Domesday ploughlands in Boothby Wapentake
Dark Age Lincolnshire
Rasen Coal & Clothing Club
Early steam powered threshing
Wragby’s William of the Nile
Lost parish churches
Frederick Flowers

Magazine of the Society for Lincolnshire History & Archaeology
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The deadline for contributions to the next Bulletin and the Winter issue of Lincolnshire Past & Present is 15 November 2003. Material should be sent to the Joint Editors at Jews' Court, Lincoln LN2 1LS. Articles may also be sent on disk, or as an email attachment to lindumcolonial@hotmail.com if hard copy is sent to Jews' Court.

Cover picture: Aerial photograph of the site of the village of Skinnand, source unknown, but c1970s. The River Brant runs from top to bottom of the picture, left (North at the top). Ditches enclosing the tofts can be clearly seen, some holding water, and there is clear ridge and furrow south of the village. Not all of the site is pasture today.
My last editorial note started off by recalling the floods of 50 years ago. This time it would have been appropriate to recall an exceptionally hot summer, but I have no good notes on this subject, although I think there was one in the early 1940s! The most recent hot summer that comes to mind was probably 1976. Much of that year (and 1975, which was equally hot for an outdoor archaeologist) I was employed digging on the Roman site at Sapperton. My recollections of these two hot seasons are blurred, but consist chiefly of wildlife observations - not a usual aspect of Lincolnshire history! We were struck, quite literally, by a series of insect invasions - from clouds of ladybirds and aphids to butterflies, and the inevitable thunderflies, settling all over everything and everybody! Later, in October, when the rains came, there was an absolute explosion of mushrooms everywhere, because the weather was so warm.

I must mention here a recent experience in Herefordshire. In August I went with friends to visit the famous church at Kilpeck, and the lady who serves tea nearby produced first an almost football sized giant puffball and then not one but two fairy rings of nothing but giant puffballs! I have only ever seen two of the giant ones together in the past. An amazing sight, but guess who did not have her camera with her! Perhaps our readers have some unusual wildlife events to recall.

Visiting historic sites and buildings seems to have been very much part of life in recent years, and travel with all kinds of groups, from the East Midlands Group of the Council for British Archaeology to the Friends of Heckington Windmill or the Friends of Ely Cathedral, not to mention the outings arranged by the Society and its subgroups, certainly broadens one's horizons. A coach may not be so picturesque as the numerous carriages employed on occasions by our predecessor, the Architectural and Archaeological Society, but it moves faster and goes further.

Our contributors send us far, if not necessarily fast, but if you think your area has been neglected, why not send us an article or an idea for a feature, possibly pictorial? We receive a surprisingly small amount of visual contributions!

Hilary Healey
Joint Editor
Lincolnshire in the Dark Ages

Some thoughtful research by J. B. Reavill

Since I first heard, at Bristol University, that there was serious research into whether there was a real Arthur behind all the legends I have made a hobby of studying the evidence and I have visited some of the sites connected with them.

Now I have come to live here I have looked again at the Lincolnshire connection. I know how easy it is to be sidetracked by folklore about Camelot and the Holy Grail and I have been careful to stick to enquiries into verifiable history. In other words I do not wish to be thought a crank!

There does not seem to be any 'smoking gun' in the shape of archaeological finds, which would settle the matter of Arthur's existence or otherwise once for all. It is therefore necessary to keep an open mind on the question. On the other hand, people who have to be taken seriously, such as Sir Winston Churchill and Sir Mortimer Wheeler, have looked at such sources as Gildas the Wise, Nennius' History of the Britons, and the Easter Annals, and have given Arthur the benefit of the doubt.

Taking this as a starting point, I have put together the following thoughts. According to Nennius' manuscript, the first battle was 'at the mouth of the river which is called Gleam'. It should be said first that many ingenious theories have been devised in an attempt to place the sites of all the twelve engagements named in the manuscript in a single county or region of Britain. Some have suggested they all occurred in Scotland. However, if we accept Arthur was the commander of a military force modelled on the Roman field force, as Nennius implies, we would expect him to have fought at localities scattered all over Britain.

Although the spelling has changed many times over the centuries, the Gleam is probably the Glen, a water course in South Lincolnshire that joins the Welland below Surfleet Seas End before flowing into the Wash. A Roman road, which is now called King Street, ran along the very edge of the Fens (for part of its length today's A15 follows the same route). While they occupied Britain, the Romans made a start on draining the Fens by making catch-water drains, notably the Carr Dyke, but when they went home the areas that they had improved soon flooded again, reverting to desolate swamps inhabited by waterfowl. Terrain such as this was quite unsuited to land combat.

At that time, the present location of Kate's Bridge was the closest place on the Glen where there was firm land and the most likely place for Arthur's encounter with the Angles.

The second, third, fourth and fifth battles that he won were 'upon another river which is called Dubglas and is in the district of Linnius'. Linnius is probably a garbled rendering of a word meaning the people of Lindum—that is Lincoln. As for Dubglas, it must have been important in the strategy of the times to warrant as many as four actions along it.

It is worth noticing that the area round Lincoln escaped being overrun long after the eastern side of England had fallen to the Angles and Saxons. As Sawyer has pointed out 'There are... several indications that Lincoln continued to be a centre of power after the departure of the Roman governor. This is suggested by the absence of early Anglo-Saxon cemeteries in its vicinity. The large cremation cemeteries form, in effect, a ring round, but at some distance from, the city. The nearest are Cleethorpe, about 19 miles north, and Loveden, about 17 miles south west. A plausible answer is that the Britons retained control of Lincoln and the surrounding area for most if not all of the fifth century.3 Professor Alcock argues that Anglo-Saxon graves cannot be dated with certainty before the 610s or 620s. The Witham was therefore an important factor in the defence of Lincoln. The obvious approach was along the river valley, which formed the natural route westwards from the Wold as well as a navigable waterway from the Wash. The British had to stop such an advance and it seems likely that Dubglas was the Witham.

At least we can say that the name given in Nennius' document does not run counter to this hypothesis. Most of the rivers in the Fens were renamed by the Angles when they took over and none of them is called Dubglas now. What may be significant is that it is the old British word for blue-black, perpetuated in the modern Welsh du (black) and glas (green). It is a pity that the Angles did not follow the
example of the Britons when they chose the new name by adopting a word that was based on the colour of the river, such as Blackwater, or something similar. If they had it would have been easier to identify it. Such is not the case.

There are indeed several Black Waters in Norfolk, but nothing in Lincolnshire apart from a Black Fleet, which was once on the map four miles west of Pinchbeck near Guthram Gowt only six miles from Kate's Bridge. A corner as obscure as that can surely not have been of such strategic significance as to be fought over so often.

Common sense seems a more promising avenue than attempting to trace the Dubglas in this way. Why would the water be called black in the first place? Now, peat is 'vegetable matter, varying in colour from light brown to black, decomposed by water'.

There was plenty of peat in the period in question. According to Sawyer, 'Below Lincoln the Witham had [in Anglo-Saxon times] a band of fresh water and peat on its right bank for about nineteen miles before it flowed into the main Fenland basin.'

Could the blue-black river have been so named because it had taken on its colour from the peaty composition of the soil through which it flowed?

NOTES
1 'At one time the central part of this district, or that known as Deeping Fen, was no more than a large mere, or lake, at the bottom of which grew and accumulated the aquatic plants that afterwards formed the peat of which the surface of the land is composed. Round this mere, on the north and south sides, was a tract of low land, which was common to the several parishes adjoining.' (W. H. Wheeler: History of the Fens of South Lincolnshire - J. M. Newcom, Boston, 1894).

2 Sawyer, Anglo-Saxon Lincolnshire: (History of Lincolnshire Committee, 1998).


Market Rasen Coal and Clothing Club

The late Douglas Boyce copied this report by Mrs G. H. Barton to the Market Rasen Financial Committee. From the PCC Minute Book, it is reproduced here by kind permission of the Vicar of Market Rasen.

As far as I know the origin of the club is lost in obscurity. When I first knew anything about it, it was conducted by Mr and Mrs Melville. When Mr Borlase came as Vicar, Mrs Borlase (the Vicar's mother) and the first Mrs A. Morris received the weekly money. When Mrs Morris gave it up Miss Barton helped Mrs Borlase and when Mr Scott came as Vicar, as neither Mrs Scott nor Miss Scott would undertake it, I took Mrs Borlase's place. Up to 1931 the entire control of the club was vested in the Vicar. During that year, however, the Bank required the Club to have a Committee with officers. One was formed and Mr Nugent Wilson, priest in charge, became treasurer, Miss Barton secretary and Mr H. E. Douthwaite and Mrs H. Barton as members of a committee. When Mr Larr came as vicar, his name replaced that of Mr Nugent Wilson on the Bank form.

The Club is for the Encouragement of Thrift, that is saving for spending wisely and not for hoarding. The only rules I know about are that the depositor must be a householder, or wife, or sister, or daughter of one, living in his house. The sums deposited must be 3d or multiples of 3d. The Bonus given on the Coal Club is 1/- whatever the amount is put in, and 2/6 for windows. The Bonus on the Clothing Club is 3d in the shilling up to a deposit of 10/-. After that amount there is no further bonus.

Every Monday morning from February to the end of November with the exception of Bank Holidays from 11.45 to 12.45 Miss Barton and I (or our deputies) are at the Vestry to receive deposits and Miss Barton takes the money at once to the National Provincial Bank where the Coal & Clothing account is kept. On the last Monday in November she collects the cards on which the depositor has written the name of the shop or coal merchant to which she wishes to go.

She then makes up the Book & Cards and a list of tradesmen, and the amount due to each, and on the first Monday in December the cards are returned to the owners and the books & lists are sent to the Vicar, and then Miss Barton collects the subscriptions for the following year. The members take their cards to the shops and leave them in payment for their purchases. The cards are then sent to the Vicar who pays the amounts owing by cheque on the Banking Account and the Club is closed until the first Monday in February of the next year.

It is a club for women and is of much use to many, especially in clothing. If we are to apply a means test it would have to be on the amount a man allows his wife weekly to spend on clothing. I think in the case of all our members the sum would be extremely small, and in most cases nothing at all. They have to save what they can out of the housekeeping money or go out and earn it. In the case alluded to at the Church Council meeting I should think the person has never had very much to clothe herself and four sons and that she has worked as hard as many labourers' wives, harder than a great many who get help from various sources. It has been a pleasure to me to have to do this piece of work which helps the women to keep their self-respect and I have felt glad too that it is worked in connection with the church of which I am a member.

There are other organisations which help the unfortunate and down and out but not so many to give a hand to those who try and help themselves.

One of our members was married a year or two ago to a man who was then in work. He lost his job and received the dole, but rather than going on doing so they have started a fried fish shop in King St. They will have to work hard to make it pay and the fact that they have a shop on the main street does not seem sufficient reason for turning them off the Club. It is also an advantage to the town.

Taking an average of the last 5 years there has been £148-12-7 spent in the town through the Coal and Clothing club every December. It is not a great sum but it ensures it being spent in the town and that the tradesmen think it is of value is shown by the generosity which they give to the fund for bonuses. At one town in my knowledge a club of this sort had been run for years and was given up. In a year or two an attempt was made to restart it but it was too late; a large Manchester shop had got its agents to work and all that money was diverted from the town.

The bonus on the clothing is large, 25% up to a deposit of 10/- [ten shillings] but however much more is put in they only get the bonus on the first 10/- never more than 2/6 [two shillings]
and sixpence].

If this was altered it would prevent the poorest and neediest from getting much bonus at all and it is a work of charity and not a business proposition. There is always a waiting list and the names are submitted to the Vicar before being put on.

For this year there are 67 members, 45 of whom are on both clubs, 11 on coal only and 11 on clothing only.

**Personalities mentioned**

Mrs G. H. (Florence) Barton, the author of the report, was the wife of Dr George Henry Barton and lived at The Grange, King Street. Dr Barton died in 1933.

Presumably Miss Barton and Mrs H. Barton were members of the same family, but I do not know how they fit in. The 1901 Census and Kelly's Directories 1900-1937 are no help. Douglas would have known but I can find no clues amongst his papers. I believe that Mrs Morris had been a Miss Barton.

The Rev David Melville Melville was Vicar from 1892-1913. In Douglas's original typescript, the names are given as Mr and Mrs Neville. There are no Nevilles mentioned in directories, and as the club was a church organisation, it seems likely that Mr and Mrs Melville is what is meant.

Granville William Borlase was Vicar from 1913-1918.

Edward Batyll Scott was Vicar from 1918-1931. He was the author of a short history of the town. Oswald Larr was Vicar from 1932-1937.

Horace Erasmus Douthwaite was a draper at 17-19 Queen Street for many years.

There is no mention in directories of the priest in charge, Mr Nugent Wilson. Presumably he was in the town for a very short period between the departure of Batyll Scott and arrival of Oswald Larr.

(Notes compiled by Rosalind Boyce)
The early days of steam-powered threshing

Ken Redmore

Neville Birch's article on Clayton and Shuttleworth (LP&P 50) included the detailed 1850 sales figures of the fledgling company's portable steam engine. Who were those customers? What were they using portable steam power for? Using trade directories and census returns for the period it is possible to throw some light on the 11 Lincolnshire customers in the list.

Not surprisingly, as Birch suggests, the most common use of the portable steam engine in Lincolnshire in the mid-nineteenth century was to provide power for threshing machines. No fewer than 7 of the 11 local customers purchasing Clayton engines in 1850 operated as threshing contractors. With horse-drawn threshing machine and steam engine (and maybe also straw elevator or thresher, water cart and living van) they would have travelled from farm to farm through the autumn and winter months threshing stacks of corn harvested the previous summer. Such was the seasonal nature of the work (and maybe because of the uncertainty of business), several of the threshing machine owners had a second occupation listed in the trade directories. Threshing machine owners from Lincolnshire in the 1850 sales list were:

- Beacock & Fletcher of Winterton
  - These two were already established as agricultural machine and implement makers, employing between them 7 men and 4 apprentices in 1851, but they also operated, at least for a while, as threshing contractors.
  - Beacock later withdrew, but the firm of Thomas Fletcher & Sons continued and thrived in Winterton into the mid-20th century. Perhaps the threshing business was only of a sideline and the steam engine was mainly deployed in the foundry.
- Pant and Palling of Welton: This was almost certainly a short-lived venture. There was a reference to William Pant, machine owner and shopkeeper, in White's 1856 Directory, but at the 1851 Census he was simply described as agricultural labourer and he had left the village by 1861. No Palling has so far been traced in Welton.
- Empson & Beech of Hibaldstow: Robert Empson, John Beech and Beech's son Thomas were all described as machinists in the 1851 census. Empson had moved to Scawby by 1872, where he was described as farmer and threshing machine proprietor. The Beech family continued as agricultural (i.e. threshing) machine owners in Hibaldstow until the early 1920s.
- J Bell of Boston: Joseph Bell, a farmer of 56 acres in Wannitreet Road, Boston was also described as a threshing machine owner in 1851 having been simply listed as farmer in 1849. In 1851 Henry Bell, aged 21, steam engineer, lived next door, and in Queen Street. Boston was William Bell, aged 28, engine smith. It is likely they were all related. The firm continued for about 20 years.
- Hill & Bancroft of Horncastle: In both 1851 and 1861 John Bancroft of Foundry Street was described as corn threshing machine owner, although not listed in White's 1856 Directory. John Hill, a blacksmith, lived in the same street in 1851, so perhaps he was the co-owner. Bancroft still lived in Foundry Street in 1872, but his trade was not given, so perhaps the threshing machine had been sold and the steam engine redeployed.
- J Dixon of Bardney: The 1851 Census included William Dixon, engine driver, but he was described simply as a farmer in 1863. Joseph Dixon appeared in White's 1850, but not in the 1851 Census, as machine owner and machine manufacturer, and is described as machine man owner in the 1861 Census.
- Sims & Raines of Waddington: Samuel Sims (corn drill) and threshing and farmer of 62 acres) and Thomas Raines (owner of corn threshing machine) appeared in the 1851 Census. Other census returns and directory entries make no mention of Raines at all and Sims is simply recorded as a farmer. Apparently another short lived venture.

Two of the other Clayton customers represented large Lincolnshire farms where the portable steam engine was likely to have been deployed not only for corn threshing for the one owner but also for operating other farm machinery (e.g. mill, chaff-cutter, root chopper) throughout the year.

- E Grantham of Scawby: At the time of the purchase Henry Grantham was agent to Sir John Nelbopc and farmer of 535 acres. His son, also Henry, was another Nelbopc tenant with a farm of 180 acres. In total the Nelbopc estate extended to about 1400 acres in the locality.
The two remaining Lincolnshire steam engine purchasers present something of a mystery; possibly they had no direct connection with agriculture.

- **J. Coupland of Skellingthorpe**: In 1851 John Coupland was a 61-year-old widower sitting at Skellingthorpe Hall and described as coal and flour merchant. In 1856 White's the occupant of the Hall was Richard Coupland, John's nephew and heir, described as a gentleman with no trade or occupation. Is it possible that the steam engine was purchased in 1850 to provide ancillary or alternative power for a flour mill owned by John Coupland? However, no milling firm under his name appeared in any of the contemporary directories and other entries listed him simply as gentleman. Perhaps the engine was used to power a timber saw on the estate.

- **J. Casswell of Wyberton**: The mid-nineteenth trade directories listed several small farmers with this surname in the Boston area including one at Wyberton (farning 35 acres), but none was described as machine owner. There was a corn merchant by the name of Casswell in Boston itself, but there are no convincing clues to the identity of the original purchaser of the portable steam engine.

Threshing machines - powered by hand, water or horse - were first developed successfully in the late-18th century. Within a few decades efficient portable machines (usually known in Lincolnshire as threshing drums) were being manufactured, and the first peripatetic threshing contractors appeared. The portable steam engine, available from firms such as Clayton & Shuttleworth from the late 1840s, was soon recognised as an excellent power source for the threshing process. Although the customers of 1850 were investing in a relatively new and untried product, the steam engine proved to be reliable and effective. Thousands were produced over the next half century, but their role of providing power for the threshing contractor was largely superseded by the self-propelled steam engine (or traction engine) from the 1870s onwards.

The number of threshing machine operators in Lincolnshire stood at 92 in 1856, according to White's Directory. Numbers listed in later directories are: 1872: 148, 1900: 217, 1922: 144, 1937: 89. This pattern perhaps reflects fluctuations in agricultural fortunes and certainly marks the introduction of the combine harvester (1920s and 30s). Threshing sets were still a fairly common sight in Lincolnshire farmyards in the 1940s and 50s, though by then the traction and drive were more often provided by another Lincolnshire product, the Field Marshall diesel tractor with power-take-off (manufactured by Marshall's of Gainsborough).

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**Notes & Queries**

53.1 **DIALECT OF THE LINCOLNSHIRE DROVER**

Gordon Taylor's story of the 18th century Lincolnshire drover, Henry Cross (Lincolnshire Past & Present 51) illustrates a common feature of Lincolnshire dialect. The initial aitch in a word was frequently dropped but, perversely, words beginning with a vowel were often prefixed by an aitch. Thus Utterby, the village mentioned on Cross's gravestone in South Yorkshire, was inscribed as Hutterby, because this was how the name was usually articulated by Cross and his Lincolnshire contemporaries. I recall a more recent example of this confusing aspiration that amused our family back in the 1950s when a local preacher in the village chapel announced "th'm number height (8)". There is an interesting discussion of the dropping - and adding - of aitches in Joan Sims-Kimbrely's dictionary of Lincolnshire Dialect Words and Doggerel.

Ken Redmore

53.2 **SIR NINIAN COMPER** (Lincolnshire Past & Present 48). A well-known early 20th century architect. I can only provide a hint or two! He was of Scotch origin, his father an architect too. He was at work between 1890 and 1959. Described as the last of the Gothic Revivalists, he was essentially a church interior architect, specialising in stained glass design, if Pevsner gives an accurate picture. Jenkins reveals interior colouring, restoration work; and two new churches including Comper's masterpiece, St Mary, Welbingborough. In Jenkins' *England's Thousand Best Churches* there are 28 entries for Comper. In Pevsner's *Lincolnshire Buildings* there are 14 entries (1989) but only four originally (1964) - how tastes change! Comper is known in Skelton for his upper stage of the rood screen in St Dunys' church, in memory of three Peake sons killed in the First World War, and their father. 

Michael Turland
H. C. Darby, in his seminal work *The Domesday Geography of Eastern England* (1971), observed the difficulty in extracting a consistent measure of the size of estates. The survey had sought information on the number of carucates each estate was rated at for the purposes of taxation ('the geld'), on the number of ploughs actually employed on it, and on the amount of land, expressed in terms of the number of ploughs it was capable of supporting. Darby observed that the relationship between these figures could fluctuate in an incomprehensible manner. One of his examples was Harmston, which was assessed at 24 carucates, had only 12 ploughs, yet was stated as having land for as many ploughs as it had carucates, i.e. 24. The purpose of this paper is to observe that, seen in the context of the Wapentake as a whole, this example does actually make sense.

In tackling this problem, it is helpful to observe firstly that returns for the survey were obtained, at least in part, from juries assembled for each wapentake. The information so collected was then reordered within each county by landowner and simplified, only this reordered form surviving. It is therefore useful to extract from the final version the information relating to Boothby Wapentake and list it in a logical order. This is done in the table below. Each manor's reference takes the form (tenant-in-chief) (holding) as in the Phillimore edition. The column headed *Geld* gives the number of carucates 'to the geld'. *Ploughs* is self-explanatory. *Land* is the number of ploughs for which there was deemed to be land. Other categories of information are omitted.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Vill</th>
<th>Reference</th>
<th>Geld</th>
<th>Ploughs</th>
<th>Land</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Waddington</td>
<td>13.34</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Harmston</td>
<td>13.37</td>
<td>20⁵⁄₂</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>20⁵⁄₂</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Coleby</td>
<td>36.4</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.7</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>12</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Boothby</td>
<td>1.5</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Somerton</td>
<td>27.59</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>4⁵⁄₄</td>
<td>4⁵⁄₄</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Navenby</td>
<td>44.16</td>
<td>1</td>
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<td>4⁵⁄₄</td>
</tr>
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<td>44.17</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Skimmend</td>
<td>59.18</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>4⁵⁄₄</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Welbourn</td>
<td>38.1</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>15⁵⁄₄</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 1: Assessments for Boothby Wapentake

The second point to note is that, for the jury, the number of carucates was an administrative fact. The number of ploughs also was essentially factual, though no doubt a degree of interpretation was needed to cater for the messy complexities of reality. In practice, the jury actually seem to have taken the number of oxen so employed and grouped them into teams of eight—hence a statement such as 'two villagers plough with 2 oxen' has been interpreted in the table above as ½ plough. In contrast, the assessment of the number of ploughs for which there was land was inherently subjective and the jury would have needed to take a conscious decision about how it was going to make those assessments consistently and fairly.

A third factor affecting this is that the whole wapentake was heavily overrated for the Geld. It has often been quoted as an example of the Danish duodecimal system, with most villas being rated at 12 or 24 carucates. Such administrative tidiness would scarcely have been compatible with accurate assessment and indeed the number of carucates for which the wapentake was assessed was disproportionately large compared to its total area. The question about the number of ploughs for which there was land might be interpreted as a question about what a fair rating for the Geld would have been. Because the total Geld for the county was fixed, any reduction in Boothby Wapentake's rating would need to be balanced by an increase in the Geld paid by other wapentakes.

With these considerations in mind, we now examine Table 1. It is first necessary to attend to an anomaly: Wellingore (44.17) has no ploughs recorded. This is explained by the note that 44.17 is an outlier (bereswick) of 44.16. If we group 44.17 with 44.16 as a combined entry we have:

Vill—Navenby/Wellingore

Reference—44.16 & 17

Geld—4
Ploughs—4⁵⁄₄
Land—4⁵⁄₄
This seems much more credible. Next, we observe that the figure for Land is frequently equal to but never less than that for Geld. Indeed, the following rules appear to be observed:

(Rule 1) When Ploughs is less than Geld, Land equals Geld.
(Rule 2) When Ploughs is greater than Geld, Land equals Ploughs or possibly a little more—with one exception (Skinnand).

So far these are purely statements about numbers in a table. However, it does not seem unreasonable to speculate that the Boothby jury had been instructed (or believed themselves to have been instructed) that no reduction in geld was permissible and hence that the assessed amount of land must never be less than the number of carucates to the geld. That would explain the two rules above, with any excess of Ploughs over Land in Rule 2 resulting from a genuine assessment that there was indeed potential for additional arable. Skinnand could either be a genuine assessment that 4½ ploughs were unsustainable or perhaps a tired clerk wrote totid—as many plough lands as ploughs—and subsequently interpreted it to mean as many plough lands as carucates.

If this interpretation is correct, a document that appears at first sight to point to a substantially under-exploited territory is actually only admitting the scope for an additional ½ plough at Somerton and ¼ plough at Welbourn. Moreover, an item that appears to offer useful information on economic geography actually tells us more about how the wapentake jury was operating!

It would be useful to be able to report that other wapentakes were resolving the issue in similar ways. However, neither Gruffio or Langoe Wapentake seems to follow such clear rules. This ties in with work on Cambridgeshire by Hartl who observed that the relationship between geld assessments in 1065 and those in 1086 varied from hundred to hundred.

NOTES 1 ie ploughlands, but it will limit confusion if the Latinised form is used in connection with the rating for taxation and ‘ploughland’ limited to assessments of how many ploughs the land could actually bear.
2 In the case of Lincolnshire, that is.
3 Somerton should be grouped with Boothby, Skinnand with Wellingore, for this to show most dramatically.

Section of 1824 Ordnance Survey map showing part of Boothby Wapentake. Note Skinnand shows ‘church in ruins’ (see Canon Swaby’s article, page 16). North is to the left of the map.
Wragby's 'William of the Nile'

A summary of information gathered by Keith Thomas

A funeral card that had belonged to my grandparents eventually came into my possession. It recorded the death of William Richardson in 1863. Questioning around my mother's (Landsdown) family indicated that two similar cards were in existence. William, the son of William of the Nile, married Elizabeth Sewell in 1832. If Elizabeth Sewell had Lincoln connections it could possibly help to explain why members of the Lansdown family had the funeral cards and photographs.

Summary of William Richardson's history

Baptised on 14 October 1775 at Hatton. Died 7 March 1863. His address in the 1861 census is Rusen Road, Wragby.

William volunteered for the Royal Navy in April 1795 - a photocopy of the document issued by the Justices of the Peace recording the payment of a bounty of 36 pounds and fifteen shillings is on file.

The battle of the Nile took place in Aboukir Bay beginning on the evening of 1 August and ending in the early morning of 2 August 1798. The muster roll of HMS Bellerophon for 30 September 1798 records William Richardson as 'Landsman'. This rating was given to volunteers or 'quota-men' from the counties. There are several books that refer to the Battle of the Nile but most make reference back to Carola Oman's Nelson first published in 1947 and reprinted in 1950 (Hodder and Stoughton).

The history of the Bellerophon from her building to breaking up is found in The First Bellerophon by C. A. Pengelly, published by John Baker, 5 Royal Opera Arcade, Pall Mall, London SW1.

The following obituary appeared in the Lincoln, Rutland and Stamford Mercury on Friday, 27 March 1863: ‘Wragby - One of the last of Nelson's Heroes Died on the 7th inst. In the 90th year of his age, William Richardson. He entered the Royal Navy on the 1st May 1795. He accompanied Lord Nelson in his fleet into the Mediterranean and fought in the glorious action at the Nile on the 1st August 1798. He was on board the Bellerophon. 49 of his comrades on board the ship were killed at his side in an hour and a half. He was wounded in the breast by a splinter, but survived the action. In 1802 he was paid off and returned to his native place where he married and lived to a good old age. He brought up most respectfully a large family. He never received pay or pension for his services, and it was only a few years before that he obtained a medal awarded for the battle of the Nile. He died, as he lived, an honest man, and a true Christian. His aged widow, 80 years old, survives him.’

An interesting part of this is that the family thought there had been a long delay before William received his medal. He was not alone in this as the Naval General Service Medal (1703-1840) was not issued until 1848. Each battle for which the medal was issued was recorded by a clasp; 'Nile' for Lord Nelson's battle in Aboukir Bay.

Pengelly in his The First Bellerophon agrees that 49 were killed in the action but he adds that 149 were wounded. Many of these died from their wounds in the following weeks. Most of the wounds were caused by wooden splinters - the result of gunfire breaking up large pieces of the wooden ships.

The Bellerophon, 74 guns, engaged the French flagship, L'Orient, 120 guns, after night had fallen. Bellerophon was dismantled and retired after an hour. It is now hard to believe that L'Orient and Bellerophon were engaging each other while at anchor. The Captain of the Bellerophon was Henry D'Esterre Darby, an Irishman, who was also wounded in the Battle of the Nile.

William was discharged in 1802 probably as a result of reduction in the fleet after the Treaty of Amiens. The marriage of William Richardson and Jane Wright of Lissington took place some time in 1805. So far as it has been possible to trace the family of William and Jane it would appear that they had six children - William, baptised 1808 at Lissington, married Elizabeth Sewell in 1832 - Thomasine, born 1815, died 1828, the only record of this being on the tombstone at Wragby Parish Church. There is also recorded on the tombstone Elizabeth; the inscription on the stone is such that the only figures remaining are 1897 (this was recorded in 1874) - Sarah, born 1817 - Phoebe, born 1820 - Ann, born 1821.

It may be that William and Jane lived in Lissington for part of their marriage before moving to Wragby. The 1851 census records William as a 'Labourer on the Highways' - remarkable if true as by then William was shown as being 77. Perhaps it merely indicates what he did in the past. The 1861 census says he was previously a labourer.

Mrs Sylvia Arques, who has researched her Richardson ancestry provided me with a branch of Lincolnshire Richarson's that finished with a Joseph Richardson 'ancestor of William of the Nile'. As Joseph married Mary Wilkinson in 1772 and William was born in 1775 I think it reasonable to assume that Joseph and Mary were the parents of William Richardson of the Nile.
FLORA MURRAY celebrated her 90th birthday with her family on Sunday 23 March but the following Sunday her friends treated her to a surprise lunch at her church, St Andrew's with Newland URC, Lincoln, where Flora has been an Elder for many years and is now Elder Emeritus. SLHA Patron and Lord Lieutenant of Lincolnshire, Mrs Bridget Cracroft-Eley, who also is patron of other organisations with which Flora is associated, was therefore an ideal person to voice our best wishes. Here follows a résumé of her speech.

Flora's life in Lincoln began in the early 1930s when, as a graduate, she joined the Lindsey Rural Community Council (now the Community Council of Lincolnshire) as an administrative secretary. In 1939 she became the Assistant Secretary and in 1943 she became the Director of the organisation, continuing in this role until 1974. She is still Vice-President of the Community Council. In the 1930s Flora joined the Boston Preservation Trust and became involved with the Alford Civic Society, maintaining an active interest in it and in Alford Manor House. The Lindsey Local History Society (now SLHA) was in its infancy in the 1930s. As an officer of the Rural Community Council, Flora was able to help pilot it through various mergers. Already a Life Member, she took over the reins fully in 1990 to be Chairman. Flora set about organising the office at Jews' Court, marshalling minutes, programmes, committees and membership records. She became a director of Lincolnshire Heritage Ltd, the bookshop part of the Society, and still enjoys her involvement. Flora was a founder member of the organisation that became known as the Lincoln and Lincolnshire Association of Women Graduates and has often represented the branch at national conferences and on other bodies. She was also a founder member of the Lincolnshire Branch of the Council for the Protection of Rural England, and was Secretary for about 20 years. On her retirement from the Community Council she was elected onto the CPRE Branch Council, on which she has served ever since, latterly as Vice-President. In the 1950s Flora became a tenant of the Dean and Chapter in Exchequer gate Lodge and a Friend of Lincoln Cathedral. Since its early days Flora has been a member of the Tennyson Society, and has supported the Lincoln Civic Trust since it began in 1953, serving on the Historic Buildings, Records and Planning subcommittees. The Lincoln Record Society has claimed Flora's interest since 1958 and the Lincoln Society of Arts has appealed to her wide ranging interest in music, painting and literature. She has been a permanent Vice-President since the 1970s and was a member of the committee for even longer.

Flora was instrumental in setting up the Lincolnshire Historic Buildings Joint Committee of representatives from SLHA, CPRE, the Museum of Lincolnshire Life, the Lincolnshire Society of Architects and the Council for British Archaeology. This committee is naturally concerned with listed buildings and conservation areas throughout Lincolnshire and is consulted by all the planning officers and other local and national bodies on any matters where joint views or advice are necessary. For as long as anyone can remember Flora has represented SLHA on this body. And finally, though I apologise if I have left any organisation out, at a time of life when most people would be content to sit back and let others do the work, Flora regularly goes to the Day Centre run by Age Concern to help with the washing up!

Flora, you are a truly remarkable woman and we are honoured and proud to have you living and working in Lincolnshire. I wonder if we can put down your commitment and energy to the fact that you are interested in so many things and are always wanting to learn more.

This address was followed by a toast to Flora, to which she responded.
CITY AND COUNTY MUSEUM - really a building site now! The piles are going in, using a giant drill and work goes on until 7pm each evening. There are peep holes in the fence so that visitors can monitor progress. Behind the scenes work is going on preparing the artefacts for display and the plans of the internal arrangements have been drafted. Visitors will be able to decide whether to start at the present and work back to prehistoric Lincolnshire or follow the reverse route. But should they wish to see a specific exhibit or section they will be able to go directly to it. In addition there will be temporary or visiting exhibitions, for which a charge will be made.

JEWS' COURT—REFURBISHED
After six months encased in scaffolding and clearing every room in the building, SLHA and Lincolnshire Heritage have the building to themselves again. We certainly look smarter! We have been decorated throughout and have new carpets all over and blinds in the lecture room. The dust is still settling—dusters are always at the ready! The library is nearly straight and ready for expansion. There is a brick floor in the cellar and the attic is now a useful room. Although neither of these can be used for offices or meetings, they will prove invaluable for storage, relieving other rooms of clutter.

There have been some interesting discoveries. In several rooms the stonework has been exposed, showing what a hotchpotch it is. Mostly reused stone faced both the inner and outer walls, with rubble sandwiched in between. Some blocks are really large and where timber work was exposed it was very rough and misshapen. The timbers were in too poor a state to give a satisfactory dendrochronology reading. All exposed surfaces inside have been plastered over - 'a pity' say the staff.

There are theories that personal or other artefacts were placed in the wall plate before fixing the roof for some magical reason. The top of the walls at Jews' Court was well furnished but whether it brought luck is another matter. The builders found a mug, a cap, bits of leather off-cuts from shoemaking, a teapot lid, bits of a pie dish, and a mixture of flock, hair and newsprint. In the cellar were oyster shells. All that is needed now is recovering lost trade and organising the SLHA archives.

Places

Recent visitors to Jews’ Court included a couple returning after 42 years. They were very nervous then as they had come to collect their newly adopted son. Such visitors renewing acquaintance are not uncommon, but this couple had to go out to the shed in the garden, which had been equipped as an office. This was unknown by SLHA members using the building. Information from past visitors has located the office in the room now the lecture room. I am glad to note that the son was followed by a daughter, and the happy family now have several grandchildren.

Pearl Wheatley

Lincolnshire Past & Present No 53 Autumn 2003
LOST PARISH CHURCHES

J. E. Swaby

The reasons why a village became depopulated are numerous. They include pestilence, poor soil and changes in land usage. The change from arable to grass for sheep rearing was a factor, and the dissolution of religious houses probably speeded up the process as they had been the patrons of benefices. Chapels of ease are not included in this list, nor are chapels belonging to religious houses such as St Edmund's in Wainfleet St Mary's. Parishes where the fabric remains although the building is no longer used for worship cannot be described as lost, and we have excluded parishes where another church had been built to replace one decayed or under the sea.

The old churches of Skegness, Sutton on Sea, Trusthorpe and maybe an earlier Mablethorpe St Mary's were lost to the sea and newer churches built further inland. The tower of old Saltfleetby St Peter's still stands, but a new church was built a quarter of a mile away in 1877. Much of the old church was incorporated inside the new. Seventy years ago I took part in a service in the remains of a church at Great Steeping built on a medieval base in 1748. The present Great Steeping church is half a mile away and was built in 1891. This list is based on Canon Foster's list of extinct villages in the Lincolnshire Domesday Book, The State of Churches in 1602-3, the Speculum of 1702, White's Directory of 1842 and Kelly's of 1876.

ABY Sir Henry Vane acquired the Belleau estate of the Earl of Lindsey and in 1656 an order was made that the churches of Aby and Swaby should be demolished and the material used for repairs at Belleau. Aby church was not rebuilt, although after the Restoration of 1660 the Swaby people erected a 'sordid' building on the site. The present church dates from 1820.

AUTBY in the south west part of North Thoresby had a church to which a presentation was made in 1332, but it had gone by 1602.

BECKERING in the parish of Holton, near Wragby. It is interesting to note that in 1341 there was a presentation to Holton by Beckering and not the other way round. In 1842 Beckering had two farms, but there was a tradition that once there had been a church.

CADEBY A presentation to the vicarage of South Cadby in 1334 shows that Sixhills Priory was patron. The area was absorbed into Grimblethorpe and Calcethorpe, being consolidated with the latter in the 15th century. A cleric of North Cadby paid poll tax in 1377. The parish church was united in Wyham by 1602. Pestilence may be the cause of North Cadby's decline (see Pevsner, The Buildings of Lincolnshire).

CALCEBY In 1602 the church of St Andrew was in good repair and there were 45 communicants. By 1703 there were only 11 families, although a service was held every other Sunday. The ruins can still be seen and are described by Pevsner (op cit). Now united with South Ormsby.

CALCETHORPE The church was in disrepair by 1638 and in 1702 there were only three families and the living was a sinecure held along with Kelstern. The Rev Edwin Graham, a master of Louth Grammar School and vicar of Kelstern told me in the 1930s until his time the induction at Calcethorpe had been facsimilic. The site of the church was known and part of the ceremony was to unlock a
field gate and to ring a hand bell instead of a church bell. Kelstern church is dedicated to St Faith. Rightly or wrongly White and Kelly say that this was also the dedication of Calthorpe.

CASTLE CARLTON was a seigneurial borough and a donative. The church of Holy Cross has gone, but the churchyard remains. In 1602 there were only eight families. Services were held weekly in the summer and fortnightly in winter. In 1707 licence was granted to pull down the church and build another. This was demolished in 1902. The Elizabethan chalice went to South Roston church, which had been rebuilt in 1864-5. That church is now redundant.

CAWKWELL St Peter. In 1602 the church was well kept, but there were only 13 communicants. In 1702 there were eight families and there was a service once a month. The church still stood in 1876 when it was described as a small fabric with a turret and one bell. It had gone by the time Peve- ner said that the chalice dated 1791 is now at Scamblesby.

CLAXBY PLUCKACRE St Andrew. The patron of this vicarage in 1337 was Croyland Abbey. In good repair in 1602 but by 1702 had only three families for whom services were held every other Sunday. In 1842 it was stated that the church fell down for want of repair. There were then still only three families that went to church in Moorsby.

CLIXBY, in 1602 united with Caistor. In 1876 a dilapidated part of the chancel of All Hallows still stood. According to Pevser it was restored in 1889.

DUNSTORP. In 1437 a petition was presented to the Bishop by the Rector of Hammingham, the patrons of Hammingham and Dunstorp showing that the church at Dunstorp had been served by a secular priest, but it was so decreased on account of the lack of parishioners, the fewness of peasants, the barrenness of the land, the lack of cultivation, pestilence and epidemics so that there was not enough to pay the eighth part of the salary of a stipendiary curate much less of a rector. The church of Dunstorp had no par- ishioners. The request for union was granted. Foster states that the six inch OS map shows the boundaries of a "chapel-yard" that may be traced at the end of Dunstorp grange. The bones of many men, women and children have been found there.

EAST AND WEST FIRSBY, St James. The two places formed one parish. In 1702 there were only two families. They went to church at Saxby. One man served both. The Firsbys were a squire. The site remains at East Firsby.

HALLINGTON St Lawrence was in good repair in 1600. United with Rainby in 1655, the church was still in use in 1702. By 1842 the church had gone but the churchyard was still used for burials.

KETSBY St Margaret. In the 14th century the patron was Sir Ralph de South Ormsby. The church was gone by 1662, the parish united with South Ormsby. In 1842 the site could still be seen.

LUDFORD FARVA St Peter. Badly shattered by storms 1286 and 1287. The chalice and pyx that contained the Re- served Host were found undamaged be- neath a heap of stones. The medieval Lindsey Marsh, A. E. B. Owen. Not long before 1540 the church was again attacked by the sea. The will of Thomas Kyrkham of 1540 (W. A. Maddison, Lincolnshire Wills) shows that there was hope of rebuilding the church, but it stated that the poverty of the inhabitants made that impossible. In 1702 there were only four families in the parish and in 1737 it was united with Theddle- thorpe St Helen. In 1906 J. Conway Waite wrote a piece about the church in the Local Advertiser. He contributed a poem, but a footnote stated that it had been seen and inspected by persons about 35 years earlier. When I took charge of Mablethorpe and the Theddle- thorpe in 1953 The Church Times suggested that it would be appropriate to wear a baying costume when inducted to St Peter's.

MAIDENWELL. In 1328 the patron was the Prior and convent of Stain- field. It was consolidated with Farforth before 1602, and in 1702 the united benefice had only 14 families.

THE RAVENDALES lie in a lovely valley sometimes called ‘Little Switzerland’. East Ravendale church stood in 1960. The patron of West Ravendale was the Premonstratensian Abbey of Beaufort, northern France. In 1220 the Bishop ordained a vicarage. The Abbey was to provide him with a canon's yearly allowance of food and one mark for clothing (The Acts of Bishop Hugh of Welles). At the dissolution of the monas- teries the advowson passed to the Collegiate Church of Southwell and the parish was soon annexed to Hatcliffe. The re- mains Pevsner saw may be those of an abbey chapel and not those of West Ravendale church.

RISBY St Bartholomew. High and Low Risby were one parish and the site is near High Risby farm. In 1556 union with Flixborough was proposed but in 1600 union with Roxby took place.

ROXHAM or ROXHOLME. This is a case where I wish I had facilities to find out whether or not Roxham had a church. Roxham is in the parish of Leas- ingham, but White and Kelly seem to suggest that Leasingham had two churches and two vicarages, and to identify the northern one as Roxham. And this they call St John the Baptist. But the fact is that in Leasingham there were not two churches but two prebendaries, which were united in 1717. The site of Roxham is indicated by Roxholme Hall. If Roxham had no church where did White and Kelly get the name St John the Baptist?

SCRABFIELD St Michael was in good condition in 1602, but by 1702 there were only four families. The parish had
been united with Hammeringham and there was a service once a fortnight. In 1842 there were four families on one farm. The church had long gone, but the churchyard was still in use.

SKINNAND. The patron had been Croyland Abbey. In 1602 the church was in good repair but by 1702 it was in a sad state and there was only one family here. By 1842 the benefice was a sinecure. Fragments of the church remained and the burial ground was in use. In that year there were two farms and Kelly says that services were performed in one farm house.

STAIN. Thomas Kyrkham’s will had said that if his legacy was not spent on Mablethorpe St Peter’s it should be used to provide a lead roof for Stain. In good order in 1602, it was united with Mablethorpe St Mary in 1661. The parish had extended into what is now Withern and was henceforth associated with Withern for local government purposes. The part for which I had pastoral responsibility contained a single house but it was not always occupied.

STAMFORD. At 1547 an Act of Parliament was passed whereby nine parishes of which the churches were decayed were parcelled out among the churches in the Lincolnshire part of Stanford. White gives their names. They were St Mary Bynwerk, St Peter’s, St Andrew’s, Holy Trinity, St Paul’s. St Stephen’s. St Thomas’s, St Clement’s and St Michael’s. St Michael’s. St Paul’s was linked with St George’s and what was left of the church became the Stamford School chapel. Nearby were Holy Trinity and St Stephen’s. Smith speaks of ‘Holy Trinity, later St Stephen’ perhaps hinting that St Stephen’s may have absorbed Holy Trinity. These parishes could also have gone with St George’s as possibly did St Michael’s. Cornstall, which was in St Leonard Street, and was redundant by the 14th century and united with St Martin’s Without. The site was on Water Street. White was probably right that decay was due to damage done in the War of the Roses and through the dissolution of the monasteries.

STOW near Threeringham. There was a church here in 1086. The dedication was St Etheldreda and in his Ecclesiastical History Bede devotes a chapter to her story. She was the daughter of the King of East Anglia. Her first husband, a tribal chief, died before the marriage was consummated. She seemed in fact determined to remain a virgin. Her second husband was Ecgfrith, King of Northumbria. She probably had no say over either marriage. Bede says she told Ecgfrith that she loved the king more than any man, but the marriage was not consummated and at the end of about 12 years she was allowed to go into a religious house. Ecgfrith finally lost his patience and insisted on a normal marriage. Etheldreda fled across the Humber. And as the church at West Halten is dedicated to St Etheldreda it may be that she had a narrow escape from pursuers. Stow, later known as Stow Green, may have been a stage on her journey to Ely. When her body was exhumed for reburial some years after her death the body was found to be incorrupt. Bede regarded this as proof of virginity. A mark of her sanctity was that she only took a hot bath before the greater festivals and then after the other nuns had bathed. He did not necessarily imply in the same water. Her name was popularised as Audrey and on her feast day on 17 October a fair was held. The cheap necklaces pedlars sold gave rise to the word ‘tawdry’ [from ‘St Audrey’].

STOW the church had gone by 1602. The only building on the green was a lock-up used by the police at a great fair held in it. To that fair many gypsies came and there they settled quarrels in barefisted fights. The Rev George Hall of Ruckland gives a vivid account of such a fight in The Gypsy Parson.

STOW by Barholm. St John the Baptist. The church stood in the south-east corner of the field opposite Stow Farm. In 1710 the Lord of the Manor, Mr Walgrave, a Stamford physician, gave a chalice with a cover to the church. When the church was demolished in 1780 the chalice went to Barholm.

THORPE in the FALLOWS or WEST THORPE. Gone by 1602. White and Kelly say that the site was known but was no longer enclosed and the foundations of the church had been removed. It was united with Aisthorpe. WEST WYKEHAM. St Edward the Confessor. There had been two ministeries. In 1396-7 the Bishop decided that they should be united with Great Ludford as there were fewer than ten families and the place had been struck by pestilence. No priest could be found to take the post. Foster locates the site and could give the measurements of the church. The parish was co-terminous with Great and Little Tows.

EAST WYKEHAM. In 1602 the church was in some decay and likely to be more so as there were few or no parishioners. In 1637 the Rev. Thomas Masters, fellow of New College, Oxford, described how he was inducted in the ruins. On the following Sunday he returned to read the Thirty Nine Articles. He then departed, probably never to return. (The Lincolnshire Magazine. January 1939).
FREDERICK FLOWERS (1810-1886)

Jim Murray and Jean Fanthorpe

The Hull Packet reported on 15 January 1864 that at Kirton Lindsey Sessions the jury had returned a verdict of 'not guilty' on one Richard Cook on charges of breaking into the refreshment room at New Holland Pier and being there for 'an unlawful purpose'.

He owed his acquittal to the adversarial skills of barrister Frederick Flowers (1810-1886) once described as "...one of the wittiest, most ingenious and eloquent of the Bar..." Cook was fortunate in being represented in such a trivial case by one of the most distinguished (and expensive) barristers in the county. Flowers probably gave his services free as an act of charity to one of the parishioners of his younger brother, the Rev William Henry Flowers BA (1809-1875), vicar of Ullceby. Flowers had a strong sense of justice, especially to those who were weak and poor.

Not so fortunate though were Thos. Reed, a fitter, and George Drew, a 'juggler' (dealer) caught red-handed at Sheffield selling 43 pounds of brass stolen from Winterton. Flowers failed to save them from six months' hard labour.

Frederick Flowers was the third son of the Rev Field Flowers (1772-1818) rector of Partney near Boston. The Rev Field Flowers of Tealby was the eldest son and the Rev William Henry Flowers of Ullceby the second son. A fourth son, George French Flowers (1811-1872) was a renowned composer and innovative musical theorist.

Frederick Flowers was born at Boston in 1810 and, like his brothers, was educated at Louth Grammar School. He was called to the Bar at Lincoln's Inn on 18 November 1839 and practised as a special pleader on the Midland circuit. He married Ann Kirkby in 1841 and had one son. From 1862 he was Recorder of Stamford until appointed in 1864 by Sir George Grey to be Metropolitan Police magistrate at Bow Street Police Court, London.

Frederick Flowers was a frequent visitor to Tealby where his elder brother, the Rev Field Flowers BA (1804-1877) was rector. The fine pulpit in Tealby church was commissioned and paid for by him. Flowers was extremely well-known and respected for his common sense and profound knowledge of law. He was possessed of kindness and tact, which stood him in good stead when he had the sad duty of dealing (on behalf of his elder brother) with the legal aftermath of the tragic deaths of his nephew and niece, Field Flowers (13) and Fanny Flowers (11) who perished in the wreck of the Hull paddle steamer Pegasus. Flagship of the Hull & Leith Steam Packet Company, Pegasus had sailed from Leith (Edinburgh) at about 6pm on Wednesday, 19 July 1843, bound for Hull. The Flowers children were accompanied by pretty Miss Maria Barton, daughter of Dr Zephania Barton of Market Rasen, physician to and family friend of the Tennyson d'Eyncourt family of Bayons Manor, Tealby. She was 27 years old and bringing the children home from Edinburgh for the school holidays. Fanny was a pupil at Miss Banks's school at Murray Place, Edinburgh.

Shortly after midnight on a clear summer night Pegasus struck the treacherous Goldstone Rock off Holy Island (Lindisfarne) on the Northumbrian coast. The vessel was holed in the bow. The commander, Captain Alexander Miller of Leith, bucked the stricken vessel off the rock intending to make for Holy Island, barely two nautical miles away. But Pegasus sank by the bow within half an hour. Lifeboats were swamped and 51 people perished. Maria Barton's body was picked up next day by the SS Martello along with five others. She was clutching a child in her arms. There were only six survivors, including the first mate William Brown and three crew members.

Several days later the body of young Field Flowers was recovered from the sea by a French fishing vessel. He was wearing the silver watch his father had given him. Fanny's body was never found.

After dealing with the coroner's inquest and funeral arrangements, barrister Frederick Flowers caused a memorial stone to the two children to be erected. It can still be seen, legible but badly flaked, outside the west door of Lindisfarne Priory. Miss Barton's memorial is to be seen in Market Rasen churchyard. She was an unsung heroine of the sea.
Frederick Flowers died at his home in Hornsey, Middlesex, on 26 January 1886 and is buried at Putney where there is a cross over his grave and a memorial brass on the north wall of the church under the marble and slate to his parents. He outlived his three brothers.


OBITUARY Sid Gott—a tribute

It is with great sadness that we report the death of Mr Sydney George Gott of Moulton-Seas-End, near Spalding, who died in Pilgrim Hospital peacefully on 29 June, aged 91. Sid was a member of SLHA for many years and a founder member of the South Holland group. Although a bachelor, Sid had four nephews who all married and he was a great family man. Born at Holbeach-St-Johns, he moved to Moulton-Seas-End when young and lived in the same cottage for 60 years. He kept his home, with its fine collection of long-case and chiming clocks, and garden in immaculate order. His brassware shone like no other. Sid spent the whole of his working life with Elsoms Seeds Ltd of Spalding and retired as Production and Agricultural Seeds Director. He had a vast knowledge of the farming families of Lincolnshire and beyond. Sid traced his own family through many generations and was an authority on his surname, having many documents and photograph albums, well laid out and captioned, relating to Gotts and communicated with families with Gott connections worldwide. Sid had a great interest in churches, church organs and domestic architecture. He never missed an outing arranged by the Tourist Information Office at Ayscoughfee Hall to visit churches or stately homes.

For many years Sid served on the committee of the South Holland group and rarely missed a meeting or outing. Of an unassuming disposition, he liked to be a ‘back room’ worker. Sid was prepared to assist in running the South Holland group in many ways and really enjoyed searching through the Census returns and the IGI on behalf of enquirers who wrote to the group regarding ancestors who came from this area. He generally managed to furnish them with far more information than they were originally seeking. He was distributor of Lincolnshire Past & Present in the Holbeach area. Sid belied his age and drove his car until the last few days of his long life. He will be sadly missed by a wide circle of friends. He was a Lincolnshire gentleman through and through.

Gerry Lewis

He had become transformed into the family tree
that he traced with such devotion.
Sound roots struck deep into the land of his forebears:
The trunk a column of integrity.
Awe struck children counted its rings
Learning another dimension of time and age.
Bright leaves of intellect and curiosity
Brought forth a harvest of wisdom;
He became the guardian of the storehouse of its knowledge.
Spreading branches of generosity and care
Gave unconditional shelter to all.
Here was the landmark of the generations
Now diminished by his passing.

This touching poem was specially written by Mrs Patricia Gott and appeared on the service sheet at Sid’s Funeral at All Saints’ Church, Moulton, which took place on 8 July. It is quoted by kind permission of Mrs Gott.

As someone who has spent a lot of time working in Jews’ Court, Maureen Birch knows how frequently visitors ask about the history of the building and what sort of questions they ask. Relevant historical information is scattered across many different sources so it is good to see it brought together in one modestly priced booklet, outlining the story of Lincoln’s medieval Jews and the surviving buildings associated with them - notably Jews’ Court and the Norman House (also called “Aaron the Jew’s” house). It comprises ten short themed chapters with a conclusion, notes and a bibliography, accompanied by some good illustrations, though some interior plans would have been beneficial. Not being familiar with terms such as “Cyma marble”, “reveals” or “a tilted offset” (all on p.31) I would have appreciated an architectural glossary.

Bearing in mind the potential audience (tourists as well as locals) references to people and local places could have been clarified. How many visitors would know the location and significance of Boothby Pagnell Hall (p. 24) or indeed who Sir Francis Hill and E.J. Willson were? However, as the foreword tells us, this is not an academic treatise, but it is a readable introduction to Lincoln’s Jewish community and their architectural legacy, and brings together information on some outstanding examples of medieval stone buildings.


This excellent study provides all the detail anyone concerned with this formerly prominent landmark and business could want. It traces the setting up of the industry from a visit made in 1925 to assess the possibility of finding a suitable site when already 6000 acres had been contracted as sugar beet land and farmers were paid two shillings for every acre used for beet production. It took two years to acquire the land and build all the required production areas. Letters are reproduced, photographs show every stage of building and there are portraits of all the men involved. The same attention to detail occurs throughout, each section has a summary of the main events of each decade, followed by the details year by year. Social events are all included and although the Factory employed many hundreds one sometimes feels that every worker must appear somewhere in the multitudinous photographs. Tables provide data on deliveries by barge and rail, the totals of beet sliced and tonnage of sugar produced year by year; altogether over 4 million tonnes were produced, the peaks of 1992 and 1993 reaching annual rates of over 150,000 tonnes. This is a very valuable record with full documentation of one of the county’s most well known former industrial organisations.


Mr Fryer had cause to look at the Spalding local paper for 1908 and this led to his recording interesting items, which seemed to give an idea of what life was like then. The result is a book divided into nine sections dealing with Health & Welfare; Local Government; Police & Traffic; Law and Order; Agriculture; Entertainment & Religion, with three general sections labelled nostalgia, domestic bliss and a section on a storm that occurred on 22 February, 1908.

In the preface he expresses the hope that the reader would get as much satisfaction as he did in its writing. This reader certainly did and learned a great deal too. One has read far before being caught up in the flow of information. Mr Fryer’s skill at reporting and writing connecting material is just right, providing enough detail to inform and showing a nice sense of humour in comparing then and now. One feels transported into another world - he writes about his selected items in such a way that one can see it all happening in one’s mind’s eye. Students in several fields will gain much from the full reports of court cases, eye-witness accounts and descriptions of the various laws that at that time coloured people’s lives.

I did not find any piece later than the summer of 1908 so, hopefully, the author might turn his attention to the second half of that year. There are a few well chosen illustrations of advertisements, the cover is quietly attractive and the print is extremely clear. I recommend it to all social historians, not only those in Spalding - I’m sure every

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town has similar tales to tell.

Marcia Edgar, Spalding

The life story of a boy from a large family, born in 1815 in Pinchbeck who joined the 'Peelers' in 1830 the year after they were founded and went on outside the county to have a successful career in the police force.


A nicely produced text of the famous poem (to Lincolnshire readers anyway) is accompanied by a brief biographical note, notes on the text, and two attractive engravings of the Market Square and the river. The cover has pictures of the poetess herself and the house in South Square in which she lived. With the anniversary of the 1953 floods being remembered this year this is a timely reminder of disasters of an earlier period. Lincolnshire schoolchildren have no excuse for not knowing this once famous piece any more!


Julia Margaret Cameron (1815-1879) was by Victorian standards an unconventional woman, being not only part of an artistic community but also taking up photography, a pursuit hitherto restricted to the male province. Although she did not embark on this until she was 48, having received a camera as a gift, she quickly established herself as a professional, becoming a member of the Photographic Societies of England and Scotland, and displaying a remarkable talent for following her instinct when experimenting with photographic technique, particularly light and exposure. The results astounded, and often outraged, Victorian society, but, thanks to her, we have a remarkable archive which candidly portrays not only Victorian worthies but also a wealth of social history.

Joy Melville's biography, although not an in-depth and lengthy treatment, provides a thoughtful and illuminating insight into Julia Cameron's life and work, which stimulates one to search further information on this extraordinary woman. Julia clearly gained Alfred Tennyson's trust and confidence, and readers of this journal will undoubtedly wish to follow up her relationship with him. Her house was only five minutes' walk away from Tennyson's home at Farringford. She was one of the few people allowed to call Tennyson by his Christian name, and he endured more from her than he would from anyone else, even when, as quite often happened, she turned up unexpectedly at his house.

She took advantage of the famous people who came to visit the poet and succeeded in photographing many of them. However, many of her sisters felt ill at ease as she was apt to intimidate them during lengthy photographic sessions: when Tennyson brought Longfellow to be photographed, he remarked "Longfellow, you will have to do whatever she tells you. I will come back soon and see what is left of you". According to Joy Melville, "One reason Tennyson tended to offer up his illustrious guests was in order to avoid Julia's constant requests to photograph him". Nevertheless, we owe her a great debt of gratitude for the portraits of Tennyson that she did succeed in taking, even if one of them was dubbed by Tennyson as 'The dirty monk', while Photographic News said it presented him "in such a guise that any bench of magistrates would convict him of being a rogue or a vagabond". In August 1874, Tennyson suggested that Julia Cameron should provide a set of photographs to illustrate a republished version of his Idylls of the King and Other Poems, although, according to Ann Thwaite (in her biography of Emily Tennyson), Tennyson regretted this after its publication.

Joy Melville's book is timely, complementing the outstanding exhibition Julia Margaret Cameron: 19th-century Photographer of Genius at the National Portrait Gallery earlier this year. Those fortunate to see this exhibition, which, at the time of writing, has moved to the National Museum of Photography, Film and Television in Bradford, will appreciate this biography, as will a wider readership of those interested in photography and the role of women in Victorian times.

Professor Mark Seaward, University of Bradford.

MILLS, Dennis. A walk round Canwick, the Lincolnshire estate village of the Sibthorps, with the enclosure map of 1787. The author, 2003. 20pp. No ISBN. £2.90 pbk (or £3.50 post free from the author, 17 Rectory Lane, Branston, Lincoln LN4 1NA).

This well illustrated booklet takes the reader round the village with detailed notes on the Sibthorp family, since Canwick was an estate village. Along the way we inspect the church (with its records of the family), Canwick House, various estate cottages and the Dower House. There are useful maps, including a reduced version of the enclosure award map of 1787 with a table of the owners, before and after. The Sibthorp portrait gallery shows pictures of 14 members of the family and there are, additionally, over 40 small but very clear pictures of the properties, street scenes, the cricket club (1930 vintage) and one of the young author in the kitchen garden of his parents (vintage 1938). Needless to say the whole is fully documented with sources. Excel-
lent value—other villages please copy.


To paraphrase the TV advertisement this book 'does exactly what it says on the cover', being a day-to-day diary by a Scots bomb aimer serving with 12 Squadron at RAF Wickenby in 1944. The diary covers the mandatory thirty operations over Germany and Occupied Europe, the dates in the title being those of the first and last ops he and his crew carried out in their Lancaster but, more unusually, also covers many interesting and often humorous accounts of on and off-duty events at the camp and in Lincoln; we soften today will find it hard to imagine cycling from Wickenby to Lincoln and back for a night out, for example. (Sensitive readers should be aware that RAF language is not glossed over). There is something here for RAF and local historians alike.

The author writes well and humorously, but died in 1993—this edition of his book, first published in 1987, is edited and annotated by the present owner of Wickenby Aviation Ltd and the 'curator' of the good RAF Wickenby Memorial Museum at the airfield.

Terry Hancock, *Cherry Willingham*.

NORTH, Pat. *A musical era, 1877-1934; (Spilsby Operatic Society)*. The author, [2003]. 76pp. No ISBN. £5.50 pbk (by post from Charles Spring, 70 Church Street, Ashbourne, Derbyshire DE6 1AY).

There was a time when every small town had an operatic or light musical society, but then many houses had a piano and family sing-songs were one of the popular ways of providing entertainment in the home. Television and other leisure activities have not entirely killed off the music society, however; but here we have a well researched account of one that thrived for many years and provided a community service that was of good standard. Most of the text is taken from the local church magazine as regards the Spilsby and Wainfleet Choral Society's early days while personal memory is relied on for the story of the Operatic Society, formed in 1919. There are pictures of the many Gilbert & Sullivan performances taken from the local newspapers (as well as a few local adverts). Details are given of the financial side and the final section reprints an article from the local Standard newspaper in 1959 on the life of A.J. Searby, the local grocer who founded the Operatic Society and whose family was much involved in local music making in earlier days. The back cover has a picture of the Gunby Hall Amatuer Orchestra, which provided the music for a performance of 'The Mikado' (no date). The book needed a little more connecting narrative between the excerpts provided but, unfortunately, Mrs North died last year and her son has seen what she had prepared through the press. A revealing light on a now less common leisure activity.


This is in a way a very odd book. Although not allowed, the author kept a diary of her time in the WAFF from January 1941 with some gaps; here she reports the brief notes from her diaries, largely supplemented by the letters home to her mother in Saxilby. We get a clear picture of what sort of life was led by a young girl employed on clerical duties on bases at Cottesmore, Coningsby and Binbrook. A very understanding Squadron Leader at the first of these shot his eyes to the keeping of a horse in the village and seemed quite disposed to issue plenty of short leave passes for home visits, trips to local towns where large teas and other meals were consumed before cinema visits or dances in the evenings. In between quoting the full letters home and diary material appear biographical notes of some of the characters she meets, especially on 'Roo', an Australian she became especially fond of. His letters to her are quoted in full and only from them does one understand that we are in the middle of a war. He tells her of his nightly bombing missions (no censorship, apparently!). In a full appendix we learn details of his active service, how he won his DFC and was killed. It is very well written and gives, apart from all the local county references, a clear view of the 'other' life led by so many during the 1939-1945 war. Already £500 has gone to RAF charities so purchasers will know good causes will benefit from sales.


Mrs Pope wrote a little booklet on Maskby and Hannah-cum-Harghaby, which was recommended in this journal (issue 47 - Spring, 2002). She has followed a similar pattern with notes on a range of village places, people and other historical matters. Topics for Partney include the Church and the rectory, the chapels, White Hart Inn, Partney House, Victory Hall, roads, market, abbey, the national school, the mill and its millers and hospital with biographical sketches of Rev. Richard Benson (the present Rector), Canon Walker (1858-1933), Mr and Mrs Mills, who ran the post-office and Peregrine Langton. A shorter section on
Saunthorpe provides details of the national school, the church and its institute, public houses, the watermill, biographical notes on the Swan family (who dominated the village in the 19th century) and two pieces on Saunthorpe Hall and its owner for many years William Kochan. All this in a small compass, with 2 maps and 18 well produced photographs. Don’t expect academic history, (though Mrs Pope is more accurate than Pevsner about the architecture of Saunthorpe Hall) but you will get value for money.

QUANTRELL, Dorothy A. editor. Requirements for Alford Hospital. The editor. [2003]. 40pp. No ISBN. £3 pbk (postage paid from the editor, 68 Chauntry Road, Alford LN13 9FW).

Twenty years ago Mrs Quantrell produced a booklet People called Methodists (still available for £2 from the address above) and in between has prepared other material on aspects of Alford’s history (see, for instance, L&P, P. 51). Here she has delved into the history of the local hospital, which was closed in 1990. As background she provides details of the effects of the Great War with a complete Roll of Honour and the events leading up to the Alford War Memorial Hospital being opened in 1921. Much is given of the local efforts to keep the hospital open in the 1980s and the part she and her husband played with other local support. This is not an academic study but, as the title suggests, a report of the local mourning at its passing.


This book will interest both those associated with Caistor and those seeking insights into Anglican parish life in general. The vicar in question is the Revd. William Westbrooke, whose theological leanings were towards Anglicanism and who was also responsible for Holton-le-Moor, Cireby and the chaplaincy at the Hospital (i.e. Caistor Union workhouse). He usually had the help of a curate, plus part-time assistance in certain periods from the grammar school head and the Revd. T.G. Dixon, ‘squarson’ of Holton. Despite this help, Westbrooke and his wife worked very hard, and one of the virtues of this booklet is that it examines the many aspects of his ministry, extending to the National School and a wide range of parish organisations and social activities.

The author was himself Vicar of Caistor, from 1978 to 1988, and the publication is obviously a labour of love for the place and its people. Yet it is neither sentimental nor too parochial. Instead there is a careful analysis woven into an easily read text, tugged here and there with kindly humour. The contextual positioning of the facts is well managed, including such landmarks as Caistor’s decline, the relationships between the Church and the other denominations, and national trends such as the gradual establishment of schools as a seriously regarded aspect of working class life. The treatment is wide enough to include sections on the Church and the ‘poor’, the Grammar School, clergy Chapter meetings (Westbrooke became rural dean in 1896), the Diocesan Conference, the Sunday School Teachers’ Association, Bishop Edward King, and the national and world-wide Church.

The main source is a run of parish magazines starting in 1887 (almost certainly a Westbrooke innovation) and surviving throughout the period with only two significant breaks. Although the booklet is intended for the general reader, the other sources might have been listed. Do not be put off by the rather dull cover as the booklet has a delightful range of photographs, many of them of groups, including sporting activities, coronation and election scenes, and school classes, as well as specifically Church subjects. Other writers might seek to emulate this publication in at least a few of the county’s 600-700 ancient parishes.

Dennis Mills, Boston


This little booklet will be of great use not only for the multiplicity of family historians but for all researching local history topics. The first section describes the types of material to be found in the County Archives Office in Lincoln. There then follow details of the major resources located elsewhere in the county, brief notes on the Lincoln Record Society and the Archives Office in Grimsby are followed by indications of the items to be found in the public libraries in the historical county. A page each on our Society and that of the County Family History Society completes the survey. For all centres postal addresses, phone numbers, fax, e-mail and opening hours are provided. Very strongly recommended.


The contents of this book mirror those of many of the eighty or so village studies that have been issued in the last four years though many of those were not so ambitious in scope as the present item. There are sections on the village in
early times; landscape and wildlife; famous people (John Smith and the Willoughby lordship); communications and services; buildings, church, chapel and school; and modern day village life. I was not quite clear at the end what justified the sub-title unless it was the association with the Willoughby d'Eresby family through eight hundred years (the present representative of the family, Lady Jane, contributes a supportive foreword).

What does set the volume apart from the great majority of all these village studies is its quality. A great deal of research has been undertaken by members of the group (and David Robinson has been called in to help pull it all together) and the written text is as informative as one could wish. A few minor errors occur (page 66, paragraph 4 seems to lose its thread) but they can’t detract from the whole. Hardly a page can be opened without an illustration of scenes of the past and present in the form of photographs (many in colour), maps, diagrams and trade adverts. The scope is tremendous and the non-commercial early photographs must have taken a lot of finding. Even so, without the quality of paper, print and reproduction of the illustrative material this great effort could have been spoil. But the result is a fine, heavy-weight book that is a pleasure to handle and welcome as a model for others to follow.

RECENTLY PUBLISHED BOOKS

ARMSTRONG, A. and ARMSTRONG, R. Sortie not completed; our search for a lost bomber crew. The authors, 2003. 72pp. ISBN 0 9537203 7 3. £3.99 (or £4.50 by post from the authors, 37 Cres- sthill Drive, Morston, West, Carlistie CA2 6RS).


LINCOLNSHIRE CHURCH TOURISM NETWORK. Wesley’s Lincolnshire: an introduction to Lincolnshire through the eyes of John Wesley, founder of Methodism. Church Tourism Network, 2003. 20pp. No ISBN. Free from Church Tourism Officer, Church House, Old Palace, Lincoln LN2 1PU.

McHALE, Mike, editor. Celyby village, home to Koji: celebrating the present, remembering the past, planning the future. Coleby Millennium 2000 Group, 2003. 117pp. No ISBN. £6.50 pbk. (This book is now out of print but copies are still available from the Society’s bookshop).


ROYLE, Freda. Wrangle: the history and events of Wrangle. The author. [2002]. 46pp No ISBN. £6.50 (by post from the author, 47 Church Lane, Old Leake, Boston PE22 9NS postage extra).

The tastes of Lincolnshire trail, where to enjoy locally produced food and drink, where to stay & what to see


THOMPSON, Andrea M. The East Coast floods 31st January 1953 and what happened to us as a family. The author, 2003. [2], 46pp. No ISBN. £4 pbk (£4.80 by post from M/s Thompson, 10 High St., Waltham, Grimsby DN37 0LL).