



Letters to the editor

▶ Mapping the county

I recently went to see my son who lives in Taunton, Somerset, and when his neighbour found I was from Lincolnshire, he had several questions to ask.

Apparently, he was with an Ordnance Survey team which mapped Lincolnshire during the late 1940s and early 1950s. They started at Immingham then made their way down the east coast via Grimsby, turning north and back to the Humber via west Lincolnshire. He has never revisited the county since.

At Nocton Estates he remembers tramping over field after field of potatoes used to make Smith's potato crisps. I told him he would be more likely to see oilseed rape nowadays. I was not sure who owned Nocton Estates now but Smiths Potato Crisps are long gone.

He also remembered that when he was surveying the coast between Friskney and Freiston being asked by farmers to put certain fields on the maps. Apparently they were being denied government grants because land that had been enclosed from the marsh was not on official maps.

When lodging in Boston, he stayed with a lady who kept the Tattershall Road railway crossing and remembers being woken at 4am each day with the house shaking as a train went by. I suspect it was the mail train from London to Grimsby, I came home on it many a time when I was doing my National Service. He could not believe that what he called the 'East Line' no longer existed and how much railway had disappeared from Lincolnshire.

Can anyone remember the Ordnance Survey carrying out this work or did your family lodge any of its members? Did your farm ask to be put on the map?

Mr G W Dunham, Boston.

▶ Lincoln air raids

I always look forward to receiving both 'Lincolnshire Life' and 'The Lincolnshire Poacher'. In this autumn's 'Poacher' there was an article by Derek Brammer about his memories of his wartime childhood in Lincoln. However, one or two points were not quite right.

In June 1940, some incendiary bombs landed on the Vicarage Paddock on Lincoln Road, North Hykeham. This date coincides with the Glentham raid. It was

four weeks after my first son was born on 22nd July.

In 1941 the bombs dropped not on Doddington Road as Mr Brammer thought, but in Newark Road opposite what is now the Marconi sports field – not 100 bombs but just a few. One lady was killed and one youth injured.

I know all these details because my late husband was fire watching that night.

Mrs Nora Fryatt, North Hykeham.

▶ A poacher's tale

It was a dark, rimey, frosty night, fifty years ago. Brother Jim said we should take dad's partridge net and pull it over the cocksfoot below the parson's field. The net was twenty yards long and four yards wide. Cocksfoot was a tall grass grown for seed – ideal pheasant cover. Parson's field was land we rented from the vicar.

Cousin Peter, a fourteen-year-old boy from the city, said he would like to go with us. The net was laid out; a fiddly job in the dark.

We were then ready for off with one each end of the net. Peter was a bit nervous and wanted the toilet – no problem. The net was pulled over the grass and as it passed over a pheasant, it got caught in the mesh. This was a new venture for us. It proved very successful.

Poaching was in my family. Great grandfather was a poacher and did time in the House of Correction, the jail at Folkingham. At Christmas, if he was still free, the governor got a brace of pheasants from great grandad. Pheasants are good meat but in his day they were only for the upper class.

Looking back, Jim asked why we did it. Perhaps it's in the blood.

George Stubleby, Spanby, Sleaford.

▶ Bishop King at Alford

Thank you for the account in October's 'Lincolnshire Life' of Bishop King's visit to Alford to open the church hall. He had done so much good among the people of Lincolnshire it is well to remember this wonderful person. The church at Dalby is dedicated to him.

The Revd John Newton, born at Grantham and who attended school in Boston, president of the Methodist church, has produced: 'Search for a saint,

Edward King'. Beg, borrow or buy a copy, it will be well worth the effort.

Tom Sewell, Mumby, Alford.

▶ Woodturning query

I wonder if any readers can help me. My nineteenth-century Lincolnshire wood turner ancestor John Hollis described himself as 'a dish and bowl turner', but there are also references to him as a 'dishtwiner' or 'twiner' (the latter word notably used by one of his daughters when asked to state her father's name and occupation on her marriage).

Neither modern exponents of woodturning nor linguistic experts whom I have contacted appear to have ever heard of these antique words. I'm hoping that someone amongst your readership can throw some light on their origin or at least point me to an authoritative source on the subject.

John was born in Barrowby in 1788 and moved to Foston. At the age of forty, he was tried at Sleaford on 15th January, 1829, for stealing hens from a farmer's barn on Gonerby Moor. He was sentenced to fourteen years' transportation and was eventually shipped out to Tasmania in 1833.

Eric Hollis, 28 Shakespeare Road, Salisbury, Wiltshire, SP1 3LA

▶ Ayscoughfee Schooldays

I enjoyed the article in the Spalding edition of 'Lincolnshire Life' very much. I well remember Ayscoughfee Hall. Another of its uses was as a small, private school which I know was in existence from 1934/35 to the 1950s at least. I think it was still in existence when I left Spalding in 1957 – I attended from January 1944 to July 1947. We used the Great Hall for PE, surrounded by cases of stuffed birds and animals. The headmistress was Miss Black.

Miss K M Smith, Llantwit Major, South Glamorgan.

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