Lincolnshire PAST & PRESENT
75 Spring 2009

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Lincoln’s first car registration number
Violet van der Elst
De Louth family history
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Lincolnshire Past & Present Editors: Hilary Healey, Ros Beevers
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Contributions to the next Bulletin and the Summer issue of Lincolnshire Past & Present are welcome as soon as possible.
Material may be sent to the Joint Editors at Jews' Court, Lincoln LN2 1LS. Articles may also be sent on disk (Microsoft Word document) or as an email attachment to lincolnshire@hotmail.com

Cover: Steep Hill, Lincoln, from an illustration seen by a member some years ago. We do not recognise the name of the artist and wonder if anyone can help at all? Apologies to the artist or relatives, but this is our only means of finding out about it.
This year the weather patterns seem to be running true to form. We had snow at the right time for the winter number and as I write now it is really spring-like, masses of daffodils out (the cold nights seem to have given them a long season) and everywhere something splendidly yellow, including the butterflies. I always keep a log of the numbers and variety of butterflies in the garden throughout the year, but it does not always get sent off to the butterfly recorder.

This issue you can catch up or reacquaint yourself with famous names such as Joseph Banks and Violet van der Elst and discover less well known families of De Louth and Vickers.

There are two interesting original documents, a piece on Lincoln’s first car registration and useful information about the WEA. Mark Acton is back with another excellent article on 19th century national politics at the local level while our notes and queries continue to flourish.

2009 sees two major anniversaries in the county—I am sure there will be others, but we do rely on readers to let us know about them. The one of particular note are the 700th anniversary of the founding of St Botolph’s church, Boston, better known to most people as Boston Stump, and the 200th anniversary of Alfred Tennyson’s birth.

We have no features on either topic in the magazine at present, but this may change. Newer readers may like to look back at Lincolnshire Past & Present No 8 (Summer 1992) when we ambitiously produced a special Tennyson number. Both anniversaries have events arranged and leaflets are in circulation, so do look out for these.

The 200th anniversary of the deaths of Thomas Paine and Daniel Lambert fall this year, both with Lincolnshire connections. Search Tom Paine 200 on the internet for events in Norfolk and Suffolk and look up the Alford connection.

Hilary Healey, Joint Editor
Peace again!

Since we published Brian Thorndalley’s article “Peace Who?” in Lincolnshire Past & Present 70, including a letter from Peace to Maria King, there has been much interest in the subject, with Chris Page’s answer in LP&P 72-73 and Brian’s brief follow-up in LP&P 74.

In his own words, Brian “hesitated to bring up Peace again!” However, finding this photograph in his late mother’s ‘archive’ of a young woman in a gorgeous dress was enough to change his mind.

The photograph has the name ‘Leverton’ written on the back and Brian is more than willing to bet that it is a likeness of Peace Leverton, the writer of that ‘Peace Who?’ letter to Maria King, dated 1897.

Another Lincoln Charter

We are all aware of the importance of the Magna Carta and the fact that Lincoln Cathedral holds one of the original 1215 issue. The cathedral also holds another important ancient document ‘The Charter of the Forest’ of 1217. Visitors can view this document at the cathedral, and in January 2009 it was on view with Magna Carta in Lincoln Castle.

The ‘Historic Lincoln’ newsletter for November 2008 describes the charter and its importance:

“The Charter of the Forest was more important to the common man than Magna Carta as it restored many ancient forest rights which had been gradually usurped by the Norman Kings and abolished some of the cruel and oppressive punishments meted out to the poor.

For example it restored the right of common access to royal lands for free men, repealed the death penalty for taking royal game and abolished mutilation as a lesser punishment.

These rights were very important at a time when the royal forests, which were managed hunting grounds for the king, covered huge swathes of land and included not just woodland but heath, moor, grassland, fields and even villages, all of which were vital as a source of fuel (as wood and charcoal).”
Charles Seely was born in Lincoln on 21 October 1803, the only son of Charles Seely, Baker and Flour Dealer of 261 High Street. Charles senior died while his son was still a child and the boy grew up helping his mother in the Baker's business. Seely married Mary Hilton of Newcastle-on-Tyne in 1832 and she conducted his correspondence as he had had some fingers of his right hand amputated in his youth.

In 1835 Seely entered into a partnership with T.M. Keyworth in a steam mill at Brayford Wharf. He also became a sleeping partner for some years with Clayton and Shuttleworth at their Stamp End Works. In addition, Seely became a coal mine proprietor. He moved into Heighington Hall in 1835.

Seely was first elected as a Lincoln City councillor (Minster Ward) and became involved in litigation regarding the validity of his election. He offered his resignation but this was not accepted. Seely became Mayor of Lincoln in November 1840 and was appointed both as a JP and Deputy Lieutenant for Lincolnshire. Seely began politically as an 'Advanced Liberal' and 'rampant' Free-Trader (anti-Corn Laws). To pursue his causes he was the co-owner of a Radical publication, ‘Blunderbus’. Perhaps oddly for a man of his background and business, Seely was a lifelong champion of Admiralty reform.

He first stood for Parliament for Lincoln in 1841, finishing bottom of the poll; the city and county were more than sufficiently pro-Corn Law to ensure his defeat.

By 1847 the Tory high tide of six years earlier, which saw William Collett elected with Sibthorp, had ebbed and it was expected that Lincoln would once again return a Whig/Liberal candidate along with Colonel Sibthorp.

The 1847 election result was:

- Charles Sibthorp (Tory) 659
- Charles Seely (Whig/Liberal) 518
- Edward Bulwer Lytton (Whig/Liberal) 436
- William Collett (Tory) 278

Of the election itself it is sufficient to say that the real contest was between the supporters of Lytton and Seely who knew they were fighting for second place. Lytton represented the ‘Old Whigs’, those who had supported the Monsons of Burton and embodied the upper-middle classes of the city. Seely’s supporters tended more towards the lower-middle classes, self-made or aspirational men. Once the result was declared, only one card was left for Lytton’s aggrieved party to play, and play it...
they did. This was to raise an Election Petition calling for  
Seely's return to be declared void on the ground of corruption. This  
petition was headed by John Inman, victualler of the  
'Morson's Arms' on the High  
Street with William Rudgard,  
merchant, brewer and leader of  
the city's Whig party, as the  
driving force. However much prac-  
tised, electoral bribery and cor-  
rupthon were illegal. The one  
course of action open to an ag-  
rieved loser was an Election Peti-  
tion. After the General Election  
of 1847 which saw 164 contested  
constituencies (only 59% of the  
total), 24 petitions reached the  
inquiry stage of a House of Com- 
mons Select Committee and it  
may be wondered why, given  
widespread acts of corruption, so  
few did so. The most important  
reason was expense. As is usual  
in litigation, the major gainers  
were lawyers. Daniel O'Connell  
claimed to have spent between  
£1000 and £1500 in defence of a  
petition in 1835 and reckoned  
(probably wrongly) that his oppo-  
sents had spent five times as  
much. In some cases defending  
candidates would compromise  
with plaintiffs to avoid expense,  
such as agreeing to stand down at  
the next election or paying  
"compensation".

**The Select Committee**

The Committee consisted of five Members of Parliament with Morgan J. O'Connell as Chairman. Of these five, three could be classed as Liberals (including O'Connell), one as a Protectionist Tory and one as a Peelite Conservative.

The hearing began at noon on 8 March 1848. Mr Sergeant Wrangham and Mr Wordsworth were counsel for the petitioners whilst Mr Sergeant Kinglake and Mr Edwin James acted for Seely.

Agents for both parties were also present. Sergeant Wrangham objected to the presence in the room of two of Seely's agents: one being Seely's business partner Keyworth and the other his clerk. Kealey, the clerk, was asked to leave. Before listening to evidence, the Committee passed a series of resolutions concerning allowable evidence and necessary proofs from the petitioners.

These resolutions differentiated between 'treating' and 'bribery' as offences. Whilst grey areas existed between the two terms, treating is usually taken to mean the opening of public houses for the free distribution of food, tobacco and other entertainments. In Lincoln these were known as 'free-and-easies'.

Such events were open to all and no-voters were usually in a majority. By 1847 it seems that these took place through tradition. It was a brave candidate who wouldn't play the game, risking not only potential votes but also the enmity of the mob at the hustings. Bribery was considered to be the coercion of individuals. What defined bribery was a matter of opinion. Gratuities payments definitely were bribery. Paying legitimate travel expenses were not, but if these were 'topped up' an Election Committee might well take a different view.

Other 'influences' were given in an Irish petition of 1847. The petitioners cited "unconstitutional use of military force", "persuasion of absent and deceased voters" and "greatest intimidation practised by landlords and public bodies". These were extreme examples.

Copies of the election writ, return and poll-books were placed before the Committee and the first witness called.

**Witnesses**

John Shaw, Waterman, Freeman
Some time before the election, he had put out and fractured his shoulder in an accident incurring a doctor's bill of 8s. 6d. Seely promised to pay the expenses. Shaw promptly paid his doctor and went to Seely's counting house the next day where his bill was discharged. Shaw claimed that his vote had not been mentioned at this time and that it was not until some three months later that Kealey had said that he hoped Shaw would give his vote to Seely.

A few days after the election, Kealey met Shaw on the High Bridge and invited him home where Shaw was given 10s.

Pressed by counsel, Shaw admitted that Kealey had stated that the payment was for his vote. Some three weeks later, Shaw was met by a Seely supporter and asked if he had received further payment. The answer being no, Shaw was told that Mrs Kealey had 30s for him and this he promptly collected.

After receiving a warrant from the House of Commons to attend the Select Committee, Shaw had been summoned to the counting house of Clayton & Co (of which Seely and Keyworth were partners) and had a paper read to him, which he refused to hear, and 'bolted out' when asked to sign something.

Questioning then turned to a visit made by Shaw and a signatory of the Election Petition, Richard Lilburn, to a draper's. Shaw had been supplied with cloth for a new suit of clothes but had been told to leave the shop while the bill was made out. His wife was to make up the trousers (but hadn't finished them in time for the Select Committee) whilst one William Challoner was to make a jacket and waistcoat.

Shaw and Lilburn took Challoner's bill for this work to a Mr Williams, a solicitor and agent to the Election Petitioners. Williams claimed Shaw, had told that the cost of cloth and tailoring would be deducted from Shaw's expenses for his London visit. Unfortunately for Shaw's appearance before a House of Commons committee, he had not actually received his new outfit!

The cash payments to Shaw were a clear example of bribery.

The suit of clothes was less blatant but was still useful evidence to place before the Committee.

Joseph Talkes (Waterman, Freeman, voted for Seely and Sibthorpe)

About noon on the day of the election he and three friends standing near the Cornhill had been approached by Seely's groom Robert Whelpston who asked them who they were going to vote for. The four replied that they had promised one vote to Sibthorp.

Whelpston said 'You may as well give our governor the other' and took the four to the 'Black Goats' by the High Bridge where they were given free ale and porter.

After voting the friends were taken by William Bilton, a miller to Seely, to the 'George and Dragon' where they were given dinner, ale, porter and rum at no cost to themselves.

Two days later, Talkes and another Bramston man visited Seely's counting-house and each received 18s, also receiving that sum from Sibthorp's party. Talkes gave his wages as half a crown for day work and between 3s and 5s for time work.

This is a prime example of a grey area. Receiving food and drink could just about be called treating. Compensation for lost wages were permissible but not to the extremes here. Aaron Goodhand (Cabinetmaker, Freeman, voted for Seely and Sibthorp)

Goodhand had come up from London to vote. He had signed a requisition for Seely some six years before and had been thanked by Seely personally for the promise of his support in February 1845. He had come to Lincoln for the election after receiving letters from Seely.

Goodhand received expenses of 18d per mile and 10s a day for three days, a total of £11.14s, which was paid equally between the committees of Sibthorpe and Seely.

He was also paid out at Seely's
counting-house by Edward Cousins, a clerk, and Kealey. He claimed to be earning between 35s and £2 per week and had paid 13s 4d each way for the railway journey to Lincoln and back.

He had made a gift to his Lincoln friends who had put him up for a week and observed that the weather then had been excessively hot causing him to drink ‘a good deal of porter’. It is to be assumed, but not stated, that this was paid for out of his own pocket.

This is a good example of the travelling expenses issue. Goodhand was far from out of pocket for his week off work. Note also the long term planning of Seely and his supporters.

Three other witnesses followed who gave similar evidence to that of Goodhand concerning their travelling expenses and very generous living allowances.

(Hearing adjourned to the next day)

9 March 1848

Three publicans were called to give evidence of treating. Joseph Coxon, keeper of the ‘Plough Boy’ on Burton Road, defined a free-and-easy as ‘where anybody gets plenty to drink for nothing’.

He had supplied 135 gallons of ale at £1.10s and three pounds of tobacco at 11s. He had needed to take action at the County Court to recover his money from a miller of Seely’s who had asked Coxon to host the event.

John Johnson, keeper of the ‘Plough’ on Bailgate, had hosted a free-and-easy at which he guessed that not a quarter of those present were voters. Despite the presence of Seely and close supporters, Johnson claimed to having not received even part of the £20 bill.

William Welton, keeper of the ‘Crown’ at Brayford Bridge, thought (improbably?) that he had treated some 600 or 700, many of them railway navies. The £7.3s bill had never been paid.

Other public houses used by Seely and his party for treating were cited as the ‘Globe’ on Waterside South, the ‘Golden Eagle’ at 161 High Street, the ‘Lion’ at 170 High Street, the ‘Green Dragon’ on Waterside North and the ‘Brown Cow’ at 27 Broadgate.

Thomas Michael Keyworth was a business partner of Seely in a mill and foundry, and a fellow partner in Clayton and Shuttleworth. He stated that Kealey was employed by subscription as a registration clerk (to register voters and deal with ‘municipal matters’ in the interests of Seely and other Whigs but not directly by himself or Seely).

Asked about committee activities at the ‘Black Goats’, he claimed no ‘organised’ body had existed but admitted that business of a committee nature had taken place there.

On the subject of free-and-easies, Keyworth denying having been at Coxon’s ‘Ploughboy’ or Welton’s ‘Crown’ though he had been at Johnson’s ‘Plough’ and similar events at the ‘Globe’, ‘Golden Eagle’, ‘(White) Lion’, ‘Green Dragon’ and ‘Brown Cow’, within a fortnight before the election. He claimed to have seen no bills for these apart from that for the ‘Plough’, which he thought to have been paid by someone else.

Cross-examined over the 20 days that he and Seely had canvassed together, Keyworth was, perhaps due to the passage of time, evasive as to who had received their attentions and claimed to have deliberately avoided reading any account books.

He said that Seely had polled only a few votes short of those 525 who had signed the requisition calling on him to stand and that Seely’s ‘crime’ had been his rapid rise in status in Lincoln.

Asked if he had the ‘honour of having [his] name bracketed as having bribed five individuals’ (by getting them appointments), Keyworth admitted having ‘bribed a
great many in my time in that way" but said that their votes were no part of these arrangements. (Mr Wordsworth, acting for the petitioners, summed up and the Committee adjourned)

**10 March 1848**

Keyworth was briefly re-examined by the Committee and Mr. James summed up on behalf of Seely. The room was cleared for deliberation and on the return of Counsel and Agents the Committee announced their resolution that Seely was not duly elected to serve in the current Parliament, that for the last election his return was void and that he was, by his agent, guilty of bribery. The Committee gave the following reasons:

"That it has been proved to the Committee that John Shaw was bribed by a payment of 10s., made after the election of John Kealey, an agent of the sitting Member, Charles Seely, esq., but there was no evidence to show that this act of bribery was committed with the knowledge and consent of the said Charles Seely, esq.:

"That Charles Seely, esq., did, directly and indirectly, permit and knowingly allow to be provided, wholly or partly at his expense, drink and entertainment for several persons before the election, for the purpose of corruptly influencing such persons to give or refrain from giving their votes at such election:

"That it appears to this Committee that a system of treating has for a long time prevailed in the city of Lincoln, at and previously to the election, by the candidates or their agents opening the houses of publicans, distributing gratuitously to the electorate and others drink and entertainment for the purpose of corruptly influencing the votes of such electors, and also the publicans whose houses were thus opened:

"That it was proved to the Committee that subsequently to the polling sums of money were paid to several non-resident voters for the expenses of their journeys and loss of time, which sums exceeded the necessary expenses on those accounts.

"It is the opinion of the Committee that practices of this character must always be open to most serious abuse, and require regulation by some definite enactment; but that clause 20 of 5 & 6 Vict. c. 102, is so general and indefinite as necessarily to lead to varied and contradictory reports from Election Committees."

**Conclusion**

Had this case been brought before the change of law in 1841 then Charles Seely would have almost certainly retained his seat. Before that date a petition had to prove that any money used for bribery had originally emanated from the candidate himself. Sensible precautions could avoid such proof. After 1841, evidence of general electoral offences (bribery, treating etc.) could count.

The deciding evidence in Seely's case seems to have been that of John Shaw, yet the Committee cleared Seely of any part in bribing him. The remaining findings of the Committee were undoubtedly fair but could have applied to Sibthorpe at least in Lincoln and to candidates in most contested elections throughout the United Kingdom in general.

Keyworth was right in saying that Seely's real 'fault' had been his rise from humble beginnings to wealth and position. He had not just beaten Lytton in the election but also the long-standing Monson 'interest' or party in the city, which had accepted Lytton as a 'proper' Whig representative. In short, Seely had made powerful enemies who were willing to spend enough to extract revenge.

Interestingly, no petition was ever launched against Sibthorpe. Perhaps this was because he would simply have won any re-run and any action would have been a waste of money.

**Aftermath**

Neither Seely nor Lytton contested the ensuing by-election. Seely produced T. B. Hobhouse to represent his faction while the Tories put up a barrister named Huntly. Hobhouse won. After defeats in Lincoln and Newport L.O.W. Seely finally became MP for Lincoln in 1861 and remained one for twenty-four years.

**NOTE:**

Sir Francis Hill in *Victorian Lincoln* (page 26) implies that Seely himself addressed the Select Committee. There is no suggestion in the minutes that Seely was actually present let alone that he spoke.

**SOURCES:**

Hill, *Victorian Lincoln*, 1974


LAO Misc. Dep. 531/1

Minutes of Evidence Taken Before the Select Committee on the Lincoln Election Petition, 1848

McCallum's Parliamentary Poll Book of all Elections 1832-1918 (8th ed. 1971)

Thanks are due to Dennis Mills and Professor Michael Drake of the Open University.

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**NOTES AND QUERIES**

E. MANSEL SYMPSON (LP&P74 Editorial)

His entry in the 1892 White's Directory is as follows: MA,MB Cantab., MRCS, 1 Ho James Street, in practice of S. Collier and Symson. He wrote *Lincoln, a historical and topographical account of the city*, pub. Methuen, 1906. Dennis [Mills]... thinks he was a descendant of Thomas Symson, author of two ms. books on Lincoln, c1737, in the Gough Collection (MS Lincoln I) in the Bodleian.

Joan Mills
WORKERS AND THEIR EDUCATION

Pearl Wheatley

In Past & Present 74 Ken Redmore reminded us about the history of the old age pension. Many of our readers in receipt of such will no doubt have welcomed the courses run by the Workers Education Association over many years. The numerous branches in Lincolnshire provided studies in archaeology, industrial archaeology and local history as well as specialising in Lincolnshire topics.

These courses ran alongside those presented by Nottingham and Hull Universities giving ample opportunity to extend and broaden one's education. Over the last few years there have been fewer and more expensive courses offered by WEA, and Nottingham and Hull Universities have pulled out of the county.

Miss Kathleen Johnson, a staunch supporter of the WEA over many years, has been assessing the situation today to see if there really is a decline and finds that much is on offer across the county and the East Midlands. We can only hope the recent Government proposals to make more funding available to support CAMEL (Campaigning Alliance for Lifelong Learning) reaches Lincolnshire. MPs have indicated that local authorities will be eligible for some of this funding to open libraries and museums as venues for new courses.

Miss Johnson notes that the WEA has been reorganised into nine regions in England and one in Scotland, with similar arrangements in Wales and Northern Ireland. The ancient county of Lincolnshire is divided into two, one part coming within the East Midlands and the north being linked to Yorkshire and Humberside. In 2008-9 the East Midlands region has 71 branches and four groups, of which 15 branches and two groups are in the county. At the same count Yorkshire and Humberside has 42 branches with seven being in Lincolnshire.

After some time without a secure base the Lincolnshire East Midlands branches are now administered from The Hermitry Tub (its old home) in Beaumont Fee, Lincoln LN1 1UW (Tel 01522 522472) with its own tutor organiser, Carol Chambers.

Kathleen lists all the branches as well as, with regret, those that are off the list now. This area has 33 courses on family, local and general history at present as well as seven courses on other topics.

The administrative centre for Yorkshire and Humber region is Sheffield Learning Centre, 3 Vicarage Road, Attercliffe, Sheffield S9 3RU (Tel 0114 2423609).

Thank you, Miss Johnson, for this information. WEA courses can be used to gain units towards higher education qualifications. With SLHA, Heritage Lincolnshire and other organisations in the county, 2009 should be a satisfying year for all who wish to progress their knowledge in heritage studies.

Sir Joseph Banks Society

The Heritage Trust for Lincolnshire acts as an Historic Buildings Trust and one of its most successful projects was the refurbishing of a block of derelict shops in Bridge Street, Horncastle.

These buildings are now the headquarters of the Sir Joseph Banks Society and also provide training schemes through Linkage Community Trust as well as having a very well stocked gift shop.

The Sir Joseph Banks Society is expanding rapidly and has ambitious plans for the future. One important aspect is the establishment of a research centre at Bridge Street and the creation of a research team concerned with Sir Joseph's life and work, worldwide as well as in Lincolnshire.

To promote the wider interest in his work the society has arranged lectures, has worked with East Lindsey District Council in siting display boards about his local connections and has shared in a conference for sixth-form science students. Looking to the future, working with the Banks Archive at Trent University, there will be a conference in April 2009 and a national conference in 2012. In hand is an attractive book in the form of county trails. Details of all these can be found on the society website www.joseph-banks.org.uk.

This society is a feather in the cap for Lincolnshire, there being no other such organisation in the country dedicated to the life and works of Sir Joseph.

Pearl Wheatley

Lincolnshire Past & Present No 75 Spring 2009 9
In 1903 the "Motor Car Act 1903" was introduced and all cars were required to carry a registration number. The Lincolnshire Automobile Club (LAC), formed in 1900/1901, lobbied heavily against the proposal that vehicles should be registered. They argued that no other vehicle had been required to have a number plate to date, so why should they be singled out? (Newsam 1968) As history shows they lost this debate! Registration numbers were first issued in Lincolnshire towards the end of 1903.

Lincoln's first registration number FE 1 has been in the Pennell family since that time, but it appears only because someone overslept! Captain Herbert Edward Newsam (1865-1948), Charles Waldegrave Pennell (1861-1939) and his brother Walter Richard Pennell (1865-1955) were noted and enthusiastic early Lincoln motorists or 'automobilists' as they were called at that time (Newsam 1968). Capt. H. E. Newsam's grandson, Tony Newsam tells us their perhaps apocryphal family story. His grandfather was the first person to own a car in Lincoln so he was very keen to secure the first registration number.

On the first day of issue they dispatched their respective chauffeurs (a sign of that era and their standing in the community!) to obtain the required registration number.

However Captain Newsam's chauffeur overslept and Charles W. Pennell's chauffeur got there first and was issued with FE 1! Tony Newsam says: 'It's not recorded if my grandfather sacked the chauffeur, but it was rumoured that he was less than happy as he had taken great pride in having the first car in Lincoln!'

The first register for FE vehicle registration numbers is incomplete as it was rewritten in the period just after World War I when spare numbers were reallocated; it is therefore unclear which vehicles originally bore the early numbers.

There are a couple of possibilities which vehicle first bore the FE 2 number plate. There are no known photographs showing the FE 2 number plate to help us!

It seems likely that if Captain Newsam was the first person to purchase a 12hp Richardson car (manufacturing dates 1903-1906) FE 2 would have been first on that vehicle rather than the Daimler he owned prior to the Richardson. (Newsam abt. 1903-4 & Carle 2008)

Tony Newsam notes that Daimlers eventually became his grand-
father's vehicles of choice. Daimler was one of the very earliest UK companies, dating from 1896.

W. R. Pennell was subsequently issued with FE 3 for his American steam driven Locomobile. (The Gossiper Abt. 1954.) A photograph of what is thought to be this vehicle, but not showing the number plate, is included in the article titled 'From Penny-Farthings to Daimlers.'

In 1908 the LAC initiated a scheme that members registered themselves and their cars for use by the Territorial Army in the event of mobilisation (Newsam 1968.) Captain Newsam may have possibly supported this scheme because by 17 August 1917 FE 2 was on a green Ford Ambulance and based at the Lincoln Aircraft Acceptance Park. (The Lincoln firms of Ruston, Roeby and Clayton & Shuttleworth were major aircraft manufacturers during the First World War.)

Alternatively this may have been a re-use of a number that had become spare. By 1920 FE 2 was on a Ford T registered to the Commandant Lincoln Aircraft Acceptance Park.

Charles W. Pennell kept the FE 1 number plate until his death. It is not clear if the first vehicle to bear this number plate was his Richardson or his Martini. By late 1903 Martinis were being manufactured and were imported to England by Captain H.H.P. Denby, but Richardson vehicles were also being manufactured by that time. Photographs show that FE 1 was used on both vehicles around the same time. On June 23 1904 C.W. Pennell competed in a Richardson at the Market Rasen Climb held at Boulby Hill near Tealby, but by September 1904 C.W. Pennell was competing in a 16/22 Martini 4 cylinder car in the Gainsborough Hill-Climb where it made the fastest time of the day. (Motor Car Journal 1904.)

Later still, FE 1 was on what is thought to be a Wolseley Siddeley (manufacturing dates 1905-1909.) By 1920 FE 1 was on his 29hp Armstrong Siddeley with saloon body painted grey and weighing 1 ton 8 cwt. It had been re-registered on 15 April 1920.

By 1917 his brother Walter R. Pennell would have disposed of his FE 3 Locomobile car. FE 3 had been
FE 1 was used by Charles W. Pennell until his death in 1939 after that it was used by his second wife Mary Elizabeth (Elsie) Pennell née Cape until her death in about 1964. At that time C.W. Pennell's nephew and the first author's father Walter Everett Pennell (1910-1977) and Chairman of Pennell & Sons Ltd (nurseriesmen and seed merchants) inherited FE 1.

After W. E. Pennell's death in 1977, his son Richard N. Pennell the current Chairman of Pennell & Sons Ltd inherited it. There have been offers over the years to buy the number plate. Annabel Carle remembers her father turning down an offer in the late 1960s by the burly British comedy actor Fred Emney (1900-1980) to buy FE 1. As Richard N. Pennell said in an interview with the *Lincolnshire Echo* in August 1983: ‘I would not [normally] go for personalised number plates, but this one is part of family and company history and it would be a shame to let it go.’

**Acknowledgements**

Very grateful thanks to Gordon Brooks (member of The Veteran Car Club) for research into the LAC and Lincolnshire motoring and Tony Newsum (LAC Vice President) for his research into the LAC and for his family’s recollections.

**References:**


Newsum Capt. H.F., (c1903-4) ‘The Richardson’ pp82-84. *Cars and How to Drive them*.

The Gossip, (c1954) ‘Retiring from Driving.’ *Lincolnshire Echo*.

Staff writer (August 1983) ‘Motoring history here on a plate’ *Lincolnshire Echo*.

This fascinating lady bought Harlaxton Manor in 1937. She was born Violet Anne Dodge in a suburb of London on 4 January 1882, the daughter of John and Louise Dodge who lived in Bedfont Lane, Feltham, Surrey. Violet spent much of her childhood with her older sister Mabel who at the age of 12 had become a housemaid for Canon and Mrs Limpus. After the death of his wife the Canon married Mabel who was some forty years his junior. It was from Canon Limpus that Violet gained her love of music and composing.

Violet started work as a scullery maid but soon ran away and turned to a career on the stage. At seventeen she married engineer Arthur Nathan. He died in 1927 and four months later Violet married Jean Julien Romain Van der Elst, a Belgian who worked for her late husband.

In the kitchen of her house in BelSIZE Park, London, Violet started a very successful business manufacturing face creams, ointment, beauty lotions, soap and 'Shaves'.

She was passionately opposed to capital punishment and in 1935 launched a vigorous campaign to which she was to devote her life and fortune for over a quarter of a century. Whenever a hanging was about to take place within some prison's walls her familiar figure would be seen protesting, supported by a regiment of sandwich men while her silver planes trailed black flags overhead, to the accompaniment of brass bands playing the Dead March from Saul and hymns.

Soon after the death sentence had been passed she would tour the town in her Rolls-Royce explaining the public through a loud-speaker to sign a petition calling for a reprieve. On her behalf, a month after the opening of her campaign, Clement Attlee, MP presented to Parliament a petition with more than 100,000 signatures which she had obtained.

There is no doubt that Mrs Van der Elst's sensational methods, though frowned upon by some, did have the merit of focusing public attention on an unpopular subject, and that she can be regarded as the person who did more than anyone else to secure the abolition of capital punishment in Britain. In efforts to further her campaign Mrs. Van der Elst started her own newspaper and stood unsuccessfully three times for Parliament.

In October 1937 Mrs Van der Elst bought Harlaxton Manor near Grantham and promptly renamed it Grantham Castle. She filled it with antique furniture some of which was obtained from Buckingham Palace, Rufford Abbey, Clumber Park and even with some carpets from the Winter Palace in St Petersburg. She purchased a chandelier originally intended for the Royal Bank in Madrid, which she claimed was the largest in the world. To give the castle a medieval air some thirty suits of armour together with swords, battle axes, crossbows, pikes, halberds and maces were prominently displayed. The Castle was opened to the public and admission was free for old age pensioners and the blind. Although the people of Harlaxton regarded her, not surprisingly, as very eccentric, she displayed great kindness to anyone in trouble.

In 1948 she sold Harlaxton to the Jesuits and made her headquarters in Richmond Park, Surrey. Her long campaign for the abolition of capital punishment greatly eroded her wealth.

The execution of Ruth Ellis in 1955 appears to have triggered public awareness for her campaign, and in the following year the Homicide Act became law. This abolished capital punishment for most offences and in 1965 the Murder (Abolition of Death Penalty) Act finally abolished capital punishment in Great Britain.

Violet van der Elst died on 30 April 1966 in a state of near penury, virtually friendless and ignored by the press. A sad end for such a colourful and dedicated personality.

FURTHER READING:
Gattey, C. N. The Incredible Mrs Van der Elst (1972)
TWO LINCOLNSHIRE FAMILIES: DE LOUTH AND VICKERS

Part 1: De Louth

In 2008 a remarkable coincidence took place regarding two Lincolnshire family histories. In Canada a family researcher finally traced his origins back to the village of Nettleham in the year 1721 and, through the internet, established contact with another cousin in Surrey.

One branch, the Vickers were tried and true Lincolnshire folk; the other branch, the Chapman de Louths, were the same. They came together in 1877 with the marriage of Henry Edward Vickers with La Rhennie Le Vecchone Jeanette Betsy Restall Chapman de Louth.

Whilst the Vickers line was established through classical tracing techniques, the de Louth line was established through family contacts in France, essentially through a Bible of 1592, brought into the family as part of her trousseau by Elizabeth I iderail of Orkney. She married de Wykeham Chapman de Louth in 1634. The de Louth line being the longer we concentrate on them here, leaving the de Vickers to a later article so as not to over-complicate the plot.

A spreadsheet measuring 27in x 23in begins in 1066 with Richard St Clair de Clerc de Louth, a Companion of William the Conqueror. The Chapmans enter the family in 1481 with Chapman de Louth. This spreadsheet currently terminates with births in 1998 and 1999 in France but can now be updated with English descendants. A mass of other documentation also exists.

Louth is, unquestionably, the cradle of the family in England. The earliest male members' names are matched with those of their wives by surname only. The tree is French with English additions. All the information was transcribed from the 1592 Bible and other family papers by George Chapman de Louth and de Wykeham in 1842 and then again and extended by Claude Gosselin (1930-2007) in France in 1975. Other papers show Chapman portrait photographs, and properties in South London named after members of the family.

An elaborate coat of arms accompanies one of the documents. The College of Arms says it can identify the 'left hand' (dexter) shield, which is impaled signifying a marriage. (A separate coat of arms for the 'Norman-Louth' name shows three leopard masks and a chevron.)

On the de Louth arms the unicorn is of particular interest as the unicorn only came into use in the 12th century for before that time it was considered too spiritual a symbol to be used in such a way.

In January 2009 we were able to examine the original family papers in France with our de Louth cousins there. We found that seven coats of arms were associated with family, the earliest dated 1298 and being associated with the name de Louth, actually a John de Louth, described as 'sable, a wolf salient, another rampant or with the subscription LOUP = WOLF ≠ LOUTH, an example of "canting".

The writer's grandmother La Rhennie had three sisters and two brothers, all born in Rogate, West Sussex. When in 1969 this writer went to live in Rogate his mother exclaimed: 'Oh, that is where your grandmother was born!' That we never knew before. I living there we were able to explore the parish records in the church and visit the De Louth home, Harting Combe, then occupied by a retired Labour minister, now owned by an Arab sheikh.

Quite separately an unknown cousin, a descendant of Harry Georgina Restall, one of La Rhennie's sisters, was researching the Chapman de Louths. At that time the Vickers link was restricted to Henry Edward. Hugo Vickers had established the Canada-Surrey liaison several years ago.

On receiving all this new information, in June 2008, this writer (who lives in France) established contact with the French branch who held all the records that had been transferred from England to France in 1965.

The continuity is remarkable and called for an on-the-ground visit to Lincolnshire, which we carried out in June and July 2008.

Before describing what we found, however, mention must be made of the Vickers line, which starts in Nettleham about 1706 and spreads into more than 30 Lincolnshire villages and into Louth itself, until the first Vickers leaves his native area for London in 1871. John Vickers, the writer's great-grandfather.

This line exhibits an interesting variety of occupations: shepherds, farmers, shoe makers, butchers, grocers and drapery dealers and coachmen, but this will be detailed in a separate article.

We visited 22 of the 31 villages we
had listed plus Lincoln. We found monuments to no fewer than 51 Vickers and 22 Chapman de Louths. Chapman de Louth monuments were found in Welton, North Kelsey and Caistor, where 18 names are recorded by Caistor Community History.

A number of questions arose:

1. Can any of the 1124 onwards descendants of St Clair be identified further?
2. Might the Talbot who married Fitz William de Louth (1392-1420) relate to Gilbert Talbot, 3rd Baron?
3. John Chapman de Louth and de Wykeham (1460-1553) is described as Lord of Louth. We see him as ‘Lord of the Manor’ and his dates coincide with the founding of the Herald’s College in 1483.
4. The Chapman de Louths were said to reside in Lyndwood Hall, North Kelsey, as George Chapman was born there about 1735. We could not find a Lyndwood Hall there but the family is said to have been there since 1723. Later we were told that Lyndwood Hall is actually at Linwood, while another local authority says it is in Timberland, near Thorpe Tilney. This we shall endeavour to verify on our next visit in 2009.

Families that married into de Louth in the early days include Danbry, Belevard (?), Montbam, Cotgad, Gangy, De Wykeham, De Clerc, Talbot and De Saug, all of whom we imagine were of Lincolnshire origin if not from neighbouring counties. We have not yet attempted to trace these names further.

The Harleian Society gives John Chapman of Thorpe marrying Elizabeth, daughter of Sir Peter Hildyard of Fustow. Their descendants lived at Thorpe Hall circa 1565. An earlier marriage of William de Wykeham (1504-1576) was to Fitz George de la Zouch in 1552, apparently a female! This would seem to be about the time of Richard, 9th Baron Zouche of the Frankland family.

We hope this summary of a Lincolnshire family might lead to uncovering more, especially as our June-July visit was the first ever by present day descendants of the de Louths. Traces should be found in Louth and may be in Louth Park or Abbey and, possibly, links to Richard de Lus in Navenby, if indeed he is a relative.

A separate article will look at the Vickers line from Nettleham in 1721 and from Faldingworth in 1698.

Sources: Descendants of G de Louth (FA); Descendants of Sarah (FA); Nevf Siecles de Famille (FA): The Sequel to the Battle of Hastings (FA); Chapman de Louth (FA); A Lincolnshire Ramble 2008 (FA): Debreth’s, Fulaise Roll, Chambers

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NOTESANDQUERIES75FOUR

FAKE LEAD LINCOLNSHIRE TOKENS (LP&P74 N&Q74FIVE)

Thank you for including my request for information re the Ishmian Cup in issue 74. Chris Johnson has been in contact, and although he could not help with the query his past experience will be helpful in my future projects.

However, I thought I would respond to the above query, although I have no specific knowledge of the Lincolnshire tokens.

I was born in East London and when very young can remember my mother paying a weekly sum to a collector from the London Co-operative Society. He was referred to as a tallyman.

Every six months the money saved was returned in the form of ‘currency’, and hence ‘tallying up’. These could only be spent in the Co-op and change was given in Co-op coins whose use was likewise restricted.

Whether these tokens could be part of a similar scheme or perhaps the equivalent of gift vouchers can only be speculative. Likewise a form of a LETS (Local Exchange Trading System).

Ronald Price
Jack Richardson and the Lincoln Motor Manufacturing Company

The publication of the above article has provided additional information about Jack Richardson and the Richardson car.

It put me back in touch with Sue Richardson who during 2006 assisted with some of the research used in the article, but with whom I had subsequently lost contact. She asks that I correct the “pers. comm.” attributed to her in the article. She feels that although the information was contained in an email from her, she was only the conduit and it was not her place to give permission for its use.

It would have been better if I had expressed that sentence as: “…family sources seem to indicate that after the death of Lieschen’s mother Mansfield Pennell in 1914 that Jack Richardson became increasingly estranged from his brother-in-law Charles W. Pennell.

The author does however remember Lieschen Richardson née Pennell then a widow visiting her family in Lincoln in the 1950s and knows that cousins visited the Richardsons in Chiswick…”

The development of two additional articles based mainly on photos from the Pennell family collection (which it is hoped will be published shortly in Past & Present) will also show that Lieschen seemed to be a regular visitor to her Lincoln family from about 1910-1912.

Tony Wall found the announcement in the March 20, 1906 edition of “The London Gazette” of the wind-up on 29 January 1906 of J.R. Richardson & Co (Lincoln) Ltd. J.R. Richardson had been appointed as Liquidator. The company therefore traded from 1903 to 1906 and not to 1907 as we had previously thought.

Sue Richardson also told me about the new 1911 census. By that census Jack Richardson and his wife and children were living at “The Cottage” 76 Barrowgate Road, Chiswick, three years earlier than we previously had been able to determine. Jack Richardson is described in it as employed as an Engineer & Manager for a Motor Manufacturer. We still hope we can ultimately determine which Motor Manufacturer he was working for at that time. This in turn has narrowed the time Jack was working as a Director for the French car manufacturer Mass in Courbevoie, Seine, France from 1906 to about 1911. We knew he was driving a 12-14hp Mass at a car rally in Lincolnshire on 19 May 1906.

An article that was printed in the Lincolnshire Echo on May 26 1907 by Peter Brown together with a nephew of Charles Gilbert refers to the fact that Charles Gilbert & his motor trade business “…produced a car known as a Richardson…as a joint venture with Jack Richardson…” We have no other information to verify Charles Gilbert’s involvement with the manufacture of the Richardson apart from the photograph published on p 11 of the Past & Present 73 article. According to the Echo article this photograph is of two Richardsons with a Daimler between them and was photographed outside Gilbert’s 28 Melville Street, Lincoln premises.

Charles Gilbert is behind the steering wheel of the Richardson car on the left with his father William Gilbert in the back seat wearing the boater hat; others photographed were members of Gilbert’s staff.

Further information about Gilbert’s involvement with the Richardson would be gratefully received.

Annabel Carle, Cheltenham, Victoria, Australia

Lincolnshire Dragons

Further to your Winter Editorial (LP&P 74) and the search for Lincolnshire dragons, there is a tradition attached to Castle Carlton, in the parish of South Reston, that the 12th century landowner Hugh Barde saved the village from a dragon, which was laying waste to the countryside.

Hiring fairs at Market Rasen and Caistor

Extracts from the Market Rasen Mail 1887—contributed by Ivan Baker

Market Rasen Mail 21 May 1887

‘May Market

One of the most important times of the year in an agricultural county like Lincolnshire is undoubtedly that of May Day when the majority of servants, male and female, agricultural and domestic, change their situations, receive their wages due for past service, and for about a week devote their holiday time to enjoyment and business. To the tradesmen in such a town as Market Rasen, dependent exclusively upon agricultural pursuits, the period is essentially that of harvest, and well do they cater for those replenishing their store of clothing and other necessities of life.

Our annual May market with both servants and tradespeople is a popular event, producing an opportunity for friends and acquaintances meeting, and obtaining new situations and for business purposes generally. The weather being of a favourable character, there was on Tuesday last an extraordinary influx of country people who came into the town hall from all sides by road and rail, carriers' carts and private conveyances, as well as the trains being crowded. The main street from about 11 o'clock in the morning, was thronged with people, while from the Gordon Arms to the town clock the road was almost impassable. The presence of numerous masters and mistresses in quest of servants produced a fair amount of hiring, but wages were somewhat lower than last year.

Waggoners commanded from £14 to £19 per annum, 2nd Waggoners £9 to £14, boys able to plough £4 to £9 a year. For female servants there was a good demand, but strong girls able to milk were scarce, obtaining £14 to £19 per year. General servants ranged from £7 to £11 per year, young girls £3 to £5; housemaids £6 to £11; kitchenmaids from £5 to £11, and cooks from £10 to £17. While the hiring was going on, the bulk of the young folks were enjoying themselves in divers manner, some patronising the swings, shooting galleries etc in the market place, others availing themselves of a donkey ride, and many frequenting the dancing rooms attached to several of the inns.

Business and pleasure were thoroughly well blended, drapers and clothiers, furniture establishments and ironmongers, eating house proprietors and innkeepers sharing in the distribution of cash with those who provided amusements.

The various register offices were fully resorted to by both employers and employees, and this department was one of the busiest of the day's appointments. Good order generally prevailed, little or nothing occurring to call for the interference of the extra staff of police.'

Another item about that year's event in the Market Rasen Mail indicated that pleasure was becoming more important than business at the hirings. This was, it seems, true of Caistor:

Market Rasen Mail 14 May 1887

‘Caistor

Statute Hiring of Servants

The annual ‘Statutes’ was held on Saturday last. There was a fair attendance of farm servants, who appeared to be on pleasure bent, the legitimate business of the day being a secondary matter. The masters were conspicuous by their absence, and so little hiring was done that we cannot with accuracy quote the wages. There is a great improvement in the behaviour of our country friends, not a single case of intoxication being visible.

There were less than the usual number of stalls, swings, shows etc and they did but a slow trade, the sine qua non—money—being a scarce article.'
F
rom 1828 to 1831 navvies were engaged in digging a new outfall for the River Nene at Sutton Bridge. The country at the time was suffering from the depression that followed the wars with the French. The navvies were dependent on their employers for their food, but it was often inadequate, and they helped themselves to the farmers' sheep and produce.

Certain local history publications have claimed that 'farmers were made bankrupt by the depredations of the navvies' and was the reason for many Special Constables being sworn in to deal with the navvies. The following article will explain the actual situation.

The extracts are from the diaries of John Peck, a farmer at Parson Drove, which is about 12 miles from Long Sutton.

I am grateful to Wisbech and Fenland Museum for the use of the diaries.

THE SWING® RIOTS

1830 heralded the beginning of the 'Swing Riots'. These were worrying times for John Peck—his diary records the great anxiety at the time:

From the diary, November to December 1830

'At Wisbech accounts from all parts of England of burning agricultural property. What adds to the panic, the Insurance Offices have one and all refused to insure farming property, the whole country is in a state of disaffection, the labourers breaking the machines and burning farmyards.

Rode to Wisbech, attending to see the magistrates, swearing Special Constables seemed to be the first step recommended.

'December 3rd. Saw 2 large fires blazing, which turned out to be Gedney Marsh and Weston Hills near Spalding, a fire also in Marshland. Truly awful to think there are people so wicked as to consume the harvest and destroy machines under the false impression it is then make bread dear. Rode to St Edmunds; every person enquired what news, I never saw people so alarmed and with just cause. A large fire over Long Sutton, a straw stack on the farm of Mr Allenby, fired by his own men to alarm him and thereby get an increase in wages. We this day in the vestry swore in 70 Special Constables. I hope all will end well.'

The troubled times are reflected in the following:

July 16th 1831. 'A troop of horse marched thro' Wisbech this morning for Boston, where some disturbances have taken place with the English driving the Irish labourers from their work. Such is the malice and ill-will of the home labourers that several stacks were fired on premises where Irishmen have been employed.'

July 16th 1831. 'Three haystacks, a wagon hovel with wagons and carts burnt on Mr J. Serimshaw's premises at Wisbech St Mary's set on fire in the middle of the night.'

August 1st 1831. A reward of £150 offered on the conviction of the incendiary who fired Serimshaw's premises (he employs Irish labourers).

The incendiariam continued. John Peck as valuer for the County Fire Office was at Long Sutton in another incident:

January 6th 1832. 'Went to Long Sutton to value the loss of property on Mr Clarke's farm destroyed by an incendiary on December 29th last, no difficulty. Mr Peel, a man of business who valued for Mr Clarke.'

On 6 January 1834 a meeting was held at Long Sutton to discuss procuring a fire engine for the parish, the result of this was that 'a fire engine similar to that at Parson Drove be obtained'. It is amazing that a parish possibly four times the size of Parson Drove, after experiencing several incidences of fires, took so long to get an engine; John Peck had got the engine for Parson Drove three years earlier.

During the troubled times a Mr Mossop, who farmed in the south of Lincolnshire, received the following letter:

'Mossop you are a damned badman and you look out, you destroy your mysheen and get out of your farm, men and shepherds and take them home to their own parish. In ten days we will burn you in all parts, we are not speaking on you alone but all that employs them that don't belong there. So you look out to your corn and hay, blast and bugger your eyes if you do not employ your own poor, we will burn you in your bed.'

BREAD OR BLOOD MY BOYS FIRE AND SMOKE!

*Many letters like the one above were signed by 'Captain Swing', the fictitious leader of the rioters. Ed.
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 of which, if hoped, reviews will be provided later. Many of these titles are available in the Society's Bookshop, Sheep Hill, Lincoln.

This reviewer is not a complete sceptic regarding ghost stories because, like UFOs, there are some 'happenings' which defy deft logical explanation but I have to say that there are not many of these in this book. Originally published in 1986, this is an updated work with some fresh ghost stories added, illustrated by black and white photos, and mainly set on former RAF stations in the county. My problem with it is that the good stories are swamped by many which are easily explainable, the author seeming to believe every story told to him and attributing supernatural explanations where there are perfectly good normal ones—such as the RAF Police man on patrol with his dog at Scampton who saw a movement near Guy Gibson's dog Nigger's grave. It was either a dog at a distance or a cat a lot nearer... I remained perfectly still glancing at my dog but it was obvious he had not picked up anything and gave no signs of anything amiss.'

Mr Halpen's explanation of this latter point is that Nigger's ghost is not a troubled spirit therefore the guard dog's sixth sense did not pick it up for it had nothing to fear. He then goes on to write 'This tells me it was someone that Nigger trusted who killed him: indeed it had to be someone very, very close.' This refers to an earlier chapter in which he reveals 'how Nigger really died'—not in a simple road accident (total rubbish) but killed by someone at RAF Scampton to sabotage the dams raid. This is just one of the author's rigid opinions but, if these don't bother you then there are stories of interest in this book.

Since this volume arrived another re-issue from the same publisher and author has been sent in. It is entitled: Ghost stations: mysteries. It was first issued in 1986 and includes some county items. The price is £9.95 paperback and the ISBN is 978 1 871448 08 5.

Terry Hancock


This is an oral history book published by the Kirton-in-Lindsey Society, which, importantly, includes a CD so the voices can be heard. The title is taken from the most common experience of the contributors—the annual killing of the pig—there is much more of everyday life in this well-produced book, including a wealth of stories of people and trades, school life and farm life. Electricity came to Kirton after the second world war. 'It was Yorkshire Power and they came round and they gave you an iron. They gave three lights, one in the room, one in the kitchen and one upstairs in the front bedroom.' The perception was always of people helping neighbours, happy childhoods, but very hard work—indeed on the farm. Horses still worked the land in living memory and there were some scary mo-
ments: 'Pedler set off. He did have a hard mouth, like, and he dropped me backwards when he set off on all fours'. Following the plough on foot was no easy option either: 'I never had no corns on my feet till I started going with the horses... you've got to hobble after them you know... nearly crippled up, I was.'

Interspersed in the transcriptions there are a few pages of interesting facts—for instance, origins and definitions of old measures of length and money. The chapters have been edited to cut out unnecessary repetitions and the sometimes meaningless phrases we all use in spoken language. The result is a very readable, well-illustrated book which helps to preserve the past for present and future generations. It is a veritable Cranford-in-Lincolnshire eye view of a twentieth century Lincolnshire small market town.

Mrs Linda Crust, Wrangby


Nicholas Leach has written extensively about the national sea rescue service on other parts of the coast and this is a very detailed survey of Skegness lifeboats for the best part of two centuries.

Service launches of each of the Skegness vessels are recorded from the first small eight-oar boat of 1825 to the mighty seagoing Mersey Class Lincolshire Poacher at present in service (but due for replacement), with all its technological equipment to assist the location and preservation of those in peril on a part of the North Sea abundant with shoals and sand banks and subject to vicious storms, but few safe havens.

The book is illustrated with many of the author's first-class photographs, augmented by others from the Joel Gunnell Collection.

The latter served the Skegness Lifeboat station for almost a lifetime; latterly he was Coxwain, station secretary and committee chairman and was awarded an MBE in the Queen's 2008 birthday honours list.

This is a book to refer to for factual information, but very much for a good read and it is admirably produced at a reasonable price.


This handsomely produced book was the subject of a long article in The Times (Saturday 28 February, page 92). We are all well aware of the presence of brasses in many of our churches and, for one, assumed that this was a craft of earlier times that had largely died out. The Victorian revival certainly passed me by. This volume redresses that and draws attention to the large number produced during the last 120 years. There is an historical introduction dealing with brass design and manufacture and this is followed by wide-ranging chapters on the trade that developed after the Great Exhibition of 1851, which provided a showcase for all kinds of ecclesiastical fittings. The ritual revival led to a large number of brasses being laid down to commemorate nineteenth century clergymen. The text provides much detail of these clergy and their monuments and nearly 200 illustrations provide another sort of illumination, not only of the brasses themselves but also the techniques, ancient and modern involved.

Appendix C lists, by counties, those discussed and illustrated in the book. Four of them are in Lincolnshire—Hainton, Louth St James, Spital-in-the-Street and Witham on the Hill. For complete lists readers are referred to the Monumental Brass Society. This is a revelatory work, based on wide reading and research.


The Bird Museum that was part of the Spalding Gentleman's Society (SGS) collection was formed, it is believed, by Thomas Brogden, a Spalding solicitor. His collection was joined to that of Ashley Maples, also a local solicitor, and the whole passed in turn to the SGS in 1927 after the town had turned down an earlier offer for a bird museum in Ayscoughfee Hall. Mr Maples was the Secretary of the SGS for 36 years from 1899.

This book outlines the early origins of the collection and its later history, which includes the acquisition of items from other collectors: although not listed an enormous group came from Major Stuart Maples, consisting of 537 reference skins and 2354 eggs. The bulk of this work consists of lists of all the birds, British and foreign, in the collection with much on the efforts of Ben Waltham, who for many years from 1923 was associated with the museum as taxidermist, only retiring in 1969 aged 84.
Clearly much research has gone into listing all these birds, which have been part of the collection at Leicester Museum since 2001.


The Spring issue of this quarterly in 2006 carried a review of the first edition of Mr Needle's immense efforts to record all he could find relating to Bourne's history and development. And not only the town itself but much on the area that surrounds it. This latest version now contains more than 1,500,000 words but also has nearly 4000 images and, Mr Needle tells me, more pictures keep turning up. The disc is very user-friendly and navigation around its contents presents no problems, even to me; and I am by no means a computer buff. The author has been able to hold the cost to its original price. He also promises a book later this year which will distil the essence of his continuing research.

**NOTT, Hugh. Papermaking in Lincolnshire, 1600-1900. Lincoln, Society for Lincolnshire History & Archaeology, 2008. vi. 63pp. ISBN 978 0 903582 33 9. £12.95 pbk. This is a first-class piece of research. It has taken the author many years of digging in archives, touring to the various sites where paper-making took place, studying old maps and delving into family histories. The standard histories of paper-making spread a wide net over the early origins of the creation of material suitable to take pen and ink and, much later, type and illustrations. Such volumes take a world view that ranges from the Egyptian papyrus and Chinese use of bamboo to the first European factory in Italy in the thirteenth century and the first in England (Hertfordshire, 1495). Such matters are touched on here by way of introduction but the focus is strongly on the local. A long-term resident in Tealby the author became interested in the village's facilities sited on the stream by Papermill Lane. Being in a hilly area with ample supplies of clear running water and access to rags from which handmade paper was made it became a centre that eventually had three mills in operation. Mr Nott first looks at these mills and has dug out many fascinating details of their origins, working methods and the families associated with them, the latter having a long section of their own. He then provides similar details on the sites and families associated with them in Leasingham, West Deeping, Barrow on Humber, Louth and Houghton Mill near Grantham. The earliest reference is to a 'paperman', living at Evedon, near Sleaford in 1617. Each chapter also has its complement of site maps, photographs of any remains, old engravings, documents and family portraits. Well produced on good paper another important facet of the county's industrial history is admirably covered.**


According to the blurb on the back of this book Kelly Odlin is only 15 years old and still a student in Spilsby where she has lived all her life. She became interested in local history and won a competition organised by the local history society. The result is this volume, which consists largely of illustrations with captions of varying lengths. The author opens with a section on Sir John Franklin, almost obligatory in Spilsby's case, and this is followed by sections entitled: Railway station and carriers' routes; public houses; auctions, markets and fairs; shops.
and businesses followed by tradesmen and craftsmen (these two form the largest portion of the book), Royal British Legion and, finally, pieces on local amenities (schools, fire brigade, sports clubs etc.).

Kelly has dug up loads of photographs, bill heads from local shopkeepers, maps and other printed ephemera. It would have been helpful if the sources for her lists of trades people had been given. That said, she has done a good job in putting together in an interesting and readable manner such a wealth of material.


Brian Robinson has edited his late father’s book, which first appeared in 1981. He has taken the opportunity to revise some of the entries, which are arranged in a largely chronological order. Up to the year 1899 the main changes have been a little re-writing here and there. The twentieth century is now by sections, which take the story as far as 2008. The original appendices, which provided potted histories of Lutton, Gedney, Sutton St James and Tydd St Mary and a note on Sutton Bridge have been dropped though other appendices on the various charters have been retained. The first edition had 303 pages and by use of a smaller typeface there are now 268 pages.

It is a very useful history and it is good to welcome it back in print. The editor argues against the provision of an index (a serious lack before) for space reasons but one must regret that decision. The inclusion of a small photographic section is an improvement.

Woodhall Spa Past and Present

SARGEANT, Marjorie. Woodhall Spa past and present. Woodhall Spa Cottage Museum, 2008. 72pp. ISBN 0 9546443 3 6. £9 pbk (postage extra from the publisher, Liddesleigh Road, Woodhall Spa LN10 ???)

The author has been busy again! This is her fourth book on Woodhall Spa in three years. Her earlier volumes dealt with selections from the Hornsea News from 1885 to 1890 and we have had collections of personal memories of the town from local people and its sequel dealing with WW2.

Now 38 local sites have been singled out for illustration with several paragraphs on what is depicted. The emphasis is, therefore, on businesses, each (usually) having a page allocated to each place. The main exceptions are the hotels, the Cinema in the Woods and The Bungalow, which started out in the 1880s as a flatpack corrugated iron building transferred from its original site. There must be 150 pictures, many in colour and all very well reproduced on good paper; a useful map keys in the locations to the page references. It is all very well done once more.


Lincoln’s Allotments is yet another handy publication from The Survey of Lincoln. The cover photograph on the cover attracts attention and offers a flavour of the busy activity enjoyed by so many citizens past and present.

Geoff Tann has researched his subject well. He has discovered many locations now vanished and people who had allotments and were staunch supporters of retaining this facility for Lincoln’s citizens. The book offers information on the origins of urban allotments, on the changing patterns through the ages, the effect of war on the use of these sites and the decline in the popularity of gardening and animal rearing.

The author includes a map locating all the known sites and an appendix which lists them with details. Unusually, for a small volume, there is a lengthy bibliography for those wishing to pursue the subject further.

Geoff must have experienced problems in selecting his text since he directs readers to The Survey of Lincoln website to find out more. This is a valuable record of an important aspect of Lincoln’s past.

Pearl Wheatley, Lincoln

these two outstanding historical sites from Mr Thompson's close reading of the early sources.


It would be impossible in a limited space to give the full flavour of this the latest publication of the Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust. Some idea of the shape, size and quality may be gained by the illustration of its cover. But, inside the covers, the array of remarkable colour pictures of all aspects of the county's wildlife almost defies description.

The pictures are grouped into sections devoted to woodlands, grasslands, heathlands, peatlands, wetlands and coastlands. An introductory page precedes each section and there are sub-divisions within each category that relate to individual woods, etc. A good map gives the location of each reserve, though the numbers on the map do not necessarily relate to the book's pictures.

Mr Trinder came to the county as a boy and soon developed an interest in all things relating to natural history, living as he did close to Manton Common in the north-west of the county. Soon he was involved with local groups of like-minded folk, becoming a warden at Epworth Turlbury and Chairman of the Isle of Axholme Trust Group, posts he has held for 32 years. Soon he was also taking up photography with the results presented to us here. The pictures are of every type of natural phenomenon and in all areas of the county, though most are of the central area from Lincoln to the coast with two other large groups centred on the

Stamford and Barton-on-Humber areas. The book is a delight for all interested in the county's birds, trees, plants and landscape and a tribute to the author's photographic skills, the Trust's determination to foster interest in Lincolnshire's natural history and to local printer, Cupit of Horncastle, for a first-class volume. It cannot fail to appeal.

WRIGHT, Jim. Sucked down by the whirlpool: the quest for King John's long-lost treasure: do Americans hold clues to 800-year-old mystery? The author, 2008. 21pp. ISBN 978 1 902871 13 4. £3.50 pbk (or £4 by post from Mr Wright, 33 Parker Street, Cleethorpes DN3 5TH).

The author rehearse once more the story of King John and his treasure train. In the process he recounts the many theories that have sprung up over the years and recalls the efforts of other writers to 'solve' whatever mystery there is about John's fateful journey from King's Lynn. It is all very readable and Mr Wright