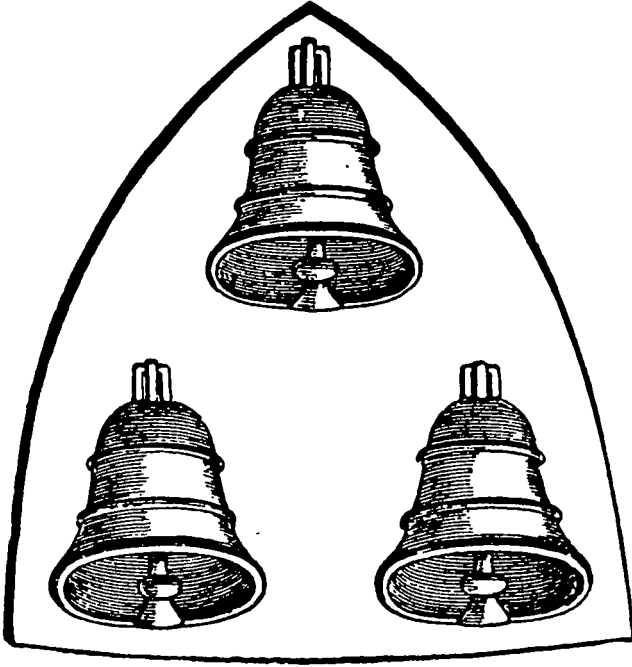


CAKE AND COCKHORSE



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**Details of the Society's activities and
publications will be found inside the back cover.**

Cake and Cockhorse

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

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Should the Prince of Wales be able to live with the woman he loves? What can he do about his outspoken and publicity-seeking Princess? Who should own and run Banbury's railways?

These are just two of the seemingly topical subjects in this issue - but no, we haven't forgotten our historical purpose. The Prince of Wales in question became King George IV, and the article on 'Mrs Fitzherbert & Sons' is just an appetite-whettener for Philippa Foord-Kelcey's talk on 14th December. As for the railways, the major concern was whether Banbury would be served by the 'Broad Gauge' or the 'Narrow Gauge' */sic/*

Two particularly worthwhile BHS events have been enjoyed in recent months by those members able to attend. The first was our A.G.M., held this year at Weston Hall in Northamptonshire by kind invitation of Mr Francis Sitwell (who we are pleased to say has become a member of the Society). Quite apart from the lovely setting, fortunately not marred by a motor race taking place not far away, the tour round the house was outstanding for its wealth of North of Wroxtton memorabilia, for the Sitwells are descended from the family who dominated Banbury and its politics for a century and half. On this Banbury theme another of our summer visits, to Sezincote, revealed that its architect was Samuel Pepys Cockerell, who was also responsible for Banbury's parish church, St Mary's.

The second was the very well-attended Reception held at Banbury Museum to introduce our new season of talks. We were able to invite members of other local societies, who have entertained us in recent years, and it was good to be able to return their hospitality. We hope this may become an annual event.

Cover The three bells trade mark sometimes used by the Bagleys on their bells



Bust of a Nubian, formerly and now again at Farnborough Hall, sold by Christie's earlier this year Photograph © Christie's

A BUST RETURNS TO FARNBOROUGH HALL

Jeffrey Haworth

Historic Buildings Representative

This article is reprinted, by kind permission, from The National Trust Severn Region Autumn 1995 Newsletter.

It is rare for smaller country houses to retain a full complement of historic chattels, especially when so many of them individually rate as works of art, as do those at Farnborough Hall in Warwickshire

The sale of the Canaletto and Panini paintings in 1929 permitted the Farnborough estate to survive another generation, the house, but no contents, and a reduced estate passing to the National Trust in 1960

Almost all the furnishings of the principal rooms were collected by William Holbech in the 1740s, or thereabouts, at the time he remodelled the house and made the Terrace Walk. These contents were kindly lent by Mr Geoffrey Holbech's niece, and by the help of a very generous anonymous donor passed to the Trust in the 1980s by private negotiation

Thus were returned not only marvellous pier tables and the whole of the library, but also the unique collection of sculptured busts, some ancient Roman, some eighteenth century in the same spirit, mostly housed on the brackets designed for them when the present hall was created in the 1740s

An antiquary visiting in 1746 notes 'several busts of white marble, one of black..'. It was with some astonishment in the 1980s that Mrs Holbech came upon the exquisitely worked portrait bust of a negro amongst furniture found in the attic. It had been utterly forgotten by the family and never seen by National Trust visitors. Its ownership also lay with Mr Holbech's niece, who put it up for auction this July. The Trust was helped again by the same anonymous donor, and visitors to Farnborough will see this new acquisition where Mr and Mrs Holbech have given him pride of place, surveying the Dining Room from a high perch

Acknowledgments

The editorial staff of the National Trust Severn Region were immediately helpful when we asked for permission to republish the article reprinted above. Subsequently we realised that it would be useful to publish a photograph of the bust itself (which was not illustrated in the Newsletter). Our further request was must have caused some trouble, as, surprisingly, no photograph was available through the NT. However, we were directed to the auctioneers, Christie's, where Sarah Hornsby, of the Antiquities Department, was able promptly to supply the photograph illustrated opposite. Copyright of course remains with Christie's



Miss Dolly Bromley's School, 1922 or 1923

Back row, left to right fifteen standing 1 Dick Fowler; 2 William Railton, 3. Jack Bennett; 4. Don Wrigley;
5 William Pilsworth, 6 Mignon Pollack, 7 Bill Busby, 8 Tom Berridge, 9. Dick Paxman, 10 Jim Page, 11 Geoffrey Furnish,
12 George Hill, 13 Bob Waldoek, 14 Kenneth Kingerlee, 15 Tony Page

Second row, twelve sitting, one standing 1 Stirling Kennedy, 2 Stanley Withey, 3 Bobby Cunningham, 4 Miss Robins,
5 Robin Hodgkins, 6 Miss Bromley, 7. Miss Stevens, 8 John Hayes, 9 Kenneth Jakeman, 10 Allan Hodgkins;
11 Margaret Paxman, 12 Linda Hill, 13. Joan Field (*standing*)

Third row, sixteen sitting 1 Freda Stevens, 2. Horace Lester, 3 Dan Gibbard, 4 Kathleen Godwin; 5 John White,
6 Tony Hayes, 7 Enid Clark, 8 Kenneth Kendall, 9 Stella Bartlet, 10 Phillip Busby, 11 Joan Vallantine; 12 Lesley Newman,
13 Muneil Taylor, 14 Evelyn Kingerlee, 15 Jack Wrigley, 16 Bob Turner

MISS DOLLY BROMLEY'S SCHOOL

One of our oldest and most faithful members, Ken Jakeman, writes:

I was interested to see the photograph of Miss Bromley's school, of which I have a copy, published in the Summer number of *Cake & Cockhorse*, but I cannot agree with the suggestion that 'it poses less of a problem' than the other two photographs mentioned

First the name of John Dossett-Davies was completely unknown to me so I read the very interesting article written by him and discovered that since he states that he was 10 in 1937 he must have been born in 1927, but I left Miss Bromley's in 1923.

Then I noticed the date under the photograph which was in fact taken 1922 (possibly 1923) at least four years before JD-D was born!

As you indicated that further identifications would be welcome I am enclosing a complete list of names I am still a little uncertain of the Christian name of No 11 on the bottom row but I think I am right

It just goes to show that just because you read it in print, it's not necessarily true, even in this journal. We republish the photo with Ken's identifications.

A BARFORD CHARACTER:

Alfred Charles Highton

the late E.R.C. Brinkworth

Amongst papers given me by Ted Brinkworth's widow I came across this piece, evidently written in the 1970s. It may already have been published, perhaps in the parish magazine, but it seems worthy of permanent record here, as much for the character of its author as for its subject.

J.S.W.G.

The Reverend Alfred Charles Highton has now [1970s] been dead over forty years, yet there must be many in the village - and beyond - who remember him vividly. for he was certainly one above most others whom once known are never forgotten He was a character of characters, a super eccentric and a mass of contradictions: a saint who was full of faults, though never vicious ones, devout and full of kindness and compassion yet abrasive to a degree, with more often than not a trail of quarrels and rumpuses, replete with surprises (you could expect almost anything), yet above all a true parish priest, always at his post, ever faithful in the service of the Church

A Charles Highton (so he always signed himself) was schooled at Cheltenham College, where his father, Henry Highton, was Principal (another most unusual man about whom we must have a word in brackets, for besides being an outstanding classical scholar, he was a pioneer in the early days of the application of electricity to telegraphy; he also invented and patented an artificial stone which came into use for paving and building purposes)

A C Highton, like his father, went up to Queen's College, Oxford Alas, he took only a fourth class in Law (1875) But he shone in all kinds of sports He became a champion amateur heavyweight boxer of England, he captained Lower Canada at Rugby football, he was an excellent all-round cricketer. Evidently his heart was not in the Law and it was in travel and sport and perhaps grudging his time away in a lawyer's office that he spent the six years from graduation until he realised his true vocation and was made deacon in 1881 and ordained priest in the following year. He served several curacies, mostly in London St. Jude, Upper Chelsea, Christ Church, Westminster; Christ Church, Albany Street; St. Augustine, Bermondsey. These were interspersed with a spell of two years (1887-1889) as a missionary with U.M.C.A. in Mbwani, Zanzibar From 1893 to 1897 he was curate of St Michael's, Southwark. Then he was presented to the Vicarage of Barford St Michael in north Oxfordshire.

The first sight Barfordians got of their new vicar was of him riding into the village on horseback, a black-bearded man, tall, gangling and muscular, a formidable looking customer We know nothing of his early ministrations but he certainly soon showed his prowess on the cricket field and became the admiration of the district in that hey-day of the game. And any rowdies at village concerts soon learnt that the vicar believed in direct action, would take anybody on, and without hesitation act as his own highly efficient chucker-out.

At the vicarage, Highton lived a severely bachelor life, spartan and tough. a cold bath every morning till late in life, immensely long bicycle excursions (including abroad, especially Oberammergau), immensely long walks too, accompanied by his half-dozen or so dogs, some of them Great Danes especially one noble, outsize creature called Napoleon or Boney The dogs, as was proper were fed once a day only - noisily, at the hour of midnight, from horse meat that had been boiled all day (with horrid smells) by the dealer Hanks, who lived near the bridge

Highton's fourth class at Oxford gives no idea of the quality of his intellect. He was a man with a taste for learning He was at home in Latin and Greek and he was fluent in French and German. I am not competent to assess him as a theologian and biblical scholar. All I can say is that he produced a series of amazingly idiosyncratic commentaries on various books of the New Testament, printed at his own expense at Taplin's, a now extinct firm which operated in the Horse Fair, Banbury, and intended for goodness knows what sort of readers Highton had, I think, an itch to write and several highly sentimental romances, typical of their period, came from his pen, produced by shark-publishers in

London. The best-known was one written at Barford, *William de Winton*, which came out in 1903.

The vicar was very keen on theatricals and wrote plays and sketches for performance on the stage at the village school. How delightfully exciting and cosy those concerts were, oil-lamp-lit, candle-footlighted, heavily curtained, the audience as expectant as Drury Lane. Nearly always the vicar contributed a song or two, mostly of the Kiplingesque-imperialist kind with innumerable verses and a marching chorus.

In the early years of the century, following the new clerical fashion, the vicar was clean shaved. He performed the Prayer Book services with a touch of the Highton Use. His sermons were always home-made, nearly always interesting and often not without entertainment of an external kind. For instance, the vicar's teeth were not too well fixed and would sometimes fall out. But he was not a good fielder for nothing and he always managed to catch them halfway down the front of the pulpit. Stangely, not an atom of dignity was lost just a gasp of surprise, admiration and thankfulness.

So one might go on. There is, really, a Highton saga. But a few words about his end. There came a point when the Church authorities, while never doubting that he did his duty as he saw it, nevertheless feared that he was getting too old and too far gone in eccentricity to run the parish properly. So the Bishop (Gore) and the Rural Dean (Jones of Banbury), both men of extremely strong personality, decided to go and talk to him. They went, they talked, they were conquered. Once in his presence and no doubt entertained to tea - as was his wont, out of a billy can boiled on a pile of sticks and on cakes fished out from under an armchair - they felt in no form to bring their subject up there was affable general talk and the dignitaries left with their mission not only unaccomplished but not even broached.

The vicar remained at Barford for nearly a dozen more years. He died in the Horton Infirmary in 1932 at the age of 80. He is buried just off the upper pathway leading to the church porch. A simple stone cross and surround marks the spot and the inscription simply says 'Better with God'.

Note. A predecessor of Highton was the Revd Philip Hookins, Vicar of Barford St Michael from 1851 to 1891, who brought about the restoration of the church and rebuilt the vicarage house. It was largely through him that Barford St John, previously a chapel of Adderbury, was united with Barford St Michael in 1890. Neither vol 11 of the Oxfordshire *Victoria County History (Wootton Hundred North*, covering Barford St Michael) nor vol 9 (*Bloxham Hundred*, covering Barford St John), refer to Charles Highton.



MRS FITZHERBERT & SONS

Philippa Foord-Kelcey

When King George IV died in 1830 he had been living in seclusion for some years. All that most of his subjects knew about his private life was that he had had a Royal wife - Princess Caroline of Brunswick, who had never become Queen - and a few elderly mistresses. It was only a handful of people with long memories, like the great Duke of Wellington (by then Prime Minister) who knew that he had once had a secret wife, Mrs Maria Fitzherbert, who had been the love of his life, and was still alive.

Now that the King was dead it became vitally important that all documentary evidence of this earlier marriage (in 1785) should be destroyed. Particularly it was vital that any offspring of the marriage should not be in a position to put themselves forward as Pretenders to the throne. Mrs Fitzherbert was, after all, a Roman Catholic, and it was supposed that her children, if any, would also be Papists. Accordingly, the Duke gave orders that all relevant papers should be sought out and destroyed. For a start the late King's executors, of which he was one, demanded that Mrs Fitzherbert should give up any letters from the late King, or any other papers concerning their marriage, to be destroyed. A similar set of letters, written to her husband by Mrs Fitzherbert, was already in the executors' possession. Thanks to the kind influence of the new King, William IV, it was agreed that all the papers should be conveyed to Mrs Fitzherbert's London house and burned there. This was done by the Duke of Wellington and Lord Albemarle. Lord Albemarle's son, who assisted at this conflagration, wrote 'some idea of the mass of manuscripts committed to the flames may be formed by an expression of the Duke to my father after several hours of burning "I think, my Lord, we had better hold our hand for a while or we shall set the old woman's chimney on fire"' Fortunately for posterity, their marriage lines survived the flames, and are now in the Royal Archives.

There were, however, many other correspondences and sets of papers preserved in stately homes and libraries all over Britain which had to be searched and censored. Sir Shane Leslie, a descendant of 'Minnie' Seymour, the so-called adopted daughter of Mrs Fitzherbert, wrote in his biography of Mrs Fitzherbert in 1939 '...but after all the precautions taken to destroy letters and abscond papers, it is almost a miracle for any biography to be possible. Research for material leads the gleaner from bonfire to bonfire. The most important correspondences have been gutted. Others have been ransacked and censored. Even

Opposite: Portraits of Mrs Fitzherbert and the Prince of Wales, later King George IV, in the Wallace Collection. Crown copyright, reproduced by permission of the Trustees of the Wallace Collection

note books have been scissored' In his second book, *The Letters of Mrs Fitzherbert*, Leslie writes in the introduction ' Had her position been merely that of a discarded mistress, neither the issue of her body nor of her ink pot would have been considered dangerous '

This then was the situation when my late husband and I undertook the task of writing an account of the family of George, Prince of Wales (later George IV) and Mrs Fitzherbert, his wife We started, however, with the great advantage that my husband was a direct descendant of the couple and already had a mass of information which had been passed down the family - there were only four generations between him and his illustrious ancestors He also had several second cousins all of whom confirmed the story and added some detail

With this firm base of knowledge we started our research We read every book which had ever been written about the couple, and we followed up every hint of information which was given to us In doing this we travelled all over the country and received assistance from many complete strangers We spent many hours in record offices and libraries. It was in the Kensington Library in London, a biographical library, that we made a most important discovery this was an account of Mrs Fitzherbert's short marriage to Thomas Fitzherbert which ended in 1781 when he died of tuberculosis. It stated that ' by him she had a son, who died in infancy' We confirmed this fact with the Fitzherbert family historian The significance of this is that historians can no longer state, as they always have done, that 'Mrs Fitzherbert was barren and had no children by either of her previous husbands ' (Her first husband, Edward Weld, was killed in a riding accident soon after they were married)

Since the book was published (after my husband's death) I have received letters from all over Britain and some from overseas Some were from people who wondered if they might be descendants - others undoubtedly are - and our knowledge of the family continues to increase

The book, Mrs Fitzherbert & Sons, is available only from the co-author, Philippa Foord-Kelcey - tel. 01295 711998.

THE BAGLEY BELL FOUNDRY OF CHACOMBE

Betty D. Cameron

In 1688, one Henry Bagley, bell founder, of Chacombe in Northamptonshire, was asked to replace the bells at Lichfield Cathedral with the first ring of ten ever to be cast

How did this come about? Why was he chosen for this unique task? A look at the development of the Bagley bell foundries will provide the answer

The Bagley Family

From Chacombe parish registers it is known that a Henry Bagley died in the village in 1609, and his wife Julian in the following year. Their son Matthew, a blacksmith by trade, was churchwarden in 1636. He died in 1649, leaving by his wife Sarah a daughter and two sons, Henry and John, baptised in 1608 and 1609 respectively

Henry (born 1608) was the first of the famous Bagley bell-founders, and it is probable that he opened his Chacombe foundry when he was about 24, for in 1632 he cast the first and fourth bells at Evenley, spelling his name 'Henry Bagle', he often wrote words to suit the space they were to fit around the rim of a bell. His own name he spelt Bagle, Bagly, Baglee and Bagley at different times, and there are more variations in the parish registers, including Bayley and Bayle

Henry's burial is not recorded in Chacombe's registers, but a note in these records states that there is a gap from 'ye yeare 1677 to 1716', during which period only one burial entry was made

He is, undoubtedly, the Henry Bagley commemorated on a tombstone in Chacombe churchyard, which has been restored three times, hence its legibility. Visited today by campanologists from far and wide, it is inscribed

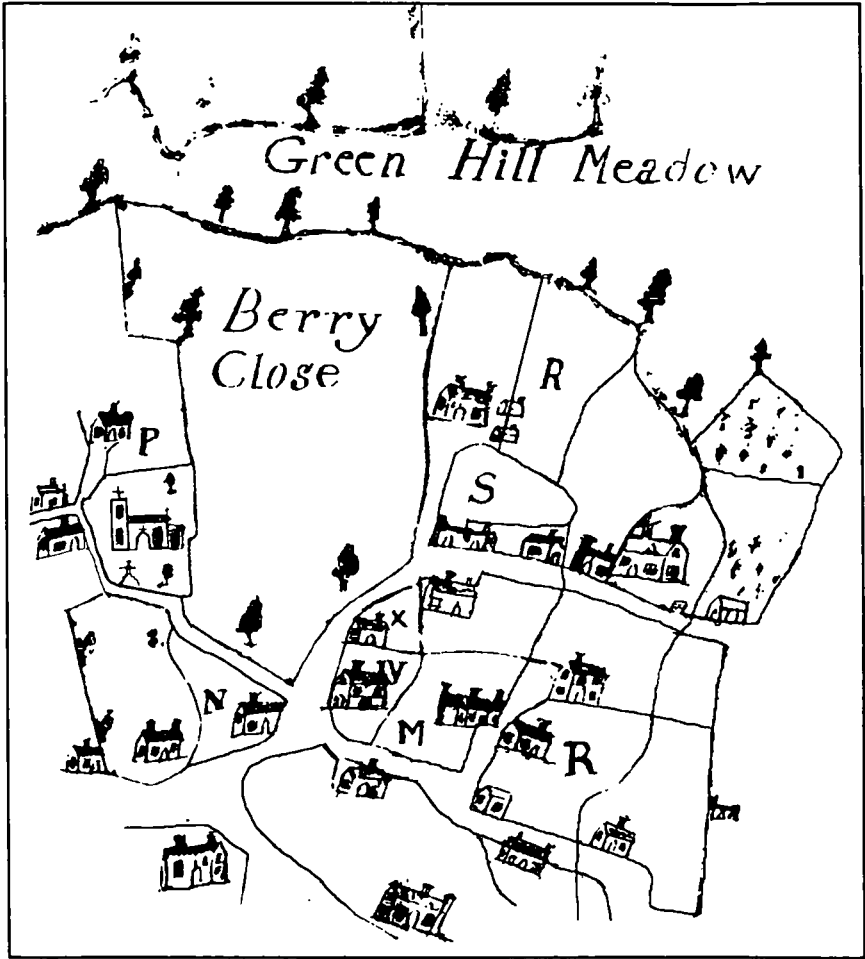
Here lieth the body of Henery Bagley
who departed this life
the 1 day of Jan 1682/3
To perpetuate ye memory of an ingenious bellfounder
this stone was repaired A D 1794

On the reverse side of the stone

Restored A D 1892
Restored A D 1958

The 1958 restoration was done by the local Bellringers' Guild

The foundry was carried on by his sons, Henry (not mentioned in the parish register) and William (born 29 June 1663) together with Matthew (baptised 6 April 1653) the son of his brother John



Silver Street section of "The Lords of Chacombe in the County of Northampton; 1696 for Georg Holdman, Esq.", a fine, original plan on vellum 5' 6" by 3' 3".

- R - Michael Bagles Homestead
- S - William Bagles Homestead
- M - Miles Bagles Homestead
- Y - Widow Bagles House and Backside
- X - Charles Chinnners House and Backside
- N - George and Dragon Inn
- P - Church of SS. Peter and Paul

(Reproduced by permission of the British Library: Vernier No. 18.50)

Certainly, Henry's foundry was very successful, and the younger Bagleys expanded and extended the business further afield. A second son of John Bagley, also named Henry, and brother to Matthew, started a bell foundry at Ecton, whilst Chipping Norton and Witney provided more bases from which work was carried on throughout the Midlands and beyond.

The Chacombe Scene

There has been much speculation as to exactly where the Bagley foundry was situated in Chacombe.

Writing a century after the foundry closed down, the Reverend William Alexander Ayton, Vicar of Chacombe 1872-1894, wrote:

The Chacombe foundry is believed to have stood at the top of what is now called Silver Street, where is a house and garden owned *and* occupied by the Misses Chinner. This is eastward of the church, the road and a field intervening between it and the supposed site of the foundry. There are now no representatives of the Bagleys in the parish. They are said to have melted their metal with the wood of the ancient forest which in those days reached close up to Chacombe.

Recently a 'lost' map or plan of Chacombe was discovered and is now housed in the British Library. This large, impressive document is entitled 'The Lords of Chacombe in the County of Northampton, Surveyd and Plotted in the Year . 1696 for Georg Holdman Esq'. This was probably George Holman of Warkworth, who died in 1698.

Every house is represented by a little drawing, fields are named and each person's property is listed. This map was made at the time when the Bagley bell foundry was at its peak, and it is not surprising to find that four Bagley households were flourishing, as shown in the caption to the map.

Silver Street was certainly well occupied by Bagleys. William Bagley cast Chacombe's ring of six bells, no doubt on the Silver Street site, in 1694, so the foundry was working at full blast in Chacombe when the 'Lords' map was made.

Mr Ayton's 'ancient forest which in those days reached close to Chacombe' was, apparently, part of Miles Bagley's extensive farm, and he must have provided wood for the smelting furnaces. Places named on the farm include the 'old groves', now arable fields and rows of houses, and the Nether and Upper Rummors. A little wood, 'The Rumours', still exists on the perimeter of Chacombe's Cherwell Edge Golf Course, and its undisturbed ancient trees, flora and fauna are witness to its long history.

Widow Bagley may have been the widow of 'Henry Bagley Senior, late of Chalcombe in the County of Northampton, Bellfounder, deceased' whose probate inventory of goods 1682 shows considerable wealth in money and possessions.



Silver Street, Chacombe
Photograph © *Banbury Guardian*, reproduced by kind permission.

The Bell-House

From Henry Bagley's probate inventory (taken shortly after his death, on 23rd January 1682/3) we know that in his Bell-House were an 'Infield' (or 'Anfield' - an anvil?), bellows, scales, weights, tools and other things

My father's ancestor and namesake, Charles Chinner, lived next door to Widow Bagley in 1696 [X on the map] The information which follows was given me by my father, a life-time bell ringer who looked after Chacombe's ring of six bells, clock and chimes for much of his life I wrote it down over fifty years ago and I suppose that it was passed down through generations of Silver Street Chinnners. I cannot vouch for its accuracy, but it seems to ring true

It was believed that the bell foundry was started at Chacombe because the right kind of wood for making the charcoal for smelting and the right kind of clay for making the moulds could both be found near the village

Early bell-founders believed that precious metals, especially gold and silver, improved the quality of the sound, though this is not scientifically correct

Tradition has it that, when Chacombe's bells were being cast by William Bagley, the ladies of the village threw silver in with the molten metal and that this accounts for their beautiful sound- and, also, gave Silver Street its name Certainly, the name is more appealing than Foundry Lane, which might have been the alternative

Metal for the foundry was brought by river to Banbury and from there it was drawn by horse and cart, along a road which was deeply rutted, wet and muddy, for much of the year Drawers were paid a penny a mile for hauling their heavy loads, which meant sixpence on a return journey to Banbury Bells cast in Chacombe were also taken to their destination by horse and waggon

Bells were cast in pits, dug in the Chacombe In-field, or, if on site, as near the church as possible. Metal (ideally a mixture of copper and tin, giving bronze, though other metals were used) was heated in a nearby furnace and poured into the prepared, brick-based mould When the red-hot metal had cooled, the moulded bell was removed

Considerable skill was involved in this process and in the tuning of the bell which followed, in the Bell-House, if at Chacombe. Tuning was done by chipping away with hammer and chisel, until the desired sound was produced

When struck, a bell gives out a whole series of notes My father called these 'overtones' and said that Bagley bells were recognisable from the fullness, richness and musicality of these notes Modern bells seem to have a lighter tone and I like to think that I can recognise a ring of Bagley bells when listening to the early morning programme, 'Bells on Sunday', on Radio 4.

The Civil War

Before the Civil War, Henry Bagley's foundry produced a steady output of bells from Chacombe. Some of Middleton Cheney's ring of six are early castings. Five of Ilmington's six bells are dated 1641. The first, third and fifth bells at Grandborough were cast in 1641 and a few other rings of five belong to this period.

The two main Civil War battles fought uncomfortably close to Chacombe were Edgehill (1642) and Cropredy Bridge (1644). The village at this time must have been full of soldiers and never free of the burden of providing supplies, taxes and men-at-arms. Perhaps the turbulent times account for the coming of the plague to Banbury and the surrounding villages. Ten people (none of them Bagleys) out of the Chacombe population of about 150 died 'of the sickness' in 1642.

Meanwhile, the people of Chacombe carried on with their daily lives as best they could - farmers, labourers, millers, blacksmith, weavers, wood cutters, charcoal burners, bakers, butchers, maltster, alehouse keeper, store keeper and bellfounders - all having to cope with demands from the military presence.

Although no major event took place in Banbury during 1643, there were constant forays for supplies for the Royal Court and the Army. On 6 May 1643 the Parliamentarians were routed in a skirmish at Middleton Cheney, about a mile away from Chacombe. In 1644 Chacombe was still beset by soldiers and, after the Battle of Cropredy Bridge, Banbury was under siege for fourteen weeks and conditions were desperate.

Within a short time of the execution of King Charles in 1649, the restoration and re-building of Banbury began. Fine new houses were built in Chacombe between 1650 and 1670, including the 'George and Dragon' inn on the corner of Church Lane and Silver Street, whilst the sounds of roaring furnaces, the tuning of bells and the clattering and rumbling of heavy carts were brought back to the Bagley foundry.

Coventry and Lichfield Bells

In the summer of 1981, Robert Smith, Director of Eayre and Smith Ltd, Bell-hangers and Engineers of Kegworth near Derby, visited Chacombe with this family. He was impressed with the quality and durability of the many Bagley bells which were being brought in to his workshops and wanted to find out more about the Bagleys.

Later, he sent copies of reports to me. Here are typical extracts.

Horton, Oxfordshire. All the bells were cast by Henry Bagley in 1741 and still retain 'cast-in' crown staples and canons. None has been quarter-turned and it seems likely that the bells have had little done to them since their original installation.

Chipping Warden, Northamptonshire. All the bells are by Henry Bagley in 1674. None appears to be cracked.

With work of similar excellence behind them, it is not surprising that, in 1674, Henry Bagley Senior and Henry Junior were asked to re-cast the six bells of St Michael's Church, Coventry (which later became Coventry Cathedral) into a ring of eight. It seems that the work was completed in the early summer of 1675, within the space of a few days, on site.

The new ring was so successful that when, in 1688, the Vestry of Lichfield Cathedral wished to acquire a new ring of ten bells, Henry Bagley Junior was invited to carry out this prestigious task (Henry Senior retired from bell-founding in 1675, dying in 1682/3 and commemorated at Chacombe). This was the first ring of ten bells ever cast and the expertise and confidence involved was considerable. Again, the work must have been carried out on site and, probably, all the Bagleys, Henry, William and Matthew, were involved.

Coventry's bells survived for 99 years and were re-cast only because an enlarged ring was required. Lichfield Cathedral's bells were replaced by a new ring cast in 1947 and, at that time, seven of the original ten Bagley bells were still in use - a bell life of over two and a half centuries.

Casting Far Afield - Spread and Decline of the Foundry

After 1675, Henry Bagley Junior, William and Matthew were in charge of the Chacombe Foundry. Success at Lichfield was followed by on-site work as far afield as Lancashire and new foundries were established at Ecton, Chipping Norton and Witney. The Bagleys were widely recognised as being amongst the leading founders of their time.

Whilst the Chacombe Foundry was kept busy casting bells for local churches - Middleton Cheney, Banbury, Cropredy, Kings Sutton, Culworth, Thorpe Mandeville, Byfield, Wardington etc - the Bagleys were also working, on site, much further afield, in Huntingdonshire, Warwickshire, Worcestershire, Berkshire and Lancashire.

In 1686, Henry Bagley Junior was elected a member of the 'College Youths', a London ringing society which today, as then, forms the elite of the ringing world. Membership is by invitation only and members ring at Westminster Abbey and St Paul's Cathedral.

William Bagley's son, Matthew, baptised 1700, succeeded to the Chacombe Foundry, but later moved to Chipping Norton.

In 1732, 'Henry Bagley of Chalcombe, in the County of Northampton, Bell-Founder (Who now lives at Witney, in Oxfordshire)' published a catalogue of bells which 'he can remember' cast by himself and his family, since the Chacombe foundry began.

It includes 'one ring of ten bells, five rings of eight bells, twenty-seven rings of six bells, thirty rings of five bells, two rings of four bells, besides bells into peals to the number of 441, to the satisfaction of them that understand ringing and good bells'. A facsimile of the catalogue is printed overleaf.

A C A T A L O G U E

O F

Peals of *BELLS*, and of *BELLS* in and for Peals,



Cast by *HENRY BAGLEY* of *Chalcomb*, in the County of *Northampton* Bell-Founder,
(Who now lives at *WITNEY* in *OXFORD-SHIRE*)

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Who had not Published the following Account of those he
Can remember, had he not been Requested thereto by several Persons of Judgment in
BELLS and *RINGING*.

N. B. The said *Henry Bagley* (if desired) will cast any *RING*, or *RINGS* of *BELLS*, in
the Town whereto they belong.

Here follows an Account of some Rings of *Bells* (*viz.*)

One Ring of Ten *BELLS*, Five Rings of Eight *BELLS*, Twenty Seven Rings of Six *BELLS*,
Thirty Rings of Five *BELLS*, Two Rings of Four *BELLS*; besides *BELLS* into Peals, to the
Number of 441, to the Satisfaction of them that understand *RINGING* and Good *BELLS*.

Bells	Bells	Bells	Bells	Bells
In <i>Northampton</i>	<i>Dalington</i> 1	<i>Chalston</i> 2	<i>Craperdy</i> 6	<i>Appleford</i> 1
<i>All-Saints</i> 6	In the County of <i>Chipping-Norton</i>	<i>Shilton</i> 2	<i>Stratford-upon-Avon</i> 6	In the County of <i>York</i>
<i>St. Sepulchres</i> 4	<i>Oxford</i>	<i>Wellwell</i> 1	<i>Welsbourn</i> 2	<i>Hull Collegiate Ch.</i> 8
<i>St. Giles</i> to make six, 4	<i>Kirtlington</i> 8	<i>Crawton Co. Northam.</i> 1	<i>Whichford</i> 2	At the other Church in <i>Hull</i> 5
In the County of <i>Northampton</i>	<i>Sir Robert Dashwood and Mr. Robert Dashwood Benefactors.</i> 6	<i>Fullbrook</i> 1	<i>Hillington</i> 6	In the County of <i>Worcester</i>
<i>Hilson</i> 6	<i>Woodstock</i> 6	<i>Beckley</i> 1	<i>Harbourn</i> 6	<i>Eversham</i> , to make six, 4
<i>Byfield</i> 5	<i>His Grace the Duke of Marlborough gave 1001</i> 5	<i>Cockthrop</i> 1	<i>Solyhull</i> 8	<i>Benger</i> , near <i>Eversham</i> 1
<i>Thurby</i> 5	<i>Middleton-stony</i> 5	<i>Spellsbury</i> , to make six, 4	<i>King's-Norton</i> 8	<i>Offingham</i> 5
<i>Greens Norton</i> 5	<i>Ducklington</i> 5	<i>Rollright</i> 5	<i>Long-Compton</i> , to make six, 4	<i>Fladbury</i> 6
<i>Brading</i> 5	<i>Studdlake</i> 5	<i>Wordington</i> 6	<i>Jamies Compton</i> , Part of <i>Northampton</i> ; <i>Elizabeth Compton</i> , Countess of <i>Northampton</i> , <i>Edward Sheldon</i> , Esq; and the <i>Reverend John Brown</i> , Benefactors. 4	<i>Droitwich</i> , <i>St. Andrews</i> 6
<i>Kingsthorp</i> 1	<i>Banbury</i> 6	In the City of <i>Oxford</i>	<i>St. Ebbs</i> 1	In the County of <i>Gloucester</i>
<i>Killingbury</i> 1	<i>Wood-Eaton</i> 5	<i>St. Ebbs</i> 1	<i>Horley Co. Oxon</i> 4	<i>Elmeley</i> to make 6
<i>Blakely</i> 5	<i>Blanton St. John</i> 1	In the County of <i>Bucks.</i>	<i>Satchwell</i> 1	<i>Hampton</i> 6
<i>Kilby</i> 5	<i>Witney</i> , Treble and Tenor, 2	<i>Padbury</i> 6	<i>Sheslock</i> 5	<i>Morton-in-Marsh</i> 5
<i>Blizworth</i> 5	<i>Bwelme</i> 1	<i>Maids-Morton</i> 5	In the City of <i>Coventry</i>	<i>Evenload</i> to make 5
<i>Ilip</i> 5	<i>Burford</i> , Two Trebles, to make Eight 2	<i>Beconsfield</i> 6	<i>St. Michael's</i> 8	<i>Bourton on the Hill</i> 6
<i>Watford</i> 5	<i>Amerlden</i> 1	<i>Hildden</i> 6	In the City of <i>Litchfield</i>	<i>Blockley</i> to make 6
<i>Floor</i> 5	<i>Coggs (Tenor)</i> 1	<i>Water-Stratford</i> 2	<i>Sainbury</i> 6	<i>Didbrook</i> 4
<i>Marston</i> 5	<i>Martin (Fish)</i> 1	<i>Tinswick (Tenor)</i> 1	<i>Honybourn</i> 5	<i>Humbleton</i> 1
<i>Helmington</i> 6	<i>Southley</i> 2	<i>Hildden (Tenor)</i> 1	<i>Dumbleton</i> 1	<i>Wick-Rifington</i> 1
<i>Cullworth</i> 5	<i>Woolvercor</i> 3	<i>Wellbury</i> 2	In the County of <i>Berks.</i>	In the County of <i>Wilts.</i>
<i>Dainsford</i> 5	<i>Somerton</i> 1	<i>Godington Co. Oxon</i> 2	<i>Shinfield</i> 6	<i>Highworth</i> 8
<i>Chipping-Warden</i> 5	<i>Upper-heyford</i> 1	<i>Imley Co. Northam.</i> 1		
<i>Middleton-Cheney</i> to make six, 5	<i>Standlake (Third and Tenor)</i> 2	<i>Brill</i> 1		
<i>Chalcomb</i> 6	<i>Dedington</i> 2	In the County of <i>Warwick.</i>		
<i>Thrup-Mandefield</i> 1	<i>North-Aston</i> 1	<i>Priors-Marlton</i> 6		
<i>Great-Houghton</i> 1	<i>South-Newington</i> 1			
<i>Blizworth</i> 1	<i>Steeple-Barton</i> 1			
<i>Pidington (Tenor)</i> 1				
<i>Hardinggo</i> 2				
<i>King-Sutton</i> 1				

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Printed by *Leonard Lichfield*, near *East-Gate*, *OXFORD* 1732.



Brian White, bell restorer (who spoke to the Society in September 1995) with the bells of St Mary's church, Salford, Oxon. The ring of five was cast in 1687 at the Chacombe foundry. They were rehung in April 1990.

Photograph © *Banbury Guardian*, reproduced by kind permission.

But by 1769 something had gone wrong. In that year Matthew Bagley made a declaration

CHIPPING NORTON

Whereas it hath been by some evil-minded Person or Persons maliciously (and much to my Injury) reported that I MATTHEW BAGLEY of Chipping-Norton, was either dead, or had left off Business: This is therefore to acquaint all Gentlemen, Parish Officers, and Others, That I now carry on the Business of a Bell Founder, in all its Branches, at my Foundry in Chipping-Norton: where, among a great deal of other Work, I have lately run the three following Tenors, viz Duns Tew, Chipping-Norton, and Enstone, which are all exceeding good Bells All Gentlemen &c. that shall please to favour me with their Commands will be duly waited on, and may depend on having their Work executed in a neat good Manner and their Favours will be gratefully acknowledged by their obedient humble servant,

MATTHEW BAGLEY

From Jackson's *Oxford Journal*, 8 April 1769

Matthew Bagley's problems are unclear, but, in 1785 he died, tragically, from burns, whilst casting a bell. His body was brought back to Chacombe for burial and this event is recorded in Chacombe burial register

1785 Feb. 27/8 Mathew Bagly Bell Founder who requested a dumb peal, the bells muffled on one side.

With Matthew's death, the Bagley Bell Foundry of Chacombe came to an end

In 1790, Chacombe's fifth bell was re-cast by Briant of Hereford and it was he who had Henry Bagley Senior's tombstone restored in 1794

Some Bagley Bells and Inscriptions

The Bagleys sometimes used three bells as a trade mark (see front cover) and the fleur de lys on their bells (below). Decorative borders were also used



Here are a few detailed examples of their work All of the bells, except Saint Michael's (The Cathedral), Coventry are in use today.

<i>Bell</i>	<i>Inscription</i>	<i>Diameter inches</i>	<i>Weight Cwt. qrs lbs</i>		
St. Michael's Coventry					
1	CANTATE DOMINO CANTICUM NOVUM 1675 H B	31	6	1	11
2	HENRY BAGLEY MADE MEE 1675	32	6	2	26
3	T E F GEORGE DOWNING A DV S M 1675	35	8	0	9
4.	I RING AT SIX TO LET MNE KNOW WHEN TO AN ^D FROM THEAIR WORKE TO GO 1675	37½	9	3	21
5.	RICHARD COLING IOHN REMINGTON THOMAS REDHEAD HUMPHREY THACKER IOHN LILLEY RALPH PHILLIPS CHURCHWARDENS 1675	40¾	12	1	7
6	HENRY BAGLEY MADE MEE 1675	43	14	0	14
7	I RING TO SERMON WITH A LUSTY BOME THAT ALL MAY COME AND NONE MAY STAY AT HOME 1675	47	19	2	12
8	I AM AND HAVE BEEN CAL ^D THE COMON BELL TO RING WHEN FIER BREAKS OVT TO TELL 1675	52½	25	0	8

St. Peter's and St. Paul's Church, Chacombe

All six bells were cast, originally, by William Bagley in 1694

<i>Bell</i>	<i>Diameter (inches)</i>
1. WILLIAM BAGLEY MADE MEE 1694	30
2 WILLIAM BAGLEY MADE MEE 1694	32
3 WILLIAM BAGLEY MADE MEE 1694	34½
4 CANTATE DOMINO CANTICUM NOVUM 1694	37
5 WM. GIBBARD & J BENIT C W J BRIANT HERTFORD FECIT 1790	39
6 CAST BY JOHN WARNER & SON LONDON 163	44 <i>Weight 19½ cwt</i>

St. Mary's Church, Banbury

At the time of the demolition of the old church in 1790, St Mary's had a ring of six bells, dating from 1664 to 1779, all made by Bagleys of Chacombe Here are inscriptions from the existing Bagley bells in today's ring of eight

- 3rd Matthewe Bagley made in 1753
- 4th H. Bagley 1664
- 5th Matthewe Bagley made mee 1779
- 6th Bce it knownc to all that doc mee sec
Bagley of Chacomb made mee 1664

Burton Dassett Bells.

The peal cast by Bagleys⁷ of Chacombe in 1686 has never been recast. Each bell bears an inscription cast in the bell metal around the outer rim. The tenor weighs about 13½ cwt.

Bell

- 1 Cantate Dominum Canticum Novum 1686
2. Henry Bagley made mee 1686
3. Fear God and Honour the King 1686
4. Matthew Bagley made mee 1686
- 5 Be it known to all that seeth.
that Bagley of Chacombe made me. 1686
- 6 Thomas Makepeacc and Robert Ledbrook Church Wardens 1686.

Two Individual Inscriptions from Bagley Rings

Tenor Bell at Grandborough:

BY MY VOYCE THE PEOPLE MAY KNOWE
TO COME TO HEARE THE WORD OF GOD
HENRY BAGLY MADE MEE 1639

Tenor Bell at Hornton, Oxfordshire.

H B 1741
I TO THE CHURCH THE LIVING CALL
AND TO THE GRAVE I SUMMON ALL

Sources

Chacombe parish records [Northamptonshire Record Office, 62p].

The Church Bells of Northamptonshire, Thomas North. 1878.

The Steeple. Bells and Ringers of Coventry Cathedral, Christopher J. Pickford. 1987

Henry Bagley's Catalogue of Bells printed in Oxford, 1732. Bodleian Library {Vet A4 a 11 (2)}

Henry Bagley's Probate Inventory 1682 [N.R.O. Inventory Henry Bagley 140]. There is also a will for a Henry Bagley, dated 26 November 1679 and proved January 1684/5 [N.R.O. Northampton Wills 3rd Series K f 21]

Eyre and Smith Ltd. Bellhangers and Engineers, Kegworth, Derby.

History of Chacombe, Betty D. Chinner (unpublished), 1940.

The probate inventory of Henry Bagley [Northamptonshire Record Office 140]

A True Inventory of all & Singular the Goodes Cattle & Chattells
That Henry Bagley Senr. late of Chalcombe in the County of
Northampton Bellfounder deceased died possessed off
Taken & approved by John French, John Hautayne, William
Bull & Michael Bennet the Three & Twentieth day of
January Anno dom 1682.

<i>Impr.</i>	£	s	d
<i>Alsoe</i> His Wareing Apparrell & Money in Purss	10	0	0
<i>Alsoe</i> Six Cowes Two Heifers & Three Calves	25	0	0
<i>Alsoe</i> Forty Sheepe	26	3	8
<i>Alsoe</i> His Hay with a Ladder & Cutting Sithe	7	15	0
<i>Alsoe</i> His Corne & Pulse & Oates in the house & barn	14	5	0
<i>Alsoe</i> His Timber & fire wood	2	11	8
<i>Alsoe</i> Two old Carts one Plow & Harrowes with other Implements	2	10	0
<i>Alsoe</i> Three stoore Pigs with the Pig Troughs	1	13	0
<i>Alsoe</i> His Holme	1	0	0
<i>Alsoe</i> His Fann one Ladder with other things in the barn	0	10	0
<i>Alsoe</i> In his Bell-house one Infield [or Anfield?] Bellowes Scales Waits Toolles and other things in the said Bell-house	11	0	0
<i>Alsoe</i> His Malt-Mill Grindstone Well Curbe & hog trough	0	18	0
<i>Alsoe</i> His Malt & Malt Garner with other Lumber in the Garrett	5	0	0
<i>Alsoe</i> In the Cheese Chamber Cheese & Cheese boards Apples 4 Firkins with other Lumber	4	0	0
<i>Alsoe</i> In the Chamber over the Kitchen one Bedstead one Chest with other Lumber	1	10	0
<i>Alsoe</i> In the Middle Chamber one Bedstead with bedding	3	0	0
<i>Alsoe</i> In the Chamber over the Parlour one bedsteed one Table & Frame one Chest Bedding & other Lumber	5	0	0
<i>Alsoe</i> In the dary-house one Cheese press Meat Tubb & Meat	1	0	0
<i>Alsoe</i> In the Kitchen one Table with other things	0	5	0
<i>Alsoe</i> In the Parlour one Table & Frame one Cubbard with other things	1	10	0
<i>Alsoe</i> In the Buttery 7 Barrells Beere One Churn with other Lumber	2	1	0
<i>Alsoe</i> In the Brewhouse one Mach-Fatt with other Lumber	2	0	0
<i>Alsoe</i> In the Pantry 3 Ceavers Milkepans with other things	0	9	0
<i>Alsoe</i> In the Over Parlour one Cubbard 6 Chaires Andirons and Grate Cubbard Cloath & Carpett With other things	1	12	0
<i>Alsoe</i> One Clock in the said Over Parlour	1	0	0
<i>Alsoe</i> In the Hall 7 Stooles 3 Chaires With other things	1	0	0
<i>Alsoe</i> In Bacon and other Meat	5	0	0

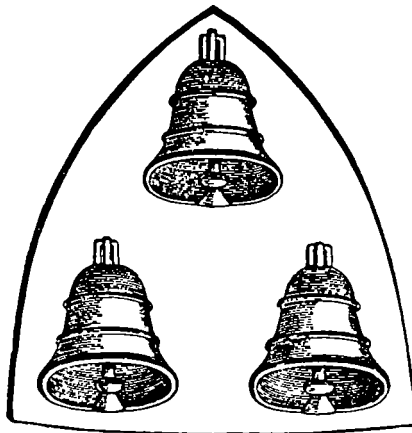
	£	s	0
<i>Alsoe</i> In the Chamber over the Entry One Wheell with other Lumber	0	5	0
<i>Alsoe</i> In the Garrett Apples With other things	0	10	0
<i>Alsoe</i> In the Closset Wooll & one brass Pott with other things	5	0	0
<i>Alsoe</i> In the Chamber over the Hall one Bedsted with the Furniture 3 Chaires & one Coffe	3	7	6
<i>Alsoe</i> In the Chamber over the Brewhouse one Bedsted with bedding and other Lumber	0	13	0
<i>Alsoe</i> In the Chamber Over the Over Parlour one Bedsted one Trundle bed with bedding & 3 Chairs	3	0	0
<i>Alsoe</i> In the Garrett Over the Over Parlour on Brass-Pan with other Lumber	0	12	0
<i>Alsoe</i> In Linnen	2	0	0
<i>Alsoe</i> In Pewter	3	0	0
<i>Alsoe</i> In Brass	6	15	0
<i>Alsoe</i> One Little yeareling Calff	1	10	0
<i>Alsoe</i> In Poultry & all other small things unprized	0	13	4
<i>Alsoe</i> In Bonds & Specialtyes	208	9	0
<i>Alsoe</i> In Lease Lands	750	0	0

The Total Sum

1123 8 2

[Signed] John French
John Haughtin

Will Bull
Michael Bennett



*In his Bell-houſe one Anfield Bellows, ſtaves
Waits Tools, and other things in the ſaid Bell-houſe.*

A TYSOE EMIGRANT WRITES HOME, c.1827

J.P. Bowes

We have been allowed to transcribe this letter written about by 1827 from New York State. The writer was William Mole and it was addressed to 'Samuel Carter, upper tysoe Warwick Shire, hingland'. It dates from a time when pence were paid by the mile, often by parish vestries, to anyone willing to emigrate to America from England.

Luggage was carried on the emigrant's back. It included a cooking pan, and food - whatever the village or town could provide - usually a cheese and pork. This was to see the voyager on his way to Liverpool and over the Atlantic to New York. The sea crossing by sail took thirty-five days - until 1860.

These early settlers, on leaving poverty at home, did not realise that, when established, they would perpetuate the conditions with their exports.

Their life was good.

Fifty years later - before and after Ellis Island, New York, established in 1892 - many emigrants from Europe were following in the footsteps of William Mole to the United States, Canada, Australia and New Zealand - a little differently, with assisted passages and requisite utensils for a long voyage. M. K. Ashby, in *Joseph Ashby of Tysoe*, describes one such event, in the chapter 'Uncle William Emigrates'.

A far cry from 1827 at 3d. a mile.

The letter runs continuously but for ease of reading it has been broken into paragraphs.

September the 28 [no year given]

Dear brother i rite to you in hopes to find you in good health as leving me at presant and i hope you will send me word as soon as you can how my mother and father and sister and brother and thear litel won and hanna and emma and all my relaishon and friends

and tell my mother to make herself happy about me for i am as happy as a prince and i hope to hear that you are all the same and pleas to send me word how robert haries and is famaly is and unkel john haries and all is famaly

as i hope you have had my letter that i sent to you to let you now that i was married to ester haries and now wee have the pleasuer to let you now that wee had a son born on the 7 of September and wee call is name nimrod mole and pleas to tell susanah daman that i wish her well and i wish her as good a husband as i have a wife and to live as happy

and tell all my old friends that i thinks the worst is past for i am in a good country and i like it well but i did not find just as i expected it is verry hillye country not much like old hingland but a much better country for a man to live in wee can live better hear with three days work in a wick that you can with working all the wick

wee have bought us a cow and a good fat hog and i intend to go on a farme in the spring if not beefore as wee can have half the produse of the farm for working it and they will stock it and find alf of the seed so that wee can [... ?] us as much stock as any of the old farmers in tysoe in three years

wee plow with oxon as they are much andier than horses in this part of the world youd think it strainge to see me at plow with a yoke of oxon

pleas to tell mr soden that i have not seen richard sins i rote in june as he lives 15 miles of me but i think as he is well or i shold have heard of him he said he has a verry good plase and he liked it well

send me word how the landlord walker is and is famaly and old franses hancox and is famaly and thomas townsend and john gillet and all my neburs and freinds for i dont expect to see them again som time

but wee should be glad to see som of tysoe pepol in america as hear is room anuf for all of them

my nebur wrench is com back unwell not because he was in a bad cuntrey

i should like to see all my old companans again but not to live at tysoe again for i love to live in a free country hear is no honoring of gentelmen hear wee are all gentelmen alike hear

i should like to see my brother george mallet and my sister ann over hear for they are yong and strong and they wold do much better hear than they will thear and tell robert haries to com and have a farm not stop thear all his days to worke foir nothing and help is famaly and tell nancey that she will find better frends hear than she ever found in tysoe and she will never want a parrish not never want to go back if she will come hear

i am better of now in one year than i should have bin in ten if i had a stopt in old england so tell robert haries wen he coms to bring some good winter greens seed and some cabbages seeds and some earley turnep seeds and some good lettes seed

and wee should like to hear that you are all a coming next spring and you may depend on my word that what i say is tru for if i was in a bad cuntrey i should not want my frends to come for i wish them well as my self

and i wish you my dear brother was hear but as i fear your helth is bad i shall never see you again so wee must be contented and tell my dear mother to make herself contented for i never expect to see her again but ever remain her affectanat son

William Mole

and i hope you will let aney bodey see my letter that whold wish and tell them i cold tell a great deal about the countrey if i was thear but they must come and see and they will not repent theair journey i onely wish */torn/*ted some 7 years sooner and i should have bin *we/torn/* of none so no more at present from your afectanat brother William Mole

please to excuse my bad riting
and if you rite to mee pleas to pay the post to
liverpool or it will not come
Derect to me William mole
Butternuts gilberts vilege
otsego countey State of new york
north america

Notes

William Mole was probably born before the family moved to Tysoe Elizabeth daughter of William and Martha Mole was baptised 1800 and buried 1802 Martha Mole married Richard Durham, 25th April 1805, and their child was baptised the following 14th July

William says he is married to Esther Harris Esther daughter of Thomas and Elizabeth Harris was baptised in 1794 No likely dates found for Robert Harris and Uncle John Harris (perhaps John Harris baptised 1779)

'Mr Soden and Richard' James son of Richard and Elizabeth Soden baptised and died at one day old in 1819 Perhaps Richard then went to Amreica

Message to Susannah Daman, possible his former girlfriend There is no record of Susannah Two children of William and Elizabeth Daman, tailor, baptised in 1813 and 1815 - perhaps he was her brother.

'Landlord Walker' There are too many Walkers to be able to identify him

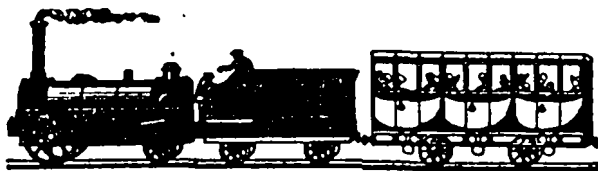
'Old Francis Hancox' Francis son of Edward and Mary Hancox was baptised 1771, married Sarah Cox in 1795, with sons Edward and Thomas baptised in 1801 and 1804.

'Thomas Townsend'. Thomas son of William and Alice Townsend baptised in 1796, married Alice Young in 1824

'Brother Geo. Mallet and Sister Ann' George Mallet married Ann Dasham in 1827

Addressee Samuel Carter. There is no record of his baptism. His daughters Hannah and Emma, by his wife Fanny, were baptised 1820 and 1825

Cooperstown, the county seat of Otsego County, is situated about sixty miles west of Albany, midway between the Catskill and the Adirondack Mountains



RAILWAY MANIA

Jeremy Gibson

On 23rd July 1844 Banbury's M P , H W Tancred wrote to his agent, William Munton:

[Timothy Rhodes] Cobb tells me that you are head & ears engaged with railroads, and that I am threatened if I do not support in the next session the wishes of my constituents. I only wish to know what those wishes are, for, I am absolutely indifferent upon the subject of broad gauge or narrow, & am only sorry I cannot vote for both But, as this is impossible, I must side with one side or the other, unless, as I devoutly hope may be the case they coalesce before the next session

In his edition of Tancred's letters (B H.S 8, 1967, p. 15) Barrie Trinder tells us that there were two rival railways schemes competing for support in the Banbury area at this time, the Oxford and Rugby Railway, a broad gauge subsidiary of the Great Western Railway, and a London and Birmingham narrow gauge line from Tring, through Aylesbury, Bicester, Banbury, Fenny Compton and Kington to Worcester and Wolverhampton

A meeting in Banbury early in July 1844 supported the G W R scheme, though a petition in the town, published in the *Banbury Guardian* on 23 May (and reprinted overleaf), had favoured a narrow gauge Oxford-Rugby route On the same page the following notice was published

The Directors of the LONDON and BIRMINGHAM RAILWAY COMPANY, at the instance of influential local parties, and with the view of affording a communication by railway to the district situate between Warwick, Leamington, Rugby, and Oxford, by way of Banbury, and connecting it thereby with Birmingham and the north as well as with the south, have instructed their engineer, Mr Robert Stephenson, to make the necessary surveys for this purpose, so as to enable an application to be made to Parliament in the next session The Directors have also instructed Mr Stephenson, with a view to further extending the railway communication of the district in an eastern direction/*sic*/, to make surveys of the country for a line between Oxford and Aylesbury - April 12, 1844.

By order,

RICHARD CREED, Secretary

On the same page a headline asked **‘Banbury and its Neighbourhood are to have a Railway from Rugby to Oxford, of what Guage[sic] should that Railway be - Broad or Narrow?’**, and with an accompanying map, set out the arguments

The object of the sketch is to shew that a Broad Guage Railway, North of Banbury, would be a great obstruction to the convenient transit of either Passengers or Goods, but more particularly Goods, to or from the North, the East, or the West. The public will bear in mind that the Great Western Railway and its extensions Westward, as well as the Oxford Branch, are on the Broad Guage, and that not only the few other Lines shewn in the sketch, but also every other Line of Railway in the Kingdom, north of Oxford, and every line in the South, are on the Narrow Guage principle

By a Broad Guage Railway, the public of Banbury and its Neighbourhood may travel from Banbury through Oxford to Paddington without a change of carriage

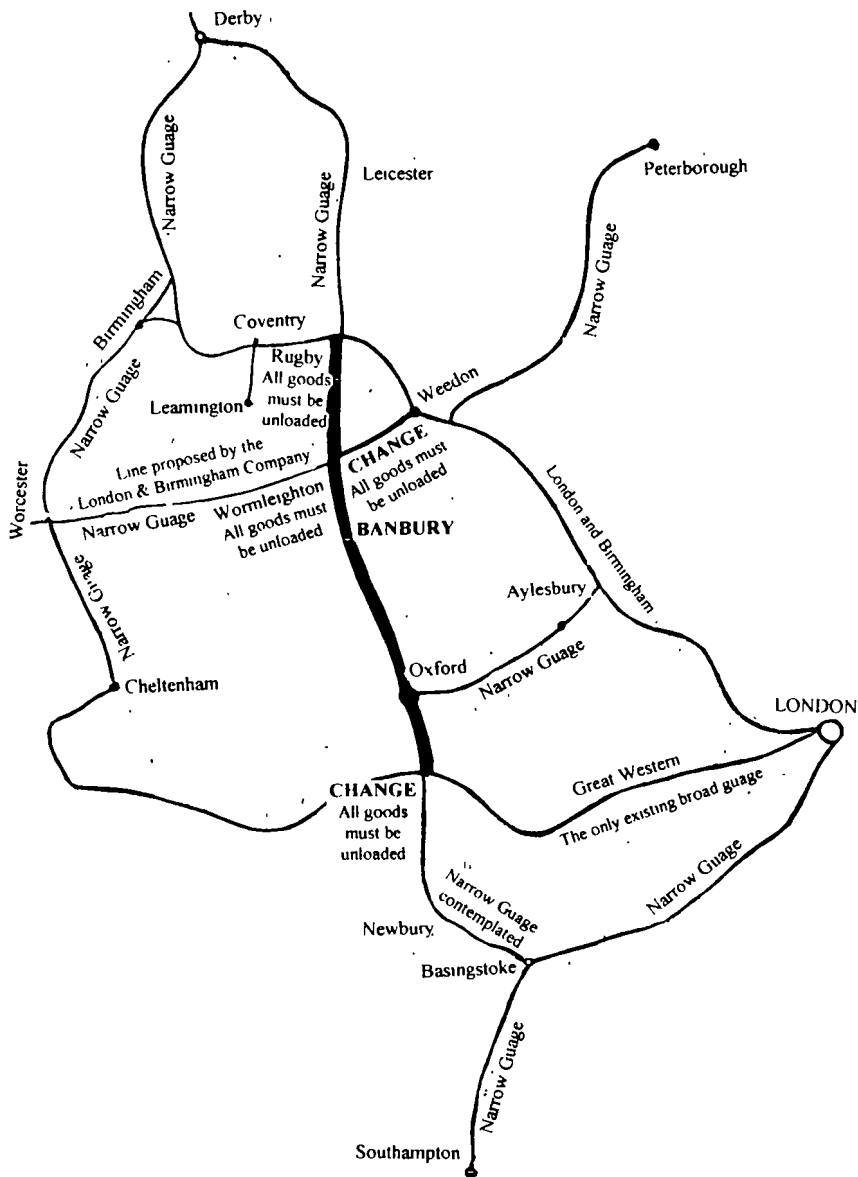
By a Narrow Guage Railway, they may travel without a change of carriage, from Banbury through Oxford and Aylesbury to Euston Square, in an equal distance

With a Broad Guage Railway, all Passengers and Merchandise going to or coming from the North or East of England, must be unloaded at Rugby or at Wormleighton Junction, from one train of carriages to another - and the goods traffic is mostly to or from the North

With a Narrow Guage Railway, Barley and other grain may be sent to Birmingham without the expense of moving every quarter at Rugby from one carriage to another - Coals may be brought from Staffordshire, Derbyshire, and Coventry, at a reduction in price exceeding 30 per cent of the present cost, without the public, as the consumers, paying for the change or removal at Rugby from the Narrow Guage Wagon - And as a Narrow Guage Railway from Blisworth or Weedon, to the Westward, is certain, a Rugby and Oxford Narrow Guage Railway will allow of its union, so that the public of Cambridge, Northampton, and the East, can reach Oxford by way of Banbury, without the inconvenience of a change. By the Worcester Railway, a considerable traffic in Salt for agricultural purposes is expected, which may be turned to the North or the South at the Wormleighton Junction, without unnecessary expense, if a Narrow Guage Railway be made, whereas, a broad Guage would occasion the unloading and reloading, pointed out in the sketch

Despite the support shown for the Narrow Gauge in the petition, the G W R scheme went ahead and the line was built as far as Fenny Compton where it joined the Birmingham and Oxford Railway to form the present main line to Birmingham instead of continuing to Rugby. Railways had a good airing in that issue, as much of the rest of the page was taken up with the prospectus issued by the promoters of the Oxford, Worcester and Wolverhampton Railway. Well might Banburians be considered to be head and ears engaged in railroads

THE BANBURY GUARDIAN; THURSDAY, MAY 23, 1844.



The map printed in the *Banbury Guardian* on 23 May 1844. This has been relettered for clarity, but the original spelling retained.

16th May 1844.

WE, the undersigned Inhabitants of the Town or Neighbourhood of BANBURY, or Owners, or Occupiers of Property upon or near the line of Railway proposed to be made from Bugby to Oxford, express our opinion that any Line of Railway between those places should, for the public interest, be a Railway upon the Narrow Gauge:—

Joseph Ashby Gillett
Timothy Rhodes Cobb
Leamington Priors Bank, by
C. Young, Manager
J. Ballard
Edward Gillett
George Warriner
G. Warriner, Clerk
John Davis
Edward Morris
John Munton
John Wise
William Hunt
A. B. Rye
R. Stanton Wise
William Tandy
John Thomas Cooke
Samuel Lovell
John Hitchcock
William Chamberlin
Richard Lovell
Clement Pratt Judge
John Payne
William Hirons
Thomas Harbage
Thomas Gibbs
Jabez Stutterd
William Bigg
E. H. Waddington
Thomas Bennett
J. L. Freeman
John Hart
E. Earle
Thomas Coleman
John Barlow
Thomas Carpenter
James Golby
John Sellers
Samuel Coleman
Edward Railton
John Page
Robert Wilson
John Griffin
G. Watson
John Painter
William Glaze
William Flint
John Goode
Thomas Scrivener
J. W. Scrivener
Richard Franklin
John Robinson

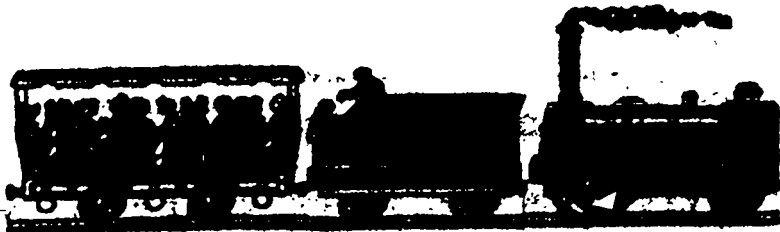
T. H. Cheney
Thomas Potter
James Beale
Benjamin Gardner
Charles Randle
Henry Stone
Henry Stone, jun.
Richard Grisold
John Grisold
William Page
C. J. Gibson
William Collins
A. Harris
H. Bolton
J. Varney
J. Wheeldon
Thomas Langley
S. Armitt
W. Armitt
W. Perry
B. Coles
William Butler
R. Adkins
Thomas Hobley
Henry Wheeldon
Thomas Taylor
John Adkins
Thomas Webster
Thomas Cave
John Thomas
S. Mason
Joseph Mason
Thomas Beere
Thomas Grant
John Boswell
J. Graves
W. Pottinger
J. S. Hiron
James Page, jun.
William Barrett
J. W. Fortnum
James Anderson
James Robinson
Thomas Butler
William Gregory
Thomas Wheeler
James Woodward
William Brain
John Thomason
John Wall
J. Harbage

John Lamb
James Hall
J. Barker
Richard Root
John Simco, jun.
E. Holloway
William Webster
E. Cheney
Caleb Clarke
William Stevens
Edward Curtis
Samuel Eglington
Benjamin Hands
Samuel Humphries
Richard Grimby
James Sansbury
J. Cheney
William Andrews
John Grisold
H. Hunt
W. Biew
John Buckett
William Willifer
George Holloway
George Beere
J. B. Lamprey
John Bazeley
C. R. Mallam
Joseph Saul
William Herbert
William Hancock
Robert Whetton
Charles Mander
James Dixon
William Carpenter
T. Stephenson
Jeremiah Cross
Edward Bennett
James Cadbury
William Galsworthy
William F. Molesworth
Richard Ellis Pritchett
John Simco
J. P. Hayes
Samuel Fox
Charles Griffin
John Lyons
William Edmonds
William Eldridge
Jonas Griffin
George Hill
Richard Potter

Barnes Austin
 John Hadland
 Samuel Spurrett
 Jane Milward
 Joseph Morse
 Francis Burgess
 Robert Field
 Benjamin Field
 R. Edmunds and Sons
 Joseph Stutterd
 Charles Judge
 W. Greaves
 Wm. Wilson
 John Brownall
 John Head
 Thomas Hunt
 Thos. Gardner
 Wm. Ledbrook
 William Fairbrother
 John Aris
 John Jones
 Edward Root
 James Gardner
 Thomas Gibbard
 George Girding
 Charles Falkner
 Richard Page
 James Page, Sen.
 Richard Thorne
 George French
 Richard Bannard
 Samuel Greayer
 George Kirby
 Thomas Horwood
 John Staley
 Thomas Golby
 Samuel Hill
 James Hill
 John Hartage
 William White
 Richard Shepherd
 T. S. Willits
 Crescens Stutchfield
 John Batchelor
 Joseph Garrett
 Joseph Hopkins
 John Wheeler
 William Pottinger
 Robert Cockerill
 Elijah Batchelor
 J. Viggers
 Richard Borton

Joseph Osborn
 George Thomas
 Robert Baxter
 Thomas Prickett
 John Willits
 Phillip Russell
 Charles Page
 W. Holmes
 Thomas Abbott
 Richard Harrison
 Edward Gardner
 Frederick Taylor
 Thomas Neal
 Thomas Adkins
 William Hopley
 C. Lampitt
 William Margetts
 John Calcutt
 John Riley
 William Busby
 Henry Dean
 Thomas Willetts
 J. Bloxham
 William Potter
 John Fletcher
 Joseph Mansfield
 Benjamin Pritchett
 William Riley
 Thomas Gulliver
 Edward Bradley
 Robert Franklia
 George Pearson
 John Scrogge
 R. Baily
 G. B. Crickett
 T. Sedgley
 John Rose
 W. Batler
 John Flowers
 Thomas Richardson
 William Long
 Daniel Claridge
 J. W. Page
 John Golby
 John Sewell
 Thomas Green
 John Rowell
 Richard Grisold
 W. Bennett
 Edward Stacey
 Thomas Letts
 John Root

Clement Bromley
 Edward Spiers
 Richard Alcock
 J. H. Hirons
 Samuel Glaze
 Charlotte Rowell
 James Buckett
 Mary Shirley
 Thomas Baker
 Thomas Gibbard
 William Carter
 Daniel Dixon
 William Wyatt
 John Bayliss
 George Bayliss
 George Harrison
 Robert Mander
 William Quatermain
 Henry Webb
 William Osborn
 George Cottam
 Richard Claridge
 William Catton
 Richard Davis
 William Elsworth
 James Hall
 Henry Hunt Piper
 James Stutchfield
 William Atkins
 William Butler
 Stephen Stutchfield
 James Stutchfield
 William White
 Richard White
 W. Harrison, Clerk
 John Cambray
 William Gardner
 Samuel Fox, Jun.
 John Gardner
 John Williams
 J. W. Hayes
 George Williams
 Joseph Carpenter
 William Carpenter
 William Cowper
 Thomas Gardner
 Frederick Fleet
 Alexander Spooner
 Nathaniel Neal
 John Goffe
 John Fletcher



Lecture Reports

Brian Little

Thursday 14th September 1995.

'A Ring Restored' - Brian White, of White's of Appleton.

The new season of lectures was given a superb start by Brian White of Appleton bell hangers. Coming from a firm established as far back as 1824 he was able to compress generations of experience into an hour of fascination within the realm of bells and their renovation.

The first task however was the extraction from an ancient church beleaguered by pigeons whose mess was sometimes as much as four feet deep. Once on company premises or safely entrusted to a foundry, each bell needs very special ingredients for its mould. To the astonishment of Brian's audience he pronounced this as a mixture of clay, cow hair and horse manure! For the Whitechapel firm manure is on its doorstep - the Household Cavalry.

Beyond the casting, bell hangers need to be aware of the best materials for all timber supports and of how to re-set bells. What they don't know is the quality of ring which must be judged by those with local experience. It would appear that bell shape and character of sound are inextricably mixed.

Satisfaction in this business is not only in a job well done but in the opportunity to see some of the world's greatest bells like Big Tom at Oxford and the Moscow giant, all of 197 tons.

The audience of just over forty members and guests included some drawn by the topic, seasoned ringers. For the rest of us mere mortals here was a story which rang true, carried instant appeal and tuned us for a fresh season of historic delights.

Thursday 12th October 1995.

Drove Roads, Turnpike Roads and Enclosure Roads in Oxfordshire -

Nigel Hammond.

With droving big business up to the time of the railways it is not surprising that Green Lanes were much sought after for animals on the hoof. Movement was slow, a mere seven miles per day in many cases, but at least there were no toll points. Some of these ways led to fattening grounds such as those of Hounslow Heath.

The emergence of Enclosure Roads added several new dimensions. Local access was greatly improved especially in the case of overnight stays for livestock such as Goosey Green in the Vale of the White Horse. They were very straight roads and had a width of forty feet. Their development in the Banbury area came in the mid eighteenth century and they developed into significant coach routes. Management was by trusts of commissioners who widened bridges so that

wagons could negotiate former packhorse access. Unlike the Green and Enclosure roads they were not popular with drovers except at times of sheep dipping

Nigel Hammond deployed a range of maps on slides and showed how these could be used to trace the developing routes. His pictures also embraced relic features such as a toll house at Kingston Bagpuize.

His account of the transition from muddy track to a more permanent way was pitched within the context of South Oxfordshire but, for all that, gave valuable insights in how to read the local transport signs

Thursday 9th November 1995.

Oxfordshire in World War II.

Dr Malcolm Graham, Centre for Oxfordshire Studies.

This was a fascinating evening of reminiscences concerned especially with how people responded to the exigencies of war. Fear of gas attack provoked terror and a wave of A R P training. By contrast the task of organising a domestic force was carried out by the Home Guard whose role, under the earlier name of Local Defence Volunteers (L.D V), was cruelly couched in terms of LOOK, DUCK AND VANISH!

The start to hostilities in 1939 was marked in a variety of ways. Whilst the only ever Sunday edition of the *Oxford Mail* proclaimed Britain's involvement, a Kennington group of walkers rallied to the spirit of the occasion and decided they at least would carry on rambling

Early years of the war were marked by mass evacuations. Many London children went to Banbury, possessions, gas masks and all

Industry also played its part. Tanks rolled off the Cowley production line and Banbury's Northern Aluminium Company permitted A R P training to take place. Women were the cornerstone of the factories and many were bussed to work. They also worked on the land but encountered a lot of hostility there.

For all of those at home and not fighting, it was a time to eat cheaply at a British Restaurant and to save wisely under the banner of Wings for Victory. A familiar cry was 'salvage kills the squander bug'

Despite restrictions there opportunities for leisure at a cinema or lido

A moment of pure bathos was provided by a slide of the kredemnon - the most flexible of tube-like garments (invented by the wife of an Oxford don)

Did Oxfordshire have an easy time? Malcolm Graham confessed this was a viewpoint but reminded us all that 1945 was greeted with no less enthusiasm. The gloom of 1939 had at least transitioned into the relief and euphoria of V E Day

The Brinkworth Fund
THE SECOND WORLD WAR AND SHENINGTON
Shenington Primary School's Historical Project

During the Summer Term 1995 the two Junior classes studied the effects of the Second World War on the local area.

The project entailed careful historical research but also involved other National Curriculum subjects

The pupils had several very informative talks with local people about their Wartime experiences and the changes that occurred in the village. Some of these provided material for creative writing as well as historical understanding.

Mr Eric Kaye, author of *R.A.F. Edgehill*, spent an afternoon in school discussing the role of the airfield and its impact on the local community. One group of pupils constructed a model of the airfield

While researching food rationing, pupils cooked following Wartime recipes and evaluated the results

In Art the children looked at Government posters of the time and reproduced their own while discovering the meaning and significance of phrases such as 'Make Do and Mend' and 'Dig for Victory'

The School Log Book and Admissions Book proved a valuable source of information about the impact of the War on life in the village school. Entries from the Admissions Book were compiled on to a computer data base and pupils were able to study graphs and answer questions about evacuees

Other local documentary evidence provided important information about evacuees, the formation and role of the Home Guard, the work of the W V S and the W I. and a fascinating insight into the importance of the village shop and Post Office

The grant from the Brinkworth Fund enabled the pupils to visit Coventry Cathedral and the Blitz Experience. They were then able to compare the experience of those people living in Coventry with those living in the relative safety of Shenington

All of this work and more was brought together in an exhibition in the school. Many parents and friends lent artefacts and photographs and the pupils had the opportunity to handle these. Visitors to the exhibition, including many from outside the village, commented upon the high standard of work achieved by the pupils

This was an historical project that captured the imagination of the children, involved them in personal research and contributed a great deal to their knowledge and appreciation of a crucial period of modern history

BANBURY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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. Well over a hundred issues and some three hundred articles have been published. Most back issues are still available and out-of-print issues can if required be photocopied

Publications still in print include:

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

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

The Globe Room at the Reindeer Inn, Banbury

Records series:

Wigginton Constables' Books 1691-1836 (vol. 11, with Phillimore).

Banbury Wills and Inventories 1591-1650, 2 parts (vols. 13, 14).

Banbury Corporation Records: Tudor and Stuart (vol. 15)

Victorian Banbury, by Barrie Trinder (vol. 19, with Phillimore).

Aynho: A Northamptonshire Village, by Nicholas Cooper (vol. 20).

Banbury Gaol Records, ed. Penelope Renold (vol. 21)

Banbury Baptism and Burial Registers, 1813-1838 (vol. 22)

Edgehill and Beyond: The People's War in the South Midlands 1642-1645,

by Philip Tennant (vol. 23, with Alan Sutton).

Oxfordshire and North Berkshire Protestation Returns and Tax Assessments 1641-1642 (vol. 24)

Adderbury: A Thousand Years of History, by Nicholas Allen (vol. 25, with Phillimore).

Current prices, and availability of other back volumes, from the Hon. Secretary, c/o Banbury Museum

In preparation:

Turnpike Roads to Banbury, by Alan Rosevear

Act Book of the Peculiar Court of Banbury and Cropredy 1625-38, ed R K Gilkes.

Selections from the *Diaries of William Cotton Risley, Vicar of Deddington 1836-1848*

The Society is always interested to receive suggestions of records suitable for publication, backed by offers of help with transcription, editing and indexing

Meetings are held during the autumn and winter, normally at 7.30 p.m. on the second Thursday of each month, at the North Oxfordshire College, Broughton Road, Banbury. Talks are given by invited lecturers on general and local historical, archaeological and architectural subjects. Excursions are arranged in the spring and summer, and the A.G.M. is usually held at a local country house.

Membership of the Society is open to all, no proposer being needed. The annual subscription is **£10.00** including any records volumes published, or **£7.50** if these are not required. overseas membership, **£12.00**.

