LINCOLNSHIRE
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Lincolnshire Past & Present Editors: Hilary Healey, Ros Beavers
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The deadline for contributions to the next Bulletin and the Spring issue of Lincolnshire Past & Present is 20 February 2001. Material should be sent to the Joint Editors at Lees’ 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: ‘Coming Home’ Ruston steam traction engines at ABB Aistom Power (UK) in October 2000
Welcome to the 42nd edition of *Lincolnshire Past & Present* and a happy and prosperous 2001 to all our readers. Last year brought us the wettest November on record as well as a nearly-white Christmas, hopes of a new City and County Museum and the Queen at the Cathedral on Maundy Thursday (but no lord mayor for Lincoln — yet), new development plans for Boston and for Grantham, and the promotion of Boston United FC into the Nationwide Football Conference. We have enjoyed the festival of ‘Made in Lincoln’ — many thanks to all involved, and there have been a great many new books published as, once again, our large Bookshelf section shows! This year will see the long-awaited duelling of the A46 and work will begin on restoring Vulcan Bomber XH558, which left RAF Waddington in 1993. In February the Red Arrows will complete their move back to RAF Scampton, which has been saved from closure. Unfortunately, despite the best efforts of the Society, the Belfast truss former aircraft hangar at Bracebridge Heath has not been saved, but on the whole, this does seem fair and not as depressing as one might at first think (see Stewart Squires’ article on page 10).

For those who enjoyed the article on the late Ethel Rudkin in the last issue, there is more about her in this one, including photographs of Mrs Rudkin and of her archaeological sketches. Indeed the north of the county is well represented, with an account of the Brackenbury Memorial Lectures that may well persuade those ‘southerners’ who have not yet been to any to attend the next one. We have an interesting ‘Notes and Queries’ section as ever, and move out of the county to Oxfordshire with a family connection.

On a personal level, in the course of having alterations made to our house in Lincoln we learned that it was built in the 1880s and not in 1900 as we first thought, and also that the remains of a stone wall under our brick-built back-yard wall was possibly part of the St Catherine’s Priory property. We managed rather hurriedly to put some 2000 material into a time capsule that the builders hid in the roof of the extension. This included a copy of the *Lincolnshire Echo*, a Lincoln City FC match programme and one of a production of *A Midsummer Night’s Dream*, some local tourist information leaflets and pictures of the house, the area and family members. The building foreman told me that he had secreted, walled-up or buried capsules for other clients, including an extremely well presented one for a public house, so local historians should find much to interest them among the city’s future demolition sites.

*Ros Bevers (Joint Editor)*

Errata:

**Obituary — Bryan Nunnington** — The late Mr Nunnington’s initials were O. B. not C. B. *(Lincolnshire Past & Present 41 p16)*.

**Anglo-Saxon cruciform brooches found at Sleaford** — *Lincolnshire Past & Present 41 p14* — under the illustration, ‘described as Aberg Group III…’ should continue ‘Dated as late 6th/early 7th C’.
Sex, Self-censorship and the Anglo-Saxonist

Baldwin Brown's 'sheela' at Great Hale

Paul Everson and David Stocker

The Corpus of Anglo-Saxon Stone Sculpture Volume 5: Lincolnshire was finally published in 1999. Undertaken as a sort of scholarly hobby, it was the product of approaching twenty years' study and fieldwork in the churches of the county and its neighbours, which took us into many curious nooks and corners where early stones had been tucked away or reused for purposes unrelated to their origin. None of these pieces of exploration was more quickly than the last, however, undertaken in early December 1998. In the end it clarified a minor point in the Corpus itself, and it added substance to a note for a national journal. But it also gave us a revealing glimpse of the working methods and thought-processes of one eminent scholar working on Anglo-Saxon Lincolnshire a century ago. We are hoping to share these insights in particular in the present note.

Our last-minute researches at St John the Baptist's church at Great Hale were prompted by our initial conviction that we could see the outline of a human figure etched into the weathered surface of the stone forming the left-hand jamb of the window facing south and lighting the ground floor of the tower (Fig 1). Reused in this way, in a tower dating probably from the period 1100-1220, any such figure would almost certainly be of pre-Conquest date, and the flat style of carving tended to confirm that this was potentially an important discovery of Anglo-Saxon figure sculpture, in a county where such images are extremely rare. Exceptional photographs of this sculpture, taken for us by Dr Derek Craig of Durham University, seemed to confirm our suspicion that the mysterious figure represented the Virgin Mary and came from a very large late pre-Conquest 'rood' or crucifixion scene. In itself this was an important discovery, since pre-Conquest sculpted roods are rare even nationally (only 10 others are known). They are normally located over the entrance doorway to the contemporary church or over the chancel arch, and they usually suggest some special status for the church in which they sit. The question for us at Great Hale was had anyone seen...
it before? It transpired that, although he had not published his discovery, Professor Gerald Baldwin Brown, the eminent architectural historian and early authority on Anglo-Saxon antiquities, had indeed made a record of the Great Hale figure in a sketch and a note in his field notebook for 1896. We were used to following in this great man's footsteps and it came as no surprise to find that he, too, had seen the shadowy figure at St John's. Initially this was a disappointment, since it is always satisfying to be the first to make such a discovery, but disappointment gave way to curiosity when we found that, in the same notebook, Baldwin Brown had sketched a second carved figure at Great Hale (Fig. 3), noting its location in the interior arch of the western double door. How did Baldwin Brown ever spot it in the darkness, without even knowing where to look? The answer to this question, at least, became clear when we found the two fine architect's plans relating to the restoration of the church still hanging in the vestry. They were signed by the famous Durham architect Charles Hodgson Fowler (sometime an architect to Lincoln Diocese) and, our newly discovered Virgin? Surprisingly perhaps, it is possible to link such blatantly profane images with depictions of utmost moral seriousness, but even so, we felt it would be stretching credulity to suggest that, in this case,
the carving might have formed part of a pre-Conquest rood. But that does not matter overmuch; this second Great Hale sculpture has great interest in its own right as a sheela-na-gig.

We were particularly interested in Baldwin Brown’s attitude to the carving. He was normally among the most acute and most reliable of observers and recorders of early architecture and sculpture, and his assessment of the details of the distinctive Lincolnshire church towers sometimes described as ‘Anglo-Saxon’, is still the best available despite many more recent attempts to supersede his work. But despite the comparatively comfortable circumstances in which we think he saw the stone, Baldwin Brown’s sketch only resembles the stone itself in the most general terms. It is true that he records no opinion about its date or function; but his sketch quite clearly shows a naked male, and it is drawn in such a way that our initial assessment when gathering material for the Corpus was that it must be Roman. Since no one had ever suggested an Anglo-Saxon date, it had no place in that publication. However, it now seems that, when he saw the Great Hale sheela in 1896, Brown went into a state of denial, allowing his preconceptions to cloud his judgement.

Either consciously or unconsciously, his response to the sculpture was evidently based on a personal repugnance amounting to prudery, and the subtle alterations to the figure’s posture and features in his sketch convert the exhibitionist woman into something more like the classical naked male deity for which we had mistaken it (compare figures 3 and 4). Brown was a capable amateur artist. Because his drawings of architectural details — and the published engravings based on them — are usually remarkably accurate, his misrepresentation of the Great Hale piece in his notes was all the more unexpected. In fact, further research showed that it was not just the Great Hale sheela that he attempted to suppress; it is reported that he did not believe in the existence of sheelas in Britain at all.13 Sheela-na-gigs are, in England at least, a later medieval phenomenon, reliably dating only from the 12th century onwards. The Great Hale example, however, is re-cut for reuse in the interior head of the tower’s western double belfry opening, forming the springing of both arch heads, and resting on the through-stone impost. The tower is one of a group with distinctive architectural features, such as double belfry openings, sometimes described as ‘Anglo-Saxon’. The capital forms are all compound types, and they suggest a construction around 1100 or rather later.14 So, reused in the tower, at first sight it might be argued that the sheela was actually of pre-Conquest date — and therefore it would be the earliest securely dated example in Britain. Baldwin Brown may have also had this point in mind when he favoured a classical, male appearance for the figure in his drawing.

Unfortunately for this theory, however, the interior fabric of the western belfry wall clearly shows that the upper parts of the double opening have been taken apart and rebuilt. Some of the original stone has been reused, but new materials have also been introduced. Thus, while the lower jamb on both sides are good ashlar, the upper jambs are a confection of stones and, on the south side, entirely rubble. In the heads of the openings, a single original stone is reused on each side, the sheela occupies the centre, and the spacers are boleched — to the south with an outsized stone forming a sort of gigantic keystones and rubble packing, to the north with a wedge of rubble. We have no date for this reconstruction work. It could be of late medieval date, when the tower was adapted for change ringing, or it could belong to a phase of post-medieval repair. It could even be part of restoration works undertaken between 1825 and 1827. In any event, it clearly postdates the tower’s construction and, consequently, it suggests a more conventional later medieval date for the sheela itself.

We cannot tell where the sheela might have been set originally within the church, but by the time it was reused in the belfry we can suggest that it had become unacceptable to contemporary — and
perhaps particularly official - sensitivities; its original rationale was either lost or had become offensive to puritan mind-sets. Yet, when reset in its present obscure location, the carved face was trimmed back, but not obliterated. Furthermore, this face was not turned into the wall core but permitted to remain visible to those who knew where to look. We can guess at various motivations that may lie behind this deliberate, subversive, secreted provision in this inaccessible spot. Was it, for example, a reluctance to abandon completely a traditional, perhaps popular, feature of this church's ancient decoration? Was it, perhaps, a piece of mischief by a churchwarden or a joke by the masons? Or might it even have been hidden away for the utilisation of those prudently privy to the secret? All of these possibilities nicely demonstrate a vital, popular and unofficial culture operating in parallel to, and in defiance of, contemporary official propriety.

As the recent book by Weir and Jerman has conveniently reasserted, 'sheela-na-gigs' and related medieval carvings with sexual content can form items for serious study, illustrating as they do otherwise inaccessible aspects of popular culture. As subject matter they have been neglected, perhaps often through a similar sensitivity to such subject matter as felt even by such great scholars as Baldwin Brown. If formal publications are to be believed, few sheelas have been recorded in Lincolnshire, although Betty Kirkham discussed a group of related sculptures at Huttoft church in 1989. Enthusiastic searching would probably reveal many more examples, as at Great Hale. But it is often not their mere presence that is of interest; rather, we need to 'read' them in their context and understand how they have been viewed at different moments in the past and by different classes of people. Such context is often of great interest, and it deserves our full attention because it can repay careful thought handsomely.

**DETAILS OF ILLUSTRATIONS**

Fig 1 Newly discovered figure of St Mary the Virgin from a major Anglo-Saxon rood, reused in the south window of the tower at St John's, Great Hale. (Photograph by Derek Craig, Copyright University of Durham)

Fig 2 St John the Baptist at Great Hale from the south-east. (Anonymous engraving from a drawing by either Edward Trollope or Charles Terrot, published in Trollope's Sleaford and the Wapentake of Foxwell and Aswardham, London and Sleaford 1872, facing p. 371)

Fig 3 Sketch made by G. Baldwin Brown in 1896 of a sheela-na-gig reused in the internal spandrel of the western double bellfry opening at St John's, Great Hale. (Copyright Edinburgh University Library)

Fig 4 Photograph of the sheела-na-gig at St John's, Great Hale taken in 1998. (Photograph by Paul Everson, Copyright Paul Everson).

**NOTES**

1 P Everson and D. Stocker, Corpus of Anglo-Saxon Stone Sculpture Volume 5: Lincolnshire, British Academy, 1999

2 P. Everson and D. Stocker, 'A newly identified figure of the Virgin from a late Anglo-Saxon rood at Great Hale, Lincolnshire', Antiquaries Journal, 81, 2000

3 B. Yorke, Bishop Athelwold: his career and influence, Woodbridge, 1988, 161-93

4 Brown was the first and long-time incumbent (1880-1930) of the Watson Gordon Chair of Fine Art in Edinburgh University. His most important publication was the series of six volumes called The Arts in Early England, published between 1903 and 1937. After his death in 1932, his notes and papers were deposited in Edinburgh University Library, Special Collections. The 1896 notebook is MS Gen. 1924/42, and the Great Hale Virgin is at f. 30.

5 Edinburgh University Library, Special Collections, MS Gen. 1924/62, f. 32.

6 For details see D.A. Stocker and P. Everson, The Early Romanesque Tower in Lincolnshire. A study in architectural symbolism, Oxbow forthcoming.

7 A. Weir and J. Jerman, Images of Lust: sexual carvings on medieval churches, Routledge, 1986. For direct analogies for the iconography of the Great Hale figure, see especially chapter 2, figs 2a-b.

8 Ibid, fig 62.


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From the 1801 survey of Lord Harrowby's estate at Digby...

The Farm rented by Robert Key consists of a small and very bad house with two Rooms and a Dairy on the ground floor, and two Bedchambers, all of which is getting old, the Walls cracking and in bad repair. It is recommended not to keep this house up, as it stands under Flood mark and the ground floor is under water almost every Winter for some weeks — but to build another in the Estate at Billinghay.
More than an antiquary
Ethel Rudkin remembered

Flora Murray

It was a pleasure to read Mrs Eileen Elder's tribute to Mrs Ethel Rudkin in the last issue of *Lincolnshire Past & Present* and to learn that thanks to Mr Bob Facey and Mrs Elder, Mrs Rudkin's papers are safely housed and accessible. No doubt the article will have roused many happy memories in those who knew Mrs Rudkin. In my own case I met her on my first day in my first job in 1935, when I started as an administrative assistant at the office of the then Lindsey Rural Community Council in Silver Street in Lincoln. It was the Secretary of the RCC, Major North Coates, who brought the Lindsey Local History Society into being in 1930. From the beginning he had the support of Mrs Rudkin, who shouldered the responsibility of publicising the need to collect and safeguard 'bygones' and to work towards a county folk museum.

During the early years the Society mounted exhibitions on the RCC's stands at the county and local agricultural shows, at which Mrs Rudkin presided, where bygones were displayed and which attracted both town and country visitors - the latter often bearing gifts of their own treasures to give to 'The Lady' with whom they associated a love for local history and local life similar to their
In the beginning a rapidly growing collection was housed by Mrs Rudkin, but when it outgrew her she arranged for the hire of a barn, at a peppercorn rent, from the late Mr Clifford Nicholson at Willoughton, which served admirably. Later on she also stored farm tools in the disused windmill at Toynaton All Saints.

The late Mr and Mrs Harold Brace were working to rescue the Old Hall at Gainsborough at the time and Mrs Rudkin advised and lent bygones for their displays. How she would delight in the Old Hall's present blossoming.

The Museum of English Rural Life at Reading was partly based on Mrs Rudkin's work at the Lincolnshire shows, for her fame spread and led to a County Show visit from Reading's first curator to see her exhibition and pick her brains for the benefit of the Reading Museum, a fact to which he always paid tribute. Similarly, as Mrs Elder has written, Mrs Rudkin's work and collection led to our own Museum of Lincolnshire Life, via help from the Lincolnshire Association formed by the late Captain Jeremy Elwes at its Headquarters in the former Sobraon Barracks in Lincoln. On the day I first met Mrs Rudkin, fresh from my lodgings in Minster Yard and at sea in a new world, it was delightful to meet such a heart-warming visitor, who had climbed up to our top floor and showed a genuine interest in and natural kindness to 'the new girl'. From this meeting developed a long friendship.

Thinking of 'Peter' I think also of her parents, for whose sake she gave up the prospect of a second marriage; of Lucy, their housekeeper, whom she adopted until Lucy's death; and of Leo, her beloved dog companion of later years.

As Mrs Elder has written, Mrs Rudkin shared her interests and unique knowledge with everyone who approached her, whether young or old, academic or amateur, knowledgeable or ignorant.

Such help was always inspired by her own youthful spirit and unflagging enthusiasm, but her approach was always underpinned by a humility and simplicity that made her doubly attractive. Truly Ethel Rudkin is a Lincolnshire Worthy.

Archaeological drawings made by Ethel Rudkin in the 1930s
The Brackenbury Memorial Lectures

Jim English

John Wesley recorded in his journal for 5 July, 1779, I preached about eleven at Langham Row. In the afternoon we went to Raithby. It is a small village on the top of a hill. The shell of Mr. Brackenbury’s house was just finished, near which he has built a small chapel. It was quickly filled with deeply serious hearers. I was much comforted among them, and could not but observe, while the landlord and his tenants were standing together, how "Love, like death, makes all distinctions void."

On 5 July, 1979, the Rev Dr John A. Newton came to Raithby to preach at the 200th Chapel Anniversary and Terence Leach had the brilliant idea of inaugurating an annual lecture at Raithby Chapel. He persuaded the Society for Lincolnshire History & Archaeology, the Tennyson Society, the Lincolnshire Methodist History Society and the local Methodist Circuit to support the venture, proceeds of which were to be devoted to the upkeep of the chapel. The first lectures were held in the evenings of the 5th of July but this was found to be not always convenient and in 1984 they were switched to the afternoons of the second Saturdays of July to provide a more fixed time. Members of the Brackenbury family have often been in the audience and in 1983 Charles Brackenbury was the lecturer.

Terence himself gave the first lecture, 'The Writers of Spilsbyhire' and the intention was to have them on a rota of local history, Methodist and Tennyson subjects (although this was not always maintained) and looking at the list of lecturers and their subjects one sees why the Brackenbury Lectures have become an important item on so many people’s calendars. The speakers have ranged from university professors to well-known local historians (using the term in the widest sense), all experts in their subjects which have been wide-ranging and varied as can be seen from the list given below.

At one of the early lectures Brenda Webster miraculously produced tea from the boot of her car, and members of the SLHA Local History Committee provided plum bread, scenes etc, and this practice continued until the ladies of the Spilsby Methodist Circuit began to provide teas in the old school at Raithby.

Attendances at the lectures have obviously varied but usually fifty or sixty (sometimes even more) people have made the journey to Raithby; some are regular visitors, others come because of the subject, but all seem to enjoy their afternoon in the country and the quiet calm of this, the oldest Methodist chapel in the county still in use.

In 2000 we reached the twenty-first lecture and it is fitting that the lecturer was the Rev Dr John Newton. He spoke on Sir Henry Lunn (1859-1939), the Horncastle-born eminent Methodist and pioneer ecumenist and founder of the Lunn Travel Agency, and this was a fitting occasion as John Newton is himself Lincolnshire-born, an eminent Methodist leader and educationalist and a past-president of the Methodist Conference. Over sixty people came to hear him and many went on to enjoy tea which this year was served in the Methodist Church schoolroom at Spilsby.

Like many of Terence Leach’s projects the Brackenbury Lectures were basically organised by a committee-of-one and since his death I have carried on in similar fashion with help from the societies in suggesting possible names and subjects for the lectures. The standards set in previous years were more than maintained by this year’s lecture and it is hoped that they will long continue to commemorate not only Robert Carr Brackenbury but also Terence Leach whose idea they were and who held Raithby, its chapel, and its builder Robert Carr Brackenbury so close to his heart. It was to him, as it was to John Wesley, "...an earthly paradise."

THE BRACKENBURY MEMORIAL LECTURES
1980-2000

1980 Terence Leach
The Writers of Spilsbyshire

1981 David Robinson
The Dreams of John Parkinson, the founder of New Bolingbroke and the "accidental" founder of Woodhall Spa

1982 Christopher Sturman
The Rev John Rashdall, Curate of Orby

1983 Charles Brackenbury
The Brackenbury family

1984 Rod Ambler
Churches and chapels in the local community: religious life in Raithby and district in the 19th century

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Belfast truss hangar at Bracebridge Heath

Stewart Squires

The hopes of SLHA that this First World War former aircraft hangar would be saved have been dashed. On 21 November 2000 North Kesteven District Council decided they would give permission for its demolition. The history of the building, together with the grounds of the Society’s objection, was the subject of an article in the Autumn edition of Lincolnshire Past & Present. The building was listed Grade II, and because of this English Heritage were closely involved. They had the owners’ structural report checked out by their own structural engineer and quantity surveyor and concluded that the information was factually correct.

English Heritage also reviewed the listing of the hangar in the light of the results of their thematic national review of airfields and their buildings. From this they identified surviving Belfast truss buildings; the survivors were then assessed to identify exceptional examples and these were also looked at in the context of surviving airfield landscapes.

The conclusion was that the Bracebridge Heath hangar warranted listed building designation. However, its special interest is reduced by its setting, having lost its airfield connection. Its only unique feature is that it is of three bays. This on its own does not add anything extra about what is known of the details of construction or use of such buildings.

Finally, the issue of additional funding to help save the building was looked at. Negative answers came from the Heritage Lottery Fund and the East Midlands Development Agency. In addition, it is not in any target category for English Heritage funding. Before a decision was taken an English Heritage committee considered all these facts and concluded that to save this building was not a practical proposition. No objection is to be raised to the District Council’s decision to allow it to be demolished.

Efforts were also made to determine whether the building could be found a new home on a new site. Thirty-five museums and aviation societies nationwide were circulated with the details, without success.

Our only consolation can be that all those concerns that we raised in our letter of objection were taken notice of. As a result of that much more is known about Belfast trusses on a national basis, and steps are being taken to secure their future. Despite the disappointing result we should not overlook this and not be put off from being involved in such proposals in future.
A Willoughby connection in Oxfordshire

Hilary Healey

Mrs Margaret Lee, of Wheatley, near Oxford, corresponds regularly with reminiscences of Lincolnshire (readers may remember her memories of Ancaster in Lincs P&P 23). She does not get up to Lincolnshire much these days, but last year I found myself in a village close to Wheatley and called on her unexpectedly. It was her husband's birthday, and I arrived without any prior warning, but they made me most welcome. Her latest letter tells of a recent excursion looking at local churches, finding some of them locked, and what followed. Now read on...

'So when I read that the Rycote Chapel, near Thame, was open at the weekend, we had to go. It is a delightful place, consecrated in 1449 with a chancel of 3 priests, and in parkland that formerly contained a great house, burnt down in 1745, though part remained and was used as a farmhouse until restored as a 'gentleman's residence' about 70-80 years ago.

'At one time the Rycote estate belonged to the Earls of Abingdon, whose surname was Bertie, and in the chancel of the chapel is a memorial to James Bertie, first Earl of Abingdon, and his wife, which was erected by one of his successors nearly 100 years after his death. What was intriguing about this monument was the Lincolnshire connection, which English Heritage who wrote the official booklet, did not appear conscious of. 'To quote the booklet, “At the base of the monument is a further coat of arms with eight quarterings supported on one side by a robed figure and on the other by an almost naked bearded man.” And the name of the Earl of Abingdon who had erected this memorial to his predecessor was Willoughby Bertie.

'Now a year before, I had been in Spilsby church and had photographed that wonderful monument in the Willoughby chapel, to Richard Bertie and his wife, the Willoughby d'Emesby heiress, with the hermit on one side and the wild man on the other, so although the figures on the Rycote monument were smooth and classical, I did recognise them as belonging to the Willoughby d'Emesby family coat of arms. A little research revealed that the Earls of Abingdon had common Bertie ancestry, so both descended from the Willoughby d'Emesbys.

'I rather like the idea of the Willoughby 'wild man' coming down to Oxfordshire. I don't think many noble families incorporated him in their coat of arms unless they had connections with the Willoughby family. I always think of him as a pagan survival - there is a lovely one in an old wooden carving inside an inn at Long Melford, but most books describe him as a 'woodsman' and equate him with a forester. Maybe he is a source of mischief - after all, the great house at Spilsby burnt down in 1769.

'I must say I was rather surprised that the author of the booklet written for English Heritage seemed not to recognise the significance of the sculpted robed figure and his scantily clad companion. I did point it out to the chap in the kiosk, so I hope he passed on the information.'

I am sure this connection is well known to students of Ancaster family. There are, of course, some splendid and varied interpretations, from the 'primitive' to the sophisticated, of the wild man at Grinsholm Park, itself, in a variety of media. I think when I was first there many years ago we were told that the wild man was the Saracen. This was a confusion with the Saracen's head that appears as the crest. We were also told that the robed figure was a monk, presumably associating it with Vauxey Abbey in Grinsholm Park. I have not looked up the correct heraldic terms, but I recall that the late David Roberts, architectural historian, used to call the wild man a 'woodwose'. There is a modern surname Woodwiss, which presumably also has a connection.

We would like to hear of more readers' discoveries whilst in other parts of the country - or world - as long as they have a Lincolnshire connection of course! Eds.
42.1 Monkey astride the ridge  This piece is from ‘Our County Magazine’ 1885, circulated amongst the Congregational Union for Lincolnshire. It was handed to our Lincolnshire Family History Society members recently. What was the monkey astride the ridge? Have you heard of him? I have no doubt it was a facetious way of referring to further repairs, but I am intrigued! The book is destined for Sleaford Library via Simon Pawley. I have photocopied all the local items for the LFHS library.

Ruth Tinley

BICKER
A most happy meeting has been held recently at Bicker. The good friends have completely renovated the interior of the chapel, and now they are making a laudable endeavour to remove the monkey which sits astride the ridge. This meeting was for that purpose. We are glad to announce that, despite the bad trade and a few crackers, Mr Monkey received a number of sore ribs, but for all that he sticks—and will only be removed by a continual application of the old remedy.

42.2 George Frederick Devaliant MC

I was surprised that Rosalind Boyce could not track down the meaning of ROD (note 8 to the above article). On the other hand, she may not have (steam) train spotters amongst her family or friends, who would soon have enlightened her!

ROD was the Railway Operating Division of the Royal Engineers. Train-spotters of the post-war era (1950s in my case) in both the Eastern and Western Regions were familiar with locomotives designed by John Robinson of the Great Central Railway in 1911 and familiarly known as ‘rods’. They were heavy freight locomotives, always slow moving and always on heavy trains, mainly coal. Essentially they were much enlarged versions of Stephenson’s Rocket, a very simple and rugged design.

Altogether 666 engines were built, of these no fewer than 521 were built for the Government between 1918 and 1919. By 1948 at railway nationalisation, the Western Region had 45 of the 100 originally purchased from ROD (complete with Great Western safety valve covers) and they lasted until about 1958. On the Eastern Region the original 403 had been reduced to 329 by 1948 (these locomotives remaining in Egypt after service in the area during the Second World War—ie the second time the class had been used for war purposes); the last did not disappear until 1966, ie at the end of the steam era. There are preserved examples in England and Australia.

An excellent guide to the ‘rods’ is Haresnape and Rowledge, Robinson Locomotives: a pictorial history (Ian Allen 1982), which includes pictures of wartime service. Other locomotives were of course used by ROD during the First World War, but only the Robinson 2-8-0s (LNER Class 04) kept the name alive.

M. J. Turland

42.3 Plaster Plaques

(N&Q 41.1) Miss Flora Murray passed on to me a query about some plaster plaques. Over the years I have collected a number of these. They were made by the Osborne factory in Faversham, Kent, until 1964. Some of the moulds were sold to a Cheshire company, Bosson’s. But I don’t think they are made any longer. I have some dating back to 1903 and 1904. They all have a small ‘OA’ somewhere. I hope this is of some help.

G. Woodrow

42.4 Terah Hooley Terance Leach in Lost Lincolnshire Country Houses Part 1, under Sudbrooke Holme and Temple Belwood, mentions Terah Hooley who is described as ‘the swindler who after a life full of incident went to prison’. I cannot find anything anywhere about this person. Can anyone help, please?

John R. Ketteringham

notes
42.5 Counting Sheep (N&Q 41.3) As quoted by Henry Betts in his *Nursery Rhymes and Tales, their origin and history*, 1924, the complete Lincolnshire Shepherd's Score is as follows:

Yan, tan, tehera, pethera, piump
Sethera, lethera, hovera, covera, dik
Yan-a-dik, tan-a-dik, tehera-dik, pethera-dik, bumfit
Yan-a-bumfit, tan-a-bumfit, tehera-bumfit, pethera-bumfit, figgit.

After that you notch your tally stick and start again. The grouping into fives, of course, is to correspond with the fingers.

At least 60 versions of the Shepherd's Score have been recorded from various regions, but above is the traditional Lincolnshire version. The numerals are said to be of prehistoric Celtic origin, rather than Scandinavian as you suggest, and Betts points out that they also survive in Welsh (ignorance prevents me from commenting) and in numerous children's counting-out rhymes of the eeny meeny miny mo variety. The familiar Hickory Dickory Dock is clearly cognate with, or derived from, Hovera Covera Dik.

*Peter Ryeke*

*And to compare ...*

R. Mac G. Aitken has sent in the rhyme his mother told his children in the 1950s. She must have learnt it in Edinburgh in about 1900.

Eenty Teenty
Heathery Bethery
Barn-a-Leary
Over Dover
Ink Ell
Roman Ell
Am Tam Touche

42.6 Betjeman's Lincolnshire church A brief addition to the Rev Michael Wright's article on 'Betjeman's Lincolnshire church' (*LP&P* No41 p11) may interest some readers. At the time of the Rev Theophilus Caleb's death I was rector of Mablethorpe. He had invited me to preach at a Harvest Festival service at Huttoft Church. After the service he said, 'I am sorry I cannot ask you in to supper, but my wife is ill...'. He too looked far from well. A few days later my wife, our daughter Sara, less than two years old, and I walked up a muddy track to the vicarage to enquire after the old couple. We entered the kitchen where a coke stove gave off both heat and dust. Mr Caleb was lying on a couch. He spoke little but moaned on giving Sara half a crown. He died that night. When I visited Mrs Caleb she told me that her husband loved children and that Sara had made his last hours happy. After Mrs Caleb's own death we learned that she had left Sara a legacy that was generous.

*Rev J. E. Swaby*

42.7 Samson (or Sampson) Meanwell I was interested in Angela Auger's article (*Lines LP&P* 41, p11) as examples of surviving legible early 18th century stones are not particularly plentiful in Lincolnshire. I am sure she has answered her own question and that the headstone was removed from Goulceby.

*Hilary Healey*
SHIPWRECKS

and school attendance

Evidence from the log books of North Somercotes Parochial School 1867-1899.
Compiled by Rex C. Russell

1867 - 14 March ...A ship ashore caused a thin attendance.

1869 - 19 October Very stormy. 9 or 10 ships came ashore and many of the sailors drowned. Very few children in school.

1871 - 13 February Several boys absent being occupied on the sea shore with gathering coal, corn, etc. from wrecked vessels.

1874 - December Many references to ships coming ashore and reducing attendance.
1878 – 28 October ... A smack ashore. Five sailors washed ashore in the morning. Boys always stay away from school on such occasions as this.

1878 – 9 November ... A ship with 400 tons of Ice (brig Matilda) came ashore – 10 men saved by the Life-Boat.

1882 – 6 December ... A wretched morning – only 48 present. [Out of 175]. A brig ashore on the Hales – suddenly disappeared – all hands drowned – above 20. The shore strewn with bags and wreckage. Many children absent from school on this account ...

1884 – 21 November ... A ship ashore during the previous night. Three horses drowned in sending out the Life-boat. – a thin school today ...

1888 – 7 January ... Several boys have gone down to the sea to a smack which is ashore laden with fish. Some boys this forenoon had had fish given to them so others have gone this afternoon.

1889 – 5 June ... A new Life Boat is launched this morning – only 91 present at school.

1895 – 4 January ... 100 present this morning – several boys away at sea at the wrecks picking up what they can find.

1899 – 19 June ... All the children from Donna Nook went home at noon as there was a Rocket practice.
The Louth imps

J. E. Swaby

Many of my Louth memories come from the time when, for almost seven years, I served under Canon H. P. W. Burton, an able man who was not sufficiently appreciated by the hierarchy of the Church of England.

Work began on restoring the spire of the Parish Church in 1937. It was entrusted to F. W. Bowman and Sons of Stamford. The Clerk of Works was Mr R. S. Godfrey, who had done such splendid work on Lincoln Cathedral. The estimated cost was £5,000, which was a large sum in those days. The appeal, launched in October 1936, coincided with the 400th anniversary of the Louth Rebellion (I prefer the name ‘Pilgrimage of Grace’ as the men involved were not really rebels at heart).

They acted because of rumours that the parish churches would be depopulated as some of the monasteries had been. In a sermon at Evensong on that appeal Sunday I likened their march on Lincoln to those of the unemployed in and from the North East of England in our time.

But I added that in 1536 such protest meant crossing the will of the autocratic Henry VIII, gallows in the market place, and a vicar down for a cruel death.

The spark that kindled the fire was the call of Thomas Foster on the faithful Sunday morning in 1536. He cried, ‘Masters, let us follow the crosses this day. God knows whether we shall ever hereafter or nay.’ I was mildly amused to quote these words, for in the congregation was another Thomas Foster. He had been my housemaster when I was a boarder at the Grammar School, and I became godfather to his daughter, Deaphne.

The Poor Law Institution in Louth was in process of changing slowly from Workhouse into County Hospital. As a schoolboy I had preached my first sermon in the Workhouse chapel. By 1936 what was then called the New Block had been built. I had taken a service there on that October morning. I told them that they would see scaffolding from their windows and spoke about the spire. When I finished, Miss Robinson, a good Methodist, called me to her bedside and put a shilling in my hand. The old age pension was 10 shillings a week; of this the inmates or patients kept just a shilling. This was one of the first contributions to the spire appeal fund.

My first climb on ladders through the scaffolding was made when they were not far short of the top of the spire. I was accompanied by Mr Arthur Ingram, a local builder, and Mr George Salisbury, Bowman’s foreman. Arthur had once climbed up on steeplejack’s ladders. The worst damage was on the north side and was partly caused by an unfortunate restoration in 1844, when the tower and spire had been struck by lightning. Hundreds of iron clamps had been used and these had rusted and eaten into the stonework. In some cases they had gone so deep that we should not have noticed them if Mr Salisbury had not pointed them out. Few realised that there was scaffolding inside as well as
outside the spire. That was necessary for the erection of a new needle post as the old one was rotten. It was replaced by one of oak and teak, and rustless delta bronze was used for strengthening.

Ascending the ladders made it possible to photograph details not easily seen from the ground. Thus on each face of the tower there is an imp, which goes unnoticed because one does not think of looking for it. On 9 July 1937 at 2.30 pm the big bell in the tower boomed to announce that the weathercock was about to be replaced.

Two photographers from a national newspaper had come from Manchester for the occasion. They only went half way as there was a torrential downpour. Those who continued upwards were the Rector, his second daughter Barbarea, Mr Godfrey, Mr Salisbury, Mr J. P. Bowman, Mr Uzzell, representative of the Press, and myself. Miss Burton replaced the newly gilded bird on its perch. In the words of the Rector: "Then we were photographed, and a poor, sodden group we were, but that did not matter, for it was our ambition to look workmanlike rather than beautiful." This was the third cock to overlook the town. The first had begun as a basin which was part of the booty taken at the Battle of Flodden. It was bought in York and transformed in Lincoln.

The climax of the thanksgiving for the restoration was a broadcast in June 1938. The preacher was the Bishop of Lincoln. During his sermon some of us had a few anxious moments. The church did not yet have electric light and the Bishop had left his reading glasses at home, he resorted to a battery torch and lost his place in the script. There was what seemed to be a long silence while he found his place. The sermon was too long and part of the Blessing and the whole of Owen Price's organ voluntary were lost. It is good, however, to have some record of that sermon. Speaking of the completion of the spire in 1515 the Bishop said:

Out of ordinary things and ordinary life had sprung this temporal sign of things Eternal. So their spire, like the Bible, was girl round with beauty. So had sprung from the ordinary levels of existence that which preached the grace of God. To the people of Louth he would say, 'Look up at the Eternal Truth before you'; to others who knew no such spire, he wanted to say, 'Look up and lift up your heads for your redemption draweth nigh.'

The church was the link between the seen and unseen. The spire dwindling away from its foundations until lost in the sky, suggested a link with an unseen God.

In this picture, taken on the way down after the ceremony, are (left to right): Mr R. S. Godfrey, Canon Burton, Miss Burton, Mr Bowman Jr., the Rev. J. E. Swaby and Mr. Salisbury (foreman).
Two Norman fonts from near Grimsby

Here are two more Norman fonts drawn by the late Mr Eagles. Both are from the Grimsby area.

Holy Trinity Church, Clee

Externally this church appears largely Victorian, the result of James Fowler’s 1878 restoration, but with a Saxo-Norman to Perpendicular tower. Inside, however, is a complex building with some fine work and Early English features. The font is a simple tub shape, with a carved rope or cable band round the top.

St Peter, Holton Le Clay

Excavations in the 1970s changed previous ideas that this was a church retaining an 11th century plan, and it is now thought to be a 12th century nave with 16th century chancel. More details on this can be read in *Lincolnshire History & Archaeology* 17 (1972), pages 29-42. The tower partly overlies a late Saxon cemetery. The font is plain, but drum-shaped, ie with vertical sides, and the rope band is more incised than in relief. The same intersecting incised arches are puzzling, and are thought by some not to be of any age.
This section aims to list all new titles with as many short reviews as space permits. All reviews are by the Reviews Editor unless otherwise stated. The majority of these titles are obtainable from Jews’ Court bookshop, Sleep Hill, Lincoln.


This is a readable if discursive account of the writer's life and interests, including the occult, churches and cycling all over the English countryside. Although born in Pinchbeck the emphasis is strongly on East Anglia, nicely illustrated with Mr. Bevis’s own drawings.


Another parish history inspired by the Millennium and this gives every appearance of being a well-researched book. She points out the lack of documentary evidence for the early years but uses what there is to good advantage. The first section, on the River Witham, is somewhat daunting to read and difficult to take in unless one knows the area well. However, the reader should not let this prevent them from continuing.

The author presents the story of John Cartwright, who lived for a time at Butterwick, in an interesting manner and goes on to deal with the Gee family who gave generously to the area during their residence at Brotheroff Hall. The enclosure of the fen and its aftermath resulted in great bitterness and rioting and this is covered in some detail.

The history of the churches, chapels and schools is traced, the latter particularly well supported by photographs. Life in the villages throughout the two wars coupled with social changes in the twentieth century draw the story to a close. A further section of photographs, mainly of things no longer surviving, concludes this excellent, well thought out and presented book.

Pauline Napper, Boston.


This is an attractive little book with some beautiful stories from both older generations remembering the cart horse days and youngsters still at school planning to be tomorrow's farmers. The details of farming and the village community are simply written and read as the spoken word. There is, however, little contrast between children's vocabulary and that of their grandparents. Perhaps there had to be some over-editing. The book is well illustrated. The photographs cover village activity over most of the century with pleasing additions of sketches by present-day pupils. Some of the photographs have fully descriptive captions but others have little or none. Two photographs on page 37 ought to be dated and, if possible, the owners and makers of the machines named. In the long term these may be the only such record. A welcome addition to the text would have been an introduction to the background of the book, a little about the school today and headings to sections such as 'papit ten years old' and 'farmer 72 years old'. Names would have made this little volume an excellent record of Kirkby's past.

Pearl Wheatley, Lincoln.


LAWE, Kit and ROBINSON, Michael, editors. East Keal: the story of a village from prehistory to the present day. Marden Hill Press, Brickyard House, East Keal, Spilsby PE23 4HA, 141pp. ISBN 0 9538078 0 0 pbk; 0 9538078 1 9 pbk, which is £9, plus £2 p & p. for the pbk.

THURLBY HERITAGE. Lines in place and time: the River Glen.
Raskell's well-known maps showing 'before and after' enclosure changes. Thereafter the Ferraby and Willingham books take us through an array of photographs to give a varied picture of life in those places with the emphasis on the old ways before the introduction of new farming methods, mechanisation, altered living patterns (decline in church/chapel activity, fewer village sports teams and loss of village shops in all their old multiplicity). The Kecley book makes smaller claims but, nevertheless, with its excellent array of graphic material creates its own picture of how life was forty or more years ago; the compilers were lucky to have use of an archive of photographs assembled by a village, George Willerton; a collection of ephemera by Michael Dawkins has been raided to show old billheads and the prices paid for goods of all sorts (I suppose many villages once had saddle, harness and collar makers, for instance; such items contrast sharply with today's average till receipt). By using good quality art paper the quality of reproduction in all these cases is usually excellent. The use of brown type and tinted photographs gives the Ferraby book an air of earlier times but it is a little hard to read in places.

A more word-based approach has been adopted in the cases of the Utterby and Carlton villages books. Both are large format and use ordinary uncoated paper, the illustrations being incorporated with the text. The quality of the photographs is still of high standard; one suspects that where the results are less than ideal the quality was absent from the original, especially those taken from a newspaper. The Utterby volume represents a solid body of research work with lists of key dates, population figures and the continuity of trades, using county directories, etc. in large format and well produced with a wealth of illustration the emphasis is firmly on the twentieth century, only the first ten pages deal with earlier history and even those are largely Victorian. It does not purport to be an academic book but it serves its purpose well of recording both what there is in the village still - its church, school, clubs, houses and inhabitants - and what has now disappeared both socially as a way of life and older buildings.

The book on the Carltons is in a similarly large format and again, apart from a few pages on earlier periods, dives straight in to the last Victorian years and the twentieth century. A wide range of topics is covered - strong detail on local farms and farmers and the men who served in the wars (with fifteen portraits of men who died in the 1914-1918 conflict) — with shorter notes on church, chapel and school. Three large pictures of village groups taken in July 1999 bring the story up to the present time. It is of value to all from the area and those interested in the detail of people's former life styles.

Much shorter and less ambitious is the booklet on Thurby and the surrounding area, in fact the emphasis is highlighted by the subtitle and the village receives only passing mention. The approach is meandering in much the way of the river that forms the central feature. There is interesting personal reminiscence with good notes on the natural history with nicely drawn illustrations adding to the appeal. There are useful quotations from earlier writers but more questions arise than there are answers.

The final volume in this composite review is in a different league from the others. This study of the history and development of East Keal is well-researched, ordered and has a wealth of illustration - maps (some by Rex Russell), tables, pleasant drawings and photographs, a great number of which mirror the aerial view on the cover in being in colour and
accurately reproduced. A good deal of real research has resulted in a detailed view of the village’s earlier history with sections on the civil war, drainage of the fen, enclosures and the early turnpike roads and their usage. Plenty of pictures, ancient and modern, depict the many changes in farming methods and machinery, social life and sporting activity. Good use has been made of examples of printed ephemera and page 69 has a rare example of a mail coach bill for 1827 as well as a humorous ostler’s bill (with translation). In a quartosize on excellent paper this volume is a pleasure to handle; those who prepared it are entitled to feel very pleased with their efforts and the printer/publisher has done a first-class professional job in his presentation of their results.


Yet another compilation of Lincoln photographs, this time covering the period 1946-1986 (with one from 1991), all from the collection of the late Cyril Middleton and his son John, press photographers in the city for many years. Arranged chronologically, they include places and events in the city and surrounding area, with many personal family photographs, charting the life of the Middleton family throughout the post-war era. On the one hand, the family pictures can be seen as a microcosm of local life in the second half of the twentieth century - we see shots of Cyril in his RAF uniform in 1946 and of his children growing up in the 50s and 60s - on the other hand, these prints can seem irrelevant and parochial to those who did not know the Middletons and their circle.

After an introduction that tells us more about the Middleton family than it does of Lincoln, each page carries two black and white photographs with brief captions by David Cuppleditch. However, there are some surprising errors; it is Peterborough FC not Lincoln City who are nicknamed ‘The Posh’ (p. 32); the building on the site of the old cattle market has been called North Lincolnshire College since 1987 (p. 47); p. 36 shows Priorygate, not Petergate Arch. Prince Charles received his wings at Cranwell (p. 83) in August 1971, not in 1965 when he would have been a mere sixteen years old, p. 109 shows the premises of Wells A Satt, ironmongers, p. 110 shows the Sibthorp Library (not Sixbarche), the Queen visited Lincoln on November 14, 1980 (p. 124). For me there were rather too many pictures of celebrities, such as pop stars, who made brief visits to Lincoln and have contributed nothing to the city’s history and development. There are several group photos that mean nothing to the reader – the one on p. 103 is captioned enigmatically ‘Bash held at Moor Lodge, Branston’ – but who are the people? What was the occasion? Why was it significant? We should be told.

Nevertheless, the quality of the photographs is excellent and they capture an era that many of us have almost forgotten.

_Eleanor Namstead, Lincoln._


Another in the ongoing research undertaken by this group, who have put together a wealth of information on their little town. The main part consists of a notional walk, which yields articles on the school, the post office, various trades and the craftsmen who undertook tasks like blacksmithing, baking and boot and shoe repairs. A good deal of family history has been researched and there are a number of useful genealogical tables or inventories of local families. The whole is pleasantly produced in a clear typescript with numerous nice drawings; an index would greatly help future historians (but perhaps the whole series will have a combined index one day?). Finally an apology for failing to transcribe the title correctly in our last issue.


This is a good idea, which yields only slight results. Using the directories and voters’ lists of 1900 a journey takes us round Stamford recording the shops, their occupants and snippets of other data. Notes are added on the present occupiers of the same shop premises. It is not clear exactly how long the earlier occupiers ran their businesses and no attempt has been made to trace intermediate operators in the last hundred years. The best feature is the use of old advertisements or billheads but while they must belong to a period later than 1900 we are not told.


Having written myself an account of the archaeology of Ropley parish, which stopped at the dawn of the nineteenth century I am more than pleased that the story of the village has been brought up to the present day and with such aplomb. The authors love Ropley - a fact
that shouts on every page. They set their stall out at the beginning: '...we', concentrated on producing something that gives a flavour of the many ordinary and extraordinary people who have lived and worked in Ropsley over the years. They succeed unscrewedly and, in so doing, touch every family. The photos of school classes through the years, teams of footballers (and their wives), cricketers, dart players and many others exude a community spirit all too rare in many places (but not Ropsley). Throughout the book a constant thread is the repetition of surnames through the generations and this captures skillfully the birth/life/death cycle at the heart of rural agricultural communities. As one example the descendants of Levi Doughty and family, shown in typical formal fashion in a photograph taken in 1885 (p. 45), crop up repeatedly in later pages. This is not a village history but a celebration of village people and village life. The 74 wonderfully evocative pictures are brimming with community spirit and a true sense of place. Have you thought about volume two, chaps?

Tom Lane [Senior Archaeologist, Heritage Lincolnshire].


There is plenty of humour in this book but there are some sad and poignant moments, and some exhilarating and uplifting ones. It covers the history of Lincoln City Football Club from its formation in 1884 to the middle of the 1999-2000 season. Written in a friendly, narrative style, it follows the fortunes of the Imps on a roller-coaster ride to the top of the (old) second division to relegation from the league and back again - and again. Describing how the club came near to liquidation more than once the author tells of the various benefactors who have stepped in to rescue it. Much of the material is taken from interviews with former players, managers and chairmen, providing fresh insight into events on and off the pitch. Numerous anecdotes bring the story to life, making it hard to realise that the author was not present throughout, recording the scenes. In fact, Brian Halford was a sports writer for the Lincolnshire Echo for the years 1995-1999 only.

There are some errors, typographical and otherwise, and perhaps over-use of certain clichés. This should not deter in an otherwise well-presented piece of work. An essentially human story it belongs more to the genre of Bodyline than Fever Pitch, though it has elements of both. It should have a broader appeal than just the Imps' fan base. Supporters of other clubs (especially from the lower divisions) will find much with which to empathise. The book is a worthwhile contribution to local history. The author puts the football story into context with many other events - the Lincoln typhoid epidemic (1905), the First World War, the General Strike, the wider football scene at local and national levels, and the Bradford fire (1985), in which 56 people died including two Lincoln supporters.

Ros Beever, Lincoln.


This is a quick sprint, somewhat in 1066 and all that style, through Lincoln's history. Nicely produced it may have proved a useful Christmas stocking filler!


£9.99 pbk, plus £2 p&p (cheques payable to Grimsby RUFC).

To most older Grimbarians rugby football was an unfamiliar game, as no local schools played it and few knew any member of Grimsby Rugby Club. This interesting new book explains why. From its formation in 1923 until the 1950s the playing members were almost exclusively new-comers to the town (typically doctors) or public schoolboys returning to stay with their parents during the holidays. The names of the schoolboys, who later became stalwarts of the club, reflect the names of well-known businessmen associated with the prosperity of Grimsby in the early twentieth century. The excellently captioned photographs provide a fascinating record of these families. From the late 1940s the Club started to involve local schoolboys in rugby and this book traces its successful development of the game in an area devoted to soccer. Michael Kelly has produced a book for rugby enthusiasts but, also, for anyone interested in the social history of Grimsby and its peoples.

Stan Warmoth, Lincoln.


Barbara Taylor has produced a very attractive history of her village using the village sign, front and back, makes for a colourful appearance on the book shelves. Few of the many village histories we have seen recently record the early history of the area. Here the author has gone back to pre-historic times and researched the period beyond recent recall. Many have been over-illustrated at the expense of text but this book makes text important but uses illustrations, including maps and sketches, to best advantage. There are a few questions on accuracy - a confusion of feet and
metres on the height of the Wolds, for instance, but, by and large, it is a brave effort to give the whole story of Nettleham.

Pearl Wheatley, Lincoln


The sight of another aircraft could well herald a sigh of boredom — but not in this case. The authors have done a thorough job researching and presenting the story of aircraft and other pieces of related military hardware made in Lincoln from 1915 onwards.

Although often linked with the production of tanks, three of the engineering companies, together with a number of smaller subcontractors, were involved in aircraft production during the Great War. Thus Lincoln became one of the largest centres of aircraft production in the world. The West Common and, later, Bracebridge Heath became Aircraft Acceptance Parks and most Lincoln-built aircraft made their first flights from one of the two. At the end of the war the firms slowly returned to normal production although Clayton and Shuttleworth works, then under Babcock and Wilcox, did work in airship mooring masts for some time.

The Second World War and afterwards is dominated by the Avro contribution at Bracebridge Heath. Set up to repair damaged aircraft close to the point of operation they put over 4000 aircraft back into service, often working with salvaged parts from crashed machines. The part played by Avro modifying aircraft for special purposes is well covered and also the development work on the small Delta flown to test aerodynamics and handling problems for the Vulcan project, these being the last two aircraft built in Lincoln. Both are still on display in the UK and well worth a visit.

This is a small but highly interesting book. Profusely illustrated with well-chosen photographs and supported with notes on some individual machines it holds the attention and informs. The authors have listed several complete WW1 aircraft which still survive in museums and parts of others which are on display elsewhere. Beautifully produced by Rudocks, the only note of criticism must be the paper, which is not quite opaque, leading to some interesting background effects on some pages.

Owen Northwood, Donington.

BOOKS RECENTLY RECEIVED

AMBLER, R.W. Churches, chapels and parish communities in Lincolnshire, 1660-1900. SLHA (History of Lincolnshire Committee), 2000. xii, 275pp. (History of Lincolnshire, vol. IX). ISBN 0 902668 17 X (hbk); 0 902668 18 8 (pbk). £15 or £8 for orders received before 24 February, 2001; £25 or £12.95 thereafter plus (in all cases) £4 p & p. Books may be collected from SLHA, Steep Hill, Lincoln, thus saving postage costs.


BENNETT, Stewart and WARMOTH, Stan. A Teacher's guide to Lincoln Castle... Lincoln Education Centre, 8 Hamilton Road, Lincoln LN5 8ED, 2000. [45 loose-leaf sheets in a folder]. No ISBN. Unpriced.


JARVIS, Adrian. The Victorian engineer. Shire Publications, 2000, 32pp. ISBN 0 7478 0471 0. £3.50 pbk.


LINCOLN CIVIC TRUST.


Rex Russell, our expert on enclosures and their effects has recently had a long article (49pp), published in The Journal of Peasant Studies (Vol. 27, no 4, July, 2000). Entitled: Parliamentary Enclosure, Common Rights and Social Change: evidence from the parts of Lindsey in Lincolnshire. The text and maps are as we have come to expect from this source and cover West Butterwick, Willingham by Stow, Ancroft, South Kelsey, Messingham, Scorer, Crowle, Little Corringham and Corringham.

Wold and Fen is the title of the catalogue of the late Christopher Sturman's books that have now been prepared for sale. Nick Lyons, himself a noted collector of county material, has helped to get the catalogue ready. Many of the books were sold very quickly but as a contribution to county bibliography it will be a useful source of reference. The bookseller, Smallwood Books, is located at Lincoln Castle, Lincoln LN1 3AA. A second volume (ephemera, maps, manuscripts and 'a large section of Lincolnshire fiction and verse') will eventually be prepared but not for a couple of years.