

CAKE AND COCKHORSE



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

Cake and Cockhorse

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

Volume 10

Number 8

Spring 1988

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The Society has once again completed an excellent winter season of lectures organised by P. Renold, the enclosed annual report has listed them. It is rather surprising, considering the quality of these lectures, that the attendance appeared to be on average lower than previous years. I am sure that if our members could "advertise" our functions among their friends that we would immediately see the benefits in better attended meetings and a larger membership. The summer programme is enclosed with this edition and makes an excellent opportunity of attracting new members.

This edition of *Cake and Cockhorse* contains the final chapter of *The Banbury Horse Races* by E. Brown-Grant, her enthusiasm for Banbury's past is quite infectious. I understand that we may expect some more of her work in the near future. On behalf of the Society I would like to extend our appreciation to all the contributors in the past year. Please keep the articles arriving at my door

D.A.H.

Cover Picture: Education in the early 19th Century.
Woodcut from Banbury Chap Books

THE BANBURY HORSE RACES - PART IV

With only three more seasons to run, owing to the projected laying of the Great Western Railway over the site of the race course, due to begin in 1846, another summer meeting at Banbury was arranged to take place on August 6th, 1844. If one recalls the deplorable sequel to the 1843 races it comes as no surprise to find the race committee, headed by Edward Stanley, Clerk of the Course, making every effort towards a tightening of security and the reform of on-course activities.

Footing the list of conditions of racing in the advertised programme in the Banbury Guardian (June 6th), appeared the announcement that "No Horsemen permitted within the Ropes, except those on duty. - No Gambling Tables will be allowed on the Course. - Police will attend to keep order". A further reassurance to the public was offered by the BG on July 25th : "Those who feel anxious that the respectability of these races should be preserved, and that there should be no repetition of the disgraceful scenes of last year, will be glad to hear that the committee will suffer no second day's racing; and that the stand and booths are all to be removed on the morning of the day following the races".

According to the BG the 1844 one-day event provided a good day's sport and was attended by "a great assemblage of holiday persons", including many members of the local gentry from whose ranks were drawn the two Stewards, Mr. Henry Hall and Mr. Mortimer Ricardo.¹ Aside from the races there was plenty of extra amusement on hand. Tents were put up for dancing, and for the playing of nine-pins and four-corners,² which continued well into the night "by the light of a lantern". Of refreshments there was a liberal provision of all kinds : beef and Newcastle salmon,³ ginger beer and lemonade, gin and cloves, beer, porter, wines and spirits, the best of which could be consumed at Dagley's booth in the betting stand, and Claridge's under the grandstand.⁴ (BG Aug. 1st and 8th).

Thanks to the committee's judicious arrangements the course was kept clear by a contingent of the Northants. police, "assisted by Mr. Thompson of the Banbury force",⁵ and there was not a gambler or gambling booth to be seen anywhere. The committee, however, came in for some criticism for not clearing the refreshments tents off the ground on the following morning as promised. It was felt that "...to the practice of keeping open drinking booths all night and the whole of the day after a race, much of the bad odour in which races are held by respectable people is to be attributed". (Oxford Chronicle Aug. 10th).

The reputation of the races and their management was to appear in an even darker light following the tragic death on the race course of Samuel Newman (aged 54), a brazier employed by Joseph Jarvis of Parson's Street. At the inquest held on August 12th and 19th it was established that Newman, who was seen to be much intoxicated in a booth late at night after the meeting ended, had

since been reported missing; and that his body was discovered six days later by William Edwards, keeper of the toll gate at Banbury Bridge, ⁶ in a deep part of the river-bend, about half-way between the Bridge and the temporary foot-bridge, ⁷ at the angle where the course and the small meadow at the back of Waterloo buildings met. John Ward, a Banbury policeman who saw the deceased taken out of the water testified: "The gas-lamps were lighted Banbury Race night; where he was found, is nearly in a right line between the booths on the race-course and the lamp on the bridge...".

Though murder could not be proved, strong suspicion fell on a pair of notorious underworld racegoers known as Gloucester Bill and Gloucester Eliza who were staying at Trusty's lodging-house at Waterloo ⁸ on the night of the races, and who, with another villain, were seen in Newman's company after leaving the booth. When questioned, one of the female witnesses stated: "Eliza and Bill go about to races. She lets men go with her. Girls decoy men to bye places and they are robbed". Though there was no positive proof of Eliza's complicity in this case, further testimony disclosed that Newman had been knocked down by two men and his hat (but not his money) stolen. However, since the body showed no marks of violence liable to cause death, the jury returned a verdict of "Found Drowned", "... but by what means the man came into the water no sufficient evidence appeared". (BG Aug. 15th, 22nd and Sept. 5th).

The Oxford Chronicle, ever critical of the shortcomings of race course management, delivered what might be interpreted as a veiled attack on the Banbury meeting in its own summing up of the inquest: "The whole case displays in a most revolting light some of the accessories and attendant circumstances of Races". (Aug. 24th).

This view may well have been shared by others, for there was said to be some apathy among the townspeople of Banbury before the 1845 meeting which was held on August 5th, Mr. Ricardo and Mr. H. Peyton ⁹ acting as Stewards. For racing enthusiasts this was not a happy day, and there is more than a hint of nostalgia and despondency in the BG's report on August 7th: "The fourth meeting of the Banbury revival was run off on Tuesday ... but we may state, en passant, that the racing glory of that locality is fast fading; seeing that we shortly shall have the Nasbey and Dagley temporary hotels ¹⁰ converted into permanent Great Western stations, asthmatic engines cough down the blood nags; and hear the bell ring for passengers to go down the line, instead of for jocks to mount the pig-skin ... the sport was not of that interesting character which has pervaded the previous meetings and the weather was most unpropitious". Nevertheless everyone was gratified to see the honour of Banbury upheld in the Warden Hill Stakes which was won easily by Barnes Austin's "Little Johnny", though "... he had very little company, and that little by no means first rate". Cheney's Correct List (the race card printed for the 1845 meeting by Esther Cheney of the High Street, Banbury) shows that three out of the five races were unusually undersubscribed, there being only four runners for the Warden Hill, and three each for the Tally-Ho and the Neithrop Stakes. (It is also interesting to note that the price of admission

to the Committee's Stand was 2s; for children under 14 years, 1s).¹¹

The last meeting to be run on the Banbury course was held on August 4th, 1846 under the Stewardship of Lord Villiers¹² and Mr. H. Peyton. According to the JOJ (Aug.8th) it had been rumoured that the building of the railway was to begin in the spring, but "A few months ago the contractors for the line generously offered to refrain from entering upon the ground used for the course till after the event; at the same time, we believe, the Great Western Company proffered a handsome sum towards obtaining a piece of ground for a course another year". Sport on this occasion was first rate, and though "the carriage company that lined the ropes was thin ... the grandstand was well filled. The most prominent point of attraction, however, was a stand erected by the Great Western Company, for the convenience of themselves and friends ... it was tastefully decorated with evergreens, the two outside poles being each surmounted by a pick-axe and shovel, and from the centre of the stand waved a flag, bearing the inscription "Great Western", "Oxford and Rugby Railway". The poles were intertwined with crimson and white canvass, and in front was a painting representing a train of trucks and navies employed in the formation of a railroad".

One of the best run races of the day was the Tally-Ho Stakes, and when "Brunel" was announced the winner, a crowd of navvies in front of the GWR stand gave three loud cheers for which they were rewarded with free ale. The irony of it was that "Brunel" was owned by William Collins, MP for Warwick, "... a thorough-going narrow-gauge advocate ..." (OC Aug 8th).¹³

"On no former occasion has the sport been surpassed", reported the BG, "... and we confidently assert that there are many larger Race Meetings that might learn something in that way at Banbury ... Of amusement there was no lack; not the least popular affair of the day (and night too) was Mr. Naseby's extensive dancing pavilion: where some hundreds tripped the light fantastic toe, and some the iron-tipped heel, to the strains of the brass band" (Aug. 6th). The report, however, failed to mention the disorder that prevailed after the races were over. According to the OC "fighting was the order of the evening, many severe battles taking place ... There was the usual sequel to the races; the drinking and dancing booths were open all night, and the course was a most disgraceful scene. Fighting was renewed the following morning ... and drunken men were to be seen about the town the whole of the next day. On Thursday, despite of the judge's warning at Oxford, some gentlemen did their best to get up a fight between a country prize-fighter, Richard Palmer,¹⁴ and a Railway man called Blackbird, and the parties went to the field, thus adding to the losses of hundreds of working men a third day's wages, and a third day's drunkenness. There is sport to be sure, but, in a pecuniary point of view, the races are a great loss to the town". (Aug. 8th).

In view of the turbulent finale to the meeting, one suspects that there were many among the community who were greatly relieved when the railway company took over the race ground and immediately put their labour force to work on fencing out the line (JOJ Aug.8th).

Whatever hopes the racing fraternity had entertained for the continuation of racing elsewhere, these were not to be realised in the immediate future. It was to be nearly twenty years before the sport was resumed at Banbury, the reason for which may be attributed to a number of important factors : [1] The revival of the Portmeadow races in 1848, which restored Oxford to its former position as the racing centre of the county; [2] Difficulty in acquiring another site for a regular course large enough to accommodate vast crowds, grandstands, etc. Rumours that the GWR would contribute towards the purchase of land for another ground appear to have been unfounded; [3] The proliferation of alternative recreations of a more respectable and cultural nature : public lectures, readings and debates; concerts, exhibitions, travelling circuses and theatre companies, horticultural shows and railway excursions; as well as the expansion of sporting activities e.g. cricket, football, swimming, bowls and quoits; and the opening of new buildings intended for entertainment purposes : the Town Hall (1854) and the two Corn Exchanges (1857). [4] The antipathy shown by Banbury's middle-class Liberals towards racing which they regarded as a corrupt aristocratic sport synonymous with disorder and drunkenness. Even their own MP H.W. Tancred, who kept his constituents happy with generous donations to numerous charitable institutions and causes, particularly if they had Liberal support, showed little enthusiasm for the borough member's traditional contribution to the racing fund.¹⁵

When racing reappeared on the social scene in Banbury after the mid 19th century, it was to take on an entirely different form as a minor affair for local owners with horses of very modest pretensions, organised by a local committee and supervised by locally appointed officials. Often associated with a pony show¹⁶ and other additional amusements, races were held intermittently on various recreation grounds and fields near the town during a period of over fifty years. Between 1866 and 1880, meetings took place (with one exception) at Easter; from 1889 onwards, always on August Bank Holiday.

This type of meeting may be said to have developed originally out of a great social occasion, and the reintroduction of the Banbury Hunt Steeplechases (last held in the late 1840s). On March 10th 1863 Banbury celebrated the wedding of the Prince of Wales with a round of festivities which included a programme of athletic sports and pony races on the Cricket Ground.¹⁷ When the Steeplechases were revived on March 22nd 1864, pony sweepstakes and matches were incorporated into the one-day event. Hurdle and flat races for ponies occupied the entire second day's sport at the same venue in the following year.

As the Steeplechases were temporarily suspended in 1866, the recently formed race committee in Banbury substituted its own event (albeit on a less ambitious scale), which was to be the first of a series of holiday meetings arranged specifically for ponies, hacks and galloways. On this occasion hurdle and flat races were held in a field occupied by Mr. Bull, on the Broughton Road, near Crouch Hill. In 1874 the Banbury Pony Show and Races came off on a course in the Cricket Field¹⁸ and adjoining fields where "... there was a

large number of spectators, many of whom viewed the running from such "coigns of vantage" as Banbury Bridge and the Great Western Railway ... the ground was kept by a posse of the Northamptonshire Police ... but the presence of the officers did not prevent some people from fighting". (BG March 19th). The constabulary was again present "...to check any open breach of the peace .." the following year when sport was got up in a field belonging to Mr. H. Flowers, adjoining the Britannia Works Recreation Ground.¹⁹ In 1876 races were run "on a course near the GWR Station". From 1877 (the only year when racing was organised on Whitsun Bank Holiday) until 1880, meetings took place at the Ridings, Hardwick, a field belonging to Mr. Chamberlin of Adderbury Park.²⁰ Additional entertainment was provided by a band and a variety of field amusements, including athletic sports.

The first of the August Bank Holiday meetings was held on 5th August 1889 in the Rovers Ground,²¹ adjoining the GWR, and attended by nearly 2,000 spectators. After the races, there was dancing to the Bodicote Band until nightfall. Racing next year was again well patronised and marked by an increase in prize-money. "The course, which was as usual on the Rovers Ground was about a thousand yards round and had been picked out with flags" - a good view of which was obtained by "... an elevated stand adjoining the deciding-point..." (BG Aug.7th 1890).

In 1892 the meeting, which was held in Mr. Wakelin's field next to the GWR and attended by a crowd of over 2,500, included a Trotting Race for Horses and a Village Band Competition. A similar fixture was repeated in the following year on Mr. Busby's field on the Southam Road.²² This ground was again used for racing in 1896 though "Attendance was not so good as previously seen at these races, counter-attractions probably having something to do with this".²³ (BG Aug 6th). There was a large crowd at the 1899 meeting which was held in a field, lent by Mr. J.H. Neal, adjoining the Tweed Factory.²⁴ Southam Road was again the venue for the last of the Banbury Pony and Galloway Races which took place after World War 1, in 1922. Despite a heavily rain-soaked course, which had to be pumped out manually by the Banbury Fire Brigade, "... there was all things considered, a large attendance proving the popularity of horse racing as a sport and pastime". (BG Aug.10th).

Popular as these annual holiday fixtures appear to have been, they enjoyed nothing like the high prestige of the Banbury Hunt Steeplechases which usually occurred in March/April on Crouch Hill, SW of Banbury. After their revival in the early 1860s, there was a long lapse until 1891 when they continued without interruption until 1914, and again after the War from 1920-29.

Throughout its long and eventful history racing has been an integral feature of the social life of Banbury and its locality. At first carried on in the 18th century by a handful of wealthy land-owners for their own amusement, by the early 19th century racing had developed into a highly successful and commercialised mass entertainment. Banbury's status in the sporting world may be gauged from press reports of the 1830s and '40s when meetings attracted large

crowds and drew from all over the country some of the most celebrated men of the turf and their jockeys, their presence lending an added note of fascination and glamour to the occasion.

However, such public gatherings, where the extremes of society came into contact, were often fraught with crime, immorality, riot and drunkenness; and it was these excesses, tolerated indulgently by the upper classes, which came to be condemned by radical reformers as a threat to social order and decency, and an impediment to workers' effectiveness in a growing industrial society. The movement for the suppression of traditional and inherently violent diversions (e.g. racing, prize-fighting, wakes and animal cruelty sports) which arose at the end of the 18th century, historically constitutes a replay of those Puritan attitudes towards work and 'irrational' recreations which were prevalent in the 17th century. By the early 19th century many of the Puritan social values had become incorporated into a wide campaign undertaken by progressive and humanitarian members of the middle-class for the refinement of manners and morals which they sought to achieve through self-improvement and the cultivation of 'rational' tastes and pursuits.

The 1830s saw great changes in the country's political structure. Their far-reaching effect on society and its use of leisure at the provincial level may be seen at Banbury where, after the overthrow of aristocratic patronage, the newly-elected body of middle class Liberals assumed control of their own local affairs, and transformed the town's social life through the establishment of a whole range of 'rational' recreations, self-improvement societies and entertainment facilities. The period between 1830-60 was one of intense cultural activity, a by-product of which was the disappearance of those violent recreations so abhorred by the middle-class: bull-baiting, badger-baiting, rat-catching, dog-fighting and cock-fighting by the early 1840s; and the Newland and Grimsbury Wakes after 1864.

For reasons already suggested, racing at Banbury fell into abeyance for almost two decades; and after the revival of the early 1860s sport continued, with intermittent breaks, into the 20th century. As one of the traditional recreations incurring the hostility of the reformers, racing owed much of its renewed support, success and popularity to the fact that having to adjust to the recreational needs of a changing society, it had become almost 'respectabilised'. Evidence from press reports shows that incidents of petty crime and violence were exceptional, though this must be attributed largely to effective police vigilance and control of crowd behaviour.

An important factor which affected the attendance and thereby the success of the races was the railway, which, by reducing travelling time and offering cheap excursions was able to convey vast numbers of spectators to the town from an ever-widening catchment area.

Upper class patronage too was still essential particularly in relation to the steeplechases. Attended by royalty and the aristocracy, and therefore of greater social significance than the

pony events (which had virtually ceased by the end of the 19th century) the Crouch Hill meetings were held under the auspices of a distinguished hunting fraternity who maintained the highest standards of sportsmanship and kept racing alive right through into the inter-war years. There must be many of the older inhabitants of Banbury who can still remember the thrill and excitement of 'Steeplechase Day' on Crouch Hill in the late 1920s.

Evelyn Brown-Grant.

A NOTE ON THE BANBURY RACE COURSE

In the 19th century meetings were held near the town on meadows which lay to the N of Banbury Bridge and E of the river Cherwell in the parish of Warkworth, Northants. The land, which was already enclosed by 1694, ²⁵ is referred to in the 1765 enclosure award for Warkworth (including Grimsbury) as 'certain' Old inclosure ... called Banbury Moors otherwise Grimsbury Moors'. On the 1st ed. 1" Ordnance Survey map of 1833 a race course is marked on the Moors, between the river and the Middleton Cheney turnpiked road; [see Fig. 1] and since it is known that there was racing at Banbury in or before 1720, it is likely that this site may have served as the town's traditional race ground long before the revival of the 1830s. It so continued in use from 1842 until 1846 when the land was divided by the GWR.

During the period of the 1840s revival the course was variously described as being "... close to Banbury on the left-hand side of the Brackley road" (Oxf. Univ. and City Herald 1843); "... in the usual place, Wyatt's Meadows, ²⁶adjoining the town on the Northants. side of the river Cherwell" (OC 1844); and in "Grimsbury Field" (BG 1845 and 1846).

Evidence relating to the topography of the actual course is derived not only from references made to it during the 1844 inquest, but also from two accounts published a century apart. In the OC's report of the 1843 races, the course was said to be "... a mile and a distance over a meadow rising from the river, but in so gentle a manner that the whole could be commanded from the different stands". A more detailed description is given in William Potts' "Banbury through a hundred years" (1942), in which he writes:

"The part of Grimsbury between what later became West Street and the River Cherwell (Before the railway cut through it) was known as the Moors, and here was the Banbury Racecourse of the early nineteenth century. The grand stand was near the site of the former Baths and the starting point at the end of the present West Street. The course ran from there to the lasher, then beside the brook to the bridge, behind the houses of Waterloo and what is now West Street, past the starting point to the grand stand".



Fig. no.1

Many of the features referred to in the text have been incorporated in the plan of the race course as it may have appeared in the 1840s : based on a map of Banbury c 1838 (See C. & C. Vol.2, No. 9, 1964) the Tithe Map (1852), and the 1st ed. 25" Ordnance Survey Map (1885). [See Fig.2].

N.B. The features indicated by hatched lines are of a later date : the station master's house (post-1850); West Street (1852); the Public Baths (1868).

Along its N.E. section the course lay on a contour of 300 ft. above sea level.

FOOTNOTES

1. Henry Hall of Barton Abbey, Steeple Barton, Oxon; wealthy brewer and proprietor of Jackson's Oxford Journal. Field Master of the Heythrop Hunt in 1854; High Sheriff of Oxon. in 1850.
Mortimer Ricardo of Kiddington Hall, son of the celebrated political writer, David Ricardo; one of the four Masters of the Heythrop Hunt in 1854; High Sheriff of Oxon. in 1846.
2. "Is so called from four large pins which are placed singly at each angle of a square frame. The players stand at a distance, ... and throw at the pins a large heavy bowl, which sometimes weighs six or eight pounds. The excellency of the game consists in beating them down by the fewest casts of the bowl". J. Strutt : The Sports and Pastimes of the People of England (1830 ed.), p.273.
3. Pickled or cured salmon, sent down from the NE coast in casks or tubs, was a popular speciality sold at refreshments booths at the Banbury Michaelmas Fair and the races.
4. James Dagley of the Wine Vaults, Parson's Street; John Claridge of the Vine Tavern, Cornhill.
5. William Thompson, chairmaker; part-time Superintendent of the Borough Police from 1836-60; employed full-time from 1860-75. His Tipstaff is in the Banbury Museum. (Thompson had no authority to attend this meeting in any official capacity, since the course lay outside Borough jurisdiction).
6. "... at the bridge end of the town ... the turnpike ... stood ... a little beyond where the stationmaster's house was, and near an old cedar-tree which is there still. The turnpike, I think, was kept by a man the name of Edwards - Pikey Edwards he was always called". (George Herbert : Shoemaker's Window p.80). According to the BG (Feb.22nd 1855) the toll gate stood "... at the spot where the Warkworth Lane branches out from the road".
7. From 1842-46, H.A. Dalby, timber merchant, built a temporary bridge over the Cherwell to provide pedestrian spectators with an easy access onto the course from the town.

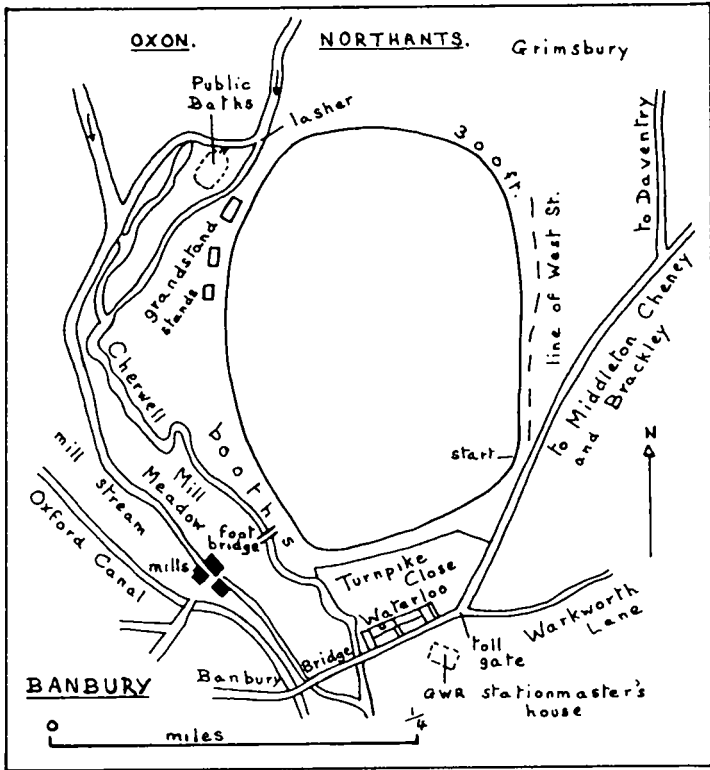


Fig no. 2

8. A terraced row of cottages built c.1815, situated on Banbury Bridge Bank, at the E foot of the Bridge and N of the road, "... the place had an infamous name and was said to be the resort of rogues who thus lived outside the jurisdiction of the Banbury police, for it was in Northamptonshire". (William Potts : Banbury through a hundred years. p.97). Lodging houses run by Thomas and Bridget Ward and Benjamin and Mary Trusty were known to be used by criminals when they visited the Banbury races.
9. Henry Peyton of Swift's House, Stoke Lyne, Oxon; a prominent member of the Bicester and Warden Hill Hunt, and considered to be one of the best sportsmen of his day.
10. Thomas Naseby of the King's Head, Parson's St. ("temporary hotels" = refreshment booths).
11. Race card on p.23 in Cheney's of Banbury 1767/1967 (1967). Banbury Public Library.
12. See C. & C. Vol. 10, no. 5, p.118, n.3.
13. In the 1840s two schemes were proposed for the extension of the railroad routes from London to the Midlands, the North and the West : the narrow gauge line of the LNWR; and the broad gauge line of the GWR designed by the brilliant engineer Isambard Kingdom Brunel.
14. Dick Palmer of Wroxton, known in pugilistic circles in the 1830s as the "Banbury Pet". Like horse racing, prize fighting attracted upper class patronage and a large following from among the lower orders, huge sums being placed on bouts which were often held at race meetings. Deplored as a demoralising and brutal affair the prize fight came under attack from the late 18th century from humanitarians and reforming magistrates who had the power to restrain fighting on the grounds of breach of the peace and unlawful assembly.
15. From 1843-46 Tancred subscribed an additional 50 Sovereigns to the prize-money for the Neithrop Stakes. His feelings on this score are revealed in his correspondence with his friend and party agent, the Banbury solicitor William Munton : "I heartily wish that the Railway had absorbed the Race Course, and applied it to some purpose more rational than the present, and which would have left my fifty pounds in my pocket..." (May 29th 1845); and again in another letter, undated: "I send you a draft for Stanley [i.e. Clerk of the Course] I shall not break my heart if the railroad puts an end to the races next year". (A Victorian M.P. and his constituents, Banbury Hist. Soc., Vol.8, pp. 17 & 24)
16. Pony Shows accompanied the races from 1874-77. and 1879-80.
17. As well as cricket matches, circus and agricultural shows were held on the old Cricket Ground, part of a 7 acre field (marked on the 1852 Banbury Tithe Map as Windmill Field, N. of Perry's Nursery Garden) which lay S of the junction of Newland road with the main Oxford road.

18. In 1868 the Banbury Cricket Club's new ground was opened in Grimsbury; this was most likely to have been in one of the fields between the GWR and West Street, New Grimsbury, i.e. on the E section of the former race course.
19. In 1869 Bernhard Samuelson acquired for his Britannia Works Recreation Society (founded 1856) a large sports ground next to the Works Depot, S of the GWR station.
20. From the mid-1850s cricket and other sports (e.g. football in the 1860s) were played on part of the 34 acre field situated S of the Hardwick village road.
21. A new football club, the Banbury Rovers was formed in 1879.
22. This meeting may have been held on a large piece of open ground known as the Marches which lay to the NW of the Castle Nursery Gardens, between the canal and the Southam Road. Private pony matches were run here in 1863.
23. The Wroxton Horticultural show, the Foresters Great Fete at Bleaheim Park, and the Brackley Athletic Sports and Bicycle Parade were all held on Bank Holiday Monday, Aug. 3rd.
24. The 3 acre Mill Meadow which lay to the E of the factory site, between the Banbury Mill stream and the Cherwell.
25. Map of Robert Barber's estate (1694). Bodl. MS.d.d. Risley DIII.
26. The Banbury Meadows were said to be in the occupation of John Wyatt, landlord of the Flying Horse, when they were auctioned in 1823 after the death of the Proprietor, Rev. William Shippen Willes. It is not known how long Wyatt continued his tenancy, though it is recorded that he was operating in Banbury as a 'milk man' from 1832-44, and as a 'dealer-in-hay' from 1844-45 (Rusher Directory). His name appears in the Borough Electoral Register for 1841 and 1843 as the owner of land adjoining the Middleton Turnpike road.

AUGUST BANK HOLIDAY.

BANBURY

PONY & GALLOWAY RACES,

UNDER THE DISTINGUISHED PATRONAGE OF
A. Brassey, Esq., M.P., M.F.H., Messrs. Hunt, Edmunds,
and Co., O. F. Edmunds, Messrs. Dannell and Sons,
R. W. Flick, Esq., &c.

WILL TAKE PLACE IN A
FIELD SITUATED IN THE SOUTHAM ROAD
About Five Minutes Walk from the Station.

On **MONDAY, AUGUST 3rd, 1896.**

COUNTRY TEACHERS IN VICTORIAN OXFORDSHIRE - SOME CASE STUDIES

Although teachers were important members of Victorian village society, details of the lives and careers of individual members of the profession are scanty. It is to fill some of the gaps in our knowledge and, through the footnote references, to suggest possible areas for further research that the following case studies of eleven North Oxfordshire teachers have been assembled.

In the early nineteenth century the post of elementary teacher was often undertaken by those too old, too sick, or too inefficient to carry out any other job, or who had accepted the post because there was no other candidate available. As late as 1854, Mildred Lofts, headmistress at Tackley, was described by the diocesan inspector of schools in unenthusiastic terms as 'a very respectable, well principled, tidy, orderly, respectful Person (who took the School at a time when the Rector was in great difficulty, the previous Schoolmistress having died, & he himself being absent from ill health); but being untrained, is without any professional skill. The children are ... greatly deficient in Intelligence & Energy'.¹ Still less desirable was the situation at North Leigh, where the master was a failed farmer and land-measurer, who was incapable of carrying out his duties satisfactorily.²

Against this background, in 1846 the government instituted a training programme to improve the status and efficiency of members of the profession. Those wishing to become teachers could now serve a five-year apprenticeship as a pupil-teacher, and at the end of this could compete for a Queen's Scholarship to give entrance to a training college. Those candidates unable to gain admission to college could, meanwhile, remain in the schools as unqualified instructors, and perhaps study in their spare time for the certificate examination. As the Oxfordshire cases already quoted suggest, the reform process took time to become effective, but from 1862 all heads of schools aided by government grants were supposed to hold a certificate, gained either whilst at college or externally through private study. Even then, in some of the smaller rural schools, such as Milcombe in the examples quoted below, poor salaries and a shortage of applicants meant that unqualified teachers could still gain a headship. The managers then sought to persuade the Education Department in London to allow their candidate to continue in office until he or she had obtained the requisite certificate. These attempts to circumvent the regulations were boosted in the early 1870s when, following the passage of the 1870 Education Act guaranteeing every child a school place, it was also laid down that those teachers aged 35 or above who had taught in a school for at least ten years, might be awarded a certificate at the discretion of HM Inspector of Schools without taking any examination. Between 1871 and 1874 over 3,000 teachers were granted their certificate under this dispensation.³

The case studies quoted involve nine different parishes. They

reveal the youthfulness of many teachers when they first became heads, and the speed with which a number of them moved around - though Ezer Walton, who became master of Wardington school at the age of twenty, remained in that village for the rest of his life. The low salaries paid, especially to women teachers, and the pressures exerted by the need to do well at the annual 'payment by results' examinations conducted by HM Inspector are demonstrated. For under the terms of the 1862 Revised Code, government grants to schools, except for building grants, were paid only if pupils achieved a minimum attendance level and were successful in annual examinations in the three 'r's' conducted by HMI.

In each case study the basis for research has been the 'preliminary statement' submitted by school managers to the Education Department, asking for approval and official recognition of their particular institution. Normally only one such application was necessary - hence the career profile of only one head teacher can normally be assembled from this source. Only if the first application failed or was rendered obsolete for some reason was a second appeal necessary. Equally, the date when the application was made can vary widely. Two of the examples date from the 1850s and one from the 1890s, but most relate to the 1860s and 1870s when elementary school building and staff reorganisation were both proceeding apace.

1. Alkerton National School.⁴ Application dated 11.9.1871
School details.

A new school was erected in 1871, with accommodation for 58 children, although no more than seventeen apparently attended. The application was submitted to the Education Department before the school had actually opened. Fees of 6d, 3d. and 1d. a week were proposed, varying according to parental means. 'There is space for a house which will not be completed yet for lack of funds. At present it will be used as a Coal-House. The internal communication will not be stopped till the house is completed,' noted the correspondent of the school.

Background of Teacher.

ELLEN M. HATFIELD was born on 6 June, 1847, at Winkfield in Berkshire. She was apprenticed at Binfield National School, also in Berkshire, before attending the Bristol and Gloucester Diocesan Training College at Fishponds, Bristol, between January 1866 and December 1867. On 4 October, 1869, she became head of Shutford School, and during her first months in office depended much on the curate, the Rev. B.J. Smith, for assistance with the teaching. Indeed, on 23 December, 1869, he took full charge of the school whilst she decorated the Church for Christmas! Miss Hatfield was a firm disciplinarian - as on 25 March, 1870, when the children were 'kept back for a quarter of an hour for marching disorderly into the school room'. She gained her certificate in 1871 and remained at Shutford until the end of the following March. Immediately before her departure she received a mixed report on the pupils from Walter B. Yarde, HMI: 'The condition of the School is very creditable to Miss Hatfield, inasmuch as the result of the Examination shows that the children have been well taught as far as

they have gone. But the standard is very low, no children being presented above the third Standard [of the official School Code] so a Grant in full is recommended (but with great hesitation) only in consequence of the good Examination passed. More books are wanted: another Blackboard'.

Whilst at Shutford, Miss Hatfield lodged with the local carrier, Henry Mills, his wife and their two young children. At Alkerton the salary proposed was £35 a year. She was also expected to play the organ for Sunday church services, and for that a payment of £10 a year was suggested. Trade directories indicate that she left Alkerton in 1876/77.

2. The Barfords National [i.e. Church of England School, covering Barford St. Michael and Barford St. John.]

Application dated 1.2.1875

School details.

A School was first established in 1852, but new buildings were opened immediately prior to the application. There were 25 boys, 46 girls and 71 infants in attendance at that time, paying fees of 1½d. each, the ½d being returned to those pupils who attended regularly.

Background of Teacher.

MRS. MARY TAYLOR, née TIMS, was born at Adderbury on 10 August, 1831, and had taught in elementary schools for 27 years when the application was made. According to the school correspondent, she had formerly been head of the girls' school at Banbury workhouse and whilst there had been 'examined by Mr. Ruddock, Government Inspector and received a certificate. This certificate she has lost. But as she continued mistress for 2 other years and the Books (sic) official of the year may be consulted it is hoped it will be counted.

Between 1846 and 1848 she had been a monitress at Adderbury School, which was 'good & large then as now and paid so much a week by the curate'. She had taught at the Girls' school at Banbury workhouse from 1848 to 1852, before taking up the headships at the Barfords on 7 March, 1852. Her salary for the year ending 4 November, 1874, was the meagre sum of £25.

Comments

In the 1871 census return, Mrs. Taylor is shown as the wife of William Taylor, grocer and beer retailer. She had one daughter, Emma, aged 10, living at home. Interestingly the census gives no occupation for her, but it is clear from trade directories that she remained head of the school until the mid-1880s.

3. Bloxham National School.⁶ There were two applications for this school

(a) Application - 19 May, 1857.

School details

See Appendix 1 for school rules. At this date, in addition to 28 free scholars, 16 boys and 61 girls attended the school, 1 boy paying 6d. a week, 3 paying 4d., 2 2d., and 10, 1d. Of the girls, 21 paid 2d. and 40, 1d. This was an extreme example of fee differentiation based partly on parental means.

Background of Teacher

CHARLES WILLIAM HAYCOCK was born on 17 November, 1836, and was an uncertificated teacher. He had taken charge of the school on 8 August, 1853 - at the age of only 16, and in 1857 he lodged with the vicar. The salary paid to the teacher at the boys' school was £56 a year, while the girls' teacher, who is not mentioned in the application form, secured £21.14s.2d.

(b) Application - 15 June, 1863 ⁷

School details

With the help of a grant from the Banbury poor law guardians, a new school building was opened on 20 April, 1863.

Background of Teacher

THOMAS WALTER WIX was the son of a turner and was born on 7 December, 1840. After serving an apprenticeship of almost five years at Henley National and Industrial School he entered Culham Diocesan Training College, as a 1st Class Queen's scholar, on 30 January, 1860. There he remained for two years and was described by the principal when he left as an honest, energetic character; but impulsive & hot tempered. By no means clever but will probably make a very good schoolmaster!! He became head at Bloxham on 1 January, 1862, at an annual salary of almost £70, plus an additional £8 to cover lodging expenses until the school house was completed. He also served as an assistant poor law overseer in his spare time, and for this was paid £10 a year. He was assisted by a Mrs. Lawrence, aged 40, who taught the girls sewing.

Comments

In August 1864, Wix married Elizabeth Webb, a sawyer's daughter from Henley, who was three years his senior and herself a teacher. Soon after they left Bloxham so that Thomas could take up a post at Sunning Hill National School near Staines in Middlesex.

4.

Bloxham National Infants' School⁸ Application dated 6.8.1877

School details

The Infants' school was established in 1863 and the school room was erected in 1869. A class room was added in 1875. There were 85 pupils in average attendance in 1877, and these were taught needlework as well as the ordinary basic subjects. Seventy-eight of the infants on the register paid 1d. a week and 36, 2d.

Background of Teacher

ELIZABETH BAKER was born on 4 May, 1854, and began her teaching career as a monitress at St. Mary's and St. Paul's School, Warncote. She was untrained but gained her teacher's certificate in December 1876. Prior to coming to Bloxham she had worked (between February 1876 and May 1877) at St. Luke's School, Leicester. Her salary at Bloxham was £60 a year.

5. Cottisford National School.⁹ Applications dated October 1871 and January 1874

School details

The school was built in 1856 to cater for 50 pupils, but was extensively altered in about 1870. By the early 1870s it had 10 boys and 36 girls on the register, paying weekly fees of 1d. The

associated school house in the early 1870s comprised a living room, pantry, and two bedrooms.

Background of Teacher

SUSANNAH HOLMYARD was born in May, 1844, the daughter of a London saddler. She worked for two years as a monitor and five as a pupil teacher at North Malvern girls' school in Worcestershire before becoming head at Cottisford in November 1867 as an uncertified, untrained teacher. At the beginning of the 1870s she was paid £27.10s. a year. In December 1872 she gained her certificate by external examination and her annual salary was then raised to £32.4s. By January 1874 pupil numbers had fallen to 42 - of whom 16 were infants, 18 girls, and only 8 were boys.

Comments.

Susannah Holmyard remained head at Cottisford, living alone in the school house, until her marriage to Henry Tebby, the squire's gardener, in April 1885. He was about nine years her junior and was the son of a local labourer. Susannah features as 'Miss Holmes' in Flora Thompson's Lark Rise to Candleford (Oxford World's Classics ed., 1963, pp.190-198). Flora described her as 'a small, neat little body with a pale, slightly pock-marked face, snaky black curls hanging down to her shoulders, and eyebrows arched into a perpetual inquiry. She wore in school stiffly starched, holland aprons with bibs, one embroidered with red one week, and one with blue the next, and was seldom seen without a posy of flowers pinned to her breast, and another tucked into her hair'. The three 'r's' plus scripture, and needlework for the girls, were the main subjects taught, and Miss Holmyard took all the classes simultaneously, aided by two young monitors, aged about twelve. They were each paid a shilling or so a week for their services. She was a firm disciplinarian but also knew her place in society, so that when the squire's mother, Mrs. Rousby (Mrs. Bracewell in the book) visited the school to examine the children's needlework, she 'sketched a slight curtsy as she held open the door for her'. Doubtless she was much gratified when Mrs. Rousby acted as a witness at her wedding. But she was also a good teacher. In a typical comment, the diocesan inspector of schools noted in 1882: 'The Condition of Religious Knowledge is satisfactory: and the answering generally was very creditable. The written work (in the lower Standards especially) was decidedly above the average'. According to Flora Thompson, after her marriage Susannah went to live in a 'pretty old cottage' she renamed 'Malvern Villa'.

6. Cropredy National School¹⁰Application dated 5.3.1858

School details

The school was erected in 1854 on land provided from the vicar's glebe. The cost, with the school house, was £720, of which the government gave £270. In 1858 there were 58 boys and 54 girls in attendance paying 1d. a week, plus 10 boys and 3 girls each paying 3d. There was also an evening school conducted on Wednesdays and Fridays during the winter months by the vicar and curate, aided by the schoolmaster.

Background of Teacher

GEORGE WILDEN BUCKINGHAM was born on 29 December, 1824, and spent two years as master at Great Hampden National School near Great Missenden in Buckinghamshire before entering Culham Diocesan Training College in September 1856. His attainments at that time were described as 'low' and the following summer he left to become head at Cropredy, from 29 September, 1857. When he left Culham, the principal described him as a 'fair master for a country school: and of a higher tone of character & more love for his work than is usual', adding later, 'Turns out an admirable schoolmaster'.

Comments

At Cropredy, Buckingham was assisted by his wife, Sarah, and they were paid a joint salary of £64 a year, plus a free house. A daughter, Amelia, was born in the spring of 1859 and at about that time, Buckingham returned temporarily to Culham to read for his certificate. In the interim another Culham student named Rowles acted as his substitute. He gained his certificate at Christmas 1859 - a not particularly prestigious 3rd class of the 1st year examination - and returned to Cropredy where he remained until about 1863/64. A second daughter, Lucy Anne, was baptised in March 1861.

7. Drayton National School. ¹¹ Application dated 4.3.1891

School details

In the early 1890s, the school building was owned by Baron North of Wroxtton Abbey, from whom it was rented at £4.6s.8d. a year. In the autumn of 1889 the old school, consisting of two cottages converted into a school room, was reconstructed and virtually rebuilt. 'Upwards of 30' scholars were said to be in average attendance in 1891, paying fees fixed at 2d. a week for one child only, and 1½d. each where there were two or more in a family. 'children under 5 years of age free'. In 1894, the school's condition was still unsatisfactory and five years later the government threatened to withdraw its grant unless a separate room was provided for the youngest children.

Background of Teacher

MARY ELIZA BAILEY was born on 20 February, 1854. She was a certificated teacher, having gained that qualification in April 1882, although she had been neither apprenticed as a pupil teacher nor attended a training college. Previously she had taught at Eldersfield school, between September 1880 and August 1890. At the beginning of the 'nineties she was paid £40 a year at Drayton.

Comments

When Mary Bailey first took up her appointment she seems to have been successful. On 23 December, 1892, HMI reported that 'good progress had been made', while the children were 'in very nice order'. They had passed 'on the whole a good examination in the elementary subjects. The girls sew well, but the boys must improve in Geography'. The school earned the substantial grant of £59.15s.2d. in that year

The log book shows that the rector, Mr. Jordan, and his wife were regular visitors to the school, with the rector taking occasional

lessons and his wife hearing the children sing or recite. In the autumn of 1894 Miss Bailey married, becoming Mrs. Jenkinson. Less than three years later, on 9 April, 1897, she left the school under something of a cloud. The report of HMI in the previous December had commented critically: 'The condition of the School is not very satisfactory. The Infants and the first standard children are extremely backward, and there is a general lack of vigour and enthusiasm in the teaching of the School. A decided improvement will be looked for next year'. The grant was reduced, and further cuts were threatened unless the infants were 'taught suitably to their age'. The total grant received by the school amounted to only £42.19s.0d. On 12 April, 1897, Mrs. Jenkinson was replaced by Harry W. Bourne, a certificated master. He did not stay long, either, and in 1904, shortly after Oxfordshire County Council assumed control of the school under the 1902 Education Act, the head was a 63-year-old certificated but untrained master, James Abbott, who was assisted by his wife. He earned £82 a year and she received £12. There were 40 pupils in average attendance.

8. Milcombe Elementary School.¹² Application dated 11.5.1873.

School details

The school building was constructed in 1859, using materials from the dilapidated church, although the school itself was apparently not established until 1861. 'The schoolmistress's house is under the same roof, but with no communication whatever with the schoolroom. Used for Parish meetings, on Saturday afternoons, after School hours on other days', reported the school correspondent. In 1873 there were 17 boys and 21 girls in attendance, of whom 4 of the boys and 5 of the girls paid 2d. a week, and the rest 1d. according to parental means. Knitting and plain needlework were taught 'every afternoon'.

Background of Teacher

NAOMI M. CARTER was a widow, who had been born at Trowbridge, Wiltshire, on 29 May, 1846. Prior to coming to Milcombe she had assisted her late husband, the head of Chepstow New School in Monmouth, between January 1866 and September 1867. She had not been apprenticed and had no certificate, although she declared herself willing to be examined for one.

Comments.

Mrs. Carter came to Milcombe in April 1870 and at the time of the 1871 census was living in the school house with her daughter, Florence, aged 4, and son, Thomas, aged 3. A 17-year-old general servant, Adelaide (sic) Brookman from Compton, Berkshire, was also staying with her as a 'visitor'. Mrs. Carter's efforts to support her young family must have been made doubly difficult by her low salary. In 1873 she received about £29 a year. Either her application for recognition was unsuccessful or she found another post, for according to Kelly's 1877 trade directory she was no longer head of the school.

9. Tadmerton National School.¹³ Application dated 19.5.1876

School details

In 1871 the old school, which had first been opened in 1834, was

badly overcrowded, having room for 29 children only, although 53 were in attendance. A school board was elected under the terms of the 1870 Education Act to improve the situation and in 1876 a new school was opened. There were 51 pupils on the school register, viz. 2 boys and 3 girls paying 4d. a week; 14 boys and 17 girls paying 2d.; and 5 boys and 10 girls paying 1d. Parental means decided the fee level.

Background of Teacher

RUTH ALMA KELLY was born on 21 November, 1853, and had taught for 7 years in elementary schools before moving to Tadmarton. She was apprenticed at St. Michael's school, Lichfield, and subsequently, between March 1874 and Christmas 1875, taught at Bayford National School, Hertfordshire, at Christmas 1874 she gained her teacher's certificate by external examination. She took up her post at Tadmarton on 8 May, 1876.

Comments

As soon as she moved to Tadmarton, Miss Kelly complained of the poor standard of her pupils: 'The children are very backward in all their Subjects, not one of the Infants know the Alphabet, and even Boys of 9 and 10 cannot make the letter "o" properly'. One of the village ladies, a Miss Walton, volunteered to help with the needlework teaching, and the rector also taught regularly. He had other tasks to perform, too - as in the week 15-19 May, 1876, when he reproved children who had brought 'impudent messages to the Mistress'. Miss Kelly soon seems to have lost interest in her work, and early in November the rector gave her three months' notice. For much of the ensuing period, she attended irregularly, staying away for three weeks with a bad leg and with other excuses. Thus, early in January she arrived late 'on account of a friend of hers going away', while on 21 November, her birthday, she cut the afternoon session to one hour, dismissing the children at 2 p.m. '(as is her usual custom) ... it being her birthday'. She left on 31 January, 1877, more than a week before her notice expired, and for a few days the school had to be closed until a temporary substitute could be found. Immediately before her departure Tadmarton school had been examined by HMI and a grant of £14.19s.6d was earned for the 8 months the school had been open.' The inspector's assessment was lukewarm; 'The discipline & singing are good considering that the School has only been open 8 Months. The instruction of the Infants requires great attention. The other children have passes pretty fairly in the low Standards in which they are presented with the exception of Arithmetic which is not satisfactory. Considerable improvement will be necessary to secure an unreduced grant next year. More maps should be provided'.

Miss Kelly was succeeded by another certificated mistress, Elizabeth Ellen Hawkins, on 19 February. She came from Strensham school near Tewkesbury.

10. Wardington National School.¹⁴ Application dated 8.2.1862.

School details

The school room was built by subscription in 1845 and in 1862 there were 43 boys and 31 girls on the register paying 1d. a week, plus 4 boys and 1 girl paying 3d., according to parental means. By

1870 159 children were enrolled and average attendance was 102.

Background of Teacher

EZER WALTON was born at Sibford Ferris on 5 June, 1841, the son of William Walton, an agricultural labourer, and his wife, Betty. Between February 1858 and February 1859 he assisted at Cropredy school, where he received private tuition from George Buckingham, the master. In January 1860 he entered Culham College and emerged two years later with a 3rd Class certificate. The principal described him as a 'remarkably good kind of man throughout: hearty, energetic, & very industrious & faithful'. He was a regular communicant and overall was of 'excellent' character. He became head of Wardington school on 5 January, 1862, and eight years later the condition of the school was considered by an Inspector to be 'above average'.

Comments

Ezer Walton remained at Wardington for the whole of his teaching career. In August 1865 he married Louisa Inns, the daughter of a local carpenter, and for some years she assisted him at the school, before being succeeded by a Mrs. Ellen Gurney. By 1881, Mrs. Walton must have been extremely busy, since as well as carrying out her teaching duties she had four children to look after, ranging in age from 14 to 2 years of age. In 1904, Oxfordshire County Council records show there were 100 pupils in average attendance at Wardington and Mr. Walton earned a salary of £123 a year. He retired a few years later and died at Wardington at the end of August, 1921, aged 80. His wife had predeceased him, aged 74, in December 1916. A brief notice of his death in the Banbury Guardian claimed that he had been the village schoolmaster 'for over 50 years'.

Pamela Horn

FOOTNOTES

1. Report of the Diocesan Inspector of Schools for the Woodstock deanery, 1854, MS.Oxf.Dioc.pp.e.51 at Oxfordshire Record Office.
2. Ibid., with the inspector adding gloomily that the school had 'much fallen off - sinking from want of professional skill'.
3. H.C.Dent, The Training of Teachers in England and Wales 1800-1975 (1977), p.26 and Pamela Horn, Education in Rural England 1800-1914 (1978), p.185.
4. 'Preliminary Statement' at the Public Record Office, Ed.7.169. Henceforth these forms are referred to only by the PRO reference. Shutford School log book at Oxfordshire Record Office, T/SL.45/i; 1871 Census return for West Shutford, RG.10.1462 at PRO, and Mary Lobel and Alan Crossley, eds., Victoria History of the County of Oxford, Vol.9 (OUP,1969), p.53 Alkerton school was closed in 1905. (Henceforth this volume of the VCH will be referred to merely as VCH. Vol.9.)
5. Ed.7.101; 1871 census return for Barford St. Michael, RG.10.1460 and VCH Vol.9, p.43. The school was closed in 1957.
6. Ed.7.101 and VCH Vol.9, pp.82-83.

7. Ed.7.101; Culham Diocesan Training College Admission Registers at the Bodleian Library; Henley parish register transcripts at Oxford Local History Library, and VCH Vol. 9, pp. 82-83.
8. Ed.7.101.
9. Ed.7.101; Cottisford parish register transcripts at Oxford Local History Library; Census returns for 1871 and 1881 at Public Record Office, RG.10.1445 and RG.11.1508. For the diocesan reports see Cottisford School Minute Book, T/SM.6(ii) at Oxfordshire Record Office; notes on Cottisford School at Oxfordshire County Education Office.
10. Ed.7.101; Culham Diocesan Training College Admission Registers; Cropredy parish register transcripts; Alan Crossley ed., The VCH of Oxford, Vol. 10 (OUP, 1972), p.173.
11. Ed.7.101, VCH Vol. 9, p.111; Drayton School log book at Oxfordshire Record Office T/SL.20/i, and Oxfordshire Education Committee Filed Reports - Elementary Schools and School Staffs as at 1 March, 1904 at Oxfordshire Record Office, CER/I/1.
12. Ed.7.169, VCH Vol. 9, p.83; and 1871 Census return for Milcombe, RG.10.1460.
13. Ed.7.169; Tadmerton School log book at Oxfordshire Record Office, T/SL.92(i); and VCH Vol. 9, p.159.
14. Ed.7.169; Culham Diocesan Training College Admission Registers; Wardington parish register transcripts at Oxford Local History Library; 1851 Census Return for Sibford Ferris, H.O.107.1733, for 1871 in respect of Wardington, RG.10.1466, and for 1881 RG.11.1530; Banbury Guardian, 1 September, 1921; VCH Vol.10, p.224. Oxfordshire Education Committee Filed Reports - Elementary Schools and School Staffs as at 1 March, 1904.

APPENDIX 1

Ed.7/101

RULES OF THE BLOXHAM FREE AND PAROCHIAL SCHOOLS

- I. Application for admission to the School must be made to the Vicar.
- II. The Schools will be open to all children in the Parish. The age of a child admitted into the Boys' School must be 5 years and upwards; and into the Girls' School, 3 years and upwards.
- III. Monday shall be the day of admission, and the payments must then be brought to the Master or Mistress for the current week; these payments to be continued on each succeeding Monday, in default of which the child may be sent back.
- IV. 'Twenty-eight boys, sons of poor parishioners (not being farmers) between the ages of 8 and 15 years,... both of members of the Established Church and Dissenters from it,* will be admitted free of charge, in accordance with the will of Mr. JOB FAULKNER. With respect to the remainder, for all children under 8 years, one penny a week will be charged; above that age, twopence a week will be charged for one child in a family, and one penny for each additional child.
Farmers, tradesmen, and those in better circumstances, will be

charged fourpence a week for a child under 8 years, and sixpence a week above that age. This charge will be diminished one-third where more than one child in a family attends the School, or even more in particular cases, at the discretion of the Vicar and Churchwardens.

- V. All children must pay an entrance fee of twopence, on their first admission to either School.. A like entrance fee will be required every time that a child returns to either school after an absence of a fortnight or more, for which there is no sufficient excuse.
- VI. All children must come clean, and with their hair combed, and must bring pocket-handkerchiefs.
- VII. The School-hours throughout the year are for the Boys' School, in the morning, from 9 to 12 o'clock; and in the afternoon, from 2 to 5 in the summer, and from 2 to 4 in the winter, except for Saturday, which is always a whole holiday: and for the Girls' School, in the morning, from 9 to 12 on all days except Monday, and in the afternoon from 1 to 4 on all days except Saturday; the morning of Mondays and the afternoon of Saturdays being at present half-holidays. Punctuality of attendance will at all times be insisted upon, and the doors will be closed at 9 o'clock for prayers.
- VIII. The children will be taught "reading, writing, arithmetic, mensuration,"* singing, Lessons on the Holy Scriptures, and the Church Catechism; also, to a slight extent, history, grammar and geography.
- IX. All children will be taught the Holy Scriptures and the Church Catechism, except a written request to the contrary is received by the Vicar and Churchwardens from the parent or guardian of the child; in which case they will be taught secular subjects during the time of those Lessons.
- X. All children of Churchmen that attend the weekday Schools, must also attend the Sunday schools, which commence at half-past 9 in the morning, and at 2 in the afternoon, when punctuality of attendance will be insisted upon equally as on week-days.
- XI. Leave of absence for a child must be obtained of the Master or Mistress, and any child absent without leave or proper excuse will be punished.
- XII. Books and copy-books must be purchased by the children at the School. The prices will be reduced one-third (a list of them will be hung up in the School-room) and those who cannot pay for them at once, may do so by weekly instalments, the amount of each payment to be fixed by the Master, and received by him; and this will be regulated by the value of the article required. And when a child leaves the School, or changes his class, the Master or Mistress will offer to re-purchase his books (on account of the School) at half-price, provided they are clean and whole.
- XIII. No complaints are to be made to the Master or Mistress, but are to be laid before the Vicar; [when] they will be properly inquired into.

JAMES HODGSON [vicar]

* Will of Job Faulkner

Bloxham, January 1855.

[N.B. Under the terms of Job Faulkner's will, dated 1807, £30 a year was left to the vicar and churchwardens of Bloxham so that they could pay a schoolmaster to teach reading, writing, arithmetic and mensuration to 28 poor boys. By 1833 the value of the Faulkner bequest had declined to £20 per annum, and the school was attended not only by the 28 free pupils but also by 22 children paid for by their parents. VCH Vol. 9, p.82.]

FURTHER OBSERVATIONS FROM THE TRANSCRIPTIONS OF CHURCH RECORDS

Wherever the Briefes on Charities have been listed in these records, similar donations, to those which follow, can be found in Church Records. These could be compared with the wages of the time and equated to individual contributions made today. Most of the donations were given for damage by fire, very few for local causes, the funds went all over England and abroad. However the ecclesiastical silver seems to have stayed at home!

FROM HANWELL PARISH REGISTER VOL. ONE

1640	July	10th	Gathered upon Briefes for ye Ransome of 6 Seamen	4s. 0d.
1640	Oct.	16th	For ye redemption of English Capitives in Barbary	3s. 0d.
1661	Sept	1st	Gathered upon a Briefe for ye rebuilding of ye church of Pontefract in Yorkshire	3s. 9d.
1661	Nov.	7th	For repairing ye Collegiate church of Ripon in Yorkshire	3s. 0d.
1667	June	2nd	Fore ye great fire at London	7s. 10d.
			For Mr John Osborne a merchant of Russia	4s. 10d.
1668	Oct.	25th	For redeeming ye captives in Algiers	4s. 10d.
1680	Aug.	30th	For redemption of English Captives in Algiers	£1. 3s. 6d.
1681	Feb.	19th	Gathered upon ye Briefe for returning of French Protestants yt fled hither	9s. 6d.
1681	Mar.	19th	Gathered for ye protestants in ye Poland	3s. 2d.

Memorandum that on Easter Day April 4th 1686, ye Honble William Spencer Esqr. out of his pious liberality, lent his Communion Plate for the use of my parishioners of Hanwell, viz one large silver Chalice, and one large silver Paten; the which are not to be taken for his gifts to my Church in Hanwell, unless hee please hereafter to signify his will herein but otherwise may be resumed if Hee think fit, whensoever Hee pleaseth.

Geo. Ashwell Rectour.

1689	June	22nd	For ye Relief of ye poor Irish Protestants	12s. 0d.
1692	May	1st	Collected for ye Redemption of ye English Captives in Morocco and Algiers	14s. 0d.

The gifts were apparently redeemed by the owner as another memorandum is noted on April 20th 1714., "and with even greater generosity - Charles Spencer Esq. Grandson to the Hon. Will. Spencer Esq. has also lent this his same Communion Plate for the use of my parishioners of Hanwell viz. one large Flagon, one large silver Chalice and one large silver Paten, the which are not to be taken for his Gift unless he please hereinafter to signify his will herein - but otherwise be resumed if he thinks fit whensoever he pleaseth.

Har. Style. Rec.

The gift must have been again revoked as all that is listed as belonging to the Parish of Hanwell in 1893 is - 1 old silver Cup, 1 small Paten, or rather, top to old silver cup (Chalice), 1 pewter plate.

P. Bowes

BANBURY HISTORICAL SOCIETY - ANNUAL REPORT, 1987

Your Committee have pleasure in submitting the 30th Annual Report and Statement of Accounts, for the year 1987.

The only, but very important, change in your Committee was caused by the departure of Sarah Gosling to Hertford. Sarah had been Membership Secretary since her arrival as Museum Curator in the Spring of 1976, and latterly changed titles but not role as Secretary to the Society. She made the Museum very much the contact point for those needing information and publications, especially after the move to the Horsefair, and we are enormously grateful to her, and her staff, for the largely unsung work she has done on the Society's behalf over twelve years.

In her place, not merely on the Committee but also as Secretary, we have been delighted to welcome her successor, Mel Barnet, whose enthusiastic acceptance of office has ensured our continuing close association with the Museum. Her spirited posters for our meetings must already be well known.

The enjoyable programme of speakers for 1987, organised by Penelope Renold, included Eve McLaughlin on Newspapers, Anne Lawrence on Women in the 17th century, Richard Moore on the Victorian County History, Mary Hodges on Thame, our President on the joys and problems of rugging Broughton Castle as a tourist attraction and Gustav Milne (whose family is at Banbury) on the Great Fire of London. The spring meeting was at Wroxton, with a selection of old photos of the village provided by Ernie Lester, and a talk by Jeremy Gibson on Lord North as Banbury's M.P., based on correspondence in the North Collection at the Bodleian. As usual we are most grateful to all our speakers.

Summer visits, once again organised by Dr. Rivers, were paid to Wardington, the medieval rectory at Buckland and excavations at Burton Dassett. Our president invited us to Broughton Castle for the A.G.M., made memorable by the collection of vintage taxis whose owners preceded us.

The publishing event of the year was the appearance of Penelope Renold's volume of **Banbury Gaol Records**. Breaking new ground, this has entertained readers and received critical acclaim. The next volume, as forecast, will be the **Banbury Baptism and Burial Registers, 1813-1838**, which will complete publication of the pre-General Registrations registers (including nonconformists).

Contributors to **Cake and Cockhorse** include David Allen, Evelyn Brown-Grant, Oswald Chaplin, Ted Clark, Jeremy Gibson, R.K. Gilkes, G.C. Hartland, N. Palmer, Sally Stradling, Harold Thompson and W. Thwaites under the editorship of David Hitchcox. We are most grateful to Mrs Ann Hitchcox for her work on the preparation of each issue. 1988 will see the magazine's century, an achievement of which we can be proud.

Regrettably, despite a lot of work by David Hitchcox, there were no entries from schools for the Brinkworth Prize. However, it is hoped that more effective liaison has now been established which will

increase interest in this award in the future.

The Accounts again show a welcome surplus on ordinary expenditure, despite a small fall in subscription income. This is mainly due to almost halving the cost of production of the magazine, the main saving being on the typing. With the issue of a records volume, the publications account shows a deficit of £728. Against this should be put the £600 British Academy grant which was included in the previous year's accounts.

BANBURY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Revenue Account for the year ended 31st December 1987

1986	Income		
1794	Subscriptions	1756	
<u>501</u>	Less Transfer to Publications Account	<u>506</u>	
1293		1250	
106	Income Tax Refund on Covenants	115	
175	Deposit Account Interest	131	
<u>10</u>	Donations	<u>8</u>	
1584		1504	
	Expenditure		
688	Cake & Cockhorse, Typing, Printing etc.	356	
<u>188</u>	Postage	<u>162</u>	
876		518	
<u>95</u>	Less Sales	<u>108</u>	
781		410	
	Lecture & Meeting Expenses		
	Postage, Secretarial, Administration & Printing		109
151	Hire of Hall & Speakers Expenses	152	
<u>142</u>		<u>261</u>	
293			
<u>19</u>	Less Donations at Meetings	<u>20</u>	
274		241	
11	Subscriptions to Other Bodies	11	
41	Insurance	50	
<u>163</u>	Depreciation on Typewriter	<u>163</u>	
1270		875	
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314	Excess of Income over Expenditure	629	
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Publication Account

1986		Income	Expenditure
Exp. Inc.			
501	Proportion of Subscriptions	506	
277	Sales of Publications (Less Discounts & Cake & Cockhorse)	403	
-	Banbury Gaol Records: Printing		1488
-	Postage		74
600	British Academy Award	-	
1378	Surplus/Deficit for the Year	653	
-----		-----	
1378	1378	1562	1562
=====		=====	

Balance Sheet as at 31st December 1987

1986 Liabilities		1986 Assets	
48	Subscriptions in Advance	64	343
542	Sundry Creditors	105	187
	Brinkworth Prize Fund Account		<u>2800</u>
	2000 Capital at 1.1.87	2187	3330
	<u>187</u> Add Surplus	149	
2187		<u>2336</u>	
	Publications Reserve		
	629 Balance at 1.1.87	2007	2000
	<u>1378</u> Add Surplus(Deficit)	<u>653</u>	
2007		1354	
	Capital Account		
	558 Balance at 1.1.87	872	
	<u>314</u> Add Surplus	<u>629</u>	
872		1501	
<hr/>		<hr/>	
5656		5360	5656
====		=====	=====

Brinkworth Prize Fund

		(Cash at National Westminster Bank PLC	
-		Balance at 1.1.87	187
	272	Interest Received	159
	<u>85</u>	Less Expenses	<u>10</u>
187		Surplus for the Year	149
			149
<hr/>		<hr/>	
187			336
====			===

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

21st March 1988

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); **Banbury Goal 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.

