

1841, eight of Irish and eight of foreign birth. After their premises were demolished in 1846 they moved, by the beginning of 1850, to three cottages in Rag Row, a terrace of ten three-storey, stone, thatched cottages on Warwick Road near to the site of the present *Duke of Wellington* public house. Rag Row was notoriously unhealthy. A single privy served all ten houses and several children staying at the lodging house died from fever. In 1851 the owner charged a rent of 1s. 6d. per week per house.¹² On census night in 1851 there were twenty-six inmates in the three houses managed by the Wards, and nineteen in 1861. By 1871 Bridget Ward was a widow, and was assisted in managing twenty-four lodgers by her bachelor son, James, a labourer. Ten years later the establishment was being run by the Wards' widowed daughter, Mary Dunn and her two grown up children. They had twelve lodgers. By 1891 the Wards and their descendants had disappeared from Warwick Road, and about this time Rag Row was demolished.

Lodging House Yard

Banbury's other long-lived lodging house was in a short alleyway called Lodging House Yard that linked South Bar with Calthorpe Street, just north of the junction between the two roads. One was centred on Banbury's first Wesleyan Chapel, built in 1791 and sold when the congregation moved to larger premises in Church Lane in 1811. References to a lodging house in South Bar (or St. John Street, as it then was known) begin to appear in the parish registers in 1823. The first identifiable keeper was Thomas Poney, who declined to use his vote in the general election of 1837. He died in the following year and was succeeded by his widow, Ann, who had nineteen lodgers on census night in 1841. Ten years later the census recorded nine dwellings in Lodging House Yard, two of which were lodging houses, one kept by James Atkins with forty-three lodgers, the other by James and Maria Tobin with sixteen. The Tobins had been born in Ireland and had previously lived at Tenterden, Reading and Woodstock. In 1861 there were still two lodging houses, one kept by Thomas Colley who had twenty-two inmates, the other by Henry Johnson who had thirty-one. By 1871 the houses in most streets and passages in Banbury had been numbered. The lodging house that occupied Nos.1, 2 and 3 Lodging House Yard, was being managed by Francis, son of James and Maria Tobin, who had been

¹² B. Trinder, 'Banbury's Poor in 1850', *Cake & Cockhorse*, 3.6 (1966), pp.105-6.