**Abstracts for *Untold stories: new research on the city, county and historic diocese of Lincoln*,**

**Lincoln College, Monks Road, Lincoln**

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**Exploring social and cultural history through decorative architectural features. A case study of late-Victorian and Edwardian tiled entrances in Lincoln suburban houses**

**Shirley Brook**

A doorway is the interface between the public realm of the street and the private, domestic space within the home. This paper will examine what the decoration of this liminal space can tell us about the social and economic status of those who inhabited new housing in Lincoln in the years immediately before and after 1900. The builders’ motives for embellishing the doorways of the houses they built during this time will be considered alongside the aspirations of those who came to live in them. Decorative features such as stained glass, front door design and hardware and, particularly, the use of ornamental tiling will all be illustrated. Art Nouveau was ‘the new art for a new age’. How this style was employed in architectural decoration at the turn of the 20th century and what it represented, will be discussed. The talk will conclude with an examination of how understandings gained from architectural evidence can be supported and extended by the use of the Lincoln City Building Applications database; the 1910 Land Tax Survey; Street Directories and Census material.

**Geography and Poll books: the political distribution of voters during the Lincolnshire by-election of 1721**

**Thomas Brown-Warr**

Among the many treasures found within the Lincolnshire archives is a Poll Book dated to the 1721 County by-election. The significance of this by-election is evident when juxtaposed against the political setting of the time. Situated at the tail-end of the period known as the ‘rage of party’, the 1721 Lincolnshire by-election represented the last vestiges of Tory success in county politics, soon to be superseded by an age of Whig oligarchic supremacy.

In this particular study, the emphasis will be on how poll books can be used to chart the geographical distribution of voters from across Lincolnshire and other counties. The questions that will be considered throughout this paper are: what is the overall distribution of voters across Lincolnshire? What is the urban-to-rural ratio of voters? What does the political distribution of voters across the county look like and what does it tell us? And, did the local geography have any noticeable impact on voter attendance from certain regions of the county? Together, this paper will demonstrate the importance of surviving poll books and how they can be used to help further our understanding of local political culture in a county like Lincolnshire during the early eighteenth century.

**Editing the Kirkstead Abbey cartulary: the perspective of underexplored local sources**

**Kathryn Dutton**

The thirteenth-century cartulary of Kirkstead Abbey (Cistercian, f.1139) is extensive, bringing together around 1,000 of the community’s original documents. Editing this manuscript for publication in the LRS’s Kathleen Major series has not only provided the opportunity to explore the striking nature of the cartulary’s compilation, as well as key information relating to Kirkstead’s foundation, early years and subsequent history, but has also revealed a mass of other source material pertinent to the abbey, its landscape and the communities connected to it. These include single-sheet charters held in several local archives, material related to the Dissolution, seventeenth-century court records and the records of royal and episcopal bureaucracy throughout the central and later Middle Ages. They also extend to manuscripts connected to the families who succeeded to the lordships of Tattershall and Eresby, both of which were central to Kirkstead’s success in the twelfth and thirteenth centuries, as founders and key patrons respectively.

This paper seeks to illuminate these complementary sources. Discussion focuses on the *Evidentiae dominorum de Tateshale* (London, BL Cotton MS Tiberius C.viii), a fifteenth-century compilation made under Ralph, Lord Cromwell (d.1456), and the now-lost *Black Book of Eresby*, a similar compilation made for the successors to the Bek lordship of Eresby, elements of which survive in copies of the work of the herald Robert Glover (d.1588; BL MS Harley 245). Some of this material has been cited in previous discussions of Kirkstead and the lords of Tattershall, but only briefly. These compilationscontain interconnected elements rooting their respective families in dynastic typologies stemming from the Norman Conquest and foregrounding their connections to Kirkstead. In the case of the well-preserved *Evidentiae*,it is possible to see that the compiler accessed the Kirkstead archive of charters and also incorporated elements of a now-lost house history from the abbey. Furthermore, an extant sixteenth-century paper manuscript witness (LAO, 3-ANC 8/1/2) to the Kirkstead section of the *Evidentiae* points towards subsequent efforts to copy key elements of the text, while other manuscripts demonstrate how this material was viewed and circulated in later decades. Together, this evidence spans several centuries and provides valuable insights into local attitudes towards Kirkstead in the centuries not only after the completion of its cartulary but also before and after the upheaval of the Dissolution.

**Professor Joseph Goering – our debt to him for the future of the study of Robert Grosseteste, Bishop of Lincoln 1235–1253**

**Dr Owain Gardner**

Entering the very early stages of the passage into the decade celebrating the 800th Anniversary of Robert Grosseteste’s consecration as Bishop of Lincoln in June 1235 at Reading, we reach a not insignificant milestone when considering his outputs not least his Dicta. Likewise, the passing of Professor Joseph Goering on February 5th 2023 provides a similar point from which to consider the current state of primary sources relating to Grosseteste which are now extant in English translation. I propose to reflect upon how Joseph Goering’s 2010 edition of Grosseteste’s Letters (co-edited with F. A. C. Mantello and printed by University of Toronto Press) provides a starting point from which to perceive modern Grosseteste Studies. Grosseteste’s Letters and the most recent translations of De Generatione Sonorum (Cecilia Panti)/other works found in Giles Gasper’s edited edition of Grosseteste’s Scientific Works allow us access to a much broader range of Grosseteste’s thought world and/or worlds in English translation than ever before. The opportunities this o[ers us for the future in respect of considering Grosseteste himself in his own interdisciplinary contexts is unique, yet there remains a conspicuous absence on the horizon in respect of Grosseteste’s more declamatory interventions. That is, his Complete Dicta – in essence a collection of Sermons and short treatises – has yet to be published in an easily accessible scholarly edition. In these he ranges over topics such as ordered knowledge, the good (God fearing) life and subjects relating to celestial harmony and music. Given my own Doctoral research has discovered the potential for Grosseteste to have had a Metaphysics of Music comparable to his Metaphysics of Light is high time we utilised the Dicta as an equally integral part of Grosseteste’s thought world as his Letters, scientific works and the more day-to-day diocesan life found in the Episcopal Rolls as published by Philippa Hoskin in 2015. In so doing we can begin to illuminate and elucidate new understandings of Grosseteste for the 21st-century in much the same vein as Goering did in the Letters of 2010, in essence providing a new lens through which to consider Grosseteste himself.

**‘To the fatherless chyldren at sanct kateryns wyth owt the barres off Lincoln, xxd’: investigating testators' charitable giving in Lincolnshire fenland districts, 1520-40**

**Brian Hodgkinson**

When researching my PhD on the dissolution of the monasteries in Lincolnshire, I investigated a considerable number of wills from 1520-40 (4,000+) in order to discover where donations to the various sectors of the Church (i.e. monasteries, friaries, the cathedral, parish church, guilds, charity to the poor etc.) were being directed.

All the wills had Lincolnshire origins and were specifically taken from ecclesiastical courts within the county, with the exception of those registered in the Prerogative Court of Canterbury at Lambeth, and only then when the testator stated that he was from the county.

During the research it came to my notice that there were a large number of wills originating from the "Parts of Holland" and also from a ten-mile hinterland in Lindsey and Kesteven (i.e. fenland areas) donating to the orphans in the Gilbertine monastery of St Catherine's in Lincoln. The children were probably lodged in the hospital of St Sepulchre attached to the monastery, taught by the canons and cared for by sisters (not nuns) of the order. Incidentally, these women are actually mentioned by name in the*Valor Ecclesiasticus*, which is possibly unique.

The question is why should testators living in the depths of the Lincolnshire fenland leave donations to an orphanage many miles from their settlements.

Was it:

1. Just giving to 'good causes', thereby lessening their time in Purgatory as most testators do?
2. An educational element, the term 'pupils and orphans' is used (OK only fourteen times out of 627 wills). In separating the two elements, is this evidence of parents therefore possibly sending their children away to be taught at St Catherine's to get them away from the 'fetid miasmas' of the fenlands, known as 'Fen Ague' a form of malaria (literally 'bad air')?
3. 522 wills out of 627 (83%) note the term 'orphans', donating anything between 2d and 20d, generally at the lower end of the scale. The word 'children is used fourteen times, 'convent' is only used twice, probably meaning a donation to the monastery itself, and 'sisters' once. The emphasis of the donations is therefore on the children, not the monastery as a whole. Could this be a clue to the Fenlanders reasoning, *vis a vis*sending their children to be educated there?

**Anglo-papal tensions: clerical appointments and patronage networks as depicted in the registers of Bishop Thomas Bek of Lincoln (1342-1347)**

**Jessica Holt**

Thomas Bek, bishop of Lincoln, was the last bishop in England to be appointed through cathedral chapter election prior to the reformation. Despite this, Thomas’ time in office has received limited attention. Curiously, little is known about his administration or the contents of his episcopal registers, which currently remain unpublished. Bek’s consecration on 7 July 1342 marked the end of an era of free election. Papal reservation became the primary method of nominating a bishop as the pope reserved the right to appoint a candidate of his choice to a vacant bishopric. This swiftly became a highly contentious issue in England, particularly during the pontificate of Clement VI (1342-1352), and papal interference affected both clerical and episcopal appointments. This paper explores how papal interactions shaped ecclesiastical nominations to both the chapter of Lincoln Cathedral and parochial benefices in the diocese of Lincoln, such as rectories, vicarages, and perpetual chantries, during Thomas’ episcopate. It considers how Bek responded to increasing papal and clerical pressures and questions the degree to which he was able to meaningfully affect appointments. Ultimately, this argues that, although Thomas was largely restricted from intervening, he was able to prevent ill-suited candidates from receiving parochial benefices and ensure that the laity were not deprived of pastoral care for prolonged periods of time through extended vacancies. Parliamentary fears were not reflective of the experiences of lay patrons and potential incumbents, and papal provision did not significantly alter the rights of lay patrons to present their chosen candidates in the diocese of Lincoln between 1342 and 1347.

**‘The Surveighe of the Mannour of Toynton’ - life on the fen edge in the early years of the seventeenth century**

**Jenne Pape**

In 1614 Robert, Lord Willoughby commissioned a survey of his manor at Toynton.  Unlike the written surveys common at the time, the surveyor, Henry Valentine, based the survey around fourteen measured plans of the subdivisions of the manor, leaving us with not just a written record of who held each house plot and land in the open fields, but a visual depiction of Toynton at that date.  The survey is not completely unknown, but it deserves to be celebrated far more as a treasure trove of information about the landscape, built environment and society of an under-studied corner of Lincolnshire.

In this paper we shall explore the document and the things which it can tell us about life in the area around Spilsby at the beginning of the seventeenth century.  We will then set the document in the wider context of estate mapping in Lincolnshire, before exploring its relationship with the landscape we see in Toynton today.

**Lincoln Diocesan Training College: untold stories from its early students**

**Jack Rhoden *et al*.**

Drawing on archival materials that are being worked on as part of a larger, funded project, this paper will be a ‘research in progress’ report.

The overriding research question when examining the lives of the early students at LDTC is about social mobility and the opportunities provided by teaching as a profession for female social mobility in Lincolnshire and beyond. These students were pupil-teachers from working-class (rural and urban) and lower middle-class backgrounds.

We will look to address the question of who was responsible for the social transformations the ‘girls’ underwent to become ‘lower-middle class’ teachers. College leaders liked to take credit for civilising them (as did the government which became more interventionist in teacher training from 1870) but this project seeks to give both voice and credit to the women themselves.

Female education in a teacher-training college boosted female emancipation and equality which, unintentionally, struck at the heart of its founding patriarchal principles. Two years of teacher education transformed the lives and social trajectory of many students. More broadly it also fostered far-reaching changes in the attitudes, beliefs and values about women right across society which notably took root in the early twentieth century. This project is a real opportunity to contribute a substantial body of evidence towards this history as the academic literature has never addressed LDTC as a case study.

**Ecclesiastical judges and the importance of emotion: Lincoln’s Audience Court and further dismantling historiographical orthodoxies around institutional efforts to restrain illicit sexual conduct**

**Martin Roberts**

Since Thomas Tentler’s *Sin and Confession* (1977) significant work has been undertaken both on that contemporary concept known as “the Reformation of Manners” and the role of late-medieval English legal institutions in the public regulation of behaviour. That church-court jurisdiction over religion and manners was secure as early as the thirteenth century has become firmly recognised. So too that definite foundations for later development had been laid and that such work could attract considerable support. Yet, a limiting orthodoxy has also been established. Ruth Karras, for instance, considered fifteenth-century anti-prostitution measures little more than ‘halfhearted attempts at eradication’ and that ‘fundamental attitudinal change … did not come until the late sixteenth century’. Dismantling any assumption that serious institutional efforts to restrain illicit sexual conduct began only in the later sixteenth century has but recently commenced. Historians now better understand how relevant “reformation of manners” was to earlier English society and how key public regulation of morals (including sexual behaviour) through both secular and ecclesiastical institutions was to it. Nevertheless, there are still ways to further deconstruct that orthodoxy of the Reformation watershed and, in doing so, better understand the effectiveness of pre-Reformation ecclesiastical justice. In this paper I discuss evidence from the Audience Court of Bishop John Longland (1521-47), the light it sheds on judicial professionalism, and the previous historiographical tendency to underplay the roles played by offenders’ verbal, or indeed visible, expressions of contrition (or lack thereof) when subject to direct, probing, inquisition and by judges’ experience and understanding of the punishment intended.

**Parliamentary surveys of the county and diocese of Lincoln, 1647-1660**

**Mike Rogers**

No systematic study has previously been carried out into the coverage and survival of Parliamentary Surveys in our area, and many are poorly catalogued so relatively inaccessible. Printed editions are limited to that of the Bishop’s Palace at Lincoln, in marked contrast to some other areas of the country.

Three categories of survey fall into scope. Firstly ecclesiastical properties within the diocese of Lincoln belonging to the Bishop of Lincoln, the Dean and Chapter, individual Prebends and other dignitaries of Lincoln Cathedral, and external church authorities. The second category relates to delinquents holding properties within the county, and the third category relates to properties of the royal family within the county. The relevant records are scattered between a number of collections, mainly at Lincolnshire Archives and The National Archives.

The surveys provide a snapshot of local communities in the Commonwealth period – describing prominent buildings in detail, listing tenants, land use and rental values, the profits of local courts, and features such as mills, ferries and fisheries, as well as being a key source for field names. They benefit from being written in English.

The paper would describe the political and legislative background to the surveys, how they were compiled, and the information they can contain, as well as exploring how the surveys relate to associated documents which show how the findings were processed, ultimately leading to the sale or lease of properties to raise funds for the Commonwealth.

Images of key documents would be shown to illustrate the formats and scripts used.

The findings are the result of ten years of research, to date, drawing upon my skills as both an historian and an archivist.

**The early memoirs of William Smith Hesleden (1774-1854), solicitor and antiquarian of Barton-upon-Humber**

# **Martin Watkinson**

In summer 1802, William Smith Hesleden, a young solicitor from Barton-upon-Humber, purchased a large leather-bound volume containing some 700 foolscap pages. He planned to fill it with recollections of his childhood and early career. He called it his ‘Liber Memorialis’. He hoped that the book would form ‘a family relic’ that would be read and treasured by later generations of his family. In the event, his personal and business papers were dispersed after his death. Fortunately, some of them were rescued and preserved by a number of different collectors, libraries and archives. The ‘Liber Memorialis’ found its way to Duke University in the USA where it now forms part of a collection of documents illustrative of British social history. With the help of a grant from the Lincoln Record Society, I have been able to obtain a copy of the book and transcribe its contents.

The ‘Liber Memorialis’ lends itself to analysis on three different levels. Each layer of investigation discloses a distinctive kind of historical knowledge. First of all, there is an account of a young man’s early life as he navigates his way through school and apprenticeship and establishes his place in the world. Then there is an account of life in a north Lincolnshire market town at the end of the eighteenth century with its focus on social networks and local politics. And finally, there are insights into wider historical themes and issues.

So we range from William’s descriptions of the curriculum of the Brigg Grammar School in the 1780s to a clearer understanding of the process by which country attornies received their education and training at the end of the eighteenth century; from William’s role in the formation and training of the Volunteer Cavalry in the 1790s to an appreciation of the part played by county towns in the defence of the country during the French Wars; and from William’s support of the Barton soup kitchens in 1800 and 1801 to a fuller comprehension of strategies to help the poor during times of hardship. Combining all these different viewpoints provides a unique insight into aspects of rural life in north Lincolnshire and beyond in the late eighteenth century.