Brinkhill and South Ormsby Pig Club - Colonel Sibthorp v public libraries - Wooden souvenirs of Lincolnshire - Fonts - Recipes

Notes & Queries
- Railway Rambling - Benjamin Chapman - Lincoln Racecourse
- George Eliot connection

New books
CONTENTS

PAGE
2  Summer 2007 Editorial
3  Brinkhill, South Ormsby and District Pig Club—Tony Baker
8  Colonel Sibthorp versus the Public Libraries Act 1850—Mark Acton
9  Wooden Souvenirs of Lincolnshire—Ian McFeeters
12 Notes and Queries
14 Jews’ Court Library
15 Lincolnshire Recipes
15 Local Diversion—Quiz
16 Bookshelf
20 Notes and Queries
Summer 2007

It has been the wettest June on record but welcome to the summer edition of Lincolnshire Past & Present.

A pig club that remained in existence for 90 years is the subject of Tony Baker’s article, a cameo of rural life from difficult times for agricultural workers in the 1870s through two world wars up to the “swinging” 1960s.

Readers may well remember the domestic keeping of pigs and many of the customs and recipes associated with it.

How many of you have seen or possess those wooden souvenirs with engraved or transferred scenes on them? I have something similar of Corfu, but there were several Lincolnshire designs, which Ian MacFie ters explains, were made by a Scottish firm and became known as Mauchline Ware.

Rambles with LNER, Benjamin Chapman of Cleethorpes, Lincoln Racecourse and George Eliot feature in our Notes and Queries section plus more bizarre Lincolnshire recipes to try (or perhaps not!).

Mark Acton brings us a story about the parliamentary activities of the eccentric Colonel Sibthorp, we have the latest book reviews and news from Jews’ Court Library and a challenging quiz for you as well.

A slightly shorter magazine this time, but one I hope will be an enjoyable holiday read that prompts some interesting responses.

Finally, a reminder that we give from time to time, that opinions expressed in editions of this magazine are not necessarily those of SLHIA or of the LP&P editors.

Ros Beever, joint editor
The parishes of Brinkhill and South Ormsby are situated in the Lincolnshire Wolds just off the A16 about eight miles south of Louth. Membership of a pig club was a form of insurance providing its members with financial compensation in the event of losing a pig.

Tony Baker

On 29 September 1876 a group of men from Brinkhill, South Ormsby and the neighbouring villages met in the schoolroom at South Ormsby. Chairing the meeting was Arthur Maidens, twenty-year-old son of Thomas and Mary Maidens of Manor House, Brinkhill, farmers of nearly 400 acres, employers of nine men and respected members of the community. (Centuries earlier it was allegedly a Maidens, a staunch Royalist, who ordered the village blacksmith in Brinkhill to spike the hooves of the local horses to make them temporarily lame and of no use to Cromwell at the battle of Winceby.)

At the meeting a proposal to form a pig club was made by Benjamin Codell, an agricultural labourer from Brinkhill, and seconded by Henry 'Snips' Butters, also from Brinkhill, a master tailor employing two men. Arthur Maidens proposed that the Revd Robert Wentworth Cracroft (Brinkhill & Harrington) and the Revd William Oswald Massinger (South Ormsby) be 'respectfully' invited to become treasurers for the Society, and so the Brinkhill, South Ormsby & District Pig Club was formed. It would remain in existence for ninety years.

Agriculture was beginning to experience a difficult time in the 1870s, especially in more isolated cereal growing areas like the Wolds. Cheap imports of wheat were flooding into the county depressing prices. On top of this, unusually wet weather led to a series of poor harvests. Labouring opportunities had already begun to disappear, with, for example, the advent of the steam plough pioneered by John Fowler and people had already started gravitating towards the urban areas or even overseas, enticed by free or assisted passages to New Zealand and Australia. Although the population did not begin to fall until after 1881 in the surrounding district, Brinkhill's began to decline after 1861 as agricultural labouring families left the village. As the profitability of agriculture declined, all those involved in the industry began to feel the pinch, or even worse, and not least the ordinary farm workers.

As conditions worsened, poverty and hardship increased but there was within this community, as in some other places, a genuine desire amongst the larger land owners and
chief rate payers to improve the conditions of the poor. It was, of course, in their interests as principal contributors to keep the Poor Rate as low as possible. If people could help themselves without requiring handouts from the parish, that was a sure way of keeping the rate down.

There was also at this time a grass roots drive towards self-help and improvement as indicated by the growth of Friendly Societies in the county, the formation of agricultural trade unions in the area and the spread of Methodism. There was strong Methodist support in the district and a new Wesleyan Chapel had opened in Brinkhill in 1872 amidst much celebration.

Keeping a pig was not a new idea. It was very much part of the economic and social fabric of country life. A pig was comparatively cheap to feed on a swill of kitchen waste and pig potatoes and when fattened up could provide enough meat for a family for the following year. Farm workers were often provided with a pig as part of their wages.

Killing a pig and ‘puttin it away’ involved all the family as well as neighbours and friends, and social ties were strengthened by the neighbourhood tradition of handing out plates of ‘pigs fry’, (so long as the plate was returned unwashed), and sharing some of the meat products. The formation of the pig club, therefore, was a combination of several factors: poor economic conditions within the agricultural community, philanthropy and self-interest amongst the better-off, self-help and self-improvement amongst the less well-off, and tradition.

Six weeks after the inaugural meeting of the Brinkhill, South Ormsby & District Pig Club, a second was held at the South Ormsby schoolroom at which the rules of the club were formulated. The squire at South Ormsby, F. C. Massingham-Mundy, was made president. Three secretaries were appointed. Arthur Maidens, Robert Clarke, the South Ormsby village schoolmaster from Kent, and Thomas Burnett, a farmer of fifty-three acres at Brinkhill. Samuel Cav- thorpe, blacksmith and innkeeper of the Fox & Hounds Inn at Brinkhill, became the club marker.

Some financial support at this initial stage came from four patrons, the Reverends Croft and Massingham, who contributed one pound each, Meaburn Staniland, Harrington Hall Estate, also one pound and the Squire, South Ormsby Estate, ten shillings. Additional financial support came from four people described as ‘subscribers’. The four were Thomas Maidens, ten shillings, J.W. Belton and E. Mackinder, two shillings and sixpence and W. Hawton, sixpence.

There were twenty-one members in the club when it was formed. Between 1876 and 1900 this figure fell as low as eight and went as high as twenty-five. Altogether about 60 different people belonged to the club during this period, nearly half coming from Brinkhill, according to census data, with the majority of the remainder residing in South Ormsby, Driby, Harrington and Stutterby.

It has not been possible to identify the residency of everyone in this first group of members but in 1911 it was decided that ‘no pig be admitted to the club from outside the parishes of South Ormsby, Calceby, Driby, Brinkhill and Harrington’. Analysis of the occupations of the early membership, again using census data, shows that well over half were labourers, mainly agricultural labourers but also carriers, gardeners and a game keeper. The tradesmen included wheelwright, carpenter, plumber, bricklayer and tailor. The farmers included Thomas Burnett and smaller farmers and cottagers, whilst the single professional was the schoolmaster from South Ormsby.

The average length of membership of those joining between 1876 and 1900 was ten years nine months. About half belonged for less than ten years, a consequence of the regular movement between jobs and districts of agricultural workers as well as drop-out. The other half stayed with the club for many years indicating the importance it played in their lives.

Jesse Hayes, Brinkhill, a bricklayer turned builder was the longest serving member from this early group. He joined in 1890, became a secretary in 1906 and remained a member until 1934, a period of forty-three years five months.

The club’s finances appear to have been well-managed with the best interests of the members paramount. Members paid an entry fee, regular subscriptions and an additional amount for a breeding sow. Payments were adjusted from time to time.
time, and in some cases suspended, to reflect what was considered to be fair and affordable whilst at the same time maintaining the club's financial viability. In 1876, when most agricultural workers would be earning much less than £1 a week, the entry fee was 1s. (one shilling), rising to 2s. in 1900. The first subscriptions were 4d. (four old pence) per month, which eventually became a quarterly payment of 1s., rising to 1s.6d. in 1920 and finally 1s.9d. in 1946. In 1884, when total club funds amounted to £24.5s.7d., it was decided that there should be 'no further payments by members until the balance was reduced by pig losses to £20'. By 1899 the balance had risen to £38.8s.9d. and all members, apart from those who had not yet paid in 10s., were excused further monthly payments.

In 1907 free membership was cancelled. At the same time it was stated that if club funds were reduced to £20, 'members may be called upon but for not more than 1s. per pig per year'. Members with a breeding sow paid an additional 1s.4d. in 1876. This amount was subject to periodic adjustment. It was increased to 2s.6d. in 1878 but ten years later this figure was 'deemed to be unfair' and was reduced to 1s.6d. It eventually rose to 3s.6d. in 1915. The amounts paid by the club to members losing a pig also changed over time. Initially the amount was 17s.6d. in the pound. This was increased to 'full value' in 1890, reduced to 15s. in the pound in 1920 and then raised back to 17s.6d. in 1946. In 1949 it was decided that the club should pay half of any vet's fees incurred by its members.

A copy of the rules has not survived with other documentation relating to the club's activities, but judging by references to individual rule changes in the Minute Book there were at least seventeen. Not surprisingly those most frequently subject to discussion and change concerned subscriptions, i.e. quarterly payments, members with more than one pig and breeding sows.

'Rule 4' related to breeding sows. In 1906 it was stipulated that the extra payment, which was two shillings at the time, should be paid 'the first quarter after littering'.

Two years later it was decided that this extra amount should be paid 'fourteen days before littering was expected or the member was not entitled to compensation'. In 1910 the maximum claim for a breeding pig was limited to £5 with the option of insuring for a larger amount at 6d. for each pound above £5 but not exceeding £8. This constant tinkering with the rules must have been essential to safeguard the club's finances and ensure that adequate funds were available to meet possible claims.

Rule 16 related to pig marking and was obviously very important and necessary during the early years to prevent claims being made on uninsured animals. It would appear that this rule was sometimes not adhered to because in April 1888 'attention of the members was drawn to the necessity to abide by this rule'.

Later that year, J. Bellamy, who must have ignored this instruction, was penalised much to his cost. He lost a pig valued at £4.16s, (equivalent to the purchasing power of £369.28p in 2006). Instead of receiving 17s.6d. in the pound he was paid one third of the value, i.e. £1.12s. (£118.76p.) instead of £4.4s. (£311.74p.).

For many years the club had two treasurers—one could keep an eye on the other—and for the first thirty-four years these posts were held by the local parsons, but it was the secretaries, of which there were three to begin with, who had the responsibility of collecting the money from the members and for overseeing the daily affairs of the club.

When Robert Cartman resigned in 1906 he was presented with a barometer "for acting as secretary for 18 years", paid for by voluntary contributions from the members, so he must have worked hard in the position and been highly thought of. The inscription on the gift, though, is rather confusing. In 1906 Robert Cartman would have been about twenty-six years old, making him rather too young eighteen years earlier to be a secretary! In 1888 however, his father, Matthew Cartman, actually became a secretary so Robert must have taken over from his father at some point, not recorded in the Minute Book, and the barometer was really an award for their joint service. After Robert's resignation it was decided that 10 shillings per year should be paid to two secretaries. This amount was reduced to five shillings in 1935—membership was down into single figures and falling—but raised to £1 in 1946 by which time there were thirty-eight members, the highest number since 1908.

Sam Cavthorpe, who had been appointed pig marker when the club was founded, was made 'paid marker for the whole district' in

Jesse Hayes, member of the pig club for over 40 years, in front of the house he built in Brinhill.
1879, how the pigs were "marked" is unknown but since Sam was a blacksmith they may have been branded. Sam was paid 3d for each pig he marked. He unfortunately died in 1880 and someone called Mr White, not a member of the club, was appointed marker for Brinhill and Drifty in 1881. A pig marker was paid 3s.2d in 1888.

There are no further references to pig marking after the 1880s so perhaps the practice that had cost Mr Bellamy so dearly was discontinued.

The first mention of a committee was when one consisting of five members was formed in 1946. The Club had been in the doldrums before the Second World War and it was probably felt that a committee was now needed to manage the upsurge in interest in pig-keeping, which had started during the war.

Club meetings were held either in South Ormsby schoolroom or Brinhill schoolroom. They were not held every year although in some years there were two if a special meeting was called to discuss some ruling.

Usually the purpose of a meeting was to approve the accounts and re-elect officers although the latter are rarely named in the minutes. During the first forty-five years of the club's existence there were thirty-five meetings, according to the Minute Book, but only thirteen during the second forty-five years.

Despite the absence of meetings the work of the club obviously continued uninterrupted as can be seen from the subscription books, which apart from the latter half of the 1880s, provide an excellent record of the club's membership.

In 1899 a supper was provided for the members at a cost of 6d to each member with an additional shilling paid by the club. This was repeated in 1904 when the supper was provided by Robert Baumber, baker and shopkeeper at Brinhill. There is no evidence from the Minute Book of any other social activity having taken place.

The club started off with twenty-one members but this level of support was not maintained and within ten years the membership was down to single figures. Numbers for the late 1880s are unclear but were back up to twenty by 1890, a level maintained or bettered for the next twenty-five years, reaching a peak of forty-one in 1909 and 1910 before dropping back down to twenty-two in 1915. This figure continued to fall, reaching single figures in 1923 and 1927. It recovered slightly before remaining in single figures from 1933 until 1942.

1943 saw the start of a remarkable rise in membership, from nineteen in 1943 to ninety-one in 1949. Food rationing had begun in 1940 with bacon one of the first items. The sinking of so many merchant ships by German U-boats led to many food shortages and the Government's response was to ask people to keep animals as well as grow their own food. Because they could be fed on kitchen scraps and fattened up to provide pork and bacon, pigs became popular and 'Dig for Victory' like 'Dig for Victory' became a fashionable slogan.

Pig-keeping became something of a national craze encouraged by the Ministry of Agriculture as well as the Small Pig Keepers' Council, formed by the National Pig Breeding Association to encourage backyard pig-keeping. The club joined in 1942 when it began paying an annual registration fee of 10s and membership subscriptions to the Small Pig Keepers' Council. This entitled members to a slightly larger feed allowance than commercial producers. Membership numbers declined sharply after 1949. Although meat and bacon rationing did not end until the summer of 1954, club membership was already down to twenty-nine by then and single figures again within another five years. By 1965 there were only four members left and at a meeting on New Year's Day 1966 it was agreed to wind up the club and write to the bank to see if
this was in order and if so to share out the balance. The final balance of club funds was £100.16s.7d., the four remaining members each receiving £25.4s.

People were very fond of their pigs, which were often treated like household pets. A pig liked nothing better than having its back scratched with a stick, 'an expression of bliss on its face, unaware of its inevitable fate' said a former resident of Brinkhill who well remembers the days of 'backyard' pig-keeping in the district.

When the pig killer came the women took the children inside and turned the radio up loud to drown out the squeals, 'the only part of it lost', but when he had done his work everyone came out with their knives, buckets, baths, water and whatever paraphernalia was needed to 'put it away'.

This was a happy time. Not only would there soon be treats in the form of 'pigs fry' but also meat for another year, a dichotomy of sorrow and joy expertly expressed in the last verse of Fred Dobson's dialect poem, 'Killing the Pig'.

But just a sad thought, it seemed 'ard to part,
As me an' pig allus were chummy;
But some'wot the emptiness down in me 'art
seems eased by me fullness o' tummy

The main sources of information for this research were the Minute Book and Monthly Payments books of the Brinkhill, South Ormsby & District Pig Club, which are held in the Lincolnshire Archives. Help with research was provided by Jennifer Baker (census) and Eileen Burrell (pig-keeping memories). Tony Baker is secretary of Brinkhill History Group. The group would like to hear from anyone who has any information about the pig club or who has researched other pig clubs in the county. Tony Baker: jaroller@lineone.net

SOUTH ORMSBY, BRINKHILL AND DISTRICT - from Ordnance Survey map 1824

[Interest in pigs still remains in the area. This sign was seen in Harrington, the next village, on 1 July 2007 - Ed.]
Colonel Sibthorp versus the Public Libraries Act 1850

Mark Acton

Some of the many bugbears of the notoriously eccentric nineteenth-century Lincoln MP Charles Sibthorp are well-known.

From reform to railways and Roman Catholicism to the Corn Laws, Sibthorp championed the status quo. He was often vocal against anything likely to increase taxation (with the exception of army and navy budgets).

As the Colonel’s opposition to the Great Exhibition of 1851 shows, he did not mellow with age. The following battle took place almost a quarter of a century after his first election to Parliament.

William Ewart was an MP for more than 40 years, chiefly for Liverpool and Dumfries. A Radical, he was in favour of triennial parliaments, the secret ballot and the total abolition of capital punishment.

In 1845 he was responsible for the Museums Act, which allowed the councils of boroughs with a population of at least 10,000 to impose a halfpenny rate for the establishment of museums with an admission charge of no more than 1d. This Act passed easily through Parliament. His next bill met stiff opposition.

Most libraries before 1850 belonged to institutions such as literary and philosophical societies or mechanics’ institutes. Others were private or commercial subscription bodies. Municipally supported libraries were rare but not unknown.

The bill introduced by Ewart in February 1850 would allow councils to levy a halfpenny rate in the same way as for museums. Lord John Russell’s government was more sympathetic than enthusiastic for the bill. Its greatest supporters were Ewart’s fellow Radicals.

Opponents ranged from those who thought that such business should belong to private enterprise, to some who were against educating the masses in case it led to what Sir Robert Inglis called “an unhealthy agitation.” Another Tory feared “an unrestricted presentation of all those publications emanating daily from the press, which certainly were not calculated to promote the preservation of either public order or public morals.”

On the second reading of the bill, Hansard records:

Colonel Sibthorp thought this bill nothing more or less than an attempt to impose a general increase of taxation on Her Majesty’s subjects... He would be happy at any time to contribute his mite towards providing libraries and proper recreation for the humbler classes in large towns; but he thought that however excellent food for the mind might be, food for the body was what was most wanted for the people.

He did not like reading at all, and he hated it when at Oxford, but he could not see how one halfpenny in the pound would be enough to enable town councils to carry into effect the immense powers they were to have by this Bill... he would have been much more ready to support the [Bill] if it had tried to encourage national industry by keeping out the foreigner..."

Warning to his theme, Sibthorp added on a later occasion that he supposed “they (the supporters of the bill) would be thinking of supplying the working classes with quoyts, peg-tops and football. They should teach the people to read and write. What would be the use of these libraries to those who could not read or write?”

He supposed that “the hon. Member (Ewart) and his friends would soon be thinking of introducing the performances of Punch for the amusement of the people. The Bill was wholly uncalled for..."

The Act, modified to allow the rate to be spent only on provision and maintenance of library buildings, but not on books, received the royal assent in August 1850. It was a start, but a slow one, to the library service of today. Sibthorp’s complaint that a halfpenny rate was insufficient had some validity. In many towns and cities ratepayers refused to vote even that rate to be levied.

Source:
Wooden Souvenirs of Lincolnshire

We are accustomed to seeing Lincoln Cathedral depicted in books and magazines, on postcards and all manner of artefacts for tourists. I wonder if you have seen it as a black and white picture on some form of trinket box made of a light-coloured wood. If so, you may be surprised to know that it was probably made in Scotland over a hundred years ago...

writes Dr Ian McFeters

Wood workers in Scotland were well known for their decorative snuff boxes in the 18th century. Boxes were made with an ingenious hinge of interlocking lobs on lid and box that made them airtight. However, a hundred years later, snuff taking had ceased to be a genteel pursuit and had become much less popular. So these skilled craftsmen sought a new field for their talents.

At this time tourism in the form of trips to the seaside and places of interest, for large numbers of people, was burgeoning with the spread of railway transport. Then as now cases, wool holders, Vesta cases and many other items were made, all from sycamore, in Scotland called Plane. This is a very close grained, pale coloured wood, admirably suited to the purpose.

Naturally they started with nearby views associated with Robert Burns, who had died in 1796, and Sir Walter Scott, whose novels introduced many Scottish beauty spots. Queen Victoria delighted in all things Scottish, so in deference to her, Isle of Wight views near her favourite Osborne House proved popular.

They then sent photographers all over Britain and, indeed, over most of the known world. From the photographs, pantographs were used to transfer the pictures to engraving plates and thence to producing pic-
pictures on a myriad of souvenirs. Apart from the thousands of views of Britain, more than 900 different scenes in America are known.

Transfer pictures of places in most of Europe, as well as Australia, New Zealand and South Africa, can be found on all types of wooden mementoes made in Scotland.

As the railways brought travellers to the 'bracing' Lincolnshire coast, so the souvenir trade followed. Over the next 50 years thousands of artefacts were produced. Skegness is particularly well represented, with at least 15 different scenes. The most popular was of the entrance to the 1843-foot long pier, which was completed in 1881, so this was produced by two different manufacturers. Other views were of Lunley Road, before 1904 when the stone Lifeboat (commemorating the Herbert Ingram who founded the Illustrated London News). Unfortunately it was too far away to save him when he was drowned in an accident on Lake Michigan.

Hotels that advertised by means of these souvenirs were Lunley Hotel, Pier Hotel, Dunkley’s Brighton Hotel and Hide’s New Hotel, which has now disappeared to be replaced by a shopping mall.

Skegness Church, St Clement’s, featured on a wide variety of items. After 1880 this view became entitled ‘The Old Church, Skegness’. Items with a view of the New Church, Skegness, rarely appear because the picture of St Matthew’s Church as shown never actually existed. It must have been taken, not from a photograph, but from James Fowler’s original plans. For it shows a church with tower and spire. In 1884 when work was due to be resumed on the church, it was found that subsidence had already occurred and a small turret with piped bells had to be substituted.

Sutton on Sea is represented by one view of the beach with numerous visitors walking about or looking over the railings of an esplanade. This picture must date from well into the 20th century, for skirts come only just below the knee.

Mablethorpe is better served, with five scenes. Two of ‘The Beach, Mablethorpe’, showing bathing ma-
chines and sailing boats, must have been produced by different manufacturers. Other souvenirs show 'Sea

Hills & Pavilions Mablethorpe', 'Convalescent Home Mablethorpe' and 'Mablethorpe Church' with its curious chancel, higher than the nave.

Cleethorpes, though not as lavishly pictured as Skegness, has nonetheless 10 different views. Five are just entitled Cleethorpes, showing various pictures of the sea front. Naturally the pier, which was built eight years before that at Skegness, is prominently displayed. The most frequently found scene is 'Cleethorpes from the Pier' showing ladies and gentlemen in Victorian garb promenading gracefully with a five-sailed windmill in the background. Another popular view is of 'Cliff (sic) Terrace'.

Grimsby has two views, 'The Docks' and 'St James Church'. The view of the docks shows many moored square rigged sailing ships and one or two with funnels. In the background is the famous water

variously described as 'Boston Church' or as 'St Botolph's Church, Boston'. One from the west is very impressive. There is also a view of the interior of the church.

Market Deeping has a picture of 'The Bridge' that was built in 1841 and was once the boundary between two counties, Lincolnshire and Northamptonshire.

St Walfram's Church with its tall spire has only a small picture as 'Grantham Church'. Otherwise

Grantham is represented by its impressive symmetrical Guildhall, the beautiful medieval façade of the Angel and Royal Hotel, the 'Edward VI Grammar School' and Belton House.

Stamford, with its fine stone architecture, is, curiously, poorly represented. There is a general view of 'Stamford from the River', a picture of St Mary's Church and that is all! Except of course for the magnificent Burghley House, which appears on many items in three different views. There are some surprises. The Smiths of Mauchline and their rivals were consummate businessmen. If there was an opening for a souvenir of any place with visitors, a picture

There are gaps however. Why is there no view of the George Hotel at Stamford? Production went on well into Edwardian times, when Woodhall Spa was at its height as a health resort, so why are there no pictures of the famed Victoria Hotel, or the Winter Gardens at the Royal Hotel? Harrogate has innumerable scenes, as does Cheltenham, so why not Woodhall? Unless anyone can prove me wrong!
There is a pre-Second World War book called ‘Rambles in Lincolnshire’ published by the London and North Eastern Railway (LNER). No publication date is printed in the book but someone has pencilled 1936 in the flyleaf of my copy, which seems right.

Inside there is a list of 15 other titles in the same series, all published by LNER, and I see from second-hand book websites that the other ‘big four’ pre-nationalisation railway companies produced similar series.

The walks were publicised in association with special ‘Walking Tour Tickets’ that enabled the walker to travel out to the starting point at one station and return from a different station, often one on a different line, at a special cheap fare.

Bernard Reeves wrote ‘Rambles in Lincolnshire’. His is not a name I know, and I would very much like to know more about him. He must have had a very good knowledge of Lincolnshire’s footpath network and also displays a keen interest in and knowledge of history, although he might sometimes be considered a little fanciful.

To someone interested in the history of footpaths and other rights of way in the countryside the book gives tantalising glimpses of their appearance, condition and level of use, at a time now beyond most people’s memory.

Equally fascinating is where his routes use paths that have since been lost. In one or two cases this is through the construction of wartime airfields, but in others they have probably been missed off the post-war definitive rights of way map in error.

Yet Mr Reeves seems to have been careful to take his readers only along well trodden and recognised public rights of way. So it is doubly interesting to know who he was, and what sources he used for discovering his routes, at a time long before the definitive maps were published.

His descriptions would be thought too brief today, compared with modern books of walks, although he uses his few words to very good effect. It seems from the way he refers to them that the paths he included were all well trodden and very obvious to follow on the ground. So he sometimes simply says ‘follow the path’ and gives no more instructions for a mile or so, apparently confident that none is needed.

Such has been the level of railway closure in Lincolnshire that only four of the 14 routes still have a station open at both ends (including one circular route) but several others could still be accomplished using a bus instead. A bigger problem might be that somewhere on the route there is a section that has not been recorded on the definitive rights of way map and it might now be blocked.

I recently tried out one from Horncastle to Sleaford, and although I entered all of these problems, I was impressed with the original choice of route, which made for a very enjoyable day’s walk.

Can anyone help with information about Bernard Reeves?

Christopher Padley, Market Rasen
BENJAMIN CHAPMAN 1778–1859

I recently inherited an oil portrait of my great-great-grandfather Benjamin Chapman who lived in Cleethorpes. He was born in 1778 and died in 1859.

This Benjamin Chapman was the second of three successive Benjamin Chaptmans who lived in Cleethorpes in the 18th and 19th centuries. The first lived from 1748 to 1859 and the third from 1803 to 1859.

He is referred to at length in Frank Baker's book The Story of Cleethorpes and the Contribution of Methodism. I know little else about him, though I do have his Commonplace Book, which dates to around 1800-1810.

The portrait has been cleaned and restored. The restorer thinks it was painted about 1830, which fits in with the dates. There is no signature or date on it.

He also said that most small towns such as Grimsby and Cleethorpes at that time had a local portrait artist. I would like to know who the artist was. I wonder if any of your readers have any idea who he might have been.

Antony Chapman, Wendover, Bucks

LINCOLN RACECOURSE IN 1756

In Linces Past & Present 60 Dennis Mills and I described the location of the racecourse in 1756, based on a map 'now lost'. The probable source for the statement we reported was a pre-Enclosure map of Harmston that has recently deposited in the Lincolnshire Archives.

This shows a finishing straight running parallel to the newly turnpiked Sleaford to Lincoln road, and is shown as a (rather slack) finishing tape stretched between two posts. There is no indication of the rest of the course, which may well have varied from race to race.

The final straight starts close to Dunston Pillar (only five years old in 1756—see Linces Past & Present 52) and is aligned on it, so the top of the pillar must have been an interesting place to view the races from. One wonders what extent Dunston Pillar and the pleasure grounds there were associated with horse racing.

Rob Wheeler, Harmston
Jews' Court Library

A recent acquisition to Jews' Court Library is a thin book in a "Decorated English Fonts" series, which is entirely devoted to Lincolnshire examples.

It begins with the Cathedral font, noting "We commence our series of Norman Fonts with this subject, as we consider it to be the most ancient of those here represented." On the left-hand pages there are etchings, most of them by J. Simpson and engraved by Robert Roberts. The descriptions are printed on the right-hand pages.

The majority of examples are from the south of the county. The first few are not dated but the later ones are 1826-28. The volume is published by Septimus Prowett, 33 Old Bond Street, and later Pall Mall.

KNAITH, LINCOLNSHIRE

This very splendid Font is we think altogether the handsomest we ever saw. The heads are admirably executed and all vary in design... The whole is in good preservation and the following are its dimensions:

- Height: 3 feet 7 inches
- Diameter from outside to outside: 2 feet 11 inches
- Dito of the inside: 1 foot 11 inches

The church or chapel is by modern alterations rendered quite unworthy of the Font which it contains; the few remaining original features, viz. a door and two windows, are coeval with the Font.

Naval recruiting in Lindsey

Among the many leaflets and papers in Jews' Court Library is an offprint from 'The English Historical Review' of April 1928 describing the problems of reaching government quotas to man the navy at the turn of the previous century.

At the declaration of war with France, the Duke of Ancaster, Lord Lieutenant of Lincolnshire, received notice to direct magistrates to obey the various Acts and oversee recruitment of seamen.

This was passed to the Clerks of the Peace in the county including Mr. Brackenbury, Clerk of the Peace for Lindsey. In the first instance the demand was to round up 'struggling seamen' but later Acts set targets for all counties.

The target for Lindsey was 191 men. The magistrates met to decide how to carry out the order. They used lists provided by the commissioners of land tax of the number of houses paying inhabited house duty and window tax. From these lists they were able to calculate how many men should be recruited from each group of parishes within a wapentake.

Recruitment went slowly. Yarborough wapentake was assessed at 21 but after a month had raised only two. Although by late May the Rev. C. M. Iliffe, rector of Scampton, a tireless recruiting agent, sent a statement that showed that the wapentake of Lawres, Aslackby, Corringham and Well had provided 32 men out of 34. If a parish could not provide men it would be subject to a £30 fine.

There was a way around a lack of recruits. A parish could send substitues. There were several Scottish vagrants in Lindsey who could be persuaded to enrol for £3, and others, not of the parish, could be persuaded for a small sum. When it was clear the county was way behind target individuals could claim 25 shillings for finding a substitute.

This was in addition to the mobilisation of parishioners to cope with the threat of invasion by Napoleon's army so well illustrated in Rex Russell's book 'Sedition, Insurrection and Invasion' on sale in Jews' Court Bookshop.

Navy recruiting poster of 1777
Lincolnshire recipes
(origin document)

'More recipes from 'Some Old Lincolnshire Recipes' published by Lincolnshire Local History Society and prepared by Mrs E. H. Rudkin. Price one shilling. Tel Lincoln 1020.'

Satisfaction Pudding

Mix 1 tablespoonful of cornflour with 2 of milk
Pour into this ¾ pint of boiling milk
Add 2 tablespoonfuls of castor sugar, 1 oz of butter and the beaten yolks of 2 eggs
Line a pie dish with paste, fill the dish three parts full with sponge cakes (cut up); spread with apricot jam—pour the custard on them and bake in a moderate oven for half an hour
Whip the whites of the eggs up to a stiff froth, put lightly on top of the pudding and return to the oven to brown.

(Clixby 1821)

For the Cramp

Take one of the flintest red herrings you can get; toast it well before the fire, then put to it some brandy and squeeze the herring and brandy together and put the brandy into a bottle, and when the cramp fit comes, anoint the place with it. This is good applied to the head for dizziness.

For a Hoarseness which Cured Betty

One drachm of fresh scraped Horseradish infused in four ounces of water in a closed vessel for two hours and made into a syrup with double its weight of sugar.
A teaspoonful of this has frequently proved suddenly effectual.

(Ketura Shaw's Book. Prior to 1826)

LOCAL DIVERSION...

Here is a tough quiz to test your knowledge of Lincolnshire men!

Some well-known ones are hidden in these clues:

1. He died in the same year as a royal namesake, but the other way inclined, being a man of the cloth
2. He makes confused donkey rest by the Trent
3. 17 November is his day
4. Another such as 3 who goes 'white-hooded, scarlet-slippered, swift through swirling winter snows' in spirit near the Abbey Church of St Andrew
5. Branching out against customs into free enterprise with spirit of a different kind, he operated on the Lincolnshire coast
6. Was he 'at large' in Stamford?
7. RM—Bourne and Bourne again—and again (two men with company as well)
8. Another Bourne man's value
9. Though brave, he couldn't keep his hair on—as seen at several pubs in the area
10. Active on a shiny night—at Sincil Bank perhaps?
11. Not really a Lincolnshire man, but a Roman god formerly resident at Waddington
12. Hark the Herald Angels sing—he helped Mrs Simpson pinch our king!
13. Was Skefford Robert a confused racer?
14. A great soldier, unique from bottom to top. He was from Welbourn—but he was not!
15. He was much more than a long-haired graffiti-writer
16. Surely his machines never had any!

Answers on page 20
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 acknowledges Stamford Museum's collections as his main source for this nostalgic view of Stamford and the neighbouring villages, mostly 100 years ago. The book is divided into various sections, covering topics such as Collyweston slating, transport, farming and industry, and, of course, buildings, including shops and businesses. I was taken with the photo of an enormous Handley Page Heyford bomber at Wittering in the 1950s, the Lent Fair in Stamford and ladies playing billiards at the Language School in 1900. But there is so much more; not only the pictures but the informative captions combine to instruct and please.


After university the author spent his earlier teaching years in a Grimsby Comprehensive.


After the recent volume on the Lincoln City Buses by Cyril Cooke (see the issue 65 of Lincon Past and Present) we now gain an insight into an important aspect of public transport in Grimsby and Cleethorpes. After a brief glance at the early trams that were first authorised in 1880 and originally horse-drawn, followed by electric trams in 1901, the bulk of the book focuses on the following stage in the local transport network. The author states that it is not meant to be a definitive history but more a pictorial journey, following the main routes that the trolley buses, introduced in 1936, followed. In that, the book is an undoubted success. Every vehicle the two towns had in operation are shown in evocative photographs that will achieve the author's aim to stir nostalgic feelings among his readers.

BARTON, June. Living the dream: my magical life in Lincolnshire. J. Wright, 2007. 17pp. No ISBN. £2.50 pbk (or post free from the publisher, 33 Parker Street, Cleethorpes. DN35 8TI).

After the success of her first booklet the author relates more of her life on the marshes near the Wash, including accounts of the 1953 floods. Her views on the local habitat and people make for a readable little number.


As noted in the last issue the study of war memorials, the names on them and fate and lives of the (mostly) men on them is a growing side of historical/biographical research. Mrs Boyce has undertaken to complete the start her late husband, Douglas, made in delving into the stories of the people on the Market Rasen memorials. Douglas published his research into the WW1 men and now we have accounts of those lost in WW2. The biographies are arranged according to the service: army, navy and RAF and, within those groups, chronologically by the date of death. The lives of 25 men are recorded with passport size photographs of many and colour pictures of the parish church's memorial window, two graves and the town's public memorial. A well worthwhile piece of local history research, nicely produced.

CAWKWELL, Norman. Louth & about from Edwardian times. The author, 2006. 120pp. ISBN 978 0 9551294 2 1. £10.99 pbk or post free from the author, 33 Union Street, Louth LN11 0ES.

The author has, by a somewhat circuitous route, had made available to him a series of glass plate photographs taken a hundred years ago by a keen amateur, David Briggs. Mr. Briggs was the proprietor of the Templeman Hotel in Louth's Eastgate from 1890. Many of the pictures shown here were taken in the yard at the back of the
hotel and several sections concentrate on the various forms of transport that the photographer saw from his own windows or near his own premises. Apart from a few excursions into the surrounding villages they are all of Louth and provide a remarkable indication of the life and work of the townspeople.

With informative captions and a few modern pictures to emphasise the degree of alteration that has taken place during the last 100 years this is a valuable addition to other recent photographic studies of the town. The 12 pictures of the Louth Navigation here supplement those that appeared in the recent study of the Canal by Stuart Sizer (only one is duplicated and in this new book it provides greater detail).


The author was sent from bomb-damaged Coventry to the Lincolnshire fens for a short period during WW2 and, consequently, forms only a small part of this autobiography.


This very interesting book reveals the hard work that went into basket-making from the growing of the osiers to the final products. It also reveals how much the same families carried through the various trades and crafts from one generation to the next. The author provides detailed lists, from a variety of sources, especially census returns, of the names of willow growers and basket makers in the two counties from 1790 onwards, their addresses, birthplaces and associated trades they carried on.

The lists also show how far people travelled from their places of origin to take part in the crafts. Very few of the willow growers came from outside the two counties, but those involved in basket-making came from all over England but also three from Ireland and even one born in Pittsburgh as well as a Polish airman, who decided to stay on after WW2.

The book starts with the willows themselves, their growing and treatment (later mechanised in some areas of the work). An interesting table shows that the number of acres as willow holts in Nottinghamshire declined from 945 in the 1880s to only 158 in 1944.

The tools of the trades are discussed and illustrated, followed by a section on the types of products that could be manufactured. Illustrated case studies of Lincolnshire firms include Harrison's of Grantham, the Wood and Elmore families, the former also in Grantham, Thomas Miller of Gainsborough, Cyril Wakefield of Boston and Charlie Leggitt of Saxilby. Similar treatment is given to Nottinghamshire businesses.

But half of the book is taken up with the lists referred to above and they are evidence of the meticulous research that Rodney Cousins has undertaken. I remember the basketmaker, Mr. Wright of Double Street in Spalding. There used to be a plaque on his house referring to his birth in Butley in Rutland. Spalding still has Willow Walk and Osier Road. I found it fascinating.


First issued in 1995 this new pocket-sized volume gives a new life to a fine collection of photographs of Louth. All aspects from Victorian to modern times are depicted; the late Mr Cuppleditch's captions are brief but very much to the point. Its modest price and quality of the contents mean that those who missed out first time round should be glad of its re-issue.

DEAR, Valerie. Ruskington now and then: a walk through a collection of old postcards and photographs from the 20th century, together with a 21st century comparison, information and reminiscences. [The author, 2006]. 84pp. No ISBN. (Old Ruskington, Volume 2, Part 1). £5.50 pbk or £6.50 by post from the author, 7 Millers Close, Seafield NG34 7WG.

DEAR, Valerie. Ruskington now and then... [The author, 2006]. 84pp. No ISBN. (Old Ruskington, Volume 2, Part 2). £5.50 pbk (by post for £6.50 - address as above).

Mrs Dear continues to exploit the photographic archive of the author's grandfather George Peatman. Her first attempt was warmly reviewed in our last issue. Here the older pictures are interspersed with colour photos of the same scenes in recent times.

Each book begins with autographical notes before the reader is taken on a conducted tour of the village, divided for this purpose between the two booklets. The quality of the photographs and their reproduction, the readable and informative captions should all ensure a fine reception from all with Ruskington associations.

the author—address as above). Brought up in Ruskinington and educated at Sleaford High School the author has collected material on Sleaford over many years. She has added to her own mass of photographic records those of many people in the town. Her grandfather, George Peatman, was an enthusiastic (and more than competent) photographer in the early years of the twentieth century so she had a good foundation on which to base her collecting and research. Here are the fruits of her labours. They mostly show Sleaford as it was a hundred years ago in all its wide variety. Lots of pictures of the buildings and the local inhabitants going about their daily tasks (and the photographer found many unusual viewpoints too) and the use of sepia enhances the period feel.

The captions are brief and, one sometimes feels, could have been longer. In general the pictures have been well produced considering their age: in some cases one could have preferred some of the smaller examples to have been enlarged in the hope that more of the detail could have been made visible. Nevertheless, the book fills a notable gap and deserves to be a success.

HACKTHORN & COLD HANWORTH LOCAL HISTORY GROUP.


This is a well-prepared and researched volume. It should be of great interest to all with associations with both villages but its value to other readers can also be emphasised. While the 10 chapters follow conventional (for such studies) subject areas—church, school, the Hall, social activities and parish facilities, farm life and the effect of the wars—the readable narratives contain much that people in similar villages will find interesting.

Much hard work in finding old documents and reading church magazines, coupled with many personal memories, has yielded a fine book. I especially enjoyed reading of the work of the various vicars, not only of all the various ‘normal’ religious functions but also the need to raise funds to clean the church in the 1920s.

But all the sections are interesting. The book’s production values are shown not only in the landscape format and paper used but the way all 189 pictures (16 in full-sized colour) have been reproduced. An excellent piece of work, well worth its modest price.

LINCOLN CATHEDRAL. The story so far. [text by Gavin Kirk and Nicholas Bennett]. Lincoln Minster Shop, 2006. 84pp. ISBN 0 9573606 1 8. £4.99 pbk (including a CD).

This splendid book is quite worth the asking price as it stands. Each double-page spread has a wealth of coloured illustrations and the text provides a very readable survey of the cathedral, whether as an architectural treasure or an archival storehouse but particularly as a living place for visitors and worshippers. But one also acquires a CD, providing an equally colourful tour of its fabric with insights into its organisation and how it operates. It is easy to navigate once one has found one’s way in; it’s well worth the price alone.


This substantial book deals with life on a farm at Croft, near Skegness, and covers the author’s life there from 1929 to 1949, when she left Rivulet House. A good deal of research or a marvellous memory or both are reflected here. The book’s first part is very much taken up with her family and life on the farm and every aspect of the work. The tools and machinery involved have very detailed descriptions; so
we know all about horse training from the breaking-in stage; similar attention is given to rearing pigs and poultry, crop growing and harvesting.

The final part is concerned with a tour of Croft, road by road. It is well illustrated with excellent colour drawings of tools and equipment, photographs in black and white as well as colour and there are a good number of maps. This is a mine of information and perhaps should have been indexed since there is no contents page. Something went wrong with printing; pages 79-80 and 101-110 are duplicated. I think George VI is meant for the coronation (p. 415) too. I have enjoyed it, though — it is a real historic gem.

Marcia Edgar, Spalding. ECHOES OF WOODHALL SPA, World War II and War. The author, 2006. 180pp. ISBN 0 9546443 2 8 pbk or £11.50 by post from David Hill, 74 Horncastle Road, Woodhall Spa LN10 5UX.

A follow-up to the editor’s earlier and popular volume Voices of Woodhall Spa. There is an increasing involvement of many local historians in recording (in both senses) the memories of the older folk before they are lost. Here is an excellent example of how it can be done. Perhaps fifty people have been persuaded to tell of their lives and experiences in Woodhall Spa. The editor has skilfully put this kaleidoscope into a readable sequence; it covers a very wide range of subjects and activities and is complemented by many illustrations, which help enliven the text. Much of the content relates to wartime memories, especially the bombing of the Royal Hotel but the really nostalgic sections are of the pre-war social life centring on cricket matches, the railway and the shops and businesses now gone. Another success for its author.


The author’s memories of 21 years of digging in Newark Cemetery give an interesting insight into an unusual choice of job. The writing is well done and, odd as it may seem, it is an enjoyable read. Only on the back cover are we told that the author is now freelancing and digging graves in Lincolnshire too.


The anonymous editor tells of the original plan to work through all the pages of the Grantham Journal, picking out just the bits about South Witham up to 1900. The Journal began publication in 1854 and as research progressed it was realised that one volume would not cover the discoveries. So here we have the first 36 years with more volumes promised.

The greatest number of reports relate to church events, interspersed with the scorecards of village cricket matches. A few other news items crop up but the general feeling so far is that, outside the churches, little was reported. A good start has been made to what, in time, will prove of wider interest especially among family historians. An index to the people and events is needed to make it even more useful.


Spalding and other local newspapers have been scanned to provide a delightful, if somewhat romanticised, view of Victorian winters. The short sections cover shopping, food, fashion, transport, Christmas at Burghley in 1857 and, in the same year, a ball at Spalding Corn Exchange. Mick Smith has provided attractive illustrations and, in its large format, the varied contents provide much pleasure.

THOMPSON, Ian. St Hybald of Hibaldstow. Scunthorpe, Bluestone Press, 2006. 11pp. No ISBN. £2 pbk or £2.50 by post from the author, 259 Ashby Road, Scunthorpe DN16 2AB.

This little booklet enshrines a great amount of research into the Saxon saint, whose remains are supposedly buried in Hibalstow church. Thanks to Bede and his History much can be inferred about the saint, his associates and parts of his life. The author here presents a readable account of the present state of scholarship as it relates to the Saxon church and the life of this Lincolnshire holy man.


Born in 1925 in Grantham, the son of Dr Thorp, headmaster of Grantham Boys Central School; his mother was also (then a rara avis) a woman graduate, who had been invited to work in Paris with Mme. Curie. His parents had a house built in Harrowby Lane and this autobi-
ography tells of his childhood in the town—the games he, his siblings and friends played, the mischief they got into and domestic activities—gardening and keeping chickens. With such parents books and reading feature prominently; he attended KGGS’s prep department before going on to the King’s School and the book ends with the author being offered a county scholarship to study radio-physics. This is a well-written and lively account of growing up in Grantham. A family member has produced drawings; the maps show how the house was arranged, the layout of the surrounding lands and a plan of the neighbourhood with names of the other householders.

**WALKER, Andrew, editor.**

*Monks Road: Lincoln’s east end through time.* Lincoln City Directorate of Development and Environmental Services, 2006, 64pp, ISBN 9780953865017, £5.95 pbk.

The list of contributors that Dr Walker has persuaded to write includes many well-known to SLHAA members. Michael Jones writes authoritatively on Roman origins; Dr Alan Vince takes the story on into Anglo-Saxon and medieval times; there’s a page by Glyn Coppack on Monks Abbey and then, many who describe and analyse Victorian development. Dr Dennis Mills might be singled out for writing three sections: on churches, population and the “three-in-one” school.

The editor has three sections apart from the introduction; his subjects are the pre-WW1 cattle market, the Arboretum and Victorian housing. There is an impressive amount of material; it is well illustrated with pictures both old and new and a useful map. Only second in the series so we can look forward to more of the same please!

---

**Lincolnshire Music On Air**

A cud-eared listeners interested in Lincolnshire folk music may have noticed the haunting tune of Horston Grange being played on an accord as the title music to a recent Radio Four Classic Serial, ‘Felix Holt the Radical’ by George Eliot. One wonders whether the producer was aware that George Eliot had Lincolnshire connections. She allegedly visited Gainsborough in the mid-1800s or the 1880s (depending which vague source one consults!) and used the town as a model for St Oggs in *The Mill on the Floss*. Horston is not particularly close to Gainsborough, being nearer the Humber. The tune was one of those collected by Percy Grainger, and the fragmentary words include the name Steelye Span, later to be adopted by a well-known musical group. Incidentally, I had trouble trying to find the reality of the George Eliot connection—have we a reader who can help?

*Hilary Healey*

**Lincolnshire men**

**LOCAL DIVERSION** page 15

1. Bishop Edward King
2. Torksey Ned
3. St Hugh, Bishop of Lincoln d. 16 November 1200
4. St Gilbert of Sempringham
5. Twig the smuggler
6. Daniel Lambert
7. Robert Manning, Raymond Mayes and (Bourne) Racing Motors
8. (Charles) Wether
9. The Marquis of Granby (John Manners b. 1721)
10. Poacher (Lincoln City FC mascot)
11. (Avro) Vulcan
12. Lord Brownlow
13. (Robert) Carre
14. Field Marshall Sir William Robertson
15. Sir Isaac Newton
16. Joseph Ruson (rust on)

---

George Eliot—1865 chalk drawing by Sir Frederick William Burton (National Portrait Gallery)
ISSN: 0960-9555

Price: £1.60

Lincolnshire Past & Present is published four times a year (Spring, Summer, Autumn, Winter)

It is issued free to members of the Society for Lincolnshire History and Archaeology (who also receive the annual journal Lincolnshire History and Archaeology, and pre-publication offers on publications etc.)

Adult/Individual: £21.00 (overseas members £25.00)
Family: £22.00
In full-time education: £13.00, which excludes annual Journal
Institutions: £222.00 (overseas institutions £25.00)

Further particulars are available from

The Society for Lincolnshire History and Archaeology, Jews' Court, Steep Hill, Lincoln LN2 1LS
Tel: 01522 522337

Office Hours: Monday to Thursday 10am – 4pm. Shop Hours: Monday to Saturday 10am – 4pm

© Society for Lincolnshire History & Archaeology 2007

Typeset by Ros Bowers.

www.lincolnshirepast.org.uk