

*property in Banbury of Charles Stuart, late king, 1650.* This bundle contains a 1650 conveyance indenture with pendent seals.<sup>2</sup>

Banbury also appears consistently in the descriptions of the Exchequer records, with over 150 entries retrieved in the Catalogue. The resulting list includes crown leases, particulars of pensions, accounts of tax collections and a variety of tax-related depositions relating to Banbury people, manors and land. As expected, the record series E 179 (records of taxation of lay people and clerics in England) offers many entries on both the hundred of Banbury and the parish of Banbury; and the researcher will find in the documents cited many lists of names of taxpayers, notables and some other inhabitants of the town from medieval to early modern times. A popular area of local research, fairs and markets, also features amongst the Exchequer results. In addition, this search for Banbury also finds a sub-series of entries for the whole of Oxfordshire under E 367 (Crown leases and some sales) that provides rich descriptions for the county.

The Board of Trade records are always likely to shed light about local businesses. The task of identifying the relevant hits is straightforward, as some hundred results are actually the records of seamen from Banbury (entries starting with the reference BT 372). Local historians will also be able to spot quickly which of the dissolved companies files relate to this town. These are some of the likely ones: Banbury Corn Exchange Company, Banbury Water Company, Banbury Grand Theatre Company, Banbury Woollen Manufactory, Banbury Cattle Plague Mutual Association and the dissolution files for several railway companies.

A useful way of narrowing down the number of results for Banbury would be to use AND to link two search terms. For example, a search for 'Banbury AND fair' retrieves five references, 'Banbury AND school' locates 37 catalogue references, whereas a search for 'Banbury AND company' hits over 70 references.

The key source for information on local railway companies are the records of the privately owned railway companies that were taken over by the British Transport Commission under the Transport Act 1947. The 89 descriptions retrieved under the department code RAIL pull up entries on a variety of subject matters: contracts, agreements, development,

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<sup>2</sup> A comparison of this document is needed with E 317/Oxon/8, a survey of former Crown properties in Banbury taken in July 1653, published in *Banbury Corporation Records: Tudor and Stuart*, ed. J.S.W. Gibson and E.R.C. Brinkworth, B.H.S. 15 (1977), pp.190-1193.