CONTENTS

PAGE
2  Spring editorial
3  The Story of a House and Garden Richard Lucas
6&13 Notes & Queries
7  A Tale of Two Farmsteads Shirley Brook
9  Poet in the Shadow Diane Impcy
11  Langrick in old postcards
12  Old House in Corporation Street, Lincoln original document Lincolnshire Notes & Queries 1897
14  Volcanic Eruption in Iceland in 1783
16  Bookshelf

Lincolnshire Past & Present Editors: Hilary Healey, Ros Beever
Reviews Editor: Ray Carroll - Production Editor: Ros Beever
Contributions to the next Bulletin and the Summer issue of Lincolnshire Past & Present are welcome as soon as possible. Material may be sent to the Joint Editors at Jews' Court, Lincoln LN2 1LS. Articles may also be sent on disk (Microsoft Word document) or as an email attachment to lindum-colonia@hotmail.com
Cover Illustration: Grasby All Saints' Church from the south
Welcome to the spring number of Lincolnshire Past & Present. As I write there do seem to be a few positive signs of spring in the south-east of the county and there has been generous sunshine despite the cold winds and frost.

One very Lincolnshire sign of spring is the agricultural sale. There was a major one at Bicker Bar recently and I have to say how heartened I was by the sheer quantity and variety of vehicles (often parked with great ingenuity) that characterise such an event. Whether this interest is reflected in actual sales of course is unknown. Are rural sales still flourishing elsewhere in the county?

As usual we have a mixture of topics on offer, from people to buildings, not forgetting some good pictures of Langrick Ferry. With reference to Tennyson (Page 9-10) there are some interesting errors on a BBC website [Where You Live] which tells us that in 1833 he began a poem entitled 'In Memorandum'.

The connection between the county and an 18th century volcanic eruption in Iceland reminds us that global concerns may be nothing new. In the 1990s we published historical accounts of unusual weather. Perhaps readers have uncovered further examples? Better to have unseasonal weather in the past than in the present!

Hilary Healey, Joint Editor
This is the story, as I know it, of the big house that stood on Cross O’ Cliff Hill until some twenty years ago.

My grandfather Edwin Murfin bought Southcliffe in 1903. Before that, for about fifty years, a family called Shepherd lived there.

It was a substantial eight-bedroomed house where my grandparents and their eight children lived, together with a number of servants. It had a coachhouse and stables and a large greenhouse. There was a tennis court with a disused horse-drawn tram for a pavilion. It was on the site of a clay pit for a brick works and I presume that the clay from this pit was used to build the house. The bricks were red rusties with buff brick quoins and decorative string courses.

The clay pit was later made into a large ornamental lake. I was told that it was fifteen feet deep at one time. A number of people filled in parts of the lake over time, which at the earliest had an island in it. Grandfather filled in part of it on the south side and had sand put in the bottom at the eastern end to make it suitable for swimming—my mother learnt to swim there.

Mr Gravels, who owned it in the 1930s, had the rubble from the church of St Peter-at-Arches tipped in whilst the church was being demolished in 1936, again at the eastern end. It was finally filled in altogether by Mr Jefferson in the 1960s.

It had been a delightful feature, and grandfather allowed the garden to be used for parties until the 1920s. The picture [p5] shows my mother rowing on the lake. It had a good stock of fish until the bad winter of 1947, when salt was used.
on the road of Cross O' Cliff Hill, and this drained into the lake and killed the fish.

There was an orchard on the land south of the lake in Southcliffe garden and also in the gardens of number three and number nine. Possibly there was also one where the school playing field is now. There was a mixture of fruit trees all of a similar age to those higher up the hill. This seems to date from the same time as the orchard further up the hill, which is currently looked after by the local residents. There was a fresh water spring in the trees below the road, which was used by the family as drinking water during the typhoid epidemic of 1905.

Grandfather lived in the house until his death in 1924. The housing market was so depressed that a buyer could not be found and it was let for a time.

Mr Gravels, who had kept the Crown Inn in Clasketgate, was the owner in the 1930s, until 1938 when he sold it to Mrs Smith who established a nursing home there. Mr Jefferson used the house as an investment and let it out in multiple occupation, when the building deteriorated and was then left vacant.

The railway company was selling the land of the adjacent Grantham line together with surplus land from the South Park School playing field. The building company Barratt bought it and built Eleanor Close there.

My mother married in 1926, when the house was still owned by the family trustees, and my father negotiated to buy a piece of the south-east corner of the property. On this land he built the house “Romanway” in 1928. I was born there in 1930. I was allowed to play in the garden as a schoolboy and have happy memories of exploring its many secret places.
CROSS O' CLIFF ORCHARD

This is one of England's few surviving traditional old orchards. Very old varieties of pear have been identified including Bonne Capriavmont and William's Bon Chrétien from the 18th century. It is unusual to find such an abundance of pears so far north. Lincolnshire varieties of apple tree here include Pennycord's Nonesuch and Allington Pippin.

Once part of the grounds of Sandfield House, it is owned by Lincolnshire County Council. Local residents helped to restore the orchard in the 1990s and in 2004 it was designated a Local Nature Reserve. The reserve supports a diversity of wildlife.
In Past & Present 67 Spring 2007 there was a photograph of 'Beaumont Court' following an enquiry regarding Caroline Martyn. In the same month I received a copy of a print of 'Beaumont House, Lincoln' from Rex McCristal of 39 Barton Crescent Wahroonga NSW 2076 Australia. He says the information written on the back of the card indicates that it was a "College" attended by his grandmother, (name of Grantham) probably around 1880.

In the 1851 Census Samuel Downing Roome and his wife Ann Empringham Roome were shown at 'Beaumont Hill' Lincoln as schoolmaster and schoolmistress. Mrs. Roome's mother, Elizabeth Grantham, was the "housekeeper". It was a large household including relatives, staff, and 24 female pupils or scholars aged 10 to 16 and one male aged 7.

In 1856 (Directory) Samuel Downing Roome is listed as 'Draper', Beaumont Hill, and also as Grantham & Roome, Linen & Woollen Drapers 200 High Street, Lincoln.

The census entry for 1861 is similar and also in 1871, but the address (due to certain realignments) is 10 Asylum Road.

By 1881 Mrs. Roome was a widow, still running her school but with fewer girls. In 1891 her niece, Mary Louisa Roome was the schoolmistress, with 17 girl pupils. Mrs. Roome was not in Lincoln then, but by 1901 she was lodging in Prospect Terrace where she died in 1903, aged 99.

On Census night 1881 Caroline Martyn aged 13 was home with her father, Deputy Chief Constable of Police, at the County Police Station, High Street, St Peter at Gowts. It is possible that Mrs Roome also took day scholars. I was interested to note two points which suggest a continuity of schools for young ladies in the city:

In 1830 Sarah Capp is listed as having a Ladies Boarding school in High Street, St Peters (Pigot Directory) in the LRSM 1834 Mrs Capp advertised that she had obtained an Italian lady to teach music in her school in Albion Place. She had had her school 10 years.

In 1841 the future Mrs Roome, Ann E. Grantham, was a teacher in Mrs Capp's Ladies' Boarding School, Cornhill, Lincoln.

Samuel D. Roome died in 1873. His trustee and executor was his friend the Rev Eno METCALFE, Congregational minister, who, in 1896, lived at 11 Steep Hill where, by 1905, the Misses Metcalfe had a school for young ladies.

Ruth Tinley

Derecourt who is interested in the name Caroline Eliza Derecourt Martyn:

I have been researching the Derecourt family history for some time. I have been interested in finding out more about Caroline as she has my surname as one of her middle names. I suspect her grandmother’s maiden name may have been Derecourt but am still trying to discover more.

I have managed to obtain a photocopy of a book that was published in 1898 by Caroline’s cousin, after Caroline’s death as a young woman. It is called ‘The Life and Letters of Caroline E. D. Martyn’ by Lena Wallis.

Apparently there are only four copies left, in four universities (two in the USA and two in the UK).

Dorothy Derecourt

n&q

NOTES & QUERIES 71:3 USE OF THE STOCKS

Meanwhile Mr N. G. Kirkman of Malmesbury, Wiltshire, has asked us to consider the following query:

Where in Lincolnshire were the stocks last used as a form of punishment? Although Hols-worthy in Devon claims to be the last place in England to use stocks (last employed in 1861), the last recorded instance of the stocks being used was in 1872 in Newbury, Berkshire.


Are there any similar first-hand accounts of sightings in Victorian Lincolnshire? The use of the stocks has never been formally abolished.

Nigel Kirkman
The following article appeared in the Summer 2007 edition of the Historic Farm Buildings Group Review. It will be of interest to anyone who has wondered about the impressive range of Victorian model farm buildings beside the A607 between Harmston and Coleby.

writes Shirley Brook

A Tale of Two Farmsteads

Nearly a decade ago, under the title ‘Seeing Double?’, John Dunning and I asked fellow members of the HFBG if they could help to identify a pattern book design which would explain the incidence of two almost identical sets of farm buildings, 60 miles apart, in different counties and on apparently unconnected estates. These were Hall Farm, Coleby, Lincolnshire (SK 978 615), on the heath a few miles south-west of Lincoln, and John’s own farm, Cold Harbour Farm, Bishop Burton, East Yorkshire (SE 973 387). We had no replies.

The similarities between the two farmsteads are striking. Both have an imposing facade with a central coach and trap house under a tower with a Venetian window, dovecote and cupola (Plates 1 & 2). The Lincolnshire stading is not in as good a state of repair as the East Yorkshire one and the owner has told John that he removed the cupola from the top of his tower because it had rotted and was letting water in. As well as having identical front elevations, the farmsteads have the same style of fenestration on the side ranges, matching dentilled brick courses at the eaves and the same triangular design of ventilators for the animal houses. There are, however, minor differences in the layout of the buildings, with the Yorkshire example having returns containing a single loose box on the front ends of the side ranges and transverse roof construction mid-range (Plates 3 & 4).

Subsequent research has revealed that a pattern book is not the connecting link between the two steadings. There is evidence to suggest that Cold Harbour Farm, Bishop Burton, was erected to
Central coach-house range, Hall Farm, Coleby (September 2005)

plans drawn up by a local architect; an advertisement was placed in the Beverley Guardian in July 1883 by a Beverley architect, William Hawe of North Bar Street, inviting tenders for a farmstead to be erected at Bishop Burton. The steading at Bishop Burton has an inscription on the lead flashing giving the date of construction as 1884, supporting the conclusion that this was the farmstead for which tenders were invited. It has not yet been possible to date the buildings at Coleby but the fact that they are a simplified version of those at Bishop Burton suggests that the Yorkshire steading was erected first. This would also accord with the architect being local to Cold Harbour Farm, Bishop Burton, and not Hall Farm, Coleby.

A link between the landowners who commissioned the building of Cold Harbour Farm, Bishop Burton, and Hall Farm, Coleby, has been established: it has been discovered that they were owners of neighbouring estates in the Skipton area of North Yorkshire. Hall Farm, Coleby, was part of the Lincolnshire estate of the Tempest family of Broughton Hall near Skipton, North Yorkshire. This was in the same district as the Carrhead estate at Cowling, owned by the Hall-Watt family of Bishop Burton. John Coulthurst of Gargrave, near Skipton, was stepfather of Ernest Richard Bradley Hall-Watt, the heir to the Bishop Burton and Carrhead estates. Between 1874 and 1886, during which time Cold Harbour Farm was constructed, Coulthurst acted as squire of the Bishop Burton estate during Hall-Watt’s minority. It therefore seems that the men who commissioned the two farmsteads were neighbours, and that the close similarity of the steadings at Bishop Burton and Coleby is an example of the functioning of a network of improvers and the dissemination of ideas through social contact.

John and I no longer spend time musing on why the two farmsteads should be the same, but we do have a new preoccupation: are there any other examples of this farmstead design on the Tempest estate near Skipton, the Carrhead estate at Cowling, or even at Gargrave, the home of John Coulthurst? The 2007 HFBG Conference at Ilkley is very near the area in question and we are hoping we might meet someone who can answer this for us.

If you know of any farmsteads that are of the same design as Cold Harbour Farm, Bishop Burton and Hall Farm, Coleby, please contact: Dr Shirley Brook, 10 Manor Road, Lincoln LN2 1RJ, email asb@rivus.org.uk

John and Shirley did not find any further examples of buildings erected to this plan whilst at the Historic Farm Buildings Group conference. They are still looking.

Membership of the Historic Farm Buildings Group is open to all who care about old farm buildings, their history and their protection. For more information see www.hfbg.org.uk or contact the Secretary, Andrew Patterson, Penrhyn, Quay Road, Goodwick, Fishguard, Pembs. SA64 0BT

Central coach-house range, Cold Harbour Farm, Bishop Burton, East Yorkshire (June 2004)
Grasby is situated on the North Lincolnshire Wolds. Standing outside the south door of All Saints' Church, which is at the highest point of this village, one can look across the flat landscape below and see Lincoln Cathedral on the horizon, over 20 miles away. In the Cathedral grounds, there is a statue of Alfred Lord Tennyson. Perhaps the statue, in its turn, looks nostalgically from time to time towards Grasby, for the link between the Victorian Poet Laureate and that village is more than tenuous.

For over 40 years until his death in 1879, Alfred's much-loved brother Charles—older by just over a year—was the vicar of Grasby. The brothers had been born in Somerset, Lincolnshire, sons of the Reverend George Clayton Tennyson. As they grew up, a strong bond developed between them, strengthened no doubt by their mutual love of poetry and skill in writing verse. They were educated at home by their father before becoming undergraduates at Trinity College, Cambridge.

Friends and acquaintances considered them both as future poets, and this belief was strengthened by the publication of a book of poems written by both young men—Poems by Two Brothers—in 1827. Charles was then 18, Alfred 17. The lives of the brothers were to diverge dramatically; Alfred becoming famous as a poet and Charles taking a living as vicar of Grasby. Perhaps a rural, more tranquil way of life was more suitable for the latter—treatment for severe neuralgic pains had resulted in his addiction to opium. He was bequeathed the advowson of Grasby by his uncle, the Reverend Samuel Turner, on condition that he adopted the name of Turner. Charles readily complied with this condition, dropping the surname Tennyson for the rest of his life, and it was only subsequent to his death that his original surname was inserted in his title.

Charles planned to travel widely, but these plans did not come to fruition, partly because of his drug addiction. In May 1836, he married Louisa Sellwood from Horncastle, whose sister Emily was to marry Alfred fourteen years later. Charles and Louisa spent some years away from Grasby during his incumbency, due partly to Louisa's poor mental health, and for a time she returned to her father's home in Horncastle. But the couple remained devoted to each other and in 1849, Louisa returned to Grasby and the two of them channelled their energies, and a great deal of their money, into the village and its inhabitants.
and Louisa were childless and directed their love of children to those in the village.

Charles set about renovating and extending All Saints' Church, the main part of this work being a new roof and a north aisle, and building a new village school. A new and larger vicarage was built, which was visited by Alfred as frequently as his busy public life would allow. There is a path, now known as Tennyson Walk, where the brothers would stroll together in the vicarage grounds, no doubt discussing and observing the wonders of the countryside around them and sharing their love of poetry.

It was in his later years as vicar of Grasby, after a period of devoting himself to other more pressing matters, that Charles began once more to write verse prolifically—mostly sonnets. There is no doubt that he excelled in this form of poetry, which was inspired among other things by his classical knowledge, his deep religious beliefs and his keen observance of people and things around him. A second volume of poetry, published in 1864, was dedicated to his brother, Alfred.

Grasby has seen many changes since Charles Tennyson Turner lived and worked there. Many of these changes were effected during his incumbency, in his endeavours to improve the welfare of the residents. Among other things, he attempted to quell the drunkenness that was rife in the village at the time, no doubt a source of much poverty and misery, and even took over one of the village taverns in an attempt to moderate drinking. Whether he was successful is perhaps debatable!

Most of the villagers then were employed on the land and in small cottage industries. Now, the residents commute to their places of work and there is virtually no employment in Grasby, although the Primary School is a successful and high-achieving establishment.

Farmland still surrounds the village, and residents and visitors have the privilege of enjoying the rural landscape that Charles once knew.

Various events are being held in Grasby throughout 2008 to celebrate the bicentenary of Charles Tennyson Turner's birth. A service will be held on 6 July at 3 pm in All Saints' Church—the Sunday nearest to his birthday. This will take a form similar to one that he would have conducted and will be presided over by the present incumbent of Grasby, Canon Ian Robinson.

Charles installed three of the bells that are at present in the church. During 2008, it is intended to ring a peal, and quarter peals using new and previously rung variations to bear names connected with Charles and Louisa, one to be called 'The Reverend Charles Tennyson Turner' and another 'Charles and Louisa'.

Two workshops run by John and Margaret Crompton are to take place in the Village Hall on 10 May and 14 June, one on the Tennyson family and the other on Charles' adult life, particularly his time as vicar of Grasby. Those interested in any of these celebrations, and others that are to be arranged, are invited to attend. For details, please contact Joan and Ifor Barton on 01652 628337, or e-mail them: Joan Barton—joanbarton@supanet.com

Ifor Barton—iforb. grasby@btopenworld.com

---

Old Ruralities: A Regret

BY CHARLES TENNYSON TURNER

With joy all relics of the past I hail;
The heath-bell, lingering in our cultured moor,
Or the dull sound of the slip-shouldered flail,
Still busy on the poor man's threshing floor:
I love this unshorn hedgerow, which survives
Its stunted neighbours, in this farming age:
The thatch and houseleek, where old Alice lives
With her old herbal, trusting every page;
I love the spinning wheel, which hums far down
In yon lone valley, though from day to day,
The boom of Science shakes it from the town.
Ah! Sweet old world! thou speedest far away!
My boyhood's world! but all last looks are dear;
More touchingly is the deathbed than the bier!
As a postscript to the Langrick Bridge Centenary feature [LP&P 69 Autumn 2007], former SLHA President David Robinson has sent copies of two lovely postcards [below – the one at the top was originally in colour] of the ferry boat that was used at Langrick before the bridge was built.

Man with red flag at the Langrick Bridge Centenary in 2007

Langrick Ferry near Boston.
Lincolnshire Notes & Queries.

OLD HOUSE IN CORPORATION STREET, LINCOLN.

As the result of increased traffic along the Yarborough Road, and the rapid extension of a good residential quarter of the city in West Parade, an opening was much wanted through into the High Street, and in gaining this, the old house which forms our frontispiece had to come down.

It was a spacious, well-built house, enclosing doubtless originally three sides of a square, leaving the south side open; the east side, next the High Street, having been much pulled about and renewed, while the north and west sides remained comparatively unaltered.

The main staircase was inside the north-west angle, and led up to large rooms on the first floor, in one of which — that with a four-light mullioned window in our view — was some good oak panelling of early 17th century date.

The room with the seven-light window (three being blocked), of late Tudor date, was also large, and above all was a false roof running round the north and west sides. Three buttresses are seen partially in the view, the centre one being the best and strongest.

The house was probably and originally a private dwelling house, although the late Precentor Venables was of opinion that it had formed part of the church of All Saints, Hungate, and had in Pre-reformation times been turned and altered for domestic use. According to Symson the antiquity, quoted by Mr Ross, "All Saints" in Hungate stood in a large cemetery, bounded on the north and west by... Park Lane and Mint Lane, at the bottom of Hungate.

The church was finally removed in 1533, and its site was long appropriated to garden and orchard. This garden is shown in a plan of the city by the late Mr J S Padley, in 1842. Symson says in a letter to Browne Willis, "All Saints" in Hungate, its place now unknown, though the street is known. The house in question is or was about 50 yards north of Park Lane, and so probably had nothing to do with All Saints' in Hungate.

F.M.S
Mystery Picture success! We are pleased to record success in the mystery church picture (right) in the autumn issue. SLH A Member the Rev David Bottle of Heckington was quick to identify it, from his own photos of Lincolnshire churches, as St Helen's in Leverton, near Boston. Shown below is an engraving from Stephen Lewin's book of churches in the Holland Division of Lincolnshire (1843) which shows the similarities, but also a number of differences, the result of restoration work by James Fowler in 1897. He apparently took down the brick clerestory, dated 1728, which had the round-headed windows, and replaced it with a stone one and a better pitch (that it probably had in medieval times). The south porch has gone and there is a small chapel or vestry on the south side of the chancel.

Another mystery picture

Amongst the collection of village postcards we have one that may not be of our village. There is an area in the village, which is similar to that on the postcard, but the detail of the cottages that remain does not match the picture. Perhaps readers can help to identify the village (right).

Edward R. Taylor,
Willingthor
Local History Society
In the year 1783 a volcanic eruption occurred in Iceland that affected the high latitudes of the Northern Hemisphere.

It was called the Laki Fissure Eruption. It lasted for seven months, and during that time vast quantities of dust were erupted into the atmosphere. The Laki Fissure is still clearly visible in Iceland today.

The dust caused the sun to be obscured and 1783 became known as the year without a summer. There are records of reports from Europe and Russia of the problems that this caused.

The lack of warmth and sunlight caused a failure of the harvest in England. Only very small quantities of corn were harvested and there was a shortage of food, while prices rose.

Local confirmation of this is available from the memorandum book of Thomas Hardy, a farmer in Goxhill, Lincolnshire. The Thomas Hardy Memorandum Book is in the NELC Archive in Grimsby.
Thomas Hardy was a farmer in Goxhill, Lincolnshire. He had received an award of just over 130 acres of mixed arable and grazing land at the enclosure of 1775 and was building up the farm into what was to become the basis of his family's future prosperity.

He kept a record of his business transactions in his memorandum book—goods sold, date of tup put to ewes etc—but did not record events, the weather or his opinions.

The figures illustrate the fall in yield in 1783 and the rise in prices that followed.

The high prices ensured that although the shortage of food and increase in cost were felt by the general population the farm income increased considerably.
This section aims to include as many short reviews of recently published books as possible; unsigned reviews have been provided by the Reviews Editor. In the bulletin will be found a list of titles newly notified and which, it is hoped, reviews will be provided later. Many of these titles will be found in the Society's Book Shop, Steep Hill, Lincoln.


This is a very readable account of a double life. Mr Brown left school in Lincoln aged 17 (in 1962) and got a job on the *Lincolnshire Echo*. The first third of the book is given over to stories relating to his life there and later on the *Lincolnshire Chronicle*; the anecdotes are full of the joys of reporting, interviewing and writing and, very often, of the many funny things that happen along the way.

One of these concerns his ill-timed agreement to type his daily report in the lion's cage at the circus on South Common—there are other equally bizarre stories. His frustrated boyhood desire to join a circus led to his taking up juggling and, after quite a few charitable performances (often at North Kesteven Grammar School in North Hykeham), he eventually met up with circus folk who let him perform when they toured Lincolnshire. From those experiences he has gone on to tour all over and give over 1,000 performances: Lincoln honouring him by making him a Freeman of the City two years ago. The book is guaranteed to give pleasure—as a journalist he knows how to write entertainingly and his stories give him plenty of scope.


And


Two books with similar titles (and not to be confused with Stewart Squires' 1988 book *The lost railways of Lincolnshire*). The two new books both belong to series that have been around for some time. The Burgess book follows a formula in which (mostly) double-page spreads are devoted to a railway line with details of dates of closure, brief notes on its history and one or two archive pictures of its operation. The large oblong format means that what were often small pictures can be enlarged to show more detail. As in other books in this series I wish the dates when stations opened could also be included; a contents list and map would have improved the book but it is still a worthwhile production. Stennett's book is more discursive, its ten chapters having titles such as Fast Fish, Into the Hills and Light lines by the Trent. So, rather than devote a chapter or section to individual lines (often) several can be discussed together; Into the Hills, e.g. deals with the Horncastle, Spilsby and Louth-Bardney lines. The author has walked what he can of the original lines (he lives in the old station at Kirkstead Junction on the Boston-Lincoln loop line) and points out what can still be found on the ground. His historie commentaries are quite comprehensive and are supported with many anecdotes gathered from former railway workers or residents with fond memories of a line's working. He is particularly good on how some of the lines operated during the war. It is an enjoyable read, well illustrated, the
pictures culled from a wide range of sources; there are small but clear and useful maps. Errors have crept in, however. The station near Boston was Algarkirk (not Sutton, p. 32): the bibliography is a little out of date (Squires' book Potato railways came out in a second edition in 2005 and many important titles are missing). Listing the Manchester, Sheffield and Lincolnshire Railway as closed (p. 151) contradicts the statement (p. 10) that the MS & L. "is still a key rail route". That said, this is currently the best readable account of its subject in print and should prove successful. Burgess' book nicely complements it.


This is a first-class pocket-sized book that any bird lover could usefully carry all the time, not just those from the Louth area. A total of 176 birds have been noted in Louth and the surrounding countryside and are all listed, with Latin names, high quality colour photos, notes on habitats, where seen and when, rarity and whether breeding locally. At its modest price it is exceptional value.


The story of the famous bombing of the Ruhr dams by 617 Squadron from Scampton, in May 1943, has been the subject of several books and an iconic film (with a second film soon to come). This small book covers the design of the "bouncing bomb", the development of the Lancaster bomber which carried it, the planning of the raid, based on photo-reconnaissance, the raid itself and the aftermath, both for Germany and the RAF crews, all well illustrated by photos and maps. There is nothing new in this book but it is simple, accurate, readable and is a concise account which will be useful to anyone, especially young people, who are reading about "The Dam Busters" for the first time.

In the same series is another book of interest to aircraft enthusiasts in the county - on the Vulcan Bomber.

**Terry Hancock, Cherry Willingham**

**KIME, Winston. Wainfleet heritage, [new enlarged edition]. Skegness, Martin Print, 2007. 80pp. ISBN 978 0 9557873 0 0. £8**

(postage extra from the publisher, 44 Algida Road, Skegness PE25 2AJ.).

In response to demand Mr Kime has left Skegness (for the moment) and revised his 1998 booklet on Wainfleet. Much has been added - the first 40 pages, compared with 32 in the first edition, are all photographs with informative captions; much better quality paper has led to very much improved reproduction. The other half of this edition ranges widely, covering lives of prominent people, the most important buildings, extracts from Downesdow, Oldfield's well-known 1829 history and early directories. New topics cover the Clock Tower, "At the flics", the early settlement, the Green Hill and population figures. All but the most demanding historian will find much here to inform and entertain and very reasonably priced.


This useful booklet illustrates in colour 50 places worthy of note by anyone taking a walk around the historic market town. A map is provided to show the possible routes. A future book giving historical and architectural details also would be a worthwhile project for the Society.
have only a brief reference due to the paucity of available information.

By calling this Volume One, the author leaves the way open for a future volume, to incorporate any additional information that comes to light, for there is still much to be learned about the subject, particularly of the early years when the motorcar and motorcycle were in their infancy. Many so called manufacturers were, in reality, assemblers of parts sourced from proprietary manufacturers. It was possible for an individual to assemble a motorcyle or cyclecar for personal use and some people developed ambitions to go one step further and build machines for sale.

In the early years of the twentieth century it was quite common for dealers to put their own badge on vehicles manufactured for them by someone else. R M Wright of Lincoln was such a case. The author describes the Stonebow of 1900 but does not mention the 1 T., sold from 1909 to 1914. A more surprising omission from this comprehensive work is the Evante sports car, built by Vegantune in Spalding between 1983 and 1994.

The book is well illustrated with photographs that will probably be unfamiliar to most readers and is a very useful and welcome addition to the published works on the history of transport and industry in the county.

Tony Wall, Lincoln

RHODES, John. Yeller-belly years: growing up in Lincolnshire, 1930-50; 'Remember'd with advantage'. The author, 2007. [7]. 204pp. ISBN 978 0 9556721 0 1. £7.95 pbk (or £9 by post from the author, 13 Hill Rise, St Ives, Cambs PE27 6SP).

The first thing that strikes the reader of this autobiography of a boy born in Brigg in 1930 is the detail and clarity of the author's memory. And this substantial book only covers his first 20 years too! Growing up in a larger town than Brigg but at the same period I was fascinated by his power of recall and how many things chimed with my own (more fallible) memory of life then. The outside 'loos' with little squares of newspaper, the sweet shops with their wonderful array of goodies, grocery shops ditto, comics (the readable sort), being able to play in the street and going for hikes into neighbouring countryside without parents apparently worrying. The games played also resonate. Mr Rhodes obviously revisited Brigg while his parents lived there (his mother died in 1975) and that no doubt helps in giving details of all the neighbours' families and occupations.

Other chapters detail schooling with two long sections on his years at the Grammar School and the effects of the war in those formative times. One important section deals with what is now a little-known aspect of local government - the Lindsey Blind. The author's father gave up his job after 20 years with Lacey & Clark and became the first organiser for Lindsey County Council of a scheme to help registered blind people to make and sell homemade products. The author recalls going with his father on visits to homes all over the area, meeting blind folk. It became quite a large business during and after the war.
We end with his ‘gap’ year being spent as a teacher at Ashby County Primary School before he took up his place to read English at Oxford. An index to all the names of the locals we meet here might have been a useful extra but I hope others get as much pleasure as I did from reading an attractively written life history, which also casts valuable light on life in Brigg, 1930-50.


My memories of Hubbard’s Hills include Sunday walks with my parents and cross-country runs from the grammar school. Generations of residents and visitors will have their own memories. David Robinson’s book, though short, will enhance those memories with a wealth of material on the geology and history of the valley, including the gift of the area to the people of Louth. It also looks at the management issues for the area today. Above all, there is an impressive and interesting collection of photographs, reproduced postcards and engravings showing the site and the people enjoying the area through the seasons and the years.

As the sub-title suggests publication marks the centenary of the gift of Hubbard’s Hills and the book is a worthy tribute to one of Louth’s greatest assets.

Robin Brumby, Tauton


The hamlet of Clixby lies between Caistor and Brigg, and as David Saunders points out “many motorists pass through [it] without realising they have done so”. With his usual meticulous attention to detail, he has produced a booklet with over 40 pages of close-packed information and has substantially enhanced our knowledge of a little-known area, the story of which is well worth telling. There is a lot more to Clixby than its size would suggest.

Rosalind Boyce, Lincoln


A readable account of the origins of the Abbey, how it was built, the life of the monks, what happened after the suppression of the monasteries and what remains now. Clearly explained with good illustrations and perfectly adapted for school use. Start of a series perhaps?


Richard Winslade is primarily a photographer who first started recording the BBMF in the early 1980s, publishing his first book on the Flight in 1987; 2007 saw the fiftieth anniversary of the Coningsby-based unit and this current book has been published to commemorate this event. As one would expect there are many stunning colour photos throughout taken by the author plus others in monochrome in the chapter covering the Flight’s fifty year history. Following on from the history are four chapters covering, in some detail, the aircraft of the Flight – the Lancaster, the two Hurricanes, the five Spitfires, and the Dakota, the photos showing the various colour
schemes carried by these over the last two decades. These markings do change every so often and the book has unavoidably been overtaken by some of these—the Lancaster is not shown in its current markings as 'Phantom of the Ruhr' nor the Spitfire Vb as a Polish squadron aircraft while, understandably, there is no mention of the latest addition to the BBMF, a Spitfire Mark 16, which was only officially unveiled during 2007 and is due to fly again in 2009. The final two chapters cover the Flight's aircrew (all but the CO being 'part-timers'. flying operational aircraft during the week!), and the all-important but sometimes overlooked ground crew and admin staff without whom the BBMF could not make its 800-odd public displays during each year. All in all this is an attractively produced and illustrated book that gives a real flavour of the workings of the Flight and its aircraft—and although not mentioned in the book, all of which can be seen by the public during any weekday on a guided tour, courtesy of the RAF and the BBMF Visitor Centre. 

*Terry Hancock, Cherry Willingham*

Rutland Local History & Record Society has just published *The heritage of Rutland Water*; compiled and edited by Robert Owens and Shetia Sleath. This is a truly remarkable book, very substantially bound and containing 680 pages of text and well over a thousand pictures and maps, the majority in excellent colour. The Normanton estate, now under the water, belonged to the Heathcote family, whose members included several baronets; Barons (later Lords) Aveland, Lords Willoughby d'Eresby and Earls of Ancaster. Chapter 11 (pages 231-281) is devoted to the history of the house and estate at Normanton and thus has a good deal of interest for historians of Lincolnshire families. At £20 from Rutland County Museum in Oakham it is wonderful value. Postage is a heavy extra if you cannot collect.

*Quakers in Lincolnshire: an informal history* by Susan Davies was first published in 1989 and has now been reissued. Originally published by Yard Publications (11 Minster Yard, Lincoln LN2 1PJ) it is £5 pbk (ISBN 978 0 951490 00 3).

*Foundations of medieval scholarship: records edited in honour of David Crook* was published in February by the Borthwick Institute for Archives, University of York YO10 5DD. This collection honours Dr Crook, a member of Council of Lincoln Record Society, and is available at a prepublication price of £15 including post and packing (normal price £30). Cheques should be made payable to the University of York. The contents vary, of course, and cover the period from the twelfth to the sixteenth centuries and a wide subject/geographical spread but a piece on Lord Welles' attacks on Spalding and Pinchbeck, 1449-1450, by Dr Jonathan Mackman is included.

*Demons in the dark* is a fictionalised account of life with a bomber squadron based at Metheringham and gives detailed and graphic accounts of the many missions flown following the orders of 'Bomber' Harris. The author, Tom Atkins, is (I think) American. Published by Author House, Milton Keynes, it has 622 pages and is £12.99 paperback.

*The terror* by Dan Simmons is a fictionalised account of the expedition in 1845 of Sir John Franklin in search of the North-West Passage. The review I read described the author as witty (there are 934 pages) but a skilful storyteller. Published by Bantam at £20 hardback (ISBN 0 59305 763 5). A paperback version is due this year.

*Not quite Lincolnshire but To the manor born* by Leslie Ann Bosher is an account of her movements between England, USA and Paris etc by a woman who lives at Stocken Hall, just over the border in Rutland, Stanford and Bargley House figure in a story told in emails to friends worldwide. Published by Murdoch Books at £7.99 pbk (ISBN 978 1 921225 989 0).


**STOP PRESS: DON'T MISS HOVENDEN OPEN DAY**—This year marks the 60th anniversary of the Leonard Cheshire Foundation, and the end of an era for the Cheshire Home Hovenden House at Fleet, because the Foundation is planning a move to more accessible quarters at Spalding. Meanwhile the Hovenden House Open Day will take place on 6 July. An article will follow in *Lincolnshire Past & Present* 72 Summer 2008.