

towns wholesale establishments that provided itinerant hawkers with their stock were situated near lodging houses, and George Herbert recalled that in the 1830s an ex-soldier with a wooden leg, living in Lodging House Yard, bought deal planks which he split up and dipped to make matches which he supplied to 'nearly all the old cadgers [*i.e.* vagrants staying at the lodging house] [who] used to hawk matches.'²²

Hawkers born in many parts of the British Isles are listed in most Banbury lodging houses in most of the censuses. Details of what they sold are revealed less frequently than in some other towns. A 50-year-old widow, a native of Carlisle who hawked toys, was staying with James Tobin in 1851. An itinerant doll-maker was lodging at a pub in Butchers' Row ten years later. Three sellers of artificial flowers, John Bossi, born in Belfast, and his wife and son both born at Sheerness, stayed at a short-lived lodging house in the lower part of Calthorpe Street in 1871. Some itinerant retailers stayed at inns that were possibly marginally more respectable than the town's best-known lodging houses. There were three Irish dealers in linen at the *Queen's Head* in 1851, and three travelling drapers of whom two were Irish at a pub in Butchers' Row in 1861. Umbrella makers, sellers and repairers frequented lodging houses in some numbers, and were to be found in Banbury in 1851 and 1881. Some travellers provided services rather than goods. A saw-cutter born in Essex was staying in Lodging House Yard with his Welsh wife in 1851, and there was a grinder in Rag Row in 1881. The continuing role of itinerant tradesmen in rural areas is indicated by the presence in Tobin's lodging house of twelve hawkers in 1891, and seven hawkers and a pedlar in 1901. If this kind of trade was declining, it was declining slowly.

Enumerators' returns suggest that there was a nationwide network of entertainment sustained by performers who perambulated between lodging houses. Their performances were rarely reported in newspapers, nor are they identified in standard histories of music or the theatre. The numbers of entertainers increased substantially in the second half of the nineteenth century. There were 4,200 musicians in 1851, for example, but 38,606 in 1891, and the number of actors increased from just over 2,000 to 7,321 in the same period. Circus performers often stayed in lodging houses when no accommodation was available for them in caravans. Nineteen of the thirty-nine members of Fossett's circus staying

²² G. Herbert, *Shoemaker's Window*, p.67.