

# 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

Volume 11

Number 3

Summer 1989

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Summer is a little late this year owing mainly to a lack of "COPY". It is important that I receive articles or ideas for articles. If any member knows of anyone doing research into local history, PLEASE persuade them to write about it or let me know and I will talk with them.

Crimestoppers is a new idea imported from the U.S.A. It has been featured in our local press and is an organisation which has funds to distribute as rewards for information received which might lead to the conviction of a criminal. The Neithrop Assn. for the Protection of Persons and Property has been doing this since 1819, see Article.

The Article on Wykham is of great interest and is the first part of the contributor's research, it is to be continued in another edition. Dossett's Corner is a wellknown site to many Banburians and the term is still used by them. The Dossett's History is well researched and written, it is a good example of a local history article.

D.A.H.

Cover Picture: William & Alice Dossett and their two daughters  
taken in 1901 at Beales Studio.

## PORTRAIT OF A COUNTRY GROCERS

### DOSSETTS - GROCERS AND WINE MERCHANTS - 1887-1973.

The firm of Dossetts which traded at 33-35 Parsons Street and 53 North Bar Street, Banbury for 86 years was founded by William George Dossett in 1887. Born at Kencott (where the family had been since the 1700s) in West Oxfordshire near the Gloucestershire border on 12 October 1858, he was the eldest son of George Charles, (1831-1891) and Mary Anne Dossett (1838-1909). George "Trader" Dossett was the village baker and his wife kept the village general stores. After attending the Church of England village school, "WG" as he was known to his friends (his family called him "Papa pronounced "Pup-pa" and later his staff called him "The Governor") was apprenticed for seven years to the grocers and wine merchants Cobbett Arkell at Fairford before going as an improver/journeyman to the larger firm of Moulder and Orum in Cirencester. After a spell of illness at home in Kencott he transferred to Witney as an outrider to the wholesale grocers and wine merchants Saltmarsh and Druce. Whilst at Witney he met his future wife, Alice Rachel Hudson (born 15 November 1865) youngest child of John and Esther Hudson, tailors of High Street, Witney. Through her family and its Methodist connections he made the acquaintance of Mr John Vanner, JP, of Springfield, Banbury.

Through this introduction and from money lent to him by his parents and Mr Saltmarsh, his employer, he was able to take over the grocery business at 53 North Bar Street from Mr Frank (Francis) Hall. The business had been founded in the 1830s by Jeremiah Cross, a wellknown Banbury Quaker.<sup>1</sup> and the shop still had the Cross painted on it.

Although the business under Jeremiah Cross had done reasonably well, by the time "WG" bought the goodwill from Frank Hall it was somewhat run down following the general depression in agriculture, and he had several shaky and uncertain years of trading at the outset and had to be subsidized by his in-laws, the Hudsons. In what we today would call an attempt to improve the image of the business, for several years he traded as "Dossett and Company" in order to give the impression of more solidity and security than he had. It was only in 1892 that he felt secure enough to trade under his full name.<sup>2</sup> Even then he sometimes called the firm "W G Dossett & Company".

He married Alice Rachel Hudson on the 3rd of April 1889 at the Independent Chapel, High Street, Witney. "WG" records in his Day Book on several occasions how lonely his wife was and how homesick she felt for Witney. This soon passed because on the 3rd May 1890 she had her first child, a daughter, Gertrude Alice, quickly followed on 3rd September 1891 by a second daughter, Mabel Gladys. When the children grew older she took up water colour painting and joined the Banbury Ladies Cycling Club and under their Captain, Mrs. Thompson, would travel to Stratford on Avon, Leamington Spa and

Warwick on summer Sunday afternoons.

By the mid-1890s business had improved so much that "WG" was able to first rent and then purchase the building next door in Parsons Street, number 34, and use that as a warehouse, thus being able to become a wholesale grocer. Later still, number 35 was also purchased. It was after the setting up of the warehouse that he began "The Journeys" by pony and trap each month to the various villages in the Banbury area. As far north as Fenny Compton, south to Middle Aston, west to Tysoe and east to Marston St. Lawrence - and all the villages in between. He would call on the village storekeepers and take their orders. These would then be made up into boxes - "putting up the orders" as it was known at the warehouse and despatched by carriers' carts to the various villages. (Later, a horse-drawn van was bought and the horses kept opposite at Salmons, the sweet manufacturers, yard.) He carried out these journeys in all weathers for some years. He was loathe to give them up being tempted away sometimes to follow the local hunt if he met them. Eventually he employed an outrider to do the job for him.

Although farming did not revive for many years, "WG's" business prospered mainly because, in addition to the wholesale warehouse and the retail shop which served the town's population, "WG" set out to develop a high-class range of goods for the cosmopolitan and expensive tastes of the local gentry. This carefully planned strategy meant buying in the finest York hams, Wiltshire bacon, preserved meats, jars of prawns, capers and stuffed olives, cheeses, spices and other ingredients, as well as wines and spirits. In addition, in 1897 he marketed a distinctive form of "Dosssett's Tea" (with wrappers specially printed) which he claimed was "specially selected and scientifically blended for use with Banbury water". "We guarantee all our teas to be absolutely pure, correctly blended and not packed in paper for months before being delivered to the consumer".<sup>4</sup> This was sold in considerable quantities in the area and then over the years it lapsed. (In the 1950s the firm revived this and advertised in the local paper for people to "please call in at any time next week and drink a cup of tea with us. We think you will be surprised"! <sup>5</sup>). Among the wellknown families in the area at this time (pre-1914) he supplied with most of their groceries and wines, were the Cartwrights of Aynho, Lord Saye and Sele of Broughton, Lord North at Wroxton, the Holbeach's of Farnborough Hall, the Allfreys of Chacombe Priory, the Lovedays of Williamscote, the Blacklocks of Overthorpe House, Andrew Motion of Upton House and the Earl of Effingham of Tusmore House - as well as many of the local clergy. He would collect these orders on his journeys, or the family housekeeper would call at the shop and place her order (sometimes for one or two months provisions at a time) and the family's coachman would pick them up when ready or they would be despatched by the carrier's cart. It is difficult today, when beers, wines and spirits are so easily available in supermarkets, corner shops and garages, etc to realise how very different and strict the

# Dossetts

## Christmas **DOUBLE**

BARBOSA

Finest Old Matured

Ruby Port    NORMAL PRICE 19/6

OLD COURT

Amontillado or Cream

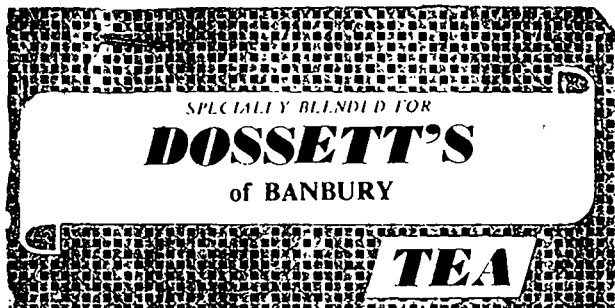
Sherry    NORMAL PRICE 17/6

ONE BOTTLE

OF EACH

for

32/6



Part of a typical Dossett's Advert and their Tea Label

situation was after the passing of the 19th century licencing laws. To have a licence then to sell wines and spirits was worth a very great deal and "WG" realised this and capitalised on it for his customers by carrying an exceptionally wide range of drinks.

In the warehouse at that time everything was packed on the premises, usually in strong, rough blue paper bags with the corners turned down. The different teas arrived in huge chests, salt was sawn up from blocks, "WG's pepper was ground from peppercorns on his own mill, bacon was smoked and hams cooked. Sugar either came in large barrels of demerara or 28 lb pyramid-shaped tilters of loaf sugar which had to be laboriously chopped by hand with a hinged knife. Soda was wrapped (this was in the days before detergents), as was starch, soap was cut up, vinegar was kept in huge wooden casks, beer and some of the wines, namely port and sherry, were bottled on the premises. Butter was patted up, and the dried fruits would be cleaned, sorted and stoned with a special stoning machine. Large, round gauze-covered cheeses which had arrived in big wooden cheese crates were kept on slate slabs in the extensive cellars under the shop and were regularly tested with a cheese iron (like a corkscrew) which was pushed into the cheese, turned, and pulled out again to see if it was ripe for sale. Three men were employed as Warehousemen but would also serve in the shop if it was extra busy, and one man was employed as a porter. In Banbury during these years a baker was a baker and a grocer a grocer. For example, "WG" never sold bread, fresh fruit or cakes (except special ones at Christmas).

These diverse operations - wholesale, retail, supplying the gentry and the wine and spirit trade - four different strings as it were to his bow, continued to increase prosperity so well that he not only took to wearing a silk top hat to church, but he was also able to buy a farm at Hornton and let it to Mr. Arthur East and had the butter, eggs and cheese brought in several times a week for sale in the Provisions Department. There is a hint here of the "innovative prowess of Banbury tradesmen" which flourished in the 19th Century because the essential energy of a market town was allowed to operate with so few constraints.<sup>6</sup> He also bought another grocery business in Grimsbury, but after a few years sold it again and concentrated solely on his Parson Street/North Bar enterprise. He was not tempted to expand further, and limited his entrepreneurship mainly because he did not have a son to succeed him, although his youngest daughter did work in the office of the business for some years. By the time "WG" left Banbury in 1937 the view is that the Banbury businessmen were slow to innovate and more concerned with maintaining their social position than expanding their businesses.<sup>7</sup> Even though it is clear that at this time farmers (even tenant ones) considered themselves "very superior to anyone in trade"<sup>8</sup>, it is interesting to note that this viewpoint has not quite died out, in modern fiction anyway!<sup>9</sup>

The domestic arrangements were for many years carried out by a non-resident housekeeper, Edith Knight, assisted by two long-serving maids, Lucy Timms, and Anne George. The two daughters attended the Mount Private School, Oxford Road, Banbury (now the Moat House Hotel)

run by the Misses M and J Barclay as day pupils. The eldest daughter Gertrude, became an accomplished amateur pianist and oil painter<sup>10</sup> and the younger, a useful tennis player, had the distinction of being one of the first women in Banbury to drive a car<sup>11, 12</sup>. Once every year "WG" would make the train journey to London to see his stockbroker for lunch and review his investments. Once, to amuse him, the latter took him on to the floor of the Stock Exchange and stopped business, and they had to exit quickly when "a stranger" was spied. In his early years of business "WG" paid off his debts and ploughed any surplus funds back into the business, but by 1897 there was a rising surplus each year. His investment policy seems to have been unadventurous - mainly blue chip shares in companies he dealt with and taking out mortgages in Oxford with local builders. He gave a number of these to his wife and daughters. He had two major set-backs. First, when he patriotically investing in 1916 in War Loans and secondly he lost heavily when the Japanese destroyed the Malayan rubber industry in World War Two. Late in life he admitted he should have bought more property. During the pre-First World War years "WG" relaxed by going each evening to either the Institute and library in Marlborough Road, which had been opened in 1884, to exchange his library books or read the paper, or the Conservative Club to meet his friends. Also by driving out to his farm at Hornton. "Going for a motor drive", he always called it. He bought his first car in 1909, a De Dion-Bouton and in 1913 he bought a very early, "Bullnose" Morris for £175 because it was more economic, "50 miles an hour and 50 miles per gallon". Later he invariably bought Vauxhall cars. He drive until he was over 80, but was too impatient to be considered a careful driver, and drove too fast even for those days. He once had a serious accident which he managed to settle "quietly" out of court. He also kept the pony and trap for some years after buying his cars. He liked to walk his small terrier Jack at frequent intervals until it was killed in an accident. As a young man he learnt to ice skate, and during the winters of 1893 and 1894, when the local rivers and canals as far as Oxford were frozen for some months, he skated as often as he could. Although his wife and daughters, their cousin Miss Hollier, of Duns Tew and their two maids regularly took the train to Llandudno each year to take rooms for holidays, "WG" himself never left Banbury. Mainly because, at that time, the law stated licenced premises could not be left empty. After the war he felt able to relax more and went each year for a week to Bournemouth or Eastbourne. He also made a point of attending Shrewsbury Flower Show every year.

"WG" was a Conservative in politics and a member of the Church of England by upbringing, but his main concern was to maintain and improve his business. In order to keep what he called "balance", although approached by the local Conservatives to stand for the Banbury Borough Council he declined, as he was concerned at the effect this might have on his Liberal Customers (he also declined to become a Freemason). Similarly, although his wife and daughters attended the Wesleyan Church at Marlborough Road, and he also went



occasionally, he would usually attend Evensong at St. Mary's Church. He was a regular contributor to its funds and he is recorded as one of the subscribers towards the cost of the new clock and Westminster chimes installed in the church at the Diamond Jubilee of 1897<sup>13</sup> and later<sup>14</sup> he made an annual free will offerings of two guineas and a subscription to the Parish magazine. He never really felt at ease with the Wesleyans because he thought they didn't approve of his sales of drink and to a lesser extent because he was a Conservative. He still regularly attended their church, however. It has been said that many Banburians of a later period seem "to have regarded religion and politics as taboo subjects"<sup>15</sup>. Certainly all his life "WG" was as careful of religious and political views as George Herbert had been earlier in the 19th century.<sup>16</sup> This also throws light on the small town life of the period and the concern for appearances and how truly local concerns were. One of his outside interests he did pursue however, was acting as a judge, at the Annual Banbury Christmas Fatstock Show held at the Central Corn Exchange (later The Vine)<sup>17</sup> where he was invariably to be found judging the butter and cheese entries. He was also a supporter of the Early Closers Association, a pressure group to reduce shop opening hours and also a social club which had a pavillion and sports field in West Street, Grimsbury.<sup>18</sup>

Although on several occasions the idea of moving to a house was considered, in the end the family opted to continue to live in the spacious apartment over the shop. Mainly because "WG" wanted to live close to his business and could 'pop upstairs' for lunch and tea. (Later he would rent part of the Knowle, North Newington from the Hutchings family and use it as a summer retreat for his family). In addition one of the regular highlights of life was the Thursday market lunch when the market was held in The Cow Fair, Bridge Street and the sheep were penned in the Horse Fair. Certain farmer friends/customers of "WG" from the area, sometimes as many as twenty, including his brother-in-law, Mr. John Hollier, of Duns Tew, would have a lunch of bread, cheese, assorted pickles, bacon and beer provided free upstairs in the large dining room. Living "over the shop" was useful also to be able to entertain some of the commercial travellers who regularly called. Some of them from the better firms were cultivated men, who wore silk hats and morning coats, and became the family's personal friends. Before the First World War, "WG" also had a number of apprentices who lived with him. One of whom he was very proud later became Chairman of the Hudson Bay Trading Company of Canada, and another, Charles Harding, became a Director of Bulmers the Hereford cider makers.

One of the most difficult periods of his life for "WG" was during the acute food shortage of 1917 in the First World War. He'd already had to adjust to employing two married women because of the wartime shortage of labour. This aversion to women working in the shop showed him to be very much a man of his time. Unlike World War Two no comprehensive rationing system was introduced and by 1917 food short-

ages and consequent queues for basic foodstuffs were growing. Prices rose by over 60%. Not until 1918 was meat rationing introduced and "coupons" made their appearance. In Banbury all through 1917 there was a preoccupation with food. There were articles on food and how to save it <sup>19</sup>; an item on "Sunday school treats" and food economy showed how Banbury's "Treats" had been reduced <sup>20</sup>; the Banbury Food Economy Committee was active and a Food Control Campaign supported by the local churches held meetings all over the town <sup>21</sup>; the local harvest prospects were reported in detail <sup>22</sup> as were warnings about winter shortages <sup>23</sup>. There were "temporary food shortages in numerous areas in which considerable tension was generated. This led some housewives to take out their exasperation on shopkeepers". <sup>24</sup> Banbury was not immune from these failures of administration, planning and the effects of the U-boat campaign which destroyed so much British shipping and nearly forced Britain out of the war. Although it was not reported in the local papers at one stage ugly scenes took place outside the shop at North Bar and several windows were broken and the police had to put a guard on the premises to prevent looting. Another incident involved false rumours of supplies of sugar reaching the shop which quickly became beleaguered. The winter of 1917/18 was a very difficult period.

It was with relief "WG" welcomed the return to peace in 1918. Life was not to return to the smooth ways of the pre-war years however for long. Although "WG" himself always enjoyed excellent health his wife Alice took ill in the early part of 1922 with TB and heart trouble and was given a year to live and despite every care from Dr. Johns she died at home on the 21st January 1923 at the age of 54 <sup>25</sup>. A few years earlier in 1921 his eldest daughter Gertrude Alice had left home to marry Llewellyn Price Davies of Great Houghton, Northampton, a young farmer of Welsh descent. an ex member of the Royal Flying Corps, whom she'd met at a wartime Banbury Fair.

By the mid-1920s the business was again quietly prospering and although profits on groceries and wines were small, turnover continued to grow <sup>26</sup>. The coming of buses in the 1920s brought more village people to Banbury for both shopping and work. The business, however, never quite recovered to its pre-war Golden Age. The rise of the Co-op and the multiple "company" shops, Liptons, The Home and Colonial, The Maypole Dairy, Pearks Stores and the International Tea Company Stores was on and this had some effect on "WG"'s business and also that of his great rival, Ernest Butler in High Street. However, by offering regular deliveries, distinctive merchandise, immediate unfailing individual attention, by personable assistants in starched aprons, access to a wide range of wines and spirits and advice on food preparation, the business continued to flourish among the more affluent and expanding middle class of Banbury and the neighbourhood. A clientele which valued quality and personal service and advice above price. The staff, for example, would advise which wines would go with a meal, which sauces to use with certain dishes and how to cook them, and discreetly give out recipes. It was around this time that the first motor delivery van was purchased. Although the old hand trucks, with their yellow

wheels with black lining (the same colour as the signs on the shop) on the spokes and the name "W G Dossett" on the side with gold letters, was still kept for town deliveries, "The Rounds" as they were called. These hand carts would be covered with a canvas in bad weather. Generations of Banbury errand boys struggling up South Bar and Crouch Hill helped deliver the townspeople's goods, made up from their order books, on bicycles with their extra large baskets which fitted into a carrier at the front of the machine.

In 1929 his eldest daughter returned home to live from Northampton, her marriage having broken down. She brought with her, her small son of two years. She acted as the family's housekeeper with help from two daily maids, the long-serving Edith Knight having departed. The youngest daughter then returned to the firm's office which she had left when her mother died to help with the interminable "booking", and sending out the customers' weekly, monthly or quarterly accounts. "WG" was well known for his wit. As most of the Banbury funerals passed his shop he once observed "I see a lot of them going down but not many coming back up again"! When he told an amusing story he would rub his hands in excitement. A saying of his when enquiring when lunch or tea would be ready was "Any fear of anything to eat". His own view of the future of the grocery trade was not, however, optimistic. He once told his grandson that he thought that within the grandson's lifetime there would be no need for food shops - "all you will need is 3 special tablets a day, one for breakfast, one for lunch and one for your evening meal - instead of 3 meals".

By the mid 1930s it was clear that a decision would have to be taken about the future of the business. The world was changing. The fashion for the small village shops and the large country houses to buy in the way they had was also changing, and the wholesale side of the business had declined. Various possibilities were explored and in the end with some reluctance, "WG" having no son to carry on and his daughters not wishing to do so, the firm was sold in 1937 to Messrs. H and G Simonds Ltd., the brewers of Reading. An announcement in the local paper commended the new arrangements to his customers and said "Mr Dossett hopes that the same support which he has received will be extended to his successors in the business, and as he and his staff will continue to be associated therewith for some time to come, his friends will be assured on the same attention to all their requirements." <sup>27</sup> In an article on his departure from Banbury <sup>28</sup> the local paper said "Mr. Dossett succeeded to the business of the late Mr Frank Hall and he has carried on, under a single proprietorship ever since. When Messrs Bush and Son ceased the grocery business at the bottom of Parsons Street, Mr. Dossett took over the connection at the top of the street. There is an extensive wine and spirit trade attached to the business. .... Mr. Dossett leaves Banbury with the very best wishes of many friends. He has carried on the family grocery business on the highest traditional lines and has enjoyed, during a long regime the confidence of the public he served". Mr. Cecil Ariss, who had been the senior worker in the firm, became the Manager. "WG" and his two daughters

retired to The Leys, Witney where he had relatives. He died on the 10th September 1943 at the age of 84 and was buried beside his wife in Banbury cemetery after a service at St Mary's Church at which the Mayor and Mayoress of Banbury, Councillor and Mrs. J.A. Deacon, attended. His obituary in the local paper written by Mr. William Wood, Chief Reporter of the Banbury Guardian, stated, "he was one of Banbury's most respected tradesman. .... During his long residence in Banbury Mr Dossett was a regular attendant at the Parish Church and a generous supportor. He did not aspire to any public office, but was interested in the religious, political and social life of the town and was a man who was held in high regard by the members of his staff and all who knew him." <sup>29</sup> The firm continued to trade successfully as "Dossetts" for Messrs Simonds for some years.

Up until the business was sold in 1937 and for some time afterwards the retail shop retained its traditional appearance. Outside it had black and gold bevelled glass signs "Family Grocers", "Tea Blenders", "Provision and Wine and Spirit Merchants". Whilst inside it had long carved mahogany counters and old glass showcases with brass fittings and shelves full of interesting items. There were banks of small spice drawers for nutmeg, root ginger, turmeric, mace, etc., brass scales, bins for keeping dried fruit in, and green and gold numbered cannisters for the various teas. There were rows of glass-topped biscuit tins in a wooden stand, and a marble provision counter complete with red and white enamel bacon slicer, for easy cleaning, muslincovered bacon, (bacon was cut to whatever thickness the customer required), cheese wires to cut the cheeses, with a handle at each end, and scales with a flat, china weighing pan and brass dolly weights. The floor was covered with sawdust and in summer the shop doors were opened to keep the building cool and the green sun blinds would be pulled down. On very hot days water would be swilled onto the floor to keep the temperature down, and a bowl of water put down for customers' dogs. In winter the shop was cold, withonly two oil stoves to heat it and one of theses was in the office behind the frosted glass partition. Coloured advertisements for certain select lines were displayed, and the shop had several hooped-backed chairs for the convenience of customers. Over-all hung the various aromas associated with the trade - spices, cheeses, beeswax polish used on the woodwork, and above all coffee which was ground and roasted in one corner at intervals during the day on a large machine with a brass top and a big wheel at the side. By contrast with the interesting interior of the shop, "WG" avoided elaborate window displs. On the principle that someone would have to eat it he avoided putting anything edible on display. Some retrained show cards or dummy bottles of wines and spirits with muted crepe paper designs were his limit.

The Second World War meant long hours dealing with all the intricacies of rationing and the shortage of many lines. Although the Government, by introducing rationing from the start of the war, avoided the very difficult problems of 1917. "WG" kept in touch with the firm during the war. <sup>30</sup> Male members of staff were called up into the forces including long-serving John Field who went into

the Air Force. Again, as in 1914, women were taken on the staff. In fact, after the war most of the staff employed were women.

In the 1950s the business changed hands again being bought by a Mr. C.G.J.O. De La Hay, a relative of the Simonds' family. If it had not been sold by Messrs Simonds, I understand it is likely that instead of the dozens of "Arthur S Cooper's Wine Stores" (Simonds subsidiary outlet during much of the 1960s and 70s) they would have been named "Dossetts". As it was the Banbury business was now renamed "Dossetts Delicatessen", and widely advertised in the local press. A second branch was opened in Cirencester by Mr De La Hay with the same name. With the death of the manager, Mr. Cecil Ariss, in November 1964, the management passed to Mr. Cecil William Middleton who had worked for "WG" and had lived over the shop from 1937 (Mr Ariss being a bachelor had lived with relatives in Crouch Street). With the rise of the supermarket chains, Keymarket, Beacon Food, United Counties Stores, Finefare and Bachelors, and the decline of the small high class independent grocers, eventually the business - the last of Banbury's independent, privately-owned, high-class grocers - was closed and the site sold in 1973 for development, and the old 18th Century building was subsequently demolished. It is, however, interesting to note that in recent years there has been a revival in the popularity of high class, independent delicatessens. There is now a flourishing Delicatessen Fine Food Association which, along with the Daily Telegraph, sponsors a Delicatessen of the Year Award. The closure of the old shop in 1973 ended almost a century of trading under very variable conditions as "Dossetts" 31 and 150 years as a grocers. Years which transformed Banbury from a small, country market town into a sizeable manufacturing and commercial centre.

After the demolition in 1974 a plaque "Dossett's Corner" was erected on the new building, now occupied by the Refuge Assurance Company and Messrs Ladbrokes, to commemorate the name by which that area of North Bar had been long known. 32 33 Unfortunately a few years later the plaque fell down and was lost. 34, 35. Perhaps it's time for another plaque!

J.W.D. Davies

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32. The Banbury Guardian - John Potts Pen - 23 January 1975.
33. The Witney Gazette - Scene Weekly, 23rd January 1975.
34. The Banbury Guardian, 27 April 1961.
35. Bloxham, Christine (1975). "The Book of Banbury, Barracuda Books p 78.

I am grateful for the reminiscences of various former members of staff and customers following an appeal in the Banbury Guardian of 18 June 1981, and also for information supplied by members of the family past and present.

J.W.D.D.

## WYKHAM

### EARLY TIMES UNTIL THE END OF THE SEVENTEENTH CENTURY

"The history of Banbury begins at Wicham". These opening words of Williams Potts' "A History of Banbury" stand in sharp contrast with the insignificance of Wykham today. Many local people would be uncertain of its location. Nowadays it is denoted by Wykham Mill, Wykham Farm, Wykham Lane and Wykham Park which is now Tudor Hall School, on the southern outskirts of Banbury between Easington and The Sor Brook which flows under the Bloxham road at Lamprey's.

In 1851 Roman remains were unearthed at Wykham Park when part of the former farmyard was being converted to a kitchen garden. These finds indicated the site of a Romano-Celtic villa and consisted of walls; fragments of a coarse, limestone, tessellated floor; a beehive oven probably used to dry grain; a well 28" in diameter and 48' deep and a vault containing 7 or 8 human skeletons and some animal bones. There was a silver coin of Trebonianus Gallus together with 17 bronze coins dating from Claudius II (268-270 A.D.) to Valens (375-378 A.D.). "Wic" is probably derived from the Latin "vicus" meaning a village or country seat and has the same meaning as the Saxon "ham". In 1986, Mr. Colegrave, the farmer, revealed a further well in an adjacent field and more fragments were discovered.

Although Banbury rapidly superceded Wykham in size and importance, The Domesday Survey of 1086 still distinguishes it in a separate entry reading:

"Robert holds of the inland of the bishop 2 hides in WICHAM. There is land for 2 plough teams. Now there are in demesne 2 ploughs and 4 serfs. 5 villeins hold 1½ plough teams. There is a mill there producing 30s. It was worth 60s. and now it is worth 100s."

In 1067 the Norman monk Remigius of Fécamp succeeded the Saxon Wulfig as Bishop of Dorchester. He removed the bishopric to Lincoln in 1073. Robert was therefore a tenant of the Bishop of Lincoln and was presumably the Robert son of Waukelin or Walchelın who granted the tithes of Wickham to Eynsham Abbey some time before 1109. These were paid in corn. In 1238 a friendly agreement was made that the Rector of Banbury should receive tithes of one acre but in 1293 Eynsham gave up all the Wykham tithes to The Rector.

Henry II confirmed that Wickham manor should continue to be held by the Bishop of Lincoln as his predecessors had held it in exchange for military service and Wykham was an appurtenance of Banbury Castle. Payment called scutage later replaced this. The following are recorded:

- 1166 The Cartae Baronum, the Red Book of the Exchequer - Richard of Stoke held 3 fees.
- 1210 The "Testa de Neville" or Book of Fees - Robert of Stoke held Wickham, Epswell, Fawler and Swalcliffe.

(This was probably the Robert of Wykham whose widow, Avice was granted one third of Wickham in dower by her son Ralf in 1218). 1224 Ralf sold 16 acres of meadow and pasture in Banbury to the Bishop of Lincoln. He was recorded in The Rent Roll of 1225 and referred to as "Lord of Wickham" in 1238. We know that in 1279 Wickham was held for one Knight's fee, suit at the court at Banbury and 40 days duty at Banbury Castle in the time of war.

At the end of 1321, Edward II seized Banbury castle from Henry Burghersh, Bishop of Lincoln for supporting Thomas, Earl of Lancaster in a revolt against the crown. It was put in the care of Robert de Arden instead of Sir Robert Wykeham. In 1323 Sir Robert Wykeham granted the Ardens, Wykham and Swalcliffe to solve his own financial problems. In 1327 Sir Robert Arden was granted free warren in Wickham. In this year the village subsidy notes 8 people who paid 30 shillings and a penny. It is called a hamlet. Sir Robert is alleged to have been most unpopular and known locally as "The Black Dog of Arden". Edward III licenced him to crenellate the manor at Wykham in 1330 and it is said he needed to fortify it to protect himself. A year later he died. His heir was his son Giles and custody of his lands was granted to his relict, Nicole. A lawsuit followed with Elizabeth Wykeham who was trying to recover her husband's property. The Wykehams were successful and in 1346 Sir Robert Wykeham was returned as Lord of Wickham.

For the poll tax of 1377, 29 people were assessed at Wickham and the hamlet was still large enough for it not to be included in the 1428 list of villages exempt because there were less than 10 house-holds. By this time Wickham had passed to Sir Richard Archer and was described as "formerly Robert Wykehams's". His heir was his daughter Joan, wife of Sir John Dynham. From then onwards it had a chequered history of division and female line. By 1524 only 3 people were eligible for taxation in the hamlet although John Speed's 1611 map of Oxfordshire marks Wickham as a village. Having been a fief of the Castle and Hundred of Banbury this passed to the Duke of Somerset in 1547 and to the Duke of Northumberland in 1550 before reverting to the Crown next year. The Crown leased it to the Fiennes family in 1595.

In 1601 William and Anthony Bustard conveyed the manor to Thomas Chamberlayne, a King's Bench judge and Civil Justice of the County Palatine of Chester. It is from this time that the present Old House originates. The building bears a datestone of 1619 which may not be totally reliable although the fact that the known portrait of Sir Thomas is dated with the same year may suggest it was significant for the family. Next to this building was the former chapel. Above the ornamental archway in Wykham Park is the Chamberlayne arms.

Wickham may have been the scene of Cromwellian troops assembling during the Civil War. When the Parliamentarians besieged Banbury Castle in the summer of 1644. Colonel John Fiennes had considerable forces on that side of the town. On Thursday, 24th October, when the Earl of Northampton and Colonel Gage arrived at Adderbury to relieve the garrison which was commanded by his 19 year old son, Sir William Compton there were 800 Parliamentarian horsemen in 5



units at Easington. This was also a time of plague. Nobody is certain why the hamlet of Wickham disappeared during this period but by 1688 only one cottage is marked on the Edward Grantham map. Agricultural changes could have contributed to its diminution.

In 1681 Chamberlayne's great-granddaughter, Penelope became engaged to Mr. Robert Dashwood, elder son of the Kirtlington Dashwoods who was still very young, having been born on 18th October 1662. Penelope's elder sister, Catherine became engaged at this time to Sir Richard Werman of Thame Park. Miss Penelope's settlement was dated 14th September and in it all Sir Thomas's estates were to be held by Sir Robert Dashwood and his intended wife subject to the Dashwoods paying £16,000 to Miss Catherine Chamberlayne. This included Wickham, Neithrop and Calthorp. Together with the extensive Dashwood properties these were entailed on the male line. Shortly afterwards Sir Thomas Chamberlayne became ill and died in October confirming the settlement in his will. In June 1682 the marriage took place.

Robert Dashwood rapidly increased in importance. He became a baronet in September 1684 and was M.P. for Banbury from 1689-1700. He was the Council's candidate and Banbury was a "pocket borough". The townspeople proposed Sir John Howles whom they supported with 140 votes to the Council's 10. A petition was presented to Parliament but the Committee of Privileges and Elections found in favour of Sir Robert.

Although much of Sir Robert's time was spent at his Northbrook and Kirtlington estates, we know more of Wykham Park at this period. The Map of Wickham by Edward Grantham is part plan, part picture. Painted in oil on canvas in August 1688, it depicts the area from the Salt Way (designated "Lon-don-Road" in broken syllables) to the mills along the Sor Brook. Orchards and cow pasture are clearly defined. The map still hangs near the main entrance of Tudor Hall School. At about this time Celia Fiennes journeyed to the area and wrote:

"About 2 mile from Broughton is a great old house much like Broughton. It's Sir Robert Dashwood's."

In 1734 Sir Robert Dashwood was succeeded by his grandson Sir James (1715-70). He was a great traveller but in 1740 built a small and gracious, southfacing building, which now forms the basis of the large house. His own son, Sir Henry Watkin Dashwood (1745-1828) took over the estates in 1779. Unlike his predecessors, he was reckless with money; by the age of 30 his father had rescued him from debts of £25,000. In 1780 he married the beautiful and intelligent Mary Helen Graham whom Boswell describes as charming Dr. Johnson and with whom the Princess Elizabeth liked to correspond. Her portrait by Sir Joshua Reynolds is certainly stunning. Sadly, she was unable to influence Sir Henry towards thrift. By 1801 he had sold much of his property outside Kirtlington. For some reason the glass from the chapel at Wykham was taken when he left and it is now his memorial in a side chapel of Kirtlington Church. For Wykham Park this was the end of one era and the beginning of another.

Nanette Godfrey and Charmian Snowden

Sources:

"The Victoria County History"

"Wykham Shrunken Medieval Village" - Simon Crutchley, Mark Taylor  
and Ival Hornbrook.

"A History of Banbury" - William Potts

"The Oxfordshire Dashwoods".



Part of the Map of Wickham. See Page 67.

## A HISTORY OF THE NEITHROP ASSOCIATION FOR THE PROTECTION OF PERSONS & PROPERTY

When the Neithrop Association for Prosecuting Felons (as the Association was first called) was formed in 1819, the population of Banbury was about 5670. The High Steward was Frederick North, 5th Earl of Guilford, 3rd son of Prime Minister North of Wroxton Abbey and the Deputy Recorder was Mr. H. Holbech of Farnborough Hall, the Mayor was Robert Brayne, the Town Clerk Mr. William Walford and the Vicar, the Rev. T. W. Lancaster, M.A.

There was no police force, no railways and of course all transport was by coach, carriage or on horseback, or by boat on the canal. The Carriers of Wagons and Carts were Bragginton, Railton, Durran, Gilkes and Cakebread. The two biggest waggoners were Henry Stone and J. Golby both of whom ran a regular service to London, Liverpool and Birmingham. Pickfords ran canal boats as did Crowley, Hicklin & Co. whose agent was Thomas Page of the Catherine Wheel. Various butchers attended the market such as Ivins of Wroxton, Colegrave of South Newington, Elkington of Bourton and Sabin of Wardington.

The town constables were Thomas Taylor, William Garrett, Samuel Boddington and Thomas Pain, whilst Neithrop were Williams Eagles and William Colegrave. The Excise Office was at the Buck and Bell and the Post Office was at the White Lion - The Postmaster being Joseph Wyatt, the Licensee.

Despite the presence of constables, the farmers, shopkeepers and businessmen had little or no protection of their property and the formation of an association was a step towards obtaining redress for loss or damage sustained. How did it work? If you were a members you could register a complaint to the committee. If the complaint was justified then posters were printed and a reward offered if the offender was not known. If the culprit was known, an arrest was made on the instigation of the Association whose solicitor would prosecute. In some instances quite severe sentences were given considering the crime committed. The subscription was at first £1 but later an additional charge of £2 to join was made.

The Association first met in 1819, though it is not recorded where, and it was agreed by those present to pay a first subscription of £1. Among the members were Henry Stone, Sam Armit and John Holloway. Esther Cheney carried out the printing for which she charged £5.9s.0d. In 1821 the numbers were 16. In 1822 John Salmon was chairman and the following year the AGM was held at the Buck and Bell when it was decided that any member requesting bills to be printed for cattle lost would have to pay for them if it was proved that they were not stolen. Perhaps this was because Esther Cheney was proving too much of an expense for the Association's funds.

In 1824 the A.G.M. was held at the Butcher's Arms at which members must have got a little merry for at the following committee meeting, after raising the subscription to £2, a resolution was then passed that should any member at the A.G.M. behave in a disorderly

manner or be otherwise abusive to any other member, a vote would be taken to expel that member.

Two years later the A.G.M. was held at the Vine when the membership was 26. Apparently the Association found it necessary at this time to have its own dog for it was recorded that £2 was allowed for its keep and £1 for tax. Various prosecutions were carried out during the years but the crimes were not listed until 1833. In this year Robert Griffin was prosecuted by the Rev. Charles Wyatt for stealing pigeons. For this Griffin served two months imprisonment with hard labour and one month solitary confinement. The following year W. Swift received 6 months for stealing barley. Constable Daviel Newton who carried out the arrest was rewarded with the princely sum of 2/6d.

There now commenced a period when faith in the Association was lost. Membership dropped to 16 and the Treasurer (the landlord of the Vine) Mr. J.P. Judge was unable to hand over the funds to his successor Mr. Charles Judge. In 1835 he still owed the sum of £40.0.11d plus charge of 5/6d and he was then given 24hrs to pay up before proceedings would be taken. By 1838 membership was down to 12 and the subscription was reduced to 30/-. The A.G.M. was moved to the Flying Horse and records show that the following year began the long service of Charles Page as Treasurer who was landlord of the new meeting place.

In 1829 Sir Robert Peel had formed the Metropolitan Police Force and later this was extended to the boroughs. In Banbury the local police force was formed in 1837. This was, in all probability the reason for the loss of interest in the Association which was thought to be superfluous.

In 1842 the subscription was reduced to 10/- and a slight increase in membership included Lieut/Col. J. North of Wroxton Abbey, and Messrs Fowler and Loggin.

At a committee meeting held at the Flying Horse in April 1844 it was reported that Robert Fowler had been assaulted by one Robert Taylor who was in gaol for the offence. All expenses for the prosecution of Taylor were to be paid by the Association. Two years later two policemen, William Townsend and John Ward were rewarded £2 for detecting two persons, Cook and Hyde, in the act of breaking Robert Fowler's windows and shutters.

Under the treasurership of Charles Page the affairs of the Association now seemed to take an upward turn. The subscription was reduced to 5/- and a donation of £10 was given towards the Incend-]iary Fund for the village of Hornton which had suffered a terrible fire. In 1854, as the funds stood at £72.3.8d. no subscription was charged, coverage of property was extended to 20 miles and membership distance unlimited. Five years later the subscription was still 5/-, and all old members who had paid the entrance fee of £2 were allowed to withdraw it. As a result of the better reputation of the Association the membership had now climbed to 39, and its committee had settled down to a regular pattern of dealing with small prosecutions and the efficient running of its affairs. In 1875, now that Charles Page was the Landlord, the AGM was held at the White

Lion. In 1884 the committee consisted of J. Potts, W. Anker, T. Fowler, J. Stephens, H. Flowers, W. Sanders, W. Strange, J. Lumbers, S. Hadland and E. Fogg. The Secretary was C. Neighbour, the solicitor J. Stockton and of course the Treasurer, Charles Page. To this committee Mr. Orchard made an application for embezzlement by Harry W. Higham, which was considered. Mr. Stockton was asked to represent the Association and was instructed to appear at the hearing of charges. Higham was convicted and received three months imprisonment.

In 1886 it was recorded that Messrs. Stroud, Boxold and Jelfs joined the association. Not all claims were justified for in 1889 my grandfather, Harry Stroud reported the loss of a pig-trough at Nethercote. He stated that he knew who had taken it. A trough was then found in a ditch but this proved not to be his, and he had to admit on being reminded that he had in fact loaned it to a friend. During the ensuing years such well known Banbury names as Braggins, Buller, Chard and McKeever all feature in the records. During a wave of patriotism, at the AGM of 1892, the gathering toasted the Queen the rest of the Royal Family, the Army and the Navy.

In 1897 Tom Page was elected in place of his late father, and became treasurer, so beginning a connection with the Association which lasted for about 50 years.

Reading through the pages of the minutes of the Association is like reading a list of prominent Banbury businessmen. After the turn of the century the evidence is such that one is led to believe that the Association exerted a strong influence and it is interesting to note some of the cases.

In 1907 there were six prosecutions, ranging from larceny and embezzlement to stealing meat, hay, apples and also a case of trespassing.

The following year four men were prosecuted and convicted at the Quarter Sessions for stealing £20 from Mr. Palmer of High Street. They received sentences ranging from 4 years down to 9 months hard labour. All sorts of petty crimes were dealt with and although penalties were not necessarily always severe, the influence of the Association was marked and a useful deterrent to crime which otherwise, through lack of finance, would never have reached prosecution. In the pursuit of apprehending criminals it was not confined to local arrests for a man who stole two mackintoshes from W.H. Robeson by false pretences was arrested at Crewe. The stealing of dogs, chickens, brussels and causing damage to grass did not go unchallenged and action was taken. It is recorded in 1912 that the Chairman, Mr. W.J. Bloxham was the victim of fraud when a man called Hobson sold 250 blocks of peat to him for 12/-. The peat was never delivered and Mr. Hobson disappeared. Both Tom Page and Mr. Bloomfield were defrauded by worthless cheques though it is not stated whether the culprits were apprehended. Mr. Ernest Butler of Butlers the grocers, reported that three of his cats were poisoned. A reward of £5 was offered. The wording is such that it is not entirely clear whether this was for getting rid of the cats or finding the culprit.

In 1913 there were three cases taken up by the Committee. The

first was rather sad, that of shooting a female swan sitting on a nest of eight eggs at Huscott Mill, but it appeared that the prosecution was withdrawn, for the culprit was a servant in the employ of the owner.

The second was concerning Mr. Harry Neal of Factory Street who hired a bicycle for 12/6d to take to the Yeomanry Training Camp. Neal did not pay the hire and whilst at camp he raffled the bike but did not return to Banbury.

The third case was reported by Mr. Henry Adkins who said that potatoes had been stolen from his pits at Chalcombe. A reward of £2 was offered. I think this was a case when Mr. Adkins did not stand by his potatoes.

During the First World War the Association donated £30 towards the War Hospital at Grimsbury and £10 to the Merton Infirmary X-Ray Fund.

Several cases of stealing, damage to a billiard table at the Vine, and to property at the Grand Theatre took place during the war years and a boy living at 115 Middleton Road obtained a donkey by false pretences from a Mr. Prickett of Huscott Mill and had ill-treated it. The boy was convicted and given six strokes of the birch. Perhaps it would not be out of place to compare some of the punishments given to criminals then to those meted out now to muggers and petty offenders.

In 1918 Mr. Thornitt reported to the committee that Fred Harris of Drayton was employed by him to wash bottles at the Vine. He noticed a bag inside a bucket and found it contained two bottles of stout and half a pint of port. Watched by himself and his son-in-law, Mr. Ray Kilby, Harris was seen to take the bag and was apprehended by the Plough Yard. He was prosecuted and convicted.

Some very odd cases were reported in 1920. Sheepskins were stolen from W.R.Stroud's yard, mole traps from the yard of Mr. Justin at Milton, coal from the Ironstone Co. at Wroxton, and one boy was sent to reform school for breaking and entering. In 1922 Harry Stroud reported damage to his property by three boys, Edward and George Clarke and Harry Causebrook, whilst a man named Hudson was prosecuted for stealing half a blanket from the Red Lion, yet oddly enough was not prosecuted for an unpaid bill of £14.

Various cases dealt with during 1929 included stealing rabbits, a wooden board and one of interest when a man named Michael Fitzgerald of no fixed abode was charged with breaking and entering Tadmarton Golf Club House and feloniously stealing a comb and soap the property of the steward. He was arrested and taken into custody. He was placed on probation and bound over for 12 months. It was not reported in the paper, however, that the prisoner stated he really only wanted a "wash and brush up".

A more serious case was reported concerning a man named J.Cooke, purporting to be a son of a partner of Cooke & Sons of Birmingham, furniture dealers. He had taken premises in George Street and obtained delivery of a two seater car. His credentials were found to be false and he was then arrested, purely because of the prompt action taken by the Association. The cost of the action was

expensive, £46.4.11d. The case went to Quarter Sessions and Cooke was sentenced to 18 months hard labour.

Very little leniency was shown and even cases, maybe now considered trivial, were pursued.

Damage to Ironstone Property and even stealing apples in 1934, was not ignored. One man was sentenced to 3 months in prison for stealing a rick sheet, and when some boys broke a ball valve, their father was made to pay all costs. Four years later, several boys were prosecuted for minor offences and one was sent to an approved school.

During the second World War the society continued to function but no dinners were held. Horace Gilks was caught taking a rabbit from the land of Mr. J.S. Mold of Rectory Farm. The case went to the County Sessions and the defendant was found guilty and fined.

In 1947 Mr. & Mrs. Tom Page retired from the White Lion. The records show that Tom had served something like 50 years and his father before him about the same. He had in turn served as Treasurer, Auditor and Secretary as well as running the Annual Dinner. a presentation of a pair of silver candlesticks was made on the occasion of the 129th AGM, to Mr. & Mrs. Page.

After a lapse of nine years, the Annual Dinner was again held on the occasion of the 150th AGM. In 1951 Col. Arthur Stockton died. He had acted as solicitor to the Association for over 40 years and had taken the Chair on thirteen occasions.

In 1954 Mr. A.J. Butler, who was then chairman, died and H.O. Bennett was elected to fill the office. He reigned supreme for over 25 years and proved one of the most popular and well loved gentlemen to fill that office.

In 1967, Reg Weaver resigned, he had been Secretary for about 30 years. There must be some strange attachment to the Association for a good many of its officials remain in office and serve it well for long periods. In 1977 H.O. Bennett retired after 57 years as a member and Jack Friswell was chosen to take his place.

Throughout my investigation into the affairs of the Association is has been interesting how many names we have known are mentioned, who make up the business life of the town, both in the past and in the present. Mawle, Braggins, Stroud, Lester, Potts, Thornitt, Anker, Friswell, Bennett, Bloxham, Webb, Chard, Stockton, Page, Abbotts, Colegrave, Ewins, Dalby, Fowler and countless others. As you might have gathered the Page family for over 100 years were the backbone of the Association stemming from Charles Page who, as well as being the landlord of the Flying Horse, was a wine dealer, a seed and hop merchant, a spirit merchant, a Town Councillor, organiser of the running of the bowling green and treasurer to the felons.

I believe that the Association could still play a modest but influential part in modern society. But, whatever it's future, long may it continue to exist and at least once a year bring pleasure to those gathered at it's annual function and meeting.

The details given in this review of the affairs of the Association are alleged and do not guarantee complete accuracy; they are compiled from the minute book's written records.

**ARTICLES OF THE NEITHROP ASSOCIATION**  
**FOR THE PROTECTION OF PERSONS AND PROPERTY**  
**ESTABLISHED NOVEMBER 23<sup>rd</sup> 1819**

- I. That this Association shall extend its Protection to the Property of its Members within 20 miles of the said Township, and to their persons irrespective of distance.
- II. That a General Meeting shall be held once a year, in November, at such time and place as the Committee shall appoint, timely notice, by letter, of such Meeting being previously sent to every member.
- III. That every person on becoming a member shall pay into the hands of the Treasurer such sum as shall be determined at the General Meeting in November, and in every succeeding year, pay the like sum as an annual subscription.
- IV. That at the General Meeting in November, the Committee shall report their proceedings during the past 12 months, a statement shall be made of the receipts and expenditure of the funds (and the debts, if any) of the Association; the vouchers for the expenditure shall be produced with the book of accounts, by the Secretary, which said book shall at all times be open for the inspection of the members of this Association.
- V. That the members of the said Committee, the Treasurer and the Secretary, shall be re-elected or re-placed by others once a year, at the Annual General Meeting in November.
- VI. That any member may withdraw from this Association on giving notice to the Secretary in writing one month prior to the Annual General Meeting.
- VII. That every member who shall not pay his Annual Subscription on or before the General Annual Meeting, or within one month then next following, shall cease to be a member.
- VIII. That on the death of a member, his or her representatives shall be entitled to the same benefit of the fund to which the deceased would have been entitled if living, all subscriptions having been paid, and the articles fully complied with.
- IX. That the expenses (other than such as shall be allowed on conviction of an offender or offenders) of advertising, apprehending, and prosecuting any person or persons who shall rob, steal from, or otherwise feloniously defraud or injure any member of this Society, shall be wholly paid and defrayed out of the funds in the hands of the Treasurer, so far as the same will extend.
- X. That rewards (over and above those allowed by Act of Parliament or otherwise) shall be severally paid by the Treasurer for the time being out of the funds raised in manner beforementioned, to any person or persons (not being a member of this Association) who shall discover and give information on oath of any offender or offenders guilty of any of the offences herinafter mentioned, committed on the persons, properties, wives, children or



servants, living with and constituting part of the family of any member of this Society. Such rewards to be paid on the conviction of the offender or offenders; - (that is to say) not exceeding:-

	£	s	d
For Murder	20	0	0
Burglary, Housebreaking, Shoplifting, Highway Robbery, Footpad Robbery, Setting Fire to any Dwelling House, Warehouse, Barn, Stable, Outhouse, or other Building whatsoever; or to any Rick, Stack, or Mow of Corn, Grain, Seeds, Hay, Straw, Wood, Furze, or Fuel	10	0	0
Feloniously stealing, killing or wilfully maiming any Horse, Mare, or Gelding, Mule, Ox, Bull, Cow, Heifer, Calf, or other Neat Cattle, Sheep, Lamb, Pig, or Pigs	10	0	0
To any Offender impeaching an Accomplice or Accomplices in the above Crimes, so that such Impeachment be the Means of Conviction	10	0	0
Stealing Goods from any Shop, Warehouse, Storehouse, Building, or other place; or any Corn, thrashed or unthrashed; or Hay, or other things out of any Barn, Hovel, Rick-yard, or other place, or any Grass, Corn, or Hay, either growing or in cocks	3	0	0
Buying or receiving any Stock, Goods, or Effects, the property of a Subscriber, knowing the same to have been stolen	5	0	0
Breaking Windows, or stealing any Doors, Windows, Shutters Locks, Bolts, or Bars	2	0	0
Stealing Poultry of any kind or Pigeons	3	0	0
Stealing or damaging any Carriage, Waggon, Cart, Plough or other Implement of Utensil in Husbandry, or any Iron-work, belonging thereto	3	0	0
Stealing, cutting, breaking down, burning or destroying any Hedges, Mounds, or Fences, Gates, Stiles, Pens, hurdles, Fleaks, Stakes, Pales, Posts, or Rails, or any Iron-work belonging to any Wood	1	0	0
Robbing or maliciously damaging, any Garden, Orchard, or fish Pond; or cutting down, breaking, or destroying, any Timber, fruit, or other Trees, Evergreens, or Shrubs, Underwood or Quick-sets, growing	2	0	0

	£	s	d
Pulling up, stealing, or destroying, any Peas, Beans, Cabbages, Potatoes, Turnips, or other Vegetables, from the Fields of any Member	2	0	0
Cutting the Mane or Tail of any Horse, Mare, or Gelding; or the Tail of any Bull, Ox, or Cow, or otherwise disfiguring them	2	0	0
Stripping or pulling Wool from any Sheep	1	0	0
And for every other Offence not before specified, such Reward as the Committee or a majority of them at a Meeting shall think proper to allow.			

- XI. That before any Prosecution be entered upon a Meeting of the Committee shall be called, to consult concerning the same, and give any directions relative thereto which may be thought necessary; four Members to form a quorum; the Secretary and Treasurer to be ex-officio members of the Committee.
- XII. That all Offences committed on the persons or property of the Wives, Children, or Servants, living with and constituting part of the Families of Members of this Society, shall be included in the offences meant to be prosecuted at the expense of this Association.
- XIII. That no Compromise (unless for petty offences) with any offender or offenders, or mitigation of punishment, be allowed, under any pretence whatever, and that if any member shall commit an act so injurious to this Society, his or her name shall be struck off the list of subscribers.
- XIV. That a proper number of Handbills be printed, specifying the Rewards offered by this Association for apprehending and prosecuting offenders, and shall be posted up in such places and at such times as the Committee for the time being, shall think proper.
- XV. Any member requiring an alteration in any of the foregoing Rules shall give one month's notice to the Secretary, in writing, prior to the General Annual Meeting.
- XVI. The Committee may reduce the above Rewards in any case they may deem it proper so to do.
- LASTLY. That these Regulation be printed and each member have a copy of them.

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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 of £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.

