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Cover illustrations: front: Steep Hill, Lincoln, during the 2006 Christmas Market; back: original copper plate for Padley's 1842 Plan of Lincoln - courtesy Lincolnshire County Council: Museum of Lincolnshire Life
Winter 2007/8

A happy new year to all our members and readers!

One of my memories of 2007 is going to Brinkhill to get pictures for LP&P on 1 July in the pouring rain. Everything was dark, dreary, saturated and dripping wet.

Some households had obviously suffered flooding as did many in Lincolnshire and other parts of the UK. Let's hope that 2008 is kinder to us all!

In this edition we have a large selection of books for your consideration plus a variety of articles for the forthcoming wintry days, with subjects as varied as Padley's large plan of Lincoln, Jane Elliot's Lincolnshire connections, the family name of Jekyll, and a lost community of Barton upon Humber.

Thank you for continuing to send in your queries. Perhaps someone knows what happened to Stixwould Priory keys or who lived at Wyndhurst, Pelham Road, Grimsby, in 1897.

We also have another extract from The Strangers' Illustrated Guide and a fifteen-question quiz.

Ros Beevers, joint editor
J. S. Padley's magnificent plan of Lincoln at 20 inches to the mile was first published in 1842. It was updated three times, with new states appearing in 1851, 1868 and 1883, and provides a marvellously detailed record of the growth of Lincoln in that period.

These maps were the motivation for the publication of Historic Town Plans of Lincoln in 2002, and have led to a continuing interest in the career of this most remarkable surveyor. In the last few months, more evidence has come to light that tells us more of the history of his great plan of Lincoln.

First and foremost is a black and white photocopy of a very battered map formerly in Lincoln Central Library (Map 809a) which appears to be the original manuscript version.

It is known that other maps from Padley's office were donated to one of the library's predecessors by James Thropp, Padley's successor as County Surveyor, so it is entirely plausible that the original version of the 20-inch plan should have been among them.

The photocopied map is dated 1841 and bears a title and dedication slightly different from the engraved version of 1842 (Figure 1 - Title). Perhaps Padley felt by the time the map went to the engraver that the original dedication was a little too sycophantic.

Fig 1a: Title of Padley's 1841 map
There are scarcely any changes to the detail of the map between the 1841 MS and the 1842 engraved versions. Two important industrial buildings were added: the millwright's works of John Key on the east corner of Friars Lane and St Rumbold's Lane, and the first major building on the Clayton & Shuttleworth site, immediately west of...
the dock basin (Figure 2—Stamp End in 1841).

Close inspection of the engraved map shows that these were engraved with clearer hatching than any of the other buildings, and the former has garden ornament under the building; so they must have been added after the plate was first produced, but before any of the known copies were printed.

Almost certainly the buildings must have been erected in 1841 or 1842—indeed, we know that the Clayton & Shuttleworth partnership started in 1842.

The 1841 MS was evidently coloured, roads being probably in a yellow-brown tint. The different classes of building were distinguished in a scheme more complex than the public buildings / dwelling houses / outhouses scheme used on the engraved map.

For example, public houses are shown with bold hatching on a red (?) ground, whereas public buildings have bold grey (?) hatching and churches a much finer hatching. Dwelling houses and other buildings are of a uniform shade—probably red and grey respectively. (The colours postulated are based on the shades of grey on the photocopy combined with normal contemporary practice for this type of map.) The engraver seems to have despaired of representing this complexity, which perhaps is why churches and pubs come together as ‘public buildings’ on the engraved map.

The second great discovery is that the northern of the map’s two copper plates has turned up literally in a skip! As was to be expected, it has been updated to 1883. On the reverse it bears a stamp, which probably reads ALLARD, 9 RATCLIFFE ROW. Ratcliffe Row is now Lever Street, London EC1. The area was a centre for the printing trade; John Dower, who engraved the
map, was based not far away.

This plate is 93mm x 738mm (Figure 2- photo), and printing it will have needed one of the widest rollers then available. The southern plate will only have been some 500mm top to bottom; printing that one will have been a more routine job.

The majority of copies were sold dissected into panels, mounted on linen for easy folding, given an edge of green tape to prevent tearing, and provided with a slip case, so that they would fit conveniently on a library shelf.

Most of the surviving copies of the 1842 issue were cut into panels six inches wide, 10¾ inches high, so chosen that the power plate occupied exactly two rows of seven panels each, the upper plate three rows, except that the top row of panels was an inch or so shorter than the rest.

This is not such a good arrangement as one might suppose, because prolonged contact in damp conditions causes the edging tape to stain the map. If the rows of the map are given a concertina fold (Fig 3a) then a brown line will appear an inch or so up from the bottom of the second row of panels; this can be seen in a copy published in the Lincoln atlas.

If the map is given a spiral concertina fold (Figure 3b) then there will also be a matching stain the same distance from the top of the third row. Another copy was reproduced recently (Mapforum 7, 12-17) that had been stained in this way.

Mapmakers normally felt a need to update their products whenever a new railway appeared. In the same way today the failure to show a new motorway makes a map look dreadfully out of date.

The Midland Railway arrived in Lincoln in 1846, so it should perhaps have been remarked upon that Padley failed to update his map until 1851. In fact, it now appears that he revised his map in 1847, by which date the routes of the other two railways that were about to open were already in the course of construction.

This revision was not engraved—financial difficulties probably prevented this—but a copy was provided in 1849 to the engineer George Giles, who used it to set out his proposals for sewerage.

The argument that what appears to be a map of 1849 by Giles is actually based on a map of 1847 by Padley is too complex to spell out in full here. Essentially it depends on a demonstration that the map shows Lincoln as it was in 1847—18 months before Giles was commissioned to produce his report, that Giles' map has features that must have been copied from Padley's 1842 plan and that new features that appear on Giles' plan are shown so identically on Padley's 1851 plan that they must have a common source. The 1851 plan does of course incorporate substantial further revision.

Throughout the 19th century there were two main technologies used for printing maps: engraving and lithography. In 1842 the superior quality of an engraved map was so pronounced that lithography was only used where cheapness or speed was paramount. A quarter of a century later lithography had progressed greatly in definition and versatility.

One aspect of its versatility was that it was possible to lay down a photographic image onto a lithographic stone, making it possible to enlarge or reduce a map without redrawing. It would appear that this technique was used to produce maps derived from the 20-inch plan but at a scale of chains to the inch (about nine inches to the mile).

The only one of these that seems to have been published by Padley himself (if indeed it was ever published at all) survives in a single copy, I.O. Map 809. It is based on the 1868 state of the large plan with updating as follows:

1. a block of new streets from Knight Street to Spencer Street, lettered with serifs (like the names on the engraved plan);
2. several other blocks and isolated streets, with sans-serif letters;
3. new public buildings, notably the new St Martin's church and the Hannah Memorial Chapel, with name
inside the outline, as well as hatching;

4. a court off Cowtham Street, where hatching is used to indicate the fronts of buildings (Figure 4);

5. new buildings more boldly hatched, such as the County Hospital;

6. ornamental grounds—the arboretum and the block north of it;

7. St Andrew’s church—site marked in Gothic lettering, but no building.

Because of the stylistic changes, I suggest that these additions (1) preceded (2) and (3), which in turn preceded (5) and (6). Item 7 made good an omission: St Andrew’s church had been built in 1876-7, while the County Hospital only dates from 1878. It was omitted from the Williamson map described below, so was probably the last of the additions to be made.

Whether copies of the map were printed in the intervals between these stages is unknown. However, lithography was a specialised business; Padley is unlikely to have been employing an outside firm to make these updates without a specific need for the product.

A second stone seems to have been produced in the same way. This was updated with 1 to 6 above (except that street names were all sans-serif, and hatching is used quite widely to mark frontages of new buildings on them).

All of these have definitely been drawn afresh, rather than being transferred to the previous stone. Rauceby Terrace has become Rauceby St, but in general the same source has been used; the main block of buildings north of the Arboretum is shown too large on both. St Andrew’s church (7) is not shown. Additionally there are:

8. Lindum Avenue / Arboretum Avenue;

9. unnamed streets (dashed) south of Ripon Street;

10. a Proposed New Road (also dashed) from the existing Burton New Road at Victoria Terrace to Burton Road itself;

11. the Lincoln to Spalding railway and the avoiding line;


All the ornamental work around the map was cleaned off. Longdales Road being lost in the process. A new title was provided: ‘Plan of the City of Lincoln, 1883’, a new scale bar, and bottom left, ‘James Williamson, Publisher, Lincoln’. A specimen in this state has been noted in a copy of Williamson’s Guide Through Lincoln, 1881.

One of the problems with the technique of photolithography was that the image was liable to deteriorate as copies were taken. Hence often a draughtsman would draw a new image in permanent lithographic ink on top of the temporary photographic image, using the latter.

Fig 4. Successive views of the north bank of Foss Dyke

a: Reduced Padley

b: Williamson

c: 1883 Padley
as a drawing key. One sometimes encounters old postcards that have been printed from redrawn photographs by this means.

This is the form in which the reduced Padley had most success. A stone was supplied for the use of Akrill, the publisher of the City of Lincoln Directory, 1881. Using the photographic image as a drawing key, new line work was laid down on the stone, producing a simplified map based on Padley’s surveying but wholly redrawn. The map acknowledges its source and went through many editions, eventually being published by J. W. Ruddock. That map, and the Directory that it accompanied, is a separate story, which I have not attempted to trace.

By 1883 Padley was dead, and his successor James Thropp had published the final version of the large plan. He was perhaps more than happy to abandon the nine-chain scale to Williamson and Akrill. The large plan of 1883 is more up to date in its depiction of streets than the small plan.

However, there are areas where they complement each other, for example along the north bank of the Foss Dyke, West of Foss Street, the Padley nine-chain map marks ‘Corporation Stables etc.’ The Williamson map shows the southern part as Corporation Stables, the northern part as ‘Asphalt Yard’.

The large 1883 plan shows the buildings of each, but unnamed. Likewise, further west, the early stone names Westfield Terrace at the end of Carr Street, the later stone indicates building frontages without giving a name; while the large plan shows the buildings in detail but again unnamed.

Are there any broader lessons from all this? We already know that in 1842 Padley was pushing copper-plate technology to the limit. It would seem that he was actually pushing for more than his engraver was prepared to give him in terms of the number of varieties of hatching that could be used to distinguish different classes of building.

As late as 1880 he was still pushing technology, this time the technology of photolithography. He had perhaps identified a market for the type of cheap street map a purchaser might carry around the city in his pocket. It is interesting evidence for Padley’s continuing intellectual vigour into his late 80s.

One last point is worth making. The account of the reduced Padleys (a term I take to exclude the redrawn Akrill map) has been based on just two surviving copies. This may be because very few were printed or because cheaply produced maps on thin paper tend not to last very long. So if anyone knows of any copies other than in Lincoln Central Library or Grimsby public library, I should be interested to learn of them, no matter how tattered or incomplete.

Sir Francis Hill, Victorian Lincoln, 1974, 121.

THE PENITENT FEMALES’ HOME

TAKEN FROM ‘THE STRANGERS’ ILLUSTRATED GUIDE THROUGH LINCOLN’ 1856

(Original document in Jews’ Court Library)

This institution, designed to aid in the reformation of the poor creatures who walk our streets arrayed in the livery of misery, was started by several esteemed ladies, after the necessity had been repeatedly urged by the public press. It is pleasantly situated on the brow of the Hill, immediately at the back of the Union House, and is approached by the road past the Asylum leading to the West Common. The first essay in the regeneration of the outcast class was made by a few ladies, who set... the bold and then unpopular example of compassionating the condition of moral pariahs against whom the doors of society were closed, however sincerely they might desire to return to a virtuous and honest course of life. The good work... soon spread and as it became demonstrated that the abandoned could be reclaimed, the kindlier feelings of humanity conquered the deep rooted antipathy for the erring sister whose shame and woe had so seldom excited a tear. The Rev. E. R. Larken, Rector of Burton, a warm-hearted and zealous philanthropist, whose whole desires and energies are enlisted in working out the good of his fellow men... devoted himself to the work with an... energy almost surprising: two benevolent Noblemen, the Earl of Yarborough and Lord Monson, also contributed to the furtherance of the work... and the result has been the existing Institution. Their reward (is) the gratifying fact, that many females have been reclaimed, and after a probationary trial in the Home, during which they are taught to earn an honest livelihood... placed in respectable servitude, or have been joyfully received by their friends. The Institution is based upon the principle of toleration, as regards religion, and numbers of all denominations exhibit the beautiful example of uniting... to do good.
What happened to the keys of Stixwould Priory?

In 1976 the late Canon Peter Binnall, knowing my interest in medieval Lincolnshire monastic houses, allowed me to record a set of four old keys that were in his possession at the time. Attached to the keys was a label, which read:

Keys of the Monastery of Stixwould given to me in 1882 by J. Curtois Bramley who resided there several years.

C. T. J. Moore.

A photograph of the keys is reproduced below. Are they old enough to have belonged to the priory, i.e., 16th century or earlier, and where are they now?

John T. Turner
SOUTH LINCOLNSHIRE JJEKYLL ORIGINS

This essay about the Jekyll family was inspired by local names in the south Lincolnshire fens. Most of it was gleaned from the web, some from members of the family, the National Gallery of Canada, BBC Radio 4, books—including Gertrude Jekyll: before the boots, the gardens, and the portrait by Joan Edwards, The Museum of Garden History’s Richardson Lecture 1993, Gertrude Jekyll, a memoir by Francis Jekyll, Cape 1934, and the rest from local history with special thanks to Mr Bill Belsham of The Spalding Gentlemen’s Society. The photographs (and mistakes) are mine. My grateful thanks to all who helped.

Joan Woolard

The BBC Television thriller Jekyll based on the Robert Louis Stevenson story of Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde could be an attempt to portray schizophrenia, or at least bipolar disorder. The split personality of the outwardly respectable doctor transformed into a hideous monster by night is now a very familiar theme, but to Victorian Britain it was both shocking and intriguing.

Stephenson was himself a strange mixture and attracted unconventional friends, among them Walter Jekyll, brother of Gertrude Jekyll, the famous garden designer. Borrowing his friend's name for a psychological thriller may hint at the deeper currents beneath the apparently calm façade of genteel society where the name Jekyll was eminent and conveyed breeding and money.

Through more than 13 generations the Jekylls were successful in a wide range of occupations from provision of the royal hay to inspection of Massachusetts Customs.

History books state the Jekylls originated in Lincolnshire, and there is ample evidence to show Jekylls owned land in South Holland, Lincolnshire, with variations of the name in several places: Jekills Bank, Jekils Gate, and even Jigles Gate leading directly to Jekills Farm on Joys Bank, Holbeach St Johns (now a John Deere franchise), near Spalding.

Spelling was "a many-splendored thing" when few could write and pronunciation was equally variable. Medieval records show 12th-century Danelaw charters relating to Gikell son of Alun of Yarburgh and John son of Gikell of Yarburgh (Stenton: Danelew Charters) while the Crowland Abbey Cartulary bears witness to one Peter Gikel who was granted Whaplode land by the Abbot, confirmed about 1254 (transcription folio 89); Charter of confirmation of Abbot Ralph. I have granted to Peter Gikel the plot of land he had of the gift of Fulk son of Avice, of our fee, in the vill of Quapelode; to hold to him and his heirs at a rent of 14d (at the 4 terms).

So it would appear a family with a similar sounding name to Jekyll (pronounced Jekil) held land in South Holland centuries before they migrated to London and America.

Scholars attribute the name Jekyll to Scandinavian roots, and this
John’s where it becomes Joy’s Bank; Jekill’s Gate is a shorter road in Fleet between Damgate and Balls Lane, near Fleet church. Jigges Gate leads directly from Jekills Farm to the Ravensbank (otherwise known as Little South Holland Drain). A map from 1307 has Jigges Bank for Jekil’s Bank; a fleet register of 1731 has Jeggells gate occupying the position now held by Jekils Gate.

The area of land bounded by the Jekyll name in all its forms is extensive, but road—and place—names are often extended to suit local or postal authorities. Fleet Harlague used to mean the main road through Fleet for example; it is now the main part of the village. However, it seems safe to assume that Jekyl territory covered many fenland areas between Gedney and Moulton. The Jekylls were far from yokels!

If they were such prosperous landowners, why did they migrate? The answer probably lies in the Black Death, which devastated the countryside in the 13th and 14th centuries. With the population greatly reduced it would be impossible to cultivate the soil when every process was dependent on manual labour.

Horses and oxen needed hands to drive the plough or cart, gathering in the harvest would have been impossible without a good labour supply. Farming itself became an endangered occupation. The peculiar problems of fenland drainage would not have made life any easier. As with Dr Johnson’s desperate Scotsman, no prospect looked so good as the road leading south. London beckoned.

From the Fens, the story of the Jekylls expands into a multitude of interests and careers on at least three continents. The family history is well documented, beginning with William Jekyll (1470-1539). He went to London from Lincolnshire and became Purveyor of Forage for the King’s Horse.

Next a distinguished lawyer, Sir Joseph Jekyll (1662-1728), Master of the Rolls, actually left money in his will to reduce the national debt; his portrait was painted by Sir Godfrey Kneller, and his name was given to Jekyll Island, Georgia, by its founder General Oglesbrough, as a token of his admiration.

Sir Joseph’s nephew John Jekyll travelled widely in Europe before moving to America and was collector of His Majesty’s Customs for the Port of Boston, Massachusetts, from 1707 until his death in 1732; he had nine children with his wife Hannah Clark of New York.

Commenting on his life, The Boston Weekly Newsletter wrote: ‘He was publicly conspicuous of his office for his faithfulness and his application in his Duty to the Crown, by his courteous Behaviour to the Merchant, he became the Darling of all Fair Traders.’ A notable oration was delivered and published by the Rev Roger Price on the occasion of his death.

His son Captain Edward Jekyll, Gertrude Jekyll’s great-grandfather, returned to England and became a naval officer. His support of the American colonies stunted his career. In 1775 it was reported that: ‘Giving free scope to his opinions as a native American, he incurred the wrath of Lord Sandwich’ who was then First Lord Of The Admiralty (as well as inventor of the sandwich).

Sir Joseph Jekyll’s great-nephew Joseph Jekyll (1754-1837) originated in Wales and went to France upon graduation from Oxford in 1774. There he learned the social graces that enabled him to mix easily with ‘the great and the good’ of his day. He returned to Britain in February 1776 and studied law, being called to the bar at Lincoln’s Inn in 1778.

Joseph wrote the biography of a freed slave, Ignatius Sancho. Born in 1729 on a slave ship, Sancho became a celebrity and the first African to vote in a British election. A
gifted scholar, he kept a shop with his wife and children in Westminster. The ubiquitous Dr Johnson knew him, and a portrait of Sancho, painted in 1768 by Thomas Gainsborough, hangs in the National Gallery of Canada. He died aged about 50.

It is probable he knew another freed slave, Job Djiabla, befriended by Sir Hans Sloane, founder of the British Museum and Natural History Museum. Sloane and Djiabla were both members of the second oldest learned society in Britain, the Spalding Gentlemen's Society in Lincolnshire. The wheel turns almost full circle in 1801 with the marriage of Sir Hans Sloane's daughter Anna Maria and Joseph Jekyll. He became Solicitor-General.

Gertrude Jekyll (1843-1932) was Joseph and Anna's granddaughter, and the designer of over 400 gardens at home and abroad, many in collaboration with the famous architect, Edward Lutyens (1869-1944). Lutyens was commissioned to help design the British Pavilion in Paris in 1900 by Gertrude Jekyll's brother Sir Herbert Jekyll (1846-1932).

Miss Jekyll is the subject of many books and many more articles. Due to extreme shortsightedness, Gertrude was carefully educated at home, her father taking a special interest in developing her latent skills. He taught her to work in wood and metal and she also became very skilled in embroidery, painting and interior design.

Her deteriorating eyesight forced her into different channels and Gertrude achieved her greatest success with garden design, working with Lutyens. Gertrude died in December 1932, following her brother Herbert's death in September. Next door neighbours in life, they both lie in Busbridge churchyard, Surrey, in a tomb designed by Lutyens, who became known for his war graves and memorials, especially Thiepval and the Cenotaph.

Echoing his grandfather's concern for the downtrodden, Gertrude's younger brother, the Rev Walter Jekyll, friend of Robert Louis Stevenson, went to Jamaica where he met and befriended Claude McKay (1890-1948), a black poet, writing a folk music book with him and encouraging a trip to Harlem in 1912. Claude visited France, Russia and England and became a prominent communist, writer and gay icon, dedicating Banana Bottom in 1933 to his early mentor Walter Jekyll. Claude McKay died in Chicago a convert to Catholicism.

Gertrude Jekyll's home was inherited by her nephew Francis Jekyll (1882-1965) known as Timmy. After Eton and Oxford, Timmy was a librarian at the British Museum and an avid collector of folk songs with George Butterworth. After Butterworth died on the Somme in 1916 Timmy wrote: "Some of my happiest days were those we spent together, tramping the Sussex Downs and collecting songs."

Sadly Timmy had resigned from the British Museum in 1914 and sank into a long and debilitating depression, living alone in 'The Hut' at Munstead Wood on his aunt's former estate until his death at 82.

The circle nears completion with the marriage of Barbara Jekyll, daughter of Colonel Sir Herbert Jekyll, KCMG, to the Hon Francis Walter Stafford Maclaren, elected in 1910 Member of Parliament for Holland (Lincolnshire constituency later Holland with Boston), sadly killed in a flying accident in 1917.

In 1922 Barbara married the much decorated World War I hero of the New Zealand forces, Lieutenant General Bernard Cyril Freyberg (1889-1965), created First Baron Freyberg and appointed Deputy Constable and Lieutenant Governor of Windsor Castle.

From the millpond flatness of the Lincolnshire Fens, surveyors of forage, the Jekylls rose to mountainous heights as lawyers, clergymen, bankers, merchants, soldiers, sailors, solid members of the British establishment, while tethered on the gentler slopes by deep and nebulous bonds wandered dreamers, musicians and befrienders of free spirits such as Ignatius Sancho, Claude McKay and Robert Louis Stephenson.
George Eliot in Lincolnshire

Margaret Crompton

In the summer 2007 edition of Lincolnshire Past & Present, Hilary Healey noted: "I had difficulty in trying to find the reality of the George Eliot connection—have we a reader who can help?" (p20). Who could resist such an appeal? Especially as we have all the evidence Hilary could desire to establish the connection between the author of The Mill on the Floss and Lincolnshire.

Hilary’s enquiry related initially to the use of ‘Horkstow Grange’ as title music to a BBC Radio 4 production of Felix Holt the Radical. As a Lincolnshire tune this has some relevance to George Eliot but none to Felix Holt, which is set in the West Midlands.

More appropriate for the present article might be The lost lady found, for in 2001 my husband, John, and I set out to discover the truth behind the numerous legends about George Eliot’s visit to Gainsborough.

For example she is credited with staying at different addresses in Morton and Gainsborough in 1845, 1846, 1858, 1859 and/or 1879, and there are competing claims for the origin of Mr Tulliver’s Mill. One story cites her gaining inspiration for the novel perched on a hilltop under a chestnut tree in Morton, overlooking the Trent, in 1845.

We had become so intrigued by these legends that, funded by the West Lindsey Economic Development and Recreational Services Department (EDRSD), we studied the George Eliot archive held in Gainsborough public library—(newspaper cuttings, photographs, personal comments, articles, and a little printed green-bound book with pages of later annotations)—and researched evidence for details of the visit.

This included censuses, directories, letters, journals and textbooks, and we consulted many people including local residents. We typed copies of the Gainsborough texts and these, with a series of brief, original papers entitled ‘The truth behind the legends’ can be seen at the EDRSD and in Gainsborough Library.

Gainsborough

The visit to Gainsborough is recorded in three brief journal entries and a letter. On 7 October 1859 George Eliot noted: "On Monday the 26th [September] we set out on a three days’ journey to Lincolnshire and back—very pleasant and successful both as to the weather and the objects I was in search of."

The first night was probably spent in Newark. Her journal entry on 19 September 1868, recording another journey, refers to her return to Newark, which we had visited in old days on our expedition to Gainsborough. At Newark, we found our old inn, the Ram, opposite the ruins of the Castle... (now ‘The Old Market’, Castlegate).

She would not have used her nom de plume when travelling and was known as Mrs Marian (or Polly) Lewes. The night of 27 September was spent in Gainsborough. In November her
common-law husband, George Lewes, recorded: 'Polly wanting to lay the scene of her novel on the Trent... We took a boat from Gainsborough and rowed down to the Idle, which we ascended on foot some way, and walked back to Gainsborough.'

Writing to John Blackwood (publisher of *Mill on the Floss*) on 18 January 1861, Lewes noted: ‘Mrs Lewes was one day and a half in Gainsboro’—yet you see she is obviously a Gainsboro woman, and has taken her places and people from the life’ (sic).

They almost certainly travelled by train to Newark. The GNR line had operated since 1852. Transit between Newark and Gainsborough could have been by steam packet, or by rail via Lincoln or Retford. There were two quays in Gainsborough, at Packet Landing (near the present Guildhall) and Chapel Staite (near the present Hickman Street). Rail travel would probably have been to Central Station in Spring Gardens, to the east of the town centre.

Accounts of other journeys show that they often did not book accommodation. On an earlier tour in 1859, they had dined at a railway hotel in Conway, slept on a sofa in a temperance hotel, found no rooms in Penmaennar, returned to Conway to lodge over a grocer's shop. Lichfield provided a hotel but in holiday full Wyemouth they stayed with 'some good Wesleyans, honest and kind.'

We speculate that they landed from the steam packet and obtained lodgings near both the quay and a boatyard where perhaps they hired a rowing boat. Or, if they arrived at the station and walked straight to the waterfront to secure a boat, the boatyard owner might have offered overnight stay in his nearby residence. Some people think this was Edward Trener and that the house was the present United Services Club in Bridge Street.

Although we could find no evidence that he was owner or resident there, E. T. Trener was a shipbuilder and general contractor in the 1860s. The house was between Trener's shipyard and a wharf with, perhaps, small boats for hire. A photograph (*circa* 1900) shows rowing boats moored next to this wharf. Miss Taylor, a later resident, referred to this house, 'Lealholm,' as 'the residence of Uncle and Aunt Dean and I'vey' in the novel, where it is resited in 'Toftton' (Morton).

**The Mill on the Floss**

George Eliot could never have visited Gainsborough in 1845. At that time she was Miss Mary Ann Evans, living with her widowed father in Coventry, and her travels in that year, chaperoned by married friends, are well documented. She did not begin to write fiction until 1857 (*Scenes of Clerical Life*) and the ideas for *The Mill on the Floss* were developed in 1859.

The first mention of this novel is in her journal entry on 12 January 1859: ‘We went into town [London] today and looked in the Annual Register for causes of irritation.’ Tulliver's Mill is based primarily on Arbury Mill, near Mary Ann's birthplace, and is a water mill, whereas the Gainsborough mills were powered by wind or steam. Most of her childhood was spent at Griff House, near Nuneaton, which is now incorporated into a Travel Inn.

Most of the novel has been written before the Gainsborough visit but the opening meditation is set on the 'Stone Bridge—Trent Bridge' (first built in 1791). 'St Oggs' is Gainsborough in location, and some descriptions evoke the old town; indeed some commentators consider that these descriptions owe something to Thomas Miller's *Our Old Town*, 1857. Gainsborough Old Hall almost certainly contributes to the Old Hall in St Oggs (book 1 chapter 12; book 6 chapter 9).

The book contains numerous local references, for example, 'Lindum' (Lincoln), 'Lace town' (Nottingham), 'Mudpott' (Hull) and the Wolds. The 'Lackerceth' ferry is probably based on Stockwith or Walkereth. 'Job Haxey' and 'Mr Furley' have local resonances too. The 'Floss' is the Trent but the mill stands on a tributary, the 'Ripple'—based on the Idle.

Although Mrs Lewes stayed in Lincolnshire for only one night, she returned many years later as Mrs Cross. After George Lewes's death, she married their friend John Cross in 1880. Mr and Mrs Cross visited John’s sister Emily Otter and her family at Ranby Hall in September 1880. They may have travelled via the new Bardney-Louth railway line (completed in 1876), alighting at Donington-on-Bain.

Mrs Cross returned to the first names of her youth, Mary Ann. She was happy in the Wolds and we were delighted to find a number of letters about her visit, giving a charming insight into the gracious, affectionate woman and the comfortable family life in the Wolds. On 12 August 1880 she wrote to Charles Lewes (her stepson): 'At the beginning of September we are to visit Mr and Mrs Otter at Ranby, and after that we shall go to Six-Mile Bottom for a day or two. Then our wanderings will be over.'

After return home, on 8 September she reported to Charles on a tranquil domestic scene: We reached home yesterday after two thoroughly enjoyable visits which, however, left us some sadness to get home again. Ranby is a healthy, breezy place, high on the Lincolnshire Wolds, but the heat was not less here than at Willey. Mr Otter is transformed into a country gentleman with tenants around who call him 'Squire'. He is as delightful as ever to talk to, full of humour and instruction. And Emily, at the head...
of a large household, with three little ones to love and care for, is a very pretty young woman.'

An impeccable guest, she immediately wrote to thank Emily: 'Dearest Emily

I feel sure that Johnny has told you everything interesting about us since we left the pleasant shades and sunshine of Ranby... And I will also leave unsaid the much that I feel in thinking of your affectionate kindness to me...

...I enclose now [a spotted veil] in order that you may not be at a loss with the next needy guest who has the disagreeable trick of losing her small gear. I found my own bit of spotted net carefully put away in my bonnet box...

My cold flourishes exceedingly well on my poor person, and is coughing and sneezing with great spirit. Otherwise I brought nothing from Ranby but pleasant memories which recur every now and then like a nice view out of one's window.

Doubtless you have had much music. My best love to the musicians and to the listener with the bland—plaits? Always your affectionate Sister.'

Next day (9 September) she wrote to Mrs Burne-Jones (wife of the famous painter):

'Dearest Georgie

We have just got home after paying family visits in Lincolnshire and Cambridgeshire... The good harvest makes the country everywhere cheerful, and we have been in great corn districts where the fields full of sheaves or studded with ricks stretch wide as a prairie...

On 14 September she told her lifelong friend Barbara Bodichon:

'We have been away in Lincolnshire and Cambridgeshire, paying visits to the Otters and the Halls. The weather, which is now broken, was glorious through all our wanderings, which we made very interesting by passing to see Ely, Peterborough and Lincoln Cathedrals.

The Otters have a very pretty, happy household. He is a courtly gentleman now, acting as a magistrate and glancing towards Parliament. But he keeps up his reading and is delightful to talk to. Emily looks very pretty in her matronly position with three little children.'

Three months later George Eliot was dead. Lincolnshire may be proud of giving such a beautiful Indian summer to the great writer whose classic novel helps to immortalise our county.

NOTE: The full text of George Eliot in Gainsborough: presentation and analysis of local legends about the Lincolnshire sources of 'The Mill on the Floss' including typescripts of the original documents is available to see at the Economic Development and Recreational Services Department, West Lindsey District Council, 26 Spital Terrace, Gainsborough DN21 2JG 01427 615411, and in Gainsborough Library. This material is presented in a ring binder.

POST MARK:
GRIMSBY
12 pm
No 9 (9 NOVEMBER)
97 (1897)

ADDRESS:
MRS. G. KING
GIBRALATAR LANE
LACEBY
GRIMSBY
Can anyone identify the writer of the following letter? It was written in 1897 to my grandmother Maria King (née Farmacy) by a friend who was in domestic service, as Maria had been, along with most of her generation of young women. Does the house from which the letter was sent, [Wyndhurst, Pelham Road, Grimsby] still exist?

The circular postmark reads: ‘Grimsby 12pm No 97’ [9 November 1897]. The letter is addressed to ‘Mrs G. King, Gibraltar Lane, Laceby, Grimsby.’

Dear Maria

You cannot think how pleased I was with those lovely flowers, thank you very much for them. I could not think when the woman said Mrs King had sent them, I thought what Mrs King knows me, I knew when I saw your writing. I should like to see you, its ages since I did & I have not got to ride a Bike yet or I might stand a chance of popping over. I’ve tried to ride one but I’m too dait & gets more bumbs. Hudson took us for a drive about 6 or 7 week since, we came through Riby and wondered where you lived. We had the Painters in for a month, had the Billiard Room painted & papered & Dining Rooms ditto laundry ceilings & Bath room. We were a fuddle, but they do look nice now there done. You would not know us, its quite different since you left.

I am going for my holidays a fortnight today, I asked for a fortnight this year... She said we shouldn’t be Servants soon they would have machinery pip pip. Edith comes back tonight from a week of hers she as split hers. I’m not going to. I am going to Colne & Bradford. I generally go to Colne I like going it’s a nice little spot & nice people there as well. Oh told you I was married, why deary me that special young man of mine as not turned up yet I’m still waiting for him. Mary is all right I saw her the other Sunday. I’ve only been to see her once I don’t go very often I don’t care for him. I wonder if she is beyond Reclini or if she ever as shaking fits we used to laugh about so, law we used to laugh over that didn’t we. Andrew got married just after Mary so they both choose some one else after all. What did you think of me taking Mary’s place, I like it all right & gets on all right so if you call I could give you a bone to suck or soap suds else as Hudson says. We have a boy in the stables now aren’t we coming on. I expect the next thing you hear will be we have got a footman or that little Kitchen maid Mary used to want do you remember, law she was an old white teeth, but a good one for a laugh.

I haven’t been to see Mrs Fuller for a long time, she will think I have forsaken her... Mrs Newby is quite well, her hearing & eye sight is still very bad, she was bad in the winter we had to have a nurse for her, & a mucky lazy cat she was we didn’t like her. She would send down by Edith what she would have for her Breakfast she didn’t always get what she ordered I did use to rave & was very pleased when she did a bunk. Hudson told me he had seen your Husband the other day, he said you had got another baby a boy, you ought to stop now (you got just one little boy) do you remember that how I talked through my nose.

Mrs H as given me a white pecke skirt & jacket shant I fancy myself just when I get into it, she gives us nearly all her clothes one or two dresses every year since you left so it makes it very nice for us decent it. She never sells anything now & she used to sell every thing didn’t she. I am busy cooking dinner, so if you find a little Grease on the paper you must excuse it. Mr H is late as usual & she is singing with her sweet voice waiting for him.

We have been washing today, we have scarcely any to do now our girls washing all goes out. Lady does it 4-6 a week so we have only tea cloths & dusters. Lady Husband him that was such a sot you remember don’t you, well he is a staunch t now as been for nearly 3 months it seems to good to be true but what a blessing if he keeps so... it’s a lot better for her. She as been bad 3 weeks just getting about again so if she keeps all right she is going to Colne with me. Will you come or go to Spurn for a day. Well old girl I think I will dry up this rubbish I don’t know how many times I’ve had to leave off & you’ll be sick of reading it. I told Mrs H. She would be very pleased if you would send her some flowers. So I will say A deu hoping you are quite well with kind regards to yr Husband & love to yr self.

I am ever Yr sincere
Friend Peace.
The Butchery in Barton upon Humber is not much more than a short cut between the Market Place, George Street and Priestgate, containing a bit of Tarnace, the old Queen Inn pub (now the Barton Evangelical Church), an odd looking building and the back yards of some of the properties on George Street, but if you check the Lincolnshire Census of 1851 you will see it was a very different place.

writes

Darren Stockdale

Today the Butchery in Barton upon Humber is not much more than a short cut between the Market Place, George Street and Priestgate, containing a bit of Tarnace, the old Queen Inn pub (now the Barton Evangelical Church), an odd looking building and the back yards of some of the properties on George Street, but if you check the Lincolnshire Census of 1851 you will see it was a very different place.

The Setting

It is difficult to imagine now, but in 1851 there were nine dwellings recorded in the Butchery (which was actually two less than in the Lincolnshire Census for 1841 and 1861) and they were all occupied. It must have been bursting with life as it is only a small area now and must have seemed even smaller with the extra properties and people it contained. Unlike today there would have been buildings along both the east side stretching from top to bottom and the west side, and also two very odd looking properties between. One of these odd looking buildings would have stood at the southern end of the Butchery and the other at the northern end (called Lincoln House). They both looked as if they originally belonged to a row of houses that may have stretched from north to south along the full length of the Butchery. There is a building at the northern end of the Butchery today which has, at the bottom half, bricks which are very thin (around 2.25 inches) and are irregular shaped. An Act of Parliament of 1725 set the minimum brick size standard to 2.5 inches so these bricks are likely to be earlier than this, probably early 18th century. There are also two door sashes which are surrounded by early 18th century bricks but have been filled in by larger modern bricks. The top half of this building has larger more modern bricks in places. Presumably the bottom half of this building could have been the bottom half of Lincoln House. It is roughly the right shape, it is in the right place and the bricks are probably earlier than 1851. If it was it goes to show just how small and cramped these houses were as it cannot be much more than ten feet square.

The People

The enumerator who covered the Butchery in the Census of 1851 took the route from the Market Place north towards Priestgate.

The first person he would have met was 30 year old James Walker who was the victualler of the Queen Inn, his 24 year old wife Fanny, his two year old daughter Sylvia and his 19 year old servant Maria Wilson from Thornton Curtis. James Walker was born in Alkborough and his wife and daughter were born in Barton. The Queen Inn is still easily visible next to the bank and was reportedly the site of an old Moot Hall, which was where the Saxon courts were held for the manor or district. The bank was probably responsible for the demise of two further properties on the south west corner of the
Butchery when it was built. In the next property lived John Turner, 53, from Yorkshire and his 48-year-old wife Mary from Glenford Brigg (or Brigg as it is now more commonly known). This is probably the property next to the Queen Inn which is now also part of the Barton Evangelical Church.

The next property housed 44-year-old Sarah Hardy from Altringham and her 17-year-old son James, who was a solicitor's writing clerk born in Cleethorpes. This property is probably the last one currently occupied by the Barton Evangelical Church. From here the properties have either gone or at the moment I am unsure of how they relate to the current buildings.

In the next property was 51-year-old Thomas Hall, a watchmaker who was born in Hull, his 44-year-old wife Mary, who was born in Notts, his 17-year-old son John, who was also a watchmaker and was born in Barton, and his two daughters aged nine and seven who were scholars and were born in Barton. It is possible that a scar on the side wall of the last property of the Barton Evangelical Church is the only remains of their dwelling or they may have lived on the east side which has now totally gone.

Samuel Oglesby, a 60-year-old butcher born in Barrow was next along with his 27-year-old son who was also called Samuel but was born in Barton. Samuel Junior was obviously going to carry on the family tradition of butchery.

In the next property resided 46-year-old John Hall, a farm labourer born in Barton, his 46-year-old wife Sarah who was born in Saxby and his 24-year-old daughter Ann who was a dressmaker and was born in Barrow. Visiting them on the night of the census was three-year-old William Forester who was born in Glenford Brigg.

The next property housed William Franklin, an agricultural labourer aged 36, born in Riby, his 30-year-old wife Mary who was born in East Halton, his ten-year-old son Edward who was born in Barrowby, his three daughters Mary 7, Sylvia 6 and Francis 4 and his 3-month-old son.

The next person the enumerator met was Ann Thompson, a 61-year-old washer woman born in Saxby and her 20-year-old daughter Sarah, a dressmaker born in Barton.

The final property the enumerator visited housed William II (surname unreadable) who was a 47-year-old Tallow Chandler born in Hull, his 55-year-old wife Elizabeth who was born in Brandesburton, his 24-year-old son Robert who was also a Tallow Chandler born in Barton, and his 81-year-old mother in law Ann Williamson who was also born in Brandesburton.

By 1861 almost all the families living in the Butchery in 1851 had moved on to be replaced by new families. The only exceptions were three empty properties and James Walker who was still the victualler of the Queen Inn. By now James was 41 and he seemed to have a new wife called Rachel. Rachel was 37 years old and was born in Barton. They both still lived with James’s daughter Sylvia who was now 12 years old.

**Summary**

In its time the Butchery must have been a thriving community, the closeness of the properties and families would mean people would know each other well and probably interact closely with one another. It had its own pub, a watchmaker, a butcher, a washer woman and a Tallow Chandler amongst others. It most probably declined from the second half of the 19th century onwards as the trade directories of the time have many entries for the Butchery prior to and including 1851 but from 1861 onwards there are fewer and fewer until by 1918 there was nothing recorded (with the exception of the odd entry in later years). Eventually the majority of the houses were demolished because they were deemed uninhabitable, the pub closed and life in the Butchery would never be the same.

The Butchery today looking north with the remains of Lincoln House in the distance.
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.


Those of us who read the railway press in the late 1950s and the 1960s will recall that there was almost nothing published at all about railways in the County. In vain we sought for something to appear that concerned anything but the East Coast Main Line. Occasionally we found something, a photograph or a short article about a trip along a branch line, and, almost inevitably, it was by the late Jack Cupit.

This book is subtitled A Tribute to the Photographs of Jack Cupit. To be fair, there are also photographs by others and written contributions other than by Paul Anderson. But it is the Cupit contribution that leaps out of the pages for me. A contribution that includes his written description of trips on the line between Barrowby and Louth and along the Horncastle branch. As a boy Jack Cupit spent his holidays at Mablethorpe. His wife, Betty, whom he met because he stayed as a visitor at her parents' house in the town, has contributed her memories of life in Mablethorpe in the 1930s. We all know that so many people from the Midlands made the same journey as Jack at that time but it is interesting, and refreshing in a railway book, to read about what they did when they left the station.

The book is well illustrated with black and white photographs of great quality, showing mainly steam engines, from all over the historical county. A few, particularly some from the camera of Jack Cupit, have been published before although you will need a long memory to recognise some of them.

There are some minor criticisms, in particular some wrongly spelled place names: a very few, but enough to annoy some County residents: Durston for Dunston and Scredington for Scredington for example. But, if you want to see some glorious pictures of Lincolnshire railways as they were not so very long ago then you will not be disappointed. From rarely visited lines such as Louth to Mablethorpe and rarely photographed locations such as Halton Holegate, Donington on Bain and Immingham Dock stations to the busy scenes at Grantham, Lincoln, Boston and Scunthorpe you will be struck by the well kept nature of the trains and track and tidy stations. All in all, a welcome contribution to the railway history of the County.

Stewart Squires, Scothern


When everyone seems to use a digital camera and produce decent pictures it is still a pleasure to receive a book with fine pictures handsomely reproduced and taken by a real photographer. Only a year ago Mr. Bentley's earlier book received a warm recommendation in these columns when the hope was expressed that he would go on to present further studies of the county's churches. In two sections he now offers 'From the Lowlands' and 'Beyond Louth and into the Wolds'. Firstly 20 vil-


This collection from the Spalding press will provide a great deal of pleasure to those whose memories go back 50 years. Even for younger folk the pictures will reveal a great deal of the changes in all fields that have taken place since then. The pictures are grouped into sections on agriculture and industry, sport, children, civic and leisure, scenic views and ‘best of the rest’ and all are well reproduced with useful captions. The title is a bit of a misnomer really. The preface makes it fairly clear that the pictures largely relate to 1957 only - none of the photos is dated individually. There are very few scenes that show the town as it was in the 50s either, the emphasis being on the town’s social life. None of the views in the scenic views section is taken in Spalding either. A few mistakes have crept in – I liked best the prefatory remark that Carl Danes is shown hammering with his bare hands a two-inch nail through a six-inch plank. I wondered how he could do that but page 110 reveals the true story – it’s the nail that is 6-inches. However, the editor has done a worthwhile job in culling so many interesting shots from the archives and it is to be hoped that there will be more offerings for other periods.


The large landscape format allows the pictures (many of them 100 years old) to be depicted in all the splendour modern techniques can achieve. Quite a few focus on Wellingore Hall before we tour the village and its various social groups. The text is informative and might have been more extended. Perhaps the research into the history of the Hall (suggested on page 3) might be a new project; the Chairman, Roger Cole, seems to regard the present volume as the prelude to a larger research task. This is certainly a good first step in that wider effort and can be commended to all with local associations.

COSTELLO, Mike. On my hon-
The author was born and brought up in Leicester and was an early convert to the world of scouting for boys. The first half of the book tells of the pleasures of camping in a wide range of locations and the training boys received. After becoming a probation officer he moved to Lincoln in 1982; the second part deals with similar accounts of scouting activities at home and abroad until his retirement 7 years ago. All interested in scouting will find much to amuse and interest them.

319pp. ISBN 978 0 9553962 0 5. £10 pbk (or £12.20 by post from Dr Drake, 76 Kenwick Road, Louth LN11 8E(N). This very substantial and readable memoir retells the life and times of a doctor in Louth. Dr Drake came to the town in 1967 and he uses his diary to telling effect. Each chapter covers a year from then until 1992 and falls into three unequal parts; they all start off with a list of the year’s notable events, politically, socially and sporting; there then follows an account of the year’s medical and social activities. If you are only interested in the personal aspects of his and his family’s lives you read the ordinary print; if you are mainly concerned with the goings on in the practice and local hospital you read the sections in bold type. You pay your pennies and take your choice. It is all well done and very revealing of the changes in NHS services and what one conceives to be the attitudes of our GPs now compared with then. Dr Drake has retired to Lincoln. A few pleasant drawings enliven the pages.

Letters from the Front

This collection arrives just as we are being so keenly reminded of the misery of the war in France from 1914-1918. Col Fane was too old to serve in the first war, having got his knees brown in the Boer War (not Boar, as in the preface and on the back cover). Instead he was involved in training recruits for the Lincolnshire Regiment at Welling Camp, near Grimsby. The letters printed here were sent back to him from officers he had under his command while training. They serve very much to reinforce the accounts of the horrors of trench warfare; the need to wear boots two sizes too big and wear three pairs of socks and two of everything else; how the mud clogged up rifles and made fixing bayonets difficult or, in some cases, impossible; and also the deficiencies in provision of decent equipment and supplies. That sounds familiar now. What is especially surprising, when one remembers the amount of censorship there was in WW2, is how open and full of detail the letters are. This selection reinforces what we already know of WW1 and the trenches but reading them is still nevertheless a moving experience.


Only a small oblong format booklet but packed with enough detail to satisfy all but the most academic and, with lots of small colour photos, handsomely pro-
duced for its modest price. It is all very readable with nice touches in writing about earlier village life.


This is the 5th book in the series "American Roots in English Soil", ably written by John Haden and local schoolchildren. It charts the life and times of one of the best known of the Pilgrim Fathers, William Brewster, from his birth in Scrooby, Nottinghamshire, his imprisonment in the Guildhall in Boston, his later escape to Leyden in Holland and finally to his journey on the "Mayflower" and the founding of Plymouth Plantation on the east coast of America.

Only 80 pages long the book is nevertheless an excellent introduction to the man and his life. It is illustrated with photographs, line drawings and several short paragraphs of the pupils' interpretation of the story.

Frances Sharpman, Spalding


Robert Browne, who became a schoolmaster in Stamford after originally studying divinity at Cambridge. His failure to take orders did not stop him from preaching anti-clerical doctrines and his involvement with the Separatist movement. The second half of the book tells of the acquisition of the Hall in 1777 from its last private owners, the Eaton family. It became the home of the Stamford Shakespeare Company and there follows a detailed account of the plays put on and the people responsible for the Company's early foundation and the setting up in the present home. Fully illustrated this is a very reasonably priced record of the house, some of its owners and its recent theatrical history.


The publishers are performing the useful service of re-issuing pictures and captions that appeared some years ago. Rex Russell welcomed the first edition while noting some errors or omissions in the captions, which appear to be unaltered from the original text. In fact, the pagination and captions are exactly the same but reduced for this pocket format. The volume is still good value and, as Rex remarked then (LP & P, 38, Winter 1999), many pictures are especially worth having as an historical record of places that have been long gone or activities that have disappeared.

MACAULAY MEMORIES

(post free from the editor, 33 Littlefield Lane, Grimsby DN31 2AZ). The editor recently issued a short account of the history of Freeman Street in Grimsby (see our issue no. 59, Spring 2005); here he and the Action Group have put together the story of the area of the town, known as West Marsh Macaulay. After his brief historical account of its origins local people tell of their personal experiences in the area. It deals with a variety of aspects of life – school, street parades in the 40's, the cinema and so on. Nicely produced the bibliography lists all the sources for the Group's researches.


Ron Parker is the unofficial historian of the airfield and this is his third book on the subject. Goxhill (or Goat's Hill as the Yanks called it) was one of the few American bases in the county and the only one under the control of the famous 8th Army Air Force. Its task was to train fighter pilots newly arrived from the States to fight and survive in European skies – when the USAAF moved out, in December 1944, the airfield was looked after by a small RAF party until late 1945. This heavily illustrated book is not a history but a miscellany of recollections by American and RAF personnel and local civilians and very interesting it is – the stories range, as one would expect, between the tragic and the comic. I particularly liked the recollection of one American airman who, going on leave on the train to London, was asked if he was from Lincolnshire; amazed he said 'Yes, how did you know' and the answer was because he said 'Ta duck'. The culture wasn't all one way! One criticism is the lack of a map of the airfield as many locations are mentioned in the text and cannot be referred to. Nevertheless, a good read and a valuable contribution to the history of north Lincolnshire and its wartime associations.

Terry Hancock, Cherry Willingham.


David Saunders is an authority on the history of Caistor, and has spent many years meticulously researching and writing about various aspects of the town, mostly from the nineteenth century. This is the second volume of 'Portraits of Caistor', the first, published in 2005, dealt with 'People, Pubs and Police'. This second volume is subtitled 'A Church, Doctors and Solicitors, Mills and an Inn'. Each section is self-contained, thoroughly researched, and, most importantly, a good read in itself. The "doctors" are those who practised prior to the First World War; the "church" is the Congregational church; the "inn" is the Talbot; the "mills" refer to watermills as well as wind; the "solicitors" are "The Haddelsey Family...1755-1903".

David Saunders is to be congratulated on this very attractive book, which is a valuable contribution to our knowledge of Caistor history. On the back cover, beneath a photograph of an early ladies' cricket team, he promises "There is more to come!" We look forward to it.

Rosalind Boyce, Lincoln

**SPEED, Ruth.** Only a labourers' lass: a selection of childhood memories from the 50s. The author, [2007]. 49pp. No ISBN. £3 pbk (or £3.50 by post from the author, 33 Bradbury Avenue, Lincoln LN5 9AP).

The author was born and brought up in the hamlet of Inglesby, near Saxilby and as the title says this book consists of a series of short pieces each telling of the process of growing up and living in the countryside 50 years ago. Topics covered include wash day, a trip to the seaside at Mablethorpe, Christmas shopping, harvest and other festivals and going to school for the first time. It is all very nostalgic and will strike a chord with many older readers.

**TAYLOR, Janet and BOGG, Hazel.** Children's memories of Alford, 1920s – 1950s. The authors, [2007]. 58pp (74 illus). No ISBN. £6.95 pbk (or £8.45 by post from Mrs. Taylor, 3 Coles Avenue, Alford LN13 0AJ).

This book is particularly valuable as a means of saving interesting and valuable photographs which could well be lost. I'm even on one of them taken in about 1938 when I was a pupil at Alford Primary School. Most of the illustrations in this book have not been published before and, as someone who lived in Alford for almost thirty years, I am very grateful to the authors for publishing them. The text consists mainly of reminiscences of those who grew up in a small market town at a time before children had the present day distractions, particularly television and video games. Entertainment was cheap and homemade. Most of
the games we played are unknown to today’s children—whip and top, skipping and marbles were popular. Hop scotch and leap frog are now practically unheard of. Parents were able to let their children play in the street knowing that they were safe. This is a lovely book, and a valuable social history recording a time which is rapidly becoming a distant memory.


If people of a certain age drive along the North Norfolk coast and pass through Stiffkey the thought enters the mind, ‘Wasn’t there something about the vicar here once?’ One tends to remember there was some sort of scandal but no details. This very nicely produced hardback provides them. The author makes what use he needs of earlier accounts but has gone back to the documents in Norfolk County Archives as well as reading every newspaper account of the period. The result is a very readable and well resourced account of the case of Rev. Harold Davidson, Rector of Stiffkey, who was tried by a Consistory Court at the behest of the then Bishop of Norwich. He was accused of general immoral behaviour, resulting from trying to get girls off the London streets and into suitable jobs.

The court case of 1932 in all its details is clearly told; Davidson appeared to be a good Christian in what he was trying to do but his eccentricity, ill-judgment and his ways with important people did not help his cause: he was found guilty of the charges and the Bishop not only deprived him of his benefice and awarded costs of over £7000 against him but also deposed him, taking away his right to serve as a clergyman.

After the case he was virtually bankrupt for the second time and his earlier love of the stage provided him with openings to earn a living. He appeared on the Blackpool sea-front in a barrel and, in 1937, he came to stay with a ‘Captain’ Rye at Burgh le Marsh, who had a farm with a good number of exotic animals and, in the summer, ran attractions on the Skegness sea-front. Davidson contracted to appear in a cage with one or two lions but he was badly mauled and died in the local Cottage Hospital. Eleven pages provide details of his time and other entertainment providers in the town (with the aid of the Skegness News); even after his death Rye then carried on the show with the Lion that killed the Rector of Stiffkey. A very good read.

WILKINSON, Margaret. Skegness at war. The author, 2007, 33pp. No ISBN. £3.50 pbk (£4 by post; cheques payable to K. Wilkinson, 7 Church Lane, Winthorpe, Skegness PE25 1ED).

Mrs Wilkinson has performed a useful task in collating from the local newspapers a record of enemy action over and around the seaside resort. She begins with preparations in 1938 in the event of hostilities and ends with German POWs clearing the beach in June 1946. Between them there are accounts of local activities, reports from overseas; they include the handling of telegrams meant for King Haakon of Norway (then at the ‘Acre of Spades’) and the story of the local lifeboat’s war service. Well illustrated and nicely printed it deserves success.


This colourful collection takes the reader on a walk around the city. Although mostly quite old many are in early colour and, if many scenes have greatly changed much can still be recognised today. Pictures are on the right hand side of each opening with text facing, while the text is informative superimposing it on a portion of city map has not worked—readability is affected and the map portion is indecipherable. The newly arrived railway of 1846 did not connect Lincoln with Sheffield (page 4) but was the Nottingham to Lincoln section of the Midland Railway; punctuation and grammar are sometimes faulty; and the credit of pictures to Lincolnshire Archives hides the fact that by far the majority thus attributed came from the Central Library collections. However, the pictures are the point and for its modest price it makes a good souvenir of times past.
swinging sixties. The author. [2007]. 17pp. ISBN 1 902871 11 1. £2 pbk (or £2.50 by post from the author, 33 Parker Street, Cleethorpes DN35 8TI).

While nearly all the pictures are of visiting pop groups all sorts of other people came to the town at this time and there are various pieces about them. TV personalities came, and so did politicians, royalty and the people who developed Natureland, but we read too of many local people who also found fame - Charlie Williams, Margaret Dickinson and footballer Calvin Palmer. Light and enjoyable.

RUTH TINLEY has kindly drawn my attention to the availability of the GENERAL LOFTS notes (see the last issue of Lincolnshire Past & Present) from www.genfair.com Lincolnshire Family History Society pages (payment by credit card). She also says that there should be no problems finding individual sections on the CD as long as your computer gives you access to Adobe Acrobat, version 6 since the documents therein are in PDF format.

The new sales officer for the Family History Society is at 11 Stanton Drive, Bottesford, Scunthorpe DN17 2SF.

WINTER DIVERSION

1 What is the full name of Lincoln's German twin?
2 How many floors does the Maud Foster windmill in Boston have?
3 The Maud Foster windmill was built in a) 1819 b) 1829 c) 1939?
4 Who founded the abbey at Crowland?
5 T. H. Mozley described what as "the universal refuge and resource of country households"?
6 According to Joan Sims-Kimbrey, what colour was 'Lincoln Green' originally?
7 Sleaford Union Workhouse in Eastgate was opened in a) 1601 b) 1833 c) 1837 d) 1843 e) 1901?
8 In Spilsby there is a statue of a) Matthew Flinders b) Captain John Smith c) Sir John Franklin?
9 Markby church is famous for its a) Gallilee Porch b) Tower c) Easter Sepulchre d) Roof e) Tombs?
10 Which two of these appear on the south face of the Stonebow at Lincoln?
   a) St Hugh b) Blessed Virgin Mary c) Archangel Gabriel d) St John e) Archangel Michael a swan?
11 Dunston Pillar was built by a) Sir Francis Dashwood b) Sir Joseph Banks c) Sir Charles Chaplin?
12 The area in front of Jews' Court, Lincoln, is known as a) Glory Hole b) Hungate c) Bull Ring?
13 On what date in the year is the Haxey Hood game played?
14 Over 150 years ago, instead of Christmas pudding, country folk may have eaten f — y?
15 Which Lincolnshire Abbey was famous for its open door?

SOLUTION

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