CONTENTS

2 Editorial
3 'A Lord of Extreme Authority and Goodness'
   - Lincolnshire's Corpus Christi connection—by Marion Ellis
9 'What changes... since those days! Mansfield Pennell's reminiscences
   - drawing by Hilary Healey
11 Notes & Queries
14 Hilary Healey remembers the old City and County Museum
15 Bookshelf
   The latest book reviews

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Contributions to the next Bulletin and the Winter issue of Lincolnshire Past & Present are welcome as soon as possible.
Material may be sent to the Joint Editors at Jews' Court, Lincoln LN2 1LS. Articles may also be sent on disk (Microsoft Word document) or as an email attachment to lindumcolonia@hotmail.com
Front cover: The Collection, Flaxengate, Lincoln, facing south. The new museum opened to the public on 1 October.
Back cover illustration: The Collection, Flaxengate, Lincoln, facing north.
With the summer 2005 number the magazine completed its fifteenth year. We have managed to survive a variety of events, not least the early loss of two of the original editors, whose detailed knowledge of the county is constantly missed, but we seem to be making steady progress, as school reports used to say. Publication dates have been slipping, but we hope to remedy this problem.

The magazine would not exist without the active contributions of Society members and friends. Coverage of our large historic county is only as good as the subjects offered by contributors, so if you think your area gets too little mention why not do something about it! If you have no inclination to write we are pleased to see old photographs and any amount of Notes and Queries.

In this number we concentrate on Marion Ellis's investigation of Richard Fox and his Lincolnshire/Oxford connection, and recollections of 19th century life by Annabel Carle's great-grandmother, Mansfield Pennell, plus a range of smaller items and queries.

I notice that a new book is out entitled *The Lincolnshire Seaside*, another work by veteran author Winston Kime. I do not blame the author, but why would a publisher use a title that already exists? David Robinson's book of the same name was reprinted relatively recently, so the name is hardly out of memory, or the relevant record. A year or two ago a new book called *English Churchyard Memorials* was published. The original work of that name, by stonemason Frederick Burgess, remains the major introduction to the subject, and even though it was first published in the 1960s it seems as if its place in history could be diminished by this carelessness. Or am I taking it too seriously? It is hard to understand why anyone would wish to take an existing title; one would suppose that the writer (who must have consulted the original book) at least would prefer to go for something unique.

*Hilary Healey*
The involvement of Corpus Christi College in the village of Braceby, and many other south Lincolnshire villages, is due to a family by the name of Fox, which was well established in Ropsley in the 15th century. The term 'middle class' was not part of our vocabulary until the 18th century but it is one that could apply to the family of Richard Fox.

Richard Fox's biographer, Edmund Chisholm Batten, cast about for a suitable description for Richard's parents, but he failed to find any noble background for this man who rose to such extreme heights:

'Thomas Fox was a person of position above a yeoman, though perhaps not entitled to wear coat armour. His only sister, Elizabeth Fox, married John Bronnewell, and from this marriage many illustrious families are descended. The name Fox as a landowner in Ropsley goes back to the time of Edward III, and the sisters of Bishop Fox married into the good families of Colston and Joyner before he himself was a distinguished man.'

Richard Fox was son of Thomas Fox of Ropsley. From this undistinguished origin he rose to become Principal Secretary of State, and Lord Privy Seal to King Henry VII. He was successively Bishop of Exeter (during which time he baptised the infant Henry VIII), Bishop of Bath and Wells, Bishop of Durham, and finally Bishop of Winchester, at that time the most prestigious bishopric in England. After Henry VII's death in 1509 Richard worked in the same positions for the young King Henry VIII. He continued in his service, working with Wolsey, until age made him gradually withdraw to his diocese. More details of his life and work are included in an appendix.

Richard Fox lived to the age of 80. As he grew older his great desire was to found a university college. He became immersed in preparations to create Corpus Christi College in Oxford. Richard was a member of the Guild of Corpus Christi. His idea was to endow a college for young monks, but he was dissuaded from this course by Bishop Oldham of Exeter. What premonitions did Bishop Oldham have?

Land was purchased from Merton College, now Corpus Christi's next-door neighbour. The college was designed with the Bishop's...
close involvement and opened its doors in 1517 when he was 69. John Claymond, a native of Frampton, near Boston, was its first president. He was nine years younger than Richard Fox, and a close friend of over 30 years' standing. He had already been President of Magdalen College, Oxford. Some of Bishop Fox’s endowment of the new college was in the form of lands in Lincolnshire. And so began Lincolnshire’s connection with Corpus Christi College, Oxford.
Richard Fox also built and endowed a school, which he first thought to build at Ropsley, but finally decided on Grantham. A school was built, together with a schoolmaster's house. The school building still exists as part of the King's School, later attended by Isaac Newton.

Richard had previously purchased estates from Sir William Pounder of Barkston including land in Barkston, Gonerby, Mantorpe and Heydour. These holdings and property in Twyford, North Witham and Colsterworth purchased from the Disneys of Norton Disney were used to provide the school with a teacher.

A deed was drawn up endowing all this land to Corpus Christi College and arranging for them to pay £6 13s 4d annually to the schoolmaster and to maintain the buildings. This deed was completed and signed in 1528, just three days before his death. The college’s archive shows that Corpus Christi held land in many south Lincolnshire towns and villages at foundation or on Bishop Fox’s death, eleven years later.

These are listed in Table 1. Some are listed as part of larger holdings. Braceby is not included in the list because the land and property there were not acquired until 1545.

The time between the college’s foundation and the purchase of the Braceby land saw the dissolution of the monasteries by Henry VIII, when a great deal of land came onto the open market.
The Braceby holding was bought from a local man, John Allen. It was in three parts. The largest was a tenement with a large allocation of strips of land in the village fields, Northfield, Southfield and Eastfield, now known as College Farm. There were also two cottages with small amounts of land, one now Manor Farm Cottage and the other demolished (Fig 5).

A survey carried out in 1580 for Corpus Christi of all its holdings in Lincolnshire detailed the strips in the fields. Eleven pages of the survey are devoted to Braceby. The main holding was in the occupation of Thomas Welles whose payments were as listed in Table 2. Only 29 years later, in 1609, the college commissioned another survey, this time by Thomas Langdon, one of the eminent map makers of the period. He had already surveyed their land at Whitehall in Oxfordshire in 1605. This survey is illustrated with plans. Very little land in Lincolnshire seems to have been acquired after the Braceby purchase, perhaps because of its remoteness from Oxford. A schedule of the college's holding in Braceby in 1689 shows that the open fields had now been enclosed, and they had received the allocation of several closes amounting to 44½ acres.

Bishop Fox's Statutes for the Organisation of the College forbade the selling of land and property: 'We are most anxious for gatherers in this College, than for scatterers, and they who recklessly squander their own, seem but seldom to make acquisitions from others.' In Braceby the Welby family, prominent landed gentry from Denton, having purchased the land in Braceby owned by the Towne family, and with it the Lordship of the Manor, began leasing part of the Corpus Christi College properties and land in 1793. By 1863 they were leasing the whole.

In 1825 another survey of the college's holdings in Lincolnshire was made. The survey of College Farm at Braceby notes that the house and buildings were very dilapidated. The only addition to buildings in Braceby during the 19th century is one open-fronted barn or hovel.

In the middle of the 19th century universities were compelled by the Government to revise their statutes. In 1855, when Corpus Christi's new Statutes were created, the college was finally permitted to sell the land with which it had been endowed, nearly 340
College Farm and their other smaller holdings in Braceby to the Welbys, who had been leasing them since 1793. Thus ended the college’s connection with Braceby after 356 years.

In 1974 another survey of Lincolnshire holdings was made. At that time the only ancient estates still in Corpus Christi’s hands were Fox’s birthplace in Ropsley and 12 acres of land at Barkston. They had four other holdings, acquired in the 20th century, at Austen Fen, Stewton, Burton Pedwardine and a South Kesteven District Council refuse tip.

**Ropsley—the founder’s birthplace**

The college holding in Ropsley in both 1580 and 1609 was smaller than Braceby, approximately 36 acres, and two dwelling houses. However, the college did not own the founder’s birthplace, Pullock Manor. The first president, John Claymond, had purchased it from a relative of Richard, Edward Fox. Claymond’s will in 1536 made arrangements for Edward to buy it back for £200.

The second president, Robert Morwent, signed a deed in 1549 selling the property to Reginald Williams of Burfield, Berkshire, for the same amount. As it was still in the hands of the Morwent family in 1567 neither sale was ever completed.

The next references to Pullock Manor, in the 17th century, stated that it had been owned by Richard Kelham and was now owned by Richard Hickson. Both families were landowners in Braceby and other nearby parishes.

In 1705 Corpus Christi’s agent, John Threaves, visited Ropsley and found the house now belonged to Lady Brownlow. The college purchased Bishop Fox’s birthplace at that time but sold it again in 1753. When in 1793 a request was made to put a commemorative plaque on the wall, Pullock Manor was owned by Lord William Manners.

By the time of the 1797 Ropsley Enclosure it seems again to have become the college’s property. In the 1910 National Valuation Survey the college was still the owner and the property was a public house, “The Peacock.”

The bishop’s birthplace in Ropsley remained in the hands of the college until 2002, when they sold it to a private purchaser.

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*Plate 2 Richard Fox’s birthplace, Ropsley - photo by Marion Ellis*
APPENDIX

Life of Bishop Richard Fox

'A Lord of extreme authority and goodness' King Henry VIII

- 1478 Born at Ropsey, a parish five miles east of Grantham in the Parts of Kesteven, Lincolnshire
- School possibly at Boston, Oxford then Cambridge University, definitely studied in Paris—but no actual evidence of him attending any establishment
- 1484 age 36—no evidence of him until he is made vicar of Stepney, London, but he must have been well known because King Richard III opposed the appointment
- 1485 known to be secretary to Henry Earl of Richmond (future King Henry VII) whom he met in Paris— he accompanied Henry at the Battle of Bosworth Heath, where Richard III was killed
- Upon Henry VII's accession, Richard was given many posts: Principal Secretary of State, Lord Privy Seal—involved in all matters of state and negotiations on Henry's behalf—baptised the infant Henry VIII—admired as a good mediator, his moderate views prevented reprisals against Richard III's allies—appointed to prebends of

Prince Arthur and Catherine of Aragon
- 1501 Bishop of Winchester—most prestigious bishopric in England—as such became the official visitor of New College and Magdalen College, Oxford, and Winchester School

- 1502 negotiated marriage treaty of Margaret Tudor and King James IV of Scotland
- 1508 negotiated marriage treaty (failed) of Mary Tudor and Charles of Castile
- 1509 death of Henry VII—Richard continues his work with Henry VIII
- As executor of Henry VII, involved in the founding of St John's College, Cambridge and building of King's College Chapel, Cambridge
- 1513 age 65 visits France with Henry VIII
- 1514 works with Wolsey on many matters of state, but age is against him and he prefers to attend to diocesan matters in Winchester
Richard Fox was very interested in architecture. He was deeply involved in the design of the Chantery Chapel at Winchester 1513, and of his own college. He is believed to have endowed the porch at St Peter's Church, Ropsey.

**Acknowledgement**

Acknowledgement is due to the President and Fellows of Corpus Christi College, Oxford, for permission to reproduce illustrations. In particular I would like to thank their archivist, Julian Reid, for his helpfulness.

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5 CCCA1580 Survey Da 5/1
6 CCCA 1605 Survey Da 5/2
7 Ward *The Foundation Statutes of Bishop Fox for Corpus Christi College* p194 London, Longman 1843
8 Oral testimony, Julian Reid, Archivist Corpus Christi College 26.4.04
10 PRO IR58 49820 1910 Survey Book (Finance Act 1909-10)
11 RP 7 Hen VIII No 1306, vol ii, p378 in *Life of Bishop Richard Fox* by E. Chisholm Batten p100.

**Postscript: 'the Ropsey Fox' contributed by Colin Beevers**

Fox may have been in England visiting his parents in 1484—about the same time as he was made Vicar of Stepney, and according to Twine’s Collectanea, an old woman (of Ropsey) ‘... had heard it when she was young that Richard Foxe went away very meanly from his parents into France when he was young and after some time there returned to his parents again in very good sort... saying he must over sea again and if one thing hit out aight, all Ropleslye should not serve him for his Kitchin.’

In 1510 the Spanish Ambassador asked King Henry VIII if he confided in the Bishop of Winchester, to which Henry replied: ‘Yes, at my risk. Here in England they think he is a Fox, and such is his name.’

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**HAVE YOU VISITED THE COLLECTION YET?**

The new city and county museum opened to the public on 1 October on Flaxergate, Lincoln, in an attractive building next to the Usher Gallery, only a stone’s throw from Jews’ Court. The exhibits, mainly pre-historic, Roman and medieval, are extremely well presented and include a section of Roman tessellated flooring found on the site during building and a fossilised plesiosaur skeleton found in Lincoln dating from when the area was under the sea. The quality hands-on activities are very popular and as for children—you will find it difficult to drag them away, even after three hours, and then there’s the shop!
What changes ... since those days!

Annabel Carle shares a fascinating piece of family history

My great-grandmother Mansfield Pennell née Allenby (1824-1914) wrote at age 87 in 1912 some reminiscences of her life in Lincoln. Very flowery, sometimes rambling and puritanical and with curious spelling, but it contains some interesting insights into life in Lincoln during this time. A full transcript of this document should have been deposited in the Lincolnshire Archives by the time this letter is printed in L.P&P.

Mansfield and her husband Charles were the parents of Charles Waldegrave Pennell Mayor of Lincoln 1900-1901. Here are three vignettes from the document that I thought would interest readers.

- Next time we have trouble with turning on a light perhaps we can think of how it was in 1830 or so! Mansfield writes: "I was born in the dark ages, I suppose in the time of Flint, and Steel and Tinder! Before the invention of Lucifer Matches, happy invention! to lighten our darkness and save our time! If as in the old tale of "Don Quixote", happy is the man who invented sleep, happy must be the man who invented the ‘Lucifer’ match! Many a time I have watched my nursemaid from my little bed when she began to strike the flint and steel together for a spark to fall upon the burnt rag, and then her gently blowing the spark to a flame by which she lighted a long match that had been dipped in brimstone at the end and then conveying the light to a candle in a huge candlestick with its furniture of extinguisher and snuffers! It was always an interesting operation to me, something caught my childish fancy as the flame threw a Rembrandt glow over her face and figure, it was a slow operation, but there were no trains to catch in those days..."

- The catch cry of children in the backseat on the way to a holiday
destination of 'Are we there yet?' is not just a recent question, as the following paragraph indicates! Does anyone have a photo of a Shandread? Or know where Tibs Inn was? Mansfield Fennell writes:

"...Our great time of joy was when we broke up for the holidays, there were no terms then and our parents used to take us for a few weeks to the seaside, we were about a month packing up and getting our toys ready for the eventful time. No Heavenly Jerusalem was so much desired as the departure for the glorious sea, which was Heaven to us! When the morning actually came for our departure our rapture was complete and as we drove through the town early in the morning we pitied everyone we left behind, everyone seemed taking down their shutters for private houses had them as well as shops and the last question at night was often "have you barred the shutters?" There were no railways then and we did the journey in a very antediluvian sort of conveyance, half omnibus and half bathing machine called a Shandread and our poor horse had to "bate" 3 times on the way once at a curious little roadside inn called "Tibs Inn", if Cleethorpes happened to be our destination, we walked up all the hills and it was a long day's journey and we poor children were very tired before we reached our destination, once we lost our way and everytime we stopped to ask how far we were from the sea, they told us more and more miles. I remember crying when first it was one mile, then 3 and last of all 5! Many times we called out "Father do you see the sea? poor tired Mother! Father, Horse and children. At last! there was the sea but bed was all we cared for then, but oh, the commotion in the morning! I have had many joys in life but few equal to those childish joys, the sea, the sand, the rolling sand hills and dash of the glorious waves! and no screaming trippers or rowdy games to lessen the beauty of the hills in their wildness or silence the grand

thought it good for us to bathe on the same principle that she gave us the morning dose of brimstone and treacle that she knew was good for us better than we did ourselves, so into this machine of torture we had to go to be undressed shivering and shaking at the awful prospect before us, when round the corner would come a terrible vision, a woman with a body like a barrel, crab-like claws and voice of honey saying "come along my dear" and in spite of kicks and screams plunged us into those awful depths where the wicked cease from troubling and the weary are at rest! but alas! no rest for us up we came panting gasping where my mother received us and dressed us. Oh, no one can imagine the terror I used to experience on those occasions, once I escaped out of the back doors and ran in terror about a mile along the sands, I did escape the ordeal that day!..."

Mansfield could even remember the stocks being used and remember the Watchman:

"...Oh Tempora! Oh Mores! what changes have come to Lincoln since those days! Time, Childhood and youth were passing with us, we left the old school and went to others but Lincoln did not much change, the old stocks remained where the Unitarian Chapel is now, and men were locked in them by the legs while they sat on the ground and were pelleted with dirt and stones, they were just there for small offences, and close by was the Watch-Box where the watchman sat and stayed between the hours, when he had to come out and walk up and down calling out the hour whatever it might be..."
Adrian Bailey of Leeds writes:
I noted your photo [LP&P 60]
Waddington 2005—as a comparison I enclose 1945 Glatton—somehow no change!

Lincolnshire Past & Present No 61 Autumn 2005 11
Cardboard model tanks and the photograph of the Sir William Tritton plaque coincided with some information that came my way recently. My great-uncle, Charles Waldegrave Pennell (CWP) was Mayor of Lincoln 1900-1901 and Chairman of the Board of Fosters Ltd during the years of the development of the tank. His granddaughter, Cynthia Little (nee Pennell) who lives in Nottingham, recently sent me this photograph of C. W. Pennell inspecting the prototype of ‘Mother’ in Burton Park in 1916. Mrs Little tells me that CWP and Sir William Tritton were great friends. I wondered then what William Tritton looked like and whether he is in the photograph dated April 9, 1918, in which I think CWP is in his role as Chairman of the Board of Directors of Fosters Ltd, with King George V and Queen Mary. CWP is standing next to King George. Please can any reader identify any of the other people in the photograph? Also what is it they are standing in front of—is it a tank?

The first tanks as your readers may know were not such a great success. Some had mechanical problems, and inside they were unbearably hot with many vibratory noises. Too much mud got into, and then blocked, their treads, and their viewing slits were too thin to see out whilst moving. But by 1917 the British used their presumably now modified tanks with greater success penetrating German lines near Cambrai capturing 8000 of the enemy and 100 guns.

Annabel Carle (née Pennell), Cheltenham, Victoria, Australia
Above:
Royal visit to Fosters engineering works, Lincoln, in 1918

Opposite:
C. W. Pennell inspecting the tank prototype in 1916

61.4 Coronation tumblers and mugs (N&Q 60.3, 4)

Colin Beevers must have been a little older than I was! At age 4½ I was mortified when my two older sisters received as Colin describes what I thought then were ‘beautiful’ blue glass commemorative tumblers, but as I was considered only ‘little’ I received a commemorative mug! I still have it. It is similar in shape to the one pictured front right in N&Q60.3, but with a picture of the Queen with flags, and ‘June 2 1953’ etc.

Annabel Carly
Hilary Healey’s
Recollections of the
City and County Museum

As we celebrate the opening of the Collection, here are some memories of the old City and County Museum.

The City and County Museum was just that. I first got to know it in the 1950s, when it embraced the archaeology, geology and natural history of the county as well as the city. I was a student at Lincoln School of Art, and already interested, through pottery classes, in historic ceramics, which we used to go and draw. I think the museum was also a free, dry place to go on a Sunday afternoon, but I may have got this wrong.

This pottery interest coincided with finding some odd sherds in drainpipe trenches in our Almgarthcirk garden way down in the fens. Hugh Thompson, then Assistant Keeper, I think, was very excited about this pottery; some of the fragments being ‘exotic’ French imports, then only recently identified. I was already hooked on medieval pottery!

On a less successful note, some pieces I would now describe as Post-Medieval pottery were a puzzle to Tom Baker, and it was, I believe, the mid 1960s before a specialist group was formed to study this later material. Sadly for me the cleaner at Lincoln School of Art had thrown away my box of three nearly complete pots because it rattled! You can’t win them all!!

The small number of museum staff were always ready to look at finds and identify them. In the later 50s and early 60s Keeper Ben Whitwell and his assistants (at one time a young Catherine Bowyer, now Wilson) always had a stand at the Woodhall and County Shows in the marquee run by the then Lincolnshire Local History Society.

In addition to artefact displays they had a set of 6 inch to 1 mile maps of the whole county. People soon got to know the tent and would make a beeline for the Museum stand to show their latest discoveries and have them identified and put on the map.

Stone and bronze axes, old glass bottles, coins, Roman pottery scatters, odd shaped lumps of this and that, clay pipes, all kinds of things were brought in. The important thing was that someone was there to handle the objects and talk—it was a hands-on experience long before that expression was invented, and become so well-known that often finders would describe something and say ‘well, I’ll bring it in next year’ and bring it they did!

This was in its way the beginning of the Sites and Monuments Record already begun by C. W. Phillips in the 1930s, years before the term, let alone a special SMR Officer ever existed. Lincolnshire was well ahead of its time! The Archaeological Notes in the Linne Arch and Arch journal were begun by Denis Petch in the 1950s.

The little office, piled high with boxes and bags, was tucked away at the back of the library, reached I think through a little yard, but perhaps our president will remember better! The staff were allowed to come out into the county now and again to follow up reports of sites and finds, and visited everywhere from Holbeach to South Kyme to Old Bolingbroke when finds were reported. They were often involved with the Lincoln Archaeological Research Committee, both inside and outside the city, but that is probably another story.
This section aims to include as many short reviews of books recently received as possible and list new titles that have come to the Reviews' Editor's attention since the last issue. Unsigned reviews are provided by the Reviews Editor. Most titles listed here are available from the Society's Bookshop, Sheep Hill, Lincoln.


In L&P, no 41 (Autumn, 2000) Martin Andrew's Around Lincoln was reviewed. To all intents and purposes that has reappeared in a pocket format, with more pages but smaller pictures while retaining the original notes. As Eleanor Nunn said in her earlier review there are also six pictures of Gainsborough and two each of Saxthorpe and Doddington besides those of Lincoln, arranged in groups, such as Brayford Pool and the Cathedral. The errors that were pointed out then have not been noted; Eleanor cavilied at the guess that the Pelham Bridge picture was dated to c. 1555 when it opened in 1598 (now it is dated c. 1606); the other errors remain - Marks & Spencer's was not demolished in 1973 and St Swithin is still misspelled and the Stonebow remains the Guildhall. However, at its modest price and good quality production it will make a suitable souvenir of the city's main points of interest for visitors and seekers of nostalgia.


Five years ago Martin Andrew prepared a book of photographs from the Frith Collection (not submitted for review) and now we have the material reformatted into a pocket-sized paperback book at a third of the price. Its reappearance in this manner is to be welcomed. It is arranged in five separate areas - the north (though that does not include anywhere beyond Louth and Gainsborough), Lincoln, the south-west, the south-east and the seaside. The pictures are good and concentrate largely on the towns with few village scenes. In the meantime Malcolm Knapp has also had a dip into the Frith archives to produce his selection of pictures - reviewed in the Spring issue of this publication. Coincidentally the new issue of Andrew's book appears simultaneously with the paperback version of Knapp's book. All in all the Frith archive has been well plundered and since the earlier hardback versions in the larger format are still to be found the choice for the book-buying public depends on price and format. No one will go far wrong with any of these titles though the ca- veats in the first review above should be noted - they do not apply to Knapp's work.


Brigg has always had an enviable reputation for musical festivals and for further evidence we need look no further than this well produced account of 100 years of music theatre in the town. After what appeared to be a successful start in 1903 five more productions were put on before 1921 but since then only the war and a post-war gap has broken the sequence of performances. There is perhaps a preponderance of Gilbert & Sullivan in the earliest efforts but since then repertoire has ranged widely with few repeats and no G & S since 1954. Much work has gone into researching pictures of nearly all the productions and the singers and the quality of reproduction of even the oldest is top class. All who are interested in the history of musical work in the county should try to get hold of a copy - it should act as an inspiration to other towns and groups of what can be done by talented and hard-working participants. The author has seen every show since 1936 and appeared in 24 - what a record!

BRADER, Maurice. Lincolnshire cinemas past and present, 1910 to 2005. The author, 2005. Unpaged (c. 84 leaves). No ISBN. £10.99 spiral bound or £12.74 by post from 55 Parthian Avenue, Wyberton, Boston PE21 7DH. (All profits go to old peoples' charities).

Here is a real labour of love. The first pages relate the author's early devotion to the cinema with a short account of the early days of picture houses in the county. The bulk of the book provides an alphabetical list of the towns and villages of the historical county with detailed records of the places used throughout the twentieth century to show films, whether custom-built picture houses or, as so often, halls, former theatres or warehouses. Special sections cover the history of cinema-going in the author's hometown Boston; several other towns in the county are singled out for separate treatment and it would perhaps have been better to have stuck to a straight alphabetical sequence.

Details are given of the types of apparatus used in the various cinemas. There is a good range of photographs of picture houses, some of the equipment and old playbills. But it's the detail of the entries that counts - the author has done a wonderful amount of research to dig out these town and villages histories and deserves every credit for passing on so much that would otherwise be lost.

Although the author refers to two books by George Clark on county cinemas the recent book by Peter Ryde fills in some gaps. The latter is concerned with local film-makers but he does give details of some of the places in which their films were shown and adds details to Mr Brader's notes, for instance, on cinemas in Louth. The major drawback of the present book, however, is that the writer has been let down in the matter of production - the book should have been better proof read and various inexactitudes of language and punctuation removed. But it is still a very worthy effort. A second edition fully
edited would fill a very big gap in one aspect of the county's twentieth century history and it is to be hoped, that such will be the outcome in a year or two.


Perhaps the RAF's best known bomber of WWII and, certainly its most successful, this is a beautifully produced tribute. Photographed by Dan Patterson (the text is by Air Vice-Marshall Ron Dick) it draws on both of the world's airworthy Lancasters (one in Canada and one part of the Battle of Britain Memorial Flight at RAF Coningsby), plus *Just Jane* at East Kirkby near Boston. Photographs and text work their way through the aircraft section by section with some very detailed pictures, which will be of use to modellers. The book is one of a very good idea of how cramped and claustrophobic the interior could appear - the main emphasis was, after all, on the massive bomb bay. There are some good small wartime shots and also some staged photographs of the Canadian Lancaster with modern crew in wartime uniform, which do not quite work. There is a useful introduction to the birth of the Lancaster and its wartime roles and capabilities, paying tribute to the excellence of its original design, which remained virtually unchanged throughout its operational life; also special mention of a few well known aircrew highlighting some of the hazards they faced and how they dealt with them.

An excellent reminiscence with a modern update.


This joint project between John Haden and the pupils of the two schools at Willoughby and Partney has yielded a very readable account of the life of John Smith and his adventures, leading up to his time in Virginia trying to find a viable American community. The story stops short at Smith's return home in 1609 - we are promised two more books telling the rest of his story and that of Pocahontas, the Indian woman who saved his life.

We read of Smith's early upbringing on his father's farm at Willoughby, schooling in Louth, apprenticeship at King's Lynn (cut short by his father's death) and his life as a soldier all over Europe, particularly fighting the Turks. The background history - the wars against the Spanish, the Gunpowder Plot and the arrival of King James I on the throne - are all touched on. The second part of the book deals with the Virginia Company's hopes of rich pickings from a colony on the eastern seaboard of America and John Smith's efforts on the company's behalf to develop a proper life for the settlers, able to farm and fend for themselves - much of it in vain. The text is enlivened by drawings and pieces by the children reflecting modern youthful views of these past events. Nicely produced and well illustrated from Smith's and other early works this is the first in a series aimed at relating American history to its English roots and is a pronounced success.


As readers of these notes may recall this book has been a long time coming. The wait has been well worth while. Mr Hale is a retired journalist and knows his way with words and sources. The result is an excellent account of the events that led up to that Sunday in July, 1938 when the record for a steam train was brought back to England. We in Lincolnshire can claim reflected glory in that the record was set on the downhill stretch between Stoke tunnel and Essendine on the LNER. It would be difficult to write a whole book on the events of just that one day; so here we have a full retelling of the life and work of Sir Nigel Gresley. It is also much more than that. The efforts of various railwaymen to get more speed from steam engines is given full treatment, going back to the Speed trials and races of 1895 between the two main lines to Glasgow, the railway exchanges of 1925 and, after 1933 in Hitler's Germany. One of the many interesting facets here is the detailed account of the co-operation and also rivalry between the German railway people and Gresley and others in trying to provide speedier services. I had not realised how much Bugatti, the famous racing car man, had contributed to Gresley's experiments with streamlined and whose works in France were frequently being visited from the 1920s on.

Anyone at all interested in railways, particularly the GNR and the LNER, will enjoy this book. The day itself is graphically described - the delays at Grantham that made for a slower start than was desirable, the dash down the route to Castle Bytham and the thrashed and unusable state the engine was in by Peterborough are all here. A great achievement and recounted felicitously. I only noticed one 'typo' (Ardsley should read Arlesley on p. 97) - quite an achievement these days. It is also a nice little book to handle.


After David Robinson's book *The book of the Lincolnshire seaside* (Barracuda, 1981; revised, Baron Books, 2001) and David Cuppleditch's *The Lincolnshire Coast* (Sutton, 1996) a third now appears from the productive hand of a writer who has, over the years, produced much, particularly on the Skegness scene. The first of these three gives much more emphasis to the way the county's coastline has developed and altered over thousands of years and a vast geological and geographical knowledge has been brought to bear on the treatment. Cuppleditch's book concentrates on the photographic record with useful captions and makes no attempt to provide an historical perspective other than shown by a 100 years of pictures. In the new book we have a sort of amalgam. The first nine pages provide a quick skim over the geological background, the Romans, Vikings and Normans. Then with a chapter, headed appropriately, To the beaches, we are up and running...
with a detailed account of the rise of the seaside places from Cleethorpes to Freiston Shore with special emphasis, of course, on the part the developing railways played. Three further long sections deal with Perli on the sea, famous visitors from Tennyson to Billy Butlin and, finally, a study of the ways the coast is under threat and the defence measures that have been and are being put in place. Much of this material will be fairly well-known and some of the many well-produced pictures will be familiar. But here is a book that admirably complements the earlier volumes in many ways (note, the title is not about the coastline as such but the places along the coast). It is very readable and the author has distilled for us again much of his knowledge and wisdom in a book nice to handle and for its valuable contents modestly priced.

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

This attractive booklet is a unique record of the East Coast floods of 31 January 1953, written by children who attended Sutton on Sea County Primary School. These pieces had been kept by Michael Clark, their teacher, who suggested the topic when the school reopened eight weeks after the event. They were only found after his death by his daughter Susan Leese, who has compiled this delightful book together with Jennifer Baker. Out of the 24 accounts found, seventeen of the original pupils or their relatives have been located and given their permission to publish the accounts as well as brief biographies of the writers. Two unsigned biographies are also included.

The reports range from the graphic to the matter of fact; where people were and what they were doing when the sea came over; items salvaged (including animals) to loss of football but all are interesting, and the less literate contributions are as valuable as the more fluent, although I gave up on the 'screeen set' which one child forgot to save. Was it perhaps misspelling for a 'screen-in set' or a 'screening set'? Considering the age of the children, between eight and eleven years, one is impressed with the standard of literacy. There are a few dramatic titles (Flood Disaster!) and the scene is vividly set in all the opening sentences. Two pupils had birthday parties on that night, one group being at the cinema—a subsequent free cinema showing impressed several of the writers! Reported conversations are delightful. I especially liked: 'I said, 'Oo the water is coming into the house!' But Mrs Green said, 'Of course it isn't!' But it was.' We see a few black and white pictures, but the cover one has the full coloured crayon treatment. A few photos from local sources, including newspapers, and two sketch maps complete the booklet.

It is a touching collection, all the better for having been written before the days of political correctness. Although this is all factual one can well imagine today's censors removing passages in case children should become frightened of the sea.

Hilary Healey, Bicker

LOFT, Martin, editor. Lieutenant Harry Loft of Louth and the 64th Regiment of Foot (Second Staffordshire). Churnet Valley Books, 2004. 160pp. £9.95 pbk (or £11.45 by post from the publisher, 1 King Street, Leek ST13 5NW).

This fascinating and well-researched book gives us an intriguing glimpse of Lincolnshire and Britain (and its empire) in the mid-nineteenth century through the brief and, ultimately, tragic life of a young man destined to die before his twentieth birthday. Through correspondence between John Henry Capel Loft (Harry) (a newly commissioned infantry officer) and his mother, Margaret, written during his service in England, Ireland and India, the reader discovers rich detail of life almost 160 years ago. From his early life in and around Louth via action and famine in Ireland to the pre-Indian-Mutiny Raj, Harry's short life was not dull. Yet, for this reviewer, the great interest in this story concerns the insights into this 'bygone age' to be gleaned from the letters and Martin Loft's commentary.

As Harry's short life unfurls, the last vestiges of Regency Britain are fading and the world stands on the brink of the Victorian and industrial age; industry's inexorable advance and the loss of 'the old world' is epitomised by Harry and Margaret's trip to London by mail coach from Louth to Peterborough and then by the railway to the capital. In Ireland, famine resulting from a series of failed potato harvests drives many to seek life in the New World and causes the deaths of tens of thousands.

In India, the power of the East India Company is about to be ended as a consequence of the 1857 Mutiny. This is the backdrop to Harry's life. As the author rightly points out, it is hardly to be expected that a sixteen-year-old would provide a sophisticated analysis of such complex events. Yet, whether concerning county life in Lincolnshire in the 1840s, garrison duty in Ireland or British rule in India, this book undoubtedly enhances our understanding of this period.

Brian Hammond, Spalding

Postscript: Whilst reading this book, by a remarkable coincidence I chanced upon a national newspaper's magazine supplement in which the Mansion at Westgate, Louth featured on page 6 of this book was featured as currently available for prospective buyers to purchase. I hope the new owner is aware of, and interested in, the house's history and its associations with the Loft family.


These titles are more or less self-explanatory. The county's Family History Society's members con-
continue to beaver away at all sorts of local records and these are just two of several hundred lists they have prepared in recent years from census records, town and county directories, burial and cemetery records, union workhouse registers, militia lists and so on and so on. Not only of value to family history seekers but researchers in a wide variety of social historical scenarios.


Bill Painter’s book follows the history of Louth House of Correction from its beginnings sometime in the seventeenth century to its closure in 1872. By 1671 a small house and exercise yard surrounded by a wooden palisade supplemented and perhaps had supplanted a public pillory and wooden stocks that had been in use until the mid-century. That this first mentioned structure was either an existing old building reused or an insubstantial new-build is suggested by the fact that by 1750 it had become ruinous and dilapidated. Four years later the keeper’s house had fallen down and the House was no longer considered to be capable of providing a safe detention place. As a result a new brick building was erected, perhaps at minimal cost, as it lacked the facilities required by contemporary government guidelines. Whilst still lacking in hygienic facilities it was extended to provide penal facilities with the addition in 1820 of a treadmill. The simple sketch of this mill reproduced from William Brown’s notebook brings the human dimension graphically to life. These buildings were eventually replaced in 1827 by a new brick building designed by Henry Edward Kendall of London to comply with requirements of institutional detention centres of the day; although inevitably, cost cuts reduced the original plan. An attempt has been made to put the history of the House against the hierarchy of justice in the county and the development of prisons nationally. This is sometimes difficult to follow and the reader is occasionally unsure whether information relates to Louth or other places. It would also have been useful to have set the background against the history of workhouses in the region with reference perhaps to Kathryn Morrison’s book ‘The Workhouse’ (English Heritage 1999). The Louth House of Correction seems to have started out as many of the workhouses did, as a place of detention for vagrants and the unemployed (both regarded as worthy of detention), but in this case it played a dual role as it also served as a county prison for felons. The development of these two institutions has great overlap before the Gaol Act of the 1820’s and the Poor Law Reform Act of 1834; Louth serves to show how great this overlap could be with its 1827 architecture showing great similarities in design (albeit on a smaller scale) with the workhouses at Caistor (1800) and Thurgarton (1824), Nottinghamshire, where the new concept of the supervisory hub had preceded that at Louth. This similarity is most vivid in the depiction from Louth Panorama on the back cover.

However, the history of prison development is only part of the story; Bill Painter brings to life a wealth of detail about the minutiae of local felony and misdemeanour in this part of the country. His own comments provide a humanist view on the lot of the poor and the seemingly disproportionate results of their appearance in the courts. His catalogue of tales of local convicts from Rebecca Bolton and James Parks, both sentenced to transportation overseas, to the vivid description of James Skinner who escaped from detention there in 1806 brings a mine of information for the local historian and those interested in family history in the locality.

**Dr Beryl Lott, East Bridgford**

**PEASGOOD, David.** Grimsby: a history and celebration of the town. Otakar’s 2005. 117pp. ISBN 1 904483 828 0. (Francis Frith Collection). £14.99 hbk. This volume is only on sale at Otakar’s bookshops.

Grimsby has been the subject of several general history books in recent years. This well-illustrated volume is part of a series, largely using the photographic images of the extensive Francis Frith collection. It, therefore, covers similar ground to the earlier publication (Grimsby — a photographic history of your town) that I wrote for the same company in 2002.

The limitation thus is the availability of historic photographs, which come from the one source. Not surprisingly, therefore, the author has widened the book’s scope to include not only the neighbouring resort of Cleethorpes, but local small towns and villages. So we see pictures of Bradley, New Waltham, Waltham and even Thornton Abbey. In addition, the author’s own images help to bring the history of Grimsby up to date. Hence shots of Freshney Place, the Heritage centre and the new PC World store amongst others.

This is not a definitive history of a once mighty fishing town and there are a couple of minor errors (Cleethorpes Pier’s current pavilion opened in 1965 and 1906, while Grimsby’s Central Library was rebuilt in the 1960s, not 1970s). Also I feel he could have mentioned the decline of trawling — the impact of EEC membership isn’t even mentioned. Nevertheless, everyone interested in Grimsby’s history will want to add this professional publication to their collection.

**Tim Mickleburgh, Grimsby**


The first chapter is a useful summary account of the typical routine of a Hull or Grimsby fisherman’s ‘trip’ to the fishery. Once they were among the fish the crew had to put up with work on the open deck, often in sub-Arctic conditions for 18 hours at a stretch, until all the fish were gutted and stored and no more fish were coming up in the net — the signal to shift to another more fruitful area of the ocean. Bigger and more powerful trawlers were introduced over the years and the stern-fishing vessel in the 1960s. But Iceland and other nations began extending the limits of their coastlines from which foreign fishermen were excluded and this and quota systems reduced the possibilities of making a profitable voyage.

As a result the Humberside fleet was drastically reduced and numbers of vessels are now in tens rather than scores or hundreds.

The author goes on to describe trawlers at war, in which they played a vital role as mine sweepers and naval
auxiliaries. A series of vignettes of peacetime trawler losses makes sad reading but emphasises what a dangerous occupation fishing was and is.

Arthur Credland, Director, Hull Maritime Museum

SATHERLEY, Jeremy. 'A neat little town': the history of Holbeach. The author, 2004 (i.e. 2005). 213pp. ISBN 0 9548731 0. £10 pbk (or £13 by post from the author, 23 The Tentsers, Holbeach PE12 7AR).

There has not been a comprehensive history of Holbeach for over one hundred years and this large volume is likely to be the best we shall have for a long time into the foreseeable future. Fifteen chapters cover the town's story from prehistoric beginnings to the present day and the reader will learn much from this well-written book. The information presented here deserves a longer treatment than we can provide in these pages. Accordingly, a longer review will appear in Lincolnshire History and Archaeology, 2005. Meanwhile, its modest price will surely attract a ready audience.


Although use is made here again of the Francis Frith Collection of photographs this has more to offer. A chronological history is provided from Roman times through Medieval and later, Victorian and up to the present day. Even the early sections are illustrated with photographs from the last hundred years or so and not always related to the surrounding text. Modern pictures (in colour) are also used to show how things look now and including views of the Brayford waterfront (but only the north side). The result is an attractive picture book with shots of familiar scenes from the city's recent past.

The pictures are often redolent of a past century, for instance, one taken at Lincoln races in 1905, the Glory Hole, looking anything but in 1923, and the High Street, showing the 'avoiding line' bridge from c.1930. The text is readable and covers much of the salient points in the city's history, but there is no mention of the University in the section on modern Lincoln and Tennyson was born in 1809 (p. 75). Nevertheless, an attractively presented book in the ever increasing market of Lincoln pictorial history.

The following review has been received (and greatly edited).


Following the author's booklet "The contribution of the windmill to the Industrial Revolution" in 2002 and his specialised work on East Yorkshire windmills I have been looking forward to this latest book. I have not been disappointed. It is thoroughly well written and is a balanced study, providing much material not readily available.

He has carefully described the functions and processes of the many industries involved, drawing often on documentary sources and illustrations. It is printed on high quality paper, copiously illustrated with clear drawings and photographs. No doubt, the author will be castigated for removing Crowland and Spalding to the wilds of the Cambridgeshire Fens. There is a comprehensive bibliography, which does not, however, pick up all the textual references. It will appeal to all milliners, local historians and industrial archaeologists.

Jon Saxe

Reference has been made before to Soccer History, a journal edited by Ian Nannestad of 26 Saxon Street, Lincoln. In the Spring issue six pages are devoted to the formation of the Lincolnshire Football Association, a move emanating from Briggs in 1878. A £14 sub brings four issues per year and is well worth consideration by all interested in football history.

While I have been unable to obtain a copy of the book on Market Rasen by Bruce Halfpenny (listed in a previous L&P) I am indebted to Nick Lyons for telling me that the book does exist. He managed to buy a copy by chance but tells me that there is no obvious retail outlet for the book in Market Rasen.

BOOKS ISSUED RECENTLY It is hoped that copies for review will be forthcoming and that subsequent issues of L&P or the annual volume will contain suitable reviews. Many of these titles should be available from the Society's Bookshop on Steep Hill, Lincoln.

BENNETT, Jeremy. The master builder: the story of a Fenland family. Replay Publications, 2004 (i.e. 2005). 150pp. ISBN 0 9536662 2 8 (i.e. not as printed in the book or on its cover). £15 pbk (or £17 by post from the publisher, 130 Aylesford Avenue, Beckenham, Kent BR3 3RY).


BRASSINGTON, Marion, and others, editors. The parish of St Mary and St Nicholas, Spalding: the history of a Fenland parish; edited and revised by Marion Brassington, Peter Case and Roger Sel. Spalding PCC, 2004. 57pp. ISBN 0 9590425 2 9. £25 pbk (or £25 by post from the Parish Office, 1 Palmergate, Spalding PE11 2DR).


From blue to grey: recollections from the RAF careers and subsequent lives of members of 54 entry, Royal Air Force College, Cranwell (1949-51)... compiled, edited and to some extent written by Fred Hoskins, Richard Robson and Brian Meadows... Woodfield Publishing, 2005. vi, 266. [34] pp. £15 pbk (or £17 by post from the publisher, Woodfield House, Baffins Lane, Bognor Regis, Sussex PO21 5EL).


HARRISON, Christine. Louthesh pilgrimage diary. The author, 2005. (available from the author, Old...


LOVEDAY, Jack. Squarebashing by the sea: RAF Scapa Flow, 1941-1944. The author, 2005. 226 pp. ISBN 0 9544004 1 0. £8.95 (or £10.45 from the author, 62, Hill Crest Road, Thorpe St Andrew, Norwich NR7 0JU).


