

Trinity Monday in Rothwell (Northants.), while that of 1851 preceded the Mid-Lent Fair at Stamford. Both towns were shown to have had bloated populations of drovers, butchers and popular entertainers. Unfortunately no census was taken in Banbury during the week of the Michaelmas Fair.

Many craftsmen in the nineteenth century spent a period 'on the tramp', gaining experience of their trades in other towns, in the interval between completing their apprenticeship and settling to work on their own account. George Herbert travelled to Kent, where he met his wife, and was subsequently proud that as a master shoemaker he was able to use the talents of some of the best craftsmen in England whom he employed when they passed through Banbury before the start of the university terms in Oxford.¹⁶ Commentators acknowledged that many respectable skilled men stayed at lodging houses and feared that their respectability was thereby put at risk. Many proposals for model lodging houses assumed that the archetypal lodger was a skilled craftsman, either on the tramp after completing his apprenticeship or wandering in search of employment.

Many lodgers in Banbury were shoemakers, builders, tailors or blacksmiths born in distant parts of the country, but some followed more specialised trades. An Irish-born tobacco pipe maker was staying in Waterloo in 1841. James Atkins' lodgers in 1851 included a teacher of mathematics, a brass founder born in Bilston and a stone carver who was a native of Pimlico. In 1861 Thomas Colley accommodated a turner born in Edinburgh with his wife and six children, while a Coventry-born weaver and a Wantage-born saddler stayed with the Wards. Francis Tobin's inmates in 1871 included a wood turner from Essex and an electro-plate worker born in Stourport, and two Bristolian stone dressers were accommodated in Rag Row. In 1881 Tobin's inmates included a coach painter and two Birmingham-born pump makers, and in 1891 a slate miner born in Caernarvonshire, an engine driver born at Uppingham and a whitesmith from Guildford. By 1901 the only lodger falling into this category in Lodging House Yard was a shoemaker. Lodging houses were in decline by the turn of the century, one cause of which was that men were less inclined to go on the tramp, and in later life used other accommodation when travelling in search of employment.

¹⁶ G. Herbert, *Shoemaker's Window*, pp.12-17, 22.