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BANBURY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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

Cake and Cockhorse

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

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The visit of the Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh on Thursday, 27th November 2008 was a most appropriate finale to Charter Year 400 in Banbury. As well as signing the visitors' book the royal couple were shown the 1608 James I charter. Her Majesty unveiled a plaque to mark the 400 year period of time since the town was granted the right among other things to appoint its first mayor.

At the Town Hall the Queen and Duke were greeted by Councillor Ann Bonner (the current Mayor) along with other councillors, dignitaries and 150 specially invited guests, representing a wide spectrum of town life, especially charities. Before this display of loyalty, the Queen as Patron visited and officially opened the new Leonard Cheshire Disability Agnes Court development in the Warwick Road, whilst the Duke was given a tour of the Prodrive motor sports works.

Speaking at the conclusion of the visit Councillor Ann Bonner summed up the feelings of so many people when she said 'this has been a lovely day for Banbury and I'm sure the school children must have been thrilled to see the Queen. In all of the economic gloom it is fantastic to have had this wonderful ray of sunshine'. Maurice Humphris (Deputy Lieutenant for Oxfordshire) has added that the occasion 'gave to us, the people of Banbury, a chance to demonstrate our loyalty and love for this remarkable lady, whose seemingly effortless charm and interest in all those she met was a heart warming and never to be forgotten experience'. **B.L.**

Cover: Watched by the Duke of Edinburgh and the Mayor (Cllr. Ann Bonner), Her Majesty signs the Visitors' Book. (Photo courtesy *Banbury Guardian*)

BANBURY BOY (or his descendant) MAKES GOOD: where the BBC missed out

Jeremy Gibson

Few readers can be unfamiliar with the television series ‘Morse’ and its sequel, ‘Lewis’, both starring the actor Kevin Whately. All Banburians will know that our town’s leading hotel is the Whately Arms (a twentieth century title but with some historical precedent). Historians will know that our most famous Vicar was William Whately (1583-1639).

On 2nd March BBC-1 presented its final (of the current series) “Who Do You Think You Are?” popular ancestry-tracing programme, its subject being Kevin Whately. The researchers try to make out they are discovering previously unknown information. As Kevin himself was well aware of his gt.gt. grandfather Richard, an Archbishop of Dublin (who merits ten pages in the *Oxford DNB*), their task with his thoroughly English family was more a matter of selection. Those watching or listening carefully may have caught a fleeting reference to ‘The roaring boy of Banbury’, but this was disregarded to pursue some seventeenth century relatives called Thompson, with an early connection with Virginia.

What the researchers missed was that our Rev. William Whately was indeed a direct ancestor of Kevin’s. His father Thomas (1550-1637) was Bailiff and Mayor of Banbury. Thomas’s uncle George (d.1593), born at Henley-in-Arden, was twice Bailiff of nearby Stratford-on-Avon (1563-4, 1583-4). Parson William, before becoming Banbury’s vicar in 1610, was ‘Lecturer’ at Stratford.

Who else was around in Stratford in the 1590s and up to 1616? No less than William Shakespeare. He would have heard William Whately ‘lecture’. His father John Shakespeare was Bailiff in 1568 – so *he* must have known ‘uncle’ George Whately.

The relationship might have been even closer. In 1582, a day before the licence for his marriage to Anne Hathaway was issued, there was a similar licence for a William Shakespeare – to marry Anne *Whateley* of Temple Grafton near Stratford. That mystery remains unsolved.

Be blown to the ancestral bankers (not a popular association today) and the slave-traders (must remember the ethnic dimension) – actor Kevin Whately’s ancestors *knew* William Shakespeare. Given their puritan credentials, they weren’t likely to have been his friends, but still that’s quite an ancestral claim.

And who researched “The Whately Family of Banbury” (*C&CH*. 4.3, Spring 1969)?: the late Erik Chitty, in his time a well-known character *actor*. Keep it in the trade! Kevin, forget your recent Geordie aberration. You’re a Banbury boy, and your ancestor Vicar William, “the roaring boy of Banbury” was clearly just as much of an actor, from the pulpit!

ASSISTED EMIGRATION TO CANADA from the Banbury region

Paul Hayter

This account of assisted emigration to the British North American colonies begins in the island of Grosse Isle in the St Lawrence Seaway, a few miles north of Quebec. For three million emigrants to Canada in the nineteenth century, this was their first point of call on landing, and for a few it was their last. A quarantine station and disinfection point was set up there in 1832, through which all would-be immigrants had to pass before being allowed into Quebec and inland. Some who had made it across the Atlantic from Great Britain, Ireland or the continent of Europe on overcrowded ships brought disease with them and died before setting foot on the promised land, to be buried in the cemetery on the small island. The more fortunate satisfied the British authorities there that they were fit to step onto the mainland and so carried on to Quebec.

The transatlantic flow began after the end of the Napoleonic wars in the 1820s. Although the main destination in the New World became the United States, especially for the Irish, the numbers of emigrants travelling to Canada were higher until about 1835. For instance in 1825 8,741 adults and children went to Canada, compared with 5,551 to the US; and in 1832 66,339 went to Canada and 32,872 to the US. But in 1849 the number to Canada was 41,367 (having peaked at 109,680 in 1847) compared with 219,450 to the US, and as will become apparent some went to Canada only with the intention of moving on to the US. The purpose of this paper is to investigate the extent to which assisted emigrants came from North Oxfordshire and South Northamptonshire.

The condition of the English poor had been a source of concern to politicians and property owners for many centuries, because the property owners had to pay to support them through the poor rates. But in the 1820s this concern took a new turn: would it be cheaper to remove the poor altogether by helping them to emigrate than to pay for them to stay at home? This was the question addressed by a Select Committee of the House of Commons on Emigration from the UK in 1827, provoked by (among other things) the plight of the hand-loom cotton weavers in Lancashire who were put out of work by mechanisation in the mills.

“A superabundant population, or rather a disproportion between the demand and supply of labour”, especially in the cotton manufacturing districts, led to a recommendation for a grant of public money to assist about 1,200 families, *ie* about 6-7,000 people, to emigrate, especially to Nova Scotia. “Your Committee are strongly impressed with the conviction that the removal to the colonies of 1,200 families ... will tend in a far greater degree than is commonly supposed to the diminution of general distress; and while those removed will be placed in a situation of comfort and of ultimate independence, those who remain will be materially benefited by the abstraction of their redundant labour.” So this was a win-win situation, it was felt, as long as the poor went voluntarily, not to mention the saving in poor relief to the property owners left behind with fewer mouths to support. The Committee went on to say that it was not ready to report details of a permanent system of emigration, but thought that one would “produce very beneficial results”.¹

As an addendum, the Committee added that it would not be enough to think only of emigration from England, Wales and Scotland, since the Irish would cross the Irish Sea to fill any gaps in Great Britain if they were not included in the scheme.

Various witnesses to the Committee told of rural poverty in the Midlands and the cost of allaying it. A witness from Oundle said that the poor rates in the parish (population 2,500) cost £3-4,000 a year and that 40-60 people were employed mending the roads “doing little or nothing”, paid for from the poor rates. Many were agricultural labourers but they included carpenters, tailors, masons and shoemakers: “there is such a redundancy of them”. A farmer and overseer of the poor from Great Horwood in Buckinghamshire argued that it would be advantageous to the ratepayers to mortgage their rates for a period of years to raise money to pay for emigration.² “The quantity of labourers in the country where I live is about one third more than can get regular employment, so that one third is supported at parochial expense.” There was no manufacturing work except lace-making by women in the parish. None of the poor had said that they were disposed to emigrate but, he argued, if they had it explained to them, they would be willing to go. “A gentleman of Kent is sending them off by waggon loads to the United

¹ 2nd Report from the Select Committee of the House of Commons on Emigration from the UK 1827 (Parliamentary Papers session 1826-27, vol V).

² Thomas Bradbury, QQ 1209-53.

States now, and those that went first ... are sending for all their relations and friends". A witness from Headcorn in Kent, who may or may not be the gentleman referred to, testified that his parish had raised £2,308 in 1823, £2,025 in 1824, £1,925 in 1825 and £1,919 in 1826 to convey 80 paupers to Canada and the United States, all agricultural labourers and their families.³

The Third Report from the same Select Committee in 1827 went on to recommend a system of assisted emigration, provided that parishes should contribute to the cost only if their general and pecuniary interests could be demonstrably benefited, and provided that the emigrants were paupers who went voluntarily. All witnesses agreed that poor relief for the able-bodied poor should be discontinued and the emigration policy would help achieve this. The Committee also recommended loans to facilitate emigration, repayable by the emigrants in due course, perhaps seven years later. The cost of locating a family of five in the colonies was put at £60. A Board of Emigration in London was recommended and "no person above the age of 50 years would be accepted as a Government emigrant, except under very special circumstances. Each head of a family should be in a sound state of health, of good character, desirous of emigrating, and in want of that effective demand for his labour by which he can obtain the means of independent subsistence." Rather optimistically, the Committee also recommended that the scheme should be on the basis of families of five, and "the proportion of a man, woman and three children must be maintained."

A system not unlike that which was recommended was indeed set up and by 1832 the Commissioners of Emigration reported to Parliament⁴ that emigrant numbers had tripled in five years to over 50,000 in 1831. The emigrants were a mix of the rich and poor, the former funding themselves. "Among the emigrants from England a very large portion were possessed of considerable property, particularly those from Yorkshire and Cumberland; and from some of the midland and western counties many respectable emigrants came out. The number of persons sent out or aided by the parishes or landlords from the United Kingdom were not so great as is generally supposed, amounting to 4,931 persons [compared with 45,323 who "came on their own resources"]... The most helpless and poorest emigrants who arrived this year [in Quebec] from

³ James Homeward, QQ 1653-96.

⁴ Report of the Commissioners of Emigration 15 March 1832 (Parliamentary Papers XXXIII, 1831-2), pp 6, 20.

England came principally from the counties of Suffolk, Northampton, Kent and Lincolnshire.”

But this was only the beginning of the process. First under the initiative of individual ratepayers and then under the provisions of the Poor Law Amendment Act of 1834, which set up a whole new framework of poor relief, including support for emigration, the trickle of poor emigrants became a deluge. And it is not to be supposed that all those who according to official statistics emigrated on their own resources were finding the money themselves. The MP for Kent, T L Hodges, told a House of Lords Committee on the State of the Poor Laws in 1831 that in about 1825 there were between 30 and 80 persons out of work in his parish of Benenden and that he had advanced money at 4% interest to allow 149 people out of a population of 1,746 to emigrate to North America in the course of two years. “As soon as we had settled among ourselves the mode in which the money should be advanced and repaid ... nearly the whole population [*of those who went?*] volunteered instantly”. He added that no help was received from the British Government.⁵

As mentioned above, Northamptonshire was one of the four counties which featured prominently in the Quebec statistics for immigration in 1831. Some evidence of this can be found in local Northamptonshire records. In Croughton’s Vestry Book in the Northamptonshire Record Office is a reference as follows: “1831 February 20 at a vestry held this day it was ordered that the sum of £100 be borrowed for the purpose of sending some Paupers to America to be paid off in four years from next Lady Day”.

The Long Buckby Vestry Book has a somewhat longer entry for 1830, recording that at a vestry held in the parish church and adjourned to the Horseshoe Inn in February and March 1830 for the purpose of adopting a plan to convey paupers to America it was agreed that certain parishioners should have their passage paid and an allowance towards the expenses of emigrating. The emigrants were Thomas Dickens, his wife and 3 children; William Dunkley, his wife and 2 children; Thomas Frost, his wife and 3 children; Thomas Fennell, his wife and 1 child; John George, his wife and 1 child; Thomas Russell, his wife and 5 children; and Richard Groom, his wife and 6 children. The money to be found for them amounted in total to £204, made up of contributions to the cost of

⁵ Parliamentary Papers vol VIII 1831, pp 246-9.

passage for each family (£6.10s per adult and £3.5s per child); landing charges in America (5 shillings per head); and an allowance of £1.10s per adult and 15s per child. In order to advance the money for the paupers to emigrate which had to be paid when they set sail, various ratepayers of Long Buckby, including the churchwarden Mr Worston, agreed to pay the following sums up front and “to stop their levies which become due until they have been repaid”, *ie* to stop paying the poor rate which was supporting the paupers while they stayed in Long Buckby: “Messrs Worston and Bland £100 Thomas Perkins £20 George Ashby £20 William Irens £20 William Wills £20 Samuel Russell £5”.⁶

From the records of the Brackley Union in 1836 comes evidence of activity in other parishes, predating the Union, because of the debts they left behind.⁷ The parish of Sulgrave made an application to sell some cottages “to pay off ... £82 borrowed about 4 years back for the purpose of emigrating some poor families to America” and Finmere applied to sell a plot of land to pay off a debt incurred in 1832 to enable 23 individuals to emigrate to Canada. A copy of the resolution of the Finmere Vestry, dated 17 February 1832, appears in the Brackley Union correspondence for 1840, showing that four families (9 adults aged 14 and over and 13 children) “are ready and desirous to emigrate on condition that the parish pay all the expenses of their passage to New York [*sic*] and put £2 in the pocket of each individual clear on their landing in that city.”⁸ £150 was estimated as sufficient to cover the cost. Entries for March and April 1840 also indicate that the parish of St James Brackley wished to sell cottages to pay off a debt incurred in 1832 to pay for pauper families to emigrate; and Sulgrave was still trying to pay off an emigration debt – whether it was the same one referred to above is unclear. The Banbury Union records refer to similar action in North Oxfordshire: a return of those who had emigrated from Bloxham between July 1835 and June 1836 recorded the departure of Thomas and Elizabeth Taylor and their 5 children to Upper Canada and added “Two other families of agricultural labourers have emigrated from this parish but their expenses were defrayed from a private fund and not from the poor rates.”⁹

⁶ NRO L Bu 88.

⁷ MH 12 8671.

⁸ MH 12 8672.

⁹ MH 12 9577

The Cartwright Archive at Northampton Record Office gives a graphic account of the scale of emigration from some parishes.¹⁰ Over the period 1829-1847 at least 243 people from the village of Aynho went to Canada. It began with two single men and a single woman in 1829; thereafter the emigrants were mostly families: 1830 three families with 14 children; 1831 six families with 30 children and two single men; 1832 three families with 20 children; 1836 four families with 15 children and 11 other adults; 1842 20 people including 7 children; 1845 eight families with 35 children and 9 other adults; and 1847 20 people. The recurrence of family names, including the names of Bye, Betts and Ansty, the three single adults who went first in 1829, suggests that some emigrants went out to test the waters and reported back, encouraging others to follow. The *Northampton Mercury* in 1834 published a letter from John and Ann George dated 22 September 1833, reporting great success in Canada – “we never were so well off before as we are now” – and urging the rest of their family in Aynho to follow them. The squire, Colonel William Cartwright, in answer to the Poor Law Commissioners in 1833 said that 100 had gone and that the benefit to the parish had been “great and immediate”; and in 1847 his annotations on the list of those going showed that he was glad to see the back of some of them. Against the name “Spiers” he wrote “a very good riddance”; against Robbins and Watts he wrote “ditto”; and against Astell he wrote an emphatic “ditto ditto ditto”. Although the parish may have borrowed the money to pay for emigration, the Cartwrights evidently guided the parish’s decisions.

This is borne out by a letter sent to Colonel Cartwright by the churchwarden William Scott who with his fellow churchwarden Edward Holloway accompanied the emigrants to Liverpool in April 1845 to see them off:

“Sir

“It is with pleasure I write to inform you I am just returned from sea after spending a night with our emigrants whom I breakfasted with and left in good health and spirits and hearts full of gratitude for the kindness you have shown them there was not an individual of ours either sick or sorry when I left them this morning at ten o’clock after sailing thirty miles with them and returning by the steam tug vessel which took them out of the river this morning at seven o’clock they would have sail’d before had it not been for contrary winds which I stated to you in my last letter John Turner’s wife particularly

¹⁰ See C(A) Box 85, and Nicholas Cooper, *Aynho: A Northamptonshire Village* (Banbury Historical Society vol 20) pp 209-11.

requests me to tell you to inform Mrs Cartwright she had received a letter from her son in America which I am desired to say is a very satisfactory one.....

“The following in the party shipped from Aynho

“William Tebby wife & 4 children John Turner wife & 4 children Francis Ansty wife & 2 children Andrew Howes wife & 4 children Benjamin Howes wife mother brother & 4 children Joseph Goodwin wife & 5 children George Bye wife & 5 children Harry French Alfred Borton William Giles Richard Bygrave David Peckover John Watts and Charlotte Ansty James French wife & 7 children all of whom I left as I before stated at ten o’clock this morning in good health and spirits at the mouth of the Irish Channel with every prospect of passing it comfortably at this point we were in sight of the Welch mountains covered with snow at which point the steamer left her in full sail;

“We remain sir your obt humble servants

“Wm Scott and Edward Holloway”

Poor Law Amendment Act 1834

The pattern which emerges is of a growing number of families emigrating, funded in a variety of different ways, some paying for themselves, and some paid for by individuals or groups of ratepayers. To this list can be added isolated cases like that of the vicar of Mixbury and Fimmere (the brother of the 1st Earl of Selborne, Lord Chancellor in Gladstone’s administration) who in the 1840s-60s offered to pay for the emigration to Canada of any unmarried girl in his parish who became pregnant.¹¹ But the big change came with the passing of the Poor Law Amendment Act 1834 which, in addition to enforcing a system of workhouses in an attempt to drive paupers off poor relief and into work, created a mechanism by which public funds could be used to assist the poor to emigrate to a British colony. Parish councils were authorised to borrow money, to be deposited in a Parish Emigration Fund Account held by the Poor Law Guardians (those who managed the local Union workhouse), which could be spent on the emigration of poor persons “having settlement in the parish” (that is entitled to poor relief in the parish). The Guardians would then pay the paupers’ emigration expenses from that account, in accordance with rules laid down by the Poor Law Commissioners in Whitehall.

The conditions, as laid down by the Poor Law Commissioners in 1840, were:

¹¹ Personal evidence from the 4th Earl of Selborne.

“The party emigrating shall go to some British colony not lying within the Tropics

“The Guardians may expend a sum not exceeding three-pence a mile in conveying each emigrant *above* seven years of age to the port of embarkation; and a sum not exceeding three half-pence a mile in conveying each child *under* seven years of age

“The Guardians may give to each emigrant, the place of whose destination shall be *not eastward* of the Cape of Good Hope, clothing to the value of one pound; and may also expend a sum not exceeding ten shillings for each of such emigrants in the purchase of bedding and utensils for the voyage

“The Guardians may give to each emigrant, the place of whose destination shall be *eastward* of the Cape of Good Hope, clothing to the value of two pounds

“If the emigrant be not conveyed by or under the authority of Her Majesty’s Government to some Australian Colony [ie transported for a criminal offence], or provision be not otherwise made in a satisfactory manner to the Poor Law Commissioners for the maintenance of such emigrant on arrival at the place of destination, a contract, to be approved of by such Commissioners, shall be entered into for securing a sum of money to be supplied to the emigrant on arrival at that place, according to the following scale:-

To each person exceeding 14 years of age	£1. 00. 0
To each person not exceeding 14 years of age	£0. 10. 0

If the cost, or any part thereof, of conveying the emigrant from the port of embarkation to the port of discharge, shall be defrayed from the fund above directed to be provided, a contract, to be approved of by the Poor Law Commissioners, shall be entered into for conveying the emigrant to such port of discharge.”¹²

One significant feature of these conditions was the first. Poor Law money could be used to pay for emigration to Canada but not to the United States of America, which had conspicuously ceased to be a colony in 1776. For some emigrants this became a problem, especially if they wanted to join friends or family already in the United States. In the early days of emigration it did not matter where the point of disembarkation was, since the parishes raised money without strings attached. But Kings Sutton, for instance, which applied to borrow £50 from the Poor Law Commissioners in 1845 to send some paupers to “America”, seems not to have sent anyone abroad because the authority

¹² A standard form of Loan for Emigration was issued by the Poor Law Commissioners for use by Poor Law Guardians and Parish Councils. The form laid out these conditions. See, for instance, NRO EY 183, for the loan form for Eydon.

given stipulated that the destiny must be a colony whereas the intended destination was evidently the United States. The Brackley Union chased Kings Sutton for two years to find out whether they were going ahead with their plans and were eventually told that no money had been borrowed.¹³ Robert and Mary Butler from Marston St Lawrence and their five children were among families supported for emigration by their parish and on the application for funds from the Poor Law Commissioners it was noted that they “wish to go to New York if their companions go thither, but that if that is altogether prohibited on account of its not being a British colony they are willing to sail for Quebec”. Their intended destination was Ohio in the United States but in May 1844 they sailed to Montreal (via Quebec).¹⁴ The Brackley Union correspondence also records a statement in 1844 that Finmere agreed to send three poor families to New York to join their relations and to pay them cash on landing there. In spite of assurances to the contrary from the shipping agents, the families were taken to Quebec and thence to Montreal. They had to find their own way, without any money, 400 miles overland to New York, and it took them 15 days.¹⁵

A similar issue was raised in a letter from the Banbury Board of Guardians to the Poor Law Commissioners in March 1836.¹⁶ About 18 months before, John Bennett and William Tasker, both shoemakers of Banbury “absconded and went to New York”, leaving their wives and children behind unprovided for. So Banbury parish had had to look after them. The men were now understood to be doing well in business in New York and had written asking their wives and children to join them. The Board of Guardians wondered whether the British colony rule could be relaxed in those circumstances. No reply is recorded, but it is unlikely that the shoemakers’ families were lucky.

Another limitation on emigration imposed by the Poor Law Commissioners affected women. The Brackley Union Minutes record a request from Eydon parish in March 1849 for permission to pay for Ann Willoughby and her children to join her husband in Canada, and the Poor Law Commissioners’ refusal on the grounds that “it was contrary to their Regulations to sanction any expenditure from the poor rates to

¹³ MH 12 8673, 28 March 1845, February 1846 and October 1847.

¹⁴ MH 12/ 8673 Brackley Union Correspondence 1843-46, February 1844.

¹⁵ MH 12 8673, Brackley Union Correspondence 1843-46, July 1844.

¹⁶ MH 12 9577.

assist women to emigrate to join their husbands.”¹⁷ Two similar examples appear in the Banbury Union records.¹⁸ In 1856 Eliza West, a 19-year old illegitimate orphan from Banbury, was refused assistance to emigrate to Australia, and in 1859 the request from Bloxham for authority to send Elizabeth Needle, the deserted wife of David Needle, and her children under 10, to join him in Canada, was also turned down. The Commissioners’ policy appears to have been (except with convict families) to assist only men, with or without families, at least until after the Poor Law Amendment Act 1850 allowed children under 16 to emigrate unaccompanied by parents – a change designed to allow orphans and street children to be sent abroad by such organisations as Dr Barnardo’s.¹⁹

There seems also to have been a limitation on the assisted emigration of the infirm. A letter from the vicar of Chesterton, Revd Aubrey Charles Price, to the Poor Law Commissioners dated 13 April 1844 described the plight of a girl with an infirmity wishing to emigrate to Australia:²⁰

“Charles King (one of the persons who wishes to emigrate to Australia) has a daughter, aged 18, who from having a complaint in her nose, will not be allowed to go out as a bounty emigrant, *ie* to have a free passage, but Messrs Carter and Bonus [the shipping agents] require twenty pounds for her passage

¹⁷ NRO PL1/5, 1846-50, pp 336, 344.

¹⁸ MH 12 9587, 9588 – see J S W Gibson, ‘Sponsored Emigration of Paupers from the Banbury Union 1834-1860’ (*The Oxfordshire Family Historian*, Oxfordshire Family History Society, vol 2, no 7, Spring 1982) pp 212-3.

¹⁹ Such children went in large numbers but mainly from places like London and other big cities. In a Parliamentary report on the Emigration of Pauper Children to Canada in 1875, the Local Government Inspector wrote “The children placed out in Canada by Miss Macpherson and Miss Rye are of two classes: pauper children who are sent out at the cost of the rates, and children rescued from the streets, ‘waifs and strays’, ‘arabs’, ‘gutter children’, as they appear to be indiscriminately called by those who promote their emigration. Of pauper children sent out at the cost of the rates Miss Macpherson has distributed about 350, Miss Rye about 800. The proportion of ‘arab’ children by Miss Macpherson is very much larger, while the proportion of ‘arab’ children distributed by Miss Rye is considerably smaller. As the children are distributed over the Dominion, from New Brunswick to the remotest settled ‘concessions’ in the West, it was obviously impossible for me to do more within a reasonable time than personally to visit such a number, about 400, in different parts of the Dominion as might fairly represent the average condition of the whole”. (House of Commons paper 8 February 1875, p 4).

²⁰ Quoted in a follow-up article on Sponsored Pauper Emigration by J S W Gibson in *The Oxfordshire Family Historian*, vol 2, no 8, Summer 1982, pp 261-2.

to Sydney. At present she receives yearly six pounds and some odd shillings for her support, but, as she is a very steady girl, her parents are most anxious to have her with them, and she wishes to go and by her going both the parents and all the larger children would be able to work, and she would look after and take care of three or four younger ones. Would the Poor Law Commissioners therefore allow the parish to apply a part of that Sum, which they are going to raise, to the payment of the girl's passage, and how much – the rest must be made up by private Subscription.”

The letter continues: “The emigration commissioners require for each male: two good suits of outside clothing; two pairs of strong boots or shoes; six pairs of worsted stockings; three towels, combs and soap. And the Females are expected to have: A Bonnet; a Cloak; two Gowns; four Flannel Petticoats; eight Shifts; two pairs of Shoes; six pairs of Stockings; three Towels; Combs and soap. The Reverend Aubrey Price is sorry to say that those of his parishioners, who wish to emigrate, are very badly supplied with cloathes, and therefore permission is requested to expend the necessary sum...”

But for most of those emigrating, whether paid for by the parish or at their own expense, a well-established routine was developed by the shipping agents, such as Carter & Bonus mentioned above. So many thousands crossed the Atlantic each year that this was only to be expected, but it was also required by the Poor Law Commissioners who demanded proof that the emigrants for whom they had paid had been delivered to the relevant colony. Printed forms of contract between the agents and the passengers set out the conditions under which the passengers would travel. The illustration (pages 268-9) shows an example from 1849 for carrying a family from Eydon to Canada (the same Ann Willoughby for whom the Poor Law Commissioners had refused to sanction help from the poor rates – see above).²¹

From this document one can deduce that the journey across the Atlantic would have been quite well provided for in good conditions but the small print shows that the whip hand rested with the shipping companies who could vary the diet of the passengers at will; and the effects of seasickness or illness on the journey, which on average took about six weeks, will often have had a major impact in overcrowded ships on passengers without any experience of the sea.

But this did not stem the flood of emigrants. The number of ships engaged in the passenger trade from the United Kingdom to Canada in

²¹ Eydon parish agreed to raise the money itself to send Ann Willoughby and her children to join her husband in Canada (NRO EY 186). The Contract Ticket is at NRO EY 188.

1851 was 327, particularly from Liverpool, and they carried 39,000 emigrants.²² There were also many sailings from other ports, such as Southampton, as indicated by this advertisement from John Marshall & Co which appeared in the *Banbury Guardian* on 27 March 1845, under the heading Emigration to Canada via Southampton:

“First Class ships of large tonnage will sail from Southampton docks every month for Quebec and Montreal commencing 27th March. Passengers for these ships will be conveyed from the Vauxhall Station [in London] by railway, free of cost, alongside the ships; and will then, in 3 hours, be as far advanced as the Isle of Wight”.

The advertisement’s selling point, apart from travel free on the new-fangled railway, was “avoiding the delays and dangers of the passage from the Thames by the Downs and the narrow part of the English Channel.”

Of course no mention was made of other dangers of the journey, which varied from the minor to the catastrophic. Among the former was the case of the boy from Brackley St Peter who got lost on the way to London in 1844. The Brackley Union had to certify that no extra expense had been incurred by the parish as a result of “the lost (but subsequently found) boy Taylor” who missed the train from Wolverton to Euston en route to Southampton and therefore had to travel in a 2nd instead of 3rd class carriage. The Clerk of the Union was instructed to write to the Birmingham Railroad Company asking for a reduction from 2nd to 3rd class prices, and remarkably was granted a refund of £3 9/-. The explanation of this mishap is revealing of the stresses caused by the decision whether to emigrate – “the late hour the family of Eyres made up their mind to go, the night before starting”.²³

At the other end of the spectrum was the incident commemorated by a fountain on the green at Shipton-under-Wychwood, which carries the words “This fountain was erected by public subscription in the year 1878 to the memory of the 17 parishioners who perished in the *Cospatrick* by fire on her voyage to New Zealand November 17 1874”. No doubt this accident was exceptional, and most emigrant ships made the journey across the Atlantic safely, but the early years of the traffic to Canada pre-dated steam and the sailing ships were at the mercy of the vagaries of Atlantic weather. Not until the 1860s did steamships replace sail and in so doing cut the journey time by nearly three quarters (from six weeks to twelve days).

²² Papers relative to Emigration to the North American colonies, Parliamentary Papers xxxiii, 1852 p 16.

²³ Brackley Union Minutes June-July 1844, NRO PL1/4, pp152, 160.

For all emigrants there were also the rigours of arrival in Canada to be overcome, and for this the month of the sailings was all-important. The season ran from March to October, and the later the sailing the higher the risks because of the severity of Canadian winters. Emigrants had to find somewhere to live in a strange country before the freezing weather started. In a report from the Governor General of Canada to the British Government in 1852, Mr Buchanan, the chief agent at the Emigration Department in Quebec, said

“in all cases ‘indigent settlers’ who are assisted to emigrate by the unions or their landlords, should be sent out early in the season, so as to reach here before or during the harvest, when work is plenty. They should also be decently clothed, and furnished with funds to enable them to proceed from Quebec to such parts of Upper Canada as they wish to settle in. Instead of this being the case, large numbers have reached Quebec penniless, and almost destitute of clothing and bedding, after the weather has become cold and rainy, and in this condition obliged to undertake a journey of many hundred miles entirely dependent upon casual charity, or such limited assistance as the Emigration Department is authorised to afford. The consequence is suffering to all, and sickness to many, especially amongst the women and children. If those who fall sick recover, a long time must elapse before they gain sufficient strength to work, and, as their wants must be supplied, they become a burden to the communities amongst whom they reside.”

He went on with a happier side to the story:

“Such emigrants as possessed a little capital, as well as those who were fit for domestic and farm servants, found no difficulty in settling themselves advantageously. Out of nearly 700 girls sent out by the Irish Unions, who landed at this port [Quebec] not a dozen remained unemployed a fortnight after their arrival.”²⁴

There was also the danger of disease as indicated in a letter from the medical superintendent at the quarantine station on Grosse Isle, Dr Douglas, dated December 15, 1851. “The general health and condition of emigrants have improved yearly since 1846-47 [when several thousand Irish passengers died in a typhus epidemic], those dreadful years of famine and its attendant pestilence... The diseases admitted to hospital the past season have been smallpox, measles and scarlatina... There were few or no cases of typhus fever among the Irish, those admitted being English passengers from the barque “Secret” from Bideford and Highlanders from the brig “Vesper” from Thurso. In the

²⁴ Papers relative to Emigration to the North American colonies, Parliamentary Papers xxxiii, 1852 pp 20-21.

CONTRACT TICKET.

PASSAGE TO CANADA.

Ship William Armstrong of 160 Tons Register Burden,
 to sail from SOUTHAMPTON for QUEBEC and MONTREAL, on the 10th
 Day of May 1849

NAMES.	AGES.	Equal to Statute Adults.
<u>Ann Willoughby</u>	<u>47</u>	} <u>5 1/2</u>
<u>Wania do</u>	<u>18</u>	
<u>Sophia do</u>	<u>17</u>	
<u>George do</u>	<u>13</u>	
<u>Israh do</u>	<u>11</u>	
<u>Martin do</u>	<u>7</u>	
<u>Israh do</u>	<u>3</u>	

I engage that the Parties herein-named shall be provided with a Steerage Passage to Montreal in the Ship William Armstrong with not less than Ten Cubic Feet for Luggage for each Statute Adult, for the Sum of Thirty five Pounds 15s including Head Money, if any, at the Place of Landing, and every other charge; and I hereby acknowledge to have received the Sum of Thirty five Pounds 15s in full Payment.

Water and Provisions according to the Scale below will be supplied by the Ship as required by Law, and also Fires and suitable Hearths for Cooking.

Utensils for Eating and Drinking, and also Bedding, must be provided by each Passenger.

Signature for John Marshall Esq. Marshall.
 Date 11 May 1849.

Deposit.....£ _____
 Balance.....£ _____ to be paid prior to Embarkation.

Total.....£ 35.15.0 £ 1.15.0 for this paid at same time.

Scale of Provisions allowed to each Individual, Male and Female, above Fourteen Years of Age, under this Contract, on the Voyage from **England to Canada.**

DAYS.	Preserved Meat.	Port.	Beef.	Rice.	Second Cabin Bread.	Potatoes.	Flour.	Split Peas.	Suet.	Sugar.	Ten.	Oatmeal.	Vinegar.	Water.
	Pound.	Pound.	Pound.	Pound.	Pound.	Pound.	Pint.	Pint.	Ounce.	Ounce.	Ounce.	Pint.	Pint.	Quarts.
SUNDAY.....	1	1	1	1	3 1/2	7	3	1	6	8	1 1/2	1	1	3
MONDAY.....	1	1	1	1	3 1/2	7	3	1	6	8	1 1/2	1	1	3
TUESDAY.....	1	1	1	1	3 1/2	7	3	1	6	8	1 1/2	1	1	3
WEDNESDAY.....	1	1	1	1	3 1/2	7	3	1	6	8	1 1/2	1	1	3
THURSDAY.....	1	1	1	1	3 1/2	7	3	1	6	8	1 1/2	1	1	3
FRIDAY.....	1	1	1	1	3 1/2	7	3	1	6	8	1 1/2	1	1	3
SATURDAY.....	1	1	1	1	3 1/2	7	3	1	6	8	1 1/2	1	1	3
	1	1	1	1	3 1/2	7	3	1	6	8	1 1/2	1	1	3

For each Child, Male and Female, from 1 to 14 years of age, one-half the above allowance.
 When the Potatoes are expended, 1/2 lb. of Rice to be issued daily in lieu of 1 lb. of Potatoes.
 In case of the occasional substitution of any of the following articles—

1/2 lb. Raisins, or 1/2 lb. Currants, is considered equal to 1 lb. Beef or Pork
 1/2 " Suet..... 1 " ditto ditto
 1/2 " Fish..... 1 " ditto ditto

1 lb. Flour is considered equal to 1 lb. Bread
 1 " Rice, or 1 Pint Oatmeal 1 " Bread or Flour
 3 " Potatoes 1 " ditto ditto

N.B.—If the party to whom this CONTRACT TICKET is issued shall, from any cause, fail to embark at the time specified, the Deposit will be absolutely forfeited: this is the express condition under which the Contract is made.

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first of those vessels the disease was of a very malignant type, and proved fatal to several of both passengers and seamen”.²⁵ Another risk was cholera, which accounted for many deaths among the fifty people who left Deddington in 1831, aided by public subscription.²⁶

For those who made it to Canada in good health and at the right time of year, life may have been hard but it was generally worth it. The New Brunswick and Nova Scotia Land Company took advertisements in the *Banbury Guardian* in May 1845 to say so. In the first advertisement, on 1 May, the company addressed would-be settlers saying that the company

“(empowered by Royal Charter and Act of Parliament) will sell portions of their land ... to persons engaging to settle and improve, in Lots of 100 or 200 acres each, viz at £31 for each 100 acres, payable without interest by instalments in Eleven years, which is equal to about five shillings *per* acre only in cash...

“The Company’s principal town and settlement of Stanley, situated on the river Nashwaak, contains a church with a resident clergyman, a school, corn and saw mills, and many good houses belonging to resident settlers. The Company’s Chief Commissioners and the establishment reside at Stanley; there is also an able medical man...

The lands on sale by this Company are well adapted to small farmers possessed of some means; there are no rents, tithes or taxes, and a constant sale for farm produce seldom below English prices. Persons of this description would do well with families partly grown up, or accompanied by one or two steady labourers.”

In case the readers did not believe this, the Company published a letter a week later “from a gentleman who went out from Shropshire two or three years ago and who has erected a very tasteful cottage residence at Stanley” and who glowed about the delights of Stanley: –

“All proper means should be taken to make the place known as much as possible ... for how many thousands are there in England who would fly to this part of the world if they did but know the advantages this country offers. Land, equal to the best in England, being bought at a mere nominal price (5s *per* acre, payable by gradual instalments), no rates or taxes, and all English goods imported nearly duty free; the produce of the soil, and the prices it obtains, are fully equal to that in England... Strangers arriving here generally

²⁵ Papers relative to Emigration to the North American colonies, Parliamentary Papers xxxiii, 1852 p 17.

²⁶ H M Colvin, *History of Deddington*, 1963, p 76, quoted in the *Diaries of William Cotton Risley, Vicar of Deddington, 1835-48* (Banbury Historical Society vol 29) p 176.

express much surprise at the very respectable appearance of our infant town".²⁷

It was not only the well-off who wrote such letters. The letter quoted above from John and Ann George of Aynho, published in the *Northampton Mercury*, dated 22 September 1833, written to Dear Father and Mother, said

"We like this country very well. We have purchased two cows for thirty-five dollars. We never was so well off before as we are now. We intend to have a farm as soon as you come. We are now living two miles from Pulaski, by the side road to Oswego, and it is very pleasant indeed. Our house is built with trees about a foot thick, laid one on top of another, and let in at the corners, chopt smooth on the inside; it is about 20 feet long, 18 feet wide, two storey high, the gable ends are boarded up; the roof is made secure with boards, for board is cheap in this country. We have board for the floors. Our chimney is made with brick and stopt, which makes it as comfortable as it is in England. I can get plenty of work at ditching, and well sinking, and cellar sinking, so bring your tools with you and small drills, and your stocking axes. Augers, broad-axes, saws, sickles and scythes are as cheap here, and household furniture is as cheap here... Wages is high in this country, and I get my living where I work. Bring plenty of garden seeds, a few field beans and vetches with you. Dear mother bring plenty of sewing cotton and threadneedles and pins. Father bring your measuring tape and one for me. Please to bring a pocket knife for me of Thomas's make, Banbury. Dear brother Thomas, if you was here you would make a fortune. I wish we had all come to this country when we was first married. I wish you had come when we did, if you had we should have had a farm by now".²⁸

Such letters, coupled with the self-interest of the property owners who paid for would-be emigrants, help to explain the great numbers of people who left the British Isles for the New World. There was a real exodus from the villages around Banbury, reaching a peak in about 1845. In the two years 1844-45, South Newington sent 21 men, women and children to Canada; Adderbury sent 20; Wroxton 2; Ratley 7; Brackley St Peter 34 (it would have been 35 but William Hicks backed out because at the last minute he enlisted in the army as a musician – at the age of 13); Evenley 2; Helmdon 40; Eydon 23; Marston St Lawrence 23 in 1844 and 17 in 1845; Greatworth 14; Westwell and Falcutt 24; Deddington 19; Aynho 60. Doubtless there were others. The passenger list for the ship *William*

²⁷ *Banbury Guardian* 8 May 1845.

²⁸ Quoted in Nicholas Cooper, *Aynho: A Northamptonshire Village* (Banbury Historical Society vol 20) pp 209-10.

Lushington, which sailed from Southampton to Quebec in May 1845, shows that it carried passengers from Helmdon in Northants, Marsh Gibbon in Oxfordshire, Steeple Claydon, Twyford, Amersham, Chesham and Great Missenden in Buckinghamshire and Hailsham in Sussex; every adult male was described as a labourer.²⁹

However not everything was plain sailing for those who stayed behind, as the experience of Marston St Lawrence shows. The parish supported emigrants on several occasions, beginning not later than 1836 when the parish's Vestry Book recorded the sale of nine cottages to pay for the expenses of three families and two single men who had emigrated to America.³⁰ This was followed in 1840 by an application to sell off more parish houses, and in 1843 by a resolution to sell property to assist four families who wanted to emigrate, supplemented in 1844 by borrowing first £50 and then another £50.³¹ In 1845 a further £70 was borrowed to assist another 17 people to emigrate to Western Canada, and in 1846 £40 for a family of seven.³² By 1848 this burden of debt was getting out of hand and the parish made representations to the Poor Law Commissioners to sell off consols to repay emigration debts of £63 18s 3d to Gillett & Co of Banbury and £90 owed to Bartlett & Co. This does not appear to have been successful because the Commissioners replied first that the proceedings relating to the debts which Marston St Lawrence had incurred in connection with emigration had been "so irregular" that there was little the Commissioners could do, and secondly that if the annual interest payments had been made by the parish the debt would have almost been discharged by then.³³ So in 1851 the parish had to decide to collect a rate of ½d to pay off Gillett's debt. But in the meantime the parish had raised another £8 for the emigration of a poor person to Upper Canada in April 1849. How long it took Marston St Lawrence to clear their debts is not known.

²⁹ MH 12/ 8673 Brackley Union Correspondence 1843-46, 20 May 1845.

³⁰ NRO Vestry Book 1836-1857.

³¹ NRO Brackley Union Minutes 1837-40, PL1/2, p 348.

³² MH 12/8673 Brackley Union Correspondence 1843-46, 14 April 1845 and 28 February 1846.

³³ MH 12/8674 Brackley Union correspondence 1847-50, January 1849.

³³ *Diaries of William Cotton Risley, Vicar of Deddington, 1835-48* (Banbury Historical Society vol 29) pp101,176-9, 231-2.

Another glimpse of fund-raising for emigration appears in the diary of the Revd William Cotton Risley, Vicar of Deddington.³⁴ On October 4 1841 he “attended a meeting this Evening at King’s Arms & gave £2 towards sending a woman named Rymill & two children to America, & a young woman named Powers”. In March 1845 he attended a vestry meeting about “the parties wishing to emigrate” and on April 15 he “sent for James Clarke, & delivered into his hands Bibles, Prayer Books & other Religious Books, as a present from me to the persons who were about to emigrate tomorrow to America at the Parish Expenditure – a proceeding in no wise approved of or sanctioned by me – especially when the parties emigrating were considered duly by me.” His diary entry for April 16 reads “19 persons left this place today for the purpose of emigrating to the United States or some part of America – Scroggs the Overseer took them to Southampton.” Evidently the Vicar was not a great help to the would-be emigrants, even to the extent of not knowing that his parishioners (all labourers, two of whom were married with children) were going to Montreal in the ship *Saint Anne*. Three weeks later Mr Risley received a visit from Mr J Bellow of Adderbury who “called to solicit a contribution towards defraying the expenses of sending two young men Olds and Hopkins out to Canada as emigrants”. This shows one village trying to get help from another to fund emigration, and it may be significant that, although four Adderbury families did go, they did not include Olds or Hopkins.

Some idea of the process and cost of sending emigrants abroad can be got from the experience of Eydon in 1845 and 1846.³⁵ Standard printed forms were used to record the process, beginning with a copy of the resolution in the Vestry Book, stating that

“At a meeting of the Rate-payers of the above parish, and Owners of Property therein entitled to vote pursuant to the provision of an Act passed in the fifth year of the reign of His late Majesty King William IV, intituled “*An Act for the Amendment and better Administration of the Laws relating to the Poor in England and Wales*”, held at the National School Room in the said parish on [date] ... it was resolved that the Churchwardens and Overseers shall, and they are hereby directed to borrow the sum of [amount] as a fund or contribution for defraying the expenses of the emigration of poor persons

³⁴ *Diaries of William Cotton Risley, Vicar of Deddington, 1835-48* (Banbury Historical Society vol 29) pp101,176-9, 231-2. Risley did also have strong personal connections with Adderbury.

³⁵ NRO Eydon Parish records Ey 182-88; and Brackley Union Minutes 1843-46, PL1/4, pp 269, 286, 316.

having settlements in this parish, and being willing to emigrate, to be charged upon the rates raised or to be raised for the relief of the poor in this parish, and to be repaid by five equal instalments of [amount] each, with interest not exceeding £5 per cent per annum, and to be applied under such rules, orders, and regulations, as the Poor Law Commissioners shall in that behalf direct.”

In 1845, Eydon borrowed £100 and in 1846 £55.

This resolution was transmitted to the Poor Law Guardians of the Brackley Union and thence to the Poor Law Commissioners, whose response was returned

“To the Guardians of the Poor of the Brackley Union in the counties of Northampton, Oxford and Buckingham

To the Churchwardens and Overseers of the Poor of the Parish of Eydon in the said Union

To the Clerk or Clerks to the Justices of the Petty Sessions, held for the Division or Divisions in which the said Union is situate; - and to all others whom it may concern

Whereas in pursuance of [the Poor Law Amendment Act], the Ratepayers of the Parish of Eydon being one of the Parishes comprised in the Brackley Union ... and Owners of property in the said Parish, entitled to vote in the manner provided in the said Act, ... have directed the Churchwardens and Overseers to borrow the sum of [amount] as a fund for defraying the expenses of the Emigration of poor persons having settlements in the said Parish

Now, We, the Poor Law Commissioners, do hereby ... authorize and require the Churchwardens and Overseers of the said Parish to borrow the said sum of [amount] for the purpose in the said Resolution specified, and to pay the said sum (after deducting the expenses incidental to borrowing the same) to the Treasurer of the said Union, to be placed to the credit of the said Guardians.

And We do hereby direct the said Guardians, when such money is paid to the Treasurer of the said Union, to open an account in their Ledger, entitled Eydon Parish Emigration Fund Account and to credit such account with the amount of the said sum so paid by the Churchwardens and Overseers to the Treasurer of the said Union”.

The document went on to stipulate the conditions on which the money could be paid out, which appear on page 262 above.

A contract was then entered into between the Brackley Union and the shipping agents, Carter & Bonus, to convey the emigrants to Montreal and a first instalment of half the passage money was paid to the agents. When the ship docked in Montreal, Carter & Bonus certified the safe arrival of their passengers and the Board of Guardians released the rest of the passage money.

The whole process from Vestry meeting to safe delivery could be very quick. In 1845 the Eydon meeting asking for £100 and the Poor Law Commissioners' approval were both in March. The first instalment was paid on 2 April (probably for about £60, since it would have included money for clothing etc, as well as the passage money of £44.1s 9d). The Guardians paid a cheque for £10.0s 4d on 14 May to pay for transporting the 23 emigrants to London. The certificate of safe arrival was received on 30 July and the payment of £44.1s 9d to Carter & Bonus was authorised forthwith.

The Eydon Parish Records also give some indication of the calculations which the parish might undertake before deciding to help emigration. In the case of Ann Willoughby and her family, mentioned above (pages 263-65), the names of the 16 ratepayers who decided to pay for her emigration are recorded, with a calculation that to keep the family in the Workhouse would cost £41.13s 4d a year, whereas the one-off cost of sending her to Canada was £62.10s. The calculation is annotated "If it should be agreed that they should be sent to Canada and the money to be borrowed and paid off in four years, it would raise each rate-payer's voluntary subscription ½d in the £". It is then endorsed "Agreed to raise money to enable Ann Willoughby & her family to emigrate to join her husband in Canada, the money to be borrowed & paid off in 2 years with interest at 5 per cent."³⁶

Later years

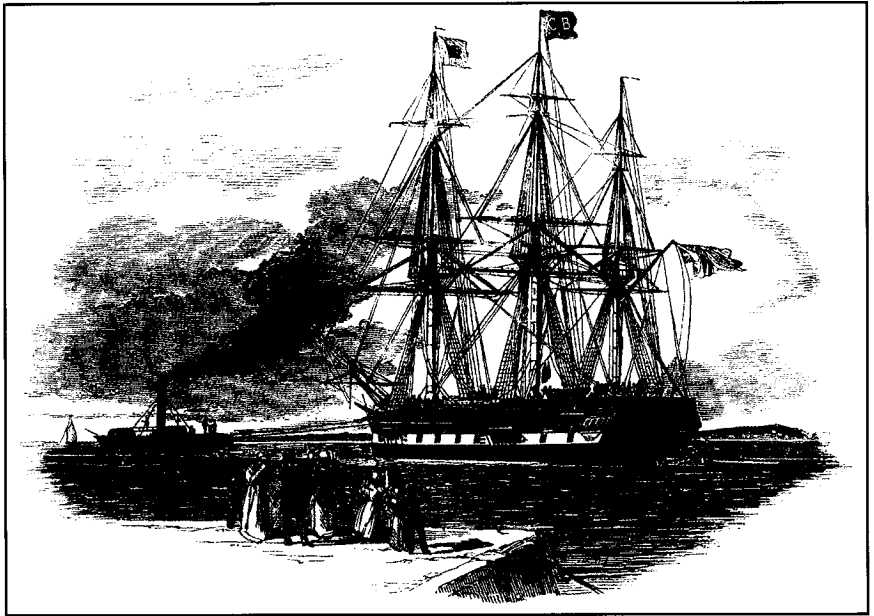
From about 1850 onwards the number of assisted emigrants began to fall, and after a family went from Syresham to Quebec in 1853³⁷ the records of parishes helping emigrants to Canada become few and far between. Barrie Trinder's history of *Victorian Banbury* notes a new rise in emigration from Banbury around the 1870s when the agricultural depression set in, and the *Banbury Guardian* and *Banbury Advertiser* published letters from Banburians extolling working conditions in Canada and Pennsylvania. But the destinations of emigrants from the region were further afield, including Brazil, Texas, and New Zealand, and most of them were probably going at their own expense.

³⁶ NRO Ey 186.

³⁷ NRO PL1/ 564.

So this account ends with the departure of an emigrant family from Liverpool, as told in the *Illustrated London News* of 6 July 1850. The port is humming with activity, as scores of ships each carrying 400 or more passengers prepared to sail. The family, on arrival, have to undergo medical tests to prove that they are fit to travel. Provided that they are certified free of infectious disease, they can go on board up to 24 hours before departure time. At first there is considerable jollity, including music and dancing between decks, but as the ship fills and the time of sailing approaches a more sombre mood takes over.

The ship is then towed five or ten miles down the Mersey by a tug. During this journey, the ship is searched for stowaways and all the passengers are assembled on the quarter deck for a roll-call, which can take between two and four hours. The purpose of the roll-call is to establish the passenger list and to check that they all have valid tickets. Any stowaways or passengers without tickets are sent back to Liverpool on the tug, and the ship sets sail for Canada.



An emigrant ship leaving port.

EVACUEES TO OXFORDSHIRE

Chris Hall, editor of *Oxfordshire Local History*, writes —

September this year will be the 70th anniversary of the evacuation of children from the cities to safe country areas. This county was a major reception area and *Oxfordshire Local History* is marking the occasion with a special issue. We would therefore like to hear from anyone who has memories of the evacuation in Oxfordshire, either in 1939 itself or during the later war years.

We are especially interested in exploring the social and economic interaction of the evacuees and the people of the villages and small towns which received them. There are still people alive today who will be able to recall cuckoos in the nest or strange new friends. We have already had an account of the pitched battle between village schoolchildren and evacuees on the first morning the latter went to school in one Oxfordshire village. Typical? Exaggerated? Unheard of? There is a variety of evacuee narratives which need to be sifted and analysed.

An aspect of the evacuation into Oxfordshire, which has not yet been explored, is the existence of five hostels run by Oxfordshire County Council in which evacuees considered unsuitable for housing with local families were placed.* The criteria for placing children in these hostels are not yet clear to us. We have already gleaned strong but not definitive suggestions that the hostels were unhappy places. We want to find out more. This is not easy because full records are not available to historians while inmates of the hostels may still be alive.

One such hostel was Wroxton House. One evacuee who lived there during the war recalls the matron, a Miss Hartree, who (in his words) 'ran a tight ship'. He says that he and his sister have never forgotten the place — 'Not always for the right reasons'. Do these phrases indicate a harsh regime? If so, was the county council responsible or did it merely carry out orders from central government without the ability to modify their outcome?

Will anyone who remembers Wroxton House in this role, whether from the inside or outside, or who recalls Miss Hartree, please contact me (address below). Indeed all recollections of the evacuation in Banburyshire are welcome.

Contact Chris Hall, Telfer's Cottage, Turville, Henley-on-Thames, Oxfordshire RG9 6QL; tel 01491 638396; e-mail <myleshall@aol.com>.

* The hostels are mentioned briefly in Malcolm Graham's book *Oxfordshire at War*, Stroud 1994.

Book Review

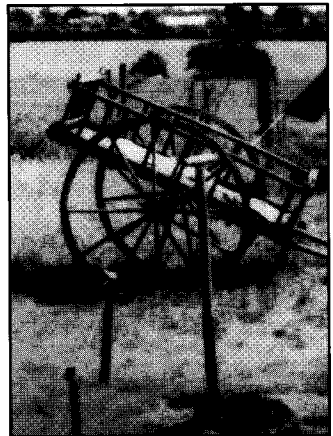
Scouting for Banbury's Boys, by Trevor Parry. 96pp. Robert Boyd Publications. (ISBN 978 1 899536 91 7), 2008. £9.95 + £2 p&p, available from the author, Boundary House, 1 Sycamore Drive, Banbury OX16 9HF.

A hundred years ago 'BP' was universally recognised, not as British Petroleum, but as Baden-Powell, the founder of scouting. Trevor Parry's book covers a hundred years. An iconic portrait of BP is its frontispiece.

Robert Baden-Powell, a senior officer in the hussars, came to fame during the Boer War through commanding the besieged garrison of Mafeking, which was relieved amid much public rejoicing. He had written a handbook of field-craft and mapping for soldiers. It had been taken up by the Boys' Brigade and by public schools as a basis for activities. So Baden-Powell published a new version and thus was born *Scouting for Boys*, reprinted ten times in two years. This, along with BP's camp for boys on Brownsea Island in Poole Harbour in 1907, was the launch pad for scouting. Mr Parry's book opens with a handy account of this early national history of scouting from the time when informal groups of boys formed their own patrols to the development of groups, districts and counties much as to-day.

The rest of the book chronicles scouting in Banbury and the surrounding villages over a hundred years. Trevor Parry is certainly qualified for the task. Banbury-born, with a career in accountancy and business, he has given a lifetime's service to scouting, from his joining 2nd Banbury (Methodist) Scouts in 1948, becoming a Queen's Scout in 1953, through fourteen years as District Commissioner, to a spell as Deputy County Commissioner for Oxfordshire, before returning to his roots in leadership of local troops.

Extracts from the *Banbury Advertiser*, and *Guardian* provide lively, imaginable accounts of early scouting activities. The first account, found in 1909, records 1st Banbury's visit to Chipping Norton for church parade after which they lit fires in a nearby field and cooked dinner – simple days. Norman Braggins was an early driving force in the town's scouting. We read of a 'trek cart' built by his timber firm which was widely sold nationally. It could be dismantled to provide ladders, and a table or stretcher. It featured in scout displays of camping, bridge building and river crossing.



The Braggins Kit Cart



A photograph taken by Thomas Blinkhorn outside his shop in South Bar.

A 1912 photograph shows scouts collecting for the Titanic disaster fund. The 1914-18 War saw reports of scouts and 'war work', from collecting waste paper to searching for escaped POW's.

Mr Parry identifies two 'golden eras' in Banbury scouting. The first was when Geoffrey Fiennes, later to succeed his father as Lord Saye and Sele, was an enthusiastic and generous District Commissioner from 1928-48. In 1937 there were twelve Groups, with 1st Bloxham the largest with 77 members. Large group photos, accounts of boxing tournaments, the making of a film, and a *Guardian* account of a record breaking crossing of the Alps by sixteen Banbury scouts with kit and the 'Braggins' trek cart – are highlighted from this time.

The post-war years saw ebb and flow of groups, the purchase of a District camp site, the establishment of a 24-hour walking competition, and, in 1967 the reform of the movement – new titles and new hats, long sleeved shirts and trousers ! The author's second 'golden era' ran from 1970 to 1985, seeing more HQ's acquired, a local scout shop established, the camp site developed, a band formed and successful participation in national competitions. In 1986 there were eighteen groups and a thousand members.

At the end there is a sad note that scouting nationally and locally has declined. Effective adult leadership, of which Terry Parkes is surely a prime example, is the key to sustaining scouting. He is not without hope that it will emerge from scouts that remain. He has written an account which reflects his zeal for scout training, pinpoints the key elements in scouting's origins, and, for Banbury people, especially those with a scouting background, he presents an authentic and lively slice of local history with an array of names, and of faces in the group photographs, which many will recognise.

John Duncan

Lecture Reports

Brian Little

Thursday 11th December 2008

The Long Compton Witchcraft Murder

Richard Ratcliffe

This was a memorable talk partly because it had a story-like format. The enthusiasm of the speaker for his subject was very obvious, possibly because Ann Tennant, the murdered person, was his great-great grandmother. She was married to John who was variously described as an agricultural labourer, butcher and shoemaker. Eighty-year-old Ann met her death at the hands of James Hayward at Long Compton in 1875. He had been working in the harvest field that day and drunk quantities of beer, a factor in his state of mind and choice of weapon. He firmly believed that he was under the influence of witchcraft and that she was a witch. That this was a motivating factor appears clear from reports of his vow to seek out and kill 15 or so other witches he had identified.

The subsequent inquest was held at the Red Lion in front of a jury of men from the village. They could easily have been swayed by the assailant's wild stares and failure to answer questions directly. He was highly superstitious and said to become excitable after consuming beer. James Hayward was found not guilty on the grounds of insanity and therefore held in custody at Broadmoor Lunatic Asylum.

This talk was much more than the revelation of a murder case. The painstaking research into family history revealed a lot about those who took part in the trial, village life at that time and the subsequent extensive Press coverage, especially in the *Daily Mail*. Despite the fact that Long Compton is close to the Rollright Stones and their links to legend, there would seem to have been no justification for the belief that Ann was a witch. The need for a measured approach to this and the rest of the story was part of the attraction of a topic that in itself encouraged a large attendance by our members.

Thursday 8th January 2009

Eviscerating, Embalming and Boiling: Funeral Practices in Medieval England c. 1066-1509

Rowena E. Archer

This lecture was all about on-going research into Royal Wills and their subject matter of death, dying and funerals. Investigation of these makes it possible to get an understanding of a medieval funeral.

Rowena Archer began back at the time of William the Conqueror, whose own funeral was an undignified end to a great life. By contrast Henry VII lay in state for nine days and was laid to rest amid much pomp. In general funerals were found to reflect religious attitudes prevailing at the time. In any case after the Black Death there was an enhanced need for decent burials.

Our speaker went on to consider how the bodies were transported from the often-distant place of death to the burial site. Usually this was stage by stage, sometimes over a long period of time, rather than in a single movement. On occasions, as with Queen Eleanor of Castile, wife of Edward I, there was a funeral procession and crosses were erected at the stopping places of the funeral cortège.

Embalming was a popular and necessary procedure and the various stages were done by a diversity of people, including butchers, surgeons and monks. Organs were removed and separate burials of various parts would take place as in the case of Henry I, Richard I and Eleanor of Provence. An alternative to embalming was boiling, especially after 1300 and particularly when bodies were brought home from abroad.

Overall an audience of about 50 members agreed that this had been a sensitive treatment of the subject matter and a beautifully illustrated lecture.

Thursday 12th February 2009

The First Pompeii

Dr Judith Toms

Unfortunately our regular reporter was away on another commitment. Brian had arranged for another (myself) to make a record, but at a late stage I was unable to attend. Despite wintry weather there was a crowded audience for what I understand was a fascinating talk. **J.G.**

Prize for Local History – Update

In the last issue of *Cake & Cockhorse* we announced that the committee had decided to offer a prize of £100 for the best piece of original local research or project, inviting local historians and researchers to submit their work.

So far we have received, or have been promised, several pieces. Some people have asked whether their work is suitable for inclusion in such a competition. In all these cases, the answer is *yes!* Nothing is excluded unless it has already been published. So please, let us see some more of what you have all been doing, beavering away in your own local archives. We need two copies of the details of current or completed research delivered to the Honorary Secretary of the Banbury Historical Society, c/o Banbury Museum, by 30 April 2009. The competition will be judged by a panel formed from our committee.

For further information, or to discuss possibilities, please contact Helen Forde or Deborah Hayter (see inside front cover for email and postal addresses).

Email List

If any other members of the Banbury Historical Society would like to add their email addresses to the members' list, we can send reminders and extra information about forthcoming lectures, and other events of which we are notified that we think might interest you.

Send your email address to <deborahhayter@hotmail.com>.

BANBURY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

ANNUAL REPORT

Your Committee have pleasure in submitting the 51st Annual Report and Statement of Accounts, for the year 2008.

Following our half-century year the Society has returned to normal activities. However, celebrations have continued, as 2008 was the fourth centenary of the grant of the Second Charter to the Borough by James I in 1608. Our own contribution to the Town Council's packed programme of events was a talk by Jeremy Gibson on Mayors he had 'known (though not necessarily liked) over four centuries', and publication of an up-to-date list of all known Bailiffs and Mayors from 1553 to 2008. The peak point of the year was the Visit of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II and his Royal Highness the Duke of Edinburgh, as duly described on page 253.

At the Annual General Meeting significant though mainly technical changes were made to the style of membership. Effectively the former 'Ordinary' and 'Records' memberships have been merged, so that all future members will receive all publications. At the same time the subscription has been raised (after many years) to £13.00 p.a. (£15.00 for overseas members). The formal change to our constitution was subsequently ratified at an Extraordinary General Meeting. With its talks, excursions, three issues of *Cake & Cockhorse* and 'records' volumes approximately every eighteen months, members continue to get very good value for money.

Membership of the Committee remains unchanged, but Dr Helen Forde has taken on the Chair from Jeremy Gibson. Meanwhile, membership of the Society remains close to three hundred. Whilst there is a steady flow of new members, this is counteracted by loss through natural circumstances. Nevertheless attendance at meetings has been steady and often near capacity. We are particularly fortunate in the succession of Nick Allen by Deborah Hayter in finding speakers and arranging the lecture meetings, as well as distributing posters for display at key places.

Thus meetings have maintained their accustomed entertaining variety. Reports on most, generally prepared by Brian Little, have appeared in *Cake & Cockhorse*. We opened with Dr Adrienne Rosen's description of Tudor and Stuart life in Chipping Norton, based mainly on probate records studied by a local group; Chris Day gave us a survey of how Oxford's town v gown relationship has developed over the centuries; whilst a large and enthusiastic audience (fortunately in the larger venue of the Methodist Church) showed the power of television, to hear Nick Barratt on 'Who Do You Think You are?'

The autumn season opened with our usual modest reception (organised as always by Fiona Thompson, Margaret Little and friends). This was marked not

only by the presence of Her Worship the Mayor (Councillor Ann Bonner) to attend Jeremy's 'mayoral' talk, but also by a generous donation from the developers McCarthy & Stone in recognition of our help (in particular from Brian Little) in choosing road names for a new estate. Subsequent talks have been given by Sir Paul Hayter (former Clerk of the Parliaments) on past history and present developments in the House of Lords; the interaction of landscape and sport, by Dr Trevor Rowley; and a late 19th century bizarre murder at Long Compton, showing just how much can be found out about those marginally connected with such an affair, by Richard Ratcliffe, a descendant of the victim.

For our Spring and Summer season, organised mainly by Beryl Hudson, we were lucky throughout with beautiful sunny weather. We opened with another village walk-about, this time at Kings Sutton, and made visits to two traditional country houses at Nether Winchendon (Bucks.) and Cottesbrooke (Northants.). By kind invitation of Mr and Mrs John Ewart we were able to hold our A.G.M. at Astrop House (near Kings Sutton). This was our first visit (after fifty years) to this striking house, and there was an appropriately large turn-out, both for the meeting and the walk across fields to St Rumbold's Well.

The normal three issues of *Cake & Cockhorse* had contributions from Nicholas Allen, Alan Crosby, Alan Donaldson, Helen Forde, Bob Mason, Geoffrey Smedley-Stevenson, Philip Spinks, Philip Tennant, Barrie Trinder and from regulars Brian Little and the editor himself.

After the triumphant publication of two notable volumes in 2007, none were completed this year, though work continued on the index to the second part of Risley's diary, to 1869. At long last work is also very well advanced on *Turnpike Roads to Banbury*, which it is hoped to produce by mid-2009.

In June Jeremy Gibson was presented with an 'Award for Personal Achievement' (in large part with regard to our Society) by the British Association for Local History, as reported in the journal.

The Society's return to its normal activities after the celebrations of 2007 is reflected in the 2008 Accounts. The healthy income from the sale of publications was largely due to the great popularity of *Banbury Past*, but all of our recent publications have continued to sell well. The generous donation of £250 from McCarthy & Stone mentioned above is included in the 'Other' income of £403.

A change in the timing of our claims for tax refunds under the Gift Aid scheme has meant that there was no refund in 2008; the change in timing has no financial implications for the Society. The Treasurer is always pleased to hear from members wishing to sign Gift Aid declarations.

The General Fund's closing balance of £9,574, together with promised grants from the Greening Lamborn Fund, should be sufficient to meet the cost of the two records volumes in the pipeline, and the increase in subscriptions from 2009 will enable us to build up reserves to meet the cost of further volumes.

Banbury Historical Society

Income & Expenditure Account for year ending 31 December 2008

GENERAL FUND	2008	2007
	£	£
INCOME		
Subscriptions	2,672	2,622
Income Tax refund	0	426
Building Society interest	258	450
Sale of publications	2,303	2,941
Other	403	67
Total Income	<u>5,636</u>	<u>6,506</u>
EXPENDITURE		
Cake & Cockhorse	1,733	1,528
Records Volumes costs	0	11,043
Publications - postage & packing	329	1,069
Meetings	687	856
Reception & AGM	136	63
Administration costs	305	455
Contribution to Anniversary Event	0	500
Total Expenditure	<u>3,190</u>	<u>15,514</u>
SURPLUS to the General Fund	<u>2,446</u>	<u>(9,008)</u>

BRINKWORTH MUSEUM FUND

INCOME		
Building Society interest	128	132
Transfer from Museum Charitable Fund	0	1,656
Total Income	<u>128</u>	<u>1,788</u>
EXPENDITURE		
Grant to Museum's Drawing for All project	250	250
DEFICIT from the Brinkworth Museum Fund	<u>(122)</u>	<u>1,538</u>

Banbury Historical Society

Balance Sheet as at 31 December 2008

	<u>2008</u>	<u>2007</u>
GENERAL FUND		
Balance at 1 January 2008	7,128	16,136
Plus Surplus (<i>Less Deficit</i>) for the year	<u>2,446</u>	<u>(9,008)</u>
Balance at 31 December 2008	<u>9,574</u>	<u>7,128</u>
BRINKWORTH MUSEUM FUND		
Balance at 1 January 2008	4,335	2,797
Less Deficit (<i>Plus Surplus</i>) for the year	<u>(122)</u>	<u>1,538</u>
Balance at 31 December 2008	<u>4,213</u>	<u>4,335</u>
TOTAL BALANCE at 31 December 2008	<u>13,787</u>	<u>11,463</u>
Represented by:		
ASSETS		
NatWest Bank Banbury - Current A/c	558	1,850
Leeds Building Society - General A/c	9,419	5,161
Leeds Building Society - Brinkworth A/c	4,213	4,336
Cash	30	15
Sundry Debtors	0	587
TOTAL ASSETS	<u>14,220</u>	<u>11,949</u>
Less LIABILITIES		
Subscriptions in advance	<u>433</u>	<u>486</u>
NET ASSETS at 31 December 2008	<u>13,787</u>	<u>11,463</u>

GF Griffiths, Hon Treasurer

I have reviewed and examined the books and records of the Banbury Historical Society and confirm that the accounts prepared by the Hon Treasurer represent a fair and accurate summary of the financial transactions completed in the year ended 31 December 2008

RJ Mayne, FCMA

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. Approaching one hundred and fifty issues and five hundred articles have been published. All but the most recent issues have been digitised and are available on the Society's website (see inside front cover). Most back issues are also still available in their original form.

There are now thirty volumes in the records series. Those still in print include:

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

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

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

The earlier registers, *Marriages 1558-1837, Baptisms and Burials 1558-1812*, are now out-of-print, but are available on fiche and CD from Oxfordshire Family History Society, website at: www.ofhs.org.uk

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

The 'Bawdy Court' of Banbury: The Act Book of the Peculiar Court of Banbury and Cropredy 1625-1638, ed. R.K. Gilkes (vol. 26).

King's Sutton Churchwardens' Accounts 1636-1700, ed. Paul Hayter (vol. 27).

The Banbury Chapbooks, by Dr Leo John De Frietas (vol. 28).

Early Victorian Squarson: The Diaries of William Cotton Ritsley, Vicar of Deddington, Part One, 1835-1848, ed. Geoffrey Smedley-Stevenson (vol. 29).

Banbury Past through Artists' Eyes, compiled by Simon Townsend and Jeremy Gibson (vol. 30).

Current prices and availability of other back volumes, and of *Cake and Cockhorse*, from the Hon. Editor (Harts Cottage, Church Hanborough, Witney OX29 8AB).

In preparation:

Turnpike Roads to Banbury, by Alan Rosevear.

Selections from the Diaries of William Cotton Ritsley, ed. G.W. Smedley-Stevenson:

Part 2. *Mid-Victorian Squarson, 1849-1869*.

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 Banbury Museum, Spiceball Park 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. The annual subscription (from 2009) is **£13.00** which includes any records volumes published. Overseas membership, **£15.00**.

All members' names and addresses are held on the Society's computer database for subscription and mailing purposes only. Please advise if you object to this practice.

BANBURY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Spring/Summer 2009 Programme

Thursday 23rd April, 6.00 p.m. at Charlbury Museum.

Charlbury Walkabout, with Brian Murray (Charlbury Local History Society)

Thursday 14th May, 2.30 p.m.

Oxford University Press Museum, Great Clarendon Street, Oxford.

Thursday 18th June, 2.00 p.m. for 2.30

Chenies Manor House and gardens, near Amersham, Bucks. (access from M40).

July (see programme card for date), 5.00 p.m. for 5.30,

at Edgcote House (near Wardington):

Annual General Meeting.

Autumn meetings as usual, second Thursday of the month from September,
at Banbury Museum.