Lincolnshire past & present

No 27 Spring 1997

Contents

Editorial
Notes and Queries
Mystery Pictures
Lincoln’s Obelisk
River Trips on the River Trent
Four Brothers and a Name
Faces and Places
Obituaries from 1996
Lincolnshire Mills Group - Progress Report
The Case of the House Detectives
Lincolnshire and the Empire - Wireless Communication
Lincolnshire Weather - more records
Book Notes

Page 2
Page 4
Page 7
Page 8
Page 10
Page 11
Page 14
Page 16
Page 18
Page 19
Page 21
Page 23
Page 23

The deadline for contributions to the next bulletin and the Summer issue of Lincolnshire Past & Present is 10 May 1997. Material should be sent to the joint editors at Jews’ Court, Lincoln LN2 1LS (Tel: 01522 521337), Tues. to Sat., 10am. to 1pm.). It would help if articles are typed with double spacing and a good margin - send SAE to Jews Court for ‘Notes for contributors’. Also please contact us if you use a word processor, as we can accept some disks.

EDITORIAL

This is a rather short editorial as far as my own input goes, since I have to leave room for a number of APOLOGIES and ERRATA.

CENTRAL REFERENCE LIBRARY

Miss Eleanor Nannestad, Librarian, Local Studies, has sent the following letter in response to the last Editorial (Lincolnshire Past & Present 26, Winter 1996/7):

With reference to your recent editorial in Lincolnshire Past & Present (Winter 1996/7), may I point out that no manuscript material is, or ever has been, kept on public access. We have very few manuscripts, and these are all kept in the strong room, and are available for consultation only on production of photographic identification.

The Editors apologise for giving this impression. It seems that there was a typing error in the Editorial; the word ‘compilations’ was intended but was misread as ‘collections’.

Mr Roger Hundleby, Principal Librarian, Lincoln, has written:

In your last edition (Winter 1996/7) you made certain comments about the Local Studies section of the new Central library in Lincoln, not all of them favourable, I regret to say. As Principal Librarian, with a large share of responsibilities for the internal layout of the building and staff allocation, perhaps I might reply.

First of all, on a matter of detail, manuscripts and other unique items are still safely locked away in our strong room. More generally, I find it odd that the section of the new library which has probably involved more improvement than any other is the one singled out for criticism. May I point out that the space given over to this collection is far greater than previously, and far greater, proportionally, than any other Central Library that I know; that thousands of volumes previously stored in reserve are now immediately accessible, including periodicals; that the collection is available during all of the library’s opening hours, themselves longer than previously; that microfilm reading and printing facilities are greatly increased; and that many more staff are now available to answer queries.

The general public - and I emphasise we are a public library, not an archive- have responded to these improvements by borrowing more books (up 1000 %) in 4 years; making more enquiries, and by spending more time using the increased study facilities.

It is not true that specialist staff are no longer available. In the past only one librarian had specific responsibilities for local studies, along with other duties. The local studies library was additionally staffed by several library assistants, all of whom also worked in other areas of the library. All of these people remain and are supplemented by several more, hence our ability to keep the collection available for longer hours. Just as in previous years, there are always new staff learning the ropes. Even ‘Specialists’ have to do that!

The answering of enquiries from a central point also contributes to the longer availability of the collection. Having to staff several different departments - the argument for separate desks or rooms applies equally to other sections of the library - is a grossly inefficient use of staff and equipment.

I am concerned about the security of my stock, including the local studies collection. This is why a book security system was introduced when the new library opened. Although I am firmly convinced that a public library must accept the dangers of freedom of access, I am still in no way complacent. My staff are currently investigating methods of improving security throughout the building.
I have to say, in conclusion, that far from presiding over the erosion of the local studies collection, we are
doing all in our power to promote, exploit and develop it, to the benefit of all the people of Lincolnshire.

We are grateful for Mr Hundleby’s comments, and it is good to hear of the vastly increased use of the library as
a whole. It does not seem as if it has been open four years already. If it is not thought too frivolous at this point
may I also say how wonderful it is to have a librarian whose surname is that of a Lincolnshire village!

This may be a good moment to remind readers that any views expressed in the magazine are those of individual
contributors and not those of the Society for Lincolnshire History and Archaeology.

I would also like to apologise for inadvertently attributing Christopher Sturman’s ‘Eastgate Revolutionized’,
contributed to the latest number of Lincolnshire Past & Present to David Robinson - who provided the illustrations
from his photograph collection.

Finally, looking at the list of contributors this time, where are the new local historians? I know that quite a number
of people, including members, have, in the last three years or so, taken Certificates and Degrees in various Local
Studies courses now available within the county. It would be good to hear from some of you! Revised Notes for
Contributors will shortly be available from the office on receipt of an s.a.e. I am sorry also to say that a few regular
contributors still send in text which does not conform to our practice, so in case it is you, please send for an up to
date copy!

Hilary Healey (Joint Editor)

SOCIETY FOR LINCOLNSHIRE HISTORY AND ARCHAEOLOGY
OFFICERS 1996-97

Chairman: Mr N. C. Birch
Vice-Chairmen: Miss P. Wheatley, Mr D. Start
Hon. Secretary: Mrs M. Birch
Hon. Treasurer: Revd R. Loxley
Hon. Purchasing Officer: Miss E. T. Wagstaffe
Hon. Mailing Officer: Mr D. Boyce
Hon. Postal Sales Manager: Mrs M. Birch

Hon. Journal Editor: Mr C. Sturman
Hon. Editors, Lincolnshire Past & Present: Miss R. H. Healey, Mr C. Sturman
Hon. Bulletin and Diary Dates Editors: Miss R. H. Healey, Mr N. C. Birch

If you are writing to the Society with queries not related to this magazine, please address letters
to the Chairman.
NOTES AND QUERIES

27.1 SUTTON MARSH (Lincl.P&P 25.2) This enquiry does refer to Sutton Wash (formerly the Wash of Long Sutton, the area now known as Sutton Bridge). I do not have any knowledge of Mr. Goosetreg of London. Mr. Woolstan I believe to be Mr. Woolastan (that is how it is spelt on Humphrey Smith’s map of 1726) who owned land on the 1640 intake. This map refers to a proposed cut and bridge through land belonging to Mr. Woolastan. The River Nene at the time was badly silted up, due partly to its tortuous channel to the sea. This impeded the drainage of waters from the Shire Drain, and caused flooding of the surrounding land. The proposed straight cut was considered by drainage engineer Humphrey Smith to be the solution to the flooding problem. However, the plan was not implemented. The following quotation is from the History of Long Sutton by W. F. and B. A. Robinson, p. 136. "Certain of these marsh lands [i.e. adjacent to the parish] afterwards became vested in Augustine Woolastan. On the 6th of March 1733, a Chancery suit, they were decreed to be sold, before a Master, for the best price that could be obtained, and were purchased by Wm. Newland and Wm. Rivett, of the LOWER Temple, Lincoln, on the 14th of March 1731 for £33,100 in trust for the said William Newland and his heirs. In 1733 Newland mortgaged the same to Thomas Beckford of Angslea, Surrey, and Francis Capper, of Lincoln’s Inn, for £25,167, the money being provided by Osmond Bevoir, Sarah Warren, Thomas Ashurst and Thomas Harris. Newland becoming bankrupt, Lascelles Metcalf, his assignees, on the 29th July 1746, disposed of the said marshes to Nathaniel Neal and the Corporation of Guy’s Hospital, London, for the sum of £37,000."

[For those who live further north than Long Sutton (alias Sutton St Mary’s) the Guy’s Hospital connection is the reason for the areal near the western lighthouse going by the name of Guy’s Head]. William Newland had completed the intake of 1720; this joined the 1640 intake. It would appear from various maps that the 1720 intake was breached by the sea, and this disaster may have been the cause of William Newland’s bankruptcy. It is also possible that failure to keep his lands free from flooding caused the departure of Augustine Woolastan. In 1747 Guy’s Hospital Estate enclosed more of the marsh, and more land was added by further intakes in 1806 and 1865. After the First World War the estate was acquired by the Ministry of Agriculture who divided the large farms into smallholdings. The estate is now owned by the Land Improvement Company, who bought it in 1981. Beryl Jackson]

[For a useful map of dated enclosures of marshland around the Wash see David Robinson’s The Lincolnshire Seaside p. 35. Mr. Goosetreg’s name is no doubt spelt phonetically. Would it perhaps have been something more like Goosstrich?]

27.2 LAWRENCE OF ARABIA - A DIFFERENT VIEWPOINT In his article ‘Lawrence of Arabia’s Lincolnshire Posting’ Lincl. Past & Present, 25 (Autumn 1996), Peter Gray tells how Lawrence had originally enlisted in the RAF in August 1922 as John Hume Ross, but once his true identity had been revealed by one of his officers to a national daily paper, he was discharged in January 1923. This is the usually accepted version, based on Lawrence’s own writings, but a different version is given by Capt. W. E. Johns, best known nowadays as the author of the Biggles books, but at that time a Recruiting Interviewing Officer. Johns told his side of the story in Popular Flying (July 1935) and Flying (20 August 1938); an abbreviated version can be found in the biography of Johns by Peter Beresford Ellis and Piers Williams, entitled By Jove, Biggles! (W.H. Allen, 1981).

According to Johns, ‘More rubbish has been written about this than anything else I know. The old story about how Lawrence was recognised by a particularly observant officer some time after he had joined the service has been told so many times that it has become legendary. Don’t believe a word of it... One day a thin pale-faced chap walked in. There was something off-hand about his manner, almost amounting to insolence, that I took an instinctive dislike to him... he was “different” from other recruits and was letting me know.’ Johns found that the personal details given by Ross were false and so refused to enlist him, not knowing his true identity and suspecting he was an escaped criminal. Within an hour ‘Ross’ returned with an order from the Air Ministry that he must be accepted into the RAF; but then the doctors refused to pass him as fit. A special doctor was duly sent from the Air Ministry to do so. When Johns complained to his commanding officer, he was told, ‘Watch your step. This man is Lawrence of Arabia. Get him in or you’ll get your bowler hat.’ Johns wrote ‘Lawrence went on and wherever he went, word of who he was preceded him.’ Eventually it was revealed that it was Air Vice Marshal Sir Oliver Swann who had prepared Lawrence’s false
papers and even suggested the name Ross.
These events seem to have left Johns with a lasting dislike of Lawrence. A few years ago a newspaper article suggested that the character of Biggles was based on Lawrence, but the truth is far more bizarre. For it was Biggles' arch-enemy, Erich von Stalheim, who was Johns' portrayal of Lawrence.

At first there might seem to be little in common between the Prussian aristocrat and Lawrence of Arabia. However, von Stalheim first appeared in Biggles Flies East published in 1935 (the same date as the Popular Flying article) and Johns did not at that time intend to bring him into any future stories. In that novel, von Stalheim is a German spy whose cover is that of an English officer living amongst the Arabs in the Middle East as one of themselves. The name he takes is Major Sterne. Readers will probably not need to be reminded of Lawrence Sterne... Edwin Ross.

27.3 FAST TRAIN to...? This photograph has been in my family for some years. With the 150th anniversary of the Great Grimsby and Sheffield Junction railway (including its Market Rasen branch) impending I was thinking of having it professionally restored. The photo is entitled 'Fast train - 45 miles per hour', and shows what we believe is an MSLR class 23 0-6-0 approaching Market Rasen station from the south with a train of eight 4-wheel coaches. My brother dates the photograph at some time in either 1887 or 1888. From OS maps the track layout cannot be earlier and block signalling was installed in 1888, but is not visible in the photo; in fact the photographer is positioned where the signal box was installed, just off the south end of the platform.
First of all I wondered whether there are any better copies in existence, and where I might look for one. I am not aware of any copies in the obvious sources such as the Local Studies Library or the Archives Office. I recall being told many years ago that there was another copy pinned up in Market Rasen signal box. If anyone can be of any help with this or any other information about the scene I would be most interested. Chris Padley.

\[\text{FAST TRAIN to...?}\]

27.4 TANK TRAP, NETTLEHAM ROAD, LINCOLN. Mr F. A. Wells-Cole has drawn attention to the remains of a 'tank trap' in the west pavement along Nettleham Road. He writes: "They are located opposite no.42 Nettleham Road, at the foot of a lamppost by the wall of the Cathedral Nursing Home. They are part of the City's 1940 anti-invasion preparations and they cover vertical holes into which tram/railway lines could be inserted as an anti-tank defence. I imagine, though I cannot remember, that there was some sort of a block-house at one or both ends of this defence." Mr Wells-Cole drew the City Council's attention to these last summer when it appeared that Diamond Cave might have been about to attack that section of pavement, but has heard no more, and in the event the cable company went to the opposite side of the road.
This account is a good reminder to readers to look out for such happenings. In the recent re-furbishment of
Wide Bargate, Boston, the Borough Council was able to preserve the iron TURNPIKE sign in the pavement near Cammack's shop. This item, now extremely worn, is featured in Neil Wright's The Book of Boston (p.96) and was thus known to a good many people before the work started.

I can remember that at one time the pavement in front of Welland Terrace, Spalding, showed a line of decorative coal-hole covers. None of these is left today, though I did sketch one or two at the time. Hilary Healey.

27.5 TINKERING WITH OS MAPS. Richard Oliver asks (Notes and Queries 25.4) whether any readers have come across 'tinkering' on 6" and larger scale OS maps. As records officer for Norfolk Landscape Archaeology, I have regretfully to say 'Yes!' For example a moated site on the edge of the Norfolk fens is depicted as complete on one 6" map, shown by a dotted line as 'moat - site of' on a second, and missing entirely from the third - yet all three maps bear the publication date of 1953, with no indication in the revision diagram that any revisions have taken place. Another example is at East Carleton where I was interested to see a note on the map saying 'Ice house'. I eventually discovered that an earlier edition of the map had shown a building with the words 'Steam engine house'; the building having been demolished, it had been removed from the map by use of some sort of whitener on the negative, which had not been carried across the full description. Edwin Rose

27.6 CENTENARIES IN 1997. This year sees the Centenary of the swing bridge at Sutton Bridge, and parish councillors are busy making plans. The SLHA has recently re-printed its booklet on the Industrial History of Long Sutton and Sutton Bridge, which is available at Jews' Court Bookshop.

27.7 DR HOLLAND'S DISTILLERY, MARKET DEEPING. This distillery was used for extracting oils, ie. lavender and peppermint. Members of Deepings Heritage are researching this building but cannot find plans. Help with this or any other aspect of the distillery would be welcomed by their archivist Mrs D. Price, 20 Eastgate, Deeping St James, Peterborough Pe6 8HJ. [Many readers will remember Keith Simpson's interesting talk on the subject at last year's Archaeology Day. Also see note below.]

27.8 STEPHEN LANGTON AND HIS WORKS. Mr L. G. Booth, 16 Lawn Crescent, Kew, Richmond, Surrey TW9 3NR is researching Thomas Tredgold but wishes to further this by including reference to his work with Stephen Langton on the Alford canal and to Langton's process for seasoning timber. Mr Booth has given no dates, but a hasty search has produced Neil Wright's reference to William Jessop's first job in the county being a survey for 'an abortive Alford Canal in 1784'. This appears in An Historical Atlas of Lincolnshire. Can anyone help with this enquiry? Miss Ruth Tinley, who has written about Tredgolds in her book A Tredgold Tracery, has already been in contact with Mr Booth, and these families are not related.

FLAX AND PEPPERMINT

Mr Wilson Fox in the report to the Royal Commission on Agriculture in Lincolnshire (1895) noted (p.163): In this district [Spalding], particularly at Pinchbeck, Surfleet and Gosberton, a great quantity of flax used to be grown but this industry, as in the west of Ireland, no longer exists and the flax mills are either pulled down or standing as ruins...

There are in Spalding some large enough empty premises which were formerly used as store houses when the flax trade was thriving. In the neighbourhood of St James Deeping a large farmer grows a considerable acreage of peppermint.
MYSTERY PICTURES

A popular feature returns! If you have any offerings for this page we shall be pleased to help, though please bear in mind that a photograph with poor contrast, or a colour print, will probably not reproduce very well. Both houses shown are probably located in the general area around Sleaford and Billingborough, though not necessarily.

The upper picture, probably seen from the garden side of the house, was photographed early this century, by Oxton of Horbling. It is likely to be somewhere in the Horbling, Billingborough, Swaton or Heckington area.

The lower picture, presumably also from the rear garden, is a more substantial house. It looks a little like a Victorian vicarage. (Sent in by S. Long, Billingborough.)
THE LINCOLN OBELISK

Neville Birch

The Bridge Chapel

The eastside of the High Bridge, Lincoln, was extended in about 1235 in order to support a bridge chapel dedicated to St Thomas à Becket of Canterbury. In 1305 the Mayor and Corporation founded a chantry on it and amended the dedication to St Thomas the Martyr. It became the custom for certain of the City's guilds to foregather at this chapel before proceeding to the Cathedral.

During the Reformation the chapel was desecrated, and in 1549 the bell was taken down and sold, and the building was ordered by the Corporation to be let as a dwelling house. On 3 November 1569 it was granted to the Company of Tanners and Butchers as a hall for their fellowship. Later, after being used as a shop, it fell into disrepair.

The Obelisk

About the middle of the eighteenth century the chapel buildings were removed in order to widen the road and improve the approach from the south; and an obelisk was erected to commemorate the bridge chapel. The mayor, Richard Ruxton, laid the first stone in 1762, and the structure was completed in December 1763. Soon afterwards a cistern was attached that supplied spring water from a conduit. This same source, installed by the Greyfriars in the fourteenth century, also supplied conduits at Greyfriars and at St Mary-le-Wigford. To commemorate the addition of a water fountain the cistern was apparently filled with wine for one day only, "from which the citizens drank freely."

The drinking fountain fell into disuse but was restored in 1863 as part of the City's celebrations for the wedding of the Prince of Wales and Princess Alexandra. It was re-opened by the mayor throwing a cup of water over it; in memory of the Prince Consort, who had died in 1861, it was named the Albert Fountain. The fountain was of polished Aberdeen granite, and above the basin was the inscription 'J.C. Torry, Mayor, 1862'.

During 1907 the obelisk was moved eastwards, taking the place of men's lavatories which had stood behind it. This allowed the road to be widened again. An inscription was then placed over the drinking fountain: 'erected in 1763 by the Mayor and Citizens on the site of a chapel dedicated to St Thomas the Martyr c.1304 Restored 1907.' One wonders whether these alterations were in anticipation of the royal visit to the Royal Show being held in Lincoln that year?

Over a period of years concern had been growing about the strength of the High Bridge and the contributory weight of the Obelisk. At a meeting of the city's Highways Committee, held on 1 February 1938, it was decided to recommend the removal of the Obelisk to a more suitable site in the vicinity of the High Bridge. It was on no account to be destroyed. During February 1939 scaffolding was erected and the Obelisk dismantled. The idea developed that it would be re-located in front of the Butter Market on Waterside South. However, World War II intervened and the dismantled stonework remained in the Council depot.
When the Simons Group planned the St Mark’s Development in Lincoln’s High Street, they decided to re-erect the obelisk in the new square hard by the old railway station building. Unfortunately many of the original stones were unavailable so that illustrations of the old structure were utilised to design a facsimile. So on a cold wind-swept day in early December 1996 the new obelisk was officially unveiled by Lincoln’s Mayor.

It resembles, as much as possible, the one removed from the High Bridge. As well as incorporating original fragments, stone fish have been recreated from an original fish-tail. The fountain spout forms part of a commemorative plaque, against which the mayor dashed several cups of water. It is a worthy reminder of the edifice that once stood on the High Bridge.

---

Amateur Archaeologist (in search of flint implements). "I hope you don't mind me looking for these on your land?"

Farmer. "What do you mean? Flickin' up stones?"

Amateur. "Yes."

Farmer (staring at the amateur with a horrified expression). "That's right; they fill the fountain with 'em and take 'em home to mother."

(Cartoon kindly supplied by a WEA archaeology class member).
RIVER TRIPS ON THE RIVER TRENT

Jim English

This handbill is a reminder that before the First World War the steam packets on the River Trent were hired every year by various Methodist Circuits for day trips. They apparently began in the 1860s when the Gainsborough Wesleyan and Primitive Methodist Circuits hired the boats. Later accounts have been found in the Gainsborough News of trips by Scotter PM Circuit, Owston Ferry Wesleyans and Epworth Wesleyan Circuit, as well as Scunthorpe Wesleyans; the Misterton Temperance Society also ran trips for several years to raise funds for their new hall, which opened in 1872. Up to 400 or more passengers went on these trips, which often began at 6am, and one can imagine the organisation required to feed and entertain them for a day of possibly inclement weather. In the Lincolnshire Archives Office there is a notebook of the Gainsborough PM Packet Trip Committee which gives details of the food donated by the chapel folk (fifteen plum loaves and thirty-three plain loaves, thirty-nine pounds of sugar, seven and a half pounds of tea etc.); it also contains balance sheets showing the profits, which over the years up to the First World War varied between about £10 and £50. Entertainment was usually provided by choirs and a harmonium, and sermons were frequently delivered by circuit and other ministers - but one wonders about the air guns and air balloons advertised for the Scunthorpe trip. The weather was not always kind, of course, and in 1912 the rain was so bad for the Epworth Wesleyan trip that a lady is recorded as saying that she ‘would sooner have been at home in the wash tub’.

Other chapels and churches in the town - particularly the Caskgate Street Congregational Church and Holy Trinity Parish Church - also hired the boats for trips, a favourite destination (in addition to the North Sea) being Burton Chateau [Gate Burton] the grounds of which were often opened to excursionists by the owners. On some of these excursions, especially those to the sea, a band such as that of the Rifle Volunteers, for example, was hired to provide the entertainment. The Scasborough seems to have been the favourite boat, being the newest, but the Isle of Axholme and the Atlantia were often hired.

I Want Enjoyable Day

SCUNTHORPE WESLEYAN CHURCH
EXCURSION TO
HULL, SPURN,
AND
THE SEA,
Tuesday, June 6th, 1903.

The Magnificent & Powerful Excursion Steamer,
the "SCARBOURGH," will leave
Susworth ... ... 6-0 a.m.
East Butterwick ... ... 6-30 a.m.
Burringtonham ... ... 7-0 a.m.

also taking Passengers at all Ferries, if required,
arriving at Hull about 9-30 a.m., and proceeding
thereon to Spurn Head, and out to Sea;
returning to Hull about 4 p.m., and arriving
at Burrington about 7 p.m.

The "Scarborough" will stop at Grimsby if a
sufficient number of passengers desire to land.

VOCAL & INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC.
AIR GUNS & AIR BALLOONS.

LUNCHEON & TEA provided in the Saxon
Cabin, 1/- each.

General Refreshments
In the Fore Cabin at Reasonable Prices.

EXCURSION TICKETS 3/- each. If
purchased on or before Monday, June
8th, 2/3 each. Children under 12, 1/6.

The early Morning Train runs conveniently for
this excursion, leaving Grimsby at 6-10 a.m.,
Elsam, 6-15 a.m., Appleby, 6-24 a.m., and
Scunthorpe, 6-32 a.m.

The "Scarborough" will reach Burrington on
the return journey in sufficient time for the
Train leaving Grimsby Station at 8-7 p.m.

As the number of Tickets is limited, the public
are urged to make early applications in order
not to miss this delightful and enjoyable Trip.

Profits in aid of Building Fund.

C. HUGHES, Secretary,
5, Prochingham Road,
Scunthorpe.

Bettle Bros, General Printers Works, Scunthorpe.
In 1906 the Gainsborough United Steam Packet Company Limited was re-located in Hull as the East Coast Passenger Service Limited, taking the above three boats with them, and a new Gainsborough company, the Gainsborough & Trentside Packet Co. Ltd., was formed, the Cella being their boat. Before the First World War one of the Gainsborough packets was stationed at Scarborough for the summer season, and used for coastal pleasure trips, much as the two ships stationed there do now.

We often think that in former times people had little time or money for leisure activities, but many river trips were arranged by churches and other organisations and by the Packet Companies themselves; some were day trips, others were half-day or evening trips (these being combined on occasion). Even moonlight trips with dancing on deck were advertised from time to time.

‘Pleasure trips on the Trent’ will be the subject of the Terence Leach memorial lecture which I shall be giving at Gainsborough Old Hall on 2 September 1997, and if anybody knows of relevant material in sources such as magazines, diaries, private papers, postcards, etc. I should be pleased to hear from you, to supplement the mass of interesting information that I am already finding in newspaper files and in Methodist records in the Lincolnshire Archives Office.

FOUR BROTHERS AND A NAME: Field Flowers (1804-1877) of Tealby

Jean Fanthorpe and Jim Murray

‘Full many a flower is born to blush unseen’, Thomas Gray (1716-1771)

‘Grandfather seems to like Mr Flowers...’ wrote Lieutenant Edwin Clayton Tennyson d’Eyncourt RN (1813-1903) to his father Charles Tennyson d’Eyncourt MP FRS FRA (1784-1861) shortly after his grandfather, the gouty old George Tennyson (1750-1835) had appointed the thirty-year-old Rev Field Flowers BA to the incumbency of the Wolds village of Tealby. Old George’s grandson, Charles Tennyson (1808-1879), had just refused the living on inheriting in May 1835 the living and estates at Grasby of his uncle Samuel Turner - whose name he adopted.¹

The new vicar with his beautifully alliterative and idiosyncratic name would be an adornment to Tealby. When patriarch old George died on 4 July 1835 it would not be long before the Tealby Tennysons would have a fine aristocratic name and magnificent house, Hayons Manor, to go with the peerage that Charles Tennyson was expecting for his political services. Field Flowers was to remain at Tealby as vicar for the next forty-two years until his death on 27 January, 1877.

The origin of the name is of some interest. Field was the family name of the grandmother of Field Flowers. The Flowers family came from Boston where a certain Samuel Flowers had his first son baptized French Flowers on 24 January 1724, possibly named after his wife Eliza [it was quite common to give a son the mother’s maiden name].² On 9 August 1771 French Flowers married Frances Field at St Botolph’s where he was churchwarden. It must have been that French Flowers with his unusual alliterative name (and his wife also with an alliterative name) saw the romantic charm of naming their son Field Flowers. French Flowers died some time before February 1796, described as ‘a Common Council Man’ [i.e. a councillor].

The first Field Flowers was baptized at St Botolph’s on 24 September 1772. He eventually graduated BA and entered holy orders. He was married on 26 April 1796 to Mary, daughter of William Parker of Boston. He was presented vicar of Partney by Lord Willoughby d’Eresby in 1814. He died there on 4 July 1818 aged forty-five and was buried in the vault of Partney church near the chancel steps, where subsequently his wife and daughter, Frances, were interred.³ His sisters Frances (b. August 1776) and Elizabeth (b. January 1778) both married clergys. Frances was the wife of Bartholomew Goe (1767-1838) of Horncastle, vicar of Boston ⁴ and Elizabeth married John Wayet (c. 1767-1841) vicar of Pinchbeck. Both sisters named their sons Field Flowers. Field Flowers Goe (1798-1865) was a prominent solicitor
and coroner, five times Warden of Louth Grammar School and Mayor of Louth in 1849 and 1850. He married Mary Jane Allison, daughter of a Louth banker, and their son, Field Flowers Goe, became Bishop of Melbourne. Field Flowers Wayet (b. 1822) first became vicar of Ollerton, Devon (1865-1868) and for nearly twenty years was rector of St. Stephen's Church, Bristol. He died in 1895, having retired ten years previously. 5

The second clerical Field Flowers (of Tealby) was the second surviving son of the Rev. Field Flowers of Partney. 6 He matriculated at Lincoln College, Oxford, on 17 June 1823, aged eighteen, graduated BA in 1827 and became a curate at Bradley, Grimsby, before taking up his next appointment as curate at North Thoresby and Grimsby, where he remained until moving to Tealby in July 1835. He married Frances Rollet at Gainsborough on 4 September 1828. Their two children, Field Flowers (b. 30 May 1830) and his sister Fanny Maria (b. 1832) perished in the wreck of the Hull paddle steamer Pegasus (130 tons) aged thirteen and eleven respectively. William Field Flowers, who was born in 1843, died in 1876 unmarried. Hence the name perished with the death of young Field Flowers.

Pegasus sailed from Leith near Edinburgh at 6pm on Wednesday 19 July 1843, bound for Hull. The children were accompanied by pretty Maria Barton, daughter of Zephania Barton of Market Rasen, physician and family friend of the Tennyson d'Eyncourts. She was twentyseven years old and was bringing them home for the school holidays. Shortly after midnight on a clear, calm summer night the Pegasus struck the treacherous Goldstone Rock near Holy Island on the Northumbrian coast. The vessel was hauled in the bow. Captain Alexander Miller, commander, perhaps imprudently, backed the stricken ship off the rock and tried to make for Holy Island (Lindisfarne) which was barely two nautical miles away. Pegasus sank within half an hour. Some fifty-one souls perished. There were only six survivors, including the first mate and three other crew members. The body of Maria Barton was picked up next day along with five other bodies by the SS Martello, northbound on passage from Hull to Leith. She was clutching a child in her arms. The body of young Field Flowers was recovered three weeks later by a French fishing vessel; he was wearing the fine silver watch that his father had given him. The body of Fanny Maria was never found. A memorial stone to the two children can still be seen outside the west door of Lindisfarne Priory. Miss Barton's badly eroding memorial is in Market Rasen churchyard—an unsung heroine of the sea. 7

Field Flowers had three brothers, William Henry, Frederick and George French. All four were educated at Louth Grammar School. William Henry (b. 1809) graduated BA at Jesus College, Cambridge in 1831 and took holy orders. He was successively curate at Liddington, (1831-36), Hackthorn (1836-42), Cottesmore, (1842) and Horncastle (1842-44), and was vicar of Ulceby for thirty-one years from 1844 until his death on 17 September, 1875, aged sixty-six. It was during his incumbency that St. Nicholas' School was built at Ulceby in 1848 and he was responsible for the restoration of Ulceby Church in 1852. His son, John French Flowers, was vicar of Bardney from 1844. 8

Frederick Flowers (b. 1810) was called to the Bar at Lincoln's Inn on 18 November 1839, joined the midland circuit and practised as a special pleader. He married Ann, only daughter of R. Kirkby in 1841 and left one son. He was Recorder of Stamford until appointed in 1864 (by Sir George Grey) police magistrate at Bow Street, London, and sat at that court until his death at Hornsey, Middlesex on 26 January 1886, aged seventy-six. In 1830 he had published Titus, a Poem, dedicated to his brother William Henry and added a note: 'I have taken this idea from the dedication of a small book of Mr Charles Tennyson’s, Trin. Coll., Cambridge to his sister Mary...'. Frederick Flowers was described as 'one of the wittiest, most ingenious and eloquent of the bar'. 9

Frederick Flowers.
(From a sketch by J. W. Wilson of Louth)
# APPENDIX

## Flowers Family Tree

Samuel Flowers = Eliza (Elizabeth) of Boston

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>French = Frances Field</th>
<th>Elizabeth</th>
<th>Mary</th>
<th>William</th>
<th>Sarah</th>
<th>Samuel</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>b. 1724</td>
<td>b. 1726</td>
<td>b. 1727</td>
<td>b. 1729</td>
<td>b. 1731</td>
<td>1733</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>d. prior to 1796</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1771 Churchwerden St Botolph's</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Boston</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1771 married</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(all baptized at St Botolph's, Boston) - William witness at wedding of French 1771)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Field = Mary Parker of Boston</th>
<th>Frances = Rev. Bartholomew Goe</th>
<th>Elizabeth = Rev. John Wayet</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>b. 1772</td>
<td>b. 1767 d. 1841 vicar of Pinchbeck</td>
<td>b. 1778</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>m. 1796 by bro-in-law</td>
<td>b. 1776 d. 1841 vicar of Pinchbeck</td>
<td>b. 1767 d. 1841 vicar of Pinchbeck</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Revd. Bartholomew Goe</td>
<td></td>
<td>issue included son Revd. Field Flowers Wayet, b. 1822, Rector of St Stephen's, Bristol 1865-1885</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vicar of Partney</td>
<td>Flowers</td>
<td>Elizabeth witness marriages of her brother and her sister both in 1796</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>d. 1818</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mary Parker d. Devonport</td>
<td>Field Flowers b. 1798 Coningsby</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1842 aged 66</td>
<td>Mayor of Louth whose son Field Flowers Goe became Bishop of Melbourne</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Field = Frances Rollett at Gainsborough 1828</th>
<th>William Henry = Ann</th>
<th>Frederik = Ann</th>
<th>George French = Fanny</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>b. 1804</td>
<td>b. 1809</td>
<td>b. 1811</td>
<td>b. 1813</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>d. 1877</td>
<td>Vicar of Ulceby</td>
<td>Kirkby</td>
<td>d. 1836 aged 23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>died in infancy</td>
<td>d. 1875</td>
<td>b. 1810</td>
<td>Musician</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Carate at Bradley 1827-1828</td>
<td></td>
<td>Barrister</td>
<td>d. 1886</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>North Thoresby and Grainsby 1828-1835</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vicar of Tealby (Legsby from 1842) until his death.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Field b. 1830          | Fanny b. 1832        | William Field b. 1843 | d. 1876 |

Field and Fanny perished in the wreck of SS Pegasus 1843
George French Flowers (b. 1811) was a composer and a musical theorist. He studied music in Germany and graduated Mus. Bac. from Lincoln College, Oxford in 1839. He became a Doctor of Music in 1865. He founded the Contrapuntists Society in 1843 and was music critic of the Literary Gazette. Flowers was for a time organist of the English Chapel in Paris and later of several London churches as well as Beverley minster. Among his compositions was a mass (c. 1860) reflecting his admiration of Bach and Vogler. In 1869 he became a Roman Catholic convert. He died of cholera on 14 June 1872. 5

The four Flowers brothers had a sister, Fanny, who died on 5 September 1856, aged twenty-three. She is commemorated in a window in Partney church along with her parents.

Acknowledgements

The writers wish to thank the Lincolnshire Archives Office, Lincolnshire Local Studies Library, Miss T. M. Maddison of Partney and John Bannister, Director of Music at Bishop Grosseteste College, Lincoln, for help and advice.

Notes

2. For his siblings see family tree.
5. For Bartholomew Goe see Geo. S. Bagley, Boston - Its Story and People (Boston 1986).
6. A younger brother, baptized Field Flowers 4 May 1800 at St Botolph's, died in infancy.
7. For a fuller account of this incident see J. Murray, The Wreck of the Steamship Pegasus, a Victorian Maritime Disaster 1843. (Open University, 1994).
8. I. Margaret Thompson, St Nicholas' Church, Ulceby.

FACES AND PLACES

ADA MAYFIELD. The Autumn 1996 edition of Reportback, the magazine of the Workers Educational Association, contains an interesting tribute to this remarkable lady, whose 100th birthday was in August 1996. She had connections with the Co-operative and labour movements and both she and her first husband, Fred Sutcliffe, were active in the WEA. Although born at Langley Mill, near Ilkeston in Derbyshire, the family lived in Lincolnshire for a time when she was a child. The village is given as Martin, but it seems clear from the text of the article that it was actually Marton, since she recalls Sturton by Stow: 'My very first memory is of a field of yellow buttercups at nearby Sturton by Stow. I should be about three years old. I was told to wait in the field which was across the road from the house for visitors who were coming to Stow Park station. I can still see myself, a small girl with a frilly white pinafore, sitting in the field surrounded by those lovely yellow flowers.' The article, written by Jean Orton, does not give Ada's maiden name, but some reader may know of it.

SUMMER SCHOOLS. Amongst the books and papers received by SLHA from the family of the late Mrs Emid Ballard - a most generous gift - was the photograph here reproduced which shows the Grimsby Group at the Summer School on Local History held at Stamford School in 1938. This, one of a series of residential schools organized for our predecessor, the then Lindsey Local History Society by the then Lindsey Rural Community Council, lasted a week, in glorious weather. The programme covered not only lectures and discussions, but visits by coach to places of historic interest, with picnic lunches and teas packed into laundry baskets.

Perhaps some other readers were also present and may have memories of this, or of other Summer Schools, to contribute, though a sad note on the back of this picture made in 1971 states that only three of those shown on it then survived. Flora Murray.
The students in the Grimsby photograph (some of whom, were in fact from Cleethorpes), were, back row, from left: the Rev. Q.C. Sinclair of Beesby (whose history of that parish was regarded as a model); Miss Ethel Greenfield, Miss Helen Hall, Mr Charles Brears (then teaching at Waltham), Miss Agnes Inches, Miss Lilian Greenfield, Mr Frank Harrison and Miss ? At the front Miss Mary Hardy and Miss Mollie Drewry.

HALF-TIMBERED CHURCH APPEAL. Did you know that Lincolnshire had a half-timbered church? The little church of St Gilbert and St Hugh, at Gosberton Clough (pronounced ‘Clow’) designed by Buckerell and Comper, was built in 1902-04 and is a Grade 2 Listed Building. Briefly described in Persner as ‘very attractive’ it has some splendid features. Currently parishioners are facing a huge repair bill, owing to rotting of some critical parts, including the oak sole plate. If you would like to help, contact Mary Burton, secretary of the Parochial Church Council, Tel: 01775 750213.

MATTHEW FLINDERS’S CAT. Recently some local papers featured the tale of Matthew Flinders’s cat, who has now been commemorated in a small (and presumably life-size?) statue placed near the Flinders Memorial outside the Mitchell Library in Sydney, Australia. Evidently the explorer thought a great deal of his cat, Trim, and after Trim’s death (or disappearance) in Mauritius in 1804 he said that he would one day erect a monument ‘to perpetuate thy memory and record thy uncommon merits. And this shall be thy merit.’ Apparently 10,000 Australian dollars were raised for the sculpture.

We always ask readers about anniversaries, and one reader, Mr John Pepperdine, has several times kindly responded with wonderful lists of these, but in the end we cannot usually get anyone to write up these items. See what you can do in 1997; tell us all about it.

WAINFLEET. It was a surprise to see Wainfleet figured in the English Heritage members’ magazine for December 1996 as a ‘fensland town’, presumably some confusion over the fact that there are fens to the south of Wainfleet, but the good news in the report was that English Heritage had given grants for various schemes and buildings in the town. Go and have a look for yourself!
OBITUARIES from 1996

OLIVER ANDERSON, whose death was reported in November, earned some notoriety in 1937 when, under the pen-name of Julian Pine, he published a satirical book entitled *Rotten Borough*, based on Grantham, and including characters apparently based on local people. Several people, some of them local worthies, certainly felt themselves to be readily identifiable and threatened libel writs, and the book was withdrawn after about three weeks. It was re-published in 1989 under his own name during Margaret Thatcher's premiership, when it was no doubt hoped that topical interest in Grantham would make it a popular purchase. Anderson himself denied that any characters were based on real persons. Oliver Anderson's father was Rector of Snitterby, north of Lincoln, where Oliver was born in 1912, and was then moved to Little Ponton. He went to Kings School at Grantham and started work as a journalist on the Nottingham Guardian and Grantham Evening Post. It was during this time that he probably got the ideas for his book. (Information largely extracted from obituary by Andrew Bond, *The Independent*, 11 Nov 1996)

JEAN AND FRED SHAW. On 20 June, 1996 several members of the Society were present at East Keal church at the funeral of one of our most respected former members, Fred Shaw. Little did they think that in less than a month they would be attending the funeral of his wife Jean. The Society and Lincolnshire are the poorer for their passing. Their devotion to each other, their two children and to local history was an example to all who were privileged to know them.

Fred had spent all his married life in a wheelchair, but in spite of this he had lived a full and active life. He paid tribute to Mrs Ruddin who introduced him to the world of antiques and local history. From this interest he and Jean built up the business known as Franklin Antiques. The business flourished as they became known for their integrity. Soon after meeting them we sold them some insurance plaques. Weeks later Fred drove up in his specially adapted car; he had bought us more money because he had sold them well!

Many members will remember him attending various agricultural shows where he exhibited bygones. Always full of enthusiasm he would share his knowledge with everyone. He gave illustrated talks on local history up to the year of his death. In all he did he was ably supported by Jean and they spent many a cold day at local auction sales; buying antiques for the business. Jean had an interest in period costume and gave fashion shows around the county. In over thirty years not once did they grumble at their lot. Their sense of humour was infectious; how Fred laughed when the brawn melted one hot sunny day when they were giving a demonstration of “getting the pig out of the way” at the Woodhall Show. They will be sadly missed by all who knew them. (Betty Kirkham)

JOHN C. MOSSOP. As the head of an old established firm of Holbeach and Long Sutton solicitors, Mossop and Bowser, and Clerk to a number of Drainage Boards and parish councils, John Mossop, who died in September 1996, was well known in the area. He was an SLHA member in the 1960s and attended many WEA and University courses on Fenland subjects, including a series conducted by his old friend C. W. Phillips, arranged at Boston in the 1960s. A keen amateur archaeologist, he excavated at weekends for many years at a Romano-British settlement in Holbeach Fen. He was one of the first people to investigate one of these complex rural sites, notes on which were first published in the *Journal of Roman Studies* 26 (1936), pp.248-50. The chief results of this work were the protection of the site as a Scheduled Ancient Monument and an impressive collection of Roman pottery. This collection he kindly donated to the City and County Museum a few years ago; it will prove an extremely valuable future resource. Through his work as clerk to various bodies and his interest in local history he had an unrivalled knowledge of the history of the fens in South Holland, especially as recorded in documents and maps. His own collection of Greek and Roman coins, known as the Mossop Collection, is in the Fitzwilliam Museum, Cambridge. (Hilary Healey)
Shows which she arranged and dressed. These played a part in developing an interest in local history. Fred and Jean were remarkable people, to whom the Society is indebted and we express to their family and friends our affection and respect. (Flora Murray)

THE SHAWS AND THE SHOWS. Many readers will remember Jean and Fred’s splendid displays in the days when the Society attended the Woodhall and County Shows. At Woodhall we had an entire marquee, originally provided by the Show Committee as the only place for people to retreat to in the case of rain. There was a different theme to the displays each year, and the tent was filled with other invited societies and organisations, such as the City and County Museum, coin enthusiasts, local history and archaeology groups and individuals with particular interests. The Museum used to bring its 6” to 1 mile Ordnance Survey maps, and Show visitors brought objects they had found for identification; it was a popular exhibit and people came year after year with everything from stone axes and Roman pottery to peculiar tools which usually had a connection with horses or thatching! We also had the Society bookstall and a regular “what is it?” quiz with an assortment of curious bygones. Bill Hallgarth, now best remembered for the collections he left to the Welholme Gallery, Grimsby, put up stands of old photographs; he always managed to get copies of fresh photographs lent or donated and to get some of his mystery ones identified. With his windmill collection he was attempting to acquire a picture of one windmill from every parish - I am not sure whether he succeeded, but I did manage to find one for him of Bicker, for which he had previously drawn a blank. Show themes that I particularly remember the Shaws bringing included land drainage tools and clay drain pipes, lighting, shops and medicines. I also remember one Whit Monday (the Woodhall Show day) when it rained heavily all day and hardly anyone came; we were, I am pleased to say, allowed to pack up early. We spent the day filling up on the wonderful home-made jumble which was sold, I think, under the name of ‘Country Cousins’! I also recall the hot day with the pig cheese and sausages - we were not selling food, but I am sure it would not have been allowed under today’s Health and Safety Regulations! Eventually, once the Show Committee had more marquees, including refreshment tents, we found ourselves being asked to charge entry to the tent in order to pay part of the cost. This went against the whole ethos of our presence, and in the end we reluctantly decided not to attend any more. At the County Show also, where we had been allotted a space in the Museum’s tent (having previously, before the Society’s collection was handed over to the new Museum of Lincolnshire Life, had our own) the stand became too expensive for a non-profit making organisation. Fred continued to put on local displays, and was a familiar figure at Skendleby Sheepdog Trials. I also held a small display on Old Bolingbroke pottery alongside his bygones at the Festival there in 1994, and he brought drainage tiles and tools to Wrangle Show the following year. They will both be much missed. (Hilary Hedley)
LINCOLNSHIRE MILLS GROUP - PROGRESS REPORT

Les Osborne

The following notes cover recent happenings to water and windmills in the Lincolnshire Mills Group area, which covers the whole of historic Lincolnshire and Nottinghamshire. For Nottinghamshire details contact the author c/o SLHA at Jews Court and your letter will be passed on to him. The Group also supports the old North Humberside Group and the Cambridge area.

In general the situation is quite good. There are still 133 remains of windmills in the county, ranging from one-storey shells to fully restored wind powered mills, some producing flour for a living. Through the Society for the Protection of Ancient Buildings (SPAB) Wind and Watermill section, many District Councils do consult us over planning applications - recent ones include the Grantham area. We try not to be negative; we feel that our requests are reasonable and not too burdensome on the builder or developer. Most of us on the Committee believe it is better to preserve - use (however hideous the result) - rather than destroy, demolish and lose a mill structure. The limiting factor is the size of the area and the fact that membership is spread rather thinly.

Several windmill towers are in need of work, but time and money hinder many efforts. The odd owner shows outright opposition to any approach from LMG or any other body concerned about windmill or industrial heritage. In one location, where a unique mill tower, a site of tremendous industrial importance, is collapsing, access has not been allowed.

HEAPHAM. We start with a success story. This tower mill has just been restored to working order - again. It was restored before, and the owners had received an SPAB certificate for their efforts, but quite soon afterwards it was struck by lightning and practically destroyed. This latest restoration is being done privately, at the owner's request we had not previously mentioned it, but recently it has been featured in a local paper.

LOUTH (Hubbard's Hills). This watermill is on the River Lau near the famous beauty spot and as far as we can tell is known by three names, Chaplin's Mill, Crowtree Lane Mill and the obvious one of Hubbards Hill Mill. There are a variety of discussions and schemes in various stages of development over the future of this mill. We have helped with advice, and one member is closely involved.

SCAWBY. This mill tower was accidentally knocked down, but has since been rebuilt. We had originally expected it to be 'written off' so were glad to see this, even though the placing of the last few brick courses has resulted in a 'vase' effect. Otherwise it is a good rebuild. It also now has a new house attached.

SWINESHEAD. One of our committee members owns and is restoring this tower mill in between his official work. So earning a living gives much needed cash to buy metal, timber or paint for the mill - and to eat! - but seriously interferes with the restoration work!

MOULTON. I have deliberately left the best to last. Great excitement with this mill. Through the generosity of the former owner and assistance from the developer this monster windmill should pass into the hands of a Trust supported by LMG. It is the tallest in the country, being 80ft to the curb. I have just read that the Le Talls Mill in Lincoln is 77ft 6ins to the curb, so we have two mills taller than Sutton mill in Norfolk, which claims to be the tallest. It is only 77 ft to the curb, but does have a boat-shaped cap which gives its total height as 88ft/90ft - depending which article you read. Moulton's
'coolie' cap, put on in 1928, gives a height of c. 88ft, but when a proper 'ogee' cap is fitted it will be some 97ft high! This is still, short of the Dutch mills at Scheidaam, where the tallest working mill is located, standing at 105ft.

Our ultimate hope is that Moulton will be restored to full working order by wind power. It still contains much of its machinery, from the auxiliary motor shaft drive to the manual cap winding gear, so it should be able to grind grain by electric motor initially.

It is hoped that we shall be able to show the various means of powering a mill and how the millers of this century tried to continue obtaining a living. Various promotional ideas have been put forward and offers of assistance made. We are hoping for support from LMG members, local people and others. Further developments to be announced. For details of the LMG contact Secretary Mrs E. Chantry (01754/811 496 or Les Osborne 01522/ 888 117).

---

**THE CASE OF THE HOUSE DETECTIVES**

_Hilary Healey_

By the time you read this a TV programme on the history of a Lincolnshire house will have been screened. This is one in the latest series of _The House Detectives_ on BBC 2, a sort of buildings version of Channel 4's _The Time Team_. The term 'House Detective' has already entered into popular use, although the type of investigation is not new. Whereas the Time Team are said to have three days to make their discoveries, the House Detectives have five - for a shorter screening! Nor do they have the technology and fancy graphics. This is all a great shame, but they manage in spite of it.

I had always suspected that much of the background work for such programmes is carried out in advance, since even five days is hardly adequate, and this was proved so in the summer of 1996. This note is a record of some of the events. The BBC approached SLHA (and no doubt other organisations) for names of people who might help with the history of a house in Dunsby. Neville Birch, Shirley Brook and Dennis Mills were amongst members early involved (apologies to anyone I have left out) and I came in a little later, having failed to get through in response to the original call.

It was established that the house was in Dunsby near Bourne, and that the owners were keen to discover why a very imposing Victorian house had been put up down an obscure fen road. For these programmes every aspect of landscape history and buildings is examined. Tom Lane, of Heritage Lincolnshire, who with Peter Hayes had carried out the fieldwork for the Fenland Project, provided the evidence of the early land use and settlement in Dunsby Fen. Tom also suggested my name, as I had information on the later and post-medieval landscape and on local brickmaking. Having persuaded the producer that reading _Waterland_ was probably not going to give her the background to this particular part of the Lincolnshire Fens, I spent a hectic few days sorting my files and chasing various loose ends, including checking local Directories as a matter of curiosity.

Dunsby parish in form is typical of fen edge parishes between Thirskingham and Bourne. The earliest signs of settlement are usually located on the west and higher ground near the present village and the spring line. The three miles of 'fen' to the east were occupied in Roman times but by the Middle Ages had become only suitable for summer grazing. Most fens in adjacent parishes were enclosed in the eighteenth century, mostly in the 1760s and 1770s. But Dunsby differs from its neighbours. Here there was just one major landholder, the Charterhouse foundation, an organisation which could more or less do as it liked. In correspondence of c.1750 it is recorded that Charterhouse objected to some of Sir John Heathcote's proposals for 'proper enclosure of the Lordship'. So despite the physical existence of an undated Act the actual date for Dunsby Enclosure was not immediately clear, except that it had happened before 1800. Armstrong's map of 1779 shows a property against the South Forty Foot Drain, as well as a bridge across to Pinchbeck Fen. The bridge has long been known as Casswell's Bridge, suggesting an obvi-
ous family connection. Often with house history it is much easier to find out about the people than about the house.

The BBC system seemed to be getting as many people as possible supplying information - they had their own team of researchers as well - but not to let on what they had already obtained. In theory this should produce a very large resource but there must have been a good deal of duplication of effort. One wonders how many people had checked Directories for Casswells, work probably already well covered by family historian Peter Casswell! I spent a little time pursuing a wrong track for Enclosure information which had already been supplied by Charterhouse archives. But the producer, Flavia Ritter, had a tight schedule, with only a few weeks to get the programme together, and I suppose that this was the best way to assemble material in a short time. Our contributions were, after all, only part of the exercise!

At the end of a hectic week David Robinson, who had also been invited to look at the bricks, rang me up to find out some background to the house and on the following Monday, an incredibly hot afternoon, he and Jean Howard from Louth and myself went to meet the producer at the actual house. We spent most of the time looking round the exterior and immediate grounds, and were briefly indoors, where we saw the wallpaper expert at work. I was disappointed that the extensive farm buildings, which seemed to be largely of one build, were not really part of our enquiry that day. There had also been at one time two wind drainage pumps, or "engines", in the immediate vicinity. Our on-site discussion, videoed by Flavia, ranged over the probable site of the original dwelling, the layout of the garden, the curious two-phase construction of the present house and the possible source and transportation method of the bricks themselves. These are machine made and unlikely to come from anywhere nearer than towns such as Bourne or Sleaford, perhaps even Peterborough. Almost all these fen edge villages had their own brickworks during the last century, but their products were handmade, and there were several types of these around in the garden, presumably from the original house and buildings. There had been a large pond west of the house, which may have started life as a claypit.

I was inclined to disagree with David over transport of the bricks. They might have been brought by water up the Forty Foot through connections to the south, especially if coming from Bourne or Peterborough, but there are records of good numbers of bricks still being moved by carrier in these parts in the 1840s. If the bricks came from Bourne this would have been logical, since by the time they had been fetched by carrier from the kilns to other transport it would have been as easy to have carted them all the way, barely ten miles by road. The closest railway station, only about three miles away at Rippingale, was not in existence until after 1872, so the date of the house is needed before knowing if this was an option. Was the coming of the railway influential in the choice of superior bricks or in the decision to rebuild? We are looking at a mid- to late-nineteenth century brickhouse, simple in shape but on an imposing scale, with the largest brackets to its external cornice that I have ever seen! It also had extensive outbuildings, although these did not figure as a major part of our investigation, and there were once a number of workers' cottages, as well as a small school in Pinchbeck Fen, just across the Drain. It was said that the last cottage was demolished a few weeks before the BBC arrived!

It may be, of course, that Charterhouse did produce building records for Fen Farm (even though they sold the house off early this century), but if so this was not revealed at the time of our visit!

It was altogether an interesting, if slightly frantic experience. David was invited to say a few words for the final shooting and the programme should have been transmitted on 25 March, barring interference from General Elections. I hope they get close to an actual date for the building. I like to think that my own contributions were that I located the 25" to 1 mile 1887 OS map at Lincolnshire Archives Office - which somehow the team had missed - and that I was the first person to spot the remains of the Ha-ha!

The series has spawned a tremendous amount of PR; in one of many recent colour supplement articles on how to find out about a house it was stated that research prices started at £1,000 - perhaps I should go into it full time! A BBC book is to be published later in April.

[It is hoped in our next issue to announce a useful checklist for house research, so that you can save a few hundred pounds by doing some of your own work! A leaflet is currently being prepared by Rebecka Blewitt, Assistant Director of Heritage Lincolnshire. Rebecka has recently replaced Collette Hall in that post, Collette having moved down to Devon.]
In Lincolnshire Past & Present 10/11 (Spring/Summer 1993), I contributed a short article on this subject. It has raised some interest and, principally as a result of additional research by Chris Lester, much more information has come to light. In addition, a booklet, Tetney Beam Station was published in December 1993 by Paul Hewitt, head of the Tetney Primary School. Furthermore 1997 will see the seventieth anniversary of the opening of the Lincolnshire stations. This note includes a selection of the information that has now been researched. It might be helpful, however, to start with a short recap.

In 1926 and 1927 wireless communication with the Empire was established through what were known as Beam Stations. The Beam system was the pioneering use of short waves for long distance communication. This communication was between stations using large aerial arrays to concentrate transmitter energy and receiver sensitivity in a specific direction. In Lincolnshire two Beam Stations were established, providing links with India and Australia. Known as the Grimsby Station, the transmitter was at Tetney, with the receiver at Burgh-le-Marsh.

The two Lincolnshire stations were built for the Postmaster General by the Marconi Wireless Telegraph Company. £60,000 was allocated as the price to be paid to Marconi for plant and installation. This did not include the cost of the sites, foundations for machinery, or for any buildings.

Stations were located in pairs. It was not practical to locate all the stations on one site because of electrical interference, and the need to ensure that there was a free path in the immediate proximity of the aerial system, clear of trees, buildings and hills. There could be no obstruction in front of the aerial array subtending an angle of more than six degrees above the horizontal. Not only that, but for each location, receiver and transmitter had to be clear of the direct path of the beam of each. Selection of a site near to the coast, therefore, ensured a short overland travel in the direction of the distant station.
Both the Tetney and Burgh-le-Marsh stations occupied an area of about 200 acres. On both sites a row of eight masts was erected. Each was of a steel lattice-work construction, 12ft square, 287 ft high, with a 90ft long cross arm at the top. The masts were 650 ft apart, with the row arranged in a line at right angles to the great circle bearing of the distant station, and between them was hung a curtain of aerial wires. A range of buildings was erected, comprising an engine room, and a transmitter/receiver room and offices, linked by a short passage.

The Grimsby Station opened officially for public traffic to Australia on 8 April 1927, and for India at midnight on September 1927, the latter completing the Imperial System, as the stations for communications by beam with Canada and South Africa had opened earlier. The outgoing signals to India were received at Dhond, with the incoming signals arriving from Kirkee, both to the south-east of Bombay.

Beam Stations, under the terms of the contract with Marconi, were to be capable of sending and receiving at the same time at a minimum speed of 100 words per minute for an average of twelve hours a day. Tests of the Bombay link prior to opening showed that it was capable of 130 to 150 words a minute, maintained from eighteen to twenty-one hours a day.

The alternative to Beam stations was the use of cable. The beam was successful because its rates were much lower than cable rates. Messages were delivered to the addressee two days after being handed in. In 1932 both cable and wireless systems came into the same control, the company still known to us today as Cable and Wireless.

At the cutting edge of technology for its time, competition, and newer technology soon replaced it. The Tetney and Burgh-le-Marsh sites were closed in 1939. The masts at Tetney were dismantled in the winter of 1939/40, and re-erected at Dorchester, and at Somerton, Somerset, where they fulfilled a continued communication use throughout World War II.

[Information for this article has been obtained principally from the Empiradio Beam Stations, The Post Office Electrical Engineers Journal, 28, (1928); 'Indian Wireless Beam Stations', a Marconi press release (25 August 1927); and Tetney Beam Station by Paul Hewitt (December 1993) Tetney County Primary School.]

(With acknowledgement to the Secretary, Marconi Communications Ltd.)
BOOK NOTES

Christopher Sturman

Copies of most of these titles can be obtained through the Lincolnshire Heritage Bookshop at Jews' Court. Postage is extra. Shop hours: Tues. - Sat., 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.


This booklet, first published by the Market Rasen Group of the Workers' Educational Association in 1971, grew out of the research of a local history group who were tutored and encouraged by Rex Russell. It was an important contribution to the study of Lincolnshire's market towns in their mid nineteenth century heyday, and its revision by Douglas Boyce, a member of the original group, is to be welcomed. A number of corrections to the text have been made; it was found, for example, that the printouts of the 1851 census used by the group were incomplete, and that figures have been reworked. He has also provided a new introduction which 'sets the scene', a list of further reading on the history of Market Rasen (though not, alas, on the broader context of developments discussed). More importantly, he has included a number of fascinating reminiscences by Rasen's townsmen, compiled a short biographical 'Who's Who' and added a good number of contemporary illustrations. Many of these are from the charmingly naive pencil and crayon drawings made in the 1940s by George Spencer Watkinson (1855-1945), but evoking the Rasen remembered from his childhood. It is a pity, though, that a number of the illustrations have not reproduced well (they have been scanned and the resolution isn't fine enough to do justice to the originals); photographs and the superb lithograph of Bennett Hubbard's painting of 'Flower' [sic] in particular fare badly. Douglas Boyce emphasizes in his introduction that 'coverage of the 1850s in the town is not exhausted'; it is important to point out that the only newspaper consulted is the Stamford Mercury. Until recently I considered the Mercury to be perhaps the best source for the small Lincolnshire market town at this time; recent research at Colindale in the Lincolnshire Chronicle files (those in Lincoln city library are by and large not fit for production) indicates that their reporting of local events in the 1850s was at times even more detailed than that of the Mercury (for example almost half of the back page of the Chronicle of 15 September 1854 is taken up with an account of the opening of the Corn Exchange in the Market Place).


Alan Sutton, publishers of the series Britain in Old Photographs, are certainly quick off the mark when it comes to adding to their growing list of Lincolnshire titles; I reviewed, for the last issue of Lincolnshire Past & Present, David Cuppleditch's Lincoln Cathedral; now, only a few weeks into 1997, I am sitting at a word processor, collecting my thoughts on his survey of the coast. It is another attractively produced volume which will be enjoyed by many, yet I must confess a sense of disappointment: Lincoln Cathedral was admirable and successful; alas, misgivings about this volume need to be aired. Problems begin with the Introduction which contains, within the space of a modest two pages, a number of errors and inconsistencies: e.g. how can one use a description of the coast by an (unnamed) Edwardian writer and then write 'Many years later D. H. Lawrence visited Mablethorpe and Skegness on holiday...'? Furthermore, if the Introduction's opening sentence celebrates the unspoilt character of the coast, then it seems odd that there is little photographic evidence (Gibraltar Point apart) to support it. If one feels unhappy about this, then there are real problems as to what exactly is the Lincolnshire coast. Geographically, David Cuppleditch's book is arranged in seven sections - Boston, Skegness, Sutton-on-Sea, Trumthorpe, Mablethorpe, Saltfleetby and Theddlethorpe, Cleethorpes. If there is an excursion into the Wash - its shoreline was important in being the location of some of the early bathing inns in the late eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries (though this is not recognized) - it seems odd to ignore the Humber (especially as the maritime activity of Boston is mentioned). It also seems odd that no mention is made of other books in the same series by Winston Kime and Janet Tierney, respectively (and more rigorously) examining the environs of Skegness and Cleethorpes. Certainly there was a gap in the series' coverage of the coast; some planning could have devised a solution. What has been published is very much like a photographic album, an engaging, if largely random, collection of pictures. There is nothing wrong in that, but it seems a pity that the popular book which needed to be written hasn't, and the likelihood that it will be produced is thus diminished.

Other titles received/noticed:


23
TREES IN THE FENS

To Carpenters, Coach-makers, Wheelwrights, Farmers and Others. To be SOLD by AUCTION, by Mr. R.C. FIELDS, on Thursday the 21st day of February 1839, on a Close of Land adjoining the Town of Holbeach, known by the name of the ‘Malting Piece’.

UPWARDS of 25 very excellent ASH and 50 capital ELM TIMBER TREES, a quantity of Poles about 1200 Faggots and numerous lots of Ash and Elm Arms, the property of Mr. Barker. The Trees will be fell’d and marked by Monday the 18th of February, and may be viewed on application to the Auctioneer.

Credit will be given for all bargains at and above £5, on approved joint security, until the 1st of February 1840.

Lincoln, Rutland and Stamford Mercury, 15 February 1839.

MORE WEATHER NEWS

Since our longer features on weather in earlier numbers of Lincolnshire Past & Present occasional contributions on the weather have been sent in or drawn to our attention. Here are a few items, mostly noted from parish registers:

QUADRING, extracts from parish register:

1570. Note. That the 2. and 3. day of this Month, was a great flood in these p’ts of Holland, the like hath not bene sens [since] god delivered us from the like.

1587. On the VIth day of the month of August being munday at night was a very fearful vehemed tempest of thunder and lightening, an a severe storme of wind and Raine wherewith was great harme done in manie place.

The above two notes are taken from William Marrat’s The History of Lincolnshire vol 3, on the last, unnumbered page (the final page of the Additions and Corrigenda).

WOOTTON
Memorandum in the front and end papers of Wootton Marriage Register 1813-37:

The summer of 1819 was so extremely dry, that the Dam was entirely empty, some of the old Women etc. drank Tea in the midst of it. Pump water was sold at one penny the Bucket, as was other Spring Water. My Water-Cert went every day to the Barrow-bee for Water, Ulceby bee being as nearly dry as to be no longer usable. J.G. [Summer 1826 also very dry] [1837] The winter of 1837 has been the longest remembered having lasted nearly 8 months. It seems to be now departing. 29 May 1837. [James Giffard]

Perhaps readers working through parish registers will come up with more of these useful notes.

HOLBEACH
In the Spalding Guardian of 21 Feb 1997, a letter writer, Mr Bailey, on general matters relating to Holbeach, refers to the ‘terrible blizzard of 1916’.