

# CAKE AND COCKHORSE



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Details about the Society's activities and  
publications can be found on the inside back cover

# Cake and Cockhorse

The Magazine of the Banbury Historical Society  
issued three times a year

Volume 11

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This issue of Cake & Cockhorse has a fascinating article by a new contributor well known to many Banburians, Weaver Owen. He has delved into the memories of local people and in his enquiries has found them wanting. This highlights the transient nature of our history and the need for committing our knowledge and research to paper. As Editor I am always looking for articles no matter how large or small to include in our magazine, a sure way of preserving our history. The other article this issue is the last manuscript I received from a former editor and regular contributor to our magazine, David Fiennes, who sadly died shortly after writing this article.

D.A.H.

Cover Picture: William, Charles and Maurice Edmunds.

## BANBURY & DISTRICT GOLF CLUB 1894-1919

### PREFACE

Before the Bretch Estate and the ring road connecting the Warwick and Bloxham Roads came into being, there was a wicket gate just above the Woodgreen Technical College on the Broughton Road; this wicket gate was the start of a footpath to North Newington. From North Newington, one could follow another footpath to Wroxton, returning to the Broughton Road by way of the Obelisk and Withycombe Farm.

In those days, it was quite well known that there used to be a golf course on the land between Withycombe Farm and the Broughton Road. Even to-day in 1988, some seventy years on since golf was last played there, the first tee is still clearly visible close to the farmhouse which had formerly been the clubhouse..

Just as in the 1939-45 war part of the Tadmorton Heath course was given over to the growing of crops and part to a training area for American tanks, so in the 1914-18 war the Bretch course was given over to the needs of agriculture.

After the war, it was decided to close the Bretch course and look for a new site. In 1919, the Banbury & District Golf Club Syndicate was formed with power to try and buy Holywell Farm, Tadmorton Heath. This was accomplished in 1921. The Syndicate then sold the farm to the Tadmorton Heath Golf Club Company Limited. As a result of the change of name, the Club's centenary now falls in the year 2022, not 1994.

What follows is a brief history of the Banbury Golf Club up to the turn of the century, with an emphasis on some of the ties that link it with its successor, Tadmorton Heath. As there are no minutes, I have been very dependent (entirely for the early years) on information I have obtained from the archives of the Banbury Guardian and the Royal and Ancient Golf Club. I should like to thank them for the ready help they gave me. My thanks are also due to all those who so kindly went out of their way to help me with my enquiries.

### Golf at the end of the 19th Century

Prior to 1886, there were relatively speaking few golf clubs in England compared with the position in Scotland where there were already about a hundred clubs. But from then on, a golf craze developed to such an extent that over the next twelve years some 500 new clubs were established in the British Isles. Chipping Norton had a golf club in 1890, to be followed by Stow-on-the-Wold in 1891. Directions in the Golfing Annual for finding these courses, or "Greens" as they were then called, are in both cases given with the railway station as the starting point. Mention is also made of inns and hotels in the towns, indicating that clubhouses in those days

were as often as not little more than changing rooms with facilities for stabling horses.

In 1894, Clubs as far apart as Rye and Harlech, as close together as Banbury and Stratford-upon-Avon, were opened. In 1895, even the hamlet of Chastleton had a golf club. In its issue of 31 March, 1904, the Banbury Guardian, reporting a meet of the Heythrop Hunt, mentions that a fox was found near to Adlestrop Hill and followed over the golf course. Nisbet's Golf Year of 1913 states the club had 60 members and that the nearest railway station was Adlestrop  $2\frac{1}{2}$  miles away, with good inns at Morton-in-Marsh and Chipping Norton. The secretary of the Club was a Mr. C.I. Richardson of Chastleton House. He had been a tea planter - perhaps becoming a man of means through working in the Far East.

The speed and comfort of travelling by rail compared with the slowness and discomfort of travelling by horse drawn mail coach had a great deal to do with the upsurge in golf's popularity. The importance of the railways and of nearby inns can be judged by reading a report in the B.G. of 6 June 1907. Of a match between Banbury Golf Club and North Berks, the paper reports "arriving at Banbury about 11 o'clock, the visitors were met at the station by Banbury secretary, Mr. J.W. Prescott, and they were conveyed to the links in a brake supplied by Mr. J.W. Bloomfield of the Red Lion Hotel, who also provided luncheon in the clubhouse".

Apart from the railways, there were a number of reasons for the increasing interest in the game. One was the affluence of a new class in society, seeking fresh outlets for recreation. An added impetus was given by golf becoming the in-thing with the aristocracy and landed gentry, many of whom laid out their own private courses. The most famous of these was the eighth Duke of Devonshire's course at Chatsworth. The Devonshires regularly acted as hosts to King Edward VIIth and Queen Alexandra. In fact, for four consecutive years (1903-1907), Chatsworth was quite literally the centre of the social scene when the court of King Edward took up residence for what was known as the Chatsworth week.

One of golf's chief advocates was Arthur Balfour. He was known as "the golfing prime minister" <sup>1</sup> at a time when "not to play golf put one outside the pale". Balfour was a fanatic where golf was concerned. While prime minister and staying at Chatsworth, he would insist on going out in even the worst weather, dragging with him two professionals and a sometimes less than willing fourth man. In 1906, his party was fighting a General Election. It is recorded that Balfour played thirty-six holes on the Friday, drove to address a very stormy meeting in Manchester and then returned to Chatsworth for the rest of the week-end for his golf. His party not only lost the election, but Balfour lost his seat. If Balfour had not played golf, who knows, he might still have been the longest serving PM.

Thirty miles away at Welbeck, the Cavendish-Bentinck family led by the 6th Duke of Portland had a golf course designed by Willie Frenie, who had won the Open Championship in 1883. The Duke entertained on the same scale as at Chatsworth. By a strange

coincidence, the daughter of the Duke's half brother married Roger Wethered in 1925. Wethered was one of the most famous of the amateur golfers of the years between the Wars. In the 1930s he lived for a time at Boddington House, near Banbury. He was an honorary member of Tadmorton Heath, a club for which he played on a number of occasions. His sister, the legendary Joyce Wethered (Lady Heathcoat-Amory), also on one occasion played for Tadmorton Heath against an Oxford University side. Another coincidence is the fact that the Duke's son, the 7th Duke, was to marry in 1915, the Hon. Ivy Gordon-Lennox, whose father, Lord Algernon, was President of Banbury & District Golf Club from 1904 to 1919. In 1901, King Edward was a member of a house party at Broughton Castle, where the Gordon-Lennox family resided for a number of years. But to descend from these Olympian heights and turn to the more mundane affairs of the Banbury Golf Club.

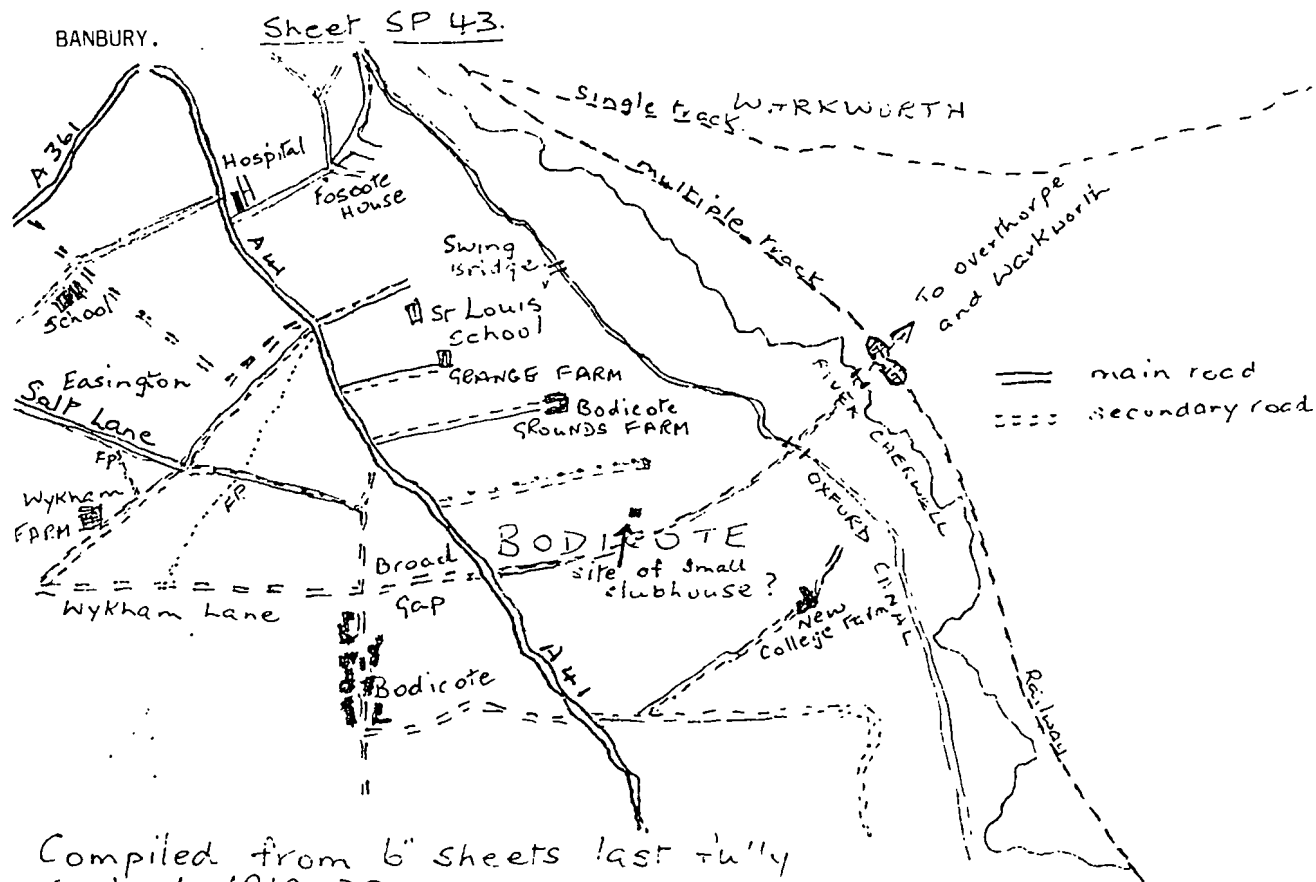
### Bodicote Golf Course

When I started on my research, one of the first things I came to realise was that, generally speaking, most people's interest and knowledge of the past go no further back than what they can remember from their childhood. The point I wish to make is how difficult it is to get reliable information about the past unless written or taped records are kept. For instance, where was the site of the Banbury Golf Course in the parish of Bodicote? I have asked this question of many people, including members of families who have lived for several generations in Banbury and Bodicote. So far I have not found a single person who has even heard of such a course, although some of their forebears may well have played there. "What!", they say in a tone of utter disbelief, "a golf course in Bodicote!". To quote G.K. Chesterton, one felt the sight of their grandfather's ghost would have astonished them less.

Although I have studied maps in museums and libraries and searched through the archives of periodicals such as the Banbury Guardian and 'Golf' (1890) for those years - have made enquiries of owners of land including New College - all I can find is Bodicote - only the name. This is not unusual. In his history of the Worcestershire Golf Club, instituted 1879, Garnet Scott writes that "the newspapers of the time reveal nothing of the whereabouts of the original golf course, and in fact the founding of the Club passed unnoticed by the Press of those days".

Fortunately, on this as on other occasions, Bobby Burnet, historian and librarian to the Royal and Ancient, came to my rescue. He kindly sent me a copy of an entry in the Golfing Annual of 1894/5 which read: "The course is about two miles by road, and a half mile less by the path across the fields, from Banbury Station (L.& N.W. and G.W. Railways)".

Going by these directions, the course must have been either between Easington and Wykham Lane or between the Oxford Road and the canal. While there was and still is a footpath between Easington and Wykham Lane, there are no other factors in its favour. The land



Compiled from 6" sheets last fully revised 1919-20.

is on the flat side, lacking those undulations which add so much to the interest and character of an inland course. In addition, Harry Colegrave of Wykham Park Farm is positive, from conversations he had in his youth with older men, that for generations past this land has been arable not pasture.

On the other hand, the bridleway from Canal Lane in Bodicote to Warkworth passes through fields that are still meadows and much more suited to the laying out of a golf course. The distances fit as the canal bridge is approximately  $1\frac{1}{2}$  miles from the station by way of the towpath - and another half mile by the Oxford Road. As for the footpath, just below Foscothe House there used to be a lane, <sup>2</sup> presumably a continuation of Green Lane, leading to fields beyond. And would not golfers, coming from the station, weighed down by a bag of clubs and other impedimenta, have walked along this lane and across two or three fields, rather than soldier on to the Oxford Road? Idle creature that I am, I would have done.

A further indication that the course lay in the Cherwell valley area is provided by the nature of the hazards to be encountered. While hazards of today are usually sand-bunkers, in the past they might consist of obstacles such as hedges and walls. Describing the seaside links of Harlech in 1910, Bernard Darwin<sup>3</sup> writes "at the third hole, we are fighting with stone walls all the way, and a most effective hazard they make".<sup>4</sup>

The Bodicote hazards as listed in the Golfing annual of 1900/1901 are hedges, ponds, ditches, a brook, a lane and a quarry <sup>5</sup> - a truly formidable array, particularly when it is born in mind that the ditches are none of your hop, skip and jump variety. A few years ago, after some heavy rain, a number of sheep belonging to a local farmer were drowned in a ditch not far from the canal bridge.

On the evidence available, it does therefore seem the Golf Club was reached by way of Canal Lane and that the course itself was situated on meadows running along both sides of the canal. If indeed this was the site chosen, the deciding factor may have been the view over the Cherwell valley - a very fine one, even today, in spite of the development of Cherwell Heights and the construction of the motorway.

While there may be doubts as to the site of the Bodicote golf course, no such uncertainty exists as to who were the Club's founding fathers. The Golfing Annual of 1894 lists the members of the Committee as A.B. Field,<sup>6</sup> D. Pellatt, W. Barton and A. Maxwell. The honorary secretary and treasurer was C.F. Edmunds, the Limes, Bodicote, Banbury, who listed golf as his favourite recreation and was a member of the Oxford University Golf Club and of the Royal Cinque Ports club, Deal.

The founding of a new golf club needs at least one or more personalities prepared to give generously of their time and probably to take on financial responsibility as well. In the case of the Banbury Club, I believe this key figure to be Charles Fletcher Edmunds. His father, William, was a partner with Thomas Hunt in Hunt Edmunds, Brewers, of Bridge Street. William Edmunds was also active in the life of the town such as the giving and planting of



trees in 1885.<sup>7</sup> He was five times elected Mayor, including 1887, the year of Queen Victoria's Golden Jubilee.

In 1882, Charles Edmunds joined the business, now trading under the name of Hunt, Edmunds & Co., and was taken into partnership in 1886. He was to die in 1907 at the comparatively early age of 51. Extracts from the obituary notice and the report of the funeral in the B.G. issues of 13 and 20 June clearly show the high regard in which Charles Edmunds was held. "When the news of his death reached the town on the Monday evening, a very painful sensation was created and all sections of the community were united in giving expression to the sense of the loss the town and country had sustained. He was a senior member of Hunt, Edmunds.... Most popular with customer, tenants and employees. He concerned himself with their individual interests and everyone felt assured of the most kindly consideration at his hands". The obituary goes on to list some of the Associations and Clubs with which he was associated, including the Golf Club.

Of the funeral, the B.G. reported there was a large number of spectators in the streets as the hearse, followed by three flower-laden carriages, passed on its way to the Church. "After the service, the coffin was borne hence and the procession was formed for the cemetery, the order prevailing being very striking. When the hearse had reached the cemetery gates, those in the rear of the procession were passing the end of the Warwick Road and before they had reached the cemetery, the service at the graveside was completed, so that the procession moved slowly on, each taking a farewell look at the flower-lined open grave".

Charles's son, Maurice William Edmunds, became a director of Hunt Edmunds in 1908. At the outbreak of war in 1914, Maurice, though retaining his directorship, joined the Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire Light Infantry and was on active service until 1919. He then returned to Hunt Edmunds where he became chairman. At the end of August 1939, Maurice, by now a Colonel in the Territorial Army, went on active service in command of the 5th Battalion. His only son, Lt. Michael Charles Edmunds, was killed in action in Italy in 1944 at the age of 22. Maurice himself died in 1950. He received an O.B.E. and was a Deputy Lieutenant of the county of Oxford. In recognition of his work in the sphere of education, Edmunds Road was named after him. He married the daughter of Hugh Fowler who was at one time Vicar of Bodicote.

I have written at some length about Charles and his son Maurice because of the ties that connect the family with Tadmorton Heath Golf Club. Maurice, like his father, played golf, although according to his daughter, Mary, he was not very good at it. His name appears on the list of the Banbury Club in 1914/15. He was one of the twelve people present at the inaugural meeting of the Tadmorton Club on 10 December, 1919, held at the White Lion, when an Agreement was approved for the constitution of the Banbury & District Golf Club Syndicate.. He was a Foundation Member of the new Club.

Daniel Pellatt provides an even stronger link between the two Clubs. As already stated, he was a member of the Banbury Committee

of 1894. He was a foundation member of Tadmorton Heath and was captain of the Club in 1927. He was a director of the Golf Club company from 1929 until his death in 1945 at the age of 82. His brother, Frank, caddied for Cyril Tolley at the opening exhibition match at Tadmorton Heath on 14th October 1922. The photograph of Tolley and his opponent Roger Wethered together with the two caddies is on display in the clubhouse. Dan Pellatt's continuing interest in the Club is shown by the fact that although now a good age, he and his brother were present at the 1941 A.G.M. of the Company. He has the distinction of having made the longest entry in the Club's suggestion book.

The Pellatt brothers succeeded their father in the old established firm of Banbury Solicitors. Their offices were in the High Street opposite the former Post Office buildings. In its obituary of 28 June 1945, the B.G. records that "in his younger days, Mr. Dan Pellatt was a very keen cricketer and played with the old Banbury Cricket Club and with the Britannia Works' Eleven of which he and his brother were honorary members. He was a devotee of the rod as a fly fisher and a keen naturalist. He was an officer in the local Volunteer Company".

After his wife's death, Dan Pellatt moved from South Bar to Bridge House, Adderbury, perhaps because of its nearness to the River Cherwell. The B.G. also mentioned that Mr. Pellatt was an eloquent speaker and that for nearly sixty years he had been Clerk of the Peace for the Borough of Banbury, succeeding his father, Mr. Daniel Parker Pellatt, in that office in 1886. That his memory lingers on in the minds of those who knew him is shown by the way old Banburians usually have some anecdote about him forty years on. John Cheney<sup>8</sup> for instance was too young to have known him, but he recalls how every time John's father motored past Bridge House, he invariably remarked "Dan Pellatt lived there" as if it were a matter of great significance.

To describe the beginning of Banbury and many other golf clubs can be no more than to speculate on what might have been. In his history of Rye, Denis Vidler<sup>6</sup> writes: "As to what preliminary discussions, planning and exploratory work had gone on before the meeting at the George, the Club records are completely silent. For all they tell us, the Rye Golf Club might have sprung into being spontaneously, without any prior consultation or effort".

In the case of Aberdovey, Bernard Darwin said his uncle, Colonel Arthur Ruck, who had learnt his golf at Formby, saw the possibilities of making a course at Aberdovey and in 1896 obtained 9 flower pots from a lady known as Mrs. Timber Jones with which he laid out 9 holes. Berta Ruck, the novelist and Bernard Darwin's cousin, is alleged to have said shortly before she died at the age of 100, "Bernard has said they were flower pots. He is wrong. They were jam jars".<sup>9</sup> Mrs. Timber Jones, of whom it was said "No one ever took a kindlier or more passionate interest in her neighbour's affairs", was understandably highly indignant. But all was well. Her version won the day and "flower pots they have always been, and flower pots they shall remain".

I fear it will never be known what kind of receptacle was used

on the Bodicote greens but, thanks again to the Golfing Annual, we do know there was a small clubhouse with two good hotels in Banbury and that the Greenkeeper of the Green at Bodicote was, surprisingly, J. Green.

Allowing my imagination a free rein, I picture Charles Edmunds, after leaving Oxford, continuing to play golf there and at Deal. It is likely he would have been a member of the Chipping Norton club, if only to further the business interests of Hunt Edmunds, who were in later years to merge with Hitchmans, the Chipping Norton brewers.

Golfers and would-be golfers living in the Banbury area would also have played there. The fact that trains stopped at King's Sutton, Adderbury, Milton Halt, Bloxham, Hook Norton and Rollright Halt on their way to Chipping Norton would have given the Banbury contingent many opportunities to discuss this and that, including the question "if Chipping Norton can have a golf course, why not Banbury"

In due course, a public meeting was called at which it was decided to form a Golf Club. A committee was appointed under the chairmanship of Charles Edmunds, who offered to be the Club's first secretary and treasurer, an offer which, if the committees of today are anything to go by would have been accepted with alacrity.

Just as in 1919 Clive Gardiner-Hill walked or cycled around Banbury looking for a suitable site, so would Charles Edmunds, who incidentally was President of the Banbury Star Cyclists Club, still a thriving Club in 1988. It may not be too fanciful to imagine he suggested fields in Bodicote where he sometimes practised golf shots.

Unless the help of a professional golfer was enlisted, the committee members themselves would have decided on the lay-out of the course, with volunteers carrying out any levelling required on the greens and tees. The Clubhouse would be a wooden structure of Spartan simplicity. Again to quote Darwin "There was no social life really. A golf course was for playing golf". The general factotum, J. Green, would have cleaned the clubhouse. He would also have had the joyous task of emptying the earth closets.

The Bodicote course was officially opened on the 14th March, 1894. Competitions were held for monthly medals and for prizes presented by members. The Club's first match took place in the autumn against our by now old friends, Chipping Norton. The report in the B.G. of 29.9.1894 reads: "Five members of the Club went to Chipping Norton to play a match with five representatives of the Club of that town on Tuesday. A very enjoyable and close match was played and the visitors just won by the narrow margin of two holes. Mr. Pettipher, the secretary of the Chipping Norton Club, very hospitably entertained the visitors at lunch before the game and the vicar, the Rev. G.A. Littledale, at tea afterwards".

In the following year, Banbury had fixtures with several clubs including home and away fixtures with Chipping Norton. Banbury won the one fixture by 18 holes and lost the other by 13 holes.

At this point I should explain that, up to the year 1908, the winning player scored the number of holes by which he had won as opposed to the subsequent and present practice whereby the winner

scores only one point no matter how decisive his victory.

The match against Arden Golf Club is notable for a particular reason. It is the first time Banbury's name appears in the magazine 'Golf' - and one has the feeling it was not Banbury who forwarded the information. The entry under 'Competitions' reads:- "May 17th, 1895. Arden v Banbury. Played at Solihull Apl.27th in wet weather, five a side. Won by Arden by 50 to nil".

The Banbury Guardian's account of the match, together with a letter the paper received from Charles Edmunds, is as follows:-

Extracts from the Archives of the Banbury Guardian

2nd May, 1895.

Golf Arden v Banbury  
Played at Solihull on Saturday. The home team won easily by fifty holes.

<u>Arden</u>		<u>Banbury</u>	
H.W. Bainbridge	15	H.K. Bradford	0
A.E. Wilson-Browne	4	A.B. Field	0
O., Airy	10	D. Pellatt	0
A.G. Tonks	11	H.R. Field	0
E.P. Wright	<u>10</u>	E.W. Barrow	<u>0</u>
	50		0

16th May, 1895

Correspondence

The Bodicote Golf Club

To the Editor of the Banbury Guardian.

Sir,

I notice in your paper of May 2nd that you give the scores of a golf match between our Club and the Arden Club at Solihull. The way the results were stated may be somewhat misleading to your readers who are interested in our doings. As a matter of fact, the scores you quote are the majority of holes gained by the Arden players. Our men did get some holes.

The scores might be better stated thus:-

H.W. Bainbridge won 16 holes	H.K. Bradford won 1 hole 1 hole halved.
A.E. Wilson-Browne won 20 holes.	A.B. Field won 6 holes 2 holes halved.
O. Airy/won 14 holes	D. Pellatt won 2 holes 2 holes halved.
A.G. Tonks won 15 holes	H.R. Field won 4 holes
(It is to be assumed this match was played over 19 holes) Ed.	
E.P. Wright won 13 holes	E.W. Barrow won 3 holes 2 holes halved.

Our men, for their experience, played well but met a first class team who fairly beat them. The Bodicote team enjoyed the game and met with the greatest courtesy from the Arden Club and its secretary.

I remain, Sir,  
Yours obediently,

Chas. Edmunds.  
Secretary Bodicote Golf Club  
Banbury

The Limes,  
Bodicote,  
Banbury.

14th May 1895.

P.S. I might add that most of the holes were only won by one stroke.  
// Although the postscript itself enters into P.G. Wodehouse country, one cannot but admire Charles Edmunds for so loyally going to the defence of his fellow members. In passing, it should be noted that famous Clubs could also suffer humiliating defeats. For example, in the Varsity match of 1900 played at Headington Park, the result was Oxford 69 Cambridge 0.

There is no mention of ladies playing at Bodicote. Presumably they continued to play the more traditional games of the period such as archery, tennis and croquet. Ladies were however starting to play golf even though they sometimes incurred masculine displeasure by so doing. We learn from an article in the December, 1987, issue of Golf Monthly that Queen Alexandra was once reputed to have infuriated her husband by playing a golf hole by dribbling the ball hockey style; that she rarely played at Chatsworth contenting herself on a fine day with walks to view both the shooting and the golf.

At Chipping Norton, the ladies appear to have met with immediate male approval. Whether this had anything to do with their comely appearance, who can say. As early as May, 1891, 'Golf' reports:

"CHIPPING NORTON GOLF CLUB - The ladies' competition (scratch) for the Hitchman prizes was played off on the Common course here on Saturday, the 18th ult. The weather was all that could be desired, but the want of rain rendered the greens hard and rather uncertain for putting. The result was a rather easy win for Miss Bowen, with the very creditable score of 78, the other prize-winners being Miss A. Edwards (87) and Miss Rawlinson (98)".

Miss Bowen's score was indeed very creditable when it is remembered she was playing with the gutta percha as opposed to the rubber-cored ball, which deposed it. Perhaps even more of a handicap was the dress of those days. The classic account is that of Mabel Stringer. 10

#### "Miss Higgins"

How on earth any one of us (in the nineties) ever managed to hit a ball, or get along at all, in the outrageous garments with which fashion decreed we were to cover ourselves, is one of the great unsolved mysteries of that or any age. I can remember when the sleeves were so voluminous that we always had to have an elastic strap round the left

arm, or we should never have seen the ball at all. "Miss Higgins" named after the American Golfer, was indispensable on account of the width of the skirts. "Miss Higgins" was an elastic band, which was slipped round the knees when the player was addressing her ball, and was the most useful as well as the most unsightly of the many inventions to counteract the vagaries and inconsistencies of LA MODE... The golfing girl of today should indeed be grateful that she need not play in a sailor hat, a high stiff collar, a voluminous skirt and petticoats, a motor veil, or a wide skirt with leather binding.

But to return to the male-orientated Banbury Club of the 1890s. In those days, golf on inland courses was for the most part played over glorified meadows of extreme muddiness. As a result, it was a common occurrence for Clubs, including the Universities, to move in their search for a better site. Oxford first played on "the marshiest part of the Cowley Marsh where a few hedges and here and there a cricket pavilion served to lend interest to the game".<sup>11</sup> In 1888, the University moved from the 18 hole Cowley Marsh to the 9 hole Headington Park.

Cambridge was dependent on Coldham Common "where hazards were the abominable lies through green, and a poisonous smell that came from the adjacent glue works".<sup>11</sup> Bernard Darwin, who played for Cambridge in 1885 and 1886 and was captain in 1887, remembered it by ditches "haunted by ruffians who stamped your ball into the mud".

And at the turn of the century, the Banbury Club was to bid a fond farewell to Bodicote and move to Overthorpe, two miles away and clearly visible across the Cherwell valley.

Although this brings us to the end of "Victorian Banbury", a brief outline of what was to lie ahead may be of interest.

If, after a shower of rain, anyone cares to walk from Canal Lane to the footbridge over the River Cherwell, he will, I think, agree with me that the reason for the move was, with apologies to Flanders and Swann, mud, mud, glorious mud.

With Overthorpe, one begins to reach firmer ground in more senses than one. For the first time, one meets people who can remember the Golf Club - people such as Mrs. Lucy Colegrave who was born in the year 1895. Her father, Frederick Stroud, lived at Manor Farm, Overthorpe. When in 1904 the Golf Club made its third and final move to Bretch, Frederick bought the old clubhouse, had it moved to Manor Farm, installed a stove and used it as a harness room.

Overthorpe does not appear to have been a success, probably for two reasons.

1. The war declared by the Boers on 11 October, 1899, gave the British in Kipling's famous phrase, "no end of a lesson". "The British public expected it to be over by Christmas. It proved to be the longest (two and three-quarter years), the costliest, the bloodiest and the most humiliating war for Britain between 1815 and 1914"<sup>12</sup>

Many of the Club members were 'Volunteers' <sup>13</sup> and may well have served in South Africa.

2. As most of the members lived the far side of Banbury and in the villages of Adderbury, Bodicote and Bloxham, in the days before the motor car, <sup>14</sup> to make the journey to Overthorpe would have been quite an undertaking, likely to deter all but the keenest of golfers.

The Bretch course was opened in 1904. A report in the B.G. of 2nd June 1904 of a meeting at the White Lion, reads "Lord Algernon Gordon-Lennox has been elected President, with Mr. Albert Brassey, MP., Viscount Villiers, Mr. F. Fitzgerald and Mr. J.F. Starkey as vice-presidents. Mr. J.W. Prescott has been appointed honorary secretary and Mr. Webb-Bowen honorary Treasurer, and a committee of six consists of Messrs. E.W. Barrows, J.A. Maxwell, A.I. Jones, D. Pellatt, A.B. Davidson and Rev. B.W. Bradford. We wish the new venture every success. We understand that at present the club can count upon a membership of about 25."

I might add that Lord Algy, if I may presume so to call him, was no mere figure head. He entered into the activities of the Club, presiding at luncheons and playing for Banbury against other clubs. He was also captain of Rye Golf Club for the years 1913-15.

Bearing in mind that brevity is said to be the soul of wit, I will mercifully draw a veil over the next fifteen years, thus taking us back where we began, the preface.

J.S.W. Owen

#### Notes and References

1. Golf Monthly Jan 1988.
2. For information about this lane I am indebted to John Adams, a former editor of Country Life. His wife, Margaret, is the daughter of the late Mr. and Mrs. E.C. Fortescue who for many years lived at Foscothe House. Mr. Adams writes that the small building shown on old Ordnance Maps at the end of the lane used to be a cowshed with fields beyond. He continues "what you say suggests that the Bodicote course did lie between the Oxford Road and the canal. And the way to it from the station may well have gone along a path that ran from the Hightown Road via a wicket gate adjacent to the Foscothe property through the slinket, as it was called, across the stream at the end and up the slope to the Oxford Road through what later became the grounds of the Saint Louis School. A slinket (alternative forms slinget, slanget and slanket) is a mainly West Midland (E.G. Warwickshire) name for a long, narrow strip of ground or a narrow wood according to Joseph Wright's English Dialect Dictionary (1904)."
3. Bernard Darwin, a grandson of Charles Darwin, was the golfing correspondent of Country Life and The Times for over forty years. As an essayist he has been compared with Lamb and Hazlitt. His account of the opening match at Tadmarton Heath between Tolley and Wethered headed "Mr. Tolley's Conjuring

- Tricks" appeared in The Times 16 October 1922.
4. Historic Golf Courses of the British Isles. Bernard Darwin 1910.
  5. This was probably a shallow quarry, long since filled in, which provided material for the making up of roads to the various farms.
  6. A.B. Field was a Miller of Fields Mill, Grimsbury. He was Mayor of Banbury in 1894. He was also secretary of the Golf Club while it was at Overthorpe, and a Volunteer.
  7. Planting trees. -(Shoemaker's Window, P.120)
  8. John Cheney. Printer
  9. Aberdovey Golf Club. Rd. Darlington. 1985.
  10. "In Praise of Golf" compiled by Webster Evans and Tom Scott.
  11. Golf Monthly. June 1988.
  12. The Boer War. Thomas Pakenham. 1979.
  13. "The alarm of 1860 had one enduring effect on Great Britain; it caused the beginning of the Volunteer Movement, which provided the country with a voluntary, unpaid, and extremely keen and capable citizen army of 300,000 men, till it was transformed in 1907 by Lord Haldane into the still more important Territorial Force." A New History of Gt. Britain. R.B. Mowat. 1926  
The former Light Infantry Territorial Battalions such as the Oxford and Bucks L.I. still acknowledge their ties with the Volunteer Movement by including in their letter heading "The Light Infantry (Volunteers)".  
Also see Victorian Banbury. Barrie Trinder, 1982, p,138-9.
  14. Two extracts from a report in the B.G. 13 June 1901.  
"A cyclist was summoned, at the instigation of Spt. Sutton of the County Constabulary, for not ringing his bell when overtaking another vehicle."  
The cyclist got off with a small penalty!  
"Not very long ago, a serious accident happened along the Warwick Road by a couple of cyclists scorching by on either side of a waggonette and pair, their foolish action causing the horses to take fright and bolt, doing damage to the vehicle and running the risk of injuring the occupants."  
An extract from "The Boer War" by Thomas Pakeham,. 1979  
"The idea may seem a little absurd to-day: a middle aged Viceroy (Milner), his mistress and two bicycles vanishing on a mid-winter's tour of the South Downs and letting the South African crisis go hang for a week. But then there was nothing absurd about a bicycle in those days. Indeed, the bicycle was the sports car of the nineties, the sporting symbol of the age. It added spice not only to love, but to politics. Cabinet ministers like Balfour went dashing down to Hatfield on their bikes to see the Prime Minister."

#### Sources.

Banbury Advertiser

50 Years of Sport at Oxford and Cambridge. Arr'd by Lord Desborough.

Edited by A.C.M. Croome.

British Golf. Bernard Darwin. 1946.

History of Hunt; Edmunds & Co. Ltd. R.B. Miller.



## THE HOLANDS OF BRACKLEY AND THORPE WATERVILLE, NORTHANTS.

Once upon a time long ago, in the 14th century, Holands were Lords of the Manor of Brackley. Several were buried in the church of the Hospital of St. John. Brackley Castle had disappeared before they arrived. The manor house in which they lived has long gone. Today nothing remains of that great family except records in dusty books, though through them Brackley once contributed much to the history of England.

Robert Holand, who was beheaded in 1328, was of a prominent Lancashire family. He married Matilda, daughter and co-heir of Alan La Zouch, Lord of Ashby De La Zouch and of Brackley, and through her inherited Brackley for himself and his heirs.

They had four surviving sons of whom there is record, and some daughters. The eldest, Robert, inherited Brackley and many other manors and died in 1373 leaving as his heir a granddaughter Matilda, his eldest son Robert having died before him. Matilda married Sir John Lovell, Lord Lovell of Titchmarsh. So Brackley passed by marriage from the family of Holand, and so far as the common records show the Holands passed from Northants. But they didn't, as will later be shown.

The third son, Alan, settled on family lands in Derbyshire. He may have had descendants but, if so, they are not relevant to this story. The fourth son, Otho, was a founder Knight of the Order of the Garter. He died as a prisoner of war in France, leaving no children.

The best known member of the family was Robert's second son, Thomas. He married the Fair Maid of Kent, Joan, sister and heir of John Plantagenet, Earl of Kent, grandson of King Edward I. He fought as a senior commander at the battle of Crecy, and was prominent in the French wars until his death in 1360. In the next year his widow Joan married Edward the Black Prince and so became mother to King Richard II.

This double dose of royal connection ensured a good livelihood for the family, with only an average quota of forfeitures and executions which were the accepted lot in those turbulent times for any of the great who chose the losing side.

The male line of Thomas's eldest son died out with the fourth Holand Earl of Kent who, having six daughters by Lucia Visconti of Milan, introduced to many English families the macabre visconti arms of a serpent eating a baby.

Thomas's third son, John, married a daughter of John of Gaunt, was created Earl of Huntingdon and later Duke of Exeter. No matter that in 1400 he had his head cut off, although he was married to the King's sister. His son John was competent and much honoured, being created Earl of Huntingdon in 1416 and Duke of Exeter in 1443 before he died in 1447 leaving only one son Henry, Duke of Exeter from 1447 till his death in 1475 without children; Henry married and was

divorced in 1472 from a sister of King Edward IV. This last Holand, Duke of Exeter, great-great-grandson to Robert Holand of Brackley, is relevant to this story. He might have been King of England had he lived; he had a more legitimate claim to the throne than Henry Tudor who became King Henry VII. 1

Thus far the story is no more than of general local interest. There is nothing new in it. It is well recorded in standard histories and books on peerage.

But a personal factor alerted me to something missing, which proved to be a family of Holands surviving in Northants, at Thorpe Waterville, through more than half of the 15th century.

The first niggles in my mind were made to itch by the statement in the Complete Peerage 2 that Sir Roger Fiennes of Herstmonceaux, Sussex, married "Elizabeth, sister of Sir John Holland of Northants". No reference is given, but the statement appears to derive from a Tudor pedigree. One is suspicious of Tudor Pedigrees. (Sir Roger was the elder brother of James Fiennes, the first Lord Saye and Sele, and was the builder of Herstmonceaux Castle, now the Royal Observatory, in the 1440's).

However, there were indications that the statement might be correct. Sir Roger's will, dated 1449 shortly before he died, mentions only his wife Elizabeth and two sons, Richard (later Lord Dacre of the South in right of his wife) and Robert. But in 1776 James Lambert described coats of arms at Herstmonceaux Castle, no longer surviving. One was described as the arms of "Fines impaled with Poole". A note in the Sussex Archaeological Collections article 3 says that this is probably the coat of Holland, azure seme de lis, a lion rampant guardant or, which is very similar to that of Poole. The identification seemed likely because all other marriages of the Herstmonceaux family are well-known and were elsewhere represented in the arms in the castle.

Another positive indication was the association of a John Holand or Sir John Holand with Sir Roger Fiennes firstly among the Knights at Agincourt (both appear in the list of the retinue of the first voyage of King Henry V in 1415, separate from the John Holand who was created Earl of Huntingdon), 4 and secondly in the Close and Patent Rolls. This association as principals or witnesses occurs in legal documents in 1425 and 1436. 5

Conclusive proof that Sir Roger's wife Elizabeth was indeed a Holand was available in 1978 with the cataloging by the Kent Archives Office of the Stanhope of Chevening MSS. There it was recorded that in 1431 Dame Elizabeth Fenys delivered to Febyan Hals, wardrobes, certain items of bedding, hangings, tapestry, saddling and weapons to be moved from London to Herstmonceaux (presumably the manor house which was replaced by the castle), including instructions as to the rooms in which they were to be placed. The list included hangings embroidered with the arms of Fiennes and Holand. 6

It still seemed possible that Elizabeth was of the Holand branch represented by the Earls of Kent and Huntingdon, and the Duke of Exeter, as I still had no evidence of Holands in Northants, in the 15th century. There were two arguments against that possibility.

The grand Holands included the royal arms of England in their own; the Herstonceaux arms, if they were the arms of Holand, did not. More conclusively, though Sir Roger Fiennes fought at Agincourt and remained a commander in France probably for over twenty years, and was Treasurer of the Royal Household 1439-1446, he did not obtain the senior command in France, nor the peerage or senior position in government, to which marriage to a royal wife would certainly have entitled him. There was some compensation in that he died in his bed, still headed.

So the hunt for 15th century Holands of Northants was on. The hunt proved surprisingly easy to find Holands of Northants, though I have still failed to reconstruct their pedigrees or biographies.

The first clue was found in the Pedigrees from the Plea Rolls.<sup>7</sup> In 1378 John de Holand, son of Robert, grandson of Robert and Matilda, nephew of Alan, sued for a manor in Derbyshire. That proved that Robert (died 1373), grandfather of Matilda who married John Lovell, had a younger son John.

The next clue was the discovery that, though on the death of Robert Holand in 1373 most of his estates including Brackley passed to his granddaughter Matilda, certain estates were entailed on the male heir who was his younger son John. They comprised the manor of Thorpe Waterville, Achurch, Aldwincle and Chelveston in north-east Northants.<sup>8</sup> John was 26 in 1373.

Here the Victoria County History (VCH)<sup>9</sup> led a goose chase. It says:- "The manors of Achurch and Thorpe Waterville being settled on the heir male of Robert the father passed to his nephew John Holand, Duke of Exeter, who was beheaded in 1400. The Duke's lands were restored in 1417 to John his son, who was created Duke of Exeter in 1444 [January 1443/44] He died in 1446 [a mistake for August 1447], leaving a son Henry Duke of Exeter who was attainted and beheaded in 1461" [It is correct that he was attainted in 1461, but he lived till 1475].

The VCH is wrong. It has muddled the two John Holands. The mistake soon became clear when references were found to John Holand of Thorpe Waterville or Achurch in 1393<sup>10</sup>, 1423/24<sup>11</sup> and 1428.<sup>12</sup> Finally and conclusively the patrons of Thorpe Achurch rectory are recorded as Sir John de Holand in 1379 and 1385, John de Holland Lord of Thorpe Waterville in 1391, 1394 and 1400, and three Feoffees of John Holand in 1439/40 followed by the Duke of Exeter in 1453.<sup>13</sup> That record shows clearly that an unknown number of John Holands succeeded at Thorpe Waterville as heirs male of Robert Holand (died 1373) until the male line died out in or shortly before 1453 when Henry Holand, Duke of Exeter, succeeded as the next heir male.

With that line established it is possible to identify almost with certainty other John Holands who are described as of Northants. In particular John Holands were sheriffs of Northants in 1423, 1435, 1440 and 1448.<sup>14</sup> There are other references in the records, but not of sufficient importance to be repeated here.

Of more interest are several references to Sir John Holands which, by elimination, almost certainly refer to the Thorpe Waterville

family and show them to have been adventurous in their day. A Sir John Holand took a substantial force to Agincourt in 1415, as stated above. In 1401 a John de Holand had land in Bordeaux revoked.<sup>15</sup> At an unknown date Sir Richard Lentale and John Holand were given power at Rouen Castle to treat for redress of infractions of the truce with the Queen of Sicily,<sup>16</sup> In 1427 Sir John Holand was mayor of Bordeaux.<sup>17</sup> In 1439, on the expedition to Gascony, one of the contingents under John Holand, Earl of Huntingdon, was commended by Sir John Holand.<sup>18</sup>

It is more difficult to show how many John Holands of Thorpe Waterville there were between the death of Robert in 1373, when his son John was aged 26, and the extinction of the male line in or shortly before 1473. It seems likely that there were three generations which, in the notes which follow will be conjecturally numbered I, II and III.

(a) Elizabeth, sister of John, was already married to Sir Roger Finnes in 1431; probably they were married earlier as their sons were betrothed to be married in 1446. She was alive when he made his will in 1449. She was probably daughter of John II, sister of John III.

(b) in 1406/07 Margaret, daughter of John de Holand of Northants was evidently engaged to, and perhaps married to Sir Roger Beauchamp of the manor of Bloxham Beauchamp. (Sir Roger's recorded wife was Edith Stourton, so either he did not marry Margaret, or she soon died).<sup>19</sup> She was probably daughter of John I, sister of John II.

(c) In 1421 there is an entry concerning a manor in Rutland referring to a Sir John Holand who had married Elizabeth, daughter of Nicholas and Joan Green. Both John and Elizabeth were already dead "without heir by Elizabeth by John Holand". If this was John I, either John II was a son by another wife, as is possible from the wording, or John II was a nephew.<sup>20</sup>

(d) in 1453 there is a reference to "John Holand Knight now deceased";<sup>21</sup> but he had been alive in 1450.

(e) In the Victoria County History there is a reference to lands in Milton and Parton which were granted in 1399 to the King's esquire John de Holand for life. He seems to have been dead before 1428<sup>22</sup> Evidently John I.

(f) There is a writ of *diem clausit extremum* after the death of Sir John Holand in Northants 28 June 1451, in Rutland on 9 July. He is mentioned as alive with Henry Duke of Exeter in 1450.<sup>23</sup>

Thus one may conjecture:-

John Holand I of Thorpe Waterville, aged 26 in 1373, therefore born in or about 1347. He seems to have been dead before 1421. He may have married Elizabeth Green, probably as a second wife, not the mother of his heir.

John Holand II Perhaps born about 1380. Took troops to Agincourt. Sheriff of Northants in 1423. Sister Margaret engaged to and perhaps married to Sir Roger Beauchamp of Bloxham in 1406/07.

John Holland III Perhaps born about 1400. Sister Elizabeth married to Sir Roger Fiennes of Herstmonceaux about 1425, still alive in 1449. Mayor of Bordeaux in 1427. On expedition to

Gascony in 1439. Sheriff of Northants in 1435, 1440 and 1448. Died in 1451 when Henry Holand, Duke of Exeter, became his heir for property entailed on the male line.

In pursuit of joyous detection I have excavated the skeletons of the Holands of Thorpe Waterville. Perhaps another will find information with which to put flesh of the bones and pump blood through the arteries of this intriguing and forgotten family.

D.E.M. Fiennes

#### References.

1. The descent of Brackley from the Holands to the Lovells, and the story of the Holand Earls of Kent and Huntingdom, and Dukes of Exeter, are only briefly summarised in so far as they affect the main objective of this article. Details can easily be found in Bridges' History of Northants, Baker's History and Antiquities of Northants, Dugdales' Baronage and the Complete Peerage.
2. Complete Peerage vol.IV, p8, under Dacre.
3. Sussex Archaeological Collections, vol LVIII 1916, p.60.
4. Nicolas's History of Agincourt, 1827.
5. Cal.Pat.Rolls, 1425. Col.Close Rolls 1436.
6. Kent County Council Archives Office. Catalogue of the Stanhope of Chevening MSS pt.3 (KAO., U1590), page 523, No. E5, 1431 and note.
7. Pedigrees of the Plea Rolls in Genealogist N313 1896-7, p.34.
8. C l.Ing.P.M. 47 EIII.
9. Victoria County History of Northants III,p.137.
10. Cal.Patent Rolls 1393.
11. Calender of Ancient Deeds vol 3, A5011.
12. Feudal Aids IV, 48.
13. Bridges' History of Northants II, p.365.
14. Calenders of Fire Rolls, Fuller's Worthies includes them in its list of sheriffs, but in two cases with the wrong Christian name.
15. Cal.Patent Rolls.
16. Syllabus of Rymer's Foedera p.611.
17. Syllabus of Rymer's Foedera p.644.
18. Vale. English Gascony 1399-1453.
19. Cal. Patent Rolls. VCH.Oxon. IX, p.59.
20. Cal. Fine Rolls.
21. Cal. Close Rolls.
22. Victoria County History of Northants II, p.513.
23. Cal. Fine Rolls.

I am grateful to the Chief Archivist and staff of the Northamptonshire Record Office at Delapre Abbey for their courtesy and help.

D.E.M.F.

There may be slight discrepancies in some names as owing to the unfortunate death of David Fiennes, I have been unable to check the MS.  
ED.

## BOOK REVIEW

### BAPTISMS AND BURIALS REGISTER OF BANBURY, Part 4, 1813-1838.

Transcribed by the late R.C. Couzens, Edited by J.S.W. Gibson.  
Banbury Historical Society, Records Volume 22, 1988. XVI.224 pp.  
3 figs., 2 maps. Indexes to personal and place names, occupations.  
£10.00 plus £1.00 p&p from Banbury Museum, 8 Horsefair, Banbury.

This volume completes an enterprise begun in 1957 when the B.H.S. was inaugurated. The first volume of Parish Registers was issued for the year 1960 (Marriages 1558-1724); this final issue is the eighth to appear. In this colossal work a number of transcribers and others have been engaged, but each volume has been edited by Mr. J.S.W. Gibson, an achievement which must be unique in this area of publishing. Only two of the volumes were printed from "base metal" and bound in hard covers. The remainder were done in type-script (reduced at printing) and issued in soft covers.

As in previous volumes, the records of Non-Conformist and Roman Catholic bodies have been included with careful explanations of the sources. The entries for both baptisms and burials are included to the end of the year 1838, thus overlapping the system of general registration begun in April 1837.

Indexes of surnames occupy 41 pages of this book for baptisms and 18 pages for burials, the populations explosion resulting from an increase of large individual families as well as a noticeable increase in the number of families of the same name growing up together. The preceding volumes covering baptisms and burials in the years 1723-1812 took up only 19 pages for baptisms and 17 pages for burials. Nevertheless, the rate of infant mortality in the new period 1813-1838 continued at a high level. There was no evident expansion in the area of the town; new accommodation was provided in the outbuildings and other areas of many inns between Crown Yard in Cow Fair at one end and Blue Pig Yard at the other end of High Street.

The "progress" of the industrial revolution is shown by the occupations of fathers of children baptised. These include "book-keepers" and a "commercial traveller", and "engineer", a "gas engineer" and a "mechanick", such descriptions not appearing in earlier registers. But the period was not one of "happy days" for Banburians. The absence of many men called into the militia for service in Kent and elsewhere against the French threat must have reduced work-levels and incomes, and after the peace the growth of political ferment up to the Reform Acts was another diversion of working energy. By the late 1820s the local plush and shag trade was losing ground. Since the issue of the first volumes of Banbury's Parish Registers, the pursuit of everyman's family history has become a matter of widespread interest, and the last ten years have seen the organisation of county-wide and national societies covering hundreds or even thousands of members in search of forbears. The raw material for Banburian searches is now complete and the town is full of people whose family names here go back over many generations. Not many towns of Banbury's size are so well provided, thanks to the work done by B.H.S. and its supporters over the last thirty years.

Alan Essex-Crosby.

## BANBURY HISTORICAL SOCIETY - ANNUAL REPORT, 1988

Your Committee have pleasure in submitting the 31st Annual Report and Statement of Accounts, for the year 1988.

A number of good friends of the Society died during the year, for whom obituary notices have appeared in *Cake and Cockhorse*. It is appropriate to single out for mention here our senior Vice-President, Geoffrey Forsyth Lawson, who contributed so much over many years at church and village meetings.

Officers of the Society remained unchanged. Clare Jakeman, who had undertaken various unglamorous but necessary chores, such as press publicity and despatch of the magazine, for a number of years, left the Committee through demands of other activities, with our grateful thanks. In her place we have welcomed Hugh White. Alan Essex-Crosby, our Hon. Treasurer since 1985, having reached his ninetieth year has indicated he will not be seeking re-election again. The opportunity is taken of expressing our gratitude for all the work he has given to this time-consuming office.

Penelope Renold once again organised a varied and entertaining programme, with Hugh White on Romano-British mosaic pavements; Carl Boardman, from the County Record Office, on the estate records of King Edward's School, Birmingham; Alison McDonald on the ancient grasslands of Port Meadow and Picksey Mead, Oxford; Mary Prior on the 'rise of the spinster' in the 17th and 18th centuries; and R.A. Chambers on archaeological discoveries along the route of the M40. The year concluded with two familiar speakers, our Vice-President Barrie Trinder on Victorian lodging houses in Banbury; and an appropriately seasonal talk, Christmas Customs, by Christine Bloxham. As always we are most grateful to them. It is worth mentioning that we have always, as a matter of course, entertained our speakers to dinner afterwards, a gesture that is welcomed and enhances the evening generally. It is surprising that more societies of similar nature do not offer the same hospitality to lecturers, who have often travelled a distance and rarely charge more than a token amount.

The Spring meeting was at Hornton, presented by Mr W. Buchan, the Rev. Allan Lancashire and Mrs Joan Bowes. John Rivers again provided us with an enjoyable summer programme, with visits to Deddington and Wormleighton villages, and Rycote Chapel near Thame. The A.G.M. was held at Upton House, followed by a tour of the house led by the administrators, Mr and Mrs Simon Murray.

The culmination of some thirty years work was seen in the publication of *Banbury Baptism and Burial Registers, 1813-1838*, edited by Jeremy Gibson and mostly typed by Mavis Cotterell. The original transcription and indexing was done by the late R.C. Cozens. This completes the publication of Banbury's pre-General Registration parish registers. The volumes of baptisms and burials also include relevant entries for nonconformist congregations, and cross-references to probate records in Banbury Peculiar Court. They have indexes to personal and place names, and lists of occupations with their practitioners. This last is particularly interesting in the latest volume, with around 250 in all.

The year saw *Cake & Cockhorse's* century, chiefly celebrated in the Summer issue, No.99, the final number of Volume 10. This appropriately included a summary of our journal's history by Jeremy Gibson, who has been closely involved with it throughout, and an affectionate memoir of Ted Brinkworth, our co-founder, by Ross Gilkes. There was also a major article on probate inventories based on work by Barrie Trinder, including the discovery of one for the Three Tuns in 1721. Other contributors to *Cake & Cockhorse* during the year include Joan Bowes, Evelyn Brown-Grant, Pamela Horn, Penelope Renold and Colin Crouch; and Patric Dickinson, Rouge Dragon Pursuivant, helped with the provision of 17th century funeral certificates for the Cope family of Hanwell.

Once again we have been unable to arouse any interest amongst Banbury's schools in participating in projects for the Brinkworth Prize. With the growth of local historical work for G.C.S.E. this is most frustrating, and David Hitchcox and Melissa Barnet continue to attempt to establish effective liaison. We would be interested to hear from any members who are connected with local schools, whether as staff or parents (or other relationships) with suggestions and offers of help. As the accounts show, there is now a sizeable sum available for appropriate distribution.

An adequate surplus of income over expenditure is shown on the revenue account, though subscriptions are down by £120. The cost of production of *Cake & Cockhorse* has returned to its 1986 level after the spectacular savings in 1987. These demonstrate how easily (and unintentionally) figures can mislead, for they incorporated the write-back of an earlier provision not in the event required, which made the savings seem much greater than they in effect were. In fact they are still very considerable, thanks to the generosity of Ann Hitchcox, our Editor's wife, who types the final version of the magazine without charge. This saving is demonstrated by the fact that we are still producing *Cake & Cockhorse* for no more than in 1986, despite the very considerable rises in print costs. We have now also written off completely the cost of the typewriter. Other costs by their nature fluctuate, but nevertheless their reduction this year is gratifying.

The other major expenditure of the year is on the records volume. It is very satisfactory that despite the issue of a 240-page volume and its attendant distribution costs, the publications account still has a small surplus. This is mostly due to the continued generous support of the British Academy, whose grant of £800 met over half the cost of production. Sales of back volumes also, as usual, helped substantially, and we are grateful to Melissa Barnet and her colleagues at the Museum for handling this essential service. Records subscribers still effectively get their volumes at a third of their actual cost.

Local history society membership remains probably one of the best bargains in the country!



# BANBURY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

REVENUE ACCOUNT for the year ended 31st December 1988.

INCOME		£	£
1987			
1,756	Subscriptions	1,589.76	
506	less: Transfer to Publications Account	458.82	
1,250		1,130.94	
115	Income Tax refund on covenants	104.57	
131	Interest on Deposit Account	160.18	
8	Donations	2.28	
1,504			1,397.97
EXPENDITURE			
356	Cake & Cockhorse, printing	676.38	
162	Postage and envelopes	178.41	
518		854.79	
108	less: Sales	93.50	
410			761.29
	Lecture and Meeting expenses:		
	printing, postages, secretarial		
109	and administration expenses	86.29	
	Hire of halls, entertaining and		
152	speakers' expenses	111.10	
261		197.39	
20	less: Donations at meetings	4.00	
241			193.39
11	Subscriptions to other bodies		12.70
50	Insurance		-
163	Depreciation of typewriter		162.91
875			1,130.29
629	Excess of Income over Expenditure		267.68
1,504			1,397.97

## PUBLICATIONS ACCOUNT

1987		1988	
Exp.	Inc.	Income	Expenditure
	506	458.82	
	403	326.04	
1488			
74			
	653	800.00	
			1,407.74
			116.00
			61.12
1562	1562	1,584.86	1,584.86

**BALANCE SHEET** as at 31st December 1988.

Liabilities		Assets	
1987		1987	
64	Subscriptions in advance 73.50		Cash at Nat. West. Bank plc, Banbury:
105	Sundry creditor 23.74	611	Current a/c (o/d) (218.99)
	Brinkworth Prize Fund	336	Brinkworth Prize Fund 480.98
	Account: Balance at 1.1.88 2,335.98	2250	Deposit account 3,500.00
	Interest 145.00		
2336	2,480.98	3197	3,761.99
	Publications Reserve:		Deposit Account at Lombard North Central plc:
	Balance at 1.1.88 1,353.66		Brinkworth Prize
	Surplus 61.12	2000	fund 2,000.00
1354	1,414.78	489	Typewriter at cost 488.75
	Capital Account:		less:
	Balance at 1.1.8 1,501.31	326	deprec. 488.75
	Surplus 267.68		
1501	1,768.99	163	-
5360	£5,761.99	5360	£5,761.99

**Brinkworth Prize Fund (cash at National Westminster Bank plc)**

187	Balance at 1.1.88		335.98
159	Interest received	145.00	
346			
10	Less: Expenses	nil	
	Surplus for year		145.00
336	Balance at 31.12.88	£	480.98

I have audited the above Balance Sheet and the annexed Revenue Accounts and I certify them to be in accordance with the books and information supplied to me.

G.J.S. Ellacott, F.C.A.

The Banbury Historical 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 and 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. By 1985 there had been 88 issues and at least 230 articles. Most back issues are still available and out-of-print issues can if required be photocopied.

Other publications still in print include:

Booklets -

**Old Banbury - a short popular history**, E.R.C. Brinkworth  
**New Light of Banbury's Crosses**, P.D.A. Harvey  
**Banbury Castle - a summary of excavations in 1972**, P.Fasham  
**The Building and Furnishing of St. Mary's Church, Banbury**,  
N. Cooper

Pamphlets -

**History of Banbury Cross**  
**The Globe Room at the Reindeer Inn, Banbury**

The Society has also published twenty or more volumes in its records series (list available of those still in print). These have included **Banbury Parish Registers** (in seven parts: Marriages 1558-1857, Baptisms and Burials 1558-1812); **Banbury Corporation Records: Tudor and Stuart; Banbury Wills and Inventories, 1591-1650** (Part 1, 1591-1620; Part 2, 1621-1650); **A Victorian M.P. and his Constituents: The Correspondence of H.W. Tancred 1841-1860**; **Shoemaker's Window: Recollections of Banbury before the Railway Age**, by George Herbert (now available in Gulliver Press edition); **South Newington Churchwardens' Accounts 1553-1684; Wigginton Constables' Books 1691-1836; Bodicote Parish Accounts 1700-1822; Victorian Banbury**, by Barrie Trinder (with Phillimore); and **Aynho; A Northamptonshire Parish**, by Nicholas Cooper (with Leopard's Head Press); **Banbury Goal Records 1805-1852**, edited by Penelope Renold. Volume in preparation **Baptisms and Burials 1813-1838**. An edition of letters to the 1st Earl of Guilford (of Wroxton, father of Lord North, Prime Minister and M.P. for Banbury) is also planned.

Meetings are held during the autumn and winter, normally at 7.30 pm at the North Oxfordshire Technical College, Broughton Road, Banbury, on the second Thursday of each month. Talks are given by invited lecturers on general and local archaeological, historical and architectural subjects. In the summer, the AGM is held at a local country house and other visits are arranged.

Membership of the Society is open to all, no proposer or seconder being needed. The annual subscription of £8.00 including any records volumes published, or £5.00 if these are excluded.

Application forms can be obtained from the Hon. Membership Secretary, c/o Banbury Museum, 8 Horsefair, Banbury, Oxon.

