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The deadline for contributions to the next Bulletin and the Autumn issue of Lincolnshire Past & Present is 10 August 1996. 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: Traditional Lincolnshire farm buildings: brick and pantile waggon shed with granary over.
EDITORIAL

Welcome to Lincolnshire Past and Present which completes its sixth year of publication with this issue. All the articles in this number have been selected by Christopher Sturman, although he has asked me to complete it (in addition to sorting out the Faces and Places and the Notes and Queries sections) and see it through the press.

Perhaps it would be appropriate here to acknowledge Christopher’s sterling work on behalf of the Society as an editor in three capacities and in particular for his recent editing of the Terence Leach memorial volume Lincolnshire People and Places. This was a publication completed in record time (especially considering the management of over thirty contributors!) and was finally launched at this Society’s recent Annual General Meeting. This finely printed volume of articles on Lincolnshire, many presenting new and important material, should be essential reading matter for everyone interested in the historic county (now, of course, almost back together again). I am still reading mine, amongst work documents, and I constantly think how much Terence would have enjoyed it. We do not normally advertise on this page, but we think the book is excellent value at £16.50. It can be purchased at or ordered from the Jews’ Court Bookshop, though postage will be £2.00 extra. Details of opening and office hours are on the back page of this issue.

I am pleased to record that contributions are coming in steadily - this does not mean that anyone should stop submitting items, but that there may be a slight delay. We hope it will bring more variety. We also hope to hear from more of the many people who have been completing Local History degrees and certificates in the last few years. We trust that you are all Society members and may have something to offer either the Journal or this magazine. But please send for Contributor’s Notes for anything that is more than a note or query!

Hilary Healey (Joint Editor)

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SOCIETY FOR LINCOLNSHIRE HISTORY AND ARCHAEOLOGY
OFFICERS 1996-97

All communications should be addressed to the Office at Jews’ Court
(address and telephone number on back cover)

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If you are writing with queries that do not seem to be covered by the four existing committees please address your enquiry direct to the Chairman.
KIRK AND PARRY

Simon Pawley and Alison Peach

The firm of builders and architects generally known as 'Kirk and Parry' was a major influence not only on the fabric of nineteenth century Sleaford but on churches and railway stations right across England. At their height, in the late 1800s, the firm employed a large workforce and occupied extensive premises in the centre of Sleaford (Kirk and Parry did have a London office, and we think a firm called Kirk and Kirk or something similar still operates in London). They specialized in public buildings, particularly stations and church restorations, which meant that they were seldom short of work in the Victorian period.

Charles Kirk the elder came to Sleaford in the late 1820s to undertake the building of a new 'Sessions House' or Town Hall in Sleaford. Like a number of examples of his early work, this was designed by the London architect Henry Edward Kendall. The family settled in Sleaford and it became the base for their growing business as builders and architects. Charles Kirk's son, also called Charles, later took over the firm. Both father and son frequently worked in partnership with Thomas Parry, originally of Lincoln, who married the elder Charles Kirk's daughter, Henrietta, in 1841. The Kirks were also related by marriage to the Knight family of Sleaford, who later became partners in the business, to the Peake family, who were important solicitors in the town; and to the Yerburghs (father and son), who were Vicars of Sleaford for much of the nineteenth century.

Besides the Sessions House, Kirk and Parry were involved in the planning and/or construction of a large number of other important buildings in Sleaford: Carre's Grammar School (1834); the Gasworks on Eastgate (1838); Carre's Hospital, Eastgate (1830) and its Northgate extension along with the Old Savings Bank (1857) (Fig. 1); The Corn Exchange (1851); Lafford Terrace (now the NKDC Offices) (1856); and the original Sleaford Railway Station (1857). Kirk and Parry (either alone or in partnership) also worked on Sleaford Vicarage and The Manor House, undertook two major restorations of St Denys Church, Sleaford and built Nag's Head Passage, Parry's Court and many other late Victorian domestic and commercial premises in the town.

The private dwelling houses of both Charles Kirk and Thomas Parry are now schools. Charles Kirk's 'Man-
sion House' on Southgate later became Kesteven and Sleaford High School (Fig. 2), while Thomas Parry's 'Westholme' is now part of St George's School.

Much of Jermyn Street was occupied by employees of Charles Kirk and many of Thomas Parry's workers were housed in Leicester Street. Besides the business premises in Jermyn Street, Kirk and Parry built and owned a large steam flour mill in the centre of the town with its own private siding running behind their premises. They ran their own brickworks off Eastgate and were the proprietors of two lime kilns, one at Dalling Wells and one very large one at what is now Electric Station Road.

Many churches in the Sleaford area (e.g. Quarrington, Ruskington and Leasingham) were restored by them and numerous railway stations and installations as far away as London and Manchester were their work.

Kirk and Parry had a particular 'trade mark' which can be seen in many of the places they worked. Their church restorations left them in possession of a great many medieval architectural fragments, particularly window jambs and tracery. They often used these as 'features' to enhance and romanticise other buildings they worked on. Some of the medieval fragments in Sleaford Manor House may well be due to this, and the church fragments along Westholme Drive, in the grounds of Sleaford High School and at the back of the churchyard are all the work of Kirk and Parry. So common are these fragments that some people in the town have become convinced that there was once a monastery in it!

Note on Sources

In addition to Pevsner, the following have been useful: John C. Davidson, 'Characters and Events in the History of the Zion Chapel, Jermyn Street, Sleaford', unpublished typescript (copies at Sleaford Library and at Nottingham University Library).

L.A.O. P.S.J. 15/D, a notebook originally belonging to Herbert Kirk, containing family and genealogical material (and a few other snippets).

THE KIRKS AND THEIR CONNECTIONS

(A simplified family tree)

William KIRK,
County Surveyor of Leicestershire
(d. 1823 aged 73)

William, architect
(of Sleaford)

Benjamin, stonemason
(of Sleaford)

Charles, the Elder, builder
(1791-1847)

Three other children

m. Elizabeth Herbert
[moves to Sleaford to build Sessions House c.1830]

Henrietta
(1817-1882)
m. (1841)

Eliza, b. 1818
m. (1851)

Henry PEAKE, Solicitor
Charles the younger
(1825-1902)

Anne
m.
Rev. Richard YERBURGH
(Vicar of Sleaford
1851-1882)
[his second wife]

Thomas PARRY,
Architect,
County Surveyor
and later Liberal MP
for Boston
(d. Dec 1879 in Algeria)

Charles (3), architect
m. Beatrice SNOW,
dau. of Rev. B. Snow of
Burton Pedwardine

Herbert (b. 1854),
architect and
Diocesan Surveyor

Gerard Arthur
1886

Charles (4)
b. 1884, d. during
World War I
HALL CLOSE, HOUGH-ON-THE-HILL (O.S. SK 925463).

G. G. Grylls

In 1992 the Grantham Archaeology Group was approached by Tony Hurley, the South Kesteven Community Archaeologist, with the news that he had seen what seemed to be an interesting medieval site in the middle of the village which was probably to be associated with a twelfth century priory but which, so far as he was able to find out, had never been recorded. Were we interested? Yes we were and fortunately the owner and farmer Mr Henry Lord was also interested and has gone with us ever since.

There are records of the establishment of a Chantry Priory in the village in 1164 consisting of only two priests. They were Austin Canons from Cherbourg and were given a manor of 400 acres off which to live and pay dues to the mother house. An inquisition in the middle of the fourteenth century describes the Priory as being in a bad way with property in decay and its capital value run down. After being granted to the Priory of Mountgrace de Inglesby in Yorkshire in 1421 it was passed as a parcel by Henry VIII, presumably at the dissolution, to Lord John Russell who was known to be the owner in 1541.

The proximity of the parish church, about a hundred yards to the north and the existence of a fish tank on the site point to the probable association of the site with the priory.

The site covers about 3.5 hectares of land that seems never to have been ploughed for general arable use and has spread over it numerous well defined but enigmatic morphological features. The identification of the rectangular fish tank is not in doubt but possible building platforms and linear features are not yet understood.

Fig. 1: Grantham Archaeology Group Excavation IIIXI Hough-on-the-Hill, Lincs. Hall Close Site (probable Priory) Summer 1995.
The Group began by doing a cross-head morphological survey, confirmed by an aerial photo which turned up later. The next step was to examine such maps as we could see which included a survey of 1850, an estate map of 1804 which is among the Brownlow Papers among the Lincolnshire Archives and a map of 1743 on display in Belton House, seen but not yet studied. Using a common base line these were redrawn to a scale of 1:1,000. They show considerable alterations to the western boundary and the development of a proper road along the east; streams running in the valley between the church and the site with a bridge providing access between the church and west end of the site. In the north west corner of the site three or four stones lay exposed on the surface which while not ashlar never-the-less seemed to be some sort of structure. We did a resistivity survey in that area which showed up concentrations corresponding to the morphology but no clear wall foundations. In August 1995 we decided to have a look at the exposed stones. Immediately under the surface of dry turf we came on a fine cobbled path and were able quickly to follow this to the site boundary in the direction of the church and bridge of 1804 and where just inside the boundary another branching path was found. In the area was a well-head which we have left untouched. We may have struck some limestone pitched paving associated with the path but this will be the subject of further work.

So far we have no dating evidence as we have only removed the turf covering, mostly an inch or two deep and all finds are the rubbish of not more than 200 years ago.

There are numerous interesting things on the site which we hope to look at including an area in the south west which, it has been suggested, might have been a vineyard and this year’s crop marks which showed up an extensive wall near the fish pond.

We have done our best to work 'professionally' keeping careful records and placing copies of these as they are finalized with The Heritage Trust of Lincolnshire who we are pleased to thank for lots of help including much of the publication of our Occasional Papers 1 which describes in detail our investigations of the first two years. At least there is now a record of the site.

Notes


2. Our report, Occasional papers 1, was published by the Group in the autumn of 1995. Archive copies have been lodged with the County Archaeologist, Heritage Lincolnshire, S.H.A., The Library and Museum at Grantham and are purchasable from Jews’ Court Lincoln and The Museum, Grantham for £2 or from G. G. Crylls, 3 High Road, Barrowby, Grantham, NG32 1BH. (01476: 64464) for £2 + £0.50 p&p.
THE SMALL FARM, WITH SPECIAL REFERENCE TO VICTORIAN LINCOLNSHIRE

Dennis Mills

The small farm has been neglected in the literature of agricultural history largely because it is less well-recorded than the large farm found on large estates. This is not only with regard to estate and farming records, but also in the contemporary Victorian literature aimed at developing model farming, which typically took place on the large estate farms of the south and east of England. The sturdy buildings of estate farms have ensured a better survival rate for them than the farmsteads of lesser owners and owner-occupiers. Yet there were many more small farms than large, not only in the north and west and in Wales, but even in mixed farming areas with an emphasis on arable farming, such as Lincolnshire. The economic historian will point out that a 500-acre farm would produce as much as ten 50-acre farms, but the social historian can respond that the ten small farmers represented an important stratum in rural society. Where documentation fails, observation and oral recollection may be called upon to fill some of the gaps.

Therefore, although concerned principally with the Victorian period, this article opens with an account of the small farm run by Harry Major, the writer's maternal grandfather, from 1920 to 1933. This was situated in Birchwood Lane, about one mile from the village of Marsham-le-Fen, near Boston. When he became the tenant of Mrs. Arthur Fowler of Revesby (the next village) the farm consisted simply of a cottage and garden with no outbuildings, but having a contiguous paddock and Barker's Field, amounting to only 12-13 acres. Mrs. Fowler erected sufficient stable labour for two horses and two cows, and some of the small buildings, all of which were insubstantially built and have long since disappeared. Thirteen acres was not enough to occupy fully a family of two adults and two teenagers, and Harry Major took the tenancy of three more small fields, again amounting to 12-13 acres, situated in two spots between Birchwood and the Royal Oak Inn in Marsham village, to which they 'belonged'. Whether Elijah Stennett, the licensee, was the actual owner, or whether he merely sub-let this land, is not now clear, but both kinds of arrangement are to be found on small farms.

The landlord of the Royal Oak would have known Harry Major well enough as a former neighbour to think he would make a reliable tenant. Personal knowledge was also important in acquiring a third tenancy from Mr and Mrs Harry Bee, despite the fact that they lived in London. They were distant relatives and had probably grown up in the Marcham area. At any rate in 1922 or 1923, when land prices were extremely low, they were persuaded to buy two more small fields adjoining the cottage, and to let them to my grandfather.

With the addition of a third block of about 12-13 acres, his farm now amounted to about 37 acres in eight parcels belonging to three owners. The original buildings were inadequate, but Mrs. Fowler could hardly have been expected to extend them, since the cost could not be justified on her holding of only 12 acres. Consequently, carriages and implements often stood out in all weathers. My grandfather and my uncle Frank erected a group of hovels, made by erecting pillars of second-hand timber, on top of which wooden platforms were placed about six feet above the ground, probably the floors of ex-Army huts or similar. Straw stacks were made on top of them, a few feet of straw being left in position between seasons to protect the platforms. Underneath went the smaller implements and such like, whilst the carts were tipped up outside to stop rain from collecting in them.

The reader will by now be asking questions about the smallest size at which a holding can lay claim to the title of a farm. Birchwood could be described as a largeish smallholding or, by the custom of these parts, a cottage farm. The Board of Agriculture's statistics include all holdings of over five acres from the beginning of the Crop Returns in 1867. The farm-size structure of Lincolnshire has been summarized by drawing on tables contained in the 1851 and 1871 census reports, themselves derived from acreages reported by farmers on their census forms. These tables are only approximations, partly because the acreage of a proportion of farms did not get reported. Farm bailiffs in charge of farms seldom quoted acreages although their employers may have done so, and at the other end of the spectrum many dual occupationists may not have thought their farming activities of sufficient importance to warrant attention. Nevertheless, the broad picture will
be accurate enough and shows that 47.0% of farms were in the size bracket 5-49 acres in 1871, and only 5.2% were over 500 acres. A crude division at the 100-acre mark puts about 30% in the large category and 70% in the small category. In this respect, Lincolnshire was fairly typical of England as a whole.¹

One reason why Lincolnshire was fairly representative of the whole country is that within its large area it contained much variety. Grigg divided his study area of Kesteven and Holland into 10 areas, from which a few examples will show how widely average farm sizes ranged. In 1851 the smallest farms (5-49 acres) comprised 67% of the total number of farms in the Skirbeck area of Holland (north of Boston), but only 29% of those on the Kesteven Heath. Conversely, 16% of the Heath farms were over 500 acres, but only 3% in the Skirbeck area. Generally speaking, large farms were to be found on the high areas of the limestone escarpment and plateau of Kesteven, and small farms in the low-lying vales and fens.² This kind of pattern was repeated in Lindsey to judge from less detailed analysis and field observation.³

Variations also occurred between one landowner and another. Clearly, Mrs Fowler could not have had a large farm on her 12-acre ‘estate’ and there were many small owners with less than, say, 100 acres. Thompson calculated that 12% of England in 1873 lay in estates of under 100 acres, and a further 12.5% in the size bracket 100-300 acres. With 26% of its area in estates of under 500 acres, Lincolnshire was again very close to the national average.⁴ So, large farms were associated with large estates, whose owners were able and willing to spend a great amount of capital, sometimes for social reasons going well beyond the limits of rational investment.

However, even on large estates there were many small and medium-size farms, partly because of variations in soil fertility and land utilisation. Thus on the Duke of Ancaster’s 20,000-acre estate mainly in south Kesteven a third of holdings were under five acres and nearly a half were of 5-49 acres.⁵ Another example from the same quarter comes from a portion of the Heathcote estate at Rippinage, which was later to join up with the Ancaster estate. Here Hall categorised about 40 of the tenancies of 1859 as smallholdings and small farms, disregarding about 45 smaller fry, compared with five large farms with acreages over 150.⁶

However, the essential character of the small farm cannot be gauged solely by the analysis of size. Indeed, acreage on its own can be misleading, since 50 acres of warp in the Isle of Axholme, or peat fen in Kesteven or Holland sustained a far greater yield of crops and stock than the same acreage of thin soils on heath or wold. It is important also to look at the essentially different way of life of the small farmer, as this will yield insights into his different needs in terms of buildings. There is space only to analyse briefly three aspects of the small farmer’s life-style: the importance of subsistence; labour supply and the life-cycle; and dual occupations.⁷

The typical Lincolnshire farm had a strong bias towards corn-growing in Victorian times, but was actually a mixed farm, since it needed cattle and sheep to underpin corn production by providing manure. It also made use of break crops such as beans, turnips, mangolds and fodder grasses, which were directly beneficial to following corn crops. However, a corn farm did not require a wide range of other stock, apart from draught horses, but the small farm with its attention to subsistence would keep cows and pigs for the house, and a wide range of poultry for eggs and different kinds of meat at different times of the year. Some of the arable crops would sustain this livestock or be consumed directly by the household, e.g. bread grain. In doing this, the small farmer could avoid paying someone else to supply food when this objective could be achieved by using his own land and labour. Had the object been to supply the market, this multiplicity of enterprises would have militated against efficiency, but where avoidance of the money economy was the paramount concern it made considerable sense.

The same reasoning could be brought to bear on fuel supplies, on transport, on drainage operations, and on repairs to buildings where the farm was owner-occupied or tenant on a repairing lease. Many of these activities could be fitted into the quiet times of the farming calendar. Work might also be done on other men’s farms, notably on threshing days, since a team of eight men was necessary to keep up with the needs of the machine. When at Birkwood the Majors did contract ploughing with their own horses and plough at 35 shillings per acre. Piece work was taken, such as chopping out sugar beet at 35 shillings an acre, and taking up sugar beet. The small farmer may have had a surplus of labour for strictly agricultural purposes over much of the year, but this could enable him to cope at harvest time without hiring outside labour. The use of family labour suited dairy farming and in some parts of
the county, especially the Fens, it encouraged the adoption of new crops with high labour requirements, such as potatoes, bulbs, fruit, vegetables, and after 1920 sugar beet. When poultry farming became more profitable towards the end of Victoria's reign, it too was a popular labour-intensive outgrowth from the subsistence activities of the small farm. The latter, therefore, did not just require smaller buildings than the large farm, but often also a wider range of buildings and sheds to accommodate its manifold activities.

Subsistence and labour supply were two sides of the same coin, but labour supply fluctuated with the life cycle of the farm family. It is no accident that Harry Major first set up in farming in 1920, as that was the year in which his younger child left school. My mother and her brother got bigger and stronger as the farm increased in size, and the new crop sugar beet came upon the scene. By the time my uncle Frank was fully grown and an experienced hand, it was time to move to a bigger holding. This came in 1933 with the tenancy of the 63-acre Sothorn Heath Farm, a few miles north of Lincoln, which had a full set of Victorian buildings put up by the owner of the Manor Farm estate: barn, granary, cow and horse stables, crewyard, cart and implement sheds, and loose boxes which could be used for pigs and calves. With five bedrooms and a bathroom (without a fixed bath), the house was more than adequate: space was easily found for chitting seed potatoes and for incubating chickens, and in the pantry for the cream separator, butter churn and pig crane (Fig. 1).

The marriage of Frank Major in 1939 was the next stage in the life cycle and led to the purchase of a four-acre small holding, mostly orchard, a mile away on the edge of Sothorn village. This provided him with the opportunity to get his own foot on the farming ladder, and in 1945 it became a 'retirement' home for Harry Major. The tenancy of Heath Farm was given up and Harry bought Middle Farm, Thorby, near Bassingham, a 95-acre dairy farm, of which Frank became tenant.

Farm records in the Victorian period are often 'static pictures' at a specific date, such as a tithe survey in the 1840s, or an estate survey, or a dispute about inventory payments at a particular time, and even the decennial censuses leave substantial gaps. Nevertheless, the latter used in conjunction with other data can be made to yield life-cycle studies such as that provided by the Major family history. In a study of 'cottage' farms at Laxton (Notts), Beckett has shown that these were not for farmers proper, but mostly for labourers, tradesmen and older people, and the association with retirement grew firmer over time, i.e., the Victorian census period.

Finally, we come to the question of dual occupations. Both the census enumerators' books and Victorian trade directories are littered with references to men who combined a trade or craft with an interest in farming. They may have been basically farmers who added to their income from a by-occupation, or basically tradesmen looking for subsistence and/or a convenient means of carrying on a trade, like butchering or innkeeping, that needed some land. The implications for farm buildings are that their needs would again not be merely for smaller premises than the full-size farm, but for a range of buildings that could be adapted to almost idiosyncratic circumstances. Hall, for example, records blacksmith, publican, innkeeper, weaver, shoemaker, miller, baker, grocer, draper, brewer, tailor, carpenter, Carter, tailor, Chandler, wheelwright, and lime-burner as occupations, sometimes two at once, that were combined with small farms and lesser holdings in Rippingale.

The case of William Paddison, who farmed at Saltfleetby in the marsh east of Louth, is a good illustration of two aspects of this paper - the accretions by which he built up his holding, and the secondary activities into which he entered. The son of a small farmer and former labourer, he is first recorded as renting land from a Mrs Grant in 1867, a tenancy from which she discharged him in 1895, when she favoured the man to whom he had let under some of the land. Paddison also purchased 15 and a half acres of land about 1873, principally by means of a mortgage from the vendor, a not unusual arrangement. Around 1890 he owned about 76 acres and together with Mrs Grant's land was farming about 120 acres at this time. He was also renting out allotments to others. Two years after his retirement, the 1910 'Domesday' records that he still rented 27 acres from Studby's Trust, one acre and a half from the school managers, and seven acres and a half from Lister's executors. He let out one acre and a half to the tenant of a cottage he owned and three acres to his former farm foreman.

Although Paddison became something more than a small farmer, he still felt it necessary to branch out from general farming into the raising of snowdrops and crops such as potatoes, beans and fruit. He became a small-
Fig. 1: Heath Farm, Scotcern c. 1940, surveyed by Shirley and David Brook and Dennis Mills, January 1995, by kind permission of Mr J. M. Troughton. Based partly on the OS 25-inch plan of 1904, old photos and family recollections. Drawn by Joan and Dennis Mills.

The house was built in two stages, the east-west wing being late eighteenth century in stone and pantiles, under the same roof as the barn, also stone and pantiled. The sitting and drawing rooms were in the Victorian wing, brick and slate, apart from the stone used in the south gable to match the older wing. In the 1930’s and 1940’s the drawing room was used for chitting seed potatoes. There were two bedrooms and a bathroom without running water in the old wing. The bedroom over the kitchen was approached by means of a ladder, not used for many years. The Victorian wing had three bedrooms. The domestic offices were brick and slate. The barn was in stone, but most of the other farm buildings were in brick with pantile roofs, being of a later date, possibly contemporary with the Victorian addition to the house. Notice that the barn was on the north side of the crew yard, giving shelter to its occupants, and letting the sunlight get to the fermenting manure.

1 - ash pit  2 - earth closet  3 - wash-house  4 - coal  5 - firewood  6 - store  7 - pig curing  8 - pantry

The work of Hall and Crust helps to balance the view of Victorian farming in Lincolnshire. However, much more can be done through the use of census data and other scattered sources, through the observation and recording of farm buildings, but most of all perhaps through oral recollections which could be gathered in hundreds of Lincolnshire families. Many of these will be clearest for the first half of the present century, but they will yield insights into earlier generations, and are worth recording for themselves. Don’t leave it any longer!
Notes

2 Grigg, Agricultural Revolution, p. 170.
4 F. M. L. Thompson, English Landed Society in the Nineteenth Century (1963), p.117. The proportions for estates of 300-1,000 acres were England - 12%; Lincolnshire - 14%.
5 Grigg, Agricultural Revolution, p.91. The dates of survey were 1803 and 1830, with practically no change between them.
6 Adrian Hall, Farm Land Worker-Peasants: The Economy of Smallholders at Rippingale, Lincolnshire, 1791-1871, Agricultural History Society, Supplement Series, I (1992), pp. 26-29. Figures are approximations because I have derived them from a graph and a descriptive text - no tabulation of the figures has been included. Despite this criticism, Hall's work is full of interest for students of the small farm, not least because he has categorised them into four groups: homesteaders, commoners, smallholders and small farmers.
7 Most of the text that follows is a compressed distillation of wide reading, for which detailed references cannot be given here. However, the reader may find it useful to look at D. R. Mills, The nineteenth-century peasantry of Molbourn, Cambridgeshire', in Land, Kinship and Life Cycle, edited by Richard M. Smith (1985), pp. 481-518; and idem., Lord and Peasant in Nineteenth-Century Britain (1980). The latter is a chopping-block for later writers, including some of those in M. Reed and R. Wells, eds., Class, Conflict and Protest in the English Countryside, 1700-1880 (1990). This is much more relevant than the title suggests, and contains an excellent bibliography.
9 Hall, Rippingale, pp. 46-53.

A FERTILE FIELD IN WHICH TO LABOUR

Shirley Brook

Lincolnshire is an agricultural county and those who seek to explore its history will find a rich and largely unexploited source of evidence in its traditional farm buildings. Agricultural buildings are the most ubiquitous building group in the rural landscape yet they are often overlooked by historians. In their pattern of distribution, size and form they have much to tell us about the development and practice of agriculture in an area, the pattern of landholding, the aspirations of landowners, and the everyday experience of those who worked the land. Students of vernacular architecture will find that local building materials and techniques persisted longer in agricultural buildings than domestic ones and that structural details are generally more visible and accessible in farm buildings than in people's homes.

Interest in traditional farm buildings is currently developing. The number of books on farm buildings is steadily increasing; a bibliography is to be found at the end of this article. The Historic Farm Buildings Group was founded in 1985 with the object of advancing the study of the history of farm buildings in Britain, including their related equipment and the agricultural and economic environment of which they formed part. The Group publishes an annual Journal and regular newsletters and holds a weekend conference in a different area of the country each year. Membership of the Historic Farm Buildings Group is £12.50 per annum. The Treasurer is Andrew Patterson, 6 Lowman Rd, London N7 6DD.

As Stewart Squires has noted, farm buildings are also beginning to claim the attention of official bodies. The team from the Royal Commission on the Historic Monuments of England recorded farmsteads in the
LAWYER'S FARM, Holbeach St Matthew

NORTH FACE

WEST FACE

WEST CREWYARD
wolds area around Old Bolingbroke and the fen edge south of Sleaford, in early summer 1993. It is anticipated that a RCHME publication featuring the farm buildings of Lincolnshire, and also those of Northumbria, Cheshire, Berkshire and Cornwall, will be available towards the end of 1996. The English Heritage project Squires mentions is being co-ordinated by Dr Susanna Wade-Martins, Chairman of the Historic Farm Buildings Group. It is hoped that this will increase our knowledge of the extent and distribution of late eighteenth century and early nineteenth century planned farmsteads and further our understanding of 'improved' and 'high' farming. This information will be of interest to historians and will help to inform decisions regarding listing and conservation of examples of this type of building.

So, how might the study of traditional farm buildings relate to Lincolnshire history? Dennis Mill's article demonstrates how personal knowledge of a farm and its buildings can contribute to historical understanding. He has considered the farmer's lifestyle in terms of subsistence, labour supply and life-cycle, and dual occupations and he has enriched his examination of these general concepts with detail from his own experience. He has also drawn attention to the value of such case studies in redressing the balance of evidence in agricultural history. The small farm does not generally present the historian with much documentary evidence but the evidence of its buildings and the recollections of those who lived and worked in them can significantly further our understanding of the circumstances of life which were, in many areas, predominant.

Historic farm buildings present historians with both a challenge and an opportunity. The challenge is to record as many of these buildings as we can before they are lost; many farmsteads are already derelict and their fabric is deteriorating. The opportunity is to make an original contribution to historical research. Do not feel that skills as an architect or draughtsman are necessary. Photographs, rough sketches and brief notes, recorded by local people who recognise the historical significance of ranges of farm buildings, will form the bulk of the evidence we are able to retain. Many people currently undertake Certificate and Degree courses in Local and Regional History offered by Universities in the region. The Open University offers DA301, a course studying nineteenth and twentieth century family and community history. Historic farm buildings offer plentiful and worthwhile opportunities for project work or dissertations for such courses. They lend themselves to study either by individuals or by groups (however it is important to remember that they are private property and permission to explore them must be sought from the owners). Shirley Brook is a postgraduate research student at the University of Hull and her research topic is 'The Buildings of High Farming in Lincolnshire'. She would welcome information about mid-nineteenth century planned farmsteads, including suggestions of suitable examples to record. Please send them to Mrs A. S. Brook, 10 Manor Road, Lincoln LN2 1RJ.

Having realised the need to record old farm buildings and the opportunities for study which they present, it is important that we share the information we collect. As Lincolnshire historians we have the opportunity to involve ourselves by offering case studies, similar to Mill's above, to the editor of this publication. It is hoped that his article will form the first in a series. The study of farm buildings is commended to you as a fertile field in which to labour.

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OLD FARMBUILDINGS IN A NEW LANDSCAPE

Stewart Squires

Agriculture in Lincolnshire has seen some dramatic changes in the last thirty years or so, and, whatever the future holds, it is clear that this process is set to continue. While these changes have, and will continue to affect the livelihood of so many people in the countryside, it will affect also the rich legacy of traditional buildings which are so visibly part of the heritage of our villages and landscape. So many of these buildings are unsuitable for present day farming use and, as such, are increasingly in disrepair. If they are lost, part of our heritage goes with them.

The traditional buildings are those built of local materials, brick, or stone, with pantiled or slate roofs, dating from a 200 year period from the seventeenth to the early twentieth centuries.

These buildings are important to us. They are part of our landscape, part of our history, and, perhaps most important of all, they tell us about life in the countryside in years gone by. The people who worked in these buildings, using them in traditional ways, cannot now tell us about that life. If we can interpret them, however, the buildings themselves can speak to us.

Traditional farm buildings are found in our villages, and on long deserted sites of historical interest, such as deserted villages, and monastic sites. This is generally where the earliest buildings will be discovered as these sites have been inhabited for centuries. Later farmsteads chart the Enclosures, and the spread of the farming families into the previously uninhabited extremities of our parishes. Wherever they are found, it is likely that the farmsteads will illustrate in the alterations to their buildings over time, the changes to agricultural methods and prosperity as the years and seasons passed by.

The history of farming and its methods are there to be interpreted. The earliest buildings are often threshing barns, which were built to facilitate threshing by hand. Other sources of power were the horse, and flowing water, later to be superceded by steam. Allied to this is the change in farming methods, crop rotation, mixed and arable systems, and the relationship of stackyard and cowyard. Where buildings have been adapted to modern use this, too, has brought its own distinctive form of change.

The types of buildings to be found in the farmstead are also relevant. Here is the farmhouse, and maybe farmworkers cottages, sited to the best advantage to serve those other functional buildings, the threshing barn, stables, cowhouse and cowyard, granary, waggons hovel, horse gin, cartshed, hay barn, nag and trap house, pigstye, smithy, henhouse, sheep dip, and pigeoncote.

There will often be some delightful vernacular detailing on these buildings. They were built, after all, by local craftsmen using locally available materials. As such, they will be in sympathy with the scale and vernacular details of the other buildings in the village or parish. So here will be found the same tumbled gables, the same
bricks and tiles, which make the locality so distinctive. The buildings will, at the same time, have features unique to farm buildings, such as the breather holes in the barn, and holes in each door to let the farm cat go unhindered about its duty of rodent control. There may also be a hole to let an owl in for its nocturnal hunt. As far as dating the building is concerned, the same criteria can be used as for any other building. Some will have dated stones, or dated bricks, beams, or iron ties. Clues will also be found in the bricks, the use of cast iron, the roof construction, or maybe the owner's initials will be somewhere. Of equal use is an understanding of the type and design of the building, and its original and adapted uses, and how these relate to agricultural change and progress. Its location in the landscape may also give clues, especially if related to the Enclosure, or as a folly associated with the view from a nearby Hall.

This article started with an assertion that traditional farm buildings are under threat. If they cannot be used for modern farming what is to become of them? New uses will have to be found, but given that Lincolnshire has so many potentially redundant farm buildings, it will not prove practical to save them all. There are some very good examples around, however (Figs. 1 and 2). Conversions to houses are perhaps the most common, and good examples can be found along Eastfield Lane at Welton (by Lincoln), and at South Carlton. Given a choice within villages between conversion to a house, and demolition to provide sites for modern housing with little or no vernacular heritage, the case for conversion is a sound one. There are old peoples flats in Nettleham, offices at Bransby, workshops and offices at Ulceby, near Brigg, and the RAF Cranwell Visitor Centre at North Rauceby. What is important is to ensure that the design of the inevitable changes does not destroy the very character that makes the buildings worth keeping in the first place.

Finally, an admission has to be made. The extent of the problem in Lincolnshire is not known. Nationally, it has been said by the Royal Commission on the Historical Monuments of England, that there are some 600,000 pre 1914 buildings on farms. It is now generally recognised that farm buildings are underrepresented on lists of Listed Buildings. This is perhaps a reflection that

Fig. 1: A barn converted to a house at Stubton. To convert a building like this, in this fashion, which clearly shows its farming origins, is surely better than its demolition and replacement with a modern house of no particular vernacular style. (Stewart Squires)
buildings are often unrecognised for their worth, or too little is known about the whole subject. The Commission, in 1994, set about a pilot study to gain a broad national picture. Five areas were selected for detailed study, selected to contrast upland/plain, north/south, east/west, and arable/pastoral. One of these areas was south Lincolnshire. This survey is now complete, and recorded 95 farmsteads in the County.

As a result English Heritage have now determined to consider a thematic review of the listing of farmbuildings. This will have particular care to consider the buildings of Victorian High Farming, of the prosperous years 1840 to 1870. As many model farms date from after 1850, they were often deemed not eligible for listing in previous surveys. As the first stage of this review a national survey is being carried out. The survey has, as a first stage, involved contact with local authorities, and special interest groups nationwide. The Industrial Archaeology Committee has submitted a number of examples. The survey is still underway, however, and anyone interested can offer suggestions. Please contact the writer for suggestions or further details.
THE LINCOLNSHIRE COAST IN 1860

David Robinson

Romantic scenery must not be looked for on the Lincolnshire coast. In all the journey from the Wash till you see the land of Yorkshire beyond the Humber not an inch of cliff will your eyes discover. Sandhills varying in height and bristling with maram are the boundary between sea and land, and if no inspiration comes to you from the scene itself, or enjoyment from robust exercise, you will grow weary of the general tameness. But take though it be the scene derives interest from its peculiarity. Strange perspective effects appear in those irregular hills; yonder they run out and form a low dark purple heathland, against which the pale green and yellow of a nearer tongue look bright by contrast. Here for a few furlongs the range rises gray, cold, and monotonous; there it has a warmth of colour relieved by deep shadows that change their tint during the hours that accompany the sun while he begins and ends his day. And on those dry hills you may gather the juiciest of blackberries when inclined for a halt; and then sitting on the summit you will remark the contrasted landscape: on the one side, the level pasture land, league after league of grassy green, sprinkled with villages, farms, churches, and schools, where work and worship will find exercise through ages yet to come; on the other league after league of sandy sand sloping gently outwards to meet the great sea that ever foams or ripples thereupon. On the one hand, a living scene bounded by the distant woods; on the other, a comparative desert, sea and shore alike solitary, bounded only by the over-arching sky. More thoughts come crowding into the mind in presence of such a scene than are easy to express.

That was how Walter White described our coastline when on a walking tour of East Anglia and Lincolnshire in the rather inclement summer weather of 1860 (he called it an "unkindly summer"). He had set off on the mail train from London on the last evening of June, spending the first weeks in Suffolk and Norfolk. He had entered Lincolnshire from King's Lynn, walking the Washway embankment to Sutton, and the next day he took the opportunity to visit the coast at Gedney Drove End. There "the only signs of water were a few shallow muddy pools, formed here and there by an expansion of the pale slimy creeks that cross the great level with many a bend, and diffuse an odour of saline mud. These are filled at high water, and as you may see by the numbers of tiny crabs left bleaching on the herbage, the whole ground is at times covered by the tide. But at low water the scene is one that shows how simple and monotonous are the elements with which Nature contented herself while aiding Art in conquering landscapes from the water. The foot of the slope is enlivened by patches of purple, gray, and feathery white, where grow the marsh samphire, the sea-purslane, and odious wormwood."

He met an 'elderly matron' who had come with 'a party of young men and maidens, in one of the huge country wagons, which painted bright red and well laden with hampers, shawls, and umbrellas, stood drawn up on the narrow space between the foot of the inner slope and the ditch, all hoping for a sight of ripples if not of waves... She gazed wistfully after the young folk, who, eager for a view of salt water, were picking their way across the spongy marsh to discover what lay beyond. Unlucky pleasure-seekers! the tide was at its lowest, and there was nothing to be seen but leagues of brown wet sand and a margin of slime. Two of the damsels, less adventurous than the others, were taking a foot-bath in one of the pools, from which they could only retreat by wading half way to their knees through a belt of yellow mud."

Who was this writer who described our coastline in such graphic detail? Walter White (1811-1893) was born in Reading and entered his father's business of cabinet making. After trying to improve his circumstances in the USA, he returned after five years, and three years later, in 1842, he became clerk to musician Joseph Mainzer. When accompanying him to Edinburgh he was introduced to Charles Richard Weld, assistant secretary to the Royal Society who offered him the post of 'attendant' in the Society's library (1844). When Weld (who married Anne Sellwood of Horncastle, sister-in-law of Alfred Tennyson) retired in 1861, White became assistant secretary and librarian.

Between 1844 and 1849 he wrote two hundred articles for 'Chamber's Journal', and the holiday walks which furnished the material for his books began in 1850 with a month's tramp in Holland. He resigned from the Royal Society post with a pension in 1884. He lived in Brixton, living alone from 1863, his wife having left him and his sons having emigrated. His ten travel books
included Eastern England from the Thames to the Humber (two volumes, Chapman & Hall, London, 1865) from which these extracts are taken.

From Gedney Drove End, White’s journey took him via Spalding and by train to Boston and Tattershall, walking in one day through Horncastle, Somersby and Tetford to Louth. Then by train to Fisby where he continued the walk through Wainfleet and on to Gibraltar Point.

Half an hour later and we were on our way to the sea, and the northern horn of the Wash, which, perhaps because of unlikeness, bears the name of Gibraltar Point, or Old Gib. The path here and there touching ‘the haven’, as the natives call the river, showed us what enormous windings even a small stream is compelled to make in the flat lands. Below the clough mud prevails along the banks, where on some of the firmest slopes we saw a bare-legged man collecting ‘samphur’, as the natives call it. And more and more naked became the region as we advanced: even the farmsteads looked windy and naked. And at last we came in sight of the public house on the Point, and the tower and flag of the coast-guard.

The Point, as at the mouth of other estuaries along the eastern coast, has a southerly prolongation of sand and gravel, but slightly elevated above the actual shore. It was formerly longer than at present; but the digging of gravel having very ill-advisedly been permitted, the sea broke through the excavation and washed away all the outer extremity of the Point.

What a strange desolate-looking scene it is: a broad flat patch rough with marum and sea-thorn, stretching out upon a scene yet more desolate, broad leagues of rough, wet, ripply sand, in which we behold the aspect of the Wash at low water.

On his walk northwards along the shore White had a walking companion. This took them past Ingoldmells Point and on to Sutton where they stayed overnight at the ‘Jolly Tobaccos’ (the Bacchus).

We passed Ingoldmells Point, where the shore is protected by ridges of wattle-work, and rows of stakes, and belts of faggots fixed in curvaceous curves and zig-zags, to retain the shifting sand, and bar the encroaching waves. A few miles farther we climbed the hills in the latitude of Huttoft, to look for fresh water, and, to our surprise, discovered a rude little cottage built against the inner slope. The old woman who came to the door gave us a drink, but as her husband had to fetch the water from a spring a mile distant, we felt constrained to pay for the draught. With a garden in front, and a few flowers creeping about it, the place looked snug and pretty. “I was forty-six years,” said the ancient dame, “since her old man built the house, and they hadn’t lived nowhere else. ’T was dampish in winter time; and in stormy weather they could feel the ground tremble from the shock of the waves. The hill kept the wind off nicely, and they didn’t think the sea would break through; but when they first came to live there, the hills went thirty yards farther out than they do now.”

Sutton is a little watering-place, not yet sophisticated, comprising some half dozen houses, and a coastguard station on the inner side of the hills, and about a furlong of loose sand which must be waded through whenever you pass the gap for a sight of the sea. I pitted the horses that had to work half the night in dragging coal from a barge on the beach; and thought that a plank road might have been within the possibilities of the neighbourhood.

Refreshed by supper, we were not too tired for a stroll on the shore, whence miles of silvery ripples were visible under the brilliant moonlight, broken by intermittent lines of glittering foam. It was a striking scene: the pale sand, and shadowy hills stretching away into indistinctness, and in the foreground the dark form of the coal barge, and the noise of unloading, and men and horses tugging painfully to and fro.

About an hour brought us to Mablethorpe: one of the most frequented watering places of Lincolnshire. Mount the thorny hill by the side of the gap, and you see a place which shows signs of growing into a little town: streets, rows, and terraces, with here and there a stylish looking house, and the church in the rear with chancel roof overtopping the low square tower. And all beyond is green and flat, even to Alford, with which town, about eight miles distant, communication is maintained by omnibus...Of course there are two or three bathing machines or ‘caravans’, to use the local word; and boats; and flagswasts in conspicuous situations; and toys and trifles, and the inevitable photographer with his collection of black-a-moons.

On we walked again, and after a while struck one of the ‘binks’, which offered a promising lead. But by and by we found ourselves separated from the main shore by a furlong or two of sludge, through which we had to wade to regain our route. It was the beginning of a change, for as you approach the great Yorkshire estuary, the coast becomes a repetition of that which borders the Wash: great breadth of slime and salt-marsh, traversed by belts of faggots to retain the mud, and passable only along the narrow margin at the outer base of the sand-hills. We climbed the hills once more, and saw Burgh; and Louth
spire in the distance; and had a feast of ‘bramble-berries’, and got a glimpse of Saltfleet, and the mouth of the Humber.

Farther on we ascended to a firm road; crossed the haven by the clough, and so came to Saltfleet; a dull village on elevated ground, where the courtyard of the inn is overgrown with grass, and general stagnation appears to prevail... The New Inn, where the only viands were eggs and bacon, echoed hollow and empty to our footsteps, and looked somewhat desolate. But we found in that grassy court-yard a spring of excellent water, which on a coast where good water is scarce gave us little satisfaction.’

The remainder of Walter White’s walking tour in Lincolnshire continued through North Somercotes to Tetney Lock, to Cleethorpes and Grimsby and thence by rail (with a stop to visit Thornton Abbey) to New Holland and the ferry to Hull. Then a rough passage on the steamer ‘Isle of Axholme’ to West Butterwick, a walk to Epworth and Haxey, and crossing the Trent at Stockwith to Gainsborough. He took the train to Lincoln (it was his third visit) and the walk continued across the Heath to Leadenham and Grantham, a diversion to Belvoir Castle, and to Colsterworth and Corby. After a visit to Burghley House, he declared that he had ‘circum-perambulated the county’ and left by train from Stamford for Norwich.

So far as we know, he did not return to Lincolnshire again. He reckoned that his walks in the British Isles had covered 15,000 miles. Certainly he was no stranger to long walks. On the day he walked from Wainfleet along the coast to Sutton, he recorded that it was 27 miles.

NOTES AND QUERIES

As always, we hope you will send your replies via this magazine; they will then be published as well as being forwarded to the enquirer.

24.1 THE MANTERFIELD LINE (Lines P&P 23.3, 26). Dr. D.M.Owen writes: The article on Amundeville was written by Sir Charles Clay, librarian of the House of Lords, as a by-product of his great collection of Early Yorkshire Charters. It throw light on Lincolnshire participation in the second crusade and gives a clue to the foundation of a leper hospital. I cannot explain the supposed omission of Roger de Amundeville.

24.2 LONG BENNINGTON ELECTRICITY Brian Widdowson, of Long Bennington, wrote last year (apologies for this delay) to ask if anyone could tell him when mains electricity came to Long Bennington. The village was not on a gas supply and so apparently went directly from oil to electricity. It is hoped that this information will help to date some old photographs of the village. Newark was on some sort of grid in 1932. Grantham was not on DC mains until 1935. Can anyone help? [It might be of general interest if anyone could give a brief idea of the best place to obtain this sort of information. I imagine that records of the various local companies are at the Lincolnshire Archives Office, but do not know exactly what is covered. Any volunteers? H.Healey]

24.3 FLEET COY BRIDGE An enquiry from Mr. J.Hedges has already been answered but may interest readers. The bridge in question is in Fleet Fen (Fleet being a very long thin parish) and is named after a nearby duck decoy, once owned by Sir Joseph Banks. Although this is fen that was enclosed in the Middle Ages the decoy is probably only of 17th century date. Nothing can be seen today, but its outline is on early 6" to 1 mile Ordnance Survey maps. Decoys originated in Holland and the name is a corruption of ‘cende-koli’ meaning duck trap. The best book on the subject was the one by Tony Cook and the late R.E.M.Pilcher. It used to be on sale at Peakirk Wildfowl Trust, but I believe it is now out of print for some time.

24.4 TORKSEY RAILWAY VIADUCT Mr. John Rapley wrote to voice his concern about the future of Torksey viaduct, which would celebrate its 150th anniversary at the millennium - if it is still there! At the time he was in touch with Stewart Squires, then Conservation Officer at West Lindsey District Council, in case they had any plans for it. Mr. Rapley has carried out some research into the bridge. It made engineering history when Captain Simmons of the Board of Trade, refused to pass it for traffic at the end of 1849, and created a major furore with the Institution of Civil Engineers, as well as infuriating the Great Northern Railway, who were desperate to use it!
24.5 SCREDINGTON WAR MEMORIALS After reading David Taylor’s article on Scunthorpe and District War Memorial (Lincolnshire Past & Present, 21, 9), John Porter, who sends us regular contributions, draws attention to two points concerning Scradington memorials. In the first half of this century, while the village community of farmers and farm labourers worked side by side for six days a week, there was a clear division for purposes of worship on Sundays between the Parish Church and the Wesleyan Chapel, for several years a greater number attending the latter. In the absence of a decision to erect one village memorial after the Great War, each fellowship chose to adopt its own. The Chapel memorial was a marble construction fixed into the inner walls of the building and the Church one was a grander work consisting of a completely new stained glass window in the east end of the church, with the names of those killed or missing at the bottom. Both recorded the same names as shown in the photographs enclosed. The one in the church was dedicated on 4 December 1921 and the stone in the chapel was put up in the church at the end of 1994, long after the chapel had ceased to function as a place of worship. Since, blessedly, no serving men or women from the village were lost in the Second War, no change was made to the monuments. There is one brief anecdote to add to the record. After the construction of the new window in the church, it was decided to move the single paraffin lamp – which hung from the high roof in the centre of the choir stalls and spoiled the view of the window – and to replace it by two lamps, one on each side. When Arthur Upton, village builder, went to the long ladder to bring down the offending lamp, he asked the vicar (the Rev. K. Coggan) to hold the ladder at the bottom, as it was on a tiled floor. Arthur took some time to unhook the lamp and came down slowly to find when he reached the bottom that the vicar had gone off to do something else. There is no record of their conversation. Mr. Porter sent colour photographs of the window, but we were unfortunately unable to use them as the contrast is too strong to reproduce well.

24.6 PLOUGH JAGS QUOTATION Prof. F.W. Moorman of the University of Leeds published a number of works relating to Yorkshire dialect. In *Plays of the Ridings* (1919) p9, in the context of a brief discussion of Christmas celebrations he records this:

A Lincolnshire peasant, asked as to the meaning of the dances of the beribboned ‘plough Jacks’ on Plough Monday, declared: “There’s been plough-Jacks iver sin’ the ‘Flood. When they coom’doot o’ th’ark an’ put th’ foot plough into th’ground, they dressers theirsens up i’ bits o’ things, an’ danced an’ capered about; an’ they’ve doon it i’ memory o’ that iver sin’.” Moorman gives no source. He may have collected it himself, or it may have come from a printed work. Can any reader provide the latter? (Nick Lyons).

24.7 ANCASTER HEATH With reference to the enquiry about Ancaster Heath (23.10, Lincolnshire Past & Present, p27) I am afraid I can only offer the following brief contribution from *The Great Civil War 1642-1645* by Colonel Burne (whom I knew) and Brigadier Peter Young. Writing of the Royalist Commander Charles Cavendish, second son of the Earl of Devonshire... ‘His next success was the action on Ancaster Heath on 11 April, when he defeated a combined force of 1500 Roundheads under Lord Willoughby of Parham and the younger Hotham.’ Little more than three months later Cavendish was himself killed at the Battle of Gainsborough (Lea), where also fell John Hussey of nearby Doddington Hall (David Ives).

24.8 BEAUMONT HOUSE I am writing to enquire whether any of your members may be able to assist me in researching the early history of Beaumont House, the ladies’ seminary which originally occupied this site (c.1860) – the building which is now known as Beaumont Court on Spring Hill. (C.J. Hodgson)

24.9 EARL & LAWRENCE RECORDS Mr. Hodgson holds the valuation records and ledgers of Earl and Lawrence, Sleaford-based auctioneers and valuers, and their predecessors from 1857 to c.1960. Though not complete they are quite extensive and relate predominantly to farms in the Sleaford area. If any SLHA members are interested in these records, he would be happy to arrange access.

24.10 HAWERBY HALL and CADEBY HALL in the Lincolnshire Wolds. Do any readers have any information at all relating to these houses? (Mrs. D.M. Moncaster)
BOOK NOTES

Christopher Sturman

Copies of most of these titles can be obtained through the Lincolnshire Heritage Bookshop at Jews' Court (postage extra).


An attractive collection of town, village and countryside memories compiled by members of the three Federations of Women's Institutes from the historic county of Lincolnshire and assembled thematically. In many respects this is a valuable book, chronicling social and economic changes principally in the first half of the century - though as Maureen Sutton has demonstrated in her pioneering We Didn't Know Aught, 1992, there are other aspects of life which demand serious exploration. Much of Lincolnshire Within Living Memory is derived from interviews and it is to be hoped that the original materials have been kept centrally. Perhaps the interviewees should have been named and where they lived recorded at the end of each section: it is not always possible to identify exact localities from the reminiscences (though the book does have an index of places).


HANNAH MARJORAM, illustrated by David Clerch, My Dad and I. Richard Kay, 1994. ISBN 0 902662 19 8 (hbk); 0 902662 29 5 (pbk). £10.50 (hbk); £4.45 (pbk).

A number of more substantial Lincolnshire reminiscences, which no doubt will be quarried extensively by future social historians, have been published in recent years. Whilst it is impossible to review these varied essays in autobiography at length, some indication of their scope and interest is certainly merited here.

Douglas Lamming's account of his early years captures the diurnal realities of 1920s Horncastle: home life, school, Chapel, sport and holidays (he even has a short chapter on local dialect). The book is finely printed, with many contemporary photographs and an attractive cover which captures the 'spirit' of the Batsford dust-wrappers of the period. The booklets published in Boston by Richard Kay are, by contrast, more modestly produced and priced, but this is not to deny their value to the local historian. Those interested in rural life in the inter-war period will find much of interest in Hannah Marjoram's account of her childhood memories of the family farm at Asgarby in the 1920s and 1930s (she also provides a short account of life in war-time Lincolnshire) and Eli Hague's description of Holbeach; the late Arthur Caldicott's relatively short account is of considerable value to the region's historians, charting, as it does, the relatively little studied life of the river boaters in what were times of great change (1920s-80s). The post-war years are covered in Sue Flavell's reminiscences centered on Nettleham (there is useful material here too for the historian of theatre in Lincoln, including the adoption of Tennyson's Idylls of the King performed as a pageant at Riecholme in the year 1960). Sue Flavell also touches on the youth culture of the fifties and sixties, but this is very much the centre ground of Ty Dalby's engagingly honest account of his growing up in Boston (an interesting addition to the substantial number of Lincolnshire studies published by Paul Watkins of Stamford).


David Cuppleditch has established a reputation as an explorer of the early history of photography in Louth, as well as a compiler of albums of historic photographs. The quality and range of the material assembled in Around Louth is impressive: there are both early cartes de visite and more recent press photographs; there are excellent group photographs (that on the cover of c. 1870 is stunning) and many attractive postcards. The bustling life of this attractive market town over the last hundred years is captured. Yet perhaps one could ask for more. Surely the 'success' of such collections as Around Louth depends not just on the photographs but also the quality of the captions - and here I must confess I think the reader is not always well served. I must also take exception with the author's statement that the earliest photographer working in Louth was Joseph Willey: perhaps Willey was a pioneer of commercial photography but the first man to take photographs (daguerreotypes) in the town was William Armitage (d. 1849). Perhaps one day some of his work will come to light; perhaps also one day someone compiling a book of Louth photographs will look seriously at W. T. Kime's Louth: A Souvenir of the Writer's Birthplace (1864), a pamphlet which contains several fine (and apparently un-noticed) photographs of the town by Plumtree (whose work is praised by David Cuppleditch) and by W. Parker.

ELEANOR BENNETT, Brackenborough: The Story of a Manor. Louth Naturalists', Antiquarian and Literary
Society, 1995. ISBN 0 9520173 5. £16.95 + £2.75 p&p from The Museum, 4 Broadbank, Louth, LN11 5EQ.

Brackenborough. The Story of a Manor presents the results of a good number of years' extremely detailed research by Eleanor Bennett into the history of Brackenborough from early times to the twentieth century. In her introduction Mrs Bennett indicates some of the factors which helped stimulate her interest in the history of Brackenborough: the catalogue for the 1907 sale which brought the Bennett family ownership of the estate, encouragement by the staff of the Lincolnshire Archives Office, aerial photographs taken by J. K. St Joseph of the deserted medieval village and, perhaps most significantly, the regular visits to this site by Rex and Eleanor Russell - it is therefore appropriate that Rex's excellent maps summarizing Eleanor Bennett's thorough work on landscape change enhance the text. The Louth Naturalists', Antiquarian and Literary Society are to be congratulated on their enterprise in publishing this important and absorbing study. (A more substantial review of Brackenborough. The Story of a Manor will appear in the 1996 issue of Lincolnshire History and Archaeology.)

East Midland Historian, 3 (1995). £6.95 incl. p&p from the Publications Officer, Dept Adult Education, Education Building, University of Nottingham NG7 2RD.
The East Midland Historian with its regular surveys of historical work within the county, its substantial section of reviews and its county bibliographies - it's good to note that Lincolnshire Past & Present is now noticed - should be on the reading list of all serious regional and local historians. The Lincolnshire specialist will find two articles of particular interest in the current issue: David Marcombe's account of the late fifteenth century building projects of Bishop John Russell and the study of the development and changing fortunes of George Bateman and Son, 'Lincolnshire's last brewer', by Stephen Andrews.

Books also received/noticed:


FRANCES KNIGHT, The Nineteenth Century Church and English Society. Cambridge University Press, 1995. ISBN 0 521 45335 6. £32.50. (This survey, which contains much Lincolnshire material, will be reviewed in the 1996 issue of Lincolnshire History and Archaeology.)

FACES AND PLACES

MORE COMPETITIONS Winners of the 1995 Heritage Lincolnshire competition on 'Lincolnshire Villages at War' were: First place Mrs. Kit Lawrie - East Keal at War, Second place Washingborough Parish Council - Wartime Washingborough and third place Barbara Taylor - Burgh on Bain and Girstby. There were commendations for entries on Astorby and Goulceby, Great Gonerby, Hemswell, Waddington, West Deeping and Williaming by Stow. Selections from the entries are being put together in a booklet which will be published shortly. Further information from Collette Hall at Heritage Lincolnshire (tel: 01529/461 499). Congratulations also to Susan Watkins of Lincoln for beating the Brain of Britain panel recently with her questions to the programme.

POCOHONTAS postcard (half page) The Lincolnshire connection with Pocahontas has been noted in the local media in various places, although a recent television programme was almost entirely about the Rolles of Heacham and hardly a mention of John Smith. This postcard was produced at Willoughby [near Alford] some years ago; copies are still on sale at Jews Court Bookshop, Steep Hill, Lincoln. Note the difference in appearance of the real Smith and the amazing clean-cut Disneyman! (Fig.1)

SOCIETY FOR CHURCH ARCHAEOLOGY This new society was launched on Sat 23 March 1996 in York. It has an interest in all aspects of historic churches and chapels, their environs, origins, development and architectural investigation. For details and introductory leaflet write to the Society at the Council for British Archaeology, Bowes Morrell House, 111 Walmgate, York Y01 2UA.

SPITAL IN THE STREET CHAPEL Dr. David Marcombe and Ann Berrill have acquired for restoration the dilapidated chapel of St. Edmund, Spital in the Street, on the A15 north of Caenby Corner. They have made remarkable progress, although they estimate that restoration work could take 20 years. A charitable trust
has been formed to support this work. Details from the Spital Chantry Trust, 72 Millgate, Newark, Notts.

EARLY AERIAL PHOTOGRAPHS On 9 Jan 1996 the Grimeby Evening Telegraph published reproductions of three photographs taken from the airship Hindenberg as it sailed across the sky above Cleethorpes in 1936. Those included in the article 'When Jerry had Us in his Sights', are of the Royal Docks and of Immingham Graving Dock. They were included in one of the Luftwaffe's air reconnaissance books.

ARCHAEOLOGY NEWS

These days most archaeological excavation takes place in advance of building or road development, and is often on a relatively small scale. Sites of particular interest reported by Gary Taylor of APS (Heritage Lincolnshire) include three of particular interest.

At the former General Hospital site, BOSTON, parts of substantial medieval stone and brick buildings have been found. The site previously produced high status items such as imported pottery, amber and exotic stone. The main building, dating about the 13th to 14th century, is possibly a warehouse - a 16th century document refers to one in the immediate vicinity. There is, however, some possibility that it could be part of the Augustinian Friary, whose whereabouts has been the subject of much conjecture in the past. Remains from bone working and Roman pottery have also been recorded from the site.

At SUTTERTON, near Boston, a site was identified by a scatter of Roman pottery and coincident geophysical anomalies. Several large ditches and pits filled with quantities of Roman pottery were revealed. Copious amounts of charcoal and ash were in the ditches, also some briquetage implying salt-making in the vicinity. The nature of this site is, however, unclear.

DEEPING ST. JAMES. At Welland Bank Pit (gravel extraction) continuing work has revealed well-preserved late Bronze Age remains - enclosures, pits, ditches and gullies, round houses and possible rectangular structures. Large quantities of pottery and animal bone have been recovered, plus some briquetage that suggests small scale (?domestic) salt-making.
OBITUARY

HUGH THOMPSON (1923–1995)

Hugh Thompson, the distinguished archaeologist with strong Lincoln connections, died last October at his home in Dorset after a long illness, aged 71.

Hugh was here in Lincolnshire as Keeper of the City and County Museum in late 1940s and early 1950s. He came partly on the recommendation of Ian Richmond, the leading Roman archaeologist of his generation, who continued to take an active interest in research in Lincoln. Among Hugh’s excavations were those of the Aqueduct, the Eastern Defences and the Public Fountain. All were published promptly. He also undertook some work at Riseholme outside the City on the Roman barrow and the deserted medieval village. His work at the North Gate and study of the West gate of the Roman City has, like the rest of his researches, stood the test of time.

He moved from Lincoln to take charge of Chester Museum where he excavated the Roman Amphitheatre. His work on this continued for ten years during which period he had moved on to become a Lecturer at Manchester University (where I met him in his last term and my first) and then Secretary of the Society of Antiquaries of London. He held this post with distinction for 21 years until his retirement in 1988, and represented the Society on various archaeological Committees in Lincolnshire over many years.

Hugh represented the Society on Committees of the Lincoln Archaeological Trust from its foundation in 1972 until his retirement. He was Chairman for the period 1981-1984, taking over from Sir David Wilson and helping to see through the foundation of the Trust for Lincolnshire Archaeology. Later he was Chairman of the City of Lincoln Archaeology Unit’s Advisory Committee. At the time of his death he had completed a book on the archaeology of ancient slavery, due to be published this year.

He is survived by his wife and two daughters. Mr. Thompson’s funeral took the form of a private family cremation, followed by a Service of Thanksgiving at the parish church of St. Mary, Cerne Abbas. I was pleased to represent both the City and the Unit on this occasion.

Mick Jones