Lincolnshire Past & Present

Anne Bromhead and Lincoln County Hospital

- The Revd Adrian Augustus Devereux-Quick
- YHA in Lincolnshire
- A country doctor and LIVES
- The story of SLHA – on the Campaign Trail
- Objects of Life – the Life story

Plus Bookshelf and more
Contents

ARTICLES
3  Anne Fector Bromhead – the Lincoln County Hospital experiment – Lesley Church
11 The Revd Adrian Gustavus Devereux-Quick – Dennis Mills
14 Youth Hostels Association in Lincolnshire – Steph Slater
17 The story of SLHA – Part 3: On the Campaign Trail – Pearl Wheatley
19 A country doctor and LIVES – Stewart Munday

SHORT ARTICLES
13 Who was the architect of the Punch House at Horncastle? – Nick Moore

REGULARS
23 Objects of Life with Catherine Wilson – Life Story – The museum's history 3: From 1985 onwards
26 Bookshelf

SAD DEATHS OF TWO PROMINENT SOCIETY FIGURES

We were extremely saddened and shocked to hear of the untimely death, on Thursday 26 March, of Nigel Burn, the Chairman of the Society for Lincolnshire History and Archaeology. An able and valued chairman, he has brought a great deal to the Society and will be sadly missed. He has also been a contributor of articles to this magazine, including the popular 'Aaron’s Tower' about Lincoln Castle, which appeared in the special 2015 hundredth edition. We shall publish a full tribute in due course.

On Monday 23 March we sadly lost a great friend and highly regarded colleague through the sudden death of Dr Dennis Mills. He made an outstanding contribution to the study of Lincolnshire’s history in a multitude of ways. We shall publish a full tribute in due course, meanwhile please enjoy the article by Dennis about the interesting career of Adrian Gustavus Devereux-Quick that begins on page 11 of this issue.

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Rooks near Swaton by Hilary Healey

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Items for consideration for future issues of Lincolnshire Past & Present are welcome at any time. Material may be sent by post to the Editor c/o Jews’ Court, Lincoln LN2 1LS, either as paper copy or on a memory stick, or as an email attachment to lindumcolonia@hotmail.com or info@slha.org.uk
Front cover: Lincoln Cathedral Central Tower (©James Newton)
Back cover: Part of one of the lancet windows of grisaille glass at triforium level in the north transept of Lincoln Cathedral (Editor’s photo)
The BMI Hospital on Nettleham Road in Lincoln was built as a memorial to Mrs Anne Fector Bromhead, and is still known to some as ‘The Bromhead’. Mrs Bromhead was born Anne Fector Jarvis in 1812 in Dover, the second daughter and fifth child of George Ralph Payne Jarvis and his wife Philadelphia (née Blackwell) who died following childbirth in 1816. George inherited Doddington Hall from Sarah Gunman (née Delaval) and moved there with his family in 1829. The move from a bustling seaport on the south coast to rural Lincolnshire must have been quite unsettling for the 17-year-old Anne, but she seems to have made herself useful in her new surroundings.

In an article by Lady Robertson (‘A Victorian Venture’ in Lincolnshire Magazine, 1934, Vol.2 (2), p.39-41), Anne’s granddaughter Dorothy, mentions Anne lending out ‘a walnut William and Mary day bed, with its beautiful cushions of embroidered silks, from the Hall for invalids when an extra bed was wanted’, and in a letter to the Monthly Packet of Evening Readings for Members of the English Church (1 Aug. 1867, p.199) Anne writes:

I have always from a child cared for the sick, and have tried to help them. In my father’s house, and in the village, I was always the one applied to.

Anne married the magistrate John Bromhead, a member of an established Lincolnshire family, in 1839, and moved to the house in Lincoln in Greestone (or Grecian) Place, which was to be her home for the rest of her life. Marriage was followed by the birth of four children: Charles, Frances Annie, Edward and Henrietta. Anne came from a financially comfortable, supportive and well-connected family, and married into a similarly well-connected family. She was a married woman of means who had no need to take on a public or a working role and would not have been expected to do so. However, by the 1860s she was ready for more than home, family and social events, and a way to make a difference in the community, for rich and poor, city and county, was obvious to her. Her letter to the Monthly Packet in 1867 continues:

Since I married, I have been grieved to hear over and over again from medical men, ‘We are so badly off for sick nurses in this neighbourhood.’

Anne would have been aware of conditions in Lincoln County Hospital through her brother George and husband John who were members of the governing body and subscribers able to recommend patients. Her desire to improve the nursing care available to all was an extension of the philanthropic care she had provided in Doddington village as a young woman. Entering this public world, and challenging established practices, took courage, determination and a strong desire to improve conditions, and she would have needed the support of her family. Anne’s granddaughter Isobel Mence (née Hutton, daughter of Frances and Henry Wollaston Hutton) remembers, in her memoir ‘Yet Another’, her grandmother as having ‘a great ambition combined with intense energy’.

Anne was to become the prime mover in the improvement of nursing services in Lincoln and Lincolnshire.
The impetus for her new role came during a visit to Bath, where she was a regular visitor. She had heard about Miss Soden who had established in Bath an Institution for Nurses:

I soon obtained an introduction to her...

...she continues in her letter to the Monthly Packet...

...and was most kindly shown all over her Institution, saw her rules and regulations, and more than all, I heard from her how she had begun, which was the chief thing I wished to know.

Lincoln County Hospital

In the 1860s health care in Lincoln, as in the rest of the country, was limited. The rich made their own arrangements for being nursed at home or in more salubrious surroundings than the charitable hospitals, to which the poor might have access if they could find a sponsor to recommend them. Other options available to the poor were the help of family members within the home, or the workhouse. To be treated in Lincoln County Hospital required a recommendation from a benefactor or subscriber. A subscriber of a guinea had the right to recommend one in-patient and two out-patients in the year, a benefactor of £10 the same, and the number of recommendations allowed rose with the amount subscribed or donated. No one was admitted who had an infectious disease or was deemed incurable, no one was admitted who could maintain themselves and pay for their own cure, no women who were breast-feeding or advanced in pregnancy could be admitted, nor children under six except in exceptional circumstances. All patients were discharged after eight weeks but could be re-admitted if they got a fresh recommendation. However, ‘...persons meeting with accidents are admitted at any time of the day or night without recommendation.’

Lincoln County Hospital was at the top of Steep Hill. The building exists still at the junction of Michaelgate and Wordsworth Street. It later became a theological college, then part of De Montfort University, then of the University of Lincoln, and now has been converted into luxury apartments. It had been designed by John Carr of York and completed in 1777 to replace a hospital on the south side of the River Witham on ground later used for Doughty's Mill. Though an attractive building externally with its grounds overlooking the city, by the 1860s the hospital had become increasingly unfit for purpose. The governors were not yet prepared to consider the building of a completely new hospital on a more suitable site, preferring to adapt and extend on the existing site in spite of the problems of drainage and ventilation and inconvenient internal layout.

Lincoln County Hospital's nursing system was unsatisfactory. A report by B. W. Richardson (part of his 'Medical History of England' in the Medical Times and Gazette, of November 1864, comments that the nursing system required 'reform urgently' and he was happy to report that 'a new system of nursing is about to be adopted', the new system being that of Mrs Bromhead, Miss Boucherett and Mrs Waldo-Sibthorp. At the time of Richardson's report there were six nurses, four for male patients, two for the female patients, and between two and four night nurses. There was on average one nurse to twelve patients. There were
15 wards (9 male, 6 female) with a total of 100 beds, 38 of these for female patients. The night nurses were described as old women who had been out at work all day...

...worn out already [and] their night duties are performed with the most scrupulous observance of the rules laid down by that eminent authority Mrs Gamp – that is to say, they sleep as much as they can, and leave the sick as long as is possible to the care of their useful sister Nature.

So they could be warned of the surgeon's approach they 'strew cinders along the passage that he may crunch them.' The sanitary condition of the hospital Richardson considered 'very defective'; there were problems with drainage, ventilation and heating; the wards at the upper portion of the building were 'amongst the worst I have ever seen' and he concluded:

*There is but one remedy for the Lincoln Hospital and that is to pull it down stick and stone and recast it on a new basis. A pavilion Hospital for Lincoln, that is the desideratum.*

Louisa Boucherett, one of the founder members of the Ladies' Nursing Fund, was particularly keen that a new hospital should be built and, in a letter to Florence Nightingale, writes that she has found a suitable site and is willing to buy the land herself for the hospital, and that she wanted to hang up a plan of the hospital as it is and one of how it should be in every magistrate's room in each town in the county – 'Our Country gentlemen having never seen a rightly built Hospital don't know what is wanted.'

**The Ladies' Nursing Fund**

On her return to Lincoln after her meeting with Miss Soden in Bath, Anne set about gathering support and a proposal was put to the Lincoln County Hospital (Minute Book of the Ladies' Nursing Fund Committee for Lincoln County Hospital 1865-1867):

*It is believed that the utility of this Institution might be greatly increased by additional expenditure on the Nursing; especially by the employment of a competent Head Nurse to overlook and train the others, and by the employment of Nurses for the night-work, whose sole occupation shall be nursing, and who shall have the opportunity of seven consecutive hours' rest during the afternoon.*

The Matron, Mrs Newbould, acquiesces in the great necessity for the appointment of a Head Nurse, but the funds of the Institution have not hitherto permitted this improvement.

The number of Day Nurses at present employed is six. The system of night-watching is unsatisfactory for the fact that poor women are hired to sit up who have been at work the previous day.

The number of patients is between 70 and 80. At the Bath Hospital where the number of patients is between 90 and 100, they have a Head Nurse, 12 Nurses, and 3 Assistants or Scrubbers...

But the pecuniary difficulty not only applies to the question of an increase in the number of Nurses. The building also is at present scarcely sufficient for the additional accommodation required. Under the circumstances, it is our wish to raise a separate fund to be called the 'Ladies' Nursing Fund', first to provide such additional accommodation, and then to pay the wages of the extra number of Nurses required properly to perform their onerous duties... .

The proposal was presented to the Quarterly Meeting of the Governors of Lincoln County Hospital, after having been approved by the Weekly Board of the hospital. The Quarterly Board (July 1864) 'cordially approved' the proposal and agreed that when the donations for the building and furniture amounted to £350 and the annual subscriptions to £70 the system proposed could be adopted. The Ladies' Nursing Fund was set up to raise funds and the Lincolnshire Chronicle reporting on this initiative (1 July 1864) says:

*A number of ladies have set a liberal example [by donating] which we have little doubt will be extensively imitated throughout the county by the fair sex, on whose sympathies this movement has an especial claim... Mrs Bromhead of the Close, Lincoln, will thankfully receive any contributions towards this good work.*

The Lincolnshire Chronicle has regular...
updates listing names of donors and their donations and subscriptions throughout the year.

Miss Louisa Boucherett and Mrs Louisa Waldo-Sibthorpe were the two ladies most involved with the Ladies’ Nursing Fund from its inception, alongside Anne Bromhead. Louisa Boucherett, a wealthy single lady from Willingham Hall in North Lincolnshire, took on the role of writing to Florence Nightingale for advice during the Ladies’ Nursing Fund’s involvement with the Lincoln County Hospital, causing embarrassment to Miss Nightingale on one occasion when a letter she had written to Louisa was read at the Quarterly Meeting of Governors on 18 October 1866 and misrepresented in the *Stamford Mercury* (19 October 1866). The letter had related to hospital management and the *Stamford Mercury* had reported, inaccurately, that Miss Nightingale thought the ‘worst managed hospitals were those under the control of the medical staff.’ Louisa’s letters to Florence Nightingale, held at the London Metropolitan Archives, show her to be a forthright lady with strong opinions. (Her sister Jessie, equally wealthy and single, was very much involved in London with employment opportunities for women, with the early suffrage for women movement, and initially edited *The Englishwoman’s Review.*)

Mrs Waldo-Sibthorp was the widow of Gervaise Waldo-Sibthorp who had been a member of parliament for Lincoln after the death of his father, the renowned reactionary Colonel Sibthorp of Canwick Hall.

**The Project Goes Ahead**

Sufficient funds raised and accommodation for the Head Nurse ready, the first Head Nurse, whose name does not appear in any minutes, was appointed in December 1864 and took up her post on 31 January 1865. Ten ordinary nurses were employed and two scrubbers for cleaning duties. The first report of the Ladies’ Nursing Fund notes the deficiencies of equipment in the hospital when they first became involved, and they had set out to rectify some of these deficiencies. Seven bed pans, eight foot warmers, seven stomach warmers, pillows, teaspooons, egg cups and slippers were among the items supplied by the Ladies. Boilers were supplied so water could be heated on the wards.

The aim was to have a head nurse, preferably a gentlewoman, who could supervise, manage and train the ordinary nurses. The three ladies, Mrs Bromhead, Miss Boucherett and Mrs Waldo-Sibthorp, were invited to attend Quarterly Meetings of the Governors, which, until their appearance, had included no women. The Governors were no doubt pleased to have the extra funds that the ladies were bringing with them and, aware of the deficiencies in the nursing system, glad to be able to pass responsibility for its improvement to the ladies. All started optimistically and enthusiastically.

However, by the Quarterly Meeting of Governors on 12 October 1865, it is clear the experiment was not going well. A letter signed by Mrs Bromhead, Miss Boucherett and Mrs Waldo-Sibthorp, who were all present at the meeting, was read:

> …we have met with great difficulties not contemplated by the Weekly Board when the new system of nursing was established. In their opinion, the difficulties were: [...due] in great measure… to the fact that the office of head nurse is not recognised in the rules...

Further discussion, as reported in the *Lincolnshire Chronicle* of 21 October 1865, suggests that there was friction between the long established Matron, Mrs Elizabeth Newbould, and the Head Nurse because of the lack of a clear definition of roles and responsibilities. The ladies felt the situation could be improved if responsibility for the nurses was independent of Mrs Newbould.

> ‘We wish to make the nursing independent of the Matron’, said Mrs Waldo-Sibthorp, and Miss Boucherett added, ‘As is the case in many London Hospitals.’

The discussion was perhaps becoming heated as the Archdeacon then remarked that it should ‘not go forth to the public that there was a difference of opinion as to the internal management of the institution.’

The Chairman, Mrs Bromhead’s brother George Knollis Jarvis, said the proposal of the ladies was so vague that they really could not entertain it. However Mrs Waldo-Sibthorp clarified their proposal:

> ‘We simply ask that the matron should continue to have the general superintendence of the house, but that the head nurse should be independent of her so far as the nursing is concerned.’

The Revd Gibney then chimed in that he ‘wished really and honestly to restore harmony...’

On 27 November 1865, at the meeting of the Lincoln County Hospital Weekly Board, it was agreed to recommend to the Board of Governors the adoption of the proposal of the Ladies’ Nursing Fund to take on responsibility for the nursing in the hospital on a six month trial with various stipulations. Also at this meeting, thanks were given to Mrs Bromhead for her advice relating to the patients’ diet. On 11 December 1865 the Governors of the Hospital handed over the management of the nursing to the Ladies’ Nursing Committee.

But 1866 proved a disastrous year.

**The Unfortunate Head Nurses**

Anne Bromhead in her letter of resignation, Oct 1866, wrote:

> Different causes, to which it is unnecessary now to allude, have deprived me of the assistance of head nurses one after another.

Louisa Boucherett wrote to Florence Nightingale:

> The unsanitary state of the Hospital has at present so scared all the Ladies we know that one is gone to Chester and another to York and two being dead we shall probably have to appoint somebody who is not a gentlewoman.

The following is from Thomas
June 1866 contains an obituary:

The first head nurse was engaged and arrived on 31 January 1865. The first annual report of the Ladies’ Nursing Fund notes that they began with ten nurses and a head nurse ‘whose duty is to take charge of every patient, and to see that the nurses faithfully discharge their duties’. Two head nurses came and went, whose names do not appear in any of the minutes, nor their reasons for leaving. Then came Lucy Nevile, the daughter of the Revd Christopher Nevile of Thorney Hall (not far from Doddington Hall) who was in post before December 1864 but died in June 1866.

Lucy Nevile and Marion Russell Whitehead – head nurses and gentlewomen
The minutes of a special meeting of the Ladies’ Nursing Fund on 16 June 1866 note:

...deep sorrow at the loss of their late Head Nurse Lucy Nevile... true servant of Him who went about doing good and healing the sick.

The Illustrated London News of 23 June 1866 contains an obituary:

Lucy Nevile, head nurse at Lincoln County Hospital... was a scion of the most illustrious of English houses, that of Nevill, Lords of Raby... Miss Lucy Nevile has added to the ancestral fame of her family the further credit of a life devoted to works of mercy. She quitted all the attractions of rank and fortune to pass her time in nursing the sick. [She had received the] highest commendations and certificates of her real ability as a nurse [from Kings College Hospital, London] and it is not too much to say that the present satisfactory state of the nursing [at Lincoln County Hospital] is in a very great measure due to the tact, energy, good temper and zeal which that lady showed in the discharge of her duties.

Lucy Nevile had been head nurse for less than a year when she took leave of absence to attend her sister’s wedding in May 1866. She came back with a cold, which developed into diphtheria. She was only 27. According to the minutes of the Ladies’ Nursing Fund, Emily Anderson, who had nursed in the Crimea, daughter of the Revd Sir Charles Anderson, 8th Baronet, of Lea Hall, near Gainsborough, was approached to take over temporarily but declined. Miss Margaret Monteith stepped in until Mrs Whitehead took over. Both Mrs Whitehead and Miss Monteith were already involved with the Ladies’ Nursing Fund. Margaret Monteith, from King’s College Hospital, had acted as head nurse in Miss Nevile’s absence earlier in 1866 and was on the committee appointed to take a house as a nurses’ home, along with Mrs Bromhead, Mrs Whitehead and Dr Mitchinson. Mrs Whitehead, the next head nurse, offered to take on the role temporarily, but sadly also succumbed to diphtheria, falling ill on 21 July 1866 and dying on 30 July. She too was 27, the widow of the Revd G. D. Whitehead, who had been a minor canon of Lincoln Cathedral. He had died at the age of 73 in December 1864. Mrs Whitehead was buried with her husband in the Cathedral cloisters (Stamford Mercury 3 Aug 1866). The report of her death in the Lincolnshire Chronicle (4 Aug 1866) notes that:

Two ladies have thus within a few weeks fallen victims to a philanthropic desire to alleviate the sufferings of the sick.

The report also notes that a factor in Mrs Whitehead’s illness may have been effluvia from the hospital drains ‘...acting upon a system which had become exhausted owing to over-work.’ The Weekly Board (6 August 1866) noted that

...members of the Weekly Board having heard with the deepest regret of the death of Mrs Whitehead in consequence of illness contracted in the discharge of her duties as temporary Head Nurse desire to bear their testimony to her unwearied kindness and attention to the Patients...

In the article in The Englishwoman’s Review (‘Lincoln Hospital: A Story of Heroism’, 15 April 1898) the author writes, 'There are many still who remember her fair, calm face.'

Diphtheria
Both Lucy Nevile and Marion Whitehead died from diphtheria. At the time a link between the disease and unsanitary conditions was assumed. Though the state of the drains at Lincoln County Hospital may not have caused the deaths of the two ladies, their deaths and the assumption at the time that the drains were a factor, did increase the pressure on the governing body to improve the sanitation at the hospital, and perhaps took them a little further down the road to accepting that a new hospital on a new site was what was really needed. Mrs Bromhead’s daughter Henrietta also suffered from diphtheria around the time that Mrs Whitehead’s replacement as Head Nurse arrived in August 1866.

The article in The Englishwoman’s Review notes that after the death of Mrs Whitehead and the appointment of a new head nurse a ‘girl of nineteen’ helped her ‘day by day, encouraging the nurses and cheering and comforting the terror-stricken patients.’ The author does not name this nineteen-year-old. Could she have been Henrietta Bromhead or maybe the anonymous author of the...
article? The nineteen-year-old ‘passed through the ordeal unscathed and still lives.’ The author of the article certainly seems to have been closely involved with the story and had visited Mrs Bromhead’s home: ‘Many of us love to recall her as she was generally to be seen in later days, seated at her letter-strewn writing table...’

**Miss Henna: A case of unfair dismissal?**

Following Mrs Whitehead’s death, the Ladies’ Nursing Fund Minutes (22 June 1866) noted that an advert was to be put in *The Guardian* for a Head Nurse: she must be hospital trained and a member and communicant of the Church of England. Miss Henna, initially recommended by Mrs Wardroper, Matron at St Thomas’s Hospital, was appointed for three months to start on 1 August (Weekly Board 16 July 1866) but by 29 September 1866 (Special Meeting of the Ladies’ Nursing Fund) Miss Henna was ill and it was resolved ‘that Mrs Bromhead be requested to take such steps during Miss Henna’s illness as she shall consider necessary for the efficiency of the Nursing.’ Could this have been when the ‘girl of nineteen’ helped out? At the end of October Miss Henna’s engagement came to an end and the committee did not feel ‘at liberty to propose a re-engagement but that in consequence of her serious illness Miss Henna be requested to accept a gratuity of £10 from the Ladies’ Nursing Fund.’ Miss Henna (Ladies’ Nursing Fund Minutes 7 November 1866) declined the £10 and was allowed to appeal to the Hospital’s Weekly Board, which she did at the meeting on 12 November 1866. They heard her statement of which there are no details in the minutes but nonetheless asked her to leave ‘today’, which she undertook to do. Lord Monson was in the chair. Her three months’ contract had come to an end, and this was given as the reason for her dismissal, but there were other factors involved: an unpaid London dressmaker’s bill, and a suggestion of a relationship with a house surgeon at St Thomas’ Hospital. Miss Henna felt she had been unfairly treated.

The Henna episode caused a flurry of letters, which are held at the London Metropolitan Archives: one from Anne Bromhead to Henry Bonham Carter, Florence Nightingale’s cousin and secretary, about Miss Henna’s unpaid dressmaker’s bill, and Miss Henna’s denial that she was only employed on a three months’ trial, and Mrs Bromhead’s letter also states that ‘No letter of Mrs Wardroper’s was read’ at the committee that met to discuss the termination of Miss Henna’s contract. Mrs Wardroper, Matron at St Thomas’ Hospital, after her initial recommendation of Miss Henna, had written to warn of Miss Henna’s unsuitability and Florence Nightingale herself had warned Louisa Boucherett. Chancellor Massingberd also wrote to Henry Bonham Carter. Mr Massingberd also mentions Mrs Wardroper’s concerns: *Mrs Wardroper had revoked her recommendation in consequence of Miss Henna’s positive refusal to comply with her injunctions in a particular matter which she mentioned.*

According to Chancellor Massingberd, Miss Henna had nonetheless come to Lincoln and Mrs Bromhead would have sent her back but she received a telegram to say that her daughter had been ‘seized with diphtheria at Scarborough’ and ‘in her distress she admitted Miss Henna to the Hospital for three months.’ Miss Henna also wrote to Henry Bonham Carter asking what proof did the Matron of St Thomas’s Hospital have for writing to Lincoln with assertions ‘for which they have dismissed me... . First as to some supposedly improper intimacy between myself and... formerly House Surgeon at St Thomas’s also asserting that the same either accompanied me to Lincoln, or has followed me there.’

Miss Henna seems to consider this was the real reason she was dismissed. Finally, Louisa Boucherett writes on the subject to Florence Nightingale:

*I cannot refrain from troubling you with my thanks for the great service you did us in warning me in so earnest & friendly a manner against engaging Miss Henna. She was yesterday sent for to the Committee & informed that we persevered in our determination not to engage her. She was offered a £10 draft for her quarter salary and a gratuity of £10 for her sufferings ‘through the unsanitary condition of the Hospital’. Louisa goes on to say that Miss Henna tore up the draft and... *attempted every art of persuasion & cajolery. Flattered the vanity of the Chairman, not successfully as unfortunately for her Mr Massingberd was in the chair! No success attending these exertions she declined to leave the Hospital... . The only reason they gave her for her dismissal was that they did not think she would ‘suit’ and ‘read no part of the evidence against her.’

No mention is made of Annie Henna’s ability as a nurse. As a result of this episode, Miss Henna’s connection with the Nightingale Fund was terminated. What became of her, I have not discovered.

A further frustration for Anne Bromhead at this time was the arrival of Miss Maria Barber, sent from St Thomas’s by Mrs Wardroper, though it is not clear whether she was sent to take over as head nurse from Annie Henna. She, however, left with Miss Henna. Her reasons, given in a letter to Henry Bonham Carter, were several: she had not been told Miss Henna was only on a three month contract; she had not realised she was expected to do night duties, and she did not want to bathe male patients. Furthermore, she felt she could not trust her character in the hands of the Lincoln Nursing Committee after what had happened to Annie Henna. Mrs Bromhead’s letter to Henry Bonham Carter says of Miss Barber: ‘She did not conform to the rules of the Hospital’ and ‘had only come to be with Miss Henna’. Mrs Bromhead gave her money for her journey but said that any wages due would be
paid via Mrs Wardroper and she finishes her letter:

I think I ought to mention that Barber has taken 3 new Hospital caps away with her. ‘Barber’ had obviously not made a good impression!

**Miss Whitton**

The final head nurse appointed by the ladies, before the severing of the relationship between the Ladies’ Nursing Fund and the Hospital, was Miss Whitton. On 19 November 1866 it was reported by the Ladies’ Nursing Committee that Miss Whitton from St Thomas’s Hospital had been engaged as Head Nurse. Good testimonials for her had been received including from Mrs Wardroper at St Thomas’s, although Mrs Wardroper had misgivings about sending another head nurse to Lincoln. In a letter to Florence Nightingale dated 23 October 1866 (held at the British Library) she says: 

Indeed... in their unwholesome state it seems almost sending a woman to a premature grave. Miss Whitton stayed until 11 February 1867. She too became ill. Miss Boucherett in letters to Florence Nightingale writes:

Miss Whitton is very unwell from cold not diphtheria or any form of hospital disease I am told [and later] Miss Whitton remains seriously ill. I understand not from hospital disease...

**And the nurses?**

The emphasis during this period was on finding and retaining a suitable head nurse, preferably a gentlemwoman, and there is little discussion of the ordinary nurses in minutes. However, after the October Quarterly Meeting in 1866, a letter appeared in the *Lincolnshire Chronicle* of 3 November 1866 from Mrs Bromhead to correct an erroneous report:

*SIR: In reference to a report which has been circulated, will you allow me to state that I have engaged, up to this time, 26, not 50, young women to go into the Hospital as nurses and probationer-nurses, all on one month’s trial; five of whom left at the end of the month, one at the end of three weeks, one to be married, two to better themselves, six incompetent, one in bad health, and ten still on duty. I have only parted with one nurse for suspected immoral conduct, of which I was informed by the matron, and this nurse I did not engage; in fact, I objected, on account of her character, to the matron engaging her. I believe all the young women I have engaged are respectable. I received excellent characters of all of them. I am, sir, your obedient servant, ANNE BROMHEAD, October 30th, 1866.*

When the split between the Hospital and the Ladies’ Nursing Fund became final in February 1867, some of these nurses were retained by the Hospital.

**The End of the Experiment**

Louisa Boucherett wrote to Florence Nightingale:

We ought to have retired on the ground of the badness of the building and site 3 months ago but to this Mrs Bromhead would not consent and I hardly opposed her as I ought though I did urge this course strongly upon her. Finally, Mrs Bromhead agreed that the relationship with the hospital should be terminated. Her letter, dated 3 October 1866, to the Committee of the Nursing Fund proposing that the Ladies’ Nursing Fund should cease its connection with the County Hospital sets out the reasons why this should happen:

I have the satisfaction of knowing from the patients, and from many of the medical men, that the nursing during this time has been much improved; but whatever the improvement has been, it is with great regret I say that I did urge this course strongly upon her.

Mrs Bromhead adds that she hoped to ‘keep up the nursing institution and to be able to send out private nurses’ – subject of course to subscriptions still being forthcoming. The letter was forwarded to the Quarterly Board meeting of Governors by the Nursing Fund Committee, giving notice of their wish to withdraw.

At the Quarterly Board meeting of Governors on 11 Oct 1866, Mrs Bromhead’s letter was discussed but the Board hoped...

...that arrangements may yet be made in order that the County Hospital may not be deprived of the advantage of an efficient system of nursing.

The severing of the relationship between the Hospital and the Ladies’ Nursing Fund came at the meeting of the very well attended Quarterly Board meeting on 10 January 1867. The minutes give no indication of the discussions that took place relating to the Ladies’ Nursing Fund’s involvement in the Hospital, but the *Lincolnshire Chronicle*’s report on 18 January 1867 certainly does, quoting members of the Board’s comments, which clearly show the attitude of several of the governors to the place of women:

...new fangled system of lady government
...rich ladies who would bring the Hospital almost to ruin
[The Ladies’ Committee was] the plague-spot

According to the *Lincolnshire Chronicle*’s report Mr Alderman Harvey said they had had seven head nurses:

The first he knew little about; the second was a source of trouble and no credit; then there were two ladies who became martyrs to the system. He would ask them if they wanted any more martyrs for he would tell them plainly that ladies →
of delicate rearing and delicate health could not make the sort of nurses wanted in the hospital. The sixth nurse was dismissed... .

The Chancellor said here that she was not dismissed, just informed her period of engagement had ended. The discussion continued:

Was this institution to be governed by male governors or by female governors?... he preferred males (cheers) Were they to have ladies as deputy-lieutenants and magistrates? (Laughter).

Was there to be ‘petticoat government’?

He would leave these ladies, who appeared to be tired of their drawing-rooms and domestic duties (hear, hear and laughter) to find out some other amusement than interfering in the management of this institution... .

Treasurer George Jarvis, elder brother of Anne Bromhead, said:

The peace of the hospital has been sadly disturbed during the last eighteen months...

He went on to say that the revised diet (on which his sister had been thanked at the time for her input) was costing more, and was too liberal. He talked of food wastage, doubled consumption of cheese for which he blamed the nurses, increased consumption of beer, and patients squirrelling away sugar and butter to make toffee! Mr Jarvis also felt that Mrs Newbould, the matron, had been much maligned at the hospital reverted to the Hospital. Mrs Newbould, the matron, no doubt breathed a sigh of relief, and she altered... also... patients generally have been well and kindly nursed... thanks to the Nurses Committee had.' This was followed by cheers. Apparently little support for his sister and the Ladies’ Nursing Fund from brother George!

John Bromhead was also present at the meeting, but nothing is heard from him. How did he report the meeting to his wife when he got home? There was support for the ladies from Chancellor Massingberd who defended them from the charge of having damaged the interests of the hospital, saying that they had introduced an efficient system of nursing, but he rather dams them with faint praise:

They were fallible mortals of course and mistakes might have been made in carrying out what was at first an experiment but they deserved credit both for their good intentions and for what they had actually accomplished.

The meeting finished with the Chairman saying:

Then we must get rid of the Ladies’ Committee.

Mr Keyworth:

If you want to do so, say so, and don’t try to do it by a sideward.

Chairman:

Well, we do want to get rid of them. (Cheers)

...and the meeting ended after a five hour sitting.

In February 1867 the Ladies’ Nursing Fund involvement in the Hospital ceased. The responsibility for nursing at the hospital reverted to the Hospital. Mrs Newbould, the matron, no doubt breathed a sigh of relief, and she continued as matron until the move to the new hospital in 1878.

From the optimistic beginnings in 1865, when the ladies had been welcomed with their proposal and their funds, and Mrs Bromhead, Miss Boucheret and Mrs Waldo-Sibthorp had been invited to Quarterly Board meetings, the experiment had now ended in bitterness. Nonetheless, the governors agreed that the nursing system they now had in place was certainly better than the one they had before the intervention of the ladies. The Ladies’ Nursing Fund Report for 1866 (29 Jan 1867) says:

...exertions have not been in vain; they found the hospital destitute, as their first report shews, of the commonest articles of Nursing; this state of things has been altered... also... patients generally have been well and kindly nursed... thanks to the Nurses who, under difficulties, have endeavoured to do their duty.

Mrs Bromhead’s proposal had always been twofold: improving the nursing at the hospital but also providing a nursing service, beyond the hospital, to rich and poor in city and county. Now the Ladies’ Nursing Fund could concentrate on the provision of nursing outside the hospital, without the difficulties encountered within the hospital, and under their own management entirely. They already had a nurses’ home at 2 Greestone Terrace and the management of the nursing service was to be run from Mrs Bromhead’s house in Greestone Place. The service to patients in their homes would continue and develop as long as donations and subscriptions continued to come in, and would prove to be a successful and much valued service. Mrs Bromhead undeterred by the Lincoln County Hospital episode immediately set to work on the new service, the Institution for Trained Nurses.

The Burghersh arms in Lincoln Cathedral

This year marks the 700th anniversary of Henry Burghersh becoming the 14th Bishop of Lincoln. He was appointed by the Pope in May 1320 and consecrated in July 1320. The Burghersh arms, ‘Gules, a lion rampant double queued or, armed azure’, can be found on his father’s tomb in Lincoln Cathedral. Bishop Henry’s own tomb in the Cathedral is near to the head shrine of St Hugh. On this tomb the coat of arms is ‘Or, a lion rampant queued (single tail) azure, armed gules’. Our knowledge of heraldry isn’t that great, but someone may be able to explain why the shields are different.

Colin and Ros Beevers, Lincoln
The Revd Adrian Gustavus Devereux-Quick

'D-Q' was Curate-in-Charge at Branston from 1867 to 1869 – just two years – but he seldom stayed in any preferment for much longer as Dennis Mills found.

Adrian Quick drew and signed a pastoral plan of Branston in 1868, presumably to assist himself in finding the homes of members of the community when he wished to visit them. This plan is not unique, but it was quite an achievement, partly because Branston was a large village and partly because he had to ‘draw it out of his head’, as it predated the first of the large scale Ordnance Survey plans. He also appears to have been a talented musician.

Adrian Quick was born in 1830, and in the 1841 census he was in the household of his father, Edmund Quick, a ‘Professor of Dancing’, that is a dancing master. Also in the household were his mother and his two younger sisters. The address was Short Hill, near High Pavement, Nottingham, not one of the best parts of the city. In 1851 he was a clerk in the lace trade, living with his parents at Castle Gate, Nottingham.

How Devereux-Quick gained a place at Corpus Christi College, Cambridge, is unknown, but it might have been due to a sponsor called Devereux. At any rate he gained his BA there in 1859 at the age of 29. As for his academic performance, he is not listed in the Index to Tripos Lists covering the relevant period, so he probably took an Ordinary degree. That was common enough, but it implies either a lack of ability, application or funds.

This is probably the first occurrence of the addition of ‘Devereux’, but subsequent sources suggest that this could have been a later addition. The college website also contains a note that a letter testimonial had been written on 12 May 1859 for Quick in connection with his application for deacon’s orders (a priest is a deacon during his first year).¹ This also used the form Devereux-Quick.

However, he was plain Quick in July 1859 when the Bishop of Ely ordained A. G. Quick BA as a deacon of Cambridge, and licensed him to the curacy at Steeple Morden, Cambridgeshire (Ipswich Journal, 2 July 1859, p. 5) and in June 1860 he ordained him as priest when he was still known only as Quick (Morning Advertiser, 6 June 1860, p. 3). ‘Rev Adrian G. Quick’ is mentioned as curate at a Steeple Morden church meeting in November 1860 (Cambridge Chronicle and Journal, 3 November 1860, p. 8).

He was curate at Broughton, near Brigg, 1861–1867 and in September 1861, still as plain Quick, he placed an advertisement acknowledging receipt of very extreme tracts from an anonymous female (Stamford Mercury 20 September 1861, p. 1). However, in September 1864 when he married George William Smith of Claxby Manor and Elizabeth Chapman at Broughton Quick was referred to as D-Q (Stamford Mercury 9 September 1864, p. 4).

There is a full list of his preferments, starting with Steeple Morden, in the next page.

¹. This also used the form Devereux-Quick.

Signature of A G Devereux-Quick on his pastoral plan of Branston

Rectory Lane, alias Bad Lane, in an extract from Quick’s pastoral map of Branston, 1868 (Hackney to Sharpe). Gash and Ashley were in the Bertie’s Arms; Fletcher was in the Waggon and Horses, on the corner with the High Street; Church Road runs across the top part of this extract.
Note the apparent adoption of Devereux about 1864, although he was already recorded as D-Q by the time he graduated in 1859, so to some extent we are dependent on editors and suchlike. A considerable internet trawl inserting ‘Devereux’ has not produced any specific clues as to why he adopted this extra name. Perhaps it was merely a whim when he thought he should make himself look more prestigious than he was with the mere ‘Quick’, although this was already quite unusual on its own (see signature above).

According to the Venn record D-Q was a curate at Broughton by Brigg in the period 1861–1867 when he was newly ordained and it may be this location that explains his marriage later to a Broughton farmer’s daughter.

Following Broughton, in 1867–1869 he was curate in charge at Branston during ‘the slow and lingering death of the Revd Atwill Curtois’. D-Q did his duties for him and eventually buried him. The Lincolnshire Chronicle for 22 January 1869 carried an appreciation of D-Q’s services to the parish, especially for his work with the choir. Church choirs were an innovation about this time, having been preceded by small but cacophonous groups of brass instruments with fiddles, such as in Under the Greenwood Tree by Thomas Hardy. The Chronicle also referred to a conductor’s baton engraved with a token of esteem which had been presented by the choir to D-Q at a farewell tea provided by Mr Fletcher at the Wagon and Horses Inn.

In 1871 D-Q appears in the census for Skirbeck, Boston, the address being Bargate Drainside on the east side of the Maud Foster Drain. This seems an odd place for a clergyman to take lodgings, but it may only have been quite temporary. He was in the household of the unmarried 46-year-old Fanny Harrison, which also contained two nephews, aged 16 and twelve, and a 27-year-old housemaid. His occupation is given as Curate of Skirbeck, MA Cantab, born in Nottingham.

The Lincolnshire Chronicle of 2 June 1871 recorded a presentation given to D-Q by Skirbeck parishioners, in the form of an ‘elegant inkstand’ and a purse of money, supported by a long list of subscribing parishioners. John Morton, a shopkeeper in Boston whose shop had been used as a collecting point, wrote that D-Q’s ministrations had delighted the parishioners who hoped he would be promoted to a position ‘where your valuable labours may be appreciated and you yourself enjoy health, peace and happiness.’

On 25 January 1876 D-Q married Elizabeth Nicholson of 281 Cromwell Road, at St Mark, Notting Hill. His residence was given as South Ormsby, Lincolnshire, another curacy. The Christian name Elizabeth is repeated on 13 December 1884 when the couple baptised their son Edmund Vane, but by 1891 the census gives D-Q’s wife’s name as Lily – an alternative name for Elizabeth. She was born at Broughton by Brigg in 1851, her parents being Henry and Sarah Nicholson. Henry Nicholson (born Brigg c.1819) was a farmer of 580 acres at Broughton in 1851; a farmer and agricultural agent, 400 acres at Broughton Vale in 1861; and an auctioneer and agricultural agent at Kirton in 1871. Puzzlingly Edmund Vane’s Christian names were reversed to Vane Edmund, son of Adrian and Lily, when he was baptised by them on 12 June 1896 at St John of Wapping, Middlesex. There is a note that he had been previously baptised privately by his father on 13 December 1884, over twelve years before at Piddletrenthide, Dorset. Private baptisms were sometimes used for a child not thought to be strong enough to survive.

Crockfords of 1874 and 1908 has him as Vicar of Frithville from 1872, and of Carrington. These parishes only paid £80 each, so he probably could not afford to live on the income of one of them. He was at Piddletrenthide, Dorset, according to his signatures in the baptism register at least from 1 November 1884 to 13 December 1886. The Bridport News of 20 April 1888 reported the presentation to D-Q of a testimonial.
by the Piddletrenthide choir of 13 men and women plus the organist and a note was made that this was his third testimonial from a church choir (suggesting that widely separated choirs communicated about D-Q).

D-Q's 1891 census entry in the enumerator's book for Newbold Pacey, near Stratford-on-Avon, shows him as 60, curate in charge; Lily his wife 39, born at Broughton, Lincolnshire; two sons, Basil 8 and Edmund 7, born at Feltham, Middlesex; and two daughters, Lily 4 and Florence 2, born at Piddletrenthide. By 24 October 1891 the Worcestershire Chronicle is reporting that D-Q had been licensed to the curacy of St Anne's Bewdly, Worcestershire. Another baptism register, at Tower Hamlets (St John of Wapping) contains his signatures from 17 April to 5 July 1896 and includes his own son Vane Edmund (Edmund after D-Q's father) on 12 June 1896.

D-Q was something of a rolling stone and died at Norwich on 1 September 1912 aged 82. His career was typical of those Anglican clergy of the time who came from modest backgrounds without support from men who could find better preferments than D-Q managed to acquire.

Susan Payne has contributed information from the Sussex Agricultural Express of 1 November 1890 that shows another side when Lily Devereux-Quick, wife of a curate who formerly resided at Horsham, was charged with drunkenness in 1890 at West Grinstead where she had been staying. After agreeing to go home she was removed to the Revd Arthur Tooth's Home for Inebriates. Lily Devereux-Quick died aged 56 in 1908 in the Norwich Registration District.

Appendix by Ray Cucksey
D-Q's entry in the Clergy Register reads as follows:
As Quick adm. Pensioner at Corpus Christi, Cambridge, 30 June 1855, BA 1895. As Devereux-Quick ordained deacon (Ely), 1859, priest 1860. Curate of the following50parishes: Steeple Morden, Cambs, 1859–61; Broughton, Lincs, 1861–67; Branston, Lincs, 1867–69; Skirbeck, Lincs, 1869–71; Coningsby, Lincs, 1872–73; Spilsby, Lincs, 1873–74; Owersby, Lincs, 1875–79; Ratby, Leics, 1880–81; Wittersham, Kent, 1881–82; Feltham, Middlesex, 1882–84; Piddletrenthide, Dorset, 1884–88; West Walton, Cambs, 1889–90; St Anne's, Bewdly, Worcs, 1890–92; Cusop, Herefordshire, 1892–94; St John's, Wapping, 1894–1902; West Winch, Norfolk, 1902–03; Stokesby, 1903–04; disappears from Crockford 1913.

In addition, the Eastern Evening News (Norwich) reported in July 1905 that D-Q had been appointed to the parish of Horsford and Horsham St Faiths, Norfolk.

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Notes and references at www.slha.org.uk

Who was the architect of the Punch House at Horncastle?

Nick Moore has found the answer

The Punch House is an enigmatic, crescent shaped building standing at the south-east corner of Horncastle Market Place, close to St Mary's church. Pevsner describes it as quasi-Italian Gothic and gives the date of its building as 1860. While searching through the British Newspapers Archive online site I came across an advertisement in the Lincolnshire Chronicle, dated 2 November 1867, which sheds more light on its construction. The Lincoln architects Bellamy and Hardy were requesting tenders from BUILDERS and CONTRACTORS ...desirous of the taking down of the OLD VICARAGE, situate in the Marketplace, Horncastle, in the county of Lincoln, and to build on the site thereof SHOPS and DWELLINGS. Bellamy and Hardy were a leading mid-Victorian architectural practice working from 29 Broadgate in Lincoln. In Lincolnshire they were the architects of Grimsby and Louth Town Halls, and many corn exchanges and Methodist chapels. The Punch House is an interesting addition to their work, and is Grade II listed. It makes extensive use of artificial stone, which is inlaid with reddish scrollwork, possibly an example of the imperishable concrete stone manufactured by Joseph Fambrini at the Excelsior Works in Monks Road, Lincoln. It is built using yellow or gault bricks and has a continuous curved front from the west running round to the east. There is also decorative red terracotta brickwork under the eaves. It did not last long as shops, becoming a public house, which was due to close in 2015.
The first Youth Hostel was opened in Germany in 1909 by a school teacher called Richard Schirrmann. This was opened in Schirrmann’s own school in Altena, Westphalia. A replacement, which still exists today, was built in the grounds of Altena Castle. Following a trip to Germany in 1929, pioneers in Liverpool started a fledgling Merseyside branch of the British Youth Hostels Association. The National Youth Hostels Association (YHA) was established in 1930 and 75 hostels were open in England and Wales by 1931.

During the Second World War the number of YHA members doubled, as Britain’s growing urban population of young working people were given the opportunity to enjoy leisure time in the countryside.

Driving past the former Youth Hostel at Woody’s Top (pictured above), near Louth, every week made me think about the locations of other Youth Hostels in Lincolnshire. I knew from my old copies of The Dalesman magazine that Youth Hostels news was reported regularly from around Yorkshire, but was Lincolnshire a popular destination too?

A phone call to the YHA Headquarters in Matlock provided details for John Martin, volunteer archivist of the YHA. Mr Martin began researching these obscure places about 15 years ago and wrote an open letter to Lincolnshire Life magazine, asking for any memories. There were still people who remembered the earliest days of the YHA. So now I had a comprehensive list of Lincolnshire’s hostels.

Earlier county YHA hostels
Wood Farm, Burton le Coggles 1939 to 1940 or early 1941. Jack and Beryl Whiting (we shall meet them again later) began this hostel, along with a Grantham businessman.

Hundon Manor, Caistor 1936 to 1939. Run by the Lincolnshire Ramblers Federation, which is affiliated to the YHA.

Yarra House Yarra Road, Cleethorpes, 1956 to 1961.

The Manor, North Elkington Near Louth. 1948 to 1954.

The Chestnuts, Glentham 1937 to 1941 or 1942. Formerly the vicarage, and also a chicken farm with room for 10,000 chickens.

Harrowby Hall, Grantham 1943 to 1951. Replaced by Gorse Lane.
Gorse Lane, Grantham
Off Spittlegate Hill, 1951 to 1957. Closed due to high cost of repairs and moved to Dudley Road.

Dudley Road, Grantham
1957 to 1986.

Park Road, Holbeach
1954 to 1960. This hostel used the Holbeach Youth Centre.

South Park, Lincoln

Little London, Torksey
1933 to 1936. Takings in 1934 amounted to £1/4/9d.

Lynwode Manor
Linwood, Market Rasen, 1945 to 1946.

Otby House
Walesby, Market Rasen, 1942 to 1943. Replaced by Linwood.

Redhurst

North Wold Farm, Tealby
1933 only. Run by the Lincolnshire Ramblers’ Federation.

Watery Lane, Tealby Thorpe
The replacement for Tealby, but only used in 1934.

Magdalen College, Wainfleet
Planned for 1940, delayed due to war and never opened afterwards.

Farforth Youth Hostel
One gentleman who got in touch with information about early hostels was Jack Whiting from Devon. His girlfriend, later wife, had been one of the volunteer weekend wardens at Farforth, about one mile from Woody’s Top.

Farforth is a tiny village lying in the valley just off the road down to Scamblesby and consists of a farm, church, a few cottages and the large farmhouse known as Farforth House. This had been used as a Youth Hostel since the early 1930s and rented on a yearly lease.

Jack Whiting remembered Farforth as being quite basic in its accommodation. It was only warded at weekends and a lady nearby kept the key for other times.

A cycling group operated Farforth before the YHA, possibly the Grimsby Cyclists Touring Club. During the 1930s a group of around ten Borstal boys from Nottinghamshire were taken to Freiston Shore, near Boston, where they helped build huts for the North Sea Camp. As part of their integration back into society, they were allowed to stay in tents at Farforth Youth Hostel during the summer and sleep in the hostel during the winter.

There were three rooms on the left for women; one included the washrooms and the only proper toilet. Three rooms on the right were for the men and the toilet was less welcoming – a sentry type hut with a bucket to be emptied by the hostellers. Jack Whiting recalled the toilet being taken over by bees on one occasion. A local farmer made the hut safe, free of charge, but kept all the honeycombs that he had discovered. Mr Strawson, the landowner, wanted to move back to Farforth and offered the Woody’s Top building as an alternative on a yearly lease of ten shillings a week.

Woody’s Top Youth Hostel
Jack Whiting recalled that the committee went to look at Woody’s Top in the dark, armed only with cycle lamps, and it looked terrible. They returned in the daylight and it looked even worse. The barn part of the building, which became the gentlemen’s dormitory, was being used as a tractor repair shop. The building that became the common room was open to the elements and was used to store farm implements and to house chickens.

Working parties were there most weekends so that the hostel was ready to open in the middle of 1947. For water there was a small well by the side of the gentlemen’s dormitory, with a hand pump on it to use for washing. Drinking water came in a galvanised drum mounted on a trolley collected from a farmyard tap, with kind permission from the farmer. As the farmyard was half way down Ruckland Hill it was hard work to get the water back up the hill to the hostel!

The first winter was described as fairly spartan – it was the famous harsh winter of 1947. The gentlemen’s dorm had a pantile roof and visitors resorted to a cycle cape over their blankets to keep dry during rainy nights. Thankfully the pantiles were underfelted during the following summer and conditions improved.

Woody’s Top was originally the top barn belonging to the Reverend Wood. The YHA decided to try and buy the freehold of the property after the local farmer Mr Strawson sold out to a large corporate business. Peter Grant was a farmer from Boston and the driving force behind the success of the hostel. He offered £750 on behalf of the YHA for the freehold and it was accepted. This was in 1972. Woody’s Top was gradually improved over the years. Mains water was added in 1986 and flush toilets in 1987. The hostel also benefitted from a bequest by Peter Grant after his death in 1992. The hostel (pictured opposite) lasted for almost 70 years before closing in 2017. Sadly, it was not well used in its last years, a situation not helped by the fact that its nearest neighbour and overseeing hostel was Sherwood Forest in Nottinghamshire.

Woodo’s Top has been converted into self-catering holiday accommodation. The triangular metal YHA emblem that had grown into one of the tree trunks has been cut down, but at least the fantastic views can still be enjoyed by visitors staying here in the heart of the Wolds.

The Only Youth Hostel Left in Lincolnshire – Thurlby, Near Bourne
Dave Allison, regional manager of the YHA, told the story of how Thurlby was acquired by the Association. He went to see the owners, Mr and Mrs Harold Garwood Sneath, in the late 1970s. The Sneaths were prominent local Methodists and both in their mid nineties. They wanted to secure the future of their house to avoid a housing estate being built where their house had once stood.

Mr Allison continued to visit and keep in touch. Mr Sneath still had a very serious work ethic. Well into
his nineties, he was still working four hours a day, either in his office managing his stocks and shares or running his orchard and apple store. The house, originally dating from the 15th century, had been the site of Mr Sneath’s grandfather’s forge. It had 17 rooms, including bathrooms and toilets. Mr and Mrs Sneath generously added the cost of equipment to the bequest, so that the YHA could convert the house into suitable accommodation.

Thurlby Youth Hostel officially opened on 4 May 1981 and continued until closure was threatened at the end of 2002. Major investment was needed to bring it up to standard and Mr and Mrs Sneath had understood that the YHA would sell the property if it became no longer viable as a business. The closure announcement sparked an angry response from local people, which escalated to involve County and District Councils, as well as the local MP.

Good news in the end as Lincolnshire County Council and South Kesteven District Council bought the property, extensively modernised it and reopened it on 3 June 2006. The plan was to run Thurlby and Woody’s Top as voluntary staffed satellites of Lincoln. However, Lincoln sadly closed and Thurlby became fully managed until 2010, when it became volunteer wardened.

**How Life Changes!**

I also discovered that the first YHA songbook was produced in 1952 to encourage common room singalongs. From the same era, my favourite piece from ‘Youth Hostel News’ in The Dalesman magazine comes from August 1951. It reads:

> May we once again urge members to carry their own sleeping bags. Wardens have great difficulty in meeting demands and coping with the laundering problems at busy periods. A good cheap sleeping bag can very easily be made from parachute material which, incidentally, is also lighter and more compact than the usual type.

I would like to thank YHA volunteer archivist, John Martin, for his invaluable help. The YHA Archive and the YHA Historical Archive are stored at the Cadbury Research Library Special Collections at the University of Birmingham.

If anybody has more information about or photos of our Youth Hostels, please get in touch.
The story of the Society for Lincolnshire History and Archaeology

Pearl Wheatley traces the history of the SLHA back to its origins in the first half of the 19th century and tells of the many heritage projects the Society has supported

Part Three: On the Campaign Trail

In 1970 the Society for Lincolnshire History and Archaeology launched a project to publish a history of Lincolnshire. One of the early aims of the Lincolnshire Architectural Society (A&A) had been to do just that. Within two or three years of the establishment in 1844 the idea was proposed. The Revd Terrot of Wispington had made a good start by already visiting 90 parishes. The parish theme persisted as the way forward.

In 1876 the Bishop passed on a message from the Archdeacons and others requesting A&A to publish a history of Lincolnshire. The response was, 'It is a great honour to be asked.' A subcommittee was appointed to organise it. The plan was to ask all incumbents to gather histories of their parishes. Next we hear in 1895 that the Revd Massingberd asked for support for his history. There was a lukewarm reply but he asked if there ought to be a Lincolnshire record society that might publish it for him.

In 1930 the newly launched Lindsey Local History Society, later to become the Lincolnshire Local History Society (LLHS), set about the task. Local history groups were formed in several parishes to collate their individual records. It was not until 1970 that LLHS really got down to the job. This time there was a move from the study of parishes to a chronological series of twelve volumes. The twelfth volume left the press in 2000. However, since then the History of Lincolnshire Committee has produced further issues on specific county topics.

Preservation of buildings and archaeological sites has always been on the agenda. A lasting one is, of course, the site of Bardney Abbey. The A&A supported the Revd Charles Laing of Bardney during his excavations and recording of the abbey from 1909. This support continued until well after he died and until Mrs Laing asked the Society to take it over and care for the site in 1932, which, as the owner, it does still.

The late 1920s and early 1930s was a very busy time on account of Lincoln Corporation’s plans to tidy up the centre of the city. The churches of St Benedict and St Peter at Arches were to be demolished as well as Jews’ Court and other slum buildings. A conference at St Benedict’s and strong letters to the Corporation plus funding and glass from Lord Monson’s estate saved St Benedict’s and also Jews’ Court. St Peter’s was demolished but material from this church was used to construct St Giles’ church in Lamb Gardens.

The A&A had collected books, maps and artefacts terming it their museum. When the A&A linked up with LLHS in 1965 the books and papers were placed in Lincolnshire Archives and the rest of the artefacts were taken by
the City and County Museum. Arthur Smith, the first curator from 1906, was also the Society secretary. LLHS was hot on the museum trail. Led by Ethel Rudkin, members visited events such as agricultural shows to assemble artefacts. This collection formed a substantial part of the Museum of Lincolnshire Life when it opened in 1969. Led by SLHA, another museum campaign was begun in 1993 when the City and County Museum was closed. After twelve years a new museum, The Collection, came into being.

SLHA also sponsored interest in family history. A group was formed within the Society and made rapid headway. In one year alone fifteen booklets of transcriptions were published. The minutes note that Mrs Eileen Robson ‘must have shares in the GPO considering how much she supports it.’ Eventually this very active group broke away to form the Lincolnshire Family History Society so creating a valuable sister organisation.

LLHS campaigned nationally to establish a Standing Conference of Local History. It seems our delegates were highly vocal and made their presence felt in no uncertain way. This body is now the British Association of Local History. SLHA is still a member. Campaigning is an important part of the Society be it to save the site of the Bishops’ Palace in Nettleham from property development or preserving the fabric of the Bass Maltings in Sleaford and the Ice Factory in Grimsby. There is now much concern over the future of the Usher Gallery and of Lincolnshire Archives. SLHA, true to our forefathers, will keep up the pressure to save these and other heritage assets going forward.

Above: Bardney Abbey
1. Scallop capital with elaborate decoration. It is probably from the choir of the church.
2. Carved head that has been weathered, suggesting an external location.
3. Twelfth-century stone that is rebated for glazing on its rear face and may have formed part of a rose window.
4. Reconstruction of a rose window that the fragment shown above may have formed part of.
5. Tentative reconstruction drawing of the west front as it may have appeared based on current knowledge, comparisons with other buildings. It incorporates some details from architectural fragments.

Below: The Bass maltings at Sleaford
Richard Harper-Smith was born in Manchester on 1 May 1930. His father was a solicitor, his mother the daughter of a printer. He had one younger brother, Charles, who emigrated to live in America. The family moved to Lincoln in 1941 when Richard's father was appointed Town Clerk. Richard was educated at Stamford Boys' School where he played and developed his lifelong interest in sport. Boarding school was followed by two years' National Service in the Royal Medical Corps. Richard began his medical studies at Trinity College, Dublin, in 1950 and qualified as a doctor in 1956.

Dr Harper-Smith began his medical career at the Bolton Royal Infirmary. He worked there for two and a half years undertaking a variety of jobs and earning three pounds a week. He moved on to work in the Royal Devon and Exeter Hospital and later progressed to a rural general practice in Devon. While working in Devon he realised he would like his future to be in general practice. He moved to work in general practices in Lincolnshire and began to look for a practice of his own.

Unable to find a suitable practice he decided to take time out and to travel. In April 1960 he was appointed ship's surgeon on the Oriental Line SS Oronsay. Leaving Tilbury the ship travelled through the Suez Canal to the Far East, Australia and the Americas. On 17 July 1960 he noted in his diary that he had received a letter from Dr Kevin O'Toole offering him the position of an assistant in his practice in rural Lincolnshire. The offer was immediately accepted. The Oronsay returned to England and a diary entry of 21 August 1960 recorded seeing the white cliffs of Dover. Upon returning to England Dr Harper-Smith proceeded to join Dr O'Toole in his practice at Willingham by Stow, some twelve miles north-west of Lincoln.

Dr O'Toole was a wise, cheerful and much liked 'character', distinguished by his moustache, bow ties and monocle. He sometimes delivered soup to the sick and often took fish and chips to patients on Saturdays (his Saturday fish and chip round). While working with Dr O'Toole, Dr Harper-Smith refined his own skills and the art of being a country doctor.

In 1961 Dr Harper-Smith moved to take over a single-handed medical practice at Tetford following the death of his predecessor Dr Gray who had been the Tetford doctor for over forty years. The practice was in the Lincolnshire Wolds,
27 miles east of Lincoln, six miles north-east of Horncastle and ten miles south of Louth. It covered an area of approximately one hundred and seventy square miles of hilly countryside and narrow winding roads. Today the area is designated as an area of outstanding natural beauty.

In 1962 Richard met Lesley Chatterton. Lesley was the daughter of a local farmer and worked as a school teacher in Lincoln. They were married in 1963. Lesley embraced her new role as the wife of a country doctor with enthusiasm and went on to play an essential role in supporting Richard and in helping in the practice. Richard acknowledged, ‘I couldn’t have done this job without her.’ Together Richard and Lesley raised three children.

In 1964 the couple moved to live in the late 18th century water mill in Tetford, located on the upper reaches of the River Lymn. The river rises in the Lincolnshire Wolds, flows south-eastwards and joins the North Sea near Gibraltar Point. They refurbished their new home and converted the associated stables into a surgery. The water mill is today a listed building and still retains many original features, including the much renewed 17th century water wheel and the milling machinery.

The mill has a history dating back to the days of the Domesday Book. It was owned for a considerable period by the Archbishop of York. The oldest part of the mill is the pit wheel which has been dated to 1650. Tetford Mill was also the village bakery. Alfred Lord Tennyson is thought to have bought bread from there while living at Somersby. The largest oven took 365 loaves and was last used in 1961. The importance of the mill to the local community is highlighted by the many local footpaths leading to the mill. (Harper-Smith, L, 2020). When Dr Harper-Smith inherited a practice in 1961 there was a list of some eight hundred patients. The number had more than doubled by the time he retired in 1995.

In addition to the main surgery at Tetford Dr Harper-Smith held branch surgeries in the chapel at Belchford and in houses at Hagworthingham and Brinkhill. Medicines were variously dispensed from the surgery at Tetford, collected by patients from preordained dropping-off points, and on many occasions pills and medicines were dispensed from the boot of his car where a supply of medicines was kept alongside medical equipment. Dr Harper-Smith continued with traditional country practice ways he had inherited from Dr O’Toole – visiting patients at home; visiting those who put out white flags to request a visit, or to pass on an urgent telephone message. He would ask patients who requested a visit in the night to turn on all the house lights to make the home more visible, and he had the habit of unexpectedly dropping in on patients if he happened to be passing in the day or during the evening. On occasions visiting patients at home identified and solved problems, for example the old lady who mysteriously kept falling and whose problem was solved when it was recognised that loose rugs about the house were the cause of her falls. Another time he set about laying and lighting a fire when he identified the patient’s problem was due to lack of heating in the house. Patients were also familiar with Dr Harper-Smith driving at speed along the country lanes with lights flashing and horn blowing as he responded to emergency calls.

Dr Harper-Smith had access to hospitals in Louth, Spilsby and Horncastle and was able to look after his own patients and to assist visiting consultants from larger hospitals. He referred more complex cases to hospitals in Lincoln, Boston and Grimsby. From time to time he enjoyed the opportunity to meet with consultants from Lincoln by inviting them to accompany him on visits to patients in their homes with a view to helping with their management. Sadly that system of ‘domiciliary visits’ no longer exists, and general practitioners have lost a useful source of liaison and help that facilitated patient care and that expedited necessary treatment or prevented unnecessary admission to hospital. In 1961 maternity care was still undertaken by family doctors and Dr Harper-Smith gained great satisfaction delivering babies...
in people’s homes, in Crow Tree maternity home in Louth or the Grace Swan maternity home in Spilsby.

From the outset Dr Harper-Smith was ‘on call’ 24 hours a day 365 days a year. He hardly ever left the practice. After 28 years working as a single-handed doctor, assistance came in August 1989 when Dr Yvonne Owen joined the practice as a part-time partner.

As a member of the Lincolnshire Medical Society Dr Harper-Smith looked forward to attending lectures and to meeting colleagues from around the county. However, as the years passed he became increasingly frustrated by the ever-increasing intervention of non-medical bureaucracy which he felt appeared often to be dictated by the needs of managers rather than the needs of patients. Changes in medical bureaucracy, in the way in which many doctors wanted to practise, and in patients’ expectations and demands – indeed changes in society in general – were slowly altering the nature of traditional medical practice.

Dr Harper-Smith retired on his 65th birthday in 1995. In the Horncastle News of Thursday, 30 March 1995 Bill Anderson wrote:

LIVES pioneer plans to retire:
Tetford based doctor Richard Harper-Smith is a dedicated medical man, and his pioneering spirit took him on travels all over the world before he found a place and job which made him happy. To his eternal credit, he has made significant progress in the system of medical care in the rural communities through his day to day care of patients, as well as being a local and national influence in the improvement of emergency care through the innovation and formation of LIVES.

During his years at Tetford Dr Harper-Smith developed a particular interest and expert knowledge of both watermills and sheep. He acquired an in-depth knowledge of traditional rare breeds of sheep. He owned a breeding stock of Portland sheep and he built a ‘sheep house’, which won acclaim nationally and by The Country Landowner’s Association. He was particularly interested in delivering sheep (an extension of his interest in obstetrics), in making clinical observations and taking blood for tests. He was a member of the Sheep Veterinary Society, a member of the Rare Breeds Survival Trust, and was invited to judge sheep at agricultural shows.

Living in a watermill, he became a member of the Watermill Preservation Society, gave talks on watermills and welcomed visiting enthusiasts. He played a large part in village life: serving as a member of the Parish Council for over thirty years, serving as a school governor, playing an active role in helping to save the village hall, establishing the village cricket club, and serving as church warden. He was also a member of the Horncastle Rotary Club and a member of the Spilsby Round Table. During his time at Tetford Dr Harper-Smith developed his interest in local history and published a book on the history of the village.¹

Practising in an isolated rural area, Dr Harper-Smith was from time to time called upon to attend traffic and other accidents. He became conscious that outcomes were unfavourably affected by his rural location in the long time it took for ambulances to attend. Both Richard Harper-Smith and Mike Cooper, a GP based at Nettleham, were aware of a recently started scheme at Catterick, North Yorkshire, where GPs attended accidents. In 1970 Dr Cooper and Dr Harper-Smith co-founded the Lincolnshire Integrated Voluntary Emergency Services (LIVES), an organisation for providing a rapid response by doctors to victims of accidents and trauma throughout Lincolnshire.

Originally doctors bought their own equipment and were called out to emergencies by telephone via the ambulance control. Donations later allowed the introduction of limited use of two-way radios operated from a base in the Nettleham health centre. In 1999 the Chief Executive of the Ambulance Trust invited LIVES to establish a ‘community first responder’.
service’ in the county’s rural areas. This was a scheme where trained volunteers would be called out to medical emergencies such as cardiac arrest. This became the LIVES First Reponder Scheme.

Since its relatively simple beginnings in 1970 LIVES has today evolved to play an important role in providing an emergency response to accidents and medical emergencies throughout Lincolnshire. Within its team of volunteers are: eleven doctors who are encouraged to hold Diploma in Immediate Medical Care; thirty-four front-line paramedics; three technicians who volunteer in their spare time; eleven nurses who volunteer in their spare time and who are also expected to hold a pre-hospital Emergency Care Certificate; and 649 volunteers in local communities who receive accredited training and who act as first responders and provide a large part of the emergency response.

In 2018 LIVES attended 14,965 emergencies across Lincolnshire. Many of these emergencies were immediately life-threatening and include over 2,000 patients suffering with breathing difficulties, 1,906 with chest pain, 784 cardiac arrests and 987 road traffic collisions. LIVES responders attend over a thousand incidents a month, totalling in the region of 15,000 incidents a year. LIVES medical staff attend on average 200 of the most serious incidents each month.

LIVES is a registered charity, with its headquarters and training centre in Horncastle. It operates in association with the East Midlands Ambulance Service and is a registered provider of health care. It operates under the British Association for Immediate Care and is registered with the Care Quality Commission. Over the years communications improved and expanded and today responses are initiated through the ambulance service as part of the computerised Automatic Dispatch System. LIVES is now in its 50th year. Each year it costs £1.4 million to provide the service and to support over 700 Community First Responders and Medics across Lincolnshire. The funds are raised through donations (LIVES Donations).

In 2004 the School of Health and Related Research at the University of Sheffield published a report on LIVES drawing attention to its successful expansion. The NHS Improvement Network recognised the significant contributions made by LIVES volunteers and noted:

This has been an innovative way of using locally available resources, at minimal cost, to improve patient outcomes for life threatening conditions in an environment where continued annual increases in demand for emergency ambulance services produce further pressure on already stretched resources.

A 2011 independent review by the University of Sheffield spoke highly of the service. References to these and other reports can be found online at Wikipedia (2020) under Lincolnshire Integrated Voluntary Emergency Service.

Richard Harper-Smith died on 12 April 2019, aged 88. His funeral was held at St Mary’s church, Tetford, on 3 May. The church was full to overflowing as members of the local community, medical colleagues and representatives of LIVES gathered to pay their last respects to a country doctor who had served the community well. One member of the congregation was overheard saying, ‘He did a good job.’

The life of Dr Richard Harper-Smith encapsulated the traditional features and values of an English country doctor. A family man, a person who was caring and comforting, a person who upheld and practised respect for integrity, standards and tradition, a person who had wide and varied interests, a person who had a lifelong love of sport, a person who participated fully in village life, and a person who will also be remembered as a co-founder of LIVES. In 2008 he was awarded an MBE for services to the community.

Note


References

Sources for the article include:
Robert Harper-Smith’s eulogy of his father (private communication).
LIVES 2020 (online) at https://www.lives.org.uk, through which donations can be made.

We apologise for any references omitted and make an undertaking to correct the situation in a future edition if notified of the omission.

Author’s acknowledgements

Grateful thanks to:
Lesley Harper-Smith for providing information about her husband.
Michael Powel, photographer, for restoring and optimising the photograph of Dr Richard Harper-Smith and the photographs of Tetford Watermill and the mill’s grinding stones and spur wheel.

Seven-Question Quiz

1. Lincoln Cathedral’s biggest bell is Great Tom – so who was Tom?
2. What did Stamford and Pamplona have in common?
3. Sir Isaac Newton is famous for refracting light into different colours, but which Bishop of Lincoln beat him to it?
4. At which RAF base were 50 and 61 Squadrons stationed?
5. No. 50 Squadron flew Hampden aircraft from 1939 to April 1942. The squadron flew Lancasters From October 1942. Which plane did they use for the six months in between and what was its nickname?
6. When was Gainsborough, briefly, the capital of England?
7. Which Lincolnshire company made the first wheeled portable steam engine that could be moved from site to site without being dismantled?
Museum of Lincolnshire Life at 50 – Part 3: From 1985 onwards

By 1985 most of the Old Barracks site was open to the public and the west end of the courtyard was covered with the Industry and Agriculture Gallery. Whilst other folk collections were developing into ‘open air’ museums (Museum of East Anglian Life, Norfolk Rural Life Museum, Ryedale Folk Museum for example), the restrictions of the Museum of Lincolnshire Life (MLL) site prevented similar expansion.

This disadvantage was balanced to some extent by its proximity to other heritage attractions in the City and its accessibility by public transport. However, an attempt was made to give the site an appropriate atmosphere, with ‘gas’ lamps and paving slabs of York stone. Planting included an Ellison’s Orange apple tree, a cultivar developed by the Revd C. C. Ellison at Bracebridge in 1904 and marketed by Pennells from 1911, and a Vyvyan Pennell clematis, a variety bred by the Pennell family. Displays on the north side of the courtyard continued from the Domestic Wing westwards to include a stable and a blacksmith’s shop. The stable was floored with genuine stable floor bricks, including a pathway of yellow bricks from the Adamantine Clinker Works at Castle Bytham. The observant visitor will notice that one of the bricks has been deliberately laid upside down so that the maker’s name can be seen. The smithy was constructed to work and was occupied for a brief period by a practising artist-blacksmith.

The early displays in the Gatehouse included items associated with the Lincolnshire Yeomanry, who used the building as their headquarters before and during the First World War. As described in Part 1 of this story, the regular army, the Lincolnshire Regiment, was based at the Sobraon Barracks where, by the mid 20th century, it had its own museum supported by the Ministry of Defence but managed by the Regimental Secretary and a Board of Museum Trustees. However, following changes by the Ministry of Defence the Regimental Museum had to vacate the building and the future of the collections was uncertain. Discussions were held between Sir Christopher Welby-Everard, Chairman of the Museum Trustees and LCC, which resulted in an agreement to transfer the collection to MLL for display. Fortunately there was still some space that could accommodate this sizeable and important collection. Many hours were spent at Sobraon Barracks accessioning Lincolnshire Regiment artefacts into the MLL collections and physically transferring the material. This enabled a significant extension to museum displays as the Regimental Trustees were able to secure grant funding to put a large part of the collection on display. The remaining part of the north range of the Old Barracks, which had been the rifle range, was cleared and decorated to accommodate these collections.

The Lincolnshire Regiment Gallery, complete with replica First World War trench, was opened in 2000. For the first time at MLL the displays were designed by a specialist company rather than being produced ‘in house’.

The Gallery traces the story of the Regiment from its inception as the Earl of Bath’s Regiment in 1685, through the Tenth of Foot in 1751 to the Lincolnshire Regiment from 1782 until its absorption into the Royal Anglian Regiment in 1964. It incorporates reconstructions and sound effects as well as easy-to-read panels of information. It has proved very popular, not least with schoolchildren participating in the MLL’s educational programme covering the First and Second...
World Wars. It was a catalyst for the donation of many more medals and artefacts relating to the county’s regiment. There was also an associated archive that was housed in Elm House and used for research, generated by the many enquiries from family and military historians. The collection was now much more accessible than it had been at the Sobraon Barracks and many veterans and their families visited it. As Andrew Davies, then Assistant Keeper at MLL, recalled:

One gentleman brought in his Second World War battle helmet with a bullet hole through it. Although wounded in the invasion of North West Europe, he survived and visited the MLL specially to donate the helmet. Such poignant moments are one of the delights of museum work. And they demonstrate the trust members of the public have in museums to care for their family treasures and to share them with future generations.

Over time a small but significant selection of the products of the county’s great engineering firms was added to the collections, representing engineering expertise as well as the working lives of thousands of local people. Names such as Ruston, Robey, Foster and Clayton & Shuttleworth still resonate with Lincoln residents as do Marshall in Gainsborough and Hornsby in Grantham. These and other firms were world famous for their agricultural and engineering products. MLL has items representing a range of local manufacturers, large and small, showing the great skill, imagination and enterprise within the county in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. The breadth and depth of these collections make MLL a museum of far more than local importance. The fact that virtually everything has a local provenance means that the MLL collection is unparalleled throughout the country. The unique nature of this assemblage of material is currently not adequately recognised or celebrated as one of the great attractions of the county. Included, for example, are the spark-proof locomotive, developed by Rustons during WWI for use in factories producing cordite or gunpowder; a steam-powered Robey winding engine used to raise water for the Spa Baths in Woodhall Spa; and the world’s first packaging machine designed to wrap tobacco, invented by William Rose of Gainsborough. Another impressive First World War object is the tank, designed and developed by William Foster and Co, which came to MLL in 1989 on long-term loan from the Tank Museum at Bovington, linking the industrial with the military stories that can be told through the MLL collections. An interesting addition to the tank story came in 2013 when tank historian Richard Pullen discovered that the MLL tank was actually a different vehicle called ‘Daphne’, not ‘Flirt’ as the Tank Museum had previously thought. There is much research still to be done to understand the full importance of these great agricultural and industrial engineering enterprises to the wealth and well-being of this county. For some of the companies considerable paper and photographic archives also survive which complement the artefacts. These are now housed with other paper-based material in the Lincolnshire Archives Office.

There have been few major changes to the permanent displays since the opening of the Regimental Gallery but a Community Gallery was created in the Gatehouse to accommodate temporary exhibitions generated by various independent groups from different parts of the county, covering a wide range of topics. This insures a regularly changing display and involves different members of the community. For example, in recent years, the life of Sir Joseph Banks was celebrated by the Sir Joseph Banks Society whilst the Lincoln Longwool Sheep Society celebrated its 150th anniversary with an exhibition there. There are also temporary exhibitions showcasing particular aspects of MLL’s own collections or celebrating particular occasions. In addition special events at weekends and school holidays attract a wide and varied audience.

In 2005 the previous Temporary Exhibition Gallery was converted into a much needed learning space, funded by the Lincolnshire Co-operative Society, so that activities can be offered to the many school groups who visit. Although dedicated museum education staff are no longer available, school groups continue to be welcomed and enjoy an introduction to the stories that the museum can tell.
The visitor facilities have all been modernised and improved over the years. Visitors of all ages want their visit to be comfortable and enjoyable and increasingly visitors expect facilities to be welcoming and of good a standard. This can be quite a challenge in an older building but over the years toilets, a small cafe and the shop have received investment. A small secondhand bookshop is another attraction. The cafe is run by Social Services during the week, with their service users serving visitors with drinks and light refreshments, and it is run by museum staff on Sundays. It has even been possible to fit in a small lift to allow those with mobility problems to access the first floor of the Gatehouse. In 2014, solar panels were installed on the roof of the Industrial Gallery to help reduce the running costs of the buildings.

The removal of the admission charge in 2009 resulted in a significant increase in visitor numbers up to a high of some 75,000 a year but they are now at the more sustainable level of about 55,000. In 2013 an adventure playground was constructed in part of the Courtyard and has proved popular with younger visitors. This necessitated the removal of some outdoor exhibits, most notably the Ruston Proctor steam navvy which was relocated, with the agreement of the owner, Ray Hooley, to the Threlkeld Mining Museum in Cumbria where volunteers have restored it to working order.

In 2013 a project known as Bringing the Barracks to Life was undertaken, planned and organised by Sara Basquill. With funding from Arts Council England some 200 young people were involved in discussions that helped to shape the content of an innovative audio/visual guide to the museum and its collections. It was narrated by Jonathan Foyle with cameo interviews with local people on specific aspects of the story. There are different levels of information for different age groups with relevant photographs and videoclips. The programme is available on devices that can be hired at the museum and is also available via the internet - a leap into the 21st century! At the same time traction engine ‘Sylvie’ was decommissioned and placed on static display with an audio-visual programme explaining its history and how it worked. Other working exhibits were also ‘laid up’ so that MLL no longer promotes its collections at shows, rallies and other external events apart from a
BOOKSHOP NEWS

The SLHA bookshop was on the point of sending out the first e-catalogue when we had to close. It was not feasible for anyone to go to the shop, pack the orders and take them to post.

If you have not signed up for the e-catalogue and would like to be included in the email notification please email booksales@slha.org.uk stating you would like to receive it.

If you ever hear about any new books of Lincolnshire interest please let us know so that we can review and possibly stock.

Nick and Eva Moore, Bookshop Managers
Yan Tan Tethera, a Story of a Lincolnshire Marsh Village, North Somercotes
North Somercotes & District Study Group
North Somercotes and District Study Group, 2019
No ISBN 144pp, illus. £10.00

By Lincolnshire standards North Somercotes is a large village (population approaching 2000, over 2500 hectares in area). It has much in common with other sizeable rural Lincolnshire communities of the ‘open’ type: scattered farmsteads of all sizes; rural craftsmen, builders and similar businesses; shops capable of providing daily necessities; a post office, places of worship and a school; and a range of local clubs and organisations. What distinguishes it from most other rural villages is its remote position on the Outmarsh and proximity to the sea. Thus, an account of North Somercotes’ history embraces coastguards, a lifeboat station, a navigation beacon, shipwrecks and an RAF bombing range. The village also has a modest claim to be a holiday resort and in the past few years has attracted thousands to view the grey seal breeding colony on the shore.

This substantial book, produced by the local study group, covers all these elements of the village’s character, tracing its history and development through to the present day. This has been achieved through written and oral contributions from a large number of individuals. Much of the book deals with recent history of the village; local institutions, village events and prominent individuals are described in colourful detail, mostly accompanied by contemporary photographs. Unfortunately many of these photographs are not shown to best effect; almost all are confined to the width of the printed column and it is impossible to make out the detail in many shots of groups and village scenes.

Overall this book is a valuable record of Lincolnshire village life, especially in the twentieth century. The Study Group must be congratulated for collecting, collating and publishing such a wide range of material. It will have resonance for others with rural experience in the county, but its major achievement is to provide the inhabitants of North Somercotes with a permanent, all-embracing record of their community.

Ken Redmore, Nettleham

The Story of Early Louth – from its Origins to the Reformation
Richard Gurnham
Pines Publishing, 2019
ISBN 9780993477737; 186pp, illus. £16.99

Not since the publication of the Revd John Swaby’s *A History of Louth* in c.1951 have we had a comprehensive early history of the town. Richard takes us on a journey from prehistoric times, the Barton Street and the Roman period through to Louth’s history as a Tudor town with its Corporation. The book looks carefully at Louth’s critical periods of development including the much debated Julian Bower and the many local springs venerated as life-giving. Attention is given to the Saxon period, and the Louth Monastery, which played a significant role in the town’s development, the conquest by the Danes and the death of Herefrith. It covers the return of Christianity with the recent discovery of the important Louth Cross, in which the author played a part, then the Norman conquest and the expansion of the town under Bishop Remigius, along with the effects of the Black Death in 1349. Richard devotes a section of the book on the part the Church played in the life of the town, the Reformation, and the Lincolnshire uprising in 1536. The story ends with the establishing of the Warden and Six Assistants, and the granting of the Edward VI Charter establishing a permanent Grammar School followed by the charter of 1564. The book is well illustrated and in bite-size sections. You can begin at the beginning or dip in where interest takes you. It is recommended whether you are an historian or simply interested in Louth.

Stuart M Sizer
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