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Lincolnshire Past & Present Editors: Hilary Healey, Ros Beevers
Reviews Editor: Ray Carroll • Production Editor: Ros Beevers

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 lincolnshir@hotmail.com

Front cover illustration: St Mary's Guildhall, Boston. Engraving. From Pithey Thompson's History and Antiquities of Boston, 1856.

Back cover illustration: St Mary's Guildhall, Boston. Engraved by J. Greig, from a drawing by J. Hassell for the Antiquarian Itinerary. Published 1817.
Our magazine has had a somewhat troubled season, and at the time of writing we are still in the process of establishing new arrangements following the unexpected closure of TPS printers. These problems account for the small edition, which we feel will help us to get back into a more reliable routine. Readers will, however, I am sure, welcome the new use of colour.

In this number we range from one end of the county to the other, from the search for a Barton on Humber public house to an account of St Mary's Guild at Boston. Queries include an interesting Irish connection, and this quarter's original document is the 'Strangers' Guide to Lincoln' deposited at Jews' Court. Michael Trott writes about Henry W. J. Sibthorp and Pearl Wheatley pays tribute to Norman Clarke, who made a major contribution to Horncastle local history over the years.

Hilary Healey, Joint Editor

Below are some of the pictures I took with my camera phone in the summer. They were all within 150 metres of my home in the postcode LN5 8. I hope they will encourage readers to get snapping around their neighbourhoods!

From left to right: 1. One of many mouldings on a large Victorian house on St Catherine's, Lincoln. 2. Roses in a front garden on Allham Terrace, Lincoln. They were scented as well! 3. This graffiti artist's signature is prolific in the area. 4. We are privileged to have two of these attractive sculptures on the southern end of the High Street in Lincoln. 5. Litter is a fact of life, but Andy Warhol could have made art of it!

Ros Beevers, Production Editor
There is evidence that Boston's Guildhall dates back to the 1390s. It is currently in the process of being fully restored and should be open again to visitors during 2007.

For at least the last three quarters of its history the building has been under the control of the Boston Corporation. It was surrendered to the newly incorporated borough in 1545, so that it was only for a comparatively short period that it was in the possession of the Guild of St. Mary the Blessed Virgin, which was responsible for its construction.

But what do we know about this Guild and the people who belonged to it? We do know that, during the medieval lifetime of the Guild, Boston itself enjoyed a position of some prominence. The town was not mentioned in the Doomsday Book (although Skirbeck was) but by the 1330s it had grown to become one of the richest in the land. Boston served initially as a seaport for Lincoln, but was eventually able to win a substantial portion of the overseas trade of eastern England, including that of the highly lucrative export of wool. Moreover, the luxury goods imported into Boston gave considerable regional, even national, prestige to the town's St Botolph's fair.

Above: St Botolph's Church—Boston 'Stump' Right (inset): Seal of St Mary's Guild

We do know also that the Guild became the wealthiest and most influential of those within this highly prosperous town and attracted many merchants and traders as its members. Though there were other guilds in Boston, including those of St Botolph, Corpus Christi, St Peter and St Paul, The Holy Trinity, and at least a further nine smaller ones, there is no doubt that St Mary's was the 'Gilda Mercatoria'.

We cannot be absolutely certain when or why the first guilds in medieval England came into existence or of their original design, but we do know that by the 13th Century those like that of St Mary were either fundamentally or at least partly religious in inspiration. It was accepted that life on earth is but a passing phase and that Man's true destiny is in eternity. One of their foremost purposes was therefore to maintain
chaplains to provide Masses for the souls of their deceased members. But such guilds often played a vital part in their local communities as well. Certainly St Mary’s became the vehicle through which many who were ambitious and public spirited sought political influence within Boston. Members of St Mary’s were also involved in charitable works and played a key role in helping to maintain the fabric of the parish church.

Much of our knowledge of the origin and early years of St Mary’s comes from the reply made by Peter de Newland, guardian to the Guild, to the King’s writ of inquiry of 1389. The return shows that St Mary’s was founded on the first Sunday in Lent of 1260 by Andrew de Gote, Walter Tumby, Gaifrid de la Gokere, Robert Leland and Hugh Spayne. Amongst its stated objectives was to maintain two priests in the parish church to say daily masses for the benefit of all members living and dead. Wax candles were to be burned before the altar of the Blessed Virgin and torches borne at the funerals of Guild members. A thousand loaves and a thousand herrings were to be distributed in the Virgin’s name each year among the poor of the town. St Mary’s was open to anyone, male or female, who was prepared to take the strict oaths of admission and pay an initial fee of 6s 8d and an annual subscription of 1s. It is a great pity that, unlike the Guild of Corpus Christi, no register of members of St Mary’s survives. We can be certain that the Guild was thriving by the early 14th century and that it played a prominent part in the rebuilding of the parish church of St Botolph, which was begun in 1309, as its own chapel was located in a prime position in the new building. This chapel, which would have been screened off and have had biblical scenes and representations of the saints painted on its walls, would have looked very different from today. Visitors to the church can, though, still see some of the old features including a carved piscina, a sedilia and an ambry.

In the medieval period most people were both illiterate and ignorant and relied on the clergy to interpret the word of God and tell them how to obtain salvation. Guarantees of such salvation came to be linked to bequests of money. Of course, individually, only the very wealthy could hope to endow a chantry and the majority could, at the most, afford little more than to provide for prayers and candles at their funerals and on the anniversaries of their deaths. So St Mary’s, which in effect acted as a corporate chantry, would have done much to meet the needs of its members and in so doing help to sustain the life of St Botolph’s.

St Mary’s Guild was incorporated in 1393 by licence from the Crown and this enabled it to hold land and property in perpetuity. The recent dendrochronology tests suggest that the Guild’s hall may have been built almost immediately in response to this licence.

A steady trickle of further licences purchased from the Crown show that many gifts were made to St Mary’s. Thus, for example, in 1393 Margaret Tilney gave a house and land on the east of the river and in 1447 Henry VI granted a licence to Richard Benyon and others to give to the aldermen of the Guild five dwellings, thirty-one acres of land and ten acres of pasture in Boston and Skirbeck.

The increasing popularity of St Mary’s Guild not only encouraged numerous gifts of money and land but grew further as a result of indulgences that the Guild was able to secure in the 15th and early 16th centuries from respective Popes.
Such indulgences ranged from a hundred days' remission from penance for all guild members who were present whenever Mass was celebrated aloud, with music, in the chapel of St Mary (granted by Boniface IX) to five hundred years of absolution for those who paid their subscription fees and attended their chapel in St Botolph's at Easter, Whitsun and on other Holy Days (granted by Julius II).

In turn, such indulgences made the Guild even more attractive to would-be members and served to encourage further gifts of money, land and property.

By the early part of the 16th century the Guild was both influential and prosperous and by 1520 its income was £545 6s 2½d. It owned a great deal of land and property in Boston and beyond and not only counted many of the town's important citizens amongst its members, but also individuals from elsewhere both within and outside of Lincolnshire.

During the 1520s and 1530s it even achieved a measure of national fame through the choir it supported at St Botolph's and its connection with John Taverner.

By now the Guild had apparently also acquired many sacred relics and miraculous objects including a finger of St Anne set in a hand of silver and gold, a silver and gilt casket containing a part of the stone of Calvary, and even a silver and gilt casket, surmounted by an image of the Virgin and Child, which contained some of the milk of Our Lady!

Needless to say, such powerful relics and objects made the Guild's chapel at St Botolph's a popular centre of pilgrimage.

In 1534 the Guild produced an inventory which gives a vivid and detailed picture of its buildings and furnishings.

This inventory is held in the Boston Municipal Archives and was recently on display at the Haven Gallery in South Square at the exhibition of 1000 years of Boston's history. The inventory includes a list of the contents of the 'Chantry House', which provided accommodation for the Guild chaplains and was situated in South End near the site of the Grammar School, of 'St Mary's House' (ie the Guildhall) and of the chapel and vestry of Our Lady at St Botolph's. It shows that the Guild held many valuable objects including hangings and banners, books, fine cloths, richly embroidered vestments and items of gold, silver and gilt, as well as the sacred relics and objects already referred to.

Despite its wealth and influence, the Guild could not survive the reigns of Henry VIII and his son Edward VI. However, its dissolution was a fairly orderly affair. When the four friaries in Boston were dissolved in the 1530s the impending destruction of the guilds seemed distinctly likely. However, the town of Boston was itself incorporated in 1545 and held directly from the Crown under a mayor and aldermen and with its own recorder, town clerk, markets and fairs. Various officials of St Mary's Guild became aldermen or councillors of the new Corporation, thus helping to ensure a strong sense of continuity in the affairs of the town. The letters patent of incorporation included a clause that enabled the
Belton House Cakes

SLHA AGM 2006 was held at Belton House, near Grantham. There was coffee in the restaurant before the meeting and lunch after the meeting. At both, members enjoyed sampling some small cakes, which proved to be chocolate and beetroot. The restaurant manager gave us the recipe. There must be a great demand for the cakes considering the quantities required in the recipe.

Chocolate and Beetroot Cake

- 2lb 10oz margarine
- 6lb SR flour
- 14oz cocoa powder
- 14 teaspoons baking powder
- 2 x 10oz dark chocolate
- 3lb 8oz raw beetroot (grated)
- 3lb 8oz castor sugar
- 28 eggs
- cream
- pinch of salt

Method
Sift flour, salt and baking powder, mix in sugar and beetroot, melted chocolate and margarine, add the eggs, bake for 50-60 minutes at 180°C. Top the cake with chocolate icing (melted chocolate and a little cream).

Belton House sundial—the 'moondial' of Helen Cresswell's popular 1987 children's novel
Where was the Bay Horse in Barton?

Recently I was researching Barton upon Humber in 1835 when I came across a pub previously unknown to myself, writes Darren Stockdale...

This pub was called the Bay Horse and was situated somewhere on Whitecross Street, in Barton upon Humber. Currently there are two pubs on Whitecross Street, the Blue Bell and the Volunteer Arms. Could the Bay Horse have been one of these pubs? There was another pub many years ago on Whitecross Street called the Whitecross Tavern which is now a private residence. Could this be the site of the Bay Horse or was it another building altogether?

In the Pigot & Co’s National Commercial Directory for Lincolnshire 1835 there is no mention of the Volunteer Arms but it is well known that the Volunteer Arms in Barton was so named because of the contingent of volunteers who formed in 1803 because of the threat of invasion by Napoleon. The Napoleonic war was between 1792 and 1815 so I had assumed that the Volunteer Arms would be called the Volunteer Arms by 1835. The Blue Bell was mentioned in this directory so my search for the Bay Horse began.

I started to narrow down the search by checking when the first reference to the Volunteer Arms appeared in a trade directory. The first instance I found was in the Post Office directory of Lincolnshire, 1868, but there was no mention of the Bay Horse. I then checked the Post Office directory of Lincolnshire, 1861 and the Bay Horse was there, but no Volunteer Arms. Checking various directories produced before 1861 back to 1830 showed only references to the Bay Horse with the Jennings family as victuallers. Checking after 1868 showed only references to the Volunteer Arms with three different landlords during the period up to 1900. This suggested that the Bay Horse and the Volunteer Arms had not existed at the same time. The Blue Bell was mentioned right through from 1830 to 1900 so the Bay Horse could not have been this pub. I then got hold of a copy of the Census for Lincolnshire for 1861 (RG9/2403 page 109 onwards) to assist my research.

The enumerator for this parish started on the west side of Whitecross Street with its junction with Burgate at the north end and headed along the road until he reached the southern end of Whitecross Street where he crossed the road to Barncney Hall and then headed down the east side to Beck Hill. I decided to trace his footsteps some 145 years later to see where the Bay Horse would have been had it still been there today.

There have been some properties demolished along Whitecross Street since 1861, and a few new ones built, but luckily it is largely the same. By checking some old photographs of Whitecross Street it is possible to note how many buildings are missing today and Barncney Hall is a good landmark as it was built in the early 1700s and is the largest property down the street. Heading south the first five houses in 1861 have now gone, replaced by a garage and green open space. A loundness called Mary lived at the sixth property (61) along with her two sons and one daughter who were all scholars. Current number 59 was not actually a house as far as I can tell or was orientated north onto St Mary’s Lane and not east as it is now. I came to this conclusion by first studying an old photograph which showed no doors or windows fronting onto Whitecross Street and secondly by checking the actual property, where it was clear that the bricks around the door and windows had been made to fit a certain size hole and not built around the door and windows as would be expected if they were there originally.

George Welburn, a labourer, lived in the seventh property (57). The next two properties on the census return were unoccupied, currently numbered 55 and 53. In property number 10 (51) Elizabeth

*Numbers in brackets are the current street numbers
Grassby, a cooper’s widow, lived along with her son Thomas, who was also a cooper, and her daughter. In the 11th property of the return (49) Henry Edward Mason, solicitor and attorney, lived with his housekeeper Ann Elizabeth Brown, a proprietor of houses, lived in the 12th property (47) along with her sister Ellen. In the 13th property (45) William Mitchell, a tailor, lived with his wife and daughter, and the 14th property (43) was uninhabited. William H. Goy, a solicitor, lived in the 15th property (41) along with his wife, Mary, his two sons, who were both solicitors’ clerks, and his four daughters. He also had 3 general servants. In the 16th property was a lady called Martha, a proprietor of houses. This is currently now two properties, numbered 35 and 37. This leads to the junction with Barrow Road and Market Lane. Whitecross Street continues across this road. The first property we come to across the Barrow Road and Market Lane junction is actually the 18th property on the census return; property 17 was demolished many years ago to make Market Lane wider. In the 17th property Richard Goy and his wife Ann lived, along with his brother-in-law, son-in-law and daughter-in-law. Richard Goy was a printer. In the 18th property (33) George Warwick, a butcher, and his wife, Elizabeth, lived. In the 19th property (31) William Spavier, who was classed as an excavator, lived with his wife. In the 20th property (29) Thomas Cook and his wife Mary lived. Thomas Cook was a carpenter. In the 21st property (27) John Jackson, his wife and son lived, along with 11 lodgers. The next property on the census return was property number 22, also named the Bay Horse. The next property on Whitecross Street is number 25, The Volunteer Arms. In the census return Ann Jennings was the Inn Keeper. She was aged 84. It seemed my search was reaching a conclusion, but to ensure there was no mistake, I carried on along the rest of Whitecross Street to Bardney Hall. In the 23rd property (21) Mary Homes lived and next door to her in the 24th property (19) lived James Parrot along with his wife and daughter. Richard Thompson came next in property number 25 (17) along with his wife and three daughters. Richard Thompson was an agricultural labourer. The next three properties, numbers 26 to 28 are now numbers 11, 13 and 15 Stonegarth. In property 26 Sarah Bygott and her servant lived. In property 27 James Bygott (a farmer of 110 acres), his wife, son, daughter and two servants lived. In property 28 Elizabeth Houghton and her servant lived. The next property in the 1861 census is Bardney Hall and, if you ignore the more modern houses past Stonegarth, it still is today. I am now sure that the Bay Horse changed its name to the Volunteer Arms sometime between 1861 and 1868, possibly after the death of Ann Jennings. Both the 1861 census return and the trade directories seem to show this. Was the Volunteer Arms named after the volunteers who gathered there for the Napoleonic War after all? If it was, why was it named this at least 45 years later? If any reader knows the answer to these questions, please contact me via Lincolnshire Past & Present or I can be emailed at webmaster@visitbarton.co.uk.

OBITUARY
Mr J. N. Clarke (1913-2006)

Norman Clarke, a long-time member of SLHA, died in August 2006. Norman was a regular contributor to our publications and an author of books on Horncastle and district. Norman was born in Lincoln and spent his early years in the city. He enjoyed his school days at The Lincoln School, now Christ’s Hospital School, before joining the RAF in 1931. Much of his service time was on the North West Frontier – a period of which he held vivid memories. He left the Air Force after the war and joined Keysteven County Council, then Horncastle Rural District Council as deputy to the Chief Executive. On the reorganisation of local government in 1974, Norman became an officer for East Lindsey District Council until his retirement in 1976. The Clarke family lived in the Horncastle area and, before moving to Pocklington, lived in Belchford: the subject of one of Norman’s books. Norman and Marjorie enjoyed 58 years of marriage and had three daughters. We offer our sympathy to Carole and Phyllida who survive him.

Publications:-
Horncastle and Tattershall Canal ▪ A History of St Mary’s Church, Horncastle
Horncastle Dispensaries and Hospitals ▪ Education in a Market Town Horncastle
Methodism in the Countryside (jointly with C. L. Anderson) ▪ County Gleanings
The Lordship and Manor of Horncastle (not published) ▪ Watch and Ward in the Countryside
The Shadow of the Workhouse is to be published by the Society for Lincolnshire History & Archaeology.

In addition to these Norman wrote articles for Local Government magazines, “Lincolnshire History & Archaeology” and “Lincolnshire Past and Present”.

Pearl Wheatley, 6 September 2006
An addition to Jews' Court library

Recently a booklet entitled 'The Strangers' Illustrated Guide Through Lincoln', ninth edition, has been deposited in Jews' Court. It has been given a green paper cover and stitched with silk cord. Handwritten on the cover it notes 'History of Lincoln 1856' and inside it notes 'H. Boswell, 19 Anson Road, Southtown, Gr Yarmouth'. The Chairman would be pleased to have the opportunity to thank the anonymous donor.

Meanwhile, some of the articles will prove interesting to a wider audience...

No mention of Bishop Grosseteste!

Passing northward up Hermin Street, and through the Roman Arch, the visitor arrives in the suburban district called NEWPORT, the site of the British town described in the early part of this publication. At the extremity stands a commodious and tasteful building, erected in 1842.

The Diocesan Institution originated with the church movement in the cause of education, and was designed to furnish cheap education to the children of the middle classes, on the principles of the Established Church; the effort having proved a failure, probably from the great increase of schools. It is now under discussion as to the desirability of converting it into a training school, to fit young men for National School Teachers.

Well done, Lincoln Corporation

The Butter-house is a double colonnade: on Fridays, during market time, it is inconveniently and oppressively crowded with rows of people from the country, exposing for sale their poultry, eggs, etc. and by dense throngs of purchasers who rudely jostle each other; and trample each other's toes; the increased population of the Town, and consequently the increased congregation of sellers and purchasers having far outgrown the accommodation afforded by the place which might be very well adapted to the exigencies of the period of 1736, when the Corporation very praiseworthy evinced the rare instance of patriotic self-denial in voluntarily devoting, for ten years, the cost of the annual civic feast, to the erection of this building. In addition to its utility as a weekly market-house, it is devoted to the purpose of a vegetable and general market, were wont to promote objects of benevolence through the instrumentality of this graceful and healthy relaxation: whenever a meritorious individual fell into indigence, a charitable assembly was summoned, which seldom failed to realise a sum sufficient to place the widow and the fatherless in a position to obtain a comfortable livelihood.

Sorry we have to chronicle the extinction of such a laudable custom; but all popular amusements, even when connected with the most warm-hearted objects, have their ebbs and flows.

During the season, a Twelfth Night Ball, a Ball in aid of the Dispensary, one for the benefit of the Mechanics Institution, besides one or two connected with any public object, do not seem to weary the public. The Butter Market was demolished in 1937 but the façade was
re-built on the north side of the New Market in Waterside South—now the backdrop to City Square. There was no illustration in the Guide.

**Monks in the East of Lincoln**

**THE MONKS' LEYS**

By this name is called the oblong piece of ground occupying the hillside. It is exclusively set apart for the depasturage of the stock of the Freeman of the City; but most probably the time is not far distant when the Municipality will be rescued from the odium of preserving large tracts of commonable land which do no good, and are a premium for idleness, drunkenness and perjury, among the lower classes.

The ruins picturesquely situated on the very bosom of the valley on the left, "scant half a mile from the City", as the Venerable Bede writes, are

**THE MONKS' ABBEY RUINS.**

The designation Abbey appears to be a mistake, as it was in reality a cell or priory attached to the Abbey of St Mary at York. Early and more accurate history ascribes to the site of a Monastery created by St Botolph in 654, upon a desert piece of ground given him for the purpose by Ethelbert, King of the South Angles, and it is supposed that the original establishment was continued until the fatal devastation of this quarter of the country by the Danes in 876.

Dugdale describes the establishment as being a Benedictine Priory, connected with St Mary's at York, and in the confirmation made by Henry II, of land and houses which had been presented to the Abbey of St Mary's at York, mention is made of several donations in the City and fields of Lincoln; and we are informed by Camden that east of Lincoln, in the time of Edward I was a Priory of Black Friars, and that the Priory mill was turned by a stream of a petrifying nature. The course of a stream with the place of the reservoir, and waterfall, are still traceable in the field of the ruins, a few yards eastward of a spring called the Spa, the water of which possesses the quality of imparting a deep red appearance to every object over which it passes, and of converting earthly matter into a sort of porous stone, which hardens after exposure to the air.

When the monasteries were dissolved by Henry VIII, the Priory was valued at Twenty-three Pounds Six Shillings and Threepence, and it was granted to John Bellow and John Broxholme. All the above are extracts from 'The Strangers' Illustrated Guide through Lincoln' 1856.

Pearl Wheatley
31 August 2006

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**Rex and regal birds**

The Society for History and Archæology arranged a special birthday celebration lecture in Lincoln on 30 September for Rex Russell who was 90 in September. The speaker was Professor John Simons, Dean of the Faculty of Media and Humanities at the University of Lincoln, and his subject was Brayford Swans. He began with musings both on bird flu and why the swans should gather on Brayford, an area not obviously ideal. Certainly, early illustrations and those at the height of its commercial activity rarely show swans. Professor Simons then gave an outline of the history of swan keeping and swan marks. We learned something of the extraordinary history of swan keeping, that swans were a status symbol and that not all belong to the Queen, only the unmarked ones though since marking (which was on beak or feet) no longer occurs, one supposes that many have reverted to the Queen by default! There was discussion on whether there had been past confusion between Brayford and Swanpool, on where the swans would have nested, and whether swans would have been pinioned. The paper is part of a wider study of swans being researched by Professor Simons and we look forward to seeing it in print.

Hilary Healey

Part of an 1858 painting by J. W. Carmichael showing the Brayford with swans.
There are many families of Lincolnshire origin who settled in Wexford in the 12th century. My ancestor John Rossiter and his brother Ralph invaded Ireland in 1167-1169. With Strongbow Earl of Pembroke, along with many other Normans, they landed at Barrow Bay in Wexford and then took Wexford town and county, where the family has remained to this day.

However, members of the family stayed in Lincolnshire at Somerby near Brigg (home of Sir Edward Rossiter—the greatest soldier produced by Lincolnshire in the Civil War of the 1640s). He was a Protestant, whereas my side of the family remained Catholics and loyal to the Crown. My ancestor Colonel Thomas Rossiter fought against Cromwell in Wexford during the Civil War.

The Rossiters also settled at Minting near Homecastle, Keddington near Louth, and Aslackby near Bourne in Lincolnshire. In Minting Church there is a reference to Sir John Rossiter (spelt Rowcestr) in 1451. A Sir John Rowcestr also built Rathmackee Castle in Wexford in 1541. They are possibly the same man.

I believe the family had property in Wexford that they didn’t fully exploit until the 14th and 15th centuries, i.e. most of them remained in Lincolnshire until about the 1540s, and were staunch Catholics and loyal to the Crown up to 1690.

A direct ancestor of mine, another Thomas Rossiter, was a ward of Elizabeth I—she looked after him and his family from Bargo Castle in Wexford. They were committed Catholics but she didn’t persecute them or confiscate their estates, which were quite considerable at the time—eight castles and many town lands and the Wexford districts of Forth and Bargo.

Henry VIII and James I didn’t persecute them either. The family recognised them as Kings of England but not heads of the church. They openly recognised the Pope and the monarchy at the time knew of it.

In Bargo Castle, Wexford, there is a plaque over the old entrance reputed to have a figure of Elizabeth I and, below it, my ancestor Thomas Rossiter and his wife Anastasia Sisnot.

Bargo Castle is now owned by Chris de Burgh the singer.

The family were ‘broken up’ in the 1650s by Oliver Cromwell and in the 1690s by William of Orange. However, the ones in Lincolnshire became Protestant and kept their properties.

I have been researching the family for about three years as a hobby. Mervyn Rossiter, a distant relative (related to me in the 1690s) has his own website on the family: http://www.winsop.com.au/merv/gecgs/irish (Email: merv@winsop.com.au)

Anything I find on the family I send to him and he puts on his website.

The Rossiters came from Dieppe in Normandy (Lambert de Rosci). In 1066 the name became De Rosay, then De Rosetto, then De Roselte in 1249 and eventually Rossiter.

They first settled in West Reedham, and South Creake in Norfolk near Castle Acre, before settling in Lincolnshire and then Wexford.

My great-grandparents spoke a second language called Yola—a mixture of Norman French and old Saxon English in Wexford in the 1870s. Rebellions in Ireland have started and ended in Wexford—in 1641, 1690, 1798 and many others.

The people there are not exactly Irish; they are a mixture of Norman Welsh, Flemish and Lincolnshire English.

Cromwell called them the ‘Old English’ and was surprised at their ferocity when he took Wexford.

Carmel Frohawk, a member of SLHA, is undertaking a project about the Irish community in Lincoln and Lincolnshire in the 1950s. Many of her relatives were among those who came over from the west coast of Ireland—mainly County Mayo—and she would be very interested if anyone had any information or photographs from that period. Carmel says there was an Irish club or dance hall at the time known as the Historia or Iotria and that many women that came to the area worked ‘on the buses’.
In the chapel of his Bede Houses on Sewell Road, Lincoln, Richard Sibthorp placed plaques in memory of members of his family. Of them all, that which commemorates his brother Henry is perhaps the most moving, the most evocative. It reads simply: ‘Ingenious, brave, gentle, affectionate. Alas, my brother.’

Henry Sibthorp died off the Turkish coast on the night of the 14 February 1807; he was aged just twenty-two. On the same day, and a Continent away, his brother Charles, a lieutenant in the Royal Irish Dragoon Guards, was celebrating his twenty-fourth birthday. Charles, who in 1822 inherited the Sibthorp estates and seat at Canwick Hall, was to become a famous Victorian eccentric; as Lincoln’s MP for almost thirty years his parliamentary exploits reported in Punch and other humorous magazines were greeted with amused delight.

Henry like Charles was born at North Mynnms, but by the time he joined the Royal Navy in 1799, his father, Colonel Humphrey Sibthorp had inherited Canwick. He was fourteen years old when he boarded the London to Portsmouth coach at six in the evening on 8 April to begin his sea-faring life as a midshipman. It must have been a lonely and anxious journey; both his parents were in Dublin where his father was commanding the Royal South Lincolnshire Militia, garrisoning the city in the aftermath of the Irish rebellion. The young man was fortunate however, to be posted to the frigate Penelope. She was under the command of Captain Henry Blackwood, a first-rate seaman, one of Nelson’s ‘band of brothers’, who took a fatherly interest in the welfare of his young charges.

Over the remainder of his short life Henry was rarely on dry land. The Penelope departed for the Mediterranean in September 1799 and was away for three and a half years. In retrospect, this cruise was the high light of his naval career. Especially memorable was an action fought off Malta in March 1800, which resulted in capture of the Guillaume Tell, a French line-of-battle ship mounting 74 guns. The two other English vessels involved were so badly damaged that HMS Penelope had the honour of towing the prize into Syracuse. On returning to Portsmouth in April 1803, Henry moved with Blackwood to the Euryalus, a frigate destined to play a distinguished part in the Trafalgar campaign. Unfortunately, Henry managed to leave her just weeks before her moment of glory. After long months of boredom during 1804 and the first half of 1805 spent monitoring the French ‘invasion force’ at Boulogne, he was increasingly anxious for promotion. His father duly lobbied Sir Evan Nepean (First Secretary to the Admiralty), wrote to William Wilberforce, even approached the Prime Minister, William Pitt, directly; and his efforts were apparently rewarded when in September 1805 his son was appointed sub-lieutenant on the brig Liberty. Unfortunately the ship was allocated to royal protection duties, and so it was that on the day of the great battle Henry found himself ‘kicking his heels’ at Weymouth.

In the promotions following Trafalgar Blackwood was given the command of HMS Ajax, a 74-gun ship-of-the-line, with a complement of 690. Henry Sibthorp, appointed sixth of seven lieutenants, was not able to join her until October 1806. In January of the following year came the opportunity for action he had been hoping for, when the Ajax was ordered to join Sir John Duckworth’s squadron assembling at Valetta. Duckworth was required to proceed to Constantinople and take whatever steps were necessary to prevent the Turkish fleet from combining with the French to threaten British dominance in the Mediterranean. On 10 February, the squadron...
anchored off the island of Tenedos at the entrance to the Dardanelles. Boisterous winds delayed the perilous voyage through the straits for some days, but on the evening of 14 February, the wind dropped. In ‘the clear moonlight every object was visible with a distinctness almost equal to that of day’ not least the plains of Troy, with Mount Ida in the distance. For young officers brought up on the classics it was a scene full of interest. But memories of that night were not of these things but rather of the terrible spectacle of the Ajax in flames. The fire began at 9pm and spread with such terrifying rapidity that any thoughts of saving the ship had soon to be abandoned. The dead numbered 266, among them Henry Sibthorp.

Blackwood was rescued and three days later wrote to his wife: ‘Everybody did what they could to save the ship when on fire nor did I desert her until the flames almost touched me. From the moment of alarm, exactly at nine o’clock, when all (the sentinels and those on watch included) were in bed, till she was in flames from the main to the mizzen rigging, sails and all, did not exceed twenty minutes. ‘I dread to make out the list of those lost, at the head of which is poor Sibthorp, of whom poor fellow, as we both joined overboard, I took leave, and begged he would keep as near me as he could, but from the moment he touched the water, I never saw him more. To many of their friends I must request your will find the proper means to convey this most melancholy intelligence. I am really quite unequal to it.’

The Court of Enquiry exonerated Blackwood, concluding that the fire was the result of a drunken accident. Whether Henry’s family first learnt of the tragedy from Harriet Blackwood, or some other correspondent, or from the public prints, is not recorded. But there can be little doubt of its devastating impact; a pall of gloom descended on the family home and it was about this time that Colonel Sibthorp suffered the stroke from which he never fully recovered. A great deal can be learnt about Henry’s naval career, both the great events in which he was involved as well as the routines—daily annoyances and occasional pleasures—of fourteen at the time of the tragedy, was deep and lasting. Richard Sibthorp went on to become one of the most celebrated preachers of the Victorian age with a voice often described as having a peculiar musical quality. Perhaps he had inherited a family trait. In 1804 Hercules Robinson and Henry Sibthorp were both midshipmen on Euryalus. Fifty years later, Robinson, now a retired admiral, recalled his long-dead friend: ‘He was a man to whom everybody was attached, from his amiable qualities, gentle, kind, thoroughbred manners, fine temper and sweet voice, though the latter may seem an inadequate ground for liking, yet so it is ... Sibthorp had this attraction. The waves of the “broad Hellespont”’ (which, however, is not broad) roll over him unmisleadingly grave ... why was he taken and another left? “Whom the God’s love ite young,” an odd way it may be thought of showing their love.”

Richard Sibthorp, like his brother Charles, gained a reputation for eccentricity. Henry on the other hand seemed endowed with wisdom and common sense. It is interesting to speculate on whether, had he lived, he would have had a restraining influence on his siblings.

N O T E S
1. From letters in the Sibthorp family papers. In the Lincolnshire Archives, in particular, Sib 2/4 and 255b 4.
This section aims to include as many short reviews of recently published books as possible; unsigned reviews have been provided by the Reviews Editor. At the end will be found a list of titles newly notified and which, it is hoped, will be reviewed later. Many of these titles will be found in the Society’s Bookshop, Steep Hill, Lincoln.


As part of a wider research into the papers of the novelist Thackeray’s daughter the editor here produces an interesting array of letters between her and the Tennyson family. Tennyson and Thackeray were both at Trinity College, Cambridge at the same time in the later 1820s but most of this correspondence follows from Thackeray’s death in 1863. The series offers further insights into the Tennyson household and the relationships between the two families.


When my old friend Rodney Lines was running one of his WEA courses at Spilsby on Betjeman he probably did not expect his post-lecture chat there to provide the impetus for the present book — but it did. Many people have put together pieces on the poet, his love of the county’s railways and churches, his friendships with Jack Yates of Louth (whose talk on the buildings of Louth is reproduced here), Henry Thorold of Marston and Noel Blakiston of Kirby on Bain and, of course, the poems, especially those that relate to the county. Michael Thomas, the Lincolnshire Society’s chairman, starts it off with an illuminating account of Betjeman’s connections and visits to Lincolnshire with appropriate quotations from the Lincolnshire verses. One can almost hear Rodney Lines in his typical analysis of selected poems and discussion of possible identification of the places that might have been the poet’s inspiration. Other articles cover the geology of the county, some of the poet’s favourite county churches (and a splendid portfolio of black and white photographs adds to the word pictures), the former steam railway lines that Betjeman might have used and a number of short biographical sketches of local personalities associated with Betjeman or his work. Poems by Jill Rundle dotted throughout enliven the text also.

With useful notes, a short bibliography, some good portraits and maps this is a first-class commemoration well timed to celebrate the centenary of J.B. One slight error I can amend — Bill Kochan did not die in the 1970s — I did not come to the county until 1980 and I attended several Tennyson Society functions when Bill and his wife were the hosts at their home.


Mr Brown wanted to leave the INER offices in the London area to be a stationmaster. He achieved his ambition and among other stations he was in charge at Elton & Orston (on the Grantham–Nottingham line) and then Stickney followed by Ulceby. His later duties took him to Lancashire and East Anglia. Station houses lacking gas, running water or electricity and the privations of war in Lincolnshire all figure here. He seemed blessed with nice staff and a happy family life. I could have done with more detail of all the aspects of the daily tasks. There is a moving section relating to the transport of the RAF men killed while flying from East Kirby — Stickney.
being its local station. I found much of interest.


This is a very readable collection of stories which cover most areas of the historic county. The author has researched widely, found interesting black and white photos to produce accounts of ghostly happenings, many of them quite modern; there is even a section covering occurrences during the last war at various RAF stations. There is a good mixture of mostly short ‘stories’, including the well known (the hare at Bolingbroke, the green lady of Thorpe Hall) and less well-known, such as Guy Gibson’s dog (there is a discrepancy between the text on p. 80 and the illustration on p. 81). Some may be sceptical about some of these matters but ‘there are more things in heaven and earth...’ I enjoyed it.

Marcia Edgar, Spalding


This is an outstanding study of Lincoln City Transport, its vehicles and the people involved in its operations. The author has rescued a wealth of photographic material (with the modern ones in fine colour) and his researches provide all the detail any transport aficionado could ever want. Although the dates in the subtitle would suggest the book only deals with trams and buses it does in fact cover the origins of all the city services from the first horse-drawn starting in 1882 (and some very evocative pictures of them too). It would seem (without checking the very full lists of all vehicles at the end of the book) that every tram or bus the city owned has been photographed and is illustrated here. The only slight deficiency is that there is little on the routes operated (and then a map would have been needed). However, if you want to know anything technical about Lincoln’s city transport, look no further.


Local author Molly Burckett has organised the Cranwell CP 11-year-olds to research and write about this aspect of Cranwell’s history, back in WW1 when it was a major airship base of the Royal Naval Air Service. In just 32 pages they cover the design and use of these ‘blimps’ (as they were called), together with some imaginary and some real recollections by people who ‘were there’. Mrs Burckett is to be congratulated for encouraging the children to research, write and produce a readable booklet on this little-known subject, illustrated by photos from Cranwell’s archives and by drawings by the pupils.

Terry Hancock, Cherry Willingham


The author prefaces his study with the early history of the Haverholme estate and the Gilbertine house that was established there, two years after Bishop Alexander of Lincoln had presented the lands to the Cistercians of Fountain’s Abbey. After the dissolution the lands passed to the Clinton family, then the Thoroilds and after further exchanges the Earl of Winchelsea in 1835. The bulk of the book is taken up with details of the farming practices of the Earl and his successors and, by liberal quotation from the local newspapers, we obtain an impressive idea of not only the working of the estate but the general agricultural background, particularly in the period up to the Great War. The sale of the property in 1926 is recorded with notes on all the various holdings which were sold at that time. Well illustrated and with helpful maps Mr Gostick has shed much light on the history of nineteenth century agriculture and an important estate that has altered out of all recognition of its original standing.


Already Mr Haden and other school groups have produced two booklets relating to John Smith of Willoughby (see LP &P for Autumn 2005 and Spring, 2006). Now the story moves into Norfolk; John Rolfe was born at Heacham and it was he who married Pocahontas, the supposed
saviour of John Smith. So there is no real Lincolnshire connection here but the series continues in its well established method, deserving success for its readable content, presentation and quality printing.

[HALL, Tom]. Quadrangle characters and photographs. Ravenhall, 2006, 32pp. No ISBN. (Quadrangle booklet, no. 2). £2.50 pbk (or £3 by post from Ravenhall, 21 Bareham Lane, Quadrangle, Spalding PE11 4PX – all profits to Quadrangle Church).

In our last issue we noted the arrival of the first of Tom Hall’s booklets on Quadrangle. Already a second helping following much the same formula of pictures and captions has arrived. The main difference is that we are also given extracts from older directories of the country though, as before, the text needs a little tightening up. Still worthwhile at its very reasonable price.


This pleasant book grew from an offer (made rather idly) to help decorate St James Church in Louth in 2002. A few pictures of other churches in the ‘deanery’ would be nice’ without realising that to include them all she would have to visit 37 examples. But here they are in black and white, each facing a page of comment on the history, weather on the day, ambience, location and so on. Very nicely presented on good paper one is constantly surprised at their variety tucked away, as many are, in places well off the beaten track.

HAYNES, Keith and SUGGHLER, Phil. The Tony Ford story. Tempus, 2005, 159pp. ISBN 0 7524 2418 1. £12.99 pbk. Authorized biography of Tony Ford MBE, who first played football for Grimsby Town FC while still at Wintringham Grammar School. Currently assistant manager of Rochdale AFC, Ford also played for Rochdale, Sunderland, Stoke City, WBA, Mansfield Town and Barnsley, with a record-breaking number of appearances and experiencing everything the beautiful game could throw at him. Though he undoubtedly could have, he never played in the top flight, but did play for England alongside Gazza. Describes well a player’s thoughts and feelings and goes backstage on football clubs and personalities.


This title was originally published in 2001, when it had only a limited circulation through W.H. Smith’s shops. Now it has been re-issued and appears to have been enlarged (the earlier version was not available for review) from 62 pages. What is noteworthy is that Mr Kine has still managed to find so many pictures that have not appeared in his other volumes on the town. I have compared this title with his 1992 book and there is not a single duplication – quite remark-

able when you consider the earlier book had over 200 pictures though, of course, one assumes the Frith archive was not available to him then.

Anyway, this is a further valuable contribution; well produced books (many of them 100 years old now), interesting and informative captions and two maps complete a very nicely produced volume. Once again, I have to point out that the area map used is wrongly dated to c. 1850 (it should be dated to not later than 1834).


The first book was well received when it appeared in 2004 (Lincolnshire Past & Present, 57, Autumn, 2004). The local history group has now done more yeoman service in finding hundreds more photographs, a variety of other printed items, maps and archival records and put them all together with a great range of personal memoirs. The biographical studies seem to refer to every family that has lived in the village in the last 100 years or so. The use of colour pictures increases the usefulness of the ‘before and after’ scenes. It would have seemed, after the first very large book, that it would have been impossible that so much else remained to be found but here is the result of the Group’s further researches. All involved deserve great credit.

McGRAIL, Scan. Ancient boats and ships; second
This is a wide-ranging but, of necessity, quick skim through the history and development of boat-moving; the author was first a sailor and then has turned to more learned paths at Oxford and Southampton. It deals with the craft on a world-wide basis but manages to cram in a great deal of matter; it will serve as an excellent introduction for those beginning to show a first interest in this area of knowledge. Briggs and Ferriby come in for special treatment in this informative and well-illustrated booklet.

This title is dedicated to the memory of airmen who were involved in fourteen air accidents within a two-mile radius of the village of Laughton in WW2. One local soldier is also remembered. It contains information, anecdotes and photographs about those tragic events and is produced on good quality paper with a pleasant montage of the locality on the card cover.
Great credit is due for the efforts made by numerous contributors to obtain good information about the men, their training, operational and personal backgrounds from relatives, anecdotal and official sources and as such it is most enlightening. Unfortunately its readability has been spoiled by a lack of thought in overall presentation including editorship of the various individual contributions, poor page layout, inconsistent design and errors. The efforts to find pictures that are relevant to the text have led quantity to take precedence over quality; the reproductions and captions are generally poor. For example, the eight pictures representing aircraft types involved only draw attention to the lack of editorship. It is commendable that their names and stories have been perpetuated in print but what could and should have been a fitting tribute to many brave men, falls short of a standard that they and the contributors deserved.

Alastair Goodrum, Spalding
The subject of this very nicely produced volume was born in Northampton in 1612 and, from 1619 until 1630, her father (Thomas Dudley) served as steward to the Earl of Lincoln, then living at Tattershall Castle and Sempringham Manor. Anne used the chance she had of using the Earl's library and became well-read and soon developed an interest in writing. The earl was a friend of John Cotton, vicar of St Botolph's in Boston and that contact enabled the Puritans to preach at Tattershall.
That, in its turn, led to the establishment in New England of the ministry led by Cotton and to which Anne and her father sailed in 1630.
Part one is taken up with the biographical records of her life here and aspects of their new colonial life; the second, larger part is entirely taken up with the poems, meditations and letters, largely devoted to Christian themes. Anne Bradstreet may not be widely read now or even known in this country; this work redresses that imbalance for she is well studied and appreciated in the USA as the bibliography makes clear. The editor deserves great credit for setting her selection of Bradstreet's work in its historical background.

The subtitle says it all as far as the contents go. There is little of specific Lincolnshire interest here but for all who are interested in lively memoirs of the war in the air this offers some very readable accounts.

In our Winter 2005 issue we were giving a warm welcome to the previous offering by these two talented photographers; then the subject was the city of Lincoln and now they are portraying the whole county in all its moods and during all the seasons. Those who complain that Lincolnshire is all flat ignore the
wonderful panoramic views to be seen across the landscape and in the skies; the very fine pictures in the Wolds and along the coast counter the argument concerning the county’s flatness. So many pictures, at the same time, show the quality of light that is such a delight for those attuned to the wide vistas to be observed wherever you are in the county. There is little of the urban here but the countryside in all weathers and guises is wonderfully caught in these graphic images. This is a quality production of a series of pictures that can not be too highly recommended. Next year’s Christmas present for friends and exiles is here.

SAXILBY & DISTRICT HISTORY GROUP. Step back in time: Saxilby cum Inglesby, Lincolnshire. The Group, 2005. [4]; 106pp. No ISBN. £110 pbk (or £12.50 by post from Mrs J. Howis, 3 Chapel Yard, Saxilby, Lincoln LN1 2HD — cheques made out to ‘History of Saxilby Group’).

Yet another place receives the pictures and captions treatment. But this is a good deal more than that. The pictures are fine, especially where the Saxilby Group have made use of the large landscape format; the captions are informative and carefully dated. But there is also a continuing narrative surrounding the photographs and it proves to be well written and researched, making it a highly readable account of the last 100 years or so, all supported by a time-line and maps. The History Group have done their village proud.

SKELLS, Della. Gosberton public hall, 1872-2005. The author, 2006. 34pp. No ISBN. £3.50 pbk (or £4 by post from the author, 33 Lowgate, Gosberton, Spalding PE11 4NL). An unusual approach to the study of local history — not based on a big house, the church or castle, but the village hall. A good range of local papers, parish council records and personal memoir all add up to an interesting view of Gosberton life in the last 130 years or so. A good deal of that life has centred on the hall built by public subscription; its difficulties are highlighted. Problems of youth behaviour are nothing new; the building was not designed to have toilets or kitchen and in a village — like so many others — that had no running water or electricity one boggles that at the opening event 800 people were served tea. The editing might have been tighter but this is a recommendable piece of work.

SMITH, Liz. Our Betty: scenes from my life; with illustrations by the author. Simon & Schuster, 2006. viii, 227pp. ISBN 0 7432 8533 6. £14.99 hbk. The title conceals the memoirs of the well-loved film, theatre and TV actress, seen recently in the repeats of The Vicar of Dibley, where she plays the part of Mrs Copley, noted for her exotic recipes. She was born in Scunthorpe but, when she was two, lost her mother in childbirth (and also the sister-to-be). Deserted by her father her grandparents brought her up in their loving household. The descriptions of childhood are lively and full of fascinating detail — she has a wonderful memory for dresses, their colours and materials even from her pre-school days but also her other surroundings (sweet shop, school teachers, playmates, etc).

After school when the war broke out she joined the ‘WRENS’ (as she continually styles the service) and served in Egypt, India and Ceylon. After the war she married and used her grandmother’s legacy to buy a house in London doing a variety of jobs to earn a living. At one point she slipped into improvisatory acting but nothing came of it in terms of a long-term career. She moved to a house on the edge of Epping Forest and brought up two girls by herself when her husband left her. Again she took up many menial jobs to keep them going but always hankering to be in the theatre. After many auditions and rejections she got a part in a play when she was already nearly fifty; her career began to take off; the last pages are taken up with accounts of the films and TV programmes she has been part of when she hit the big time. She is, of course, still much in demand especially for her comic talent as grandmother figures. This book’s subtitle gives a clue to its procedures. It reads as if the author has jotted down bits of memoir and her many drawings in between gaps in her daily life. The result is entertaining but it does not flow in a straight chronological sequence and can seem disjointed. One is left with questions one would like to ask and for which the book does not give an-
svers.
Many of the photographs here are over a hundred years old and are supplemented by modern photos (in colour). The text and the guided walk are ideal both for the visitor or the local who has not seen all that is on offer. With this in hand no reader can leave the city without being better informed and having seen a variety of sights previously ignored or bypassed, without understanding their significance. It is bang up to date with its references to The Collection. A couple of misprints in the note on Tennyson hardly detract from the overall excellent impression of much readable information in its pocket format.
Books recently published or notified since the last edition of Lincolnshire Past & Present


BROWNLOW, Robert. A South Kesteven round: a continuous walk of 130 miles (210 km) around South Kesteven. The author, 2006. 101pp. ISBN 0 9551752 0 8 (or 978 0 9551752 0 5). £7.50 pbk (post free from the author, 4 Glen Road, Castle Bytham, Grantham NG33 4RJ).


DEAR, Valerie. Ruskington: what used to be? [The author 2006]. [40] pp. No ISBN. £5.50 pbk (or £ by post from the author, 3 Cross Keys Yard, Sleaford NG34 7DH).


GASTON, Peter. Old men's dreams, young men's visions: being the further


HALL, Sandra and HALL, Tom. Quadrangle: a different view. The authors, 2006. 32pp. No ISBN. (Quadrangle Booklet, no. 3). £2.50 pbk [or £3 by post from the authors, 21 Barchams Lane, Quadrangle PE11 4FX).


IMBER, Howard. Boy in Barkston. The author, 2006. 47pp. No ISBN. £5 pbk (or £5.60 by post from the author, 1 Longcliffe Road, Grantham NG31 8DU - all income is split between Barkston Church and Village Hall funds). A supplement updates the account and costs an extra 20p.


Both of these booklets are available at the Heritage Centre attached to the Cottage, East Road, Navenby and/or Sleaford Information Office, Carre Street, Sleaford NG34 7TW.


Paul, Brian, and others. Hand over a plate: the lives and families of the Vicar of Wasington and Isabella Smith; researched, recorded and photographed by Brian, Jenny and Richard Paul. The authors, [2006]. 48pp. No ISBN. £2.50 spiral bound (postage extra from the authors, Marssett, Maisey Lane, Fleet, Spalding PE12 8NH - all proceeds go to Holbeach Hospital Appeal).


VOSE, Pearl M. Nettleham yesteryears. The author, 2005. 84pp. No ISBN. £7.50 pbk (€9.25 by post (post free to LIAH members) from the author, 2 The Crescent, Nettleham, Lincoln LN2 2BN).


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