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Lincolnshire Past & Present Editors: Hilary Hesley, Ros Beevers

Reviews Editor: Ray Carroll — Production Editor: Ros Beevers

The deadline for contributions to the next Bulletin and the Spring issue of Lincolnshire Past & Present is 13 February 2003. Material should be sent to the Joint Editors at Jews’ Court, Lincoln LN2 1LS. It will help the Editors if articles are sent typed, double spaced, and with a good margin. They may be sent on disk — this is very helpful — if they are Word for Windows/compatible files.

Cover picture: 1849 Claydon & Shuttleworth engine
EDITORIAL

A happy and peaceful new year to all our members and readers! You will see that we have reached issue 50 of *Lincolnshire Past & Present*, which can be said to be something of an achievement for a magazine that is not dependent on advertising and for which our kind contributors write for free. This is a good time to thank you all for your contributions that keep coming in. We are still working through the 2000 competition entries. They have provided us with a tremendous wealth of interesting material and we are pleased we have been able to publish them in this magazine. However, an apology is due this time for the lack of illustrations, but don’t worry, we hope to put this right in the next issue.

Hopefully the variety of the material will compensate a little for the lack of pictures. It includes industrial history and biography, a rather homely letter from a prestigious archaeologist in 1960, a tragic story from far away New Zealand in the 1880s, one nostalgic look back at the Sleaford and Grantham of the 1940s and 50s, and another at old-fashioned shop blinds from an engineer’s point of view. We can also give you a proper Notes & Queries section once again, and another bumper Bookshelf containing lots of goodies, with the promise of more to come.

It must be pleasing to everyone who reads this magazine that work begins early this year on the long awaited City and County Museum. The new museum will only be a short walk from Jews’ Court after all, and this can only be a good thing for the future of SLHA. Chairman Pearl Wheatley is due for many thanks for her work in helping to make it possible.

On 1 January goodwill was much in evidence when around 40 people with garden forks helped to make Lincoln City FC’s pitch playable after heavy and prolonged rain. This was so the great derby game between Lincoln City and Boston United, a match played well and in good spirit, could take place. It was good to see, hear and be part of such a large crowd of people, all from Lincolnshire – or ‘Bostonshire’?

Ros Beevers, Joint Editor
Although Clayton & Shuttleworth had been making portable steam engines intermittently since 1845 it was their 1849 improved version that brought them success. A vital injection of money came in 1847 from their new partners Charles Seeley and Thomas Michael Keyworth. Now known as Clayton, Shuttleworth & Company they had the wherewithal to develop a better engine (see figure). So early in 1849 the company began to sell these engines to farmers in the counties of Lincoln, Norfolk, Huntingdon, Durham, Kent and Cambridge. Sales were further increased through an arrangement they made with the Lincoln Fire Office. Now farmers could have clauses inserted in their policies permitting the unrestricted use of these engines on their farms. The insurance company accepted that the engine could be safely managed 'by any steady agricultural labourer, or youth of 14 years of age.' Two horses were required to haul an engine upon its road wheels between fields.

At one time, 'Farmers and their servants used to be frightened at the powerful monsters, with fires in their bellies, and the force of a powder magazine in close proximity.' The mechanics sent out with these engines were in the habit of encouraging this feeling of dread, and sought rather to puzzle and mystify the unfortunate workers of the new wonders than to explain their safety, beauty, and simplicity.

The company got over this problem by supplying the customers with 'a book of plain directions for the management of their engines and machinery.' This handbook was to supplement the company's 'trusty men whom they send out with their engines, and who will thoroughly instruct the purchasers and their labourers in the use of them.'

By February 1849 they had for sale three sizes of portable steam engine.
that ‘will thresh out clean, in the most satisfactory manner’. They were an eight horse power, capable of threshing between 70 and 80 quarters of wheat and consuming between 6 and 7 cwt of coal each day; a six horse power, 50 to 60 quarters, 6 to 7 cwt; and a four horse power, 30 to 40 quarters; 5 to 6 cwt.

One customer allowed his new 4 hp engine to be demonstrated at the Royal Horse Bazaar held in Edinburgh in January 1849. The Scottish Agricultural Journal was, ‘much struck with the neat, compact, and portable appearance of this dwarf engine, we are rather sceptical of its powers, and we observed one of the farmers humorously hint that itwould do very well to spin thrums!’ That farmer, John Dudgeon, later writes to the Journal to describe a demonstration that forced him to change his opinion.

‘The... engine was manufactured for Sir Wm Jardine, Bart. of Applegarth, for his home farm at Jardine Hall. Requiring no buildings whatever, we there saw it attached with ease and readiness to the threshing mill.

‘It commenced at 11 o’clock in the forenoon to thresh out a good sized stack of oats, which was finished a considerable time before two in the afternoon, a work which, with six horses in a mill, would, with similar corn, take at least five hours. During the threshing, repeated attempts were made to over power the engine by excessive feeding, but its power was quite superior to all such attempts.

‘The very small quantity of fuel used during the operation was quite extraordinary. Sir William... mentioned that he meant to apply it for sawing wood, and making tiles and bricks. A half-ton of coals with this engine will thresh as much as a whole ton would do with our ordinary steam engine, and likewise effect a great saving of oil. Another advantage would be that, at the end of a lease, it could either be easily removed or disposed of, if the landlord or incoming tenant did not choose to take it at a valuation.’

However, Dudgeon did point out that a 6hp engine would be better for a mill where bruisers, and elevators were required.

At the end of 1850 Clayton & Shuttleworth were able to announce that 65 engines had been sold that year (see Sales List). ‘The capabilities of these engines have stood the test of trial, without a single failure for the last six years. ‘The very extensive and rapidly increasing demand for them clearly shows that their simplicity of construction, power, economy and durability, are highly appreciated.’

Of the 65 sold nine were taken by agents at Norwich (7) and Peterborough (2). Several customers bought more than one engine; indeed, two of them bought three. How does one explain the geographical distribution of the sales, bearing in mind that the engines would normally be despatched by train from Lincoln? During 1850 Clayton & Shuttleworth successfully exhibited at the Royal Agricultural Society’s Show, in July, at Exeter (£25 prize); the North Lincolnshire Show, at Louth (£20); the Yorkshire Agricultural Show, at Thirsk (£15); and the Royal Agricultural Improvement Society of Ireland’s Show, at Cork (£5).

It would appear that many of the sales were a direct result of the company’s presence at such shows. ‘Were the customers at Stratford and Pershore related: father/son or brothers? Did E. Humphries being satisfied with his engine recommend it to T. Humphries, who goes on to buy three? There is always the possibility of a Lincolnshire landowner recommending it to friends elsewhere.

The comparative success of the company led to its workers striking during August 1851. Some 60 engine fitters ceased working at a time when there was a large demand for their engines. A demand partly due to the Great Exhibition of all Nations, then being held in Hyde Park, London, where Clayton & Shuttleworth won a prize medal for their working engines. At that time their men earned between £1.60 and £2 per week for 59.5 hours of labour. The written demands of the workers were as follows:

‘Lincoln, August 12th, 1851

Gentleman— we the workmen in your employ, consider that we are at present labouring under many disadvantages, when compared with men in other establishments, viz.,

1. that the wages are considerably lower than in other towns, and we consider that the average wage of the shop should be 3½s per week;
2. that 8½ hours constitute a week; that being general throughout the trade;
3. that we dispense with systematic overtime; but if such be imperatively needed, we be paid time and a quarter from 6 up to 8 o’clock at night;
4. that piece-work be totally abolished;
5. that all men who have not served an apprenticeship to the trade be discharged;
6. apprentices be in the proportion of one to four journeymen.

A deputation of the same has been formed, who will afford every information that may be required. Trusting that you will see the necessity of acceding to our requests, and affording us an early answer.

We are, &c. &c.’

As the company refused the demands the strikers appealed to their club or trades union. This was a nation wide organisation to which they paid a weekly contribution of 1s, and from which they were able to receive 10s whilst on strike. Apparently this club had a strike fund of some £30,000! How did the strikers picket the works, and stop the company obtaining an alternative labour force? By watching the railway stations and the roads leading to the works! Any men seeking such work were taken to a public house and ‘entertained’ before being provided with rail fare back to where they came from.

However, on 21 August the men returned to work. Trades union representatives from London had negotiated a compromise. It consisted of a reduction in weekly hours to 58½, and the payment for overtime to be at the rate of 2½ hours for every two hours worked. The union ordered the men to accept the deal, and admonished them for using union funds to support such unreasonable demands. So the strike achieved one of the six demands and half of another.
Clayton & Shuttleworth sales figures for 1850

CUSTOMER
Beacock & Fletcher
H. Cornish
Pant & Pailing
J. Hambling
Holmes & Son
C. Neame Esq
H. Hanford
Sir A. Macdonald, Bart
J. Coupland Esq
W. Artley
R. Edwards
W. Clark
Sir Ch. Isham, Bart
Thos. Hawksley Esq
W. P. Stanley
W. Crosskill
J. Witherington
H. Grantham
Lord Hastings
Reidy & Co
Emson & Beech
F. T. Monkhouse Esq
J. Bell
Butler & Alcock
J. Smith
Hill & Bancroft
J. Dixon
Sims & Rames
J. Casswell
S. Johnson
Easton & Amos
J. Adams
W. Taylor
Lady Russell
F. Sourby Esq
Caparn & Co
F. Morley Esq
Wm Stanton Esq
E. Humphries
Black & Chantry
T. Humphries
Robinson & Wilson
H. Burrell Esq
Earl of Leicester
J. Moulds
Rd Smith

LOCATION
Winteringham
Walsingham, Norfolk
Welton
East Dereham, Norfolk
Norwich, Norfolk (Agent)
Selling, Kent
Hathern, Leics
Woolmore Lodge, Hants
Skellingthorpe
Burton, Yorks
Fordham, Cambs
Massingham, Norfolk
Lamport Hall, Northants
Nottingham
Peterborough (Agent)
Beverley, Yorks
Stratford-on-Avon
Scawby
Melton Park, Norfolk
Cork, Ireland
Hildesley
Newstead Priory
Boston
Radciffe, Notts
Uxbridge
Horncastle
Barlby
Waddington
Wyberton
Ferraby
London
Nottingham
Leeds Gates
Thirleby, Yorks
Aylesby
Radciffe, Notts
Bridgewater, Somerset
Kenwich Hall, Norfolk
Stratford-on-Avon
Littlebro', Notts
Pershore, Worcs
Newark, Notts
Thornage, Norfolk
Holkham
Harby, Leics
Ruddington, Notts

DATE OF DELIVERY
7 Jan
20 Jan, 8 April, 7 Sept.
9 Feb
18 Feb
13 March
22 March
28 March
8 April
8 May
9 May
16 May
3 June
2 July
8 July, 12 Sept
13 July
23 July
26 July
27 July
31 July
5 Aug, 3 Oct
12 Aug
13 Aug, 18 Oct
15 Aug
19 Aug
19 Aug
22 Aug
26 Aug
4 Sept
12 Sept
12 Sept
18 Sept
18 Sept
18 Sept
27 Sept
9 Oct
12 Oct
12 Oct
17 Oct
18 Oct
18 Oct, 6 & 19 Nov
18 Oct
21 Oct
28 Oct
2 Nov
12 Nov
12 Nov

Here, then, is a snapshot of the beginnings of an engineering company that by 1854 was the largest manufacturer of portable steam engines in the world, and employed some 600 men and boys. It had survived its first strike, and went on to make its principals into millionaires!
John Wray (1776-1851)  
Vicar of Bardney 1806-1851

The Wray family were living in Wrawby when in 1698 Stephen Wray was born, on 4 February. He married Faith King, of Owerby on 6 June 1730, when she was 27 and he 32. They had three children - William who became a doctor, practising in Barrow on Humber, John who became a schoolmaster, and Stephen.

In 1758 John, aged 22, was chosen to be the Schoolmaster of The Kitching's Charity School at Bardney. The vacancy had occurred due to the sudden death of John Melton, whose tombstone records: 'In memory of John Melton (late master of the Free School) who departed this life on 26th of Sept 1757, in the 28th year of his life. An accomplished master, a dutiful son, an indulgent husband, courteous and affable to all' - so a high standard to follow.

John Wray was provided with a house next to the school, looking onto the village green, and he had a salary of £200 a year. In 1775, when nearly 40, he married Anne Woodward, a Bardney woman, 10 years his junior, and The Kitching's Charity re-tiled the school house and put in new windows. The following year their son John was born.

The schoolmaster retired in 1789, to become a grocer and draper. He was obviously an astute businessman for he now owned a row of cottages by the river, known as The Wharf, a house and shop in what is now Silver Street, five more cottages, warehousing (probably the present billiard hall), an acre of meadow and two cowgates on the Common. His son John was attending the grammar school in Grantham.

Although Bardney held a very important place in the religious life of the county before the Dissolution, it had lapsed since then, very rarely having a resident vicar, possibly due to the poor state of the vicarage, so it was served by curates from villages around.

Young John married at the age of 22 Ann Thistlewood of Bucknall, daughter of the second marriage of John Thistlewood of Tuffolme Hall, Agent for Sir Robert Vyner, whose ancestors were bankers to Charles II. However, Ann's family was famous for her brother Arthur.

Arthur Thistlewood attempted to lead a revolution to overthrow the Prince Regent in 1820, called the Cato Street Conspiracy. He and his group planned to surprise and murder members of the Cabinet whilst they were at dinner and carry their severed heads on pikes down Regent Street. This was foiled by a spy who infiltrated the group, and Arthur was hanged.

John and Ann were married on 12 January 1798, their daughter Maria was born in the November 1799. Ann died on 10 January 1800, and the baby the following April.

In the following October young John was married again, to Ann Burton, the daughter of the Rev Francis Burton, Vicar of Theddlethorpe, at St Wulfram's Church, Grantham. In July 1801 their son John Francis was born, and John was accepted Fell. Comm. At Queen's College, Cambridge. That was a privileged class of undergraduate entitled to dine at the Fellows' table, and in October was admitted to St John's, Cambridge. In 1802 John and Ann had a daughter, Ann, and their brother-in-law, Thomas Willan, became Curate of Bardney, followed by Ann's brother Henry Cooper Burton. John matriculated in 1804 and Ann gave birth to Elizabeth. The following year John was ordained deacon in Lincoln and Ann gave birth to Harriet. In 1806 John was ordained priest and became Curate at Theddlethorpe All Saints, Ann gave birth to Matilda, and John became Vicar of Bardney.

So John and Ann and their five children moved into the Vicarage at Bardney, no more than a hovel, as the Rev John described it, a house of three bays made of plaster, stake and mortar, covered with thatch, one bay with an upstairs chamber. The floors were earthen, and the whole divided into eight rooms - a hall, two parlours, two bed chambers, a buttyry, a kitchen and a milk house. He did have the advantage that his father was a wealthy man, so John began rebuilding the vicarage and restoring the church, which was also neglected because there had been no resident vicar since 1786. The roof was in such a state that snow had often to be swept away before the service could start. There was also a man to keep the dogs from barking.

The Rev John's father died in 1809, and by 1812 the Rev John had replaced the roof, the floor, the ceiling and the pews, painted the interior white, including the pulpit, and painted one of the four Evangelists on each panel, whilst above the sounding board was the figure of an angel clad in blue drapery and blowing a golden trumpet. He then installed an organ and a singing loft and added a wooden steeple 17 feet square and 30 feet high, with a weather cock on top.

The vicarage was entirely rebuilt in brick and tile, looking much as The Old Vicarage looks today, but with more outbuildings, a stable, gite house, coal house, piggery, hen house, and a shoe-cleaning house - indicating the state of the Bardney roads!

The Rev John also enrolled at Cambridge to take a degree in law. He did not complete it, but used the letters S. C. L. after his name - Student of Civil Law.

The Rev John's father left all his property in Barrow to him, all his books except for ten that his wife could choose, and all his other property he left to his wife in trust for him. By 1819 the Rev John and Ann had produced 13 children. The eldest, John Francis, was admitted to Emmanuel College, Cambridge, in December 1819 as a sizar, an under-
graduate who received an allowance from the college to enable him to study, but who was required to perform certain menial duties for the college.

The Rev John was now desperately short of money. His inheritance was gone, he had mortgaged his mother's property, he had taken on curacies for his income from Bardney was only £70 a year, plus £8 in tithe, and £10 from Handecocks Charity. He had to find another source of income. As a trustee of The Kitching's Charity, in fact the treasurer, he was very influential in the choice of schoolmaster of The Kitching's School - he had already dismissed three of them - so in 1818 he appointed himself! He now had an extra income of £20 a year and another house, in fact his old house.

But the people of the village could not allow this. They knew the schoolmaster must be chosen by the chief inhabitants - as stated in the Charity. They insisted the post be advertised. Another candidate was found, Ambrose Warden BA, a friend of John Francis Wray, from Emmanuel College, Cambridge, an extremely distinguished scholar and High Wrangler (the highest placed student in his year in mathematics).

The chief inhabitants must now vote. It was a clear victory for Mr Warden by 49 votes, but now the trustees of the charity would not accept Mr Warden, so the Rev John dismissed the assistant master and appointed Ambrose Warden to that post.

It was an impasse. Four trustees of the charity and six parishioners tried to get the Vicar removed, not only from the charity but from the village. They complained to the Bishop that the Rev John Wray had made improper choice of a deputy, he had made improper use of the premises, and he had an improper association with a servant (this had already been investigated).

The Bishop suggested he should be vicar at Manby (the post was Vicar of Bardney with Manby), and put a curate in at Bardney - a useless idea.

The school was beginning to suffer, only 30 children now attending. For some years the Methodists had been operating a school in the mill premises; its teacher was Mirza Lowe the miller's son.

The Rev John continued to be Master of The Kitching's School, getting further and further into debt, writing continually to the Bishop for an increase in his stipend. The Bishop was being increasingly more restrictive in what he would allow him to do - no curacies, as the Bishop considered there was more than enough work at Bardney. So things went from bad to worse. The mortgage was called in, the property sold, and even when prison loomed the Bishop did not help him. He was arrested for debt on Friday, 8 February 1839 with no time to arrange for someone to take the Sunday service. He had to write to the Bishop from Lincoln Prison for permission for his son John Francis Wray, now Vicar of Stewoold, to take a single service morning or afternoon alternately, as he had no money to pay anyone else.

A new schoolmaster, Mr Cooke, was appointed, and when the Rev John Wray returned to the vicarage he attempted to sue the Charity for rose trees he had planted in the School House garden, and for £55 unpaid salary.

The Charity Commissioners now intervened for a full report of all the 'goings on' at Bardney. It looked as though there was going to be a claim and counter claim, landing everyone in the Court of Chancery, so the Charity paid up - in return for compliance by the Vicar.

Of course this was not in the Vicar's nature, and he began to harry Mr Cooke at every opportunity, and to claim that more rent could be obtained from the Charity's farms. But the Trustees said they were satisfied with the status quo, so everyone was then surprised to see the Stamford Mercury advertising all the farms to let.

Moreover at the next meeting the Vicar was able to produce evidence of prospective tenants prepared to pay more, much to the consternation of the sitting tenants, whom the Trustees had to try and pacify.

The Vicarage seems to have been a very happy household. Census results show it to have been always full of visiting grandchildren. Ambrose Warden married the Rev John Wray's daughter Elizabeth in 1826. He had been pursuing a journalistic career and he was offered the post of Editor of The Farmer's Journal and moved to London, where he was constantly in great demand for articles to commercial journals. William Henry Wray, John's second son, was a chemist and druggist and a schoolmaster, who seems to have operated from the Vicarage. In 1847 he took on Ambrose Warden's son, who was living at Grandad's, as an apprentice. Fred Cooper Wray, the third son, married Anne Simpson, and is referred to as a yoman. Charles Augustine married Charlotte Brown and stayed in Bardney all his life, a carpenter, living in Silver Street. Those of John Wray's children who married brought their children back to Bardney to be baptised by their grandfather.

In 1842 John Wray persuaded the Trustees of the Kitching's Charity that the whole scheme should be revised, getting it back to what Thomas Kitching really intended. The land was bringing in good rents, but the schoolmaster was still only receiving £20 a year, as stated in the will. Requiring legal authority to be increased eight eminent wise men spent a year producing a scheme whereby the master should receive two-thirds of the Charity's income, being the equivalent to 1711. For some reason this was not what the Vicar wanted to hear, so he vetoed the whole idea.

A new school was planned. Mr Clay and Mr Green, two influential farmers, offered to load bricks for free. They also expected to be invited to planning meetings, but John Wray would have no strangers in the meet-
Shop blinds

If it comes to that, what happened to shop blinds? There was a time, in my memory of the 1920s and 1930s in Grantham, when two out of three shops in the High Street or Market Place would have a blind. It would extend over the pavement in front of the shop for the full width of the shop window, plus the doorway, and if the shop had several display windows, each would have its own blind.

Made of sailcloth or a similar canvas material, it would, when not in use, be rolled up in a spring-loaded box that occupied a space between the window and the shop sign above it. A fascia board would keep out the weather and at each end of the latter would be the attachment points for a pair of steel bars the length of which would be roughly the width of the pavement in front of the shop. When not in use these two bars would hang vertically against the shop wall and their bottom ends were attached to a slider that could run up and down a guide fixed to the wall.

The bars were now horizontal, well above head height, the canvas was tight and pedestrian progress resumed with a deferential word or nod of thanks from the shopkeeper.

As a small boy I was always fascinated by this procedure and as a future engineer I suppose I first began to appreciate, without any profound understanding, the interplay of the weight of the canvas, the pull of the return spring and the thrust of the side arms, which were all holding the blind above the heads of the passers-by. Perhaps this was the beginnings of the 'theory of structures', which formed a significant part of my later training.

The shopkeeper pulled down his blinds when the sun was bright or it threatened to rain, but I suspect that his motives were deeper. Obviously, if his goods were either perishable or liable to fade, a sun blind was useful. But I suspect that sun blinds were a status symbol - 'my shop is successful and can afford to offer shade and shelter to you my valued customers.'

Passers-by would cluster under the blind during a shower and therefore take time off to look into his window at the goods displayed, thereby increasing the chance of an 'impulse buy'.

In the town centre most of the shops would have one or more blinds and in wet weather a person could walk along from one end of the High Street to the other with little more than a light waterproof to protect them.

So, where did they all go? Like so many other things they were undoubtedly killed off by the Second World War. They needed maintenance and periodic canvas replacement. Metal and materials were diverted elsewhere. People got used to queuing in the rain and by the end of the war what remained of the blinds stayed rolled up and unused. When shop fronts were renewed the blinds were never, or very rarely replaced. If the shop now wanted to 'make a show of it' the permanent canopy was the mute successor - but once in a while one does come across the odd shop blind and the memories return.

County colours

Do this easy little winter quiz - fill in the spaces with colours - associated with Lincolnshire, past and present.

Reckitt's — was developed in Boston. Some say Lincoln — was — like Lincoln — cattle and the — Arrows. There is a — Pig, Bull and Ram in Grantham, which is also associated with the — Friars. There is a — Street in Lincoln, Branston and Bardney, and there are pubs called the — Man in many places. Bad fortune is said to follow if a — eat looks into a window, and a — dog usually means the same. On the road between Wrawby and Brigg a — ghostly — calf is said to appear to lure travellers into the bog. Cathedral choristers and chanters are dressed in Mary —, but Lincoln City FC are sometimes known as the — Imps. If you are a — belly you will find this quiz easy!
Childhood memories of Grantham

C. Ayre

I will always remember my visits to Grantham in the late 1940s and early 1950s. These were visits to my grandparents. Although both my sets of grandparents lived in Grantham, space only permitted me to tell the story of my maternal grandparents.

The visits always started with a long walk from North Parade in Skeafford. Down through the High Street, passing such landmarks as the large ornamental glass jar containing brightly coloured hundreds and thousands in Turners the baker's shop window and Neytors the pork butchers. In the window were things such as clutterings and chops, black pudding and red skinned potatoes.

Outside Woolworths the pavement was clogged with babies in prams, parked there while their mothers did their shopping. On the opposite side of the road, Johnson's sweet shop was always worth a look, although sweets were not often available due to rationing. Then on to Station Road to catch a bus for Grantham.

My maternal grandparents, Grandad and Nanny Beck, lived at the top end of Commercial Road. About three houses up and just around the corner in Station Road, lived my aunt, uncle and cousin David. Cousin David was what could now be called hyperactive - in those days he was called a little devil. My father nicknamed him Snodgrass, but in time he came to be called Little Snoddy.

Commercial Road was a busy place, mostly of terraced houses, but there were also two public houses, The Commercial Arms and The Dolphin, as well as Mowbray's brewery. Lee and Grolling's maltings and, at the top, St John's Church. My mother would often tell me the story of one night during the First World War, soldiers raided the brewery and got very drunk.

The walk from the bus station took us up Wharf Road and into Commercial Road. We passed some sort of chapel, a large hall where we had the coronation tea. I think this was at The Commercial Arms, past the pub called The Dolphin, and rows of houses, one of which was burnt out I think by a bomb during the war. The approach to my grandparents' house was down a passage between the houses. The passage echoed as we walked along, passing the backs of two other houses, Mrs Morris in one, who always had her door open; she was a rosy checked lady with grey hair in a bun, and she wore a long black dress with a white pinafore.

Nanny and Grandad Beck were always glad to see us. Grandad would be sitting in his armchair by the fire, reading his books of poetry by Milton and Sir Walter Scott. The kettle would be singing on the hob that swung over the fire. Their cluttered two-up-two-down house had a sort of lean-to kitchen and bathroom with a glass roof.

The kitchen had a brown sink with a brass cold-water tap, a black gas stove, which I found frightening, and a large scrubbed-top table that was always covered with stone bottles and pan- mora containing wine in various stages of fermentation. The bathroom just had a bath, not plumbed in, and mostly full of old magazines and newspapers. There was also a beautiful ornate basin in a blue and white flowered pattern.

The living room was full of furniture - sideboard, table, sofa piled with newspapers, a chair where Grandad always sat, and countless numbers of odds and ends bought from Wallwork's second-hand shop. Nanny had a good eye for the finer things in life and her house nowadays would be an antique dealer's dream.

There was also a cellar, the door leading off from the living room. The top of the cellar was used as a pantry and had a strange smell whenever the door was opened.

The front room was only used at Christmas; it too was full of furniture, so full in fact as to make it sound muffled. There was a brown plush three-piece suite, a very ornate ebonised chiffonier full of all sorts of ornaments, a large treadle sewing machine and in the hearth was a large copper urn with a tap on the front. Outside was a long yard with a hen house along one side, a wash house and a lavatory at the end. Visiting the lavatory in the depths of winter was most painful; the wind whistled over and under the door, blowing the squares of Radio Times threaded on a string hanging from the ceiling. On these one could read of when Dick Barton was on the radio or on a Sunday evening take up the invitation to go into the Palm Court of Grand Hotel.

The best part of visiting my Beck relations was the mornings, waking up in the big, soft feather bed, the sash windows rattling, the draught making the paper blinds flap against the glass. Lying there I could see the men working at the maltings and hear the noises from the brewery and the trains at the nearby railway station. Mornings were always exciting, so many things to see - for me the best thing was the milkman's horse, he was a dangerous animal and not to be trusted.

I remember one day Grandad gave us a threepenny bit each. Snoddy and I raced round the corner into Station Road to spend the money at Miss Palmer's shop. This was a dirty little shop. Open in the window were boxes, maybe left over from before the war, of hazelnut cream, jelly babies, liquorice allsorts and French almond rock, each containing a good selection of flies, most of which were at their eternal sleep.

Returning from the shop and rounding the corner we came upon what for me was skewbald equine perfection, in the shape of the milkman's horse, harnessed to Brown's milk float. We stopped a safe distance
away and viewed the animal, who ignored us as he dozed in the sun, eyes shut, one hoof resting as he leaned on the shaft of the cart. His nostrils quivered and his pendulous lower lip twitched, giving us a glimpse of his large green and brown stained teeth. Little Snoddy declared that he would run under the horse, which he did, and the horse, unaware of what was happening, slept on. Unfortunately, as Snoddy was just completing his second run, the milkman returned and started shouting. The horse startled awake, made off up the street, cars back, the white in his eyes showing his temper. We hurried back to the safety of home and Granada.

My aunt's house was on Station Road; the back way was through a yard onto Commercial Road, the yard shared with two other houses. This house was bigger than my grandparents' house; it had two rooms and a kitchen downstairs. Upstairs were two bedrooms and up another set of stairs was a large attic. My cousin and I spent many happy hours playing in this attic. I would often play my aunt's violin, strangely this would make my aunt shout a lot.

The living room had an old-fashioned cooking range, the fire was quite high from the hearth and heated, on one side, the oven and, on the other side, water. Down at floor level on the oven side was a little hole in which lived a family of cockroaches.

One day my aunt decided the cockroaches had to go. She must have put something in the hole to persuade them to vacate. They were coming out in a steady stream, very large and black. My aunt was hitting them with a poker and did not miss one. They were then shovelled up and thrown away.

My cousin and I would often walk up Station Road to look at the trains. We walked through a brick tunnel that took us directly onto the railway lines. Here again little Snoddy would show his superior knowledge. He showed me how to feel the lines. If they were hot a train had just passed. Then he put his ear to the line. This way it was possible to hear a train approaching.

Saturday mornings in Grantham were always taken up by a visit to the market. Grantham market then, as now, was a busy place and still has the same sort of things for sale. One stall, which is still there now, sold china tea sets, dinner sets and ornaments, all at bargain prices, in fact the longer one looked at the china the cheaper it became.

Looking round the Grantham of today, I see many changes, but also many things left over that I remember from childhood. Sadly Commercial Road has not escaped the hand of change. Gone is the row of houses where my grandparents lived, in its place two blocks of flats. The brewery seems to be a sort of wood yard. The road I remember, free of traffic except the milkman's horse, now is lined with cars. Who now remembers the people who lived in the two-up-two-down houses, such a close and friendly community, a way of life gone for ever? Gone also are the sounds of that time, the whistle and hiss of the steam trains, the sounds from the brewery. Does the ghost of the milkman's horse ever trot up Commercial Road? I wonder.

Obituary

Jim English was a man of many Lincolnshire interests. Perhaps one aspect of this was his accepting Terence Leach's mantle by organising the annual Brackenbury Lecture - a joint event by SLHA, the Teeseyson Society, the Methodist History Society and the Spilsby Methodist Circuit. This spells out his commitments to Lincolnshire's past.

Jim came to Lincolnshire as a librarian, being employed in Gainsborough and Lincoln. His skills have been put to particular use in the library at Epworth Old Rectory on behalf of the Lincolnshire Methodist History Society, as well as ensuring the preservation of many other local history documents. His association with SLHA began in 1963 and he was immediately co-opted onto the Executive Committee - his value was recognised from the start.

He has served on the Local History Committee and the History of Lincolnshire Committee for many years. He has been a regular and welcome contributor to Lincolnshire Past & Present.

Jim was never a passenger. If he could not contribute to the business in hand he considered he was not worthy of the seat. But that was certainly never the case.

He was always ready with information and ideas. He was always to the fore in accepting responsibility and meticulous in the execution of the duties laid upon him. For years he represented the Society on the committee of the Friends of Gainsborough Old Hall and helped maintain the bond with SLHA.

Among the tributes at the memorial service held in Gainsborough was his willingness to embrace the computer era. SLHA members will endorse this, remembering Jim as one who gladly accepted change and progress. This gentle and devoted man, with such a deep interest in Lincolnshire past, never allowed himself to wallow in it but aimed to progress the study of history. We owe him a great debt for his research and promotion of Lincolnshire's past. He would, I am sure, fully approve of our website. Most of our members will have Jim's books and articles on their shelves. He was thorough in his researches as in all aspects of his busy and dedicated life. We shall miss him very much.
Digging at Old Sleaford

Archaeologists may be interested in the following letter, sent by Mrs Margaret Jones when she was excavating at Old Place, Sleaford, in the 1960s. The letter was kindly passed to the Editor by the late Dr Dorothy Owen. Excavations on the site at Old Sleaford (still known as Old Place) were begun by Charles Ellis and Kenneth Fennell in the mid 1950s, when they uncovered part of a Roman settlement, including a corn dryer. There was also Medieval pottery.

In the 1960s, excavations begun by Mr Ellis were continued by Margaret and Tom Jones, who in the custom of the time, were peripatetic archaeologists employed by the then Ministry of Public Building and Works. They identified, amongst other features, the Medieval church of St Giles as well as finding the famous Iron Age coin moulds.

Further information on the Jones’ excavations can be found in Sleaford: South Lincolnshire Archaeology 3 (1979).

c/o K. R. Fennell Esq.
St Edmunds Road
Sleaford
26-11-60

Dear Dorothy

Digs are quite demoralising. I should have written ages ago to thank you for coming to my rescue, I’ve had to give three talks in all, which is awful when you’re in the midst of new factors: to the CBA, Lincs History something, of which Flora and Lord Ancaster seem to be Poohibas; and a queer meeting of mixed WEA and RDC Council, collected by one W. Hosford of Sleaford: retired extra-mural.

Jean Varley of course spent two whole days swotting Sleaford up, and then Canon Bin nell has been going strong where she left off, and has also been out twice and given opinions of some reputed stone from the church now in a Garden wall at Old Place. Also, I’ve been in touch with one Miss Fanny Deborah Stubley of Kirkby-La-Thorpe whose father was head gardener at Old Place and there he collected many Roman coins. Baker and Petch have been out. I’m going to ask Olive Fennell, who is a superb typist, to copy all the documentary stuff from various sources, and will send you one.

You will be interested to know a propos Kirkby-La-Thorpe, that I was visited by an OS field investigator, who was checking this name — which will now revert to Laythorpe no doubt: also the stupid apostrophe from Old Place (Flace). He had also found a nearby farm was Boiling, not Butly, Wells.

This site seems to have everything, and of course it’s been a nightmare to handle. There is the Roman road with a building complex beside it on the west in which is the corn drier into the road have been cut a medieval pit (for rubbish) and a well – which was destroyed and filled with stones, which must include two from the church — (nullhead romanesque [sic] arch and celtic [sic] sort of cross). All lies beneath the medieval graveyard, whose gravediggers got so peed with the Roman wall that their graves are as shallow as 19th.

That is site A — the one I’m working on. Then I made test notes in other likely spots: disclosing the robbed church on top of Gallo-Belgic, i.e. pre-Roman conquest ditches; and a site of Iron Age ditches. There are odd Roman-Saxon and Anglo-Saxon sherds. But the most important thing is that clay coin moulds, presumably of a Coritanian mint, are turning up; and I’m trying desperately to get some in a scaled context where no one will try to assert that they may be late Roman — i.e. for barbarous copies.

So no wonder I’m still here and returning. Tom came out for a few days and has agreed to supervise the Iron Age ditch site in Jan so we are staying on with Joan (Varley) and returning here. The Fennells putting us both up. Again for a nominal month. I leave here about Dec 16th — then about ten days at home.

Last week Kenneth Fennell and I went to see John Messop of Holbeach, had supper and saw his pots. He was very good value; has collected every sherd from this R-B farm and saltern site over about 25 years, and has a Roman coin collection.

This site is to have a M. o. W dig in the spring — as it is being ploughed up. As Editor of the appropriate journal for a Sleaford report, would you say it should be printed therein? And would you like a brief interim note? The actual report is not likely to be ready for about two years.

Have now got your letter. Hosford looked at the Bristol books for enclosure information, so there may be something. he has lent me a rental of theirs, late 18C I think and not informative. I must try and contact Marriot, the Agent. Hosford has also lent me Trollope and Creasey and his own WEA scrapbook. John Harst plus Sarnia Butcher [then MPBW Inspectors] are coming on Tuesday for a joint inspection.

Love
(Margaret)
50.1 Great Tom – (Lincs. P&P 49 – ‘A bell query’)
In the Autumn edition of *Lincolnshire Past & Present* there is an enquiry about the use of Great Tom to replace Big Ben as the BBC time signal. The reference is to Great Tom of St Paul’s Cathedral, London. This bell weighs 104 hundredweight [nearly 10,000 kg - 10 metric tons] and Big Ben weighs 270 hundredweight 3 quarters 15 pounds [nearly 26,000 kg - 26 metric tons].
Great Tom was first used as a time signal by the BBC from 1 May 1934 to 30 June 1934 during minor repairs, and from 1 June 1956 to 23 December 1956 during major repairs. Great Tom has also been used for short periods when repairs have been carried out on the bells, clock or tower of the Houses of Parliament.
Apart from Great Tom of St Paul’s and Great Tom of Lincoln there is also a bell at Oxford University known as Great Tom.
Readers might like to know that there are recordings of the bells of St Paul’s and of Oxford on my Bell Recordings web site:
Among many recordings there is also a recording of the old ring of bells at St Mary-le-Bow (Bow Bells) that were used by the BBC for many.

*John Ketteringham*

50.2 Great Tom – (Lincs. P&P 49 – ‘A bell query’)
On page 4 of the Autumn edition Ros Boevers asks about Great Tom used to replace Big Ben. Yes, I remember it, but shame on her for not knowing that Great Tom is the bell used for the death knell of members of the Royal Family and archbishops; most recently Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother. It was once in the Palace of Westminster but was recast in 1709 to become the clock bell for St Paul’s Cathedral.

*Edwin J. Rose*

50.3 Picture postcards – (Lincs. P&P 49 – ‘A postcard query’)
No, this is not the only postcard of council houses and probably not the oldest. In the years before the Second World War local authorities were very proud of their new council houses, and many produced postcards of them. I have several in my collection.

*Edwin J. Rose*

50.4 Coronation doors – The massive sluice gates or doors that were put up when the Coronation Channel at Spalding was dug in the early 1950s have recently been removed. The channel was built to relieve pressure on the River Welland following the 1947 floods, and the gates on Cowbit Road separated the river and the new channel. Does anyone have any photographs or recollections from the period?

*Hilary Healey*
Folklore & customs - compiled by Pat Jakes

Illness - A cousin, nursing a terminally ill father seriously enquired of Mother whether she should lay straw outside the house to quieten the traffic. Hardly necessary in the 1920s but was the usual thing apparently in the days of horse and cart over the rough roads. This was the old main road in Terrington St Clements - hardly the M1 even in those days!

Death - Covering up mirrors to stop the soul escaping into the world beyond. I remember this as a small child but until now did not know why. Touching the corpse ensured that the person would not come back to haunt you. Mother, wisely in this case, said reassuringly that if the person hadn't hurt you when you were alive they wouldn't hurt you when they were dead.

Vanity - Poor Mother, in an effort to stop me being vain, warned me that if I stopped to admire myself in the mirror I would see the devil come behind me in the reflection. I was so terrified that friends' mothers could not understand why I averted my eyes and rushed passed mirrors in their houses. When I explained they ridiculed me, and Mother no doubt, but with an older mother in a small village, and never having the chance to go anywhere, we were a bit naïve.

Oak Apple Day - We dreaded going to school as the rougher element among the boys waited at the school gates with stinging nettles - always making for the 'nice little girls' like us, who never went looking for the then requisite spray of oak leaves. It was only valid until lunchtime - by then the nettles had wilted away and lost their potency.

Easter - You were expected to wear at least one new item of clothing (even if home-made) to Sunday School, but Mother reasoned that the weather was usually too bad so we had something new for Whitsun! As a result, we lost out on both counts - "Why haven't you got something new?" "Why have you got those new clothes when nobody else has?"
George Tennyson and the Clergy Daughters' School

Jim Murray

In 1824 the Rev William Carus-Wilson, an evangelising country gentleman cleric of Castlethorpe near Kirkby Lonsdale in Westmoreland, founded a school at nearby Cowan Bridge, for the education of the daughters of 'the poorer clergy'. The story is well-known of how the Rev Patrick Brontë (1777-1861) of Thornton near Bradford, attracted by the low fees of £14 per annum, sent two of his daughters there in July 1824: Maria (born 1813) and Elizabeth (1814). Eight-year-old Charlotte Brontë and six-year-old Emily followed them in August and November of that year.

The two older girls soon fell seriously ill and were taken home in 1825. Maria died on 6 May 1825, Elizabeth died two weeks later. Charlotte and Emily Brontë were removed from the school by their distraught father. The horrors experienced by pupils at Cowan Bridge - bad food, severe cold, and dreadful conditions made worse by the perceived sadistically harsh discipline of the founder - were later depicted by Charlotte in her masterpiece Jane Eyre. In this novel, the Clergy Daughters' School became notorious as Lowood and the Rev William Carus-Wilson was Mr Brocklehurst. Years later considerable controversy (and libel action) arose as a result of Mrs Gaskell's Life of Charlotte Brontë (1857). That controversy is beyond the scope of this article. In 1832 Carus-Wilson was constrained to move the school to more salubrious surroundings at Castlethorpe near Kirkby Lonsdale where it survives to this day as a successful girls' independent boarding school.

What is less well known is that had it not been for the deaths of the two Brontë girls, the sisters of Alfred Tennyson might have attended the school. It is tantalising to surmise what might have been the reaction of their brother Alfred if his sisters had met the same fate as the unfortunate Brontë girls. And might young Alfred Tennyson have met Charlotte Brontë?

Carus-Wilson had powerful and influential friends - many of them of an evangelising, philanthropic disposition - from whom he solicited subscriptions for his project. Distinguished subscribers included Queen Adelaide (1792-1849), Baron Gurney, Lady Agnew, the Countess of Ellenborough, the Marquis of Westminster and William Wilberforce MP (1759-1833). Several families with strong Lincolnshire connections subscribed and sent daughters to the school.

An initial list of subscribers recorded £5 from William Gray (1751-1845) a very prominent citizen of York. Significantly the list also records 2 guineas from 'a friend of dittos'. It is suggested that this friend was none other than the 'Old Man of the Woods' George Tennyson (1750-1835) of Tealby, grandfather of the Laureate. Doubless he would have an interest in a school for the daughters of 'the poorer clergy!'

George Tennyson and William Gray enjoyed a lifelong friendship lasting some eighty years, and there are remarkable similarities between their respective lives. Both were born in Holderness north of the Humber in relatively humble circumstances. Both spent their boyhood at Holden near Hull where Gray's father was a weaver who later obtained a fairly lucrative post with the Customs at Hull. Tennyson's father, a voluble man, was Michael Tennyson (1721-1796) described as a 'surgeon' of Holden who married the Grimby heiress Elizabeth Clayton. The elder Tennyson, though of modest extraction, was a man of some substance owning property at Hedon and in the surrounding district of Holderness. The description 'surgeon' had no medical connotation, merely indicating a man trading as an apothecary or barber - little more than a shopkeeper.

Gray later recalled his early days with George Tennyson at Hedon as pupils at Dame Betsey Dales' school - 'her sceptre was a long hazel rod, polished by long use, which Tennyson and I well remembered. Not I think that he ever felt its stroke. Being a gentleman's son, when he rebelled, which he often did, he was tied to the bed post'.

Later at school in Beverley, Tennyson was thought to be inordinately proud by his fellow pupils and was nicknamed 'Dindon' (Turkey Cock).

On leaving school both lads were articled to a Hedon attorney, William Iverson where they mastered the intricacies of land law and conveyancing to become skilled and shrewd legal practitioners. They knew the value of hard work and thrift, and were qualified as attorneys. William Gray moved to York and prospered in the law. Tennyson moved across the Humber where he too practised law - first at Barton on Humber, later at Lincoln, and eventually settled on his Buyons Manor estate at Tealby. Both became very wealthy and were eminently successful and active in public life; in 1790 William Gray was appointed Distributor of Stamps for the West Riding of Yorkshire, a very lucrative government post. Tennyson was briefly MP for Saltash (1818) a borough in the pocket of his astronomically rich son-in-law Matthew Russell of Brancepeth Castle,
Co. Durham. Both men lived in some considerable style in cathedral cities: William Gray spent most of his life with his wife Faith (née Hopgood) at Gray's Court, a fine house which he bought in 1788, in the shadow of York Minster — interestingly George Tennyson, possibly influenced by his friend and his frequent visits to York, bought a very fine house in 1794 close to another great cathedral, Lincoln — Deloraine Court, Minster Yard. Curiously both men suffered throughout their lives from gout, though ironically Tennyson was staunchly teetotal all his life.

Both William Gray and George Tennyson were hard-working self-made men with devoted wives and a mutual interest in the fortunes of their progeny. The one major difference between the two was that whereas William Gray (and his wife) was deeply religious and attracted to the Evangelical Movement, George Tennyson was well known for his indifference to religion even though he had a clergyman son, the Rev Dr George Clayton Tennyson (1778-1831) and a clergyman nephew, the Rev Charles Tennyson Turner (1808-1879) both of whom he disapproved of in one way or another.

By 1824, when the Clergy Daughters' School was founded, George Tennyson had a large unruly (and infuriatingly bohemian) brood of grandchildren to support — eleven at the Rectory at Somersby and eight (less unruly) at Tealby. Four of the Somersby children were the daughters of his eldest clergyman son Tennyson, who had a reputation for being 'careful with money', would consider his son to be an 'impovertised' clergyman and hence a deserving case for Curus-Wilson's charity.

The girls were of an age where they could be conveniently packed off to a boarding school. Mary was 13, Emily 12, Matilda seven and Cecilia Tennyson six years old — about the same age as the Brontë sisters. Suggested fees of only £14 per annum would be very attractive — far less than he was having to pay out for his three wild grandsons Frederick, Charles and Alfred Tennyson, leading a life of undergraduate dissipation at Cambridge. Hence William Gray would have had little difficulty in persuading his parsimonious friend to part with two guineas subscription to the Clergy Daughters' School. Money well spent.

All his life George Tennyson was never happier than when visiting his old school friend at York away from the pressures of life at Tealby. He used to combine these frequent visits with periodic sojourns at Harrogate — taking the waters as a relief from the agonising attacks of gout to which he was prone.

Even after a friendship spanning 80 years, Gray was never able to persuade his friend to accept religion. He wrote '...the last sixty years... have witnessed a serious desire on my part to promote the spiritual welfare of himself and his family'.

Both men lived to a ripe old age and died comfortable in the bosom of their respective families: Tennyson died on 4 July 1835 and his friend William Gray on 11 December 1845, aged 85 and 95 respectively.

NOTES
1 In entry no. 30 dated 11 August 1824 in the Cown Bridge School Entrance Book a teacher assessed Charlotte Brontë as follows:
3 And under general remarks:
4 Altogether clever of [sic] her age, but knows nothing systematically.
5 The register states that Charlotte is being educated ‘...for a Governess’.
6 Little Charlotte Brontë marched off to write herself into immortality and became one of the greatest figures in English literature — so much for teachers.
7 For the life of the Rev W. Curus-Wilson and the controversy about the school, see inter alia Life of Charlotte Brontë, Elizabeth Gaskell, Life of Rev. Curus-Wilson, the Soldier's Friend, C. W. Curus-Wilson. The archives of Casterton School at Cumbria Record Office, Kendal, contain much information on this subject. An interesting account of the school is to be found in The History of Casterton School, Geoffrey Sale (1981).
8 Wilberforce was a philanthropist, son of a wealthy Hull merchant. He became a convert to evangelical Christianity during a tour of the continent in 1784. He was elected MP for Hull in 1780 and retired from Parliament in 1825. His nineteen-year campaign for the abolition of slavery was finally successful in 1807. He is buried in Westminster Abbey.
9 Queen Adelaide (1792-1876) consort of William IV, visited the school at Casterton in 1840. Families with Lincolnshire connections appearing in Clergy Daughters' School records are Field Flowers of Louth, the Rev G. Inman of Skeffling, George Tennyson's brother-in-law, Thorold.
10 William Ivesson of New Hall Hedon was a powerful figure in business and politics in Holderness and was elected three times Mayor of Hedon. William Gray wrote a Memoir recording that a 25-guineas fee had been paid to Ivesson for the eight years served in his office. Gray was taken on at the age of twelve and a half; the first three years ‘...as a skivvy’ then five years as an articled clerk.
11 Gray's Court is one of the most historic buildings in England, situated in a very picturesque and unspoiled corner close in the shadow of York Minster. From the 11th century until the Reformation it was the home of the Treasurers of York Minster. William Gray bought the house in 1788 and it remained in the family until 1962 when it was sold to the Dean and Chapter of York Minster. Since 1949 it has been leased to the College of Ripon and York St John.
12 George Tennyson was never happy with the high society in uphill Lincoln, preferring instead the more earthly atmosphere of Market Rasen.
News from New Zealand: Colonial Secretary alerted

Brian T. Thornalley

In Burgh le Marsh, Lincolnshire, Elizabeth Thornalley, a widow, died in 1810 and her will, signed on 22 June 1801, came into effect. Her first eight children each inherited "One shilling of lawful money of England". Not much perhaps but they were mature persons with their own families and properties, named in the will as Mary (c1765, married James Overton on 7 May 1784 at Croft), Sarah (c1767, married into the Crow family), John (b 1769, d 1836, married Elizabeth [?] c 1790, Thurnillow in some records), James (c1770, married Sarah Cross in 1794 at Spalding), Ann (c1772, unmarried in 1801), Samuel (b 1773, d 30 September 1826, married Elizabeth Good on 20 May 1799 at Orby), William (c1775), and Benjamin (c1777, married Mary Badger on 13 May 1799 at Welton le Marsh).

Elizabeth's ninth and last child, Joseph (c1780, died 10 February 1821), married Caroline Shaw on 6 June 1810) was named as her executor and he inherited all her lands, messuages and tenements and her personal estate.

The Thornalleys spread out as farmers, farm workers and brick-makers. For 30 to 40 years, from 1790, they were concentrated in and around Friskney and Wainfleet, later moving further north in Lincolnshire and south and east into Suffolk.

Samuel (1773) and his wife Elizabeth, resident in Friskney, had their first child, Joseph, in 1800. Twenty-five years later, in Friskney still, Joseph married Sarah Broughton on 11 August 1825. Their first child, John, was baptised on 19 September 1826, to be followed in regular order by Mary Ann (1829), Rebecca (1832), Samuel (1835), Eliza (1837), Jane (1839), William and Betsey (both baptised in 1843, possibly twins?) and finally, by my great-grandfather, Joseph Abraham, born in 1847, but strangely, not baptised until 1859.

Great-grandfather's brother, Samuel, when old enough to leave home and/or go to work, found the times were hard, work was scarce and wages were low. So much so that he determined to seek a better life in New Zealand, much to his family's apprehension. In September 1859 he arrived and settled in Auckland, which had been established only 20 years or so earlier - a pioneer town in every sense. Samuel married Amelia Jane Bailey on 23 October 1860, a mere six weeks after her arrival in Auckland from Desford in Leicestershire. It seems unlikely that they knew each other before their separate departures from England - perhaps Amelia took a speculative chance in 1860.

Samuel and Amelia had seven children, some of whose descendants still populate the Auckland area; at least one lives in the South Island; and others have migrated to the United States of America. Their third child and first son, Joseph William, was born on 10 April 1866, but died on 20 November 1868. Oddly to us now, but not uncommon then, they gave the same names to their next son, born in 1873, after two more girls.

At some point in his working life in New Zealand, Samuel set himself up as a Carter and, amongst other commodities, carried stone and gravel from the quarries at Mount Eden to where it was needed for road building. Unfortunately for Samuel, as it turned out, the technique for extracting the 'scoria' material was to hack away at a vertical face and on 28 June 1881, at 46, he was suffocated to death by a fall of gravel.

The official 'Inquisition' judged that he 'came to his death' as follows:

"That the said Samuel Thornley [wrong spelling used throughout], a Carter, on the 28th day of June, in the year aforesaid [1881], being employed in drawing gravel from certain pits situated at Mount Eden, in the provincial district [Auckland] and colony [New Zealand] aforesaid, it so happened that a large mass of said gravel accidentally, casually and by misfortune fell from the top of the said pit on and against the body of him the said Samuel Thornley, who under the said gravel there and then was suffocated and smothered besides receiving diverse wounds, contusions and fractures - of which said suffocation and smothering and injuries aforesaid the said Samuel Thornley there and then instantly died. And so the jurors aforesaid do upon their oath aforesaid do say that the said Samuel Thornley, in manner and by the means aforesaid, accidentally, casually and by misfortune came to his death and not otherwise.'

The 14 jurors were: Robert Stevenson, the Foreman; Charles Frederick Davey; William Gill; Cranston Leathern, John S. Milne; George Esdale; William McSkimming; Richard Stainer; Nicholas Wall; Percy Rigby; Henry Griffin; George Smith; John Mills and James Davis.

The Inquisition verdict was signed on 29 June 1881 by the Coroner, Thomas Moore Philson MD and by all the Jurors. In the margin at the side of the signatures, Dr Philson added the following Rider to Verdict:

'That the Domain Board appoint an Inspector for the whole of the gravel pits in Mount Eden and also that each Lessor or owner be compelled to keep a man in their respective pits to see to the safety of the carters getting scoria therefrom.'

The Coroner then, in his own hand, covering six pages, wrote out copies of the statements of four witnesses of the accident, namely: James Morrison; Hugh O'Neill; Edward Lamb and George Winstone. He sent this document with the
Verdict and Rider to 'the Under Secretary'. It was passed and annotated back and forth between two officials who agreed on 7 July 1881 to 'send a copy of Rider as usual' to the Chairman of the Domain Board.

On 20 July 1881, the Hon Sec of Mount Eden Domain Board, William R. Bridgman, addressed a letter to 'The Hable, Minister of Justice, Wellington'. He wrote: Sir, I have the honor to inform you in reply to your letter enclosing a copy of the rider of the jury on the inquest held on body of Samuel Thornley killed in Mount Eden gravel pit on June 29,' That the board are in communication with the Colonial Secretary so that arrangements may be made whereby future like accidents shall be prevented.'

So, Samuel Thornalley's early life in Lincolnshire was destined to provide, in his middle age, a cause and an effect, in a colony on the other side of the world, that would benefit workers at the bottom of the social scale. It was tough luck on Samuel and on Amelia and the children, but worthy of a mention in the minutes of history.

J81/1353 5.7.81
Coroner Auck?

Inquest Proceedings on S. Thornley.

Witness statements at the Inquest on the death of Samuel Thornalley, 29.6.1881.

Colony of NEW ZEALAND to wit:
Informations of Witnesses severally taken and acknowledged on behalf of our Sovereign Lady the Queen, touching the death of Samuel Thornley at the dwelling house of Samuel Evison known by the name of The Eden Vyne Hotel in the Provincial District of Auckland, in the colony above mentioned, on Wednesday the Twenty ninth day of June one thousand eight hundred and eighty one before Thomas Moore Philson MD one of the Coroners for the said colony on an Inquisition then and there taken on view of the body of the above named Samuel Thornley then and there lying dead, as follows, to wit:-

James Morrison, being sworn, saith that: I am a labourer, residing in May street, Mount Eden. I have known deceased for about 4 months. He was a carter in the employment of Mr W. G. Winstone and his work was to cart scoria from Mount Eden gravel pits. I last saw him alive on Tuesday June 28th inst at 12.40 o'clock pm. He was at that time picking on the face of gravel pit - his back was towards me, I was about 20 yards distant. I was walking to the pit after dinner, I am engaged in screening scoria by the day. I had no conversation with deceased. About 10 minutes after I began to work I heard a man, John Murphy by name call out that 'Sam' meaning deceased was hurt. I ran across and met a man named O'Neill who also was screening scoria. We both ran to the spot where I had seen deceased working and saw a man's legs sticking out of a heap of scoria. I could not see the face or trunk of the man. The left leg was stretched out straight and the right was doubled back on his body. I lifted a large block of scoria from the chest of deceased. I suppose it weighed 3 cwt. We rolled off several blocks and discovered the body lying flat on his back. We extricated the body from the scoria, and recognised the man to be Samuel Thornley. He was quite lifeless but the body was warm. There were no signs of breathing. I saw a scalp wound on the top of the head which extends to the skull but does not seem to have fractured it. I also found that the right thigh was broken, without external wound. I estimate the total weight resting on the body as about ½ a ton. The height from the top to where deceased was working was about 10 feet. I think he must have lain in the position in which I found him at least 15 minutes. I heard no noise as of anything falling and it was impossible for deceased to utter a cry. We got the body out of the pit and gave information to the Police and Mr Winstone and in the course of an hour the body was removed to the Eden Vyne Hotel where it has been seen by the Jury. Deceased was about 48 years of age and he has left a widow and 6 children, 4 of whom are young.

The Mount Eden gravel pits are in charge of the Domain Board of Mount Eden and the rents are paid to Mr. H. M. Shepherd. Hugh O'Neill attends daily at the pits to collect the money and keep the accounts. He is not responsible for keeping the pits in a safe state. There is no supervision of the men when at their work. I consider that the present condition of the pits is highly dangerous. It is common for ships of scoria to occur from the top, particularly after rain, but I never knew of an accident of this present nature to occur at Mount Eden before. I think there ought to be a man employed to make the pits safe for working before the carter come in. I think that Mr Shepherd should bear the cost.

Signed: James Morrison.

Hugh O'Neill being sworn saith: I am a labourer and live at the Mount Eden gravel pits. I knew deceased the last 2 months during the time I have been employed at the pits. My work is to screen scoria for Mr Shepherd who leases the pits from the Mount Eden Domain Board. When the carter's come for scoria they go where they like, here and there, the best way they can. There is no one to direct them or see that everything is safe for them to work. I did not witness the fall of scoria on deceased, but my attention was drawn to him by a carter named Murphy who missed deceased from the place where he was at work and went to see what had become of him. I consider that the present condition of the pits is unsafe there being no one to look after them. I think there ought to be an Inspector who should keep some one in the pits to see that everything right. The top of the pits should be thrown down before the carter's come to draw. Mr Shepherd has only been at the pits twice in 5 weeks. He is in Coromandel at present. I believe he was obliged by his agreement to keep a man in the pits to superintend the work but he has not done so. I have heard of two accidents, not fatal, that occurred. This was in another pit.

Signed: Hugh O'Neill.

Edward Lamb being sworn saith:

Lincolnshire Past & Present No 49 Autumn 2002 17
Coal in Lincolnshire

Les Gostik

It would appear that the search for coal in Lincolnshire (Lincolnshire History & Archaeology Vol 35 2000 refers) began before the efforts made at Kirkstead. The following account in James Creasy’s Sketches of Old and New Stenford (1825) gives a picture of the efforts made:-

The late Earl of Bristol, relying on information that on a part of his estate in the Lordship of Quarrington, about a mile south of the above place, a vein of coal was likely to be found, gave orders, in the year 1798, that search should be made for it, and the following account of the strata perforated in boring for the supposed bed of that mineral has been handed to us by J. Cragg of Threecingham.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Strata discovered in boring</th>
<th>feet in</th>
<th>Strata discovered in boring</th>
<th>feet in</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sandy moory soil</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>Stone of marble like grit</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bine stone rock</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>Chiefly blue stone solid rock</td>
<td>51</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Blue bine, of a nearly clay-like appearance, tender and soapy</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>Depth of water bursting out violently</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stony rock</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>and uniformly running to this day</td>
<td>195</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stronger blue bine</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>Chiefly solid stone rock, with one small mineral</td>
<td>180</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brown bine and ironstone</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>blue' intermixed with a few balls of ironstone</td>
<td>479 6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Coals</td>
<td>2</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Observations - ¹Bine is hardened clay approaching in nature to stone. ²Orifice of the bore two inches in diameter.
³Spring discovered on Plow Monday, 1799. ⁴In this blue were very strong pieces of sulphur.

... The borers tried to stop [the stream] with a strong plug, but it burst out of the rock in a fresh place, with great violence.

John Cragg

Although they failed in the principal object, the undertaking however is scarcely to be regretted, as it has been productive of a never-failing spring of fine clear water, supplying the neighbouring villages, for some miles below it, that frequently before suffered from drought, and as it also affords some geological information, we may add, that it is still the opinion, we believe, of some miners, that could the water have been carried off, a vein of coal might be found sufficient to repay the expense of working.
Bookshelf


This history compiled by a former pupil is a quite delightful book. Remarkably the school only existed from 1931 until its absorption in the Comprehensive system introduced by Humberside County Council in 1975. Thus it would appear a straightforward task to produce a history, but the author reveals that, despite a few Governors' minutes and some Registers, all the school records were destroyed in the mid-Eighties. She, therefore, determined on the mammoth task of contacting as many former students and staff as possible and compiling the school story from their records, photographs and reminiscences. The result is a charming collection of memories, presenting a more personal and intimate picture than could have been achieved by a conventional approach.

Thus we read (ch.3 1939-45): 'Even when the air-raids were at their worst... the school bus always came and we went to school'. The school bus was a lifeline for village children in our rural area. 'We made our closest friends on the school bus... since there were fifty children on a thirty-five seater, girls often sat on boys' knees'. One route had a very careful and slow driver; certain boys used to shout 'Hurry up, Fred, a woman with a pram wants to come past'. The privations of war, especially food rationing, evoke many memories.

Sport is another topic that features strongly, with the first mention of a talented girl sprinter wearing running spikes (1945). Drama productions, visits to faraway places, school dinners, a 'delectable' school secretary, all features. But, probably, the outstanding contributions come from pupils about their teachers. One of my abiding memories is the dry humour of Mr. Manning. You're like first formers - I ask you to draw something and you take your rubbers out'. The author, Henry Treese, is mentioned frequently. 'Mr. Treese used to say "there is no such word as firstly and things are never in short supply, they are scarce"'.

Perhaps the reminiscences are best summed up by this: 'I think we were incredibly lucky to go to school when we did and where we did. We very close friend of mine, ex-public school, who shared digs with me for four years. Later sent his children to a state school because he concluded that his education had been much better than his and certainly more enjoyable'.

Headmasters also appear; and here I should like to add my own memory. When, in 1962, I became headmaster of a rural grammar school, the then headmaster, Norman Goddard, telephoned me with good wishes. For me, that incident came to typify Barton-on-Humber.

Enid Brice's book is splendidly produced, with clear type, excellently reproduced photographs and a pleasure to handle. The author is to be congratulated.

Peter Rowland.

[DAY, Nicholas.]. The salmon, the whale and Immer: stories around the oldest house in Immingham, Project Immer, [2002]. 44pp. No ISBN. £5 pbk, plus p&p from Project Immer, 54, Clyffton Crescent, Immingham DN40 2BT.

The oldest house in Immingham, as in so many other English villages, is the church. A group of local people have come together to prepare a well illustrated account to aid the fabric funds of the church. The title is explained thus: in White's Directory of 1865 Immingham was described as a haven with a salmon industry; the whale is an ancient carving on the outside of the church and Immer is the ancient whose name is now enshrined in the place's modern name. Here we have the chatty and readable story of the author's exploration of the early history of the place before the church was built followed by descriptions of the architectural features, including many gargoyles. The book puts flesh on the very bare bones of Pevsner, supplements the several books by Eric Rands and on the modern town and deserves to succeed.


This little book is a welcome publication. The author is as well equipped as anyone on the basis of both his previous work (including several volumes on Roman Britain) and his considerable talents as an illustrator to present this judicious account in word and picture.

Architecture is defined here in the Roman sense of mortared stone buildings, something new which the Roman occupation brought to Britain. It was, in fact, the aspect which had greatest physical impact, swelling vast resources of public and private funds.

The motivation for this expenditure was the need to create symbols of imperial power and to compete for social and political status. The author is correct in stating, contrary to some attempts to belittle the architectural quality of the province, that Britain did have some highly impressive structures and engineering achievements. That Britain's sculptural inspiration came from NE Gaul and the
Rhineland is now clear from Tom Blagg's work on Roman architectural decoration, published posthumously earlier this year.

There is a useful section on techniques, and separate chapters on military, public, religious and domestic buildings, with some aspects of engineered structures thrown in as a bonus. Our knowledge and understanding are still growing, but many buildings remain problematic; the author is rather non-committal on the interpretation of the unique elliptical building at Chester. He is similarly cautious, with good reason, on the source of the Lincoln aqueduct.

The arch was one of the Roman introductions - a rare example still survives at Lincoln, of course, in the form of the Newport Arch, while others, presumably temple entrances, are documented by inscriptions at Ancaster and at Nettleham. The chapter on temples and shrines is particularly valuable, its range reflecting the wide number of deities worshipped. There were few identifiable structures belonging to Christianity, since churches - as separate structures - were not becoming commonplace till the time when the Romans were ceasing to invest in Britain.

Although the author is now resident in Lincolnshire, it is notable that his section on 'Museums and Sites' has no mention of Lincoln. Let us hope that the new museum is not far away and that the omission can be rectified in a second edition! In summary, this is a well-organised and valuable synthesis.

Michael J. Jones, City Archaeologist, Lincoln.


A special poignancy attaches to this short account now that Nottingham University is pulling out of using this as the centre of its educational operations in south Lincolnshire. The author's earlier book told of the Fydel family and the house up to the time of the last of the direct line in 1866. The house then passed to Mrs Rowley (a descendant of the last Fydel's sister) and among those that dwelt there were Samuel Waddington and Thomas Kitwood, both mayors of the town. When George Fydel Rowley died in 1933 Canon Cook was active in trying to secure the safety of the house and the Boston Preservation Trust was formed and bought the house. In 1945 it became the University's adult education centre under Harold Wilshire and then from 1947 to 1973 the formidable enthusiastic Alan Champion. This is a fascinating little work and the illustrations, particularly of people involved in its 'rescue' in the 1950s, will revive many memories for Boston's townpeople. However, I would have liked a portrait of the university's staff to round it all out. This is not meant to be a history of the house as an architectural gem though the title (from Peirse) may suggest it. It is very readable and well worth its modest price.

HARDY, Clive. Elizabethan Lincoln. Lincolnshire Echo, 2002. 128pp. ISBN 1 904038 05 0. £9.95 pbk; £11.45 incl. p&p from Henry Holtland, Precinct Centre, Oxford Road, Manchester M13 9QA.

A brief glance at the cover of this book, published at the time of the Queen's Golden Jubilee and described in the introduction as 'the Lincolnshire Echo's special tribute to the Queen', leads us to believe that its theme is royal visits to Lincolnshire. In fact, it is chiefly a photographic portrayal of Lincoln and its changes over the last fifty years; only two of the Queen's four official visits to the city are chronicled, but there are a few other photographs with royal connections, such as visits by the Queen Mother and the Prince & Princess of Wales, and street parties held at the Coronation and Silver Jubilee.

The photographs are from the newspaper, with short explanatory captions (my favourite appears on p. 12, showing what happens when 'a rough shunted goods train collides with a stationary goods' toilet'). Most are black and white with 16 pages of colour photographs of the more recent period. There are some interesting aerial shots in the section 'Across the rooftops'. While the majority show Lincoln itself there are several pages of illustrations of surrounding villages and a few of local servicemen on duty outside the county. Reproductions of old advertisements (from old copies of the Lincolnshire Echo?) appear among the photographs but it is a pity that they are not all dated - it would be good to know when Lincoln Savings Bank was giving 7.5% interest p.a. (p.20) and in what year you could buy a brie-nylon coat for 8 guineas (p. 26). There are a few errors (or are they misprints?) - the Waterside Centre opened in 1991 (p 29) and President Kennedy was assassinated in November (not December) 1963 (p. 110) and it was Melvyn Bragg, not the Queen, who opened the city's library in 1996 (p. 2). Nevertheless the book will fascinate anyone who has known Lincoln in the last fifty years.

Eleanor Nannestad, Lincoln.


This handsome large format book is the result of much research and has obviously been a labour of love over many years by the one-time village doctor. We start with 11 pages entitled 'A walk round Tetford' describing something of the area's landscape and the properties with 37 colour photographs. Then follow pages giving a detailed historical perspective - chapters on early history, the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries, enclosure.

The chronological sequence is maintained with sections on the church (there's a good picture of the late Reverend Arthur Smith with his Parish Bus) and chapels, the overseer and the undeserving poor, the law, schools, agriculture and a section on people, namely doctors and the military; the latter is tied in with the
Apothecary Act of 1815 (before then anyone could practise medicine) and the rise of the Militia.

All of this material is carefully marshalled into readable sections, illustrated as appropriate with early photographs, reproductions of letters, official forms, bills, receipts and advertisements. The author's researches are firmly based on records, mainly in the Lincoln Archives Office, but he has also had access to material in the Public Record Office, British Library and has made good use of the local vestry minutes and the Tadford School Minute Book. He has also read widely among the relevant literature as the copious footnotes reveal. The book is rounded off with a section entitled 'Towards the present', which records much of the twentieth century's progress. It is a well illustrated chapter (I especially liked the period flavour shown in the picture of George Lancaster's bus in the 1920s) and is a mine of information about the families of the village and where they all lived.

The book is let down by careless proof-reading. Sentences lack full stops, there are quite a few misprints (surplus for surplus, for example) and other punctuation problems. The oddest feature is, however, in the numbering of the footnotes: most chapters have the numbering starting with no. 6; several chapters towards the end have footnotes starting with no. 1 but there is no consecutive sequence; the final chapter lists footnotes one and two but the first in the text is no. 6; finally, on page 57 the text has a footnote no. 27 but the references cease at no. 26.

Even so, this is a book well worthwhile for the wealth of information it contains, reflecting as it does the enormous effort involved in its preparation. And errors in production aside it is a nice book to hold and it is very modestly priced for such a well illustrated volume.

HECKINGTON VILLAGE TRUST
Heckington: a journey through time.
The Trust, 2001, 148pp, ISBN 0 9541065 0 4, £12 phk plus £3 p&p from Mr. P. Banister, 22 Cowgate, Heckington NG34 9RL.

Here is another very well-produced volume that fully lives up to its title. In seven chapters we are taken through the ages: 'early Heckington' discusses the geology of the area and possible early inhabitants and, as in all the chapters, there is a wealth of illustrative material. This is followed by sections on medieval Heckington, the Tudors and Stuarts, the period 1700-1850, Victorian Heckington which runs on into the twentieth century and, finally, the World War II and a walk round the village. In the latter every house or shop of importance seems to be illustrated and pen portraits of notable residents given. The same attention to detail is to be seen in the earlier chapters, especially in relation to the several older houses: Cobham Hall, Holmes House, Windmill Manor and Heckington Manor House.

The book is weighted towards the period post-1850 in terms of text but the earlier times are not neglected. Land and property ownership are covered and, with the aid of one of Rex Russell's famous maps, enclosure receives due attention. The church, chapels, education are threads in the chronological sequences. All of this material is supported with a wide range of photographs and drawings, with an attractive colour section.

Mr Banister, who was one of the group responsible for this book, has already recently written two other volumes (see Lincolnshire Past and Present, Winter, 2001-2). Some of the pictures from those books inevitably appear again here. However, we have now a much more substantial text that reflects a great deal of research. It is all put together with much flair, the large size type and the clarity of the layout help to make this a volume, which is a model for all other budding groups who wish to write village histories.


This book had a grant from Awards For All and is beautifully presented and designed. All the contributors but one have lived in the village at some time. Many people have provided the drawings and paintings. Unfortunately the excellent photographs are not attributed.

The book consists of articles on local geography, reminiscences of comparatively recent times and pieces about local history. The reminiscences are a delight to read, but there is no new material in the history articles. In fact, there is much that is wrong or, at best, dubious. The geographic articles have far too much overlapping material. This and the lack of unity of styles in places spoil the book as do several mistakes which appear to be careless. There are three confusing appendices.

The Tennison family always causes confusion with names and they are not used consistently here. 'To ignore Effyngcourt' when the resident branch of the family was instead omitting 'Tennison' is bad. The statement that inheritance of the Bayons estate was conditional on the adoption of the additional surname is wrong. The property on which the condition was made was that at Usby, Morton and Hemswell. George Tennison settled in Market Rasen in early 1774 over a year before his marriage. His grandson did indeed believe him to have been testator all his life but he certainly bought sherry when staying at Harrogate in 1823 and lent two bottles of port to his neighbour Mr Boucherett. George's son Charles had many accomplishments but a gifted poet he certainly was not.

The Roman pot that contained the Tealby Hoard has been with the coin collection of the Usher Gallery since that wing was built. Two different lengths of the incumbrance of one vicar on the same page is certainly careless. Royal coats of arms were seen in churches well before the Commonwealth period.

Having last year met one of the two soldiers who were living in one of the towers of Bayons Manor as fire watchers I was interested to read about them. The description of the
Howards' garden brought back memories of taking lattuce from there for farmhouse nappages for the Tealby and District Film Society. Omission of this society is serious, it brought people from all over the county to see quality films for many years. Perhaps the editor was too modest as he was the projectionist for most of these years. There are other significant omissions.

The book is very well worth reading but if it were all at the standard of the better parts it would have been excellent. Let us hope that a second revised edition will appear without all the annoying distractions.

Douglas Boyce, Market Rasen.


This is a very detailed study of the uses and benefits that are to be derived by local and other historians from the careful use of the many county, town and trade directories published since the early years of the nineteenth century. Dr Mills is well-known in this county for his many contributions to the study of local history - his current interests in Bransoton, Canwick and Heighington have appeared frequently in the pages of recent SLHA publications. In his classes he has taken his students through the methodologies involved in any type of work of a local historical nature and has been keen to pass on his expertise to all would-be researchers.

In this book he distils much that is valuable from his wide experience and puts future workers in this field in his debt with the guidance provided here. The chapter headings give an idea of the range and depth of coverage dealt with: after a general introduction to the various types of directory that are useful, he deals with traditional trades and crafts; rural population; choosing communities (meaning that, if the area for study has already been selected, there is much of value to be learnt from the study of the neighbouring villages or townships); dual occupations (elaborating on the implications in many directories of descriptions that suggest a particular person/firm provided more than one local service); village self-sufficiency in decline; village interdependence; town and country (exploring the relationships between villages and neighbouring larger towns and what they meant in terms of transport, shopping and other social activities).

As one proceeds one is led into increasingly more complex areas of study and I imagine that many amateur students will arrive at a point when they will feel they have exhausted all that they need for their own particular exercise. That would be a mistake since throughout the book there are pointers to all sorts of topics that might elude local history students but which could extend and enrich the final outcome. The book is provided with many tables and illustrations that are useful not only for the point that is being discussed but as pointers for more research. The book is of especial interest to Lincolnshire readers since there are many case studies and, Dennis being Dennis, they feature many of the places he has been personally involved in; there are studies of Billinghay and the surrounding villages and the relationship between Sleaford and its local villages and a useful map and discussion of carriers in the Horncastle area; there are pictures of activities at Collingham (just over the border in Notts.), a bus at South Kelsey and a butcher's at Woodhall Spa and Leicestershire figures well in other case studies.

There is a helpful glossary of terms and a very extensive bibliography. If the book sometimes seems to be aimed more at social historians with its discussions of population trends and the variety of trades and services in villages and townships nevertheless the book should be closely studied by anyone involved in researches at local level, which aim at being more than a collection of postcards with captions (valuable as such efforts surely are).

Mrs. Hirast's recipe book. Burgh le Marsh, Old Chapel Lane Books, [2001]. 60 pp. No ISBN. £1 pbk plus 50p for p&p from the publisher, Old Chapel Lane, Burgh le Marsh PE24 5LQ.

How to make Candy Ginger, Ginger Bread, Cherry Wine, preserve fruits, bake cakes, plum (sic) bread, souder (sic) cake and pickled mushrooms.

Mrs Rudkin found this early 19th century notebook.


The publisher was given this collection by Mrs Rudkin and it is now lodged in Scunthorpe Museum with the Peacock Collection. The correspondences stemmed from something in Notes and Queries in 1893 - someone thinking that Lincolnshire bagpipes referred to frogs. Apart from Nicholson's reply on the player, and the whereabouts of the pipes we have only the one-sided letters of Miss Peacock. Much in the letters is of a general nature with occasional items of local interest. There is a very full set of notes that tell us more of the various subjects and people appearing here; with the introduction they constitute a third of the booklet. A useful rescue operation has been effected with this publication.


Canon Pink has written a detailed and learned study of Swarby. Unlike so many of the recent village books, which often tend to rely on a committee of different writers, collections of photographs and summary research (an approach that has still yielded many treasures and has certainly put in front of the interested
public much (that might otherwise have been lost) he has gone back to the authentic sources. One of the many values of the present volume for other local historians is, in fact, the way he uses archival works but also how he takes the reader through such source materials and what can be extracted from them. Fourteen chapters take us through from Dawn (Chapter 1) to Dusk (the final chapter). 'Dawn' naturally provides us with a snapshot of the village's early history (Domesday, field names and a picture of a Viking metal strap, found in 1999 by David Robinson, *inter alia*). The King’s Commissioners visited in 1225 and their records give us a detailed view of the village: Court Rolls, wills, inventories, glebe terriers, the church registers and so on all provide the bare materials from which an illuminating history has been compiled. Many documents are included among the illustrations and the church as a resource in itself is not forgotten. Readable and nicely produced we can be grateful that the village has been so well served with this book.


As the late lamented Jim English states in his Foreword ‘...it is always pleasing to find people willing to research neglected...subjects...’ and his commendation almost makes the reviewer redundant. The eight chapters cover a very diverse range from the town’s first purpose built theatre (erected in 1772), soon overtaken by the Old Hall Theatre, which opened in 1788, the year after the former’s closure. Then follow sections on the Royal Albert Hall and Opera House, the town’s second purpose built theatre (1885), the Grand Theatre, the Mart Yard, the Cricket Ground and, finally, the Roller Skating Rink. The Grand Theatre opened in 1910 after the conversion of the Congregational Chapel and seated 1000 people. The cricket ground was just that initially but is now the home of Gainsborough Trinity FC, though the book is concerned only with other entertainments, such as the balloon ascent in 1874 (with a photograph). The Rink was only short-lived, opening in 1909 and closing when the Great War started. Four appendices are included, two relating to political gatherings and two to Mr. Oscar Wilde, who spoke on ‘The House Beautiful’ in January, 1884, the local newspaper’s account of his speech being printed in full.

So there is much useful information here on the various buildings that have played their part in entertaining the local populace. I would have hoped to have more detail on the productions that were put on, though the reproduction of advertisements for the shows appear frequently. Were any operas ever put on at the Opera House, for instance. Perhaps the promised second part will put flesh on those bones. All in all, however, Jim’s recommendation is fully earned.


The group has produced a very attractive study of the village. The cover design incorporates the old AA village sign and lures the reader into a well produced study. The ten chapters show the approach to the subject: archaeology, natural history, farming, buildings, religion, living in the village, transport, education, the village during the war, and finally, celebrations and leisure.

Not quite a strict chronological sequence but still systematic and from it an informed picture emerges of how the village grew from small beginnings and the stages of its development. An over strict adherence to dates at the beginning (Neolithic period 4000-2001 BC, Bronze Age 2200-800BC, Saxon period ending exactly in 1065) gives way to proper exactness later on but 6th September, 1939 was not a Tuesday (p.38) but they do not seriously detract. It is very well illustrated throughout (two of the maps require a magnifying glass). The group has done an excellent job and their enthusiasm seems to come off the pages. We can only look forward to the further work we are promised.

WRIGHT, James. *Skogness: Lincolnshire’s famous seaside resort*. The author, 2002. 16pp. ISBN 1 902871 00 6. £2.50 pbk plus 33p for p&p from the author, 33 Parker St., Cleethorpes DN35 8TH.


Two more booklets similar to the author’s recent Fiskesby guide. Written in a cheerful and informative style they are well worth the modest prices. The first of these two covers Skogness from the earliest times to the present day. The second looks in wide-ranging detail at the events of one year, on its inside cover is a useful business directory and at the back a calendar of what was going on elsewhere in that year. Useful and enjoyable without making any pretensions as serious histories.

**NEW BOOKS RECEIVED OR NOTED.** Inclusion of details here does not imply that the editor has been sent the work concerned; in such cases a review will not normally appear.


CAREY, Raymond F. *Journey to another land: Tudor and Stuart South Periby, 1540 to 1639: the in-depth history of a hundred years in the life of the people and their land in a North Lincolnshire village*. The
author, Caddies, The Rise, S. Ferraby
DN18 HFE. 2002. 152pp. No ISBN.
£6.50 spiral pbk.
(£2.50 by post from Brenda Tyszack, Old Police Station, Spa Hill, Kirton in Lindsey).


FOR copies of the four above books by post apply to Mrs. K. Fogg, 101 Gratnam Road, Waddington. Lincoln - prices quoted do not include postage and packing costs.


