# LINCOLNSHIRE PAST & PRESENT

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**No 21 Autumn 1995**  

*The City School, Lincoln (from Prospectus c. 1951, drawn by E. C. Adams)*

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The deadline for contributions to the next Bulletin and the Winter issue of Lincolnshire Past & Present is Saturday 28 October 1995. Material should be sent to the Joint Editors at Jews’ Court, Lincoln LN2 1LS (01522 521337). It will help the Editors greatly if articles are sent typed, double spaced and with a good margin. A note of the number of words is of great value. More detailed ‘notes for contributors’ are available from Jews’ Court, (please enclose s.a.e.).

*Cover: Louth Station, architects Messrs Weightman & Hadfield, Sheffield. Lithograph by T. W. Wallis of Louth, dated February 1848. (See ‘Laying the foundation stone of Louth station’, pages 18/19)*
EDITORIAL

Readers will be aware of ongoing alterations to the magazine. We are sure you will bear with us whilst we are making the changes, but we apologise for any inconvenience — especially some faults with the pagination in the summer issue. One or two papers ready for publication have appeared out of sequence, and we apologise to contributors for that. However, we feel the new double column layout is an improvement and it does allow more text per page.

H. Healey and C. Sturman, Joint Editors

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JOHN STEPHENSON: A POWERFUL MAN: PART I

Betty Kirkham

Through many years of researching different aspects of the history of Hogsthorpe the name John Stephenson wove itself in and out of my work. The man seemed to play a prominent part in most of the major organisations in the village during the second half of the nineteenth century. The constant appearance of his name together with the importance of much of his work and the fact that stories were still being told of his escapades made me decide that here was a character worthy of note.

During my research into other aspects of the village history some years ago I visited John Stephenson's grandson. He showed me some poems written by his grandfather. These poems are wonderfully descriptive of life and people in Hogsthorpe over a hundred years ago. He allowed me to copy whatever I wished but at this stage I did not copy them all. This year I decided to make a start on John Stephenson's story. As his grandson was now dead, I visited Betty Joyce, the grandson's adopted daughter who had wisely kept all John's poems and family history. She allowed me to copy the poems I had not transcribed previously and was very helpful in providing much family history.

John Stephenson was born on 23 February 1823 three months after the marriage at Anderby of his father Charles Stephenson and his mother Rhoda Epton. The 1871 census returns for Hogsthorpe show him to have been born at Cumberworth where family tradition has it that his mother went to stay with relatives until after his birth to avoid the scandal. He waschristened at Anderby on 27 July 1823 along with six other members of the family.

He grew up at Anderby and after leaving school he came to Hogsthorpe as apprentice to John and Thomas Johnson. They are given in White's 1842 Directory as joiners. After earning his trade he started in business on his own as a builder. He is recorded in the accounts of a Hogsthorpe charity as having taken on as apprentice on 6 June 1846, a village youth, one Isaac Blanchard for a term of six years.

On 8 December 1845 he married Thirza Brown and by her had eleven children. After her death he married a spinster Mary Kate Lovell at Hogsthorpe on 16 October 1872. This marriage produced another four children.

John was a very capable and thorough builder. Of the work he did the most notable was the rebuilding of the chancel of Hogsthorpe church in 1869 and the making and installing of all new seating in the church in 1854. According to a letter written by his daughter in 1957 he also built some of the largest houses in the village. One was the yellow brick house in West End known as The Rise. This was for many years a doctor's residence but is today a private house. Another important house he built in 1849 was the former vicarage in Thames Street, which is now a rest home (Fig. 1). It is a red brick house and contains an imposing entrance hall at the east end with a large stained glass window overlooking an elegant staircase. There are two large reception rooms downstairs facing south with a former study at the west end which has now been opened up into the sitting room. There are six large bedrooms and a bathroom upstairs. At the rear is a large kitchen and other offices and a back staircase. The whole cost £900. John also built the house immediately west of the church formerly known as Rectory Farm. This, like The Rise, was built of the very attractive yellow Farleethorpe bricks. Today it is much added to and is now High Torr nursing home.

All these houses stand today as an example of his good workmanship. He was also the village postmaster from at least 1868 to his death in 1895.

As stated in one of his poems written in 1870 he had at that time already been parish clerk and sexton for over fifteen years. It was during this period that he wrote his poems. In order to understand them it is necessary to know a little of the background to the stories they tell.

The episode which caused him to write 'The Parish Clerk's Soliloquy' was the wedding of a churchwarden's son. The newly appointed incumbent, the Reverend Samuel Cavan, had forbidden the bells to be rung for the wedding. John thought this was wrong and so he arranged the smuggling into the church tower of the Addlethorpe ringers. For this he was reported to the Bishop and suspended from duty for six months. His poem tells the rest. References in the poem to a song relate to a Scottish folk song popular at the time called 'There is nae luck about the house'.
Fig. 1: Hogsthorpe vicarage 1970 from a sketch by the late Wilfred Shooter now in the possession of Betty Joyce.

The Parish Clerk's Soliloquy 1870

He will do nought but sing
There is no luck about the town
There is no luck at a'
There is no luck about the town
Since the Parson came this way'

And are you sure the news is true
And is the wedding near
What is that song you're humming boy
Tis ringing in my ear
There is no luck about the town
There is no luck at a'
There is no luck about the town
Since the Parson came this way'

What shall I do? I have been Clerk
For fifteen years and more
And never did such orders get
From anyone before
Not ring the bells, not ring the bells
I cannot bear the thought
And yet the Parson says I'm not
But still I think I ought

Come mind your work and answer me
When is the wedding day
Tomorrow? have I heard you right?
You will not answer nay
Tomorrow is the wedding day
Of our churchwarden's son
Good gracious I'm the Parish Clerk
And what is to be done?

Whatever would the whole marsh think
That on the wedding day
Hogsthorpe's famed bells hung silently
Within their tower so grey
There, that will do you lazy knave
Or I will change your tune
Whatever can possess the boy?
He's been singing here since noon

The Parson says he will not have
The merry joy bells ring
That boy of mine can't mind his plane
I'll wash myself and change my clothes
And don my Sunday hat
And then I'll off to Acklethorpe
And see what they are at
I know I shall get there.
I wish the Parson wasn't mad
But yet what need I care?

When I explain twill all be right
He then will see his fault
How very strange a thing twould be
Not to ring them as we ought
As it again you daring rogue
Why can't you mind your plane?
I'm sure you'll spoil that window sash
Why sing that song again?

A letter for me did you say?
How long has it been here?
The Parson sent it: well a day
Is'pone I need not fear
For I've been Clerk and Sexton too
For more than fifteen years

That's right my girl I'll e'en help you
Tis charming to my ears
Sings: "Should old acquaintance"
That's something like the good old song
Is nearly fetched my tears
For sake of friends I've loved so long
I'll shake off all my fears
And ring the bells tomorrow morn
Let whatsoever come that may
The Parson says it can't be borne
That I should have my way

I'm sure I've tried with might and main
To do what's just and true
But now it seems it's all in vain
He's making this ado
When first he came he gave it out
He was a man of peace
How is it then one would have thought
Discord and strife would cease

The Bishop can make a Clergyman
By laying on his hand
Does that make him a gentleman
I hardly understand
I always thought that they must dip
Into the well of knowledge
And thus go forward step by step
From school and then to college

You wish to have a full account
Of how we did proceed
And if we rang the old Church bells
Aye we did indeed
For be it known unto you all
I'm stubborn as a mule
No one can drive me if they try
Some say that I'm a fool

Perhaps I am at any rate
For once I got my way
The Parson says that he'll report me
And make me dearly pay
He'll put me out of office "Oh"
How he both raves and rants
There is some truth in the old song
My son so often chants

The bride and groom on their way
I thought should hear the peal
So off they clashed most gloriously
I own I ne'er did feel
So proud before of Hogsthorpe's bells
They never rang so clear
I quite forgot the Parson's wrath
Till strange sounds met my ear

In rushed the Parson at his heels
Followed a motley crowd
Come cease your ringing, shouted he
The bells rang both loud and long
And their last pealing sounded like
That ever old true song
There is no luck about the town
There is no luck at all
There is no luck about the town
Since the Parson came this way

The Parson stood till we had done
And then he came to me
"What right have you to disobey?
I'm Vicar here" says he
The turning to his seconds, who
Stood on either side
"You two are witnesses for me"
And one of them replied

"You ringers have no business here
I'm captain of the ring"
I looked at him and thus I said
"Tis a pretty thing
That you should come to interfere
With me the Parish Clerk
I know Tom Sayers is dead and gone
Whats made your eye so dark?"
If you're a champion prize fighter
You've nought to do with me
"We'll let you see", the Parson said
And out of church went he
And a whole string of satellites
Who'd come to see the fun
We set to work and soon
Right merrily we rang

And through the marsh the sounds we sent
To Burgh's far famed towers
And east to seabound Ingoldmells
And west to Welton's bowers
And all about they heard the peals
At Munsby, Huttoft round
Along the coast to Anderby
And Chapel caught the sound

I only wish the sounds had pierced
Far over marsh and fen
To where proud Boston's steeples rise
And where those stalwart men
The Pilgrim Fathers spread their sail
And ventured over sea
To find afar in distant climes
The country of the free

And thus all day the merry bells
Rang ever and anon
The Parson fumed and foamed and raved
But heedless we rang on
Until the sun behind the wolds
Let darkness reign supreme
The bells sent forth a parting peal
This was their farewell theme
There is no luck about the town etc.

The Parson kept his word and now
I'm a suspended clerk
Have patience and I'll tell you how
He made my care so dark
The Archdeacon thought I had done wrong
Thus to resist his might
I pleaded guilty to the charge
Though I meant to have done right

What could I say when I heard the law
So faithfully laid down
I bowed my head to his decree

And said that had I known
That such strict laws had been in vogue
I would not then have rang
The bells against the Parson's will
But it could not be undone

The Parson raved and called me well
Indeed he made me stare
I never thought I was so bad
As he made me appear
The Archdeacon gave me leave to call
Someone to speak for me
In came our good churchwarden
A better could not be

He spoke up like a gentleman
And said I had done well
For fifteen years as parish clerk
And he had ne'er heard tell
Of strife or brawl or any fault
Found before this with me
So he hoped the good Archdeacon
Would treat it leniently

The Archdeacon said it now remained
The punishment to lay
For the next six months I you suspend
From duty and from pay
The sentence is one very light
All learn to live in peace
And from this time in Hogsthorpe town
May brawls and discord cease

How thankful now I feel my friends
That the days are past and o'er
When England's church was kept in awe
By inquisitions power
Those days are gone ne'er to return
Or what would come to me
Some penance - nothing very light
And six months in purgatory

Then let us all agree to live
In unity so sweet
Some of you gained the victory
Mine was a glorious defeat
I'll shake hands with you one and all
And wish you all farewell
When next you hear from me I hope
Of peace and joy to tell

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I would especially like to thank Betty Joyce, the adopted daughter of John Stephenson's grandson for preserving John's papers and allowing me access to them. Thanks to Penny Robinson a great great grand daughter of John Stephenson for family information. Thanks also to Bob Facey for information about the folk song, 'There is nane luck about the house'. Thanks are also due to Christopher Sturman for suggestions on my first draft. Any errors remaining are my own.

To be Concluded
The Founding Fathers of the City School, Lincoln

Dennis Mills

The City School is celebrating its centenary during the year 1985-6. In 1974 it became a mixed comprehensive school and since 1968 it has occupied a site on Skellingthorpe Road. The school began life in a building on Monks Road, the facade and front rooms of which survive in the Gibney Building of De Montfort University. Originally only boys were admitted and the school was set up as the Science Day School, supported by funds granted to the Corporation of Lincoln by the Science and Art Department in South Kensington. In 1902 all secondary education was transferred to the Board of Education and local authorities. Thus, the ownership of the building was passed by its trustees to the City of Lincoln Education Committee and the school was renamed the Municipal Technical Day School. At time went by, its curriculum broadened and it gradually became a boys' grammar school, albeit with some specialisation in scientific and technical subjects. In 1928 the name was altered again - to The City School, to reflect these developments, and the school remained a boys' grammar school until 1974.

The establishment of the school was a gradual evolution, rather than a revolutionary change on the Lincoln educational scene in the mid-1890s. It grew out of science day classes in the Higher Grade and Continuation Day School, i.e., a school taking boys who had completed a course of elementary education up to standard V or VI and had reached the age of about thirteen. This school occupied Church House on Christ's Hospital Terrace, formerly the home of the Blue Coat School, and now part of De Montfort University.

The science classes only became a separate school by moving into the premises of the Schools of Science and Art on Monks Road. These schools functioned mainly in the evenings and the building had been nearly empty by day since it had opened in 1886. The first day science classes were held there in September 1895, given an almost separate identity in 1896, and became an entirely separate school in 1897.

It is, therefore, very difficult to point to a small band of men who could be called the 'Founding Fathers' of the City School, since so many strands of development came together in the process of founding the school. Moreover, this was the age of large management committees, and the committee set up to raise funds for the erection of the Monks Road building had a membership of over thirty. So even the long list below is to some extent an arbitrary selection of those who worked in the cause of the science day school movement. The Head and Governors of the present City School would, however, be very pleased in this centenary year to hear from any descendants of the 'Founding Fathers' who would like to make contact. They would be very welcome at the wide variety of centenary events that are planned.

Some founding fathers of the City School:

Revd John Somerville Gibney, a priest-vicear, founded School of Art, 1863.

Chancellor Edward White Benson, later Archbishop of Canterbury, founded the Lincoln Night Schools, 1873.

Chancellor Edward Tucker Leake, from 1877 developed science and mathematics classes in the Night Schools, from which the School of Science sprang. In 1889 he started science day classes in the Higher Grade and Continuation Day School in Christ's Hospital Terrace of which he was treasurer, and of which Walter Birkett was the Head, and a great supporter of the science day classes taken there by A.E. Collis. From these the Organised Science Day School developed in 1893, and the advanced course in the Monks Road building in turn started in 1895. William John Cant, surgeon, was secretary of the Higher Grade School.

When the Schools of Science and Art came together in the Monks Road Building, the trustees for the first part erected 1885-86 were:

Francis Jonathan Clarke, chairman, Mayor of Lincoln.
Revd Sub-Dean Jacob C. Clements.
Francis Roper Larken, solicitor.
Revd James Mansell, priest-vicear.
Joseph Ruston, MP, foundry owner.
Alfred Shuttleworth, foundry owner.
William Tomlinson Page, the younger, solicitor.

(* These three were the surviving trustees who trans-
ferred the building to the City Education Committee as a consequence of the Education Act of 1902. The shields from their coats-of-arms are displayed over the front door of the old school, Shuttleworth above, Larken to the left and Page to the right. In 1903 they were chairman, secretary and treasurer respectively - see Fig. 1).

The consulting architect was Sir Charles Barry, RIIBA, and George Sedger, also of London, was the architect who won the design competition judged by Barry. The builders were Messrs Cowen and Lansdowne of Lincoln.

Richard Coleman Hallowes was secretary of the Joint Committee which was running the Schools of Science and Art and the Science Day School during the 1890s and Cant was the treasurer. The Head of the School of Science in the mid-1890s was J. H. Belcher, BA, FCS, who lectured in physics in the Science Day School in 1895-96, after which he left to take charge of a larger School of Science at Leicester.

In the years between 1895 and 1902, the bulk of the teaching in the Science Day School was done by the following:


Arthur Robert Cooper, ASc (Durham), maths and physics, and senior assistant master, 1897-1923.
John James Green, BSc, ARCS, chemistry, 1898-1926.

Sources:

The principal published sources are:
City School, Jubilee, 1896-1946.
Maurice B. Hodson, Lincoln Then and Now, II (N Hykeham, 1984), p. 68 for F. J. Clarke.
Lincoln Leader, 1896-97.
Lincolnshire Chronicle, 1895-96.
Schools of Science and Art and Science Day School, Prospectuses, 1894-1906.
W. White, Directory of Lincolnshire (Sheffield, 1892).

The main unpublished sources are:
City School archives.
A. E. Collis, 'History of the City School', typescript 1934, being published in The Link, the magazine of the City School, Lincoln Association.
Lincolnshire Archives Office: Lincoln City Educational Deposit, and additional Educational Deposit; and Indenture and Trust Deed for the Schools of Science and Art building in Monks Road, 1886 (microfiche copy).

Figure 1: The shields of three of the founders of The City School can still be seen on the facade of the Gibney Building of De Montfort University in Monks Road, Lincoln. At the centre is the shield of Alfred Shuttleworth, to the left that of Francis Roper Larken, to the right William Tomlinson Page.
SCUNTHORPE & DISTRICT WAR MEMORIAL

David J. Taylor

The following piece was written using information collected for the National Inventory of War Memorials at the Imperial War Museum. This was established in 1989 to compile a nationwide register of War Memorials and its work is still continuing. For some people, the study of War Memorials may seem an unsuitable subject for local research, but as a permanent if sometimes overlooked feature of most communities, War Memorials can tell us a considerable amount about their histories.

Scunthorpe & District War Memorial was erected in 1926 on a site provided by Scunthorpe & Frodgingham Urban District Council on the East side of Doncaster Road opposite the former Old Showground (Fig. 1). At that time it was flanked by old gas works to the south, and the premises of Scunthorpe & District Steam Laundry Co. Ltd. to the north. Eventually these were replaced by Scunthorpe & Frodgingham U.D.C.’s public baths on the site of the gas works in 1932, and a new Youth Centre behind the War Memorial in 1939. After that date, the Memorial stood approximately in the centre of gardens in front of the new Youth Centre, but no traces of it can be found today. Photographs taken around the time of its erection show open fields to the rear that would later provide land for private housing in the Exeter Road area.

The unveiling of the War Memorial took place at a ceremony on Sunday, 14 November 1926, which because of the General Strike, had had to be postponed from 14 May earlier in the year. It was eight years after Armistice Day, and the relatively long delay can be explained by the fact that Scunthorpe’s War Memorial was originally intended to be a new hospital. The local newspaper report describing the ceremony, commented;

Although, ever since the cessation of hostilities, a new general hospital with up-to-date equipment has been talked about, and will, it is is hoped, eventually be erected as the War Memorial of Scunthorpe and district, local ex-Servicemen felt that Scunthorpe should also have a similar memorial to those erected in thousands of English towns and villages.¹

A new hospital to replace Frodgingham Cottage Hospital had been proposed as early as 1897, and the idea was again publicly discussed in 1918. Harold Dudley writing in 1931, noted that;

About the year 1918 the question was re-opened, the proposal being that the Hospital should take the form of the town’s War Memorial, and the idea was eagerly adopted. An influential committee of local people under the chairmanship of Mr W. J. Brooke has spared no pains to make the hospital a memorial worthy to commemorate those who gave their lives in the defence of the Country.²

Fig. 1: Scunthorpe & District War Memorial at its original site on Doncaster Road.

The foundation stone of the new hospital was eventually laid by Lord Buckland of Bwelch on 13 October 1927 on land bequeathed by the Winn family to the
south of present day Cliff Gardens. Cost of construction amounted to £65,000 and it was formally opened and named 'Scunthorpe & District War Memorial Hospital' by Mr. Talbot Cliff JP, on 5 December 1929. It was renamed 'Scunthorpe General Hospital' in the early 1970s, but the original idea of a War Memorial for Scunthorpe has been perpetuated in a War Memorial Wing.

The fine Memorial is 18' 6" in height and at the unveiling stood on three concrete steps with a base of Portland stone, and a pedestal in Aberdeen granite. (The two lowest concrete steps have since been converted into flower beds however). The figure of a soldier and a sailor holding a standard was carved in Sicilian marble by an unknown sculptor, and was apparently bought 'off the peg' from Italy. Certainly, it is the same figure and design of at least one other Memorial in Britain that belonged to the town of Cannock near Wolverhampton, which was unveiled in May 1923. It was erected by the Scunthorpe monumental mason's firm of A. E. Walkers at a cost of £696 18s., and his name is carved in small letters on one of the concrete steps.

The inscription on the front of the Memorial reads 'Our glorious dead, 1914-1918, 1939-1945', in gold lettering and on one of the sides, 'To the immortal memory of those from the ironstone area who gave their lives for their Country'. In the Lincolnshire Star article describing the unveiling ceremony, this was reported slightly differently as 'To the immortal memory of the men of the ironstone area who gave their lives for us in the Great War', so presumably it was altered at some point after the Second World War. The inscription on the third side is, 'Britain writes their Epitaph—they died that we might live' and on the rear, 'If ye break faith with us who die, we shall not sleep though poppies grow on Flanders fields.' The last three inscriptions are all carved in black letters. There are also two mouldings on the front of the pedestal, one representing a wreath and the other a lion, but unlike the Memorial in Cannock, no names are commemorated on it. At its original site, the Memorial was surrounded by a chain attached to fourteen posts of Portland stone, and an oak entrance gate, made and presented by Coun. George LeFley, who was a cabinet maker by profession.

Scunthorpe's War Memorial was unveiled with great ceremony by General Sir Ian Hamilton GCB, GCMG, DSO after a long procession through the town from Church Square outside St John's Church. Sir Ian Hamilton is probably best known as the commander of the ill-fated Dardanelles expedition during the Great War, but this had been preceded by a long and distinguished military career which began in 1873. By this time he had retired from military service.

The procession consisted of local dignitaries, ex-servicemen, members of the British Legion, police, firemen, representatives from other local organisations, and a large number of wives and mothers of the deceased. At its head was a posse of police and the British Legion Band, and there were also two other bands; the Ashby Institute and the Salvation Army Band. Chief among the notables was Sir Berkeley Sheffield Bart., the Member of Parliament for the area, who had himself unveiled both Crosby War Memorial in 1923, and Ashby War Memorial on 31 May the previous year. Sir Ian Hamilton was entertained at Normanby Hall by Sir Berkeley and Lady Sheffield during his visit, and an estimated eight thousand spectators came out to take part in the unveiling ceremony, which must have been a very poignant and memorable occasion.

On arrival at the Memorial, Sir Ian was formally welcomed to the town by the Chairman of the local Council, Coun. J. Nuttall, after which followed the singing of the hymn, 'O God our help in ages past', a prayer, and the reading of a portion of scripture. Sir Berkeley Sheffield then asked Sir Ian to unveil the Memorial, and after a lengthy speech, he concluded with the words: 'And now to the glory of God, and in the memory of your heroes of Scunthorpe, I unveil this memorial.' Then followed the dedicatory prayer, two minutes silence and the playing of the 'Last Post'. The hymn 'For all the saints' came next, then the reading of a financial statement, and the singing of 'Soldiers rest' by Scunthorpe Male Voice Choir. A vote of thanks was proposed to Sir Ian, followed by the benediction, the sounding of the Reveille and finally the National Anthem.

Unlike many War Memorials no names were, or have been carved on Scunthorpe's Memorial. The reason for this may have been financial, as there was still £400 outstanding to the cost of the Memorial when it was unveiled, and in the event no formal Roll of Honour of servicemen from the Parish of Scunthorpe for either of the two World Wars was ever erected; (apart from that is, a small plaque listing six Second World War servicemen in St John's Church, which commemorates men specifically connected with that church). A printed Roll of Honour compiled by Mr. W. S. Liddell was however
published in 1917 by Scunthorpe U.D.C. It cost 8d. and
lists 1,077 men from Scunthorpe who had been, or were
serving in the Armed Forces, the purpose being to raise
money for, ‘some Soldiers & Sailors’ Fund, decided
upon by Scunthorpe Urban District Council’.6

In fact after the first conflict, there was no co-ordinated
attempt to honour the fallen in the Scunthorpe area as a
whole, with the result that the town contains an assort-
ment of different Memorials and Rolls of Honour. To
some extent, this reflects the general confusion sur-
rounding the construction of War Memorials that ex-
isted throughout Britain in the 1920s, as well as illus-
trating the characteristic independence of outlook of the
five villages which formed the Borough of Scunthorpe.
Thus, the provision of Memorials resulted from indi-
vidual efforts in each of the parishes within Scunthorpe &
Frod ingham Urban District, namely; Ashby, Crosby,
Frod ingham and Scunthorpe. The odd one out, the
village of Brumby, was at this time part of the ecclesi-
astical parish of Frodingham.

In Ashby, a new memorial carved with the names of 63
local men was unveiled on 31 May 1925 on a site to the
south of the junction of Ashby Road and Ashby High
Street known as ‘Ashby Turn’. In addition to this, the
altar in St Paul’s Church was dedicated to the memory
of Ashby men who fell in the Great War when the new
church was consecrated in 1925, and their names are
commemorated on a wooden plaque on the wall of the
North aisle. It was to here that the Memorial was moved
in 1963, to a site adjacent to Ashby High Street in the
grounds of the Church.

In Crosby there is a beautifully carved figure of an angel
in the playground of Crosby Primary School which was
originally intended to commemorate pupils from the
school who lost their lives in the Great War, but which
also contains the names of other servicemen from the
Parish. It was unveiled on 19 May 1923, and like the
Scunthorpe Memorial, it was erected by A. E. Walters,
who had premises on Frodingham Road.

Frod ingham on the other hand has no outdoor Memo-
rial, but there is an extremely well designed Roll of
Honour in St. Lawrence’s Church which com-
memorates all the men from the parishes of Frodingham
and Brumby in addition to ‘a few others who were espe-
cially connected with Frodingham Church’. It was the
creation of the architect, Sir Charles Nicholson, who
was responsible for the reconstruction of the church in
1913, and it was erected by Mr H. Spilman of
Scunthorpe.7

And so, by the Summer of 1925, there was a War
Memorial and Roll of Honour in Ashby, one in Crosby
which includes the names of all the men who died from
that parish, and a very dignified new Roll of Honour in
St. Lawrence’s Church, Frodingham, which was unvel-
ied by the Earl of Yarborough on 18 September
1921. This was described in the ‘Order of Service of the
Unveiling’ as the ‘Parish War Memorial’, and it also
included the names of men from Brumby. It is not
surprising therefore, that relatives and ex-servicemen
from the Parish of Scunthorpe should also want their
own War Memorial. Mr E. Burgess, Chairman of the
War Memorial Committee summed up the feeling in a
letter to the Lincolnshire Star in June 1925.8

Although everyone is in sympathy with the Memorial
Hospital Scheme, it is in response to persistent enquiries
of the relatives of the fallen that the War Memorial
Committee is proceeding with the scheme whereby some
suitable memorial to commemorate the great sacrifices
made by the men of this district will be provided. The
Scunthorpe Branch of the British Legion has joined hands
with the Committee, and the memorial has already been
ordered.

He continued;

By the time this letter appears every household in the
district will be in possession of a short appeal, and an
envelope in which to place donations, and it is earnestly
hoped that everyone will try to subscribe, if only a trifle,
to ensure that the memorial, already too long delayed will
be worthy of the district.

In addition to the four main Memorials, several other
significant Memorials were erected in the town after the
First World War, and these included a Roll of Honour
in Brumby & Frodingham Workingmen’s Club on
Cottage Beck Road commemorating members of that
club, Memorial Windows in Ashby Wesleyan Method-
ist Chapel which commemorate twenty seven members
of the congregation, a Memorial in Scunthorpe Congre-
gational Church erected for similar reasons, and a
bronze plaque honouring employees of Lysaght’s
Scunthorpe Works who died for their country. This has
since been repositioned on a wall at the front of
Scunthorpe Museum, opposite Scunthorpe War Mem-
orial on its present day site. Another Roll of Honour
dedicated to employees of Lysaght’s Steelworks from
both World Wars stands in the former Works social
club known as the ‘Foxhills Institute’, but this may have
been new to the club when it was opened on 12 November 1956. A new marble sanctuary floor in St. John's Church was also 'laid by public subscription in honoured memory of those parishioners who made the Great Sacrifice in the European War 1914-1918'.

Moving on slightly, Scunthorpe's first ever official Royal visit, was by the Prince George, one of King George V's sons, on 26 October 1933. The main reason for his coming was to open the Scunthorpe section of the Doncaster-Grimsby trunk road, which he named 'Kingsway' and 'Queensway', and also a new nurses' home at the War Memorial Hospital. During the day, he made an unexpected visit to the War Memorial where he laid a wreath of poppies. As the Duke of Kent, Prince George's marriage to Princess Marina of Greece was the Society wedding of 1934, but his life ended tragically in a place crash during the Second World War.

Another important visitor during the inter-War period, was Edward George Villiers, the 17th Earl of Derby, who came to the town on 10 October 1936, to present the Borough Charter of Incorporation on behalf of King Edward VIII. This took place at a ceremony at the Old Show Ground, and during that historic day he laid a wreath at the War Memorial which was situated just opposite the scene of the festivities on the other side of Doncaster Road (Fig. 2). His friend Sir Berkeley Sheffield received the Borough Charter as the Charter Mayor of Scunthorpe. Lord Derby was closely involved in the running of the First World War, first as the Director-General of Recruiting, during which time he introduced conscription, and then as the Minister of War under Lloyd George. His final wartime appointment was as Britain's ambassador in Paris.

After the Second World War, Memorials were erected in much the same way as they had been after the first conflict. Thus in Ashby a new brass plaque was commissioned and placed beside the altar in St Paul's Church, but because of lack of space, these new names could not be added to the existing Memorial. The list contains a single woman's name. In Frodingham, the Roll of Honour in St Lawrence's Church was doubled in size with the addition of a new section in the same style as the original Roll commemorating victims of the Second World War. There were however, no new Memorials or additions to the existing one in Crosby, and has already been mentioned, nor were there any new Rolls of Honour in Scunthorpe. Smaller Memorials included one commemorating two names in the General Post Office, and another in the Westminster Bank with just one name.

![Fig. 2: Lord Derby lays a wreath at the Memorial watched by Sir Berkeley Sheffield on Scunthorpe's Charter Day, 10 October 1936.](image)
The next significant date in the history of the Scunthorpe War Memorial was 23 June 1955, when it was moved to its present site on Oswald Road opposite the main entrance to Scunthorpe Museum and Art Gallery (Fig. 3). Mr A. E. Walters was once again in charge of operations, (he had erected it in 1926), and it took seven hours to complete with the help of a crane borrowed from Orthostyle Limited. It was only then, 10 years after the Second World War, that '1939-1945', were added in matching gold letters, in addition to a winged bronze plaque on the pedestal to represent the Royal Air Force. Many Scunthorpe men had served in the Royal Air Force during World War II, emphasising its long association with the County of Lincolnshire. And there it has stood ever since, not withstanding a suggestion mooted in 1991 to move it to a new site close to Scunthorpe Civic Centre.

In 1992, a new Roll of Honour was unveiled on a wall opposite the Memorial at the front of the Museum, and this brings together all the names of men and women from Scunthorpe who died in conflicts from the First World War onwards. There are 749 names on the List including 442 from the First World War and 301 from the Second. These figures highlight the awful carnage of the 1914-18 War; in 1914 the population of Scunthorpe was less than half it was to become in 1939. One name does not appear however, that of John 'Jack' Cunningham, Scunthorpe's only recipient of the Victoria Cross. He won the award on 13 November 1916 for 'conspicuous bravery and resource during operations' whilst serving with the East Yorkshire Regiment, and survived the War.

At the unveiling ceremony in 1926, Scunthorpe's War Memorial was officially named 'Scunthorpe & District War Memorial', and over the years its role has steadily changed to become that of the main War Memorial for the whole of the Borough. Indeed, it is sometimes referred to in Scunthorpe as the 'Cenotaph'. Surrounded by pleasant gardens, and in close proximity to St Lawrence's Church, it stands today as an impressive and dignified Memorial to the brave men and women of Scunthorpe who sacrificed everything in the Service of their Country.

Notes:
1. The Lincolnshire Star, (hereafter L.S.), November 1926.
4. L.S., November 1926.
5. 'Scunthorpe & District War Memorial. Order of service of the unveiling and dedication of the War Memorial', 14 November 1926.
6. Scunthorpe Urban District Council, 'Roll of Honour, August 1914 to October 1917.'
7. 'Parish of S. Lawrence Frodingham. Order of Service to be used at the Unveiling of the Parish War Memorial', 18 September 1921.
8. L.S., 6 June 1925.
AN AMERICAN DREAM

The following article by ‘Hulda’ is certainly a curiosity. It is reprinted (with the silent correction of one error of fact) from *The Black Swan*, 1, no. 9 (November 1927), pp. 8-9. Perhaps some readers will be able to provide more information on ‘Somersby House’ and Windsor Farms in Virginia. The two illustrations accompanying the original article are also reproduced. [C.S.]:

Atmosphere, that intangible something which lurks in old houses and enriches the charm of a few, fortunate cities, is being rapidly gained in the little English village which nestles on the banks of the James at Windsor Farms. The community is attractive for many reasons, but unique because of its unusual homes, some of them ancient houses transported bodily from other sites, and some of them replicas of famous places.

The latest home to add decided charm to Windsor Farms is that of Mr. and Mrs. T. Kirkpatrick Parrish.

The exterior of this is a replica of ‘Somersby House’, the birthplace of Lord Tennyson, in the little village of Somersby, Lincolnshire, England. Mr. and Mrs. Parrish’s house is erected on Clovelly Road, from which there is a magnificent view of the river.

The story of how Mr. and Mrs. Parrish chose Tennyson’s birthplace as a model for their home is an interesting one. While in England two years ago they decided to visit Mrs. Parrish’s ancestral home, ‘Scrivelsby’, the home of the Dymocks, located about seven miles from ‘Somersby House’. This, since the time of William the Conqueror, has been the home of the ‘King’s Champions’, or ‘Champions of England’, a once extremely picturesque office which still carries with it the right and duty to challenge for the king. ‘Scrivelsby’ is noted, also, as the original of Tennyson’s ‘Locksley Hall’, and there is a very interesting story, said to be more authentic than a legend, which connects him in a romantic fashion with this home of the ‘Champions of England’.

It is said that Tennyson once loved one of the Dymock ladies, and that she jilted him. Afterwards, when he became famous as a poet, she, doubtless regretting her lack of foresight, attempted to mend the mistake of former days. Whatever reply the poet made, privately, to her is not known, but he publicly replied in his poem, ‘Lady Clara Vere de Vere’ in this fashion: ‘The lion on your old stone gate is not more cold to you than I’. The old, stone gate guarded by a life-size lion, is one of the most magnificent features at ‘Scrivelsby’. Tennyson again refers to it in ‘Locksley Hall Sixty Years After’, when he
writes 'Here is Locksley Hall, my grandson, here the lion-guarded gate.'

It is no small wonder, then, that having seen this home where Tennyson had often been a guest, where, as a lad, he had played under the spreading oaks, Mr and Mrs Parrish should want to journey but seven miles away to 'Somersby House'. Once having seen it they became so enamoured of its quaintness that they decided to reproduce its exterior if they ever built, not dreaming that they would have such a perfect setting for it as Windsor Farms.

The exterior of the 'Somersby House' in Windsor Farms is, judging from photographs, a faithful reproduction of the original. The river ward side is, fittingly, the most beautiful. Here are the high, Gothic windows, which, in the original 'Somersby' opened from the part of the house first used as a private chapel. The glass for these windows in the Parrish's home will be ancient glass.

The new 'Somersby,' like the old, is built of brick, which is white-washed. It is remarkable to see how this simple treatment gives an effect of quaintness and age. The roof is one of the special features of the house. It is tile, an exact reproduction of the original, and was secured, after much searching, from a company in Denver, Colorado. Mr R. E. Piper, of Piper Roofing Company, says that it is the only one in Virginia.

The interior of the house, while not a reproduction of 'Somersby', is very lovely. The living room, from which one looks through the Gothic windows at the broad sweep of the James, has a reproduction of the fine, old, stone chimney-piece in this room of the original 'Somersby'. It has, too, a Gothic ceiling, and recessed casements. One steps from the music room down several fan-shaped steps to enter this room. The stairs are also quaint and unusual. The house has a number of spacious rooms, practically all of them with views of the river. The walls are attractively colored and there are such modern necessities as green, lavender and yellow, and pink and blue tiled bathrooms.

The surroundings of this new 'Somersby' will be lovely and suitable. Mrs. Parrish was particularly impressed at the original 'Somersby House' with the arrangement of the shrubs and flowers about the house, and expects to use the same plan on her grounds. Eventually, too, she hopes to reproduce the flower and vegetable garden at 'Somersby', which she says were the most beautiful Old World gardens she saw while abroad.

Windsor Farms, as an English village, would not be complete without some reference to Tennyson. Mr and Mrs Parrish have certainly supplied this in a rare and lovely fashion in the new 'Somersby House'.

AN ECHO OF THE 'FORTY-FIVE'

As we rightly commemorate events fifty years ago, it is easy to overlook the fact that this year also marks the 250th anniversary of the Jacobite rebellion. The following 'legend' relating to Maidenwell near Louth certainly deserves retelling. The version printed here is edited from Terence Leach's excursion notes compiled for the Society's visit to Farforth-cum-Maidenwell in 1981 (C.S.)

By far the most interesting story relating to Maidenwell is that of a supposed visit by Prince Charles Edward Stuart. This is recorded in *Lincolnshire Notes & Queries* V. XXIV (1936), p. 46 and *The Local Historian* 18 (1938), p. 1. The story was told to John Lewis Flytche of Thorpe Hall in 1846 by Mrs. Allenby of Maidenwell Hall. The prince was said to have been guided from his landing place at Theddlethorpe by a fisherman called Grimes. He was taken to Maidenwell Hall, the home of a Roman Catholic, Mr Moseley.

Flytche's account continues:

In the evening was a dance & there not being a due proportion of Ladies fair the Prince requested that the House-maiden might be sent for and he would dance with her. When she was assisting her mistress to unrobe for the night, says she, 'Missus, my fortune's made.' 'How so?'
"The Pretender is in the house." 'Foolish maiden, why think'st thou this.' "I saw the mark on his hand mentioned in the Government proclamation." The prince was smuggled away in the night & went to Lincoln while (she) was rapt in blissful dreams of good fortune. On his return to the Continent he mentioned to his Partisans that he had been to Lincolnshire, which they believed not and considered a joke until he mentioned the breaking of a chandelier at the Lincoln ball, which on writing to Lincoln they found actually occurred at the Ball.

A version of the story published in Notes and Queries (1871), p. 548, by E.S.D. said that the writer's grandfather knew the man who helped the prince land at Saltfleetby, and he (E.S.D.) possessed the sky blue ribbon of the Order of the Garter left by the pretender at Maidenwell and handed down in his family.

The story found its way into popular literature in 1876, when an anonymous author, in the Christmas Supplement to Miss Younge's Monthly Packet, contributed the story of the 'Rose of Linwood'. Her heroine, Temperance Bury, a member of the Bury family of Linwood Grange in Blankney, visits the Moseleys at Maidenwell while the Pretender is in hiding there in 1747, and goes with them to a Christmas ball at Louth. The Prince is recognised at the ball and she is forced to keep a promise, made in ignorance, and take him in her coach to escape to Mablethorpe, the journey being made through winter storms. It was apparently believed that Michael Moseley was a Lancashire Jacobite who escaped from prison after the Battle of Preston in 1715, went to France, came back to England and settled at Maidenwell under another name. His daughter Anne was buried in Farforth church in 1742.

Canon P. B. G. Binnall, writing in The Lincolnshire Historian No. 4 (1949) says 'Compton Mackenzie records what may be the correct version and anyhow appears to be a variant of this legend, according to which it was Sir Oswald Moseley of Ancoats Hall, near Manchester, where the Prince visited.' It is perhaps no more than coincidence that very close to Maidenwell is South Ormsby, the home of William Massingberd, High Sheriff of Lincolnshire in 1744/5, who went to meet the Prince of Derby in December 1745. He was sent home with a miniature of the Pretender.

It is unlikely that the truth of the matter can now be established. More than a hundred years separates the supposed visit to Maidenwell and Mrs Allenby's telling of the story of the Fytyche. It would be interesting to know when the Moseley family left Maidenwell, or died out, and when the Allenby family arrived there. It would also be interesting to know who 'E.S.D.' was, and whether there was a family at Theddlethorpe called Grimes. If a piece of Garter ribbon had been preserved as a relic until at least the late nineteenth century, it may well exist.

**FIRST AID AT THE SEASIDE**

_Winston Kine_

Nowadays, even small seaside resorts usually have lifebelts and a first-aid post to meet eventualities, but a century ago many quite large holiday towns were deficient in this respect. Skegness, with a resident population in 1881 of under one and a half thousand, was singularly fortunate, thanks to the public spirited enterprise of a medical practitioner in the area.

Doctor John Thimbleby resided and practised in Spilsby (thirteen miles to the west), but he spent a lot of his leisure time walking along the sands and enjoying the sea breezes at Skegness. As a dedicated medical man he recognised more than most the dangers inherent in sea-bathing, especially to those with little knowledge of the tides.

In the absence of any move by the authorities to mitigate the dangers, Dr Thimbleby took it upon himself to do something. He obtained permission from the lord of the manor to site an old bathing-machine on the beach and stock it with life-saving equipment and first-aid accessories. The year was 1873, when the Earl of Scarbrough, the chief local landowner, was just beginning to put into effect his ambitious plan of transforming the small bathing village into a fully fledged watering place.

It was not practical to man the rescue and first-aid post all the time, but the doctor supplied the local constable with a key and certain other responsible persons were authorised to break in at any time to meet an emergency. The equipment was that recommended by the Royal
Humane Society for saving life, viz., a life line thirty yards long with three floats, tubes for inflating lungs, a pump for withdrawing water from the stomach, two hair rugs for friction and a powerful lamp which would heat water in five minutes. A wall sheet provided instructions and illustrations as to how the equipment should be used. Splints, bandages and other small items were kept in a cupboard.\(^1\)

We have no record of how frequently the facility was called upon, but it appears to have been much appreciated and when the powers-that-be took steps to have the van removed there was an immediate outcry.

The rescue post had been operating for three summers when the Spilsby Sanitary Authority decided that it contravened certain regulations and they requested its immediate removal, although offering nothing in its place. Doctor Thimbleby dug his heels in and refused to budge, even when two summonses had been served ‘under pain of a fine or imprisonment’. He said he was prepared to accept the punishment rather than take action.

He received unanimous public support and, on 21 January 1881, the Boston Guardian reported that ‘in consideration of the age and humane character of Dr Thimbleby’, the senior officer of Spilsby Sanitary Authority, a Mr T. E. Butcher, had ‘condescended’ to recommend that body to withdraw the summonses. The newspaper commented:

We cannot understand how the presence of this van can possibly be considered detrimental to life and health... Surety, the person who provides all these appliances to aid the general public... deserves the thanks of a public authority rather than its censure and punishment for a supposed technical irregularity. The action in the first instance savours of most distasteful officiousness.

Doctor Thimbleby’s creation continued to give useful service for some time, serving a growing number of visitors each summer.

John Thimbleby was the younger brother of Spilsby solicitor Thomas Thimbleby, and after qualifying in London, he returned to Spilsby about 1847 to share the long established medical practice of Doctor Thomas Collins Barker. Doctor Thimbleby lived at Drummond House, on the north side of the market place, opposite the Buttercross, and died in 1898, aged eighty.\(^2\)

Notes
1 Boston Guardian, 21 January 1881.

LINCOLNSHIRE’S CONTRIBUTION TO UPPER-AIR INVESTIGATIONS

R. W. Phillips

During the nineteenth century, when gentlemen took an interest in science, ways of measuring temperature above the ground had to be found. Present day methods use radio transmitters and satellite navigation aids. During the 1920s and '30s balloons with recording instruments were used, but these had to be retrieved so that the charts could be analysed. Upper winds were calculated using free flying balloons, theodolites and trigonometry; and required a cloud-free sky!

None of these methods were available in the nineteenth century. Hence in 1881 the Council of the Meteorological Society decided to undertake a series of experiments, which, they hoped, would go some way to answering various questions on the state of the atmosphere. These questions were, amongst others: How rapidly did temperature fall with height; What was the rate of ascension of vapour; the height of cloud; and Variation of wind speed with height?

The vicar of Boston, the Rev. Canon Blenkin, was approached, as Boston ‘Stump’ was considered an ideal site as it was 270 feet high, isolated, free from any obstructions and surrounded by flat country.

The Meteorological Society had undertaken a series of trials around 1870 to find a method of shielding thermometers and had come to the conclusion that a specially designed box with louvres was the best available. This became known as a Stevenson Screen.
An electrical thermometer, recently devised by Dr (later Sir) William Siemens, was placed in a small screen, together with an ordinary thermometer, and fixed to one of the pinnacles of the tower. On the roof of the belfry a second, larger screen, was fixed which contained a maximum and a minimum thermometer together with a wet and dry bulb thermometer. In the churchyard a second large screen containing a similar set of thermometers was also erected and was to be used as a comparison for the higher set.

The experiment required simultaneous readings of the electrical thermometer at the top of the tower with the dry bulb thermometer in the churchyard. These were made at frequent intervals during the day by the verger, Mr E. C. Hackford. Mr Hackford had started recording rainfall amounts on the top of the tower (the highest then observed), and it was suggested that he was ideally suited to undertake the task.

Four years later, in 1886, the experiment was repeated. This time permission was obtained from the Dean and Chapter of Lincoln Cathedral. The Cathedral was considered ideal in that the south-east pinnacle rises to a height of 300 feet above ground and is 500 feet above sea level. It was not possible to put the large screen near the base of the tower and therefore it was placed in the garden of Henry Mantle of Northgate. The garden was located in the angle made by the junction of Nettleham Road and Northgate and Mr Mantle undertook the frequent observations required.

The Census return for 1891 shows Henry Mantle as being a schoolmaster, married aged thirty-five and employed at Northgate School. This was a preparatory school and was the Cathedral Choir School, although it was privately run, and owned, by Henry Mantle. One gets the impression that, when the experiment was undertaken, Mr Mantle was young and keen!

Dr Siemens’s electrical thermometer was probably the first of its kind to be used in such a situation and was also probably the ancestor of the distant reading thermometers found in most meteorological observing offices throughout the UK. Similarly, the Stevenson screen is the standard thermometerscreen for the Meteorological Office today.

Results obtained from these experiments have been impossible to find, residing probably within either the National Meteorological Library or within the Archives of the Royal Meteorological Society. Wherever they are, the student of meteorological history may find them interesting.

LAYING THE FOUNDATION STONE OF LOUTH RAILWAY STATION

On 8 July 1847 the foundation stone of this building (see cover illustration) was ceremoniously laid. What follows is an account of this event to be found in the Lincolnshire Chronicle dated 16 July 1847 (that in the Stamford Mercury of the same date is, in comparison, relatively brief):

Thursday the 8th inst. being appointed for the depositing of the first stone of the foundation of this building by Miss Pye, of Louth, and the weather proving propitious, at about one o’clock persons of all grades began to move towards the station-ground to witness the interesting ceremony, and until about two the crowd continued to increase, when Mr Pye’s carriage, with several others, arrived, containing many elegantly dressed ladies, who were received by the secretary and engineer to the railway company, and conducted to the immediate vicinity of the foundation. The arrangements on the occasion, which had been effected under the skilful superintendence of Mr John Dales, builder of this place, seemed to constitute the principal object of interest, and received the entire approval of the assembled many. After Mr. Kirk, the original contractor for the building of the stations on the line, had announced the completion of the preparations for the ceremony, Miss Pye, leaning on the arm of her father, accompanied by Mrs J. H. Short, descended a flight of steps leading into the trench, when Miss Pye gracefully handled a handsome trowel, newly-prepared for the occasion, and having distributed mortar along the foundation, the stone was lowered into its resting-place, and received from Miss Pye the adjusting taps of an elegant mahogany mallet, after which three hearty cheers were given.

Mr Pye then delivered a speech to the following effect—

"I thank you, my kind friends, for the unanimous and hearty manner in which you have responded to my request, and I will now venture to trespass a little further upon your good feelings by inviting you to unite with me in earnestly supplicating the Great Architect of the Universe that His blessing may not only attend this first public act of our young friend, but every subsequent stage of the erection of the super-structure about to be raised on this spot. Hitherto, I believe this railway has had fewer diffi-
cultivates to contend with than any other on record; but should any at a more advanced state of the works occur, we have the satisfaction of knowing that we are in the hands of engineers whose talents and practical knowledge will speedily overcome them. Indeed, what may appear difficulties to us, would to such men prove mere matters of amusement: but whatever unforeseen difficulties may present themselves - whatever may be the purposes to which this intended building may be designed - or whoever may be the parties appointed to carry out the intention of the directors in reference to it - I trust we and all may ever bear in mind, however rapid may be the strides of science and general knowledge, but very little can be effected without the aid of God. Let us hope, therefore, that He may be acknowledged in all our ways, and that everything may be done and said so as to promote His honour and glory, for it is then, and only then, in the language of the Psalmist, that we can expect that God, even our own God, will give us His blessing; which, that He may do of His infinite mercy and goodness, let us sincerely pray, in the name of His Son, our Saviour, Jesus Christ. Amen.”

After the ceremony, upwards of sixty of the principal individuals of the assembly adjourned to the booth erected on the ground, and partook of the fruit, wine and other good things there provided. Amongst the company present we noticed the Hon. and Rev. Henry Annesley Gure, the Rev. W. Smyth, Miss F. and Miss E. Smyth, Mr and Mrs J. H. Short, Miss Elmhirst, Mr., Mrs., and Miss Alington Pye, Mrs. Emerio, Miss F. Cooper, Miss Gordon, Mr., Mrs., and Miss Denniston, Mr. and Mrs. H. Orme, Mr. C. Orme, Mr. and Mrs. Philbrick, Mr. and Mrs. Jas. Wilson, the Rev. J. Tidmore and J. D. Waite, Mrs. Bourne, Mr. and Mrs. C. Lucas, and several other distinguished families of the town and neighbourhood. In the evening, a dinner party, comprising some of the officials and others, was entertained at the King’s Head Hotel.

It ought to be added by way of a postscript that Miss Charlotte Alington Pye (1830–1869) became one of the more celebrated of Victorian song-writers, “Claribel”. Readers interested in her life should consult The Story of Claribel by the late Phyllis Smithassisted by Margaret Godsmark (Lincoln, 1965). The engraved silver trowel used on the occasion - the date suggests the ceremony was originally planned over a week later - is in Louth Museum (Fig. 1) and is reproduced by courtesy of the Louth Naturalists’, Antiquarian and Literary Society). The lower face has the following inscription: ‘George Hussey Packe Esquire Chairman of the Board of Directors / John Fowler Esquire Engineer in Chief / Henry Fowler Esquire Resident Engineer / Weighting & Hadfield Architects / Messrs Burchell Kilgrew & Parson of London Messrs Holway & Harwood of Spilsby Messrs Pye & Waite of Louth William Heaford Dauncey Esquire of Great Grimsby John Denniston Esquire Solicitors.’ [C.S.]

**Fig. 1.** Upper face of trowel: ‘EAST LINCOLNSHIRE RAILWAY / Louth Station / The first Stone laid by Miss Pye Daughter of Henry Pye Esquire of Louth July 19th 1847.’ (Photograph: C. L. Birchmore).
NOTES AND QUERIES

As always we hope readers will reply through the pages of this magazine, and therefore we do not always give the address of the enquirer. But be assured your information will be forwarded.

21.1 ANIMAL BONE FLOORS. The article on the Sutton Bridge floor (Lincolnshire Past & Present, 17, p.21 and 20, p.17) continues to produce feedback.

To start with, some of us have egg on our faces for not having read George Ewart Evans' book, The Pattern Under the Plough (1966). A reader has drawn attention to what he has to say (pp.200-01) on the subject in connection with horse bones! Evans quotes a writer called Lambert, whose half-timbered house was demolished to reveal a bone layer underneath the sand floor of the medieval hall, possibly to give a firm base. [Query did they normally have sand over, or has it been removed by worms? H.H.] He also quotes C. F. Innocent in The Development of English Building Construction (Cambridge, 1916) facing p.159:

... a 17th century house - now destroyed - in Broad Street, Oxford with a floor of trotter [pig] bones tricked out in whimsical patterns, the practice undoubtedly the reason why floors in minor 'follies' such as bizarre summer houses have been laboriously built up or patterned with horse teeth.

Edwin Rose (Records Officer, Norfolk Landscape Archaeology) comments, 'We have no examples of cock fighting floors made of knuckle bones in Norfolk, but it was fashionable to make garden houses with such floors in the eighteenth and nineteenth century. One of the best examples is The Hermitage at Bicton in south Devon, where the floor is composed of deer knuckle bones. In Norfolk a folly at Crimplesham has a mosaic floor of horse's teeth. So such floors may derive from garden buildings.'

So can we allow that the Sutton Bridge floor was just a summer house and not necessarily a cock-pit!

Reader Chris Shepherd of Bassingham informs us of a bone floor beneath the floor of a medieval house at Romsey, Hants. He reports continuing archaeological work on the site, which goes back to c.1250. The bone surfacing of the ground floor was put in place between the seventeenth and the end of the eighteenth century.

Bones used were mainly cattle with some horse and sheep bones used for the filling. They are thought to have come from a local tannery (a major industry in the area at the time). Only a small portion now remains, but it appears that the whole area was at one time covered. It is also believed that at the time it was laid the ground floor and present garden area was in use by a blacksmith.

21.2. LINCOLNSHIRE BOOKPLATES (Lincolnshire Past & Present, 15, p.7). An unexpected bookplate passed through my hands recently (a member may even have bought it in a recent book sale!) This belonged to Kesteven and Sleaford Girls' School, and the design is signed 'G.S. 1925'. The school library was clearly still using the same design into the 1940s when the book (one of the Britain in Pictures series) was bought, and it had been partly covered by a more recent bar code label. Many books in this quite collectable series are now being sold off by schools; no doubt their collectors' value is not yet enough to compensate for their shelf space! (H. Healey).
21.3. SALTLEETBY ST CLEMENTS RECTORY. Does any reader have information on this former Rectory? Anything would be appreciated relating to pastRectors and their families, other clerical connections, garden parties, the building itself. The present house is of Georgian date, but no doubt there were earlier dwellings. (D. M. Moncaster)

21.4. LINCOLNSHIRE ANNIVERSARIES. In response to our request Mr J. Peppard of Norwich sent a staggering and impressive list of anniversaries in 1995. Sadly there is not room for it all, and it is a matter of some disappointment that we are unlikely to receive contributions on most of them! A copy will be sent on receipt of an s.a.e. (A5 or A4) to anyone interested - we still have one more issue, but this one has had to be advanced unexpectedly.

21.5. LINCOLN RED SOCIETY. This year is the centenary of this Society, and a number of special events have been held. There seems no danger of the breed dying out. What a pity the Lincolnshire Curly

Coated Pig did not have any champions at the end. This editor remembers there was still a class for them at the County Show when it was held at Swineshead Abbey (in its peripatetic days) in the 1950s!

21.6. THE DAY OF JUDGEMENT IS NIGH (Lincolnshire Past & Present, 20, p. 18). Edwin Rose (see above) informs us he is not surprised Dr Kettridge has been unable to equate Gainsbury with Gainsborough or confirm the names of the churchwardens, for it is probable that the whole broadsheet is a complete fiction. It is noteworthy that it was published in Exeter, a long way from Lincolnshire in 1819. The paragraph about the King of France is heavily dependent upon a passage in the Book of Daniel. These fictitious religious broadsheets are found from time to time and were even current in this century; one that circulated in the 1960s claimed that a computer at a research establishment in America had proved that the sun stood still for Joshua, but upon examination the signatories proved to be fictitious.

FACES AND PLACES

MANOR HOUSES AT BASSINGHAM. Recent excavations by APS (the contracting arm of HeritageLincolnshire) have unearthed remains of a manor house at Bassingham, close beside the river Witham. The stone footings, which show several phases of a basic rectangular building, are associated with pottery from the thirteenth century onwards. One of the early maps of Bassingham, dated 1657, shows this manor house and a probable barn on the site. No barn has been uncovered (the site was not totally excavated), but foundations of a circular dovecote were; the site overlooks the river and a broad pool where it widened. The pool is gone, partly because of the need for modern flood defense banks, but there is still a lane called Hall Water Lane [Wath means a ford] leading down to the river, and where the ford may have been is a small area of stepping stones which can be seen at low water, and creates a little weir. The excavation also revealed evidence of Roman occupation and burial not previously known about. This is surely the first excavation of a small manor house of this kind in Lincolnshire; there would have been many such houses around, and we know almost nothing of their form, their buildings or their gardens, since most are not large enough, nor their owners prosperous enough, for any documentation to have survived.

SUSANNA DAVIS has recently retired from the post of Museum and Tourism Officer for South Holland District Council. The Museum occupies the splendid fifteenth century (with later alterations) brick house, Ayscoughfee Hall, Spalding, which is owned by the District Council. Susanna came to Spalding almost ten years ago and was the first appointment holding the joint posts. She has been responsible for the creation of galleries and exhibitions on drainage and agriculture, a social history section on Village Life, a history of the Hall and the Johnson family and a further display on Spalding's history. Also on display is part of the Ashley Maples Bird Collection (on loan from Spalding Gentlemen's Society), which once had its own building in Red Lion Street. Many people worry about stuffed bird collections, but they are old collections, which cannot be brought back to life, and they do provide a chance to see and study birds at close quarters. Sponsorship has been obtained for several of the display areas including the Geest Gallery for the changing exhibitions, which are usually pictorial. The Museum and its companion the Pinchbeck Marsh Drainage Engine have become popular attractions in the area and are a great credit to Susanna and to the District Council. The new officer is Susan Sladen, who has come from Humberside Museums.

[Postscript: as a totally biased museum user and fan fanatic may I express the hope that in future years a display on local archaeology will be considered?]
BOOK NOTES

Due to the changes in producing this issue of *Lincolnshire Past & Present* it has proved impossible to produce full booknotes. The following books have been received for review or have been noticed. Most of these can be obtained from the Lincolnshire Heritage Bookshop at Jews' Court.

MARY FINCH, *A Great Parish Priest*. Andrew Chrysostom Ramsay Vicar of St Botolph’s, *Lincoln 1870-91*. St Botolph’s P.C.C., 1995. ISBN 09526311 05. £2.00 + £0.50 p&p from St Botolph’s Vicarage, 84 Little Bargate Street, Lincoln (cheques payable to ‘Parochial Church Council, St Botolph’s, Lincoln’).

CHARLY FRENCH, *et al.*, *Excavation of the Deeping St Nicholas Barrow Complex, South Lincolnshire*. Heritage Lincolnshire, 1995. ISBN 0 948369 13 X. £19.95 + £1.00 p&p from The Old School, Cameron Street, Heckington, Sleaford NG34 9RW.

Grimsby’s *War Work*. South Humberside Area Archive Office, 1994. ISBN 0 9515240 6 2. £1.75 + £0.75 p&p from S.H.A.A.O., Town Hall Square, Grimsby, South Humberside DN31 1HX.


T. W. LANE, *et al.*, *The Archaeology and Developing Landscape of Ropsley and Humby, Lincolnshire*. Heritage Lincolnshire, 1995. ISBN 0 948639 14 8. £17.95 + £1.00 p&p from The Old School, Cameron Street, Heckington, Sleaford NG34 9RW.


MARGARET NEWTON, *South Kyme: The History of a Fenland Village*. Kyme Publications, 1995. ISBN 0 9524818 0 4. £6.50 + £1.00 p&p from The Old Rectory, South Kyme LN4 4AB.

OWEN T. NORTHWOOD, ed., *Call Back Yesterday. People of Lincolnshire Remember the War*. Lincolnshire Books, 1995. ISBN 1 872375 20 0. £2.95 + £1.00 p&p from Lincolnshire County Council Recreational Services Department, Newland, Lincoln LN1 1YL.

RUTH TINLEY, *Dusty Almonds*. The author, 1995. ISBN 0 9521336 1 X. £2.50 + £1.00 p&p from 16 Lincoln Road, North Hykeham, Lincoln LN6 8HE (cheques payable to ‘R. Tinley’).

COMING SHORTLY:

THE BOOK OF SLEAFORD
(the story of the town’s past in words and pictures)

by Dr. Simon Pawley.

Limited edition of numbered copies at special pre-publication offer of £16.95 (later retail price will be £17.95). P & P included.

Write with order (SEND NO CASH YET — You will be invoiced later) to:

Quotes Ltd., The Book Barn, Whittlebury, NN12 8XS

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SOUTH HUMBERSIDE AREA ARCHIVE OFFICE

The Guide to the South Humberside Area Archive Office provided for the first time a summary of all the archives held. The Guide, which was noticed in L&P (Summer 1993), is still available from the Area Archive Office, Town Hall Square, Grimsby, DN31 1HX (ISBN 0-9515240-5-4, 1993, price £7.00 including postage to ‘Humberside County Council’).

The list which follows includes archives received since August 1992, which was the deadline for the Guide. A few of the items are not open to the public, and enquiries about access should be made to the Archivist before visiting the Office.

Local Authorities

Brigg Urban District Council: ten burial and cemetery rate books 1863-82. 91 addnl.
Cleethorpes Burial Board (Beacon Avenue Cemetery): fee books 1877-1962. 59 addnl.
Cleethorpes Borough: minute books 1966-72. 51 1 addnl.
Great Coates Parish Council (abolished 1968): minute books 1919-68. 458.
Grimsby Burial Board (Scarthe Road Cemetery): stillborn infants’ interment registers 1889-1938. 8/8/1-5.
Grimsby Rural District Council: minute books 1966-72. 61 1 addnl.
Hawthorn Gardens Ltd, Goxhill, market gardeners: records 1922-75. 480.
Brown Brothers (Fish Merchants) Ltd, Grimsby: records 1946-83. 486.
Vass and Company (Grimsby) Ltd, fish merchants: account books 1952-77. 487/1.
Harold Bryant Ltd, fish merchants, Grimsby: financial accounts 1939-52. 489.
Ben Sleight (Junior) Ltd, fish merchant, Grimsby: ledger 1885-1914. 401/17.

Hospitals

Goole School of Nursing: staff registers 1957-79. 380 addnl.
Scunthorpe School of Nursing: staff registers 1925-76. 380 addnl.

Businesses

Worlaby National School: Head Teacher’s correspondence with Board of Education etc., 1896-1903. 1006.

Pye Critchlow, architect, Grimsby: specifications for St Augustine’s Church, Grimsby 1911. 1003.


Stones family of Crowle and Keadby, sluice and drain keepers: note books 1871-1943. 642.

G.F. Tomlinson of Ulceby, joiner: 3 account books 1921-43. 644.

W.E. Laughton of Mescingham, builder: 5 account and job books 1894-1946. 422 addnl.

Solicitors’ Collections

R.A.C. Symes, solicitors, Scunthorpe: manorial records of Barnby upon Don (Yorkshire) 1753-1927. 493.

Granville Chapman, solicitors, Grimsby: 51 printed sale particulars for properties in Lincolnshire 1927-57. 490

Inclusion

Allborough: inclusion award and plan 1798. 484.

Religious Congregations


Sir Moses Montefiore Memorial Synagogue, Grimsby: registers of members 1900-29, Hebrew class registers 1941-64, papers and photographs 1904-94. 1000.

Great Grimsby parish: pro forma genealogical enquiry, 26 Feb 1915, received from vicar of Sibsey, Rev F. Emsbitt. 240/31/11.

Central Methodist Hall, Duncombe Street, Grimsby: cradle rolls and junior church attendance registers 1936-91. 499.


Associations and Clubs

Brigg Football Club: minutes and correspondence 1912-37. 632 addnl.

Electrical Association for Women, Cleethorpes Branch: minute book 1974-79. 401/16.

Grimsby and District Educational Council: printed souvenir album 1858. 400/17.


Grimsby and Cleethorpes Golf Club: printed prospectus 1928. 400/36.

Lincolnshire County Cricket Club: minute books from foundation in 1883 and refounding in 1906 until 1958, score books 1932-85. 1015.

Charities

John Tripp, or Blue Coat Charity of Barton upon Humber: statements of accounts 1888-1979. 400/8.


Family and Personal


Ernest Watson Ellis, seaman, of Grimsby: personal papers 1900-44. 1011.


Henry (“Potty”) Harrison, china and glass merchant of Grimsby: photographs and civic memorabilia 1876-1930. 494.

William Colley Parker of Grimsby, radical: transcripts of his reported speeches 1854-61. 401/14.

John William Ramster: personal papers of army service including diaries in Royal Army Service Corps in Africa, Burma and Ceylon 1940-46. 487/2.

Derek Riley, archaeologist: fieldwork diary mainly concerning Scunthorpe and Lincolnshire 1933-37. 635.


Thomas Wintingham (born Withington 1775): 37 page typescript of his working and spiritual autobiography written in 1834. Includes apprenticeship, voyages to Baltic, whaling, and Methodist life in Lincolnshire. 401/19.

Airship R38 (crashed in Humber): memorial card 1921. 400/25.