LINCOLNSHIRE PAST & PRESENT
No. 10/11 - Double Issue

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The deadline for contributions to the next Bulletin and the Summer issue of Lincolnshire Past & Present is Saturday, 15 May 1993. Material should be sent to the Joint Editors at Jews' Court, Lincoln LN2 1LS (0502 521337). It will help the Editors greatly if articles are sent typed, double spaced and with a good margin. A note of the number of words is of great value. More detailed 'notes for contributors' are available from Jews' Court (please enclose s.a.e.).

Cover Picture:
Detail of nineteenth century freshwater floods in the parish of New Leake, north of Boston, exact date not known. Source probably Illustrated London News.
EDITORIAL

Welcome back to *Lincolnshire Past & Present*, to an enlarged 'double' number. At the time of writing the future plans for the magazine have not been determined, but there is no likelihood of it disappearing altogether.

As usual we have a wide range of topics, from aeroplanes to trotters, and we hope that all readers will find something of interest. Despite the Society's name we receive very much less than half the contributions with an archaeology angle, apart from industrial archaeology. It is probably a good sign that local historical matters are not as compartmentalised as our committee names might suggest, but it is sometimes worrying that one can still meet people who regard archaeology as a subject totally unconnected with other aspects of local history, such as landscape history, for example. Some archaeologists may need greater efforts to put across the message that the study of the remains of past human activity is extremely wide ranging.

If you feel that there is any bias towards certain parts of the county (which can easily occur when there are a number of fairly regular contributors), please let us know, and we will try to cover the neglected areas in some way, perhaps pictorially. Or send in a piece yourself, however small. The editors do urge, however, two related constraints. One is that we do expect contributions to be original (apart, that is, from extracts out of obscure or generally inaccessible sources). The second is that the item concerned has not been used by, or submitted to another magazine. We have twice been embarrassed by this latter situation. Readers do not take kindly to it, especially if they have paid twice, so to speak, and it takes space which someone else could have used!

Hilary Healey,
Joint Editor.

FROM THE 1992 AUTUMN NEWSLETTER OF
THE ANCIENT MONUMENTS SOCIETY

BARTON ON HUMBER NATIONAL SCHOOL, Queen Street. The Society was pleased to support the successful local campaign to secure the listing of this building which, although architecturally modest, is exceptionally important, having been designed by architect William Hee Dykes in conjunction with Samuel Wilderspin, the pioneering originator and promoter of infant education, who settled in Barton in 1844.

THE GLANFORD (BRIGG) BUILDING PRESERVATION TRUST is to repair the grade II* listed building at 51 Fleetcote, Barton on Humber, South Humberside. This extraordinary melange encompasses fourteenth century timber framing, a mid eighteenth century rebuilt front and an exceptional series of late nineteenth century advertisements papered to the ceiling of the front shop, together with a domestic scene and another showing a London Railway Station (all of which are to be kept in the repair). No. 6 remains the most complete example of a medieval town house in S. Humberside outside Beverley. The framing reveals stylistic links with examples in in Hull, all of which have now been demolished and others, that survive, in York.

In item concerning the consecration of Wainfleet All Saints Church, the date of the *Stamford Mercury* should have read 1822 not 1882.
Apologies to Teresa Williams.
LINCOLNSHIRE TURF MAZES AND ASSOCIATED SITES
Part 1
John Wall

Fig. 1  Dalby ‘Classical’ Turf Maze, North Yorkshire

1991 was designated ‘The Year of the Maze’ in recognition of the 300th anniversary of the Hampton Court Palace maze. However, there is a class of maze which is much more ancient than the hedge-maze, of which the one at Hampton Court is the most celebrated example. That is the turf maze, a construction almost exclusively confined to Britain.¹ About 110 are believed to have existed, about 40 sites have been identified with some certainty, of which only eight remain.

Four turf maze sites have been identified in Lincolnshire. Three— at Horncastle, Appleby and Louth—are now lost. The fourth, at Alkborough, still remains in a good state of preservation. It ranks among the finest of the surviving examples. Since ‘The Year of the Maze’ has stimulated further research on this phenomenon, it seems appropriate to re-appraise the significance of the Lincolnshire sites, together with others in the neighbouring county of Yorkshire which have a bearing on our subject.

Before we examine the Lincolnshire sites in detail, it is necessary to place the different types and designs of pre-seventeenth century mazes in their historical context. There were mazes in Britain before the advent of Christianity. They occurred in two basic designs, the Classical and the Roman, and three materials—turf and stone (Classical) and mosaic (Roman). The Classical design is very ancient indeed, and arose independently in many different parts of the world.

If, as some suppose, the maze at Alkborough was preceded on the same site by a maze of a different design it would have been almost certainly of this Classical pattern. Only two turf mazes of the type still survive in Britain. One is on private property, Troy Farm at Somerton in Oxfordshire. It consists of a path of sixteen rings. The other lies between the villages of Dalby and Brandsby in North Yorkshire. It is of the normal seven-ring Classical design, banked towards the centre, and roughly circular—26 by 22 feet. It is the smallest surviving turf maze in Europe.²

Roman mazes were primarily intended to decorate the floors of villas—the mosaic equivalent of our contemporary carpets. In contrast to circular turf and stone mazes the Roman maze is normally square, dictated by the shape of the room in which it is set. It consists of four quarters. The path traverses each quadrant before it crosses to its neighbour until it finally arrives at the
The quadrants of the Roman maze-mosaic impart to the overall design a cruciform appearance which is quite incidental. The Early Church was obliged to counter what was essentially a pagan interpretation of existing Roman maze-mosaics and Classical turf mazes. It therefore evolved a distinctive Christian design which is still common in pavement mazes in continental cathedrals, but which in Britain is represented by five of the remaining turf mazes, including the one at Alkborough. There is evidence for a continuous evolution from the angular designs typical of the Roman maze-mosaic to the sinuous, curved designs typical of the medieval period, contained within a circle. The emergence of an overall octagonal shape was a crucial stage in this transition. In this context, a turf maze recorded between the villages of Manfleet and Paul in Holderness, East Riding has a special significance. Although the exact site is now uncertain, a plan made in 1815 shows it to have been uniquely dodecagonal, twelve sided, and 40 feet in diameter. The complicated path conforms to this shape. The overall design represents a transition from the square Roman maze-mosaic design, as at Harpham 21 miles to the north, and the circular Christian design, as at Alkborough 17 miles to the west.

The Church early adopted the maze as a Christian allegory, initially retaining the central group of Theseus and the Minotaur as part of the design but symbolic of the complicated hold of sin by which man is surrounded and how impossible it would be to extricate himself from it except by the assisting hand of providence. The next stage in the evolution of the ecclesiastical maze consists in the transition from an allegorical to a penitential purpose. Continental pavement mazes became instruments for performing penance for the non-fulfilment of vows to go on pilgrimage to the Holy Land. Penitents were obliged to trace out the meandering path from the circumference to the centre of their knees. The final stage occurred when the maze was used as a means of penance for sins in general.

The most celebrated of the pavement mazes with the medieval Christian design, and the earliest surviving, is in the middle of the nave of Chartres cathedral in France. Forty feet in diameter, it was built in 1253, and all other mazes with the same or similar designs are referred to as 'of Chartres type.' Medieval turf mazes are the English outdoor counterpart of continental pavement mazes and almost certainly were created for similar purposes. The five still surviving more or less conform to the Chartres type, of which the Alkborough design is an almost identical copy. There can be little doubt therefore that all five lend themselves to an ecclesiastical-penitential interpretation.
The Alkborough maze, colloquially known as Julian's Bower, is dramatically situated on a bluff overlooking the Trent flood plain, 300 yards south-west of the parish church. It consists of one convoluted path in eleven concentric rings, the whole 44 feet in diameter, which places it in the middle range of the known examples. Its current appearance – deeply sunk in a hollow, the effect of many centuries of restoration, weed pulling, and the removal of loose soil from the 'barriers' between the turf pathways, which has gradually lowered its level below the surrounding ground – suggests that it is of considerable antiquity.

The earliest written reference occurs in the *Diary of Abraham de la Pryme*, written at some time between 1671 and 1704. "They have at (this) town, as also at Appleby, two Roman games, the one called Gillian's bore (that is, at Alkborough), and the other Troy walls (that is, at Appleby). They are both nothing but great labirinths cut upon the ground with a hill cast up round about them for the spectators to sit round about on to behold the sport." However, an inscription provided on the spot by the Alkborough Maze Committee states, *inter alia*, "Because of a likeness to a maze pattern in medieval French churches it has been suggested that Julian's Bower was cut by monks from Walcot (the village one mile south-west of Alkborough). In fact, whereas there is no record of any monastic establishment at Walcot, the church at Alkborough (no doubt with additional conventual buildings) was itself a cell of Spalding Benedictine Priory from some time after 1052 when it was given to the Priory by its founder Thorold, until 1220." True, it was a small cell, for a prior, three monks, and a secular chaplain, but it was Spalding's only dependency. When, in 1534, prior to the Dissolution, all monastic establishments were assessed for their value, the Temporalities of Spalding included the Grange at Alkborough, but more to the point, in Spiritualities the Rectory at Alkborough, with six others. So Alkborough's monastic associations and credentials are impeccable. On the other hand, Walcot had no monastic establishment, other than a small hospital for lepers, dedicated to St. Leonard in 1311. There was a chapel at Walcot – quite independent of the hospital – but it seems to have been a chapel-of-ease to Alkborough, and consequently served by Alkborough's priest, not the reverse."
If the medieval Christian maze at Alkborough was first cut under monastic influence, it would most probably be during that period when Alkborough was a cell of Spalding Priory, that is at some time between 1052 and 1220. The difficulty with this proposition is that it would not only constitute the Alkborough maze, the earliest of its kind in England, but also antecedent to the earliest known pavement maze to the same design on the continent, at Chartres cathedral, which was laid down in 1235. Prototypes of the design do exist in manuscript form, in a Vatican MSS dated 860-862 A.D., and, more formally, in a 10th century MSS from Montpellier. It is possible that the medieval Christian maze design was introduced to England by the Norman-French after the Conquest, but in the absence of further evidence the priority of the Alkborough maze must remain in doubt.

For long the most controversial explanation for the origin of turf mazes in Britain in general, and at Alkborough in particular, was advocated by William Stukeley, the 18th century traveller and antiquarian, in his *Itinerarium Curiosum*. He maintained that the class as a whole dates from the Roman occupation and owes its origin to a particular practice of the Roman army (described below). Since the *Itinerarium* was first published in 1724 it has become fashionable to question Stukeley's assumptions and to discredit some of his observations. However, much recent scholarship has tended to rehabilitate at least some of his conclusions.

In the *Itinerarium* Stukeley makes mention of four turf mazes in England, all of which in his day were colloquially known as Julian's Bower - the first appearance of the name in print. Three are in Lincolnshire - at Alkborough, Horncastle and Appleby - and one in Northumberland, at Carvoran. It was Stukeley's visit to the unique survival at Alkborough in Abraham de la Pryme's footsteps, but some decades later in 1724, which prompted him to elaborate his theory as to the origins of turf mazes in general, or at least those which then or formerly bore the name Julian Bower. Since his theory depends absolutely on the proximity of a maze to a Roman site, the relevant paragraphs from the *Itinerarium* for all four sites are here quoted in full (modern spelling).

Alkborough 'From the termination of the Ermine Street, just by the knoll of Old Wintringham, ... a lesser vicinal branch of a Roman road goes directly west to Alkborough (which) I visited, because I suspected it the Aquis of the Romans, in Ravenna, and I was not deceived, for I presently descried the Roman castrum. The Roman castle is square, three hundred foot each side, the entrance north the west side is objected to the steep cliff hanging over the Trent, which here falls into the Humber. The vallum and ditch are very perfect: before the north entrance is a square plot called the Green, where I suppose the Roman soldiers lay pro castris: in it is a round work, formed into a Labyrinth, which they call Julian's Bower.'
Horncastle (BANOVALLUM) 'Near the confluence of the two brooks was a pleasant garden, and a place called Julian’s Bower'.

Appleby 'In Appleby is a place called Julian’s Bower.'

Carvoran (VOREDA - CAER VORAN) 'We observed the Maiden-Way coming over the fells from the south, where it passes by a work, or labyrinth, called Julian’s Bower.'

Stukeley’s text for Alkborough is accompanied by a carefully drawn plan which plainly shows all the features mentioned in the foregoing extract. It is as clear a picture of the received version of a standard Roman fort, of ‘playing card’ plan, as we could wish. It is surrounded by ramparts and ditches, with principal entrances in the centre of the north and south sides. But was Stukeley mistaken? Our problem is that no such fort has ever been excavated on the site, or has otherwise been demonstrated to have existed there. The latest (1991) edition of the Ordnance Survey Map of Roman Britain, which incorporates the advances which have been made in our knowledge of Roman military sites, roads and place-names to date, has no reference to any Roman remains at Alkborough proper, other than an isolated find which may well be that Claudian brass coin which Stukeley himself saw at his castrum.

The problem is compounded by the fact that this is a commanding site overlooking Trent Falls, at the confluence where two major waterways, the rivers Trent and Ouse become the Humber. One feels instinctively that the Romans would have chosen it as the strategic site for a fort, however temporary, in preference to any other in the district. Even today there is clear evidence of a ditch and bank on the north side. It might be objected that this feature properly belongs to the seat of that Countess of Warwick who lived here, according to Stukeley’s informants - hence the phrase inscribed in the centre of the ‘fort’ on his plan ‘The Roman Castle Call’d Countess close’. There were no marks of buildings in Stukeley’s day which might have provided the evidence - ‘nor, I believe, ever were.’ A century later, in 1816, a lady traveller had pointed out ‘a deeply engraved mazy device called a Julian Bower’, a field still called ‘Countess of Warwick’, and the remains of a Roman encampment. The site warrants a priority archaeological investigation to resolve the many questions which it poses today.

There is only one other Julian Bower site which can be attested with any certainty, in addition to the four which Stukeley recorded, and one at Louth, but it is highly significant. A farmhouse with this name in the parish of Brougham, Westmoreland, is located two miles west of Kirby Thore, the site of a Roman fort BRAVONIACUM. It can be no coincidence that this is the southern terminus of the Roman road known as Maiden Way by whose northern terminus at Carvoran, MAGNIS, as we have seen, Stukeley observed a ‘labyrinth’, also called Julian’s Bower. This south-north Maiden Way led the lateral Roman road now called the Stanegate, just to the south of Hadrian’s Wall, from Carlisle, UXEBLONUM, to Bowes, LAVATRIS. During his travels in this region, recorded in ITER BOREALE in the Itinerarium, Stukeley passed through Brougham on his way to Carlisle and thence along the Roman Wall. Fortuitously, whilst visiting and recording the northerly Julian’s Bower, he failed to visit by a few miles the southerly site of the same name. One senses that had he done so its significance, even though by association, would not have escaped his attention.

Although Stukeley initially recorded a maze at only two of the four Julian Bowers - at Carvoran and Alkborough - he subsequently assumed a maze at Appleby and at Horncastle by association, and observed that all were at or near what he knew or believed to be Roman sites. This co-relation led him to propose a Roman origin for the class as a whole, in a lengthy passage which follows his description of the Alkborough maze. ‘Because I have frequently found these places called Julian’s Bower, both at Roman towns and others, but especially very common in Lincolnshire, I consider what should be the meaning of them ...’ To paraphrase Stukeley: it was a custom of the Romans to train their sons in the martial arts, by means of appropriate games. The game devised for boys who aspired to the cavalry consisted of simulated manoeuvres on horseback, which enabled them to practice the ambushes and skirmishes of a real battle. The game had a complex set of rules. Although it fell into abeyance in the late republic, it was revived by Julius Caesar and Augustus.
So much we also know as historical fact from independent sources. Beyond that, however, Stukeley enters the realm of legend, and in particular Virgil's *Aeneid*, a national epic designed to celebrate the origin and growth of the Roman Empire. The groundwork is the legend that Aeneas, after the fall of Troy and long wanderings, founded a Trojan settlement at Latium - the source of the Roman race. In this narrative the Trojans, having first returned to Sicily, celebrate the anniversary of the death of Anchises with sacrifices and games at his tomb. The games conclude with a riding display by 36 youths in three companies led by Priam, Atys and Julius, the favoured son of Aeneas, who is the chief. It was this Julius who is credited with bringing back to Rome the game for apprentice cavalrymen known as the LUDUS TROIAE. He was the ancestor of the gens Julius, a distinguished patrician clan of Rome. To this gens belonged Gaius Julius Caesar, and Augustus through his adoption by Caesar. The Latin Julianus, a derivative of Julius, in due course became Julian. 38

Virgil's narrative gives an actiological account of the origin of an intricately choreographed drill for apprentice cavalrymen, presented as a game. The interweaving movements of the several units are dictated not by a constricting pattern of hedged paths laid out on the ground (a maze proper), but by remembered and rehearsed directions and oral commands. The connexion with a maze or labyrinth is made by Virgil only in a figurative sense:

In ancient times in mountainous Crete they say
The Labyrinth, between walls in the dark,
Ran cross-cross a bewildering thousand ways
Devised by guile, a maze insoluble,
Breaking down every clue to the way out.
So intricate the drill of Trojan boys ... 39

Stukeley does recognise the metaphorical nature of Virgil's lines: 'the movements of the game) were aptly represented by mazes and labyrinths, which very Comparison Virgil uses.' However, he goes on to treat Virgil's maze-metaphor as if it was a statement of fact: 'It is likely these works of ours, made in the turf, were cast up to teach the children the method of it.' It was then but a short step to identify the game's chief exponent Julius (Julian) with the eponymous title by which he knew four sites in England, two of which were certainly turf mazes as confirmed with his own eyes.

Clearly Stukeley can be charged, to an extent, with uncritically accepting legend as history. Our difficulty is that there is an acknowledged core of historic fact embedded in the legend. Moreover, there is nothing inherently improbable in Stukeley's conclusions, however questionable the reasoning which gave rise to them. We do not know when, if ever, the elaborate choreography of the equestrian LUDUS TROIAE was given physical expression in the form of paths on the ground, or how those paths were delineated. What is clear is that such manoeuvres would have required a considerable space, and that English turf mazes in no way measure up to such parade-ground specifications. Assuming that some of them were later overlaid with a medieval Christian pattern whatever their original design, they are patently intended to be traversed on foot. Stukeley recognises this difficulty when he distinguishes between the game as performed on foot on the one hand, and as performed on horse-back, or in chariots, on the other. Although 'the intent of both was to exercise the youth in warlike activities, the equestrian games of this denomination required more room and apparatus for spectators.' He seems to rule out turf mazes as venues for the latter when he acknowledged that they required 'a large sort of amphitheatres or circ(us)ces.'

If Stukeley is right in attributing turf mazes to the Roman occupation of Britain, then they must represent either a diminutive arena for a pedestrian game - a degeneration of what was originally a 'live' cavalry training ground - or a scaled-down model for a cavalry training circuit to be laid down elsewhere. In the same passage Stukeley also gives his account of the origin of the second term in Julian's Bower. This signified, not an arbor, or pleasant shady retreat, but was rather a corruption of *borough* 'or any works made with ramparts of earth, as camps and the like.' A case in point is Carrawburgh, BROCOLITIA, one of the forts on Hadrian's Wall.

Those who dispute Stukeley's conclusions and claim that all Julian Bower mazes are to be dated after the Conquest should be able to offer a convincing alternative explanation for the name, and for the 'coincidence' that all are to be found at or near Roman sites.
We can now complete our examination of the Alkborough turf maze, and proceed to the remaining Lincolnshire sites.

A passage in *Notes and Queries* for 1866 records a correspondent's lively impressions of the pleasure derived from the feat of 'running in and out' about the year 1800, and of seeing the Alkborough villagers at this time playing May-eve games on it 'under an indefinite persuasion of something unseen and unknown co-operating with them.' We have here an allusion to the later practices associated with turf mazes, some of which survived well into the nineteenth century.

With the decline in influence of the medieval Church came a corresponding decline in the ecclesiastical rituals performed at turf mazes. It is probable that some fell into disuse long before the Dissolution of the Monasteries. Many were not then abandoned, however, but simply taken over by the rural population for their own secular purposes. In particular mazes proved ideal arenas for games which featured in village festivities, including races along the turf path to the centre. The titles of some of these games which, by association, were applied to the mazes themselves, testify to this change of use - for example 'Shepherd's Race' and 'Robin Hood's Race'. In the passage in which Stukeley writes about turf mazes in general he adds: 'the boys to this day divert themselves by running in it one after another, which leads them by many windings quite through and back again.' In some cases earth banks were cast up as vantage points for spectators, as Abraham de la Pryme witnessed at Alkborough.

A well-known passage in Shakespeare's *A Midsummer Night's Dream* is not an indication of neglect in Elizabethan times, but simply an allusion to the effects of the weather:

> The nine men's morris is fill'd up with mud,
> And the quaint mazes in the wanton green
> For lack of tread are indistinguishable.

During the Puritan-dominated Commonwealth, 1649-1659, maze-games were included among those secular pursuits which were either discouraged or outlawed. Turf mazes themselves, perhaps for the first time in their history, were uniformly disused and fell into disrepair. With the Restoration in 1660 maze games once again came into their own. Turf mazes then continued in secular use well into the 18th century, long after their religious associations had faded from folk memory.

There is an oral tradition which associates the Alkborough maze with the nearby River Trent. A river spirit known as Gur (from Aegir) took exception to the cutting of the turf maze on the hillside above his river, and to visiting Christian pilgrims. To frighten the visitors to 'Jerusalem' (as this maze was also known locally), he sent a great wave up the river in an attempt to wash the maze and pilgrims away. The effort was in vain for the wave was not high enough to do any damage. Nevertheless he continues to try with each spring tide when the Trent Bore (a small tidal wave caused by interaction between the outward flow of the river and the incoming tide) races up the river past Alkborough.

The design of the turf maze at Alkborough is repeated in three other formats elsewhere in the vicinity. All derive from the known interest in the maintenance of the maze shown by a lord of the manor in Victorian times, Mr. J. Goulton-Constable.

On the floor of the porch of the parish church of St. John the Baptist, less than 300 yards north-west of the prototype, a six feet diameter circular copy is laid down in the form of a stone pavement maze. The 'barriers' between the paths are marked with dark cement. This was created by Mr. Goulton-Constable in 1887 during a restoration of the church to ensure that the design of the turf maze would be preserved should it ever become overgrown. A small replica of the design four inches in diameter is inset in one of the lights of the east stained glass window above the altar. Finally, and appropriately, the design is engraved on a metal plaque in the centre of a stone cross which marks the grave of Mr. Goulton-Constable, erected in 1922, in the west corner of the village cemetery 600 yards south-south-west of the church.

*(To be concluded in the next issue)*
NOTES:

1. By way of contrast, the stone maze, in which the barriers or borders alongside the path consist of stones set on edge, occurs almost exclusively in Scandinavia. There are over 500, mostly along the shores of the Baltic Sea.


5. The Harpham mosaic was formerly on display at Hull City Hall. At the time of writing it is created during restoration work. The author has proposed that it should be displayed, in context, with the outstanding collection of Roman mosaic pavements at the Museum of Transport and Archaeology, High Street. David J. Smith, Roman Mosaics at Hull (Hull, 1987). For the Harpham Mosaic, ibid., pp.42, 21; T. Sheppard, Roman Villa at Harpham, Hull Museum Publications 22 (1994), pp.6-8, fig. 1; T. Sheppard, 'Ancient mazes at Harpham and Pompeii Compared', Trans. East Riding Antq. Assoc., 24 (1923), pp.68-72, fig. 7; Revd. C.V. Collier, 'The Roman remains at Harpham', ibid., 13, pt 2 (1907), pp.141-52, figs. 3-5.


8. Dr. G. Mann, Repository of Arts, 13 (1815), fig. p.552; William H. Matthews, Mazes and Labyrinths, Their History and Development (1922), p.78 (hereafter M. & L.); Notes and Queries, ser. 3, 10 (1866), p.283.


16. ibid., 1, p.96.

17. ibid., 1, p.31.

18. ibid., 1, p.95.

19. ibid., 2, p.59.

20. ibid., 2, Pl.17 'Prospect of Aukborough - Aquis of the Romans. 24 July 1774.' (Plates 1-46 of vol.2 illustrate sites described in vol.1).

21. ibid., 1, p.96 n.

22. This was that Countess Lucy who was wife of Ivo Tailbois, owner of the Norman manor.

23. S. Hatfield, The Terra Incognita of Lincolnshire (1816), p.69. Engravings of the Alkborough maze are published in ibid., facing title page; An Historical and Descriptive Account of Lincolnshire, 1, (1828), p.176; Trollope, 1838, fig. 5, and 1858, fig. facing p.238, as cited in note 9 above; William Andrew, The History of the Protection etc. (1856), p.78. Andrew equates Julian Bower with 'The Green' of his day.

24. The turf maze at Hinton, Cambridgeshire, is an exact copy of the Alkborough maze and it is also called Julian Bower. However, it was created by one William Sparrow in 1600, as an inscription on the centre testifies. It was probably laid down to commemorate the Restoration. Cambis. & Huntis. Archaeol. Soc. Proc. 3 (1914), p.244.


27. Stukeley, 1, p.97. This remark must be based on hearsay since in the Itinerarium Stukeley details only four Julian Bowers specifically - three of them in Lincolnshire.


29. Aeneid, Bk. V, 146. Virgil has a further reference to the legendary prototype of the maze, at Cnosos in Crete, in ibid., Bk. VI, 160:

   Here, too, that puzzle of the house of Minos.
   The maze none could untangle, until, touched
   By a great love showed by a royal girl,
   Eile, Dadiclus himself, unravelled all
   The baffling dead ends and turnings in the dark,
   Guiding the blind way back by a skein unwound.


32. As recalled by Miss Annie Tongue, at Alkborough, in 1920 when she was about 73 years of age.

GRANTHAM'S UNOFFICIAL FLYING MEETING

Malcolm Baxter

AEROPLANES NEAR WHALE-BONE LANE
21 4 14
GRANTHAM

It is impossible for us today to imagine that only two generations ago the merest glimpse of an aircraft in the sky was enough to bring people out of their homes, and the sight of one actually landing was capable of bringing out the local populace for miles around. In July 1911 the whole country seemed to go mad over the possibility of, what was for many, seeing some of these new-fangled flying machines for the first time. The occasion was the Daily Mail Circuit of Britain Air Race, the winner of which would receive a prize of £10,000. The inhabitants of Grantham were no exception to this apparent madness, especially when a map was issued by the Daily Mail. This showed the possible route to be taken by the aeroplanes and it indicated that Grantham might be a likely place from which to catch sight of some of the competitors as they flew on the second leg of the race from Hendon to Harrogate. They were expected to fly over or close by the town at about 5.30 a.m. on Monday 24 July. Many of the local inhabitants were speeding on their way to vantage points before 4.00 a.m., some travelling as far as Melton Mowbray and Saxby. In fact two points were the closest any of the aeroplanes were to get to Grantham, leaving the many who crowded into the streets and surrounding vantage points severely disappointed.

The man responsible for Hendon being one of the checkpoints in the Circuit of Britain Air Race, and one of the great pioneers of aviation in this country was Claude Grahame-White. He learnt to fly at Bleriot’s Paris factory. In fact he helped build an aeroplane there for his own use and on 5 November 1909 he flew it, after a fashion, without any instruction! Within 6 months, on 23 April 1910, he was attempting to win a prize of £10,000 offered by the Daily Mail for the first successful flight between London and Manchester. Owing to engine trouble and then his aircraft being damaged by high winds Grahame-White was literally ‘pipped at the post’ by a Frenchman, Louis Paulan. Paulan had started from a field at Hendon and afterwards Grahame-White visited the site and realised that it would be suitable as a permanent landing ground and it was here that he set up the London Aerodrome where many early British aviators learnt to fly.

To help popularise aviation in this country, amongst many schemes, Grahame-White sent men and machines all over the country giving flying exhibitions. Between 1912 and 1914 they gave over 500 exhibitions and took up into the air over 1200 passengers. One of these exhibitions was held at Blankney on Wednesday 15 April 1914 and was intended to raise funds for local charities supported by Lady Londesborough of Blankney Hall. Two aeroplanes were to participate, a Bleriot monoplane piloted by a Frenchman, Monsieur Philippe Marty, and a Grahame-White tractor bi-plane being flown by Mr. R.H. Carr. They both left Hendon at 7.35 a.m. on Tuesday 14 April with the intention of flying non-stop to Blankney. They followed the Great North Road and by 8.30 a.m. they flew over the village school of Great Ponton, (about 4 miles south of Grantham).
One of the school children, Mr. Leonard Ashton who celebrated his 90th birthday in September 1991, remembers at first hearing and then seeing the aeroplanes flying over the village and then making off over Little Ponton and the heathland beyond, towards what is locally known as Whalebone Lane where he could clearly see the two aeroplanes coming into land. These were the first flying machines he and his school chums had ever seen and at first they didn't even realise what the two machines were. Both at home and school they had heard very little, if anything at all, of the new flying machines and up till then they had not even seen an illustration of one.

The two aeroplanes had had to land prematurely owing to the pilots having lost their way! The Grahame-White bi-plane was the first to land, in what looked from the air, a suitably flat field in good open country. Unfortunately as it landed the undercarriage became stuck in the, (as it turned out), rough ground and the bi-plane was pitched nose forward into the ground. Luckily the pilot was uninjured and after the other aeroplane had landed safely the bi-plane was soon righted. After examining the bi-plane it was found that its engine had seized whilst coming into land. In order to get the aeroplane back into the air a new engine was sent for from Hendon. It was hoped it would arrive by late afternoon. Whilst they waited hoards of sightseers came from all over the district (see illustration). Amongst these were Leonard Ashton and his school pal Reggie Pizer who left Great Ponton school at dinnertime and ran to the landing site, a distance of about a mile and a half. When they arrived there were not that many people there and they were both able to have a good look round the two machines. They returned to school in time for afternoon lessons by which time a goodly number had arrived to view the aeroplanes and, during the course of the afternoon, more and more people arrived at the landing site coming from all directions. There was a large addition to the crowd in the late afternoon when many of the workmen from Hornsby's engineering works, upon leaving work at 5.00 p.m., immediately proceeded up Somerby Hill to the landing ground. Most arrived in time to see the new engine, which had arrived just before 6.00 p.m., being installed by Grahame-White himself who had motored up from London. The engine was replaced in less than an hour and arrangements were immediately made for the two aircraft to take off. The bi-plane was the first to depart and the noise of the propellor startled many in the crowd who had never heard or seen an aeroplane before. After a safe take-off the pilot made a wide sweep of the field and after acknowledging a tremendous cheer from the crowd with a wave of his hand he made off in the direction of Blankney. The monoplane was then made ready for flight and it too had a safe take-off and after again circling the field took off in the path of the bi-plane. By 7.30 p.m. the crowds were all making their way home after what was for most of them their first close up view of a flying machine.

Unfortunately this wasn't the end of that day's misfortune for at least one of the pilots. After about half an hour in the air the Frenchman, Mons. Marty, in the Bleriot monoplane again lost his bearings and had to put down at Southrey, two or three miles to the North East of Blankney. The Lincolnshire Chronicle reported that 'The aeroplane was soon the centre of attraction to a large crowd, which had assembled almost as if by magic. It was most amusing to watch the arrival of the villagers - lameness, weakness, obesity, were all forgotten in the exciting hurry to be on the scene at the earliest possible moment.' Mons. Marty, taking no more chances, proceeded to Blankney leaving his monoplane under the watchful eye of a Mr. G. King. Mons. Marty returned at 8.00 the next morning accompanied by Claude Grahame-White. The aeroplane was immediately prepared for flight and the two of them returned to Blankney without any further misadventure.

The official flying meeting took place that afternoon, Wednesday 15 April, in the Park grounds at Blankney. A large crowd had gathered and included spectators from Lincoln, Grantham and Sleaford. The meeting was opened by Grahame-White who gave a 10 minute display in his bi-plane. The greater part of the afternoon was taken up by the French aviator, Mons. Marty, giving flights to a great number of people. The afternoon finished with Mr. R.H. Carr giving a display of aerobatics which included "looping the loop". The afternoon raised £23 8s. 6d. of which £10 was given to the Blankney Village Association with the remaining £13 8s. 6d. going to Scopwick Church.

It is interesting to consider that after all the interest and excitement caused by these events Grantham Journal described the 1911 Air Race as the 'sight of a life time' - that within 6 years the skies around Grantham would be literally full of aircraft. By early 1917 two Royal Flying Corps aerodromes had been established near the town, both of which were engaged in training young pilots for the Western Front. One of these, which later became known as R.A.F. Spitalgate, was only a few hundred yards from where the two planes had landed in 1914.
NOTES AND QUERIES

Edited by Terence Leach

10/11. WILLIAM PENDRILL OF REVESBY J.A.C. Baker, The Pendrill Family History Society (18 Craiglands Crescent, Lichfield WS13 7LU) wishes to have information about William Pendrill, who farmed at Revesby and whose will dated 1584 shows that he held extensive lands there. Mr. Baker knows that there were Pendrills one hundred years later in Sibsey and others at Timberland in the early 18th century. It is believed that William Pendrill was the ancestor of the Pendrill family which arrived at Boscobel in about 1633 and were instrumental in the rescue of Charles II. Mr. Baker also asks if there is any evidence that the Jews of the Sephardim, expelled from Spain in the 16th century, settled in Lincolnshire.

10/11.2. THE SIBTHORP FAMILY IN NORWAY Penny Lee Johnson (Boks 150 4230 Sand Norway) would like to get in touch with anyone who has information about Montagu Richard Waldo Sibthorpe (b.1848) of Canwick Hall and his life and travels to and in Suldal, Norway, where he went salmon fishing from 1885 to 1915. He would have taken his family, friends and some servants with him to his summer house there called Lindum.

10/11.3. THE REV. HENRY GRIFFIN PARRISH OF LEAK Kate Taylor, Hon. Publicity Officer, Friends of Wakefield Chantry Chapel, 19 Pinder's Grove, Wakefield, WF1 4AH seeks information about this clergyman, who exchanged his living with the Rev. Joseph Dunne in 1881. This exchange took Parrish to a very down-town, new industrial district in the heart of Wakefield. He did a good deal to secure the medieval Chantry Chapel on Wakefield Bridge and a local newspaper said that he had been energetic in improving his church at Leake, and that he built a mission church. Miss Taylor seeks any information on his time at Leake and would like to know if he was involved in the school in the parish.

10/11.4. TOTHILL Mr. Norman Desforges (21 Jinks Avenue, Kinver, Stourbridge, W. Midlands DY7 6AQ) wishes to have information on the history of Tothill - especially of the manor and church. His ancestor Rev. Peter Desforges was Rector of Tothill 1682-1725 and was a French Huguenot.

10/11.5. CROSS O'CLIFF BRICKWORKS, LINCOLN Dennis Mills writes:
I was interested in Stewart Squires' note on the Cross O'Cliff Hill Brickworks in the Journal for 1992, pp.48-9, because I had recently been looking at directory entries for brickworks in Bracebridge, the parish in which this works was situated. I had assumed that this was the brickyard described in White's 1856 Directory of Lincolnshire as situated in Bracebridge and belonging to a Mr. Ward, with a William Mills in residence. I had also linked this Ward with the Charles Ward mentioned by Sir Francis Hill (Victorian Lincoln, pp.124-5), as a builder employing 125 men in 1851 and the owner of another brickyard north of the race course.
Subsequent correspondence with Stewart Squires has revealed a mistake in White, for Charles Ward's brickyard south of the city was not in Bracebridge, but at Swine Green, in the city parish of St. Botolph, on a site subsequently crossed by the Honington-Lincoln line. This much is shown by Mr. Squires' study of railway plans, as well as further directory entries. And the William Mills was in fact William Miles or Myles. The moral of the story is that it is always better to use two directories rather than one, especially perhaps for premises near a boundary.

More positively, I am able to add a little detail for the Cross O'Cliff Hill Brickworks. About 1914 my father was employed as an errand boy by Zachariah T. Priestley, a butcher at 4, High Street, Lincoln, premises within less than half a mile of Cross O'Cliff Hill. My father assisted with Mr. Priestley's slaughtering work which was carried on in the old brickworks buildings. This work might account for some of the evidence of animals found by Mr. Squires. Readers today might be appalled at the unhealthy conditions in which slaughtering could then take place, but may be relieved to know that the 13-year-old was spared the sight of beasts being stunned by a sledgehammer. When a beast's legs had been tied and it was lying on the concrete floor, my father took the halter rope and retreated out of the door, pulling the rope tight around the doorpost to keep the beast's head still. When the tension on the rope slackened he knew the deed had been done.
10/11.6. MYSTERY PICTURES (LP & P 4 p.29) John G. Porter has sent the following note:
I would expect that Ruby Hunt will have solved John Johnson Bartram (& Son) grocer, draper, boot & shoe dealer, stationer, clothier, furniture & carthenware dealer, glass & china dealer, postmaster, Market Place, Donington.
The Boston picture is of Joseph Dickinson builder & contractor, 47 West Street and would have been approximately opposite the Municipal Buildings.
No. 43 was Charles Day, hardware & general dealer.
No. 45 was William John Hiram Wood, LRCP, MRCS, surgeon, M.O. public vaccinator for Skirbeck District. I always understood that Dr. Wood's daughter Gertrude Marion - first girl in Boston to ride a bicycle - married my uncle Arthur Porter.
Assume Charles Day developed into Days Cash Stores which building may have swallowed up neighbours?

10/11.7. MYSTERY PICTURE.
THE BEACON, DONNA NOOK
(North Somercotes parish)
Member Garland Grylls wonders whether anyone can tell him anything about this structure, depicted in a (faded) postcard posted in N. Somercotes on 16 May 1908. From the scale of the people standing (and climbing up), who may not show too well on this reproduction, he estimates the tower to be about 75ft high with the base about 35ft square. It seems to be of wood, but a vast structure resting on brick or stone [Editor favours brick] piers each about 15ft high. Garland visited the site a few years ago and spoke to RAF officers at the present bombing range control tower, but they knew nothing of it. He was unable to find any clues above the high tide mark or to locate the row of coastguard cottages shown in the right background, but thinks that the location of the tower may be TF 438978 or TF 432992.
Was it perhaps taken down in 1914, or affected by changing coastlines?

The Beacon Donna Nook. Card posted 16.5.08

10/11.8. JOHN BETTS, Violin Maker I am researching into the life of John Betts, the violin maker, who was born in Stamford, Lincolnshire, in 1755. His workshop was in the Royal Exchange, London, and he died in 1823. I am particularly interested in any catalogues or records of sales of his instruments, as I hope to trace the history of a particular viola made in 1781.
I would be grateful for any information you might be able to give on documents or records held locally, which pertain to Betts' life. (Mrs. Lydia Richardson).

10/11.9. COMMERCIAL ROAD, Barnby-le-Wold. Can anyone tell me where this road was? It appeared in the 1881 Census and parish rate books up to the turn of the century, at least.
(J.F. Wilson).
THE L’OSTE FAMILY OF LOUTH IN THE EIGHTEENTH CENTURY

Pauline Franklin

The first L’Oste to be associated with Louth in Lincolnshire was the Reverend Charles L’Oste, my great great great great grandfather who became vicar of that Parish in 1711.

He was born in Amiens, France in 1680 and was the eldest son of Charles L’Oste and Susanne de Beaureins. Charles senior was a Huguenot Minister who refused to conform to Catholicism after the Revocation of the Edict of Nantes by Louis XVI in 1685 and was executed. His widow Susanne and her young son Charles joined with the dead man’s brother Francois and his wife in fleeing the country and after many days of travelling under very hazardous conditions the refugees arrived in Canterbury where they lived for almost twenty years, along with many other French Huguenot refugees who had settled in that city. They were allowed to worship in the crypt of the Cathedral in what was known as the Walloon Church.

At the age of twenty Charles left Canterbury to study Philosophy and Theology at Geneva Academy. His leaving certificate shows him to have been an outstanding student who was very popular with his fellow men:

Charles L’Oste, Student in Divinity, the person who bears this testimonial is a most excellent and praiseworthy young man ... he remained amongst us five years during which time he applied himself to his studies with great ardour and success ... he altogether gave himself up to the study of Philosophy with such success that what he had learnt he was able to teach. Turning his attention to Theology he made a satisfactory progress ... above all, he tempered his natural endowments with so much piety, so much modesty, so much candour and lastly with so much judgement as to conciliate the love and patronage of all men. Whereas, at his departure we dismiss him with marks of peculiar affection and recommend him to all, both Pastors of the Church and Doctors of Christ, as of a superior order. Given at Geneva on the third of June in the year of the Christian Era 1705.

On returning to England Charles joined his mother, uncle and aunt in London where they had moved from Canterbury in 1704. He was ordained as a deacon in January 1706 after which he spent several years as a tutor to the Lowther family of Westmorland before returning to London to be ordained as a Priest at St. Paul’s Cathedral in December 1709.

He then served as a minister at the church of St. John, Wapping (which was used by French speaking congregations) until he was appointed vicar of Louth on 26 July 1711 ‘on presentation by Queen Anne by lapse’. On 30th January of that same year he had become a naturalized citizen conforming to the regulations contained in an ‘Act for Naturalizing Foreign Protestants’ which was introduced during the reign of Queen Anne. In those days most clergy were allowed to have two livings but in the case of Charles L’Oste this was not possible as is explained by Norman Sykes in his book Church and State in the 18th century (1934): ‘It was ironical that dispensation could not be granted to Charles L’Oste, Vicar of Louth, to hold in plurality the Rectory of Coningsholme 6 miles away, because, although he had spent five years as a Student and Tutor at Geneva Academy, he was not a graduate of the English Universities.’

In 1714, at the age of 34, Charles married Isabel Lodge and they had four children, but sadly all died in infancy. Isabel herself died in 1719 and shortly afterward Charles married Mary Fenwick who was many years younger than he and who was to outlive him by fifty-five years. Charles and Mary had five children, three boys and two girls, who all survived to adulthood.

In June 1724, whilst Charles was vicar, Bishop Reynolds of Lincoln visited Louth and afterwards compiled a very comprehensive report which was headed ‘a true copy of Terrier of all the house, lands, tithes, dues and customs belonging to the Vicarage of Louth, taken by us whose names are unto subscribed the tenth day of June, Anno Domino 1724.’ It was signed by Charles L’Oste, vicar and Robert Attwell, John Monks, John Cook and William Dighton, churchwardens. The witnesses were Luke Barton and Frederick Fenwick who was the vicar’s father-in-law. In the report there is a description of Louth vicarage where my ancestry and his family resided:

The Vicarage house, rebuilt, frames of wood double walled with earth and thatched with straw, containing three rooms on a floor, with brewhouse and other offices, and four chambers, a little stable, and two places without roof (commonly called belfries) adjoining to the house, and the house adjoining the churchyard and one garden or orchard near half an acre of ground.
In those days there were two services on Sundays and one on other days at the Parish Church. Holy Communion was on the first Sunday of the month. The whole of the Bishop's report is printed Notitiae Ludnse (1834).

Charles died suddenly in September 1730 at the age of 50, leaving his wife with five young children, the eldest of whom was only ten years of age. He left no will and an inventory had to be made of his possessions and the contents of the vicarage. The 'Hall and Pantry' were said to contain 'three small tables, a looking glass, seven chairs, three pictures, twelve pewter dishes, twenty-four pewter plates and other implements', the total worth being three pounds six shillings. The Hall was probably the main room of the house where the family lived and took their meals. The contents of 'two chambers and the kitching' are also listed followed by a list of animals in the pasture:

15 cows, 7 calves, 1 bull, 2 heifers, two steeres, 18 sheep, 41 ewes, 30 sheep hoggs, a sow, 6 piggs, 6 swine and 42 more pigs, 2 mares and a foal.

After the deduction of debts owing the Estate was said to be worth £95 13s. 10d.

Charles had probably not found it easy to manage financially as we can deduce from an entry in the Register of Bishop Reynolds dated 18 December 1730 which says 'The Vicarage of Louth is vacant. Louth is a populous market town but the profits of the Vicarage are so slender that they are far from sufficient for the fit maintenance of the Vicar.'

Charles' widow, Mary, probably received some help from her family after her husband's death and fortunately for her another L'Oste had arrived in Louth in 1723 who became a 'second father' to her five children. He was the Reverend Joseph L'Oste, her husband's cousin, son of Francois L'Oste, the French refugee who had helped Charles and his mother escape from France in 1685. Joseph was appointed Curate of Grimoldby in 1723 and later served as Curate of Stewton and Withcull before finally being appointed Vicar of Alvingham and South Cockerington in 1741. These places did not have a vicarage and Joseph lived in Louth for the rest of his life. It is known that he rented 6l. Westgate from George Jolland from 1767 to 1774. Joseph was also usher (assistant master) at Louth Grammar School for over fifty years and took care of the education of the three sons of his deceased cousin Charles, encouraging the eldest (Charles 2) to study for the church and so keep up family tradition. A letter still exists which he wrote to Charles in 1746:

Cousin, Tho' I am of the Opinion with Hesleden that a certificate is quite needless I have, nevertheless sent one with this letter. We are afraid you had but a very indifferent Journey especially the last day to Oxford. As you mentioned your having got well to Digby but take no notice of ye Horse, your Silence inclines me to think his Cold is returned. I doubt his legs were sadly cut by ye Frost. Pray let him be well kept and looked after. Everything here is in Status Quo and your friends remember themselves to you. And I am, in haste,
Your affectionate cousin Joseph L'Oste. Louth Feb 15th 1746.

P.S. Let us have intelligence you can give us from Brigen [?] how my Horse does and how he has performed his Journey wither etc.

Joseph sounds very worried about his horse but he no doubt had to travel from Louth to his two parishes on horseback and his horse would probably be his most prized possession. The certificate he enclosed for Charles (2) read:

Charles, son of the Rey. Mr Charles L'Oste and Mary his wife, baptised November the 23rd in the year 1721 as appears by the Register of the Parish of Louth. Signed Wm. Hesleden, Curate, John Wood and Richard Morley, churchwardens.

Charles was about to be ordained priest and no doubt thought he may have to produce evidence of his date of birth.

Joseph L'Oste did not marry until he was fifty years of age and he and his wife Elizabeth had fourteen children, only six of whom survived childhood, one son and five daughters. Joseph was one of the signatories to a petition sent to the Prebendary of Louth in 1778 requesting that Wolley Jolland, son of George Jolland, be considered for the vacant position of Vicar of Louth. History records that the petition was successful. Joseph was already 78 years of age when he signed the petition and by 1779 the Governors of Louth Grammar School were doubtful of his ability to carry
on as assistant master. The following note is to be found in the Warden’s Minute Book:

We, the underwritten, being the Major part of the Members of this Corporation do resolve immediately to transmit to the Lord Bishop of Lincoln an extract of so much of the Charter of King Edward the Sixth as relates to the Masters of the said School and his power therein, and also a particular state of the Age, Health and Abilities of the present usher the Reverend Joseph L'Oste, desiring his opinion thereon, whether the said Mr L'Oste is so far insufficient as not to be a proper person for the Duties of that office? Signed, Cha, Clarke, N. Wrigglesworth, Robt. Lee, Jn. Robinson. 16th November 1779.

We conceive that Mr L'Oste the usher's insufficiency or incapacity for the Duties of his Office, being involuntary and proceeding from natural causes may prove an Assistant which he is ready to do, and therefore not within the province of true Intent and meaning of the Charter.

What the Bishop of Lincoln answered in response to this query is not recorded but Joseph did not live much longer, dying at the beginning of 1781, so the problem would then have been solved.

Joseph's only son, yet another Charles, left Louth when he was in his twenties and the only facts known about him are contained in the notice of his death which occurred in 1802:

Charles L'Oste, son of the Rev. Joseph L'Oste, Vicar of Alvingham and South Cockerington, at Bersted, Sussex aged 43, a bachelor, late of Cornhill, London, belonging to the India House at the time of his decease, a very excellent man and a good Christian.

We note that he died a bachelor therefore the name of L'Oste came to an end on Joseph's line. The only one of Joseph's daughters who married was Josepha, the youngest, who became the wife of the Reverend Miles Popple of Welton nr. Hull in 1794. It is believed that they had one son whom they christened Edmund.

The name of L'Oste continued however on the line of the Reverend Charles L'Oste, late Vicar of Louth, through his three sons, Charles (2), Frederick and John Alphonsus, my great great great grandfather. The only one who remained in Louth all his life was Frederick as Charles (2) became Rector of Langton-by-Horncastle and Greetham, living in Horncastle, and John Alphonsus went to London in the 1750's and became a stationer. Frederick, who was born in 1723, kept a grocer's shop at No. 1, The Market Place, Louth and in 1781 he leased it to Adam Eve, the founder of the firm of Eve and Ranshaw which is still in existence today on the same spot. (David Robinson has told the story of this firm in his publication *Eve and Ranshaw, Double Century* (1981).)

Frederick married twice, his first wife being Elizabeth Hill of Alford. They had a large family but again only six survived childhood, three boys and three girls. Elizabeth died in 1790 and Frederick married Naomi King who was very much his junior and outlived him and all her step-children. She had no children of her own. We find a number of the L'Oste men in the eighteenth century marrying twice because so many women died in childbirth in those days. Frederick took a very active part in the life of the town and held the post of Warden seven times - in 1765, 1772, 1778, 1783, 1790, 1796 and 1804.

He became involved in several controversies whilst he was a member of the Corporation which had been set up by a Charter of 1551 and stated that a Warden and Six Assistants should govern the town. This applied until 1836 when the Municipal Reform Act was passed.

In 1762, when William Willerton was Warden and Frederick L'Oste was an Assistant a row blew up which split the members of the Corporation and caused much bitterness. George Jolland (who later was to become the landlord of the Reverend Joseph L'Oste) managed to get himself appointed as Town Clerk. He was already a member of the Corporation however and the tradition was that no man could hold these two posts at the same time. Jolland however was a very determined man and he managed to get the Warden and three of his Assistants to sign his appointment document which meant that there were two dissenters. One was John Cracroft who wrote under the other signatures 'I protest against the Election, he being an Assistant'. Richard Goulding described George Jolland as 'an attorney-at-law, a somewhat combative and unscrupulous character who often got involved in controversy'.

Jolland remained as Town Clerk and also as a member of the Corporation for the next twenty years despite an effort to oust him in 1780. A Minute of the Corporation dated 20 April 1780 reads:
Whereas frequent Notice has been given to Mr Jolland, the Town Clerk to this Corporation to attend the meetings of the Warden and Assistants which he has both verbally and in writing refused to do, we think it necessary to remove him from the said office of Town Clerk, and have this day in pursuance of a Bond given to the said Corporation for that purpose dated the 18th day of December 1762, ordered Notice to be given to him or left at his house.

The Corporation members were still at logger-heads over this affair and Frederick L'Oste added a note protesting at the above decision and so did John Inett who wrote 'I being called away and absent at the time of making this protest do concur with Mr L'Oste'. Underneath this comment George Jolland had the audacity to protest also and entered the following in the Minute Book 'and so do I as far as in me lies as a member.' This meant that the Corporation was split by four to three in favour of Mr. Jolland resigning but he still refused to do so and continued to hold both positions until his death in 1782.

We already know that the Reverend Joseph L'Oste signed a petition requesting that Jolland's son Wolley be appointed Vicar of Louth in 1778 and Frederick L'Oste signed the same petition so it is obvious that the L'Ostes were on the side of George Jolland despite his being described as unscrupulous!

Frederick was involved in another controversy in 1786 when the members of the Corporation decided to ask for tolls and stallage from the market tradesmen. Not surprisingly they resisted fiercely and in February 1786 proceedings were taken against Mr. Wilcockson who was among their number. Frederick L'Oste contributed one fourth of the cost of taking him to court. The action was unsuccessful and Richard Goulding states in _Louth Old Corporation Records_ (1891) that the Corporation had to pay £113 18s. 4d. which was half the Legal Costs. It is doubtful if Frederick L'Oste was very popular with the market traders after this fiasco!

Frederick passed away in 1807 by which time most of his children had left Louth. His eldest son Charles, had travelled to London in 1781 and opened a mercer's shop. His second son, Joseph, had entered the church and was Rector of Postwick, Norfolk. At the time of Frederick's death his youngest son George must have been a prisoner of war according to an entry in _Gentleman's Magazine_ dated January 1815:

George L'Oste, son of the late Frederick L'Oste, died at Louth recently aged 45. He had lately returned from 9 years captivity in France.

Frederick's daughters Sarah and Elizabeth both married Londoners and the remaining daughter, Mary, became the wife of the Reverend Robert Leake, Vicar of Tetney, in 1703 and was therefore the only one to remain in Lincolnshire all her life. Frederick's wife Naomi outlived him by forty years but did not remarry and lived with her maid Mildred Willson at 140 Eastgate, Louth until her death in 1847. She had the lease of land at Mallard Ings Close. From her will we discover that she was very friendly with Ann Fytche, a cousin of Alfred, Lord Tennyson. She was not the only L'Oste left in Louth after the death of her husband as most of the grand-children of the Reverend Charles L'Oste (2), Vicar of Langton-by-Horncastle, left their birthplace of Horncastle and made their homes in Louth. I hope to tell something of their lives in a future article.

NOTE:
There is a more detailed account of the family in my book 'The L'Oste family of Lincolnshire' a copy of which can be found in the archive departments at Lincoln, Louth and Grantham libraries.
LINCOLNSHIRE AND THE EMPIRE - WIRELESS COMMUNICATION

Stewart Squires

Lincolnshire is not synonymous with wireless communication, although the need for it in connection with the sea and with aircraft has been expressed on the coast and by the RAF, and still is today. However, time was when the County played its role in maintaining contact between the mother country and her Empire, a little known role, evidence of which still survives today.

Not surprisingly, as wireless developed the government became increasingly interested in its possibilities. So much so that by early in 1914 they signed a contract with Marconi to design and construct an Imperial system. Some preliminary work was carried out but the contract was cancelled after the outbreak of war that year, with the company being awarded £600,000 in compensation, but only after a battle in the courts.

The Great War gave a stimulus to development in the field but the idea of an Empire system lay dormant until afterwards when a Marconi engineer, C.S. Franklin, carried out experiments using short waves and newly developed valves. He showed that world wide communication was possible using very large arrays so as to concentrate transmitter energy and receiver sensitivity in a specific direction. Such stations were to become known as Beam Stations.

The first of these stations was built at Dorchester and was so successful that a Marconi subsidiary Imperial and International Communications Ltd. was formed. It was awarded Government contracts to design, construct and operate an Imperial system. This was the first instance of a commercial firm being involved in the operational side as up to this time other stations in the UK were operated by the armed services or by the Post Office.

The Imperial system resulted in the following stations being provided:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Station</th>
<th>Call Signo</th>
<th>Date opened</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bodmin (England)</td>
<td>GEK (to Canada)</td>
<td>24/25 Oct. 1926</td>
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<td>Bodmin (England)</td>
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<td>Grimsby (England)</td>
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<td>Grimsby (England)</td>
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<td>Drumonville (Canada)</td>
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<td>Drumonville (Canada)</td>
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<td>Ballan (Australia)</td>
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<td>Ballan (Australia)</td>
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<td>Kirkee (India)</td>
<td>VWZ (not known)</td>
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The local interest in this worldwide chain is centred on what was known as the Grimsby Station. In fact, however, the transmitter was at Tetney, and the receiving station at Burgh le Marsh.

The stations were very extensive in area, about 200 acres plus. They comprised an open field on which stood a number of very tall masts, over 200 feet in height. Nearby was a small complex of buildings. These buildings housed apparatus, stores and accommodation for a few maintenance staff. Operationally, the sending and receiving of messages was carried out from London by remote control. This was to save air time and in the interests of economy, and was by high speed mechanical means.

The date at which the system ceased to operate is not known at the time of writing. However, the system has left a legacy in the County, although largely unrecognised for what it was.

No masts survive, but at both Tetney and Burgh le Marsh buildings still exist. Complexes of very distinctive Twenties style red brick buildings with slate roofs, and with raised and coped gables have their walls divided by brick pilasters with corbelled brick heads.
The Tetney buildings stand adjacent to, and east of, the A16 road, north of the village, at OS TA314028. The masts were in the fields to the south and east, the bases of some of them probably marked by the row of three square plantations near to the road on the village approaches. The Burgh le Marsh site is much less prominent. It was to the south of a minor road from Burgh le Marsh to Winthorpe, the surviving buildings at OS TF520656. The masts were also in the fields on the south side of this road.

The surviving buildings give a strong impression of permanence, of having been built to last. Those at Tetney seem to have an assured future for the time being, as workshops housing an industrial user. Those at Burgh le Marsh, however, have only limited agricultural use. How much will survive in the future, only time will tell.

Fig. 1  Surviving Buildings at Burgh le Marsh

Fig. 2  Surviving Buildings at Tetney
ROLLING STONES

Hilary Healey

A slight alarm was sounded during 1992 when the Elloe Stone (scheduled Ancient Monument no. 8) was reported missing. This stone is part of the shaft and the upper part of a wheel cross (Pevsner p566) of probable tenth or eleventh century date with very weathered interlace decoration, and had been re-erected on a small inscribed plinth by the Dring family, on whose land it was situated, in 1911. The stone was known to the antiquarian William Stukeley, who understood it to have marked a former wapentake meeting place:

Old men tell us, here was kept in ancient times an annual court, I suppose a convention, sub die, of the adjacent parts, to treat of their general affairs. A wood hard by is called Elhostone Wood.

Elloe stone wood has gone the way of Holbeach and Fleet woods, and the stone itself is back in place on the parish boundary between Moulton and Whaplode, having apparently been removed for repairs. No harm appears to have been done, but it is surprising that an item that is both Scheduled Ancient Monument and Listed Building can be moved around, even for its own good, without anyone being aware that special consent is required!

A similar occurrence has taken place with another Scheduled Ancient Monument in which Lincolnshire has some interest, that is, one of the boundary stones of Crowland Abbey lands. The cross shaft and base currently known as S. Vincent's Cross formerly stood in a field at National Grid Reference TF258 055, on the then Lincolnshire/Soke of Peterborough boundary. In 1990 the cross was re-erected in a nearby farmyard away from its original position and on a new plinth. An inscribed stone marks the spot where it used to stand - well, it marks a spot 15.25m east of where it used to stand!

The name S. Vincent's Cross seems to be of relatively modern origin. A.S. Canham, the Crowland antiquary, writing in the 1880s about the boundary stones in "Fenland Notes and Queries", Vol. VII, names this stone as 'Turketyi's Cross' - Turketyi being one of the Abbots of Crowland. However he gives the name of a cross base and shaft just down the road at Singlehole Farm (also site of a medieval chapel) as 'Finsete' or 'Fynset' and it seems likely that 'Finset' has been corrupted to Vincent and the name transferred to a different cross. Incidentally the real 'Finset' has also recently been re-erected, but is on its original site.
The other surviving boundary stones described by Canham are the well-known 'Guthlac's Stone' at the Brotherhouse Bar end of Cloot Drove (incorrectly described as 'Brothershome' in the Listed Buildings 'greenback') and 'Kenuph's Stone' close to the Welland, which was repaired in 1817 and marked 'H' and 'K' to indicate the Holland and Kesteven county divisions. Two other stones, however, which used to lie south-west of Crowland may no longer exist. These are 'Greynes' and 'Folwardstaking'. They were situated literally on the county boundary, which meant that they were in the middle of fields, and would obviously have been something of an inconvenience. Folwardstaking was last seen in the 1960s, lying on the edge of a dyke, and slightly broken. Greynes, which lay 'a few fields' to the east, may well have been moved to a farmyard!

Fig. 3  Greynes

Fig. 4  S. Guthlac's Cross

Fig. 5  Kenuph's Stone

Fig. 6  Folwardstaking
THE LINCOLNSHIRE TROTTERS

Thomas Ryder

During the second half of the eighteenth century, a strain of fast trotting horses appeared in the Fen district of South Lincolnshire and began to attract a good deal of interest among horsemen both locally and further afield. Most of them traced their descent from a stallion called the Schales's Horse, believed to have been foaled about 1756, a son of the good racehorse, Blaze.

Much of what we know of the Schales horse is derived from old newspaper advertisements, chiefly found in the Norwich Mercury. Henry F. Euren, editor of the Mercury from 1873 to 1906, took a great interest in the trotting horses of East Anglia and compiled a stud book of the breed, mostly based on information taken from the newspaper files. Unfortunately, it was the common practice of stallion owners in those days to name their horses after their sires. This repetition of names caused quite a lot of confusion even among their contemporaries, but it must have been a nightmare for poor Mr. Euren. No less than eighty-two stallions with the name Schales are recorded in his stud book. All of them were descended from the original Schales, but none of the advertisements so far discovered tell us who 'Schales' was, supposing that was the name of the owner of the horse, nor where he lived, nor anything about the horse's achievements as a trotter and I am trying to discover a little more about the horse's origins.

Following the announcement by Mr. Euren of the proposed publication of his stud book in 1884, the Hackney Stud Book Society was formed at a meeting in Norwich in June, 1883. Mr. Euren then became the Society's secretary and his book became the first volume of the Hackney Stud Book.

We do know a little more about the horse's most famous son, Scot or the Schales horse, more often in his case spelled Shales. Euren believed that this horse, which he called Scot Shales, was born about 1762, but the earliest record he could find of him was taken from an advertisement in Norwich Mercury of 4 April 1772:

The noted Scot or Schales's horse, now the property of Mr. Jenkin, will cover this season, 1772, at Long Sutton in Lincolnshire, at one guinea a mare, and one shilling the servant, the money to be paid at the stable door. Though he has got so much good stock out of common mares, his pedigree is but little known; he was got by a son of Blaze, and Blaze by Childers; out of a well-bred Hunter.

It was on the evidence of this one advertisement that Euren registered Blaze in his stud book as sire of Shales whereas John Lawrence, a writer who lived in the late eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries and who remembered the horse, stated in his History and Delineation of the Horse, published in 1809, that he believed that Shales's sire was the Duke of Ancaster's Blank, also a thoroughbred. However, I have found an advertisement in the Stamford Mercury of 27 March, 1807 which supports Euren's belief:

Young Scott or Shales rising four years old. Property of William Bayes will cover at Gedney at one guinea, and one shilling the groom. Got by Thistleton's Old Scott by shales which was got by Blaze, his dam by Joseph Andrews, his grand-dam by Duke of Ancaster's Driver out of a Shuffler mare. Shuffler's dam by Foxhunter. Young Scott will be at Holbeach, Long Sutton and Wisbech.

No record has been found of any trotting performances of Scot Shales and even less is known about another son of Shales. This horse was named Driver and Euren has recorded his sire as Shales and his dam as a mare by Foxhunter. An advertisement in the Stamford Mercury, of 13 April 1792 gives a different version. This advertisement is of Young Driver, owned by James Robinson of Thrapston, Northants and goes on:

Young Driver is allowed by competent judges to be one of the Completest Trotters in England. He was got by Driver, late property of Mr. Freeman, which was a very capital Hunter. Driver was got by Old Driver by Scott, the noted Lincolnshire horse, his dam by the Duke of Ancaster's Driver - Young Driver's dam was a good Road Mare and could trot 16 miles within an hour.

This suggests that Driver was a son of Scot Shales, not the original Shales, and his dam was by Driver and not by Foxhunter. But I suppose this does not matter all that much as the blood is much the same in either case.
It was a son of Driver that had a most important influence on the breed of trotters. This horse was Thomas Jenkins's Fireway, number 201 in the Hackney Stud Book and the first of a seemingly endless line of Fireways. This horse was born about 1780 and Thomas Jenkins lived at Lutton near Long Sutton at that time. The horse proved to be an impressive getter of good trotting horses, and his name spread far beyond his native fen. In 1789, Jenkins was persuaded to take the horse to London where he remained at stud for five years, being advertised at a fee of five guineas a mare. Jenkins then moved back to Lincolnshire, to Holbeach. In an advertisement in the Stamford Mercury of 14 April 1794, in which the horse's name was changed to Pretender, it was announced that he would be available at Wisbech on Saturdays, Spalding on Tuesdays, Boston on Wednesday and at Holbeach for the remainder of the week.

Fireway's dam was a mare by the thoroughbred stallion Joseph Andrews, a son of Roundhead by Flying Childers, the sire of Blaze. Flying Childers was the fastest horse of his day and one of the pillars of the General Stud Book. That Fireway was inbred to such a horse must have had something to do with his being the fastest trotter of the day and a most potent sire. This may have come about almost by chance as both Blaze and Joseph Andrews were owned in partnership by John Luck and Joseph Smith, two gentlemen living in Beverley. It is possible that Joseph Smith had some connection with South Lincolnshire as he advertised a 'fine bay horse' for the season of 1740 from an address in Long Sutton. At all events it seems that Smith took one or other of the two horses to various locations in the breeding season, ranging from Scorton near Richmond in Yorkshire to Holbeach in South Lincolnshire. In 1765, Joseph Andrews was advertised for sale in the Stamford Mercury by Joseph Smith giving an address in Lincolnshire. The horse was then 22 years old but it seems that he was used for a few years after that date.

Jenkins's Fireway's best son was Young Pretender owned by Christopher Woot. Presumably this horse was also bred by Jenkins as the dam is shown in advertisements as T. Jenkins's mare by Joseph Andrews. The same mare had another colt the year before Young Pretender was foaled, the sire in this case being William Allenby's Atlas, a son of the Duke of Devonshire's Atlas, a racehorse. Allenby's Atlas had made a name for himself as a sire of hunters, but the colt out of Jenkins's mare proved to be an outstanding trotter. Woot's Pretender also showed himself in trials against the clock to be at least as good as his half-brother and, one supposes, there was the usual bragging on the part of supporters of both owners. The result was a match between the two which took place in August, 1792 on a sixteen-mile stretch of road between Huntingdon and Cambridge. The horses were ridden but the weights each carried were not published. Pretender was the winner, finishing in 57 minutes and Christopher Woot duly took the stakes. It appears that W. Allenby was far from happy at the result, or so it seems from a challenge addressed to Allenby that Woot published in the Stamford Mercury the following April. It was a rather wordy piece but the following extract tells most of the story:

I am informed from good authority, that you did at Fredike, on your return Home from the Race, throw out several unjust Reflections upon my Horse and the Company who attended me at the Match, declaring that the sole Cause of your losing [sic] was owing to your being among a Set of Blacklegs and Gamblers, who crossed your Horse on the Road, whipped him, trod on his Heels and took every Method in their Power to throw him out of his Trot, which you said they did do. These assertions, Mr. Allenby, are as unfounded as they are illiberal; the Persons who accompanied me during the Race were chiefly respectable Farmers and Graziers round this Neighbourhood, whose Characters will entirely do away with any Idea of such unfair Advantages being either directly or indirectly made use of.

The challenger then goes on to offer to perform the match again with the same weights and distance for five hundred guineas each side.

No record has been found of the match being trotted again, and it is not likely that it did. It appears likely that this was owing to W. Allenby being taken ill and his death was reported a few weeks after Woot published the challenge.

Woot's Pretender was sold to Thomas Rotsey, a stallion owner and innkeeper in Market Weighton, East Yorkshire, when he was more than twenty years old. He sired some good horses in that part of the country, chief among them being Ramsdale's Performer, 'Old Bob Ramsdale's delight,' according to a story about the Market Weighton trotting horses that can be found in Saddler & Shirloin by 'The Druid' (W.H. Dixon).
It appears that these Lincolnshire trotters were the result of using good thoroughbred stallions on mares that must have been themselves good trotters. That such mares were to be found in the Fen district is interesting. It is said that there was once a race of good trotting ponies native to the Fens but it has long been extinct. The possibility of such ponies being the foundation stock from which the Lincolnshire trotters sprang is supported by the well-recorded tendency for their descendants to occasionally produce pony foals even when both parents were of horse size. Another possibility is that some of the renowned ‘harddraver’ trotters from the Netherlands were brought to South Lincolnshire in the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries and introduced their trotting proclivities into the horses of the Fens.

Perhaps we shall never know the answers to such questions, but the writer of these notes would be very interested to hear from anyone who may have information about any of the early horses named above and the men who handled them. Their descendants were shipped in their hundreds to many parts of the world and they passed on their trotting abilities to other breeds such as the Hungarian trotters and North Star warmbloods, the American Standardbred trotters, and the French Anglo-Norman horses. In this country their descendants are the high-stepping Hackneys and Hackney ponies that are still a popular feature at some horse shows.

![Horse buyers from California at the Norbury House Stud](image)

I do not know the names of the Americans, but the gentleman with a dark moustache in the centre is Mr. Sidney B. Carnley. He was a solicitor in Alford who joined the Hackney Horse Society in 1894. He had a lot of success in showing a harness horse named Norbury Squire in the 1890's and he then set up a breeding stud of Hackneys. He bought a very good stallion and two mares at the dispersal of the Earl of Londesborough's horses at Market Weighton in Yorkshire in 1898. He continued breeding horses in a small way until about 1930 and he died in his eighties about 1948.

The horses in the picture are named as Norbury Councillor, Norbury Royalist and Norbury Roosevelt, all sons of champion Rosador. I do not know if the Californians bought any horses. The picture is dated March 31, 1907.
A MUSEUM OF DRAINAGE

Betty Kirkham

Members may be interested to hear of the new museum at Anderby and to learn a little of how it came into being.

For those who are not familiar with the coastal area Anderby is a small village situated half way between Chapel St. Leonards and Sutton-on-Sea. It is in two parts, the village proper with the Church, set about two miles inland from the coast and a separate little community close to the sea hills. This latter is known as Anderby Creek and is where the Anderby main drain runs out to sea.

Here where the coast road crosses the drain, in 1946, in response to the need for better drainage Alford Drainage Board built a pumping station. It houses two 10 H.R.C. Ruston diesel engines and two Gwynnes pumps. These have given excellent service for nearly fifty years and are still in working order.

Anderby Pumping Station Museum

In 1991 in order to increase efficiency and reduce manpower the Board decided it was necessary to have a more modern system of water management. To this end a fully automatic station with electric submersible pumps was installed. Supplied by the Bedford Pump Company the submersible pumps were placed in the outfall channel on the north side of the old pumping station. The banks of the drain were re-shaped so that the water would converge on the new pumps.

An automatic weed screen has been installed. This replaces the old system where, in order to remove all the weeds and debris which float towards the pumps, a man had to fasten himself by means of a safety belt to an overhanging rail and with a long rake manually haul up the debris. This was appallingly hard and dangerous work and sometimes had to be carried on for many hours, even through the night.

It is like watching a giant toy in action to see the new automatic system clearing the screen of weeds. By means of an overhead gantry and special equipment the weeds are brought up from the
screen and deposited into a skip, the whole system moving along the weescreen as necessary. All this without any men being involved.

With this new system in place the Board decided to retain the old diesel engines and pumps in case of emergencies. Rather than maintain the old pumping station standing idle they wisely decided, on the suggestion of their Chairman, Mr. John Hill, to open it as a museum. The writer was asked to be Honorary Curator and help to get the project 'off the ground'.

At present the museum houses the two original engines and pumps and another 8 H.R.C. Ruston diesel engine donated by another museum. The pump belonging to this engine has been located in a scrapyard in Cambridge and we hope it will be placed alongside the engine shortly. A variety of land drain tiles from the collection of Mr. J. Vickers of Saltfleetby has been made available. Alford Drainage Board have given some tools but if any former drainage worker or farmer has drainage tools lying unused and could donate them to the museum we should be most grateful.

Mr. Colin Hinchcliffe, Clerk to the Board, made ready many of the Boards archival papers which have been photocopied for use in the museum. Mr. Perry, retired workman, has given his original contract dated 1955 for 'rodging' drains at 4 shillings per chain. another retired workman Mr. T. Barker has provided interesting photographs. A display of archaeological material going back to the Roman period found during drainage works is on show. Local firms have been very helpful. G.R.S. Electrics, Louth have provided and fitted special spotlights. Jewsons Timber Merchants of Louth have provided all the timber for the large notice board. The Works Manager, Mr. R. Dewey has lettered this and has also made the display boards and table. Mr. K. Granger, builder of Mumby has made a safe room to store materials. Bedford Pumps have also made a donation.

It is hoped that the museum will be of interest to tourists and schools as well as drainage workers and men who love engines. We hope anyone who has memories of drainage and floods will come and see us and allow us to write down their memories before they are forgotten.

This is not Alford Drainage Board's first practical contribution to conservation. During the work on The Mill Rundle Stream at Alford they have co-operated with the children from John Spendlove School who are studying the flora and fauna of the stream. To assist them the Board have dug out to a greater depth than the base of the stream two separate 100 metre stretches in order that plants and living creatures in the water may survive during times of drought.

It is good to see commitment to conservation shown in such practical ways. The Board are to be congratulated.

[Footnote: for those who may not be in the Alford area there are also Drainage Museums at former pumping stations at Timberland Fen (North Kesteven District Council) and at Pinchbeck Marsh (South Holland District Council. Contact the Districts concerned for details of opening times.]

From: The Lincoln Rutland & Stamford Mercury, Friday, 4th March 1825
"The Rector of Epworth, the Reverend George BECKETT, has presented his Parishioners with a beautiful organ in the church, which was performed upon for the first time on Sunday last.”

From: The Lincoln Rutland & Stamford Mercury, Friday, 1st April 1825
The inhabitants of Hundley have presented to their late respected Curate, the Reverend I. RUSSELL, Master of Spilsby School, a handsome silver cup as a token of the esteem in which they hold that gentleman's character both as a private christian and a minister of the Gospel. By a punctual and conscientious discharge the duties of his sacred profession, this worthy clergyman has gained the affections and best wishes of all those over whom he had presided for several years. The following engraving is beautifully executed upon the cup:

"Presented MARCH 21st A.D. 1825
To the Reverend Isaac RUSSELL from the inhabitants of HUNDELSBY,
as a small tribute of respect for his kind attention, mild
and affable behaviour to all during the eight years
he performed the duty at their Parish Church.”

contributed by T. Williams.
LINCOLNSHIRE FLOODS
compiled by Hilary Healey

In this year when many will be remembering the high tides of 1953 we should be interested to hear from members with first hand experiences of the event or illustrations which have not been used elsewhere. A couple of pictures of Sutton on Sea are all that this joint Editor can provide. They show Dornia Cottage, Church Lane, before and after the floods, in which water stood to a depth of five feet. Church Lane was directly exposed to the notorious Acre Gap in the dunes. However, it is an occasion when some additions to the material used by Chris Sturman in his article on High Tides (LP&P6) may be of interest.

Here are some further references to the 1810 High Tide:

The first note apparently refers to the Wyberton area. It is transcribed from part of LAO MCD546, itself an unfinished typescript of recollections by one William Keall, who emigrated to New Zealand in 1868. He was born in 1839 and began writing his 'Reminiscences of my life and Family' in 1892. These include an account of his father, Robert Keall of Wyberton:

His [Robert's] father had been tenant of a small farm, but two years nearly before Robert's birth, on 10 Nov 1810, everything in the way of live and dead stock was washed away by a high tide which broke the sea bank and left many families, my grandfather's included, in total ruin. I knew my grandfather and grandmother as old people who lived in a little cottage with two rooms, and an immense bed of marigolds in the front, and a patch of potatoes and other vegetables growing close by. When as a boy, and on visits to the old place in 'Keanly boys road', I was often shown the spot where close by under the sea bank the old house and farmstead nestled, which had been the scene of disaster before my father was born.

The second piece is from the Fosdyke Overseers of the Poor accounts: My uncle, who first noted this, only gave the year and not the month, and although I have seen the original I did not note the details at the time:

Flitting the People from the Alms Houses at the time of the High Tide 10/-
taking do back again and setting up their Beds 7/-
repairing the Alms Houses 9s 2d

The newspaper source is probably the Stamford Mercury. Some inland events are also referred to, not all in Lincolnshire, in the same paper, as follows.

THE STORM - NOVEMBER 1810

We have this week to add the following particulars to the melancholy detail given in our last. Inquests by Walter Davies general coroner. On Friday last, the body of William Green, a youth about sixteen years of age, was given to Mr. William Kelsey of Boston, who was drowned by preceding day in riding down to his masters farm at Fishtoft.

On the fourteenth at Fosdyke [inquest] on Esther Tunnard and Ann Burton who were drowned by the flood inundating their cottages. On the fourteenth and sixteenth at Fishtoft on the body of a boy supposed to belong to the Amber Bay and of John Jackson and William Black, two of the crew of a vessel which was wrecked during a late gale. On the fifteenth at Gibraltar Point in the parish of Wainfleet All Saints on the body of man unknown feared drowned. The bodies of sixteen persons which had been cast into the coast by the tide were decently interred in Claxby churchyard on Sunday last. The hurricane was so violent in the neighbourhood of Moulton Chapel that it stripped one side of the house of Mr. J. Griffin there in a few minutes. Among the persons who have rendered themselves conspicuous by their philanthropic exertions on behalf of their neighbours, we have to notice Messrs. Hardwick and Parr of Kirton and Messrs. John and Henry Mowbray of Fishtoft to whose friendly aid may be attributed the salvation of much valuable property.

At Grimsby many vessels were driven on the mud shore but the whole of them were got off again without any material injury. An accident occurred on the twelfth to a man named William Smith. Whilst engaged in digging under a vessel blown on shore it gave way and he was instantly crushed to death.
Dorma Cottage, Church Lane, Sutton on Sea, before and after the 1953 flood (demolished about 1980s)
During the storm on the tenth instant a very large drooping willow was blown down at the Honourable Mrs. Fane's of Fulbeck near Grantham. Under the root was found a box containing the bones of a dog and the collar, on which was engraved 'The Honourable Colonel Monkton, Charles Barclay Esquire'. It is in the recollection of an old inhabitant that the dog was killed on account of his being mad and that a willow tree was planted at the side of his remains, upwards of forty years ago.

Mr. Carter of Fosdyke and Mr. Kemp of Fishtoft may be numbered among the greatest sufferers by this calamitous event. Among other losses the former had a thousand pounds worth of wool washed out of a granary. A mill at Moulton Seas End belonging to Mr. Wallace was blown over during the storm. The Kings Mill at Cliffe in the occupation of Mr. Gamble was also blown up. At Ketton the tempest was very severely felt. Not a house in that town entirely escaped its effects and great havoc was made among the trees in the neighbourhood.

On Friday last [still referring to Nov. 1810] aged twenty eight [died], Joseph Bird, labourer, of Surfleet. His death was accelerated, if not absolutely caused, by being a length of time in the water on Sunday... assisting his neighbours in rescuing their sheep from the inundated land.

HIGH TIDES - JANUARY 1811

That very high tides have of late years been more frequent than formerly along the coast in the neighbourhood of Boston is demonstrated by the incidents of Sunday night last when unaided in the least degree by any wind, either then or for a day or two before, the tide rose to an extraordinary height, flooded some low streets in the town and floated within six inches of the top of some parts of the sea bank in the parish of Fosdyke, exciting considerable alarm amongst those persons resident near the shore who lately witnessed its devastating effects when it did actually overpeer barriers. The Friskney, Wrangle and Leverton sea banks were also nearly overflowed. We mention this circumstance not to excite fears on the part of those who have property in the neighbourhood, because such fears would be childless and groundless, the danger admitting of ample prevention, and we are glad to add that the Commission of Sewers, some time ago saw the necessity of heightening all the sea banks and that measures are in the train of execution for putting the neighbouring country in a state of perfect security.

DR. CHARLES PLUMPTON

C.L. Anderson

Charles Plumpton was born at Louth, Lincolnshire, on 25 January, 1920. He was educated at Louth Grammar School and St. John's College, Cambridge, where he took a first in the mathematics tripos in 1940. He was then commissioned into the Royal Navy Volunteer Reserve as a radar officer and served on the North Atlantic and Russian convoy routes. His ship was torpedoed in the North Sea in 1941, but he survived the war. He went into industry for a short time but then went into academic life as a lecturer at Battersea Polytechnic (now a part of the University of Surrey). From there he went to Queen Mary College where he stayed for 30 years and became Reader and Director of Engineering Mathematics. He was awarded his PhD in 1959 for a thesis on 'Some Problems in Magnetohydrodynamics with Applications to Stellar Magnetism'. He wrote many books and papers on related subjects. He was for many years chief examiner at 'O' 'AO' and 'A' levels for the Joint Matriculation Board, the Oxford and Cambridge Board, and the London Schools Examination Board. He was also involved with the authorities in Hong Kong, the Caribbean Islands and West Africa. He was chairman of the London and East Anglian Examining Group mathematics panel. In this field an important achievement was his success in establishing the national core curriculum in 'A' level Mathematics. In addition to being a good teacher he was a keen sportsman getting a soccer blue at Cambridge, a staff cricket blue at Battersea Polytechnic and representing the Royal Navy at squash. He met Joan Lee during the war and they married in 1948. She and their son and daughter were left when he died recently, aged 72.
AN ANCIENT LINK IS SEVERED The Uffington Park Estate, with the Grade II Manor House and remains of Uffington House, is for sale for the first time since the 1670s when it was purchased by Charles Bértie. The beautiful house which he built there was largely destroyed by fire in 1904 and its remains were reduced to rubble by another fire in 1976. For many years the estate belonged to the late Lady Muriel Barclay Harvey, daughter of the Earl of Lindsey. On her death it passed to Trustees. The Manor House was formerly the Dower House, and until recently was used as a restaurant. The Manor House, Garden Lodge Cottage, laundry, stone buildings and garden statuary are listed and there are Tree Preservation Orders on all the lots.

HOLBECK MANOR near Ashby Puerorum is also for sale. It dates from the 1830s and was once the property of John Pardell, MP for Lincoln. In 1917 it was bought by Mr. Neal Green, a Grimsby businessman, who filled the picturesque grounds with fragments of buildings from all over Lincolnshire - including wrought iron gates from Eastgate House, Lincoln and other pieces from demolished country houses throughout the county.

RAITHBY METHODIST CHAPEL has become familiar over the past fourteen years to many members of the SLHA who have gone there for the Annual Brackenbury Memorial Lecture. Its condition has given cause for concern for some considerable time, and it is therefore good to know that because of the untiring efforts of the local minister, the Rev. Alan Robson, the chapel is to be restored. English Heritage have given a very considerable grant towards the cost of restoration, but more money is needed. The Brackenbury Memorial Lecture will be given this year on Saturday 10 July, when David Robson will speak about Sir Joseph Banks and Terence Leach will speak about Revesby Abbey. Donations towards the restoration of Raithby Chapel may be sent to the Rev. Alan Robson, 24 Market Street, Spilsby PE23 5JX.

SIR JOSEPH BANKS 250TH ANNIVERSARY We referred in LP&P No. 9 to the plans to mark the 250th Anniversary of the birth of Banks. Numerous events to mark this have now been finalised. Some will already have been held before the publication of this issue, but there are other events on the calendar which will be of great interest to all Lincolnshire people. Lincoln Society of Arts has a lecture on Banks by Celia Lamb at the Usher Gallery on 14 May, and the Botanical Society of the British Isles is to hold its AGM at Riseholme in that month. The Brackenbury Memorial Lecture has already been mentioned. In addition to this the SLHA has arranged a Banks Day at Jews Court on 25 September, and has joined with the Garden History Society to organise another Banks Day on 9 October. Booking forms for these will be issued to members of SLHA. Several exhibitions and other events are being planned.

ARSON IN SOUTH LINCOLNSHIRE Holland House, Spalding, described by Pevsner as ‘the best architecturally in town’ was severely damaged by arsonists on 16 Jan 1993. It was an impressive building of 1768 by William Sands Junr., fronting on the River Welland, and was in use as the offices of the DSS. It is the second recent disaster of its kind, the other victim being Pevsner’s ‘best’ building in Holbeach, an early 18th century house in High Street known as the Manor House.

Acknowledgement As this issue of LP&P will be the last in which I shall be responsible for Faces and Places and Notes and Queries, and as I shall no longer be part of the editorial team when the next issue appears, may I thank all the members who have supplied material for the columns in the past.

Please send future items for inclusion direct to the Editors at Jews’ Court, Lincoln.

32
MY D'ARCY ANCESTORS IN THE LINCOLNSHIRE DOMESDAY RECORD
AND THEIR SUBSEQUENT RELATIONSHIP WITH THE PRIORY AT NOCTON

Michael D'Arcy

My family's early connection with Lincolnshire has been brilliantly covered by Peter Michel in his article in *Lincolnshire History and Archaeology* Vol. 19, 1984 entitled: "Sir Phillip d'Arcy and the Financial Plight of the Military Knight in 13th century England". In this he traced the fortunes of my twenty times great grandfather until his death in 1264, as well as that of his father Norman d'Arcy (died 1254) and his son Sir Norman, born 1235 and died 1296. They were descended from Norman Darcy, the original Tenant-in-Chief of Nocton who was Sir Phillip d'Arcy's great great great grandfather.

In Domesday Book, compiled for William I in 1086, Norman Darcy is named as tenant-in-chief or under tenant of no less than thirty three holdings in Lincolnshire. These are identified below by their modern name and the corresponding name as recorded in 1086:-

In the area of the estuary of the River Trent

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Suburb/Site</th>
<th>Modern Name</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CROSBY (suburb of Scunthorpe)</td>
<td>- Cropesbi</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FLIXBOROUGH</td>
<td>- Flitchesburg</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ROXBY</td>
<td>- Roscebi</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>THEALBY</td>
<td>- Tedulbi</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WALSOT-ON-TRENT</td>
<td>- Walcote</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WINTERTON</td>
<td>- Wintretune</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

In the North East of the County

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Suburb/Site</th>
<th>Modern Name</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>BROCKLESBY</td>
<td>- Brachelesbi</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CAWKWELL</td>
<td>- Calchewelle</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CLAXBY (near Normandy le Wold)</td>
<td>- Clachesbi</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CROXBY</td>
<td>- Croesbi</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GREAT COTES</td>
<td>- Cotes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HARBOROUGH</td>
<td>- Aburne</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IMMINGHAM</td>
<td>- Imungeham</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>KEEBY</td>
<td>- Chelebi</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>KILLINGHOLME</td>
<td>- Chelvingholmeh</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LITTLE LIMBER</td>
<td>- Limbergham</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OWERSBY</td>
<td>- Oresbi</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SOUTH ORMSBY</td>
<td>- Ormesbi</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>STALLINGBOROUGH</td>
<td>- Stalingeburg</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SWINHOPE</td>
<td>- Swinhope</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>THORGANBY</td>
<td>- Togrembi</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ULCHEBY</td>
<td>- Ulvesbi</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WOOTON</td>
<td>- Udetone</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

In the central area - mostly South of the City of Lincoln

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Suburb/Site</th>
<th>Modern Name</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>BECKERING</td>
<td>- In Holton Beckering</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>COLEY</td>
<td>- Colebi</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DUNSTON</td>
<td>- Dunestune</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HARMSTON</td>
<td>- Hermestune</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>KIRKBY GREEN</td>
<td>- Cherchebi</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NOCTON</td>
<td>- Nochetune</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SCAPEWICK</td>
<td>- Scapewic</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SCOTHERN</td>
<td>- Scotstorne</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>STUBTON</td>
<td>- Stubetune</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TIMBERLAND</td>
<td>- Timberlunt</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
[Mr. Darcy then gives an account of Nocton Park Priory (founded by Robert D'Arcy, son of the Domesday Norman, on the family's principal holding) including the names of several Priors. This account is closely based on that given in the Victoria County History p.168-70 and is therefore omitted here.]

An interesting light is shed on the matter of gifts and grants of land to religious institutions by an entry of the D'Arcy Pedigree concerning a confirmation by King Henry III at Westminster in April 1271 of all the land given previously by the D'Arcy's to the Prior at Nocton. This confirmation, the details of which are given below, was in the time of Sir Norman D'Arcy (1235-1296) who had been one of the insurgent barons and who had been arrested in Hull in 1264. The D'Arcy's gifts were as follows:

Robert D'Arcy - the site of the Priory at Nocton: the church at Cawkwell, one carucate of land and one acre at Nocton.
Thomas D'Arcy - the churches at Dunston and Nocton.
Ralph, son of Robert D'Arcy - two plots of land at Nocton.
Robert, son of Ralph D'Arcy - 7½ acres of land at Nocton and the mill at Dunston.
Philip D'Arcy - 4 tofts, 7 bovates and 11 acres in Dunston.
Norman, son of Philip D'Arcy - his sheepfold in Nocton and 10½ acres with pasture for 60 sheep, and the marsh of Dunston.
William, son of Robert D'Arcy - 4 acres of land and ¾ acre of meadow in Nocton.
Henry D'Arcy - 7 bovates, 11 acres of land and 2½ acres of meadow and marsh land and ½ carucate of land in Nocton.
Michael D'Arcy - one bovate of land at Nocton.

This shows a not ungenerous endowment by the D'Arcys to the Priory at Nocton over the years.

Definitions:

a Carucate: As much land as could be tilled with one plough (of oxen) in a year
a Bovate: As much land as one ox could plough in a year; varying from 10 to 18 acres
a Toft & Croft: The whole holding including the homestead and attached piece of arable land.

Spelling of my Name:

There are many variations of the spelling of D'Arcy in the records. Darcy is I believe the most common, followed by Darcie. The use of the apostrophe is relatively modern.

REFERENCES:

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Gazetteer and Atlas of Great Britain; by W. and A.K. Johnston
The Domesday Book; England's Heritage Then and Now 1985 (ed. T. Hinde)
CREDULITY AT METHERINGHAM IN 1861

Terence R. Leach

One of the problems that local historians who seek information in old newspapers must face is the diverting discovery of interesting stories which have nothing whatsoever to do with the subject they are researching. Some years ago I came across the following account in the Lincoln Rutland and Stamford Mercury for March 15 1861:

The 19th Century. On Tuesday Mr. Coroner Hitchens was called upon to hold an inquest on the body of Matthew Walker, a labourer at Metheringham. On the jury assembling and being sworn the coroner observed that the deceased had reached him was of a character that partook so much of the absurd and ridiculous that he felt disinclined to attend. He thought the days of witchcraft and superstition had gone by, that fabulous stories gained no credence, but if all he had heard were true it appeared that he was in error. It had been stated that the deceased had been ill since May last and that his illness was occasioned by drinking water from a pit in the fen and that while drinking he swallowed a toad which had been alive in him ever since and that this caused his death. Since he the coroner had been here he was informed that a post mortem examination would be required. If it were to ascertain the cause of death and not to ascertain whether a reptile was alive in his body, which was an impossibility, he would not object. It to him appeared that the deceased was labouring under monomania as he had been an out-patient at the hospital where he had made the same representations and was laughed at. He also had recourse to a travelling comic, a vendor of nostrums, even for the expurgation of a toad. Then he was told by one of the boys and bobbledeehoes that parade the streets, fond of smoke. To have of Metheringham the folly they ought to have found out some means to have tempted the old woman from his hiding place as the old woman did when her daughter had swallowed a spider and thereby raised a fly to the mouth when the spider immediately came out and seized it. To be serious, gentlemen, continued the coroner, if it be your wish that a post mortem examination be made, it shall be so. The jury all expressed their opinion as to the necessity of it, to satisfy the people of Metheringham and neighbourhood. Indeed, said three or four, nothing else will satisfy them. The coroner directed a police officer to request the attendance of Mr. Bower at the house of the deceased to bring his instruments with him. The jury then went to view the body and the return of the coroner and of Mr. Bower. The following evidence was taken. Caroline Wallers stated that she was the widow of the deceased, that he had been ill since before the last harvest, he suffered great pain, which produced frequent faintings. Mr. Bower had given him some medicine, he had also been an out-patient at the hospital but no good was done, he always said he had swallowed a toad, when drinking at a pit in a field belonging to his master Mr. Gilbert, and that he felt it quite alive. A quack doctor, she does not know his name, said he was a very clever man, undertook to cure him. Coroner: I suppose you paid him. Oh yes, the first time I paid him five shillings, the second time three shillings, but my husband not being any better, I gave him up, as I could not pay him. He was recommended to smoke, and he thought himself better. Coroner: Have toads an aversion to smoke? Witness: I do not know. Coroner: Was anything else recommended? Witness: Yes, he was told to stand before the fire with a stake between his lips and the toad might be removed. Coroner: When was this to be tried? Witness: When the toad got up in his throat, but I don’t think he ever tried it. I often tried to persuade him against it, but it was of no use. He was the more certain of it because his neighbour’s grandfather, Mr. Kettleborough, when he died was seen to have something alive moving about his stomach after he was dead. Coroner: Did they show him and release the poor thing? Witness: I do not know? Coroner: Well, my good woman, it will be satisfactory for you to know that there was sufficient of toad’s flesh in the stomach to cause his death. He had a diseased heart, enlarged liver weighing four pounds five ounces, and inflamed stomach. Witness: I did all I could for him, he wanted for nothing. Moses Edmunds, shopkeeper, gave evidence of being called in just as deceased was dying. He was insensible and did not speak. The deceased was fully convinced he had a live toad in his inside and many people believed it. Coroner: I can but lament their ignorance. William Bower, surgeon, said that he was sent for on Monday morning, but found the deceased dead. He had this morning made a post mortem examination. There were no external marks. On opening the body found the lungs healthy, the liver was considerably enlarged, the heart was above the normal size and loaded with fat. The stomach was empty but was very vascular and congested. The liver was also congested. I think the diseased state of the liver and the vascularity of the stomach were sufficient to account for death. I also think that those appearances together with the fatty state of the heart was sufficient to account for the sudden death. He had heard of the absurd notion of the toad. The coroner then remarked that the satisfactory evidence as to the cause of the death of the deceased, and he hoped that it would be to the satisfaction of the inhabitants of Metheringham, and neighbourhood and would remove the absurd idea which prevailed. The jury stated that they felt sure that if there had not been a post mortem examination, and a very careful one, people would not have been satisfied. They then returned their verdict, that the deceased had died from the diseased state of the stomach arising from natural and not from unnatural causes.
BOOK NOTES

Christopher Sturman

It is now six months since I prepared the last set of notes for LP&P. A great deal of material of interest to Lincolnshire local historians has been published and the following notes must, of necessity, be brief.

ADRIAN HALL, Fenland Worker-Peasants. The Economy of Smallholders at Rippingale, Lincolnshire, 1791-1871. British Agricultural History Society, 1992. £10.00 (incl. p&p) from Dr. E.J.T. Collins, Institute of Agricultural History, University of Reading, PO Box 229, Whiteknights, Reading RG6 2AG.
REX RUSSELL, Caistor. Nettleton Branch Workers’ Educational Association, 1992. £5.50 from Mrs. Eileen Mumby, 2 Orb Cottages, Nettleton LN7 6NL.

These studies will be reviewed at greater length in Lincolnshire History and Archaeology for 1993.

[SLHA members are reminded of the special offer for Adrian Hall’s book (£7) sent with the October mailing.]


These three collections will have wide appeal (Book I of the Holbeach series has already sold over 2,500 copies). The Holbeach volume II is shorter, but the larger page size allows excellent reproduction of the photographs and post-cards. The Alan Sutton books are more substantial though they lack the discursive essays of the Holbeach collection. Janet Tierney’s survey covers Grimsby, Cleethorpes and surrounding villages, with sections on people and the area in wartime. Winston Kime’s collection is particularly successful with exceptionally informative captions which convey a great feeling for the resort and its people.


Two local publishers, Paul Watkins (Stamford) and Richard Kay (Boston) regularly issue books which appeal to the student of Lincolnshire history.

Adrian Room’s national survey has much Lincoln material - and with nearly three hundred pages is a hard-back bargain!

Stamford and the Civil War, published to coincide with the 350th anniversary, is the first modern account of this period in Stamford’s history. In addition to chronicling the course of the Civil War, Davies surveys the role of the gentry and the religious affiliation of the town. There are useful appendices and a full bibliography.

Harold Kirk-Smith’s substantial biography of the puritan divine William Brewster, prominent amongst the Pilgrim Fathers, has much to interest the local historian, particularly its account of the separatist movement in north Nottinghamshire and the Gainsborough area.
The Royal Navy in Lincolnshire is an attractive general survey of the county's naval connections from the sixteenth century to the present (the author will probably have more to relate later: he, too, has been in quest of Sir John Franklin, and will be returning to the Arctic this summer to investigate two large mounds he discovered last year).

The Navy provides a link with the final Michael Reed's *The Story of the Britannia Iron Works*: during World War II, Marshalls manufactured four miniature submarines ('X' craft). Reed's thorough and beautifully illustrated survey charts the changing fortunes of this famous engineering company founded by the Gainsborough millwright William Marshall in 1848.

Two biographies of Tennyson were published to coincide with last year's centenary, appeared too late for mention in the last number of *LP&P*.

NORMAN PAGE, *Tennyson: An Illustrated Life* (Alison and Busby, £16.99; ISBN 0 85031 848 3) is eminently readable and most attractively produced.

MICHAEL THORN, *Tennyson* (Little, Brown and Company, £20.00; ISBN 0 316 90299 3) is curnatly a weighty tome. It has received mixed reviews in the press (the copy editing is certainly sloppy) but I like its vigorous, no-nonsense approach, and its willingness to offer new interpretations.

Enthusiasts may also care to note A.S. Byatt's recent *Angels and Insects* (Chatto) which contains two novellas set in the nineteenth century: the second, *The Conjugal Angel*, powerfully evokes Arthur Henry Hallam's visits to Somersby in a way no biography has yet managed to. The flow of Tennysonian publications will continue well into 1993.

Macmillan have announced studies by Peter Levi and by Lorne Ormond; my own *Poems by Two Brothers: the life, work and influence of George Clayton Tennyson and Charles Tennyson d'Eyncourt*, written jointly with Valerie Purton, will be published at Easter (Paul Watkins, Stamford); Jim Murray informs me he also will have this book on the Tennyson d'Eyncourts and Tealby ready soon.

Tennyson brings me to three amusing curiosities/publishers' errors.

Macmillan's publicity for Peter Levi's book announced: 'But in the 200 years since his death, in 1892, Tennyson's life...'. As the *Sunday Times* (21 February 1993) observed: 'To paraphrase the Bard, someone has blundered.' J.L. Carr's entertaining novel about a provincial printing Harpole and Foxterrow General Publishers (1992) constantly refers to one of the firm's imprints, *The Bag Sinderby Church Choir's Fatal Noctambulation*... However on p.117, Bag Sinderby becomes Bag Enderby...

Finally, Hilary Healey would no doubt have been surprised to read in the 'List of Books and Pamphlets on Agrarian History' published in *The Agricultural History Review*, 40, 2 (1992) that her *A Fenland landscape glossary for Lincolnshire* had already been published. It, too, is expected soon!

Also noted:


Copies of most of these titles can be obtained through the Lincolnshire Heritage Bookshop at Jews' Court (postage extra) - open Tuesday to Saturday 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.
MICROFICHE NOTE

Simon Pawley

Lindsey Petty Sessions Settlement Examinations, ANNE COLE and ALICE MACKINDER (eds). Published on microfiche by Lincolnshire Family History Society - available from Mrs. B. Young, 41 London Road, Bracebridge Heath, Lincoln LN4 2JW. Price (for three fiches) £3 plus 30p p&p. This is a calendar of over 700 settlement examinations taken in Lindsey between 1822 and 1848. Family historians have often been rather faster than local historians to appreciate the value of such record sources. Although this is a publication primarily intended for tracing missing ancestors, its format and contents make it equally valuable to all those interested in rural life in Lindsey in the period covered. The laws of settlement were an ever-present influence on the lives of the labouring classes as they moved from parish to parish, trying (but frequently failing) to achieve the unbroken year’s hired service which would give them the prized right to settlement - and hence, when necessary, poor relief - in a particular parish. The one drawback, to many people, will be the microfiche format. This means that one must either have a reader (as increasing numbers of family historians do) or use one at a local library or Record Office. The inconvenience is, however, tempered by the economics of the situation. Publications like this would not be financially viable in conventional form and the choice is thus a version on fiche or nothing at all. Given the amount of useful primary information contained and the cheapness of purchasing the fiches themselves, it is an inconvenience this reviewer, for one, is happy to put up with.

THE WOODEN HORSE

C.L. Anderson

Most members will be familiar with the story of the Wooden Horse and how it was used to gain entry to Troy. But during the Second World War a Wooden Horse was used, not to break in, but to break out of one of the most notorious prisoner of war camps, Stalag Luft III at Sagan, Germany. Lincolnshire has produced many famous sons. We can leave out Henry IV, but Isaac Newton the mathematician, John Smith, pioneer of America, Joseph Banks, George Bass, Matthew Flinders, John Franklin and Robert Fowler, pioneers of Australia, as well as Mr. Baffin, can all be mentioned. But for ingenuity, it would be difficult to beat Roger Hargreaves MAW. Son of Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Maw, of Cleetham Hall, near Kirton Lindsey, where the family had farmed for several generations, Roger was born on 24 June, 1906. He was educated at St. Leonard’s on Sea and Oundle, and then joined the Royal Air Force and was a serving officer at the outbreak of war in 1939. He was Commander of 12 Squadron at Binbrook before taking over 108 Squadron in the Western Desert. He was shot down in August, 1942, and survived three days in the desert before being picked up by the Germans and sent to Stalag Luft III.

There the idea of using a vaulting horse as cover for making a tunnel came into the minds of some of the prisoners. The Escape Committee gave the job of building the horse to Maw, who had shown initiative in making various gadgets during his time in the camp. First he had to make tools, for the Germans did not provide saws, nails, hammers, chisels, screws or screwdrivers. Then the actual materials were a problem, for the horse was not just for show, but had to stand actual wear and tear of gymnasts doing their exercises day after day. That Maw was equal to the task was a measure of his ingenuity; it is not suggested that he did everything by himself, but he was the brains. Bits and pieces from Red Cross food parcel crates and ends of beams sawn from the roof timbers of the huts were used for the frame. The base covered an area of 5 feet by 3 feet and the vaulting horse was 4 feet high. While the athletes did their exercises other men, hidden in the horse one by one were tunnelling a way to freedom. The soil from the tunnel was carried out by the men in their pockets, then either hidden under hut floorboards or scattered surreptitiously around the compound.

Three men escaped, Flight Lieutenants Williams and Philpot and Captain Condor. Later Eric Williams wrote the book, The Wooden Horse, which was turned into a film in which Roger Maw himself featured as 'Wings' Cameron. He was actually not liberated until 1945 and, after the war he returned to his native Lincolnshire and farmed at Welton. He died on 19 August, 1992, aged 86.
LINCOLNSHIRE PLACES - SOURCE MATERIAL

Part Twenty Two

We are indebted to Eleanor Nannestad, Local History Librarian, Central Reference Library, Free School Lane, Lincoln, for compiling the material. Additional references for places already listed have been sent in by readers. Please write in if you know of an article which has been omitted. Please note that no references to articles from Lincolnshire Life are given; your local library will have copies of the Indexes to the earlier numbers, some of which contained quite useful items. The volumes of Lines. Inclosure Acts referred to are kept in the Lincolnshire Local Studies Reference Library at Free School Lane, Lincoln; they are not publications as such.

UP (unbound pamphlet) references also apply to the Local Studies Library.

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COUNTSHEAP

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LEWIN, S. An Account of the Churches in the Division of Holland (1843).

COWBRIDGE (near BOSTON)

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STONEHOUSE, W.B. History and topography of the Isle of Axholme (1839) p.309.