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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.

Volume 19	Autumn/Winter 2014	Number Seven		
<i>Richard Fitzgeorge-Parker & Clare Jakeman</i>	Nepotism in Action: Seventeenth Century Clergy in Greatworth, Marston St Lawrence, Thenford and Warkworth	...	...	234
<i>Jeremy Gibson</i>	Richard Springall: A well-read Schoolmaster in Restoration Banbury	...	...	248
<i>Barrie Trinder</i>	Banburyshire Gazetteered: Part One	...	...	253
Book Review				
Alan Crosby	<i>Rusher's Banbury Directory to Trades and Occupations, 1832-1906</i>	...	...	260
Obituaries				
	Walter Clarence McCanna	...	...	262
	Hugh J. Compton	...	...	263
Brian Little	Lecture Report	...	...	264

The previous issue of *Cake & Cockhorse* took as its theme the history of the Banbury printing trade. Although this issue reverts to our more usual miscellany format, there is an emphasis on a single century, the seventeenth.

We are pleased to note that Rebecca Probert's award-winning *Cake & Cockhorse* article on 'Notorious Neithrop' (vol. 19.1, 2012) has been reprinted in full in the latest issue of the prestigious national journal *The Local Historian* (vol. 44.4, Oct 2014) which, incidentally, contains much else of Banbury interest.

As editor of *Cake & Cockhorse* I am utterly reliant on contributors. Of late the journal has depended on its own committee members. It would be good to widen our pool of contributors. I welcome submission of historical material relating to Banburyshire and urge anyone who is undertaking research or who has an article or historical/archaeological notes that they would like to put before a wider public to get in touch. It does not have to be in the form of a conventional article. As an example, I would cite Winston McCanna's obituary of his father Walter (pp. 262-3, below), containing much that is of great local historical interest.

Chris Day

*Cover: Warkworth Castle in the late eighteenth century
(from a photograph once in Banbury Library of a now-lost drawing).*



From the first edition of the mid nineteenth century one-inch-to-the-mile Ordnance Survey of England and Wales of the Banbury area (enlarged), showing (east to west) Greatworth [Gretworth], Marston St Lawrence and Thenford.

Warkworth is two miles or so to the west, close to Overthorpe, Grimsbury and Banbury itself.

NEPOTISM IN ACTION: SEVENTEENTHCENTURY CLERGY IN THE PARISHES OF GREATWORTH, MARSTON ST LAWRENCE, THENFORD AND WARKWORTH

Richard P. FitzGeorge-Parker and Clare Jakeman

In the year 1600, the Church of England was little more than forty years old. This new Church was divided in its attitude to Bishops, the marriage of clergy and a number of other important issues. There was a general unease in the County, a sense that religious problems were not yet solved. The Gunpowder Plot in 1605, proved that point early in the reign of James I. It was not only religious questions that remained unanswered. James might anger Puritans, with his forthright 'No Bishop – no King', and Catholics by his refusal to make the restrictive and repressive laws governing their status less burdensome, but there was a new element in ever-increasing evidence. Most historians agree that religion and politics went hand in hand during this century. To the King, a challenge to the authority of Bishops was tantamount to a challenge to royal authority. James I and Charles I were increasingly drawn into confrontation with ever more assertive parliaments: indeed one of the chief causes of the breakdown of the government of Charles I in 1642 was his failure to impose Archbishop Laud's Prayer Book on the Scots in 1638-9. This resulted in the Parliamentary triumph over the King in 1641 which sent his chief minister Strafford and Archbishop Laud to the block. The on-going tensions resulted in the Civil Wars 1642-7, 1648-9 and 1650-1. The Commonwealth was set up after the execution of Charles I in 1649, followed by the Protectorate. In 1660, when Charles II became King, there was an anti-Puritan backlash and many clergy lost their benefices, as those deposed by Parliament were restored. Indeed between 1630 and 1660, clergy of all persuasions had a very trying time, either at the hands of Archbishop Laud, Parliament or the vengeful Cavalier Parliament after 1660.

Anti-Catholic sentiment grew during Charles II's reign mainly because of his refusal to allow Parliament to exclude his Roman Catholic brother, James, Duke of York, from the succession. Although in 1685, on the death of his brother, James II was crowned king, the cutting short of his reign after only three years by the Glorious Revolution resulted in

more clergy evictions. Despite William and Mary's peaceful accession some clergy of the Church of England, including Bishops, held that Parliament had no right to say that James II had ceased to reign. The clergy who refused to take the Oath of Allegiance to the new King and Queen, who thus lost their livings, sees and benefices, were called 'Non Jurors'.

The Clergy and the Administration

It may not be realised how much of the work now done by local officials was carried out by unpaid local residents. Often the task of supervising parochial activities fell upon the incumbent or his curate: as 'men of the cloth' they were educated and of unquestioned probity. The incumbent also had to furnish returns of nonconformists and Roman Catholics and to account for his cure of souls to the Archdeacon who frequently demanded returns at his 'visitation'. Then there was the annual return of baptisms, marriages and burials (Bishops' Transcripts): important prior to the establishment of the ten-yearly censuses in 1801.

Most incumbents were entitled to tithes in cash, or kind, and to income from glebe lands; even so, few were really rich unless they made good marriages or possessed private means. Curates were generally overworked and poorly paid, since they relied on part of the Rector's or Vicar's stipend and such fees as they were allowed in respect of marriages and burials, and other occasional benefits. There is some evidence of a slight improvement in the status of parochial clergy in the seventeenth century. This is noticeable at Thenford and Greatworth as younger sons of the land-owning class entered the church. Thomas Blencowe and Thomas Pargiter are examples of this process.

The Greatworth Benefice

From 1991 until 2003 the Greatworth benefice comprised the four churches of Greatworth, Marston St Lawrence, Thenford and Warkworth. The idea of clergy serving more than one parish is not new, and the link between Marston St Lawrence and Warkworth is very ancient; it existed throughout the seventeenth century. The patronage in this century was always vested in the owners of Warkworth Castle (demolished at the beginning of the nineteenth century); firstly the Chetwodes, then in the eighteenth century (when, ironically, they were Roman Catholics) the Holman and the Eyre families. Apart from the formal link between Marston St Lawrence and Warkworth there were many informal links between the four parishes. Thomas Blencowe of Thenford was from a

family which resided at Marston St Lawrence for five centuries. William Osborne, Vicar of Thenford, was a witness to, and a beneficiary of, the will of Thomas English, Curate at Marston St Lawrence to William Barksdale. William Gilbert, whose wife's mother was from a Thenford land-owning family, was both Vicar of Marston St Lawrence and Rector of Greatworth, although at different times.



Greatworth Church by George Clarke of Scaldwell
(from *Churches of Northamptonshire*).

GREATWORTH

The incumbent at Greatworth, at the start of the seventeenth century, was a John Brereton (Rector 1590-1610), believed to be the John Brereton of Magdalen Hall, Oxford, who matriculated in 1580 at the mature age of 27. He was ordained deacon and priest on 10 September 1587 at Peterborough, and was instituted as Rector of Greatworth on 8 July 1590. He compounded for fines on 28 September 1590. His will of 11 November 1609, was proved on 21 May 1610 by William Wood, the Rector of Middleton Cheney, one of his executors, who in 1590 had presented him to the living. His widow Elizabeth, executrix, was to have all the plate, as agreed at her marriage as 'she hath paid for it of her own money'. The rest was to be divided between his three sons by his executors. His inventory was valued at £418.2s.6d. This was a considerable sum and reveals the Breretons to be comfortably off.

John Brereton, as Rector, witnessed the wills of William Miller, 5 March 1592/3, George Miller, 13 June 1601 and J. Hancock, 8 September 1608, all of Greatworth. His widow, in her will proved 12 January 1614/5 by executor W. Welles, left the sum of 10s. for the making of seals for Greatworth church. After a similar bequest of 10s. to Wibbunbury (Cheshire), £17 was left to her three sons, Timothy, John and Benjamin; her brother was named W. Lindox; after other bequests, the residue went to her executor, a cousin, W. Welles of Greatworth.

The next Rector, presented by William Pargiter, was James Walbanke (or Waldebanks), from 1610 until his death in 1647. He is buried at Greatworth; his tombstone is under the altar table at the east end of the church. He was admitted to Emmanuel College, Cambridge, as a Sizar in April 1593. As a Sizar he would have received tuition and attended lectures in return for performing duties for the college; these probably included acting as a 'scout' for richer undergraduates. He was awarded a B.A. degree in 1596 and M.A. in 1600; he was a Fellow of the College 1600-1601. He may then have become a curate or been awarded a benefice within the gift of his College, or of a patron. He took a senior degree of Bachelor of Divinity in 1607 which may imply that he remained at the University as a tutor. He married after leaving university – at that time university fellows, lecturers and tutors were expected to be unwed and to give up their positions on marriage. James and his wife Frances had a son Samuel; he matriculated at Magdalen Hall, Oxford, at the age of 16. James Walbanke was a learned man and a good minister to his cure, judging by the negative evidence of his avoiding the displeasure of his superiors – this was the time of Archbishop Laud – nor did he fall foul of the Puritan element during or after the Civil War. Clergy who were regarded as Prelatist or ranting Puritans were often maltreated by undisciplined troops; there is no record of any such treatment of James Walbanke, albeit his benefice was in 'no-man's-land' between Banbury and Northampton where there were frequent skirmishes between the two sides. As Rector he witnessed the wills of T. Rawlins in 1611, Elizabeth Brereton, the widow of his predecessor, in 1614, and T. Tims in 1638, all of Greatworth.

The next incumbent was Sampson Smart who, according to Longden, intruded as Rector on 3 March 1647/8. He compounded for fines 14 May 1649. He was buried at Greatworth on 23 August 1674 and is recorded as 'Mr Sampson Smart, Rector'. A Sampson Smart was admitted to Trinity College, Cambridge, on 17 March 1645/6 but apparently did not

take his degree. Whatever his academic status, he was acceptable to the current authorities and this may imply strongly Puritan tendencies. Smart did not lack courage, since he was among a group of 'well affected ministers and lecturers' of Banbury and Brackley, who, according to Beesley, addressed a petition to Lord Fairfax General of the Parliamentary forces, questioning the legality of the proceedings against Charles I. He was well enough regarded to remain his living at the Restoration. Smart never married: Letters of Administration granted, in September 1674, to his mother, Sarah Clough, widow, describe him as Clerk and single man. He witnessed the wills of Richard Baynard of Westhorp (part of the parish of Marston St Lawrence), 10 July 1664, Sarah Faulkner of Greatworth, 8 May 1666 and G. Miller of Westhorp, 17 June 1667.

One has the impression that the next incumbent was a man of very different social standing from his predecessor. Thomas Pargiter, B.D., who became Rector in 1674, was the younger brother of Sir William Pargiter, who presented him with the living, and seventh son of Robert Pargiter Esq. of Greatworth. He was thus a member of a lesser county family with connections in the City of London. Thomas Pargiter was born in 1643 and went up to Brasenose College, Oxford, in 1660. He was awarded a B.A. in 1663 and was then of Lincoln College Oxford. He took his M.A. in 1666 and was awarded the degree of Bachelor of Divinity in 1674, the year he became Rector of Greatworth. Of his career in the years between 1666 and 1674 we know nothing other than that he was ordained during this period. He may have held a curacy elsewhere, or been a tutor, reader or lecturer at Oxford. Sometime he married Katherine Washington, probably of the Sulgrave family, and after 1676 when he was awarded his doctorate. This was a senior degree and implies a good deal of scholarship in its recipient. He published a sermon preached before the Lord Mayor and Aldermen of London in 1682. He died in August 1705 aged 62. Katherine outlived him by 23 years, dying in June 1728. Both were buried at Greatworth.

The Reverend Doctor was something of a local dynast and is of further interest in that he was uncle of Elinor Pargiter, who, as Lady Dering and later as Mrs Charles Howe, was a notable benefactress to the church and village of Greatworth. Thomas's eldest child, a daughter Katherine, was christened at Greatworth in January 1677/8; she married well, a Richard Cooper Esq. of Greenham, Berkshire. A second daughter, Ann, was christened in Greatworth in September 1679; she probably died early as

there are no further details. The third daughter, another Elinor, was born in May 1681, christened at Greatworth on 11 June 1681 and was buried there in October 1744. The fourth daughter was Abigail, who was christened at Greatworth in January 1682/3. She was married, quite late for the time, to the Rev. Nathaniel Humfrey, rector of Thorpe Mandeville. Undeterred by a succession of infants on the female side, the Rev. Thomas was rewarded by the arrival in 1684 of a son, Robert. (Robert is recorded as Patron of the Rectory of Thorpe Mandeville and was also the Rector; he was Lord of the Manor of Wappenham. He died unmarried aged only 36 and left the advowson of Thorpe to his sister Abigail who gave it to her husband). Another son, Dering, appeared in 1686 and was duly christened at Greatworth on 13 July 1686. The last child and youngest son was Francis, christened at Greatworth in 1689 and buried there in 1736, but described 'of London gent'. He was a witness to the will of J. Bazeley of Greatworth, 25 September 1682, with his wife Katherine, to the will of T. Dodford of Greatworth, 25 October 1682, and to the will of Nathaniel Mills of Marston St Lawrence, 27 October 1682.

There is one more cleric to add to Greatworth's record in the seventeenth century: William Hiccock. He was a local man, son of a yeoman farmer at Weston by Weedon. He was born at Weston and christened at Weedon Lois in August 1676. At the age of 15 he went up to All Souls College, Oxford, was awarded his B.A. in 1695. M.A. in 1698. Ordained Deacon, he was appointed Curate of Greatworth. He remained Curate in the latter years of Thomas Pargeter's incumbency but later became Rector of nearby Plumpton. He married well, his wife Elizabeth Bagshawe was the granddaughter of a knight.

MARSTON ST LAWRENCE and WARKWORTH

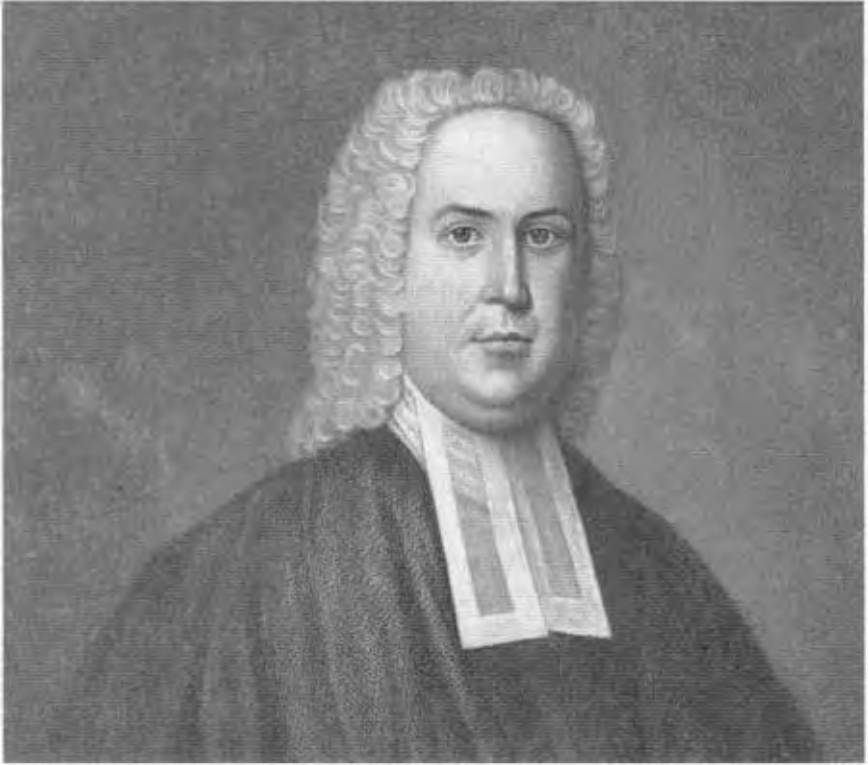
William Barksdale was vicar of Marston St Lawrence and Warkworth from 1576 to 1629. He matriculated from Christ Church, Oxford, at the age of 24 and died in 1629. It is doubtful if he spent much time in Marston St Lawrence as he had other clerical positions: he did however own land in Warkworth and Overthorpe. He seems to have had a very industrious curate, Thomas English, for thirty years of his incumbency, *i.e.* from 1590 to 1620, the date of Thomas English's death. Between 1623 and 1629 Richard Barksdale, who had been a Sizar at Trinity College, Cambridge, acted as curate to his father. He died the same year as his father. He was wealthy enough to leave his brothers John and Nathaniel £20 each, and William and Katherine Osborne of Thenford £10, and to William Osborne

'my best gown and a cassock and my better apparel to wear for my sake'. Thomas English appears to have had an excellent relationship with William Barksdale – he taught his sons. In his will, witnessed by William Barksdale and William Osborne, clerk of Thenford, he left the Vicar his featherbed, '£17 to my two scholars Nathaniel Barksdale and Richard Barksdale and Elizabeth their sister', and 40s. equally between John Barksdale and Mary Barksdale. Surprisingly Thomas English does not appear to have been a particularly poor curate: at the time of his death debts were owed to him in excess of £50!

One of those debtors was Mr Baxter of Draughton (near Kettering), Clerk. Presumably this was Daniel Baxter, a Cambridge man (Emmanuel College) who was Vicar of Marston St Lawrence and Warkworth from 1629 to 1633. Interestingly, it was the £17 he owed to Thomas English that was left to the Barksdale children. How much time Daniel Baxter spent at Marston St Lawrence is unknown, but in 1633 he was buried at Draughton where his father had been Rector. In 1608 he had married Amy the daughter of Thomas Humfrey, twice mayor of Northampton: all their six children were christened at Draughton.

The next incumbent also only stayed for four years, but he lived for nearly eighty years from the days of Queen Elizabeth until the reign of Charles II. Charles Chauncy (1592-1672) was an erudite nonconformist divine. Educated at Westminster, he then went to Trinity College, Cambridge, and subsequently became a Fellow. Distinguished both for Oriental and Classical Scholarship, he became a lecturer in Greek in his own college, which presented him to the Vicarage of Ware, Hertfordshire (the county of his birth), where he stayed from 1627 to 1633. Chauncy married Catherine Eyre (the Eyres later lived at Warkworth Castle) and he was presented to Marston St Lawrence and Warkworth by Philip Holman of Warkworth (a Northampton Parliamentary Committee man whose castle was used as a temporary garrison). Chauncy, however, refused to obey the repressive decrees of Laud, Chancellor of Oxford University, and, from 1633, Archbishop.

Before he came to Marston St Lawrence, Chauncy had been a dynamic preacher whose sermons attracted many listeners, including Lord Saye and Sele. However, his views had resulted in him being brought before the High Commission court. In 1634 he was before the court again, suspended from the ministry and sent to prison. Imprisonment he couldn't bear, so he petitioned the court on 4 February 1635/6 to be allowed to submit. He was released but had to pay heavy costs. Unable



Charles Chauncy, for a time Vicar of Marston St Lawrence and Warkworth.

to forgive himself for his weakness, he left the village soon afterwards for America, where 'he was always poor, but as honest as the day'.

When the Puritans came to power in England, he was invited back and was about to embark at Boston when he was persuaded by the overseers of Harvard College to be its second president. Despite the poor stipend, irregularly paid, he stayed, 'a learned, laborious and useful governor', for seventeen years, and died there. All his six sons were Harvard graduates and all became clergymen. Some of his sermons were published; in his youth he wrote Latin and Greek verse for various state occasions: on the deaths of Queen Anne and King James I, on the return of the future King Charles I from Spain, on his accession and on his marriage to Henrietta Maria.

Chauncy was succeeded by Francis Cheynell (1608-1665). He also was an erudite nonconformist, and a fanatic. His father was John Cheynell, an Oxford physician, who died when Francis was very young.

He became a student at Merton College in 1623 and through the influence of his mother, who had married the Bishop of Salisbury, became a probationer fellow in 1629 and afterwards obtained a fellowship. After taking his M.A. he was admitted to holy orders and obtained a curacy near Oxford. He qualified for the degree of B.D. but this was denied to him as 'contrary to the king's injunction' he had disputed concerning predestination. His first preferment was the 'valuable' living of Marston St Lawrence and Warkworth. Like Chauncy he was presented by Philip Holman (in 1637) and during his residence at Marston St Lawrence he also had a bitter dispute with Archbishop Laud; on which Johnson observed 'they were both to the last degree, zealous, active and pertinacious'. On the breaking out of the Civil War, Cheynell avowed himself a Presbyterian, an enemy to bishops and ecclesiastical ceremonies, and declared for Parliament. His knowledge of books and acute intellect ensured that he was welcomed by the Puritans, and having taken the covenant, he was nominated one of the members of the Westminster Assembly of Divines for settling the new discipline.

This coupled with the violence of his temper and his zealous promotion of the interests of his party rendered him obnoxious to the Royalists; and Marston St Lawrence not being far from the Royalists at Banbury Castle, he was visited by some of the troops and suffered 'the plundering of my house and little library'. In fact he was driven from it and was then non-resident for so long that in 1643 his living was held to have been forfeited. In 1643 he was chosen three times to preach before the Parliament. That November, whilst on a journey, with a guard of sixteen soldiers, the party was attacked by two hundred Royalists who were routed as a result of his generalship. About this time he became a chaplain in Essex's Army and is said to have gained such skill in warfare as to be consulted by the colonels. In recognition of these valuable services, in 1643 Parliament conferred on him a living in Petworth, Sussex. He was actively involved in Parliament's reformation of Oxford University and was 'the most detested, as well as the most active and meddlesome' of all the Visitors. At this time he obtained his B.D., shortly afterwards becoming Doctor of Divinity and President of St John's College, forcibly evicting his predecessor from his lodgings. The Committee of Parliament recommended him for the position of Lady Margaret Professor of Divinity, and thus Prebendary of Worcester. In 1650 he retired to his rectory at Petworth: he is said to have been a zealous and successful minister until his ejection from the living at the

Restoration, maybe because of occasional fits of insanity (he lost his living before the general ejection of nonconformist ministers). There is no doubt that he had considerable learning and great ability, as is evidenced in his numerous writings. Bishop Hoadly said that he was 'as pious, honest and charitable as his bigotry would pennit' but he was also obstinate, intolerant and had a vehement temper.

Between 1643 and 1647 a Joseph Newall may have been the resident clergyman at Marston St Lawrence, as in 1647 he is referred to as the 'late vicar of Marston'.

The next incumbent was John Eyre (maybe a relative of Catherine Chauncy and the Eyres of Warkworth). Longden says he was admitted on 6 April 1647 and accounted for the first fruits on 9 May 1648, but describes him as an intruder (until 1655). Like Sampson Smar he also signed the petition questioning the legality of the proceedings against Charles I. Baker states that 'in 1655 the Parliamentary Commissioners certified Warkworth to be a parsonage worth about £40 yearly; that the vicarage of Marston St Lawrence was endowed with the parsonage of Warkworth... that Philip Holman Esq. was patron'. At this time the vicarage of Marston St Lawrence was valued at £30. John Eyre received the profits of both but he paid a curate William Gilbert an annual salary of £25.

In 1677 Clifton Stone, formerly of New Inn Hall, Oxford, came to Marston and was Vicar of Marston St Lawrence and Warkworth for nearly thirty years until his death on 19 April 1695. He was buried there together with his wife Damaris and his son Asariah, who predeceased him, dying in 1693. His only other child, another son, had died years before when he was only 18, buried at his college, Oriel. Asariah was curate to his father and lived in the parish with his wife Frances Thornton (from Preston Capes), who bore him six children all christened at Marston. Clifton Stone died intestate: his next of kin were his grandchildren. On the July 1695 John, aged over 10, Anne, aged 9, and Martha, aged 7, appeared personally and nominated Frances Stone their mother as guardian during minority. A John Dod, Clerk (probably the John Dod MB, who died on 25 August 1699 aged 31; on his memorial slab in the church referred to as the son of John Dod, Rector of Marsh Gibbon; maybe a relative of the Puritan John Dod who wrote a famous guide to child rearing) was appointed guardian to Robert, aged 5, and Damaris, aged 4. Presumably Alice had predeceased her grandfather. Strangely the Letters of Administration granted the same day to Frances

during her children's minority describe her as mother and guardian of all the five children. The sureties were Robert Thornton of Preston Capes, Gent., and Honor Thornton of Preston Capes, Spinster. Clifton Stone acted as a witness to the will of T. Gervase of Marston St Lawrence on 17 January 1669/70.

In October 1695 the owner of the Advowson was Philip Holman's son George, described by Anthony Wood as having 'embraced the Romish religion' and appearing to be 'a melancholy and begotting *[sic]* convert.' Even so, he was entitled to present another William Gilbert (see above) to Marston St Lawrence and Warkworth.

This William Gilbert had matriculated from Oriel College in 1688. He married Anne Shuckburgh of Farthinghoe, whose mother was Anne Wodhull of Thenford, and had two sons and three daughters. In 1705 William Gilbert moved to Greatworth, as Rector, and died there in 1731 aged 64. Both he and his wife are buried there. His son Richard succeeded him as Rector of Greatworth and his brother-in-law Anthony Shuckburgh succeeded him as Vicar of Marston St Lawrence.

THENFORD

Thenford, in common with most of its neighbouring villages, was a small place: remoteness is a distinct advantage in times of civil strife and commotion, and the seventeenth century saw plenty of both.

The Rector of Thenford at the start of the new century was Lawrence Bowle or Boole who had been in that incumbency since 1567, when he was presented by the Queen. (According to Baker the patronage was vested in her throughout the seventeenth century.) It seems that he resigned his living in 1606 and died in 1607. We can infer two things from the above data: that he lived for a good age for his time as he cannot have been less than his early twenties when appointed, further his views were orthodox and compatible with the tenets of the church at that time. That said, little more is known about him. It is quite possible he employed a curate to carry out his function at Thenford, a by no means unusual practice in his day, but he was buried at Thenford in 1607, which suggests residence in the parish at least in later life.

The next incumbent of Thenford also had a long tenure, being Rector from 1606 to 1659. This was William Osborne, a married man who had several children by his wife Katherine. A certain amount is known about his second son, another William Osborne. He was christened at Thenford in May 1609 and he attended Oxford University (Magdalen Hall), taking his B.A. in 1633, M.A. in 1636.

To return to William Osborne, Rector of Thenford, he appears to have been resident in the parish for a good deal of the time as he witnessed a number of wills including that of John Knight, clerk, on 20 January 1609/10. This gentleman was Rector of Thorpe Mandeville; others include that of W. Jeffkins in 1613/14, of Thomas English, clerk, of Marston St Lawrence (to whom he owed £4), and William Barksdale, Vicar of Marston St Lawrence in 1629/30. Both Thomas English and Richard Barksdale left bequests to William Osborne and in one case to his wife Katherine. Thomas English left him '25s. which Richard Keinton oweth'. Thomas Osborne, another of William's sons, a godson, was left 5s. The evidence for William Osborne's views are best viewed in the light of his fifty-three years as Rector. He does not seem to have offended the authorities in the time of Archbishop Laud, nor does he appear to have been deprived of his living under the Commonwealth or the Protectorate. The only reasonable interpretation of the above is that he was sufficiently Protestant and obscure to satisfy both Prelate and Puritan alike. William, his second son, may have been curate to his father.

The next Rector of Thenford was Richard Ells or Ellis – or so the Thenford register says; he appears as 'intruder'. He is quite possibly the same Richard Ellis recorded by Longden as Servitor of Christ Church, Oxford, who matriculated in 1654. At any event a Richard Ellis made the inventory of Michael Woodhull of Thenford Esq. and signed himself 'Rector Ibid Thenford' 17 June 1667. He was also a witness to the will of J. Osborne of Thenford, who named as overseer Richard Ells, clerk, Rector, 4 January 1676/7. Mr Ells was also a survivor, since he was not evicted at the Restoration.

In 1677 Thomas Blencowe became Rector of Thenford. He was the son of Thomas Blencowe of Marston St Lawrence. Another Oxford graduate, he entered Lincoln College in 1665, was awarded his degree by Brasenose College in 1669 and became M.A. in 1671. He is given as Rector of Thenford 1677/8 to 1697. Thomas Blencowe was buried at Thenford on 30 December 1697. He was of a Royalist family. He held his living in difficult times. He began his incumbency just prior to the 'Popish Plot'. He survived the excitements of that period – the attempts to exclude James II from the throne, Monmouth's rebellion, and the revolution of 1688. Thomas Blencowe lived at Warkworth at the time of his marriage (July 1678) to Mary daughter of William Knight of Banbury, gentleman (descendants of the William Knight who dominated the town

early in the century). They had two children: Mary, who on 14 January 1703/4 at Newbottle married John Townshend of Marsh, Buckinghamshire, and Joyce who on 24 August 1700, also at Newbottle, married John Thicknesse, Rector of Farthinghoe. It is obvious that Thomas Blencowe was a gentleman of substance. He was buried in Thenford Church on 30 December 1697 and Letters of Administration were granted to his widow on 10 February 1697/8 – Surety Edmund Kirton of Thorpe Mandeville.

Just within the seventeenth century, Maximilian Bush, son of Edward Bush, gent, of Stratton Audley, became Rector of Thenford. He was instituted in 1699 and held the living until his death in May 1730. Maximilian was yet another Oxford man. He went up to Magdalen College in 1684 at the age of 17. In 1688 he was awarded his B.A. from St Edmund Hall, in 1691 his M.A. from Magdalen College. He was evidently both politically and theologically sound as he was not deprived as a non-juror, nor as a Jacobite. For many good honest clergymen the period from 1685 until 1714 could not have been easy, requiring to say the least, flexible loyalty.

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RICHARD SPRINGALL (1645-1680): A well-read Schoolmaster in Restoration Banbury

Jeremy Gibson

Frustratingly little is known about education in Banbury and its schoolmasters in the seventeenth century.

Christopher Wase (1627-90), a Royalist-leaning schoolmaster, in the 1670s undertook a pioneer investigation of the nation's grammar schools. This was published in 1678 as *Considerations Concerning Free Schools as Settled in England*. At that time he implied that Banbury's school was in a flourishing condition.¹

One man who briefly appears from the shadows is Richard Springall, almost certainly the child baptised 29 May 1645, son of Richard Springall,² a Thame yeoman. He went up to St Mary Hall, Oxford, matriculating 3 November 1665 aged 18, B.A. in 1669.³ He then became schoolmaster at Banbury. In April 1674 he was, described as 'Mr Springall', marrying Elizabeth Hawtaine (by licence). She had been baptised 21 December 1647, daughter of William Hawten or Hawtayne,⁴ one of Banbury's leading families.

Banbury was notorious for its Puritanism and generally its inhabitants seem a pretty dour lot. However, Springall, though also strongly Protestant, sounds a person one would have liked to have known. In the parish church there was a laudatory Latin tablet to his memory, 'a paragon of masters'. He is said to have taught with 'indefatigable diligence' in the 'public school' for a decade. He died aged only 35 in May 1680.⁵

This character is confirmed by his lengthy will, dated 3 April 1680 and proved in PCC on 16 June.⁶ In this he describes himself as 'clerk', of Banbury, 'being weak and sick but of sound and perfect memory'.

¹ *VCH Oxon.* I, p.462. For Christopher Wase, see *ODNB*.

² The will of Richard Springall, yeoman, of Thame, dated 27 October 1645, proved 1662 (OHC, Pec.51/37), may be that of his father or grandfather.

³ *Alumni Oxon.*, which misleadingly suggests he was connected with parishes in Norfolk, where there was another family of that name.

⁴ The surname has varying spelling. They were leading Banbury tradesmen, not the family at Calthorpe House ('A disputed inheritance', *C&CH* 6.5).

⁵ Buried 7 May 1680; *VCH Oxon.* I, p.462, Bod. Lib. MS. Rawl. B 499 v, fol. 80v.

⁶ Will of Richard Springall. TNA, PROB/11/363, f212.

The first bequest is to 'my little daughter Anne Springall', fifty pounds at the age of 21 or on marriage.⁷

Also 'my best bedstead, curtains and valence, two of the best blankett Rugg and all that belongs, six chairs, of the same serge, one large looking glass with three brass hooks' etc.

'To my mother in law Mary Hawtayne, the Booke of Dr Taylors of Holy liveing and dying.'⁸

'To my Brother-in-lawe William Hawtayne,' Clerk, one large writing desk, one Brasse Rule, a paire of Steele Compasses with a Skrew [---]¹⁰ large Quadrant and a Brass Pocket one.'

'To my brother-in-law John West'¹¹ my Birding pœce with all the Implements thereunto belonging.'

'To my brother-in-law John West All the Paquetts of Advice from Rome.'¹²

'To John Pointer, Clerke, my vollume of Domestick Intelligence.'¹³

'To Thomas Martyn,¹⁴ Clerk, my violin, a little booke of tunes att one end and songs at the other, and also one old Booke of Songs.'

'To Mr John Knight, Minister of Banbury,¹⁵ twenty volumes of Tracts in Divinity in Quarto bound in parchment and on the back marked with a

⁷ Baptised 18 July 1675. She married John Kenning by licence in August 1702.

⁸ Springall's wife Elizabeth's mother Joan had died in 1654. Her father's second wife, married 1656/7, was Mary daughter of Andrew Vivers. The three-gabled house in the High Street was built for her cousin Edward Vivers. Jeremy Taylor's *Holy Living [&] Holy Dying: The Rule and Exercises of Holy Living* [1650] and of ... *Holy Dying* [1651] was published in a two-part edition in 1663 and onwards in frequent editions.

⁹ William Hawtayne 'junior'. Baptised 12 January 1650/1. See further below.

¹⁰ This word is partly indecipherable, but seems to be 'miuxtions'.

¹¹ There were two men named John West. This was JW 'junior' (1644-1721), glazier, prominent on the Corporation, who married Elizabeth's half-sister Joyce.

¹² An anti-papist periodical: *A Pacquet of Advice from Rome: or, The History of Popery*; No. 1. Subsequently *The Weekly Pacquet* etc.

¹³ *Domestick Intelligence or News both from City and Country*; No. 1, 7 July 1679 to No. 55, 13 January 1680/1, then *The Protestant (domestick) intelligence*.

¹⁴ Thomas Martyn/Martin. Buried at Banbury 8 December 1690. Vicar of Shoneswell, Warw. Will, inventory 13 March 1690/1 (OHC, Pec. 46/3/16).

¹⁵ John Knight (c.1652-1704). B.A., M.A. (1675), Oxford. D.D. (1698; but described as 'Dr' in the canvass for the Oxfordshire Parliamentary election of 1695). Vicar of Banbury, 1677-1701 and Rector of Broughton. 1693 until his death. See *Banbury Corporation Records*, BHS vol. 15. p. 256.

[--] and [--],¹⁶ Six volumes in Divinity in Octavo, Twelve Tracts of History in quarto, six volumes in octavo and three vollumes.

Also Miscellaneous Tract[s] in volumes, ten in octavo, Nynne in Twelve, foure Tracts in Philosophy: in Quauto Two volumes, in Octavo two.

Also in Poetry six volumes in Quarto, two in octavo.

And all other Pamphletts not [yet?] bound.'

10. 'To my sister Mary Edwards,¹⁷ five pounds' [one pound a year].

11. 'To the poor of Banbury, two pounds, only to such persons as my Executor shall know to want and to such as frequent the church and live soberly and honestly.'

12. To my dear and loving wife Elizabeth Springall, all the rest of my household goods, money etc. and I entreat her 'to see my daughter educated in the fear of God.'

13. To my Father-in-law William Hawtayne, three volumes of Pamphletts concerning the late Horrid Plott,¹⁸ The first being Narratives, The Second being the Tryall of several Traytors and their Speeches, and the Third Concerning the Parliaments proceedings about the Rebellion in Scotland.

14. My father-in-law William Hawtayne¹⁹ to be sole Executor, 'intreating him to be ayding and assisting my wife (soe long as he lives) in the manadgement of her concernes.'

15. 'And also to returne my Reall thanks to this Corporation for all their love to mee since my first coming among them.'

¹⁶ Semi-illegible characters, perhaps 'Fr' and 'Fh'.

¹⁷ Mary Edwards. As yet not identified further.

¹⁸ The Popish Plot. In the autumn of 1678 Titus Oates had made a statement declaring the existence of a Popish Plot to a magistrate, Sir Edmund Berry Godfrey, who was shortly afterwards found murdered. Though Oates was a thorough scoundrel, he was believed and a panic began. Roman Catholics were tried and executed on the flimsiest evidence. The Houses of Parliament declared a 'damnable and hellish plot' to be in existence, resulting in Charles II's dissolution of the Cavalier Parliament which had sat since 1661. Warner, Marten & Muir, *The New Groundwork of British History*, 1943.

¹⁹ 'Mr William Hawghayne/Haughtin. Justice', buried 25 May 1697, Gent. On Corporation from 1658. Mayor in 1666-7 and 1682-3. Father of William Hawtayne junior. Will proved 5 June 1697. OHC Pec 42/2/1. His estate was to be divided between his three daughters Joyce West, Elizabeth Springall and Mary Thorpe, and, in the event of Elizabeth's death, his grand-daughter Ann Springall.

Of the beneficiaries, Richard's widow was buried 11 April 1699, leaving a will, signed 'Eliza Springall', and inventory.²⁰ Her executor and heir was her as yet unmarried daughter Ann. Provision was made that should Ann die before marriage the estate should be divided between her brother-in-law John West and his wife Joyce, the children of her deceased brother William Hawtayne, and the children of her brother-in-law George Blunt Thorp²¹ and his wife Mary. Witnesses were Edw. Thorp,²² John Wells,²³ and Grace Ashfield.²⁴ The inventory, appraised by Jo: West and Geo: Thorp, is mainly of household goods, including in the best Chamber, the 'darke couller'd serge curtains, 6 stooles covered w'th the same serge ... one large Looking Glass'; and in the little Chamber more curtains and a rug, stools, all green, another looking glass, a large picture and several smaller, and a desk and frame. Last come twenty books (unspecified), valued at a pound, and a silver tankard, two silver spoons and 'some Medalls', plus good debts of £250.

William Hawtayne junior, Elizabeth's younger brother, went up to Oxford shortly after Springall, 'pleb.' at Trinity College, matriculating in 13 July 1667, aged 16. The foundation of Trinity College a century earlier by Sir Thomas Pope of Wroxton Abbey specified that its scholars were to be chosen from Banbury amongst other schools²⁵ though little opportunity appears to have been taken of this by Banbury parents or their sons. He became B.A. in 1670 and M.A. in 1673. It may be speculated that they met whilst undergraduates and this may have led to Springall's appointment to Banbury School when he came down from Oxford.

Hawtayne went on to marry Katherine daughter of Malachi Harris, D.D., Rector of Farthinghoe, Northamptonshire, on whose death in 1684 he succeeded as rector there. Her father was son of the famous Robert Harris, Rector of Hanwell and sometime President of Trinity. Malachi himself was also Chaplain first to Mary, Princess of Orange (mother of William III) and then to her brother King Charles II.

²⁰ Elizabeth Springall. Will, inventory, proved 3 June 1699. ●HC, Pec 52/1/12.

²¹ George Blunt Thorpe (1663-1715), haberdasher. On Corporation from 1691.

²² Edward Thorpe (d.1718) married Abigail daughter of George Blount. Father of George (Blunt) Thorpe; and of William Thorp(e) (fn31). BCR, pedigree, p277.

²³ John Wells (d.1726), maltster. Constable 1688-9.

²⁴ Wife of James Ashfield, collarmaker.

²⁵ Boesley, *History of Banbury*, 1842, p.196; *VCH Oxon*, vol.2, 1954, p244.

William and Katherine Hawtayne had six children. He died at Farthinghoe, buried there 9 June 1694.²⁶

John Pointer, son of a Puritan preacher of the same name, was Rector of Alkerton from 1663 to 1710, a successor to the well-known Thomas Lydiat.²⁷ His elder son, also named John, born 1668, was educated first at Banbury grammar school, presumably under Richard Springall, whose death may have caused his removal to Preston Capes school. He became a learned antiquary, often in rivalry with Thomas Hearne.²⁸

Springall's musical companion Thomas Martyn or Martin, sometime Vicar of Shotteswell, nearby but in Warwickshire, died at Banbury in 1690, specifying he was of the Borough. Evidently impoverished, he left a house there to be sold off to cover his debts. His executor was John Welchman²⁹ of Banbury, and the uninformative will was witnessed by John Welchman junior³⁰ and Will. Thorp.³¹ The inventory records only household goods but ends with 'Books and pamphlets' valued at five pounds (out of a total of £30.5s.7d.).

The school appears to have declined rapidly after Springall's death.³²

Note. Unquoted sources are from the published Banbury parish registers and Corporation Records; and from Thame parish registers at ●HC. My dear friend the late Jim Brister, Bodleian cataloguer, many years ago provided me with the information on the anti-papist publications.

Abbreviations:

BCR = Banbury Corporation Records. BHS vol.15.

PCC = Prerogative Court of Canterbury.

●HC = Oxfordshire History Centre. My thanks to Linda Haynes for help with IT.

²⁶ William Hawtayne junior, *Alumni Oxon*; H I Longden, *Northamptonshire and Rutland Clergy*, vol. 6, p.217; and for Malachi Harris, vol.6, p.161.

²⁷ John Pointer senior. *VCH Oxon*, vol. 9, *Bloxham Hundred*: Alkerton, p.50.

²⁸ John Pointer junior. *ODNB*.

²⁹ John Welchman (senior: d.1714), apothecary, on the Corporation by 1666, Mayor 1675-6, 1689-90, and 1698-9 on William Thorpe' death in office (see fn.31, below). J.D. Welchman, *Welchman Chronicles*, 2010, pp.16-20.

³⁰ John Welchman junior (1667-1745), son of John Welchman (fn.29). By then or soon afterwards he set up as an attorney at Brackley, N'hants. *Welchman Chronicles*, pp.33-57.

³¹ William Thorp(e) (1659-1698/9) appropriately enough was a bookseller. On the Corporation from 1685, his death in office whilst Mayor in 1698/9 was to cause political chaos in Banbury. *Welchman Chronicles*, p.19.

³² *VCH Oxon*, I, p.462.

BANBURYSHIRE GAZETTEER: I

Barrie Trinder

The National Gazetteer of Great Britain and Ireland, published in four volumes 1868, is a comprehensive work of reference that includes entries for almost every settlement within the British Isles, even the most insignificant hamlets and townships. It is not widely available, and since there is no readily accessible copy in the Banbury area we are publishing the entries for most of the communities in what we regard as 'Banburyshire', which we hope will be a useful service to everyone interested in the area's past, and particularly to the many village historians with whom this Society has friendly links. Further useful resources for historians which follow the last entries for particular places in volume four are summaries of the Poor Law Returns for 1866-67, and a digest of the 1861 census which gives population figures for every town, village and hamlet.

The comprehensive coverage of the publication is shown by the numbers of entries for towns, villages and hamlets with common names. We are publishing entries for two Hardwicks, but the gazetteer lists a total of 18, and Milton near Banbury is one of 24 entries, together with 22 places with compound names including 'Milton' (eg Milton Abbas). Similarly there are 15 Charltons and 15 Charlton compounds and while there was a Nethercote in the parish of Banbury, there were two others on the fringe of 'Banburyshire', hamlets in Tackley in Oxfordshire and Wolfhancote in Warwickshire.

As with most publications of this kind, we know nothing of how *The National Gazetteer* was compiled. Much of the information about parishes follows a formula, first locating a place in relation to its post town and sometime to its county town or other towns, or to the nearest railway stations, then making a comment of the most general kind about land usage, and retailing some information, reliable or otherwise, about ancient or medieval history, or about the Civil War of the seventeenth century. It provides a guide not only to actual discoveries of coins and the remains of buildings but to the popular antiquarian thinking of the time.

Details of the (clerical) living are provided for almost every parish and chapel, together with the identities of patrons, and some information about the church building, which is of particular interest where a church was significantly restored after 1868, even if we learn only that its tower was covered with ivy. The varied remunerations of incumbents are particularly interesting when seen in the context of neighbouring parishes – they vary from less than £14 at Upper Heyford to £539 at Broughton and £582 at Steeple Aston. Equally significant in 1868 were the sums generated annually by village charities, which ranged from

one pound at Swerford to more than £400 at Bloxham. The significance of village charities is explained in *Joseph Ashby of Tysoe*. There is also information about tithes – in most parishes around Banbury tithes had been commuted by enclosure acts. The gazetteer provides a useful survey of the spread of schooling, showing that free or low-cost elementary education was available in most parishes in the area before the passage of the Education Act of 1870. The presence of dissenting chapels is mentioned in most places, which, in Oxfordshire parishes, can be compared with that in Kate Tiller's published version of the 1851 Ecclesiastical Census. The gazetteer also provides information about markets and fairs, in villages as well as towns, and shows that fairs, even if only held two or four times a year, continued to be of importance. The information about meets of hounds may be of value to historians of hunting, while there is useful material on rural industries in some parish entries.

Some of the most interesting information falls outside the stereotyped formula. The author of the entry for Bicester makes it clear just what was involved in the sanitary improvements carried out in the town in the mid-nineteenth century, and the unflattering description of houses in Kington is refreshingly frank.

The Gazetteer is not wholly consistent in its usages – the editor found it difficult to decide whether there is an apostrophe in Greens Norton (current Ordnance Survey usage is to spell it without), or whether Edgehill should be one word or two. The words Inclosure and Enclosure are both used to refer to the same process. The extracts have been reproduced as originally published, except that abbreviated terms have been spelled out in full and some capital letters have been restored, and longer entries have been paragraphed. The spellings of place names are unaltered.

In this first selection we are publishing the entries for Banbury itself and four Oxfordshire parishes close to the town. Further selections to be published in future issues, will include more distant parishes in Oxfordshire, Northamptonshire and Warwickshire.

Further reading:

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K. Tiller, ed., *Church and Chapel in Oxfordshire 1851: the return of the census of religious worship*, (Oxfordshire Record Society 55, 1987);

B. Trinder, *Victorian Banbury* (BHS 19 & Chichester: Phillimore, 1982/2005);

S.J. Tyrell, *A Countryman's Tale* (London: Constable, 1973);

Victoria History of the County of Oxford, vol. IX: *Bloxham Hundred* (Oxford University Press, 1969).

Victoria History of the County of Oxford, vol. X: *Banbury Hundred* (Oxford University Press, 1972).

BANBURY, a parish, market town and municipal borough chiefly in the hundred of Banbury and county of Oxford, but partly also in the hundred of King's Sutton in the county of Northampton, 23 miles to the N of Oxford, or 73 miles to the NW of London, or 77 miles by the London and North Western Railway, with which it is connected by a branch from Bletchley. It is also a station on the Oxford and Birmingham Section of the Great Western Railway. The town stands in a pleasant valley on the banks of the River Cherwell and includes the hamlets of Neithrop, Grimsbury, Nethcote, Wickham and Hardwick. It is a place of great antiquity, and was called by the Saxons *Banesbyrig*. Roman relics have frequently been found in the town and neighbourhood. In the first half of the twelfth century a fortress was founded here by Alexander de Blois, Bishop of Lincoln, then lord of the manor of Banbury. It continued to be the occasional residence of the bishops till the reign of Edward VI. Danesmore, a level tract 3 miles from Banbury was the scene of the battle of Banbury in 1469, when the Yorkists, led by the Earl of Pembroke were totally defeated by the great Earl of Warwick, the kingmaker, and last of the Barons. Pembroke and his brother and several other gentlemen were captured the day after and beheaded.

The manor came into the possession of the crown in the reign of Edward VI, and the castle was granted by Queen Elizabeth to the Saye and Seles of Broughton. During the Civil War of the 17th century the castle was first garrisoned for the parliament, but was surrendered to the royalists in 1642 after the battle of Edgehill. It stood a siege of thirteen weeks in 1644 and another of ten weeks in 1646, when it was given up to the parliament, and was a short time afterwards dismantled. Scarcely any traces of it are now visible. A fragment of the strong walls now forms the foundation of a lowly human dwelling-place, and garden vegetables grow on the site of the vanished fort. The market-cross, famous in all nurseries, no longer exists: it was destroyed by the Puritans in the reign of Queen Elizabeth.

Banbury, which was a borough by prescription, received a charter of incorporation from Queen Mary. The mayor is the returning officer. The limits, however, of the municipal and parliamentary borough are not co-extensive, the former comprising, according to the census of 1861, only 790 inhabited houses, with a population of 4055, while the latter includes 2067 inhabited houses, with a population of 10,194. The borough magistrates hold petty sessions once a week and general sessions every half-year. Banbury is the seat of a Poor Law Union and of a County Court district.

The town is generally well-built, and the streets are broad, paved and lighted with gas. Great improvements were made under the authority of an act passed in the reign of George IV. And the continued prosperity of the borough is shown by the rise of its population, from 8,715 in 1851 to 10,194 in 1861, showing an increase in the decennial period of 1.479. The trade of the town has long flourished, and is greatly indebted to the Oxford and Coventry canal, by which

it is connected with the general system of inland communication. The district is one of remarkable fertility, and the principal occupations of the people are those connected with agriculture. There is a manufacture of plush, shag and girth webbing, though of less extent than it was formerly. Farming implements are made. The 'cakes' are still famous, and are exported in large quantities, and a superior cheese is made, though it is doubted by some whether it be the kind so much in repute in the 16th century.

The living is a vicarage in the diocese of Oxford, and in the patronage of the bishop. The church is a large modern structure, erected in the year 1797, on the site of a fine ancient one which, with its monuments, was entirely demolished. There is also a district church in South Banbury, called Christ Church, the living of which is a perpetual curacy of the value of £180, likewise in the gift of the bishop. There are chapels belonging to the Roman Catholics, Unitarians, Friends, Baptists, Independents, and Wesleyan and Primitive Methodists. A free grammar school here attained such reputation that it served as a model for St Paul's School and the Manchester Free Grammar School. It has long ceased to exist. Here is a blue-coat school founded in 1705, and subsequently united with the National School. The former has an income from endowment of £70 a year. There is an almshouse for twelve persons, and some other charitable institutions. The annual value of the parochial charities is £263. The town has an ancient gaol, a modern town hall, a savings bank, a mechanics' institute, a library and a racecourse. The principal seats in the neighbourhood of Banbury are: Wroxton Abbey, the seat of Colonel North; Broughton Castle, the seat of Lord Saye and Sele; and Neithrop House, that of Miss Milward. Two hospitals, dedicated one to St John and one to St Leonard, formerly existed here. The ruins of the former are converted into a dwelling house; of the latter no ruins are left. The market, which is held on Thursday, is large and well attended. Fairs are held in every month throughout the year except February and November.

GRIMSBURY, a hamlet in the parish of Banbury, hundred of King's Sutton, county Northampton, 1 mile NE of Banbury. It is situate on the borders of Oxfordshire, close to the Oxford Canal.

HARDWICK, a hamlet in the township of Neithrop, parish of Banbury, county Oxford, 1 mile N of Banbury within which borough it is included.

NEITHROP, a hamlet in the parish and hundred of Banbury, county Oxford, half a mile NW of Banbury, within which borough it is included for parliamentary purposes.

NETHERCOTE, a hamlet in the parish of Warkworth, hundred of King's Sutton, county Northampton, 1 mile from Warkworth.

CHERWELL, RIVER, rises at Cherwelton, in the county of Northampton, and runs in a southerly direction to the Thames below Oxford; the River Sucre joins it near Deddington, and the River Ray near Islip.

WARKWORTH, a parish in the hundred of King's Sutton, county Northampton, 2 miles E of Banbury, its post town. It is situated on the River Cherwell which separates this parish from that of Banbury, in Oxfordshire. The living is a curacy in the diocese of Peterborough. The church, dedicated to St Mary, has been thoroughly restored, and the interior contains several monuments and three brasses of the Chetwode family, bearing date from 1412. There is a village school. J Smith, Esq. is lord of the manor.

WICKHAM, a hamlet in the parish and hundred of Banbury, county Oxford. 1½ miles SW of Banbury.

ADDERBURY, a parish in the hundred of Bloxham in the county of Oxford, 3½ miles to the S of Banbury. Deddington is the post town. It comprises the townships of East and West Adderbury, and the chapelries of Barford St John, Bodicott and Milton. It is situated on the Sorbrook, a branch of the River Cherwell, not far from the Oxford Canal. In Domesday Book it is name *Edburghberie*, and a century later was called *Edderbury* and *Abberbury*. In 1219 a religious imposter was sentenced by the bishops at Oxford to be crucified here. There are several charities in the parish, the revenue of which amounts to £257. Of this sum the Feoffees' land, for the support of the poor and the maintenance of a school and other benevolent purposes, produces £249. The living is a vicarage in the diocese of Oxford, united with the perpetual curacies of Barford and Milton, value £818, in the patronage of the Warden and Fellows of New College, Oxford. The church, which is dedicated to St Mary, is a cruciform structure in the Perpendicular style, with a tower surmounted by a lofty octagonal spire. The chancel was erected by William of Wykeham in 1385, and had anciently a grange attached to it. It contains some interesting specimens of early sculpture. The porch is of the Decorated style; there are two fonts and the church contains family monuments of the Oldys, Bustards and Cobbs of Adderbury Green. The bust of William of Wykeham, with his armorial bearings, is sculptured on the external walls, over the east window of the chancel, and his arms are also carved in the roof of the same. Here is a chapel for Wesleyans and an endowed school for 50 boys, also a school for girls on the National system. The poor have the benefit of annual charities amounting to £100. In addition to the parish church there is a district church at Bodicote which is a perpetual curacy, value £150, in the patronage of New College, Oxford. The celebrated Rochester, who had the title Baron Adderbury, had a seat here at which he died. The mansion is now gone to decay. It was here that Pope visited the Duke of Argyll, who was occupying this seat at the time.

BLOXHAM, a parish in the hundred of Bloxham in the county of Oxford, 3 miles to the SW of Banbury, its post town. It is watered by a small stream, a branch of the River Cherwell, and contains the chapelries of Bloxham and Milcombe. The living is a vicarage in the diocese of Oxford, of the value of £290, in the patronage of the Provost and Fellows of Eton College. The church

is dedicated to St Mary, and is a fine specimen of the geometrical style of architecture, with portions in the styles of both earlier and later periods. A church is supposed to have been erected not later than the first half of the 12th century, but the present building contains only a few remains of the earlier structure. The most remarkable feature is its beautiful spire, 195 feet high, which is said to be one of the most graceful in England. There is a tradition that it was built by Cardinal Wolsey, but this is considered by most authorities incorrect. The building is a spacious edifice, but somewhat too short for its great width. The chancel is unworthy of the rest of the church, though there are some interesting relics of a former structure to be found in it. The western entrance is adorned with singular sculpture, symbolising the Last Judgement. The south porch doorway is a beautiful specimen of the transition period, containing features of Norman merging into Early English, while the north porch is an elegant specimen of Decorated work. The church contains some brasses of unusually late date. There are chapels in the village belonging to the Baptists and the Wesleyans. A large collegiate building at the entrance to the village, built in the year 1854 as a grammar school, but which failed, is now a school for the middle classes, sons of farmers, tradesmen &c. Boys are boarded and educated here for 25 guineas a year. It is managed by a late Fellow of New College, Oxford, and is nearly full. New parish schools for 110 children have been built in 1862, which are a great ornament to the village, as well as a public good, and have an endowment of £200 a year. The charitable endowments amount to between £300 and £400 per annum, being chiefly the produce of the scoffers' estate, which, under the decree of the Court of Chancery, is divided into three parts — one for the repair of the parish church and bridges, another for the aid of the poor, and a third for the common town charges, which consist of repairing the causeways and other public works.

BODICOTT, a chapelry in the parish of Adderbury, and hundred of Bloxham, in the county of Oxford, not far from Banbury. The living is a perpetual curacy, annexed to the vicarage of Adderbury, in the diocese of Oxford. The church is dedicated to St John the Baptist. The Baptists have a chapel in the village. The charitable endowments of the chapelry amount to £8 per annum. Bodicott was the birthplace (1616) of John Kersey, the mathematician. Bodicott Grange and Bodicott House are the chief residences.

BROUGHTON, a parish in the hundred of Bloxham, in the county of Oxford, 3 miles to the SW of Banbury, its post town. It lies near the border of Northamptonshire, and contains the hamlet of North Newington. The living is a rectory in the diocese of Oxford, value of £539, in the patronage of the Rev C F Wyatt, incumbent. The church, which is in the perpendicular style, is dedicated to St Mary, and contains many monuments to the families of the Broughtons, Wykhams and Twistletons. The poor have the benefit of a valuable endowment founded by Lady Saye and Sele, and producing £145 per annum. Broughton Castle, the seat of Lord Saye and Sele, is moated, and was anciently a fortress.

of great strength. It was founded as early as the reign of Edward I. but a large part of the present structure was erected in the 16th century. It has some good stained windows, with the arms and quarterings of its various owners.

DRAYTON, a parish in the hundred of Bloxham, in the county of Oxford, 2 miles NW of Banbury, its railway station and post town. It formerly belonged to the Ardens and Grevilles, but is now possessed by Earl Delawarr and Earl Guilford of Wroxton. The parish is of small extent and hilly, with a light soil. The living is a rectory in the diocese of Oxford, value £316, in the patronage of Earl Delawarr, who is lord of the manor. The church, dedicated to St Peter, is a small plain structure of the 14th century, and has a low tower. It contains monuments to the Greville family, whose old seat is the present workhouse. The charities amount to nearly £30 per annum.

HANWELL, a parish in the hundred of Bloxham, county Oxford, 3 miles NW of Banbury, its post town and 26 from Oxford. It is situated near the Oxford Canal. The land is chiefly pasture and meadow. Here are some remains of the castle built in the reign of Henry VII, and noticed by Leland as the "gallant house of Hanwell". It was a quadrangular building with massive towers at the angles, of which only one, with a portion of the south front, is at present remaining, converted into a farm house. The living is a rectory in the diocese of Oxford, value £390. The church, dedicated to St Peter, is an ancient edifice with a fine tower. In the interior are effigies of the Cope family. There is a free school for both sexes. The charities produce £1 per annum. Earl Delawarr is lord of the manor. **NEWINGTON**, **NORTH**, a hamlet in the parish of Broughton, hundred of Banbury, county Oxford, 4 miles N of South Newington, and 2½ miles W by S of Banbury.

WROXTON, a parish in the hundred of Bloxham, county Oxford, 25 miles NW of Oxford and 3 from Banbury. The parish includes the hamlet and chapel of Balscot, and had formerly an Austin priory founded in the reign of Henry III, for a prior and six canons, the revenue of which at the Dissolution was £78 14s 8½d. On its suppression part of the buildings were demolished, and the demesne given to Sir Thomas Pope, founder of Trinity College, Oxford but in 1618 the structure was rebuilt by William Pope, first Earl of Downe, in which some arches and other remains of the original building are incorporated. This mansion, the seat of Lieutenant Colonel and Baroness North, contains a collection of family portraits. The living is a vicarage in the diocese of Oxford, value, with the curacy of Balscot annexed, £137. The church, dedicated to All Saints, occupies elevated ground near the abbey. At the W end of the nave is an old font with figures of six of the apostles, and in the chancel is an altar tomb of alabaster, with recumbent effigies of Sir W Pope, Earl of Downe, and his lady, in the costume of the early part of the 17th century, also monuments to the earls of Guilford and to the Norths, including one to Lord North, the premier. There is also a chapel-of-ease at Balscot. The Wesleyans and Independents have chapels, and there are National schools. The charities produce about £35, chiefly the produce of church lands.

Book Reviews

An Alphabetical Digest of Rusher's Banbury Directory to Trades and Occupations 1832-1906, introduction by Barrie Trinder and edited by Jeremy Gibson (from card index originally compiled by the late Mary Stanton), typed to computer by Catherine Pritchard; includes a DVD of a facsimile of the Directory, 1832-1906. Banbury Historical Society vol.34 (2014), ISBN 978 0 900129 32 2 (£15 + £2.00 UK p&p).

As Barrie Trinder states at the beginning of his introduction to this most useful volume, 'Historians of nineteenth-century Banbury enjoy an abundance of sources'. To this we might add that for that period, as for the preceding three hundred years, many of the key sources are available in print thanks to the sterling work of the Historical Society and its indefatigable editor, Jeremy Gibson. Surely in no other town of such comparatively modest size have so many been published. This latest volume, the 34th published by the Society, is a carefully compiled and readily accessible edition of Rusher's *Directories* covering the period from the early years of William IV to the golden decade just before the First World War. It includes not only the alphabetical lists but also a DVD which gives pdf facsimile images of every page of the directories. We can thus very easily cross-check between original and transcript, and gain a good flavour of the style and character of the former.

[*Ed note:* These *Directories* were quite separate from the original *Rusher's Banbury Lists* (contents described in the introduction) which had been published since 1795, continuing too until 1906.]

The introduction by Barrie Trinder is typically thorough and thoughtful, setting out the history of the Rusher family and their publishing business, describing the contents of directories, and showing how they reveal so much about the trade, commerce and society of Banbury and its wide hinterland. The editorial preface explains how the project came about and highlights the risks involved in using such a source without questioning its reliability. This in no way reflects on the typing from the card-index by Society member Catherine Pritchard. Wisely, however, Jeremy reminds us that there are inherent inconsistencies and that annual entries can easily be shown to be out of date. Modestly, too, he suggests in several places that inaccuracies might subsequently have crept in through his own editorial slips, but I have strong doubts about this particular claim.

The volume proper is essentially (as its title accurately indicates) an alphabetical listing of the directory entries by surname, beginning with Abbot, Thomas (grocer and tea dealer of North Bar Street 1832-1849) and finishing with Young, Charles of Neithrop and High Street (stockbroker, banker and assurance agent in the 1840s). Each entry gives the dates of appearance in the directory, the trade or occupation, place of residence or trade and the dates at each place. Thus, and quite predictably, I turned to my own family and found my great-grandfather, George Crosby junior, listed for 1873-1882 as an attorney/solicitor of 20 High Street and (in 1884-5) 30 Horse Fair, and also as agent for the Westminster Assurance Company at 20 Bridge Street. Other members of his extended family appear – chairmaker, baker, shagmaker, publicans (quite a few of those entries), a brewer's agent, a wine merchant ... at which point I saw a worrying pattern emerging!

Reading through the volume is not what most users will do – it is a quarry, not a narrative text – but its columns reveal the remarkable variety and diversity of the trades and businesses of this important market town. Thus, a glance at page 35 shows a drawing teacher, a tripe seller, a 'letter of horses and gigs', a photographer, a fishmonger and a 'town crier and bill poster', among many others. A source such as this allows us to recreate the role of the town as a sub-regional hub, and also shows how individuals might switch from one trade to another or, even more importantly, might engage in two or three different occupations simultaneously.

The ability to cross-reference by address means that we can to a considerable extent overcome the problem of several individuals sharing the same name (although ambiguities are legion and can only be resolved by detailed attention to census returns or other contemporary records). This is not a perfect source, as the editor is at pains to point out, but it is immensely valuable – not least because searching through individual lists or directories for a long time period can be a slow, repetitive and somewhat tedious business. This edition complements newspapers, census returns and the several published journals and reminiscences from Victorian Banbury to give us an even more rounded and complete picture of the town. Family historians will welcome it, and all local historians of Banbury should make sure to exploit its potential. I will certainly be doing so myself!

Alan Crosby

OBITUARIES

WALTER CLARENCE McCANNA

I must report the passing at the age of 99 years of my father, who had been a Society member for a considerable number of years

Walter's association with Banbury began in 1937, when he was appointed as the Cabinet Shop Foreman at the well-established firm of Henry Stone's, in Britannia Road, makers of 'Fine Lady' furniture. He was twenty-three years of age and was married with two small children, my sister Jill and me, and my mother Sybil was expecting another child.

The young couple put down a deposit on a dwelling that was being built as part of a small development on the south-west corner of the town in Easington. The road was a new one turning off Grange Road and was named after the firm of builders carry out the development, thus Timms Road. It is now one of the principal accesses to the Cherwell Heights development, but then was very rural.

While my mother completed her confinement and the house was being built, my father lived in digs and he purchased a bicycle from Trinder Bros shop in Broad Street. He then used this cycle to take him to Portsmouth every weekend to be with his family, the return trip being 200 miles. He was obviously very f.t. In May 1938 the house was completed, my brother Colin had arrived and the family moved into No 4 Timms Road.

The factory soon turned to war work and after a period when Dad employed his staff on erecting wood huts for military occupation, in the surrounding countryside, work was started on parts for the Mosquito aircraft, an almost entirely plywood construction using the very new thermal setting glues. Due to the importance of this work my father was exempt from military service. The factory also carried out a considerable amount of work making parts for the Wellington bomber, and then was employed on the project to make the Hawser Gliders which carried the Paras into Normandy to re-make Pegasus Bridge. These were also of plywood construction and were designed to make just one flight.

Due to the very long hours spent at the factory in Britannia Road, which included nights spent firewatching, there was little time for forming much of a social life, but my father had made friends with Bill Trinder, who kept a Radio and Gramophone Record Shop at 84 High Street. Dad's abiding interest in classical music found a kindred spirit in Bill and apart from being a customer buying records they found time to discuss music generally.

With the end of hostilities this interest was channelled into the formation of the Banbury Gramophone Society, which started on 19th September 1946. It met at the Friends' Meeting House in North Bar every Thursday evening. After the first meeting my father was in the chair, and presented the programme of recorded music. He also made the record playing equipment which was used for these public recitals.

In 1948 Bill Trinder and Dad attended the last night of the proms in the Royal Albert Hall at the invitation of the BBC engineers. This was the first occasion in which a Prom had been televised.

Work at Stone's had returned to peace time products, but with the lack of many raw materials it was a period of make do and mend. Consequently in 1949 the lure to find a more demanding professional challenge was finally taken and my parents sold 4 Timms Road and the family, now increased by the arrival of brother Tom, moved to the North-East.

By the 1950s the family home was back in Portsmouth and Dad joined the Society. When he retired in 1969 he had the time to travel to the occasional meeting in Banbury. Sadly in 1988 tragedy struck when my mother died of cancer after 53 years of married life. However they had maintained contact with friends from the time when they lived in the town, and subsequently Dad married one of his former colleagues from Henry Stone's, Betty, the daughter of Jack Rumbold who had been one of Dad's cabinet makers at the factory. Betty had worked in Stone's office as a clerk. This marriage, though very happy, was regrettably short-lived as Betty also contracted cancer and died some seven years later.

With advancing years my father eventually became too infirm to travel to Banbury for meetings, but he maintained his membership of the Society, and it remained an interest to him.

Winston McConnn

HUGH J. COMPTON

We heard with great regret of the death on 1st October of Hugh Compton, another long-term member of our Society and an occasional but regular contributor to *Cake & Cockhorse*. Any canal lover will know his book, *The Oxford Canal*, published by David & Charles as long ago as 1976, and never superseded. Most of its photographs are from Victorian days or the earlier twentieth century. Even those from the 1970s now depict history.

It was reviewed by Christine Bloxham in *C&CH* 7.3 (Summer 1977). She mentioned that there was little about the boatmen who 'worked the cut'. Hugh made up for this with a useful series of articles in *C&CH*:

'Two Canal Entrepreneurs from Banbury' [James Barnes and Thomas Cotton], 12.9 (1994).

'Nell Bridge (Oxford Canal Co). Adderbury, 13.9 (1997).

'The Oxford Canal and the Ironstone Business', 14.2 (1998). –

'Staffing Oxford Canal – around 1851', 14.9 (2000).

Review of *Captain Pilkington's Project 1804-16*, Beryl Williams, 2003, about the branch canal to the Ordnance Depot at Weedon, 15.8 (2003).

Hugh's book must have inspired many of today's users of *our* canal.

J.G.

P.S. For 'working the cut', see Sheila Stewart's *Ramin Rose*, OUP (1993).

Lecture Report

Brian Little

Thursday 1st September 2014

The Development of English Heraldry

David White, Somerset Herald

This was a very well-organised presentation by someone who was clearly an enthusiast for his subject and, as Somerset Herald, David White was well qualified to carry his audience with him.

Early on he established that heralds pre-date Heraldry – family shields reveal this. From the 1100s these became much more stylised. It was a way of distinguishing friend from foe on medieval battlefields and part of the herald's job was to identify the dead from the devices on the shields. A later development was the introduction of crests on helmets; St George's Chapel at Windsor Castle has a fine display of such items.

David White then turned to Coats of Arms. He noted the popularity of Lions but emphasised that new grants of arms must be different from existing ones though some help in decision making in the form of a book of styles could be obtained. Under the Tudors a major change of taste saw arms and crests become much more elaborate and more colours were available. Improvements in printing techniques allowed these arms to appear on public documents.

Heraldry continued under the Cromwell but Tudor elaboration was largely abandoned.

In the Georgian era every effort was made to limit bad taste but this did not prevent rare concoctions appearing on coats of arms. When Nelson was made a Knight of the Bath in 1797 his coat of arms reflected his father's views, included three lucky coins, and a twist of silk round the helmet but fortunately avoided the embarrassment of portraying the King of Spain upside down. Instead a Spanish flag was incorporated. He was granted an extra coat of arms in recognition of the Victory of the Nile and further adjustments were made as his career progressed.

Nelson's funeral was a major occasion with Britannia pictured weeping over his arms. After his death his brother, who inherited the title, was allowed to include the word 'Trafalgar'.

By the nineteenth century quartering became popular and mythical animals, e.g. the griffin were increasingly used as supporters. Also the countries that made up the British Empire chose native animals and birds in this rôle.

David White ended his talk with some reference to personalities whose arms reflected their way of life. Colin Cowdrey included cricket stumps in his arms whilst John Major opted for a portcullis, a popular choice with politicians.

In conclusion the audience were assured that heraldry is alive and well and adapts to current taste.

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. Over one hundred and fifty issues and five hundred articles have been published. All but the most recent volumes 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 over thirty volumes in the records series. Those still in print include:

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).

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

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

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

Turnpike Roads to Banbury, by Alan Rosevear (vol. 31); out-of-print.

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

Part 2. *Mid-Victorian Squarson, 1849-1869* (vol. 32).

Victorian Banburyshire: Three Memoirs, ed. Bairic Tindler (vol. 33).

Rusher's 'Banbury Trades and Occupations Directory' 1832-1906

(Alphabetical Digest and DVD facsimile) (vol. 34).

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

In preparation: *Georgian Banbury before 1800: Banbury Vestry Book, 1708-1797 and other contemporary records.*

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 or location.

Membership of the Society is open to all. The annual subscription (since 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

Winter/Spring 2015 Programme

*Meetings are held at Banbury Museum at 7.30pm,
entrance from Spiceball Park Road.*

Thursday 11th December 2014

A World of Goods: Shops and Shopping in Georgian England

Dr Jon Stobart,

Professor of Social History, University of Northampton.

Thursday 8th January 2015

Henry Moseley: from Oxford to Gallipoli

Dr Stephen Johnson,

Museum of the History of Science Oxford.

Thursday 12th February 2015

The Romans who shaped Britain

David Stuttard,

Lecturer, dramatist and author

Thursday 12th March 2015

A Way with Water: Water Resources and the Life of an

Eighteenth Century Park, Farnborough Hall, Warwickshire

Stephen Wass, MA,

Landscape archaeologist

See the Society's Website <www.banburyhistory.org>
for plenty more information on the Programme's subjects and speakers