Romans in Canwick + Horncastle Byelaws

Building a church - St Michael-on-the-mount, Lincoln

Wartime sky at night + Bumper notes & Queries Section

The latest books

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Front cover illustration: St. Michael-on-the-Mount Church, Christ’s Hospital Terrace, Lincoln. Part of the University of Lincoln’s Faculty of Art and Design.
EDITORIAL

Since this is the spring number I feel we should be wondering about a proper definition of spring. I write this in March ready for our readers in April. What do people regard as the traditional signs of spring? Aconites and snowdrops, first cuckoo, first may blossom? I have been confused this year by a campaign called Springwatch. This is a joint effort between the Grantham based Woodland Trust and the BBC’s Today programme. People are asked to look out for up to six signs of spring. A card can be returned that mentions three sightings and there is also web information. The three on the card I first had were bumblebee, ladybird and frogspawn, but to come are Peacock butterfly, the first swift and the first hawthorn in flower. All these signs will be coming at very different times, from about February to May, so reporting on them is going to be somewhat spun out.

You may well wonder what all this has to do with history. I always think that these aspects of Lincolnshire are interlinked and interdependent, and I deplore the separation, occasionally encountered, of the wildlife and historic aspects of a landscape, as one surely affects the other. There have been disasters. I can recall some years ago a wildlife pond that was dug straight through part of a Bronze Age burial mound! In another connection an illustrator drew a post mill for something I had written, but left out the post, so it ended up looking like a small shed! History and archaeology have always struggled to gain the high profile that wildlife has, but co-operation between these various interests in the county is much better than it used to be. So have any readers any old Lincolnshire weather sayings etc? And did why did Springwatch miss out the first cuckoo?

Hilary Healey
Two recent major archaeological publications on the city of Lincoln provided the incentive to bring together a number of rather tenuous, overlapping accounts of a large Roman building, probably a villa, underneath the Norman church at Canwick. The village lies about two kilometres south of Lincoln and immediately outside the city boundary, across the Witham valley from the site of the Roman upper town. Its proximity to Lincoln would have made it an attractive location for Roman and Romanised Britons, who were leading citizens of the city, both to demonstrate their wealth and power, and for a farming enterprise. Millett has suggested that villa sites close to large Roman cities, such as Lincoln, were frequently occupied at an early date in the Roman period and tended to be of above average size. 2 Unfortunately, the available evidence does not make it possible to test this proposition, but Millett’s ideas are a useful guide to the likely status of a villa at Canwick.

It is generally thought that sites on slopes were favoured,3 and the Canwick site, marked by the church, exemplifies this point. It is near the crest of the limestone scarp at 56-57 m. above sea level, just above the spring zone at 45-50 m. (Fig.1). By comparison with many areas further south, the Lincoln area is not well supplied with villa sites, but most of them share this characteristic. In particular, the very impressive Roman building on the Greatwell Road site within present-day Lincoln was in a similar position on the north side of the valley.4 Moreover, a significant number of instances have been found elsewhere in which a church stands on a villa site. 5 Nineteenth-century evidence

The earliest evidence for a Roman building at Canwick village comes from White’s Directories of Lincolnshire for 1882 and 1892, in the entry for Canwick. This includes the statement that ‘The north chapel [of the church] was removed and the vestry erected on its site in 1814, when a tessellated pavement was discovered, about two feet below the present floor, and running the entire length of the nave’ (about 11 m.). The long gap between 1814 and 1882 demands attention. It is probable that White’s agent picked up historical information from Richard Ellis, who was the village blacksmith, as was his father before him. He was also the parish clerk over a long period and the enumerator at the 1851-71 censuses, just the kind of man who would be consulted by a directory agent. Richard was baptised (and presumably born) in Canwick in 1822, so the story of the 1814 discoveries were probably well-known to his father, if not witnessed by him.

The conversion of the north chapel to the vestry was accompanied by the digging out of the Sibthorp vault, to a depth well below two feet. The thought that the pavement ran the length of the nave may have been supported by observations during the substantial rebuilding of the south wall in 1807 and of the north wall in 1823. Also recorded is the re-paving of the nave floor in 1846; this work might not have gone down two feet throughout, but where burials were removed, as was very likely, it would have gone down deeper than that (but see also below in Watney’s letter, which does not confirm deep digging). 6

The next relevant evidence lies in the catalogue of the collection made by the Rev. Edwin Jarvis at Doddington Hall:

In May 1865, in digging a grave for Mrs Aston on the North side of Canwick churchyard, the Clerk [this would have been Ellis] came to a stone slab at the depth of 4 feet from the surface; and on lifting it up he

Fig. 2. Large urn identified as Roman, found in Canwick churchyard, 1865, ref. Jarvis 210, courtesy of Mr Antony Jarvis, Doddington Hall, Lincoln.

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found an urn which is drawn on the opposite page, and which he unfortunately broke with his pickaxe. It contained boxes and a smaller urn, which remains perfect. It is drawn below, of the proper size. The ornamentation of the larger urn is more elaborate than usual, and the flattened form of the upper part is peculiar. The smaller urn is ornamented only with the usual reddish coloured running pattern. The urns are both of the same yellowish cream colour. They were given to me by the Revd. G. Quilter, Vicar of Canwick.7

The measurements were recorded by Jarvis as follows: the larger urn—eleven-and-three-quarters inches high and the same wide, the smaller urn—three-and-five-eighths inches high. By the smaller one Jarvis had written ‘Gone back to Canwick’, but the urns are not in the church, nor in the City and County Museum, The Sites and Monuments Record (SMR) file 61499, referring to Jarvis 210-11, mentions stone slabs with two pots of cream-coloured fabric and identifies them as Roman, possibly ‘colour-coated ware’ (Fig. 2 and 3).8

The Rev H. J. Watney 1929

There is then a long gap until 1929, when the Rev H. J. Watney, vicar of Canwick, wrote to an unknown correspondent in the following terms:

Copy
Canwick Vicarage
Lincoln
27th August 1929

Dear Sir,

In reply to your enquiry about Canwick Church. Some 20 years ago I discovered a Roman tessellated pavement outside the south wall of the Church, and that this wall had been built straight up from it, without any foundation course. Further investigation showed that it once extended all over the floor of the original church. It is supposed that it was built on the site and largely out of the ruins of a Roman villa about 1030 AD [sic]. It was there at the time of Doomsday Book [the evidence for this is ambiguous]. In the Middle Ages the floor was broken up for burial and the soil and tesserae shovelled back and so it remains. In about 1803, a floor was made over this for an aisle, 11 inches above the old floor, and sleeper walls for joists and a board floor for pews, over the rest of the church. Some slight excavations have revealed the position of the caldarium etc. Yours sincerely. (Signed) H. J. Watney.

Watney’s letter has to be approached carefully. First, his recollection of 20 years ago is probably very approximate, since there is no record later than 1894 of the church floor having been dug up.9 The date 1030 AD seems to be unsupported by documentary evidence, but the first church or the first stone church might well have been as late as that date. The ruins of a Roman stone building could have survived long enough to form a very convenient source for the erection of a stone church on the same site in the eleventh century. The reference to works in 1803 is probably a confusion with work in 1807, 1814 and 1846, which he could have expressed more accurately by looking up the churchwardens’ accounts. That Watney had significant knowledge of things Roman is suggested by the last sentence, which shows familiarity with the term caldarium, a hot room. Such a term would normally be applied in the context of a sequence of rooms at different temperatures in Roman baths buildings, but a villa could also have had a bath suite. However, perhaps Watney merely found hypocost material associated with a central heating system.

The Rev F. P. Thorman 1929

Our next evidence comes from Mrs Zilla Malone, whose father, the Rev F. P. Thorman, was the incumbent from 1918 to 1952. She recalls vividly how, during the early summer of 1939, John Marshall, then parish clerk, presented her father with some tesserae, which the vicar installed in a jar kept in the vestry during his time at Canwick. These tesserae had been found recently in the boiler pit in the tower, during repairs to the boiler. The site was inspected by Mr Thorman and shown to Claude Pym, a retired banker who had lived for many years at Canwick House next to the church. Although the discovery led to an excited debate in the Thorman and Pym households, according to Mrs Malone’s recollections nothing was said about earlier discoveries of fragments of tessellated pavement. This could have been due, at least in part, to the gap between Watney’s death in 1933 and the beginning of her father’s incumbency in 1938. The 1939 tesserae were probably those remembered by a number of living persons (including the writer) as having been kept in a shoe box under the front pew of the north aisle, until the incumbent removed them in about 1970.

Other evidence

Supporting evidence for Roman activity in the neighbourhood is the chance finding of the coins listed below with their City and County Museum references. The finding of these coins depended considerably on

Fig. 3. Small urn, as Fig. 2, Jarvis 211.
the intensity of cultivation in gardens and allotments. Most of them were found at distances up to half a kilometre from the church, but number 2427 was found by William Twigg c.1948-49 in the Hall kitchen garden near the churchyard.

11 LCNCC 2424. Found on Carwick Hill, reign of Antoninus Pius, 138-161 AD.
12 LCNCC 2426. Found on Carwick Hill Top, reign of Constantine II, 317-337 AD.
13 LCNCC 2427. Found in Carwick Hall kitchen gardens, reign of Constantine III, 341-346 AD.
14 LCNCC 2428-29. Found on Carwick allotments (probably those west of Carwick Hill), reign of Constans 347-348 AD and reign of Gratian 367-375 AD (see Fig.1).

There is also one coin (LCNCC 2425, reign of Carausius, 287-293 AD) recorded as found on Carwick Heath, probably a reference to Heath Farm further away on the Branston Road (B1188). Altogether, the top of Carwick Hill is a 'busy' area in the early archaeological record, suggesting that the route up the hill was in use during the Roman period, with a lane branching off to the site of the church. Roman, medieval and post-medieval pottery has also been found in the allotments on the west side of the hill. A Neolithic unpolished stone axe was found in the area in 1952.

An aerial photograph of 10 May 1946 shows several unexplained irregular dark shapes and a circular landscape feature marked B on Figure 1. The SMR file suggests that the latter might have been a former windmill site, or the unlocated site of a moot or early medieval assembly place. More recently it has been regarded as a Bronze Age burial mound.

Finally, recent trial trenching on the proposed line of the Lincoln eastern bypass has revealed the site of a very substantial Roman building about 1.5 kilometres north-east of Carwick church, approximately at GR 003705 (between the Washborough Road and the Sleaford railway line). Geophysical surveying suggests a site extending to 4,600m² and the structure's high status is demonstrated by large pieces of limestone rubble remaining from later robbing and geophysical anomalies and features suggesting a hypocaust system. Furthermore, the rare discovery of large pieces of tiles with curving edges indicates the former presence of composite columns or pilasters, and hence a high-status building. The location only a few feet above the flood plain is atypical of villa sites, and the excavator has suggested the possibility of a complex of shrine buildings. (This suggestion is consistent with the very considerable amount of archaeological evidence of pre-historic 'religious' activities along Withamside below Lincoln). Most of the Roman pottery on this site could be dated to the mid to late third century AD, thus providing a tentative age for the building.

To conclude, both this latest evidence from the lower part of Carwick parish and the significant architectural record of the area immediately west of Carwick village lend general support to the proposition that Carwick church stands on the site of a substantial Roman building. In particular it is intriguing to note that the 'shrine' site is just inside the corner of Carwick parish. It is tempting to suggest that the parish boundary owes something to the boundary of a preceding Roman estate, and that the 'villa' underneath the church was the centre of this estate.

NOTES
1 M. J. Jones, Roman Lincoln: conquest, colony and capital (Stroud 2002), especially pp 101-03; M. J. Jones, D. Stocker and A. Vince, The City by the Pool, assessing the archaeology of the city of Lincoln, edited by D. Stocker (Oxford 2003). I am very grateful to Michael Jones and Jim Ryall for their expert guidance in the preparation of this article; any shortcomings are mine alone.
3 One author expressing this view is P. Salway, Roman Britain (Oxford, 1981), pp 607-08.
4 Stocker, ed, The City by the Pool, p121, also mentions villa sites at Scampton, Burton and Glinworth north of Lincoln, and at Norton Disney to the south-west, which are similarly on sloping ground.
6 Based on the churchwarden's accounts, Lincolnshire Archive Office (LAO), Canwick Par 9/1 and the retrospective faculty of 1815, LAO, Faculty Book 4, p85.
7 Reference Jarvis 210-11; my warmest thanks to Mr Antony Jarvis for supplying me with a copy of this entry, which includes the sketches reproduced in Figures 2 and 3.
8 I am indebted to Mark Bennet and his staff at the SMR for much information and patient help in its interpretation. Thomas Cadbury has been most helpful in checking the Museum's records and supplying copies of those quoted below. Jim Ryall points out that this kind of ware was produced near Peterborough.
9 The Sacker Library at Oxford provided me with photographs; my thanks to Dr A. MacGregor of the Ashmolean Museum and to Dr G. Piddock, Deputy Librarian at the Sacker Library.
10 This is when the tower floor was dug up to install the central heating boiler—LAO, Canwick Par 9/1-2.
11 Mt Twigg was working for the writer's father. As professional gardeners they were not unused to finding coins, but not recognising this one, they gave it to me (then a boy still at school) to keep in my trouser pocket until the patina wore off. After several weeks we were no nearer identifying it, so I took it to the Museum on behalf of my father, and there it still is.
12 SMR 61505 and 61500 for the pottery; SMR 61493, quoting F. H. Thompson, Lincolnshire Architectural and Archaeological Society Reports and Papers, NS 5, part 2 (1954), p 76 for the stone axe; SMR 61401 (138 squadron, photo 5454) for the circular site. The Bronze Age interpretation for the circular shape is to be found in Stocker ed, The City by the Pool p 23, Fig 5.4.
13 J. Ryall, Report on a programme of archaeological trial trenching, Lincoln Eastern Bypass, Lincolnshire (Pre-Construct Archaeology (Lincoln), February 2004), especially pp 1-2, 63-65, 70.
14 For more on this theme see D. Mills, 'A Common question—Wigford, Canwick and Bracebridge the same parish?' LP&P No 44, Summer 2001, pp 7-10.
St Michael-on-the-Mount
The building of a hillside church in Lincoln, 1845-1871
Michael Wright

On 1 October 1845 John Kaye, the Bishop of Lincoln, together with his Archdeacon and the Precentor of the Cathedral, met with the Governing Body of Lincoln's Christ's Hospital (Bluecoat) School. He announced that a new parish Church of St Michael was to be built. It would replace the small and inadequate earlier building opposite the school in the street that became known as Christ's Hospital Terrace. This small church had been built in 1739, and measuring a mere 16 feet by 30 feet, it provided sufficient space for only 45 worshippers. During the preceding century not only had the population of the hillside parish of St Michael grown with the building of new terraces between Steep Hill and Asylum Road, but also Christ's Hospital School had expanded considerably to 120 boys, for whom much more room was needed in church. The proximity of a church was important, since this school, like other Bluecoat schools around the country, was a small imitation of the original such school established in the 16th century in Newgate, London, where, until 1902 when the school moved to Horsham, the neighbouring Christ Church was used for worship.

The Bishop hoped the Governors would co-operate with this work. They later responded by donating £300 (on condition that the small, earlier church be demolished) and became the largest single supporter. They also gave two stained glass windows in memory of their founder, Dr Richard Smith.

The previous month the Bishop had licensed the Reverend John Somerville Gibney, one of the Priest Vicars...
at the Cathedral, as the new incumbent of St Michael's, charged with the task of providing this necessary dual-purpose building. The way ahead for Gibney was to be long and hard, occupying all but three of the remaining years of his life.

Along with many other tasks and involvements, the completion of this parish church was to be his continuing concern. Gibney was a man of considerable energy and unwavering commitment. He immediately began to appeal for funds. The Dowager Queen Adelaide, widow of King William IV, gave £20, and her sister-in-law, the Duchess of Gloucester, contributed £10. These two royal names continued to head Gibney’s subscription list. ‘It is earnestly hoped,’ Gibney wrote, ‘that those whom God has blest with the means of usefulness, will not refuse their assistance in this work.’

He wrote to one lady: ‘...you are really desirous to employ the worldly means which God has placed in your power for his glory. I hope you will pardon me if I solicit your kind assistance in the case of my poor parish of St Michael.’

He arranged for 50 people to become collectors, each one equipped with a small card on which to record the amounts received. These have survived and show how little money was available within the parish.

By 10 June 1853 the Lincolnshire Chronicle could report that £1,500 had been raised through the exertions of the worthy pastor of this parish. The London based architect Samuel Saunders Teulon, was appointed to prepare plans and elevations. Bishop Kaye had earlier engaged him to build the church near his palace at Riseholme. He also built small churches at East Torrington, New Bolingbrooke, Burringham, North Elkington and Harrington.

The editors of the Shell Guide to Lincolnshire (1865) describe his work at St Michael’s as ‘most restrained’. He produced plans for a church with a nave measuring 61 feet long and 24 feet wide and a chancel twenty-seven feet long, to which he added a large gallery or triforium on the north side facing south through an imposing arcade, to accommodate the Christ’s Hospital School boys and staff.

The Ecclesiologist (1856) described his design as ‘later first pointed with an admixture of geometrical tracery in the more important windows.’ The contract was drawn up in the sum of £2256, with an allowance for ‘extras’. Charles Ward, a prominent member of the City Council and Mayor in 1851 and in 1860, was appointed as the builder.

Preparatory work on the sloping hillsite began in May 1854. Before much had been done there arose the suggestion that the south porch might become the base of a tower. Teulon supported this, especially as his desire to do the same at Riseholme had been rejected by Bishop Kaye. There was general support from the Building Committee and from Gibney.

Action had to be taken quickly because more than ordinary foundations would be required for the porch to carry the extra weight. Teulon, anxious to fill the ambition, suggested certain economies could be made to the contract to provide the additional £72 required. The work quickly progressed through the summer of 1854, so that the second Earl of Harrowby was invited to lay the foundation stone on 21 July.

The Cathedral choir attended and sang Psalm 100 and part of Psalms 122, 127 and 132. For the next twelve months the building work went ahead, but bills had to be paid to Charles Ward and to Teulon. By June 1855 there was a mere £58 remaining in the building account. Gibney’s efforts continued unabated with the result that the credit balance rose to £375 by the following June. With solvency maintained, Gibney began to look forward to the consecration of the new church. Tuesday, 16 September was fixed as the date when the Bishop, John Jackson, would receive the Churchwardens’ Petition and officiate at the first services.

Gibney saw in this an opportunity to widen the appeal for financial support. He was never more stretched, never more committed, than in the weeks before the planned consecration. More than 300 invitations were sent, each with two tickets for the service, and an appeal for a donation in his own next hand. Over 200 replies were received and have survived. Some declined and others contributed to the fund, often by money order or postage stamps.
Teulon's plan of the church

The builders completed the construction as far as they could, leaving the porch roof open, in the hope that a wealthy observer would make a substantial donation to enable the tower to be added. The stained glass artist, Thomas Wilmshurst, dispatched the three windows for the apse, one in memory of the late Bishop John Kaye and the other two to commemorate John Smith, the founder of Lincoln's Christ's Hospital School.

On the consecration day, 16 September 1856, The Stamford Mercury reported that a 'very fashionable assembly, chiefly ladies' gathered. Clergy were asked to wear black gowns. Again the Cathedral choir came to sing the psalms. The Bishop received the Petition, prayers were said for the ministry to be exercised in the new church, the Vicar said Morning Prayer, the Bishop preached on the text St John 14.12 and then celebrated Holy Communion for the first time in the new church. Lunch followed for 15 male guests in the White Hart, while Mrs Gibney entertained several ladies in her home at 4 Vicars Court. At Evening Prayer the Bishop baptised two children, Mary Dorothy Maddison and Mary Elizabeth Taylor, and one hymn was sung. Gibney's task was by no means
completed. Teulon continued to press for a tower. 'I am quite sure' he wrote 'that a tower... would dignify the church.' But no money was available, so a temporary felt covering had to be provided for the porch. With little prospect of raising sufficient funds for a tower, Gibney became conscious of a change in opinion in the years following the consecration. Was it really desirable to put up a tower so close to the Cathedral?

The decision was taken to revert to Teulon's original plan to have a small bell turret or fleche at the east end. Estimates were then sought and further funds were raised, not only for the fleche but also for a permanent roof for the porch. Once this work was done in 1871 the construction of the fabric was at last complete. A heating system had already been installed in 1868 at a cost of £82.

All that remained for the completion of the task was the provision of a pipe organ to replace the second-hand harmonium that had accompanied the singing since 1856. The Lincoln organ builder, Thomas Nicholson, estimated that a single manual pipe organ would cost £130. To raise the necessary funds Gibney embarked on a new venture. By this time he was a student at the Lincoln School of Art – which he had himself founded in 1863 – and, quickly mastering the skill of etching on copper, produced The Book of Etchings, twelve etchings of Lincoln Cathedral, printed, bound and sold in aid of the organ fund at £1 10s; if printed on Indian paper, otherwise the cost was a guinea. A scrap of paper has survived containing 84 names of potential purchasers whom Gibney contacted. Fifty replies are extant and so are a few copies of his book.

By 1872 the task for which Gibney had worked tirelessly since his licensing to the benefice in 1845 was, by the standards of the time, complete. This account is possible because papers, letters, a bank book, and numerous notes and jottings, have all been carefully preserved. The story, though somewhat abbreviated here, gives account of the kind of activity that took place in many towns in Victorian England as new churches were built to provide for growing populations and for surrounding institutions. Often without the traditional assistance of aristocratic patrons and the landed wealth of rural areas, the new urban people, with the leadership of such incumbents as Somerville Gibney, saw it as imperative that satisfactory accommodation should be provided for Christian worship.

Principal sources
Lincolnshire Archives, Parochial Records, St Michael-on-the-Mount, Lincoln (ref 7/10; 9/1; 9/10 and 23/30)
Minutes of the Governors of Christ's Hospital School (ref 5083)
1/10/1845; 12/06/1852 and 13/06/1853
M. Saunders, Churches of S. S. Teulon (Ecclesiological Society, 1982)

59.1 Mystery picture—Ewerby centenarian
This photograph is of Mrs Vickers, the Ewerby Centenarian. Does anyone know any more about this lady?
Due to a small editorial pruning, on the above named article on page 4 (*Lincolnshire Past & Present* No 58) the reference to Moorby, line 3, is misleading and should be expanded to read:

*Moorby Camp, originally constructed by Italian prisoners of war, later housed German prisoners of war, and later still Ukrainian displaced persons, before finally becoming a turkey farm! Pingley Farm Camp on the other hand, again constructed by Italian prisoners of war, followed by German prisoners of war, and then displaced persons, was finally used by international students doing seasonal work on the local farms, a use which lasted until 1983.*

In answer to the editor’s query of Honington PoW Camp, which was sited to the north of Honington station and level crossing, all of the huts have long since been demolished and the site has become famous in recent years as being the winter home of circus animals. There are, however, a few structures on the opposite side of the road from the camp site which are currently used for farm animals but which were obviously built for another purpose. Does anyone know if these buildings were part of the PoW camp?

*John T. Turner*

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*Farm buildings at Honington—part of former PoW camp?*
59.3 Bandages at South Elkington

By a fluke I purchased from the SLHA Bookshop in January 2005 a second-hand copy of the report of South Elkington urn field, reprinted by the Royal Archaeological Institute in 1952 and written by Graham Webster. In it he refers to the bandaging of urns—so Pearl Wheatley's suggestion is quite correct. The bandaged urns were sent to the Archaeological Institute for analysis and mostly returned to Lincoln Museum.

Michael Turland, Sleaford

59.4 Early road signs

I have always understood, and sometimes come across it, that not all the road signs removed in World War II ['Signs of the Times' LP&P No 58] were put back in the right places. (This is before my time!). This is why some places get further away, according to road signs, the nearer you get to them!

Michael Turland, Sleaford

59.5 Fish records

Morton's Lincolnshire Almanac 1897 includes a report of the capture of a pike of 21lb from Sleaford Ballast Pit on 16 January 1896. I had assumed that this was from the large pit located between the former Sleaford—Bourne railway line and the line to Spalding; but that I understand was excavated for the GN&GEJR 1880-82 (unless it was started for the Bourne line 1871-2) — I doubt a pike would reach 21lb in 14 years or so? When I was young it was alleged that an enormous pike lived in the ballast pit and had attacked a diver. I wonder if this was a folk memory of the event of 1896, suitably embellished of course! (There was also supposed to be a loco in the lake!) In July last year I was amazed to see a match on the Bargate Drain being won with common carp of 23lb. I had no idea that there were carp in the drains — or that they grew so big. Enquiry among my expert friends revealed that the capture of large carp there does occur from time to time. One wonders how old the fish are. Do I recall being told that in the heyday of Witham match fishing, trains on the now lifted Lincoln—Boston line dropped anglers off between stations?

Michael Turland, Sleaford

59.6 Commemorative mugs ('Mugs of school cheer' N&Q 57.2)

Mrs Woolas of Leadenham has clarified the story on mugs used in school as related in the book on the village. Mugs given to the children at Temple Bruer school were not provided by the local Education Committee. They were all inscribed with different nursery rhymes so that each child would recognise its own mug. The mugs were passed on to further children when the previous user moved on. The junior schools I attended in Cheshire and then Kent did give mementos to commemorate the Silver Jubilee and the 1937 Coronation - did the children in Lincolnshire not have any such gifts from the local council? If so, where are they now?
59.7 More fires—Stoke Rochford Hall and Broughton House

Last issue we recorded the fire at Nocton Hall. We now have to report the equally devastating blaze at Stoke Rochford, another well-known 19th century building, the home of Christopher Turnor by William Burn. Many people enjoyed the special visits to parts of the estate during 2004 Heritage Open Days, but unfortunately on that particular evening the house itself was not available. By a strange coincidence only a day or two after that fire the Lincolnshire Film Archive showed a copy of the film of trainee teachers taken c1960s. Peter Ryde had been looking for this for some time, and it is quite a period piece, taken when the hall was Kesteven Teacher Training College. There were tantalising glimpses of an excavation, but no details and the member of staff whose name was given when they came on was not one known to me. I recall (not necessarily correctly) that John Polkinghorne, who must at one time have been in the Boston Archaeology Group, was engaged on some excavation of a Roman site there and later David Kaye worked on the deserted village of North Stoke and church area, but does anyone else remember this? Any past students or tutors? If the film eventually comes on to their saleable videos one could no doubt get some stills from it.

There was also a brief mention soon after of a fire at Broughton House School, the former Brant Broughton rectory. It does not seem to have been such a serious affair and I do not know which part of the house was affected. It is an older building than the two previously mentioned, having been rebuilt in 1707, although Pevsner suggests there may be earlier remains present. At one time it was an Adult Education Centre, similar to Horncastle, and put on some equally good courses—and food!  

*Hillary Healey*

59.8 Belleau wild man

The Manor House at Belleau, which was demolished in the 1970s, was said to have had a very fine fireplace with the figure of a wild man above it. Does the fireplace survive? If not, does anyone know of a drawing or photograph of the wild man?  

*Kate Winyey, Lissington*

59.9 Charles Barnes (‘Patently true’ *N&Q 58.3*)

A section of a Patent Certificate for an invention to improve internal combustion engines that was printed in the last edition together with a query about the inventor Charles Barnes caught the attention of John Porter of Thornford, Dorset, who has sent us a copy of the application from the inventor that the certificate approved. It bears the same date (1897) and reference number (14165) as the certificate and also confirms the address of the patentee as 22 Altham Terrace, Lincoln. Mr Porter’s researchers found six further approved patent applications by Charles Barnes, from 1902 to 1929, all on related subjects, which suggests it is the same person, although some are from an address in Essex, and others are submitted jointly with a manufacturer, also in Essex. Most relate to internal combustion engines but one is for ‘improvements in governors for steam engines’. On the application dated 5 December 1902 Mr Barnes states his address to be ‘Hamilton House, St Catherines Road in the City and County of Lincoln’. He describes this invention as ‘novel means of starting internal combustion engines and is more particularly applicable to engines such as described in Patent No. 14,165 granted to me in 1897; it can, however, be equally well applied to engines of different design.’ A seventh document is an application from a Charles Tracy or Tracy (both spellings are used) Barnes from an address in Lancashire, relating to ‘improvements in means for securing the valve springs of internal combustion engines and other apparatus.’
It is still all out there. I know that because when we holiday on the West Coast of Scotland it is still there to be seen in all its glory, and occasionally, when there is an exceptionally clear night, or we are lucky enough to get an electrical breakdown, a shadow of its former self is there to remind us.

Down here in so-called civilisation, with its air pollution and wall-to-wall street lighting, floodlighting, quite unnecessary advertising signs and millions of vehicle headlights, the true glory of the night sky has been denied us for many a year now and younger generations may well grow up not knowing what they are missing.

For most of my life, I have been lucky enough to live in the country, even though most of my working life was in heavy engineering based in towns and cities. Most of that time I was able to cycle to and fro along mainly rural roads in all weathers and seasons of the year, which brought me into close contact with nature. When today we do get a more or less clear night my mind always goes back to the wartime years from 1940 to 1945.

Wartime has few compensations for its trials and tribulations, but for me at least, one of these was the wartime night sky. True, the majority of us were still dependent upon open coal fires for heating our houses and this often gave rise to the type of ‘peasouper’ fog that we rarely if ever experience today, but as fuel rationing bit deeper domestic fires got progressively smaller and to a certain extent that seemed to apply to the fogs as well. Petrol rationing drove most private cars off the roads and strict blackout regulations switched off most if not all of street and other exterior lighting.

In addition to the effects of the blackout, these years were also those of air raids and our own bomber offensive and for the man in the street what was happening in the great blue yonder was just as important as what was happening down on the ground.

When night fell his eyes tended to go upwards for then there was so much more to be seen up there in comparison to what can be seen today.

For a start there was all that there is in space. Apart from what could be seen by those who bothered to look, for me there was a special significance for I was an NCO instructor in the local ATC squadron, and one of my subjects was the teaching of elementary astro navigation. In those days, long before GPS and other glanzos, air crews had to know their stars because that might get you home when all other navigation aids were u/s or shot to pieces.

Step one, of course, was to know your constellations and where they would be at a given time of the year. The briefest glimpse through a gap in the clouds by one of the crew might be vital in giving the pilot the direction of north or the westwards way to home.

However, before we could start on star recognition, it had to be a clear dark night—and here lay another wartime problem since for most years we were on ‘double summer time’ for the summer months and for the rest of the year we were on BST, so it was usually well into autumn before we could go out and ‘stargaze’.

Now, our ATC headquarters were right in the middle of Grantham and our parade ground was surrounded by streets and buildings, which today would be awash with lighting but then, when night had fallen it would be dark, complete blackout and, given a clear night and one’s eye had accommodated, the stars would come out in all their glory—hundreds, thousands of them, not the paity few one is lucky to see today.

There was the Milky Way, the superhighway of our heavens, and there was Mars and the other planets (in season) and beyond the millions of stars that make up our galaxy, there would be thousands of other galaxies to be seen if we had access to telescopes powerful enough to reach them. We usually started off with Ursa Major, the Plough with its ‘pointers’ to Polaris the Pole Star. Opposite would be the ‘Lazy W’ or Cassiopea. Later Orion would be

seen rising in the east and the keen-sighted would proudly count the ‘Seven Sisters’ of the Pleiades. They learnt to identify the Square of Pegasi, Leo the Lion and Cygnus the Swan, then all the names of significant stars within the constellations.

Then to give animation to the overall scene, there was the odd meteorite flashing out its death in the upper atmosphere, and those special nights when the earth passed through the main meteorite showers and we had a ‘firework display’. All gone now—except when one is out in the wilds of Scotland or elsewhere, way beyond our light pollution, and perhaps 99% of the population today wouldn’t know where to look, assuming that they even knew that the Pole Star existed. Faced with all that space, wartime man had a good idea of how small he really was.

However, it was not just the Universe that drew our eyes skywards. Man-made things attracted as much if not more of our attention. There was the constant probing of searchlights seeking out the Luftwaffe intruder or guiding in the homecoming RAF bombers. We lived in a night fighter zone but on clear nights we could see the sparkle and tracer of anti-aircraft gunfire when Hull, Nottingham or Coventry was receiving a dose of blitz, as well as the glow of fire when the bombers had found their targets.

In mid winter when our bomber force was clawing for height or creeping back home in the small hours there would be dozens upon dozens of red, green and white pinpoints of light once it was safe for navigation lights to be used. These lights on our aircraft were normally fairly low powered but when in 1943 the USAAF 9th Troop Carrying Command came with their hundreds of Dakotas and Waco Gliders, we were presented with a completely new range of night sky spectacles. Less inhibited perhaps, they deployed much brighter navigation lights as well as enthusiasm for firing cartridges.

Gaining experience of night flying,
formation work and navigating in our crowded island and much busier skies 'Over Here', they treated us to a succession of 'flying circuses' as they prepared for Normandy, Arnhem and the other great 'drops'.

By then of course, we were thoroughly used to the sound of hundreds of Lancasters with their thousands of Merlin engines all clawing for height as they headed off east, but the sound of dozens of Dakotas in close formation passing low over our heads was deafening.

Since bike light batteries always seemed to be in short supply, once one was clear of the town onto quiet country roads, there was a lot of 'riding without lights'. Going home late at night was a fine old cat and mouse game with the village 'Specials'. The little night traffic that there was had well hooded headlights that very rarely dazzled you. So, once 'accommodated' one could keep a sharp lookout for the hiding 'copper'. But not only did the moonlight seem so much brighter, but even on a clear moonless night, the starlight alone enabled you to dodge the potholes and spot the copper before he spotted you.

They keep telling us that the power stations and the national grid are wearing out, and if there is a cold snap, we can expect power breakdowns. Also if global warming goes on, things will have to be switched off.

If these things do happen, could it be that we 'old grumpies' may live long enough to have our Milky Way back occasionally and be able to show our great-grandchildren a few of those wondrous things that made our night sky in wartime?

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59.10 S. Jepson

Does anyone know anything about this photographer, who seems to have been active in the south of the county in the 1930s? This picture [right] appeared in a county guide about 1935. If Jepson's negatives (or prints) survive they would be an important collection for the county.

Hilary Healey

59.11 Dehio guides (N&Q 58.2)

I wonder if I can add to Douglas Hoare's note on the Dehio guides, which were the inspiration for Pevsner's books on the English counties. When I worked in Austria I had the volumes that covered that country but there were also volumes for Switzerland, Northern Italy, Holland and Hungary. These volumes were all finely illustrated. In fact the advert at the back of the volume for the three western provinces of Austria says that each book has from 80 to 100 pages of text and at least 352 full page pictures.

Ray Carroll

Photograph by S. Jepson

River Welland at Spalding
HORNCASTLE MANORIAL COURT LEET BYELAWS

The charters shielded the manor from most of the King's direct intervention through his courts, together with byelaws issued from time to time, which set the pattern of life in the medieval village of Horncastle. Fortunately a roll of byelaws and paines (fines) approved by the Court Leet of Horncastle has survived (L.A.O. Misc. deposit No.50). The actual year in which the byelaws were ratified was 1673 (see byelaw No. 47). The byelaws were obviously a restatement of very old laws together with new ones added, because the preamble refers to "Ancient and modern ordinances, byelaws and paines".

The byelaws not only deal with public health, but also bring to life the customs of the open-field system of farming, where a constant give-and-take approach was necessary between tenants of the manor if it was to run efficiently and without friction. A key manorial figure who emerges through the byelaws is the Bailiff, who was directly responsible for the daily supervision of the manor.

The actual roll is fragile, appears to have been damaged in places by damp and fire, but it was found possible to effect a transcription complete except for a few odd words where the parchment had disintegrated.

LINCOLN LINDSEY.

Ancient and modern Ordinances Byelaws and Paines made ratified confirmed and, allowed by ye Jury of the Towne approved at the Great Court Leete held there the 10th of April 1673 (third figure obliterated) [must be 1673—see number 47] in ye right title and inter....(rest of word faded) of the Lord for the time being of the Manor of Horncastle aforesaid.

1. That no inhabitant within the Towne shall use his or their oven or furnace for baking or brewing before the hour of foure o'clocke in the morning or after eight o'clocke at night in paine of every such default 10s.

2. ITEM. That all ditches abutting upon the River of Tensworth shall be sufficiently scourd from time to time by the occupiers of the ground whereunto such ditches do belong in paine of 10s.

3. ITEM. That no inhabitant shall entertain Outforreigners into any of his or their houses that are likely to be chargeable to the Towne without the consent of the Minister the Cheife Baylliffe Churchwardens and Overseers and under their hands in writing in paine of 10s.

4. ITEM. That every inhabitant shall weekly make clear before his or their shops and houses and immediately carry away the same in paine of 12d.

5. ITEM. That none shall lay any carygon or blood or any other offensive thing upon the Dung hill leading to the Hall Mills nor upon any Dunghill also unburied in paine of 10s.

6. ITEM. That no inhabitant shall make any manner of Dunghill in the King's Streets but forthwith to carry them away in paine of 10s.

7. ITEM. That the ditch abutting upon Margaret Hamerton and Gilbert Williman be from time to time sufficiently scourd by the said Margaret Hamerton that the said water may have a free passage and run out to the Baine from the Bridge in the Towne street in paine of 20s.

8. ITEM. That the Cheife Bayllifie of the Manor shall from time to time dress or cause to be dressed and carry away the said dirt made on the Market Hill in paine of 10s.

9. ITEM. That all Quarrierde Men having standing in the Butchers stalls or in any part of the Market shall every week dress or cause to be dressed and carried away the dirt by them soe dropt in paine of 3s. 4d.

10. ITEM. That no inhabitant Inholder Alehouse Keeper or Tipler shall suffer any mans servant to play at any game in his or their houses in paine of 3s. 4d.

11. ITEM. That the Bayllifie of this Manor and his deputy upon every distresses of this Court shall distrain sufficient goods of the defendants if they be found and to keep the same in due forms of law until appearance and sufficient pledge be tendered in paine of 3s. 4d.

12. ITEM. That no inhabitant shall keepe his or their swine unringed nor suffer them to goe abroad out of their yers or yedes except such times as they shall be put before the swineherd in paine of 12s.

13. ITEM. That no man shall keep his mastiffs ... (Parchment for the rest of this Byelaw has perished away).

14. (Parchment perished away).

15. (Parchment perished).

16. (Parchment perished away).

17. ITEM. That none shall wash any Haire in the River of Baine but at a place called Thornton Style in paine of 3s. 4d.

18. ITEM. That none shall wash any Intralles of Beasts or empty any Bakers or cast any filth into the Waring or the Baine except only at Scaulpt
Bridge in paine of 12d.

19. ITEM. That no Tanner or Glover shall buy any hides or skims but within the four corners of the Market in paine of 3s. 4d.

20. ITEM. That no Tanner or Glover shall empty any lime putte into the River of Baine but after sunset and before sunrising in paine of 3s. 4d.

21. ITEM. That the Cowpasture being laide in shall be seck from the Ladyday last until the last sheafe or shooke of corn be in the Barne in paine of 10s.

22. ITEM. That none shall keep any Colt or Beast in the Cow pasture above a Yeares old in paine of 20s.

23. ITEM. That none shall keepe any Milke Kyne in the Comon in the Cornfield until the last sheafe or shooke of Corn be in the same in paine of 20s.

24. ITEM. That none shall keep any mares or foales upon the Comon in the Cornfield after the foale be nine days old in paine of (faded) 6s. 8d.

25. ITEM. That no man shall keepe any horses or beastis loose in the Comon in the Cornfield in paine of 20s.

26. ITEM. That none shall keepe any scabbed horse or any infectious beast in the Comon at any time in paine of 3s. 4d.

27. ITEM. That none shall keep any Horse or Beaste upon the Comon in the Cornfield in a Tether above five fathoms with the said. headstall in paine of 3s. 4d.

28. ITEM. That no inhabitant shall put forth his or their Beasts any morning before the Neatherd blow in paine of 3s. 4d.

29. ITEM. That none shall turne his or their sheep into the Stubble Field before St. Lukes Day in paine of 3s. 4d.

30. ITEM. That every person having part of the Long Hedge shall keep it sufficiently repaired from time to time in paine of 20s.

31. ITEM. That sufficient Bristles and fences be kept from time to time betwixt neighbour and neighbour in paine of 10s.

32. ITEM. That the ditches in Langton Lane of both sides shall be sufficiently scour and kept from time to time in paine of 3s. 4d.

33. ITEM. That every farmer and freeholder that hath any ground in the field shall not keep above two sheepe an acre in paine of (parchment perished) 6s. 8d.

34. ITEM. That every ancient cottage not having (one or two words missing) parchement perished) horses and. Three Kyne shall for the want of any (parchment perished—one or two words missing) or beast (word faded out) and Three Sheepe and not above in paine of (parchment perished) 20s.

35. ITEM. That none shall sell their common in the (word or words missing parchement burned away) field in paine of (parchment perished or burned). 10s.

36. ITEM. That no inmate or tenant or any that dwelleth in any new erected cottage shall keep any Beasts or Sheep on the Comon in paine of 3s. 4d.

37. ITEM. That no inhabitant in this Towne shall tether any horses or beasts upon any of the river bankes belonging to the Towne or to the church in paine of (parchment perished) 3s. 4d.

38. ITEM. That Mr Davison or his tenant shall scour the ditch betwixt the highway and his little close towards the Pinfold that the water from the Spring may have passage and not annoy the highway in paine of 20s.

39. ITEM. That every one that fetcheth fire without (words faded) these thing for feare of danger in paine of (parchment perished away) 3s. 4d.

40. ITEM. That no farmer shall plow or cause to be plowed (several words faded away) or any part of the Comon (several words faded) in paine of (figures faded away) 20s.

41. ITEM. That any person or persons whatsoever which hath already plowed, away any part or parchell of the said Comon shall lay or cause to be laid down, the same again to the Comon betwixt this and the 25th day of August 1639 in paine of 20s.

42. ITEM. That no manner of person shall break upp any ground to digg clay at any time within one yard of the horse or footway in any of the clay pitts belonging to the Towne in paine of 10s.

43. ITEM. That every inhabitant adjoining upon the Street shall from time to time maintain, uphold, and keep his or their cawsay or cawseys in sufficient repair, in paine of 5s.

44. ITEM. That none shall digg any sand in the Highway beyond the house in the occupation of Martin Bennett that leads to Nether Toyneton in paine of 3s. 4d.

45. ITEM. That none shall lay any timber or wood upon the High Bridge or in the Market Place or in the Towne streets or under walls or windows in paine of 10s.

46. ITEM. That everyone shall cut his or their hedges adjoining upon the Blind Lane that people may ride without danger in paine of 3s. 4d.

47. ITEM. That their shall be a sufficient Cucking Stool erected in some convenient place by the Constables before the Feast day of Saint Martin the Bishop next ensuing the present Year, 1674 in paine of 35s. 11d.
That the Constables of the saide Towne of Horncastle after notice given them by the Jury of the saide towne doe cause gravell to be laid at the tope of Langton Layne to turne the water in to the Sever thereunto adjoyning and also do likewise cause gravell to be laid at the way coming from Thimbleby to turne the current of water into the River Ternswoth or any other place accustomed when and soo often as neede shall require and doe likewise cause the fields of the saide Towne of Horncastle to be drained when and soo often as neede shall require in pane of 20s. That none shall keepe any pig or swine that is above three months old unring in pane of twelve pence and it shall be in the power of the Jury for the tyme being to appoint any man to go, monthly throughout the towne (who shall be sworne as an officer for the said purpose) to search all houses and where he shall find any swine unring to ring the same for which he shall be paid by the owner for every swine one penny And everyone who refuses to have his swine rung for every refusal for every swine he shall forfeit... (parchment gone)

The last two lines are unnumbered

Lincoln, Rutland and Stamford Mercury

News has come in of the successful award of a £300,000 lottery grant to safeguard the archives of the Lincoln, Rutland and Stamford Mercury. This is Britain's longest running newspaper, first published in 1695, and one of national as well as local significance. A trust has been formed and the complete run of the paper will be microfilmed for general use. The existing collection will be rebound. The original archive of the Stamford Mercury, as it is known today, has been closed for eight years as the papers are in a very fragile state. Some numbers are already available on microfiche at the county's main libraries, but this is an exciting new development. If you are new to it, note that it covers much more of the county than the Stamford area and is a rich source of information for all kinds of historical research.

Apprentices' rules

This is a poem found in the archive of Horncastle Museum in a folder labelled 'Apprentices rules'. At least one Horncastle shop stayed open on Saturdays until the owner and his family had enjoyed their social round. The workers could not be paid until the shop closed and their families had to wait to purchase the weekend fare.

Saturday night

Don't wonder if we go to sleep
In sermon time to-morrow
Tis vain to try awake to keep
We own't it to our sorrow.

Your visits are so late at night
We cannot but be weary.
When Sunday comes we can't be bright
Nor wake up gay and cheery.

We pray you damsels and neighbours strive
To come at better hours.
We think these matters you'd contrive
If you put forth your powers.

Ye masters help us wages pay
Early that wives may carry
Their cash to market while tis day
Not until nightfall tarry.

The Sabbath is a blessed day
We long to spend it better
But oh tis weary work to pray
When sleep binds like a fetter.

Help us to shut up shop betime
Then when the Sundays dawning
With pleasure we shall hear the chimes
That usher in the morning.
Sue Richardson has sent us these pictures of William, eldest son of William Richardson (William of the Nile—see Keith Thomas's article in LP&P No 53) and his wife, Mary (née Wright).

The original photographs probably date to c1860s. On the backs of the pictures the following appears:
R. Slingsby Artist-photographer No 2
Norman Street Lincoln
First Class Coloured Portraits on Paper
Restored by Oscar Hardee Summerhill Studios Chislehurst 1932
Later they were restored by Mrs Richardson's late father-in-law Peter N. J. A. Richardson in 1983.

Essentially a story of RAF life, this starts in the Vicarage at Tattershall, where Richard Jeffries meets Laurie Lee in a delightful recollection of a young boy's growing up in rural Lincolnshire. Richard Dixon was connected to the Bennet family of Brackenborough Hall and other well-known families in the Louth area and further afield; visiting them and their large houses and families was always an adventure. He describes a Christmas at Delighton Close, highlighting how customs are now very different, and times at Brackenborough were 'God's gift' for children's games with his cousins.

The village of Tattershall in the 1920s was quite different and is lovingly described; it featured many local characters and events such as the Silver Jubilee in 1935. He much admired Hotpot Barber, the local dustman, who introduced him to the skills of peacocking and fishing; he enjoyed every possible activity a boy could get himself into, though his escapades would not be approved by today's safety conscious world. It gave him a healthy taste for the dangerous, which stood him in great stead in his later life in the RAF facing enemy fire.

Education at Woodhall Spa was another matter and routine canings and other punishments outweighed the pleasure there. Later, at King's College Choir School in Ely life was much more satisfying and Repton and Cambridge University completed a very polished education for life. Flying training began in England and moved to South Africa whose participation in the Commonwealth Training scheme is rarely chronicled. Returning in 1945 he settled into RAF life with parachuting, flying display teams and developing a love for the Hawker Hunter, followed by marriage and new postings, including a spell in Cyprus during the Suez conflict. Promoted to Wing Commander brought an entirely new life with postings as Attaché to Finland, Sweden and Japan; often frustrating and difficult but obviously interesting and recounted with humour.

The author writes very skilfully; every word is carefully chosen and important to the story. He is a keen observer of humans and events and his descriptions are acute, sometimes lyrical, and always involve the reader totally in the narrative so that one does not want to miss a single line. This is an excellent book - lively, entertaining and very good value.

Owen Northwood, Donington


This booklet aims to answer the questions posed on its first page: why does the meridian pass through Greenwich (and not the centre of government or one of many other major world cities or sites), what is the link between the meridian and time and did the meridian exist before the Royal Observatory? In a few succinct pages much of interest is provided. The problems of navigation before the discovery of reliable methods of calculating longitude, the decision to have an internationally accepted meridian based on Greenwich, the places the line passes through here and abroad and modern methods of accurate time-keeping are all touched on. One page only refers to the line's passing through Lincolnshire with pictures of one of the two Louth markers, the Meridian crosses in Tenterden churchyard and a signpost near Cleethorpes. A very useful introduction to a large topic.


A memorable sight for those who were present in Lincoln Cathedral at the eight hundredth anniversary commemoration in November 2000 of the death of St Hugh was the frail but venerable figure of Bishop Simon Phipps. Many people in the diocese of Lincoln have treasured memories of his eleven years as their bishop from 1975 to 1986. Bishop Simon was a man of many parts, as this volume of reminiscences makes clear. Portraits drawn by friends from all periods of his life - Rion, Cambridge, the Guards, Coventry and Lincoln - testify to the warmth of his personality and his talent for friendship. He moved in court circles, as his long and close friendship with Princess Margaret reminds us, but he was equally at ease on the factory floor, pioneering the work of industrial mission, about which he wrote in his book, God on Monday. He was a man who kept his friendships alive. When he died, the list of people for whom he had prayed every day was found to extend over seventeen pages. Friends from school and college, the Army and the Church, have contributed their own memories of Bishop Simon to this volume. They show us the young schoolboy, and the courageous soldier (he was awarded the MC for his service in Italy during the Second World War). They remind us of the talented thespian (for nothing was he a cousin of Joyce Grenfell), whose career as President of the Cambridge Footlights included the singing of such ditties as Botticelli Angel and (prophetically) I Wish I Were a Line in Crookoford's, gorgeously dressed in feminine raincoat. His fine singing voice, when officiating at cathedral services, recalled his considerable abilities on the stage. Not least, this book reminds us of his warmth and compassion as a priest and a bishop. To the diocese of Lincoln he brought gifts of encouragement and of reconciliation, pioneering the work of non-
stipendiary clergy and supporting the ministry of women, while promoting closer relations with other denominations. In this he was greatly strengthened by his marriage to Mary. This affectionate account is a worthy tribute to a much-loved man and leads one to hope that a fuller biography may one day be written.


The Grantham Journal was 150 years old in 2004 and this handsome volume is a suitable way to celebrate an event of such importance to the town. The only error I found was in the Editor’s foreword, where he refers to the arrival in 1832 of the town’s first railway station. In fact that station (the town’s present station) was the second, since the Amberton station opened in July, 1850 when the line from Nottingham reached Grantham and was situated alongside the canal also connecting the two places.

The newspaper has also printed a large format paperback item entitled The history of Grantham as told by the Grantham Journal. For £1 you get a further instalment of pictures and text arranged year by year and set up to look like a modern day newspaper. Lots of old adverts make up for the lack of photography in the earliest days but there are all sorts of snippets taken from contemporary sources, which together provide an interesting and informative sequence relating to all the major events that have occurred in the town over the last 150 years. Both this and the main volume are available from the Journal’s office at 46 High Street, Grantham NG31 6NE. Postage extra in both cases.


Sixteen chapters detail exactly what the title says. They range over a period of some two hundred years (the case of Tom Otter of 1805 near Saxilby) to recent cases of supposed UFOs and including the mysteries of the ‘Black Dog’ and especially the Big Cat and its various sightings all over the county up to 2003 (a map marks over 50 such including five just outside the border). I preferred the tales of murder from by-gone eras, and not because they usually ended up on the scaffold.

One case, however, did not end thus, when the defence that the dog caused the trigger to discharge the shot that killed the victim led to the judge stopping the trial. This was the Kichen case of Sidney Marsh in 1931 when the famous pathologist Sir Bernard Spilsbury was called in. The author has conducted a good deal of research in local papers and other records. His easy writing style means there is much enjoyable reading for lovers of such tales, spread, as they are, widely from Market Deeping, Kirkby-on-Bain through Lincoln to Binbrook and Stickney.


Born at Partney and at school at East Kirkby the writer has spent most of his life in farming. These poems are autobiographical, humorous, sexy, have a good few county references and, in Johnny: a Lincolnshire tale a worthwhile addition to county dialect poetry. There is much to enjoy here.


Richard Frow was a serious amateur beekeeper, but he was more than that, following a long line of amateur scholarship and research. Sustained determination led him to experiment with potential treatments for Acarine disease. The Acarine parasite affects a bee’s breathing, making it unable to fly as its air tubes became blocked. In this study of his life his selflessness in making his creation of Frow Mixture, the eventual cure, freely available without thinking of personal profit is clearly shown. The publishers have done a good service in persuading the author to tell this tale of an inspirational figure; it should be read by all beekeepers.

Roger Parsons, New York


The publishers have raided their enormous archive of photos and, in this case, have asked the well-known Grantham historian, Malcolm Knapp, to trip around the county. None of the pictures is more than fifty years old and Malcolm has re-visited the sites and scenes shown and draws attention to the many changes in that period. The arrangement is alphabetical by place and even with the very first – a view of Addelthorpe church – he notes that the village is now bypassed by the A52.

In the towns especially the differences are often very noticeable – the cover shows Lincoln Cathedral from the Drill Hall (albeit the caption inside suggests that the view is of the Stonebow, 1923 but the same picture on pages 66-67 dates it to c1950) and there is only one car in sight! (It must have been a Sunday).

Though there are 150 pictures many readers will be upset that favourite pictures have not appeared or that what does get in is not truly representative of a place fondly remembered. However, that is in the nature of things. I personally would have preferred fewer churches – they don’t seem to change that much after all and there is, perhaps, too strong an emphasis on the coastal scene (Chapel St Leonards 5, Cleethorpes 3, Ingsednells 6, Mablethorpe 5, Saltfleet and Skegness 5). This is not so much a reflection on Mr Knapp’s selection as, perhaps, the choice by the photographers of what the public would buy while visiting.

Whatever the reason it all contrasts sharply with Gainsborough’s single shot, Grantham’s 2 and Grimby’s 3 while a single picture of Barton-on-Humber is the single representative of the rest of the area north of a line from Gainsborough to Louth.

The quality of the reproductions is generally good and the captions ensure a great deal of research and knowledge, lightly worn. For the Christmas trade this book arrives opportunist but the average yellow belly, especially those away from the county, will enjoy wallowing in a bit of pleasing nostalgia at any time.

Here is a useful piece of local history. The development of that part of Grimsby (with the relevant dates and names) that became Freeman Street with its market, tram, proposed public library (never built) and redevelopment in 1927 are described. As the author suggests the life of the street is closely tied up with the history of Grimsby as a thriving fishing port. There are a good number of pictures (not especially well reproduced but still atmospheric) and a map. Well worth its modest cost.


The author’s earlier work in this series, published in 1998, looked only at Lincolnshire. This new book includes our county together with those listed in the sub-title. Mike Osborne is uniquely qualified to write on this subject as he was the Area Coordinator for the Defence of Britain Project from its start in 1993 and covered ten of England’s eastern counties. The Project was a national fieldwork survey to identify and catalogue the remains of defence works built as a result of the two World Wars and the Cold War.

The content is very wide ranging and includes the various buildings found on airfields and other ancillary ex-RAF sites; coastal defences; defence lines on which any invasion would have been resisted; the defences for individual sites and strategic points; anti aircraft; civil defence; radar; bombing defences; Air Raid Precautions and Royal Observer Corps posts; Barracks; POW Camps; Stores and Depots; and the production of munitions. The Cold War buildings include airfields, missile sites, bomb storage and emergency control and communications.

One of the main values of a book such as this is the way it puts what we have in Lincolnshire into a wider context so that we can begin to understand how rare, unusual or otherwise it may be. It also serves to inform decisions made about development proposals that threaten such sites and buildings.

Finally, some Lincolnshire highlights to whet the appetite. From the First World War is the Haile Sand sea fort built in the mouth of the Humber. From World War 2 are the Battle HQ and adjacent pillboxes on the former Welmingore Airfield alongside Elmire Street. Representing the Cold War period are the stores where the Atomic Bombs were kept, at ex-RAF Baldingworth, west of Scroby, at RAF Scampton on the north side of the airfields and RAF Waddington, alongside the A15.

The publication in this form of information following the Defence of Britain Survey is to be welcomed and this is a very valuable addition to the bookshelf.

Stewart Squares, North Hykeham


Canon Swaby has put together a fascinating collection of writings, published over his long life, mostly spent in his native county of Lincolnshire. He has been a regular contributor to Lincolnshire Past and Present and other local publications and versions of some of these articles appear here. A number of poems make up almost half of the contents and there are a variety of illustrations, including some sketches by his late wife Mary. Although essentially autobiographical, the text comprises a blend of stories and reminiscences, anecdotes, tales told by others and references to historical events, places and characters. Canon Swaby has a gift for bringing history to life in his accounts of past life, buildings and people, recreating the atmosphere from contemporary evidence, as exemplified in the chapters ‘Thunder in the Weld’ and ‘Preacher and Sexton’. Other topics include Tenbyson, Wainfleet and three clergy who were missionaries in Africa. The poems are highly evocative, embracing both the visual and the spiritual, not forgetting humour, as in ‘The cricket match.”
Altogether this is an attractive book and makes pleasant bedtime reading.

**Hilary Healey, Bicker**

**TAYLOR, Erica, editor. Doors of opportunity: conversations with the Revd. Marjorie Malby, compiled by Erica Taylor.** The editor, 2004. 128pp. ISBN 0 9548636 0 7. £4.95 pbk (or £6 by post from the editor, 93 Wollholme Avenue, Grimsby DN32 0EP).

Marjorie Malby was born in Sotby in 1911, the daughter of a Lincolnshire farmer. She was part of a large family, having five sisters and a brother. This book not only gives an account of her life and work in the Methodist Church but also gives an insight into the lives of Lincolnshire people throughout her lifetime, including the hardships and deprivations of two World Wars. When her father was conscripted for the First World War the family moved from Alford to Lincoln to be near her aunt and uncle. Marjorie tells of a Zeppelin raid on Lincoln.

After training as a Methodist Local Preacher, her calling as a Wesley Deaconess led her into pioneering ecumenical and youth work in Bristol, an industrial chaplaincy in Manchester and work with overseas students in Newcastle. In 1974 Marjorie was ordained as one of the first female Methodist ministers and was appointed to the Lincoln South Circuit where she served for eight years. Here she had pastoral responsibility for the Methodist churches at Sleaford, Moor Lane, Hykeham, Aubern, Bassingham, Carlton-le-Moorland and Brant Broughton. During 1983 Marjorie moved to Collingham, near Newark, where she was an active Supernumerary Minister for the next 15 years. She returned to Lincoln in 1997 and continues to preach and act as voluntary chaplain to St Barnabas Hospice.

The book is written in a personal, almost conversational style and is well handled by Erica Taylor. Within its pages is a lifetime of memories of places and friends. It is the story of a Lincolnshire woman who is obviously fond of her county and proud to have been of service to her Lord in it.

**Gerry Burrows, Bourne**

**WRIGHT, James. 50 years of Skegness stars.** [The author; 2004]. 17pp. ISBN 1 902871 05 7. £1.75 pbk (post free from the author, 33 Parker Street, Cleethorpes DN35 8HL).

Another little booklet on Skegness from this prolific author/publisher. Here the vast numbers from the entertainment world who came to the town to switch on the summer illuminations are detailed. The list starts with Gilbert Harding in 1953 and includes cricketers, footballers and stars of radio, TV and cinema. Eighteen of them are pictured, including Sparky the elephant, the only animal to have switched on the lights. An enjoyable side-light on Skeggsie's history.


The list of compilers involved in the preparation of this volume includes many of the county's experts in the field of industrial archaeology; the editor has already written the authoritative book on the development of the industrial revolution during the last two hundred years. Together they have distilled into a compact pocket-sized book much specialist knowledge. These tightly packed pages include a wealth of data about Lincolnshire's historical records and sites from the earliest of industrial activity. From the Roman waterway at Lincoln to Humberside International Airport the whole span of man-made works seems to be here.

The book is divided into nine sections following the boundaries of the nine local authorities. Each site is given a unique number preceded by a double letter, thus North Kesteven I becomes NK1. Each area division has a map providing a guide to the numbered places. This arrangement is much the better choice - a straight alphabetical sequence would have caused all sorts of problems when used as a handbook for site seekers. In total, 403 sites are described and perhaps 30% of them are illustrated in (usually) small photographs but of excellent quality, well reproduced on a good quality substrate. It is interesting to examine the geographical spread of sites in the historical county. I was surprised that East Lindsey easily exceeded all other regions with 89 sites, ie 18 more than North-East Lincolnshire and North Lincolnshire put together. As an ignor-

rant incomer I would have expected the industrial complexes that are Grimsby, Scunthorpe and Immingham to have yielded far more in a comparative sense. Analysis of what constitute the sites in East Lindsey reveals that the three main centres of population provide 24 places (Louth 11; Horncastle 9 and Skegness 4) but all sorts of industrial activities are very widely spread over what most people would think is now a very rural area. There are water mills, a number of railway sites (former and still operating), warehouses associated with the Louth Navigation, a number of places where drainage machinery can still be inspected and the attempts to create a new town at New Bolingbroke. Of the individual places they range from the Belmont mast (once, we are told, the second highest structure in Europe - I didn't know there is a lift inside), Stenigot radar tower, a tramway depot at Alford, Langrick bridge, Tattershall bridge and canal, Theddlethorpe gas terminal, Hallington turnpike tollhouse, Tetney oil terminal and Louth workhouse.

Similar width of choice is provided through the lists in the other town and district council areas. Obviously, the earlier industrial activities of the larger towns, such as Lincoln, Gainsborough and Grantham figure prominently but equally the rural areas also have their share of windmills, sites connected to earlier railways, brickyards, bridges, brewing and water transport systems. Wherever you look you are not far from some scene of continuing or past industrial workings. Obviously there will be omissions - I would have included the interesting anomaly, which is Rippingale railway station - but we must be grateful for all that is included and how much has been compressed into a handy-sized book. There are two comprehensive indices; one by type of activity and a second under all the places included in the book. This book is full of information, clearly and succinctly put together and should be carried on all journeys in the county by anyone with the slightest interest in all man's manifold attempts to make a living or, especially in this county, to keep the sea at bay and channel the waters.
BOOKS RECENTLY RECEIVED OR NOTED


DEEPING ST JAMES Family and Local History Group. Memories of Eastgate. [The Group, 2004]. 122pp. No ISBN. £6.50 pbk (or £7.50 by post from Mrs D. Price, 20 Eastgate, Deeping St JAMES, PE6 8HD).


LEES, Sue and BAKER, Jennifer, editors. Black Saturday: children's eyewitness accounts of the Flood, Sutton-on-Sea, 1953. SBK Books, 2005. 44pp. ISBN 1 899881 53 0. £3.50 pbk (or £4 by post from Mrs S. D. Lees, 18 Kingfisher Road, Mountsorrel, Loughborough LE12 7FG).


LOFT, Martin, editor. Lieutenant Harry Loft of Louth and the 64th Regiment of Foot (Second Staffordshires). Chaucer Valley Books, 2004. 160pp. ISBN 1 897949 90 1. £9.95 pbk (£11.45 by post from the publisher, 1 King Street, Lincoln, St F6 3NW).


WALMSLEY, Alice. Lincolnshire puddings and ploughs: childhood memories of life in the Wolds. The author, 2005. 64pp. No ISBN. £4.95 pbk (or £5.95 + p&p from the author, 31 Tothby Lane, Alford LN13 0AQ).

In an earlier issue I listed a new book on Market Rasen. The title was announced in the book trade’s weekly journal (Bookseller) as a new work last August. After some research I discovered the publisher’s address and duly wrote off for a review copy. So far, nothing has appeared and in view of the book’s absence from local bookshop shelves it must be assumed that the listing in Bookseller was an error. I regret that this has caused confusion amongst would-be purchasers but my source seemed impeccable and has normally proved reliable. A similar story attaches to my previous announcements about the forthcoming book on ‘Mallard’ – it has still not appeared over eighteen months after the first announcement! John Ketteringham’s definitive volume on Lincolnshire’s bells and bell founders went quickly out of print. 2000 copies were sold in two months and second-hand copies fetch up to £65. He has now re-issued the work with an additional 15 page appendix. It is priced at £35 and is available from him for £41 including post and packing from 27 Bunkers Hill, Lincoln LN2 4QS.