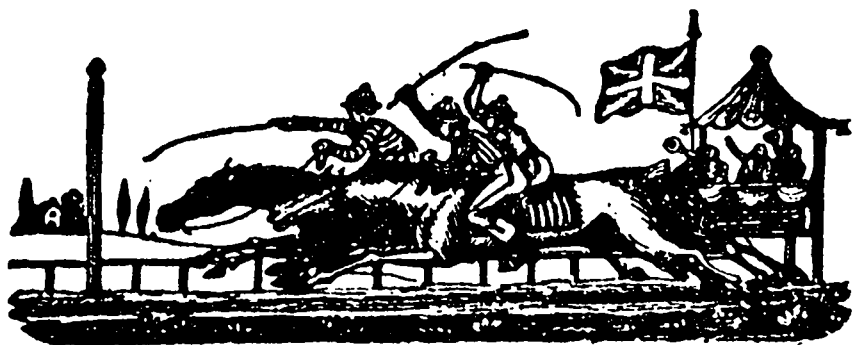


CAKE AND COCKHORSE



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

Cover Picture: Detail from Race Card
for Banbury Races of 1842

Cake and Cockhorse

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

Volume 10

Number 5

Spring 1987

Evelyn Brown-Grant	The Banbury Horse Races, Part III	110
W. Thwaites	Banbury Horse Fairs in the 18th century	120
David E. Allen	Botany and Blood. The Double Life's Work of Professor George Gulliver	126
Jeremy Gibson	This Stinking Smoke	128
Book Reviews	Banbury Tech. 1835-1972 A Brief History by Jane Cowan	132
	Banbury Gaol Records edited by Penelope Renold	133
	Banbury Historical Society Report and Accounts	134
	Banbury Historical Society Accounts	136
	Calling All Hawtins	135

This issue has a distinctly equestrian bias with two articles on the subject. Evelyn Brown-Grant continues her fascinating study of Banbury Horse Races and its effect on the town, both socially and politically. Banbury Horse Sales by W. Thwaites gives another insight into the commercial activity of a market town.

My thanks also go to the other contributors who have provided us with a variety of important and interesting historical articles. Please keep the ideas and articles arriving through my post box.

D.A.H.

THE BANBURY HORSE RACES: PART III

The period between 1830-50 may be regarded as the most energetic, creative and enterprising in the history of Banbury, a period when dramatic changes both political and cultural were to transform many aspects of the social life of the community.

In the words of George Herbert, author of Shoemaker's Window, "Banbury was always a radical place", and it was through the intense zeal and determination of the Liberal, and largely Nonconformist reform party that the town was freed from aristocratic rule in 1832, and finally won the right to govern itself following the Liberal victory in the first elections for the reformed corporation in 1835. Political power now lay with the leaders of a bourgeois Liberal elite who, after the mid-1830s, came to exercise considerable influence in social affairs through a wide range of voluntary educational and recreational associations, established to promote moral and intellectual self-improvement : the Temperance Society and Mechanics' Institute - both of which pioneered the public lecture in Banbury; a circulating library and Reading Room; the Amateur Musical Society, the Choral Society and the Horticultural Society.

In marked contrast to the newly-formed institutions were Banbury's many well-established 'traditional' diversions ; the winter public balls, the theatre, cricket and bowls, election celebrations, the Michaelmas fair and, at the height of the summer season, the 'Club Day' of the working-class Friendly and Benefit Societies with its processions and feasting, the Newland wake and the race meeting. Unfortunately on the festive occasions when the 'roughs' and 'respectables' came into close contact there was always the likelihood of tension and hostility flaring up. Relations between the lower orders and the Banbury middle-class were never more strained than at the wakes and races where working-class revelling and drunkenness could often lead to violence. When in 1843 this occurred at both events, demands for their discontinuation were reported in the local press.

For all the opposition it encountered in this morally conscious age, racing was nevertheless at the height of its popularity, attracting huge assemblies of people drawn not only from the aristocracy, gentry, clergy, and the labouring-class (the latter constituting by far the largest number of attenders), but also many of the middle-class, though its more Puritan-minded members, upholders of Victorian 'genteelity' who abhorred the sport for its rowdiness, vulgarity and misuse of leisure time, preferred to keep their distance. At the lowest end of the social scale were the hundreds of unsavoury and villainous characters who infested the raceground at all but the most exclusive meetings ; the bookmakers, touts, horsedealers, gypsies, prostitutes, passers of dud coin, and those well-known as the 'light-fingered tribe', the thieves and pickpockets who made a lucrative career from travelling the racing

circuits.

In view of their potential as dangerous occasions when drunkenness, turbulence and crime were liable to occur, so tending to undermine social morality and discipline, race meetings inevitably came under attack from a reforming magistracy whose power was given greater impact through the establishment of the new police. Following the Municipal Corporations Act (1835), and the County Police Acts (1839-40), regular police forces were organised in both boroughs and rural areas, and were soon to figure prominently among the crowds at popular festivals and sporting events after the early 1840s.

It must be emphasised that race meetings in the second quarter of the 19th century were still a long way from being the enclosed gate-money events of modern times. The poorer spectators who came on foot paid no entrance money and were free to watch from anywhere around the course or from nearby treetops. But for the purpose of raising extra cash for the prize fund, some race committees were charging fees to the more affluent attenders, not only for the use of the stands as before, but also for viewing the races on horseback and from their carriages.¹

Neither was racing the highly organised sport that exists today. Until the late 1830s standards of conduct and discipline were still deplorably low and clearly needed reform. This was undertaken, after 1836, by Lord George Bentinck, the dominant member of the Jockey Club, who introduced order and regularity into race meetings with the sole aim of improving the sport for the benefit of spectators. He decreed that races should start dead on time; that horses were to be saddled in a designated area in full view of the crowd, and paraded in front of the stands before the start of every race. He introduced race cards in which the number of each horse corresponded with the jockey's name and his master's racing colours: and invented the telegraph board which displayed the runners' numbers in a prominent position on the course. As will be discussed later, there is sound evidence to show that the Bentinck system became incorporated into the organisation of the Banbury races which were revived after a lapse of exactly a decade.

In 1842, the year in which races were held in 141 places of sport in the United Kingdom, Oxfordshire could offer only two One-day meetings, both in the northern part of the county : at Cottisford and Banbury.

After public discussions in the spring, the decision was taken by the promoters to re-introduce the Banbury summer races which, according to the June issue of the Banbury Guardian, were "to take place ... over the former course";² and on July 2nd it was formally announced in the Oxford City and County Chronicle that "The Banbury races, under the auspices of the Right Hon. Visc. Villiers, and T.I. Drake, jun., Esq., stewards, with the able assistance of Mr. E. Stanley,³ clerk of the course, which are fixed to take place on the 9th of August, have created considerable interest in this county, more particularly as it is expected that the Oxford races will be discontinued".⁴

The prospect of the forthcoming event did not, however, meet with unanimous approval from within the community. Already in 1841 when rumours of a revival were probably afloat, a handbill (no doubt expressing local dissenting opinion) was circulated throughout the town urging caution on all classes in the matter of their support.⁵ A year later, shortly before the meeting, outright hostility was openly declared from the pulpit of the Anglican church in a sermon which, according to an article in the OCCC (July 30th) "... was a violent and direct attack upon the promoters of the ensuing Banbury Races, the Dissenters, and Chartist agitators".⁶ Singling out the preacher's first target for comment the Chronicle felt that "As to the races, we may well leave these to be defended by the Committee, the Stewards, and the Secretaries. We do not think the races can be defended on the footing that they will be a pecuniary benefit to the town; on the contrary, we believe that they will prove a loss, only some ten or a dozen individuals being gainers. The races can only be defended as a 'holiday', and it behoves the promoters to take every care that it shall be a holiday, as far as shall be in their power, unalloyed by those disgraceful scenes and practices, common at most races".

Though regarded as a controversial issue in certain quarters, in the eyes of the sporting world Banbury was to take the place of Oxford as the major racing venue in the county during its five consecutive seasons from 1842-46.

As already mentioned this period, when compared to the early 1830s is marked by a noticeable improvement in the standardization of racing practice. To see how this operated at the provincial level we can turn to a rare piece of documentary evidence in the form of a race card (printed by Wm. Potts for the 1842 meeting) which serves as an excellent example of Lord Bentinck's recent innovation. Here clearly set out are the entries distinguished by numbers, the precise starting times, and the saddling and parade regulations etc., drawn up by the clerk of the course to impose order and punctuality throughout the event. (see illustration).⁷ Relying on supplementary information from Weatherby's Racing Calendar it is possible to identify many leading members of the racing fraternity drawn not only from the neighbouring counties, but as far afield as Hertfordshire and Middlesex, their names lending considerable prestige to this provincial meeting. Most prominent among them were Lord Villiers, Lord Warwick, and the famous Isaac Day of Gloucestershire, (misnamed as Mr. J. Day on the card) who raced at major meetings all over the country, including Ascot and Newmarket. Oxfordshire was represented by Abraham T. Rawlinson who kept a superb stud of racing thoroughbreds at Chadlington; as well as several owners from the Banbury locality, viz., W. White of Shotteswell, John Caless, son of a Calthorpe farmer, John Claridge, landlord of the Vine Tavern, and Barnes Austin, brewer.⁸

The first of the revived meetings was by all accounts a success, mingling its own brand of entertainment with that provided by a travelling circus pitched nearby. According to the Northampton Mercury's report (Aug. 13th), "The lists were well filled, and

TO THE
Nobility, Gentry, ~~Clergy,~~ *g*
Agriculturists, Tradesmen, and others,

Resident near to and at the

TOWN OF BANBURY,

Well Wishers ~~of~~ *to* their Fellow Men,

Of the Inhabitants of the Town; and of the Rising Generation in particular.

PAUSE!

of the Before you subscribe ^{to} or promise to support ~~for~~ another year's Races: there is *in the only way* no immediate necessity either to subscribe or promise: ~~the~~ Reflection for Six Months can do no harm, and may help you to a right conclusion in the matter. It truly is a matter for serious consideration by all who wish well to their Fellow Men. *of for*

W. POTTS' CORRECT LIST.

(Under the authority of the Clerk of the Course.)



BANBURY RACES, On Tuesday, August 9th, 1842.

STEWARDS.

THE RIGHT HONOURABLE THE VISCOUNT VILLIERS.
T. T. DRAKE, JUN., ESQ.

FIRST RACE.

The BANBURY STAKES of 10 Sovs. each, 5ft., with 50 Sovs. added.
Two Milcs:—

To start at Half-past Twelve, to the minute.

No.	at lb.	
1.—8	7	Mr. Nightingall's <i>Ajax</i> , (late <i>Nicks</i>), 4 yrs.,... purple and white stripe, OWNEK,
2.—8	9	Mr. F. Clarke's <i>Currycomb</i> 5 yrs lilac, white cap, SLV,
3.—8	7	Mr. S. Scott's <i>Musque</i> , 4 yrs blue and white stp, blue cap, BUTLER,
4.—8	0	Mr. Rawlinson's <i>Chilson</i> , 6 yrs pink, and blk. cap, CATCHPOLE
5.—6	10	Mr. Collins' <i>Rochester</i> , 3 yrs blue, S. DARLING, JUN.,
6.—7	3	Mr. J. Day's <i>Viola</i> , 4 yrs white, and green cap, H. DARLING,
7.—7	10	Mr. Coates' <i>Jolly-boy</i> , by <i>Tom-boy</i> crimson and white, HARDY,
8.—7	10	Mr. J. Day's <i>Science</i> , 6 yrs white, and green cap, dr
9.—7	10	Mr. J. Tilbury's <i>Goblin</i> , aged
10.—6	4	Mr. Lucas's <i>Traitor</i> , 3 yrs
11.—7	9	Lord Villiers' <i>Snowdrop</i> , 4 yrs dr.
12.—6	12	Mr. Rawlinson's <i>Coral</i> , 3 yrs dr.
13.—5	2	Mr. Booth's <i>Benjamin</i> , 6 yrs dr.

SECOND RACE.

The WARDEN HILL STAKES of 5 Sovs. each, with 20 Sovs. added.
Two Miles. Heats:—

To start at One o'Clock, precisely.

1.—10	12	Hon. G. Ungley's ch. c. <i>Humility</i> , 4 yrs cr. body and cap, w. slvs., CALLOWAY,
2.—10	7	Mr. Ekin's br. c. <i>Corsican</i> , 4 yrs crimson, blk cap, FRISBY,
3.—11	1	Mr. Newton's br. m. <i>Lapsing</i> , by Napoleon le Grande, 6 years, white body, crimson sleeves, black cap, BATTEN,
4.—9	7	Mr. Robson's ch. c. by Eberston, 3 yrs blue, and blk. cap, BURNLEY,
5.—10	7	Mr. Bryan's b. g. <i>Protestant</i> , 4 yrs blue,
6.—10	4	Mr. Cowper's b. m. <i>The Mile</i> , 4 yrs blue, and orange cap,
7.—9	4	Mr. Knowles' b. m. <i>The Dart</i> , 3 yrs wht. body, blue slvs. & blk. cap,
8.—9	7	Mr. Wesley's ch. c. <i>Councillor</i> , by Mundig, out of Catchly's dam 3 yrs, dr purple body, white slvs. & blk cap.

Race Card for August 9th 1842

THIRD RACE.

The GRIMSBURY STAKES of 5 Sovs. each, with 25 Sovs. added. One Mile. Heats:—

To start at Half-past Two o'Clock.

No.	St.	lb.	Name	Age	Color	Owner
1.—	8	10	Lord Warwick's br. h. <i>Leporello</i> , 5 yrs.	5	brown and white	BULLOCK.
2.—	7	13	Mr. Coates' Jolly-boy, by Tom-boy, 4 yrs.	4	crimson and white	HARDY.
3.—	6	11	Mr. R. Wood's b. f. <i>Miss Carnaby</i> , by Carnaby, 3 yrs.	3	blue & cr. cap.	
4.—	6	11	Mr. Cheadle's b. g. <i>Waterloo</i> , by The Cardinal, out of a half-bred mare, 3 yrs.	3	dark blue and yellow.	
5.—	8	7	Mr. Stevenson's ch. g. <i>Bounce</i> , by Bolero, 5 yrs.	5	blue and blk. cap.	DREWITT.
6.—	8	1	Mr. Bryan's br. g. <i>Protestant</i> , half-bred, 4 yrs.	4	blue.	DARLING.

FOURTH RACE.

The HURDLE RACE STAKES of 5 Sovs. each, with 20 Sovs. added. One Mile and a Half. Heats. Five Leaps.

To start at a Quarter past Four o'Clock.

No.	St.	lb.	Name	Age	Color	Owner
1.—	11	12	Mr. Stevenson's ch. g. <i>True Blue</i> , by <i>Argyle</i> , aged	aged	blue, and blk. cap.	FARMER.
2.—	11	12	Mr. Ekin's b. m. <i>Daenna</i> , aged	aged	crimson, and blk. cap.	FARMER.
3.—	11	12	Mr. Hollin's ch. h. <i>Droopman</i> , (late <i>Contentment</i>), 6 yrs.	6	white and blk. cap.	HENDERSON.
4.—	11	12	Mr. Coates' gr. m. <i>Alice Gray</i> , aged	aged	crimson and white.	HORLEY.
5.—	11	7	Mr. Hobby's ch. g. by <i>Belshazzar</i> , out of <i>Jenny Sutton</i> , 4 yrs.	4	blue.	HUNT.
6.—	11	12	Mr. Robbins' b. g. <i>Single Peep</i> , aged	aged	orange & purple, & blk. cap.	NEWBY.
7.—	11	12	Mr. Lamplough's ch. h. <i>Birthday</i> , aged	aged	blue, and blk. cap.	OWNER.
8.—	11	12	Mr. B. Austin's b. m. <i>Hellora</i> , 0 yr.	0	blue, and blk. cap.	
9.—	11	13	Mr. Westley's br. g. <i>White Stocking</i> , aged	aged	purple body, white legs, & blk. cap.	

FIFTH RACE.

A SWEEPSTAKES of 2 Sovs. each, with 10 Sovs. added:—

To start at Half-past Five o'Clock.

No.	St.	lb.	Name	Age	Color	Owner
1.—	11	0	Mr. B. Austin's g. m. <i>The Banbury Lass</i> , by Fitz Orville, 6 yrs.	6	blue & blk. cap.	RANDALL.
2.—	11	0	Mr. John Caless' b. m. <i>Bounceaway</i> , 4 yrs.	4	mezzarine blue & blk. cap.	LEWING.
3.—	11	0	Mr. W. White's b. h. <i>Finn</i> , aged	aged	yellow, purple, & orange cap.	OWNER.
4.—	11	0	Mr. J. Clerridge's ch. m. <i>Ladybird</i> , 6 yrs	6	blk. body, yellow legs & blk. cap.	OWNER.
5.—	11	10	Mr. Cowper's b. h. <i>Multum-in-Parvo</i> , (late <i>Protection</i>), by <i>Delaware</i> , dam by Hedley		blue, and blk. cap.	ROBT.
6.—	11	0	Mr. T. Perridge's b. <i>Black Jack</i>		blue, and crimson cap.	

The Stewards' Ordinary will be at the White Lion Hotel. There will also be Ordinaries at the other Inns.

Admission to the Course—Every Riding Horse, 1s.; Gigs, 1s. 6d.; Four-wheel Carriages, 2s. 6d. Admission to the Betting Stand, 3s.; Treasurer's Stand, 2s.

*. The Winner of each race will be Telegraphed according to the number on the Card.

All DOGS found on the Course will be Destroyed.

No person will be allowed to enter the Race Ground after the Bell has rung the second time, or to cross the Course, until the Race be finished.

The Horses to be Saddled before Treasurer's Stand, and Walk & Canter once before the same.

All disputes to be determined by the Stewards, or whom they may appoint.

E. STANLEY, Veterinary Surgeon, Clerk of the Course.

Printed and sold by W. FOITS, Parson's Street; sold also by all the other Printers in Baubury.

the fields in which the races took place were crowded with booths and stalls of all kinds, besides shows etc., ... The whole affair seemed to give general satisfaction to those present, and everything passed off most peaceably. The races over, an immense number of persons adjourned to the circus, where they were gratified by a first-rate performance by Mr. Batty's company of equestrians and other performers".⁹ As reported in the Oxford Journal (Aug. 13th) the course was later taken over for some informal sport: "Several pony races and a hurdle race came off on Wednesday to amuse those persons who were left in the town". Praise was bestowed on "...those who had the management of the races throughout for the able manner in which they performed their several offices". Thanks to their efforts earlier fears of 'disgraceful scenes' had thus been allayed, though they were to be more than fully realised at next year's event which, as it finally turned out, ended in disaster.

The 1843 meeting, under the stewardship of Lieut. Col. North and William Collins, M.P.,¹⁰ was held on August 8th. The programme consisted of six stakes races, a gift of 50 sovereigns being added to the fourth race, the Neithrop stakes, by H.W. Tancred, Banbury's MP.

This season saw some fine new improvements to the facilities provided for the higher-class spectator, which included two grandstands: one for the race committee (erected at their expense) beneath which a refreshments booth was let to two local publicans; Charles Page of the Flying Horse, and John Hunt of the Unicorn, each being a subscriber of one guinea to the race fund; and Treacher's stand recently purchased by the committee who "... had it put into substantial repair and elegantly fitted up for the accommodation of the Public".¹¹ The stewards' ordinary was prepared by C.W. Fowler, landlord of the Red Lion Hotel. Amenities catering to the lower ranks were, according to George Herbert, of a more rough-and-ready nature. In one of his anecdotes he recalls that "There was one curious custom which I can scarcely understand now. It was this: there was always a low set of people near the bridge, called Waterloo, and at these races they always were allowed to sell beer without any licence by cutting a bough from a tree and placing it over the door. They did this also at Newland wake. But the magistrates were not so particular at this time, as anyone who sold liquor or beer could erect a booth at the races and sell, and no notice given or received, although it was in another county!"¹² [i.e. Northants].

In the opinion of the Banbury Guardian (August 10th) the 1843 season had "... bought on another and a better meeting of the Banbury 'revival' The course presented an extraordinary appearance; thousands of well-dressed persons were congregated there and all kinds of noises met the ear...", not to mention the music of the gypsies - "those constant frequenters, the continental women, one armed with a spinetto, and the other with a tambourine" As to the arrangements on the course, these were considered to be a great improvement over the previous year. Tribute was paid to the efficiency of "a detachment of the rural police of Northamptonshire" in keeping the course clear of spectators and maintaining order ;¹³

and to Mr. H.A. Dalby, timber merchant who "...unsolicited, made an excellent road-way over the mill-stream..." to allow easier access for pedestrians approaching the ground from the town (in fact a repeat of the temporary bridge he had constructed for the 1842 meeting. As in the previous year also, there was more than just the racing, additional amusement being provided by Mr. Wright's travelling menagerie.

As far as the conduct of the event was concerned this came in for some eulogistic comment from the sporting paper, Bell's Life in London, in its report on August 13th : "Banbury has the credit of having its races managed in a style which would reflect credit on some more important places. The course was admirably kept, the starts were good and there was no tedious delay between the races... Taken altogether, we should say there have been few pleasanter day's sport throughout the season".

The meeting was, however, not without its misadventures. From the Oxford Journal (August 12th) it was learned that a spectator perched up in a high tree the better to view the races, fell down branch and all into some water below, injuring his ankle; and Mr. A.B. Rye, a Banbury surgeon had two bones in his foot broken by the fall of his mount on the course. Sport continued over into the following day when several matches were run for by local townsmen, one of whom was the local builder, Richard Claridge, who broke his leg. The Northampton Herald was alone in reporting (Sept. 2nd) an incident involving a pickpocket who stole "...a reticule with green tassels and its contents...", from a lady inside a carriage during the first race. He was chased and later apprehended by George Morgan, Constable of Kings Sutton.

Sadly, and much to the town's horror and dismay, this season's meeting deteriorated into a state of rampant disorder after many hours of heavy drinking and all night dancing on the part of the rougher element, finally ending in a riot. It appeared that on the evening of August 9th the Northamptonshire police, in trying to prevent a fight, were attacked with stones by a furious mob and forced to retire after sustaining serious injuries. The affair was recorded by George Herbert in his own personal version as follows: "There used to be races held here in the Mill Meadows, and I recollect at one of these some rioting took place. I was there, but not amongst it. It thundered and lightened fearfully, and the rain came in torrents, and as I had a dry place in one of the booths, I kept my berth, but I saw the people rushing about and scuffling, but did not know what it all meant until the next day.... Some of the parties connected were had up after the rioting and sent to gaol".¹⁴

The truth of the story was that the race committee offered a reward of £3 for information leading to the apprehension of the rioters, though it was over two weeks before any arrests were made. On August 26th fifteen men were detained in Banbury gaol until the 28th when they were taken to appear before the magistrates at the Brackley Petty Sessions. From the Northampton Herald's report (Sept. 2nd) it transpired that certain highly critical observations

were made by the magistrates, both during and after the hearing ;
".. it seemed to be their opinion, that the night scenes....
witnessed on the Banbury ground within the booths after the races
on the last day were most unusual and disgraceful, and such as would
make races so conducted quite a nuisance to the neighbourhood...
They considered, moreover that, as at other provincial towns, the
assemblage on the course should have ceased with the races, and
that no booths should have provided refreshments and excitements
after the racing had been concluded for the day. On the whole, they
attributed the chief evils complained of to a repetition of the
racing on the second day. Indeed, if the second day's racing...
be not completely abandonedthe Banbury races ought for the
future to be discontinued altogether".

Evelyn Brown-Grant.

to be concluded

Footnotes

1. See the scale of admission fees in the 1842 race card, as illustrated.
2. It was not until 1844 that the course was first referred to as being situated "... in the usual place ... adjoining the town on the Northamptonshire side of the river Cherwell" (Oxford Chronicle, 10 August).
3. Viscount George Villiers of Upton House, Warwicks., eldest son of the fifth Earl of Jersey who maintained a select thoroughbred stud at Middleton Stoney, Oxon. Captain of F Troop of the Oxon. Yeomanry Cavalry; M.P. for Cirencester from 1844-52.
Thomas Tyrwhitt Drake of Shardeloes, Bucks., eldest son of T.I. Drake of Bucknell House (nr. Bicester); succeeded his father as Master of the Bicester and Warden Hill Hunt in 1851. Highly respected as a farmer, sportsman and consummate judge of horses and hounds.
Edward Stanley, veterinary surgeon of Banbury who ran an animal infirmary, livery stables and shoeing forge on the Green, near Horse Fair. Clerke of the course from 1842-6.
4. Racing at Oxford was suspended until 1848.
5. Potts' Collection : 1841 (no. 64). Banbury Public Library.
6. The Established Church was a staunch supporter of political Conservatism in Banbury. Since the vicar, T.W. Lancaster rarely came to take the services, this sermon was probably given by the resident curate Thomas Mardon.
7. Race card : Accession no. 990.71.14. Banbury Museum.
8. Barnes Austin of South Bar Street, son of the prosperous brewer Richard Austin, who died in 1840. According to George Herbert, he spent most of his inherited wealth on breeding and training racehorses. "He made a race-course upon his own property at Bodicote --- and had a jockey of his own, but never did any good at this business. He carried on this for years but I never

Footnotes (contd.)

heard of his winning anything of importance". (Shoemakers Window, p.117).

His racing record, however, shows that he was a winner at Cottisford and Bromsgrove in 1843; at Hungerford, Warwick and Banbury in 1844; at Peckham, Surrey and Banbury in 1845; and at Coventry and Shrewsbury in 1847. His successes were due to a number of first-rate hired jockeys, notably King, Calloway and Wakefield.

Early racing colours : blue, and black cap; adopted pink and white stripe, black cap in 1849.

9. George Herbert notes that on the wasteland next to H.A. Dalby's timber yard near the bridge, "... the visiting circuses used to erect their buildings of wood for their horsemanship, one of which was the name of Battey [sic] ...", whose leading equestrian was his son-in-law, Hughes, the son of a Banbury umbrella repairman in Broad St. (Ibid., p.115).
10. John Sydney Doyle, who married Baroness North of Wroxton Abbey, assumed his wife's surname in 1838. He lent his prestige to many social activities in Banbury, eg., the Agricultural and Conservative Associations, and the race meetings. William Collins of Warwick, tanner, radical reformer and racing enthusiast. M.P. for Warwick from 1837-52.
11. Banbury Guardian (August 3rd). The grandstand, built by John Treacher of the Swan and Castle Inn, Buckingham, was hired out from the early 1830s to various race meetings, eg. Newport, St. Albans, Oxford, Abingdon, Cottisford, and (in 1842) Banbury (see race card). It was auctioned after Treacher's death in 1842, and again in May 1843 after the Winslow races, when it was described as a portable stand with seating for 500 in the gallery, refreshment rooms below; a bar, betting booths, jockeys' weighing room, and a carriage for easy transport.
12. Shoemaker's Window, p.114.
13. The racecourse came under the authority of the Brackley division of the Northants. County Constabulary which had been formed in 1840. On this occasion the force on duty consisted of Superintendent C.W. Tinkler and four constables.
14. Shoemaker's Window, p.114.

BANBURY HORSE FAIRS IN THE 18th CENTURY

Among the records of the Borough of Banbury deposited in the Oxfordshire Record Office is a 'Toll Book for the Sale of Horses'.¹ The book relates solely to sales at fairs and covers the period between 1753 and 1767 with two isolated references for 1825 and 1826. The book was kept in conformity with the terms of two Acts of Parliament, An Acte agaynst the byeng of stolen Horses 2 and 3 Philip and Mary c VII 1555 and An Acte to avoyde Horse stealinge 31 Elizabeth c XII 1588-9.² These acts specified that horses should be sold at one particular place in any fair or market and required the toll gatherer to keep a record of the name, occupation and place of residence of the buyers and sellers, and if the seller were unknown to him, of a voucher or witness to the seller's honesty. The toll gatherer was also expected to note the price paid for the horse and a description of its appearance.

In 1768 the right to collect the tolls was leased to John Grimes, who was expected to continue to keep a toll book and return it to the Town Clerk. If Grimes did obey the requirement the book has failed to survive. It also seems most unlikely that the sales listed between 1753 and 1767 can be a full account of the horse trade at Banbury fairs. Horse sales were recorded at Banbury's Twelfth, Fish, Holy Thursday, Corpus Christi, Lammas Day, Mop and St. Luke's fairs. The first five were notable for horses and a reference from 1834 illustrates the considerable trade at the Twelfth Fair:

Banbury Twelfth Fair for horses &c commenced on Monday last, and although there have been more horses known to attend on former occasions, there was still a very good show - say 4 or 500.³

However, the greatest number of transactions recorded at one fair in the Toll Book is twenty-four at the Corpus Christi Fair in 1754. Frequently and especially from the late 1750s only one or two sales were recorded.

There are two possible explanations for the low level of returns. Firstly, the records may simply have been kept in a rather haphazard way. In particular little care may have been taken to note transactions involving well-known and obviously respectable local people.⁴ Secondly, it is likely that much of the horse dealing in Banbury, even on fair days, was conducted privately, not under the supervision of the authorities. Much of the private dealing would have been informal but as the 18th century progressed it began to develop a considerable measure of organisation. In 1788, for example, Jackson's Oxford Journal reported:

REPOSITORY for the Sale of HORSES WHITE LION INN,
BANBURY, Oxfordshire.

JAMES BEVAN at the above Inn begs leave to inform the Publick, that he has opened a REPOSITORY for the Sale of HORSES, either by Hand or by Auction.

The first Sale to be on Thursday next the 24th Instant, and to continue, every Fortnight from that Day, and also on every Fair Day.⁵

Two other problems reduce the value of the records. Firstly, although most places can be identified without difficulty, place names seem often to have been written down as they were pronounced with the result that the identity of a number of towns and villages is unclear. For example, Strainarily can only be identified as Stratton Audley because Francis Bedwin from the village attended the fairs on a number of occasions and the name is later much clearer. Secondly, and more unfortunately, occupations were seldom recorded.

Nevertheless a great deal can be learned from the records both about the horse trade and about the clientèle and market areas of Banbury fairs. A typical reference would run as follows:

George Paull of Hinckley Co. of Leicester
sold to Tho. Rogers of South Newton (Newington)
Co. of Oxon a Chesnuts Mare Blaze & two white
heels--- Ps 8/0/0
Vo. Henery Tawney of the Parish of Estnor
(Eastnor) Co. of Hereford

The fullest description of a horse would include its sex, age, height, colour plus any distinguishing marks, and price. However, often only the sex, colour and price were given. Throughout the period 1753-1767 the largest single category of horses sold was mares with 100 sales noted. Seventy-four geldings, fifty-nine horses, fifteen colts and five fillies were also recorded. The prices ranged from 10s.6d. for a black horse to £17 for a black gelding. However, 89.9 per cent of horses cost between £3.0s.1d. and £12 and narrowing the band further 64.4 per cent cost between £4.0s.1d and £9.⁶ Dr. Peter Edwards suggests that in the late 17th century £8 was a fairly high figure to pay for a horse⁷ and interestingly at Banbury in the middle of the next century 63.5 per cent of horses still cost £8 or less. However, Dr. Edwards in another study of the horse trade indicates that at the end of the Stuart period, 'packhorses cost less than £4, whilst race horses sold at Penkridge could command prices as high as 150 guineas'.⁸ The fact that at Banbury the range of prices is a limited one is therefore revealing. It indicates that even though the town's fairs were noted for horses they were often selling what Dr. Edwards calls 'rather ordinary all-purpose animals to an indiscriminating local clientèle.'⁹

The letters of the Purefoy family bear out this point, illustrating the sort of functions many of the horses sold at Banbury would have had. In 1739 Henry Purefoy purchased a horse at Banbury fair from a farrier from Shipston on Stour. Being satisfied with the purchase he wrote to the farrier to request him to find 'a strong black mare for a servant to ride & to draw in the cart if occasion be'.¹⁰ In the same year Henry wrote to William Holloway to complain that a horse he had recommended at Banbury fair was going

blind even though she 'has never been used above 4 or 5 days here & that only to walk to plough ...' ¹¹ Henry's experiences also indicate the hazards involved in purchasing horses and doubtless help to explain why vendors in the Toll Book occasionally warranted a horse to be sound.

If some of the horses had a more specific function the Toll Book is not forthcoming about this, although one mare is specified as a cart mare and a London buyer paid £31.10s.0d. for two cart geldings. It is possible that some of the mares would have been for breeding purposes. Dr. Edwards suggests that a pattern could be observed at fairs like Warwick and Stratford-Upon-Avon, with horses and geldings sold into the felden areas of Warwickshire and Northamptonshire and young stock for rearing and mares for breeding into the wood-pasture areas of Warwickshire and Worcestershire.¹² There are perhaps glimpses of a comparable pattern in the Banbury Toll Book. For example, purchasers from a group of parishes between Shipston on Stour and Rowington in Warwickshire bought mares alone. Further research on the occupations of buyers and sellers and on the agricultural and industrial preoccupations of the areas into which different types of stock were sold might provide more evidence to show when horses were being traded for specific rather than general purposes.

An analysis of the clientèle of the fairs is made much more difficult by the omission of occupations. Where these are given they are varied. In 1757 the postmaster of Banbury sold a gelding. In 1766 a dealer from Leighton Buzzard sold a mare to a yeoman from Shutford with a yeoman from Heath and Reach near Leighton as witness. In 1767 a dealer and chapman from Shipston on Stour sold a flea-bitten gelding to a dealer in earthenware from Kent and the witness was a victualler from Banbury. The same dealer in earthenware also bought a second gelding from a dealer from Llandrindod Wells in Radnor and the witness was a labourer from Banbury. Finally, in 1825 the transaction was between two farmers and in 1826 between a horsedealer and a dealer and chapman. In addition one seller, two buyers and one witness gave their place of residence as 'mill' at Bloxham, Swalcliffe, Milcombe and Somerton respectively.

Although occupations are given in only these few cases it is probably a good sample of the occupational groupings most usually represented. Other sources tend to back up this picture of farmers and tradesmen from the locality, horse dealers from throughout the country plus a handful of those like the dealer in earthenware who would have been attending the fairs primarily for the sale and purchase of other commodities.¹³ Thus, Henry Cross of Withycombe who sold a black mare at the Twelfth Fair in 1754 turns up in the records of the North family as tenant of Withycombe farm between Wroxton and Banbury.¹⁴ William Leaver, who appears in the Toll Book as buyer and witness occurs in the Baptism Register of Banbury as a horse dealer.¹⁵

Against the name of William Leaver in the Toll Book is the word 'Roauge', leaving us in little doubt of the opinion of one Toll keeper on this particular dealer. However, Dr. Péter Edwards, who

has worked extensively on the horse trade, feels that 'the persons who stand out from the pages of the toll books appear ... to be working honestly and with the respect of the officials with whom they came into contact at fairs.'¹⁶ Certainly when a family survived in the horse trade over several generations there has to be a presumption that its members were basically honest. A number of the horse trading families which Dr. Edwards has located at various fairs during the 17th century were still in business at the time of the Banbury Toll Book in the mid 18th. For example, Dr. Edwards records:

Several members of the Walker family of Newport, Shropshire, traded at Derby, Bridgnorth, Dudley and Kidderminster at the turn of the Seventeenth century, whilst later records of Bridgnorth, Banbury and Sutton Coldfield fairs indicated that their involvement continued into the second half of the eighteenth century.¹⁷

'Thomas Ledukul of Forsell Co Warwick' appears as a witness for Robert Walker at the Holy Thursday fair in 1757. Other references suggest that this was actually Thomas Lydell of Foleshill and a member of another notable family of dealers the Liddells. This therefore supports Dr. Edwards' comment that many of the dealers knew each other well and were indeed part of an interconnected trading community.¹⁸ Dr. Edwards also locates certain areas as notable for dealers, the Bedworth area of Warwickshire, for example, where horse dealing probably developed in response to the need for horses in the mining and transport of coal.¹⁹ Foleshill is between Bedworth, where Dr. Edwards locates the Liddells in the late 17th century,²⁰ and Coventry. In the Banbury records when Thomas Lydell sold a horse to Francis Bedwin²¹ one Robert Burows of Coventry was his witness. Robert Burows also sold a horse with Thomas Griswold of Stivichall, south of Coventry, as his witness. Later Thomas 'Grisell' appeared as a witness for George Paul of Hinckley, whose frequent appearances at the fairs indicate that we are looking at another dealer. It is not possible that 'Grisell' is from another of Dr. Edwards' horse-dealing families the Frizwells. Certainly a Thomas Friswell of Bedworth can be found in the Banbury records as seller of a mare.

Another area which may have had a community of dealers is that around Stow-on-the-Wold and Moreton in the Marsh in Gloucestershire. Another Thomas Lydall, this time from Moreton, is named as witness for a seller from Tewkesbury. Joseph Kene of Keen from Maugersbury next to Stow-on-the-Wold sold horses regularly suggesting that he too was probably a dealer. Simon Spencer from Pershore, Worcestershire, also sold horses regularly. One witness for Spencer was Thomas Merriman from Stow.

Doubtless there were other dealers and dealer families at Banbury fairs. One example is the Pilkington family from Shipston on Stour, whom Dr. Edwards has also found in the records of Sutton Coldfield fair.²² Daniel Davis from Llandoverly, who was a witness when Thomas Daniel of Iregaron sold a horse at Oxford in 1738²³, turns

up at Banbury as both witness and seller, as does one Evan Danille, also of Llandoverly, as a seller.

Turning to the distances which individuals travelled to Banbury's horse fairs, it is clear that the fairs attracted buyers and sellers from a wide area of Central, Southern and Western England, up to 120 miles from the town.²⁴ Individuals came from Batcombe in Dorset and Wells in Somerset in the south west through to Hayes in Kent in the south east; from Caernarvonshire in Wales to Soham in East Anglia; from Newport, Shropshire in the north to Boxgrove, Sussex in the south. However, it is important to remember that the local clientèle was still likely to dominate, even at the Twelfth Fair. An analysis of the transactions at the Corpus Christi Fair in 1754 is revealing. Twenty-four deals were recorded which gives seventy-two places counting the witnesses as well as buyers and sellers.²⁵ Sixty-nine places have been identified. 29 per cent of these were within five miles of Banbury (including Banbury itself); 52.2 per cent were between five and twenty miles of Banbury; 14.5 per cent were between twenty and fifty miles of Banbury and only 4.3 per cent were over fifty miles away. Interestingly on this occasion all of the buyers lived within twenty miles of Banbury whereas 39.1 per cent of sellers and 16.7 per cent of witnesses travelled over twenty-five miles. This was not always the pattern, however, as this particular fair failed to draw anyone from the southern counties from Berkshire southwards, almost all of whom attended as purchasers.²⁶

In conclusion, Banbury's horse fairs were clearly of central importance to the local community, a majority of the towns and villages within fifteen miles of Banbury having at least one representative in the Toll Book. It is noticeable that many of those travelling further than fifteen miles appear to have been from towns and villages on or adjacent to major roads. Those travelling the furthest distances seem, when identified, to have been dealers. Most usually those would have been dealers in horses but doubtless others, the dealer in earthenware for example, would have been at the fairs primarily to trade in other commodities.²⁷

Horse toll books are an interesting source. Although I have examined several aspects of the information in the Banbury Toll Book I have in some ways scratched the surface. Many more of the buyers, sellers and witnesses could be identified and it might prove possible to establish the connections between sellers and witnesses. There may have been variations in average prices from fair to fair throughout the year and from year to year.²⁸ I have already suggested that more research might give a better picture of the functions of the horses traded at Banbury. For the historian of Banbury and its fairs there is therefore still much to explore.

W. Thwaites.

Footnotes

1. 'Toll Book for the Sale of Horses, 1753-1826', O.R.O., BB. VIII/vii/1.
2. The Statutes of the Realm, Vol IV, part I, pp.283-284; part II, pp.810-811,(1819)
3. Jackson's Oxford Journal (J.O.J.)- 25 January 1834.
4. According to Dr. P.R. Edwards part of the reason that toll books would not have reflected the full scale of operations is that burgesses were usually exempt from payment of toll. 'The horse trade in the Midlands in the seventeenth century', Agricultural History Review, Vol.27, part II (1979), p.90. The Banbury Toll Book includes two cases of refusal to pay toll, which may suggest that at Banbury those exempt from toll payments did not have their transactions recorded. However, the Statutes seem to suggest that transactions should have been noted even when market tolls were not due.
5. J.O.J. 19 July 1788.
6. The total number of prices which are clear is 208. Sometimes prices are not given because one horse was exchanged for another.
7. P.R.Edwards, loc. cit., p.94.
8. P.R.Edwards, 'The horse trade in Tudor and Stuart England'. in F.M.L. Thompson (Ed) Horses in European economic history; a preliminary canter. (1983). p.129.
9. *Ibid.*, p.126.
- 10.G.Eland (Ed) Purefoy Letters 1735-1753, (1931), p.171.
- 11.*Ibid.* p.170.
- 12.P.R.Edwards, loc. cit., p.96.
- 13.It is possible that the witnesses may sometimes have been attending the fairs primarily as dealers in other commodities.
- 14.'Letters from Stewards of Estates 1. 1713-1764', Bodl. MS North d 2, p.105.
- 15.J.S.W.Gibson(Ed), Baptism Register of Banbury, Oxfordshire, part three, 1723-1812 Banbury Historical Society Vol.16, (1978), p.184.
- 16.P.R.Edwards in F.M.L. Thompson (Ed), *op.cit.*, p.114.
- 17.This is a reference from Dr. P.R.Edwards' forthcoming book on the horse trade in the Tudor and Stuart period, to appear in C.U.P., 1987. I am indebted to Dr. Edwards for this reference.
- 18.P.R.Edwards in F.M.L. Thompson (Ed), *op.cit.*, p.115.
- 19.P.R.Edwards, loc.cit., p.92.
- 20.*Ibid.*, p.97.
- 21.Francis Bedwin was a regular buyer and it would be interesting to know his occupation.
- 22.I am indebted to Dr. Edwards for this reference.
- 23.'Toll Book for the Sale of Horses, 1673-1745', Oxford City Archives, F.4.4.
24. A. Everitt suggests that a 'national fair area' was over 75 miles from a town. He also includes Banbury among a group of town whose fairs were of central importance for the dispersal of riding and blood horses and cart horses, in the 16th and early 17th centuries. A. Everitt, 'The marketing of agricultural produce,' in J. Hirst (Ed), The agrarian history of England and Wales, Vol.IV 1500-1640, (1967), pp. 537; 535.
- 25.I have included a place every time it is mentioned even if the sale involves the same individual.
- 26.According to Dr. Edwards 'The main flow of horses ... moved in a southerly and south-easterly direction with the pull of London being especially strong.' P.R. Edwards, in F.M.L. Thompson, *op.cit.*, p.130. For a full list of places mentioned in the Toll Book and maps see W. Thwaites, 'The marketing of agricultural produce in eighteenth century Oxfordshire', Unpublished Ph.d. thesis, University of Birmingham (1980), pp. 363-369. The lists and maps contain very occasional inaccuracies which emerged while revising the chapter.
- 27.According to Dr. J. Chartres a trade involving horses naturally led to trading in horses. J.A. Chartres, 'Road carrying in England in the seventeenth century; Myth and reality', Economic History Review, 2nd Ser., XXX (1977), p.82.
- 28.I am indebted to Dr. Edwards for drawing my attention to the question of price fluctuations.

BOTANY AND BLOOD : THE DOUBLE LIFE'S
WORK OF PROFESSOR GEORGE GULLIVER

Considering he is one of the select few of Banbury's sons to have made the Dictionary of National Biography, it is surprising that George Gulliver is not better known to local historians. To most, indeed, he is probably no more than a name at best. He deserves, however, to be remembered, if only for having made significant contributions to knowledge in two quite unrelated scientific fields.

Born in Banbury on 5th June 1804, he was the third son of a local grocer, Samuel Gulliver, who appears in the 1798 directory as one of that year's Overseers of the Poor. Samuel and his wife Mary were Presbyterians, but as the minister of the Banbury congregation was not licensed to perform baptisms the children had to be taken to Bloxham for that purpose. The surname can be traced back in local records to the seventeenth century if not earlier, and it is interesting to recall in that connection that Jonathan Swift is reputed to have stayed in Banbury in the 1720s and to have taken the name for the hero of his famous satire from a tomb in its churchyard.

George was schooled under the Rev. William Woolston of Adderbury and, evidently proving bright, was then apprenticed to two local surgeons, Messrs. Jones and Wise. After serving his term with them, he went to St. Bartholomew's Hospital in London to broaden his experience, in due course becoming prosector to the eminent surgeon and anatomist John Abernethy as well as dresser to Sir William Lawrence. Election as a Member of the Royal College of Surgeons, the gateway to practice, came in June 1826 and a year after that he entered the army as a hospital assistant. Two years later the next rung of the ladder was climbed with a move to the Highland Light Infantry as an assistant surgeon. For much of the decade that followed he found himself stationed at Chatham, where he was given charge of the Army Medical Museum at Fort Pitt. Then eventually, in 1843, he gained admittance to a much smarter regiment, the Royal Horse Guards, rising in the course of time to the rank of full surgeon.

It was at that point, in a career that had so far been smooth to the point of dullness, that a calamity occurred, when he had the misfortune - or ill judgement - to be in professional attendance at a duel at which one of the parties was killed. This resulted in his being arrested and put on trial at the Old Bailey accused of being an accomplice to murder. Though he was acquitted, the publicity clearly did his reputation no good, and when, shortly afterwards, the Royal College of Surgeons elected him as one of its 300 initial Fellows, this was not without some protests from the higher and stuffer ranks of the Army Medical Service. Evidently, however, he lived that episode down, for from 1852 to 1864 the College of Surgeons was to rate him highly enough to elect him to its Council and in 1863 to do him the special honour of inviting him

to deliver that year's Hunterian Oration.

By that time he had won considerable renown for the extensive research he had done on blood. The first to provide detailed observations and measurements on the shape and structure of the red corpuscles (in man as well as many other vertebrates), he had made sufficient discoveries of value to earn the much-coveted Fellowship of the Royal Society as early as 1839. Twenty-two years later, in 1861, they also brought him the even greater plum of the Hunterian Chair of Comparative Anatomy and Physiology. In pioneering the study of the relationship between cholesterol and clotting, he would appear indeed to be the father of the present-day régime for avoiding coronaries.

At the early age of 48 he retired from the army, and some time afterwards went to live in Canterbury. There a youthful interest in botany presently resurfaced. Throughout his teens he had been a passionate hunter after plants (a passion which often accompanied a medical training at that period) and, very belatedly, in 1841, that seven years of fieldwork had eventually found its due embodiment in print, under the title of A Catalogue of Plants Collected in the Neighbourhood of Banbury. The Town's earliest local Flora, this ran to some 420 species of flowering plants and ferns together with 140 fungi, 72 lichens and 40 mosses and liverworts - impressive totals, and an impressively wide coverage, for one so young. About 90 of the flowering plants and ferns were first records for the then little-explored county of Northamptonshire and several as well for far better-known Oxfordshire.

By the time of his retirement, after so many years of immersion in human anatomy and physiology professionally, his botanical interests had not unexpectedly shifted in those directions as well. Consequently his published contributions on that subject (all of them papers in learned journals, for he never rose to the authorship of a book or attempted anything more popular in character) were now on topics like the nerves of the leaves of mosses, the separation of species by the size of their pollen grains and the nature of the tiny crystals, or raphides, found in the cells of many plants - all topics which testify to a great deal of patient peering down a microscope.

The final years were marred by his gradual enfeeblement by gout, many of his scientific writings being produced while he was confined to his bed. His death occurred on 17th November 1882 and he was buried in Nackington Cemetery, near Canterbury. Among his papers he is said to have left a privately-printed document bearing the title Gulliveriana ; an Autobiography including Brief Notices of Some of his Contemporaries; no one, however, seems to have been able to gain a sight of it - perhaps because of its partly libellous character. At some time, probably during his early army years, his historically valuable herbarium, presumably full of specimens from the Banbury area collected in those immediately post-Napoleonic years, was presented to Chatham and Rochester Literary Institution. No more, alas, has been heard of it since.

David E. Allen

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'THIS STINKING SMOKE'

It was (and, I suppose, is) 'a branch of the sin of drunkenness, which is the root of all sins... A custom loathsome to the eye, hateful to the nose, harmful to the brain, dangerous to the lungs, and in the black, stinking fume thereof, nearest resembling the horrible Stygian smoke of the pit that is bottomless... Herin is not only a great vanity, but a sweet contempt of God's good gifts, that the sweetness of man's breath, being a good gift of God, should be wilfully corrupted by this stinking smoke.'

Or to put it in the words of the 1980s, 'Danger: Government Health Warning: [smoking tobacco] can seriously damage your health'.

But it can even more seriously damage the government's income if you stop. Things don't change. Nowadays the tax on smoking tobacco is a major source of revenue. Even so, soon after its introduction to England in the early seventeenth century, the government had recognised this as a great potential income earner, imposing huge import duties and licensing (for a price) dealers in tobacco. The public face, whether it is the D.H.S.S. or (as above), King James I, may warn or fulminate against it, but the Treasury, as always, has the last word.

As early as 1622 Isaiah Showell, lately returned from Virginia in the New World, had in his will left 'the roule of Tabaccho he oweth me for' to his cousin Martin Wright, whilst his probate inventory concluded with '88 li. of tobacco at 2s.6d.' worth eleven pounds. Isaiah and his brother Nethaniah were two adventurous young men who did not content themselves with Banbury's restrictive puritan confines. A year earlier, their mother's will recorded .

that if Nethaniah 'shall not returne into England within seven yeares after my decease (onles he shall be stayed by imprisonm^t) or such hindrance as shalbe allowed by my Overseers' then his brother was to receive his legacy; Isaiah himself at that time 'being now in Virginia as I thinke'. Isaiah had returned, but did not long survive the rigours of the voyage. His mother's 'Virginian catskin' was probably a souvenir of an earlier journey. Isaiah's own will recorded a 'lyttle featherbed I brought owt of Virginia' and 'all such lands goods and tenem^{ts} as I have or of right ought to have in Virginia', which were left to his brother-in-law John Benam. Benam himself journeyed to Virginia to claim this inheritance, but died within a year or so of his arrival.

Such is Stuart Banbury's first known connection with, to quote a contrary view, 'the gentle art of smoking'. Only a generation later comes another, resulting from the government's opportunism. Doubtless in return for a financial consideration, two 'pattentees', Anthony Hall and William Gilkes, had been granted the monopoly of sale of tobacco in the borough, they 'and their deputies since the pattent was granted'. This and the ensuing information results from a dispute which came to the Exchequer court in the summer of 1639.

It seems that an incomer had presumed to offer tobacco for sale in infringement of this momopoly, and statements regarding this were taken from various Banburians. Several testify that no such thing had taken place. Others, perhaps significantly, refused to testify at all!

The examinations were taken before two commissioners, Anthony Hall and Organ Nix als. Nicholls. It seems a bit surprising that one of the Commissioners should have been one of the patentees, though in the seventeenth century such a situation was probably quite possible. However, in the Banbury of 1639 there were in fact two persons of this name, uncle and nephew. They came from the borough's one armigerous family, originating in South Newington. The elder was an apothecary who had served the Corporation in minor official posts as tithingman and constable twenty years earlier and had married one of the daughters of the influential William Knight. The nephew was a mercer, who also filled these posts, tithingman 1632-4 and constable in the 1640s. He was eventually elected a Burgess, a member of the Corporation, in 1649, but died in 1652 before becoming an alderman. He married Abigail, daughter of the other commissioner, Organ Nicholls - the whole thing was obviously a family affair.

Organ Nicholls was also a mercer, living in Sheep Street (the present High Street). He took a leading part in Banbury Corporation affairs, a Burgess by 1629, alderman from 1639, and Mayor in 1641-2. However there are indications that he was at least later on, at odds with other Corporation members. His name last appears as an alderman at the Mayor making of 1651-2. Although members usually continued until death, in 1656 he was one of the defendants in a dispute with the Corporation over the siting of sheep-

pens outside their homes in Sheep Street.

The other patentee, William Gilkes, was yet another mercer. He also served as tithingman (1632-4) and constable (1634-5, 1641-2). He died in 1643.

The persons examined who gave evidence were:

Thomas Buckingham, of South Newington, labourer, who, 'being examined upon oath saith that hee knoweth not that any p'son or p'sons what-so-ever doth or doe sell or give tobaccoe for any reward whatsoever in the p'ish of Banbury other than ... the patentees'.

Francis Vowe, of Banbury, mercer, testified that none 'other than the patentees there and their deputies since the pattend was granted' sold tobacco. He had been a Corporation 'taster' periodically between 1624 and 1642.

Samuell West, of Banbury, glazier, testified as above. He died in 1641 and was probably connected with John West, senior, another glazier, died 1642/3 with a will proved in 1643/4 in the Prerogative Court of Canterbury, by that time operating in Oxford.

Thomas White, of Banbury, baker, testified as above. He died October 1643.

John Wise, of Banbury, victualler, testified as above. He has not been identified. There was a John Wise buried in May 1658; and a

John Wise, mason, occurs regularly in the parish registers.

William Johnson, of Banbury, victualler, testified as above. Not identified.

Millicent Gulliver, of Banbury, widow, and **Phebe Thoms** her daughter, witnessed as above. Richard Gulliver had married, secondly, Myllysente Francklen, in 1603, and had died in 1620. 'Widow Gullifer' died of plague in April 1644. Their daughter Phebe was baptised in July 1609.

William Pilkinton, of Banbury, mercer, testified as above. He died 1657.

Margery Burrowes, of Banbury, widow, testified as above. Perhaps the Margrett Burrowes who died August 1645.

George Blea, of Adderbury, tailor, 'saith that he hath bought of one Xpofer Busby dwelling in Southwarke three pounds and a halfe of Tobaccoesince Ascension Day last past, for one pound thereof he paid 2s.6d. for the half pound 2s and for two pounds four shillings; in Banbury and for any mans selling there besides he knoweth not of except the patentees.'

Marbin Edens, of Banbury, mercer, 'saith that noe Townesman in Banbury or stranger hath sold tobaccoe in Banbury to his knowledge...' He was another Corporation taster, and also served as sergeant at mace between 1631 and 1642.

Richard Perkins, of Banbury, hostler, testified as Martin Edens. Not identified.

Those who refused to testify were:

William Savidge, of Banbury, garzyweaver, and his wife. Savage died 1651/2.

Phillipp Foxall, of Banbury, apothecary. Buried 1652 (as 'chirurgion').

Robert Heyward, of Banbury, haberdasher. Buried October 1643 (as 'hatter').

Roger Marshner, of Banbury, tapster. Not identified.

Finally, **Anthony Crosse**, jun., sojourner with the abovesaid William Savidge (one can see why he refused to testify!), 'suspected for selling of tabaccoe in Banbury having sufficient warning did not appear before us'. The lawsuit appears to have achieved its purpose, ridding the licencees of the breaker of their monopoly, presumably taking his profits with him!

Not an important or exciting case, but all adding to the patchwork that is Banbury's history.

Jeremy Gibson.

Sources and References

The documents of the case are in the Public Record Office (Chancery Lane), E.178/5594 (Special Commissions). Quotations are by kind permission of the Controller, H.M.S.O. The wills and inventories of Mary Showell (1621-2) and Isiah Showell (1622) are published in **Banbury wills and inventories**, Part 2 (B.H.S.14, nos. 244 and 248). Baptisms, marriages, deaths and burials are from Banbury parish registers (B.H.S. 2,7,9). Service as officials or members of the Corporation are from **Banbury Corporation records; tudor and stuart** (B.H.S.15). The dispute of 1656 is described in 'Trouble over Sheep-pens' **Cake and Cockhorse**, 7,2 (Spring 1977). King James I is quoted from his **a Counterblast to Tobacco** (1604).

BOOK REVIEWS

BANBURY TECH 1835-1972 A BRIEF HISTORY BY JANE COWAN

PUBLISHED BY THE NORTH OXFORDSHIRE TECHNICAL COLLEGE & SCHOOL OF ART £2.50 Enquiries to BRIAN LITTLE, Telephone: Banbury 52221 or Nortec Shop at the Technical College.

This is a good read. It is a delightful mixture of people, places and premises. The book traces the College from a scattering of locations to the present.

In her portrayal of the past, Jane is helped by a selection of engravings and diagrams showing internal design and use. Compared with N.O.T.C. today, the Mechanics Institute was a very different place. Just how different can be gauged from rule 1 which announced that "this Institute is established for the purpose of cultivating a taste for literary pursuits... and to promote... the mental and moral welfare of its members."

As much as anything, it is the people who leap out of the pages. Coming down the years there was Mr. Ferrers whose view of home sweet home was to live in - he occupied part of 51 The Green. Later her memories treasure the vision of a part-time colleague called John Wilson who was "tall and bulky with a pouchy face" and whose appearance was further distinguished by "hair with a tendency to curl and a mouth, the corners of which turned up when he was pleased or on mischief bent." Perhaps her most vivid account was of Vernon Thomas who was Head of General Studies in the 1960's. She describes Vernon as "a man of smoke and paper." The smoke spurted from his many pipes whilst crazy piles of paper subsided to the floor of his office.

Some of the finest accounts are reserved for premises. 51 The Green was both "rather makeshift with a rather neglected and depressing atmosphere" but also "this attractive looking Georgian house." Better still was 65 High Street which was one of the early homes of Commerce. Heated by a Tortoise stove, this upper floor of rooms was next to a bank and approached through a vegetable shop. The consequences were somewhat amusing:

"Picking one's way past the cauliflowers in the doorway, one negotiated the piles of leeks and celery, and gained the wooden stair leading to the first floor."

"The Bank Manager could frequently be seen standing on the pavement shaking his fist at those above, happily typing to the strains of 'American Patrol' or the ballet music from 'Rosamund'. A stentorian shout of 'Carriage - REETURRN' and the sound of twenty typewriter carriages being pushed to the left did nothing to sweeten relations between typing teacher and Bank Manager."

If there were many changes in the history of the College and its people and premises, there were also recurring themes. Jane recalls the plays commencing with Andre Obey's 'Noah' presented in Calthorpe Hall, but also the Rag events which continued until the 1970's.

In 1949 Mrs. Ferrers was paid a guinea to go to Oxford to inspect typewriters whilst Jane herself started on an annual salary of £270.

These recollections are a fascinating reminder of what it must have cost to run the College in the time before it became the North Oxfordshire Technical College and School of Art.

In this short review it is impossible to do justice to the wealth of impressions and information. Her book deserves a wide readership. Although a modest work, it occupies a place in Banbury's history reflecting as it does the "Tradition and Change" of Further Education.

Brian Little.

Ed. Note: Miss J.B. Cowan was formerly Head of the Department of Business Studies at the College and retired in 1985.

BANBURY GAOL RECORDS, edited by Penelope Renold, M.A. B.H.S., Vol.21, 1987, xxii, 248pp, 2 maps, plan, 3 illus. Free to records members. £10.00 (+£1.00 p&p in U.K.) from Banbury Museum.

Distributed with this issue of C&CH to records members is the eagerly awaited newest B.H.S. records volume, **Banbury Gaol Records**. Its 'meat' is the journal maintained by Banbury's penultimate gaoler, Robert Gardner, from 1829 to 1838. This is an absorbing and very human account of the comings and goings in this tiny town gaol, the peccadilloes and more serious crimes of those who had fallen foul of the law in the Borough, as well as those temporarily lodged, sent there by magistrates in nearby villages.

This possibly unique record is placed in context by Miss Renold's research into a range of relevant sources - central government criminal registers; council minutes and correspondence (recounting the Borough's abortive attempts in the 1840s to build a replacement prison - it eventually closed in 1852); the poignant account of prison visiting by the Quaker Samuel Beesley (brother of the historian) which resulted in his own death from disease caught there. The introduction describes the earlier history of the gaol from its Elizabethan origins and post-Civil War rebuilding, the use of its upper floor in the 18th century by the Blue Coat School, and subsequent controversy over its ownership. The biographical appendix deals with different families who supplied gaolers and serjeants at mace in the 18th and 19th centuries: Wise, Barnes, Page, Gardner himself and his successor William Walker. The last was a colourful character whose antecedents are investigated with detective zeal, leading back to Bicester Workhouse and Berkshire County House of Correction at Abingdon; whilst his unlikely end was in a train collision on Long Island, New York.

This notice is contributed as an appetite whettener to those receiving the volume and an encouragement to others who can obtain it from Banbury Museum. A full and independent review will appear in a later issue.

J.S.W.G.

BANBURY HISTORICAL SOCIETY
ANNUAL REPORT, 1986

Your Committee have pleasure in submitting the 29th Annual Report and Statement of Accounts, for the year 1986.

We were much saddened by the death in July of David Fiennes, C.B.E., who from 1977 to 1984 so ably edited "Cake & Cockhorse" and who briefly was Chairman of the Committee at the end of 1985.

The Committee otherwise remained unchanged at the A.G.M., with Dr. John Rivers becoming Chairman; but in October Dr. Elizabeth Asser, who organised the summer programme for a number of years, resigned through ill health.

Meetings in 1986 included Dr. Christopher Hill on "Abiezer Coppe and Hook Norton", Dr. Christopher Young on "Roman Pottery", James Bond on "Domesday Oxfordshire", Dr. Pamela Horn on "Victorian Village Life - The Dews of Lower Heyford", David Sturdy on "17th century Oxford Builders" and Dr. John Clarke on "Dr. Robert Sibthorpe (Vicar of Brackley) and Laudian Northamptonshire". As usual we are most grateful to all our speakers.

Regretfully our Village Meeting, scheduled for Wardington, had at the last moment to be cancelled, through circumstances beyond our control. Dr. Rivers organised a welcome resumption of summer visits, with 'walks' at Swalcliffe and Cropredy led respectively by Miss Sally Stradling and Mr. Stephen Wass, and a tour of Wotton Underwood House memorably conducted by Mrs. Patrick Brunner. The A.G.M. was at Barton Abbey, by kind invitation of Mrs. Fleming. The Society had a display at the Four Counties Local History Exhibition at Avebury in September.

No records volume was issued during the year, but members will receive Banbury Goal Records, edited by Miss Renold, at the same time as this report. They should find it one of the spicier of our publications. The next volume should be the last part of the Banbury parish registers, Baptisms and Burials, 1813-1838. Others planned or in preparation are a volume of facsimiles of Ruser's Banbury List, from the recently discovered earliest, of 1795, through to 1832, when the regular trade listing commenced, and selected years for the remainder of the century, with introduction and index; as a separate volume, the comprehensive index to the trade edition, 1832-1902; and the records of the Hanoverian Corporation. Offers by potential editors of other subjects (for the villages in Banbury's hinterland as well as the town, borough and parish itself) are always welcome.

Cake & Cockhorse again entertained and instructed members, with long articles (in several parts) by Evelyn Brown-Grant, Veronica Butt and R.K. Gilkes, and contributions from Dr. John Clarke, Jeremy Gibson, Dr. Pamela Horn, Dr. John Rivers and the editor, David Hitchcox.

For the first time this year, local schools were invited to participate in the Brookworth Prize. The teachers' dispute meant that

only three primary schools in the event submitted entries: Wroxton (on the former school); Shenington, individual essays by five pupils on their own typical day, their homes and different aspects of the village history; and St. John's R.C. Primary, Banbury, a tour-de-force on the Civil War period involving over 30 children. The adjudicators (David Hitchcox and Jeremy Gibson), somewhat relieved at not having more entries to examine, were impressed by all three (photocopying the Wroxton and Shenington entries for deposit in the County Record Office) and awarded prizes of £25 to each school.

The Accounts show a gratifying surplus on ordinary expenditure of £314, helped by higher subscription income and bank interest. However the more significant and long-term saving is in the production of Cake & Cockhorse. This arises from the purchase of an electronic typewriter, consequent on the generous offer of Mrs. Ann Hitchcox to type the magazine, whilst the make-up is now done by the editor. Even allowing for depreciation on the typewriter (at its highest this first year) this has saved the Society (on two issues) over £100, as well as making preparation work much simpler. As no volume was issued, all publications income, including the valued grant of £600 from the British Academy, went into reserve. The cost of the Gaol Records, including postal distribution, will absorb well over £1,600 of this. The significant contribution made by sales of publications should be noted, and we are most grateful to Sarah Gosling and her colleagues at the Museum whose hard work makes this possible.

CALLING ALL HAWTAYNES/HAWTINS

We have been told of a new publication, "The Hawtayne Heritage: Newsletter of the Hawtin Family", and have been sent a copy of the first issue.

One (or more) branches of the family originated in Banbury and north Oxfordshire. The armigerous branch were at Swalcliffe in the 16th century and subsequently at Calthorpe Manor in Banbury, where their arms remain to this day carved above the porch.

There was an article 'A Disputed Inheritance' (C&CH.6.4) about the family at Calthorpe in the 1630s. Margaret Hawtaine, a daughter of Lawrence Washington of Sulgrave, lived at Easington House and there is a long and very interesting probate inventory of her household goods published in "Banbury Wills and Inventories", Part 1.

Another branch of the family were much involved in the Corporation affairs of 17th century Banbury, as shown in "Banbury Corporation Records: Tudor and Stuart",

Anyone interested in receiving a copy of this and subsequent issues should write to Murray Hawtin, 11 Thorn Lane, Leeds LS8 1NF, sending an A5 sized s.a.e. As he produces the newspaper at his own expense, a donation would also be appreciated.

BANBURY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Revenue Account for the Year ended 31st December 1986

1985		Income	
	1652	Subscriptions	1,794
1179	<u>473</u>	Less Transfer to Publications Account	<u>501</u>
	116	Income Tax Refund on Covenants	1,293
	124	Interest on Deposit Account	106
	-	Donations	175
			<u>10</u>
1419			<u>1,584</u>
Expenditure			
	964	Cake & Cockhorse Typing, printing, etc.	688
	110	Postage	<u>188</u>
	<u>1074</u>		<u>876</u>
	90	Less Sales	<u>95</u>
	<u>984</u>		781
		Lecture and meeting expenses:	
	191	Postage, secretarial, administration and printing expenses	151
		Hire of hall, entertaining and speakers' expenses	<u>141</u>
	<u>110</u>		<u>292</u>
	<u>301</u>		
	281	Less: Donations at meetings	<u>18</u>
			274
	11	Subscriptions to other bodies	11
	36	Insurance	41
	-	Depreciation on typewriter	163
1312			<u>1,270</u>
107		Excess of Income over Expenditure	<u>£ 314</u>

Publications Account

1985		Income		Expenditure	
Exp.	Inc.				
	473	Proportion of Subscriptions	501		
	596	Sales of Publications (less discounts and C&CH)	277		
87		History of Aynho			
	230	Banbury Wills pt.1 Marc Fitch Fund grant			
1612		Printing			
105		Postage			
298		Banbury Wills pt.2: Reprinting			
-		Banbury Gaol Records British Academy grant	600		
	803	Deficit 1985/Surplus 1986			<u>1,378</u>
2102	<u>2102</u>		<u>£1,378</u>	<u>£1,378</u>	

Balance Sheet as at 31st December 1986

1985 Liabilities		1985 Assets	
132	Subscriptions in advance	48	Current Account at
332	Sundry creditors	542	Nat. West. Bank, Banbury
	Brinkworth Prize Fund	2,000	343
	Add: Surplus	<u>187</u>	Brinkworth Prize Fund
2000		2,187	<u>187</u>
	Publications Reserve	629	530
	Add: Surplus	<u>1,378</u>	2,800
629		2,007	Deposit Account
	Capital Account	558	Deposit Account at
	Add: Surplus	<u>314</u>	Lombard North Central
558		872	Brinkworth Prize Fund
			2,000
			Sundry Debtors
			-
			Typewriter at cost
			489
			Less: Depreciation
			<u>163</u>
<u>3651</u>		<u>£ 5,656</u>	<u>326</u>
			<u>£ 5,656</u>

Brinkworth Prize Fund

Interest received: 272; less Awards and expenses 85; leaving Surplus £ 187

We have audited the accounts set out, and certify them to be in accordance with the books and information supplied to us.

20th February 1987

Ellacott, Stranks & Co., Chartered Accountants

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

The Magazine *Cake and Cockhorse* is issued to members three times a year. This includes illustrated articles based on original local historical research, as well as recording the Society's activities. By 1985 there had been 88 issues and at least 230 articles. Most back issues are still available and out-of-print issues can if required be photocopied.

Other publications still in print include:

Booklets -

Old Banbury - a short popular history, E.R.C. Brinkworth
New Light of Banbury's Crosses, P.D.A. Harvey
Banbury Castle - a summary of excavations in 1972, P. Fasham
The Building and Furnishing of St Mary's Church, Banbury,
N. Cooper

Pamphlets -

History of Banbury Cross
The Globe Room at the Reindeer Inn, Banbury

The Society has also published twenty or more volumes in its records series (list available of those still in print). These have included *Banbury Parish Registers* (in seven parts: Marriages 1558-1837, Baptisms and Burials 1558-1812); *Banbury Corporation Records: Tudor and Stuart*; *Banbury Wills and Inventories, 1591-1650* (Part 1, 1591-1620; Part 2, 1621-1650); *A Victorian M.P. and his Constituents: The Correspondence of H.W. Tancred 1841-1860*; *Shoemaker's Window: Recollections of Banbury before the Railway Age*, by George Herbert (now available in Gulliver Press edition); *South Newington Churchwardens' Accounts 1553-1684*; *Wigginton Constables' Books 1691-1836*; *Bodicote Parish Accounts 1700-1822*; *Victorian Banbury*, by Barrie Trinder (with Phillimore); and *Aynho: A Northamptonshire Parish*, by Nicholas Cooper (with Leopard's Head Press). Volumes in preparation include *Banbury Gaol Records 1805-1852*, edited by Penelope Renold, and *Baptisms and Burials 1813-1838*. An edition of letters to the 1st Earl of Guilford (of Wroxton, father of Lord North, Prime Minister and M.P. for Banbury) is also planned.

Meetings are held during the autumn and winter, normally at 7.30 pm at the North Oxfordshire Technical College, Broughton Road, Banbury, on the second Thursday of each month. Talks are given by invited lecturers on general and local archaeological, historical and architectural subjects. In the summer, the AGM is held at a local country house and other visits are arranged.

Membership of the Society is open to all, no proposer or seconder being needed. The annual subscription is £8.00 including any records volumes published, or £5.00 if these are excluded.

Application forms can be obtained from the Hon. Membership Secretary, c/o Banbury Museum, 8 Horsefair, Banbury, Oxon.

