Inside:
- Steeton’s treasure
- The breastbone of a Christmas goose
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- Notes & Queries: mystery mill; pacifist farming; Grantham characters
- New books
One of the last signs on the Red Lion, Boston (Woodwards store since 1960s). The Guild of St Mary had a lodging house there before it became an inn.

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Lincolnshire Past & Present Editors: Hilary Healey, Ros Beavers
Reviews Editor: Ray Carroll, Production Editor: Ros Beavers
Contributions to the next Bulletin and the Spring 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 illustration: The eleventh century chancel arch, St Andrew’s Church, Stewton
Back cover illustration: A swan on the Fossdyke Navigation in Lincoln
Winter 2006/7

Another new year, another issue of Lincolnshire Past & Present, albeit a short one! Though I did encounter snow on the Pennines on New Year's Day, winter here has hardly been winter so far, except for some weird freezing fog just before Christmas. Defrosting the car windscreen was easy — it just came off in sheets of ice.

Did anyone attempt to make the chocolate and beetroot cake from the recipe published in the Autumn edition? Presumably if you did, it was a scaled-down version! I confess to not having tried it out yet, but have no excuse now, having acquired lots of chocolate over Christmas plus Woodlands Farm have delivered several small beetroot in their organic vegetable box this week. I will let you know how it turns out. By the way, try scrubbing the beet and roasting them in oil — very nice with roast lamb, beef or duck.

As mentioned in LP&P 65 we are looking forward to the publication of Professor John Simons’ study of swans, but I recently read in the Independent On Sunday (31 December 2006) that, owing to mild winters and conservation laws, the number of swans is rising so rapidly that anglers have formally asked for them to be culled. Fortunately ministers have said that they are powerless to act because swans are the Queen’s property and protected from culling by law. This article seems to contradict fears about bird flu, and other mystery illnesses that have affected our Brayford swans.

The article also included a recipe for ‘a medieval way to roast a swan’. The ingredients are: One swan (with giblets); lard; salt; broth; toasted breadcrumbs; ginger; galangal; red wine vinegar. The method begins: ‘Wash him, & do on a spit & lard him fair & roast him well...’

Having written the review on The Tony Ford story in the last edition of the magazine, I went in October to Lincoln City’s game against Rochdale with my copy for Tony Ford to sign. Mr Ford, who hails from Grimsby, is Rochdale’s assistant manager. I waited for him after the match and he was very pleasant but it was a bit embarrassing as we had just beaten them seven-one!

Michael Wright, who was Rector of St Andrew’s, Stewton, between 1962 and 1973, has written an interesting illustrated account of the church for this edition, and we also bring you a nostalgic article on the Nottingham Evening Post in Grantham by Peter Stevenson, together with some more Notes & Queries plus original documents, including Ethel Rudkin on what to do with the breastbone of a Christmas goose. We look forward to your comments in the Spring issue.

Disappointingly no one has as yet felt inspired by my neighbourhood pictures printed in LP&P 65 to send in any of their own. Perhaps next time?

Meanwhile, we at Lincolnshire Past & Present wish you a good and successful new year.

Ros Beevers, Joint Editor
One hundred and sixty years ago the Archdeacon of Lincoln, Henry Bonney, was strenuously engaged inspecting one by one 526 churches in the part of the Lincoln Diocese where he had been appointed Archdeacon the previous year. His written reports on each church were edited by the late Canon Norman Harding and published as Bonney’s Church Notes.

St Andrew’s Church in the parish of Stewton, four miles from Louth, was one of the fifteen churches inspected by the Archdeacon on 7 August 1846. Harding commented that Bonney must have been a man of ‘great energy and endurance’ since, although then in his 60th year, he must have travelled at least 30 miles on that day.

At Stewton, Bonney described the details as he saw them: the Perpendicular window in the nave, a brick bell niche on the west gable with a cracked bell, the brick floors, the damp chancel and the use of brick in recent repairs to the walls.

His attention was naturally caught by the ‘good Norman’ chancel arch, a principal feature of the church, making no reference to the Saxon fragments that have survived, and a stone cylindrical font ‘going straight down to the floor.’ The west window, he noted, had a wooden frame and reports that the new Rectory was nearly completed.

One may trace the stages of restoration through which this ancient church has passed since Bonney’s inspection:

A fortunate failure
In August 1866 the Louth based architect, James Fowler, produced drawings for a total rebuilding of the church. Valuable traces of the earlier Saxon work would, it may be assumed, disappear.

The Norman chancel arch would be taken down and reset on the north side of the chancel to form the opening to a vestry. The new chancel arch and all the windows would be gothic in design. Only the overall dimensions would be the same. Fowler planned for Stewton what would be a new church. Fortunately his plans were laid aside and no action was taken.

The chancel
The necessary works arising from
Bonney’s inspection began to be tackled nearly 50 years after his visit. In 1895 the recently instituted Rector, Robert Thomas Deakin, engaged the Louth architect, Reginald Henry Fowler (James Fowler’s son) to supervise the restoration of the chancel.

The damp noticed by Bonney, was evidently still there, so the work sought to prevent the ingress of rain water by the provision of a new roof, guttering, satisfactory drainage and restored stone work. A new east window, not in gothic style, was built. Inside, a new tiled floor replaced the old bricks and the area was replastered and colour washed.

The stone altar
It was also proposed that the stone altar, not present when Bonney visited, should be refixed: stone columns were to replace the ‘rough hewn’ stones on which it had been standing.

When the Chancellor, Walter G. F. Phillimore, saw the mention of a stone altar in the Petition for a Faculty, he wrote to the Rector: ‘I want to know more about the stone altar... when and in what circumstances was it put in originally?’

The Chancellor would be aware of earlier difficulties over stone altars. The Rector replied that it had been placed there by his predecessor, Thomas Bowen. The faculty was granted.

The origin of this altar stone is not known. Peysner considered that it might have come from the ruins of Louth Abbey or from Legbourne Priory. It is perhaps a more likely hypothesis that it was the original stone altar of this church, being in scale with the dimensions of the chancel.

In that case it would have been taken from this church in November 1550 when the Council of Edward VI ordered bishops to have all stone altars removed. Stewton’s altar stone is somewhat damaged, being slightly chipped at the edges. This might suggest that it had been laid aside, perhaps out of doors for some time.

The royal order followed the initiative of Nicholas Ridley, the Bishop of London, at his Visitation in May 1550, when he required all stone altars to be removed from his Diocese.

The previous year he had served as a ‘compiler’ of Cranmer’s First English Prayer Book in which the word ‘altar’ is consistently used. The second prayer book (1552) being more inclined to the protestant position, is careful to refer throughout to the ‘Table’.

Ridley may have felt uncomfortable with reference in the 1549 book, with which he had been involved, and sought to make his position clear. He would feel, as did many reformers, that a stone altar suggested the questioned doctrine of Eucharistic sacrifice.

In the early 19th century the provision of stone altars was again raised when the Cambridge Camden Society, in its restoration project of the Round Church of St Sepulchre in Cambridge, provided one—only to be ordered later to remove it by the Court of Arches.

By the later decades of the 19th century the provision of stone altars was no longer at the forefront of controversy and no doctrinal significance was attached to their provision. Bonney, even in 1866, found stone altars in eight of the churches he inspected and noted at Gedney that one had been erected by a lay rector ‘with no superstitious intentions’. The nave
In 1902 the work of restoration moved on. Reginald Fowler tackled the nave, as he had the chancel, providing a new roof, rain water goods and a new floor. He
The stone altar.

carefully preserved the chancel arch and other fragments that date from the 11th century — a slit light, the blocked north doorway.

He closed the outer doorway of the south porch to create a vestry. A new porch, with a round window above it, was built into the west wall. A new font (donated by Mrs Norton) replaced the cylindrical one that Bonney had written about. All the windows were re-glazed.

The following year oak pews were installed and an oak cover for the new font. A lych gate was built at the entrance to the churchyard, and an old stone St Andrew’s cross, possibly a former churchyard cross, was built into the outside of the east wall.

During the years that Robert Deakin was Rector the greater part of the restoration of the church was carried out, leaving it much as it is today. A later incumbent, Samuel Healey, obtained a faculty in 1922 authorising works specified by Sir Charles Nicholson: the provision of a screen with doors under the chancel arch, a rood beam and figures above it, riddle posts and a dorsal for the altar, and an ambry in the east wall.

Probably for financial reasons none of this work was carried out, except for the ambry.

The building has continued to be well cared for during the later years of the 20th century. Electric lighting was installed in 1961 and the walls lime washed. More recently the buttresses have been underpinned, the organ improved, and kitchen facilities provided in the vestry.

NOTES
1 In addition to Stewton, on 7 August 1846 Bonney inspected Alvingham, Cockerington St Leonard, Cockerington St Mary, Coniscliffe, Coverham St Bartholomew, Covenham St Mary, Fulstow, Grainthorpe, Grimsby Parva, Kel-lington, North Somercotes, South Somercotes, Skidbrooke, Yarborough.
2 Rectors of Stewton at this time: Thomas Bowen (1882-93), Robert Thomas Deakin (1893-1908), Reginald Delby (1909-18), Robert Willan (1918-20), Samuel Healey (1920-32).
3 In every church or chapel a convenient and decent table, of wood, stone or other suitable material shall be provided for the celebration of Holy Communion… *The Canon of the Church of England* F2 (1977).

Sources
DID YOU SAVE THE BREASTBONE OF THE GOOSE YOU ROASTED AT CHRISTMAS?

If so, you can clean and dry it and use it to forecast the occurrence of storms and bad weather for the coming three months. The bone will be discoloured and can be read according to the diagram — Mrs Ethel Rudkin recorded this. It was handed down to her through several generations and was originally from Hemingby.

WILLOUGHTON, LINCOLNSHIRE
THE BREAST-BONE OF A CHRISTMAS GOOSE

The weather for the three winter months, 21st December to 21st March, can be foretold from the breastbone of a Christmas goose. When this bone has been picked clean of meat after cooking there will be a certain amount of discoloration apparent — shown by stippling in the drawing.

\[\text{The Breast bone of a Christmas Goose, 1939.}\]

This indicates storms and bad weather. The bone is ‘read’ from the fore end, beginning with 21st December. According to this reading storms were to deepen about the beginning of February, and to continue until March.

The bone is in my possession, and was carefully saved and ‘read’ by Mr. H., the estate carpenter here. He learned about it at Hemingby, Lincoln, where he was apprenticed, and his ‘boss’ there had learnt it from the old man to whom he was apprenticed, and so on, back through the generations. It has always been accounted the most correct forecast.

ETHEL H. RUDKIN
Evening Papers

News distribution in the early 20th century

Peter Stevenson

My grandfather, George Stevenson 1874-1942, was a 'gentleman journalist' of the old school. If he had a motto, it would surely have been: 'Nothing but the facts and no sensationalism'.

In spite of his later skills in reporting, couched in impeccable English, together with a sound knowledge of current affairs, his origins had been humble. Born in a working-class area of Mansfield Woodhouse, his grandfather had been a stocking frame knitter and his father a builder.

As yet we have not been able to retrace his early educational background, but it would appear that he joined the Nottingham publishing firm of Formans around 1880 and worked up to be cub reporter.

By the 1890s his abilities were rewarded by his appointment as assistant to the manager of the Nottingham Guardian and Evening Post branch in Grantham.

A respected member of the Grantham community

with the promise of promotion to branch manager when the latter retired.

This materialised in the mid 1890s and George Stevenson quickly became a respected member of the Grantham community, a position he retained throughout the early decades of the 20th century until his retirement in the first years of the Second World War.

Today, with 24-hour, wall-to-wall, on-the-spot news casting on TV, radio, and even one's PC and mobile phone, it is difficult to imagine how the man in the street kept aware of the world about him in the days before all these mods were invented.

Of course there were newspapers.

Newspapers were the only source of news

The newspapers of a century or so ago fulfilled a rather different function than those of today. Until the arrival of the 'wireless' in the early 1920s and the cinema newsreel in the 1930s, newspapers were the only source of news beyond word of mouth.

My hometown had a rather privileged position in the communications network of the country. Astride the Great North Road, Grantham was also a major junction on the East Coast Main Line. It had its own weekly paper, which was avidly read when it appeared each Friday.

But the dailies that came into the town by rail commanded the greater morning readership. The morning papers were dominated by the national press arriving from London in the early hours, collected from the station, and distributed by newspaper boys in much the same way as they are today.

However, Grantham was in direct rail connection with Nottingham, which boasted its own morning and evening papers, both of which carried Grantham news, hence the Grantham branch office. The Nottingham Guardian similarly came in by rail in the early morning and was collected by another lot of boys who took the copies down to my grandfather's office. Some were then taken to newsagents and others were delivered to individual homes.

This was all done with a modicum of decorum, since my grandfather would not tolerate noisy behaviour.

For the time he paid his boys well and to work for him was much appreciated by those families whose meagre incomes were significantly added to by their sons' pay. This was no 'pocket money' job.

Whereas the distribution and delivery of the morning's papers was generally a fairly quiet and orderly affair, the same could rarely be said about the arrival of the Nottingham Evening Post!

Essentially the difference was that the morning reader either had no time to read the morning's news before he had to go to work or he was otherwise free to digest the news in a more leisurely manner.

The evening reader on the other hand had just left work and was keen to catch up with the day's events, to find out how much he had won or lost on the gee gees, to find out how we were doing in the Test Match, as well as hearing the latest scandal.

When it came to the reporting of local news, my grandfather would compose his 'copy' for the day and phone it through to his opposite number on the news desk at Nottingham. By midday this would be on the presses and the 'First Edition' would be rolling by early afternoon.

The copies for Grantham would be bundled up and taken down to the nearby Victoria Station and put on the train. The first batch of boys would have collected the 'wheels' from the office on London Road and hurried them up to Grantham Station to await the incoming train.

By prior arrangement with the guard, his van would be halted immediately opposite the goods
entrance and the bundles hurled out by porters onto the platform. Grabbed by the boys and loaded on to the wheels they would be rushed across the road.

Desperate measures would be needed to hump the wheels and their heavy load up the steep steps opposite the station and into the street beyond. Flat out now, the boys raced the papers past St John’s Church and down the steep incline that led down to the main London Road.

Equally desperate braking and steering was then needed to negotiate the sharp bend at the bottom if the papers—and the boys—were not to be hurled into the path of the Great North Road traffic. A hundred-yard final dash would get them to the office, where even more pandemonium broke out immediately.

Eager hands broke open the bundles. Smaller bundles were made up for the local newsagents and sent off on the wheels. Waiting cars took other bundles out to the villages. Waiting “at the slips” were boys who would take further quantities into the streets.

Each one, given his quota, with a poster tied round his waist bearing the headline of the edition, would dash off at speed. “Paper! Paper!” he would shout at the top of his voice, together with the headline. As readers jostled round him grabbing papers and thrusting their pennies into his hand, the paper seller would curse the customer who tendered a ‘bob’ or, worse still, a ‘two-bob’ coin, which caused much fumbling for change, losing valuable seconds to other boys!

Throughout all this my grandfather would be shouting orders in all directions, his daytime composure gone to the winds. At times he was even heard to use a swearword or two—unheard of at other times of the day.

As the cries of the newspaper boys receded into the distance, a measure of calm was restored in the office and the mess tidied up. Then, one at a time, the boys would return, breathless and triumphant, clutching their pennies, three-penny “joecys”, “tanners” and “bobs”. These were carefully counted out and each boy’s commission handed over.

The piles of coins would build up. The denominations would be separated into rolls of coins wrapped in squares of newsprint and sealed with a dab of sealing wax ready for taking to the bank the next day. My grandfather made up his account books and counted the number of unsold copies. By about 7pm his assistants and his boys would have left and, after his evening meal, off he would go to report on some committee meeting or other, the ‘gentleman journalist’ once more.

Two expressions of the time are worthy of recall. The term “stop press” is used to indicate some state of immediacy rather than in its original context. In those days, when some news item broke suddenly, the presses were literally stopped while new copy was composed and fed to the presses. Again, most front pages had a column

Saturday night’s paper caused even more mayhem

space where a “hot” news item could be overprinted if necessary. Very often these items were the ones used by the newspaper boys in their street cries.

Sometimes the news was sufficiently “hot” to justify the printing of a special edition, which could hit the streets at any time of the day. Boys would be called to the office and out they would go shouting “Speshall! Speshall!” causing another frenzy of activity.

Saturday night’s paper caused even more mayhem. In addition to all the usual day’s news, there would be the racing, football, cricket and other sporting results. The normal edition of the Post

would carry a résumé but Formans went so far as to produce a special Football Post printed on yellow paper, which doubled the weight of the boys’ load (and their income) that night.

Then, suddenly, the battle of the evening papers broke out! To my grandfather’s dismay and anger, it was announced that Nottingham was to have a rival evening paper. What is more, the new Evening News was going to open a Grantham office, complete with its own reporters and distribution arrangements. Furthermore its office was to be positioned nearer to the centre of town and could possibly use a shorter route from the station. As a result the News could well be in the hands of the public before the Post.

Fights broke out between the rival newboys before, during and after the arrival of the train whose guards had to carry bundles of both papers. Then the race was on to reach the respective offices and the streets of Grantham first.

Phase two of the battle commenced when the News, no doubt having carried out some time and motion study, decided to cut their floor-to-floor time by dropping the railway and using fast cars to carry their editions direct from their Nottingham pressrooms to their Grantham office.

This apparently worked only too well and Formans were forced to do the same. Things came to a head when the police stepped in and charged several drivers with speeding and dangerous driving charges following accidents.

As a result of all this, the evening newspaper reading public in Grantham divided their allegiance between the rather more staid and trusted Post and the rather racier News. A sort of armed truce came about by the outbreak of the Second World War when both paper and petrol rationing left the general public glad of any newspaper that came to hand.
POST CARD COLLECTABLES

Collecting postcards is a pleasant hobby. Mr Kemp of Woodhall Spa has kindly sent us copies of two that he has recently purchased. They are shown here in black and white. If other readers have interesting local post cards they would be most welcome too.

Recently I purchased a couple of old photos that you may find interesting, or not, as the case may be!

The Jew’s House one is dated 1915, sent to a Mrs Dove. It was apparently a hosiery shop belonging to a T. Bassett. I wonder what the remnants of plasterwork above the front door originally said. The letters T E E P are visible. The second photo is of the maze at Alkborough. It appears to be dated 1932, I think.

J. H. Kemp

POTTERHANWORTH WATER TOWER

Potterhanworth water tower was built in 1903 and was converted in 1995 to a house. What is particularly unusual about it is that the former water tank itself has been converted into living space.

The tank had a capacity of 37,000 gallons, filled from an artesian bore, 150 feet deep, in a nearby field. The tank was sited on top of a two-storey building with two rooms that were used for Parish Council meetings and for the Men’s Institute. It later provided space for other activities, including the Home Guard platoon.

It was financed by the Christ’s Hospital Endowment. A 16th century philanthropist, Dr Richard Smith, founded Christ’s Hospital in Lincoln. He had land interests in Potterhanworth and his coat of arms is on the face of the brickwork.

The tower was declared redundant in 1978 and has been tastefully converted to its new use.

Stewart Squires
PACIFIST FARMING AND FORESTRY COMMUNITIES IN LINCOLNSHIRE IN WORLD WAR II

I have written an account of two farming groups of conscientious objectors (located at Collow Abbey Farm and Blensby Grange Farm near Legsby, and at Laurel's Farm in Holton Beckering, near Wragby) in the EAST MIDLAND HISTORIAN, Vol 14, 2004, pp49-63.

At least two other such communities were established in the same area on a similar basis by an organisation called the CHRISTIAN PACIFIST FORESTRY AND LAND UNITS one in Bardney Forest, another in Willingham Forest, and possibly a third at Lissington.

The CPELU itself published a quarterly News Letter, starting in March 1941 and the Bardney Forest branch had its own "Unit Outlook".

Does anyone have copies of these documents and/or memories that could throw more light on CPELU’s activities in Lincolnshire and on any interaction between CPELU and other Christian and non-Christian pacifist groups on the land or in forestry work in World War Two?

Please contact John Makin, 11 Wood Lane, Gedling, Nottingham NG4 4AD. T: 0115 961 8522. E: johnlester@coldkeld.fsnet.co.uk

Justice for all?

Mr Henry Tweed, Solicitor, of Homecast, was Clerk to the Governors of Queen Elizabeth’s Grammar School in the town for many years, and his son, Mr Reginald Tweed, followed him for many more.

In the 1930s the Governors wished to increase their clerk’s salary, but the Lindsey County Council Finance Committee considered his annual salary of £40 was ‘excessive’ and proposed it should be cut to £30.

The clerk collected fees, kept accounts, acted as solicitor, and was much more than a minute secretary. Henry tried to get backing for his rise and wrote to clerks of all secondary schools in the county and beyond. He must have been most gratified by the response as all thought he and themselves were underpaid.

Amongst the Grammar School archive papers referring to this matter, Mr Tweed filed a cutting of the Standard for 19 March 1932, around the time of his campaign.

The heading is noting Lindsey County Council will reduce the rate by eight per cent and that education is expensive but lower than in most counties. The long article contains the following paragraph: ‘Consequently, local government at the matter of salaries in respect of supplementary teachers and he suggested a cut of 10 per cent. He said that the salaries of supplementary teachers ranged between 23s. and 35s. per week and it would not be very creditable to ask them to accept a cut of 10 per cent. He instanced the case of one supplementary teacher who was left with only three shillings after paying for board and lodgings and fares.’

The next paragraph quotes Councillor Spavin, who points out that there was a proposal to increase the salary of the Director of Education from £800 to £1,000. He considered this was starting at the wrong end and he had never agreed to this ‘economy stunt’. He would not support any resolution that increased salaries at the top and reduced them at the bottom.

Bully for Councillor Spavin. There is no record here of any resolutions passed at that meeting or whether Mr Tweed got his rise.

CHAIRMAN IN NEW YEAR HONOURS LIST

Congratulations are due to SLHA Chairman Pearl Wheatley who has been made an MBE for services to Lincolnshire Heritage. Pearl, who says she likes to ‘put pressure on to get things done’, has been a member of the Society under its various names for 50 years altogether. She is also active in civic matters in Lincoln and was an important campaigner for the building of the Collection in the city.

Errata

Production error: In LP&P 65 p6, the final note (5) appended to the article on Boston’s Guild of St Mary was incomplete. The last sentence is in full: “This created the opportunity for Boston Corporation to acquire many of them for good in 1555.” (This is referring to the confiscation of the Guild’s properties under Edward VI in 1552, when they were granted to the Marquis of Northampton. But he was disgraced in 1553 for supporting Lady Jane Grey, thus creating the opportunity for Boston Corporation to acquire them back. Printing error: It has been drawn to our attention that some members’ copies of the magazine were incomplete in that pages 2 and 19 had not printed. We apologise for these errors.
This watermill is said to be at Kirkby on Bain, and presumably the people are the family and/or those who worked there. The only other information with the pictures is a printed version of the mill picture, taken from a magazine or newspaper. Can anyone confirm the location, identify the personnel, or suggest the date?

Hilary Healey
Thanks to John Benson (Lincoln WWII historian and author of “All the King’s Enemies: The remarkable deeds of the Lincolnshire Gunners”) and his contact ex-Sergeant Henry Bunn at Scunthorpe we have established some of the facts and names on the photo, but there are some names missing and I wondered if anyone may be able to complete/confirm the names.

We have already deposited a digital version of this photo with the Lines Life Museum Collection and in due course the original will be deposited with them.

Background:
In April 1939 Conscription was introduced and soon after many Lincolnshire men had already signed up. The photo is of the Officers of Royal Artillery 237th/60th Lincoln Field Regiment and it is thought that the picture was taken during the summer of 1939 on the steps of the Assembly Rooms in Bailgate at a formal occasion - a Ball or a Dinner - for they are all wearing swords.

The people identified so far are:
Rear L-R: Lt Denis “Searcher” Brown, possibly 2/Lt White, 2/Lt Walter E. Pennell, possibly Lt "Gunner" Greenwood, don't know.
Front L-R: Don't know, 2/Lt Harold Anderson, Capt Jack Wright (we think), Major Geoff Peel, don't know, don't know, 2/Lt John Bramley.
The chaps with the medals on the front row are thought to be Regular Army officers (note the medal ribbons). Possibly they were attached to 237 battery - adjutant or something like that, but possibly they might have been guests at whatever function it was.
The Lincolnshire men who signed up after April 1939, many were Lincoln men working in the area. For instance:

1. Geoff Peel had a corn merchants business in Lincoln with his brother.
2. Capt Jack Wright was a partner in Wm. Wright & Son, a well known firm of Lincoln builders.
3. 2/Lt Harold Anderson worked for the insurance company “Ocean Accident & Guarantee Corporation” and was subsequently injured at the Battle of Sidi Rezegh in 1941.
4. 2/Lt Walter E. Pennell was working with his father and uncle at Pennell & Sons Ltd., nurserymen and seed merchant business.
5. There were sporting connections too, Capt Wright was treasurer of Lincoln’s Rugby Club and Lt Brown a rugby playing member.

Regards
Annabel Curle née Pennell daughter of 2/Lt W. E. Pennell
This section aims to include as many short reviews of recently published books as possible: unsigned reviews have been provided by the Reviews Editor. In the bulletin will be found a list of titles newly notified and which, it is hoped, reviews will be provided later. Many of these titles will be found in the Society’s Book Shop, Steep Hill, Lincoln.


The author and his brother left London’s air raids to be billeted with a farmer at Baumber; this Mr Bowser used to carry the boys while asleep down to his barn, where apples were stored—hence the title. This is an enjoyable account of what, in retrospect, seems like an idyllic life on a wartime farm, where rationing seems hardly to exist, there were plenty of countryside pursuits to follow and the village life was full of games, strict schooling and regular church attendance. Saturday jaunts into Horncastle and a fondly remembered teanroom by the river were a special treat as were the occasional visits by his father, a policeman in Brixton. I enjoyed it.


Black and white photographs of the town. Divided into sections—fishing, transport (lots of buses and trams but not a single steam train!), public buildings, street scenes and so on. First issued in 1997 and now reformatted.


£4 pbk.

Not so much a history but a series of reminiscences of the author’s father and life around the Caythorpe railway scene, the three main village estates and associations with the men locally billeted before the Arnhem landings in 1944.


A splendid collection of photographs of some of the county’s fine churches. The author has ranged widely, picking out such gems as Wilksby All Saints and Moorhouses St Laurence as well as better known ones. The book is divided into four longer sections with one short section on the Fen churches of Jephia Pacey. The area around Boston precedes coverage of the Wolds and the churches near the Rivers Steeping and Bain. There are, therefore, no churches on the western or southern sides of the county—plenty of scope for a successor volume! Each page is devoted to a single place, with a main picture of the church, little details of outstanding features and a short text (Pevsner and Thorold are acknowledged). All very attractively set out in fine colour. This pocket sized book should be with all travelling in the county willing to seek out the less familiar; there are, after all, often other delights besides the churches to be found.


No ISBN. Unpriced pbk (by post from Jim Wright, 33 Parker Street, Cleethorpes DN35 8TH).

The author took to his bike after retirement and, following several long distance rides in the UK, he gives here a diary of a tour he made from his home at Little Caister to Venice in 2002, raising funds for the Lindsay Blind Society.

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 6. £7.50 pbk (post free from the author, 4 Glen Road, Castle Bytham, Grantham NG33 4RJ).

The author has very cleverly devised a walk and provides all one needs to follow his routes. Clear maps and instructions, nice drawings and a text interspersed with interesting historical notes on places on or near the path. Pocket-sized and well produced. 


Interesting stories of the wartime experiences of children here, in Canada and Europe, including Germany. Only one reference to the country—a Polish POW who ended up at Horbling and other farms.


Lincolnshire’s greatest soldier (born at Welbourn) – the only
man who ever rose from the ranks to Field Marshall.

ISBN 1 903172 70 5. £3.99 pbk. The children at this Deeping school have been persuaded to describe their views of their school, the village and some aspects of its history. Well produced and illustrated.


This brief booklet commemorates the history of the school that began life as a charity school for 42 children; it then became the Spinning School, since that was what the pupils were taught, only achieving its present name around 1750. It has occupied several places in the town, beginning at Brazenose College site, then a site now occupied by the Grammar School and, from 1873, a new building on St Peter’s Hill to be succeeded by the present new premises in Green Lane. Malcolm Sargent is perhaps the most famous Old Boy.


This is one of two volumes (the other deals with Lincoln’s West Common), which represent versions of what will eventually be a much larger forthcoming publication. That volume will deal with all Lincoln’s commons. This substantial ‘preview’ covers geology, the landscape history and archaeological background, earthworks and a very lengthy discussion. A good bibliography, appendices and maps help to round out the story so far.


This very well-produced book provides a fitting account of the first 100 years of this Lincoln club. The editor has trawled the minute books, found many older black and white pictures (supplemented by many modern coloured ones) and written a readable record of the club’s many ups and downs. All members should salute the producers and will, no doubt, enjoy (again) the jokes in the section on the 19th hole.

HALL, Sandra and HALL, Tom. Quadding: a different view. The authors, 2006. 32pp. No ISBN. (Quadding Booklet, no. 3). £2.50 pbk (or £3.20 by post from the authors, 21 Barhammews Lane, Quadring PE11 4PX).

Two previous booklets were reviewed in the last issue. More old pictures have been found as well as recent ones, including aerial views of the village from the 1980s before all the present new houses were built. For newcomers they will be eye-opening.

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.

Although the author was born and raised in Grantham he spent much of an idyllic childhood at his grandparents in Barkston, here lovingly recounted.


A chance visit to Lincoln Cathedral when he was in his early teens led the author to decide he wanted to be a stonemason rather than a plumber and so he became apprenticed to the Cathedral’s master mason Mr. Higgins. The first part here deals with his life’s work with pictures of the projects he has worked on. The second section is concerned with a history of the Templars. His interest developed from noticing how many masons’ marks were similar to those on buildings associated with the Templars and so he, thought-provokingly, connects the Templars (with a history of their activities across Europe) to the start of freemasonry.


[LORD, Suzanne]. Mrs. Smith’s working life. Navenby, Friends of Mrs. Smith’s Cottage, 2006. 22pp. No ISBN. (Occasional paper, no. 3). 60p. pbk. Both these items are sold at the Heritage Centre at the Cottage, East Road, Navenby - postage extra.

Interesting little well-researched booklets that provide part of the background to the well-known Navenby visitor centre.


Mr Porter was born in Heckington in 1903; at 15 he left school, was apprenticed as a joiner but his desire to travel led, however, to a life in the army. After returning to his native village, during the 1970s, he wrote stories for the village magazine, dealing with his
service life, the local scene and people. His daughters have now collected them up and given them a deserved new life in this well illustrated little book.

SARGEANT, Marjorie. Woodhall Spa & the world, 1885-1890 in the “News”. Woodhall Spa Cottage Museum, 2006. 144pp. ISBN 0 9546443 1 X. £9 pbk (or £11 by post from Mr D. Hill. “Silver Trees”, Horncastle Road, Woodhall Spa LN10 6UX). The author has trawled the first pages of The Horncastle News and South Lindsey Advertiser, which first appeared on Saturday 5 September 1885.

Week by week she has transcribed the local news from the area, largely between Woodhall Spa (then really beginning to be a tourist resort and spa) and Horncastle, but also interspersed with the London and foreign news that would not have reached the outback of Lincolnshire in the days before the rise of the popular penny press.

The result is a fascinating picture of the times, not least the contrast between the local and more national and political features.

I was tempted to pick out items that reveal how things have changed - the Channel Tunnel Co. deciding in December, 1887 that the “Tunnel would be constructed at no distant date” (p. 68); of the Boat Race “interest diminishes yearly” in 1888 (p. 75); 6 ships lost off the British Isles during the week ending 10 October 1885 with 13 lives lost, bringing the total wrecks for the year to 902, compared with 1149 the previous year (p. 19); the figures for deaths and injuries on our railways in 1885 reached 997 dead and 7022 injured for 1885 (p. 34); and, an early example of a proposed football match at Lincoln’s John o’ Gaunt’s Ground in February, 1889 “by the aid of Nell’s light and 12 Illuminators” (p. 99) - we are not told if it happened or the result.

The reporters did not always get it right though; Lord Tennyson did not own the ship Stella (p. 57); he rented it from his friend Sir Allen Young; and Liszt’s reported visit to England was not his first since appearing “as an infant phenomenon 62 years ago” (i.e. in 1824); he toured in 1840 and 1841, playing a concert at Boston’s Assembly Rooms in the later year.

It is a pleasure to read a book so well proof-read and printed though the index is a little hit and miss and the sources for the pictures would have been useful too. Recommended.


The authors have both been associated with research over many years into the history of the Car Dyke. They very honestly say that they can not yet provide the answers to the questions that have been posed over many years; when was it created? who by? and, what for?

Probably Roman but not yet conclusively proved, its function is not properly understood and may well not be unless a good deal of further archaeological excavation reveals more data. A very useful and well illustrated summary of our present knowledge.

VOSE, Pearl M. Nettleham yester-years. The author, 2005. 84pp. No ISBN. £7.50 pbk (£9.25 by post (post free to SLHIA members) from the author, 20 The Crescent, Nettleham, Lincoln LN2 5SW).

Each page is devoted to well produced black and white photographs of scenes and people in the village with informed captions that help to build up a very worthwhile impression of what the place was like to live and work in around 100 years ago. Some of the illustrations are older than that, especially those connected with the Hood family, who owned Nettleham Hall. The author has had access to a fine array from the family’s collection and the final outcome deserves every success for a quality production.


This is an odd collection of brief articles on the good and not so good of Lincoln, arranged in a roughly chronological sequence. It begins with the Knights Templars and ends with Percy Grainger and folksong singers (not Lincoln at all), Dr Francis Willis and Marwood, the hangman, are also fitted in along with many others, including James Ward Usher, George Boole, Dr Mansell Symons, Joseph Ruston, Chad Varah and Dr Charlesworth.

It is a chatty book (in the better sense), which will provide interest and amusement to its readers.


The author retells the gruesome histories of some of the county murderers from 1805 (Tom Otter, of course) to a case at Barton on Humber in 1969. There are 8 cases from the nineteenth century, 6 from the last and a miscellany of short accounts of other cases. The Holbeach case of 1932 is included where Sir Bernard Spilsbury’s evidence saved the defendant and it was decided that the dog could have caused the guilt to fire. There is a wide range of types of murder and full accounts of the cases. They make lively reading; full sources are provided and there are lots of drawings and photographs.

The author tried to research a Gloucestershire family (named Soul) which lost five sons in WW1. He failed to find enough material for a book but a lucky stroke led to his locating material on a similar family in Lincolnshire. During the 1914-1918 War eight sons of the Beggley family from Pinchbeck served in the forces. The letters they wrote were still in a suitcase kept by their younger sister, Edie and serve as the backbone to this retelling of the war’s horrors. Five brothers failed to return and are buried in Flanders, France and East Africa – the boy who served at Gallipoli survived that conflict. Their father, the Rev. P.W.T. Beggley served the church in Pinchbeck and at Friesthorpe with Snaith. There were 14 sons and daughters born between 1877 and 1890, all but one surviving into adult life. When diagnosed with cancer the rector had to give up his living and all that could be afforded was a two-up, two-down house in Avondale Street, Lincoln where their father died in 1912. Pevsner only devotes five lines to Friesthorpe and does not mention the memorial tablet to the rector’s five sons; Arthur Mee, who could have been relied on to discuss the memorials and the stories they reveal, never visited.


This publisher offers another excellent small book giving a wide-ranging and authoritative introduction to a subject, which must be of interest to local historians in Lincolnshire. It provides an overview of the origin and development of windmills in England from the twelfth century to the present day, together with a summary of how the various parts work. There are also sections on drainage mills and industrial uses of wind power. The book’s usefulness is enhanced by a glossary, a ‘further reading’ list and an extensive list of mills that can be visited together with contact details for each.

Within the compact format, which manages to encompass the entire country, Lincolnshire mills receive a number of mentions. A photograph of Alford 5-sail mill is captioned as ‘the peak of English windmill technology’! The ‘mills to visit’ section lists 11 mills in the historic county of Lincolnshire, a number exceeded only by Cambridgeshire and Norfolk, both with 12. The book is lavishly illustrated with colour photographs, which demonstrate well the points made in the text. It is a very useful publication and well worth its modest price.

Catherine Wilson, Reepham

AN UNFORTUNATE ERROR led to the incorrect address being given in the last issue of Lincolnshire Past & Present for the new booklet on RUSKINGTON PREPARED BY MRS VALERIE DEAR. Those wishing to acquire a copy should contact the author at 7 Millers Close, Sleaford, NG34 7WG.