



## NEWS REVIEW

# Lincoln Record Society



## THE COUNCIL AND OFFICERS WOULD LIKE TO

*welcome you to the nineteenth edition of the News Review!*

Growing up in Lincoln, I could not help but be interested in its history and, in particular, Lincoln Cathedral always held a real fascination for me. Perhaps because the cathedral is such a visible presence in the city, not to say the county, tall and majestic, poised atop Steep Hill, yet I could see it from the west common when I was on my way to school, and from the city centre when I went to the shops, it was and is a constant reminder of Lincoln's rich history. I felt such a sense of wonder each time I walked through the nave, imagining the people who had walked on the same ground hundreds of years previously and pondering what they might have been like. Local history can be incredibly powerful, the ability of historic buildings to connect us with the past should never be underestimated and for me, this sparked a curiosity to know more about the people who had inhabited these spaces. I was the first member of my family to attend university, and looking back, my passion for local heritage certainly helped inspire me to study history.

My association with the Lincoln Record Society began when I was writing my undergraduate dissertation at the University of Nottingham, back in 2007. I had decided to develop my own local history study and I first met our esteemed Honorary General Editor, Dr Nicholas Bennett, when I visited Lincoln Cathedral Library looking for evidence of lay piety in late medieval Lincoln. Among many other very useful suggestions, Nicholas acquainted me with LRS Volume 5, *Lincoln Wills Registered in the District Probate Registry at Lincoln. Vol I. A.D. 1271 to A.D. 1526*, which provided material for one of my chapters. After this, I became increasingly interested in what wills could tell us about the lives of the people who made them, and also interested in the characters who would have lived in Lincoln Cathedral close. Nicholas directed me towards the unpublished wills nestled within the Lincoln Cathedral Chapter Act Books, and I realised that to fulfil my aims I was going to need considerably better Latin and Palaeography skills than I had picked up from the short course I took as part of my MA. And this was the beginning of a wonderful friendship, which began with Nicholas

kindly agreeing to instruct me in medieval Latin in return for tea and cake, probably the best investment I ever made! Under Nicholas' tutelage I set out to explore what wills could tell us about the lay people and clergy who lived in Lincoln Cathedral close in the late fifteenth century.

At the same time as I was writing my thesis, Nicholas helped me to become part of the LRS community, inviting me to events (and often generously giving me lifts to remote parts of Lincolnshire to attend them!). I became a member and started to give talks representing LRS. In May 2012 I was delighted to be part of an LRS panel at the International Congress on Medieval Studies in Kalamazoo, Western Michigan. Later in 2012 I was invited to join the →



Finance and Publications Committee (FPC) alongside the then Honorary President Professor Michael Jones, Nicholas as Honorary General Editor, Dr Paul Dryburgh as Honorary Secretary, Ken Hollamby as Honorary Treasurer and fellow committee members Dr Philippa Hoskin, Dr Rod Ambler and Dr David Crook. As a PhD student, being part of a committee alongside many people whose work in local history I greatly admired, helped to increase my confidence in this field and the support and advice I have received over the years from FPC and Council, as well as LRS members, has always been so valuable to me.

I joined the FPC to help the Society develop a new initiative, the very same publication that you are holding in your hand! Former Honorary General Editor, Professor Kathleen Major, made a generous bequest to the Society, part of which was used to create a bi-annual communication with members, sharing members' research, news and events. I took on the task of developing and editing the 'News Review' publication, and I am very pleased that it celebrates its tenth anniversary this year. Over the past decade I have tried to reflect a range of members' interests with the content but I have always been keen to give a platform to the research of emerging or early career researchers. I also regularly accept suggestions from members for pieces, so if there is content that you would like to see, please get in touch using [lrscomms@gmail.com](mailto:lrscomms@gmail.com) if you would like to write something for the News Review.

Kathleen Major's bequest to the Society allowed us to create the Kathleen Major Series of Medieval Records in her honour, which is currently edited by Dr Philippa Hoskin, and to also begin expanding our outreach offering. We were also able to support two new series, the Occasional Series and the Data Series. The Data Series, an on-line publishing series with data files which you can download and analyse, edited by Dr Rob Wheeler, is hosted on the Lincoln Record Society website and is available for free. The Kathleen Major bequest has also helped LRS to support early career researchers by enabling us to provide grants towards conferences on topics relating to the ancient city, county and diocese of Lincoln and also by organising themed one-day conferences for early career researchers, allowing them to showcase their research through this platform and network with likeminded researchers. We have also been able to organise larger research conferences attracting internationally-renowned speakers, taking place over several days with additional tours and visits to relevant local attractions. Most recently these have concentrated on the themes of Magna Carta in 2015, the Charter of the Forest in 2017 and the Wars of the Roses in 2019, in collaboration with the University of Lincoln, Bishop Grosseteste University and the International Bomber Command Centre. The bequest has also enabled us to continue the Lincoln Record Society tradition of book launches (with tea and cake) in locations around Lincolnshire, making links with communities and engaging with different groups and parishes.

The Society was also fortunate enough to receive a bequest in 2020 from longtime LRS member and supporter, Nigel Burn. Nigel's generous bequest is enabling us to progress our work to bring the Lincoln Record Society even further into the twenty-first century. Very soon members of the Society will be able to access fully searchable digital copies of almost our entire back catalogue through our website, which will be an incredibly valuable digital resource for any researchers working on the ancient diocese. **Please make sure that we have an up-to-date e-mail address for you so that we can send you a password to access the resources, e-mail [lrscomms@gmail.com](mailto:lrscomms@gmail.com).** In addition, the LRS has expanded its grants offering for researchers, so if you are interested then there is more information about the schemes on our website. The Society is also developing its outreach and engagement offering, and we have recently launched an online survey asking for the opinions of both members and non-members about LRS events and activities, so we would be grateful if you could take a few minutes to fill it in, the web address for the survey is: [https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSeirbFTJrTvmUyTJQe9VfhuBBD974LN7muRN42FYE8UcMvtig/viewform?usp=sf\\_link&urp=gmail\\_link](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSeirbFTJrTvmUyTJQe9VfhuBBD974LN7muRN42FYE8UcMvtig/viewform?usp=sf_link&urp=gmail_link) (or [tinyurl.com/2p8nrxyyn](https://tinyurl.com/2p8nrxyyn)). It is a real privilege to work developing outreach and engagement around the rich records of the ancient diocese of Lincoln and I look forward to creating some exciting plans for the future!

This tenth anniversary issue of the News Review features some fascinating articles, starting off with Michael Barycki who won the LRS prize for the best University of Lincoln dissertation in medieval studies last year. Michael gives us an insight into his research into the charters of the thirteenth-century earls of Gloucester. We also have an excellent article from Kathryn Dutton about the work of the Sacred Landscapes of Medieval Monasteries project, following on from her excellent talk about the Kirkstead Cartulary last December. Finally, David Crook gives us an update on the work carried out to refurbish the graves of long-time Lincoln Record Society members Frank and Doris Stenton. We hope that you enjoy it!

*Marianne Wilson*



LRS online survey





## CORNWALL AND THE CROWN: A THIRTEENTH-CENTURY PARTNERSHIP (1253-1300)

Last winter, I was honoured to have received the Lincoln Record Society prize for the best dissertation from the MA in Medieval Studies at the University of Lincoln. Considering the academic excellence of my peers, and the difficulties completing a research study in the wake of the covid world, I am proud to have received this distinction as a mature American student who has only studied the medieval period for three years. The faculty at the University of Lincoln, especially my mentor Professor Louise Wilkinson, deserve recognition for getting us through a difficult year that was conducted mostly online. My degree which was awarded with distinction, and my dissertation worthy of this award, are a direct reflection of their collective mentorship and efforts to push their students to excel despite many disadvantages.

I was well aware of the difficulties of accessing primary sources directly from archives in, so when I decided on a topic for my study I wanted to ensure I had remote access to a wealth of information. My undergraduate dissertation at Canterbury Christ Church University was centred around the charters of the thirteenth-century earls of Gloucester. With a vast amount of royal charter information available online, I wanted to use my familiarity with documents as the backbone of my research. I chose a father/son study, similar to my work with Gloucester, surrounding the thirteenth-century earls of Cornwall and their direct support to the Crown.

Earls Richard (1209-1272) and Edmund (1249-1300) were undoubtedly the wealthiest, and perhaps the most influential, magnates of their time in England. The research focuses on their support of kings Henry III and Edward I through governance, diplomatic efforts, and financial support. In order to avoid a narrative or a general biographical approach, the study looks solely at the evidence of the direct support that Cornwall offered the Crown. To further narrow down the scope of the research, the work is formatted into chapters that cover the earls' efforts in regencies, diplomacy and warfare, as well as loans to the Crown.

Both of the earls were born into favourable positions and were financially successful. Richard was a son of John I, and by the time his brother Henry came of age in 1227, the king had already bestowed Cornwall upon Richard as a sixteenth birthday gift. Coupled with his other gift of Poitou, Richard developed his estates, making him the wealthiest magnate in the kingdom, with an annual income of between £5,000 and 6,000 per year by the mid 1240s. Upon Richard's death in 1272, Edmund inherited a collection of estates that were unprecedented relative to his peers, as his holdings stretched over 27 different counties and regions. It was this vast wealth of estates and power, combined with familial ties to the Crown, that placed Richard and Edmund in a position to lend assistance to their respective brother and cousin.



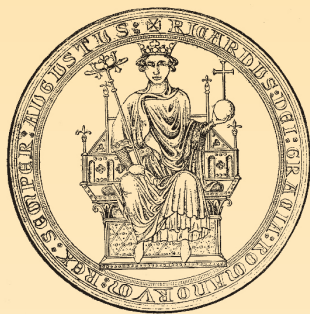
Edmund, Second Earl of Cornwall miniature from BL Royal MS 14 B VI. Image Copyright: Wikimedia Commons: [https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Edmund,\\_2nd\\_Earl\\_of\\_Cornwall#/media/File:Edmund,\\_2nd\\_Earl\\_of\\_Cornwall.jpg](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Edmund,_2nd_Earl_of_Cornwall#/media/File:Edmund,_2nd_Earl_of_Cornwall.jpg)

The earls' most transparent means of support was through their efforts as regents, serving in the king's stead to administer to the kingdom's needs in the absence of royal power. It is in royal *Acta* that we see the responsibilities placed on the regents by the Crown, or the direct influence of Richard and Edmund issuing documents with their royally-appointed authority. When Henry left for the continent in 1253, Richard was tasked to provide counsel to regent Queen Eleanor. The earl would eventually serve as sole regent, supporting his brother Henry's efforts in Gascony. Richard showed foresight acting as regent in 1264, making efforts to prepare defences around the kingdom, as the baronial unrest grew into what would eventually be known as a civil war. While Edmund did not hold the same familial weight as his father, he served as Edward's regent on numerous occasions. Though Edward essentially micromanaged Edmund, unlike his actions towards his father, Edmund's efforts of dutiful service are readily apparent in the charters, especially his efforts in the Welsh rebellion of 1287.

Both earls assisted their respective kings through diplomacy, but due to his experience, reputation, and the unrest of the baronial rebellion, Richard was in position to offer more assistance than Edmund. Previous disputes with his brother Henry gave Richard the perception of being 'neutral' by nature, and the barons looked to him to mediate between their camp and the king. Despite that neutral persona, once it was clear the barons would take up







Reconstructive drawing of seal of Richard, Earl of Cornwall, King of the Romans (1209-1272). Image Copyright: Wikimedia Commons: [https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/Richard\\_of\\_Cornwall#/media/File:Richard\\_Cornwall.jpg](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/Richard_of_Cornwall#/media/File:Richard_Cornwall.jpg)

arms against Henry, Richard fully supported his brother. Though he lacked martial aptitude, Richard's diplomatic skills helped raise forces and material for the Crown, and after the baronial defeat at Lewes, Richard was invaluable in helping to resolve lingering differences between magnates to bring about peace to the kingdom.

The Crown leaned heavily on the financial power of both Richard and Edmund. In 1245, Richard had loaned his brother Henry a total of 4,000 marks, before a substantial loan of 10,000 marks in July 1246 showed the extent of the earl's financial flexibility. The Crown was not a charity

case for Cornwall, however, and Richard profited by approximately £20,000 over the next twelve years from the terms of the loan, most notably the minting rights granted to the earl. Henry's excessive spending required subsequent loans, and by October 1254, Richard had a total of 25,000 marks out in outstanding loans, most of which were to the Crown. Edmund, like his father, loaned the Crown a considerable amount of money in his lifetime. A known total of £24,000 was loaned to Edward between 1273-1299. In stark contrast to Henry, Edward's loans were often quickly repaid, a sign of a more stable kingdom than his father had enjoyed.

The thirteenth-century earls of Cornwall provided the administrative, diplomatic, and financial support that kings Henry III and Edward I required. My study focuses on the essential nature of Richard and Edmund to the kingdom, as evidenced by the responsibilities that they took on, and their loyalty to their respective kings. While it was the grace of the Crown that created the power of the thirteenth-century earls of Cornwall, it was Cornwall that developed into an indispensable diplomatic and financial backbone of the Crown.

Michael Barycki



## THE KIRKSTEAD ABBEY CARTULARY

In spite of its extensive contents and importance for our understanding of the history of both Lincolnshire and the Cistercian order, the thirteenth-century cartulary of Kirkstead Abbey (founded 1139) has never been edited for publication. While a selection of documents contained within the cartulary are known to scholars – primarily through corresponding single-sheet original charters published in Frank Stenton's *Danelaw Charters*, as well as a handful of items published in *Monasticon Anglicanum* and elsewhere – the vast majority of the cartulary's collection of over 1,000 entries are attested only within the leaves of the manuscript itself (British Library MS Cotton Vespasian E.xviii).

This situation is soon to change. An important part of the AHRC-funded project *The Sacred Landscapes of Medieval Monasteries*, based at the University of Wales Trinity St. David, has been to transcribe the cartulary in full. The next phase of this work is to prepare an edition for publication in the LRS's Kathleen Major series. This critical edition will not only include the text of the items within the manuscript, but will also benefit from a detailed discussion of Kirkstead's foundation, relocation and subsequent history, as well as the format, function and history of the cartulary manuscript itself.

Internal evidence confirms the observations of G. R. C. Davis' *Medieval Cartularies of Great Britain and Ireland* that the cartulary was compiled c.1259, though we suggest that the process stretched into 1260. It was at this time that a single compiler continued some modest

efforts at archival consolidation begun during previous decades. He was responsible for bringing together several existing fragments of small-scale compilations of material relating to individual granges, as well as the abbey site itself, enlarging each section considerably and providing a paratextual structure of contents pages, archival cross-references, corrections and several folios of lists detailing items not entered into the codex. His work was a major achievement, bringing together a very substantial proportion of the abbey's archive, amassed over the preceding 120 years. This codex was then augmented around the turn of the fourteenth century, when successive scribes added a series of important new confirmations from the final four decades of the thirteenth century.

Examination of the cartulary reveals not only the date and processes of compilation, but also the monks' rationale for producing a cartulary at this particular point in Kirkstead's history. The cartulary's opening section (titled *Abbatia*) concludes with the relatively well-known Final Concord of 1259, agreed between the abbot and Robert, lord of Tattershall; significantly, this was complemented by a series of quitclaims in which over a dozen individuals – including a game hunter (*venator*), presumably in Tattershall service – agreed to abide by the terms of this concord. As Paul Everson and David Stocker have already demonstrated, this concord effectively delineated the respective rights and interests of the monks and the de Tateshale lords of Tattershall, laying a particular





Kirkstead abbey site from the North.  
Image Copyright: David Stocker



emphasis on hunting. In outlining where and under what circumstances the de Tateshales could hunt, the concord sets out a boundary which encompassed the abbey's closes and itself formed a 'close' around the abbey complex. As an ensemble, the entire first section of the cartulary reads as an account of the creation, evolution, maintenance and – ultimately – defence of this close, which was not bounded by walls but instead by watercourses, both natural (the Witham) and semi-engineered (the Sinkers). It also attests to exchanges and agreements made with the de Tateshales to the south of the close, seemingly as a part of the early evolution of Tattershall park and chase.

We can suggest that this important statement of Kirkstead's interests – and of the monks' relationship with their founding patrons – was the work of a single abbot, William, who was elected sometime between May 1251 and October 1253. It is very likely that, as well as bringing the negotiations with Robert de Tateshale before royal justices in 1259, William had petitioned Henry III for the right of free warren in Kirkstead's estates in 1252, a time when the Crown was extremely active in granting such concessions. The abbot received his charter a full five years before Robert received a corresponding grant. The contiguous and even overlapping nature of these privileges would have brought abbot and lord into direct conflict, just as similar cases did at institutions such as Rievaulx. Ultimately, William deemed the important changes of the 1250s to be grounds for bringing the abbey's cartulary together into the form of an expansive codex.

It was a similar situation which catalysed a campaign of major additions to the end of the cartulary codex c.1300, once Abbot Robert had received a grant from Edward I allowing him to empark land immediately to the south of the abbey. Intense negotiations with the de Tateshales ensued, reflected in these later additions. Again, the cartulary evidence can be supplemented with a number of sources from the royal chancery, including a writ instructing the sheriff of Lincoln to begin an *inquisitio ad quod damnum* and its accompanying return, complete with the names of jurors who perambulated the bounds of the abbot's proposed park. This relative abundance

of evidence culminates with an entry in the cartulary's additions, in which Robert de Tateshale, successor to the Robert who reached an agreement with Abbot William in 1259, confirmed that the de Tateshales were to be excluded from the abbey 'close' in perpetuity.

These findings enable us to nuance our understanding of Kirkstead's history in a significant way and, indeed, are only one part of the cartulary's story. The abbey's earliest years and subsequent evolution can now be illuminated in a multiplicity of contemporary contexts. The cartulary shows, for example, how the abbey's home estate was shaped by the Domesday inheritance not just of the de Tateshales but also of the family of Hugh fitz Pinceon, a major subtenant of the bishop of Durham, which in turn provides a valuable point of departure for considering Kirkstead within the framework of the Anglo-Norman succession crisis of King Stephen's reign. The material relating to the Pinceons in the cartulary and elsewhere, especially in the Durham Cathedral archive, is proving highly significant in revising our understanding of the abbey's foundation and re-siting. The cartulary also reveals the processes by which local free peasants relinquished their rights on the common moorland which was to become the abbey's home estate. Likewise, it demonstrates the centrality of the still relatively poorly understood Sinkers watercourse to the landscape of the common moorland north of Tattershall, an observation borne out by comparison with the cartulary of the neighbouring priory of Stixwold. It is important, too, to note that the work of the past two years has also revealed an unusually detailed post-Dissolution history of the cartulary, especially in the first half of the seventeenth century, when it became a weapon in a familial dispute involving the earls of Lincoln. Once more, boundaries and hunting proved central to the environment around the former abbey.

It is hoped that these and other findings, along with the text of the cartulary itself, will be a significant addition to our understanding of the history of one of Britain's foremost Cistercian institutions.

Kathryn Dutton



## MEMBER ACCESS TO LINCOLN RECORD SOCIETY DIGITISED VOLUMES IS COMING SOON!

For over a year we have been working with TownsWeb Archiving to put the LRS back catalogue of volumes online and make them fully searchable. Digital versions of the majority of LRS volumes will be available for members to access, although for copyright reasons some volumes will not be available, when the system goes live later this year. As an LRS member, you will be able to access the volumes through our current website whilst non-members will pay to use the system. We are creating a database of member e-mails so that we can issue unique passwords to allow you to access the digital volumes. If we already have your e-mail address then you will be receiving our digital

events mailings which are sent through Mailchimp and you do not need to take any action. If you have not been receiving e-mails from the Lincoln Record Society then please e-mail Dr Marianne Wilson, our Communications, Outreach and Engagement Officer, using this e-mail address: [lrscomms@gmail.com](mailto:lrscomms@gmail.com) and we will issue you with a password and add your e-mail address to the database for future digital mailings. We plan to formally launch the new website at our AGM on Saturday November 12<sup>th</sup>.

*Ken Hollamby*



## THE REFURBISHMENT OF THE STENTON TOMBSTONE AT HALLOUGHTON, NOTTINGHAMSHIRE, IN 2021

In early March 2020, just before the first Covid lockdown started, I visited the graveyard at Halloughton in Nottinghamshire, a little to the south of Southwell and its Minster, to check on the tombstone of Sir Frank Stenton and Lady Doris Stenton. It was my first visit for some years, and when I eventually identified the tombstone I was shocked at the poor state of the lettering, which had become barely legible. It was almost the fiftieth anniversary of its erection in 1971, following the death of Lady Stenton that year, four years after the death of her husband in 1967. Those events I remembered because in Autumn 1967 I was just beginning my final year as an undergraduate at Reading University, of which Sir Frank had been the first vice-chancellor; and later, as a postgraduate in 1969-70, I was an occasional visitor to their old home in Reading, Whitley Park Farm, where some student friends of mine were temporarily resident on the ground floor while Lady Stenton lived upstairs. The very close and longstanding relationship between the Stentons and the Lincoln Record Society suggested to me that it might be appropriate for the Society to finance a re-carving of the legend and a general refurbishment of



Tomb stone of Sir Frank Stenton and Lady Doris Stenton, St James churchyard, Halloughton. Image Copyright: David Crook

the monument. The idea was treated sympathetically by the Council of the Society, and approved, so I approached the appropriate ecclesiastical authorities to confirm that they would not object to the project. The matter was held up for some time because of the restrictions resulting from the pandemic, but eventually a suitable estimate for the work was obtained from a well-known firm of monumental masons in Newark. They undertook the task late in 2021, in time for the anniversary, to an excellent standard, and at the same time additionally repaired a decayed portion at the foot of the memorial, relating to Sir Frank's parents, which had been hidden for many years.

*David Crook*



St James churchyard, Halloughton. Image Copyright: David Crook







## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

### *Online meeting:*

#### *Lincoln Records Research Network:*

*Wednesday 22nd June: 18.00 – 19.30*

Come and join us for the next online Lincoln Records Research Network meeting! The Lincoln Record Society is hosting a forum bringing together researchers at any level to discuss interests and develop connections and collaborations. The theme of this meeting is 'Working with Communities' and in addition to having the opportunity for group discussions, we will hear from three speakers: Dr Victoria Araj, a post-doctoral researcher on the Reimagining Lincolnshire public history project at the University of Lincoln, Kathryn Bullen, a PhD researcher from the University of Nottingham working with North Lincolnshire museum and Dr Paul Ayres, Pro Vice Provost (Library, Culture, Collections, Open Science) at UCL.

Please join the meeting using this link:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/82836353098?pwd=ZEJwK2I3RDZwYVlYZ3FVdzBmREd0QT09>

(or <https://tinyurl.com/5dtacpv8>).

Meeting ID: 828 3635 3098, Passcode: 227902



LRRN Online meeting

### *In person lecture:*

#### *Peacock Feathers and Pater Nosters:*

#### *The Post-Mortem Commemorative*

#### *Identity of Sir Thomas Burgh*

*(c. 1430-1496), Dr Marianne Wilson:*

*Saturday 25th June: 19.30 – 20.30*

In collaboration with Friends of the Old Hall Association, our Communications, Engagement and Outreach Officer will be giving an in-person talk at Gainsborough Old Hall. Tickets are available at a special rate of £8 for LRS members and the ticket price includes the lecture and light refreshments. To reserve tickets, contact: Paul Howitt- Cowan, Chairman of FOHA: [kenmare01@outlook.com](mailto:kenmare01@outlook.com).

### *Lincoln Record Society at the International Medieval Congress*

If you are attending the International Medieval Congress in Leeds, either online or in-person, then we warmly invite you to attend the Lincoln Record Society session, featuring three fantastic papers from our members:

#### *Church and Society in the Medieval*

#### *Diocese of Lincoln: Session 704:*

*Tuesday 5 July 2022: 2.15-3.45pm*

Bishop Buckingham Goes to Town: Alison McHardy

Editing the Register of Bishop John Buckingham (1363-99): The Wills: Chris Woolgar

Taming Giants: The Editing and Publication of Some 14th Century Episcopal Registers:

Nicholas Hamilton Bennett

