

CAKE AND COCKHORSE



BANBURY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

AUTUMN 1986 PRICE £1.00

VOLUME 10. NUMBER 4

ISSN .0522-0823

Banbury Historical Society

President:

The Lord Saye and Sele

Chairman:

Dr. J.S. Rivers, Homeland, Middle Lane, Balscote,
Banbury.

Deputy Chairman:

J.S.W. Gibson, Harts Cottage, Church Hanborough, Oxford. OX7 2AB.

Magazine Editor:

D.A. Hitchcox, 1 Dorchester Grove, Broughton Road, Banbury.

Tel: Banbury 53733

Hon. Secretary:

Mrs Sarah Gosling,
Banbury Museum,
8 Horsefair, Banbury.
(Tel: 59855)

Hon. Treasurer:

A. Essex-Crosby,
3 Brantwood Court,
Banbury.
(Tel: 56238)

Programme Secretary:

Miss P. Renold M.A. F.R.Hist.S.,
51 Woodstock Close,
Oxford OX2 8DD.
(Tel: Oxford 53937)

Hon. Research Adviser:

J.S.W. Gibson,
Harts Cottage,
Church Hanborough, Oxford OX7 2AB.
(Tel: Freeland (0993)882982)

Committee Members:

Mrs. J.P.Bowes, Mrs. N.M. Clifton, Mrs. C. Jakeman,
Miss M. Stanton

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

Cover Picture: Specimen of Ancient Architecture, Banbury
(After an Original Sketch by Mr. J. Hutchings,
Banbury.)

Cake and Cockhorse

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

Volume 10	Number 4	Autumn 1986
J.S.W.Gibson	Some Banbury Inhabitants in the 1690s.	82
Pamela Horn	The Chipping Norton Deanery Magazine for 1888	91
R.K. Gilkes	The Corporation of Banbury and National Affairs 1783-1835	96
Veronica Butt	"Banbury Theatre" Its place in the Community	106
	Winter Programme	108

In the near future work is to commence on the M40 Motorway extension from Birmingham to Waterstock. This route passes to the east and north of Banbury within half a mile of Grimsbury.

The Oxford Archaeological Unit have already conducted Field Walks to notify any obvious sites in the Motorway path. One major site was found in Aynho Parish identified by a scatter of flint artifacts. The Unit notes that only when the top soil is removed is field walking really successful, at that stage one major archaeological site may be expected for every half mile of road.

This major project is an opportunity for this Society to become involved with the O.A.U. and members who have some experience in this type of work will be of great assistance in mapping the progress of the Motorway.

Dr. E. Asser has recently tendered her resignation from our Committee, she has been, for many years, a hardworking and dependable member, and our best wishes go with her in her "Retirement".

D.A.H.

SOME BANBURY INHABITANTS in the 1690s.

In a recent issue [C&CH, 9,6, Summer 1984, 'Taxpayers in Restoration Banbury'] I was able to publish a list of some 236 Banbury inhabitants of the 1660s (with another 78 from Neithrop, Grimsbury, etc.). This was compiled from the list of donors to the Free and Voluntary Present to Charles II of 1661 (150) and payers of Hearth Tax in 1662 (190) and 1665 (146/138).

Since then a somewhat similar list has been brought to my attention - the signatories to the Association Oath Roll of 1695. This arose out of the concern over the possibility of assassination of William III, who had replaced the Roman Catholic James II only seven years earlier. An Act was passed in the winter of 1695/6 requiring all public office holders - such as members of borough corporations - to take an oath of loyalty to the Crown. It was open to others to sign as well if they wished. In some places all males of some age and standing were encouraged to take the Oath and their names were enrolled. Banbury was one such place where this occurred, and the roll contains no less than 256 names, an impressive total compared with the lists of a generation earlier. What is more, they are the actual signatures of the individuals, an interesting indication of general ability to write - only two were by mark.

The rolls are preserved in the Public Record Office [Cbancery Lane], Class C.213. The normal pattern is for separate rolls to exist for each borough, together with one or more very extensive roll(s) for the remainder of the county. I have yet to examine a county roll, but it would I imagine be divided up by parish or at least by hundred. For Oxfordshire, the county rolls are referenced C.213 205-6, and there are four others: 207, for Postcomb; 208, for Oxford; 209, for Woodstock (published in The Oxfordshire Family Historian, 4,2, Summer 1986); and 210 for Banbury. The Banbury roll is not dated, but that for Woodstock was compiled on 30th March, 1696.

The preamble (in almost identical wording to the Woodstock roll) reads:

To the Kings most Excellt Ma tie
Whereas there has been a Horrid and Detestable Conspiracy
formed and carried on by Papists and other wicked and
Traiterous Persons for Assassinateing yor Maties Royall
person in order to Incourage an Invasion from France
to subvert our Religion Lawes and Liberty -
Wee the Mayor Recorder Aldermen Capitall Burgesses Assistants
Freemen & Inhabitants of your Maties anncient Burrough of
Banbury in the County of Oxon whose names are hereunto
Subscribed Doe Heartily Sincerely and Solemly Professe
Testifie and Declare That yor p^{sent} Matie Kinge William is
Rightfull and Lawfull Kinge of these Realmes - And wee Doe

mutually p'mise and Engage to stand by and Assist each other to the utmost of our power in the Support and Defence of yo^r Maties most sacred p'son and Government ag^t the late kinge James and all his Adherents And in Case yo^r Matie come to any Violent or Untimely Death (which God forbid) Wee doe hereby further freely and Unanimously obleige our Selves to Unite Associate and stand by each other in Revenginge the same upon yo^r Ennimies and their Adherents and in Supportinge and Defendinge the Succession of the Crowne accordinge to an Act made in the First yeare of the Raigne of Kinge William and Queene Mary Intituled an Act Declareinge the Rights and Lib'ties of the Subject and settlinge the Succession of the Crowne.

The signatories commence with the office-holders:

Joseph Mawle, Mayor

William Crupe, Recorder

Robert Dashwood (the Member of Parliament)

Aldermen:

W[illiam] Hawtayne

John Cave

Cap[itā]ll Burgesses

Will. Thorpe

Richard Wheatly

Charles Stokes

Malachy Harvey

John Welchman

Samuel West

Geo. Thorpe

John West

Richard Crooke

Richard Burrows

John Allington

Edward Reynolds

Richard Wheatly

John West, junr.

Will. Box

This list is immediately helpful in throwing light on an obscure period of the history of the Corporation. The Corporation 'Account Book' effectively ends in 1693-4 with the election of Richard Crooke as Mayor (29 September 1693) and William Hawtayne as Deputy Mayor (2 February 1693/4). Names of Mayors and new Burgesses for the next few years are only partially known. This document shows that Joseph Mawle had become an Alderman and was Mayor for 1695-6 and that Richard Wheatly and William Box had been elected Burgesses since 1693. Andrew Smith, elected a Burgess in 1685 and still one in 1693, had presumably retired and left Banbury - his signature does not occur on the roll and there is no record of his burial at Banbury.

The first signature after those mentioned is of 'Dan. Style', the fourth is of 'Wm. Style'. Daniel Style was landlord of the Unicorn tavern, but it is possible that he was also Town Clerk in 1695-6, as his family filled this office later - his brother Philip was Town Clerk by 1700/1, at the time of the disputed mayoral elections (February 1698/9 - March 1700/1). Philip's son William was Town Clerk to the rival Mayor, and from his father's death in 1706 until his own ten years later. Philip Style's signature does not appear on the roll, which had he been Town Clerk in 1695-6 it must have done.

The intervening signatures are of two local gentry, Anthony Newlove and Robert Walter or Walters. The fifth signature is of 'Tho. Fletcher, Clerk'. This was probably Thomas Fletcher, B.A.,

Fellow of New College Oxford and curate at Hanwell from 1694. He became Vicar of Bloxham in 1696, where he remained until his death in 1724. He was presumably the 'Revd.----- Fletcher' from whom the Banbury Blue Coat School received a bequest in 1725. At his appointment to Bloxham he was described as 'a very sensible and civil man', in contrast to a rival, 'a puritanical popular preacher'. However, during his incumbency Presbyterians in the parish and nearby Milton complained that Fletcher, 'being a Welshman, spoke the English language so very imperfectly, that his people could not understand him; and as he would not go away, a number determined to provide themselves with a minister that they could understand'. Somewhat perversely, in the circumstances, they chose Andrew Durell, a refugee Huguenot! The Vicar of Banbury from 1677 to 1701 was John Knight, but in 1693 he had also become Rector of Broughton and by 1695-6 was living there in his newly-built rectory. In any case, most clergy signed separate rolls arranged by diocese and deanery.

For convenience I have numbered the signatures following the Corporation from 1 - 238. These figures are shown in brackets against each individual in the alphabetical list that follows, though there is probably no great significance in the order of signatures after the first few. Of the 250 signatures, only 21 have defied any identification, several because they are not clearly legible. Most of the remainder, appear in the burial registers and many in the Corporation Records volume, both published. These give cross-references to probate records. I have not normally attempted to check the baptism or marriage registers (also published). The occasional other sources, including articles in Cake & Cockhorse, are indicated as relevant. Whilst I hope the identifications are correct, there is always a possibility of confusion with others of the same name, so without checking these should not be accepted as proven.

The names are given exactly as in the signatures, themselves interesting evidence of how the signatories themselves considered their names should be spelt (in comparison with the interpretation of parish clerks and other transcribers, normally all one has to go on).

The surnames which had also occurred in the 1660s list (Hearth Tax, etc.) are asterisked - 62 surnames representing 124 individuals - though they are not necessarily the same families. This shows that at least 53% had not lived in Banbury (parish) a generation, so far as the male line goes, though doubtless many more had female connections. This compares with a 70% turnover in Woodstock - but without genealogical analysis in depth it would be misleading to draw conclusions from these statistics.

J.S.W.Gibson.

Borough of Banbury, Oxon. - Signatories of the Association Oath Roll, 1695.
(Public Record Office, C.213/210)

Abbreviations:

- BCR = *Banbury Corporation Records: Tudor and Stuart* (Biographies section), ed. J.S.W. Gibson and E.R.C. Brinkworth, B.H.S. vol.15, 1977, pp.299-330.
 Bur. = Buried Corpn. = Corporation junr. = junior senr. = senior
 PCB = will or other probate record in the Peculiar Court of Banbury (see *Banbury Burial Registers* (B.H.S. vols. 9, 1653-1723, and 18, 1723-1812) for exact references and the *Index to Wills Proved in the Peculiar Court of Banbury 1542-1858* (B.H.S. vol.1 and Oxon. Record Soc. vol.40) for further details).
 PCC = will proved in the Prerogative Court of Canterbury (for exact references see *Banbury Burial Registers*, to 1700 only, and *Cake & Cockhorse*, vol.5, no.1, (Autumn 1971), pp.18-20, 'Banbury Wills in P.C.C., 1701-1723').

Figures in brackets indicate the position of the signature on the roll. 'C', in this context only, indicates a member of the Corporation. * = Surname in Hearth Tax.

- ADAMS, Will.** (236). Gardener. Bur. 27 Sep 1728, 'senr.' (a Wm. Adams, junr., gardener, bur. 10 July 1711).
- ALDINGTON, Malachy** (22). Bur. 23 July 1727, 'senr.' (A Malachi Aldington, junr., was a gardener).
- ALLINGTON, John**, Alderman (C.6). BCR. Apothecary. On Corpn. from 1669-70. Alderman 1680, Mayor 1680-1, 1712-3. Bur. 3 Aug 1718.
- ***ANSLEY, William** (162). BCR. Butcher. Corpn. taster 1680-94. Bur. 5 Jan 1719/20.
- APLETREE, Tho.** (11). Apothecary. Bur. 18 June 1700 (APELTRE). PCC.
- ***AUSTIN, John** (63). BCR. On replacement Corpn. Feb 1687/8 - Oct 1688, Mayor Feb 1687/8 - Sep 1688. Bur. 10 Aug 1708. PCB.
- AUSTIN, John** (119). Labourer, of Neithrop. Bur. 14 Jan 1737/8, 'senr.'
- AUSTIN, John** (160).
- AUSTIN, Joseph** (157). Baker. Bur. 2 Oct 1726. PCB.
- AYORS, Edward** (145). Hempdresser. Bur. 3 Oct 1732.
- BACON, Nathaniell** (64).
- BAGNILL, James** (141). Translator. Bur. 18 Sep 1714.
- ***BAKER, Joseph** (73). Glover. Bur. 8 Jan 1700/1.
- ***BANISTER, John** (212). Bur. 25 June 1714 'Mr John B, merchant, late of Boston in New England'.
- ***BARNES, Tom.** (49). Parish clerk (see Introduction to *Banbury Registers*, vol.9). Bur. 29 Aug 1722.
- BARNES, Will.** (139). Sexton (for 37 years). Bur. 6 June 1743.
- BARNES, William** (228). ?Bur. 17 Jan 1739/40, labr.
- BATTRILL, John** (74). Innholder from 'ye Cross Daggers', bur. 7 June 1720. PCB.
- BEELE, John** (192).
- BENNET, Richard** (13). BCR. Tanner. Constable 1689-90. Bur. 17 Dec 1697. PCB.
- BERRY, Ben.** (47). Slatter. Bur. 5 Aug 1715.
- BICE(?)**, John (151).
- BLABY, Edw.** (115). Joiner. Bur. 27 Aug 1723, 'senr.'
- ***BLOXHAM, Joseph** (84). Civier (or 'sive-weaver'). Bur. 24 Oct 1732.
- BLOXHUE** [sic, but should be BLOXHAM], Robert (42). BCR. Butcher. Corpn. taster 1679-80, 1689-90; Warden 1693-1694. Bur. 13 Nov 1737, 'senr.'. PCB.
- BLOXHAM, T[ho.]** (109). Thomas Bloxham, senr., joiner, bur. 20 Aug 1737. PCB.
- BOLDES, Thomas** (82). Joiner. Bur. 15 Feb 1723/4 (as BOLDS, but BOWLES at his wife's burial, 15 Jan 1718/9).
- BORTON, Joseph** (150).
- BORTON, Samuel** (222). (Esther wife of Samuell Bourton/Borten, sadler, bur. 17 Mar 1707/8.)
- BOX, Will**, Burgess (C.18). BCR. Brasier. Burgess by 1695, later Alderman. Bur. 27 Sep 1732, 'senr.'. PCB.
- BRAYNE, Richard** (199). Mercer. Not bur. at Banbury. PCB, 1698.
- ***BULL, Richard** (128). Shoemaker. Bur. 30 Sep 1701. PCB.
- BURDON, Richard** (213). BCR. Saddler. Constable 1690-2. Bur. 18 Nov 1736.
- BURNHAM, Edward** (224). Bur. 16 May 1710 'ye old cryer, in ye 50th year of his servis and 85 year of his age'.
- BURROWES, John** (220). Bur. 6 June 1713 'from ye Checquer'.
- BURROWS, John** (229). Weaver. Bur. 1 Aug 1735, 'Mr John B'.

BURROWS, Richard, Burgess (C.16). BCR. On Corpn. by 1693-4, Mayor 1714-5. Died before 1720.

BURY, John (12). Maltster. Bur 7 Oct 1729, 'Mr John B'.

BURY, Robert (71). Brazier, of Grimsbury/Middleton Cheney at burial of his wife, 10 Sep 1716.

***BUTTLER, John** (237). BCR. Either, yeoman, tithingman 1670-1, bur. 16 Sep 1699 'at ye Wheatsheaf'; or slatter, constable 1692-4, bur. 8 Oct 1711 'from ye Kings Arms'.

BUTLER, Joseph (137). BCR. Maltster, in Broad Lane. Constable 1680-3. Bur. 14 Aug 1705. PCB.

BUTTLER, Joseph (238). Innholder 'from ye sign of ye Wheat Sheaf'. Bur. 11 Jan 1717/8. PCB.

***CALCOTT, Richard** (225). Smith. Bur. 5 Oct 1696 (COLKET).

CALCOTT, Will. (131). BCR. Smith and farrier. Constable 1686-9. Bur. 12 Aug 1713, 'Mr William C'. PCB.

CALLOW, Richard (21). BCR. Burgess, but after 1696. Bur. 4 Dec 1699. PCB.

CARTER, James (234).

***CAVE, John**, Alderman (C.8). BCR. Burgess 1675-6. Alderman from 1685. Mayor 1686-7. Bur. 4 June 1703.

CAVE, John, junr. (78). Brazier, 'from ye old Dolphin'. Bur. 13 June 1716.

CAVE, Matthew (67). Brazier. Bur 30 Dec 1732, 'senr.'.

***CHAMBERLIN, Thomas** (132). Tailor. (Joyce relict of Thomas C, tailor, bur. 17 Sep 1745; children born/bapt. 1695-1705; probably a dissenter).

CHARLES, Robert (189). Carpenter. Bur. 17 Apr 1706, 'senr.'. PCB.

CHESTON, Adrian (83).

***COBB, Will.** (35). (A William Cobb bur. 21 June 1694.)

***COLES, Joseph** (227).
COLKET - see CALCOTT.

COLLINS, Tho. (143). Labourer. Bur 18 Aug 1720, 'senr.'. PCB.

***CROOKE, Richard**, Alderman (C.11). BCR. Burgess from 1681-2, Alderman from 1690, Mayor 1693-4. Resigned 1702.

CRUPE(?), **William**. Recorder (signs with Corpn.).

DASHWOOD, Robert (Sir)(signs with Corpn.). BCR. 1st baronet. M.P. for Banbury. Died 14 July 1734.

DAUKES, Will. (28). Labourer. (Wife bur. 3 Aug 1707 and son bur. 29 Mar 1711.)

DAVIS, John (53). BCR. Gersey-weaver, labourer. Constable 1692-4. Bur. 3 Mar 1733/4.

DENT, Rich. (185). Bur. 31 Dec 1748, 'senr.'.

DICKERSON, John (146). Bur. 24 Aug 1718 'senr., out of New-land'.

***DINGLEY, Sim.** (114). Collarmaker. Bur. 13 May 1714, 'senr.'. PCB.

DISSELL, Will. (103). Plumber. Bur. 14 Jan 1710/1 (DISELL).

DUDLEY, Edward (113). BCR. Butcher. Corpn. taster 1663-86. Bur. 19 Oct 1705, 'senr.'.

EAGLESTONE, Frances [sic](181). Tailor. Bur. 19 Feb 1701/2 (as Francis EGELSTON). PCB.

***FEILD, Will.** (172). Tanner. Bur. 14 Jan 1718/9.

FENNIMORE, Christopher (31). BCR. Fellmonger. Constable 1686-8. Auditor to replacement Corpn. 1687-8. Bur. 30 Jan 1727/8.

***FLETCHER, Tho.**, Clerk (5). See text.

FOX, Charles (36).

FRANKLIN, William (117). Cooper. Bur. 4 June 1730.

FREEMAN, Sam 'his mark' (62). Mason. Bur. 15 Mar 1699/1700.

FREEMAN, Simon (61). Mason. Bur. 24 Dec 1698.

GANTON, William (19). Tailor. Bur. 15 Aug 1696.

GARDNER, Wil.(?)(202). Tailor. Bur. 6 July 1707, 'out of Broad Lane' (as GARNER).

GARNER, Salathiel (111). Tailor (his wife bur. 15 Sep 1704).

GARNER, Tho. (112). Tailor. Bur. 23 Dec 1737.

***GASCOIGNE, Jacob** (38). BCR. Glover. Constable 1685-6. Auditor to replacement Corpn. 1687-8. Bur. 22 Apr 1700. PCB.

GASCOYNE, Robert (102). BCR. Carrier. Corpn. searcher and sealer of leather 1690-4. Bur 31 Mar 1736, 'Mr Robert G, senr.'. PCB.

GASCOYNE, Tho. (206). Waterman and labourer. Bur. 21 July 1706.

***GIBERD, Timothy** (159). Baker. Bur. 26 Jan 1732/3.

GILKES, Richard (235). Fellmonger. Bur. 21 July 1723.

***GOODE, Thomas** (171). Grocer. Bur. 20 Feb 1741/2, 'Mr Thomas GOOD'. PCB.

GOODE, Wm. (133). ?Bur. 24 July 1746, huckster. (Mary relict of William Goode, currier, bur. 16 Jan 1719/20, but PCB for William Goode, currier, in 1692, no burial.)

- GOODWIN, Francis** (175). BCR. Tanner. Burgess (after 1695) and Alderman, Mayor 1708-9, 1718-9. Bur. 23 Sep 1781.
- GOODWIN, William** (219).
- ***GRANTE, Rich.** (100). Blacksmith. (His wife bur. 2 May 1707).
- GRAY, Joseph** (76). (Children baptised 1690 - 1697.)
- GRENEHILL, Gorge** [sic](72). Gardener. Bur. 26 Mar 1735.
- GREENHILL(?)**, John (30).
- GREENHILL, John** (127). BCR. Shoemaker. Corpn. searcher and sealer of leather 1681-2, Constable 1690-2. Bur. 12 Sep 1737.
- GREENHILL, Tho.** (126). BCR. Upholster. Constable 1692-4. Bur. 16 July 1724.
- GUBBINS, John** (34). (Children baptised 1673-1691.)
- ***GULLIVER, John jnr.** (90). Wheelwright. Bur. 12 Oct 1700.
- GULLIVER, Sam.** (44). Wheelwright. Bur. 24 Feb 1704/5.
- GULLIVER, William** (85). BCR. Guilder. Alderman on replacement Corpn. 1687-8. Bur. 16 May 1723.
- ***GUNN, Stephen** (69). Hatter. Bur. 26 Dec 1710.
- HALAWAY, Will.** (97). Baker and brewer. Bur. 26 July 1716 as William HOLLOWAY.
- ***HALL, Rowland** (179). Beadle of the beggars. Bur. 11 Dec 1711.
- ***HANS, Joseph** (120). BCR. Tallowchandler. Constable 1672-4, Assistant 1683-4. Bur. 3 Mar 1707/8, 'Mr.'. PCC.
- ***HARVEY, Malachy**, Burgess (C.14). Tanner. Burgess from 1690-1, later Alderman, Mayor 1709-10. Bur. 22 Mar 1717/8. PCB.
- HARUEY, Samuell** (170). Schoolmaster (?tanner earlier). Bur. 21 Oct 1739 (as HARVEY).
- HAXWEL, John, senr.** (88). Carpenter. Bur. 8 Mar 1717/8.
- HAXWELL, John, jnr.** (89). Carpenter/joiner. Bur. 24 Oct 177. PCB.
- ***HAWTAYNE, W[illiam]**, Alderman (C.2). BCR. Burgess from 1661-2, Mayor 1666-7, 1682-3. Bur. 25 May 1697. PCB.
- ***HAWTEN, John** (27). Saddler. Bur. 29 June 1705 (as Mr John HAWTAYNE). PCB.
- HICKS, Geo.** (15). BCR. Constable 1693-4. (Son born 1694, bap. 8 Feb 1707/8.) HOLLOWAY see HALAWAY
- HOLLTOM, John** (87). Tailor. Bur. 1 June 1697. PCB.
- HORBURY(?), Robert** (107).
- HORN, Tho.** (125). (Children baptised 1696-1698.)
- ***HORSMAN, Rich.** (191). Bur. 29 Sep 1697.
- ***HUGHES, John** (166). Labourer, of Neithrop. Bur. 26 July 1689. PCB.
- HUNT, Tho.** (7). (Thomas Hunt, a lawyer who lived in Banbury in Charles II's reign, had died in 1688 - see C&CH, 10, 1, p.4. - this man might be one of his family, as his widow continued to live in Banbury.)
- JACKMAN, Js.** [Josiah]. BCR. Mercer. Constable 1657-8. Bur. 26 Feb 1697/8, 'poor'.
- JARVIS, William** (182). Silk-weaver. Bur. 27 May 1717, 'senr.'. PCB.
- JOHNSON, Joanathn** [sic](130). Baker. Bur. 25 Apr 1709 (as Mr Jonathan JOHNSON). PCC.
- ***JORDAINE, Sam.** (167). Bur. 13 May 1701 (as Samwell JORDAN, poor).
- ***KENING, John** (14). BCR. Mason. Constable 1674-6. Bur. 11 Apr 1704, 'senr.'. PCB
- KNIBB, John** (129). Blacksmith. Bur. 26 Jan 1723/4. PCB.
- ***LAMPREY, Benjamin** (118). Clockmaker. Bur. 18 Sep 1721. PCB. See *Clockmaking in Oxfordshire, 1400-1850*, C.F.C. Beeson, B.H.S. vol.4, 1962, p.125.
- LAMPRY, John** (24). Innholder, Altar-stone at wife's bur. 1706/7, 'senr.'; Red Lyon at own bur. 4 June 1720. PCB.
- LAMPRY, John** (142). Slattier. Bur. 6 Mar 1708/9, 'junr.'
- LAMPREY, Jno.** (48). Slattier. Bur. 1 June 1729, 'senr.'.
- LAMPRY, Sam.** (59). Joiner. Bur. 4 Nov 1702.
- LAMPREY, Will.** (232). Silkweaver, of Calthorpe Lane. Bur. 25 Dec 1714.
- LANE, John** (210). Either boddismaker, bur. 21 Mar 1725/6, 'senr.'. PCB. Or M.D., bur. 13 Jan 1737/8.
- ***LEAUNG, William** (174). Pin-maker. Bur. 16 Sep 1733 (LEAVER).
- ***LENTEN, Will.** (144). (Wife bur. 1695).
- ***LONGE, John** (26). Quaker. Of Neithrop. Bur. 18 July 1706, 'senr.'. PCB.
- LONG, Robert** (29). BCR. Silkweaver. Assistant to Corpn. 1683-4. Bur. 8 Sep 1696 (LONGE).
- LUCAS, Henry** (80). BCR. Barber/surgeon. Burgess (after 1695) and Alderman. Mayor 1710-1. Bur. 7 Aug 1721. PCC.
- LUCKMAN, Edward** (221). Cooper. Bur. 20 Dec 1735.
- LYNDON, Rich.** (176). Gingerbread-maker. Bur. 20 Feb 1727/8, 'senr.'. PCB.
- ***MANDER, William** (215). Chandler. Bur. 1 Oct 1699 (MAUNDER).
- MARCH, William** (193). BCR. Innholder, from the Bear. Constable 1683-6. Bur. 26 Jan 1711/2. PCC.
- MARSCORD, John** (33). Gardener. Bur. 11 Apr 1712, 'senr.'. PCB.

- MAWLE, Joseph**, Mayor (C.1). BCR. Goldsmith. Burgess 1685-6 and Alderman. Mayor 1695-6. Bur. 30 Dec 1699. PCB.
- MAY, William** (223). Turner. Bur. 18 Aug 1728, 'senr.'.
- MILLER, Sandersen** (81). BCR. Mercer. Burgess (after 1695) and Alderman. Mayor 1707-8. Bur. 21 June 1737 at Radway, Warw. See *C&CH* 4, 6 (Winter 1969), 'Sandersen Miller of Radway', Anthony C. Wood, pp.79-81.
- MOULDER, William** (70). Bur. 2 Aug 1710 (as MOLDER), 'late of Adderbury'.
- NEALE, John** (178). Bur. 18 Feb 1699/1700 (as John NEALLE).
- NEULOVE, Antho.** (2). Bur. 21 May 1703 (as Mr Anthony NEULOVE, gent.). Monumental inscription formerly in church describes him as 'of Hespringham, Lincoln, gen, born 30 Nov 1663, died 18 May 1703'. PCC.
- ***NEWMAN, John** (16). Apothecary. Bur. 11 May 1737. PCB.
- NEWMAN, Sam**, Senr. (135). BCR. Shoemaker. Corpn. searcher and sealer of leather 1658-9. Bur. 5 Feb 1711/2.
- NEWMAN, Samuel** (134). Shoemaker. Bur. 12 May 1742, 'Mr'. PCB.
- NEWMAN, Tho.** (136). Shoemaker. Bur. 20 Oct 1728, 'senr.'. PCB.
- ***NICHOLLS, John** (154). Probably Mr John NICHOLLS alias NIX bur. 17 Nov 1710; but could be either John NICHOLLS, maltster, PCB 1723; or Mr John NICHOLLS, laceman, bur. 17 Mar 1737/8.
- NICHOLLES, Tho.** (177). BCR. Attorney, gent. Corpn. Assistant 1683-4. Bur. 19 Dec 1703 (as NIX). PCC.
- NICHOLLS, William.** (153). Laceman. Bur. 8 Sep 1719, 'Mr'.
- NIX see NICHOLLS.
- PAGE, John** (50). Mason. Bur. 5 June 1699, 'poor'.
- PAGE, Rob.** (187). BCR. Labourer. Corpn. Taster 1685-91, Warden 1692-4. Bur. 18 Nov 1716.
- ***PARTRIDG, John** (66). Joiner. Bur. 9 Oct 1743. PCB.
- ***PERRING, Nath.** (168).
- PERRY, William** (164). BCR. Saddler. Constable 1689-90. Bur. 15 Aug 1711, 'Mr'. PCC.
- PERRY, Wm.** (214).
- PETERFER, Richard** (55). Blacksmith. Bur. 7 Feb 1726/7 (PETTIPHER).
- PICHER(?)**, Richard (200).
- ***PINER, Abraham** (46). Slatte. Bur. 22 Mar 1727/8, 'senr.'.
- PINFOLD, Ed** (186). Tailor. Bur. 5 Mar 1709/10, 'from ye Salutation of Calthorpe Lane'.
- ***PLESTOE, James** (77).
- ***PLUMPTON, Lot** (149). (His wife was bur. 17 Dec 1699.)
- POOLE, Tho.** (231). Bur. 25 Oct 1703, 'a bachelor'.
- ***POTTER, Will.** (123). Carpenter/joiner. Bur. 29 Dec 1699. PCB.
- POWELL, Thomas** (230). Jersey-weaver. Bur. 4 Jan 1756.
- ***PRAT, Will.** (184). Bur. 9 Sep 1696, 'senr.'.
- PRATCHER, Tho.** (183). Bur. 30 Aug 1697 (as Thomas PRATCHET, poor).
- RAINBOW, Foulke** (79). BCR. Distiller. Burgess (after 1695) and Alderman, Mayor 1711-2. Bur. 31 Jan 1741/2. PCB.
- ***REASON, Anthony** (25). BCR. Cutler. Constable 1689-90. Bur. 23 Aug 1715. PCB.
- REASON, Ben.** 'his mark' (75). (His wife bur. 19 Oct 1707.)
- REASON, Joseph** (86). Jersey-weaver. Bur. 22 Nov 1701. PCB.
- RESTON, John** (204).
- ***REYNOLDS, Edward**, Alderman (C.12). BCR. Burgess from 1684-5, Alderman from 1691-2, Mayor 1691-2, 1699-1700.
- RICE, Passover** (58). Tailor. ?Bur. 11 Mar 1748/9.
- RICKETTS, Tho.** (10). No bur. PCB, 1705. (His relict bur. 8 July 1722.)
- RIDER, Richard** (45). BCR. Constable 1686-9. Serjeant at Mace. Bur. 25 Jan 1720/1.
- RIGELSWORTH see WRIGLESWORTH.
- RIGHTON, Will.** (173). Victualler. Bur. 20 Sep 1698.
See also WRITON.
- ROBARTS, William** (208). Tailor and maltster. Bur. 22 May 1712.
- ***ROBBINS, John** (60). Tailor. Bur. 2 Jan 1706/7, 'out of Church Lane'.
- ROBINS, James** (20). Goldsmith. Bur. 25 Jan 1707/8, 'Mr'. PCB.
- ***SHAW, John** (196). BCR. Butcher. Corpn. Taster 1684-90; Warden 1692-3.
- SHAW, Rich., senr.** (56). Butcher. Corpn. Taster 1666-91. Bur. 16 Sep 1702. PCB.
- SHAW, Samuel** (197). Butcher. Bur. 13 Dec 1724, 'senr.'.
- ***SHEPHARD, Edw.** (138).
- SMART, Robert** (205). BCR. Tailor. Tithingman 1676-8. Bur. 24 Sep 1727.
- ***SMITH, Mathew** (32). Gardener. Bur. 20 Jan 1716/7, 'Old Matthew Smith'.
- SMITH, Nicholas** (68). BCR. Constable 1692-4. Bur. 16 July 1720, 'Mr Nicholas SMITH, senr.'.
- SODEN, Robert** (43). Barber. (His wife bur. 5 June 1710.)

- SPURRETT, Benjamin** (108). BCR. Ironmonger. Constable 1689-90. No bur.
- STANIFORD, Henery** (165). Tailor. Bur. 13 May 1718.
- ***STEWART, Henry** (18). BCR. Barber. Constable 1678-80. Bur. 18 Aug 1706.
- ***STOKES, Charles**, Alderman (C.9). BCR. Innkeeper of the Three Tuns. Burgess from 1678-9, Alderman from 1685-6. Bur. 17 Feb 1717/8. PCC. See *C&CH*, 7, 4 (Autumn 1977), 'A Century of Tavern-Keeping: The Stokes Family at the Unicorn and Three Tuns' and 8, 1 (Autumn 1979), 'The Three Tuns in the Eighteenth Century', J.S.W. Gibson.
- ***STYLE, Dan.** (1). BCR. Innkeeper of the Unicorn. Assistant to Corpn. 1683-4. Bur. 5 May 1705. PCC. See first article quoted under 'STOKES'.
- STYLE, Wm.** (4). BCR. Attorney. Town Clerk from 1706. Bur. 9 Apr 1716. See *C&CH*, 7, 4, p.109.
- TASKER, Henry** (195). BCR. Tithingman and Constable 1668-71. Bur. 26 Feb 1710/1, 'senr.'.
- ***TATAM, Roger** (65). Glover. Constable 1692-4 (TATHAM). Bur. 11 Feb 1732/3. PCB.
- TATUM, Sam.** (217). Glover. Bur. 18 Apr 1699.
- TATUM, William** (218). Glover. Bur. 28 Feb 1720/1, 'senr.'.
- ***TAYLOR, Timothy.** Butcher. Bur. 20 May 1701, 'poor'.
- TERRY, Hen.** (106). 'Bayliffe of ye Two Hundreds of Banbury & Bloxham'. Bur. 15 Feb 1712/3, 'Mr'.
- TERRY, John** (95). Gunsmith (1705); clockmaker (1736). Bur. 2 May 1736.
- THOMAS, William** (148). Locksmith. Bur. 13 Oct 1733.
- ***THORPE, Geo.**, Burgess (C.15). BCR. Haberdasher. Burgess from 1691-2 and Alderman by 1700. Bur. 14 Sep 1715. PCC.
- THORP, Will.**, Burgess (C.13). BCR. Bookseller. Burgess from 1685-6 and Alderman by 1698. Mayor 1698-98/9. Bur. 28 Feb 1698/9. PCC.
- THYNS(?)**, Rich.(?)(226)(a very illiterate hand).
- TOE, Tho.** (124). Carpenter. Bur. 17 Sep 1725.
- TOOLEY, Henry** (57). Horse-dealer (1716); at the Sign of the Horse and Jockey (1718); victualler (1727); jockey (1743). Bur. 17 Apr 1743
- TOWERZEY, Edward** (40). BCR. 'At the sign of the Plough'. Constable 1686-9. Bur. 21 Mar 1724/5, 'senr.'
- TOWERZEY, John** (155). BCR. Innkeeper of the Red Lion. Constable 1683-6. ?Bur. 13 July 1701, 'Old Mr John TOWERZEY of Sulgrave'.
- ***TRANTER, John** (203). BCR (u. TRAUNTER). Woolman. Tithingman and Constable 1670-4. Bur. 27 Mar 1697. PCC.
- TYLER, Phill.** (121). Carpenter. Bur. 3 Jan 1728/9, 'senr.'.
- TYLER, Phillip**, junr. (94). Seaman (1705); victualler (1734). Bur. 29 Jan 1743/4.
- TYLER, Richard.** ?Bur. 24 July 1698; or 15 Mar 1712/3, carpenter.
- USHER, William** (23). Butcher. Bur. 20 May 1696.
- VICCARS, Rich.** (188). Labourer. Bur. 20 Oct 1728.
- ***WAGSTAFFE, Will.** (201). Shopkeeper. Quaker. Bur. 24 Feb 1702/3.
- WAKER(?)**, Rich. (116).
- WALFORD see WALLFORD.
- ***WALKER, Edward** (41). Slattyer. Bur. 11 June 1709. PCC.
- WALKER, James** (101). BCR. Saddler. Constable 1683-5. No bur.
- WALLAXHALL, William** (163). Tailor. Bur. 20 July 1719. PCB.
- ***WALLFORD, Edward** (110). BCR (u. WALFORD). Butcher. Corpn. Taster 1657-8, 1671-2, 1680-2, 16E6-9; Constable 1690-2; Warden 1692-3. Bur. 28 Mar 1701.
- ***WALSOE, Will.** (169).
- WALTERS, Rob.** (3). Gent. Bur. 11 Sep 1702 (as WALTER). PCC.
- WARD, Thomas** (39). BCR (as WARD). Burgess (after 1695) and Alderman. Mayor 1717-8, 1719-20. Chamberlain 1720-6. No. bur. See *C&CH*, 10, 2 (Spring 1986), 'The Chamberlain and his role...', R.K. Gilkes, p.44.
- ***WARNER, Samuel**, senr. (92). Weaver. Bur. 15 Mar 1709/10.
- WARNER, Samuell** (207). (Briget wife of Sam. WARNER junr. bur. 29 Jan 1696/7.)
- ***WEBB, Anthony** (96). Glover. Bur. 31 Oct 1725.
- WEBB, Tho.** (91).
- ***WELCHMAN, John**, Alderman (C.4). BCR. Apothecary. Burgess by 1666-7, Alderman by c1672-3, Mayor 1675-6, 1689-90, 1699; Chamberlain 1705-9. Bur. 26 Aug 1713. PCC.
- WELFORD, Benjamin** (233). Rabbit-man. Bur. 21 Aug 1727, 'senr.'.
- WELFORD, Tho.** (105). BCR. Glover. Sergeant-at-mace 1691-2 and to death. Bur. 3 Mar 1711/2. PCB.
- ***WELLS, Joseph** (54). ?Bur. 27 Dec 1740, labourer.

- WELLS, Wm.** (52). BCR. Maltster.
Constable 1681-3. Bur. 19 July 1715,
'Mr'. PCB.
- ***WEST, Aholiab** (104). BCR. Sergeant at
mace 1699-1700. Bur. 17 June 1700.
PCB.
- WEST, John** (senr.), Alderman (C.5).
BCR. 'Black John'. Burgess by 1668-9,
Alderman from 1672-3; Mayor 1677-8,
1690-1, 1700-1. Bur. 14 Apr 1707.
PCB.
- WEST, John** (junr.), Alderman (C.7).
BCR. Glazier. Burgess by 1672-3,
Alderman from 1685-6; Mayor 1687-
1687/8, 1688-9, 1699-1700, 1713-4.
Bur. 7 Jan 1721/2.
- WEST, Samuel**, Alderman (C.10). BCR.
Burgess by 1680-1, Alderman by 1690;
Mayor 1691-2, 1699-1700. Bur. 9 Sep
1713.
- ***WHEATLY, Nath.** (6). BCR. Mercer.
Alderman and Mayor 1688 (replacement
Corpn.). Bur. 20 Apr 1707. PCB.
- WHEATLY, Richard**, Alderman (C.3). BCR.
Saddler. Burgess from 1661-2, Alderman
by 1668; Mayor 1671-2, 1683-4,
?1697-8; Chamberlain 1690-3, ?1701-5.
Bur. 12 Aug 1706. PCB.
- WHEATLY, Richard**, Burgess (C.17). BCR.
Ironmonger. Burgess by 1695, later
Alderman; Mayor ?1697-8, 1705-6.
Bur. 4 Aug 1744.
- WHEATLY, William** (180). Schoolmaster,
of Calthorpe House. Bur. 10 May 1712
('Mr').
- WHEATHUM, Joseph** (37).
- WHITE, Daniel** (98). Gardener. (His
wife. bur. 25 Dec 1687.)
- WHITE, John** (99). Basket-maker. Died
by 1714.
- WICKHAM** see WYKHAM.
- WILLIAMS, Rob.** (147). ?Bur. 27 May 1746,
'from the Bakers Arms'.
- ***WISE, Henry** (194). Bur. 27 Nov 1700
(WISSE), 'senr.'.
- WISE, Hen.** (211). Dealer in cows.
Bur. 21 Jan 1709/10.
- WISE, Jo.** (51). John WISE, senr., bodis-
maker, 'from ye Bull', bur. 23 Jan
1721/2.
- WISE, Mordecai** (122). Wheelwright. Bur.
16 Mar 1710/1.
- WISE, Thomas** (17). BCR. Mason. Constable
1678-80, 1690-2. Bur. 31 Dec 1718,
'Old Thomas'. PCB.
- WISE, Thoms.** (198). Mason. Bur. 22 Oct
1728, 'senr.'.
- WISE, Will.** (158). ?Bur. 10 Sep 1698,
'a olde bachelor, late of Nethercote,
labourer'. PCB.
- WISE, Will.** (161).
- WRIGLESWORTH, Edw.** (8). Doctor of
physick. Bur. 30 Sep 1701 (as
Edward RIGELSWORTH).
- WRITON, John** (140). Tailor. Bur. 8 July
1705 (as John RIGHTON), 'from Tho.
Brown's'.
See also RIGHTON.
- WYKHAM, Hum.** (9). BCR (u. WICKHAM).
Esquire, or Captain, of Swalcliffe.
Corpn. Assistant 1683-4. See *History
of Banbury*, Alfred Beesley, pp.488-
492.
- ***YOUICKE, John** (209). BCR. Maltster.
Tithingman 1673-4, Constable 1674-6.
Alderman (on replacement Corpn.),
1688. Bur. 30 Apr 1704. PCC.
- EET(?), Will. (190).

References

(in addition to sources given in the Abbreviations at the start of the list)

The Association Oath Roll for the Borough of Banbury is in the Public Record Office, C.213/210. Permission for reproduction of Crown Copyright material, albeit in altered and edited form, is gratefully acknowledged.

The Association Oath Rolls are described by Cliff Webb in *The Genealogists' Magazine*, 21, 4 (December 1983), pp.120-23. References for all the rolls, for England and Wales, are given in *The Hearth Tax, Other Later Stuart Tax Lists and the Association Oath Rolls*, compiled by J.S.W. Gibson, Federation of Family History Societies, 1985, 1986.

Mr Fletcher's legacy to the Blue Coat School is listed in the Report of the Charity Commissioners, 1826, and is quoted in *V.C.H. Oxfordshire 10* (Banbury Hundred), p.121. For his preferment to Bloxham, see *V.C.H. Oxon.* 9, p.75.

I am most grateful to Mrs Yvonne Huntriss, of the Bloxham Historical Society, for information on Thomas Fletcher, quoted from 'The Presbyterians of Bloxham and Milton' by A.D. Iyssen, *Trans. Unitarian Hist. Soc.* 11(2).

THE CHIPPING NORTON DEANERY MAGAZINE FOR 1888

FIFIELD WITH IDBURY. On Trinity Monday, May 28th, the annual Club Festival was kept up, but without the usual Club dinner, the funds having run low of late; it is hoped that it may yet be revived on a fresh and firmer footing. The 'Green' had various attractions on the day, and the Fifield Band played around the Village; the Band has also been engaged, this season, at Milton, Oddington, Sherbourne, Bourton-on-the-Water, Burford, and elsewhere.

MILTON WITH BRUERN AND LYNEHAM. Milton is rapidly filling with summer visitors; in a few weeks, we presume, "the Season" will be at its "height," the truly life giving breezes of the locality seem to be justly appreciated far and wide, it is undoubtedly one of the most healthful places in England.

Extracts from the Chipping Norton Deanery Magazine for July, 1888.

In painting a picture of daily life in Victorian England, researchers can draw upon a formidable array of material, ranging from newspapers, books, and parliamentary reports to letters, diaries, and personal reminiscences. Among the less used sources, however, are such Anglican publications as parish and deanery magazines. They include the Chipping Norton Deanery Magazine, which was edited by the rector of Fifield and printed by W.C. Hayes of Chipping Norton, who also published the Oxfordshire Weekly News.¹ At first sight it seems a source scarcely likely to yield much worthwhile information on social history questions, but a closer inspection reveals that in its 'parochial notes' it has much to offer on the day-to-day doings of parishes in the Chipping Norton area. It was published monthly, and the extracts from its 1888 issue which are given below indicate some of its major preoccupations, outside the sphere of religion.

Among the first of these was the charity question. In January, a report from Heythrop detailed the activities of Mr. Brassey, the sole landowner and lord of the manor, and his family. On Christmas Eve 1887, Mr. Brassey gave 'his usual liberal gifts of beef' to his estate employees, so that 'each family and individual' was 'supplied with a good Christmas dinner.' Mrs. Brassey likewise visited the school to distribute her 'numerous and very substantial gifts to the school children'. These included 'beautiful red cloaks, and blue serge dresses for the girls, and some very warm and excellently made jerseys, knitted by hand in Ireland, for the boys, and a few choice books.' To the women of the parish she gave 'dress pieces, shawls, blankets, &c., each one making choice for themselves'.

Not to be outdone, the Penystons at Cornwell regaled the local school children with substantial tea on Christmas Eve, 'served up in the servants' hall' at the Manor. On 2nd January they followed this with a New Year's party for all the 'working inhabitants' of

the village. 'After a hearty supper, singing was resorted to, and after that dancing completed the evening's entertainment ... Every cottager in the parish had his usual Christmas gift of beef at Mr. Penyston's expense'.

Both accounts provide neat examples of the paternalism exercised by benevolent landowners in small, single-proprietor parishes. But even larger communities could share in the general Victorian preoccupation with charitable aid - as at Enstone, where a report later in the year described the setting up of a soup kitchen for the winter. The soup was to be sold at 1d. a quart, with the first distribution taking place on 9th November between 10.30 and 12.30 in the morning.

In February, a rather different note was struck with an announcement concerning the work of the Church Emigration Society, whose local secretary was the daughter of the Sarsden rector. In the early 1870s he had been notorious for his opposition to the agricultural trade union movement, but by the later 1880s those painful memories had largely faded.² During 1887 the Society had sent out 388 emigrants, and had not only arranged for their passage in the 'best ships', but had provided reception houses for them at the ports of embarkation, and, in the case of single women, had arranged for them to travel out in the care of the ship's matron. Two months later the departure for Canada, under Society auspices, of two male migrants from Great Rollright was reported. While in December an account was received from Henry Smith, formerly of Sarsden, who had settled in New Zealand. There he had set up in business as a blacksmith, and was also acting as church organist! 'Although in the bush, and subject to the annoyance of frequent fires,' the report concluded, 'we gather that things go on much the same as at home - choir, school, school treat, good library, debating society, being all mentioned'.

Details of petty crimes were sent in by some parishes, presumably to act as a deterrent to other potential offenders. Thus from Finstock in March came an account of John Rowles, who had been caught 'in his old bad habit' of night poaching. For this he was sentenced to 3 months' imprisonment in Oxford goal, and to find two sureties of £5 each, and himself in £10; failing that he must serve a further term of imprisonment. In the following month came the additional comment: 'We do not like printing the names of those of our Parishioners who are brought before the Magistrates, but it is right that they should know that they at least render themselves liable to it, as a warning to others. - Another case has occurred since our last issue.'

More encouraging were reports on the night schools organised by a few parish clergy. At Enstone, for example, the incumbent announced in October that he was going to hold classes on Monday and Thursday evenings. A fee of 1d. per night was to be charged, half of which would be returned to all who presented themselves for examination at the end of the session; 'a prize will also be given to those who pass in two subjects'. Thirty-one students were recruited, but the vicar considered that a poor response from a parish with

THE CHIPPING NORTON DEANERY MAGAZINE.



FOR THE PARISHES OF



CHIPPING NORTON
CHARLBURY & SHORTHAMPTON
CHADLINGTON.
CHURCHILL & SARSDEN
CORNWELL
ENSTONE.

FIFIELD & IDBURY
HEYTHROP
HOOK NORTON
FINSTOCK
GREAT ROLLRIGHT
& DAYLESFORD.

MILTON & LYNEHAM.
RAMSDEN.
SHIPTON & LANGLEY
SPELSBURY.
SWERFORD

OCTOBER

KALENDAR.

1888.

1	M	Remigius, Bishop of Rheims.
2	Tu	
3	W	Meeting of Board of Guardians and Rural Sanitary Authority
4	Th	Magistrates' Meeting, Chipping Norton. [Chipping Norton Monthly Fair.]
5	F	
6	S	Faith, Virgin and Martvr. Meeting of Deanery Sunday School Association at Churchill, 2 p.m.
7	Su	19th Sunday after Trinity.
8	M	
9	Th	St Denys, Bishop and Martyr
10	W	Meeting of Board of Guardians, Finance Committee and Rural Sanitary Authority
11	Th	
12	F	
13	S	Translation of King Edward the Confessor
14	Su	20th Sunday after Trinity
15	M	
16	Tu	
17	W	Ethelred, a Virgin Magistrates' Meeting, Chipping Norton
18	Th	St. Luke, Evangelist.
19	F	
20	S	
21	Su	21st Sunday after Trinity.
22	M	
23	Tu	
24	W	Meeting of Board of Guardians.
25	Th	Crispin, Martyr.
26	F	
27	S	
28	Su	22nd Sunday after Trinity SS Simon and Jude, Apostles and Martyrs.
29	M	
30	Tu	
31	W	Magistrates' Meeting, Chipping Norton

New Moon 5th, 2h 34m p.m. ; First Quarter 12th, 5h. 29m. a.m. ; Full Moon 19th, 9h. 9m. p.m.
Last Quarter 28th, 1h. 58m a.m

W. C. HAYES, PRINTER, CHIPPING NORTON.

well over a thousand inhabitants. Elsewhere, as at Shipton-under-Wychwood, Daylesford, and Ramsden, lending libraries were set up. At Ramsden there were over 300 volumes available, each of which could be borrowed for a fortnight at a charge of $\frac{1}{4}$ d. per book. At a time when literacy levels were improving [in 1882 only 12% of Oxfordshire men and 9% of Oxfordshire women marrying were unable to sign the register] ³, and when few cottagers had sufficient cash to buy books of their own, libraries offered a useful service in promoting working-class educational and leisure interests.

Nor were the attendance problems of day school pupils forgotten. At Chadlington it was reported that during 1887, 16 pupils had failed to make even half their attendances; 'this year a greater number of such cases is anticipated'. Sadly a scheme designed to rectify the situation had had little effect. 'The reward tickets (though amounting ... to upwards of £5 for the year) seem only to reward those who would be regular without them, and have no material effect on our average. We think if the efforts of the Managers and Teachers were backed up by an occasional conviction on the part of the Magistrates, these efforts would bear more encouraging results'. Under the terms of the 1876 Education Act full-time attendance at school had to be imposed on all children aged from 5 to 10 years of age, with certain minimum attendance levels required for those between 10 and 14, unless they could pass an appropriate leaving examination or gain exemption in some other way. Attendance officers were appointed to ensure that the regulations were applied but, as the Chadlington case shows, their task was a difficult one, especially in rural areas. Either children were recruited for part-time work on the land or parents were unable to afford the school fees of 1d. or 2d. per week, and kept their offspring away in consequence.⁴ Not until the 1890s were the problems of poor attendance to be solved.

May-day celebrations also featured in the Deanery Magazine. At Hook Norton, the children paraded through the village with their garland, singing songs, while at Chadlington the May Queen was presented with a Bible. In both villages a celebratory tea, with games, rounded off proceedings. And at Shipston-under-Wychwood, in an interesting attempt to improve labour relations, an annual supper was given on 5th November to the ploughboys by a committee of farmers. They supplied the food, waited on the boys, and 'amused them with games till it was time for them to go home'.

These are a few of the day-to-day topics covered by the Deanery Magazine during 1888. Also described are inter-village cricket matches, concerts, and plays, to say nothing of lectures and flower shows. Reminders of the contribution of young villagers to the maintenance of the Empire are given in brief accounts of individuals serving in the armed forces. Thus Henry Casemore, a corporal in the Royal Engineers, who was visiting relatives in Fifield, was described as having taken part in the Nile Expedition of 1884, designed to rescue General Gordon from Khartoum. He was 'employed with twelve others of his company on Lord Wolseley's telegraph staff; of the twelve only himself and another survived the hard-

ships of the campaign; he has been a total abstainer all his life, and ascribes his preservation much to that fact'. Other moral messages were passed on from time to time, such as: 'nothing opens so wide a door to vice, to crime, to evil habits of every description, as the absence of occupation. The downward course of many a youth, the ruin of many a hopeful life, may be distinctly traced to the void caused by having nothing definite and positive to do'. Or: 'Mental idleness is sure to lead to mental ruin. ... It is the vacant mind, where no good seed is struggling upwards into life, which will soonest be covered with weeds.' It was doubtless to counter such undesirable lax tendencies that contributors to the 'parochial notes' spent so much time extolling the virtues, for young men, of village cricket matches during the summer and of night schools during the winter!

Overall, the Magazine provides a surprisingly varied menu of parish social history from what seems, on first consideration, an unlikely source. As such, it - and volumes like it - would repay perusal by other historians of 'Banburyshire'.

Pamela Horn.

Footnotes.

1. I am indebted to Mr. Philip B. Venvell of Burnham, Slough, for the loan of this volume.
2. Details of the Rev. W.E.D. Carter, rector of Sarsden (and vicar of Churchill), and his connection with the agricultural trade union movement can be found in Rollo Arnold, The Farthest Promised Land (Wellington: Victoria University Press, 1981), pp.121-122.
3. See statistics in the 45th Annual Report of the Register-General of Births, Deaths and Marriages in England, Parliamentary Papers 1884, Vol. XX. In 1860, 30.5% of men and 28.3% of women marrying in Oxfordshire had been unable to sign the register. See Pamela Horn ed., Village Education in Nineteenth-Century Oxfordshire, Vol. 51. Oxfordshire Record Society (1979), pp. xxxviii-xxxix.
4. For some general discussion on the attendance issue in Oxfordshire see Pamela Horn ed., op.cit., pp.xxxiii-xxxviii.

THE CORPORATION OF BANBURY AND NATIONAL AFFAIRS 1783-1835

Although not unaffected by the increasing interference of the central government in their affairs, most towns and counties in the fifteenth, sixteenth and seventeenth centuries were still very much more interested in living a life of their own, in which politics played merely an intermittent part, than in becoming involved with the struggles for power between rival groups and factions. In the eighteenth century this spirit of localism was still strong, but the development of communications, especially the rapid growth and influence of the press, created throughout the country a growing awareness of, and interest in, national events and issues.

The success of 'The Craftsman', started by the Tory politician, Lord Bolingbroke, in 1726, and the 'Gentleman's Magazine', begun seven years later by Edward Cave and which contained accounts of Parliamentary debates, proved that there was a large public, both in London and outside, eager for political news and opinion. In spite of the stamp duties, deliberately imposed by the Government to prevent cheap newspapers reaching all classes of people - $\frac{1}{2}$ d. a half sheet in 1712, 4d. in 1815 - newspaper circulations increased rapidly, many new journals were founded; in the year 1753 some seven and a half million copies of newspapers were printed and sold in England, in 1760 nine and a half million, more than eleven million in 1767, while in 1776 no less than fifty-three newspapers were being published in London alone. ¹

The typical late-eighteenth-century newspaper - four pages made by folding a single sheet - carried advertisements on the two outside pages and inside foreign news and despatches, reports of Parliamentary debates and speeches, election addresses at election times and an editorial column reflecting the paper's own political loyalties. Banbury will have received London papers sent out from the capital through the Post Office, as well as copies of local weekly newspapers published in Oxford and Northampton, which usually contained summaries of news gathered from the London journals, along with their own local news and advertisements. ²

One aspect of this growing political and national awareness, which was further encouraged at the end of the eighteenth century by the quickening process of industrial evolution and the outbreak of the French Revolution, was the readiness of the provinces to involve themselves in the nation's affairs, still upholding their local interests, of course, but anxious to demonstrate also their wider national feelings and loyalties. Over the period 1783-1835 this is shown in Banbury by the series of addresses and petitions made by the Corporation to the Crown and to Parliament on behalf of the inhabitants of the borough and most of which are recorded in the Banbury Minute Book, 1764-1812, and the Corporation Journal, 1812-1835. ³

Lord North, M.P. for Banbury since 1754,⁴ finally resigned as First Lord of the Treasury and Prime Minister on 27 March, 1782, after the British failure in America and isolation in Europe had destroyed all confidence in his foreign policy. On 24 February, 1783, his 'unnatural' alliance with his erstwhile supporter, Charles James Fox, brought about the overthrow of Lord Shelburne's Ministry, and George III, after stalling for six weeks, had no alternative but to accept the Fox-North Coalition Administration. However, the universal distrust which such an alliance aroused and the secret influence employed by the King to thwart its measures soon brought it to an end on 18 December, 1783.

There was considerable feeling against Lord North in Banbury and a delegation from the town sought to enlist the services of Sir Nathaniel Wraxall, who had entered Parliament for the especially corrupt borough of Hindon in Wiltshire in 1780 as a supporter of Lord North, in presenting their address to the King. 'Lord North,' wrote Wraxall, 'found himself at this time unable to prevent the borough of Banbury, for which place he sat in Parliament, and where his family had always possessed a decided influence, from joining in the general cry against the Coalition: they even drew up an address thanking his Majesty for the recent dismissal from office of their actual representative in the House of Commons. A delegation from the inhabitants of Banbury waited on me in London bringing with them the address itself, accompanied by a request that I would present it to the King on the first levee day at St. James's; but, on full consideration, I declined taking such a personal part against a nobleman whom I greatly respect, loved and honoured, though I had withdrawn from the party with which he connected himself. Lord North, alluding afterwards, during the debate which took place on the 27th of February, to this address, declared that "he had the consolation to know it was not signed by one of those individuals, his constituents, who returned him to Parliament". It spoke, nevertheless, the sentiments of a large and respectable portion of the inhabitants and householders of the place'.⁵

That there is no reference to this address in the Banbury Minute Book suggests that it was not an official Corporation-inspired protest, nor does it represent any change of heart on the part of 'his constituents who elected him' (all eighteen of them!), because Lord North was returned for the town again in the elections held on 3 April, 1784, and 18 June, 1790.⁶

The first of several unsuccessful attempts on the life of George III took place on 2 August, 1786, at the garden entrance to St. James's Palace; Margaret Nicholson, a barber's daughter from Stockton-on-Tees, who claimed she was the rightful ruler of England, attacked the King with a knife so worn and thin that it bent against his waistcoat. George himself protected her from an angry crowd, declaring: 'The poor creature is mad; do not hurt her; she has not hurt me' - a judgement confirmed later and which saved her from execution. Meeting in Hall, the Corporation of Banbury, in the persons of the Mayor, the Rev. Dr. Lamb (whose clerical hand is apparent in the drafting), six Aldermen and four Capital Burgesses,

poured out their loyalty in an address, fairly copied out by the Town Clerk and sent to Lord North for transmission to the King:

'We your Majesty's most dutiful and loyal subjects, the Mayor, Aldermen and Capital Burgesses of the Borough of Banbury... beg leave to lay at the feet of Your Throne our most sincere congratulations on the happy escape which Your Majesty has had from the horrid attempt lately made against your sacred Person.

'Truly sensible of the great Blessings we enjoy under your Majesty's mild and paternal government and truly thankful for them we look with detestation and horror on all Diabolical attempts against a life so deservedly dear to all your subjects.

'But however shocking this event may have been to your Majesty it cannot but be a pleasing Reflection to think that only Insanity could suggest it, And the sincere congratulations of a grateful People will, we trust, convey a satisfaction of the purest kind to Your Royal Breast.

'We beg leave to add our Hopes and Prayers, that Your Majesty's Reign over us may be long and prosperous and that when Your Majesty shall be called to a brighter Crown and greater Happiness than this world can give, Your Posterity, instructed by your Illustrious Example may continue to future Generations the Blessings which we cannot reflect upon, but with Hearts worm with affection and gratitude.'⁷

What made the preservation of the King's health and safety of such paramount concern to his subjects, beyond all feelings of loyalty and patriotism, was the knowledge that next in line for the Crown stood the odious Prince of Wales. His conduct and that of his political cronies during the King's first bout of madness from October, 1788, to 10 March, 1789, was such that the King's recovery prompted a flood of letters of affection, reverence and duty, not to say relief. Among these was one from his 'most loyal and dutiful Subjects the Mayor, Aldermen, Capital Burgesses and Inhabitants of the borough of Banbury', offering 'unfeigned Congratulations for that it hath pleased Divine Providence to grant the fervent Prayers of your People by restoring Your Majesty to perfect Health.' Included was a similar message to the Queen, and it was made possible for 'inhabitants to sign the letter if they wish'.⁸

In the town the bells were rung.⁹ 'The Town Hall and the town in general were illuminated. The King, Queen, Prince of Wales' (with the threat of a regency having been lifted it was possible to be generous) 'and many other loyal healths were drank, with those of our worthy member Lord North and the Earl of Guilford, by the Gentlemen in the neighbourhood; and a general joy was manifested by all the inhabitants of this town.'¹⁰

The subject of the slave trade had been first raised in Parliament by William Wilberforce in 1787, and, after a long series of preliminary struggles, he had proposed in 1791 to prevent the further importation of African negroes into the colonies. The bill was rejected, but the desire to end this 'traffic in the person of our fellow-creatures' grew ever stronger; 'I believe,' wrote Lord Castlereagh, 'there is hardly a village that has not met and

petitioned upon it.' 11

In Banbury on 23 March, 1792, the Mayor, Charles Wyatt, five Aldermen and three Capital Burgesses met in Hall and unanimously approved the text of a petition to the House of Commons 'expressing their abhorrence of the Slave Trade as carried on by subjects of Great Britain, a trade contrary to all Principles of Humanity,' and urging the House 'to take a subject of such importance into consideration and to abolish a trade so derogatory to the dignity of man and so disgraceful to the British Nation in such manner as in your wisdom you shall find practicable.' 12 The measure for ending the trade, introduced by Wilberforce in every Parliamentary session after 1789, was finally accepted in 1807. 13

The stamp duties imposed on newspapers, by putting the price of legitimate papers beyond the reach of ordinary people, had encouraged, rather than stifled, the 'gutter-press' and many cheap 'unstamped' papers, whose sole purpose was to attack the Government, politicians, the King and the Royal Family, were becoming increasingly available. By 1792 the Revolution in France was becoming more republican and violent; riots in Birmingham in 1791 and the revival or establishment of societies advocating democratic political reform fearfully aroused the conservative instincts of England. In May, 1792, the Government, by proclamation, urged on magistrates the necessity for exercising tighter control over riotous assemblies and seditious publications.

The Mayor, six Aldermen and two Capital Burgesses of Banbury meeting in Hall on 6 June, rallying to the call, sent grateful thanks to the King for the royal proclamation 'and wishing that in addition to your Majesty's care for the welfare of the People the Lords Spiritual and Temporal and Commons of Great Britain in Parliament assembled in whose integrity and wisdom we have a just confidence have spoken the general sentiments of the Nation and have likewise pledged themselves to support your Majesty in your determination for the preservation of the peace and happiness of your faithful and loving subjects. With such an example before us we should do injustice to our own feelings not to assure Your Majesty that as it is our duty so it will be a pleasure to cooperate with Your Majesty in obtaining the object of the Proclamation and that we will at all times use our utmost endeavours to support the happy but wise constitution of this Kingdom against any attempt to subvert it.' 14

'Animated with the sincerest attachment' to George III and his family (more especially so after the execution of Louis XVI and Marie Antoinette of France by the revolutionaries in 1793), the Mayor and eight Aldermen who met in Hall on 4 May, 1795, felt bound to swallow their real feelings for his son, the Prince of Wales, and offer their congratulations on the town's behalf on the occasion of his 'auspicious marriage' on 8 April in the Chapel Royal at St. James's Palace to an unwashed, foul-mouthed German princess, his first cousin, Caroline of Brunswick. Their address, however, is notably lacking in the warmth and enthusiasm we have come to expect on such occasions and has a studiously impersonal ring in its

phrasing: 'we cannot be strangers to joy, upon every event that happens, which can in any degree contribute to the felicity of your Majesty or any part of your family, more particularly so when as in the present instant of our congratulations the subject not only concerns the happiness of your Majesty and your august family, but also the future happiness, welfare and preservation of your people and our glorious Constitution.'¹⁵ The knowledge that the Prince was already married to Mrs. Fitzherbert, was in love with Lady Jersey, but had agreed to marry whoever his father chose simply because it was the only way that Parliament would agree to settle his £650,000 debts, ruled out sincere rejoicing.

The failure of three more attempts on the King's life, on 29 October, 1795, on his way to open Parliament, and on 15 May, 1800, as he reviewed his troops in Hyde Park and in the evening of the same day in the Royal Box at Drury Lane Theatre, did, however provoke genuine responses from the loyal Corporation of Banbury, assembled in Hall on 18 November, 1795, and 19 May, 1800, expressing their thankfulness that 'the late treacherous attempts against Your Majesty's Sacred Person' had failed.¹⁶

In 1800 Banbury petitioned against the export of wool to Ireland, although if this representation was made by the Corporation on behalf of those in the borough engaged in the weaving of shag or plush and who were enjoying their heyday at the end on the eighteenth century,¹⁷ the Corporation Minute Book makes no mention of it.

From 1800 onwards the English woollen industry was becoming increasingly and alarmingly dependent on foreign wools, especially those of Saxony; that this was a matter of great and widespread concern is illustrated by one of the incidental controversies that arose over the Act of Union with Ireland in 1800.

The price of wool was high in England, dearer still in Ireland (in 1799 wool in England was 8d. a pound, as against 1s.3½d. in Ireland).¹⁸ The Act of Union proposed that there should be a free interchange of goods between England and Ireland.¹⁹ The English manufacturers had for long enjoyed a monopoly of the home supply, but they were now afraid that export to Ireland, which had hitherto been prohibited, would force them to pay at a still higher rate, because they believed that English wool, if freely sent to Ireland, would then be clandestinely re-exported to the continent, thus enabling their rivals in France and the Low Countries to capitalise on a regular supply of English wool to manufacture goods of a class for which Englishmen believed they had exceptional advantages. All branches of the industry would be affected by a rise in the price of wool and the outcry against this clause in the Act of Union came from many parts of the country: in London one hundred and thirteen firms petitioned against allowing the free export of wool to Ireland and they were supported by petitions from two counties (Cornwall and Somerset) and thirty-six towns, of which Banbury was one.²⁰

Wilberforce moved an amendment in the House of Commons 'to leave out of the resolution what relates to suffering wool to be

exported from this country, but that the Irish should be allowed to work up the wool which they themselves grow,'²¹ but Pitt, anxious to carry the complete commercial union of the two countries, argued at length against the amendment and it was lost. The woollen industry was able to deal with the situation by improving the breed of English sheep and by finding, in Australia, a new and practically unlimited supply of its raw material.²²

In April, 1802, London celebrated the official proclamation of the Peace of Amiens at the Royal Exchange. 'It is,' said a contemporary, 'a peace which everybody is glad of though nobody is proud of,' and the Mayor, six Aldermen and two Capital Burgesses of Banbury meeting on 3 May spoke for their fellow-townfolk in their address to the King on 'the happy restoration of peace'²³, while the Chamberlain paid out £1.15s.3d. 'for Ribbons and Trumpeters' to mark the occasion in style.²⁴

In fact, the Peace proved to be no more than a temporary respite in the war with France. Only a year later the aggressive policy of Napoleon made the renewal of war inevitable; for besides extending his power in Europe, Napoleon had not given up French ambitions in Egypt, had designs on Britain's overseas empire and had even begun preparations for an invasion of Britain itself. Patriotic fervour ran high in the country and, again, the small unrepresentative close Corporation did indeed represent the inhabitants of Banbury when deputing to their M.P., Dudley North, the transmission to the King of their loyal address 'on the present momentous Crisis of public Affairs.'²⁵ The Banbury Minute Book records their action at a Hall on 3 August, 1803, but not the actual text of the address, although we may reasonably imagine its language and content from the style and presentation of those addresses which have already been quoted.

Catholic emancipation, in spite of the understanding given to Roman Catholics by the Government, had not formed a sequel to the passing of the Act of Union with Ireland of 1800, mainly because George III regarded such a concession as incompatible with the terms of his Coronation Oath. In sticking to this attitude towards Catholic emancipation the King did have widespread support in the country; and when Lord Grenville, who presided over the 'Ministry of All the Talents', attempted to hoodwink his sovereign into allowing minor concessions to Catholics as a means of opening the door to full emancipation, he and his ministers were summarily dismissed by the King on 24 March, 1807.

Addresses of thanks to the King for safeguarding the Protestant Church poured in from all parts of the country. At a relatively well-attended Hall on 27 April (Mayor Richard Chapman, eight Aldermen, two Capital Burgesses) the Corporation agreed the text of an address 'to express our sincerest satisfaction and gratitude for the dignified and decisive support and protection given by Your Majesty at this interesting conjunction to the protestant Reformed Religion as by law established.'²⁶ Their own views on Catholic emancipation were set out six years later in a petition to the House of Commons, at a time when many Protestants had, in fact, begun to

petition for the full relief of their Catholic brethren:

'We the Mayor, Aldermen and Capital Burgesses of the borough of Banbury in the county of Oxford, beg leave to assure your Honorable House that we are firm friends of religious toleration and parliamentary discussion on the important subject of the Roman Catholic claims, but are nevertheless induced to consider the concessions which Parliament have already made as perfectly adequate to tolerate and to insure to our fellow subjects of the Roman Catholic faith the full exercise of their religious rights. That regarding their demands of access to higher degrees of civil power and authority we contemplate with great anxiety the danger which might arise to the civil and religious rights of their Protestant fellow subjects from unlimited concession. That seeing our country under a Constitution purely Protestant rise to such an ascendancy in glory and strength as to stand forth the only bulwark of the oppressed against the fury of that storm which has desolated the fairest kingdoms of Europe and impress with a grateful sense of such an inestimable blessing, your Petitioners cannot but dread the removal of those barriers by which under divine providence their constitution has been so long and effectually guarded.

'We humbly express therefore our firmest reliance on the wisdom of your Honorable House and that you will not consent to any alteration of the laws which our forefathers have so cautiously enacted, without providing the most ample security for the future safety of the established Church and the integrity of our glorious Constitution. Done at a Common Hall held this 12th day of March 1813.'²⁷

It was to be another sixteen years before Catholic emancipation was finally granted in the Roman Catholic Relief Act, but this delay was the result of the opposition of George III and his son (as Prince Regent and as George IV), not of petitions advocating no further change.

In fact, the country had changed considerably since 1789, and the old order took a further knock in 1811, when the reign of George III, to all intents and purposes, came to an end with that monarch's irreversible madness and regency of his profligate son. The stability associated with a reign which had begun more than fifty years earlier was under threat from both natural and unnatural causes.

On 9 June, 1812, the Corporation of Banbury responded to the news that the Prime Minister, Spencer Perceval, had been shot and killed by a bankrupt Liverpool broker, John Bellingham, in the lobby of the House of Commons on 11 May, with an address to the Prince Regent expressing their 'horror at the assassination,' but 'consolation that the assassin represented no section of the country' and 'satisfaction at the Prince Regent's prompt recommendation to Parliament for provision for the widow and family of the late Prime Minister.'²⁸ On 18 December, 1818, it marked the death of 'our illustrious Queen' Charlotte on 17 November, at the age of seventy-four²⁹, but, inexplicably, waited until 24 April, 1820, to register their condolences on the death of poor, deaf, blind and mad George III at the age of eighty-one years and eight months on

29 January.³⁰

The 'Address of Condolence and Congratulation to King William IV' on the death of George IV was actually written by a local surgeon, Robert Brayne (Brain), who had become an Assistant in 1801, was Alderman and Justice of the Peace from 1819 and twice served as Mayor (in 1819 and 1825), and the text was approved and the Seal added by the Mayor, Burrows Matthias Kirby, on 5 July, 1830, only nine days after 'Poor Prinney' died.³¹ Knowing just how unpopular, how little mourned George IV was, it is remarkable that the Corporation's response should have been so much quicker than on any other occasion when an address was made; but it was clearly a time to be magnanimous towards the departed and optimistic about his successor, the 'Sailor King', a 'bursting, bubbling old gentleman, with quarter-deck gestures, round rolling eyes, and a head like a pineapple'³²:

'To the King's Most Excellent Majesty.

The Humble Address of the Mayor, Aldermen and Capital Burgesses of the Borough of Banbury in the County of Oxford.

'Most Gracious Sovereign

We your Majesty's most dutiful and loyal subjects the Mayor Aldermen and Capital Burgesses of the borough of Banbury beg leave to approach your Majesty with our sincere condolence on the lamented demise of our late most excellent and revered Sovereign.

'We desire to assure your Majesty that we have been deeply impressed with a sense of the advantages which our Country has derived from his paternal sway and cannot but reflect with satisfaction that some years ago we were permitted the distinguished honor of entolling his Majesty's name among the freemen of the ancient borough of Banbury.³³

'We feel extremely solicitous to tender to your Majesty our earnest congratulations on your accession to the Throne.

'Accustomed to consider the security of our Constitution and liberties ensured to us under the benignant Government of Your Majesty's Family we cordially rejoice in the present occasion of expressing our Loyalty and affection to your Majesty's person, and our most anxious wishes that you may long continue to illustrate the Sceptre of your ancestors and to reign over the hearts and affections of your people in prosperity and happiness.'³⁴

The feeling of optimism was justified, for, as Greville noted, 'King George had not been dead three days before everyone discovered that he was no loss, and King William a great gain.'³⁵

No further addresses or petitions are recorded in the Corporation Journal, whose last entry is for the Hall held on 10 November, 1835. In these last years of the close Corporation the great argument was over the question of Parliamentary reform. In Banbury feeling in favour of reform was so strong among the inhabitants (1,789 of them had signed a petition in support of the Reform Bill) that the eleven members of the Corporation who opposed reform (and only four of whom actually lived within the borough boundaries) could scarcely have brazened out their position with an official petition. In fact, the general jubilation in the town, which marked the

eventual passage of the Reform Bill can be seen as the swan-song of the unrepresentative Corporation, which was finally killed off, little lamented, three years later. 36

By the 1832 Reform Act the Corporation lost its right to elect the borough's M.P., and its very existence came under scrutiny with the setting up of the Royal Commission to inquire into the working of the municipal corporations in the following year. Although the reform of local government had not the same appeal among the townsfolk as the reform of Parliament, 500 of Banbury's inhabitants put their signatures to an address to the Government welcoming the introduction of the Municipal Corporations Bill in 1835 and a petition to the House of Lords urging the members to approve the bill. Final approval was given on 9 September, 1835, and the oligarchy which had ruled Banbury for 281 years gave way to a Town Council, elected on 26 December by the ratepayers of the borough. 37

R.K. Gilkes.

References

1. E.A.Smith, *A History of the Press*, 1970, pp.26-29.
2. e.g. Jackson's *Oxford Journal* (1753), *Northampton Mercury* (1720) John West, *Town Records*, 1983, pp.260,261.
3. Banbury MSS
4. W.R.Williams, *The Parliamentary History of the County of Oxford*, 1899, pp.184-5.
5. *Wraxall's Memoirs*, 1772-1784, 1884, iii, pp.291-2, 11-17 February, 1784; *London Gazette*, 1784, No.12521.
6. W.R.Williams, *op.cit.*, p.185.
7. *Banbury Minute Book*, 1764-1812, pp.91b, 92.
8. *Ibid.*, pp.100,100b,101,101b.
9. *The Chamberlain's Account*, 1747-1816, p.80.
10. Extract of Letter from Banbury, 10 March, 1789, to *London Chronicle*, Collection of Newspaper Cuttings relating to Oxford and Oxfordshire, 1757-1833, Bodl.Gough Adds.Oxf.4^o49.
11. *Memories and Correspondence of Viscount Castlereagh*, 1850-3, x, 73; C.K.Webster, *Foreign Policy of Castlereagh*, 1931-4, I, 413-24.
12. *Banbury Minute Book*, p.111b.
13. 1807, March 25, 47 Geo.III.c.36.
14. *Banbury Minute Book*, p.112b.
15. *Ibid.*, pp.126b.
16. *Ibid.*, pp.129, 146, 146b.
17. J.S.W.Gibson, *Shag and Plush Weaving in 18th Century Banbury*, Banbury Historical Society, 1980.
18. J.Bischoff, *A Comprehensive History of the Woollen and Worsted Manufactures*, 1842, I.324.
19. 1800, July 21, 40 Geo.III.c.67, Article VI.
20. Bischoff, *op.cit.*, I.321. The other towns were: Exeter, Totnes,

Tiverton, Welshpool, Frome, Bury St. Edmunds, Huddersfield, Tavistock, Painswick, Rochdale, Huntingdon, Norwich, Sudbury, Halifax, Gloucester, Bury, Preston, Market Harborough, Witney, Wiveliscombe, Southwark, Bradford, Cirencester, Colne, Burnley, Shrewsbury, Leeds, Wakefield, Haworth, Kendal, Addingham, Kidderminster, Keighley, Skipton, Salisbury.

21. Ibid., p.327.
22. W.Cunningham, *The Growth of English Industry and Commerce in Modern Times*, Part 2: *Laissez Faire*, 1917, pp.644-7.
23. *Banbury Minute Book*, p.157b.
24. *The Chamberlain's Account*, 17 May, 1802, p.96.
25. *Banbury Minute Book*, p.160.
26. Ibid., p.177b.
27. *Banbury Corporation Journal*, 1812-1835, pp.8-10.
28. *Banbury Minute Book*, p.192b.
29. *Banbury Corporation Journal*, pp.47-8.
30. Ibid., pp.64-5.
31. Ibid., p.145.
32. Lytton Strachey, *Queen Victoria*, 1921. p.38.
33. 29 August, 1806, freedom offered to Prince of Wales and Duke of Clarence - *Banbury Minute Book*, p.171. Not until a Hall on 22 September, 1808, were thanks expressed to Prince of Wales for honour given Banbury by his acceptance of freedom of the borough (Prince of Wales' letter of acceptance written from Wroxton Abbey) - *Banbury Minute Book*, pp.183, 183b, 184.
34. *Banbury Corporation Journal*, pp.145-6.
35. *Greville Diaries*, 1818-1860, July 18th, 1830.
36. A.Beesley, *History of Banbury*, 1841, p.545; W.Potts, *A History of Banbury*, 1958, pp.204-7; M.K.Ashby, *Joseph Ashby of Tysoe*, 1974, pp.285-6.
37. W.Potts, *Banbury Through One Hundred Years*, 1942, pp.20-21.

For the political history of the period, see:

- J.H. Plumb, *The First Four Georges*, 1956.
J. Steven Watson, *The Reign of George III, 1760-1815*, 1959.
John Clarke, *The Life and Times of George III*, 1972..
Alan Palmer, *The Life and Times of George IV*, 1972.

"BANBURY THEATRE" ITS PLACE IN THE COMMUNITY

Following the previous two articles on the Theatre, Banbury Theatre & The Jackmans and Plays Extravaganzas & Other Diversions, this final part looks at the non-theatrical uses of the Theatre Building and its reputation within the Community.

The "entertainments" held at the Theatre were not all of a theatrical nature. The Theatre building was in fact put to several other uses. There are many Election Posters announcing meetings at the theatre. There are notices for three election meetings in November 1837 and another three in June 1841. It was also used by the Town Council for a Public meeting in October 1837 to nominate four Burgesses. Those named were William Potts, Parsons Street, Bookseller, Charles Page, High Street, Victualler, John Hadland, The Green, Wood Dealer, Thomas Golby, Bridge Street South, Carrier.

One of the Election meetings is of particular interest as it was addressed to the ladies of Banbury. The ladies were invited to an address by Henry Vincent on 14th June 1841. It must have been quite an occasion for the Theatre as the ladies were admitted to the boxes and pit, while the wives and daughters of the non-electors were invited to the gallery. No gentlemen were allowed to attend.

Mr. Henry Vincent's name appears again seven years later on a poster for the 9th, 10th and 11th August 1848. This time he was to deliver three addresses and again it was stressed that "that Ladies are earnestly invited to attend"

He was not unknown to give other lectures, in May 1849 he gave a series of six lectures on Cromwell, The Principles, Men and Times of the Commonwealth of England. It is particularly interesting to note that for the first time, under the admission the audience had the opportunity to sit on the stage, "boxes and stage 6d. Pit 4d, gallery 3d."

Before the Mechanics Institute had their own building, they also used the theatre for lectures. Two posters, one for 1835, was entitled "The General Advantages and Utility of the Mechanics Institute" and one other dated 1836 advertises "a course of four lectures on the elements of Chemical Science". This poster goes on to state that "The lectures will be illustrated by an extensive variety of select and imposing experiments, many of them of novel and curious interest. The entire course to be illustrated by upwards of one hundred experiments, uniformly successful.

In the book "John Cheney and His Descendants, Printers in Banbury 1767", there is a note for the 24th January 1856 when John Cheney wrote to a former apprentice "I have got all the printing things to a room under the Theatre and am rather undecided now what to do with them". The result was an Auction held on the 8th January 1856 in "The large room at the Theatre Banbury". From this and the foregoing we see that the Church Lane Theatre was very versatile and provided not only a variety of Theatrical entertain-

ments but also facilities for lectures, auctions and public meetings thus bringing many people of all classes into contact with the theatre building.

Apart from the playbills, the theatre often placed advertisements in the local papers. These were usually issued every Thursday, the market day; therefore as many people as possible were informed of the weeks productions at the Theatre. The Banbury Guardian has notices from 1838 and the Banbury Herald from 1861. The Notices would commence with announcements such as "Mr. Jackman respectfully calls the attention of the nobility, gentry and inhabitants of Banbury and its suburbs to the opening of the Theatre for a limited season. He has the pleasure of introducing a respectable and talented company of performers and solicits a renewal of the patronage he hath hitherto been honoured with by his friends and the public assuring them that no effort shall be wanting in contributing to their amusement". This very formal approach continued to be used for many years. The productions were often followed by reports in the following week's paper. It is obvious from the advertising and reports that the Jackmans were seen to be respectable. Lou Warwick comments "If there was one thing that Henry Jackman was, it was respectable with a capital R". The reports in the press also give an insight into the atmosphere of the theatre. On February 2nd, 1854, for example, a performance of "Uncle Tom's Cabin" was described as follows: "Both Pit and Gallery were crammed, many who were desirous of admission to one or other being obliged to turn away". The Boxes too were well occupied... "These performances severally and as a whole, aided by the scenery and music got up for the occasion presented a creditable performance, which carried away the audience and elicited much applause".

The beginning of the 1855 season seemed fairly disappointing and the "Banbury Guardian" comments "The Theatre during the week has not been numerously attended. If we except the Gallery, which has been generally nearly filled". By the end of the season, however, audiences had seemed to pick up. The Banbury Guardian states "The Theatre during the week has had good houses, an average selection of plays and after pieces which strongly appealed to the risibility of the audiences". This very much suggests the idea of the audience voicing their feelings and appreciation of the acts and not sitting still.

The ticket prices varied slightly depending on who was appearing at the Theatre. The "Millers Theatre of Arts" charge Boxes 2s, Pits 1s, Gallery 6d. Children under twelve were admitted at half price for the box and pit only. This seemed to be an average price for the Theatre, often a second price was offered after 9pm. as the performance often lasted for four hours or more. In 1823 Boxes were 3s, second price 2s, Pit 2s, second price 1s, Gallery 1s with no second price. The Jackmans as a recognised company charged these prices for their performances. Tickets could be bought from the Box Office or from local shopkeepers who were encouraged to display posters in their windows and were given half price tickets to do this. When lesser known acts appeared the prices of admission

were lower. By 1861, the audiences were getting smaller and the Jackmans were now lowering their prices with Boxes at 2s, Pit 1s and Gallery 6d. Season tickets were also available. Benefit nights were often held for various members of the company. Many of the Jackmans had them as did Miss Josephine Stert and Mr. Abel and his Dogs. The Banbury Guardian made reference to one such night encouraging people to go on March 23rd, 1848, "Mr. Jackman this night takes leave of his Banbury Friends. the performance being for the benefit of Mr. H. Hartley whose laughter moving capabilities are never forgotten by those who once witness them". Appropriately the last benefit on 29th January 1863 was for Charles Jackman himself. The Banbury Guardian commented "We have no doubt he will be favoured with a crowded audience" and indeed he was, a following report stated that "The benefit was a decided success."

Many of the performances also had a particular patron who was acknowledged for lending their support. This was often the Mayor or other local Dignitaries such as Colonel and Baroness North from Wroxton Abbey. Occasionally the Patron would comprise a group of people such as the Officers and Gentlemen of the Banbury Volunteer Rifle Corps, while Mr. Jackmans benefit was supported by the local cricket club. It is clear that the Theatre was well supported by the local community and that the performers benefit nights played to packed houses. The Theatre and its performers appear to have been respected in the Community as a whole from the nobility to the working classes. The image we have today of bawdy music hall type entertainment does not seem to have applied to the "Theatre Royal Banbury".

Veronica Butt.

References:

1. Cake & Cockhorse Vol.10 No. 1
2. Cake & Cockhorse Vol.10 No. 2
3. Potts Collection, Banbury Reference Library
4. John Cheney and His Descendants, Printers since 1767, printed by Cheney's 1936.
5. Theatre Un Royal, Lou Warwick 1974.

---oOo---

Winter Programme

Thursday 11th December 1986

Dr. John Clarke - Robert Sibthorpe
(Vicar of Brackley) and Laudian
Northampton

Thursday 12th February 1987

Eve McLaughlin - It must be
true - I read it in the press

Thursday 8th January 1987

Sarah Gosling -
The Photographers of Banburyshire

Thursday 12th March 1987

Dr. Anne Laurence - A women's
work is never done! Women's
occupations in 17th century
England

The Banbury Historical 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 and 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. By 1985 there had been 88 issues and at least 230 articles. Most back issues are still available and out-of-print issues can if required be photocopied.

Other publications still in print include:

Booklets -

Old Banbury - a short popular history, E.R.C. Brinkworth

New Light of Banbury's Crosses, P.D.A. Harvey

Banbury Castle - a summary of excavations in 1972, P. Fasham

The Building and Furnishing of St Mary's Church, Banbury,
N. Cooper

Pamphlets -

History of Banbury Cross

The Globe Room at the Reindeer Inn, Banbury

The Society has also published twenty or more volumes in its records series (list available of those still in print). These have included *Banbury Parish Registers* (in seven parts: Marriages 1558-1837, Baptisms and Burials 1558-1812); *Banbury Corporation Records: Tudor and Stuart*; *Banbury Wills and Inventories, 1591-1650* (Part 1, 1591-1620; Part 2, 1621-1650); *A Victorian M.P. and his Constituents: The Correspondence of H.W. Tancred 1841-1860*; *Shoemaker's Window: Recollections of Banbury before the Railway Age*, by George Herbert (now available in Gulliver Press edition); *South Newington Churchwardens' Accounts 1553-1684*; *Wigginton Constables' Books 1691-1836*; *Bodicote Parish Accounts 1700-1822*; *Victorian Banbury*, by Barrie Trinder (with Phillimore); and *Aynho: A Northamptonshire Parish*, by Nicholas Cooper (with Leopard's Head Press). Volumes in preparation include *Banbury Gaol Records 1805-1852*, edited by Penelope Renold, and *Baptisms and Burials 1813-1838*. An edition of letters to the 1st Earl of Guilford (of Wroxton, father of Lord North, Prime Minister and M.P. for Banbury) is also planned.

Meetings are held during the autumn and winter, normally at 7.30 pm at the North Oxfordshire Technical College, Broughton Road, Banbury, on the second Thursday of each month. Talks are given by invited lecturers on general and local archaeological, historical and architectural subjects. In the summer, the AGM is held at a local country house and other visits are arranged.

Membership of the Society is open to all, no proposer or seconder being needed. The annual subscription is £8.00 including any records volumes published, or £5.00 if these are excluded.

Application forms can be obtained from the Hon. Membership Secretary, c/o Banbury Museum, 8 Horsefair, Banbury, Oxon.

