The Steel family of Alford
Glentworth Hall
Gwynnes pumps at Wiggenhall St Germans
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Glückliche Festschrift!
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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 c/o Jews’ Court, Lincoln LN2 1LS. Articles may also be sent on compact disk (Microsoft Word document) or as an email attachment to lianumcolonia@hotmail.com

Front Cover: Monument to Robert, Lord Rich (d1619) and his wife Frances (d1634) in St Lawrence’s Church, Snarford.
Back cover: Monument to Sir Thomas St Paul (d1582) and his wife Faith in St Lawrence’s Church, Snarford.
Warmer, longer and lighter days may encourage contributors to sit down and write, unless it just sends them into their gardens! Evidently people were writing more during the house-bound days of last winter, as a result of which a varied selection of articles appear in the following pages. There are several topics revived and queries followed up, which is always encouraging; we need readers to be on the alert for additional information, questions, and even corrections, to matters previously highlighted.

Among these are a comment on Weavers Cottage, a further note on Ropseley church, and from Mike Turland (whom one can safely describe as ‘the Kirk and Parry man’) a connection between George Boole and the Kirks of Sleaford. John Almond’s ‘hidden treasure’ this time is Snarford church.

Main articles this time include one by Ellen Shelly on the Steel family of Alford in the 19th century, a topical study making use of census returns. What will future historians do if the censuses cease? James Foster presents a second instalment of the Glentworth saga, including history of the Halls old and newer. David Bower offers some suggestions and ideas about ‘lost’ roads in Lincoln.

Lutton Gows Mill, near Long Sutton, is the subject of a piece by David Clowes, who raises the profile of this important mill and the current, long awaited, restoration project. This was the subject of David’s talk on a ‘Sunday Special’ afternoon talk in Lincoln on 27 March.

The Industrial Archaeology Group and the Dogdyke Pumping Station Preservation Trust visited the pumping station at Wiggenhall St German in Norfolk last year where they saw the Lincoln manufactured Gwynnes pumps and they have provided us with some excellent photographs.

Hilary Healey, Joint Editor
June 1826, was one of the hottest months of one of the hottest years on record. The 22nd of that month saw the ancient, decaying and patched Church of St Wilfrid in Alford packed with a congregation made up chiefly of the local Steel and Dennis families, come to witness the wedding of two of their children.

With fifteen siblings between them, and all of their parents still living, 22-year-olds Robert Steel and Mary Dennis were at the centre of large families who lived, worked and supported each other in the Lincolnshire town of Alford during the 19th century.

'Harvest years' run from August to July, and levels of marriages and burials in these years are often related to the weather experienced, and its effects on people involved in agriculture. Despite a hot summer in 1825, the years 1824 and 1825 had notably cold and wet springs and winters, leading to poor harvests.

Robert and Mary married at the end of the harvest year 1825/26. This harvest year had only six marriages, the lowest number in Alford for the 25 year period between 1813-1837, and Robert and Mary were perhaps able to marry and set up their own household in this year because Robert was not involved in agriculture, and therefore was not as badly affected by the poor weather as his neighbours were.

Described in 1856 as a small but ancient market town, Alford is situated on a small brook on the eastern side of the Lincolnshire Wolds. The town had a 'clean and respectable appearance' and contained several excellent inns, well stocked shops and 'commodious residences' that would soon enjoy the modern innovation of gas lighting from the Alford gas works, which would be established in 1842.

A police station was built in 1844 and, half a mile west of the town, the new railway station was opened in 1850, providing passenger and freight services.

In 1852, a substantial new vicarage, costing £1500 was built in West Street, and the deteriorating St Wilfrid's Church itself was extensively renovated in 1867.

But for Robert and Mary, this is all in the future. On their glorious, sunny wedding day in June 1826 they began their life together, supported by their families, and their two eldest sisters, Elizabeth Steel and Elizabeth Dennis, whom they chose to act as witnesses for their wedding. Perhaps the five bells in the ancient church tower rang out as the newlywed couple left the church.

William Steel, father of our bridegroom Robert, first appears in the records of Alford on his own wedding day in April 1799. He was a sawyer, who had managed to arrange apprenticeships for all three of his surviving sons, so that as adults they were all successful bricklayers and builders in Alford. William's wife Mary, née Hill, was also a new arrival in Alford at the time of her marriage. William and Mary's seven children were born between 1803, when Mary was about 30, and 1812. She was relatively old for the birth of her first child, and the gap of 4 years between her marriage and the baptism of eldest daughter, Elizabeth, suggests that Mary may have lost earlier pregnancies.

Mary Dennis, the bride on 22 June 1826, was the eldest daughter of gardener Richard Dennis and Alice Rutland, who arrived in Alford around the same time as the Steels, and married at St Wilfrid's in May 1803. Alice was the eldest of eleven children, originally from the village of Huttoft. She and Richard had 12 children, ten of whom survived to adulthood. Alice was younger than Mary Steel and would have been 21 when her first child was born, and 42 by the time she gave birth to her youngest, Richard junior.

By the early 1820s, enclosure of the open fields of Alford was being discussed. The process was completed by 1840, when most of the land was transferred to just nine landowners, including the Bishop of Lincoln. A jury list from the time showed that the town had several trades including druggist, roper, cordwainer, drapers, hatter, carpenter, brewer, baker, watchmaker, maltsters and an ironmonger. In 1801 there were about 1040 people living in the town. By 1851 this had increased to 2229 people.

Robert and Mary Steel had 13 children in the 21 years between 1828 and 1849. Their first six children were born within six years, with John arriving in 1828. Mary and Alice were born early in 1830. Emma followed in 1832, Maria in 1833 and Charles in 1834. Mary must have been exhausted by this succession of...
pregnancies, and caring for so many very young children. The twins were baptised on 30th January, each named after a grandmother, and it is likely that their grandmothers helped in the care of the growing family. Robert's brother Charles died aged 23 in 1832, and Robert named his second son after him. Charles and Maria, though born a year apart, were baptised together on 3 October 1834.

Mary's next four babies were born in the years between 1836 and 1839. A clue to how she managed can be seen in the 1841 census, when the entry for her parents Richard and Alice Dennis shows that Maria, now aged 7, was staying with her grandparents. Richard and Alice may have helped with their other grandchildren too, but perhaps had a particularly close link with Maria, as she was also in their home on census night in 1851 and 1861.

Compulsory registration of births, marriages and deaths was introduced in England in 1837, and registrations can be found for Mary's babies: Dennis born in 1838, Henry in 1839, Ann in 1842 and Frederick, in 1849, but not for Bardley who was baptised on 17th January 1837 or Robert, who was born in 1847. Mary experienced longer gaps between the births of her last three children; she was about 45 years old when baby of the family, Frederick, was born.

The 1841 census shows Robert and Mary Steel and their family living at West Street, Alford. Both aged 35, Robert was a bricklayer, and Mary must have been very busy at home with nine children aged between 1 and 14 years. None of the children has a recorded occupation at this time, though John, aged 14, was old enough to begin working with his father. The winter of 1846/7 had been one of the coldest on record, followed by a wet summer, autumn and winter. February 1848 was one of the wettest on record. During this wet, cold period, Robert's parents, Mary and William Steel, died within six months of each other: Mary in September 1847, and William in February 1848. According to the burial register they were aged 74 and 76 at the time of their deaths, maybe succumbing to the strain of surviving old age in such cold, wet conditions.

Robert and his brothers James and Joseph all had entries in the Slater's Directory of 1850. Robert's business 'Steel and Son' was listed at West End. The information for the directory had been collected around 1847/8, so perhaps the family had remained in their West Street home for 7 or 8 years.

Like Robert, James and Joseph both stayed in the town throughout their working lives. Perhaps they were known as Bob, Jim and Joe? Robert also had an entry in the White's Directory of 1856, though neither of his brothers appears in this edition. Between them, the three Steel brothers had 26 children. Nine of their sons grew up to become Bricklayers.

There were eight households in Parsons Lane, the home in 1851 of Robert and Mary Steel. Mary had chosen her sister Elizabeth to be witness at her wedding, and their close relationship must have continued, as Elizabeth and her husband, Solomon Dales, were living in the same street as Mary and Robert, in both 1851 and 1861. Solomon, like his father-in-law, Richard Dennis, worked as a gardener. Other neighbours in Parsons Lane worked as Pauper/ Hawker, Fellmonger, Tailor and Labourer. In comparison to the other streets, Parsons Lane was neither the most prosperous area of town, nor the poorest. Eight of Robert and Mary's 13 children were still at home with them, and the fact that Robert was able to provide a home for such a large family in Parsons Lane shows that he must have been a successful builder. Two daughters were with their maternal grandparents in Chapel Street, Emma was a live-in servant in Market Place and Alice had secured a sought-after position as House Servant in prosperous Bridge Street.

The average number of children aged under 20 years, at home with both parents in Alford, on census night 1851 was 3.13 children per household. One family had a total of nine children, and two others had seven children at home with them. Therefore, at the time of the 1851 census, the Steel family was the largest family in Alford.

Robert Steel senior was the second of seven children, and his wife Mary was the first of 12 children. Mary's three siblings John, Elizabeth and Rebecca had eight, ten and twelve children respectively. Robert's brothers James and Joseph and sister Elizabeth had smaller families with five, eight and six children. Though smaller than the families of the Dennis siblings, the Steel families were all significantly larger than the local average family size. Robert and Mary's children would have had 49 cousins growing up in town with them.

During the summer of 1851 the family of another Parson's Lane resident, Solomon Kelk, celebrated three marriages, as his son and two daughters were married within two weeks of each other. Soon after the census was taken, another neighbour from Parson's Lane, 82-year-old Christian Carney died. As the Lane had so few households, it is tempting to imagine that the Steels and their neighbours would have attended these weddings and the funeral, and possibly been involved in
the preparations, or provided support to Christian Cardy's 69-year-old widow.

Mary Steel's parents, Richard and Alice Dinnis, were living in Chapel Street in 1851, with their youngest son and three teenage grandchildren (son of Solomon and Elizabeth Dales), and Mary and Maria Steel (daughters of Robert and Mary Steel). Richard had been born in Alford and worked as a gardener. Other Chapel Street residents were employed as a Baker, Butcher, Tailor, Baker, Brickmaker, Attorney and Wesleyan Minister.

Like his son-in-law Robert, Richard Dinnis had an entry in the 1850 Slater's directory, as did his son John. Both were listed as gardeners, and would have managed orchards of fruit trees.

Richard died on the first of April 1853, at the age of 74. The cause of death recorded on the certificate appears to read 'Scous Pribous'. His wife Alice was with him when he died, and registered the death the next day.

Like the earlier Slater's Directory, the White's Directory of 1856 gives a list of the tradesmen and eminent residents of the town of Lincolnshire. Included in this list, rather than in the general trades directory, is an entry for Alice and John Dinnis, Gardeners of West End. Alice herself would die in late 1861, aged 78 of 'old age'. John Dinnis appears in the 1873 Return of Landowners as an owner of land worth £66. Another Richard Dinnis, grandson of Richard and Alice was also involved in the family business as a gardener, and appears in the much later White's Directory of 1882 as a Nurseryman and Seedsman, based in Market Place. He owned Orchards around the town, and employed a boy who sold fruit, promising that it was 'All from the sunny side of the tree'.

1854 was an eventful year for the Steel family. In February of that year Mary's youngest brother, Richard Dinnis, died aged 28, and was buried at Alford. Mary would have been more than 20 years older than Richard. It is not possible to say how close they would have been, and how his death may have affected her family.

Just two months later, one of Mary and Robert's twin daughters, Mary, married Edward Harbord, in Liverpool. They went on to have seven children. Mary's youngest brother Frederick would have been just four years old at the time of his sister's marriage. It would be interesting to know whether the Steel family were able to travel to Liverpool for the wedding, possibly using the recently opened Great Northern Railway.

Four years later, Mary and Robert's other twin daughter, Alice, died at the age of 28. She was buried at Alford in November 1858. Son Charles must have married around 1857/8. His wife, Sarah Oxbridge, was from Norfolk, and the couple had two children born in Alford, before moving to Stockton in County Durham, where they had a further four children.

Mary and Robert with their younger family had moved by 1861 to West End, Alford. Robert was now both a builder and farmer, and the couple had four sons at home with them on census night. Hardley and Henry, 23 and 22 years old, were both journeyman bricklayers, 15-year-old Robert is described as a builder and farmer's son, while Frederick, who was 12, was an apprentice.

In 1861, as in 1851, the family of Mary's sister, Elizabeth Dales, were in the same street. Elizabeth's husband, Solomon Dales, worked as a gardener, and Elizabeth's occupation, like Mary's is simply 'wife'. Elizabeth and Solomon's two sons were at home with them, one a scholar, the other a clergyman's groom. Solomon died in early January 1863. Elizabeth remained in West Street, where she is found, on the 1881 census, living alone, aged 72.

In September 1864, Dionis Steel, Mary's ninth child, married Betsy Fowler at Alford, where they had three children. Elizabeth, Richard and Louisa. Mary's sixth daughter, Jane Elizabeth, married Joseph Lewis, at the age of 30, in 1866. They had three children, Marian, Frederick and Charles, who were all born in Alford. Joseph worked as a blacksmith and gunsmith. Sometime before 1871, Maria Steel, then aged about 36, married and moved to Grays in Essex, only to be widowed within eight years, and left with four young sons to raise. During April 1871 Maria's younger sister Jane Lewis was visiting her, and they appear on the 1871 census together.

Another change of home had taken the Steels back to Parsons Lane, Alford, by 1871. Robert and Mary were now 66 years old, and he was described as a bricklayer. Eardley, described as a married bricklayer, was at his parents' home on census night, though his wife, Frances, was not with him. Scenes was at home, unmarried and unemployed.

Like Maria, Eardley had married sometime before 1871. His wife was Frances Ann Cunningham, and they had two daughters, Charlotte born in 1874, and Ada, born in 1880.

In a midwinter wedding, three days after Christmas 1876, Mary's second youngest son, Robert, married Frances Ann's younger sister, Maria Cunningham. Following the family tradition of choosing siblings to act as witnesses, Robert
chose his younger brother Fred to be a witness to his wedding, while Maria chose her sister Frances Ann.

Mary's youngest son, Frederick, and his wife, Charlotte, must have married some time before this, as their daughter Louisa was born in Skimmingrove, Yorkshire, in 1875.

Mary died on 8 April 1877 at Parsons Lane, Alford. She had succumbed to valvular disease of the heart, and her death was registered three days later by her daughter-in-law, Frances Ann Steel (née Cunningham). Mary and Robert had been married for 51 years, and lived closely with their brothers and sisters, with many of their own children and grandchildren near to them in the town of Alford.

By the spring of 1881 Robert Steel had been a widower for four years. Robert and Mary had already lost one child, Alice, who died aged 28 in 1858, and in 1879, their son Dennis died in Hull, at 40, leaving a wife and three children. During April 1881 Robert visited his daughter Emma, her husband and two sons at their home in Kingston Upon Hull. It is likely that Robert also saw Dennis's children during this visit.

In February 1882 Robert wrote his will in the presence of two Solicitors of Alford, directing that all of his assets be converted into money by two Alford Residents, Askew Wood and Edmund Wright Rushton. The moneys were then to be divided equally between Robert's children. Perhaps thinking of the recent death of his son Dennis, and his grandchildren in Hull, Robert also directed that if any of his children were to die in his lifetime, their share of his estate should be shared equally between their children. The only exception to this was that Robert specifically stated that the share of his daughter Jane Elizabeth Lewis (if she were to die within his lifetime) should be shared amongst two of her children, Marian and Charles, effectively writing their brother Frederick out of the will.

At the time the will was written, Frederick was just 14 years old. The previous year, the 1881 census, had shown him as a 13-year-old scholar, living in Alford with his parents. By 1891 Frederick was a solicitor's clerk, living in Hull. Perhaps his grandfather had assisted him in some way between 1881 and the writing of the will, and wishing to be fair to all of his children and grandchildren, Robert considered that Frederick had already received his inheritance.

Robert Steel senior died of bronchitis, three days after Christmas 1884, exactly eight years after the marriage of his namesake Robert junior and almost 3 years after writing his will. At this time, it is likely that eleven of his children were still living; each would have received around £8 as their share of his estate. His address was still Parsons Lane. His daughter-in-law Frances Ann must have been a capable and dependable member of the family, as once again, it was she who was in attendance and took responsibility for registering the death. Perhaps she had also nursed her father-in-law, during his illness over Christmas.

Robert and his brothers James and Joseph all worked as bricklayers at Alford, and this trade was passed on to many of their sons, including two of James sons, Cephas and William Steel, and Robert and Mary's boys, Charles, Eardley, Dennis, Henry, and Robert. The youngest brother Frederick became a joiner and mason, moving to Grimsby, where by 1891 he had been joined by his brother Robert junior and family. The building tradition was continued as Robert's daughter Betsy married Fred's business partner, Ernest Goddard. Fred and Ernest had contracts to build houses in Boston and Mablethorpe. Perhaps many of the Victorian buildings that still stand in Alford today were built by the Steel family.

SOURCES
Alford Parish Register Burials 1851.
UK 1851 Census 110 107/2110 Cooke S, Alford Town, 1888
Town and Village Life in Lincolnshire. No. 225 Alford Part III, by the 'Author of Forgotten Lincoln'.
1861 UK Census RG9 2377 92 Central England Temperature Series.


Blue plaque at Stamford

Last year a blue plaque was unveiled on the former home of 18th century antiquarian William Stukeley in Stamford. This is only the second plaque in Stamford, we understand, which perhaps says something about the difficulty of putting plaques on Listed Buildings!
The Two Glentworth Halls

Part 2: The Earls of Scarborough mansion

Glentworth Hall 1753

James Foster

This is well chronicled on websites and in tourist guides, together with information about the Wray family and their monument in St Michael and All Angels Church. In many of these accounts it is implied that Glentworth House and Glentworth Hall were one and the same. This essay is not intended to supplement those accounts, nor debate that issue, but some of the details are useful in tracing the ownership of the ruins of the Wray Hall. The Glentworth estate was sold at auction in 1917 piece by piece by agents of the 11th Earl, and whoever owned the 'Scarborough' Hall after that date also owned the Wray ruins behind it.

1753

Paine's plans for the extensions to Glentworth House bear little if any resemblance to the redbrick east wing frontage built in 1753. The only recognizable features of the plans are those of three wings of Glentworth House, in the courtyard of which appears to be an almost entirely separate new block, attached and approached through a much modified entrance hall in the centre of the east wing.

The architect's drawings of plans for the eventual, much reduced, addition (east frontage) to the old hall have never come to light. However, in the Sir John Soane's Museum Collection are drawings of a three-storey building of Georgian architecture. These plans, untitled, show two main floors and an 'Attick', and are thought by Peter Leach to be an additional wing intended for Glentworth Hall, but never built. The Soane drawing is almost certainly one of Paine's, sharing some features with the hall of 1753 and many of his other creations.

Local 'lore' has it that before the building of the Glentworth Hall began, the Earl gave instructions that the ruined east wing of the Wray mansion, including the towers, should be razed to the ground and a new frontage built to obscure sight of the ruins from the road above.

The 'Scarborough' Hall itself, which faces east, had, at the time of its building, a frontage of about 130 feet, a depth of around 20 feet, and height to the roof parapet of approximately 45 feet. The ground and first floors were approximately 16 feet six inches high, and the top 'attick', in which were the servants' bedrooms, about 11 feet six inches. These dimensions give the hall a ground floor area of about 3,250 square feet, excluding the annexe behind the north end of the hall.

There is little stonework to be seen, except for two string courses inserted in the brickwork between the top of the ground floor and the sills of the first floor windows. In some photographs and drawings of the north end of the hall can be seen a short wing with an archway. This 'wing' is continued to the west, ending in a wall about 40 feet in length. This 'annexe' is thought to have been an original part of Glentworth House, although its floor matches neither of those of the old two-storey Glentworth House, nor those of the new three-storey Glentworth Hall.

It can be seen by closely studying the 1920s photographs that the...
new hall has a slightly longer frontage than that of the former east wing of ‘Glentworth House’. The north and south wings of the old hall were left in situ behind the new hall, and it could be said that by this measure the two ‘mansions’ had become one. However, it does not seem that they were joined in any way, ie the brickwork of the new hall was not ‘tied in’ to the stonework of the Wray mansion, but that one ‘hall’ merely abutted the other, albeit with straight jointed mortar seams.¹

1788
On the birth of the 8th Earl, the name of Saunderson ceased to form part of the family title, and they reverted to the former family name of Lumley.

1793
The artist’s impression⁴ of the south and west wings of the Wray hall shows the end of the east wing of Glentworth House, and it is clear that the three-storey hall built for the Earl of Scarborough is about six feet higher than the two-storey Wray mansion. There is witness evidence that in the early 1930s there did not appear to be any access between the two halls on any of the floors except through the Venetian doors under the stairwell.⁵

1842
The owner of Glentworth Hall is listed in the Directory of that year as being the ‘Earl of Scarborough’, probably the 8th Earl. The occupier of part of the hall is given as Francis Brown, a farmer, whom it seems might have modified the north wing (still extant in 2010) for use as a kitchen, and it was being used as living accommodation by the Sleaford family in 1945. At the west end of this ‘annexe’ is a high wall pierced by an archway.¹

1860
It is reported that the 8th Earl is resident in the Scarborouhs’ ancestral seat at Sandbeck, leaving his son, Lord Scarborough, in residence at Glentworth. Lord Scarborough seems to have been more amenable to granting requests from his tenants than his father was.⁵

1872
The owner is the Earl of Scarborough. The occupier/tenant is Pereira Brown, probably the son of Francis.

1900
The owner is the Earl of Scarborough. The occupier/tenant is Pereira Brown.

1902
The owner is the Earl of Scarborough, occupier Charles Hill.

1913
The owner is the Earl of Scarborough and the occupier/tenant is Charles Hill.

1914ca.
A picture postcard shows the ‘Scarborough’ Hall to be occupied, while at the south end the south wall of the Wray’s Glentworth House can just be seen, up to almost full height but without a roof.¹

1917
The 11th Earl sells at auction the whole of the Glentworth estate, together with estates in other parts of north Lincolnshire.
Many tenant farmers and smallholders in the area are granted ‘preference bids’ for the land and property that they had formerly leased. At the end of the preference biddings the auction is opened up for anyone to make an offer, and records show that it is at this juncture that Thomas Green makes a successful bid for the hall and becomes its new owner. All the lots listed in the catalogue are sold at the end of the day.

1919
Thomas Green retires, and his son Charles takes over the running of the hall’s estate, but it is likely that although both father and son and their respective families are in occupation of the hall, Thomas Green remains the owner.

1926
Charles Green is now listed as owner and occupier, and remains as such until the outbreak of World War II.

1939
Rooms on the second and third floors are requisitioned to house airmen from Heemswooll aerodrome and the grounds are used as a training facility for the Army and the LDV (Home Guard). The Green family are restricted to living on the ground floor.
The Luftwaffe begins bombing the nearby aerodrome, but many of the bombs fall wide of the target. Glentworth Hall escapes direct hits but, within a few months, masonry is dislodged, the rooms begin to leak, and windows are shattered.

The final blow is administered when a long chain of ammunition trolleys in a nearby lane, loaded with HE bombs being transported to the aerodrome, is accidentally detonated.

The hall is now uninhabitable and the RAF personnel depart. The Green family are obliged to move out, and vandals begin to make regular forays. It is at this time that many of the hall's interior fittings are removed, but whether this is sanctioned by the owner is not recorded.

The oak panels of the main dining room have been removed, and after extensive enquiries it is reported that they have been transported to one of the Retford Methodist churches to enclose a newly installed organ. Despite enquiries, no confirmation of that report can be found.

1941

Frank Arden, a director of several farming companies, buys the hall. Only temporary repairs are made and the building remains uninhabitable. Vandalism has a field day, and many more of the hall's internal fittings and furnishings are removed including lead from the roof. In the post-war minutes of the West Lindsey District Council it is recorded that 'Glentworth Hall, having been unoccupied during the war years, is now in a state of dereliction'.

Between 1941 and 1945 very little, if any, work was carried out on the hall, as wartime restrictions applied concerning the supply of building materials for civilian use. The only repairs allowed were those to buildings that had been damaged in air raids, where no alternative accommodation was available for those displaced.

1944-46

Owner Frank Arden undertakes substantial renovations to the hall and surrounds. The Sleaford family are installed as 'caretakers' and occupy the habitable rooms on the ground and first floors to deter vandals. The top storey of the hall is removed and the lowered roof made watertight. This feat of civil engineering reduces the height of Glentworth Hall to about 33 feet at roof pan level. The adjacent stables, derelict for many years, are renovated and made fit to accommodate Mr Arden's family while work progresses on the hall.

A house is planned for the rear of the hall and its construction begins. Soon afterwards, Mr Arden and his family vacate the hall and move to occupy Dog Kennel Farm on Glentworth Cliff, which the Sleafords occupied during the war, and renamed the farmhouse 'Glentworth House'. The Sleafords move out of Glentworth Hall to Pilkington Farm, and once again the hall suffers dereliction.

1951

At a meeting of the West Lindsey District Council, it is reported that 'Glentworth Hall, a Grade II listed building, is in a state of severe dilapidation', and that 'no one seems to have any interest in it.' Some doubt exists as to who owns the building.

1980

Application made to the West Lindsey DC by the agents of the owner of the hall (not stated) to demolish completely. The application is refused.

2000

Glentworth Hall is bought by millionaire entrepreneur, Mr T. Woodcock, who undertakes considerable restoration, including making the building waterproof. When the works are completed, the ground floor of the hall becomes a centre for the display and sale of high quality reproduction furniture.

The hall also offers luxurious accommodation to groups who may wish to use it as a conference centre. A more thorough restoration of the stable block is undertaken. A report containing that information is read to a meeting of West Lindsey District Council at their AGM in September 2002.

2002

The centre opens in October.
2003
The owners put Glentworth Hall on the market for £1,000,000. It eventually is sold for almost £700,000.

2008
The hall is again on the market after more substantial alterations and restoration to its fabric. It is reported that the owners spent £900,000 on the hall and restorations and that it now offers seven separate accommodation suites, and as before, 'facilities for meetings of executives for conferences'. An 'asking price' of £1,300,000 is reduced in 2009 to offers near £1,150,000. At the time of writing there is no definite news of the hall's ownership or occupants.

NOTES TO PART 2—GLENTWORTH HALL 1753
3 Glentworth Parish Council archives. 4 Tony Sumpter Archaeological Consultancy, Retford.
5 This drawing by John Claude Nattes is shown in LP&P 82 Winter 2010/11. 6 Author's recollections.
7 Lincolnshire Echo, January 6, 2001, photo Ian Jubb. 8 James Foster, A History of Glentworth, DTP
9 barkystartalktalk.net, 2005. 10 Photo West Lindsey DC archives. 11 LP&P 78 Winter 2009/10 in James Foster's article 'Dog Kennel Farm'. 12 Lincolnshire Echo, January 6, 2001. 13 Photo Mark Hurd, former churchwarden,
14 Glentworth St Michael. 15 Knight Frank Property Agents, Lincoln.

The Gwynnes Pumps
at Wiggenhall St Germans

Chris Lester

Last year members of the Industrial Archaeology team accompanied by members of the Dogdyke Pumping
Station Preservation Trust went out of the county to make a photographic record and drawings of the Wiggenhall St Germans
drainage station near King's Lynn.

The reason for the interest in this pumping station is that it employed the largest centrifugal pumps ever to be manufactured by Gwynnes of Lincoln, and the site was about to be demolished and completely cleared.

The station was completed in 1934 for the Middle Level Commissioners, and at that time it was the largest drainage station in the country, initially capable of delivering 2500 tonnes of water per minute, but later upgraded to a capability of delivering 4000 tonnes per minute using four Gwynnes pumps.

Gwynnes published an iconic photograph of one of the pumps with a motor car used as a scale to illustrate the 102 inch bore, shown in Fig 1. A pump can be seen in situ in Fig 2, the lower half being below ground. A complete pumping set can be seen in Fig 3.
The purpose of this short note is to report that the Middle Level Commissioners' Chief Engineer has confirmed that the above-ground half of one pump will be mounted on a concrete plinth near the site of the station, which served the community for over 75 years. This is a very satisfactory outcome and a wonderful monument to Lincoln’s past engineering success.\footnote{\textcopyright 2011 Lincolnshire Past & Present}

The Industrial Archaeology team has sent a full set of photographs and an annotated ground plan to the drainage authority.

The full story of the Society’s visit to St Germans will be told in a lecture at Jews’ Court, Lincoln, by Derek Broughton on Sunday 20 November beginning at 2:30pm.

*ENGINEERING FUTURE
Later this year the University of Lincoln is due to open the first purpose built School of Engineering to be constructed in the UK over 20 years. This also marks a partnership between the university and Siemens Industrial Turbomachinery, who provided significant investment in the project. Siemens is to open a new facility for its turbine servicing business at Teal Park, North Hykeham, next year. Meanwhile it will create a new ‘centre of competence’ at the existing Ruston Works plant in the city. Managing Director Nick Muntz said: ‘Our order book is at a 10-year high and future prospects... look positive.’ Another engineering firm, e2v Technologies, recently opened its new site in Saddler Road, marking a ‘new beginning’ for the company in Lincoln and announced plans to work closely with the new School of Engineering. General Manager Brian Coaker said: ‘As a company, we have to look at the question of where we get the specialist knowledge from.’

\[Fig 2: A pump in operation. The figure on the left is listening for sounds of wear (there was none, after 75 years).\]

\[Fig 3: A complete pumping set comprising (from left to right) hp electric motor, reduction gearbox, pump. Behind the pump is a hydraulically operated gate.\]
SCHOOL ARCH

The article ['Reduce, Reuse, Recycle!'] by Joan Smith in the summer issue of Lincolnshire Past & Present [LP&P80] reminded me of a structure that has puzzled me.

On entering the old Girls' High School building [now part of Lincoln University] from the Greystone Stairs, inside the building on the right hand side there is a stone archway with zigzag carving, which looks Norman. (It was once the entrance to the cloakrooms.)

I have not examined it closely, so I cannot be sure of its age, though I suspect it is Victorian. If it is not in situ, what is it doing there, in a brick building? Someone may know, I hope!

Pat Firman, Beeston, Nottingham

This walled up arch on the outside of the building is not the one that Pat is referring to, but we would quite like information on it as well! It appears to have been blocked up for many years, but Pat says the arch inside was still there five years ago and was the entrance to a coffee bar.

STATION MEMORIAL

Another puzzle I have, which should be easily solved, is a Great War memorial to railwaymen at Lincoln Central Station. There is one, transported from St Mark's, but surely Central should have its own? Is my memory of one totally faulty—though I cannot remember what it was like at all.

Pat Firman, Beeston, Nottingham

WEAVER'S COTTAGE, HEYDOUR

In the Autumn 2010 issue of the magazine [LP&P81] you asked for information about Weaver's Lodge in Heydour parish. It was only just in Heydour. The house was sited near to the present A52 on what is now signposted as Pask Farm's. Its position is shown on some Ordnance Survey maps. Those with longer memories in Heydour remember the house as being very attractive. There is a possibility that it was once also known as Heydour Lodge. It was included in the sale catalogue of the Culverthorpe Estate in 1918 together with a picture of the house. Sometime after the Second World War it was vacated and left empty for a very long time. New dwellings were built nearby, and after Weaver's Lodge became derelict, it was demolished, probably during the 1950s or early 1960s.

Richard Peace, Aishy
BISHOP RICHARD FOX AND ROPSLEY CHURCH PORCH

Item on p 24 of No. 82 Winter 2010/11
Lincolnshire’s Hidden Treasures
2 Ropsley St Peter by John Almond

The piece about Ropsley Church made me return to the notes I made when I was researching Bishop Richard Fox.

I have no idea whether or not Richard Fox paid for Ropsley Church porch in 1483. But I suspect it is unlikely. Perhaps he did fund it, but later. In 1483 Richard III was king and Richard Fox was on the wrong side, being allied with Henry, Earl of Richmond (later Henry VII).

The history of Corpus Christi College, which he founded, puts him in London and then in Paris with Henry. Power and riches came to him in 1485, when Henry became King following the Battle of Bosworth Field. Richard was immediately made Lord Privy Seal and signed his first document the day after the Battle. However it was not until 1487 that he became Bishop of Exeter, which gave him an important London residence, and a large income.

Tradition has it that he came to Ropsley at some time and said: ‘I must go over sea again and if one thing hit out aright, all Ropesley should not serve me for a Kitchen’. But when was that visit to Ropsley made? Perhaps a promise to build the porch was made in 1483, and it was built after Henry VII’s coronation when Richard Fox was made Prebend of Grantham Australis, before becoming a bishop.

Marion Ellis

GEORGE BOOLE

[‘Happy Birthday, George Boole (1815-1864)’, LP&P 82]

Sleaford may claim links to the above: His brother Charles was manager of Kirk and Parry’s steam flour mills in Jermyn Street. In the 1851 census, aged 29, he is lodging with John Bacon, hairdresser, at what is now 28 Southgate, described as a miller. By 1855 he is a corn merchant and miller, Jermyn Street. In the 1861 census he is living with his family on Boston Road, in the vicinity of the (much later) Albion Terrace. A newspaper advert for him as a coal merchant at Sleaford station appears in 1865. (Had he left the mill?) He is not recorded in the town after 1866.

Charles Kirk (1825-1902) of Kirk and Parry of Sleaford studied under George Boole at Lincoln (and perhaps also at Waddington). Boole prepared Kirk for entry to St John’s College, Cambridge, to study mathematics, which he entered in April 1845. Kirk had no family background in tertiary [higher] education; and was of course the son of a tradesman.

The success of Boole’s training may be evident in the fact that initially Kirk was achieving first class marks. However, he graduated with a 4th in January 1849, doubtless because the death of his father in October 1847 forced him into business, although he did marry a lady from the Cambridge area in 1850.

M. J. Turland, Sleaford
Lost roads of Lincoln

It is easy to see why the Romans chose to site a legionary fort at Lincoln; not only did it have a commanding view of the countryside from the top of the hill, but it also dominated the crossing point of the River Witham, at the Lincoln Gap. So a readymade, walled settlement was in place to be re-founded as a colonia.

The fort was to become the upper city and then the settlement was to extend down the hill to the river as the lower city. The eastern and western walls were extended down to the river as well.

A major problem the Romans would have faced when laying out a grid system of roads in the lower city was the steep gradient of the hillside upon which they wanted to build.

The earliest road in this area was the Ermine Street, running south to north from the river crossing, uphill to the legionary fort. If the Ermine Street was the main road going up the hill, it would become too steep for wheeled traffic. The only solution was to have side roads that angle across the slope. Examples of such roads are Yarborough Road, Lindum Road and Well Lane.

Excavation between Michaelgate and Steep Hill in 1984 showed that Ermine Street was in fact approximately north/south straight up the hill, but had a pedestrian way. The steepest part of the hill was found to be a series of stone flagged steps, interspersed with shallow ramps.

For the Roman city, current theories suggest two possible routes uphill: the modern Well Lane, which runs east-northeast from the bottom of Steep Hill up to Danesgate, and another road going east out of Clasketgate and following a similar route to the modern Lindum Road. Well Lane was shown to be of Roman date by an excavation in 1987. It is thought to have turned to the northwest at Danesgate as the road does today.

There are problems with the zigzagging theory of Well Lane, most notably that in 1888 M. Drury, the City Engineer, noted that while digging trenches for the laying of new sewers along Christ’s Hospital Terrace he found a large stone wall running east to west, and J. Whitwell notes that despite being double arched the upper south gate was...
unlikely to have carried much traffic uphill due to the sharp gradient outside the gate.

A possible clue to part of the road system in the northeast part of the lower Roman city could be found in the 12th century boundary of the Bishops' Palace. On maps of Lincoln the original southern boundary of the Bishops' Palace could indicate the existence of a Roman road that preceded Well Lane, and also of a gate in the eastern wall of the city near the top of the hill.

About 1155/8 the Bishop of Lincoln, Robert de Chesney, obtained from King Henry II a grant of land in the northeast of the lower city for the building of a place of residence; this land was bounded by the south wall of the upper city and the east wall of the lower city, with the churchyard of St Michael on the Mount to the west and St Andrew to the south. Despite the hillside being east-west the southern boundary wall of the palace is aligned west-southwest to east-northeast.

In 1329 Bishop Henry Burghersh acquired a plot of land (presumably to create a garden, like he did at Nettleham at about the same time) to the south of the palace. If the southern boundary of the Bishops' Palace was an extension of Well Lane continuing eastward, this would have been blocked by the creation of the garden.

On the map above, the parish boundary (marked by a black line) went along the middle of Danesgate to the junction at Well Lane before turning east (on the same alignment as Well Lane) for 20 metres. There it turns south-southeast and then east-northeast to the eastern city wall. This shows that the boundary was changed to follow the new garden.

Before 1329, could the parish boundary have carried on east-northeast (shown as an arrow on the map) and was the boundary between St Michael's and St Andrew's? If, as along Danesgate, the boundary was in the middle of the road, this would allow a several-metre gap to the southern wall of the original grant of 1155/8—perhaps a footpath along what would have once been a busy route in and out of the city.

Danesgate is thought to date to the 11th century. It comes north from Clasketgate uphill to Well Lane and then curves to the west before going northwest to join Steep Hill. If all of Danesgate is of the same date then surely the stretch from Well Lane to Steep Hill should be about 25 metres east of where it is? (Shown as a double headed arrow on the map.)

It could be argued that only lower Danesgate is 11th century and the upper part could be Roman (as mentioned above) but where it would link up with the Ermine Street, there would still be a sharp gradient up to the south gate. I propose that the upper length of Danesgate is later than the lower one, hence its dogleg west of where it should be; the creation of which would provide a more direct route to the Bail, and could have seen a decline of traffic along Well Lane, providing a good excuse for closing that part. A definite cut-off date for the latter part of Well Lane is between 1266 and 1272 when the Vicars' Court was established east of the city wall.

The southern boundary of the grant for the College of the Vicars Choral is given as the new wall of the city, which later formed part of the circuit of the close wall, enclosing the cathedral property with a defensive wall by the middle of the 14th century.

The walling-off of the close meant reorganising the road system south of Greetwell Gate in the southern part of the medieval...
Eastgate suburb, with some roads, such as St Peter’s Lane, being closed along its length. Wainwellgate had its western stretch closed and the rest of it became Winnowstye Lane.

M. Jones, D. Stocker and A. Vince suggest, in The City by the Pool, that the church of St Margaret of Pottergate was older than Minster Yard on its northern side, and that paths are likely to have linked Pottergate and Boune Lane (Greestone Place); then it is possible that the road I am suggesting would have been to the south of St Margaret’s church and yard.

The area south of this church is documented in S. Jones, K. Major, and J. Varley, The Survey of Ancient Houses in Lincoln II: Houses to the South and West of the Minster. They have detailed the properties, from the late 12th century, with no mention of an east-west road; this could mean that the road had already disappeared by that time but was still in existence until 1155/8, marking the boundary of the Bishops’ Palace.

Boune Lane, which is now Greestone Place and Stairs, and Pottergate are both believed to have been in existence by the 11th century. In the case of Pottergate, the properties on the northeast side have documented histories going back to the 12th century. If Well Lane did exist as proposed, Pottergate would make an ideal route for the supposed road to then turn northwest to link up with the old Eastgate road into the upper city.

A Roman road or gate in this part of the eastern wall is plausible and would provide three access routes from the east. Without it, for example, bodies being taken to the known cemeteries, which spread from Monks Road up to the Wragby Road area, would have to be carried downhill via Clasketgate or uphill through the upper south gate and through the upper city to its east gate. Similarly, when the Romans were building the lower eastern wall and the various temples, shops and houses, they would have quarried a vast amount of stone, and so the need for at least two gates in this part of the city makes sense.

Such a road branching off from the Ermine Street could even have been useful in the military period to take soldiers and supplies up the hill.

NOTES
1 M. Jones, D. Stocker, A. Vince, The City by the Pool, David Brown, 2004, p85
2 M. Jones, D. Stocker, A. Vince, The City by the Pool, David Brown, 2004, p86
3 M. Drury, ‘Notes on the excavation of sewer works at Lincoln’, 1888
4 J. B. Whitwell, Roman Lincolnshire, Society for Lincolnshire History & Archaeology, 1970
5 J. W. F. Hill, Medieval Lincoln, Cambridge University Press, 1948, p128
6 Glyn Coppock, Lincoln Medieval Bishops’ Palace, English Heritage, 2000
7 M. Jones, D. Stocker, A. Vince, The City by the Pool, David Brown, 2004, p204
8 S. Jones, K. Major, J. Varley, The Survey of the Ancient Houses of Lincoln. II Houses to the South and West of the Minster, Lincoln Civic Trust, 1987, p40

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BUS ACCIDENT

Eric Croft has bought this postcard of an overturned bus. Its destination board reads: TO THE LINCOLNSHIRE SHOW SKEGNESS.

The show was held at Skegness in 1912, 1922 and 1930. Does anyone know when this was, where, or any details of the accident?
THE CHAPMAN FAMILY AND THE BUILDING OF ST JAMES'S CHURCH, LOUTH

Philip Vickers

This article refers to family history, and the building of St James's Church, Louth, linking the two themes. The writer is a descendant of the Chapman de Louth family.

In 2010 a manuscript authority from Lyon & Turnbull, the Edinburgh firm of auctioneers, deciphered some of the entries on vellum in the 1592 Bible brought by Elizabeth Lidderdale (born c1650) into the Lincolnshire family of Chapman de Louth. It was part of her marriage dowry, and she brought it from her home in St Mary’s Isle, Gala-way, in 1675, when she married De Wykham Chapman de Louth (1618-1711). The marriage is believed to have taken place in London.

Of special interest is an undated entry that tells of a Chapman de Louth as being one of the builders of Louth church. Regarding this, the third line of text, the manuscript reads: ‘church of Louth was built — Chapman de Louth’, ‘Under the heading ‘In Louth, Lords of Louth - Anecdotes’ we read: “the name Chapman was taken for concealment during the Wars of the Roses’ (1454-1485). In the fourth line we read: ‘the church of Louth — was built chiefly by Chapman de Louth.’

Then ‘Louth — during the reign of Cromwell’ (1649-1660). Line five refers to Timberland, a Chapman de Louth family property.

This reference to a change of name in the 15th century corresponds with the first emergence of the name Chapman in the family tree, with ‘Chapman de Louth’ in 1481. Prior to that the name was simply ‘de Louth’ from 1124 onwards, together with its Norman founder’s name of St Clair, one of William the Conqueror’s Companions.

In Domesday Book (DB) only the Bishop of Lincoln is recorded for Louth, so this St Clair held no lands in Louth. However, there were some twenty St Clairs (under various spellings) involved in the invasion of England, indeed they are reported as being the most numerous family among William’s Companions and supporters.

That being the case, the first name, after the mention of St Clair (St Clair Sindre de Cler – de Lynde or in the family tree; Sindre or Lindre?) is that of G. Pommerise de Louth in 1124, 39 years after DB was completed. Here one may conclude that he was the next generation of St Clair, perhaps married to a St Clair from elsewhere than Louth. (For example, William of Clare died of poison at Rotherfield, East Tisted, in 1258.) We do not have the name of Pommerise’s wife. The name Le Clare (or Clare) does not re-emerge until 1555-1599 in our family tree.

The present St James’s Church, Louth, is almost entirely a 15th century structure, completed by 1441, that is, just prior to the Wars of the Roses. The need for secrecy on the part of the Plantagenets would explain the retrospectively designation of “Chapman de Louth” for the then “Fitz William of Louth” (married to Talbot of 1392-1420). The 15th century church contains remains of its 13th century predecessor, which was dedicated to St Herefrid (or St Herefrith) in The Book of Louth, D. N. Robinson, 1979). Completion of the church in 1440 coincided with the reign of Henry VI, during the Hundred Years War. The spire was added later, in 1500-1515.

As the date for the first Chapman de Louth was 1481 we can assume it was the 15th century church he was responsible for.

On another page in the Family Bible, entitled ‘Chief Residencies’ and where Buried from a writing of AD 1700 we read:

‘John, William Chapman de Louth, Residence Louth — Lyndwood Hall, [Lynwood, Linwood, Linwood, Blankney] Lincolnshire, buried at Louth’. And:

‘John Chapman and John de Louth in the family vault. It may be surmised that the first, or the second, Chapman here was one of the leading builders of the church and that the vault lies beneath the church. These are not the only family ‘buried in vault’. Under the heading, “Some Account of Pedigree” we read:

‘Ann – do. of – Court died 1723 died 1733. Buried in vault with
John Chapman de Louth.
This 18th century burial was perhaps in a vault, or the family vault, under the rebuilt church of St James.
In the 15th century the family tree lists the following:
- De Louth (undated) married (unknown)
- Fitz William de Louth, married Talbot of 1392-1420
- John Chapman de Louth and de Wykeham, Lord of Louth, 1460-1553, married Le Clare Dawdmn in 1492.
The Historic Louth website, www.louth.org gives a John Chapman as one of three Wardens in 1499 as being connected with the building of the spire. In 1560 work was done on “repairing” the vault. David Robinson in his 1979 The Book of Louth, confirms John Chapman (of Thorpe Hall) as one of the two merchants (the other was Simon Lincoln) and the merchant Thomas Bradley, who were initially responsible for the financing of the spire.
The Chronicle of Louth Park Abbey gives important information on the establishment of the colony of Cistercian monks from Fountains Abbey at Louth Park in 1139, on a grant of land from the Bishop of Lincoln. Their church was over a mile to the east of the town. In 1139 the son of G. Pomerise de Louth, son of St Clair, married Danbray. There is no record of their Christian names.
Under the heading ‘Chief Residencies’ there is an enigmatic reference in the Family Bible to Normandy in France. It reads: “Rouen (?) – Normandic. Manors at Concomric (?) Louth England and Ashby.”
There is Ashby, part of Scunthorpe, but also various Ashbys including Ashby near Spilsby and West Ashby near Horncastle. The nearest to Lincoln is Ashby-de-la-Launde. The family de Lulude acquired the manor by marrying with the Ashbys in the 14th century and vanishes from history.

1924 Ordnance Survey Map with Linwood Hall marked in the Blankney area. The site was believed to be formerly a nunnery.

A modern Lyndwood Hall on the same site. Fishponds can be seen in the foreground.

The great-grandmother of the gentleman who lives in the present day Lyndwood Hall was a Vickers – not a Chapman de Louth but, of course, the Chapman de Louths lived in the earlier hall – a curious linkage.
with the execution of the Lancastrian leader Sir Thomas de la Launde, following the Battle of Losecoat Field in 1470.

Or the Ashby referred to may have been Ashby Puerorum, with its brass of an unidentified Knight in plate armour and mail shirt, or Ashby-cum-Fenby towards Grimsby. We have so far been unable to locate Contommiers in Normandy.

The Chapman de Louth coat of arms, reproduced in the spring 2009 issue of Lincolnshire Past & Present, has not yet helped to identify individuals. It is likely that our family Bible information from 1066 with St Clair Lindree de Cler de Lyndez as the founder (perhaps translated into 'English' as Richard St Clair de Cler de Louth, and therefore possibly the St Clair of the Fatalis Roll) is the only possible source.

Under a heading '1593' one Chapman is described as 'Lord of Louth', probably meaning 'Warden', as a warden and six assistants governed the town under a 1551 Charter, the Bishop of Lincoln being Lord of the Manor.

John Chapman of Thorpe Hall married Elizabeth, the daughter of Sir Peter Hildyard of Pulstow. He was buried at Louth in 1532. Their son was also John Chapman of Thorpe Hall. A later William Chapman (1700-1753) married Elizabeth Raisbeck in 1730, but previously he had two sons by an earlier wife, the younger being baptised Hildyard in 1727. In 1766 Hildyard Chapman married Mary Todds in Redburn Shepherd parish. (The First Churchwardens' Book of Louth 1500-1524, transcribed by R. C. Dudding, 1941, gives confirmatory detail concerning Thorpe Hall.)

Dangers from religious and civil wars in Scotland led to documents being destroyed, in the case of the Lidderdales of Galloway, to ensure anonymity, and in the case of the de Louths it meant a change of family name. The name Chapman is said to be quite common in and around Louth (one of them a successful merchant of London) and this is not surprising given its apparent 15th century origins in our family tree. And, Chapman seems a good choice as a cover name as it means 'hawker' or 'pedlar' and thus someone whose comings and goings would not arouse suspicion.

We have records of Chapmans in Louth, in Thorpe Hall (in the 15th and early 16th centuries it belonged to the family, see J. E. Swaby on the Louth website) as Wardens of the Corporation in 1556, Robert Chapman as Usher in the Infant School 1567-74, in Lyndwood Hall at Timberland (Blankney) and in numerous Lincolnshire towns and villages, particularly at Caistor where seventeen are recorded.

The Harleian Society (Vol L) acknowledged, along with Louth Naturalists', Antiquarian & Literary Society, Lincolnshire Family History Society, and numerous local historians. The website www.mandywillard.co.uk/surname/restall/john is also relevant. I am especially grateful to David Robinson, President of Louth Naturalists' Antiquarian & Literary Society, for corrections and additions. All errors and inaccuracies are the fault of the author, who invites comment.

Left: Sydney Hayward Chapman de Louth 1883-1971. Last male to carry the name.

Below: His sister Irene (top) died 1970, and Edith, died 1945.

Spridlington church of St Hilary. Many of the Vickers, another branch of the author's family, dating to 1766, were baptised and buried here. Drawing by the author, 2010.

and the Herald's College (MSc C23) also provide Chapman de Louth information. We have also consulted Louth 1538-1550 Baptisms (122300201a); Index Library—Calendars of Wills, BRS Vol XXVIII; Burials 1854-85 (032900602a). In addition, Archives of the Louth Vickers/Hildyard and Thoroton families. The websites, books and articles mentioned are also ac-

The author has delved into a Wrawby family's history and produced an interesting study of the rise of a man, who, from minimal resources, built up a vast business empire. Thomas Tapling was born in Wrawby in 1818, the third of seven children of Nathan Tapling, who ran a successful brick business. After a trip to Quebec as a cabin boy it was decided sea life was not his oyster so he then served a 5 year apprenticeship in Market Rasen but was discouraged from learning the carpet business by his master. Finally, he asked his father for a sovereign and he would go to Nottingham and do what he wanted to—selling carpets.

He saved money there and in 1837 set off to London where, in 1843 he was offered £2000 a year; he declined and struck out on his own and soon had a thriving business. He married, had 5 children, and bought a vast mansion in Dulwich. When the main warehouse burned down it was rebuilt within 6 months. As an illustration of his enlightenment he kept all his workers during the rebuilding and offered staff retirement on half pay at the age of 50. He employed several of his brothers but his charity failed when they adopted life-styles they could not afford and were bankrupted. Two of his boys decided in the 1860s to collect—Sydney chose coins while Tom, junior, started a stamp collection, which is now on permanent display in the British Museum and is only equalled by the Royal Collection.

This is a well told and interesting story of Victorian enterprise and it all began in Lincolnshire. Mrs Astling has made good use of family history resources and archives in several locations.


Despite its title, this book is overwhelmingly about the Grimsby fishing industry. There is also a little on Boston; plus brief mentions of fishing at Mablethorpe, Sutton-on-Sea, Cleethorpes, Surfleet and the Freiston Shore.

It deals briefly with the early days of fishing at Grimsby before describing the rebirth of the industry in the mid-19th century and Grimsby's meteoric rise to become a major fishing port. Descriptions of life aboard trawlers emphasise the tough and dangerous occupation followed by trawlersmen.

Also covered are the extra dangers of fishing during times of war and the conflicts between Grimsby trawlers and Icelandic gun-boats during the so-called Cod Wars. The life of fishing families is dealt with and the impact on them of fishing tragedies at sea.

Other topics considered include: the naming of trawlers; the personalities of some of the men in the industry; the 'recreational activities' of fishermen during the brief intervals between fishing trips; Grimsby's excellent Fishing Heritage Centre; and the future outlook for the sadly depleted fishing industry.

A good part of the book is based on interviews with ex-fishermen and their families; plus research amongst the extensive coverage of the industry in the Grimsby Telegraph. A short list of further reading would have been useful for those who would like to explore the subject further.

However, with its easy-going writing style, the book serves as a non-demanding introduction to the Grimsby fishing industry for the general reader.

Dr Alan Dowling, Grimsby BURKINSHAW, Linda. In service. Stamford, KT Publica-
We have no indication of where the author lived but here is a lively account of her last days at school and her first job. She lasted six months in service at four shillings and sixpence a week learning to be a drudge in the 1930s— not so very happy days for some.


Postcard collectors know only too well that very many copies of some were printed, making them widely available now, while others were rare and, when available today, can be real gems. This is the case with this collection, a second edition of a popular booklet first printed in 1993.

Battered copies but the quality of the reproduction and the paper the booklet is printed on make the best of them. The rarest photograph is of probably the least known Lincolnshire station, Godknow Bridge, near Crowle, closed in 1917. This fact is not picked up in the text and, indeed, it is referred to as Codnow Bridge.

This is a weakness; the poor editing showing a lack of real knowledge of the County’s railways. The worst example is the identification of a photograph of Donington Station, actually named Donington Road, north of Spalding, as being Donington on Bain station, in the Wolds. Nevertheless, it is an interesting collection of 66 photographs and, at the price, very affordable.

Stewart Squires, Nettleham
The same publisher has also sent a copy of Streets of Lincoln on old picture postcards by Eric Croft. It is good to see this title available at its old price of £3.50—it was well received in 2003 in this journal. It shows many city streets that have long since disappeared and others, of course, greatly altered. (Ed).


What a mine of information there is here. A straightforward alphan- betical list of roads, ways, courts, streets and so on forms the basis for notes on the meaning of the town’s street names. The notes are mostly historical and biographical but a wealth of other information is provided not just on the names but also on prominent buildings.

They are supported with over one hundred pictures and maps and a useful bibliography.

The introduction briefly introduces the town’s history and development; particular attention is drawn to the ownership by Sidney Sussex College, Cambridge, of most of the land, which was gradually given up for the town’s housing. The names of many of the college’s early academics are commemorated in road names now. The old village of Clee, which is now part of Grimsby, has also been included in the lists.

Many towns have clusters of roads named after some key idea of the builder or the town’s council; so here we have the names of hunts (Cottesmore Road, Quorn Mews and Pytchley Place) or famous houses or castles (Sandringham Road, Newstead Road and Gunby Place—but no Belton or Burghley). But what to
make of Signhills Avenue or Segmere Street? We can only be grateful for the author's explanations.

This is a nicely produced volume, as is usual with this firm, which has been in the business of publishing topographical works since 1897. There can be no better guide than Dr Dowling, who has researched and written so much on his adopted area and makes us again the beneficiaries of his wide knowledge. Are there other local historians with such erudition who could follow his example for other towns in Lincolnshire?

Good also included an account of the history of Burgh le Marsh, where he had his business. There are also ‘cattle tables’ (if you want to know an animal’s weight without killing it first) and a miscellany of sayings and facts of the ‘not very many people know that’ type. Well worth its modest price.

The book ends with a 23 page overview of the city's history from prehistoric times to the present day, with particular reference to the archaeology and the architectural legacy of each period.

The text could not be in better hands since Michael Jones is the City Archaeologist. It would make an ideal gift, or would serve as an introduction for someone who wants to learn more about Lincoln without embarking on the more academic works on the city.

Eleanor Nannestad, Lincoln


This attractive book consists largely of double-page spreads, with a watercolour or pastel painting of a scene from contemporary Lincoln on one side, facing a description, with an historical and archaeological commentary of the view.

Starting in the Cathedral area, the paintings take the reader gradually downhill, finishing with a beautiful sunset view back to the city from Five Mile Bridge near Fiskerton (the only view from outside the city). As well as the major historical buildings (Cathedral and Castle), there are images of places whose significance is less well known, such as the terracotta building by William Watkins, now home to the River Island shop, and the former Great Central (railway) Warehouse, now part of the University Library.

Some of the images feature people, bringing the scenes to life and showing how the city is used in the 21st century.

There is a brief introduction, and


This is the publisher's fourth volume with Lincolnshire contents. The formula of finding artists who depict the local scene in watercolours who combine with authoritative writers to produce an interesting mix of word and picture is clearly a winning one. It works very clearly here. Mr Stennett is a well-known 'yellow-belly' who knows the Fens intimately and has travelled widely in following his career as a journalist, specialising in county agriculture and farming matters.

He makes three contributions: he provides an introductory essay, which deals with the Fens in general, their geology, drainage and development as a focus for intensive agriculture; a final
piece called A Fenland miscellany goes over much of the same
ground but spends more space on the
important towns of Boston,
Spalding and Holbeach; for each
double-page spread the right hand
leaf has one of the 30 watercolours
by Mo Tceuw, while the left
hand facing page has a brief text.
The text does not always relate
very closely to the picture—that
is not meant as a criticism—the
words are always worth reading.
The pictures are first class. A
member of the British Watercolour
Society, Mo Tceuw displays a
talent. There are four scenes
in Boston, three in Spalding and
the rest are spread evenly over
some of the villages (from Old
Bolingbroke and Kirkstead in
the north to Crowland on the southern
edge of the Fens) with rural
scenes showing farmers at work.
She is good at depicting typical
Fen scenes and capturing the
special atmosphere of this wide
landscape; Mr Stennett points out that
the flatness emphasises the wide-
ranging skylines vividly caught
in picture after picture. Fine
examples include Boston Haven,
Friston Shore, Snow on Crowhit
Wash and Fosdyke; this last could be
almost anywhere on the Fens,
but it admirably conveys the sense
of space. I have found much to
give pleasure here and I am sure it
will find a similar response
among its readers.

MATHEWS, Derek. William
Marwood, the gentleman
executioner: the life and
executions of
William Marwood, the Lincoln-
shire hangman, who introduced
the long drop, the split trap door
and a table of lengths of drops for
instantaneous death at executions.
Peterborough, Fastprint, 2010, xv,
£10.99 pbk.

Most Lincolnshire people will
have heard of William Marwood and
know that he was a hangman.
Although there have been numer-
ous short articles about him, so far
as I am aware, this is the first
in-depth study of this man. Mar-
wood was born in Goulceby in
1818 and he eventually became
a shoemaker. After his marriage,
at the age of eighteen, he and his
wife settled in Horncastle. He
was a devout Methodist and said
of his work as a hangman that 'I
am doing God’s work according
to the divine command and
the law of the British Crown'.

Marwood took a great interest
in the ‘science’ of hanging and
practised executions on sacks of
corn to perfect what he called
‘the long drop’. Amazingly he
persuaded the governor of Lin-
coln prison to allow him to carry
out trials on their gallows and in
1872 he carried out his first
hanging.

From 1872 to 1883 he carried
out 180 executions in all parts of
the British Isles. Nine of the
chapters of the thirteen in this
book record in detail the indi-
vidual executions carried out by
Marwood and the author is to be
congratulated on the amount of
research he has carried out.

There are three appendices—
The Official Table of Drops; a
List of all Marwood’s executions
and a list of places with the
numbers of executions at each
place.

Perhaps this book is not for the
faint-hearted but I have no hesi-
tation in saying that it will become a
valuable addition to the bibliog-
raphy of Lincolnshire.

Dr John K Ketteringham, Lincoln
S.L.Y, Rex. Soil in their souls: a
history of Fenland farming.
£14.99 pbk.

Rex Sly is a Fensman through
and through. His family has been
involved in farming and agricultural
merchandising in the area for many
decades. He knows the land, he
knows the farming, he knows the
people. He uses this background
to good effect in introducing us to
some of the farming families and
how they have been faring in past
times and the present. There is
much to be learned from this book
as a result: the way, for example,
the growing of carrots has shifted
away from its old base of Chatteris
and the black fen soils and on to
the silty and sandy soils. The way
farming has adapted to the de-
mands of markets dominated by
supermarkets. Or the way that the
soils across the Fens vary so much
that fields a quite short distance
apart need different machines to
work them.

One can be taken attack some-
times: when reading of small-
holders who have 350 or 400
acres, for example. Those used to
reading the agricultural returns of
the late 19th and early 20th cen-
turies might still think of 300 acres
as a large farm, according to the
classification in those returns. But
the pace of change in recent de-
cades has been such that there are
now fewer farmers on the Fens,
farming larger acreages, and driv-
ing bigger machines. There is still
room for those with really small
holdings, such as Sonny Temple-
man who has 40 acres at Surfleet.
And many of those with 400 acres
or more have built them up piece-
meal—just as cultivators of the
Fens always have done.

When it comes to more historical
aspects, the book suffers from a lack of rigour, leading to confusion over order and chronology, and simple slips of the keyboard. The Smallholdings Act 1908 becomes 1907 a couple of paragraphs later, for example! What happened to the copy editor who could have spotted that, and such references as one to the later-medieval 'ancestors' of the Normans, is anybody's guess. Finishing touches, such as a bibliography/list of sources and an index, would have been appreciated.

Dr. Jonathan Brown, Museum of English Rural Life, Reading

STONEHOUSE, W.B. A Stow visitation; being notes on the churches in the Archdeaconry of Stow, Lincolnshire, 1845; edited by N.S. Harding. Burgh le Marsh, Old Chapel Lane Books, 2008 (reprint of the 1940 edition). [4], 82pp. No ISBN. £5 pbk (or £6 by post from the publisher, PE24 5LQ).

Another example of the publisher putting into print valuable material: this booklet surveys the churches of north west Lincolnshire in the mid-nineteenth century before the effects of Victorianisation altered so many. The editor makes the point that Stonehouse's notes 'exhibit a remarkable lack of proportion' in that the places he served in (Messingham and Owston) get long entries while other places are given short shrift. One needs to know one's deaneries and the villages therein since there is no contents list or index. The notes are supplemented by the returns of the rural deans for 1850 to 1852.


The author has, to my knowledge, been on the staff of Scunthorpe Museum service for many years and there are few, therefore, who can bring his authority to this book of pictures of the town, its original constituent villages and several others spread as far as Winterton and Burton on Stather.

There are eleven sections, beginning with Scunthorpe, arranged under five progressive time frames, followed by the industrial town's early development; then four groups of nearby villages and one devoted to Normanby Hall in its earlier days when it was the private home of the Sheffield family.

There are over 200 pictures all culled from the town's library and museum service collections and, in the majority of cases, not used in book form before. The layout is fairly uninspiring—usually two postcard-size pictures on each page—but that does not take away from the interest of the illustrations, nor from the detailed captions that add greatly to the narrative element and one's understanding of what a particular picture is saying to us so long after it was taken.

There is a nice range of photos of several of the independent bus companies in the area dating to pre-1930 times; others show scenes long since swept away—whole streets, the first bus station, the marvellous post mill near Burton, shipping on the Trent, and so many shops and other businesses. Anyone with Scunthorpe connec-
tions will find much to enthuse them here.


The authors, the late and still lamented Terence Leach, and Robert Pacey (happily still with us see above) always intended that their studies of the county's lost houses and their owners would be indexed when the series was complete. Events made that impossible and Elaine Thurgood has rendered a very useful service in providing us with that intended index. All who have the original volumes will need this little work to help them find their way through the myriad names of the houses and their many families.


This book, the result of much diligent research as shown by the acknowledgements, bibliography and examples of further reading, throws light on the work of officially appointed girls in the agricultural and timber trades during the Second World War.

Their personal stories reflect the social and agricultural history of those times; many had left school at 14 years old to go straight to work in the Nottingham hosiery factories and were seduced by the posters showing an outdoor life in the sunshine! Their subsequent experiences were a revelation to them and still are to us today.

These accounts show the heavy physical work involved in the
mixed farming of the time; 18-year-olds worked a 48-hour week for £1.60p (£1.12s.0d) a week (with overtime at 3p (8d) an hour) if they lived in a Hostel, or 16/- (80p) at a farm with bed and board. Fire Watching could bring a further income of 2/- (10p) a night.

These city girls, for the most part without training, were straight into harnessing and driving cart horses, dealing with sheep, beef cattle, pigs, poultry and arable work, and hand milking dairy cows. Threshing with steam engines brought memories of trousers tied with string below the knees to stop mice and of the dreaded ‘chaff hole’. Interviews of individuals do bring repetition but the ‘Poems & Pieces’ and ‘Letters’ sections include much new information.

The many errors that have escaped the proof reader are a real distraction: even the paragraph acknowledging the help of the proof reader is repeated in full a page later! Photographs of the girls at Collingham Hostel are transposed (see p80 and p110). The absence of a comma after ‘Bunny’ in the second paragraph on p30 caused puzzlement until it was recognized as the name of a place and not the girl’s nickname and ‘mango’ knocking seemed an unlikely job in Nottinghamshire!

A more serious omission from this book, which is so full of information about people, places, practices, attitudes and tasks in wartime farming, is any sort of index. What should be an excellent reference book unfortunately becomes a jumbled hotpotch of news items.

Brenda Webster, Heighington


The study of the effects of WW1 on village life takes another step forward with this very well produced booklet. The Wrawby Group have been diligently extracting from local papers of the time any reference to the war, how it affected local activities and especially what was happening to the men who were involved in the fighting. The deaths of soldiers were fully recorded along with the memorial services held at their funerals but, what impressed me, were the numerous reports of those who were wounded and the arrival in the village of serving men ‘on furlough’. Our present day local papers do not go in for that sort of thing any more.

The book is in three parts. Firstly, the local scene in 1914 is set, then follows an edited version of all the wartime references in chronological order; a final section deals with all the men who went to war and, rather baldly, their various fates. There is not a lot of detail in this section but the main part includes some of the letters from comrades, which give a clear picture of the horrors of trench warfare – ‘worse than the Somme’ one writes. The Group is to be congratulated on the outcome of its researches.

Of general interest to students of place-names will be: Cambridge Dictionary of English Place-names; edited by Victor Watts, with John Hosley and Margaret Gelling (ISBN 978 0 521 16855 7). First published in 2004, it is now in paperback.

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Notes and Queries 83:7

PEOPLE OF GEORGIAN LINCOLNSHIRE

I note the comments by Alison Lord [LP&P 82, Winter 2010-11] and agree that she may be right about George Starr. I welcome her note about a ‘negro servant’ in 1783, and would also welcome any other similar references that people find. I have recently found another one myself, from The Stamford Mercury of 19 February 1836. It is in the ‘Marriage’ column and reads as follows: ‘Lately, at Boston, Mr Leeda, a dancing-master, of Pinchbeck and the neighbourhood, (a man of colour,) aged about 60, [married] to Miss Shaw, aged about 19. He is a native of one of the West India [sic] islands, and well known in the neighbourhood of Peterborough by the name of Lua.’ I presume that Miss Shaw was living in Boston as the marriage took place there.

Neil Wright, Lincoln
70 years of waiting.
SNEATH'S MILL,
LUTTON GOWTS

David Clowes

Lutton Gowts Mill is situated on the northern outskirts of Long Sutton about one mile from the town centre. Locally known as Sneath's Mill after the last miller, it was in the Knight family's ownership until its acquisition in 2008 by the Sneath's Mill Trust Ltd. Reputedly built in 1779 and worked until the 1930s, it is believed to be the oldest unconserved tower mill still standing in the county, if not the UK.

It is low for its type at just 26ft to the curb and resembles a drainage end sale mounting. These are the last surviving examples in the county. Only detailed records now exist of the boat shaped boarded cap, predating the Lincolnshire Ogee design, spring and cloth covered sails that drove two pairs of stones, and winching gear to rotate the cap.

All these together identify the mill as a very rare and important example of early milling development and technology, even though it was not until 1988 that its importance was fully recognised and safeguarded by a Grade I listing and placement on the National and Local Registers of Buildings at Risk.

The mill has had a chequered history since its closure. A Society for the Protection of Ancient Buildings (SPAB) attempt to secure it in 1939 was abandoned and deterioration through weather quickly took its toll. No owner or public interest existed until 1985 when members of the Long Sutton Civic Trust, led by local farmer Roy Pratt and acting on a report by Kenneth Major, removed the deteriorating remains of principal components for storage and conservation as a prelude to possible restoration.

This did not materialise, and it was not until the Sneath's Mill Trust Ltd became the freehold owners of the mill, two adjacent buildings and about a third of an acre of encompassing land, that the certainty of safeguarding this valuable milling asset became a reality.

One of the first acts of the Trust, a charity and company limited by guarantee, was to agree with heritage organisations and public bodies to commission an Option Appraisal and Condition Survey to establish the state of the fabric and machinery. Anderson and Glenn, conservation architects, were appointed lead surveyors, but the tower was deemed too dangerous for any investigation to proceed.

Consequently, in 2009, it was decided to implement work that would secure and weatherproof the structure, repair weak and failing brickwork, prop-collapsed machinery and provide a temporary roof. Listed Building Consent was obtained and funding sourced from a number of organisations including English Heritage.

In November 2010 Arthur Wood and Sons Ltd erected scaffolding in and against the

Sneath's Mill in 1958

tower to give access for repairs and archaeological recording. The work was delayed by the harsh winter and the identification of additional repairs, but in late March most was completed to enable the external scaffolding to be dismantled. The internal framing is to remain as support and provide safe access to the upper levels.

Work is still required, most notably to the north doorway, but the tower’s continuing deterioration has been arrested and sufficient information gathered to enable a number of options to be considered not only for the mill but also for site usage.

For more information and continuing update on this important project please visit the Trust’s website:
www.sneathsmilltrust.org.uk

Sneath’s Mill with scaffolding in place, 2010.

WARTIME SHOPPING IN LOUTH

David Vinier

So what would it have been like to go shopping in Louth in 1941? My recollections are somewhat as follows: I would walk beside the grey pushchair in which was my small brother, mother doing the hard work. Well, it was easy going down, but very hard work on the way back.

One place upon which we always called was Larders the grocers, a veritable emporium of exotic foods today—however, during wartime I expect they did their best with whatever could be obtained from the wholesaler. Mother was always served by Mr Larder; there was great ritual in this in those days, Mr Fytche, the other partner, resplendent in red and white spotted bow tie, had his own customers.

There was a wooden stool to sit on while business was conducted. Sugar was measured from bulk into 1lb (one pound = 4.55 kilograms) or 2lb dark blue, thick paper sugar bags. Butter came from a large barrel and was patted into 1lb slabs, and cheese was cut into suitable wedges using a wire cheese cutter. All operations were conducted with skill; it took great practice in order that the weights were just so. Now all these and many other foods were rationed: consequently “points” had to be cut from ration books. Next, the box of groceries would be delivered by a youth on a bicycle.

Fresh meats and bread were the specialties of the butchers Dewhurst and the bakers Teadale and Willerton respectively. Shopping was much more of a social event than the mad rush of today. The Wednesday market was the weekly highlight for many living in the rural areas. Buses from Wright’s, Grayseroff and Appleby’s did their stint at collection and return. The passengers would be complete with rabbits, candles, paraffin (most very rural areas had no electricity), boxes of clay old chics, rubber boots, cloth for children’s trousers or jackets (no designer clothes then) and any other provision one could think of.

As there was virtually no petrol available, much use was made of draught horses for local delivery around the town. There were several general hauliers, delivering coal and moving other goods and furniture.

Another amazing shop was Clarke Bros, as dealers they bought clean jam jars and rabbit skins and they sold almost anything—paraffin lamps, Wellington boots, pocket watches, brooms, scrubbing brushes, pocket knives, airgun pellets, hosepipe etc, etc. At the other end of the social scale, the Silk Shop sold ladies’ millinery, While a bread loaf had to be bought naked as it was, a prescription from the doctor was done up in paper and string, the knots covered in sealing wax.

A good haircut could be got at either Mr Arliss or Mr Remington’s shop for six old pence. Mr Remington claimed that in the 1920s he held the world distance record for swimming under water!
A look at some churches of merit with John Almond

4: SNARFORD ST LAWRENCE

Just off the A46, midway between Lincoln and Market Rasen, lies St Lawrence's, Snarford. This small church stands isolated with just several trees and Hall Farm next door to keep it company.

There was once a large Elizabethan mansion standing nearby, in the field on the opposite side of the road, belonging to the St Paul family. But it has long been demolished, and unfortunately it is not known when.

St Lawrence's is not one of the county's most noteworthy structures. Even Pevsner does not give it much coverage architecturally, basically stating that the small west tower lower section is late Norman and 15th - 14th century above, and the nave and chancel 14th century.

From the outside there is not the slightest hint of the marvelous treasures that await the visitor entering by the south door. The monuments and tablets of the St Paul family are probably the finest to be found in Lincolnshire. They are all situated in the chancel behind the altar.

The St Paul dynasty in Lincolnshire was founded around 1400 when Elizabeth Snarford, daughter and heiress of Sir John Snarford, married John St Paul. The St Paul family were landowners, originating from Byram, near Knottingley, Yorkshire.

The family rose in prominence after the Dissolution of the Monasteries under King Henry VIII, and became very wealthy. George (later Sir George) St Paul was a lawyer and legal adviser to Charles Brandon Duke of Suffolk, the King's agent for Lincolnshire.

It would appear that his land holdings rose significantly, as he was steward of Thornton Abbey, and he bought Westlaby, a part of Wickenby, Grange-de-Lings and Riscolm, among others. He was also responsible for building Snarford Hall.

Of the monuments, the most impressive is the one directly behind the altar, of Sir Thomas St Paul, who died in 1582, and his wife Faith née Grantham. They look as though they are lying in a six poster bed.

The chancel was extended to accommodate the next one, to Sir George St Paul and his wife Frances, née Wray, the daughter of Sir Christopher Wray, Lord Chief Justice to Queen Elizabeth I, of not too far distant Glentworth. It is mounted on the north wall of the chancel, and very similar to the one of the Wreys in St Michael's church, Glentworth.

Mounted also on the north wall is a tablet to Frances again and her second husband, Robert Rich, Earl of Warwick. Frances was a lady of some substance. Henry Thorold, in his book Lincolnshire churches revisited, says: 'they look out at us from the wall like faces in a carriage window'.

The St Paul family were supposed to be devout Protestants, and married within their class, but religion did not stop two daughters marrying into the Catholic Thimbleby family of Irnham. The handwritten Roll of Honour.
from the 1914-18 War records that the Vicar of Snarford sadly lost five sons.

**NOTES**


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**Glückliche Festschrift!**

A Chambers Dictionary definition of *festschrift* is given as: “A festival publication, commonly a collection of learned papers or the like, presented by their authors and published in honour of some person.” It is from the German for “festival writing”.

An important figure well-known in local history and wider academic circles as a historical geographer and topographer, tutor and mentor, Dr Dennis Mills has been honoured in a gesture of appreciation of his work by SLHA in their publication of *Lincoln Connections: aspects of City and County since 1700*. A number of Dennis’s friends and colleagues wrote a range of chapters on various aspects of Lincoln and the surrounding area from 1700 to the present.

The launch of the Festschrift at Branston Community Hall on Saturday 26 March, Dennis’s 80th birthday, was a happy occasion at which many members and friends, including SLHA President Mick Jones and Chairman Neil Wright, Kate Tiller of Oxford University and Andrew Walker, formerly of Lincoln University, who is the book’s joint editor, enjoyed an old fashioned Lincolnshire tea, and were treated to a delightful illustrated talk by Dr Mills on his early life and work, despite his having very little ‘notice’ of the ‘surprise’ event.

*Illustrations: Left Dr Kate Tiller of Oxford University presents the festschrift to Dr Mills. Right Dennis cuts his birthday cake with his wife, Joan. To see more pictures and an account of the event, please go to www.lincolnshirepast.org.uk.*
ISSN0960-9555

Price £1.60

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

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

Adult/Individual £21.00 (overseas members £25.00)
Family £22.00
In full-time education £13.00, which excludes annual Journal
Institutions £22.00 (overseas institutions £26.00)

Further particulars are available from

The Society for Lincolnshire History and Archaeology, Jews' Court, Steep Hill, Lincoln LN2 1LS
Tel: 01522 521337

Office Hours: Monday to Thursday 10am–1pm Shop Hours: Monday to Saturday 10am–4pm

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Design and Production by Res Beavers.
Printed by Ruddocks, Lincoln.
www.lincolnshirepast.org.uk