

eldest son Thomas “reserving to myself the lease of the next house to that wherein I now dwell and the use of my Inne[r] Chamber.” **Thomas** (b.1586) had married in 1610. From 1623 he held a role of some standing in the borough, sergeant-at-mace to the Corporation. He died in September 1631, intestate but with a probate inventory being taken. The rooms listed the hall, the chamber over the shop, the chamber over the house, the “chichin” chamber; the “hie” chamber; the shop (this housed “6 saddels, the great sadel, twelve more; to dusson of snafules”; etc). Might this be documenting our house?³ His widow Rebecca was pestered by the Peculiar Court for a year to present a probate account of the disposal of her late husband’s goods.



Part of the eastern side of Horse Fair in 1840, showing the vicarage on the left and the Woolpack on the far right (detail, courtesy Oxfordshire Studies). See ‘Banbury Past through Artists’ Eyes’, p.60.

There were no grown sons, but Thomas’s brother **William Perrin** was only 42, also a saddler, with a son William (b.1611), so probably took over the family business. In October 1634 he caused a minor disturbance that brought him before the same court: “that he tore open the churchyard gate and brought a load of hay through the churchyard in to Mr Wheatley’s backside, having leave of Mr Wheatley to do so, the hay being his, this respondent’s goods, for which he ... promiseth to do so [no] more.”⁴

³ *Banbury Wills and Inventories*, Pt 2, 1621-1650. BHS vol. 14. Nos. 257, 322.

⁴ *The ‘Bawdy Court’ of Banbury: The Act Book of the Peculiar Court of Banbury, 1625-1638*, tr. & cal. E.R.C. Brinkworth, ed. R.K. Gilkes, BHS vol. 26, p.172.