Lincolnshire Past & Present
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Lincoln Cow Paddle
L’Epoque de Worth—Lincolnshire origins

Notes & Queries
— Kirkby on Bain Watermill • Lincoln’s Medieval Theatre
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Contributions to the next Bulletin and the Summer issue of Lincolnshire Past & Present are welcome as soon as possible.
Material may be sent to the Joint Editors at Jews' Court, Lincoln LN2 1LJ. Articles may also be sent on disk (Microsoft Word
document) or as an email attachment to lincolncolonia@hotmail.com
Front cover illustration: 'Reconstruction' of Branston Sheepwash by David Hopkins
Back cover illustration: Detail of the weather vane, Spalding Gentlemen's Society headquarters and museum in Broad Street,
Spalding
Spring greetings to all our readers.

As usual we have a variety of topics on offer, from a down to earth community archaeology project at Branston to the Lincolnshire origins of an exotic high fashion establishment in Paris.

The various contributions, together with some enquiries, which I have recently been pursuing, bring me to the topic of place-names, especially minor place-names. We are very lucky in the county that the late Professor Kenneth Cameron completed his *Dictionary of Lincolnshire Place-names* as the first in what was a new venture for the English Place-name Society.

In addition to principal names of towns, villages and rivers he includes many of the smaller settlements in the county, which do not appear in the national dictionaries. I remember being very pleased to find Hubberts Bridge in there, as the only explanation previously offered was an antiquarian one about a Dane called 'Hubba', which really did not fit. But it is nice to see local words like Sheepwash and Cowpaddle surviving.

Finally, just a reminder that all contributions from our writers are their responsibility, and any opinions and conclusions offered are not necessarily those either of the editors or of the society.

*Hilary Healey, Joint Editor*
Story of A Community Dig
Branston Sheepwash Uncovered

"Whilst more television programmes bring archaeology into our living rooms the irony is that opportunities for the 'amateur' archaeologist to participate in a 'dig' are increasingly limited" writes Jennifer Jackson

The wooden box emerging

For years Branston's former sheepwash remained uncovered and generally unknown in a car park in the centre of the village, until multi-agency support for an enhancement scheme for the car park made an archaeological dig of the sheepwash a possibility.

Thus it was that with the expertise of APS (Archaeological Project Services) to guide us, the residents of Branston joined in on a very enjoyable if cold community dig on 5th and 4th February 2006.

Before beginning the dig an analysis of Branston parish minutes from the late 19th and early 20th century had already revealed that the sheepwash from its beginning in 1896 was an area of constant concern for the Parish Council and particularly its 'Washdike Committee', whose meetings were dominated by how it was to be cleaned, maintained and administered.

One of the main responsibilities of the Washdike Committee was the election of a Caretaker, who was instructed according to the minutes of 18th May 1899 not to "...let the sheepwash to any person before the day to which the washing is to be done, but that the rule be 'first come, first serve...'. Mr Knott, a 'Shoemaker' and Branston's first appointed caretaker, was also charged with "...keeping the sluice in his possession and giving authority for the use of the dyke, keeping an account of the same in a book provided for the purpose..."

A salary of ten shillings per annum was provided for Mr Knott in 1896 and never increased with the succession of 6 other caretakers, with the final caretaker, Mr Claydon, still being paid the same salary from 1934 to 1948. In contrast, charges for washing the sheep did rise between 1896 and 1933 with always a distinction between Branston residents and 'outsiders' as recorded below:

1896
6d per score for parishioners
8d per score for non-parishioners.

1923
1d a score for outsiders
9d a score for residents and rate-payers

1933
7s 6d per 100 sheep for rate-payers
10 shs per 100 sheep for non-rate-payers

The sheepwash area was also used for other occasions, such as the Branston Feast, when hiring the
sheepwash for roundabouts cost ‘... one pound per week or under...’. Sometimes charges were not always paid as this account of 27 April 1933 indicates:

The Clerk reported the non-payment of 10/- for Hire of Sheepwash on November 11th - 14th 1931 by D Bolton, Peripatetic Amusement Caterer, Skellingthorpe. The account had been rendered and had not been answered nor returned through the post. From enquiries Bolton appears to be reduced to organ grinding.

By the early 1930s with the declining use of the sheepwash by the local farmers minutes record how the sheepwash and its surrounding beck had become more of a cost and eyesore, rather than a vital resource for the village. In October 1931 it was recorded that the Sheepwash was an unsightly and most unsanitary spot in the heart of the village... If by agreement with the farmers the sheepwash could be taken in with the adjoining strip of ground a very nice spot could be made in the centre of the village. It was felt that money could be raised by subscription and donation and used in giving employment to the village to make an ornamental spot.

Further minutes as in October 1933 relate: ‘the rapid fall of income from sheepwashing, the probability of its becoming a liability, and the unsightliness and unsanitary nature of the sheepwash and stream in the heart of the village... Attention was also called to the amount of sewerage received by the stream and the unpleasant smell in... the village.”

Eight farmers nevertheless protested at plans to close the sheepwash and replace it with an ‘ornamental spot’ at the centre of the village which at that time included the radical proposal of the ‘... provision of seats, swings and other ‘amenities for the youngsters...’.

By the early 1940s the demise of the sheepwash was nevertheless inevitable with the report in September 1943 of only one farmer using the sheepwash with an income of 8/3. By March 1947 the rent from the sheepwash had been reduced to 1 shilling balanced against the costs of the caretaker at 10 shillings. The stream and area still being unsanitary, as indicated in the minutes of 5th April 1948 in which the ‘clerk was instructed to ask the Surveyor to the North Kesteven Rural District Council to define whether the stream running through the village was a
The sheepwash became in the 1950s part of a general car park area in connection with the adjacent Wagon and Horses public house.

With such analysis from the parish records much was therefore already known about how the sheepwash had been both an asset and a depleting resource in village life as farming and community needs changed. A public meeting with the archaeologists and Branston residents before the dig disclosed vivid memories from older residents of being pushed into the sheepwash and catching "tiddlers" in it with jam-jars. They also provided APS with accounts of the structures and looked forward to seeing part of Branston's past uncovered.

In true 'Time Team' style the dig began on a cold Friday morning in February with a machine excavation to break up and remove the surface of the former car park, before any hands-on excavation could take place. The real fun began when, under the guidance of APS, the enthusiastic volunteers removed hundreds of buckets of soil and scraped in various levels of mud.

Years 5 and 6 of Branston Junior School and those children who joined the dig on Saturday particularly got to enjoy being in mud and getting dirty, whilst learning interesting things about pots and bones from Rachael Hall and Mark Williams of APS. There was no Tony Robinson around, but we had excellent updates from Rachael, Mark and Dave Start on the finds.

During the excavations substantial and well-preserved remains of the sheepwash were exposed, including the main 'bathing' area for the sheep and what was likely to have been the holding area for them before being plunged into the bathing pool. The most exciting discovery of all was an open wooden box where the sheepwasher would have stood hailing out the sheep once washed, and then pushing them in the direction of the exit channel. A large iron peg attached to one of the capping slabs onto which a chain would have been attached also indicated how, with the use of the chain to control the sheep, they would have been dunked completely under the water before they left the bathing pool.

The dig over, and recorded by APS, the sheepwash was again filled over and will form an essential part of a wider environmental enhancement scheme planned for the car park. Over 70 years after Branston Parish Council first talked about making the central area of Branston and its beck an 'ornamental spot', it is to be a reality.

As many features of the sheepwash as possible will be represented in the ground when the car park is enhanced in 2007. An interpretation board will describe the dig and the background to the story of the sheepwash. Of course, archaeology is about reaching from the past to the present and at a community and individual level this has been achieved. One of the most poignant aspects of the dig was seeing Alan Claydon, son of the last sheepwash caretaker, watching his family past revealed.

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David Boulton of Kirkby on Bain has been making enquiries about the pictures that appeared in LP&P 66 p11. The photographs were taken at the watermill known as Chester's Mill, on the Woodhall to Horncastle road, about a mile out of Woodhall.

Mr W. Spikings of Lockwood Farm, Kirkby, thinks the three central figures in the top photograph (right) are, from left to right, Mrs Mabel Roberts, the baker's wife, who lived at the Mill House; she died only recently at Tattershall, aged over 100 years. The young man in the middle is Cliff Goodwin who was the baker's roundsman, and who lived opposite the mill with his father who was foreman for Chester's. On the right of these three is Mr Roberts (Arthur?) who was the miller and baker for Chester's.

The two outside figures, not wearing white, are apparently visitors being shown around. It is thought that the picture dates to the 1940s or 1950s.
'Exemplary life' began in Lincoln

Submitted 1 February 2007 by Mr Christopher Hodgson
in response to a request in Bulletin 60

67:2 CAROLINE ELIZA DERECOURT MARTYN 1867-1896

Kier Hardie described Caroline Martyn as the leading socialist of her day with a power of intellect and moral force that was unmatched.

Part of her life story is recorded in the Oxford Dictionary of National Biography. A more comprehensive life story is contained in 'The Life and Letters of Caroline Martyn' published in 1899. More recently, a chapter by Krista Cowan about Caroline Martyn was included in Heroic Reputations and Exceptional Lives published in 2000.

Caroline Martyn is remembered in Yorkshire, where a celebration in song and tribute to her were included in the Street Music Festival 2002 at Hebden Bridge. But she was born at the County Police Station, High Street, Lincoln. The original County Police Station was at the junction of Monson Street and High Street, Lincoln. This building still exists, although it has long since been converted to a mix of shops, small offices and flats. The building is registered as being of special local interest but not listed.

Caroline Martyn’s father was a police superintendent in Lincoln and lived at the police station where Caroline was born on 3 May 1867. She lived with the family through her younger years before attending Beaumont House Ladies’ Seminary as a weekly boarder. Beaumont House is located at the junction of Spring Hill and Beaumont Fee. Here again, the building is still standing, although it was converted into flats in the early part of the last century.

Caroline left Beaumont House at the age of 18 to become a governess and later a schoolteacher. In 1891 she took up a post as governess at the Royal Orphanage Asylum in Wandsworth, joined the London Fabian Society and from there established herself as an important influence in the Labour and women’s movements.

Mr Hodgson's interest in the above stems from the property connection. He has an interest in both the former County Police Station and Beaumont House. He would be interested in hearing of the existence of any documents or other memorabilia pertinent to them and also to Caroline Martyn herself.

THE ORIGINAL QUERY IN BULLETIN 60

Adrian Bailey is seeking information on the life and relatives of Caroline Eliza Derecourt Martyn (born 3 May 1867). He says she lived near Lincoln Cathedral towers overlooking the High Street, and attended Beaumont House School before taking up teaching or governess jobs around the UK. [She was a journalist for Christian Weekly, Workman’s Times, and finally editor of Fraternity. She also gave speeches on various subjects and could, on May Day meetings, draw crowds of 12,000. At the time of her sudden death in July 1896 her immediate family were living in Grimsby.]
THE COW PADDLE, LINCOLN 1855
A plan, a cemetery, a boiling copper and a furnace

Dennis Mills

The Cow Paddle is that part of the South Common at Lincoln lying between Tesco's Canwick Road store and the Canwick Road Cemetery. It was probably so named because cow keepers of the lower High Street area (Wigford) pastured their cows on it, favouring the lush grass that grew there because of the area's low-lying position (hence the appellation "paddle"). Even after the Cow Paddle was cut up by railways, cow keepers used it thus, at least down to the inter-war years.

I have recently acquired an original copy of J. S. Padley's 20-inch-to-the-mile plan of Lincoln published in 1851 upon which are some very carefully-drawn manuscript additions over the area occupied by the Cow Paddle (fig. 2). Most eye-catching is the area labelled 'Site of Proposed Cemetery' in almost exactly the position shown on later maps after it was laid out in 1856. Did this mean that the map had belonged to the Lincoln Burial Board, which was responsible for the development of the cemetery? Also on the map is a line A-B running in a series of roughly north-south curves from a point inside the site of the cemetery and on the edge of the old line of Washington Road, to another point at the north-west corner of the Cow Paddle. At point A a high and low water marks have been recorded and a series of measurements can be seen starting at zero at point A and finishing at 29ft 0in (see also fig. 3). These reminded me of a passage in Sir Francis Hill's Victorian Lincoln, in which Mr Freshney, a dissenter, is reported as complaining that the proposed division of the area would put the dissenters' burials 'in the low ground, which was more likely to flood' (p. 160). The recorded water marks were clearly related to the possibility of flooding.

The Minutes of the Burial Board are not to be found, but briefly by Canon Michael Wright, I was able to find my way quickly to the detailed reports appearing in the Lincoln, Rutland and Stamford Mercury held at Lincoln Central Library. On 6 March 1855 a committee of the Board had a learned debate about the soils and geology of several sites on various pieces of land on and near the West Common and on the Monks Leys Common (subsequently The Arboretum site).

An important point was that bodies decompose more quickly in dry sandy soils, than in clay soils. On 17 March the committee assembled again, with only one person missing, to hear the report of Mr William Skill. According to White's 1856 Directory of Lincolnshire he lived at 64 Bailgate, Lincoln, and was a brewer and maltster, as well as a...
copper, and upon the occasion of the last great flood, when the water rose higher than it had done for forty years, the flood rose ... five feet three inches up the wall of the boiler, so that the highest flood level was five feet three inches above the present low water level". Skill then went on to mention some other details, including several other measurements that tally with those on the plan (give or take an odd inch or two).

So there is little doubt that William Skill had used my copy of the plan, which would have become part of the official records of the Burial Board. Its joint clerks were Thurstan George Dale, solicitor, of 3 Saltersgate and William Andrew of Guildhall Street (the founder of the solicitors' practice long known as Andrew, Race, Hill and Mason, the Hill being Sir Francis Hill). The Board ceased to exist in 1906 when Lincoln became a single civil parish and the cemeteries were taken over by the City Council.

Skill went on to point out that the lowest part of the site (near H on fig.5) was nine feet above the high water level, giving a depth of nine feet of soil that would not be flooded. Just below this Mr Mellor had sunk a well to a depth of eight feet through strong sand, 'and although the rain fell into the well it oozed out at the bottom and left the well waterless'. Mr W. Freshney was among those who spoke in favour of the Cow Paddle site, agreeing with Mr Skill that the soil was very suitable for the purpose. When it came to the meeting of the full Board on 19 March (potentially eighty-one members, nine per parish) he went to the trouble of contradicting G. Glazier, who thought water would back up the ditch from the Witham (D on fig. 3). Freshney pointed out that the slope would protect the site, and (Canwick) hill water could be diverted round the site. He seconded the motion in favour of the Cow Paddle, the motion being carried by forty-two votes to twenty-three. So
it was that the City Council came to sell fifteen acres to the Board. The latter diverted Washingborough Road southwards in order that a narrow strip of the Cow Paddle was not left between the road and the boundary of Canwick Park.

White lists W. Freshney as 'reporter' (the only person in Lincoln so described), living at 1 Oxford Street. Reports in the *Stamford Mercury* were not signed at this time, but it seems reasonably certain that Freshney was its Lincoln correspondent and, if so, he must have found it very useful to be a member of the Lincoln Burial Board (and possibly other civic bodies). It is a noteworthy 'fact' that Freshney was a dissenter, since members of the Board were elected by the vestries of the nine Church of England parishes involved in the project.

It was only on 16 June that the Board discussed proposals for the layout of the cemetery and it emerged that some architects favoured having separate chapels, *Episcopalian* (Church of England) and dissenting. Others had argued on the point that a single, larger building would have greater architectural effect. The Rev. J. S. Gibney pressed for separate chapels, but Freshney rebelled against this saying that such a proposal would lead to unwelcome distinctions in death at a time when civil disabilities during life had recently been abolished, thus revealing his dissenting sympathies. One plan in the running for a prize had placed the Church of England chapel at the top of the cemetery and had assigned all the high ground to the Church; another reversed this arrangement. The report of Freshney’s remarks made no mention of water levels, presumably because he had dismissed the subject as settled and therefore now irrelevant. Hill’s comment, which conflates height with flooding, seems to be at variance with this evidence, but Sir Francis may well have had other sources. Also, did Freshney report his own words without bias?

On 12 July, after a great deal of wrangling, designs were adopted for the layout of the cemetery, including those for a pair of semi-detached chapels. These were built with the Episcopalian chapel to the west, the dissenting chapel to the east, and the building was set near the top of the cemetery (figs. 1 and 4). The dividing line in the burial ground runs from north to south through the archway joining the two chapels, the Roman Catholics having a portion at the eastern end of the cemetery within the “dissenting half”.

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**Fig. 3.** Sketch plan based on Fig. 2 with relevant detail enlarged. Key to abbreviations: A and B = limits of traverse; BPC = boundary of proposed cemetery; D = water in ditch; 1ft 5in above datum at A; F8 = Field 8 on 1863 railway plan; H = trial hole made by Mr Mellor; PNT = proposed new turnpike (diversion); TG = toll gate; W = Washingborough; X = spare land sold to Col. Sibthorp of Canwick Hall. The low water level) at A. Map cross near point A shows the position of the boiling copper or furnace. Numbers are feet and inches above the datum (or low water level) at A. Map drawn by Joan Mills.
On 30 July 1856, the bishop, accompanied by a vast number of spectators and supported by the cathedral choir, consecrated the western chapel, as well as the western burial area assigned to the parishes of the established church. Although a photographer is said to have attended, I have not traced any 1856 photographs.

But what was the “boiling copper” mentioned by Skill, or the “furnace” on the plan (fig. 3), apparently both labels belonging to the same object? The reporter may have been responsible for the first label. Skill’s assistant, if he had one, for the second label. Stewart Squires suggested that railway plans might reveal the nature of this object and kindly showed me a copy of the survey conducted in 1863 ahead of the building of the line to Grantham, the curve of which survives in the boundary of Tesco’s car park. Comparison between this plan and Skill’s plan suggests that the furnace stood in the north-east corner of field no. 8 on the railway plan, but the key gives this as “field shed, rocky yard and drain”. Would a shed have contained a furnace or a boiling copper? In 1863 the occupier of field no. 8 was David Coulton or Conlon, probably the David Conlon who appears in Akrill’s 1863 Lincoln City Directory as maltster and brewer of 31-32 Waterside North and innkeeper at 1 Magpie Square, these properties being adjacent.

Such a man would have needed to keep horses for business purposes and fields nos. 8 and 10, reached via the new street called Great Northern Terrace, could have served appropriately, but these details relate to a date eight years later than Skill’s report. A “boiling copper” placed well away from houses would probably be used for some notorious purpose, such as tanning, or producing glue or perhaps “gelatinous soap” from animal bones. Akrill’s 1863 directory does record that Lincoln had a “gelatinous soap manufacturer”.

Suggestions please, on a postcard to the editor!

**Obituary LES GOSTICK 1911-2007**

Les Gostick died on 21 January 2007, after a short illness. He had been a key figure in Sleaford history longer than most people could remember and by the age of 95 was a living repository of information: he had known many of the players in the 20th century. “Ask Les” was a much repeated phrase, particularly from his fellow members of the Sleaford History Group.

For many years Les was warden of Rauceby Warren on behalf of the Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust. And we must not forget his campaign to get water back in the River Slea (see his book for a blow by blow account of his role!). And it is his books that will be Les’s legacy to history. These are: The Story of the People of Ewerby and Haverholme, Our River Slea, The Finches, Hattons, Finch Hattons, The Earls of Winchilsea and Nottingham and Haverholme Estate—Its Farmers and Farming. Les has just completed the first volume of his memories and I understand this will proceed to publication. He was very proud that Lord Winchilsea had The Story of the People of Ewerby and Haverholme typed and bound to give to his friends.

One of Les’s earliest historical memories was of seeing a Zeppelin during War World I. He also remembered as a small boy being transported in the Winchilsea coach, and he told me about a trip with the choir to London, where he ended up acting as a tour guide, and came home having paid for his trip and then some from his tip!

At Sleaford History Group Les and I used to have a little competition. We both knew that people were reluctant to start the questioning of speakers, so it was a matter of being fast off the mark to beat Les in asking the first question to get the ball rolling! I could not, of course, match his immense memory of events during most of the 20th century.

Les will leave a huge gap in Sleaford life—in our local history community, the Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust, Chapel and elsewhere. But we shall remember him, and his books live on.

Michael Turland
While researching a Medieval Cornish play, I came across an odd reference in a book about Medieval English theatre. It described what happened when religious plays began to leave the church in the fifteenth century to be performed outside:

A popular playing-place ... was just outside the city walls, often using moats which had either originally been designed as dry moats or which had been drained of their water later. Such sites were obviously conveniently near the town, and the walls and moat banks could give useful support to platforms, "mansions" and other theatrical structures. One such site was the Broadgate at Lincoln, which was located on the former "wardyke" or protective ditch to the east of the city wall. (p112 Medieval Theatre in Context by John W. Harris, 1992).

The "wardyke" in old maps is located on the site of the Tower Gardens so I immediately thought of the hollow in the Tower Gardens marked on the tourist guides as the old town moat. Here, on the outside of the line of the old town wall, is a large depression in the ground, which now contains some pieces of modern sculpture. Harris does not give a reference to say where he got this information from (presumably either directly from some record of the medieval theatre or via another writer on theatrical history), so I looked through all the local history books I could, but found no reference to a theatre in Broadgate.

The first recorded indoor theatre in Lincoln is in Drury Lane in 1744, though most locals think The Harlequin bookshop at the top of Steep Hill (a gorgeous 15th century half-timbered building) was the first theatre. It used to be called the Theatre Inn as it was often frequented by actors. I visited the Tower Gardens again and noticed that from the south the ditch is narrow

Above: The town moat site in Tower Gardens, taken by the author. The rounded, deepened section that may be the playing place is in the centre of the picture with the sculptures at the bottom. The line of the normal town ditch runs between two trees towards the right.

Right: Sketch plan of Perran "Round" in Cornwall where religious plays were performed in the ancient language of Cornish in Medieval times. Sketch made by William Borlase, an 18th Century Cornish antiquarian, in his Natural History of Cornwall, 1758.
and rather straight for about 20 metres (being about four metres wide and one deep) but as it heads towards the hill it opens up into a deeper and more rounded hollow (about 20-25 metres wide and five metres deep).

I doubt it was a quarry as the best stone for building is the limestone found slightly higher up. Could this have been Lincoln’s theatre? Would people have sat on the bank around while players performed in the centre? In Cornwall there were a series of plen-an-gwary (playing places) where the audience sat on a bank around a circular or oval space about 40 metres wide where players performed religious plays.

It was thought that these structures were unique to Cornwall, but it seems, from medieval writers, that smaller rounds, about 12-15 metres wide, were used in England and the stage plans of one play, “The Castle of Perseverance”, shows it was to be performed in a round.

The town moat hollow in Lincoln is of the right scale and shape so perhaps historians of the theatre have uncovered the reason why this strange hollow can be seen next to the Usher Gallery.

I am not an expert on the medieval theatre but it does explain both the survival and the strange shape of the town ditch in the Tower Gardens.

Perhaps somebody out there can shed a little more light on the history of the Lincoln stage.

Erik Grigg

LOCAL DIVERSION 66
SOLUTION

1

D Sleaford: Cogglesford Mill

2

A Boston: Maids Foster Windmill

3

B Grantham: St Wulfram’s Church— west front: mid 20th century statue of Bishop Hine, a former Bishop of Grantham

4

C Lincoln: Bargate
Shuice built c1960
River Witham/Sinclair Dyke

N&Q 67:4 Cogglesford Mill, Sleaford

At the time of writing (early March), Cogglesford Mill in Sleaford is the subject of an increasingly acrimonious dispute between North Kesteven District Council, its owners, and the Friends of Cogglesford Mill, who have run its event days and kept the mill wheels turning for many years.

The present Cogglesford Mill was built around 1770, with a further floor added in the early 19th century as it benefited from the commercial advantages of the River Slea Navigation.

However, the mill’s history is well documented and extends back to the early 13th century, when it was one of a large number of watermills operating on the River Slea. There is some evidence that it may be the only documented example in England of a ‘sheriff’s mill’ at the centre of a large Anglo-Saxon estate.

Plans are now being advanced to turn a considerable proportion of the mill’s ground floor into a privately run café and retail shop. The Friends are concerned that this will destroy the unique character of the mill and may eventually lead to the end of milling there. If so, Sleaford will no longer be able to boast the only working watermill open to the public in Lincolnshire.

Simon Pawley

Cogglesford Mill, Sleaford, in the early 20th century, with the miller and his family outside. Cogglesford Mill is the only working watermill open to the public in Lincolnshire.
FROM Victorian Lincolnshire TO L'Epoque de Worth IN Paris

Albert J. Schmidt

The pre-demolition clearing of a sprawling estate house in the village of Horbling in the mid-1960s yielded among other things a black lace evening cape with sequins. The consequences of this discovery were decidedly different from the sale of a related garment by the New York auction house of William Doyle Galleries in 2001. The Horbling piece 'sold for very little' while the Doyle gown brought a record sum of $101,500, yet each bore the label of the house of Worth in Paris.

The House of Worth refers, of course, to Charles Frederick Worth, its founder, the celebrated English fashion designer of Second Empire France and 'father of haute couture'. The value of the Doyle piece no doubt reflected both Worth's artistry and reputation as well as the glitzy nouveau riche culture he had tapped. Because Worth had enticed a clientele that included Princess Metternich, the Austrian ambassador's wife, and the Empress Eugenie herself, and because he had won a first prize at the Paris Exhibition of 1855, he became a living legend in what became known as l'époque de Worth.

Indeed, his fame was such that the Worth enterprise was continued by successive generations of the family long after his death in 1895 and even today identifies with ➤

Above: Young Charles Frederick Worth (from Rex Needle, A Portrait of Bourne, Charles Frederick Worth CD-ROM).

Fig 1: Wake House on North Street in Bourne, where Charles Frederick Worth was born on 13 October 1825. Photo from 'A Portrait of Bourne' © Rex Needle 2005. See also Needle, Bourne, Charles Frederick Worth, CD-ROM for a detailed history, as advertised on 'A Portrait of Bourne'. Needle observes that Wake House was the seat of the local offices of the South Kesteven District Council until 1996. Having remained vacant for several years, it was refurbished by Bourne Arts and Community Trust and opened as a community centre in 1999 (ibid).
haute couture and marketing.

Briefly stated, Charles Frederick Worth was born at Wake House, North Street, in Bourne, south Lincolnshire. (Figures 1 and 2) on 13 October 1825. The Worth family narrative properly begins with Charles Frederick's grandfather, William Sur (1737-1812), a country attorney. Worth began his legal career as a mere scribe in the firm of the senior Benjamin Smith of Horbling, mentioned above. Smith, a fairly typical country attorney, lived in sprawling Red Hall in Spring Lane (Figure 4). Early in his firm's history he had set up a rather primitive office in an outhouse where, presumably, he and his scribe worked.

That Attorney Smith was an extraordinarily enterprising fellow had broad implications for the two of them. Much involved in conveyancing, leasing and drawing up wills and trusts, as evidenced by his sizable legacy in business papers, Smith was as often on the road as in the office attending these matters and related copyhold estates of which he was either steward or manager for an affluent client.

He also clerked for drainage, turnpike, and enclosure commissions, for charities, and even for an association prosecuting felons. Not least, Smith was a banker of sorts, carrying on a profitable business in the City of London where he facilitated the investment of his Lincolnshire clients' money.

Despite these multifaceted undertakings Smith maintained a one-person operation. Having neither a partner nor a managing clerk, from the founding of the firm in about 1760, he simply relied on scribes to copy important documents relating to his ventures. William Worth Sur was hired as just that, a copyist, when he entered the Smith employ in the late 1780s.

Worth's principal and perhaps initial task in the firm was that of recording precedents of cases that at one time or other had engaged Smith. While the substance of these documents clearly delineates the kinds of situations in which a country attorney and his aides found themselves, they are notably unin-

Fig 2: This blue plaque commemorating Charles Frederick Worth's birthplace was affixed to Wake House in December 2002.

Fig 3: Memorial to William Worth Sur (1737-1812) on Horbling Parish Church. Photo A. J. Schmitt

Fig 4: The Benjamin Smith mansion in Horbling, variously called Red Hall and Old Place. Razed in the 1960s. Photo given to the author by the late Harry Bowen, partner in the Smith firm.
Smith Jnr, and on occasion with both father and son.12

On rare occasions Worth dined with one or other of the Smiths, but generally he seems not to have ventured socially from his proper role as clerk. Although he had served out his apprenticeship by the late 1790s and was senior in experience to the younger Smith, attorney Worth could entertain small likelihood that he would rise above the position of managing clerk in the firm.13

Despite what was probably a very minimal remuneration before his formal clerkship, Worth Snr had married. He did so on 3 July 1788 to one Ann Tyler.14 Residing in Horbling, the couple had three children, two sons and a daughter. The eldest of these was William Jnr, born on 18 September 1789. The genealogy in Marly shows a second son Henry who figured only briefly in the known family saga, and a daughter Elizabeth.15

When Benjamin Smith Snr settled the business on Benjamin Jnr about 1800 nothing changed. Only after the elder Smith died in 1807 did his son invite the long-serving Worth into partnership, a quarter one.

Certainly this promotion must have improved the family’s quality of life as well as status. In 1807 his portion of the firm’s profits was £277-10-0. The next year it increased to £552-8-0. Although it dropped to £277-10-0 in 1809 it rose to £663-3-9 in 1810. His earnings for 1811 and 1812 were £480-10-5 and £459-1-6 respectively.16

William Worth senior’s partnership with Benjamin Smith junior proved of short duration, for he died just five years into it, in January 1812. By that time William Worth II (who would be the father of Charles Frederick) had become a clerk in the Smith firm.

At the elder Worth’s death the son may have succeeded on the same terms that his father had enjoyed.17 That William Worth II had apparently become junior partner in Smith and Worth in his twenty-third year would seem to augur well for

**Fig 7:** Benjamin Smith II (1776-1858), senior partner in the Smith firm from c1800 until he was felled by a stroke in 1854. Picture courtesy the late Harry Bowden.
the young man. Moreover, his marriage to Mary Ann Quincey, the daughter of Jeremiah, gent. of Threckingham, in 1816 was assuredly a good match.\textsuperscript{14}

Regarding the firm, he was the beneficiary of his father's work routine and whatever good will he had garnered. Significantly, these first years of the new partnership were fruitful ones for the firm; the partners even built in 1814 a new law office (Figure 5) in the market place in Donington.

Worth junior shared personally in the firm's profitability: his quarter of the annual profits for 1813 was £618-16-4\(\frac{3}{4}\); in 1814 it was £670; and averaged about £550 over the next three years. In 1818 Worth's share, despite his relinquishing the partnership, was £576-14-9.

The profits for 1819 were divided among Smith, Worth, and the new partner, Benjamin Wilkinson. The outset. Smith recorded in his diary disapprovingly on 12 May 1813 that Worth had got drunk at the Folkingham fair, lost his money, and had gone off to Edinburgh. This episode necessitated his brother Henry's finding him and bringing him back.\textsuperscript{15}

By 1817 the senior partner was complaining incessantly about Worth's behaviour, notably his drinking. On 26 September he noted in his diary that Worth "went off in a drunken fit Monday... I must part with him."\textsuperscript{16} In October the partnership, as advertised in the London Gazette, was dissolved. William Worth II would remain simply as clerk.\textsuperscript{17}

Worth worked in the firm for another year—apparently without a major altercation—but he did express a desire in November 1818 to leave Horbling. Smith, not surprisingly, did nothing to discourage him. He recorded succinctly in his diary: "I wish he was gone."\textsuperscript{18} Similarly, he penned on 13 December: "Note this morning from W W that he wished to leave me which I am glad of & wish was done."

But Worth did not go, at least not immediately. On 30 December he went to London "after a situation". Then he told Smith on 9 January that he should fix at Donington which, Smith added, "I hope will not annoy me."\textsuperscript{19}

No doubt Worth's proximity caused Smith to worry as much for business as for personal reasons. On 9 January Smith informed Worth that "as he was going to Donington... he could not come again into my office." On the 13th they 'had words' when Smith requested the 'key to his office'.

Only at the end of March, on the 24th, after Worth had sold his house in Horbling did matters quieten down. On 5 April Smith even called on the Craufurds who had moved into Worth's former dwelling.

Twice, once in April and on another occasion in May, Smith men-

\textbf{Fig 8:} Charles Frederick Worth. According to Needle, taken by Nadar, pseudonym for the famous French photographer Gaspard-Félix Tournachon (1820-1910). From A Portrait of Bourne, Charles Frederick Worth, CD-ROM and "Portrait of Bourne" ©Rex Needle 2005.

\textbf{Fig 9:} Portrait of Charles Frederick Worth. From Needle, A Portrait of Bourne, Charles Frederick Worth, CD-ROM.
places him there in both 1826 and 1835, although the accuracy of the latter date may be questioned. 7 In any case Worth’s law business in Bourne founded.

That he elected in 1828 to return to the Smith firm to copy precedents as his father had done years earlier is indicative of the Worths’ financial stress, especially after the birth of their fifth child and third son, Charles Frederick, in 1825. Evidently Worth swallowed his pride and contritely returned to menial clerk’s work in the firm where he had once been a partner.

Benjamin Smith on the other hand apparently had no compunction about using his former colleague when it was advantageous to do so. Indeed, aside from his work as a copyist, Worth may even have conducted routine legal business for Smith. 8

On these occasions Worth the copyist worked not in a shed but in the firm’s new law office opposite the Smith residence in Spring Lane, Horbling (Figure 8) or in the Donington office built early in his partnership with Smith. 9

According to Charles Frederick Worth’s biographer the years 1835-

36 were critical ones for the dysfunctional family. 10

Reputedly William lost the family’s savings through speculation or gambling. No doubt too habitual drinking played a part in this debacle and his eventual desertion: he left his wife, Mary Quincy Worth, to care for young Charles Frederick. 11 Apparently the lad harboured a loathing for his absentee father and no great fondness for his native Lincolnshire after such an embittered childhood.

In later years he rebuffed all attempts by his father at reconciliation. Whether Charles Frederick ever returned to Bourne is uncertain. 12 As biographer Marly put it: “Charles Frederick supported both his parents financially, but the father who abandoned wife and son in 1836 was never received by that son again and… died in 1878 unforgiven.” 13

Yet it seems possible that Charles Frederick Worth’s unhappy childhood in rural Victorian Lincolnshire may have motivated him to “make something of himself” with his energetic pursuit of haute couture in Second Empire France. His career is engaging moreover for the light that it casts on cross-Channel relations when differences between England and France were at times still fractious.

NOTES

1 The account of the Worth cape at Red Hall is that of Alice (Mrs Harry) Bowden, widow of the late partner in the B. Smith & Company firm (letter of 21 November 2005).


3 The most important works treating Charles Frederick Worth are Diana de Marly, Worth: Father of Haute Couture: second ed (New York/London, 1990), and Keith Saunders, The Age of Worth: Couturiere to the Empress Eugenie (London/New York, 1954). Philippa Perry calls Marly’s work ‘adulatory and gossipy but valuable for its photo-

graphs of Worth dresses’ (Fashioning the Bourgeoisie: A History of Clothing in the Nineteenth Century [Princeton, NJ, 1994], note 53, p250). The Bourne historian, Rex Needle, has issued a CD ROM entitled A Portrait of Bourne, which contains a biography and several excellent portraits of Charles Frederick Worth. Needle also has a short biography of Worth in his web article Prominent People Past and Present [of Bourne].

Several museums have featured their Worth gown collection in special exhibits and in the process have issued catalogues. Reference to the Museum of the City of New York exhibit (early 1980s) may be found on its website, www.momay.org/ Collections/ costume/ worth/ worth.htm

Above: 1880s Worth dress

The booklet published in conjunction with it, JoAnne O’lian, The House of Worth: The Gilded Age, 1860-1918, is also available on the website. Worth dresses in the Metropolitan Museum in New York may be viewed on www.metmuseum.org

In 1962 the Brooklyn Museum also held a Worth exhibition; its accompanying commentary was Robert Riles, The House of Worth. I gratefully acknowledge the assistance rendered by Liz Larson of the Irene

Not only did Worth achieve fame in grande (later haute couture), but he readily borrowed marketing ideas from the ready-to-wear industry. In his shop at 7, rue de la Paix, he realised his ambition, the creation of designs no longer unique but reproduced in limited numbers” (Perrot, Fashions of the Bourgeoisie, p184).

Marly, Worth, p1, which cites Worth’s baptismal records of St Peter and St Paul, Bourne, Lincs. This is certainly a more reliable date than the casually mentioned 1826 date elsewhere.

Marly includes a useful Worth genealogy; however, according to this Worth family tree William married one Ann Tyler in 1788. This date is suspect, for William would have been over fifty when he married and began both a family and a career. Marly does not cite the Smith name; rather she observes that the William Worths, father and son, were partners in a firm of solicitors in the nearby village of Horbling (Worth, p2). I have written elsewhere about the Smith firm, which had a continuous existence from c1760 until 2002. See “Partners and Their Times: the Smith firm in History,” Lincolnshire History & Archaeology, vol. 37 (2002), 34-43 and Lawyer Professionalism in Rural England: Changes in Routine and Rewards in the Early Nineteenth Century, ibid vol. 32 (1997), 25-39. In both these pieces I have touched upon the Smith-Worth partnership in larger context.


This would have been at least 1788, when he first began recording precedents, but possibly earlier. Very likely Worth Snr continued this practice until he died; certainly the work was undertaken by William Worth II for the Smith firm into the late 1820s, even after he had severed all other business ties with the firm.

The precedents that Worth copied invariably had to do with copyhold property whether wills and trusts, deeds, promissory notes, notices to quit possession, conveyances, covenants and agreements, matters regarding stewardships, mortgages, coverture, dower, bastardy, letting of turnpike tolls, charges to a bailiff to give notice of a special court baron, and even Benjamin Smith’s asserting his right as lord of Monks Hall in Gosberton to appoint a gamekeeper.

Besides depicting the agrarian community in which the Smith firm operated, these documents refer to Smith’s clients and partners—farmers, graziers, even merchants, and of course, gentlemen—south Lincolnshire power brokers like the Heathcotes, Tollers, Browns and Wynnes (LAO, Smith 11, Firm’s Business, Worth’s Precedents, 1-11a). LAO Archivists Report 13 (1961-62), lists a curious account book in the Smith archive “clerk probably W. Worth in account with Ben. Smith re clients money out at interest 1773-1806.” Although I have been unable to locate this document, its title suggests that Worth may have entered Smith’s employ earlier than the late 1780s (p48).

LAO, Smith 11, Firm’s Business, William Worth, Articles of clerkship, 1793. For his part of the clerkship Worth committed himself to serve Smith for the usual five years and receive in return instruction ‘in the business and practice of an attorney’ and 50 guineas annually.

For such details see LAO, Benjamin Smith Diary, 1794-1799. Specifically, these were Black Sluice Drainage, Cowley and Barnes charities, Monks Hall and Thurby copyhold courts, the Folkingham Association for the Prosecution of Felons, and the South End Turnpike Commission—all of which the Smith firm had either responsibilities of clerkship or, in the case of copyholds, those of lordship. Commission meetings or court sessions took the Smiths and/or Worth usually to Donington and Folkingham and occasionally to Boston, Swineshead and Seaford.

LAO Archivists’ Report 13 (1961-62) refers to “papers re partnership and or qualifications William Worth 1793-1808” (p48) presumably includes the ‘solicitor’s papers admission as attorney, etc. 1805-8.’ Regarding these documents I found only William Worth’s articles of clerkship (p47), Rex Needle states (A Portrait of Bourne, William Worth, Sr, CD-ROM) that Worth was an attorney before joining the Smith firm, but that could not have been the case considering the articles of clerkship and other aspects of the Smith firm’s history.

There is no record of his salary, although he received 50 guineas in his formal induction as a clerk in 1793. Records in the Smith business archives show frequent references to Tyers in the Horbling area; however, I have been unable to make any precise connection. It should be noted that the mid-1790s were hard times for farming in south Lincolnshire, Benjamin Smith spoke of them in his diary, 1794-99. Cf also T.L. Richardson, “The Agricultural Labourers Standard of Living in Lincolnshire, 1790-1840: Social Protest and Public Order.” Agricultural History Review, 41 (1993). 1. 1-18.

According to Marly, Elizabeth married Seth Deane in 1808, and Henry, Elizabeth Ward in 1812. Both spouses’ names are familiar ones in the Horbling area. See also Horbling Registers (Henry Peel, Liverpool and

Although Worth Jnr may have been taken into partnership upon his father’s death, details of his apprenticeship and admission as an attorney are lacking. He had been clerking in the firm from probably 1807 at presumably the 50 guineas annual rate (LAO Archivists’ Report, 13, (1961-2) p.47).

Rex Needle appears to suggest (Needle, Bourne, William Worth, CD-ROM) that he was never a partner; however, he clearly was one when the partnership was dissolved in 1817 and he was demoted to clerk. He did, moreover, continue receiving his deceased father’s one quarter partnership remuneration in 1812 and in subsequent years.

Marly’s genealogy accounts for five children from this union: William III (b.1819), Harriet (b.1821), Sarah (b.1822), Charles (b.1824) and Charles Frederick (1825-95).


Although the Smith diaries from 30 April 1799 to 29 June 1817 are missing, J. J. Cooper, the mid-twentieth century manager clerking, did have access to those diaries from 1811 and cited this incident in his sketch, B. Smith & Co. (typescript).

On 3 October he noted that he had sent Samuel Portman [a clerk?] instead of Worth to attend a meeting of the Black Sluice Drainage Association. Two days later, on the 5th, he declared to Worth ‘my resolution respecting his recent drunken conduct.”

Smith’s diary entry recording the dissolution was 7 October; the London Gazette carried the notice on 18 October.

Smith’s diary entries regarding Worth—from dissolution of the partnership until 18 November 1818—dealt mainly with routine matters. On 19 November 1817 Smith ‘expostulated with WW on taking papers to his house’ (LAO, Smith, Benjamin Smith Diary).

In his diary summary of 1818 Smith, evidently aware that the London ‘situation’ had not materialised, recorded that ‘W, Worth left me & is going to Donington yet I am heartily glad to get rid of him.’

LAO, Smith, Benjamin Smith Diary, 13 May 1819.

26. Ibid. end of year summary, 1819.

27. Clarke’s New Law List: Being a list of the Judges and Officers of the Different Courts of Justice... and a complete and Accurate List of Certified Attorneys... (London, 1826) p.141 and (1835) p.165. Worth’s name appeared in William White’s Directory for 1826, but not the one for 1842.

3 Three references to Worth appear in Smith’s diary: one in 1826 [11 August] and two in 1831 [2 and 8 June]. Although inconsequential in content, they do suggest by the wording ‘called on’, ‘saw’ and ‘William Worth here’ that the two did business with one another.

LAO, Smith, Benjamin Smith Diary.


31. Diana de Marly, Worth, pp.2-3.

32. Ibid. About the time of his father’s abandoning his family, the eldest son, William III, began his legal apprenticeship [ibid p2]. Rex Needle (A Portrait of Bourne, Charles Frederick Worth, CD-ROM) again is at odds with Marly; for he fails to mention both a William (b.1819) and a Sarah (b.1821). Marly and Needle are in agreement, however, that there was a daughter Harriet (b.1821) and a son Charles (b.1824) who did not survive.

Although Mary was left destitute when William deserted her and the children, she had Billingborough relatives who hired her as a housekeeper (Marly, Worth p.3 and Needle, Bourne, Charles Frederick Worth, CD-ROM).

34. Marly, Worth biographers, Marly and Needle, are in disagreement here. Mary maintains that Charles Frederick never returned to Bourne (Marly, Worth p.205); however, Needle believes that he returned ‘several times’ and enjoyed visiting with boyhood friends (Needle, Bourne, Charles Frederick Worth, ‘Brief Encounters’ CD-ROM).

35. Marly, Worth p.205. Marly tells how Worth invited his mother to stay for long periods at his home in Suresnes, France. He even had his Lincolnshire relatives come as well. He was especially adoring of his own family, in ways that he himself had not experienced from his own father. Needle maintains that William Worth resided in London before returning to Horbling in the 1840s and finally by 1860 taking up residence one last time in Bourne (Needle, Bourne, Charles Frederick Worth, CD-ROM).
Women at last!

67:5 Spalding Gentlemen's Society

After nearly 300 years as a male preserve the Spalding Gentlemen's Society has finally admitted lady members.

The Spalding Gentlemen started meeting in a coffee house in Abbey Yard in Spalding—probably when Maurice Johnson founded the society in 1712. He intended the meetings to be a cheerful and sociable exchange of information, ideas and news, over a pint of beer, with a communal chamber pot provided. No ladies would have even wanted to attend and could not possibly have been interested; their domain was the home. Things have changed since then, but the ‘men only’ rule survived.

Maurice held small meetings, mainly attended by local men, but by 1730 an artist, antiquarians, a composer, a banker and clerics, not just from Lincolnshire, had joined. In 1726 Beaupré Bell of Norfolk, George Lynn the astronomer from Northampton (1719), Joseph Banks’s uncle (1722), William Stukeley (1722), John Wesley’s father in 1724, in 1730 James West, a London MP, and Francis Scott, second Duke of Buccleuch, joined in 1722.

The attraction was the charismatic Maurice Johnson. He was a polymath, recording what he heard and saw in meticulous notes. Sociable and popular, he was the spirit of the Gentlemen’s Society. He enjoyed music, had a voracious appetite for antiquities, and was certainly not against ladies as such, encouraging literary social occasions and musical evenings, when ladies were present. Their motto (or toast perhaps) was ‘To love, social joys’ and there was a special ode set to music by the composer member, first sung at the Anniversary Concert on 23 August 1739.

Living at Ayscoughfee Hall, Spalding, for most of his life, Johnson was a family man, devoted to his 27 children. He also had a practice on the Midland Circuit as a barrister.

After his death in 1755 the Society continued, having its ups and downs, but surviving; remaining solely male until it was decided to appoint four Honorary Fellows (not members) Joan Varley, Dorothy Owen, Kathleen Major and Sylvia Hellam. Three of them are now dead but Sylvia Hellam is still living. In 2005 a new Honorary Fellow was elected in the shape of Dr Diana Honeybone, who is still very much alive.

Ladies over the years have struggled to gain admittance to use the huge library, and to view the price-less embroidery and tapestries, the china, glass and collections of antiquities, which lie about in a wonderful old-fashioned jumble. The late Ruby Hunt who wrote an account of the Society had a battle to ‘get in’ and do her research; the myth is that she secretly stayed all night in the library. Officially ladies were not allowed to touch, let alone borrow, the books, but were, of course, allowed a ‘supervised visit’.

The years and months leading up to the Friday in December 2006, when the resolution was finally passed, have been traumatic and difficult for some of the older members, but clause 4 (no woman shall be a member) has finally been deleted.

Nancy Snowdon
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.

BAKER, Tony. Sutton-on-Sea remembers: a tribute to those whose names are on the village war memorial. Corner House Books, 2006. 159pp. ISBN 978 0 9554147 0 1. £7.50 (or £9 by post from the publisher, Brinkhill, Louth LN11 8QX). A comparatively recent phenomenon has been the study of historical biography based on the lists of names on war memorials. Here is the turn of Sutton-on-Sea after recent studies of the stories of those listed on the memorials of, for instance, Marcham-le-Fen, Boston and Barton on Humber. In this connection it is worth recording that the volume by W.F. Markwick (first published in 1920) entitled Stamford and the Great War has just been re-issued (by Reprint, David Dower, Beacon Views, Abber- ton Way, Loughborough LE11 0NX). This volume provides lists of all the men who served in the armed forces from Stamford during WW1. This finely produced and illustrated book is different, however. The main two-thirds deal with the lives of the twenty men who fell in WW1. The author has searched widely and the result is a clear retelling of their personal and wartime histories with pictures in nearly all cases of the men, their places of burial or commemoration and local scenes appropriate to their pre-war lives in the seaside town. A short final section tells the stories of four men killed in WW2, a man lost in Palestine in 1947 and one victim of the troubles in Northern Ireland in 1972. What sets this book aside is the account of the early development of Sutton and a detailed record, culled from local sources, of the effect of the war on those left behind and their activities to support the war effort. It is well done and the result is very readable.


After returning from Italy in late 1943 the 8,900 men of the British Airborne Division, comprising both paratroops and glider-borne soldiers, were stationed in the south of Lincolnshire and other East Midlands areas while training for their next campaign and making many friends in the villages where they were billeted. Missing D-Day because of aircraft shortages they climbed aboard aircraft in September 1944 bound for the Dutch town of Arnhem, a name now engraved on British military history. Only 1,854 men returned. The booklet deals with the memorials (in the form of trails, which can be followed) erected in the villages and towns mostly, but not solely, in Lincolnshire ranging from Basingham to Stamford and in forms from plaques to trees. A very useful appendix, from the local history point of view, lists the locations of the many units which made up the Division, from DLO at Fulbeck Hall to smaller detachments, such as 181 Air Landing Field Ambulance at Stenigot House and Martin Manor. There are well produced photographs of some of the memorials and a brief acknowledgement of the ‘Arnhem in Lincolnshire’ display at Thorpe Camp Visitors’ Centre.

Terry Hancock, Cherry Willingham


Cliff Clover is a recognised expert on the German airships of World War One and in this book he looks at the air raids they carried out on England, from the first on January 19th 1915 to the last, on August 5th 1918. Together with raids by normal aircraft (only in southern England) they killed only 1,414 people which, as the author points out, compared favourably with 2,099 killed in traffic accidents in the year preceding the outbreak of war! Nevertheless the raids caused panic and concern amongst the civilian population and, because of this, large numbers of men and amounts of weaponry were diverted from the Western Front to combat the Zeppelins. There are interesting descriptions of the airship crews and their duties (13 crews met fiery deaths when their craft were shot down), and accounts of the raids are enlivened by contemporary eyewitnesses; one can only feel sorry for the member of crew dangled in a small bomb-shaped container 900 feet below the airship when it was above the cloud so he could report landmarks – one unfortunate was found dead in such a car near Great Yarmouth after the cable to his car snapped. There are two amusing accounts of the ears though – a lady at Elsham Wold went out of the back door on hearing a Zeppelin and the ‘cloud-car’ passed between her and the privy whilst near Boston a cyclist was ‘shocked’ when a German in a ‘cloud-car’ appeared alongside and
asked for directions! On a much more serious note, Lincolnshire’s worst Zeppelin casualties came when 31 soldiers of the Manchester Regiment were killed after the Baptist Chapel in which they were billeted received a direct hit. Thus this book is full of interesting facts and anecdotes but would have greatly benefited from better proofreading and editing – it is hard to make sense of pages 28 to 30 for example and quite often information is repeated in a separate passage to that of the original. Maps are small and faint; page 50 has a chart tracking Zeppelin L 19’s flight path, crossing the coast at Wells and exiting north of Yarmouth – however, the accompanying text tells us of an incident in which L 19 crashed in the sea 90 miles off Hornsea with the loss of its crew (incidentally some of the crew were still on the wreck when a British trawler arrived but the trawler’s crew were outnumbered so the skipper refused to rescue the Germans, who subsequently died of exposure giving the Germans a marvellous propaganda gift). An index would have been useful. On the credit side the book crams a lot of information and is very useful as a resume of the air raids on Lincolnshire during WW1.

Terry Hancock, Cherry Willingham
DEAR, Valerie.
Old Ruskington: Volume 1: Ruskington – what used to be...? A collection of old postcards and photographs taken in the early part of the last century with information and reminiscences, emphasising the work and life of George Peatman. The author, 2006. [40]pp. No ISBN. £5.50 pbk (or £6.50 by post from the author, 7 Millers Close, Sleaford NG34 7WG).

The cover title aptly summarises the contents. What it does not say is that George Peatman, a provision merchant in Ruskington and the author’s adoptive grandfather, was a passionate amateur photographer and produced a great number of pictures in the village. Mostly from the period 1900-1925 they vividly depict a way of life and scenes that have long since disappeared. Since they have not been published before Mrs Dear has recorded local historians a service in having them printed and captioned so well. Her autobiographical notes add to the reader’s enjoyment and we are promised two more instalments in 2007.


This is a welcome addition to the publisher’s excellent series, covering a variety of historic crafts and processes. The authors, both archaeologists, have been involved with salt-making experiments since moving to Cheshire in 1989. Andrew manages the magnificent restoration project of the Lion Salt Works at Marston, Nantwich, which only closed in 1986. This was salt-making on an industrial scale, using mined salt.

The nature of salt is explained, and the two sources, marine and mining, are described. There follows an account of the different processes together with a history of salt-making in Britain from prehistoric times onwards. Almost half the book is devoted to the story of inland production, with particular reference to Cheshire. A glossary, list of places to visit and present manufacturers and reading suggestions round it off. There are numerous good illustrations, many in colour and including both archive pictures and records of recent experimental work.

Lincolnshire was a centre of salt-making through the ages and this book should be very popular. If there is a disappointment it is that on the national coastal sites map the county seems to be represented only by prehistoric and Roman works and these only in the Ingoldmells area. None of the three major locations of medieval activity, Bicker Haven, Marshchapel and the Wash, is named, although the characteristic mounds of waste are referred to. Of course, with a particular interest in the medieval salt industry this reviewer is hardly unbiased; since the book embraces all of Britain at all periods not everyone can be satisfied! Finally, it is worth noting that, despite destruction of saltcoats in the 1571 floods, as noted in Holmshed, the industry in East Lindsey did continue. Chris Sturman in 1984 published a proof of this from wills and many local readers will know of the famous Marshchapel map of 1595, showing sites still in use.

Hilary Healey, Bicker

The author has delved widely in local resources to give an account of the history of Stamford’s most famous hotel. He has a record as early as the 1460s but the loss of early records means that the main focus is on the period from the 1720s. He relates many anecdotes of events in the George, with details of owners, staff and services provided to the travellers on the Great North Road. This is a useful addition to the history of Stamford and has good illustrations to illuminate the George’s recent activities.

GASTON, Peter. Old men’s dreams, young men’s visions: being the further adventures of Little Will and his family: the third part of the Little Will trilogy: Little Will’s life after leaving Lincolnshire and moving his family to Sheffield, Manchester and nearby and his

The first volume of this series was issued in 1990; the second volume was favourably reviewed in I P & P (issue 56, Summer, 2004). The earlier books dealt with the life of a family living on Burton Road in the city and later moving to Welton. As the cover's sub-title makes clear this sequel has little of the county but much of city life during and after WW2. It is an interesting story and many (older) readers will recognise much of what town life was like then and the privations of wartime England, some of which continued into the post-war period. As social history it is a revealing study and a good read at the same time. Those who enjoyed the earlier volumes will not be let down.


First published in 1986 the text has expanded from 39 to 65 pages; one sentence and the final four paragraphs of the first edition are still included. Where the other ended, 20 years into the Louth Plan for education, the new version records the forced ending of its arrangements and the boarding school; but there were new buildings, it became an 11-18 school with a much wider range of subjects being offered and, now it has its first woman head teacher.

The book is what the title says. It is a useful update and supplements Andrew War's History (1989 and now out of print). I would have liked something in the way of sketches of the earlier personalities among the teachers and perhaps some indication of recent students' academic and sporting prowess. It's four times the 1986 price but the paper, layout and illustrations (many, now in colour) are all a great improvement.

KEELING, Chris. Fish It! [A guide to coarse fishing in the Lincolnshire area: information on over 70 lakes, ponds, reservoirs, drains and rivers]. Pickard Communications, 2006. 85pp. ISBN 978 1 90527 07 7. £8.99 pbk (postage extra from the publisher, Riverside Park, Sheffield S2 4BB). 61 pages are given over to 61 ponds or lakes; for each there is a general description and details of location, price for tickets, types of fish, rules, parking and phone numbers. Rivers and drains are dealt with in a separate section. Every page has good colour illustrations of the site and fish to be caught.

LORD, Suzanne. The Cliff Villages at War. Navenby, The Friends of Mrs. Smith's House, 2006. 48pp. No ISBN. £3.50 pbk (or £4.50 by post from the author, 34, Chapel Lane, Navenby, Lincoln LN5 0ER).

The author has recorded oral memories of local people, culled the local newspapers and through the County Archives examined the school log books to build up a picture of life in the villages between Waddington and Willingore in WW2. The result is a fascinating series of snapshots from the declaration of war in 1939; evacuees, rationing, bombing, land army girls, leisure activities are among the featured topics. Very nicely produced and written.


This is a very readable biographical account of the life of a young woman born during WW1. The first half of the book recounts life in Croxton, just over the border in Leicestershire. Although not strictly 'our county' the details of living in a rural cottage, school, the ways people went about daily life and earning a living and their social pleasures will ring true for many in similar places in Lincolnshire. The second part deals with life in the ATS in WW2 and the final section recalls her courting Herbert Pain. He ran a business in Grantham having bought the derelict Allington Manor, which he restored and in which he and his wife lived after their marriage in 1953, which is roughly where the book ends. This is a well written and produced book and will give much pleasure.

PAUL, Brian and others. Handed down on a plate: the lives and families of the Vicar of Wispington and Isabelle 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, Marsсет, Malshillke Road, Fleet, Spalding PE12 8NH – all proceeds go to Holbeach Hospital Appeal).

A plate painted with a picture of Tattershall Castle led to the authors' search for Isabelle Smith; whose name appeared on the back of the plate. Working backwards their journey took them through Lincolnshire to a variety of out-county places but much of their research ended up with the Terrot family of Wispington.

There is much here of Rev. Charles Terrot, Vicar there from 1838 and the various family members before him and up to the present day. Beginning with the earliest ancestor makes the reader wonder when (if?) Isabelle Smith will ever enter the story. While it is a readable account
tighter editorial control would have rendered it more useful. There is a large cast of family members but no index; the chapter headings [p.2] do not appear as headings on the appropriate pages; the only family tree is too small to read easily (and does not include the Perrot family!); and there are numerous infelicities of style and oddities of spelling (e.g. the village is East Barkwith not East Barkworth (p. 22) and Edinburgh is spelt Edinburgh ten times in three pages (pp. 5-7).


Sgt Geoff Rice and the six other members of his Lancaster crew arrived at Scampton on 9 December 1942, after training at Swinderby, to join 57 Squadron. The author looks at their subsequent career in Bomber Command, with the help of the diary and logbook of Sgt Tom Maynard, the rear gunner. After only eight operations the crew was transferred, in April 1943, to a new top-secret group forming at Scampton which became the famous 617 "Dambusters" Squadron. The author points out that the small number of operations they had flown explodes the widely-held belief that all the Dams raid crews were very experienced and hand-picked by Guy Gibson. The training period for the raids is interestingly covered (a pity about one wrong photo caption!) but on the raid itself Rice, probably blinded by the moon reflecting from the calm waters of the Zuijder Zee, hit the surface and his bomb was torn off, leaving them no alternative but to return to base. After a rather unproductive period in the Squadron's history Leonard Cheshire took over command but on the second operation under his leadership, and their 1st as a crew, the Rice crew was shot down on the Belgian/French border near Charleroi on the night of 20/21 December 1943; Rice was thrown out as the Lancaster exploded in the air but the rest were killed. Geoff Rice was hidden by various Belgian civilians until arrested in Antwerp in April and was a POW for the rest of the war. The author points out that for every "evader" who got back to the UK after being shot down, two Belgian, Dutch or French civilians were murdered by the Germans for helping them—so much for "cheesecaking surrender monkeys"! Although much of the material has been covered in other books this is readable and well-illustrated account.


This entertaining book ranges widely, after making the valuable point that in a county this size the variations of dialect are greater than in most other counties. A quarter of the text is devoted to a dictionary of county words and phrases; another quarter is given over to a jaundiced view of British history in pictures by Richard Scollins and the remainder covers a variety of county subjects—place-names and the pronunciation, food (including a recipe for plum bread), humour and the derivation of "yellerbelly". There's a lot here, which is to be found in other parts of the country (e.g. the words for counting sheep and words like frit, fit, marly, mowdewarp and nobbut) but, for its price, readers will gain much knowledge and enjoy its light approach to the county's language. On the day I was typing this (8 Feb) Dr Thomas Stuttaford, who writes on medical matters in The Times, gave his definitive derivation of the term yellowbelly: "The nickname... dates from when there was so much chronic malaria in the Lincolnshire Fens 200 years ago that liver damage and jaundice were rife. Malaria was eliminated from Roman marshes by Mussolini only in the Thirties". The author only suggests that the opium the fenlanders took against the malaria caused the yellow skin.


This is a companion volume to the author's book on Windmills (reviewed in the last issue—L.P & P, 66) and follows the same pattern—a text lavishly illustrated with colour photographs and excellent drawings, glossary, a further reading list and a list of sites to visit—features that make these books so useful.

In this very readable book Watts traces the history and development of watermills from their origins in the Roman period through to the industrial-scale mills of the 19th century. There are six sections dealing with historical background, siting and water supply, types of waterwheel, mill buildings, machinery, functions and conservation. Although no Lincolnshire mills are illustrated and only two are listed in the "Watermills to be visited" section, this publication is well worth having as an excellent introduction to the subject.

Catherine Wilson, Reepham

While it is not our policy to review novels or poetry I draw attention to a novel (her fourth) written by a Lincoln born and bred author, which she has set in her usual period of eighteenth century Lincoln. It is *Walking the Inn's Path* by Jean Morley. Much of its setting is the Steep Hill area of Lincoln and a shop features in it exactly opposite the Society's HQ. The book costs £7.99 and can also be obtained (post free) from Mrs Jean Morley, 5 Denbigh Close, Lawn, Swindon SN3 1FG.