

*Directory of York* for 1895 describes the public houses from which carriers began their outward journeys as their 'booking offices'. The need for a base was summarised in a Hull directory of 1851 which pointed out that there was a warehouse at the *Humber Tavern* for the reception of goods brought by or to be forwarded by market boats. Kelly's directory for 1893 named the calling places of the 48 carriers who visited Beverley each Saturday either as streets, or alongside business premises including the Yorkshire Bank, Miss Fenwick, haberdasher, and Hobson & Son, grocers. In 1891 two dozen carriers departed each Saturday afternoon from Parliament Street in the centre of Nottingham. In Banbury in 1851, every Thursday some 23 carriers called at the *Plough*, which fronted Cornhill, where by 1900 there was a fountain from which horses could drink.<sup>20</sup> Carts parked on the north side of High Street formed a stockade which impeded the escape of the mayor, Thomas Draper, when he was attacked by a cow one market day in October 1863.<sup>21</sup>

The principal carriers' inns in Banbury retained their popularity. *The Plough* and the *Waggon & Horses* each had 40 calls per week in 1851, 45 and 38 respectively in 1881, 36 and 42 in 1891, and 40 and 25 in 1911. Other inns that had significant numbers of calls per week over long periods included the *Angel*, the *Bear*, the *Catherine Wheel*, the *Leathern Bottle*, the *Old George* and the *White Hart*. Some innkeepers turned away from carrying. The *Talbot*, important in 1831, did not cater for carriers in 1851 or subsequently, and the *Town Hall Tavern* which had 18 calls in 1881 was not visited by carriers in 1911, whereas the *Coach & Horses*, not a carriers' inn in 1881, had 20 calls a week in 1911. Fashions changed in most towns. In 1854 eight of Newbury's 79 carriers called at the *Jack of Newbury*, a prestigious inn of 1754 demolished in 1934, but by 1899 only four called there, and not at the hotel itself but at its 'tap'. Only a minority of carriers ended their journeys at places other than pubs. Rusher's first list in 1796 shows four of Banbury's 16 carriers calling at the warehouses of long-distance carriers, and in 1800 two called at the canal wharf. In 1821 five carriers made calls at the warehouses of trunk waggoners, two at the post office and one at William Rusher's print shop. Banbury's impressive alcohol-free public house of 1875-76 at the junction of Mill Lane and Bridge

---

<sup>20</sup> M Lester, *Those Golden Days* (Banbury: privately published, 1992), pp.32, 59.

<sup>21</sup> *Banbury Guardian*, 15 Oct 1863.