storm-prone Lincolnshire

marriage mart in Gainsborough

St Benedict's Square remembered

local history 'masterclass'

C roads and signposts

* * Plus - six pages of books - regular features - and more * *
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Lincolnshire Past & Present Editors: Hilary Healey, Ros Beever, Neville Birch - Reviews Editor: Ray Carroll - Production Editor: Ros Beever

The deadline for contributions to the next Bulletin and the Summer issue of Lincolnshire Past & Present is 31 May 1999. Material should be sent to the Joint Editors at Jews' Court, Lincoln LN2 1L8. 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.

Cover picture: 'Tinger' post near Louth (photo by Jean Howard)
Editorial

A lot of things are happening in the run-up to 2000. Villages throughout the county are writing village histories in preparation for next year, and we hope readers will keep us informed as and when these appear. Members of SLHA still occasionally come across local history booklets, which have been printed quietly for local readership, where the producing groups and authors have not always realised that there might be a further readership in the rest of the county. Indeed, there is certainly a market beyond, for many family historians are very keen to find out about where their ancestors come from.

GEOFFREY BRYANT MBE Apologies to Geoff for giving the incorrect initials of his award. Inadvertently I gave him an OBE instead of an MBE. As one who is more curious as to why the non-existent 'British Empire' is still the basis for these medals I had failed to copy accurately from the press cutting I was given, nor to be aware that there was much difference!

We are back to the normal size of magazine this quarter, although readers will be aware of the increased number of pages of BOOKSHELF. In the past there has been the odd complaint about 'too many book reviews' in the journal, although not, I think, in the magazine. I make no apology. You will recollect that we relied heavily on Chris Sturman for his comments on new books in the past, and after his death we were unable to keep up with the rate of new publications coming through. We are extremely grateful to Ray Carroll, who is now organising the reviews, and who is hoping to spread them more evenly between this quarterly magazine and the annual Lincolnshire History and Archaeology journal. We hope this will reduce delay between publication date and readers hearing of new books. We anticipate that the number of book pages will be less next time, but in any case I am sure most of you read avidly on Lincolnshire matters - or soon will do!

The editors would like to thank the many people who have been sending in contributions. If you are sending something for the first time, please write in and ask for the notes for contributors.

Hilary Healey (Joint Editor)
The storm-prone Lincolnshire coast

Geoffrey Humphrys discovers that fact can be as strange as fiction when it comes to the British weather.

Postcard posted in 1929

Thunderstorm surveys over the past 60 years reveal that the east coast, particularly the Lincolnshire coast, experiences more thunder and lightning than the rest of Britain. The majority of the average 900 storms that strike Britain each year start on the east coast, then flash and crash across several counties before returning to their originating point and dying out.

The main lightning season extends from May until October, with July and August often the worst storm-hit months. Even so, many Lincolnshire farmers and gardeners can testify that freak storms can occur at any time of the year, sometimes causing severe crop damage. Due to their higher than average storm-frequency, Lincolnshire residents were always welcome as members of the Thunderstorm Census Organisation (TCO). This had its base at the Oakes Meteorological Station near Huddersfield. It was set up in 1924 by Mr Morris Bower, a man who devoted most of his life to studying weather conditions.

In its time the TCO had 3,000 part-time storm observers, made up of farm workers, gardeners, police officers, lorry drivers, and those who deliver post, bread, milk and other commodities - men and women who spend much of their time out in the open or travelling. The observers are supplied with printed cards on which they record the time, date and place of any occurrence of lightning, thunder or hail, together with the direction in which the lightning was seen. These are sent to headquarters each month. I have met two or three Lincolnshire residents who have filled in cards for thirty to forty years, either because they are interested in weather conditions, or feel that indirectly they will benefit from any conclusions reached. All information submitted is plotted on to a blanket map and thunderstorm surveys regularly prepared. The frequency of storms may vary from year to year, but when studied over a period of several years, conclusions concerning storm patterns do emerge. A record of no lightning or thunder over a month is also sought. This has revealed a narrow strip of land stretching fifty miles south-west of the Wash, across the Fens and into Leicestershire, which inexplicably hardly ever has a storm. The storm frequency data is very useful to the Air Ministry, Admiralty, and commercial air and shipping lines, for plotting air and sea routes. The Forestry Commission uses it to avoid putting tall tree plantations in storm-prone areas, and Electricity Boards try to steer clear of them when planning new overhead power lines.

Occasionally we read in local newspapers about people being struck by lightning. Again the east coast tends to have more lightning casualties than
other regions, but even so they are comparatively isolated cases. Over the past twenty years, the average number of lightning victims in the whole of Britain is ten fatal accidents and fifty injuries each year. A mystery is why, all over the world, on average lightning strikes nine males to every one female. Yet the chances of a man being struck by lightning anywhere in Lincolnshire are about four million to one. He is more likely to have a serious accident if he were on a farm or in a factory, or when crossing a road, or at home. The odds of a woman being struck by lightning are 36 million to one. A lightning flash has been described as the greatest concentration of power in nature. A single strike can carry enough current to power a city like Lincoln for a whole year, but it is condensed into one multi-million-volt charge. Considering the amount of energy they release, it is not surprising that flashes of lightning have caused many freak results. Flocks of birds have been struck in flight and have dropped to the ground ready-cooked. Several acres of potatoes were once struck, so that tons of them were baked in their jackets. When a flash of lightning came down the chimney of an outlying cottage in Lincolnshire, it jumped to an iron bed where two children were sleeping, shot across a table at which the rest of the family were sitting, then disappeared into a larder. Nobody was hurt, but cake tins in the larder were fused together and a previously uncooked ham roasted. The cake tins were given to Lincoln Museum.

An often overlooked benefit of lightning is that it provides free fertiliser for farmers and gardeners by producing 100 million tons of fixed nitrogen each year, washed into the soil by rain during storms. Bad storms can cause a breakdown of electricity supplies. This is why most Lincolnshire coast households have an emergency supply of candles handy if the storms occur at night.

In spite of the advance of scientific and technological weather recording equipment, the observation of storms and associated phenomena remains a branch of meteorology that largely depends upon amateur participation. After the death of Mr Bower, the TCO merged with the Tornado and Storm Research Organisation (TORRO). Anyone wishing to contribute to storm research by observing and recording data for TORRO can obtain full details from: Professor Derek Elsom, Geography Unit, Oxford Brookes University, Oxford OX3 0BT.

TETFORD, ST MARY

A greensand church, with limestone dressings, it has features dating from the early twelfth century, but much restored from 1826 onwards. The upper part of the octagonal font, with some foliated detail, is of fourteenth century date (although Pevsner gives thirteenth!) on a modern base of clustered shafts.

Font in St Mary's church, Tetford.
Drawing by the late Mr Cyril Eagles
Historic buildings at risk

Stewart Squires

highlights the historic buildings in Lincolnshire at risk from neglect and decay, and English Heritage's remedial strategy.

Left: Hibaldstow Mill, one of Lincolnshire's at-risk buildings.

English Heritage in 1998 published the first national register of historic buildings at risk from neglect and decay, and launched a strategy for their repair. All the buildings are listed as being of architectural or historical importance. They have concentrated on those most important in the national context, those listed as Grade I and II.* If listed Grade II, they are only included if they are a Scheduled Ancient Monument (SAM in the list below).

Some 1500 buildings, about 4% of the total of buildings in these categories, are on the register. They see them as an unacceptable and dreadful waste of unique resources and opportunities.

The strategy's objective is to protect the buildings and work for their survival. The top priority will be to encourage repairs that will stop them rotting, prevent further deterioration, reduce the ultimate cost of repair and gain time to achieve a permanent solution. To this end they will concentrate their resources, including specialist advice and grant aid. They intend to update the list annually.

The register entries are categorised as to the extent of their risk, with a very brief note of the problem. Regional copies also include a photograph of each one.

The register is not an end in itself; it is intended both to keep attention focused on neglected historic buildings and monuments and as a working tool. It will help define the scale of the problem, understand why the buildings are at risk, and to prioritise action by English Heritage and others. It will be of interest to our readers to know the list of Lincolnshire buildings that have been included, a total of 51.

It follows that these buildings are part of our heritage that we risk losing if no action is taken. It is important to remember that they are not the only listed buildings at risk; not included are the great majority of buildings listed as grade II. Most local authorities in the county maintain their own lists, which include all buildings, at grades I, II* and II. For further information, contact English Heritage direct, on 0171 973 3000, or the planning department of the local authority.
LISTED BUILDINGS AT RISK IN LINCOLNSHIRE, GRADES I AND II* 
or SCHEDULED ANCIENT MONUMENT

BOSTON BOROUGH

Bay Hall, Hall Lane, Benington II*
116 High Street, Boston II*
Hussey Tower, Skirbeck Road, Boston SAM
Rochford Tower, Fishtoft I

LINCOLN

Roman wall, East Bight I
Tower remains, Roman east gate, Eastgate I
St Mary's Guildhall, High Street I
207, 209, 210 High Bridge I
Church of St John Ermine, Sudbrooke Drive II*

EAST LINDSEY

Manor Farm pigeon cote, Main St, Belleau II*
Baptist Chapel, Great Steeping II*
Total submersion font of above II*
Remains of Roman wall, Homecastle I
The Sycamores, Westgate, Louth II*
Westgate House, Westgate, Louth II*
Church of All Saints, Malkby-le-Marsh II*
Ivy Cottage, Fleetway, North Coates II*
Ravestby Abbey and stable yard I
St Peter's Church, Scoby II*
Kirkstead Abbey ruins, Woodhall Spa II*
Tower on the Moor, Woodhall Spa II*
Cadeby Hall, Wyham cum Cadeby II*

NORTH LINDSEY

NORTH LINCOLNSHIRE

Hibaldstow Mill, Ings Lane, Hibaldstow II*SAM
Manor Farmhouse, North Killingholme II*
Church of St John, Scunthorpe II*

SOUTH KESTEVEN

Barn at Church Farmhouse, Corby Glen SAM
Greyfriars Gate, Stamford SAM
Norman arch, 11 St Mary's Hill, Stamford SAM

SOUTH HOLLAND

Sneath Mill, Lutton Gouxs, Lutton I
Windmill, High Street, Moulton I
White Hart Hotel, Market Place, Spalding II*
Land Settlement Assoc. office, Low Fulney II*
Hydraulic engine house, Sutton Bridge II*

NORTH KESTEVEN

Somerston Castle, Boothby Graffoe I
Bass maltings, Mareham Lane, Sleaford II*
Kyme Tower, Church Lane, South Kyme I

BOOKS

Copies of most of the titles in our review section (pp19-24) may be obtained through the Bookshop at Jews' Court, Lincoln (postage extra). Requests should be addressed to the Postal Sales Manager.
Our Old Town revisited: a marriage mart

Ian Waite

Theodore Miller's book, Our Old Town, first published in 1837, is well known as a warm and affectionate portrayal of Gainsborough in the early years of the nineteenth century. Indeed, the enduring impression of this book, with its picturesque litany of odd characters and detailed descriptions of crumbling wharves and narrow, dark alleys, is that it verges on the apocryphal - a soft-hearted, over-sentimentalised account of town life at that time. Since reading it recently, however, I came to realise that Our Old Town actually provides us with an evocative document (and therefore a primary source) that accurately describes a town just entering into the fray of an unprecedented economic and social upheaval, an upheaval that would eventually and crucially transform the 'rambling, twisting and dreamy looking' Gainsborough from a semi-rural market and riverside centre to a small but not insignificant part of the Industrial Revolution. For this piece I propose to concentrate upon one episode from the book to demonstrate how we can delve beneath the surface of Miller's little details of everyday life in Gainsborough during the early nineteenth century and present a small, quaint but indicative instance of how various forms of opportunity and exploitation materialised as the industrial age progressed - a time when the communal values of a particularly pre-industrial nature began to mature into a more commercially driven and 'modern' form of existence.

Work and leisure in the Gainsborough of the early nineteenth century was centred on the activities that took place on the riverside and in the market place. Our Old Town gives us a hint of another, more private kind of market that surfaced in the urban cultural arena of the eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries as a by-product of the newly-emergent and freely competitive economic atmosphere. This 'market' appeared as a specifically middle-class phenomenon where differing spheres of wealth could be exchanged or merged, generally in order to enhance the status of a given family or individual. Central to this 'bartering' process was the arrangement and encouragement of courtship and marriage. As elsewhere, within the society of the time, a successful marriage alliance among the middling and lower-upper ranks of the townspeople of Gainsborough could bring with it an expanded network of influential connections. In his book, The English Urban Renaissance (1989), Peter Borsay notes that during the eighteenth century marriage was a crucial mechanism in the distribution and redistribution of wealth, power and status.3 The growing numbers and increased wealth of certain middle-class groups in and around a town like Gainsborough inevitably amplified the supply and demand for marriage partners, befitting what was increasingly referred to as the fashionable or 'polite' sphere of society. Borsay further indicates the need for larger, more cosmopolitan and better appointed 'marriage-markets' where assignations and prospective alliances could be arranged. He particularly cites the use of fashionable, provincial resorts and spas (for instance Tunbridge Wells and Buxton) where social events such as race meetings, card playing soirées and dances at the local assembly rooms were looked upon as suitable staging points for these arrangements.4 Although Gainsborough never produced venues such as these we can find in Our Old Town a narrower, more provincial, but equally clandestine type of marriage mart. In Chapter 3 of his book, Miller plays close attention to a 'Miss Etherington' who is described as being the Head or Lady's Milliner of the town, and who received the 'daughters of the large and wealthy farmers' for a few months to learn millinery'. Writing in 1857, Miller notes that to learn dressmaking and sewing was 'a quarter of a century ago ... considered a necessary accomplishment' for the 'young ladies' of the aspirant farming middle classes. Miss Etherington, it appears, provided a suitably genteel and respectable service, worthy of the daughters from this social group. Indeed, Miss Etherington's own background could well have been similar to the families of her protégées. An annotated note made in one of the Lincoln Central Library's copies of Our Old Town states that 'Miss Etherington' is one Elizabeth Etherington. A directory entry from Gainsborough from 1826 lists an Elizabeth Etherington of Beaumont Street under the 'Miscellany' section, for 'the gentry not arranged in the trades list'.5 This 'Etherington' does not appear in a Pigot's Directory of 1822-3, or in an earlier directory entry for Gainsborough from 1805-7, but clearly records Etherington's status within the town's society of the time. Evocatively, in referring to Etherington as 'such an old woman to be called Miss' and having 'false teeth and false curls', Miller gives a distinctly eighteenth century and positively Hogarthian image.
The fact that the daughters of these 'well-to-do yeomen' came to Miss Etherington for a 'few months' instruction' could not be referred to as an apprenticeship. Millinery, as Miller rightly states, would be seen as a necessary accomplishment and a respectable pastime for a daughter from an aspiring family of the early nineteenth century. Irene Pinchbeck, in her study of women workers during the Industrial Revolution, notes that 'in an age when it was desired above all things to be considered 'genteel', millinery and mantua making were the favoured occupations for these girls in a class a little above the vulgar'. Certainly the head of the family would be prepared to pay a premium for 'favouring a genteel occupation' such as millinery including, according to Miller, the 'usual perquisites' (in Miss Etherington's case, a gift from a thankful farmer of 'a couple of beautiful ducks and the hamper of splendid fruit' he had been 'good enough to send her').

It appears however that a payment such as this covered more than mere sewing instruction. There is a more complex side to the social niceties described here, other than that of merely occupying the idle hands of these girls in an acceptable manner. When Miller states that many of the girls 'came solely to get sweethearts or husbands' he is incisively seeing beyond the genteel facade of Miss Etherington's establishment, and to what appears to be a busy, but essentially covert marriage market. From this, Miller further assumes that the impetus behind this came firmly from the young girls involved, and that 'learning the millinery business was only an excuse for leaving the large, lonely farmhouses'. Certainly the excitements of even a small urban centre like Gainsborough, imagined or otherwise, would obviously be foremost in these young ladies' minds. Delve further, however, into the dealings of Miss Etherington's establishment, and it can quickly be seen that there were other, more worldly, forces at play here, with much more at stake than the promise of being wooed by the young men of the town. Through the largely clandestine arrangements of both Miss Etherington and the father concerned, a young girl's introduction to the town could, via the premise of learning millinery, unwittingly nurture 'enlarged notions of business' and the potential for 'new channels into which agricultural produce might be launched'. The system, if it can be called that, was simple. A daughter of a large and wealthy farmer would be introduced to Miss Etherington for 'instruction'. Inevitably, this young lady would be noticed by a clerk or manager of the town's warehouses and counting houses. Courting would then commence, 'in a style becoming ... their gentlemanly and ladylike occupations'. The next stage would entail the lover to call at the milliner's and leave a book 'addressed to Miss Blank, care of Miss Etherington, Lady's Milliner, &c'. From here, it appears that Miss Etherington had the girl's parents' authorisation to assess and vet potential suitors, 'for (she) was very particular, and never allowed her young ladies to receive or read any books which she did not approve of, nor ... without the consent of the lady's parents'. Indeed, once the courting process had commenced, Miss Etherington ensured that the girl's parents were regularly kept informed on how the courtship was proceeding - 'almost always writing letters' according to Miller and receiving, in return, 'amazing ... presents ... from the country' from the obviously grateful parents.

From that point, matters were then very quickly consolidated with the appearance of the girl's father at Miss Etherington's establishment. Miller milks this situation for all its sociological and humorous worth, detailing a prime example perhaps of one of the newly prosperous 'well-to-do yeomen', who walks in with his 'whip in his hand, his long spurs sticking out behind, with his gold seals sticking out before.' He meets his daughter and gently teases her saying, 'So I hear thou'st picked up a sweetheart' while Miss Etherington, who has fully appraised the farmer of this from the start, lifts up her hands and eyes in 'affected amazement'. Here, the daughter tries to explain herself, stating that her 'sweetheart was a most gentlemanly young man'. This is wholly unnecessary however, for it appears that the farmer has already given consent to this prospective suitor (one 'Hewerdine' who appears to be someone closely involved with one of the town's wharfingers, being 'so busy at the wharf') tellingly stating that he 'knows all about him'. From here, he instructs his daughter to tell the young man to come up to his preferred inn and 'have a glass of wine'. This meeting, at the 'Barley Mow' (a name that I have been unable to trace in any list of Gainsborough inns and taverns, but which 'faces the corn marker') goes ahead successfully, with Hewerdine having a 'very pleasant interview with the farmer and his wife'. At this stage, the underlying and vested side-interests are revealed, as it becomes obvious that this seemingly ad-hoc and romantic collusion has been orchestrated from the very beginning. The 'interview' goes pleasantly mainly because the relationship has already 'met with the approval of
his (Hewerdine’s) father’. Earlier in this tale, Miller mentions the clerks on the wharves who:

in time became wharfingers, corn merchants - had shares in the warehouses, and the ships ... with enlarged notions of business, and a knowledge of new channels into which agricultural produce might be launched, such as their fathers never dreamed of.

It is precisely this network or process of expansion that the farmer and the wharfinger are tapping into, via their respective children’s affections. After the interview, Hewerdine is taken by the farmer in to the great ‘market room’ to shake hands with some of the old farmers, where the seemingly ad-hoc but cannily integrated process continues. The ‘young lover’ enters, and is introduced as the farmer’s ‘future son-in-law’. Fuelled by another glass of wine, Hewerdine himself soon assumes his position in the scheme of things, as he begins to ‘talk of corn, and wool, and malt, and how much they ship from the wharf ... and whither it goes’. Another farmer who has ‘known the young man’s father for many years’ begins to expand upon what dealings they have had together, being sure that ‘the son will prove to be as good a man as the father’. Miller closes this small episode from his ‘old town’ by characteristically and sentimentally teasing the ‘well-seasoned, and far-from-sober’ farmer who rises to propose his daughter’s health, his voice ‘trembling with emotion’ as ‘a tear stands unaware in his eye’.

Town and country, as Miller puts it, are ‘united’, the work of life ... went on ... the old church opening its doors to receive marriages and christenings’. It is apparent though that even with this tiny, provincial instance of marriage-broking, the work of life in ‘our old-fashioned town’ was increasingly being characterised by intensified capitalist opportunity operating under the hegemonic guises of romance and tradition. Miller himself came to see this when he noted in his introduction to Our Old Town just how the town of his boyhood was then ‘stamped with impress of a past century, which modern improvements have now nearly obliterated’ Our Old Town actually takes us further than Miller initially acknowledges - it provides us with a revealing and indicative account of the nascent, but smartly engineered and eventually relentless processes of these very ‘modern improvements’.


Gainsborough Old Hall

The Friends of Gainsborough Old Hall Association is celebrating its 50th anniversary this year. The Friends Association was founded on 10 May, 1949 by the late Harold Brace, a Quaker and a local historian well-known throughout the county. The actual history of the Old Hall, a remarkable survival of a timber-framed building in the heart of what is largely seen as a Victorian industrial town, is well recorded [not least in the comprehensive SLHA Occasional Publication no. 8, 191]. When they first leased the building the Friends raised £20,000 towards the restoration - in today’s terms equivalent to nearly £300,000. In 1970 owner Sir Edmund Bacon sold the Hall to the nation. The present Sir Nicholas Bacon, Bart. is President of the Friends. In 1979 the Lincolnshire County Council took over the management and today it is one of the County Council’s principal museums. English Heritage and its predecessors spent thousands of pounds on the building and the National Trust has a covenant on the grounds. It is hard to believe that in the 1960s a move was made to pull the Hall down to provide a central car park!

The Hon Sec of the Friends is P. D. J. Howitt-Cowan, 2 Kemmare Crescent, Gainsborough, DN21 1PR.
The first of many friends  by John Williams

We shall be forever indebted to those young men who came to Great Britain from around the world and fought in the Second World War. One such man was a New Zealander, Flying Officer Derek Clinkard who, flying Handley Page Hampden bombers from RAF Hemswell in 1939-1940, was the first operational casualty of 61 Squadron. He was 25 years old and had married a local girl just three months earlier.

Derek joined the RAF on the 'Dominion Special Service' scheme. The qualifications were Matriculation and above-average fitness. A 'Short Service Commission' was then guaranteed on enlistment in Britain. He arrived in February 1937 having worked his passage on a ship named the Port Bowen.

At the end of flying training on Handley Page Hampdens, his course of forty personnel was shared out among 44 and 50 Squadrons at RAF Waddington, 49 and 83 Squadrons at RAF Scampton and 61 and 144 Squadrons at RAF Hemswell. Derek was allocated to 61 Squadron and reported at RAF Hemswell on 19 February 1938. By the end of 1940 only ten of the original forty were left.

On 7 March 1940 at 2015 hours, piloting Handley Page Hampden L4111, Flying Officer Derek Clinkard and his crew took off from Hemswell for a Security Patrol over Sylt, Borkum and Norderney. After nine and a quarter hours in the air, with serious problems preventing the return to Hemswell, they crashed at Digby, killing all the crew.

TRANSCRIPT OF 61 SQUADRON OPERATIONS RECORDS BOOK RAF HEMSWELL, RE AIRCRAFT L4111, 8 MARCH 1940. Entry signed by Flying Officer A. Pascoe.

Examination of the scanty remains of the aircraft and crew of F/O Clinkard’s crash at Digby indicated that Wireless Operator LAC Wood had been severely wounded by enemy action and the control of the aircraft had been impaired. Evidence:

1 The aircraft was plotted by its IFF (Identification, friend or foe) at about 0200 hours 8.3.40 to be just off the English coast but no signals or requests for bearings were raised until about 0500 hours. The Station Signal Officer (Warrant Officer Thompson) who had been making every endeavour to communicate with the aircraft, stated that it was ‘an amateur and not a trained operator working the set’.

2 Later examination of LAC Wood’s body showed several bullets had passed through him.

3 Flying Officer Clinkard made right-hand circuits in attempting to land - an abnormal procedure, and appeared to be incapable of turning to the left. F/O Clinkard and his crew made a determined and almost successful attempt to get down, flying first (7) up and down the Yorkshire - Lincolnshire coast. Local enemy action coupled with mist over the whole of England proved too much, but the full extent of their difficulties can only be surmised. Was the Wireless Operator revived sufficiently to make a stumbling and faulty effort to get in touch with base? Did the second pilot try to operate the set? How many of the crew were injured? How controllable was the aircraft? The answers will never be known and consequently no recommendations for posthumous decoration were made. Flying Officer Clinkard’s crew were Pilot Sergeant C. C. Hobbs, Second Pilot, Sergeant R. P. Glasson as Observer, and Leading Aircraftman W. K. Wood, Wireless Operator. Pilot Officer A. G. (Alf) Pascoe, who wrote the above reports, came from Australia. He was killed six months later, on 30 July 1940, flying Hampden P4342 during a bombing raid on Geetacht, Holland. He was shot down near Amsterdam and probably fell into the sea. His aircraft has not been found. His crew consisted of Pilot Officer A. C. Ennis, Sergeant Purgslove and Sergeant J. W. Greig. Flying Officer Clinkard was buried in Scorer Cemetery in Lincolnshire on 12 March, 1940. The local county newspaper reported on the funeral as follows:-

MARRIED THREE MONTHS
Scoter funeral of Flying Officer Derek Clinkard Married only three months ago at Scotter, Gainsborough, to local girl, Miss Zillah Morris. F/O Derek Clinkard, aged 25, who was killed on active service, was buried at Scotter on Tuesday. F/O Clinkard was accorded full military honours at the funeral when the Rector of Scotter, the Rev A. R. Johnson, officiated at the church service and at the interment.
The Rev A. R. Johnsen had officiated at Derek's wedding. The most impressive funeral service was held at the parish church. The coffin was draped with the Union flag and, bearing the Flying Officer's cap, was conveyed through the village to the cemetery. All the houses along the route had their curtains drawn as a mark of respect. After a short service the Last Post was sounded and a volley fired over the grave. About 200 of Derek's colleagues filed past and paid a last tribute to a brave comrade. Among the many wreaths and tributes was one from Derek's mother and father in New Zealand.

F/O Derek Clinkard's name is included on the Scotter War Memorial. Immediately above his name is that of R. R. Bell, a 61 Squadron aircrew Gunner from Scotter, who at one time flew with Derek. He was later shot down over Holland and is buried in Terschelling Cemetery, Frisian Islands. In June, 1954, fourteen years after Derek was killed, his mother made the 12,000-mile, five-week pilgrimage to Scotter to see her son's grave. She was met at Southampton by her late son's widow. Derek's mother placed fresh flowers on her son's grave practically every day of her stay and ended each visit by reading a verse by Sir Henry Newbould, which is inscribed on the gravestone:-

To count the light of battle good,
And clear the land that gave you birth,
And dearer yet the brotherhood,
That binds the brace of all the earth.

Inscribed under the verse are the words, 'Son of the Southern Cross'.

Sadly, about two years after returning to New Zealand, Derek's mother was killed in a motor accident.

Years after Derek's death, his widow, Zillah, joined the Women's Land Army and later married again to become Mrs Hague. She will be best remembered in the county as owner of the Rodney Hotel in Horncastle from 1954 to 1973. There is a small display devoted to Derek and Zillah at the Lincolnshire Aviation Heritage Centre, East Kirkby, near Spilsby. The best man at Derek's wedding, F/O Glover, 61 Squadron, RAF Hemswell, was killed on 31 April, 1940, flying Hampden L419, when he crashed in bad visibility at Croxton Kerrial, Leicestershire, returning from a raid over Aalborg, Denmark. His crew were Pilot Officer J. E. Friend, AC1 J. B. Greenhill, and Sergeant C. Frost. They had been in the air for nine hours.

ROTHWELL, ST MARY MAGDALENE
This church has an Anglo-Saxon west tower and nave, and much of it dates from no later than the twelfth century. In a nineteenth century restoration the present pulpit, pews and medieval style octagonal font (not unlike Tetford's on page 4) were installed.

Font in St Mary Magdalene's church, Rothwell
Drawing by the late Mr Cyril Eagles
35.1 STEAM EXPERTS TO THE RESCUE: A CHESTER ENGINE. Mr J. E. Salway of Walsall was pleased to receive his copy of Steam Engine Builders of Lincolnshire. One of his main reasons for buying it was to find out more about an engine in his own collection, but unfortunately this was not to be! He would therefore appreciate some help. He goes on: The engine concerned was made by W. H. Chester, Monson Street, Lincoln. It is a single cylinder inverted vertical engine some 28 inches high and resembles an organ engine. None of my usual steam engine contacts have any knowledge of this builder and therefore I should be pleased to know if your Society can throw any light on its manufacture. The engine was, I believe, made around the turn of the century. Over to readers.

35.2 FROM CROOB TO CURB. Thanks to the two people who replied to this query about the 'croob' used by well-diggers at Leverton near Boston (Lincs P&P 32, 14), both equating it with 'curb'. Veronica Murphy quotes the fourth definition of 'curb' in Webster's New International Dictionary (2nd edition, 1934), which includes: (k) A flat ring, usually of wood, on which a complete section of the brickwork lining for a shaft or well is built. Jim Johnston has come across a word like croob, though pretty well illegible, in LAO Inv. 133/165, referring to four leads (cisterns) owned by a dyer. He thinks it is a version of 'courbo/cor/curb' that the OED identifies as a variety of things, including: a frame round the top of a well, the top of a brewer's copper, a lid to stop things boiling over, a fender, a frame. It looks as if we can safely assume a frame in this example. The transposition of the consonant and vowel is not uncommon, but I had advanced no further than 'crib' at the time of writing. The date of this well sinking was inadvertently omitted from the original article. It was 1714.

35.3 EARLS BRIDGE, between Mablethorpe and Malby Le Marsh (OS Pathfinder map no 749, NGR TF 478 834) is the subject of a query from Mr Tony Merriman. He was born, married and had his children christened in the former Lindsey county division, he says, and is interested in Mablethorpe and Malby Le Marsh. He was in the county in 1997 and was saddened at the state of Malby All Saints church, which he understood was up for sale; the churchyard, he noted, was beautifully kept, approached by a narrow lane and path at the side of a field, and he felt that it could be preserved as an Ancient Monument. If any readers know anything about the future of this church, perhaps they could let us know. Mablethorpe church he also found altered, which he thought was possibly due to the drought in the Seventies. He feels it is a jewel in the town, which sadly has deteriorated.

Mr Merriman is particularly interested in the changes in country land holdings from English and Scandinavian lords to Norman tenants-in-chief, which took place after the Norman Conquest. He understands that many estates were, for hundreds of years, in dispute, which led to quarrels and sometimes duels. He has heard a legend of two Earls or knights said to have fought at Earls Bridge. The story goes that the fourteenth century effigy of a knight at Mablethorpe represents one of these characters and his opponent is a similar effigy in armour, this time at Malby, latter being the one killed in the duel. Looking at the map, Earls Bridge seems to be in the middle of relatively late enclosure, even though on an old watercourse that formed the parish boundary. It may be on the site of an earlier bridge. Can anyone help?

35.4 COINCIDENCES AND DONKEY CARTS. In Lincs P&P 33/4 Jim English writes of coincidences and immobilised donkey carts. By further coincidence the current issue (January 1999) of Suffolk and Norfolk Life contains an article about an inn at Little Stainton, which refers to the prevalence of practical jokes in the years before the First World War. The writer recalls occasional visits of a travelling menagerie. One year, when time came for the departure of the show, and the owner was having a final drink at the inn, the donkey was taken from the wagon and the shafts put through a gate and the donkey re-harnessed, as in the instance quoted. Nigel Kirkham, Malmsbury, Wilts. [This is not an uncommon story; a similar episode is recorded and illustrated in the life of the Shropshire eccentric, John Mytton. Ed.]

35.5 STOKE ROCHFORD FILM. Does anyone know the whereabouts of a film made by students at Stoke Rochford in about 1960 and showing life at the [Kesteven Training] College? Any information, please, to Lincolnshire Film Archive, telephone 01775 725631. Peter Ryde
St Benedict's Square, Lincoln

Cynthia Overton

My mother, Constance Amy Newbold, was seven years old when she moved with her parents to St Benedict's Square in 1895. Her father was John Newbold who took charge of the family business following the death of his father Newbold's, established about 1833, traded in rags and bones, scrap metal etc, and were general merchants. They had a small retail shop that sold household goods, haberdashery and miscellaneous articles including penny wedding rings (bought to replace real ones that had been pawned), 6d glasses, bought after reading from a sheet and choosing the one you thought was best for you, and I still have a treasured pen knife that came from the same shop (known as Marine Stores).

Mother was third in a family of two boys (the younger son who became a civil servant working in Whitehall was drowned in the First World War) and five girls. She spent her formative years in 'The Square' as they called it, and became a teenager on the very day the Edwardian era commenced. She eventually left in 1916 on her marriage to John William Marriott, a farmer's son from West Rasen. He had left the land in 1904 to work at Ruston Proctor & Co Ltd of Lincoln (later Ruston & Hornsby, now Alstom). John Newbold died in 1924 and my grandmother took over the business and lived there until her death in 1932. My uncle then disposed of the shop (Woolworth's had doomed that trade) and took the rags and bones and scrap metal etc to Holmes Road (there is still a 'waste trade' business there to this day). Although my uncle changed the name to 'The Lincoln Metal and Waste Company', it was still known for many years as 'Newbold's'. The site in St Benedict's Square is now occupied by Marks & Spencer.

My mother used to reminisce about events and people in and around The Square. In Edwardian times shops were open late on Saturday evenings, with cuts of meat, fruit and vegetables reduced in price to clear - no refrigerators in those days. Colourful characters such as Mr Beagle who was the proprietor of Beagle's Bombay Bazaar, where the Cheltenham and Gloucester Building Society now is, also another family she spoke of owned the shoe shop - later Freeman, Hardy & Willis. The only child, a boy, loved animals and wanted to be a vet - all strays and injured birds were taken to him - but the father insisted that he followed him into the shoe business. He died of consumption (TB) at quite an early age, but his friends insisted that he had died of a broken heart, not being allowed to fulfil his childhood ambition. Other memories were of the errand and messenger boys singing or humming the latest hits such as 'Who were you with last night?' or 'Oh! Oh! Antonio'.

Next to Newbold's premises was the Leader office (The Lincoln Leader, later the Lincolnshire Chronicle). In 1912 there was a big blaze there and many rats, mice and other vermin (rags and bones of the waste trade encouraged these) in the adjoining premises (Newbold's) perished. The newspaper headlines read: 'Spectacular blaze - many lives lost.' My grandfather was a real Christian and when prostitutes in the area were dying they would send for Grandpa to pray with them. Grandma, a real Victorian, did not encourage this at all. Also, before the days of prisoners being rehabilitated, word got around that Newbold's would give you six pairs of bootlaces or similar to start a 'round'. My mum knew nearly all the gypsies who came to our door too - obviously customers of Newbold's.
Help for the historian
Rex C. Russell concludes his masterclass

MAJOR CHANGES IN 19TH CENTURY LINCOLNSHIRE VILLAGES AND MARKET TOWNS - SOME SOURCES OF INFORMATION -

1 The dates of the enclosure of your parish

Eleanor and Rex C. Russell  Landscape changes in South Humberside (1982)
Making New Landscapes in Lincolnshire (1983)
Old and New Landscapes in the Horncastle Area (1985)
Parliamentary Enclosure and New Lincolnshire Landscapes (1987)


2 The growth and decline of parish populations

Basic figures from 1801 to 1901 appear in the Victoria County History of Lincolnshire, vol 2. Main libraries have detailed Census Returns from 1801 onwards. Very detailed Enumerators Returns for 1841, 1851, 1861 etc are in main libraries at Scunthorpe, Lincoln and Grimsby. These are invaluable, naming every man, woman and child, with ages, occupations, places of birth etc. They show the great predponderance of people under 20 years of age.

3 Methodism and the parish church

-Dissenters’ Certificates in Lincolnshire Archives Office.
-Dates of chapel building and rebuilding, and dates of the restoration and/or rebuilding of the parish church in White’s and Kelly’s Lincolnshire Directories from 1842 onwards.
-Methodist chapel details in Colin Shepherdson: A List and Brief Details of Chapels ... Past and Present for each Methodist circuit in Lincolnshire - in major public libraries.

4 Schools and education: literacy and cultural change

White’s and Kelly’s Lincolnshire Directories from 1842 onwards.
*Rex C. Russell, A History of Schools and Education in Lindsey. 1800-19. Four parts (1965-67): i The foundation and maintenance of schools for the poor; ii Sunday schools in Lindsey; iii The Church of England and the provision of elementary education; iv Methodism and the provision of day schools.
*Although these publications deal only with Lindsey, much of the information in them helps us to understand the problems facing teachers and schools in Holland and Kesteven.
- Also -
Select Committee on the Education of the Poor etc, 1878.
Education Enquiry - Answers and Returns: 1835
The School Log Books for your parish school.

TOYNTON POTS. Archaeological Project Services of Heckington have been monitoring development on the south side of Toynton All Saints, in immediate proximity to The Roses medieval pottery kiln site. Excavations by Mrs Ethel Rudkin at The Roses kiln in the 1960s recovered a number of jugs, many with decorative applied lines. The recent investigations by Archaeological Project Services have recovered further, similar jug fragments (Fig) but have also indicated that pancheons were made at the site. Although large quantities of dumped jug and pancheon wasters have been revealed, the development did not disturb any kilns involved in the production of these vessels. Gary Taylor

MORE ON AUSTRALIA. Last year a near replica of The Norfolk, the vessel in which Lincolnshire men Matthew Flinders and George Bass sailed to Tasmania 200 years ago, was built in Tasmania. It sailed from Sydney in October 1998 and was due to complete its journey on 12 January this year. Donington, near Spalding, birthplace of Matthew Flinders, was remembered on the voyage in an unusual way; a wooden plaque sent from Donington was made from oak of former pews in Donington church. It was thought that the pews might have been the same ones in use in the eighteenth century. Credit for the idea goes to Mrs Ruby Hunt, who has done so much to foster and maintain the links between Donington and Australia over more years than she may care to mention!

ANOTHER NEW SLHA PUBLICATION. On the evening of Friday, 27 November 1998 a group of SLHA members assembled for a special occasion at Jews' Court. This was the launch of Anglo-Saxon Lincolnshire; volume 3 in the History of Lincolnshire series; the evening focused on the presence of the volume's author, Professor Peter Sawyer who was accompanied by his wife, Birgit. They had travelled from their Scandinavian home for the event. An informal atmosphere encouraged guests to circulate freely, to greet friends, some of whom no longer live or work in Lincolnshire. Amongst the guests were many who had been directly involved in the volume's publication. Professor Sawyer was careful to express his thanks for the generosity received in the course of his consultations concerning the book. Although the volume has long been awaited it is up-to-date, and based on much original research. In addition it has an attractive cover and fascinating illustrations. Professor John Beckett and Neville Birch gave votes of thanks, acknowledging the hard work undertaken by Professor Sawyer. Mrs Sawyer was also thanked for supporting her husband and received a bouquet from the Society.
Anglo-Saxon Lincolnshire looks very good on the bookshelf together with the other ten volumes so far published in the series. The initial idea was that of Professor Alan Rogers more than 30 years ago. 

Joan Mills

[Advance orders and continued sales have been going extremely well! Ed.]

FINGER (DIRECTION) SIGNPOSTS

In a recent SLHA Bulletin we highlighted Jean Howard's efforts to save finger posts on minor roads in the county. We are pleased now to announce that Heritage Lincolnshire is to launch a campaign with the assistance of the Community Council of Lincolnshire, contacting Parish Clerks, and press releases to the media, thus public support, to ascertain how many, condition and location, of the remaining finger posts in the county. Les Osborne, currently a final year student reading for a BA in visual culture at De Montfort University, is fronting and co-ordinating the project. Mr Osborne can be contacted by phone on 01522 522064, Email leslie@osborne.lincoln.freeserve.co.uk or a fax can be sent for his attention to Heritage Lincolnshire on 01529 461001.

It is believed that some recording of these signs was carried out some years ago but no other information is available. Any help on this matter, or on Lincolnshire finger posts generally, will be much appreciated.

Meanwhile, SLHA Chairman Neville Birch has come across the following details from the Lindsey County Records in his researches at the Lincolnshire Archives:

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<td>Near Lincoln</td>
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Making (up) history

Douglas Boyce

I live in a small town in the midst of the Wolds and the name of the town takes its name from the river on which it stands. This area was colonised extensively by the Romans but it was the Saxons who first developed the town. Some of you may have guessed by now that the town is Market Rasen, which was once called East Rasen, being the most easterly of the three Rasens mentioned in Domesday Book.

In the Tudor period the town increased in prosperity and outstripped its neighbours in size. As surrounding farmland was developed a market was started here and the name of the town changed to Market Rasen. Throughout this period the town was noted for its maltings and from this period stemmed the growth of the De Aston School, which was founded with funds from the Hermitage. The railway added to the town's prosperity and it was far from being 'the sleepiest town in England' as described by Dickens.

The above has been written using the 'introduction' appearing in all the editions of a 'Walkabout' produced by West Lindsey District Council. It is good that leaflets are being made available for tourists and others but I find the above a little confusing. I had been under the impression that the name of the river is taken from the place Rasen, which means 'at the planks' probably referring to a bridge for crossing the river. [See Kenneth Cameron: The place-names of Lincolnshire, part 3, 1992, p96 and Ekwall: Dictionary of English place-names]. Whatever is this extensive Roman colonisation in the Market Rasen area? I have looked hard at Domesday Book to find where all three Rasens are mentioned; all I can see are references to 'Rasen' and 'the other Rasen'. True, I was able to work out which Rasen was meant by comparing Domesday landholdings with those of the Lindsey Survey of 1115-18 where the three Rasens are mentioned and my Rasen appears for the first time called Little Rasen [Parua Rasas].

As for size, Market Rasen has always been smallest of the Rasens in area. For population Market Rasen did at some time overtake the other settlements. If this took place in Tudor times it could only have happened at the very end of the period as the number of households in the three settlements in 1563 was 50 in West Rasen, 94 in Middle Rasen and 64 in East Rasen. The notion that surrounding farmland being developed in the Tudor period brought the market to the town contradicts the entry in Rota Literarum Clausarum (published by the Record Commissioners in 1818) for 1219: 'The market, which is accustomed to be held on Sunday each week at Rasen may be held each week on Tuesday if no other market is held there. The market was started either in the period 1199-1216, for which records do not survive or, more likely, before 1190 as we were informed many years ago at a local history class. It is a pity the market did not get a mention in History of Lincolnshire, vol IV. The town was indeed noted for paying an unusual tithe on ale sold but where can we find the record that shows the town was noted for its maltings?

'Stem the growth' is an interesting phrase. The headmaster of the Free School received an endowment of £17 per annum from Sir Thomas St Paul in 1583 but De Aston School was not even suggested until about 300 hundred years later in 1858 when the Spital Charity was reconstituted by the Court of Chancery following the misuse of its funds. The school opened in 1863. Perhaps the writer thought it would be nice to record something Tudor about De Aston School. The real history of the foundation of the school around 1858 is indeed interesting and concerns the fight between Market Rasen and Lincoln for the funds, the attempt to prove that Rasen was unhealthy and the use of rotten tomatoes and a quick retreat via Wickenby railway station.

What prosperity the railway brought the town is debatable. Many goods that had been made in the town were, after the introduction of the railway in 1848, made in factories and brought into the town. Henry Scupham who lived here at the time argued that this brought about the failure of many firms in the town. Perhaps it would be more accurate to say that the coming of the railway did more for the prosperity of Lincoln and Grimsby than it did for Market Rasen. The Dickens quotation, which is usually stated to be apocryphal, says that Market Rasen is the second sleepiest town, Shepton Mallet being the sleepiest. The earliest version I have found is in Mary Shipley's Like a Rasen Fiddler 'Dickens once wrote that the two dullest towns in England were Shepton Mallet in Somerset, and Market
A Boy at the Records Office

Some happy memories were stirred by your last issue featuring the jubilee of the Lincolnshire Archives Office. I was once a tiny part of it. You see, we played football at school on Wednesday afternoons and I hated football with a high passion. You got dirty, hurt and cold. So when a notice went up to say 'boy wanted at Archives to clean,' I rushed to be first. Colleagues doubted my sanity as there was no pay involved. That will come to nothing and nowhere, they said. Well more fools them! At first it was very scary. Not only did the spiral staircase wobble but the floor over the arch bounced significantly when you walked over it. And I was no good with a broom, as Miss Williamson pointed out. I begged not to be fired, so she sat me down and began to teach me medieval script. She quickly discovered my Latin was very shaky, so gave me a Vulgate to read. Having been brought up strict Baptist I knew the Bible backwards so this was ideal. But when I had been struggling for half an hour over some wiggly or another and Miss Williamson came over to say sharply, 'Don't you know an ampersand when you see one?' I could only answer truly, 'I am sorry, but no, Miss Williamson.' It was a bit like being in the Infants all over again. However, when I noticed that other readers (mainly the hated genealogists) sometimes got worse treatment, I settled to the task with a will. By the time I was 18 I had published my first transcription of a medieval text. Miss Williamson also introduced me to Professor Christopher Cheney who became my guru, if not quite my god, for the next few years, and he used me to transcribe bits from the D&C and Cathedral Library books. At Cambridge he was a wonderful friend and got me made Deputy Librarian at Corpus, which had lots of perks, not least working with Richard Vaughan on the additional manuscripts catalogue. Mrs Varley held no fears, and exuded kindness and jollity, excusing all my faults in a manner that made her deputy click her tongue a little. Although Mrs Varley was practically a saint she had one slight weakness - she longed to type, but to get at the machine she had to send the typist out for buns. Then one would hear 'click click click, oh damn, click click click click click, blast, click click, oh ...' but Dorothy would have stormed in by that point saying 'The boy's here' and Joan would sadly give up her fun to save my presumably tender ears. When the great move came to the prison I was given a wheelbarrow to transport treasures and to be fair an old Mac to cover them in case of rain. They were exciting times - reading bishops' registers in the condemned cell in the gloom of a winter's late afternoon, and hearing the distant, spooky hack of Miss Thrubly's persistent cough. To walk around this treasure house unrestrained, to use the great Foster library as if it were my own, to associate with these dauntless great ladies, was a gift I hardly appreciated at the time; a head start in history that determined my whole career and I look back on it with wonder. What did those ladies think they were doing, giving this ungrateful, idiotic boy the chance of a lifetime? They were all gold - God bless them.
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.


BEVIS, Trevor. Grand old churches of marsh and fen. The author, 28 St Peter's Road, March, Cambs. PE15 9NA. 1998. [6], 32pp. ISBN 0 901680 64 8. £3.60 from the author.

Mr Bevis was originally from Pinchbeck, but he has been producing booklets on a variety of fenland topics, from his home in March, Cambridgeshire, for over 30 years. They are liberally illustrated, chiefly with photographs and his own distinctive pen and ink drawings. His fenland is not confined to any of the relevant counties, although from Lincolnshire one might suspect a Cambridgeshire bias! Inevitably with so many titles (and I have not managed to obtain a full list) there is some overlap in content, but Mr Bevis is certainly to be congratulated for his championship of the theme. Some of his information is from outdated sources. To give two examples, it is not accurate to attribute the loss of part of Sutton St James church to 'disastrous floods', and the story that St Botolph founded a monastery in Boston is no longer accepted. But at attractive prices these booklets offer a useful and unusual introduction to aspects of the fen and the Wash. Hilary Healey, Bicker


SLHA should be congratulated on their initiative in reprinting one of the author's several works on engineering and railway history. This Lincolnshire book, reprinted unamended, provides information on thirty engineering firms in the county. Many of these evolved from quite humble beginnings as village smithies or iron founders producing agricultural tools and implements; several of them grew to become world famous. Only three companies were still making steam engines in 1955: Aveling Barford of Grantham (to special order), Marshalls of Gainsborough, and Robeys of Lincoln. These names, along with others such as Blackstone, Clayton, Foster, Harper, Hempstead, Hornsb, Phillips, Ruston, Shuttlesworth and Tuckford evoke businesses that made Lincolnshire famous for its engineering diversity. There are business histories, sometimes rather brief due to their short life, and ample original illustrations and photographs of steam engines. These include stationary and portable engines, for pumping, winding and driving machinery; traction engines; road rollers and wagons for road use as well as railway locomotives. This book will continue to be a valuable reference for both the local historian and the steam engine enthusiast. Peter A. Neaverson, Joint Editor, Industrial Archaeology Review, Leicester University.


Russell Cryer, at the age of 88, has done it again. At an age when those of us who have survived are in our dotage he has compiled, written and had published, yet another local village history. This time it is Skillington, a village about five miles north of Grantham and just off the A1 (the Great North Road). Since Mr Cryer retired and came to live in the Grantham area he has busied himself with numerous village histories - Corby Glen (1976), Barrowby (1979), Folkingham (1991) and Caythorpe (1995). Skillington is not an academic book and I am positive it is not meant to be. It is a collection of information and research about the village during the period of Mr Cryer's delving. As such it is extremely interesting and useful. All aspects of village life are included; for example, the church and chapel, the enclosures, the people, the school and other village buildings, as well as the trades and those who carried them on.

But for people like Mr Cryer (but not necessarily aged 88), those who collect these gems and snippets of local history and lore, a great deal of the bare bones of villages or town life would be lost for ever. I feel the villages written about during Russell's stay in the area must be considered fortunate because their history and life have been put into print. Other and later historians can go from there, but they should use the information contained with care because errors can creep in, and specific references are not given. Malcolm G. Knapp


The manuscript consists of tunes 'from a variety of sources' collected in Tealby between 1823 and 1826 by
Joshua Gibbons. He was one of a number of paper makers who flourished by the River Rasure, and he augmented his income by playing the fiddle in part-time bands at balls and other functions. The manuscript is a village fiddler’s working notebook. It is the first in a series of four tune collections, made by various hands, to appear under the imprint of Breakfast Publications. The others are: The Winterton Collection of tunes played by the church band and the village band of this North Lincolnshire village in the nineteenth century; The Dixon Manuscripts consisting of over 150 tunes collected by Thomas Dixon of Holton-le-Moor between 1790 and 1820; and The Eliza Tennyson Tune Book containing tunes written down at Somersby in 1822 by the mother of the future Poet Laureate.

The Gibbons volume contains 186 tunes and tune sets, mostly dance music and marches. Some 30 of the 186 are for church band, village band or marching band and are harmonised in two or three parts. Every item in this publication has been carefully transcribed and is clearly laid out: marches, Waltzes, hornpipes, quicksteps, jigs, quadrilles etc., all tidily grouped. The editor has transposed a number of the tunes out of the keys in which Joshua Gibbons had written them. The editor’s reason for these alterations is to present particular tunes in ‘more user-friendly’ keys for the benefit of present-day musicians. Presumably Joshua Gibbons was able to play from his manuscript comfortably enough, or he would have lacked engagements.

The enquiring mind wishing to know something of the provenance of these tunes will be disappointed. Folk dance tunes centuries old and fashionable tunes for the ballrooms of the period - there is no editorial discrimination between them or information about them or indeed about any of the tunes at all. Famous airs by Handel and Arne appear anonymously. It is hoped that the three awaited collections in this series will offer us some elaboration upon the variety of their sources.

Patrick O’Shaughnessy


It is one of the delights of Lincolnshire that there are more working windmills in the county than any other area of the UK. Whilst a small number have remained more or less in working order since they were built, others survived in substantially intact state and have been returned to working order in the last 20 years. The most recent of these is Hewitt's Mill at Heapham, near Gainsborough. This book, by the present owner of the mill, provides a detailed and well illustrated description of its restoration to working order, which will be an inspiration to anyone contemplating a similar project. But the book is far more than that. It contains the complete history of the mill in Heapham, as well as that of the Hewitt family who have been associated with it for well over a century.

The story starts with a description of the site of the first Post Windmill in the parish, which appears to have been replaced by one on the site of the present tower mill about 1825. The Hewitts became associated with it through William Hewitt, who was born at Gainsborough in 1820, and became apprenticed to Frank Thompson, the local miller in 1835. After working at various mills in the county, William moved with his family to Heapham in 1873, where he became a farmer, as well as a miller and baker. Only two years later the old post mill blew down in a gale. This was a tragedy, not just for the Hewitt family, but also for the local people who relied on it to produce their flour and meal. They helped William to build a new brick tower mill on the same site, which was completed in 1877. It remained in working order until 1956 when the mill was struck by lightning, causing serious damage and bringing an end to milling by wind, though the family continued with their farming and grain merchants' business from the site.

It is a great tribute to the commitment and interest of the present owner, S. Frank Hewitt, that not only has he restored this fine windmill to working order at his own expense, but he has published, privately and also at his own expense, this excellent full account. The book is extremely well illustrated, including a spread of fine colour pictures of the restored mill. There are fascinating early photographs of the mill, and the family, as well as reproductions of accounts, receipts and other items from the archives of the business.

There are only a few, very minor, criticisms. The book lacks an index or list of illustrations; the first two paragraphs on page 33 are obviously intended to be part of an extended caption to the photograph above, whilst English Heritage is referred to as National Heritage. However, these points do not detract from a fascinating and easily readable book. It will be of interest to local historians, motlinologists and family historians alike. and I thoroughly recommend it. (Catherine Wilson)


Dr Ketteringham has now compiled a complementary book to his first on Lincolnshire people (mostly gentlemen) with portraits of some 50 ladies who have or have had some connection with the county and have achieved some sort of fame (in a number of cases, more like notoriety). In any sort of work of this kind, one
immediately looks for who is 'in' and why, since both who and why determine to a great degree one's final response.

Initial reaction was favourable. The county has had, in relation to its population rather than its area, a fair share of the great, good, bad and interesting women. The thought occurred that perhaps alphabetical order produced a number of odd juxtapositions. Daphne Ledward, the well-known gardener, might feel upset, flanked as she is by two murderesses! Other ladies whose claim to fame stand out are the great number of actresses: nine of them, of whom two were created Dames – Sybil Thorndike and Madge Kendal, and one, Joan Plowright, is a (real) Lady. Lesley Seaward, who performed in The Archers for many years, would have made ten. (Elizabeth Allian's name is wrongly printed in the contents list but not elsewhere.) This number may not be quite so surprising when one thinks of the limited opportunities women had to have an education or make a living. Anne Bradstreet, Jean Ingelow, Claribel and Enid Blyton, really? Well her family - way back - did come from Blyton (represent literary activity, which could be undertaken at home). I was sorry not to see Susannah Centlivre of Holbeck included; her plays were put on at Drury Lane and David Garrick played in two of them. Apart from six murderesses the occupational spread is quite wide and the inclusion of living people demonstrates the new opportunities that have been created during the past century; there's a university vice-chancellor (Diana Green), two internationally renowned singers (Norma Proctor and, a new favourite, Janie Eagles), historians (Keithen Major and Dorothy Owen), a tennis champion (Shirley Bloomer), a snooker champion (Karen Cor) and a prime minister.

A minor quibble or two set in; some seem to have tenuous links with the county: the inclusion of George Elliot in the Mill on the Floss is based on a few months' stay in the town; and, although she seemed to have a critical experience while living at Sibsey for two years, Annes Besant would not normally be regarded as a Lincolnshire woman. This is a selection of great interest and the net has been cast widely. Too widely? A matter for debate, perhaps, but then one of the advantages of someone taking the plunge in this way is that there will be debate and it's the sign of a worthwhile project that such discussion should and does take place. It may be invidious to pick certain still living ladies because one can never know who is just about to hit the headlines, for whatever reason; there can be no dispute of the merits of those who have been included since they all made enormous contributions to the county (and, in at least one case, many one would say to their country) and it is good that their efforts should achieve a wider dimension. No one from this Society will argue against the inclusion of two of the above ladies plus Flora Murray, Joan Varley and Catherine Wilson as representing the chosen ladies of Lincolnshire. An enjoyable book, bound to provoke argument, and pleasingly presented with many good portraits (although captions would have been useful in one or two cases).

R. A. Carroll, Quadring.


Who better to compile a compendium like this than someone born in the town and who has spent his working life in the area? Compendium it is, rather than a history, containing over 60 illustrations and then a series of short sections on Places and People. Kime's aim is to remind the reader of people and events when the foundations of today were being laid. Not that it dwells entirely on the past, but it puts the past in today's context, and indeed concludes with a note on the recent Conservation Area Partnership scheme. The photographs are clear, informative and detailed. They cover street scenes and buildings, events and groups, and include Gibraltar Point as the coastguard station and Gibraltar House were in the parish of Wainfleet St Mary. It is a pity that the printing process does not do justice to all the photographs.

The text takes us from Domesday, with an extract from Oldfield's history (1829), a section on Barkham and Bethlem (sadly without explaining the origin of the London-like Barkham Street), the Magdalen school, now a museum, extracts from nineteenth-century directories, the railway and shipping (a reminder of its one-time port status), the recent road bypass, and population changes, not forgetting of course Bateman's Honest Ales. There is a useful gazetteer of key dates, and most sections have references for those who would like to do further reading. Copies of the book are available from Wainfleet Magdalen Museum, and all profits will be donated towards the running of the museum.

D. N. Robinson, Louth.


I found this book a thoroughly enjoyable read. The stories were well chosen, with little repetition of theme, unlike some other fishing books that I have read. The book offered a well documented account of the trials of both the fishermen and their families, together with a personal account of the Cod War. The reader is able to envisage the hardships endured by the fishermen throughout their time at sea, as well as the camaraderie they shared.

It made a refreshing change to read about the lives of the fishermen instead of being confronted with pages of facts, figures and statistics produced by the management.
of the fishing industry; a drawback I have found with similar publications. The book was also very well illustrated with a comprehensive collection of photographs, many of which I have never seen before. I felt that the volume would be of great value to researchers of the fishermen’s family histories throughout the county. The cover design reflects the content of the book admirably. Obviously a lot of thought went into this choice. On the whole I feel the book is both interesting and informative, offering very good value for money. J. C. Revell, Boston.


This commendable book traces the history of the many organs that have played in Lincoln Cathedral since the fourteenth century, culminating in the present Father Willis instrument, which celebrated its centenary last year. We are indeed fortunate to possess one of the first cathedral organs in the country. Only twice in the last hundred years has it required a major overhaul, a great tribute to its builders and to those who have tended it so carefully down the years. Considerable research by the author has uncovered a fascinating correspondence between the Chapter and various organ builders, which eventually led to Henry Willis designing and building what many believe to be his masterpiece.

There are articles by Colin Walsh, the present Organist and Master of the Choristers, by the managing director of Harrison and Harrison of Durham, the firm that has recently undertaken the restoration, and by Julian Paul who has tuned and maintained the instrument for many years. Also there are interesting descriptions of the many smaller organs that have been used in services over the years. This commemorative edition celebrates the centenary restoration of the organ and is published by the Cathedral Music Appeal; it is a ‘must’ for those who love ‘the King of Instruments’, the Master and church music. Geoffrey Winter, Grantham.

ROBINSON, David N. Wish you were here ... Lincolnshire Wolds. Quotes (now Countryside Books, 2 Highfield Avenue, Newbury, Berks. RG14 5DS), 1997. 128pp. ISBN 0 86023 632 3. £4.99 pbk.

Once more we are privileged to look inside the marvels that are David Robinson’s collection of Lincolnshire postcards. This postcard-sized book presents 124 images of life in and around the villages of the Lincolnshire Wolds; the majority of them tall from before the First World War when, of course, the sending of postcards equated to the modern use of the telephone. The tour arranged here takes us, as the author writes in his preface, on an anti-clockwise trip that starts and finishes in Louth. In the process we visit a wide range of villages and landscape, see the locals at some of their daily tasks and get a glimpse of life-styles that now seem antediluvian, there seeming to be so little connection between then and now. Many of the cards were sent by people spending holidays either with relatives or, very frequently, touring the Lincolnshire countryside. Nowadays, no doubt, their successors are in Spain or Florida and, modern post being what it is, failing to keep in touch. One of the advantages of the author’s approach is that he gives us the message from the card, often trivial but sometimes quite revealing. One such relates to the view of the dining room at Tennyson’s birthplace - ‘couldn’t get into the house but this is what it looks like’ - so not everything has changed. The Tennysonian ‘break’ was also clearly a source of revenue for card printers not unduly worried by questions of accuracy.

Some of the pictures are not very special; quite often the church seems to be the only place worth a snap. But some of the photography is of a different class; there is a splendid view of a binder at Hallington with the sun just catching the tower and spire of St James’s, Louth; others of note include nicely lit photos of the toll house just outside Louth, the Woodman’s Cottage near Harrington and the Sunday School treat just about to set off at Thimbleby. A very nicely composed picture at the watermill on the Bain at Donington also pleases. But so much else does too. With David Robinson’s informative captions and high quality reproduction it will give a lot of pleasure and for less than the price of the average paperback novel that may only be read once. Highly recommended. R. A. Carroll, Quadiing.


This book covers the history of the Boston Deep Sea Fisheries from its formation in 1885 to its last days in 1979. The early research is well informed throughout; the text seems to move fairly quickly from the early 1960s to the 1920s with very little mention of the years in between. With a little more research the cover of the First World War years could be greatly improved; the reader would have gained a greater insight into the number of number of fishermen lost and by what means, eg submarine, mines or surface vessels. The book then goes from Boston vessels operating from the original home port to provide chapters on the fishing activities carried on into Fleetwood, Hull, Grimsby, Lowestoft and a short section on fishing in Canada when in 1952 an opportunity to expand activities to the American east coast presented itself. The cod wars from 1959 onwards are blamed for the subsequent collapse of the industry with especially bad effect in Boston and on the company.
All in all the book is well presented with quite a number of photographs of modern day trawlers and it makes interesting reading. The production is excellent; there is an average a picture per page and they have come out very well on good quality paper. There are, of course, lists of all the boats acquired by the company with details of their provenance and subsequent fates; a final section gives a number of records associated with the catches and the prices they fetched. J. C. Revell, Boston.


This is a collection of reconstruction drawings by David Vale, very much in the style of Alan Sorrell, depicting Lincoln at various periods from Roman times up to 1846, when the railway first came to the city. As this was the era before photography became widespread, existing pictorial evidence of how the city appeared in those times is comparatively rare, making this book particularly welcome. Each illustration is based on careful research of documentary and archaeological evidence, and is accompanied by a substantial explanatory caption. It will appeal to anyone interested in the history of Lincoln, and the illustrations make it particularly attractive to children. Teachers planning a project on the city's history will find it a useful resource and it will be helpful in answering that recurring school homework question about the early development of the city. A final reason to buy it is that all the profits will go towards archaeological research in the city of Lincoln. Eleanor Namestice, Lincoln.

BOOKS RECENTLY ISSUED


ROWLAND, Peter G. Lest we forget: stories originating from the Battle of Britain Flight based at RAF Coningsby, Lincolnshire. Lincolnshire County Council, 1997. [5], 78pp. ISBN 1 872375 04 9. £5.95 pbk.

STEELE, Mary. Lincolnshire Land Longwool and legends: written and illustrated... on behalf of the Lincolnshire Long Wool Sheep Breeders Association to commemorate the 200th anniversary of the New Improved Lincoln. Pelham Press, 6 High Street, Lindley, East Sussex, RH16 2HH, 1996. 240pp. ISBN 0 9529836 0 5. £15.95 plus £2 p&p hbk.


BRYANT, Geoffrey F. Barton remembered 1939-1945: Part one: Lest we forget; Barton remembers its war dead. WFA, Barton on Humber Branch, 3 Queen Street, Barton on Humber DN18 5QP, 1997. [4], 60pp. ISBN 0 900959 11 8. £6 pbk. plus £2 p&p.
MIRROR IN PARCHMENT

R. N. Swanson of Birmingham University reviews Michael Camille on the Luttrell Psalter


The Luttrell Psalter is among the best known of medieval English manuscripts. Begun probably in the 1330s for Sir Geoffrey de Luttrell, a Lincolnshire landowner, the decorative work was halted c.1345, with more illustrations being added possibly a decade or so later (but still leaving the programme incomplete). The Psalter's scenes of medieval rural life are regularly used by picture researchers, becoming an important ingredient in traditional visualisations of 'Mercy England'. Michael Camille considers this manuscript at length, and in depth, challenging the chocolate-box interpretations and seeking to re-establish a proper context for the book and its original owner, and (the most important part of his work) to decode the complexity of the illustrations. He particularly seeks to understand the 'babewyne', the strange agglomerates of man, bird and beast, which appear on many of the Psalter's pages, their grotesquely thwarting any attempt to provide an easy reading. Challenging as proper comprehension of the seemingly naturalistic illustrations may be, the grotesques raise even greater problems.

This is the first detailed analysis of the Psalter for some 50 years; Camille's use of current approaches in his decoding is therefore very welcome. The lengthy introduction, on 'the manuscript as mirror', is a splendid dissection of the Psalter's integration into the English heritage in the past two centuries, and how it has in turn contributed to preconceptions of that heritage. Often witty, at times exasperated, this analysis of the misconstrual of England through the refractions of the Psalter's illustrations is an ideal scene setter, valuable in its own right. The next seven chapters take the reader through the work in a discursive fashion. Rather than plod from folio 1 through to the end, Camille offers a thematic approach, leaping around within the Psalter and often making the reader leap as well, hunting for the appropriate illustrations. The first, 'The Lord's Arms: Knighthood war, and play', homes in on Luttrell himself, and on the famed picture of him as a knight (set directly under the note of his patronage of the Psalter). The following five chapters deal with different aspects of Luttrell's context: his household (feasting, family and fashion), religion (monument, sermon and memory), and estates (men, women and machines), folk culture (masks, mummers and monsters), and 'enemies' ('Saracens, Scotsmen and the biped beast'); the sixth examines the preparation of the manuscript itself ('Six hands and a face'). The analyses are well sustained, and certainly informative. Particularly important is the suggestion that the marginal grotesques should be associated with traditions of popular mumming, even though conclusive evidence for those traditions at this early date is otherwise lacking. The least successful chapter is that on the enemies, where the interpretation of some illustrations as hostile Scots seems ill-supported. Camille dissects keenly, although sometimes perhaps pushing his case too far - a charge that he acknowledges, but which may be unavoidable given the uncertainties of the decoding process. Yet even if he does overstate his case, or read more into the illustrations than the evidence warrants, his ideas are always stimulating and thought-provoking. No reader of this book will ever approach the Luttrell Psalter - or other medieval manuscripts with similar illustrations, or perhaps even the paintings of Bosch - in the way they would have done beforehand. Even if meanings are elusive, Camille puts a strong case that every picture tells a story. The chief problem lies in changing understanding over time; if Camille's intensity is right, many illustrations had limited meaning to most viewers, even in the fourteenth century; the Psalter's precise function would have changed soon after its production, as readings changed to make the illustrations relevant. Well produced and lavishly illustrated, with sixteen full colour reproductions, this is an enjoyable volume to read and look at. Despite occasional faults, it is always engaging, and difficult to put down once begun. It is also that rarity of modern publishing - a bargain.

TINLEY, Ruth. The Tinley-Glaston Connection: a history of tenant-farming families in Nottinghamshire and Lincolnshire. The Reviews Editor would like to apologise to Miss Tinley for getting her surname wrong in a recent LP&P. It caused at least one order to be sent in based on the mistaken name and the error is deeply regretted.