Lincolnshire Rush Seated Chair
THE SOCIETY FOR LINCOLNSHIRE HISTORY AND ARCHAEOLOGY
Exchequer Gate Arch, Lincoln, LN2 1PZ. Tel: (0522) 21337

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EDITORIAL

My thanks to those members who have submitted material for this edition of the Newsletter. I hope that others will very soon follow their good example, for there is at this moment nothing left in the file for future issues! No.55 Needs You! Please send your material to me, not at the office, but at my home address as soon as possible.

Terence Leach

Material for the next Issue of the Newsletter to be published on 1st January 1988, should be sent to the Editor at 3, Merleswen, Dunholme, Lincoln. LN2 3SN by 8th November, 1987

Items for inclusion in the Diary of Events should be sent to the office, preferably by this date also. Any items which will be of interest to our members should be sent for inclusion at the Chairman's discretion. The Diary is not confined or restricted to Society dates.

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CHAIRMAN'S COMMENTS

My predecessor, John Wilford, led the Society through a period of great change and due tribute to his extremely hard work and patience has been duly paid. During a difficult period he saw the Society become independent of the Community Council for Lincolnshire, move into headquarters in Exchequergate, adopt a new constitution, increase membership, start new groups in various parts of Lincolnshire and, finally, begin negotiations for the tenancy of Jews' Court - all in the space of twentyfour months and during a time when Archaeologists such as he were facing many difficulties and threats.

As I write, negotiations are continuing between our solicitor Mr. Derek Wellman and the solicitor for the Jews' Court Trustees. Progress slowed down in midsummer as various snags were being unravelled. The Executive Committee met on 6th July and meets again in mid-September for further report and discussion.

At July's Executive meeting Mrs. Catherine Wilson was thanked for her splendid work as secretary of the East Midlands History Fair Committee for 1986-87 and for playing such a large part in the fair's great success. I should like to thank everyone who helped on that sunny weekend. Between five and six thousand people attended the fair and there were several hundred helpers. All this revolved around Catherine to whom we are most grateful.

Mrs. Mary Round, the Society's administrator, left us in July and good wishes and thanks go with her as she leaves Lincolnshire.
for Perthshire, where her husband has obtained a new teaching post. Pending the outcome of so many imponderables (particularly the management structure at Jews' Court if that move is made) Miss Ruth Tinley has kindly agreed to act as administrator for the time being. The Executive Committee is most grateful to her for undertaking this onerous task in retirement.

Richard Thornton

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LOCAL HISTORY COMMITTEE

The Local History Committee was pleased to have one of its long standing members elected a Vice President of the Society at the A.G.M. Ron Drury is familiar to many members through his extensive correspondence on all kinds of subjects connected with Lincolnshire, and not least for his contributions to the Newsletter. He joined the Society in 1946 and was a member of the Executive Committee since 1970, except for the necessary sabbatical years. In 1986 he resigned because of health problems. He has been a member of the Local History Committee since its foundation in 1974 and has served as its Chairman. He was a founder member of the Family History Sub Committee until he retired through pressure of other work. He has helped the Society in many ways - delivering books and letters, collecting subscriptions, manning bookstalls at shows, contributing to Newsletters, and bringing the Society into the notice of the public through letters to the Press and giving talks to groups outside the Society. For many years he has done a considerable amount of unpaid research work for fellow members all over the world. We can certainly be said to have served his apprenticeship!

The Outing to the Isle of Axholme on 27th June was very successful - our thanks to David Neave and Edna Langford. A full account will be given in the Annual Report.

We are pleased to be able to announce that the Brackenbury Memorial Lecture in 1988 - on 9th July - will be given by Rev. C. Russell - "From Cock Fighting to Chapel Building - Changes in Popular Culture in Lincolnshire". The Committee is considering holding a Raithby Day on this occasion with a lecture on Robert Carr Brackenbury. Further details will be given in future issues of this Newsletter. The 1987 Lecture was well attended and all thoroughly enjoyed Nigel Kerr's lecture.

The Committee is in correspondence with a number of statutory and voluntary bodies about the possible commemoration of the 700th Anniversary of the Death of Queen Eleanor and the building of the Eleanor Crosses. It is hoped that there will be interesting results. It is interesting to note that the Geddington cross, in Northamptonshire, is undergoing restoration.

The Committee hopes to arrange Day Schools at Donington on 21st November, at Dunholme on 20th February and at Grimsthorpe (with the WEA) in March or April. There will be a joint lecture with Grantham Local History Society and with Horncastle Local History Society. It is hoped to arrange an outing in 1988 to Eagle and district or to the Greatford-Braceborough area.
In 1989, it has been pointed out by Miss Brown and Miss Murray, the Society will be able to celebrate its 60th Anniversary. This should present an admirable opportunity for celebration, publicity and junketing. Members with ideas, please get in touch!

Terence Leach
Chairman

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INDUSTRIAL ARCHAEOLOGY NOTES

In the April Newsletter we reported that there might be a threat to the octagonal crossing Keepers Hut at St. Mark's Station in Lincoln. The building was erected by the Manchester, Sheffield and Lincolnshire Railway, later re-named the Great Central, to control the crossing at St. Marks where the MS & L met in an end on junction with the Midland Railway. It is now understood that the intention is to retain the building as part of the re-development of the site when a new County Court complex is built on what was the East Yard.

The facade of the former Grand Cinema at the top of Lincoln High Street is under threat. The owners of the property were apparently asked to carry out work on the facade in order to prevent further decay but have failed to do so and Lincoln City Council have now erected scaffolding to protect pedestrians from possible injury by falling debris.

Anyone who has not booked for the East Midlands Industrial Archaeology Conference to be held at de Aston School, Market Rasen, on the 24th October should contact Tony Wall on Lincoln 33606 to see if there are still any vacancies. The subject of the Conference is "Farm Buildings and Their Uses", and there will be lectures by Nigel Kerr on 18th/19th Century Farm Buildings, Laurence Craven on the Uses of Farm Buildings and Catherine Wilson on Christopher Turnor.

Catherine Wilson will be pleased to hear from anyone who knows of existing buildings with Belfast Truss roofs. These roofs are curved in section and the trusses are of wooden construction with the wooden cross members fanning out from each side. This form of construction was popular in the early part of the 20th Century and is often associated with Aircraft Hangars of the First World War period.

On the 7th June we surveyed the remaining railway buildings at Bardney on the former Great Northern Railway. One of our Committee had heard that there was a possibility that these buildings might be dismantled and re-erected on the Louth to Grimsby line by the Preservation Company. The enormity of this task will be evident to anyone familiar with the station at Bardney.

On the 5th July, a photographic survey was conducted at the former Lawn Hospital, which is now the property of Lincoln City Council. The City Council are considering a number of proposals for the future use of the building and we wished to record those features of the building both internally and externally which are most likely to be subject to alteration as and when the site is re-developed for alternative use.
specifically with the rise of leisure pursuits; Mark Girouard examines the promenade; Sylvia McIntyre surveys the rise of the spas and coastal resorts; Peter Borsay examines the development of horse racing in the period c1680-1760. The remaining papers offer new perspectives on the Georgian town (Penelope Corfield), survey religion (Jonathan Barry), as well as the growth of self-improvement societies (Trevor Fawcett); Sir John Plumb contributes a brief foreward. There is Lincolnshire material here, but more important is the possibility this volume offers for stimulating research. To take one example that of horse racing, although material has been printed on both the Stamford and Lincoln races, there remains enormous potential for a serious study of the growth (and decline) of meetings in the county, and the role of such meetings in society. The Stamford Mercury files ought to provide a rich quarry (as indeed it would for other topics). A full account of racing would also highlight the minor and rural meetings and the extent to which the followers of racing were drawn from all social groups, and would in a way provide a necessary balance to the unavoidable, but perhaps exclusively patrician view of culture presented in Life in the Georgian Town.

Those members of the society who have spent time reading 19th century newspapers and almanacs will be familiar with the advertisements for patent medicines, the numerous 'cordials' and 'elixirs' as well as J. Collis Browne's famous 'chlorodyne'. Many of these had an opium base, and the full background to this trade is provided by Virginia Berridge and Griffith Edwards, Opium and the People. Opiate use in nineteenth-century England, which first appeared in 1981 and has now been reissued in paperback by Yale University Press (£8.95).

The authors chart the complete reversal in opium consumption through the century from an everyday remedy to its classification as a 'dangerous drug' with severely restricted uses. As with the former book it ought to be on the agenda of the local historian: it not only provides a fascinating insight into popular attitudes towards medicine but it should also stimulate research, possibly the result of a reading Chapter 4, 'Opium in the Fens' (which some readers may know from its earlier journal form), where consumption of the drug was at a high level (to mitigate what one pharmacist called 'the three scourges of the Fens...ague, poverty and rheumatism'). The authors state of the region, 'Opiate use was culturally accepted and sanctioned in a way which might not seem strange in South-East Asia, but which is striking in such an English setting'. We certainly need to know more about its use and consumption in 19th century Lincolnshire, and not just in the Fenland (was the trade in Axholme similar?), and at all levels of society.

Lincolnshire is by no means neglected in John Holloway's admirable The Oxford Book of Local Verse (O.U.P.,£12.95), but it is primarily a book which should be savoured and enjoyed for its general rather than particular content. John Holloway uses the word 'local' as it is used in such expressions as 'local cooking' and 'local stone'. He thus covers such verses 'which have been literally and physically inscribed' on some specific object (there are many epitaphs, but also verses carved on sundials, fountains, clocks, samplers, church-bells and the like) as well as those inscribed on the collective memory of some locality. Holloway thus includes weather rhymes, trade and craft songs, and rhymes about particular places, including the perennial anthologists' favourite (p.142):
Boston! Boston! Boston!
Thou hast sought to boast on
But a grand sluice, and a high steeple,
And a proud conceited ignorant people,
And a coast which souls get lost on.

Into this category presumably comes the engaging "to the Grimsby Town football team, for the cup competition, 1936" (pp.38-9):
Here's wishing luck to Grimsby Town
In their effort to attain
The greatest honour and renown
In England's national game.

As may also be apparent, the 'literary' quality in this collection is variable; most of the verses are the work of 'amateurs' (though Thomas Hardy and a few other luminaries are represented); yet even 'anon' occasionally produces something haunting and memorable, such as this Lincolnshire rhyme (p.142):
Sad is the burying in the sunshine
But bless'd is the corpse that goeth home in rain.

It may be that some reader of Holloway's admirable collection is encouraged to produce a similar Lincolnshire collection. There remains enormous potential for such a compilation; in the last issue of the Newsletter, Ron Drury printed one ideal offering from Kirton-in-Holland; the work of the county's folklorists collectors remains another rich quarry; there might even be room for general children's verse, such as this well-known piece, which was included recently in the correspondence columns of The Times:
The Witham, the Welland, the Nene, Ouse and Glen
Are five British rivers that flow through the Fen.
They are, we are told,
As clean as can be,
Since they all go through the Wash.

One of my favourite Lincolnshire verses, 'local' in as much as it appears in several versions in the county, though I think it may be 'national' (does any reader know its source?) is the 'Country Quarter Sessions'. There is a version in Stukeley's Diaries and Letters, II, p.34; the one I print comes from Benjamin Chapman of Cleethorpe's Commonplace Book (1804-1815):
Three or four parsons, full of October,
Three or four squires, between drunk and sober,
Three or four lawyers, three or four liars,
Three or four constables, three or four cryers;
Three or four parishes, bringing appeals,
Three or four writings, three or four seals,
Three or four bastards, three or four whores,
Tag, rob and bottail, three or four scores.
Three or four statutes, misunderstood,
Three or four paupers, all praying for food,
Three or four roads that never were mended,
Three or four scolds: and the Sessions are ended.

Would it be possible for the Society to consider producing such a Lincolnshire 'garland'?

C.J. Sturman

Maurice B. Hodson, a member of the Local History Committee, has recently published Volume III of 'Lincoln Then and Now' [ISBN 0.9508403.3.5] (price £3.50). As those who are familiar with
Volumes I and II will expect, it is a mine of information on many facets of the history of Lincoln - buildings, events, businesses, trades and industries etc. Each old photograph is accompanied by a modern one taken by Peter Washbourn with a precision which is quite remarkable (how Maurice and Peter have managed to avoid being run over by traffic is one of life's little mysteries!).

Members will expect to see over the next year or so books on Australia and all associated with its early history. 'Joseph Banks: A Life' by Patrick O'Brian [Collins Harvill London 1987 £15] has recently appeared. Like most books on Banks it says little about his activities in Lincolnshire. There are one or two confusing statements. On p.192 - "Banks and his sister could spend much of the late summer and early autumn at their beloved Revesby, and in addition to Norfolk there was always the King's garden at Kew" and on p.197, referring to Banks' wife and sister - "they travelled down to Norfolk together every year". In both instances 'Lincolnshire' should be substituted for 'Norfolk'.

It is regrettable that so little seems to be known of the fate of Banks illegitimate child (born in 1773) by Miss B---n, or of his other Mistress Miss Walls, a Lincolnshire woman. Though the latter is mentioned by Patrick O'Brian she does not appear in the index to the book.

Other new publications are -

A GUIDE TO THE AIR FORCE MEMORIALS OF LINCOLNSHIRE M J Ingham
Published by the Author, Beckside Design, 19 Willowfield Avenue,
Nettleham, Lincoln. LN2 2TH - £1.85 plus postage.

THE GRANTHAM CONNECTION Jim Allen Grantham Book Centre,
6 Westgate, Grantham. NG31 6LT ISBN 0 9511756 02 £11.95

THE ENEMY IN OUR MIDST: The Story Lincoln's Typhoid Epidemic 1905
by Chris Bray, Kirsty Grantham and Ann Wright - £3.
[This has been produced for the Lincoln Community Play] As I bought my copy as I was assembling material for this Newsletter I cannot write at length about it - but it is a most interesting account, well illustrated, of a very sad episode in Lincoln's history.

This and some other books listed can be obtained from our bookstall or from SPCK Lincoln to whom the Editor is grateful for information about new publications.

[T.R.L.]

THE VERY BEST LINCOLNSHIRE CHRISTMAS AND ANNIVERSARY PRESENTS
October is the month in which to start thinking seriously about Christmas presents. Finding something 'original' for some relatives and friends is quite an art. Don't be tempted to buy some gadget they will hardly ever use. Buy them one of the volumes of the History of Lincolnshire. This would be especially appropriate for relatives or friends living away from the county, for whom you want something that will be thought of as a 'present from Lincolnshire'. (You could ask the Distribution Manager to send it to their address instead of yours). Equally, Lincolnshire people may like a hard back book on the county as a 'treat'. If you are hoping to get one of our volumes yourself, why not send out the brochure enclosed in this mailing, just like a wedding present list, and see what turns up in your Christmas stocking? Finally, members of the Society should appreciate that the prices of these books are very reasonable for what you get:
a typical price is under £10 for a well illustrated hard back book of about 250 pages; you are unlikely to better that price in a bookshop outside sale time, and that does not come round again until after Christmas!

As there are insufficient copies of the current brochure left to supply every member, here is a summary list of our volumes, with current prices and other sales details:-

I  Prehistoric Lincolnshire by Jeffrey May, 1976 251pp (hdbk) £7.50
II  Roman Lincolnshire by Ben Whitwell, 1970, 150pp (pbk) £4.95
IV  Land and People in Medieval Lincolnshire, by Graham Platts 1986, 322pp (hdbk) £13.00
V  Church and Society in Medieval Lincolnshire, by Dorothy Owen 1981, 170pp (pbk) £5.95
VI  Tudor Lincolnshire, by Gerald Hodgett, 1975 212pp (hdbk) £5.95
VII  Seventeenth Century Lincolnshire, by Clive Holmes 1980, 280pp (hdbk) £9.50
VIII The Agricultural Revolution in Lincolnshire, by Tom Beastall, 1979, 256pp (hdbk) £8.50
X  Rural Society and County Government in Nineteenth Century Lincolnshire, by Richard Olney, 1979, 202pp(hdbk) £8.50
XI  Lincolnshire Towns and Industry 1700-1914, by Neil Wright, 1982, 300pp (hdbk) £12.50

Please send your orders to the Distribution Manager, History of Lincolnshire Committee, Exchequergate Arch, Lincoln, LN2 1PZ.

Please enclose payment with order, cheques payable to 'The History of Lincolnshire Committee'. Prices include UK postage and packing. Overseas customers should add £2 per book for postage and make their payments in sterling.

The remaining volumes in the series are under active preparation, and are likely to be published in the following order:

Vol XII: Essays in Twentieth-Century Lincolnshire History, edited by Dennis Mills (c1988)
Vol III: Anglo-Saxon and Viking Lincolnshire, by Peter Sawyer (c1989)
Vol IX: Church and Chapel in Lincolnshire, 1700-1900, by Rod Ambler.

Ben Whitwell is also writing a completely revised version of Volume II, to take account of the large number of Roman discoveries and changes in interpretation since the late sixties.

Dr. Dennis Mills, Chairman, History of Lincolnshire Committee.

LINCOLNSHIRE LIBRARY SERVICE

I.G.I.

Central Reference Library, Free School Lane, Lincoln now holds the 1984 edition of the International Genealogical Index for all counties in England and Scotland, and for the Channel Isles, Wales and Ireland.

Anyone wishing to view it is advised to make an appointment by telephoning Lincoln. 33541 ext.38.

Other branches in the county have various sections of the I.G.I. for public consultation - here is a list of "who holds what".
Boston Library  All of England
County Hall  Scotland
Boston  Wales
Tel: (0205) 67123  Ireland
Lincolnshire  1984 ed.

Bourne Library  Lincs
South Street  Leics
Bourne  Rutland
Tel: (0778) 422264  Cambs
Hunts

Gainsborough Library  Lincs
Cobden Street  Notts
Gainsborough  1984 ed.
Tel: (0427) 4780

Grantham Library  Lincs
Isaac Newton Centre  Leics
Grantham  Rutland
Tel: (0476) 63926  Notts

East District Headqtrs.
Victoria Hall  Lincs
Victoria Road  1984 ed.
Louth. Tel: (0507) 602218/9

Skegness Library  Lincs
23 Roman Bank  1984 ed.
Skegness
Tel: (0754) 762500

Sleaford Library  Lincs
Watergate  Notts
Sleaford  1984 ed.
Tel: (0529) 303394

Spalding Library  Lincs
Victoria Street  Cambs
Spalding  Hunts
Tel: (0775) 69916  Norfolk

Stamford Library  Lincs
High Street  Leics
Stamford  Rutland
Tel: (0780) 63442  Cambs
Hunts
Northants

If anyone wishes to consult these, please make an appointment beforehand with the relevant library.

Initiatives
Ruth Neller, Area Librarian at Mablethorpe recently held Local Studies afternoons with a talk and slides at Sutton-on-Sea and Mablethorpe Libraries. It is hoped that these will be repeated in 1987.

A donation has been received of photographs taken in the 1960s of buildings in Louth which have since been demolished. These can be seen at East District Library Headquarters, Victoria Road, Louth. Tel: Louth 602218/9.

Photographs of Horncastle have recently been taken by a retired local photographer. They are currently being assembled into a collection at Horncastle Library, Wharf Road, Horncastle. Tel: 3480.

Eleanor Nannestad, Local Studies Librarian, Central Reference Library, Free School Lane, Lincoln. LN2 1EZ
NOTES AND QUERIES

54.1 - FOURTEENTH CENTURY TRAVEL IN LINCOLNSHIRE

In my note in the 19th July 1987 Newsletter I described a journey made in 1319 by the scholars of King's Hall, Cambridge, when they were invited to spend Christmas with Edward II at York. I said that I had no note of how they travelled from Lincoln to York, but that I presumed that it was by water, as the Foss Dyke, when open to traffic, allowed ships to pass by inland water from Boston to York. I now find that although I was right in saying that I had no note of how they made the journey, it is because when I copied out the item about 40 years ago I omitted this information, probably because at that time my interests were far narrower and confined to my own part of the county, the Holland Division. I am very grateful to Mr H S Waddington of Brigg, who has been kind enough to draw my attention to the full account of the journey in Sir Francis Hill's Medieval Lincoln, page 306.

So to complete the story;

"The fourth and fifth days were passed in a great boat which brought them from Boston to Lincoln. The sixth, being the feast of Christmas, was spent at Lincoln. On the seventh day they passed through the Foss Dyke in two boats from Lincoln to Torksey, where another great boat was hired for them, in which they reached York two days later, on the ninth day after their departure from Cambridge, and three days later for the entertainment promised them by the king."

Mr Waddington comments on the fact that the journeys from Boston to Lincoln and from Torksey to York were in 'a great boat', whereas that from Lincoln to Torksey was in 'two boats', which implies that the Foss Dyke between Lincoln and Torksey could then accept only small craft. This is confirmed by Medieval Lincoln, pages 311/2, where it is stated that by the end of the thirteenth century passage along the canal was becoming difficult, and goods sent from Boston fair to Durham Priory were sent by boat from Boston to Lincoln, and thence, not by canal, but in carts, to Torksey, and then by the Trent and Ouse to York. In 1335, sixteen years after the scholars' journey, the Foss Dyke from Lincoln to Torksey was so obstructed that the passage of ships and boats was no longer possible. So it seems that in 1319 it could take only small craft.

Ron Drury

54.2 - THAT SUMMER OF 1826

Nearly 30 years ago I was given the diaries of Edward Samuel Brooks, (1796-1875) first Minister of the Independent Church at Kirton-in-Holland, and later Congregational Minister at Sleaford. He was not a Lincolnshire man by birth, but his widowed mother married a Lincolnshire man, and his sister Ann married on 9th November 1814 John Shepherd Baslington of Butterwick (their eldest son was for many years an assistant master at Boston Grammar School). Mr Colin Baslington of Brentwood, Essex, a member of SLHA, is a member of that family, although I am not sure whether he is a direct descendant of J.S.B. and Ann Brooks. In view of the recent articles by Christopher Sturman (The Drought Summer of 1826 in Lincolnshire Life, September 1986, and F.C. Massingberd and the Summer of 1826 in the SLHA Newsletter, January 1987), and David Neave's request for items about the weather (Lincolnshire Winters, Newsletter July 1987), the following extract from Brooks' diary may be of interest.
27 September 1826. - What a very severe drought we have experienced this spring and summer. The distress amongst the cattle has been very great. The want of water has been very alarming. Such a summer cannot be recollected by any man; the distress has been so general. Blessed be God, we now enjoy the most fruitful rains.

Ron Drury

54.3 - PARISH MAGAZINES
In the July and October 1986 editions of the Newsletter, Messrs. Leach and Leary wrote of the value of parish and similar magazines. Mr Leach mentioned their use as sources of history, but did not say that many clergymen (and laymen) who were interested in history often published articles on the subject in their magazines. Their value, of course, varied considerably - one clerical local historian, now long dead, remarked to me many years ago "What you want is imagination, boy", and certainly his publications show that often imagination took precedence over evidence. But in all such articles one is soon able to sort the wheat from the chaff. Only recently I had occasion to consult my five volumes of the printed Register Book of the Church of St. Mary, Horncastle, edited by the Rev. J Clare Hudson of Thornton, and I was reminded by the preface that the transcript first appeared in Horncastle Parish Magazine.

I have only a few parish magazines in my collection - a bound volume of Friskney Parish Notes 1890-1905, five bound volumes of the parish magazines of St. Giles, Lincoln, 1937-46, including the Diocesan Leaflet and the Sign 1937-40. I also have many copies of the parish magazines of Kirton-in-Holland and Frampton dating back to the 1950s and 1960s. Mention of the Diocesan Leaflet reminds me that Lincolnshire Notes and Queries is not the only valuable local magazine to have ceased publication in the last 50 years, as the last issue of the Lincoln Diocesan Magazine appeared about 10 years ago. As many of us will remember, it included hundreds of articles on the history of places and people in the diocese from the pens of such able historians as Canon Foster, the Rev. R C Dudding and Canon Peter Binnall, and was a useful record of diocesan and parochial life for nearly a hundred years. I was a subscriber for some 30 years, but stupidly passed on most of my copies to a friend, not realising at the time how valuable they were. A couple of years ago the Diocesan Secretary was kind enough to let me have almost a complete set from 1904-1920 (except for 1907, which, according to a very tattered note, was loaned to Canon Foster), about 200 copies in all.

Only a few months ago, through the good offices of a kindly bookseller, I was able to obtain 14 copies of 'Our County Magazine - The Organ of the Lincolnshire Congregational Union', covering the period January 1886-March 1887. I had never before heard of this publication, which, although it is not of the standard of the old Diocesan Magazine contains some useful information.

Ron Drury

[By strange coincidence, on the day this note arrived, I found in a Sleaford Almanack an advertisement for 'The Lincolnshire Congregational Magazine' for 1886 - a monthly publication costing 1d. It was said to contain 'Photographs of Local Men.
of Light and Leading, Sermons, Illustrations, Pithy Articles, Natural History, Men we Meet, Church News' etc. (T.R.L.) ]

54.4 - HUNTINGDONSHIRE CYCLIST BATTALIONS  Mr S J Sellwood, of 12 Ravenshoe, Godmanchester, Huntingdonshire, PE18 8DF, has for some time been doing some research into the Huntingdonshire Cyclist Battalions, a short lived Territorial Army Unit which was raised shortly before the outbreak of World War I and disbanded officially in 1921. For much of its life the Regiment spent its time away from Huntingdonshire, so that there is very little on record locally. Most of the information and photographs which Mr. Sellwood has gathered has come from surviving members of the Regiment. During the War the Regiment's duties were to patrol the Yorkshire and Lincolnshire coasts - the 1st Battalion Spurn Point to Scarborough and the 2nd Battalion Spalding to Mablethorpe. When drafts from the Regiment went to France they were rebadged, so the Hunts. Cyclists never fought abroad as a regiment. The cap and collar badges were of a rear- ing stag. The 1st Battalion were stationed at Scarborough, Filey, Bridlington, Hornsea, Aldbrough and Grimsby, and the 2nd Battal- lion at Mablethorpe, Sutton on Sea, Skegness, Holbeach and Spalding. The 1st Battalion also spent a fortnight in Skegness in July 1914 at T.A. Camp. Mr. Sellwood will be grateful for any information, photographs, press cuttings etc. relating to the Regiment. If you can help him, please write to him.

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FACES AND PLACES

CHARLES SHANNON, A LINCOLNSHIRE BORN ARTIST - An exhibition 'At the Sign of the Dial, Charles Haselwood Shannon and his Circle', was held at the Usher Gallery, Lincoln in August and September 1987, to mark the 50th anniversary of Shannon's death on 18 March 1937. He was born at Quarrington on 26 April 1863, the son of the Rev. Frederick William Shannon, Rector of Quarrington 1861-1910 and Godson of Frederick William Hervey, 2nd Marquess of Bristol, who presented him to the living of Quarrington. Charles was educated at St. John's School, Leatherhead, and be- came a prominent artist. Mr. J M Clay, of Wrenthorpe, near Wakefield, who was born at Quarrington and knew Charles Shannon and his family as a boy, has carried out research into the family with which I was able to give him some small help, and at my suggestion he deposited a copy of his notes at the Lincolnshire Archives Office in 1986.

Ron Drury

BOOTHBY PAGNELL MANOR HOUSE - As this Newsletter was being com- piled, this ancient and important building was 'in the news'. Its deteriorating state has long concerned this Society, and many members have been worried about its neglect. Built circa 1200 it is the most important building of its kind in the country. South Kesteven District Council has been asked to consider making a grant towards making the building weatherproof - the cost is estimated at £65,000, and though English Heritage have hinted at offering a substantial grant, they have requested the district and county councils to find £13,000 each.
HAXEY AND WESTWOODSIDE HERITAGE SOCIETY - It was interesting to meet at the History Fair representatives of this society, which was formed several years ago to collect and collate the heritage of the parish, particularly over the last century. Photographs, records, indexes, family histories and trees, personal remembrances and memorabilia have been donated to the society. Meetings are held on the second Thursday of each month at 7.30 pm in Haxey Memorial Hall. The society enjoys talks, outings, social functions etc. and exhibits at various venues throughout the year. New members are also welcome, and new information constantly sought and gratefully received.

It was interesting to see that the society has produced a number of pamphlets and leaflets about Haxey Hood Game, facts about the parish, etc. and a particularly useful list of records for Haxey with information about their whereabouts, dates, etc. The society is to be congratulated upon its enterprise - would that more parishes in the county had such an organisation.

The Secretary, Mrs. N C Neill, "Colywell", Commonside, Westwoodside (Haxey 752692) will be pleased to answer queries about the society and its work.

LOCAL HISTORY ARCHIVES UNIT PUBLICATIONS - Archive folders are now available on "The New Poor Law in Humberside", "Seaside Resorts in Humberside" and "The Agricultural Revolution in Humberside". Titles in preparation include "The Rise of the Fishing Industry in Humberside" and "The Railway Age in Humberside". Further details of these publications which are £3.50 each can be obtained from Christopher Ketchell, Supervisor, Local History Archive Unit, Humberside College of Education, Kennedy House, KS16, Inglemire Avenue, Hull. HU6 7LU.

WESLEY HISTORICAL SOCIETY - This Society has a number of useful publications for sale, a full list of which can be obtained from the Sales Manager, Alfred A Teberer, North Lodge, Bunbury, Cheshire. Members may be particularly interested in "How to write a Local History of Methodism" by Wesley F Swift, revised by Thomas Shaw and E A Rose (Latest edition 1986) which is 75p plus 13p postage.

LINCOLNSHIRE YELLOW BELLIES - The County Council Recreational Services (Libraries) has produced (appropriately on yellow paper) a double sided leaflet on this subject, with seventeen suggested origins for the habit of calling Lincolnshire people yellow bellies. They are all of great interest. However, what never seems to have been explained by anyone is when the term was first used and when it appears for the first time in literature. If any member knows the answer, perhaps they will inform us.

BANKSTOWN, NEW SOUTH WALES - There arrived in my tray at the office in early August a note from a member, Mr. M P Millhouse who lives in Pastow, New South Wales, Australia, enclosing a brochure "Welcome to Bankstown". As I have always had a wish to visit Australia - because of its Lincolnshire connections as much as any other reason - I read this with great interest. Bankstown was named in honour of Sir Joseph Banks seven years after the first settlement at Sydney Cove. When Matthew Flinders arrived in the Colony in 1795 he and George Bass (and a boy called Martin) explored Botany Bay and the Georges River. Their
boat, the 8 ft, 'Tom Thumb' was sailed up the river about 20 miles beyond the previous survey. Governor Hunter explored the region shortly afterwards and a new branch of the colony was established.

There is a monument 'Botany' erected as a tribute to Banks in 1964.

One hundred years after its naming Bankstown was proclaimed a Municipal District. It was granted City status on the occasion of the visit of H.M. the Queen in 1980.

The city, with an area of about 76 square kilometres and one of the highest populations of any local government area in New South Wales - 152,600 - it was 1,247 in 1901. It is a very cosmopolitan city.

Bass Hill and Revesby are but two reminders of Lincolnshire. Carysfield Hall, erected by a Lord Mayor of Sydney in the 1890s, "is one of Bankstowns few remaining substantial old homes" - which reminds us here in England of the different connotations the word 'old' can have.

The Editor would be pleased to have contributions about Lincolnshire links with Australia (and with New Zealand, Canada, the U.S.A. etc. etc.) - if only in the form of brochures such as this. Thank you, Max Millhouse.

T.R. Leach

ISAAC NEWTON COMES TO GRANTHAM - As members will be aware this year is the 300th anniversary of the publication of Newton's major work 'Principia Mathematica' and a special exhibition was held at Grantham Museum during the summer to commemorate this. One of the star attractions in the exhibition was a three-quarter length portrait of Sir Isaac, painted by Sir Godfrey Kneller in 1721. This portrait has actually come to Grantham to stay as it was purchased from a dealer by the County Council with grant aid from the Victoria & Albert/Museum & Galleries Commission, the National Art Collections Fund, South Kesteven District Council and local industries. It is a fine portrait, the last of five painted by Kneller of Newton and it is particularly appropriate that it now forms part of the permanent collections at Grantham Museum together with a life size model of Newton, paintings of his birthplace and other memorabilia. The portrait was purchased by a London dealer, but was previously owned by Mrs Warren, who received the picture by descent.

Catherine M Wilson
Asst. Director-Museums

PEAL OF BELLS, ALGARKIRK, 1937 - "...In December 1937, at Algarkirk Church, the new record of 5,040 changes in 80 methods was achieved. 'Only a few years ago' said 'the Ringing World', at that time, 'this would have been regarded as an impossible feat, not only from the point of view of practical ringing, but because it was inconceivable that such a large number of methods could be crowded into seven true six-bell extents.' It is indeed an astonishing thing to be able to remember 80 methods, with the small but all the more important differences between them. To be able to change from one method to another, at a moment's notice is no less remarkable an accomplishment; it was done 176 times in the course of two hours forty-four minutes of
this famous peal. The ringers were:

George Burrell..... Treble  Harvey Burrell..... 4
Arthur Young.....  2    Harold Barsley..... 5
Vernon Taylor..... 3    Cyril Burrell.....Tenor

Conducted by V. Taylor

Hilary Healey

IN SEARCH OF A LOST KINGDOM  Kevin Leahy

Some of you may have seen accounts in the press or on the
television of the discovery of a lost kingdom not, as one would
reasonably expect in the jungles of Central America but in
Lincolnshire. Many of you would have been surprised to find
that the Kingdom of Lindsey had ever been lost, we have always
known where it was, I would, however, argue that there is more
to a kingdom than the mere knowledge of its existence and that
during recent years the Kingdom of Lindsey has been rediscovered
by archaeology in the same way as the lost kingdom of the
Hittites was rediscovered.

We ought to start by saying where the Kingdom of Lindsey was. It
is an odd fact that of the Anglo-Saxon kingdoms Lindsey is the
only one where we know exactly its location, all of the others
had ill defined boundaries where it was impossible to say where
one kingdom started and its neighbour ended. Lindsey was dif-
ferent in that it had very well defined boundaries. To the north
was the Humber, (a boundary obvious to all but the architects of
the 1974 local government reorganisation). To the west was
Thorne waste, miles of empty bog and to south the boundary fol-
lowed the Foss Dyke to Lincoln and then the River Witham to the
Wash. To the east of course, was the North Sea.

History tells us little about the Kingdom of Lindsey. Our most
interesting document is a genealogy of Aldfrith, the last king
of Lindsey who lived at the end of the 8th century. Whereas all
other Anglo-Saxon kings traced themselves back to Woden, Aldfrith
was different in that his ancestors went back for a further six
generations (that's something for the family history group!).
Some of these men must have lived before the Anglo-Saxons left
their continental homelands. It is also interesting to see a
Welsh name, Caedbaed, on the list which must say something about
the relationship between the Anglo-Saxons and the resident
Britons. Apart from this list we have few records of any great
value. History having failed us we must turn from documents to
archaeology to see what we can do to fill the gaps. Archaeology
can do little to tell us of the deeds of long forgotten kings
and battles but can help by filling in gaps in our knowledge of
how the people lived.

We know most about the early Anglo-Saxon period because of the
objects which have been found in graves. Unfortunately while
these tell us a fair bit about the Anglo-Saxon dead they are not
much use in telling about how people lived. During recent years
however, some work has been done on Anglo-Saxon settlements and,
while there is still much that we do not know at least we have
made a start in understanding their way of life. Work carried
out in Lincoln has produced important evidence on urban settle-
ment and excavations at Goltmo has shown us what an Anglo-Saxon
manor was like. Something of the life of the common people has been revealed by the work on the settlement at Nettleton Top. While the evidence we get from pagan cemeteries is unbalanced even this is lacking for the later Saxon period as, following their conversion to Christianity during the 7th century, the people of Lindsey ceased putting things into the graves of their dead. It is only during the last few years that we have started to see something of the very rich culture of Lindsey during the 7th to the 11th centuries. This has to a large extent been due to the activities of people using metal detectors whose long hours of work has produced some remarkable objects.

In an area where both place names and history suggest that there was intensive Viking settlement the almost complete absence of any archaeological evidence for the Danes has always been something of a problem. Again, recent work has produced evidence for the presence of the Danes who took over Lindsey in the 9th century. The objects found are not the fine trappings of Viking warriors but the fragments of cheap brooches worn by Viking women. The Vikings came not only as conquerors but as settlers bringing with them their wives.

All of this brings me to the reason for this note, to let members know about the exhibition that Scunthorpe Museum is putting on this year. It will be on the subject of the Kingdom of Lindsey and will be, we hope, a splendid display showing something of the magnificence of Anglo-Saxon Lindsey and something of the continuing excitement of its rediscovery. At present we are in the process of rethinking our plans for the exhibition with a view to up-grading and extending it. All I can say at the moment is that it will open in September and will be on for at least two months. Come and see it.

MORE THOUGHTS ON THAT RISING 1536

Anne Ward

Those who are interested in such things will realise that running through the narrative I wrote to coincide with the 450th anniversary of the Lincolnshire Rising was an assumption that the gentry were indeed coerced into taking part. The arguments for opposing points of view, which in various forms have been generally accepted, were admirably assessed in this Newsletter in October 1985 and January 1986 by Andrea Middleton. I thought that an article summarizing the arguments for taking my particular stance might be timely.

The first point to make is that, as more research is being done, its becoming clearer that the Rising and Pilgrimage of Grace were not due to peculiarly 'Northern' discontents. Henry VIII was faced with potential revolt of the whole of Eastern England. The sluices were cut to prevent Lincolnshire insurgents from joining those who were restive further south; the Duke of Suffolk was hampered in his attempts to bring an army north from his own county because it was needed where it was. These prompt efforts did prevent armed risings in East Anglia, which is perhaps why they have previously not been considered part of the picture. I am indebted to my colleague Douglas Clinton for pointing out that Northamptonshire also was restive. This evidence also makes existing theories of 'conspiracy' amongst cliques of gentry
or aristocracy, mostly Northern, less tenable: it would be
necessary to extend these arguments to all gentry from the East
of England, but they were not involved in the so-called plots.

Equally, I have never been attracted to the theory that there
must have been some planning either because the commons of Lincoln-
shire were not capable of plotting, or because problems of com-
 munications made such a widespread spontaneous rising impossible.
I hope that my narrative, The Lincolnshire Rising 1536, showed
that, given the small geographical area involved in the early
stages, and the close-knit society of the time, the Rising in
Lincolnshire was logistically possible as a spontaneous outbreak.
Margaret Bowker has shown that the involvement of the parish
priests gave a coherence and impetus to the early days. (The
Henrician Reformation: and Lincolnshire 1536 in Studies in Church
History Volume 9.) It seems to me that one can make out a good
case for the early stages of the Rising being spontaneous - the
whole coincidence of the presence of commissions working on the
dissolution, the subsidy and the inquisition into the clergy led
to an outburst. To me the problem really arises when the commons,
one up, want to know what to do next. Kendall, Vicar of Louth,
deposed that Melton said to him that now the commons were up he
did not know how to make them disperse; it will be my contention
that the gentry became involved to control a situation which was
on the verge of becoming very ugly indeed - and the commons'
leaders, too, wanted the involvement of the gentry partly for the
same reason. But, by becoming so involved, the gentry gave the
appearance of colluding with the commons.

Before I go on to that, however, it is worth looking at one of the
undercurrents of discontent in the county, which manifested it-
self in violence in the Spilsby region, and this is all to do
with the Willoughby inheritance. The Willoughby estates were
indeed to be inherited by Lady Katherine, the Duchess of Suffolk,
but, in the meantime, they were held by Lady Mary - Maria de
Salinas-Willoughby. It seems that she was a vigorous, even harsh,
administrator through her officials, Sir William Sandon, Sir
Andrew Bilsby, Thomas Gildon and Francis Storr. They were all
loyal to her throughout the trying period when Sir Christopher
Willoughby had claimed these lands and forcibly entered the manor
at Eresby. They were all the object of considerable animosity
during the Rising, which proved a good opportunity to settle a
few old scores. (I am indebted for these references to Steve
Gunn, who has generously shown me his PhD thesis on the Duke of
Suffolk). All this does discount M E James' theory that the
Duke of Suffolk's intervention in the shire was resented, since,
as yet, he had few dealings there, and it points to a division
of loyalties within the shire and bad blood between gentry and
commons which were not conducive to 'plotting'.

If, then, we are to believe the gentry's plea of coercion, can
we account for the way they became involved, obviously organising
the host into companies and providing leadership on the road?
According to Henry, they were, when faced with insurrection, ex-
pected to call out their tenants to deal with the trouble, but
the gentry claimed that they could not trust their tenants, who
were indeed, in some obvious cases, the insurgents themselves.
This claim was countered at Horncastle and Sleaford by deponents
who argued that the gentry had enough authority to stop the in-
surgents. Here, of course, we have to face the main problem of
so much of the evidence, namely that it was taken after the
Rising from men who were trying to extricate themselves
from a dire situation. But we must surely be aware that each individual would, even if he was telling the truth, have a partial view of a confused and fraught situation. We should also note that, in the end, the gentry rallied enough 'honest' tenants in Lincoln to persuade the rank and file to disperse - but some commons' leaders, notably William Leach, did not give up even then.

Could the gentry have refused to co-operate with the commons, or should they have done as Burgh and Clinton did and fled? Clearly in some cases they could have escaped, notably at Caister where Moigne not only got away himself but assumed, for several vital hours, that the others had done likewise. Here I think we should have more sympathy with the gentry than either Henry or subsequent commentators have done. The gentry's property and even lives were in the front line if threats were carried out. We can cite, for example, the way that Ayscough's sons were taken as hostage. We are not best served on this point by the calendared version in Letters and Papers (hereafter referred to as L & P). The cumulative effect, in the original depositions, of twelve or more statements all saying that if the gentry would not join, their houses would be burnt and themselves killed is much greater than the detailing of one followed by the bald statement that 'a number of others deposed similarly'. The whole effect is much more bland than the original. Moreover, what Henry and the rich Earl of Shrewsbury might consider a 'small hurt' which the commons could do if the gentry were extricated from them would be a large hurt to these not overly wealthy people.

It has been argued that the third course of action, the one which the gentry took, was an equally valid attempt to control insurGENCY, namely, staying on the spot to control the violence and limit the Rising until they could find means to finish it. Steve Gunn has suggested that there was a precedence for this during the mutinies of the French campaigns of 1523, when the captains stayed with the mutineers and promised to take up their grievances. (The Duke of Suffolk's March on Paris in English Historical Review 1985). In a recent lecture (University of Hull Adult Education Department Conference September 1986) Gunn extended the argument to state that it was, in fact, the gentry's duty to stay and not to flee. Again, there's plenty of evidence in the depositions to back up this idea, notably Morland's approach to Ayscough at Caister, when he persuaded him to come to 'set some stay' amongst the commons, although as always, the evidence of the depositions must be treated with caution. But at least we may note that Morland left Lincolnshire before the Rising ended, was captured separately from the other Lincolnshire men, and so had no chance to collude with them. Moigne's deposition also adheres consistently to this argument, and his original deposition gives many of the 'policies' the gentry used to delay the host. For example, he says that the military organisation was ordered so that small groupings from each wapentake could be put under captains they knew, which would give better control. It is worth remembering, too, that only the determination of the King's Commissioners to find a scapegoat from the gentry condemned Moigne to death - they very nearly accepted his argument. And his reputation today has not been helped by the fact that, in his article, M E James misdates Moigne's letter to Hussey and makes him appear to be acting much more independently of the other gentry than he was.
But the main arguments for the theory that the gentry were trying to check the Rising comes from Lincoln. Why did it take from Friday to Monday to draw up a list of grievances? Why did the host not do the obvious thing and march south, mustering on Ancaster Heath on the Sunday as the Horncastle host originally intended? And here we are on firmer evidential ground. The gentry, in trying to bring the affair to a conclusion, wrote on their own account to the Duke of Suffolk to try to negotiate a deal which would ensure a pardon for themselves and help to disperse the commons. The whole incident is discussed by Richard Hoyle, who has discovered a copy of this letter which is missing from State Papers. Since it was written in the course of the Rising it is not open to the same objections levelled against the depositions. In it, the gentry argue that they have managed to delay the commons 'else they had by now been at Huntingdon'.


But there are still some objections to this whole argument, especially in regard to the gentry in the Horncastle host. A significant number of the deponents here say that the gentry could have stopped the Rising. Here again, we have not been well served by L & P. For whatever reasons, the compilers report fully those deponents who say that the gentry could have controlled affairs, but they give the fullest of the eye witness accounts of the meeting between Dymoke and Leach, which takes the opposite view, a very cursory treatment. This deposition, which I used in The Lincolnshire Rising, was given by Robert Sotheby, a churchwarden, and shows quite clearly that there was bad blood between Dymoke and Leach. We know that the Leaches had been frustrated in various disputes over lands in courts where the Lincolnshire gentry had great influence as JPs. The whole picture seems to be that an ambitious, advancing family of husbandmen, the Leaches, were at first tolerated by the Dymokes (hence the comment that Leach went shooting with the Dymokes) but when the Leaches over-reached themselves, and challenged the gentry, they were checked by this group's control of local government. If these quarrels are added to those over the Willoughby estates we are, I think, justified in seeing the whole group of gentry collected at Scrivelsby faced with an angry host of commoners with personal grievances against them. And on closer examination it can be seen that those who argued that the gentry could have stopped the Rising were some of Leach's closest associates.

Suspicion, however, must still touch the Horncastle gentry. Did they not stand by and watch the murder of Dr. Raynes, having apparently encouraged the host to cry for the blood of Thomas Cromwell and heretic bishops? And did they not draw up the list of grievances, including that one peculiar to the gentry, the Statute of Uses? And was it not the Dymoke and Tailboys families, inter related by marriage, who had personal reasons to dislike Henry's government? Perhaps, above all, in the atmosphere of the time, Sir Robert's long and faithful adherence to Catherine of Aragon points to a fundamental disapproval of Henry's regime. But how could anyone unseat those considered responsible for this, or at least convey the feeling of discontent without becoming actual traitors in the definition of that age? Here I think the comparison of the situation with that surrounding Cardinal Wolsey's Amicable Grant is relevant. Resistance to that attempted tax had given Wolsey's enemies a good stick with which to beat him. It is not unlikely that the gentry of 1536 saw a similar
opportunity here. Perhaps the emphasis given to the religious causes of the Rising by commons and priests have tended to obscure the economic ones; rumours about unusual taxation were rife, and Henry's government had raised more money in taxes than any other, meeting with increased resistance every time they did so. If we pursue this argument, we can explain why the gentry apparently did nothing to help Cromwell's representative, Dr. Raynes (or at least, someone who could be counted as a representative of that hated minister) but they did try to save the hapless Thomas Wolsey by taking a hostage of their own from amongst the commons. I think we are entitled to see these gentry spending an uncomfortable few days trying to run with the hare and hunt with the hounds. When they joined the other gentry, in Lincoln, they would have heard Henry's reaction to the letter sent out of the county via Sir Edward Maddison. From then onwards, the gentry made common cause against the host, knowing that the King was not going to react as graciously as he had done in the case of the Amicable Grant.

This brings us, finally, to Lord Hussey. His sympathies with Katherine of Aragon, enmity towards Thomas Cromwell and dealings with the Austrian ambassador have laid him open to suspicion of treason. M E James' suggestion that Hussey was outlining a theory of resistance which was commonly held at the time, applying it to England, goes far to explaining his letter to the ambassador. Otherwise, it is possible to compare Hussey's reactions to the Rising with that of the other gentry. If we accept their contention that they stayed to control events, we can say the same about Hussey - for, as he said, as long as he remained in the county, Kesteven did not join the host. And he is, like the Dymokes, open to the suspicion that he saw in the Rising a chance to attack his enemy Cromwell. He himself said afterwards that he sent Cutler to Horncastle to offer to mediate with the King if the subsidy commissioners had exceeded their duties. In many ways, this was a grave mistake. Any moves against rebels, either calling out levies or negotiating with them, had to have royal sanction. (We should be aware that the Earl of Shrewsbury, having rightly taken prompt action to recruit a force to counter the rising, wrote immediately to Henry to obtain his approval). But, if Hussey was attempting to control the situation, he made a thoroughly bad job of it - failing to rally his tenants, then failing to go for help in time, and finally having to flee in some ignominy. No wonder the Earl of Shrewsbury mildly reproved him for indecisiveness and lack of action. Hussey was a man of vast experience, and one of Henry's most important advisers; no wonder he came under suspicion. However, can we explain his actions on any other grounds? Perhaps they are to be accounted for by his age - he was over seventy. But it may simply be that he misjudged the seriousness of the Rising until it was too late and his own tenants were clamouring at his door. After all, his informants, Clinton, Burgh, Moigne and Heneage had all managed to extricate themselves, and Hussey did not at first know if the host were on the march or not. (It is interesting that the most important men to be executed, Hussey and Moigne, both were overtaken by events, assuming perhaps that the commons would not leave their home grounds. In both cases it was the spread of the Rising which caught them out). Finally, perhaps we should not neglect the fact that most of the evidence against Hussey was provided by Robert Carre, who himself was on trial for his life, and extricated himself by implicating Hussey. I retain a suspicion, difficult to prove, that he may have been manipulated by
Cromwell himself.

In a short article it has not been possible to do more than sketch the arguments and indicate the nature of the evidence. Perhaps some future Andrea Middleton will enjoy marshalling the evidence and following these ideas through.

Note. I hope to invite Steve Gunn to give a Day School when his book on the Duke of Suffolk is published.

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RE-THINKING ENGLISH LOCAL HISTORY  Dr. Dennis Mills

A Review

This booklet is the first of the Fourth Series of Occasional Papers published for the Department of English Local History at Leicester University; the only such department in the country. It is an important review of academic local history, as it has been practised since Herbert Finberg's The Local Historian and His Theme appeared 35 years ago, as the first booklet in the First Series. Although the booklet reviewed does not set out to be a bibliography, it does introduce much of interest and significance that has been written on other parts of England and reminds us, as a county society, to maintain well our links with the world outside.

This is one of the author's important messages, debating as he does the various connections between local history and national history, and the way in which new methods forged in one part of the country can have ramifications far and wide. In a pleasing and stimulating way, suggestions are made as to ways in which our study of local history can be academically significant, as well as a source of pleasure within our own localities.

As early as page 2, Charles Phythian-Adams has introduced a way of conceptualising local-national connections that is especially important to SLHA, in which family history and local history appear under a shared banner. He has likened the connections to a series of concentric circles, with the family at the centre, the local community next followed by the national state and the supra-national state. Later on, the author also draws attention to important work carried out between the levels of the community and the nation - on the shire and on the larger region, and in more diverse ways on the pays and on farming regions. He is drawing together the thread of argument that local history is 'local' at many different levels, yet there is one particular level which has been much neglected.

In the last two chapters a case is made out for much more concentration at the level of groups of parishes constituting what are rather nebulously described as local societies - perhaps half a dozen villages which interacted in significant ways. In essence, we are told that we should avoid making a sharp distinction between single-parish studies and studies at the level of the county, the farming region, or the hinterland of a large town. The more local interaction between neighbouring parishes should be studied through such indicators as marriage horizons,
other forms of migration, the ownership and occupation of land across several parishes and so on. We have been so busy painting our parish pumps that we have neglected the connections between them.

Charles Phythiam-Adams is right. Anyone who has studied the catchment area of a Quaker meeting house or a Congregational chapel will be well aware of Sunday traffic between villages. Family historians searching for links know that it is often worth searching in the registers of neighbouring parishes for fresh clues. Any local historian who has read through a census enumerator's book will have noticed many incomers with birth places within a few miles. There is also the story of the havoc played to one census by the Metheringham Feast, which drew in people from neighbouring villages who could not stand up well enough to stagger home and fill in their census schedule at the appropriate time!

The basic message is important - more's the pity then that it is obfuscated by a lack of clarity in the text, due to two main problems. Overlapping terms such as community core, the community 'itself', neighbourhood, and local society have been inconsistently employed with the minimum of definition. Some levels of interaction have more than one label, some labels are used in more than one sense, so it is distinctly hard work to follow the detailed argument. The second problem is that the concepts behind the terms have not been explored sufficiently to give a sharp cutting edge to the argument. This is not entirely the author's fault, but also due to the relative lack of work at this level of parish groups. It takes more than one historian to develop a New Direction, so read the book and see what you can do to develop his ideas. Finally, it is worth noting that the Society has already published at least one article of the kind called for, in the form of Dr. Jim Johnston's study of six parishes south west of Lincoln, in LHA, Vol.18 (1983).

THE ASHTON FAMILY OF LINCOLNSHIRE CHAIRMAKERS


A long forgotten family chairmaking tradition has been discovered whilst researching family history. A considerable number of Ashton chairmakers and turners has been found, recorded in a wide range of eighteenth and nineteenth century documents.

The craft was passed down through each generation and resulted in several separate groups operating in Louth, Spilsby, Alford and Boston. Their work made a significant contribution to the local chairmaking industry of Lincolnshire.

My interest in tracing my family's history developed several years ago, and was based on a desire to learn more of our family - where its members came from and what they did.

It began when my father found an obituary of my great grandfather who died in 1924. One sentence proved to be a good clue - "Native of Lincolnshire, his father being one of the earliest colour dyers". By searching through copies of commercial directories, such as Kelly's and White's, for the 1860s period, at Lincoln Reference Library, I found that my great great grandfather John Ashton, was listed as a dyer at Market Rasen.

The next step, again at Lincoln City Library, was to search through the Census Return microfilms for 1851-1881. This took little time as his various addresses had been obtained from commercial
directories. The Census returns provided information that confirmed John Ashton's occupation and the name of his son, my great grandfather. John's age and place of birth offered the clues needed to search parish records for his baptism. Before this was done, however, the earlier 1841 Louth census was consulted, and John was again found listed as a dyer. The census revealed that his father was called Richard Ashton, and his occupation was given as Chairmaker - the first of many chairmakers to be found.

The Louth baptism records were consulted at the Lincolnshire Archives Office. John Ashton's baptism was found recorded in 1822 and the entry confirmed his father's occupation as a chairmaker. By searching all Ashton entries from registers, a draft family tree was constructed which took me three generations farther back to a man named Samuel Ashton.

The earliest reference to chairmaking was found in Samuel Ashton's will. From this and other records, it can be deduced that he was a man of substance, owning land, farming stock and property in Louth. He had a house in Eastgate of rateable value of £5 in 1749, and served on Quarter Sessions Jury on several occasions. He had three sons and three daughters, from whom this chairmaking dynasty was derived.

One son, William Ashton, followed in his father's footsteps and subsequently inherited most of Samuel's property. William's will was drawn up hastily, due to ill health, just before his death at the age of 41. The will made provision for his young family by nominating trustees to clear his outstanding mortgage debt of £250 by selling off part of his farming stock and chairmaker's stock-in-trade. The trustees were required to use the various rents received for the maintenance and education of the children until the youngest reached the age of 21. By the time his widow, Margaret, died in 1808 there was a sum of £500 plus personal effects available for bequests to their sons and daughters.

The gravestones of William Ashton (d.1779) and Margaret Ashton (d.1808) were found by chance bordering St. Mary's old burial ground in Louth.

William Ashton's sister, Ann, married Robert Green, who also described himself as a turner and chairmaker. Robert Green and Ann both left very extensive and descriptive wills which give many clues as to the standard of living, family relationships and workshop equipment.

Robert Green built thirteen houses on land purchased from Edward Blyth and Samuel Ashton, his late father in law. These houses were all tenanted and were left to various members of the Ashton or Green family. Robert's own property, situated near the junction of Eastgate and Padehole Lane (now Northgate) in Louth, consisted of a house which included a little front room containing a writing desk and bookcase, and a front chamber and bedroom. Behind the house were some buildings, yard and garden. There was also a chair workshop with chamber and garrets over it.

His nephew, also called Robert Green, inherited his chairmaker's tools - large turning wheel, tools, turning frames, lathes, benches, framing blocks and other instruments and apparatus. It was a condition of the will that Robert Green's journeyman, William Walker, would enter a partnership with his nephew. All the wrought and unwrought timber, wood, planks, rushes, chairs, wheels, turneryware, materials and stock in trade was to be
valued for sale to the partners, the proceeds payable to his widow, Ann Green.

The chairmaking skills were passed down in Louth through John Ashton. My great great great grandfather, Richard Ashton, mentioned previously, had an older brother named John who moved to Caistor for a period of ten years. Caistor was another major centre of chairmaking and perhaps the competition was tough for an outsider, so he returned to Louth and continued making chairs in Gospelgate. He had a son called Richard, who also made chairs, for a short time around 1841, but soon gave up to become a hairdresser.

My great great great grandfather Richard Ashton outlived his brother and continued making chairs until he died at the age of 79. The first record of his making chairs was in the baptism entry of his first son in 1816. Assuming that Richard produced an average of five chairs per week, over 12,000 could have been made during his lifetime. This estimate does not take into account work carried out during his first 24 years, when he was learning the skills. No wonder he was described on his Death Certificate as a Chairturner Master.

It is interesting to find that other groups of descendants of Samuel Ashton set up workshops in Alford, Spilsby and Boston.

Another descendant named Samuel, moved to Alford, and in 1780 one of his sons, Benjamin Ashton, had to undergo a settlement examination in front of a J.P. in order to move to Boston. In this legal document his occupation is given as Chairmaker.

Benjamin's youngest daughter married Edward Spikins at Boston, who stated that his occupation was Chairmaker. Two of their sons, John Ashton Spikins and George Spikins, were also chairmakers. In fact, there was a large group of Spikins manufacturing chairs in Boston.

In April 1822 there appeared a newspaper advertisement: "Wanted immediately, a Journeyman Chairmaker! a good hand may have constant employ and good prices - Apply to Mr. Thomas Ashton, Chairturner, near the Little Peacock, Boston; who is also in the want of an apprentice."

A further and very significant group of chairmakers has been found in a variety of Spilsby records. More than seven Ashton chairmakers in this town were descendants of Samuel Ashton. Life was now much harder in Spilsby than for earlier generations. For example, William and Hannah Ashton had eleven children listed in the 1851 census. His father was also named William and was a chairmaker. These two characters were the subject of a letter which included the information that "Mr. Ashton senior .... wishes to take in his son with him as a lodger, with his wife and nine children (he already had a daughter in law with one child) which in a two roomed house, I think not proper" ....

By 1855 William, the son, was in receipt of 13s 6d monthly donation from Spilsby Poor Lands Charity Trust on reaching the age of 60. His widow, Hannah, in 1890 left all the stock-in-trade, together with tools and fixtures in the chairturner's shop (adjoining her dwelling house in Ashby Lane, Spilsby) to her son William.

Another member of the Spilsby group was John Ashton, who left all his working tools, stock in trade, all his book debts, six framed chairs and one armchair to his son Frederick, a chairmaker in 1857.
Little is known of the type of chairs made by the family's Louth branch, as it was not usual to stamp everyday chairs with identifying initials. Several local press articles have fortunately resulted in a response from a number of owners of the supposed type of chair. Two in particular are known locally as "Spilsby chairs" and are of the ladder back style with rush seating. At the time that these chairs were made, there were only Ashtons making chairs in the town. It is reasonable to regard this type of chair as the "Ashton style".

Surprisingly, in a small old Spilsby workshop there is a furniture maker Robert Ley, specialising in the Ashton style of ladder-back chair. He uses English ash and traditional methods and tools. All the turning is done by hand and the ladders are steam bent. The seats are rushed and natural pigments are used in the finish. Seeing this really made it much easier to imagine my ancestors at work.

This fascinating journey back through time, aided by all kinds of records, has resulted in the identification of a number of separate groups of craftsmen, all descended from one common chairmaking ancestor. Evidence has been found to suggest that twentythree members of the family were chairmakers, receiving their skills through various branches of the family. In addition, it is hoped that evidence will be found to link up with several furniture makers in Philadelphia bearing the name of Ashton.

[It is not customary to publish articles on Family History in this Newsletter, as the Lincolnshire Family Historian exists for that purpose. The Editor met Michael Ashton at the Preview of the Exhibition of Chairs.

At the Museum of Lincolnshire Life I read a pamphlet he had written on the Ashton family and asked him to write the article above. He felt that this is not only an important contribution to local history but also an important example (alas, all too rare) of the way in which family history can be used to illustrate other aspects of history.

Members who did not see the excellent Exhibition of chairs from the N.E. Midlands at the Museum of Lincolnshire Life will be pleased to know that it can be seen as follows:

Brewhouse Yard Museum
(Notts chairs only) 12 Sept. to 27 Dec.
Grantham Museum
(Lincs. chairs only) 12 Sept. to 27 Dec.
Retford Museum 2 Jan. to 27 Mar. 1988

An excellent book 'The Chair in the North East Midlands - Regional Styles in the late 18th & 19th Centuries' by Bernard Colton has been published by Lincolnshire County Council Recreational Services - Museums (Price £2.75) Anyone interested in furniture, local crafts and local families will ignore it at their peril.

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THE EARLS OF HARROWBY

By the death of the 6th Earl of Harrowby on 7 May 1987 at the age of 94, the House of Lords lost one of its members bearing a Lincolnshire title. Lord Harrowby's ancestor, Sir Dudley Ryder

Ron Drury
(1691-1756), M.P. for Tiverton and successively Solicitor General, Attorney General, and Lord Chief Justice of the King's Bench, bought the manor of Harrowby, Grantham, from the Rolt family in the 18th century, and for some years Harrowby Hall was the family seat, until they bought and moved to Sandon Hall, near Stafford. In 1833 the family owned 4,253 acres in Lincolnshire, and this included the manors of Bardney, which they sold later in the same decade, and Dorrington, which they sold in 1861, as well as Harrowby, which was sold in 1908.

In May 1756 King George II intimated his intention of creating Sir Dudley Ryder a baron, but he died the next day before the completion of the letters patent. A "sumptuous marble monument" was erected in his memory in Grantham Parish Church. His only son Nathaniel Ryder, was one of ten barons created by George III on 20 May 1776, the second largest number of creations of peers at one time in history. All appear to have been created, not so much for their own merits as for those of their fathers, or to fulfill promises made to their fathers. Amongst them was Sir Brownlow Cust, who was elevated to the peerage as Baron Brownlow, of Belton, county Lincoln, in consideration of the public service of his father, Sir John Cust, Speaker of the House of Commons 1761-70. Ryder was created Baron Harrowby, of Harrowby, county Lincoln, in 1776, and his eldest son was created Viscount Sandon and Earl of Harrowby in 1809.

In December 1827 the Prime Minister, Viscount Goderich, sent a rather ambiguous letter to George IV, which the King took as one of resignation, and he thereupon offered the Premiership to Harrowby who refused, advising the King to retain Goderich, at least as present. (W.D. Jones, Prosperity Robinson, The Life of Viscount Goderich, page 193). It is an odd coincidence that Goderich was a son of Thomas Robinson, 2nd Baron Grantham, so it was almost a case of Harrowby giving way to Grantham! Goderich held office only from August to December 1827 and was "probably the weakest Prime Minister whoever held office in this country, and the only one who never faced Parliament in that capacity, his cabinet having been formed so weakly, or managed so clumsily, that it fell to pieces before the accustomed time of trial arrived". Created Viscount Goderich of Nocton, county Lincoln in 1827 and Earl of Ripon in 1833, he rebuilt Nocton Hall in 1851 after the disastrous fire which took place 17 years earlier, and died in 1859. The present Nocton Parish Church was erected in his memory by his widow in 1862.

The late Earl of Harrowby was born in 1892 and educated at Eton and Oxford, at both of which he was a contemporary of the late Mr. George Sperling Dixon of Holton-le-Moor, the Lincolnshire antiquary, formerly a Vice President of SLHA to whom Dr. Owen referred in her note on Miss Thurlby in the April 1987 Newsletter. For some years he was M.P for Shrewsbury and from 1922 to 1923 Parliamentary Private Secretary to Sir Samuel Hoare when he was Secretary of State for Air. This appointment and his local connection, was of use in 1952 when, passing the RAF Station on the outskirts of Grantham, he noticed the name "Spitalgate" on the notice-board, a spelling which had been authorised by the Air Ministry 8 years earlier. After some research he discovered that the correct spelling should, as he suspected, be Spittlegate, and the matter was swiftly put right. He was a member of the Royal Commission on Historical Manuscripts from 1935 to 1966 and
himself contributed to and stimulated historical work. Some 25 years ago he gave some of the papers relating to the family's Lincolnshire estates to the Lincolnshire Archives Office.

Mention of the incorrect spelling of Spittlegate reminds me that every time I go to Boston by road I see signs referring to a place said to be named "Kirkby La Thorpe". As all Lincolnshire historians know, the correct name of the parish is Kirkby Laythorpe, which arises from a combination of the two parishes Kirkby and Laythorpe, the second long extinct. In the Domesday Book we find CHIRCHEBI and LEDULVETORP, in the Curia Regis Rolls of 1206 KIRKEBI and LEITORP, and in the Feudal Aids of 1316 KIRKEBY LEYLTHORP. Laythorpe is found as a separate place until the 14th century. By the 16th century the spelling had become LAYTHORPE, LETHORPE or LATHORPE, and in the early 19th century (the first OS map of 1826, and White's 1842 Directory) LAYTHORPE, but from 1856 onwards White made it LA THORPE, since when it has become accepted in directories, OS maps, and official records. The only place in which one may be sure of finding the correct spelling in the late 20th century is in legal documents relating to the ecclesiastical parish - the incumbent is still Rector of Kirkby Laythorpe.

In a long article dealing with this matter printed in Lincolnshire Notes and Queries, volume XV, pages 110-5, Sir Alfred Welby quotes many early examples of early spellings of the name, and concludes that the error appears to have arisen from a misunderstanding of the 16th century LATHORP, "the idea that that form represented the Norman French definite article 'la' instead of being the far-off LEDULV or LEDULF writ short". He also observes that "had it been the definite article it would have been 'le', as in Gayton and Maltby-le-Marsh, Gayton and Welton-le-Wold, Mareham and Thornton-le-Fen, Thornton-le-Moor, Carlton-le-Moorland, Holton-le-Clay, Kirmond-le-Mire, Barnetby-le-Wold, Barnoldby-le-Beck and Welton-le-Marsh". A note on the same lines but much shorter, is to be found in The Lincolnshire Domesday and the Lindsey Survey, edited by Canon Foster and Canon Longley, with appendixes of extinct villages by Canon Foster, page 1x. This was, as is well known, published by the Lincoln Record Society in 1924.

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THE DEMON DRINK, AND THE EVIL OF SUNDAY TRADING   Ron Drury

The references to the temperance activities of the Rev Robert Marshall Heanley, Rector of Wainfleet All Saints 1880-89, in his grandson's interesting article in the July 1987 Newsletter, reminds me of a letter, then in the church safe at Kirton-in-Holland which I used in one of a series of articles entitled The Church in Kirton, which I wrote for the parish magazine in the 1950s and 1960s. It was written by the Rev George Harrison, then Curate-in-Charge of the parish, as the Rev Francis Swan, Vicar from 1785 to 1845, rarely, if ever, resided there.

To the Gentlemen assembled at the annual Meeting on St Thomas's Day, the King's Head Inn, Kirton.

Kirton Vicarage, Decr. 21st 1835.

Gentlemen,

I feel compelled to embrace the favourable opportunity presented by your meeting together on the present occasion to recommend to your attention, through your Chairman, a certain
measure in reference to the payment of your Labourers, which, if
not attended with any particular inconvenience, I sincerely hope
may meet with your approval and adoption. And when it is stated,
that not only the comfort and convenience of the poor, but also
the cause of morality and religion, are closely connected with
the question, I hope you will not think me officious in bringing
the subject before you.

May I be permitted, therefore, Gentlemen, to propose that in
future, Friday be made the day of weekly payment throughout the
Parish, instead of Saturday, as is now customary, beginning with
the first Friday in the New Year? By this arrangement the lab-
ourers' wives and families would make their purchases the day
following, and possibly wages received on a Friday evening would
not so readily find their way into a Beer House as if received
on a Saturday, when the Labourer has full leisure until the
Monday morning. Above all, it would tend to do away with the
great evil of Sunday trading, which I am extremely sorry to say
prevails to a great extent in this Parish.

Permit me now to propose, that something should be done for
our Singers, who have been very regular in their attendance, but
who have had to bear the expense of instruments, reeds, strings,
&c. &c. At Stickney the Leader was allowed £3 a year by the
Parish, in addition to which there was a subscription each
Christmas. Can something be done here? Should a subscription be
preferred I shall be happy to bear a part, if the money be re-
ceived by the Churchwardens, and after the payment of the Leader,
be divided amongst the rest according to their (the Ch-Wardens')
discretion. I should not feel justified in supporting a singing
feast, as they are almost invariably abused.

Believe me to remain,

Gentlemen,

Your faithful Servant and Minister,

George Harrison.

George Harrison was the fourth son of the Rev. Jonathan Harrison,
Rector of Flixborough and Vicar of Burton on Stather 1815-22.
Jonathan was almost certainly the man of that name who was
Curate of Frodingham 1783-91 and 1806-27, when he became Vicar
until his death in 1829. George was born circa 1803, educated at
Lincoln College, Oxford, and ordained deacon 1826, priest 1827,
by the Bishop of Lincoln. He was curate of Flixborough 1826,
Saxby with Glentham 1829, Fishtoft 1831, Stickney 1833, and
Kirton 1835-7 when he resigned because of his wife's poor health.
He was Vicar of Rainbow, near Macclesfield, from 1843 until
after 1858.

NEW MEMBERS

An amendment from Newsletter No.52 - for Mr. P.R. Milson please read -

Mr. P.R. Milson 12 Welholme Road, Grimsby. S. Humberside. DN32 ODU. Apologies

Mr. F V Housley 257 Glengariff Rd,Massapequa Park,New York 11762 USA
Dr. George L Gaunt 2034 Randolf Rd,Charlotte,N.Carolina 28207 U.S.A.
Mrs. P E Marsault 148 Durham Rd,Grimsby DN32 8AY
Mr. S D Shackles 8 Lichfield Rd,Grimsby DN32 8JZ
Miss M Eassom Vine Cottage, 10 High St,Cherry Willingham, Lincoln LN3 4AQ

Mr. & Mrs. R A Williamson Hall Garth Cott. Back St., Alkborough, Scunthorpe DN15 9JN
COURSES IN GRIMSBY

The following Courses are organised by The University of Hull, Department of Adult and Continuing Education.
(Warden R W Ambler, B.A., Ph.D., Town Hall Square, Grimsby, S. Humberside. DN31 1HX)

One Day Course at the Welhome Galleries - Beginning Local History Saturday 14th Nov. 1987 - 9.45 am-5.00 pm. A day of lectures and discussions on the opportunities for beginning the study of aspects of local history in Grimsby and district.
Course Fee: £8.25 inclusive of morning coffee, lunch and afternoon tea. £4.50 concessionary fee inclusive as above.
ADVANCE ENROLMENT ESSENTIAL. Full details from the Doughty Centre.

The War to End All Wars - 1914-1918 - The great war of 1914 was 'The War to end all wars' - the first 'Modern' war, but sadly not the last. This course will look at aspects of the great war concentrating on events on the Western front and 'at home'. Great use will be made of archive material and during the course several feature films will be shown. - A.J. Peacock, M.A., D.Phil.
18 Fridays at 7.00-9.00 pm from 2nd October at the Doughty Centre. Fee £24.00 (£10.00)

Landscape Archaeology - This is the second and more practical year of the course which undertakes a study of the history and archaeology of such common features of our landscape as villages, fields, hedges, roads, footpaths, churches, manor houses, castles and abbeys. Much use will be made of maps, and a particular study will be made of the features of the landscape in Lincolnshire and South Humberside. J. Appleby, B.Sc., B.A.
21 Fridays at 7.30-9.30 pm from 2nd October at the Doughty Centre. Fee: WEA fee.

Land, Church and People - A Social History of Lincolnshire in the Middle Ages. - A study of the age of castles, cathedrals and monasteries, looking at changes in the lives of the people, including those who lived in the villages of the county, as well as the people who traded in its towns and ports such as Grimsby, and the beliefs on which their lives were based. R.W. Ambler, B.A., Ph.D.
24 Wednesdays at 1.00-3.00 pm from 30th September at the Doughty Centre. Fee: £27.00 (£12.00)

Power, Politics and Patronage: The Role of Edward Heneage in Victorian Grimsby - A few powerful Victorians had a strong influence on the way nineteenth-century Grimsby was to develop. Edward Heneage was one of these. This course will examine the power he had as a landowner, land developer and politician. It will also investigate how he used his power, the local opposition to it, and the effect on the face of modern Grimsby. A. Dowling, B.A., F.L.A.
6 Wednesdays at 7.30-9.30 pm from 30th September at the Welholme Galleries, Great Grimsby. Fee: £10.00 (£3.00)
Humberston - The History of Humberston - How much can we discover about life in Humberston in the past? In this course we will attempt to reconstruct the lives of the villagers particularly during the 16th and 17th centuries to find how their homes, work and beliefs were affected by the changes of the period and to what extent Humberston was like other Lincolnshire villages.
R.W. Ambler, B.A., Ph.D.
24 Mondays at 7.30-9.30 pm from 28th September at Humberston Junior Infants' School, St.Thomas's Close. This course is held in conjunction with the Workers' Educational Association. WEA Fee.

CRIME AT HOUGH ON THE HILL 1888

Singular Charge of Stealing Snowdrops - A curious case was brought before the magistrates at Spittlegate (Grantham) Petty Sessions on Monday. Two little fellows, apparently not more than eight or ten years of age, were charged with stealing a quantity of snowdrops, the property of a farmer named Foster, at Hough on the Hill, on March 3. The Revd. C.R. Andrews, vicar of the parish, appeared to watch the case on behalf of the boys, who were the sons of Mr. Barnett, the parish clerk. The Rev. gentleman stated that the boys had been sent to gather the flowers at the instigation of his wife for the purpose of church decoration. The field where they were picked was 6½ acres in extent, and the snowdrops, Mr. Andrews contended, were indigineous; they may have been planted, probably, a hundred years ago. There were three horses running loose in the field, so that prosecutor's plea of its being a pleasure ground was a mis-statement. The only point which he regretted was that the permission of the prosecutor had not been asked before the flowers were picked. It had been customary for many years to gather both snowdrops and violets from the same place, which was known as "The Wilderness". Prosecutor valued the flowers taken at 2s. In the end, the magistrates dismissed the case, the Chairman (Lieut. Colonel Parker) stating that they did not believe there had been any felonious intent.
(From Smith's Hough Scrap Book)

ANOTHER BALLOON STORY

"Mr Cracknell was to have ascended with his balloon from Nottingham race-ground on Monday se'nnight, but, from some mismanagement, not being able to ascend with a child, the spectators, (20 or 30,000) after patiently waiting from noon till seven in the evening, liberated the balloon, and burnt the apparatus belonging to it. The balloon passed over Nottingham towards Belvoir Vale.

The following account of a balloon was sent to the Publisher of this paper, in a letter dated July 8 and from the time of it being found, probably the same that was liberated from Nottingham.

'On Monday evening last at 3 minutes past 9 o'clock, an air balloon fell in the parish of Edlington, 3 miles from Horncastle in this county, about 18 miles East from Lincoln. From the villages over which it was seen to pass, it appeared to have taken an Easterly course from its first launching; there was a car
affix'd to the bottom of the balloon, large enough to accommodate one or two persons, a yellow gilt shoe buckle with the tongue twisted almost off was found in the car, but no ticket to mention the time or place from when it was first launched. The balloon was about 16 feet high and 50 feet in circumference, had several bunches of grapes, flower-de-luces etc painted on the outside. The car suspended by plated cords 10 feet below the balloon was ornamented with pink colou'd silk and blue fringe, and made of wicker work in the manner and shape of a cradle. The whole was entire when first found by Mr. Thomas Ebelwhite, a farmer near the spot it fell."

(Lincoln Rutland and Stamford Mercury 15 July 1785)

EATEN TO DEATH AT SCREDINGTON

A Coroner's inquisition was taken on Monday last, at Osbournby, near Falkingham, on the body of a man named Thomas Page, who had died under circumstances of peculiar horror. The deceased was a pauper, belonging to the parish of Silk Willoughby, but not chusing to stay in the workhouse, he was in the habit of strolling about from town to town, subsisting upon the provision which he begged. It was his custom to deposit what he procured in this way beyond the immediate cravings of nature, within his shirt, next to his body; and having a considerable store of meat and bread so placed, he, in the earlier part of last week, it is supposed, feeling unwell, laid himself down in a field, in the parish of Scredington, to sleep. The meat, from the heat of the weather, and of the man's body, soon becoming putrid, was struck by flies, and in a short time the maggots which occasioned, not only preyed upon the inanimate pieces of flesh, but began literally to consume the living substance. Favoured by the drowsiness and sloth of the wretched man, these loathsome vermin made such havoc in his body that when, on Thursday, he was found by some persons who were accidently passing in the field, he presented a sight shocking and disgusting in the extreme. White maggots of an enormous size, were crawling in and upon his body, and the removal of the outer ones only served to shew hundreds of others, which had penetrated so deeply that it was clear the very vitals of the miserable man were invaded by them. Page was conveyed to Osbournby, and a surgeon was immediately procured, who dressed the parts affected, but the sufferer died a few hours afterwards, his case being beyond the reach of human skill. The Jury, on a full hearing of these extraordinary circumstances, returned a verdict to the effect that the deceased was "eaten to death by maggots."

The Observer - 5 July 1812

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CHIMNEY DEATH AT CROWLE

Last week a chimney sweep's boy, who was sweeping the chimney of Mr. John Collinson of Crowle, in Lincolnshire, had ascended up the chamber chimney and while in the act of sweeping had caused some soot to fall down another flue in the parlour, in which there was a fire; the soot caused it to blaze, and melancholy to relate, the poor boy was burnt to death in the chimney. Mr. C. did not know that the chimney had any communication.

The Yorkshire Gazette - 10 May 1823
FAMILY HISTORY COMMITTEE

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Mrs. B Webster
Mrs. V Miller
Mr. R Ratcliffe
Mrs. A Cole
Mr. M Lockwood

Mr. R Thornton
Mr. P Tuxworth
Mrs. P Pomeroy
Mr. M Border
Mr. E Cole
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Mr. P T Baker
Mr. R Carroll
Mr. A E B Owen

Dr. B Whitwell
Dr. D Mills
Prof. M Barley
Mr. J Ketteningham
Mr. K Redmore
The Lindsey Rural Community Council

The Seventh Annual Summer School on Local History

arranged in co-operation with The University of Sheffield, The University Colleges of Nottingham and Hull and the Lindsey Local History Society, will be held at

ST. GEORGE'S PREPARATORY SCHOOL, RISEHOLME, LINCOLN

from July 31st to August 7th, 1937.

Subject:

"Medieval Buildings and How to Study Them"

DIRECTOR OF STUDIES.

Mr. F. W. Brooks, M.A., F.R.H.S.,
Lecturer in History, University College, Hull.

STAFF.

Mr. Charles Brears - University College, Nottingham.
Mr. M. W. Barley, B.A. - University College, Hull.
Mrs. E. H. Rudkin - Lindsey Local History Society.

VISITING LECTURERS.

Miss K. Major, M.A., B.Litt., Mr. R. S. Godfrey, F.S.A., Mr. J. W. F. Hill, M.A., LL.M., Mr. G. A. Jones, Ph.D., (Sheffield University),
Mr. J. A. Knowles, F.S.A.

For further information apply to the General Secretary, The Lindsey Rural Community Council, 36, Nessland, Lincoln.