

grant of the borough's second charter (1608), which replaced this office with a Mayor. Knight was content to be appointed 'life' Chamberlain, which he remained until 1627-8. On the down-side, it was the puritanical zeal of himself and his colleagues which saw the destruction of the town's crosses.

William Knight had numerous sisters who gave him close connections with Banbury's leading families: Shewells, Edens, Whatelys (the vicar was his nephew); Anne married Henry Wright, landlord of the Three Swans. From Wright's probate inventory of 1618 it is clear that, with its named chambers, this was a leading tavern and doubtless was used by his brothers-in-law for Corporation and other business as well as pleasure.

Martin Wright was the only surviving son from this marriage, but by his father's second marriage he gained three younger brothers. Of these George (1608) was the eldest and was duly apprenticed to Henry Helmes of the Skinners Company. A daughter of Mr Nickles Helmes, 'his wife a widowe', had been baptised at Banbury in 1598. In his father's will George was amongst those to share the value of the wine licence if Martin sold it.

Another with a link to this hierarchy was Edward Pilkington (1612), whose grandfather had been an alderman. Frustratingly for this pre-Civil War period, for which the corporation records are particularly informative, there are no other direct connections with burgesses or aldermen. Anthony Nottingham, father of John (1626), was a Toll-gatherer for the sheep market in 1612-3. Francis Vowe, father of Thomas (1637), was a Taster to the Corporation four times between 1624 and 1642 – he was another who was given relief after the 1628 fire. The relatively small number of apprenticeships recorded from this period, only twelve, must be borne in mind.

### **After the Restoration**

Things were different after the Restoration. Of the 22 apprenticeships entered into during the reigns of Charles II and James II, over a third were sons of Corporation members – clearly Livery Company training and, more important, consequent freedom and membership, was considered valuable.

Of these, the two William Wheat(e)lys, fathers of Nehemiah (1670) and Nathaniel (1671), had both been Mayor, as was Thomas Sutton of the Reindeer whose sons Thomas (1671) and Charles (1675) were indentured in London. John Smith (1676), youngest son of Henry, was