Inside this issue:
Almshouses • Industrial Lincolnshire • Sullivans at Grantham
Wigford, Canwick and Bracebridge • Faces and Places
Four pages of books

Magazine of the Society for Lincolnshire History & Archaeology
CONTENTS

Editorial .......................................................... 2
A Place of Shelter — almshouses in Lincolnshire .......................... Linda Crust
A Common Question — Wigford, Canwick and Bracebridge the same parish? Dennis Mills
Faces and Places — history related topics ........................................... 11
Lincolnshire in the Industrial Period ............................................. Neil Wright
Sullivans at Grantham 1936-47 ..................................................... Peter Stevenson
Bookshelf ............................................................. 20

Lincolnshire Past & Present Editors: Hilary Hoale, Ros Beavers
Reviews Editor: Ray Carroll — Production Editor: Ros Beavers

The deadline for contributions to the next Bulletin and the Autumn issue of Lincolnshire Past & Present is 3 September 2001. Material should be sent to the Joint Editors at Jew's Court, Lincoln LN2 1HS. 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: The south View of the Ancient City of Lincoln: taken from Mr Dickinson's summer house at Canwick — S. Buck. (Courtesy of Usher Gallery, Lincoln.)
EDITORIAL

I hope everyone is enjoying a pleasant summer and that your Summer edition is available in time to provide you with some holiday reading. We continue Neil Wright's article on Lincolnshire's industrial history, and to complement it we have Peter Stevenson's story of the Sullivan Machinery Company in Grantham (1936-47) — not as well known locally as Ruston and Hornsby, Aveling Barford or 'Marco's', the US firm was a world leader in the manufacture of mining machinery, perhaps not normally associated with Lincolnshire, but can anyone name anything that was not made in the county (or in the city of Lincoln) at some time during its history?

Linda Crust tells us about some of the many almshouses we have in the county, which brings to mind Trollope's *Hiram's Hospital* while Michael Cooke's sequel to Margaret Lee's observations on the Willoughby wild man at Rycote reminds me of Hardy's *Tess of the D'Urbervilles*. This goes with a few topical items in three pages of 'Faces and Places' instead of 'Notes and Queries' this time. Some of you will be pleased to hear of a new course designed to help researchers read old documents (it's easy when you know how!) and of a fledgling local history group in Lincoln. Meanwhile if you want to know who the lord of the manor of Canwick is, read Dennis Mills' article about Wigford, Canwick and Bracebridge. If your contribution is not included in this edition and you were expecting it to be, you will no doubt see it in the next one. Thanks to you all!

*Ros Beevers (Joint Editor)*
A place of shelter

Linda Crust

For hundreds of years almshouses have given shelter to the elderly. The image of an almshouse is of an ancient institution with uniformed old people bobbing and bowing in gratitude to a benevolent founder.

Good order and deference to the church and the founder were the main images conveyed to the world as portrayed by Anthony Trollope in his book The Warden — although things did go pear-shaped in the course of the story. Conditions of residence in almshouses, bedchambers or hospitals usually included residence in the parish, need, respectability and allegiance to the church. I set out to see if things had changed in the course of centuries in Lincolnshire.

Yes, indeed things have changed. Examples of old foundations still exist but now the rules have changed or been discarded although most still require some evidence of local residency. As in Trollope’s Hiram’s Hospital the original gift of land as an endowment has often increased in value. Sometimes the charity has disappeared or been incorporated in another.

St John’s Hospital in Boston has disappeared altogether. Pitsley Thompson says it was first mentioned in 1635 and in 1640 it contained eleven tenements ‘formerly used as pest houses’. There were sixteen houses in 1680 and it was last mentioned in 1711 when it was directed that ‘the almshouses there should be repaired’. A workhouse was built on the site circa 1730.

At Spital in the Street the almshouses attached to St Edmund’s Chapel became disused, were used by the landlord of the pub opposite the Chapel to house his coach in the nineteenth century and were eventually sold to a private buyer and the proceeds
blended into a local charity. The Belasyse Charity for the almshouse at Woldby changed purpose in a similar way. The building is preserved (Grade 1 listed) but is now in private hands and the money from the sale has been amalgamated into another local fund.

Old foundations often included small payments to the residents, cloth for gowns or uniforms and fuel. A typical example is Branston Mere Hospital which was founded in 1553. The warden and his servant were to have one honest chamber with a chimney and stable for two horses and litter for same while the warden was resident. There was a chapel and the warden was to choose three poor men as residents and provide them with meat, drink, fuel, bedding, clothes and other necessities and find yearly one honest priest to maintain divine service there at all times. Nothing is left but lumps and bumps in the field now.

Thousands of people have benefited by almshouses in the county over the centuries. It is possible to glimpse into the lives of a couple of early beneficiaries through documents. It is rare for poor people, such as the dwellers in almshouses were by definition, to leave records behind as far back as the seventeenth century. Probate inventories were generally for those with, at least, modest assets but I have found one which tells of the worldly goods of Henry Richardson of Stamford described as beardsman. The document records that its making is for 'paying his debt and legacies (if any such be) so far as the said goods and chattels will extend and as the law doth bind'. There were only two items listed: 'In the house bed and bedding £1; 4 pieces of old pewter 4s. 6d. Total £1.4.6d.' Through this scanty possession Henry Richardson's name is known to us over three centuries later. [LCC Admon 1669/181]

Another poor man, Nicholas Marcham of Gainsborough, also described as beardsman had run up some debts before his death. There is a post-mortem administration account drawn up for him in order to settle the debts apparently. It seems possible that he had needed care from the parish before his death as many of the debts are to men on behalf of their wives e.g. 'To Christopher Smith his wife, 5s'. There is one payment owed to Gainsborough church for £1 (purpose unspecified) – this and several debts in shillings amount to £7.5.3d. Nicholas had purse, goods and chattels valued at £7.9.3d. so it would appear at first sight that he lived within his means.

This he may have done but his death tipped him over the scales into debt in the grave. ‘Funeral expenses and garb and singing’ cost £5 and the mortmain cost 3s.4d. The clerical expenses for drawing up the account were a hefty £1.3.4d. It is not known who went without payment. [Admon 1669/181] Mortmain or mortmain (dead hand) refers to land held by the church and payment for its use is recoverable after death. It is impossible to recover the details of this case.

Tattershall is an ancient foundation bequeathed by Ralph Cromwell in 1440. The present buildings date from the early seventeenth century and have been well modernised to provide accommodation for five people instead of the original ten. Calico and a small sum of money were given to residents by a bequest of 1834 and the rules were modernised in...
1911 to the following effect: Carpets, Mats etc., must not be hung over the Church railings and Slops and other refuse must not be thrown over the Church or Field Fences. No occupant may give permission to strangers or others to use the Bede House Conveniences. Nor may occupants store bicycles for the public, or provide them with tea, or in any way whatsoever eat for them on Bede House premises. Those rules are, of course, obsolete now and, as with other foundations, it is not thought necessary to stipulate a way of life to present day residents.

Style of buildings seemed to change abruptly after the first world war. The Godson almshouses in Heckington erected in 1888 and 1914 respectively are in Victorian Gothic or cottage ornée style as are most others of that date such as the Tectotal houses in Ruskington, 1887, and the Scott houses, 1904. In nearby Billingborough however, the Woolley accommodation erected in 1919 just after the war are plain brick maisonettes built straight onto the pavement.

The pattern of no-frills building continues through the twentieth century with modern bungalows where the emphasis is more on convenience than appearance – see Wyberton and Fosdike. Where once a productive garden might have been considered an asset, now it is acknowledged that old people generally prefer double-glazing and central heating to land which they are often unable to cultivate. Happy compromises are made where possible such as the Turner houses in Wragby where the group of almshouses are set in pleasant grounds near the church. These houses built in 1840 in Victorian Gothic style are well modernised; the residents enjoy the trees and garden yet they are in the centre of a village; the grass is cut for them but some of the active residents make a colourful show with pots and tubs which they cultivate.

The changing nature of type of foundations is best illustrated by the Sailors' and Fishermen's Harbour of Refuge Almshouse Trust in Grimsby. Between 1893 and 1901 48 almshouses were built in a continuing plan. This is certainly the largest collection of almshouses in the county under any one foundation and its funding is a triumph of non-conformist zeal, compassion in the face of need and co-operation between traditional benefactors, such as the Earl of Yarborough, with smaller donors of perhaps one house and many grades of contributions from pence to pounds which enabled, for instance, a house to be donated by local Methodists called John Wesley House. This is one of only two dedications that I have discovered that are specifically non-conformist – the other being Fraw's Almshouses in Gainsborough. It is possible that the Tectotal Houses in Ruskington had a largely non-conformist origin too.

The President of the Fishermen's Almshouses was T W Williams the Grimsby Port Master, the Treasurer was Samuel Ellis, a poor boy who made good. He lived in a large house called Baltic House. Samuel had arrived in Grimsby as a boy with 4d in his pocket; he was a very active preacher in the Primitive Methodist movement and, from a young age, he abstained from alcohol having seen the devastation that drink caused when he worked as a pot boy in a public house.

James Davis was the Grimsby Port Missionary – another charismatic Victorian figure known locally as the fishermen's bishop – he was also a Primitive Methodist and adherent of the Band of Hope's teetotal regime. At the end of the nineteenth century such people were supplementing the benefaction previously largely given out by the gentry in the past. James Davis spent his life working with and on behalf of the fishermen and their families. He had great organising skills, as witnessed in his provision of food for families at The Refuge in the fishermen's strike of 1901. The land for the housing was donated. The teaming together of skills, money and hands-on knowledge of the problem among fishermen's families brought the fulfilment of a dream to those men. It made a break in the traditional pattern of almshouse endowment.

The opening ceremony of one group of the houses in 1897 (Diamond Jubilee year) was performed with prayers and silver trowels and many speeches. This was no private affair; hymns were sung and a crowd of 230 sat down to tea afterwards. The event was recorded in the local press complete with comments from the speeches applauding the philanthropic work to the poor of Grimsby. There were also comments on the nature of poverty such as: 'There were those who had not had the opportunity of making money, who were poor through no fault of their own, and it was right and just for those...
more fortunate to remember these poorer brethren.'

Cook's directory of 1902 states that in one block of houses six widows lived with forty one children and, in another block seven widows with thirty children. In addition there were twenty aged couples in smaller houses. Today those, and other almshouses, are administered by the Grimsby and District Homes for Poor and Aged Workers in the Fish Trade. Preference is still given to widows and families of fishermen, the Merchant Navy and other Navy personnel but, as the fishing trade has decreased, the demand has shrunk and other applicants are now housed by the Trust.

The biggest surprise I received was in the number of twentieth century foundations in the county. Some still have an endowment of land to support the houses in the traditional way. Coley's houses in Spilsby are an example of this. John Coley was the landlord of the Red Lion pub in the town and also owned land in the district. The Coley houses founded in the 1960s are still supported by this land. In other places it was a different story. Over the nineteenth century the industrial revolution had brought modest wealth from sources other than land and endowments had been changing from land to investments in Consols and other shares.

The Nest in Billingborough bequeathed under Jane Woolley's will of 1914 were to be supported by £400 Consols [shares known as consolidated annuities] in the hands of the Charity Commissioners. The property is well maintained and the funds are in a healthy state today. The Frow houses in Gainsborough were built in 1926 illustrate a bequest backed by money rather than land. This foundation is also unique in that it is a Congregational one rather than Church of England.

Other 20th century foundations include Harlocks' Cottages at Old Leake and the Kingston Cottage Homes at Spalding and the Aslockough Trust in Louth. There are many more. Because these later almshouses post-date directories and their trusts are not necessarily members of the Almshouses Association it has been difficult to trace them in some cases. For instance, I heard of those in Cleethorpes in conversation. My list now extends to over 100 groups of county almshouses.

My study is far from complete. I am discovering new aspects every week. If any reader is a trustee of an almshouse charity and can give me up-to-date information I would appreciate this. My sources to date have been directories, the Charity Commissioners' Reports of 1837; a list of charities who belong to the Almshouse Association and much personal contact besides standard works on the county. I can be contacted by letter through SLHA or by telephone: 01522 751818.

Were Wigford, Canwick and Bracebridge parts of a single early estate?

Received views
The recent publication of a popular booklet on Wigford, the area of ancient Lincoln south of the High Bridge, has drawn wider attention to the history of the area, as an entity distinct from the rest of the city. The suburb was of Roman origin, and there is general agreement that it was abandoned after the Roman era. Revival probably took place in two main stages, the first of these in the tenth century being marked by the cutting of Gowt's Drain and the northern part of Sincil Dyke, both formerly thought to be of Roman origin.

The second stage, possibly in the second half of the eleventh century, saw the extension of this area southwards within the present loop of the Sincil Dyke, from where it leaves the River Witham (Fig 1). The two watercourses helped to keep free from flooding at least the higher parts of Wigford, generally those close to the Roman roads.

Thus the River Witham, much broader than now, formed a clear boundary of Wigford to the west and north. The boundaries to the south and east were much less well determined. Their 'open' nature is well depicted in a Duck view of Lincoln from Canwick drawn about 1724. It shows the wide crescent-shaped sweep of Canwick Common, stretching north-eastwards from St Catherine's towards the River Witham downstream from the city.

The northern limit was approximately the line of the present Great Northern Terrace. Inside the curve of the common were the Bargate Closes, which separated the common land from the Sincil Dyke. To the east of Canwick Common lay Canwick Ings and Oxpasture, also part of the flood plain of the Witham.

The suggested boundaries of a greater Canwick estate
The purpose of this article is to assert that there is evidence of a single former territory or estate encompassing Wigford, Canwick and Bracebridge. It would have been roughly square in shape. Starting at its west corner at Brayford Head, the boundary with the city would have been marked by the River Witham as the latter flowed eastwards, continuing beyond the city limits to separate Canwick from Greetwell (Fig 2). The north-eastern corner of Canwick parish is now marked approximately by the railway bridge over Washington Road, as it is about here that the eastern Canwick boundary runs north-

Fig 1

Lincolnshire Past & Present No 44 Summer 2001
south separating Canwick from Washingtonborough. The southeastern corner is near Westfield Farm, Branston, a point where the three parishes of Canwick, entries are so worded that it is impossible to ascertain separate shares for the two townships, but it is noteworthy that when mentioned together, Canwick’s name always very important lord at national level. He was still a lawman of the city of Lincoln after the Conquest, and one of those licensed to mint coins by both Anglo-Saxon and Norman kings. Wulfraen, another Anglo-Saxon lord with interests in Canwick, had also been a lawman, but had been supplanted in both respects by the Norman Crassus.8

An interesting detail of the Domesday entries is the mention of a church in Roger of Poitou’s manor, which had property in both townships. To which township should this church be ascribed? Preference must be given to Bracebridge, on the basis of the surviving Saxon-Norman tower (Fig 3) and other work of that period in the nave. On the other hand, the failure of a church or a priest to be mentioned in Domesday Book does not rule out the possibility that such existed in a particular manor, and there is intriguing evidence that Canwick church, which contains Norman work, stands on the floor of a high status Roman building.

Excavations in the early 19th century in the present vestry and in the floor of the tower in the early 20th century are both reported to have turned up fragments of Roman tessellated pavements.4 There is here evidence of well established early communities in the hands of important manorial lords.

The Book of Fees (1242-43) shows the continued existence of several manors in Bracebridge and Canwick, two of them still split between the two townships. The bishop of Lincoln had disappeared from the list of lords, since in the 12th century he had granted the rectorial income of Canwick, and probably his manor, to St Catherine’s Priory, to form a grange. The priory was situated outside the city gates, between the Sincil Dyke and the Bracebridge boundary. As it also

Fig 2

Bracebridge and Branston interdigitate to meet at a spring. No doubt this was once shared by the flocks and herds of the heaths belonging to all three parishes. From this place the Bracebridge ran westwards to meet the Witham, and so the southwestern corner of the early estate was reached. The river then completed the boundary of the estate on its western side, downstream to Brayford Head.

**Evidence in the Domesday Survey and the Book of Fees**

The hypothesis that this early estate was so delimited is not based solely on an interpretation of landscape features. The Domesday Survey, for example, makes very clear the close association of Bracebridge with Canwick, and also hints that Canwick was the more important of the two communities. There were six manorial lords holding eight property parcels in Canwick, three of which also included land and people in Bracebridge. The

Fig 3

of Lincoln. Ulf Fenice, who had held property in the two townships before the Conquest had been a
held land in the latter parish a three-way link had been forged between Bracebridge, Canwick and Wigford that was to last until the Dissolution. 9

Lincoln City Council – lord of the manor of Canwick

There are other examples of Lincoln men possessing property in Canwick and Bracebridge, which is not surprising considering the close proximity of the villages to Lincoln. However, the role of Lincoln City Council is a more substantial matter. It acquired the paramount or senior Canwick manor in 1480, and with it a substantial farm,*some of which, in AD 2001 still belongs to the city. The city council is still lord of the manor, although no doubt quite oblivious of the fact, since the lordship now carries neither duties nor dues.

Perhaps connected with the manorial acquisition was a development that occurred ten years later, when the city was pressed by the weight of taxation, as its prosperity steeply declined. The Crown, rather than reducing Lincoln’s assessment, gave the city permission to take in several neighbouring rural parishes to form the County of the City of Lincoln. Their populations were then obliged to contribute to the city’s tax payments. Canwick and Bracebridge were among these parishes, and although the affected parishes north of Lincoln escaped from this burden with relative speed, the southern parishes remained within the County of the City until liberated by the Municipal Corporations Act of 1835. They were then allowed to return to Kesteven.7

responsibility for which was shared between the manors of Bracebridge and Gregg Hall (in Boultham), the people of Kesteven, the inhabitants of Lincoln (two eastern arches), and the city council (central arch).9

Inter-commoning

The major question of commoning is best studied by starting with its abolition in 1787. This was the year in which the enclosure commissioners for Canwick, following instructions set out in the enclosure Act for the parish, marked out for the first time a formal boundary between Canwick and the city. Canwick Common, renamed South Common, was taken into the city for civil purposes, but was to remain an extra-parochial area until the second half of the 19th century. Up to 1787 Wigford’s territory had been only informally separated from Canwick by the common, although for the sake of stock management there must have been a hedge separating the common from Canwick open fields, ings and expasture.

The history of the great bridge at Bracebridge also demonstrates a commonality of interest across the district, at least from 1565 down to the 1835 Act (Figs 4 and 5). There were at one time seven arches,

In 1786 the common comprised 252 acres, but may once have been much bigger. For example, at its northern end it might have extended to the Sincil Dyke, or even all the way to the river. The

Lincolnshire Past & Present No 44 Summer 2001 9
Malandry Close clearly represents an encroachment at the west end. The Bargate Cloeses were encroachments on the east side of the Sincil Dyke from at least 1408. Possibly St Catherine’s should be similarly interpreted; if so, Canwick Common once reached the Witham between the northern boundary of Bracebridge and the line of the Sincil Dyke. Was Wigford itself once so empty and ruinous that it was part of the same territory?

As already mentioned the Wigford men had no rights in the open fields lying to the north of the city, nor did they apparently have any arable land nearer to home. However, they had grazing rights on Canwick Common as did St Catherine’s Priory, and also on the ings and oughasture. In addition they were allowed to departure their animals on the open fields of Canwick after harvest and during the fallow year. These arrangements came abruptly to an end in 1787. Canwick men no longer had rights in the common, and the men of Wigford no longer had rights in the fields, ings and oughasture of Canwick. The latter areas were allotted in enclosures to Canwick proprietors and all common rights in them were extinguished.

**Conclusion**

The triangular relationships between Canwick, Bracebridge and Wigford (or Lincoln) were not equally strong, and varied according to the criteria under discussion. Thus the linkages of manors between Canwick and Bracebridge in the Domesday Survey and the Book of Fees was stronger than the relationship between either village and the city. The ownership of the Canwick manor by the city was not replicated in Bracebridge. Bracebridge did not have any rights in Canwick Common, and Hill pointed out that ‘there were no city rights of common in the Bracebridge fields’.

Bracebridge had its own church before 1086, but Canwick church stands apparently on a significant Roman site. Both villages were linked to Lincoln by St Catherine’s Priory, but the link with Canwick was stronger. One of the very strongest of links was that between Canwick and Wigford arising out of inter-commoning down to 1787. Disputes on this subject were dealt with in the Canwick manor court, where the steward would have been appointed by the town clerk of Lincoln.

The debate remains open, but there is a possibility, although no more, that a greater Canwick estate once included Wigford, or a greater Wigford estate included Canwick, and perhaps Bracebridge.

**Notes**

1 My thanks to Michael Jones and Alan Vince for critical comments on an early draft of this article. The booklet mentioned is P. R. Hill ed., Wigford - historic Lincoln south of the river, Survey of Lincoln (2000). Points in this paragraph are based on M. J. Jones, Lincoln: History and Guide (1993), p15; and A. G. Vince, ‘Lincoln in the Viking Period’ Proceedings of the International Viking Congress 1997, forthcoming. The lines of the Roman roads as shown in Fig 1 are based on M. J. Jones, ‘The latter days of Roman Lincoln’, in A. Vince, ed., Pre-Viking Lindsey, Lincoln Archaeological Studies, no 1 (1993), pp 15, 21 and 23. The present civil parish of Bracebridge Heath was formerly part of Bracebridge ancient parish. The remainder of the latter is now part of Lincoln.

2 Usher Gallery, Lincoln. UG 405. My thanks to Rosalyn Thomas for pointing out this splendid engraving: Another copy in Lincolnshire Archives, EX 38/37.

3 Based on Domesday Book entries 4/80, 6/1, 75/1, 16/47, 33/2 and 67/26 in C. W. Foster and T. Longley, eds., The Lincolnshire Domesday and the Lindsey Survey, Lincoln Record Society, 19 (1921), published 1924; and Sir Francis Hill, Medieval Lincoln (1948), pp 40-1, 51, 53, ‘Crassus’ means ‘fat’.

4 W. White, Directory of Lincolnshire, 1882, p 231 for the earlier discoveries; and local recollections for the latter ones. The writer clearly remembers a shoe box kept under a certain pew in Canwick church at least to the early 1960s.

5 Book of Fees, Part II, pp 1041, 1085, 1094, copy in Lincolnshire Archives.

6 Hill, Medieval Lincoln, p273.


8 Hill, Medieval Lincoln, pp 357-8.

9 Lincolnshire Archives, Canwick Enclosure Act and Award.

10 Hill, Medieval Lincoln, pp 345, 349.

11 ibid., pp 354-5.

12 ibid., p357.


**About the illustrations**

Fig 1. Map showing boundaries of a possible early estate comprising Bracebridge, Canwick and Wigford. Parish boundaries shown by broken lines, except where following the River Witham. The shaded area shows St Catherine’s Priory site. Drawn by Joan Mills.

Fig 2. Letts, the publishers of this coloured Edwardian postcard, labelled the view ‘Lincoln from the river’, not giving the latter’s name. Perhaps this was a sensible precaution, as artistic licence has been used. The stream in the foreground is probably the South Delph, formed in the 1820s by the eastward continuation of the Sincil Dyke, whilst the Witham itself is hidden behind the bank in the middle distance. The scene is not far from the present household waste site, and St Swithin’s church spire in Broadgate can be
Faces & Places

What a relief!

Campaigners to get the historic urinal near Newport Arch in Lincoln registered as a listed building would have been disappointed to learn that it could be closed following a City Council review of Lincoln’s facilities. However, Councillor Trevor Rook spoke up for the building at a recent council meeting, suggesting that a preservation society might adopt it. David Ashley Hall, who has been trying to get special status for the toilet, said to be one of the oldest in Europe, told the Lincolnshire Echo: “I am lost in admiration of the eloquence of Councillor Rook, who has saved this facility ... I have heard that the department for culture is urgently sending a man to look at it, which seems to bode well.”

Good on you, Councillor Rook – I’m glad I voted for you on 7 June! And if anyone else can talk about this interesting old facility we’d like to hear from you! Ed.

Reading old handwriting - new university/archives course

We eventually come across documents that seem difficult or impossible to read. Without the essential skill of being able to recognise and read the various styles of old handwriting in wills, personal letters, property deeds etc, life becomes very frustrating! So the University of Nottingham and Lincolnshire Archives are jointly offering a ‘workshop’ course in the reading of old handwriting – palaeography – in the autumn. It will be led by a ‘top team’: Archives genealogist Lynda Rippin, and Bob Kershaw for Nottingham University (a founder member of LPHS and experienced genealogist himself). The workshop format will allow both the complete beginner to start on easier documents, and the more experienced to work at their own level. Both copies of familiar documents and original state papers will be available, and the expertise of other archivists can be called on as needed. The exact format of the course will vary according to the wishes and needs of those who come along to the first meeting, but the emphasis will be very much on practical learning and hands-on experience. You can certainly bring along your own difficult documents for us to help with! We will also tackle the important question of what these documents actually mean, when we have succeeded in reading them.

This 10-week course takes place at the Lincolnshire Archives on Wednesday mornings, starting on 3 October. The full fee will be around £40, but only £10 for those in receipt of means-tested state benefit. For more details, pick up a leaflet from the Archives, phone Lynsey there on 01522 525158, or Bob at home on 01472 840009, to find out more. You can enrol simply by turning up at the Archives for the first session on Wednesday, 3 October.
The Rycote connection

I was interested to read Hilary Healey's report of Mrs Margaret Lee's perceptive observations on the Willoughby 'wild man' at Rycote near her Oxfordshire home. There is a curious genealogical postscript, which carries the story further back in time.

There was an old, quite humble Lincolnshire family called Surfelte or Surflet at Gosberton, not far from the great Willoughby and Bertie establishment at Grimsthorpe, with which they seem to have had some obscure, loyally connection. Richard Surflet for example, dedicated his translation (from French) of The Countrey Farme (1600) to Peregrine Bertie, Lord Willoughby de Eresby, the son of the famous Grimsthorpe couple, Richard Bertie and his formidable wife Katherine, the Willoughby heiress. Some Surfletes appear a little earlier in Essex, who I suspect came there from Lincolnshire as servile hangers-on (servants of a servant?) of the Countess of Oxford (d 1537).

She was the widow of William, Lord Beaumont, whose family were lords of Grimsthorpe before the Willoughbys came on the scene. By her second (De Vere) marriage she was linked to a family with immense wealth and power in Essex and resided there after mainly in Essex rather than at Grimsthorpe.

Thus the lady of Grimsthorpe is buried side by side with its former Beaumont lord and her second husband, John De Vere, 13th Earl of Oxford, at Wivenhoe in deepest rural Essex. Long before her death Henry VIII had gifted the 'remainder' of Grimsthorpe in 1516 to the previous Lord Willoughby and his Spanish wife, parents of Katherine. His favourite, Charles Brandon, married Katherine, and they had to wait for the Countess to die before they could take possession.

Suddenly in 1632 there appears the will and inventory of Thomas Surflet, late of Rycote, co. Oxon. There can be little doubt that he had come there as a servant of Gosberton stock, through some servants' grapevine. The Bertie lords of Rycote only acquired this property through marriage in the mid 17th century, but there was already an important earlier link with Rycote through the De Veres. Peregrine Bertie had married Mary de Vere, sister of the 17th Earl of Oxford. The Earl's daughter Bridget De Vere married Francis Norreys of Rycote in 1599. So the lords of Grimsthorpe and those of Rycote were already cousins by the end of Elizabeth I's reign.

There was next a common marriage link with the Montague of Boughton, Northamptonshire. Edward Wray, from the Glenthorpe (Lincolnshire) family, married Elizabeth, the Norreys heiress of Rycote in 1622. Both his father and Peregrine's son Robert had married daughters of the Montagues, which made Edward Wray and the next Bertie, Montagu Bertie, cousins. Thus after the marriage of Montagu Bertie to Wray's daughter Bridget, the heiress of Rycote, the Bertie Earls of Abingdon and the Bertie Earls of Lindsey at Grimsthorpe, were now cousins three times over. This was the long story that lay behind the later commemoraton at Rycote of the ancient Willoughby 'wild man'.

We shall never know the humbler, Surflet side of the story, but it seems possible that Thomas Surflet, being a poorish man in modestly respectable circumstances, in a by no means small house (we have his inventory), was probably a reasonably favoured servent of Edward Wray and his Norreys wife.

His presence at Rycote would perhaps have been due to her family's Essex contacts through the De Veres or to Wray's aunt at Grimsthorpe, or quite easily to both connections working together. Robert Bertie would have been reminded of the Surflets, because a later edition of Richard Surflet's book, published by Gervase Markham, was dedicated to him in 1603.

Looking into the riddle of what brought Thomas Surflet to Rycote in my own family history researches drew my attention to these remarkable successive links between the owners of two great landed estates in different counties over many years. As so often, the study of their relatively well-recorded histories can give one a faint glimpse of what lay behind the obscure distant migrations of servants and tenants.

Michael Cooke, Torquay, Devon

Abbey Ward Neighbourhood History Group

This is a new, go-ahead group based in the Monks Road area of Lincoln. Already a properly constituted group with a committee, they intend to apply for funding so they can use space in the Neighbourhood Centre in nearby Belmont Street to create an Abbey Heritage room with displays and resources and hold regular talks and ‘memory days’ of the lives and experiences of local people. They hope to obtain a computer, scanner and audio equipment as well as training in oral history skills. They have
The Rycote Connection

Edward De Vere, 17th Earl of Oxford

Bridget De Vere = 1599 Francis, Lord Norreys of Rycote

Mary De Vere = Peregrine Bertie, 12th Lord Willoughby de Eresby

Elizabeth, Lady Norreys of Rycote = 1622 Edward Wray
Succ. 1622, d. 1645.

Wray = Montagu da.

Montagu da. = Robert Bertie, succe. as 13th Lord Willoughby de E. 1661,
cr. Earl of Lindsey

Bridget Wray, Lady Norreys of Rycote (2) = (2) Montagu Bertie, 2nd Earl of Lindsey = (1) Martha, da. of Sir Wm Cockayne
14th Lord Willoughby de Eresby

James Bertie, Lord Norreys,
cr. Earl of Abingdon 1682

A quo Berens Willoughby de E., Earls of Lindsey, and Dukes of Ancaster.

The Rycote connection

attracted the attention of other groups, including the Survey of Lincoln. Their first project was a map of the businesses and personalities in the area in 1939, and they have already obtained a wealth of local historical information. Can you help them with, perhaps, some old photographs? To find out more visit www.thisislincolnshire.com and click on The Beehive. If you are interested in becoming involved contact Morag McGill on 01522 531701.

Monks Road, Lincoln – with the Arboretum on the left. Residents in the area have formed their own local history group.
Lincolnshire in the Industrial Period

Neil Wright

This is the second part of a statement summarising a view of Lincolnshire in the Industrial Period, originally produced as a contribution towards a Regional Draft Research Framework for the East Midlands in this period. The first part appeared in the Spring 2001 edition of Lincolnshire Past & Present. A third part will be published in the Autumn 2001 edition.

Industry
1 Foundries and engineering

The first notable engineering works in the county were established in Boston by William Howden in about 1803, and William Tuxford in about 1826. Howden made the first steam engine to be built in Lincolnshire, but his business was small compared with those firms who came later. Tuxford pioneered the development of steam driven threshing machines and sent those and many other products, including portable steam engines and traction engines to many countries including Sweden, Austria-Hungary, Russia, Canada, South America, Australia and elsewhere. Tuxford engines are preserved around the world, including one that powered the Universal Agricultural Exposition in Paris in 1856 and is still on exhibition in a Paris museum.

The arrival of the railways in Boston did not help Tuxford's because their works were on the wrong side of town, and a long way from the main line, and eventually the firm declined and closed in the early 1880s. After 1840 it was towns on the western side of the county that rose to greatness. Hornsby in Grantham, Marshall in Cainsborough, and Clayton & Shuttleworth, Ruston, Foster and Robey in Lincoln.

Lincolnshire firms grew to prosperity through the production of steam threshing sets and portable or traction engines to power them, and exported them worldwide. Their markets included all the great main growing areas of the world – South America, Russia and many parts of the British Empire as well as many European countries. Hornsby's later developed the heavy-oil engine or
The Lincoln companies were not the first in the county but by the end of the 19th century the combined activity of all the Lincoln firms exceeded that of any other Lincolnshire town. During the First World War many of the works were involved in aircraft production, and the several firms in Lincoln made the city the largest centre of aircraft production in the world. As in other parts of the country the engineering industry has down-sized since then but it is still of great importance to Lincoln today, whilst remains of its glorious past can be seen in the Museum of Lincolnshire Life.

2 Brewing and malting

The processing of barley for beer has always been an important industry in Lincolnshire. By 1856 there were 163 maltsters in the county, mostly located in the towns and in several villages in Kesteven and the northern and western parts of Lindsey, with very few on the Wolds or in the fens.

In the 1750s breweries were often small undertakings, but during the 19th and early 20th centuries some firms grew larger and absorbed or displaced their competitors. In 1856 there were 166 brewers in Lincolnshire, nearly half of whom were also maltsters, and they were located in all the main towns as well as in several villages.

As firms grew larger they tended to concentrate on either brewing or malting and by 1813 there were only six still involved in both activities. Apart from these six, there were only 32 brewers and 26 maltsters in the county in 1913. The Lincolnshire brewers and maltsters faced competition not only from within the county but from firms outside. Major national companies such as Bass of Burton-on-Trent took advantage of the new railway network and built their own maltings beside railway lines in the barley growing areas of Lincolnshire. Trumshill of Sheffield built some at Barnby, there were others at Grantham, and in 1899-1905 Bass built a vast complex at Sleaford, which closed in 1960 but still stands next to the line 40 years later, a true monument of the industrial period.

Since the 1960s Melbourne's brewery in Stamford has become a museum but Bateman's of Wainfleet (founded 1874) still meets the need for liquid refreshment in many parts of Lincolnshire.

The rise of the temperance movement in the late 19th century led to the growth of mineral water manufacturers in Lincolnshire, as elsewhere, producing a variety of non-alcoholic drinks. But their local industry has also declined and they have been replaced by national and international firms such as Coca Cola.

3 Brickworks

Much of the surface of Lincolnshire is of clays and silts, easily exploited for brick and tile making, and the distribution of brick pits was related to the outcrop of suitable clays. It was well used in the Roman period and pottery kilns abound, brick and tile kilns were probably equally numerous though only three have been excavated so far.

Bricks made their reappearance in the county from the 13th century, initially imported into Hull and no doubt Boston through North Sea trade links with Holland and Flanders. Brick making became established in Hull by about 1300 and later in the century spread into north Lincolnshire. The first great brick age came in the 15th century when it became fashionable amongst the upper classes in eastern England, with the great keep of Tattershall Castle (1432-48) as the finest example of this period. During the 16th, 17th and 18th centuries its use became ever more widespread. Puytles were imported from Holland from the second half of the 17th century. By the end of the 18th century they were the almost universal roofing material in the county. The fine Humber warp clay is ideal for making pantiles and in the latter part of the 19th century there were some two dozen tile works on the south Humber.

By the 1770s brick was being used for cottages as well as big houses and public buildings. By the mid 1820s there were 35 brick and tile works, mainly along the Humber, but with a rapidly growing population the number had increased to 94 by 1849. There was further expansion in the decade after the removal of the brick tax in 1850 to 130 brickyards, and in the second half of the 19th century almost every town and village had its brick pit. As Lincoln and Grimsby/Cleethorpes grew, major brickworks were established with permanent Scotch kilns using coal for fuel brought in by rail and water.

Louth and Hornsea were largely built with bricks made in extensive pits within the town boundaries. At Louth, Dale's brickyard off Brackenborough Road was opened to build the town hall in 1854, and Louth architect James Fowler helped to make brick fashionable again in churches and parsonage houses.

The number of brickmakers in the county rose to a peak of 187 in the early 1880s, but the next decade saw a decline of 126, and that included 30 on the Humber bank, some exporting fancy bricks and tiles, finials and chimney pots to London. The cause of the decline was the ready availability by rail transport of cheap Fletton bricks, which could be burned more easily because of the oil content of the clays. By World War I the number of Lincolnshire brickworks had fallen to 80, and by 1920 this was halved although some survived to World War II. Brickmaking ceased at Barton in the 1960s. By 1969 the number of brickmakers in Lincolnshire was 16.

Apart from the universal evidence of local brick and the occasional remaining Scotch kiln as at Baumber.

(now restored), East Halton, Farlesthorpe, Gosselton, Stixwould and Sutton on Sea, the only traces of a once extensive industry are water filled pits, now nature reserves or used for fishing, and names such as Brickfield, Brick Close and Brick Lane. A Gazetteer of early brick buildings in Lincolnshire to 1760 was published by Heritage Lincolnshire in 1999.

A related 19th century industry was the production of decorative terracotta for building exteriors. This was the work of Blashfield’s factory in Stamford and there are examples of it in the town, including the Scotgate Inn. Other examples can be seen on many Victorian monuments and grand buildings around the country. The Stamford factory produced some designs from moulds that had previously belonged to the Coade Stone Factory earlier in the century.

4 Ironstone quarrying and smelting
The quarrying and smelting of ironstone in Lincolnshire started in the 1860s in a rural part of the county away from any town, but five small villages quickly grew together into a town, and one of them gave the place the name of Scunthorpe, which is now one of the larger towns of Lincolnshire. Lincolnshire iron was apparently known and worked in Roman and medieval times but its value was forgotten until 1859 when Rowland Winn, a landowner then living at Appleby Hall, had some of the local ironstone on his estate analysed. The results were favourable and Winn became the driving force behind the development of the iron industry on his family’s estates in Appleby, Scunthorpe, Frodingham and Brimby. Land was leased to Dawes Brothers of Barnsley who began mining ironstone in 1860. The Treet Iron Works was built at Frodingham in 1862-64 and others followed so that by 1880 there were twenty-four furnaces, of which 15 were in blast. A branch railway was soon built through the area, then a steel works was opened in 1890. After 1900 firms from outside the area started taking over the various works. The industry was nationalised in 1967. Since then, and the subsequent privatisation of British Steel, there have been extensive cut-backs but it still continues as one of the main industrial enterprises in Lincolnshire.

The developments at Scunthorpe generated interest in mineral working in other parts of the county. Opencast or underground mines were opened in the western area of Lindsey between Lincoln, Scunthorpe and the Wolds, at Appleby, Clayby, Nettleham and Great Witton near Lincoln, but they only operated for comparatively short periods. The longest lived was the Great Witton underground mine, operating from 1873 until 1939. Another area extended south-westwards from Lincoln into Leicestershire, with one mine at Coleby near the city and other workings in two areas north and west of Grantham. The area north of Grantham was mined between the 1870s and 1946, and those to the west were in use until the 1930s and then reopened in the 1960s.

Other extractive industries in Lincolnshire were the brickworks, described above, the 20th century cement works on the Humberside, limestone quarries for Ancient building stone west of Scunthorpe, gypsum (for flooring) in the isle of Aholme, and chalk and gravel pits for road repairs in the 18th and 19th centuries.

5 Small industries
Many long-established, small scale industries continued in the countryside well into the 19th century and some even into the 20th century. One product of the vast unclosed furnaces had been the feathers from the vast flocks of geese kept there. After enclosure the leather industry continued with several large factories being built at Boston, one of which, dated 1874, still stands. The industry is continued by Fogarty & Co who still use feathers although much of their production now uses manmade fibres. Other Victorian and 20th century industries included the production of water filters and of cigars. Others processed the agricultural produce of the county, and included pea sorting factories and 20th century canning factories. The frozen food factories of the Grimsby area were a development of the fishing industry.

They expanded to freeze other foods brought from anywhere in the UK or even from overseas. Not all of the county is flat, and water powered mills in the west and on the Wolds filled cloth and made paper as well as grinding corn, though few were as large as Newstead Mill at Uffington just outside Stamford. Windmill technology reached its peak in the great 19th century brick tower mills, such as Sibsey Trader, with their fantails and distinctive ogive caps, but inexorably steam took over during that century. There are still many windmill remains in the county. Some have been preserved or restored and are open to the public. Windmills have received quite considerable attention over the years, a local artist Karl Wood painting as many as he could find in the 1930s, and pioneer industrial archaeologist Rex Wailes, who served his apprenticeship in Lincoln, publishing material on them in the 1950s. A more recent survey of windmill remains was published by the Lincolnshire County Council Museum Service in 1986. During the 19th century the production of flour was taken over by steam mills such as Keyworth & Seely’s in Lincoln and Marshall’s huge Victoria Flour Mills in Grimsby. Other premises existed to serve the needs of agriculture or to use its products. Examples were the oil seed crushing mills at Gainsborough and Boston, and some fertilizer factories established in the later 19th century in Lincoln. After the First World War the government sponsored the construction of huge sugar beet factories, of which three were built in Lincolnshire—at Spalding, Burghley and Brigg.2 and 3 see page 24
Sullivans at Grantham
1936 -1947

The industrial history of Grantham is dominated by the events in the lives of such company names as Ruston, Aveling, Barford, Neales and 'Marcos'. A few may be aware of 'Second Division' names like Coulter, Potters, Grantham Boiler and Crank, and there may be even a few around who have heard of the Sullivan Machinery Company.

One of the last things that Lincolnshire people will associate Grantham with is coal mining, but for a decade between the mid 1930s and the mid 1940s this small firm was in the forefront of the war effort in pioneering the mechanisation of British mining at the colliface. Before the mid 1930s, apart from drilling and shotfiring, the winning of coal, albeit measured in millions of tons per annum, had been almost exclusively a feat of brutally hard and dangerous physical labour. Slowly, however, things were changing as rearmament and economic recovery were calling for more coal. Men once desperate for work were no longer queuing at colliery gates. A few somewhat primitive coal cutting machines of British design and manufacture had gone underground, but this was a field in which America was decades ahead of Europe in design and application.

Government encouragement and financial inducement were causing quite a few US concerns to open British based sales and service outlets in many technical fields including mining, quarrying and construction machinery and this led on naturally towards the possibility of part and eventually complete manufacture in Britain. The Sullivan Machinery Company of New Hampshire, a leading name in US coal mining machinery, began part manufacture at Letchworth in the mid 1930s, but soon outgrew available space there and in late 1936, thanks to much supportive help from the local Council, they moved up to Grantham.

Their new home was on the ground floor of one of Ruston and Hornsby's workshop bays along the west side of London Road when still the Great North Road. Adjacent office buildings included a drawing office, which was to convert American design work to British manufacturing standards. Thanks to immediate establishment of good working relationships with Ruston and Hornsby, who were to make the majority of the cast and machined components for Sullivans, production was in full swing within a few months of their arrival. Various models of coal cutters etc were fitted, assembled and tested by the Sullivan workforce, some of which had come up from Letchworth while others were recruited locally, many of whom were former Hornsby employees. The machines, leaving Grantham in a steadily increasing stream, were soon established as products having high productivity combined with rugged reliability.

Although the Sullivan works in Grantham were made other US designed machinery in small numbers over the next ten years, their principal efforts were directed towards the production of 'Longwall' and 'Shortwall' coal cutters of the types principally suited to British coal mining that was characterised by thin, multiple, often inclined and faulted coal seams as opposed to the thick, level, vast American coal seams that demanded different mining methods and machinery.

Longwall cutters, as will be seen from the accompanying illustrations, are massive hunks of machinery weighing several tons, having a cutter bar much like an oversized chainsaw extending up to ten feet under the coal seam. Fitted with dozens of forged steel 'picks' clamped in the links of the cutter chain, the cutter as a whole would haul itself slowly, steadily (and noisily) along some seventy to a hundred yards of coal face in an eight hour shift, leaving the coal suspended from the mine roof. During the second shift while the machine was

Sullivan Longwall coal cutter at work in a Northumberland colliery circa 1935
cutting another ‘stint’ this cut coal would be drilled, charged and ‘shot’. During the third shift the coal would be loaded (usually by hand) onto conveyors, the floor cleaned and the roof propped ready for the next pass of the cutter. These longwall cutters had a central motor, which was either electric or powered by compressed air. The front of the motor drove the gearing for the cutter bar and the rear of the motor drove a powerful winch that pulled the whole machine an inch or two at a time towards a rope anchor fixed to the mine floor at a point representing the end of the ‘stint’ (i.e. where the machine and its operator would end the shift).

Although the exterior was built to withstand a roof fall and the overall brutality of its working environment, its interior mechanism called for high levels of fitting and assembly skills. The same applied to the little ‘Shortwall’ cutter, which was used to open up roadways and other work where the ‘Longwall’ cutters could not work. These machines had been in full production in the two years or so before I joined the company as a sixteen-year-old apprentice at the outbreak of war in the autumn of 1939. Put to work with two ‘old stagers’ who, with tender loving care meticulously bedded in, assembled and tested the air motors for the ‘Longwall’ cutters I quickly learnt what was meant by a ‘skilled man’. Former Hornsby men, like most of the fitters who made up the Sullivan workforce, they refused to lower the standards of what they considered to be perfection in the interests of expediency. If, in their view, it was not ‘just right’ they just ‘worked on’ until it was so. But for all that they still found time to pass on their skills and guide the hands of the apprentices attached to them. How different from today — when the company accountant expects everyone else to train up shop floor workers and then complains to high heaven about the shortage of skilled operatives!

After a year or so at the Sullivan works I moved into the Drawing Office. Here I learnt even more about the design and construction of the machines which did so much to boost the production of coal so vital to the war effort, and in the drive to ‘Export or Starve’ in the years of recovery which followed.

With considerable reluctance I left the Sullivan Machinery Company in the summer of 1941 in order to gain the necessary shop experience needed for technical qualification. Having to rely on most of its components being made by Ruston and Hornsby and other outside suppliers, Sullivans could only give their apprentices fitting skills. In spite of my departure, Sullivans however managed to survive and prosper! Their production alongside London Road increased steadily throughout the war years. They had a lucky escape during an air raid when the Hornsby workshops on the opposite side of the road were largely destroyed, but we did lose most of our windows and had days of clearing up the mess inside. When they cleared away the rubble from the Hornsby's forge wall, which had collapsed onto the pavement, sadly they found the body of the Sullivan fitter. (See picture on p19).

With the coming of peace Sullivans prepared for an uncertain future. They needed to expand and make newer designs some of which started life on the drawing boards in the Grantham works. Ruston and Hornsby too had plans for the future and wanted their shop and offices back, which had only been leased to Sullivans.

Across the other side of the country, the former Sentinel Steam Wagon works in Shrewsbury were short of work and had more space to spare. So in 1947 Sullivans said farewell to Grantham. All its facilities and many of its staff moved over to make a new start in Shrewsbury.

Around this time too there were ‘changes at the top’. In the US, Sullivan Machinery Company merged with their former rival
Joy Manufacturing Company, who also had obtained a foothold in the UK. Eventually, operations at Shrewsbury moved to new works under the title of 'Joy Sullivan' in the Glasgow area.

1 Slow-feed drum - mounted on a sturdy steel arm - brought into engagement by an upward movement of the handle shown.

2 Fast-feed drum - arranged in a similar manner to the slow-feed drum - and similarly engaged.

3 Hand wheel - controls a multi-plate clutch type brake in the fast-feed drum, and governs the tension in the tail rope when the machine is cutting.

4 Clutch lever (quick action) to control the slow-feed drum clutch. The clutch is of the multi-plate type, and is set to slip at a pre-determined load.

5 Spring-loaded plunger type handle, operating cutter chain clutch.

6 Reversing switch of either the cam contactor controller or remote control master switch.

7 30 amp BESA plug and socket interlocked with direct-on type switch.

8 Handle for rotating fast-feed drum by hand in order to take up slack in tail rope when setting machine for cutting.

9 Hardened rope sheaves, mounted on bronze bushings.

10 Oilings point (one only), for which is splash lubricated. (All other bearings arranged for grease gun lubrication.)

Sullivan 5B Shortwall Coal Cutter

Illustrations reproduced from the Sullivan Machinery Company's sales brochures of the late 1930s.
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, Steep Hill, Lincoln.

**Books recently published**

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.

Worksheets and teachers' notes for Key Stages 2 and 3 centre on visits to Lincoln Castle. Plenty of plans and drawings of how the Castle would have appeared at various stages of its history. The main emphasis is on why the Castle was built where it is: the main architectural features, its development; and, how would an enemy go about attacking the fortress? A final section focuses on the Magna Carta exhibition for stage 3 students. Well produced and of great potential value for all users.


This book reprints a title first published in 1957 and, although described as a 'revised edition', this is misleading; the only addition is the newest preface. In this the author makes it clear that it 'continues to represent the stage of my researches and the state of the selected parts of the historic English landscape nearly fifty years ago'. The general introduction is followed by six essays presented as journeys, which examine the links between documentary evidence and field investigation. This was something of a novel concept at the time it was written and this was a pioneering book. The subjects are: boundaries, Elizabethan villages, deserted villages, new towns (Ravenscroft and two other Humber towns), market places and parks. Examples are chiefly from Northamptonshire and Oxfordshire, as well as Buckinghamshire, Bedfordshire, Warwickshire, Yorkshire and others, but the themes can be paralleled in many parts of the country, including Lincolnshire. The articles are well illustrated with maps, plans and photographs. Although still a book well worth reading, as well as being extremely readable, developments in landscape studies have advanced and expanded a great deal, as Time Team watchers will be aware. There are problems due to there having been no revision since the 1971 edition, and the appendix, though useful for beginners in local history, is out of date; sources have increased and reference addresses altered. For example, the Cambridge Committee for Aerial Photography moved many years ago and Dr. J. K. St. Joseph (who had long since retired from there) died in 1994. This does seem particularly unfortunate. The book has been well printed on large size paper in good type and a sturdy binding.

*Hilary Healey, Bicker*


A nicely produced A4 booklet that does not pretend to be the last word on the history of the village but gives an excellent (and, within its small framework) detailed and fully referenced account of a good range of topics. Sub-sections cover early history, the Elsham estate post-dissolution, the Hall and various aspects of the village - its school, sports, parish council, charities and an expanded discussion of the church, covering architecture, outstanding features and incumbents. There are good illustrations, a general map of the village 100 years ago and, finally, four walks with maps to ensure the routes are followed accurately. A lot of hard work has produced a very worthwhile result which, with all income being passed on to church funds, deserves maximum support.


Lincolnshire-born (Sutton-on-Sea) the author has lived and worked in Lincoln nearly all his life. In well-turned verse he responds to a variety of local influences, mostly light but also containing more serious thoughts ('Remember me' and 'Lincolnshire 00' are examples). A few rhymes are strained but a good deal of pleasure can be gained; the illustrations add to one's enjoyment.


This book is a pictorial history of the iron and steel industry in Scunthorpe and of the industrial activities associated with it. In the nature of towns dominated by one core industrial base, diversification came much later and is not within the remit of this book. The story is told largely via 202 black and white pictures with minimal captions. The authors acknowledge the work of local photographers, past and present, who have taken care to record such an
extensive photographic archive of this local industry. However, it is clear that the British Steel Video Section and Photographic Department has provided a rich source for this book.

The chapters cover the mining of the ironstone followed by detailed coverage of the various works (Trent, North Lincoln and Lindsey Ironworks, Redbourne, Normanby Park and Appleby Frodingham). A further chapter deals with royal and civic visits, gala and staff photographs. The final chapter offers a broader view of the local area, through its shops, clubs and social activities. The first five chapters have useful introductory texts and the last three speak for themselves. There is also a chronology and a brief bibliography.

This meant to be a photographic archive rather than a textbook. It has the benefit of what feels like a passionate and occasionally, an almost personal record of the power of what this town and its industry might have meant to one iron and steel family. The authors have compiled this collection with enormous care and, along the way, a deep regard for Scunthorpe and its industrial heritage shines through.

For the industrial archaeologist there is the added value of pictures taken professionally to record the individual processes involved in iron and steel manufacture. Particular examples are the installation of the M.A.N. German blowing machines of 1938 alongside the turbo blowers built in 1954 under the SERAPHIM project to replace them. These formal technical photographs supplement the more familiar views of the works, workers and their town.

At its price this is a book that will appeal to anyone with a personal or professional interest in Scunthorpe's industrial heritage. There is also enough to please a wider audience interested in the industrial archaeology of the British iron and steel industry generally.

David Carr, Belton, Isle of Axholme


The review that follows is possibly the last piece of academic work that Ken Cameron undertook; he was so pleased to be asked to write on a subject obviously close to his heart and in support of two authors for whose research he had such a high regard. In a note to me as Reviews Editor he wrote "Hope it is good enough".

Dr. Gelling reports that the flat area, overlooked by the village of Buildwas in Shropshire, through which the river Severn meanders, at midday one Saturday in December 1976 was a broad lake. By Sunday afternoon the river had returned to its bed and cattle were grazing on the recently flooded meadows. "It was as if a plug had been pulled out". So, Dr. Gelling described the site of a prominent *wasse* site, the accepted definition of which was simply 'swamp'. This word is only known from place-names and basing a meaning on the situations of seven west Midland names (Alrewas, Bolas, Broadwas, Buildwas, Hopwas, Rotherwas and Suguwas) and 'a chance observation of the nature of the flooding at Buildwas' the meaning 'land by a meandering river which floods and drains quickly' may be suggested. So, *wasse* is not just a swamp but a particular type of swamp. This is as good an example of studying place-names in the landscape as could be wished.

Dr. Gelling and her friend Mrs Ann Cole have opened our eyes to the importance of what I have always called 'practical place-names'. The evidence provided in this volume, she claims, confirms the major discovery that toponographical place-names represent a system which operates over most of England. It is clear that 'only a country-wide study in which the names were not treated in alphabetical order could have revealed the overall significance of toponographical names'. It is remarkable that careful research has shown that a *beorg* is everywhere in England a small rounded hill and that a *dun* is a larger eminence affording a particularly good settlement site. What this research demonstrates is that close examination of toponography enables us to be more precise about the meanings of toponographical terms, as the evidence of *wasse* demonstrates.

Resulting directly from this research we know that Old English had an extensive toponographical vocabulary, but what we did not fully recognise is that there are very few synonyms. Most of the words for physical features denoted different shapes of hills and valleys, different types of marsh, different aspects of streams. Old English *hyl* 'a hill' itself describes natural hills but it does not seem to denote one that is low lying, or one above 1000 feet, with Pendle one notable exception. Old English *dun* (modern 'down') is the commonest of all terms for this physical feature with almost twice as many surviving examples.

A full study of this word has revealed that it usually denotes a low eminence 'characteristically between 200 and 500 feet with a good area of flatland summit which offers an excellent settlement site'. Place-names containing this word are recorded in pre-731 sources, so it must have been used as a place-name forming element in the earliest periods of Anglo-Saxon settlement here. Further the authors suggest that *dun* has a quasi-habitat use and was understood to mean settlement near or on a hill. The same is probably true of Old English *ford* (a ford), one of the
commonest topographical place-name elements as we might expect in view of its importance to new settlers in an area. Like dun it is well represented in pre-731 sources and is likely to have been used to form names from an early period. Names in ford must have had local significance and they reflect routes by which villagers communicated with their neighbours. Ford, too, probably also had a quasi-habitative sense 'a settlement near a ford'.

Over 4,000 place-names are included in the discussions in this book, a fair share of them from Lincolnshire. This is an outstanding contribution to a study of topographical names and is the result of years of research. It is accompanied by 68 figures, several maps and other sketches of individual place-name sites prepared by Ann Cole, who has also written a splendid case study of the Chilterns. There is much in this book that will appeal particularly to the amateur historian, who will find considerable scope to apply the authors' technique to his or her own area. It is a first class and thought provoking book.

Emeritus Professor Kenneth Cameron, Nottingham University


At the 17th Seminar on the British book-trade held at Aberystwyth in 1999 eighteen papers were presented on the provincial book trade. One of the contributors was Jim English, who spoke on his work on printing in Glamisborough, with special reference to the firm of Molesley which printed a wide range of books from 1775.

I was kindly sent an off-print of the lecture and it may be worth the time of interested parties to speak nicely to Jim in case he has any more.


The subtitle is a bit misleading since Lincolnshire also appears here. However, the book is not, as one might expect, a straight listing of saints and outlines of their lives. In his preface the author outlines his approach: 'pure history, political and ecclesiastical intertwinings with hagiographical tradition'.

The first section is a thorough exploration of the early history of Christianity in this country and ranges widely not only across this country but abroad also, exploring the close relationships between English monastic foundations and their French counterparts. The lives of the 'East Anglian' saints fall into their due chronological places. Thus we meet St. Botolph (not in connection with Boston), St Guthlac and other Crowland monks martyred by the Danes—Saints Aethelthæc, Bethelm, Cissa, Egbert and Tanwine together with Walthere from the eleventh century, at which point the historical aspect more or less stops.

This is a detailed study and for students of pre-Norman Christianity a very useful guide. Over a fifth of the book is taken up by references, bibliography and appendices listing the saints, the kings and their santiyly relations with church and royal chronologies. These all support an academic but readable text. Well and sturdily produced, it only lacks an index.


A thorough account of a gamekeeper's life. Mr Mills started early following the pursuits of country lads sixty years ago—chasing rabbits, bird-nesting and egg collecting and, in his case, keeping ferrets. Born at Welton le Wold he won a scholarship to Louth Grammar School, where he was good at sports—all that rabbiting! While there he began beating for a local gamekeeper from that he learnt to shoot and just as he left school a vacancy occurred on the estate of Mr. Sam Nickerson on the estate around North Ormesby Manor House. The book continues with descriptions of life in the country and his development through all aspects of gamekeeping. Mr. Mills has led a life ideally suited to his tastes and background with a happy family life to support it. His simple pleasures in all shines through. It's an unsentimental story but well told. The book is very readable and is very nicely produced.


I enjoyed this book beside the Wash. The author is no Laurie Lee but he tells a good tale, full of the joys, pleasures and sometimes pains of his early life when times were infinitely harder than they are now.

Centred mainly on Kirton Skeldyke, the first 70 or so pages tell in simple straightforward fashion how a small village conducted itself at work and play between the wars. The story progresses, not so much in date order, but as a sequence of notes and observations, slipping from subject to subject almost, I suspect, as they were thought of. No problem. This could have been disjointed but there is often a link and, in practice, it makes for easy and often informative reading. After a section on Kirton Marsh the book continues as a sequence of short articles on folklore, wages, glossary and various related topics together with a list of museums to visit.
The 92 photographs have been collected together in two groups and it is a pity that the text does not link more directly to them - 'see photo' is an inadequate reference. Unless I had a faulty copy, the printer has done Mr. Naylor no favours with some photographs printed on coated paper and some on plain and, later on, with some text on coated paper. The attention of a good editor would have helped.

Owen Northwood, Dodington


This well produced booklet fills another gap in coverage of the county's villages, since as the author found, when pursuing family history research (the Wign family from Rutland), there are few published resources. She has put us in her debt by completing a trilogy of studies - the others relate to Allington and Sedgebrook. And very well done it all is too.

Early pages deal with the Roman villa described by Stukeley in 1728, Norman times, the descent of the manor, the village lands and life in the medieval period, the church, etc. The chronological pattern includes details of the Lay subsidy of 1332-3, two seventeenth century (and one eighteenth) inventories, the Parish Officers' Book, glebe terriers, enclosure, the Tithe Award of 1838 and various topographical features in the village (reservoir, schools and chapels, etc.). Various appendices include the Welby family tree, a list of 74 modern field names and a glossary of terms used in the text.

The paper used has allowed excellent reproduction of the detail in the maps. In the introduction and within the text useful guides are provided to sources for further research. I found no word of thanks to a photographer so one must assume that Mrs. Pask took them herself - very good they are too, both black and white and colour. Good value.


I had hoped, from the title, that there would be a serious study of the Great North Road with lots on the county's towns it now passes by. No such luck. Lots of glossy pictures fail to hide a very idiosyncratic approach; there's very little history, three pages of pictures of the modern AI in Lincolnshire and its traffic (only) but 43 pages on Northumberland. It is about 90 years since Harper's well-known study, we still await a modern version.


A pleasant picture of two villages, depicting life in many aspects. Much research has been undertaken; the drawings and photographs are well reproduced. It is remarkable that the captions have so few unidentified names, places or places. Much of the information of early days will prove a revelation to many while later details will allow some readers to recognise a great deal. Anecdotes abound.

The authors are to be commended for the treasure chest of detail from such a wide range of sources; here are the progress of the churches, the arrival and departure of the railways, generations of families, giving a general picture of village life. A few errors have slipped in; 1952 was the year of the queen's accession - the coronation came the year after, the well-known local family is spelt Hutchinson and many will still remember that Mary Hutchinson was Miss Lincolnshire in 1932-3 (the first Flower Queen was crowned in 1959 when the Spalding Flower parade began). These slight things apart there is something here for everyone in this vivid portrait of recent centuries as they affected these villages.

Marcia Edgar, Spalding

New titles recently published or received


BASTON ENVIRONMENTAL GROUP. Baston through the ages: our village spanning 6000 years with individual reminiscences of the last 70 years. The Group, c/o Peter Rayner, 6 Hadrian Drive, Banton, Peterborough PE6 9PP. 2000. 90pp. No ISBN. £8 spiral bound plus £1 p & p.


DAVIES, J. Phil. Alvingham and North Cokerton: a record of the events in the history of two Lincolnshire villages. Millennium Group, The Mill, Church Lane,
Alvingham, Louth LN11 0QD. 2001. 95pp. ISBN 0 9540048 0 9. £9.50 + 70p postage.
STEANE, Kate, and others. The archaeology of Wigford and the Brayford Pool, by Kate Steane with Margaret J. Darlington, Jenny Mann, Alan Vince and Jane Young. Osbeck Books (with City of Lincoln Council and English Heritage), 2001. viii, 300pp. (Lincoln Archaeological Studies, no.2; editors Michael J. Jones and Alan Vince). ISBN 1 84217 021 X. £35 hbk.
