

to October 1796. A partial comparison of Banbury items in this and *JOJ* appeared as 'A Few Weeks in 1795' (*C&CH.11.4*).

The *Northampton Mercury* was one of the earliest long-running provincial newspapers, starting 1720, though before the later eighteenth century such papers contained little local news of use to family historians. This can be consulted at Northamptonshire Record Office or at Northampton Central Library, and at the CBS (on microfilm to 1850).

Another unusual source for the first half of the nineteenth century is a volume of *Banbury Gaol Records* (B.H.S. 21, 1987), edited by Penelope Renold, a former editor of *OFH*. This includes a transcript of the gaoler's journal for the 1830s, and a detailed listing (from a variety of original records both local and national) of both its inmates and those involved in their apprehension and prosecution. So, your perfectly law-abiding ancestor may turn up as an injured party there!

Parish Registers – Nineteenth Century back to 1558

The staple tools of genealogists of course are the parish registers. Until the parish of South Banbury was formed in 1853, there was only the main parish of St. Mary's for Banbury – the town and borough, the suburbs of Neithrop and Calthorpe (closely intermingled with the borough and town), the hamlets or isolated farms of Easington, Wickham, Hardwick, all in the Oxfordshire part of the parish; and Grimsbury and Nethercote in Northamptonshire (but Banbury parish). It seems probable that Banbury was the most populous parish in the county, and its registers are correspondingly large and important. They date from 1558 and in general were exceptionally well-maintained, particularly from the end of the seventeenth century on. The B.H.S. has published the marriages from 1558 to 1837: **2**: 1558-1724; **3**: 1724-90; **5**: 1790-1837; and the baptisms and burials to 1838: **7**: 1558-1653; **9**: 1653-1723; **16** (baptisms) and **18** (burials): 1723-1812; and **22**: 1813-1838. The baptisms and burials include Quakers and other nonconformists, and the monumental inscriptions, such as survived in the 1960s. In the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries occupations of those buried and of the fathers of children baptised are usually shown. These volumes are now mostly out-of-print, but should be found on the shelves of major and nearby libraries (and also a number in the United States) as well as local record offices. Moreover both the published period to 1838 and the later nineteenth and twentieth century (transcribed by the O.F.H.S.) are available on CD-ROM.