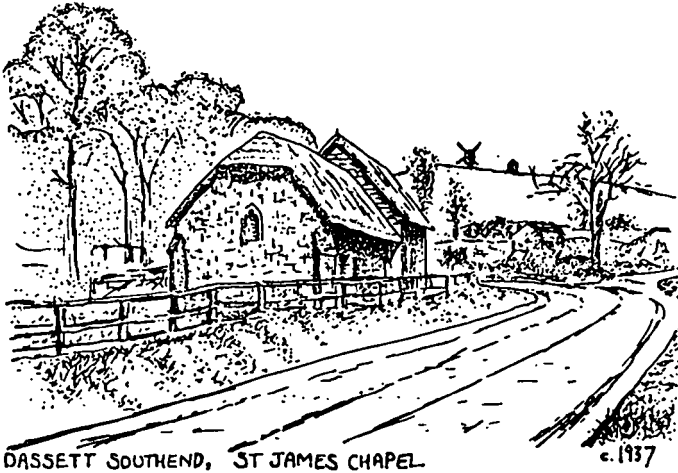


# CAKE AND COCKHORSE



DASSETT SOUTHEND, ST JAMES CHAPEL

c. 1937

## BANBURY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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

**Cover Picture:**

Dassett Southend, St. James Chapel, sketched from a Photograph  
by Mr. Chatwin and first published in the transactions of the  
Birmingham and Warwickshire Archaeological Society, Vol. LX,  
Plate 9.

# Cake and Cockhorse

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

Volume 10

Number 6

Summer 1987

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This year's A.G.M. was held at our President's home, Broughton Castle. A pleasant evening was enjoyed by all, with a tour of the Castle and a walk in the delightful gardens. Our Thanks are extended to Lord & Lady Saye & Sele.

Sarah Gosling, who for many years has been our Membership Secretary and the all-important link between the Society and the Oxfordshire Museum Service, has left Banbury for a new post in Hertford. Her work for the Society has been invaluable and our best wishes go with her.

D.A.H.

## SURVEY OF INDUSTRIAL REMAINS IN BANBURY AND DISTRICT

The method of locating the existence of these industries is by studying local directories. A little care is required when using this method and the following points should be observed:-

- (1) Not every tradesman was listed, because in some cases payment was required for an entry, and some people were either unable or unwilling to pay.
- (2) Publication dates were often two to three years after the survey.
- (3) Dates of publication were extremely irregular.

In the case of most of the firms mentioned in the survey, some of the people who worked for them were pleased to be of assistance.

In 1974 I happened to mention to someone in Chipping Warden that I had seen a large concrete block, which had obviously been designed to support some item of machinery, in a field near Hays Bridge, in the Daventry Road, and had been trying to find out what its original use had been. He stated that it was "Wiseman's Saw Mill". After a few more enquiries I learned that a daughter of the late Mr. Wiseman lived in Great Bourton, and on writing to her I was given extremely interesting information about this small country saw mill.

### MR 145/SP 489476 Steam Saw Mill (Mr. Wiseman c1919-1925)

The mill was constructed in c1918-19 by Mr. Upton of Great Bourton. The saw was of German manufacture, details of which are not available. The saw was powered by a Marshall traction engine. (No other details of this engine, other than its name - 'City King!')

Water for the traction engine was drawn in buckets from the nearby River Cherwell. Timber was conveyed on horse-drawn wooden carriages.

A variety of work, for all kinds of industry was carried out at the mill. Oak was cut and supplied to the Railway Works at Wolverton for the construction of carriages. Ash was supplied for the manufacture of sports goods including cricket bats, also for coach building.

A selection of hard woods were supplied to the ship building industry and wooden boxes were made here and sent to Llanelly in South Wales for exporting tin plate.

Facts regarding a small wheelwright business in Banbury came to light following an article in the Banbury Guardian in 1969, which referred to a Wheelwright Shop in Foundry Street.

I eventually located the original owner of the business and was fortunate in acquiring details of the workshop and its history.

### MR 145/SP 45104085 (Foundry Street) Wheelwright Shop (Frederick Turner 1919-1925)

Frederick Turner entered the engineering firm of Barrows and Co

Ltd. at the age of sixteen as an apprentice wheelwright and body builder. On completing his five years apprenticeship he was employed by the firm as a wheelwright until he was called up for service in World War One.

Barrows closed down in 1919, and there being no work available, Mr. Turner, on his return from the services, acquired premises in Foundry Street where he established his own wheelwright business.

Things went well for a few years, until the introduction of the tractor and trailer on the farms caused the trade in wooden waggons and carts to fall off. Trade became so bad that eventually Mr. Turner closed his business down and went to work for a wheelwright and builder at Culworth.

The premises in Foundry Street comprised a small lean-to building housing a forge, a hand-operated mortising machine and a hand-operated lathe. In the yard at the rear of the shop was sited the tyreing platform. Tyres were heated in a fire on the ground.

All classes of wheel and cart were made at this shop, including farm waggons, milk floats and barrows. There was no saw-pit at this shop. All wood for the construction of waggons etc., was cut and supplied by D. Braggins of Gatteridge Street. Wood used as fuel for the fire was purchased from the Box Factory (Henry Stone). The shop has long since been demolished.

### **Ministry of Munitions Shell Filling Factory 1916-1924**

#### **Munitions Breaking Down Factory 1920-1924**

This factory was situated one and a half miles east of Banbury and half a mile south-west of the village of Overthorpe.

The site is in fact, just withing the Northamptonshire boundary. The county boundary follows the western perimeter of the site, from the line of the old LMS railway line, to the Bowling Green (MR 145/SP 476409), in the Overthorpe Road.

Two thousand people, five hundred of them women, were employed at the factory. A serious explosion occurred here in 1917 in a department known as the Can Wash House. Several workers were seriously injured, one fataly. This was the only fatal accident during the whole of the four year filling period. There were, however, five fatal accidents during the breaking-down period of 1920-24.

The original approach road to the factory was by way of the footpath from the end of Edward Street, in Grimsbury (MR 145/SP 466404). The main entrance to the site being at MR 145/SP 476401. In this area of the factory were the offices, police office, fitters shops and boiler house. Most of these buildings were constructed of concrete, some them protected by large earthworks.

The filling houses were of wooden construction on concrete foundations, and were also protected by earthworks. Each filling house was manned by four workers, two men and two women. These sheds were connected by 2'0" gauge tramways on which wooden, hand-propelled trolleys were run, conveying the various types of ammunition from stage to stage of their construction.

All types of shell and mortar bomb were handled at the factory,

including H.E. mustard gas, shrapnell, and anti-aircraft. Some types of sea-mine were also dealt with.

Extensive remains of the factory still exist, and the foundations of nearly all the old buildings, and most of the earthen blast walls can be identified, also the air raid shelters.

The factory was served by a system of standard gauge railway track from a junction with the L. & N.W. Railway. Approx.  $3\frac{1}{2}$  miles of railway track existed on the site, the lay-out of which is easily traceable today.

The line serving the factory left the main railway line at a point 200 yards beyond Butcher's Crossing at MR 145/SP 482369, and on entering the factory site split up into seven sidings. A single line leading from these sidings encompassed the whole site, and served the main buildings. The concrete foundations of a foot-bridge, which spanned the sidings, still remain, as do the foundations of some of the buildings which stood alongside the sidings.

There were two single lines which left the north end of the site, leading to an isolated site on the north side of the Overthorpe Road. One crossing gate still remains in the hedgerow at MR 145/SP 475409. The line, after crossing the road, entered a shallow cutting and split up into two roads for 125 yards.

This extra 'loop line' was probably used for shunting or for parking unwanted waggons. The line terminated a quarter of a mile beyond the Overthorpe Road with two spurs 500 yards long, leading off in a westerly direction and serving two buildings.

As yet I have been unable to ascertain the purpose of this isolated site, or the date of its construction. One theory offered me was that it was constructed in conjunction with the post war breaking-down operations. This does not fit in, however, there being no record of a locomotive being in use during the breaking-down period. There was a steam locomotive in use for a short time during the filling period. This was an 0-6-0 Saddle Tank No. 1770 and named 'Lidben'. Purchased new from Avonside Engine Co. in 1917 and sold in 1919 to Brymbo Steel Co. Ltd. Denbigh.

The factory was purchased by Messers Cohen of London c 1919 and used as a Breaking-Down Factory, when thousands of tons of war materials were broken up. The factory closed down in 1924 and has stood derelict ever since.

The site was used as a military training area during World War II, and was used by both the Regular Army and the Home Guard. The 4th/7th Dragoon Guards, who were stationed in the Banbury Area during this war, left a stripped down Covenanter Tank on the site to be used as target practice. This old tank remained on the site for some years after the war, till eventually its rusty, battered remains were removed for scrap.

During 1940 a lone German raider dropped five bombs in the field immediately behind the Bowling Green Inn. The night was brilliantly lit by the full moon, and it was thought at the time that the moon, shining on some nearby greenhouses attracted the raider, who possibly thought it to be a light shining from a poorly blacked out building. It is more likely that the Germans knew of the existence of the old

World War I munitions factory and believed it to be still in use.

The land in and around the factory site is now used as grazing land by a farmer and cattle dealer.

### OTHER INDUSTRIES

Apart from the numerous smiths, wheelwrights, and millwrights already referred to, there were the brewers and maltsters, of which Banbury had plenty. Other industries included brick, tile and pipe manufacturing, coach building, rope making, and of course, boat building.

Some of these industries have been recorded by others elsewhere, but much research still remains to be done. The sites of most of the industries referred to above can be located and are recorded in the following survey.

In the following survey, the sites of most of the old industries in Banbury and District are listed.

### ENGINEERS

- MR 145/SP 45074080 (Junction of Bath Road with Warwick Road) site of original foundry of Charles Lampitt. (Est. 1790).
- MR 145/SP 451409 (Foundry Square) Remains of Vulcan Foundry (1835-1905)
- MR 145/SP 44904085 (Boxhedge Square) Site of Millwright Shop (William Riley C1832?)
- MR 145/SP 45354070 (North Bar) Site of Wheelwright/Millwright Shop (Francis Kimberly, 1847-1857: Kirby & Barrows, Engineers 1862-c1863, Humphris & Sons Engineers?)
- MR 145/SP 45754045 (George Street) Site of original Christchurch Works (A.Lampitt 1891)
- MR 145/SP 45934037 (Lower Groge Street) Site of later Christchurch Works (H. Lampitt 1931-1971)
- MR 145/SP 45854037 (Lower George Street) Britannia Works (Upper)
- MR 145/SP 45904025 (Canal Street) Britannia Works (Lower)
- MR 145/SP 45954022 (Canal Street) Cherwell Works (Kirby & Barrows 1863; Barrows & Carmichael 1864; Barrows & Stewart 1869; Barrows & Co. Ltd. 1890-1919)
- MR 145/SP 463402 (Area between end of Tramway Road and Kinghams) Site of Britannia Works Store Sheds etc.
- MR 145/SP 455405 (Rear of White Lion Hotel, High Street) Site of James Gardner's Works (Phoenix Foundry?)
- \* Rushers Directory 1861

### SMITHS/WHEELWRIGHTS & MILLWRIGHTS

- MR 145/SP 45404002 Millwright Shop (John Dew, 1833, James Dew, 1844) Oxford Road
- MR 145/SP 45254030 Blacksmith Shop (G. Mobley 1906?) South Bar, West side
- MR 145/SP 46254090 Blacksmith Shop (E. Neal 1906?) Near Wesleyan Chapel
- MR 145/SP 45704035 Blacksmith Shop (T.W.Tooley 1906?) 28 Broad Street

SMITHS/WHEELWRIGHTS & MILLWRIGHTS (contd.)

MR 145/SP 47453575 (Junction of Aynho Road with Oxford Road, Adderbury)  
Wheelwright Shop Remains of tyring furnace on

site.

MR 145/SP 44854084 Wheelwright Shop (Junction of Union Street with  
Boxhedge Square)

BRICK, PIPE AND TILE WORKS

MR 145/SP 46404075 (Duke Street, Grimsbury)

MR 145/SP 46554092 (Avenue Road, Grimsbury)

MR 145/SP 44904105 (Warwick Road/Neithrop Avenue)

MR 145/SP 48303715 (Twyford Wharf)

MR 145/SP 44704065 (Park Road, Banbury. Shown on OS Map, 1882)

PERAMBULATOR WORKS

MR 145/SP 46504107 (Junction of East Street with Middleton Road,  
Grimsbury) Owned by Thomas and Rae, who also had  
premises somewhere in Bridge Street and Church  
Lane. Middleton Road factory burned down in 1889.

BOAT YARDS

MR 145/458408 Tooley's Boat Yard (Est. 1790. See C.&C.H.  
Summer, 1969)

MR 145/SP 45574170 Boat Building Yard at Grimsbury Wharf  
(J.B. Edwards, 1841?)

STEAM JOINERY WORKS

MR 145/SP 46454110 (Junction of South Street and East Street,  
Grimsbury)

MR 145/SP 45304075 (Formerly owned by Claridge and Bloxham, No. 1  
Warwick Road, Banbury)

MR 145/SP 46154070 (Bridge Bank, Middleton Road, T & S Orchard -  
Later S. Orchard)

MR 145/SP 457401 (A.T. Kimberley, Britannia Road).

MALTHOUSES

MR 145/SP 43704175 (Warwick Road, 150 yards north of Barley Mow Inn)

MR 145/SP 45124084 (Foundry Street. Shown on OS Map. 1882)

MR 145/SP 446402 (Broughton Road)

MR 145/SP 44744030 (Broughton Road, rear of Constitution Inn)

MR 145/SP 45954045 (Lower Cherwell Street)

MR 145/SP 46224065 (Junction of Causeway and Middleton Road. Site now  
occupied by Bristol Street Motors.)

Other industries requiring investigation are as follows:-

1. Masons Arms Works, Newland.

Motor car builders and Coach and Motor Trimmers

2. Banbury Electrical Plating and Enamelling Co., Church Passage

3. Bustin's Electrical Works, No. 7 Horsefair ?



4. Mineral Water Manufacturer, 55 North Bar (George Carter?)
5. Brick and Tile Works, Crouch Hill (Joseph Gillett?)
6. King and Co., Mineral Water Manufacturer, Castle Street
7. F. Sirmon and Son, Coach Builder, 14 Bridge Street
8. A.E.H.Miles, Coach Builder, 2 Cherwell Street
9. Robert Bywater and Sons, Blacksmiths  
No. 1 Cherwell Street and No. 5 Bridge Street

G.C. Hartland

References and Acknowledgements

"A History of Banbury" by William Potts

"Shoemakers Window" by George Herbert

Rusher's Directories

Banbury Guardian Files

"The Ironstone Railways and Tramways of the Midlands"

by Eric S. Tonks, M.Sc., A.R.I.C.

My grateful thanks are also due to the following people for their tolerance in answering my many letters and allowing me access to their property:-

Mr. Horace Lampitt

Mr. William Lampitt

Mr. D. Braggins

Mrs. I. Hullis and Mr. F. Turner for information on the Wheelwright Shop Foundry Street and Barrows Limited, Cherwell Street.

Mr. A.E. Jones - Britannia Works and Cherwell Works.

Miss P.M. Wiseman - Steam Saw Mill, Wardington.

In 1976, Geoffrey Hartland conducted a Survey of Industrial Remains in Banbury and District. He has contributed several articles to this Magazine and has also written a History of Town Gas Manufacture in and around Banbury.

This Survey was carried out quite methodically by the Author and, although many of these remains have now disappeared, it is an important record of Banbury's Industrial Growth.

Editor.

Note:

E. Brown-Grant has asked me to note that in her article "Banbury Horse Races" Vol.10 No. 5 on P.111 she wrote 'The poorer spectators who came on foot paid no entrance money'. In fact, all pedestrians entered free, they were not necessarily poorer.

Editor

## BURTON DASSETT ARCHAEOLOGICAL PROJECT

Burton Dassetts lies midway between Warwick and Banbury, nestling below the prominent ridge of the Burton Hills with its medieval stone tower. In the Middle Ages this was one of the largest and most prosperous places in Warwickshire but today the main part of the medieval settlement, Dassetts Southend, is deserted, its houses and streets reduced to a series of earthwork platforms and hollows in a grassy field and its chapel the only surviving medieval building, reduced to a cowshed. A large part of the surviving remains is now to be destroyed by the M40 Oxford-Birmingham motorway whose route runs through the west side of the site. With the kind permission of the landowner, Mr. G. Smith, The Warwickshire Museum has launched a major archaeological project to excavate and record the threatened part of the site in advance of the motorway construction.

The story of settlement at Burton Dassetts goes back at least to the Anglo-Saxon period; a cemetery of this date was found during quarrying on the Burton Hills. The original nucleus was probably around the parish church. The first historical record of the church is in the Domesday survey of 1086 by which time Burton Dassetts was a well developed and prosperous settlement. Apart from Burton there were two other hamlets in the parish at Knightcote and Hardwick (now deserted). The twelfth and thirteenth centuries saw further expansion and shift in the focus of settlement down the hill to 'Great Dassetts' which was made up of two elements, Northend, which survives today, and Southend. In 1267 a royal charter allowed a weekly market and a three day annual fair to be held at Great Dassetts, which also acquired its own chapel, dedicated to St. James, in the late thirteenth century. Early fourteenth century taxation records list Burton Dassetts with the third highest number of taxpayers in Warwickshire after Coventry and Warwick and the bulk of the population was in Great Dassetts. However, this was the peak of the settlement's prosperity and through the fourteenth and fifteenth centuries it went into a decline. This decline was caused partly by a series of bad harvests, partly by the Black Death and partly by change from arable farming to more profitable sheep raising which required many fewer workers. These factors also affected the other villages in the area on which the market relied for business. The result at Burton Dassetts, as elsewhere, was a progressive abandonment of the village sites. At Southend the final stage in the process came in 1497 when the landlord Sir Edward Belknap evicted the last twelve households, demolished the surviving houses and enclosed the area with hedges to make the large sheep run known as Town Field.

The motorway will cut a swathe 75m wide across the west side of Dassetts Southend destroying all the buried remains in its path. The rerouting southwards of the present road through the site will cause further damage. Although the line avoids the centre of the site it will run through about six separate cottages and farmsteads.

The project is being mounted to excavate and record as much as possible of these before construction begins. Although the project will be very much a rescue operation it does also provide an exciting opportunity. Warwickshire contains some of the best examples of deserted villages in the country and the county has been in the forefront of modern research in the subject. However, so far the contribution of archaeology has lagged behind those of historical research and field survey. While there have been excavations on village sites (including one by Burton Dassett church in 1973) these have so far been small-scale - in the county not even a single farmstead has yet been completely excavated. A large-scale modern excavation on a deserted village in the county is therefore long overdue. As an example of the large multinuclear settlements common in south Warwickshire Burton Dassett is typical of its region and particularly suitable for investigation.

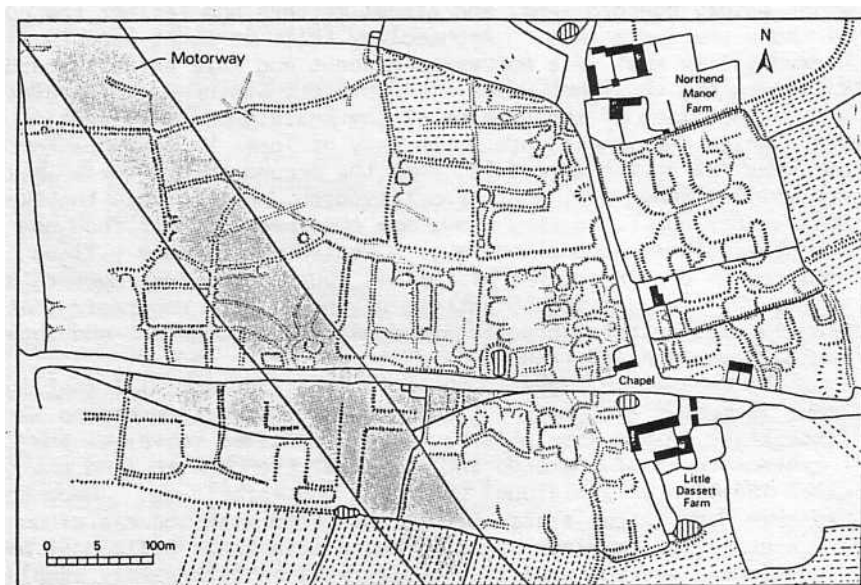
Archaeology aims to add an extra dimension to the evidence provided by historical sources. These rely on written records which mainly concern legal and fiscal matters and reflect the concerns of those who wrote them. Archaeology tells us about aspects of everyday life that were not written about and more about the ordinary villagers who could not write. At Dassett Southend, by excavating and making plans of the remains of the buildings and collecting all the rubbish the inhabitants threw away or lost, we can hope to find out what the houses were like, what the occupants did for a living, how wealthy they were, what crop they grew, what animals they kept, what potter and tools they used, how they cooked their food and what they ate. At another level a wealth of evidence will be produced to complement the historical sources on wider matters such as the changing settlement pattern of the village and region, its economy, agricultural practices and natural environment and about regional patterns of trade.

The excavation began in the Spring of 1986 and will last for about 18 months - 2 years until motorway construction begins. The first stage in the work will be to do a detailed survey of the threatened part of the site and dig trial trenches to find out the exact location of individual buildings and farmsteads. Once this has been done larger areas will be excavated with the aim of uncovering a series of complete property units with their buildings, both domestic and agricultural. The site will be extensively sampled for animal bone and preserved plant remains which will allow the medieval natural environment to be reconstructed, and large quantities of pottery and other artefacts will be collected. The excavation will involve a team of about 28 people, including an Archaeological Director, a Finds Assistant, a Draughtsman and Biological Technicians, as well as Excavators and Supervisors. Volunteer helpers will also be very welcome. Previous experience suggests that public interest in the excavation will be substantial, particularly as the site lies close to the Burton Dassett Country Park which attracts large numbers of visitors throughout the year. This interest will be fostered by an on-site exhibition about the excavation, a series of Open Days when guided tours will be given, lectures and organised visits by

schools and other interested groups.

Once the excavation is completed there will be further work in assessing its results. The finds will have to be conserved and catalogues and plans of the excavated buildings drawn up. When all this has been done, although the buildings will have been destroyed, a record of them will be published and the museum will be able to exhibit the material excavated and make life in medieval Burton Dassett come alive again for future generations.

N. Palmer  
Reproduced by kind  
permission of  
The Warwickshire Museum.



Burton Dassett Southend: Sketch Map of Earthworks

## AN HISTORIC PHOTOGRAPH DISCOVERED

In nineteenth century Banbury, following the demise of the Three Tuns tavern, the leading inns were the Red Lion and the White Lion, the one to the south and the other to the north of the High Street. The latter is still happily with us, its former yard a most attractive shopping precinct. Sadly, the Red Lion was demolished in 1930 to make way for Woolworths.

The Red Lion had been Banbury's oldest inn (though it must have been pre-dated by the Altar-Stone, on the south side of Cow-Fair, which disappeared in the late seventeenth century). Beesley (1841) described "the columns and capitals of the gateway of the Red Lion, which are of the perpendicular style of British Architecture, or that which prevailed during the 15th century", as "perhaps the only remaining relic of a period so early as this, within the town".

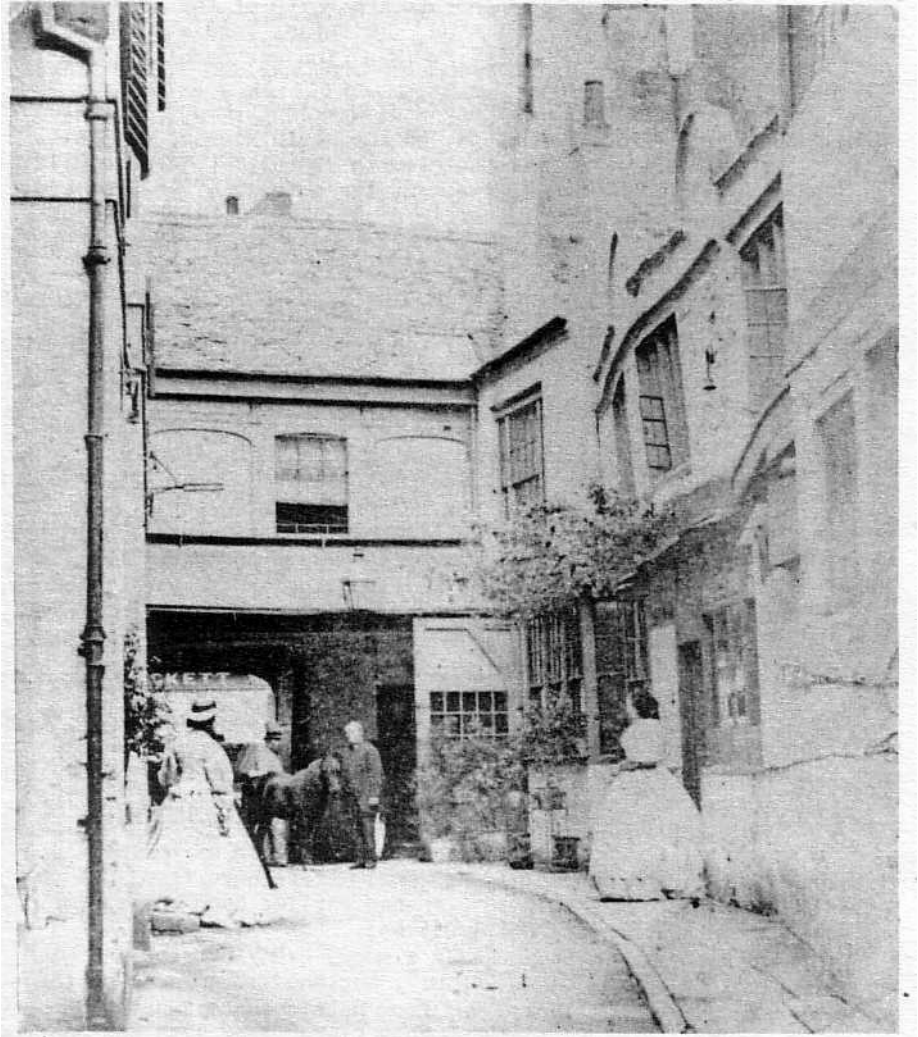
It was probably identical with 'The Lion' kept by John Barnesley and used by the Corporation for its annual suppers in Elizabethan days, and for the very first after the grant of the charter, in 1554; referred to again in the Corporation Accounts for 1613-4, when the supper there cost £1.1s.10d.

By 1645 there was also a 'Whit Lyon', and the first recorded reference to the other as the Red Lion occurs in an account of the opening skirmishes of the Civil War, in July 1642, when the chief of the Cavaliers came there, desiring to speak with Colonel (John) Fiennes and Captain (Robert) Vivers, who at the time still held the Castle for the Parliamentarians. In 1655 Anne Audland, Mabel Camm and Thomas Robinson, three of the earliest Quakers to visit Banbury, stayed there. In 1688 its landlord John Towerzey received one of the two wine licences granted to Banbury taverns, but in the later seventeenth century it appears generally to have been eclipsed by the Reindeer in Parsons Lane and the Unicorn on the Market Place, built around 1650, whilst from the 1680s the Three Tuns on the Horse Fair was pre-eminent for a century.

The closure of the Three Tuns in the 1790s must have helped the Red Lion's re-emergence as the town's main coaching inn. In the food riots of September 1800, when it was owned by Henry Pratt, a prominent farmer and corn dealer, it was assaulted by the mob. A later landlord, John Churchill, was postmaster there from 1824 to 1836 (Joseph Wyatt at the White Lion had earlier been postmaster, but had got into financial difficulties).

George Herbert, in Shoemaker's Window, described the Red Lion as being kept in the 1830's by "a Mrs. Norton, ... a large posting-house, kept several post-boys, and from here used to run the Banbury Coach to London...", Rusher's Banbury Lists, from 1795 on, confirm the Red Lion's importance with details of the various destinations of coaches starting from or calling there.

Churchill was succeeded by C.W. Fowler in 1837. In 1855 his name, in Rusher, is replaced by Mrs. Fowler, presumably his widow, and she continued as licensee until 1865. Lyas Bishop then took



Red Lion Inn, Banbury

over, but in 1871 was replaced by C.W. Foster, who was still there in 1874 (when my own collected set of Rusher's Lists, presented by J.G. Rusher, "in the 91st year of his age", to my own great-grandfather Henry Stone, ends).

The mid-nineteenth century must have been the heyday of the Red Lion. Typical of the functions it hosted would have been the meetings of the Cherwell Lodge of the Freemasons, founded in 1852. But its importance was really proved in 1857, when rival corn-exchanges were built facing each other across the western end (Cornhill) of the Market Place, backed by Tories and Liberals (the grandiose facade of one survives as the entrance to the shopping centre, whilst the other later became one of the town's cinemas). Both failed, as the farmers preferred to continue their business dealings in the yard of the Red Lion!

Marjory Lester's recently published Memories of Banbury (1986) (page 75) gives a description of the Red Lion in the 1920's, "a beautiful old coaching inn, with a large covered courtyard at the rear... The farmers liked to do their trading in corn and seeds on Thursdays in the yard and the whole place was packed with people... The Market room had accommodation for 100 dinner guests and there was a billiards room with three tables." It was then run by a Mrs. Coleman and her daughters, who after its sale to Woolworths moved to the famous Trout Inn at Godstow, outside Oxford.

Various photographs of the Red Lion are known, both of its High Street frontage, with an effigy of a Red Lion over the entrance to the yard, of the glass-roofed courtyard, and of the interior of the main bar (references to the published pictures are given below). Thus when, after a talk to the Banbury Numismatic Society, Mr. David Burge, of the Photographic Records Section of our neighbours the Shipston-on-Stour & District Local History Society, told me he had an old photo of the Red Lion, I was not unduly excited. This attitude changed, however, when he was kind enough to send me a print of the photograph in question.

It is produced here. As can be seen, it had been taken before the glass roof had been erected, unlike all the others of the Red Lion yard, so we can see something of the upper storey. Its photographer had been no less than George Herbert himself. From the introduction to Shoemaker's Window, we know that Herbert only became a commercial photographer around 1855.

Then, through the gateway to the yard, across the High Street, we can see a shop front sign ending "...ckett". Resort to Rusher's List shows that the only shop in the 1850's and later whose proprietor's name would fit was that of G.B. Crickett. Mr. Crickett was a linen and woollen draper with premises at 14 Market Place from 1843 on. In 1854 he also acquired a shop at 83 High Street, selling ready-made clothes. Both continued to 1860 and then disappeared. Thus the photograph is conveniently dated to between 1855 and 1860.

The lady standing so possessively before the entrance to the bar, on the right, must surely have been Mrs. Flower herself. No landlady would have allowed another woman such a position of prominence!

And how did the photograph come into the possession of the Shipston-on-Stour Local History Society? Let Mr. Burge have the last word: "It came from the last of the Coleman family of Shipston, whose ancestors I believe were once the owners of the Red Lion."

At the A.G.M. at Broughton Castle in July, when we bade a sad farewell to Sarah Gosling, departed for fresh fields at Hertford, who made old photographs of Banbury and in particular its pubs, so much her field, it gave us enormous pleasure to present her with a framed copy of this picture, an old photo of Banbury which, as she said at the time, she had "never seen before!"

Jeremy Gibson

#### Acknowledgment and References

We are most grateful to the Shipston-on-Stour and District Local History Society, and to Mr. D.W. Burge in particular, for permission to reproduce this photograph and for supplying copies of it, for deposit in Banbury Museum, Oxford Central Library, the Oxfordshire County Museum and the National Monuments Record.

Apart from information culled from Rusher's Banbury List and Directory (contributor's own copy, dating from 1813 to 1874, incomplete) no original research has gone into this article.

Sources for information on the Red Lion and Lion will be found under the appropriate subject index headings in Beesley's History of Banbury and vol. 10 of the Victoria County History of Oxfordshire (Banbury Hundred); also Banbury Corporation Records: Tudor and Stuart (B.H.S. vol.15).

Photographs of the Red Lion are printed in the first edition of William Potts' History of Banbury (1958), fig.47; Christine Bloxham's Book of Banbury (1975), page 90; Ted Clark's Banbury in old picture postcards (1982), nos. 16-18 (these show the glass-roofed yard and saloon bar as well as the High Street frontage); and Lois Klein's Banbury in old photographs (1986) (page 33). Marjory Lester's Memories of Banbury (1986) has three paintings of the Red Lion (plates 38-40, dated 1982 and probably based on the postcards mentioned above, but very effectively conveying the atmosphere of the time.

George Herbert's Shoemaker's Window was published in a second edition by the B.H.S. Vol 10, introduction by B.S. Trinder; with a third edition in 1979.





## CHRISTMAS COMES BUT ONCE ...

It is all too easy to think of our forebears being relatively static for long periods, to expect them to be born or baptised, married and to die and be buried all in the same place. This view is compounded by the greater ease there is in researching the families that did just this and thus may make their mark in the history of a place over several generations. As for the names that occur just once or twice, what happened to them, out in the big wide world?

One such is William Christmas, baptised son of 'Lennard Cristmas' on 28th July 1691. A younger brother John was baptised in August 1692 but was buried only four months later. 'Lenard Cristmas' himself was buried on 3rd March 1692/3, and his widow is found remarrying almost immediately, on 11th June. With at least one small child to support, she would need another bread-winner and the seventeenth century was no time for extended mourning. The marriage is only recorded in the duplicate 'rough copy' contemporary register, this being one of the rare periods when the Banbury registers were poorly maintained. This gives her name, 'Margret Christmas' but only her new husband's Christian name, 'Nickolis'.

Fortunately it was necessary for a probate inventory of the deceased's goods to be exhibited in the Banbury Peculiar Court. This totalled only £31.11s.2d and consisted merely of normal household goods, the only exception being the large item of £20 for 'debts good and bad', annotated 'eight pounds good'. Leonard Christmas's widow's rapid remarriage is very understandable. Even more informatively, she had to enter into a bond to produce this inventory, where she is helpfully described as 'Margarett Geering als. Christmas wife of Nicholas Geering, late relict and administratrix of ... Leonard Christmas whilst he lived of Banbury, Carrier'. One of the parties to the bond is Nicholas Geering himself, described as a carrier of Long Compton in Warwickshire.

So we know what became (at least initially) of the widow, but what of the young son? This, in fact, is what led to this short article, for a casual correspondence with Mr. Brian Christmas of Maidstone brought me a photo-copy of an apprenticeship indenture. This was amongst City of London records, dated 13th December, 1711, binding 'Wm. Christmas son of Leonard Christmas late of Banbury, decd.' for the sum of £10 apprentice to William Cheyney, citizen and cooper of London. William Christmas was duly registered as a freeman in February, 1719.

Research in Long Compton and City of London records might well discover more about young William Christmas, his mother and step-father. I dare not start on this red herring, but would welcome more information from anyone interested enough to follow this up.

Jeremy Gibson

References and acknowledgements


I am most grateful to Mr. Brian Christmas for sending me the photocopy of the Apprenticeship Indenture of William Christmas to William Cheyney. This is in the Corporation of London Record Office, City of London Freedom Admission Papers, CF1/374/26, by whose permission it is reproduced here.

The probate bond and inventory for Leonard Christmas are amongst the records of the Peculiar Court of Banbury, Oxfordshire Record Office, MSS Wills Peculiars 35/3/38.

Entries from Banbury registers are from the published Marriages, 1558-1724, (B.H.S.2) and Baptisms and Burials, 1653-1723 (B.H.S.8). There are no earlier or subsequent entries for the family.

Note:

Mr. Christmas is carrying out a One-Name Study of the Christmas Family and is interested in any references to his surname. These may be sent to the Editor.

 His Indenture Witnesseth, That *William Christmas* son of *Leonard Christmas* late of *Banbury* in the County of *Oxon* doe the sum of *ten pounds* bringeth unto him doth put himself Apprentice to *William Cheyney* Citizen and *COOPER* of *London*, to learn his Art, and with him (after the manner of an Apprentice) to serve from the *day of the date* hereof *Seven* - Years, from thence next following, to be fully compleat and ended. During which Term, the said Apprentice his said Master faithfully shall serve, his Secrets keep, his lawful Commandments every where gladly do. He shall do no Damage to his said Master, nor see to be done of others, but that he, to his Power, shall let or forthwith give Warning to his said Master of the same. He shall not waste the Goods of his said Master, nor lend them unlawfully to any. He shall not commit Fornication, nor contract Matrimony within the said Term. He shall not play at Cards, Dice, Tables, or any other unlawful Games, whereby his said Master may have any Loss. With his own Goods or others, during the said Term, without License of his said Master, he shall neither Buy nor Sell. He shall not haunt Taverns nor Play-houses, nor absent himself from his said Master's Service Day or Night unlawfully, but in all Things, as a faithful Apprentice, he shall behave himself towards his said Master, and all his, during the said Term. And the said Master, his said Apprentice, in the same Art and Mystery which he useth, by the best Means that he can, shall teach and instruct, or cause to be taught and instructed, binding unto his said Apprentice, Meat, Drink, Apparel, Lodging, and all other Necessaries, according to the Custom of the City of *London*, during the said Term. And for the true Performance of all and every the said Covenants and Agreements, either of the said Parties bindeth himself unto the other by these Presents. In Witness whereof, the Parties above-named to these Indentures interchangeably have put their Hands and Seals, the *13th* Day of *July* in the *17th* Year of the Reign of our Sovereign *Lady Anne* of Great Brittain, France, and Ireland, Defender of the Faith, &c. Anno; Dom. 1711

*William Christmas*

From City of London Freedom Admission Papers

## THE POTTS FAMILY AND THE BANBURY GUARDIAN

Next April will see the 150th anniversary of the first issue of The Guardian which, five years later, became The Banbury Guardian. In recalling that anniversary tribute must be paid to members of the Potts family who were proprietors and editors of the paper for over 100 years and, in particular, to William Potts, the last editor and proprietor, to whom those interested in local history owe so much.

The first editor of the paper was another William, the grandfather of the historian. A native of Daventry, he came to Banbury as a young married man and set up business in Parson's Street, as a bookseller and printer, as he thought Banbury a more progressive town than Daventry. His young and beautiful wife gave birth to two sons and a daughter and to two other children who died as infants. William soon took his share in parochial and other duties. He, like other property owners, became alarmed at the rapid rise in the Poor Rate which, by 1834, was £1 per head of the total population of 3,737 persons, not including Neithrop and the hamlets. As an Overseer he realised that the system of paying out-relief to the able-bodied only meant that employers paid as little as they could while a sufficiency to enable a man to live was met from the Poor Rate. He wholeheartedly supported the new Poor Law Act whereby relief was taken away from parishes, with the election of Boards of Guardians and the establishment of central Workhouses. To publicise the work of the local Boards of Guardians and to "stop wild and foolish reports" of what went on at the Workhouses he brought out on April 5th, 1838, the first edition of The Guardian which he published monthly. The rapid appeal of the forthcoming paper must have surprised him for in the very first edition of four pages, 10½ ins. by 8 ins., he announced that the May edition would be doubled in size, although the price would remain the same, 2d. This price for the paper continued for the next five years, although with the introduction of penny postage on December 5th, 1839, a postage stamped copy of the paper was 3d. As a result of this postal facility The Guardian was able to be posted and thereby obtained a larger circulation.

In the edition of June 1843 William Potts announced that in future his paper would be entitled the Banbury Guardian and would be published weekly but that the first week in each month would contain Poor Law news. Also that the price of each copy would be 5d, the size to be broadsheet.

Although the monthly Guardian had been mostly devoted to news of the Poor Law it had also contained interesting information editorially and by advertisement. For instance, information on the observance of the Coronation of Queen Victoria, the opening of the Roman Catholic Church of St. John, the patent granted to John Gardner for his turnip cutting machine, notices concerning Alfred Beesley's History of Banbury (printed by William Potts), the proposal for St. Paul's Chapel-of-Ease, the death of 'Old Mettle', Royal births and attempts on the life of Queen Victoria.

In January, 1867, William Potts announced that, because of illness, he could no longer attend to his daily business and solicited support for his son, John. On March 4th, 1867, the death of "the father of Banbury journalism" was announced. He had played an immense part in the life of the town as one of the first Town Councillors and Mayor, as a Whig and Liberal Party member, a supporter of Reform and as a member of the Unitarian congregation. He was followed to his grave by the Mayor, fellow magistrates and many others. He had lived in Banbury for 44 years.

William Potts' period as editor of the paper had covered an important time in the history of the town - the Great Exhibition at which Bernhard Samuelson had won a medal for his Reaper, the expansion of the Samuelson works with resulting prosperity for the town, the establishment of a Board of Guardians and a Board of Health, the opening of St. Paul's Chapel-of-Ease and Christ Church, the building of the Town Hall, the Congregational Church, the Cross and the Methodist Church. He had increased the size of the paper and the price had been progressively reduced to 3d unstamped.

For the next quarter of a century the paper was under the control of John Potts, his son, who not only reduced the price to twopence, thus greatly enlarging the circulation, but he also increased the size of the paper and appointed correspondents in all the neighbouring towns and, by so doing, once again extended its appeal. His right-hand man on the editorial staff was J. Ross who remained his principal reporter throughout his years as editor.

John Potts was a most socially minded man and he undoubtedly endeared himself to his generation. When a local corps of Volunteers was formed in 1862 he was appointed one of the first officers and elected first Ensign and later promoted Lieutenant. He represented the corps at Wimbledon and more than once won National Rifle Association medals. He maintained a strong interest in the Horticultural Society and was an exhibitor. He was a Trustee of the Banbury Savings Bank, President of the Banbury Bowling Club and a member of the Independent Order of Oddfellows and Past Provincial Grand Master. He was a prominent Freemason being initiated into the Cherwell Lodge in 1869, thereafter becoming Worshipful Master and Provincial Grand Senior Warden. From 1871 to 1881 he served no less than fifteen stewardships to Masonic charities and he was a founder member of the Cherwell Chapter. He also became a member of the Knight Templars.

With the coming of the railways and the expansion of Samuelson's the town was prosperous but the news unexciting although unrest led to the foundation of the Agricultural Workers' Union and, of community importance, the opening of the Horton Hospital in 1872.

John Potts will be particularly remembered for his fight with the Post Office which led to the publication of the Banbury Evening News. For five years the Guardian had displayed on its office windows news telegrams, this being a welcome source of information to the townspeople before the arrival of radio and television. The Post Office, however, then refused to have their telegrams used in this way and so Potts decided to publish the telegrams in an evening paper, hoping

that the Post Office would relent. The paper, lacking sufficient revenue, lasted exactly one year, from January 1st to December 31st 1877 and was then closed down as the Post Office still refused to give way. However, for many years and until the Second World War some telegrams were displayed periodically, also pasted were results of sporting events and elections. This source of information was particularly valued by the population throughout the First World War.

John Potts' death was recorded in the edition of the Banbury Guardian on May 5th, 1892 with "profound sorrow". The writer of the obituary notice spoke of the late proprietor as a "considerate, urbane and truly conscientious chief" who supported every public institution in the town and neighbourhood no matter what colour or creed. On the day of the funeral almost all the shops in Parson's Street put up their shutters. John Potts was only 61 and he left a widow, two daughters and one son, William, who was to control the paper for the next fifty-four years.

William, grandson of the founder, was a big man in every sense of the word. He stood 6ft.6 ins. tall, his head was large, his fleshy face lit by wide open green eyes and his tread was heavy. He wore a wrist watch as big as a pocket watch and he used a fountain pen twice as large as the usual size. He had a loud voice and a hearty laugh. Although interested in marriage at one time to Miss Edith Orchard he never went to the altar but remained attached to her and remembered her in his will.

He lived with one of his sisters, Kate, who taught art, in Parson's Street, behind the office, the kitchen and dining room being downstairs and the living and sleeping quarters upstairs and included his warm and welcoming study. Most of his interviews he conducted in the small office just behind the paper's front office which contained, in addition to books and papers, a glass case of interesting mineral and printing specimens. There was also a large barometer for recording weather variations.

He had unusual working hours. He worked often into the small hours of the morning and after completing his newspaper duties he turned to his labours in connection with local history. He was never known to take a holiday but occasionally went by train to Oxford, London or Lincoln and spent the weekend in libraries. He was rarely seen in the newspaper office until 11 am. and, as he was editor and sub-editor, this invariably meant a great many hours of overtime for the printers. He was always reluctant to modernise the buildings in any way although he did introduce mechanical typesetting as the town grew in size and news increased. He also put in a wharfedale press but this and the folding machine were hand fed.

For assistance on the editorial staff he had first the services of J. Ross and later those of William Wood who was chief reporter for fifty years. These were backed up by anyone in the office or printing works, particularly if they had an interest in an organisation or event. Later, in the 1920s he took on myself and later George Enstone as trainees in journalism and not infrequently I recall writing twenty columns a week, all the copy being sub-edited

by William Potts himself.

He always took the keenest interest in the town and its people and he undoubtedly became a father figure. I remember his excitement when I brought back to him the news that the Northern Aluminium Company had come to an agreement with the Town Council to build a rolling mill on the Southam Road. He realised the potential this had for the town which at that time lacked employment opportunities.

His interest in St. Mary's parish church was considerable. He was secretary for the public appeal to restore the clock with quarter chimes and carillon to mark Queen Victoria's diamond jubilee, churchwarden when Canon Porter was Vicar and later vice-chairman of the Parochial Church Council. He was an enthusiastic Freemason and presented the Cherwell Lodge with a silver chain when it attained its golden jubilee. He was also a member of the Horton General Hospital's management committee and its president in 1937. He was also a magistrate.

However, he will be remembered chiefly for his work discovering the history of the town and for his writings on it. He collaborated with Eleanor Draper to write "The Parish Church of St. Mary's, Banbury" in 1907, which was printed and published by the Banbury Guardian as were three other small histories "Banbury in the Coaching Days", "Banbury Cross and the Rhyme" and "Banbury through one hundred years". The latter marked the centenary of the paper, the chapters of which had appeared as a series of articles during the centenary year. Owing to the 1939-45 war the booklet did not appear until 1942.

His biggest task was the writing of "A History of Banbury" in which he set down all his knowledge of the town's past. He never got down to publishing it and when the war ended only a part was in type and there was much work to be done. When pressure slackened on the company which had been formed to run the paper as new buildings were needed and machines, I decided to do the necessary work and to publish. It proved a great success. However, the story virtually ended in 1931 and in 1978 I was able to bring out a second edition which took the history up to 1974 and the change in local government. It also included the benefit of subsequent knowledge of where the High Cross stood, the result of excavations at the site of Banbury Castle, information published in Cake and Cockhorse and from other researches, the years of war and their effect on the town and its people, the arrival of more industry and the transformation of the education service.

In his paper William Potts recorded, among many items, Queen Victoria's diamond jubilee celebrations. He vividly described the impact of the 1914-18 war and the joyful coming of peace, the establishment of Midland Marts, the building of Banbury School and the great fire there in 1940, King George V's silver jubilee and the abdication of King Edward VIII. Also the declaration of the Second World War, the dropping of incendiaries and the bombing of the railway.

At the war's end William Potts was 77 years of age and he was only to live another two years. He was ill and tired and was almost completely confined to the house. He, however, kept a keen

eye on his paper and in order that it should continue became chairman of a "The Banbury Guardian Ltd." which, as I have indicated, published "A History of Banbury" in 1958, for which William Potts is rightly revered.

He was a most lovable man, kindly considerate and given to praise rather than criticism. He loved his paper and his town and he was jealous of their reputations.

In his will he left the Borough his enlarged copies of Beesley's history, his books, papers and lantern slides. He was buried at the Southam Road cemetery in a heavy snowstorm.

Ted Clark

**A DIRECTORY OF THE MANOR OF SHIPSTON-ON-STOUR 1793**, reconstructed from the Survey of John Claridge and Rolls of the Manor Courts, by (the late) J.A.S. Tolson, Shipston-on-Stour & District Local History Society, Occasional Paper No. 2, 1985. 12½" x 8¼", card cover, 24pp, 3 maps. £2.50 incl. post from Mrs. M. Everson, Burmington, Shipston-on-Stour, Warw.

The parish and the manor of Shipston-on-Stour comprised the same area, and the latter remained the property of Dean and Chapter of Worcester from the Dissolution on. Enclosure did not come until 1793, and most of this publication is devoted to the study and analysis of the map and schedule that were vital documents in this. As the map is at Worcester and the schedule at Stratford it is particularly useful to have the information presented in a convenient and comprehensible way.

Of the three maps, first is shown a full-size facsimile of a small portion: followed by a redrawn map of the whole manor, showing fields and strips, keyed to a list of field names. The third is a half-size map of the town itself, showing every building, again keyed to a list of occupiers and owners, arranged street by street. An appendix lists all males aged over 17 domiciled in the manor, as given in the Shipston Suit Roll of 20th October 1791.

Even in so short a Paper, there are a great many names listed and an index to them would have been useful, especially as there are blank pages which might have been utilised. Had his health permitted doubtless Mr. Tolson would have provided this, but in any case this constitutes an invaluable guide to Shipston's inhabitants, their homes and properties at the end of the 18th century, an essential reference work for anyone interested in the town at that time.

Despite being two counties away (an enclave of Worcestershire) Shipston was an easy ride from Banbury and there has always been a close relationship between the two places and their families - the Gilletts were just one that traded in both. A comparison of the names in this directory and Banbury's own early Rusher's lists, or contemporary land tax, would make an interesting exercise - suitable for a Brinkworth Prize entry, perhaps?

J.S.W. Gibson

**BANBURY GAOL RECORDS**, edited by P. Renold (Banbury Historical Society, 21, xxii, 248pp., illus., 1987) £10.00 (plus post & packing, £1.00 in UK.), available from Banbury Museum, Free to records members.

(**Note.** By an unfortunate oversight, although the correct volume number, 21, appears on the spine, that on the title page is misprinted as 18, as pointed out by our reviewer and others. Members are requested to correct their own copies to avoid future confusion. **J.S.W.Gibson**  
General Editor)

As the Banbury Historical Society approaches its thirtieth birthday it is pleasing to record the achievement of one of its longest-held objectives, the publication of the journal of Robert Gardner, governor of Banbury Gaol, for the period 1829-39. The journal has a particular place in the history of the Society. It came to light in the mid-1950s (not in 1964 as suggested on p.2 of this volume) and was the subject of numerous lectures to local organisations by the late Dr. E.R.C.Brinkworth, the Society's first Honorary Research Advisor. It was described in outline on pp 24-25 of Dr. Brinkworth's Old Banbury, the Society's first publication which appeared in 1958, and has been mentioned in lists of research projects ever since. If this seems to be slow progress, it should be noted that this is the twenty-first volume to be published by the Banbury Historical Society in thirty years, a rate which can be matched by few other local publishing societies. Throughout that period a typescript of the journal has been available and has been used as a source in several publications.

The editor of this volume has collected other sources concerning the borough gaol in the nineteenth century which enable its workings to be understood in much greater detail, and the introduction traces what little is known of the gaol in earlier periods. Gardner's journal is followed by extracts from nineteenth century Parliamentary Papers concerning the gaol, a series of extracts from newspapers and official records detailing the Borough Corporation's concern with the gaol between 1836 and 1852, and a transcript of the memorandum of the Quaker, Samuel Beesley, on the subject of his visits to prisoners in 1841. The final section is a useful compilation entitled 'Prisoners and Prosecutors' bringing together evidence about individual inmates and complainants from the sources in the volume, the Criminal Records in the Public Record Office, the Banbury Guardian and Rusher's Banbury Lists and Directories. The arrangement of this section by years is not ideal. A single alphabetical list would have been more convenient for family historians and would also have brought to light more readily those criminals who regularly put in appearances at the gaol. This section could also have been improved by the use of Oxford and Northampton newspapers which covered events in Banbury in the years before the establishment of the Banbury Guardian and which even afterwards sometimes provided more perceptive accounts of local happenings. The Oxford City and County Chronicle of 13 February 1841



describes an exciting rooftop chase which led to the capture of John Taylor, who, it appears, was to outward appearances a sober and hardworking shoemaker, but who was suspected of committing many burglaries. The Northampton Herald of 12 June 1847 describes the attempted escape of John Edwards and William Byrom, who tried to escape by pulling apart the gaol building. The book concludes with a detailed appendix on a succession of gaolers, Thomas and Joseph Wise, Robert Barnes, Robert Gardner and William Walker, who after a colourful life, meticulously detailed here, was killed in an accident on the Long Island Railroad, New York, in 1865.

The publication of this volume coincides with a growing interest in nineteenth century penal history. In Kent, for example, the New Maidstone Gaol Order Book 1805-1823 edited by C.W.Chalklin was published by the Archaeological Society in 1984, while the County Library published in the same year The Diary of a Prison Governor: James William Newham 1825-2890, edited by Paul Coltman. Miss Renold's collection of documents concerning Banbury Gaol details effectively the administrative problems which could arise when the corporation of a relatively small town found itself trying to run a prison at a time when ideas on the treatment of prisoners were changing radically. All of this is new, and a welcome addition to what we know of local history. But the importance of the Gardner journals goes far beyond administrative history. All gaolers of this period should have kept journals, but few survive, and the insights into the lower reaches of early nineteenth century society which come from this source are altogether unique, unmatched by anything else in print. The volume deserves a wide readership.

Barrie Trinder

### **Professor C.R.Cheney.**

We record with regret the death in June, at the age of 80, of one of our earliest and most distinguished members, Professor Christopher Cheney.

Christopher Cheney was one of the well-known Banbury printing family, and was educated at Banbury County School. He went on to Wadham College, Oxford, and to an academic career at Manchester, Oxford and finally as professor of medieval history at Cambridge.

To many historians he will be best known as the compiler of the Handbook of dates, though his speciality was medieval ecclesiastical history, on aspects of which he wrote a number of books.

Of greater relevance in the context of our Society was the work he did on the early history of his family firm. He was responsible for much of John Cheney and his descendants: Printers in Banbury since 1767, privately published 1936. Three decades later, he contributed to this journal 'Cheney & Sons: Two Centuries of Printing in Banbury' [C&CH.3.9, Autumn 1967], a condensed and updated version of the full-length book. Cheney's and Banbury have been fortunate in having an historian of such calibre to record their history.

J.S.W.G.

## Banbury Museum

Exhibition of the Packer Collection  
of Photographs  
to be held from  
19th July 1987 to 12th September 1987  
---oOo---

### **What is the Packer Collection?**

In 1984, on the retirement of Mr. Basil Packer, the Oxfordshire Museums Service was offered the opportunity to acquire both the photographic equipment and the negative archive of Packer Studios of Chipping Norton. Together, they form an important record of the working methods and range of products of local studio photographers.

The 52,000 photographic images in the collection are also of wider interest. They represent the work of three Chipping Norton photographers:

Percy Simms	Active 1890s- late 1930s
Frank Packer	1895 - late 1930s
His son, Basil	1920a - 1984

Both Percy Simms and Frank Packer travelled widely to photograph postcard subjects and the collection is particularly strong in these for the 1920s and 1930s. Frank and Basil Packer also recorded more local events, festivals and weddings. This remained an important element in the studio's work and in the surviving archive, which is by no means complete.

The Packer Collection contains:

23,800 **Postcard Negatives** arranged by modern counties and parishes. These cover parts of Oxfordshire(12,245), Gloucestershire (4828), Warwickshire (3206), Herefordshire & Worcestershire (1708), Northamptonshire (1249), Wiltshire (315) and Buckinghamshire (185). These are mainly of the 1920s and 1930s although some earlier and later subjects are included, notably Percy Simms' "Country Life" series of 152 images recording Cotswold farming and traditions of around 1910.

2,700 **Postcard Negatives** of more local events, arranged by the type of event, for example club days, funerals, fetes. These again date largely to the 1920s and 1930s.

26,000 **Boxed Negatives** representing the later work of the Packer Studio. Among these are many local weddings, portraits and some coverage of events for local newspapers.

The Collection may be consulted on Microfiche. Currently, the 12,245 topographical images of Oxfordshire are available in this form. The images are in parish order, and include also the "Country Life" series. These may be consulted at Banbury Museum by appointment with the Curator.

O.C.C. Department of Museum  
Services, April 1987

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); **Banbury Coal Records 1805-1852**, edited by Penelope Renold. Volume in preparation **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.

