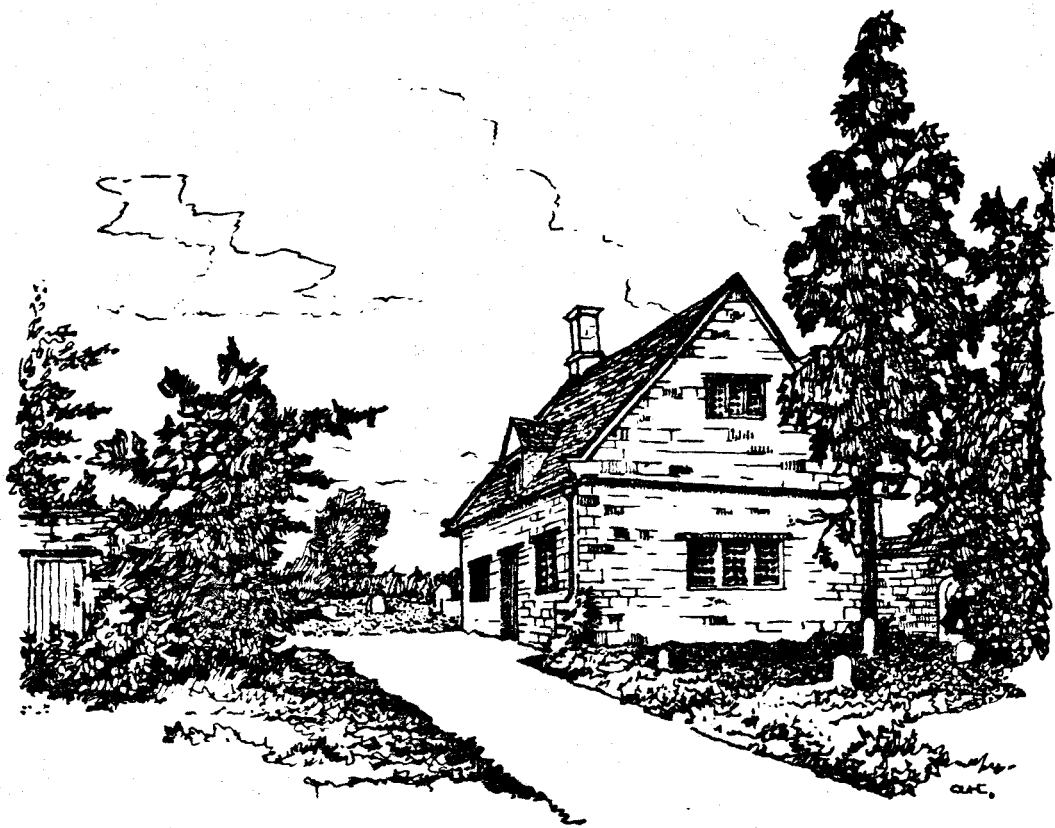


# CAKE AND COCKHORSE



**Banbury Historical Society**

**September 1964**

**2s.6d.**

## BANBURY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

President: The Rt. Hon. Lord Saye and Sele, O.B.E., M.C., D.L.

Chairman: J.H. Fearon, Esq., Fleece Cottage, Bodicote, Banbury.

### Hon. Secretary

J.S.W. Gibson, F.S.G.,  
Humber House,  
Bloxham,  
Banbury.  
(Tel: Bloxham 332)

### Hon. Treasurer:

A.W. Pain, A.L.A.  
c/o Borough Library,  
Marlborough Road,  
Banbury.  
(Tel: Banbury 2282)

### Hon. Editor "Cake and Cockhorse":

B. S. Trinder, 90 Bretch Hill, Banbury.

### Hon. Research Adviser:

E.R.C. Brinkworth, M.A., F.R. Hist. Soc.

### Hon. Archaeological Adviser:

J. H. Fearon, B.Sc.

### Committee Members:

Dr. C.F.C. Beeson, D.Sc., R.K. Bigwood,  
G.J.S. Ellacott, A.C.A. Dr. G.E. Gardam, Dr. H.G. Judge, M.A.

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The Society was founded in 1958 to encourage interest in the history of the town and neighbouring parts of Oxfordshire, Northamptonshire and Warwickshire.

The magazine Cake and Cockhorse is issued to members four times a year. This includes illustrated articles based on original local historical research, as well as recording the Society's activities. A booklet Old Banbury - a short popular history, by E.R.C. Brinkworth, M.A., price 3/6 and a pamphlet A History of Banbury Cross price 6d have been published and a Christmas card is a popular annual production,

The Society also publishes an annual records volume. Banbury Marriage Register has been published in three parts, a volume on Oxfordshire Clockmakers 1400-1850 and South Newington Churchwardens' Accounts 1553-1684 have been produced and the Register of Baptisms and Burials for Banbury covering the years 1558 - 1653 is planned for 1965.

Meetings are held during the winter, normally at 7.30 p.m. at the Conservative Club. Talks on general and local archaeological, historical and architectural subjects are given by invited lecturers. In the summer, excursions to local country houses and churches are arranged. Archaeological excavations and special exhibitions are arranged from time to time.

Membership of the Society is open to all, no proposer or seconder being needed. The annual subscription is 25/-, including the annual records volume, or 10/- if this is excluded. Junior membership is 5/-.

Application forms can be obtained from the Hon. Secretary or the Hon. Treasurer.

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The magazine of the Banbury Historical Society  
Issued to members four times a year

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Once again a bulky reviews issue reflects the flourishing state of local historical studies in this district, and still the promises of further publications are most encouraging. In addition to a number of forthcoming works mentioned in our survey of last September which are still with the printers, we may now expect shortly a history of the Knibb family of clockmakers, the first volume of baptisms and burials from the Banbury parish registers, a new short history of Adderbury and further publications from the county record offices. Cake and Cockhorse will be offering to its readers within the next twelve months issues dealing with the Reindeer Inn, nineteenth century Banbury, the big houses in Adderbury and the Boddington-Eydon-Culworth district of south Northamptonshire. The Oxford University Department of Social and Administrative Studies is to examine the social consequences of the removal of Messrs. Birds' factory to Banbury. The Society plans to hold an exhibition portraying the Banbury district between 1560 and 1660 in the Spring.

There is a need for this sense of urgency about local history. Within twenty years Banbury is likely to grow almost beyond recognition and much of its small town atmosphere will disappear. It is now not difficult to imagine how Banbury looked at almost any period of the past. In 1984 it will probably be as difficult to imagine how it felt to walk about even nineteenth century Banbury as it is now to realise how the pit-studded landscape of eighteenth century Wednesbury, Roman London or almost any village before enclosures appeared to their inhabitants. It will no longer be possible to trace in back alleys the Nonconformist chapels and tiny workshops mentioned in Shoemaker's Window and Rusher's Banbury Directories, or to imagine the King's men and Parliamentarians fighting in the Market Place during the Civil War sieges.

This is not a demand that the whole of Banbury as it existed in 1860 should be preserved as a museum: merely a plea for even more attention to the history of the town. Documents, photographs, even buildings "of outstanding architectural or historical interest" may be preserved. "Atmosphere" cannot.

## SOCIETY NEWS AND ACTIVITIES

### Winter Programme 1964-65

Tuesday, 29th September, 7.30 p.m. Conservative Club: "Life in South Newington in the 16th and 17th centuries" by E.R.C. Brinkworth, M.A. This meeting will mark the publication of the Society's records publication for 1964, South Newington Churchwardens' Accounts 1553-1684, edited by Dr. Brinkworth, and reviewed on page 135. The duties of churchwardens during this period were many and various, including tasks now regarded as the province of secular local authorities. The South Newington churchwardens' accounts tell us much about all aspects of village life during a fascinating period of English history, and Dr. Brinkworth's talk is likely to be of interest to all members of the Society. Records Members will be able to collect their copies of the book at the meeting. The Conservative Club is in the High Street, next to Martins Bank. It is not, of course, necessary to belong to the Club to attend, and no political connections are implied.

Wednesday, 25th November, 7.30 p.m. ADDERBURY VILLAGE HALL: "The Village of Adderbury". (Organised in conjunction with the Oxfordshire Rural Community Council).

Thursday, 28th January, 7.30 p.m. Conservative Club: Exhibition and talk by members of the Oxfordshire County Record Office staff.

Tuesday, 30th March, 7.30 p.m. Conservative Club: "Sulgrave, an 11th century thegn's residence" by Brian Davison.

### The Annual General Meeting

The Society's annual general meeting was held on Saturday June 20th at Tudor Hall School, Wykham Park, by kind invitation of the Headmistress, Miss P. Blunt. The President, the Rt. Hon. Lord Saye and Sele, was in the chair. The annual report, published in our March issue, was presented by the Secretary who drew attention to the exhibition "Banbury 1790-1837" held at the Town Hall in August 1963, to the discovery of the Globe Room panels and to the flourishing state of the Society's membership and finances. The officers and committee were re-elected en bloc. After the conclusion of private business Mr. B.S. Trinder addressed the meeting on the subject of William Mewburn, proprietor of Wykham Park from 1865 to 1900, paying particular attention to his activities as a Wesleyan Methodist and as a politician. After a number of questions from the audience, the President expressed the thanks of the meeting to the speaker and to Miss Blunt.

### CHRISTMAS CARD

As in the last two years, the Society's Christmas card will be in colour. It will depict the view of South Bar about 1850 which appears in the Society's recent publication A History of Banbury Cross. The cost will be 6/- a dozen to members, and overprinting can be arranged if required. Further details will be available in our next issue.

### THE GLOBE ROOM

We are delighted to report that the Borough Council approved the purchase of the Globe Room panels at their meeting on March 23rd, and that the transaction with the dealer has now been completed. The immediate future of the panels is still uncertain owing to lack of suitable storage or exhibition space. The panels will ultimately form the mayor's parlour in the new civic centre.

### MORE PANELS

The Society's attention has recently been drawn to two finely panelled rooms at "Trelawn", for many years the North Bar home of the Bolton family. The house has recently been acquired by the Borough Council as part of the site of the new Civic Centre. The panels are probably of a rather later date than the Globe Room and of a less high quality, but their chief feature of interest is a number of painted heraldic devices, many of which are for the moment covered by heavy stain. It is hoped to publish an expert report on the panels in a future issue.

South Newington Churchwardens' Accounts, 1553-1684

Edited by E. R. C. Brinkworth, Banbury Historical Society, Vol. 6, 30s.

(Members of B. H. S. 25s.) Issued to subscribers for the year 1964.

This country is peculiarly rich in parish account books, which are of immense value to the social historian in helping him to re-create a vivid and factual picture of the everyday life of town or village during any particular period. Some of these accounts, both churchwardens' and constables', have already been published; notably those of certain Somerset, Bedfordshire and Hampshire parishes, besides the fruits of Dr. J. C. Cox's massive research (1). Now Dr. E. R. C. Brinkworth, whose previous volumes on *The Archdeacon's Court* (Oxford Record Society, vol. xxiii) have already shown us what he can do in this field of study, has made an outstanding contribution to their number by transcribing and publishing the South Newington Accounts, together with an admirably lucid and well-documented Introduction.

Churchwardens had been in existence since the 13th century; but their duties were vastly increased in Elizabeth's reign, when, together with constable and overseers, they were made responsible for many secular matters, especially the relief of poverty. Usually two in number they were elected at the annual vestry meeting in Easter week by the unanimous consent of incumbent and vestrymen, whose executors they then became in dealing with church and parish affairs, and to whom they were expected to render an account at the end of their year of office. They were often assisted by sidesmen or questmen; but, judging from some lines in Childwell parish books at the beginning of the 17th century, these were hardly of any great value:

To ken and see and say nowt  
To eat and drink and pay nowt;  
And when the wardens drunken roam  
Your duty is to see them home.

The wardens themselves were normally drawn not from the gentry but from tradesmen or artisans in the towns, and farmers or village craftsmen in the country; although in small parishes, such as South Newington, where there were probably not enough substantial people to go round, illiterate labourers were not infrequently appointed with the parish clerk, or in the case of South Newington apparently the incumbent himself, to help make up their accounts and presentments. Theoretically the office was held for one year only; but often the 'junior' warden would be re-elected for a second term together with a fresh colleague. Women could and did serve as churchwardens.

The principal sources of the churchwardens' income were the church rate, which was levied on all parishioners who owned land in the parish, and was expected to be used for the repair and furnishing of the parish church; the alms collected at holy communion, which went to relieve the sick and poor of the parish; the fees for intramural burials, known as lairstalls; pew-rents; the hiring out of church property, such as furnishings or live-stock; 'smoke-farthings', which were however immediately paid out again to the diocesan authorities; and the rents from lands or house-property bequeathed to the church by the devout. Finally there were the church ales or Whitsuntide feasts, held in the 'church house', that attracted large crowds from far and near and brought in substantial sums of money. In addition during Elizabethan times, when the churches were being 'cleansed', money was often realised from the sale of superfluous goods and 'superstitious relics.'

The outgoing were naturally much more varied and numerous: First there was the cost of the two annual visitations, including the wardens' travelling expenses and the fees for their swearing in and the making up of their presentments, besides payments due to diocesan officials like apparitors. Then the fabric of the church itself had to be

(1) Churchwardens Accounts: edit. Bishop Hobhouse. 1890 Hampshire Churchwardens Accounts. edit. J. F. Williams. 1913. Churchwardens Accounts: J. C. Cox. 1913.

kept in repair, its walls whitewashed, its interior 'cleansed' of idolatrous relics and furnished with the articles, ornaments and books prescribed by innumerable injunctions and canons. The parish clerk must be paid his wages, the bell-ringers provided with nourishing liquids, and on 'sacrament sunday' the floor and pews strewn with fresh rushes. At Xmas the Easter boughs of box, yew, rosemary, bay and holly were brought into the church to 'garnish' it; while at all times sweet-smelling herbs, frankincense, benzoin and juniper were needed to fumigate what otherwise would have become an intolerable atmosphere composed of the combined stink of closely packed unwashed humanity and freshly interred uncoffined corpses in shallow earthen graves. The annual perambulation required a generous allowance for bread and ale; wheaten bread and fermented wine were needed for the communion table; and, of course, the costly viands and drink consumed at the annual audit dinner. Most of these items of expenditure are to be found here at South Newington, as indeed in other churchwardens' accounts of this period; together with a vast number of miscellaneous outgoings ranging from the wages of the dogger-whipper and the vermin catcher and the small sums doled out to tramps and vagrants passing through the parish, to such entries as the following:-

"Payde for the ingoing to Burfield to the cunningg woman for to make enquire for the comunione clothe and the ii outhr clothes that were lost out of the church . . . . xvid. To Goodwyfe Wells for salt to destroy fleas in the churchwardens pew . . . . vid."

So day by day the items mounted up, conscientiously entered by these long-dead wardens in their ledgers, where all unwittingly they were creating a picture of town and village life in Tudor and Stuart England, which has been carefully preserved for posterity. For its interpretation and elucidation however we are deeply in the debt of scholars like Dr. Brinkworth, whose patient industry, contending with decaying documents, rough handwriting and phonetic spelling, has faithfully and exactly reproduced them against their appropriate background.

Appleton Vicarage,  
Abingdon.

A.Tindal Hart

Summary Catalogue of the Topographical Manuscripts in the Bodleian Library  
relating to the City, County and University of Oxford,

Accessions from 1916 to 1962.

by P.S. Spokes, Oxford Historical Society, Vol. 17, 1964, 42s.

This volume is a continuation, as far as 'MSS Topographical, Oxfordshire' is concerned, of volumes 5 and 6 of the Bodleian Summary Catalogue of Western Manuscripts, which deals with acquisitions to the end of the year 1915.

Outstanding among the personal collections are those of H.E. Salter (1863-1951), who stands securely in the great tradition of English antiquarian learning. One is amazed at the amount of work he accomplished besides the production of that long line of massive volumes for the Oxford Historical Society.

The Index of "Owners and Donors" contains some 360 names. One or two are of particular interest to us in this locality and the items associated with them give an idea of the value and variety of the things to be found in these collections, apart from the more expected records of administration or the records of families. From the Revd. B.W. Bradford, who was Rector of Broughton, near Banbury, came a group of miscellaneous papers connected with the University of Oxford in the 18th century; letters of Oxfordshire M.P's; business correspondence of London and Oxford booksellers in the 18th century; papers relating to the Blue Coat School of Banbury; and a collection of academic orations of the early 19th century. Among the gifts of the Revd. Dr. W.D. Macray, who after retiring from the Bodleian and his rectory of Ducklington came to live at Bloxham, are papers and correspondence to do with the early days of All Saints' School. The present reviewer was able to contribute the Account Book of the commissioners of the turnpike road from Ryton Bridge to Banbury for the years 1755 to 1808, which he had saved from a builders' yard bonfire. There must be intriguing tales behind many of these sober entries.

In the General Index let us turn to Banbury. There are seven items. In addition to the turnpike book just mentioned, these include a Collection for St. John's Hospital (no date given); a terrier of Neithrop, 1575; a draft assignment of the Manor of Banbury in trust, 1657; papers relating to the Blue Coat School, 1763-1838 (151 leaves); the Account Book of William Baker, tailor, of 59 Parson's Street, 1815-21 (101 leaves); and a drawing of the Parish Church, circa 1855, by Joseph Wilkins of Deddington.

An aspect of the history of education, and one little studied, is illustrated by the large number of students' notebooks. This reviewer can vouch for the interest and value of one item which immediately engaged his curiosity. MSS. Top. Oxon. d. 442 is a book of 80 pages of notes taken by the young A.F. Pollard at lectures on English constitutional history given by Professor J.F. Bright. Perhaps the most complete set of notes are those of Owen Surtees Phillpotts, of Worcester College, who was reading Greats in 1891-3. His five stout books record the lectures of giants like R.L. Nettleship, A.H.J. Greenidge, T. Case, and, for Roman history, H.F. Pelham of the 'Outlines'.

The volume before us, listing the great wealth of material for the history of Oxford - University, City and County - acquired by the Bodleian Library between 1916 and 1962, is of course indispensable to all students of both local and more general history. Its Index is one of those which should not only be referred to, but read.

We venture to congratulate Mr. Spokes upon a splendid achievement, the result of long and devoted labour, set forth in an admirably neat and precise scholarship.

University of Birmingham

E.R.C. Brinkworth

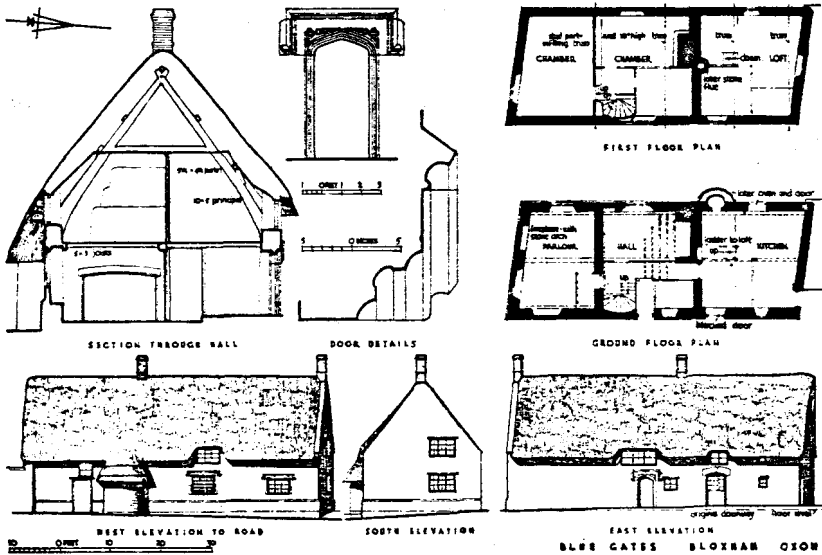
#### Traditional Domestic Architecture in the Banbury Region

by Raymond B. Wood-Jones, Manchester University Press, 1963. 63s.

In 1946 the School of Architecture at Manchester University started work on a systematic survey of the farmhouses, cottages and other small domestic buildings of the English Countryside. It was a pioneer work, for although many books had already been published on the subject, few had even attempted to achieve the standard of detailed scholarship commonly applied to the study of churches and larger domestic buildings. Manchester University Press has now begun to publish the results of the survey, and it will be particularly gratifying to members of this Society that the first volume of the series deals with the Banbury region.

Dr. Wood-Jones is concerned primarily with the houses built by the yeomen and husbandmen of the area in roughly the period 1550-1700. These were the classes of rural society which had gained most from the breakdown of the manorial system and from the rapid rise of prices in the sixteenth century, and the rebuilding of their houses expressed this new prosperity. The characteristic ironstone houses with their mullioned windows, now an apparently timeless feature of the North Oxfordshire villages, were the product of this century and a half. Up to the mid-sixteenth century in this area stone houses seem to have been built only by the gentry and the aristocracy, and the lower classes (Dr. Wood-Jones is forced to assume) lived in wooden houses that have now been entirely swept away. Certainly his survey - and it covers some 1100 buildings in an area 15 to 17 miles in diameter - shows that of the handful of houses surviving from the earlier period, almost all were the homes of upper-class people.

The lack of earlier yeomen's houses is, of course, a disadvantage, for the author cannot point the contrast between the old and the new. But he is able to concentrate on another theme, which is the development of the yeoman's house from the mid sixteenth century onwards, and its adaptation to meet his changing social needs. The lower classes have always copied the houses of their betters, and so it was in the Banbury area. Two introductory chapters examine in great detail the larger mediaeval houses, and Dr. Wood-Jones is able to show how the yeomen adapted the plans of these to their own new houses - on a smaller scale, naturally, and with a time lag of as much as fifty years.



An illustration from Traditional Domestic Architecture - of Bluegates, Bloxham (now renamed Seal Cottage, the home of our member Mr. Arthur Cheney).

But the yeomen also copied the architectural details of the greater houses, and here the process of adaptation seems to have broken down at an early stage. For although by the end of the seventeenth century the greater houses were being designed in the classical style of the Renaissance, the yeomen's houses (and this was their most prolific period) were still being built largely in the style of the sixteenth century, and this continued to be so well into the eighteenth century. This phenomenon seems to have no satisfactory explanation, except for the extreme conservatism of the rural craftsmen, and, by the end of the period, of the yeomen themselves. The style they evolved is, of course, very similar to that known further west as the 'Cotswold Style'. But it is interesting to see that Dr. Wood-Jones has managed to distinguish a quite separate sub-style in the Banbury area, corresponding to the extent of the ironstone beds, so giving a little more substance to the term 'Banburyshire'.

One final point brought out by the book is that Banbury itself, the economic and social centre of the area, was only marginally affected by the building revolution taking place in the surrounding countryside. Whereas there the new buildings were invariably in stone, in Banbury the tradition of timber-framed building remained strong until at least the 1650's. And when, after the devastation caused in Banbury by the Civil War, the leading men of the town rebuilt their houses around the Market Place, they did so in a quite extraordinarily archaic timber-framed style, using stone, if at all, only for the back walls.

Dr. Wood-Jones' book is highly technical in its approach, but this need not deter non-specialists, for the text is well and interestingly written and is illustrated by 78 line drawings and 80 photographs - the book is really worth having for the drawings alone. It is costly at three guineas, but not expensive in relation to the quality of its production. It is in fact a non-profit-making venture subsidised by the Marc Fitch Fund and the British Academy. Such publications are of immense value to the local historian, and it is to be hoped that as many members of this Society as possible will see their way to buying their own copy.



The Letter Books of Sir Samuel Luke 1644-5

Edited, with an Introduction, by H.G. Tibbutt. H.M. Stationery Office (1963). £5.

Students of the English Civil War are already deeply indebted to Mr. H.G. Tibbutt for his contributions to its history, particularly for 'The Life and Letters of Sir Lewis Dyve' (Bedfordshire Historical Record Society, Vol. XXVII, 1948), 'The Tower of London Letter-Book of Sir Lewis Dyve' (B.H.R.S., Vol. XXXVIII, 1958), and 'Colonel John Okey' (B.H.R.S., Vol. XXXV, 1955). Now he has edited, as a Joint Publication of the Historical Manuscripts Commission and the Bedfordshire Historical Record Society (Vol. XLII) The Letter Books of Sir Samuel Luke 1644-5, thereby immeasurably increasing our sense of gratitude. Sir Samuel Luke (1603-70), of Cople, Bedfordshire, was Scoutmaster-General to the Earl of Essex: all who are conversant with the reports contained in his Journal, which covers the period February 1642/3 to March 1644, edited by Mr. I.G. Philip for the Oxfordshire Record Society (1950-3), will have been eagerly awaiting the appearance of this splendid volume.

Naturally, of those who can claim a major interest in the Letter Books, Luke's fellow 'countrymen' and the people of Newport Pagnell in Buckinghamshire, of which he was Parliamentary Governor from 1643 to 1645, take pride of place. But Oxfordshire readers, especially those who live in the north of the county, will not come far behind. A glance at the two topographical indexes shows that the work abounds in references to places in the region, prominent among them being Banbury and its beleaguered Castle. Local enthusiasm, however, should never obscure the fact that we have here a source-book of national importance.

The Letter Books are a calendar of five manuscripts in the British Museum (Egerton 785-7 and 3514 and Stowe 190). The items have been arranged chronologically in two main sections by the Editor: copies of letters etc. originated by Luke and of letters etc. addressed to him. In addition there are some miscellaneous letters etc. and a series of 261 scout reports covering the period February 1643/4 to April 1645, both separately arranged. In every case the name (or names, if it is a group) of Luke's correspondent, addressed or addressing, precedes the date of the document, and the reference to the original manuscript is given at the end of each piece. There are five indexes.

Although cross-references have rarely been made between Luke's letters and the answers to them, as the Editor points out, the relationship is easy to trace. An interesting exercise is to follow up the dissemination of an item of news. Owing to his office, Luke was in receipt of information not only from his scouts but from a wide range of correspondents up and down the country, and this he in his turn would pass on to friends and colleagues. For example, on 13 February 1644/5 Thomas Bristow reports from Grantham: 'Mr. Bellasis is come from Scarborough to Lord Fairfax'. On 24 February Luke writes to his great-uncle Sir Ferdinando Knightley at The Hague: 'Mr. Bellasis and some other gents. of note and quality are come out of that place [Scarborough Castle] and rendered themselves to Lord Fairfax'. Both sides in the War have been charged with possessing inefficient intelligence systems, but if one is at pains to check Luke's knowledge of the King's movements against such Royalist sources as Symond's Diary and the Iter Carolinum, one cannot but be struck by its general accuracy even if sometimes there are mistakes in detail. For instance, Luke was told that Charles had spent the night of 17 May 1645 at Linsill, instead of, as was really the case, nearby Chetwynd. Incidentally, Mr. Tibbutt's suggestion that Linsill may be Lilleshall is correct.

On the subject of Banbury, to which allusion has been made, Luke, who was deeply concerned about the course of the siege of the Castle, both received and imparted copious information. More than a century ago Alfred Beesley discovered this and made valuable use of the MS. letter books and scout reports in his History of Banbury (1841), particularly for his account of the events of 1644/5 and early 1645. Mr. Tibbutt gives references to Beesley's work at the end of those documents that were printed or quoted by him. For present day Banbury historians this rich mine has been made easy of access: they will wish to quarry it for themselves, leaving a reviewer merely to indicate some of the treasures.

Obviously, one of the great attractions of such a correspondence is that its persual enables us to watch events unfolding before the eyes of contemporaries and in so doing to recapture something of their original impact. The autumn of 1644 was a crucial period in the siege of Banbury Castle: the Letter Books make it live. Readers of *Cake and Cockhorse* need hardly be reminded that since the late summer Colonel John Fiennes had been making strenuous efforts to regain the Castle for Parliament. A letter addressed to him by Luke on 22 October begs him to 'spare Vandenboome our engineer [Captain Cornelius Vandenboome, lent from the garrison of Newport Pagnell] for 2 or 3 days, because we have a piece of work cannot go forward without him. As soon as he has laid it out he shall return to you'. Five days later Sir Samuel was informing the Earl of Essex of the dramatic relief of the Castle by a Royalist force despatched from Newbury by King Charles' own orders. 'I have no more pleasing a subject to write to you of than the raising of the siege of Banbury, which, so far as I can learn, was in this manner. There being 10 horse out of a troop to the number of 1,000, picked out for the accompanying his Majesty to Oxford, which performed under the command of the Earl of Northampton, they marched for the relief of Banbury where our forces hearing of their approach drew off. The enemy advanced, and after he had entered the town and relieved the castle, pursued our forces which were retreating towards Warwick, and some say routed them all, killed many and took many. Others say the greatest part of them are safely retreated to Warwick and only 4 of Northampton troops which were in the rear were routed. This was performed on Friday at 7 of the clock in the morning'. The same doleful tale was repeated to Colonel Edward Massey at Gloucester next day. A scout's report of 27 October adds that the relieving force (estimated at 800 Horse) kept their rendezvous at Woodstock. 'On Thursday morning 500 horse and 3 wagons and 2 drakes from Oxford came and joined with them and that day marched, both horse, foot and carriages, under the command of the Earl of Northampton, to Adderbury, and quartered there in the fields that night'. On 29 October Thomas Bristow was told that 'part of the King's forces last Lord's Day in the evening took the greater part of the riches in Banbury Castle and the sickliest soldiers, and returned towards Oxford, keeping their rendezvous on Monday morning at a place called Beech Tree, about 4 miles from Oxford, leaving only a party of horse at Banbury to help forward the revictualling of the castle'. The consternation felt in London over this Royalist coup is reflected in a letter of 10 November from Luke's father, Sir Oliver, one of the Knights of the Shire for Bedfordshire, who was later the recipient of a pathetic story about a Bedfordshire Royalist involved in the affair. 'Mr. Oliver Butler's eldest son of Harrold was killed in the last fight at Banbury who, in his pass thither from Newbury, lamented his condition exceedingly (as if he expected death) that having an estate left him by his grandfather he could not live at home and enjoy that, but was forced to stay there, for he said if he should go home and leave the service his father would not look on him, and for all that his father would not send him a horse but would rather suffer his neck to be broken on the mad jade he rode on, than be at the charge of one'.

Of considerable local interest are the letters on various topics written by Sir William Compton, Lieutenant-Governor of Banbury Castle. Luke, indeed, had correspondence with several Royalist commanders, including Sir William Campion, Governor of Boarstall. The King's cousin Lord Bernard Stuart himself wrote to Sir Samuel in April 1645 about his commissary and his surgeon's man, both taken prisoner at Kidlington and held at Newport.

A large number of letters in the collection are naturally concerned with the needs of Newport, a garrison of no little strategical importance. These are addressed to individuals and, more especially, to the Committee of Both Kingdoms and the Committee of the Eastern Association, together with those of the constituent counties of the Association as well as others outside its scope - Bedfordshire, Buckinghamshire, and Northamptonshire. The erroneous interpretation by the Editor as 'Wriothesley' of the signatures 'Ryousley' and 'Riousley', which reference to the MSS. reveals on two letters from the Northamptonshire Committee, has caused that devoted Royalist Thomas Wriothesley, Earl of Southampton, who was unconnected with the county and in the West Country at the time, to be indexed as a Parliamentarian! The man in question is Richard Ousley, the Roundhead owner of Courteenhall. Debts, wants, and dangers are the recurrent themes of Luke's urgent appeals for contributions, which, as we can see from the Committees' answers, they were often hard put to it to make. A reply of the Northamptonshire

Committee dated 1 November 1644 is typical: 'We are so far indebted to our horse and for other unavoidable charges, that we scarce know how to subsist'. Garrisons were unpopular and jealousies and rivalries - almost as marked among the Parliamentarians as the Royalists, a fact which these Letter Books underline - did not make a difficult military situation easier.

Nor did the antagonism between the old army and the New Model improve matters. The bitterness, mingled with some rare expressions of admiration, displayed by Sir Samuel for the latter, is striking. He is constantly hitting out at it. 'I shall tell you that the New Modellers can as well let Kings go out of Oxford as the old ones': 'I think these New Modellers knead all their dough with ale, for I never saw so many drunk in my life in so short a time': 'The New Moulders' gold proves copper' are some of the caustic comments that trip from his pen.

Luke was master of a forceful style and the letters on the whole make good reading. As Scoutmaster he was at pains to procure and to forward copies of the Royalist newspaper Mercurius Aulicus. Aulicus never lost a chance of jibing at the enemy and accusing him of lying: Luke returned the compliment in full measure. His friends he could on occasion address in a lively, mocking strain. To his trusted Quartermaster of Newport Garrison, Pelham Moore, he writes: 'Honest Pel, Your letters to me are letters of gold, and choicer to yourself than rubies, which makes you so sparing of them'.

But if Luke was forthright he could also be courteous and considerate. A charming incident recorded in the Letter Books relates to Prince Charles' falconer and a falcon, 'one of the highest fliers, as they say, that ever was seen, being newly sent out of Scotland with the falconer to the Prince', which were captured at Kidlington in March 1644/5. On Essex' instructions both man and bird were civilly returned to Oxford by a trumpet: they were acknowledged with matching civility by the Governor, Colonel William Legge. The boy Duke of York, it must be owned, was less fortunate than his elder brother. One of his 'little nags', 'the daintiest going thing that ever I saw', taken at the same time, was bestowed upon a Roundhead officer.

It is, however, in letters to members of his family circle that Sir Samuel shows to best advantage. It is much to be regretted that considerations of space forbade the inclusion of a table of his relatives and connections. This would have added greatly to the reader's understanding and enjoyment: moreover, ties by blood and marriage played such an important part in the life of the seventeenth century that they demand close attention. There is a bulky exchange between Luke and his father, an old man of seventy. The son was continually sending his parent game and venison - 'the fattest little doe that ever I saw', 'a parcel of pheasants and ducks', 'a red deer pie', snipe, rabbits ('you shall not fail weekly to receive your rabbits'), and partridges appear among the items. Affairs of state of course provide the staple topic. A frequent subject is the condition of Grafton Regis Park in Northamptonshire of which Sir Oliver had been appointed custodian by the Revenue Committee. In the midst of all his public cares - and we must not forget that Luke was M.P. for Bedford as well as a commander - the education of his boy 'Noll' was not forgotten, and the youth, a reluctant scholar, received letters full of good advice. That the Letter Books should prove a first-rate military source is not surprising: that they should reveal a very human personality, far removed from the popular conception of a Puritan, is more unexpected. To the specialist and the non-specialist student of the period Luke's correspondence will make its own strong appeal.

Margaret Toynbee

A Handlist of Inclosure Acts and Awards relating to the County of Oxford

Oxfordshire County Council Record Publication No. 2, County Hall, Oxford, 1963. 10/6d.

Inclosure awards made with the aid of private and public acts of Parliament during the 18th and 19th centuries are of considerable interest to many people for a variety of reasons. They record how the 'open' or 'common' fields with their intermixed narrow strips and traditional rules of management were replaced by more compact properties with their familiar hedged and walled fields, amongst which new farmsteads were often erected right away from the old village. The local historian will find this revolutionary change a milestone in the evolution of his parish, the historical geographer will note the widespread effect of such inclosure upon the landscape and

settlement pattern of large tracts of country, while the economic historian will note the changing pattern of landholding and wealth with, for example, small holders being depressed by the cost of their new fencing and country surveyors prospering on professional fees. One attraction of such awards as a class is that they are so well preserved, there being very few 'parliamentary' inclosures for which no awards survive. However, they were not carefully deposited in the parish chest or with the local clerk of the peace purely out of academic interest, but because they constitute foundation deeds for so many property boundaries and rights of way. Roads, for instance were clearly defined as either public or private with a certain width between the ditches, while upkeep of particular hedges between properties was assigned to one owner or the other. In these awards, at the same time, tithes were often commuted to an annual rent charge or extinguished altogether with a compensating allotment of land made to the tithe owner. In most cases they remain important documents to which many such practical questions relating to ownership and responsibility can be referred.

Since the pioneer works of Mr. W.E. Tate, which were published by many local record societies in the years 1942-9 a few county record offices have been publishing their own lists of Inclosure Awards mainly as part of general guides to their collections. Mr. Tate concentrated on Parliamentary sources and any list based instead on local archives provides a valuable and sometimes necessary check. The list compiled by the staff of the Oxford County Record Office is a further addition to this series.

The use of large clear type brings the size of the volume up to seventy pages with the two-hundred items of the main list in alphabetical order of place giving in a short paragraph the essential information of place, date, act, commissioner and surveyor, area involved, and any relevant maps. This is in contrast to the 'table' arrangements hitherto used by Mr. Tate and the Lancashire County Record Office which naturally needed small type and resulted in a more condensed booklet. The topographic rather than chronological order of the list is further emphasized by a map showing the distribution of the awards according to the ancient ecclesiastical parishes of the county. Another important feature of assistance to students is that references are given to all known copies of awards or associated maps whether they be deposited inside or outside the office. In particular originals may still be housed in the parish while some enrolments are at the Public Record Office and the introduction to the handlist explains how this came about. By looking beyond their own walls for material relating to certain topics record offices can be sure of providing the best possible service.

The student of people rather than places will appreciate the index of surveyors, valuers and commissioners noting over 250 individuals.

One small point on which the writers are to be congratulated is the correct spelling of 'Inclosure'. It is often overlooked, even in publications which really ought to know better, that this is a technical term with special legal and agricultural meaning and should not be replaced with 'enclosure' which is more appropriate to letters and envelopes. Agricultural development has removed 'Inclosure' from our everyday experience but has not removed the term from the dictionary.

The key map showing the boundaries and sub-divisions of the ancient parishes is an interesting feature in its own right and it is a great pity that the final drawing was not made by a professional draftsman, as should befit a booklet which otherwise reveals the results of careful investigation, compilation and printing.

Warwick County Record Office is gathering material for a similar handlist and will look with special interest at the example set by Oxford.

MAP OF BANBURY, 1838.

This map was among the documents found by the Society in the parish vestry. It is one of the earliest properly drawn maps of Banbury, being far superior in execution to the one amended from an original of 1825 by J. Davis which forms the endpiece of Shoemaker's Window. The map is drawn in ink on thick paper backed by linen and measures 32" x 25". The original spelling has been retained. It may be dated with some precision to the year 1838, since it marks churches and schools conscientiously, and St. John's Roman Catholic Church, opened in 1838, is shown, but the Primitive Methodist Chapel in Broad Street and the British Schools in Crouch Street, both opened in 1839, are omitted. Only the town of Banbury is shown and the suburbs of Neithrop and Grimsbury unfortunately are left out. A red line, shown on our reproduction as a broken line, appears on the original. It is uncertain what it represents, since it is clearly neither the boundary of Banbury parish nor the parliamentary borough.

The map makes an interesting comparison with the first chapter of William Potts, Banbury through 100 Years, which it amplifies and corrects on a number of points. It emphasises how rapidly the town must have expanded in the 1840's since many streets not shown on the map were in existence and fully populated by about 1847. There were in 1838 no houses at all along the line of the present Castle Street East, and the name of Back Lane was given to the road right through from the junction with Southam Road, along the present Castle Street West and Factory Street to Cobb's girth weaving factory. Broad Street and Newland were built up as far south as Kirby's Buildings, now just beyond the junction with Marlborough Road. These consisted of stables and a brewhouse and were converted to cottages in 1853. At the southern end of Calthorpe Lane, Lodging House Yard, site of the Wesleyan meeting house used from 1791 to 1812, can be seen going through into South Bar.

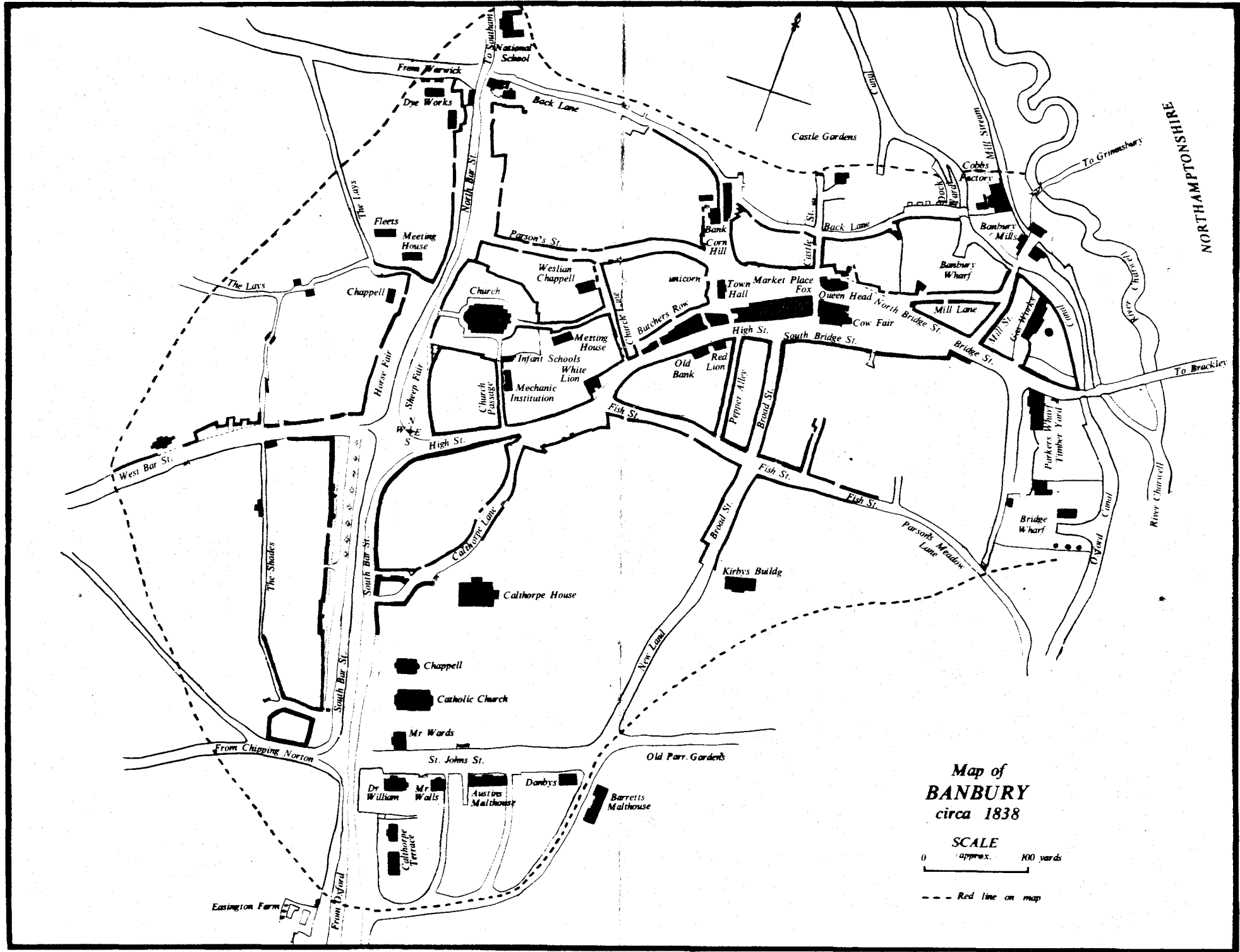
The Gas Works, opened in 1833, are shown in their original location from which they were moved to the site between the two railway lines in 1854. The importance of the canal can be gauged from the four basins marked on the map. The dye works in North Bar were the property of Mr. Richard Thorne. The presence of two large malthouses in St. John's Road shows that this thoroughfare was completely laid out in 1838 and not just a footpath as William Potts says.

The map marks most of the churches and chapels in Banbury in 1838. The Unitarian or Presbyterian "Great Meeting" was clearly much nearer to the road than Christ Church Chapel which replaced it in 1850. The meeting house in Church Passage was built by the Congregationalists in 1792 and used by them until the erection of the South Bar chapel in 1857. The chapel to the north of St. John's church is the present Austin House, opened as a Calvinistic Baptist Chapel in 1834 by Richard Austin, owner of the malthouse shown on the map in St. John's Road, and used as a place of worship until 1852. The Wesleyans' building in Church Lane replaced their Calthorpe Lane meeting house in 1812 and was used by them until 1865 when it was sold to the Primitive Methodists.

The map emphasises the lack of public educational facilities in Banbury in 1838 - only two schools being marked. The National School in Southam Road, now St. Mary's, was opened in 1817 and had 340 children attending in 1838. The infants' School in Church Passage was opened in 1835 in stables belonging to the White Horse and continued until 1838. When this map was drawn the population of Banbury had been rising rapidly for nearly four decades, yet in the town itself there had been little new building. The most valuable feature of the map is that it shows the state of the town immediately before the rapid expansion of the built-up area of the 1840's and 50's began, for in the next five years Crouch Street and Dashwood Road were laid out and new houses began to go up along the Shades, on Constitution Hill and in the Cherwell area.

We are particularly grateful to Mr. R.G. Harris for re-drawing the map and preparing it for publication, and also wish to record our thanks to the Revd. D. Eastman and to the Borough Librarian, in whose custody it now resides, for allowing it to appear in this magazine.

B.S.T.



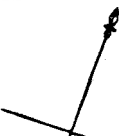
NORTHAMPTONSHIRE

From Warwick

From Chipping Norton

To Grimshay

To Brackley



Map labels include: National School, Dye Works, Back Lane, Castle Gardens, Mill Stream, Cobbs Factory, Banbury Mills, Bank Corn Hill, Westian Chappell, Church, Meeting House, Unicorn, Town Hall, Market Place, Queen Head North, Mill Lane, Banbury Wharf, Cow Fair, Bridge St., High St., South Bridge St., Old Bank, Red Lion, Pepper Alley, Broad St., Fish St., Parkers Wharf, Timber Yard, Bridge Wharf, Parsons Meadow Lane, River Charwell, McVold Canal, New Lane, Kirbys Buldge, Calthorpe House, Chappell, Catholic Church, Mr Wards, St. Johns St., Old Parr Gardens, Barretts Malthouse, Danbys, Austins Malthouse, Mr Walls, Dr William, Calthorpe Terrace, Easington Farm, The Lays, Fleets, Meeting House, Chappell, Horse Fair, Sheep Fair, Church Passages, White Lion, Mechanic Institution, Church Lane, Butchers Row, Mill St., Low Wharf, Mill Lane, Mill St., West Bar St., The Shades, South Bar St., From Oxford, From Warwick, To Grimshay, To Brackley, Northamptonshire, Banbury, Castle Gardens, Mill Stream, Cobbs Factory, Banbury Mills, Bank Corn Hill, Westian Chappell, Church, Meeting House, Unicorn, Town Hall, Market Place, Queen Head North, Mill Lane, Banbury Wharf, Cow Fair, Bridge St., High St., South Bridge St., Old Bank, Red Lion, Pepper Alley, Broad St., Fish St., Parkers Wharf, Timber Yard, Bridge Wharf, Parsons Meadow Lane, River Charwell, McVold Canal, New Lane, Kirbys Buldge, Calthorpe House, Chappell, Catholic Church, Mr Wards, St. Johns St., Old Parr Gardens, Barretts Malthouse, Danbys, Austins Malthouse, Mr Walls, Dr William, Calthorpe Terrace, Easington Farm, The Lays, Fleets, Meeting House, Chappell, Horse Fair, Sheep Fair, Church Passages, White Lion, Mechanic Institution, Church Lane, Butchers Row, Mill St., Low Wharf, Mill Lane, Mill St., West Bar St., The Shades, South Bar St., From Oxford, From Warwick, To Grimshay, To Brackley, Northamptonshire, Banbury, Castle Gardens, Mill Stream, Cobbs Factory, Banbury Mills, Bank Corn Hill, Westian Chappell, Church, Meeting House, Unicorn, Town Hall, Market Place, Queen Head North, Mill Lane, Banbury Wharf, Cow Fair, Bridge St., High St., South Bridge St., Old Bank, Red Lion, Pepper Alley, Broad St., Fish St., Parkers Wharf, Timber Yard, Bridge Wharf, Parsons Meadow Lane, River Charwell, McVold Canal, New Lane, Kirbys Buldge, Calthorpe House, Chappell, Catholic Church, Mr Wards, St. Johns St., Old Parr Gardens, Barretts Malthouse, Danbys, Austins Malthouse, Mr Walls, Dr William, Calthorpe Terrace, Easington Farm, The Lays, Fleets, Meeting House, Chappell, Horse Fair, Sheep Fair, Church Passages, White Lion, Mechanic Institution, Church Lane, Butchers Row, Mill St., Low Wharf, Mill Lane, Mill St., West Bar St., The Shades, South Bar St., From Oxford, From Warwick, To Grimshay, To Brackley.

Ditchley Park, Oxfordshire, a historic house with a contemporary purpose

English Life Publications, 2s.

A History of Spelsbury, including Dean, Taston, Fulwell and Ditchley

by the Hon. Elsie Corbett

Privately published 1962, copies obtainable from the author at Spelsbury House, 25s.

Official guides can be bedevilled with blemishes so numerous and infuriating with regard to style, information or accuracy that the habitual country house visitor might justifiably despair of finding more than a few satisfactory examples in a decade of sightseeing. Ditchley Park is an admirable production, considering its length. Clear illustrations and well reasoned historical and architectural facts are to be found throughout, printed on good quality paper. We are treated to a clearly drawn map of the Ditchley environs, and a useful, simplified pedigree of the Dillon-Lees. The style of our anonymous guide is marked by enthusiasm for his subject with a proper restraint in the use of superlatives, though Ditchley would seem to merit them more than most. The reading matter flows evenly, except for a couple of lapses which can easily be forgiven, viz. "the pictures over the doors are ascribed to Rosa da Tivoli and are of her immediate neighbourhood" and (referring to dressing rooms) - but no water was laid on in any of them in 1930." Bearing in mind the present use of the house as a centre for Anglo-American studies the guide is skillful in dispensing just sufficient Americana to be palatable to English readers. En passant one wonders why there should be such mystery over the Virginian Lee family connection - surely a little research would clear up the matter, for the Lees were well-to-do people (and probably well-documented), not penniless vagabonds with a shady or nameless past!

Reading this guide we are left grateful for the alliance of wealth and taste at Ditchley, which is seeking to preserve, and, if possible, restore the many attractive features of a noble mansion which was also patently a family home.

Much of the information in the guide book is also to be found in A History of Spelsbury. Miss Corbett obviously fell in love with the place, and appears to have spared no effort to compile a chronicle which commences in pre-historic times and ends in the present decade. The result is a long book without a single printer's error, lavishly illustrated and quite remarkable for its diversity of information. Here, if anywhere, is an example of a story ranging from Cabbages and the life of the countryside to Kings and the privileged world of the big house.

One could easily be over-critical discussing this book, which (apart from the contributions from Lord Harold Dillon) is not a learned thesis - how could it be when our authoress tells us on page 126 "In 1538 King Henry VIII's minister Thomas Cromwell, not to be confused with Oliver, instituted the keeping of Parish Registers"? No; we are to put ourselves in the place of Spelsbury villagers and explore the varied store of historical records and local gossip which can bring the village to life in any age the writer chooses. The early chapters may be slightly disappointing because of the dearth of local examples, when we are carried instead to such far-off places as the court of the Emperor Sigismund, but with the use of a comprehensive series of Court Rolls and Parish Records we return to the more human scale of the parish pump. Indeed, this book might well be read in conjunction with W.E. Tate's The Parish Chest to enhance the reader's enjoyment of both works. We learn about the remarkable John Carey who built the almshouses and died aged 101, about the sudden deluge of war refugees and a monster fruit canning machine which even had the Women's Institute baffled for a while. Every opportunity is taken to mention villagers by name and it would be pleasant to think that the Spelsburians of today, reading this book, might glow with pride at identification with their forebears, but sadly we are told that "for a few years between the wars there were nine families descended from Ditchley living within 20 miles of it, now there are none". This is borne out by the population census of 509 inhabitants in 1801 and 293 in 1961. Yet while we fully share the nostalgic mood of Miss Corbett's later chapters, and note the end of benevolent Dillon rule, we can hardly doubt that there will be new life in the village and plenty of raw material for further chapters to this history of Spelsbury which has been so capably begun.

Joseph Ashby of Tysoe, 1859-1919

by M.K. Ashby, Cambridge University Press, 1961. 25s.

Lark Rise to Candleford

by Flora Thompson, Oxford University Press, World's Classics, rep. 1963. 8/6d.

Miss Ashby's "Joseph Ashby of Tysoe" is both a biography of her father and a study of Tysoe village life in the latter half of the nineteenth century.

It is a work of filial homage, she tells us, laid upon her by her brother; a personal, dedicated book which has been widely acclaimed. For these reasons one approaches it with humanity and respect.

It is full of interest. And very readable. Yet studied critically, with an eye to its value as a contribution to local history, much of it does not quite stand up.

Miss Ashby admits her book is not altogether a work of history. It relies, she says, too largely upon memories and oral tradition. But so far as has been possible, she assures us, the family and village stories, reminiscences of table talk and so on from which she has drawn have been checked by reference to "more massive manuscripts and printed documents."

Having said that, however, Miss Ashby, by the use of stylistic tricks which could so easily have been avoided, sometimes by a sort of misplaced virtuosity, too often contrives to undermine her own authority and to raise questions in her reader's mind.

For example - Ashby, a man of many parts, writer, pioneer, research worker in rural economics, local politician, preacher, as well as farmer and magistrate, was also a great raconteur.

"Many times," Miss Ashby says, "the long story of the Town Land affair was told in our home."

It is an interesting story: a story which casts light - though perhaps a rather partisan light - on the relationship between the villagers and the village "Establishment".

But the way in which it is re-told - in the narrative form of direct speech, as told to Ashby by his mother and another village ancient, and in dialect - serves only to emphasise its third-handedness.

Did the story grow in telling? Has it been "checked"? We are left only to guess.

Again: "In the summer of 1872, only a few weeks past his thirteenth birthday" Ashby was present at a meeting in Tysoe when Joseph Arch spoke. Arch, from neighbouring Barford, between Warwick and Stratford-upon-Avon, was fresh from the famous meeting at Wellesbourne at which what later became the National Union of Agricultural Workers was born.

Let Miss Ashby continue. "The weather was set fair for the meeting, timed for seven in the evening - Joseph (Ashby) gave these details in the Land Magazine some twenty-five years later - but the men laid down their tools in good time without a by-your-leave."

And the long account which follows then contains this passage: "Arch had no poetry, no rhetoric, but his voice was full and clear, reaching far beyond the limits of the crowd, thrown back now and then from the houses and even from the hills behind in a fine echo."

And in a fine echo from the hills behind, one hears oneself asking: Does this detail come from Ashby's own report twenty-five years later? From "the young reporter from the Daily News" whom "farmers and parsons too had reckoned without"? Or does it come from the pen of a romantic, historical novelist?

Miss Ashby, incidentally, does not further identify her "young reporter" who so much helped Arch's cause. Her omission to do so - though doubtless inadvertent - half suggests and half invites the inference that he was Ashby himself. But this, surely, cannot have been. Ashby, as we have just been told, was, after all, only thirteen.

Could he, though, this "young reporter", have been Archibald Forbes, described by Orwin\* as "the famous war correspondent" appointed by the Daily News to write a series of articles focussing attention on the plight of the rural worker? It seems probable and it would have been nice to know.

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\* C.S. Orwin - A History of English Farming.



These extracts are both taken from Miss Ashby's set pieces, her big occasions, of which there are many. But if the major scenes in her tapestry are over-worked and a shade too highly coloured, the background fabric is solid, authentic stuff. And in places a good deal more comes through - on outlook, points of view, imperfectly understood motives and a Victorian capacity for self-deception - than perhaps the author intended.

Here lies her value. The richness yet inadequacy of village life at the turn of the century emerges at first hand from her pages. More than that. There is something of the hopes and aspirations, the opportunities and frustrations of the villagers themselves. And in the end, inspired by Methodism, liberalism and Victorian optimism - though triggered off by a timely bequest - there is a measure of fulfilment for the Ashbys themselves.

It is, however, curious to reflect that throughout Miss Ashby's story the village is struggling to come to terms with itself after what was seen as the disastrous effects of land enclosure which came to Tysoe late.

Ashby himself, in his early days at least, seems to have been actuated by the belief that the loss of the open fields ended the villagers' independence and killed their self-respect. And his success in securing land for the villagers to work as allotments was rewarding to him in one way if not in another.

The 50-acre piece he obtained for the 75 members of the Tysoe Allotments Association was thought of as something on account, a bit to be going on with but no more. There was no more. Yet the demand for the land was so small that Ashby's own initial holding of one acre had increased to five within two years.

There is no lack of evidence elsewhere to show that enclosure was accompanied by much unforeseen and almost certainly avoidable hardship. From a greater distance of time, however, it can only be seen as an inevitable and essential knocking-off of shackles without which farming could have made no progress. As for independence, the tillers of the open fields were free to grow what they could within a rigid seasonal timetable which in fact left them almost no choice.

Enclosure figures, too, in Miss Thompson's book.

In her first pages clues abound to the identity of "Lark Rise": the north-east corner of Oxfordshire; OXFORD XIX MILES on the turnpike milestone; three miles to the market town (which is Brackley not Bicester); and the hamlet stands revealed as Juniper Hill, its mother village Cottisford, still a mile and a half up the straight, narrow road and round a corner just out of sight.

The hamlet stands today much as it must have been in the 1880's and 1890's when Miss Thompson lived there as a child; neither so isolated nor so remote now as it was then, but with no new houses and probably fewer old ones, a hamlet which has escaped "development" of almost any sort; thirty cottages and an inn dotted down anywhere within a more or less circular group, just as Miss Thompson describes it. And if the road which surrounded the whole in her time is no longer a deeply rutted cart-track, it is full of potholes and only just usable by a car.

"Lark Rise" was published in 1939, twenty-five years ago. In it Miss Thompson gives an account of her childhood and of the rural community in which it was spent. And what the clear and observant eye of the child saw and retained has been totally recalled, faithfully recorded and intelligently interpreted by her adult mind. The result is a little book of no great pretensions, but as wholly convincing as it is charming.

Originally a "squatter" hamlet on the unenclosed heath, Lark Rise - to stick to Miss Thompson's fictional name - still contained some of the descendants of the original squatters when she lived there. The houses had good vegetable gardens and there were allotments for all, so that the cottagers were cushioned from the worst effects of the agricultural depression of the 1870's onwards and the land hunger which dominated much of Ashby's early days in Tysoe was here less acute.

But Miss Thompson's domestic scenes convey the material poverty, the scrimping and saving, the mending and making-do, the constant struggle to stretch a tiny agricultural wage and all that it entailed: leazing in the harvest field; the pig fed on scraps; girls out to "service" as soon as they left school at eleven; the menfolk nursing their nightly half-pint of ale at the

inn to be out of the way of the rest of the family in their one down, two up cottages.

Here is a rich seam for the social historian to mine. And he will find much of value, too, in Miss Thompson's comments on school and church, marriage and morals, children's play and social distinctions.

In these matters Miss Thompson and Miss Ashby are on common ground. And the similarity of their views and opinions - notably, for instance, on the part played by the Church in village life - sets the seal on their authenticity.

Further authority is hardly needed. But if it is, may I perhaps record the fact that "Lark Rise" recalled most vividly to my mind the pattern of life as I knew it in an Oxfordshire village in the early 1920's. Until then, nothing much had changed.

It has now.

Park House, Wykham.

Geoffrey Dodwell

### A History of Banbury Cross

by B.S. Trinder, B.A. Published by the Banbury Historical Society, 1964, price 6d.

(8 page pamphlet, 9" x 4", with 3 illustrations). Available from shops in Banbury, or from the Hon. Treasurer, c/o Borough Library, Banbury.

As a form of practical monument crosses are of particular interest for throughout the centuries they have served a multiplicity of purposes fascinating to contemplate - although their spiritual symbolism was not overlooked for, as Wynken de Worde wrote in his fifteenth-century *Dives et Pauper* "folke passynge" saw the wayside crosses and would "worship Hym above all thynges." With wayside crosses, as at Geddington, Northants, the mourning Edward 1 marked the resting-places of the body of his lost Eleanor on its last journey. Beside crosses Friars preached and at many, as in the case of the important Paul's Cross in London, royal proclamations were read and laws promulgated. When wolves were a menace in parts of Britain their heads, for which payment was made, were hung on the local cross, as on one at Carmarthen. And of course markets were held beside them, as at Winchester's Butter Cross and Salisbury's Poultry Cross.

Against such a colourful historic background, Banbury's Cross stands out proudly for it is one of the best known . . . but that, in many cases, is by name only. Now, a wealth of information about it is available in this booklet A History of Banbury Cross. It is presented in an entertaining style which makes its content easy to absorb. Naturally the nursery rhyme forms the opening section, and in view of the atmosphere of fantasy in which these rhymes are wrapped it is understandable that a modicum of speculation is mixed with the information given. The author tells an informative story about the original Cross destroyed by Puritans in 1601; this leads smoothly into the story of the present monument which is shown to have a royal reason for its erection in 1858 quite in the tradition of previous crosses of historic importance. The carvings on it are described and as they are armorial the exposition of their meaning, the references to the families bearing the arms and some anecdotal information about them, are interesting in themselves and add to the appeal of the Cross itself. In view of these heraldic references it may be apposite to recall here that the coat-of-arms of Banbury has, as the crest above the shield, a lady who is certainly "fine" and is riding a white horse. Her Tudor costume is appropriate to the time of Queen Mary 1 who, as the booklet mentions, granted the first charter to the borough.

Whether for visitors to Banbury, or for the countless thousands throughout the world who have heard of Banbury Cross, this attractively produced booklet, with its three large illustrations (two in colour) showing the present Cross and early views of the scene in which it is located, meets a long felt need and deserves a wide readership.

F.E. Evans

Atlas of Britain

Clarendon Press, 1963. 25 gns.

The Atlas of Britain was born of discussions held between the Clarendon Press and members of the Oxford and Cambridge University academic staffs in 1951. It consists of a large number of small scale maps which show the resources of the United Kingdom by techniques which allow the correlation of facts in ways useful to both national and regional planners. A study of the atlas is also of considerable interest to local historians and geographers and it is the aim of this review to examine the most significant features of an area of about 100 square miles with Banbury as its centre.

The first group of maps is concerned with physical phenomena and each map is valuable in that the Banbury region can be seen in a national context. Its central position within the distribution of rocks belonging to the Jurassic system (about 150 million years old) and the character of the climate transitional between the wetter west and the drier east are both clearly shown. More significant locally are the maps concerned with the sources and availability of water. These emphasise the dependence of the local area on rivers to which the mean annual run off is only between 30% and 40% of the mean annual rainfall of 26.8 inches.<sup>1</sup> The supply of water will be inadequate if the rates of population and industrial growth increase to the extent suggested in the Government's South East Study. A further water problem is revealed by the atlas; the amount of rain which falls in summer (12.8 inches<sup>2</sup>) is low enough to make possible an agricultural drought in more than five summers out of ten.

There are many maps which present agricultural data. These are mainly distributions of crops and animals shown by a pattern of dots and are on too small a scale to indicate more than that farming in the Banbury area has the mixed character which is typical of much of Britain. The importance of Banbury livestock market is however especially well shown by a map in which a variation of the proportional circle method is used.<sup>3</sup>

The industrial structure of Banbury can be seen by studying a series of clearly drawn maps. These emphasise the small size of most firms and also the importance of metals, especially iron and aluminium. The national distributions of aluminium and iron products are particularly interesting as they show the mid-location of Banbury between the more important West Midlands and London conurbation groups of production centres. These are followed by a map which gives the floor space of new factories in relation to the number of workers. The figure for Banbury is high and comparable with such towns as Stevenage, Harlow and Crawley which are prominent in the industrial expansion of the metropolitan belt around London.

Maps which show the trends in population growth between the censuses of 1951 and 1961 and the persistent population changes for the periods 1931 - 1939, 1939 - 1951 and 1951 - 1961, should be of value to social historians and economic geographers and of interest because of the Government's proposed plans for South East England. In these it is envisaged that between 1961 and 1981, Banbury will expand by at least 30,000 so as to absorb part of the likely 3½ million increase in population of an area south east of a line from the Wash to Lyme Bay in Dorset.

An aspect of the Atlas of Britain which makes it such a useful publication is that it contains data seldom presented in map form. In this category are the distributions of different general rate levels, rateable values per head of population for 1959 and the retail and service trade sales per head of population. The high rate paid in Banbury is a prominent feature of the first map especially as it is more characteristic of some large industrial areas such as South Wales and South East Lancashire. Banbury's rateable value (£15 to £19. 9. per head in 1959) is also high when compared with the United Kingdom average of £14.4 per head.

An analysis of the third distribution, that of retail and service trade shows that sales in the Banbury Borough area are very high (£201 to £250 per head per annum) and well above the average for Britain which is £119. This is a reflection of the fact that most people in the local area look exclusively to Banbury for the products of these trades partly because there is no other near and comparable shopping centre and partly because of the cost and difficulty of transport to larger service centres such as Oxford and Northampton would not be offset by the greater variety and

range of retail facilities available. The map invites speculation about the future level of retail and service trade scales which will depend on several factors. These are firstly an increase in the purchasing power of people living in the Banbury region which may result from the addition of large firms such as Alfred Bird and Sons to the industrial structure of the urban area, secondly the growth of a major centre of population near to Banbury which would absorb part of the local area population increase and develop its own shopping centre and lastly the improvement of communications linking Banbury with the south and midlands.

The Times described the Atlas of Britain as a "worthy record of the resources of Britain at the mid-century" and the Guardian has referred to it as "a cartographical triumph". Both judgements are fully deserved by a publication which is outstanding for the exhaustive nature of its contents, the clarity of its detailed maps and the price of the atlas which must surely confine the location of copies to public and private libraries.

North Oxfordshire Technical College

B.E. Little

#### NOTES

1. The average annual precipitation was calculated during the 35 year period 1916-1950.
2. This is the average total precipitation from April to September and calculated on the same 35 year period.
3. Four sizes of circle are used to represent principal markets, other important markets, other markets and small markets.

#### Roman Roads in the South-East Midlands

by "The Viatores", Gollancz, 1964. 70s.

The aim of the Viatores (led by I.D. Margary, author of Roman Ways in the Weald and The Roman Roads of Britain) was to record and trace as many as possible of the Roman and Romanised roads in the area bounded by Peterborough, Cambridge, London, Dorchester and Towcester. This was an urgent task owing to the pressure on land for new homes and roads.

The area covered by the book is the one about which we know least in the immediate post-Roman period, and which we can now assume to have been dependent on St. Albans. Recent archaeological finds enable us to record the continuous history of organised urban life at St. Albans until the mid 5th century - the time of the visit of St. Germanus of which there is documentary proof. By establishing the network of roads radiating from St. Albans the Viatores have re-emphasised the importance of the "municipium", the "Caer Mencipit" of Nennius' list of the cities of Britain.

It is interesting to see the use made of documentary evidence, place-names and parish boundaries in tracing the roads. Where possible the minor roads leading to villas, e.g. Lockleys, are noted, and an attempt is made to assess the significance of such place-names as "coldharbour", "caldicot" and "Tolly", over 60% of which lie under half a mile from a road used by the Romans.

This research draws our attention not so much to the density of the network of Roman roads but to our lack of precise knowledge of what lay between them. Without this knowledge, we lack the keys which will open the "Dark Ages" to us.

Although the Viatores come no nearer to Banbury than Towcester, we have the work of Mrs. Wickham Steed (C & CH. ii. 7. January 1964) to continue the picture westwards. It is encouraging to note how the two works fit together. Clearly this is an urgent task which must be carried out now throughout Britain before all traces of the distant past are obliterated by the thoroughness and speed of the "developers" and road-builders.

Hereford.

John H. Bowles

#### QUERY

Mr. K.A. Carrdus would like to know the site of the mizmaze on Tadmarton Heath, mentioned by Geoffrey Grigson on page 92 of the Shell Country Book, and would welcome any information which readers can give. His address is 2, St. John's Road, Banbury.

"Industrial Archaeology - an Introduction"

by Kenneth Hudson, John Baker, 1963. 36s.

Mr. Hudson defines industrial archaeology as "the organised, disciplined study of the physical remains of yesterday's industries". In his introduction he defends the term against the popular misconception of archaeology as the study of periods chiefly before 500 A.D. by means of the spade and the trowel, emphasising that the important remains of some industries, the fabrication of aluminium for example, may date from as recently as the 1930's. Mr. Hudson's aim is "to draw attention to the surviving memorials of our industrial past" and his book pretends to be neither a comprehensive study of work accomplished nor an encyclopedia of methods. His success can best be judged by the number of problems needing attention in north Oxfordshire which spring to mind after reading his book.

A clear example is the former workshop of Joseph Gardner the ironmonger at 65, High Street, Banbury, where the iron rails of a short tramway may still be seen running along the passage to the back of the building. The mazes of alleyways and courts on either side of North Bar contain many buildings of industrial interest, including the remains of a brewery, a dye works and a blacking manufactory. The girth mill of the Cobb family in Factory Street which still has the date 1837 over the gateway and the brewery in Old Parr Road also deserve attention. Little now remains of the extensive engineering works which existed in the Cherwell area in the 19th century, though the 25" Ordnance Survey map of 1884 is an excellent aid to investigation. Only ruins now remain of the Great War ammunition factory alongside the Bletchley railway and an examination of its history while people who remember it are still living would be thoroughly worthwhile.

In rural areas farm building, plush weaving premises, fulling mills, the kilns where ironstone was processed, canal wharves and such transport monuments as the Hook Norton viaduct should all be recorded. Incidentally it is interesting to learn that the "beacon" on the Burton Dassett hills dates from the 15th century and is the earliest known remnant of a windmill in England.

If this list of work to be done in such a limited area appears daunting it is some measure of Mr. Hudson's success. It is to be hoped that the new Journal of Industrial Archaeology which he is to edit will be equally successful.

B.S.T.

A Handlist of Plans, Sections and Books of Reference for the  
Proposed Railways in Oxfordshire, 1825-1936

Oxfordshire County Council Record Publication No. 3, County Hall, Oxford, 1964. 3/6d.

The local history of transport is a much neglected topic in this area and this new Handlist of Plans, Sections and Books of Reference for the Proposed Railways in Oxfordshire will be a sound foundation on which to construct more detailed studies of the development of railways in the county in the 19th century. The schemes listed stretch in time from 1825 when a railway from Moreton-in-Marsh to Shipton-under-Wychwood was proposed to 1936 when the G.W.R. made alterations to the Oxford swing bridge. The plans are arranged alphabetically under the names of the various companies and listed beneath chronologically. The parishes affected by each plan are detailed and the Record Office reference is given. The list is clearly printed by an offset litho process.

Even such meagre information will be of considerable value to the historian of railways. One of the outstanding untackled problems of the history of north Oxfordshire in the 19th century is the series of battles over the building of a railway from Northamptonshire, through Banbury, westwards to the Cotswolds and South Wales. In this book it is possible to discover, almost at a glance, the periods of the main proposals. Three different schemes were put forward in 1845 at

the time of the "Railway Mania", further proposals came in 1853, 1863, 1864 and 1871, until finally in 1872 the act for the Banbury and Cheltenham Direct Railway was passed and deposited with the Clerk of the Peace in Oxford. We learn nothing from the list of the motives for proposing these lines nor of the reasons for the failure of most of the schemes, but the skeleton we do obtain is most useful. The list brings to light many schemes now almost completely forgotten such as the proposed extension of the Metropolitan Railway to Moreton Pinkney in 1889.

The introduction to the list points out that the plans and books of reference show land and building on either side of the proposed tracks and clearly this will be very useful to parish historians trying to describe the topography of their villages in the 19th century.

One or two small additions might have added considerably to the value of this list. It is by no means easy to identify which of the proposals resulted in the building of a particular line. The line from Oxford to Banbury for example is listed, not under Great Western Railway but under "Oxford and Rugby Railway", and the Banbury to Woodford Line not under Great Central Railway but under Manchester, Sheffield and Lincolnshire Railway. The blank last page of the list could well have been used for a sketchmap showing lines actually built with references to the documents dealing with them. Mention of the gauge of lines proposed in the period of the "Railway Mania" would have been useful, and a fuller description of the form of a book of reference would have given the historian not primarily interested in railways a better idea of what information he may obtain from these sources.

These are minor blemishes on an admirable production, the second such useful list to come recently from the County Record Office. May there be many more of them!

B.S.T.

#### "Banbury - You and the Move"

Information about the town and the removal of Messrs. Birds' factory issued to employees likely to be affected.

Mention has previously been made in this magazine of the admirable way in which the Community Relations staff of Alfred H. Bird and Sons are recording for posterity all the details of the setting up of the new factory in Banbury. Last year the Historical Society was presented with a collection of publications issued to employees, including the whole of a series of newsheets concerning the move, a specially produced aerial photograph of the town and various pamphlets about Banbury. All of these taken together will give a clear picture of the town in the early 1960's to future historians.

Most cheering of all items in this collection is the first issue of a newsheet called Banbury News which stresses the care taken to make note of any archaeological finds in Choakwell Quarter, the field in which the new factory is being erected. As it happened, nothing of interest was found, but the example is clearly set for all other authorities responsible for large scale excavations in the town to follow.

B.S.T.

#### METHODIST ARCHIVES

The Banbury Circuit of the Methodist Church possesses an unusually comprehensive collection of archives. Until recently some of these have been stored haphazardly in a number of different places, not all of them suitable for the purpose. At the March Quarterly Meeting this year it was decided to appoint a Circuit Archivist, believed to be the first in Methodism, and to concentrate these records in a suitable spot on the premises of the Marlborough Road church. The first archivist is Mr. L. Patrick, F.L.A., of 5 St. Mary's Road, Adderbury (Tel. Adderbury 200) who will be pleased to hear of any Methodist records in private hands.

DOCUMENTS FROM ST. MARY'S CHURCH, BANBURY

In collaboration with the vicar of Banbury, the Revd. D. Eastman, members of the Historical Society have recently sorted and identified most of the miscellaneous collection of documents formerly in the church vestry and in the vicarage. The documents have been deposited in Banbury Public Library and in the Bodleian Library in accordance with advice given by the Society as follows:

IN THE BODLEIAN LIBRARY:-

Parish Registers: 1) Baptisms, burials, marriages, 1558-1653. (Much of this volume is a fair copy of 2); 2) Baptisms, burials 1580-1707, marriages 1580-1653, 1661-1707 (in box, binding and outside leaves badly damaged); 3) Baptisms, burials 1653-1723, marriages 1653-1696, 1706-1723; 4) Baptisms, burials, 1723-1801, marriages, 1723-1754. 5) Marriages, 1754-1769; 6) Marriages, 1769-1790; 7) Marriages, 1790-1812.

Volumes not yet copied by the Society for publication remain at the parish church.

Records of the Trustees for Building a New Church in Accordance with an Act of 1790

List of Trustees, 1790-1848.

Registers of notices of meetings of the trustees, 1821-50, 1851-61. (2 vols.)

Minute books, 1790-1861. (11 vols.)

Duplicate volume of minutes with a copy of the Act, 1790-1840.

Contracts of 1 December 1790 with masons, (1), carpenter (1), plumber and glazier (2), plasterer (2), slater (2), and joiner (3) for work on the church, and a contract and bond with Messrs. Pain and Bartlett for completing the tower, 2nd Oct. 1818.

Assignment of bonds of the mason, S. Townshend, to Samuel Weston, 1796.

Assignment of Bartlett's interest in the contract of 1818 to Pain, 1824 and receipt from Pain's executor, 1836.

Account books of the treasurer of the trustees, 1790-1819, 1821-25, 1843-49. (3 vols.)

A notebook of minutes of a committee appointed to examine the accounts, 1816.

Lists of holders of church bonds with particulars of assignments and mortgages of bonds, n. d., (2 vols. and 2 notebooks).

Treasurer's account book of interest due on bonds, 1822-24.

Mortgagees' ledger, c 1844-45.

A few accounts of church rates in Banbury, Neithrop and Grimsbury, c 1827-30. (Small account book, mostly blank leaves).

2 notebooks containing lists of voluntary contributions towards the building of the church, n. d.

List of allocations of pews, n. d. (1 vol.)

Letter Book

Scrap book of letters received by T.W. Lancaster, vicar of Banbury, with copies of some letters written by him, 1827-30.

(Dr. Brinkworth's article on Lancaster in our March 1963 issue was in part based on this source.)

IN BANBURY PUBLIC LIBRARY:-Ratebooks for Banbury, Neithrop and Grimsbury:

1824, N.D. (almost certainly 1825), 1826 (includes street headings), 1833, 1841, 1844, 1846, 1847, 1850, 1851, 1852, 1853, 1854, 1855, 1856, 1857, 1858, 1859, 1860. (19 vols.)

Ratebooks for Banbury Parish:

1782, 1790, 1792, (Highways), 1795 (Highways), 1795, 1795, (special rate to reimburse churchwardens) 1806, 1807, 1808, 1809, 1811, 1812, 1814, 1816, 1817, 1818 (2 copies), 1819, 1820 (2 copies - different collections), 1821 (2 copies - different collections), 1822, 1824, N.D. (cover marked "Expostulation and Reply" c 1823), N.D. (before 1822), N.D. (2 identical copies, before 1826). (28 volumes).

Ratebooks for Neithrop, Wykham and Hardwick:

1791, 1792, 1793, 1794, 1804, 1805 (2 copies), 1806 (2 copies), 1807, 1808, 1809, 1810, 1811, 1812, 1813 (2 copies), 1814, 1815 (2 copies), 1816, 1817 (2 copies), 1818, 1820, 1821, 1824. N.D. (fields only). (28 volumes).

Ratebooks for Grimsbury:

1792, 1801, 1802, 1803, 1804, 1805, 1806, 1807, 1809 (2 copies), 1810, 1812, 1813 (2 copies), 1814, 1815, 1816, 1817, 1818 (2 copies), 1819, 1821, 1849-53, (bound volume), N.D. (Incomplete) (24 volumes).

Vestry Minutes:

1708-1797. (This volume has been in the Borough Museum for some years). 1810-1822, 1822-1825. Record of poor relief payments 1817-18, includes sheet of Overseers' Accounts, 1809-1810. (4 volumes).

Charts, etc.

Lists of all church officials, detailing their duties. 1855, 1856, 1857, 1858, 1859. (5 wall charts).

Pew Plans: 1797 (Official list in accordance with Act of 1790) 3 N.D., 1857. (5 charts).

Maps:

Plan of land in Warwick Road (Mr. Armitt's Garden) on which St. Paul's Church was built.

Map of Banbury c 1838 (this is reproduced on our centre pages).

Visiting Plans (All c 1850)

Key Map, adapted from O.S., all houses in Banbury parish numbered.

Visiting plan 1. Shows Townsend and Union Street areas and part of Warwick Road, listing names of occupants of each house, their occupations, religious affiliations, and schools attended by their children.

Visiting plan 2, shows Boxhedge and Paradise.

Visiting plan 3, shows North Bar, Southall Gardens, Tanyard, part of Castle Street, Southam Road.

Visiting plan 4, shows Foundry Street and Square, part of Warwick Road.

Chart listing all houses in Banbury, numbered according to Key Map and arranged under streets, some names of occupants given.



Miscellaneous:

Accounts of goods taken and sold under distress for non-payment of Church Rates, 1822.

Sundry leaflets, handbills, etc.

Letter book containing sundry items, chiefly concerned with charities.

This is one of the most interesting collections of documents to come to light in Banbury in recent years. The mass of material on the building of the present parish church should enable a much more detailed examination to be made of the reasons for the destruction of the old St. Mary's, and the contracts will be of great interest to architectural historians. The visiting plans, in conjunction with the almost contemporary 1851 census, will provide the basis for a detailed social survey of the Neithrop area in the middle of the 19th century which will be published in a future issue of Cake and Cockhorse. The ratebooks will enable the compilation of a list of the occupants of every property in Banbury between 1790 and 1860. Among the miscellaneous items, one of outstanding interest is a long justification written in 1825 by Alfred Beesley of his reasons for leaving the Society of Friends and joining the Church of England.

The thanks of all students of local history are due to the Revd. D. Eastman for his enlightened decision to place these most valuable documents where they are easily accessible.

TERCENTENARY OF THE BANBURY FRIENDS' MEETING HOUSE

The Quaker message was first brought to Banbury in 1654 by John Audland who was on a journey from the north of England to Bristol. He found a ready response among the townspeople, many of whom had been stirred by the preaching of William Whately. Audland left his wife, Anne, in Banbury to continue his work. As a consequence of her preaching Anne soon found herself in Banbury gaol, a foul building in the market place on the site now occupied by Mr. Gordon Jarvis. Nevertheless she had made a notable convert in the town - one Edward Vivers, a prominent citizen who lived in the house where Neale and Perkins shop now stands. His initials can still be seen over the sundial.

Vivers bought a plot of land in the Horsefair for £25 so that a Friends' Meeting House could be erected there. He was imprisoned for 2½ years for this act but, in spite of the Conventicle Act passed in the same year, the first Meeting House opened in 1664 and Quakers have worshipped in Banbury on that site from then until the present day, although the first Meeting House has now disappeared and one erected in 1751 stands in its place.

Dr. E.R. Brinkworth reminded Banburians and visitors of these facts at a Meeting held at the Meeting House on June 19th this year as part of the Tercentenary commemorations.

Another notable feature of the occasion was the gathering at West Adderbury on June 20th where the Friends' Meeting House was specially opened and there was an address by Beatrice Saxon Snell comparing the Quaker message of 1664 with that of 1964.

George Fox, the founder of Quakerism, visited Adderbury in 1673. His journal records that he went to Bray D'Oyley's house and had a large and precious meeting after which he had the sensation of being 'taken'. He was in fact arrested the following day. He returned to Adderbury to preach at the opening of the new Meeting House built in 1675. The exterior of this building is plain but the interior is furnished with a very wide gallery on three sides protected by tall slatted railings and there is a gallery fireplace for cooking meals. The building is described in a recent book by the architect Hubert Lidbetter called 'Quaker Meeting Houses'. It was last used by Friends in 1935 after having been rarely used for some years. The building and burial ground are now leased to the parish council. Of the original furnishings of the Meeting House two coffin stools and a fine Tudor table are now in Banbury Meeting House so that the lecturer in 1964 was able to stand at the same table at which George Fox stood almost 300 years earlier.

Alan Sibson

OUR COVER

This months cover is a drawing by Mr. W.H. Clark of the Friends' Meeting House, Adderbury.

## OXFORD ARCHITECTURAL AND HISTORICAL SOCIETY

The Society is concerned with the archaeology, history and architecture of the Oxford regions. Its activities include lectures, excursions and the publication of an annual journal, Oxoniensia. The Society also endeavours to preserve and safeguard local buildings and monuments. Full membership (to include Oxoniensia) two guineas. Ordinary membership, fifteen shillings.

Apply Hon. Treasurer, O.A. & H.S., Ashmolean Museum, Oxford.

### ARCHAEOLOGY

Members of the Society may be interested in a course of lectures to be given by Robert Machin, Esq., B.A., at the Evening Centre, Highfield School, Bicester, on "Modern Developments in Archaeology". The course will commence on Tuesday September 22nd at 7.30 p.m. and the class fee will be 15/-. Mr. Machin will also be conducting a One Day School on Industrial Archaeology in North Oxfordshire at Chipping Norton Grammar School on Saturday, November 14th, commencing at 3.15 p.m. Further details of both courses may be obtained from T.W. Muskett, Esq., Public Library, Banbury, or from J.G. Richards, W.E.A., 42 Wellington Square, Oxford.

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for the Banbury Historical Society

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# ST. JAMES THE GREAT CLAYDON, OXON.

CLAYDON—'Clayey hill'—is the most northerly parish in Oxfordshire, and in a field beyond Claydon Hay are the three Shire Stones where the counties of Oxfordshire, Northamptonshire and Warwickshire meet. Claydon is not mentioned by name in the Domesday Book (1086), but the Richard who held three hides within the Bishop of Lincoln's huge manor of Cropredy in 1086 is almost certainly the Richard of Newark, who had given two-thirds of his tithe at Cleindon to Eynesham Abbey before 1109, and this is the earliest mention of the name.

Like Mollington, Wardington and Great Bourton, the church was a chapelry of the Mother Church of Cropredy. In 1851 Claydon with Mollington, became a separate benefice, and in 1852 the Parsonage was built at Mollington.

The Church of St. James the Great stands on the highest ground in the parish. It was much restored in 1861. The whole of the church was re-roofed—except the tower—and re-floored, and the south wall, the porch, the wall of the north aisle and portions of the walls of the Chantry Chapel were taken down and re-built, and the westernmost arch was also rebuilt. Yet the reconstruction seems to have been carefully done and the old pattern kept. The large square 18th century window on the south wall was replaced by one more in keeping with the style of the church.

The south door bears the date 1640, the year of the summoning of the Long Parliament and two years before the outbreak of the Great Civil War, and the Battle of Edgehill. It appears to have its original wrought iron hinges. The doorway—much restored—is Norman. The font dates from 1861 and replaces a wooden one. It is in the style of a Norman font, but the basin is much smaller. The pillars and arcading of the North aisle are Transitional Norman—Early English and date from about 1100. The central part of the church was probably older, and the aisle added to give more room, especially for the processions so loved in medieval times. On the capitals can be seen a design in the early stiff leaf foliage sculpture, while on the pillar nearest the tower is a doodle which might be a bee, similar to early stopped ends of label moulds.

The aisle opens out into a beautiful Early English Chapel, dating from about 1200. It is surprising that a tiny village church should have such a chapel, and it is presumed that it was a chantry chapel where some lord or knight or rich lady was buried, and where a priest was paid to say masses for his soul—and probably also to teach the boys of the village. The chapel is called 'The Lady Aisle' in honour of the Blessed Virgin Mary. The arch under which you enter the chapel is

pointed, i.e. the Early English, though much restored, and not round like the Norman arches. There is a carved head on the left hand side, done in the Early English style. The windows of the chapel are slit windows of single lights, the top being pointed and not round. The east window is made up of three larger slit windows with thick masonry between them, but it dates from the restoration of 1861, previous to which there was a Perpendicular window, possibly replacing an earlier lancet window.

There is a door leading from the chapel to the chancel of the church, and the stones on the chancel side seem to have been weathered. It is surmised, therefore, that this was the outer door of the chapel and was there before the present chancel was built. In the south wall of the chapel is a huge squint, and it seems as if it was made when the chapel was built so that people in the chapel could see the Norman main altar which would be some six feet from the choir step. Later on, about 1400, the chancel was lengthened to extend beyond the end of the chapel, and the outer door of the chapel became a door leading from the chapel to the chancel.

On the left of the sanctuary is a piscina—a drain where the sacred vessels in use at the Communion are rinsed, and above is a shelf on which the bread and wine are placed before a Communion Service. On the right of the sanctuary is a sedilia, dating from the Restoration of 1861. The three seats are for the priest, the deacon and sub-deacon at a Communion Service. Above the sedilia is a Perpendicular window of three lights, dating from about 1450. This window is the latest of the medieval work in the church, but it appears, from a drawing made before the restoration, to have been shortened to make room for the sedilia. It has still, as it had before 1861, quite a domestic touch—the people who built the church were no doubt the same men who built the village houses.

The tower dates from about 1450 and has a saddle-back roof. Before 1861 the door was on the outside, but in that year the doorway into the church was opened up, or, more probably, re-opened, and the outside doorway blocked up. There are three bells: the treble bears the inscription:—"Be yt known to all that doth me see that Necombe of Leicester made me 1611." The second was made at the same foundry in 1609. The Tenor was cast in 1756 by Roger Bagley at Chacombe, and re-cast in 1910. The weights are: Treble 4 cwts., 2nd 5 cwts., Tenor 6 cwts. 3 lbs.

It seems that originally there were four bells—a sanctus or sacring bell or saunce hung in the aperture now walled up at the top of the eastern side of the tower.

The tower also contains an ancient clock. According to Dr. Beeson's 'Clockmaking in Oxfordshire' it may be the clock which is mentioned by the Vicar of Cropredy, Roger Lupton in 1512, as a new clock was obtained for Cropredy at the end of the 17th or early in the 18th century. Or it may date from 1609, the date of the oldest bell. It

has no dial, and never had one. It keeps excellent time and is wound daily by honorary clock-keepers.

The stained glass is modern. The window over the sedilia has three lights : The centre depicts St. Peter crucified—according to the legend upside down at his own request, as he considered himself unworthy to be crucified in the same way as his Lord. The left-hand light depicts James the son of Alphaeus, called St. James the Less — commemorated with St. Philip on 1st May. He has been confused with ' James, the Lord's brother,' who was head of the church of Jerusalem in Acts. He is depicted holding a club as James, the Lord's Brother, was said to be clubbed to death by a priest at the Temple of Jerusalem.

In the right-hand window is depicted St. John, young and beardless. He is holding a cup from which a tiny dragon peeps. St. John was said to have been given a cup of poison to drink, and to have suffered no ill effects.

The next window shows the Patron Saint of the Church, St. James the Great—James the brother of John, the son of Zebedee. He was the first of the twelve apostles to be killed, and was executed by King Herod Agrippa I about 44 A.D. He was beheaded with a sword, but is depicted here as the Patron of Pilgrims who visited the shrine of Santiago de Compostela (St. James of Compostela) in Spain. According to legend, his body was translated there.

A medieval tomb slab in the form of a cross is built into the outside of the wall of the aisle.

The registers of the church date from 1569. As they were suffering from damp, they have been repaired and have been deposited on revocable loan in the Bodleian Library at Oxford. The churchwarden's account books 1746-1861 have also been deposited, together with the constable's and overseers' accounts and a bundle of receipts from 1700—1850.

In addition to the silver chalice and paten, dating from 1856, the church possesses a handsome solid silver flagon, which an inscription on its base tells us was presented in 1839 by a friend of John Ballard, the Vicar of Cropredy, in place of an ugly pewter vessel. The flagon is used at every communion service, but with the other silver is kept in a private house for safety. The church also has two pewter plates, one bearing the mark of John Home and dating from about 1749. One is used as an alms dish. The plates have a very attractive dark patina and must on no account be polished, in case the tin oxide corrodes.

The church possesses a Baskerville Bible of 1769-71 which was in use until 1902.

Preserved in the safe are : a special Forms of Prayer for the Fast Day in 1748 during the War of Austrian Succession, a Form for the Maintenance of Peace 1848, a Form of Thanksgiving for the Abundant Harvest 1854 which has special prayers for use where Cholera prevails. There is also a Marriage Licence of 1813, a poster of the

Boddington Fete of 1914, a Penny Black postage stamp of July 24, 1840.

In the present churchyard is the Church Room which was formerly the thatched Sunday School, and before that the day School as well.

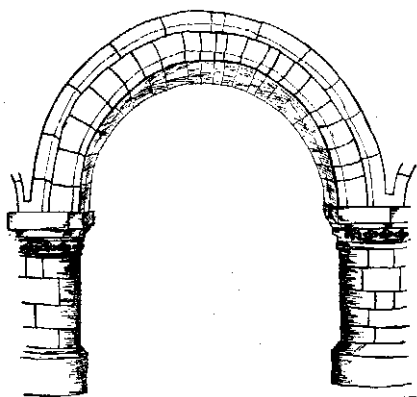
## CLATTERCOT

CLATTERCOT consists of a farm and cottages off the Cropredy Road, and is extra-parochial, i.e. outside the jurisdiction of any parish.

Anyone marrying from Clattercot has his banns published in an adjoining parish—usually Claydon, with which Clattercot forms a civil parish—and is described as living in 'the place called Clattercot.'

The Farm was originally a Gilbertine Priory founded in 1209.

R. R. LEWIS.



Arcading of N. Aisle of Claydon Church.

*Illustration by Sally Kent, Claydon, 1964.*

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## AN APPEAL . . .

The Parishioners of this ancient church have gradually renovated the roof and have kept the church in good repair. Now the sum of £2,000 is necessary to repoint the Tower and to replace some of the badly weathered stones. Some repointing of the chapel will also have to be done.

Donations may be put in the box, or sent to the Hon. Treasurer of the Claydon Church Restoration Fund, Mr. Andrew Fox, churchwarden, Butlin's Farm, Claydon, Banbury, Oxon.