Lincolnshire Past & Present
Society for Lincolnshire History & Archaeology

Horncastle Cycle Club 1883

The railway comes to Market Rasen

Sleaford Navigation warehouse

Mrs Cooling's Christmas pudding

Alford's H. J. H.

Local history 'masterclass'

Plus - five pages of books - regular features - and more
The deadline for contributions to the next Bulletin and the Spring issue of Lincolnshire Past & Present is 28 February 1999. 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. Details (SAE, please) available from Jews’ Court.
Editorial

As we move towards the Millennium anniversaries of all kinds seem to be on everyone's minds. Although this is not really the place for commercials, I must mention that the Society, which celebrates its own twenty-fifth anniversary next year, has brought out a special calendar, with a Lincolnshire event commemorated on (nearly) every day of the year, with one event illustrated for each month. This is an unusual calendar and will be an interesting souvenir to keep long after 1999 is over! Ever since this magazine first appeared we have asked for contributors to send articles or pictures recording anniversaries, but there has not always been a response. I imagine many readers will be involved in their communities with historical exhibitions, booklets etc. Perhaps this work and the calendar will trigger off some ideas.

On a personal level, I was proud to meet an Australian second cousin, Eric Abraham, who celebrated his 100th anniversary in April. My sister and I were delighted to find that he was coming to England and France in June for commemorative ceremonies on the Somme. We met him whilst he was in London before going on to France, one of four veterans, aged 97, 110, 100 and 101 respectively, who were brought over by the Australian Government. We spent most of a day with him, and it was a fascinating experience, not least because he seemed not to need any rest, despite the long flying hours! We were told that all four declined the wheelchairs thoughtfully provided at the ceremonies, one of which was the burial of Private Bosito, another the award of the Legion d'Honneur medal. It was a little sad to find nothing at all about the event in the national press [well, we did not see every paper but a good many!], considering that these young men had all been volunteers and had come over to fight for us and the French. Eric had four brothers in that war, two of whom were killed, the other two injured.

On a less sombre note, Kathleen Johnson has spotted a highly topical museum item from 100 years ago (p14). I have headed this 'Echo from the Past'. There is a similar feature in The Oldie magazine entitled 'Voice from the Grave', which manages to find topical references of this kind, perhaps readers will send in some more. Douglas Boyce records another anniversary and John Ketteringham writes about a local character, H. J. H. (Peter) Dyer, a memorable Alford headmaster. J. N. Clark's piece on Horncastle Cycle Club and Bill Collin's article on Silk Willoughby Pig Club are important ones, concerning the sort of local organisations whose records do not always survive.

We are sorry that there was no Lincolnshire Past & Present in October but hope this larger issue will go some way towards compensating. Finally we wish all our readers and contributors a merry Christmas and happiness in 1999.

Hilary Healey and Ros Beevers
The old warehouse in Navigation Yard, Sleaford

Wendy J. Atkin

Earlier this year, one of Sleaford's little known historic buildings was saved from demolition, thanks to the intervention of local groups and individuals. The old warehouse, which has stood for over two hundred years in Navigation Yard off Carrs Street, can be viewed from East Banks or the Eastgate car park. A large, two-storey red-brick building with whitewashed frontage, it was used to store goods brought up the River Slea from Boston, Lincoln and the Trent in the beginnings of the Industrial Revolution and, although much altered over the years and now in a poor state of repair, it constitutes a survival from what was perhaps Sleaford's greatest period of economic prosperity. As one of the original wharfside buildings, it predates by almost half a century its better known neighbour, the Grade II listed Navigation House (1838).

After the passing of the Slea Navigation Act in 1792, the initial cutting of the river and construction of locks and toll houses was quickly followed by the development of the wharf and premises in the town itself. These were originally accessed via Cross Keys Yard on Eastgate through the stone portico inscribed '1792 Navigation Wharf which now stands in Carrs Street.' The land on which the wharf yard was laid out was obtained from Sleaford's principal owner, Frederick, the 4th Earl of Bristol (1730-1803).

The Navigation Committee minute books state that on 18 February 1793 a contract was ordered to be drawn up with Bristol's agent (the Rev Edward Waterson, vicar of Sleaford) to purchase 'part of the [Carre's] Hospital Yard next to the Old School House for £400'. On 16 June 1794, the Committee ordered that 'proper and necessary warehouses and other buildings be immediately erected upon the Public Wharf'. Both the warehouse and a channel cut northwards along its east side to form a loading quay are clearly visible on William Taylor's enclosure plan of 1794-5. Other premises included a wool shed, stall house, granary and stable, and, by 1807, a crane and small tool house had been added. The wharf yard appears to have been extended at some time to the area sandwiched between the two arms of the River Slea.
Although the minutes do not contain any details regarding its construction, they note incidental details of the layout of the warehouse and evidence that it was a two-storey building from the outset. When the Boston merchant, Samuel Darwin, became the lessee in 1799, the terms of his lease encompassed the use of "Two Chambers in the Wharf Warehouse over the School House." There were also two rooms adjoining the School House, indicating some internal partitioning. In 1807, on the Committee's annual tour of the Navigation, the floor of the warehouse was found to be in a very decayed state, so the carpenter, William Wright, was contracted to lay a new floor over the old one. He also erected props to support the beams in the warehouse to prevent any accident that may otherwise happen for want of them, and painted the doors and windows, including the far window in a part of the building being used as a counting house. In 1838, as part of a second major phase of works on the wharf, Navigation House (then known as the Toll House Office) was built to accommodate a weighing machine, counting house and clerk's dwelling. At the same time, the walls of the existing buildings were re-pointed and washed over with two coats of stone colour, giving us an idea of the appearance of the warehouse then.

The detail concerning the use of the warehouse as a schoolroom reveals a hitherto unknown episode in the history of Carrie's Grammar School (then Carrie's Free School). A proviso in the contract to buy the Hospital land for the wharf in 1793 stated that the ends of the bedouses were to be made good by the Navigation proprietors if the existing school were pulled down. As finance to repair the old school was not forthcoming from its patron, the Earl of Bristol, it was demolished to make way for a two-storey building for the bedesmen. The schoolmaster, Mr Waterson, then seems to have transferred the handful of pupils to a room in the Old Warehouse, but by 1805 they had decamped to St Denys' vestry, before the final move in 1835 to Northgate.

The wharf and premises were usually let on a three-yearly basis, and the lease stipulated that the warehouse must be used to provide public storage. The tariff included monthly rates for items such as wines and spirits, rice, tea, fruit, hops, seeds, nails, cereals and flour. Timber, iron, stone and manure were stored on the wharfside, whilst coal and wool were kept under cover in separate buildings. In 1808 a clause was inserted into the terms of the lessee's contract which indicated that the warehouse was being used for the illicit accommodation of livestock. It stated that the lessee must not 'do any damage to the said Warehouse and Premises nor to convert the same or any part thereof into a Farm Yard or put Horses, Pigs or other Cattle in the said Warehouse.'

By 1865 the rent on the wharf had been reduced because of a decline in trade, and the Committee decided that the time had come to terminate the duties and responsibilities of the Company of Proprietors. This was due in part to the expense involved in the upkeep of the Navigation, and in part to the recent construction of the Boston, Sleaford and Midland Counties Railway, which compelled the proprietors to carry out works on the Slea under a bill to improve the Witham Drainage. A final dividend was declared on 22 February 1865, after which the wharf continued to be rented out and the locks maintained for another decade or so. The Navigation was finally abandoned in 1878, and the wharf and premises were bought the following year at auction by Mrs Mary Ann Sharp (licensee of the Cross Keys) and John Payne (a Sleaford merchant). The warehouse continued to be used for storage for many years, but is now inaccessible. It remains an important element in a historic complex of related buildings, the integrity of which might now be preserved for future generations. Under the town's Single Regeneration Budget plans, it is set to be converted to craft workshops and accommodation for resident artists.

NOTES
1 32 Geo III (1792)
2 Lincolnshire Archives 3PSJ/2: Sleaford Navigation Committee Minute Book 1792-1808
3 3PSJ/2 Minute Book 18 Nov 1799
4 3PSJ/2 Minute Book 25 May 1807
5 3PSJ/3 Minute Book 21 Jun 1837 and 16 Jun 1838
6 Charles Ellis, Carrie's Grammar School, Sleaford
7 1604-1954 (Sleaford 1954), p20; Camden's Britannia (1806, Lincolnshire section)
8 3PSJ/2 Minute Book 16 Apr 1808
9 3PSJ/2 Minute Book 16 Apr 1808
10 3PSJ/4 Minute Book 6 Aug 1879. The part of the wharf which lay between the two arms of the River Slea was known for some time as Payne's Wharf.
Lincolnshire Old Churches Trust

The latest Lincolnshire Old Churches Trust newsletter highlights churches in the county, which have recently received grants. Readers who are not members of the Trust may be interested in knowing the names of some of the places in receipt of grants whose work has lately been completed. These include parish churches at Coleby, Edlington, Holton-le-Clay, Metheringham, Stragglethorpe, St Nicholas in Newport (Lincoln) and the Roman Catholic Chapel at Wellingley. Grants recently agreed include parish churches at Bracebridge (Lincoln), Manby, Marton, and Methodist churches at Brant Broughton and Swineshead. The Old Churches annual fund-raising bicycle ride in September usually coincides with the Saturday of Heritage Open Days, often enabling visitors to see inside buildings that are not otherwise open.

Older readers will be sorry to learn from the LOCT newsletter of the death of SLHA member Mrs Stephanie Binnall, latterly of Branstow, who left a generous bequest to the Old Churches Trust. Her late husband, Canon Peter Binnall, former sub-dean of Lincoln Cathedral, was not only a founder member of the LOCT but also an active member of SLHA and all its predecessors and an avid recorder of information on numerous aspects of historic Lincolnshire.

Further details about the Trust are available from:

The Hon. Secretary
Lincolnshire Old Churches Trust
PO Box 195
LINCOLN LN5 9XU.
JUBILEE OF LINCOLNSHIRE ARCHIVES OFFICE

The following articles were given as talks on the occasion of Lincolnshire Archives' fiftieth anniversary on 1 July 1998.

1 Dorothy Owen
2 Dennis Mills
3 Bob Kershaw

I should preface this piece by saying categorically that although Joan Varley has not seen these particular words, what I propose to describe is our joint work in its beginning and its full development, and it could never have been achieved if we had not found that we could work together. She will forgive me, I know, if I report that she began by discovering in me a taste for the works of Charles Dickens as strong as her own, and from then on we worked together admirably and - this is important - enjoyably. I shall not enlarge further on this now, but those who have known us both during the last fifty years will have no doubts about what I am trying to say, and will appreciate the fundamental contribution of our partnership (I sound like Beatrice Webb) in the development of the office.

There is no doubt that we inherited a good deal that was essential to the success of the scheme. Leaving aside the contribution of the Lincolnshire antiquaries of the previous 250 years, we enjoyed from the start the traditions established by Canon Foster in the arranging, listing and indexing of the diocesan records and the part he played, virtually from 1900, in the development of an archive policy for the county councillors, and of local and national historians such as Sir Frank Stenton and Alexander Hamilton Thompson. The foundation of the Lincoln Record Society had been fundamental to Foster's policy and even more important, perhaps, was the enrolment of Kathleen Major in 1935, almost at the point of Foster's death, in the administration of the diocesan record office. I do not need to elaborate on what she did for the office, long after she had removed to Oxford.

The scheme for the establishment of the Lincolnshire office as drawn up, I believe, by Sir Francis Hill during the war, with much advice from local councillors, provided for an ad hoc committee on the model of the old County Committee, but with representation not only of the three Parts of Lindsey, Holland and Kesteven but also of the City of Lincoln, for the care of whose official records it was to be responsible. The second meeting of this committee, held in the Stonebow, appointed me as assistant archivist to start work on 1 September 1948; it had already appointed as archivist Joan Varley who had been diocesan archivist since 1945, when Miss Major had moved to a post in Oxford.

The committee inherited from Miss Major a well-organised archive office and an important library of reference books, as well as fairly comprehensive indexes of places and persons. The accommodation in the Exchequer Gate was more commodious than it first appeared likely. The central portion of the gate (over the roadway) held the bulk of the diocesan records; the important series of probate inventories (at least 20,000 of them) were housed in a large room on the north side of the gateway which had been, I think, the repair room as long as Miss Major had a repairer (a former cook at Timberland).

On the south side there were three other large, roughly shaped rooms, one of which immediately received deposited material, another had Lincoln Record Society stock, while the third was the registrar's store (this we soon took over). The outermost northern room was already a reading room furnished with a large table. It had a safe used in Canon Foster's time for a bottle of whisky for the entertainment of Colonel King-Fane of Fulbeck.

Here I presided (with no whisky) while the inner office contained the telephone, two large typewriters...
and Joan, and the third member of the staff, a school leaver, Margaret Brown, who had received some training in typing and shorthand. For one morning a week we had the services of a cleaner-chargewoman who made tea and washed the dusters.

Access to the office was by a metal spiral staircase on the north side and by two stone stairs ending in the two doors on the south side; one of them led to a small kitchen and the dustbin. Quite early in my life at Lincoln I was faced with an American reader who could not get down the metal stairs and had to be led, with eyes firmly shut, down the stone stair to the outer door. Pigeons were inclined to squeeze through the staircase windows and lay eggs on the stairs.

The office was heated by electric radiators which were switched on and off as we came and went. It was often very cold and we rarely ventured on summer frocks. Everything went up and down the spiral stairs; occasionally readers or young volunteers (like Dennis) helped to get boxes upstairs (Joan and I had very gloomy memories of a large deposit from Aswarby in Kesteven); gradually as we developed a transport scheme the removal men, Fred Hunt’s, and the Lindsey van driver came to take over some of the work. Hunt’s men were particularly kind and helpful. Once I collected from 1 Millbank in London the Church Commissioners’ records for Lincoln and very detailed arrangements were made to find a suitable cafe. At first, however, transport was very skeletal - neither of us drove. Local calls were made on bicycles; much of the continuing survey of parish records was done in this way. Long distance calls for which the local bus service was no use needed a taxi. A solicitor at Bourne, to be visited only on a Sunday, was visited and produced a deposit in this way. We made our preliminary surveys of Boston by train (myself), of Kesteven by bus (Joan), and of Lindsey on foot. We had, of course, no electronic assistance, and the only copying machine available was a not very efficient thing called a Contoura for which I was responsible.

Almost the greatest advantage we had was in the quality of our regular callers, whose generous help never slackened. Perhaps I was most conscious, because I saw him daily, of our dear Mr Exley who never failed, until his last illness, to climb up to the office from West Parade and on whose generous information I relied constantly. He was of course working on the topography of the city. Then there was Mr George Dixon of Holton le Moor who came in at least once each week to attend the Faculty Advisory Committee and the 'Arch and Arch'. Mr Harold Brace of Gainsborough, the clerk of the Gainsborough Quaker monthly and quarterly meeting, worked on parish registers and employed as a copyist Mr J. Bean King, who was profoundly deaf and hardly communicated to us at all. I was once driven by excitement, after finding a reference to John Donne, to communicate this to him but had no success. I turned to Miss Major.

Perhaps the most rewarding visitor was Miss Thurby, Canon Foster’s secretary, who looked after his library in the County Library on Newland and was eventually to join us on the record office staff. Miss Thurby was as generous as Mr Exley and Mr Brace and was a tremendous resource. So, of course, was the library she administered and it was always a treat to spend an afternoon with her. That reminds me not to forget the help we had from the Lincoln City Library and especially from Tom Baker, and the library of the Dean and Chapter which we used a good deal, though in these early days we hardly dealt with the chapter archives. At least we were, in Canon Cook’s eyes, part of the cathedral community and eligible for his annual party. I have vivid recollections of hearing the passing bell ring and of going out to the west door to read the announcement of the deceased’s name.

As to collections, our first job was to check the Quarter Sessions records of Holland, Kesteven and Lindsey, and the city materials, for all of which some lists already existed. Joan did Kesteven a day at a time, we shared Lindsey and I spent several long weeks at Boston; this incidentally gave us an opportunity to check Boston borough records and the deposited court of sewers material there. In all this I had the sympathetic help of the Town Clerk, Mr H. Griffiths, and the introduction of such treats as the Mayor’s opening of the May Fair. We also spent several Saturday afternoons attending a useful class on Lindsey Quarter Sessions records led by Mr Fred Brooks, and quite soon we were able to begin listing and reporting on material deposited with Lindsey before the war by the enthusiasm of the Clerk, Mr Eric Scoor, and Mr Duddles. These were nominally deposits under the Master of the Rolls Manorial Records rules, but they were by no means confined to manorial materials; Holwell and Massingberd Mundy were two of the most important groups I remember. Joan had already involved herself in the doings of the Historical Association, and as I was already a member I followed suit.
Then too with George Dixon's continued presence we were involved in 'Arch and Arch', which met on weekdays at noon. Meanwhile Joan had become the editor of the Lincolnshire Historian. We continued this dual responsibility long after I had married and left Lincoln, and this is perhaps an appropriate moment to remark on the constant support and friendship we have had in the last fifty years from Flora Murray and the officers and members of the Lincolnshire Local History Society who steered collections towards us, reported on local activities, and involved us in all the society's affairs and especially the summer schools which were held in the office. I could go on for ever, and must stop soon, but it is most important to remember the constant interest in our doings by Sir Francis Hill (and his hospitality), the solicitude of Mr Blow, the clerk of the committee (and his dear wife's interest), and the most vigorous and earnest efforts of Lord Ancaster to recruit deposits for us and, in the end, to ensure the activities of the committee were legalised. Other official members of the committee were equally assiduous, especially Sir Weston Amcotts; I have vivid recollections of his reaction to Anya Seton's picture in Katherine of medieval Kettlethorpe. All told it was a strenuous and stressful time but we had the solace of much sympathy and informal help. We met regularly with colleagues who were enduring equally stressful times. It is perhaps a hopeful sign that many of them who have survived have remained our friends. Fairly soon we were to enjoy the help and advice of a regular caller from the Historical Manuscripts Commission. His home was in East Lincolnshire and I shall say no more, since he married me in 1958 and so ended my professional career at Lincoln. The taking over and equipping of the gaol was precipitated by the transfer of the Foster Library and Miss Thurby and by the deposit of the probate records. But this is another story and I can't spend time on it here.

Dorothy Owen

I t's a privilege to be one of those representing readers on this auspicious occasion. It's a pleasure to be able to say thank you to the diocesan and local authorities for providing Lincolnshire with such a splendid base for original historical research; in fact one of the biggest and best appointed county archives in the United Kingdom. It's an equal pleasure to say thank you to the many members of staff who have given service over the last fifty years, following the traditions set in motion by Canon Foster, Professor Kathleen Major, Sir Francis Hill and others in the pioneering days before 1948, when most counties did not have a record office.

I don't go back quite the full fifty years, but I was a member of the Lincolnshire Local History Society Summer Schools in 1951 and 1952, which used the Office as one of its bases. In 1951 we studied old houses, measuring examples in Lincoln, such as Deloraine Court in James Street and No 3 Vicars' Court, with Margaret Wood. We also used probate inventories under the guidance of Maurice Barley and Dorothy Williamson (as she then was). In 1952 we turned our attention to agrarian history with Maurice Barley and Philip Rossell, studying a range of documents such as enclosure awards, glebe terriers, and probate inventories again.

I used the facilities of the Archives for my BA dissertation of 1952 and my MA thesis of 1957 and what I learned in my early days in the Archives was of crucial importance to my later career in various parts of the country. In the same bracket I would like to mention working in the City Library, as it was then called, as another formative influence, as well as the Foster Library. In the 1950s the latter was situated in the Lindsey and Holland Library headquarters at Fairfield House, Newland, Lincoln - the house on the west side of the junction of Newland and Orchard Street. At that time it was presided over by Miss Thurby, the last of Canon Foster's young ladies whom he trained at Timberland Vicarage in the skills of archive care and administration. I am dwelling on the library facilities in the Office at the moment because they also are a most important element in this powerhouse of historical scholarship.

A few weeks ago I went to the Exchequerlegate to have a look at the original Office. Readers approached it through a door on the north side of the most northerly arch of the three in that building. It used to say 'Lincoln Diocesan Record Office' on the wall, now it says 'Cantoris' on the intercom. In the 1940s and 1950s the intercom worked on a different basis, not quite by steam, but it was very definitely electromechanical. When the reader opened the heavy door in the arch he set off a bell as loud as a fire alarm situated almost directly over Dorothy's head. But the newcomer heard this only dimly and stood at the door wondering what to do.
He or she was confronted with a puzzle, an empty space populated with the odd umbrella, even a bike - if female, probably belonging to Margaret Whitworth, the Office secretary (now Mrs Beale). In the half-light of the farthest corner an iron staircase, inserted in 1935, led upwards into space. What should one do? Meanwhile, upstairs, Dorothy was moving determinedly across the room to quell the noise. Opening the staircase door, she would call down like St Peter, 'Are you coming up?' Eventually if it was a reader, and not a waif or stray, some poor old man would appear blinking in the stronger light, out of breath and clutching his heart as if he had arrived in an operating theatre. After such a baptism, sixteenth century handwriting presented no fears!

In those days the Office staff consisted, I think, of only three people, Joan Varley, Dorothy Williamson and Margaret Whitworth, and there was room for only six to eight readers - fewer if large maps were in demand. So we all knew what each other was doing, and I suspect Dorothy not only aimed to give archival and academic advice, but also dabbled in a little harmless social fun. For example, in the long, tedious summer between graduation and the Navy, when I was casting about for an MA topic, I remember Dorothy asking me to take a pretty Miss Doubleday out to lunch. Dorothy had decided the young lady needed guidance on early enclosures! Well, I had a pleasant lunch, and I suppose Miss Doubleday learned something about enclosures, but I never got in the overtime I had been hoping for.

Dennis Mills

Krakatoa and the Archives

In 1883 a remarkable and devastating natural phenomenon literally swept the world. The volcano-island of Krakatoa, in the old Spice Islands (now Indonesia) blew up and disappeared. The tidal wave resulting from this gigantic explosion encircled the whole globe, spreading death and destruction on a catastrophic scale to coastal communities in the Far East.

A century later, what probably seemed - to Lincolnshire Archives staff and reading room regulars - to be a similarly disruptive phenomenon - was gathering force, to sweep irresistibly through the groves of academe. Those engaged in leisurely perusal of ancient deeds and voluminous manorial rolls were disturbed to hear - literally, for the newcomers could be a touch brash and speak in less than hushed tones - impatient demands for parish registers, marriage bonds and the like. And this was not for altruism and the joys of pure research, but a ransacking of records in order to identify suspected ancestors: for the less glorious claiming of kinship, rather than for any loftier purpose. Family History exploded into the Archives.

How was this strange new phenomenon to be viewed? It was tempting to place Nelson's telescope to an unseeing eye, and simply to ignore; but the demands were persistent and insistent. A Curzon-like superiority could be affected or invoked; but the hides of these new barbarians were thick, and scorn would simply deflect, even rebound in indignation.

No - these 'family historians' may have constituted a novel (and initially threatening) invasion, but they were legitimate users of Archives services. So, perhaps hesitantly at first, they were made welcome and absorbed into the college of readers at the Castle.

The castle? Before memory dims, it is warming to recall the walk through the east gate, pausing to absorb the spacious greensward of the bailey, then pushing open the large, iron-framed door which gave access to the treasures within. Up the stairs - still with the cold air of a prison on the ascent - then through two more heavy doors, to emerge into the warmth and snugness of the two reading rooms. These were quite small - especially compared with the present spacious provision - inner sanctums. Though a few raised whispers might disturb the outer room where, gradually, microfilm and microfiche machines were installed as census films were acquired and parish registers copied onto fiches, the inner holly of holyes long remained a bastion of silence and intense concentration. Woe betide the unwary chatterer who disturbed Richard Olney or the late Ken Bradley! (One hesitates to imagine the reaction when, as Professor Ken Cameron loves to relate, he whooped with delight on finally discovering the origins of Sincil Bank as a place name - Seneschal Bank, for the record - and proceeded with glee to inform the whole assembled readership.) But the Senior Common Room gradually became a livelier venue for both local and family historians to
gather and—tentatively at first—begin to mix. It did
take time and tolerance for the ‘old hands’ to adapt
to the rank amateurs who arrogated to themselves
the title of historian, as it seemed.

And so down the hill in 1991 went this disparate
collection of readers, to this modern, state-of-the-art
Archives building, for which we are grateful to the
County Council. Yes—we inevitably lost the cozy
intimacy of the Castle, where one could pop in to
check on progress of a reprographic order, and a
cash till was unheard of. Security systems do
distance staff from readers. But Lincolnshire
Archives have a very special staff, who have re-

sponded magnificently to the challenge both of a
brand new building and of ever increasing pressure
of reader numbers. When one appreciates that a
high proportion of these readers have had to be not
only instructed in the new layouts, but also
gradually taught that their ancestors are not waiting
behind the counter to be produced especially for
them, on demand, then the expertise and skill of
especially the ‘front of house’ staff begins to be
appreciated. (These staff, who cheerfully respond
to demands from readers which can often be testing,
and even occasionally rude, with tact, courtesy and
lively enthusiasm, are a precious human resource for
us all, which the County Council should hesitate
long before ‘reorganising’. Their continuity, devotion
to service, and morale are precious assets, never to
be trifled with.)

Now, in 1998, there are inevitably new challenges
and opportunities. One challenge has already been
alluded to in passing; that of gently guiding the
blundering efforts of the novice genealogist, so that
initial ignorance is gradually supplanted by a
growing knowledge, understanding and confidence
in handling archival material. It is my firm
conviction that virtually every raw recruit to the

hobby of chasing ancestors has the potential to
become a local historian, as they seek to place their
ancestral personals and locations in historical
context; to flesh out the bare bones of names and
dates with some understanding of local society as it
has evolved. So I fully support what Dorothy Owen
has implied and Dennis Mills has argued - the
Archives can only be strengthened by ever-closer
links with other like-minded organisations. The
beneficial links with SLHA and the Lincolnshire
Family History Society (LFHS) are obvious and
manifest. (The great generosity of LFHS in spon-
soring the purchase of microfiches, and in volunteer-
ing to carry out so much valuable indexing, is a fine
example of these links at work.) Established links
with schools could perhaps be supplemented, where
appropriate and possible, by new associations with
universities and colleges. These associations could
compress joint talks and even joint courses? They
should certainly combine, as Dennis has suggested,
to make it more widely known what documentary
riches lie untapped, awaiting future dissertations and
theses. At the local level, the tender shoots of
village-based local history and heritage groups need
to be encouraged. Here the Derbyshire network is an
instructive example of county-wide encouragement.

Krakatoa would never have exploded if the earth’s
crust had learnt to be less rigid! So I commend to all
of us a flexible view of the future. The very
openness of the Archives today, with the blessed
abolition of hated admission charges, and light
refreshments to offer to us guests, is perhaps a
foretaste of developments at which we can only
guess. Gershon Knight and Chris Johnson value
their staff and are aware of the need for develop-
ment, both in technological and human terms. Let us
hope that the County Council and other interested
organisations can respond with the resources that
are essential for plans and dreams to be realised.

R. R. Kershaw

Bob Kershaw first experienced the Archives in the 1980s, as a professional genealogist and later as LFHS member.
Currently he is a tutor to the Advanced Certificate in Local History group which meets regularly in the Archives,
under the aegis of Nottingham University. This is a revised, slightly expanded version of his informal reminiscences.)
Faces and places

CROWLAND'S GLASS TOWER? Plans had been drawn up for a proposal for a glass tower to form the focus of a visitor centre to be sited near Crowland Abbey. This was an extraordinary and revolutionary but innovative idea. The suggested site was south-west of the Abbey, and the proposal was put to English Heritage. However, at a public meeting which took place this autumn, it transpired that the scheme had been quietly put aside, because of the effect on the Scheduled Ancient Monument. There remains a mystery - the statement that one of the purposes was to show people the height of the original tower, and what it must have been like in the eighth century - presupposes there would have been a tower (not to mention a large building complex) in the eighth century, which is pretty unlikely! But all that said, Crowland's archaeology and history is unique, and it is unusual in the Lincolnshire Fens in being a place where all settlement periods are represented, from the Neolithic onwards, with important Roman, Saxon and medieval occupation. It certainly deserves attractive public interpretation and presentation. Crowland is now making new Millennium plans including essential repairs to the Abbey. It will be interesting to see how matters develop.

ORDNANCE SURVEY MAPS AND THE CHARLES CLOSE SOCIETY. An organisation which may not be well known is the Charles Close Society for the study of Ordnance Survey maps, founded in 1980. It aims to bring together all those interested in this subject to promote the exchange of information, and to encourage and co-ordinate research. A newsletter, Sheetlines, is issued three times a year and publications currently available include a guide for OS maps for historians, a guide to the 1-inch Seventh Series and a monograph on the 10-mile map. In preparation are works on the Popular Edition (England and Wales) and the methods and processes of 19th century OS map production. During the year meetings and visits are arranged around the country. Write for details to the Secretary, Bob Wheeler, c/o the Map Library, British Library, 96 Euston Road, London NW1 2DB. Membership applications to Dr Roger Hellyer, 60 Albany Road, Stratford on Avon, Warwickshire, CV37 6PQ. Subscriptions in UK are: Individual £10, Family £11, Corporate £15. Oh yes, and for those who are wondering, Charles Frederick Arden Close (1865-1952) was Director-General of the Ordnance Survey from 1911 to 1922.

A LAWRENCE TRAIL WITH A DIFFERENCE. In August Roger Symonds, a local government officer from Wellingore, led a group of 70 hiking enthusiasts on a motorcycle journey described by T. E. Lawrence when he was at Cranwell. From Byard's Leap the trip took in Lincoln, Newark, Southwell, Nottingham and Grantham, a total of about 100 miles. The event closed with a barbecue at Ashby Country Club, better known to some readers as the old Hall at Ashby de la Launde.

CRANWELL REMEMBRANCE. The ashes of the late Air Commodore Sir Frank Whittle, inventor of the jet engine, were interred at Cranwell early in September, in the memorial chapel of St Michael and All Saints. Amongst those present were his son, Captain Ian Whittle, Air Vice Marshall Bill Rimmer, Commandant of Cranwell, and Sir Ralph Robins, Chairman of Rolls-Royce. For those who have not visited the RAF College, the chapel dates only to 1962, designed by Thomas Mitchell & Associates, it is described by Pevsner as 'like a delightful Wren City church.' Not always included in guided tours, it incorporates some of the fittings and furniture of former SLHA member and Grantham architect, the late Lawrence (Tommy) Bond, made for a previous 1952 chapel in the main wing.

GEOFF BRYANT OBE. Honoured in the Queen's Birthday List in the summer was Geoff Bryant, former tutor organiser for the WEA. Based at Barton upon Humber, Geoff is well known in the north of the county for his lively courses. He has been instrumental in producing the history of several villages and has written a number of books himself, including The Early History of Barton upon Humber, and is joint author of Royal Arms in Lincolnshire Churches. His important de-mystification of Domesday Book, based on the Waltham entry, is unfortunately out of print. Lately he conducted a half-day school for SLHA on 'John Myrc's Instructions to Priests'. Congratulations to Geoff, it is good to see such recognition of a local history and archaeology tutor for his contribution, both in his own work and in what he has persuaded class members to produce.
THE LISTED BUILDINGS INFORMATION SERVICE

Stewart Squires

How often have you wondered if a building or structure in the county is a Listed Building or not? Their owners will know, having been told by their local authority, but such information is often difficult for others to obtain, simply because people do not know where to find it. However, the National Monuments Record (NMR), the public archive of the Royal Commission on the Historic Monuments of England (RCHM), has recently announced a service available to all. This is the Listed Buildings Information Service.

The NMR has produced a database indexing every individual listed building description in England. It includes all the variety of structures protected by listing, from terraced houses to churches, stately homes to railway stations, tombstones and telephone boxes. This is now accessible by post, telephone or visit to their London search room, to anyone who wants to access it, free of charge.

The most efficient way to check the listed status of a particular structure is to complete a standard form. The form is short and simple, with the most important part of the information on the structure you wish to research. It is to your advantage to give as much detail as possible. Remember that in the case of Lincolnshire, the lists from which the database was prepared were surveyed some years ago. House names, for example, do change, as do the uses to which a building is put, say, a former chapel now used as a house. In such cases include as it was then as well as now. The parish and county names are also very relevant. One potential problem here is a parish name, especially for those structures in open country, as the present 1:50000 Ordnance Survey maps do not show parish boundaries. You may need to check a map that shows these first.

You do not need to fill in a form - you can contact the NMR by telephone. You will, of course, need to give them the same information. A single inquiry can include up to three separate buildings, and is free of charge. An application will be answered on the next working day after receipt of your request.

Please note the 'working days' set out at the end of this note. You will receive confirmation of whether or not the building is included in the listed buildings system. If so, you will be sent a copy of the list entry. The listed buildings system contains a wealth of information about listed buildings such as when they were built, what they are built of, their uses, and references to the work of famous architects. This enables thematic searches to be carried out, as well as geographical searches due to the parish base of the original surveys. Searches of a small scale are included in the free service. More complex inquiries can be carried out and these are subject to a fee. Details will be supplied on request.

I have used the new service and found it speedy and efficient. Telephone enquirers are dealt with in a polite and friendly manner, and I have been rung back to check on queries, usually in circumstances where I have failed to give clear instruction. I can therefore recommend the service to you. The NMR now provides similar services on the buildings of London, on air photographs, their architectural archive, and on archaeological sites. Please ring them for details.

Finally do not forget that there are local contacts for listed building information. The Planning Department in your local council offices will have copies of the lists for you to inspect, and some are available in libraries. Usually of course these will enable you to find out about your local buildings only.

The National Monuments Record
55 Blandford Street
LONDON
W1H 3AF
Telephone 0171 208 8221
Fax 0171 224 5333

The office is closed on Saturdays, Sundays and Mondays.

* A specimen form was provided but the editor felt it would not make a very exciting page!
Deeping St James Tithe Barn, 1963, shortly before demolition. Copies of these prints were deposited with the National Monuments Record many years ago so they should be available. It is unlikely that a building of this quality would be demolished these days!

(Photos: Hilary Healey)
An early record of fenland soils

(Original document) From Leverton, near Boston, parish records; brought to our attention by Eileen Robson.

Begun to sink well in ye parsonage yard at Leverton which on Tuesday night was dug 19 feet deep & a croob* layd & bricked up near 4 foot & on Wednesday finished up to the top.

The several sorts of earth yt were passed thro were thus

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>At top a load† earth abt</th>
<th>2 foot</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>then a bed of Clay abt</td>
<td>4 &quot;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Then sand about</td>
<td>3 &quot;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Then clay about</td>
<td>4 &quot;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Then sand about</td>
<td>2 &quot;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Then clay again about</td>
<td>2 &quot;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Then quick sand about</td>
<td>2 &quot;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>where the croob was layd</td>
<td>19</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Charge of the well

- My own two servants 2 days: 16s
- The carpenter one " 2s
- The mason 1 day & ½: 3s
- Another labourer 3 " 3s
- The Croob 2s
- 1600 bricks £1 4s 9d
- Lime and frame atop 2s

£2 12s 9d

* The information above may well be of use to archaeologists and housebuilders excavating Leverton in the future!

† This word does not appear in any form in any local glossaries. It seems to be some sort of framework or former for shaping the bottom of the well. Timber structures are frequently found at the bottom of wells of all periods. It is suggested that croob (the pronunciation of which we cannot be certain) is a phonetic spelling of orb, which has various meanings, all referring to wooden frames for different purposes. The editor would be pleased to hear of other examples of similar words that might give us a meaning.

‡ Load is another spelling of lode, in this instance referring to a layer or seam of soil.

An echo from the past

Kathleen Johnson sent this Lincoln Gazette & Times item (Original document) from 100 years ago.

It is remarkable to say the least, that Lincoln, where once was a strong Roman colony, a prominent Danish township, and where at various times events important and vital have made English history, has no museum that can receive the relics discovered from time to time. Particularly does this apply to the Roman period. We have relics in the city that the British and other museums would give much to possess, and yet we have no public storehouse wherein to place them for safety and public inspection. A number are described in this ... article, and there are a number of private collections which it is, perhaps, not advisable to mention in detail. But there are Roman relics in private hands, some of them almost priceless, certainly unique, which the present owners would gladly present to a museum could one be established in Lincoln. A loan collection was exhibited in the city some time ago, and proved very successful. An agitation was worked up to secure a museum worthy of the ancient place we live in, but after seeming fairly on the road to realisation, the proposals fell through. Surely it is not too late for a museum to be established? Is it a question of finance? There are gentlemen, we dare assert, whose purse-strings would be readily loosened for such an object. Is it a matter of room? The Schools of Science and Art, the Church House, or the Castle could surely help there - the cathedral is out of the question for the remains now there ... are perishing by exposure. Or is it a question of lassitude? We can make no reply to that, only regret it, if such be the case.

Comment 1998 We have no museum; there are places it might be. Will those with collections deposit them out of the county if there is no museum visible to accept them? Is the lack of a museum a question of lassitude? We can make no reply to that, only regret it, if such be the case.

Pearl Wheatley
Lincolnshire

Loo doors

Following a recent appeal by Adrian Gray for stories about Lincolnshire privies for his new book, I was reminded that I had sketched a number of the cut-out shapes at the tops of doors (necessary for ventilation!) when I was collecting fenland cottage information. Here are a few examples.

Hilary Hooley
Horncastle Bicycle Club 1883

J. N. Clarke

On first reading the above it would be reasonable to assume it was an order from a drill book of the Militia of that time. It was in fact part of the Rules of the Road adopted by Horncastle Bicycle Club when it was formed at a meeting of local cycling enthusiasts held in June 1883 at the Greyhound Inn on East Street.

The rules show a marked recognition of the need to keep road safety in mind even in those days, and the bugler obviously held an important position in the club. In the photographs the bicycles appear to be very heavy machines, and it is interesting that pedals were referred to as 'treadles'.

The surface of roads around Horncastle 115 years ago would be waterbound and often in poor condition, thus cycling was very strenuous exercise indeed.

The members appear to have been drawn from the professional and business people of the town. No doubt the cost of bicycles in 1883 would restrict membership somewhat.

The rule 'The Club shall be strictly con-

Mr. W. F. Bryant of Horncastle Bicycle Club as a young man in 1883

A prominent member in the early nineteen hundreds was Mr W. E. Bryant who owned the boot and shoe retail business at the corner of the Market Place in part of what had formerly been Sir Joseph Banks' town house Mr Bryant not only sold boots and shoes but also was a highly skilled shoemaker. A pair of jockey's riding boots on exhibition at the Museum of Lincolnshire Life on Burton Road, Lincoln, are an example of his skill.

Members of the club wore lapel badges which comprised a horn above which was a silver three-turreted castle with a flag on each turret. The flags bore the letters HCC. Membership cards (see opposite) were printed by Mortons of Horncastle.

The author is indebted to Mrs G. Townsend, daughter of Mr Bryant, for the photographs and card.
RULES

1. This Club shall be called the 'Horncastle Bicycle Club.'
2. The Club shall be strictly confined to Amateurs.
3. The Entrance Fee shall be two shillings and sixpence, and the Subscription four shillings per annum.
4. Honorary Members may be elected, subject to their subscribing to the funds annually not less than ten shillings and sixpence.
5. The Officers of the Club shall consist of a President, Vice-President, Captain, Sub-Captain, Bugler, Treasurer and Secretary, who, with four other Members, shall constitute a Committee.
6. All Officers and Committee men shall be elected or re-elected annually.
7. The Secretary shall be empowered to call a Meeting, whenever he deems necessary, and any Member shall be likewise empowered, by his procuring five signatures of Members desiring the same, and forwarding it to the Secretary, together with a statement of the matter for consideration.
8. The Committee shall have the power to suspend any Officer or Member, on due cause being shown.
9. The Club shall hold Weekly Club Runs, to be fixed by the Committee.
10. No Member, unless and until he shall have paid his subscription for the current year, shall be allowed to compete in any Club Race or participate in the benefits of the Club.

RULES OF THE ROAD

1. In all Club Runs and Tours the Captain or his Deputy shall lead, the Bugler by his side to receive orders, and the Sub-Captain or his Deputy shall ride in the rear, and look after stragglers (if any), and inform his Captain by signal if it be necessary to 'stop' or 'easy' them.
2. When riding in single file an interval of five yards shall be kept between each rider, and when in double file, ten yards. In hilly country these distances should be doubled, and in riding down a hill which is not known, or the bottom of which cannot be seen, the Bugler shall proceed fifty yards in advance and signal the others to continue riding or dismount, according to his judgment. No one shall descend a hill with his feet off the treadles unless by the permission of the Captain.
3. When the order 'single file to the right' is given, the right hand man shall go in front of his companion; in 'single file to the left,' the left hand man shall go to the front. This rule does not apply to the Captain or the Sub-Captain.
4. On the occasion of all Runs or Excursions the pace shall not exceed six miles an hour.
5. The Regulations for Bicyclists from time to time made in various counties, boroughs and places, and which receive the sanction of the Local Government Board, shall be observed at all times.
6. Any Member violating any Rule of the Club shall be liable to a fine, at the discretion of the Committee.
33.1 OLLIERS. (Lincs P&P N&Q 32.7) A very tentative offering, which can summarily be set aside in favour of superior erudition, should that be forthcoming: There are several slang or regional words derived from the French aller or allez in which the initial a is replaced by an o. For example, alley, in the sense of glass marble, also occurs as alley or olie, and as London schoolboys in the 1940s we used oly olly (usually corrupted to a raucous oy-oy) as a multi-purpose greeting, touchline exhortation etc. So although I have never encountered oller itself, by extrapolation I should half expect it to mean something like 'alleyway', 'path' etc, as it apparently does. Though not really an answer to the question, perhaps if nothing better turns up this would be a line worth investigating further. Peter Ryde

33.2 ON THE HUDSON'S BUSES. Margaret Sankey, granddaughter of the founders of Hudson's buses, Horncastle, is compiling a history of the company and wants to hear from anyone who ever worked for it or who has any recollections, memorabilia etc. The founder, Ed (Pop) Hudson, ran a cycle shop in West Street, Horncastle, but saw the potential of the coach in 1928 and began a five times a day service between Horncastle and Lincoln (Unity Square). The buses travelled via Bardney where there was later a depot. The firm was taken over by Appleby's about twenty-five years ago. The enquirer can be telephoned on 01526 398555.

33.3 JOHN FRANCIS OF SILVER STREET, LINCOLN. With regard to Notes & Queries 32.4 (LP&P Summer 1998) where Michael Bailey asks for information on the Silver Street shop of John Francis, I have a copy of C. L. Exley's A History of the Torksey and Mansfield China Factories (1970), printed by Keyworth and Fry Ltd, Lincoln, which gives quite a lot of information on Mr Francis and his shop. There are four pages in the 'Biographical Notes' relating to John Francis and his son-in-law. I quote from the book, giving additional information:

Miss Francis was the daughter of Mr John Francis, who at that time was in business in Lincoln, as a general draper, etc. His premises were in Silver Street, adjoining the lately demolished St Peter at Arches Church. He commenced to sell off his stock prior to retirement, 7th March, 1800. His advertisement also stated that 'the shop and premises may be treated for by private contract.'

The premises were offered for sale by auction on 11 July 1800.

Jean Farthorpe

33.4 COTTAGES AT WADDINGTON. These, alongside the village green, have recently been restored. Five cottages connected with each other by internal doorways, you entered direct from the pavement into the living room and immediately to the right and left was another doorway into the next cottage. Can any readers tell me why this should be? I believe the group of three cottages date from 1760. The house on the right of the row is entirely new - it has been built where a single-storey cycle shop used to be. Sylvia Watts
The railway comes to Market Rasen

**Douglas Royce**

1998 sees the 150th anniversary of the railway line from Barrowby to Lincoln via Market Rasen. In March 1845 it was announced in the press that the Great Grimsby and Sheffield Junction Railway was to be extended to Market Rasen. Before construction the decision was taken to continue the line to Lincoln. This explains why there are two sets of deposit plans for the Market Rasen area. The first one shows the railway to the east of Jameson Bridge Street, the line stopping before it reaches Willingham Road. The continuation to Lincoln meant that a more westerly route was taken to begin the curve towards the city. This is the reason for Queen Street being crossed by a bridge.

By July 1846 property in Oxford Street was being advertised as 'being very near the intended Railway Station' and would 'be found exceedingly desirable for Mercantile and other purposes'.

In February 1847 when Mrs Stockdale of Kingerby wrote to her brother, George Walter, in Tasmania she was able to give him a report:

You talk of having some shares bought for you when the line (?) passes through the moor at Rasen; I can assure you it is a very short way from it. The stuff they work from is somewhere near Mr Borman’s (?) garden. It is to pass over the houses near Kenningtons, knock down several in the way to the Linwood road, to the south west of which it is (?) a short way. The embankments and excavations are already made entirely through Smith’s gardens, and pass close to, but not through any of the Vicarage Farm, which my dear Father had in his own hands. They have undertaken to have it open from Grimsby to Lincoln next January twelve month for those who may live to see it.

By 8 July the time had come to erect the bridge in Queen Street. Dr Cumpstone’s wife and daughter laid the first brick and the Rev J. Lafargue made an appropriate speech. [Robert Augustus Lafargue, Curate of Snarford, lived close by in Jameson Bridge Street. Did he make the speech or was it one of his relations?]. The bridge was expected to be a very handsome structure and the railway was progressing rapidly under the management of Mr Sibley and Mr Waring. The Railway Hotel was built nearby but a youth named Cook fell from a ladder as he was carrying water up the scaffold. He fell on his head and was badly injured. At the end of October readers of the local press learnt that the work within the last few weeks forms a matter of surprise and admiration. The viaduct across the town (near the King’s Head inn) assumes a truly formidable appearance, consisting of ten arches of the most substantial brickwork. We have no hesitation in saying that this erection will form a great ornament to King Street, in which it is built. [Perhaps the name of the inn confused the reporter; the bridge, and five brick arches on each side, remain in Queen Street.] The reporter imagined the viaduct to be so strong that it could bear the weight of the world’s largest bell, at Moscow. It all reflected credit on the sub-contractor, Mr Walker.

In April 1848 ‘Coates’, a sub-contractor under Messrs Waring absconded with £90, the wages for his men. Many of them ‘had not a single farthing in their pockets’. One of the town’s butchers had acted as a ‘tommy shop’ and was owed £40. Other town traders had lesser losses. Obviously the reporter had heard of similar cases involving sub-contractors and suggested that security should be given before anybody could be employed as a sub-contractor.

In May 1848 Ann Maria Philadelphia Walter wrote to her brother, George Walter in Tasmania:

Barnett Charles has sold his house for a good price, the rail road runs between it and Bennett’s; there is a bridge built over the town there - I should say is to be, for it is not yet finished. If you could stand near the Methodist meeting House, you could scarcely know you were in Rasen, so many old houses are tumbled down and new ones built; they have not gone (?) through Northing’s nice gardens, going between Griffin’s and the King’s Head.

There is still a butcher’s shop next to this bridge; but this was probably built in the gap after the railway was opened. The shop that the butcher James Bennett had is now Barnett’s sweet shop. Miss Walter was probably referring to the old Methodist Chapel in Jameson Bridge Street with which her brother would have been familiar. Around the Chapel Street Wesleyan Chapel the alterations
were at least as great with the changes in ground level and the construction of the station and goods yard. In August we heard of the station building for the first time: "The Railway station ... is progressing towards completion. All the brickwork in the building is finished, and the roof is on. The level crossings on the Rasen and Brigg branch are in a very forward state. The stations on the Lincoln and Rasen branch are likewise in a forward state."

The Lincoln loop line was opened on 26 October and a press report was given. On 1 November the line from Ulceby to Brigg together with that from Barnby to Market Rasen was opened. It seems that there were no festivities on this occasion. In early December we hear 'Great preparations are being made for celebrating the opening of the rail road between [Market Rasen] and Lincoln, which will take place on Monday the 18th inst. A great dinner and ball are advertised to take place at the Gordon Arms inn, and will be under distinguished patronage. There will also be a dancing at the White Hart inn' for others. At the end of the month there is a long report giving the history of proposals for railway lines in Lincolnshire. A description of what had been achieved on the ground follows:-

The first train for Hull left Lincoln on Monday at 7.15am, and reached New Holland Ferry at 9.45, and Hull Pier at 10.15. Three other trains followed in the course of the day. A train left Hull about 8 o'clock, and reached Lincoln at 11. Other trains left Hull at noon, and the company who came by the opening train from Lincoln returned at 3 and 5.15pm. The distance from Lincoln is 45 1/2 miles; the route for the first 15 miles, to Market Rasen, is north-east. The line starts from the Midland Station at Lincoln, crosses the River Witham (over which a handsome bridge, on the tubular principle, has been erected), and runs close past the ruins of the old Monk's Abbey, it then proceeds through Willingham, Reepham, Langworth, and Wickenby, to Rasen; from Wickenby for 15 miles north, the land on either side the line is poor, and the prospect uninviting, being only relieved now and then by views of the Wolds on the east. From Rasen the line proceeds due north for 10 miles, where it joins the main trunk line from Sheffield to Grimsby, on which it runs 4 miles due east, to Brocklesby. The seat of the Earl of Yarborough (chairman of the railway company) is close adjoining. A mile further east and the Hull line leaves the grand trunk line, and at Ulceby junction proceeds again due north to New Holland, passing by the way the majestic ruins of Thornton College.

The event was celebrated at Lincoln by a dinner at the Durham Ox inn, at which the ex-Mayor presided. The Bluecoat boys were treated with a ride to Hull, and many of the citizens availed themselves of the cheap trip to visit the towns of the northern part of the county, only one fare to and fro being charged.

The Railway Record a few days later gave more details. 'Brocklesby station is a very chastér erection in the pure Elizabethan style'. There was no public feasting at the expense of the shareholders. The first train to Lincoln left New Holland at 9am with the Barrow brass band. The first train from Lincoln had 15 carriages, 90 Bluecoat School boys on board, '20 of whom were musicians' and with a band from Lincoln 'contributed no little to the hilarity of the day'.

At various times, including the present, the three bridges over roads and river have been upgraded and brick arches replaced by iron girders. W. H. Smith had a bookstall at the station by 1885 and in 1941 the station roof was removed with the stated intention of repairing another roof elsewhere. Only a part of the roof was of glass and it had made the station 'dark and murky to almost the last degree'. Claxby and Ulceby stations were closed about 1960. The remaining village stations closed a few years later, after the Beeching Report had been published. This stopped the 'train boys' from Fiskerton and Cherry Willingham coming to De Aston School. They always missed a part of the school day but one headmaster had persuaded Sir Brian Robertson to alter the time of a train so that they could have more time at school. Wickenby station had been used as an escape route in 1856 by an official sent from Lincoln to prove that Rasen water was unhealthy and therefore the town was unsuitable to have the new school, which was to be built from the Spital Charity funds. The town crier had called on citizens to turn up at the station with rotten eggs 'to cheer him off'.

There were, it is true, a few sour spots on the happy picture. The railway company was accused in 1850 of misersliness because of its refusal to install gas lighting at the station. In 1854 the small son of Benjamin Draper, of the King's Head inn, had his foot severely crushed when playing on the line near the warehouse - an injury from which, happily, he recovered. This same warehouse proved to be too much temptation for some Rasen folk, and large scale robberies occurred until a gang was finally tracked down and arrested in 1857.
The railway made its contribution to Market Rasen and district but Mr Henry Scapham writing in 1912 realised what had happened. Many items previously made in the town were now mass produced in large towns and brought to the district by train. Taken with agriculture in the county being adversely affected by foreign imports the latest technology in transport brought unemployment to the town as old firms collapsed.

Although the fine listed station building had its roof repaired a few years ago it is unmanned and empty; all the windows are boarded. The waiting room is almost derelict. The site of the former goods yard may become the site of a supermarket but there are no plans to make anything of its fine position next to the pride of Victorian Market Rasen. Despite all this the trains still run and some of us will be celebrating the enterprise of 150 years ago.

The Lincoln, Rutland and Stamford Mercury was the major source for this article, supplemented with the local part of Green's Village Life, George Dow: Great Central for the comments in the Railway Record and letters written by members of the Walter family to George Walter in Tasmania during this period. I have also taken the opportunity of including a few lines that I omitted from the new edition of An Early Victorian Town: Market Rasen in the Eighteen Fifties. I am grateful to Christopher Padley for reading the script and making helpful suggestions.

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**BURGH-LE-MARSH LOCAL HISTORY DAY**

Report by Don Dowson

On Saturday, 25 September, 1998, those of us who joined the Burgh-le-Marsh Local History Group learned a good deal of the town's past and present. The day was officially opened by the Mayor of Burgh-le-Marsh and, after a brief session on the town's history, we set off from our base at the public hall following the footpaths of the town trail. Eileen Chantry and Frank Skelton pointed out items of interest like the former foundry, an ancient marsh path and catchwater drain, the field where German bombs dropped and the site of a war-time barricade on the Skegness road. This led us to the substantial 14th century church of SS Peter and Paul with its massive tower and decorated clock. Here John Panton's informative tour included the wooden lectern carved by Lebez Good, a notable Victorian Burgh character. Afterwards, Eileen Chantry gave a short talk on his wide-ranging interests and activities.

The History Group's cabinet of artefacts, including many local finds, is housed temporarily in Mary Boulton's garage, where she gave us a description of the varied collection. On then to the working farm of John Clark where he showed us his museum of farm tools. This is a fascinating display in a barn which can only be described as an Aladdin's cave.

In the afternoon we had a tour of the old school, now used as a library and community centre, where John Panton outlined the many activities held there. Then to Dobson's five-sailed working windmill, which we must all have seen from the Skegness road. Here we had a tour of its four floors, with an excellent description by one of the mill volunteers of the functions carried out on each level. Finally we returned to the public hall for a video of the past and present of Burgh and hopes for the future.

Our thanks are due to the members of Burgh-le-Marsh History Group for giving us the opportunity to learn about their town's history and an insight into the present activities of this very vibrant community. Make a note that on 3 July 1999 the society will be making a similar visit to Stamford.
Help for the historian

Tackling nineteenth century local history?

Rex C. Russell has some suggestions both for beginners and for experienced local historians

MAJOR CHANGES IN 19th CENTURY LINCOLNSHIRE VILLAGES AND MARKET TOWNS

The notes that follow suggest how nineteenth century local history could be tackled, both by complete beginners and by experienced local historians. Under the headings of the four main developments many more questions than those noted here will arise. Write such additional questions down - under the most appropriate main heading. A further article will list the main sources of information, under each heading.

1 The dates of the enclosure of your parish
   › Only deal with this topic if your enclosure took place after 1790.
   › How many people were awarded land? Who were they?
   › How many acres was each person awarded?
   › Who were the Enclosure Commissioners and the Surveyor(s)?

2 The early growth and later decline of your parish population
   › Many parishes doubled their population between the first census of 1801 and that of 1851. Many declined in numbers from 1861/1871/1881.
   › How did both growth and decline affect your parish? There was a need for more houses and cottages and for more employment.
   › When were extra houses provided and by whom?
   › Do the White's and Kelly's Lincolnshire Directories (from 1842 onwards) help to answer these questions?
   › What do the census enumerators' returns tell you of the employment of men, women and children?

3 The rise and development of local Methodism and the local revival of the Church of England
   › Do Nattes' drawings exist which reveal the physical state of your church? When was your church restored and/or rebuilt?
   › How early do Dissenters' Certificates exist for your parish?
   › When were your chapels first built and then rebuilt?
   › What does the 1851 Religious Census tell you of the relative local strengths of church and chapels? See The Lincoln Record Society Volume 72, 1979, Lincolnshire Returns of the Census of Religious Worship 1851.
   › When was your parsonage house built?
   › Can you discover from your Church Registers (of Baptisms, Marriages and Burials) whether your incumbents were resident or non-resident?

4 The change from a partly literate to a fully literate population
   › This may have been a major cultural change.
   › What do your Church Marriage Registers reveal about the literacy of brides and bridegrooms at the time of marriage?
   › When did your Sunday Schools (both Church and Nonconformist) come into being?
   › What schools existed before a purpose-built school existed?
   › When was your Day School built and who built it? When and why was it altered and enlarged?
   › Do log books exist for your school?
   › Is there any evidence of adult education in your parish?
   › Cultural changes were brought about by all types of education and by the existence of Friendly Societies - Oddfellows, Druids, Foresters, Ancient Shepherds, Rechabites etc. Was there a Friendly Society in your parish? If so, when was it started?
Great-Grandmother Cooling's Christmas Plum Pudding

John Williams

The parish records of Burton-by-Lincoln show a Cooling family in residence in 1742; it is thought there were Coolings at Burton as far back as 1600. However this article deals with a recipe which Mary (née Newton) brought with her from her Nettleham home when she married Samuel Cooling Jnr at Burton in 1849.

Ever since it has been a tradition in the family to make a Christmas Plum Pudding to Great-grandmother Cooling’s recipe. Sadly, partly due to food rationing during the 1939-45 war, the practice in the Lincoln area died out and the recipe was lost.

Happily however, I have recently discovered that the recipe was taken from Burton to Canada when Kitty and Nellie Watson (their mother was née Cooling) emigrated there in 1916, and the tradition is still maintained there today. My Canadian cousins were surprised that we no longer had the recipe in England and were delighted to be able to send a copy 'home' to enable the tradition to be resumed here.

The quantities given here are for four puddings, but of course the amounts can be divided by two or even four. Traditionally the mixing was done in November, each child in the house having a stir, a taste and making a wish.

When the puddings were made by Mary Cooling at Burton they would be cooked on the old wood and coal range in the boiler full of water. They would then be tied to a pole over the wash boiler and allowed to drip and cool overnight before being stored in a cool place until required at Christmas.

Mix together, adding the flour last. Put in a double cloth, both wet, the inside one floured. Place in boiling water and boil for 8 hours.* Put puddings on pie plate in boiler so they do not stick. Drain, store in a cool place.

Boil for one hour before serving with sauce and ice cream or whipped cream.

SAUCE. Make hard sauce and/or brown sugar sauce flavoured with liquor.

*My wife has recently achieved very good results using 1/2 lb each of vegetable suet and margarine and boiling in pudding basins for four hours instead of eight.

My thanks to Mrs Audrey Lockerby of Salmon Arm, British Columbia, the daughter of Nellie Watson, for kindly sending the recipe back to the UK.
More information on the Fawsett family of Holbeach, Horncastle, Louth etc from Dennis Mills

As a consequence of the publication of my essay on the medical members of the Fawsett family more information has come to light on two aspects of the subject. Firstly, major branches of the family have been put into context again after a gap possibly as long as a century, and I have been given information on several score members of the family not hitherto known to me. Among these people is yet another medical man, Richard Shirley Fawsett (1887-1966), great-grandson of Dr John Fawsett of Horncastle. Richard Shirley's father and grandfather Fawsett were both clergymen, serving in parishes in Leicestershire and Berkshire, which helps to explain why they lost contact with the Lincolnshire Fawsetts.

Richard Shirley Fawsett was educated at Wellington School, worked at a garage before the Great War, fought at Gallipoli and in France, only finishing his medical qualifications (MB and BS) at Barts Hospital, London, about 1921 at the age of about 34. His career illustrates how financially precarious medical work could be. He practised in a number of widely spaced places, including Rhyl, Berkhampstead, Eastbourne, Brentwood and Gerrard’s Cross (Bucks). At Berkhampstead he had a ‘sleeping’ partner who took half the fees although doing much less than half the work. This encouraged Dr Richard Fawsett to buy his own practice in Eastbourne in 1932, where he got many patients through contracting with hotels. Not surprisingly, this was ruined by the 1939-45 war, and he spent some years as a locum before a relative lent him money to buy his last practice at Gerrard’s Cross in 1944. The previous doctor in this practice had died and many of his patients had been dispersed to other practices. Dr Fawsett therefore had to work very hard to entice them back again and to build up the practice generally, until in 1948 the setting up of the National Health Service brought in fundamental changes.

I have also been supplied with additional information on Richard Fawsett of Castle Rising, Norfolk, father of Richard Fawsett of Holbeach, the first surgeon in the family. The elder Richard’s will, made on 2 October 1780,1 supports the view I expressed that he was a man of considerable substance who could well afford to apprentice one of his four sons to a surgeon. In the first place, his estate was large enough for the will to be proved at national rather than diocesan level. As is often the case, the will fails to describe in detail the size of his real estate, but Richard was wealthy enough to dispose simultaneously of the following capital sums: £50 to his wife for immediate expenses, £400 for his wife in trust to provide an income, £520 each to his two unmarried daughters on their marriages (one already married had probably received a similar amount). These figures sum to a total of £1,490. There is also mention of £140 apiece to be paid on the death of his wife to each of the three younger sons and their three sisters by the eldest son out of the real estate given to him by his father. This implies an estate worth considerably more than the £840 to which these latter figures sum. In addition to funding Richard’s apprenticeship, it can be assumed that Richard senior set up his eldest son, Thomas, as an attorney at Wizbech, and his third son, William, as a ‘gentleman farmer’ at Castle Rising. The will shows that the fourth son, Leonard, was £200 plus interest in debt to his father (probably a loan to set him up in trade), which was to become part of Leonard’s inheritance should it not be repaid before the father’s death. This display of wealth demonstrates the comfortable financial and social standing of one surgeon’s family of origin.

From the same correspondent I have received information from the Castle Rising parish registers indicating that Leonard was the full brother of Thomas, Richard and William, not the half-brother, as suggested by me on the basis of one version of the Fawsett family tree. I also take the opportunity to correct a clerical error in column 1 of p163 of my essay, where I give the dates of Sarah Fawsett as 1815-54. In fact her date of death is not known, 1854 being that of her husband, Thomas Smith MD.

2 My thanks to John A. Fawsett for so many extra branches of the family tree, and to Mrs Pauline Rowe for information on her father, Dr Richard Shirley Fawsett.
3 Richard Fawsett died 24 July 1781, was buried 27 July, and the will was proved 12 November 1781. Its reference is PROB11/1083. My thanks to Clive Smith (a descendant of Sarah Fawsett and Thomas Smith MD) for a transcript of the will; and to John A. Fawsett for introducing me to him.
Both these churches have C. H. Fowler restoration work. The Church of All Saints, Thorganby, is chiefly of 13th century date, with restoration by C. H. Fowler. There are some good bench ends, and modern stained glass showing St Hugh of Lincoln with his swan. The medieval font is very simple.

Thorganby All Saints

Barnoldby-le-Beck

St Helen's church dates to circa 1200, but with most other periods represented. Major restoration was undertaken in 1892 by Ewan Christian and more repairs to the porch and partially collapsed tower by C. H. Fowler. The very shallow relief arches on the font are thought to be 13th century rather than Norman.

Hilary Healey

Illustrations by the late Mr F. Marston
Henry James Herbert Dyer (1902-1995)

A short biography by John Kettridge

Henry James Herbert Dyer was born at Leamington Spa in 1902 and was the eldest son of Charles Dyer a Co-operative Society branch manager. H. J. H., as he was usually known, received his early education at Leamington College before going up to Koble College, Oxford. After receiving his MA he studied law at Lincoln's Inn and was called to the Bar in 1931.

He taught for a short time at Huntingdon, Coventry and Bradford before he became headmaster of Queen Elizabeth's Grammar School, Alford, in 1935. Dyer remained in that post for 32 years - a record for the school except possibly for a certain reverend gentleman who appears to have held the post from 1704 until 1775!

Dyer did not inherit an easy situation at Alford. It was a time of change in education and there was some unrest among the staff, but Dyer's strength of character created a fine school, which produced many who went on to achieve high office in many walks of life. He would often recall the year when the entire Sixth Form went on to read honours degrees (three of whom were later to receive the OBE) and this was followed by a year when the school was awarded two state scholarships to Oxford.

H. J. H. was an avid reader of biographies, and as a teacher of European history he was able to bring such names as Garibaldi, Metternich and Bismarck out of the textbook and make them living realities - an achievement that also applied to his teaching of the New Testament. But sport played a large part in his life. In his cricketing days his run up to bowl was perhaps more intimidating than the delivery itself. He was a fanatical, lifelong supporter of Warwickshire County Cricket Club, but his support for the school soccer team was equally important to him. Perhaps to some extent his enthusiastic support for school matches could go to rather dubious lengths - it was quite amazing how the school always seemed to win when Dyer was refereeing! When umpiring for the school cricket matches very few Alford boys were ever out LBW, but quite a few of the opposition were. Of course, a future magistrate would be above any form of cheating and such incidents could only be coincidences! One old boy's lasting memory of his headmaster is of him cutting the cricket wicket with his motor mower. H. J. H. had only one speed flat out and he would run up and down the pitch hanging on to the mower arms outstretched.

Mr Dyer was appointed Justice of the Peace in 1944 and two years later became Chairman of Alford Urban District Council. In 1951 he took office on Lindsey County Education Committee and was appointed President of the Incorporated Association of Headmasters in 1958 and made a number of television appearances in connection with that office.

Although H. J. H. was a wonderful headmaster in the traditional sense he was perhaps better known by his pupils and others who came under his influence for his eccentricities. He would cycle into town on his bike and then walk back, forgetting his machine - a boy was often dispatched to recover it. Alford Magistrate's Court sat regularly on Tuesday mornings and Dyer invariably arrived in Park Lane by bike. Perhaps this fact is not so surprising but the bike was not always his own! He started by using his own and then went on to use his wife’s but most often it was that of Allan Hundleby, one of his pupils. It seems that Hundleby’s bike was preferred because it was an old Sunbeam upright, which was easier for H. J. H. to ride than the more flashy racing machines then favoured by most of the boys. One Tuesday morning Allan's father was coming out of the Post Office and, to his surprise, saw what was undoubtedly his son's bike being ridden to the Court by an elderly man of impressive demeanour. Young Allan had some explaining to do that evening! Although he did in later life possess a car his driving ability was somewhat suspect. Soon after he purchased his car in the late 1930s he decided to take it with him to France and he drove around Alford on the wrong side of the road in order to practise driving on the right! When it was known that he was about to leave the school premises by car the pupils gathered to see which gatepost would bear the inevitable marks of his departure!

There was a very efficient grapevine between the senior primary school and junior grammar school and pupils who joined the school were retold legends
of H. J. H. before they ever set foot in the school. New boys were warned that in order to find favour with the Headmaster they had to be good at cricket and they were told that he answered the telephone with the words 'Dyer, ere'. No doubt this was an example of schoolboy humour - one can never imagine that Dyer would drop an 'H'! Many a small boy would have wondered just what they were in for and their first encounter with that formidable figure dressed in gown and 'square' must have been both frightening and intimidating. He was very strict on dress and many an old boy still remembers the greeting 'Where's your keep boy?'

H. J. H. had a colourful political career; in the early 1950s he stood as Liberal Parliamentary candidate for Louth. He wasn't successful and stood again at the next election - this time as a Labour candidate! He was eventually elected to the County Council as a Conservative and as a councillor for the Mablethorpe ward of the East Lincolnshire District Council. Perhaps his choice of ward was influenced by the fact that many of his former pupils lived there. He was Chairman of East Lindsey District Council and remained a councillor until 1984.

An old people's complex in Mablethorpe was named Peter Dyer Court as a token of respect and affection. Strangely, to his wife and family he was known as Peter. He was a long-standing Lay Reader in the Anglican Church but, as former pupil Canon John Hansen said in a sermon delivered at his funeral service in St Wilfrid's Church, Alford, Mr Dyer never adjusted to conventional Christianity and eventually found what he was searching for by joining a Christian Order known as the Order of the Cross, whose main tenets are love and service.

H. J. H. appeared never to forget a pupil and his memory of old boys was quite amazing. Shortly before he died an old boy now living in New Zealand visited him and he not only remembered the visitor but could also name all the boys in the form, some of which the visitor had forgotten. H. J. H. was in great demand throughout the county as an after-dinner speaker and although he had many eccentricities, those who knew him recognised that he was a good man who was well respected.

Mr Dyer died at Alford on 22 November 1995 at the age of 93.

BOOK LAUNCH

Saturday, 24 October 1998 was an important day for the Society for Lincolnshire History and Archaeology as this was the date chosen to launch, at the Museum of Lincolnshire Life, the reprint of Steam Engine Builders of Lincolnshire by Ronald H. Clark. This book, acknowledged as a valuable record of the county's engineering expertise, was first published in 1955 and had been out of print for many years. What made the day extra special was the presence of the author. Though bowed by age, he was nevertheless full of enthusiasm and gave a humorous speech, quashing many anecdotes of his time in the county. One memory still vivid to him is of seeing someone riding a Brough motorcycle through Sleaford and learning later that the rider was Lawrence of Arabia! Ronald, having been a Brough enthusiast for many years, still owns one, but alas, at the age of 94 is no longer able to ride.

The weather was not particularly kind, but the rain did not detract from the occasion - so many people turned out to collect their books and obtain the author's signature, keeping Ronald busy for over two hours. The atmosphere at the museum was wonderful, especially as some of the engines were 'steamed up' for the day - pure nostalgia for many of the older generation and wonder for the younger ones.

Thanks must be expressed to Catherine Wilson who collected Ronald from his home in Norwich and drove to Lincoln through appalling weather conditions, to Fred Felstead who volunteered to do the return run, to Bomard for running our book stall assisted by Win Felstead, to the Museum of Lincolnshire Life for providing the facilities, and last but not least, to Neville and Maureen Birch for masterminding the operation and David Start, Director of the Heritage Trust of Lincolnshire, for the organisation over all.

Win Felstead
THE SILK WILLOUGHBY PIG CLUB

Bill Collin

Evidence exists from archaeology that pigs were part of the diet of man from at least Iron Age days. The excavation of Ancaster Quarry revealed that, although bones of pigs were present in lesser quantities than those of cattle and sheep, most of the animals were killed at the earliest stage at which they would have produced most meat.1

By the 12th and 13th centuries, 'swine' were 'very numerous' in Kesteven and the southern portion of Lindsey. The Abbot of Crowland kept pigs as well as sheep, horses, oxen and cows on his Langtoft estate, then within the bounds of the old Kesteven Forest, the number of pigs in 1286 being 110, dropping to 60 by 1297, and increasing to about 115 by 1301.2 The decrease coincided with the onset of a deterioration of the climate with wetter years commencing about 1289, and this may have been significant in the decline in numbers. However, the numbers soon increased again to the point where it is reckoned that in the period 1301 to 1310 there were four times as many sold annually as in the period 1291 to 1300.3

In February 1300 Edward I held a parliament in Lincoln, having supplied to the sheriff in the September before a list of the foodstuffs required required to be made available. These included 800 quarters of wheat, 400 quarters of malt, 1000 quarters of oats, 200 cows, 700 sheep, 160 pigs (60 of which were to be kept alive) and hay for 400 horses for one month.3 Many of the pigs called for came from the wooded areas of Kesteven, and others came from the Wolds and areas adjacent to the Humber.

From the 17th century, pig-keeping on Lincolnshire farms was carried out in some areas, eg on the clay soils and in the more wooded valleys of the Wolds, but was not very prevalent in the marshland area, where greater attention was paid to arable farming. Very few were kept in the Fens. The probable reason that there were few kept in the marshlands and the Fens was that there were few areas of woodland where they could have been turned out to fend for themselves. Also, having to keep pigs exclusively out of the meagre food supply of the household would, in the case of many families, have depleted the food for the human members too much for the period necessary to rear a pig to a size suitable for slaughter. Even in suitable areas, such as around Burgh, the number of pigs kept by farmers declined throughout the 16th, 17th and 18th centuries.4

Contracts of employment struck between farmers and labourers taking up employment often included provision of space for a pig, and this must often have made the difference for many families between subsistence on a miserable diet and having a little extra. In 1839 it was recorded that the diet of small farmers and servant girls in the Trent lands and the Isle of Axholme included very little meat, bacon or sometimes butchers' meat was eaten on Sundays; bacon appeared again on Wednesdays; Saturday saw the appearance of pan pudding, is a pudding made with small bits of bacon in it such that a person might count himself lucky to get more than one piece of bacon in his portion.5

Arthur Young surveyed the farming scene in Lincolnshire at the beginning of the 19th century, and concluded that the mongrel type of pig then being kept was of little use.6 It was not until later that the curly or woolly back pigs were developed. From about 1875, there was an increase in pig-keeping following the efforts of some farmers to improve pig breeds in the 1850s and 1860s. Eventually the Lincolnshire curly-coated pig was developed, and this offered the advantages of quicker growth to maturity, and good quality pork and bacon. It was accepted as a separate breed at Smithfield in 1908.

At one time, up to a date sometime following the Second World War, almost every back yard in rural Lincolnshire had a pig sty holding one or more pigs. The number of pigs had increased during the years 1903 to 1947 from approximately 135,000 to 209,000 but fell rapidly thereafter to 1953, as shown in table I. This was largely due to the increase in the production of animal feeds, and to the decline in mixed husbandry on many farms. Eventually keepers of small numbers of pigs were replaced by pig farms and factories, this accounting for the increase of pig population shown in 1965 and 1972. Populations of pigs were listed in MAFF Annual Agricultural Returns (Statistics) of England and Wales (HMSO) for various years in this century, as follows:-
Table 1 - Numbers of pigs kept in Lincolnshire between 1903 and 1972

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>1903</th>
<th>1925</th>
<th>1937</th>
<th>1953</th>
<th>1965</th>
<th>1972</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>134.8</td>
<td>139.3</td>
<td>208.9</td>
<td>175.7</td>
<td>242.3</td>
<td>291.8</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

During the second half of the nineteenth century the rural labourer was finding that keeping a pig gave the family some extras in their diet, which were valued to the point where it was felt necessary to ensure the animal against loss, injury and disease, and it was then that pig clubs began to make an appearance for this very purpose. In common with other clubs and societies throughout the county, meetings of pig clubs were held in the local inn (the Horse Shoes in the case of Silk Willoughby), where landlords would welcome the members, often keeping a club room for such meetings, knowing that members would spend a little on drinks, treating the regular meetings as social events.

The activities of the pig clubs were controlled by the Small Pig Keepers' Council, which in 1949 was at 64 Bell Street, Henley-on-Thames, Oxon., and whose secretary then was Frank Russell. Their invoice number 11086 of 8 April 1949 for three shillings for six dozen copies of Draft rules was paid, and receipt number 1871 was issued on 20 April to Thomas Henry Collin as Secretary of the Silk Willoughby Pig Club. The Council thought it necessary to define a Pig Club as 'a Pig Owners' Club is one in which the pigs are owned by the members and not owned by the club itself.' The number of pigs kept per member of such clubs was low, however. For instance, a club at Ashby near Scunthorpe had 102 members in January 1896 and insured 141 pigs. Silk Willoughby Pig Club rules limited the number of pigs per member to two.

The Silk Willoughby Pig Club was formed in 1857. My paternal grandfather, Thomas Henry Collin, moved to the village from Lenton, Lincolnshire, in 1917 and later became secretary of the club, a post he kept for some time. Unfortunately not all of the records of members and activities of the club seem to have survived, but sufficient have to make an interesting, albeit incomplete, story. These records are in the possession of my aunt, Mrs Alice Brown, daughter of Thomas Henry Collin, and include invoices for treatment by veterinarians, records of numbers of pigs marked annually, bank books etc. The rules of the club, which follow, were taken from a rule book, which would have been dated

1895 as, of the officers named at the end of the book, the President, William C. Burkitt, died in 1895; the Treasurer, Thomas Leason, died (I think) in 1896; the secretary, George Beedon, died in 1927.

The front cover of the rule book reads:

RULES
OF THE
SILK WILLOW
Y
PIG CLUB
HELD AT MR. MONEY'S, THE
HORSE SHOES INN
SILK WILLOW
Y
O
SLEAFORD:
W. Overton, 41, Southgate.

The text then follows:

RULES

1 That this society be denominated 'The Silk Willoughby Pig Club' and that its object be to assist its members when the loss of a pig takes place, and to enable them to buy another pig or pigs by granting them a loan of money for that purpose.

2 That this society shall consist of an unlimited number of members, who on entering shall pay two shillings each, and one penny per week for each pig, and no member shall have more than two pigs in this club at the same time.

3 The quarter nights shall be the second Tuesday night in January, April, July and October; and the annual meeting shall be held on the second Thursday in July.

4 There shall be a President, Treasurer, Secretary and five Committee-men chosen from the members of this club, who shall continue in office twelve months, such officers to be
changed or re-elected at the annual meeting by a majority of the members present; but if any officer or officers shall refuse or willfully neglect his or their duties, and there being proof of the same, such officer or officers shall be suspended from his or their office, and others appointed to perform his or their duties until the next annual meeting.

5 That all meetings of the society shall be held at the club room, and the hours of business shall be from eight to ten o’clock from Lady Day to Michaelmas, and from seven to nine from Michaelmas to Lady Day, for the purpose of receiving contributions, and transacting the business of the society. The President and Secretary shall pay into the hands of the Treasurer all monies collected at each meeting, and the Treasurer shall give them an acknowledgement of the same.

6 That no member shall be allowed any benefit from this society until he has paid his entrance-money and twenty-four weeks’ contributions; and any member neglecting to pay his contributions for more than twelve weeks, shall be suspended from all benefits of this society until all arrears are paid up; and if re-admitted, his pig or pigs shall be in good health at the time of re-admission, and if proof be made that such pig or pigs were unhealthy at the time, no allowance shall be made for the same, should they die.

7 Previous to the entrance of a pig in this society it shall be seen by the Secretary and one or more of the Committee, who shall have twenty-four hours notice (Sundays excepted), and if found to be all right and healthy, it shall be marked on the near ear with the society’s punch provided for that purpose, and the entry shall be good.

8 Should a pig be entered into this society, and afterwards proved to have been diseased at the time of entrance, the owner (knowing the same) shall receive no benefit from the society.

9 If any member discover his pig to be ailing or unwell, he shall apply to, at least, three of the Committee, who shall see it and determine what shall be done with it; and if killed and fit for food, the owner to have the privilege of taking the pig for his own use, the Committee first valuing the same; and on applying to the Secretary shall receive the balance up to its real value, according the valuation of such Committee, but if the owner refuses to take it, the pig shall be sold by the Committee and the owner paid its full value.

10 Should any member’s pig die suddenly, and not through any carelessness or neglect on his part, he shall apply to the Secretary and receive his money according to the above rule.

11/12 No brooding pigs shall be admitted into this society, and no young pigs until they are free and well from cutting. No pig-jobber shall be allowed to join this society.

13 If the funds of this society should at any time become exhausted, and money being wanted, the members shall subscribe among themselves to make it up.

14/15 Members using profane language at any meeting of this society, or disobeying the President when called to order, shall be fined threepence for each offence. In the event of the death of a member, his widow or next of kin shall be entitled to the benefit so long as they comply with the rules of the society.

16 Should a member leave and reside at a distance of more than two miles from this parish, he shall, if not in arrears, be entitled to the benefit of the society for twelve months, but afterwards he can no longer be considered as a member.

17 No member shall receive any benefit for a pig unless it shall have been bought and seen by the Committee seven days, and for any pig under eight stones, the member shall receive the price he gave for it and as much a week for its keep as the Committee allow - for store pigs not more than one shilling and sixpence, and for feeding pigs not more than two shillings. Over eight stones the current price of pork to be paid.

William C. Burkitt, President
Another single-sheets undated version of these rules exists, this was printed by William Fawcett, Printer, Market Place, Sleaford, and the Club Officers were:- John Tinley, President; Thomas Gilbert, Treasurer; and Samuel Newton, Secretary. I believe this to be earlier than the rule book previously mentioned because a John Tinley died on 6 December 1877, aged 73, and I believe he was the same person as was President of the Club. (Thomas Gilbert and Samuel Newton are not mentioned in the Burial Register). The wording of Rules 1-16 of this sheet is almost identical with that of the Rule Book, but Rule 17 was not included.

A number of interesting aspects arise out of a study of the surviving accounts and records. It should be borne in mind, however, that some of the records were written in pencil, some of the names were incorrectly spelled and I may have had some difficulty in reading names. However I am familiar with the current church Register of Burials dating from 1813 and the Silk Willoughby Tithe Act of 1839, having transcribed them both, and have used this knowledge to try to eliminate as many confusions or incorrect spellings as I can.

The records of marking pigs (marking achieved by punching a hole in the left ear with a special tool) give a record of how many pigs were involved, and who were their owners. As there is no surviving list of members of the Pig Club year by year, we can use the marking records which show whose pigs were marked to deduce how many active members there were in any one year, and their names. The only proviso to be made is that it is not always possible to differentiate between related members with the same surname because initials are not always given. It is also possible that members might have registered pigs towards the end of one year and kept the same pigs throughout the whole of the next year without registering others, thus appearing to be not active in that year. Thus the number of active members shown below could be less than the actual. However, I have these marking records for the years 1886/87 and from 1917/18 to 1928/29, as summarised in Table 2 below:-

Table 2 - Numbers of pigs marked per annum, and number of active members of the Club

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Numbers marked</th>
<th>Fee paid</th>
<th>Number of active Members</th>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Numbers marked</th>
<th>Fee paid</th>
<th>Number of active Members</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1886/87</td>
<td>34</td>
<td>2s. 10d</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>1896/97</td>
<td>42</td>
<td>3s. 6d</td>
<td>19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1887/88</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>3s. 4d</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>1897/98</td>
<td>36</td>
<td>3s. 6d</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1888/89</td>
<td>42</td>
<td>3s. 6d</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>1898/99</td>
<td>54</td>
<td>4s. 6d</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1889/90</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>3s. 4d</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>1899/00</td>
<td>45</td>
<td>3s. 9d</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1890/91</td>
<td>41</td>
<td>3s. 5d</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>1900/01</td>
<td>44</td>
<td>3s. 8d</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1891/92</td>
<td>41</td>
<td>3s. 5d</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>1901/02</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>3s. 4d</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1892/93</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>3s. 4d</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>1902/03</td>
<td>42</td>
<td>3s. 6d</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1893/94</td>
<td>42</td>
<td>3s. 6d</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>1903/04</td>
<td>32</td>
<td>2s. 8d</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1894/95</td>
<td>46</td>
<td>3s. 10d</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>1904/05</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>3s. 4d</td>
<td>11(14??)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1895/96</td>
<td>44</td>
<td>3s. 8d</td>
<td>19</td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

There are no records for marking for the years 1905/06 to 1916/17. Then, for 1917/18 to 1928/29 there are no lists of Members whose pigs were marked:-

1917/18  28  2s. 4d ? 1923/24  17  1s. 5d ?
1918/19  34  2s. 10d ? 1924/25  15  1s. 3d ?
1919/20  41  3s. 5d ? 1925/26  15  1s. 3d ?
1920/21  39  3s. 3d ? 1926/27  20  1s. 8d ?
1921/22  20  1s. 8d ? 1927/28  20  1s. 8d ?
1922/23  15  1s. 3d ? 1928/29  20  1s. 8d ?

* See Payment of Bonuses below

We can determine the average number of pigs marked each year from these records. Thus:-
Total pigs marked 1886/87 to 1904/05 = 785. Average per annum = 785÷19 = 41.32
Total pigs marked 1917/18 to 1928/29 = 284. Average per annum = 284÷12 = 23.67

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It will readily be seen that the numbers of pigs kept in the early years of this century were only a little more than half of those kept at the end of the last century. It will also be seen that the fee paid for marking each pig was only one penny throughout (obviously inflation was less rife than in more recent years!)

Invoices and Receipts - Some invoices and payment receipts also still exist. Invoices include one from T. Hicks, Veterinary Surgeon who, in the 1920s was based at 30 Boston Road, Sleaford (also shown as such in the 'Sleaford Red Book' of 1925/6), but at Highfield, East Road, on the date of the invoice. Such invoices covered 'For Professional Attendance and Medicine as under', and one was to the Silk Willoughby Pig Club, in the amount of ten shillings and sixpence, specifically covering a journey to visit a pig of my father, George Collin, at Silk Willoughby on 9 October 1948, and supply of 'liniment and advice'. The bill was paid on 14 January 1949 but the amount paid was, for some reason, reduced to ten shillings, the invoice being altered to show this amount only. The receipt was signed by T. Hicks, and also showed that T. Hicks MRCVS was in business with E.G. Robertson MRCVS DVSM (Ed.), with branches in Sleaford, Heckington and Billinghay. Hicks' surgery was on the telephone as Sleaford 44 (and shown as such in 1925/6), and the telegram address was 'Hicks, Sleaford'.

Another invoice to the Pig Club, dated 1949, from Messrs. Hicks & Robertson, Veterinary Surgeons, claimed the firm was 'Official Veterinary Inspector' for Kesteven County Council. It showed journeys to visit Mr Markham's pig at Codds Farm on 12 and 13 March, and covered both journeys and 'examine pig, serum and insect powder', and was for the amount of one pound five shillings. This amount was duly paid on 1 April 1949. By now the surgery had a second telephone line - Sleaford 522. Both invoices showed that Hicks and Robertson had an 'Infirmary for Horses, Dogs and Cats', and 'Horses examined as to soundness'.

Sale and Purchase of Pigs - There is a ticket for a pig 'Bought for George Metz, Pork Butcher. Pork Pies. Plain and Tomato Sausage Maker. Homed cured Hams and Bacon' at a weight of 20 stone 2 pounds for the price of £1 18s. 6d but unfortunately there is no date on it. There are three tickets for pigs sold through the Sleaford Fat Stock Market. The first, dated 15 July 1895, shows the sale of one pig on behalf of Mr Gostick to 'Parrott' for £1. 18s. The commission being one shilling, to which a further two shillings and sixpence were added. The auctioneers then were shown as Messrs. Hincks, Turner & Lyall. The second of these tickets was dated 16 September 1901, the auctioneers then being Messrs. Hincks, Shakespeare & Lawrence. It shows that one pig was sold on behalf of Mr Gostick to J. Brown for £4. 18s. Commission taken was one shilling. The third ticket was dated 5 January 1903, Messrs. Hincks, Shakespeare & Lawrence still being the auctioneers. One pig was sold, again on behalf of Mr Gostick, to 'Whitworth' for £6. 17s. 6d, and commission was two shillings.

Other invoices - The Pig Club had various expenses, including purchase of stationery and a rule book etc. On 8 October 1881 it purchased a quantity of 50 four-page-plus-cover pig club rule books from William Overton 'Printer, Bookseller, Stationer, Paperhanger &c.' of 41 Southgate, Sleaford, who also had 'The largest assortment of Ledgers, Day, Cash, and Memorandum Books, Pocket Books, &c.' Payment was made on the same day and receipted by W. Overton himself. On 25 July 1903 the Club bought 50 club cards at a cost of 12s. 6d. from M. A. Walsh 'Printer, Bookbinder & Stationer, Paperhangers, Toys &c.' at the Sleaford Journal Office, South Street, Sleaford. The bill head tells us that the Journal was published every Friday for Saturday, price one penny. The Journal Office was also 'Agent for Perth Dye Works', a 'Depot of British and Foreign Bible Society', and the 'Registrar Office for Servants'.

The Sleaford Savings Bank - Club money was deposited with the Sleaford Savings Bank, whose officers in 1866 were: Patron, The Most Honourable The Marquis of Bristol; President, Sir Thomas Whitchute, Bart.; Vice-President, A. Willson Esquire; Trustees, The Rev R. Verburgh, M.P. Moore, Esq; John Payne Esq, Charles Kirk Esq, R. W. Myddleton Esq, W. H. Holditch Esq, J H. Boot Esq MD, the Rev E. Trollope; Treasurer, Mr Ingoldby, Auditor, Mr J. Snow, Actuary, Mr J. C. Brown. There were also not less than thirty elective Managers, not less than six of whom shall be resident in Sleaford, and the remaining twenty-four in the neighbourhood. Twelve managers were listed as those who were to attend to receive deposits in 1866, one at the appropriate time for each month in the year. A payments book shows that deposits were made to the savings bank by I. Gostick (treasurer of the Pig Club for 31 years). An application was
made on 9 February 1874 for Thomas Gilbert, presumably as new treasurer of the Silk Willoughby Pig Club to become a depositor in the Sleaford Savings Bank, countersigned by Henry Hodson.

The earliest entry in the payments book is a deposit of £5 on 18 November 1867, soon after the Club was formed, and payments to the Sleaford Savings Bank were recorded in Ledger Folio number 12/538. The account goes through until 15 July 1889, and then jumps to 20 November 1893 from when it continues to November 1904. The account balance gradually increased until it reached £50 in 1888. A decision must then have been made that this was the maximum to be allowed in the account because, every year afterwards that payment of interest caused the balance to exceed £50, the amount by which £50 was exceeded was withdrawn as cash. Interest rates must have been more static then because the amount of interest received on a balance of £50 was £1. 4s. each year from 1894 until 1904. A new depositor’s book was begun on 24 July 1905, from which time the maximum balance seems to have been reduced to £40, because until the last entry on 16 July 1934 cash was withdrawn every time this figure was exceeded. The book was printed in 1899, at which time the Officers of the Bank were: President, Charles Kirk Esq; Vice-Presidet, G. H. W. Hervey Esq; The Rev A. Langdon, The Rev C. Barnes, F. A. Skinner Esq, H. A. Peake Esq, S. Patinson Esq, C. Kirk Esq Junr, Auditor, Mr T. H. Skinner, Actuary, Mr T. H. Holdich; 31 Managers are also listed.

Treasurer’s Cash Book - The Cash Book records quarterly subscriptions, entrance fees, bank interest etc from July 1917 to July 1929. Expenses include payments for the use of the Club Room at the Horse Shoes inn (Landlord Mr Money), which in January 1923 was 1s. 6d. for the quarterly meeting, and in April went up to two shilling. Payments for losses of pigs are recorded and, over the period 1917 to 1929 were: 18 October 1918 a payment of £2 12s. 0d; 7 October 1919, £19 12s. 6d; 8 September 1920, £19 17s. 0d; sometime in 1921 a payment of £5 12s 0d; then on 4 October 1923, £10 10s. 0d; and on 26 June 1924, £3 12s. 0d; on 10 September 1926, £5 14s. 0d; and on 14 March 1929, £1 9s. 6d. Obviously, there were wide variations in the amounts paid for a loss — presumably because of the age and/or size of the dead pig, and the value of pork at the time. There is only one entry for a payment for killing a pig, presumably because individual members paid their

own butchers. The one exception probably arose through disagreement with the owner, and a decision that the Pig Club required the pig to be killed to settle the disagreement. The cost was 2s. 6d, paid to Mr Borrill, and was recorded on 10 September 1926.

Payment of bonuses - The Treasurer’s records show that bonuses were paid to members from time to time, the amount depending upon the length of time the individual had been a member. In the main, only total amounts paid are shown, but there is a breakdown for 1905, where the payment amounted to one shilling per year of membership, such that a member with 40 years’ membership received £2, two with 29 years received £1. 9s and other members received varying amounts down to the lowest who received six shillings for six years. A total of fourteen members got a bonus that year, the total being £12 15s 0d.

Meetings and dinners - From time to time dinners were held. An invitation was sent to J. Tinley Esq, the President of the Club, on 16 July 1875, worded ‘The Members of the Silk Willoughby Pig Club present their Duty to Mr Tinley and will be glad to see him if convenient to take supper with them at the Horse Shoes tomorrow (Saturday) night the 17th inst at 7 o’clock’ The records show that the Silk Willoughby Pig Club survived for a good number of years (at least 1867 to 1949) and played an important part in the life of the village by giving a little more security to the finances and food supply of several households.

REFERENCES
Two Gainsborough coincidences
and an extreme practical joke

Jim English

In issue 18 (Winter 1994/95) of Lincolnshire Past & Present I drew attention to the coincidence of a
saying attributed to Sir Hickman Bacon and a passage in Mrs Gaskell's Cranford Then in No 29
(Autumn 1997) I related a story about the Gainsborough rag-and-bone man Billy Wright and how the shafts
of his cart were pushed through a hedge and his donkey harnessed up again on the other side - but this was
apparently not unique to Billy Wright, for when I recently read Legends of a Lifetime: aspects of Manx life
by George A. Quayle (Revised edition 1979) I came across the following:-

And there was one [story] about the Salby Glen Hotel. It has a passage way
from the road into the yard with a gate on it. Now a noted gentleman fond
of a drink used to arrive in his trap, drive into the yard, and tie the horse to
the gate. So one night the lads got busy, took the horse out of the trap,
pushed the shafts through the gate, and put the horse back into the shafts
the other side. When he was ready to go home he came out to find the trap
one side of the gate and the horse on the other. He couldn't work out how
the devil the horse had got through the gate, but worked out that he'd need
a saw to get him out again, so he went back into the pub to get one. By this
time the publican had been made aware of what was going on so he took
quite some time finding a saw. This gave the lads time to put things back
to rights with the horse tied to the gate like it was in the first place.

Perhaps this was a prank played the world over - but did any others go to the extreme lengths of the
practical jokers described by Thomas Mozley in volume one of his Reminiscences chiefly of towns, villages and
schools (Longmans, Green & Co. 1885) where on page 81 he tells us that:-

The Bawtry carrier had carefully packed and covered his waggon
ready for an early start, and had then gone to bed. Rising at four,
he looked out of his window, and the waggon was not there. He
searched up and down the streets in vain. The 'wags' of the town
had unladen his waggon, taken it to pieces, carried them up a long,
narrow entry into a garden behind the house, and there
reconstructed the whole fabric as they had found it.

If this were to happen today, how we should go on about the hooliganism of modern youth! Yet in earlier
days this kind of thing would seem to have been accepted as part of the rich variety of life - although Billy
Wright, the Manx gentleman and the Bawtry carrier probably did not think so at the time, even though they
may have laughed about it later.
A medieval coffin at Pinchbeck

Hilary Healey

Earlier this year, during renewal of the floor in the north aisle of St Mary's Church, Pinchbeck, part of a medieval stone coffin was discovered. It consists of a single block of limestone, hollowed out with the top end shaped to fit head and neck, and the body part tapering towards the foot. The coffin appears to be in situ, though it now has a slight crack across the middle. No lid remains and the coffin is empty. The internal length suggests that it could have contained a body up to about five feet ten inches in height.

The new work had exposed the Victorian brick supports for the wooden floor inserted during William Butterfield's restoration in the 1950s. Since the rim of the coffin is more or less level with the tops of these supports it was probably found during that work and left in place.

Further information comes from the Lincolnshire Free Press, February 2, 1951, when five coffin lids were found on premises in Knight Street, belonging to a builder, close to the Approach (the bridge over the railway). These had been partly laid to form a path. The newspaper article describes them as being 'similar to some still in the churchyard', although these are no longer around. But the then vicar, the Rev J. F. Corley, was satisfied that the lids had been removed from the church during the Victorian restoration, and it is possible that he had documentary information on the matter. The builder who worked for Butterfield may have occupied the same Knight Street premises. It would seem that several coffins were found, probably mostly in the nave or chancel, and where they were in the way, either whole coffin or just the lid was removed. Any surviving bones would no doubt have been re-buried.

Some of the 1951 lids were decorated in a style known as the 'Barnack School' with stylised foliage design dating to the first half of the 13th century. Similar designs can be seen on remains of similar coffin lids found in Spalding and set on a wall there in the churchyard. It is not known how many lids were decorated; some may have been plain and of different dates. Stone coffins would not have been cheap and would probably only have been used for the interment of priests and prosperous members of the community. The 1951 article suggested that the lids may have been dispersed to other gardens in Pinchbeck, and it was hoped that some would now come to light to be recorded, but there has been only one sighting to date! (September, 1998).
BOOKSHELF

This section aims to list all new titles with as many short reviews as space permits. Some items will be included based on notes culled from trade bibliographies; not all publishers supply review copies. It is hoped that readers will be glad to know of a title’s existence. The Reviews Editor would be glad to have notes from members of SLHA of items published in their locality.


These two booklets contain an interesting mixture of poems; mainly about the author’s life in Louth or about his school and its masters. For seekers after modern verse in Lincolnshire dialect there are some good examples here. The second title is also available on Cassette (£3.70).

Ray Carroll


Did a future Air Marshall really fly his Gamecock fighter under Cross Keys bridge at Sutton Bridge in 1930? We shall never know for certain but Spalding man Alistair Goodrum thinks it probable and a painting of the event graces the cover of his book. There have been not a few airfield histories published in the last couple of decades, all of the more ‘glamorous’ fighter and bomber stations but RAF Sutton Bridge, of which this is a history, was not famous, but it was where the RAF’s pilots learnt their trade by using guns and bombs on the nearby Holbeach range. It was one of the few airfields in the Fens, and opened in 1926, being used for armament training up until World War II when it became an Operational Training Unit (OTU) for pilots destined to join the RAF’s Hurricane fighter squadrons, the combination of inexperience and high-performance aircraft led to many accidents, and the chapter covering this period is called, with reason, Hurricane Harvest.

In 1942 the OTU moved and Sutton Bridge became the home of the Central Gunnery School (CGS) where ‘aces’ (such as its CO ‘Sailor Malan’) used their experience to train gunnery instructors. The CGS left in 1944 and Sutton Bridge then became a satellite of the flying training school at Peterborough Westwood. Airmen of many nationalities, particularly French and Polish, trained on Master and Harvard aircraft until the end of the war. Although Sutton Bridge remained an RAF station until the 1950s, the airfield itself was closed and Mr Goodrum does not cover this period in any detail, although he does give a brief overview of military flying in the Fenlands until the 1990s.

This book is for anyone interested in RAF history and indeed the history of Sutton Bridge where social change must have been greatly accelerated by the arrival of men and women from all over the world. There are numerous photos and some useful maps, whilst the list of crashes in the Fenlands, though depressing, is also most useful to local historians.

Terry Hancock


This is another in a well-known series and the authors have put together over 200 pictures. The first part of the book is devoted to Brigg and is subdivided into sections, which bring together pictures of the River Ancholme, the market place, various events, leisure activities, religion and education, with a few pictures of modern day Brigg. Nearly half of the book covers the villages around the town from Boston to Redbourne and from Seaby to Grasby. The photos in this section are less easily found and of great interest. It is a pity that a number of them have not reproduced very clearly; the captions point to items or people that are only seen by close peering! The small format does not permit good layout; many openings have four postcards of similar size and the effect tends to monotony. The introduction of a few more reproductions of adverts, bill heads and examples of local printing might have produced a livelier effect. That said, the book represents good value and will amuse, inform and bring back many memories for people from Brigg and its neighbourhood.

Ray Carroll


Dennis Mills is a well-known Lincoln man who has made much of his academic work of the material to be found in the census returns of the last century. With Kevin Schürer of Essex University, a very detailed handbook for all researchers, academic and amateur alike, has emerged. The six main sections cover the enumeration process, population and demography, employment and occupations, migration and population turnover, family and household structure and finally, residential patterns. While the examples are drawn from a wide range of material one chapter has a special Lincolnshire interest: Charles Rawling provides an analysis of types of village and employment structures using villages on the Wolds as his examples. This is ‘meaty’ reading but all those who wish to make use of these records will find much to guide their researches and point out fresh directions and approaches in their

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analyses. This is a very substantial book and is very competitively priced.

Ray Carroll


This book is a labouer of love. Mrs Lincoln is devoted to Saxon architecture and, since moving over the border from Northfolk to Lincolnshire fifteen years ago, has been seeking out and drawing the Saxon churches of her new area. This new book, to be accompanied by two more on the Lincolnshire Wolds and Norfolk, is the record of an active search and covers twenty churches with Saxon remains from Lincoln in the north to Castor near Peterborough in the south. While the book concentrates on the drawings, the descriptions are detailed and the churches considered as a whole, not merely the Saxon parts. Mrs Lincoln is not afraid to put the churches in an historical and romantic background, though sometimes she does make speculative jumps to disentangle complicated pieces of evidence or reconstruct lost features. It would also have been a great help if she had been more clear on the Saxon-Norman overlap which forms an important element in the book. However, this does not detract from the great love Mrs Lincoln clearly has for Saxon churches and this enthusiasm is infectious. The drawings are comprehensive but are impressions rather than architectural drawings. This left me frustrated and each time I wanted to go back to the original and check. But if they do this for other readers the book will succeed, for this is precisely the aim of the author.

John Smith


Whether or not our years at school are 'the best days of our life' is debatable, but an area called Paradise was where Louth's British School was built in 1840. Now Kidgate Primary School, it is surely a rare survival, being not just on the same site but having more recent additions wrapped around the original building. Very readable and entertaining, this book is nevertheless as masterly and succinct a history as we have come to expect of its author, and the whole volume is a most professional production. Chapters are on subjects as diverse as the buildings, the teachers, school reports, illnesses, weather conditions, and scholarships, for which the school has an enviable record. A wide range of illustrations includes the original plan, class photographs from 1908 to 1977, reports and certificates, two of which are in colour. For those hoping to write a primary school history there could surely be no better model. For pupils of Kidgate, present and former, this is a must, and £1 per copy sold goes to school funds.

Available from The Museum, 4 Broadbank, Louth, Lincolnshire LN11 6EQ. £6 plus £1.50 p&p. Cheques are to be made payable to the Society (LNALS).

Jean Howard


This is a very useful booklet of a still rare type. The author has used maps and engravings beside written material to build up a picture of what is probably Holbeach's oldest street and the people who have lived there. There are nine illustrations including parts of local maps. His researches cover a wide span from speculations on the existence of Roman settlements, its appearance in AD 700/AD, the location of Holbeach Hall (using Dugdale's map) to the present day. It will interest all Holbeachians and also those contemplating this sort of research in their own area.

Ray Carroll


This book falls into the modern category of fiction, i.e. a framework of well-researched matter where elements of novel writing have been grafted. The author lives at Theddlethorpe Hall and is an expert teacher of spinning and weaving. The subject of her book is the Rev Gideon Bouver who was Rector at Theddlethorpe and Willoughby between 1771 and 1810. In his efforts to relieve the poverty of his parishioners he set about spinning and weaving, with the support of the Society of the Friendly Society. He built a school since he felt strongly that education was the key to advancement. His special claim to fame is the Stuff Ball: the simple idea that quickly caught on and provided work all over the neighbourhood was that a ball would be held every year with free entrance to ladies wearing dresses of new, locally-woven wool and gentlemen not wearing cotton or silk. For the first, held at Alford in 1785, the colour specified was orange, and each year afterwards a different colour was chosen. The local gentry quickly took up the scheme and the Stuff Ball was seen as a feature of the winter social calendar all over the county.

The story of the early life of Bouver and his marriage into the Ponton family of Spittlegate, Grantham, takes up the early part of the book and there seems to be a good deal of documentation to provide the basic data. Later one feels that factual material is less and there are deviations into the history of the Marshall family of Theddlethorpe, smuggling along the coast and the stories of parish folk are woven into the mix. It all adds up to a very readable tale since an interesting biography has been imaginatively set into a believable picture of the suffering of the poor in eighteenth century Lincolnshire, there will be echoes in many other areas since its appeal is not only local. It is very reasonably priced too.

Ray Carroll


This new compilation of over 200 photographs about Grimby and its people makes considerable use of...
material in the Hallgarth Collection at the Grimsby Museum Service. The authors are joint secretaries of the Grimsby Photographic Society and the choice of photographs appears to have been influenced by this interest. Many of the captions are only a single sentence and do not explain the historical context of the photographs, which reduces their significance to anyone not already familiar with old Grimsby. The range of photographs is good, especially in the transport section, and the reproduction quality is high. The book adds to our knowledge of Grimsby and complements books on Brigg, Louh and Scunthorpe in the same series.

Stan Warmouth


Immingham - the way we were: more memories of a marsh village. Immingham Branch of the Workers Educational Association. 1997. vii, 56pp. ISBN 0 9524259 2 0. £7. incl. p&p. From Mary Leach, 101, Thornton Place, Immingham, NE Lincs. DN40 1NE.

These two items complement each other and together form an excellent contribution to local history. It may seem odd that a person who has never even visited Immingham should take on the role of critic; however, experience (also with WEA members) in helping to prepare similar studies of a local community may explain the editor's temerity.

In the book an attractive range of photographs is presented in very good quality reproductions. As commentary on the pictures a great deal of effort has been made to integrate oral reminiscences from a great variety of older local people. This is no easy task for a variety of reasons and no little skill has been shown in the way the text and pictures marry up.

The book and the video share some images but the book's main thrust is towards the later history with a good section on the Second World War and the naval connections. Other areas in which the emphasis in the book differs from the video are the pictures relating to entertainments and sports and education where there are the usual group pictures of children and teachers.

The video is made up of stills taken from a wide range of older photographic material with good use of 'panning' and close-up devices to increase our understanding of the pictorial content. The older material is often juxtaposed with modern colour pictures to give fascinating 'before and after' contrasts. Eric Rand's commentary is succinct and to the point, and gives exact references to the dates and significance of the scenes depicted. The emphasis here is much more on the original village in order, as Mr Rand suggests in his commentary, to record as far as possible what the older place was like before it became a town. I only detected one slight historical failure - I doubt if, after the Crimean War, there was any threat of Napoleonic invasion. The only slight disappointment in the video is the lack of film footage: there must be old newsreel of the opening of the dock by King George V but presumably it lies buried in some film archive; one could have wished for old cine film of the Immingham Tramway, street scenes and work in the docks. Perhaps a second film as the result of research even further afield might result. However, the way still pictures are used makes up for this gap. It has been skillfully put together not only in the general sequence of subjects but, technically, it has been very professionally prepared - an invaluable record of the way the village used to be.

All who worked to prepare the book and film records are to be congratulated; both works are strongly recommended to everyone who has or had roots in the village. They will also serve as models to others working on similar projects since much can be learnt in how to do it. At the prices asked for them buyers will receive excellent value.

Ray Carroll


This is an excellent little booklet. The publishers have long had a justified reputation for the production of high quality guide books and the present item maintains their pre-eminence in the field. Mike Jones (whose name is buried on the back cover) has written a useful text, which combines a quick historical account of the city's origins with notes on the most important buildings and a guided walk around the city's highlights with some notes and photos of places outside the city but worth a visit. The pictures are first-class and the whole represents a quality moment for visitors and locals alike at a very reasonable price.

Ray Carroll


A useful book not only for those beginning their family history but also for those who have been working on it for some time it makes compulsive reading. This seventh edition, published after George Pelling's death, brings the information up to date, and takes into account the use of computers and the Internet, and should enable family historians to research their family history for nine or ten generations. A useful bibliography of further books to consult is given at the end of each chapter. Pauline Litton has managed to retain much of George Pelling's readable style.

Pauline Napier


Two substantial contributions on Lincolnshire topics are among thirty essays in this volume of place-name studies. In the first, Kenneth Cameron analyses 'The Danish element in the minor and field-names of Yarborough wapentake'. He sees the large number of such names with a Danish origin as clear evidence for a dense Danish settlement following the partition of Mercia in 877 - a conclusion reinforced by evidence, since published elsewhere, of such names in the other wapentakes in the North Riding of Lindsey. The second
essay, by the undersigned, discusses 'Roads and Romes in South-East Lindsey: the place-name evidence'. This examines how names containing such elements as 'ford' and 'street' may supplement evidence from archaeology in identifying roads not hitherto recognised as of Roman origin. Other essays include Lincolnshire material eg Barrie Cox on castle in names of medieval 'town-houses' (he instances 'Castle of Crake' in Lincoln), and Audrey Meaney on 'Hundred Meeting Places in the Cambridge region', deemed here to south Lincolnshire.

Arthur Owen


The author was born at Cleethorpes and now lives in the county again. The first few pages talk of his early life and education but the great bulk of the book is taken up with the story of the author's life overseas as a practising vet.

Ray Carroll


This is another useful little book that helps to enlarge our knowledge of the county's villages. The number of places with some sort of record of their present and earlier state continues to increase and Mrs Woodcock deserves thanks for adding Southrely to the lists.

The arrangement is typical of such surveys; a brief historical introduction (a pity Domesday is consistently misspelt) is followed by sections on agriculture, transport (the railway arrived in 1848 - not the 1870s on a loop line - on the then main line from Peterborough to the north), education, worship, public houses etc. Much useful information has been collected from a range of secondary sources as well as from talking to the older villagers, although there is some duplication. The book is valuable in that it concentrates on the people of the village and a good idea of their lives, entertainments and jobs emerges from Mrs Woodcock's local knowledge and her talks to fellow inhabitants. The book fills a gap and will be of continuing value to later generations, showing how the village was and is. Locals will not need telling of its interest; outsiders could also benefit (at such a reasonable price for a well-produced book).

Ray Carroll


Dorothy Price has contributed to each of these diverse publications; in the case of The Holland Family of Market Deeping in collaboration with Joy Baxter. This book uses the 'keyword' of Holland, surname of a local family from the seventeenth century, to prompt a wide production of historical snippets involving many other people - court cases, gate posts, trudges and enterprises such as the Market Deeping Railway, recipes, and nineteenth century press cuttings describing essential oils! The authors have managed to bring the family closer to life by including examples of handwriting, photographs and contemporary maps showing where they lived. Unfortunately the production of this booklet spoils the photographs, prints and map extracts used and a redesign of the layout would help the reader separate the items. Without an index or contents list, much of the material included may escape the attention of potential readers but the wide-ranging research is well acknowledged as is the successful proof-reading.

The well-presented publication, Market Deeping and Deeping St James has a glossy card cover and contains an average of two monochrome archive photographs per page. Photographs are not individually credited but one individual, three newspapers and two public institutions are acknowledged. The introduction summarises the history of the two parishes but could have usefully included background on Dorothy Price's compilation of the collection, the range available and some information on the photographers. Photographs comprise a mix of scenes and people, with some repeated subjects. Reproduction of some photographs varies in clarity and focus, a hazard of these collections. The book contains a large number of photographs and will repay repeated browsing, especially by someone familiar with the places.

Two-card-covered books, Deeping St James and The Market Place, Market Deeping gather accounts and anecdotes of addresses and people within, respectively, Deeping St James and the market area of Market Deeping. The editors record debts of gratitude to Cecil R. Burchall and Ann Boothroyd. Much information is included in the small but clear typeface of each title, but researchers may struggle to pursue sources from the erratic or absent referencing detail. No index or contents list is provided. The size of the books has limited the space between items and layout has suffered as a consequence; the captions become easily confused with the text. A number of repeated textual errors have escaped correction. But none of this should detract from the quantity of collated information packed into these books, evidence of many hours of intense effort by local enthusiasts whose fascination will be contagious.

Geoff Tan

OTHER BOOKS RECENTLY PUBLISHED


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BOOKS RECENTLY ISSUED

We hope these will be reviewed in a later issue of Lincolnshire Past & Present.


* TO BE RE-ISSUED IN THE NEW YEAR *

TROLLOPE, Edward. Sleaford and the Wapentakes of Flaxwell and Aswartham in the Country of Lincoln. Heritage Lincolnshire, The Old School, Cameron Street, Heckington, Sleaford, Lincs. NG34 9RW. 525pp. (No ISBN allocated). £37 hbk. (£32 if ordered before publication; £4 p&p, or collect the book at the launch date to be announced)

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