

CAKE & COCKHORSE



BANBURY HISTORICAL SOCIETY SPRING 1976

BANBURY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

President:

The Lord Saye and Sele

Chairman:

J. F. Roberts, The Old Rectory, Broughton Road, Banbury (Tel: Banbury 51496).

Magazine Editor:

J. B. Barbour, College Farm, South Newington, Banbury (Tel: Banbury 720492).

Hon. Secretary:

Miss C. G. Bloxham, B. A.
Oxford City and County Museum,
Fletcher's House,
Woodstock,
Oxford.
(Tel: Woodstock 811456)

Acting Hon. Treasurer:

J. S. W. Owen,
Whitemere,
Wiggington, Banbury.
(Tel: Hook Norton 213)

Hon. Membership Secretary:

Mrs Sarah Gosling, B. A., Dip. Archaeol.
Banbury Museum,
Marlborough Road.
(Tel: Banbury 2282)

Assistant Secretary and Records Series Editor:

J. S. W. Gibson, F. S. A.,
11 Westgate,
Chichester PO19 3ET.
(Tel: Chichester 84048)

Hon. Research Adviser:

Dr E. R. C. Brinkworth,
43 Church View,
Banbury.

Hon. Archaeological Adviser:

J. H. Fearon, B. Sc.,
Fleece Cottage,
Bodicote,
Banbury.

Committee Members:

Mrs G. W. Brinkworth, B. A., Mrs N. M. Clifton, Mr A. Donaldson,
Mr P. W. Lock, Miss F. M. Stanton

Details about the Society's activities and
publications can be found on the inside back cover

Our cover: Calthorpe House, the home of the Hawtyn family in the 17th century, where John Webb, their servant, made his will. From an engraving in Skelton's "Antiquities of Oxfordshire", 1823.

CAKE & COCKHORSE

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

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The New Year finds the Society in gratifyingly good shape and the local history fare offered by it and other organizations is probably as rich and varied as never before. Evidence of the continued vitality of local historical research is afforded by the spate of books reviewed in the present issue – including the Book of Banbury by our own Secretary, Christine Bloxham. In April, the Oxford University Department of External Studies is organizing a weekend school on **Victorian Banbury** (details on p.104) with Barrie Trinder as tutor. Tribute was paid in our Autumn 1974 edition to Barrie's unrivalled knowledge of Victorian Banbury and members are strongly recommended to attend if they have the opportunity.

One problem, though, with a Society such as ours is the difficulty of involving members in the active furtherance of local history research. A helpful suggestion in this connection was made at our last AGM by Mrs Sally Markham. As few members have the time or opportunity to undertake the research necessary to produce a full-length article for Cake and Cockhorse (let alone a Records Volume), Mrs Markham suggested that space be made available in Cake and Cockhorse for small items – "Crumbs and jinglebells" – that could be submitted with little or no preparation but could nevertheless be of considerable interest to readers. The possibilities are countless: old photographs, anecdotes, and short wills or inventories (which can often give more insight into conditions in past centuries than a whole volume), to mention only a few. Readers will find a few such items in the present issue. Could we have a lot more please?

NEWS AND NOTES

Village Meeting and AGM

The date of the village meeting at Hook Norton has been changed to May 6th. The AGM is to be held on Saturday, June 26th.

Bodicote Parish Accounts, 1700-1822

The Society's latest Records Volume – which for a variety of reasons comes with a rather long time lag after our last volume – is published at the same time as this issue of *Cake and Cockhorse*, and Record's Members will have received their copy in the same envelope as the magazine. The present volume, containing the Bodicote Parish Accounts for 1700-1822, has been prepared and edited by J.H. Fearon, and the accounts reveal a wealth of detail about life in 18th Century Bodicote. Non-Records Members can obtain copies at £2 from Mrs Sarah Gosling at the Banbury Museum. Several more Records Volumes are in the pipeline.

Take My Advice

The Society's first fund raising venture was a complete success, and many of us packed into the Hall at Broughton Castle last November 9th to be assailed by Leo McKern, Jane Holland, and Brian Derbyshire with an extraordinary variety of solicited and (more often) unsolicited advice. About £175 was raised. More importantly, a thoroughly good time was had by all. We are of course especially indebted to Leo McKern and Jane Holland for transforming what might otherwise have been a humdrum affair into a high-class theatrical evening. For this the groundwork was done by Keith Smith (in charge of the music) and Brian Derbyshire, who not only thought up the title but also selected the readings. Once again we are very indebted to Lord and Lady Saye and Sele for making the castle available. We should also like to thank everyone who helped with paté, and Keith Postlethwaite for arranging the lighting. Oscars to all the performers and a Special Award to the President for getting the biggest laugh ("If anyone still feels that they must smoke, please come along to me and I'll find them a place.")

The Poulton Family (Sibfords and Swalcliffe)

Leslie Baily (The Granary, New Parks, Shipton-by-Beningbrough, York, YO6 1BD) writes:

'For some generations the Poulton family have had a strong part in the life of the Sibfords and Swalcliffe. The first in Swalcliffe church register is a christening in 1614. People of the same name crop up in Adderbury local history: the will of William Poulton of Adderbury in 1616, for instance. I have a hunch that these were the same family, but my efforts to link them, or unlink them, have failed.'

Could anyone help?

A DISPUTED INHERITANCE

The family of Hawtyn of Calthorpe in Banbury were minor gentry, appearing in the Visitation pedigrees of 1634. Gerrard Hawtyn, of Easington (also in Banbury) married Margaret Washington of the Sulgrave (Northamptonshire) family, ancestors of George Washington, in the mid-16th century. She herself died in 1616, leaving a long and interesting will and inventory of the household, a house which still survives. Her son Henry (d. 1626) lived at Calthorpe Manor, just across the road, a fine mansion with a still-surviving oriel window, and heraldic stained glass which is now in Banbury Museum. This he had acquired through his marriage to Mary, daughter of Sir John D'Oyly.

It is with this household, in the days of his widow, Mary Hawtyn, that we are concerned. Her eldest son Thomas married before 1631, and although his daughter Mary was baptised at Banbury in that year, and in the visitation pedigree of 1634 he is described as "of Calthorpe", he and his wife appeared to have lived elsewhere, and indeed the house was conveyed back to his mother in 1637.

In addition to four other sons, two of whom emigrated to Barbados, there were three daughters, of whom the elder two married, Mary to Edward Taylor of Williamscoote, near Banbury, and Priscilla to William Field, a physician living at Littlemore, near Oxford. The youngest daughter was named Ann.

As befitted a family of this standing, they had an establishment of servants, and one of their oldest retainers was one John Webb. Before his death in 1641 he had been with them at least twenty years (as Mary Hawtyn recalled). He was evidently a fairly garrulous old man, and, like so many old retainers, he clearly doted on the youngest daughter, Anne. William Field has "sundry times herd him saye and affirme that . . . he loved her more than any one of his kindred. . ."; whilst William Turner, an advocate whose wife was a cousin of the Hawtyns, and who was living at Calthorpe in 1640 and 1641, had "herd him John Webb often saye that he was very much beholdinge to his younge Mistress meaninge and speakinge of Anne Vivers als. Hawtin whom he usually soe called and that he did love and honour her more than any person liveing for her goodness towards him with many like expressions of his affectiones and ingagements to her. . ."

His standing in the household illustrates well the sort of responsibility recognised by employers in the days before old-age-pensions. Mary Hawtyn described it thus: "That while hee . . . tooke wages of her and her late husband hee did doe his worke as a servant, but being growne auntcent and for sundrye yeares together takinge noe wages, hee after hee tooke noe wages did onely what pleased him. And while hee served her and her said husband, hee did constantlye eate with the servants, but manye tymes had somewhat from his master's table; and also savinge that hee allwaies lived with her and her said husband in nature as a servant and soe hee hath done since [her daughter] kept house with her alsoe as hee beleeveth, but yett soe that hee did but what hee list."

This was confirmed by William Turner's servant Thomas Bedwell, who explained that John Webb "hath sundry times declared . . . that his younge Mistress, meaninge and speakinge of Anne Hawtyn whom he usually so called, did freely allowe him his dyett lodgings and washinge . . ."; and that "in his observacon there was noe service expected from John Webb by Ann Hawtyn or her husband but that he did what he

pleased from time to time and gave no account to any howe he spent his time. "

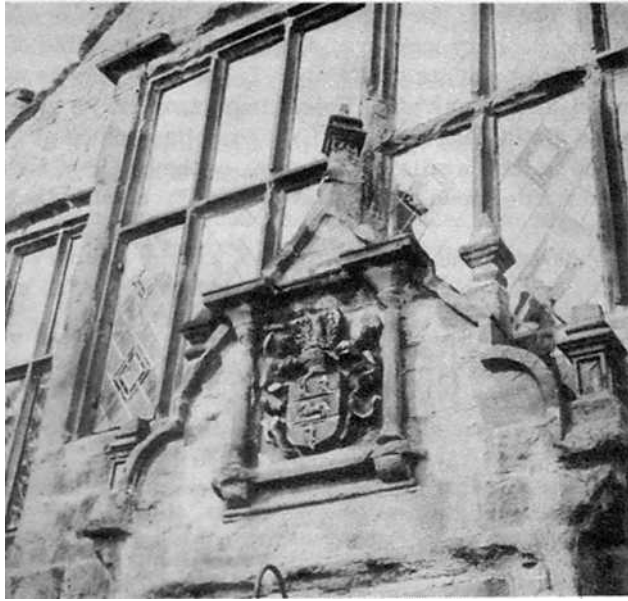
John Webb came from the neighbouring village of Bodicote and there he had some small property - described vaguely in his will as "lands, houses, tenements, closes, etc. " Clearly he was much more devoted to the family that he had served, probably most of his life, than to his own brothers and sister and their children, to whom he merely left 12d each. He does not appear to have any wife living or children of his own. And so, in the later 1620s, when he must have been getting old, he determined that his beloved "younge Mistress" should " have all he had" or "used words tendinge to that purpose. "

He was unable to write, or at least to draw up a will, himself (though he could sign his name), but he knew that his 'younge Mistress's' brother-in-law, the clever physician from Oxford, could do this - and so whenever William Field came to visit his wife's family, their old servant "himselfe without the direccion or p'swasion of anyone that he observed came unto him sondry times to intreate him to make his will ... " And as Mary Hawtaine recalled, "for somewhile before the makinge of the will, hee was manie tymes very earnest to have his will made, ... And at lengthe uppon [19th May 1630], as shee now remembreth the tyme, hee procured Mr. Field to write it for him ... "And the time of the makinge of the will [John Webb] desiered that he would then make it because he would be noe longer delayed whereupon in the Dinging Roome ... of the sayd Mrs. Mary Hautanne's house ... " William Field "... taking penn incke and paper wrote the preamble and then from the deceased's owne mouth each particular legacie and havingee wrytten the whole will ... red the same will all over to him ... who herd and well understoode the contents thereof and lik'd the same well and in testimony of his well likinge thereof sett his marke and seale thereto ... and declared the same to be his last will and testament requesting such as were there then present to testify the same whereupon Mrs. Mary Hawtanne and Priscilla Feild [William Field's wife] being present at the readinge signinge sealinge and publishinge of the will together with himselfe subscriybed their severall names as witnesses ... "

The reason we know all this lay not in the body of the will, which was brief enough, apart from the 12d legacies to his family only specifying one of 20s. to Adderbury church, but in the legacy of the entire residue, including the lands in Bodicote, to the sole executrix, Anne Hawtyn. Eleven years or more later this was to result in a dispute with the disinherited family, though in the usual tantalising way we do not know the outcome, only having the depositions on one side of the case.

The will being safely made, Mary Hawtyn recalled that "since the makinge of the saide will [John Webb] hath often spoken to her touchinge his said will and bad her keepe it, saied that it should stand for his will or soe in effect and that [Anne Hawtyn] should have all, but whether hee ever had or heard read the said will or noe, after he delivered the same to her [to] put bye ... shee doth not remember ... " Not content with this, "shortely after the makinge of the will to the ende that the land menconed ... be given to Ann Hawtyn he did make a deed or conveyance thereby settling the same upon her and about a yeare after the makinge of the will ... upon the marriage of Ann Hawtyn with Mr. Robert Vivers [he] did convey the sayd land to her and her husband ... "

In the late 1630s, after passing over the running of the household to her daughter and son-in-law, Mary Hawtyn "came out of the Cuntrye to London". This did not



The Hawtyn arms over the front door of Calthorpe House. The blazon reads: "Or, on a fess cotised gules between three asses' heads erased sable an unicorn courant argent; Crest. On a wreath an ass's head erased between two springs of thistles argent, sprigged and leaved vert."

effect the old man. As William Field recalled, "when Mrs. Mary Hawtene mother of Ann Hawtyn gave over howse keepinge at Colthropp, and shee soe gave over howse keepinge there about three yeares last past Ann Hawtyn and her husband became howsekeepers there and he John Webb continued in the sayd howse ..." Even during the last year of his life, he was still reiterating to all and sundry, including his fellow servant Thomas Bedwell, that his "younge Mistress" "should have enjoye all his estate after his decease ..." and it was while Bedwell was living there that the old boy at last died, being buried in Banbury churchyard on 25th October 1641, eleven and a half years after making his will.

At this time, William Turner was of course living at Calthorpe Manor and so "shortly after John Webb's death was present when search was made for the will and the same was then found in a box of wrytinges belonginge to the mother of Ann Hawtyn ..." which "he hath herd and beleeveth to be true that John Webb after the makinge of the will did comitt the custody thereof to Ann Hawtyn's mother and upon the marriage of Ann Hawtyn with her now husband ... the same will was by John Webb's direcccon left in the custody of her husband by her sayd mother who left the same with some workinges concerning her with her sayd sonne in lawe, husband to Ann Hawtyn."

And there, tantalisingly, we leave the case. From the evidence Mary and Ann Hawtyn seem to have been good employers, whilst Ann had clearly captivated the heart of the old servant to the exclusion not only of his own family but also of her own

sisters and brothers. The man she married, Robert Vivers, was one of a large and fairly wealthy family of Banbury mercers, amongst the most rabid of the puritans in a town famed, or notorious, for its puritanity. In the Civil War he of course sided with the parliamentarians and was of sufficient importance to be given a captaincy - in which he failed to distinguish himself, first by relinquishing ordnance at Banbury Castle without defence to the Cavaliers, and then, at the battle of Edgehill, being, in Nathaniel Fiennes' words, "one of the first that ran"; admittedly he was being charged by Prince Rupert!

Nothing more is known of the family - they pass out of Banbury's history as do so many families, but by the coincidence of this disputed will of an old retainer, a vivid light is momentarily thrown on a few aspects of the life of this household, on one particular occasion and its repercussions.

J.S.W. Gibson

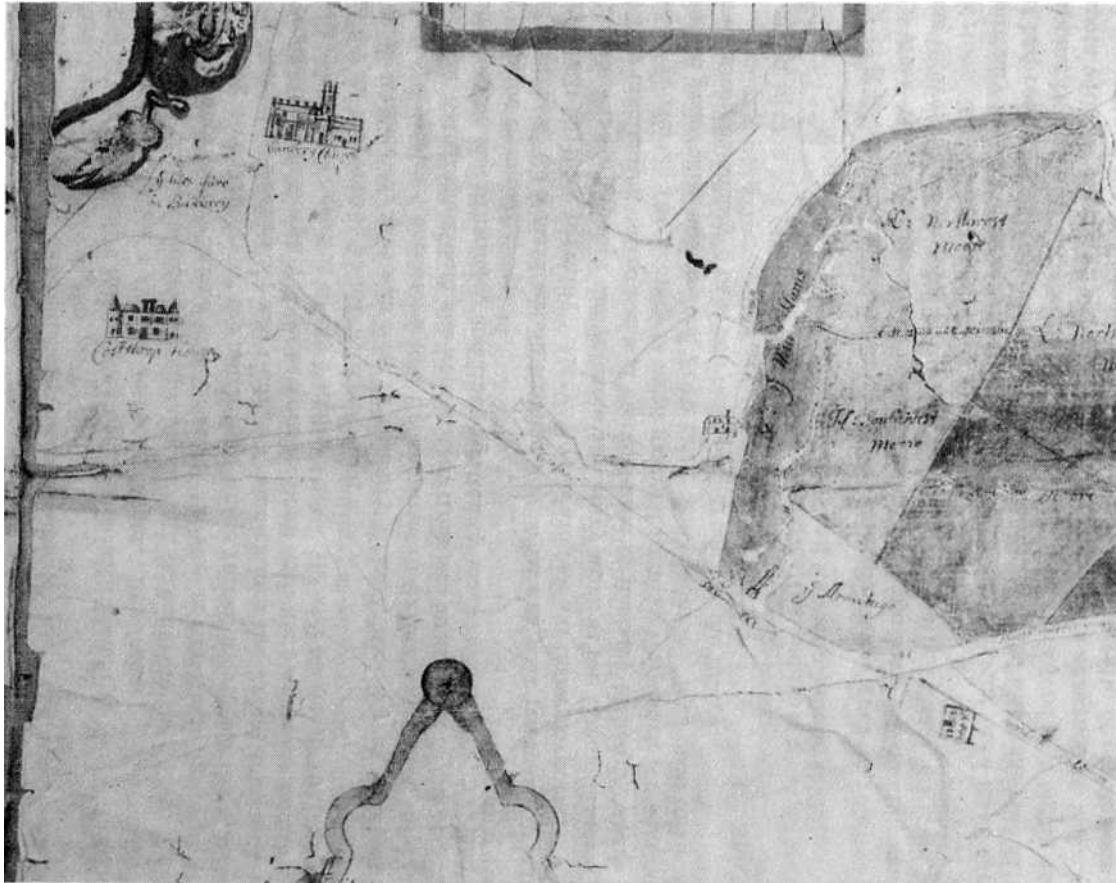
Sources: The depositions in the case are attached to the very brief will, unprobated, in the records of the Peculiar Court of Banbury, now in the Bodleian Library, ref. MS. Wills Peculiars 54/3/42, numbered '387' in the forthcoming volumes of will and inventory abstracts to be published by the Banbury Historical Society. John Webb's burial is recorded in Banbury Parish Registers (B.H.S., vol. 7).

The Hawtyn (Hawtayne) pedigree is in *Visitations of the County of Oxford*, 1566, 1574 and 1634, Harleian Society, vol. 5 (1871), p. 295, and the Barbados descendants in *Caribbeana*, vol. 6 (1919), pp. 1-3. Nathaniel Fiennes' account of the battle of Edgehill is in *Edgehill 1642*, by Peter Young (1967), p. 319, and Alfred Beesley quotes the report of the surrender of ordnance from Banbury Castle in his *History of Banbury* (1842), pp. 298-302.

The 1694 estate map in the Risley collection.

This is the earliest known map of Banbury (although there is one dated 1685 of the castle area only) and the earliest drawing of the church. Streets shown are "ye hors fare" and leading from it "Sheep Street", "Lyon Street", "ye Cowfare" to the bridge (on which a monument or pillar is shown), forking into "Northampton way" and "Worketh Causeway"; "new Land" runs to the south of "Collthrop house", and "mill lane" leads off the Cowfair, with the mill sketched at its end. An unidentified building is shown beside the Warkworth causeway.

The map (MS.D.D. Risley, D.III) is part of the Risley collection of documents in the Bodleian Library, quoted extensively in the V.C.H. account of Banbury, and was made for "Robert Barber" in April, 1694, to show his "Land in Farme Field and by Crouch Hill and y^e Moors, Neere Banbary". Unfortunately the lefthand lower quarter, covering Easington and the Oxford Road, has torn away. As its purpose was to show Barber's estates, the town of Banbury, or its roadplan, is only included to show the relation of the fields to each other, and we are fortunate to have the little extra detail that is included. The Easington estate had been sold by the Hawtyns to Robert Barber in 1638, and it remained in the Barber family until it passed by inheritance to the Risleys in the 19th century. I am most grateful to the Librarian of the Bodleian for permission to publish this map, and to his staff, in particular Mr. D.G. Vaisey, Keeper of Western Manuscripts, and to Dr. D.M. Barratt, for help in making the photograph available.



Detail from a map dated 1694, including a crude sketch of Calthorpe House which gives an indication of what it may have looked like over sixty years earlier when John Webb made his will there. For a further note on this most interesting map see the end of the article.

An Undisputed Inheritance

The Society has just received an extremely generous legacy from Miss Marjorie Whitehorn, who died recently. In addition to £50, the legacy consists of a large photographic album of local photographs dating from the early years of the twentieth century compiled by Miss Whitehorn's father, various other photographs, 'printed ephemera' such as 'The Shepherd of Banbury's Weather Rules', Banbury commemoration service pamphlets and leaflets, and newspaper cuttings and watercolours by her brother Leo.

The Whitehorn family have a long connection with Banbury. Miss Whitehorn's grandfather had a tailor's shop in Parsons Street. Her father, William Lampot Whitehorn, became a solicitor practising in High Street from the 1870s. (The practice of Whitehorns and Haines still exists). He was an important figure in local politics, acting as secretary of the committee which raised money for the statues of Queen Victoria, Edward VII and George V which adorn the Cross in commemoration of the coronation of George V. He had connections with the Mechanics Institute, and helped ensure the creation of the Peoples Park. He was Mayor in 1921-22, with his daughter as Mayoress, as his wife had died.

Miss Whitehorn, who was born in Banbury in 1887, took a great interest in the history of the town. She was a Red Cross nurse in Grimsbury during the First World War. The autograph album she kept at that time has been given to the Society, containing poems and drawings, and lines written by wounded soldiers, varying from the tragic to the comical:

"Mistress, (to a maid who is leaving her) What are your reasons for leaving me, Mary, is it anything private? Mary: No ma'am, he's a lance corporal."

Later Miss Whitehorn did valuable voluntary work at the Horton General Hospital.

This fascinating collection will be deposited in Banbury Museum, where it can be seen on request. The Society is most grateful to Miss Whitehorn for her thoughtfulness and generosity and to John Portergill, her executor. It is good to know that some more of Banbury's past has been preserved for the future.

C. Bloxham

Ship Money Assessments (1636) and Rateable Values (1974)

It is hard to realize nowadays how vastly the towns grew in relative importance vis-à-vis the villages during the industrial revolution. I recently came across some figures which emphasize the dramatic change. When Charles I tried to levy the notorious Ship Money tax, Banbury was assessed at £40 (Beesley, p.293), which was admittedly regarded as very favourably low (allowance having been made for the fire that had recently destroyed one third of the town). Oxford was assessed at £100 and Chipping Norton at £40. South Newington (which was involved in a highly entertaining dispute with the Sheriff of Oxford over the payment) was assessed at £12. 10s, so that the ratio of the two assessments was 3.2 to 1, (the ratio of populations was probably about double that). In 1974 the rateable values of Banbury and South Newington were, respectively, £4905696 and £21737 (for which information I am indebted to Mr. H. Clifton), giving a ratio of 225.7 to 1. The corresponding ratio of populations is now about 80 to 1.

JBB

SUPERSTITION AND WITCHCRAFT IN THE NINETEENTH CENTURY

'The word Witchcraft itself belongs to Anglo-Saxon days, although magic played an important part in the Druidic mysteries, and certain obsolete superstitions are possibly to be referred back through the centuries to their ancient and cryptic lore.' Montague Summers, *The Geography of Witchcraft*, London 1927, p.65.

Although a belief in witchcraft is more usually associated with the seventeenth century than with the nineteenth, in many rural areas a residual faith in supernatural powers survived.¹ This is confirmed by such Thomas Hardy novels as *The Return of the Native* or *The Withered Arm*, and many similar cases can be found outside the pages of fiction. Thus the *Standard* newspaper of 7 March 1890 included an account of an elderly farmer's wife from the Penzance area of Cornwall who was accused by her neighbours, the Jilbarts, with bewitching 'their horses, so that they suddenly refused to pull, and started kicking'. Two members of the family threatened to murder her if she did not desist, and they were eventually bound over at the Penzance police court to keep the peace for six months. In Oxfordshire, too, fear of the 'evil eye' was widespread. As Angelina Parker declared, when writing of the county's 'Village Folklore (1840-1900)': 'The belief in witches was very strong in those times.'²

One example in support of her contention arose at the beginning of the Victorian era at Salford, near Chipping Norton, when an old woman named Dolly Henderson was suspected of witchcraft. According to Mrs. Jinny Bigerstaff of Salford, who claimed to know the parties concerned and who related details of the case in 1897 to Thomas Carter, an enthusiastic Oxford folklore collector, Dolly fell out with a fellow villager named Ann Hulver:

She bewitched her, so that she was very ill for a long time and could get no cure. At last she went to a cunning man named Manning, who told her that she would meet a woman as she went home, and that she was the person who had caused her illness, but she was not to speak to her, or say anything to anyone about her. But she did; she told some women that worked in the fields what the man said, and so she got worse and worse till she was like a skeleton. About this time a boy was also bewitched by old Dolly, and his brother threw a thorn stick at her, which tore her arm and made it bleed a good deal. The woman and the boy then soon got well, but the old witch died, and the terror of the village was got rid of.³

This belief, that to draw the blood of a witch broke her spell, was common.⁴ Similarly at Stanton St. John around the same time old Betty Cann was also called a witch by her neighbours: 'In summer time she would meet the farmers and tell them not to carry their hay; if they did so after being told not something was sure to happen - a horse would go lame, or a waggon would break down.'⁵ And at Kirtlington, 'Sarey Bowers' was 'the terror of all the children and young people.' She was even accused of bewitching the fox and the hounds when there were meets in the village and on one occasion it was said she had herself turned into a fox.⁶

But perhaps the most frightening example of this readiness of villages to blame one of their neighbours for the natural disasters and hardships of their day-to-day lives arose in the quiet and secluded parish of Long Compton during 1875. The village bordered on the well-known prehistoric circle of the Rollright Stones and the isolated monolith known as 'the King Stone' was actually within its boundaries. This was traditionally a meeting place for witches, and there was an old saying in the area that 'There were enough witches in Long Compton to draw a load of hay up Long Compton

Hill.⁷ Against this background, therefore, belief in the supernatural burgeoned and led eventually to murder. The victim was Ann Tennant, a sharp-tongued old woman of 79, the wife of John Tennant, a shoemaker, who was about six years her junior.⁸ According to local report, if anything went wrong in the village Mrs. Tennant was blamed: 'If a cottage-holder's live stock had died, his field or garden crops failed, or any member of his family sickened, the reply to such natural events would always be the same: "Hey! old Mother Tennant's at the bottom o' this 'n. 'Tis that evil eye o' hern for sure."'⁹

One of the strongest believers in her evil influence was James Hayward, a middle-aged farm labourer and near neighbour of Mrs. Tennant, who was later said to be 'under the delusion that he was haunted by witches.' In any event on 15 September 1875, as he was returning home in the evening from the harvest fields with two fellow workers he met Mrs. Tennant coming from the village baker's with a loaf. He ran up to her and without more ado stabbed her several times in both legs with the pitchfork he was carrying, and then hit her 'about the head with the handle of the fork.'¹⁰ James Taylor, a farmer living nearby, heard the old woman's screams and ran to the spot. He pulled Hayward away while Mrs. Tennant was picked up and carried to her daughter's home a few yards away. There she died shortly afterwards.

Hayward was subsequently charged with the attack at Warwick Assizes and was found guilty of manslaughter. He was imprisoned in Warwick gaol, and died there some months later. But while he was in prison his preoccupation with witches continued - he even claimed that the water he was given to drink was filled with them.¹¹

Yet if he seems to have been driven insane by his obsession, it is perhaps worth noting that some observers considered that 'several other male inhabitants of Long Compton . . . held a similar faith', and that in the months following the case:

Women as well as men became bitten by the crave for witch-finding; and the little out-of-the-world villages along the romantic Vale of the Red Horse were in a state of great unrest, each native or resident suspecting the other of possessing the dangerous gift of the evil eye.¹²

This writer also picked out: 'Tysoe and Long Compton as the scenes of the last witch-findings which up to the present time [1899] have occurred in leafy Warwickshire.' Interestingly enough it was rather earlier than this, at the end of the 1860s, that the young Joseph Ashby of Tysoe remembered taking part in a mock witch-baiting, along with other boys:

'Let's go and try old Mother Alcock for a witch', cried out one of the big fellows, and he and the other big ones - bigger, that is than Joseph - snatched up straws and small sticks and ran after her. Getting in front, they laid the sticks and straws crosswise in her path. Patiently the old woman pushed the crosses aside with the point of her stick, and the boys went off yelling 'Old Mother Alcock's a witch. Stick a pin in the witch!' Meanwhile another boy dashed through the old woman's garden door and presently came out declaring that he had put her scissors under her cushion, and 'when she sits on the cross it'll give her an awful pain'.¹³

To many old women who were suspected of witchcraft such treatment must have added another dimension of misery to their lives. Fortunately in most villages superstition rarely went as far as this. Nevertheless, at a time when formal medical knowledge was limited, it was not uncommon for the sick to adopt folklore remedies in an effort to cure their illnesses, while unusual events - like a cock crowing at

midnight - were often regarded as a portent of death and disaster. This was the case at Spelsbury, a village which had many of its own special cures for common ailments. Thus a suggested remedy for warts was to rub a piece of bacon fat on the wart and bury it in an ant-hill, or 'rub a snail on it and bury the snail.' Presumably as the bacon or snail disintegrated the wart faded away. Similarly a cure for whooping cough in this parish was to 'ride backwards on a donkey around a post, or take a swede cut up and covered with brown sugar . . . Or drag the patient through a bramble bush at the full of the moon.' Among less drastic remedies was the wearing of rabbit skin socks in shoes to prevent pleurisy, while moles' feet 'carried inside the frock prevented almost any disease.'¹⁴

Other communities shared these attitudes. Thus at Charlbury, John Kibble could remember in the late nineteenth century that fellow villagers carried 'mysterious little packages sewn up in leather, which as a boy I should have loved to have cut open; . . . a double nut or some curious object carried constantly and looked to for relief.' On one occasion he recalled 'hearing a man whose wife had an enlarged neck tell my father how she had gone to a man going up the street with a stallion . . . and asked him for a few hairs out of the horse's tail. She was not to tell him what she wanted it for - that would have broken the spell - but the man she asked gave them to her; he had had previous requests of the same kind and he knew. These hairs were to be worn tied round the neck.'¹⁵

And at Wootton near Woodstock Mrs. Buswell, a shepherd's wife, claimed that night cramp could be cured by stealing a piece of stone brimstone and putting 'it under your pillow secretly' - although at nearby Long Handborough, the placing of a bowl of water under the bed was the favoured remedy for this ailment. Mrs. Buswell's cure for whooping cough was for a mother to find a wild rose briar that had bowed over 'and grown into the ground, then take the child affected and pass it through the bow nine times secretly.'¹⁶

In view of the serious character of many of the diseases, such remedies appear a pathetic means of effecting a cure. Nevertheless, if the patient believed in the treatment, good might result. As Thomas Griffin, an old farm labourer from Standlake declared, faith was essential - 'you must believe or no cure.'¹⁷ And it is in that regard that modern medicine may have something to learn from the psychological connotations of primitive remedies. As one writer has recently pointed out: 'What we have dismissed as mumbo-jumbo might harbour the secret medical science has yet to expose.'¹⁸ It is in this context that Victorian Oxfordshire's folk remedies may yet prove significant.

Pamela Horn

1. R. Trevor Davies, *Four Centuries of Witch Beliefs*, London 1947, notes, for example, that as the Parliamentary armies moved northwards and westwards they spread witch-mania into regions hitherto largely free from it. (p. 147). Montague Summers, *The Geography of Witchcraft*, London 1927, p. 146 also stresses the upsurge of interest in witchcraft during the Civil War - 'so universal were the holocausts of witches during the Commonwealth and Protectorate that it is well-nigh impossible to calculate the numbers who perished'. He goes on to note that in the 'last decade of the seventeenth century the belief in Witchcraft had fast begun to decline, and with the eighteenth century the possibility of Satanism was very generally being flouted'. (p. 157).
2. Angelina Parker, 'Oxfordshire Village Folklore 1840-1900' in *Folklore*, Vol. XXIV, No. 1, March 31 1913, p. 83.
3. Percy Manning, 'Stray Notes on Oxfordshire Folklore' in *Folklore*, Vol. XIII, No. 3, September 29 1902, p. 290 and also Manning MSS. Bodleian Library, Oxford, MS. Top. Oxon. d. 192. (p. 76).

4. Angelina Parker, *op.cit.*, notes that belief was widespread that if 'you could scratch the supposed witch with a pin and fetch blood, she was unable to harm you.' Similarly, in Victorian Market Rasen, Lincolnshire, a supposed witch was 'cut across the fingers' and it was believed that this had broken her spell. Mabel Peacock, 'The Folklore of Lincolnshire' in *Folklore*, Vol. XII, No. 2, June 1901.
5. Percy Manning, *op.cit.*, p.291.
6. *Ibid.*, p.239.
7. E. Rainsberry, *Through the Lych Gate*, Kineton 1969, p.126 and *Victoria County History of Oxfordshire*, Vol. 5, London 1949, p.52. Tony Barham, *Witchcraft in the Thames Valley*, Bourne End 1973, p. 57, suggests that as late as May 1949 the King Stone was used for witchcraft.
8. See 1871 Census Return for Long Compton at Public Record Office, R.G.10.1457.
9. *Oxford Times*, 22 July 1899, reproducing an article by George Morley which had previously appeared in the *Birmingham Weekly Post*.
10. *Jackson's Oxford Journal*, 25 September 1875.
11. *Ibid.* and also *Oxford Times*, 22 July 1899.
12. *Oxford Times*, 22 July 1899.
13. M.K. Ashby, *Joseph Ashby of Tysoe*, Cambridge 1961, p.16.
14. E. Corbett, *History of Spelsbury*, Oxford 1962 ed., pp.248-249.
15. John Kibble, *Historical and other Notes on Charlbury and its Nine Hamlets*, Oxford, 1927, p.95.
16. Manning MSS. at Bodleian Library, Oxford, MS.Top.Oxon.d.192. These remedies were noted in February 1897.
17. *Ibid.* (p.81)
18. Robin Clarke, 'Enjoying Rude Health' in *Daily Telegraph Magazine*, No. 554, July 11 1975, p.23.

Where is this church?

The following note was communicated some months ago:

One of our leading ecclesiastical institutions recently received a letter from a traveller who passed through Banbury during May. We will leave readers to draw their own conclusions from the following extract:

'I was driving through Banbury on the main road a few weeks ago when I passed, on my right, (I was travelling North, on the A41, going through to the A423) a large, square church with a round tower, apparently built of reddish stone, though this I wouldn't vouch for, and very much out of repair. It seemed to have been deprived of its windows, which were bricked in, and the gardens, or surrounds were overgrown and uncared for. Can you tell me anything of the history of this church and whether you know what is to happen to it?'

Through the almost Byzantinely devious links which exist in Britain between ecclesiastical bodies and learned societies, we have been able to arrange for a copy of Nicholas Cooper's booklet 'The Building and Furnishing of St. Mary's Church, Banbury', published by the society in 1972, to be sent to the enquirer.

OBITUARIES

Dr George E. Gardam

The Society suffered a great loss through the death of George Gardam on December 1st, 1975, at the age of 73. He had been active in the Society from very early days and one only has to thumb back through the inside covers of *Cake and Cockhorse* to realize what a debt we owe him: committee member for more than 14 years, Chairman 1965-1967, Hon. Asst. Treasurer 1968-1970, and Hon. Treasurer from 1971 until his death. But even this gives little idea of the many and varied ways in which he promoted the Society's well being through practical advice, unstinting work, and meticulous attention to detail - typified by his last major work for the Society as principal organizer of the resoundingly successful dinner held only three days before his death. Characteristically, he was not only attracted to local history for its intrinsic interest but clearly also saw the Society as a valuable social organization, and in many small and large ways he tried to ensure that it maintained the happy blend of scholarship and popular appeal which has been the basis of its success.

George was a distinguished scientist and won First Class Honours in Chemistry at Imperial College London. Many years of research in armaments proved to be of great value to the country during the last war. After the war he was appointed Director of Research for the Gold, Silver and Jewellery Industries at the Goldsmiths' Hall, London. For his services he was made a Freeman of the City of London and a Liveryman of the Goldsmiths' Company (about two weeks before Winston Churchill was given the same honour!). He came to Banbury in 1953 as Head of the Chemistry Division of Aluminium Laboratories.

He will be remembered with great affection by his colleagues for his outwardly almost dour appearance and direct manner, which however concealed a most kindly and helpful nature. In my own experience he never let slip an opportunity to do a kind deed, however much time it might cost. Nor should we forget his and Mrs Gardam's hospitality, at whose house the Committee held many meetings in congenial surroundings. Our sincere thanks to them both.

JBB

Dr. Cyril F.C. Beeson, C.I.E., M.A., D.Sc. (Oxon)

Dr. Beeson, who died on 3 November 1975 aged 86, was one of the Society's earliest members, elected to the committee and becoming its second Chairman in 1959. He suggested the title '*Cake and Cockhorse*' for our magazine - remarking that though to some it might "seem frivolous; others may see in it an epitome of Banbury's legend and history ..." - and became its first editor. This was a task for which he was well fitted, for he was for many years editor of the journal of the Antiquarian Horological Society. Antiquarian clocks were his passion, and those who visited him in his tiny cottage in Adderbury West will remember how its walls were lined with them - longcase clocks, bracket clocks, every sort, on shelves, on the floor, hanging from walls. One of the Society's earlier and most prestigious books was the fruit of this interest, '*Clockmaking in Oxfordshire, 1400-1850*', an impressively detailed biographical gazetteer with lavish illustration. It was through his generosity that it

was possible for the unique John Lamprey clock (ca. 1750) to be presented to Banbury Museum.

Contributions to the magazine included a most useful article on '17th Century Innkeepers in Banbury' (vol. 1, no. 9); and a scholarly account of 'Halle Place in West Adderbury and its Occupants' (vol. 2, no. 12), based on the Risley collection of documents, whose eventual deposit in the Bodleian had been through his good offices.

Before coming to Adderbury Dr. Beeson had had a distinguished career in Indian forestry, whilst in his youth he had been close friends with T. E. Lawrence, accompanying him to Syria and Palestine on archaeological expeditions.

In our early years we benefitted greatly from his experience and scholarship. On his resignation from the committee this was marked by his appointment as a Vice-President. A few years ago his friends were delighted at his remarriage, even though it meant his departure from the Banbury area – happily he was able to revisit us to speak at a Dinner once. In his book, published in 1962, he quoted Salter: "Those who are long past middle age should print their material . . . and not wait to make it more perfect." It is pleasing that in the event he was to produce a second, enlarged edition, and to live many more years.

J. S. W. G.

Roger Fearon

By the untimely death of Roger Fearon, on October 14th, 1975, the Society has lost one of its most talented younger members. Born in London in 1941, he came to Banbury in 1948 with his parents and attended St. John's Primary School and Magdalen College Brackley before gaining entrance to Magdalen College, Oxford to read history. After graduating, he joined the staff of the British Museum, first in the Director's Office dealing with information and enquiries and lecturing in the Galleries, and latterly in the Museum of Mankind, Burlington Gardens, in charge of the Students' Room. He often helped members with enquiries and provided guided tours for local schools.

One of his principal interests was Byzantine history and he frequently travelled in Europe and Asia Minor. His lectures on this subject are remembered with pleasure for his easy command of the subject and enjoyable presentation.

In spite of many other commitments, Roger was a frequent visitor to Banbury and attended many Society functions. He took part in our first excavation at Salt Lane and in many subsequent ones including Banbury Castle, White Horse, and Deddington, as well as others at Sulgrave, Thaxted, Oxford and Sutton Hoo.

He will be remembered with affection by all who knew him for his charming manner and friendliness to all. Perhaps the impact he made can best be summed up in the words of Dr Brinkworth: "He was a man of such transparent goodness that he seemed to radiate a wonderful brand of happiness and it always did one a power of good to meet him".

Historic Towns in Oxfordshire: A Survey of the New County. Edited by Kirsty Rodwell. Oxfordshire Archaeological Unit, Survey No. 3. 202 pp. Illus. 1975.

This is a most valuable survey of twenty towns in the new county of Oxford which summarises what is known of their history, archaeology and surviving buildings, and at the same time surveys their archaeological potential and the prospects of future development. Defining what is and what is not a town is, of course, not without difficulties, but few readers will quarrel with the selection made. All are towns with ancient markets, although not every one had the full legal status of a town. Modern towns which historically were only villages, like Didcot and Kidlington, are excluded, as are Roman sites which may have been urban centres, where there has been no continuity of occupation.

The object of the survey is to provide a basis on which coherent research and excavation policies for the region can be founded in the light of the likely pattern of future development. The need to understand fully the historical factors which have contributed to the development of a town when formulating conservation policies is rightly stressed, and the attention is drawn to the need to co-ordinate archaeological research with the study of surviving buildings. A call is made in the introduction for the appointment of a full-time building historian in the region.

The same format is used for presenting the information about each town. There are brief summaries of archaeological, architectural, historical and topographical information, paragraphs discussing archaeological potential and proposed future developments, followed by maps showing location, archaeology and topography, the age of surviving buildings, and the statutory protection given by scheduling, listing, and the designation of conservation areas. In the case of the larger towns there is little that will be new in these summaries to anyone who regularly reads local historical literature, although the book may prove a useful source of reference on some of the smaller towns.

The purpose of the book is not to be a work of reference but a manifesto outlining the responsibilities of scholars, planners and developers to future generations. Problems in the major developing towns like Oxford and Banbury are obvious enough. Many sites are likely to be cleared, and it is essential that archaeological evidence is not destroyed when this happens. But just as important a feature of the book is its identification of sites not so immediately threatened, whose archaeological potential is even greater. Watlington, for example, probably dates back to Saxon times as a town, and has been little disturbed; consequently it retains archaeological evidence of our distant past of the utmost importance, which should be conserved for future generations who may have the resources to recover it. A striking feature of the book is the way in which it demonstrates how our knowledge of the history of town planning has expanded over the past two decades, not so much through research on particular places, but through the posing of new questions, and the framing of new concepts. One hopes that before too many years pass a new edition of this book will become essential, partly because our knowledge of Oxfordshire towns will have greatly expanded, but also because our general understanding of the whole process of urbanisation will have continued to grow.

B. S. T.

Power, Persistence and Change: A second study of Banbury, by Margaret Stacey, Eric Batstone, Colin Bell and Anne Murcott. Routledge & Kegan Paul, 1975. xii - 196 pp. £2.50 paper back (also available in hard back).

Banbury is a much analysed community, both commercially and academically, both sociologically and historically. Whether a researcher wishes to know about the likely sales of a new brand of instant mashed potato, mortality patterns in the 18th century, or the effects of industrial re-location, he may look to Banbury as a place where nationally applicable results may be found. This is not so much because Banbury is "typical" in that life in the town is of a sort lived by a majority in the country at large, but because so many of the forces which shape and have in the past shaped our society can be observed there. The most important study of 20th century Banbury, Margaret Stacey's **Tradition and Change** covering the period 1948 to 1950 was published in 1960, and has become a sociological classic, and the purpose of this study, carried out between 1964 and 1968, was 'to assess the social systems present in Banbury, particularly those associated with class and tradition, and to assess the social changes which have taken place in these systems since 1950'.

Many members of the Historical Society will have been acquainted with the fieldworkers during the period of their stay in Banbury, in the age of the winning of the World Cup, the Gaff in North Bar, the destruction of the Original Cake Shop, and ultimately of devaluation. It was an interesting time to be in Banbury, a period of industrial expansion, when comprehensive secondary education in the district became a reality, and when the plan for a controlled expansion of the town to a population of 70,000 was rejected.

This, however, was a sociological survey, and not an attempt to observe contemporary history. The report in consequence concentrates not on observations which may be of value in understanding the history of Banbury, but on aspects of the study which contribute to sociology as a whole or to its sub-disciplines. The report concludes that 'inequalities of power, wealth, income, occupation, education and other resources are surprisingly formless', that the pattern of social stratification is less sharp than in 1950, and political divisions in the town are also less well defined. In general the picture painted is one of extreme complexity, a society in which each individual plays a variety of roles, in some of which he may have considerable esteem and authority, in others of which he may be weak and insignificant. If these conclusions are less than astonishing, it is difficult to dissent from them. To report on Banbury in 1950 was perhaps like describing a skein of geese in flight. To do so in the 1960s was like attempting to define a flight of starlings in geometrical terms. If the answers which the researchers have reached are vague and imprecise, it is because in many ways the structure of our society has become vague and imprecise, and firm dividing lines are just not there to be uncovered.

Historically the most important feature of the report is the chapter which discusses the expansion issue in the town, and analyses the process by which the plan to increase Banbury's population to 70,000 was defeated. To some extent this chapter raises doubts about the assertions elsewhere in the volume about the lack of power to make decisions at local levels. Here was a momentous decision, made in the last resort by the casting vote of the mayor in the borough council, after a public agitation which had aroused deep feelings, at least among the middle classes. It was furthermore historically determined. If, like many a community of the same

size, Banbury had lacked ancient borough status, its powers would have been much less. Any general conclusions about the power structure in local government which appear in this report have, of course, been made obsolete by re-organisation, which removes some of the interest from this section.

Another chapter which will be of great interest to historians of the future is that on 'Neighbours and Neighbouring', where life in three very different parts of Banbury in the mid-1960s is described in the light of the direct experience of the field workers. One wishes for something similar for the 19th century – or the 17th! Those who do not know where the researchers lived may find some amusement in trying to identify the districts concerned.

It would be unfair to criticise this book for not being good history, and equally absurd to demand clear answers to sociological questions to which there are no clear answers to be given. It does seem a legitimate complaint that so much of the most interesting work done during the survey has been omitted. There is no account of youth in Banbury, yet for those between the ages of 11 and 21 life in the town probably changed more between 1950 and 1966 than for any other age group. Changes in the educational system, just coming to fruition in the mid-60s vastly altered the whole pattern of career prospects for the academically competent, and the number of young Banburians proceeding to higher education must have been vastly greater than in the period of the first survey. National Service no longer removed a whole age group from the local scene to Osnabruck, Mombassa or Hong Kong. Since the first survey, like every other community in the western world, Banbury had been struck by the impact of youth culture, at its height in the mid-60s, and some interesting analysis of the drugs sub-culture would have been possible. There is very little about the relationship between magistrates and police and Banbury's lawbreakers, and the account of the actual workings of the political parties is regrettably brief. Very little attention is given to leisure; perhaps rather too much to the composition of the committees of various bodies, and too little to what is done by the participating members of those bodies. Yet it would be as interesting to know who plays golf and who watches Banbury United, as to know who goes to the Baptist Church and who supports the Mentally Handicapped Children's Society. The reason why we are told one and not the other is probably that there is a subject called the sociology of religion, but not, as yet, one called the sociology of recreation.

There is much that the historically curious will want to know about Banbury in the Age of the Beatles which is not in this book, but the historian should be a patient animal, and one of his breed will doubtless, one day, be able to draw much more from the records of the Survey in Swansea University Library than is to be found here. It is easy to read the report as history, for the Banbury it describes seems now as far removed from reality as the settings of the early films of Jean-Luc Godard.

Barrie Trinder.

The Archives of New College, Oxford: A Catalogue compiled by

Francis W. Steer, published for the Warden and Scholars of New College, Oxford, by Phillimore, 1974. xxii, 582 pp. 1 plate, index. £16.00.

We are greatly privileged to be invited to review this magnificent volume, one whose high standard of production is more than matched by the scholarship and erudition of that doyen of archivists, Dr. Francis Steer. That we can claim him as a member of this Society is just one more pleasure.

To those outside the University the importance of the New College archives lies in the College's extensive and widespread landownership, not least in north Oxfordshire and around Banbury. Banbury itself is unfortunately represented by only one document, but one whose interest is perhaps sufficient to justify quoting the entry in full:

5144. Charter of Alice Habel (dau. of William Capron and sister of Elizabeth Goolde) for the endowment of a priest to sing mass daily in St. Christopher's Loft within the parish church of Banbury for the souls of William Capron and Agnes his wife and the souls of John, Alice [Habel] and Elizabeth [Goolde] their children and of George and John, husbands of the said Alice and Elizabeth. 1 doc., 11 June 1515.

This would appear to add to our knowledge of the pre-Reformation church in Banbury, as I cannot trace any other reference to "St. Christopher's Loft".

Whilst no adequate catalogue of the New College archives has previously been attempted, the archives themselves are not of course unquarried – two notable examples of this are the Oxfordshire Record Society volumes no. 8, **Adderbury Rectoria**, edited by T. F. Hobson (1926), a selection from the medieval *Compotus Rolls* illustrating the building of the beautiful chancel of Adderbury Church between 1408 and 1418; no. 27, **The Progress Notes of Warden Woodward round the Oxfordshire Estates of New College, Oxford, 1659-1675**, edited by R. L. Rickard (1945), which includes Adderbury and Swalcliffe. That these two substantial volumes are represented by but half a dozen catalogue entries out of a total of over 100,000 shows what a treasure remains for the researcher. Naturally Adderbury (with its chapelries of Bodicote and Barford St. John, and hamlet of Milton) at 10 pages, and Swalcliffe (with its chapelries of Epwell and Shutford and hamlets of the Sibfords) at 11 pages, are represented in the greatest quantity, but Bloxham, Broughton, Deddington, Great and Little Bourton and Cropredy, Milcombe, South Newington and Tadmarton, all are to be found. The documents themselves range from medieval court rolls, through deeds, leases, terriers, maps and plans to correspondence from the 17th to the present century. Moreover the excellent index may well reveal other relevant documents. Another valuable and interesting feature is the supplementary index of field-names, smaller properties, streets and other locations.

Altogether, we are left humbled by Dr. Steer's prodigious industry, for this was a 'spare-time' compilation, and grateful to the College, the Marc Fitch Fund and the Pilgrim Trust who made a worthy production of the catalogue possible.

J. S. W. Gibson

Luffield Priory Charters, Part II, ed. G.R. Elvey, Bucks. Record Soc., vol. 18, and Northants. Record Soc., vol. 28 (joint vol.), 496 pp., 7 pls., map; **Northamptonshire Lieutenancy Papers and other documents, 1580-1614**, ed. Jeremy Goring and Joan Wake, Northants. Record Soc., vol. 27, 114 pp., 4 pls., map; **Warwickshire Apprentices and their Masters, 1710-1760**, ed. K.J. Smith, Dugdale Soc., vol. 29, xvi, 196 pp.; all 1975, issued to subscribers.

A surge of activity amongst local record publishing societies brings us three new volumes (plus the Oxfordshire volume reviewed elsewhere). One medieval, one 16th/17th century, and one 18th century, give a wide spread of chronological interest.

Luffield Priory was on the Buckinghamshire/Northamptonshire border, north of Buckingham (the map omits any scale), with a spread of properties around in both counties, including a house in Brackley. The priory was founded early in the 12th century, and continued until the dissolution. The charters are printed in their original Latin but are preceded by summaries in English. In two dated 1251 there are passing references to Banbury Castle and others built by Bishop Alexander of Lincoln, but in general the interest of this book is outside the Banbury area.

The Lieutenancy Papers appear to be those of Sir Richard Knightley, deputy-lieutenant to Sir Christopher Hatton, and are mainly concerned with the organisation of the local militia, particularly in the years leading up to the Armada. They provide a revealing insight into an Elizabethan 'Dad's Army'! Rather later, in 1613, there is a return of the weapons held in each parish - in (King's) Sutton Hundred, Aynho could sport 2 corslets and 2 muskettes, Sutton Regis 2 and 1 respectively, plus a caliver, Middleton Cheney 1 of each, Warkworth a corslet and a caliver.

Of a more personal nature are the Warwickshire apprenticeship records. These arose (like so many useful records, the end justifying the means) out of a tax on apprenticeship indentures. They reveal the considerable distances away from home boys (and some girls) might be apprenticed, and for no obvious reason include some which have no direct connection with Warwickshire. Robert son of Robert French, wheelwright of Bloxham, app. to Samuel Smith of Coventry, woolstead weaver, 1720; Thomas son of Thomas Lovell, baker of Wardington, to John Hansaker of Coventry, weaver and comber, 1714; Thomas Perkins of North New(ing)ton to William Dide of Stratford, baker, 1728; Edward son of Ann Styles, widow of Banbury, to Richard Adderley of Coventry, weaver and clothier, 1716; Thomas son of Edmund Swift dec'd. of Wardington, to Thomas Heele of Coventry, weaver and comber, 1714; John Times to Thomas Mathews, both of Farthinghoe, tailor, 1744; Francis son of Edward Tredwell, to William Hoggins, weaver, all of Burton Dassett, 1724; William son of Hannah Welch, of Banbury, to James Hardway of Coventry, turner, 1724; and John son of John Wise, yeoman, to Samuel Wymont, grocer, all of Bodicote 1729: these show that the volume has interest to those outside the county as much as to those within. It also shows the not insignificant influence of Coventry on Banbury, in particular in weaving.

All these volumes are superbly produced - but one wonders, in these days of inflation and innovation in printing, how such expense can be justified. Few are likely to attempt to read the Latin of the Luffield Charters; the Warwickshire apprenticeship records are intended entirely for reference - litho printing from electri-typewritten copy would have been quite as adequate, with considerable savings which might have been devoted to other worthwhile material. It is time record

societies gave up trying to maintain typographic standards almost a century out-of-date and instead determined to maximise the use of the funds they can command.

J. S. W. Gibson

A History of Oxfordshire. Mary Jessup. Phillimore. 1975. £5.95 (£4.95 if purchased before 1 March 1976). 136 pp.

There was a time, not so long ago, when anyone wishing to find out from scratch about the history of Oxfordshire had a difficult task in front of him. There was no shortage of books of documents, and, of course, the Victoria County History had issued its general volumes long since, — but there was no single volume in which the results of recent research were digested and made available to a wider public in concise and readable form. However, in the last few years a number of gaps have been filled. The long-awaited volume by Sherwood and Pevsner on the county's buildings, and the equally-welcomed book by Frank Emery on the landscape of the county, have drawn a number of threads together and also suggested new lines of enquiry. Banburyshire has also been handsomely served by the appearance of the V. C. H. volumes on the Bloxham and Banbury hundreds. And now Mary Jessup has answered another great need by producing her 'History of Oxfordshire'.

She has given us the history of the county, the city, and, for good measure, the University, too, in 22 crisply-written chapters, with 15 maps and 46 plates (3 in colour). Starting with a geographical survey of the county, she leads us at a brisk trot through the story of Oxfordshire's settlement, medieval growth, religious history, Civil War, enclosures, and brings us to the present day with a lucid account of 19th and 20th century developments. With so much to include, the temptation must have been to omit or slide over the better-known episodes, but they are all there and given due prominence — the Oxford Martyrs, the Civil War and the Otmoor riots, for example. Nor is our part of the county given less than its proper amount of attention. There are almost as many references in the index to Banbury as there are to Oxford, and it is clear that 'Cake and Cockhorse' and our records volumes have been drawn upon fully.

The illustrations are a splendid supplement to the text. The essential spirit of lonely Otmoor is well conveyed by one of the colour plates, and the Wroxton cover and frontispiece reminds those of us exiled from the county of the warmth of Hornton stone. Roy Mole's maps contain a great deal of information and provoke a host of questions (why were there detached parts of counties in Oxfordshire, was there really a saltpan at Rollright in 1086, why were the oldest enclosures at Shenington on the far side of the open-fields and not next to the houses?). Incidentally, something odd seems to have happened to the shading on p. 35 — the production otherwise is technically faultless. Each volume in this series has little marginal drawings to illustrate the nearby text. Here they are by Alison Crawford, and very good they are too; Banbury Cross, and the Bliss mill at Chipping Norton might have been expected, but how pleasant to find the Horley St. Christopher, Banbury Old Workhouse and Gardner's turnip-cutter! The Select Bibliography contains most of the books one knows to be useful. However, there are two which ought to be included when the book is

reprinted (as surely it will be), – Wood Jones **Traditional Domestic Architecture in the Banbury Region** and that excellent **Handbook for Students of Local History: Oxfordshire**, edited by Barratt and Vaisey, which contains a number of suggestions for future research.

Mary Jessup has brought off a remarkable achievement in compressing so much into such a relatively small space, without losing any of the virtues of scholarship and readability; the Sussex volume in this series contains 176 pages – and that for a county with no ancient University, and no city the size and age of Oxford! Naturally, everyone will have his own regrets that too little space has been given to aspects of Oxfordshire history that particularly appeal to him. Perhaps Emery's **Landscape** volume came out too late for it to be digested and incorporated into the text, and it would have been useful (and perhaps thought-provoking) to have had the administrative boundaries (of hundreds, deaneries, Poor Law Unions and the old District Council areas) included on the appropriate maps. But these are minor quibbles. It is difficult to see how the job could have been better done and it is certain that this book will quickly become an essential aid in schools and colleges and that it will find its place on the shelves of all those interested in the history of our county.

Hove

F.J. Willy

The Royalist Ordnance Papers 1642-1646. Transcribed and edited by Ian Roy. Oxfordshire Record Society, vols. XLIII and XLIX. Part I issued for the years 1963 to 1964. Published 1964. Part II issued for the years 1971, 1972 and 1973. Published 1975. 536 pp.

The appearance of Part II of Dr. Ian Roy's edition of **The Royalist Ordnance Papers**, eleven years after the publication of Part I, will be warmly welcomed by students of the First Civil War. Not only are all the selected documents now available, but the printing of the Notes and Index makes possible a much more intelligent use of Part I.

As Dr. Roy writes at the beginning of his Introduction, 'far too little is known of Royalist organisation in the Civil War'. In so far as the organisation of arms and ammunition of Charles I's main army is concerned, that reproach has been removed by these two substantial volumes.

The documents chosen come from three sources: seven volumes of warrants and journals for issues and receipts in the Public Record Office; a journal of receipts in the British Museum; and a volume of warrants and correspondence addressed to Lord Percy, General of the Ordnance from May 1643 to August 1644, in the Bodleian. Dr. Roy has divided the documents into three sections: Receipts; Issues and Inventories; and Correspondence and Miscellaneous. The last section, which includes letters from an assortment of commanders and officials, is replete with human interest.

The long and learned Introduction lights up the background to the **Papers** and brings out their full significance. This masterly survey opens with a helpful discussion of raw materials, the condition of the iron industry and the manufacture of gunpowder in England during the first half of the seventeenth century. Like the Mint,

the Ordnance Office fell into the hands of Parliament, but six out of nine of the principal officials and some humbler ones, both there and at the Armoury, remained loyal to the King and followed him to Oxford. The most important was the experienced, efficient, and disinterested Lieutenant of the Ordnance, Sir John Heydon.

The removal of the King's headquarters to Oxford under war conditions necessitated the setting up of a new Ordnance organisation. Of this Commission the most prominent and permanent members were Sir George Strode and John Wandesford who expended vast sums in the Royal service. From the **Papers** under review, we can learn how the Office worked. The Artillery Park was established in Magdalen College Grove and a foundry was sited at Christ Church, while the central magazine was located at New College. In addition to those at Oxford, there were local magazines and armouries. For the large scale production of cannon the West Midlands and the Forest of Dean, which also produced match and gunpowder, were of paramount importance. Bristol also played a key role in the production of arms: the surrender of the city in September 1645 was a blow from which the Royalists could not hope to recover. Regarded in this context, King Charles's bitterness over its loss becomes wholly understandable. English resources were, however, inadequate: the bottom of the barrel had been scraped when private individuals' 'Birding Peeeces' were requisitioned. Supplies of arms and ammunition had to be sought abroad, a task in which Queen Henrietta acquitted herself gallantly.

Naturally, the safeguarding of routes to and from Oxford proved a major concern, and it is not surprising that the subject of transport looms large in the **Ordnance Papers**. Teams of horses and oxen to draw the waggons laden with arms and ammunition, often urgently required by commanders scattered over a wide area, were in constant demand. So were reliable conductors of the trains to be convoyed.

On the whole, despite a difficult situation created by an *ad hoc* Office bedevilled by shortage of cash, and the dangers from enemy attack, Dr. Roy concludes that the 'Royalists were relatively successful in producing military supplies and bringing them to Oxford or wherever they were needed'.

Banbury, as an important garrison, was the recipient of supplies of arms and ammunition. Two issues (one countermanded) are dated as early as October 1642: 'Powder, Match, Shott &c to attend a Bye Trayne of Brasse Ordnence'. In November a large quantity of ammunition and 'two small Brasse peeces of Ordinance [sic] with Bullet for the same' were allocated to the Governor, although they were not actually dispatched until December. Further issues to the garrison were made in May, June, and September 1643: other consignments were sent in March 1643/4 and May 1644. Of the seven warrants which alone survive from 1645, one, dated in January 1644/5, is concerned with Banbury.

It is not only at the receiving end, however, that Banbury figures. The Governor's armoury turned out to be a useful one: in January 1642/3 the Earl of Northampton was sending 'piggs of lead' to Oxford, and in February he lent 600 lbs of match 'to attend Prince Rupert in his expedition to Cirencester': the loan was punctiliously repaid next month. Moreover, Anthony Greene, major of Lord Northampton's Regiment of Foot at Banbury, and a member of a committee of experts set up to advice on the size and composition of the artillery train, is noted as delivering supplies for musketeers to Oxford in April 1643. The traffic of arms and ammunition, as with other garrisons, was far from being a one-way affair.

Margaret Toynbee

The Book of Banbury. Christine Bloxham. Published by Barracuda Books Limited, 1975. £6.50. 147 pp.

Goodly Faire is the title for the introduction to the beautifully produced Book of Banbury. Text and pictures present the reader with a charming tapestry of the people, places and events involved in the history of this "goodly faire Market town". Miss Bloxham has most skilfully taken up the threads to produce the informative and delightful narrative.

Unlike the reign of Titus Antonius Pius, Banbury has furnished an abundance of materials for history, and we have been particularly fortunate in the local historians who at various times have published the results of their researches to produce some really outstanding works. The unique value of this book lies in its pictorial approach. The photographs are almost all of excellent quality and these are interestingly interspersed with some line drawings, including some excellent contemporary sketches. A very minor criticism of the illustrations concerns the layout of the captions. These are grouped at the bottom of each page, which in some cases makes identification unnecessarily complicated.

The Book of Banbury traces the development of the town from its earliest beginnings, with a decided emphasis on the more familiar everyday aspects of life in the locality. Cakes, cross and turnip cutters, rather than the dramatic exchanges of the Civil War. (This latter subject forms part of a chapter which is characteristically entitled Civil Commotion.)

The story is brought right up to date with a chapter on Banbury Today, an entertaining piece of instant history. What will the historians of the future make of the Cake Shop Fiasco? Miss Bloxham has decidedly scored a first here in her recording of the facts.

This is a book which deserves to be widely read. If the list of subscribers given at the end of my copy is any indication, the success of the publication already seems assured. Even Beesley failed to place a subscription copy on the shelves of the Harvard College Library!

J. F. Roberts

Eye Opener

Mr Clarence Butler – the "repository of all things worth knowing about Bloxham" (Frank Willy) – recounts the story of an old woman who had lived in Queen Street – then called Grub Street – all her life. She seldom went out, but when they built the reservoir on Ell's Hill people used to go up there for walks and have a look at it; and one day the neighbours said "You come along with us, we're going up Ell's Hill to have a look at that reservoir". So along the old lady went. And when she got up to the top she called out "Why this is better than cock-fighting! I never thought the world could be such a great big place".

VICTORIAN BANBURY : Friday 9th and Saturday 10th April 1976.

A weekend school at the Teachers' Centre, 51 the Green, Banbury, promoted by the Oxford University Department for External Studies. **Tutor:** Barrie Trinder, BA.

There is no better town than Banbury in which to observe the varied forces which shaped 19th century society in England. The town was 'the metropolis of the carrier's cart', a trading centre for a wide hinterland, and the place where numerous migrant workers from that hinterland found permanent employment. All of the most influential movements of the 19th century, from Chartism and Teetotalism to new model Trades Unionism and the Salvation Army made an impact on the town. Banbury's politics were usually lively, and sometimes violent, and there was scarcely a religious denomination active in England which was not represented in the town.

The documentary records of 19th century Banbury are unusually rich, and they enable it to be studied in far greater depth than is possible for most towns of its size.

Programme:

Friday 9th April.

7.30 p. m.

Banbury and its hinterland, 1830-1880.

Saturday 10th April.

9.30 a. m.

Politics and Society in Banbury, 1830-1842.

11.00 a. m.

Coffee

11.15 a. m.

Churches and chapels in the 19th century.

12.45 p. m.

Lunch

2.00 p. m.

Tour on foot of some Victorian buildings in the centre of the town, including a visit to the Library to examine some of the poster collections.

4.15 p. m.

Tea

4.30 - 6.30 p. m.

Conflict and compromise - changing patterns of recreation 1830-1880.

The fee for the course is £3. Anyone wishing to attend should apply to Oxford Department of External Studies, Rewley House, Wellington Square, Oxford, before the end of March.

BANBURY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

The Society was founded in 1957 to encourage interest in the history of the town of Banbury and neighbouring parts of Oxfordshire, Northamptonshire and Warwickshire.

The Magazine *Cake & Cockhorse* is issued to members three times a year. This includes illustrated articles based on original local historical research, as well as recording the Society's activities. Publications include *Old Banbury - a short popular history* by E.R.C. Brinkworth (2nd edition), *New Light on Banbury's Crosses*, *Roman Banburyshire*, *Banbury's Poor in 1850*, *Banbury Castle - a summary of excavations in 1972*, *The Building and Furnishing of St Mary's Church, Banbury*, and *Sanderson Miller of Radway and his work at Wroxton*, and a pamphlet *History of Banbury Cross*.

The Society also publishes records volumes. These have included *Clockmaking in Oxfordshire, 1400-1850*; *South Newington Churchwardens' Accounts 1553-1684*; *Banbury Marriage Register, 1558-1837* (3 parts) and *Baptism and Burial Register, 1558-1723* (2 parts); *A Victorian M.P. and his Constituents: The Correspondence of H.W. Tancred, 1841-1850*; a new edition of *Shoemaker's Window; Wigginton Constables' Books, 1691-1836*; and *Bodicote Parish Accounts, 1700-1822*. *Banbury Wills and Inventories, 1591-1650*, and *Banbury Politics, 1830-1880*, are well advanced.

Meetings are held during the autumn and winter, normally at 7.30 p.m. in the large Lecture Theatre, Banbury Upper School. 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 £3.00 including any records volumes published, or £1.50 if these are excluded. Junior membership is 50p.

Application forms can be obtained from the Hon. Membership Secretary.

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