Brian Little, for his unobtrusive behind-the-scenes assistance.

The village meeting this year was in Northamptonshire, at Chacombe, where Geoffrey Forsyth Lawson's popular 'tour' of the village was supported by a talk on the bell-founding family of Bagley and reminiscences of the early years of the parish council. For the A.G.M. we were invited to Edgcote House by Mr and Mrs Edward Courage, and we were saddened to hear of Mr Courage's death only a few weeks later. For the summer programme, visits were paid to Burton Dassett and Steane churches, the Ashmolean Museum and a day visit to Salisbury and Old Sarum. No annual dinner was held, as, with the Society's Silver Jubilee late in the year, it was felt better to have a party which we hope many members will (by the time this report is presented) have attended, at Broughton Castle - as always by the generous invitation of our President and Lady Saye and Sele - on the eve of St George's Day.

Nevertheless we had the excuse for a small party late in November, almost twenty-five years to the day from the Society's

inauguration in 1957, when, by a fortunate coincidence, our newest records volume, "Victorian Banbury", by our Vice-President and former editor of "Cake and Cockhorse", Dr Barrie Trinder, was published, in collaboration with Messrs. Phillimore. This handsome book, with its colourful jacket, has rewarded our records members after several years' patient wait, and has deservedly been a local best seller. Our next records volume will be "Banbury Burials, 1723-1812", which has now been completely typed by Mrs Ann Hitchcox and is ready for printing. We also expect to publish Nicholas Cooper's long-awaited "History of Aynho" during 1983, and work is well advanced on what promises to be a fascinating volume on Banbury's Gaol in the 1830's and 1840's.

To non-local members the Society and "Cake and Cockhorse" are synonymous, and David Fiennes has produced further entertaining and scholarly issues, ending Volume 8 and starting Volume 9. Contributors to the Summer issue included D.M. Rogers and Pamela Keegan, whose article on the unlikely subject of hovels aroused more than usual interest; the Autumn "Hook Norton" number brought together Fred Beale, Sue and R.G. Coltman, Reg Dand, Roger Gorton, Percy Hacking and Kate Tiller, plus our old friend George Fothergill to review Christine Bloxham's "Portrait of Oxfordshire".

The increase in subscription does not seem to have deterred members (for what remains exceptional value) and income from this source rose by almost £300, plus a further £100 from covenant refunds. Bank interest on funds accumulated for publications continued to cushion the Society, and sales of "Victorian Banbury" and other records volumes brought an increase of over £100. Naturally the cost of that book has depleted the publications reserve markedly, and with the promising programme of books in preparation this is likely to disappear in due course. Unfortunately the cost of producing the magazine has absorbed all of the subscription increase, and it seems likely that further subscription increases will be necessary soon.

BANBURY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Revenue Account for the Year ended 31st December 1982

1981	<u>Income</u>		
	995 Subscriptions	1,286	
595	<u>400</u> Less: Transfer to publications account	<u>410</u>	876
	Income Tax refund on covenants		100
	Interest on deposit account (less bank charges)		213
42	Surplus on excursion and dinner		-
110	Sale of publications (see publications account)		-
<u>1005</u>		<u>£ 1,189</u>	

	<u>Expenditure</u>		
	582 "Cake & Cockhorse": Typing, printing, etc.	874	
	111 Postage	118	
	<u>693</u>	<u>992</u>	
633	<u>60</u> Less: Sales	<u>60</u>	932
	41 Lecture and meeting expenses: Printing & postage	67	
	119 Hire of hall, speakers' expenses, entertaining	75	
	<u>160</u>	<u>142</u>	
102	<u>58</u> Less: Donations at meetings	<u>39</u>	103
-	Shortfall on annual excursion		13
90	Secretarial and administration expenses		71
11	Subscriptions to other bodies		11
25	Insurance		28
-	Research		23
144	Excess of income over expenditure for the year		8
<u>1005</u>		<u>1,189</u>	

Publications Account

1981	<u>Income</u>		1981	<u>Expenditure</u>	
2471	Opening balance at 1.1.82	2,871		"Victorian Banbury"	1,585
400	Proportion of subscriptions	410		Postage and despatch	
-	Sales of publications (less discounts, purchases for resale, and Cake & Cockhorse)	228	2871	on "Victorian Banbury"	133
<u>2871</u>		<u>£ 3,509</u>		Balance at 31.12.82	1,791
			<u>2871</u>		<u>£ 3,509</u>

Balance Sheet as at 31st December 1982

1981	<u>Liabilities</u>		1981	<u>Assets</u>	
34	Subscriptions in advance	86	87	Subscriptions in arrears	-
7	Sundry creditors	-	-	Expenditure paid in advance	41
2871	Publications reserve	1,791	302	Cash in current account	321
(117)	Capital account as at 1.1.82	27	2550	Cash in deposit account	1,550
144	Add surplus for the year	8	35		
<u>27</u>					
<u>2939</u>		<u>£ 1,912</u>	<u>2939</u>		<u>£ 1,912</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.

25th April 1983

Ellacott, Stranks & Co.
Chartered Accountants

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 many volumes in the record series. 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; Bodicote Parish Accounts 1700-1822; and Victorian Banbury** by Barrie Trinder. 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).**

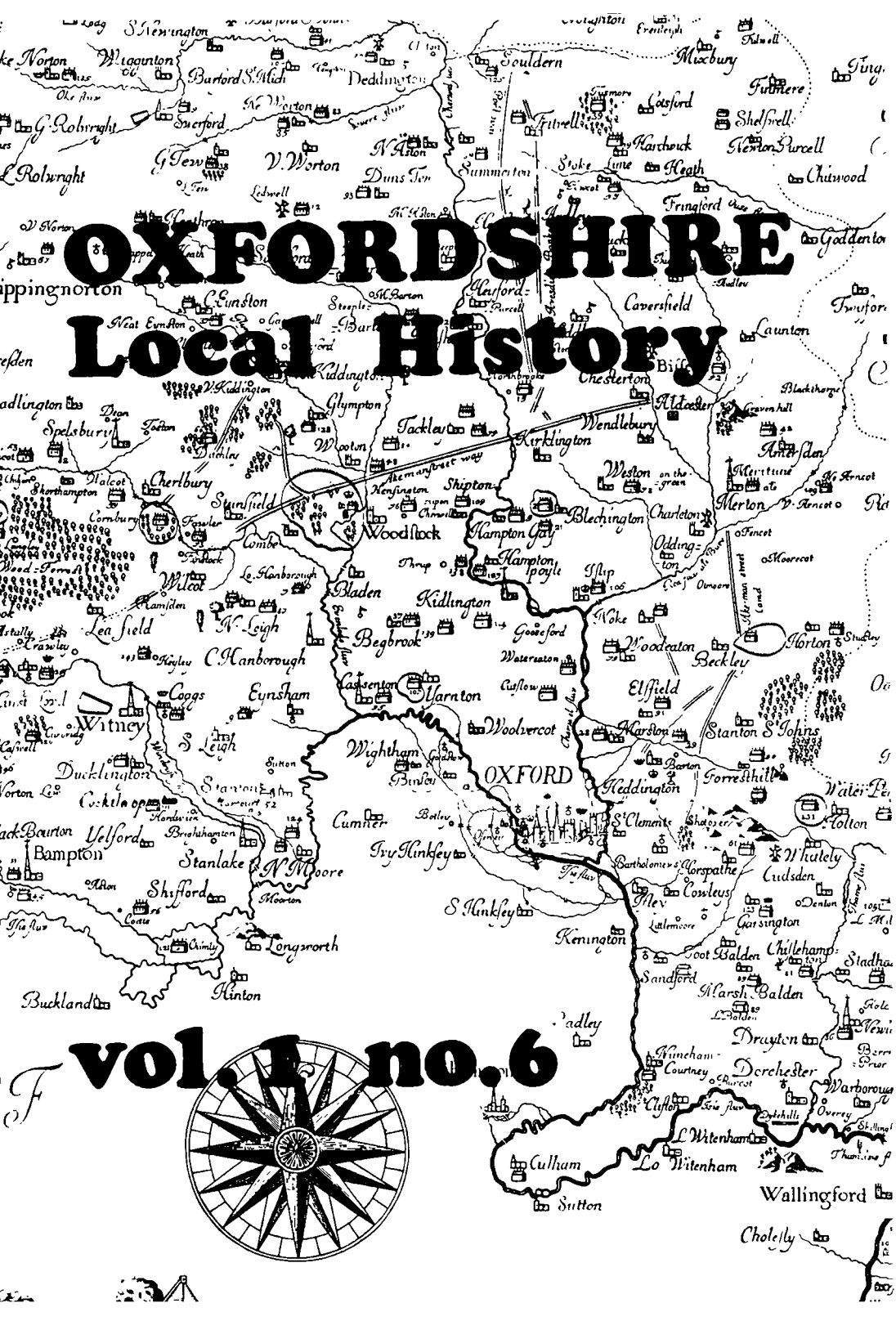
Meetings are held during the autumn and winter, normally at 7.30 pm. Talks on general and local archaeological, historical and architectural subjects are given by invited lecturers. In the summer, excursions to local country houses and churches are arranged. Archaeological excavations and special exhibitions 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.

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

Printed by: Parchment (Oxford) Limited, 60 Hurst Street, Oxford, for the Banbury Historical Society.

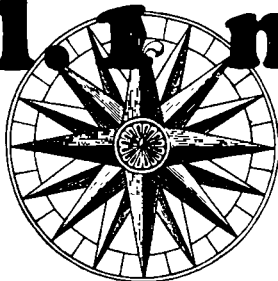
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OXFORDSHIRE

Local History

vol 1 no. 6



OXFORDSHIRE LOCAL HISTORY (1980 - 1983)

Main articles:

1. Death and Burial in 17th century Oxford, by Stephen Porter.
Growers and Showers of Florists' Flowers in the Oxford Area after 1820, by Ruth E. Duthie.
Newspaper Advertising in late 18th century Oxfordshire, by Pamela Horn.
2. The Relief of Poverty in Abingdon before 1834, by Patricia Stewart.
Hedges and the History of Emmington, by Trevor Hussey.
Oxfordshire Probate Inventories in the Records of the Prerogative Court of Canterbury, by J.S.W. Gibson (this lists, parish by parish, the names of those for whom such inventories survive in the Public Record Office, 1661 to early 18th century). Pt. 1, Adderbury - Minster Lovell.
3. Oxfordshire Probate Inventories, Pt. 2, Mollington - Yarnton.
Burials in Woollen in Oxfordshire, by Steven Tomlinson. *
Oxford, Park End Street and the Forest of Dean, by Mary Prior.
The Tubb Family of Bicester and their Bank, by G.H. Dannatt.
4. Oxfordshire Field Names, by James Bond.
A County Transcription of the 1851 Census, by J.S.W. Gibson. *
5. The Dorchester Peculiar, 1536-1837, by Leslie Wood.
Emigration to Australia in the early 19th century - an Oxfordshire Case Study (Chinnor), by J.W. Davis.
6. What they died of in Sutton Courtenay, 1786-1812, by D. Cobb.
The Village in Victorian Oxfordshire, by Pamela Horn.
Continuity of land use in the Thames Valley near Oxford, by Alison McDonald.

(* also published in "The Oxfordshire Family Historian".)

Notes and Queries: 1. The Banbury-Cheltenham Railway 1865; The Henry Taunt Collection; 'Wergs' ?; 2. Cope Papers at Winchester; Public Health Services in Oxford; 'Tites' ?; 3. Anglicans and Methodists, 1804; Fewcot, a forgotten Oxfordshire place-name; 4. Nymphs of the Pave; What was Mrs Talmage's Plan?; Local Non-conformist history; 5. Oxfordshire Newspapers; Birthplaces in the Census; 6. Medieval and Renaissance Entertainment in Oxfordshire.

Books Reviewed: 1. Clapinson: "Bishop Fell and Nonconformity"; Moody: "The Burford Small-pox Outbreak of 1758"; 2. Mills: "Lord and Peasant in 19th century Britain"; Stebbing, Rhodes and Mellor: "Oxfordshire Potters"; 3. Platt: "The Parish Churches of Medieval England"; 4. Carter and Smith: "Give and Take: Scenes from the History of Christ's Hospital, Abingdon, 1553-1900"; Morgan: "Harvesters and Harvesting, 1840-1900"; 5. Prior: "Fisher Row: Fishermen, Bargemen and Canal Boatmen in Oxford, 1500-1900"; Batey: "Oxford Gardens"; (various): "Of Oxfordshire Gardens"; 6. Trinder: "Victorian Banbury"; Morris: "The Illustrated Journeys of Celia Fiennes, 1685-1712"; Ison: "A Secretary Hand ABC Book".

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