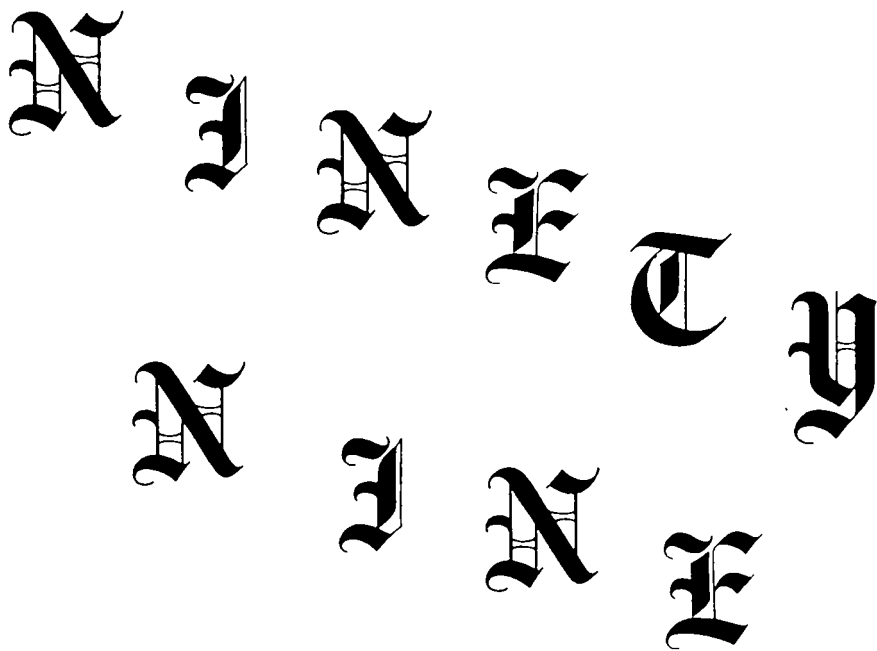


CAKE AND COCKHORSE



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

Cake and Cockhorse

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

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As the comparative "New" Boy, it is an honour to follow in the footsteps of such distinguished Editors as outlined in the article "99 years", by J. Gibson. I must mention the help and advice that has been given to me and, I am sure previous editors must echo this comment. His help and enthusiasm in getting this issue together has been invaluable. We have had our 25th anniversary and now our 99th Cake and Cockhorse. WHAT NEXT!!!

The Autumn programme of lectures is now organised and should prove to be as interesting as ever, with Speakers such as Barrie Trinder, Christine Bloxham and Nicholas Allen.

D.A.H.

CAKE AND COCKHORSE: NINETY-NINE NOT OUT

Just four years ago we were celebrating 25 years of **Cake and Cockhorse**, but the landmark reached with this issue - our 99th - is even more of an achievement. Longevity is something in itself, though it is what is produced in those years that matters. Standards and quality are all-important, but the sheer number of articles, and the research that has gone into them, that our approaching century implies, must be significant. Of course there are trivial pieces, but in general all apart from ephemeral matter have contributed in some way to the knowledge and corpus of material on Banbury and Banburyshire.

Cake and Cockhorse was begun in the Society's second year, the first issue appearing in September 1959. It was suggested by the then Chairman, Dr. C.F.C. Beeson, a noted antiquarian horologist, who became its first editor. His opening Editorial was appropriately prefaced 'Looking Ahead'. The title **Cake and Cockhorse** was his too, 'an epitome of Banbury's legend and history and a challenge to discover the ultimate truth'. With such a rather portentous aim, it is an anticlimax to read that its main purpose was more that of a newsletter, though 'special articles' do get mentioned, almost as an after-thought. More attention was given to the initiation of the records series, and, 22 volumes later, the on-going success of that is a legitimate source of pride.

Fortunately, the ephemeral or topical nature of the magazine was soon superseded by articles of obvious long-term worth. Appropriately, the very first of these, in Vol. 1, No. 3, on 'Joseph Parker and Sabbatarianism', was by the person destined to transform the magazine, Barrie Irinder. Barrie has now for many years been widely known and respected in the local historical field, but at the time was still a student. **Cake and Cockhorse**, whose editor he became in 1962 with the start of Volume 2, helped to launch that career, whilst he established standards of quality of content which subsequent editors have always striven to maintain. By good fortune we were at the same time able to convert from duplicating to off-set litho printing, which of course enhanced the look of the magazine.

Barrie edited no less than 42 issues over eleven years. From Volume 5, in 1971, issues were reduced from four to three, and despite the disappointment then expressed by a member in New Zealand, this reduction has made good sense, both in economy and in editorial workload. The fiftieth issue appeared in Spring 1972, and in his valedictory editorial in Vol. 5, No. 6, Barrie summed up his policy of 'good quality journalism'. This, allied to good production standards, had made **Cake and Cockhorse** much more unusual in the sixties than nowadays, when excellent journals proliferate, not least in Oxfordshire. Imitation is the sincerest form of flattery!

Subsequent editors have benefitted ever since from the groundwork. Frank Willy, who took over from Barrie, had to relinquish tenure after only three issues on his departure from the staff of

of Bloxham School. Dr. Julian Barbour, his successor, with Volume 6 introduced more economical but still acceptable production methods by reverting to typing, but on the ever more sophisticated machines then becoming available for semi-private use. A further economy was introduced with the change in page size to the now ubiquitous A5, which necessitated ending Volume 6 after two years and six issues. The first four volumes had been of twelve issues each, and with the change to three a year, all others have comprised nine issues.

After three years, he was succeeded by David Fiennes, already a regular contributor from his unique knowledge of his own family. This added individuality to his term of office, with 20 issues the second longest. We benefitted not only from his own articles, but also from the research of others into Broughton Castle and its owners. For several issues before his retirement, he was assisted by David Hitchcox, who took on the Editorship fully in 1984, and in whose capable hands it has remained to date. Since the purchase of a typewriter in 1986 copy has been typed by his wife, Ann, an admirable family liaison, their generosity much helping the Society.

Of editors there have been few enough to mention all. For contributors this is quite impossible. A glance at the list of articles appearing in the first 25 years, in Vol. 9, No. 7, shows the dozens there have been. This in itself is a justification for the magazine. How many of them would have written up their research, even have undertaken it, without the prospect of publication? And of what use would that research have been without its exposure to public view? There are others whose names have appeared regularly and even frequently. Pamela Horn and, recently, Evelyn Brown-Grant, have been great stand-bys for successive editors, and it would be falsely modest to ignore my own articles over the years. I know I speak for all our contributors in expressing the enormous gratification of seeing one's own work in print, for which we have **Cake and Cockhorse** and its editors to thank.

Why all this in No. 99? Well, it's the last issue of Volume 10, and we are planning No. 100 as an Extra issue, to comprise an index to all ten volumes. Interesting as they are at the time, articles soon get forgotten and lost without an index to guide researchers to them, and sadly we have as yet failed to index Volumes 7 to 10 - this will remedy that deficiency.

J.S.W.Gibson

E.R.C. Brinkworth - A Celebration

As 'Cake and Cockhorse' approaches its one hundredth issue it is particularly appropriate that we should remember, with special gratitude and affection, Mr. E.R.C. Brinkworth, whose stimulating series of lectures on the history of Banbury, given in 1957, led to the foundation of the Banbury Historical Society, and whose rare professional skills and personal commitment were to guide and encourage the Society for the next twenty years. Since his death in 1978 the Society has stood as his proud and lasting memorial.

It was as a pupil at Dashwood Road Elementary School in the early 1930s that I really got to know Mr. Brinkworth, although he was already a friend of the family; my elder brother and sister had already been at the school and my father knew him well. At home we always spoke of him as 'Brinky', and it was as Brinky that he was kind enough to become my friend for life.

He seldom spoke of his early years. He was not a Banburian by birth, his roots were in the West Country. I gathered that there were family connections, at least on his mother's side, in the Bath area, and he was, for a time, a boarder at a school in Bridport in Dorset before the family - his father was a school-master - moved to Banbury in about 1914 and Brinky became a pupil at Banbury Municipal School. He did his teacher training at Culham, was back in Banbury in 1921 on the staff of Dashwood Road School, where 'Billy' Woods was Headmaster, and remained there for the next twenty-six years.

He was a commanding figure: tall, erect and, even as a young man, generously proportioned, with eyes sharp and penetrating, a lower lip which jutted fiercely (the piratical beard was to flourish later), and a step as peremptory and positive as the flourish of his walking-stick and the set of his cap. There was a gusto about him, a memorable physical presence. He played us into Prayers in the morning with a pulsating, almost staccato rendering of the Oxford and Bucks. Light Infantry march and the piano shuddered. I was never in his class, which was just as well because I was terrified of him; but at one stage, when I was nine or ten, he took a small group of us boys one afternoon a week for Science. The format of these lessons was deliciously simple: Brinky would set up an impressive array of chemical apparatus on his desk over the lunch-time, and then while he presided from his chair, the eight or nine of us would stand around the desk, swapping jokes and shaggy dog stories with him until such time as the bunsen had boiled up the mixture in the flask or retort and the resulting vapours (one such was Chlorine, I remember) had bubbled and gurgles along the array of glass tubes and up into the collecting gas jar or had trickled as a liquid into the waiting beaker. We learnt very little Chemistry (truth to tell, he had little to teach us), but we were treated to a new side of Brinky, for those forbidding eyes actually twinkled and his ample frame quaked with merriment, finding

expression in an infectious bark of joyful laughter.

But Brinky's real vocation was scholarship. Throughout those Dashwood Road years he was patiently laying the solid foundation of his later eminence in the field of ecclesiastical history (in particular, the work of the church courts), palaeography and the history of Banbury where now he shares a place of honour with Beesley and Potts.

Much of his out-of-school time was spent working in the Bodleian at Oxford, but he was also a familiar figure in the Banbury Public Library in Marlborough Road. I was in the Sixth Form at the County School during the early war years and used to meet up with Brinky in the Library in the evenings.

In those days the Library was divided, like Caesar's Gaul, into three parts: one to the left as you entered the vestibule was the newspaper reading room; the room straight ahead had been abandoned (which, from the state of it and of the books still in there, would seem the appropriate word to use) to a youth club, while the room on the right housed what remained of the lending and reference libraries. Here Mrs. Wathen ruled with a rod of iron; assisted by the gentle Miss Marshall, whose brother, 'Professor' Marshall, ran the Banbury Madrigal and Glee Union. Brinky and I worked at a heavy octagonal oak table just inside this room, but shielded from the main activity by a tall book stack. This semi-isolation enabled us to talk quietly together and also to eavesdrop on the conversations going on behind us and to chuckle over them like two schoolboys. And that really was the secret of our friendship: for although he was my senior by some twenty-three years and although there existed such a wide discrepancy of knowledge and experience between us, there never was, in fact, any barrier raised of age or learning, no sense of inequality, no talking down, no condescension, just a continuing level of mutual respect, affection and understanding.

When Mrs. Wathen shut up her room at seven o'clock we moved our books and papers across to the newspaper room. There the presiding genius from a chair by the fireplace was John Viggers, an old soldier, with cropped head and gammy leg (the result, so he maintained, of a fall from a pavement in Shanghai on a wild night out) who had a room in Calthorpe Street. The blackout would be up, the light dim, and the open fire, struggling to get by on the minimum of coal, seemed always to generate more smoke than flame and only some of which found its way up the chimney. Old John's pipe, broken-stemmed, so that the bowl seemed to be functioning dangerously close to his nose, and periodically refuelled from the proceeds of unravelled cigarette-ends, added to the haze, so that, with its sparse furniture and smoke-laden atmosphere, the room bore a marked resemblance to a seedy waiting-room on a wartime railway station. But the regular customers, there to catch up on the newspapers and to read the solitary copy of the 'Oxford Mail', which Mrs. Hitler (as John called Mrs. Wathen - in her absence, of course) would bring in to the accompaniment of a standing admonishment about mending the fire and keeping the place tidy, were no less worthy than the members of Plato's Academy. Apart from John, on any evening we might see the 'bum bailiff', as Brinky labelled

him, from Newland, Mr. Dawes who worked at Ginger's in the High Street and who came in each evening to wind up the clock, Mr. Hobbs, the hardware dealer of Crouch Street, back from his round, leather money bag across his shoulder, the smell of paraffin still lingering on his clothes, and, sometimes, Miss Ridge, who lived in Broughton Road and whom John would encourage to draw her chair in front of the fire to warm her knees. Brinky was always referred to by John as 'the schoolmaster'. Those wonderful evenings our historical studies made little progress, but we all talked together, put the world to rights, and we laughed together as a circle of old and trusted friends. At nine o'clock it was out into the blackout and home. Later, when I came home on leave, I used to visit John Viggers in the Warwick Road Workhouse where he ended his days.

The 1940s were important years for Brinky. In January, 1942, he read a fascinating paper to the Royal Historical Society on 'The Study and Use of Archdeacons' Court Records: Illustrated from the Oxford Records (1566-1759); the same year, and in 1946, his two volumes of 'The Archdeacon's Court: Liber Actorum, 1584'. were published by the Oxfordshire Record Society; he was elected a Fellow of the Royal Historical Society, and in 1947 he was able, at last, to give up the drudgery of teaching when he was appointed to the Department of Extramural Studies at the University of Birmingham as Resident Staff Tutor for South Warwickshire. Two years later he was formally admitted to the degree of B.Litt. at Oxford with his 'Study of the Visitation Books of the Archdeaconry of Buckingham, 1633-36'.

We shared a great love for Oxford. After the war, when I was an undergraduate and reading History, we forsook the reference and newspaper rooms of Banbury Library for the Bodleian where we read and the Oxford Union where we regularly met for tea. There we delighted in the wonderful 'characters' of the University, men like Billy Pantin of Oriel, A.L. Rowse of All Souls, the remarkable C.T. Atkinson, my tutor at Exeter, and, perhaps the greatest character of them all, the erudite and eccentric Canon Claude Jenkins of Christ Church. At the time Claude Jenkins was Brinky's supervisor for the B.Litt. so he knew him well, and years later, when 'Shakespeare and the Bawdy Court of Stratford' came out, A.L. Rowse was unstinting in his praise and charmed Brinky with his kind hospitality at All Souls.

The Birmingham years were also extremely happy for Brinky. Most of all he liked 'the atmosphere of real friendship' in the Extramural Department and felt greatly privileged to be a part of it; and he cherished those friends, like Philip Styles of Warwick and W.E. Tate of Leeds, who were involved with him in the running of courses at Birmingham, Worcester, Lichfield, Coventry, Warwick, and the prestigious Annual Summer School of Shakespeare Studies at Stratford-upon-Avon.

In 1956 he was concerned that archive work was trying his eyes and head badly and had almost decided to give it up and to stick to straight lecturing; 'there's no sense', he wrote, 'in being a martyr except for religious causes. So I'm trying to get W.E. Tate

who's been at Westham each year with me to take it on and others to take the numerous classes. Bill Tate (a Card) sent a characteristic reply in his letter of this morning [24 April, 1956]: "As to the future I feel that whilst I could run Westham (or take charge of the Channel Fleet, or occupy the Chair of Assyriology, or become Town Clerk of Warwick or Medical Superintendent of the Cock Hospital [in Leeds] it's just as well for us to share the job as we do now. We complement each other's deficiencies my lad and that, plus the fact that we get on personally, is why we make such an unusually good team". In fact, he continued as Staff Tutor until his retirement in 1962, and was still involved until 1968, working part-time for the Extramural Department as a Staff Tutor in Archive Study.

Brinky himself regard palaeography as his most important and satisfying area of study. In October, 1971, he wrote: 'as for my own work I look like spending more and more time on palaeography, as indeed I have done for a long time. There is a big field of investigation awaiting with the English Secretary hand - you know, detailed stuff such as satisfies me thoroughly and makes the church history which also so much gets me seem rather waffle. This dichotomy has gone on for very very many years - between palaeography on the one hand and 'history' on the other. I suppose it all boils down to the undoubted fact that I'm not an historian at all but some sort of technician, no a technical man, and the undoubted fact that I ought to have been some sort of classic - especially a Latinist. But we never got any sort of proper start at school here in my time. I owe my Latin mainly to a retired Cambridge parson who tutored me gratis.' He returned to the theme in February, 1978: 'I am a classicist at heart. I'm certainly no historian. And the only classicist I approve is the pure scholarship textual criticism sort, to whom as to my hero A.E.Housman, even the literature is a deviation from 'pure' scholarship. Hence what I cultivate in history, as the second best, is the original material, the form, language, palaeography and mechanism thereof.'

It is our good fortune to be the beneficiaries of Brinky's skills as both palaeographer and historian. His transcripts of Banbury Wills and Inventories, 1591-1650, the South Newington Church-Wardens' Accounts, 1553-1684, and, above all, the monumental Banbury Corporation Accounts, 1554-1741, exemplify the most demanding standards of scholarship which he set himself and achieved. His short history of Banbury and his fascinating, but all too brief 'Shakespeare and the Bawdy Court of Stratford' reveal his great and enviable gift of being able to combine impeccable scholarship with a remarkable simplicity, clarity and elegance of language; his radio talks, his lectures and talks to a hundred and one local clubs and societies, his articles in popular papers and magazines as well as in learned journals all bear testimony to this singular gift.

In 1972 he received a Leverhulme grant for two years for a study of Highly Current Hands in England c.1550-1600, with the idea of a book as the result. In 1975 he was planning a further book on new Shakespeare findings among the Sackville papers and Star Chamber depositions. Sadly, neither was brought to completion.

At the end of November, 1977, Gwladys, his friend and helpmeet of so many years and whom he had married in 1962, had a serious collapse. Although she made a complete recovery, in a letter to me at Christmas, 1977, he wrote that he had been profoundly shaken and was, for the first time, feeling his age. A deep depression remained and he confessed himself tired and spent. He died peacefully at home on 2 December, 1978.

He had asked that no obituary should appear in 'Cake and Cockhorse' and his wishes were respected. This is a remembrance, a celebration of more than forty years of unwavering friendship. For better or for worse, places we knew together have changed - the Banbury Library, the Oxford Union - and the Original Cake Shop in Parson's Street where over the years we consumed gallons of coffee and where Brinky lunched virtually on a perpetual season ticket has disappeared altogether. But gratitude and affection for one who, in his own especial way, was as much a 'character' as those famous Oxford eccentrics he so cherished and admired, will never fade - verae amicitiae sempiternae sunt.

R.K. Gilkes



E.R.C. Brinkworth, teacher at Dashwood Road School, Banbury, with scholars playing against Brackley School, 1929

LIVING IN BANBURY 1660-1730: A FORETASTE

Barrie Trinder and Jeremy Gibson

Banbury is one of the most thoroughly analysed communities in Britain. The documentation of the town in the nineteenth century is exceptionally rich, which has enabled its development in that period to be studied in great detail. Thanks to the energetic publication programme of the Banbury Historical Society we have a vivid picture of the town in the late sixteenth and early seventeenth centuries. Even the twentieth century, often a great void in local history, is exceptionally well covered in Banbury. One period where many problems remain is the late seventeenth and early eighteenth century. Much evidence suggests that the eighteenth century was a period of relative decline for Banbury, when economic weakness led to control by landowners from outside the town. Certainly Banbury in that period displayed none of the political and religious passions so strong in the town in the early seventeenth century and in the nineteenth.

The study of the probate inventories for that period offers an opportunity to investigate some of these problems, and a long-term programme of research is in progress during which it is intended to transcribe and analyse all the inventories for the period, with a view to ultimate publication. The inventories will be comparable with those for the sixteenth and early seventeenth centuries, already published by the Historical Society, and with the growing number of collections from other parts of the country which are now in print. They can be used to frame answers to a range of questions about the town. They should show the range of trades practised in Banbury, which will reveal much about the town's status. A wide range, including the luxury trades, would indicate a prosperous town. A relatively narrow range, with individuals carrying on more than one trade on the same premises, would indicate a stagnant economy. The inventories should reveal a great deal about the cloth trade, which all sources suggest to have been of considerable importance in north Oxfordshire, indicating the types of fabric produced, and the way in which production was organised. The inventories will certainly give a detailed picture of the material culture of Banbury, making it possible to compare furnishings, methods of cooking and the extent of household self-sufficiency with other parts of Britain. Perhaps the most important question which can be addressed concerns energy. If Banbury was in relative decline in the early eighteenth century, a prime cause was probably the high cost of energy. In a region which was intensively cultivated, supplies of wood fuel were relatively sparse, but the town was remote from sources of coal, either of coal from north-east England supplied via the Thames, or from the south Warwickshire coalfield. The Banbury inventories should show whether or not coal was carried in any quantity into the area, a question of far more than local importance.

This small selection from the inventories which have already been transcribed is not a scientific sample, but simply a group of examples which illustrate particular themes. It should be seen merely as an appetiser for a larger collection, and a more rigorous analysis to come at some time in the future.

It also demonstrates the importance of not dealing with a document, or a class of documents, in isolation. Probate inventories in the records of the Peculiar Court of Banbury, which these all are, are subject to two restrictions. Most obviously, they can only provide information on those for whom such documents were taken out, and this was by no means universal even with those of property and standing. Less frequently mentioned, or at least made clear, is that probate for the wealthiest tradesmen and most of the gentry was normally in the Prerogative Court of Canterbury rather than in the local court. Probate inventories in this class of records rarely survive before 1661 or from the early eighteenth century on. The only period with a good quantity (30,000+) is the last four decades of the seventeenth century. An appendix to this article which lists those with Banbury connections will appear in the next issue of C.&C.H.

Records which help to provide supporting information include, first, the will or other probate documents accompanying the inventory. Administration bonds can name the widow or other heirs and friends, with their location if they live away from Banbury. The parish registers may have additional details in burial entries, show when widows' husbands had died, and what children of what age there might be. For this period the Hearth Tax of the 1660's is particularly useful. The Corporation records sometimes produce additional references, and the Association Oath Roll of 1695/6 includes most adult males of that time. As well as the index to the Peculiar Court probate records, the registers and other records mentioned have all been published and are easily accessible.

James Partridge, d.1677. This inventory is included for the splendid list of completed garments. The cockers at the end of the list were probably leggings. It also includes some of his equipment, a "goose" or smoothing iron, a "lattice", which was a frame extending over the window opening, and a pair of shears. No occupation is given, but the obvious implication that he was a tailor is confirmed by the description of another James Partridge as a tailor when his daughter was baptised in 1682. This was fairly certainly the elder James Partridge's eldest child, b.1661; he had married Mary Barker of Broughton (d.1668) in 1660. There were clearly hearths in at least two rooms, but tax was paid on one only in 1662-5.

[Oxfordshire Record Office. MSS. Wills Peculiars 48/3/20]

An Inventory of ye Goods of James Partridge of Banbury deceased taken & prised by Nath. Wheatly & John Tredwell ye 25th of June 1677.

Imp. money in his purse, £4.10s.

It. his waring apparell, £3.

7 Large riding Coats att 12/- a coate, £4.4s.

7 cloth coats at 8/-, £2.15s.

13 close body coats at 5/-, £3.5s.; 4 childrens coats att 5/- p
coate, £1.; 6 waistcots att 3/-, 18s.; 1 fustian frocke, 6s.;
9 pr trouser att 2/4, £1.1s.; 3 pr boyes briches att 3/-, 9s.;
6 pr mens brichs att 5/-, £1.10s.; 18 peticotes att 7/- apeece,
£6.6s.; 14 wool waistcotes att 6/-, £4.4s.; 9 pr Lynings att 2/-,
18s.; old close and 4 pr cocker, 12s.; odd things uppon a shelve,
£1.

The presses in ye shopp & shopp board & Lattice & shilfe 1 head block
1 sheares goose & other Implements, £1.6s.

Ite. In ye kichinge: pewter, 2 side tables, 2 Joyned stooles, 4
cheares, fire Irons & fire Shovell & tounges, 1 warminge pan, 1
spitt & Jacke, £3.

It. The Buttery: 4 drinke vessells & brass & pewter, a powdering
tubb & other things, £3.10s.

It. In ye out Kichinge: on pt of a furnice & bruinge vessell, boards
& other Lumbr, £3.10s.

It. In ye Great Chamber over ye Shopp: 1 flock bed, 2 fether pillows,
1 floke boaster, 1 set curtaines & valence & a bedstid, matt &
coard, 1 pr blankets, 1 rugg, 6 cheares, 7 Joyned stooles, 1 coart
cubberd, 2 tables, 1 pr hand Irons & fire shovell & tounges, 1
truncke & 1 box & 2 carpets, £5; 13 pr sheets & other Linen, £3.10s.

In ye chamber over ye Buttery: 1 fether bed, 1 fether boalster, 1
flock bed & flocke boaster, 1 pr blanckets, 1 Rugg, 2 Curtaines &
Valence & bedstid, coard & Matt, truckle bed & flocke bed & boaster
and kiverlid, one blanket, 1 press, 1 truncke, 4 boxes, 1 coffer,
1 cheare, 3 coshings, on nai pd., £5.18s.; 14 yds cloths at 3/-,
£2.2s.; 2 coshings & cradle rugg, 3s.; Buttons & other odd things
in a box, £1.10s.

In ye 2 Garretts: half tester bed, flocke bed, 2 wheelles, 1 table &
other things, £3.10s.

It. Moneys due in ye Booke, £18.5s.; desperate debts, £8.

Sg. N.W. & J.T. Exhibited 26 June 1677 by Ann Partridge, relict. Sum: £95.2s.

Fulke Greville, gent., d.1677. The description of "gentleman" was by this time somewhat casually bestowed - often it was an appellation given to anyone who had served on the borough's Corporation. However, the Grevilles appear to have been a gentry family, though on a rapid descent! A Fulke Grevill had been condemned at Oxford assizes in 1660 for highway robbery and murder, and in 1589 Lewis Grevill had been executed for murder (*C&CH.9.176*). Our Fulke Greville named two daughters (the first dying young) Raleigh, the younger being his executrix. His kinsman John West, glazier, was overseer of his will, whilst two others of the numerous West family joined him in drawing up the inventory. The Wests were an influential Banbury family, one branch at least on the up-and-up (*C&CH.10.p.6*).

There are no precise indications in the inventory of his occupation, but the presence of thirty sheep racks suggests that he may have held the rights to set out the market stalls in Banbury. His household is comfortably, even luxuriously, furnished. Like many Banburians he had a court cupboard, an item of furniture rarely found, at least by that name, further west in the Midlands. This

inventory, like others in this selection, shows Greville had a variety of fuel, furze, wood faggots and coals, the latter almost certainly from the context indicating mineral coal rather than charcoal. He would have needed this for the coming winter, as in the 1660's he had been taxed on five hearths, four identifiable in this inventory, the fifth perhaps in an unspecified kitchen.

[O.R.O. 39/6/2]. An inventory of the goods and chettels of Fulke Grevill decaasd taken the 23 day of Novembr anno 1677 by us whose names are underwritten.

Imp. his wareing apparrell, £5; in mony lyeing by him, £6.16s.
1 sylver bowle, 3 sylver spoones, £3; 11 pewter platters, 11 plates,
6 pewter flaggons with 4 small saucers and 3 chamber potts,
4 pewter candell sticks, 1 salt seller, £3.10s.; 1 furnace,
1 brewing kettell, 3 small kettells, 3 small potage potts,
2 skilletts, 1 brass chafeing dish, £6; brass candellstick, 2 brass
ladles, 6 tinn candell sticks, 3s.; 7 spitts, 3 paire of pott
hookes, 2 paires of linkes, 2 flesh forkes, 2 Iron chafeing dishes,
1 gridiron, 1 toasting Iron, 2 smoothing Irons with other Iron
things belonging to the fire place in the hall, 15s.; 1 Jack to
roast meat with all, 5s.; 1 fire shovell, 1 pair of tongs, 1 frying
pan, 3s.

In the Hall: 3 tables, 1 skreene, 1 wainscot cupboard, 4 chaires,
4 stooles, 1 pair of bellows, 1 lookeing glass, 1 bench,
3 cushings, 2 flour potts, £2; three vatts, 3 coules, 7 kivers and
other brewing vessels, £3.

in the seller: 3 hogsheds of beare, £3; furses & wood, faggotts and
coales, £5; 30 sheep racks, 15s.; 1 churne, 2s.6d.; 1 brrand yron,
2s.6d.

in the parler: 3 tables, 6 lether chaires, 3 joynd stooles, £2.10s.;
a fire shovell and paire of tongs, 2s.; 1 pair of andirons, 2s.6d.;
2 green carpetts, 5s.9d.; 2 floure potts, 6d.; 1 Joynd chaire, 2s.

in the little chamber: 2 flock beds, 2 coverleds, 6 blanketts, 1 high
bedd, 1 trundle bed, 1 Trunck, 2 chests, 3 flock bolsters, 1 fether
bolster, £2.10s.

in the chamber over the Hall: 1 fether bed, 2 fether bolsters,
3 blacotts, 1 yallow rugg, 1 round table, 1 cort cupbord, 1 coun-
terpane, 1 side cupbord & cloth, 2 chaires, 2 trunkes, 1 twigon
chaire, 1 paire of and Irons, 1 chest, 1 joynd bedd with curtanes
and vallaines, 4 cushiones, £6.

in the chamber over the parler: 2 fetherbeds, 2 fether bolsters,
1 fether pillow, 5 blancotts, 1 rugg, 1 coverlid, 1 high bed,
1 trundle bed, 1 green rugg, 1 table, 2 chests, 1 cort cupbord,
2 stools, 2 chairs, a fire shovle & paire of tongs and paire of
bellows, 1 pair of Iron doggs, 6 cushiones, 1 sett of green
curtains and valens, £8.

in the garrett: 1 low bed sted, 1 flock bed, 1 coverlid, 2 blanketts,
£1.

linen fine and course, 15 paire of sheets, 4 dusson of napkins,
6 table clothes, 6 pillow drawers, 6 towells, £7.

odd things in the pantry, 13s.4d.

hay and other things in the stable, £2.10s.
1 hovell in the backside, 15s.
debts sperate, £2.

Sum: £73.2s.4d.

Sg. James West, John West, John West Junr.

Thomas Knibb, blacksmith, d. 1677/8. The inventory gives a detailed list of his blacksmith's tools, which shows that he was a general smith, and also a farrier and nailmaker. The "bickine" was a bickorn, an anvil with a "horn" at each end. By the end of February heating fuel might be running low, though the smithy would need a constant supply. The parcel of hay, coals and some furze together were valued at one pound.

Although his son John was baptised in Banbury in August 1665, Thomas Knibb was not named amongst Hearth Taxpayers that Michaelmas, so perhaps he was recently arrived then. He may have been from Claydon, a relative of the famous clockmaking family, whose skill would have derived from metalwork. The tools and goods in the shop were if necessary to be sold for the maintenance of his widow and son John, still only 12 at his father's death. In due course John continued his father's trade in Banbury, and was a signatory of the Association Oath Roll in 1695/6.

[O.R.O. 44/5/2]. An Inventory of the Goods & chattells of Thomas Knibb late of Banbury...Smyth deceased taken the 27th of February 1677 by Samuel Hall, William Bloxham, Richard Burrouse & Rich. Downes & prised as followeth:

first in the hall: one table & frame, Fower Joind stooles, one Cupboard, one screene, one backing stock, 3 old little chaires, 15s.; Alsoe a Jack & weights, 3 spits, 1 dripping pan of tin, 3 little old cleavers, 2 flesh forkes, a brasse ladle, an old warming pan, Andirons, fier shovell & tongs & fier irons, one paire of pott hangers, 3 candlesticks & a little chopping board, 14s.

Itm. in the buttry: 5 halfe hogsheads, 2 whole ones, 2 little barrells, 1 stell, 1 halfe hogshead of beere, £1; Fower Flagons, 1 pint pott, 1 pewter candlestick, five pewter platters, 5 sawcers & porringers, 7 old spoons, brasse & pewter, 15s.; 3 little kettles, 1 brass pott, 1 Iron pott, 1 skillett, a little basting ladle, 10s.6d.; a little brasse furnance & lidd, 1 vate, 6 kivers, 1 tuning bowle, 4 Cowles, 1 upstand & a little powdring tubb, £2.1s.6d.

In the shopp: 1 p of bellowes old ones, 1 olde Anvill, 1 bickine, 1 vice, 2 sledges, 4 hand hammers, 1 nayling hamer(?), 1 rivitting hamer, 1 shooing hamer, two buttrises, 2 old halters, 1 old trough, three paire of tongs, a drenching kettle, 2 shoeing boxes, 1 Iron ladle, 2 rasps, 6 chesells & punches, one old Coffe, 1 docking Iron & 1 seeing Iron, 1 beame & Scales & some other odd things, £3.10s.

In the chamber over the hall: 1 high bedstead & a truckle bedd broke(?) curtains & valens of Kiddermaster, 1 green Rugg, 2 blanketts, 1 red Kiverlid, one fether bedd, 2 feather bolsters, 1 fether pillowe, 1 flock bolster, 2 bedd Matts & coard, curtain rod, f4; 9 paire of old course sheets, 8 pillow beers, 6 towells, 3 course board clothes, 13 napkings, 1 cubbord cloth & carpett, f2; A table & frame, a court cubbord, a presse, a chest, 4 chaires, 1 forme, 2 old cushions, a looking glasse, an old baskett, and-irons & fier shovel, 1 trunk & 1 kiddermaster carpett, fl.1s; his wearing apparrell, fl.15s.

In ye cockloft: one truckle bedd, a slight flock bedd, Coverlidd & blankett & other lumber, 7s.

In the chamber over the shop: 1 high bedd, 1 truckle bed, 2 flock beds, 2 bolsters, 1 blankett, one kiverlid, a dough trough, 1 forme, a flaskett, 2 old tubbs, a little Iron grate, 2 chamber potts, 1 old coffer, 18s.

Some bacon, fl; one old mare & a provender tubb, f2; a pcell of hey & coales & some furze, fl.

In the yard: a grind stone & trough, a wheelbarrow, 2 little hog houses & a pcell of old wood & other lumber there & about the howse, fl.1s.

Sum: f23.19s.8d.

Sg. S.H., W.B., R.B., R.D.

Margaret King, widow, d.1691. This inventory is of particular importance for the evidence it conveys about fuel in Banbury. Like other inventories it lists both furze and coals, but in this case coals are unequivocally "pit coals". Margaret King was carrying on the trade of her late husband Henry, who had been a baker. The stock of the baking house includes peals, the long wooden shovels on which bread, or in this case pies, were put into the traditional baking oven. The furze was probably used for the bread oven since it was the preferred fuel for that purpose even in areas where coal was cheap.

Margaret was the daughter of Thomas Claridge, a Warmington yeoman, and had married Henry King in 1653/4. He was a Tithingman to the Corporation 1658-60, but never became a member of that body. In 1661 he contributed 5s. to the Gift to Charles II, and was taxed on two hearths in 1662 - presumably that in the hall and the baking oven. By 1665 he longer paid tax - the oven may have been exempt. He and his daughter were buried together in June 1685. His widow Margaret is recorded as a recipient in 1687-8 of a loan from Oken's money, a fund administered by the Corporation to provide short-term capital to traders. Her goods were administered by her son John King, a carrier who had moved to London, at one point in the bond incorrectly called "Knigtlie" though his signature is clear - a reminder that legal records, or the clerks who wrote them, were far from infallible.

[O.R.O. 44/5/15]. A True Inventory of the Goods and Chattells of Margaret King of Banbury...widow deceased, Taken and apprized by us John Bloxham sen. and Edward Blabe, this twenty fifth day of November Anno dni 1691 as followeth:

Impr. In the hall house: one long table, one presse cubbord, six ioynt stooles, two low stooles: two chairs, one side table, two iron doggs, the bar and whings, two flower potts, one candle boxe, one powdering tubb, one brasse kettle, one iron pott and hooks, fl.10s.11d.

In the buttery: one dresser, two shelves, one dussen of glasse bottles, one frying pan, one wheele, one quarterne barrell, one buckett: two and twenty pounds of leaden weights, 9s.4d.

In the Baking house: one bushell and gallon, one print, two peales, one wooden troughf and boord over it, one parcell of old iron, one brasse pan, two pye peales, two kivers, three old baggs, fl.8s.4d.

In the meale chamber: one bolting mill, one iron beame and scale, two stone weights, one wooden beame and scales, one halfe hogshhead, 18s.6d.

In the litle chamber: one litle bed and matt; *in the next chamber:* one bed and curtaines and valens: two wooll beds, two blanketts, two coverlids, two coffers, one table, fl.10s.8d.

In the best chamber: one chest and bedsted: one side cubbord, three chairs, foure stooles, 19s.6d.

In the backside: two hundred of furze, one ashen pole; twelve hundred of pit coales, one stone troughf, one cribb, fl.12s.

Old pewter and brasse, two payres of sheets, one sett of red curtains and valens, two Carpetts, one feather bed and od litle pillows, £3.15s.

Sum: fl1.14s.3d.

J.B., E.B. Exhibited 4 December 1691 by John King sone of M.K.

Joyce Pym, widow, d.1697. Here is another widow carrying on her late husband's trade, that of a mercer. The inventory, confined to her personal possessions and the goods in the shop, was exhibited by her two spinster daughters, Elizabeth and Joyce, aged respectively 36 and 25, in whose home their mother presumably lived.

Joyce Pym was daughter of Richard Halhed, of a prominent Banbury family whose fortunes were declining in the later part of the century (*C&CH.7*, pp.45 and 199-210), and had married Thomas Pym in 1659. The Pym family too were part of Banbury's mid-century oligarchy. Thomas was also a Tithingman, 1660-62, though not on the Corporation. He contributed 10s. to the Gift in 1661, one of the larger sums, was taxed on five hearths (1662-65), and paid on 16s.-worth of goods in subsidy (in partnership with Philip Style, later town clerk) in 1664. That year he issued a trade token, showing a windlass and rope, with his and his wife's initials on the reverse. He died in 1677. His widow was a lessee of waste ground (from the Corporation) in 1687-8.

Almost every aspect of the traditional trades of the mercer are practised in Joyce Pym's shop, although on a very small scale. She sold fabrics, haberdashery, sugar, rice, tobacco and brandy. The "pips" were probably clay tobacco pipes. It should be noted that the untutored handwriting of this inventory makes it particularly difficult to read and be certain what is written or intended. The scale of this business cannot reflect that of her husband twenty years earlier. Three sons were baptised 1665-69, since disappeared from

Banbury, who, together with the two daughters, very probably had received their "portions" in apprenticeship and other ways.

[O.R.O. 49/1/33]. An Inventory of the Goods of Joyce Pym late of Banbury wid. deceased, taken and prised by Nathaniell Wheatly and Thomas Ward the 26 day of March 1697.

Imprs. money in purse and wairing Apparell, £5.

2 Silver spoones, 12s.

In the Shopp: 6 pr scales, 1 morter, 1 pestell, 2 lattices, 1 bl boy, 4 Neast boxes, 1 Neast drawers(?), 4 boxes, 17 more boxes, 4 Runlets, 1 pcell paprs, three filitings and Inicle [?inkle: inferior tape], £3.11s.

Fine thred, Candles, pepper, blew Gyngd. and other things, £1.6s.

Pewter, misers, 1 Suggr lofe, 1 box Suggr, £1.

Surfitt water and Cherry brandy, 10s.

29 lb of brass waites at 6d per lb, 14s.6d.

1 firkin and half of Sope, £1.10s.

3 lb thred and thred laces, 1 dosen Cards, 1 dosen pines, £1.1s.9d.

1 box blew wt starch and Rice and Sand, 4 Copper boxes, 11s.

6 comb brushes, half dosen rubbers and cadeess, 1s.9d.

Tobacco, strong water and pips, £6.10s.

Fuell, 5s.

New cloth & whiteings, 8s.

In Good debts, £21.13s.4d.; In desperate debts, £9.2s.7d.

Sg. N.W. Exhibited 5 June 1697 by Elizabeth and Joice Pim, daughters and spinsters.

Joseph Reason, jersey-weaver, d.1701. He lived in St John's Street, now South Bar, and his modest household is very similar to those of the Shrewsbury shearmen, who finished Welsh cloth put out to them by members of the town's Drapers Company. Even in this tiny four-room house, it appears that the family made their own bread. Joseph was a signatory of the Association Oath Roll in 1695/6. At least two of his four children died young. His widow Mary, who inherited his property, died in 1713.

[O.R.O. 50/3/19]. An Inventory of all ye Goods & Chattels of Joseph Reason, Weavr., Late of Banbury, taken & apprized by us whose names are underwritten:

In the Shop: Impr. 1 old Loom, Shuttle, Gear, & old Warping frame, 10s.; A Form & 2 old Wheels at 1s.; A pewter plattr, Bason & Flagon at 1s.6d.; 2 Brass Kettles, & 2 porridge pots at 10s.; A very little Furnace at 10s.4d.; Wooden ware, & Earthen ware at 7d.

In ye Chambr over ye Shop: 2 Chests, 2 Coffers, 3 Boxes & 2 Trunks at 12s.; 4 old pillows: A Blanket, 2 pair of Sheets, 2 dozen of Napkins, & other Linnen at 12s.6d.

In ye Chambr over ye House: His apparel, Drawers, a Bedstead, & 1 trundle Bed, wth ye Bedding: 1 Chair, & 2 Stools at £2.7s.6d.; 6 pewter Dishes, 2 Ladles, & 1 Skimer at 10s.

In ye House: 1 old Table, Cupboard, 2 Barrels & 2 Cowls, 10s.;
Shovel & Tongs, Brass-pan, fire Irons, old Iron, 7s.6d.; Bellows,
2 old Forms & a Dough trough, 3s.; A Frying-pan, warming pan,
4 old Books, 2 chaires & a Stool, 5s.11d.

Sum: £7.5s.3d.

Sg. Amos Sansbury, John Fouks, Thomas Wagstaffe.

John French, goldsmith, d.1704. To find goldsmiths in a provincial town suggests it was prosperous. John French's inventory gives a clear picture of the range of his products, mostly of modest value, and very varied. The background is here especially important. Administration of his goods was granted to his sister, his mother renouncing, and the parish register shows he was in fact still a young man, dying at only 28. His father, another John French, had been a mercer and a man of standing, Burgess on the Corporation at his early death in 1684. The inventory of the shop was appraised by two others Banbury goldsmiths, James and George Robins, who may well have been in a larger way of business than French, whose gold was confined to rings and perhaps buckles. Another goldsmith, Alderman Joseph Mawle, had died in 1699. Unfortunately there are no inventories for him nor, later, for James and George Robins. It was common practice for the inventories of those following specialised occupations to be valued by fellow specialists, whilst the valuation of the household goods was left to others - in this case one of them his stepfather Thomas Ward (another Banbury mercer). The appearance of a coffee mill on the shop inventory is relatively early.

[O.R.O. 38/5/13]. An Inventory of the goods and Chattells rights & Creditts of John French late of Banbury...Goldsmith deced, taken 10 June 1704 by us whose names are underwritten:

In the shop: Impris. Four Silver Salts, £1.10s.;

Silver ware in the Shopp, £27.3⁶.10d.;

For Gold rings, Buckles, 2 Tea potts & other taves, £3.16s.7d.

For Gold rings, £16.10s.

For Combs & Books, Glasses, £1.13s.10d.;

For Spectacles, Ink horns, Comb, Brushes, Bodkins, Sealeing Wax, Looking Glasses & other Tayes, £7.5s.11d.;

For Cards, Velvit Caps, picktures, (?)Judling Caps, Boxes, Trunckes, pewter tays, Cheny ware & other toyes, £6.11s.3d.

For a Coffey Mill, Picktures, Wash balls, 2 pr tables, £4.4s.

For 10 Canes, 7 Angle Rods, £1.12s.

For Glasses in ye Winderes, Scales, Weights, Counters, frames, chests, Working Toolles, Tobacco & seavarell other Goods in & about ye shop, £7.0s.8d.

Sum: £82.5s.1d.

Appraised by us, James Robins, George Robins.

In ye Kitchin: 1 Clock, 1 Table, 6 Chairs, 2 glasses, 1 Glass Case, 1 stoole, 1 Table, a jack, 2 spitts, 3 Candlesticks & severall other Good in y Chimney & Hquse, £3.10s.

In ye Back Kitchin: 2 Brass Potts, 2 Kettles, 2 Covers, 2 doss Trenchers, 1 Gunn, a parcell of Boxes & Glass Bottles & other Lumber, £2.

In the Buttery: 5 Pewter Dishes, 1 doss Plates & other od Pewter,
3 Barrells & a frying Pan & Working Tooles, £1.1s.6d.
In the Lodging Roome: Wearing Apparill, Watches & money in Pockit,
£11.10s.; a Feather Bed, 2 Bolsters, 1 pillowe, 1 Blankit, 1 flock
Bed, Curtains & Vallens, Bedsted, Matt & Cord, a pr sheetes,
1 chest of Drawers, 1 Box of Drawers, 1 Table, 2 Boxes, 4 chaires,
1 pr And Irons, 1 Press & other od Lumbr about ye house, £6.14s.9d.
Debts sperate, £5; Debts Desp. -

Sum: £29.16s.3d.

Appraised by us, Tho. Wardd, Thos. Greenhill.

Henry Upton, innholder, d.1721. The foregoing inventories, chosen to illustrate particular themes, are interesting enough, but, those themes apart, are fairly run-of-the-mill. The same cannot be said of this last inventory, which constitutes, in the microcosm of Banbury's history, an outstanding discovery.

Nine years ago an account was published (*C&CH.8*, pp.3-12) of the Three Tuns, Banbury's leading tavern for a century from c.1687 (the building now incorporated in the Whately Arms Hotel on the Horse Fair). At the time it seemed that every likely source had been covered, providing the evidence for its establishment by Charles Stokes, its later ownership, in particular under his son Thomas from 1723 on, and in the later part of the century, some indication of its extent and contents from newspaper auction advertisements. Comment was made on the frustratingly few references to the tavern in its heyday, the first half of the eighteenth century.

Despite that exhaustive seeming research, here is revealed, in the final inventory, a wonderful description of what is without doubt the Three Tuns at just this time. The evidence is obvious enough, with hindsight.

The probate bond and inventory of Henry Upton, "innholder", were presented and exhibited by his widow Elizabeth in September 1722. However, he was not buried at Banbury - so there was no burial entry which might have identified him with the Three Tuns. Charles Stokes had died in 1717/8, and at that time tavern was "in the possession of" his son-in-law and daughter, William and Elizabeth Hide. Thomas, who eventually took over, was then only 23, though within a year he was on the Corporation, and appeared to be in charge at the Three Tuns by March 1723/4.

With this evidence of apparent family continuity, the importance of the one Upton entry in the registers was overlooked: the baptism on 22 October 1721 of a daughter of "Mr Henry Upton at ye Three Tuns". It was assumed this was a guest or family friend (indeed it is possible there is an as yet undiscovered family connection). It is now clear that Henry Upton was the landlord at the Three Tuns for at least a year until his death presumably at the summer of 1722.

Even without this evidence, examination of the inventory makes it clear it must be the Three Tuns. No other tavern in Banbury approached it in size. King James II had been entertained there in 1687, so rooms called "the Kings..." are only to be expected. The clincher is the "Fathers Dining Room", for to this day the Whately Hall Hotel

possesses such a room, the inscription over the door reading "The Fathers Dyninge Roome September ye 2 ye Kings Progress 1687" (C&CH, 7, p.112).

The inventory itself gives a superb picture of a very large inn of the early eighteenth century, the scale of which suggests that Banbury was a very prosperous town. It is curious that some of the chambers in which guests were accommodated were numbered, even though the principal rooms retained names. This compares with the named rooms in the Three Swans inn of a century earlier (*Banbury Wills and Inventories*, pt.1, no.193, when, amazingly, the total value was much the same as Henry Upton's). The King's Chamber even had its own close stool, the contemporary equivalent of a "bathroom en suite". Was the "landskip" in that room a landscape picture? There were plenty of other pictures noted. The Three Tuns was well equipped too for games, with a shuffle board, a snake board and ninepins. Wood appears to have been the fuel with which the inn was heated, though stocks might be low in September. Discussion of this inventory could easily take up a whole article, but space precludes this, and the document can speak for itself.

[O.R.O. 53/5/9]. A True & Peticular Inventory of all the Goods and Chattles of Henry Upton of Banbury...Deceas'd, as they were view'd and Aprized by the under named Aprizers this Seventh day of Septembr Ano Dom 1722.

Imprs. his Wearing Apparrell & money in purse, £7.10s.

A Watch in a Silver Case, £1.15s.

The Plate, £16.5s.6d.

Brass, Pewter, Coppers, Iron Ware &c. in the Kitchin, Brew-house and other Room about the House, £48.5s.10d.

Mash Fatts Coolers, Tubbs and all other Vessells in the Brew-house and Cellers &c., £10.2s.6d.

Earthen Ware in the Parlow, Pantrey, &c., £1.17s.

The Linnen, one Doz & a halfe of Damask Napkins & Table Cloth,
3 Doz other Napkins, 2 Table Cloths, 27 Towels, 28 pillow Draws,
4 Twilights, 28 pair of Sheets, £15.16s.

In the Little Room att ye end of ye Dining Room: A beadstead & Curtains, a Feather bead & bolster, 2 Pillows, 3 blanketts & Quilt, 4 Caine Chairs, a side Table, Window Curtains and Looking Glass, £7.13s.3d.

In the Dining Room: 19 Cain Chair, 4 Oval tables, Window Curtains Pictures & Looking Glass, £5.5s.

In the Nine: Two beadsteads & Curtains, 2 Feather beads & bolsters, 4 Pillows, a Mattris, 6 Blanketts & Quilt & Counterpain, 6 Camblett Chairs, a Matted Chair, a Side Table & Window Curtains, £8.19s.

In the Five: A beadstead & Curtains, a Feather bead & Bolster, 2 Pillows, 3 Blanketts & a Quilt, 6 Cain Chairs, a Side Table & Oval Table, Window Curtains & a Picture & Looking Glass, £8.

In the 7: Two Bedsteads & Curtins, a Feather bed, bolster & Pillows, 2 Blanketts, a Quilt & Rug, 4 Matted Chairs & 4 Cushins & Window Curtins, £6.2s.2d.

In the 10: A Bedstead & Curtins, a Feather bed, bolster & 2 Pillows, 2 Blanketts, 4 matted Chairs, a Side Table, Window Curtins & Valens, £4.3s.6d.

In the 6: Two bedsteads & Curtins, 2 Fether beds, bolsters and Pillows, 2 Quilts, 5 Blanketts, Window Curtins, a Mattris, 4 Matted Chairs, a Table, and 2 Pictures, £9.8s.8d.

In the 5: Two Bedsteads & Curtins, 2 Feather beds & bolsters, 4 Pillows, 5 blanketts, 2 Quilts, a Looking Glass, 6 Matted Chairs, an Oval Table, Window Curtins & Pictures, £13.5s.5d.

In the Garrett Called ye 4: Two Bedsteads, Curtins and Flock beds & bolsters & a Covering, one Chair & 5 Pictures, £2.8s.4d.

In the Garrett Call'd ye 5: A Bedstead, a flock bed & bolster, a Coverled & blankett & one Chair, £1.0s.9d.

In the Garrett Call'd the 3: A bedstead & Curtins, a flock bed & bolster, £1.13s.

In the Garrett Call'd the 1: Several odd things, 4s.

In the Kings Chamber: A Bedsted & Curtins, a feather bed, bolster and 2 pillows, 3 blanketts, a large looking Glass, Window Curtins, 6 Stools, 6 Matted Chairs, a Side table, a Close Stool, a Stand and Landskip, £20.9s.8d.

In the Kings Closett: A Bedstead & Curtins, a Feather bed, bolster & 4 pillows, 3 blanketts & a Quilt, 5 Matted Chairs, a Side Table & Stand, Window Curtins and Looking glass, £9.8s.

In the Kings Harbinger: A Bedstead, Curtins, 3 old blanketts, an old Quil, 3 wooden Chairs & a Side Table, £1.2s.

In the Garretts over the Dining Room: Four bedsteads, Matts & Cords, one flock bed & a yellow blankett, £1.8s.

In Father Whites Garrett: A Bedstead & Curtins, a flock bed & bolster and one Chair, £1.14s.6d.

In Fathers Dining Room: Two bedsteads & Curtins, 2 Rugs, 2 blanketts, a flock bed & 2 bolsters, a Long forme, £3.3s.6d.

On the Stairs: A Glass Lanthorn & 12 Pictures, 3s.6d.

In the Hall: A Shuffle board table & 6 peices, 4 Forms, Nine Turkey Chairs, 10 Lether Bucketts and a wooden Horse for Cloths, £3.10s.

In the Box: A table, 3 Chairs, 4 Curtins & 2 Rods, 6s.

In the Tapsters Room: Two tables, a Schreen, 2 Window Valens, a Set of Pins & bowle & two shelves, 15s.

In the Kitching Parlow: An Oval table & a Small walnuttree table, 2 hand Tea tables, Window Curtins, a Snake board, 5 Matted Chairs, a blew Couch bedstead & Curtins, a feather bed & bolsters, a Mattris, 3 blanketts & a Quilt, 5 Pictures, £8.8s.4d.

In the Spence: A Pertition, 2 Tables, Shelves & lock & key, 12s.

In the next Room to ye Kitching Parlow: A Chest of Draws, a large Chest, a Square table, 2 Chairs, 3 Flasketts & Some pegs, £1.1s.

In the Maids Room: Two Bedsteads, 2 flock beds, one bolster and 3 Covering, £1.10s.10d.

In the New Parlow: Two Oval Tables, 9 Turkey Chairs, a Gilt lether Schreen, a Looking Glass, Window Curtins, Mapps & Escutcheons, £2.12s.

In the Parlow next the Hall: 11 Rushia Chairs, one large Oval table, 1 Spanish table, 12 Caesars, 2 Window Curtins & one Side table, £3.10s.

In the Kitchin: 13 Matted Chairs, 2 Round tables, 2 Tables wth Joynt Stools, one Oval table, a Salt tub, 4 Deal Screen leaves, a Cole Box, 3 boards, a Chopping board, oatmeal tub, a Sheet beater, 4 rowling pins, a Chopping block, £1.6s.

In the Vine: 6 Turkey Chairs, an Oval table, Window Curtins & Rods, 14s.

In the 3 Chimneys: a Round table & two Wooden Chairs, 3s.

In the Garden House: Glasses & Frames, 2 Spades, an Irom rake & Nail box, 6s.

In the Shoe Cleaners room: A bedstead, Matt & Cord, 4s.

In the Horstlers room: A bedstead, Flock bed & 2 bolsters, one blankett, 1 Covering & a Wooden Chair, 18s.

In the Yard: A Long lader, a Wheel Barrow, a Grease Tub & Ladle & 2 Setters, 9s.

In the Grainery: 2 Cheese racks, a Shovel, 2 Bushells, 1 Peck, 2 halfe pecks, one Dish, a Brass Quartern, a Beam & Scales, 2 leaden halfe hundred weights, a Corn Skreen, an Irom bean Mill & a Bushell Matt, £2.

In the Drying room: 4 Glass, 2 Frames for hott bed, 3 forms, a line & odd stuff, 8s.

In the Further Larder: A Stone Salting trough, a Dough trough, 3 seeths & a Form, 8s.

In the Ostery: A Corn Bin, 2s.; To Knives & Forks, £1.15s.; To four Silver Spoons, 6s.; £32[sic] Bacon, 13s.4d.

In the Cellers: Bad & Good beer, Syder, Vinegar, Brandy, Rum & Sittern Water & Oyle, £12.16s.6d.

To 4 Piggs in they Sty, £3.3s.

Firewood in the Yard &c., £7.9s.

Beans, Oats and Hay, £5.14s.8d.

Pigsty & Nine pins & bowles, £1.

Book Debts, £10.2s.

Sum: £279.6s.9d.

Sg. Wm. Box, John Viner.

Exhibited 11 September 1722 by Elizabeth Upton, relict of Henry Upton, innholder.

This small selection gives only a taste of the rich detail which will in due course emerge from the study of the Banbury probate inventories of this period. It is simply an interim impression, and there is no space for explanations of every word which is unfamiliar, though an attempt has been made to provide the background and circumstances of the individuals concerned. Even these few inventories show the value of this kind of source, so long as it is placed in the context other records can provide, for approaching some of the most profound questions posed by historians of the early modern period.

Note. The records of the Peculiar Court of Banbury are in the Oxfordshire County Record Office, ref. MSS.Wills Peculiars, and the fore-going transcripts are published by kind permission, with grateful acknowledgment of assistance in providing photocopies.

More from the early BANBURY GUARDIAN

A disagreement about the Old Charitable Society

In the early part of Chapter IX of his **VICTORIAN BANBURY**, Dr. Barrie Trinder gives an account of the doings of William Wilson who, in 1849, exchanged livings with the ageing T.W. Lancaster, and was instituted to the vicarage of Banbury on 19 June of that year. He came of a well-known clerical family of Evangelical leanings, and was 27 years old at the time of his appointment. He at once set about reviving the fortunes of the Established Church in Banbury, and achieved a considerable measure of success, for his reforming ideas and abilities coincided closely with those of the Bishop of Oxford, Samuel Wilberforce, who "by preferring him to the vicarage helped to turn the tide of Dissent which had been rising in Banbury since the 1770s". 1

In the religious climate of the time Wilson's energies, somewhat naturally, aroused adverse as well as favourable reactions, and this fact comes into sharp focus when, in 1850, on the bishop's instruction, he refused to preach a sermon in the parish church on behalf of the Old Charitable Society. Dr. Trinder quotes part of the **BANBURY GUARDIAN**'s comment in its issue of 11 April 1850 that "...of all the charities in the town there is not one that stands so high in the favour of all sects", and that in consequence of Wilson's action many churchmen "flew from the Parish Church", and went to other places of worship where the charity was to be pleaded. 2 There was no space in the book to pursue the continuing details of the disagreement, which surfaced again in 1851, but they have a certain fascination and are worth recording for the ample illustration afforded of the state of feeling at that period.

The battle regarding the 1851 appeals for the Charity, traditionally made in all churches in the town on the Sunday after Easter, was joined by an anonymous letter printed in the **BANBURY GUARDIAN**, 27 March 1851:

"Sir, I hear that an 'Agression' is about to be attempted upon the Old Charitable Society. Last year the new Vicar refused to preach, or allow a sermon to be preached in the parish church, for its benefit: the first refusal of the kind which had been given during the 60 years, or upwards, that the Society has been in existence. He then found that he had made a great mistake; for to the honour of the Churchmen of Banbury, be it said, they have a great affection for this Society; and that, because when a man needs its aid, no question is asked about his creed; and on the day when the usual sermons were preached, they crowded the Catholic Church and the Dissenting Chapels, leaving the Vicar to preach to all but empty pews. Some of them had never been in a Dissenting Chapel before, - but they have often been since.

The time is fast approaching when the annual sermons are to be again preached; and now the Vicar says - or his satellites say for

him - that he is willing to preach for the Society, but that it must be upon one condition; and what, Sir, could you imagine that condition to be? Why, that the Society must rescind a resolution passed some years since, and which is to the following effect:- 'That all the ministers of religion in the town, being subscribers, are considered ex-officio members of the committee'.

An attempt to get this resolution rescinded is actually to be made at the meeting on Tuesday night next! Is it not monstrous... [the rest of the paragraph in this vein]

I have no fear that this attempt will succeed; the notice that these few lines gives will cause its defeat, for the members, generally, will now know what is in the wind.

A SUBSCRIBER BEFORE THE VICAR WAS BORN."

The B.G. of 3 April 1851 gives a report of the usual monthly meeting on 1 April of the Old Charitable Society, at which there was an unusually large attendance of members. The letter writer above proved quite correct, for Mr. John Gazey³ did make an attempt to get the resolution in question removed, but met with no sympathy, but rather determined resistance. "Mr. [Henry] Stone⁴ proposed, that the Secretary should wait upon those ministers who preached sermons last year, and request that they would again render a similar service. This was seconded and unanimously carried. A question then arose as to whether the Vicar should be again asked to preach. Several churchmen expressed a wish that he should, for they felt greatly annoyed that no sermon was preached in their place of worship last year, and he might have altered his opinion. After some conversation in which the Bishop of Oxford was mentioned in a not very complimentary manner, ~~this~~ was agreed to." [He was not, however, to be treated in manner different from the other ministers]

"Those gentlemen who were anxious that the Vicar should be again asked to preach, appear to have forgotten the reason he gave for not preaching last year. On the application being then made to him, he required time to consider the request; and on a second application, he said the Bishop of Oxford, who was his Rector, objected to his preaching: he did not explain how it was that the Rector had not interfered with the former Vicar."...

The B.G. of 8 May 1851 gave a long report of the "last general meeting of the season", held at the White Horse Inn on 6 May, at which there was a good attendance. All ministers of religion, except the Vicar, had duly preached for the Society on 27 April, and the total proceeds of collections had been £26-6-4½. "The Secretary then said he had received a letter from the Vicar, which Members would proably like to hear read. The letter was as follows:

'My dear Sir, I gladly avail myself of an opportunity you have afforded me, of stating my reason for not preaching for the Old Charitable Society.

Whilst on most points, the Society has my heartiest good wishes, one clause in its rules, lately introduced, puts forward a doctrine, contradictory to the Articles of the Church of England; and I cannot, conscientiously, teach any doctrine by word of mouth, if I deny it by practice. I allude to the clause declaring ministers of all

denominations (if subscribing) ex officio members of the Committee. If the Society is purely of a secular nature, why should not the Committee, whose office is, to meet together and apportion money to those in need; be chosen on the ground of the fitness of each individual to carry out such a duty, from his knowledge of his poorer neighbours?

Surely, for such a post, if there must be ex officio members, the guardians, the magistrates, the medical men, or even the relieving officers; would be quite as suitable, or more so, than a collection of the preachers, and doctrinal teachers of the town...[He did not see how, in the prevailing situation of the contradictory interpretations of Christian doctrine, the Society could be considered by its supporters as a 'centre of Religious Unity': the Society's objects could not be obtained on the false premise that all doctrines and denominations were equally good and true. So, he could not conscientiously accept such a position.] [His explanation is long and its meaning not very clearly expressed].

Believe me to be, dear Sir,

Yours faithfully, Wm. WILSON, Junr.'

The B.G.'s report continued: "The reading of the letter created a good deal of amusement and fun. No one could understand it. The chairman [Thomas Pain]⁵ quietly perused it for himself, but said he was none the nearer making out its meaning. One gentleman thought the meaning was plain enough, - it was that the Vicar declined to preach for the Society. All understood that much, because the Vicar had not preached, but the reasons which he gave for not preaching nobody professed to understand. The churchmen present were so ill taught, that not one of them could tell which of the articles of the church would have been violated had the Vicar preached for the Society; and they did not seem to think the church was indebted to him for propounding that any one of the articles was intended to prevent a man's doing a benevolent action. One gentleman denied that the Vicar wrote the letter. He said that a gentleman, who had received a University education, could not have written such a letter. The letter which the Vicar wrote had, no doubt, been lost, and the one now produced was forged by those who had lost the genuine one. This notion Mr. [Thomas] Hunt⁶ disposed of, by saying that the Vicar gave the letter to him with his own hand. 'Then', said the gentleman who doubted the integrity of the letter, 'it is either a very ignorant or a very insolent letter'. One person proposed that it should be sent to the FAMILY FRIEND,⁷ as a prize enigma. Then there arose throughout the room a very generally expressed wish, that it should be printed in the GUARDIAN: because then someone might read it who would be able the next week to communicate what its true meaning was. With that wish we have, as our readers will see, now complied."

I found no repercussions resulting from this report in the next few issues of the B.G., and I have looked no further, for the whole matter was only an interesting side-track to what I was researching at the time. Doubtless, animosities and misunderstandings continued between the Vicar and the other ministers of religion in the town over

other issues, if not over this one, the religious climate at that period being what it was. The most illuminating point of the whole episode seems to be that they were all - except, apparently the Vicar - so attached to the Old Charitable Society, because its non-sectarian character enabled men of such different views to work together in one field, at least, for the good of the town.

P. RENOLD.

Notes

- (1) Barrie Trinder, MA., Ph.D., VICTORIAN BANBURY, Banbury Historical Society, Vol. 19, 1982, Chap. IX, on the Churches in Banbury 1849-1880.
- (2) Ibid., p.110. The Old Charitable Society was established in 1782, for the relief of indigent townsmen, and was supported by voluntary contributions, (A. Beesley, THE HISTORY OF BANBURY, 1841/2, p.559).
- (3) John Gazey, wine & spirit merchant, High Street. (Rushers Directory)
- (4) Henry Stone, bookseller, High St. (Ibid.)
- (5) Thomas Pain, lawyer, of Rolls & Pain, Bridge St., Coroner for the Borough. (Ibid.)
- (6) Thomas Hunt, brewer, Bridge St. (Ibid.)
- (7) This was a Magazine of 32 pages, which appeared on the first and fifteenth of each month; at this period it inserted long and grandiloquent advertisements in the B.G., describing how wonderful it was, in the opinion of 'upwards of Three Hundred Newspapers', having in it something for all members of the family circle, and a long section detailed items from its contents.

WOAD INDEX

"I should be interested to hear from anyone coming across references to people involved in the cultivation of the dye-plant woad or wad, particularly near the Northants boarder. They may be described as woadpeople, woaders, wadfold, 'of the woad cabbins', etc. or merely as sojourners. So far I have an index of 400-500 references in Northants parish registers including the names: Ablett, Burrows, Davies, Green, Lawson, Marlow, Maycock/Meacock, Jaycock/Jeacock, Neal, and White, and from 1640-1820. I am willing to extend the Index to include Oxfordshire.

A letter from Mrs. Vivien Billington, 502 Wellsway, Bath, BA2 2UD

FROM NORTH OXFORDSHIRE TO NORTHAMPTON

The Northamptonshire Family History Society have just published the first volume of an Index to the 1851 Census of the Town of Northampton. This covers the whole of the Parish of All Saints, based on the town centre. The original census is to be found on HO 107/1739 and HO 107/1740, at the Public Record Office and locally at the Northamptonshire Record Office, Delapre Abbey, Northampton.

The arrangement is in columns: surname; Christian name; age; birthplace, county followed by actual place; and folio reference. This has made it a simple job to run through the approximately 170 pages looking for those born in north Oxfordshire. There is of course no indication of family relationships (though these will be found in the Census itself). Comparison of folio references would identify probable shared households, but there is really no substitute for consulting the record itself. The names and other details are listed below, but not the references - for those you must buy the inexpensive Index from the Northamptonshire F.H.S.!

BAGULEY, Hannah, 59, Adderbury
BISSELL, Robert, 52, Deddington
& Rober Rymill, 29, Banbury
CLOCK, Thomas, 22, Banbury
COULSON, Elizabeth, 12, Banbury
 Sophia, 14, Banbury
DALTON, Mary, 32, Wixton (?Wroxton)
DAVIS, Rebecca, 61, Banbury
 Thomas, 33, Banbury
DEACON, Jane, 42, Epwell
FREEMAN, Hannah, 41, Bloxham
GARDNER, John Alfred, 15, Banbury
GREEN, Sarah, 21, Great Tew
HAROWICK, Sarah, 40. Great Tew
HARRIS, Edwin, 18, Woolston (?Wroxton)
HASLER, Phily, 24, Banbury
HENSON, Emma, 11, Banbury
HUNT, Harriett, 14
JEFFS, Mary Ann, 6, Banbury
 Sarah Ann, 5, Banbury
LAUNDON, Charlotte, 44, Bloxham
LAWRENCE, Mary, 46, Bloxham
MACQUIRE, Emma, 40, Banbury
MASON, Rebecca, 48, Banbury
PENN, John, 77, Hipwell (?Epwell)
POTTS, Susan, 21, Banbury
RYMILL, Edward, 43, Banbury
 George, 21, Banbury
 Jane, 4, Banbury
 Sarah Anne, 40
SAVAGE, Charles, 47, Banbury

SAVAGE, Charlotte, 24, Middle Aston
Harriett, 17, Banbury
SEAYBROOK, Rosannah, 17, South Newington
SHEMFIELD, Sarah, 38, Swancliffe (Swalcliffe)
SIMPSON, Jemimah, 7, Banbury
TAYLOR, Elizabeth, 19, Banbury
THOMPSON, Ann, 50, Wardington
TRUSLER, Fanny, 41, Alkerton
WATTS, William, 30, Banbury
WILLIAMS, Caroline, 36, Swerford

It must be remembered that in the case of adult women, their surname is probably a married rather than maiden name.

J.S.W. Gibson

Copies of **1851 Census Index; All Saints Parish, Northampton**, published by the Northamptonshire Family History Society, are available for £3.00 (+ 50p [UK] or £2 [air overseas]) from the N.F.H.S., c/o Margaret Alsford, 11, Wycliffe Road, Northampton

OBITUARY

MR. G.C.J. HARTLAND

It is with great regret that we record the death on 23 May 1988 of Geoffrey Hartland, a member of the Banbury Historical Society from its very early days.

Mr. Hartland grew up in Banbury, and joined the staff of the gasworks where his father was also employed. His account of the bombing raid on the works which he saw from a distance while working as a boy assistant to a meter collector, at the time believing his father to be working near a gasholder, is one of the most powerful and direct pieces of writing ever to have appeared in "Coke and Cockhorse" (4, p.51, 1969).

He had a deep interest in Industrial Archaeology, particularly in public utilities, taught himself to draw to a competent standard, and gained a great deal of information from interviewing old people. He wrote about Tooley's boat yard, the Vulcan Foundry, the Britannia Works steam engines, and gas and electricity supply, bringing to attention much evidence, both archaeological and oral, which would otherwise have been lost.

We extend our sympathy to his widow and family

B.S.T.

OBITUARY

GEOFFREY FORSYTH LAWSON, 1905-1988

It is with very great regret that we record the death of our Vice-President, Geoffrey Forsyth Lawson.

A well-known Banbury architect, Geoff. Lawson had been a member and faithful supporter of the Society since its foundation over thirty years ago. As early as March 1962 he spoke to us on a subject he made especially his own, Local Church Architecture. This was the precursor of a regular series of summer visits to churches in Banburyshire that continued throughout the sixties, over twenty in all. There he was able to point out all sorts of easily overlooked details, usually through his personal experience of inspection or restoration work in the church, all of which greatly enhanced his audience's appreciation of the lovely buildings we have around us.

However, more recent members will recall Geoff. as the 'star' of our annual village meetings. At these he would show colour slides of buildings around the village in which we were meeting, pointing out features which might indicate its original style, often with highly critical comment on modern alterations. How many proud owners were blushing in the darkness we shall never know! Some conversions were better received, but he always admitted who was the architect responsible. The first of these occasions was as long ago as 1965, in his own home of Bloxham. Up to 1985, his 'last appearance', a further sixteen villages received this treatment. Always enormously enjoyable, the easy way he took us round the place with him disguised a lot of preparatory work with camera and a vast knowledge of local building techniques as they developed and altered over the centuries.

At the Memorial Service at Bloxham on 23rd May, our President delivered the Address and the most appropriately chosen readings came from John Neal, another early Society member, whilst many others were in the congregation. None of us were officially representing the Society, for to us all Geoff. was a great personal friend, whose memory we will treasure.

J.S.W.G.

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); **Banbury Goal Records 1805-1852**, edited by Penelope Renold. Volume in preparation **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.

