

in Daventry in April 1891 were in lodging houses, including musicians, equestrians, a gymnast and three lion tamers. There were two foreign, probably Italian, musicians in the Wards' lodging house in 1841, together with a group of five foreign-born men who could well have been a German band. An English-born musician was staying nearby with Thomas Robinson. Most of the later censuses mention few entertainers, perhaps because there were no fairs, wakes or club days in Banbury in the early spring. Nevertheless in 1861 no fewer than fifteen German musicians, all aged between 15 and 24 except for one man of 32, were staying with Henry Johnson, and visits of German bands to Banbury, when they traditionally stayed in Lodging House Yard, continued until the outbreak of World War 1. Flora Thompson recalled their annual visits to Lark Rise (Juniper Hill).²³ Touring England as a member of a band was an initiation rite for young men in many parts of Germany. While no birthplaces of German musicians are given in the Banbury census returns, those from elsewhere list natives of Hanover, Hamburg, Prussia and Bavaria. In 1880 there were 880 German musicians in England and Wales, plus 38 from Austria-Hungary, totals that increased in the next decade to 1,198 and 86. They are listed in census returns in many towns. They were in Shrewsbury in every census from 1851 to 1891. They usually played in groups of five or six. The total of fifteen in Banbury in 1861 is exceptional, perhaps a coincidental meeting of two or three bands, although there were ten musicians, with the wife of the leader, at a lodging house in Peterborough in the same year. At a national level, native-born musicians outnumbered foreign players. Two born in Birmingham staying with Francis Tobin in 1891 are among the relatively few found in the Banbury census returns.

A close connection was widely assumed in the mid-nineteenth century between lodging houses and prostitution, but while some prostitutes doubtless stayed from time to time in lodging houses, the brothels where they normally worked were much smaller households, usually consisting of two or three young women, often with one or two small children, and a man who might be pimp or client. Such places, that were, confusingly, sometimes called lodging houses, could be found around the *Jolly Waterman* beerhouse in Mill Lane, in Roushill in Shrewsbury, or in the Water Lanes district of York. In Calthorpe Street in 1851 two 'nymphs

²³ F. Thompson, *Lark Rise to Candleford* (1939), Oxford: Oxford University Press, p.132.