

BANBURY'S OUTSKIRTS AROUND 1895

The late Dorothy M. Bromley

[f.14] It would have been quite possible to walk all round the outskirts of Banbury in a short time during the 1890s [Miss Bromley was born in 1887]. I propose now to describe such a walk starting from the entrance to Castle Street West, lately having become so very much widened by the removal of all the cottages on the south side. At the end of four of these cottages was Hayden's shoeing forge and I can remember looking in to see horses being shoed and the clang of the anvil and smell of the hot metal with sparks flying.

There is very little difference on the north side right along to the next part called Castle Street East. The backs of all these houses look over the fields called the Marches. Between West and East Castle Street a narrow lane called Rope Walk led down to the Marches with a small stream running down to the canal in which a small quantity of minnows could be seen. Castle Street East continued to Castle Street North and, keeping still to the outskirts instead of turning into the Market Place from Castle Street North, we keep straight on down Factory Street at the back of Hoods the ironmongers which was and still is [until 2006] in Bridge Street. Factory Street ends with a drawbridge over the canal and on the north side the mills of Edmunds and Kench.

We must now turn to the south into Bridge Street. This leads on over the Railway Bridge to Grimsbury, but we cross the road into Lower Cherwell Street on the west side of the canal, on the other side of which is Station Road leading to the Great Western Railway Station. On the other side of the bridge was the terminus station of the London and North Eastern Railway.

After leaving Cherwell Street we follow the street nearest to the canal by Stones Factory on the right to the bridge over the canal and then up the steep road to the east end of High Town Road. There were no houses here then till Foscode on the left, then lived in by Mr Barford JP and his daughter. After that there were no houses on the right but on the left the houses were there as now to South Bank. The only house between there and Bodicote was the Lodge leading by a long drive to the house occupied by Mr Samuelson and family and Bodicote Grange beyond.