

## **DEDICATION TO THE READER**

### **COURTEOUS READER,**

I submit to your notice a work that has taken me a great deal of time and study to bring it to such a state of forwardness and perfection, assisted by my nephew, Thomas Harmstone. It is generally known that I am a man endowed with a very strong memory. You will find in this book, by perusal, subjects of very ancient date, which will be a fund of very useful information, being collected by me from time to time and kept registered up in my sconce. I submit it to paper and print, that all who peruse this book will be able at one glance to see what for years I have been gleaning for the curious/ which will be a rich harvest for them and pay me with interest, and both parties be benefitted thereby.

Any further comment I deem will be useless. Let the book speak for itself.

I am, with great respect,

Your obliged and very humble servant,

ROBERT HARMSTONE. Spalding, November 1st, 1845

### **AN ACROSTIC ON THE FAMOUS I ROBERT HARMSTONE**

R OBIN's the man as you've heard tell,  
H e will clean or sink a very good well,  
A man of strong memory, 'tis very good,  
R member he will where old houses stood,  
M ention he will of old churches their date,  
S esure he keeps 'ern in his bald pate:  
T o sharpen a razor he will do it quite neat,  
O nly give him a trial job he'll complete:  
N ow to conclude I have done what I can,  
E xposed the qualities of that curious man,

## NOTICES OF THE HISTORY AND ANTIQUITIES OF SPALDING

In the year 1619 the principal Land Owners in the Parish of Spalding, were:

	Contents of Acres		
	A.	R.	P.
George, Lord Marquis Earl of Buckingham, Lord of the Manor of Spalding	1535	3	27
Sir John Harrington, Knight	1184	2	0
Sir John Gamlyn, Knight	254	3	28
Sir Richard Ogle, Knight	98	3	20
Sir Anthony Oldfield, Knight	109	3	0
Bavil Wimberly, Esquire	130	3	0
Thomas Audley, Monk's House	129	2	0
William Willesby, Esquire	87	2	30
William Hobson, Esquire	115	1	20
William Trollope, Gentleman	69	3	20
Christopher Graves, Gentleman	130	3	12
TOTAL	3717	2	7

The principal owners of houses in the year 1619:

The said Marquis, Earl of Buckingham	88
Bavil Wimberly, who owned Ayscoughfee Hall	11
Sir John Gamlyn, Knight	22
William Trollope, Gentleman	10
Richard Barber	12
William Hobson, Gentleman, who built the old Town Hall in the year 1620.	4
Christopher Graves, Gentleman	6
Sir Richard Ogle, Knight	7
TOTAL	160
The total number	288
The present number is	1744

The number of Public Houses, Inn and Taverns in 1691, were only five and the owners of the same were as follows:

George, Lord Marquis Earl of Buckingham who owned the old White Hart and the Cross Keys

George Lamb, the new White Hart, now the Red Lion

William Widdowson, the Black Bull

William Smith, the Spread Eagle, now the Horse and Jockey

There are now about 80 Ale and Liquor Retailers.

## AN ACCOUNT OF REMARKABLE PERSONS, BUILDINGS, FIRES, FLOODS AND IMPROVEMENTS

Anthony Hart lived and died in a house which stood on the site of that now occupied by Mr. Henry Young, Schoolmaster, near the old Stone Bridge.

Willesby's Hall, near the Gas Works, was built in the year 1553, out of the ruins of the old Abbey and is now occupied by Mr. Charles Harvey, 1845.

Ayscoughfee Hall, the residence of Maurice Johnson, Esquire, was built in the year 1420 by the Oldwyn family, Wool-staplers.

The White Horse Public House was built in the year 1553, for a private house, by William Willesby, Esquire, out of the ruins of the old Abbey.

That curious old house called the Star Public House was also built out of the ruins of the old Abbey, and used for a Poor House until the middle of the 17th century.

There is now standing a very curious old stone building, called Low Fulney, used as a Farm-House, with a kitchen with curious groined arches, which was formerly the dairy to the Monastery.

Ayscoughfee Hall and Willesby's Hall were stripped of their thatch and slated in the year 1772.

There formerly stood an old house on the site where Duck Hall now stands. It was a large Mansion called Town's End Manor House. It was pulled down in the year 1746, and the materials sold to Mr. William Sands, Architect, and Mr. John Heals, Builder, who built two houses, one occupied by Mr. Byford, Boot Maker, Bridge Street, and the other by Mr. Capps, Builder, High Street,

The Abbey was built in the year 1051, in the year 1286 the sea bank broke, and the waves came so strong that it washed down part of the Abbey wall, and to raise the money to repair the damage, the Abbot laid a tax upon the wool and flax in the Parishes of Spalding, Pinchbeck and Moulton: pulled down in the year 1553.

There is now standing near the Sheep Market a very noble and curious building, called the Turret, formerly used as a prison, now used as a blacksmith's shop, occupied by Anthony Joyes. It is mentioned in history that it had a beautiful chamber and tower of pendel stone, in which hung a bell that was rung on solemn occasions when a criminal was about to be hung, which was performed by four Bailiffs. The Bailiff of Pinchbeck provided the rope, the Bailiff of Spalding led the prisoner to the gallows, the Bailiff of Weston carried the ladder and the Bailiff of Moulton hung him. The last man that was hung was William Tyler, for the murder of Mrs. Ives, and was jibbeted on the Vematt's Bank, near the Tumpike Road. He did the murder in the house now occupied by Mr. Samuel Beech on Martinmas Eve, 1741, and he was executed in March, 1742, in the Market Place.

During the practice of these times 80 felons were executed at different times in Spalding, in the space of 376 years, in the Gore.

The old Town Hall was situated on the North-west side of the Westlode, since filled up. Upon building the present Court House, the old Town Hall was applied to the private benefit of the Lord of the Manor, who had a reserved right of holding his Court in the latter, and which was sold to Mr. Charles Collins, a Gardener, who took it down in the year 1753, and built a good brick and slated house on the site of it, which now belongs to Mr. Pollard, and where he now resides.

## **THE PRIORY**

Thorold de Bokenhale, brother to Godiva, Countess of Leicester, founded the Priory in Spalding, in the year 1051, by obtaining of Wulgate, Abbot of Croyland, six Benedictine Monks, for whom he fitted up his own Chapel and gave them apartments in his own house to reside in, thus making it a cell to the Abbey of Crowland, which he endowed with the Manor, called in Doomsday, Berewita, now Spalding Croyland, giving the site to God and St. Guthlac, in franc almoigne. What principally prompted him to do this was the relief of that Convent, which, owing to a dreadful famine which then raged throughout all England, and being so full of Monks, they could hardly procure a maintenance.

Shortly after, in the year 1059, Ulketul, the successor of Abbot Wulgate, at the instigation of Algar, Earl of Leicester, (who was twice outlawed by King Edward) gave to the Monks of Spalding his Chapel

of St. Mary, and all the rents on the East side of the River Welland which Algar himself enlarged by making considerable additions, and by confirming former grants made by his family to this Monastery.

In the year 1073, Ivo Tailbois, Earl of Angiers, a great Norman Lord and nephew to the Conqueror, being William's sister's son, by marrying Lucia, great granddaughter to the said godiva, heiress of the house of Mercia, which had vigorously opposed King William, the other sister being at that time King Harold's widow, and residing beyond the seas, he became Lord of Spalding and all Holland. This Prince held his Court and resided at his castle here with great pomp and splendour. The said castle stood in Coney Garth, now in possession of Mr. Francis Flames, Poulterer and late of his father Mr, William Hames, Rope Maker, William Grundy, Esquire, had dug up the ruins of the same in the year 1746.

The Prince added much to the revenue of this Monastery and confirming the estate which his great uncle, Thorold, had given to his house, he also gave to the Monks the tithes of the salt pits and the fishery of the Westlode. The Westlode was one of the most ancient drains in these parts, probably a work of the Romans, made to carry off the upland waters by its communication with the Welland. At the time they raised the stupendous banks in the Marshes against the sea. The stone Bridge over it, near the above communication, was of considerable antiquity, as appears by an inquest in the year 1323, for the repairs of Bridges in the sixteenth year of the reign of King Edward the II.

The moat of the keep of Tailbois castle was plainly visible in 1746, in Coney garth, part of the castle fields over against the park on the North Road, A man's head defaced, probably part of a statue, with several other fragments of carved stones, originally belonging to this castle, were deposited in the Spalding museum of the Spalding society, The large iron lock and key belonging to it, very substantial and in the form of a fetter lock, now hangs in Ayscoughfee Hall, the seat of Maurice Johnson, Esquire.

In the centre of the Market Place stands an Inn called the White Hart, known by that name ever since the reign of King Richard the II, never having changed its name. In the year 1666 one Richard Rishton, resided there, and put out halfpence of that date which bore a Hart couchant, rev. of Spalding, he came out of the Army of Oliver Cromwell. It was partly burnt down in the year 1714, and it was soon after rebuilt in its present form

## **COINS ETC.**

At various times many coins and other articles of antiquity have been discovered at Spalding. Roman cisterns are supposed to have been found here. An urn was dug up near the old bank of the river Glen, at its mouth, by the sea, in the year 1773. Another like it of red coarse earth, twelve inches round, had been found before, under the root of an ash tree. The upper part of a large coarse earthen jug, with five ears OT handles and a beak perforated, was dug up in the foundations of Mr. Everard's house, in Herring and Crackpool Lanes, now occupied by John Richard Carter, Esquire, A Greek and several Roman coins were found on scouring out the river Welland in the year 1745. When there also was found an image of lattern of an armed man extending his arms to hold a leaden socket for a candle, on a brass pedestal and globe.

In a triangular pit in Thomazin Lane (which said Lane was the principal entrance to the Abbey), was discovered an ancient spur, of which Mr. Cough has given a drawing in his edition of Camden's Britannia. In sinking a well by the Old Fish Stones, at the depth of four feet, was taken up a stone coffin, in which was a corpse looking fresh and another covered with a plank in the year 1715.

Three arches and other ruins of St. Nicholas Church appeared after the great fire which happened in the year 1714, It began at a gunsmith's shop near the Bull Inn and it consumed most part of the houses on each side of the Town Hall and in the Market Place and it terminated near the Hole-in-the-Wall passage at a house and shop now occupied by Mr. James Neave, Grocer, that said house was blown up by gunpowder, made to prevent the fire spreading further, by a soldier, and he was caught by the powder and blown up into the air, and came down literally roasted in the now Flank of Beef Public House yard, The inhabitants removed their goods and chattels and encamped in Dyer's Green about two days and two nights, now in possession of Mr. Thomas Sharman, a vendor of milk.

There formerly stood an old Hall, belonging to Sir Anthony Oldfield, Knight, upon that ground now occupied by Mr. John Cunnington, Builder. He died in the year 1688 aged 42 and the old Hall was pulled down in the year 1802.

There was standing near the River Welland a brick tower windmill, adjoining the Ho'beach Turnpike Road, which is made mention of as standing there in the year 1619, it was the only one in the parish, the present one was built in the year 1788, and is now occupied by Mr. George Lowden.

Lord George, Earl Marquis of Buckingham, bought of Queen Mary a capital Messuage and Buildings, since converted into Dwelling houses, called Spalding Abbey with 30 acres of land, bounded by the River Welland and the Market Place on the east, Thomazin Lane on the west and south, the Sheep Market, called the Gore and the Westlode, North.

About a century since, Dr. Green resided in a house now occupied by Mr. Williams, Custom House Officer, near the new Swing Bridge, He married the eldest daughter of Maurice Johnson, of Ayscoughfee Hall, granddaughter of Sir Anthony Oldfield, grandfather of the late Rev, Maurice Johnson, D.D. decease.

From Spalding to Donington before the Turnpike Road was made there was a paved causeway with posts at equal distances for the accommodation of foot passengers. In the year 1759 the present Turnpike was made and Dame Anne Fraiser of Cressy Hall, Surfleet invested £600 in the same, the interest of which sum was to be applied to the maintenance of the Master of the Free School in Surfleet.

In the parish of Spalding is the Grange or reputed Manor of Wykeham, being the villa or country retirement of the Priors of Spalding. A sumptuous chapel was built in the year 1292-3, having a chamber, for his two domestic chaplains, adjoining it. At the dissolution it was bestowed by King Henry the Eighth on an ancestor of Lord Harrington. These arms azure a fret Sable, commonly called Harrington's Knot, are carved on a large stone at the house on the bank by the gate leading into the lands of this Grange. The motto, Noda Firma, There was also a large flat black marble in Wykeham Chapel, the upper part of which is said to have been the monument of Tyringham Norwood, Esquire, of that place, a relation to Sir John Harrington, K.B. baron of Exton, Lord of the Grange or reputed Manor of Wykeham (and of whom Robert Harmstone, the author of this book, is a descendent). He repaired the grand and noble structure, the chapel, rebuilt the roof and raised the parapet walls in the year 1625. It has a flight of winding steps to ascend to the roof, 56 in number. On the parapet walls are also carved his arms, as also on the achievement there remaining. The chapel is an exact parallelogram of the best Ashford stone, 60 feet by 20 was roofed with oak and covered with lead, with three large ox-eyed windows on each side, and one much larger at each end, an octagonal font, and the ox-eyed arch of the door case outwards is terminated, as is supposed, by two bustos of a King and a Queen, and most probably of King Edward I and his Queen Margaret, the former having an open crown on his head and the latter a caul or net set with jewels, for our Kings then and long after used an open crown and not only women but men also covered their hair with those kind of

nets. The chapel is now gone very much to decay, the roof having fallen in many years since. There lie interred in the said Chapel:-

John Harrington, died August 6th, 1632, aged 31.

James Harrington, Wykeham, son of John Harrington, died July 29th, 1688, aged 68.

George Ravenscroft, died July 26th, 1752.

John Ravenscroft, died March 10th, 1747.

Mary Bailey, died June 2nd, 1759.

William Cash, died May 16th, 1735, aged 81.

Rebecca, wife of William Cash, died April 25th, 1747.

The Manor of Wykeham is at this time, 1845, the property of Robert Everard, Esq., of White House Lodge, Low Fields, built in the year 1822-3. In the year 1310 a large Hall was built at Wykeham and moated round, the traces of which are still to be seen, It has been pulled down long since.

About the year 1114 Ivo Tailbois, the munificent supporter of the Priory, died of a paralytic stroke and it is recorded that his wife, within one month after his death, was married to Roger de ROMdra. Ivo died without leaving issue to succeed to his vast estates and was buried in the Priory. The lordship and patronage being the hereditary estate of his widow came with her to the first earls of this county. It can hardly be doubted that besides being so warmly attached to the interests of this Priory, Ivo was a great promoter of literature and learned men here, for this cell in those early days furnished no less than four clerks in priest's orders to officiate in the churches then belonging to it, exclusive of conventual duty performed by those that resided in the Priory. The first Prior of whom we have any account was Reginald, who appears to have been a great favourite with Pope Alexander the Third and by that we suppose him to be a foreigner, most probably he was from the Abbey of Angiers. He flourished about the latter end of King Stephen's and the beginning of King Henry 11's reign.

There formerly stood a church in the Market Place called Holyrood or Oldrood built in the year 1000 and was taken down in the year 1284 and the present church built out of the materials, The north porch was added to it in the year 1495. In digging a well in the cellar of a house of Mr, Willmott, Hairdresser, by Robert Harmstone was a skull found with the brains in a perfect state of preservation, and which is now in the possession of Mr. Chas. Rainey, of the Old Bell Inn, it was dug up in the year 1833. Near to the Ram Skin stood an old Church dedicated to St. Nicholas it has been pulled down long since.

In the year 1744 the River Welland was widened and a beautiful row of ash and elm trees on each side of the river was taken down nearly to the High Bridge from the Locks, the said Locks were constructed under the superintendence of Captain John Perry and he puddled the bank from the Locks to the Three Doors turn, the said Doors were put down to run the water into the Westlode to ease the Wash. Captain John Perry died at Spalding in the year 1732, aged 65 years and lies buried in Spalding Church, In the year 1813 the Locks were taken up and the materials sold.

The old Prison was founded in the year 1619 and was pulled down and rebuilt in the year 1765 and Robert Harmstone's mother laid the first brick and it was sold to Mr. Farmery Cunnington, Builder, who pulled it down in the year 1825 and the Methodist Chapel was built on the site in the year 1826. The present prison or House of Correction was begun in the year 1823 and finished in the year 1825.

The following persons have been Governors of the said prisons:-

Mr. Mills who died in the year 1759 aged 91 years.

Mr. Thomas Ives: Captain Hare, John Chapman, and at this present time, 1845, Mr. Thomas King.

## THE FREE GRAMMAR SCHOOL

In the region of King Edward VI the foundations of many Grammar Schools were laid, in consequence of the dissolution of the monasteries, about which time it is probable that the Free Grammar School of Spalding was formed by the inhabitants thereof, although we have no certainty of such a one being erected until the time of Queen Elizabeth, when it appears that Mr, John Blanche of Spalding towards the providing of this School with masters, did, by his will dated 47th May, 1588, devise a messuage and 49 acres and 13 perches of land, mostly copyhold of Sutton Holland Manor, parcel of the duchy of Lancaster, lying in Sutton St. James, and 18 acres of land in Gedney, copyhold of Gedney Abbatis Manor and Mr. John Gamlyn gave 22 acres of land lying in Croft, also in the County of Lincoln for the same pious use and procured by the lord treasurer, Burleigh, letters patent of Queen Elizabeth in the 30th year of her reign, 1588, when the same was legally settled and incorporated under four governors and a common seal. The master and usher of this School were, in those early times, frequently changed there not being less than seven masters during the great rebellion and a long and troublesome suit at law between the Governors themselves towards the beginning of the restoration, about which time the then lord bishop of Lincoln, Dr. Robert Sanderson, on application being made to him by some gentlemen of the town, appointed new governors of this School and upon the resignation of Thomas Gibson, MA., who had, by the master and seniors of St. John's College, Cambridge, been constituted master of the school, the Rev. Marlin Johnson S.T.B., then curate of Spalding and a native thereof was appointed master and Patrick Brown, MA., a young gentleman recommended to the Governors by Dr. Gunning, then master of St. John's College, 1669, his usher, some years after Mr. Johnson resigned and James Brecknock, MA, was elected in his stead. On account of differences which arose between the master and the usher, Mr. Peter Stephens was appointed usher in his stead and a controversy at law about the legality of the appointment and for the profits ensued, and it appears from his own depositions in the cause above mentioned that the said master disliked his usher so much as to take the scholars from him and teach them himself until Lady Day, 1674, in which year King Charles II at the particular instance of Sir Robert Carr, of this place, Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster was pleased to grant letters patent under the great seal of England for renewing the charter of Queen Elizabeth and enlarging the privileges of the School being dated the 26th year of his reign.

The Fens or Commons belong to ancient commonable houses for all manner of cattle, asses, swine, goats and geese sans number. There were Spalding, Pinchbeck and Peeping Fens lying undivided at that time. There were four Fenn reeves, two for Spalding and two for Pinchbeck, chosen by the homage and sworn and approved of by the steward according to ancient agreements between the lord and tenants, made in the time of Robert Holland, prior of Spalding and lord of the Manor, in 1422-3. The perambulations of Spalding boundaries to the crosses were made by the minister and the boys sung part of a psalm at each. The cross in the Market Place, St. Guthlac's Cross at Brotherhouse. St. Nicholas Stone, the Spalding boundary, called Crux in palade, was in the Wash over against White House. A triangular tapering frustrum, whereon appeared, very plain, Spalding Town Brankmark 5 and N, joined for Spalding or St. Nicolas. Cross in the flags, crux sancti Quthlaci, an octangular basis near Oggett, alias Wodelode Graynes, between Croyland and Spalding lying eastward and Kesteven West, in a watery place full of flags in the driest season, the inscription in Roman Capitals, "Hitherto the bounds of Croyland," and part of an octangular stone column fixed in the basis. St. Nicolas Cross at Eastcot, in Pinchbeck over against Tongue End, the boundary between Spalding Manor, in Holland Elloe and the Baston Manor in Nesse.

Kesteven a triangular base with one other stone of a step which has been thereon. Many years ago a cottage was erected over this, and the chimney placed on the very basis of the rest of the steps and the shaft of the Cross, which apparently was, by the socket, square, this was gone in the year 1742.

Mr. Johnson had a discharge under the hands of Thomas Kidbie, bailiff of the township of Spalding, for the sum of £4 6s. 8 1/2d. for the charges of buying the Abbey Church or Charles Brandon, duke of Suffolk, dated 34th of Henry the Eighth, 1543. Edward VI granted the site of the priory with another in Suffolk to Sir John Cheke on 3rd January, and in the sixth year of his reign, most of which, with the turret, became afterwards the property of Sir Anthony Oldfield, bait, and his three daughters and co-heiresses, of whom Margaret the eldest, brought it in marriage to Beaupre Bell Esq. Bishop Balderby, in the year 1313, granted twenty days indulgence to those who, out of their goods bestowed on them by God, relieved the lepers of S. Nicholas at Spalding. No relique of any saint was kept in the Monastery. Egelrick, abbot of Croyland afterwards the Bishop of Durham, made a firm causeway for the sake of travellers from Spalding to Deeping, 12 miles, which at that time passed through a vast forest called Arundel Forest, and over deep marshes and was formed by driving piles of wood and covering them with many layers of gravel and which, after him, was called Elrich Road, but no part of it is at this day to be seen.

The Churches of Holy Cross and St. Mary Stockkys being decayed in the year 1284 and the conventual church though spacious much crowded, the Prior pulled down St. Mary Stockkys and built the present parish church. The beautiful porch on the north side was added to it in the year 1495. It is dedicated to St. Mary and St. Nicolas, being a light airy structure, has a handsome spire steeple and is kept very neat and clean within. The stone cogs or frostings of the steeple are so much decayed by the weather as to be easily broken off. There was formerly a noble Gothic window over the west entrance of the church but the good effect which this had on the uniformity of the building was done away with many years ago when this window was wholly glazed with small oblong squares (1224 in number), in lead. There not being pews sufficient for the accommodation of the inhabitants, an additional gallery was built by subscription about the year 1797 on the north side of the middle aisle and others since. To make the church still more complete the parishioners in the year 1802 added to the harmony of the old peal of five bells by increasing the number to six and recasting others which formerly rather too discordant a peal, when it was intended to celebrate our public rejoicing days with campanalogian harmony. The carved oak comice of the screen between the church and chancel had in the centre the Virgin's head on a shield nebule (the arms of the Mercer's Company) and wool bags, the common cognizance of all merchants of the staple, but this hath in part been taken down, together with the entire screen in making alterations. Sir Nicholas Aldwyn, lord major of London, in the 14<sup>th</sup> year of King Henry V111, son of Sir Richard Aldwyn, merchant of the staple, who built Ayscoughfee Hall, the seat of the Johnson family, was a native of this town. It is probable that one of these two personages was the donor of the above mentioned screen in the said church. That handsome and noble pulpit made of oak was made by Tymothy East and Samuel Sharp in the year 1788. The noble and splendid branch or chandelier which is suspended by a chain from the principal roof in the centre aisle opposite the pulpit with 3 rows of sockets, 12 in each row, was presented to the above church by Elizabeth Williamson, Stamford, Lincolnshire and daughter of Samuel Male in the year 1806. The height of the steeple is 156'6".

Mr Lot Male left the white bread dole in the year 1747 besides gowns and coats for the aged poor of both sexes.

The priors of Spalding had a chapel next their own lodge within the priory, which lodge is now converted into house, being situated in the Abbey yard. There was a chapel at Fulney now called Fulney Hall, on a slip of ground now occupied as a farm house, built in the year 1449, by the prior of Littleport. Near Spalding in the course of the Welland to Deepings is a place called Walram Hall, from whence to Croyland was anciently a ferry. As this was at that time the only mode of travelling from this neighbourhood to that place, an idea may be formed of then state of that part of the country. It appears from an ancient entry on vellum in the court rolls of the Manor of Croyland, that by some bye laws made in the year 1330 the rates were fixed for ferrying from Waltham Hall to that place at



one penny and as much returning, but double to strangers in fair weather and treble when stormy and tempestuous. It also appears by another entry on the same rolls that not less than 17 lincensed ferrymen were prosecuted by way of presentment in the Abbot of Crowland's Court for disobeying those bye-laws in taking more than was legal in the year 1388.

It was that very liberal and enlightened minister of Louis XIV of France, Colbert, marquis of Seguely, who first caused the greatest improvements to be made in the manufacturing of wool and in which he was highly encouraged by that politic king, when the making and dyeing of scarlet cloth was perfected. The example was followed by the cardinal patron, Howard, under Innocent the XI when he established a manufactory for that purpose at Civica Vecchia, A Mr. John Weyman who resided in this town in the early part of the 18th Century, as a scarlet dyer and merchant, affirmed that when he was at Rome, great proposals were offered to him to take an active part in it. We formerly exported our wool and the Flemings chiefly manufactured it. The Dukes of Burgundy and Earls of Flanders were so much enriched by its being manufactured in their territories as to institute in the year 1429 the order of the Toizon d'Or, or Golden Fleece, in honour of it, which the German emperors and kings of Spain both so long and contestedly conferred. At 50s. per pack duty our wool, before then, brought in, unwrought, £500,000 per annum, a pack being a horse load containing 240 pounds weight. For the sake of the duty or king's custom and due sale of the wool, the staples thereof were fixed by statute and it is probable that until the alliance of England with the Flemings under Edward IV by means of that great burgomaster of Ghent, James Dartoil, we wrought up not near so much wool as since that time. But it was the severity of the Duke D'Alva in driving out the protestant workmen from those countries (and many of them received, protected and settled in this land of security in Queen Elizabeth's reign) and the severe acts made against further exportation of unwrought wool for the encouraging our manufactories at home, by her wise ministers, then strictly put in execution and therefore duly regarded these it may be presumed were the causes which raised it to so much envied and so high a pitch as to be generally esteemed the most valuable branch of all trade or commerce whatsoever and wool the best staple commodity on the face of the earth.

## **THE SCHOOLS AND CHARITIES**

### **THE PETIT SCHOOL**

This school was so name in contra distinction to the Free Grammar School and was founded in the reign of Charles II by William Willesby, gent., whose family had long flourished here and were great benefactors to this town, although the founder of this school, at the time of his death, resided at Old Swinford in Worcestershire. By his will dated 24th June, 1682 he devised 50 acres and 3 roods of land lying in Tydd St. Mary, Moulton and Spalding in the County of Lincoln unto seven trustees names therein for the purposes hereafter mentioned (that is to say), To erect a convenient house in Spalding aforesaid and therein to place a man of sober and virtuous life, who should be well able to teach the reading of the English tongue and to write and also to instruct the children committed to his charge in the principles of the Christian and reformed religion as a schoolmaster, who should have for his pains (as long as the trustees shall like and approve of him) £15 yearly out of the rents of the said lands as his yearly stipend for his teaching freely such poor children whose parents should inhabit the parish of Spalding aforesaid and who should pay no levies to the poor and church to read, write and learn the principles of the Christian religion contained in the creed commonly called the Apostles' creed, the ten commandments and the Lord's prayer with some plain and familiar catechism explaining the same, and that he should pray with the children morning and evening some suitable prayer to their state. And in case the children of those parents aforementioned should not be sufficient for his employment this will was that some other children of poor (viz Cowbit or some other adjacent poor) parents should be admitted for instruction, although out of the Spalding parish", And his will was, "Those children that should be most towardly and tractable should, out of

the said rents, have some upper garment once in two years at least, at their dismissal, (when they should be judged by the trustees here for the time being, to have sufficiently learned as aforesaid) and be sent away well clothed, with a Bible and some practicable book, such as Baxter's Call to the Unconverted, or George's Young Man's Creed". And what of the said rent should be overplus in the hands of the said trustees his will was, further, "That such children as should be poorest and most deserving and so adjudged by the minister of Spalding and the said trustees or major part of them, and should have something given them towards placing them to some honest trade or apprentice". When any three of the said trustees died, he also willed, That the survivors should choose three others, and in case his said trustees should fail in their election of new ones, so that upon the death of all of them none should be left elected in the said trust, that then the minister of the town of Spalding aforesaid, the constables, churchwardens and overseers of the poor, there, for the time being, should be interested in the said trust for ever, they adhering to the Protestant religion aforesaid, not falling to the Church of Rome.

### **THE BLUE COAT CHARITY SCHOOL**

This School we have been informed was originally founded and endowed by one of the Gamlyn family who has been before mentioned as being warmly attached to the interests of this town. However this may be it is certain that early in the last century of this Charity school had gone very much to decay through neglect and want of good management for by an agreement bearing date of 1st August, 1729, now in the steward's box, it appears that although there was in lands and monies out at interest the sum of £26 per annum settled for the maintenance of this school, it had for some time been discontinued but was again revived on the 2nd June succeeding for the teaching of thirty children in reading, writing, accounts etc., and clothing twenty of them, which sum being deemed insufficient for these purposes, certain of the principal inhabitants very benevolently undertook to make up the deficiency by subscribing one guinea each and agreeing to renew the same annually from which time it has ever been so maintained and supported. The above estates have increased since 1729. At this time 38 boys and 38 girls are taught and clothed by this charity - the boys in reading, writing and accounts, the girls in the same and needlework, the latter were formerly taught to spin but now this has been laid aside. The management of this school is vested in the hands of two stewards who are chosen annually from among the subscribers, who, nevertheless meet weekly when all matters of any consequence are laid before them and are subject to their decision. The day on which the stewards are chosen an annual feast is held by the subscribers, towards which his grace the duke of Ancaster used to contribute by the donation of a haunch of venison, but while the benevolent supporters of the institution are enjoying the luxuries of life, let it not be supposed that the youthful objects of their charity and care are forgotten: No! they too have a feast and are not only feasted with roast beef and plum pudding but also with what is more serviceable and substantial, a new and comfortable suit of clothes, the boys are completely dressed in blue with a cap of the same colour, from whence this charity takes its name, and the girls in blue stuff gowns, plaid aprons, white sleeves and coloured handkerchiefs. It may be worthy of remark that the subscription for the support of this charity school is at this day wholly supported by the tradespeople of the town with, we believe, but one exception. This school is situated in Church Street and was rebuilt in 1815. Upon lands on each side of the said school are built two substantial houses at a ground rent of ninety nine years, one occupied by C. Wilkinson, Esq., and built by Rev. John Dinham, minister of this parish and the other occupied by Mr. Samuel Harvey and built by subscription, for the Rev. Timothy Never, M.A., master of the Free Grammar School, that occupied by C. Wilkinson, Esq., was built in 1772 and the other in 1722,

## **THE ALMS HOUSES**

This charity formerly consisted of 11 compact tenements, situate in Church Street which were rebuilt in the years 1754 and 1763 and then they comprised 18 separate apartments above and below. They were founded and endowed by Sir Matthew Gamlyn in the year 1590 for the benefit of 22 poor persons belonging to the parish of Spalding who are each allowed a sufficient quantity of coals each year. This charity is not confined to either sex but men and women enjoy the benefit of it indiscriminately as vacancies may occur and as the persons applying for the same may be deemed worthy of it. In the year 1844 the houses falling to decay were taken down and 17 beautiful brick and stone tenements were erected on the site of the old ones in quadrangular form and in the Elizabethan style of architecture, they are now finished and occupied,

## **MRS SPARKES' CHARM**

Mrs. Elizabeth Sparkes of Spalding in the year 1709 gave these houses situate in Double Street to be inhabited by 8 poor widows of this parish keeping no children within them and receiving no collections. She also gave £50 to be laid out in land for the repair of the said tenements and buying of coals for the use of the Said widows at the disposal of Mr. Lot Mael.

## **FACTS AND SCRAPS**

About halfway between Spalding and Pinchbeck stands an old post windmill. It formerly stood on lands near Blue Gowt Drain near Mr. Topper's who now resides at Pinchbeck, it was removed upon planks and rollers in the year 1741 and was a fortnight upon the road owing to it being almost impassable, the present turnpike road was not then made: a gentleman travelling on the road made the following remark, he says "I have met a great many things on the road but I never met a windmill on the road before". In the year 1619 there was only one windmill, there are at present six windmills and three steam mills in Spalding.

In the year 1772 the cross in the market place, Spalding was taken down and the said market place was new paved with stone and silt was brought out of the old Race piece at one shilling per load. It used to be the practice to flog those that were sentenced by the order of the magistrates at the Quarter Sessions and were also made to stand in the pillory, it consisted of a wooden frame upon four wheels and was called the White Willey. The last person that stood in the pillory was Susan Meeks, by order of Dr. Shaw, for keeping a house of ill fame in the year 1787. The last person that was flogged was a man of the name of Woolston, termed the Wise Man.

At Pote Hole about two miles from Spalding there are 3 engines, 2 for the drainage of Deeping Fen, erected in the year 1824 at an expense of about £20,000, one of 80 horse power and the other 601 and another of 20 horse power in Pinchbeck parish for the drainage of Pinchbeck North Fen erected in the year 1833 at an expense of £3,000, There is also another in the same parish to drain the South Fen of 20 horse power it was erected in the year 1830 at an expense of about £3,000. The number of acres drained by the 2 large engines is about 20,000 and about 5,500 by the other two. The taxable lands in the year 1800 of Deeping Fen amounted to 10,033a. 1r. Op and the whole of the Fens contain 30,281a. 1r. 24p. The Lincolnshire levels were most of them undertaken in the reigns of James I and Charles I, the first was the large tract of Deeping, Spalding, Pinchbeck, Thurlby, Bourn and Gogisland or Croyland Fens for which a contract was made with T. Lovell in the first year of James I, he was to have a third part of the lands assigned to him on the completion of the work, but failing, the contract devolved on the earl of Exeter and the undertaking was finally completed in the seventeenth year of Charles I by a set of gentlemen adventurers as the undertakers were then

usually called. In the seventh year of Charles II, east, west and Wildmore Fens were contracted for by Sir Anthony Thomas and his participants.

From Spalding to peeping St, James on each side of the road callen Littleworth Drove, stood a large quantity of wind engines or water mills to drain off the water that stood on the farms. In the year 1763 an Act was passed to form a Turnpike Road from Spalding to Deeping St, James and the said mills were moved a short time after to the bottom of the farms but since taken down, being quite useless on account of the steam engines at Pode Hole.

In the year 1766 or 7 by the pressure of water against the River Welland bank, it broke and gulled a large hole by the side of the bank near Mr. Robert Parr's farm 131 feet deep (generally called Parrs gull) with a sound gravel bottom. The cropping upon all the farms in the Fen was entirely drowned and continued so all the winter following and when the frost broke up the ice sawed several mills down by the halfway. On 20th February, 1799 the bank broke between Spalding and Four mile bar and again drowned the Fen and formed another gull or deep hole. The month of March, 1773 was remarkably hot and dry so that the farmers could scarcely get their land ploughed, the horses and men sweated so much: they got in their cropping and it began to look prosperous but in the month of May following there came a downfall and drowned every acre in Peeping Fen. The principal farmers in Peeping Fen at that time were Mr. William Bailey, who built Mr, Henry Hawke's mansion and who had 1,000 acres drowned, Mr, John Congreve occupied 500 acres and land in Deeping Fen at 5s, per acre, Thomas Wilkinson, and Robert Randall commonly called Old Boyskin who always earmarked all his beasts, sheep, asses, pigs, dogs and cats and a few horses, everyone who saw them used to say that is Old Boyskin's earmark.

On Spalding Common there were races held, they used to run for fifties, and were very good races and they used to draw much respectable company together from distant parts of the country, the last race that was run over that course was in the year 1788. Spalding Fen or Common first began to be enclosed in the year 1803. It was sold to raise money to cut the drains and outfalls to drain the other part of the Common, the final closing of the said Fens was in the year 1808. The furrows or divisions were drawn on 13th July, the same year (better known as the hot Wednesday). The first corn that grew on the new inclosure was barley, upon that farm occupied by Mr. John Freeman, part of the said racecourse. The first thrashing machine that was worked by horses in this part of the county was on the said racecourse in the year 1807.

The Gas House was erected in the year 1832, the first stone was laid by Theophilus Fairfax Johnson, Esq., on 8th June, he laid a half sovereign on the same for the men to drink his health and success to the undertaking.

The petit Sessions room or Justice's room attached to the old Town Hall under where the fire engines are kept, was the butcher's shambles, it was erected in the year 1795, On the south side was the butcher's slaughterhouses, where the brother of the author of this work used to slaughter beast, sheep and pigs but that nuisance has been done away with many years since.

In the Abbey yard formerly stood a large brewery occupied by Mr. George Burrell on ground where a large granary is erected and where the Hearse and Mourning Coach stands, near to it stood a public house called the Elephant and Castle kept by Mr. Bennett, but both have been pulled down long since.

Various houses and premises in various parts of the town were public houses and amongst the number, that house lately occupied by Mr. Longbottom, Ironmonger, in the Market Place, was called the sign of the Nag's Head, kept by Mr. Joseph Killingree, that house occupied by Mr. Hiley, currier,

near the Town Hall was called the Single Sticks, kept by Edward Scotney. In the Sheep Market on land occupied by Mr. William White, Coach Builder, stood an old row of houses, part of the monastery and a public house, called the Boat kept by Mr. Clarkson, a house next the Baptist Chapel where old John Bayes resided, was called the Chequers, that house where Mrs. Carraway resides near the Town Hall was called the Queen's Head, kept by Mary Storey, a house on land where Mr. Barber, Grocer and Draper resides was the sign of the Black Lion, kept by William Sawyer, the Ancient Briton, a house in Broad Street or New Road next to Mr. William Campian, constable, was called the Compasses, in Pinchbeck Street on land where Mr. F. Hames resides stood an old house called the Duke William, kept by Mr. Burden Allen, leather breeches maker, a house on Winsover Road where Mr. William Wade, Gardener, resides was called the Crown, that house where Mr. J. Kelk, Baker resides near the Albert Bridge was called the Barge, kept by Mr. Portwood, the corner-shop of Double Street and Westlode side where Mr. Pears, Grocer, resides was called the King's Head, kept by Mr. Clarke, near the Chapel of the Society of Friends stands a house which was a public house called the Red Hart, kept by Mr. Joseph Ashwell, that house where the widow Rowles in Double Street resides was called the Lincoln Puddle, adjoining where Mr. Smith's Raft Merchant, Office is was the sign of the Three Tuns, kept by George Hombuckle, adjoining JR. Carter's Esq., Solicitor gate leading to the kitchen door stood a house called the Recruiting Sergeant, kept by Mr. Joseph Ashall, the premises now occupied by Mr. Speechley, Druggist, opposite the High Bridge was called the Blue Boar, kept by James Wells, constable who apprehended Philip Hooten, at Sutton Saint Edmunds for the murder of Samuel Stockton on Surfleet Common on 8th December, 1788, a house in the Market Place occupied by Mr. Mountaine, Brazier, was called the Coach and Horses, kept by Francis Stevens, at the bottom of the slaughter house passage stood a house called the Crooked Bill, kept by John Wing, grandfather to John Wing, the Town Crier, an old house stood at the corner of Burr Lane where W. Porter, bricklayer, resides called the Three Horseshoes, kept by Mrs. Smith, that farm house occupied by Mr. Horton and formerly by the late Robert Andrew was the sign of the Royal Oak, kept by George Julian, an old house near to the former one, where old John Stand resided was called the Axe and Cleaver, kept by Henry Clark, next to the Particular Baptist Chapel gate, stands an old house that was called the Blue Bell, kept by William Keene, woolcomber, on the premises where Mr. Stableforth, grocer, resides was an inn called the George, kept by Mr. Fletcher, on the premises occupied by A. Maples Esq., Attorney, stood a house called the Leap, in the same street a house occupied by Mr. Maughan, bookbinder, was called the Horse and Groom, on the ground occupied by Mr. Nicholls, Butcher, opposite the Swing-bridge stood an old house called the Woolpack, kept by Thomas Enderby.

On the Westlode-side on land called Barnes's yard stood an old fashioned house with a porch in front of the same, occupied by Samuel Crabtree, a Fellmonger, who carried on a large business. On land where Mr. Pate, Corn Merchant, resides and the Albion Granary stands was a large and extensive Tan yard, by the old inhabitants called Bank-row, the Tan yard has been disannulled about 90 years. On land where the Welland Cottage public house now is, on the London Road, one Mr. Swift resided. In one hole 20 oxen and a bull were buried which died of that fatal disease the murrain, the Fen reeve damaged the hides of the same by cutting them various ways to prevent their being used, because the disease was infectious, the owners of the said oxen were recompensed by the government with half a guinea each. Near to the above Inn on the opposite side of the way adjoining the River Welland stood a boatwright's shop, kept by Mr. Thomas Goodwin who carried on an extensive trade in small craft in the year 1805, it was removed by his son Richard to the premises now occupied by Mr. Richardson, Shipbuilder, being at that time the only one of that trade in the town.

In Deeping Fen there lived three men, two of them farmers near neighbours, who led to the altar and plighted their troth to thirteen wives, viz:- William Smith, five, William Patchett, four, and Thomas Myatt, four, who kept the Deeping Fen Tollgate a great number of years.

"Women beware"

In the year 1723 a duel was fought in the White Hart yard Spalding and one of the combatants whose name was William Emerson Lee received his death blow and was picked up by Middleton Voss, he lies buried in Spalding Churchyard with the following device and inscription on the gravestone:-

A Skull and a Sword,  
Here lies a man of mickle fame,  
Who lived by the sword and prize  
And died by the same,

In the year 1837 a fine showy and commodious suspension bridge of cast iron, cast by Tuxford and Sons, Boston, by subscription, at a cost of about £300 was erected on the site of the old wooden Dr. Dinham's Bridge, it fell on Sunday night, January 26th, about eight o'clock with a tremendous crash, being very windy and a large tide, and an unusual quantity of boats on the river, which, it was expected ran against the bridge and broke the stays.

That beautiful stone and brick building used as a Sessions House abutting upon the House of Correction was built in the years 1841-2-3, the foundation of the buttresses of the south tower is 11 feet deep. The contractors for the building were Messrs Booth and Walker of Bramley near Leeds, Yorkshire.

The first brick of the Union House by the side of the Pinchbeck Road, a short distance from the town was laid by a brick layer named Kent of Suffice 9th May 1836. That noble and lofty bride tower windmill near to the Union, the first brick of the same was laid on May 29th, 1819, was built by Mr. Ward of Boston and Mr. Wm. Rowles of Spalding.

About forty years ago the toll gate stood over the bridge on the Pindibeck Road better known as Sharpe's Bridge. The bridge was built in the year 1806 by Mr. Kirby of Market Deeping, the contract for the same was £800 and take the old one.

That noble and substantial building at the corner of the Market Place and forming one side of Crackpool Lane is used as a grocer's shop in the wholesale trade kept by Mr. Jos. Allen and formerly by Mr. Thomas Maples, it was built by Mr. Wilkinson in the year 1753. On the same ground the trade of a grocer was carried on above two centuries by the Grayham family. Mr. Wilkinson's wife was one of the Grayham family.

The Baptist chapel was first erected in the year 1688 and with almost all the houses in that part of the town was burnt in the terrible fire which began on 1st April, 1714, it was rebuilt in the years 1716-17. In 1801 it underwent a thorough repair, was fresh floored and had new pews erected. It was pulled down and rebuilt in 1811 on a large scale of magnitude, the members increasing it was deemed too small, it was pulled down again and rebuilt on a still larger scale, the members still increasing, it was again enlarged in the year 1841. The first persons that were baptized there were Ann Stennett and Ann Smith in the Little Graft by Master Denne between eleven and twelve o'clock at night.

The Calvinist chapel in Love Lane was built in the year 1770, it was enlarged in the year 1787 having pews erected throughout and at this time forms a neat house of prayer.

The Quakers' Chapel was first founded in the year 1698, the present one was built in the year 1805. John Harvey, a quaker, of Spalding, had a fine of ten shillings imposed on him for not swearing, he

had his goods taken away worth twenty one shillings. Also in the same year George Reeve of Spalding was summoned to the Quarter Sessions, he appeared there with his hat on for which he was sentenced to the House of Correction as a disturber of the peace.

The Independent Chapel, Pinchbeck Street, was built in the year 1821, it is arch vaulted underneath for the reception of the dead where many are deposited, amongst which Mr. Farmery Epworth Cunnington lies and to whose memory a marble tablet is erected in the chapel.

Before the year 1776 there was not one druggist residing in Spalding. There was a Mr. Lloyd used to attend on market days from Peterborough in an old wooden shop in the Market Place where Mr. Saul Haberdasher resides. Mr. Wilcockson was the first druggist to reside here, where Mr. Ball, surgeon, used to be in Bridge Street. The number of druggists in the town at this time (1846) is eight.

The ground where Mr. Ashwell, Printer, Mr. Hardy, Brazier, Mr. Measures, Butcher, Mr. Reynolds, Watchmaker and Mr. Saul reside was open for a great number of years to the road, and one old Roger Dobbs used to attend the market and grind scissors and razors there, it being a convenient place for his calling, in the year 1753 a row of wood shops was built on that ground by Mr. Sharping, Ironmonger.

On that ground in Bridge Street where Mr. Rawlinson, Tailor, and Mr. Cherrington, Grocer reside, were no buildings until about the year 1776, was open to the street and quite a nuisance.

The first Printer in the town of Spalding was Mr. John Albin, father to the late Mr. Thomas Albin, about the year 1775. The number of presses in the town is now about eight or ten.

The only piece of slabbing in the town in the year 1795 was in front of Mr. W. Massey's house in Double Street and Mr. Buckworth's in High Street now occupied by Mr. T. F. Johnson.

The old crane at the bottom of Herring Lane was put up by Mr. Presgrave who came from Bourn to reside as a merchant in the year 1795 there not being one before that time, they used to land the goods from the boats and barges in the coal yard opposite the Steam Mill public house in Double Street, kept by John Lamb and years before that time by Mr. Ray, coal merchant, for upwards of three hundred years.

On the ground where stand those three high houses next the Old Bell Inn near the High Bridge, where Mrs. Cooley and Mr. Leach reside, stood three old stone and thatched houses and a shop so low that an ordinary sized man could reach the eaves, they had to descend two or three steps, the shop was occupied by Mr. John Truzzell, collar and harness maker.

That splendid and noble row of houses called the Welland Terrace was built on the old Abbey land, the first four, next to Mr. Pears, by Mr. George Favel in the year 1813 and the next five by Mr. John Cunnington builder and the next eleven by the same builder several years after. They were built on the site of Gooseberry Hall where also stood an old barn, they being the only buildings on that land since the destruction of the Abbey.

On the site of that house where Mr. Vise, Surgeon, resides on the London Road was a stable built for Mr. Richard's race horses and other gentlemen's horses. Mr. Richards dying in the year 1775 the races were discontinued, he being the principal supporter of the same, the said stable was converted into a house for the present Mr. Vise's grandfather. Adjoining the same is a foot walk called Vises Walk, where stands a fine row of beech trees planted by Mr. Joseph Cave, snr., for Mr.

George Maxwell in the year 1797. Before the trees were planted it was a rope walk kept by Mr. Cockett.

At the bottom of the road stood an old house next to Thomazin Lane and one old Pett lived in it. It has been pulled down about eighty years ago.

As respects the ancient drain, the Westlode, it was an excellent fishery and good water was taken in from Pinchbeck river by means of a drain along Dozen's Bank to Pode Hole. The Westlode was the only means whereby the farmers living in that district could convey their corn to market by the boats which used to unload into carts and wagons at a watering in Sheep Market where Mr. Andrew, collar and harnessmaker, lives. The water was always fresh and pure when the river water was salt or scarce. There were a number of bridges over the same, one called Betty Codlin's bridge opposite Thomazin Lane, one opposite the White Swan Inn, a footbridge, one near the Punch Bowl Inn, a wagon bridge from Boston, a footbridge opposite Pinchbeck Street and a stone bridge near Mr. Carter's brewery. The drain ran along where Mr. Carter's malting stands and by means of sluice doors and a advert under the bed of the River Welland near the Albert Bridge, emptied itself into the Lords Drain. The said culvert was taken up in the years 1871-18, and the bridges pulled down and the Westlode arched over at various times from Mr. Carter's brewery to the White Swan Inn. Silt was brought from the River Wetland at 1s. per load and the remaining part of the Westlode was filled in by the owners of the property adjoining, It now forms a very good street.

Near the town pump, against the Ram Skin stood two large piles of stone resembling tomb stones on which fish used to be sold, it has long since been pulled down and the fish market removed to the quay near the old wooden bridge which stood near the present stone bridge which was built in the year 1030 upon the site of the three arched stone bridge. At this time a fish market is very much wanted and the inconvenience is much felt both by fishermen and the public at large.

In Spalding it was a very ancient custom for the inhabitants to watch the town by house row or pay 6d to the beadle who used to ring a bell and cry the hour, there were two watch houses, one against Pinchbeck Street and the other against the old wooden High Bridge, There was one old Robin Barnes, a sleepy watchman in that watch house against High Bridge, it had a fire in it at the time Robin's mates went their rounds. Robin was fallen asleep, his hut caught fire, which forced him to quit his habitation and glad he was to do so, in the morning nothing was left but the bare walls and that put an end to that mode of watching. "Alas poor Robin Barnes".

At Cowhirm, a short distance from Spalding, there was a notified ferry across the River Welland from Surfleet to Holbeach for Scotch beast which regularly came that way. There was a public house the sign of the Cows Horn in the year 1763 kept by Mt. Francis Frisby grandfather of Mr. William Hames, Rope maker, of Spalding.

In the cemeteries belonging to the Monastery and churches of Spalding were buried Ivo Tailbois in the year 1104 and his wife. Lucy, in the year 1141 and twenty six priors besides benefactors of the families of Multon, Ayscough, Grayton, Lambert. Pynchbeck, Alwyn, Ross, Ogle, Lemoyne, Thurgar, Peckbrig, Hedby, Holland. Fulney etc. In the ruins of the priory was found an ivory or horn carving of a monk looking out from under a monument supposed as a design for the monument of prior Littleport which was in possession of the late Colonel Johnson of Spalding.



**A CORRECT ACCOUNT OF ALL THE PEOPLE WITH THEIR TRADES AND AGES WHOM ROBERT HARMSTONE HAS BORNE OR ASSISTED TO BEAR TO THEIR GRAVES.**

William Water, Carrier from Spalding to Boston (99)	Mrs. Boulton, Widow (95)
Mrs. Lee, Potter (93)	William Sawyer. Ringer (94)
Mrs. Caistor, Widow (92)	John Stevens, Shoemaker (92)
Mrs. Holland, Widow (88)	Mr. Ridlington, Farmer (91)
Mrs. Brand, Widow (87)	Mrs. Knighton, Widow (88)
Mrs. Simpson, Widow (86)	Mrs. Clark, Widow (87)
Thomas Hardy, Cobler (83)	Mrs. Hames Widow (85)
John Bungate, Bricklayer (83)	Mrs. Peak. Garden Woman (83)
Mrs. Cross (81)	Thomas Jennings, Ironmonger (83)
Mr. Fletch, Labourer (78)	John Rowles, Thatcher (79)
Mrs. Jennings, Widow (77)	Mr. Tilson, Tailor (78)
Mrs. Oldham, Widow (76)	Mrs. Strickson, Widow (77)
Richard Holden, Wheelwright (75)	Miss Holden (76)
Richard Cross, Stone Cutter (73)	James Richardson, Tailor (74)
Mrs. Mountney, Widow (71)	Mrs. Moles, Widow (72)
Mr. Robinson, Shoemaker (70)	Mrs. Robinson. Baker (71)
Thomas Webster, Bricklayer (67)	Miss Holden (68)
John Walker, Drover (68)	Mrs. Wells, Widow (68)
Mr. Gostelow, Publican (63)	John Bayes, Milkman (63)
Miss Jackson (62)	William Hoe, Church Clerk (64)
George Naylor, Town Crier (64)	Mrs. Steers (61)
Thomas James. Gardener (59)	William Burnett, Draper (61)
Mrs. Leverington, Widow (57)	John North, Constable (55)
Mrs. Sivers (47)	George Julian. Constable (56)
Richard Howlett, Butcher (46)	Mrs. Sivers (46)
Joseph Rose, Ironmonger (41)	Mr. Sivers (44)
John Sivers, Publican (35)	George Lenton, Liquor Merchant (36)
Mrs, Rose (32)	John Mountney, Brazier (33)
Thomas Knighton (19)	Mrs. Birkett (29)
	Miss Deacon (19)

Their united ages amount to the enormous sum of 3698 years.

There is at this time (1846) only one occupier of land in Spalding who was an occupier in the youthful days of Robert Harmstone and that is Mr. William Massey, he and Widow Webster are the only two occupiers of the same houses they held in their youth. There are only four who are still living in the same houses in which they were born - Mrs, Mason, wife of Samuel Mason, Butcher, John Clark, Angel Inn, Octavius Jennings, Ironmonger, and Widow Crampton, Little London.

At the east end of the nave of the Parish Church of Spalding is a raised stone cupola on four pillars crowned with stone and surmounted on a cross in which hung a bell to summon the poor to mass after the higher class had retired, this was in the time of the Roman Catholics.

In the year 1823 the Turnpike Road leading from Spalding to Bourn was constructed, before that the road was impassable. There were two rows of beech trees leading from the Winsover Toll Bar to

Monk's House, three yards asunder and forming a pleasant walk in the heat of the summer months, one row has been taken down many years since and the other a few years ago.

The house in High Street now occupied by Theophilus Johnson Esq., was built in the year 1754 by Mr. Theophilus Buckworth, his grandfather and called "Clay Hall", his wife's maiden name being "Clay".

Mr. A. Maples house was built by Mr. Thomas Foster, the Attorney in the year 1797.

The first person who died in the new Almshouses in Church Street was Mrs. Brown, the second was Mrs. Seymour aged 78. She had been married 57 years and her husband survived her aged 80 at the time of her death. She died on Friday 5th December, 1845.

The first steam engine in Spalding for the making of oil cake premises was on premises now occupied by Henry Hawkes, Esq., it was bought by Mr. Gardiner about 60 years since and disannulled about 30 years. Purchase money £930.

Mr O. Jennings house was built in the year 1772. In digging the cellars a quantity of stone coffins was found, the bones were interred in the Church yard.

George Maxwell Edmonds, Esq., house built near Dinham's Bridge in the year 1777.

In the year 1315, Richard Le Skinner of Spalding, a merchant of the staple founded a chapel dedicated to the Blessed Virgin and guild of St. Thomas the Martyr, consecrated by Walter, lord archbishop of Armagh, it being chantry, and served by massing priests was at the reformation dissolved and came to the crown. It is now the Free Grammar School being situate on the south side of the Parish Church.

In the reign of King Henry III in the 18th year of his reign, prior Symon obtained a charter for a weekly market to be held on Fridays in Spalding but since altered to Tuesday.

Robert Holland, lord prior, after much litigation by Sir Robert Hagbeach, on behalf of the lord Fitzwalter, against his claim of wreck of sea and grand fishes, cast on his shore, carried his point for a whale cast on Moulton coast in the year 1426 as appears from the court rolls and a M.S. terrier of that parish, and also in the 18th year of the reign of King Henry III a small ship wrecked at Wykeham Chapel, August 24, 1440 was seized for his use as due by royal charter. Prior Robert died in the year 1444.

Maurice Johnson, Esq., was a lawyer and practised in Spalding. He died on 6th February, 1755, He married the daughter of Joshua Ambler, Esq., of Spalding. She was the granddaughter of Sir Anthony Oldfield and lineally descended from Sir Thomas Gresham, the founder of Gresham College and of the Royal Exchange, London, By this lady he had 26 children of whom 16 sat down together at his table.

Mr. John Smith, Livery Stable Keeper was the first person that drove a four wheeled carriage on the new road leading from the Abbey into the Sheep Market, called Crescent Road, This was on 16th March, 1843.

The new weather cock was put up on Spalding Church Steeple on 9th August, 1782, by William Cross, a stonecutter, who got intoxicated at the Bull Inn near the High Bridge and was drowned in

the River Welland the same night. In the year 1697 Spalding Church nave was new roofed by John Short and Joseph Ray, Churchwardens.

In Spalding Churchyard are 870 gravestones and 26 tombs and 21 marble monuments in the church besides a full sized statue in marble in memory of the lady of Maurice Johnson Esq., of Ayscoughfee Hall. The oldest date of the stones and monuments is one in the church bearing date 1639. Spalding returned 3 burgesses to the Grand Council summoned in the 11th year of Edward III in the year 1337. The names of these burgesses were William de Spalding, Thomas de Spalding and John de Spalding.

The first person who possessed an umbrella in Spalding was the grandfather of Henry Hawkes, Esq., and the first lady who carried a parasol was Mrs. Foster of Spalding, widow of Mr. Thomas Foster.

In the year 1763 and several years after there were only 3 stalls stood in Spalding market, one worsted stall belonging to William Keene and two gingerbread bakers, Thomas and David Dalton.

In the year 1793 Rev, Maurice Johnson took out the old stone window frames and put wooden ones in and cut down the yew trees in front of Ayscoughfee Hall. The present spirited owner of that splendid mansion putting in new stone window frames and raised and beautified the turret and put up a splendid coat of arms in the year 1845. In the year 1819 those two rows of beautiful chestnut trees were planted on each side of the carriage road leading to the back entrance of the said Hall.

About 60 years ago Fairfax Johnson, Esq., took down the front of his house which was brick and studded and stone window frames and rebuilt it in its present state, where the Misses Johnson reside near Ayscoughfee Hall and where Dr. Heald, M.D. died. In the front was a dead well and folding doors scarcely ever opened.

Mr. Henry Bugg, snr., in the year 1809 built the present brewery, occupied by Mr. Henry Bugg, jnr, who has made great alterations and improvements.

The Albion brewery, occupied by John Richard Carter, Esq, was, built in the year 1824, There is a well in the same 18 feet and a half deep and 20 feet within.

Mr.J.P. Harvey and Co. have erected a steam mill to grind corn with ten pairs of stones in the High Street on premises used as a granary built by Mr. William Maples, Merchant. The house adjoining was built in the year 1807.

The first person that bought wheat in Spalding for exportation was Theophilus, Buckworth, Esq., grandfather to Theophilus Johnson, Esq., he served the office of high sheriff for the county of Lincoln and died in the year 1802.

That beautiful house in Broad Street the residence of Charles Bonnet Esq, was built by Everard Buckworth, Esq., in the year 1727 and there was a large fishpond which took in water from that ancient drain the Westlode.

In the year 1768 Mr. John Richards built a splendid house in High Street since purchased by Theophilus Fairfax Johnson, Esq., who has enlarged and beautified it and added a splendid row of coach houses and stabling. It was built by George Andrew and John Sharpe.

That splendid and noble structure the Mausoleum belonging to Theophilus Fairfax Johnson, Esq., standing in a field at the back of his mansion situate in High Street was built in the year 1842, and was consecrated on Ruth August, the same year by Lord Bishop of Lincoln.

The word Mausoleum belonging derives its name from Artemisia, a queen of Caria and widow of Mausolus, to whose memory she erected a noble monument whence is derived the term Mausoleum, used to designate any very magnificent sepulchre before the birth of Christ.

On Saturday 10th September, 1842 between one and two o'clock in the afternoon, the electric fluid entered the house of Mr. William Sharman, Builder, situated at the back of the Cross Keys Inn, during a heavy thunderstorm and demolished sixty squares of glass in the front of the house, likewise broke a splendid mirror, value £2. Mr. Sharman had quitted the room a very few minutes before the occurrence took place and happily no one in the house was hurt.

The same day and time the electric fluid struck the office chimney of Charles green, Esq., Attorney, and drove it through the roof upon the chair but a few minutes before occupied by Mr. Green, fortunately for him he had left it, Mr Green's house was built in the year 1810 by Mr. Robert Holdich, his grandfather.

The said fluid also struck down a poor man of the name of John Tomlinson near the Chain Bridge, he felt the effects for several weeks after.

In the year 1791 a sick club was formed at the White Swan Inn, kept by the Widow Blades and among the goodly number that enrolled their names was Mr. Joseph Cave, Gardener, father to Mr. John Cave, Gardener. He is the only one living that first entered the said club. It is now held at Mr. George King's, the Ship Albion and numbers about 150 and is in a prosperous state.

Mr. William Sawyer, formerly the landlord of the Ancient Briton was born at Cherry Willingham near Lincoln in the year 1735 and died in the year 1829 aged 94.

The oldest man at present in Spalding. Christmas 1845, is William Robinson, a London drover, who was born in the parish and whose age is 94. The oldest woman is Mrs. Sherrard who is now in her 95th year.

## **CROYLAND**

Ethelbald gave to Kenulph, a monk, the Island Croyland, from the 4 waters of Shepishee on the east, None on the west, Southee on the south and Asendike on the north, in length 4 leagues, in breadth 3, with the marshes adjoining to the west on both sides of the Welland etc. He further gave towards the building £300 in silver and £100 for 10 years to come, also leave to build or inclose a town for their own use with right of common for themselves and their servants. The foundations being a marshy soil they were obliged to drive in piles, of oak and ash before began to build and the earth was brought nine miles by water from the uplands and thus the wooden oratory of Guthlac was succeeded by a church and house of stone in the year 718.

The Danes routed and slew the abbot and monks and set fire to the Abbey in the year 876, They set about clearing away the ruins. They chose Godric for their abbot. Gothic died in the year 941 and left this house in so low a state that there were only 5 monks in it, whose names were Clarenbald, Swarting, Thurgar, Lye and Aio, the last two retired in despair to Winchester and Malmsbury. Turketyl coming that way was received by the 3 monks in the little oratory and cell they had fitted up. He left them a supply of provisions and 100s, to buy more. He came that way back and gave the old monks £20 in silver. Turketyl and the king visited Croyland and finding the 3 old men informed them of his intention of coming amongst them and he set about restoring their boundary stones. The 2 stone crosses are set down, one near the Southee bank and the other against Brotherhouse

Bar. Turketyl was made abbot and he began to build a new Abbey. The king engaged the workmen, appointed Egelric overseer with leave to draw on the exchequer and an ample supply of wood and stone out of his royal manor of Castor adjoining. In a short time the church and cloyster with every building was completed in the year 945.

The oldest of the 5 monks Clarenbald fell sick and was attended by Turketyl until he died in the year 973 aged 168 years. Swatting died in the year 974 aged 142. Brue and Aio in the same year. Thurgar died in the year 975 aged 115 years. Last of all in the year following. Turketyl himself died aged 68 years. The monks were buried in the middle of the choir and Turketyl on the right alike high altar by Aedulph, abbot of Peterborough and Godman of Thorney. The tenants of the named site of the Abbey dug up his stone coffin among many others. Egelric was chosen abbot.

He added 2 bells one called Bartholomew, the other Bettelin, two middle ones named Turketyl and Tatwin and two lesser ones named Pega and Bega. Turketyl had made a larger one called Guthlac, all of which together formed a set of bells being the first tuneable bells in England in the year 980.

Egeffric died in August, 984 and was buried in the Chapter House. The next abbot, a was Egelric the younger of the same family he died in the year 992 and was buried in the chapter house. The next abbot was Osketul, who was styled the Father of the Poor, he died in November, 1005. The next abbot was Godric the Second, he sat fourteen years in the reign of King Ethelred, in the first year he paid him 200 marks. In the fourth year, Turkill, a Danish earl, landing with a powerful army, a demand of £100 was made and most rigourously enforced, The Danes overrunning the country burnt whatever they could not carry off. It had now been the custom to pay 400 marks a year, when, in the year 1013 Swene arrived with a fresh fleet and overrun Lindsey burning the villages, slaughtering the peasants and torturing the religious to death. He burnt Boston, Langtoft and Bamack. A very fortunate rain that year had laid the whole country under water, so the Abbey was a secure resort for the multitudes. After 14 years of trouble the abbot Godric died on 14th February. The next abbot was Brithmer. He died on 8th April, 1048, after being abbot 48 years and was buried at the entrance of the Chapter House. The next abbot was Wulgat. In the year 1051 there was dreadful famine. To relieve the monastery of Croyland Thorold gave them his whole manor of Spalding with all as rents and profits for ever. After Wulgat had presided for four years he died on 1st June, 1052 and was buried in the Chapter House. He was succeeded by Ulketl, monk of Peterborough. In the year 1061 the abbot began to build a new church at Croyland, the old one built by Turketyl, being in the state of decay. The winter of 1074 was very severe, the provisions failed and the ice in the fens prevented them from receiving a fresh supply. The prayers of the abbot obtained a miraculous recruit. A voice was heard at the north corner of the monastery and two great sacks of wheat with two other of the finest flour were suddenly seen in the Church yard and proved very useful. A dreadful fire took place in the year 1091 occasioned by the plumber. No sooner was this calamity noised about then the neighbours vied each other in sending relief. Remigous, bishop of Lincoln sent 40 marks of silver and the inhabitants of Lincoln 100. Richard de Rulos 10 marks, 10 quarters of wheat, 10 of malt, 10 of pease and 10 of beans. Haco de Multon 12 quarters of wheat and 20 fat hogs. Elsin of Pynchbeck, 100 shillings of silver and 10 hogs. Amot of Spalding 6 quarters of wheat, 2 oxen and 12 hogs. And one thing must not be forgotten - the benevolence of a poor woman named Juliana of Weston who gave a quantity of wound thread to sew the monks vestments.

In the year 1113 the abbot Jeffrid laid the first stone of a new church at the north east corner. In the year following there happened a violent earthquake in Italy and England so that the new work of the church of Croyland on which the roof had not been laid gave way and the south wall cracked in many places that the carpenters were obliged to shove it up with timbers until the roof was raised. Abbot Jeffrid died in the year 1124. The next abbot was Waldeve. After this abbot governed 12 years, he was deposed and succeeded by Jeffrey prior of St. Albans in the year 1138. He governed four years and died in the year 1142. The next abbot was Edward, a monk and prior of Ramsey. In his time the church with the offices etc., were a second time destroyed by fire. He rebuilt it in a

magnificent manner and after presiding 30 years died in the year 1170. The next abbot was Robert de Redenges, prior of Leinster. This abbot completed the churches and the front of St. Guthlac's shrine. In the year 1191 Henry, monk of Evesham, was appointed abbot. After being abbot 46 years he died in the year 1236. The next abbot was Richard Bardney. In his time was granted to William de Albi, the right of common in the Fens of Croyland, Spalding, Pinchbeck, Langtoft and Baston for his tenants in Uffington, Caswick and Tallington. He was succeeded by Thomas Wells, a general and sub-prior of the same house, who, after governing 7 years died in the year 1253. The next abbot was Ralph Merske, monk of the house. He died in Michaelmas day in the year 1281. The next abbot was Richard Croyland, monk and a native of the town. He began to rebuild the east end of the church at a great expense. I have not been able to trace other abbots until Simon de Luff, who resigned in the year 1322. Henry de Casswick was the next abbot who died in the year 1358. The next abbot was Thomas de Bemak, who died in the year 1378. The next abbot was John de Asheby who died in the year 1391. The succeeding abbot was Henry who was seized with a fever and died in the year 1392. He was succeeded by Thomas Overton, prior. He purchased one third of the manor of Gedney, called Shelton fee from Ralph Shelton. He gave new forms to the choir and four melodious bells to the tower and rebuilt the bakehouse and the brewery. On a sudden he fell blind. He died in the year 1417. Richard Upton was then chosen abbot. He died on 14th May 1427 and was succeeded by John Lythlyngton. In the year 1430 violent rains broke down the banks and drowned Whaplode common. The whole country complained of the abbot and among the rest Sir Humphrey Littlebury, Esq. He glazed all the windows ceiled the lower part of the church besides a lesser one in the choir which was brought on the shoulders of two porters from London to Croyland. He died January 16<sup>th</sup>, 1469 in the 85<sup>th</sup> year of his age. John de Wisbeach, prior of Freiston was elected abbot. In his time a fire happened in the town. He died November 17th in the 16th year of Edward IV, 1476. His successor was Richard Croyland, S.T.P., elected December 17th, 1476. He held this abbacy only seven years. He died on 10th November, 1483. The next abbot was Lambert Fosedyke, bachelor in degrees, elected January 12th 1485. He died of a sweating sickness of 18 hours duration in October or November 14th, 1485. His successor was Edmund Thorpe, S.T.B. He died in the year 1497 and was succeeded by Philip Everidge, Everade or Evermue, William Gedyne, 1504, Richard Berkeny or Berdne, 1507, John Welles alias Bridges. He with William Pinchbeck, prior Sleafurth, prior of Freiston cell to this house, subscribed to the king's supremacy in the year 1534, after which continuing abbot until the dissolution in the year 1539, he obtained a pension of £133 6s. 8d. per annum. The site of the Abbey was granted to Edward, Lord Clinton in the 4th year of Edward VI. Charles II did in the 23rd year of his reign on 15th September grant the manor to Thomas Orby. who attended his majesty in exile, and to his heirs all the farm rents etc. at the yearly sum of £15 10s. 2 1/2d., and 6543 acres of Marsh land called Great Pursant (Postland) for 60 years from June 27th, 1695 at the yearly rent of £176 15s 6d. It afterwards came to Sir Thomas Orby, bart. It descended to the Orbys and Hunters until the year 1828. The present parish church was the north aisle built by Abbot Bardney before the year 1247. It is 90 feet long and 24 feet broad. In the west end of the middle aisle is a hole called Little Ease, extending about 5 feet inwards and used as a prison for monks guilty of particular crimes. They could neither sit or lie down nor stand without stooping. In the year 1806 Mr. Scribo buried an old man near 90 years old who had been baptised in the now ruined nave. In the north aisle which serves for the church is the following inscription: Here lie the remains of the Rev. Moor Scribo, B.A. rector of this parish 42 years, who departed this life July 13th, 1808 in the 85th year of his age.

## **CROYLAND BRIDGE**

This is one of the most singular constructions of the kind in England. It has 3 fronts, 3 ways over it and 3 under it. It is supposed to have been built in the reign of King Ethelbald from his statue being placed on it.

## **COWBIT AND PYKE HALL**

Within the parish of Spalding there are two hamlets of the above names, but corruptly called Peakil and was formerly the fishery belonging to the priory of Spalding. Cowbit church was originally a chantry belonging to the monastery of Spalding and was served by one of the monks from thence, but the date of its erection I am not able to discover. In the year 1486 Bishop Russel re-consecrated it and it was made a free Chapel of Cowbit and Pyke Hall. In the burying ground belonging to the said Chapel is the grave of Mrs. Guy, widow of Mr. John Guy aged 103 years.

Formerly all the inhabitants of this place got their living chiefly by fishing and fowling. The chief article that grew there was reed, it was very much infested with snakes of large size, and now it is the finest land for cropping and grazing in this level. These two farms occupied by Mr. J. Graves and Mr. Thomas Hunt at Spalding fen-ends near Cowbit. were entirely covered with reed and the late Mr. William Patchett at one shot killed two bushels of starlings off the reed. This reed was the only covering for all kinds of buildings in those days as old houses will testify. The bakers used to heat their ovens with reeds.

On a road called Clay Lake, as the author of this book and another man were turning the road over forty yards from Mr. Boadmans farm house they dug up a skeleton of a boy to appearance about 15 or 16 years of age, his head was not a foot from the surface, he was in a crouching posture and thrust in a heap, they put the bones in the pit and covered them up.

Young readers I wish to show you the state of the country in my early days and my forefathers and the state in which it is now. In this part in particular you see by good drainage the land has been brought to such a good condition and increased in value all by that useful drain, the great South Holland, which began about the year 1794.

## **PINCHBECK**

The Church of Pinchbec or Pinchbeck is dedicated to St. Mary and is the best in this neighbourhood, it is extremely neat and well finished, the font, which is octagonal is supported by four pillars. Francis Sanderson, Esq., and Benjamin Knippis, Esq., are the patrons of the church. On a plain stone near to a tomb in the chancel lie the remains of one of the monks of Croyland Abbey. On a tomb in the chancel lie the remains of Edward Walpole, who died on 14th February 1725, he died in a large house in Pinchbeck called Walpole Hall where Mr. Jennings, farmer, resided. Another, Here lieth the body of Mr. Mitchell, for many years the reverend vicar officio parish, died at Spalding, 10th October, 1714 aged 76. In the wall of the middle aisle on a tablet of marble. Near this place rest the remains of Sarah Proctor, relict of Mr. Richard Proctor, she departed this life June 8th, 1801 aged 77 years.

In Pinchbeck, about 3 miles from Spalding are some remains of an ancient mansion, which formerly bore the name of Pinchbeck Hall from a family of that name, being afterwards possessed by the Otway family it was then styled Otway Hall. It appears to have been originally a large building and was erected about the time of King Henry VIII, it was moated round and a few of the windows had pointed lights and square heads, the chimnies were singularly lofty and on the gable ends at the sides and centre were spire shaped ornaments each crowned with an ornamental ban. This old Hall has been taken down and a new one has been erected on the site a few years since, which is now occupied by Mr. Leonard Brown. a Magistrate.

## **DONINGTON**

Donington Charity School was founded and endowed in the life time of Thomas Cowley, gent., about the year 1719, who died and was buried the 17th day of July, 1721 aged 96.

## **WORTHYREADERS,**

I shall now give you a small outline of my life from my childhood to the present day. I was the youngest son of Mr. John Harmstone, Butcher and Grazer, who had a family of 12 children. He would have given me a liberal education but I being more partial to play than books neglected school and learned but little. I assisted my father in the management of his stock. I married early in life and kept cows and sold milk and But it will suffice to tell you that the summer of 1826 broke me for want of my friend 'water' for there was not any lobe had for miles about. You sellers of milk well know the value of WATER. Then I had to plod my way as well as I could through this nagged path of life. I have been an excavator of wells between 30 and 40 years and in that time I have excavated 260 wells and the boots that I wear on those occasions have left the currier's shop 63 years. I have borne to their graves 58 persons, 56 to Spalding Church. Here I shall finish my great undertaking which I have had in contemplation these thirty years with quoting Mr. William Cartwright's acrostic upon the Fens and I hope I shall meet with encouragements, and am

Your most obedient and humble servant,

**OLD ROBIN HARMSTONE**

## **ON SPALDING**

**S**ince first I know they muddy lakes and bogs,

**P**utrid with stench and organised with frogs;

**A** poor man's cow, if had no winter's keep,

**L**ay bleak and starved and rotten were his sheep,

**D**rained, Dich't and fenc'd with good and thriving thorn

**I**s they rich soil and covered o'er with corn,

**N**umerous in cattle, sent away in flocks,

**G**ot turnpikes good and pebbled o'er like rocks,