

ERRATUM: VOL. XXV

The late Mr Harold Clifton of Long Buckby was kind enough to point out that the two flat-makers at Towcester in 1777 were making baskets, not shoes (*Militia Lists, 1777*, p. 196). According to Miss Baker, a flat was 'a straight-sided shallow basket made of peeled osiers with a flat lid, whence the name; used principally for carrying butter to market, and frequently called a "butter-flat".' (Anne E. Baker, *Glossary*, i. 240). There is an interesting reference to these baskets in the report of a riot just south of Northampton in 1795 when several wagons carrying provisions 'were attacked near Queen's Cross [Hardingstone] by a numerous body of people, who immediately proceeded to cut open the butter-flats, the contents of which, as well as a quantity of meat, they carried off, and brought part of it into the town in triumph' (*Northampton Mercury*, 11 April 1795).

The total number of shoemakers in the 1777 lists should therefore be reduced from 705 to 703 (Tables 5 and 6), although the proportion of shoemakers to all men whose occupations or status were recorded by the constables remains at 5.9 per cent (Table 5). Shoemakers in Towcester hundred are reduced from 24 to 22, and the proportion to all men from 6.2 to 5.7 per cent (Table 5).