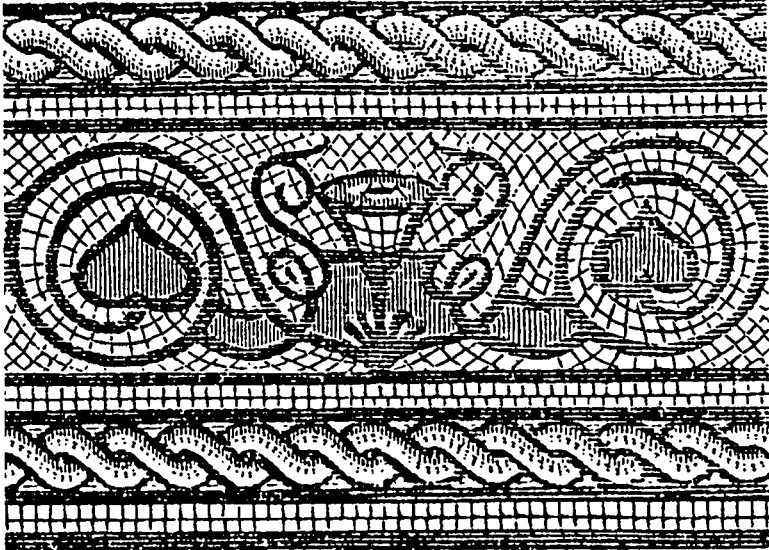


CAKE AND COCKHORSE



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**Details of the Society's activities and
publications will be found on the back cover.**

Cover illustration Mosaic pavement with a floral theme at Wigginton Roman Villa,
illustrated in Beesley's *History of Banbury*, 1842.

Cake and Cockhorse

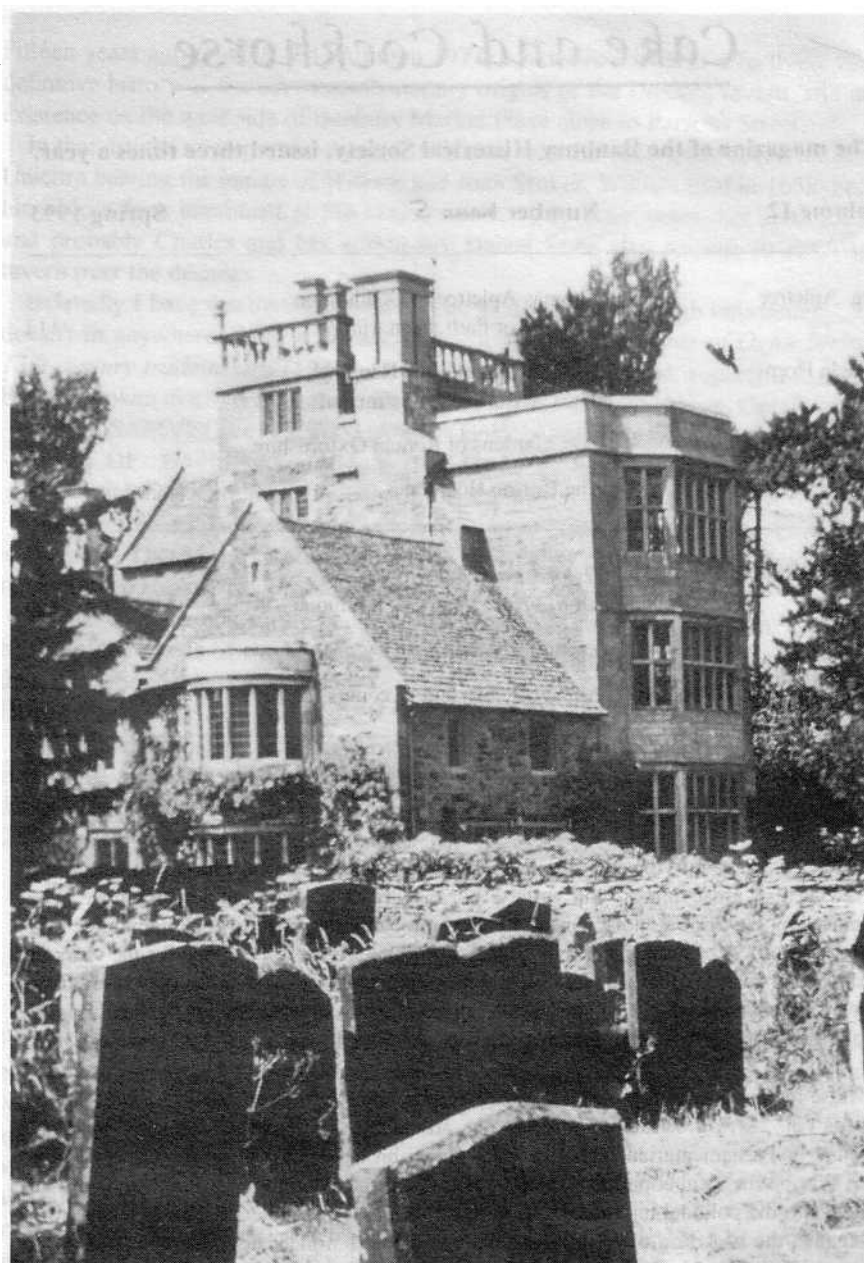
The magazine of the Banbury Historical Society, issued three times a year.

Volume 12	Number Four 5	Spring 1993
Reg Apletrec	Thomas Apletrec of Deddington Royalist or Parliamentarian?	114
Pamela Horn	Oxford's Last Public Hanging The Case of Noah Austin	122
Michael Hoadley	Lost Gardens of Roman Oxfordshire The Horton Hospital	126 128
Penelope Renold	<i>Oxfordshire A Genealogical Bibliography</i> , by S A Raymond	130
Brian Little	Lecture Reports	131
Banbury Historical Society	Annual Report and Accounts for 1992	133
Jeremy Gibson	A 'Unicorn' Trade Token	136

We have come again to the end of our winter season of lectures which have, I'm sure you'll agree, been of great interest and variety. For a number of years our lectures have been organised by Penelope Renold. This is I believe probably the most difficult committee task for a member to carry out. I, on your behalf, would like to thank Penelope for the years of hard work in ensuring that we have such interesting lectures. The task has now been taken over by John Rivers who, I am sure, would appreciate any suggestions for the next season. Don't forget to support the Summer season, details of which are enclosed with this Magazine.

Those members who received our latest records volume *Edgehill and Beyond* (BHS records vol. 23) will certainly appreciate the article by Reg Apletrec, 'Thomas Apletrec Royalist or Parliamentarian?' The records volume brought home to us the effects of the Civil War on the local community. Reg Apletrec's article continues on this theme with an insight into the political intrigue which went on, again at a local level. This is a spy story set against the backdrop of civil unrest and confusion. I wonder how this compares with the hardship suffered by many throughout Europe at this present time.

D.A.H.



Castle House, Deddington.

THOMAS APLETREE OF DEDDINGTON: ROYALIST OR PARLIAMENTARIAN?

Reg. Apletree

It is recorded that after the fight at Cropredy Bridge the Royal Army marched off towards Adderbury whilst King Charles made his way to Deddington. He spent the night at the Parsonage (now known as Castle House).

Since 1548 the Apletree family had leased the Parsonage and the "Windsor Manor" from the Dean and Chapter of St George's Chapel, Windsor, the tenant at the time of the King's visit being Thomas Apletree. Unfortunately no family story has been handed down as to whether it was a memorable occasion or not - but it is possible that Thomas later made use of the incident.

It was not until after the war ended that this little known Deddington farmer was surprisingly rewarded with membership of the Oxfordshire Committee for the Sequestration of Royalist Estates. He was appointed on the 1st June 1646. Two days later the contents of Sir Richard Powell's Manor House were sequestered and on the way to London. For years he carried out his duties with a ruthlessness that earned him the description of being *"a severe man, treating those that were of the King's party in a very ill manner"*. Parliament appeared to appreciate his severity for he was made a collector of the monthly contribution for the maintenance of the Kingdom's forces, in 1649 made a Visitor to the recalcitrant Oxford University and in 1654 required to carry out the ejection of scandalous and ignorant Ministers and teachers in Oxfordshire. As a Justice of the Peace it was said he was *"very strict and severe with the country people and would make them pay money for swearing and being drunk and used to have such people marked with the letters S and D in a red colour to signify that they were swearers and drunkards"*. As a J.P. he was required to carry out the civil registration of marriage, as under the Commonwealth the Church was not permitted to conduct such a service. When Parliament decreed that the King's palace of Woodstock and his Manor at Holmby should be pulled down Thomas spent £1,500 on the purchase of some of the stone and timber. It was used to enlarge the Parsonage by the addition of a new wing of three stories and a balustraded tower.

It is not surprising that his affluence, arising from his commissions and profits on sequestration, and his severity made enemies, for in 1646 a Captain Richard Barrow submitted articles of delinquency to the County Committee of Oxfordshire claiming the following -

1. That Thomas Apletree in the beginning of these unhappy wars pretended himself to have good affection to the Parliament but underhand aided and

assisted the King's party against the Parliament and to that purpose joined in confederacy and held correspondence with one Huntingdon Hastings Corney a known Papist in arms against the Parliament and residing at Oxford sometimes and at other times at Woodstock and a great and dangerous stickler against Parliament.

2. That Thomas Apletree joined with the said Huntingdon Hastings Corney in the sending of great store of corn and other provisions into Oxford when it was a garrison for the King and went thither himself sundry times secretly to give information to the King's party against the Parliament and at his being at Oxford one time among the rest when the King's Commissioners were there, he feasted some of them and then drank a health which he named confusion to Parliament.

3. That Thomas Apletree since the beginning of this unnatural war presented to one of the Byrons (who was in arms for the King against the Parliament) a great horse of service in the war of £80 price or thereabouts and other ways contributed underhand to the King's forces raised against the Parliament.

4. That the said Apletree to colour his false and underhand dealings against the Parliament prepared himself to be made one of the Committee of Parliament for the said County of Oxon and thereupon contrary to his oath and the trust in him reposed by the county he converted and concealed and took into his protection divers goods household stuffs, trunks, plate and money of one that was a known Papist and in arms against the Parliament and being charged by some of the said Committee for concealing the said goods and trunks he utterly denied the having of them yet afterwards they were found in the possession of one Higgins whither they were carried and conveyed from his the said Apletree's house and placed there by the said Apletree's direction or privy.

5. That Thomas Apletree sent into Oxford 100 quarters of malt of the said Corney's which he had placed in his house at Deddington to be conveyed to Oxford.

6. That the said Apletree finding Mistress Corney wife of the said Corney to be well affected to the Parliament did convey out of her house in trunks and otherwise all the plate, linen and even her own wearing apparel and divers bonds bills and money to a very great value. And finding her discontented thereat he brought her a threatening message from her husband that in case she went to London to complain to the Parliament her husband would never more concert with her but sell all that he had and leave her not worth a groat.

7. That the said Apletree was the chief means and assistant to one Colonel Palmer for the raising of twenty horse of war for the King against the Parliament and encouraged his neighbours to give them weekly pay.

8. That the said Apletree since he hath been a Committee Man for the Parliament hath contrary to his oath and the trust reposed in him given private intelligence and intelligence to shift away, embezzle and dispose of the goods of

known delinquents whom he knew to have been in arms against the Parliament and to sell or remove them so that they should not be seized or not sequestered for the State.

The witnesses produced by Captain Barrow did not materially aid his case. Three of them failed to appear: John Bearnley of Mangersbury in Gloucestershire, Mistress Elizabeth Croshawe of Southwark and Mistress Dorothy Couch of Horsmonden, Kent.

But John Croker was another matter. He was a gentleman living at Sandford not far from Deddington. He swore that in his hearing Sir Thomas Byron told Captain Edward St. John that Thomas Apletree had given him a horse and "*would have had twenty more of him had not Huntingdon Hastings Corney procured a protection for Thomas from the King.*"

He also said Thomas was responsible for the raising of twenty horse for Captain Palmer, the King's Marshal for Oxfordshire, and arranging for the local yeomanry to meet the cost of the troops weekly pay. He did, however, admit that Thomas had persuaded Huntingdon Hastings Corney to intercede with the King's Commissioners to raise a troop of horse to secure the county from robberies and violence committed by the King's soldiers.

Croker claimed Thomas had secretly advised Colonel Gerrard Croker that his goods and property were to be sequestered implying that the Colonel could spirit away his valuables before the sequestration could be made. When Colonel Gerrard Croker was "*beating up a drum for the raising of a Company of foot soldiers for the King at Deddington Winter Fair next following Edgehill fight*" Croker said Thomas invited the Colonel as being as "*stout a man as any in the King's army.*"

Confirmation of this evidence was given by William Croker of Sandford.

Why did John Croker, a Royalist, give evidence to Parliamentary Committee? Had he felt the heavy hand of Thomas? On the restoration of the monarchy John Croker became a County Tax Commissioner -- an opportunity to get his own back!

Why ever did Captain Barrow call Henry Beere to give evidence against his Master Thomas? It hardly helped as his sworn statement, given verbatim, shows.

"Saieth that he did wait at table at Deddington at Mr. Apletree his house at dinner at Deddington Winter Fair next after Edgehill fight but saith he did not hear Mr. Apletree say anything to Captain Gerrard Croker to entertain this deponent into his foot company but in regard to some difference betwixt him, this deponent, and some of his friends he purposed to have listed himself into the said company and had so done had he not the self same day after dinner aforesaid been dissuaded by the said Mr. Apletree from so doing telling and promising him this deponent if he would not go upon that service he should never want so long as he the said Mr. Apletree had anything for his own subsistence. And further sayeth that Captain John Croker of Sandford did two or

three times encourage him this deponent to go into the service of the King in his cousin Gerrard Croker's company saying that he would speak to his said cousin to look upon him this deponent and to prefer him so soon as he possibly could and further saith that he the deponent was a soldier for the Parliament serving under Colonel Fiennes and others and that Mr. Thomas Apletree aforesaid did furnish him with horse and bridle saddle pistols and his sword at his first going out on the service and also with money for the present and divers times afterwards and saith he had relief and maintenance from the said Mr. Apletree for the space of two years and upwards while he was upon the Parliaments service which service he entered upon about the fourteenth of May 1644."

No evidence seems to have been submitted on the other charges Thomas undoubtedly knew Huntingdon Hastings Corney Elizabeth the widow of Edward Crawshawe had been left a life interest in her late husband's property in Steeple Barton She married Huntingdon Hastings Corney who continued in possession after her death in 1661. The ultimate beneficiary of Crawshawe's will, Francis Woodcock, sued Corney for possession and included Thomas Apletree in the suit accusing him of confederating with Corney to retain possession Moreover Thomas's brother George had leased some property at Barton to Huntingdon Hastings Corney and was a Trustee of the marriage settlement when Corney married Elizabeth Crawshawe.

Gerrard Croker, too, was probably not unknown to Thomas When Croker died around 1649 he had still failed to declare Dymock Manor for compounding Had he made use of the private intelligence mentioned in article 8? In 1642 Croker had borrowed £600 from William Draper, a close friend of Thomas (whose daughter married Draper's son) and a fellow committee man

Higgins (mentioned in Article 4) was also a very close friend of Thomas

But the Committee for Oxfordshire had no hesitation in rejecting the charges Sitting in Banbury on the 29th February 1646 John Fiennes, James Fiennes, John Cartwright, William Draper, John Wilmer, William Allen and Robert Barber recorded the following decision:

Whereas this day being appointed to hear and examine witnesses upon ye article preferred to this committee by Captain Barrow against Mr Thomas Apletree, a member of this Committee, we have heard and examined such witnesses accordingly, as have been produced before us which we having weighed and considered do not find them to be anyway material to prove any delinquency against the said Mr Apletree for which by any ordinance of Parliament he is sequesterable. And finding also by the said Mr Barrow's own information that he has only two or three witnesses to be examined to two articles which (if they should be proved) will not be sufficient to have delinquency within ye compass of Sequestration. And having this day also received a Petition from many of the best affected gentlemen and others in ye county expressing their grief that a gentlemen so well affected to ye Parliament



Thomas Apletree.

as they know of none better in ye whole County offering their testimony for his zeal and good affection to ye Parliament and adventuring himself and his estate for the service therof and of his readiness to do all ye real service he was able for any honest man in ye county and his adventuring himself to give intelligence from Oxford to ye Parliament forces testified also by the Certificates of divers Commanders in Chief should by any malicious persecution be blemished in his reputation. Upon ye whole matter we cannot see any cause to bring him within ye compass of ye ordnance of Parliament for sequestration. But rather deserves encouragement for his good services than blame.

But five years later another attempt was made to discredit Thomas On 17th May 1651 John Watkins "*discovereth to his Committee for Advance of Money sitting at Haberdashers Hall, on behalf of Colonel Robert Lilburne, that Thomas Apletree of the County of Oxon is a delinquent within the Acts and Ordinances of Sequestration for acting against Parliament and that he hath an estate in the said county in goods and lands to the value of £10,000 and upwards.*"

On the 28th May 1651 John Watkins entered into a bond for £200 not to cease or desert the prosecution of Thomas and the Committee sat to hear the case, duly recorded in the Commonwealth State Papers.

The initial defence of Thomas was that he had already suffered a similar accusation in 1646 and had been acquitted by the Oxford Committee for Sequestration The London Committee sent for the relevant papers of 1646. However, the Committee for Advancement of money decided to compare the old charges with the new charges submitted by John Watkins on the 17th May 1651 which were

1. *That the said Thomas Apletree a little before the last siege of Oxford by the Parliament's forces kept servants to lodge in a Papist's house at Steeple Barton in the said County which said servants by the direction of the said Thomas Apletree carried several carts loaded with wheat, bacon, pulse and other provisions by night into Oxford.*

2. *That the said Thomas Apletree hath been a great contenancer of papists and did protect divers goods and trunks stuffed with linen plate Popish vestments belonging to a papist priest and other goods of Huntingdon Hastings Corney a papist in arms and one who was tried for his life as a papist priest which goods were found in the house of the said Thomas Apletree by the officers of Sequestration of the late Committee of Oxford upon information thereof given into the said Committee and at this time the said Thomas Apletree was a Committee man in the said County.*

3. *That the said Thomas Apletree sent in a horse and arms to the King to Oxford in or about the month of April 1644.*

4. *That the said Thomas Apletree in the years 1643, 1644 and 1645 held correspondence with the King's party at Oxford and Banbury and had a*

protection under the King's hand whilst he was Committee man for the Parliament.

The London Committee held their deliberations for a month before they decided to reject the four new charges but decided to resurrect the second and sixth charge of the original charge of 1646. The state papers unfortunately do not give any further information but it would not have given Thomas much trouble to counter those charges particularly bearing in mind the testimony of Colonel Purbeck Temple, made on the 17th June 1651, as follows

Colonel Purbeck Temple maketh oath that he had a direction from the late Committee of both Kingdoms formerly sitting at Derby House sometime before the first siege at Banbury anno 1644 to advise with Mr Thomas Apletree of Deddington in the county of Oxon concerning the carrying on the Designs of Parliament for subduing the enemy in the said county and particularly in Banbury Castle which said Committee declared to this deponent that they knew Mr Apletree was a person well affected to the Parliament's service and therefore they the said Committee appointed this deponent to be directed by the said Mr Apletree which accordingly he was and further saith he received so much assistance from the said Mr Apletree that (next to God) he doth attribute the success he had there to the assistance and intelligence he received from the said Mr Apletree and this deponent further saith that he doth not know any man that hath showed more affection to the Parliament or hath been more active in executing their commands during the War than the said Mr Apletree and that this deponent had great reason to know his affection having many occasions to try him being Governor, by Commission from the Parliament, of Henly and Philis Court in the said County of Oxon and constantly kept intelligence with the said Mr Apletree and upon occasions hath often received great assistance of horses from the said Mr Apletree which he did voluntarily contribute out of his affection to the Parliament Service during the time of the late Wars.

There is no doubt that Thomas was an effective and highly esteemed spy for Parliament

Ed. note. The names of members of the Committee for Oxfordshire mentioned on page 118 ring familiar bells. John and James Fiennes were of course sons of Lord Saye and Sele. John Cartwright was the strongly parliamentary squire of Aynho (*Aynho: A Northamptonshire Village*, by Nicholas Cooper, B H S 20). William Allen was a prominent Banburian, Mayor in 1632-3 and 1653-4 (*Banbury Corporation Records: Tudor and Stuart*, B H.S. 15). John Wilmer (d 1652) was a Cropredy gentleman (*V.C.H. Oxon.* 10, page 163). Robert Barber and his family figure in 'Halle Place in West Adderbury and its occupants', by Dr C F C. Beeson, first editor of *Cake & Cockhorse* (2 12, March 1965, pp 201-06)

OXFORD'S LAST PUBLIC HANGING: THE CASE OF NOAH AUSTIN

Pamela Horn

On 13 February, 1863, the uneventful daily round of the villagers of Upper Heyford was rudely shattered by news of a murder involving two of its leading inhabitants¹

The victim was James Allen, a widowed miller in his early fifties, who was killed between 6 and 7 o'clock on that dark winter evening. According to the diary of the young Lower Heyford carpenter, George James Dew, Allen had been shot dead on the road leading from the 'Cross roads' towards Upper Heyford. Noah Austin was riding in the cart with him and he is suspected to be the perpetrator of this horrid deed. Allen was shot at twice; the first time it grazed the back of his head, but the second entered just below his ear, which must have caused instantaneous death. He was often intoxicated and probably so at the time he was so inhumanly murdered²

The police quickly decided that twenty-five year old Austin was the likely culprit. The following day he was arrested and taken to Oxford gaol. At first he protested his innocence, but gradually the truth emerged and with it the background to the crime.

Noah was the son of a much respected Wesleyan Methodist farmer and local preacher from Heyford Warren [Upper Heyford]. He lived with his parents and older brother and two sisters, and was himself employed as a butcher. For some time he had been courting James Allen's only daughter, Elizabeth.³ This had caused quarrels between father and daughter and Austin claimed it was because of the father's ill-treatment of her that he had committed the crime. According to him, she had more than once expressed a wish that her father would have an 'accident', and it is perhaps indicative of the Allen family relationship that at both the 1851 and 1861 population censuses she was described as a 'servant' in the household rather than daughter.⁴ This was all the more notable because of the family's comparative prosperity. At the time of his death James's personal estate was valued at almost £1,500, the present-day equivalent would be more than fifty times that amount.⁵

However the uneasy relationship between Elizabeth and her father may have arisen partly from the circumstances of her parent's own marriage. James had married Jane French, the daughter of an Upper Heyford carpenter, in October 1833 when she was already pregnant with her first child. The following spring a son, Thomas, was born, and Elizabeth herself appeared late in 1835.⁶ Mrs. Allen died in May 1840 at the age of 28, shortly after the birth of her third child, James

The little girl and her brothers were then separated. Thomas went to live with his maternal grandfather, Thomas French, James was put out to nurse with the Berry family, and Elizabeth and her father moved to the Mill, which was owned by old Mrs Allen.⁷ Also living there at the time were three of her uncles and an aunt. Thomas continued to live with his grandfather until he left the village some time in the 1850's and young James, too, was apparently not brought up by his father, although he did follow the paternal occupation of miller. When his father died it was he who was granted letters of administration in respect of the estate.

However, the unhappiness caused by Elizabeth's complicated family circumstances was not the only cause of ill-feeling between Allen and Noah Austin. Another bone of contention was the miller's refusal to grant Austin the tenancy of a beer-house owned by Allen's mother, but of which he had the management.⁸

On the evening of 12 February, Noah came to the mill to see Elizabeth, and whilst he was there the miller returned home drunk. Noah left in order to avoid any further disagreements, but it seems that it was at that point he decided to kill Allen.

The next day both James Allen and Mr Austin senior attended Bicester market, the latter being accompanied by his son, who, unbeknown to the old man, had concealed a revolver in his pocket. During the afternoon Noah left a message with the ostler at the *Cross Keys* inn where his father's cart had been put up, saying that he intended to walk home as he had felt cold riding in the cart on the outward journey. He then went to see Mr Allen at the *White Hart* inn, where the miller was receiving payments from some of his customers and transacting other business. Austin asked for a sample of oats, claiming his father wanted to buy some. This was handed over, and Noah duly departed, only to return almost immediately, saying that his father had already left Bicester. He begged a lift home and, after some hesitation, the miller agreed. The two set off in Allen's cart, stopping for some brandy at the *Jersey Arms*, Middleton Stoney. Allen then made a detour to visit Richard Meacock, a farmer at Caulcott. Meacock had a steam-powered threshing machine and the miller wanted him to thresh some barley. Whilst he was making the arrangements, Austin was seen by two local labourers standing by the horse and cart.

The two men then resumed their journey and, just past Caulcott, Austin suddenly produced a revolver, and shot his unsuspecting victim in the side of the head. The force of the impact knocked the older man from the cart, and Austin immediately fired a second shot. While Allen was lying on the ground he quickly snatched the man's purse from his pocket, to make it appear that robbery had been the motive for the crime. He then fastened the horse and cart to a gate and made good his escape.

Meanwhile the two labourers who had seen Austin and Allen at Caulcott heard shots as they were walking home along a road parallel to that taken by the

murdered man. They also saw Austin run past them, after crossing a turnip field which separated the two roads. Noah hastened home, hid the murder weapon in his father's gig in the rick-yard, and made his way to the mill to see his sweetheart, Elizabeth.⁹ It is not clear whether he told her what had happened but as soon as the news broke, suspicion fell on him. The only alibi he could produce was a claim that he had left Allen when the latter had been stopped on the road by two men who wished to pay for some meal. This weak story convinced no one and when he was searched several gun caps were found upon him. His box at home was examined and found to contain the purse and a key which the miller had taken with him to Bicester. Shortly after the revolver, with three barrels discharged, and a box of caps were found in Mr Austin senior's gig.

Within three weeks of his arrest Noah was brought before the Assizes. On 5 March, following a guilty verdict by the jury, who took less than a minute to reach their decision, he was sentenced to be hanged.¹⁰ This was carried out near the tower at Oxford Castle gaol on 24 March.

Before dawn on the day of execution, crowds began to pour into the city. One man claimed to have walked about fifty miles from Evesham so that he could be present and many others had come long distances. All the approach roads to the gaol were crammed and at 6.30 a.m. the gates of the prison quadrangle were opened. Immediately the part of the yard which commanded a view of the scaffold was packed with spectators. According to the local press the throng was so dense that it was impossible either to enter or to leave. In all, perhaps ten thousand people had assembled. There was an expectant buzz of conversation as they waited for the drama to commence, or purchased refreshments from the numerous vendors.

At two minutes to eight the bell of the prison chapel began to toll and soon after the condemned man made his way in procession to the scaffold. The executioner drew a white cap over his face and within seconds he was dead.¹¹

At once the onlookers started to disperse, although some of the most ghoulish stayed on until the body was taken down. Hawkers began to sell penny handbills, purporting to give an account of Austin's life, trial and execution, and including verses allegedly sent to him by his sweetheart, Elizabeth Allen. However, as *Jackson's Oxford Journal* drily pointed out, this was doggerel 'which had doubtless done duty at many previous executions'. Banbury, too, shared in the excitement, with J. A. Taplin, printer, of 36 Parsons Street, rushing out a handbill of his own on the *Confession & Execution of Noah Austin*.

Old Mr Austin never got over the disgrace and he died about four years later, a broken man.¹² Elizabeth Allen, too, experienced an unwanted notoriety. On 14 May, George Dew noted that 'some respectable person' had called at the *White Horse* inn in Lower Heyford to ask how he could 'get a sight of Miss Allen; he believed she was guilty from what he had read. He said, "if I could get one moment's sight of her, I should be fully satisfied in my own mind whether she was

guilty or not."¹³ It was doubtless to escape these attentions -- and perhaps also strained relations with surviving members of her family (notably her grandmother and her brother James) -- that Elizabeth married Thomas Harris, a local butcher, on 23 June 1864. Significantly, no member of her family signed the marriage register. Elizabeth was then 28 and her groom about four years her junior. Their first child was baptized ten months later.

As for George Dew, on a visit to Oxford gaol in the mid 1870s he made it his business to visit the spot where the execution had taken place and where Austin had subsequently been buried: 'nothing remains to show the whereabouts save the initials scratched on the old smoky wall by the warders in the gaol who buried [him]', he wrote. 'I noticed particularly the initials "N A."'¹⁴

Happily Noah Austin's death marked the end of the degrading spectacle of public hangings in Oxford, although murderers continued to be executed in private at the prison until the early 1950s.

References

- 1 *Jackson's Oxford Journal*, 21 February, 1863
- 2 Pamela Horn ed., *Oxfordshire Country Life in the 1860s: the Early Diaries of George James Dew (1846-1928) of Lower Heyford* (Sutton Courtney: Beacon Publications, 1986), entry for 13 Feb. 1863
- 3 *Oxford Chronicle*, 7 March, 1863 *Jackson's Oxford Journal*, 28 March, 1863
- 4 See 1851 and 1861 census returns for Upper Heyford, HO 107/1729 and RG 9/898
- 5 See Letters of Administration granted to James Allen jun on 2 March, 1863, at Somerset House
- 6 See parish register transcripts for Upper Heyford at the Centre for Oxfordshire Studies
- 7 See 1841 Census for Upper Heyford, H O.107/886.
- 8 *Jackson's Oxford Journal*, 28 March, 1863
- 9 *Jackson's Oxford Journal*, 28 March, 1863 and broadsheet, *Confession and Execution of Noah Austin*, published by J. A. Taplin, Banbury, at Institute of Rural History, University of Reading.
- 10 *Jackson's Oxford Journal*, 7 March, 1863
- 11 *Jackson's Oxford Journal*, 28 March, 1863 and broadsheet, *Confession and Execution of Noah Austin*
- 12 Pamela Horn ed., *Oxfordshire Country Life*, p. 54, entry for 23 April, 1867
- 13 *Ibid*, 9, entry for 14 May, 1863
- 14 Pamela Horn ed., *Oxfordshire Village Life. The Diaries of George James Dew (1846-1928), Relieving Officer* (Sutton Courtney: Beacon Publications, 1983), p. 65, entry for 7 June, 1876

LOST GARDENS OF ROMAN OXFORDSHIRE

Michael Hoadley

A developing interest in the environment in historic and prehistoric times has become an integral part of the work of archaeologists. Archaeology grew out of eighteenth century antiquarianism and, as such, early investigators were much more concerned with the retrieval of artefacts and the excavation of structures. This applied to the Roman Villa in Britain as it did to anything else. Consequently, our understanding of villa life in Britain was very biased until recent times. Now, researchers have taken to looking at the land around villas, their location and field systems, and their gardens. It is certain that most of the larger, more lavish country establishments had some form of garden. Smaller establishments and town dwellings may also have had some sort of garden even if this only amounted to landscaping and the provision of shade.

The Romans developed the concept of the formal garden as we know it and it would be surprising if they did not carry this concept into their conquered territories along with the other trappings of their civilization. We know from work done at Fishbourne Roman Palace in Sussex that the Romans brought the fashion of formal gardens to Britain in the 1st Century A.D. It was at this time that they developed the garden, from a simple, informal affair given over mainly to the growing of food, into a place that formed an integral part of the domestic life of the villa. A place for leisure and pleasure. A place that also provided the herbs they needed in their cooking and medicinal preparations. A garden was a sign of high civilization to which many aspired. As Horace wrote, "this is one of my prayers: for a parcel of land not so very large, which should have a garden."

The archaeology of the garden is yet in its infancy but investigators are beginning to take more care in the excavation of the areas around Roman villas and are examining the excavation reports of the past to see if some of the evidence that those provide will withstand reinterpretation. Pollen and soil analysis have helped to fill out the picture of what plants the Romans brought to and cultivated in Britain.

We know that the Romans introduced many of the herbs that we grow and use to this day. Among these were basil, bay, chives, fennel, mint, rosemary, sage and thyme. Among the garden plants they cultivated in Britain were acanthus, daffodil, lavender, madonna lily, myrtle, poppy, roses and violets. We know also that ivy and box hedging were much used. The remains of box have been found at Farmoor Villa in Oxfordshire.

The letters of Pliny the Younger tell us that the well-to-do Roman planned his house so as to take advantage of the fine views offered by the surrounding countryside and placed it in a series of gardens. British villas of the larger type

would seem to have been similarly positioned but gardens, unfortunately, leave few traces for archaeologists. Much, however, can be inferred by a study of the layout of villas. Ditchley was built in a sheltered position on a hillside. It replaced an earlier Celtic farmstead and was enlarged through several phases. The villa was built on terraces and artificially levelled ground. It had a forecourt and was surrounded by a large quadrangle that was approached by an avenue. Air photography led to the discovery of a well immediately in front of the forecourt and what may have been an orchard nearby. Ditchley had a verandah and it is not unreasonable to suppose that all would have been done to provide as agreeable a setting as possible.

The villa at North Leigh dates from the 4th Century A.D., the time of maximum development for the villas. It is a complex of some 60 rooms grouped around a courtyard with hot and cold baths. The rooms occupy three sides of the court which is approached through a gatehouse on its south-east side. By analogy with similar layouts of Fishbourne and Chedworth, it can be premised that the courtyard was in some way landscaped. To either side of a central path from the gatehouse to the main reception hall areas offered the potential for hedging and lawns with shrubs and raised flower beds. However, any traces of gardens in those villas that have long been exposed and consolidated would have been obliterated and it can only be hoped that future excavation of villa sites will proceed with caution in those areas not occupied by visible structures.

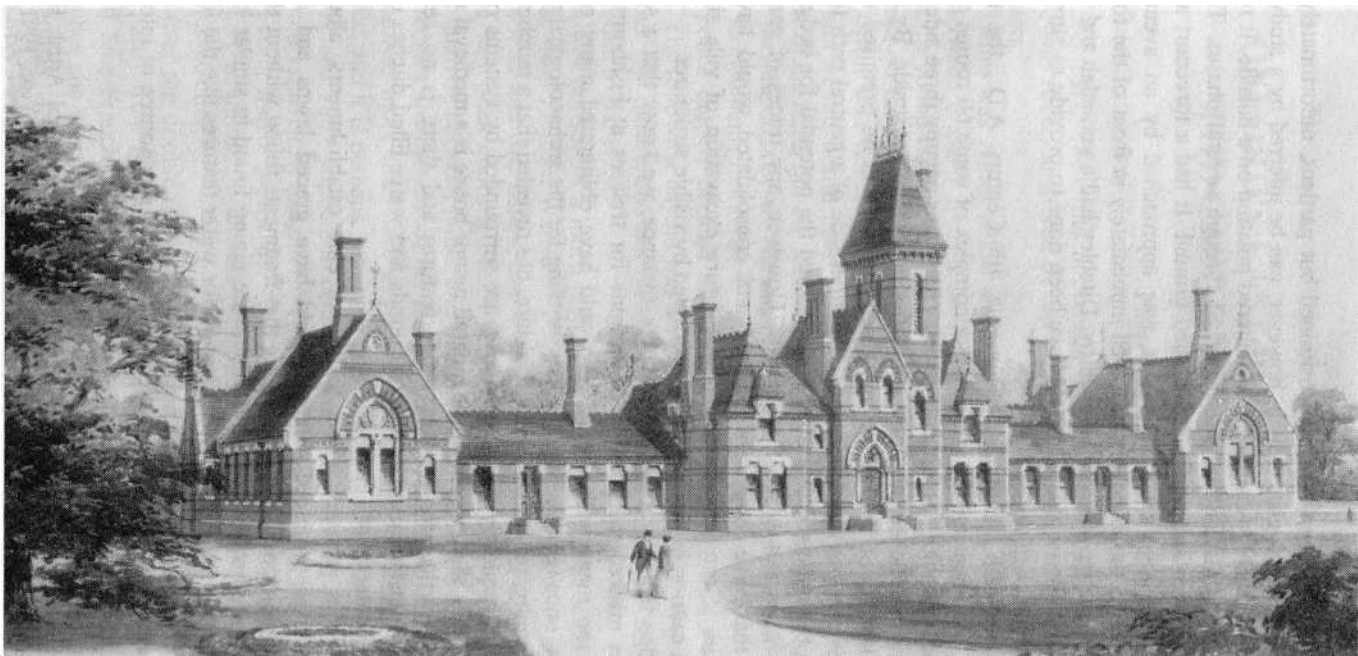
Many garden features are ephemeral. For instance, we know that a series of shallow holes marked the position of uprights for trellises at Fishbourne. One scrape over too many with the trowel would have obliterated many of them. Plants in pots, once removed, would leave nothing for the archaeological record.

Air photography, particularly in Oxfordshire, has revealed that a number of less elaborate sites, frequently of an early date, are surrounded by systems of banks and ditches. While the concept of the moated manor house is a medieval one, the Romans were particularly fond of water features and there is no reason to disallow such embellishments as artificial ponds and water filled ditches used for irrigation and demarcation.

Even in Britain, statuary was a feature of elite establishments, albeit poor copies often mass produced. Statues could have graced lawns and arbours, verandahs and porticoes. The chances are that fragments found without the walls of the house were broken *in situ*. Earthenware piping found in similar locations could easily be the traces of a supply system for water features like the fountains discovered at Fishbourne.

The archaeology of the garden offers a potentially rich source of information about life in Roman Britain.

Note Michael Hoadley is a qualified Archaeologist and Commercial Artist. His latest book, *Roman Herbal*, is published by Frank Graham, Newcastle upon Tyne, 1991.



The Horton Hospital, as envisaged by its architect, Charles H. Driver.

THE HORTON HOSPITAL

Banbury Museum has recently acquired a significant new painting. It is the watercolour, dating from about 1870, by the architect, Charles H Driver of London, of how the proposed hospital would look.

The hospital became possible in 1869 when a wealthy old lady, Mary Horton, living at The Holt, Middleton Cheney, offered to pay for its erection. She died, aged 80, before this wish could be carried through, but her nephew, John Henry Kelle, who had inherited a large portion of her estate on taking the name Horton, gave effect to her benefaction and allotted £10,000 for that purpose. The actual cost of the ground, building and fittings was £9,168, Franklin and Sons of Deddington being the builders, and it was opened, as the Horton Infirmary, on 17th July 1872.

It included rooms for a surgeon, a matron, an operating theatre and staff. Wards for six men and six women were at either end of a lateral corridor off which opened other small rooms. There was also a Provident Dispensary to enable the working class to obtain medical treatment by paying a small weekly sum.

The acquisition of this important historical painting was made possible by FAMOS ('Friends of Archives, Museums and the Centre for Oxfordshire Studies'). Its purpose is to help from time to time in rescuing and acquiring outstanding items of Oxfordshire interest and in seeing that they are placed in the permanent collections. Banbury Historical Society has in the past acted in the same capacity, within a more limited geographical sphere, if only with bridging loans, and has enabled the Museum to acquire such notable exhibits as the 'Knight Watch' (see *C&CH* 3 4, 1986, pp 64-5) and the Shepherd view of South Bar (*C&CH* 5 4, 1972, p 70), and we did indeed offer to help with the purchase of the picture of the Horton Hospital. It is most gratifying that there is now a county organisation to help preserve such unique items to be enjoyed by all in an appropriate location.

The Horton Hospital watercolour was presented by the Chairman of FAMOS, Brian Hutton, to Simon Townsend, Oxfordshire County Council's Senior Museums Officer for Cherwell Area (in case you didn't realise, that's what Simon, our friendly and unassuming hon sec, is officially known as), at a ceremony at Banbury Museum on Friday 15th March 1993.

Sources

O C C Public Relations Unit *NEWS* handout (1993)

William Potts, *A History of Banbury* (1958), p 236, and 2nd edition, by E T Clark (1978), pp 301-303

Victoria County History, Oxon, 10 (1972), p 84

Note Nothing is known of Mary Horton, though her name, through the hospital that bears her name, is better known than almost any in Banbury. Information about this generous donor would be welcomed.

J.S.W.G.

Book Review

Oxfordshire: A Genealogical Bibliography, by Stuart A Raymond, 1993, published by the Federation of Family History Societies, 60pp, £5, postage 50p extra. Obtainable from the Federation, c/o Benson Room, Birmingham and Midland Institute, Margaret Street, Birmingham B3 3BS, or from S A and M J. Raymond, 6 Russet Avenue, Exeter EX1 3QB

This Bibliography is one volume belonging to an immense project initiated by Mr. S A. Raymond, and as yet only partly completed. It is divided into two main sections: one dealing with the counties separately, the other comprising bibliographies of the contents of British Genealogical Periodicals. The full list of what is already available can be seen on the back cover of this booklet, together with a list of forthcoming works.

Since the *Oxfordshire* publication covers our own county, it seemed essential to draw readers' attention to this truly excellent work. Though in the Introduction Mr Raymond says that it is primarily intended for genealogists, as indeed the titles of the various volumes already published also make clear, I personally feel that this observation is not altogether of service, when it comes to making the series known. This is probably because researchers' ideas of 'genealogy' tend to be much too narrow. Human beings, after all, are the point of all branches of history, and their forebears and descendants are of crucial interest in the most varied contexts, far transcending questions of a simple line of descent of interest to only one family. If genealogy is understood in the all-embracing way suggested, a perusal of this present work immediately reveals that its contents will be of interest to historians with every kind of local, and even of national interests, as well as to librarians, archivists and researchers into all kinds of historical problems. Though this point is conceded in the Introduction, it is not stressed, which is a pity.

In general, this publication brings up to date any previous Oxfordshire bibliography, some of which date back some time, but a greatly extended feature of this one is the systematic combing of the journals and other records of fifteen major local societies, with those of other local groups quoted as necessary in the text. In our own particular case, the Banbury Historical Society's Record publications and *Cake and Cockhorse* receive many references. In all, local publications of all sorts receive an attention it would be hard to find elsewhere, gathered together in one place for the guidance of researchers. The various subjects covered are assembled under sixteen different headings: the History of Oxfordshire, Bibliography and Archives, Parish Records, Probate Records, Directories and Maps, Estate Papers, Emigration, and so on, in a comprehensive Contents List; and there are Family names, Place names and Authors Indexes at

the end It is altogether a very thorough presentation of what has already been researched and is thus available in the major libraries and archives listed. This should serve to obviate much unnecessary recourse to irreplaceable original archive material which, like the footpaths in our popular countryside areas, wear out with overuse.

Mr Raymond indicates areas of research which he has not covered, such as, in the main, Oxford University itself, and he modestly disclaims entire comprehensiveness otherwise, but what is in these pages is, I would say, the richest collection of its kind yet to appear under one cover The cost for all of this is, at £5, extremely modest. Highly recommended

P Renold

Lecture Reports

Thursday 10th December 1992.

In the footsteps of Charles Darwin - Ecuador and the Galapagos Islands.

Iguanas, Tortoises, Frigate Birds and Boobies are just four exotic species of the Galapagos that fascinated Darwin and delighted those who formed December's audience. Jean Stone's memories of her South American holiday were captured in a fine series of slides which amply explained the Darwinian title - *Origin of the Species*.

What was less easy to appreciate was how Darwin and his companions survived the rigours of life aboard the *Beagle*. Sea sickness and worse must have been rife. Small wonder too his reference to a 'sea' in Magellan Straits

If mapping of land unknown was *Beagle's* aim, then discovery of fauna-rich and various, must have been quite a bonus. The twentieth century traveller soon comes to realise that each island is unique even though collectively the weather and climate is less than tropical

Jean ended with the traditional sunset. It is not hard to imagine that both the present tourists and those intrepid nineteenth century sailors would wish to venture back again to this Ecuadorian paradise.

Thursday 14th January 1993.

Antiques Roadshow.

A recent issue of the *Independent on Sunday* colour magazine reported that a lady visitor to the Antiques Road Show had visited the associated shop Her purchase was a mug bearing the slogan "I've been valued at the Antiques Road Show".

On Thursday members of the Banbury Historical Society discovered just what this show has unleashed - a feverish search of lofts and a trawl of granny's keepsakes. The speaker was Tim Holloway, Banbury's own expert on the rare, the beautiful and the worthless He gave a fascinating and perceptive analysis of a variety of treasures brought by regulars and visitors. The difference between auction price and insurance value was skilfully explained and each item was given a fair crack of the whip under his knowing gaze. By nine o'clock we were all in no doubt at all why hundreds queue for the BBC show but few leave literally enriched.

Thursday 11th February 1993.

Cheneys – the second century (contributed by Jeremy Gibson).

Elsewhere in this issue I have suggested that Horton (of Hospital fame) is one of the better known names in Banbury, but no-one (not even my own family printers Henry Stone and Son) can deny that the name of Cheney transcends them all. The current John Cheney showed us in November 1991 not only why his family printing firm had prospered in Banbury since 1767 (the Stone family have been here since the 1660's but we didn't think of printing until the 1880's), but also why he is one of the most sought after speakers around Banbury. He ended by saying how he had covered only half the story, so how could we resist the sequel.

Despite ill-health he was back with us in February 1993, with just as fascinating a story of the 'second century' (and more) delivered in his characteristic way, leaving us to wish we could only be around to hear of developments to 2067!

Thursday 11th March 1993.

History from Landscapes.

Dr Cornah's history was a homespun mosaic of responses to three words: *look*, *see* and *why*. He looked at maps, saw the landscape and asked himself some fairly basic questions.

Answers did not come easily. Celtic names and Saxon incursions ensured that conquest and re-conquest needed careful unravelling. Maps helped so far as they marked sites of known age but more often a visit to the local records office was needed to provide the fodder for field work.

Peter Cornah liked boundaries and lanes and found many coincidental. He came to appreciate towns especially if you could see links with their rural surroundings.

Clearly this was a night when the ghosts of Hoskins and Beresford stalked the lecture theatre but were put to flight when the speaker identified the gaps and frustrations following their work. *The Making of the English Landscape* went well beyond the Celts and Saxons so Dr Cornah did well to ponder how far present landscape history can be explained through their activities.

Overall this was an evening about maps and chaps. If the chaps outnumbered the maps perhaps this was an outcome of pre-conquest doings which will remain for ever mysterious.

Brian Little

BANBURY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

ANNUAL REPORT, 1992

Your Committee have pleasure in submitting the 35th Annual Report and Statement of Accounts, for the year 1992

Having left the Museum, Julia Nicholson stood down as Secretary and from the committee at the A.G.M. We are most grateful for her work and enthusiasm during her years of office. Her successor as curator, Simon Townsend, was duly elected as Secretary, and has the added advantage of local ancestry. Other additions to the committee have been Fiona Foster (now Thompson) and Beryl Hudson. Brian Little has become Chairman in succession to Dr John Rivers, who has taken on the task of organising the lectures programme. Other officers and members continue as before, but special mention should be made of Mrs Margaret Little's (non-committee) work as membership secretary.

The final full year of meetings arranged by Penelope Renold proved as entertaining and interesting as always, ranging from the frontiers of the Roman Empire (David Clarke) via sweethearts and valentines (Christine Bloxham) to the archaeology of medieval Banbury (R.A. Chambers). The autumn continued the worldwide coverage, with the Turin Shroud (Nigel Yeadon) and Charles Darwin on the Galapagos Islands (Jean Stone), contrasted with a masterly survey by Brian Little of developments in Banbury over the past thirty and more years.

The village meeting was held at Shenington, an inconsiderately timed General Election making necessary a transfer from village hall to the more intimate atmosphere of the school. Summer visits, again arranged by Hugh White, were to Evelme, Chedworth Roman Villa and Proffitts House, Hornton, the last conducted by Sally Stradling. Brian Little (on behalf of Cherwell D.C.) again led a tour of parts of Banbury, drawing attention to easily overlooked detail old and new. The A.G.M. was held in the impressive surroundings of Swalcliffe Barn, recently converted into an agricultural museum, with our old friend John Steane describing its history and medieval architecture.

Undoubtedly the high point of the year was the October meeting, commemorating the 350th anniversary of the battle of Edgehill, held, by kind invitation of the President and Lady Saye and Sele, in the appropriate setting of Broughton Castle. Members of other local societies were invited, and a packed hall heard Dr Philip Tennant on how the civil war affected those living in south Warwickshire and the Banbury area. Neatly coinciding with this was the arrival of his book, *Edgehill and Beyond: The People's War in the South Midlands 1642-1645*, published by Alan Sutton, volume 23 in our records series.

The usual wide range of topics have appeared in the three issues of *Cake and Cockhorse*, with contributions from Iain Ferris, Jeremy Gibson, Christopher Hill, David Hitchcox, Peter Lynch, Brian Little, Stephen Litherland, Gloria Mound, Penelope Renold, Geoffrey Stevenson, and even, posthumously, E.R.C. Brinkworth. Typesetting, still initially prepared by Ann Hitchcox, has much enhanced its appearance.

Despite the cost of the records volume (and its distribution), our financial affairs remain in good order. However increasing administrative costs make a rise in subscription (the first for many years) advisable. A proposal for an increase, with effect from January 1995, will be put at the A.G.M.

Banbury Historical Society

Revenue Account for the Year ended 31st December 1992

INCOME

	1992		1991	
Subscriptions	1591		1664	
Less Transfer to Publications Account	<u>402</u>	1189	<u>489</u>	1175
Income Tax Refund on Covenants		93		85
Donations - General	319		83	
- re Postage	293	<u>612</u>	157	<u>240</u>
		<u>2449</u>		<u>2051</u>

EXPENDITURE

<i>Cake & Cockhorse -</i>				
Printing	1061		986	
Postage and envelopes	<u>112</u>		<u>140</u>	
	1173		1126	
Less sales	<u>90</u>		<u>90</u>	
	1083		1036	
Lecture, Meeting, Secretarial and Administrative Expenses	133		142	
Hall Hire and Speakers' Expenses	302		175	
Less Donations at Meetings	(22)		(10)	
Subscriptions to other Bodies	15		20	
Sundries	<u>114</u>		—	
		1625		1363
SURPLUS FOR THE YEAR		—		—
Transferred to Capital Account		£824		£688
		—		—

Publications Account for the Year ended 31st December 1992

INCOME

Proportion of Subscriptions		402		489
Sales of Publications	216		514	
Less Share of <i>Cake & Cockhorse</i>	<u>90</u>	126	<u>90</u>	424
		—		—
		528		913

EXPENDITURE

Records Volume (<i>Edgehill and Beyond</i>)		1768		—
SURPLUS (DEFICIT) FOR THE YEAR		—		—
Transferred from/to Publications Reserve		£ (1240)		£ 913
		—		—

Brinkworth Prize Account for the Year ended 31st December 1992

	1992		1991
INCOME			
Interest received	255		307
EXPENDITURE			
Grants and prizes	—		—
SURPLUS FOR THE YEAR	—		—
Transferred to Brinkworth Prize Fund	<u>£255</u>		<u>£307</u>

Banbury Historical Society

BALANCE SHEET as at 31st December 1992

CAPITAL ACCOUNT				
As at 1st January 1992	3530		2842	
Add Surplus for the Year	<u>824</u>	4534	<u>688</u>	3530
PUBLICATIONS RESERVE				
As at 1st January 1992	3904		2991	
Add Surplus for the Year	—		913	
Less Deficit for the Year	<u>1240</u>	2664	—	3904
BRINKWORTH PRIZE FUND				
As at 1st January 1992	3049		2742	
Add surplus for the Year	<u>255</u>	3304	<u>307</u>	3049
SUBSCRIPTIONS RECEIVED IN ADVANCE		266		154
GRANT FOR FUTURE PUBLICATION		750		—
SUNDRY CREDITORS		<u>70</u>		—
		<u>£ 11408</u>		<u>£ 10637</u>
REPRESENTED BY:-				
At NATWEST BANK - Banbury				
Current Account		201		408
Business Reserve Account	<u>7900</u>	8101	<u>7180</u>	7588
Sundry Debtor		3		—
BRINKWORTH FUND INVESTMENT				
at NATWEST BANK - Banbury				
Capital Reserve Account		<u>3304</u>		<u>3049</u>
		<u>£ 11408</u>		<u>£ 10637</u>

I have examined the above Balance Sheet and the annexed Revenue Accounts and they are in accordance with the books and information and explanations supplied to me.

31st January 1993

R J Mayne, F.C.A., F.C.M.A.

A 'UNICORN' TRADE TOKEN

Fifteen years ago (*C&CH* 7 4, Autumn 1977) I published what is effectively the definitive history of the seventeenth century origins of the Unicorn tavern, still in existence on the west side of Banbury Market Place close to Parsons Street

In that article, an important piece of evidence was the 1650 trade token for the Unicorn bearing the initials of William and Joan Stokes. William died in 1658, but his widow Joan continued at the Unicorn for twenty more years, her sons John and probably Charles and her son-in-law Daniel Style also helping to run the tavern over the decades

Belatedly I have discovered another piece of the jigsaw, though infuriatingly, it doesn't fit anywhere. After publication of J G Milne's *Catalogue of Oxfordshire 17th century trade tokens* (1935), *Oxoniensia* x (1945), p 104, reports a further Banbury token discovered in the collection of Mr A W Launchbury. Details are (Obv) SAMVELL TRVBSHAW Unicorn standing (Rev) OF BANBARY 1664 HIS HALF PENY

The initial marks are mullets, the stops rosettes

But this token seems to be the only evidence of Samuel Trubshaw's residence in Banbury. There is no reference to him, or anyone of that surname, in the parish registers, the Hearth Tax (1662 and 1665), or the Corporation records

With such a symbol, surely he was connected with the Unicorn tavern. Or was he? The title deeds of the 'Original Cake Shop' (12 Parsons Street) also implied that the property was known as the Unicorn in 1666 (*I'CH* 10, p 31) but the Hearth Tax shows it was occupied by Edward Welchman

So Samuel Trubshaw remains a mystery – a sojourner in Banbury, staying long enough to make his mark with a halfpenny trade token in 1664, but otherwise disappearing apparently without trace, not just from Banbury itself but also from Oxfordshire

Jeremy Gibson

The Brinkworth Prize Fund: Oxfordshire and the Civil War

Those few members who actually look at the Society's annual accounts may have noticed that no grants have been made from the Brinkworth Fund in the past two years. This has not been for want of trying to interest local schools in making application. However, it is gratifying to be able to report that since the beginning of 1993, mainly thanks to the efforts of Paul McKee, the Cherwell Area Museums Officer, grants of £50 each have been made to four local – and not so local – schools to help defray costs of class visits to museums etc. The Society is also offering an award of £250 for the best school project to be submitted

BANBURY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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 history research, as well as recording the Society's activities. Well over one hundred issues and approaching three hundred articles have been published. Most back issues are still available and out-of-print issues can if required be photocopied.

Publications still in print include:

Old Banbury - a short popular history, by E.R.C. Brinkworth.

The Building and Furnishing of St. Mary's Church, Banbury.

The Globe Room at the Reindeer Inn, Banbury.

Records series:

Wiggington Constables' Books 1691-1836 (vol. 11, with Phillimore).

Banbury Wills and Inventories 1591-1650, 2 parts (vols. 13, 14).

Banbury Corporation Records: Tudor and Stuart (vol. 15).

Victorian Banbury, by Barrie Trinder (vol. 19, with Phillimore).

Aynho: A Northamptonshire Village, by Nicholas Cooper (vol. 20).

Banbury Gaol Records, ed. Penelope Renold (vol. 21).

Banbury Baptism and Burial Registers, 1813-1838 (vol. 22).

Edgehill and Beyond: The people's War in the South Midlands 1642-1645,
by Philip Tennant (vol. 23, with Alan Sutton).

Current prices, and availability of other back volumes, from the Hon. Secretary, c/o Banbury Museum.

In preparation: Lists of Tudor and Stuart Banbury Taxpayers, including the May 1642 subsidy for the Hundreds of Banbury, Bloxham and Ploughley (mentioning almost as many as the Protestation Returns of a few months earlier, for which Banbury Borough and Ploughley Hundred returns do not survive). Others planned: selections from diaries of William Cotton Risley, Vicar of Deddington 1836-1848; selected years from Rusher's *Banbury List and Directory*, 1795-1880; news items from the Banbury area from Jackson's *Oxford Journal* (from 1752) and the *Oxford Mercury* (1795-6); and letters to the 1st. Earl of Guilford.

Meetings held during the autumn and winter, normally at 7.30 p.m. 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 historical, archaeological and architectural subjects. In the summer, the A.G.M. is held at a local country house and other excursions 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 not required.

Applications forms may be obtained from the Hon. Secretary, c/o Banbury Museum, 8 Horsefair, Banbury, Oxon. OX16 0AA.

