

on club days and the misappropriation of funds by individuals. One of the most notable examples of the latter was the theft in 1870 of £106 of friendly society money by the Deddington solicitor Henry Churchill, who was bankrupt with liabilities totalling £6,000.

This section of the book raises broader questions. It provides a wonderful vision from 1873 of a large party of members of Banbury's Conservative Friendly Society, and doubtless their ladies, dancing at midnight in the yard of the *White Horse*, under a booth, whose roof was a rick cloth. Moses Walker and Henry French cut a hole in the cloth through which they dropped stones on to the dancers, but that seems the least interesting feature of the evening. It might be asked what lay behind the presence at Bodicote Club day of William Clarke, 'a tall powerful man from America'. Was he a tourist or a returned emigrant? The book provides powerful evidence of the importance of bands in mid-Victorian Oxfordshire, not least in the account of the fighting between musicians from Banbury and Adderbury at Hornton club day in 1873.

This is the 68th volume to be published by the Oxfordshire Record Society since its foundation in 1919. It continues a succession of innovative works that the Society has produced in recent years which is to the credit of the Society's officers and which also demonstrates the vitality of local history in the county.

B.S.T.

Mid-Victorian Squarson: The Diaries of William Cotton Risle, Former Vicar of Deddington, 1849-1869, Geoffrey Smedley-Stevenson (ed.). Hardback, xxx + 354pp., illustrated, indexes (70pp.). Banbury Historical Society, Volume 32, 2012. (ISBN: 9780900129308). £15.00 + £3.00 p&p (UK), Free to members.

Part One, Early Victorian Squarson, 1835-48, was published in 2007.

The genre of published diaries requires three elements to be a useful addition to the existing literature. A full and interesting manuscript, a sympathetic and clinical editor, and an excellent index provide the ingredients to produce a diary that is valuable to those historical researchers as well as individuals with local affiliation. *Mid-Victorian Squarson* exhibits all three characteristics in abundance. This is the second part of the personal chronicle kept by the Reverend William Cotton Risle and it appears six years after *Early-Victorian Squarson*, the volume that covered thirteen years when he was vicar of Deddington. The editor refers to the introduction of the first volume to explain his editorial methods, an essential component in assessing the