Ethel Rudkin collection

North Lincolnshire chalk buildings

Anglo-Saxon brooches at Sleaford

Dennis Mills rambling on Radio 4

regular features and more

Magazine of the Society for Lincolnshire History & Archaeology
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*Lincolnshire Past & Present Editors: Hilary Healey, Rex Beowers*
*Reviews Editor: Roy Carroll – Production Editor: Rex Bevers*

The deadline for contributions to the next Bulletin and the Winter issue of *Lincolnshire Past & Present* is 5 November, 2000. Material should be sent to the Joint Editors at Jews’ Court, Lincoln LN2 1LS. It will help the Editors if articles are sent typed, double spaced, and with a good margin. *We are able to accept articles on disk if they are Word for Windows compatible files.*

*Cover picture: Ancaster Cross – before it was damaged, although an earlier repair in the shaft can be seen.*
Editorial

It is hard to believe that we are now on the 41st edition of Lincolnshire Past & Present. We could not continue without contributions from readers, and every time we begin to wonder if the amount of material is decreasing we get another shot in the arm, so to speak, and we have had a particularly good year with offerings both from regular writers and from new ones. The 2000 History Discovery competition, which got off to rather a tentative start, finally produced a large number of entries, and we hope to have those judged by the next issue. Meanwhile we offer a range of subjects that deserve to be better known, as diverse as chalk buildings and aircraft hangars. It is good to see Eileen Elder’s piece about Mrs Rudkin and I thoroughly enjoyed my ‘interview’ with Dennis Mills, as well as listening to him on Radio 4. The programme is likely to be repeated in due course, probably before the next season’s series comes along. If any reader has ideas for an interview the Editors would be pleased to see them — but we may not accept the ‘Who is your favourite pop star?’ or ‘What would you do if you ruled the world?’ type of question! Anglo-Saxon brooches and a little known spring (one that escaped my summaries in LP&P nos 19 and 20) also feature this time, as well as a response to the Huttoft article.

In the Faces and Places section we tend to have a leaning towards the south of the historic county. This is inevitable as I rely largely on south-of-Lincoln newspapers and the excellent scrutiny of the Lincolnshire Echo by Flora Murray on behalf of the Local History Committee! I also occasionally buy the odd general magazine and find that Lincolnshire often occurs. Recently my local supermarket stopped selling Farmers' Weekly, which is a great blow as it usually has something of interest, not to mention a fairly easy crossword. So if you feel badly done by north of Lincoln, please send the occasional item to us at Jews’ Court.

Hilary Healey (Joint Editor)

The 1960 Caistor Walk

By an unfortunate oversight we inadvertently omitted an important acknowledgement at the end of the article about the Caistor Grammar School protest walk in Lin P&P No 40. The photographs were taken from the collection of John Fowler of Caistor. The author, Rosalind Boyce, is indebted to Roy Schofield, one of the organisers of the walk, for drawing her attention to them and reproducing them especially for the article. We hope Mrs Boyce and Mr Schofield will accept our apologies for omitting this acknowledgement.

Ros Bevers (Production Editor)
Last of the old style antiquaries

Eileen Elder on the Ethel Rudkin Memorial Collection in the North Lincolnshire Museum Scunthorpe

The Ethel Rudkin Collection in the North Lincolnshire Museum at Scunthorpe was given by Dr Robert (Bob) Pacey by means of two donations, the first made in January 1999 and the second in June 2000.

Mrs Ethel Henrietta Rudkin (née Hutchinson) (1891-1984) may be described as the last of the ‘old style’ antiquaries. She was born at Willoughton in northern Lincolnshire, the daughter of Richard Hutchinson and his wife Ethel (née Pickall). Following schooling in Scarborough, she became a governess for the Percierah Browns of Digby.

She met George Henry Rudkin of Folkingham at a local point-to-point meeting. They were married in 1917. George had a share in the farm and in partnership with his brother, but leaving his brother in charge of the farm, he joined the Army earlier in the (First World) War. George Rudkin died in 1918.

As a young officer’s widow, Mrs Rudkin took up his share in the farm but the venture was to prove short-lived and she gave up farming to return to her family home and care for her parents. She remained at Willoughton until moving to Toynon All Saints during the 1970s.

Ethel Rudkin, sometimes affectionately known as ‘Peter’ or alternatively as ‘Mrs Rud’, was a life-long archaeologist, historian and folklorist. She was a recorder of all forms of oral tradition and a collector of Lincolnshire ‘bygones’.

As honorary research secretary to the Lindsey (later Lincolnshire) Local History Society during the 1930s she was to become the prime worker in collecting, preserving and cataloguing the vast collection of artefacts that would later form the core collection of the Museum of Lincolnshire Life. Formal recognition of her efforts came in 1982 when a wing of the museum was dedicated to her name in recognition of her early foresight and years of steadfast labour.

Mrs Rudkin’s love of Lincolnshire antiquities dated from childhood days. In old age she was able to recall visits made with her parents to the Kirton in Lindsey home of the Peacock family—perhaps an early cradle of her particular field of study. Her parents, Dick and Ethel Hutchinson, had been especially close to Max Peacock, the second son of Edward, the antiquary, and it is clear that their friendship extended to the ageing father and to Max’s sister, Mabel, the well-known Lincolnshire folklorist and dialectologist. Dick Hutchinson was himself something of a collector of items old and curious and Ethel’s Later love of collecting forays made into the Lincolnshire countryside owes much to this fact.

Ethel Rudkin published her Lincolnshire Folklore (Gainsborough 1936, and reprinted) as part of her drive for the presentation of Lincolnshire’s history and heritage. In many respects it was published to encourage others to record and preserve. Her own folklore and folk song collections were already fairly substantial and she would continue adding to them for the rest of her life.

In the opening paragraph of her published work Mrs Rudkin made clear that she saw her Lincolnshire ‘folk’ collections as forming a direct succession to Edward and
Mabel Peacock's work in this particular field, noting that she had 'carefully collated [her] own collections with those published in 1908 by Mrs Guthrie and Miss Mabel Peacock in their volume on Lincolnshire County Folklore, and that she had omitted examples of which they already had instances.' As the early parts of the Rudkin 'folk' collections are concurrent with the last few years of the Peacock family's own collections (Peacock family archive, North Lincolnshire Museum, Scunthorpe*), when taken as a single entity the Peacock and Rudkin collections provide an unbroken record of Lincolnshire folk tradition spanning the greater part of 200 years. It is to maintain this continuity of which Mrs Rudkin was so conscious that Dr Pacey has made the donation specifically to the North Lincolnshire Museum. Ethel Rudkin is remembered also as having been an archaeologist and historian of some standing. Little escaped her discerning eye. Her intimate knowledge of the countryside led to a number of important archaeological finds. A residue of her finds and historical records along with an informative compilation of drawings and photographs pertaining to her entire field of study is included in the donation. As one of the old style antiquaries Mrs Rudkin never viewed individual subjects in isolation. A piece of folklore might carry the rub of an otherwise long lost historical fact, or else the suggestion that a location might be worth visiting for a bit of archaeological 'field walking'. As a result it will be found that throughout her Collection folklore and tradition merge almost seamlessly into and out of archaeology and history. As the final member of her family line, Ethel Rudkin also kept a collection of family photographs and other items of personal memorabilia. These complete a most valuable memorial to an outstanding lady.


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**Ethel Rudkin Memorial Collection**

- **Summary** -

**Folklore and traditions** Photographs, manuscript files and notebooks, correspondence and off-prints relating to Lincolnshire folklore, legend, oral history, custom, tradition and language.

**Plough plays, mummers plays, traditional games, folk-dance and drama** Children’s games, traditional dance, plough-plays, mummers plays, sword-plays, Fascey hood, hobby-horse, and drama.

**Folk-song and music** Lincolnshire folk-songs and related papers and photographs compiled by Mrs Rudkin, supplemented by Dr Robert Pacey. Also sheet music, bound manuscript music for church band, partlour music, dance, fiddle tunes. Manuscript notes concerning Lincolnshire bagpipes.

**Archaeology and history** Miscellaneous manuscript notes pertaining to Lincolnshire archaeology and history, lecture notes, off-prints, newspaper cuttings, photographs and a small number of specimens.

**Photographic collection** Photographs filed according to place-name, also a small number of photographs relating to traditional Lincolnshire farming and the domestic scene.

**Personal items** Personal papers and documentation, photographs and memorabilia. Items personal to George Rudkin, including First World War material. Mrs Rudkin’s ‘Second World War Notebook’. The Coote Lake Medal awarded to Ethel Rudkin by the Folklore Society in recognition of her services to Lincolnshire folklore; also the ‘Max Peacock film’, an item of personal adornment given by Max Peacock to Ethel Hutchinson as a token of affection.

**Diaries** Dr Robert Pacey’s transcription of Mrs Rudkin’s Diaries, part 1, 1912-1939; part II, 1947-1980s on computer disk. (The original diaries along with other Rudkin papers are deposited in the Lincolnshire Archives). The Ethel Rudkin Memorial Collection at North Lincolnshire Museum is available for use by prior appointment.

This introduction and summary has been prepared by Eileen Elder who served as an intermediary between Dr Pacey and the North Lincolnshire Museum. She wishes to acknowledge Dr Pacey’s assistance in its preparation.

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Lincolnshire Past & Present No 41 Autumn 2000
Radio ramblings

Report by Hilary Healey

I asked Dennis Mills how he came to be involved with the Ramblings programme, which readers may have heard on BBC Radio 4 on Sunday 11 June this year. He explained that he had listened to the series last year and noticed that specialists in different disciplines guided a celebrity presenter along a route, pointing out different aspects of the landscape along the way. Contributors had included a geologist, archaeologist, landscape historian and naturalist.

Noticing that there had been no contribution from an historical geographer, Dennis wrote to Jeremy Jewell, the then series presenter, volunteering his services and suggesting the Temple Bruer area, contrasting landscapes from the Knights Templars to World War II airfields. Later he submitted another, more urban route, starting in Lincoln.

The first response was from researcher Sally Wright who wanted to know about his walking, his attitude and when he started. He was then contacted by the programme producer, Lucy Lunt, to check his voice for recording quality. Other 'voices' on route were also required, at least one of them female [my italics, HJ]. It was suggested that they should cover the subjects of aviation, farming and rambling. The producer preferred the idea of a circular route rather than a linear walk, including a link with the Viking Way on account of it being so well known. This year's presenter, Clare Balding, was briefed on the background to the walk. Dennis prepared numbered cards with key facts, although these were not used in the end.

The presenter, producer and sound recordist met up with Dennis, Mike Hodgson (an aviation historian) and Audrey Patrick (a farmer) at Wellingore. Here they discussed the walk although no actual rehearsing was allowed! The final route was decided. Sadly, due to restrictions of time, Mrs Smith's Cottage at Navenby, originally included, had to be left out.

Walking, talking and recording simultaneously was not easy. Clare and Dennis walked side by side, with Laura the sound recordist just behind, holding the microphone between them, and having to keep the correct distance at all times. They met at the Red Lion, Wellingore, and set off over the fields, considering place names. It was a windy day and the route was slightly uphill. This made Dennis quite out of breath at one stage, but they kept on the move for the sake of realism, and discussed geology and farming. Amazingly they were not troubled by aircraft noise.

At the first information board on Ermine Street, Mike Hodgson joined in to talk about the airfield, and then they continued down Ermine Street, the Viking Way, the ancient holly-lined Holly Lane, and past a private airstrip. After crossing to the Knights Templars preceptory remains at Temple Bruer they moved on to the village's Victorian church. They met Audrey and discussed the influence of the Chaplin family of Blankney. At this unpopulated crossroads the group discussed how the church and community survive. Then, to save time, a car returned our walkers to the Wellingore viewpoint, where they met USA rambler, Geoff Lynch, and then walked on down the slope to Wellingore itself. Geoff, originally
from Lancashire, described the Trent power stations and the North Keuper ridge. The cliff edge was an important contrast to the level surface of the Heath. The flatness of Lincolnshire was, as usual, a talking point. The damp and slightly exhausted group finally returned to the Red Lion at Wellingore, having somehow missed two large thunderstorms. The total length of the tape was one and a half hours, which then had to be reduced to 28 minutes! Clearly Dr Mills enjoyed his experience despite the less than hospitable weather. He suggested the BBC gave his fee to a charity of his choice (SLHA!) which they agreed to do. Having introduced himself as an SLHA member, Dennis feels that other members may be able to find similar or other new ways of raising the profile of the Society.

[PS. I heard this and one of the later programmes and am sad to say that Clare Balding remains convinced that Lincolnshire was flat! H.H.]

How to roast a goose

Take a little sage, a small onion chopped small, some pepper and salt and a bit of butter, mix those together and put them in the belly of the goose, then spit it, singe it with white paper, dredge it with a little flour, and baste it with butter. When it is enough, which is known by the legs being tender, take it up and pour through it two glasses of red wine, and serve it up in the same dish, and apple sauce in a basin.

Recipe and illustration believed to be from the mid 18th century

Nothing new under the sun

In his journeys about the Diocese, the Bishop [Bishop Swayne of Lincoln] says he has been impressed by the difference in conditions of the churchyards. Some were well kept, while others were in a very wild and rough condition. Where it was not possible to keep a churchyard as a garden, as in many cases the cost of labour made this impracticable, he was of the opinion that the churchyard should be pastured by sheep. He could see no objection to this.


In the following year the Bishop is credited with similar remarks elsewhere, adding (after 'sheep') 'as was almost universally the case in County Churches in the days of my boyhood.'
Belfast Truss Aircraft Hangar
Bracebridge Heath

The three-bay Belfast Truss hangar at Bracebridge Heath. Photograph: Chris Lester

The Society for Lincolnshire History & Archaeology has objected to the proposed demolition of the former aircraft hangar at Bracebridge Heath. The current owners of this Grade II Listed building are seeking Listed Building Consent to demolish from North Kesteven District Council. A report on its structural condition has been submitted in support of the proposal and the Council has sought the views of the Society.

It is not widely known that between 1915 and 1919 Lincoln became one of the largest centres of aircraft production in the world. In 1915 West Common became an acceptance park for testing aircraft as they came off the production lines. By 1916 production levels were such that an additional flying ground was needed and the Bracebridge Heath airfield was established. The hangar dates from this time.

The airfield was used for final assembly and testing of aircraft from Robey’s and from Clayton and Shuttleworth. It lay to the east of what is now the A15, south of the Bracebridge Heath hospital. The airfield buildings, including the surviving hangar, lay between the road and the airfield. Aircraft were brought here, from Lincoln, by road. The wings and fuselages were hauled on trailers and final assembly and testing took place at the airfield. From here first flew the 30 Sopwith Camel fighters and 30 Farman Longhorns built by Robey’s and the 46 Handley Page 0400 bombers and many of the 575 Sopwith Camel fighters built by Clayton and Shuttleworth.

The end of the war saw a great reduction in the need for aircraft for the RAF and flying ceased in 1919. But the buildings remained and in May 1941 became a factory as part of A.V. Roe, the famous British aircraft company. It
specialised in aircraft repair. As aircraft had by now become larger they had to be flown to and from RAF Waddington. To save partial dismantling aircraft were towed along the road to Bracebridge. Road signs were hung to enable them to be dropped while the planes passed by.

Also surviving from this period are the two wide gateways alongside the A15 at the site. One of these, in the front of the surviving hangar, was angled to the south to make entry to the works easier for towed aircraft. After the introduction of the Avro Lancaster many damaged by enemy action came this way.

In addition to day-to-day repair work both restoration of historic aircraft and cutting edge research was carried out. In 1954 an Avro 504, an example of the standard inter-war RAF training plane, was restored for the Science Museum. In the early 1950s two of the five Avro 707 aircraft, the test bed for the design of the Vulcan bomber, were assembled here from components built elsewhere. Both survive in the UK, a 707A at the Manchester Museum of Science and Technology and the only 707C, a two-seater version, at the RAF Aerospace Museum at RAF Cosford. These both made their maiden flights from RAF Waddington, on 20 February 1953 and 1 July 1953. With the retraction of the British aircraft industry the works closed and by 1979 the buildings had been taken over to serve a variety of industrial and commercial uses.

The hangar building is of Belfast Truss construction. This term relates to the laminated timber roof beam design. They were a popular form of construction for early hangars because their use enabled a wide span of open floor to be enclosed. Once common, they are becoming increasingly rare. Some examples, such as those at the RAF museum at Hendon and at the Duxford museum, have been preserved. Another example, at the former Carr Lane works of Marshalls of Gainsborough, built for aircraft manufacture, was demolished in 1994.

The current owners at Bracebridge Heath are seeking Listed Building Consent to demolish the one surviving original hangar. In support of this they have submitted a structural engineer's report of the condition of the building together with a costed schedule of works for its restoration. This shows that the building is in a poor state and has been for some years.

The cost of making the building structurally safe is estimated at £1,114,253; to alter it for warehouse use £2,189,958; and to convert it to museum use £3,034,225. The latter cost is included because the consultant was asked to do so. A museum use, however, is an unlikely alternative at this time. For comparison purposes it is estimated that the cost of a new warehouse on the site would be £1,700,000.

The Society's objection is for the following reasons:

- The history of the site in relation particularly to early aircraft manufacture.
- The lack of information as to how rare a survival of this building type is.
- The structural report shows that it is capable of repair.
- The report indicates that a warehouse use would give it an economic future.
- The 'gap' funding between a new building and restoration for warehousing is some £500,000. No figures have been suggested as to how this can be closed either with outside funding, compromise on the restoration to original design, or a combination of both.

The Society therefore feels that the case for its demolition has yet to be proven and has suggested areas of further research to enable an informed decision to be taken on its future.

Visitors to Jews' Court

There are always visitors to Jews' Court who come just to see the building. Some are renewing acquaintance—they remember it being a craft centre or somebody in the family worked there. Many, of course, are Jews. July 2000 was quite busy. There were two large parties on separate Sundays. One was a group of Jews from the north west and the other a joint meeting of Christians and Jews. We had several Jewish visitors from Israel during the summer.

Mr and Mrs Mitchell from Norfolk called for Mr Mitchell to visit his old work spot. He worked in the building as a probation officer in the 1950s. His desk was in the furthest corner of what is now the lecture room. He recalls there was a very large table in the centre. At that time the building was owned by the Lincolnshire Architectural and Archaeological Society. Mr Mitchell remembers the secretary, Mr George Dixon, sometimes came in at lunchtime.

We have often heard stories of this eccentric gentleman. Mr Mitchell's story is that Mr Dixon would bring his lunch and a book and secrete himself in the one and only toilet for an hour much to the distress of the staff in the building.

There are not many stories like this but we do meet interesting people from all over the world.

Pearl Wheatley 2.8.00
Squadron Leader Mike Chatterton (RAF), lately pilot of the Battle of Britain Memorial Flight Lancaster aircraft, launched the book *Aircraft Made in Lincoln* at the Lincolnshire Aviation Heritage Day at the University of Lincolnshire and Humberside on Saturday 15 July.

Authors of *Aircraft Made in Lincoln* signing copies on 15 July, 2000
L-R: Charles Parker (co-author), Pearl Wheatley (Chairman of SLHA), John Walls (co-author), purchaser of a book, Neville Birch (co-ordinator of the publication)

**Made in Lincoln**

The scene outside the 'Made in Lincoln' tent at the Steam Spectacular on the Lincolnshire Showground in August. SLHA had a bookstall in the tent and sold £280 worth of books during the two-day event.

*Photo: Chris Lester*
41.1 PLASTER WALL PLAQUES I have recently come across a couple of relief wall plaques of a type one used to see quite often in the middle of the 20th century, depicting Lincoln Cathedral and Newport Arch respectively. They are a little smaller than A4 landscape in size, and appear to be made of plaster of paris, though finished with a surface treatment that behaves like wax. Unfortunately the screw eyes were of iron and have corroded badly, not only breaking off completely but leaving a permanent stain in the plaster. Does anyone know when these were made and by whom? Were they a local or national product?

41.2 MILLENNIUM HISTORIES We continue to receive news of new parish and local books. I enjoyed reading Holland Fen with Brothertoft, by Betty Brammer, which appeared in August – very good value at £4. The Stamford Mercury recently noted a new book on Castle Bytham, rather more expensive at £12.50, but it does appear in the illustration to be a hardback.

41.3 COUNTING SHEEP Yan, tan, tethera it begins as many people know, but Mr Strawson wonders if anyone knows the full traditional sheep-counting set of numbers. [We have been told that it has Scandinavian origins and does not just occur in Lincolnshire].

41.4 LINCOLNSHIRE CLOCKMAKERS Horologist Dr Stewart Walker has been writing a book about Lincolnshire clocks, which he hoped would be in print by August. He was looking for information on fine clocks, unusual mechanisms and church clocks. Unfortunately this note missed the Spring and Summer numbers of LP&P, but as his book seems not to have appeared there may still be time to contact him. His address is (Dr Stewart Walker) Burn's Farm, 11-15 Newbigin, Hornsea, East Yorkshire, HU18 1AB. Tel 01964 533430.

41.5 MEMOIRS OF CHARLES GUNTHORPE 1830s–1860s (LP&P No 31 – Spring 1998). I am researching my family history and was interested to read the above article. My great-great-grandfather, Thomas Duckering, was working for the Rev John King as a groom 1850-1874. My great-great-grandfather knew Charles Gunthorpe and named him as an executor in his will. They were also the same age (1822). Were any further extracts taken from the memoirs? Mark Duckering

[I have sent Mr Duckering a little more detail, but we would welcome further information. Ed] 41.6 BETJEMAN’S LINCOLNSHIRE CHURCH (LP&P No 40 p11) Further to the article, ‘Betjeman’s Lincolnshire Church’ may I point out that Huttoft church is dedicated to St Margaret of Antioch (20 July) and not to St Mary. I read the article with interest. My aunt told me in the 1950s that the church referred to in the poem was Huttoft and that the Rev T. Caleb was the ‘Indian Christian priest’. My mother had lived in the village since 1910 and was an active supporter of the church when Mr Caleb was appointed to the living in 1943, continuing the Anglo-Catholic tradition of worship. If it was difficult for him it was also difficult for the village people to accept someone from a different culture with no previous experience of this. Mother continued her loyalty to the church but her diaries record that it was not a very happy time. With regard to the Victorian restoration, according to the Vestry Book, my great-grandfather, John Louth Needham, was the churchwarden charged by the vicar, the Rev George Bryan, in 1867 with raising funds for a thorough restoration of the church, which was then in a very dilapidated state of repair. The Vestry Book states that the work was undertaken by Messrs White and Hasnip and with the exception of the tower and belfry was completed by 1869 at a cost of around £1000 and was reopened with great celebration. The Murgastry family, mill owners of Halifax, owned a considerable amount of land in Huttoft, which the Needhams farmed in the 19th and early 20th centuries, and I have correspondence between William Murgastry and John Louth Needham relating to the rent to be paid and suggesting further land for possible purchase. So it is not surprising to find in the Vestry Book for March/May 1882 the copy of a letter of thanks to William Murgastry for his financial help in the restoration of the tower and belfry, but there is no other reference to this work being carried out. Further work was done in 1897. After the First World War internal reordering took place and the war memorial put in. There were repairs in the late 1960s, and 1997/8 by a local firm. Bridget Robinson
No, this is not a spooky short story; this is a genuine mystery, and whilst there may be a very simple explanation I've yet to discover what it is. However, maybe there is a kind reader with more experience and knowledge than I who could put me out of my misery! It concerns the very attractive, ancient, but sadly redundant parish church of St Peter's in Astone.

My ancestor, Sampson Meanwell, had been Churchwarden in neighbouring Goulceby, parish between 1717 and 1720 and died in 1744. The parish register for All Saints' church, Goulceby, confirms his burial and, one assumes, he was laid to rest in Goulceby's churchyard. By the 1800s All Saints fell into disuse and in 1886 it was declared beyond restoration. All that remains today is a mound of earth where it once stood. Until a replacement church eventually was built the church at Astone was used. (Geographically the two parishes were closely intertwined and the churches had always been somewhat 'interchangeable').

On 22 August 1896 the firm of W. Mortimer & Sons, Architects & Surveyors of Unity Square, Lincoln, wrote to the Rev John Graham following his request for them to assess the condition of St Peter's Church, Astone, which was now also sadly in need of repair. What amounted to a considerable renovation was recommended, which included: 'pulldown the present chancel of the said parish church of Astone and to rebuild same ...' The estimated total cost was to be £150.

Permission had already been granted by the Bishop of Lincoln for the work to be carried out and one of the conditions was: 'to remove such monuments, monumental tablets, tombs, tombstones and coffins as may be necessary and to replace the same as nearly as may be in the same positions which they now occupy ...' The work was carried out by Mr R. Mawer, Builder, of Louth. The total cost was borne by the Rev. John Graham, who was incumbent from 1890 until his death in 1915.

At some point in St Peter's history a stone was installed in the south wall of the chancel in memory of Sampson Meanwell, Goulceby's churchwarden. The stone bears a distinct resemblance to at least one headstone of the period that is still in the churchyard at Goulceby. It is also slightly damaged further suggesting a tombstone. The logical time for this stone to have been installed would have been during the reconstruction of 1896. According to H. Green (Lincolnshire Town and Village Life) it was there in 1902. But why would this be done more than 150 years after his death? Furthermore it is the only such memorial in this church. Sampson was not a local dignitary in the sense of wealth or title, when such a tribute might have been expected, but an 'ordinary' man. Besides there must have been many other worthy parish servants throughout the years.

Perhaps the stone was removed from Goulceby churchyard for the purpose? If so, why and by whom? Or was it already situated in Astone church and returned by the builders thus complying with the Bishop's direction? If so that still poses a question, why was it at Astone, not Goulceby? More than one person has suggested that the builders merely needed a chunk of stone exactly that size! I do hope not. But ... on a cold, wet and windy November afternoon whilst I was attempting to photograph my ancestor's stone a large group of damp but cheerful hikers took a short cut through the churchyard. Together we spent an enjoyable half hour or so discussing all the possibilities before they resumed their walk still coming up with ideas. Sampson would have been delighted at so much attention, I'm sure.

Fortunately this wonderful old building will not suffer the fate of Goulceby's All Saints ... as it is now privately owned and is gradually being restored.

Sources:
Lincolnshire Archives:
- 1896 reference FH 10/606
- 1896 reference Faculty Papers 1896/7
- Astone Parish 9/2
- Astone Parish 9/4
H. Green, Lincolnshire Town & Village Life.
Louth Public Art Trail
The town of Louth is producing three imaginative art trails as tourist attractions. These are to include exciting works such as the aeroplane relief on the Greenwich meridian line in Eastgate, as well as newly commissioned works.

Frank Bramley
A Lincolnshire artist, has been commemorated in a plaque in St Margaret's Church, Sibsey. Frank Bramley was born at Sibsey in 1857 and, having been talented at painting from infancy, began his artistic training at Lincoln School of Art in 1875. In 1878 he won two gold medals for painting in oils from nature and from life. By 1880 he was working in Venice, after winning another gold medal for his oil-painting. Later he joined the Newlyn artists but having married Katherine Graham from Grassmere, he moved to the Lake District in 1895. He turned his attention to portrait painting later in his career. Sadly, arthritis forced him to give up his work in 1912 and in 1915 he died in Gloucestershire. His painting, A Hopeless Dawn, is in the Tate Gallery in London.

Dunsby Cross, 1985 — there was never much shaft and it has been much damaged since then.

North Kesteven Sculpture Trail
North Kesteven District has led the way with its numerous sculpture commissions in recent years. A leaflet on these is obtainable from the District Council, Kesteven Street, Sleaford.

Medieval Crosses
Two remains of medieval stone crosses have been suffering from their vulnerable situations. The short shaft at Ancaster was badly damaged by an unknown vehicle some time ago. The latest news in local papers is that English Heritage will be paying for the repairs — not Heritage Lincolnshire as reported in the Lincolnshire Echo on 29 May! At Dunsby near Bourne the cross was not in good shape, the shaft being only a small stub and the stone it is slotted into more or less completely buried. The shaft fragment has suffered repeated damage over the years. At the time of writing the shaft seems to have disappeared and part of the top of the base stone, flaked or knocked off, lies by the side of the road. The base stone, largely below ground level, has typical treatment of upper corners (described in one source as ‘broaches’) which suggests that it is square or octagonal rather than round.

Welton Cross
A cross designed in medieval style was set up in Welton churchyard in 1910 to commemorate Dr Richard Smith, founder of Lincoln Bluecoat School (Christ’s Hospital), who died in 1602. It is now in need of some repair and a restoration plan is currently under way.
Tourist churches of the year 2000

Three Anglican churches in South Kesteven were presented with plaques awarded by the District Council as the most tourist-friendly in the District. They are St Andrew’s Billingborough, St Nicholas Fulbeck and St Wulfram’s Grantham. These were the respective winners for the large village, small village and town categories. It is hoped to extend the contest next year.

Lincolnshire woods

A new officer, Louise Hutchby, has been appointed to work on the Forestry Commission’s Ancient Woodland Project. Although an ecologist, Louise’s wide brief will include looking at other aspects of the history and evolution of woods, including earthworks and documentation. One of the 14 woods in her survey is Ropesley Rise Wood, which has of course already been the subject of detailed survey, as reported in Tom Lane’s parish survey, The Developing Landscapes of Ropesley and Humby, published by Heritage Lincolnshire. For those who may be curious, the unusual name Rise seems to be derived from an Anglo-Saxon word hris, meaning brushwood. Newcomers to the county may be surprised to learn that there is old, indeed any, woodland in the county, but there is a good deal, especially in the South Kesteven and Barcley areas. What makes the county’s overall total low is the absence of woods in the various fen areas, although they did exist there in the very distant past. The project is being organised from a base in Northamptonshire.

Places

Beehive is back!

A wooden sign for the famous Beehive Inn, in Castlegate, Grantham, was brought back during the summer by the present pub owner after being put up for auction by the family of a previous landlord. It has a delightful ‘primitive’ painting (with an imaginary and romantic landscape view to the rear) and is now on display. From the style of lettering it is thought to be about 200 years old. The verse reads:

Stop Traveller, this wondrous Sign explore,
And say when thou hast viewed it o’er and o’er.
Now Grantham now, two rarities are thine,
A lofty Steeple and a living Sign.

Stamford Tapestry

Stamford’s answer to the Bayeux Tapestry has recently been on show at the Museum in Broad Street. Begun in 1983, it consists of six panels, each filled with panoramic landscapes showing historic aspects of the town and neighbourhood. It is 30 inches deep and 20 feet long.
Anglo-Saxon cruciform brooches found at Sleaford

M. J. Turland

Fig 1 cruciform brooch found at Greyeles (Trollope 1872) in 1828 (?) Full size.

Questions:
- Is the 1916 find as late in date as stated, since the form appears to be earlier than Sieford finds of 1881 dated 6thC?
- In view of the missing knobs on both are they of the same date; or the same find, misallocated in 1916?

Sources
E. Trollope, Sleaford and the Wapentakes of Flaxwell and Aswardhurn pp 98-99

The 1828 find was, in 1872, in the possession of Mr Jacobson, Surgeon, of Sleaford (White's Directory of 1872 reveals his location as Westgate. He was MRCS, LSA, LRCPed - so well qualified!). He had many other items from the Greyeles finds. The 1916 finds went to Derby Museum in 1932.

The 1916 find referred to above came from 'widening Marcham Lane at Old Sleaford' (White 1988). But this description is so vague as to be meaningless! It could mean 'Marcham Lane' at any point in its modern course; this deviates from the ancient (Pre-Roman) line south-east of Bass Meltings and follows a meandering route into the town (does anyone have an explanation, or a date, for this change of route?). The route passes through the cemetery excavated by Thomas, so the burial could have been part of his site; this seems unlikely as he was very thorough in his digging and should have found it. There is no evidence of any road widening visible today; maybe it was within the highway, ie an extension of the tarmac rather than the width of the verges?

I would not however have thought that this part of Sleaford was still being referred to as 'Old Sleaford' as late as 1916, more than 20 years after the formation of the Urban District Council, which incorporated the parishes of New and Old Sleaford, Holdingham and Qarrington. In that case 'Old Sleaford' may refer to the settlement that expired in late medieval times, west of The Hoplands on Boston Road. Ancient 'Marcham Lane' did indeed pass through this area; and there was Saxon occupation and there have been burials discovered. Can anyone clarify the 1916 find location?

The classic analysis of cruciform brooches by Aberg (as reproduced by Myers) includes two examples from Sleaford, the most elaborate of his examples. I would suspect that they are from Thomas's finds of 1881 east of Sleaford Station, and now in the British Museum. Thomas found five cruciform brooches, of which the two most elaborate are illustrated in his published paper. However, only one of those two is used by Aberg; so he presumably drew his examples from the British Museum collection (and he did not use Thomas's most elaborate find).

Sources
N. Aberg, The Anglo-Saxons in England quoted as Figure 1 page 58 in J. N. L. Myers, The English Settlements.
G. W. Thomas On excavations in an Anglo-Saxon cemetery at Sleaford, in Lincolnshire, Archaeologia Vol L. 1886.

Has anyone a set of drawings or photographs of the full British Museum Sleaford collection? It would be very helpful for SLHA to publish them. And does anyone know the modern whereabouts of the Jacobson collection referred to above?

* There is a full set of photocopies at Heritage Lincolnshire of the British Museum notebooks. Ed.
Anne's Spring  L. N. Parkes

At the beginning of this year I was engaged on a project investigating the whereabouts and history of the ice-houses that are to be found in the grounds of the larger houses of the landed gentry in Lincolnshire, manor houses and such like. It was when I was asking the permission of Mr J. Vitoria, the present owner and resident of the Old Hall at Branstorn, to inspect and photograph the ice house, that he asked me a question.

It is not uncommon when studying local history that one question leads to another. His question was what did I know about Anne's Spring, to which I had to confess, absolutely nothing, and that I had not even heard of it. Mr Vitoria then took me to the east side of the house and pointed to a tree approximately 30 feet to the north east and told me that Anne's Spring is just the other side of the tree, and what is more, there is a stone slab, like a small grave stone with some engraved words on it called 'Ann's Spring' and some words underneath that are possibly a poem.

Later I went to investigate and find on the north side of the tree a brick lined box about two feet below the surface of the surrounding field and approximately six feet square. In the north-west corner there is a brick culvert from which clear water flows to disappear into another similar brick culvert on the northeast corner. On each side of this culvert, fixed into the wall, are the remains of iron pegs, both badly corroded, but suggesting that they could possibly have been the support for a sluice gate. This would have held back the water to a prescribed depth, making the 'box' into a well or reservoir from which water could have been drawn. The water disappearing into this culvert appears again bubbling up under the bank of the nearby beck that flows through the grounds from south to north.

Close to the west wall next to the incoming culvert there is a stone slab not unlike a small grave stone, with the following inscription:

**ANN'S SPRING**

Clear may thy Waters ever flow 
Nor Gusts of Ruffling Tempest know 
Pure and unsullied as the fair 
Who's emblematic Name you bear

The next question of course is who was Anne? The general opinion of some of the local families that had been connected with Branstorn for centuries was that she must have been one of the Melville family. However, we could not find any evidence to confirm this. A check on the Melville family tree revealed that Alexander, Earl of Leven and Melville, known as 'Leslie-Melville of Branstorn Hall', had married a Jane Thornton in 1784 and had five sons and three daughters. One of the daughters was Mary Anne who died in 1823.

The fifth son of the Earl of Leven, the Hon Alexander Leslie-Melville of Branstorn Hall, born 15 June 1800, married a Charlotte Smith in 1825. They made their home at Branstorn Hall and had six sons and six daughters but none was named Anne. The Rev Fred Abel Leslie-Melville MA was married to Susan Georgina Wardlow-Ramsay in 1869. They had four sons and three daughters. One of the daughters is shown as Annie Louisa, born 3 August 1871 at Welbourn Rectory, but she was Anne, not Anne.

One of my local informants told

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'Ann's Spring' [sic] inscribed stone

Drawn by H. Hooley from an original photograph by L. N. Parkes

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Charles Le Despencer born 22 January 1877 who served as a lieutenant in the Grenadier Guards in South Africa and was at Lowmont Estate Kalutara, Ceylon in 1910. But this is the only reference to anyone from the Melville family being in that area — and there is no mention of any children.

One Anne we know of who was associated with Branstorn Hall was Lady Anne Vere Bertie, a lady of note. Records reveal that Sir Cecil Wray who was Lord of the Manor, in 1735 in his last will and testament "gave and devised his Capital Seat at Branstorn, and all the Fee Simple Estate in Branstorn, to Anne Casey (an illegitimate daughter?) for the term of her natural life without impeachment". He died shortly after making his will in 1736, but in the meantime Anne had married Lord Vere Bertie, son of the first Duke of Ancaster. As Lady Anne Vere Bertie she came to live at Branstorn Hall.

I can find no evidence that Sir Cecil Wray had any residence at Branstorn but, if so, Vere Bertie may have built on to existing buildings as it is recorded that Lord Vere Bertie built Branstorn Hall in 1735, soon after marrying Anne. Lord Vere Bertie died in 1768 and Lady Anne in 1780, but it is believed that they were a devoted couple and it is possible he displayed his affection for his wife by building the box around the spring with the inscribed slab, possibly c1753 when the ice-house is thought to have been built.

On the death of Lady Anne the house and lands were divided between their two daughters (neither of them named Anne). They married a Mr George Hobart and a Colonel Stewart. They had no interest in the estate and both families proceeded to sell it off. By 1789 there was no Vere Bertie connection left at Branstorn Hall, but that is not entirely true, Vere Bertie gave us 'Anne’s Spring', and just outside the grounds is the Bertie Arms where the enclosure awards for land in Branstorn were finalised on 28 March 1766, the majority of the heath, fens and common land becoming the property of Lord and Lady Vere Bertie, and is well documented. The original 'Old Hall' was burnt down in 1903 but the Melvilles were already in the new Hall, now known as Branstorn Hall. The 'Old Hall' has been rebuilt and the grounds retained, and with it Anne’s Spring.

I would like to thank Mr Vitoria for bringing the site to my attention and allowing access, Mrs J. Mills and Mrs J. Jackson for their information from the Lincolnshire Archives Office, also Messrs D. Cracey, R. Cucks and L. Hackney for their local knowledge.

OBITUARY

C. B. Nunnington

W e learned with sadness of the recent death of Bryan Nunnington. Bryan and his wife Rita were among the first to offer help when we moved to Jews’ Court in 1988 and were active there on behalf of the Society for Lincolnshire History and Archaeology and Lincolnshire Heritage until a short time ago. Bryan was for several years the Society’s postal sales officer while Rita manned the bookshop regularly on Fridays. Bryan was also a very useful handyman. Both he and Rita could be relied upon to step forward whenever any voluntary help was needed.

Bryan had interests in many other fields and he will be very much missed by all who knew him. We send our sympathy to Rita and all their family.

The Society for Lincolnshire History and Archaeology and Lincolnshire Heritage were represented at his funeral.

Thora Wagstaffe
North Lincolnshire Chalk buildings

Rex Russell

A few months ago Heritage Lincolnshire published the excellent book by Rodney Cousins, *Lincolnshire Building in the Mud and Stud Tradition*. Beautifully produced with good relevant photographs both in colour and black and white, this adds much to our appreciation of Lincolnshire history. Can the Society for Lincolnshire History & Archaeology now persuade Heritage Lincolnshire to publish a similar study of the chalk buildings of North Lincolnshire? These form a smaller but significant part of our heritage; they are too little known and neither Pevsner's *Lincolnshire* (revised edition 1980) nor that lively and eccentric *Shell Guide to Lincolnshire* by Henry Thorold and Jack Yates (1965) make adequate mention of them. Croxton's fine medieval chalk church dominates that small estate village because it is a chalk building. Thorold and Yates do not mention that it is mainly of chalk, nor does Pevsner. Ludborough church is largely built of chalk: this fact is mentioned, but not appreciated, by Pevsner. Thorold and Yates get it wrong. They write: 'the church whose tower is E. E. of chalk and Ancaster stone.' There is in fact a delightful contrast between the chalk nave and chancel and the tower of ironstone. (Pevsner: '... the whole strong ironstone tower').

We are greatly indebted to the fine work of Pevsner and of Thorold and Yates — but we still need a good booklet on the chalk buildings of North Lincolnshire.

Before this booklet appears, go and admire (for example) these churches that are largely of chalk:

- Croxton
- Grainsby
- Coventham St Bartholomew
- the tower of Coventham St Mary
- Uterby * Legbourne
- the chalk parts of Ulceby and of Thornton Curtis churches
- the chalk part of St Leonard at Haugh.

There exist excellent late 18th century farmhouses and farm buildings at, for example, Barton on Humber — Chapel Farm, Green Gate Farm, Barton Hill Farm. Other such good buildings (not dated) are at Aylesby and at Elsham Top. Elsham Top is the subject of an article by Adrian Russell in *Land, People and Landscapes*, pp.168-178 (edited by Tyszka, Miller and Bryant, 1991). This article includes excellent architect's drawings, elevations and plans, together with photographs.

The more carefully we search for buildings of chalk, the more we discover dating from the 12th to the 19th centuries. Houses and cottages of chalk exist — within the Earl of Yarborough's Brocklesby Park, for example, and in Wold Newton village (which once belonged to the Brocklesby estate). At Brocklesby a fine chalk cottage may be seen as one walks to Brocklesby church; two others (well designed) are next to the 1864 Memorial Arch. Were they built in 1864 to provide setting for this Arch? In the recent *The English Rural Landscape* edited by Joan Thirsk (published 2000), on p.63 is a photograph of a house in Wold Newton with chalk in its walls. There is more and better chalk in other Wold Newton buildings.

Besides churches, farmsteads, houses and cottages we can discover walls of chalk (sometimes capped with red pantiles), parts of buildings in which chalk contrasts vividly with the rest of the brickwork (at Wootton Dale, for example), and we cannot infrequently see the small chalk quarries from which this distinctive building material was dug — close by the building.
Some stories of wheat,
flour and bread
from original documents put together by Bernard Sullivan

From the Lincoln City Records — dated December 1551. —
"In consideration that there hath been a great 'Lythe' (Lyth - a hull, calm) and no wind for five weeks or more, whereby the bakers and other persons could not get any corn ground at the windmills, and so could not bake any bread for the sustenance of the Kings people, and some people in consequence get their wheat ground one horse-mill and some at another and upon querns, as hath seldom been seen within the city, and by reason of such scarcity some in the beginning bought horse-bread to eat but at length could not get any of the same, to the great famishing and destruction of the whole people of this city especially the poor, it is ordered that the bakers shall bake their bread after the assize of 24s, the quarter of wheat, and speedily provide carts or horses to send their wheat and other grain to be ground at windmills in the country".

The above item from the records gives some idea how important bread was to our ancestors' diet; the following bits and pieces gathered from a number of sources gives us more of the story.

To start with, the names of various breads:

- Horse-bread - large loaves of bread made from ground and sifted beans, wheat, water and barn (yeast).

From the Stamford Mercury, 1795.

"Standard Wheaten Bread"

That it will be proper to encourage the making and selling of what is called the Standard Wheaten Bread, as directed to be made by an Act of Parliament passed for that purpose in 13th year of his present Majesty's reign (George III, 1773) and to permit and encourage the making and selling of Bread with:

- Meal or Flour of Rye, Barley, Oats, Beans or Peas, or of any such different Sorts of Grain mixed together, according to the 2nd table of the Act. And it is recommended to all families for the present, not to consume any finer or better bread than those sorts before mentioned."

Medieval Diet?

Wheaten bread was the luxury of the great. The thrifty housewives fed their families on leaves mussel-nail meal or monk-corn, a mixture of flour with barley and rye; these baked in large quantities, were stored up like biscuits, and when they got very dry from age, were dampened and warmed through in the oven a second time. In Scotland the Musklum bread is made up of the flour of peas and beans, with barley or some other grain, and is very coarse, black and unpalatable.

- havercake: Oatcake. Wastel or Wastrell bread, the best or finest bread.
- Coquet or coket bread, slightly inferior to the Wastel bread or second kind of best bread.
- Cracknel was a light, crisp biscuit. Symnells or Simnel was rich currant cake.

... The next series of tales are of what was found in flour and some of the consequences:

Stamford Mercury, 23 June 1837.

"The system of grinding corn for flour and bones for manure at the same mill has for some time past been carried on in despite of the prejudice against it; but at Louth it has of late received a blow which, in that it can never survive. A tradesman purchased five stones of flour which had been made at one of these mills and after using part, a bone black with decay whether human or not we are not informed was found in the midst of it. His prejudice against the system was thereby confirmed. Those who had only slight objections, are now decided as to which is the surest way to avoid swallowing bone dust along with their bread."

The Conan Council of the City of Lincoln issued the following regulation on 15 February 1608:

"If any miller put any sand into any meal, or use any other indirect course whatsoever to make the meal ground seem heavier, or seem to be greater, that every such offender shall forfeit £10 for every offence, and suffer three months imprisonment."

Some of the "extras" found in flour were chalk, arsenic, plaster of Paris, and in one case in 1873 the Lincoln Public Analyst found bread with alum in it. The "extras" were still being added in January 1880 Thomas Greenfield, miller and baker of Nocton, was fined 20s (£1) for selling bread adulterated with alum.

Finally an advert from the Stamford Mercury:

"The SMUT in WHEAT"

The following recipe has been found an effectual preventative of this disease in wheat, and may be of use to our agricultural readers:

Put five ounces of blue stone vitriol* to three pints of water for every bushel of wheat, boil the vitriol till it is dissolved in the water; let it stand till lukewarm; then put it on with a watering pot. Well turn the wheat with a barn shovel so that it may wet regularly, and be particularly careful not to put it on more than lukewarm.

* copper sulphate

This is one of a series of books of local photographs from the Francis Frith collection, originally produced as postcards. As Frith's are still in business and (quite rightly) keep strict control over the copyright and reproduction of their images, the prints are unlikely to have appeared elsewhere.

The introduction gives useful and interesting information about Francis Frith himself and his Archive, followed by a synopsis of Lincoln's history, which covers the Roman and medieval periods in some detail, then moves straight on to the 1960s and 1970s, missing out everything in between, including the 1890-1960 period, when most of these photos were taken.

The main part of the book consists of good quality, black and white photographs, all with a brief explanatory caption and the relevant Frith reference number. They are dated, and surprisingly the earlier ones are dated more precisely than the later ones: a view of the Cathedral from Pelham Bridge is dated "c. 1955" yet it would have been easy enough to find out that Pelham Bridge was not opened until June 1958. The prints are grouped together by areas of Lincoln (eg Brayford Pool, Cathedral, Steep Hill, etc) and all show places in the city, rather than special events or well known local people. The captions are generally accurate, although the upper floor of the Stonebow still is the Guildhall (p.38), the Marks and Spencer building was extended to the rear, not demolished, in 1973 (p.69), and the church in Free School Lane is dedicated to St Swithin, not St Swithun (pp.23 and 45). It can be frustrating when the captions describe something that is not in the picture - on page 47, the caption mentions 'St Michael's parish hall... just out of view' and again on page 51 we read 'just out of the picture... is one of the... water pumps'.

All but 13 (of 87) photographs are of Lincoln; six are of Gainsborough (where the author has family connections), two are of Saxilby, two of Doddington, two of Waddington and one of Branston. This book is nicely presented and is good value. It is at least the fourth such book in the last year, and fascinating as they are, the market for them must be reaching saturation point.

Eleanor Nannestad, Lincoln


Judging by the size of the audience for slide shows of old photographs of Boston they are very popular and here is another collection for Bostonians to enjoy. The book is divided into five sections, photographers, the port, the old town, some Boston characters and the Market Place. There is a descriptive paragraph to each picture with some personal anecdotes. A number of interesting pictures I had not previously seen, including one showing two-way traffic in South Street with the former warehouses and one of Joseph Bowen's brush, mat and basket emporium in Womgate. I regret that more of George Hackford's photographs are not included since he made a very important contribution to the early Boston photographic scene; a good selection from the Addy studios, which, as a family business still operating today, has spanned the whole period. There is a useful list of Honorary Freeman and Mayors of the borough but there are several irritating errors among people's names, which should have been more carefully checked; Fydell House was not built by William Fydell but acquired by him in 1726. On the front cover Reuben Salters 'mate' is Jimmy Case, a former Borough Treasurer of Boston. The book will be clipped into and remanufactured over by those of us interested in the town's earlier years.

Bridget Robinson, Boston


Another of the author's excellent publications containing photographs and captions. This book, to mark the millennium, is a cameo of twentieth century Louth and covers all aspects of life in the town from its social and leisure activities to its many characters. It marks some of the major events that have taken place during the century; for instance, both World Wars, the flood of 1920 and the East Coast flood of January 1953. David has had access to many of Louth's most
famous photographers, including such as James Witley, Matthews, Howe, Rawlings and Dunn to mention but a few. There is a good balance of photographs over the decades, which will be of interest to both young and old. A fascinating insight into Louth and its people in the twentieth century.

Stuart Sizer, Louth.


Whether one thinks the new millennium has already been reached or not this colourfully printed book will help to open eyes to some aspects of the county's history. Ten places form the start of short tours: the text intermingles ten historical events (oddly chosen and the link not always apparent). Nowhere south of Skirbeck is visited. The small photographs and maps are very clear; the latter would have been improved with the names of the villages added to the church dedications. However, the routes are described clearly.


Another of the author's very useful and informative forays into the history of Gainsborough. While it was written in 1971 and, he says, not updated, his preface and other references suggest otherwise. The earliest record of 'picture shows' in the town goes back to 1896 - in fact, 'animated life-size photographs'; the local newspapers have been thoroughly scanned and, with personal reminiscences, give a detailed story of this popular form of escapism. Recommended.


Mr Hendley lives in Wainfleet and is, in this little booklet, trying to stimulate more interest in the history of the town, which had, for so long, an important role in the seafaring life of this country until silt piled up to destroy the port's active life.


The publicity material suggests that keen art collectors and students of the county scene should not hesitate to invest; from a brief inspection of a private copy this will be a prize example of the bookmaking art.


A useful survey with excellent colour photographs. If you can still find a copy, it's a bargain for all interested in the town's history, written by its undisputed champion historian.


Regrettably I did not meet Henry Thorold on any of the few sorties I had made into Lincolnshire before I had begun to investigate the county for 'The Buildings of England' in 1958. It would have been agreeable to have met Mr Henry, whom I referred to, not quite correctly, as the Squire of Marston, when Geoffrey Houghton Brown and I visited Scrivelsby Court in 1955, a year before its demolition. Our first meeting took place during that hot summer of 1959, and I owed this to Sir Francis Hill, although John Piper had earlier pressed me to visit Marston Hall. I seem to remember that Henry was then at Lancing College and so unavailable except during holidays. He belonged to that dying, if not extinct, breed of 'squires', in an ancient and distinguished line of parsons who were topographers and antiquarians. Under the editorship of Piper, he wrote the Shell Guides to Derbyshire, Stafford, Durham, Nottinghamshire, and in 1965 (with Jack Yates of Louth) Lincolnshire.

They were among the best of this excellent series. Apropos this review of Lincolnshire Houses, we might ask why? Henry wrote in plain, clearly expressed English, and possessed a developed sense for the spirit of a place, and in particular for the families and persons associated with that place. In contrast, in Nicholas Pevsner's Shropshire (1958), out of 110 largish houses, the family is only mentioned in 33. Appropriately and rightly Henry begins his introduction with the remark by Mr George Walsham of the History of Brumby Hall, that 'the history of any house is the history of the families who have lived in that house'.

At first I felt that Henry saw me as an intruder in his beloved county, and I was. He mollified towards me gradually. In recent years there has been a fashion to
demarcate the opposing camps of John Betjeman and Pevsner. Henry very definitely belonged to the former, although he was aware when writing his Cathedrals, Abbeys and Priories, or indeed his Lincolnshire Churches Revisited, of Pevsner's mastery at dissecting our cathedrals and greater churches. As Pevsner's co-author on The Buildings of England Lincolnshire, I was then tarred with the Pevsner brush.

I was always surprised that Henry never wrote this book earlier. When I and my American born wife were staying at Marston with him in the autumn of 1961 (she described the place as the coldest house in Christchurch, but later learned that there were even colder houses) we discussed the need for such a book. It is sad we have it now 40 years later when Henry is no longer with us. In all he describes 250 houses, of which eight are in Holland, 74 in Kesteven, and 96 in Lindsey, and concludes with a short piece on ‘Lost Houses’, illustrated with 22 photographs from Maple Bedford’s collection. This latter is sadly an ineptual epilogue, for here was a lost opportunity to illustrate all the houses demolished since the 1880s, and do justice at the same time to the late Terence R. Leach’s admirable Lost Lincolnshire Country Houses (1990, 1991, 1993), as well as his two volumes of Lincolnshire Country Houses and their Families (1990, 1991). I suspect it was due to Henry’s lingering and painful disability in his last years.

There is no place for criticism of this most charming and satisfactory book. More might have been written about the architects, and landscape gardeners have been generally ignored; but it does not matter. Henry achieved a right balance, not too heavy a use of archival documentation, and unlike Leach’s writings, not too involved with the intricacies of genealogy. In his life Henry had visited all the houses, majestically in that old fashioned Bentley, and personally known all the owners. We can enjoy them as he did. I found it very difficult to identify my favourites, but as I read I scribbled a few choices. The most agreeable, perhaps Little Grimsby Hall; the perfect masterpiece, maybe Belton, but neck-and-neck with Doddington, the very grandest Grimsthorpe, the most satisfactory save from decay, Horkstow Hall, the most evocative site of all, a lost house Eresby (although I did wonder if Henry had returned since the Spilsby by-pass cut through the avenues); the lost house I would choose to return to, Nortton Hall, the worst lost by brutal demolition, Bayons Manor, the worst loss by fire, Uffington Hall, the most agreeable suite of livable Georgian rooms, Claxby Hall, and the most appropriate putdown (of this reviewer!). Henry’s correct identification of the lost Duntton Hall in that magical painting by George Lambert, as at Tydd St Mary, not near Boston. I should add that as hitherto Henry has been well served by his photographers Peter Burton and Harland Walshaw.

Sir John Vanbrugh and Landscape Architecture in Baroque England 1690-1730, edited by Christopher Ridgway and Robert Williams, is a very different book, elucidating Lincolnshire buildings in only two chapters, with references to Belton in David Jacques’s general account of formal gardens and Grimsthorpe in Robert Williams’s fascinating account of fortified gardens. Whatever our interests, the one article that requires us to buy this book is Williams’s ‘Vanbrugh’s India and his Mansoela for England’, showing that Vanbrugh was employed by the East India Company as a factor in Surat between 1683 and 1685.

For the book of a conference on Vanbrugh to celebrate the tercentenary of Castle Howard, it is a little odd that the genesis of Castle Howard’s landscape, indeed the whole concept, is hardly referred to. Giles Worsley does more than any other contributor in ‘After Ye Anteique’, at least footnoting this reviewer’s article in Country Life, 11 January 1990, dealing with the scale of Vanbrugh’s gardens, and in particular the great Castle Howard parterre, his fortified Blenheim parterre, and Eastbury as an evocation of Prancester, where the portico of the Belvedere was astonishingly the height of the Pantheon’s. This reviewer also refers to the pregnant fact of Lord Carlisle’s friendship with that great authority on Roman gardens, Sir William Temple. There is one error that needs correcting in Judith Roberts’s article on Zwitser: the Duke of Chandos’s garden, his favourite, was not Sion Hill, Bath but Sion Hill, Islworth, across the road from Syon House.

USHER GALLERY, Peter De Wint, 1784-1849; [edited by Richard Wood and Rosalyn Thomas]. Lincolnshire County Council, [1990]. 47pp. ISBN 0 86111 221 0. £4.95 pbk, postage extra.

This delightful booklet shows us how fine a collection is in Lincoln of the painting and drawings of the well-loved artist, who devoted so much of his talent to the depiction of the county’s landscape. The catalogue describes 165 works plus a small group of engravings, listed in catalogue number order of the whole Usher collection; brief details are given of title, donor, where exhibited and any inscriptions. Unless the work has a date in its title, there is no attempt to assign dates here. Thirty-four pictures are illustrated in good quality colour. A bibliography would have been an aid to further study but this is not intended to be a full scholarly work.

As a souvenir of the visits the collection deserves and a stimulus for all art students, it represents excellent value.

This is another excellent small book from Shire Publications, written by an author with real expertise and experience in the subject. A conveniently sized paperback, it traces the history of the use of water and wind power in Britain from the Roman period to the present day, with a concluding chapter on preservation. The early chapters are particularly useful as a summary of the most recent findings from both excavation and research into the history of the subject.

Whilst a large part of the text is inevitably devoted to corn-milling, there are good descriptions and illustrations of all types of uses for water and wind power, from medieval flax mills to gunpowder mills and water powered forges. There is also clear information about the technological developments of milling machinery. The book is well illustrated with both drawings and photographs, and has a useful bibliography and lists of mills to visit.

Catherine Wilson


This nicely produced booklet will be of interest to all who make visits to churches part of their county-wide tours. A succinct but informative essay by Charles Knightly shows how the appearance of present day churches is not 'timeless' but has evolved through a variety of architectural and doctrinal influences, what we see today is largely of styles often overlaid by changes derived from Victorian taste. A gazetteer of 50 churches, not all of which incidentally, follows with entries from a variety of penmen. These are brief but useful and accompanied by colour photographs (several are of lesser technical quality). A final map and index will help the user find most of the examples cited but the index misses out quite a few references, especially to the illustrations used in the main essay. Still a very useful piece of work and attractively priced.

*From Boston (Britain in Old Photographs)*

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Recently published books


HILL, P. R. editor. Wigford: historic Lincoln south of the river. Survey of Lincoln Project, c/o City Hall, Lincoln LN1 1DF. 2000. 32pp. ISBN 0 9538650 0 2. £3 pbk.

HINTON, David A. A smith in Lindsey: the Anglo-Saxon grave at Tattershall Thorpe, Lincolnshire. Society for Medieval Archaeology, c/o Maney Publishing, Hudson Road, Leeds LS9 7DL.

JONES, Michael J. editor. The defences of the lower city: excavations at The Park and West Parade 1970-2 and a discussion of other sites excavated up to 1994 by Christina Colyer, Brian J. J. Gilmore and Michael J. Jones ... Council for British Archaeology for the City of Lincoln Archaeology Unit, 1999, xvii, 277pp. (The Archaeology of Lincoln, Vol. VII-2). ISBN 1 872414 88 5. £36 pbk post free from CBA, 111 Walmsgate, York YO1 9WA.


It is not our usual policy to review fiction; however, Andrea Barrett's The Voyage of the Narwhal may be of special interest since it concerns itself initially with a search for the explorer John Franklin and his Arctic expedition. (Flammarion, £6.99 pbk. ISBN 0 006 55141 0).

By an unfortunate oversight the reviewer of Verdon Willoughby's The errant boy who went to sea (Richard Kay, £10) did not receive credit in our last issue. My thanks were due to Russell Holloowood of the National Fishing Heritage Centre in Grimsby.

Ray Carroll, reviews editor