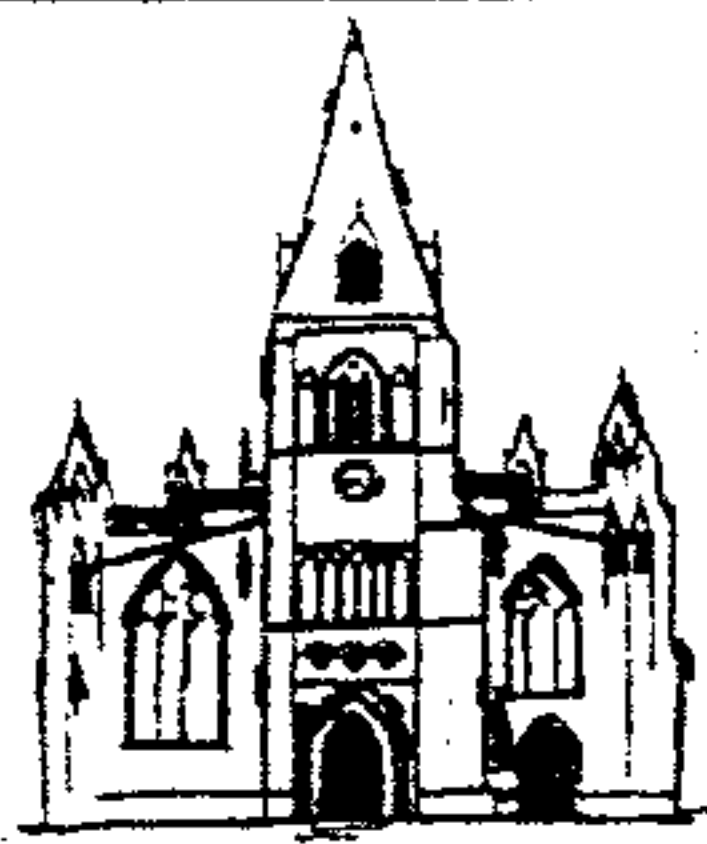


The Sleaford Historian



SOCIETY FOR LINCOLNSHIRE HISTORY AND ARCHÆOLOGY - SLEAFORD GROUP (EST. 1987)

NEWSLETTER NO 10 - June 15, 1995

LOOKING AHEAD . . .

Sleaford group - THURSDAY, July 20, 1995 - SEVENTH ANNUAL WH HOSFORD MEMORIAL LECTURE - Carol Bennett - *Lincoln Chapter Bible goes to Rome*. 7.30pm in St Denys' Church Room.

Grantham - July 10, 1995 - Another chance to play Lincolnshire *Call my Bluff*, with Mr R Cousins. 7.30pm in St Wulfram's Church Hall.

Friday, July 14, 1995 - Grammar School Library, Spalding - *History of the Lincolnshire Regiment* - Andrew Davies, 7.30pm.

Sunday, July 16, 1995 - Visit to Aslackby Manor House. Booking form in SLHA mailing. 2pm at the house.

DON'T FORGET the members' night at **Sleaford Library, Monday, June 19.**

SLEAFORD MUSEUM - The Trust is on the verge of signing a short-term lease on the premises in Northgate. An application to the National Lottery Fund will be made when the architect has finished working on the plans.

COGGLESFORD MILL - Not yet ready for working order; Dorothea Restoration have it in hand.

NAVIGATION SOCIETY - An exhibition has been assembled in Adams old shop at the Southgate corner of the precinct. If you haven't yet seen it, it is well worth a visit.

New books:

Caythorpe by L. R. Cryer is now available, price £7.50.

Newark in the Second World War by R Mallory. Fifty-six page booklet published by Notts County Council, price £3.95. Includes experiences of locally recruited troops on foreign campaigns.

Second volume of Thatcher Memoirs:

The Path to Power is published by Harper Collins. Baroness Thatcher recalls her days in Grantham and early influences.

A VILLAGE AT WAR

Having spent most of the war years in Ruskington, **Una Hanwell** was away from the village during 1945, but on returning was told there was great rejoicing on VE-Day

People had produced flags, many quite ancient, and there were street parties and dancing on the sides of the beck in the evening.

During the war we had soldiers billeted in the village. Nissen huts were erected on a large area of ground where some cottages had been pulled down. They became 'home' to quite a large number of men.

The officers' mess was at the rectory and the soldiers fed at the YMCA hall which was previously used as the village hall.

Troops were sent out from here to Arnhem. Many villagers who had become friendly with the men turned out to see them off in trucks in high spirits.

We heard of the terrible defeat and fate of the soldiers. When they returned eventually, we were out, waiting to find out which of those we had known and befriended had been killed. It was the saddest of nights; only a few trucks came back and many tears were shed.

Names were read out and the shock of the disaster was felt. The men were so exhausted they could hardly speak or walk. The officers were splendid and lifted the soldiers out of the trucks and saw them back to base.

We have a memorial in the church to those who died. Also there is a reunion here every five years.

There was a dummy airfield in the fens which was bombed early in the war, and near the end of hostilities a bomb fell on Ruskington - fortunately on a garden plot. Each night we watched, or heard the planes going over to Germany from the aerodromes around. Many homes had air raid shelters of their own.

Lord Haw-Haw was captured by one of the officers who was billeted in Ruskington.

RECOMMENDED . .

. . . for a visit this summer is Gunby Hall, a National Trust property near Spilsby, on the A158 Skegness road. Rather like an eighteenth century town house transported to the country, the hall was built at the end of the seventeenth century for Sir William Massingberd on the site of a manor house that had belonged to a family called Gunby.

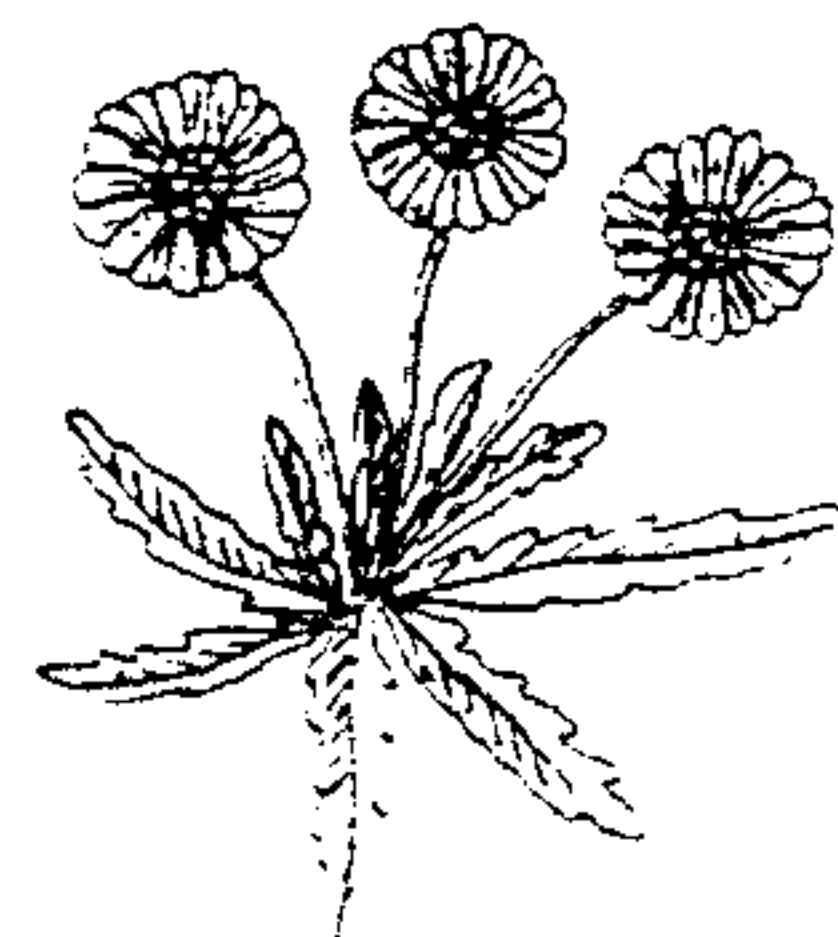
Family portraits can be seen in the house, and it soon becomes apparent that the Massingberds had some musically gifted and scholarly members in their family. Amongst their relatives were Ralph Vaughan Williams and Charles Darwin, whilst friends and neighbours included Samuel Johnson, Edward Lear, Alfred Lord Tennyson and Sir Joseph Banks.

The walls of the service corridor have William Morris wallpaper, in his *Daisy* design. All the furniture in the house is attractive, and well-affected rather than grandiose; difficult to look at without breaking the tenth commandment.

The garden, which has been described as 'poetic, rather than a plantsman's,' is pleasant to walk in and to photograph, sketch and paint. There is a traditional kitchen garden and a herb garden with over 80 varieties.

By following a woodland path, St Peter's Church can be reached, where there is a good opportunity for brass rubbing, for a small charge, and with the permission of the incumbent. Members of the Massingberd family have been organists in this church.

Ample parking space is available. House and garden are open on Wednesday afternoons in summer. In keeping with its musical tradition, Gunby Hall is occasionally the venue for public concerts.



LINCOLNSHIRE'S LIVESTOCK

3. THE LINCOLNSHIRE CURLY COAT

What would they do without poor piggy and his long expected effects? - T H Mozley

So far in this series we have considered stock animals, but the importance of the pig was more to the economy of the household than directly to the wider market economy. The pig provided the degree of comfort that made low wages more tolerable.

'Pig Clubs' were established, particularly in Lindsey, to insure against loss, injury or disease. Typically, each member had to pay an entry fee which might be a flat rate, or vary with the value of the pig. Members' pigs were marked by the club officials, and had to be disease free. Pigs which became sick or died were the responsibility of the club officials. Members were to keep to standards of pig keeping.

Until this century pigs were frequently kept in towns (note the editor's address) one reason being that they would eat absolutely anything! Those intended for tallow were even fed on the rancid remains of their forebears.

Arthur Young, writing in 1813 had a poor opinion of the Lincolnshire pigs which were of Heinz varieties. John Cordeaux, writing in 1895 of *'Lincolnshire Farming One Hundred Years Ago'* calls them 'below contempt - long legged and long nosed, high in the back and lop eared'. A herd of whites and of Chinese blacks that did attract Young's eye were kept at Osbournby. At Freiston, large black and sandy pigs were bred commercially. By the 1860s, as a result of selective breeding, the Lincolnshire Curly Coat began to be recognised. It was put on show in the county in 1907 and the following year accepted as a separate breed at Smithfield.

Curly Coats shared many of the qualities of the longwool sheep: large frame, exceptional hardiness and rapid growth. Farrowed in March and April, they were white, although the odd black spot was not uncommon. As the name suggests,

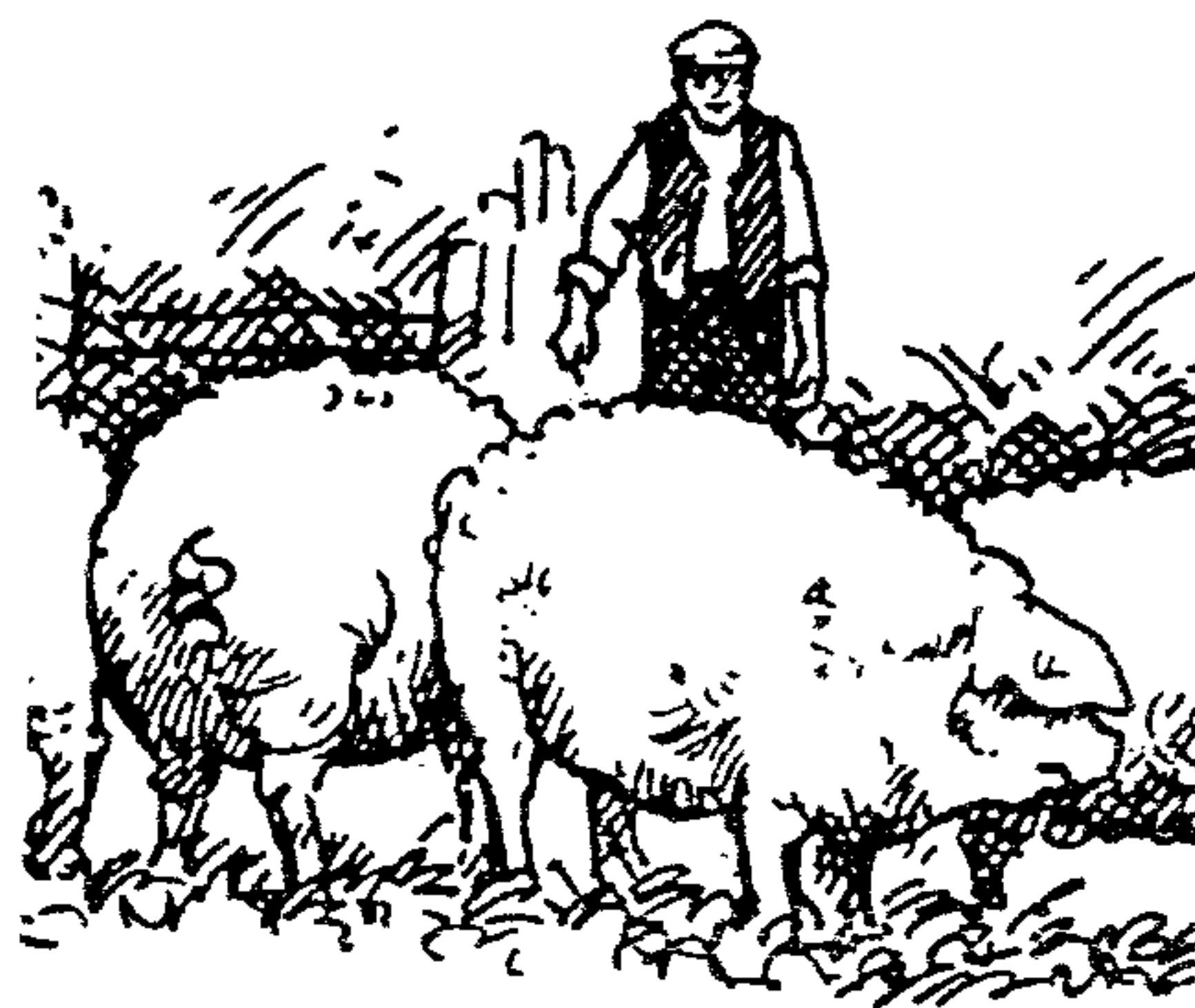
they had curly or wavy hair. Pigs would be slaughtered at nine or twelve months, weighing up to 40 stone.

The night before the killing, the condemned animal was given a clean bed of straw. No last meal, though. It was killed by having its throat cut, and being bled as rapidly as possible. The carcass was scalded. Water, just off the boil, was used with hand scrapers or a chain to remove the hair. Decapitated, the carcass was hung up and a strip about six inches wide cut from the belly, and the 'innards' removed. The intestines were used for chitterlings and sausage skins. 'Pigs cheer' - plates of pork, kidney, liver, heart, brains and sweetbreads - was given to neighbours, who must return the plates still dirty - otherwise the pig would not 'take salt.' The spleen was given to the cat.

The following morning the pig was 'cut out' - shoulders, hams and trotters removed and the back section kept whole for making stuffed chine. The sides, or 'flicks,' had saltpetre rubbed into the bloody parts and were placed in salt for a fortnight and then hung for at least three weeks to dry.

Following cutting out would come the rendering of lard, the making of sausages, haselets, brawn, chitterlings, pork pies, sausage rolls and mince pies. The countryman was provided for by the pig with almost every meal. Small wonder he was called 'Chaw-Bacon.'

Those who hanker after traditional salt cured bacon should remember that lean meat becomes tough if cured like this. When farm labourers did hard physical work, the fat in their diet would soon be worked off in the fields. The meat was too fat for modern tastes; it became unfashionable, as, after the Second World War, did the practice of agricultural workers and their families keeping pigs for their own consumption.



The Knights Templar In Kesteven

by Dr Dennis Mills

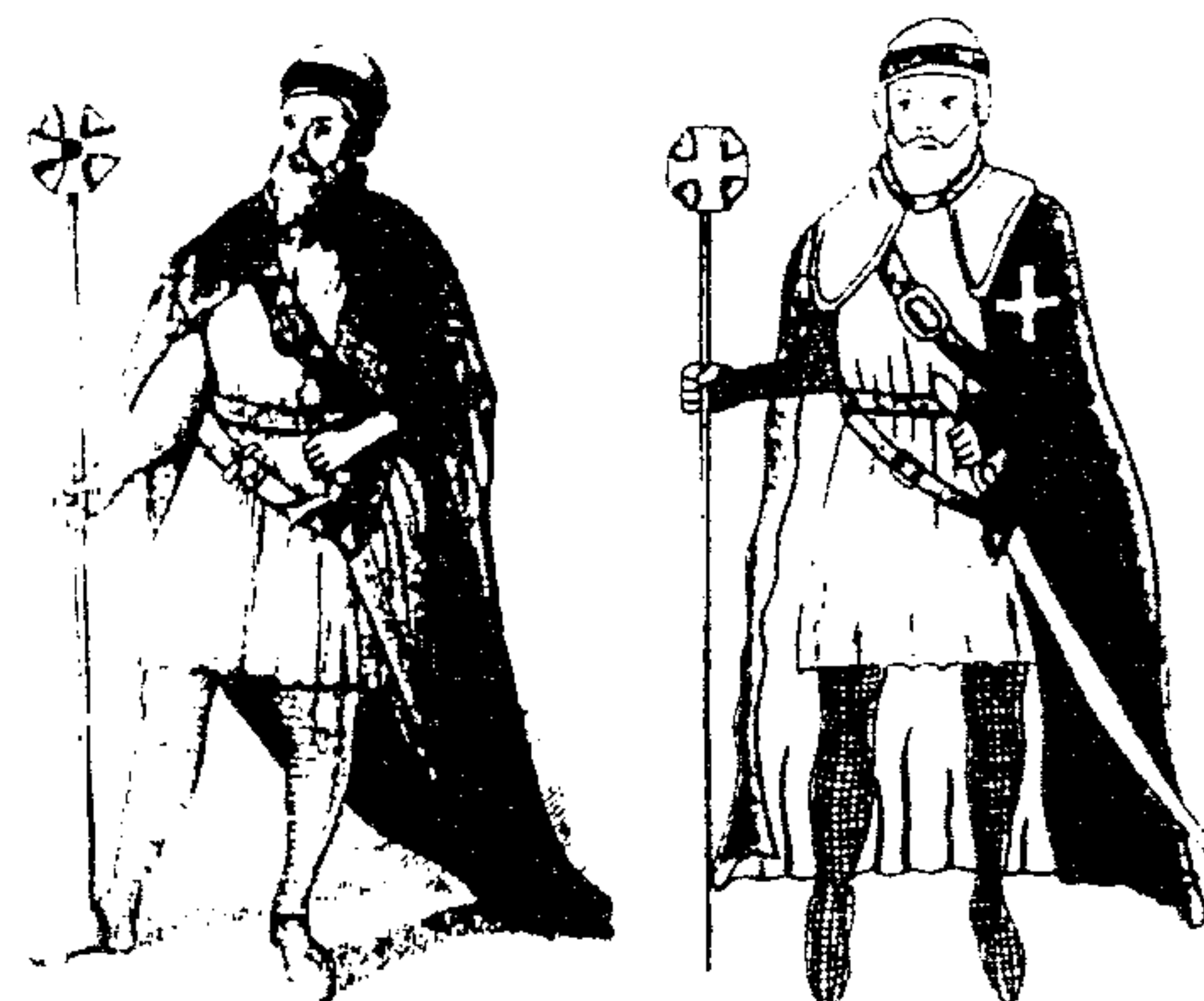
Reviewed by Colin Beevers . . .

Fascinated by the Templars, I have also been impressed with the late Dr Stephen Knight's case that the modern Masonic organisation had its origins as the secret continuation of the Templars after their suppression.

It was, therefore, with sheer delight that I caught sight recently, on a local history book display, of a copy of *The Knights Templar in Kesteven* by Dr Dennis Mills. We had attended the Hosford Lecture after taking the bus tour, and here was the booklet Dr Mills told us was in preparation. Produced by North Kesteven District Council, price £2, it represents value for money and is an enjoyable remembrance of that Hosford Lecture.

An historian more usually associated with later periods, Dr Mills begins by discussing where the Templars were, particularly in North Kesteven. This is followed by a brief explanation of the origins, development, organisation and suppression of the Templars in England before studying in detail their estates at Temple Bruer, Eagle and East Mere.

The booklet has little to say about the Templars at Aslackby or South Witham - in South Kesteven. This disappointed me, considering the title.



The Sleaford Historian



SOCIETY FOR LINCOLNSHIRE HISTORY AND ARCHAEOLOGY - SLEAFORD GROUP (EST. 1987)

NEWSLETTER NO 11 - JULY 20, 1995

SPECIAL HOSFORD DOUBLE EDITION

Looking Ahead . . .

There will be no meeting at St Denys' Room in August, and no August *Historian*. In holiday mood, however, the Sleaford Group has arranged a visit to **Doddington Hall**, near Lincoln, on August 17 at 7.30pm. All members and friends of SLHA are invited (by kind permission of Mr and Mrs Antony Jarvis) to a guided tour of the mansion. If you would like to go, please complete a booking slip and return to SLHA, Jews' Court. Price £3.60 per head.

TOMORROW!! Friday, July 21, in the Wren Library, Lincoln Cathedral, *Music for a While* - the music of Henry Purcell, with James Huw Jeffries (counter tenor) and Lynda Sayce (lute). Concert begins at 8pm, tickets (£8) available from Lincoln Cathedral Library. Tel 01522 544544.

128th Heckington Show - Saturday, July 29/ Sunday, July 30, 1995. Saturday, Red Devils parachute display team, Mary Chipperfield's racing camels, etc. Sunday, showjumping, St Petersburg Admiralty Navy Band. Horticulture and animal classes, rural crafts and many more attractions.

North Kesteven Heritage Rooms to visit this summer are at Basingham, Bilinghay (mud and stud cottage), Brant Broughton, Heighington, Navenby, North Scarle, Waddington and Wellingore. Details on new North Kesteven leaflet from your Tourist Information Centre.

Lincolnshire Heritage Days, on the weekend September 16/17. In Sleaford, on the Saturday there will be an information session in the morning on Charles Kirk and Thomas Parry, the nineteenth century architects and building tycoons, held at the High School and led by Alison Peach and Simon Pawley. In the afternoon there will be guided tours of some of their buildings, including the High School house, Charles Kirk's former residence, the Eastgate

continued on back page . . .

Carol Bennett

A particularly apt person to deliver the Hosford Lecture, Carol Bennett has been an adult education lecturer for the Universities of Nottingham and Hull, and for the WEA.

Mrs Bennett studied history of art and architecture in her native USA and gained her MA degree from Columbia University.

At present she is working for Lincoln Cathedral Library as its development officer, with special responsibility for exhibitions and events.

WILLIAM H. HOSFORD

Born in London in 1893, William Hosford BSc (Econ) studied at the London School of Economics after serving in the Royal Army Medical Corps in the 1914-18 War.

From 1930, Mr Hosford worked in adult education in Lincolnshire, first with the WEA, and later as a member of Nottingham University Extra-Mural Department.

Throughout his career he encouraged his students to research the history of their locality, and many were fired by his enthusiasm. He remained in Lincolnshire until his death in 1978.

The following is an extract from William Hosford's monograph entitled *Some Lincolnshire Enclosure Documents*.

At the time when enclosures took place, we have two classes of people to consider: landlords - more often referred to as 'proprietors' in the documents - and tenants.

The great bulk of the proprietors were small and medium people. Very few of them lived in the villages in which they held common rights. The prevalence of absentee-landlordism in the late eighteenth century in this part of the country is borne out by evidence from (a number of) villages.

At Sleaford in 1796, common rights were claimed in respect of 221 buildings, but only 22 of these were in the occupation of their owners.

The most precise information comes from Quadring. (According to) a list entitled 'Account of the Houses, Toftsteads and Number of Acres in the Parish of Quadring' which has a column headed 'Where the Landlords Live,' eight lived in Quadring, two in London, and thirty-six in thirty different places - mostly in Lincolnshire - and about half of them in towns, such as Boston, Grantham and Sleaford.

But, what of the tenants, the people who actually exercised the rights of common and 'sauntered after cow'? Down to the time of the enclosure they had enjoyed certain privileges, such as pasturing a cow on common land, and probably picking up fallen wood, or cutting turf. The Enclosure Act extinguished these rights.

(The tenants) were not all 'poor' or 'working class.' At Horbling, for example, common rights were claimed for 15 'farm houses,' five 'houses' and 34 'cottages' which were occupied by tenants. If there was a loss, it would be experienced by all - from prosperous tenant-farmers to undernourished farm labourers, but obviously loss would be more severely felt in lower income levels.

The poor would be in no position to enforce compensation, because of the shortage of cottages and the difficulty of removing to another parish as a result of the Settlement Laws - except to a town wanting labour. In the absence of specific instructions in the Act, compensation could only be the result of private benevolence. The Legislature, and the Commissioners, were concerned only with the proprietors of common rights: they were not concerned with their tenants. It would be possible for tenants' interests to be protected privately, after the enclosure, without any record appearing in official documents.

The Commissioners of the Horbling and Pointon enclosures - the only ones of which sufficient data has survived - seem to have made every effort to obtain a true record of all the rights that would be extinguished by enclosure, with due compensation

continued on back page . . .

THE BUILDING OF HECKINGTON CHURCH.

An account by
Sandra Sardeson

At their May meeting the Sleaford group enjoyed a conducted tour of St Denys' Church, ably led by Douglas Hoare. During his description of the building of St Denys', Douglas mentioned the team of masons who moved on to Sleaford after the completion of St Andrew's, Heckington. This group is now referred to as 'The Heckington Lodge of Masons.'

The present church at Heckington, known to be at least the third to be built there, is one of the finest fourteenth century parish churches in England. Indeed, it is claimed that if only one parish church of the Decorated period was to be saved for posterity, it would have to be Heckington.

One reason for this is that the whole was built within 30 years at the beginning of the fourteenth century and has never had any additions or alterations, other than those made by vandals after the Reformation, and the nineteenth century restorations.

Recent research, by Dr Charles Kightly during his appointment as Church Tourism Consultant for the diocese, indicates that building took place between 1305 and 1333, and attributes much of the sponsorship to royal sources. A walk around the outside of the church will reveal the plainness of the north, compared with the highly decorative south side. The building was constructed in two major stages. The earlier, plainer sections comprise the nave, north aisle, north transept, and part of the south aisle.

At least part of the finances for the first stage of the building came from Lady Lora de Gant, lady of the manor of Heckington and widow of the last Gilbert de Gant who died in 1298. Lora died childless in April 1309, and the building work probably stopped then, when the Lincolnshire estates of the de Gants reverted to the crown. Earlier the same year

the rector of Heckington, Simon de Baston, died. As Bardney was without an abbot, following the expulsion of Robert Waynflete, the right to appoint a new incumbent also fell to the crown.

On March 8, 1309, King Edward II appointed Richard de Potesgrave, described as 'the king's clerk,' rector of Heckington. This man, a high-ranking civil servant, and chaplain and confessor to Edward II and Edward III, earned large sums of money at court, from which he was to contribute towards the building of the church at Heckington.

Later in 1309 Edward II granted the manors of Heckington, Folkingham, and other de Gant estates to his second cousin and boyhood companion, Lord Henry de Beaumont. He remained lord of the manor until his death in 1340. Richard de Potesgrave remained rector until he died in 1349. Therefore, these two men, both close associates of the king, effectively controlled Heckington for 40 years.

The second, and most important, phase of the building of St Andrew's took place then, and it is almost certain that Richard de Potesgrave and Lord Henry de Beaumont were mainly responsible for its planning and financing.

The so-called Heckington Lodge of Masons was employed to continue the building, starting with the west tower and spire and continuing around the south side completing the aisle and south transept, the additional eastern bay of the nave, the richly decorated chancel and two-storey vestry. This last feature was pure swank - a fourteenth century status symbol! The south porch, the most elaborately carved feature, was probably the finishing touch, and may not have been completed when the young King Edward III visited Heckington in August 1330.

If the porch was not complete then it may commemorate this visit. Close inspection of the gable shows the (restored) figure of Christ in the apex above the royal arms and, on either side, kneeling figures with crowns, which could represent the young king and his queen, Philippa of Hainault.

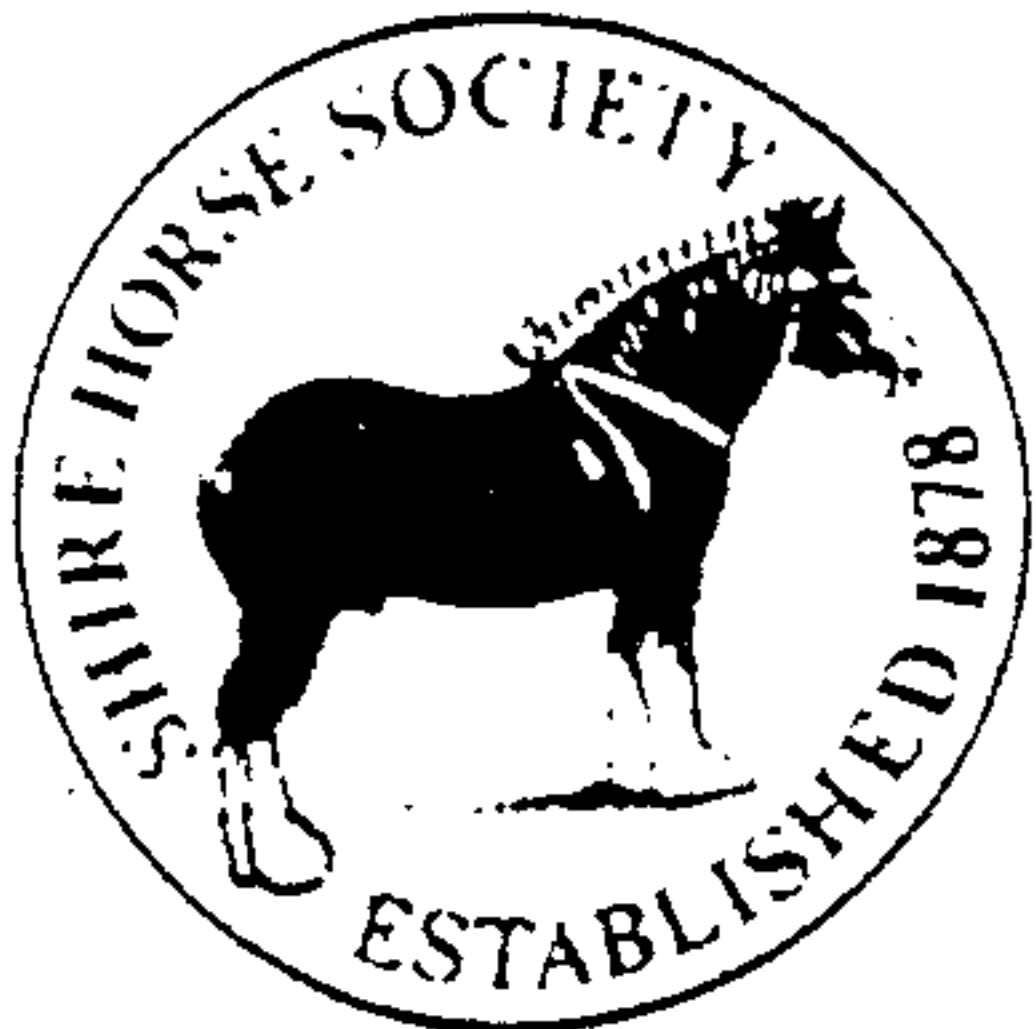
We know from inscriptions in the magnificent east window that Richard de Potesgrave built the chancel with its Easter sepulchre, sedilia, double piscina, and tomb arch for his final resting place. A fitting memorial for the king's clerk who served the monarchy for more than 30 years, and invested his income in Heckington's splendid church.



RICHARD de POTESGRAVE
from a drawing by Sheila Parkinson

LINCOLNSHIRE'S LIVESTOCK

4. SHIRE HORSES



Is there a sight more evocative of farming at the turn of the century than a pair of shire horses pulling the plough? As rooks circle the bare elms, the sharp-eyed ploughman, in jacket and cap, cuts each furrow to perfection. It is the nostalgic, romantic image loved by the advertisers, of man, animal and nature in a half remembered craft mystery.

Horses were not usually used for ploughing before the nineteenth century; oxen were used by Tennyson's *'Northern Farmer - Old Style'* to plough Thurnaby Furse and much of the rest of the new fields after enclosure. Their main use had been, and remained, haulage.

The name 'Shire' comes from the counties between the rivers Severn, Humber and Cam. Many people don't readily associate horses with Lincolnshire, yet from 1600 horses were bred in large numbers particularly by many small farmers in South Holland. A lot of these were sold for mine work in Nottinghamshire and Derbyshire. By the end of the eighteenth century there were two principal breeds of heavy horse in Lincolnshire; the Suffolk or Punch - a sorrel - and the Lincolnshire or Leicestershire Black. The largest of the heavy horse breeds at up to 18 hands for stallions, Shires were slow, docile and steady workers, and in great demand, commanding a high price during the Napoleonic Wars.

Although the history of this horse has been traced back to 1068 as the heavy horse that carried knights into battle, the modern Shire breed seems, according to Chivers' *The Shire Horse*, to descend from Honest Tom, a horse born in Lincolnshire in 1800. His descendants dominated the breed by 1924, winning 105 of the 133 prizes at the London

show that year.

Breeders took their stallions around the villages. One such was Waxwork, owned by Fred Dixon. Between 1817 and 1824, he travelled to Whatton in Nottinghamshire on Mondays, and from there through the villages to Long Bennington, arriving at Balderton for Wednesday night. Thursday saw him back through Claypole and Dry Doddington to Foston and Great Ponton for Saturday. The cost for covering a mare was a pound. More expensive at a guinea was Useful, part owned by John Savidge of Carlton Scroop. His round from 1820 to 1828 was in Barrowby Vale.

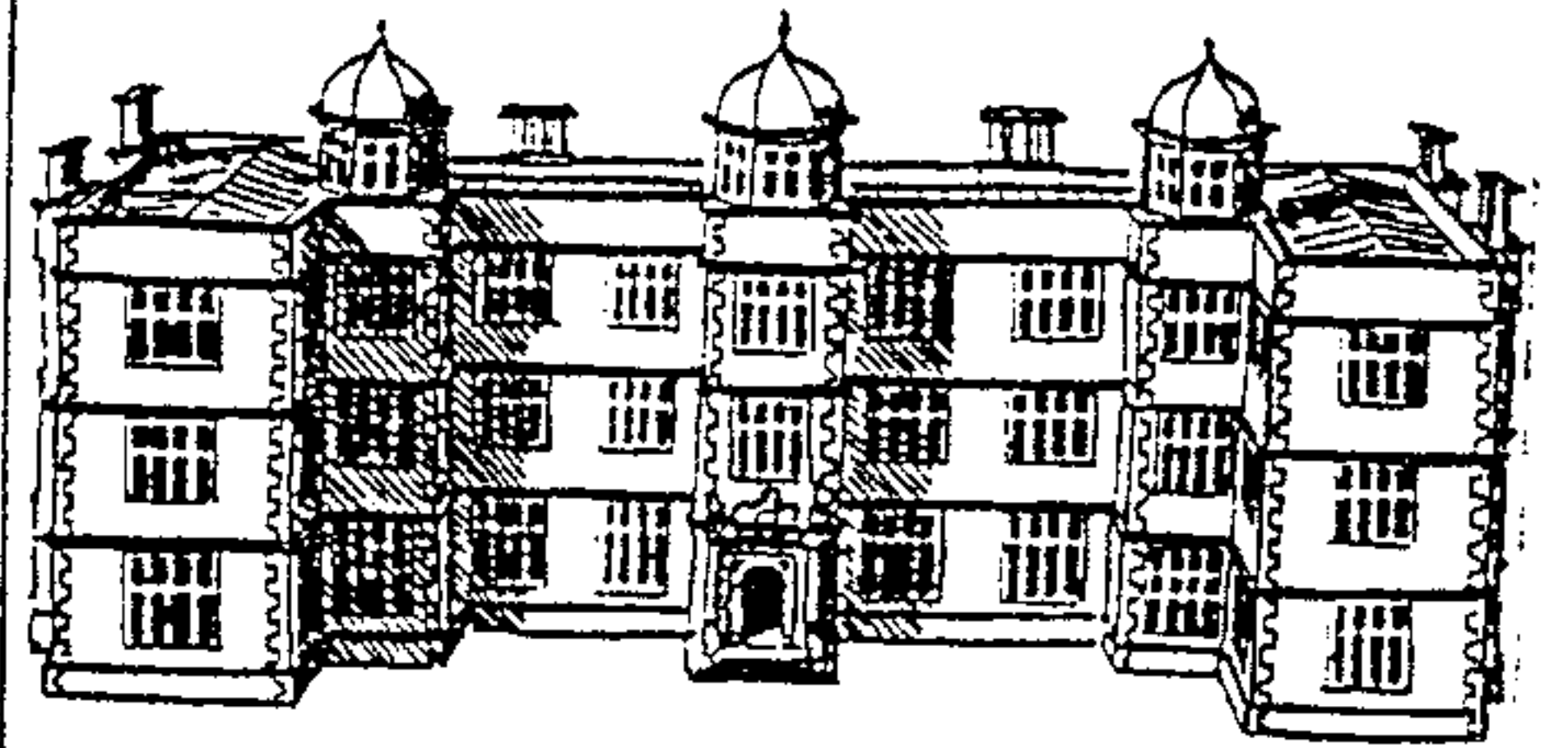
The breeding of heavy horses suffered a decline with the ending of the Napoleonic wars and the coming of the railway, and many mongrels, crosses of the sorrels and blacks, were produced. These were light, active and well suited to ploughing. By the 1830s, the Horncastle Horse Fair had become the greatest in the country, drawing buyers from Europe and the USA. Breeding thrived in the period of High Farming. As with other animals a stud book was opened in 1884. One of the founders of the Shire Horse Society was William Lands of Welbourn whose geldings were sold at three to five years for town work. Today, the number of Shires exhibited at shows in the UK is increasing, as is the number being worked on British farms. Furthermore, almost every good Shire horse's ancestry can be traced to Lincolnshire.



Lincolnshire Life Show Supplement

DODDINGTON HALL

LINCOLN



One of the most beautiful Elizabethan mansions in the country, Doddington Hall stands unchanged since completed by Robert Smythson in 1600. Unlike great houses built in the earlier Tudor period, Doddington has no internal courtyard, and is therefore a completely outward looking house.

Now the home of Mr and Mrs Antony Jarvis, the house remained in the hands of one family - albeit name changes occurred through marriage - until 1825, when it was left by Sarah Gunman to Captain George Ralph Payne Jarvis, her lover.

Many family portraits are displayed, and a beautiful seventeenth century Brussels tapestry of a unicorn in the series *The Battle of the Beasts*.

A variety of interesting things associated with people who have lived in the house have been kept, such as beer brewed for John Delaval's 'twenty-first' still in the bottles because he died the day before his birthday in 1775. George Jarvis was an artist, and examples of his work can be seen at Doddington.

I would not have liked to get close to a scold wearing the bridle in the white hall, but, in the drawing room, 'the dog who rescued Mr Stone' has a lovely face. The Broadwood piano was bought by Edward Delaval for his daughter, Sarah, in 1805.

Names Of The Owners Of Doddington Hall:

Tailor 1600-1652, Hussey 1652-1749, Delaval 1749-1814, Gunman 1814-1825, Jarvis 1825-



HECKINGTON SHOW

125 YEARS OF A VILLAGE TRADITION



Writing in 1992 to mark the 125th anniversary of the Heckington Show on its present site, Charles Pinchbeck relates the history of the show, through difficulties overcome by dedication and hard work, and through success.

We learn how the show was nearly abandoned in the early 1960s, to be rescued by the enthusiasm and determination of the younger members of the committee, not least by Sleaford local history group member, John Sardeson of Manor Farm, Howell.

Today, the Heckington Show is the largest village agricultural show in the county, and must be one of the best in the country.

The event has been held in the grounds of Heckington Hall since 1867, when it was a one-day flower show, but Charles Pinchbeck explains how the roots of the tradition lie further back in history, with the village feast, linked to the patronal festival of the local church.

As we know, the present dedication

is to St Andrew, whose feast day is November 20, but at least two previous church buildings are known to have stood there. (See Sandra Sardeson's account). July is the month of the feast of St Mary Magdalene, to whom an older church was dedicated. Indeed, the full dedication of the existing church is to 'St Andrew, St Mary Magdalene and All Saints.'

The 24-page book is published by Heckington & District Agricultural Society, and is dedicated to all the organisers, competitors and visitors who have maintained the tradition since 1863. One of the sources of information is *Heckington in the 1870's* by Dr F. W. Pinchbeck.

PRIZE COMPETITION

If you have saved all the previous editions of the *Sleaford Historian*, you will notice that a different logo has appeared each month in the title since October, 1994. Simply identify the pictures and you could win a token worth £10 to spend at the Sleaford Group book stall. Make sure your entry is handed in at the next meeting - September 21, 1995 - or send to the editors at 4 Swinegate, Grantham, by that date. First correct entry opened at the September meeting wins; copy out the form if you prefer.



Sleaford Historian Logo Competition

October

November

December

January

February

March

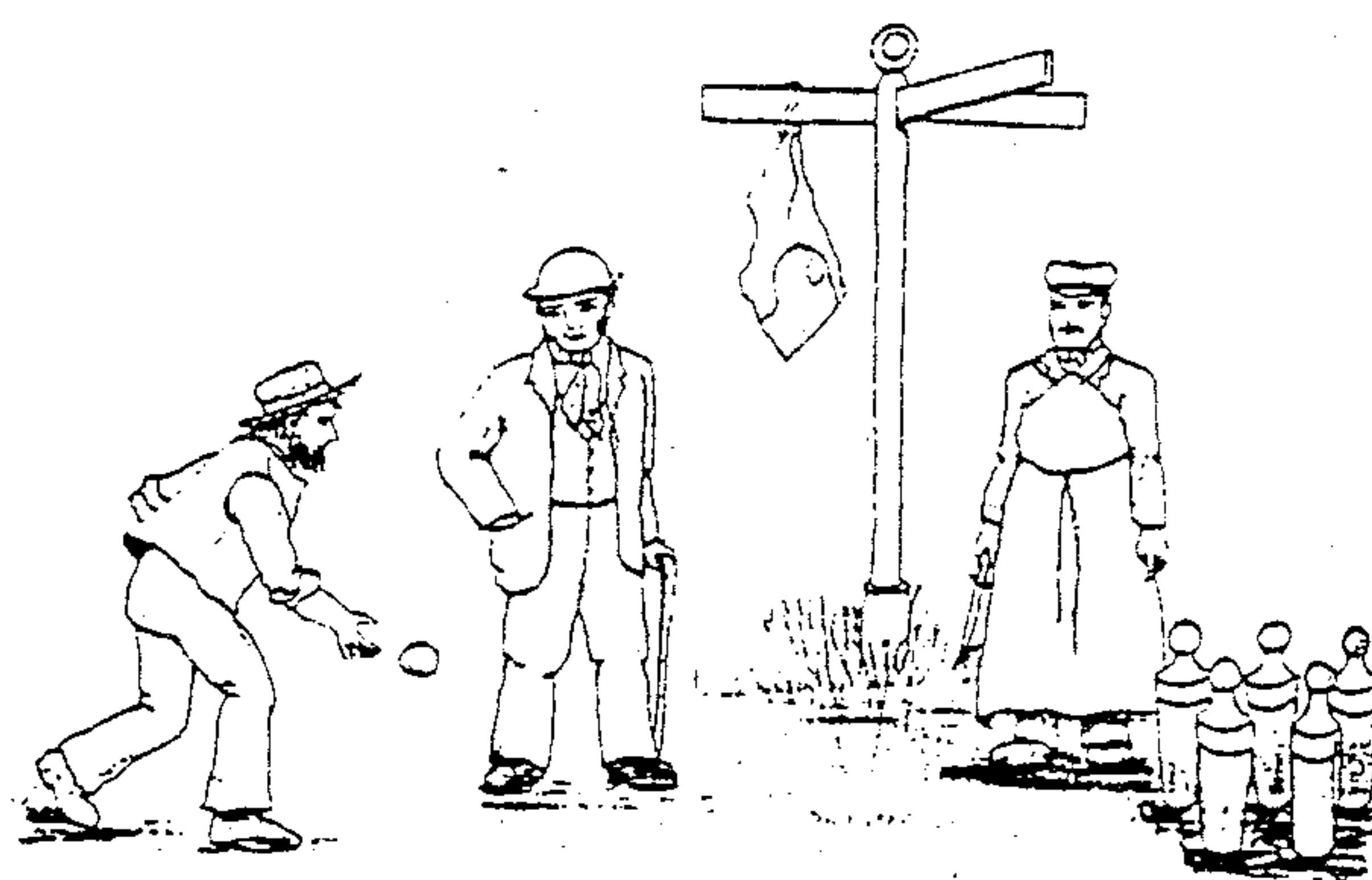
April

May

June

July

Name



Bowling for a saddle of lamb. Heckington Feast 1845.

One of several interesting illustrations in Charles Pinchbeck's book

Lincs Heritage Days *continued...*

Bedehouse Chapel, and hopefully, the Sessions House and Westholme House, former residence of Thomas Parry.

On the Sunday, Douglas Hoare will conduct tours of St Denys' Church, including parts not normally seen.

The Heritage Days are intended to give people the chance to visit places not regularly open to or shown to the public.



TRIVIA CORNER

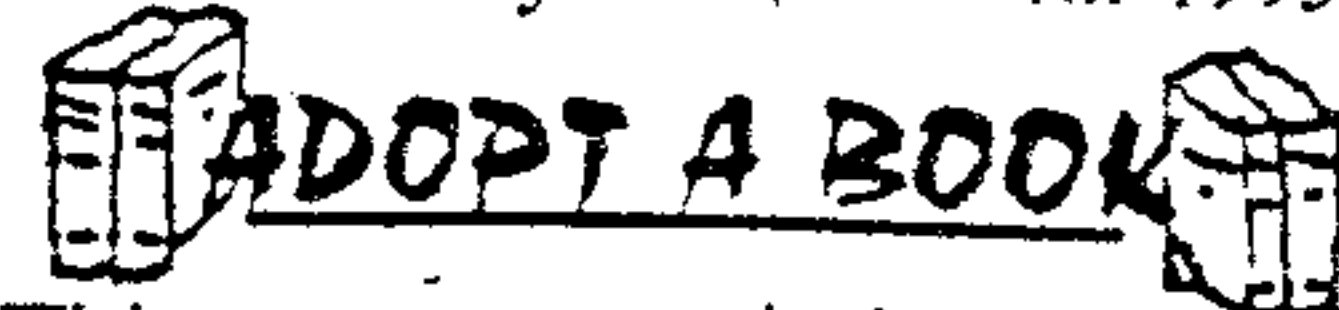
Did you know that Charles Kirk and Thomas Parry were related by marriage as well as being business partners, and that Thomas Parry was the Liberal MP for Boston in the 1860's, whilst Charles Kirk was a Tory voter?

continued from front page

being made for all such rights that were recognised in law. At the time of the enclosure, the poor of Pointon, Horbling and Quadring did not own land, and if they did own some, they were certainly not robbed of it.

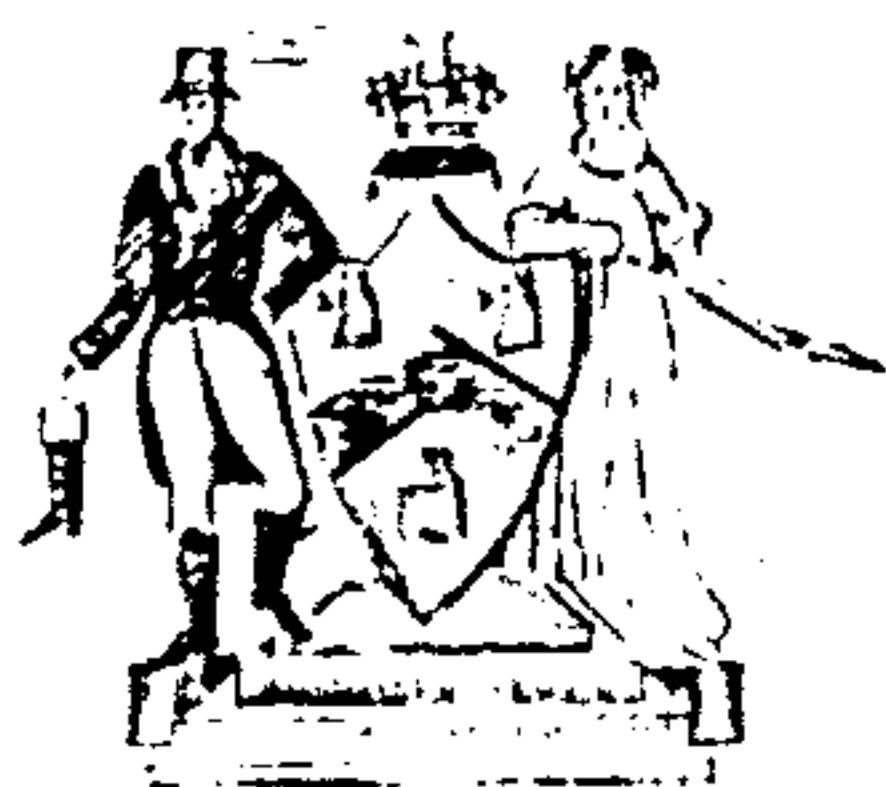
If people who exercised common rights in Horbling and Pointon had owned them in law they would have derived benefit rather than loss from the enclosure of these parishes. It is not that legal property rights were violated, but that no steps were taken to protect vulnerable sections of the community from the ill effects of changing conditions.

W. H. Hosford (edited RB 1995)



This programme is intended to help in the important task of cataloguing and preserving the books and manuscripts held in Lincoln Cathedral Library. Information about the scheme is available here tonight, and from the Cathedral Library.

The Sleaford Historian



SOCIETY FOR LINCOLNSHIRE HISTORY AND ARCHÆOLOGY - SLEAFORD GROUP (EST. 1987)

NEWSLETTER NO 12 - September 21, 1995

Next meeting of the **Sleaford Group** is on Thursday, October 19, 1995 - Michael Honeybone - The Luttrell Psalter. St Denys' Church Room.

Grantham - Monday, October 9, 1995 - Annual General Meeting, followed by Members' Interests (variety). St Wulfram's Church Hall.

Tomorrow, Friday, September 22 - Jean Townsend - Life in the Lincolnshire Monasteries - Spalding Grammar School library.

All above begin at 7.30pm.

Saturday, **September 30**, 1995 - in the Methodist Schoolroom, Spilsby, at 2.30pm - a lecture by Lt Ernest Coleman on his latest expedition in search of **Sir John Franklin**. Bookstall and refreshments are available.

Saturday, October 21, 1995 - **Archæology Day** at The Lawn, Lincoln. The theme is 'The Archæology of Death.' In the morning local archæologists discuss attitudes to death and treatment of ancestors through ritual, and cover treatment of the dead throughout time in Lincolnshire. In the afternoon some of the country's leading experts explain how we learn so much about past life by studying the dead. They show examples of diet and disease and also explain how archæologists help the police solve murders. Starts at 10am and goes on until 5pm. Tickets £5. Complete yellow form and return by October 2, 1995.

Like Edinburgh, Exeter and York, Lincoln has its own 'Ghost Walk.' Tours run Saturdays all year at 7pm. Also other times. Information from libraries and T.I.Cs.

Advance Notice - April 27, 1996, Sleaford Group hosts Heckington day, details later.

HERITAGE OPEN DAYS

It was all free on Saturday and Sunday, September 16 and 17, with about 50 events in Lincolnshire alone to promote local heritage. Historic sites and buildings not normally accessible, or only for a fee, opened free of charge.

On Saturday morning, not having done any advance planning, we were looking for events for which booking was not essential. Lincoln had several things on offer and by 2pm we were holding our ticket marked nought pounds and nought pence at the entrance to the Bishop's Palace.

Although familiar with Edward King House, we had not visited the Palace before, so it was an education to wander among the ancient walls and learn that building was begun by Robert de Chesney in the twelfth century. St Hugh continued the work in 'more magnificent style' and the kitchens were completed by Hugh of Wells in about 1225.

In September, 1329, Bishop Henry Burghersh, who first funded education and training for the singing boys (Burghersh chanters) got a licence from Edward III 'to repair, raise, crenellate and turrellate' the walls. Crenellation was extremely prestigious.

An art exhibition had been put on in the tower added by Bishop William Alnwick in the fifteenth century, and on the south facing slope in front of the palace we discovered a vinyard.

Leadenham was our choice for Sunday, where Mr Bill Goodhand led a tour in which the history of a prosperous agricultural community unfolded. We learned of the importance of the lord of the manor and the impact of the railway and of the bypass. Leadenham boasted a tourist attraction in medieval times - a place of pilgrimage - St Anne's Well, south of the village. This could be taken in on the way to the shrine of St Hugh in Lincoln. Near this stream, behind the hedge, is a mound on which a post mill stood.

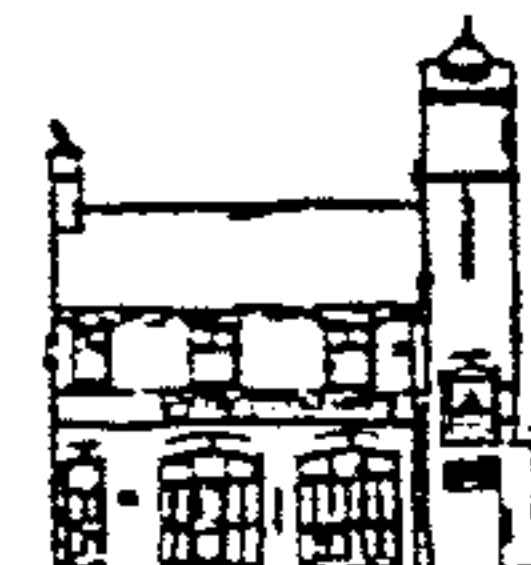
Why not share your experiences of the heritage weekend with us, in next month's *Historian*?

Prize Competition

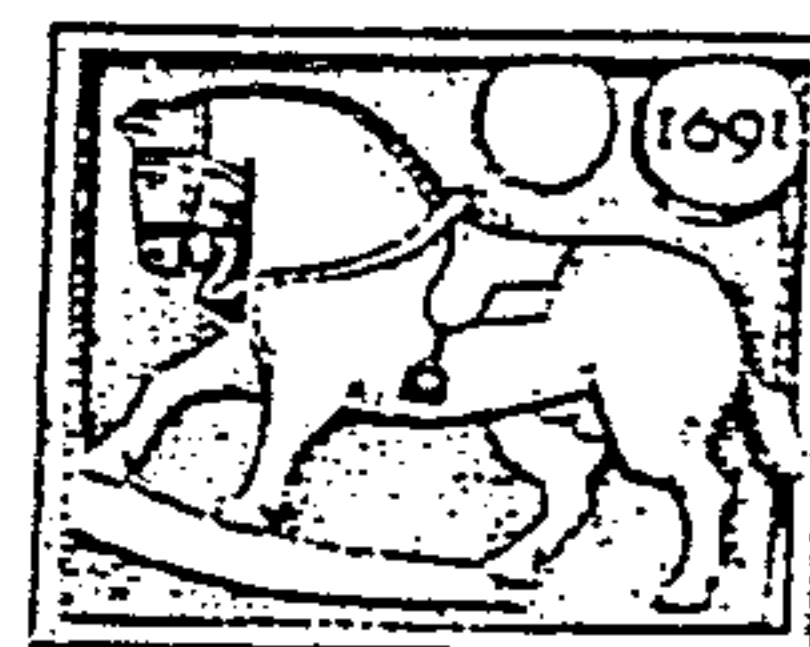
By popular request July's 'logo competition' is to be run for another month. The pictures are all repeated below, and additional entry forms are to be found on the table near the door. Sealed entries will be put in a 'hat' at the meeting on October 19, 1995. Winner will be the first correct one opened. The prize is a token worth £10 at the book stall.



October



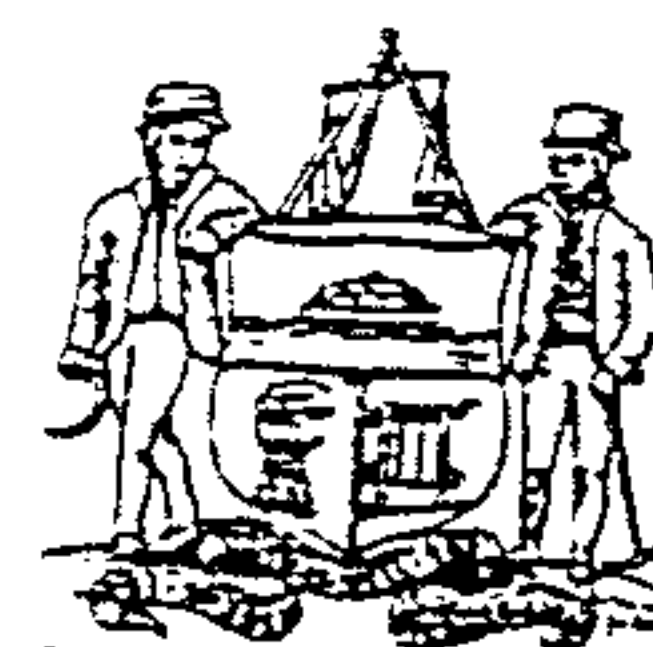
November



December



January



February



March



April



May



June



July

Copy for next *Historian* by October 14, please, to Ros and Colin Beevers, 4 Swinegate, Grantham NG31 6RJ. Tel 01476 67269.

A Few Home Truths

There comes a time when everyone interested in the past wants to learn more than their deeds can tell them about their own home and the area where they live.

Now technology can provide the answers if you can get to Swindon to visit the National Monuments Record Centre (NMRC), which opened just over a year ago. All you have to do is go there and use Monarch (*Mon* for Monument, and *arch* for archaeology).

This database is being filled with thousands of facts. Just give it your parish and it will tell you what else is available. The NMRC has 6.5 million photographs dating back to 1850, plus details of 230,000 monuments, 400,000 listed buildings and a library of 32,000 books. Its database is updated regularly by local authorities as part of the planning process. A department of the Royal Commission on Historic Monuments, the NMRC has a staff of 185 and was set up in the old offices of the Great Western Railway at a cost of £5 million, to have comparable facilities to those at the new British Library.

If you do wish to use it, phone in advance (01793 414600) and let them know what you want. The only charge made is for copies of documents, photographs or maps.

This month's logo is the one used by B. Gill, boot and shoe makers of Sleaford, and comes from a receipt dated April, 1870. Does anyone know anything about this company? Please tell the *Historian*.

Did you know that Tarmac was invented in Nottinghamshire by E. Purnell Hooley and was first used in 1903 on the Fosse Way near Farn-don?

TIME-TRAVELLING THE NEWARK ROAD

Part 1. "Delays are Possible"



Roadworks - by 18th century artist Thomas Bewick

Today, we regard roadworks as anything from a minor irritation to a major nuisance, but when the work is finished and our familiar road is restored or improved, we appreciate that it was a good thing after all.

By the sixteenth century, most of our present pattern of roads was established, but the condition of the highways depended on local people, as each parish was responsible for the upkeep of the roads passing through it. As villages and towns became less self-supporting and trading over a wider area more necessary, parishes through which trunk roads ran were hard-pressed to maintain them. From the late seventeenth century many main roads were let out to turnpike trusts. These consortia undertook to improve stretches of road, covering costs by charging tolls. An Act was passed establishing the Trust for the Mansfield - Leadenham Turnpike in 1758.

On December 29, 1826, a vestry meeting was held in Newark to consider the lowering of the steepest part of Beacon Hill on the turnpike road. According to the report of the meeting in the local press, 'the major part of the inhabitants objected, from a belief they had no business to pay ... as it was not for the benefit of the town, but of the county.'

A Mr Tallents pointed out that as it was part of a turnpike road, it 'should by law support itself.' He said it would be a misuse of charity money to use it for such road improvements. Meanwhile, the turnpike trustees had consulted the

engineer, John Macadam, who surveyed the route and appointed a Mr McConnell to supervise repairs and upgrading in the approved Macadam style.

Macadam described his methods as 'putting broken stones upon a road, which shall unite by its own angles, so as to form a solid hard surface.' It was intended that the ten inch layer of stones would become compacted and form an ideal surface.

In February, 1827, the local press reported that 'the workmen at Beacon Hill have already lowered a portion of this dangerous hill near twelve feet' and that 'the Newark Highway Surveyors, sanctioned by a Vestry, and by the Commissioners of the Leadenham Road, are rendering the ascent up Beacon Hill regular, and the descent safe. We therefore caution all those who have charge of horses and carriages to be careful ... during the progress of the work, to keep to one side of the temporary road, as one half of the road is lowering at a time and is fenced off to prevent accidents, while the other half is left for passing.'

It was some time before the work was completed to everyone's satisfaction. In August, 1827, 'after the overseers of the highway at Newark have spent several hundred pounds in lowering Beacon Hill, the road is now nearly impassable.' But eventually, macadamisation in place, the improvement must have been very great. A further lowering of the hill, by which it obtained its present contour, was carried out in 1839.

The

Sleaford



Historian

SOCIETY FOR LINCOLNSHIRE HISTORY AND ARCHÆOLOGY - SLEAFORD GROUP (EST. 1987)

NEWSLETTER NO 13 - October 19, 1995

The next meeting of the **Sleaford Group** is on Thursday, November 16, 1995 - St Denys' Church Room at 7.30pm - Nita Knapp, researcher, will speak on the Lincolnshire rebellion of 1470.

Tomorrow, Friday, October 20, 1995 at 7.30pm - Spalding Grammar School library - *Lincolnshire Brick is Beautiful* - Hilary Healey.

Saturday, October 21, 1995 - archaeology day at Jews' Court, Lincoln. Telephone 01522 521337.

Apple Day at Woolsthorpe Manor also on Saturday. A variety of activities are on offer.

October 28, 1995 - Extraordinary General Meeting of SLHA at Jews' Court, Lincoln at 2pm, followed by a talk on *Lincoln at War* by Fred Hurt.

Terence Leach Memorial Lecture will be delivered at the Doughty Centre, Grimsby, at 7.30pm on Friday, November 10, 1995. Apply Jews' Court.

Ann Wright, joint author of *The Enemy in Our Midst* - about Lincoln's typhoid epidemic of 1905 - will speak on the subject at the Lincolnshire Archives on Saturday, November 11, 1995. Not to be missed!

Dr Simon Pawley is taking a series of evening classes on the history of Sleaford at St George's College of Technology (English suite) on Mondays. The next class is on October 30, 1995. Places are available.

Edward King House is the venue for a colloquium to be held on Friday, November 24, 1995, on *Medieval Hospitals*. The cost is £16 for tuition, coffee and tea. For details telephone 0115 951 4398 (Centre for Local History, Nottingham University).

SLEAFORD MUSEUM

A town museum could be included in investment plans for Sleaford if NKDC succeeds in its bid for funding from the government's regeneration budget. Further funding from local businesses, public agencies and other sources could make a total of £9m to revitalise the town over a five year period, and to make the most of its attractions for tourists.

It has been proposed that Navigation Yard should be opened up to the public, with Navigation House restored and, together with its out-buildings, be made into a town museum. Given the building's own historical importance and its status as the only remaining one of its kind in Britain, it would seem to be the ideal choice for the purpose.

By December it should be known if this plan is to go ahead. Another idea has been for Sleaford to be the location of a national seed museum, owing to the town's worldwide eminence in seed trading.

On behalf of Sleaford Group members the editors of the *Historian* would like to thank Julia Dabbs of Lincolnshire Libraries for her kindness in opening the Sleaford Library for study evenings. Owing to other commitments, Mrs Dabbs will be unable to offer this opportunity this autumn, but we look forward to being able to go again in the New Year.

Your contributions to the *Sleaford Historian* are very welcome, including any stories about the town's distant or recent history, family history, archaeology, or general local information. Pictures are welcome.

Please contact Ros and Colin Beevers, 4 Swinegate, Grantham NG31 6RJ. Tel 01476 67269.

Book Review -

'Lincolnshire People'

by John Ketteringham

From ADDISON (Christopher, 1869 - 1951, Liberal then Labour Politician) to WINTERINGHAM (Margaret, 1879 - 1955, first English-born woman MP, sitting for Louth) this book covers the full range of Lincolnshire's famous people, both past (WAKE, Hereward the, Legendary Folk Hero) and present (CAPES, Geoff, Athlete) in one slim (108 page) volume.

More complete than many reference works, each entry gives a well written outline of the person and references for further research.

As we would expect Lincolnshire's famous sons and daughters are to be found in its pages; politicians from William Cecil, Lord Burghley to Margaret, Baroness Thatcher of Kesteven; scientists like Newton and Banks; musicians Byrd and Marriner are all there. So too are characters chosen because of some, perhaps fleeting, connection with Lincolnshire and who, when famous, are more particularly associated with places elsewhere.

One such would be Thomas Paine, one of the founders of the United States. Paine's connection was that he served at Alford as an excise officer for a year in 1764 to prevent the smuggling of wool and tea.

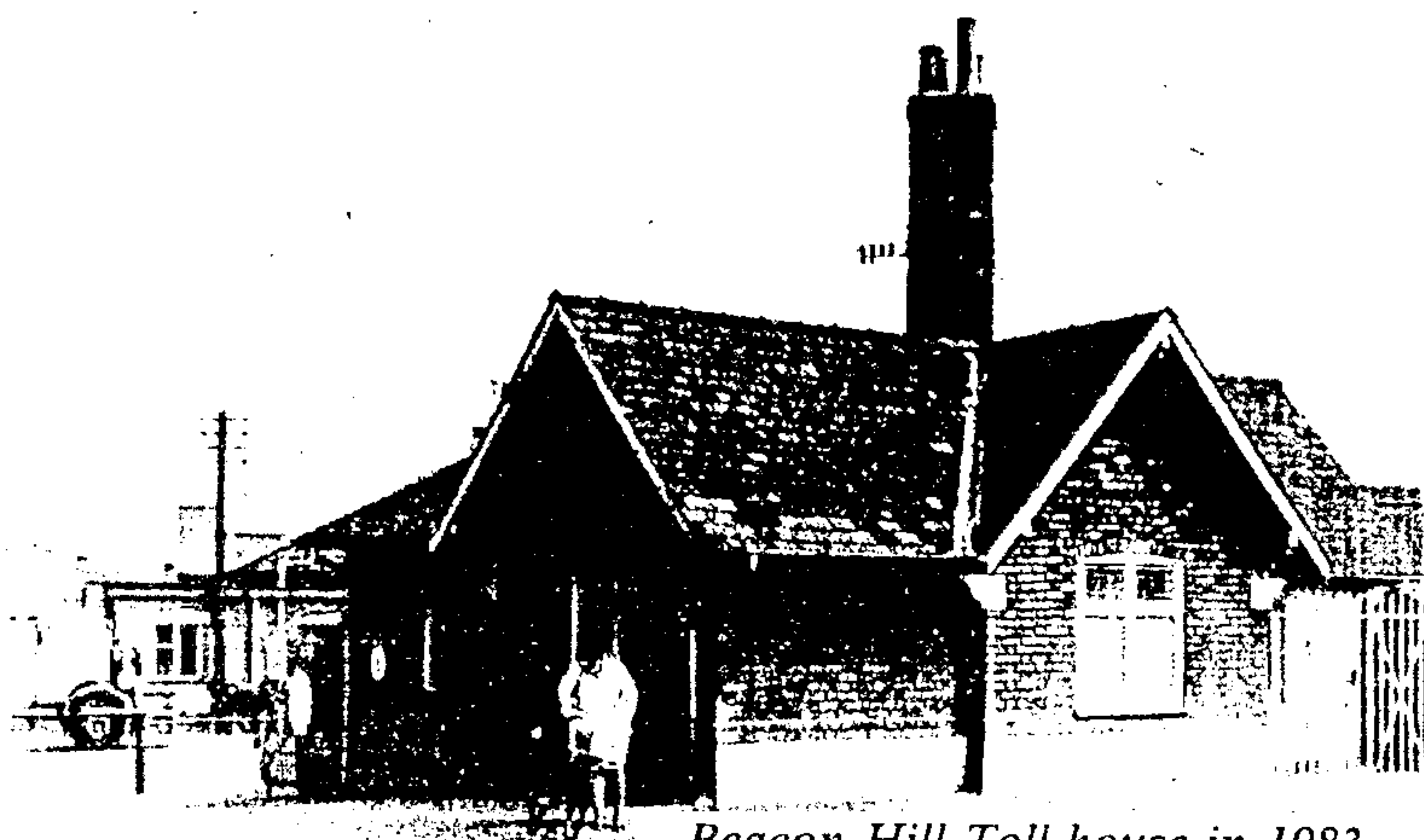
Characters more of local notoriety than national fame also feature in the book, for example the eccentric John Twigg (1887 - 1960) and Edward Makins, or Torksey Ned as he was known (died 1886), are also there beside the great and the good and add county colour to the choice.

Any selection is bound to leave out some, but many of those included I did not know had any connection with the county and this made the book an interesting read.

Published at £14.95 by Kings England Press ISBN 1 872438 12 1 this book would make a good Christmas present for any ex-pat yellowbelly, or anyone who enjoys biographies.

TIME-TRAVELLING THE NEWARK ROAD

Part 2. The Turnpike Era



Beacon Hill Toll-house in 1983.

After the Great North Road and the Fosse Way, the third road through Newark to be turnpiked was the highway which ran from west to east through the town, the road on which one would travel to Sleaford. Parliamentary sanction was given for the road to be turnpiked between Southwell and Leadenham in 1758, and extended to include that from Mansfield to Southwell in 1781.

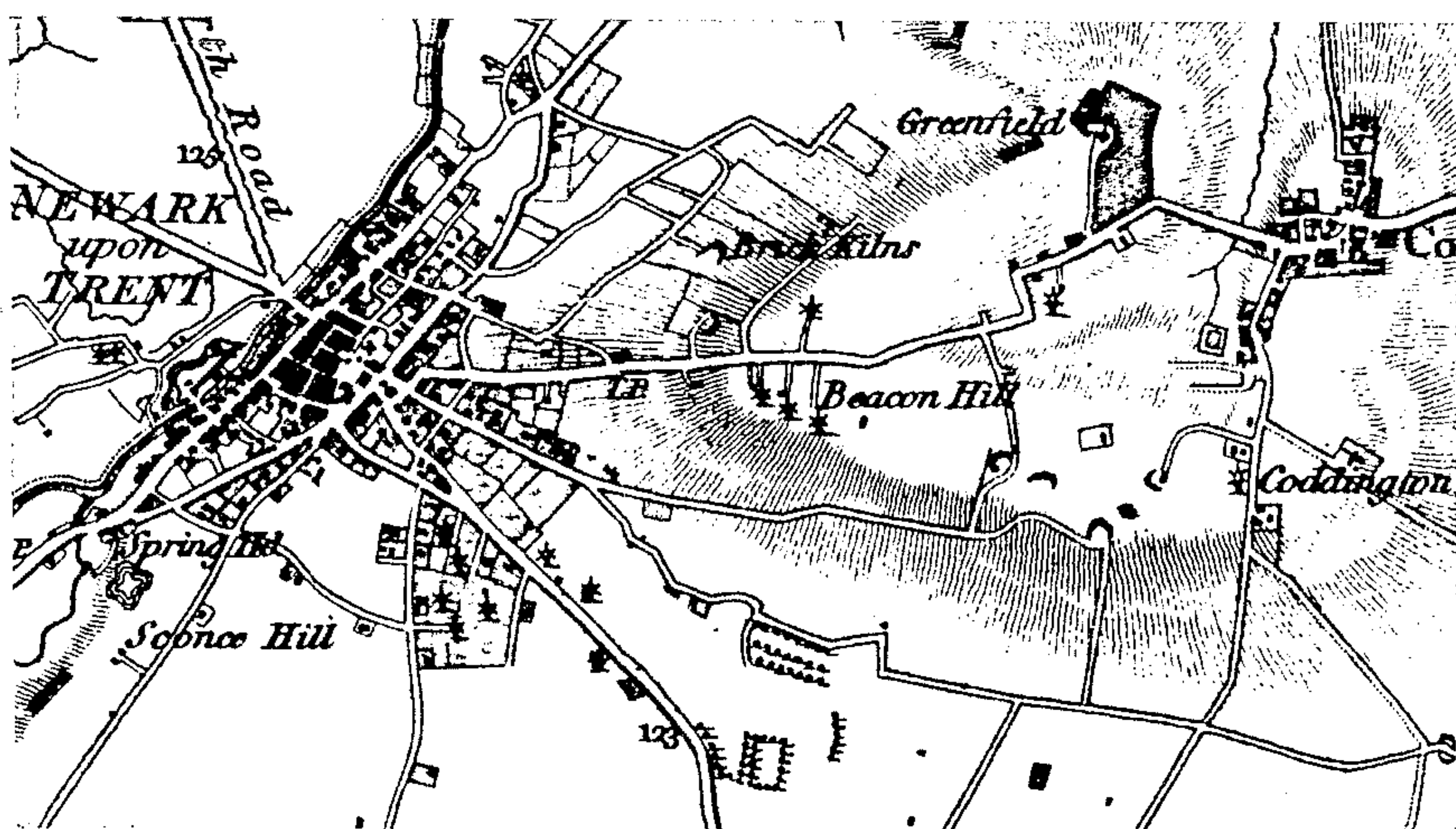
In Newark a toll house was built at the bottom of Beacon Hill. It can still be seen, albeit in a somewhat derelict state. A normal gate was used, unlike on the other two roads, where there were chains.

Receipts for the road show a

rise in income for the turnpike trust, from £300 in 1774 to £1000 in 1845, which was the highest point. Bearing in mind that the rate of inflation was virtually nil, the figures show a reasonable profit. But after 1845 income fell rapidly, and in 1854 the receipts were less than £500. The trust was wound up in 1856.

The road from Leadenham on to Sleaford was never turnpiked. At the time of enclosure it was re-routed from going through Leasingham.

It was not until 1895 that the turnpike system as a whole was finally abolished, and responsibility for main roads was taken over by the newly established county councils.



Part of the Southwell to Leadenham turnpike road as shown on an Ordnance Survey map of 1824

We are pleased to welcome Mr Michael Honeybone to speak to us tonight on the famous Luttrell Psalter. There will be an opportunity to learn still more about the subject at Grantham Local History Society's next meeting on Monday, November 13. Mr Honeybone will speak on the Luttrell Psalter and aspects of fourteenth century village life.

The new cartoon movie, Pocahontas, has been promoted vigorously. All the usual children's products are available, and very attractive and colourful they are too.

Captain John Smith, the adventurer of the legend, is one of John Ketteringham's 'Lincolnshire People' and is also discussed in Isobel Stimson's article in September's *Lincolnshire Life*.

Even if the story is rather fanciful, it is quite pleasant to think of a Lincolnshire man starring as hero of the latest Disney blockbuster.



John Smith as shown in his *General Historie of Virginia*.



John Smith by Disney

The Sleaford



Historian

SOCIETY FOR LINCOLNSHIRE HISTORY AND ARCHÆOLOGY - SLEAFORD GROUP (EST. 1987)

NEWSLETTER NO 14 - November 16, 1995

LOOKING AHEAD

There will be no meeting of the **Sleaford Group** in December. **The next meeting takes place on January 18, 1996** at 7.30pm, when Jenny Stevens, SKDC community archaeologist, will describe her work in *Archaeology in South Lincolnshire*.

Saturday, November 18, 1995 at Jews' Court, Lincoln - *From Oxen to Tractor* - Maureen Birch describes the history of ploughing at 2.30pm.

All you ever wanted to know about *The Chapter House* - a day school to be held at Jews' Court on Saturday, November 25, 1995 - with a visit to the Chapter House. Fee £7. Booking through Jews' Court.

Friday, December 1, 1995 - Jews' Court, Lincoln at 7.30pm - Stuart Squires speaks on *Nettleton and Claxby Ironstone Mines*.

Romany Customs - a rare opportunity to learn about these ancient traditions, with Gordon Boswell at Ayscoughfee Hall, Spalding - Friday, December 8, 1995 at 7.30pm.

Don't think there's nothing to do in the winter! You can still visit **Cogglesford Mill** on Saturdays and Sundays, open 10am to 4pm, admission free. At **Cranwell Aviation Heritage Centre** (off A17, 4 miles west of Sleaford) the photographic exhibition is open daily 10am to 4pm. The **Usher Gallery**, Lincoln is open Mon-Sat 10am-5.30pm, Sun 2.30pm-5pm. Adults £1, children 50p. **The Lawn**, Lincoln is open 7 days a week, admission free to all facilities except **National Cycle Museum**. **Lincoln Castle** is open all year, admission £2 (£1.20) including 900-year-old wall walk. **Gainsborough Old Hall** open Mon-Sat 10am-5pm. **Newark Air Museum**, Win-

thorpe, open every day - except December 24, 25, 26, admission £3.25 (£2). **Heckington Eight-sailed Windmill** can be seen working on Sundays (weather permitting) all year round, and is open Saturdays and Sundays (except December 23 and January 1) 2pm-5pm. **Maud Foster Windmill**, Willoughby Road, Boston open Wednesdays 10am-5pm, Sundays 2pm-5pm. Britain's tallest working windmill. **Christmas gifts** which are not 'run of the mill' may be found at **Manor Stables Craft Workshop**, Fulbeck. Open daily (not Mondays) 10.30am-4.30pm.



Your contributions to the Sleaford Historian are very welcome, including any stories about the town's distant or recent history, family history, archaeology, or general local information.

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IN REMEMBRANCE

The Boy who played with Hand Grenades

Local history to Lode Notradame meant very little when he was a boy at school in Belgium. In school he learnt nothing of the two world wars that had been fought across the countryside around his home village of Wytschaete (White sheet to the British troops of the First World War). Now, as a tourist guide, it is an important part of his work.

On a farming exchange in Australia, Lode became aware of how important his country was to them. There were more casualties amongst the soldiers of the Australia and New Zealand Army Corps (ANZACs) in the trenches of the First World War in Belgium than there were Belgian soldiers. Today many of his clients are the relatives of ANZACs who gave their lives in that area.

Returning to Belgium, Lode began to question his grandfather and great uncles for their memories of the war. As boys they remembered leaving Poelkappelle with their mother as refugees fleeing the advancing Germans, their possessions in a wheelbarrow. Lode learnt about the events that had taken place around his home village in the Ypres salient. As a boy, when he played war he had done so in Wood 40 on the Messines Ridge, in the headquarters bunker where Hitler served as a runner in the German Army. Lode had picked up, and quickly learnt not to play with, the live hand grenades and shells which are still easily found there.

On major battlefields like Messines and Paschendaele, an average of three shells landed in each square metre of earth every day. One third of those failed to explode. Ploughing in Belgium is done with a steel plate under the tractor, and road works with metal detectors. Unexploded shells cause little excitement and are put at the side of the road for collection, eventually, by the army. Ploughing causes the deaths of three or four farmers a year. They call it the harvest of death.

TIME-TRAVELLING THE NEWARK ROAD

Part 3. Trust in God, and Sally Forth

The motto, 'Deo Fretus Erumpere' - trust in God and sally forth to fight - was not included in the original coat of arms of the borough of Newark. It was added in May, 1912. It dates from May, 1646 when the Mayor of Newark tried to encourage the Governor, Lord John Belasyse, to ignore the order of Charles I to surrender, and to go out and fight the Parliamentary armies besieging the town.

The exhortation must have been appropriate for any traveller leaving Newark for Sleaford in the eighteenth century, and until the 1830s when Beacon Hill was fully macadamised and the gradient lessened, the going was rough before Newark was out of sight. At this time goods were carried in waggons and on pack-horses, whilst many people travelled on horseback, some people walked, a few rode in carriages, and others travelled in waggons with the goods.

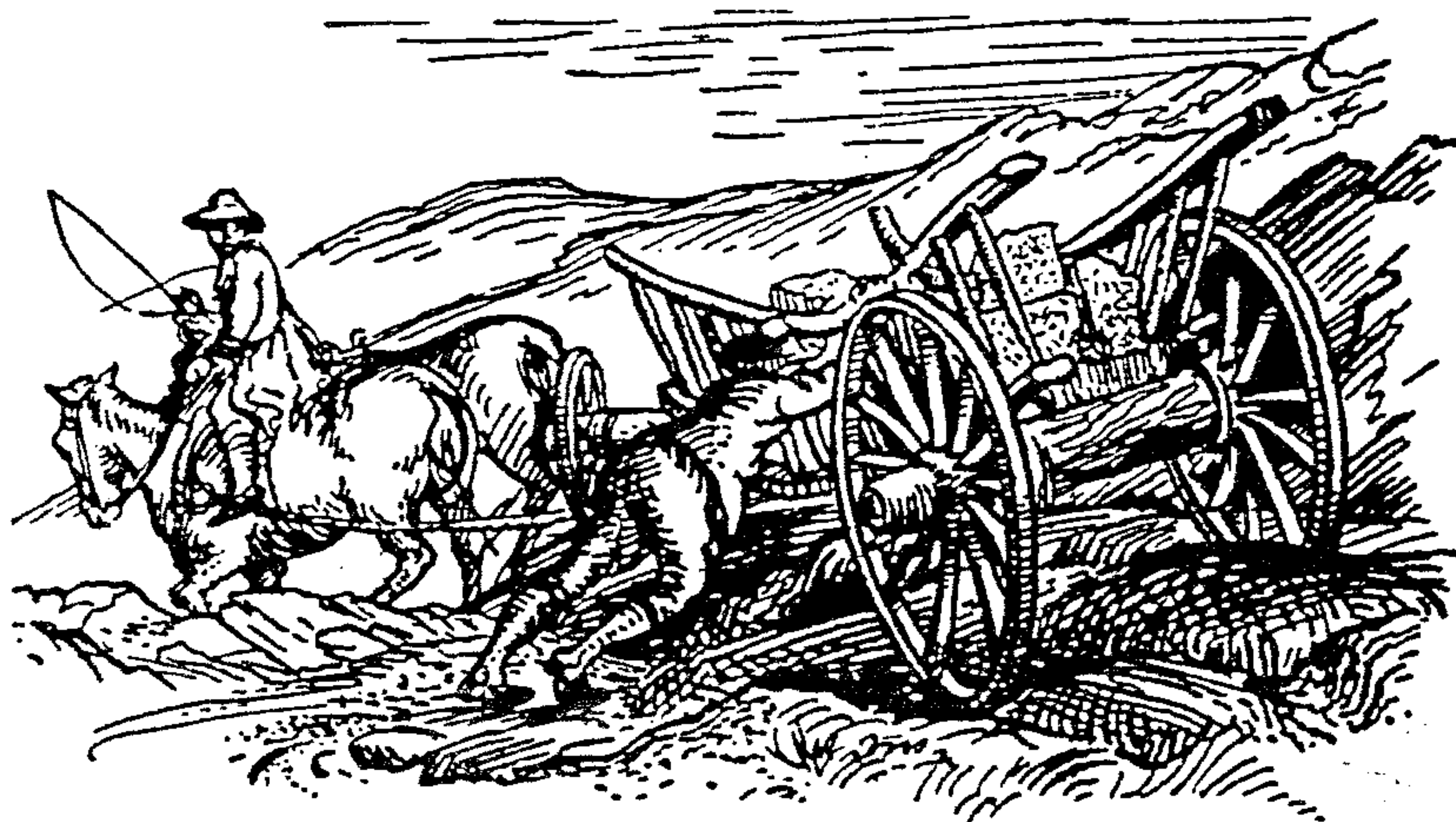
In January, 1827 there was a complaint in the *Nottingham and Newark Mercury* that a team of horses had to be used to drag a gentleman's carriage up Beacon Hill. Conditions do not appear to have been any better in the summer, for in June, 1830 a peeved traveller was writing in the same paper that 'the road at the bottom of Beacon Hill is left in such an unguarded and dangerous state that any person travelling that road is in danger of having his limbs broken should he swerve the least . . . , by falling several yards, as there are neither guards nor posts by the side

of the road.' This was after the top layer had been removed for reducing the steepness, but before the road had been macadamised - with a ten-inch layer of large and small stones, compacted in time to form a good surface.

Once Leadenham was reached, the traveller to Sleaford faced the rest of the journey on a road not under the care of a turnpike trust. On leaving the village, another steep and treacherous hill had to be climbed, to the desolate heathland over which the road ran for several miles.

In the eighteenth century the dangers of travelling were not confined to the ruggedness of the roads. Travellers were vulnerable and easy targets for robbers, so they were often wary of travelling alone. A wealthy person in private transport would have an armed servant riding alongside, and may also have more pistols inside the carriage.

Windmill House, on the north side of the Newark to Sleaford road, past the Rauceby and Cranwell crossroads, and before Brinkley Hill, was a notorious den of thieves, and the scandal was compounded by rumours that local youths - the sons of respectable farming families - were involved. They must have found highway robbery a more exciting - and lucrative - sport than croquet or cards.



Sleaford Group

Annual

Business Meeting

November 16 1995

A G E N D A

- 1 Apologies
- 2 Reports
 - ♦ Chairman
 - ♦ Treasurer
 - ♦ SLHA Liaison Representative
 - ♦ *Sleaford Historian* Editors
- 3 Election of Management Committee 1996
- 4 Any Other (relevant) Business or comment

♦ NOTES ♦

Prize Competition - answers

October Carre's Almshouses, Eastgate. November Old Fire Station, Watergate. December Old Inn Sign in Southgate - White Hart. January Westholme House. February Arms of Sleaford Navigation Company. March Waggon and Horses, Eastgate. April Evedon Water Tower. May Government logo (on ration books during /after World War 2). June Parish Church of St Denys. July Arms of Lincoln Cathedral.

Winner was Mr Michael Chambers, with 10 correct answers.

This (and last) month's logo - Arms of the (ancient) Parts of Kesteven in the County of Lincoln.