

CAKE AND COCKHORSE



Banbury Historical Society

Spring 1969

2s.6d.

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The Society was founded in 1957 to encourage interest in the history of the town of Banbury and neighbouring parts of Oxfordshire, Northamptonshire and Warwickshire.

The Magazine "Cake & Cockhorse" is issued to members four times a year. This includes illustrated articles based on original local historical research, as well as recording the Society's activities. Publications include "Old Banbury - a short popular history" by E.R.C. Brinkworth (2nd edition), "New Light on Banbury's Crosses", "Roman Banburyshire" and "Banbury's Poor in 1850", all 3/6d, and a pamphlet "History of Banbury Cross", 6d. A Christmas card has been a popular annual production.

The Society also publishes an annual records volume. These have included "Oxfordshire Clock-makers, 1400-1850"; "South Newington Churchwardens' Accounts, 1553-1684"; "Banbury Marriage Register, 1558-1837" (3 parts) and "Baptism and Burial Register, 1558-1653". "A Victorian M.P. and his Constituents; The Correspondence of H.W. Tancred, 1841-1859", and the second part of the Banbury Baptism and Burial Register, 1653-1723, will shortly be published. "Banbury Wills and Inventories, 1591-1650", "Bodicote Churchwardens' Accounts, 1700-1822", "Wigginton Constables' Accounts, 1691-1804", and "Banbury Politics, 1830-1880" are all well advanced.

Meetings are held during the autumn and winter, normally at 7.30 p.m. in the Conservative Club. Talks on general and local archaeological, historical and architectural subjects are given by invited lecturers. In the summer, excursions to local country houses and churches are arranged. Archaeological excavations and special exhibitions are arranged from time to time.

Membership of the Society is open to all, no proposer or seconded being needed. The annual subscription is 40/-, including the annual records volume, or 20/- if this is excluded. Junior membership is 5/-.

Application forms can be obtained from the Hon. Secretary or the Hon. Treasurer.

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The magazine of the Banbury Historical Society. Issued to members four times a year.

Volume Four

Number Three

Spring, 1969

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At no period in its history was Banbury more widely renowned than in the seventeenth century. The list of literary references to the town's Puritan zeal compiled by Alfred Beesley is an impressive testimony to Banbury's reputation. Probably at no other time in its history does the study of Banbury offer more to the student interested in the understanding of wider historical problems. The sieges, plagues and pillaging of the Civil War period so well chronicled by Beesley, the remarkable story of the demolition of the medieval Banbury Cross described in our Winter 1967 issue by Paul Harvey, and the vitality of the Quakers and Presbyterians in the town during and after the Interregnum all provide insights into the understanding of major problems in English history.

No satisfactory account of seventeenth century Banbury has yet been written, nor is one immediately in prospect, but when this period does find its historian, he may be grateful for the contributions made to his work in this issue. Mr. Chitty has patiently unravelled the complex genealogy of a family of major importance in seventeenth century Banbury, who provided mayors and magistrates for the town as well as the famous "Roaring Boy" vicar. Miss Kennedy's article reveals the somewhat surprising existence of a seaman among the town's inhabitants in the latter part of the century, and almost equally surprising is the amount of detail she has discovered about the background of this somewhat obscure man's voyage.

It is with no disrespect to our present contributors that we suggest that an even more significant addition to our knowledge of seventeenth century Banbury will be the publication in the Historical Society's Records Series (for 1969) of the Banbury Wills and Inventories for the first part of the century, which should provide fascinating pictures of the standard of life of the town's most notorious Puritans. The Society has already completed the publication of the town's marriage register and of the baptisms and burials register until 1653, and the next volume which covers the period until 1723 is at an advanced stage of preparation. If there is no full history of seventeenth century Banbury written within the next decade it will not be through lack of material.

Our Cover: An ornamental initial letter from the 1640 edition of "Prototypes", by "that faithful and painefull Preacher of Gods Word, William Whately late Pastour of Banbury".

SOCIETY NEWS AND ACTIVITIES

Spring Programme

Thursday, 20th March, Banbury Conservative Club. 7.30 p.m. Local Churches Fifty Years Ago
The Rt. Rev. D. G. Loveday, Bishop of Dorchester and Vice-President of the Society.

The Loveday family have long been associated with the Banbury area. The Bishop of Dorchester's reminiscences of Banbury, churches and clergy a generation and more ago are certain to be interesting and entertaining.

Tuesday, 29th April. Village Meeting at Deddington. Speakers: Dr. H. M. Colvin and Miss Betty Hill. The meeting will probably be held in the church, at 7.30 p.m., but members will receive a further notice.

Advance notice: Saturday, 7th June. A.G.M. at Sibford School, by kind invitation of the headmaster.

Friday, 28th November -- Second Annual Dinner.

The Oxford Canal

Members of the Historical Society will be delighted to learn that work is going ahead on a history of the Oxford Canal. The book is being written by Mr. Hugh Compton of 122 Hermitage Road, St. Johns, Woking, Surrey, who had already published articles on the Cassington Canal and the wharf at Eynsham in the Journal of the Railway and Canal Historical Society. Mr. Compton would be very pleased to see any photographs of the canal which may be in the possession of members, and will gladly pay for all postage and return photographs with the minimum of delay.

The Origins of Eydon

In a recent lecture at Northampton, Professor Maurice Beresford, author of "The Lost Villages of England", commented on the very regular formation of the village of Eydon with the Park on the south side, and queried whether the village had been moved to make the Park. Our member Mr. S. J. Tyrrell of The Mullions, Eydon, has taken up Professor Beresford's query, and after consultation with various authorities has concluded that the village is probably Saxon in origin, and that it still conforms largely to its Saxon plan. Mr. Tyrrell would be glad to discuss the problem with anyone else who may have an interest in it.

The Co-operative Society Flour Mill

Several members inquired about the location of the Banbury Co-operative Society's Flour Mill that was featured on the cover of the Winter 1968 issue of "Cake and Cockhorse". We are informed by the Society's Chief Executive Officer, Mr. R. Pavitt, that this still exists, to the rear of 47 Broad Street, though it is no longer the property of the Society. Mr. Pavitt is collecting together photographs of places and events illustrating the Co-operative Society's history, and anyone with pictures of interest might like to contact him at 10-15 & 18, Broad Street, Banbury.

Index: Cake and Cockhorse, Vol. III

The index to the last volume of "Cake and Cockhorse", published between 1965 and 1968, is now being printed, and (together with title and contents pages) will be distributed with the next issue to all corporate members. In order to reduce costs copies will be supplied only to individual members who specifically request them. Anyone wanting a copy is requested to inform the Hon. Sec., Banbury Historical Society, Humber House, Bloxham, Banbury. There will be no charge for the index.

THE WHATELY AND WHEATLY FAMILY OF BANBURY

Despite the renown of the Puritan Divine and "Painefull Preacher" William Whately, Vicar of Banbury, and the fifteen terms of office served by members of his family as Bailiffs and Mayors, no serious attempt seems previously to have been made to marshal the references to the family in the parish registers - well over 300 down to 1812 - into a complete genealogy. It is somewhat remarkable that less than twenty of these references defy reasonably certain placing in the pedigree, when reinforced by wills and other evidence.

The primary object of the present enquiry was to expand (and at some points to correct) the family history privately published by the late Rev. George Pepys Whately in 1940. As that writer observed, the name is probably derived from the hamlet of Whateley in Kingsbury, Warwickshire, and it may first have been borne by a migrant to Henley-in-Arden in Wootton Wawen parish, twenty miles to the south, where the Whatelys appear to be well-established by the early sixteenth century and whence some moved on to Banbury. Wheatley in Oxfordshire may have influenced the form of the surname eventually used by the branch longest residing in Banbury, though the records of the Manor of Henley-in-Arden in 1508 refer to "Wheteley Fylde" and to the "church waye that gothe from Wheteley unto Wotton".

No one will be surprised by the surname variants encountered in the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries, but it is interesting to note that the descendants of two brothers living in 1600 finally settled for Wheatly and Whately as their respective names. Whately later used an unregistered coat of arms including garbs or wheat-sheaves which recall the other form of the name.

The continuous pedigree begins with John Whateley of Henley-in-Arden, draper (whose will was proved at Worcester in 1554), his five sons including William, and William's seven sons. But others of the Henley family seem early to have colonised nearby towns. Thomas Wayteley of Stratford-on-Avon in his 1548 will gives no indication of connections outside Stratford except that he appoints as overseer a Sir John Waytley who may be the Henley priest, afterwards Vicar of Crowle. This Thomas's son, William, vintner, was Bailiff of Stratford in 1554. Another civic dignitary was Thomas Wheatley, ironmonger and Alderman of Coventry, whose will (1565/6) includes bequests to Northampton, Warwick and Atherston - but a son of "Magister Whately de Coventry" was baptised at Wootton Wawen in 1563. Some Tanworth Whatelys in the later 17th century were beneficiaries of Whateley's Charity, formerly called "Countree (or Coventry) money".

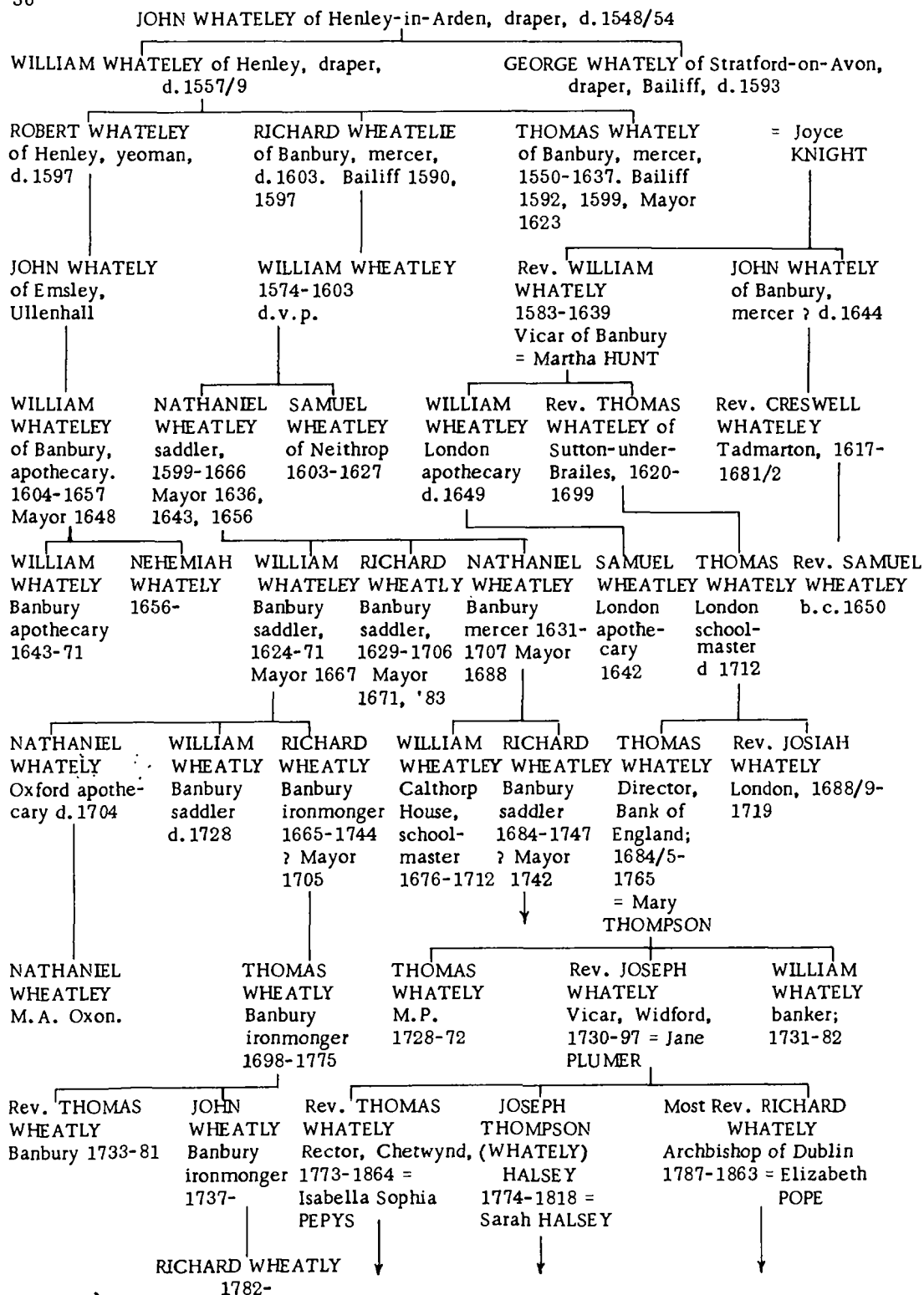
Other possible, but unplaced, kinsmen include a Banbury baker, William Wheatleye, who died in 1579, and a John Whately of King's Norton whose two conflicting wills, made on consecutive days in 1638, were both proved in the Prerogative Court of Canterbury.

It looks very much as though Henley-in-Arden was the nursery from which all the Whatelys (if not all the Wheatleys) spread, including also the only other known modern family using this spelling, which is said by George Pepys Whately to have been traced to a William of Beoley who died in 1688, and who may have belonged to a family resident at neighbouring Tanworth from 1582, having probably branched off from the Henley-in-Arden stock at a date earlier than the registers and surviving wills.

To return to Henley-in-Arden, a Philip Whatley, yeoman, in 1540 desired to be buried near his unnamed father in Wootton Wawen churchyard, and made provision for the maintenance of a dependent brother John. As this John was certainly not the prosperous draper, we may infer that Philip and the draper were not closer than first cousins, and at least the third generation of the family at Henley-in-Arden.

John Whateley the draper was evidently a man of substance, with considerable land, and left charitable bequests to a dozen places. His wife was named Margaret, and there may have been embarrassing moments in 1546 and '47 when John was on the Manor Court jury and Margeria or Margaret, "communis brasiatrix", was fined for breaking the assize.

Of John's five sons, William and Thomas remained at Henley, George settled at Stratford-on-Avon where he was yeoman, draper, Alderman and (in 1563 and 1583) Bailiff, and two



entered the church, John being later Vicar of Crowle and Robert living at Evesham. A daughter married Thomas Ilshaw in 1548. He was perhaps the Henley priest mentioned in 1531, taking advantage of the 1547 abolition of clerical celibacy. John Whateley possibly disapproved of this licence, for his will reveals his anxiety lest this particular son-in-law might not treat his wife honestly. Debts owing to John were to be collected by his executors "so much as the sayd Willm and Thomas can gather and obtayne by fayre means or by the lawe" - a nice distinction. They were also charged to give to their youngest sister Jane one wain-load of good hay yearly, and to deliver it to her house in Stratford so long as she should dwell there.

William Whateley, John's eldest son and successor as a draper at Henley-in-Arden, refers in his will (proved 1559) to his eight children. These are not all named in any one surviving and unmutilated document (some of the early Worcester wills are in very bad condition), but cross-references establish them as John of Henley, Robert of Henley (and probably of Empsley House, Ullenhall), yeoman, Richard, William and Thomas (these three all mercers), Edward, George and a daughter Isabel.

Richard and Thomas both settled in Banbury and served as Bailiff, Richard in 1590 and 1597 and Thomas in 1592 and 1599 and apparently again (now as Mayor) in 1623 when he would have been aged 73. There is no indication of any other Thomas available in that year, and as the mercer lived to 87 and was then "in health and bodie and p'fict memory" he may well have seemed fit for a third term of office in his seventies.

In this generation we first see the Puritan tendency. Richard in his 1603 will desired no bells to be rung at his funeral except the Great Bell "because I fear many have too superstitious opinion in ringing", and Thomas in his will limited his gift to the poor of Banbury to "such as have not been disorderd by drunkenness cursing swearing rayleing or any ye like misdemeanours".

This Thomas (1550-1637) married Joyce Knight, one of the many daughters of John Knight of the Reindeer Inn, baker, and confusingly, after her death in 1612 married another Joyce. This name seems indeed to have been unusually frequent in Banbury. The register copy of Thomas's will (PCC 39 Lee) calls him a weaver and describes his cousin John (in modern terms, his nephew) as "of Grasby". The original will reads "mercier" and "John of Emsley". It was Thomas who bought the property at Hempton in Deddington which was still held by the family in 1712 and which served for many years as a centre of Puritan activity. Beesley quotes the Council records as showing that in 1600 Thomas Whateley leased the Leather Hall and stables for nine years. He also acquired from Sir Anthony Cope in 1608 the spittle with the little spittle close, and later added the three spittle closes by purchase from Richard Cope, Esq. Beesley quotes Baker's "Northamptonshire" to the effect that Thomas sold the whole spittle estate to the reforming parson Robert Harris of Hanwell in 1614, but Thomas's will includes the gift "unto my sonn in lawe Mr. Robert Harris & to my daughter Joane Harris his wife & to the heyres of theyr bodies begotten my spittle howse withall ye barnes howses meadowes & closes thereunto belonging". This was perhaps a precautionary confirmation of the earlier transfer of the property which (again according to Baker) Thomas's grandson, the Rev. Malachi Harris, alienated to Philip Holman of Warkworth in 1663.

Besides Joan Harris and William Whately (1583-1639), the Vicar of Banbury, Thomas's children included John, a mercer, who married Elizabeth Creswell and was father of a son usually known as the Rev. Creswell Whately (1617-1681/2), Vicar of Middleton Cheney and Rector of Tadmorton, whose son Samuel was a clergyman in 1681. Of the mercer and his family, apart from Creswell, there is no certain knowledge after 1641. Perhaps they left Banbury, but perhaps John was the John Wheatly buried in the plague year 1644, and perhaps his daughter Mary was the wife - a very young wife if so - of James Wagstaffe of the Flower de Luce Inn, tithingman and constable, perhaps committed to Oxford Gaol in 1661 for refusing the oath.

Bailiff Richard Wheatley, the Vicar's uncle, died in 1603, just surviving his son William who left sons Nathaniel (1599-1666), saddler, Mayor in 1636, 1643 and 1656, and Samuel of Neithrop, draper and yeoman. When this Samuel died, 1626/7, he requested his cousin the Vicar to preach his funeral sermon.

Robert of Henley - also the Vicar's uncle - left a son John of Emsley who was remembered



The Rev. William Whately, Vicar of Banbury, 1610-1639, from the frontispiece to his "Prototypes", published in 1640.

in his uncle Thomas's will; but the effective head of this branch by 1637 was John's son William (died 1657), apothecary and mayor of Banbury in 1648, whose "shop implements" had apparently been supplied and were left to him by his uncle Thomas. His son William succeeded him as an apothecary and died 1671/2, leaving as his residuary legatee his brother Nehemiah who may have settled at Emsley in Ullenhall. In any case, Robert's line is seen no more in Banbury. An interesting feature of this last William's will is that the trustees included Nathaniel of Banbury, mercer, and Samuel of London, apothecary, they and the testator being third cousins, descendants of the three brothers Robert, Richard and Thomas.

The Rev. William Whately (1583-1639), Vicar of Banbury from 1610 and previously Lecturer there (and also at Stratford-on-Avon) married Martha Hunt, daughter of George, Rector of Collingbourne Ducis in Wiltshire and granddaughter of John Hunt who escaped the stake for heresy by the timely death of "Bloody Mary". By her, William left three sons.

The eldest, William, who was left lands at Drayton, married a daughter of another leading Banbury Puritan, Martin Tustian, and settled as an apothecary (this occupation seems to have fascinated those Whatelys who were attracted by neither cloth nor "the cloth") in the parish of St. Mary Aldermanbury in London, then served by Edmund Calamy the elder, the Presbyterian divine. William died in 1649 and his son Samuel, also an apothecary, was living in St. Giles in the Fields in 1667.

The Vicar's Banbury houses were left to his second surviving son, George, of whom no trace appears after 1646.

The third son, Thomas (1620-1699) received the property at Hempton in Deddington. Whilst serving as Rector of St. Mary Woolchurch Haw, London, from 1646, and of Sutton-under-Brailes from 1649 (a living officially presented to him by the Crown at the Restoration), he may not have found this property particularly useful; but when he was ejected from his living in 1662 he retired thither and lived there until his death in 1699. A conventicle met in his barn, and Samuel Wells, ejected Vicar of Banbury, also retired to Deddington. Whately was licensed to preach at his home in 1672, and in 1690 was found not in need of assistance, "somewhat aged and infirme yet in Service at Milton between 20 and 30 pound a year", according to "Calamy Revised". The Milton conventicle is said to have been so widely attended in 1682 that it was "the great exchange for Politics".

Meanwhile, Nathaniel Wheatley (grand-son of Bailiff Richard) had been followed by three sons: William (1624-71) and Richard (1629-1706), saddlers, and Nathaniel (1631-1707), mercer, who between them served four terms as Mayor between 1667 and 1688. Richard left no surviving sons, but William's family included Nathaniel, an Oxford apothecary (with a son Nathaniel, M.A. Oxon. in 1710) and Richard (1665-1744), ironmonger. Mercer Nathaniel's sons included William (1676-1712), of Calthorp House, schoolmaster, Richard (1684-1747), saddler, perhaps Mayor in 1742, and Martin. It is not yet clear which Richard was Mayor in 1705 - whether another septuagenarian serving a third term, or the ironmonger. It must have been galling to Richard the saddler to be called "junior" to his cousin Richard "senior" the ironmonger until he was sixty.

It was from Richard the ironmonger that the last three generations of the Banbury Wheatlys before 1812 descended. His son Thomas and grandson John followed him in his trade, and another grandson Thomas was the clergyman noted as preaching at Banbury in 1758 and buried there in 1781, but none of the family was registered as a freeholder in the 1754 Banbury Polling List. John the ironmonger also had a brother and a son both named Richard. The last-named was born 1782 and may have died 1810. The present investigation has gone no further in Banbury.

Of the Whately branch, the Rev. Thomas of Hempton in Deddington was the last actively associated with Banbury, though the old barn at Hempton eventually came to his grandson. He had a number of children; unfortunately neither the register nor much of the Bishop's Transcript of Sutton-under-Brailes survives for the period of his residence there. Three sons survived him: Solomon, M.A. Oxon., seems to have lived for a time in the parish of St. Olave, Hart Street, London, and, according to George Pepys Whately, then went to America and left descendants. Benjamin was living in 1712, but little is known of him. Thomas

(perhaps the man who entered St. Catharine's, Cambridge, in 1672) became a schoolmaster at Bromley by Bow, London. A surprising legacy in his will is "my rhubarb and opium and sahalap bought of my brother Benjamin". There is an unresolved problem regarding his wife or wives. Can he really have married two wives at the same church within six months to the day? Certainly brother Solomon was a witness to the first marriage, and the bridegroom at the second was a widower and the bride was Ann - the name of Thomas's widow when he died in 1712.

Of the schoolmaster's three sons, Josiah, Rector of St. Martin, Outwich, and William seem to have failed to keep the male line alive. But the other, Thomas, introduced a new phase of the family history in which continuing ecclesiastical service by many members was combined with a series of temporally advantageous marriages. In 1726, Thomas married Mary Thompson, said to be related to the Barons Haversham, and sister of Joseph Thompson of Little Nonsuch Park and of Mary, wife of Mr. Stamp Brooksbank. In 1741, Mr. Brooksbank became Governor of the Bank of England, and Mr. Whately became a Director, a post he held intermittently until 1764. When Joseph Thompson died in 1743, he left Nonsuch to his nephew (and presumably god-son) Joseph Whately; and the boy's parents, Thomas and Mary, resided there for the rest of their lives. Thomas died in 1765 aged 80 and his tomb bears the unregistered Whately coat of arms, argent, on a chief gules three garbs - some doubt whether the garbs should be silver or gold - marshalling Thompson.

Thomas's eldest son, Thomas, was a Member of Parliament and a Secretary in the Government, also a horticulturist. The youngest son William was a Lombard Street banker. Both died unmarried. George Pepys Whately deals at some length in his family history with the duel which William fought following accusations concerning the "leaking" of letters to Thomas from Thomas Hutchinson, afterwards Governor of Massachusetts.

Joseph, who inherited Nonsuch, cannot have resided there much after his parents' deaths, for he was Vicar of Widford, Herts., where he married Jane, daughter of William Plumer of Blakesware, by whom he had four sons and five daughters - including one whom Charles Lamb, grandson of the Plumers' housekeeper, later recalled - poetic licence requiring the spelling long disused in this branch:-

"... rich Kitty Wheatley
With footing it featly
That took me completely,
She sleeps in the Kirk House".

(Another reason for disguising the name might be that Katherine in fact survived until 1835, eight years after this poem was written. But she and Lamb were the same age, both born in 1775.)

Joseph was subsequently a Prebendary of Bristol, and was buried in the Cathedral there. Of his sons, the youngest, Richard, became Archbishop of Dublin; the third, Joseph Thompson, married the daughter and heir of Thomas Halsey of Gaddesdon Place, changed his name to Halsey and became ancestor of the Halsey Baronets; whilst the second, Thomas, Vicar of Cookham and Rector of Chetwynd, married Sophia Isabella Pepys, daughter of the first Pepys Baronet and sister of Lord Cottenham, two of his sons continuing the family to the present time. One grandson lived to the age of 102, surviving three wives, all from notable families. The Archbishop's line and the Halseys also continue.

In the outline pedigree illustrating this memorandum, the surname forms are taken wherever possible from the wills of the individuals shown.

Erik Chitty.

Note. A copy of a much fuller pedigree of the Whately/Wheatly family, amounting in all to ten foolscap typed pages, has been deposited by Mr. Chitty in the Historical Society's library. A copy may also be consulted in the library of the Society of Genealogists.

Sources consulted:

Wills and Administrations: Worcester Consistory Court; Peculiar Court of Banbury; Oxford

Consistory Court; Prerogative Court of Canterbury; Principal Probate Registry.

Parish Registers: Wootton-Wawen (including Henley-in-Arden); Stratford-on-Avon; Tanworth;

Banbury; Sutton-under-Brailes; St. James, Duke's Place; St. Magnus the Martyr; St. Mary Woolchurch Haw; St. Olave, Hart Street.

Oxford Marriage Licences.

Some Account of the Family of Whately. 1940. Rev. George Pepys Whately M.A., and accompanying pedigree.

History of Banbury, 1841. Alfred Beesley.

History of Deddington. 1963. H.M. Colvin.

History of Surrey. Manning & Bray.

Victoria History of Surrey. Vol. III. p.269.

Records of the Manor of Henley-in-Arden. 1919. Frederick C. Wellstood.

Calamy Revised. 1904. A.G. Matthews M.A.

Alumni Oxonienses et Cantabrigienses.

1754 Poll.

Hearth Tax (Oxfordshire Record Soc. XXI 1940).

Boyd's London Citizens and material in the D.MSS. (Family) and Card Index at the Society of Genealogists' Library, London.

Cake & Cock-Horse (various issues).

The Borough of Banbury 1554-1954. 1954. E.R.C. Brinkworth.

And information from present members of the WHATELY family.



A BANBURY SEAFARER

Banbury must be about as far inland as it is possible to get in this part of England, but in the late 17th century there was at least one Banbury man who went to sea. His name was William Benbow. He is described in the parish register in the baptismal entry of his youngest child as 'ship carpenter'; and he described himself in his will as 'shipwright'. He made his will in July 1691, in the form which was then usual for seamen, but possibly he only made the one voyage, for within about a year of making that will he died at Jamaica, on board the "Bordeaux Merchant". (1)

There seem to have been several ships of that name which were in service about this time: one of Bristol (2); one of 145 tons fitted out by some merchants of Cork and Kinsale (3), trading with the West Indies; a larger ship of 200 tons, trading with Newfoundland (4); and at least three sailing from London, two of them trading with France (5), and the third, a ship of 100 tons, Master Lyson Portray, trading with the West Indies and America (6). This is the most likely of the "Bordeaux Merchants" for Benbow to have joined, especially as his brother Richard lived in Shadwell (1).

In the season 1689/90 Lyson Portray had made the voyage to Maryland, and had taken aboard 381 hogsheads of tobacco there (7). Late in 1690 he had sailed for Barbados with an assorted cargo of wheatmeal and candles, barrel hoops, cloth, canvas and sheet lead, and a tun of brandy (5). Another ship, the "John" had been badly damaged by weather on her way to join the convoy, and the "Bordeaux Merchant" had been allowed to take her place (8). From this voyage he would be likely to bring back such things as sugar, indigo, logwood and cotton (9).

In 1691, the year in which Benbow probably made his voyage, a convoy of about sixty sail, bound for the West Indies, left Spithead on November 18th. Five days later, on the 23rd, they were driven back by contrary winds and forced to put into Plymouth. It was not until the 13th December that they finally sailed for the West Indies, under the convoy of seven naval vessels. The voyage could take up to eleven or twelve weeks, if the conditions were bad. Perhaps it was an unlucky season altogether, for in the following June a terrible earthquake destroyed a large part of Port Royal in Jamaica. Three months later, on the 6th September, 1692, the homeward bound convoy from the West Indies anchored in the Downs (10).

Within a week Richard Benbow had proved his brother's will, on September 12th. Since he lived in Shadwell he would probably have received the news of his brother's death quite quickly, but whether it would have been possible for him to put the business through as quickly as this, it is difficult to say. In fact it is only possible to say that this was the kind of voyage that Benbow must have embarked on: a voyage in a comparatively small ship, in time of war with France, when there were dangers not only from stormy seas but also from French privateers. In all he could have expected to be away from home for about nine months. With further research in the Admiralty records, in the Exhibits of the Masters in Chancery, in the surviving Port Books, in newspapers and so on, it might be possible to work out the details of Benbow's voyage.

Little is known of Benbow's family. His wife, to whom he left everything, was named Elizabeth. His three children were called John, Elizabeth and William, and were baptised in 1687, 1689 and on June 4th 1691. He may well have been related to Robert Bendbowe the scrivener, who died in 1648, when he had sons Thomas (b. 1598) and Richard (b. 1600) living. (11).

As regards the will itself, this was made out in the form which seems to have become very common after 1689, probably as a result of the "gracious declaration" referred to in it. This was a "Proclamation for the Encouragement of Officers, Seamen and Marines employed in the present Service". It began with a splendid preamble in which patriotism, religion and economics were equally mixed. It expressed their Majesties' Tenderness and Regard for their seafaring Subjects, and was made "with intent and purpose that their Resolution and Forwardness, Valour and Faithfulness in the present Service, necessarily undertaken for the Honour and Defence of Their Majesties' Dominions and support of the Protestant Religion, and security of the Commerce and Trade of Their Subjects may be duly Rewarded and Encouraged". It then went on to lay down rules for the payment of prize money, and also provided that every seaman with more than six months' service behind him should be paid every two months by means of tickets issued by the Commander, and should have letters of attorney signed by the appropriate officer, gratis. (12). It was presumably as a result of this proclamation that seamen's wills from about this time took the form of a letter of attorney and will combined, on an official form previously prepared, and with the necessary details filled in for each individual. This means that the wills of seamen become much less interesting as compared, for example, with those of the men who took part in the early voyages of the ships of the East India Company.

Then the will was often drawn up on board ship, by the purser or one of the man's shipmates, and often gave the names of other members of the crew. Sometimes it provided for the sale of the man's possessions at the mast for the benefit of his family, and often showed the results of what must have been private trading in pepper, cloves or lengths of damask or silk. (13).

In Benbow's case, the form of this will might at first sight seem to create a difficulty, since it has the seal of the Naval Office, and mentions the Paymaster of Their Majesties' Navy, but it will be seen that it is for money etc. due for his service "in any of their Maties shipp, Fryggotts or Vessells, or any Merchants shipp or shipp".

This may seem a sad little tale of a fatally unsuccessful venture abroad; but it must be remembered that it is only because William Benbow died on the voyage that we have any record of him and it. Doubtless there were others similarly lured by the sea who, even if they did not make their fortunes, lived to tell the tale, but left no documentary evidence of their journeyings.

M.J.O. Kennedy.

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A ROMAN SITE IDENTIFIED

Mr. J. L. Gardner of Manor Farm, Deddington, recently drew our attention to pottery and other artefacts discovered during ploughing a field to the south-east of Deddington (SP 472308). Examination of the site in November 1968 showed that the bulk of the material came from an area with evidence of extensive burning. The major find was a Roman silvered bronze spoon in good condition, but with the handle reduced to about two inches. The pottery included colour-coated Sandford ware, together with grey and black coarse ware, dated to the 3rd and 4th centuries A.D. A portion of a rectangular stone palette was also found.

The material is typical of what would be expected from a villa site, and it is hoped that further investigation will be carried out in 1969 by aerial photography and test holes.

Mr. Gardner also drew attention to a modern sheep-dip bath located on a small stream (SP 475309). This is reputed by local tradition to have a "mosaic" floor. Excessive water flow prevented a detailed examination, but the report seems quite plausible. An attempt will be made at a later date to examine the floor in greater detail.

J. H. Fearon

The State of the Bishopric of Worcester, 1782-1808, edited by Mary Ransome, Worcestershire Historical Society, N.S., 6, 1969, 3 gns. to non-members (Hon. Sec., W.H.Soc., Longfields, Tenbury).

This book is a survey of the diocese of Worcester during the episcopate of Richard Hurd. Although covering a period of 26 years, it is comparable to the Visitation Returns of Bishop Secker (1738) and Bishop Wilberforce (1854) in Oxfordshire, but is of much less social interest than those, as the information it gives, parish by parish, is mainly confined to details of stipends and endowments, with names of patrons and incumbents.

The survey's interest to those in the Banbury area is that it includes the Deanery of Kington in Warwickshire, and thus covers nearby parishes such as Brailes, Tysoe, Long Compton and Compton Wynyates.

In her Introduction the editor comments on the evidence of widespread non-residence and plurality, so common in the 18th century. It is perhaps hardly surprising to find that the Rector of Compton Wynyates from 1770, William Pagett, combined this living (whose stipend was only £50 a year) with duties as chaplain to Lord Rodney on board ship; and that the parish was later united with Tysoe.

Matthew Lamb, Vicar of Banbury from 1758 to 1780, is another such offender. Rector of Chipping Warden (N'hants.) from 1773 until his death in 1797, on his resignation of Banbury he became Vicar of Cleeve Prior (Worcs.) until 1784 and then Rector of Harvington (Worcs.), also until his death. In addition he was a Prebendary of Worcester. In fact he remained resident in Banbury, where he was an Alderman and one of the supporters of the decision to demolish the old church in 1790.

J.S.W.G.

The activities and publications of some or all of the following bodies should interest readers:

- Arts Council of Banbury (Miss B.G.Rooke, Cornerstones, St. Mary's Road, Adderbury West, Banbury). Minimum 21/-.
- Banbury Art Society (Hon. Sec., 24 Bloxham Road, Banbury). 20/-.
- Banbury Geographical Association (B.E.Little, 2 Burlington Gardens, Banbury). 10/6d.
- Bicester Local History Circle (Hon. Sec., Miss G.H. Dannatt, Lammas Cottage, Launton Road, Bicester, Oxon.). 5/-.
- Buckinghamshire Record Society (Hon. Sec., J.G.Jenkins, Twitchells End, Jordans, Bucks.,) 42/-.
- Council for the Preservation of Rural England, Oxfordshire Branch, (Miss A. Hanson, Wood Green Cottage, Witney, Oxon.). Minimum 10/-.
- Dugdale Society (publishes Warwickshire records) (Shakespeare's Birthplace, Stratford-upon-Avon). 42/-.
- Farthinghoe Historical Society (Hon. Sec., R.E.J. Lewis, Abbey Lodge, Farthinghoe, Nr. Brackley, Northants). 5/-.
- Heraldry Society (59 Gordon Square, London, W.C.1). 30/-; or to include "The Coat of Arms", 50/-.
- Historical Association (59a Kennington Park Road, London, S.E.11) (Oxford Branch: A.J.P. Puddephatt, 93, Old Road, Headington, Oxford). 20/-; or to include "History", 35/-.
- Northamptonshire Record Society (Delapré Abbey, Northampton). 21/-.
- Oxford Architectural and Historical Society (Ashmolean Museum, Oxford). 15/- or to include "Oxoniensia", 42/-.
- Oxford Preservation Trust (The Painted Room, 3 Cornmarket Street, Oxford). Minimum 5/-.
- Oxfordshire Record Society (Dr. W.O.Hassall, Hon. Sec., Bodleian Library, Oxford). 21/-.
- Shipston-on-Stour and District Local History Society (H.G.Parry, Hon. Sec., 8 Stratford Road, Shipston-on-Stour, Warw.) 7/6d.
- Warwickshire Local History Society (47 Newbold Terrace, Leamington Spa.) 10/-.
- Woodford Halse Historical Society (J.W. Anscumb, 7 Manor Road, Woodford Halse, Rugby, Warw.) 5/-.

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