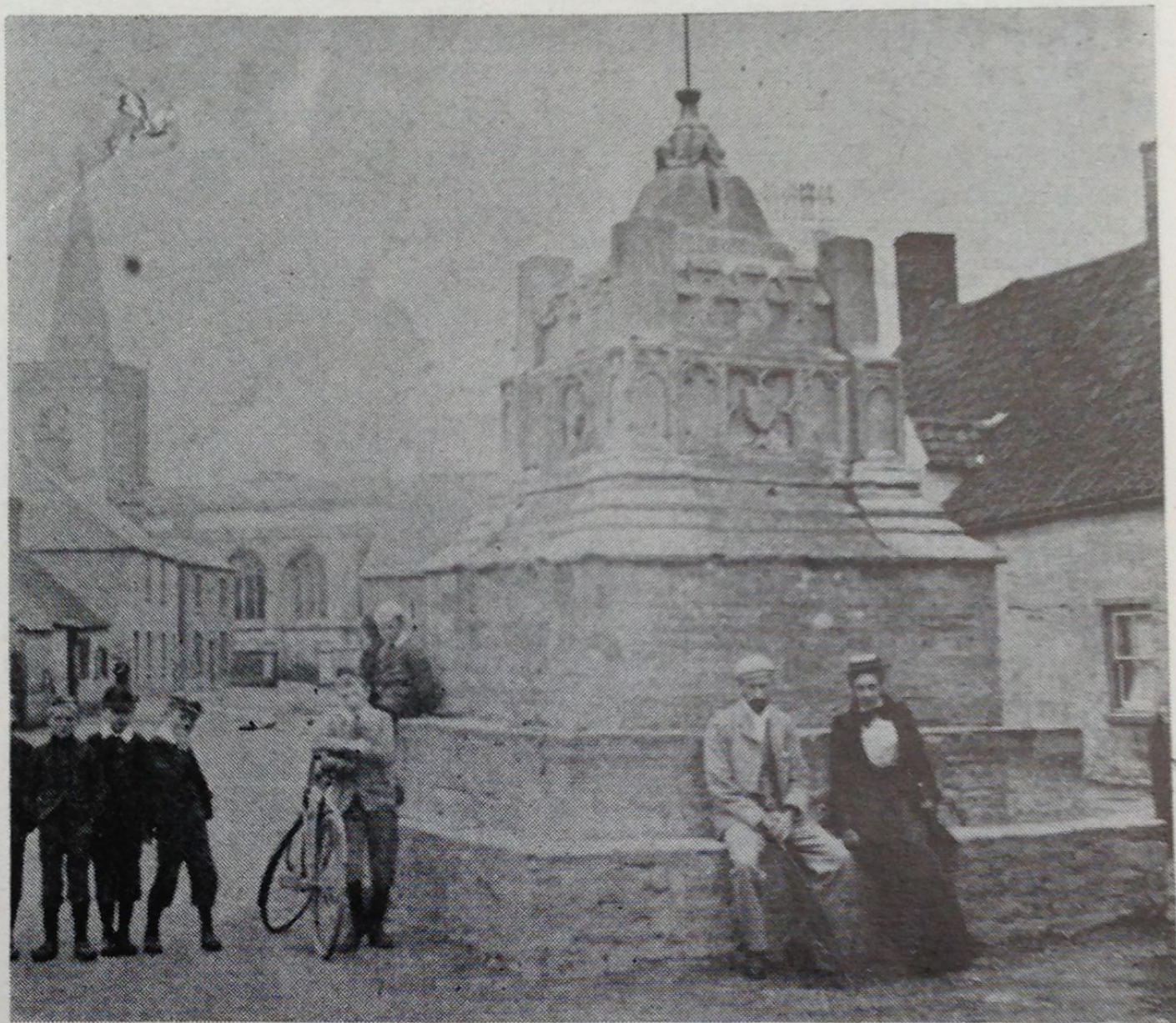


DEEPING VILLAGE PUMP



SIR, I enclose a very old photograph of the village pump at Deeping St James. As a young lad I recollect staying with my grandmother who lived nearby and collected water daily for her from the village pump. This would be over 80 years ago, as I am now 93 years of age. To the right of the pump was the village school, the far side faced the Church and on this side there was an iron gate; it was said that people were locked in the building overnight before being taken the next morning to the Police Court at Bourne.

My grandparents named Smith lived by the river, and eels caught by my grandfather in eel traps were taken to Peterborough market by my grandmother, travelling by carrier's cart. The kitchen floor of their thatched cottage was constructed of stone slabs and when the water level in the river was high, the slabs were under water and woden planks had to be laid down.

—J. W. Smith, J.P., 83 Edward Street, Grantham NG31 6JF