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The deadline for contributions to the next Bulletin and the Summer issue of *Lincolnshire Past & Present* is 9 May 1998. Material should be sent to the Joint Editors at Jews' Court, Lincoln LN2 1LS. Tel 01522 521337. It will help the Editors if articles are sent typed, double spaced, and with a good margin. More detailed notes for contributors (please send SAE) are available from Jews' Court.

Cover: The Hall, Ashby de la Launde, from the west, probably in the early part of this century (Picture kindly loaned by Mrs.M. King).
EDITORIAL

This is the first Past and Present I have edited without the help and advice of my late co-editor, Chris Sturman, and it seems appropriate to add my own indebtedness to him as a colleague and as a friend, whose loss is keenly felt. He and I and the late Terence Leach were the original editors, charged with transforming the magazine from its simpler, duplicated A5 format to the slightly less manageable A4. Chris was a perfectionist in his examination of contributions, sometimes, one felt, even to the point of pedantry, as he himself was the first to admit, but he wanted high standards for our publications and was determined to maintain them at all costs!

Chris was a voracious reader of everything that appeared in print connected with Lincolnshire history, and this could be seen in his BOOK NOTES. It seems unlikely that any of the editors will be able to aspire to the same amount of reading, and we are therefore making some slight changes in the form of this section. It is to be renamed BOOKSHELF and will consist of notes and relevant information (we have deliberately never used the word ‘review’ as there is not sufficient space) on new publications. Clearly the editors and members of the Publications Committee will be able to look at some new books, but we are also experimenting with inviting short paragraphs from readers. This is for a trial period, and we reserve the right to choose which items to use and to shorten them where necessary. It is likely that preference will be given to contributions from SLHA members, but other readers are very welcome to suggest books or offer their own notes. Anyone publishing a new book cannot automatically expect a note, or a review in our companion publication Lincolnshire History and Archaeology, unless a review copy is sent specifically to the Society.

Another minor change in this quarterly magazine is that the full list of officers of the Society will no longer be printed in every number. However, the office address is always provided and any queries should be addressed there directly. Finally, readers may have been mystified by the reference to a special cover for the Winter number (30), produced by John Ketteringham. Unfortunately, owing to a technical hitch, this cover did not appear, and we offer our apologies to John. To make up for this we have used his idea as the basis for the Spring number. This is a one-off and we plan to have a completely new cover layout shortly.

Hilary Healey (Joint Editor)

Datestone of Helpingham School

Errata, Lincolnshire Past & Present 30. Acknowledgements: The full name of the magazine in which the poem by Howard (p21) first appeared is The Journal of HM Customs and Excise, published by the Board of Customs and Excise (1970). The cover picture of Watson’s Court, Lincoln and South Bar Square, Lincoln (p11) appeared by permission of the Cultural and Educational Services Directorate of Lincolnshire County Council.
HELPRINGHAM SCHOOL BOARD MINUTES

Establishing the school

A. J. Ashton

Helpringham School as it may have been when first erected in 1877

In the archives at Lincoln there are two volumes of the minutes of the Helpringham School Board. They cover the period 1876 to 1903. Under the Elementary Education Act of 1870 the provision of education in England and Wales was radically changed. Until then the principal providers of education were two national organisations, the Anglican National Schools and the non-denominational British and Foreign School Society which concentrated upon the education of the poor, and various long established local charities which had developed into 'public schools' such as Eton. Other schools provided by private individuals and religious bodies added their small measure to the total provision of elementary education. Compared with several countries on the continent, especially France and Germany, the national scene was quite inadequate. The government of the day wished to maintain the voluntary provision of schools, especially those made by religious organisations. This is very clear from William Forster's statement when he was introducing the Bill to the House of Commons:

This Act seeks to supplement the present voluntary system... to fill up the gaps at least cost of public money, with least loss of voluntary co-operation and with most aid from parents.

So the lack of a national system of elementary education would be made good by providing grants to local bodies which would be controlled by a Board of Education. Loans would be made available and control of the curriculum, the design of the buildings and the year-by-year financing would be the responsibility of the Board of Education acting through Her Majesty's Inspectors of Education. It would take some time for the Board of Education to be established and for local School Boards to be elected and made operational. In the case of Helpringham this took three years from the passing of the Elementary Education Act. This is part of the story of this local School Board as seen by its members. For a thorough insight into the life...
of the school one would need to find further evidence such as the school Log Book, if it still exists, and diaries and other records which may still be available.

The first minutes are dated 12 February 1876. They record that an election had been held and that the following people had been successful: the Rev Frederick Latham, vicar of St Andrew’s the parish church of Helpringham, aged 63, Felix Tomlinson, farmer at Thorpe Latimer (a hamlet within the parish), a principal landowner here, aged 44, Joseph Barnes, farmer, aged 55, who had come into the village sometime after 1871, Robert Ellis Watting, draper and postmaster, aged 49, and John Garton, aged 61 and described in the 1871 census as an Anuitant previously a farmer, born in the nearby parish of Burton Pedwardine and whose family may possibly be traced back to 1774. Mr Tomlinson was elected Chairman and the Rev Mr Latham Vice Chairman.

Nothing has been found concerning the election and it is not reported in the local newspaper, The Sleaford and District Gazette, copies of which are on microfiche in Sleaford Library. The only other item of business recorded at this first meeting was the appointment of William Wingad as Clerk at an annual salary of £15. Wingad, aged 58, was one of the tailors who lived in the village. It is not known where they met; most likely in one of the public rooms of one of the several inns in the village. Normally meetings were held monthly but there were times when they could not get a quorum and other times when it seemed that there was insufficient business to warrant a meeting.

Their first priority was to acquire a site and to build the school. By some process not revealed in the minutes they were offered several sites during January and February but decided to make use of a consulting architect. The next month Mr James Gridwood of Pall Mall, London, was so appointed to draw up plans for a school for 156 children and a Master’s house. In March they looked at these plans but deferred making a decision until the September meeting. On that occasion they decided that Mr Gridwood should make some alterations to the plans, which he did. Thus, in October the amended plans were approved by the School Board who sent them off to the Education Department in London for its approval. At the same meeting it was agreed to buy two roods of land from Mr John Smith for the sum of £160. Mr Smith was a farmer who lived in the village. The site of the school is along High Gate which today leads over the railway bridge (built in 1886) to Thorpe Latimer.

The November meeting saw the decision to employ Mr Richard Barnes to survey and make plans of the site to send to the Education Department, and to produce an estimate of the cost. The year ends with a decision to look for a loan from the Public Works Loan Board for £1,850, based on the architect’s estimate. It would be secured against the Poor Rates and the school fees. School fees would be paid by parents for each child who attended.

1877 opened with a meeting in February when the Clerk reported that the loan had been agreed at 3.5% for a period of 50 years. Mr Smith was asked to nominate a solicitor to handle the conveyance of his plot of land to the School Board, and he appointed Messrs. Foster and Rodgers of Sleaford. Things moved a little in March when an advertisement in the Stamford Mercury invited tenders from builders to erect a school and residence in accordance with the specifications. At the following month’s meeting six tenders were considered. They were from: Mr Newton of Heckington Fen (£1,845), Mr Dickinson of Horbling (£1,515), H. S. Close of Lincoln (£1,425), Wastnaby of Sleaford (£1,348 13s 0d), W. B. Millson of Donington (£1,330) and Messers Copeland and Spinks of Heckington (£1,318 16s 0d). The list was reduced to the last two named contractors who were asked to submit further details. During the next few months, Millson was awarded the contract with further amendments concerning tiling instead of slating the roof and feltting it at an extra cost of £36. The whole job was to be completed by 1 January 1878 and a schedule of payments based upon the architect’s Certificates was set out.

But August brought a setback to the School Board’s plan. Their application for a loan from the Public Works Loan Board had been received too late for the current financial year. In the meantime the architect had given a Certificate for constructing the first 25% of the building; the Board needed the money to pay the builder. How fortunate they were to have a chairman, Mr Felix Tomlinson, who
offered to lend them £1,000 at 4%. This was gratefully accepted. It was evident that they needed a treasurer so they appointed Mr Erasmus Tomlinson, also farming, possibly the chairman’s nephew. Once the builder’s account had been settled the balance was handed over to the treasurer – a sum of £341 10s 0d.

Trouble with the builder started soon afterwards because he could not afford to wait until he got a Certificate from the architect as determined by the schedule. Thereafter he was asking for payments on account, and in this case for weekly payments. The Board was uneasy about this but the whole saga gradually ran its course until the buildings were completed.

There was some evidence of forward planning because the Board had bought some school books from a firm called Fawcett, and a copy of Gibbon’s Exemplification of School Board Accounts for 6s for the treasurer. Yet they still did not have a teacher. The first thing to do was to place an advertisement in the School Board Chronicle for three weeks inviting applications for qualified Masters and Mistresses. Applicants were to submit terms – that is, the salaries and any other requirements such as rent and rate-free accommodation and a supply of coal – which they were prepared to accept, with testimonials and other supporting details. The advertisement stated a house and garden would be provided for the Master.

October was less hectic with Millson being given £30 on account. The clerk was told to produce accounts for audit and presentation to the public at the Board Room of the Sleaford and District Poor Law Union, Union Street, on 19 October 1876. It was not surprising to find that the Board was still at odds with the builders who wanted money at various times to be weekly rather than in the four parts specified in the agreement. In December the Board also complained that the boarding and felting of the roofs needed additional work done. The loan problem rumbled on when in November the Clerk was told to ask for further advice about the applications to the Public Works Loan Board so that they could secure the loan by Lady Day, 1878. The Board had also had enough of Millson’s requests for early payments and decided that they would no longer make these weekly. In December the builders were told not to extract any more gravel from the school site. I wonder what they had been doing with it.

In December also, Mr Fricker, aged 23, of the Grammar School, Hingham, Attleborough, was interviewed for the post of Master. He was a native of Wargrove, Berkshire. January 1878 saw matters pressing ahead. Mr Clements, the Sleaford solicitor, was taken on as legal advisor. They agreed to pay his expenses though they were reduced from seven to four guineas. The Clerk was to receive an annual salary of £15 and the advertisement for the Master in the School Board Chronicle was paid (11s 6d). The Board was busy writing their own bye-laws and the following month the Clerk had these printed and circulated. Mr Fricker took the post of Master at a salary of £25 a year plus the whole of the school pence and half the government grant. A house and garden, free of rents, taxes and rates, and six tons of coal a year for the school were also agreed. Mr Fricker seemed keen and was invited to meet the Board and discuss with them the money required for school furniture, books and other requirements. His travelling expenses were to be reimbursed.

A special meeting was called in March and with due ceremony the mortgage with the Public Works Loan Board was sealed. The annual repayment would £75 17s 2d for 50 years. An assistant mistress was also appointed at a salary of £33 a year – Miss Clara Davies. There are no details in the minutes of any advertisement for this post; how else would Miss Davies have been asked to accept it? In April 1878 Mr Fricker persuaded the Board that he should appoint two monitors from among the children. They also fixed the School Pence for each child as follows: For those in houses not exceeding £6 annual rent - 2d a week, for those in houses of more than £6 annual rent - 4d a week. Non-residents would pay 8d a week. All fees were to be paid each Monday in advance.

Thus the school was built, and the Master and his Assistant Mistress appointed. The school was opened on 8 April 1878. It had taken two years to do all this and I would imagine that everyone concerned was delighted and hopeful for the future.
May 14th 1833 Charles Gunthorpe started to seek his own living in the world. Aged 11 years in the 29th day of May, with Clifford King in the Minster Yard, Lincoln. On the 19th of June Col. King died at Hull suddenly, his father, brought to Lincoln to Clifford King's, his son's house for the night. Arrived about 8 o'clock, the Humber being very rough, the old Great Tom knoll a long time, they being expected at 4 o'clock it being the last time the old bell was knoll, it being cracked. A great number of people came to meet the funeral. The next morning there was a great crowd to see the funeral start for Ashby de la Launde he being so much respected in Lincoln, Mr. J. King being in London, was not aware of the death of his Father but, by mere chance he came down from London by coach to Ashby [de la Launde] he being so much respected in Lincoln. Mr. King being in London, was not aware of the death of his Father but, by mere chance he came down from London by coach to Ashby [de la Launde] he being so much respected in Lincoln. The Colonel's private carriage had four wheels all different colours, which I helped to wash after the funeral.

The stables [Clifford King's] were close to the Cathedral south side. The marks are on the Old Palace walls to this day. I then began to make myself generally useful, in all sorts of work. The butler was a hard master, one thing he told me to do, was to wheel a very heavy wheelbarrow, to a garden they had from the Minster Yard, to where the New Hospital now is, and he walked beside me with an empty basket, in his hand. I thought it very hard work to begin with, only just 11 years old & bad road. Now the Lindum Road & Terrace were all open fields, Two or three old windmills; at one of the mills, called Cottam, a beautiful spring of water in a large dairy (now in Mr Hebb's garden) near the road now turns to the left. When my master was out I [had] nothing to do; I volunteered to help Mr. Reeve Secretary at the Savings Bank to make hay, when he paid me he asked me to take the money and what I could raise by Saturday night to him at the Savings Bank, he would give me a Bank Book & with good faith and a trembling hand, I took him thirteen shillings, it was my first start, and I always have had a little in since, also my dear wife & children thanks to God. A great drawback I had not had any schooling, & Mr. Clifford King gave me a Bible & Prayer book & other little books. In 1835 he wrote his name in for my good behaviour, C. K. Which I now have by me. So I thought I must begin to learn what I could, the servant girls took great pains with me, so I got to read a little by degrees. I used to study the sign boards & names of the Shops. My master was a very kind and considerate man to both rich and poor, very neat and clean. He said he used to have a set of shoe brushes in his dressing room, to give them a brush after me.

He said he was going to have a round with his own carriage & horse & butler for a day or two. He asked me if I should like to see the country, I thought it very kind of him. We started from Lincoln & drove on the Heath Rd., by the Green Man and Ashby Toll Bar & Lessingham [sic], to Sleaford (18 miles) to lunch, and bait the horses & to look round Sleaford, then started for Boston 16 miles, & stayed there all night at the Peacock Inn, had a good look round the church, the passing bell
rung for a man 101 years of age. Then we started next day with our carriage for Tattershall, had a good look at the Castle & Church, & stayed all night at the Fortesque Arms. Next day we started for the well at Woodhall, the water smelled & tasted very bad, we took a large bottle home to Lincoln, there were no hotels or such houses built then about 1837.

We drove up Martin Fen & called to see the gamekeeper, & drove on to Blankney & called to see Mr C. Chaplin. Then drove on for Lincoln. When we arrived at Nocton Rise, a very dreadful storm was passing over by Lincoln. We went into a red brick cottage there were a lot of children, & my master had a lot of four penny pieces, the first I had seen, which he gave to them. The storm did a great deal of damage at Lincoln & neighbourhood, it took corn stacks tops off, at Burton Hill, & carried corn half a mile or more.

1835) Old Gt Tom bell taken down & broken up, he being cracked, & 8 Lady bells out of the broad Tower sent to London, to be cast into the present Gt Tom. Clifford King ordered five bells for Ashby church, cast by the same man, Mr Mears, Westminster. They all came from London by the London horses and trucks, by Ashby toll bar. The 5 bells came down to Ashby & Gt Tom went on to Lincoln, & stayed the night at the first Hotel at the bottom of the High St. Next morning the truck was drawn up the street by six of the London Blk Horses, I being there amongst the rest. All the schools, Hand bells & Brass hands played, & a large procession of all sorts, & a great confusion.

I was drawn up to the west end door, & then pulled down the nave by hand, I being one of the pullers, then left it on the truck for some weeks, & I saw it drawn up to his present rest, he was rung up & set the first Xmas, by 12 men, it shook the tower so much, he has not been since rung.

When the Ashby bells were fixed & ready for starting Mr C. King took a cask of ale in the carriage to Ashby for the men. The date, weight & maker is on the bells. The spire of the church was repaired & carried to a sharp point.
TRUST SCOOPS AWARD! This should be the headline for the Lincolnshire Trust for Nature Conservation, one of only eleven county wildlife trusts to benefit from a substantial lottery grant. Congratulations to all concerned. Listening on radio to comments of some of the winners it was interesting to note that one county (was it Dorset?) was going to use some of its money to make a serious survey of the historic and archaeological landscape on some of its sites. (Dare I say 'Lincolnshire take note'?). I give occasional talks about archaeology and nature conservation and am always surprised at how little the landscape archaeologists and the nature conservationists think about each other's subject, even though they are complementary. Ed.)

NATIONAL WILDLIFE AND FARMING AWARD. George and John Danby, farming at Brickyard Farm, Wrangle, near Boston, came second in the prestigious Oakwood Silver Lapwings Award. This is especially exciting, since the popular image of fenland is often somewhat negative. A previous winner was Nicholas Watts of Deeping St Nicholas, who combines very intensive agriculture with very practical creation of wildlife habitats.

LINCOLNSHIRE ON RADIO AND TV. Recently heard on Radio 4's Food Programme at different times have been Phipps, Q guild butchers of Mareham le Fen and Jack Buck Growers of Moulton. The latter is the only firm in the county growing chicory roots - they also do celeriac and other unusual salad vegetables (I prefer my chicory boiled with a white sauce, but everyone to his/her own taste!). On television, architect Mary Anderson was seen guiding viewers around the restored 'Mrs Smith's cottage' at Navenby. Not all these features are successful ones. I was disappointed to see the Marmion Arms at Halham being described as having 'wattle and daub' in its walls, when this is far more likely in Lincolnshire to be 'mud and stud'.

GAINSBOROUGH'S Commemorative Plaques. Recently the Delveres, a Gainsborough local history group, have unveiled three commemorative plaques in the town. The first, in Bridge Street, is in honour of Thomas Miller, the Gainsborough born Victorian writer and author of Our Old Town, that wonderful evocative portrait of the Gainsborough he remembered from his early days. His home is long demolished but the plaque is opposite the site of Sailors' Alley where he lived. The second plaque is also in Bridge Street. On the wall of the United Services Club near the bridge, it commemorates George Eliot's association with the town which she used in part as the basis of St Oggs in her novel The Mill on the Floss. The third, which is in Curtis Walk just off the Market Place, honours the artist Karl Wood who, while not a native of the town, painted many of the old streets, yards, buildings and houses now long gone, so leaving a rich pictorial heritage of Gainsborough as it was in days gone by. J. S. English.

WETLANDS CONFERENCE. Recently a conference was held at Lincoln on the Wetland Heritage of the Ancoats and Lower Trent Valleys, reporting on research by the Humber Wetlands Project in 1996-7. The Project is an English Heritage commissioned archaeological and palaeo-environmental survey. For information on publications and reports contact Humber Wetlands Project, Centre for Wetland Archaeology, University of Hull, Hull HU6 7RX. The most familiar type of wetland discovery is probably the 'dug-out' boat (not all such boats are actually 'dug'). The adjacent illustration (woodcut) may interest readers. Is it also from The Graphic (mentioned elsewhere in these pages)? It is a similar view to the contemporary photograph illustrated in the Lincolnshire Museums Information Sheet (Archaeology Series 2) on Dug-out Boats from Lincolnshire and South Humberside.

BUTLINS, SKEGNESS. Major alterations have been taking place on the old 'holiday camp' site, including demolition of the Gaity Theatre, which Billy Butlin purchased from an exhibition in Glasgow in 1938. Most chalets have disappeared, but did you know that one of them was a 'Listed Building'?

RAF DIGBY - OPERATIONS ROOM. After four years of restoration, RAF Digby has opened its LIMA operations room, dating from 1939, to the public. Digby at that time was part of the 12 Group
Fighter Command and provided a base for Hurricanes, Blenheims and Spitfires from five different squadrons. The room is set out as it would have been in the middle of a major battle in 1939, when five enemy aircraft were shot down over the Humber estuary whilst trying to attack convoys. The bunker was in use until after the Battle of Britain in 1941 when Digby became a Royal Canadian Air Force station. Visits, in summer only, can be arranged by booking through the base.

OBITUARIES

Arthur Pentelow (1908-1997) who died on 12 October 1997, aged 89, will be remembered by many members of the Society as one of its active members in the pre-SLHA days. His great interest in local history developed during the 1960s and 1970s, encouraged by Rex Russell at WEA classes. Many people will remember him for the excursions he organised in the 1970s on behalf of the WEA to his old haunts in his native Cambridgeshire and Huntingdonshire. He was an active member of the WEA in other ways and served on its various committees. An invalid in his later years, he was devotedly cared for by his wife Caroline until 1995 when he moved to Caenby Nursing home where he peacefully ended his days. Rosalind Boyce.

David Roberts, who died last Autumn, was the major authority on Lincolnshire vernacular building. Copies of his MA and PhD theses (Nottingham University) on Buildings in Kesteven and parsonage houses etc are in the Central Reference Library, and his numerous photographs in the illustrations index. He made a number of contributions to Lincolnshire History and Archaeology, including an important article on the Red Hall at Bourne. [A fuller obituary will appear in a future issue of Lincolnshire History and Archaeology.]

Geoffrey Taylor. Those members of SLHA who were active in archaeology in earlier years will be saddened to hear of the death last year of Geoffrey Taylor. In 1957 he was involved in the excavation of a Bronze Age Barrow at Stainsby. In 1972, while farming at Salmonby, he was a keen fieldwalker. His sharp observation of the difference in soil colours led him to his being instrumental in identifying an important Anglo-Saxon settlement site (see Lincolnshire History and Archaeology 8, pp 61-72).

He became so fascinated by Bronze Age and Anglo-Saxon pottery that he and his wife Shirley made many excellent reproductions which they showed in the Local History tent at the County and Woodhall Shows. Over the years he built up an enormous collection of prehistoric flint tools and arrowheads. This too he managed to reproduce so well that he was asked to refrain from making any more because it was so difficult to tell them from the real thing! He had a great interest in greenstone axes and spent a lot of time at Great Langdale exploring the site from which many of the axes found in Lincolnshire originated. All Geoffrey's Lincolnshire finds are to go to Lincoln City and County Museum and his Yorkshire finds to Bradford Museum.

His family hope to produce a small booklet about Geoffrey and his work. Interested people can contact his wife on Bradford 633640. Our sympathies go to his wife and family. Lincolnshire and local history owe him a great deal. Betty Kirkham.
Some Lincolnshire Religious Censuses

Jim English

The 1851 Census of Religious Worship was the only official census of this type carried out in Great Britain; plans for follow-up censuses scheduled for 1861 and subsequent decades were abandoned because of disagreements among the denominations about the form they should take. Despite arguments about the validity of its data, and about how it could and should be interpreted, it remains a valuable source of statistical information on the state of mid-nineteenth century churches and chapels, and we are fortunate that the Lincolnshire returns are readily available, with helpful notes and commentary by Rod Ambler. Although it is the only official census it is not unique, and the following notes on some unofficial censuses of religious worship in the county are designed to act as a guide for historians - and as a spur, perhaps, to the discovery and reporting of others not at present known to me. Lincoln was the subject of many of these enquiries.

1833. The Whig MP George Horsman made a speech in the House of Commons in which he compared activity in Lincoln’s Anglican churches against that in dissenting chapels, based on a census taken with the help of ‘clerical correspondents in the Lincoln neighbourhood.’ As he was a notorious critic of the Anglican Church his figures might have been suspect, but were broadly confirmed by the 1851 census. A summary of his statistics is given in Sir Francis Hill’s Victorian Lincoln.

1872. The journal The Nonconformist carried out a census in towns of over 20,000 population, the results of which were published as supplements to the journal from October 1872 to January 1873. These gave numbers of places of worship and sittings for each denomination for 1851 and 1872 with differences shown in a third column; a steady increase was recorded for Lincoln, but Grimsby showed spectacular increases. This is not surprising in view of an increase of 128% in the town’s population between 1851 and 1871. These tables were reprinted in the 1973 Bulletin of Local History, East Midlands.

1873. The Stamford Mercury published the results of a census carried out in Lincoln by a committee of nonconformists, this time giving figures for individual places of worship rather than merely for denominations. The tables were reprinted in Hill’s Victorian Lincoln.

1881. The Spalding Free Press conducted a census and published the results in their issue of 19 November, the figures being reprinted in The Lincolnshire Chronicle for 2 December 1881. Norman Leverett quoted the Methodist figures in his history of Broad Street Methodist Church. In November the Retford, Worksop & Gainsborough News published the results of censuses taken in Retford and Worksop; apparently no similar count was made for Gainsborough.

1886. A census of church and chapel attendance in Brigg was taken, the results (by denomination only, and not by individual places of worship) being published in the Stamford Mercury. Frank Henthorn, in his history of the town, gives the figures with useful commentary.

1887. The local newspaper carried out a census in Gainsborough on 27 March, and the results, by individual places of worship, appeared in The Gainsborough News for 2 April 1887. Similar censuses were conducted in 1888 and 1889.

1896. A 'census' of a different kind was carried out in Lincoln when the Free Church Council conducted a house-to-house survey on householders' religious affiliations, whether the children went to Sunday School, and whether a visit from an Anglican or nonconformist minister would be appreciated. The Bishop had asked his clergy and their parishioners to cooperate with the survey. A large number of those questioned expressed themselves as 'adherents of some place of worship, even if only for purposes of baptism, marriage or burial'.

1903. A more conventional survey was conducted by the Lincoln Leader and County Advertiser and the
the results were published in the newspaper on 14 March. Again Sir Francis Hill included them in his book, which is worth reading for his comments on religion in the city.

Finally, Dr Barry Biggs has pointed out that figures of this kind can sometimes be found in unexpected places (such as those for Gringley-on-the-Hill in an account of that village's Wesleyan cause in the Doncaster Gazette of 22 January 1841) but the above are the only Lincolnshire examples that I have been unable to trace.

I feel sure that there must be others hidden away in local newspaper files or elsewhere, for it seems likely that censuses of this kind were carried out in towns such as Louth, Stamford and Boston, and even Epworth and Horncastle, and unlikely that the count of 1872 was the only one for Grimsby. Are there others? Do you know of any?

REFERENCES

More weather news

A Waterspout - A violent storm, accompanied by a waterspout, passed over the neighbourhood of Surfleet on the 27th ult, and did great damage, as well as performing several extraordinary vagaries. Corn and hay stacks were reefed and scattered broadcast, tiles were stripped from roofs and descended in dangerous showers, a tree 20 inches in diameter was blown over the Ship Inn to a spot 200 yards from its starting point. The column of water which rose from the Vernatt's Drain was of large size, and moved with great rapidity and at considerable height. We hear of no personal injury.

Lincoln, Rutland and Stamford Mercury; cutting of unknown precise date, but September 1871.

NOTES AND QUERIES

31.1. GIPPLE (Lincolnshire P&P 29, p7 and 30, p18). The modern 1:25000 map includes 'Gipple Farm' SK965405, to the north west of Colin's site. Presumably the 1:2500 will also show it? The site is in Syston Parish. White's Lincolnshire 1856 says 'The present baronet (Sir John Charles Thorold) was born at Gipple House in 1816.' The directory lists 'Wm Atkin, farmer - Gipple House.' May we assume that Gipple House is the same as Gipple Farm? How old is the present day Gipple Farm? M. J. Turland.

From Ray Carroll: Gipple is mentioned on the 1 inch OS map (7th edition, 1955) at SK 971403. I first found Gipple on Hobson's Fox-hunting Atlas (1849), where it is marked as one of many places used for meets - in this case, of the Belvoir Hunt. My Daily's Hunting Directory, 1912-1913 shows it still used as a regular meeting place - perhaps it still is? It was a convenient site - being at the eastern end (and on a good road) of Syston Grange. David Bramford asks if anyone knows why it is known locally as 'Gipple Docks.'
Much more has come to light on this subject. Readers may be interested in the attached part of Armstrong's map of Lincolnshire, 1779, in which Gappel (sic) is shown as a building in a small enclosure on the east side of Ermine Street. This is just possibly an error, as the later estate of that name is all within Syston parish, all of which lies west of Ermine Street. Gipple cottages, first recorded by the Ordnance Survey in 1828 (Colin Beever suggested 1824), were on the west side (where the observed remains of the garden enclosure noted by Colin can still be seen). They were apparently farmworkers' cottages presumably put up by the Thorold family of Syston Hall. These cottages were part of the Gipple estate, based around the farmhouse shown to the west on Armstrong's map but not named. I came upon the Gipple estate from a totally different direction whilst investigating the Seawell family (pronounced Sewell) of London, Hampshire and Northants, who acquired land in the south-east of Lincolnshire in the late 18th century. In 1795 Charles Seawell, who had married Etheldred Harriet Birch of Leasingham, bought the Gipple estate from, but parted with it again in 1808 to the Thorolds. Then he seems to have cleared off in the direction of Bedfordshire. One imagines that the very compact estate, a neat block of farmland, comprising all the east end of Syston parish, may be the same land that was given to the medieval grange of St Catherine's Priory at Lincoln, and Armstrong was indicating this as an enclosure in what would have been largely heath even in 1779. Much of this ground, especially alongside Ermine Street, would have been heath in medieval times, and probably not very suited to settlement, but the 16th century farm site is in a hollow on a slope where springs might be expected, so a more likely location for the original grange?
31.2 R.W. Macbeth's A LINCOLNSHIRE GANG (Lincs P&P 29, cover and pp22-3, Lincs P&P 30, p19). Thanks to Dennis Mills for the information. The illustration of the engraving referred to is the one reproduced in Lincs P&P 29, so the note in 30 should read The and not An illustration. I also suspect that it is a steel engraving rather than wood. Shortly after writing the original note last autumn a painting by Macbeth was featured on an Antiques Roadshow so I did pick up an idea of his dates! Ed.

31.3 RAILWAYS. Frank Cossey of 16 Elsea Drive, Thorlby, Bourne, PE10 0HL, well-known to railway enthusiasts for his WEA classes in the south of the county, is currently writing about Spalding-Sleaford railways and is interested in relevant information. Please contact Mr Cossey direct in this case. He will also pass on information.

31.4 FOUNDER OF MUSEUM OF ENTERTAINMENT DIES. The Spalding papers have recorded the death of Raymond Tunnicliff, founder with his wife Iris of the Museum of Entertainment at Whaplode St Catherine's in 1973. The collection concentrates on fairground and music hall memorabilia. The Lilliput Theatre from the Victoria and Albert Museum is among the items there. At the time of Mr Tunnicliff's death plans for redevelopment were in hand including a purpose built theatre. The museum is a registered charity and I am sure readers will offer the Trustees both condolences and good wishes in furthering future plans.

31.5 CHARLES HODGSON FOWLER (1840-1910). The Rev John Wickstead of Skegness is looking for sources relating to the aforementioned architect (not to be confused with James Fowler of Louth). He understands that C. H. Fowler was a child of Rolleston vicarage in Nottinghamshire, trained in Scott's office, practised in Durham and married the square's daughter in Nettleham, where he was later buried. Mr Wickstead has found little written about Fowler, although his work is widely represented in Lincolnshire, and he is therefore looking to do some further investigation of Fowler's life and work within the county. Local examples of his work would be useful, especially if not in Pevsner!

31.6 WHAT MEDIUM? Writing about the steel engraving of R. W. Macbeth's pictures (I do not know if he did the engraving himself) reminds me of an error in P&P 28 where it was inadvertently stated that the picture of Belchford church by Karl Wood was a woodcut. Like the cover picture it was actually a colour linocut. Wood varied the colours on each impression, a typical practice with lino. It is necessary to keep spreading and re-rolling the paint, and no two prints come out alike! Ed.

31.7 MORE 'SPRING-HEELED JACKS'. (Lincs P&P 30, p6). A. N. Cook of Lincoln sends details of a page from The Readers' Digest Book of Strange Stories and Amazing Finds which gives an account of London encounters with a character of this name, who was regarded as part bogeymen with blazing eyes, and part lecher with a tendency to attack young women, not to mention his ability to leap walls etc.

Veronica E. Murphy writes: Spring-heeled Jack is better known as a literary than an historic character. He was immortalised in more than one series of penny dreadfuls/p bloods, paperback booklets which for a few decades from the 1840s onwards made the addictive delights of Gothic horror fiction available to a newly literate readership. It would be interesting to know if anyone has come across the name earlier than its use to describe a prankster of 1838, said to be terrorising London women by pouncing on them out of the dark, sometimes disguised as a demon. Publicity evidently brought a spate of copycat attacks across the country, all attributed to Spring-heeled Jack. M. Anglo, in Penny Dreadfuls... 1977, plausibly suggests that the original hoax may have been inspired by a similar incident in F. Marryat's popular novel Mr Midshipman Easy, 1836.

Sporadic outbreaks in the 1860s and 1870s were perhaps fuelled by stage melodramas and further issues of penny dreadfuls. By now Jack was an eponymous figure whose name had outlived the public's memory of the 1838 London sensation. My maternal grandmother (born 1867) knew him as a rumoured dark evenings hazard of her own youth in the Plymouth area, along with garrotters said to half-strangle victims in order to rob them. Like Jack, these properly belonged to an earlier generation, but in the Westcountry - as perhaps in Lincoln and elsewhere - folk memory linked new crime with old bogeymen. My grandmother, who would
have scorned to read a penny dreadful, thought Spring-heeled Jack was a local man who vaulted nimbly over backyard walls to steal from clothes lines, and incidentally scared women out of their wits. She remembered this on hearing similar tales told of Scunthorpe ten-foots when she lived at 50 Crosby Avenue in 1938.

From Edwin J. Rose: In answer to Ros Beever's question about Spring Heeled Jack, I have no information about the Lincoln criminal, but there was a gentleman of that name who terrorised the inhabitants of Caistor St Edmund, Norfolk, in the mid nineteenth century by jumping over hedges at night into the road, making a rude face and springing away again. Some nineteenth century works such as Mayhew's London Labour and the London Poor refer to Spring Heeled Jack as the name of a criminal (or a ghost). There are individuals with the ability to make remarkable standing jumps, and I suspect this was a generic name for the type.

All these accounts range between 1836 and 1904, and it seems that the name may simply have caught on for any slippery and agile character. Ed.

31.8 WHAT TILE? The illustration shows a medieval tile found in Revesby village, not all that far from the abbey site. It is the usual sort of green-glazed late medieval tile, decorated with a series of stamped impressions. Although designs stamped on tiles are quite common from this period, and some from Revesby exist in the church, they do not usually consist of patterns derived from small stamps of this kind, and one wonders if the tilemaker was experimenting with stamps he used for some other purpose. I have seen other tiles and ceramic objects with these sort of patterns but they always seem more modern. Perhaps someone has some knowledge or a suggestion as to what they were for.
31.9 GASCOYNE WINGED LIONS. Mrs L. West of Worthing, West Sussex is trying to find them in stained glass. A small golden lion with wings and a halo was the logo of her great-grandfather Alexander Gascoyne and his father George, who were Nottingham stained glass window artists. They were active between 1899 and 1927, and their work can be found in Lincolnshire and Nottinghamshire. The logo appears in the bottom corner of most of their windows. This lady first made her request in the Lincolnshire Echo, but perhaps some of our readers know where Gascoyne windows can be found.

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

BOOKSHELF

We invite short contributions on new Lincolnshire books, but reserve the right to edit as appropriate. Copies of most of these titles can be obtained through the Lincolnshire Heritage Bookshop at Jews' Court (postage extra).


In the 1830s the people of Folkingham were inordinately fond of ginger. This much we know from an old recipe book compiled at that time by the George family who were bakers in the village for over eighty years. Teresa Crompton's father was given the family recipes after his friend Billy, the last of the Georges, died in 1941, thus ending their connection with the village. The book tells us what was going on in England, and more particularly in Folkingham, when the recipes were first written down, and the author's father engagingly recounts how the recipes came into his hands. This is an attractive volume with four reproductions of the handwritten recipes and some pleasant contemporary engravings with a useful glossary at the end. Here light is shed on such things as Villota Salts, Lisbon sugar and sloes, which we are told are the fruit of the hawthorn. As every good countryman, and certainly the George family would have known, sloes grow on the blackthorn. There is a recipe for sloe wine, a fitting accompaniment to the many biscuits, cakes and puddings in this delightful book, which will be of interest to anyone fascinated by the past.

Judith Withyman

Monday is Market Day. . . . Memories of Sleaford. Edited by C. Boon, L. Gostick and B. Heppell. £3.95. ISBN 0 948639 21 0 Heritage Trust of Lincolnshire. A fascinating selection of local reminiscences about life in Sleaford in the early part of this century, as recorded through an oral history project organised as part of the 'Sleaford Pride' initiative and funded by North Kesteven District Council in partnership with Sleaford Civic Trust. Illustrated from contemporary sources and photographs.

Rex C. Russell. Sedition, Insurrection - Invasion? The French Revolution in Lincolnshire History. £6. ISBN 1 872375 03 0. Lincolnshire County Council. This booklet covers the period 1790-1815 in detail and looks forward to the 1840s. Chapters include: Local Alarm and Panic; The Militia and the Napoleonic War: Local Action against Threatened Invasion; From 1805 until Napoleon's Defeat in 1815; Some Long-term Effects of the Revolution (on Education and Schools for the Poor; Enclosure by Act of Parliament; Captain Swing and the Re-awakened Fears (of Incendiarism in the 1830s and 1840s).

David N Robinson. The Kidgate Story. £6. ISBN 0 9520117 5 1. Louth Naturalists, Antiquarian and Literary Society. Kidgate County Primary School is the oldest school in Louth after the King Edward VI, and celebrated 150 years in 1991. This story is about pupils, teachers and the changing shape of the building. It describes school life both in the classroom and outside, the payment by results system and the scholarship years, even the effects of the weather. Detail is taken from logbooks between the 1860s and the 1960s and reminiscences by former pupils from 1904 to 1937.
The union of benefices

J. E. Swaby

As this century has progressed so have more parishes, each of which once had its own parson, been united or grouped with others. This seems to be a modern story, but it only picks up what began in the time of the Commonwealth, three hundred years ago.

In 1643 the Long Parliament set up the Committee for Plundered Ministers. It was to provide financial assistance for those who had suffered for their Parliamentary sympathies, although critics said that it became a committee for plundering ministers and others who had different loyalties. The Committee soon widened its activities and by 1647 it had brought about the union of Bigby and Somerby as the churches were near each other and the combined incomes were only enough to maintain one man. William Howson, elected by Parliament, had held them in plurality. In the same year the people of Langton by Horncastle asked to be joined with the curacy of Woodhall which was destitute of a minister. The outcome is not known. By 1652 Aby and Belleau had been united and, according to the Stamford Hall Book, the parishioners of St John's and of St Michael's in that town petitioned for union, stating that the income of the latter was only £14 p.a. There is reason to think that the petition was granted.¹

In 1649 Parliament had set up a body known as the Trustees for the Maintenance of the Ministry. This led to a number of surveys which resulted in an ordinance of 1654 for uniting and dividing parishes and for creating new ones. From this point the matter was approached in a more systematic way and county commissioners were appointed to investigate and report to the Trustees. The Lincoln list of commissioners included the names of such Parliamentary stalwarts as Edward Rossiter, Thomas Hatcher, Samuel and Richard Cust, Robert Marshall of Lincoln, Jeremy Cole of Stamford and Robert Vigorous of Spalding. A newcomer to the county was Sir Henry Vane who had bought cheaply the Earl of Lindsey's Belleau estate.² By 1656 the Council of State had approved the addition of Swaby to the Aby-Belleau group. In the following year approval was given to the unions of Hamneningham and Scaifeild, Louth and Stewton, Moorby and Wood Enderby. Next year approval was given to the union of Stamford St George with Stamford St Mary. The income of the latter parish was stated to be £2 p.a. The division of Long Sutton was also agreed.³

There is little doubt that Sir Henry Vane was behind the union of Aby, Belleau and Swaby, and responsible for the order that the churches of Aby and Swaby should be demolished and the stone used to repair and enlarge Belleau church. In 1680 the Aby churchwardens reported that their church had been 'pulled down by Sir Henry Vane in the time of the Rebellion' and the Speculum says that Swaby church was 'small and mean, the old one was destroyed by Sir Henry Vane.'⁴

The proposal to unite Stamford St George and Stamford St Mary met with fierce opposition which seems to have been led by a Mr Clapham. He was probably the Christopher Clapham who became one of the town's two members of Parliament in 1660. He is said to have put about the story that the commissioners meant to pull down one of the churches and he challenged one of them, who denied this, to come outside and settle the matter in the fields. The commissioners said that the opposition to the proposal arose because some inhabitants were 'endeavouring to bring into the town a man who shall administer the Sacrament to them and bury their dead according to the old form.'⁵

The division of Long Sutton came about because the people of Sutton St James and Sutton St Edmund asked to be separated from the mother church of St Mary. This was the only division which came about in Lincolnshire for the parishes were not as widespread or thickly populated as they were, for instance, in Yorkshire. The people of Moulton St James (better known today as Moulton Chapel) were either less resolute or less fortunate than the outlying Sutton folk. In 1656 the Trustees decided on separation, but a year later arguments over boundaries were still going on and in the end the petitioners lost by default.⁶ Apparently as many schemes failed as succeeded. In May 1657 the
Trustees asked the commissioners to enquire into the convenience of uniting the two medielties of North and South Leasingham, Risby and Flixborough, Roxby and Winterton, but no more is known. It was decided in January 1657-8 to unite Scopwick and Kirkby Green, but fourteen months later the matter was still unsettled. In 1658 an attempt was made to alter the situation whereby part of Sedgebrook was linked with East Allington and part with West, but nothing had been done by May 1659. In February 1658-9 the Trustees recommended uniting Gunby with Stainsby and Creeton with Swineshead, but that was much too late.

The death of Oliver Cromwell in September 1658, the resignation of his son Richard in May 1659, the recall of the Long Parliament and the end of the Trustees, created conditions which made thoughts about further reorganisation impossible.

REFERENCES

1 British Library, Add MS 15671 ff 132, 203; Lambeth Commonwealth Papers VI a3 p541, ibid VI a7 p15, Stamford Hall Book p440.

2 Lambeth Comm. XII c1 pp 1, 11, 28, 51, 89.

3 Hameringham and Scafiefield Comm. XII c2 pp 138, 162; Comm. XII e3 p85 Louth and Stewton Comm. XII c2 pp 138, 163-4; Comm. XII c2 pp 82 seq Moorby and Wood Enderby Comm. XII c2 pp 195, 213, 214, 225; Comm. XII c3 p206.

4 Comm. XII c2 pp 6, 17, 76; Comm. XII c3 pl; Linca Archives, Lincoln Diocesan Records ChP/L. 1680 8, R.E.G. Cole (ed.); Spectrum Diocesae Lincolniansis 1913 pp 1, 122.

5 Lambeth Comm. XII c2 pp 363, 384; XII c3 p147; PRO Chane. 94.1 Linca numbers 1-3, (Survey of Church Livings).

6 Comm. XII c2 pp 3, 7, 9, 13-15, Comm. XII c5 pp 185, 189, PRO SP 25/78 pp 445-6, Moulton XII c2 pp 9, 12, 23, 34, 391.

Wisbech Standard
Friday evening, March 29, 1889
SUTTON BRIDGE

Present handsome and well appointed Bridge Hotel. It was handed down to Ann Newton, late of Sutton Bridge, who died at Wisbech in 1887, and is now in the possession of a gentleman residing in the town. It runs thus:-

A Song

In praise of the Cross-Keys-Wash at Sutton
in the County of Lincoln; written and
Sung by a Company of Ladies
and Gentlemen who were
bathing there in
the month of
September
1783

To the Washway House we'll go,
Where we will merry be,
And eat and drink and laugh and sing,
And dip into the sea.
And a bathing we will go, will go, will go,
And a bathing we will go.

She hands the ladies down the steps,
Though they are loth to go,
And dips them over head and ears.
And says it must be so.
And a bathing we will go etc.

Assist my Muse to sing the praise
of Mr and Mrs Prest,
Whose Fish and Fowl and Punch and Ale
Are always of the best.

And then there's James the Driver,
Great merit he does claim,
And likewise steady Sampson,
For that's the Horse's name.
And a bathing we will go etc.

Then next comes pretty Sally
The Mermaid of the Bath,
To see her swim about the sea
Would really make you laugh.
And a bathing we will go etc.

Then if to bathe you mean to go,
And happy would we there,
The Cross-Keys is the house to please,
And banish all your care.
And a bathing we will go etc.

The ballad speaks for itself, and is yet one more proof of the changes which have taken place in the Estuary of the Nene during the past 100 years.
The Parish Church of
ST MICHAEL on the MOUNT

W. Jacob

Revised version of the original article in Triple Link, by kind permission

Like many city centre parishes, St Michael's has lost its population and now stands in lonely isolation above the city and below the walls of Minster Yard. Its spacious grounds with fine views across the city reflect the nature of this part of Lincoln with its steep, narrow streets lined by ancient houses, behind which there are sometimes spacious gardens. The church on or near this site has always reflected the neighbourhood, meeting the need for worship and prayer of this small part of the city. The church building has been altered and has changed many times to reflect the sort of community it served. The present church is at least the third building to have served as the place of worship for the people of this part of the city. The earliest church on this site was probably built to serve a small part of the thriving Anglo-Saxon city of Lincoln, which boasted 42 parish churches. St Michael's is one of the five churches in the city mentioned, because of the piece of land that it owned, in the great survey of land holding in England ordered by William I, known as the Domesday Book. This church, which was probably very small, stood to the north of the present church on the lane now called Christ's Hospital Terrace. Fifty years later, the eastern end of this land became the site of a new Bishop's Palace, so that the church came to stand just outside the west gates of the Palace which was the main entrance to the Palace from the City. At this time, the Bishop acquired the right to appoint the parish priest to St Michael's, a right still held by the Bishop of Lincoln.

This small church then stood beside a busy street. Nearby were the fish market in the open space at the junction of Christ's Hospital Terrace and Steep Hill, a corn market further down Steep Hill, and a poultry market. The surviving stone Romanesque house, dating from the twelfth century, on the corner of Christ's Hospital Terrace and Steep Hill, suggests that it was a prosperous area. Later in the Middle Ages, at least, the population was mixed. When a Guild of Corpus Christi was founded in St Michael's in 1350 it was noted that it had been founded by 'folks of common and middling rank' and that no one of the rank of mayor or bailiff shall become a brother... 'unless he is of humble, good and honest conversation and is admitted by the choice and common consent of the brethren and sisters of the guild.' The mayor might therefore be a member of the guild of St Michael's but he was not to throw his weight about.

In the fourteenth century, Lincoln suffered a major economic recession and, because of the declining population, in 1349 the common council of the city secured an Act of Parliament to amalgamate the parishes of the city into nine parishes, so that the income of the combined parishes would be sufficient to attract 'competent and honest living' clergy in the place of 'blind guides and pastors.' In this reorganisation, St Michael's acquired the parish of St Cuthbert which had previously been united with the parish of St Peter Stanthorpe (stone thatched) which was recorded as having only ten inhabitants in 1461.

In 1602 Christ's Hospital, a school for twelve boys was established in the parish by the will of Richard Smith, a physician who had practised for many years in Lincoln. He was lord of the manor of Potterhanworth and bequeathed his manorial lands in the village to finance the school. The boys were installed in a house opposite St Michael's church. This house was rebuilt in the 1780s and became part of the School of Art in the late nineteenth century. During the Civil War the church was badly damaged in one of the sieges of Lincoln. By 1660 the roof had collapsed and the building seems to have been demolished.

During the first half of the nineteenth century the population of St Michael's parish increased rapidly
from 468 in 1801 to 843 in 1831. In 1827 an observer described the parish as consisting of 'a number of ugly inconvenient narrow streets or lanes formed by houses mean and disgusting in the extreme'; the abode of poverty and wretchedness about Fishmarket Hill could only be considered as a disgrace to the city and there were calls for its removal. Although the church seems to have been full on Sunday 30 March 1851, when a census of attendance at religious worship was taken, only one in thirteen of the population of the parish could be accommodated inside it. The then vicar, John Somerville Gibney (who is commemorated by a brass on the north wall of the church) was a man of considerable energy. He had established a school for all the uphill parishes in Westgate (now the Cathedral Hotel) and subsequently a School of Design and Art, which later settled in the Christ's Hospital buildings. He was the moving spirit in the setting up of the cemetery on Carnew Road to replace city churchyards. It was hoped that this change of practice would remove ground contamination and thus improve the water supply and reduce death rate.

A new church was first mooted in 1845. In 1852 the Governors of Christ's Hospital offered £300 towards the building, providing the existing church was totally demolished and the new church built on the south side of the churchyard, land then used by the school as a garden and 'drying ground'. In 1853 Gibney commissioned S. S. Teulon, a distinguished architect, to draw up the plans. The first draft, which included a tower, was far too ambitious for the funds available. In a circular soliciting funds for the new building, it was noted that 'The parishioners consist almost exclusively of Mechanics, Labourers and Small tradesmen and are therefore quite unable to carry out the work without extraneous assistance'. The circular noted that two ladies had promised £200 to the fund, on condition that the church should be 'opened this summer'. Somehow Gibney managed to raise about £2,500 to pay for the building and it was consecrated by the Bishop of Lincoln on 16 September 1856. It is a simple construction, reflecting the modest sum it cost to build. The arcade high on the north wall was originally open to the church and provided a gallery for the 130 boys of Christ's Hospital - this was presumably paid for from the £300 subscribed by the Governors. By the 1870s the church was one of the more advanced high church parishes in the city, with a robed choir of boys. In the 1920s a new organ was installed, and altar rails, a hanging crucifix and the large statues of the Archangels Michael and Gabriel, behind the altar, were added.

In the 1930s a major housing clearance scheme was carried out and the population substantially reduced by the removal of many families to the St Giles Estate. As a result the population of the parish is now very small. In 1988 the church was redecorated in a colour scheme appropriate to its mid nineteenth century design.
This font illustration is from a splendid
collection drawn by the late Mr F.
Marston of Cleethorpes and is kindly
offered for reproduction by his widow.

St Peter's, Great Limber, is an ironstone church,
much of it of the Decorated period. The font is of
the thirteenth century with dog-tooth decoration,
but stands, curiously, on a re-used, upside-down
stiff-leaf decorated capital.

We hope to include more of these lovely
illustrations in later issues.

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HOLY WELLS in Lincolnshire
some further comments... Hilary Healey

Since the first two articles on this subject in Lincolnshire Past & Present Nos 19 and 20, and the various responses that followed them, a letter has been received from R. W. Morrell of Nottingham, extracts of which are given below. As stated at the time, the intention was to bring relevant material together rather than to seek out new sources. One imagines such a list would never be complete. National Grid References are not included since many sites are not particularly accessible. Mr Morrell mentions that the well at Sompringham (LP&P 20,4) is fed by a 'still flowing chalybeate spring, despite the lowering of the water table in the area'. He tells us that the Black Hill Spring at Tetford is 'now all but lost in the undergrowth. This was visited by Tennyson and traces of stonework to be seen strongly suggest that there was once a well-head.' He does not give any reason for this one being a holy well. He does understand, however, that a spring at Horbling was supposed to have had healing properties - was this the well at Horbling, the Spring Wells (LP&P 20,3)?

He also mentions a Norcliff Spring at Wilsford near Ancaster and suggests this may account for an element of confusion regarding the site of Lady Well (LP&P 19,3), for 'it could be that two separate springs are being treated as one.' I am not too convinced at this point, as the likely location of a spring named Norcliff is not too near the Ancaster end of the village. He also gives a Lady Well at West Keal. He draws attention to another photograph of the Healing Spring at Winteringham in Folklore in North-West Lincolnshire, ed. N. Lyons (1983), where there is also a picture of the spring at Winterton. The Lower Bunham spring he has found is referred to by W. Peck at the beginning of the nineteenth century as 'Alley Well', presumably another corruption of 'Holy Well'. Finally Mr Morrell notes that intensely cold springs such as Robin Hood's well (later St Ann's Well) in Nottingham, were especially favoured for rheumatic problems.
Memories of the Second World War in Grantham

Bill Taylor

At the outbreak of World War II, I lived in Stuart Street, Grantham with my parents, two brothers and two sisters, my older brothers and sister having grown up, married and left the family home. My memories of the war, as an eight-year-old schoolboy, begin not with the famous speech of the declaration of war on 3 September 1939; I didn't listen much to the radio, especially news broadcasts - what child did? Events that followed though, which affected me, I do remember. Like the day I received my Identity Card, my own special number TIBM 28 6, and the time we attended the gas mask distribution centre to be fitted with our gas masks, from then on to be carried wherever we went.

In the early months not much happened in Grantham to worry children. We did attend gas mask tests; the teacher would escort the schoolchildren to Beaconfield (the school health centre) where, in the grounds, I remember a wooden shed. We entered wearing our gas masks, then a small amount of tear gas was released. Of course, the masks worked perfectly. However, once we were outside again, with our masks off, and the gas vapours still in our clothes, we all had tears streaming down our cheeks! At school we had air raid tests, having to file from the classroom to the long brick-built shelters by the edge of the playground. Each child took with him his 'emergency tin'. My small tin contained some barley sugar sweets, a bar of chocolate and a few biscuits, just in case, in a real air raid, we had to stay under cover for a long time. At home we had to have all windows made light-proof (the blackout) so that from the air not a chink of light could be seen after dark. We used the cellar of our house as an air raid shelter - supposedly the safest place to be. When the air raid siren sounded, the family would go to the cellar and remain there until the 'all-clear' siren sounded. My mother kept blankets and mattresses there, so we were able to stay for long periods. When the bombing of the town did begin, I remember spending many nights in the cellar, and it was frightening at times. The explosions of the bombs made the house walls tremble, and we feared the next explosion might be nearer. One such occasion was a terrifying night. I do not remember hearing the warning siren, but such a roar of aeroplanes made the entire family rush from our beds. Before we reached the cellar violent explosions shook the house. We stayed in the safety of the cellar all night. The Germans had dropped many bombs on Ruston and Hornsby, an engineering factory on London Road, about half a mile away, easily the worst bombing raid on Grantham to date. But the morning after saw us at school as normal; the seriousness of such destruction and death did not seem to affect the hearts of children. There were many airfields around Grantham, and we became quite good at 'plane spotting', knowing the names of trainers, fighters, fighter bombers and bombers. Even the engine sounds of Avro Ansons, Spitfires, Beauforts, and the big Lancasters. We frequently saw the military funeral processions on Harrowby Road - long RAF trailers carrying coffins draped with flags. The emotion of grief did not register in my mind. We would even follow the trailer to the cemetery to watch the gun salute over the graves as the airmen were buried. We saw the same long trailers laden with the remains of crashed aircraft, often trying to obtain something from the wreck - a souvenir!

As the war progressed, special air raid shelters were built in almost every street. Since we had a large back garden, a shelter was built there, to serve our family and the next-door neighbour. The building of that shelter undoubtedly saved our lives on the fateful night of 24 October 1942. Myself, brother and sisters were awoken by the siren. Mum and my older brother were hurrying us to the shelter in the garden. No sooner were we safely inside than violent explosions threw us to the floor. What seems in my memory to be shortly afterwards, there was a quietness as we emerged into a moonlit night to see our home, and several more, destroyed. Bombs had hit an air raid shelter in the street opposite our house, also bombs had fallen in the next street, killing and injuring many people, including school friends. Our neighbours never made it to the shelter that night, and one of their
family was killed. But we children were taken, clambering over back walls and gardens in our pyjamas, to St Anne’s Church Hall which was full of people. That air raid destroyed about twenty houses. We stayed for some weeks with our aunt but we were rehoused in a brand new council house in Dysart Road. It was not until after the war that it was revealed that the famous Dam Busters raid was planned at St Vincent’s, a large house on Harrowby Road - not 200 yards from where our house used to be. Was St Vincent’s really the target that night? And did the enemy know more than we, that it was a secret RAF headquarters? We used to see lots of WAAF’s there, and were led to believe they were training to be cooks!

The war did not prevent us enjoying our Saturday matinee at the pictures. Two films, a newsreel and a bag of peanuts! I still wonder, in the days of ration books, how we obtained ‘monkey nuts’. Although sweets were rationed, we seemed to have enough - supplemented by apples and carrots. One of my brothers had been called up into the Army, another into the Navy. I remember once my sailor brother came home on leave with half a kit bag full of green bananas. I was able to take a banana to school. Imagine, I had to share it among my pals - some had never seen one, and they even wanted a part of the skin to prove to their parents that they really had tasted bananas. By 1943 I was at secondary school. The teachers were either women or older men, too old for war service, but I remember them all to this day, wonderful teachers. One, C.J.R. Smith, was also our sports master. He played cricket for Grantham, and every Tuesday evening voluntarily coached in several sports at London Road Cricket Ground. One afternoon each week, we had two periods of gardening, everything from planting to harvesting crops for the school kitchen. During the autumn children over twelve were allowed six weeks’ holiday to go potato-picking on local farms. I enjoyed the work - and we got paid! By now the fear of bombs had passed. Many American servicemen were stationed at Airfields around the town and came into Grantham when off-duty, frequently handing out chocolate or chewing-gum when we enquired, ‘Got any gum, chum?’ They were the same men who were flying the bombers we counted most nights as they went on bombing raids over Germany. The day came when the war ended. I recall myself and friends went into town and stayed for most of the daytime and evening. The whole town seemed to be celebrating. We clambered on to any vehicle that was travelling along the High Street, only to jump off and clamber aboard another to ride back. Why? Because it was fun, and everyone was so happy. Some time later a huge party was organised on the playing field of our housing estate; I suppose every household must have contributed towards providing the jellies and cakes, and although food was still rationed, we didn’t go short that day!