

Probate Records – Nineteenth to Sixteenth Centuries

For probate purposes Banbury and some neighbouring parishes formed the Peculiar of Banbury and Cropredy, exempt from the jurisdiction of Archdeacon and Bishop of Oxford. An index to these Peculiar Court Records was published as B.H.S. 1 (and Oxfordshire Record Society [O.R.S.] 40) (1959) (effectively the court operated from about the 1570s to the early nineteenth century). Since then the British Record Society [B.R.S.] has published indexes to the *Probate Records of the Courts of the Bishop and Archdeacon of Oxford, 1516-1732* (93, 94) and *1733-1857* (109, and O.R.S. 61). The latter also includes all the Oxfordshire Peculiars (1547-1856), so incorporates the Banbury Peculiar, but the earlier B.H.S. volume has more detailed entries. The B.R.S. volumes are of course relevant to all Oxfordshire parishes neighbouring Banbury but not within the jurisdiction of the Peculiar. The wills of Banburians like everyone else might also appear in the Prerogative Court of Canterbury (P.C.C.), and a noticeably high percentage were so proved (detailed indexes to 1700 published by B.R.S.). A feature of the published burial registers is cross-referencing to all identified probate records – both for the Peculiar Court (throughout) and to the P.C.C. to 1700. P.C.C. references from 1701-1723 are in *C&CH.5.1*, pp.18-20. Some Banburians can be identified in the Society of Genealogists' P.C.C. Index 1750-1800.

Abstracts of all (over 400) Banbury (parish) wills, admmons and inventories proved in the Peculiar Court between 1591 and 1650 have been published as B.H.S. 13 and 14. A disproportionate number of those appearing in *Household and Farm Inventories in Oxfordshire, 1550-1590*, ed. M.A. Havinden (O.R.S. 44, 1965) are from Banbury and other places in the Peculiar (all from 1573-80, 1586-90).

The Eighteenth Century

Banbury ratepayers from 1782 are listed in *C&CH.7.7*, pp.225-27, this being the earliest book to survive. This and those for later years are in the Oxfordshire Record Office. In the same place are also Land Tax Assessments for the county, including Banbury (see *OFH.3.1*). The Banbury L.T.A.s exist for 1789-97 and 1807-31. Neithrop was assessed separately, and these survive for all years between 1785 and 1832 (inclusive) except 1798 and 1808. Owned property worth 40s. annually (in rent) was assessed and the tenants were usually also named. The records survive for this period as they were used to show who was