

published by the O.F.H.S. in 1993 was based on the earlier O.R.S. edition (36), which has been found to be seriously inaccurate, so the index in the revised edition should always be used in preference. Although the return for Banbury (parish) itself is missing, a near-contemporary Subsidy Roll, dated 31 May 1642, goes a good way to making up for this. In the north of the county this covers, as well as Banbury and Bloxham Hundreds, Ploughley Hundred for which the return is also missing. Whereas most of the subsidies taxed only the wealthiest of the community – in Banbury around 35 at this time – the threshold of taxation was evidently set much lower for this particular tax. Well over 300 names are listed for Banbury itself. All surviving Oxfordshire assessments for this subsidy are published in this volume.

However, undoubtedly the major source for the seventeenth and the later sixteenth centuries (apart from registers and wills) is the volume of *Banbury Corporation Records: Tudor and Stuart* (B.H.S. 15). This is an abstract of the one significant Corporation record of that period to survive, the 'Account Book', which in fact includes all sorts of information. To this have been added various documents connected with the Corporation, but in archives elsewhere (Public Record Office/The National Archives *etc.*). To the family historian a particularly important feature is the section providing potted biographies of all the many individuals who were members or officers of the Corporation, and many others too. For instance, the book opens with a list of the town's Freemen in 1554 (four years before the registers start) and includes the signatories to a petition in support of an ejected vicar in 1590, the names of those receiving financial help after the great fire of 1628, and so on. It is a complete 'lucky dip' which should be ignored by no one with Banbury interests or ancestors in the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries.

As a contrast to the Corporation records, which generally show 'the great and the good' of Banbury in the favourable light they would have liked, *The 'Bawdy Court' of Banbury: The Act Book of the Peculiar Court of Banbury 1625-1638*, edited by R.K. Gilkes (B.H.S. 26) reveals the under-side of the righteous puritan life for which Banbury was famous – or notorious.

Banbury Families

Finally, there have been a number of accounts of families over several generations. Those specific to Banbury are 'Cheney and Sons: Two Centuries (1767-1967) of Printing in Banbury' (*C&CH.3.9*); 'The