MARKET RASEN’S PUBLIC HOUSES

‘GORMLESS’ - J A FOSTER, BROADCASTER AND ENTERTAINER

EMON DE VALERA’S ESCAPE FROM LINCOLN PRISON

WILLIAM BEDFORD THE INTELLECTUAL TAILOR

MEDIEVAL REMAINS AT SCREDINGTON

OBJECTS OF THE COLLECTION

GRANTHAM’S CARNEGIE LIBRARY

ST MICHAEL’S CHURCH, EDENHAM

NEW LOCAL HISTORY BOOKS REVIEWED INSIDE
Welcome
WINTER 2011/12
86

We hope you will find plenty to interest you in this issue during the wintry
days ahead. Hopefully there will be those who will be able to add to some
of the ideas put forward in the articles and perhaps answer questions raised.
Maybe you remember concert parties in their heyday? A very popular group I re-
call from the 1950s (not in Lincolnshire) were the 'Marrymakers' whose shows
were always a sell-out, but television seemed to replace them in the end.

Peter Stevenson's article in the autumn edition on the early days of the 'wireless'
has been a revelation to one reader, while a query in the summer 2011 edition
has been answered. We also look forward to hearing more about Dernstall House
(N&Q 85:4) in a future issue, thanks to Richard Lucas and the Lincoln Civic Trust.
This is all very pleasing—long may it continue! Contributors occasionally express
disappointment when there is no response to their queries, but don't give up
hope—sometimes it takes many months, even years, before information is
forthcoming.

We are delighted when advertisements get positive feedback too, and happy to
say that the advertising aspect, which we hope will lead to a better magazine in
the future, is taking off. With this comes a promise, however, that it will never take
over. It is great to see that new members are joining the SLHA, meaning more
readers and more contributions from likeminded people. All are very welcome.
A happy New Year to you all!

Ros Beevers, Joint Editor

Contents
WINTER 2011/12
86

FEATURES

4 A History of the public houses of Market Rasen
Illustrated article by Brian Ward

11 'Gormless' The Farmer's Boy
James A. Foster's career as a semi professional entertainer in the heiday of radio and the
concert party, as told by James R. Foster

16 Eamonn de Valera's escape from Lincoln Prison
In February 1919 the Irish activist and some of his associates made a daring bid for
freedom from Lincoln gaol. Though successful, the plot did not run entirely smoothly,
as Erik Grigg explains

18 William Bedford (1782-1841)
Ruth Tinley has been researching the life of an intellectual, Unitarian tailor

20 Stones and Moats
John Porter on medieval remains at Scredston

25 Obituary

REGULARS

3 Lincolnshire's Carnegie Libraries
Part 2 of David Lambourne's series: Grantham library

14 The Collection
Antony Lee takes us inside the Collection to look at a Roman intaglio ring and an Anglo Saxon
pendant

19 Letters

22 Book reviews

26 Lincolnshire's Hidden Treasures—St Michael and All Saints, Edenham

Lincolnshire Past & Present Editors: Hilary Healey, Ros Beevers
Reviews Editor: Ray Carroll. Production Editor: Ros Beevers.
Contributions to the next Bulletin and the Spring 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 lindumcolonia@hotmail.com or info@silha.org.uk or access the
online enquiry form via www.silha.org.uk to submit a query. To place an advertisement email lindumcolonia@hotmail.com
Grantham library

Grantham was rather late among Lincolnshire communities in applying for a grant for a Carnegie library. Rather than apply for funds directly to Andrew Carnegie through his forceful private secretary, James Bertram, they therefore had to deal with the Carnegie United Kingdom Trust, which was set up in 1913.

A metal plaque, which used to be inside in the entrance way and is now mounted on the outside of the Grantham building, acknowledges that:

“This building was provided by the Carnegie United Kingdom Trust and the Corporation of Grantham. Opened on the 6th day of May 1926 by Sir Charles C. E. Welby, Bart. CB....”

The remainder of the plaque is made up of the usual list of town dignitaries.

The long campaign to secure a public library in Grantham, dating back to the 1890s, was led by Henry Preston, a very active member of successive Library and Museum Committees. In 1893 the Council sought to adopt the Public Libraries’ Act, and this required a referendum among the ratepayers.

The result, however, was against having a town library. The majority were opposed to the extra penny on the rates that this would have entailed! It was only after the second referendum in 1913 that this decision was overturned.

The public library has since moved to the rear of the Isaac Newton shopping centre, but the building in St Peter’s Hill has continued to house the town’s museum collection. Regrettably, the museum was recently closed to the public due to budgetary constraints, although it is hoped that it will reopen in June 2012.

A library at nearby Great Gonby also benefited from the generosity of Carnegie as in 1920/21 it had books supplied through a Carnegie UK Trust scheme based at Grantham.
Before getting into detail about Market Rasen, it might be useful to consider in a general way what is meant by the meaning of the various titles given to all those places that served alcohol:

**Public House** The name ‘pub’ became commonly used in the third quarter of the 19th century, having evolved from a variety of drinking places, over the previous two centuries. The term does apparently date back to the 17th century when it was in general use, but tended to generalise in embracing inns and larger alehouses, even to cover all drinking places.

In the 1720s Daniel Defoe distinguished ‘inns and publick houses’, but also paired ‘inns and alehouses’ under a more general description of ‘publick houses of any sort’. As far back as the medieval period there are references to three main types of premises that served alcoholic drinks, in declining order of status:

**Inns** The inn developed to serve travellers, replacing the earlier hospitality to be found at religious houses, or the homes of the nobility. They formed the elite of English vitualling houses for most of the period before 1800.

The term ‘vitiualler’ is most properly applied to the landlord or proprietor of those places that provided hospitality other than simply a room in which to drink. The drinks could be wine, ale and beer, along with the food and lodging. An inn was also an important rendezvous for the carriers of the locality.

**Taverns** A specialist premises for the sale of wine and also food. They did not usually provide the accommodation of an inn. In looking at the names of Market Rasen properties, ‘tavern’ was in quite common usage, alongside ‘inn’ or later, ‘hotel’. Like inns, they were places where business was done. As years passed, the tavern did lose some of its status as a better kind of establishment, and became replaced for the gentry by the inn or hotel.

**Alehouses** The most common everyday drinking place for the lower orders. They served ale or beer, and later perhaps spirits, and could provide basic levels of food and lodging, primarily to the working classes. Quite a few beer and ale houses existed at different times, mainly in the east end of town (East Rasen being the original name for Market Rasen or Raisin).

From the mid 18th century the term ‘hotel’ had come into being, from French origins. Innkeepers refurbished their houses, made them more private and select, and called them hotels.

To what extent Market Rasen
properties adhered to this principle is unknown, but the presence, from 1765, of a turnpike road through the town centre, with the need to provide for changes of horses, stabling, meals and accommodation for long distance travellers must have led to competition among the main inns and to their development and improvement over time.

As often in conducting local historical research, the Trade Directories of the time give much information on the inhabitants. While the earliest located was Pigot’s 1822, which listed one inn, one spirit merchant, and eight taverns and public houses, Slater’s 1849 Directory of Yorkshire and Lincolnshire goes into much detail about the subject, and names five brewers, three maltsters (two were also brewers), five taverns or public houses (some brewing), three inns and eight beer retailers.

Already we can identify those premises that are still operating in the same trade today. The opening of the railway in 1848 must have made a difference to the trade; the presence in town of the railway navvies during the construction period must surely have been a fairly major influence on trade at the ale houses, which were the haunt of the labouring classes, at the very least! It will be seen from the list of public houses that follows that two were named after the railway.

A point of particular local interest is that the vicar of St Thomas’s Parish Church was at one time entitled to collect a tithe of ale (Slater’s Directory 1849 states: “the incumbent is entitled to the usual tithe of ale brewed in the parish.”). In his 1927 history of the parish church, the Rev E. Battyl Scott says that in 1748 it was reported ‘by tradition Tithe ale has been paid in the Town about 500 years—it was first laid upon the Town (as it is said) by the Prior of Sixthill.’

---

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Street</th>
<th>History</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Aston Arms</td>
<td>Serpents Street</td>
<td>Still trading</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bricklayer’s Arms</td>
<td>Market Place</td>
<td>Closed prior to sale in 1870</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Butcher’s Arms</td>
<td>Market Place</td>
<td>Forerunner of the Aston Arms</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Commercial</td>
<td>Queen Street</td>
<td>Either the Waverley or Gordon Arms</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dolphin</td>
<td>Market Place</td>
<td>Forerunner of the Butcher’s Arms</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>George Inn</td>
<td>George Street</td>
<td>Still trading</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gordon Arms Hotel</td>
<td>Queen Street</td>
<td>Now trading as the Advocate Arms</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Greyhound Inn</td>
<td>King Street</td>
<td>Rebuilt 1970, trading as The Chase</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>King’s Head</td>
<td>Queen Street</td>
<td>Closed c. 2005</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Manchester, Sheffield &amp; Lincs</td>
<td>Linwood Road</td>
<td>Closed c. 1950s?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New Inn</td>
<td>Oxford Street</td>
<td>Forerunner of the Railway</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(Success to the) Plough</td>
<td>Pinfold (Oxford) Street</td>
<td>Forerunner of the White Lion</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Railway Hotel</td>
<td>Oxford Street</td>
<td>Closed 1972</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Red Lion</td>
<td>King Street</td>
<td>Closed, to reopen 2011</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Still (The)</td>
<td>Market Place</td>
<td>Probably an error in a 20th century directory</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(White) Swann</td>
<td>Queen Street</td>
<td>Closed to reopen 2011</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Temperance Hotel</td>
<td>Queen St/King St</td>
<td>Various references to Waverley Hotel or</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Waverley Temperance Hotel</td>
<td>Queen Street</td>
<td>Closed c. 1950s?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>White Hart</td>
<td>King Street</td>
<td>Closed 1940</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>White Lion</td>
<td>Oxford Street</td>
<td>Closed c. 1950s</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yarborough Arms</td>
<td>Oxford Street</td>
<td>Closed c. 1930s</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

---

Map of Market Rasen, made in connection with the Enclosure of 1779. The only licensed premises are two inns and the specified 'Greyhound'. The ‘Red Lion’ could have been the building shown at the west end of King Street, but it is not annotated.
Battyl Scott also remarks that 'the oldest houses now existing are two in George Street [the originally thatched cottages next to the George?] and the Red Lion Inn in King Street.' The directories referred to in this work also show details of the carriers who came into Market Rasen (Tuesday market day being the busiest by far) from the surrounding villages. They used the yards inst. an important and highly respectable meeting of the consumers of gas was held at the Gordon Arms Inn. The chair was taken by Mr T. C. Bland...

The Parish Vestry minutes have recorded that in connection with the letting of land at Tealby for the poor of the parish 'Messrs George Golithorpe, John Nash and Northing Dixon Lister [names that featured in the licensed trade] were deputed Arms.' (Market Rasen in the 1850s).

Let us move on now to a more detailed study of the history of two of the major properties in town, standing next to each other at the point where King Street leaves the Market Place.

GREYHOUND (INN) (now THE CHASE) King Street
A survivor from early days, when

of the main hostellries (especially the former coaching inns) as the destination and return departure point for their waggons; this utilised the space at such premises and no doubt ensured a steady flow of customers on that day at least.

The landlords of the main inns were also often figures of standing in the town. Gas lighting came to town in 1837; the Stamford Mercury of 21 January 1851 reports that 'on the evening of the 13th it was very active with the coaching trade shared with its next door neighbour on the Turnpike Road, the White Hart. It was stated to have been in existence in 1560 by Bruce Halfpenny in 'A Lincolnshire Town—Market Rasen' but without quoting any authority for this.

The Rasen Mail in an article in March 2004 looking back to the licensed trade in the 1940s says 'the Greyhound's birth date was 1639, lovingly carved in oak on a
fireplace we laid bare. Such wonderful history so mindlessly destroyed. It was even rumoured that Oliver Cromwell slept there (Dennis Hall).

The original inn was probably thatched, along with the oldest properties in town, such as the Red Lion and the cottages in George Street. In 1786 there was a reference to a Gervaise Fox being landlord and possibly also brewing (Brewery Society records).

A *Rasen Mail* article of 2003 looked back to March 1969: ‘This week [in 1969] the Greyhound Inn on King Street was reduced to rubble. The inn, believed to be more than 300 years old, was demolished to make way for a brand new pub—The Chase.’

We see later that the White Hart next door was frequented by soldiers travelling to the battlefields of Waterloo, and the *Mail* also reports ‘tradition says soldiers rested at the Greyhound on their way to the Battle of Waterloo.’ [1815].

The demolition was greeted with dismay by the town’s elders, feeling the character of the town was being eroded. Messrs Hewitt Bros Ltd Brewery stated that ‘although the premises have been improved and rebuilt to a great extent, the front elevation will remain very much as it is now.’ They opened their new Chase pub in March 1970. A claim to fame of this present pub is that the famous racehorse Red Rum called in to the bar in May 1985.

Incidentally, the town guide of 1963 stated that the Greyhound ‘is one of seventeen inns of Lincolnshire which the Ministry of Housing and Local Government has recently scheduled as being of special historic or architectural interest, worthy of preservation’. What happened to that protection, one wonders.

The *Rasen Mail* in one of the editor’s nostalgia articles in 1979 reports that beer sold by Thomas and Sarah Gibbons got a name for being the best in town. ‘One pint was as good as a great coat in winter. Two pints and it makes the poor man walk on thrones; Three pints and you see everything that can reasonably be seen in a dream.’

The same article, referring to the celebrations for the coronation of King William IV in 1830, tells us that a theatre company performed in a barn at the back of the Greyhound, ‘which could be seen from the railway line.’

Thomas Gibbons was shown as landlord in Pigot’s Directory of 1822 and in the 1828 edition. John Tateson was there in the 1851 census, also being part of an important family of brewers in town, at the Union Street Brewery. Edward Kemnery (see fig. 8) had moved on to the Aston Arms by 1872 after several years at the Greyhound. Arthur John Tillett was landlord by 1889, and stayed until at least the turn of the century, before becoming manager in 1905, and a director in 1911, of the Market Rasen Brewery Co Ltd. His brother John Frederick is also seen at the White Hart.

In its latter day guise as The Chase, the De Aston School students tell us that ‘your hosts are Pat and Chris Ramery. They boast one of the finest selection of casked Bass Ales in Market Rasen...’

In 1999 landlord Mick Pickard reported the best week’s takings, apart from Christmas and New Year, when the Lincolnshire Rally had brought much trade to all the businesses in town.

**WHITE HART, King Street**

Adjacent to the Greyhound, the White Hart is a long standing important building in the town. The early Directories, from 1822, show that it also contained the Post Office, banking and insurance offices. A *Rasen Mail* article in 1978 looked back to the inn’s early days: ‘A Post Office of sorts had been located at the old White Hart from the early days of the stage coaches onwards. Some sorting of mails long took place at the White Hart and Grimsby letters from the Midlands came via Market Rasen and were then sent by horse and trap over the hills by way of Thorngby.’

This property was certainly one of the first successful inns in the town; it was at a convenient point on the 1765 Bawtry to Louth Turnpike road. Coaches would have needed to change horses at regular intervals in order to maintain consistent high speeds, and the White Hart in Rasen, on a crossroads to all points of the compass, met the needs of the coaching trade.

In an article (7th January 1978) the *Rasen Mail* wrote that ‘the White Hart already had the right amount of stabling when the first stage coaches came along, more or less the right number of ostlers, convenient public rooms. So it was said, “Let’s change horses at Little East Rasen.” An open space opposite the White Hart later became the Market Square.’

We see from the trade directories how the Royal Mail coaches regularly used the White Hart as their port of call in Rasen: in 1841, for example, we see them listed as follows:

- to Boston: daily at 11.15am
- to Louth: daily at 5.00pm
- to Hull: daily at 1.45pm (via the New Holland ferry)
- to Sheffield daily at 7.00am

An interesting use of the various licensed premises was for the Market Rasen race meetings.
The White Hart Hotel in King Street, from the west.
Source: M. Santance/RHS collection

The White Hart Friendly Society (1800-1888) was apparently responsible for the introduction of horse racing to the town, and the records of the racecourse include an 1859 race card—the earliest to survive—which states ‘Jockeys to meet at the White Hart Hotel, Market Rasen, punctually at 10 o’clock, to be shown over the ground.’ A footnote also advises that there will be a DINNER at the White Hart Hotel, after the races.

Apparently other premises were used in turn for this purpose, and once the railway was opened in 1848, visitors to the race meetings would come in greater numbers, and no doubt frequented more of the licensed premises.

The hotel would have been used by local businessmen for their meetings, and in 1801 the Caistor Canal Company (c.f. Lincolnshire History & Archaeology vol. 44, 2009) agreed to press ahead with plans for a navigation as far as Hambleton Hill, serving Market Rasen. A meeting was called to discuss this, but Market Rasen was only represented by William Rawson, miller and trader, and Richard Clark, mercer and draper. A follow-up meeting was called for July the same year, but there is no further evidence of action.

The White Hart did, however, play host to meetings in 1823 and 1827 when local solicitor John Vane was supporting the intended canal and railway from Bishop Briggs in the Parish of Glentham to near the town of Market Rasen... Nothing came of that either, and the arrival of the main line railway was what finally connected Rasen to the outside world.

From an early time after the arrival of the railway in Market Rasen (1848), a horse drawn carriage link was provided to serve train passengers, firstly apparently by Edward Towler, grocer and draper (noted in 1853). At various times a service was also provided by the Gordon Arms, as well as the White Hart, to and from the railway station. In 1919 the Great Central Railway Company was charging Mrs Smith the sum of one shilling per week for the privilege of ‘plying for hire’ from the station; a charge for this purpose had been paid by Mr Chapman at the Gordon Arms from 1 October 1901 until 26 May 1906.

An article in the Rasen Mail in more recent times looked back to the closure of the White Hart in June 1940, and brought forth a reader’s reminiscences: ‘... curiously no mention is made of the horse-drawn coach belonging to the hotel which without fail met every passenger train arriving at the station. This was indeed a coach—not a trap or a gig, or a fly, or a brougham—and though by then it had lost some of its elegance, in the pre-railway and motor car age it may well have attracted the attention of a certain Mr Turpin, or others of his kind on the highways of England.’

'Apparently the horse had a bad temper, but was not averse to accepting sugar from the reader as a boy. While at the station it was 'tethered to a ring in the external wall of the station between two enamel plated signs, one advertising Better Oil Engines and the other Mazawatte Tea. Only once do I remember the coach being taken. This was by an elderly couple from the train travelling...'

1940 sale notice for the White Hart.
Source: author/RHS collection
on the Lincoln to Grimsby line..., they had an air of somewhat faded elegance which harmonized well with the interior of the coach."

Mention has also been made in the Rasen Mail of graffiti from Napoleonic times being scratched on a window pane at the White Hart: 'Turn us, O God, and we shall be turned.' Beneath was an ornamental cup with monogram letters B. T. S. and date 11 March 1814. Another pane read: Prepare to meet your God' and a signature Col. O'Doher [?]. The whole was thought to be the work of two officers of the 14th Hussars when they stayed in Market Rasen en route from York to Boston to sail to France, towards the end of the war with Napoleon.

The Thornton family (John Lawrence had been in charge from around 1830 to 1870) finally decided to sell their Rasen interests and concentrate on running the Saracen's Head, High Street, Lincoln, where son Laurence was in charge. An auction held at the White Hart premises on 6 March 1883 resulted in a figure of £1650 being realised. The auction detailed the property as follows:
Lot 1: Substantially built and old established inn... yards, stables, coach houses, brew houses and other outbuildings... [all] in the occupation of Mr J. F. Tillett [which confirms him as the tenant landlord].
Lot 2: Mr Tillett's garden... 272 yards of 'eligible building land' on the other side of Mill Street.

The general sales description was: 'This hotel has been established, and well conducted, for a great number of years. It has a fixed and lucrative trade attached to it and the house and premises are in a good state of repair... The new owner was a publican from Rugby, so presumably he was content to permit John Tillett to continue as landlord.
The White Hart Hotel finally called time in 1940, and the property was sold (by order of brewers Warwicks and Richardsons, so presumably they had by then become the owners) on 27 June by Messrs Nettleship and Luces. The premises were again sold at auction in 1996, bought by Hugh Bourne Developers for £49,000 against a guide price of £50,000.

The property was at that time the last to be held by the Spencer Trust, and had been an eyesore for many years, no doubt after the Plastic Box Company had ceased to use some of it. In January 1997 a £125,000 facelift was announced, the building now converted into eight self-contained flats.

A minor point of interest—across the corner of Mill Street from the (still occupied) flats stands an Indian restaurant; in the days of the flourishing White Hart Hotel, this same property housed the India and China Tea Company Ltd.

The Brewery Society records a Mr John Cousins at the inn, possibly also with an attendant brewery, but without a date. Mention has been made of John Laurence Thornton, born 1801, father of Laurence T. Thornton (b.1828) who at the 1881 census was described as 'Hotel Keeper and Carriage Builder' residing at the Saracen's Head Hotel, High Street, Lincoln St Peter at Arches.'

John F. Tillett was born at Bungay, Suffolk, in 1841 and appears to have been in the licensed trade at Wymondham, as he wrote from the White Hart on 5 February 1884 to suppliers in that town to apologise for being in debt to them. An 1879 account for the use of a fly and driver by John Tillett, late of Wymondham, was possibly when he first moved to the town.

The most celebrated tenant was Mrs Caroline Fanny Smith, who is first named in Kelly's Directory of 1905 and lastly in 1937. The Rasen Mail of 17 February 1999 had an item by former editor 'Teddy' Sharpe, looking back at the White Hart's
long term landlady. He recalls her from personal experience as 'both a matriarch and martinet. Her customers were the best in the district.'

When she was a girl she went abroad to visit her uncle who was engaged in building the railway line from Denmark to Germany, and 'on one occasion, when she was as light as a feather and a delight to behold, she danced a quadrille with the then King of Denmark.' She married a gentleman farmer at 18 years of age, had 15 children, and clearly was in total command of the running of the White Hart, 'from the sounding of the brass bell for the market ordinary luncheon on a Tuesday to the proclaiming of a decision, which she regularly reached, that Mr So-and-so, sitting in one of the Great Windsor chairs that were ringed around in her smoke room, should drink no more because it would not be good for him.'

She ran the hotel from her bedroom until the end, presumably until the sale of the property in 1940 and died aged 94. Her private room, from which she ruled the roost with canaries for companions, became the managing director's office when the Plastic Box Company occupied the more modern factory at the rear, in Mill Street.

When the adjoining Greyhound was demolished, apart from the frontage, the barber's shop at the front of the White Hart, next to the Greyhound's walls, was damaged, and though rebuilt later it never returned to its former use.

REFERENCES AND BIBLIOGRAPHY
Books:
Halpeny, B. B. A Lincolnshire Town - Market Rasen, Anzio Group, 2009
Russell, R. The Enclosures of Market Rasen 1779-1781, WEA Market Rasen branch, 1969
Scott, Rev E. Battyl History of the Parish of St Thomas, published by author? 1927
WEA An Early Victorian Market Town: Market Rasen in the 1850s, Market Rasen Local History Group, 1971 (2nd ed. 1996)
Directories:
Pigot: Pigot & Co's Directory of... (several counties including Lincolnshire)
Slater: Slater's Directory of Yorkshire and Lincolnshire
Magazines and Periodicals:
Rasen Mail, various

Undated view of Wellow Wines, the Greyhound and the closed White Hart, c.1950s/60s.
[source: Lincolnshire Libraries]
James A. W. Foster was born at Thorpe, Robin Hood's Bay, Yorkshire, so could never claim to be a Lincolnshire 'Yellow Belly'. However, his father, the first policeman in Robin Hood's Bay, was tempted by news from across the Humber that labourers in the newly opened ironstone mines at Scunthorpe were earning double what he earned, and in about 1903 he resigned from the East Riding Constabulary and moved with his wife and family to Ashby, one of five former villages now forming the Urban District of Scunthorpe.

A mile to the east of Queen Street, Ashby, where the Foster family now lived, was a deep open cast mine adjacent to Brig Road, and each morning James senior would use the cycle he had been obliged to buy himself for his former police duties and cycle to work there. His day began at seven in the morning but rarely finished before six in the evening, as the ganger wanted his group to earn as much as they could while it was light enough to see.

His son James A. attended Ashby Council School, left at 13 and found work with a local butcher. It was while working in the shop that he became intrigued by his employer's dialect and began to mimic his speech when serving customers. One expression the butcher used when asked if they had a certain cut of meat was 'Aye, lass, we're short of nowt we've got.'

James senior soon had sufficient savings to secure a bond for James A. who at fourteen began a seven-year apprenticeship at the Appleby-Frodingham steelworks. In 1916 James A. attempted to enlist in the Lincolnshire Regiment by adding a year to his age, but was turned away. Undeterred he went to Nottingham and was successful in joining the Sherwood Foresters. He served on the Somme, was discharged in 1919, and completed his apprenticeship in 1921.

In 1925 he married Laura, whose father, William Havercroft, farmed Low Farm at Glentworth. They were married at Glentworth church.

The speech cadences of his wife's family revived his interest in the Lincolnshire dialect, and he determined to learn more about the speech patterns of those in north Lincolnshire. In 1926 he and his wife settled in Scunthorpe, where he had obtained work on a large lathe in the garage of Underwood's bus company, 'The Red Progressive.'

The staff of the company had formed a concert party, and this gave James the opportunity to display his newly acquired talent of speaking in the Lincolnshire dialect. His act, introduced by an introit of the last two lines of 'The Farmer's Boy,' was announced as 'Gormless, the Farmer's Boy' and consisted of his wandering on to the stage in a tousled wig, battered hat, smock and boots. Throughout his presentation he never batted an eyelid, wore a blank expression and rarely missed his voice.

Later the bus company changed owners, and its name to The Enterprise and Silver Dawn Bus Company. At that time there were several other concert parties in the area, but most were ad hoc in nature and many of their members entertained as single acts, duos, trios and quartets.
"Gormless" often made a guest appearance at the Good Companions after J. B. Priestley's book about the tribulations of a concert party during the inter-war years.

James A. sought advice about the pronunciation of words and phrases in the Lincolnshire dialect and became a pupil of Edith Spilman Dudley, the wife of Harold Dudley, the first curator of the Scunthorpe Museum. Edith had written many poems in dialect, and gave permission for James to recite them in public.

He had, by this time, become semi-professional, having come to the attention of the BBC. In World War II he was recruited by ENNSA to entertain the troops at various locations in England during their leaves from overseas service. He also broadcast on the Home Service in March 1944 to provide an authentic Lincolnshire accent for a character in the play 'Black Arrow', and again on 19 August 1948. On that occasion he had been chosen from several other Lincolnshire men auditioned to appear in a programme on Lincolnshire, and recited Jesse Baggeley's poem 'The Shepherd', winning great acclaim for his authentic dialect reading. The poem includes the oft-repeated line 'Yen, Ten, Tenara, Pethera, Pimp', a sequence of counting used by Celtic shepherds many centuries before, and still used in Wales, Lincolnshire and other shires.

The butt of nearly every joke was a pompous or overbearing official, particularly one from the Ministry of Agriculture. This went down well when he presented his act in a rural church hall, where the local farmers and their wives would revel in the outcome of stories about confrontations between farmers and authorities.

One such joke concerned the surprise visit of an inspector, "wearing a badge as big as a frying pan" who told the farmer it meant he could go anywhere on the farm. The inspector said he would start by going into the field where the "cow" was and make an assessment of its condition. The farmer opened the gate then closed it and leaned on the top bar. As the inspector passed the gate for the third time, chased by the bull, he was shouting "Call him off! Call him off!" The farmer shouted back, "Show 'im thee badge!"

James continued to entertain in church halls and theatres in Lincolnshire, but around 1952 he lost most of the use of his right arm in a motoring accident. He concealed this by wearing a sling under his smock and holding a stave with what little use remained of his right hand.

"Gormless" retired from the stage at the same time as he retired from work, in 1965. In 1968 he paid a visit to his son James R., who was then a lecturer at the
local college, and recited four poems in the Lincolnshire dialect to an audio-cassette record. The recording has since been professionally upgraded and digitally enhanced onto a compact disc. It would be difficult for anyone other than those with an understanding of the dialect to interpret the words of the poems but, fortunately, both James R. and his sister Christine, both born in Scunthorpe, have been able to translate almost all the words after many hours of intense listening.

*Combined Concert Parties of the Scunthorpe area at the Red Cross Christmas party after entertaining staff and patients at the War Memorial Hospital in December 1941. (Complied centre front.)*

**Owd Jim**—This poem is anonymous, but probably self-published by Edith Spilman Dudley in one of her books:

Owd Jim were a Lincolnshire labourer born and bred on the slope of the wold. His forebears had lived here before him, and he never strayed from the fold. Of he’d scan the broad acres before him, stretched out o’er wide open skies. A son of the wind and the weather with the pride of the soil in his eyes. Says he—you can take other counties—them that claims to be made of good stuff, But give me my own bit of England and I’ll learn to earn enough, And as long as I’m fit for the sowing and the autumn harvest days, Then as long as I’ve muscle and sinew, I’ll stick with my Lincolnshire ways.

I’m nowt but a plain country labourer, just a speck in th’Almighty’s plan, But I’ll work in my own bit of England till I’ve gained the full state of a man; I’m a scholar of old mother nature that mighty fine teacher and friend. And in spite of all new fangled notions, I’ll have faith in her rule to the end.

I love Lincoln’s cornfields and meadows and I’m proud of her fine flocks and herds, And I like the cool shade of her woodlands, and the piping wild songs of her birds; All the wonder and terror, and trials in storm winds that sweep along o’er the wold, An’ the soft breeze of spring brings contentment like a song that can never grow old. I often sit still in a morning and there’s a glory that bodes o’er the land Like the joy of a calm benediction bringing peace that I scarce understand, So I’ll bide, and give praise to me maker for the blessings of sweet humble toil, And I’ll yield to the Lord of all labourers—the soul of a son of the soil.
his early Roman silver ring contains a finely carved carnelian intaglio with an image of Bacchus, the god of wine and revelry. Before discussing the intaglio’s imagery in more detail, the early date of the ring is worthy of note. The issue of how quickly and completely the native Britons succumbed to Roman ways is complicated, but the classical imagery of this ring suggests that its owner had adopted Roman religion, or at least wished to make an outward show to that effect. Perhaps the original owner was not British at all, but an official who had come across from the continent, bringing his ring, perhaps itself an heirloom, with him.

The pale orange carnelian intaglio shows the standing figure of Bacchus (on the right), draped about his lower half and with a thyrsus (a pinecone topped staff) in his extended left hand. His head is turned to the right to observe a naked satyr, who is bending away from Bacchus, but has his head turned back to face the god. The satyr holds something in his hand, which may represent a pedum (a shepherd’s crook). A similar intaglio is known from Vienna, but in that example Bacchus is naked, and has a panther at his feet.

The cult of Bacchus is well attested in Britain, with hundreds of examples of Bacchic imagery to be found on mosaics, ceramics, and on jewellery. The Lincolnshire museum collections feature a ring from Lincoln with a grotesque theatrical head, which may have Bacchic connections, but this is the first item from Lincolnshire the museum has acquired that features the clear image of the god. The ring forms one of a growing collection of objects from Lincolnshire that display such classical religious imagery.

The ring was discovered at Revesby, and was purchased with the kind assistance of the Friends of Lincoln Museums and Art Gallery.
For this issue’s trip into the museum vaults, we will examine two interesting pieces of jewellery: a Roman ring and an Anglo Saxon pendant.

The fashion of adorning oneself with valuable items is of course nothing new—through the desire to display wealth and status, show political or religious allegiance, or simply to attempt to appear more attractive, says Antony Lee, Collections Access Officer (Archaeology).

Anglo Saxon pendant
6th or early 7th century

This stunning gold and cloisonné garnet pendant was discovered near Horncastle in 2003. Anglo Saxon art is resplendent with examples of subtle animal imagery and this brooch is a superb example, being in the form of an insect, with flared wings and semicircular and triangular cells to represent the face. A perforated bi-conical bead was used to suspend the pendant from a chain.

This pendant is more complicated than it might appear, however, as it is actually the combination of craftsmanship from two centuries apart. The cloisonné inlay has fish-scale like cells. This form of cell is rare, being known on only two other items in Europe, both of which date to the 5th century. The first is a saddle fitting in the form of an eagle, from Romania; the second a fish shaped brooch from Switzerland.

In contrast, the elegant bi-conical suspension bead is a 7th century form. It appears, therefore, that this pendant represents a piece of 5th century European cloisonné work converted into a pendant in 7th century England. Evidence of this amalgamation can be seen at the terminals of the cloisonné wings. One is rounded, but the other had already lost its terminal cell before reuse. The 7th century craftsman simply put his surround around the remaining contour, creating a flatter terminal. No doubt such incorporation of older workmanship made the pendant an item of even greater significance to its 7th century owner.

The pendant was purchased with the kind assistance of the Art Fund, the Headley Trust, the V&A/MLA Purchase Grant Fund, and the Friends of Lincoln Museums and Art Gallery.
Eamon de Valera's daring escape from Lincoln Prison

Erik Grigg believes that few local people today know of the events taking place at Lincoln in February 1919.

On 3 February 1919 Eamon de Valera (1882-1975), arguably the most famous and influential Irish statesman of modern times, along with two colleagues, Seán MacGarrigle and Seán Milroy, made a dramatic escape from Lincoln Prison. Few locals know the dramatic story; it sounds like a Hollywood movie script, though at times it is more Keystone Cops than James Bond.

I had noticed how Irish visitors to Lincoln Castle (where I work) seemed very keen to know when the prison in the Castle grounds had closed and they were strangely disappointed when I informed them it was in the 19th century; my interest was pricked and I asked them why. It seems that although the escape is just a footnote in the history of Lincoln, it is a key episode in the life of an iconic figure in Irish history.

Despite Ireland being the only country with which the United Kingdom shares a land border, few British people have heard of Eamon de Valera, even though he dominated 20th century Irish politics, and he himself was head of the Irish government for over two decades (1932-48, 1951-4 and 1957-9) and was President of Ireland from 1959 to 1973.

In 1916, during Easter Week, Irish Republicans organised an uprising in Dublin; it was soon crushed and the British authorities, shocked at what they saw as a treacherous stab in the back when so many young men were at that moment laying down their lives on the Western Front, decided to execute the leaders. This rather brutal summary justice backfired, making the rebels far more popular in Ireland, especially de Valera who, thanks to having US citizenship, escaped with a short gaol sentence.

In an attempt to discredit the IRA, the British authorities fabricated evidence of a plot between the Irish and the Germans, and on 17 May 1918 arrested de Valera on his way home. Michael Collins (the director of IRA intelligence) had warned him and other leading Irish nationalists that the British authorities were intending to round them up, but Eamon de Valera, like most of the rest, ignored the advice not realising quite how sophisticated Collins' intelligence network had become.

The following day de Valera and 72 of his comrades were shipped to Holyhead; some went to Usk Prison while others, including de Valera, spent a week in Gloucester before being taken to Lincoln Prison on Greetwell Road.

It soon became apparent that the authorities had fabricated the evidence for the plot, and in December 1918 the political wing of the IRA, Sinn Féin, won almost every Irish seat outside the loyalist strongholds in Ulster.

With the war over, de Valera wanted to put the case for Irish independence to the post-war peace conference in Paris. He feared the British would release the Irish nationalists only after the signing of the treaty; if he could escape, it would humiliate his enemies and put Ireland on the international political agenda.

De Valera needed an escape plan and an opportunity soon arose. The prisoners noticed a door in the exercise yards that led to the outside; if they could get a key they could escape.

He was an altar server in the prison's chapel and this allowed him to make an impression of the Chaplain's key in a hot bar of soap. Sean Milroy drew a cartoon of a drunken man trying to get a large key into a tiny lock and sent it to an accomplice outside. The censor thought it a harmless joke and did not realise the key in the picture was the exact shape of a prison key; unfortunately neither did the accomplice!

A couple of coded messages later the IRA realised the significance of the cartoon and they cut a key, baked it into a cake and delivered it to the prisoners. The prison authorities incredibly allowed the delivery of the cake, but the prisoners found the key did not fit the locks.

Another cartoon was sent (this
time the key was disguised in an ornate Celtic design), another cake baked, but again the key did not fit. Either the soap had shrunk when it cooled or the Chaplain's key was not a master key.

The final cake contained a blank key and a set of files. Another Irish prisoner, Paddy de Loughery, took apart a prison lock and made a master key. On 21 January three Irish prisoners escaped from Usk; de Valera was desperate to emulate them.

Outside the prison, Michael Collins was planning to whisk the escapees away in taxis. One of his agents, Frank Kelly, had scouted out the land around the prison and frequented the pubs of Lincoln picking up intelligence. At about 7.40pm on 3 February the three escapees left their cells using their key and made their way to the exercise yard without being noticed.

Meanwhile, outside, Frank Kelly was lost in the dark, but Michael Collins and an associate, Harry Boland, managed to locate the door and flashed a torch signal to those inside. Collins had had a key made using the designs sent by Milroy, but the key broke in the lock. It seemed their luck had failed, but de Valera coolly inserted his key from the other side, pushed out the broken key and unlocked the door.

Outside, courting convalescent soldiers from the nearby hospital and their lady friends frequented the local area; rather than provoking a danger, it meant the Irishmen could mingle with equally furtive night-hawks without arousing suspicion. They strolled down Wragby Road to the Adam and Eve pub where a taxi driver awaited them, unaware of who his passengers were.

Collins and Boland caught a train to London from St Marks station while the rest drove to Worksop where another innocent taxi driver drove them to Sheffield. Here an accomplice with a car drove them to safe houses in Manchester.

By June, Éamon de Valera was in America addressing the public and meeting politicians, much to the embarrassment of the British. On 8 March the rest of the German Plot prisoners were released, and de Valera was able to return to a hero's welcome in Dublin.

At 9.30 on the evening of the escape the prison authorities discovered the empty cells, but as the escapees had relatched every door behind them they were baffled. Ports were alerted and, as de Valera was an elected MP, security at Westminster were warned to be on the lookout.

The papers reported the prisoners' mail was under strict censorship so were baffled how they communicated with outside accomplices. The Lincolnshire Chronicle reported a mysterious car seen at Langworth railway crossing and a prison sock was found on Queensway, but with hindsight neither was connected with the escape.

It was not until three weeks later that a full account of the daring escape emerged when an Irish delegate at the peace conference boasted to the press what really had occurred that night. However, as the IRA did not wish to give away details of their intelligence network, this initial account was full of red herrings. The Irish claimed to have sent cars full of known republicans careering round Lincolnshire to divert the police. They also claimed to have had an agent obtain an allotment near the prison and attract de Valera's attention by singing an Irish rebel song. The prisoners threw an impression of a key over the wall and the agent later threw a key back! Within a few days an enterprising journalist from the New York Times interviewed members of Lincoln's allotments association: the allotments were too far from the prison to allow such communication and none of the members had Irish connections!

The police were equally baffled by talk of diversionary cars; the story was obviously false. It was not until 1926, when de Valera renounced armed struggle as a method of gaining Irish freedom and split with the IRA, could he
freely recount the true story of how he ended up catching a taxi to freedom from the Adam and Eve.

Selected newspaper sources
- "Lincolnshire Chronicle 8 Feb 1919.
- "The Mystery of de Valera" Lincolnshire Echo 1 March 1919.
- "A romantic story: Sinn Fein leader's escape" Wellington Post

21 April 1919,
Further reading

WILLIAM BEDFORD (1782-1841)

In 1841 William Bedford, a tailor, gave a lecture at a meeting of the Lincolnshire Topographical Society, on the Geology of Lincoln. How did a tailor come to be a member of an erudite national body, and capable of delivering a scholarly lecture? What stimulated his interest? Ruth Tinley investigates:

William Bedford's father, also William and also a tailor, came to Lincoln about 1780. Of his first marriage the births of three sons, William, John and Thomas born 1782, 1783 and 1784, were 'registered' at the Unitarian chapel in St Peter at Gowts parish, as born in the parish of St Mary le Wigford. His sons were educated; William, as shown below, became a tailor but studied geology, and John became a chemist in the Bail. There were private schools listed in the City in the 1790s, some of which would be open to Dissenters.

William Bedford (the elder) purchased the Freedom of Lincoln City in 1790; he took several apprentices, including his sons in 1794, 1795 and 1796, William and John becoming Freemens. He signed a Dissenter's certificate for worship by Independents in the parish of St Peter at Arches in 1788, and for a meeting house in St Martin's parish in 1789.

Sir Francis Hill refers to William Bedford senior as a "leading dissenter and a reformer who campaigned in Parliamentary elections for the Freemens, and for candidates who favoured reform". His wife died in 1822 and in 1823 he married Frances Dabrah at Heckington. In 1826 they lived in New Road, Lincoln.

The 1828 Betham & Wilson valuation shows that his shop was on the High Street, near the corner of Cornhill, (occupied by his son William in 1835) and he also owned his house on New Road, along with other property, as detailed in his will. William Bedford the elder died 2 January 1837.

From an obituary in The Christian Reformer we are told that he had 'suffered much persecution for his attachment to the cause of reform but witnessed its triumphant accomplishment'. He was buried beside his first wife outside the Unitarian chapel in High Street.

William Bedford the younger married Charlotte Taylor in 1804, and after her death married Lydia Keeton in St. Swithin's Church in 1821. By the 1830s they were living in the upper part of New Road (now Lindum Road) in the parish of St Margaret. There were no surviving children.

The forming of the Lincoln Mechanics Institution in 1833 made it possible for men of varying status to get together. William Bedford the younger was a founder member and took an active part in the administration. Here he would meet and debate with other business men, solicitors, schoolmasters, surgeons, architects, landowners, and even gentry, including such men as surveyor J.S. Padley, mathematician George Boole, printer E. Bell Drury, mainly but not all, dissenters, but also the Catholic architect E.J. Willson. Here was stimulation and encouragement for study.

In 1841, on 16 March, William Bedford read the lecture to the Lincolnshire Topographical Society entitled 'The Geology of Lincolnshire.' On 6 June 1841, when the Census was taken William and Lydia were in Westminster. A month later, 13 July 1841, William died at New Road, Lincoln, with George Glaisier in attendance. His brother John Bedford responded to the Institution's letter of condolence on behalf of the widow, at great length, referring to William Bedford's scientific ability, gratuitous exertions and contributions in the department of Geology.

An obituary states 'he had not enjoyed the advantage of a learned education, nor yet possessed much leisure for philosophical pursuits, being many years engaged in business, his acquirements, nevertheless, in several branches of science were far from inconsiderable'.

Prompted by the Lincoln Mechanics Institution, his lecture was published, and appeared in 1843 as one of 'A Selection of Papers relative to the County of Lincoln'. This publication runs to 13 pages, with a diagram, and is quite comprehensive. He had been a member of the British Association for the Advancement of Science. In his will he directed "that my
mortal remains, after manifest symptoms of decomposition shall have appeared, may be closed up in a leaden coffin and interred in a vault in the north aisle of the Unitarian chapel in Lincoln and that a neat marble tablet may be placed over my pew in that chapel!

George Glasier (later to become a Mayor of Lincoln) was to be a trustee, and his wife Mary Glasier and her children were to be, ultimately, after the death of his widow, the main beneficiaries.

The name Bedford continued as a second name for most of Mary Glasier’s children and grandchildren, some of whom entered the legal and medical professions. I had been aware of this Bedford connection but for many years the reason eluded me. Mary Glasier’s maiden name was Freeman. It was by one of those coincidences, which family historians always hope for, that I was put in touch with a relative of Lydia Bedford who allowed me to read letters written by William and Lydia at the relevant time.

They were a much travelled couple. William writes of being away in London in 1835, of ‘our summer journey’ to the north of England in 1838, and ‘this is a travelling year’ including Scotland, in 1840. In 1836 William wrote ‘Mary Freeman, who we brought up, was married to Mr Glasier, a draper …’ It appears therefore, that as William Bedford junior had no children, he and his wife looked upon Mary (Freeman) Glasier as their heir. In August 1841 Lydia wrote to her brother telling him of her husband’s death from cancer of the stomach after an illness of 10 months. She was planning to leave for Wales shortly. Lydia Bedford died in December 1847 and her grave-stone is outside the Unitarian Chapel in Lincoln.

They did not find the ‘leaden coffin’ during alterations at the Unitarian chapel, but as I looked at the marble tablet (now, but not originally, on the east wall) and pondered on the questions these two men have posed me, did I hear a chuckle?

REFERENCES
Lincs Archives LCL/5108
‘Lincoln Library: A Selection of Papers Relative to the County of Lincoln 1843’
I have also used Hill’s Georgian Lincoln and Victorian Lincoln.

---

**LETTERS**

**Dear Editors**

As always, *Lincoln Past & Present* No 85 Autumn 2011 was a fascinating read. It was good to see a new series on The Collection Lincoln museum. I really enjoyed Peter Stevenson’s article “The Ether”, about early radios, and it solved a years’ long puzzle! I had found several pot devices in the grounds here years ago and assumed them to be pulleys from washing lines. Then I saw the photo of the porcelain insulators—Eureka! Mine are identical to those shown in the right of the picture. My brother also happened to call round, and noticing the insulator on the table (I’d retrieved it from my garden finds box) exclaimed how he’d found loads of these at his last address in Garthorpe. When I asked him if he knew what they were, he promptly replied, ‘Washing line pulleys.’ So, now enlightened, he’s checking them all over again in a new light! So something he thought was rather mundane have now turned out to be far more interesting, and all thanks to Mr Stevenson and the SLHA.

Mrs D. M. Mooncaster, Sleaford, Louth

---

**Dear Sir**

Further to my letter in *Notes and Queries* in *Past & Present* No. 84, concerning the lettering on the former railway warehouse in Lincoln that now forms the library building of the university, Stewart Squires has found the enclosed photograph of this before the middle line of the original lettering was painted over. In my letter I had recalled this as reading **RAILWAY**, so that the whole legend had been **GREAT CENTRAL RAILWAY WAREHOUSE**, while Stewart had recalled it as, in full, **GREAT CENTRAL RAILWAY GOODS AND GRAIN WAREHOUSE**. In fact, as we can now see, neither was quite correct but Stewart was nearer, as it actually read **GREAT CENTRAL GOODS & GRAIN WAREHOUSE**.

Chris Padley
STONES and MOATS

John Porter on Medieval remains at Scredington

Both the original query and John’s comments below date to 2005. Unfortunately, the item was misfiled for a while, but better late than never!

Judging from an entry in N&Q 64, it is obvious that interest in the history of Scredington is going to live on for some time and it is good to read confirmation of the likely date of occupation of Hambleton Moat buildings.

At first sight it appears that the only visible remains of these times are the two surviving moats—Hall Close and Thorny Close, but on a closer look there may be a little more. Apart from Bluebell House and Stonecroft (originally public houses), which no doubt have their own story, there are two other interesting stone features of considerable age.

1 The south wall of St Andrew’s churchyard

Although the provision of the material for the church building, restored in 1869 with Clipsham stone, is a separate matter, this wall of the original churchyard is said to have been in existence in the 14th century.

Standing on ground six or seven feet above the road, most of it is topped with large coping stones. Identical coping stones were once used on the Pinfold—finally destroyed in 1984—which stood beside the track leading towards Northbeck bridge.

It is feasible conjecture that the stone may have been taken from the grounds of Hambleton, merely two hundred yards away, once it became uninhabited. Alternatively, it may have been constructed at the same time as Hambleton, probably in order to keep the road clear at the only point where the surrounding ground is higher.

2 The lower north wall and west corner of Buttbank (Bulwark) farm house

This irregular stone section is probably a part of one of the oldest surviving buildings in the village and may have originally been a one-storey cottage, standing east-west (a small version of the longhouse). It had a stone floor and a ladder into a loft until early last century. When the floor was removed, a number of bones were found underneath.

The house has twice been extended in brick, the first time probably at the end of the 18th century when bricks became widely available for house and farm building in Lincolnshire, and the second in 1931. There are two small surviving windows in the, now interior, south wall. According to the History of Gilson’s Hospital, Morecott, this house may have been a part of the Gilson estate together with Hambleton.

Given the extremely poor circumstances of the rural inhabitants of Britain up to the Black Death, it is unlikely that any subsistence villager in Scredington would have the mind or the resources to access building material from the quarries further west, in Heydour or Ancaster. It is probable, therefore, that someone enterprising took advantage of the abandoned stones that were literally just round the corner. If this is so, then it is thanks to them that a part of the village history is still very evident in the 21st century.

Another point of scholarly interest about Scredington is the number of moats it once possessed. Many historians write about the five moats and their likely origins but, along with other villages, in my youth I was never convinced that Scredington had five moats. There is no doubt about four of them. The complex arrangement of earthworks in Hall Close is now better understood and preserved.

Thorny Moat, in a field north of Manor Farm in Northbeck, is still complete and fills with water every winter to confirm its layout. Unfortunately the platform has been planted with trees (despite a request to the contrary), which gives rise to concern about likely damage to subterranean structures.

The third one, Hambleton Moat, was filled in during a stage of land improvements in the 1960s—a performance lamented at the time by the Ministry of Works inspector as well as by several villagers, and the shallow ditch of Pinfold Moat, the fourth, was clearly visible until it was filled in.

This leaves us with the dubious one, Millfield Moat, known to us as Pattinson’s Moat after the local smallholder, who was shaped like a deformed banana, one end being slightly wider than the other. While the ground on the concave side was in places a few feet above the rest of the field, all the remaining area was level, and there was no indication of there...
ever being any embankment along the outer curve.

Furthermore, it is not named on the tithe awards or the enclosure awards maps. Dr L. Butler (Hambleton Moat and village survey, 1963) suggests it is the old course of a stream draining the orchard field.

So why, one asks, was it locally called a moat? I suggest that by most of the village people and their forebears it was not considered a pond because it was simply not the conventional size or round/oval shape of the 29 familiar cattle ponds situated in and around the village. Since the word 'lake' had a socially elevated air about it, given its association with estates, they applied the word 'moat' to any larger area of water that didn’t fit the normal pattern.

---

Willoughton Local History Society

Guided Walk around the Willoughton Knights Templar site &

Edward II and the Templar Lands in Lincolnshire

A Talk by Mike Jefferson MA

7.30pm at Willoughton Village Hall Friday 27th April 2012

On 10 January 1308 the Templars in England were arrested and their possessions taken into the hands of Edward II. The incomplete accounts of the Templar estates from 1308 - 1313 are in The National Archives at Kew. This lecture is based upon the contents of those accounts for Lincolnshire.

Mike Jefferson completed his MA in Local and Regional History at Nottingham University in 2007. His dissertation, 'The Templar Lands in Lincolnshire and what happened to them 1385 - 1500' was supervised by Dr David Marcombe. Mike is now in his fourth year of part-time study for a PhD at Nottingham researching the relationship between the Templar lands in Lincolnshire and Edward II.

The Templar Preceptory Site at Willoughton is on private land and not normally open to visitors. The landowners, Mr & Mrs Graham Rowles Nicholson, have very kindly allowed us to take visitors around the site.

The walk starts at 6.30 and is included in the admission charge for those who wish to take part; please indicate when asking for tickets if you wish to walk on the site.

There is a limit on the number of people allowed in the village hall so pre-booking is advised.

The tickets cost £4 including light refreshments and can be obtained from Jackie Peaurt.

01427 668570 – email: brentandjackie@mysticoffsece.co.uk

This colourful, well illustrated booklet traces the results of early and recent architectural work on the site of an extraordinary and, in its time, revolutionary twelfth century 'mixed' monastic house, built close to the now deserted medieval village of Sempringham, near Billingborough. What has been achieved reflects the author's aim—to provide a study in landscape history from prehistoric land use, through Roman and Saxon settlement and medieval village occupation, to the building of a major Lincolnshire monastery and its post-Reformation conversion into a grand mansion. There are clear descriptions of the landscape with archaeological and material remains well illustrated in photos, pictures, drawings, plans, stunning aerial photographs and reconstructions.

Cope-Faulkner has provided a wide but succinct study that usefully summarises and re-evaluates the results of pioneering archaeological work by Hugh Braun and others, set against recent, mainly geophysical, work to produce much more fresh information. Aspects of the priory examined or touched upon include its founding, economy, distinctive layout, importance, dissolution and secular reuse. Historical sources and other relevant sites are referred to where needed. This is not an in-depth study of the priory or of the Gilbertines as such, but does set the mother house of the Order in its historical and logistical context, and does give an idea of the mixed communal life of nuns and canons and lay sisters and lay brothers who lived there in one community according to the Rule provided by Lincolnshire's very own Saint Gilbert and his unique Order of Sempringham.

John Wilford, FSA, Lincoln

CRAWFORD, June. Whaplode: interesting facts and stories. The author, 2011. 54pp in plastic wallets and a folder. No ISBN. £8 (or £12.50 by post from Miss J. Crawford, 31 St William Court, Holbeach PE12 7QR—all proceeds go to local charity). This wallet contains photographs and personal memories of life in the village during the early years of the author, who is a retired teacher.


This is the nineteenth booklet in the 'Yesterday's Lincolnshire' series, and the second to be devoted to windmills. The booklet is a handy size and is reasonably priced, enabling this selection from Eric Croft's extensive collection of picture postcards to be enjoyed by a wide audience. Eric acknowledges that windmills are his favourite theme and although some of the same mills are represented as in the first volume, the images are different. Here are more than 60 fascinating pictures, some from the early years of the 20th century, but mostly from the 1920s and 1930s. A number of the postcards are from images taken by H.E.S. Simmons, an indefatigable recorder of windmills who visited Lincolnshire during the 1930s. The quality of his photography shines through in these postcards.

The selection of pictures is interesting and varied. Different types of mills are represented from primitive post mills (Friskeyn Tofts) to the last tower mill to be built in the county (Ludford Magna) and the mills are shown in all stages of preservation. Some were clearly still in full working order when the photograph was taken, others record the last sad days of once active buildings. The informative captions help to make this booklet a very worthwhile purchase.

Catherine Wilson, Reepham

FURNIVAL, Jeanne M., compiler. Sleaford and Kesteven High School for Girls, Ltd.: the first one hundred years. [The author], 2011. 63pp. No ISBN. £10 spiral bound (post free from the author, 72 London Road, Sleaford NG34 7LP—all proceeds go to the Lincs & Notts Air Ambulance).

There have been a number of school histories in the last few years and here is another that will provide Sleaford 'Old Girls' the trigger by
which many school days will be recalled, whether happy or otherwise. The school opened in 1902 so it is now well into its second century. The author is very well-known to all her intended readers - as a former pupil in the 1930s and later through an involvement with Old Girls Association which goes back well over 30 years. The author and the late Miss Eve Hull conceived the idea of a school history and their joint collection of memorabilia has formed the basis for this book.

Extracts from school magazines (from 1934 on), programmes of events, plans, copies of poems, newspaper cuttings and any amount of pictures, colour and black and white all help to provide a fascinating insight into life at the school. When the first headmistress arrived there were only 23 pupils; now there are over 700.

Mrs Furnivall was as surprised as I was to find that boys also attended the school, four being roped in to play parts in the 1933 ‘Alice in Wonderland’ play; by 1947 there were only four left.

And, in 1980, the school had an HeadMASTER (author’s spelling)! He served for 16 years. Remarkably, there have only been seven heads of school in all its history.

There is good nostalgic reading for all associated with Sleaford and the school and I am sure many of the Old Girls will applaud the large clear type.


This short book is packed with information. It begins with a general introductory section, which covers the place-name, early history followed by accounts of the parish church and the other denominations present in the village. There are lists of all the known incumbents with (at the end) a listing of all the marriages from 1827 to 1952. In between there are pieces on the school, Hainton estate, a list culled from Kelly’s Directory for 1922, memories from local villagers and descriptions of local landmarks. It seems expensive but there is much of interest here and it is a well-produced illustrated publication.


This is a very well printed guide with 42 beautiful coloured pictures of much of the cathedral’s stained glass. The notes and captions are as illuminating as the pictures and, for its price, it is a first-class introduction to one of the riches of Lincoln’s Cathedral.

[MORLEY, Elizabeth and others]. Roots & wings: celebrating 100 years of Central Methodist Church, Lincoln: a church & its people; compiled by Elizabeth Morley, Carole Sharpe and Jo Sharpe. [Lincoln, Central Methodist Church, no date]. 28pp. No ISBN. Unprinted pbk.

In 1905 the foundation stone was laid for this church in Lincoln’s High Street. This booklet commemorates the way the church has survived and developed in the century since then. The first pages set out the historical background of Methodism in the city before the new building. There follow brief sections on the various ministers, the church music, worship and fellowship including accounts of the Sunday School, Ladies group and so on.

The whole is rounded off with a miscellany of memories by some of the members.

Lincolnshire Cameos includes twenty biographical case studies ranging from the 13th century Bishop of Lincoln, Robert Grosseteste to the 20th century Prime Minister, Margaret Thatcher. Shucksmith was born in Lincolnshire though his introduction contains historical and geographical inaccuracies. He is an ordained priest in the Church of England and has been a chaplain in the Royal Navy as well as a parish priest. He is now a bishop of the Free Church of England.

Some of his subjects are natives of the county, others hail from other parts. They include Catholics, Calvinists, Methodists as well as Anglicans and others. Many will be familiar individuals such as Ann Askew and Isaac Newton; others are less well known like Thomas Tenison and Daniel Waterland. Shucksmith provides basic information on each and comments on their religious background and beliefs. There are ample biblical quotations used to illustrate their actions and ideas, and various other biographers are also cited. His subjects could be bases for sermons offering models for erring Christians. It is well written and easy to read with the often lengthy Biblical and other excerpts in italics. Nevertheless, there is much to learn about each person and about the author himself with his very definite ideas and beliefs.

Pearl Wheateley, Lincoln

As the title of this is an almanac, the writer keeps to his calendar throughout. There is an entry for each of the 365 days with a general note at the beginning of each month. In some cases there is no special action to be found for a particular day, for example in February there are 8 days, so Storey fills in with recording folklore tales like recipes for cures or the prison reformer John Howard's reports on his visits to Lincolnshire prisons. August begins with burial practices for suicides and ends with the differences between duck stools and ducking stools. These are the most interesting sections. The reader will be obliged to consider various verdicts in the light of the current Health and Safety Regulations. One instance concerns a worker falling into a threshing machine when the responsible man had failed to close the safety guard; in a second case a man took several children to the seaside and some were drowned swimming in the sea. Both verdicts were accidental death. Some stories close without a clear ending; such as on 4th October the entry ends with Recommended to Quarter Sessions'. Why did Storey not pursue the outcome? Many stories are three or four lines long often concerning someone who has committed suicide with no record of any special circumstances - so we are hardly the wiser.

The general information paragraphs offer interest but much of the rest is repetition either of articles within the book or of those used in Wade's book (see below). The two books overlap considerably. Both include the Grantham Rail Disaster, Tom Otter's story, an account of Marwood the hangman, Molly Grime and many more. There are a number of illustrations, some photographs and some cartoons. Of interest, the one of Daniel Lambert looks strangely like the one in Wade's book but in reverse. There are some interesting facts in this volume, but it's a pity Storey did not further research many of them. The History Press could have helped these authors.

Pearl Wheateley, Lincoln

This is a motley collection with the only link being a first letter of the title, some of which give away the topic, like Johnnie Osborne and Daniel Lambert, others stretch the imagination like Barons and Bailiffs whilst towards the end finding an X or Z initial proved difficult. Wade admits this in his introduction where he discusses the relationship between fact and folklore - one of the best parts of the book. Probably unusual in this type of book, there is a good index and there is also a two page list headed 'Bibliography and Sources'. A
reader could well compile this since references and quotations throughout reveal the familiar origins of much of the text. He relies on Edel Rudkin’s folklore book, John Kettnering’s publications, newspaper articles, SLHA magazines and various websites among others. This is a dipping-in book providing mini stories (some very minute) and biographies. Some topics are well known; others, like ‘Smugglers’ and ‘Grimsby Spies’, introduce topics that might encourage further study. Wade agrees the margin between fact and fiction is narrow and a few of his facts border on fiction. A number of black and white illustrations are included, some very interesting ones, but the printing does not do them justice.

Pearl Wheatley, Lincoln

Obituary

DAVID HOPKINS

David was a freelance artist, based at Heritage Lincolnshire as an illustrator. I am sure many groups will remember his entertaining and interesting talks on subjects as diverse as ‘Excavations in Libya’ and ‘Sleaford: Seed Capital of the World’.

Obviously he had not been back to Libya in the last year or two. He had been working on sites in Uzbekistan when he drowned in an accident, falling from a boat when out on a day trip.

David spent much of his time on remote archaeological sites, the remoteness being part of the attraction. He was in demand as an illustrator of pottery and ‘small’ finds (not always that small) and both reconstructions and his drawings were used in many HTI publications, including the current events leaflet. He had a fine and very individual style of pen and ink drawing, but was equally skilled in watercolours, as can be seen in his many fruit and plant illustrations. The current SLHA logo is his design and a reconstruction of the Branston sheepwash was used on the P&P cover a while back. He had a wide interest in plants and fruits, and for several years had been writing and illustrating articles for Lincolnshire’s GOOD TASTE free magazine.

His original researches included everything from potatoes to wild English fruits and berries; in the last edition he wrote an illustrated article on rabbits and rabbit warrens. His pursuit of the Lincolnshire ‘Sead’ attracted the attention of BBC Lincolnshire to the extent that people were ringing them up to find out where to get a plant! At Heckington Show he had developed an annual ‘57 varieties of...’ table, with everything from purple and black potatoes to sweet peas or salad crops and even weeds, and one always looked forward to seeing what would be the new theme.

David was a constantly cheerful character, with an extraordinary variety and range of interests. He will be much missed.

Hilary Healey
LINCOLNSHIRE'S HIDDEN TREASURES
Exploring churches and their family connections
With John Almond

2: ST MICHAEL AND ALL SAINTS EDENHAM

The church of St Michael and All Saints stands, surrounded by wonderful cedar trees, on a manmade plateau in the centre of Edenham, next to the A151 about three miles north of Bourne. This quite large church, with its various architectural styles, is a more interesting and older structure than St James, Spilsby.

But they are related, as St Michael's contains the monuments and memorials dedicated to the later members of the noble Lincolnshire family of Willoughby de Eresby. Their seat is the nearby Grimsthorpe Castle. This family is one of only a few where the peelage could be descended down the female line.

On entering St Michael's through the south porch, facing you is the south arcade and, on moving to your left towards the west end of the south aisle, you will see the very interesting drum shaped Norman font. Cast your eyes up towards the west end of the arcade and you will find one of two Anglo-Saxon roundels; this is the better of the two as the one at the east end has been cut through. They are both around two feet in diameter. This suggests that the arcade is of this age, so there was an earlier church occupying this site.

Move to the centre of the nave and pass through the tower arch into the tower base. On both sides are memorials of the Heathcote family, brought here in 1972 from Normanton church when Rutland Water was developed.

On the north wall is a Norman arch, rescued from a nearby barn also the remnants of a Saxon cross. While in the nave, look up to the well carved roof with eight angels and shields, and a royal coat of arms high on the chancel arch. Also in the north aisle, just before the entrance to the chancel, is the Ancaster pew. This contains some interesting memorials to the family, including one to Robert Bertie 1st Earl of Lindsey. He lost his life at Edgehill, the first real battle of the English Civil War, in October 1642. He was a commander in the King's army.

Entering the chancel you will find it full of monuments and memorials of the family by some of the leading sculptors of the day. Leave by the south aisle (just take a look at the roundel) and you will see that the east end has been restored as a chapel.

Before you leave this lovely building take a look at some of the pews, which have 15th century bench ends with poppy heads. When you leave the porch, turn left and pass between the church and the vicarage. At the east end of the churchyard you will see the Will—
loughby burial plot. Walking around this churchyard, you really see how artificially raised this site is. Also in the churchyard are the remains of an old cross, close to the south corner of the tower.

The connection with this church and the Willoughby de Eresby family from Spilsby began with William 10th baron Willoughby de Eresby marrying Maria de Salinas in 1516. She was a cousin and a maid of honour to Katherine of Aragon. As Maria was a kinswoman of the Queen, King Henry VIII granted Willoughby the manors of Edenham, Southorpe and Grimsthorpe including the park. But it is not thought he lived at Grimsthorpe for any length of time as the Countess of Oxford lived there until her death in 1537.

William and Maria had only one surviving child, Katherine, who was born in 1519 at Parham in Suffolk. The Willoughbys held land in Suffolk as well as Lincolnshire.

When William died in 1525 Katherine became a Baronesse before she was seven years old. Because of her age her properties were held in the wardship of the King. She was placed under the care of Charles Brandon, Duke of Suffolk, brother-in-law of the King.

So Katherine was taken from her mother and placed under the care of Mary, sister of King Henry VIII. Brandon bought her wardship from Henry in 1528 for £2266, thirteen shillings and fourpence, and was later to marry Katherine and make their home at Grimsthorpe.

The Lincolnshire martyr, Anne Askew (Ayscough) was, before her death, questioned about Katherine's protestant religious views as they were friends, but that is another story. The Willoughby de Eresby family history is too large a subject to be covered here, but a look at this historical family from this wonderful church is really worthwhile, especially through its family mausoleum.

Another famous person connected to this church is a literary one; Charles Kingsley was a locum vicar here for a short while, and it is reported that he wrote either Hereward the Wake or The Water Babies while he was at Edenham.

REFERENCES
A Short History of Grimsthorpe, The Trustees of the Grimsthorpe and Drummond Castle Trust.
St Michael's, Edenham, Church Guide.
The Church of St Michael and All Saints, Edenham, Visitors Heritage Guide.