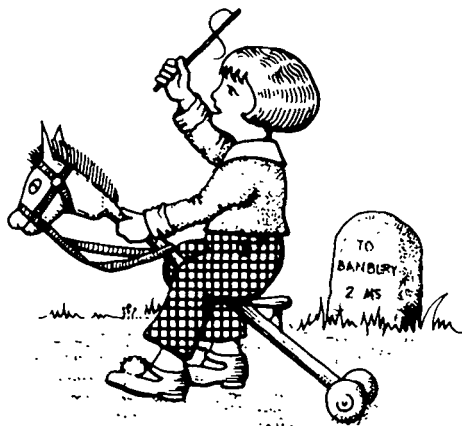


CAKE & COCKHORSE



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BANBURY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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BANBURY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

President:

The Lord Saye and Sele

Chairman:

J. S. W. Gibson, Harts Cottage, Church Hanborough, Oxford. OX7 2AB.

Magazine Editor:

D. E. M. Fiennes, Woadmill Farm, Broughton, Banbury. OX15 6AR.

Hon. Secretary:

Mrs N. M. Clifton,
Senendone House,
Shenington, Banbury.
(Tel: Edge Hill 262)

Acting Hon. Treasurer:

Miss Mary Stanton,
12 Kennedy House,
Orchard Way, Banbury.
(Tel: 57754)

Hon. Membership Secretary:

Mrs Sarah Gosling,
Banbury Museum,
8 Horsefair, Banbury.
(Tel: 59855)

Records Series Editor:

J. S. W. Gibson,
Harts Cottage,
Church Hanborough, Oxford OX7 2AB.
(Tel: Freeland (0993)882982)

Committee Members:

Dr E. Asser, Mrs G. Beeston, Mrs G. W. Brinkworth,
Mr N. Griffiths, Mr G. de C. Parmiter, Mr J. F. Roberts

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

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

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25TH ANNIVERSARY

1983 is the Silver Jubilee Year of the Banbury Historical Society. This important occasion is to be celebrated at a gathering to be held on Friday, 22 April.

It was following a series of lectures given by the late and greatly respected Dr Brinkworth that the Society was formed, and it is to Dr Brinkworth and to Jeremy Gibson that our special thanks are due.

Looking back through the pages of *Cake and Cockhorse* a reader cannot fail to appreciate the historical importance and interest of the Banbury region and to note the great contribution that this Society and its Journal have made to our better understanding of its history.

May the next 25 years be as fruitful and as rewarding - and may they produce many new members and particularly young members to join our Society.

Saye and Sele

The ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING is at Aynho Park, on Saturday, June 11th, 1983, at probably 5 pm.

The editor very much regrets his absence on business abroad at the time of the preparation of this issue.

Cover illustration: "Cake and Cockhorse" in celebration of The Banbury Historical Society's 25th Anniversary.

INVENTORY OF GOODS OF NATHANIEL FIENNES, DIED 1669

A TRUE and perfect Inventarie of all the goodes and Chattells of the honourable Nathanael Fiennes of Newton Tony in the County of Wilts Esquire late deceased (excepting such goodes and Chattells of the said deceased as are at Bromby Wood Hall in the County of Lincolne) taken and apprized by us whose names are hereunder subscribed this fourteenth day of January in the one and twentieth yeare of his Majesties Reigne that now is over England &c Annoque domini 1669./

INPRIMIS his weareing Apparell	xxx [£] ./
<u>Item</u> his Study of Bookes	xxx [£] ./
<u>Item one</u> young Saddle Nagg	v [£] ./
<u>Item two</u> old Saddle Mares	vj [£] ./
<u>Item two</u> Chariot Horses	xviiij [£] ./
<u>Item four</u> Coach Horses	xxxij [£] ./
<u>Item three</u> Carthorses	ix [£] ./
<u>Item fifteen</u> <u>Sowes</u>	xl [£] ./
<u>Item fourscore</u> pigges	vj [£] ./
<u>Item one</u> old Wagon three old dungcartes two ploughes)
<u>harrowes</u> Harness and all other implements of	) x [£] ./
husbandry thereunto belonging)
<u>Item five</u> hundred Ewes and Ramms one hundred)
Chilver <u>two</u> th one hundred Chilver tegges at	) Clxxx [£] ./
thirty pounds the hundred)
<u>Item fortie</u> five Quarters of Wheat in the Barne and)
in Reckes	) L [£] ./
<u>Item eightie</u> Quarters of Barley in the Barnes	Lxiiij [£] ./
<u>Item twenty</u> Quarters of Oates in the Barne	x [£] ./
<u>Item eleven</u> Tunns of Hay	xiiij [£] ./
<u>Item ten</u> Quarters of Saint Foine seed in the House	xxxiiiij [£] ./
<u>Item five</u> and twenty quarters of Wheat new sown	xxx [£] ./
<u>Item one</u> Fanne two Bushells, three and twenty Sackes)
and other things belonging to the Barne	) iiiij [£] ./
<u>Item an</u> old Chariot and a pair of harness to it	v [£] ./
<u>Item five</u> Saddles, Bridles and other things belonging)
to the Hackney Stable	) xl [£] ./
<u>Item one</u> peice of Timber, and all the wood in y ^e backside	L [£] ./
<u>Item two</u> Reek Stauells	xl [£] ./
<u>Item Geese</u> Turkeys and other Poultry	xx [£] ./
<u>Item six</u> Stone troughs and two Wood troughs valued at	iiij [£] ./
<u>Item the</u> ladders and Cowe Racks about the House	xx [£] ./
<u>Item nine</u> Hogges of Bacon	ix [£] ./
<u>Item two</u> Porkers bared up	xxx [£] ./
<u>Item five</u> Quarters of Mault	iiiij [£] .xv [£] ./

Item five dosen of Butter	xvj ^s .viiij ^d ./
Item two hundred weight of scimmd Cheese	xxvj ^s .viiij ^d ./
Item 4 Iron barrs, edg tooles Scales and Weightes	xx ^s ./

SUMMA TOTALIS vi^C v^f. xviii^s iiiij^d./

Jonathan Hill. Roger Pope. John Grele his marke. Apprizors.

A TRUE and perfect Inventory of all the goodes Chattells and housholdstuff of the honourable Nathanael Fiennes of Newton Tony in the County of Wilts Esquire late deceased, which are at Bromby Wood Hall in the County of Lincoln taken and apprized by us whose names are hereunder subscribed this second day of February in the two and twentieth yeare of his Majesties Reign that now is, over England &c Annoque domini 1669./

INPRIMIS one hundred seaventy two Ewes at eight Pounds per score	) Lxviiij ^f .xvj ^s ./
Item one hundred ninety five Weathers at vij ^f per score	) Lxviiij ^f .v ^s ./
Item one hundred and twelue hogges at v ^f . per score	xxviiij ^f ./
Item fower Ramms	xl ^s ./
Item twelue draught Oxen	xlviij ^f ./
Item nine Steers	xviiij ^f ./
Item five Heyfars	vij ^f .x ^s ./
Item fower Calues	xx ^s ./
Item eight draught Horses	x ^f ./
Item fower young Horses yeare old	Liiij ^s .iiiij ^d ./
Item two Colts	viiij ^f ./
Item two Swyne	xiiiij ^s ./
Item one Cart two Muckwaynes two Corne Waynes and two Ploughs	) vj ^f ./
Item fower Iron harrowes eight yokes and eight teemes fower paire of Horse geares for the Cart fower tumbrells nine sheep cratches two beast cratches	) iiiij ^f .xvj ^s .iiiij ^d ./
ten sakes three waynes with other thinges belonging to husbandry))
Item Rye threshed and unthreshed	v ^f ./
Item Barley threshed and unthreshed	x ^f ./
Item Oates threshed and unthreshed	xv ^f ./
Item Pease	x ^s ./
Item Hay in the Stack	xx ^f ./
Item Fewell, Beast troughs with stockes and blockes and other wood about the yard	) xxxiiiij ^s .iiiij ^d ./
Item one Ladder	iiij ^s .iiiij ^d ./
Item Winter Corne sowen	x ^f .xj ^s ./
Item one gray Mare	v ^f .xj ^s ./

Item three hundred of Tile	ix ^s ./
Housholdstuff. In the Hall.	
INPRIMIS three Tables three Chayres and one Iron grate	xxv ^s . £
In the Little Parlour.	
Item twelue Russia Chairs one little table one side bord	) iiij [£] .v ^s ./
one paire of Andirons &c)
Item two featherbedes two flockbedes fower bolsters)
two Pillowes three Rugges one paire of Curtaines	) ix [£] .xiiij ^s .viiij ^d ./
eight blankettes fiue sheetes eighteen Napkins and)
three tableclothes)
In the Hall Chamber.	
Item one Cupbord one Table two old Chaires	) xxiiij ^s .vj ^d ./
one bedsteed &c.)
In the Parlour Chamber & other Roomes.	
Item fiue bedsteedes two Cheserrackes two Cheeseshelues)
two old Chests two Hogsheades two half hogsheades	) xliiiij ^s .ij ^d ./
one gantry one fir kyn &c.)
In the Pantry.	
Item one old Chaire one dough tub one gantry two dosen of	) viij ^s ./
trenchers a Cheeseplate a stand of shelues &c.)
In the Dairy.	
Item seaven Kimnells one Butter bowle three Cheesefattes)
a paire of butter scales a Churne, a Cheese press	) xiiij ^s .viiij ^d ./
a powdring tub a stand of shelues &c)
In the Kitchin.	
Item one Kitt, a Swynetub two Mashfattes one yeelding)
tub one gail tub two Cowles a pair of bellowes	) xxviiij ^s .vj ^d ./
a Chipping bord two washtubs &c)
Item one firegrate a pair of Andirons fireshouell and)
tonges a pair of pothookes a pair of Iron Rackes	) xviiij ^s .iiiij ^d ./
one Iron fender one iron pott a frying pan a pitch)
pott &c.)
Item one brass pott two brass skilletes one brass Ladle	xxxiiij ^s .iiij ^d .
Item three pewter dishes, two pewter saucers	vj ^s ./
Item one dredging pott, one dripping pan of Tynn &c	viiij ^d ./
Item two Pitchers two Cupps two chamber pottes)
one Chafingdish two Candlestickes fiue butterpottes	) iiij ^s .vij ^d ./
all earthen Ware)

(Second membrane)

Item three Saltes one hair Sieue and <u>four</u> old sheep Trayes	iiiij ^s ./
In the Mill.	
Item one Guelock two dosen of Pickes &c	xxj ^s .

SUMMA TOTALIS CCCLXVII[£]. IX^D.

E: South. Willim Healey. Tho: Fowler. Joseph Proud loue./

ITEM ready money in the house	xlv [£] ./
Item the principall money due on two severall Mortgages	iiij ^M .viiij ^C £./
Item money due on bond which is looked on as desperate	xxx [£] ./
Item money due by promise 25 Gynnyes desperate	xxv [£] ./
Item Arrears of Rent due from Bromby att Michaelmas and Mortinmas last past desperate	) xliij [£] .vjs.viiij ^d .
Item money due on bond besides what is aboue desperate	x [£] ./

THEIS GOODS next under followeing
being housholdstuff and Utensills for housekeeping
Inventaryed at the same time are appointed by the
Will of the Testator to remaine for the use of the
Relict of the said Testator, and therefore not valued
which are in particular as followeth./

In his Lodging Chamber./

INPRIMIS a suite of Arras hanginges a white bed wrought)
with green work, Curtains and vallens Tester and)
headpeice of the same worke Also fower Chayres and)
two side bord Clothes of the same worke, one large)
Featherbed, three blankettes, one bolster, two pillowes)
one red Rugg. Bedsteed Matt and Cord, one red Couch)
of Serge with a Featherbed and pillowe in it, a blanket)
and a red Covering, one Chest of drawers two little)
Chaires a little paire of Andirons with small brass)
heades, fireshovell tonges and bellowes two white and)
green standes, a peice in frame over the Chimney a red)
silke Quilt a lookeing glass and two hanging shelues)

In his Studie./

ITEM one green Couch one turnd Chaire, one green)
Cushion one deske, a fireshovell, Tonges and dogges)

In the Ladyes Closset.

ITEM hanginges of gilt leather fower turnd chaires)
six green Cushions, two hanging Shelues, a firepan)
tonges and dogges)

Upon the Staires.

ITEM one brass Clock with a case, Weights and lynes)
a Chest of drawers a standing Cupborde one toynt stoole)
two chaires and one Stoue)

In the drawing Roome Chamber.

ITEM Curtaines vallens fringed headepeice)
Counterpane Cupbordcloth three Cushions all of yellow)
Serge, Tester of Buckeram, one yellow Chaire, two)
turnd Chaires one little red leather Chaire, a Featherbed)
and bolster. two pillowes, three blankettes one yellow)
coverlett bedsteed Matt Quilt and Corde one sidebord)
course hanginges about the Roome one hanging shelf,)

a little hoopt Andiron with brass heades Tonges)
and bellowes)

In the Dining Roome Chamber.

ITEM Curtaines, double vallens with fringe)
headpeice tester, two sidebord clothes, two elbow)
chaires one Couch, two other Chaires and fiue stooles)
All which are of green dammaske)
seven plames of feathers on seven knobs covered with)
the same stufte, one Featherbed and Bolster)
two Pillowes three blankettes, one green Rugg a green)
silke Quilt one great Lookeing glass. two sidebordes)
a paire of Standes, bedsteed, Matt and Cord, Traversers)
and Cases on the bed. Chaires and stooles all of green)
Bayes, one Turkie foot Carpett one green window curtaine)
very good Arras hanginges about the Roome, One large)
Chimney peice in a frame one paire of small Andirons)
with brass heads fireshovel tonges & bellowes)

In the Red Chamber.

ITEM Curtaines, double vallens, headpeice Tester,)
Counterpane one elbow Chaire, fower other chaires)
two stooles one sidebord cloth all of red serge fower)
knobs on the bed covered with the same, one Featherbed)
one bolster two pillowes three blankettes one red Rugg,)
bedsteed matt and Cord, a palletbed a bolster two)
pillowes two blankettes and a red Rugg a pallet bedsteed)
with sacking a paire of gilt standes, hanginges about the)
Roome of striped stufte a Lookeing glass one sidebord)
a Chimney peice in a frame, a paire of little dogges)
with brass heades a fireshovell tonges and bellowes)

In the Passage.

ITEM fiue Turkie Chaires two Mapps, one of them a)
mapp of Venice a Spanish Table)

In the green Chamber.

ITEM Curtaines and Vallens two sidebord clothes)
three stooles two little chaires, One large Cushion)
one little Cushion of green silke fower knobs covered)
with the same, The lyneing to it of painted Callico,)
and a Counterpane of painted Callico, One Featherbed)
one bolster, one pillowe, three blankettes one green Rugg,)
bedsteed Matt and Cord the tester and headpeice of)
Callicoe a paire of Standes two little sidebordes, a)
longe seat, Arras hanginges round the chamber)
two windowe Curtains of green Soy a chimney peice)
in a frame a Lookeing glass a paire of dogges with)
brass heades, fireshovell tonges & bellows)

In the green Garret.

(Third membrane)

ITEM Curtaines and vallens with Fringe)
one Cushion of green Serge laced, a buckeram Tester)
one featherbed three blankettes one bolster one pillow)
a green Rugg bedsteed matt and cord one sidebord with)
a green cloth to it one Rush-botomed chaire one low)
leather stoole, fireshovell tonges and dogges)

In the Gallery./

ITEM one picture in a frame three trunkes two green)
silk Cushions one bolster two turnd Chayres two Cypress)
Chestes a little quilt red and green, a white Callico Quilt)
to lay under a bed six peices of striped hanginges seven)
old blankettes a Sumpter Saddle with a Leather Cover)
to it an old skreene with fiue leaues)

In the Studie in the Gallery./

ITEM hanginges of striped stuff one turnd chaire)
one Cushion, one old box of drawers)

In the Little Roome next the green Garret./

ITEM one featherbed one bolster three blankettes)
one grey Rugg a livery bedsteed matt and cord)

In the next Little Roome./

ITEM one featherbed one bolster two blankettes two)
pillowes a bedsteed matt & cord and an old Canopie)

In the gray Garret./

ITEM Curtaines of striped stuff a carpet of the same)
one featherbed one bolster one pillowe two blankettes)
one gray Rugg one Rushbotom chaire a sidebord a paire)
of dogges tonges bedsteed matt and cord with a)
Buckeram tester)

In the withdraweing Roome./

ITEM six low chaires two elbow chaires one side)
bord cloth all of yellow dammask one Couch frame with)
a red Callico quilt two yellow sarcenet Cushions and)
a Quilt of the same a sidebord and two standes, one)
broken Lookeing glass a paire of dogges with brass heades)
two window curtaines of yellow, fireshovel tonges)
& bellowes)

In the Dining Room./

ITEM one Turkie Carpet two Carpetes for the side)
bordes of the same one table two sidebordes, hanginges)
to the Roome of gilt leather twelue high Chaires of gilt)
leather two low chaires and six stooles of the same)
and a little footstoole of the same and three windowe)
Curtaines of green)

In the Upper Hall./

ITEM two tablebordes eight elm chaires carved)
the twelue Romane Emperors in frames, a paire of)
great Andirons Rackfashion flue ioynestooles old ones)
one broken one two Window Curtaines and a small)
carpett all of striped stuff)

In the Parlor./

ITEM one Turkie carpet a round table a Turkie Carpet)
for the sidebord fower green windowe Curtaines)
a Sécatorie two larg pictures in frames three small ones)
in frames, a childes chaire green a wicker skreen,)
sixteen high Russia leather chaires fower low Russia)
Leather Chaires fower stooles and a footstoole of the)
same one sidebord, fireshovel and tonges a Mapp and)
a Spanish table without the Parlour dore and)
one Lookeing glass in the Parlor)

In the Little Roome by the Parlor door./

ITEM one Case of Brass Weightes.

In the Lower Hall./

ITEM one long shovelbord table and frame two formes)
one Settle a little Colegrate in the Chimney)

In the Chamber over the Lower Hall./

ITEM Curtaines and vallens headpeice and tester and)
two stooles all of red halfcloth one featherbed one)
bolster one pillow three blankettes a red Rugg a wrought)
Counterpane Bedsteed Matt and sacking a little sidetable)
and a side cupbord, red hanginges striped with green, a)
sidebord cloth and one window Curtaine of the same)
one Leather chaire dogges fireshovell tonges & bellowes)

In the next Chamber./

ITEM one featherbed one bolster two Pillowes)
three blankettes a sadcoloured Rugg bedsteed matt cord)
and Canopie and two Curtaines of striped stuff)
one old Chest and uncovered Chaire)

In the Garret over the Lower Hall./

ITEM one featherbed one bolster one pillowe)
three blankettes a green Rugg an old bedsteed a matt)
and Cord a little tablebord and frame, one haire trunck)
one ioynestoole a Portmanteau, an old gray window)
Curtaine a Case of Pistolls and an old headpeice)

In the passage by the Storehouse Chamber./

ITEM one Press a ioynstoole and a dealbord)
case for Bookes)

In the three Cellars./

ITEM fower new Standes for Beer and one hogshhead)

eight and twenty other Vessells old)
seven Standes to sett the Vessells on in the severall)
Cellars an old chest for the Lynnen)

In Mrs. Anne Whiteheds Chamber./

ITEM striped hanginges green and White about the Roome,)
one down bed and bolster, fower pillowes three blankettes)
a green Rugg bedsteed matt and Cord one Couchframe)
matt and cord featherbed one pillow two blankettes)
a little green foot Rugg, a green silk Quilt, fower high)
green chaires two lowe green chaires one green carpett)
one high calues leather chaire)

(Fourth membrane)

one Iron back a paire of dogges with brass heades)
fireshovell and tonges)

In my Ladyes Chamber./

ITEM Curtaines and double vallens and headpeice)
two Carpettes Counterpane Tester, six cases fower for)
Chaires two footstooles all wrought with green and red)
three Chaire frames covered with Canvass two stooles)
covered with the same two standes a sidetable)
two featherbedes one bolster two pillowes three blankettes)
a green Rugg bedsteed matt and Corde a paire of)
dogges and bellowes)

In the Chamber over Mrs. Whithedes Chamber./

ITEM two paire of Curtaines one paire of vallens)
one headpeice one Carpett all of greene, two)
featherbedes two bolsters fower pillowes, Six)
blankettes two green Rugges two bedsteedes Mattes and)
Cordes and Testers, one green Chaire one leather)
stoole one Cupbord a little Iron hoope in the chimney)
one paire of bellowes)

In the Maydes Chamber./

ITEM two featherbedes three bolsters fiue blankettes)
two Coverlettes a small foote Rugg one livery bedsteed)
one truckle bedsteed Mattes and Cordes two black)
trunckes one old haire trunck)

In the Storehouse Chamber./

ITEM Curtaines and Vallens of striped stufte headpeice)
and tester of buckeram one featherbed one bolster)
two pillowes three blankettes and a gray Rugg, bedsteed)
Matt and Cord one great Chest, one sidebord)
a clapbedsteed three rush botome chaires, a bathing tub,)
a table and frame, six dosen of new trenchers some)
round, some square six turky work cushions, twelue)
peckled Cushions)

In the Larder./

ITEM one dresser bord one longe Tray three powdring)
Tubbs)

In the Kitchin./

ITEM one Leaden Cisterne one table, one forme)
three fryeing pannes two gridirons eight spittes)
two Iron Rackes one large grate for Coals, one grate)
firepan a fireshovell tonges and fork a Jack with lines)
weightes and chayne, two fouleing peices one little)
birding peice a large bacon racke a saltbox one wyre)
Coalendder, six smoothing irons three iron Chafing)
dishes a wooden skreen lyned with Laton, two trays,)
two Buckettes, two tubbs, one boule, two Iron pottes,)
a birdspitt with fower speckes a fireskreen to dry)
clothes on, six wooden platters with some other wooden)
vessell and dishes an Iron grate fower iron Crockes)
three paire of pothookes two Trivettes, one fender,)
an iron shelf one breadgrater one iron Candlestick)

In the Bakehouse./

ITEM a Jack and lyne to it, three Cottrells)
a small rack two Trivettes one Meale witch, two)
Mealetubbs one iron Peele two wooden peeles)
one Pastry table one dough kiver)

In the passage betwixt the Bakehouse and Kitchin./

ITEM one little table and frame one Stone mortar)
and a Pestle of Wood)

In the Dairy./

ITEM one Silting trough with a cover to it)
three Buttertubbs two with covers, eight Trendles)
two brass pans two butter cherns two long frames fower)
Cheesefattes three milkeing buckettes, a milke streyner,)
one cheese tubb one milkeing tubb one Cullender a pair)
of scales and Weight a pewter pint pott a side cupbord)

In the Brewhouse./

ITEM one Cheesepress one Querne one Kyue)
one Meshing fatt one Cooler two great Kiyers)
a tubb to grinde the Malt into a three legged mashing)
tubb, a great Bucking tubb a laueinge payle a Clensiué)
a great Bowle and a horse to wash the Vessells on)

In the Still house./

ITEM one Still, one Limbeck one table and frame)
three Salttubbs a Marble Mortar a Trivett)
and paire of Tonges)

In the Brewhouse Chamber./

ITEM one greene Bedsted and Cord

In the Chamber over the Dairy./
ITEM two livery bedstedes Mattes and Cordes)
two Flockbedes two bolsters one pillow, fiue old)
blankettes one Coverlett)

In the Chamber over the Hackney Stable./
ITEM one Livery bedstead Matt and Cord)
a Flockbed and Bolster two Blankettes)
and a red Coverlett)

In the Carters Taller./
ITEM one Flockbed and bolster two blankettes)
and one old Coverlett)

The Plate./
ITEM two drincking Cupps six fruit dishes)
two paire of Candlestickes one paire of Sookettes,)
a Warmeing pan, a perfuming pan one Salver)
one Syllibub pott and Cover)

(Fifth membrane)

one Cawdle cup and Cover eleven small Saltes)
one little three legged Cawdle cup one little Cup,)
one long Ladle three prooingers one Sugar Box)
and spoone, eightene spoones one side of a paire of)
Snuffers, two lowe Candlestickes one Bason two Chafeing)
dishes a frame of the Waxe Candle)
ITEM all the Pewter weighed which comes to in the)
wholl by weight at fiue score to the hundred seven hundred)
twenty and eight poundes by weight)
Item of Brass not weighed two Furnaces two Boylers)
in the Walles one of them very small and two brass pans)
before inserted)
Item all the Brass which was weighed comes to in the)
Wholl by weight at fiue score to the hundred One hundred)
and twenty poundes weight)
Item three brass warming panns)
Item one Alchymie Warmeing pann)

The Lynnen./
ITEM of the great sort of damask one table cloth,)
one Cupbord cloth one sidebord cloth two dosen of)
Napkins, two towelles)

Of other Damaske./
ITEM one long tablecloth one round table cloth fiue lesser)
tableclothes fiue dosen of Napkins one Towell)

Of Diaper./
ITEM one tablecloth two lesser clothes two dosen of)
Napkins, two Towells)

Item three dosen and nine Napkins of single diaper)
 Other Diaper./)
 ITEM three round tableclothes fower long tableclothes)
 fower sidebordclothes, Eight dosen of Napkins one towell)
 all of a worke)
 Item seaventeen paire of fine Holland pillowbers)
 seaven paire of coarse Holland Pillowbers)
 three paire of find Holland Sheetes three breadths,)
 two paire of coarser Holland Sheetes two breadths)
 and a halfe)
 Fower paire of dowlas sheetes three breadths a peice.)
 Three paire of Flaxen cloth Sheetes two breadths)
 and a halfe)
 seven paire and one Sheet of fine Canvass. Twenty nine)
 paire and one sheet of household Sheetes, two paire of)
 Callicoe spitting sheetes, six Callico sidebord clothes,)
 three plaine towelles, eight great tableclothes and ten)
 small tableclothes for the Parlor eight dosen of Napkins)
 for the Parlor, fower coarse Table clothes)

Inventaried)
 by us.) (Jonathan Hill)
 (Roger Pope)

F. Mundy.

(Translation:) An inventory in this form was exhibited
 the 3rd day of the month of December,
 A.D. 1670, by Master Mundy, proctor for
 the executors etc. for a true and full
 inventory etc., under protestation
 nevertheless for adding, that if etc.

HIGH DAYS AND HOLIDAYS IN OLD HOOK NORTON

If you had lived in Hook Norton at the end of the 19th Century you would have found that there was quite a variety of events to look forward to each year.

During the winter there were lectures, with lantern slides or without. Some typical subjects for lectures were The Opium Traffic, The Bible and its History, Hard Times and how to mend them, Abraham Lincoln, The Benefits of Allotments, Our Daily Papers. There were also concerts given by the Tonic sol fa choir or the Young Men's Mutual Improvement choir or others.

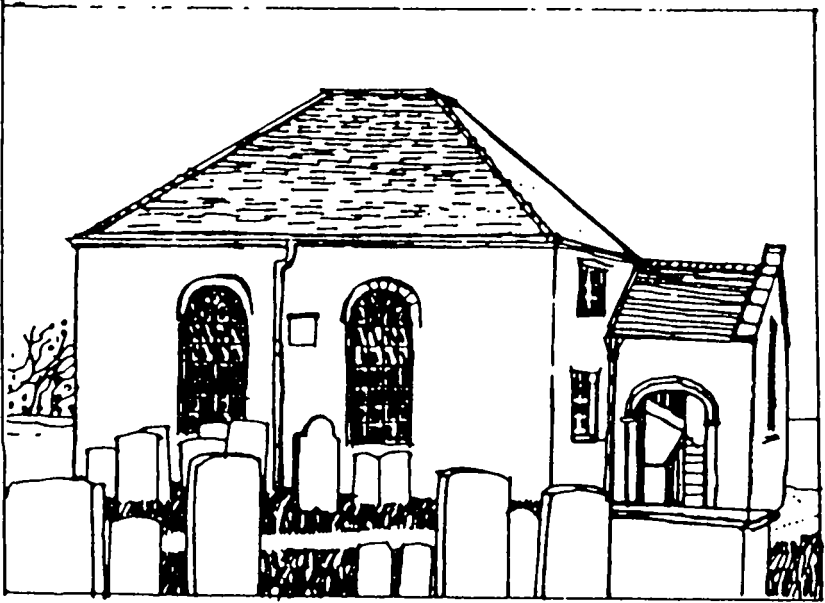
At Easter-time began the real round of festive occasions, many of them connected with the various churches in those church-going days. On Good Friday or Easter Monday both the Methodists and the Baptists celebrated with a tea and concert.

Soon came May Day when the children went round the village with the May Garland. The boys carried it round and they were followed by the May Queen and her attendants with their collecting boxes. The May Queen was usually crowned on the Rectory lawn and the Maypole dancing was outside the Sun Inn. The money collected was used for a treat at Christmas. The May song went

A bunch of May I have brought you
And at your door I stand
It's a very nice branch and it smells very sweet
And it comes from the Lord's right hand.
Good morning, good ladies and gentlemen
I wish you a happy May
I've come to show you my May garland
Because it's the first of May

At the end of May came Club Day, perhaps the real highlight of the whole year. A school holiday was declared and all the village joined in. On the evening beforehand Mr Forest from Burford had come as far as Fanville Farm and Mr Chilton from Banbury as far as the Wheatsheaf Inn. They both brought their swings and roundabouts and on Club Day they set them up outside the church for young and old to enjoy. Stalls were arranged along both sides of the High Street selling toffee apples and fairings of all kinds. In the morning the members of the various Clubs in the village - Oddfellows, Buffaloes, Pig, Sick Benefit - assembled at the holly bush at the East End of the village carrying their banners and supported not only by the Hook Norton band but also by bands from Brailes or Sibford or Banbury brought in for this great occasion. The parade marched through the village to the church where there was a service. After the service there was a dinner at the Club Room of the Bell Inn. The afternoon was spent enjoying the stalls and sideshows in the street and the day ended with a grand supper in the Sun Inn clubroom.

The next day there was a circular track printed on the road in the



Two of the churches in Hook Norton, with which many of the festive occasions were connected.



square opposite the church where the hooves of the horses had plodded round the roundabout and the memory of another Club Day was printed in the minds of all Hook Norton people.

It was a month to wait until June 29, St Peter's Day, the patronal festival of the parish church and another local Bank Holiday. On this day the special event was St Peter's Tea. Before that, the church bells rang, the villagers went to church and in the afternoon assembled for tea together - usually on the Rectory lawn. Everybody gave something, the wealthy sandwiches and cakes, the poor their help setting out the tables, chairs and food, the children with singing and dancing and everyone with cash to help church expenses.

In July came the Sunday school outings when the children from the various churches were transported by farm wagons to an interesting local spot for a grand picnic tea - to Cowpasture Farm, Edgehill, Swerford Park, or Heythrop Park.

Then in August there was the Flower Show, organised at that time by the Hook Norton and Swerford Horticultural Society. This was another big day when the band played and there was always a fancy dress show which was judged in the High Street; races for all ages; football; all sorts of things like sack races; obstacle races; tossing the sheaves - the men had a pitchfork and they had to see who tossed it highest over two posts. The fun went on all afternoon and sometimes a puppet show would come along. There was always country dancing with the band playing. Then there was the tea on the field and the village was altogether there for a while. Then there were children's races, skipping races, competitions to keep a top spinning longest and so on. There was even homemade ice-cream from a box on wheels that was pushed along by a man in the village who was clever enough to make it.

During the summer there were cricket matches against the local villages on Saturdays and football matches followed on as autumn and winter came along.

At Christmas the church choirboys had a treat - supper at the Rectory.

Of course, in addition to the regular annual festivals there were some special events for very special occasions - a sandwich tea to launch the village allotments, a grand dinner at The Bell Inn for Mr Charles Looker of the Hook Norton Ironstone Partnership, or even a Royal Jubilee or other Royal occasion. As Hook Norton had a railway special excursions were arranged from time to time and villagers had a day out in Bournemouth.

Alan Sibson

PUDDING TIME IN OXFORDSHIRE

It is curious that nowhere in Alfred Beasley's exhaustive - and often exhausting - history of Banbury is mention made of an extraordinary series of events which scandalised the entire county in February 1823. Perhaps the date of publication - 1841 - is relevant. In this particular instance memories were no doubt long; indeed, few people who witnessed George IV's amazing progress through the Oxfordshire countryside could possibly have forgotten every single farcical episode.

It was perhaps ironic that a combination of an obscure saint and the descendant of someone looked upon in his day as very little better than a regicide should initially have lured George away from the more domestic and obvious pleasures of London. As it transpired, St. Scholastica and Lord Saye and Sele had much to answer for.

The scene needs to be set. At the end of 1822 George felt well pleased with himself. The previous August he had set out on what was to prove, in his eyes at least, a triumphant state visit to Edinburgh. He had been fêted on all sides, had become a convinced Jacobite and was in the mood to forgive the past wholesale. He lit upon the interesting notion of visiting Oxford and of stopping the night at Broughton Castle, from where in the seventeenth century 'Old Subtlety' had so often fulminated against George's Stuart ancestor Charles I. He remembered with affection a previous visit to Oxford when the Allied Sovereigns had come to England in premature celebration of Napoleon's downfall. The Prince Regent (as he had then been), his brother the Duke of York, the King of Prussia and the Tsar of Russia, Blücher, Wellington and Metternich had all participated in the general uproar and junketing; there had been banquets and processions and a feeling that civilisation had been saved. Now was the time for George to relive some of that careless rapture. And he was in the mood for forgiveness. What could be better than a ritual expression of amity between the successors of the great Parliamentarian and his monarch?

The news of George's intentions was received with mixed emotions. The undergraduates of Oxford saw it as a heavensent opportunity to cause the maximum disturbance. In February they were due to celebrate the feast of St. Scholastica the Virgin (little did they know that these celebrations would cease for ever a mere two years later) and the notion of involving the notoriously unvirginal George in the revelries was irresistible. On February 10 the mayor of Oxford and sixty-two freemen of the city would be obliged to attend a service at St. Mary's and offer up a tribute of sixty-three pence in expiation of the events on that same day in 1354 which had witnessed a particularly bloody clash between town and gown. Surely George could be involved in these disgraceful proceedings.

The undergraduates foresaw additional fun in the presence in the royal party of the King's current mistress, Lady Conyngham. Distinctly rude verses, incorporating a slightly altered version of the lady's name, were rapidly composed; effigies of the plump regal personage were

fabricated, and everyone prepared to have an exceedingly good time.

This is perhaps not the time to describe in detail the day which George spent in Oxford; it was certainly not an experience which he cared to remember. There was the outrageous incident of the counterfeit mayors, impersonated by at least fifteen undergraduates with theatrical ambitions, who confused George to such an extent that, when he eventually came face to face with the real mayor, he exclaimed roundly, "Damn you, sir, if I had my way I would have you flogged from Christ Church to New College and back again." Then there were the appalling scenes in the Sheldonian when various lewd remarks about parts of the royal anatomy were only too audible.

But perhaps the ghastly culmination was provided by the sight of an elderly, and no doubt forgetful, don who was seen to amble unconcernedly across Tom Quad, stark naked except for his mortar board, and in full view of the hapless Lady Conyngham, who fainted into George's arms after a slight pause purely attributable to shock. It was as if the worst excesses of decadent Rome had surrounded a man not wholly ignorant of his own misdemeanours.

George almost literally fled from Oxford. As descriptions of tumult and scandal were being eagerly composed for the delectation of the general public, and for the appalled eyes of the University's Chancellor, the Duke of Wellington, the royal party was proceeding with as much haste as decorum allowed along the road to Banbury. At least there would be no undergraduates in Banbury, and the programme for the evening appeared unexceptionable. There would be a short stop at Broughton Castle, an opportunity for the King to rest and to change his clothes, then on to the Assembly Rooms in Banbury for a banquet, and finally a return to Broughton for the night. Dull it might be, eventful it could not possibly be.

The light was failing as the cavalcade moved into the park in front of Broughton Castle. George was greatly impressed by the moat and the gatehouse, and, turning to one of his equerries, opined that no finer sight could exist in all his kingdom. He was eagerly anticipating some refreshment and a chance to smooth his ruffled feathers. There was a touching encounter with Lord Saye and Sele, the latter going down on his knees and being forced to rise with some difficulty by George, who patted him on the shoulder and called him a "damned fine fellow". The scene was only slightly marred by the ebullient presence of a pack of terrier-like dogs who welcomed the King with excessive zeal. But George's equanimity had been totally restored and he was not eager to garb himself for the evening's entertainment.

Much thought had been devoted to precisely what he should wear. At one stage he had considered reverting to the kilt and the flesh-coloured tights which he had recently worn to such effect in Edinburgh, but he had eventually discarded this ensemble in favour of the uniform of a field-marshal. There was a last-minute hunt for his baton, which had been

appropriated by one of the dogs, and he was able to enter his carriage. The great procession set out for Banbury.

The inhabitants of Banbury had exercised considerable ingenuity in their attempts to delight the royal eye. There were illuminations of a consummate vulgarity, incorporating feathers, ciphers, crowns and scrolls. Outside one building there was, according to one eye-witness, "a transparency of his Majesty in regimentals". An inn displayed the flattering motto "Pater Patriae", and there were a great many busts encircled by devices varying from the inspired "May the King live for ever!" to the somewhat banal "Hurra". The pièce de résistance was, however, an astonishing illumination: "A large crown on the top of the gas-house chimney, illuminated with gas, presented a no less striking appearance to the citizens. The shaft of masonry on which it rested was rendered invisible by the humidity of the atmosphere, so that, when viewed at a distance from the east, the crown looked like a splendid meteor suspended in the firmament."

In spite of these flights of fancy, the eye-witness, a Mr. Satterthwaite, was forced to admit that the "humidity of the atmosphere" was a distinct obstacle to the general enjoyment. As so often happens in the early months of the year, fog was undoubtedly rising. The streets of Banbury were narrow and the populace, encouraged by copious libations in the various taverns which looked forward to a night of great profit and some damage, pressed forward to see their ruler and his retinue. The carriages became engulfed. George himself was unperturbed. Sensing acclamation - all too rare - he leant out of the carriage window. "His attention seemed to be particularly drawn to a balcony in front of a turret-like house. This balcony was occupied by a number of beautiful females . . . The King seemed delighted with the loyal demonstrations of this fair bevy, to whom he most graciously bowed."

And George was not upset by the weather. As the fog strengthened, he took off his field-marshal's plumed hat, waved it indiscriminately in the air, and "gave three cheers, which were heard at some distance". One of the attendants endeavoured to restrain him, but the King was not to be controlled. "O, never mind," he cried, "I must cheer the people."

Damp but impressed, George alighted at the Assembly Rooms. He was greeted by various local dignitaries, and the Mayor made a brief, somewhat inarticulate speech of welcome. Then the royal party passed inside into the warmth. The scene was a splendid one. Chandeliers and candles blazed; a small string band struck up the National Anthem; hurrahs echoed around the room. One hundred and fifty people had gathered for the evening, and the art and industry of the couturier was much in evidence. "The ladies were in most elegant white dresses, richly bespangled, and had on plumes of white ostrich feathers . . . The scene was one of such extraordinary splendour as almost to entrance, at least to bewilder, the faculties in the contemplation of it. The surpassing beauty

of the ladies - their plumage, in constant undulation, appearing to the eye like a sea of foam; - the glitter reflected from a profusion of jewels; - the throng of noble and honourable personages; - altogether presented a scene which more than realised all previous conceptions of grandeur and magnificence."

The royal appetite had been stimulated, perhaps by the bevy of ladies. He consumed turtle and grouse soups, stewed carp and venison, some rather over-ripe grouse, numerous water and cream ices, and "a great many candied orange chips". He drank Moselle, claret and champagne. A local reporter noted with an excess of sycophancy: "It is a rare and most gratifying sight to behold a King indulging the sympathies of our common nature, and convivially engaged with his subjects in the free interchange of thought and of sentiment. To do so, and sustain at the same time the regal character at its proper elevation, is an attainment of no ordinary difficulty." "Eulogy," he added somewhat hypocritically, "is altogether out of our province, as it is foreign to our inclination."

The evening was remarkable for its speeches and its toasts. The Mayor rambled; the Lord Lieutenant muttered; Lord Saye and Sele delivered a stirring oration, which managed to combine references to the King, the late King, the battle of Waterloo, the Duke of Wellington, the Prime Minister, the late Foreign Secretary, Charles I, Parliament, the town of Banbury, the city of Oxford, England, Scotland, the French ("Confound them!"), the Army, the Duke of York, the local militia, and the excellence of the plum pudding which had been served. It was certainly a tour de force, though George was seen to grimace slightly at the mention of puddings; it was not for nothing that the nursery rhyme, "George porgie, pudding and pie", had run through the country.

The toasts seemed inexhaustible. Anyone who was anyone, and a great many people who were nobody, was mentioned. The local wine merchant was seen to smile in a satisfied manner as the bottles circulated. Sadly, it must be recorded that a certain amount of inebriation ensued. Those fine white plumes tilted, the gentlemen's faces became flushed, a few, no doubt unused to such excesses, slumbered, and the Bishop of Oxford snored delicately.

George left at about ten o'clock. The fog was denser, but the streets remained crowded. There was something of a vulgar rush when the King appeared on the steps, but he waved happily and once more raised his hat. The day which had started so disastrously, continued so uproariously, and reached a pitch with the banquet, now passed gently into something close to oblivion. George had determined to spend the night at Broughton - where once again the terrier-like dogs had greeted him with enthusiasm - and the following morning he and his entourage set forth on the road for London.

It had been a bizarre expedition. The undergraduates had enjoyed themselves; the tradesmen had profited mightily; the terriers had been

exercised; the journalists had wielded their pens and their imaginations; the people of Banbury - or a large proportion of them - had drunk themselves silly. George, too, felt that, on balance, he had achieved something, though he was not totally certain what that might have been. Only the naked don and Lady Conyngham could be excused for feeling that February 10 should be excised forever from their particular calendars.

Christopher Sinclair-Stevenson

BOOK REVIEWS

Baptism, marriage and burial registers of the inhabitants of Banbury Cross 1978 to 1982, ed. J.S.W. Gibson. 999 pages. £99.99. To be published in 1999 as records volume 113 of the Banbury Historical Society.

Members will remember that not many years ago Banbury Cross had its face lifted and its feet re-shod. It has been a well kept secret that a great discovery was then made, of outstanding interest to antiquarians. Under the centre of the Cross was discovered a wooden box which, on opening, was found to contain wads of well-stained papers. Or so the finders thought. A touch with the finger set in motion a massive heaving of termites. Whatever our ancestors intended their posterity to read was forever encoded in the genes and chromosomes of this thriving community.

Mr Gibson rose to the occasion. We are proud to announce (it is something of a scoop) that he has now spent two years, and estimates to spend fifteen more, unravelling the mystery. Since the box was first deposited the termites have of course passed through many generations. Mr Gibson with his usual meticulousness, rightly decided that the key to decoding the writings hidden in their genes was to establish the genealogy of the present population. Hence this detailed documentation of every baptism, marriage and burial, starting with the years 1978 to 1982.

This book will find an essential place on the shelves of every natural and social historian. We shall keenly await the next volume, as well as this one. To ensure your copy of this limited, numbered and signed edition you should send a deposit of half the cost to the records series editor.

An Experiment with Time by J.W. Dunne, Re-published by Papermac, £3.50, 288 pages.

You might think from its title that this book is a history of the Banbury Historical Society. It was first published in 1927, and is therefore 56 years old; our Society is 25 years old. But that is no dis-proof; Dunne demonstrated to his own satisfaction that one may see into the future.

Moreover, the difference in age between the book and the Society is 31 years. Nothing is certain in this mutable world; all people and things change, not only from terminating trains at Oxford station. But when I was

young 31 was $21 + 10$; perhaps it still is. Now 10 is the number of fingers and thumbs, or toes, that most of us have, and 21 is 3×7 which are the inherent measurements of the great pyramid; 21 is also the total distance in inches between 3 average apes ears.

Therefore, you might logically conclude that Dunne (who dreamed of the future all over the place including Banburyshire where his widow still lives) dreamed of our future Society and wrote his dreams down.

But you would be wrong. His dreams of both past and future were inconsequential. The future, though certainly seen, was seen as through a glass darkly. Priorities were jumbly. No event so important as the founding of the Banbury Historical Society was within the horizon of his future vision.

In the 1930s this book was compulsory reading for all those who eschewed being a bore at dinner parties. Put your biro and pad under your pillow and dream hard. You will find that history, like time, is a continuum of past, present and future. But first buy this book NOW, before you find that NOW has moved on or is irretrievably left behind. The number of your mantelpieces will then need to be increased to hold the number of dinner invitations you will receive.



Printing block (Banbury Museum)

VICTORIAN BANBURY, by Barrie Trinder, M.A., Ph.D., 1982. Published by the Banbury Historical Society, as Volume 19, in association with Phillimore and Company, Chichester. xvi, 236 pp., 33 plates, 19 maps and figures. On general sale, price £11.95.

More than one reviewer of books about Banbury in past issues of the Society's journal Cake and Cockhorse has noted the town's importance. The fact is due to its geographical position as the market centre of an extensive agricultural hinterland, and from early times the meeting place of river and road communications, which raised it above many market towns in less favoured locations. Clearly, both to local and to national historians Banbury is both an important and an interesting place, and the Banbury Historical Society is to be congratulated for publishing such an excellent addition to its Records series as Dr. Trinder's book. The author is himself a native of Banbury, a founder member of its Historical Society and editor of its journal for eleven years, and has to his credit several much-praised publications dealing with the industrial revolution, especially concerning the Shropshire area where he is on the adult education staff of Shropshire County Council. He has had many years experience as a teacher of local history, and this present book is based on the thesis for which he was awarded a doctorate at the University of Leicester. Banbury is indeed fortunate in having a historian of this calibre to gather together the strands of its history during a crucial period of the nineteenth century, from 1830 to 1880, in Victorian Banbury. It is perhaps a pity, though, that a sub-title does not draw attention to the fact that some twenty years of Queen Victoria's long reign lie beyond its scope.

The picture outlined of the state of Banbury in the early 1830s could be matched by that of most other growing towns, and it is clear that England (and indeed all parts of the British Isles) was a very different land from that of the mid-eighteenth century. Population growth had been considerable and was continuing, and this together with migration to the new industrial areas, and the vast and haphazard growth of towns in consequence, had by 1830 made administrative and governmental changes imperative. The story, very troubled and contested as it was in many other areas, must be pursued elsewhere: this book deals only with one place, not a large one by national standards, but of a local importance considerable enough to render this study vital to the picture of what early and mid-Victorian life was really like, a picture indeed which can really only be built up with any accuracy by studies of individual places or areas. Dr. Trinder's other works are witness to the fact that this way of proceeding is certainly his viewpoint.

Since the end of the 18th century the growth of population in the area of the old Banbury Corporation had been rapid: it rose by 36% between 1801 and 1831, whilst that of its neighbouring hamlet Neithrop, in the parish of Banbury but not under the Corporation, rose by 106% over the same period. Between 1831 and 1851 the growth rates were 8% and

93%, for building land within the Borough had run out and property became minutely sub-divided. These figures highlight a long-standing problem which be-devilled municipal affairs for over fifty years, for the area of the new Municipal Borough which came into being as a consequence of the Municipal Corporations Act of 1835, was not co-terminus with the parish, including as it did only the area of the old Corporation. There were other such places in England, where the new borough boundaries followed those of ancient charters and did not take account of changed circumstances. Particular areas of difficulty in Banbury proved to be the whole range of problems then broadly characterised as sanitary matters, uncontrolled building and roads, but especially the jurisdiction of the Borough Quarter Sessions and the small extent of effective policing. Banbury's new Borough Police force became quite quickly relatively well-organised and efficient, as entries in the Watch Committee and Council Minutes show, but there was a continual sense of frustration that law and order in the by now larger hamlet of Neithrop, as well as in the smaller one of Grimsbury, both part of the parish, were outside the borough's control. Efforts were made on several occasions over the years to promote parliamentary bills to extend the borough boundaries, but they came to nothing through local difficulties and jealousies with the Oxford County justices. Only on 9 November 1889 did an enlarged Council at last meet which represented the new civil parish of Banbury: this included all the old ecclesiastical parish with parts of the neighbouring parish of Warkworth in Warwickshire, and for the first time Banbury Borough Council had real powers over the whole district.

The great merit and interest of Dr. Trinder's book is to show in detail how Banbury fared during the fifty years following the Reform Act of 1832, and the consequent revolution in the national fortunes of the political parties. Political bitterness between Tory and Reform interests was widespread in the country, as might be expected, but in Banbury with its strong dissenting and radical tradition, parliamentary representation for the Banbury constituency, which included Neithrop and Grimsbury, remained in the hands of Liberal party members throughout the period, except for some five years from 1859. At first also, after 1835, the new borough council was made up exclusively of reformers, though more of a balance was achieved after a few years. The book deals in some detail with the changes in the political climate, but rather as they affected parliamentary affairs, than those within the council itself. The biggest single effect, as in many other places, was the breaking of the old oligarchic hold on the seat, in the case of Banbury a Tory 'possession' long held in the interests of the North family. The widening of the franchise, and the inclusion in affairs of dissenters for the first time on more or less equal terms, led to a fierce spirit of local patriotism which lasted throughout the period of Banbury as a parliamentary borough. Later, on the re-drawing of constituency boundaries, after 1885, the mix of party ascendancy changed considerably, for the constituency then included the northern parts of the

county as well as the borough. In the fifty years following 1830, however, opinion and society in Banbury were highly polarised, Liberals, dissenters, some commercial interests and Cobb's Bank on one side, the Conservatives, Anglicans, Gillett's Bank and some manufacturing interests on the other.

Working class interests were, until after the time covered by the book, not yet fully organised, but they were beginning to make themselves felt, and Dr. Trinder gives a lively picture of the activities of a multitude of local organisations, such as the Temperance societies and the Mechanics' Institute. This last did much to bring educational and vocational opportunities to the working class, and was an important body with members from many walks of life, so much so, in fact, that the committee more than once worried about the lack of artisans among them. The Friendly Societies, too, were long-established recreation and benefit agencies, and of the local churches, the Primitive Methodists were wholly working class.

Religious affairs in general are well covered in the book, and the personalities and quirks of various leaders stand out. The fifty year period is covered in two chapters, and the picture that emerges is one of sturdy and often abrasive independence of religious views, among which the Anglican Church was but one voice among many. This side of things, as earlier articles by the author have shown, is one of his great interests, and this is reflected in his story here. In general, however, and not only in religious matters, Banbury as a whole appears in the mid-Victorian years to have been a great place for causes, many of them closely related to the Liberal or radical views and interests of its leading citizens. In the case of the Temperance organisations, already mentioned, the very success of this agitation seems in the end to have defeated its own ends, and to have become too narrowly sectarian in character. The Liberal party members in the town tended to dissipate their energies in dissension about what was not a universally approved restriction of personal liberty.

The author's treatment of 'Public Authority and Private Enterprise' (ch.8) is particularly interesting, covering as it does on the one hand the chequered fortunes of the Local Board of Health, and on the other the wealth of private building schemes, and those of Freehold Land Societies, one of which was responsible for a planned building development of several streets in Grimsbury. The Local Board of Health took over the powers of the Paving and Lighting Commissioners, as well as having several new ones of its own, when it was set up in 1852, but though a public authority it was an autonomous body, and not responsible to the Borough Council, albeit four Council members were appointed annually to take part in its work. The turn-over in the Board's personnel was high, and though some of its achievements, such as a network of main sewers, commanded respect, the great expectations as to its performance were not realised. The reasons for this disappointment were in the main twofold: chronic lack of funds to carry out improvements, and the fatal division of

authority already indicated. Both these evils, however, did not afflict only Banbury in the mid 19th century. The constant cry for economy, both in national government and in local affairs, was a particularly Liberal characteristic, as also was the extreme dislike of anything tending to diminish local autonomies, even where it might be obvious that some centralisation would improve matters. In one local case, for instance, Banbury Council Minutes and those of the Watch Committee witness to several attempts made over fifty years from the Home Office, to effect a merger between the Borough and County police forces. But they foundered on the rock of jealously guarded local jurisdiction and independence.

Banbury's economy also receives considerable attention, particularly the mid-Victorian boom of the 1850s and 1860s. Carrier journeys to and from the town were an index of its thriving trading links. Local transport seems from an early period to have been well organised, and it received a great boost from the coming of the railways, but it is the carrier cart traffic which Dr. Trinder specially emphasises. A most useful Table (No. 1) at the end of the book shows that in 1851 Banbury was fifth of a wide ranging list of 44 Midlands market towns, some much larger than Banbury, with 446 such journeys a week. Only Birmingham, Reading, Derby and Leicester had more such journeys; Oxford rated only 290, Nottingham 235, and Shrewsbury 116, to name but a few much more populous places. This one fact serves more than anything to underline the contemporary commercial and agricultural importance of Banbury, and its relation to an extensive surrounding area. The book led, as one might expect, to many improvements in the town and to new building both public and private, and some of the most pleasant buildings still remaining there date from the middle of the century.

The book closes with an account of the decline of Banbury during the 1870s, due in large measure to the parlous state of agriculture in the hinterland, though this decline was not confined to the south midlands. Disasters in the later 1870s culminated in the very bad years 1879 to 1882, which in their turn heralded a protracted period of decline in farming in the area. Between 1874 and 1900, for instance, the county wheat acreage fell by 45%, and the number of sheep kept by over a third. In the long run this benefited cattle farming in the early 1900s, but meanwhile farmers were afflicted by a succession of animal plagues, which affected also neighbouring Northamptonshire. The rural population of the whole area declined steadily through internal migration, but in the 1870s also by considerable emigration to a variety of lands overseas. At the same time, however, an expansion of manufacturing industry in the town began to change its character, and this continued increasingly through the present century, with the usual ups and downs at times of general depression. Though Banbury in the 1870s made considerable contributions in educational and social activities, the picture which Dr. Trinder draws for the decade is one of 'going downhill', as he himself describes it. A sort of general

weariness seems to have succeeded the ferment of change of the previous forty years and the excitement of the boom years of the middle century.

The very fulness and energy of the early and mid-Victorian periods tends to obscure the very sketchy nature of the borough government, and if the present reviewer has any complaint to make about this splendid book it is that Dr. Trinder has not dealt with this particular matter in detail. Historians who have explored 19th century municipal history from the town government angle have presented the reader with a strange picture of chaos and strife, quite unlike the interlocking layers of centralised control of local and national life today, with mainly smooth changes of power at elections. As one writer puts it: 'What did the reform of local government accomplished by the statutes of 1831 [reform of Vestries] and 1835 [Municipal Corporations reform] amount to? The answer is, a great deal in terms of "civil and religious liberty" and egalitarian principle, but almost nothing in terms of day-to-day living. In the municipalities the circle of privilege was drawn much wider and the non-conformists had won near equality. This had important political consequences... But if we regard "reform"... namely, the introduction of more modern or more efficient government, the whig statutes achieved little. Turning the closed corporations into open ones, permitting but not compelling the new corporations to supersede the improvement commissions, and increasing the number of democratic vestries, merely widened the area in which national conflict between whigs and tories, liberals and radicals, could be conducted. It left the basic problems of town management unresolved. Local government was still amateur government, without a coherent policy or expert knowledge'. (cf. Oliver MacDonagh, Early Victorian Government 1830-1870, 1977, pp.126-7). The 1835 Act defined the competence of the new corporations very narrowly, and they even lost the old corporations' powers of management of religious charities, thus losing a potentially considerable source of influence and benefit in their communities. Their only direct obligations related to establishing Watch Committees and some form of paid police: this reflected the climate of a very troubled period.

Banbury suffered all the disadvantages which followed from the drawbacks inherent in the new legislation, and as in some places with a similar boundary problem, these disadvantages were compounded, in that the borough had no direct means of dealing with the rapidly growing hamlet of Neithrop, which tended to become a refuge for bad characters and those escaping justice at the hands of the borough courts and police. Until beyond the period covered by Dr. Trinder's book, the borough council's functions were still, in the main, confined to the judicial ones with which it had started in 1835: Quarter Sessions sittings, weekly petty sessions, the setting up and running of the borough police. Otherwise its business included the running of the borough gaol until its closure in 1852, the supervision of fairs and markets, the collection of a variety of rents, and

the holding of council, watch committee and town meetings, and after 1870, supervising school attendances. It took the Council sixteen years of debates, schemes and proposals, after the condemnation of the gaol by the prison inspectorate, to accept finally that to build a new one was beyond their means, and to adopt, with relief, the proposal put forward by one of the inspectors that they should negotiate with the County justices to send all their prisoners to the county gaol at Oxford.

The income at the disposal of the Council was, indeed, exiguous: the rents already mentioned, certain market dues, small fines from petty sessions or for disallowed encroachments on the highway, rent for a pew in the parish church, and a payment for use of the Town Hall each month by the County Court for the settlement of small debts. These steady items were augmented, as decided upon each quarter by a rate, in the period under review never more than 6d in the £, often less. This rate was ordered to be paid to the Borough Treasurer by the overseers from the poor rate. The Council did not even collect this itself for over fifty years. Two volumes of the Treasurer's Account survive, covering the years from 1836 to 1866, and these reveal that the total annual income, including rates, before 1845 only once reached £1100, up to 1853 it once reached £1250; after that yearly amounts rose to varying sums between £1650 and £1900, only twice reaching £2000. The years of the highest revenues also yielded considerable surpluses over at the end of the accounting period, the highest being £532 in 1861; for some of the years early in the Council's existence there was a deficit at the end of the account. Total expenditure seems to have averaged something in the region of £1000, but there were considerable fluctuations, the highest amount being £1500, and several times about £1350. In the earliest years it was well below £1000. Without a detailed analysis there seems to be no obvious reason for these variations. But even allowing for the then value of money, it was all something of a pinch-penny affair. About 70% or more went on salaries for Recorder, Town Clerk, Magistrates' Clerk, wages for Police Superintendent and Constables, police clothing, and until 1852 gaol expenses, and after that payments to Oxford for the maintenance there of borough prisoners. All these were in some sense judicial expenses, and they were swelled by long lists of payments of the expenses of those who prosecuted cases at the Quarter Sessions, though part of the latter was reclaimed half-yearly from the Treasury. Other expenses included fee farm rents, salaries for the two serjeants at Mace, and for a number of other low paid offices, payments for the repair or running of the town hall, that of Banbury's quota for the building and upkeep of Littlemore Lunatic Asylum, and the pursuing of various petitions in Parliament, including the expenses of deputations to London. Little of this, however, had anything to do with the day-to-day administration of the borough from a local government point of view. The council minutes show, from the lists of bills passed for payment, that the position did not materially change

before 1889.

Banbury Council was one of the many which did not take over the duties of the Paving and Lighting Commissioners after 1835, and these were absorbed by the newly set up Local Board of Health in 1852. This Board carried on its work as an autonomous local authority, dealing with many important matters which nowadays would be the concern of borough, district or metropolitan authorities. Dr. Trinder has discussed the fortunes of the Board. Gas and Water concerns remained in private hands, even after 1889. The borough council was thus for over fifty years left with only judicial, police, market and ceremonial functions. The accent when it came to expenditure, as the accounts indicate, was very much on economy, and this is particularly noticeable in the matter of the salaries paid to various of council officers and the police. All four Police constables, for instance, were still being paid 18 shillings each a week, their pay in 1836, up to April 1864. At that date one man was promoted serjeant and received 3 shillings a week extra. A small rise totalling seven shillings between the four men, was made in May 1866. No accounts survive to show how they fared after this. Then, the basic pay of the two Serjeants at Mace was £10 each per annum in 1836, and in 1889, after the death of one man, the other agreed to do the work of the usual two, for an annual salary of £20, so no rise there at all for over fifty years. Other similar examples could be given. The Council cannot be said to have been profligate. Its one real achievement, beyond the functions described, was the building of the new Town Hall, opened in 1854. The total cost of this was £6094.10s.11d, but to meet the cost the very bottom of the barrel was scraped, and it took several years before that account was closed. As already indicated above, matters changed in 1889 after the Borough boundaries had been much enlarged and the Council had taken over the powers of the Local Board of Health, which then ceased to exist as a separate body. But its new life as a local authority with real powers of administration is outside the scope of these notes.

This notice should not end without a reference to the fifteen Tables compiled by Dr. Trinder (pp.194-211). These elucidate his text at various points and provide figures for all kinds of subjects. Anyone researching into aspects of Banbury's history in the 19th century will be constantly in the author's debt. There are three literary Appendices and a full bibliography of the documentary, newspaper, printed book and official publication sources which he has used or which are germane to his subject. These recapitulate and draw together the very full apparatus of notes to each chapter. Finally, a 9½ page index completes a book which it would be difficult to recommend too highly, not only to historians, but to the general reader interested in the fortunes of Banbury in Victorian times.

P. Renold

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 has also published fifteen records volumes to date. These have included **Banbury Parish Registers** (in six parts: Marriages 1558-1837, Baptisms 1558-1812, Burials 1558-1723); **Banbury Corporation Records: Tudor and Stuart; Banbury Wills and Inventories 1621-1650; A Victorian M.P. and his Constituents: The Correspondence of H.W. Tancred 1841-1860; South Newington Churchwardens' Accounts 1553-1684; Wigginton Constables' Books 1691-1836; and Bodicote Parish Accounts 1700-1822**. Volumes in preparation include **Banbury Wills and Inventories 1591-1620 and 1661-1723; Banbury Burial Register 1723-1812 and Baptisms and Burials 1812-1837**; and an edition of letters to the 1st Earl of Guilford (of Wroxton, father of Lord North the Prime Minister).

Meetings are held during the autumn and winter, normally at 7.30 pm. 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 £6.00 including any records volumes published, or £4.00 if these are excluded.

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

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