born at Reading about 1844. He had twenty-six lodgers. The other, at No.9 and accommodating eleven inmates, was in the charge of James Boss, a tinker, who in 1861 had been an inmate of the Wards' establishment in Rag Row, one of many travellers who became keepers of lodging houses.[13] Ten years later, Francis Tobin's establishment occupied Nos.1, 7 and 8 Lodging House Yard, and accommodated 32 lodgers. By this time it was the only lodging house in the yard. In 1891 Tobin and his wife had seven children at home, but still could accommodate forty-five lodgers. The 1901 census showed that Tobin, by now a widower, still had six children and two grandchildren living with him, alongside fourteen lodgers. The Tobin family lodging house continued in business until the mid-1930s, when it was demolished as part of a slum clearance scheme. It made a strong impression, as the place where German bands stayed and as a source of odours of herring cooking, on the minds of those who grew up in Banbury in the early twentieth century, even if, as the offspring of respectable parents, they were discouraged from visiting the upper parts of Calthorpe Street.[14]

The Irish

In Banbury, as in most towns, lodging houses were associated with the Irish community. The Wards and James and Maria, founders of the Tobin dynasty, were born in Ireland, although the other keepers detailed above were all English: James Atkins was a Banburian, Henry Johnson was born in Lincoln, Thomas Colley at Maids' Moreton, Buckingham-shire, and James Boss at Rothley, Leicestershire. People of Irish birth were also to be found amongst lodgers. There were four at Ann Tobin's house and eight staying with the Wards in 1841. Irish lodgers in Banbury in 1851 comprised eight staying with the Wards, including a family of five who had recently arrived in England, three agricultural labourers at Tobins', and a colliery labourer and his wife, both born at Castlereagh, County Roscommon. In 1861 there were three Irish-born inmates staying with the Wards, and a house painter from Belfast, a seaman from Limerick and a labourer with his wife from County Cork with Johnson. Subsequently numbers of Irish lodgers were insignificant.

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[13] B. Trinder, *Market Town Lodging House*, p.34; H. Mayhew, *London Labour*, vol. I, p.253.

[14] J.L. Langley, 'Memories of Late Victorian Banbury', *C&CH*, 2.4 (1963), p.53; J.L. Langley, 'Further Memories of Late Victorian Banbury', *C&CH*, 3.3 (1966), p.40.