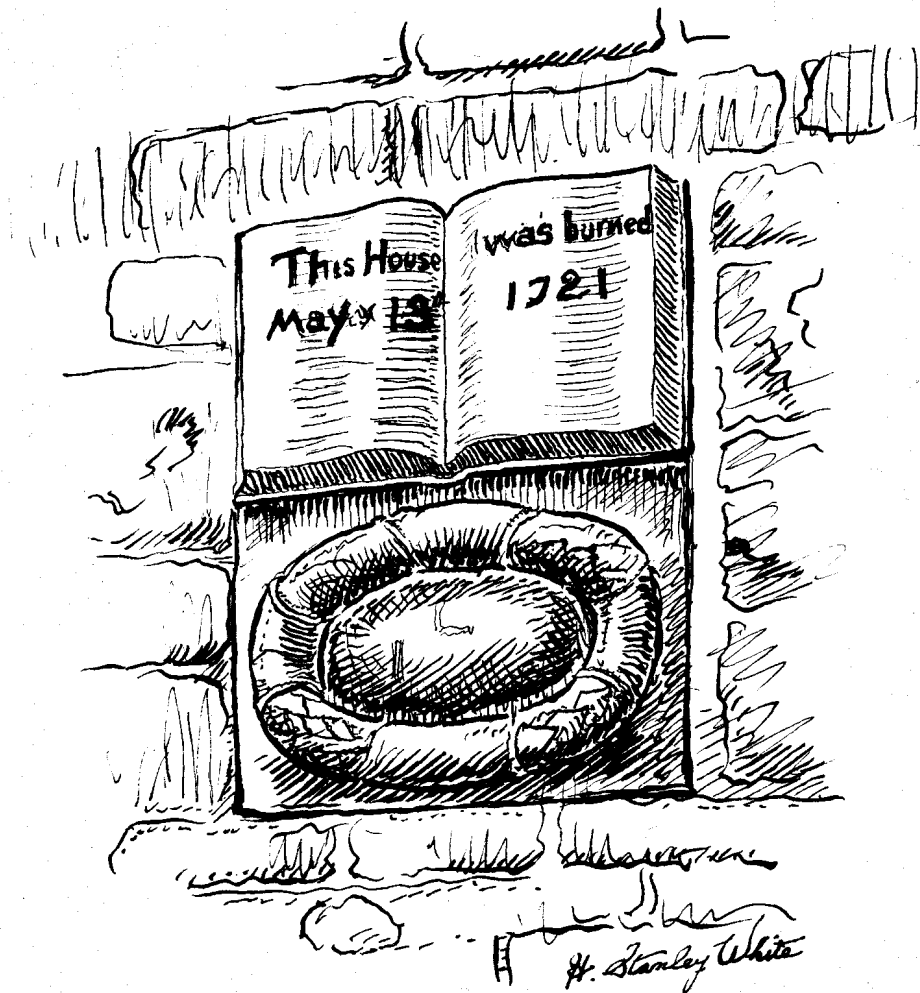


CAKE & COCKHORSE



BANBURY HISTORICAL SOCIETY AUTUMN 1974

BANBURY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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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 three 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*, *Banbury's Poor in 1850*, *Banbury Castle - a summary of excavations in 1972*, *The Building and Furnishing of St Mary's Church, Banbury*, and *Sanderson Miller of Radway and his work at Wroxton*, and a pamphlet *History of Banbury Cross*.

The Society also publishes records volumes. These have included *Clockmaking in Oxfordshire, 1400-1850*; *South Newington Churchwardens' Accounts 1553-1684*; *Banbury Marriage Register, 1558-1837* (3 parts) and *Baptism and Burial Register, 1558-1723* (2 parts); *A Victorian M.P. and his Constituents: The Correspondence of H. W. Tancred, 1841-1850*; a new edition of *Shoemaker's Window*; and *Wigginton Constables' Books, 1691-1836*. *Banbury Wills and Inventories, 1591-1650*, *Bodicote Churchwardens' Accounts, 1700-1822* 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 large Lecture Theatre, Banbury Upper School. 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 seconder being needed. The annual subscription is £3.00 including any records volumes published, or £1.50 if these are excluded. Junior membership is 50p.

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

CAKE & COCKHORSE

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

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"The main object of the magazine is to provide better and fuller information of the Society's activities for everyone." With these modest words Dr C. F. C. Beeson introduced the first number of *Cake and Cockhorse* in September 1959. He appears however to have had a prescience of greater things, for he also wrote: "To some the title *Cake and Cockhorse* may seem frivolous, others may see in it an epitome of Banbury's legend and history and a challenge to discover the ultimate truth." It is a fact that our title, a popular success locally, was responsible for a certain initial scepticism among professionals as regards the seriousness of its scholarship, but that this is now largely overcome is attested by the invitation to Barrie Trinder to address the Standing Conference for Local History on 15th November, an honour accorded to only two other local history magazines in the country. One has only to glance through the contents lists for the last twelve years to realize the massive achievement of Barrie Trinder as Editor, Jeremy Gibson as Technical Editor, and all contributors. It is no belittlement of any of them to draw especial attention to Barrie Trinder's work. His incredible knowledge of 19th century Banbury (the archetypal Victorian market town), his ability to trace so many relations between so many people in Banbury and district (almost "incestuous" in the fruitful intimacy of the web he could weave of interlocking events and people), and the reflection of all this in the pages of *Cake and Cockhorse* (so usefully augmented by Dr Pamela Horn's work) is probably unique in the annals of local history and its value can only grow with time.

A change of editorship (in fact, two in one year) has made it appropriate to draw attention to the achievements of the magazine in the 16 years of its existence. But these also highlight the difficulties now facing us, of which there are principally two. The more serious is the loss to other parts of the country of some of our most active members, most notably Barrie Trinder, George Fothergill, Frank Willy, and Jeremy Gibson. The other problem is alarmingly rising costs, which have forced us to change the type face and dispense with justification of our right-hand margin.

However, *Cake and Cockhorse* will certainly survive, and our members will no doubt continue to provide the magazine with entertaining and scholarly articles. With a title like ours, we cannot but be optimistic, and we can take an example from Henry Bagley's treble bell at Shenington (see page 10), which for very nearly three centuries has been sending its cheerful message ringing over the Edge Hills: *Cantate Domino Canticum Novum* (O sing unto the Lord a new song). But that is an old song — Psalm 98 in fact — and brings us back neatly to Dr Beeson and the ultimate truth.

Our Cover: shows the cartouche on Mizpah Cottage, Shenington, commemorating the disastrous fire in the village in 1721.

Summer Visits

As in previous years, a number of visits were arranged during the summer. On 25th May a small but very keen party were conducted over the remains of the shell filling depot in Overthorpe Road, Banbury, by our member Mr G. C. J. Hartland. On 13th June we visited Deddington Church and then Castle House, adjoining the church. On 20th June and 4th July respectively we visited Chipping Warden and Edgcote and Wigginton churches. At Wigginton our member Dr F. D. Price kindly arranged and discussed an interesting display of documents relating to the history of the church and village. Finally on 18th July we were shown over the Old Vicarage, Adderbury, by our member Mr Donald Atkins and his wife, and royally entertained by them afterwards.

As always our thanks are due to the owners and incumbents concerned and to Mr G. Forsyth Lawson for his traditionally impromptu talks. At Wigginton we were able to show our appreciation of his kindness over the years in tangible form, by presenting him with a copy of the Oxfordshire volume in Pevsner's 'Buildings of England' series.

Annual General Meeting

The A. G. M., which was well attended, was held in the Hall at Canons Ashby, by kind permission of Mr Louis Osman, on Saturday 29th June at 5.15pm. Frank Willy conducted his last business as Chairman with exemplary dispatch, Jeremy Gibson explained the accounts and pointed out a serious deficit of £200 for the year ended 31st December 1973, and Christine Bloxham, the Hon. Secretary, unwittingly caused some merriment in connection with the Oxfordshire County Survey (see our issue of Summer 1974) by inviting members "who would like to go for some nice walks in the fields" to contact her after the meeting.

After a break for sherry, Mr Osman gave us a most interesting and witty talk on the history of Canon Ashby, after which he showed us around the gardens. We are very grateful to Mr Osman for making the A. G. M. such a success.

Assistant Editor

Mary Stanton, who has taken over Christine Bloxham's job at the Banbury Museum (Malborough Road) and recently joined the committee of the Society, has kindly agreed to help as assistant editor of Cake and Cockhorse. She will be particularly responsible for news items, and material for the magazine can be left with her at the Museum.

In the editorial, attention has already been drawn to the great importance of Barrie Trinder's work for the magazine. This is emphasized by a "league table" of contributors compiled by Mary for articles published during the last ten years. It will come as no surprise that the table is headed by Barrie (9 articles), though Dr Pamela Horn (6 articles) ran him a good second, and Mr Hartland was a worthy third (5 articles). The table shows clearly how dependent the magazine has been on the work of a few regular contributors.

The Book of Banbury

The Society's Secretary, Christine Bloxham is preparing an unusual local history of Banbury, which it is hoped will be published next year. Entitled The Book of Banbury, it will be bound in substantial cloth covered boards, gold blocked, with a colour dust jacket, and printed on fine paper to a large format. It will consist of a concise text intended to be of interest as much to the non-specialist as the local historian, but the major part of the book will comprise some 200 illustrations. The book is to be initially offered in a limited and numbered edition, to subscribers, each of whom will receive an individually numbered copy, with his or her name listed in the books themselves, and at a pre-publication price of £5.50 as against the subsequent retail price for unnumbered copies of approximately £6.95. Publication is to some extent dependent upon sufficient prior subscriptions, and the publishers are seeking some 650 of these to go ahead. Members who would like to subscribe are invited to complete the form inserted with this issue or alternatively write to the publishers - Barracuda Books Ltd, Lee Farm House, Botley, Chesham, Buckinghamshire. Payment is not required until publication.

TOOLEY'S BOATYARD

As reported in the *Banbury Guardian* of 11 July 1974, the Cherwell District Council's development Services Committee have applied to the Department of the Environment for a permanent preservation order to be placed on Tooley's Boatyard (which the British Waterways Board want to replace by offices and a sales dock for the projected marina) as a building of historical value. This was the outcome of a massive rescue campaign mounted by canal users, among them the North Oxon Canal Users Association here in Banbury and the Trust for the Preservation of Oxford College Barges, whose technical adviser Mr Maccoun went to considerable trouble to put together a brochure for the Council emphasizing the crucial importance of the yard for the national canal network — it is one of the last three remaining in the country properly equipped to repair long boats — and also its considerable industrial archaeological interest. It is a pleasure to report that an article on the boatyard in *Cake and Cockhorse* (Summer 1969) by our member Mr G. C. J. Hartland proved invaluable, and was reproduced in the brochure. The committee of the Society also wrote to Cherwell District Council, emphasizing the enhancement of the purely historical interest of the boatyard by its present usefulness.

Although much progress has therefore been made, the yard — which canal users seem to regard with the affection that children feel for Ratty's home in *The Wind in the Willows* — is not yet secured; for although the Department of the Environment may well make it a listed building, the British Waterways Board (who have recently written unsympathetically to the Oxford Group) are apparently still contemplating a termination of Mr Tooley's lease in order to make the area over to the marina developer. The real battle is therefore perhaps still to be joined.



Tooley's Boatyard in Banbury, now used for repair work, formerly to build barges. The covered dry dock runs at a small angle to the canal behind the Billabong and Mr Tooley's caravan. The brick-built smithy, which like the dry dock dates from the end of the 18th century when the canal was built, can be seen in the left rear of the photograph, which was taken from the swing-bridge leading from the bus station to Spiceball. When the dry dock is emptied, the water runs through an elm-wood culvert under the canal to a ditch some distance further down the canal. According to Mr Hartland, this was almost certainly constructed before the canal was extended to Oxford. (Photograph kindly provided by Mr Peter Floyd of the Oxford Mail).

This is the book that we have been waiting for, for the last 23 years, ever since the first volume of Sir Nikolaus Pevsner's great series on the Buildings of England came out in 1951. Oxfordshire is one of the last, and it is one of the best, too. It is in fact not all Sir Nikolaus's own work: he has done the City and the University himself, but has given Jennifer Sherwood the job of writing about the County. Miss Sherwood worked for him on earlier volumes, she knows his methods, and it is impossible to say which half of this volume is the better.

Many members of the Historical Society will know the series, usually called just 'Pevsner' by its users and addicts, though of course the great man has written innumerable other things of great importance besides these books. For those who do not know these volumes, one should explain that they all start with an introduction describing the overall architectural history and character of the county in question, and then proceed with a place-by-place gazetteer giving facts, description and analysis of every building of any note. In this volume Oxford itself has a separate introduction by Sir Nikolaus, and this makes sense because Miss Sherwood who writes her own County introduction did not work on the City, and also because the influence of the City on the architecture of the country round has in the past been surprisingly slight.

So it is Miss Sherwood's half - her introduction and her gazetteer - that members of the Historical Society will look at first, because as always with this kind of book one likes to look up the things one knows before one looks up the things one doesn't. Or, I should say, the things one thought one knew before picking this book up. For who knows why the church windows at Adderbury are like the ones at Bloxham? Why the street pattern at Bloxham is what it is? Where they can find Banbury's old town hall? Who built Alkerton rectory and when? Who knows how much of the Medieval Priory at Clattercote still exists in Priory Farm House, And who really understands the building history of Broughton Castle? One can guarantee that anybody who thinks they know even about their own village church will know more about it when they put this book down.

But this book is not just facts. Miss Sherwood comments, discusses and interprets as well, and her comments make one think. For instance she does not say, as many people would, that Claydon House is just a Victorian horror. She says '1852 by H. Hatton, altered in 1867 by Edwin Dolby. It has a cheerful garden facade in an informal domestic style. Attractive use of materials.' This is concise, lucid and stimulating, and its the kind of description that her book is full of. Her tastes and sympathies are wide. She points out, for instance, that Banbury has the best early industrial buildings in the county, and mentions several of them. She likes the new Old Peoples' Home in Dashwood Road, even though it was only built in 1968, and she says so. Nor does she pull her punches when she does not like things. St. John's church on South Bar she considers to be 'mean, with top-heavy pinnacles. The Gothic details, as one would expect at this date, are thin and shallow.' It is all wonderfully fresh: she presents buildings not just as things but as food for thought.

It is possible that after this eulogy some people will be disappointed when they find that Miss Sherwood does not mention every old house in their village. But country buildings are generally representative of a complete class both in plan and details, and it would lead to a great deal of repetition and duplication if each traditional building was mentioned individually. Miss Sherwood discusses in her introduction what were the traditional plans and decoration of vernacular building in the region, and she leaves it to the users of her book to apply these generalisations to the buildings they meet with. As has been said already, this is a book that makes one think, but this means that it is a book one can get more out of if one works a bit oneself.

It is true, of course, that no two people could ever agree on what should and should not be left out of a book ranging over so wide a geographical and architectural range as this one does. And there are bound to be occasional mistakes. Most of these are clearly misprints or errors in transcription. I have only spotted one slight misinterpretation myself, and this concerns a building which I have examined in far greater detail than Miss Sherwood ever could have done, and whose importance only came to light a few months ago, too late for me to tell Miss Sherwood about it. I certainly shall, because there is bound to be a second edition one day, and in preparation for that day anyone else who knows facts of importance which she has left out or got wrong should also write to her about them. But what is almost more important than to have unearthed so many thousands of facts about the buildings of Oxfordshire is to have given due value to every building of significance, and to have interpreted these buildings in their local and in their national contexts. To have done so shows not merely exceptional knowledge; it also shows how amazingly through five years' work she maintained the soundness and independence of her judgement.

Nicholas Cooper

The Village on the Shining Hill

Shenington, now on the northern tip of Oxfordshire, is a village of about 340 inhabitants (1974). A photograph of the village green taken at about the turn of the century is shown as fig. 1. The population has fluctuated between two and four hundred during the past five centuries. It is now one parish with Alkerton, but historically is quite separate: geographically the Sor Brook divides the parishes, and in fact Shenington was until 1844 a detached part of Gloucestershire in the hundred of Tewkesbury and diocese of Gloucester. This is one important factor affecting its history, and the documents from which this may in part be traced. Another is ownership of property in the parish over several centuries by Oriel College, Oxford.

This short article is no place to attempt a comprehensive history of the village — which in any case has been very competently done in the recent volume nine of the Oxfordshire Victoria County History (Bloxham hundred). But no account of the village would be complete without a reference to the basic source, Domesday Book, in which its name was given as Senendone, or the probable meaning of the name, the shining or beautiful hill. It is an apt name for this most attractive place, and as Richard Parsons noted in 1700, the "Ayr sharp and healthy".

By 1780, in the enclosure act, Oriel College was said to be "lord of all Shenington manor". The college had in fact held land at least as early as 1502, for in that year the college muniments [title-deeds] record, on a torn scrap of paper:

"1502, Jan. 18. Baker and Dudley were paid for a Court at Shenington. See the Old Stile Book, Page 441. Paid same year 1st March to Bailiffe of Tewkesbury Annual Quitrent for lands in Shenington, 4s."

Unfortunately, the Old Stile Book is no longer to be found, but college records do include a great deal of information on the village. These have all been copied (thanks to the kind co-operation of the college) and form the basis of a growing local history collection at Senendone House, the writer's home.

Abstracts have at some time been made of most of the leases, and by careful study of these it has been possible to trace several existing properties back for many years.

As an example the property now known as Oriel House can be traced back to 1569, when it was leased by the college to one Thomas Grime, described as a butler at Oriel College; and, working back through the leases of another property, we have arrived at an indenture between Sir Humphrey Stafford of Blatherwyke and Robert Stafford of Banbury, which begins:

"This indenture made the 27th daye of December in the firste and seconde yere of the reignes of our Sovraign Lorde and Ladye Phillip and Mary by the grace of God Kyng and Quene of England France Naples Jerusaleum and Ireland, Defender the faythe Prynces of Spaign and Cicylle, Archdukes of Austriche, Dukes of Millayn Burgundye and Brabant, Earles of Hapsburge Flanders and Tyroll."

Some of the deeds and leases date back to the reign of Henry VII (died 1509), one bears his Great Seal, and the seal of Henry VIII is on the document dated 1524 in which the king pardoned Thomas Ware and William Canyng for acquiring lands in Shenington without licence after they had "paid 24 shillings into our hanaper", and granted the licence; and in 1595 Richard Rowley was cited to appear before the Barons of the Exchequer "to show cause why he purchased Sir Humphrey Stafford's part of the manor of Shenington without first obtaining the Queen's permission"; there is no record of his fine.

One court roll survives, for 1693 to 1718, and minute books of the courts held in Shenington from 1693 to 1771 — a very interesting record of the copyhold tenants in the 18th century. On the death of a copyholder, his or her most valuable possession or "best good" as it was called was taken by the Lord of the Manor as a heriot; in one instance a widow was so poor that her "best good" was a table valued at 1s. 6d.

Finally there is the superb "map of the common fields" made by Robert Whittlesey in 1732, part of which is reproduced here as a centre spread (fig. 2) and of which there is a simplified version in the Victoria County History. The reference book for this includes the following "Customs of the Parish":

"Shenington Field is called Townside Land, Farmside Land, and Cotmanside Land. The Townside is divided into four Parts, and three of them are plough'd and Sow'd every year, with Wheat, Pease and Barly; the fourth lies fallow; or when it is sow'd with Pease, it is called Hitch. * Part of the Townside is every other Years Ground."

*Hitched land: part of the common field withdrawn by common consent (especially in the fallow year) from the customary rotation, and used for some special crop, e.g. vetches or turnips. (W.E. Tate, *The Parish Chest*, Cambridge (1951)).



Fig. 1 Shenington Village Green (looking North West) around the turn of the Century. The 1732 map would seem to indicate that the village pond (see text) used to be in the area behind the girl in the centre of the picture. This photograph, like that of the Shenington Children, is one of the extensive collection of photographs (at present kept at the Banbury Museum) taken by Mr Thomas J. H. Blinkhorn.

The Farmside is plough'd as the Townside.

The Cotmanside being divided into four Parts, one is Sow'd with Wheat, one with Barly every Year; some times the other two parts lie fallow, and sometimes both are Hitch, or as the Parish can agree.

The Common at Rough hill Plane, and Barnscom, with (as some say) Shenlow and Rough hill, are the constant Cow Pasture, and broke about the 12th of May, or as they agree yearly; but Barnscom is every other Year fallow for the Sheep. The Hill Ground at Iron, wch. is the upper part of it in the Map, and separated by the yellow Line, with Goodwin's Oldenton's, are every other Year Lotted amongst the Parish in proportion to their Yard Lands.

As to the Stint of Commons, they have agreed upon two Cows, and Twenty eight Sheep to a Yard Land."

It is worth mentioning that such customs have survived for few villages, perhaps not more than one in twenty, so this document is particularly valuable for the light it casts on the working of the open-field system in Shenington in 1732. The Victoria County History suggests that Townside, Farmside, and Cotmanside are possibly the original three open fields of the medieval farming system and remarks on the flexibility, as revealed in the customs, in the working of the open-field system if the small farmer was willing.

One interesting and long-forgotten feature that is shown on this map is the village pond, in the centre of the village. It must have been in the area behind the girl in the centre of the photograph of the Village Green (fig. 1), but it had already disappeared by 1813. Amongst the papers of a 19th century antiquary, Mr J. Ward Shelswell, who was a local farmer, was found this note:

"A Great Elm tree was blown down April 5th 1745. Young ones were planted, that on the west towards the pool being given by Widow Plumb, that on the east towards the Church by William Weaver, the names of the donors, of course, no longer find representatives among present residents, and with them the pool exists no more."

Occasional maintenance work on this pool is found recorded in the churchwardens' accounts:

| | | |
|------|--------------------------------------------|----------|
| 1726 | Ridding the poole | 6d. |
| 1727 | To Ridding the poole | 1s. 0d. |
| 1769 | Paid at the Bell for feding the town poole | 1s. 0d." |

The village is about 560 feet above sea level, and in a well recently filled in at Senendone House the water was more than 40 feet below ground, so the pool was obviously an artificial one. It would have been lined with clay and would need regular "feding", or replenishing with water, as well as "ridding" [cleaning out]. Experiments are now being carried out to discover if any clay remains, but so far nothing has been found. Most villages had a pond, for no apparent statutory reason, but it would be useful for watering horses and, more important, a wise precaution with the fire risk of so much thatch.

Just how necessary this was would have been evident in 1721, when a fire caused great damage. The churchwardens' accounts note that "The old Register burnt May 13th 1721 when ye great fire happened in ye parish, it being at that time kept (against Canon) in ye Parsonage House by the curate Mathew Goodwin." Two copyholders wrote to Oriel College saying that their copy documents has been lost in the fire, and further evidence of the catastrophe is given in the Whitehall Evening Post for 6-8 July 1721:

"Fire at Shenington. Whereas a dreadful fire has lately broke out in the Parish of Shenington in Gloucestershire to the great loss and detriment of the said poor Parishioners; and whereas by the charity of the neighbouring gentry, and adjacent Parishes, sufficient care is taken to supply their present necessities until further division can be made for them by a Brief; these are to give Notice that any person or persons begging or receiving alms under pretence of being sufferers now in the said Parish (as we are inform'd several have done) are not of the said Parish, and ought to be treated as vagrants, and punish'd as the law directs. In witness whereof we have set our hands, Mat. Goodwin, Dan. Grimes, John Hancox, David Plumb, of the Parish of Shenington."

A cartouche on a cottage (illustrated on the cover) commemorates the rebuilding after the fire:

"This House was burned May 13 1721."

But a fire of this sort would have been a major and fortunately a rare event in the village's history, to be remembered for decades afterwards. Generally, it was a peaceful and law-abiding place, as shown in some earlier court rolls that survived for Tewkesbury Hundred for the period 1482-1543. Mostly they state "all well, nothing to report, nothing concealed, no heriots or strays"; occasionally, the miller was fined for taking excessive tolls, and the worst that seems to have happened was when John Pratt of Shenington "assaulted William Arome the hayward [the officer having charge of the fences and enclosures] and drew blood

against the king's peace", for which he was duly fined 20d. on 2 May 1537.

With its close proximity to the battlefield of Edge Hill, the Civil War must if only briefly had some impact on the village, and this may be the origin of a clause written into every lease for a number of years "to provide free quarter for soldiers."

The church, dedicated to the Holy Trinity, was built mainly during the 12th to 15th centuries, the tower being of the later date. A Norman arch, originally the chancel arch, was moved in 1879 to open up the chancel to the nave and now frames the organ pipes. On the South wall (exterior) is a curious medieval carving, a man, possibly a priest, stands with up-raised hands, beside him, but outside the arch in which he stands, is an ox (see fig. 4). What these figures represent is not known. The remains of two Scratch Dials appear on the East buttress of the porch. An unusual custom is the annual strewing of grass in the church; the origin of this is unknown but it can be traced back to 1720, the first year for which churchwardens' accounts survive (the earlier accounts having being burnt in the disastrous fire of 1721). Throughout the 18th century there is an entry "For fetching up the grass at Witsontide" in each annual account. In the first half of the century the cost was one shilling, but the rate had risen to two shillings by the 1770's. They too had to contend with inflation. Interestingly, the entry for 1773 is "Fetching the grass at Witsonde and the wakes".* Village wakes, the local annual festivals of an English parish, were originally held on the feast of the patron saint of the church and this fits well with the 1773 entry, as the church at Shenington is dedicated to the Holy Trinity, and Trinity Sunday follows Whit Sunday. As late as 1948 there was an annual village celebration with sideshows and roundabouts on the Village Green on Trinity Monday. The grass strewing custom still survives, and the grass, which was formerly cut from a piece of land set aside for the purpose, is laid in the church for three consecutive Sundays commencing with Whitsunday.

With Wroxton, Shenington is the only village in the county to have a complete ring of bells by Henry Bagley I, who founded the renowned Chacombe foundry in 1631 at the age of 23. Like the Wroxton bells (1676), these date from the end of his working life, and they were hung in 1678. The treble carries one of Bagley's favourite inscriptions: Cantate Domino Canticum Novum — the opening words "O sing unto the Lord a new song" of Psalm 98. The second is inscribed Ann Dochen (presumably a donor), the third Henricus Bagley me fecit, the fourth Prayse ye the Lord, and the tenor Francis Robins and Iohn Orten Churchwardens. The bells evidently needed attention in 1749 when the Churchwardens' Accounts record:

"Paid for ale when ye Bells was drawn up

3s. 0d.

Paid for more ale when ye Bells was drawn up

3s. 6d."

Thirsty work! But there had been earlier bells, for in his will William Hazilford who died in 1488, left 20d to repair the bells, and 20d for the torches; and Jone Gryme in 1566 bequeathed "iiijd. to the mayntaining of ye bells". She also left to William Clerke "on hefer of a yer olde, on shepe, and a hyve of beys" and to her nephew Richard "on coverlet, on par of hempen shets, on flaxemme shet, ij pelowcasys, on towell and on tablecloth". Joan belonged to one of the oldest and most important families in the village: Grymes' are mentioned in documents through hundreds of years. An inventory of the goods left by a later John Grymes makes interesting reading, but in the eighteenth century the family fortunes declined and an anonymous letter to the Provost of Oriel reads "Sir I cannot forbear informing you that 2 of your College Barns in Shenington are in a very ruinous condition and Y^e Tenant John Grimes very Poor. A great part of the Wall of one is fallen and the Roof of the other almost quite bare, and unlikely to stand another Winter unless speedily repaired". John died and was given a pauper funeral, but the barns were repaired - one was for many years known as the "Coal Barn", where furze and coal for the poor were stored, and later as "Grymes Barn" has been converted to a charming house. The Grymes farmhouse is now a cottage, but some interesting features remain.

A few Quakers were in trouble during the 17th century for not attending the parish church and for not receiving the Sacrament, and in 1810 a room in the cottage of the blacksmith was licensed as a Dissenting place of worship. A chapel was erected about 1820 and in 1851 was shared by Primitive Methodists and Independents, but by 1869 it was used only by the former, and these the rector described as "very consequential and self-opinionated". In 1843 a mortgage taken out on cottages at the opposite end of the village to this chapel excepts a "piece of ground 24ft by 40ft on which it is intended shortly to erect a chapel for the use of the Independents" and 20 years later a transfer of the mortgage states that "a chapel has recently been erected, with the right of way to the common street of Shenington". No one now living remembers this chapel or has

*The period 1768-1773 appears to have been particularly jolly, as the churchwardens' accounts for each of these years record that "5/0 was given out for the King's Coronation (spelt variously also as Croudnation, Crown Nation, Crownation, and Crounation!) and 2/6 for the Gunpowder plot". Presumably these were village celebrations, and it would be interesting to know if they occurred in other villages.



Fig. 3 Shenington Children photographed on the Green about the turn of the century by Mr T. J. H. Blinkhorn.

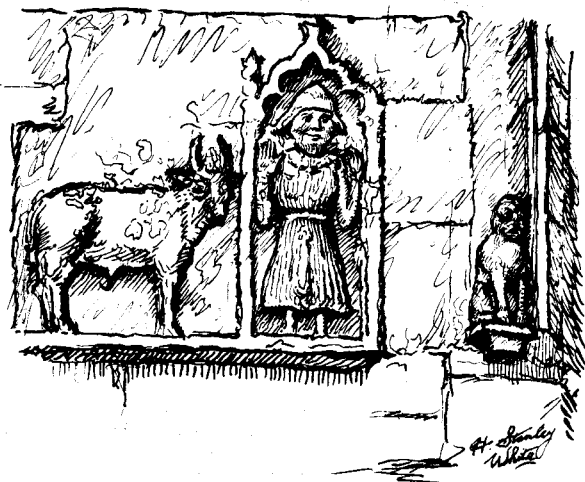


Fig. 4 The Medieval Sculpture of a Man and Ox on the South wall of Shenington Church.

heard of it, so it seem likely that the construction was poor and did not last long. The earlier chapel has now been converted to a cottage.

Not only Quakers, but sometimes the Rectors were in trouble with the authorities - in 1548 a curate was condemned as "conumacious", Richard Romsey priest in 1551 knew that "there are ten commandments but cannot recite them", but he "recited the Lord's Prayer by memory, and knows it is the Lord's Prayer"! The next incumbent was described as a drunkard and a swearer, and Thomas Petifer was Presented in 1605 for not wearing the surplice and for not bidding holidays or fasting days.

These are just a few snippets from the story of Shenington, the village on the shining hill. In many ways it typifies the Banburyshire village and several of the most intriguing or entertaining topics have intentionally been omitted - for instance, the possible origin of the strip lynchets, the campaign against vermin (revealed through payments in the Churchwardens' Accounts), the prize fight in 1810 between Molyneux and Cribb - as it is hoped to write about then in greater detail in future issues. The oldest inhabitant, a sprightly 92 year old, said "History of Shenington, what history? Shenington hasn't any, we've never had a battle and we haven't got a castle." But castles and battles are not essentials in the weaving of a village history; it is the small things, the churchwardens' accounts, records of the Overseers of the Poor, the Copyhold records - these are the things that make a village history and are so deeply interesting to the local historian.

N. M. Clifton

Sources

The authoritative source for the history of Shenington is Volume Nine of the **Oxfordshire Victoria County History** (Bloxham Hundred) (published in 1969 by Oxford University Press for the Institute of Historical Research), pages 139-150. A readable and entertaining, though less reliable, book is **Rambles Round the Edge Hills and in the Vale of the Red Horse**, by George Miller, originally published in 1896, of which a new edition was published in 1967 by the Roundwood Press - the account of Shenington is on pages 116-120.

The most important sources for documents on the village are the muniments of Oriel College, Oxford. in particular the 1732 map; and the Gloucestershire County Record Office, which holds the Tewkesbury Court Rolls, bishops' transcripts (which for the period 1613-1720 are the only substitute for the parish registers burnt in the great fire), and records of the Consistory Court of Gloucester (from which wills, inventories and churchwardens' presentations have been quoted).

Richard Parsons' "parochial visitation to the diocese of Gloucester 1700" is in the Bodleian Library, and the quotation from Mr J. Ward Shelswell's notes is from a newspaper cutting. The quotation from the **Whitehall Evening Post** is from a copy in the Bodleian Library.

Josiah Hales

Mrs G. H. Dean, of "Little Gaddesden", 80 Vicarage Land, Kings Langley, Herts, WD4 9HR, is seeking information on the birth, baptism and marriage of Josiah Hales or Eales, who in the 1851 census was stated to have been born at 'Cowbrake, Warwickshire'. His wife Matilda had been born at Mollington, 'Warwickshire'. A Josiah Eales witnessed a marriage at Shotteswell on 31 October 1831, and a Matilda Atkins baptised at Mollington in 1814 might be the wife. Josiah Hales later lived (and died) at Hemel Hempstead in Herts. Does anyone know where 'Cowbrake' (?Cowbrook) is or was, or anything of this family?

Rag Rugs

The Oxford and City and County Museum has recently received a request for information about rag or peg rugs from Leslie Geddes-Brown, who is doing research for a book about them.

I wondered whether any reader of 'Cake and Cockhorse' might own rag rugs, or have made some themselves. I would be most grateful for any information about these rugs - what were they called in Oxfordshire, whether any particular designs were common, what sort of fabrics were used, and how they were made. Apparently in Yorkshire parties were held to make rag rugs for wedding presents. Has anybody heard of this happening in Oxfordshire? If anybody does have any information, I would be most grateful if he or she would contact me at the Museum:

Oxford City and County Museum
Fletcher's House
Woodstock, Oxford
Tel: Woodstock 811456

I would very much like to take photographs of any rugs members may have.

Christine Bloxham
Assistant Keeper of Antiquities

The period from the mid-1850s to the early 1870s has been called the 'golden age' of English agriculture - a time when the market for most food stuffs was growing rapidly, thanks to population expansion and a widening of the railway network which gave access to the industrial towns. Although agriculture was now subject to free competition from abroad in grain, meat and dairy produce, only wheat entered the country in sufficiently large quantities to offset the growth of home demand and thereby to keep down prices. But for the vast majority of agricultural products, prices rose sharply, by as much as 50 per cent in some cases. Nor was it only farmers who benefited from this. Landlords shared in the prosperity both by way of higher rents and by the increasingly profitable cultivation of their own home farm. Only for the agricultural labourer, the third partner in the English farming system, was advance far less apparent. Not until the growth of a strong trade union movement during 1872 was there a clear upward movement in the wage rates of most workers.

Oxfordshire proved no exception to the general pattern and, as surviving labour books make clear, the same is true of conditions on the model farm at Ditchley on Viscount Dillon's estate, which is the subject of the present survey. Ditchley is a hamlet lying three miles to the east of the village of Spelsbury, in the north-west of the county. At the time of the 1871 Census of Population, the Dillon farm steward, Joseph Stockley, reported a work force of 23 men and 6 boys to cultivate the 900 acre holding.¹ But the labour books show that women and girls were also engaged on a seasonal basis - weeding, stonepicking, haymaking and harvesting. In addition, Hannah Stockley, daughter of the steward, was paid 2s. a week for feeding the poultry and ringing the 'time bell', which regulated the working day.

Of the adult male workers recorded in 1871, two (the shepherd and the engineer) were paid at the rate of 2s. 2d. a day; three others received 2s. a day, and sixteen had a daily rate of 1s. 10d.; the rest were paid at lower levels - with the plough boys and bird scarers at the bottom of the scale getting 6d. or 7d. per day according to age. These wage rates represented an increase of about 2d. on the daily rates being paid when the first of the surviving wages books opens almost fifteen years earlier, in October, 1856.²

However, with the spread of trade unionism into Oxfordshire during the spring of 1872, and the establishment of the National Agricultural Labourers' Union (N. A. L. U.) at Leamington, Warwickshire, at the end of May, a rapid change occurs. In May, 1872, daily rates at Ditchley were raised by 2d. for all adult male workers and by 1d. for the boys; then in July came a further rise of 2d. per day, so that at this later date out of a labour force of 26 males and 5 females, two of the men were obtaining 2s. 6d. per day; three 2s. 4d.; and most of the remainder 2s. 2d. Among the women the daily rate was increased from 10d. a day in the early part of 1872 to 1s. per day in July. Although the Ditchley labourers seem to have won their increase without a strike, it is clear that employer/worker relations in the area were tense. Thus an entry in the Oxford District Minute Book of the N.A.L.U. for 13th June, 1872, reads: 'Charles Rook Spelsbury having applied for money on account of being discharged from his employment through his connection with the Union was allowed 9/- on condition that the application was satisfactory, the Secretary of Chadlington Branch to ascertain the circumstances'. A further entry a fortnight later confirmed that Rook had been 'lock'd out 1 week', but since his name does not reappear he was presumably able to obtain fresh employment elsewhere.³

There can be little doubt that a wage advance was needed. As Spelsbury villagers later recalled, in the years of low earnings in the middle of the nineteenth century, many were heavily reliant on Viscount Dillon's charity to help them through the winter months. Blankets, soup and rabbits were regularly provided for the poor, and one woman remembers people from Spelsbury walking to Ditchley Park 'every Thursday for a bowl of soup (three miles each way)'.⁴ The Ditchley farm accounts have occasional entries during the winter months, too, to the effect that a sheep had been 'killed for soup'.⁵ Other families supplemented their food supplies by cultivation of an allotment - rented from the Dillon estate at 15s. a year - or by gleaning at harvest time. As late as the 1880s Spelsbury school log book entries deplore the effect this had on attendance - as on 28th September, 1885, 'attendance poor owing to the gleaning'.⁶ Similarly, Miss Emily Corbett has recalled how she and other members of her family went gleaning as soon as the wheat had been carried, so that by the end of the harvest they 'had a nice bit of corn which was sent to the nearest miller to be ground. Then we used to make our own bread for a time, baking it in the brick ovens. I can remember my father and mother saying that one year it was a very wet season and the corn grew out badly - and they had to take the bread out of the oven with spades, it was so soft and all run together'.⁷ Finally, for all except the stockmen, who had rent-free accommodation, cottage rents, mostly of £2 or £3 a year, had to be squeezed out of the tight budgets.⁸

Yet, important though basic weekly wage rates were in influencing the degree of comfort enjoyed

by a family, they were not the only source of income available. Apart from the casual earnings of wives and children, piecework earnings were a further boost for most households, especially at the busy hoeing, haymaking and harvest season: even the killing of rats at 1d. a time or the gathering of stones at 1s. 6d. or 2s. per acre were sources of income for some men.⁹ But there were certain less common piecework items as well - such as the payment of £17 15s. 6d. to 'Biles and Company Breastploughing 19 acres 3 roods at 18/- pr. Acre', in June, 1857. According to Caleb Lainchbury, an old Spelsbury labourer, women helped with this work, the 'women pulling .. with the men pushing behind'. The breast plough was a 'metal share stuck onto a long straight board, with a cross-piece for the man to push with his chest. The women had a rope and walked in front. It was for turning in the stubble, which was left pretty long especially when it was reaped with a sickle. They breastploughed it any time of the summer to kill the weeds, and then the field lay fallow till it was properly ploughed with horses or oxen in the autumn.'¹⁰

By the 1870s this particular task seems to have been abandoned at Ditchley, at least as a source of piecework earnings, but other activities continued unabated. Thus in the summer of 1872 the cost of 'Lord Dillon's wheat, oats, barley and pea cutting and turnip hoeing' amounted to the large sum of £105 8s. 5½d. Most of the regular labourers obtained between £6 and £7 as their share of this work, but individual amounts varied. Caleb Prior, a general labourer who was normally paid at the daily rate of 2s. or 2s. 2d., abandoned his day work for employment on contract for much of the harvest season in 1872 and earned £13 1s. 9½d. as his share of piecework at this time (including a deduction of 3s. 4½d. made, as was the custom on this farm, to cover half the cost of measuring the work carried out). Prior was obviously a versatile man who seized every opportunity for piecework, including, for example, thatching ricks. Consequently during the twelve months from mid-June, 1872 to mid-June, 1873, his annual income amounted to £42 18s. 9½d., whereas at basic rates only, it would have been £33 14s. On the other hand, another labourer, Thomas Scuse, also paid at the basic rate of 2s. or 2s. 2d. per day, achieved an annual income of only £39 6s. 10½d. over the same period (including 10s. for work on ten Sundays 'assisting shepherd') because of his more limited task work earnings. It is noticeable that the appearance of the agricultural trade union also raised piecework rates - so that pea cutting, which was paid at the rate of 6s. 6d. an acre in 1871, yielded 7s. an acre in 1872, while payments for the harvesting of both wheat and barley rose from 10s. an acre in 1871 to 12s. an acre in 1872. (See also Appendix 1).

The stockmen, especially the cattlemen and shepherds, had fewer opportunities for piecework than the general labourers, although, in compensation, their basic wages were 1s. or 2s. per week higher. However, annually hired carters and cowmen usually obtained £4 or £5 each year as Michaelmas money or else, as seems to have been the case at Ditchley, they lived in a rent-free cottage. The Ditchley shepherd, although in his early sixties, was paid the highest weekly wage of all the workers at the beginning of the 1870s; only the 'engineman', who was responsible for the farm's machinery, was paid at an equal rate. But in addition to his higher weekly wage, the shepherd was paid £2 for extra work in connection with shearing and lambing; on a more trivial level he may have benefited, too, from the Spelsbury custom of giving the shepherd 'a basket of pancakes when the first lamb was born.'

Yet, if these additional earnings boosted income, a sudden illness or the laying off of workers during the winter months - as happened, for example, in December, 1871 and January 1872, at Ditchley - could soon erode any gains. As regards illness, the most serious instance shown in the labour books involved William Painting, a long-serving labourer on the estate, who broke his leg in a fall from a hay cart early in July, 1872. His rate of pay was immediately cut, an entry in the wages book stating that he was to receive '1/- per day this allowance made until Lord Dillon's return'; prior to the accident he had been paid 2s. 2d. a day. The allowance was continued to the end of August, and then all mention of Painting's name disappears from the wages book until March, 1873, when he is again recorded as working for 2s. 2d. a day. But since the tasks he is assigned were light ones, such as sweeping and mending a wall, it may be that his accident had left him with a permanent disability. Nevertheless he and another labourer did undertake to hoe over 4 acres of peas in the spring of 1873, at the normal contract rate of 5s. an acre.¹¹

Lastly, the day-to-day account of tasks on the farm which the labour books provide, gives an idea of the variety of the tasks to be performed by each category of worker. Thus, to take a random example, in the week ending 18th July, 1862, when there were 20 men, 4 boys and 6 women employed and when the main work of the farm was concentrated on haymaking, among the duties of the second carter were ploughing, drilling and going to 'Enstone with wheat', while an under-carter, John Hitchcock, was engaged in 'drawing oil cake'; 'drawing salt'; carting 'for Manure'; 'at plough', and 'carting straw'. One of the boys (paid 6d. a day) was engaged in haymaking, 'planting', and threshing, although two of his fellows spent the whole week 'bird keeping'. All of the women were engaged in 'planting' or haymaking.¹² This

diversity was characteristic of most mixed farming areas; at Juniper Hill, about twenty miles away from Spelsbury, Flora Thompson has likewise commented on the variety of agricultural operations: 'While the ploughmen were in charge of the teams, other men went singly, or in twos or threes, to hoe, harrow, or spread manure in other fields; others cleared ditches and saw to drains or sawed wood or cut chaff or did other odd jobs about the farmstead. Two or three highly skilled middle-aged men were sometimes put upon piecework, hedging and ditching, sheep-shearing, thatching, or mowing, according to the season.'¹³

But it was at harvest time that activity was at its greatest and the work force reached its peak. In 1872, there were thirty-one male and female workers employed by the day, in addition to a number of others engaged for specific contract tasks. Wives and children joined in, very small children helping to make and lay the bands with which the sheaves were bound. According to the Royal Commission on the Employment of Children, Young Persons and Women in Agriculture, 1868-69, in Oxfordshire as a whole, 'a man and his wife, with the help of a child, if both are strong can fag and tie an acre in a day, for which 10s. is a common price. The average earnings of a man and his wife for the hargest month will amount to about £6, or about 30s. a week for a month.'¹⁴ Figures for average piecework earnings at Ditchley tend to confirm this picture. After the mowing and binding of the corn came the carrying, the busiest time of all. At Juniper Hill - as at Ditchley - every 'man and boy put his best foot forward then, for, when the corn was cut and dried it was imperative to get it stacked and thatched before the weather broke. All day and far into the twilight the yellow-and-blue painted farm wagons passed and repassed along the roads between the field and the stack-yard. Big cart-horses returning with an empty wagon were made to gallop like two year olds. Straws hung on the roadside hedges and many a gate post was knocked down through hasty driving.'¹⁵ Much beer was drunk; at Ditchley in the early 1860s, £1 was allowed for each adult male for the harvest month, with slightly less for the youths and boys - making a total expenditure in September 1864, for example, of £26 6s.

With the extra earnings secured at harvest time the labourers would hope to pay off debts incurred during the difficult winter months, including, in some cases, rent arrears, as well as to buy boots and clothing for the family. It was fitting that the successful ingathering of the corn should be celebrated by a harvest home, when, as one Spelsbury villager remembered, a supper was held in a barn and all could join in the feast 'and sing songs till morning'.

Dr Pamela Horn

Footnotes

1. 1871 Census Return for Ditchley, Public Record Office, R.G.10.1456. The acreage of the farm was increased during the 1860s; at the 1861 Census it stood at about 600 acres, with a labour force of '16 men, 8 boys, 4 women'. 1861 Census Return, Public Record Office, RG.9.910.
2. The Wages Books are preserved at Oxfordshire County Record Office, DIL/I/e/2a-e.
3. The Oxford District Minute Book is in the Cole Collection at Nuffield College, Oxford; the Minute Book has been reproduced in Vol. XLVIII, Oxfordshire Record Society, 'Agricultural Trade Unionism in Oxfordshire, 1872-81', (ed. Pamela Horn).
4. Elsie Corbett, *A History of Spelsbury* (Oxford, 1962), p. 259.
5. For example, between 16th December, 1863, and 23rd March, 1864, 9 sheep were killed for this purpose. See Wages Book, DIL/I/e/2d.
6. Spelsbury School Log Book at Oxfordshire County Record Office, T/SL/48/i.
7. Elsie Corbett, op. cit., p. 261.
8. Ditchley Estate Cottage Rentals at Oxfordshire County Record Office, DIL/I/e.98.1. According to an entry in the Spelsbury School Log Book, 24th October, 1884, 'Mr Willocks, Lord Dillon's agent, took the cottage rents in classroom, and afterwards walked through the schoolroom, and commended the order, and neatness of work'.
9. Entries in Wages Books for November, 1856 and March, 1873, for example, DIL/I/e/2a and 2e.
10. Elsie Corbett, op. cit., p. 258. See also Wages Books DIL/I/e/2a and 2c, with breast ploughing contracts still being worked in the early 1860s. Lainchbury claimed to have 'left school when he was seven years old and started work with the sheep up on Spelsbury Downs.'
11. See also entry for February, 1872, 'George Lainchbury allowed 1/- per day for 13 days when ill. Lord Dillon's Order'.
12. Wages Book at Oxfordshire County Record Office, DIL/I/e/2b.
13. Flora Thompson, *Lark Rise to Candleford* (Oxford, 1963 edn.), p. 45.
14. Second Report of the Royal Commission on the Employment of Children, Young Persons and Women in Agriculture, Parliamentary Papers, 1868-69, Vol. XIII, Report on Oxfordshire, p. 80.
15. Flora Thompson, op. cit., p. 258.

Appendix 1

Specimens of Contract Work on the Model Farm, Ditchley: Salathiel Arless, Labourer

| 1871 | Acres | roods | perches | | £ | s. | d. |
|---------------|-------|-------|---------|---------------------|----|----|----|
| Piece Barley | 4 | 0 | 28 | | | | |
| 2 -do- Oats | 2 | 3 | 32 | | | | |
| 5 Lands Wheat | 6 | 0 | 0 | | | | |
| | 13 | 0 | 20 | at 10/- | 6 | 11 | 3 |
| Piece Barley | 4 | 3 | 26 | at 8/- | 1 | 19 | 3½ |
| Mowing Barley | 2 | 2 | 16 | at 2/6 | | 6 | 5 |
| Oat Tying | 10 | 0 | 5 | at 5/6 | 2 | 15 | 2 |
| 6 Lands Peas | 6 | 3 | 10 | at 6/6 | 2 | 4 | 3½ |
| | | | | | 13 | 16 | 5 |
| | | | | Less half measuring | | 4 | 8 |
| | | | | Total | 13 | 11 | 9 |

| 1872 | Acres | roods | perches | | £ | s. | d. |
|-----------------|-------|-------|---------|---------------------|----|----|----|
| 6 Lands Wheat | 3 | 3 | 7 | at 12/- | 2 | 5 | 6½ |
| Piece Barley | 7 | 2 | 7 | at 5/6 | 2 | 1 | 5½ |
| 12 Lands Oats | 8 | 1 | 7 | at 12/- | 4 | 19 | 6½ |
| 10 Lands Barley | 6 | 3 | 30 | at 12/- | 4 | 3 | 3 |
| | | | | | 13 | 9 | 9½ |
| | | | | Less half measuring | | 3 | 4 |
| | | | | Total | 13 | 6 | 5½ |

OUR CONTRIBUTORS

Mrs Nancy (Nan) Clifton grew up at Burland Farm in Oxhill, where her family, the Gardners, had been settled since enclosure, and moved to Shenington thirty years ago, when she married Mr Harold Clifton who is of course the first Chairman of the new Cherwell District Council. Although long interested in things of the past (partly through a study of her ancestry), she only became really "bitten" by the local history bug when she did the historical research for the highly successful Village Exhibition run last year at Shenington. She has recently been elected to the committee of the Society. She and Mr Clifton have a married daughter and a son James, studying architecture.

Nicholas Cooper works with the National Monuments Record, part of the Royal Commission on Historic Monuments. He has contributed two major articles to "Cake and Cockhorse", on the rebuilding of St. Mary's Church, Banbury, and on plans by an unknown Victorian for the restoration of four local churches. He writes regularly for "Country Life".

Dr Pamela Horn is another regular contributor to our magazine. With us and in a variety of other local and learned journals she has published much on the trade union movement and on rural education in the later 19th century, as well as a full-length biography of Joseph Arch, the Warwickshire hedgecutter who became the farm workers' leader and an M. P.

Exhibition

An exhibition of European Playing Cards (ancient and modern) will be held at the Banbury Museum, 18th November to 31st December. The exhibition, a colourful display of cards of many nations, shows a wealth of historical, geographical, sociological, and artistic growth of playing cards through the ages.

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

Arts Council of Banbury (Miss Rosemary Hall, Flat 33, 20 Calthorpe Road, Banbury) Minimum £1.05

Banbury Art Society (Hon. Sec., R. Edgson, Print's Cottage, Bloxham, Banbury) £1.00

Banbury Geographical Association (B. E. Little, 2 Burlington Gardens, Banbury) 53p

Bicester Local History Circle (Hon. Sec., Miss G. H. Dannatt, Lammas Cottage, Launton Road, Bicester, Oxon.) 50p

Buckinghamshire Record Society (Hon. Sec., E. J. Davis, County Record Office, New Council Offices, Walton Street, Aylesbury, Bucks.) £2.10

Council for the Preservation of Rural England, Oxfordshire Branch (Mrs E. Turner, Woodside, Woodgreen, Witney, Oxon.) Minimum 50p

Dugdale Society (publishes Warwickshire records) (Shakespeare's Birthplace, Stratford-upon-Avon) £2.10

Heraldry Society (59 Gordon Square, London, W.C.1) £1.50; or to include 'The Coat of Arms', £2.50

Historical Association (59a Kennington Park Road, London S.E.11) (Oxford Branch: A. J. P. Puddephatt, 93 Old Road, Headington, Oxford) £1.00; or to include History £1.75

Northamptonshire Record Society (Délapre Abbey, Northampton) £2.10

Oxford Architectural and Historical Society (Ashmolean Museum, Oxford) 75p or to include **Oxoniensia**, £2.10

Oxford Preservation Trust (The Painted Room, 2 Cornmarket Street, Oxford) Minimum 50p

Oxfordshire Record Society (Dr W. O. Hassall, Hon. Sec., Bodleian Library, Oxford) £2.00

Shipston-on-Stour and District Local History Society (H. G. Parry, Hon. Sec., 8 Stratford Road, Shipston-on-Stour, Warw.) 50p

Warwickshire Local History Society (47 Newbold Terrace, Leamington Spa) £1.00

Woodford Halse Historical Society (J. W. Anscomb, 7 Manor Road, Woodford Halse, Rugby, Warw.) 50p

The Local Historian, published quarterly is available from the National Council of Social Service, 26 Bedford Square, London, W.C.1: single copies 28p, annual postal subscription £1.05

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for the Banbury Historical Society

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