

In an article on 'The House at Pye Corner' (*C&CH*.13.8, 1997), the present Castle House in Cornhill, an advertisement of 1758 named a 'Mr Welchman' as a former resident. It was and is assumed it was John the surgeon who first lived there. Not surprisingly the two Johns were confused, wrongly suggesting this was the elder, born in 1667, rather than the one who died in 1730. We now learn that a descendant of the baker Edward's first family, yet another John (1702-73), whose attorney father had moved to Brackley, himself came back to Banbury in 1730, just-married and also an attorney. On the death of his father he returned to Brackley in 1745. The likelihood is that Pye Corner was occupied successively by cousins, both named John Welchman. The other named resident, 'Dr Mac Aulay' did not move to Banbury until 1745 just as Pye Corner conveniently became available. Although the book does not mention the Pye Corner connection, but for the author's patient disentangling of family relationships we would remain confused.

I have laboured this in a severely factual way, but this book shows how a wealth of imagination can turn 'who-begat-whom' into an absorbingly readable narrative. Mr Welchman has looked at the dry documentary records and interpreted what they implied, why they were created, what happened before and after. Inevitably some of this has to be speculation, but well-based. Deaths in the family suggest why the young attorney from Brackley set up and lived in Banbury for fifteen years before returning to his home town. It is all too easy to assume people stayed in the same place all their lives. This book is a testament to their constant mobility, both in the close neighbourhood and much further way.

I have concentrated on the first hundred pages and how they affected Banbury. There has been gratifying use of our Society's publications, precisely footnoted (our website shows ten separate *C&CH* articles naming Welchmans, as well as records volumes). The bibliography and indexes are excellent. To anyone in the family the gigantic research into later centuries will be invaluable too.

Local historians tend to research one place or area: a family history like this is a good reminder that ancestors and descendants are always coming and going, they have lives elsewhere too.

J.G.

Broughton Castle and The Fiennes Family, by Nicholas Allen, Wykeham Press (ISBN 978 0 9566059 0 0). A5, card covered, c.90pp, 20 illustrations/maps. Available late August 2010, £7.50. Obtainable from the shop at Broughton Castle; mail orders (adding £2.00 p&p) from BHS members, with cheque, to Nick Allen, Barn End, Keyte's Close, Adderbury OX17 3PB99.

A review will appear in the next issue of *Cake & Cockhorse*.