



*29½ Parsons Street (now 29a) is the creeper-covered first house that can be seen in the street at its junction with North Bar Street. Postcard c.1930.*

Some time between then and 1881 Tom, Ellen and at least six of their nine (known) children had moved to No.29½ Parsons Street, where Tom set up business in his own right. In every year from 1882 to 1896 Tom is listed in *Rusher's Banbury List and Directory* as a boot and shoe maker at that address. Interestingly, in 1885 and 1886 *Rusher's* also includes him in the list of private residents, at 29 Parsons Street. Does this mean that he had acquired the other half of the premises? No.29 was occupied by a cycle agent in 1891 and is shown as unoccupied in 1901. In that year, at the age of 72, Tom is a widower (Ellen died in 1896, aged 69) and still working on his own account at No.29½. His youngest three daughters were living there too. *Kelly's Directory* of 1903 shows him still there, but he probably gave up working soon afterwards. He is not listed in *Kelly's* in 1907. It is probable that on retirement he moved to 9 North Bar Street with at least two of his daughters. As an aside, when his son William married in 1889, the marriage certificate describes Tom as "Leather Merchant". Did he, I wonder, use that description because it sounded posher than bootmaker? Tom died at 9 North Bar Street in January 1912, aged 83.

Tom and Ellen, as mentioned, had nine known children. Of these, at least six worked in and around Banbury for greater or lesser periods.