

Sydney Tyrrell recalled that George Hunt, whose family carried from Eydon to Banbury over three generations, was not a first-rate carrier: 'He and his father were poor folk – I doubt if they were any better off than the farm labourers'. Hunt took three hours to reach Banbury with eight gates to open between Eydon and Trafford Bridge and seven through Edgcote Park. The earliest record of an Eydon carrier is in 1805 when the journey was made by a man called Lynes. A Mr Hunt was visiting the *Catherine Wheel* on Thursdays and Saturdays by 1821, when he also went to Daventry on Wednesdays. By 1831 he had changed his destination to the *Waggon & Horses*. Jesse Hunt was a weaver, and the carrying business was probably started by another member of the family. In 1841 it was in the hands of Jesse's son William, who had married a woman from Duns Tew. He was still working to the *Waggon & Horses* in 1881 when he was a widower of 69, but his son George, then aged 30, was assisting in the business. George Hunt had taken over the business by 1891 and was still travelling to the *Waggon & Horses* in 1911. The Hunts faced competition for about 20 years from the mid-1870s from William Herbert, the Banburian landlord of the *Royal Oak*.

The first recorded carrier from Charlton and Newbottle was a Mr Pipkin, who by 1815 was travelling to Banbury through Aynho, terminating his journeys at the *Waggon & Horses*. During the 1830s his business passed to Henry Harris, who lived at Newbottle, while another carrier, Edward Uperton, travelled from Charlton to the *Talbot*. By 1851 James Bull was carrying from Charlton to the *Queen's Head* on Thursdays and to Brackley on Wednesdays and Saturdays. By 1861 he was landlord of a beerhouse, and was assisted by his 13 year old son, also James, while an older son worked as a farm labourer. He was still keeper of the *New Inn* at Newbottle in 1871, although by then a widower. In 1891 the *Rose & Crown* at Charlton was kept by Charles Critcher, a carrier, born at Wargrave, Berks, and married to a woman from Mollington. By 1901 the pub and the carrying business were in the hands of Thomas Frost, who was still visiting Banbury in 1911.

John Weston, born about 1846, and possibly the son of a gamekeeper, appears to have succeeded William Elmore as carrier from Steeple Aston in 1867-68, visiting the *Waggon & Horses* at Banbury on Mondays and Thursdays, and the *Plough* at Oxford on Saturdays. By 1881 he was keeping the *Red Lion*, and ten years later was employing his son as an assistant in the carrying trade and working a farm. He had given up the pub by 1901, but continued to work as a carrier, and became