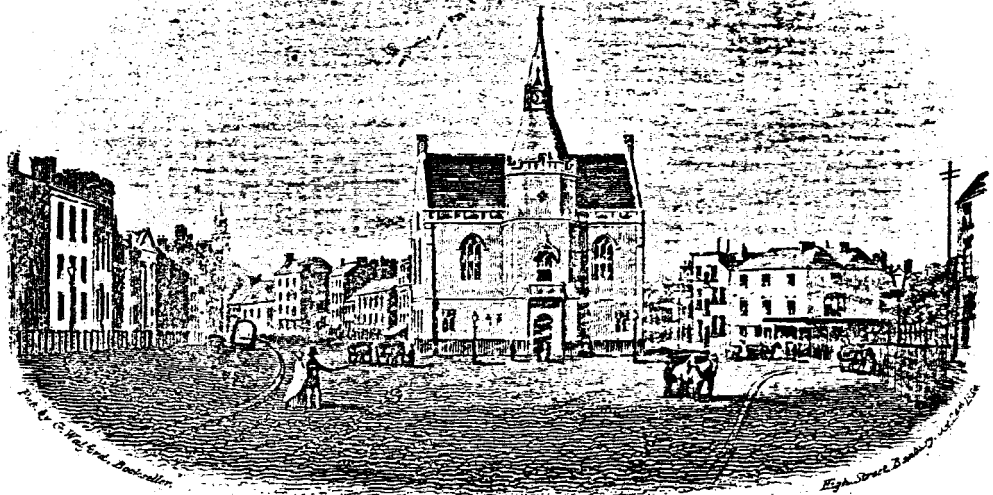


CAKE & COCKHORSE

The Magazine of the Banbury Historical Society



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CAKE AND COCKHORSE.

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"A well-informed, elderly professional man can often give one a view of the inner social history and business history of the town which one would never get from any printed or written records", wrote Dr. Hoskins in his "Local History in England". George Herbert's "Shoemaker's Window" has proved of great value to local historians and Mr. John Langley's reminiscences on his early years in Banbury are likely to be equally useful.

The great value of his article lies in the problems which it continually poses. Of these, the most interesting is why Banbury's economy apparently stagnated after the 1870's. "The Agricultural Depression" is no more than a convenient catch phrase for avoiding an answer to this question. Makers of agricultural machinery ought to have benefitted from farmers' attempts to reduce labour costs. It would seem that the failure of the management of the local foundry to adapt its products to changing demands was a primary cause of stagnation. Banbury's chief economic function, which Mr. Langley's mention of carriers' carts confirms, was that of railhead and distribution centre for a wide area of countryside, but labour demand in such trade would rise only slowly and with a high birth rate, a prosperous manufacturing industry was necessary to maintain a high level of employment. Mr. Langley mentions two points which go far to explain why agriculture itself was relatively less prosperous in the last quarter of the 19th century than earlier. His eye-witness account of the arrival of Australian frozen mutton is of great interest, especially since it shows that normal channels of distribution were not used, and his father's remark on the price of bread could be taken as an epigraph for any discussion of the agricultural troubles of the late 19th century.

Many other problems would merit discussion - why, for example, were the churches built in the mid-19th century so lavish and exuberant in style while those of the last quarter of the century were mean mission halls, including even a "tin tabernacle"? Enough has been said however to indicate the value of this article to the serious historian. Above all else it is a living and vivid portrait of a Banbury very different from that we know today.

SOCIETY ACTIVITIESForthcoming Meetings

Thursday, 28th March "Domestic Architecture in the Banbury Region"
Dr. R. B. Wood-Jones.

Dr. Wood-Jones' eagerly awaited book on the vernacular architecture of the Banbury area is due to be published this Spring, and his address to the Society on the same subject, illustrated by slides, should be most interesting. As yet little attention has been given by historians to such buildings as farmhouses and there would seem to be many exciting discoveries of interest to the social historian as well as to the architect to be made in this sphere of study.

At 7.30 p.m. in the main hall of the Technical College, Broughton Road.

Annual General Meeting.

This will be held at Broughton Castle, by kind invitation of the President and Lady Saye and Sele, on a Saturday late afternoon, either 1st or 15th June. Confirmation of date and full details as well as official notice of the meeting will be sent to members during May.

Tuesday, 2nd July. Visit to Canons Ashby, by kind invitation of Christopher and Peter Woodard. Leaving Banbury at 6.00 p.m.

As announced in the November issue, this house, for centuries the home of the Dryden family, is now being restored by the Woodards. It is an exceptionally interesting and beautiful 16th and early 17th century mansion. The nearby church is the only monastic one other than Peterborough Cathedral surviving in Northamptonshire. Neither are generally open to the public.

It is hoped to arrange a further excursion in late summer, details of which will be circulated in due course.

Alderman R. B. Miller

It is with great regret that we record the death of Alderman R. B. Miller on the 21st January. Alderman Miller had been a member of the Society from its earliest days and was a regular attender at its meetings. A tribute to his work in local government appears on another page; here it may be fitting to mention two achievements for which historians have reason to be particularly grateful. It was during his long secretaryship of Messrs. Hunt Edmunds that the excellent centenary history of the firm was published, and he himself wrote a history of the 19th century Catholic friendly society The Holy Guild of St. Joseph, Our Lady and St. John, which appeared in the Oxfordshire Catholic Magazine of March 1934.

Church Architecture Study Group

Preparations for the forthcoming season are now in hand and it is hoped during the Spring and early Summer to visit the churches at Bloxham, Alkerton, South Newington and Hornton. On Saturday, June 22nd, a half day excursion to Fairford and Cirencester is planned, but it will be necessary to restrict numbers on this occasion. Fuller details will be available later.

Those who intend supporting the study group are asked to contact R.K. Bigwood, 17 Pinhill Road, Banbury, so that they may receive details of final arrangements.

OUR COVER

For this issue this is a view of the Town Hall and High Street, Banbury, engraved and published by G. Walford, Bookseller, October 24th 1854, one of the illustrations in The History of Banbury, by W. P. Johnson.

I first came to Banbury in 1885 when my Mother brought me for a holiday and I remember that I was taken to Mr. Mousir's shop to choose a toy and that I chose a pop gun. In the following year my parents removed to Banbury from Birkenhead and set up in business as bakers and confectioners in the Market Place.

On the 21st June 1887 Queen Victoria's Jubilee was celebrated and I remember being taken to the Horse Fair to assemble with my Sunday School class to march with the Sunday Schools of the town to the Jubilee Field (now the Rugby ground) for tea and entertainment. It was a very hot day.

In the same year I remember being sent with a basket and an order to Bush's the grocers who occupied premises in a building which stood on the site of the present Gloucestershire Shoe Company and Oxford Mail offices. I was stopped on the way and the money which was wrapped in the order was taken from me so that when I reached the shop I had an order but no money.

The railway bridge at this time was only about half its present width and was a regular meeting point where people leant on the parapet, which was only about four feet high, to watch the trains running in and out of the station. I remember walking up there one day in 1890 when I saw a man known as Peggy, who had only one leg and a stump, leading a big horse over to a field to graze when it became restive and got out of hand. To save being dragged along Peggy let go of him and he charged over the bridge dashing his sides against the southern parapet where there was a boy I knew named Humphris leaning with his new bicycle. The horse caught him and his bicycle and sent him for yards along the road. The accident made him an invalid and he only survived a year or so afterwards.

A similar incident happened in 1893 when on the 6th July there was a procession to commemorate the marriage of the Duke of York (afterwards George V) to Princess Mary. I had taken up my stand on Jonas Griffin's steps (where Hobday's sweet shop is now) when the horses in a waggonette took fright and dashed down the road and after scattering the crowd came to a halt at the steps on the near side. A boy I knew, Dick Thomas son of the Borough Ratecollector, was badly injured with others, and I was jammed on the top step by the crowd.

The winter of the same year was very severe and the canal was frozen over for about eleven weeks. Barges were jammed in the ice from Lamprey's Wharf to Castle Wharf. After a few weeks boatmen used to go round the streets with a model boat set in ice blocks on a hand cart asking for help. The Banbury Soup Kitchen in Castle Street was very much in demand at this period.

1894 was another severe winter during which I learned to skate. It was possible to skate to Oxford on the canal except under stone bridges. I remember skating to Twyford without having to get on the tow path. There was a Banbury Skating Club which used to flood a field at the back of Field's Mill, (now occupied by railway sidings and the Borough water department) and a charge was made to non-members. After about 2 years the club closed down. The winter of 1895 was not quite so severe but the canal was frozen and used in parts for skating for about a month. After this we had a succession of very mild winters and no skating but in 1904 a heavy snowstorm in the third week of April cut off from Banbury several of the surrounding villages and shoppers who had come into the town in the open motor cars of that period were obliged to stay for a number of nights as it was impossible to get through drifts which in many places were 10 feet high.

In 1897 Queen Victoria's Diamond Jubilee was celebrated with a Trades and Lady-on-a-White-Horse procession in the morning. The outstanding event was the completion of St. Mary's Church chimes. I obtained a good position on the Horse Fair and saw Alderman William Lake cut the ribbon which started them in motion.

In 1898 the Prince of Wales (later King Edward VII) paid an informal visit to Broughton Castle, then occupied by Lord and Lady Gordon-Lennox. On the return journey about 5 o'clock, made in a dog cart pulled by two horses and driven by a liveried coachman, I was looking out of the office window when I saw an old drover standing by the Town Hall steps and he got so excited waving his cap that he sat down on the pavement. The prince noticed this, laughed, and saluted him.

If you took a walk up the Oxford Road to the first Bodicote turn you would see some

exceptional plants with tall stalks in one of the fields. These were called Turkey Rhubarb and were grown for their roots which were dried and used in medicines. There would also be huge white flowered poppies which later developed large heads which were used for swollen faces and earache. I do not remember seeing these plants growing after the early days of the present century.

A feature of life on Thursdays and Saturdays was the number of carriers' carts, about 120 in all, bringing in their passengers and collecting their orders from tradespeople and loading up their carts for the return journey. The tradespeople were very dependent on their orders at this period. The farmers' wives would display their butter, eggs and milk cheese on the steps of the Drinking Fountain in Cornhill. On a hot summer's day one can imagine what the butter was like, for there were no refrigerators then. From time to time my father asked to take the melting butter towards the end of the market at a cheap rate. We had a good warehouse and our customers enjoyed good cakes made with fresh butter for the weekend. About 1888 there used to come to the market on Thursdays men with some score of mutton carcasses which for those days were considered cheap. I understood these were trial shipments of frozen mutton from Australia. During the summer, particularly on Saturdays, one would see sellers of song sheets in the Market Place. They would sing the chorusses of some of the popular songs of the day such as "My Old Dutch" and "Ta ra ra bom de ay" and then offer the sheets for sale at 1½d or 2d. In the early 1890's a man used to bring to the market a phonograph mounted on a truck and enclosed in an oblong glass case. There were 6 earphones, three on each side, and when these were taken by customers, he would put on a cylinder record, generally a band piece, and the charge would be 2d a time.

On Thursdays cattle were sold in movable pens erected in front of the Town Hall by Messrs. Miller and Abbotts the auctioneers. The Cow Fair was surrounded by railings at this time. The sheep were put into movable pens and sold in the Horse Fair on the frontage between the George and Dragon and the Woolpack. The pigs were penned in front of the Angel in the Market Place which had two areas of cobble stones for convenience in swilling down. The man responsible for putting up these pens was the ostler at the Angel, one Teddy Burchell, a survivor of the battle of Rorke's Drift in the Zulu War of 1879. When he could be induced to talk he would tell in a graphic manner of the way in which Sergeant Broomhill controlled his men, with the hospital set on fire by the Zulus' flaming Assagais burning at their backs and the Zulu hordes in front, and how the Zulus were met with such devastating rifle fire that after making many assaults on our stockades they retreated in disorder.

Mr. H. Bartlett was a chemist in the Market Place and used to combine this business with that of extracting teeth and he had a room at the back of the shop for this purpose. There were no anaesthetics, local or general in those days and many people put up with swollen faces and toothache rather than sit in the chair.

About 1890 the town was visited by an American who called himself "Sequah" who had a conveyance after the style of a covered waggon drawn by four horses, and also a band of 6 players. He made a tour of the town during the day to advertise his demonstrations in the Cow Fair in the evening and to sell his remedies which were his "Prairie Flower" powder and oils. After a talk on his remedies he would offer to extract teeth for, say, 6 people, which was done in a small booth at the rear of the conveyance. After a further talk he would call for so many people who were deformed by rheumatism and would then use his oils and manipulation to remedy their troubles. He had a bundle of walking sticks hung on the side of his waggon and a tray of teeth to show what he accomplished on his tours. He must have been a good dentist for I never heard anyone complain and I saw many walk on to the platform with a stick or sticks and come away without them. He had no lack of customers, and generally the band played while the treatment was in progress. His remedies were sold in some grocers' shops for many years after his visit which I think lasted about a fortnight.

The Waits were a section of the Oxon and Bucks Light Infantry Volunteers Band who played at intervals in various districts of the town. During the summer a movable platform would be put in such places as the Market Place, the Horse Fair and the Cow Fair and they also played during the week or two before Christmas. On Christmas morning about 6 a. m. they would cover most of the town playing the "Mistletoe Bough" and would then call on Boxing day for a contribution to their fund.

The Penny Pops were held on Saturday evenings, first in the Cadbury Memorial Hall and later in the Town Hall. They were carried on mainly by local talent, except for an occasional visit from professional artists who happened to be staying in the neighbourhood. The latter always seemed very willing to give their services.

Henry George's Singers visited the town annually. They were a quartet of very fine singers and instrumentalists and generally came to the Corn Exchange for three days. They gave a high class concert.

Pare and Bowden were local men who ran a concert party at a seaside town in the summer and then gave concerts in Banbury and the surrounding district during the winter months.

Another annual feature at the Corn Exchange was the visit of Poole's Panorama which put before the audience scenes from various parts of the world. The opening scene used to be a fully rigged sailing ship gliding across the stage. At other times a travelling Shakespearean Company would take the Corn Exchange for a week or a fortnight. The gallery was sixpence and was fairly well patronised. Occasionally an Opera Company would give a week's run which would include "Maratine", "The Bohemian Girl", "Faust" and the like. Very good shows they were.

Other visitors were German bands who played round the town for two or three days and then moved on. Other continentals came with dancing bears and barrel organs with a monkey. They generally lodged at Tobin's lodging house in Calthorpe Street which I have since learned was the earliest Wesleyan Chapel in the town.

In 1889 and for a few years following, cavalry and artillery regiments used to put up at Banbury for the night on their way to headquarters after manoeuvres or when being transferred to other barracks. Each public house had to take its quota of men and horses. The artillery guns were placed in front of the Town Hall and a guard placed over them which was changed every few hours until they moved next morning. The officers would be billeted at the Red Lion or the White Lion and the regimental band would play in the adjoining yard for dinner. It was quite an event for the townspeople to be entertained by some of the army's noted bands and to see these various regiments in full dress uniform.

In 1904 John Philip Sousa came here with his band and gave two performances in the Corn Exchange. He was pointed out to me when he came through the Market Place with some of his bandsmen looking at the old buildings. He was a short, rather stocky man. In 1903 Buffalo Bill brought his show here and occupied a field in Southam Road on part of which the Switchgear Works now stands. The day was fine and the events took place in a large arena. What a crowd and what a show! One of the outstanding performers was Annie Oakley who rode a running horse and from all sorts of positions could with her rifle hit a target some distance away.

In the early 1890's the Banbury Philharmonic Society under the guidance of Mr. William Luttmann (then organist at St. Mary's Church) became prominent and such composers as Sir Hubert Parry came to conduct their own works.

Stone and Hartley's bookshop in the High Street (where the National Provincial Bank is now) had a lending library and used to lend out magazines in addition to books. I remember being sent by grandparents to change magazines. My grandfather's evening paper was always the Pall Mall Gazette. Later, Mr. E. J. Hartley kept the Inland Revenue Stamp Office in Bridge Street for a number of years.

Banbury Library at the Mechanics' Institute (now the Borough Library) was a subscription library. When I joined at the age of seventeen the fee was half a crown a quarter. There was a long counter with about four catalogues, and the books were all on shelves behind. One chose a book from the catalogue and then the assistant found it on the shelf and handed it over. Mr T. W. Boss was the Librarian assisted by his daughter, Miss Boss.

Banbury's streets were lit by gas lamps. The lamplighter used to go round with a long pole which had an oil lamp at the top and a catch on the side for turning on the gas and then putting the oil lamp to the burner, which was the old fish tail type. He had to make the same round in the morning to put the lamps out. This was generally done by a man as a side line. The lamps were not lit during the longer days of the summer months.

In the early 1890's the Liberal Club and the Conservative Club used to run an annual trip to the seaside, fare five shillings, under twelve half price. I remember going to Yarmouth starting at 2.30 a.m. and returning about 5 o'clock the following morning.

On another occasion the place chosen was Llandudno.

In the late 80's and early 90's I remember a number of occasions when I was awakened by shouting and boy-like, looking out of the window, saw a crowd around a ring and two men stripped to the waist and slogging at one another for all they were worth until a policeman came and dispersed fighters and crowd. These fights took place on the cobbled stoned Pig Market. In Mill Lane at this time there were no less than four public houses and the rear entrance to one in the Cow Fair.

I remember going up the Causeway about this period and counting nineteen houses vacant in one block in addition to odd ones here and there, such was the stagnation of industry in the town at the time. In the early 90's there were to be seen glaring posters in front of the shipping agents offering 160 acres free to settlers in Canada, and about 1904 there was the shipping rate war when one could get a steerage passage to New York for thirty shillings.

When the branch line from Woodford to Banbury was being built, a little distance before the junction with the G. W. R. the river was very winding and had to be diverted and a straight cutting made. When this was filled with water it made a good swimming place for young Banbury and was fully used on Sunday afternoons in the summer. Our swimming baths, then in the recreation ground, only opened until 9 a. m. on Sundays.

1899 saw the start of the Boer War and many Banbury reservists were called up which made quite a stir in the town. In 1901 there was a call for volunteers for the Imperial Yeomanry and many men from the town and district answered the call and went to South Africa. Quite a number of them did not return, nearly all of them dying from Enteric Fever, the scourge of this war. On May 17th 1900 came the relief of Mafeking and in preparation for this event a couple of days before the town allowed a huge bonfire to be built in the Cow Fair, Tar barrels, butter casks and other flammable material was collected and a stack about 30 feet high was lit on the night when news of the relief came through. Fireworks were let off in an informal way. So intense was the heat from the bonfire that it scorched the doors of the Town Hall and many of the adjacent shops. After this, all future bonfire celebrations were relegated to the recreation ground.

At the Banbury Fair of the 1880's it was so crowded after about ten o'clock that I was sent away to my Grandmother's for the day for fear of being crushed in the Market Place and Cow Fair. One of the outstanding things was the number of sausage and roll stalls, all cooking their sausages over a coke fire and advertising so-and-so's special sausages. There were probably about 35 stalls and the price of a sausage and roll was 2½d.

Another event of importance was the Twelfth Fair in January which lasted about three days. Horses were brought in for sale by farmers and dealers and there was generally a herd of donkeys, and Shetland and Exmoor ponies on view. It was interesting to see ostlers running up and down the Horse Fair with their horses to exhibit their qualities. This fair brought many Gypsies into the neighbourhood to buy and sell horses. On the closing day of the fair dealers could be seen going down to the railway station with five shilling baskets of Banbury Cakes. These were round wicker baskets, made, I believe, specially for the occasion. I do not remember seeing them at any other time. Mr. J. Hutchings and his family were well known basket makers and used to have osier beds on the sides of the canal and the river. Occasionally wild raspberries sprang up in these beds.

One of the biggest fires I witnessed in my early days about 1889 was at Thomas and Rae's carriage factory which was situated in Middleton Road on a site now occupied by the six houses just before the "Blacklock's Arms". The upper storey was of wood, and with its stock of paints and enamels it burnt furiously and produced such heat that watchers were not allowed to stand in East Street.

On April 1st 1901 I was going to work about 8 o'clock when the funeral hearse of Mr. Joseph Lumbert passed me. It was going to the G. W. R. station to be put on the train for Woking for cremation. This was the first cremation I remember from Banbury.

The Town Council of those days used to divide portions of the Corporation Farm near to the "Bowling Green", Nethercote, into grass plots with irrigation channels running between the plots. The crop was put up for sale by auction in the spring and there was a ready sale among the farmers and horse keepers of the town and district.

The Banbury Harriers' Sports held on Whit Monday were a feature of this period. Prominent athletes from all over the country came to compete in running, walking and

cycling events and good prizes were offered. On one occasion the famous Captain Percival made a balloon ascent. After inflating the balloon with hot air he ascended with a parachute which he released somewhere near King's Sutton. He was brought back to the centre of the ground before the closing item to receive the applause of the spectators.

Prices of foodstuffs at this period have been of much interest to me. Eggs were 24 a shilling, Spanish oranges around Christmas time were 50 a shilling, Canadian bacon back cuts were 6d a pound, tobacco 5½d or 6d for two ounces according to brand, Ogden's Guinea Gold cigarettes were 2½d for 10 with a photo in the packet and Woodbines, a penny for a packet of five. A 4lb loaf of bread cost 3½d and I remember my father remarking at the time that at that price it was no use to the grower, the miller or the baker.

In the 1890's Labour Certificates were introduced into the Elementary Schools so that scholars with a certain standard of education could sit for them and leave school at the age of 12 and then go to work. School fees had to be paid, from 1d to 4d per week according to age and the form one was in.

A Wesleyan school in Dashwood Road had been the idea of the local Wesleyan Methodist community for many years when it was realised by their Superintendent minister, Rev. John E. Pater about 1900. The building was completed and opened in 1902 with Mr. A. Bolton, formerly head of the Crouch Street British School, as its first headmaster. On the implementation of the 1902 Education Act the school was handed over to the Banbury Education Committee.

I remember going along Marlborough Road somewhere about 1892 and looking through the railings surrounding what had been Dr. Stanton Wise's garden I noticed a builder's apprentice I knew named Lord, chopping down some sapling trees. On asking him why he was doing it, I learned that it was to be the site for a new school, which turned out to be the Banbury Municipal School. Mr. E. Simmons, M.A. was the first headmaster, Mr. Seymour H. Beale, art and science master and Mr. J.H. Overton, form master. Mr. Beale was very keen on inviting lecturers particularly on scientific subjects. Their lectures were generally illustrated with lantern slides and were held on Saturday evenings in the lecture theatre. They were well patronised by townspeople as well as students, and one had to be in good time to get a seat.

The churches of the town were very well attended prior to the First World War. The meeting room in Gatteridge Street, now the Banbury Advertiser printing works, belonged to the Plymouth Brethren, later to move to a hall in Beargarden Road. I recall that Mr. and Mrs. H. Deverill were among the leading members of this body in the 90's. He was a seedsman and florist, with an excellent reputation for seeds, and his shop was on Cornhill and approached by two stone steps. The premises are now occupied by Foster Bros.

The Strict Baptists with their meeting hall in Dashwood Road always seemed to be a small body and the leading member I recall was Mr. E. Carpenter who kept a furniture and cabinet maker's business in Parson's Street.

The Unitarian Church was well attended at one time when they could draw upon such outstanding Oxford scholars and preachers as Dr. J. Estlin Carpenter.

In the late 1880's and early 90's there was a chapel in Centre Street, locally known as the "Tin Tabernacle" as it was a corrugated iron structure. The minister, I remember was the Rev. Newell. It belonged to some Evangelical body whose name I do not recall.

In the heyday of Samuelson's foundry I remember seeing painters putting the final coat of paint on mowing machines after they had been loaded into rail trucks for despatch. At a later date competition became severe when firms like Bamford's and Massey Harris entered the market and trade declined, especially when other firms introduced the combined reaper and binder. I understand they started to produce flour milling machinery but the market soon became satisfied and there were already a number of firms making this kind of plant, so trade declined until the works closed in 1929. My brother Thomas H. Langley was the last member of the staff and he, with Mr. Ernest Samuelson, had the unenviable job of locking up the premises at the close. Their machines must have been well-made as enquiries for parts often came for machines which had been in use for 40 years.

The Banbury Linen Factory had a small works on the Middleton Road and employed quite a number of female hands. They later transferred to a newly built factory in Britannia Road, now owned by Spencer (Banbury) Ltd.

In the early 90's the Banbury Tweed Factory, situated at the bottom of Factory Street was a going concern, employing quite a number of men and women and enjoying a reputation for good cloth. In 1897 it closed and the premises were later taken over by the Wyvern Kid Company, manufacturers of special leathers.

The Coronation of King Edward VII was to have been in June 1902 but all local celebrations were cancelled about 2 days before on account of the King's illness. The celebrations were held about 3 months later in the Jubilee Field.

John L. Langley.

REVIEW

Marriage Register of Banbury Part Two 1724-1790, transcribed by Mrs. N. Fillmore and J.S.W. Gibson, edited by J.S.W. Gibson. Banbury Historical Society, 1962, 30s (issued to members for 1961 25s).

The Banbury Historical Society is to be congratulated on its production of a further volume of entries from the Parish Registers of Banbury. This volume ends in 1790, the year in which the old parish church was pulled down. The previous volume covered the years 1558 to 1724, whilst a third volume is at present in active preparation and is designed to cover the years 1790 to 1837. Besides the transcripts of the registers, the volume contains an illuminating introduction, a useful reference list of contemporary clergy, and indexes of names, places and occupations.

Parish Registers are among the most important records for local historians and for genealogists, and the appearance of this volume will therefore be welcomed by all those with an interest in the history of Banbury, or with ancestors who married there during the eighteenth century. Marriage, as well as being the most important event, is frequently the most difficult event to trace in the life of a man or woman. Whereas a child's baptism will usually take place in the church of the parish in which he was born, and a burial likewise, a marriage on the contrary up to 1754 was not necessarily celebrated in the parish church of either the bride or the bridegroom, but often somewhere quite other. Banbury parish church frequently witnessed weddings of non-residents, although many of these were inhabitants of the surrounding villages for whom Banbury was the market town. This register in particular illustrates this very well. Opening a page at random, one finds that no less than twenty-two out of thirty six persons married between May and October 1744 came from outside Banbury. In nine out of the eighteen weddings both bride and groom came from outside the parish. For genealogists and biographers it is thus obviously of the greatest importance to have access to as large a number of printed marriage registers as possible, so that they do not have to search the parish chests of perhaps hundreds of different villages and towns to locate the marriage that they are seeking. The useful index of places shows that even if the majority of non-parishioners who married in Banbury came from other parts of Oxfordshire, or from Northamptonshire, Warwickshire or Buckinghamshire, a minority came from much farther afield, or even, in the case of Samuel Joanes and Jane Hog (married 25 February 1734) from no known place of origin. They were described as 'both travellers'. Sometimes, but not often, the reason for the presence of persons from distant places is given, as in the case of Joseph Anstick of Horning in Norfolk (married 26 May 1777) who was 'a soldier belonging to ye Seventh Regmt. of Foot now recruiting at Banbury'.

For the local historian the Index of Trades and Professions may be the most interesting and useful way of approaching the volume. The large number of 'servants' and 'labourers' might be found anywhere, and similarly the number of 'farmers', but the size and variety of the cloth-making community is of particular local interest. Not only do very large numbers of un-differentiated weavers appear, but a host of specialist weavers - there are many Garterweavers and Shagweavers, several plushweavers and single Jersey-, stocking-, and blanket-weavers in the register, apart from two 'manufacturers of shag'. As might be expected there are a number of ancillary occupations represented, wool-combers for example, who prepared the wool of the Cotswold sheep for the weavers. In addition to these there are representatives of the whole range of professions and trades that one would expect to find in a market town, and perhaps a few that one might not - organist, chair-bottomer and hair-throwster!

University of Keele.

Peter Spufford. M. A.

A NINETEENTH CENTURY VICAR OF BANBURY: THOMAS WILLIAM LANCASTER

Thomas William Lancaster was vicar of Banbury from 1815 until 1849 - the longest incumbency in the history of the parish. Some years ago, the present vicar came into possession of one of Lancaster's letter books, containing a selection of his correspondence during the years 1827 to 1830.(1) These letters are interesting for the light they shed upon both local and more general church history. In this article I propose to discuss a few of these against the background of a brief account of Lancaster's life and times.

He was born at Fulham, the son of the Reverend Thomas Lancaster, in 1787. He entered Oriel, then perhaps the leading college in Oxford, in 1804, was B. A. in 1807 taking a second class in the school of Litterae Humaniores. He proceeded M. A. in 1810. In 1809 he was elected fellow of The Queen's College. In the next year he was admitted to deacon's orders and in 1812 was ordained priest and became curate of Banbury. The vicar, John Lamb D. D. (2), was often non-resident, though he took a part in the secular affairs of the town. He resigned in 1815 and Lancaster succeeded him, marrying in the following year Ann Walford, whose family had been prominent locally for many years. They had no children.

Lancaster's appearance is vividly described by a contemporary: "I well remember him" writes George Herbert, "a fine-built man, rather stout and his dress rather peculiar. It was a black coat and waist coat with pantaloons, black and fitting tight to the skin, and Hessian boots reaching to the knee, hollowed out behind and a small black tassel hanging from the outside of the shin. It was a most gentlemanly dress and so peculiar that no one I ever knew wore it, but I understand that it was a dress much worn at one time but had gone out of fashion" (3).

Lancaster's interests were predominantly academic. He seems to have regarded the living largely as an endowment for study and writing and after about 1823 he lived for some half of the time in Oxford, leaving the parish in charge of assistant priests. The succession of these curates - for some years a rapid one - is interesting: 1823, William West; 1824, H. A. S. Attwood, B. A.; 1826, C. Cutbush, M. A.; 1827, Yate Fosbrooke, B. A.; 1828, R. Yaldwin; 1829, J. Hill, M. A. For a period in 1830 there seems to have been no curate, but 1831 saw the appointment of a remarkable man, J. R. Rushton, B. D., whose ministry of ten years wrought great good to both parish and town (4). Lancaster apparently left him in complete control. He was surrogate for the granting of marriage licences and local newspapers show that it was Rushton who constantly took the chair at important annual meetings such as those of the Church Missionary Society, the National School Society, the Charitable and the Bible Societies; and he it was who said the Grace and made a speech at the Festival Conservative dinner in 1839 at the Red Lion Hotel (5), and he it was to whom Alfred Beesley dedicated the History of Banbury, which appeared in 1841, the year in which Rushton left Banbury for the perpetual curacy, later rectory, of Hook Norton (6). In 1841 there were two curates, T. Mardon, B. A., and J. Sanders, B. A. Mardon stayed until the vicar resigned in 1849. Sanders left in 1845 and was followed as second curate by Charles Forbes, M. A., who held the position until the departure of the vicar. From 1846 however, Forbes was also incumbent of the newly-created parish of South Banbury.

The organist for almost the whole of Lancaster's time here was Robert Edwards; it was not until 1847 that he was succeeded by Frederick Marshall. The parish clerk from sometime between 1809 and 1812 was William Arne (7); he was succeeded by G. Beere who held the office until 1874. Arne was also Master of the Charity School and carried on the trade of pawnbroker.

When Lancaster became vicar in 1815, the parish church was only 18 years old; its stone shone and no grime was upon it, though it lacked tower and portico, for these were not completed until 1822. Within, all was severely plain, the walls and pillars whitewashed, the windows of frosted glass. Galleries ran all round; the eastern one, upon which stood the organ, blocked the chancel arch. A high pulpit stood at the south side. Large box pews filled the body of the church. The painting of "The Dead Christ", which now hangs on the south east wall of the nave, then formed the altar piece, as it had done in the old church. An inscription on the back informs us that "This painting was presented by Painton Piggott, Esquire, through the hands of Miss Mary Longe, to

the Rev. T. W. Lancaster, vicar, on 25th day of January 1817, to be deposited in the parish church or chancel of Banbury for ever". Miss Longe was related to the Piggott family, members of which were in the 18th and early 19th centuries inappropriate rectors of Banbury. It was probably by reason of the customary rectorial rights in the chancel that the picture was held by the Piggotts after the demolition of the former church (8).

St. Mary's was lit by oil lamps and candles until 1842 when gas was laid on. Money for this was largely raised from the proceeds of a grand musical festival held in the church (9). Leading artists of the day appeared, there were cathedral services rendered by choirs from Oxford and Stratford-upon-Avon and a concert of selections from "Messiah" and "The Creation". Tickets ranged in price from £5 to one shilling and the church was filled.

Throughout Lancaster's time as vicar of Banbury and later the preacher wore a black gown, as was then usual in the English Church (10). Confirmations were held at intervals of about 7 years and preparation, if it can be called such, was slight. A local diarist, Mrs. Sarah Beesley recalled her confirmation at St. Mary's in 1828, when she was 16. Mr. Yaldwin, the curate, previously called at her home, "My father had a Prayer Book and asked me 'What is your duty to your neighbour?'. I answered; and my father remarked to Mr. Yaltwin that I had answered quite correctly. He said, 'Oh, I'm sure she is a very good girl'. He did not ask anything at all" (11).

In 1829 a terrible epidemic of smallpox smote the town. The number of deaths was alarming. Mrs. Beesley tells us that the church bells tolled every night at 11.30 "for a long time, the funerals taking place at that hour". Burials were in the churchyard "on the side nearest the Windmill Inn" - that is, where Mr. Wyncoll's shop now stands. "The clergymen did not go very near the grave" (12).

Every Sunday morning, the Mayor and corporation attended the parish church in state, walking thither in procession from the Mayor's house. In 1834 Mrs. Beesley's father was chief citizen and she says "they occupied the corporation pew, a large square pew near the pulpit. The Mayor sat on a large raised seat facing the congregation" (13).

Lancaster, as we have seen, was for long periods non-resident. Much of his time was devoted to private tutoring both of pupils about to enter the University and of those already there. One of the letters, with no address or date, signed J. Bayley, thanks Lancaster for the tuition and care of his two sons and makes a reference which reveals something of the education methods then - and for long after - current. Five hours a day were to be given to translation of Cicero, "first into English and then back again into Latin, allowing time to get the Latin by heart; it would assist much in making themes".

The vicar seems to have kept out of local church controversies, though as a member of the corporation he was active in municipal affairs, at least during his early years at Banbury. Mrs. Sarah Beesley records one amusing mishap which befel Lancaster in the parliamentary election riot of 1820. With other members he found himself marooned in the Town Hall. The angry rioters were intent upon pulling it down and started on the pillars which supported it. The vicar climbed into the loft under the clock; the ceiling did not bear his considerable weight and he went through, "but happening to bestride a joist he sat there with his legs dangling through the ceiling One by one the members managed to steal away" (14).

In general it appears that relations between the vicar and his parishioners were not happy; this, coupled with prolonged absenteeism, was probably the cause for the intervention of the bishop, the redoubtable Samuel Wilberforce, who in 1849 persuaded Lancaster to exchange livings with William Wilson of Over Worton (15). He continued to live mostly in Oxford, - for some years he taught at Magdalen College School. However it was at his lodgings in High Street that he was found dead in bed on the morning of December 12th 1859. An inquest was held and the University coroner gave the verdict that he had died "by the visitation of God". He was buried in the then new cemetery in Holywell, where on a flat stone with a cross sculptured upon it is the inscription "To the memory of Thomas William Lancaster, M.A., Rector of Over Worton. Died December 12th 1859 aged 72. Also of Ann, his wife, died February 8th, 1860, aged 84"(16).

At Oxford Lancaster was widely respected as a scholar and a theologian of some distinction. In 1831 he was elected to give the Bampton Lectures (published as The Popular Evidence of Christianity) and in 1832 he was one of the select preachers to the University and a public examiner. In churchmanship, Lancaster belonged to the "high and dry"

school which even then was becoming rather old-fashioned. He was rigidly orthodox; he strenuously asserted the rights of the Church of England as the national church and was resolutely opposed to all reform; he had no sympathy with either excited tractarians or "enthusiastic" evangelicals; and he scarcely allowed the possibility of salvation outside his own church - dissenters and Roman Catholics were alike anathema to him. He entered with zest into the theological turmoils of the day. We find him ranged among the opponents of the liberal Dr. Hampden, Regius Professor of Divinity. One of his pamphlets is accompanied by a correspondence with some of the University authorities; it includes a reference to "poor Mr. Lancaster's trouble and indignation at losing his preaching turns from Queen's College in consequence of coarse invectives (e.g. 'that atrocious professor') hurled by him from St. Mary's pulpit at Dr. Hampden" (17).

Apart from much pamphleteering, Lancaster's considerable body of work includes, The Harmony of the Law and Gospel with regard to the doctrine of a future state (1825), A Treatise on Confirmation (1831), and Vindiciae Symbolicae, or a Treatise on the Creeds, Articles of Faith and Articles of Doctrine; with several tracts on other subjects; these include one "Against Latitudinarianism" and another on "The necessity and due frequency of eucharistical communion". Among the subscribers were the two archbishops and the bishop of Oxford (18).

Turning now to the Letter Book, I venture, as it is unpaginated, to refer by numbers to the letters selected; those from Lancaster are copies, those to him are originals.

Number 1 is to Miss Mary Longe, whom we have already met. It is dated from the Vicarage, October 10th, 1827, and thanks her for the gift of four silver plates for collecting alms at Holy Communion. They are still in use. Each is engraved in the centre with "I. H. S." encircled with rays of glory; an inscription round the edge states " The gift of Miss Mary Longe, spinster, of Banbury, as a Testimony of her attachment to the church, 1st, Sept., 1827".

Number 2 is from the secretary of the bishop of London (19), dated October 13th 1827, informing Lancaster that the bishop has appointed him to preach in St. Paul's Cathedral on November 11th.

Number 3 is short but it introduces two of the most prominent churchmen and Oxonians of the time. Richard Whateley (20) wrote to ask Lancaster to call on Joseph Blanco White (21) "and talk over the review" and says that Blanco White is to be found in lodgings at "Palmer's opposite Merton". Whateley (incidentally a direct descendant of our early 17th century vicar) was a fellow of Oriel and a leader of the broad church party. He later became archbishop of Dublin. Big, brusque and dominating, he is reminiscent in some what of his contemporary Edward Tatham (22), that former curate of Banbury who became the formidable ruler of Lincoln College. Blanco White was also a member of the Oriel common room. One of his most intimate friends was another fellow of Oriel, John Henry Newman (23), who has described these very rooms at Palmer's where he and Blanco White used to play the violin. Newman tells of how impressed he was on his first visit by the sight of the rows of patristic tomes which lined the walls: "huge fellows they are, but very cheap; one costs a shilling". It is intriguing to speculate on how closely Lancaster was acquainted with Newman, for he must have known him to some extent. Newman had close connections with the Banbury neighbourhood; and it was at Over Worton that on July 23rd, 1824, he preached his first sermon, ten days after being made deacon (24).

Lancaster was always hoping for a permanent academic post of importance. He applied for the librarianship of the British Museum, for the professorship of classics at the recently founded King's College in London, for the principalship of Elizabeth College, Guernsey. In none of these was he successful. It is not difficult to imagine his growing frustration as the years wore on.

The letterbook contains several answers from eminent persons who were asked for testimonials or recommendation. Sometimes they complied, but more often not.

Letter 5 is from the famous Edward Copleston (25), bishop of Llandaff and dean of St. Paul's. He declined to recommend the vicar for the British Museum librarianship on the ground that he had already supported Mr. (later Sir) Frederic Madden (26); a good choice for Madden became one of the greatest palaeographers of the century and eventually keeper of the Museum.

In his application for the headship of Elizabeth College, Lancaster solicited a test-

imonial from the archbishop of Canterbury, William Howley (27). Letter 6 is a reply, written in the archbishop's own hand, dated January 30th, 1829, from Addington Park, then the primatial country seat, saying that the archbishop never wrote testimonials: "it would be an infraction of my general rule which would be productive of much inconvenience". Those were leisurely days in which an archbishop's correspondence could be dealt with by himself. Dr. Howley's wife once said that his daily letters were few and only just covered the bottom of a smallish china bowl placed in the hall.

Letter 7 is from the bishop of Oxford, Charles Lloyd (28), again in his own hand, dated from Cuddesdon Palace, June 23rd, 1828. It accepts the vicar's invitation to dinner at Banbury after a confirmation service and asks him to reserve beds for himself (the bishop) and Mr. Burton (probably the bishop's chaplain) "at Mrs. Norton's inn" (29).

Lancaster was a strong opponent of Roman Catholic Emancipation and when Sir Robert Peel, M. P. for Oxford University, resigned on the issue, he actively supported the other candidate, Sir Robert Inglis, who after a violent contest, won the seat. Letter 8 is from the new member and thanks the vicar for his help, adding, "the constitution of England ought to be preserved fundamentally and exclusively protestant, that no infringement be made on the great settlement of 1688". An interesting list of Inglis' chief supporters is pinned into the letter book. The names include nine heads of colleges, including the venerable Dr. Routh, president of Magdalen, Bulkeley Bandinel, Bodley's librarian; Philip Bliss, the registrar; John Henry Newman, the fellow of Oriel, and some fifty other fellows.

In 1828 Lancaster was chaplain to the Lord Mayor of London. Letter 9, from "G. Gough, Tower Street, London, January 22nd, 1829", informs the vicar that the common council of the city had voted him a purse of 50 guineas as a token of their esteem.

In letter 10, dated March 14th, 1828, Mr. D. Twopenny of Leytonstone thanks Lancaster for sending an engraving of the vicarage; but says that he thinks the artist has taken liberties "in the way of knocking down fences, changing the character of the ground, etc., which have taken away the likeness and which is not necessary to do to make the place look pretty". A previous correspondent had referred to "your pretty vicarage", and certainly in Lancaster's time, before Henry Back had made his rather pretentious additions and when the Horse Fair was a green with many fine trees, the house must have been even more delightful to behold than it is today.

University of Birmingham.

E. R. C. Brinkworth.

* * * * *

REFERENCES

- 1) I am very grateful to the Revd. R. P. R. Carpenter for access to the Letter Book.
- 2) Vicar, 1783-1815. 3) Shoemaker's Window, Ed. C. S. Cheney. (Oxford, 1948), P. 40.
- 4) The above details are from Rusher's annual Banbury Lists.
- 5) Banbury Cuttings, 1838-42. (Banbury Public Library)
The dinner, we read, (P. 25) "was served in great profusion and with venison supplied by Mr. W. R. Cartwright. The order of toasts is instructive. First, "Church and Queen", then, "the Queen Dowager and the rest of the Royal Family", then, "the clergy of the Church of England", then, "the Army and Navy", then others.
- 6) For his remarkable ministry of 40 years there see Margaret Dickens, A History of Hook Norton, (Banbury, 1928), P. 151-53.
- 7) Rusher's annual Banbury List. William Arne was a descendant of Arne, the composer.
- 8) For a fuller description see R. P. R. Carpenter, The Story of St. Mary's Banbury (Gloucester, n. d.), P. 17 ff; and see the plate facing P. 196 in W. Potts, A History of Banbury, (Banbury, 1958).
- 9) See Sarah Beesley, My Life (privately published, Banbury, 1892) P. 55. A programme of this festival is in the Rusher Collection. (Banbury Public Library).
- 10) Henry Back (vicar 1860-81) wore the surplice in the pulpit for the first time on Sunday, December 22nd, 1866. It was resented by many and, with other changes, was "the topic of much conversation, and a good deal of excitement was manifested". (S. Beesley, op. cit., pp. 114-15.)
- 11) *Ibid.*, P. 29. Such scanty preparation was a commonplace. Cf. C. K. F. Brown, A History of the English Clergy, (London, 1953) p. 131.
- 12) S. Beesley, op. cit., P. 33. 13) *Ibid.*, p. 41. 14) *Ibid.*, p. 19.

- 15) Dictionary of National Biography, sub. Lancaster, T.W. The author, W.A. Greenhill, M.D., wrote from personal knowledge and inquiry. Samuel Wilberforce (1805-73) was bishop of Oxford 1845-69.
- 16) J. R. Bloxham, Magdalen College Register, III, p.271.
- 17) G.V. Cox, Recollections of Oxford (London, 1868), p. 271.
- 18) See prospectus of the work in the Rusher Collection. (Banbury Public Library)
- 19) William Howley (1766-1848), archbishop of Canterbury, 1827.
- 20) Richard Whateley, 1787-1836.
- 21) Joseph Blanco White, 1775-1841. Fellow of Oriel. The "review" probably refers to the new quarterly started in 1828 as The London Review, with Blanco White as editor. It proved to be too ponderous and lasted for 2 numbers only.
- 22) Edward Tatham, 1749-1834. Banbury was his first curacy, from 1778-1781 when he was elected fellow of Lincoln College. See V.H.H. Green, Oxford Common Room, (Oxford, 1957) P.43. 23) John Henry Newman, 1801-90.
- 24) The curate at Worton, the Revd. Walter Mayers, was Newman's friend and mentor. Perhaps the best account of Newman's connection with Mayers and Worton is in Sean O'Faolain, Newman's Way (London, 1952), passim.
- 25) Edward Copleston, 1776-1849. Provost of Oriel, 1814-26. 1827, bishop of Llandaff and dean of St. Paul's.
- 26) Frederic Madden, 1801-73. See H.H.E. Craster, The History of the Bodleian Library, (Oxford, 1952) P.302. 27) See Note 19.
- 28) Charles Lloyd, 1784-1829. Bishop of Oxford, 1827-29.
- 29) There is no mention of this inn among those in Rusher's Lists.

Editor's Note: In the vestry of St. Mary's Church, Banbury, hangs a portrait believed to be of Thomas Lancaster, though it cannot positively be identified as such. The vicar kindly gave permission for it to be photographed with the object of using it as an illustration in this magazine, but unfortunately it was not possible to make a reproduction of sufficiently high quality. The photograph as been lodged in the Society's collection.

"R. B." - A Tribute.

When the story of twentieth century Banbury is written, one name which will occur repeatedly will be that of the late Alderman R. B. Miller - known with affection to his colleagues on the Council as "R. B." For half his lifetime he served on the Borough Council and was Mayor on two occasions.

He saw many changes in that time, and indeed was largely responsible for some of them, yet at all times he retained a great love of the past, of local traditions, landmarks and institutions, which he fought to preserve.

A particular example of this was when, on the occasion of his retirement from active business life, he volunteered on behalf of the Council to resurrect many of the local Charities which had become moribund.

In recent years his role as "father of the Council" became more and more evident. . . Not only did he give every assistance and encouragement to new members, but he refrained from the rough and tumble of party political debate. On many occasions, when argument got the better of reason, he would interject a few carefully chosen words which would put the matter immediately into proper perspective.

His colleagues on the council were unanimous in their resolution to confer on Alderman Miller, in recognition of his services, the highest honour they could bestow - the honorary Freedom of the Borough. This honour came as a great surprise to him and we were happy to know that it gave him great pride and pleasure, although, unfortunately, he died before the formal ceremony and presentation could take place.

It will be hard to fill his place on the Council, and we mourn the loss of a loyal comrade and true friend.

John Portergill.

LECTURE: "Heraldry - a living art".

On January 31st those members of the Society who braved snow and icy roads to attend the meeting at the Technical College were amply rewarded by a talk which was both instructive and entertaining. J. P. Brooke-Little, Esq., Bluemantle Pursuivant of Arms talked on "Heraldry - a living art".

He introduced the subject by describing the origins and purpose of Heraldry, making it quite clear that the original coat of arms was a very necessary device, ensuring instant recognition on the field of battle, in joust and tournament, on seals (the only way of authenticating documents in an age of almost total illiteracy) and on personal possessions. Heraldry was never exclusively utilitarian but from its inception was decorative and symbolic of the unity of a family.

Slides were shown of some of the earliest coats of arms gradually progressing to coats of arms for banks, towns and other corporate bodies for whom the shield or full achievement serves the original purpose of an instantly recognisable "trade mark". Mr. Brooke-Little suggested that families wishing to possess armorial bearings today do this not so that they can be placed on the door of the new mini-car but rather that they can be some link in these days of uncertainty between far-flung members of the family.

The interest in the subject aroused by such an able speaker was apparent by the number of questions with which Mr. Brooke-Little was bombarded at the end of his talk.

J. J. P.

FIFTH ANNUAL REPORT

The Committee has pleasure in submitting its Fifth Annual Report and Statement of Accounts, for 1962.

In a most successful year outstanding features have been the publication of two records volumes, the establishment of a church architecture study group, and the "new look" given to Cake & Cockhorse, both in editorial policy and in printing.

Membership: This has again risen, from 187 to 208. We are particularly pleased to welcome the Grammar School as a corporate member.

Lectures and Meetings:- Five general meetings have been held, the autumn ones in the new Technical College. The following lectures were given:-
 January: "Bicester Wills and Inventories" - Miss G. H. Dannatt.
 March: "Local Church Architecture" - G. Forsyth Lawson Esq.
 May (A. G. M., at Wroxton Abbey): "The Norths of Wroxton" - E. R. C. Brinkworth Esq.
 September: "Midland Goldsmiths of the Elizabethan Period" - S. A. Jeavons Esq.
 November: "The Excavation of Tusmore Round Barrow" - Squadron-Leader G. Wood.

As before we are most grateful to all our speakers, who have given their services without charge.

There were excursions to Williamscote House in June and Farnborough Hall in August.

Church Architecture Study Group:

Successful visits were made during the summer to the churches of Swalcliffe, Horley, Adderbury and Broughton. Such a group has always been one of the aims of the Society and we are most grateful to Mr. R. K. Bigwood for organising it and to Mr. Forsyth Lawson for his expert guidance.

Archaeology:

Mr. R. D. J. Fearon conducted a small excavation on behalf of the Society on the site of the White Horse Hotel, Banbury High Street, which it is hoped to continue in 1963. Oxford University Archaeological Society continued work at Rainsborough; and Squadron Leader Wood completed his investigation of Tusmore Round Barrow, on which we will be publishing a report in due course.

Architectural Survey:

Mr. M. L. Laithwaite has started a survey of 16th and 17th century houses in Banbury.

Cake and Cockhorse.

Volume One was concluded by the March number and the subsequent issue of an index to the first twelve issues compiled by R. C. Couzens. We are most grateful to Dr. Beeson for his original conception of the magazine and for his editorship over the first three years, and also to Mr. E. G. Lander for his efficient duplicating of Volume One.

The original purpose of the magazine was to record the affairs of the Society, but there has been a gradual change towards a policy of centring the magazine around articles founded on original research. This policy has been extended by Mr. B. S. Trinder who has been editor since September.

Volume Two has benefitted from a higher quality method of printing (by photo-litho) which has won widespread acclaim. This has meant a substantial rise in costs but much more material is included per issue and it allows much greater versatility.

Publications:

Records volumes for both 1961; "Banbury Marriage Register Part Two, 1724-1790", and 1962, "Clockmaking in Oxfordshire, 1400-1850" by C. F. C. Beeson, a joint publication with the Antiquarian Horological Society, have now been issued. Dr. Beeson should be complimented not only for his research and authorship, but also for his handling of the production of "Clockmaking" which resulted in a volume of such high quality.

Christmas Card:

This year's card, our most ambitious and successful yet, was a full-colour reproduction of a watercolour of the Town Hall and Cowfair in 1863.

Accounts:

The satisfactory surplus on the Publications Account (of a non-recurrent nature) is partially offset by a small deficit on the Revenue Account. It is a matter of concern that subscription income remains insufficient for the running costs of the Society.

The Christmas Card brought in a good profit after substantial outlay. A grant of £5 was made towards the considerable costs of Mr. Laithwaite's architectural survey. Sales of "Old Banbury" and of publications to non-members have again almost doubled. However in spite of £45 provision in last year's accounts for expenditure on the 1961 volume this was exceeded by a further £25, only offset slightly by a £6. 6. 0 donation specifically towards the cost of special binding of presentation copies. The larger edition enabled by joint publication has made it possible to produce the 1962 volume very economically. Dr. Beeson is generously allowing the undistributed stock to be held as an interest-free loan, repayable on sale. The renewed grant from the Borough Council has again been a vital factor in enabling us to publish at all.

New Members

We are pleased to welcome the following members who have joined during the past year:

J. H. Bowles, Esq., Miss D. Bromley, D. E. Eagles, Esq., F. J. Frost, Esq., Miss A. M. Hellawell, Mrs. B. Jack, Dr. H. G. Judge, A. A. Kerr, Esq., J. M. W. Laithwaite Esq., I. F. Lawson, Esq., Rev. H. H. Lewis, Mr. & Mrs. B. E. Little, J. E. Little Esq., Mrs. J. E. Maitland, Mrs. M. Middleton, Mrs. D. Monfries, The Rt. Hon. Marquis of Northampton, Mrs. J. J. Pullinger, M. P. Sheil, Esq., Miss P. A. Singleton, Miss R. Wade, Mrs. A. E. Walmsley, Miss E. Watt, M. J. Webb, Esq.,

We also welcome the following corporate members: Banbury Grammar School, the University of London Library, the University of Texas.

BANBURY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

REVENUE ACCOUNT for the Year ended 31st December 1962

1961		1961		1961	
7	Lecture Expenses (Hire of room & Advertising)	9 12 6	155	Subscriptions	167 5 0
7	Postages & Telephone	12 2 5		Less Proportion attributable to Records	93 0 0
9	Printing & Stationery	6 19 2	79		74 5 0
2	Insurance	1 15 0	76		
33	Cake & Cockhorse	55 6 0		(Note: This total includes 1 £5 Life Subscription; 1961 included 2)	
6	Reception Expenses	- - -	3	Sales of <u>Cake & Cockhorse</u>	1 15 9
2	Subscriptions	2 7 0	35	Christmas Card Sales	71 7 8
-	Church Architecture Study Group	1 9 5	1	Interest on Deposit Account (less Bank Charges)	2 4 2
4	Photographs	3 17 11	1	Donations	1 7 6
-	Archaeological Expenses	1 10 3	-	Revenue Deficit for the Year.	9 14 4
25	Christmas Card Printing	60 14 9			
-	Grant - Mr. Laithwaite	5 0 0			
1	Library Cupboard Door	- - -			
20	Revenue Surplus on the Year	- - -			
<u>116</u>		<u>£160 14 5</u>	<u>116</u>		<u>£160 14 5</u>

PUBLICATIONS ACCOUNT for Year ended 31st December 1962

1961		1961		1961	
	Production Costs		79	Proportion of Subscriptions	93 0 0
	1961 Volume	70 12 0	5	Sales of 1959 vol. (Wills)	1 17 6
	Less: Provision in 1961 Accounts	45 0 0	13	Sales of 1960 vol. (Reg. I)	5 0 0
	Donation towards binding costs	6 6 0	-	Sales of 1961 vol. (Reg. II)	6 5 0
		<u>51 6 0</u>	-	Sales of 1962 vol. (Clocks)	15 15 0
17	Payment to Dr. Beeson for 1962 Volumes	81 18 8	20	Sales of "Old Banbury"	35 18 0
	Provision for Repayment	27 0 0	20	Grant from Borough Council	20 0 0
120		108 18 8	5	Donation	- - -
4	Postages	5 0 0			
1	Surplus for the Year	44 10 10			
<u>142</u>		<u>£177 15 6</u>	<u>142</u>		<u>£177 15 6</u>

BALANCE SHEET as at 31st December 1962

1961	<u>Liabilities</u>	1961	<u>Assets</u>		
5	Subscriptions in Advance	3 15 0	36	Sundry Debtors	62 19 0
10	Sundry Creditors	1 15 0		<u>Cash at Bank</u>	
45	Provision for further expenditure	27 0 0		Deposit a/c	74 5 0
	<u>Capital Account</u>			Less	
48	as at 1 Jan 62	70 6 10		Current a/c o/d	4 2
+2	Add: Publications a/c surplus	44 10 10	91		74 0 10
<u>50</u>		<u>114 17 8</u>	3	Cash in Hand	13 6
	<u>Less: Revenue a/c deficit</u>	<u>9 14 4</u>			
+20		105 3 4			
<u>70</u>		<u>105 3 4</u>	<u>130</u>		<u>£137 13 4</u>
<u>130</u>		<u>£137 13 4</u>			

I hereby certify that I have inspected and found correct the various accounts the foregoing of which is the Balance Sheet.

81, Courtington Lane, Bloxham,
Banbury.

(signed) K. Wren, A. I. M. T. A.

3/3/62

**OXFORD ARCHITECTURAL AND HISTORICAL
SOCIETY**

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