

BANBURY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

2011 PRIZE FOR LOCAL HISTORY

Last year Banbury Historical Society offered a prize for the best piece of local historical research submitted by an individual or a village society. Given the degree of interest that aroused, we are proposing to offer this prize again in 2011: for the best piece of local historical research submitted by 30 April 2011.

See the enclosed leaflet. For further information, please contact Helen Forde <helen.forde@lovells-online.co.uk> or Deborah Hayter <deborahhayter@hotmail.com>

VERA WOOD

Vera Wood, who died in March, had been a member of our Society for many years. In particular she undertook an enormous amount of transcription of north Oxfordshire parish registers (all available in microform or CD from the Oxfordshire Family History Society). She was also a dedicated historian of her home village of Adderbury. For Banburians her book *The Licensees of Inns, Taverns and Beerhouses of Banbury* (OFHS, 1998) is an invaluable directory, despite its frustrating lack of source references. Present and future local historians owe her much.

A lengthy Appreciation by Colin Harris has appeared in the *Oxfordshire Family Historian* (24.2, August 2010).

‘Elizabeth Hands - Determined Mother’

Also in this *OFH* is an article by Roger Jennens about Elizabeth Hands (1752-1819), her children and her much older husband Isaac Margetts, of Radway. After his death she moved with her children (out of wedlock Hands) to Bloxham, and a daughter settled in Wardington. A cheering story.

Rusher’s Banbury Lists (1795-1906) and Directories (183²~~7~~-1906)

Almost twenty years ago Penelope Renold, in ‘William Rusher: A sketch of his life’ (*C&CH*.11.9, 1991), described this wonderful source for Victorian Banbury and its inhabitants. It is (or should be) well-known to researchers, but the few bound sets are fragile and not easy to access. However, Banbury Museum has a little-known or used card index compiled by Mary Stanton. This we now hope to type on computer for eventual publication in our records series and/or online.

Is/are there any member(s) (preferably in the north Oxfordshire/Banbury area) with typing experience and the enthusiasm to help with this task? The work could quite easily be shared amongst several. There is the possibility of some modest remuneration, but it does need volunteers for whom the project itself is the attraction. Anyone interested, please contact Jeremy Gibson (as on the inside front cover).