



*John and Catherine Baylis*

The Banbury Industrial Co-operative Society was registered in 1866, the same year as a boy was born at Wykham Mill, the sixth son of John and Catherine Baylis's fourteen children. The 1881 census recorded the family as living in Beargarden Road and Fred, who was then fifteen, was listed as being a general labourer. In 1887, at the age of twenty-one, he married Elizabeth Edwards and in 1891 they were living at 110 Causeway, Banbury. Fred was by that time a baker, possibly employed by the Banbury Co-op, because on 31st August 1892 he was appointed manager of the Co-op in Bodicote, five years after it opened for the first time. He was twenty-eight years old. In the Articles of Agreement between Fred Baylis and the Banbury Co-operative Industrial Society Limited, Fred was made the following payments and allowances:

*First a weekly wage of fourteen shillings; Secondly when the sales made by the said Fred Baylis at the said branch shall upon any quarterly stocktaking be found to have exceeded an average of twenty-eight pounds per week a commission of sixpence in the pound upon such excess; Thirdly in addition to the payments an allowance aforesaid the said Fred Baylis shall be allowed the free use for himself and family only all that part of the premises occupied by the society as a store at Bodicote aforesaid . . .*